

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter

October 2015

The Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees met at the Golden Corral Buffet Restaurant in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on October 23, 2015. Thirty seven people were in attendance. They were: **Don Bartolina, Lester Brockmann, Bob Bumgarner, Steve Chessmore, Everett and Helen Cole, Les and Barbara Conner, Duane Crider, Wayne Fjeseth, Fred Fortney, Randy and Bonnie Freeland, Harry Fritzler, Sandra and Terry Hough, Lloyd Garrison, Gayle and Mary Goforth, Nick Lambeth, Tom Lucas, Jim McCampbell, Gordon and Minnie Moebius, Nelson and Mary Mueller, Glen and Eunice Mullen, Dan Runnels, Rod and Sheila Shaw, Jim Smith, Bettie Todd, Andy Tucker, Carolyn and Bob Webb, and Jamey Wood.**



Andy Tucker and Larry Caldwell

Following a delicious meal, President **Gordon Moebius** called the meeting to order and asked first time attendees to introduce themselves. **Tom Lucas** retired in January 2015 as the Public Affairs Specialist in the State Office. Prior to that position he was the RC&D Coordinator at

Beaver. **Rod Shaw** retired in January 2015 from the District Conservationist position in Oklahoma City. Prior to that position he was the District Conservationist at Watonga. He introduced his wife **Sheila**. He said he was counting retirement in months not years as the majority of those in attendance.



Rod and Sheila Shaw

It was reported that a Health Fair was being held at the State Office in Stillwater, Monday, November 2, 2015, from 9 to 11:30 am. Representatives of the various health plans will be on hand to answer questions. The 2015 Open Season enrollment period for health benefits begins November 9 and ends December 14, 2015. One of the changes which could affect most retirees is the addition of an enrollment type: Self Plus One. This choice is for individuals with you and one other eligible person such as your spouse or eligible child. Premiums are lower than the Self and Family option which covers you and at least two additional eligible people. You Must request the change to Self Plus One from the Self and Family option. Open season mailers are being mailed the week of October 26th.

Nick Lambeth reported he had attended the June 16th reunion of Area 9 former employees at the Western Sizzlin Steak House in McAlester. This was put together by **John Beard**, retired

Area Conservationist from Hugo. There were about 30 former employees in attendance and everyone had a good time.



Nick Lambeth and Dan Runnels

Gordon Moebius said, "**Minnie Carol** and I formed a company called Gem Services LLC in 2006 and travel together throughout Oklahoma doing what we always liked to do. We collect soil samples; collect monitor well water samples and deliver to laboratories; prepare detailed plans of remediation on saltwater and crude oil spills. We prepare and file soil farming application permits at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission for several Oilfield Service Companies. We have put 98,000 miles on our work trucks in the last two years (2013,2014) and hardly ever got out of Oklahoma. I serve as one of the Elders in our local Church and we both teach Sunday school and Bible studies there. I have been an active member of the Duncan Camp of the Gideon's International Ministry since 2001. I retired from NRCS as a Soil Scientist in 1994 and we have lived on Odom Drive in Duncan since 1975.



Gordon and Minnie Carol Moebius

Carolyn Webb reported that she does lots of volunteering. I'm in love again..... With two second grade boys I'm tutoring. Also work at the hospital and involved in Church work sending cards to those ill and absentees. Happiest I've ever been in my life.



Bob and Carolyn Webb

Rod Shaw is one of our newest retirees and reported he and **Sheila** had already taken a trip to Saint Martin in April then to Vancouver BC and Fairbanks, Alaska during the Summer of 2015. They are spending more time with kids and grandkids and plan to do more fishing, hunting, and hiking in the years to come.

Les Brockmann retired in Dec 1995 from the Soil Survey Center in Lincoln, NE. We moved back to my old home farm near Ponca City, and since that time I have become somewhat a "hobby farmer". Best thing I can say is "every day's a Saturday." Best wishes from Kay County.

Joni and **John Mustain** wrote: We planned on attending the meeting, however, I was at the doctor Friday morning with strep throat... We will hopefully be able to come to the next one!

Since **John** retired September 3rd, we have been traveling. We went 4,500 miles to Colorado and Georgia on our motorcycle, and then flew to Cancun, Mexico, for 8 nights. We've made a trip to visit John's family near Afton, Oklahoma, since being home, and are making a trip to Wichita this week to help our son move. And, grandson #4 will be here today, so we will be going to Woodward to see the little guy on Friday! I think retirement life may be very busy for us!!

Gardening and grandkids keep **Les** and **Barbara Conner** busy these days. **Les** works with a group of Ambassadors at The Botanic Garden for Oklahoma State University and volunteers at the Public Library. **Barbara** loves to quilt and can spot a quilt store a mile away!



Les and Barbara Conner

Terry and **Sandra Hough** recently returned home after spending five weeks at Beaver Springs Campground in Piedmont, MO. Campground is owned by daughter Emily and husband Gregg

and grandson Ty. **Terry** and **Sandra** welcomed a new great granddaughter, Hayden, in August, daughter of grandson Garrett and Maddie. Great grandson, Wyatt, son of granddaughter Jenna and Sean, turned two years old in July.

Secretary/Treasurer **Sandra Hough** read a list of recent retirees: **Kim Ehlers**, SC, Stillwater FO, 1/1/15; **Dennis Stipe**, CET, Woodward TSO, 1/1/15; **Ronald Smith**, CI, Pauls Valley WO, 1/1/15; **Rod Shaw**, DC, Oklahoma City, 1/1/15; **Ron Goedecke**, DC, Okmulgee, 5/31/15, 32+ yrs; **Jontie Aldrich** (USFWS), 6/30/15, 25 yrs federal & 10 yrs state; **John Mustain**, State Forester/Agronomist, Stillwater SO, 9/3/15, 32+ yrs; **Tom Neumeyer**, DC, Stigler, 10/1/15; and **Mark Conkling**, Agronomist, Clinton TSO, 10/1/15.

Sandra Hough also read a list of retiree deaths: **Lillian Shirley Nordean**, 94, Konawa, 4/28/15; **Kevin Cook**, 46, Civil Engineer, Stillwater SO, 6/11/15; **Clay Wilson**, 64, Soil Scientist, Perry TSO living in Seneca, MO, 7/26/15, retired in 2000; **Harold Irwin**, 93, SCT, Hammon, 8/20/15; **Bob G. Day**, 87, Engineer, Clinton TSO, 10/3/15, retired in 1985 with 33+ yrs; and **Kenneth Miller**, 91, Design Engineer, Stillwater SO, 10/5/15, 38 yrs. A moment of silence was observed and **Fred Fortney** offered a prayer.

Jamey Wood, Assistant State Conservationist for Strategy and Management, presented a power-point on the reorganization plans which will be forthcoming next summer. Parts of the reorganization plan are already in the works. Back in 1965 there were 805 employees and today there are 250. There are also currently 95 supervisors for the 250 employees. The biggest problem which has been facing employees and especially district conservationist is the lack of time available to be able to meet with producers on their land. Too much of their time is being spent in the office on the computer, etc. This reorganization plan will alleviate some of these problems which have been identified.

Tom Lucas is working to establish an Oklahoma Conservation Museum. Oklahoma is in the "Heart of the Dust Bowl" and probably one of the most recognized states for our conservation work and the focus of much of the publicity surrounding the Dust Bowl. With our great heritage of conservation practices and watershed construction projects, it seems only fitting we should preserve items for future generations to learn about the happenings in history. He has met with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts and NRCS to present this concept and has received many offers of correspondence, implements, etc. He is asking that our retiree group select four individuals who would like to be a part of the founding board of directors. If there are more than four, they could be a part of an advisory committee. Several names were mentioned and will be contacted by Mr. Lucas. He also asked

that everyone keep their eyes and ears open for possible items which could be secured or donated for the museum.



Tom Lucas and Jamey Wood

Everyone was encouraged to personally contact retirees who have not been attending the meetings and invite them to attend our next meeting or even better yet, bring one or more with them to the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 22, 2016, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. Everyone is welcome and no reservations are required.

