

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter

April 2020

Due to COVID-19, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees cancelled their meeting scheduled for April 24th and instead opted for an exchange of information via the internet. Following are a few comments from members about what is going on in their lives during the pandemic.

Greetings Members of the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society. The Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society appreciates you being a member of our organization in 2019. We have accomplished much in our first two years of operation. We hope you will support our organization in 2020 by continuing or joining as a new member. Thanks for your support of our organization as we work to collect, preserve and share Oklahoma's rich conservation history with Oklahomans. **Ben Pollard**, President OCHS

Following are a few responses to the cancellation of our April Meeting:

Thanks for the notice and in the current situation I believe it is the prudent thing to do since we are all in vulnerable groups. Hope you all are doing well. We are doing well here, trying to get garden area constructed (new raised beds made from Oklahoma Red Cedar) and garden in but rain is currently hampering. Take Care!

Dan and Sharon Runnels

This is **Carolyn Webb** at Bristow. Please know that we are praying for all of you and wishing the very best for each of you! ❤️ You are my extended family.

Thanks for the notice, I still like to know what's happening, even if I never am able to take part. Take care. **Geri Cutler**

Recent Deaths in our SCS/NRCS Family

We were notified that **Peggy Hays** passed away on October 30th. Peggy was the wife of retired technician, **Larry Hays**. **Larry** retired over 20+ years ago from Shawnee. As you can see in her obituary below, **Peggy** also worked for USDA. Her obituary can be found at <https://www.cooperfuneral.com/listings> The service were held at Cooper Funeral Home in Tecumseh, OK.

Bob Wingo passed away on December 1, 2019. He retired as an Inspector from the Davis Watershed Office in the 1980's. Funeral services for **Bobby Glenn "Bob" Wingo** were held December 5, 2019 at the Hennepin Baptist Church in Hennepin. Interment followed at the Hennepin Cemetery.

Ladonna Petermann passed away February 1st. She was the wife of **Bill Petermann** who served in several roles for SCS. Services were held February 6, 2020 at Dighton-Marler Funeral Home Chapel in Stillwater.

John Beard, former Area Conservationist at Hugo, Oklahoma, passed away February 2nd. He was 94 years old and lived the past many years in Paris, TX. Many of our retirees will remember **John** for his dedication to soil conservation and his caring for many who passed through his Area in the 1970's and 80's. He was a fine gentleman with many friends and co-workers. His services were held Friday, February 7th at First Christian Church in Paris, Texas.

R. C. Brinlee, 88, of Wilburton, passed away February 7, 2020 in McAlester, Oklahoma. His funeral service was held February 11, 2020 at the Salt of the Earth Church in Wilburton. **R. C.** served in the U.S. Army, and received an honorable discharge in 1953. **R. C.** then attended Eastern A & M where he played baseball. He then moved on to Oklahoma State University in Stillwater where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology in 1959. As part of his employment with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), he authored soil profiles and maps for several counties in Oklahoma. He retired from the SCS in 1988.

Ruby Frey, mother of **Larry Frey** (CET for West Zone - North), passed away on Monday, February 10th. Her memorial service was held at the Zion Lutheran Church in Lahoma.

Retiree **Eugene Spurlock** passed away on Friday, February 21. **Gene** retired from SCS as a Technician and then went to work for OCC as an inspector in the AML department for several years. **Gene's** services were February 25th at the First Baptist Church in Chelsea, Oklahoma.

Retiree **Carolyn Jameson**, passed away on March 25, 2020 in Stillwater. **Carolyn** was the Budget Officer at the State Office from 1977 until she retired in 2001. **Carolyn** served as a budget officer and made trips around the U.S. training other budget officers in DC, Denver, Fort Worth, Jacksonville, and New Orleans. **Carolyn** retired from government service in 2001. A private service was held at Pryor Cemetery in Stuart on March 30, 2020.

Recent NRCS Retirees

We are super excited and also very saddened to announce that **Sharon Kaiser** retired August 30, 2019 from NRCS. **Sharon** worked in the water resources section at the state office for 20 years as the administrative assistant. She worked for the federal government (SCS/NRCS/OGC) for 33 years and seven months. If you have had your lincpass updated at the State Office in the past 8+ years you might have met **Sharon** then. **Sharon** is so very excited about retirement and spending more time with her friends and especially her grandson, **Gabriel**.

After 30++ years of service to SCS/NRCS, **Robert Dotson** retired November 30, 2019. A reception was held by the Alfalfa County Conservation District to honor his services on November 25th.

Kim Walker, Resource Conservationist in Chickasha, retired on December 31, 2019 with 33 years of service. A reception honoring **Kim** was held on December 10th at the Chickasha Field Office. We wish **Kim** the very best in his retirement!

Greg D. Allen from the Idabel Field Office retired on December 31, 2019. We wish him well in his retirement years in Southeast Oklahoma.

Harold Wheeler, SCT from Holdenville also retired on December 31, 2019. Following are a few observations **Harold** has made over the years and with his NRCS friends:

My life's observation: If there is a beginning, there is a middle and an end.

My life has been Blessed more than I deserve and more than I can count. I do however count a blessing that I cherish, that is the coworkers and producers I have worked with over the years that became my FRIENDS.

This has not been an easy decision so I hope you can understand "Good By" becomes very emotionally difficult as I get older, that is why I have kept my retirement to myself until now.

Stop by or call anytime. I'll still be milking my cows every morning and setting on my ***

[Mule] whenever I can.

Harold Wheeler

405-712-0603 pyramidranch@gmail.com

David Hungerford retired from NRCS on January 3, 2020 with 45+ years of service. He began his career with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service on May 24, 1974 as a Soil Conservationist in Buffalo, OK. He is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in Range and Wildlife Management. His career took him to Buffalo, Jay, back to Buffalo, Stillwater Field Office, then to the Oklahoma State Office where he retired as the ASTC(FO) for the western one-third of Oklahoma. A retirement party honoring **David** was held on **January 17th** in Stillwater.

J. R. Flores, SC, Missouri – Retired 1/3/2020 with 37½ yrs service, last position held in Oklahoma was Area Conservationist at Clinton

After 31 ½ years of service, **Troy Collier**, Resource Soil Scientist at the Woodward TSO retired on February 28, 2020. **Troy** started his career on the Perry Soil Survey team mapping Noble County in 1988. He was transferred to Buffalo in the summer of 1992 as the Project Leader for the Harper County Soil Survey. Upon completion, the Beaver and Lipscomb County Texas Soil Surveys were started and approximately 1/3 done when he was selected to the Resource Soil Scientist position at Woodward TSO in 2002. **Troy** put his roots in the Woodward TSO and has been there for nearly 18 years. We wish **Troy** the very best in retirement!

Helen Cole, wife of retiree **Everett Cole** (soil scientist), spent several weeks in the hospital and has now returned home with hospice care. The family asks that if you want to see her to please call before coming. Cards can be sent to the house at:

Helen Cole

523 E Highview Ave.
Stillwater, OK 74075

Congratulations and good bye to **Chad Kacir**, ASTC FO East Zone, as he leaves Oklahoma and his duties as an Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations to become the "big dog" as the State Conservationist in Louisiana. **Chad** started in Alexandria, Louisiana on December 8th.

We heard recently that **Clifford Williams** resides in Sayre, OK. He served as an agronomist and was an SRC when he retired. He worked part of his career in Texas. He retired in 1986. He and his wife were both originally from the Sayre area.

Harry Fritzler has agreed to serve as the Oklahoma Retirees President again for the next year. **Steve Chessmore** will again be the Vice-President and the "reliable" **Sandra Hough** will again serve as Secretary/ Treasurer. We all thank you for keeping us in line. You know, retirees can be pretty rowdy!

As for your editor, **Bonnie** and I are staying home as advised and catching up on home projects. Bet the thrift stores are going to be overrun when the pandemic is over with people donating many of the "treasurers" we have accumulated over the years. I do a little gardening, play with my wildlife camera, help out with NARFE and other retiree organizations, and watch a little TV. If you haven't found MeTV or AntennaeTV on your cable connections, you are missing out. There is Highway Patrol (with Broderick Crawford), Dagnet, Father Knows Best, My Three Sons, and a host of other "quality" entertainment for all to see. Watch one of those, then go to bed and you will sleep like a baby! **Randy Freeland**

And this just in from **Harry Fritzler** concerning **Joy Pewthers'** stroke: I visited by phone with **John Pewthers**, retired DC at Waurika, on April 6th. **John** reports that **Joy** (his wife) was released from the hospital and is at a rehab center in Duncan. She is in very good spirits and feisty, as always. She's telling the staff whether they are doing a good job or not. The progress she has made in the past week has been tremendous, but the road ahead is still long. They ask that we pray for them as they journey down the road ahead. **John** is in good spirits as well. Please folks, send your prayers for **Joy** and **John**.

Members are reminded to look at the information presented on the website www.joepad.com. If you happen to miss our meetings, the website provides pictures, list of attendees, etc.

The Next meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2020 at the Golden Corral in Oklahoma City. More details will follow but go ahead and put it on your calendar. No reservations are needed and we welcome out of state guest as well.