

# USGS RETIREES

NEWSLETTER No. 192

August 2021

*An organization of retirees of the U.S. Geological Survey, whose purpose is to keep its members in touch with each other and their former agency.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Hello USGS Retirees,

I hope all of you are enjoying the summer despite the record heat, serious drought, and torrential storms that members are enduring in parts of the country. Joyce and I feel very fortunate that our weather on Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau has been close to normal for spring through the first 15 days of summer when I wrote this message. Thankfully, most of us should be fully vaccinated and can begin to resume our normal activities and travel for leisure or visits to family and dear friends. Hopefully, by the end of summer the country has reached "Herd Immunity".

The first article in this edition is on the 20<sup>th</sup> Retirees Reunion (pages 2-5) scheduled for March 10-12, 2022 in Tucson. You will find the Reunion registration form and information on the agenda, two optional tours, and hotel registration. Registration for the Reunion and hotel starts on September 1, 2021. The venue is fantastic with a location adjacent to the University of Arizona and an exceptional low cost. The two optional tours provide the opportunity to learn and enjoy the wonderful city of Tucson and the flora and fauna of the southwest desert. I strongly suggest registering early so that you are guaranteed accommodations on the tours and the type of room you desire. Also, early registration is greatly appreciated by the Local Arrangements Committee because it aids the committee in optimizing activities and, significantly, facilitates accounting, budget adjustments, purchasing, and volunteer assignments.

We have had another successful year with our Hydrologic Technician Scholarship Program. Thanks to the dedicated work of Vice President, Phil Turnipseed, Treasurer, Cathy Hill, and Regional Representatives, Norm Grannemann, Ed Martin, Ken Lindskov, and Pat Tucci, we have awarded 6 scholarships, totaling \$8,250. That amount brings the total for the 2006-2021 history of the program to \$81,404. Recipients came from all regions, with the Southeast, Central, and Western having one each and the Northeastern having three. Photographs of the presentations and brief write ups from the recipients will be in the November Newsletter. Phil and company will continue their efforts in 2022 to insure all eligible USGS technicians are aware of the Program.

The November Newsletter also will contain the ballot for the biennial election of the 6 National Officers and 4 Regional Representatives. Except for the President, yours truly, and the Central Region Representative, Ken Lindskov, the remaining incumbents have expressed their intention to seek re-election. Retired members who have served with any units of the USGS are eligible to seek an elected position. If you are interested in one of the positions, you will need to identify the position and provide a brief autobiography by email ([wrretirees2014@gmail.com](mailto:wrretirees2014@gmail.com)) no later than October 15, 2021. Examples of the brief autobiographies of candidates are in the November 2019 Newsletter (N.L.185, pages 6 and 7) found on our web site ([www.wrretirees.org/backissues.html](http://www.wrretirees.org/backissues.html)). To date, members who have expressed interest in positions are Bill Carswell for President and Bob Swanson for Central Region Representative.

I hope to hear from you in November's "News of Retirees" Section,

Pete

#### Address:

USGS Retirees  
P.O. Box 280  
Herndon, VA 20172-0280  
Phone (703) 596-5468  
Web Page: <http://wrretirees.org/>  
Email: [wrretirees2014@gmail.com](mailto:wrretirees2014@gmail.com)

#### Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Jeff Stoner  
Layout Editor: Merilee Bennett  
NR: Debbie McLean  
SR: John Clarke  
CR: James (Jim) Bennett  
WR: John Klein

#### Regional Directors:

Norm Grannemann, Northeast  
Ed Martin, Southeast  
Bob Swanson, Central  
Pat Tucci, Western

#### National Officers:

Peter W. (Pete) Anttila, President  
Phil Turnipseed, Vice President  
Kate Flynn, Secretary  
Cathy Hill, Treasurer  
Herb Freiburger, Archivist



# USGS Retirees Reunion

Reserve the dates  
March 10–12, 2022 in

## TUCSON, ARIZONA

Take a break from the cold, clouds, and snow of next winter to join your friends and former colleagues in the sun, warmth (avg. high of 78° F), culture, and beauty of Tucson and Southern Arizona! For the March 2022 Reunion, we have a signed agreement with the Marriott Tucson University Park Hotel for a daily room rate of about \$155 (including tax and fees). The Marriott Hotel is adjacent to the University of Arizona and close to shopping, dining, and entertainment at Main Gate Square. The hotel also is a quick light-rail ride to downtown Tucson; an easy drive to Saguaro National Park East and West; and close to USGS offices on campus, hiking trails, golf courses, museums, and birding sites. If you're interested in extending your stay, the hotel agreement includes holding the reunion room rate for three nights prior to and after the reunion dates. We hope to see you in person in Tucson!

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/tusmp-tucson-marriott-university-park/>

Conde Nast Traveler (May 2021) just named Tucson as one of its Where to Travel Next: Hot list 2021 destinations. .... "Most come to Tucson for its miles of hiking trails under year-round sunny skies, but it's also worth planning a trip around its food industry. The city is the first place in the U.S. recognized by UNESCO for its gastronomy, and it's easier than ever to seek out its Mexican and Native American heritage."

*Stephanie Wu (2021, Conde Nast)*



**SIGN-UP FOR LONG-OVERDUE REUNION**  
**University Marriott**  
**880 E. Second Street**  
**(520) 792-4100 (Mention USGS Reunion)**  
**Room rate is \$155/night including taxes and fees.**  
**Hotel Reservations open September 1, 2021**

**NOTE:**

- The Registration Form does not include the Hotel Room Reservation.**
- Hotel offers Reunion block rate 3 days before and after Reunion if you desire to extend your stay.**
- No cost for reservation and canceling.**

**Highlights of Tucson Area Tour**  
**Friday March 11<sup>th</sup> (11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**

The easiest way to see and experience the uniqueness of the Tucson area is a bus tour with multiple stops at some unique places. Buses will pick us up at the Hotel for a departure at 11:30 a.m. on Friday with an option to buy a box lunch. Some sites are under negotiation, others still closed due Covid, but a great tour is promised. Some examples are:

San Xavier Mission established in 1692 and completed in 1797. It is the oldest intact European structure in Arizona. <https://www.sanxaviermission.org/>



The **309<sup>th</sup> Aerospace and Maintenance and Regeneration Group** often called the Boneyard, is a United States Air Force aircraft and missile storage and maintenance facility located on Davis–Monthan Air Force Base. Established after World War II, the AMARG manages 4,000 aircraft-- the largest-aircraft storage facility in the world. Many unique aircraft are found here.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/309th\\_Aerospace\\_Maintenance\\_and\\_Regeneration\\_Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/309th_Aerospace_Maintenance_and_Regeneration_Group)

The Gem and Mineral show in Tucson will be over by the time of our reunion but the University of Arizona has opened a new Gem and Mineral Museum in the old Pima County Courthouse with impressive specimens and a link to the mining history of the area.

<http://gemandmineralmuseum.arizona.edu>



Other possible sites, include Old Town Artisans, Saguaro NP and a demonstration of drone technology by the AZWSC, are planned with more details to follow.



## Description of Sonoran Desert Museum Tour Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> (8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is a 'must see' place when visiting Tucson and the Sonoran Desert. We have chartered 2 buses that will pick us up at the Hotel on Saturday morning and deliver us to the facility which is about 23 miles west of the University campus. Primarily outdoors and comprised of a zoo with mostly native desert species, an extensive botanical garden, two art galleries, and a natural history museum. The Desert Museum sits on 98-acres of pristine desert landscape. The Museum showcases the diverse flora and fauna of the Sonoran Desert region with over 55,000 plants. Wildlife can be viewed such as coyotes, javelinas, mountain lions, and bighorn sheep in naturalistic habitats. Bird lovers delight in visiting the Museum's two aviaries, one dedicated to hummingbirds. The Museum's gift shops offer an incredible bounty of books, jewelry, crafts, and more. Handicap accommodations are available.

<https://www.desertmuseum.org/>



### OTHER ACTIVITIES

#### Golf

We want to create the opportunity for the golfers among us to take advantage of our beautiful courses Thursday afternoon or Sunday morning or both days. Rather than guessing the best event timing and format, we have time to base it on the input of those interested in participating. Tucson has a wide range of municipal and public courses available from ~\$40 per round to high-end resort courses with prices in the low triple digits. An expression of interest will result in your receiving a survey to give us your preferences in day or days, cost range, format (scramble, best ball, mixed gender foursomes just playing golf, etc.,).



Contact Bob MacNish at [macnish7@gmail.com](mailto:macnish7@gmail.com) by **January 1, 2022** to express an interest and help us put together a golf experience that all will enjoy.

#### USGS Jam session

In addition to having world-class scientists, USGS has its share of talented musicians, who have gathered often for informal jam sessions. We would like to have an evening of music at our reunion, perhaps on Friday, March 11. Bring your favorite acoustic instrument, and maybe sheets with lyrics and chords to share. If you can't bring an instrument, we may have a few to share. Stan Leake has offered to loan some of his instruments (guitar, upright bass, banjo mandolin, banjo, uke, 5-string banjo, fiddles, and button accordions), and we are sure that there will be an extra guitar or percussion instruments. If interested, contact Pat Tucci at [ptucci@sprintmail.com](mailto:ptucci@sprintmail.com) by **February 15, 2022** so that we can arrange space. Hope to hear you there!



**REGISTRATION FORM -- 20TH USGS RETIREES REUNION 2022****Tucson, Arizona****Thursday, March 10 through Saturday, March 12, 2022**<http://wrdretirees.org/Reunions/2022Tucson/Invite%20flyer%20vf.pdf>Complete this form, make check payable to **"USGS Retirees Reunion"**, and mail to:

USGS Retirees Reunion c/o Stan Leake or Mark Anderson  
 1645 W. Valencia Rd Suite 109, PMB266  
 Tucson, AZ 85746

**Note:** This Registration Form **does not** include the Hotel Room Reservation. Encourage you to call early the University Marriott directly at: (520) 792-4100, **mention USGS Reunion**. Hotel offers Reunion block rate 3 days before and after Reunion if you desire to extend stay. No cost for reservation and canceling.

Room rate is \$155/night including taxes and fees; **Hotel reservations open September 1, 2021.****REUNION REGISTRATION--Deadline February 1, 2022** - Refunds are available prior to the February deadline.**Print first and last name(s) as you'd like on name tag(s):**

RETIREE (1st, last): \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE (1st, last): \_\_\_\_\_

Year Retired \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE:****NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$95 per person****\$**

Includes Thursday evening ice-breaker reception, with drink ticket and hospitality room for the three days.

**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

Reunion check-in is 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Hospitality Room open at 3:00 p.m. Informal Reunion ice-breaker reception (6 pm to 9 pm). The Hospitality Room will be closed during the reception and subsequently reopened.

**TOURS: (One Friday and one Saturday)** capacities are limited and filled based on date of registration. Refunds will be given for applications received after maximum capacities have been reached:

**Tucson Area Tour, Highlights, Friday (11:30 am - 5:00 pm) March 11, 2022:**

(Maximum Capacity 100)

Number for tour: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$65 /person = \$

Optional Box lunch \$15

Number for lunch: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 /person = \$

**Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Saturday (8:30 am to 1:00 pm) March 12, 2022:** <https://desertmuseum.org>

Tour includes transportation, museum entrance fee, and refreshment. (Maximum Capacity 100).

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50 per person \$

**Banquet, Saturday (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) March 12, 2022:**

Banquet in Ballroom in hotel. The Hospitality Room will be closed during the banquet and subsequently reopened.

Choose from entree's below:

Indicate Entrée Choice(s) by first name:	Mex Chicken	Steak	Vegetarian	Indicate meal choice	
	\$56	\$56	\$56	Number: _____ @ \$56 per person	\$
				Includes all taxes, tip, 1 drink ticket	

**TOTAL (Registration, Tours, and Banquet): \$**

Reunion Web Site for additional information:

<http://wrdretirees.org/Reunions/2022Tucson/>**Questions?**[markandersonwater@gmail.com](mailto:markandersonwater@gmail.com)[AZStan@gmail.com](mailto:AZStan@gmail.com)[ptucci@sprintmail.com](mailto:ptucci@sprintmail.com)

## RETIREMENTS



**Jim Bartolino**, Groundwater Specialist in the Idaho Water Science Center is retired after 31 years with the USGS at the end of June. After finishing his PhD from Texas Tech in 1991, Jim went to work for the Texas District office in Austin. After three years he moved to the New Mexico District office in Albuquerque to work as the lead hydrologist on the groundwater-oriented Southern High Plains NAWQA—which was promptly cancelled. While in New Mexico, Jim conducted groundwater-resource studies for Ryan Flat in Trans-Pecos Texas and the East Mountain area of central New Mexico and became the Ground-Water Specialist in 1998. He led the Water Resources Division Middle Rio Grande Basin project and coordinated with scientists from Geologic and National Mapping Divisions. As part of his own work on the project, a USGS report that he coauthored with Rich Niswonger, “Numerical simulation of vertical ground-water flux of the Rio Grande from ground-water temperature profiles, central New Mexico,” was cited by Mary Anderson in her 2007 AGU Langbein Lecture as one of 15 “USGS-authored publications of great significance over this century of progress including five by scientists who are still active USGS ground-water scientists.” (Jim jokes that she undoubtedly still regrets including it.) After 10 years in New Mexico, in 2004 Jim headed to the Idaho District office in Boise. In Idaho Jim served as Groundwater Specialist and contributed to hydrogeologic frameworks for the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie, Wood River Valley, and Treasure Valley aquifers as well as several other groundwater-related studies. He also had the privilege of working on international projects making five trips to Iraq (2009-10) and two trips to Ethiopia (2012-13). Over his career Jim has about 75 scientific publications and abstracts including over 30 in various USGS series. Jim and his wife, Chris, are moving to the Wood River Valley of Idaho along with their three Chesapeake Bay Retrievers: Winnie, Toby, and Jake. In retirement they plan on enjoying the Idaho outdoors: bicycling, Nordic-skiing, camping, hiking, bird hunting, and fly fishing (badly). They will also continue working with Chesapeake Bay Retriever Relief and Rescue evaluating, fostering, and transporting dogs. Post-retirement Jim can be reached at: [jrbartol@msn.com](mailto:jrbartol@msn.com).

**-Roy Bartholomay, Acting Center Director, USGS Idaho Water Science Center**

**Pierre Glynn** retired on March 31st after 32 years of service to the USGS, most recently as Acting Branch Chief for the Hydro-Ecological Interactions Branch in Earth System Processes Division (ESPD). Before that he was the Chief of the National Research Program for Water. Pierre plans to continue working as Scientist Emeritus in the USGS Science and Decisions Center, focusing on improving the science, policy and management of complex systems and issues. He looks forward to staying engaged, in this new role, with colleagues in the Water Enterprise and in the USGS. Pierre is thankful for the diversity of interesting work and learning opportunities provided to him during his USGS career -- and especially for the friends and USGS family acquired as a result.

**Marijke van Heeswijk** retired on August 28, 2020 after 30 years with the USGS. Marijke began her career with the USGS in 1990 as a hydrologist in the South Carolina Water Science Center (WSC), investigating the hydrology of the Coastal Plain aquifers near Charleston and Florence, South Carolina. She then transferred to the Washington WSC, where she worked as a Project Chief on multiple projects, including a groundwater study of Submarine Base Bangor and a study on the importance of rain-on-snow events to floods in Washington State. In 1999, she became Chief of the Center's Watersheds and Ecology Section, overseeing a variety of sediment and streamflow studies. In this role, she led the development of a new regional cross-Mission Area research program studying the Coastal Habitats in Puget Sound, Washington. During this time, she took on many rotational assignments including acting as the USGS Northwest Regional Tribal Liaison, Deputy Center Chief of both the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center and the Southwest Biological Science Center, and Tribal Liaison and Communications Coordinator for the Northwest Climate Science Center. In 2012, she became the Washington WSC's Assistant Director for Hydrologic Data, where she led the data program in documenting severe drought conditions affecting the State. She also served as Secretary for the U.S. Section of the IJC Boards of Control for Osoyoos Lake and the Columbia River, co-producing the award-winning film “The River Film”, which describes many of the challenges of managing the Okanogan River and Osoyoos Lake ecosystem. In 2016, she became the Deputy Regional Director for the Northwest Region,



and in January 2019, she became the Acting Regional Director of the newly formed Region 9: Columbia-Pacific Northwest and Region 12: Pacific Islands. The outstanding quality of her work has earned her the respect of her colleagues and reflects her dedication to the goals of the USGS.

**-Jim Reilly, USGS Director, and David L. Kresch, Washington State Representative, USGS Retiree's Organization**

After more than 40 years of exceptional research in hydrology and water quality, **John Izbicki** is retiring. John began his USGS career in 1980 as a hydrologic field assistant in Maryland and soon transferred to California as a project chief for studies on reclaimed water and the occurrence and distribution of selenium. In 1985, John transferred to Massachusetts, where he was a project chief on a series of groundwater quantity and quality studies and served as the water-quality specialist. In 1990, John returned to California as the geochemist on the southern California Regional Aquifer-System Analysis (RASA) study. John's research using chemical and isotopic techniques to identify the source and age of water in coastal and desert basins in California has helped water managers better understand and utilize their groundwater resources. The chemical and isotopic-tracers approaches developed as part of his RASA work have been widely applied, both nationally and internationally. John participated in the USGS Graduate Training Program, receiving a PhD in Soil and Water Science from University of California, Riverside in 2000. I believe that he set a record for how quickly he completed his coursework and dissertation. After returning from graduate school, John kept his foot on the accelerator. His research on unsaturated flow has been instrumental in designing and monitoring artificial recharge programs. John also has provided insight into the distribution of arsenic and chromium in southern California and has characterized the microbial and dissolved organic carbon sources of stormflows in the Santa Ana River. John is always looking for new and innovative ways to address real-world water-resource issues, as evidenced by the two patents that he has successfully obtained on the "Izzmobile," a tool he designed to collect velocity log and down-hole chemistry from long-screen production wells. Over the last several years, John has led the challenging and complex study to evaluate the presence of geological and anthropogenic Chromium (VI) near Hinkley, California. The Hinkley contamination saga was made famous in the movie "Erin Brockovich." Of course, we are all wondering what actor will play the role of John Izbicki when they make the sequel. Despite the many demands on his time, John has always been selfless in his willingness to mentor early-career scientists. Many, many USGS scientists have benefited from John's knowledge and guidance. John's passion for his research has earned the respect of all his colleagues and he continues to be a great representative of the scientific excellence of the USGS. In retirement, John plans to spend more time with his family and particularly his grandchildren. I'm guessing that he may also do some sailing. Luckily for the USGS, John plans to work as a USGS retired annuitant completing his seminal work on Hinkley and mentoring others on water-quality studies. Wishing John all the best on the roads – and waters – ahead.

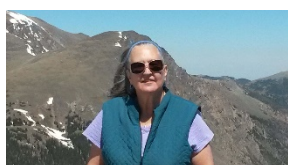
**-Eric Reichard, Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region, Interior Regions 8 (Lower Colorado Basin) and 10 (California - Great Basin)**



After nearly 33 years with the USGS, **Richard Marella** retired on June 30, 2021. Rich began his career with the USGS in the Tallahassee Office in August of 1988 as a Geographer in charge of the Florida Water-Use Program. He came to the USGS from the St. Johns River Water Management District in Palatka where he initiated their water-use data collection and compilation program in 1980. He has been responsible for the data collection and compilation of water-use data for Florida including publishing the state water-use totals every 5 years since 1985. In all, he has worked on 7 statewide water use compilations for the USGS National Water-Use Program. He has also worked on water-use projects in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Puerto Rico over his 33-year career as the Water Science center's water-use specialist. This body of work included projects on per capita water use, public supply water-use projections, domestic self-supplied water-use, lawn irrigation, irrigation land-use mapping in Florida, and multi-state projects that included water-use in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin and the Floridan Aquifer System. In 2002, Richard became involved with the Georgia-Florida National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) and worked across north Florida and east and South Georgia on sampling efforts of agriculture and domestic wells. In 2007, his work was expanded in the south Florida NAWQA study unit where he worked on designing water-sampling networks for monitor, domestic, and

public-supply wells. In 2010, Richard relocated from the Tallahassee office to the Orlando office where his water-use and NAWQA work continued. It was here that he began an 8-year project to map the irrigated lands across the state for the purpose of projecting agricultural water demands for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He had the opportunity of driving up and down nearly every road through 55 counties between 2013 and 2021 logging thousands of miles and seeing areas of Florida unknown to most people. He also has developed a template on metering private wells, including domestic and lawn irrigations well across central Florida. Richard has well over three-dozen water-use publications and is responsible for a consistent water-use data set for Florida dating back to 1985. Rich has expanded water use science to an unprecedented level and is a nationally recognized expert in the subject. However, Rich's greatest talent may be his ability to communicate effectively with state and local partners, expertly identifying areas in which the USGS can meet societal needs, designing a workplan and executing the science to make real and tangible contributions. Rich's impact on the world is best seen at water resource meetings around the State of Florida where his name is invoked with incredible frequency and with respect. Richard and his wife Monique reside in Ormond by the Sea which is between Daytona Beach and St. Augustine. They look forward to visiting their 10 grandchildren located across the Southeast and Midwest, hiking, riding as many rails-to-trails as possible, and bird watching.

***-Contributed by David M. Sumner, Director - USGS Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center***



**Sandra J. Owen-Joyce** entered science with undergraduate studies at SUNY at Stony Brook (BS, 1968-72), building a multidisciplinary background in all the earth sciences and marine biology and worked on graduate studies at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (MS, 1973-75) where she added courses in water resources and began a research career in geology. Sandy began her career with the USGS

Conservation Division (1975-78) as a geologist GS-9 in the Los Angeles District Office independently conducting geologic investigations in the field of outer continental shelf resources evaluation and in the general field of mineral land classification. She then worked with Dr. Ahmed Fouda to create the first geologic hazards unit within the Western Region. In 1978 Sandy transferred to the Arizona District Office to work as a project chief on scientific studies including a water resource appraisal project already in progress in the Upper Verde River Area, Arizona. Additionally, she designed, proposed, and received a project to study the hydrology of the stream-aquifer system in the Camp Verde Area of the Verde Valley. Next, she completed the groundwater return-flow project by applying and modifying the water-budget methodology for the Palo Verde-Cibola area to estimate groundwater return flow to the lower Colorado River. She then helped develop an accounting system for water and consumptive use along the lower Colorado River using surface-water budgets to estimate consumptive use. In 1988, she was assigned to take over a research project to map the aerial distribution of evapotranspiration in relation to soil moisture using geographic information system software. In 1989, Sandy began work on a research project to evaluate the spatial and temporal differences of the variables collected at weather stations for use with satellite-image data in estimating evapotranspiration and the results provided information required to improve the accounting system developed for the lower Colorado River. In 1993, Sandy became a Group Leader in the Arizona District to oversee all project work along the lower Colorado River and took on the job to rejuvenate the accounting surface/well inventory project to negotiate and meet revised deadlines for that work. In 1994, Sandy negotiated a continuation of the well inventory work along the lower Colorado River with the Bureau of Reclamation. She was Project Manager for the work which involved the inventory of wells, coding/entry of the data into the National Water Information System (NWIS) data base, development of an image-based data base for photographs of the wells, and coordinated work between Reclamation and USGS employees, the States of Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah, and the Colorado River Indian Tribes. She has worked in all aspects of the project, which has accumulated a huge data set for over 15,000 wells, pumps in the river, cisterns, and springs for which Sandy has processed data on all of them. From 1994-95, Sandy was the Federal Women's Program Coordinator for the District and a member of the Southern Arizona Federal Women's Program Interagency Council. She was also the Western Women of Water District Coordinator during the same time. Sandy was Acting Assistant Chief of Hydrologic Investigations and Research with supervisory duties beginning April 17, 1995 and was Acting Assistant District Chief for two years while the incumbent was on detail in Washington DC (1999-2000) and Acted in the role of Center Director as required. In 1996, Sandy became one of two Supervisory Hydrologists overseeing the work of other project hydrologists in the Arizona Water Science Center Hydrologic Projects OFA/FED Section in



addition to supervising the staff of the Decree Accounting Project. She also was the supervisor of the Tucson Field Office for a time. Sandy has been involved with all the versions of the database from the AMDAHL to Groundwater Site Inventory (GWSI) and later National Water Information System (NWIS) from 1978 to 2021 and was officially Groundwater Data Base Administrator from 2001 to 2019 though she still provides expertise to fellow employees and helps with database cleanup for migration to Aquarius. She was an NWIS beta tester of the NWIS updates from 2000-2014. In 2013, Sandy was asked to step down from the supervisory position to concentrate on the Decree Accounting project, which was ongoing and had accumulated a large backlog of data that needed to be processed and entered into the database. In 2020, she completed an existing project with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to summarize what is known about the geohydrologic system on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge and analyze groundwater-level trends and precipitation-groundwater correlations.

**-James Leenhouts, Center Director, USGS Arizona Water Science Center**

**Personal Note from Jim Leenhouts:** *Forty-six years is a career longer and deeper than I can really wrap my head around, yet that is the career that the Arizona Water Science Center's Sandra Owen-Joyce has dedicated to the U.S. Geological Survey. July 2, 2021 will be Sandy's last day as a full-time "regular" with the USGS. In her ongoing commitment to our organization, however, Sandy will be returning under Emeritus status to continue some existing work and, perhaps of greatest interest, to pursue some publications drawn from her unparalleled knowledge of the Lower Colorado River. I look forward to reading them. The diversity and breadth of work Sandy did during her career is outstanding! More will be detailed in her upcoming Emeritus web profile. COVID has preempted a celebration gathering for the moment, but we'll keep our eyes on when that becomes possible. Sandy, congratulations to you! Jim*



**Mark Stephens** retired on April 30, 2021, after 32+ years of dedicated service with the USGS. He began his career in the Data Section of the Tallahassee Office in 1988. He spent a short time in Tifton, GA with NAWQA before returning to Tallahassee. Mark has been involved with all aspects of the data collection program in the Panhandle region of Florida. He has been a teacher and mentor to staff in Florida and Puerto Rico. Mark has lead teams in the aftermath of hurricanes to collect flood measurements and storm surge data. Mark plans to enjoy his retirement with hunting, fishing, and general outdoor activities with friends and family. We will greatly miss Mark but wish him the very best as he begins this new

chapter in his life.

**Paul Hsieh**  
**Honorary Degree Doctor of Science**  
**University of Arizona**



The USGS recognizes **USGS Scientist Emeritus Paul Hsieh** for being awarded the honorary degree of **Doctor of Science by the University of Arizona**. The Faculty Senate of the University of Arizona has elected to confer on Dr. Paul Hsieh the honorary degree of Doctor of Science in recognition of his “outstanding impact in the field of hydrology and related sciences.” This degree recognizes a “career-long pattern of developing and applying cutting-edge science to resolve important societal issues.” Among Dr. Hsieh’s accomplishments cited are his work as Chair of the Committee on Flow and Transport in the Fractured Vadose Zone, which was critical to the assessment of Yucca Mountain as a national nuclear waste repository; his development of open-source hydrologic modeling tools that substantially advanced the ability of scientists to communicate modeling results; and his crucial work in resolving the 2010 blowout of the Macondo well in the Gulf of Mexico as part of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Paul will be honored at a ceremony at a later date. Congratulations, Paul!

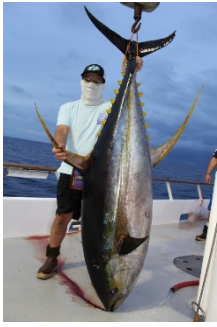
### **NEWS OF RETIREES**

**John Clemens** writes: Since my retirement about five years ago, I've enjoyed beekeeping, volunteering for local nonprofits, and traveling to visit my far-flung relatives across the country. Of course, as with everyone else in the world, the pandemic dramatically altered my plans, and now I'm mostly "retiring-in-place." I'm still volunteering, though, most recently as the Public Information Officer of the Pierce County (WA) Medical Reserve Corps. I'm also one of hundreds in various non-clinical roles who help operate the public health COVID-19 vaccine clinics. These activities keep me sane(r) and give me a chance to work with and for people, something I've greatly missed since retirement. Thanks for all you do to help keep USGS retirees in touch with each other.

**Ray Cummings** writes: The newsletter continues to come through as Spam. Whether that will keep anyone from tapping into it I don't know.

**Terry Ewart** writes: I wish to thank you for continuing to send the newsletter after my husband's passing (Charles J Ewart III, Honolulu District, HI). Each newsletter brings interesting information on the valuable work of the USGS employees and I'm proud that my husband was a member of USGS. However, as I age, those who were with the Honolulu office have retired or passed. I believe it is time for me to eliminate my subscription. Thank you for sending it at no cost and I wish the best for all of you and thank those dedicated volunteers producing this newsletter. Regards

**Don Goolsby** writes - I just received the May issue of the Newsletter and decided to write a note before I forget. First, "Thank You" to all of the dedicated Retirees who put the Newsletter together. You do a fantastic job. Barbara and I continue to live in Lady Lake, Florida, near The Villages. We are in reasonably good health for our age. We both are fortunate to have family members living in the area (children, grandchildren, and siblings, etc.). We had a Goolsby Family Reunion on the "family farm" in Belleview, FL in 2019 that was attended by nearly 40 family members and guests. We haven't travelled much in the last 2 years, but I'm traveling to Colorado in June for my grand-daughters high school graduation. I still play golf several times a week and Barbara plays occasionally. If we are still in good health in 2022, we plan to attend the Reunion in Tucson. Hope to see many of you there.



**Rick Iwatsubo** writes: Despite Coronavirus, I was able to make my annual giant yellowfin tuna fishing trip in January. Each crew and passenger were tested prior to boarding and with all having negative results, we headed out for the next 16 days. After a few days following social distancing and wearing masks, we all felt safe in our own bubble out on the ocean. For the past 2 years the big tuna has been elusive, and this year was no exception as only 3 were caught. Having 'Jack Ass' luck, I was fortunate to catch one of them. Weather was great, lots of smaller tuna were caught, fun fishing with friends, and we all enjoyed getting away from Covid for a few weeks. Please everyone, continue to take care and be safe.

**Charles (Chuck) Lamb** writes: I continue to live and enjoy my life of retirement in Sacramento, CA. And, look forward to reading the Newsletter.

**Larry McGreevy** writes: Received a paper copy of the new Directory that had a note on the envelope. The note said that stuff sent to my email address had been rejected. That is probably because someone used the misspelled address that is printed in the directory. Someone misspelled Larry in that address. The correct spelling is [mcgreevyLarry@gmail.com](mailto:mcgreevyLarry@gmail.com). You do have the correct spelling someplace because I have been receiving email from USGS Retirees. The last mail I got from you was about the Newsletter on 5/1//2021. Please make the correction for the Directory records so that it will be correct the next time. Thanks for keeping the Retirees' organization going. I know that it takes a lot of personal effort, and I am grateful. Also, I no longer need a paper copy of the Directory, so put me on the pdf version (I'm already getting the pdf version of the newsletter).

**Fred Morris III: Kate Flynn writes:** I talked to Fred Morris. He was moved from hospital in Jackson to hospital in Homewood, AL with COVID19 where his son and daughter and 4 grandkids live. He is now completely recovered, but kids won't let him go back to Mississippi. Unfortunately, he has been forced to give up driving as he cannot pass the test in Alabama. Apparently, they have stricter requirements (or maybe he was flying under the radar?) than Mississippi. He will send his dues and updated address later.

**Kevin Oberg** writes: Good to hear from you Kate. I hope that you are well. My family and I are keeping well. Most of us have had the vaccine, at least the first shot. Being in a smaller rural area, we are able to move around without much restriction, other than the usual things (masks, etc.). How are things with you. Here is a little summary of what we've been up to. I enjoy the newsletter as it is a nice way to keep up, even in a small way with people I have known and worked with. "I do have one small complaint however. There have been a few too many photos of JRG (**John Gray**) lately! (kidding)" Despite the pandemic and its restrictions, we have had another eventful year. Among other things, our youngest finished university, a son got married, and our family survived cases of COVID 19. It seems like we are always busy. When I started reading the WRD retiree newsletter years ago, I would read of retirees who said that they had more to do in retirement than ever before. I never believed them! But now I think I understand. With five of our kids living close by, there is much to do, from babysitting to home improvements and so on. Petra spends a lot of time helping less fortunate people in the area, giving them transportation, helping them find work, get food, and many other things. I help her out when/where I can. I have had some consulting work and taught an ADCP class in North Florida in March 2020. Last fall I helped a local farmer with harvest, which was a kind of return to my 'roots' as I was raised on a farm. I continue some volunteer work for USGS. At the moment I have 2 papers describing work that started before I retired. Both are almost published, and I am now working on a third. I hope that there will be opportunities to get together with friends and colleagues soon. In the meantime, best wishes to all!

**Dick Swisshelm** writes: My Email was down for about 8 weeks. Last Friday my Email was reconnected. Yes, I would like a paper copy. I am still the State Contact for the Ohio District. Last week I spoke to Dave Staub, the Assistant Chief for Ohio. Most employees are working remotely. The District program seems strong and is growing. Thanks,



**Chet Zenone** writes: Trust all is going well with you and yours as we look ahead to post-pandemic days. Will shortly send a note for the next Newsletter.

## UPDATE HYDROLOGIC TECHNICIAN WINNER 2020



**Will Long**, OR WSC, Portland, OR

Dear USGS Retirees,

In 2020 I received the USGS Retirees Scholarship, which I applied to course work in Integral Calculus in preparation for future qualification of OPM Hydrologist series requirements. The past year has been a busy one, full of steps that have advanced my position with the USGS and provided me with new on the job skills. First, I was accepted to a MS in Geography at Portland State University. With about 3 quarters of course work under my belt, I am close to proposing a thesis project involving spatial analysis of soil burn severity patterns and streamflow response in Oregon watersheds that were disturbed by wildfire in 2020. I plan to use methods of landscape fragmentation in a GIS combined with analysis of historical streamflow records to investigate if differing soil burn severity patterns contribute to varying streamflow responses at annual and event scales. The graduate-level course work has contributed professionally and academically which include spatial quantitative analysis using R-Studio, GIS database management, and GIS for water resources. This course work has immediately enhanced my workflow with Oregon Water Science Center as a technician and will someday aid in my professional development as a hydrologist.

Work with the Oregon Water Science Center QA/QC data group has provided me with a multitude of new experiences which I have been fortunate to gain. I find enjoyment in the maintenance and construction of new monitoring sites, analysis of time-series, and playing an active role in the development/implementation of new projects. Some highlights of this year were participating in a low-flow study in the HJ Andrews experimental forest, maintaining a storm-tide monitoring network on the Oregon coast, and assisting with the development of new post-fire monitoring sites in burned areas. Thank you for your continued support of my professional ambitions. Sincerely,

## MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

### The Reston Retirees April 5, 2021



After a serious lapse in social distancing in December 'The Reston Retirees' are back to spreading out, even though most of us have now been vaccinated. April 5<sup>th</sup>, we had another great bring your own lunch and lawn chair gathering, with 13 retirees in attendance. The weather was nice, and we had a great time visiting. Though, that 13 may have been unlucky; when Tony Meunier went to stand up, his lawn chair collapsed under him, and he ended up slicing all the way into the bone of his index finger; now pinned and splinted for the next 3 months. A bit more excitement than we needed. Normally, we just sit around telling stories about the good old days.

**Counter-clockwise from left:** Ken Lanfear, Debbie McLean, Bill Burton, Lee DeCola, MaryJo Baedecker, Cathy Hill, Paul Hearn, Sue Marcus, Steve Schindler, John Keith; at the emergency room - Tony Meunier; left early - Robert Perry; behind the camera - Kate Flynn



**The Reston Retirees  
May 3, 2021**



We had a much smaller gathering on May 3<sup>rd</sup> but were glad to have Dick Engberg out on his first official social outing since quarantining. **Front:** Lee DeCola; **Middle Left to Right:** Ken Lanfear, Dick Engberg, John Keith, and Bill Burton; **Back** (behind Dick): Sue Marcus; and behind the camera: Kate Flynn. [Reston Lunch 21.05.03]



May was the first social outing Dick Engberg had attended in a year. We were honored he chose us!!

**The Reston Retirees  
June 7, 2021**



The Reston Retirees met for lunch at Temporary Road Park on Monday, June 7. Smaller group than we had been getting, perhaps vaccinated grandparents have gone to visit grandkids? It was hot but not too bad in the shade. We had a steady background hum from the cicadas, and many stopped by to say hello. Present were Ken Lanfear, Jim LaBaugh Lee De Cola, John Keith, and Kate Flynn. We didn't take a picture but thought some of you might like to see a couple of pictures of the ever-present cicada.

**Central Region – May 2021  
Denver, CO**



**Left:** Dave Lystrom and George Garklavs met for lunch at Sunrise Sunset in May for the regular second Tuesday lunch meeting.

**Central Region – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Breakfast Meeting  
Village Inn – June 17, 2021  
Denver, CO**



**(L to R):** Betty Palcsak, Dave Lystrom, Mary Kidd, Judy Cornwell, and Jim and Paula Blakey



## The Great Awakening is alive and well in Minnesota!



(L to R): Lan Tornes, Jim Stark, Dave Anderson, Mark Have, Jeff Stoner  
The waitress is especially happy to see us return for our July 2021 breakfast!

## Trading Geology for Genealogy: a cross-section of disciplines

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 11:30am-1pm EDT

A talk by Stephen Hammond (USGS, WRD retiree - 2016)



Although the event was held live, it can be viewed at the Department's website at any time by clicking on this link: [Live Events | U.S. Department of the Interior \(doi.gov\)](https://www.doi.gov/events) or for the paper version of newsletter <https://www.doi.gov/events> .

June 19, 1865 marks 156 years since the final and complete liberation of enslaved people in the United States. Join us as we commemorate this occasion with a virtual event titled **“Trading geology for genealogy: a cross-section of disciplines.”** Scientist Emeritus and former Deputy Associate Director for Natural Hazards, Mr. Stephen Hammond, will reminisce on some of the work he conducted during his 40-year career with the USGS. He will also share the fascinating work he has undertaken as a family historian to rediscover the narrative of his ancestors, some of whom were enslaved at the nearby Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial. You'll learn about his work with the National Park Service to reopen this iconic historic site and his family ties to American history. He'll also discuss a genetic genealogy project he has been working on in an attempt to identify ancestors in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Co-hosted by the U.S. Geological Survey Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity and by the ONYX Employee Resources Group

## MEMORIALS



**Charles A. (Drew) Banister III, 72**, formerly of Reston, VA, passed away on April 11, 2021 at home. He was the loving husband of Susan Banister. They shared 27 wonderful years together. Drew was born on October 29, 1948 in Baltimore, MD. He was the only son of Charles and Virginia Banister. Drew was a graduate of Jeb Stuart High School in Falls Church and a graduate of a college in Athens Georgia. He was retired from the USGS. Drew was a loving and doting husband. He was an accomplished public speaker and drummer. Drew loved people and never met a stranger he couldn't turn into a friend. He had a great sense of humor and a strong love of animals and children. Drew

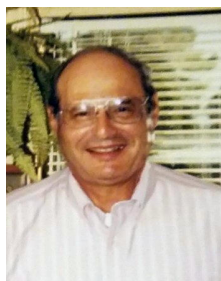
often stated one of his greatest joys was the privilege of playing Santa Claus to children with cancer at Christmastime and playing a werewolf at Halloween time for the children. During the Christmas season, Drew would gather the children in the neighborhood and go caroling with them, afterwards having hot chocolate and cookies while watching "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" with them. Drew loved to garden and travel. He believed in living life to the fullest. He is survived by his beloved wife, Susan and six four legged furry children, Bob, Wilbur, Ashley, Kaleigh, Sebastian, and Sam the cat. Drew never turned an animal or person in need away. A funeral service was held on April 20, 2021 at the Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home. The internment will be at Oakwood Cemetery.

**Wes Johnson writes:** Before tonight's game, I got the terrible news that my friend Drew Banister had passed. It's a tremendous shock, and a huge loss. Drew was as good a soul as you'll find on this globe. I rarely saw him without a smile. He unabashedly loved and talked endlessly about his wife Susan, his ginormous dogs, and all of the Washington sports teams. Seeing the Redskins games with him and my boys was a joy and seeing his big smile after a Caps win was special. It's no exaggeration to say my family wouldn't have had a roof over our heads without Drew and Susan. My heart aches at the loss of this good, decent man. Godspeed Drew. Much love my friend.



**Nancy (Powell) Dickerman, 75, (widow of USGS retiree David Dickerman)** of Old Buttonwoods, Warwick, RI, passed away on Friday, March 27, 2020. She was the cherished wife of the late David C. Dickerman. She was a daughter of the late Dawson and Eleanor (Fourtin) Powell, born February 11, 1945, in Salem, MA. Three loves distinguished Nancy's life: family, faith, and music. She met her beloved husband in the choir directed by her mother at Greenwood Community Church, where she and Dave sang together for 57 years. An accomplished flutist, she was, in her student days, a member of an award-winning woodwind quintet; enjoyed a stint (dressed like a Revolutionary War soldier) with the Kentish Guard Colonial Band; and played in the Warwick Veterans' Memorial High School marching band for John F. Kennedy's inauguration. In her mature years she also mastered the art of hand-bell chimes, directing youth bell choirs at both the Greenwood Church and the Buttonwood Beach Chapel. She served for several years as Deacon at Greenwood, considering the church her second family. A true coastal New Englander, Nancy loved being on or in the water. With her youthful experience racing the family Cape Cod Knock about with her brother and sister on Narragansett Bay, to the enjoyable times aboard her own young family's day sailors, she was a natural choice for Warwick's Harbor Management Commission, where she served variously as member, chair, or secretary for over twenty years. She is survived by her loving three sons and a daughter, her four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. A Memorial Service was held at the Greenwood Community Church, Warwick, RI.

**Dennis Foxhoven, 81, (spouse of USGS retiree Lucille Foxhoven)** passed away on January 2, 2013 in Colorado. He was born on February 18, 1929 to Matt and Angela Foxhoven. *[The following is an excerpt from an obituary appearing on the Archdiocese of Denver website]* Mr. Foxhoven was preceded in death by his wife, Lucille Foxhoven, and his parents, Matt and Angela (Barry) Tollefson of Tubac, AZ. He is survived by his two sons, 3 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.



**Edwin D. 'Ed' Gutentag, 89**, passed away on March 17, 2021 in the comfort of his home with his loving wife by his side in Basile, LA. He was born on June 20, 1931 to Dora and Morris Gutentag and grew up in the South Bronx, New York where he spent his formative years with his brother, Harold. After graduating high school, Ed joined the U.S. Army during the Korean War but in basic training contracted tuberculosis and was honorably discharged after six months. Ed then attended Brooklyn College to pursue a degree in Geology, and after receiving it furthered his education at The University of Kansas and earned his master's degree where his colleagues became lifelong friends. While living in Louisiana working for the USGS, Ed met the love of his life and wife of 61 years, Anna

Belle Ashford. Ed continued working for the USGS, moved to Garden City, KS and started a family. Ed became father to 4 boys; Robert, David, Donald, and Richard, while he continued to advance himself in the field of geology/hydrology. He eventually got into the Kansas Geological Hall of Fame for his incredible contributions. His job eventually led him and his family to Denver CO, where he retired in 1993 from the USGS but began work as a full time Grandfather. Through the years Ed became grandfather to 9 children, all of which he loved deeply. In his retired days, he enjoyed spending time with his grandkids, watching sports and regaling anyone who would listen to his stories of a long and eventful life, with that added Ed flare of course. After living in Denver for 30 years, Ed and Anna Belle moved to his wife's birthplace of Eunice, LA where he lived out the rest of his days. Sadly, he will be missed by his loving wife of 61 years, Anna Belle Gutentag; his 3 sons and their spouses; nine grandchildren; three great grandchildren; as well as extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Morris and Dora Gutentag; son; Richard Paul Gutentag; and brother, Harold Gutentag. A Celebration of Life was held on March 22, 2021 at Ardoin's Funeral Home Chapel in Eunice. Entombment followed in the St. Augustine Mausoleum with Deacon Gary Gaudin officiating.



**Michael L. Jones, 81**, passed away on March 8, 2021 in Boise, ID. He was born on December 5, 1939 in Toledo, OR to William L. "Bill" and Florence Jones. In 1943 at the age of 5, Michael moved to Idaho with his family where he attended Central Park grade school and then went on to Middleton High School where he graduated. Aside from helping his family on the farm, Michael landed his first job at the Bureau of Public Roads where he worked for three years. On July 21, 1962 Michael married Lois Jean Yost. Soon after, the Army came calling and Michael was drafted. He spent about 14 months as a soldier, some of which was spent over in South Korea until he was discharged due to family hardship.

Waiting to welcome him back home in approximately June 1964 was his wife Lois Jean "Jeannie" and their three-month old son. After returning from South Korea Michael spent a short time working at the sugar beet factory in Nampa, ID before landing a job with the USGS during which Michael and Jeannie welcomed a second son in 1966 to make their family complete. Michael worked for the USGS for 30 years as a Hydrologic Technician in the Idaho District with the Surface Water Studies group and in the Hydrologic Studies Section. Michael retired from the USGS in 1995. Over the years Michael and his family spent nearly every weekend at the Yost/Perry cabin in McCall, ID where they made many wonderful memories with numerous family members and cherished friends. Michael, or Papa Mike as he was known to his grandchildren and his grandchildren's friends is survived by his wife of over 58 years, Jeannie, two sons and 6 grandchildren. Michael was preceded in death by his parents Bill and Florence and in-laws "Yosty" and Arline Yost.



**Joanne Vaccaro-Kish, 65, (spouse of retiree George R. Kish)** passed away at home surrounded by her loving family on April 16, 2019 in Tampa, FL. Joanne was born September 30, 1953 in Hamilton Township, NJ. Joanne grew up in Hamilton Township, NJ, and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing at Bloomfield College. She worked at St. Michael's Hospital in Newark, NJ, then at Helene Fuld Hospital in Trenton, NJ. Later, Joanne moved to Florida and worked as a diabetes educator at Florida Hospital. She then became a diabetes research nurse at the University of South Florida. After leaving USF, she moved on to Winter Haven Hospital, where she helped develop an outpatient diabetes education program.

Joanne retired from Winter Haven Hospital in March 2018. Joanne received several awards for her innovative work in diabetes education. She co-organized diabetes education conferences and she was the past president of the Association of West Florida Diabetes Educators. Joanne is survived by her husband, her son and



daughter-in-law, her father, and her two brothers. Joanne was preceded in death by her mother. A service to celebrate Joanne's life was held at St. Mark United Methodist Church, Hamilton, NJ 08690 on June 22, 2019.



**Judith A. O'Connell, 84, (widow of USGS retiree Delmar O'Connell)** passed away with family at her side on August 18, 2020 at the age of 84. She was born in Rock Springs, WY. Judith was preceded in death by her husband Delmer in July 2019. She is survived by a son, two grandchildren, two brothers, a sister, and several nieces and nephews. Judith's funeral mass was at Our Lady of the Valley October 15, 2020.



**Quentin Paulson, 94,** passed away on February 22, 2021, was born June of 1926 in Warren, MN. And eventually to Grand Forks where he grew up. His early life was as a paperboy (age 14) and then in the press room. At age 18 in 1944 with the USN he got to sail the ocean seas eventually to Guam M.I. on the USS Apollo (AS-25) as Q/M 3rdClass. He returned from the war and was able to go to college via the GI Bill o Rights. He attended the University of North Dakota and graduated in 1949. He then worked for the USGS until 1983, studying groundwater in many locations in North Dakota. He married Lorraine Nelson in June of 1949, "til death do us part" and they were married for 64 years. Lorraine passed in 2013 at the age of 85. He is survived by a son and 3 grandchildren. Cremation rites have been accorded.

**Dr. Richard L. 'Dick' Phipps, 85,** passed away on November 14, 2020 after a long bout with cancer. *(Hi, Merilee. I have written a short note on the life and accomplishments of Richard L. Phipps, a former employee of the National Research Program in Reston and the District Office in Illinois. I would be grateful if it could be included in the August issue of the WRD Retirees Newsletter.)* Dick was born on April 5, 1935 in Illinois and told me that as a teen he hoped to grow as tall as Abraham Lincoln (6' 4"), a height he eclipsed by 2 inches. He earned an undergraduate degree from Eastern Illinois University and a PhD from The Ohio State University. Upon graduation, he turned down a position to join the Yale School of Forestry to instead accept a research position with the Water Resources Division of the US Geological Survey. His innovative studies used dendrochronology ("tree rings") to investigate ways that tree growth could provide historical hydrologic and environmental information to better understand the present and future. He pioneered and further developed the use of the areas rather than simply the raw widths of rings, thereby providing a more realistic way to determine radial growth trends related to environmental variables. In addition to numerous publications, Dick was a mentor to many junior scientists and taught as an adjunct professor at three universities. One high-school student he mentored subsequently won a \$10,000 college scholarship. Many others went on to careers in science or related government service. He also coached youth basketball for several years. As one colleague said, "Dick was one of the smartest, nicest, most honest, helpful, kind and humble persons. You rarely get that in one individual." I would simply say that he was the finest man I ever knew. Dick seemingly could design, build, or repair just about anything, a talent he attributed to growing up on a farm. He was also an artist of considerable ability. Dick's wife Joyce and daughter Cynthia predeceased him. He is survived by a son, John, of Fairfax, Virginia. Anyone wishing to leave a remembrance of Dick can do so at the website of the Demaine Funeral Home, Fairfax, Virginia, which also can be accessed by entering his full name in your search engine. Thanks very much.

**-Tom Yanosky (WRD, Botanist, (1972-2008)**

With great sorrow, I must announce the death of our dear colleague and friend **Dr. Michael Rosen** on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, from pancreatic cancer. Many of you worked with and knew him as an outstanding research scientist, specialist, mentor, teacher, long-time member of the former Water Science Field Team and fun and supportive friend. Michael shared his year-long cancer journey with many of us through an online journal. His wife Laura kept it going after he underwent surgery about two months ago. I admire both immensely for their strength and positive outlook throughout this journey. I truly thought that if anyone could beat pancreatic cancer, it would be Michael. But it was not to be. My heart breaks for Michael and his family. This is just devastating. He was such an incredible scientist and wonderful human being. He will be greatly

missed by many. In February, Michael shared some thoughts about his life and illness with me that I'd like to share with you – knowing Michael, I think he wouldn't mind. Here is what he wrote: "Life is short, so it is good to do everything you can to enjoy it while it lasts. I'm pretty sure I have." He also wrote: "I guess I know I'm seriously ill, but I haven't really felt that way throughout the whole process. I guess I've been lucky. I feel lucky to have so much support from my family, friends, and colleagues and that I haven't been moping around the house for the past year. I feel like I've accomplished quite a bit, so it feels good." Michael accomplished a lot more than "quite a bit" throughout his career and life, including during his two years as Water Quality Specialist for Research in our center. And he enjoyed life and loved and was loved and admired by his family, friends, and colleagues. Wherever he is now, I hope it still feels good. We are the lucky ones - lucky to have known and worked with him. May he rest in peace. We plan to include an "in memoriam" message with more information in an upcoming NTK. Please let me know if you would like to help craft this message or honor and celebrate Michael in other ways. And please keep Michael and his family in your thoughts and hearts.

**-Anke Mueller-Solger, PhD, Acting Center Director and Associate Director for Projects, California Water Science Center**



**Mark R. Schiffer, 72, (spouse of retiree Donna Schiffer)** was born on January 31, 1949, to Dr. Ira Schiffer and Marjorie Schiffer in the Bronx, NY. Mark passed away on June 8, 2021, from cancer of the lower esophagus in Elk Grove, CA. In 1962 he enrolled in the Bronx High School of Science, where he participated in competitive swimming and gymnastics. Mark graduated Columbia in 1969 with majors in Biology and Chemistry. After college, Mark entered the Peace Corps as a teacher in the Fiji Islands. He taught up to six courses per term, with an average class size of 53. The years in Fiji were wonderful; there was so much to see, investigating the interior of the island and searching for marine invertebrates along the shore and in the shallow water. It was in Fiji that Mark developed his passion for teaching. Despite the large class load and semi-primitive conditions, Mark loved the teaching; seeing students learn new things and retain that knowledge was incredibly satisfying. During his first year of teaching Mark took a school that had the lowest 9th grade test scores in the dominion, and at the end of the year produced the highest 9th grade test scores in the dominion. Upon his return to the United States in late 1972, Mark moved to Florida from New York to explore job opportunities. He got his first job teaching science in Seminole County, Florida in September 1973. In 1981, Mark began designing a new science department for the county's newest high school, Lake Mary High School, and in September 1982, as the Science Department Chair, was among the first group of teachers to begin a tradition of excellence that would persist and grow for the next 22 years. Mark's students loved and respected him. As many as 300 former students were friends with Mark on Facebook. Many of them went on to become physicians or working biologists or chemists. In 1995, Mark received the Distinguished Teacher Award from the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. As much as Mark relished the teaching, and loved the one-to-one interactions with students, he also eagerly anticipated summer breaks. During the summer Mark might be found in North Carolina white water kayaking, or backpacking in Yosemite National Park, or sailing his boat. He loved the outdoors and took every opportunity to get outside and do something. Mark was married to his loving wife, Donna, on June 17, 1978. In May of 2003 Mark retired from teaching, and packed up and moved to Elk Grove, California to be with Donna, who had taken on a new job with the USGS. Without all the constraints of teaching, Mark was now able to devote his time to his second passion: Early music, i.e., medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music. He quickly made friends with the music groups in Sacramento, and then with the many musicians devoted to Early music in the San Francisco Bay area. He was well respected for his generosity, his musical talent, and his graphic skills. This was a wonderful and very busy time for Mark, who bounced between large groups like the Barbary Coast Recorder Orchestra, and smaller groups for rehearsals and performances. Mark also volunteered on weekends for many years at the Cosumnes River Preserve as a naturalist. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, all this stopped dead for over a year, and people just recently started to feel comfortable coming to the house and playing indoors. Mark is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Donna, his daughter, his granddaughter, and his two brothers.



**LeRoy Joseph Schroder II, 77**, of Arvada, CO passed away on April 14, 2021 following a prolonged decline. During his last days, he was surrounded by his family and caregivers who both mourn his loss and celebrate his freedom from constant pain and dementia. Born on January 22, 1944 to LeRoy and Laverne "Babe" (Storms) Schroder in Des Plaines, IL, he spent his childhood in Glenwood Springs, CO before moving to Denver in 1958. A proud graduate of Regis Jesuit High School, he attended Colorado State College (now the University of Northern Colorado), where he played football and met his wife of 55 years, Kathy, whom he proceeded to marry in 1966. LeRoy worked for the USGS for 35 years, earning numerous awards and was recognized as one of the country's leading

hydrologists. While he made a name for himself professionally, his family was always his number one priority. LeRoy was committed to his faith and was an active member of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. LeRoy was preceded in death by his parents, LeRoy and Laverne, his brother James, and his son, Jeffrey. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, his brother, his two daughters, a nephew, and five grandchildren. Visitation and Rosary were held on April 29, 2021 at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Arvada, CO. Mass of Christian Burial was held on April 30, 2021 at St Joan Of Arc, followed by burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Wheat Ridge, CO.



USGS retiree **James 'Jim' Dungan Smith, 81**, passed away on May 2, 2021 in Boulder, CO. Jim was born on May 24, 1939. He came to the USGS in 1989 after a 25+ year career as a professor at the University of Washington, serving in the School of Oceanography, the Geophysics Program, and the Department of Geological Sciences. His early work laid the foundations for new understandings of geophysical boundary layers and how those flows interact with sedimentary material in the deep ocean, on continental shelves, in rivers, and on land surfaces to produce a wide variety of landforms observed in both the sedimentary record and modern environments. He was widely recognized as a superb teacher and produced a large

cadre of successful graduate students across several academic departments. That professorial skill served him well when he came to the USGS and continued to mentor students, post-docs, and colleagues on wide range of problems of interest to the USGS National Research Program. He played a central role in the development and implementation of artificial floods in the Colorado River in Grand Canyon beginning in the mid-90s and continuing today. He retired from the USGS in 2011. He received the Hans Albert Einstein Award from the American Society of Civil Engineers for his seminal contributions to understanding natural flows, sediment transport, and the morphology of erodible beds. He was a brilliant scientist, a gifted and committed teacher, and a wonderful motivator for students and colleagues alike, always giving freely of his deep understanding and intuition regarding complex problems in earth science and fluid mechanics. The world is an emptier place without him.

**-Jonathan Nelson, Research Hydrologist, USGS Water Resources Mission, Golden, CO**



**Bernard F. "Bernie" Strain, 84**, of Bel Air, Cumberland, passed away on April 24, 2021, at UPMC Western Maryland. Born in Amsterdam, NY, he was the son of the late Cecelia (Wood) and Charles H. Strain. Bernie was a graduate of Amsterdam High School. Following high school, he attended Hudson Valley Technical School. He then served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. After being discharged, he was employed at the USGS for 38 years. Bernie loved baseball. He loved coaching kids, especially his kids. In retirement, he enjoyed woodworking and gardening. Bernie enjoyed most of all, decorating for the all the holidays. Being a New Yorker, Bernie was an avid New York Yankees baseball and New York Giants football fan. Bernie is survived by his wife of 55 years, Donna Jean (Bull) Strain, three sons and a daughter, eleven grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. In addition to his parents, Bernie was preceded in death by his two brothers and sister. Bernie's services were private and were held on April 28, 2021. Military honors will be accorded by Ft. Cumberland Post 13 Honor Guard.





**Amjad 'MJ' Umari, 71**, passed away on June 11, 2021 in Littleton, CO. After a successful surgery, MJ unfortunately succumbed to the cancer he had been battling over the last year. He was born on September 4, 1949. Before moving to his current city, MJ lived in San Diego CA and Winter Park CO. MJ retired in June 2020 after a lustrous USGS career in groundwater modeling.



**Peter Van Metre, 65**, died suddenly on May 8, 2021. He was born on January 18, 1956. It is with great sadness that I share devastating news about Pete Van Metre and Barbara Mahler. Pete and Barbara and their dog, Bella, were caught in a pile-up on I-30 outside of Dallas this past weekend. Pete did not survive the accident and Barbara is currently in the hospital in Tyler, Texas with serious injuries. Bella was also killed. Our USGS community is doubly devastated by the tragedy of this remarkable USGS husband and wife team. Pete started with the USGS in 1980 as a Hydrologic Technician in Tampa, Florida, eventually becoming a Research Hydrologist with the NAWQA project. From 1993 to 2012, he led a small team of researchers investigating long-term contaminant trends using lake and reservoir sediment cores. In 2012, with the start of the third decadal cycle of NAWQA, he was chosen to help design and lead the Regional Stream Quality Assessment (RSQA) studies. The RSQA team included geochemists, biologists, data management specialists, and hydrologists, and was charged with assessing stream quality and ecological condition and determining the effects of multiple chemical and physical stressors on stream biota. From 2013 to 2017, five large regions of the country were assessed, and we continue to interpret the wealth of data produced and to publish those findings. Pete retired last August after 40 years of exceptional service to the USGS and was enjoying Emeritus status, working with colleagues on all the papers he hadn't yet published. Barbara has been with the USGS for 25 years as a Research Hydrologist and was the Communications Coordinator for the Water Mission Area. As we hope and pray for Barbara's recovery, we mourn Pete's loss. In addition to Barbara, Pete is survived by his two daughters, three grandchildren, and his brother. Pete's daughter Emily recently shared that Pete always felt really lucky to go to work every day doing something he loved that also helped the world. Those who worked with Pete and Barb know the creativity, humor, and intellectual curiosity they brought to their work. They were generous with their time and knowledge and have been great friends and colleagues to so many. Pete will be greatly missed and we are united in wishing Barbara a full and complete recovery. Please keep Barbara in your thoughts. MaryLynn Musgrove ([mmusgrov@usgs.gov](mailto:mmusgrov@usgs.gov)) can provide details on the hospital or reaching Barbara's family. A website with updates on her recovery will be forthcoming. Pete's graveside funeral was held on May 14, 2021 at Eloise Woods Natural Burial Park, Cedar Creek, TX. This event is outdoors in a rugged, natural space.

-Tim H. Raines, P.E., Director, Oklahoma-Texas Water Science Center

### **Remembering Pete Van Metre Contributed by John Gray**



Peter Van Metre, a recent retiree from the Water Mission Area, was tragically killed in a automobile accident on May 8, 2021. His wife, Barbara Mahler, also with the Water Mission Area, was critically injured and faces a long and challenging road of recovery ahead.

Pete had a long career with the USGS of distinguished service and important scientific contributions, enhancing our understanding of the Nation's water quality and its ecosystems. He first joined the USGS in 1980 as a Hydrologic Technician, eventually became a Research Hydrologist, and ended his career with the Earth System Processes Division of the Water Mission Area. As an entry-level technician in Tampa, Florida, he found his construction experience was more valuable than his Bachelor's

degree in Geography from the University of South Florida. Regular site visits to Weeki Wachee Springs convinced him to hitch his wagon to the USGS. After a few years with the Tacoma, Washington office as an entry-level Hydrologist, he transferred to the Subdistrict Office in Tucson, Arizona. There he participated in a project investigating radioisotope transport via fluvial sediments and groundwater in the Little Colorado River basin of Arizona and New Mexico. Thus began his long interest in playing in the dirt and its sorbed constituents.

When the NAWQA Program kicked off in 1991, Pete took a position as a water-quality specialist on the Trinity River Basin Study Unit project in Austin, Texas. While in that role, Pete and the National Research Program's Ted Callendar refined an approach to investigate water-quality trends using sediment cores. Pete then conceptualized, developed, and led the NAWQA Contaminant Trends in Lake Sediments Project, a national-scale assessment using lake and reservoir sediment cores to examine long-term trends in contamination. From 1992 to 2010, the work included samples from over 100 lakes and reservoirs in 29 states. Additional research focused on sources, transport, and fate of particle-associated contaminants in urban settings. Barbara was an integral member of the project team.

A major outcome of their sediment coring work was the surprise discovery that concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) —some of which are known human carcinogens and others that pose a threat to aquatic life—were increasing over time, particularly in urban areas east of the Mississippi River. Pete and Barbara collaborated closely to understand these trends and it led to a series of field and monitoring studies in Austin and elsewhere that showed that the PAH trends resulted in part from the application and wear of coal-tar sealant (CTS) products used to coat parking lots and driveways. The geographic distribution of increasing trends was correlated to the dominant use of CTS products in the eastern U.S. whereas in the western U.S. asphalt-based sealants with much lower PAH concentrations are commonly used. These findings were communicated through a series of publications and many briefings. As a result, many municipalities, counties, and a handful of states have instituted bans of the use of CTS products. Industry also took notice of these findings and Pete and Barbara were subject to intense scrutiny by lobbyists for the CTS industry. Through it all they maintained their class and professionalism.

Pete's research, and that of the entire sediment coring project team, has provided a scientific basis for management actions to reduce PAH contamination and led to studies of PAHs in air and of human exposure and health risks. Pete's research was featured in the Department of Interior (DOI) Green Book, presented at two Congressional briefings, repeatedly featured in media outlets, and consequently both Pete and Barbara were recognized in 2017 with a DOI Meritorious Service Award. Pete also earned a MS degree at the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Rouen, France.

As the NAWQA Program ramped down, Pete left his mark on new directions of the Water Mission Area, leading a team tasked with developing an approach for identifying and prioritizing large watersheds that are the focus of the Next Generation Water Observing Systems (NGWOS), Integrated Water Prediction (IWP), and Integrated Water Availability Assessment (IWAAs) Programs.

Pete collaborated with many colleagues and was generous with his time and knowledge. He was an extremely productive scientist as evidenced by both the quality and number of his papers and reports, authoring or coauthoring over 100 publications, many in prestigious journals, with over 2,900 citations.

Pete retired in 2020 and was continuing in Emeritus status with the USGS, working with colleagues on data interpretation and scientific papers he hadn't yet published. He was planning to enjoy working with Barbara in their heirloom apple orchard in southwestern New Mexico, sharing good wine and friendships in the south of France, relaxing with friends at their home in Austin, painting more, spending more time with his three grown children, and reveling in their three young grandchildren. Pete was never bored and always had multiple projects and ideas going, from art and construction, to elaborate ways to move air around to protect the orchard from a late spring freeze. He made hard things look easy. He was quick to smile and every project, whether scientific or life related, was full of laughter. He lived a rich and full life and we bid him farewell much too soon.

John Gray, who led the radioisotope project on which Pete worked in 1988-91, recalls meeting Pete in Tucson after they completed 9 months of education through the Water Resources Division Graduate Training Program. After a rocky start, it dawned on John that he had a gem on his project. Pete possessed a rare combination of common sense, smarts, science acumen, patience, humor, and social grace. He seemingly could master any topic or challenge with which he was faced. And he was the consummate Team Player. Everyone around him – including his titular supervisor – benefited from this outstanding colleague. His friendship is sorely missed.

Barbara has made significant scientific contributions of her own to NAWQA groundwater quality studies and publication, has been an integral member of the RSQA team, and has also focused on the study and understanding of karst hydrology and geochemistry, particularly springs associated with the Edwards Aquifer in Texas. In addition to her USGS service and contributions as a Research Hydrologist and the Communications Coordinator for the Water Mission Area, she has been an Associate Editor for the Journal of Hydrology, is a member of the IAH Karst Hydrogeology Commission, and is a Research Fellow and Instructor at the University of Texas at Austin. Friends and colleagues can follow her recovery at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/barbaramahler>. We are united in our heartfelt wishes for her full recovery and continued engagement with our USGS family.



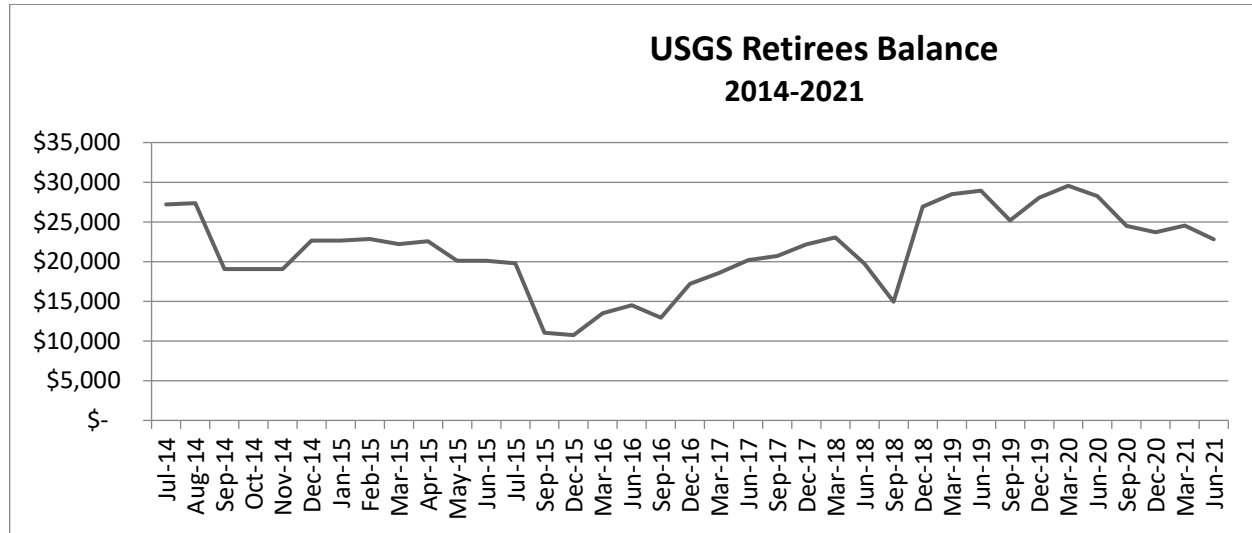
Pete Van Metre and Barbara Mahler at the 2017 Department of the Interior USGS Honor Awards Ceremony where they both received the Meritorious Service Award.

**Bertha Whitman**, age 94, passed away January 12, 2019 in Redding, CA.

## TREASURER'S REPORT, SECOND QUARTER 2021

Treasurer Cathy Hill reports the organization had \$22,814 at the end of the second quarter, 2021.

Special thanks for contributions significantly above dues to Devin Galloway, Chet Zenone, Kernell Ries, Rick Iwatsubo, and Chuck Lamb. Many thanks for your generosity. These contributions go directly to the Scholarship fund. Expenses this quarter included \$1,400 for printing the Directory and Newsletter.



### News Notes on Sustainable Water Resources – Tim Smith dated 5/15/2021

#### Lake Bonneville

<https://geology.utah.gov/popular/general-geology/great-salt-lake/commonly-asked-questions-about-utahs-great-salt-lake-lake-bonneville/#toggle-id-1>

Lake Bonneville was a large, ancient lake that existed from about 32 to 14 thousand years ago. It occupied the lowest, closed depression in the eastern Great Basin and at its largest extent covered about 20,000 square miles of western Utah and smaller portions of eastern Nevada and southern Idaho. At its largest, Lake Bonneville was about 325 miles long, 135 miles wide, and had a maximum depth of over 1,000 feet. It contained many islands that are the present-day mountain ranges of western Utah. Its relatively fresh water was derived from direct precipitation, rivers, streams, and water from melting glaciers. During the time of Lake Bonneville, the climate was somewhat wetter and colder than now.

## DIRECTORY

### NEW MEMBERS

**Lynch, Dennis D. (18) (Nancy)** – Vancouver, WA

### AFFILIATE LIAISON

#### Southeastern Region

**MS** Van Wilson  
**SC** Robbie Herlong

[jwilson@usgs.gov](mailto:jwilson@usgs.gov) (w) 601.933.2922  
[rherlong@usgs.gov](mailto:rherlong@usgs.gov) (wc) 803.807.1362

### MEMBERS

**Feese, Gerald L. (11) (Robilea Swindeall)**  
**Morris III, Fred (06)**  
**Kish, George R. (12)**

Birmingham, AL  
Lawwrenville, NJ

new phone number  
new address  
new address

### Central Region Regional Representative

Bob Swanson

[Swanie@gmail.com](mailto:Swanie@gmail.com) 402.440.1304  
(replaces - Ken Lindskov)