

## Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter

### October 2020

With the pandemic still spiking in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees cancelled their meeting scheduled for October 23rd 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.

-- **Carolyn Webb** You are so right about finding packed away “treasures” that have to leave our closets, storage room attached to driveway, and even Bob’s barn. I have been to way too many garage sales! In fact, I took a pickup load to the Salvation Army today in Tulsa.

**Bob** and I are doing fine except I thought hibernation was only in the winter months. Tired and weary of so much Matt Dillon on the TV. Thank goodness I enjoy reading and working crosswords. My outside plants have kept me sane throughout this ordeal.

Appreciate receiving the notices from our State Office regarding the retirements and those we have lost. Pray for each of their families and also pray that all of you will be healthy and strong. The 5K’s that we usually run were canceled but at least twice a week I walk the route which is around Bristow’s beautiful lake. Sorry you all can’t celebrate my birthday again this year as I will be 81 on the 23rd. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

-- **Mark Moseley** Thanks for doing the newsletter. As is life, it was full of good news and sad news. I appreciate the thorough job. I am still alive and well in the Heart of Texas and wanted to update you to my most used email. It is [mosemoseley@gmail.com](mailto:mosemoseley@gmail.com). The other is used by my wife mostly so please make the update so I do not miss any news. I cannot believe I have been gone from Oklahoma for 15 years. I think often of the welcome our family received and recall fondly many great memories and friends in Oklahoma. Heck, I even run across a few Okies down here! We are hunkered down like everyone else and fairing well with the pesky COVID19. Very best regards, **Mark Moseley**, Grassland Stewardship Services, LLC, 1102 S. College, Brady, TX 76825, 210.516.5038, Certified Professional in Rangeland Management.

-- **Larry Caldwell** I thought some of the retirees who worked most of their careers in the watershed program might be interested in seeing a summary of their legacy of their hard work.

The “Watershed Facts and Figures” document that I have been working on for the last decade has been finally posted to the NRCS website as a historical note (see url link below). This is a really good feeling for me as I have been preparing and updating it for a looooong time!

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/about/history/?cid=stelprdb1042935>

Click on the url above and then click on the pdf link or the cover page. I understand that some hardcopies will be published later when the government printing office is opened again.

I prepared this in an effort to consolidate all of the national watershed records in one place as a reference for future generations. I included several items that several people helped me gather and update as we prepared for DamWatch, developed the new watershed benefits model, updated the National Inventory of Dams, analyzed auxiliary spillway flow data, summarized watershed program statutes, summarized the evolution of design criteria over the years, etc. These records and data had previously been spread all over the place in program files, engineering files, National Inventory of Dams, etc. With all of these records in one place and summarized by state, I hope they will make the information and history more easily available for future NRCS,

sponsors, Dam Safety Officials, and other Watershed Program supporters. It is a 288 page document including many tables, charts, graphs, and several appendices. The preface/introduction section describes the background and intent of the document.

The National Watershed Coalition has also posted this on their website with an intro that describes what is in it. It can be accessed at <http://www.watershedcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/USDA-Watershed-Programs-Facts-and-Figures-Resource-Packet.pdf>

Be safe and take care,  
Larry Caldwell

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## Recent Deaths in our SCS/NRCS Family

**Mark Anthony Townsend**, 72, Soil Scientist, Muskogee, passed on 1/30/20. Graveside services for the former resident of Holdenville, were February 3, 2020 at Holdenville Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Hudson-Phillips Funeral Home Holdenville, Oklahoma

Long time Secretary for Durant Field office, **Doretha Gordon** died Tuesday April 21 at the age of 93. She worked from 1971 till early 2003 in Bryan County. (Dept. of Agriculture 1963-1970, Natural Resources Conservation Service 1971-1989 and the Bryan Conservation District 1989-2003). Holmes-Coffey-Murray Funeral Home in Durant was in charge of her services. Online condolences can be left on their website.

<https://www.holmescoffeymurray.com/obituary/Doretha-Gordon>

**Iona “Sis” Hunter**, 88, former Dewey Co. District Secretary at Taloga, passed away on 6/28/20. She served the district for 46 years. Here is a link to the funeral home website:

<https://www.shawfuneralhome.net/>

It is with sadness we share that **Kenneth Blan** of Antlers passed away Thursday, August 6, 2020 at the age of 81. During his career, Ken was a District Conservationist in Dewey and Perry; an Area Conservationist in Hugo; and the State Resource Conservationist at the State Office in Stillwater.

A funeral service was held Monday, August 10, 2020 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church in Antlers. Services were under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home in Antlers. The obituary can be viewed at <https://www.serenityantlers.com/obituary/Kenneth-Blan>  
Condolences may be sent to the family in care of one of his daughters at: The Blan Family, c/o **Linda Byford**, 4542 W. McElroy, Stillwater, OK 74075

Many will remember **Jim McCampbell**. He passed away on August 19, 2020 and was 83 years old. **Jim** was the District Conservationist in Norman for many years. He worked for SCS for 40 years and retired in January 2001. His obituary is listed below.

<https://obituaries.normantranscript.com/obituary/james-mccampbell-1079750314>

We received word of the passing of **Loyd Akins**. He retired in 1994 as a watershed construction inspector. Here is a link to his obituary:

<https://www.boydstonfuneralhome.com/obituary/loyd-akins>

He was born on May 13, 1939. He entered into his eternal rest on August 25, 2020, in Lindsay, Oklahoma. **Loyd** graduated from Chickasha High School and later married the love of his life

**Carolyn Akins** on December 28, 1956. She preceded him in death on July 5, 1992. He worked his younger years as a milkman and gas station attendant. He later went to work with the Soil Conservation Service as a dam inspector, where he retired in 1994.

**Loyd** enjoyed sitting on his front porch, watching the birds, feeding his cats, and working in his yard. He also had a passion for woodworking. **Loyd and Carolyn** very much enjoyed decorating their entire house for Christmas (much like Clark Griswold) and loved that everyone from town drove by to see it. It was something he continued to do long after the passing of his wife.

**Robert Buckner**, former Construction Inspector for the Perry and Pauls Valley Watershed Offices passed away 9/3/2020 at the age of 83. He had 20 years of government service. He had a way of keeping things lively in the office. He was always the champion of those that he felt had been wronged and stood up to authority when he felt it was needed. Everyone who has met **Robert** has their own favorite story they can tell. <https://www.whittfh.com/obituary/Robert-Buckner>

Following is the obituary for **David Brent Harjo-Moffer**.

<https://www.parksbrothersfuneralhome.com/obituaries/David-Harjo-Moffer/#!/Obituary>

Services for **David Brent Harjo-Moffer** were held Thursday, February 27, 2020 at Parks Brothers Funeral Home Chapel in Okemah. Committal followed at the Moffer Family Cemetery near Wetumka, Oklahoma with military honors. He was born September 25, 1942 in Wetumka, Oklahoma to **Eddie Moffer** and **Hazel (Absher) Moffer**. He passed away Wednesday, February 19, 2020 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at the age of 77.

**David** grew up in Wetumka, Oklahoma and later graduated high school from Chandler, Oklahoma. He proudly served his country with the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. **David** retired from the USDA and later worked in real estate for the Sac and Fox Nation and Bureau of Indian Affairs. On September 25, 2007, in Holdenville, Oklahoma, he married **Melissa Ann Harjo**. He also enjoyed searching for and collecting arrowheads and fossils. He is preceded in death by his parents and one brother, **Eddie Moffer, Jr.**

**Ottie G. Johnson**, 89, of Stillwater, died Saturday, July 25, 2020 in Oklahoma City. A funeral service was held Thursday, July 30, 2020 at Bishop Chapel of Memories in McAlester. **Ottie** was born in Hughes County, Oklahoma on May 22, 1931 to **Goldie and Alta (Free) Johnson**. He married **Virginia Blevins** on December 30, 1950 in Ozark, Arkansas.

He was a geologist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service until his retirement in 1986. For decades, he also wrote a weekly newspaper column.

Retired SCT in Antlers Field Office, **Calvin Joe "Doc" Gann**, passed from this life in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on October 8, 2020. **Calvin** served as a mentor to the technicians in South East Oklahoma before retiring in 2004. <https://www.serenityantlers.com/obituary/Calvin-Gann>

**Calvin** married **Beth Crager** on January 18, 1962 in Aspermont, Texas, graduated with a BS in Animal Husbandry and a member of the Data Delta Theta Alpha at Abilene Christian College, Abilene TX in 1965. **Calvin** began a career with the Soil Conservation Service as a Soil Technician in Floydada, TX. He had huge a passion for ranching, In 1968 he moved his Texas family to Oklahoma where he would operate a 3000 acre ranch in Daisy, OK and continued his career with the Soil Conservation Service in Antlers, OK. **Calvin** loved his family and went to

extreme measures for them! He loved watching his children and grandchildren's activities, from showing livestock to attending basketball, baseball, t-ball games, etc. He also enjoyed spending time raising cattle and doing veterinarian work, which is where he became known as "**Doc**" to the Daisy area! He also enjoyed playing golf and tennis along with watching Dallas Cowboys football on TV.

We have very sad news of the June 25th passing of **Joy Pewthers**, the loving wife of **John Pewthers**, retired DC from Waurika. **John** is extremely sad and heartbroken, but dealing with it as best as he can knowing that **Joy** is at peace in heaven now and in no pain. Here is the link to her obituary <http://www.dudleyfuneralhomes.com/joypewthers.html>

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## Recent NRCS Retirees

**Eddie Campbell**, 4/30/20, SCT, Coalgate

**Larry Frey**, 5/22/20, CET, NW Oklahoma

**Warren Sanders**, 7/3/20, DC, Marietta, 39 yrs service

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## Below is a list of the personnel actions:

Congratulations:

**Stanley Irving**, DC Team 3, was selected as the DC for Team 2. Until **Stanley** receives his official start date, **Jeremey Hughes** will remain as Acting DC Team 2.

Leaving NRCS:

**Breonna McElroy**, Soil Conservationist, Team 14, accepted a position with Food Nutrition Service in Dallas effective April 12, 2020

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## Other News

We **Oklahoma Retirees** were thrilled to see our own – **Kevin Norton**, Acting Chief of NRCS testify in front of the House Ag Committee on October 1st. **Kevin** worked several locations in Oklahoma before moving to Louisiana a few years ago then on to Washington D.C. He left many trails here and carries a lot of respect from his many supervisors and co-workers.

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

The **Next meeting** is scheduled for April, 2021 at Golden Corral Restaurant in Oklahoma City. A specific day will be established after the first of the year. No reservations are needed and we welcome out of state guests as well.