

WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 154
February 2012

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

Address:
WRD Retirees
P.O. Box 280
Herndon, VA 20172-0280
Phone (703) 648-5641
Web Page: WRD Retirees.org
Email: wrdretirees@usgs.gov

Newsletter Staff:
Editor: James E. Biesecker
Layout Editor: Dorothy M. Woods
NR: Eileen R. Smith
SR: Vivian Olcott
CR: Merilee Bennett
WR: John Klein

Regional Directors:
Sharon Goss, Northeast
Richard M. Boyd, Southeast
C.R. Burchett, Central
Chester "Chet" Zenone, Western

National Officers:
Clarence W. Anderson, President
Alberto Condes, Vice President
Charles W. Boning, Secretary
Celso Puenente, Treasurer
Charles Nethaway, Archivist

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My fellow WRD Retirees, it is a real privilege and honor to be nominated and elected as the president of such a noteworthy organization. We've had many great leaders, all the way back to our organizers. A number of these leaders are still very active and deserve much credit for keeping and advancing communications among Retirees. All have worked very hard to make our organization what it is today and we (all of us) have to continue this effort in all regions of the country. We have approximately 1400 members and many of us know someone who will be retiring, or has retired, that can be or needs to be contacted and encouraged to join this wonderful organization of retirees. Making contacts and keeping in touch with fellow WRD Retirees is the main focus of our organization. This is accomplished in a number of ways:

1. The WRD Retirees Newsletter;
2. Meetings;
3. Personal contact; and
4. E-mail and other electronic means.

Being in circulation for 38 years, the Newsletter began as a two-pager and has progressed to a 24-page publication. It keeps fellow Retirees in contact with each other – in part by using the information you send to the Editor. We cannot over encourage our members to send reports of their accomplishments, travel events, family events, or other items that can be of interest to your fellow Retirees. The Officers would also like to emphasize that the WRD Retirees Newsletter is available online and can be sent to you on the Internet. Just notify any of the Officers or Newsletter staff of your need to be added to the list of retirees who receive their Newsletters by email. Thanks!

Many of us Retirees are already looking forward to the 2012 Reunion, in Boise, Idaho. The Reunion will be held September 20 - 22, 2012 (Thursday – Sunday). Many of us don't care which WRD Region it is held in, because we will be going for the enjoyment of being with our many friends and colleagues. We know a good time will be in store. There will be field trips, good food, and much information to share. Because the Reunion will be in the Western Region, the travel for those Retirees will be less than for us from the east. Retirees from CA, CO, ID, MT, OR, UT, WA, and WY will have a reasonably short travel distance to attend. A brief description of Reunion events appear on pp. 22 and 23 of this Newsletter. Hotel reservation information will be in future Newsletters.

January 5th marked my retirement 16 years ago. My wife Mary and I haven't missed but one Reunion since, which was in California, and I didn't think it was affordable. Mary and I offer best wishes to each of you for a happy and healthy 2012, and we look forward to seeing you, and making new friends and catching up with old friends in Boise.

Your elected Officers and Volunteers will continue to work together, with your help, to keep WRD Retirees the outstanding organization it has always been. We will do our best to serve you, but I urge every member to help keep our organization moving forward by contributing articles to the WRD Retirees Newsletter.



It is with much sorrow to report that Jim Biesecker passed away on January 24, 2012, a day after having minor surgery. Jim, as the Editor of our WRD Retirees Newsletter, had just finished this edition of the newsletter prior to his surgery. Jim was a tremendous force in the WRD Retirees organization and will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues. A Memorial will be included in the May Newsletter.

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Ray Abrams has moved from his long time home in Falls Church to an assisted living center near his daughter's home. His new address is Farnham Manor Assisted Living, P.O. Box 308, Room 7, Farnham, VA 22460. During his final assignment in WRD, Ray served as Chief of the Manpower Section. He had a positive impact on many of our careers. Ray was instrumental in establishing many of the training courses that we enjoyed during our working careers. Please send a card.

Andy Anderson reports, "There were 42 retirees/spouses who attended the festive Christmas lunch meeting of the HQ WRD retirees in Herndon, VA. The meeting room was beautifully decorated and spirits were high. Door prizes, including wine and a beautiful mosaic of a dragonfly made by **Phil Cohen** helped make this a great social event. **Linda** and **Bill Carswell**, from Lawrence, KS were among the attendees." At the January lunch, **Hal Langford** gave a very interesting presentation to about 30 retirees/spouses of his 2009 trip down the "Ladder of Rivers," from North Dakota to Texas."

Evelyn Beamer writes, "At the ripe old age of 97 I am still feeling well. I appreciate my East/West US living arrangement – spending time with my daughter, Andrea and her family in Ithaca, NY and also with my son Norman in Palo Alto. All 3 of my grandsons now live in the Big Apple and enjoying all NYC has to offer. The entire family will be together in Ithaca for Christmas – always a joy. Please keep in touch. I love to hear from WRD retirees."

Bush Boyd says, "Hello to all my old friends. **Sara** and I don't go too far from home now. Both of us have aches and pains, but we are thankful for our children and grandchildren whom we see often. I have been active in the management of our condo association and we still participate in Church activities. Our hometown, Ashland City, abuts Nashville where both of us grew up. Thanks to all the folks who keep this organization going!"

Richmond Brown writes, "I am fortunate to be healthy. I am just back from attending the GSA meeting in Minneapolis. I had a chance to visit with **Warren Wood** and **Ed Weeks** for a few moments. **Lee** and I continue to enjoy life in the north. A couple of years ago I built a 12-foot lapstrake canoe which weighs only 26 pounds. That is the boat I use most for enjoying the lake and fishing – I can't carry full-sized canoes anymore. I lift weights regularly but not 80-pound ones! I did my sailing in a Sunfish this year, never got my 19-foot Lightning in the water. I continue to bicycle, now with a modern thumb gear shifting system. I did a little more than 300 miles of riding this summer. That's less than previously but enough to keep me healthy. In July my older son, Kirk, and I rode our motorcycles to the BMW rally in Bloomsburg, PA. I was the oldest attendee! We went through Canada to Buffalo and were impressed by all the wind and solar panel installations and the level of prosperity. The Bloomsburg fair grounds had marks on some of the buildings drawn at the level of the previous maximum flood, about 7 feet. The flood this summer was several feet above those marks. Later in the summer we drove to Vermont to visit our younger son, Kevin, and saw the incredible damage along the White River. I would guess the frequency intervals that have been established are no longer valid. Kirk and I will be deer hunting on our place come November 15. Depending on when and if we have success we will be heading for Bryson City, NC sometime before Thanksgiving. Again, I will spend much of my winter hiking in the Smokies and the southern part of the Appalachian Trail. I have had problems with my back collapsing, have lost 4 inches in height, but have just recently been taking a hormone called "Forteo." It rebuilds deteriorated bones and has permitted me to stand up straighter and do many things without pain -- a miracle treatment."

Tom Buchanan reports, "I was in the hospital over Thanksgiving having my insitu defibrillator repaired and the incision became seriously infected. I now have a new pacemaker in its place and the wound has finally healed. **Marie** and I are looking forward to an active and Happy New Year. We wish all WRD Retirees a wonderful New Year."

George Cardwell writes, "After 50 years in Baton Rouge I am moving to the Crescent City – New Orleans. I recently bought a house there to be near my children and 2 grandchildren. The house is in the northern part of the city, 1100 ft. from Lake Pontchartrain and across the street from my daughter's home. It is several feet above sea level and did not flood during Hurricane Katrina. The lakeshore area is protected by a massive set-back levee to protect against storm surges. All levees in New Orleans have been raised and strengthened since Katrina. I hope to be a full-time Orleanian by spring."

Denny Cline reports, "**Dorothy** and I spent a month in the spring of 2011 in Arizona and a week at our place in San Leandro, California. We plan to go again in the spring of 2012 if Dorothy's health permits. Her health is better this year but she still has her ups and downs. In September we had a nice trip to British Columbia and another trip to Long Beach, Washington in October. Thanksgiving weekend was spent at our daughter's place in Oregon along with all 5 of our grandchildren."

Bob Cory writes, "My last news item last year told of WRD's failure in 1960 to obtain funding for a marine studies program and the abrupt resignation of our high powered geologist who was to lead that program. About a week later I

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received a phone call from our Chief Hydrologist, **Luna Leopold**. He was inviting me to a meeting with him and **Ray Nace** for lunch at the DOI cafeteria. After a pleasant lunch and some idle conversation, Luna leaned towards me and popped the question, "What would you propose to do if granted a modest stipend and could name your own project?" Having been on board several weeks before the blowup, I did a literature search on a marine organism called *Amphioxus*. The little 2- inch creature is the first to appear in a book on fishes and the last in a book on invertebrates. It looks like a small silvery fish and is considered a link between the vertebrate and invertebrates. It posses a primitive backbone called a notchord. In continental shelf sediment sampling for Navy harbor defense studies my curiosity had been piqued on several occasions when we dredged up these creatures from about 60 feet of water from unique brown, shelly coarse sand. The literature search indicated only 2 people in the country had currently published anything about *Amphioxus*. One was a taxonomist the other an ecologist, E. Lowe Pierce of the University of Florida. All of their work dealt with specimens collected from near shore and the lower reaches of estuaries from the Gulf coast to as far north as Chesapeake Bay. No mention of offshore populations. My answer to Luna was to document the existence and ecology of offshore populations of *Amphioxus* on the Atlantic continental shelf. It was further proposed the work could be accomplished on a shoe string budget by bumming ship time and tagging along on oceanographic research vessels that operated on Atlantic continental shelf waters. Luna's response was "What the heck are *Amphioxus*?" After further discussion and explanation he agreed to give it a try. Next contribution will be on how this turned out."

Jim Daniel says, "The recent flap over NASA's 'missing' Moon rocks brings to mind an experience some of us had with the first ones from the 1969 Moon landing. Several of us then-remote sensing types were gathered in Houston in 1970 for a command performance at one of NASA's principal investigators conferences. The WRD contingent included folks like **Aaron Higer**, **Gene Coker** (see the hydrologic model anecdote in a previous issue), **Milt Kolipinski**, and others (me, too). As part of the festivities, we were given a tour of the NASA labs there, including the one where the Moon rocks were being studied. We were standing in front of the almost floor-to-ceiling observation windows for the rocks and listening to a young (probably in his mid-twenties) NASA geologist whose enthusiasm was palpable. I remember his comments clearly: "They look like pumice; they feel like pumice; they taste like pumice. They ARE pumice." That young NASA geologist was Bill Greenwood, later to become Associate Chief Geologist of USGS."

Dave Dawdy writes, "I am sorry to hear about **Rudy Dosch**. Missing from his obit are three pieces which may be of interest. Rudy was active on D-Day ferrying troops onto the beach, Omaha? or Utah? I forget which. Also he was the subdistrict chief of our Northern California office and loved to tell the story that on one of our many floods he waded out to the cable on the Mad River and made a measurement. Then he went to lunch and cut off from going anywhere else he went back to make another measurement and found the cable had been washed away! Another interesting story was that Rudy skidded off a lumber road and had to call for help. He documented his predicament with many photos when the tow truck came to haul his truck out of its precarious position. Instead, the truck slid over the side and down the mountain. All the damage occurred at that time. Rudy found he was out of film and had pictures of everything except what was really important! Great guy Rudy."

Fred Dreher reports, "I enjoyed the article on the huge streamflow measurement. As the data section chief of the Wisconsin District I had a lot of experience with high-water measurements – but none anywhere near a million cfs."

Phil Emery says, "**Janet** and I continue to enjoy retirement in Mt. Home, Arkansas. I recently suffered from a case of shingles and it affected my inner ear and balance – similar to what astronaut John Glenn suffered. Of late my balance is much better and we are looking forward to more normal times. In November, Janet and I were in an automobile accident in which we were hit from the side. Janet suffered a head and neck injury but has improved nicely. Happy New Year to you all!"

Jim Eychaner reports, "Eight months into retirement **Barb** and I are still adapting. Next up is remodeling a closet in our home office for better storage with map drawers. International travel starts next year – to Morocco for the celebration of 50 years of Peace Corps and then to Germany for our son's, Jay, graduation from a 6-month master brewing course. Best wishes to all!"

Steve Fields says, "I look forward to the Newsletter and reading the reports from many of my Wisconsin District colleagues so I thought it's about time I add something. I retired 16 years ago and my wife **Jane** joined me 8 years ago. As much as I enjoyed doing my lake studies with the USGS, I find retirement is much better. I still enjoy deer hunting but with the impact of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) on the herd in southern Wisconsin, the herd around Dane County is down about 75%. The population is down because of the over harvesting of does (by DNR's design) not because of the disease. A person can get as many free doe tags as he/she wants in the CWD area. I do a lot of fishing but have switched my emphasis from fly-fishing for trout to bluegills; the abundant lakes in the Madison area hold excellent populations of gills. I continue to enjoy my woodcarving, which keeps me occupied during winter. I carve birds, fish, and animals and compete in local and national competition. Jane and I enjoy dancing and go 2-3 times a week. My

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health is good but my wife has been diagnosed with glaucoma in one eye and had surgery to reduce the eye pressure. The doctor is still trying to get the pressure stable.”

Bruce Foxworthy writes, “Recently, after a nice telephone conversation with **Dee Molenaar** and **Steve Van DenBurgh**, our mailman delivered a remarkable gift, “The Challenge of Rainier – A Record of the Explorations and Assents, Triumphs and Tragedies of One of North America’s Greatest Mountains.” The book was modestly mentioned in Dee’s note in the November 2011 Newsletter, but deserves a triumphant fanfare. It is a rich, absolutely beautiful book, engaging and eminently readable, and profusely illustrated by historic photos. I consider this Dee’s writing masterpiece, possibly by virtue of his diligence in research, knowledge as a geologist, skill as an artist and writer, and vast experience as a mountaineer. Anyone, like me, whose fieldwork involved mountainous terrain, will appreciate this book. It is available from The Mountaineers Books, www.mountaineersbook.org or phone 800-553-4453. As for **Cleo** and me, we remain mostly close to our apartment and in good health. We both are somewhat limited in travel by locomotion problems, but still enjoy our little motorhome in nearby forest camps. I finally figured out that moving heavy objects to and from the motorhome is a lot easier with a small, folding, portable hand truck. We enjoy the Newsletter and really appreciate the hard work of those producing it.”

Herb Freiberger says, “**Pat** and I have hit the travel circuit lately visiting Dubois, PA in early October. The winery and leaves were fantastic. In late October we went to Hilton Head to visit our oldest daughter, Kathy and her husband who were also vacationing there. The island is beautiful. In mid-November we visited my sister and brother-in-law in Camp Verde, AZ. We had a great time visiting the Painted Desert and Petrified Wood National Park. We will be going to the Bahamas in late January.”

Charles Gamble says, “**Rebel** and I remain active in church, gardening and volunteering. We are on the fellowship committee and cook for about 250 people about 6 times a year. For the last 2 years I have been partners in 2 gardens where we grow a full variety of vegetables. We continue to volunteer at Healing Hands International on their project where they receive donated Christmas gift boxes and send them to underprivileged children in developing countries. This project just ended in November and about 18,000 boxes have been shipped. We enjoy the Newsletter but like many others we recognize fewer and fewer names. Thanks to all involved in publishing the Newsletter. Hello to all former colleagues, especially those from the SE region.”

Joe Gates writes, “On November 14th, **Ted Arnow**, longtime Utah District Chief was given the Lehi Hintze Award for contributions to the geology of Utah--the highest award of the Utah Geological Association. Ted, who just turned 90 last summer, was given the award on the basis of his management, over a 20-year period (1966-86), of a multidisciplinary earth science program and a cooperative program with the Utah Division of Water Rights, which was one of the most effective in the nation at that time. Report production from the District increased five-fold under his guidance. He also was cited for his individual research on Great Salt Lake (done during his spare time) including the most detailed analysis, at that time, of the history of fluctuations in lake levels and brine concentration. In addition, he was cited for his work with the Utah Geological Association--serving on a committee that facilitated the merger of the Intermountain Association of Geologists and the Utah Geological Society into the Utah Geological Association and mostly writing the constitution of the new UGA. He served terms as president of the IAG and UGA and later wrote a history of the UGA.

Rob Baskin of the USGS Utah Water Science Center gave a presentation on his bathymetric survey of Great Salt Lake at the award ceremony.”

Harold Golden writes, “**Marie** and I have adjusted to the climate in the MO Ozarks except for the frequent strong winds. We are enjoying being near our grandchildren and 3 great granddaughters. Best wishes to all WRD retirees.”

Don Goolsby reports, “January 2012 will mark 11 years since my retirement. It’s hard to believe it has been that long. Retirement has been pretty good to me, except for losing **Eddie**, my wife of 48 years to breast cancer in early 2010. We spent summers in Morrison, CO near our daughter and 3 grandkids and winters in central FL near our son and 3 grandkids. Fortunately, I am in pretty good health, except for a few hiccups along the way and too many extra pounds that won’t go away. I play a lot of golf and have done some traveling, mostly in the US. This spring a friend and I made a 3750 mile driving tour of the southwest and we toured New England in October to see fall colors. I really enjoy reading the Newsletters and learning what other retirees are doing. Thanks to everyone who is involved in preparing the Newsletter.”

Bonnie Greeson reports, “My retirement years remain full of fun and travel. I visited with my children in Georgia and Florida during the year. May your New Year be blessed, healthy and happy.”

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Milt and Pam Hackett say, "We have not had a good year health wise, but are so fortunate to have been together for 65 years. We had to give up our apartment and are both in the Heath care unit of our facility. Pam has now been with Hospice for a full year – due to the wonderful care of Hospice and the nursing staff. Macular degeneration has been Milt's main problem, although neuropathy has also taken its toll. He is now unable to walk alone. Our children have taken over all of our responsibilities. They come as often as they can – all the girls live far away - they are now taking turns telephoning us every evening. Jeff lives closer. He took charge of our move and with the help of his sisters and many of our church friends, we are almost settled in. With loads of love and happy memories, may each and every one of you have a great New Year."

Gene Hampton says, "Hi all! **Pat** and I are enjoying our 17th year on the VA Eastern Shore. Pat is creating quilts of all sizes and maintains a too large flower garden. I grow some veggies, fruits, make pieces of furniture, cut fire wood and occasionally go fishing! We are managed by two chocolate labs and their good friends, Pumpkin See and Katty cats. Come see us!"

Tom Huntzinger writes, "It has been a few years since the last update on our family. We are all healthy and doing well here in Lawrence, KS. I retired from the USGS in 1997 and KS Div of Water Resources in 2005 and took an engineering job with Applied Ecological Services, a consulting firm out of Wisconsin. I led their Kansas City office for 2 years and designed "green stormwater control structures." I now have my own consulting firm and work mostly with KS Alliance for Wetlands and Streams on a grant that implements Kansas programs for the non- point source section of the Clean Water Act. My work is focused on the watersheds contributing stormwater to public water supplies for Lawrence and areas nearby. I try my best to keep the effort to half time. I will be 65 in 2012 so must make the Medicare transition in the next few months and decide if I will really retire and close down my business. I missed out on the midlife crises and didn't feel any symptoms at all. This transition seems different; time seems to feel much shorter now. I ride my bike about 120 miles a week. I have a small (22 ft) sailing cruiser at the Clinton Lake marina less than 10 minutes from my house and go sailing at least two or three times a week. I also have a kayak but I like sailing better so I use it when there is no wind. I regularly attend USGS retiree luncheons hosted by **Jesse McNellis**. I am the President of the local Chapter of NARFE. My wife **Pat** retired from the Bank last December so we have more time and flexibility. My twin daughters both live in Mission, KS, near Kansas City. Amber and her husband have a daughter who will be three in February. She is our only grandchild and Pat keeps her 2 days a week. It's great for us grandparents and saves the day care fees. Amber is a senior editor for the American Family Physician magazine and Erin is an elementary teacher in Olathe, another suburb of Kansas City. Both daughters have their own homes so we go over and help out with painting and other tasks now and then. Pat and I spent a week on Captiva Island FL early this December and had a great time. We plan more trips in the coming years plus some extended bike rides, another reason to close my business."

Gerry Idler writes, "I continue working as a volunteer in the blind community. Still do some converting college text books to electronic format for the blind college students and transporting blind persons to meeting and conventions. I am an active member in the National Federation of the Blind and The Greater Orlando Council of the Blind. Last year a small group of us started a 501c3 organization (Florida Disabled Citizens for Progress), see web site fdcp.org. We started collecting used low vision adaptive equipment from people who had this equipment and could no longer use it because they had lost all usable vision or had passed away. We make this equipment available to Florida citizens who need to maintain their independence by being able to read their own mail and write their own checks, etc. We have grown from the 4 of us who started this effort in Orlando to more than 20 people in 6 districts throughout the state. We have picked up and delivered more than 100 pieces of equipment in 2011. This includes CCTVs, Scanner readers and computers with blind adaptive (screen reader) programs installed -- all at no cost to donors or recipients. On August 18 I had both of my knees replaced."

Rick Iwatsubo says, "All goes well here. I still work part-time at Fisherman's Warehouse to pay for gas for my fishing trips. My store sponsored a 10-Day Giant Tuna Hunt, so I was Chartermaster and we were out at sea during the Holidays. We had a fantastic trip. The largest yellowfin tuna caught was 341 pounds by my "fishing niece" who only weighs 130 pounds. Twenty-one of 30 anglers landed their personal best (all were 150 pounds or bigger). Though I did not catch my personal best, I did catch a 125, 188, 193, and a 247 pounder - - now that is a lot of tuna sandwiches and sushi!"

Bev Josefson reports, "I enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletters."

Jerry Lindholm reports, "**Muffy** and I spent an enjoyable 6 weeks at our cabin near Grand Rapids, Minnesota this past summer. The weather was fantastic, the water warm and north woods solitude unbeatable. While camping with us, our new 5-year old Ethiopian granddaughter said she couldn't sleep because of the noisy loons. We visited with numerous relatives and friends and also attended my 60th high school graduation reunion. By unanimous consent, Boise WRD retirees now meet for breakfast on the second Tuesday of odd-numbered months. Typically 20-25 retirees, spouses

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and friends enjoy the socializing and breaking bread together. **Kay Lehman** is the most recent retiree to join our August group.”

Russ Livingston says, “**Anita** and I are struck by how truly fortunate we are in so many ways. Given the state of things worldwide and nationally we are so grateful for family, friends and good health. We continue to get lots of use out of our new motor home. We’ve had trips to British Columbia, Vancouver Island, NM and our annual “wild flower” pilgrimage to the San Juan Mountains in CO. We also stay busy with community activities, hiking, snowshoeing, gourmet cooking and post-hail home repairs. In February we met in CA with the technical director for Four Wheeler Magazine for a photo shoot of our 2008 Grand Cherokee diesel, which was later featured in the Aug. issue. We look forward to seeing you all in Boise.”

Bob MacNish writes, “In the mid-80’s, looking at WRD’s Hydrotech work force, there was a lot of gray hair, actually, not a lot of hair, but what there was, was pretty gray. We also were not having a lot of luck recruiting young people to replace our older technicians. I thought a possible solution was to go to a local community college and encourage them to develop a program to train hydrographers. My dream was that young men and women coming out of high school might go to the community college seeking training. Some would be happy to become hydrologic technicians and some might want to become hydrologists. Those becoming hydrologic technicians would be a source of employees to fill the thinning ranks and the ones going on to more training would be prime candidates for our professional staff. I went to Pima Community College, Tucson, to pitch this idea, and was met with an enthusiastic response. I gave them information on the program at Spokane Community College and thought “mission accomplished.” Two years passed, and I got an invitation to attend the graduation ceremony of the first class. Lo and behold, the technicians were well trained to operate water treatment plants. Having learned that simply starting something in motion does not necessarily determine where things will end up, I went to GateWay Community College, Phoenix, determined to do better. The reception at GateWay was far cooler and in the end I invited all the local state and federal agencies that employed Hydrotechs to a meeting with the Dean to provide estimates of the numbers of Hydrotechs they might hire annually. Between the COE, BLM, USBR, USFS, USDA, NPS, USF&WS and USGS; and the AZ Dept. of Water Resources and Water Quality, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, Phoenix and Tucson, and the Salt River Project we came up with an average of 25 to 30 hires per year. That was enough to convince GateWay but the Dean said they would put it in their budget request and possibly in a year they would start. He also threw cold water on my dream of some students going on to professional degrees saying most of their students were coming out of the workforce as opposed to high school and looking for training leading to a new career. Since the potential for professional recruits was the icing, and the cake was the real need for a supply of new hydrologic technicians, I asked the Dean if the USGS supplied an instructor to start the program could they start sooner. The answer was yes and I immediately recruited **Freddy Arteaga** from the NV District to be that instructor. Freddy was the most enthusiastic Hydrologist I have ever met and I figured he would be the ideal person to fire up his students. Freddy came to Tempe and exceeded expectations in getting the program started at GateWay. WRD owes a great deal to Freddy for the success of the program. A month or so ago I was chatting with another Adjunct Professor at the University of Arizona and found he was working on finalizing an agreement with GateWay Community College on curricula that would be accepted for credit at the University for GateWay students that decided they wanted to pursue professional degrees. The make-up of the student body has changed over time, and there are a lot of high school graduates entering their programs -- and dreams really can come true.”

Gale McMurtrey reports, “**Ardath** and I are still in fairly good shape for our age. We don’t travel much anymore but still manage to make it to some family events. We were honored by our large family on October 22 with a family reunion to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. It brought together 65 members of our family. In December of 2012, I will have been retired as long as I worked – 31 years. I enjoy the Newsletter and the news of retirees even though there are few names I recognize.”

Jerry and Libby Meyer write, “We are learning that "Aging ain't for sissies!" Libby is recuperating from breast-cancer surgery and Jerry has his share of doctor visits. But, nevertheless, we're enjoying the fabulous California weather (even in November), family, as well as Survey and other friends nearby. FOR AMUSEMENT WE WATCH THE RACE TO THE PRESIDENCY ON TV. Regards to everyone and thanks for the WRD Newsletters. We are well aware how much dedication of time and effort are involved.”

John Moore writes, “I have remained active as a volunteer at the St. Francis Homeless Shelter and the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH). During the year we spent a week in Nassau, attended a field trip with the (IAH) Mineral and Thermal Water Commission in Kansas in July, and Las Vegas in December. In October we attended an IAH field trip that included excursions in the French Alps and the Mediterranean Coast. After the 9-day trip we returned to Geneva and took a train to Paris and Deauville and did a grand tour of the area, English Channel beaches, and

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elegant French restaurants. After 3 days we returned to Paris for sightseeing. In December, I attended the National Ground Water Expo in Las Vegas.”

Joe Moreland says, “It’s been a crazy Christmas for me and **Kaycee**. It all started with a going away dinner for **Joanna Combs** and her husband **Ron** in Corona, CA. The dinner was attended by **Jeffrey Agajanian** and his wife **Emma (Lou)**, **Jim Bowers** and his wife **Linda**, the Morelands, and the **Combs**--hangers on from the old Loma Linda, CA Field Office. We all enjoyed the irony of Joanna’s departure coinciding with the rumored reopening of a Field Office within walking distance of Loma Linda (didn’t we all see that coming?). A bit closer to Christmas, we enjoyed a long lunch with **Julia (Schulenburg) Huff**, her husband **Steven**, and **Chuck Lamb**. Sweet reminiscence of the old Garden Grove Subdistrict was the main topic of the day. I have been working on completing and distributing my self-published Creative Nonfiction paperback book titled “A Place to Lay My Head” -- a chronology of my childhood days growing up in Western OR without the conveniences of indoor plumbing, electricity, telephone, or TV. I decided I needed to document my history for grandchildren and wanted to share my stories. I am proud to say that people who have read the book have really enjoyed it. If anyone would like a copy, it is available for purchase on Lulu.com. I’m still trying to convert the 421 page book into an ebook for those who want to save a tree and a few dollars. Of course I would be happy to save an autographed paper copy for friends who like to collect signatures from aspiring authors. Kaycee hosted two family Christmas dinners this year--one for her children and grandchildren on Christmas Eve and a larger dinner on Christmas day for her siblings and their offspring.”

Charlie Morgan reports, “The WRD Retirees luncheon was held at noon Tuesday, December 6, at Ichobad's at the corner of Flamingo and Pecos in Las Vegas. The attendees were as follows: **David J. and Virginia Bauer, Craig B. and VaDonna Bentley, Jim and Ruth Daniel, Louise M. Lupton, Larry Eccles, Gerald and Marnie Magner and Charles O. and Pauline Morgan**. A 'white elephant' gift exchange was held (suggested by Virginia Bauer). Dave Bauer was the lucky receiver of a rain stick; badly needed in Las Vegas. A number of other local Retirees were contacted, but were unable to come due to other activities, such as travel out of the area. A special thanks to David and Virginia Bauer for contacting Las Vegas area WRD luncheon members.”

Roy Newcome writes, “Keep up the good work! I enjoy the Newsletter.”

Jerry Pascale says, “Thanks to all of you retirees who work hard to keep “WRD Retirees” operating successfully. It is greatly appreciated by all of us retired USGS folks. The list of candidates for officers is outstanding and I’m sure they will continue to do the same wonderful job that has been done for years.”

Steve Ragone writes, “Hi all, I was thinking about the “good old days” and, for whatever reason, **John Hem** came to mind; particularly the advice he gave me on one of my earliest papers. I was trying to figure out where all the iron came from during the recharge of tertiary treated sewage into the Magothy aquifer. John suggested I should see if the iron came from a reaction between in-situ pyrite and oxygen in the sewage water. I did the chemistry and everything balanced out correctly. John’s advice was correct. What troubles me now is that I didn’t acknowledge John in the paper. Yes, I was young and his advice was casual. John doesn’t need me to enhance the contribution he made to geochemistry or the USGS. So here’s to John and the good old days. Best regards.”

Stan Sauer reports, “**Virginia** and I are still in TX. Virginia is doing much better health wise now than she was at the beginning of 2011. Fatigue is an occasional problem but she is a trooper and continues to progress. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family, including a hunting trip at our family ranch. We are looking forward to the Holiday season.”

John Shanton says, “**Linda** and I stay very busy with our family. Our son Johnny has 5 daughters and lives in NC. Son Jim lives in Monroe, GA with 3 children. Son Mike lives in MI with his wife and 3 children. His son, Parker, was diagnosed with Leukemia in June but is doing much better now. We feel so blessed with that news! Best wishes to all WRD retirees!”

Marv Sherrill says, “Greetings from The Villages, Florida. **Rosann** and I are spending our third winter here. We enjoy the many activities in this over 55, golf-cart community (over 55,000 golf carts). Our activities include golf, bridge, reading, walking, swimming, fishing, and our favorite pickleball. Pickleball is composed of elements of tennis, badminton, racquetball, and ping-pong. It is played on a badminton-sized court, with a 30-inch net. The paddle is solid and sized midway between a ping pong paddle and tennis racket. The ball is a baseball-sized wiffleball. Pickleball is one of the nation’s most rapidly growing sports. Rosann and I have been trying to take one or two major trips each year. In 2011, we visited Russia with the Friendship Force and Ecuador/Galapagos with Roads Scholars (Elderhostel). We look forward to the Retirees Reunion in Boise and hope to see many of you there.”

NEWS OF RETIREES

Bill Shope writes, “2011 was a busy year for the Shopes. We left Radford, VA after 13 years to move back to Northern VA – just outside of Winchester. It’s been a real challenge getting settled in our new home but its nice having our family nearby. **Jani’s** family lives in PA, and it is also closer to Penn State so I can go to athletic events.”

John Skelton reports, “**Martha** and I are retired on 15 acres about 4 miles south of Rolla, MO. We have 10 grandchildren (5 boys, 5 girls) ranging in age from 33 to 14 years. Our youngest children, identical twins Scott and Paul, had their 46th birthday January 1. Martha’s health has been curtailed by diabetes in recent years, but she can still motivate John to get necessary chores done around the house and property. We both cherish memories of colleagues from their working years which ended for Martha (registered nurse) in 1988 and John (hydrologist) in 1993. Best wishes to WRD friends for a healthy 2012.”

Jim Slack says, “While I worked for the Survey, my wife, **Mary Ellena Ward**, and I didn’t travel much; saving it for retirement. Now we do. Please go to <http://www.termineigh.com/>. Click on “Picture Albums.” I recommend, under 2010, “Southern Seas; Southern Skis.” Also under 2006, select “China”, then “Yangshuo,” and go down almost to the bottom to see a gauging station with a yellow tile roof.”

Ray Slade reports, “Hello All: I’ve been an Adjunct Professor since retiring--one class per year is enough. I’m in great health, having fun and doing much volunteer work (including being a volunteer karaoke DJ for retirement homes, fund raisers, and non-profit groups). I also am helping care for my younger brother who has Alzheimer’s disease.”

Dennis Stewart writes, “Thanks to all of the retirees that make the Newsletter so interesting and timely. Both **Mary Ann** and I look forward to finding out what is happening with our friends and acquaintances in WRD. We are in relatively good health. After retiring from the Division of Water, Indiana Department of Natural Resources in 2008, I am currently in the 4th contract with the Division of Water, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) where my work assignments are associated with the review and development of streamflow digital models using HEC-RAS software and GIS tools. We have also been blessed to have our three children (Dean, David, and Amy) living close by which is particularly great during the holidays and for special occasions. This coming October 2012, Mary Ann and I will celebrate our 55th wedding anniversary. Most of you probably know that Indianapolis is hosting the 2012 Super Bowl so there is an air of excitement in the city. As I think back over the years, I feel very thankful to have had the great opportunity to work for WRD for 34 years and to be associated with so many fine people. Mary Ann and I extend to each of you our best wishes for a healthy, happy, and productive 2012.”

Jim Stewart says, “Hello to fellow USGS retirees! I am recovering from knee replacement that I had December 1. It is quite the ordeal but things are looking up and I hope to be taking walks in the woods by late winter. My situation was complicated by the wear on my knee. I had walked through the ACL and then learned to walk without several muscle groups. I am now relearning to walk properly and rediscovering some muscles. This fall before the surgery I took a wilderness canoe trip in Canada’s Quitico. We enjoyed viewing the waterfalls and colors of the Canadian fall forest. The fishing was not so great, but what I thought was a beaver swimming toward us turned out to be a buck deer! The deer and our canoe passed by each other in the channel at about 20 yards with us going downstream and he going up. He was craning his neck to watch us but did not seem overly concerned. What a treat for an old streamgager. I remember early in my USGS career watching a huge buck float by while I was measuring a flooded stream from a bridge. He appeared to be joy riding the current! **Jerry Davis**, a retired USGS Technician came by yesterday. I made a Queen Ann dressing table just before my surgery. I am looking forward to getting back in the wood shop soon.”

Pat Tucci reports, “**Zelda** and I had a busy travel year in 2011 – we’ve been on the road, both near and far, every month so far. In April, we traveled to Namibia, in southwest Africa, to go on a “mineral safari.” In addition to buying specimens for our business, we got to see cheetahs up close at the Cheetah Conservation Fund and lots of other wildlife in Etosha National Park. We highly recommend Namibia – it’s relatively modern, with good roads and other infrastructure and English is the language. We were accompanied by fellow retiree, **Ken Hollett** and his wife **Claudia**. Within a week of returning from Namibia, we were off again to Fayetteville, AR to help with the USGS Karst Interest Group’s meeting. We had volunteered to help **Eve Kuniansky** (SR ground-water specialist) and **Van Brahana** put on the meeting, and were recruited to moderate a couple of sessions (it was like working again). In June, we flew to Barcelona to cruise the western Mediterranean. The cruise stopped in Nice, Pisa, Rome, Naples, Venice, and Dubrovnik, and we stayed in Barcelona for a few days. Crammed in between these trips, were trips to WY, AZ, MD/VA, NC and NY, and a road trip to OR to visit our daughter. Somehow, I also found time to do some contract work for the US Forest Service, writing ground-water technical procedures. Meanwhile, we’ve been busy buying and selling minerals and fossils for our business (GEOdyssey) and Zelda continues to make jewelry and to teach jewelry-making classes at a local bead shop.”

NEWS OF RETIREES

Russ Wagner reports, "2011 was a pretty quiet year for us. We had our usual 3 months at our Ontario cottage, including a trip to Herndon for a granddaughter's high school graduation. We took a short Caribbean cruise last winter. We planned a European trip, but **Pat** had a sudden back "issue" so we cancelled and hope to do it in April 2012. After a month's therapy her back is now like new. I'm still building theatrical sets for our local theatre group as well as serving on a lake committee for our community's residential lake, including monthly coliform monitoring for the past several decades. We are finding that keeping the house maintained, and all the things that used to be so easy to do to be taking more time and energy. I even paid a local garage to change the oil and rotate tires on one of our cars!"

Pat Walker says, "I spent a wonderful time with my family in Richmond, VA over Christmas; New Years with my family in Timonium, MD and the first week of 2012 with my family in Easton, MD. I got home on January 9. My visit was bittersweet in that it was the first family holiday since my son Bob died on September 27, 2011. The sadness was eased by getting to know my three great-grandkids better, (Bob's grandchildren), including Wyatt, born September 15, 2011. Weather was favorable, food was good, and I cheated on my no-booze order a tad, which was great! I hope that you, my fellow WRD Retirees, have a great 2012."

Janice Ward reports, "Hi everyone and Happy 2012. I was having dinner with some friends last night and they were lamenting about their birthdays (yes they are a few years older than me). My philosophy is to celebrate every birthday and holiday possible, and to even make up occasions to celebrate... because every celebration marks another good day! It's been almost three and a half years since I retired. Life and retirement are wonderful. I have no second thoughts about getting off the merry-go-round of the working world. I have recently entered a new phase, I think, of trying to limit my obligations to make even more free time. Both of my daughters are now married and there are 3 granddaughters aged 5, 3, and 2, and another on the way in March that keep me busy. I have several volunteer jobs that I do; I am painting pastels and watercolors and still doing photography; and I have been taking some long and sometimes exotic trips to scuba dive. My next dive comes up in March - one week in Sydney and Brisbane, Australia and then 10 days on a dive off the coast of Papua New Guinea. Guinea is not the sort of place where one should wander.... In 2008 there were more than 50 people killed in just two provinces for suspected sorcery. Here's some information from an article in The International, "Witch Hunts in Papua New Guinea and Nigeria", Oct 1, 2011. *"...in Papua there are organized groups of 'witch hunters' whose only purpose is to mete out the punishment. Many witch children suffer incredible abuse, from beatings, starvations, burnings by caustic soda or torturing by nails driven in their head. Others are never found, being killed in forests or buried alive... In Guinea, the 'witches' – usually old women with no siblings to protect them – are usually tortured into confessing their 'deed' and then killed. Despite the harshness of the punishments enacted against the 'witches,' local communities often condone or even encourage the practice. As a Papuan witch hunter puts it, 'It is part of my culture, my tradition, it's my belief. I see myself as a guardian angel. We feel that we kill on good grounds and we're working for the good of the people in the village.' These 'witches' are singled out usually by men that wield spiritual power in the community: ...elder tribal councilmen in Papua. The sentence is banishment, torture or death."* I will stay on the boat!"

Wayne Webb says, "I stepped down from my job in Strasburg with NRCS and am now serving as one of the Soil Conservation Supervisors for Clarke County, VA. I am also working part-time for PHRA-Pennoni. I still bowl 3 times a week and have had fishing trips to the San Juan River in CO, Good News River in AK, and several trips to trout streams in PA. **Sue** stays busy with bowling and singing in the church choir. We hope all WRD retirees have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

Jack Weeks writes, "This was a special year for me and **Judy** as we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to Maui, Hawaii with our son John and his wife Cynthia. We had a wonderful time on the beach, hiking, playing golf and touring by helicopter. We had visitors from Australia in September, Judy's nephew, and we showed them the sights around Denver. We hope all of you are in good health."

CT Welborn says, "**Bob** and **Libby Burchett**, **Bud** and **Beverly Anderson**, **Clarence** and **Dixie Welborn**, **Helen Davidson**, **Paul Rittman**, **Paul Rohne**, and **Tish Reeves** were at the January Texas WRD Retirees meeting. All had a great time."

Janet Welday reports, "The Ohio retirees have changed their meeting schedule. We will be meeting in April and October for lunch. In August and December we will join the employees at the office. We have decided to eliminate the every other month, because of low attendance or interest. We will try this and if this does not work out, we may change it again."

WRD NEWS

New Members of WRD Retirees: Welcome aboard and we hope to see you in Boise!

Steiger, Judy (11) 1902 W 900N, Salt Lake City UT 84116, jrooko@xmission.com, 801-596-9365, cell 801-703-3752
Weiss, Lawrence A (94) (Edythe) P.O. Box 370203, West Hartford CT 06137-0203, ekweiss140@comcast.net, 860-232-0867, cell 860-965-0447

RECENT RETIREES

Recent retirees automatically become members of WRD Retirees. Please treat these new members like old friends. Welcome them aboard and invite them to local meetings.

Northeastern Region:

Joanna M. Combs, Hydro Data Asst, 2503 E. Third St, Anderson, IN 4601, 12/02/2011
Roy S. Darnell, Hydro Tech, 138 Connector St, Calvert City, KY 42029, 270-898-4729, 12/31/2011
Ronald D. Evaldi, Hydrologist, 32 Thoroughbred Rd, Scott Depot, WV 25560, 304-757-6152, 12/31/2011
Zeke Hensley, Hydro Tech, 309 Crestview Ln, West Liberty, KY 41472, 12/31/2011
Bruce E. Krejmas, Hydrologist, 128 Hawthorne Dr, Milford, PA 18337, 570-296-8583, 12/31/2011
Gary N. Paulachok, Hydrologist, 4338 High Rd, Cresco, PA 18326, 12/31/2011
Edward C. Perry, Ship Operator, 5340 Knaffle Rd, Cheboygan, MI 49721, 12/31/2011
Leonard N. Plummer, Hydrologist, 5993 Upland Meadow Court #T, Gainesville, VA 20155, 01/03/2012
William J. Ridge, Bio Lab Tech, 2100 Packard Rd, Covington, PA 16917, 570-659-5645, 01/07/2012
Edward T. Taber, Ship Operator, 316 W. Third St, Oswego, NY 13126, 315-343-0107, 12/31/2011
Howard E. Taylor, Chemist, 8144 Owens Way, Arvada, CO 80005, 303-422-9636, 12/31/2011

Southeastern Region:

Donna F. Flohr, Hydro Tech, 123 McMurray Cir, Nashville, TN 37211, 615-333-9123, 12/03/2011
Arthur J. Horowitz, Chemist, 46 Willow Glen, Sandy Springs, GA, 404-255-2949, 12/31/2011
Edward P. Simonds, Jr, Hydro Tech, 705 Diane Cir, Casselberry, FL 32707, 407-695-0804, 12/31/2011

Central Region:

Michael E. Dorsey, Hydro Tech, 10620 Creekview Dr, Austin, TX 78748, 512-282-4251, 12/31/2011
Gerald L. Feese, Info Tech, 2905 W. 23rd Terrace, Lawrence, KS 66047, 785-842-4330, 11/03/11
Kenneth C. Galyean, Hydrologist, 814 Mountain View Dr, Moab, UT 84532, 435-259-1189, 12/31/2011
Willard D. Lanier, Supply Mgt Spec, 18630 E. Grand Cir, Aurora, CO 80015, 303-699-8899, 12/31/2011
Richard J. Lindgren, Hydrologist, 9711 Silver Moon, San Antonio, TX 78254, 210-682-6880, 12/31/2011
Robert D. Jarrett, Hydrologist, 135 Balsam St, Lakewood, CO 80226, 303-237-4008, 12/30/2011
Robert L. Moquino, Hydro Tech, 5716 Alegria Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114, 12/31/2011
Dale Byron Peart, Hydrologist, 12463 W. 68th Ave, Arvada, CO 80004, 303-425-5338, 12/31/2011
Theodore B. Samsel III, Info Tech, 5207 E. Truman Rd, Apt. #7, Kansas City, MO 64127, 12/17/2011
Judy I. Steiger, Hydrologist, 1902 W. 900 N, Salt Lake City, UT 84116, 801-596-9365, 12/03/2011
George F. Taylor, Hydrologist, PO Box 195051, Winter Springs, FL 32719, 407-327-5362, 12/31/2011

Western Region:

William M. Alley, Science Advisor, 3195 E. Victoria St, Alpine, CA 91901, 619-659-5075, 01/03/2012
Kenneth E. Bencala, Hydrologist, 775 Barron Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94306, 650-858-2227, 12/31/2011
Jon G. Darnell, Hydro Tech, 2337 Ivory Point Ct, Las Vegas, NV 89134, 12/31/2011
Peter D. Dileanis, Hydrologist, 2312 Leonardo St, Davis, CA 95618, 12/31/2011
Sandra S. Embry, Hydrologist, 4014 SW 313th Street, Federal Way, WA 98203, 12/31/2011
Michael A. Gentile, Hydro Tech, 959 Oak Street, Central Point, OR 97502, 541-664-1969, mikey13@centurytel.net, 12/31/2011
Jose Hernandez, Hydro Tech, 4303 Fifth Ave, San Diego, CA 92103, 12/31/2011
Thomas A. Herrett, Hydrologist, 4005 Mandy Ave SE, Salem, OR 97302, 503-363-7347, 12/31/2011
Yousif K. Kharaka, Hydrologist, 3385 St. Michael Dr, Palo Alto, CA 94306, 650-494-2983, 12/31/2011
Stephen W. Lipscomb, Hydrologist, 11286 W. Hickory Dale, Boise, ID 83713, 208-939-7161, 12/31/2011
Peter Martin, Hydrologist, 4997 Manor Ridge Ln, San Diego, CA 92130, 858-259-0424, 12/31/2011
Russell W. Plume, Hydrologist, 1960 Marie Dr, Carson City, NV 89706, 775-297-3382, 12/31/2011
Keith R. Prince, Hydrologist, 33665 Pacheco Dr, Fremont, CA 94555, 12/31/2011
Steve S. Sumioka, Hydrologist, 1065 SW 328th Ct, Federal Way, WA 98203, 253-952-3262, 12/31/2011
John J. Vaccaro, Hydrologist, 15805 Sunny Cove Dr, S., Olalla, WA 98359, 253-857-2543, 12/31/2011

WRD NEWS

What's New in Research, by Jerad Bales, USGS Chief Scientist for Water

Has there been progress in reducing nitrate loads in the Mississippi River Basin?

Despite continued efforts to reduce nitrate levels in the Mississippi River Basin, concentrations and transport at eight major tributaries did not consistently decline from 1980-2008. These results are based on a new statistical method developed by Bob Hirsch of the USGS National Research Program. The method accounts for variations in streamflow in order to accurately describe long-term contaminant trends. The results of the new USGS study were published in August 2011 by Lori Sprague, Hirsch, and Brent Aulenbach in *Environmental Science & Technology*. An earlier paper by Hirsch and others, published in August 2010 in the *J. of the American Water Resources Assoc.*, describes the methodology and its application to Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

For the Mississippi River Basin study, USGS analyzed data from eight major river sites (shown in pink in the diagram to the left), with samples collected between 1980-2008, including 3,368 individual water-quality samples and 110,732 individual daily streamflow values. Some major findings from the study include the following:



- **Nitrate concentrations increased considerably at two sites with low concentrations in 1980.** At the northern-most study site on the Mississippi River at Clinton, IA (MSSP-CL), annual flow-normalized nitrate concentrations increased 76% from 1980-2008. Similarly, on the Missouri River at Hermann, MO (MIZZ-HE), concentrations increased 75% during the same period.

- **Nitrate concentrations remained the same or increased at the other six sites, including those where concentrations were relatively high in 1980.** On the Iowa River at Wapello, IA (IOWA-WAP), Illinois River at Valley City, IL (ILLI-VC), and Ohio River near Grand Chain, IL (OHIO-GRCH), nitrate concentrations were virtually unchanged. Along the Mississippi River at Grafton, IL (MSSP-GR), and Thebes, IL (MSSP-TH), and near the Old River Outflow Channel in Louisiana (MSSP-OUT), concentrations increased 10-20%.

- **Increases in nitrate concentrations in groundwater are contributing to increases in river concentrations.** At most sites, increases in nitrate concentrations at low and moderate streamflows were greater than or comparable to changes at high streamflows. These results suggest that increasing nitrate concentrations in groundwater are having a substantial effect on nitrate concentrations in rivers and transport to the Gulf. Because nitrate moves slowly through groundwater to rivers, the full effect of management strategies designed to reduce nitrate movement to groundwater may not be seen in these rivers for many years.

These results reflect the cumulative changes over time in nitrate sources and conservation practices throughout the Mississippi River Basin and highlight the need for comprehensive nutrient management strategies that will reduce nutrients in both streams and groundwater.

LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Oklahoma WRD retirees, under the leadership of Lyn Osburn, have decided to meet regularly. They held a Christmas luncheon and will be meeting monthly in the future. You Oklahoma retirees who are not in the picture below should give Lyn a call and plan on attending future meetings!



L to R: John Havens, Marvin Abbott, Lyn Osburn, Robert Blazs, Cheryl Hall, Karen Steele, Robert Tortorelli, Lee Ann Alf, and Tony Coffee

WRD retirees from Menlo Park are still active. They are shown below in a photo from their recent lunch meeting. The California climate agrees with these retirees!



Seated: Evelyn Smith. Standing, L to R: Irene Rogers, Loren Young, Frank Olmstead, Renee Young, Barry Smith, Jean Olmstead, Henry Ku, Joe Robles, Flora Robles.

LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

Utah WRD retirees are shown in the photo below at their Christmas meeting. A great time was had by all!



L to R: Dixie Canny, Larry Herbert, Stefanie Dragos, Joe Gates, Judy Steiger (recent retiree), Doris Vandruff, and Shonna Dennison.

The Garden Grove, California office was a great office, like many USGS locations. Folks that worked in Garden Grove still get together. The photo below shows some of the veterans of the Garden Grove office at a recent mini-reunion.



L to R: Julia Huff, Chuck Lamb, Joe Moreland, Kay Moreland

LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

Hawaii WRD retirees continue to have a lot of fun. They meet frequently, facilitated by John Yee. Hawaii retirees at a recent lunch meeting at the Happy Days Chinese Restaurant in Honolulu are shown below.



L to R: Seated: Grace Tateishi, Reuben Lee, Akiko Tanaka, Violet Ansai, Amy Watanabe, John Yee.
Standing: Pearl Tam, Richard Obata, Frank Romualdo, Mike Merritt, Lodie Celebrado, George Dayag, Bill Souza, Salwyn Chinn. Mike Merritt is a Florida District retiree, and joined us for the first time. Mike currently resides on the Big Island of Hawaii.

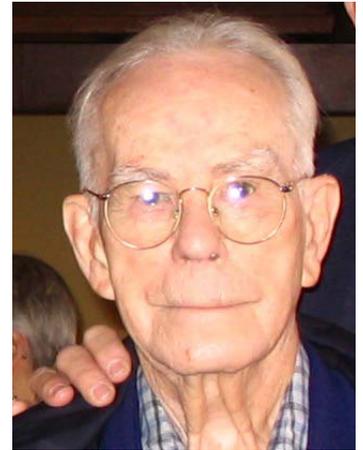
The Indiana retirees remain very active and meet regularly. Sharon Goss is one of the active organizers of group functions. Those attending a recent lunch meeting are shown below. Retirees were joined by three retiree-hopefuls from the Indianapolis office.



L to R: Rick Goss, Cheryl Silcox, Dave Cohen, Pat Long, Phyllis Lynch, Sonja Sanders, Gene Hammil, Debbie Majors, Jeff Martin, Sharon Goss, Kathy Fowler, Lee Watson, and Leslie Arihood.

MEMORIAL
George W. Edelen, Jr.
1911-2011

George W. Edelen Jr., was born on September 3, 1911, in Kansas City, MO, son of Mable and George W. Edelen, Sr. George was one of four children, his only surviving sibling is his brother, Charles, who is 98 years old and resides in Houston, TX. George received a B.S. degree in civil engineering in June 1934 from Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS. His duties consisted of design, review of plans, and inspection during construction of dams and other hydrologic structures. He married Alma Edith Wilsey on June 13, 1937. In November 1940, he went to work for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water-Resources Division (WRD) in the Topeka, KS district office of the Surface Water Branch (SWB). He was transferred to the district office at Rolla, MO in December 1944. While on duty in Rolla, in September 1946, George left on a field trip for a week. During the week while George was in the field, Alma became ill during the evening and she phoned her doctor to get advice. Her doctor advised her to take aspirin, go to bed, and if she did not feel better the next day to come into the office for an exam. She followed his advice and the next day her neighbor noticed that her milk delivery and newspaper were still on the porch, and on the second day the milk and newspaper were still there. She called the police and reported the situation. The police arrived immediately and entered the house and found that she had died during the night of September 6, 1946, the same night that she had called her doctor. She was 33 years old, they had no children, and George never re-married. In June of 1947, George transferred to the Maryville, MO office and in 1948 he was detailed to the Tacoma, WA office where he assisted in making the streamflow computations published in Water Supply Paper (WSP) 1080, Floods of May-June 1948, in the Columbia River Basin. From February to June of 1949, he was detailed to the SWB, Washington, DC. In September 1949 he was transferred to Council Bluffs, Iowa, as engineer-in-charge of the subdistrict office of the Iowa City District. In April 1954, he was transferred to the district office in Topeka, KS office where he analyzed streamflow records and prepared them for publication in WSP 1310. In August 1959, he was transferred to the Flood Section, Arlington, VA as technical advisor on flood inundation mapping studies.



In 1964, he was transferred to the Indiana district as Assistant District Engineer. In April 1965, the Indiana District (SW) was reorganized into the Indiana District, WRD, and he was reassigned to the position of Supervisory Hydraulic Engineer and Training Officer. As Training Officer, he was responsible for technical training of all personnel in the district. On July 2, 1965, he was transferred to the Foreign Hydrology Section, WRD, Arlington, VA to the position of Hydrologist and Assistant Chief of the Section. In March 1967, the reorganization plan for the Washington Headquarters Office was implemented and the name of the Foreign Hydrology Section changed to Office of International Activities, WRD. He was responsible for all activities pertaining to logistics support of USGS (WRD) overseas projects under U.S. AID sponsorship. In 1970, he was transferred to the Special Reports Unit, Arlington, VA and was promoted to Chief, Current Conditions Group, where he reviewed reports on special hydrologic events. He was co-author of the monthly WRD publication "Water Resources Review." In August 1971, he was reassigned to the staff of the Regional Hydrologist, NE Region, WRD, Arlington, VA as principal Research Hydrologist in the field of flood-plain mapping. On September 12, 1973, his official duty station was changed from Arlington, VA to the Surface Water Branch, USGS National Center, Reston, VA. He retired from the SWB effective January 12, 1980, and continued to work as a re-employed annuitant through 1985. I was privileged to work with George during this time and was witness to many of the kind deeds that he did for so many people that needed help. He was a very generous man and anonymously gave large sums of money to many of his co-workers who had special needs. He was a quiet man, had a tremendous sense of humor, and a heart of gold.

He continued to help with mailing the WRD Retirees Newsletters and Membership Directories and made telephone calls each month to 40 retirees to remind them of our monthly luncheon and to take their menu choice. He enjoyed wonderful health up until October 10, 2011, when he suffered a major heart attack. He was hospitalized for 2 weeks and was returned back to his residence where he began therapy and seemingly was making good progress. I spoke to him by telephone during his stay in the Skilled Nursing Facility and he was in good spirits and was looking forward to returning to his apartment in the Goodwin House. He developed pneumonia shortly after I talked to him and he was returned to the hospital where he died on November 19, 2011. A Memorial Service was held for George on December 17, 2011, at the Goodwin House and was attended by his friends and co-workers from the USGS. He was interred on December 17, 2011, at the National Cemetery in Falls Church, VA beside his long-time friend and companion, Kathy Iseri. He will long be remembered as "A QUIET MAN WHO LEFT BEHIND A LARGE FOOTPRINT." We will miss you, dear friend.

By: Eileen Smith

WRD RETIREE VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Volunteering for The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey

By Bruce Parks, retired 2003

When I read that the WRD Retirees were planning to hold the 2012 reunion here in Boise, Idaho, and that a visit to The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey was going to be on the agenda, I figured I should help with planning for the event. I have been volunteering at the World Center for nearly four years and have found it to be the most pleasurable experience of my working career. The staff of The Peregrine Fund includes some of the most dedicated people I have been associated with and, because it is a non-profit organization, they are most appreciative of the volunteers who help in a variety of capacities.

The Peregrine Fund is a non-political, solution-oriented, and hands-on organization, with a mission to restore rare species through captive breeding and releases, improve capacity for local conservation, conduct scientific research and environmental education, and conserve habitat. The Peregrine Fund was founded in 1970 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where Professor Tom Cade, an ornithologist and falconer began a project to restore the Peregrine Falcon population that had been decimated by DDT during the 40s, 50s, and 60s. By the 70s there were no breeding pairs of Peregrines east of the Mississippi and only about 50 in the western states (not including Alaska). The project was so successful that in 1999, the Peregrine Falcon was removed from the endangered species list. Over the years, projects of The Peregrine Fund have included studies of vultures in Africa and Asia, Gyrfalcons in Greenland, Harpy Eagles in Panama, Red Breasted Falcons in Central America, and many others across the world. (For a full list of projects go to <http://www.peregrinefund.org/conservation>.) The studies attempt to determine why numbers of certain raptors are declining and what can be done to protect and restore them to sustainable populations. In Boise, we are actively trying to restore California Condors and Aplomado Falcons by breeding them in captivity and releasing them in their historic habitats in the Southwest.

My contribution as a volunteer is in the area of environmental education. The Velma Morrison Interpretive Center is a part of the World Center for Birds of Prey where visitors can enjoy seeing a number of raptors and learn about raptor biology, raptor behavior, falconry, and the various projects of The Peregrine Fund. I volunteer as a docent, taking people through the Center to answer questions and explain the significance of the exhibits. I also show live falcons and hawks and occasionally help with flying some of the raptors in our October flight shows. I also serve in the Gift Shop where we greet the public, collect admissions, and promote sales in the store.

The Center is also home to The Archives of Falconry, which contains falconry books, articles and essays, manuscripts, equipment, memorabilia, art, field notes, and a substantial media collection on the ancient sport of falconry. A separate room features an Arabian display from the United Arab Emirates that contrasts the heritage of one of the oldest falconry cultures with our own American heritage. The Archives is an integral part of any tour of the World Center.

Finally, one of the questions posed in the February 2009 Newsletter for articles about volunteering, asked, "What is the population served by your efforts?" That number has to be in the tens of millions; the number of birds of prey at risk throughout the world. I thoroughly enjoy educating people, young and old, who come to our Center, and hope to see many of you in September.

WRD RETIREE VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc

By Rick Benson, retired 2001

Mission: Enhancing Quality of Life and Promoting Economic Development by Providing High-Quality Water and Excellent Service

The need for better-quality drinking water throughout most of South Dakota led to the first rural-water system being established in 1972. The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems was chartered in 1976. The Association immediately became involved with six other states to establish the National Rural Water Association. Today, there are 27 Rural Water Systems in South Dakota that are members of the State Association.

Construction of the Mid-Dakota Rural Water System began in 1994 and was completed in 2006. The System covers an area of 7,000 square miles in eastern South Dakota serving more than 31,000 people, as well as about 1,100 livestock taps. The water source is the Missouri River. The system has about 4,000 miles of distribution pipeline, 115 miles of mainline, and 17 constructed storage tanks. An expansion project is nearing completion to increase system capacity from 9 MGD to 13.5 MGD. As a part of the expansion project, the treatment plant filtration system was changed from conventional sand filters to submerged membrane filters. Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc. is non-profit with assets of about \$143 million. The annual operation budget is slightly less than \$12 million and there are 25 full-time employees.

I became a Mid-Dakota Board Member in December 2008. The Board of Directors is made up of nine individuals and is responsible for the overall operation of the Mid-Dakota Rural Water System. Directors are also expected to promote the system whenever and wherever possible. Regular meetings are held monthly and each Director is assigned to one of three standing committees (budget, labor, and policy) that meet periodically throughout the year. Strategic Planning for the system is also a major responsibility of the Board. Directors are also expected to attend periodic training and the Annual Technical Conference that is sponsored by the State Association. As a side note, the State Association was chosen as the "Best of the Best" at the National Rural Water Association Expo in Louisville, Kentucky, in October 2011.

Being able to give back to the community during retirement is gratifying to me. In addition to the Mid-Dakota Board, I also serve as a County Commissioner and as an advisor to the local Conservation District. I also serve the youth of the community through my membership in the local Kiwanis Club.

MEMORIAL
Albert Neill (Abe) Cameron
1915-2011

Albert N. "Abe" Cameron died November 28, 2011, in Cashiers, NC, at the age of 96. He was born in Fort Mudge, GA, but grew up in Savannah. Abe was the first member of his family to go to college. He graduated from Clemson University with a BS in civil engineering in 1940. At Clemson, he was a dedicated member of the corps of cadets, an honor student, and manager of the Clemson Tiger football team (including the team that won the 1940 Cotton Bowl game.) He was part of the crew that surveyed and set the stakes for the Clemson football stadium, known affectionately as "Death Valley."

Following graduation, Abe entered the U.S. Army and was sent to Europe where he saw combat in France and Germany. As the war was coming to an end and Allied troops took charge under Marshall Law, Abe, served as the commandant overseeing Olm, Germany. Instead of hating him, the local people discovered that he had a genuine desire to help heal the wounds of the war—and instead fell in love with him. Many gathered to see him when he and his son visited the city 37 years later. They fondly remembered the "Kind Major."

Abe began his USGS career on February 18, 1946, with the Surface Water program in Atlanta, GA as a Hydraulic Engineer. He held a variety of increasingly responsible positions in the GA District, including head of the Tifton field office. Early in his USGS career, Abe built a reputation for high quality relationships with colleagues and cooperators based on his honesty, integrity and fairness to all.

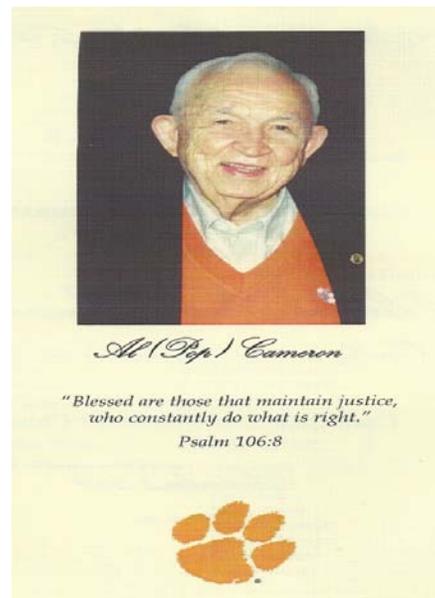
In 1957, Abe transferred to Washington, DC, where he lead the Planning office for surface water programs, then transferred back to GA as District Engineer. Several years later he returned to Washington, DC, to serve as an assistant to the Director. His final assignment was Louisiana District Chief. Abe retired in December 1980 after 34 years of service, but then embarked on a second, nearly 30-year, career of community service. Abe and Jane retired to Cashiers, NC, only a short drive from their beloved Clemson. But retirement simply found Abe dedicating his time and energy to civil projects, Rotarian and church-related activities, hospital boards, and tutoring struggling high school students. He touched countless lives in his final career through his passionate and unconditional dedication to the loving service of others.

Abe and Jane were partners for 56 years—they had 4 children (four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren). About 1 ½ years after Jane's death in 2001, Abe married Vanna Montgomery, a community leader in Cashiers, NC. Together, they continued lives of service to others. Abe and Vanna attended several WRD Retirees reunions together, and Laurel and I both fell in love with her.

Abe, the consummate Clemson Tiger, no doubt has a sparkle in his eye and grin on his face knowing this memorial is being written by his USC Gamecock friend. To say Abe was a Clemson fan is something less than candid. His blood was not red—it was orange. He frequently wore an orange sweater, or an orange tie with paw prints all over it, or orange socks. Abe, in fact, was buried wearing his beloved orange socks.

I met Abe Cameron in January, 1966, in my sophomore year at USC. He came to Columbia for the retirement of my boss, Al Johnson, District Engineer. I did not lay eyes on him again until 1981, when I was the new District Chief in Georgia. I saw Abe in the hallway and went to welcome him, knowing full well he had no clue who I was. He not only knew, he remembered exactly when and where we met. He also remembered trying to convince me to transfer to Clemson! Some years later, Abe took great satisfaction and laughed aloud when I admitted to him that my first born had been admitted to Clemson and a few years later my son as well.

Abe was a special gift to our country as an Army officer, to our beloved USGS as a highly competent engineer and manager, and to the family, friends and community he served selflessly up until the end of his life. He truly was a member of the "greatest generation."



By: Jeff Armbruster

IN MEMORIAM

Roger J. Archer, native of Columbus, Ohio, was born on February 8, 1931, and died at age 80 on September 13, 2011, in Latham, New York. Roger began his USGS career as a Hydrologic Field Assistant with the QW office in Columbus, Ohio in 1951, while a student at Capital University. Following his graduation from Capital University with a BS in Chemistry in 1952, Roger was promoted to Chemist, serving in the Columbus laboratory. He served as a QW specialist in the Ohio office until his transfer to Albany, NY in 1962 as Assistant District Chemist, working on a number of water quality studies. In 1968, Roger was selected as the Chief of the NY Hydrologic Data section and also continued work on hydrologic studies, retiring in 1986. He lived in New York since his retirement. He was preceded in death by his wife, Florence, and is survived by 5 children.

John Richard Beck passed away peacefully on November 27, 2011, at age 88. John graduated from high school in Butler, Pennsylvania in 1941 and went to California to attend Curtis Wright Technical School in Glendale, studying aeronautics. He joined the Army Air Force during WW II and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a BS in Mechanical Engineer in 1946. He then returned to California and began working in the aircraft industry. After 10 years he joined the U.S. Geological Survey with his first assignment being a Hydraulic Engineer in the Portland, Oregon SW office in 1963. He transferred to the Menlo Park subdistrict in 1964 where he specialized in studying equipment, including manometers and acoustic velocity meters. John moved to the Sacramento office in 1984 and retired in 1985. John is survived by his loving wife, Dawn R. Beck and 6 children: Karen Rimbault, Ronald Beck, Lawrence Beck, Thomas Beck, Colleen Beck and Marilyn Pluth; and 4 grandchildren. John and Dawn moved to Sun City in Roseville, California in 1996 and enjoyed the active life-style. John helped form the Sun City Bridge Club. He was an active member of the dance club, the Veterans Club and the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society.

Emil Beckman passed away in Lincoln, Nebraska, on November 29, 2011, at age 97. A Kansas native, Emil earned his BS in Civil Engineering from Kansas State in 1939. He began his professional career as a Hydraulic Engineer with the Corps of Engineers, transferring to the USGS in 1952 to the SW office in Lincoln. He worked as a SW specialist in Lincoln for 25 years, retiring in 1976. Following retirement, Emil and his family stayed in Lincoln where he was active in the Lutheran Church. He also loved gardening and telling witty stories. His wife, Dorena, preceded him in death. Emil is survived by daughters, Judy Zager and Darlene Tussing; 8 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Melvin D. "Doug" Edwards passed away on November 22, 2011, at age 78. Doug was a proud native of North Carolina who was born in Louisburg on October 27, 1933. He was valedictorian of his Bunn High School 1951 class and entered Louisburg Junior College on an academic scholarship in the pre-engineering curriculum. Doug served in the U.S. Army during 1955-57 and was stationed in Germany for most of that time. He joined the USGS in 1957 as a Physical Science Aid in the Raleigh, North Carolina QW office. After earning a BS in Chemistry from North Carolina State University in 1962, Doug was reclassified as a Chemist and served in that position until his transfer to headquarters in 1965 with the Automatic Data Management Section. Doug completed a project on a Computer Method of Computing Sediment Discharge and in 1970 was promoted to Chief, Automatic Data Development Unit. In 1976, Doug was selected as the first chief of NAWDEX and performed an exemplary job of indexing and disseminating water data from 250 organizations. He was designated as the Deputy Assistant Chief Hydrologist for Scientific Publications and Data Management in 1979 and held that position until his retirement in 1987. Following retirement, Doug and his wife Shirley moved to Raleigh, NC, where he pursued his interest in photography, ran a photo business, participated in annual WRD fishing trips to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, was very active in the Baptist church and along with his wife, Shirley, adopted and raised their granddaughter, Gretchen, following the untimely death of their son Keith. Doug is survived by his wife, Shirley; granddaughter, Gretchen and a great-grandson.

Walter F. "Walt" Holmes was born on June 26, 1947, in Tooele, Utah, and died September 10, 2011, of kidney cancer at home in Stansbury Park, Utah, a few miles north. He grew up in Tooele, graduated from Tooele High School in 1965, and married Thanna Willardson in 1967. He joined the U.S. Navy Reserves and served a year's tour in Vietnam, piloting river boats. He went to Utah State University and earned a BS in geology and an MS in environmental engineering. Following graduation in 1974, he worked briefly for VTN engineering company in Denver, and then began work with USGS in Vernal, Utah.

IN MEMORIAM

He served there as the groundwater specialist on an extensive multidisciplinary study of the hydrology of northeastern Utah's oil-shale area in the Uinta Basin. Walt finished his 29-year USGS career as Chief of the Investigations Section of the Utah District, retiring in 2003. One unusual accomplishment—Walt obtained a Utah well-driller's license, the only member of the District to ever do so. Although Walt was diagnosed with cancer only a few years after retiring, he didn't let it take over his life. He ignored a diagnosis of only a year of life and went on for five years—typical of his determination—a role model for all of us. Walt had a passion for outdoor sports, was a life-long fisherman and hunter and continued that the rest of his life—taking friends and co-workers on fishing trips to Baja California, Mexico (where he built a house), hunting in the mountains and plateaus of eastern Utah, and even hunting turkeys in South Dakota while undergoing cancer treatment. Walt is survived by his wife of 44 years, son Michael, daughter Jennifer Crosby, and 6 grandchildren.

Thomas J. "Tom" Lyons died on November 22, 2011, at age 92. Tom was with the USGS Administrative Division, serving as the Regional Administrator for the Central Region in Denver for many years. He was a good friend of WRD and provided assistance to the WRD folks who worked in Denver and the rest of the Central Region. Tom was an active member of WRD Retirees and attended many WRD functions. Tom was preceded in death by his wife, Kay. He is survived by sons, Tom and Joe and daughter, Kate MacMillan.

Charles H. "Herb" Tate was born December 8, 1926 and passed away November 16, 2011, at age 85. Charles started with WRD as an Engineering Aid in the Montgomery, Alabama office in 1950. In 1951 he received a BS in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech and was converted to Hydraulic Engineer, specializing in SW investigations and streamflow records. He moved to the Hawaii office in 1955 as Resident Engineer of Kauai and then to Indianapolis in 1958 as Chief of the Special Reports Section of the Hydrologic Unit. Charles was promoted to Assistant Chief, Special Studies of the Mississippi District in 1970 and was with the Mississippi District until his retirement in 1985. Herb was active in the ASCE, serving as Secretary of the Jackson Branch for many years. He is survived by his wife, Nita; a son and a daughter.

Ada J. Rich, age 92, passed away in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on November 9, 2011. She attended business school as a teenager and worked for the state of Louisiana until 1953 when she joined the GW branch, Administrative section in Baton Rouge. When the LA District was created in 1966, she became the first Administrative Officer of the Louisiana District. Ada held that position until her retirement in 1979. In her teens she was an outstanding member of the 4-H club, winning many awards and special trips to Washington, DC and Chicago. Ada is survived by a son and daughter, 3 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Joel R. Schuetz, 68, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, died December 31, 2011. He was born in Bridgeport, Nebraska. Joel was a graduate of Bridgeport High School and began his USGS career in Bridgeport, Nebraska, in 1964. He transferred to Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1968. In the Wyoming District, Joel specialized in water quality information and served as Chief, Hydrologic Data section until his retirement in 1995. He was very active in the Cheyenne Frontier Days programs and also worked with a number of other civic organizations. Joel is survived by his wife, Pam; daughters, Brenda Fleming and Wendy Pino; and 3 grandchildren.

MEMORIAL
Arnold Ivan Johnson
1919-2011

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the water resources community lost an icon with the passing of Ivan Johnson. Ivan was born June 3, 1919 in Madison, Nebraska, and died August 31, 2011 in Arvada, Colorado. He is survived by two sons, one daughter, 10 grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Betty.



Ivan received a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1943 from the University of Nebraska. He had previously studied at Duane College and at the University of Omaha. He served in the Navy Seabees in the Second World War. Following his military service, he worked with the USGS in 1946-1979. Most his time with the USGS was spent in Denver, Colorado, where he served as Chief of the Hydrologic Laboratory and Water Resources Division (WRD) Training Center. In 1971, he was transferred to the USGS Headquarters in Reston, VA, as Assistant Chief of the Office of Water Data Coordination.

After his retirement, Ivan established AIJ Consulting, Inc., and was a one man hurricane of activity. He mostly worked in Africa and the near East, serving as a consultant in Turkey, Oman, Jordan, Egypt, Senegal, Morocco, and Mexico. He was honored in 1995 by the University of Turkey with an Honorary Doctorate. He semi-retired from AIJ in 1999 but remained active in the water resources field for the rest of his life.

John Moore first met Ivan in 1969 when, as a new USGS employee, he asked me to teach a hydrogeology class of foreign trainees. At the time, the training center consisted of one room in Building 25 of the Denver Federal Center and Ivan had just assumed the position of Chief of the Training Center. In a few short years, he built the WRD Training Center into a world class facility, in Building 53, capable of running at least four classes concurrently, 52 weeks a year. During Ivan's time as Chief, several thousand individuals from USGS, other federal agencies, cooperating agencies and from foreign countries studied under Ivan's leadership. Ivan was a hands-on leader. He made the effort to meet every student.

Ivan was President of AWRA in 1972, in its eighth year of existence, and following his presidency continued his involvement with AWRA. In 2006, as a means of honoring his work with young water resources professionals, AWRA renamed its award honoring young professionals, the A. Ivan Johnson Young Professional Award. It is the only AWRA award that, at the time, was named for a living person. Ivan was present at the 2006 AWRA Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD, and at age 87, had the honor of presenting the award bearing his name to Rafael Frias. It was a proud moment for Ivan and for AWRA. Ivan was active in many other organizations including the International Association of Hydrogeologists, American Society of Civil Engineers, UNESCO, International Association of Hydrological Sciences, and American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM). ASTM, in 1988, honored him with the first William T. Cavanaugh Award for Standard Eminence (their highest award). In 1997, the USGS presented him with the Meritorious Service Award and the John Wesley Powell Award for Citizen's Achievement.

Ivan Johnson had one trait he applied during his long career, that is, he was a perfectionist. Management in the WRD, and in the many scientific societies he belonged to noticed this trait in Ivan's work performance. Ivan, if told by management that his idea would not work, would study the program and spend an inordinate amount of his own time to solve the problem, usually to Ivan's satisfaction. For this trait in WRD, Ivan earned the moniker "Conniving Ivan," not as a detriment but as a term of endearment for his problem solving ability.

By: Richard Newberg (AWRA), John Moore (Retired USGS),
Ed Gutentag (Retired USGS), and Peter Dillon (CSIRO, Australia)

SIXTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2012
Boise, Idaho
Thursday, September 20th through Saturday, September 22nd, 2012

Registration opens March 1, 2012

Look for us on the Internet: http://www.wrdbretirees.org/Reunion2012/index_retire.htm
Find us on Facebook "WRD Retirees"

The WRD Retirees 2012 Reunion will take place at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel in downtown Boise: address 1109 Main Street, Boise, ID 83702; phone number 1-800-233-4611, and web site owyheeplaza.com. Room rates will be \$75.00 for Single/Double, \$85.00 for Triple/Quad, \$125.00 for Suites. The hotel has a complimentary shuttle from the airport, free parking and is located a 15-minute drive from downtown. Major airlines serving Boise are Southwest, United, Delta, US Airways, Frontier, Alaska, and American.

The Planning Committee is organizing the following activities for the reunion:

Thursday, September 20, 2012 (Requires arrival in Boise no later than Wednesday, September 19, 2012)

Pre-Reunion Tour: Payette River Float Trip 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. This tour will be an all-day float trip with Cascade Raft and Kayak Company of the Cabarton Reach of the North Fork of the Payette River. Spectacular scenery with glimpses of Idaho's abundant wildlife highlight this full-day trip as you glide through eleven miles of dense, remote forest. Relax in the warm water, enjoy your delicious riverside lunch on this Class II-III section, and let the river wash the world away." Lunch, transportation from the hotel, and life-vests and cold-water gear (if needed) are included.

Thursday, September 20, 2012 (Official hotel room check-in time is 3:00 PM):

Reunion Check-in: Noon to 6 PM. Information packages containing Reunion functions will be available at a 'Reunion check-in' desk between 12 PM and 6 PM. The Hospitality Room will open at 12 PM. An informal Reunion 'kick-off' gathering is scheduled from 6 PM to 9 PM in the Banquet Ball Room and will include a free 1st drink coupon for those participating in the kick-off gathering, a cash bar, and plentiful hors d'ouvres.

Friday, September 21, 2012:

Business Meeting, 9 AM -11 AM -- All retirees and spouses are invited to participate in the business meeting. Agenda for the meeting will follow at a later date.

Optional afternoon activities will include:

- Tour: **Snake River wineries and orchards.** 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. This tour will travel southwest of Boise to visit the West Snake River Valley Wine Country. Long known for its fruit orchards, more than two dozen wineries in this part of the Snake River Valley take advantage of the soils, climate, and irrigation water to produce a variety of wines. It is also the perfect time of year to try some local apples and other fruit. This tour will visit several of the wineries and orchards. Transportation is included. Cost does *not include* any tasting fees that may be charged.
- Afternoon of free time to tour Boise on your own.

Dinner on your own; there are many good restaurants within a short walk of the hotel, including the dining room in the Owyhee Plaza.

SIXTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2012 (Cont'd)

Saturday, September 22, 2012

- Tour: **Birds of Prey** 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM This tour will include a visit to the Peregrine Foundation World Center of Birds of Prey, Swan Falls Dam, and Canyon viewing area. Please see Bruce Parks' description of the Birds of Prey Center on page 16 of this Newsletter. Transportation, lunch, and the Center entrance fee are included.
- Tour: **Boise "The City of Trees"** 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This tour will take you around historic Boise and include stops at the Old Penitentiary, the MK Nature Center, and the Basque Center. Transportation, entrance fees, and lunch are included.

Gala Buffet Banquet: 6 – 10 PM -- Will include closing remarks by the WRD Retirees' President, and awards ceremony.

Sunday, September 23, 2012 - Tuesday September 25, 2012 Optional Reunion Post Trip to Sun Valley

You will spend two nights at the [Sun Valley Resort](#), seen in classic movies like "Sun Valley Serenade" and site of the annual gathering of media moguls, the "Allen & Co. Sun Valley Conference." The Resort is adjacent to the historic town of Ketchum on the Big Wood River, one of the top trout streams in Idaho.

The bus trip from Boise will take you over Banner Summit to the upper Salmon Basin, through Stanley and past the Sawtooth Mountains, and over Galena Pass down the Big Wood River Valley to Ketchum and the Resort. The return trip will take a different route, traveling by way of the famous Thousand Springs of the Snake River Canyon near Hagerman.

Enjoy all that the beautiful Sun Valley has to offer. Swim in one of the resorts three swimming pools, including glass-enclosed hot pools. Shop in the Village or drop into Ketchum (using the free shuttle bus or walking on the bike path) to check out the shops, galleries, and unique restaurants. You also can rent bikes at the resort and take the bike trail into town and for many miles along the Wood River. It isn't too hilly (unless you decide to cross the pass to the Salmon River Basin!), and is a great way to enjoy that fresh air. If you like to chase a little white ball while you are walking, reserve a tee time at the Resort course, recognized by Golf Digest as one of the top 75 resort courses in North America. Clubs are available for rental. Be sure to check out the Duchin Lounge and see how many of the celebrities you can identify in the historic photos in the hallways of the Lodge. Don't miss Lucy and little Ricky!

WRD Retirees Reunion Planning Committee:

Kathy Peter, Chair (ID)

Dan Ackerman (ID)

Dave Appel (WA)

John Briggs (OR)

Bill Emmett (CO)

Pauline Morgan (NV)

Bruce Parks (ID)

Deb Parlman (ID)

Ivalou O'Dell (ID)

Chet Zenone (OR)

TREASURER'S REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2011

Treasurer Celso Puentes reports that the organization has \$13,039.60 in its treasury at the end of the fourth quarter for calendar year 2011. Receipts for the quarter were \$25.35 from dues and contributions from one member. A large number of additional dues and contributions were received near the end of the year but were not processed in time to include in this report. These funds will be reported in the treasury report for the first quarter of calendar year 2012. Distributions for the fourth quarter were \$4,867.09, which included costs of awards associated with the WRD Retirees Hydrologic Technicians Scholarship program and printing of the WRD Retirees Newsletter. Special thanks for a contribution above dues goes to Frederick C. Dreher.

Directory Changes

Anderholm, Scott K (11) s.anderholm.hydrologist@gmail.com – email
Aucott, Walt (10) (Sheryl) 5700 Newton St, Overland Park KS 66202, 785-331-5528, waucott@gmail.com – spouse, addr, ph, email
Birdwell, George A (95) 970-677-2403 – phone
Buchmiller, Robert C (11) buch395@gmail.com – email
Buono, Tony (03) (Arlene) 3760 Tebaldi Pl, Melbourne FL 32934, tonybuono1@cfl.rr.com, 321-610-8180, cell 321-507-5631–addr, ph, email
Campbell, Jean P (11) jean.p.campbell@charter.net -- email
Cohen, David A (10) 1115 W 79th St, Indianapolis IN 46260 – addr
Cook, Mrs James "Joan" (W) jcmcb9@gmail.com – email
Corland, Barbara Sue (10) 303-904-0175 – phone
Cottengain, Laurel A (11) LaurelND@aol.com -- email
Curtiss, Mrs David "Eilene" (W) curtisheilene@yahoo.com -- email
Driver, Nancy (10) 303-989-7832, nedriver1@yahoo.com ph, email
Eberl, Dennis D (11) DDEberl@gmail.com -- email
Eccles, Larry () 707-236-9203 – phone
Elliott, John G (11) john7elliott@comcast.net -- email
Frenzel, Peter F (95) (Lupe) PeterFrenzel@comcast.net -- email
Fullerton, Gayle K (95) (Bobbie) 1gale.bobbie@gmail.com – email
Gardner, Richard A (86) ragardner@tampabay.rr.com -- email
Gill, Harold E (86) (Patricia) gillharolde@att.net – email
Hanson, H. L. "Nick" (05) Dianne 608-543-9909 – phone
Hardy, Mark (11) (Cathy) 208-939-2632 -- spouse, phone
Harris, Mrs Kay "Betty" (W) 2825 Carter Rd, Unit 59, Sumter SC 29150 – addr
Hayes, Paul D (03) (Alice) 916-834-5862 – phone
Hines, Marion S (70) (Mary) mhines809@comcast.net – email
Inman, Ernest J (00) JoelInman_30071@yahoo.com -- email
Jones, Walter D III (11) Maureen) mjones516@comcast.net -- email
Kerestes, John F (04) (Sandi) 2171 Bluegrama Dr., Burlington KY 41005, 859-817-0463 – addr, phone
Koopman, Francis (80) (Florence) ffkoop@bellsouth.net – email
Kraemer, Thomas F (11) jokraemer33@gmail.com -- email
Laird, Leslie B (86) (Thelma) 7101RCP@centurytel.net – email
Levings, Gary (00) (Julianne) 123 Elite Dr, Tijeras NM 87059, gilevings@centurytel.net, 505-286-6303 addr, phone, email
Lopp, Lari E (02) lelopp@gmail.com – email
Lystrom, David J (99) (Karen) dlystrom@live.com, (Karen) Klystrom@live.com -- email
Miller, Kathleen "Kathy" (99) (Joe) cedarkathy@windstream.net -- email
Mlodnosky, Allan C (11) acmlod1@sbcglobal.net – email
Moore, Mrs Grady "Judy" (W) moorebells@gmail.com – email
Moreland, Joe A (99) (Kay) joemorelandjm@gmail.com – email
Nicholas, James R (11) jim@nicholas-h2o.com – email
Parker, Garald "Gerry" (92) 7322 N. Skyview Pl., E-302, Tacoma WA 98406, 253-460-7017 – addr, ph
Parliman, Deborah J (11) (Phil) dparliman@yahoo.com – email
Pearman, James L (11) (Carole) -- add spouse
Peterson, David A (11) DaveP7002@aol.com -- email
Powers, Sharon (11) 9786 W Cornell Pl, Lakewood CO 80227, 303-988-8465, po1956@comcast.net – addr, ph, email
Quistorff, Ralph E (04) REGAQuistorff@yahoo.com -- email
Reid, J. Kenneth (87) (Shirley) c/o Norma Gerrard, 381 S. Newcombe St, Lakewood CO 80226 - addr
Rettman, Paul L (92) (Emma) PL.Rettman@gmail.com -- email
Rice, Donald E (11) hrendarice@verizon.net – email
Ryan, Barbara (08) (Jim Muldoon) bjrgeneva@aol.com – email
Schneider, Verne R (Affil) (Donna) vschnei@usgs.gov -- email
Searles, Donald J (02) (Eleanor) 1179 US Rt 9, Shroon Lake NY 12870 – addr
Smith, Charles J (08) (Mary Ellen) charliejs432@gmail.com -- email
Stiltner, Gloria J (00) (Roy) Peaks View Farm, 291 Stonebrook La, Monroe VA 24574, Gloriastiltner@gmail.com, 703-431-8106-addr, ph, email
Swibas, Edward (11) eswibas@msn.com – email
Treadway, Joseph B (07) (Diane) jebread@bellsouth.net - email
Troutman, Brent M (11) (Ming) troutmanbrent21@gmail.com – spouse, email
Waller, Roger M (87) (Ruth) 4316 Oakwood Hills Pkwy, Apt 230, Eau Claire WI 54701-9290 – addr
Wolff, Mrs. Roger "Mary" (W) mary@marywolff.com – email
Woods, Gwendolyn A (11) mspriss48@yahoo.com – email
Wrege, Beth M (06) (Tim Hanna) 21141 Sky Vista Dr, Land O'Lakes FL 34637-7458 – addr