

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter

April 2021

Wanting to be cautious a while longer, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees cancelled their meeting scheduled for April hoping October is a much safer time for old timers to get together in person. Here are a few things going on with our membership as we continue to navigate the daily changes of COVID.

-- **Barry Bolles** said: I spent my first year of retirement building a house in Muskogee. Last place in the world I expected to windup. The folks at church just wouldn't let us leave. I spent the next few years doing genealogy research on my family and published a book in 2014. Found a lot of kinfolk and history I did not know. I've spend a lot of time working with the church. I teach from time to time. Not a preacher by any means, but I have baptized around ten. I get to be the grounds keeper and maintenance man as well. I've done a few drainage project in our neighborhood. I get a lot of calls about when and what to spray for lawn care. On the down side, I had to have triple bypass surgery in 2011 and a couple of stents in 2013. Slowed me down a little. I finished building my 1967 GTO show car in 2013. Took "Best of Show" one time out of 116 cars. I am the neighbor hood (no charge) welder. I've built a couple of flatbeds on pickups for my son and grandson. I can find plenty to do just not enough time. Think I'm going to have to slow down.

-- And after seeing an article in the local newspaper, **Mike Barrick** reported back to me: Thanks Randy but my brother Dan informed me about it. He graduated from Morrison 2 years after me and ended up the Vice-President of Morrison's Citizen's State Bank for 25 years. He now owns both of the Patriot Storage places in Stillwater.

Yes I was picked the "Dreamboat" for the school annual but I think they were dreaming! I was shy back then and I didn't even know the girls were paying attention to me. It boosted my confidence a little bit and surprised all of them when I brought a Stillwater girl to the Prom. They didn't know I had been dating her and that she was going to be my future wife. It is good to hear from you. It will be nice when we can meet together with our NRCS group again.

--Our What-A-Burger group is meeting in person once again in Stillwater. We welcome any and all to join us about 8:15AM on each Friday morning for the latest in solving the world's events. It is amazing the knowledge that is around the table and stories we tell about our careers in SCS/NRCS.

Recent Deaths in our SCS/NRCS Family

Bob Huneycutt, 87, retired State Administrative Officer, Stillwater, 1/9/2021, retired in 1989

Payton Mumford, Resource Conservationist, Sulphur FO, died in vehicle accident, 1/17/2021. Nephew of **Barry Bolles**

Gene Bollinger, 84, retired Asst. State Conservation Engineer, Stillwater, 1/22/2021, retired in 1990 from SCS after 32 yrs service & went to work for OCC Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation until 2009

Lloyd Garrison, 85, retired Construction Inspector, Marlow Watershed Construction Office also worked at the Davis WO

Jack Bohl, 87, retired District Conservationist, Frederick FO, 2/4/2021, retired in 1989 with 35 yrs service

Minnie Carol Moebius, 82, wife of Gordon Moebius, retired Soil Scientist at Duncan TSO, 12/19/2020

Anthony (Tony) Lovelace, 50, Soil Conservationist in Clinton & Alva, 12/13/2020

Clifford (Bud) Rhodes, 88, retired District Conservationist, Ardmore, 11/2/20

And we learned on November 23rd 2020 that Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) and Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts - Conservation Legend, **Hal Clark**, had passed away. Many of our SCS/NRCS Retirees will remember him and give thanks for having had the opportunity to know such a remarkable man. He was a long time district director in Cimarron County as well as a Commissioner for OCC. He was easy to laugh with and loved to talk to folks about the rich panhandle history, his ranch and conservation. He will truly be missed.

Recent NRCS Retirees

Greg Allen, 3/31/2021, DC, Cheyenne FO, 33 ½ yrs service

Laurie Bogle, 3/31/2021, Range Conservationist, Cheyenne FO, 34 yrs service

Freddy Trujillo, 12/31/2020, Civil Engineer Technician, Tulsa FO, 40 yrs service

Jerry Scott, 12/31/2020, Civil Engineer Technician, Clinton TSO, 40 yrs service

Larry McBride, 12/31/2020, DC, Altus FO, 31 yrs service

Lisel Worley, 12/31/2020, Resource Conservationist, Tahlequah, 25 yrs service

John David Jordan, 11/7/2020, Civil Engineer Technician, Claremore TSO, 30+ yrs service

Andy Inman, 1/1/2021, Resource Conservationist, Stilwell FO, 42 yrs service

Dwaine Gelnar, 1/2/2021, State Appeals Specialist, Missouri, former Soil Scientist in Oklahoma, 41 yrs service

Kevin Norton, 5/3/2021, Associate Chief, Washington DC, formerly Assist. State Conservationist for Programs, State Office, Stillwater

Below is a list of the personnel actions:

Travis Smith was selected as the SCT in Hugo, starting on March 15.

Michael Roberts was selected as the Resource Conservationist in Fairview starting March 15.

Kevin Foster was selected as the Resource Conservationist in Duncan starting March 28.

Tashina Kirk has been selected as the Resource Conservationist in Stilwell starting March 28.

Diana Nighswonger selected as the Resource Conservationist in Alva starting March 28.
Chris Clemens, Resource Conservationist Bristow, will serve as Acting DC for Team 3 starting March 14 for up to 120 days.

Other News

A couple of newsletters ago we told you of an effort to digitize old conservation photos so they would be preserved for posterity. Here is an update from Larry Caldwell about that process. It is taken, with permission, from an Oklahoma Conservation Commission Newsletter "The Ripple Effect"

The Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society (OCHS) is partnering with the Oklahoma History Society (OHS) to digitize old black and white photos. To date, OHS has delivered about 12,000 photos that were in the NRCS state office. During the past 18 months, OHS has been digitizing these photos and merging them with the metadata that is on the backs of the photos. OHS has recently posted 3,709 of these photos to their public website "Gateway to Oklahoma History" in the "Oklahoma Conservation History Collection". These photos involve images from 8 decades in 75 Oklahoma counties. OHS will be posting an additional 2,500 photos soon. They are processing the remaining 6,000 photos that will be posted later.

Check out their conservation history collection on their website at:

<https://gateway.okhistory.org/explore/partners/OKCHS/>

Note that you can search this collection using the search bar in the lower left of the webpage. For example, if you enter "Custer County" and press the magnifying glass, 69 images will pop up. Some include SCS Chief Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett talking to a youth group in Clinton in 1941 (the image shown here). You can be as specific as you want. For example, if you enter "Wildhorse Watershed", you will see 16 images. Any of the images can be downloaded.

To get started with your search, enter "5000th Great Plains Contract of Oklahoma" and you will see a photo of the Beaver County Conservation District Board signing the 5,000th GP contract in 1971.

OCHS is in the process of working with selected conservation districts to gather 15,000 additional old photos so that they can be added to the OHS website collection. If you have questions on the specifics of protocols for selecting and collecting the photos, please contact Larry Caldwell (larry.caldwell@usda.gov) or Ben Pollard (benpollard64@gmail.com).

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.

This newsletter is a little "lean" on personal information from our members/retirees. Sure would appreciate anything you could offer for the next one. Thanks! Randy Freeland

The Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, **October, 22, 2021** at Golden Corral Restaurant in Oklahoma City. No reservations are needed and we welcome out of state guests as well.