

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees Newsletter

October 2021

Still being cautious, the Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retirees cancelled their meeting scheduled for October hoping Spring 2022 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. Some were received shortly after the April 2021 Newsletter was sent out.

Hello to all my Oklahoma friends. **Edith** and I are in Germany touring and catching a Viking Cruise Home on October 3. Hopefully can make meeting in spring. **Ron Hilliard**

Dick Bogard reported that **Bob Bourlier**, 88, retired Soil Scientist, & his wife **Loretta** are in assisted living in Norman. Phone # 580-309-0081 or 309-0096, if anyone wants to contact him.

Hi, it's **Carolyn Webb** and sure miss seeing all of you USDA friends and co-workers. Looking forward to seeing you in October. After being a hermit thru this crazy pandemic (shame on me as I call it a damdemic) I now get out in the public some. Have been volunteering at our recent recycling project in Bristow and really enjoying it. I'm training for Bristow Wildflower 5K in May. It will be Mother's Day weekend and my daughter and granddaughter from California are coming in as a present to run with me! Can you believe that I'm able because years ago some of you gave me your leave when I had my cancer surgery and was told it was terminal. God is good and you are truly the best! I love you all. **Here's a follow-up to her story.** Hi, I won 1st prize and a medal for the 5K I did Saturday. Placed in the 45 and up age category. Did it in 54 minutes. Yahoo! In the morning I'm going to surgery for a shoulder I hurt two years ago. **And then...** Had shoulder surgery two days after the 5K and wore my medal. They took it off just before surgery. I'm healing now.

Greg Allen reports: Hi Randy, as you know I retired March 31st from NRCS. I will now spend more time with Bend of the River Outfitters LLC. A hunting business of mine for 27 years now. Upon my retirement I was hired as Regional Coordinator with the Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association. I will be promoting the benefits of Prescribed Burning in western Oklahoma. Writing burn plans, assisting and educating the public on the use of Prescribed Burning.

I had an email exchange with **Geri Cutler** when she wasn't receiving our newsletter, etc. Here is her response. Came flying like an Eagle. It's difficult to get mail without problems any more. I make some of the mistakes myself. Just have to keep sending until you get a reason for things. Hope everything at least partially works out soon. This happens often lately; probably part of this confusion and health overload we're undergoing. We did change my address lately and maybe it will clear up soon. Stay safe and we appreciate hearing from you. I have increasingly suffered an increase in dementia. Wonder why? I'm only 94 years old. Always enjoy seeing your news about the SCS and employees.

I (**Randy Freeland**) just talked on the phone last night with **Nick Lambeth**. Many of you will remember **Nick** either as a friend, co-worker, supervisor, mentor, or member of SCSA (SWCS). Always a pleasure to visit with him and reminisce times from the past. He is doing well except pretty much home bound due to a surgery but anxious for another SCS/NRCS Retirees Meeting to see old friends. If you would like to give him a call he would love to hear from you. Send me an email and I will give you his home phone number.

Remembering a phone call from **Phil Perryman** about a year ago came to mind as I wrote about **Nick**. **Phil** had started calling (about one a month) retirees he worked with during his employment with SCS/NRCS. That's a great idea and more of us should do something similar.

Doesn't take but a few minutes and both of you will cherish long time memories from the past. If you can think of someone you would like to contact but don't have email or phone numbers, give me or Sandra Hough a call or email and I bet one of us has it.

Recent NRCS Retirees

Don Bartolina (2nd Retirement), 17 years with Oklahoma County Conservation District, District Manager, 6/30/2021

Linda Parkhurst, Clerk, East Zone, McAlester TSO, 7/17/2021

Tom James, Resource Specialist, Wewoka, 7/31/2021

Jim Shaffer, Resource Specialist, West Zone, Woodward TSO, 34 years of service, 9/30/2021

Dennis Fowler, Soil Conservation Technician, Chandler, 35 years of service, 10/22/2021

Recent Deaths in our SCS/NRCS Family

We received the sad news that one of our former employees, **Brandee Williams** passed away on April 26, 2021. **Brandee** was from Forgan, OK and worked in Taloga and Hugo/Idabel before accepting a Range Management Specialist position with NRCS in Florida.

Darrell Wells, 82, Watershed Staff in various locations, Clinton, started working at the age of 18, retired in 1994 with 37 years of service, 5/28/2021

Anthony Felder, 92, retired Soil Conservation Technician, Okeene, 6/24/2021, retired in 1983

Gordon Moebius, 82, retired Resource Soil Scientist, Duncan TSO, 9/12/2021

Iris Imler, 68, retired Programs Coordinator, Cimarron County Conservation District, Boise City, retired in 2019, 26 years of service, 9/14/2021

Although back in 2020, we just learned of the following: Retiree, **Jack Eckroat** passed away on July 13, 2020. **Jack** worked for NRCS as a Resource Conservationist on the Ecological Sciences Staff in the state office from 2003 until he retired on January 2, 2009. **Jack's** focus during his time working with NRCS was on compiling ecological site descriptions and the eastern red cedar project.

Other News

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. And besides all of that...the coffee is FREE!

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, newsletters, etc.

Just learned through **NARFE** (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association) that CSRS Retirees will be getting a 5.9% COLA starting in January! I believe those that receive Social Security will be getting the same increase. If you aren't a member of NARFE, I would very much encourage it. They are the only lobbying organization who's total purpose in life is to maintain and/or improve the benefits (annuities, health insurance, etc.) of Federal Retirees and Active Employees. Give me a call or email if you would like more information about NARFE.

As you can see I got a few very interesting "inputs" from our Retiree Membership. Thank you very much. Others please feel free to send me something similar and I promise to keep it until the April 2022 Newsletter. Do it now before you forget! Send it to:
randy.freeland@suddenlink.net

The Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, in **April 2022** at Golden Corral Restaurant in Oklahoma City. A precise date will be sent out as soon as it is secured. No reservations are needed and we welcome out of state guests as well.