

# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 162

February 2014

*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.*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



First of all, I want to thank the members for my election, and assure you that I will do my best to carry out the duties of the office as others have done. I want to thank all those who continue to labor in other offices, and add a special thanks to those folks who work behind the scenes to make things like the newsletter and directory a possibility. I am on a steep learning curve to find out just how all this is done.

In October there will be a biennial reunion held in Portland, Maine. Activities scheduled for the Portland reunion include a Friday evening trip on the Casco Bay Ferry to Peaks Island in the Bay for a full-scale lobster seashore style dinner!! A Saturday bus excursion will travel from Portland to North Conway, New Hampshire, located in the foothills of the White Mountains, for viewing of the usually spectacular fall foliage of New England. Also on Saturday, a shorter bus tour has been scheduled to nearby Village of Freeport (home of LL Bean's flagship stores and many other first class outlets). A local brewery tour, a light house tour, and a downtown arts district tour will also be available. Please see the registration materials in this newsletter.

As we start a new year, it occurs to me that you may have some ideas about what the WRD Retirees should undertake in the future. Just like organisms, organizations have to adapt to changing conditions and evolve. So, if you have some notions about what we should do, please share them with us by sending a message to [wrdretirees@usgs.gov](mailto:wrdretirees@usgs.gov). We can always tap into the store of ideas represented by the membership.

Based on the increasing average age of the members, it seems to me that it will be important to find new ways to recruit people as they retire from the USGS. With the changes brought about by the Privacy Act, we will have to find new ways to contact prospective members to get new blood in the group. What are some good ways to improve on how we do this now?

Finally, for anyone who is interested in keeping up with current water research, I can offer to put you on my weekly News Notes on Sustainable Water Resources. Just send along a request to me at [etsmithsiri@aol.com](mailto:etsmithsiri@aol.com). Alternatively, you may not want to clog up your inbox; so, I also maintain a web site at: <http://sites.google.com/site/sustainablewaterresources/>. Just about everything is there on the Actions and Activities Page or the Reports and Publications Page. Enjoy.





## WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH?

### The Role of Groundwater in the Recovery of the Chesapeake Bay Jerad Bales, Acting Associate Director for Water

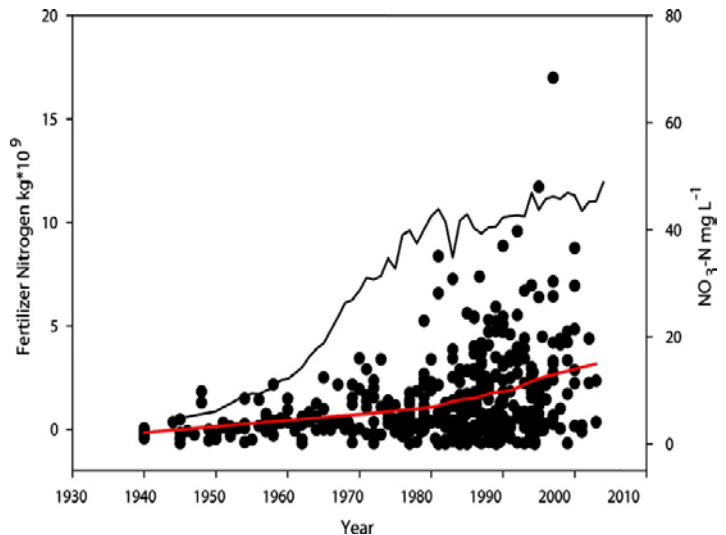
Nitrogen releases into the environment have increased substantially in the last 50 years from a variety of sources, with the largest being from various agricultural activities. Most studies indicate that about 50 percent of the nitrogen applied to fertilized crops is recovered in harvested material, and that as much as 30 percent of the applied nitrogen is lost through runoff or leaching into groundwater. Trends in nitrate (the most mobile form of nitrogen) contamination in groundwater can now be assessed using relatively recent developments: methods for estimating recharge dates for groundwater and for estimating concentrations at the time of recharge.

Larry Pucket (USGS retired), Jim Tesoriero (USGS WA Water Science Center, and Neil Dubrovsky (USGS NAWQA Program) recently assessed [nitrate contamination in shallow groundwater across the U.S.](#) Data from 424 sites in predominantly agricultural areas were used to assess trends in nitrate contamination (Fig. 1). On average (red curve, Figure 1), nitrate concentrations have increased from about 2 mg/L in groundwater recharged in 1940 to more than 15 mg/L for groundwater recharged in 2000, with concentrations at many sites exceeding 20 mg/L. The highest concentrations were in the Midwestern and Western aquifers. More than 40 percent of applied nitrogen was estimated to have leached to groundwater in the West. The greatest losses of nitrogen to groundwater occurred in irrigated sites, and the lowest rates of leaching occurred in poorly drained sites with tile drains.

These findings have implications for public health, climate change, and healthy ecosystems, among other things. Several epidemiological studies have linked a number of health problems to concentrations of nitrate in drinking water that are well below the US EPA standard (10 mg/L). Groundwater is used by a large percentage of the world's population (about 40 percent in the U.S.) and comprises about 99 percent of global freshwater, and because fertilizer usage is increasing globally, the public health issues are a growing concern. Nitrous oxide ( $N_2O$ ), a product of denitrification, is potent greenhouse gas (more than 300 times greater than carbon dioxide). Current approaches for assessing future climate do not appropriately account for the sometimes decades lag between the time of fertilizer application and the production of  $N_2O$ , thereby increasing uncertainty in future climate projections.

Ward Sanford (USGS National Research Program) and Jason Pope (USGS VA Water Science Center) recently documented the [effects of nitrate in shallow groundwater on the recovery of the Chesapeake Bay](#). Having established a calculation for the total nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads that are allowable for the Chesapeake watershed, the EPA is working with states to ensure that all water-quality practices needed to reduce the flow of nutrients and sediment to the Bay are in place by 2025. The USGS findings show how difficult it may be to meet the target loads.

Sanford and Pope developed a complex model for water, geology, and chemical interactions that he applied to seven separate watersheds on the Delmarva Peninsula. The model was used to forecast future nitrogen delivery from the Delmarva Peninsula to the Bay under different nitrogen management scenarios. The study shows that ages of groundwater and associated nitrogen from the Delmarva Peninsula into the Chesapeake

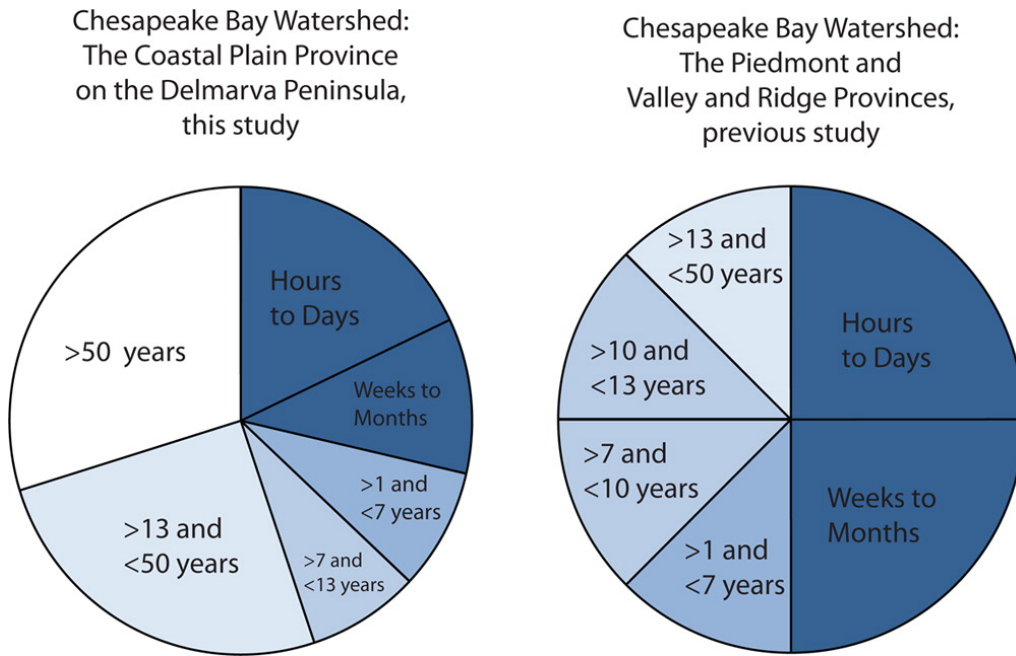


**Figure 1.** Nitrate concentrations in shallow groundwater, adjusted for denitrification, from 20 surficial aquifers in predominantly agricultural areas of the U.S, estimated trend (red line, and total annual fertilizer nitrogen applications (from Pucket, Tesoriero, and Dubrovsky, 2011).



### WHAT'S NEW IN RESEARCH?

Bay range from less than a year to centuries, with median ages ranging from 20 to 40 years, which is consistent with the national study discussed above. These groundwater age distributions are markedly older than previously estimated for areas west and north of the Bay, which has a median age of 10 years (Fig. 2). The older ages occur because the porous, sandy aquifers on the Delmarva yield longer groundwater return times than the fractured-rock areas of the Bay watershed. Without additional management practices being implemented, the study forecasts about a 12% increase in nitrogen loads from the Delmarva to the Bay by 2050. However, the results also indicate that nutrient management practices implemented over the past decade or so have begun to work, but that public expectations for rapid progress need to be tempered with good science and communication.



**Figure 2.** Estimated distribution of base-flow age for the Chesapeake Bay watershed on the Maryland and Delaware sections of the Delmarva Peninsula based on a groundwater-flow model of the region, compared to earlier estimates for the Chesapeake Bay watershed that were from data in the Piedmont and Valley and Ridge Provinces west and north of the Bay (from Sanford and Pope, 2013).



## 2014 WRD AND USGS UPDATES; AND, NEW WRD RETIREES BOARD MEMBERS

### Water Mission Area (WMA) and Water Science Centers

Although budgets, fiscal cliffs, debt ceilings, sequestration, furloughs and the like seem to have dominated the news in 2013, there were tremendous science accomplishments throughout the WMA in 2013. I'd like to highlight just a few of Water's science activities. I've tried to avoid discussion of budgets and organizations, although certainly they (science results, budgets, and organizational issues) are interdependent. I have provided links to a small sampling of 2013 USGS water science outcomes, but some of the embedded links in this note are accessible only through the USGS network.

As one of our Associate Directors says, streamgages are the “charismatic mega-fauna” of the WMA. In his letter to Congress about the potential effects of sequestration on the Department of the Interior, one of the two impacts of sequestration to the USGS mentioned by Secretary Salazar was the potential discontinuation of 350 to 375 streamgages (with the other identified impact being reduced progress on the National Water Census). This certainly reflects the value that the DOI and Congress place on the [USGS streamgage network](#).

The value of the streamgaging network is perhaps most evident during [floods](#) and [droughts](#). The most notable floods in 2013 were along the Front Range of Colorado, as well as less publicized flooding in AZ and NM associated with the same weather system that caused the [CO floods](#). The National Weather Service estimated that the annual exceedance probability (AEP) for the maximum 24-hour rainfall during this event was less than [0.001](#), although the AEP's for the flood peaks likely are higher. USGS response to this event was amazing, and involved hydrologists and hydrographers from 11 different Water Science Centers (WSCs), the Office of Surface Water (OSW), Water Science Field Team (WSFT), and the National Research Program (NRP), as well as scientists from other Mission Areas. Together the team made and computed 20 indirect measurements.

Certainly some of the most devastating inland flooding in the U.S. in many years occurred in [2011](#). Efforts to document the flood came to fruition in 2013 with the publication of a number of reports. Among other things, we documented regions of major [sand deposition](#) along the Missouri River, demonstrated that the difference in the origins and evolution of 1993 and 2011 floods resulted in different patterns of [nutrient transport](#), and showed how the [flooding changed the northern Gulf of Mexico](#) from a net carbon source to a net carbon sink. Although [nitrate generally is transported conservatively](#) in the [Mississippi River](#), concentrations are [affected by the previous year's flow](#) conditions. Following the 2011 Missouri River floods, which resulted in massive channel changes, USGS provided insight into the [effects of a series of dams](#) on channel evolution.

A quick, unscientific *Google Scholar* search on streamflow trends in the U.S. identified about 3,500 articles published in 2013, indicating [the value of streamflow data](#), [particularly long records](#), to the research community. Among the important contributions made by USGS scientists were a national evaluation of [changes in flow related to land and water management practices](#), and [changes in precipitation and flow in U.S. urban basins](#). Streamflow trend analyses are used to detect potential effects of [climate change and variability on flow](#) and to help ensure maintenance of [environmental flows](#). USGS made a significant contribution to the climate science community by providing [easy access](#) to [global and regional climate simulations](#) for North America and provided insight into reasons for [recent snowpack declines](#) and associated streamflow changes. USGS scientists also developed a national approach for [classifying natural flow regimes](#) based on data from more than 1,500 streamgages in order to better predict natural environmental flows. Of course, [detection of trends](#) in [stream chemistry](#) also is based on high-quality streamflow information.

USGS continued to lead the way in documenting [exchange between groundwater and surface water](#), including improved methods for [assessing exchange](#) and publication of a USGS Circular on [streamflow depletion](#) by wells. [Trends in groundwater levels](#) and their relation to streamflow were evaluated, national rates of [groundwater depletion](#) were described, and the effects of groundwater pumping on flow in the [Verde River](#) and on [regional vulnerability to sea level rise](#) were documented. The effect of groundwater discharge on stream quality is an area to which USGS scientists have historically made important contributions and continued to do so in 2013, including development of a conceptual model of [vulnerability of streams to legacy nitrate](#) in groundwater, effects of groundwater discharge on [Chesapeake Bay recovery](#), and effects of [groundwater discharge on stream habitat](#). In 2013, USGS scientists also continued to make important advances in understanding processes at the groundwater – surface water interface in both the [channel](#) and the [floodplain](#).

USGS application of new [methods](#), [sensors](#), and [platforms](#), and novel [integration of monitoring and modeling](#) have allowed USGS to remain in the forefront of water-quality monitoring. [Web portals](#) for [water-quality data](#) and [modeling tools](#) increased access to USGS water-quality products.



## 2014 WRD AND USGS UPDATES; AND, NEW WRD RETIREES BOARD MEMBERS

This overview necessarily omitted many other of the fine things you accomplished in 2013, including, for example, the [ADAPS replacement project](#); the release of an [unstructured grid version of MODFLOW](#); publication of the final framework for the [National Groundwater Monitoring Network](#) and enhancement of the [data portal](#); progress on the [National Water Census](#); publication of the [Water Science Strategy](#); and your leadership in a host of national and local professional organizations, as well as within USGS. Nevertheless, I hope this gives you a sense of some of our contributions to understanding and managing water resources in the U.S. and abroad. The scope of our activities, your creativity and productivity, and your attention to detail, correct methods, and documentation are the envy of water-resources professionals throughout the world.

In the coming days, you should see (or have already seen) some advertisements for positions supporting various WMA headquarters functions. Some of the positions will be permanent and others will be short-term and/or part time. I encourage you to think about these opportunities and take time to talk to me or others about the opportunities. The challenges that come from working on water-resources problems at a national scale are great and the benefits are many.

**-by: Dr. Jerad Bales, P.E., Acting Associate Director for Water**

### Excerpts from Monday Message: Welcome to 2014!

On January 14, 2014, a town hall discussion was held about the \$41 million in supplemental funding the USGS received for Hurricane Sandy recovery research, including what's being done with it and how to get involved. I don't need to remind you that 2013 was a tough year in a lot of ways, and 2014 will present some similar challenges. However, I think the funding we're receiving for our Sandy work illustrates what can happen when the USGS's collective resources and expertise are clearly offered to the Nation. The Survey is at its best when we are all working toward a greater good, so I encourage all of us to consider how we individually, and the USGS overall, can best serve our country by making the most of our people and resources in 2014.

Updates related to the Leaders Blog posts from the past few weeks, here's a quick rundown of what's been posted: Matt Larsen offered an update and some background on the DOI Climate Science Centers and USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center. Kevin Gallagher shared his experience with a congressional hearing on mapping legislation. And Nick Aumen, the USGS Regional Science Advisor for South Florida, has offered insight on why the Everglades are so important and what research we are doing there.

**by: Bill Werkheiser, Acting Deputy Director**

### RESULTS OF THE WRD RETIREES' NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

There were 28 ballots submitted for electing the officers for the coming two years. The votes were unanimous to elect the following candidates:

President	Ethan T. (Tim) Smith
Vice President	Alberto (Al) Condes
Secretary	Clarence (Andy) Anderson
Treasurer	Celso Puente
Archivist	Richard (Dick) Engberg

Regional Directors elected were:

Northeast Region	Sharon Goss
Southeast Region	Richard (Dick) Bloyd
Central Region	Charles R (Bob) Burchett
Western Region	E. James (Jim) Crompton

The willingness of each of these folks to serve the WRD Retiree organization is greatly appreciated.



**SEVENTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2014**  
**Portland, Maine**  
**Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> through Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Hotel and transportation from airport**

The Reunion will be held at the Westin Portland Harborview in downtown Portland, Maine. The hotel is newly renovated and opened in December 2013 with 289 guestrooms, 2 restaurants, Akari Westin Spa, and Westin Workout Facility. Special in-room amenities include Starbucks coffee, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, cable television, safe, refrigerator, and executive work area.

The Westin Portland Harborview address is: 157 High Street, Portland, Maine 04101. **For Hotel Reservations:** call **855-811-0043** or use the [hotel assigned website](#). The hotel has also made the Reunion Group Room rates available for the three nights before and the three nights after our event.

Room rates for king or two double bed rooms is \$179 for Single/Double occupancy, \$199 for Triple, \$219 for Quad, and \$329 for Suites.

Valet Parking is available at the hotel for \$24 per night for overnight guests or \$15 for day attendees. Self-Parking is available at a Public Parking garage next to the hotel for a \$26 max daily rate. The hotel does not own the public parking garage next to the hotel, so all payments will be done through the garage.

Major airlines serving Portland Maine International Jetport are Southwest, Delta, JetBlue, United, and US Airways. The hotel has a courtesy shuttle to and from the airport, the Amtrak station, the bus station, and locations in the downtown area. Call 207/775-5411 when you arrive at the airport to check on shuttle availability. The airport is located just 15-minutes from the hotel and there are also several taxi services available.

**Please register for the reunion, and make your hotel reservations beginning March 1, 2014.**

Registration for the Reunion and Hotel Reservations **must be made by August 29, 2014.** To register, please print, complete, and mail the form at the end of this message or print the online form at: <http://www.wrdretirees.org/Reunion2014>

You can pay by mailing your check along with the completed registration form.

If you want to pay with your credit card, you can use PayPal. This requires you have a PayPal account. Go to [www.PayPal.com](http://www.PayPal.com) click "BUY" and "MAKE A PAYMENT". Make your online payment to: [WRD.Reunion2014@gmail.com](mailto:WRD.Reunion2014@gmail.com)

**Weather and general information about Portland**

Portland, Maine is a great place to visit in late September and early October. Temperatures average in the high 60s to mid-70s during the afternoon and in the low 50s at night. Downtown Portland is alive in the evenings with numerous restaurants, bars, movie theaters, art galleries, and clubs. Check out <http://www.visitportland.com/> for a brief overview. More information will be coming in later newsletters.



# SEVENTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2014

Portland, Maine

Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> through Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## Schedule of events

### Thursday, October 2, 2014

#### **Reunion Check-in: Noon to 6 p.m.**

(Official hotel room check-in time is 3:00 p.m.) Information packages containing Reunion functions will be available at "Reunion check-in" desk between noon and 6:00 p.m. The Hospitality Room will open at noon. (Included in Registration Fee)

#### **Informal Reunion kickoff-gathering 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Event will include plentiful hors d'ouvres and a free first drink coupon for each attendee. The cost is included in the registration fee. A cash bar will also be available.

#### **Information Technology (IT) Meeting 7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the hotel.**

This will be an open meeting for all interested attendees. Topics will include updates on NWIS and other USGS IT-related issues and programs.

### Friday, October 3, 2014

#### **Pre-Business Meeting Breakfast 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**

Breakfast is for all attendees with the cost included in the registration fee.

#### **Business Meeting 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

All attendees are invited to participate in the business meeting. An agenda for this meeting will follow at a later date. Associated costs are included in the registration fee.

Lunch and early afternoon on your own in Portland downtown and "Old Port" areas.

#### **Optional Activity: Peaks Island Ferry and Lobster Bake Dinner 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Participants will travel out to Peaks Island on the Casco Bay Line (CBL) ferry at a time of their choosing. The ferry trip is approximately 20 minutes long. Prepaid tickets will be provided to each participant. Outbound ferries leave the CBL terminal on Commercial Street at 2:15/3:15/4:30 p.m. The Lions Club lobster bake facilities are a short (0.4 mile) walk from the CBL dock. There are many casual activities for visitors on Peaks Island for those taking an earlier ferry. For more information: [visit Peaks Island](#). Due to the heavy commuter passenger traffic on the 4:30 sailing, many of us will need to travel out on the earlier trips. If anyone requires assistance getting to and from the dock and the lobster bake site, they should contact Derrill Cowing (207/242-0826 cell) by the end of August, so that appropriate transportation arrangements can be made. The Lobster Bake Dinner will begin at 5:00 p.m.

The menu includes: Steamed Clams and one lobster (or steak, chicken, or veggie meal):

Clam Broth

Baked potato

Blueberry cake

Drawn Butter

Cole slaw

Coffee and Tea

Corn on the cob

Rolls and butter



## **SEVENTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2014**

**Portland, Maine**

**Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> through Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

White/red wines and local beers will be served by members of the local arrangements committee (no tipping required). Additional lobsters are available for an extra \$10. (see registration form). At the conclusion of the dinner, attendees will travel back to the dock and catch ferries which leave the island at 7:45 and 8:45 p.m. In the evening, inbound passenger traffic is light and either time is fine. This dinner by the Island Lions Club is a major fund raiser to support island students in their post-secondary education. It was recommended as an "outstanding event" by several Survey colleagues.

**Saturday, October 4, 2014**

### **Optional Foliage Tour to Conway, NH 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

This tour will take participants on a luxury motor coach trip from Portland to Conway, NH through the uplands of southwestern Maine during the peak of the fall foliage season. Once arriving in North Conway near the White Mountains National Forest, there are many opportunities for exploring the village and surrounding area. One of these favorite activities is the **Valley Train Trip**. You can enjoy lunch and the scenic view while traveling on the classic dining car of the Valley Train. The train ride takes about 1 hour and 45 minutes and goes along the valley below Mt. Washington from Conway to Bartlett and return. Lunch includes: an appetizer, sandwich or salad plate, side salad, and dessert for a cost of \$50. The motor coach will drop you off at the train station at 11:30 a.m. and pick you up at about 1:30 p.m.

For more information on the North Conway area, visit [North Conway website](#). More information on this tour and the North Conway village area will be available in the May Newsletter.

### **Optional Tour to Freeport, ME and the Delorme Map Store 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

This handicap accessible motor coach tour will take you northeast to historic Freeport, home of the L.L. Bean flagship store and over 100 other shops and outlet stores. There are many excellent lunch spots nearby. For more information on the Freeport area, visit [Freeport website](#).

On the trip back to Portland, the motor coach will stop in Yarmouth for a visit at the Delorme Map Store. While visiting this world famous map company, you will have the opportunity to see the 41.5 foot diameter globe, "Eartha". Guinness has designated it the "World's Largest Revolving/Rotating Globe". For more information on this spectacular display visit: [Delorme website](#).

### **Gala Banquet 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

Hosted in the recently renovated Grand Ballroom of the hotel, the event will include a cash bar, dinner, remarks by the WRD Retirees President, and an awards and recognition ceremony.

**Sunday, October 5, 2014**

There are optional multi-day activities to consider for Post Reunion. More information on these potential activities will be provided in the May Newsletter. Activities being researched include:

- Trip on the Portland, ME to Yarmouth NS, Canada overnight international ferry.
- Self-guided auto trip up the coast of Maine to Acadia National Park and the Bar Harbor, ME area on Mt. Desert Island.
- Playing golf at one of the many public courses in southern Maine.
- Scheduled theme cruises on CBL ships from the Portland terminal.

**For more information contact: Derrill Cowing [djcowing@aol.com](mailto:djcowing@aol.com)**



**SEVENTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION 2014**  
**Portland, Maine**  
**Thursday, October 2nd through Saturday, October 4th, 2014**

Complete the following form, keep a copy, and mail the completed form, with check payable to:  
 "WRD Retirees Reunion 2014"

WRD Retirees Reunion  
 Derrill J. Cowing  
 P.O. Box 339  
 Monmouth, ME 04259

**OR** You can pay with a credit card using PayPal and send the payment to the email address:  
[PayPal](mailto:WRD.REUNION.2014@gmail.com) WRD.REUNION.2014@gmail.com

**REGISTRATION--Deadline August 29, 2014** - Refunds are available prior to the August 29th deadline.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

<b>REGISTRATION FEE:</b>	NUMBER _____ @ \$75 per person	\$ _____
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Includes costs of the Thursday evening informal reunion kick-off gathering, Friday breakfast before the business meeting, and Hospitality Room activities for the three days.

<b>THURSDAY OCTOBER 2, 2014</b>
Reunion Check-in Noon to 6 p.m. Hospitality Room will open at Noon. Informal Reunion kick-off gathering from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be an open meeting to discuss USGS Information Technology (IT) topics from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the hotel.

<b>FRIDAY, October 3, 2014</b>				
Peaks Island Ferry (see Ferry schedule) and Lobster Bake Dinner, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.				
Check your entrée choice				
Lobster	Steak	Chicken	Vegetarian	
				NUMBER _____ @ \$60 per person
				\$ _____
<b>Extra lobster with any entrée is \$10. each</b>				NUMBER _____ @ \$10 per lobster
				\$ _____

**Saturday, October 4, 2014**  
 TOUR Buses are reserved for each tour. Cancelled tours due to lack of participation will either be refunded or we will try to accommodate the participants in the remaining tour.

Foliage Tour to Conway, NH 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch on your own in Conway			NUMBER _____ @ \$30 per person	\$ _____
Can add Valley Train ride with lunch			NUMBER _____ @ \$50 per person	\$ _____
Freeport, ME and Delorme Map Store (EARTHA). 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch on your own in Freeport			NUMBER _____ @\$25 per person	\$ _____
<b>Gala Banquet in the Grand Ballroom at the hotel, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.</b>				
Check your entrée choice				
Salmon	Steak	Chicken	Vegetarian	
				NUMBER _____ @ \$60 per person
				\$ _____

<b>TOTAL (Registration, Tours and Banquet)</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
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Questions? [WRD.Reunion.2014@gmail.com](mailto:WRD.Reunion.2014@gmail.com) or Derrill Cowing 207/242-0826 (cell)



## RETIREMENTS



**Francis (Frank) H. Chapelle** retired on January 2, 2014. Frank joined the U.S. Geological Survey as hydrologist in 1979 in what was then known as the Maryland District. His immediate task was to produce a numerical ground-water model of the Aquia aquifer in southern Maryland. But as he was pursuing that study, he began to notice some peculiarities associated with the ground-water geochemistry of the aquifer. Specifically, concentrations of dissolved inorganic carbon increased continuously along the regional flow path even though the confined aquifer was isolated from any known source of carbon dioxide such as the atmosphere or soil gases. What could be the source of additional

carbon dioxide? One possibility, which was considered outlandish at the time, was that there were actively respiring bacteria in the aquifer even though the sediments were 50 million years old and buried more than 500 feet below land surface. Taking advantage of the drilling program that supported his modeling project, he managed to secure cores of deeply buried aquifer sediments and analyzed them for the presence of different kinds of bacteria. As it turned out, there were indeed active bacterial cells in the sediments that included sulfate-reducing and methanogenic microorganisms. The revelation that microbial metabolism could affect ground-water chemistry would remain the focus of his research for the next thirty-five years. Frank moved to South Carolina in 1985 and continued his studies of bacteria in groundwater systems. It soon became apparent to him that many common ground-water quality problems, including high concentrations of hydrogen sulfide and dissolved iron were the by-products of microbial processes. Iron-reducing bacteria were first isolated from surface-water sediments in the early 1980s, and Frank cultured the first known iron-reducer from groundwater sediments in 1988. That microorganism was subsequently named *Geobacter chapellei*. In the course of these studies, Frank also showed that iron-reducing bacteria were responsible for the distinctive “high iron” groundwater characteristic of certain coastal plain aquifers. It soon turned out that bacteria affected groundwater quality in other ways as well. In the early 1990s it was becoming apparent that leaking underground gasoline tanks at gas stations were significant sources of groundwater pollution. Curiously, however, the plumes of gasoline-contaminated groundwater did not seem to migrate long distances but seemed to “stall” at some point. Frank was one of the first investigators to recognize that this “stall” was caused in part by bacteria that were happily consuming the petroleum hydrocarbons, which in turn limited contaminant migration. This led to the concept that the “natural attenuation” of pollutants, due to actively respiring microorganisms, could serve to limit the extent and toxicity of pollutants in groundwater systems. The explosion of research into the different ways that microorganisms affected groundwater quality—in both pristine and contaminated groundwater systems—led Frank to write a book entitled “Ground-Water Microbiology and Geochemistry” published in 1993 by John Wiley & Sons. This was the first textbook devoted specifically to microorganisms and groundwater chemistry. Frank enjoyed writing books, and in 1997 published “The Hidden Sea: Ground Water, Springs, and Wells” a book about the history, mythology, and science of groundwater systems. Over the last twenty years, Frank’s research has focused on how microorganisms mediate reduction/oxidation (redox) conditions in aquifers and how these redox conditions affect the transport of different kinds of contaminants such as nitrate and chlorinated solvents. Most recently, Frank’s research has centered on how naturally occurring dissolved, particulate, and adsorbed organic carbon interacts to support the growth of microorganisms in groundwater systems. Although Frank is retiring from active service with USGS, he has accumulated enough data to continue writing research papers for several years to come. As such, he will continue in an “emeritus” capacity for the foreseeable future in the South Carolina Water-Science Center. Frank and Adrienne, his wife thirty-five years, are blessed with four adult children and four grandchildren (and counting), and they’re looking forward to the opportunity to spend more time with them. They’re also looking forward to growing Adrienne’s hand-made pottery business, and Frank is already in the process of planning and writing several new books.

-by **Eric W. Strom, Director, USGS South Carolina Water Science Center**



**Martin (Marty) E. Gurtz** is retiring after more than 30 years with the USGS. In 1981, Marty informally began working for the USGS as a “Gage Station Observer” in Manhattan, Kansas, while completing his Postdoctoral research at Kansas State University. In 1987, he was formally hired as a Hydrologist for the North Carolina Water Science Center, and immediately began working for the Office of Water Quality on the Hydrologic Benchmark Network as well as the development of ecological components of the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program. In 1998, Marty became the NAWQA Regional Biologist for the

Northeastern Region Office of the Regional Hydrologist in Reston, VA. Since 2005, he has been involved with the Ecological National Synthesis and coordination of the ecological component of NAWQA’s Surface Water Status and Trends component. Marty’s contributions to the NAWQA Program have been significant. He was instrumental in the development of NAWQA’s ecological field sampling protocols—which were actually the Nation’s first nationally consistent protocols. These protocols have stood the test of time and have made NAWQA a leader in ecological assessments.

Marty’s contributions to national synthesis were especially meaningful because he conceived and nurtured many important ideas on communicating science to the general public. In this vein, Marty has been instrumental in the Water Mission Area’s public outreach to local schools in recent years.



## RETIREMENTS



**Douglas (Doug) A. Harned** retired on January 2, 2014, after 36 years with the USGS. Doug currently serves as the ALBE NAWQA Chief of the North Carolina Water Science Center. Doug's wealth of knowledge, experience, leadership, creativity, and good humor will be greatly missed. Doug is looking forward to having more time to spend with his family, traveling, gardening and exploring creative film making. He will continue traveling to France as part of his wife Diane's NCSU study abroad program and we look forward to seeing more cinematic adventures. In addition to their European travels, Doug and Diane are looking forward to their

daughter Selena's wedding this summer. Doug will not be leaving the USGS entirely, but will continue to make films for the USGS as a Volunteer for Science. Doug graduated from Rice University in May 1977 with a M.S. degree in hydrology. He began his career with the USGS in that September as a part-time field assistant in the NC District and was promoted to a permanent, full time position in February 1978. During his career Doug has worked on many important surface and ground water projects in the Southeast including the Water Quality of Large Rivers Project on the Neuse River, I-85 highway runoff project, Appalachian Piedmont RASA, Albemarle-Pamlico Estuary Trends Study, Camp Lejeune Ground Water study, Guilford Country Water-Quality and Land-Use study, and the ALBE and MOBL NAWQA projects. Doug served many of these projects as both a scientist and project chief. During his career, Doug had made important contributions to the analysis of trends in water quality, authored numerous reports, presented many papers at national meetings (GSA, AGU, and AWRA), mentored new scientists, and was active in educational outreach programs. In addition to his scientific contributions, Doug has been a member of the NC District Senior Management Team, the NC District Reports Specialist, and led the District's Scientist-Teacher Partnership. Doug had been active in many professional organizations including NC Water Resources Associations, AWRA, and AGU. He is also an award winning cinematographer (1977 Best Film Award of the N.C. Art Museum film festival, 1979 honorable mention, Hollywood Amateur Film Festival, 1981 special commendation in NC Art Museum film festival) who has used his creative skills to produce over 90 films that have been instrumental in communicating USGS activities to the public ([http://nc.water.usgs.gov/video/video\\_table.php](http://nc.water.usgs.gov/video/video_table.php)). Doug organized special sessions highlighting information films at AGU in 2012 and 2013. He will continue to contribute his film making expertise to the USGS as a Volunteer for Science.

**Robert (Bob) Renken** retired on January 3, 2014. Bob received a B.S. from Franklin and Marshall College (1973) and a M.S. degree from Miami University of Ohio (1976), majoring in geology. He began his USGS career in Metairie, LA, in December 1976, as a geologist with the former USGS Conservation Division (Gulf of Mexico, Outer Continental Shelf) eventually working in the regional offshore oil and gas basin analysis group. In 1981, he accepted the position of project hydrogeologist in Southeast Coastal Plain RASA study located in the Southeastern Regional Office, Atlanta, GA in 1981. He later moved into a similar role on the Caribbean Islands RASA project. He rode the 'RASA horse' as far as it would carry him, finishing with the National Ground Water Atlas. Bob reluctantly left GA in 1998 for the Miami Subdistrict to experience and fully appreciate the politics of water in south Florida, where he was engaged in a number of different projects and activities that ranged from well head protection, aquifer storage and recovery, and the effects of urbanization and land use change on hydrology. Bob considers his role as project manager of a well head protection study near Florida's largest well field (the notorious *Red Dye Test*) to be a professional highlight working with a great team of RGEG and NRP scientists. In 2006, Bob accepted the position of Studies Section Chief in the Florida Integrated Science Center, Fort Lauderdale office, and in 2008, he became the Fort Lauderdale Office Chief, coinciding with a time that the office experienced significant funding growth. In 2009, he was named the Associate Center Director for Hydrologic Studies for the Florida Water Science Center. He established a strong working relationship with county cooperators resulting in a variety of cooperator-funded projects including several that addressed the impacts of global climate change on local water resource concerns. After 37 years of southern living, Bob and his wife, Mary Ann, a career educator, plan to relocate to the Philadelphia exurbs to be closer to family members who reside in the northeast, enjoy again the change of seasons, pursue their hobbies, find time for travel, and promise to be a "problem" for their two children.

**-by Rafael W. Rodriguez, Director, USGS Florida and Caribbean Water Science Centers**

**Donna Schiffer** retired on January 3, 2014 after 33 years of outstanding service. Donna began her USGS career in Florida, where she led projects addressing water-quality impacts of highway runoff, nutrient loading, aquifer characterization, and lake hydrology. She also served as chief of the Hydrologic Records Section of the Orlando office, and took on collateral duties of Reports specialist, Surface-water specialist, and Employee Development officer. We were extremely fortunate in 2003 when Donna came to California to serve as the Data Chief and then Deputy Director. Donna has overseen Science Support, Data management, IT, and the Hydrologic monitoring program. A listing of Donna's official duties, however, just scratches the surface of her contributions; she has played a central role in all aspects of leadership for our Center. She also has taken on important USGS-wide leadership roles, including chairing the WRD Information Technology Advisory Committee and the Scientific and Technical Employee Development Committee. Donna was always the first to volunteer to tackle difficult challenges, and has approached all the roles she has taken on



## RETIREMENTS

with a selfless commitment to “doing what is best for the USGS.” Donna’s plans for retirement likely include equestrian endeavors, literary pursuits, gym time, canine care, exotic travel, culinary projects, and oenological adventures. We are hoping that she will be willing to come back part time to help us navigate the daunting transition to a post-Schiffer era.

**-by Eric G. Reichard, Director, California Water Science Center**



**Yvonne Stoker** has been a dedicated member of the USGS since 1975, and has decided to retire on February 28, 2014. Yvonne began her career as a student Hydrologic Aid in the Water Resources Division (WRD) Tampa, Florida, working part-time in the Tampa water-quality laboratory until 1977. Yvonne graduated from the University of South Florida in December 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology (cum laude) and briefly flirted with the idea of attempting to join Jacques Cousteau’s team. Instead, she decided to join the USGS as a Hydrologic Technician in January 1978 and has not looked back since. As a Hydrologic Technician in the Tampa Data Section, adventures included running field trips in local and rural parts of west-central Florida, learning how to winch the truck out of powdery sand, and navigate a Jon Boat without having tree branches slap your partner out of the boat. In 1980, Yvonne accepted a position as a Hydrologist in the USGS Tampa Hydrologic Studies Section. She worked as a team member and project chief on a variety of investigations. Favorite studies involved open water and larger boats, combined with water-quality investigations, and the chance to enjoy the beautiful Florida wildlife and environments. These studies spanned the landscape of lakes, rivers, storm-water drains, and estuaries and resulted in about a dozen reports. Yvonne also served as the Tampa Water-Quality Specialist for about 10 years. In 2002, Yvonne accepted a position with the Office of Water Quality, with primary responsibility for leading the Phoenix Group. She is proud to have been given the opportunity to lead this dedicated, talented team which works diligently to define and prioritize requirements to enhance the water-quality software for the Water Mission Area. Yvonne retires after eleven QWDATA software releases (NWIS 4.3 through 5.1), three QWDX releases, and conference calls and meetings too numerous to count. As one door in Yvonne’s life closes, she looks forward to opening many more. Plans include spending more time with her husband, Tim, and her family, spoiling future grandchildren, traveling, camping, volunteering, working on home projects, and whatever other adventures come her way.

**-by Donna N. Myers, Chief, Office of Water Quality**

### ***February 2014 Newsletter Supplement***

We have five articles for our February 2014 Newsletter Supplement. **Joyce Biesecker** from Leesburg, VA gave us an interesting item from the Isaac Walton League – “Water Really Does Flow Downstream.” **Jim Daniel** of Las Vegas, NV, frequent contributor to our Supplement, provides us with “Confessions of a District Chief.” **Charles Nethaway**, Reston, VA, provided historical material about the USGS Pick and Hammer Club including part of the September 2013 program entitled “USGS Survivor! Sequestria Island.” **Tim Smith**, also from Reston and our newly elected WRD Retirees President, gives us “International Water Association WaterWiki,” that is an information resource and hub for the global water community. And last but not least, **John Warren** of Brandon, FL, tells us about “The Day I Almost Lost My Boat and Motor.”

**Please keep the articles and photographs coming!** Fellow members of the WRD Retirees Organization are eager to see what you want to share.



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**Andy Anderson**, past president of WRD Retirees, gave us some interesting English definitions when inviting us to our November 2013 Northern Virginia luncheon: "**ORGAN TRANSPLANT** – what you do to your piano when you move. **BACTERIA** – back door to cafeteria. **HANGNAIL** – a coat hook. **GENES** – blue denim slacks. **ARTERY**– the study of fine painting." Andy introduced our speaker, **Matt Larsen**, the current Associate Director, Climate and Land Use Change, USGS. Matt's topic was current research of the Survey in climate and in land use change. Matt has served as the Associate Director for Water Resources, formerly called the Chief Hydrologist. Andy extended thanks to **Dick Engberg** and **John Keith** for keeping good speakers lined up for each luncheon.

**Veronica Andreani** tells us, 'Happy New Year! Again, I thank you for all you do for the WRD Retirees. Enclosed please find my check for my dues and the scholastic fund! Most sincerely.'

**Rene Baker** says, "Sorry about your having to remind me! I hear your region is having a frigid time of it now. Stay warm!"

**Jim Blakey** writes, "Many, many thanks to **Andy, Charles, and Merilee** for all your work these last two years. The Newsletter is the glue that keeps this group together. Thanks to **Bill Boning** for many years of service. And thanks to our new officers for agreeing to serve. We need all the members to get involved. Attend local meetings, invite new retirees, stay in touch with local officers, and join us in Portland this fall. Don't let this great group die!"

**Bob Blasz** says, "Hi, Bill, Here's my dues for 2014 and 2015. Thanks for doing this collection each year. Hope to see you in Maine for the Reunion."

**Pat Borland** thanks Bill for the reminder about the dues. "Hope you had a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year. Thanks again."

We heard from **Gary Bradford** in December 2013. Gary retired in 1982. He thanks us for all of the retiree information that we provide. He tells us that he just signed a new lease in Arlington, VA.

**Val Brahana** writes, "Enclosed is my check for my past-due dues, and for one year in advance. Thanks for cutting us laggards a little slack. I want to thank you and complement you on a job well done. I truly enjoy hearing about my colleagues and what they are up to in their retirement years. Although I retired from the Survey on an auspicious date (9/9/99), I have maintained close Survey ties through volunteering and through close contact with friends who have yet to retire. Since 1990, I have been in Fayetteville, Arkansas, at the University, where we have developed a close association with USGS training and with fitting some of the brightest students into the organization. Dr. Phil Hays followed me in the position, and has done a remarkable job, and set a standard of excellence that will be hard to surpass. I retired from the U. of A. on 12/12/12. I wish you and all retirees a splendid new year, full of beautiful moments and lovely memories. Sincerely, Val."

**Allan Brown** writes, "Enclosed are dues for 2014 and 2015 for **G. Allan Brown** and **Jean L. Brown**. We are enjoying life in the small town of Black Mountain, NC. We can see the Blue Ridge Parkway and lots of mountains from our condo. It's only 12 miles to Asheville where there is more going on than we can possibly do. There's lots of music and theater, and lots of hiking trails in the surrounding mountains. It's a great place to live and we are very happy we moved here three years ago."

**Bob and Libby Burchett** told us that they traveled to Nashville, TN in December to attend their daughter **Gwyn's** graduation. "While in Nashville we had a very enjoyable breakfast with some of the Tennessee WRD Retirees. We had a wonderful visit and it was terrific to visit with all of our Tennessee friends." Back in Austin, Bob and Libby hosted a potluck Christmas Party at their home. Bob requested an RSVP so he would have an idea of how much beer and wine was needed. "One of the big entertainments at the party was a demonstration of our Roomba which is a vacuum cleaning robot. A few of our guests had not seen one so we sat around our living room and watched the Roomba perform. It was very exciting!" Those attending the party included **Bob and Libby, CT and Dixie Welborn** and their daughter **Francis, Frank and Cindy Wells, Paul Rohne** and his friend **Rea**. A good time was had by one and all.

**Dave Camp** writes to Bill, "Hope things are well with you and you are looking forward to a good 2014. We are 'holding our own' out here – trying to keep old age from creeping up too rapidly. Here is my check. Please use some for 2014 and 2015 and the remainder as needed. Best Wishes!"

**Lee Case** greeted us retirees by saying, "Attached are my dues for 2014. I am now officially retired and ready to become a full-fledged member of the WRD Retirees – I retired on December 3, 2013. Thanks! Lee Case"

**Pat Clark**, a new member, writes, "I checked the retiree box as I worked for USGS/WRD from January 1976 thru June 1992 in Maine, Georgia (3 offices), and Texas. If it is more appropriate to enroll me as an affiliate because I retired from a different agency, please do so and let me know." **Editor's note: Pat will be enrolled as a WRD Retiree.**

**Dave Click** made a 2014 New Year's resolution to write a short blurb for the "News of Retirees" section of the next Newsletter. Therefore, **Dave and Laurel Click** send "greetings and salutations to all of our long-time friends and retired colleagues that we have had the pleasure of knowing during the working-years and into retirement. These greetings come from South-Central Pennsylvania where we have continued to live after my 1994 retirement. Retirement has been a great time of our lives, as our health continues to be good, so we can do as much or as little as we like. Retirement has included a fair amount of travel, which this past June included an experience that we believe few people in this world have ever witnessed and I wish to share it here. We were traveling on an African Safari, conducted by "Road Scholar" when the event occurred. During an early morning game drive in the remote northern part of the Tanzanian-Serengeti, we came upon a large pride of mature lions that were attempting to bring down a lone cape buffalo. One lion was



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on the buffalo's back, just as we came on the scene, but got knocked off when the buffalo went under a low hanging tree limb. The top of the buffalo's rear had been injured, but he was still putting up a fight. As we watched the lions regroup to continue the attack, a small herd of elephants startled us as they came running through the trees and brush, with trunks in the air and trumpeting and charged right into the group of lions. The lions dispersed somewhat, but they did not leave. The elephants positioned themselves between the lions and the buffalo resulting in a standoff. We watched for about an hour before we had to move on without ever knowing the final outcome of the battle. We feel this was one of the life's experiences that one never forgets. As I end this, Laurel and I are planning to attend the Portland [Maine] Reunion, and are looking forward to, renewing friendships, meeting new people, and enjoying the usual good times."

**Ernie Cobb** writes to us: "Thanks for the reminder. Check enclosed. Happy New Year!"

**Richard Coupe** says, "Sorry I got behind. Thanks for all you do!"

**Kent Crawford** tells us, "Sorry I didn't pay dues for 2013 – not sure what happened. So, here is a payment for 2013 and 2014. Thanks for supporting and working for the WRD Retirees."

**Fayne D. Edwards** writes to us, "WRD Retirees: Thanks for reminding me that my dues are due. I look forward to the newsletter. Happy New Year."

**David Erdmann** tells us, "My 2014 dues are enclosed. Keep up the good work."

**Rick Fontaine** sends his dues for 2014 with many thanks.

**Herb Freiberger** writes to us, "**Herb and Pat Freiberger** took a week's trip to the Poconos in late October. The leaves were beautiful. We got lost on several days and wound up in northwest New Jersey which is just as pretty as the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River. Perhaps the highlight of the week was when **Bill and Deri Werkheiser** invited us over to their Pocono home along with **Gary Paulachok** and his wife **Diane**. We had a ball as we don't see much of each other anymore. Dinner was great as well as about 8 hours of war stories from the past. We finally retired at 3:00 a.m. I haven't done that in years. It took about 3 days to recover. Thanks to Bill and Deri and Gary and Diane."

**James French** says, "Wish I could be there to take **Bob Beale's** place. Keep up the good work!"

**Mike Frimpter** sent a copy of an oil painting he made after they returned from their trip to France in 2013. He says the scene was through rain-soaked glass on a dinner cruise boat on the Seine. "Happy New Year."

**Gene Gann** wrote to Bill, "Thanks for all the work on the Newsletter. All is well in Alabama, except we can't win the "Big Game." Of course, I am pulling for the Vols to be National Champs in 2014."

**Harold Golden** says, "Happy New Year to all! We had a great Christmas – all 4 great-grandchildren visited us. We are receiving more snow and cold weather than I like – much like most of the country. Best Regards."

**Don Diego Gonzalez** writes, "Sorry I am so late. My holidays were good – spent in Mesa AZ with middle son and grandkids. Hope yours are great as well."

**Don Goolsby** writes, "Hello from Central Florida. Life is going pretty good for a guy who turned 76 in December. In June 2013 I got married again to a lady, **Barbara**, who incidentally was a high school classmate of my first wife, Eddie, who passed away in 2010. Our honeymoon consisted of a trip by auto that took us from Florida, across the southeast to Colorado, then northeastward across the upper Midwest and the Province of Ontario to Niagara Falls, and then back to Florida, via Reston, VA. We traveled more than 5500 miles through 20 states plus Ontario. Along the way we visited many relatives, friends, and former coworkers, and saw a lot of beautiful sights. We are enjoying living in a golf community in Lady Lake, FL, and we are looking forward to seeing many of you retirees in Portland next October. Finally, I want to thank all of the people who are responsible for preparing the WRD Retirees Newsletter. You do a wonderful job."

**Dan and Melva Hahl** sent a good bit of news: "We are having a marvelous time in Nauvoo, a very active tourist town on the Mississippi River. About 15,000 visitors come each year. At retirement, 25 years ago, we purchased and operated R. Spencer Pratts Fudge Factory. A local Mom & Pop business that grew from Mel and me into a business with 5 employees and one which each year converts 5 tons of sugar and cream into pure delight. We have since sold the business – re-retired. "While operating that business I was on the City Council, held administrative positions with the Church, was on the economic development committee, led major construction projects, and Melva helped direct a Church women's service organization for 10 years and served for three years on the City Planning Commission with 8 "old-guard" men. "I've also worked on a water quality problem in Mississippi. The Secchi Disk reading in a small lake changed over night from 24 inches to one inch and remained permanently at that reading, day in and day out, for about two years. After some detective work, the source of the sediment was determined to be fill material added for construction of the Natchez Trace. That sediment contained colloidal material which, when left undisturbed in sample bottles for two weeks, showed no settling. Runoff from the construction site was distributed throughout the lake's drainage basin. The colloidal material reappeared in runoff after each storm event. After about two years, bank seeding on the Trace, leaf litter and natural undergrowth within the basin stabilized the colloidal debris covering the drainage basin. Runoff returned to pre-construction sediment levels. The lake remained extremely turbid; therefore, it was drained and sediment deposits which came from the construction were removed. After stabilization of the fill and the lake bed, the lake was refilled and Secchi Disk readings returned to 24 inches. We have had an interesting past two years. Melva had a



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total knee replacement followed a year later by a reverse total shoulder replacement and now I had a total hip replacement on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Watching her in the hospital was fine, but when it came down to knives on me, I was a bit nervous. Memories of the last time I was a hospital patient came from May 1945. I distinctly remember the announcement of VE Day while in the hospital to have my appendix removed. My surgery went well and I am getting about very well. The physical adjustments to recovery are driving me nuts."

**Tim Hale** sent a check to catch up on back dues and maybe get a year ahead. "Thanks," he said.

**Ronald L Hanson** wrote a nice note along with his ballot: "Ellie and I have now lived in Post Falls, Idaho 18 years and I have been retired 19 years – hard to believe. Each winter we spend about 4 months in Arizona where we have a small home in the desert west of Tucson Mountain Park. I continue playing my clarinet with Northern Idaho College Wind Symphony and Sonora Winds in Tucson. "A few health issues have slowed us down somewhat. Ellie has developed Tibial Tendonitis in her right foot which limits walking long distances. In 2011 I was diagnosed with a bone marrow disease, Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukemia. CMML is not curable but is treatable with occasional chemo infusions. I tolerate these treatments very well with very little side effects. We feel blessed to live in two beautiful areas and are fortunate that our 3 children and their families all live nearby in the northwest."

**Mark Hardy** says, "Happy New YEAR! Thanks for the heads up on my dues."

**Bill Harkness** writes to us, "Please pay dues for three years and use the other money for a donation to the scholarship fund."

**Paul Heyer**, "Class of 2003," writes, "Hi, Bill: 2 years due, rest for general fund. Keep up the good work."

**JoAnn Huffman** says, "Hi, **Bill**. Thanks for keeping track. The enclosed check is for 2 years dues and additional money for the retiree fund. We had a wonderful holiday with family. Now we are working on getting our Broncos to the Super Bowl. We've sat through some cold games but the fans keep us warm. Happy New Year & GO BRONCOS!"

**Irwin Kantrowitz** writes along with his ballot: "Our travels have mostly been to visit our kids and their kids and grandkids. You know you're getting old when your children are grandparents. I bicycled 76 miles, in under 5 hours, on my 76<sup>th</sup> birthday this year but I'm thinking it's almost time to go metric."

**Bill Kastner** sent his 2014-2015 dues to **Bill Boning**. "Hope that you have a good and happy year in 2014. If this goes to **Celso [Puate]** too, I wish him a happy new year too."

**Fred A. Kilpatrick** wrote to us the sad news, "I am sorry to say that my wife, **June Kilpatrick**, passed away recently." *June's In Memoriam appears in the February 2014 Newsletter.*

**Luther C. Kjelstrom** thanked us for the work we do and sent an obituary regarding his wife, **Carleene Kjelstrom**, *which appears in our In Memoriam in the February 2014 Newsletter.*

**Jim Kratz** sends us, "Thank you for all your efforts!" and further requests that we begin sending him the electronic versions of the Retirees Directory and the WRD Retirees Newsletter.

**Vincent C. Lai** says "Happy New Year!" and sends us his 2014 dues as well as a contribution to our general fund.

**Terry Lamb** wrote a check for dues through 2015 and requested that we send the Newsletter electronically to a new email address. [See email address change in the Directory Changes.] Terry also says, "I'm still doing some consulting, living on my sailboat part-time, and working on my boat all the time."

**Larry Land** wrote to **Bill** on December 31, 2013, "You can see what I'm doing on New Year's Eve ... Paying bills! **Marty** and I are doing fine. We just got back from a Xmas Trip to Pagosa Springs, CO with our younger son, Brian, his wife and three kids/grandkids. We had a great time and got to play in the snow – a treat for us. I'm still working as a water resources engineer for HDR ENGINEER. But, have given them my notice for a retirement at the end of 2014. Hope you and Shirley are well and things are going as you want."

**Ken and Judy Lindskov** write, "Here are the dues we owe for 2014. We certainly enjoy the get-togethers and look forward to seeing everyone in Maine this fall. And, p.s., put the extra money toward the next reunion expenses."

**Katherine Lins** writes, "Enclosed are dues for two years. Please do not hesitate to call me if you need help stuffing envelopes or the like."

**Gus and Betty Ludwig** tell us, "I enjoy reading about old friends in the Newsletter. Thanks for that 'Perk.' We have enjoyed about twenty-five years of comfortable living with good health and a traveling life style since retiring in 1988. Sorry we forgot our dues. We have been spending all our time enjoying life, leaving only very little for dues. We promise to be better troopers in the future. We ask a favor: Would you please let us now how far the enclosed check will take us? Happy New Year!!!" For all that we are extremely thankful. Our best to you."

**Rick and Debbie Lumia** write, "Thank you for the reminder. I really want to keep in touch! I miss USGS so much. We hope you had a nice Christmas. And, Happy New Year. We are sending a small contribution. Thanks again for the help! Best Wishes!"



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**Tom Maloney** writes, "Thanks, Bill! Hope to see you this Fall at the WRD reunion in Maine."

**Gerald Meyers** writes on December 30th, "**Libby** and I recently moved into an Independent-Living Retirement Community in Los Gatos, CA, and are enjoying the many amenities and beautiful surroundings. We were very saddened to learn of the loss of Pam and Milt Hackett. Milt was my 'Boss' and dear friend. He was truly a member of 'the greatest generation!' Enclosed are dues and a contribution. Tomorrow is my 91<sup>st</sup> birthday (New Year's Eve – ten minute to midnight.) You might say The Pope and whole world celebrate my birthday. Regards to all. Happy New Year! Take care."

**Jim Miller** says, "Enclosed are my dues for 2013 and 2014 (I am gambling I will make it through 2014.) I am in good health and continue to work as a volunteer carpenter for Habitat for Humanity and for my church. I attended a get-together for the Atlanta- area retirees in June at the new combined quarters of the Georgia office and the Southeast Region (if it is still called that). It is a beautiful office, lab, conference, and storage space. At least 30 retirees attended and it was great to see and socialize with so many colleagues. Over the last 18 months I have served as an advisor for a soon-to-be published revision of the regional hydrogeologic framework of the Floridian aquifer system, updating my RASA work of almost 3 years ago and incorporating much new well and head data I would have killed for in the mid-80s. I was also a colleague reviewer for an upcoming report on the brackish-water resources of the Floridian and Southeastern Coastal Plain aquifer systems. When I retired in 1995 I thought the Survey was finished doing regional studies but the pendulum appears to have swung back, at least in the southeast. –Jim Miller"

**Charles and Pauline Morgan** reported, "The Las Vegas WRD retirees met at 11:00 AM Wednesday, December 5th at the Putters Café, at the corner of Tropicana and Pecos Blvd. in Las Vegas. Attending were **Jim and Ruth Daniels, Larry Eccles, Louise Lipton, Jerry Magner, and Pauline and Charles Morgan**. Several regular attendees could not attend because of other commitments were **Dave and Virginia Bauers** and **Marnie Magner**. **Gerda Seaber** was on travel to visit family. The group discussed the problem that Dave Bauer has with medical appointments on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday that interferes with attending the luncheons. The group decided to change the luncheon time to 12:00 noon of the first Tuesday of the month. This time allows the Bauers to attend. **Note:** The WRD retirees met on January 7th at Putters and plan to keep that schedule."

**Jim Mullen** tells us, "Dear WRD Retirees, Enclosed are my dues for 2014. Not much news to report from here. The weather has been colder and much drier than usual. I am getting plenty of exercise cutting firewood. –Jim Mullen"

**John Musser**, current Louisiana Retiree Contact, writes to us from Baton Rouge, as regards "Change in District Contact for Louisiana," "After 20 years of service as the District Contact for Louisiana, I have decided that it's time for me to resign this position. My wife, **Nancy**, has many health problems, and I have become her full-time caregiver. It's time for the younger generation of retirees to assume leadership and infuse new energy into our group. **Charles R. Demas** ("**Charlie**") of Baton Rouge has agreed to become the next District Contact. Charlie retired in 2011 after serving many years as the Director of the Louisiana Water Science Center. Our group thinks he is the right person to be District Contact. Please acknowledge your acceptance of this decision by sending Charlie whatever materials he needs for his new role. [Charlie's address and email are listed in the current directory. Of course his name should be inserted in the next Directory on page 2 and also as the contact for the Baton Rouge luncheons on page 3."

**Charles Nethaway** writes, "What can happen? On November 1<sup>st</sup>, I began a new chemotherapy that failed within a week and led to an epileptic seizure that knocked me onto my living-room floor for 24 hours. Church friends and my step-daughter, **Erin Flanner**, discovered me & called an ambulance with several paramedics who took me to the Reston Hospital Center. I have no memory of the event, nor did I sense that my right arm was fractured in six places. The break severely damaged the "nerve bundle" that goes from shoulder to hand. A fine orthopedic surgeon put my arm together with a metal plate, seven screws, and 27 staples. After the operation I had another epileptic seizure and was back in intensive care. Surgeons removed my intravenous port -- it was put back in on January 4 for future chemo. I was in hospital for 12 days, rehab center for 30 days, and home on December 20<sup>th</sup>, in time for Christmas with family. I now am seeing my oncologist, neurologist, orthopedic surgeon, and physical and occupational therapists. My neurologist has performed extensive tests (EEG, EMG) regarding the two seizures and nerve damage. He has diagnosed "generalized idiopathic epilepsy" and is sending me to Johns Hopkins for a neurological work-up on my arm, once my oncologist feels that my new chemo, started Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, has stabilized my multiple myeloma. So, that's it for now! Most of all, I want to thank **Merilee Bennett** very much. As our layout editor, she has been very patient with me while I slowly regain my typing skills and await some new trifocals."

**Dave Nyman** sent us up-to-date dues.



**Ivalou O'Dell** of Boise writes, "This year has been a busy travel year. In February, I spent ten days in Hawaii on the Big Island helping to celebrate my sister and brother-in-law's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It was hard to return to Idaho's cold weather. In May, I took my daughter on a road trip to Southern Utah and the Four Corners area to photograph the Red Rock country. In June, my daughter and I spent two weeks in Costa Rica on a tour with Grand Circle. August was a busy month with a 7-day trip to the Oregon coast which included a dune buggy ride and a jet boat ride up the Rogue River. Later that month I did a two-day wine-tasting tour to Walla Walla, WA with a group sponsored by Boise State University. It had been years since I had visited the area and I didn't realize that Walla Walla had become a wine mecca. September I went on a jet boat ride through Hells Canyon to Clarkston and return. The flows were low so the rapids were not too large. The highlight of the year was my 3-week Safari Tour, in October, to Tanzania,

Africa. This was my second trip there as my daughter and I did the same tour in 2011. The tour was with Overseas Adventure Travel and there were 13 in our group. We traveled in Toyota Land Cruisers with pop-up tops. We saw all the big five plus many other animals. There are also many exotic birds which would make it a birder's dream trip. We visited two Maasai villages plus a school.



## NEWS OF RETIREES

The highlight of this trip was the four nights in the Serengeti tented camp where the animals wandered through the camp. One night I could hear Cape buffalos grazing behind my tent. I'm back in Boise for the rest of the year but making travel plans for 2014."

**Quentin F. Paulson** sends us a message from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, "Enclosed is my check for dues. I'm sorry to report that my wife of 64 years, **Lorraine**, died last September 18. So you should remove her name from the list in the Directory. *[Lorraine's In Memoriam is in this February Newsletter.]*"

**Bev Pittarelli** writes, "Thanks, **Bill** – Happy New Year to all the Retirees! Enclosed is my check for dues for 2014 and 2015."

**Ralph Quistorff** from Wailoa, HI, tells us, "Sorry for the oversight on not paying my dues, but enclosed is a check that will cover me through 2016. Thanks for the reminder."

**Bob Ramsey** said, "Thanks for the reminder. I need all the help I can get."

**John Ritter** gave us news: "**Judy** and I are watching our granddaughters grow up here in Gainesville [, FL]. Both are in high school. We have lunch once a month with **Ken and Mary VanLier**. Our daughter **Amy** works for Waterborne Environmental, Inc. in Leesburg, VA. Right now she's on a trip to Antarctica with friends. I had a colon blockage removed in May and feel much better now."

**Billy Paul Robinson** writes on Nov. 29, 2013, "Keep up the good work! Thanks."

**Harry Rodis** of Longwood, FL writes to us, "Thank you for reminding me."

**Paul B. Rohne, Jr.** tells us, "I sold my house in Pflugerville, TX after 22 years and moved into a townhome in Round Rock, TX, about 6 miles north of Pflugerville. I have unpacked all the boxes and am able to park my car and sit on it with a cool one every chance I get. Life is good!!"

**Tim Rowe**, one of our new members, sent us a check for dues with some extra to go for other expenses. "Charles and WRD Retiree Staff, we wish you a very Happy New Year! Please carry on – we enjoy the newsletter very much. We are happy that **Jim Crompton** is now on the Board. Thanks for the first free year as I really enjoyed reading the Newsletters and hearing about friends." Tim goes on to give us a summary of what he has been up to: "I retired as a Hydrologist from the Nevada WSC in August 2012 and within two weeks, I took a change in course with careers. I sure enjoyed my 32 years with USGS (in California, Alaska, and Nevada) but I was excited to start as a Transportation Planner with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). I am now the State Safe Routes to School Coordinator for Nevada in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program of Multi-modal Planning. This is not totally unusual as I have been an avid bicycle rider and advocate for the past 27 years. I was also on the Nevada Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board for 7 years under 3 Governors. The job is great as I get to deal with my passion, bicycling. I am also a League Certified Instructor for the American League of Bicyclist and a Race Official for USA Cycling. I continue on the Boards of Nevada Bicycle Coalition, Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition and Alta Alpina Cycling Club and belong to Muscle Powered. I still work on bicycle events, like the Alta Alpina Challenge and Tour de Tahoe, as I have been involved with bicycle events for 23 years, including past Coordinator of the Death Ride. I also became a Ham Radio Operator, K7TGR, this year. I still keep busy with my family (wife Harriet and 11-year-old son Christopher), including as an Adult leader and Merit Badge Counselor (including Bicycling) with Boy Scout Troop 411. I also enjoy keeping in touch with my USGS friends and have been lucky to attend retirement coffees, parties, and Holiday functions in Carson City and Henderson, NV this past year. Take care and keep the great newsletters coming. Let me know if I can provide anything else. Sincerely, Tim"

**Roger Rumenik** writes from Tallahassee, "Bill, thanks for doing what you do for keeping the organization moving forward. I'm including some extra money for the hardcopy directory. Stay well."

**Al Rutledge** in Beaufort, NC, writes, "Hello, Bill – Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, etc. And thanks for maintaining the WRD Retirees functions. Here are my dues for 2 years. "Wishing you happiness in a world of peace."

**Carroll and Betty Saboe** write, "Thanks for keeping us updated on all the happenings with the newsletter. Still enjoy reading the news and keeping in touch."

**Chet Thomas** sends to us, "Greetings to All for 2014. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Great Newsletters and photos. Keep it up. Only way to keep in touch with the WRD Retirees. I enjoy reading the articles. Nothing new at this end."



**Pat Tucci & Zelda Bailey** write to us, "Much of this summer was spent in redoing our backyard landscaping, just in time for the September rains in Colorado. We haven't had much chance to enjoy the new yard yet, but hope to break it in this spring. A year ago we sold our 1978 Avanti, because it was just getting to be too much to keep it in good running condition. In October we dove back in and purchased a 2006 Avanti, which is basically a 2005 Mustang GT with an Avanti body. It's a much more modern car that, hopefully, will be more reliable."



## NEWS OF RETIREES



**Lawrence Weiss** writes, "My wife and I just returned from a November trip to Spain and Morocco. One of the top highlights was a side trip about 30 km from Marrakech, Morocco in the Ourika River Basin in the Atlas Mountains. **[Editor's note: Shown is a picture of the Ourika River Valley and the Atlas Mountains, retrieved from Internet by the editor.]** This basin is 506 sqkm or 195 sqml with a main channel slope of 300 ft/mi or 7.5%. Its maximum peak flood in May 1963 was 7,200 cm/s or 254,300cfs. In the middle of the valley 'time to peak' from 'storm start' is as little as 20 minutes. On August 17, 1995, they experienced a storm with rainfall amounts as high as 100mm/hr falling on 228 square miles and resulting in a flow of 1030 cm/s or 36,300 cfs. The velocity of the stream was estimated at 15-16ft/s and moved rock as large as 20 inches. This river now has a warning system for its inhabitants as 300 residents were killed in that storm. The valley walls in the basin are rarely more than 400 feet apart. The aggradation is quite large with some boulders in the 10-ton size or more. All in all it was a great trip. I am sorry to hear about Fred Ruggles. He was my boss in Hartford for many years, and we were very good friends."

**Renee and Loren Young** write, "Merry Christmas. Would you put our new address and phone number in the directory? Perhaps a little note saying we are doing well and love it here in a retirement home. We moved about a mile from our old home. We've both gained weight – the food is too good. Thanks for your help. Hope both of you are well." **Editor's note: new address and phone number in Directory Changes.**

**Chet Zenone** writes, "Enclosed are my dues for 2014 and 2015, plus a little extra for the good works of the Retirees Organization. Best of the new year to all."

### Do I owe WRD Retirees dues?

You will be notified of your dues status depending on how you receive your Newsletter. About 500 members receive their copy by U.S. Mail, and the others electronically. If you receive a paper copy of the Newsletter by U.S. Mail, **there is a number in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label on the envelope**. This number is the last year you paid dues. If the number is 2013, then you owe dues for 2014; if the number is 2012, then you owe dues for two years (2013 and 2014). If you receive your Newsletter electronically you will receive an email message from our Secretary describing the status of your dues. This email was sent on December 30, 2013.

Dues are \$10 per year and cover the cost of the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship and printing and mailing the Newsletter and Directory. We accept dues for advance years, and contributions above dues are appreciated! If you owe dues to WRD Retirees, please send a check to: WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon VA 20172-0280. Indicate how much is for dues and how much is a contribution. Please let us know if we have made an error in recording your past payments. If you have questions, email Andy Anderson at cande2@juno.com or wrdretirees@usgs.gov. Please also send some "News of Retirees" for the next Newsletter!

### TREASURER'S REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2013

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$22,182.00 in the treasury at the end of the fourth quarter for calendar year 2013. Receipts for the quarter were \$620.36 from dues and contributions from 26 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$402.95, including the cost for the printing of the WRD Retirees Newsletter. During the quarter, a total of \$130.00 in contributions above dues was received from 8 members.

#### Special thanks for contributions above dues go to:

Donald Goolsby, Paul Beauchemin, James Blakey, Celso Puente, Norman Hutchinson, Billy Paul Robinson, Ronald Hanson, and Daniel Hahl.



## GATHERINGS AND MEETINGS

### HAWAII LUNCHEON -- January 26, 2014

This time we met at Buca di Beppo, a popular Italian Restaurant for family and group dining in Honolulu. Retirees with selected spouses and one caregiver enjoyed eating in the Pope's Room. **Ben & Mae Jones** joined us from Federal Way, Washington. Son **Gary** brought **Akiko Tanaka** from assisted-care (long-term) home. We had lots of fun and even had ample to watch the Pro Bowl 2014 after the luncheon.



**Front Row(L to R):** Gary Tanaka (son), Akiko Tanaka, Amy Watanabe. Mae Jones, Grace Tateishi,  
**Back Row (L to R):** Ben Shimizu, George Dayag, Catherine Chinn (spouse), Salwyn Chinn, Ben Jones, Elaine Yee (spouse), John Yee.

### NORTHERN VIRGINIA -- October 7, 2013



Major General (Ret.) Don Riley, former Deputy Commanding General and Deputy Chief of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, spoke before the WRD Retirees of Northern Virginia at their monthly luncheon at the Amphora Diner Deluxe in Herndon, VA.

### TEXAS LUNCHEON -- December 2013



From left to right: Der Edwards, Marty and Jeff May, Tim Hamilton, Jerry Lowery, Gwen Hoover, Charlie and Rebel Gamble, Libby and Bob Burchett



## MEMORIAL

### **Robert Elon “Bob” Davis July 22, 1952 - November 18, 2013**



Robert E. “Bob” Davis, age 61 of Helena, Montana passed away on November 18, 2013 after a long and courageous battle with pancreatic/liver cancer. Following a memorial service on November 25, he was interred in a family plot at the Forestvale Cemetery in Helena.

Bob was born in Great Falls, Montana on July 22, 1952, to loving parents Franklin and Genevieve Davis. Bob is survived by three elder brothers, Mike, Gary, and Tom and was a devoted husband to Debbie and the proud father of son Nolan. He was also an adored uncle to many nieces and nephews and a stalwart friend to countless others.

Bob grew up in a modest home in Great Falls where his parents and older brothers tutored him in the basics of responsibility, ethics, values, trust, compassion, hard work, and loyalty to family and friends. He also learned the importance of making time for recreation and relaxation.

Bob attended Montana State University and graduated with distinction in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Earth Science and minors in chemistry and math. After graduation, Bob joined the U.S. Geological Survey in 1975, beginning his career as a hydrologist in the Hydrologic Studies Section of the Oklahoma District Office located in Oklahoma City. While in the Oklahoma District, Bob proved his credentials as a competent geochemist and prolific author.

In 1980, Bob transferred to the Montana District Office in Helena, and was assigned to the Hydrologic Investigation Section to study the impacts of coal strip mining on hydrologic systems in southeastern Montana. Bob conducted pioneering laboratory and field investigations of the geochemical evolution of re-saturated mine spoils at Decker and Colstrip and authored several landmark papers on the results of his innovative studies. In 1986, Bob was promoted to Chief of the Hydrologic Investigations Section where he served as advisor, mentor, and passionate supporter to numerous young hydrologists. Bob was promoted to the position of District Chief in 1995 and served as District Chief/Water Science Center Director until he retired after 32 years of dedicated service in 2007.

While living in Helena, Bob met Debbie (Ekman) in 1988 and asked her to marry him in 1991. Bob and Debbie enjoyed their lives together but felt an emptiness that was cured in 1996 with the birth of their son, Nolan. Nolan brought immense happiness to Bob and a new dimension to their home. Bob could usually be found cheering for Nolan whether it was football, hockey, track, or lacrosse. Bob was always there offering his support.

In Bob’s own words, he “had a wonderful life and enjoyed the 61 trips he took around the sun.”

**--Contributed by Joe A. Moreland with considerable assistance from Debbie Davis**



## IN MEMORIAMS

**Mrs. Eugene “Birdie” W. Brown** of Ft McCoy, FL, widow of WRD retiree Eugene “Gene” Brown, passed away on April 8, 2013. Birdie and her husband spent many years in near Ocala, Florida. Gene had attended the University of Florida both before and after he served in World War II. After he received his Ph.D. in chemistry, he worked part-time for USGS in 1951, then moved to Ocala in 1952 and became the first chief of the Florida District (QW). Gene published several documents on water quality in Florida. In 1956 he transferred to Sacramento, California and became the District Chief (QW), then became the regional research chemist. In 1967 he held the same position in the Central Region. In 1972 he joined the Headquarters staff in Washington and became a senior research chemist for the Office of R&TC until he retired in 1978 due to failing eyesight. He and Birdie moved back to Fort McCoy until Gene passed away in October 1981, and Birdie continued to live in Fort McCoy until she passed away in 2013.

**Edmond ‘Don’ Hart, 78**, passed away on November 13 2013. Don was born on November 15, 1934. He attended Oklahoma University on a full wrestling scholarship, and graduated in 1957. Don was with the U.S. Geological Survey until his early retirement at the age of 55. He took retirement to a new level. Don's focus turned to running, decathlons and triathlons, representing the USA on the U.S. National Decathlon Team in world competitions in Australia, Mexico, and Italy and culminating in a 2nd place age group finish at the 2005 Kona Ironman World Championship in Hawaii. Aside from sports, he and his wife, Ann, traveled from Hong Kong to Europe, Japan, Australia, China, Mexico and Russia. He returned to Cancun, Mexico, each year to enjoy friends, food and beach. Don was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was quiet, thoughtful, and a kind man who lived an exceptional life; and, was a friend and mentor, representing the very best of competition. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Ann; daughter, Kim Falk and husband Mark; daughter, Kay Mathias; grandchildren, Nick Mathias, Kiley Faily and husband Jesse, Kori Adcock and fiancé Austin Reid; and great-granddaughters, Harper and Emersyn.

**Herbert G. “Gilbert” Hinson, 94**, died Sunday, July 24, 2011. Gilbert was born July 2, 1917, in Scranton, SC to Lucian L. and Elizabeth C. Hinson. He was predeceased by his wife, Earlene Hinson and five brothers and two sisters. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a bachelor's in civil engineering and served in the US Navy Reserves as a Lieutenant Commander for four years during WWII. He retired after many years as a civil engineer with the US Geological Survey. He began his service with the Survey in 1946 as a hydrologic engineer in Charleston, SC. After a brief assignment in Atlanta, he transferred in 1952 to Raleigh, NC and continued to work in Raleigh until he retired in 1977. He is survived by his daughter, Robin McMillan and husband, Robert of Raleigh, NC; two grandchildren, Jason D. McMillan and wife Sarah, and Matthew R. McMillan both of Raleigh, NC. The funeral services were held in July 2011 at New Hope Presbyterian Church, Willow Spring, NC.



**June Pair Kilpatrick**, "Granny June Bug", 81, passed away on November 29, 2013, in Haymarket, VA. She was born on May 21, 1932 in Virginia. She was the dear wife of 23 years to Frederick "Fritz" Kilpatrick, and passed away peacefully by his side. June was a lifelong Virginian who earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Richmond's Westhampton College in 1953. She was a teacher for many years, but turned to writing as a career as she raised her daughters. After many years as a writer and editor for the nonprofits in Richmond and Northern Virginia, she became a consultant writer for Business Council in Washington, DC. Growing up in the Great Depression as an only child inspired the writing of her nonfiction novel *Wasp in the Kitchen, Butter in the Well* published in 2012. She was an active member of the Manassas Baptist Church, and the Prince William Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club, Write by the Rails. A long-time member of various bridge groups within her community and the Sunday "Lunch Bunch," June was loved by many and will be dearly missed. Mother of Denise Elizabeth Carter and only born son not named. June is survived by daughter Rebecca Blair, her husband Gregory Blair; stepsons Mark and Chris, and their wives Patricia and Sharon Kilpatrick; and 4 grandchildren. A memorial service was held on December 14, 2013, at the Manassas Baptist Church, Manassas, VA. Donations may be made to the Joslin Diabetes Foundation via [www.joslin.org](http://www.joslin.org).



**Marnita (Marnie) Anne Swarm, 71**, wife of WRD retiree Gerald “Jerry” Wagner, died on December 22, 2013. She was born in Ft. Worth, TX, August 19, 1942, to H. Myron and Anita J. Swarm. She was raised in Everett and Seattle, WA, and McMinnville, OR. She graduated from Roosevelt High School in Seattle and graduated from the University of Washington with a B.S. in Numerical Analysis, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a M.S. in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. She also attended the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Alabama Huntsville. She worked at the Boeing Company, Seattle, and later at Bechtel Nevada. She was active in many organizations usually taking a leadership role. She was an active member within the United Methodist Church, and a 35-year member of Trinity United Methodist Church (UMC). At her church, Marnie met her true love and married

Gerald “Jerry” Wagner, June 1, 1990, blending their families under one roof. Jerry was born in Denver, CO and lived there for 43 years until moving to Las Vegas, NV IN 1987. Jerry acquired about 200 hours of college credits from several colleges: the University of Colorado at Boulder and at UC Denver; Red Rock Community College; Metropolitan State College [in Denver]; and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Jerry enlisted in the Army, 1964-1967, and served one



## IN MEMORIAMs

year in Viet Nam as a Caribou, 2-engine, crew chief and airplane mechanic. He arrived in Viet Nam in Cam Ron Bay, then onto a landing craft at Vung Tau, Viet Nam two days before Christmas, 1965. Within a month after being discharged from the Army, Jerry joined the USGS and had a 40-year-plus career as a Physical Science Technician with USGS, leaving the Survey in January 2008. He worked for both the Geologic Division and Water Resources Division in Colorado and Nevada on special projects including more than 20 years managing the Geologic Data Center and Core Library in Mercury, NV. Marnie's parents and brother, Park, predeceased her. She leaves husband Jerry in Las Vegas, and three children, three step-children, and eight grandchildren. Marnie will be remembered as taking life's hardships in stride and overcoming them with humor. She was known for make a positive difference and is dearly missed.



**David W. McCartney**, 87, formerly a resident of Dublin, PA, passed away on November 17, 2013 at the Neshaminy Manor, Warrington, PA. David was the husband of Kathryn (Veit) McCartney. He was born on April 9, 1926, in Philadelphia, PA. David was one of seven children born to Harry and Margaret McCartney. He was a proud veteran of World War II, serving with the US Army from May 1944 through April 1946. After WWII, he became a member of the VFW in Marlborough, CT. David joined the USGS in August 1951 as a Hydrologic Field Assistant, Surface Water, in Socorro, NM. While working for the Survey, David successfully attained a B.S. in Chemistry from the New Mexico School of Mines in Socorro (1950-1954). In 1956 he was promoted to an analytical chemist and assigned to the Water Quality

District in Philadelphia, PA. After becoming certified as a chemist from the American Chemical Society in 1955, David went on to assume increased responsibilities and became a supervisory hydrologist and in 1966 was named Assistant District Chemist for the Pennsylvania Quality of Water District. In 1968 he became Chief, Philadelphia WRD Subdistrict. And in 1977 David became District Chief for the Connecticut District. In 1978 he was made Northeastern Regional Representative of the Hydrologic Instrumentation Committee. In addition to his wife, David is survived by a brother-in-law, Norman Veit, Sr. and Norman's wife, Elizabeth. David was predeceased by a son, Dr. Brian McCartney; brothers Henry, John, and Charles; sisters Claire, Dolores' and Louise; and his Uncle Bill and Aunt Clara who were significant in raising David. Memorial contributions in David's name may be made to the Michigan School for the Deaf, 1235 West Court St., Flint, MI 48503.

**Samuel J. Pollock**, 81, of Lexington, MA, passed away on December 2, 2013 in Lexington. He was married to Joyce. He retired in 1988. After serving in the USGS, Geologic Division, Samuel transferred to WRD in June, 1958 as a geologist in the ground-water branch in Providence, RI. In 1960 he transferred to Boston, MA. In 1967 Samuel became a hydrologist. He received his bachelor's in geology from Brown University in Providence, RI, in 1954 and his M.S. degree in geology from the University of Illinois in 1956. He also attended the University of Colorado in 1953 and 1957 working toward a Ph.D. Many years of his career focused on the study of the disposition of highway salt in the hydrologic system, to include the designing of instrumentation of test sites and acting as a liaison between USGS and the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Works.



**Felipe (Phil) Hernandez Tovar**, 88, of Smithville, TX, passed away on November 30, 2013. Phil was born in San Louie Potosi, Mexico on February 15, 1925. He graduated from Mercedes High School, Mercedes, TX and went on to attend the University of Texas in Austin, TX. After college, he began his career with the Phillips Petroleum Company as a surveyor and remained employed with the company until 1965. Subsequently, he began employment with The U.S. Department of Interior, USGS, as a surveyor and hydrologist. After retirement he launched a second career as a Tennis Pro, teaching private lessons, and was also employed by Schulenburg Independent School District as the High School Tennis Coach, in Schulenburg, TX. In addition, Phil Tovar, who was fluent in Spanish, mentored many high school students from Mexico, in higher level studies which included Algebra, Calculus, Physics and

English; and, served on the Smithville School Board. Phil was preceded in death by his wife, Carole Tovar. He was survived by his children: Phil C. Tovar, his wife Marjess Tovar of Smithville, TX, their children Dana Tovar, grandson Jagger Tiner, Jordon and his wife April Tovar, and Leslie Tovar, his daughter Rosemarie Jean Odom, her husband Anthony C. Odom of Frisco, TX and their children, of San Diego, CA, Sheri Odom, Jennifer Mueller, her husband Tyler and their children, Kaylee and Tyler Jr., of McKinney, TX; grandson Travis T. Jean (son of Rosemarie Odom and Tom Jean), of Round Rock; son Jaime Tovar and his wife Imilda Tovar. A memorial service was held at the Smithville Church of Christ, Smithville, TX, on Saturday, December 7, 2013.



## REMEMBRANCES

### Milt Hackett November 9, 2013

When I think of Milt Hackett the first word that comes to my mind is “integrity”. According to Webster’s Dictionary “integrity” is defined as a rigid adherence to a code of behavior; probity; the state of being unimpaired; soundness; completeness; unity and honesty which include veracity and honor. Integrity is a moral soundness, especially as it is revealed in dealings that test the steadfastness to truth, purpose, responsibility and trust. Milt had integrity in SPADES!

The last 20 years of my 36 year career with the US Geological Survey was at its headquarters from 1966 until my retirement in 1986. For the first 14 of those years Milt was my immediate supervisor – I could not have asked for a better boss!

Milt was a visionary and had the capability of thinking “outside the box”. He was always open and above board in his dealings with colleagues and subordinates. This characteristic was especially important in his dealings with representatives of other Federal Agencies. Many of these Agencies viewed with suspicion just what the Geological Survey was “up to” once it was given lead – agency responsibility under Bureau of the Budget Circular A-67 for coordinating the water data activities of all Federal Agencies. Milt, as Chief of the newly established Office of Water Data Coordination (OWDC), set the standard for openness in dealing with those agencies. That characteristic served the Geological Survey exceedingly well during the years that followed.

When Milt moved up to the position of Associate Chief Hydrologist in 1968 I was named Chief of the OWDC and reported directly to him and the Chief Hydrologist. Then, in 1980 when Milt retired, I was appointed to his former position as Associate Chief Hydrologist. Through that 14 year period I can recall no time when Milt and I were at odds over an issue. He was extremely supportive of me and the members of the OWDC for he knew, first hand, of the sensitivity of the mission of that office.

Following Milt’s retirement in 1980, my wife Jean and I maintained social contact with him and Pam until Jean’s death in 2009. We considered them our very close friends. I miss them both very much.

**-Remarks by Hal Langford at the funeral service**

### Robert J. Madison

I certainly have enjoyable memories of Bob Madison (1932-2013; Newsletter No. 160). In October of 1960, he was stationed in Portland, OR, with the WRD when I arrived there from Menlo Park to work as a lab chemist and project scientist for dynamic Leslie B. Laird in the Quality of Water Branch. At that time, our group was responsible for Water Resources Division “QW” activities in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho (the transition to unified multidiscipline state districts in the Pacific Northwest was still a few years away).

Both Bob and I were bachelors, had MG sport cars, and savored draft beer. But life wasn’t completely decadent: we also shared an appreciation of science (he was an excellent water chemist and lab supervisor), as well as sports, classical music, good food ... and women. Thus, we enjoyed the Portland area, with mutual friends, for almost four memorable years (I transferred to Tacoma in September 1964, as a member of the new, unified Washington WRD District led by Les Laird). Soon thereafter, Bob met Donna Buchanan, and their lives also changed significantly (and very nicely) as a result. Characterizing a person in just a few words is risky, but I’ll try: R.J.M. was a man of many diverse enjoyments, and he lived life largely on his own terms, with a nice balance of great enthusiasm and healthy skepticism.

**-by: Steve VanDenburgh, Carson City, Nevada**



## NEW MEMBERS AND DIRECTORY CHANGES

### New Members -- February 2014

**Buxton, Herbert** (14) 158 Flint Rd., Langhorne, PA 19047, [htbuxton@verizon.net](mailto:htbuxton@verizon.net), 215-757-9464, cell 609-203-5853  
**Clark, Patricia (Pat)** (09) (Clair) 1245 Hostile Valley Rd., Palermo, ME 04354 207-993-2934 [cmclark@fairpoint.net](mailto:cmclark@fairpoint.net)  
**Davis, Jerri** (13) Marion Dattilo 17601 County Rd. 8220, Rolla MO 65401 373-762-3190, cell 573-465-4224 [jvdavis54@gmail.com](mailto:jvdavis54@gmail.com)  
**Fisher, Gary T.** (13) 3202 Tyndale Ave., Baltimore, MD 21214, 410-254-3986, cell 410-262-8632, [hydrologyguy@gmail.com](mailto:hydrologyguy@gmail.com)  
**Gaggiani, Neville** (13) (Trish) 9092 Hoyt St., Westminster, CO 80021 303-420-6320 [topgun@ecentral.com](mailto:topgun@ecentral.com)  
**Gibbs, Jacob** (14) 926 Yeadon Ave., Yeadon, PA 19050 610-626-3584 [jacob.gibbs@icloud.com](mailto:jacob.gibbs@icloud.com)  
**Gurtz, Martin** (14) (Marty) (Sharon) 12138 Stirrup Rd., Reston, VA 20191 703-648-0990 [mgurtz@comcast.net](mailto:mgurtz@comcast.net)  
**Music, Cheryl M.** (11) (Michael) 144 Round Pond Rd., Queensbury, NY 12804 518-225-2420 [Musicmmc@aol.com](mailto:Musicmmc@aol.com)  
**Price, Carolyn** (13) (Brooks) 9468 Deer Creek Cir., Lake Worth, FL 33467, 561-433-5846, [carelprice@comcast.net](mailto:carelprice@comcast.net)  
**Renken, Robert** (14) (Mary Ann) 3802 Falcon Ridge Circle, Weston, FL 33331 954-349-7801, cell 954-554-9215 [rarenken@hotmail.com](mailto:rarenken@hotmail.com)  
**Zapeczka, Otto** (14) (Denise) 6 Bennington Dr., Lawrenceville, NJ 08646, 609-896-8412, [ozapeczka@verizon.net](mailto:ozapeczka@verizon.net)

### Directory Changes -- February 2014

**Baker-Odenbach, LaRue A.** (03) (Robert) 1700 Evergreen Dr. NW, Jamestown, ND 58401, ph 701-952-4395 – addr, phone  
**Brown, Mrs. Eugene (Birdie)** (W) Ft. McCoy, FL., Birdie died April 8, 2013 – died  
**Case, Lee** (13) retired 2013, convert to reg. member  
**Darmer, Kenneth I.** (76) (Shirley) Apt. 100, 467 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY 12054 - addr  
**Davis, Mrs. Robert E.** (Debbie) (W) Helena, MT., Bob – died November 2013  
**Faye, Robert E.** (97) (Theresa) [refaye@brmemc](mailto:refaye@brmemc) - email  
**Gaydos, Mrs. Michael** (Ann) (W) [tigerisu@cox.net](mailto:tigerisu@cox.net) - email  
**Gissendanner, John** (99) [gissendannerj@bellsouth.net](mailto:gissendannerj@bellsouth.net) – email  
**Gutentag, Edwin D.** (93) (Anna Belle) 1991 Cemien Rd. Basile, LA 70515, 337-457-4041, cell 720-201-3670 – addr, phone  
**Hamamoto, Shirley** (90) (Stanley) 2612 Freedom Heights, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 [shirleystan@comcast.net](mailto:shirleystan@comcast.net) 719-980-0552 – addr, email, phone  
**Heath, Mrs. Richard C.** (W) 1006 SE 10<sup>th</sup> St., Ocala, FL 34471-3908 – addr.  
**Hollway, Richard** (13) (Nancy Kurkinen) cell ph 503-806-7544 – phone  
**Jobson, Harvey E.** (01) (Barbara) [hejobson8351@gmail.com](mailto:hejobson8351@gmail.com) – email  
**Jones, Blair F.** (07) [jflynn@gmu.edu](mailto:jflynn@gmu.edu) – email  
**Land, Larry F.** (97) (Marty) [larry@360Bridge.com](mailto:larry@360Bridge.com) – email  
**Langford Hal** (85) 703-677-6924 -- phone  
**Lenfest, Mrs. Leslie W.** (W) died Dec. 26, 2013 – died  
**Lipscomb, Steven W.** (Steve) (11) (Sue) 1286 W. Hickory Dr., Boise, ID 83713 208-863-6683 [lipscombs@yahoo.com](mailto:lipscombs@yahoo.com) – addr, phone, email  
**McCartney, David** (86) Warrington, PA, Dave died Nov. 17, 2013 – died  
**Newcomb, Mrs. Lawrence (Sara) (W)** 460 Lassen St. #2, Los Altos, CA 94022 – addr  
**Pollock, Mrs. Samuel (Joyce) (W)** 3 Plymouth A, W. Palm Beach, FL 33147, Sam died Dec. 2, 2013 – died  
**Richardson, Mrs. Ev (Billie)** Ft. Collins, CO. Billie died July 18, 2013 - died  
**Richardson, Everert** (68) Ft. Collins, CO., Ev died August 6, 2013 - died  
**Rohne, Paul** (88) 512-712-5184 – Phone  
**Samsel, Theodore B.** (11) 1205 Ash St., Apt. 29, Leawood, KS 66209-3107 - addr  
**Shiffer, Donna** (14) (Mark) 9612 Graphite Ct., Elk Grove, CA 95624 [jazzpurr@comcast.net](mailto:jazzpurr@comcast.net) – convert to full Member  
**Sladek, Gail** (10) (Ken) phone 572-363-5420 – phone  
**Webb, Wayne** (00) (Sue) email #2 [slwe66@comcast.net](mailto:slwe66@comcast.net) – email  
**White, Blaine T.** (12) (Mary) 140 Seaward Mills Rd., Vassalboro, ME 04989, 207-314-3918, [bihmry1@gmail.com](mailto:bihmry1@gmail.com) – addr, phone, email  
**Young, Loren E.** (86) Renee 1174 Los Altos Ave., #256, Los Altos, CA 94022, 650-383-5788 – addr, phone



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# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 162  
 SUPPLEMENT  
 February 2014

*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.*

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings to one and all. We have five articles for our February 2014 Newsletter Supplement.

**Joyce Biesecker** from Leesburg, VA gave us an interesting item from the Isaac Walton League – “Water Really Does Flow Downstream.” **Jim Daniel** of Las Vegas, NV and frequent contributor to our Supplement, provides us with “Confessions of a District Chief.”

**Charles Nethaway**, Reston, VA, provided historical material about the USGS Pick and Hammer Club including part of the September 2013 program entitled “USGS Survivor! Sequestria Island.” Next, **Tim Smith**, also from Reston and our newly elected WRD Retirees President, introduces us to the “International Water Association WaterWiki,” an information resource & hub for the global water community. And last but not least, **John Warren** of Brandon, FL, tells us about “The Day I Almost Lost My Boat and Motor.”

**Please keep the articles and photographs coming!** Fellow members of the WRD Retirees Organization are eager to see what you want to share.

--Charles Nethaway, your Editor

## How to Submit Items to the WRD Retirees Newsletter Supplement

Our Newsletter Supplement is published online and in color. Our first Supplement was dated May 2012. We accept color and black-and-white photographs along with personal stories and published articles.

Please send your material to the WRD Retirees, either electronically at [wrdretirees@usgs.gov](mailto:wrdretirees@usgs.gov) or to the Editor's personal email address at [whozit1130@aol.com](mailto:whozit1130@aol.com). If you have hardcopy material such as handwritten stories or newspaper clippings, please send these to post office box: WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280 or to the Editor's address at 2370 Albot Road, Reston, Virginia 20191-2705.

The desired formats are **Word** and **.jpg** digital photographs; however, we will accept other formats and typed material. Feel free to call the editor at 703-609-8271 to discuss possible contributions. We can scan your paper photographs, and we will return your originals if you request.

Enjoy the Supplement, and we hope to hear from you soon.



**Water Really Does Flow Downstream**  
***provided by Joyce Biesecker***

Science clearly shows that most upstream waters are connected to waters further downstream; that they are all important to fish, wildlife, and people; and that pollution flows downstream. So why are so many of our upstream waters and wetlands not protected from pollution, dredging, filling, and other threats? Uncertainty over the level of connections between upstream and downstream waters led to a massive reduction in Clean Water Act protections for many waters of the United States, exposing at least 20 million acres of wetlands to dredging and filling and almost 60 percent of the stream miles in the continental United States to pollution. Resources at risk include prairie potholes and other seasonal wetlands that are essential to waterfowl populations across North America and streams across the country that supply drinking water to more than 117 million Americans.

A new report should clear up any confusion about how waters are interconnected. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a draft report, "Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence," that confirms what the Izaak Walton League has been saying for years – wetlands, streams, and other waters deserve basic protections from pollution, draining, and filling. This report augments the scientific basis for the next issue EPA needs to clear up: How upstream waters should be managed to ensure clean water for all Americans.

EPA has begun to update rules that explain which waters are protected under the Clean Water Act. A draft rule is expected early in 2014. You can find more details about this issue on our Protecting Clean Water Web page at [www.iwla.org/protectingcleanwater](http://www.iwla.org/protectingcleanwater).

***An excerpt from an article provided to WRD Retirees by Joyce Biesecker, widow of the late WRD Retiree Jim Biesecker, from an article in "Outdoor America," The Izaak Walton League of America, 2013 Issue 4, page 45.***



**Confessions of a District Chief**  
*by Jim Daniel*  
**(New Mexico 1980-84)**

This past issue of the Retiree's Newsletter drove home the point that I am aging rapidly (big surprise!). Once again, I knew many more folks in the Memoriam section than I did in the Recent Retirees section. With so many ex-DCh's and their spouses chronicled, just think about all the stories they could tell. So, I decided to relate some of my anecdotes for posterity (or, posterior, if you'd rather).

Many former District Chiefs claim that being one was the best job they ever had. I'm not so sure it's a better job than streamgaging in the Sierras was. Leaving the office on a Monday morning and not seeing another soul to tell me what to do until returning on Friday afternoon was pretty cool and satisfying. But, I digress.

It happens that I was the first District Chief named by Phil Cohen after he became Chief Hydrologist. That distinction and 4 Bucks might get me a Tall Peppermint Mocha at Starbucks. I arrived in Albuquerque to replace a retiring Bill Hale (one of the good guys) at a time when WRD was caught in the middle of the longest running Indian Water Rights lawsuit in the entire Federal Court system - the Aamodt case (finally settled in March of 2013 - after 47 years). The effects of withdrawals on SW and GW were being evaluated by a New Mexico District 3-D model, developed primarily by Glenn Hearne and Doug Posson (with contributions by Jim Tracy and Peter Frenzel). The NM State Engineer (Steve Reynolds), The Bureau of Indian Affairs, 4 Pueblos, and US attorneys all planned to use the results in upcoming hearings. One small problem -- the model had never been reviewed and approved, thus precluding its' use in open court. All parties to the suit were gnashing their teeth, wringing their hands, and loudly condemning the report system in WRD. So, it seemed my first 'to do' item upon arrival was to get the report out. I called Doug and Glenn into my office the first week and stressed to them how important it was to finish the report. I also warned them that Hell hath no fury like a District Chief scorned. Only a few days later, I arrived at the office to find a very thick (795 pages!) report on my chair. It had very little text and lots of code. I don't know if the authors got much sleep in those few days, but, I had the report. I quickly sent it off to Headquarters for approval, which it received within 2 weeks. As soon as I got it back, I took it to the State Engineer's office in Santa Fe where I placed it in front of our Coop liaison, Fred Allen (really, Fred Allen, but not the radio comedian. This guy was no comedian). I opened it to the title page, flipped to the first page of text and closed it up. I told Fred that I didn't want him to read it, I just wanted him to see that the approved report existed. I then had it printed with the statement on the cover that it was prepared in Cooperation with the NM State Engineer AND the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Milt Hackett, bless his heart, called me as soon as he saw it and asked how I managed to get both parties to agree on the prominent statement. I told him I didn't ask, I just put it on there. He laughed heartily. The only ramification was a few weeks later when the Bureau guy, Pete Balleau (no relation to Cat Balleau), asked if I had documentation that both the Bureau and the State Engineer had funded the effort. I replied, "Of course." No more was ever said. However, I knew that my ace administrative officer, Elsie Sanchez, and I could find some sort of co-mingling of funds somewhere in the past. To this day, I'm not sure anyone ever seriously reviewed the report although I suspect Arlen Harbaugh (then in the Office of Ground Water) may have casually perused it. No matter, the model and results stood up to the likes of George Pinder in court. And the pressure was off of WRD.

On a lighter note, there was the time when a concerned citizen came to see me with a solution to all of New Mexico's water problems. He proposed that he put a big funnel on top of the western NM mountains and suck up clouds when they came rolling in. Then, he'd compress the moisture out of the vapor and distribute the resulting water to all who needed it. He asked what I thought. I didn't laugh although I was sorely tempted. The guy had all good intentions. I simply pointed out to him that it was going to take a lot of energy to squeeze very much water out of clouds. I used the analogy of air conditioner compressors. They would run for hours, only to produce a trickle of fluid,



even in very humid climates (like Atlanta, or Tuscaloosa, or St. Louis, my immediately preceding assignments). He was undaunted, however, and I wished him luck. The way my office room was set up, no one could see in from my secretary's reception desk. Bobbie Cloud was my secretary and guarded me efficiently. As an aside, Bobbie's husband, Drew, had unsuccessfully run for the Democratic nomination for Governor a couple of times, but that's another story. In any event, the funnel guy showed up in front of Bobbie a couple of months later, wanting to see me. Bobbie recognized him and started to tell him that she didn't think I was in my office. But before she could finish the sentence, I appeared in the doorway. Quick thinking Bobbie immediately said I must have sneaked in while she wasn't looking! Well, the guy came in to report on the experiments he had performed. He had convinced a pilot friend of his to mount a collector funnel on a plane and fly it through a cloud, all the while scarfing up that saturated vapor. By some means, he compressed the vapor in flight to see how much water was there. He just wanted to tell me that I was right, there wasn't enough resulting water to make anything large-scale worthwhile. You have to hand it to the guy for having not only the courage of his convictions but also the courage to come tell me that it wouldn't work after all. Sometimes a District Chief needed to have some tolerance, even for crackpot ideas like this one.

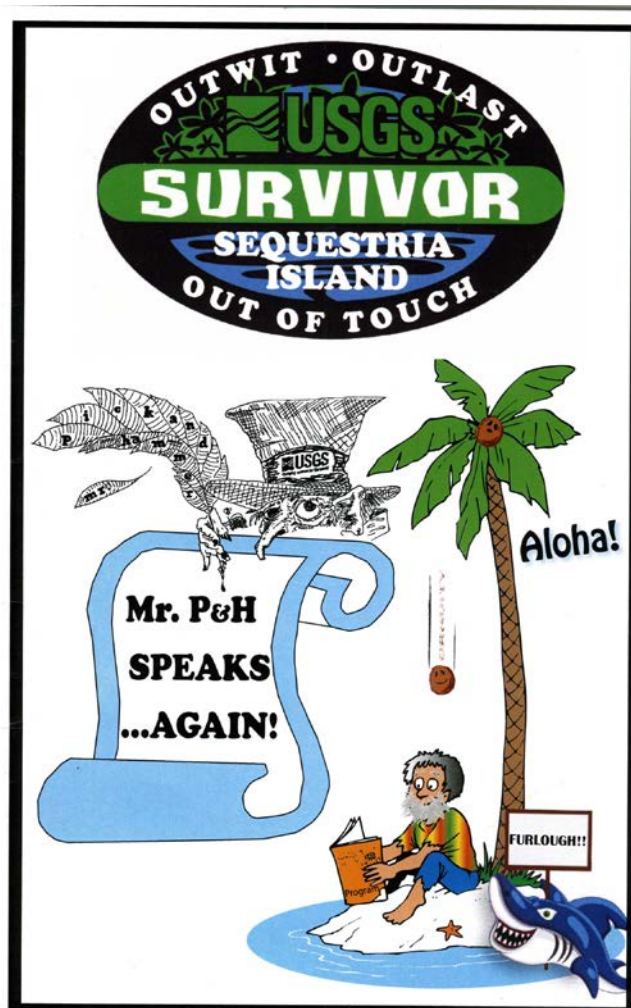
I'll close with the achievement that I will always feel proudest of in my time as District Chief, perhaps in my whole career. The principal of a little remote Indian School with only a couple of dozen students came to see me one day. He told me that one of his biggest problems was that his school had no water supply. His request for help to the Bureau of Indian Affairs had gone unfulfilled and his school desperately needed water. Could we help? I carefully explained to him that we (WRD) weren't in the business of developing water supplies, even for worthy causes such as his. I went on to tell him that no matter, it might be appropriate for us to take an informal look at supply potential near his school. After he left, I talked to Jim Hudson, who was chief of our observation well network. I observed that our network was deficient in wells to monitor alluvial aquifers such as probably existed near that little school. So, I asked Jim to see if he might arrange for a well to be drilled there that we could measure and help fill that data void. Of course we would probably want to run some specific capacity tests to get an idea of aquifer characteristics so the well diameter should be large enough to accommodate a pump. Jim allowed as how that would be a good idea and followed through over the next few weeks. We got the observation well, did some testing, and proceeded to incorporate it into our network. Upon the first regular visit, Jim found that someone had installed a pump on the well and it was no longer suitable as an observation well because it was on school property and we had no recourse to have the pump removed. Shucks! We lost an observation well. But, the kids had water. Surely (I know, I know, please don't call me Shirley) no one would question something that occurred 30 years ago. As Mel Brooks said in History of the World Part I, "Sometimes it's good to be King!"

Come on all of you ex-District Kings out there. Fess up and tell us your stories.



## ***USGS Survivor! Sequestria Island***

On September 28, 2013, The Denver Pick and Hammer Club presented an evening of entertainment entitled "Survivor, Sequestria Island — Outwit — Outlast — Out of Touch." The USGS Pick & Hammer Club has put on skits in many locations across the country. According to Pick & Hammer's Facebook page, the club has existed for at least 81 years, the evidence of which is a program dated March 11, 1932. That program, however, states that it is volume XXXVII, so might that imply that 1932 was the thirty-seventh year of P&H existence? This is possible. T.W. Stanton, active in the USGS beginning in 1889, Ph.D. in biology and geology from George Washington University in 1897, chief geologist for USGS in 1932, said in a 1943 speech (<http://www.gswweb.org/Stanton1943.pdf>) that the Pick and Hammer Club was formed by some early USGS scientists, including George Otis Smith and Walter C. Mendenhall, in the 1890s who, "... feeling the need of an additional outlet for their ideas and activities, came together in a very informal Society which they called the AAA -- letters that may have stood for Ambitious Assistants Association. The few years later this Society evolved -- or shall we say the degenerated -- into the Pick and Hammer Club."



***Included here are several pages and cartoons taken from this year's 20-page program.***

**DENVER PICK AND HAMMER CLUB  
PROUDLY PRESENTS...**

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE  
FORMER WORLD PRODUCTION**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
MARBLED SALAMANDER FILMS**

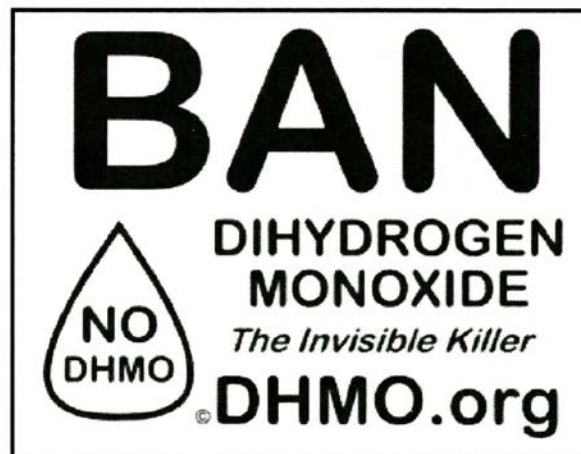
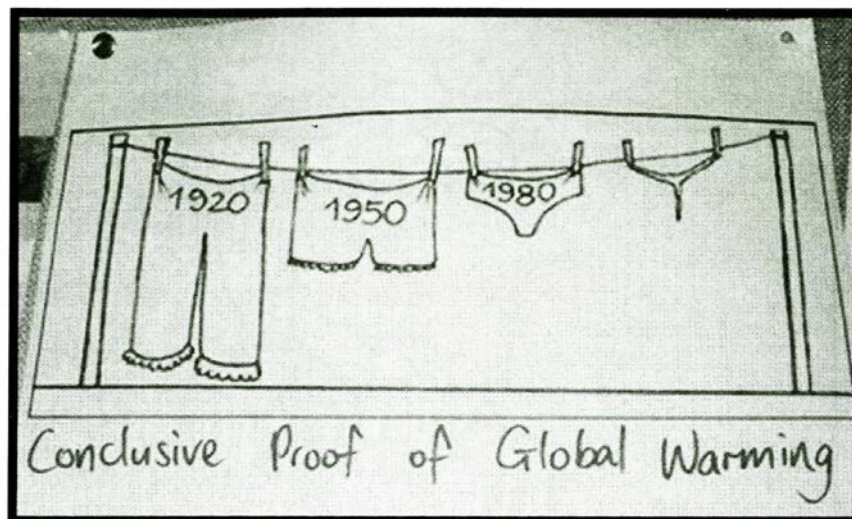
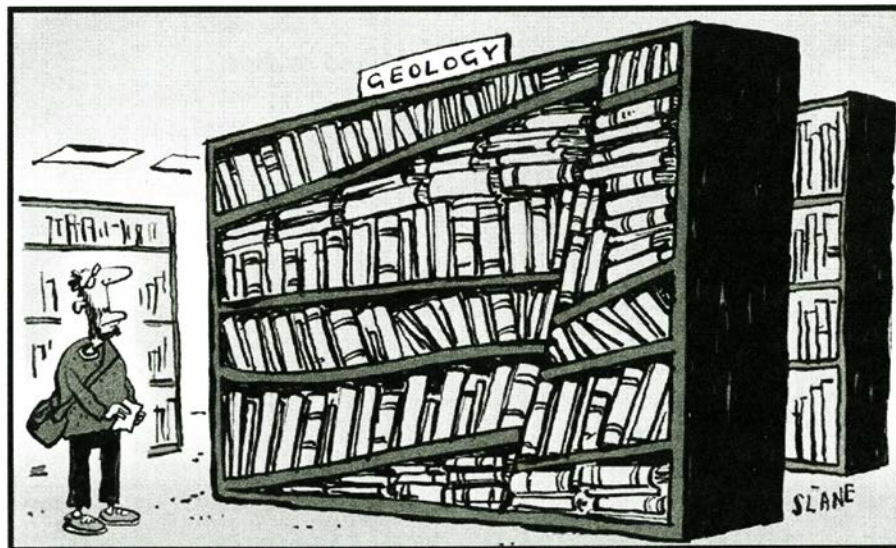


**September, 28th, 2013  
Friedhoff Hall, Green Center  
Colorado School of Mines  
Golden, CO**

**Edited by: John MacFee And Bill Bison**

*Dedicated to the memory of Beiyuanerpeton jianpingensis*







***A last message from our former Director:***

To: Marcia McNutt  
Emeritus Director  
U.S. Geological Survey  
The Denver Pick and Hammer Club  
invites you as our honored guest to

**USGS Survivor!**

**Sequestria Island**

August 29, 2013  
Marcia McNutt <mmcnutt@aaaas.org>

Dear Marith,

I got such a laugh out of the invitation to USGS Survivor, Sequestria Island: Outwit, Outlast, Out of Touch. After all, you really have to keep your sense of humor given the madness in DC. It is one of the few things that they cannot take away from you. I do dearly wish that I had plans to be in Denver that weekend and could attend the Pick and Hammer Club meeting. Not only would it be wonderful to see you all again (I miss you!), but I am sure that the show will be fantastic. ***After all, there is so much good material from real life, you don't even have to make anything up!*** (italics added...)

If for any reason my plans change, I will surely let you know. At least I am not scheduled to be overseas, so who knows? Anyway, thanks so much for including me, and please give my very best to the entire P&H Club. I hope you all have a wonderful evening. You are all survivors!

Best, Marcia

Dr. Marcia K. McNutt  
Editor-in-Chief, Science  
American Association for the Advancement of Science

n.b. to ethics committee: Published with written approval from McNutt

***The WRD Retirees Newsletter editor wishes to acknowledge Carole DeHerrera for sending us this year's Pick and Hammer program, "Survivor! Sequestria Island."***

***Thank you, Carole!***



XXXVII année, faséole 1.

1932.

# Revue de Géologie

## et des Séances Concoctés

REARVIEW OF GEOLOGY  
and the Concocted Seances

RAZZA DI GEOLOGIA  
for da Scienze Affrighti

VOLUME XXXVII

Organe publié insolentment and uniquement pour la  
*Foundation d'Une annuel satire de Belligiggles*  
sous le Patronage de la

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avec la confabulation

de la **Service Géologique des Etats Unis**, du **Laboratoire de Géophysique**, du  
**Musée National**, et de dubieux **Services de Géologues** éminents et **Geologues** bummes

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Sécrecy Général  
de la Revue  
"Le point de Vue  
des demoiselles stenographiques"

Théatre  
dans le Pierce Hall  
rue Harvard !  
(alas, poor Harvard!)

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WASHINGTON  
Rédaction du Pic et Hambre Club  
11, MARS,  
1932.

The earliest program shown on the USGS Pick & Hammer Facebook page

See: <https://www.facebook.com/PickAndHammer>



**International Water Association WaterWiki**  
**by Tim Smith (etsmithsiri@aol.com)**

The **International Water Association** (IWA) is a self-governing non-profit organization which aims to cover all facets of the water cycle. The body is headquartered in London, with a global secretariat based in The Hague and offices in Beijing, Bucharest, Nairobi, Singapore and Washington DC. The home page for the IWA can be found at [www.iwahq.org/](http://www.iwahq.org/)

The group's mission is to serve as a worldwide network for water professionals and to advance standards and best practices in sustainable water management. The association has four member types: individual, student, corporate, and governing members. There are about 10,000 individual and 500 corporate members, with governing members in approximately 80 countries.

The IWA WaterWiki is an open-access online platform for the global water community to share resources on all aspects of water research. The IWA WaterWiki aims to provide a platform for the global water community to interact and share knowledge online.

The site will be a reference for all areas of water, wastewater and environmental science and management. This is the place for water professionals worldwide to interact, share knowledge and increase understanding.

**How you can participate:** After completing a short [registration process](#), you will be able to join a community of over 3,300 water professions and take full advantage of the WaterWiki's information resources and networking functions. A short newsletter is sent to members each month.

### **Over 1,000 Open-Access Reference Articles**

The WaterWiki [Articles](#) section currently hosts over 1,100 articles, case studies and presentations on all aspects of water research. As with Wikipedia, content can be edited or uploaded by all registered users.

Submitted content is reviewed for quality control by the WaterWiki [Editorial Group](#). The Editorial Group features leading names in the Water sector so submitting an article to the WaterWiki is an excellent way to have your work seen by the experts in the field!

All content is tagged by subject making it easy to navigate to the material that interests you.

### **Events Extra – The Conference Materials Archive**

[Events Extra](#) is an archive of over 500 conference documents providing the ideal publishing outlet for poster presentations and other forms of grey literature that may not otherwise find a suitable permanent platform.

Publish your work in less than 5 minutes with the [simple uploader](#) and contribute to the global water knowledge base!

### **The WaterWiki Blog**

The [WaterWiki blog](#) is updated weekly and features site news, interviews with IWA authors and introductory pieces by IWA journal contributors as well as guest posts by members of the site community.



**The Day I Almost Lost My Boat and Motor**  
*by John D. Warren*

I started my career in February 1950 under the direction of John L. Saunders, District Engineer of the Surface Water Branch in Ft. Smith, AR as a Hydraulic Engineer. I was taught how to make wading, cable, and bridge measurements. I was also taught to make discharge measurements by boat using the USGS standard crosspiece and boom on the Arkansas River at Van Buren, AR. After several months of training I was given a short field trip to Northwest Arkansas. Several months later, I was sent on an extended trip to Northeast Arkansas. We always carried a boat on top of our van but I didn't have the USGS standard crosspiece and boat boom. One of our technicians let me use his homemade boom which was a 2X6 with a metal plate to mount the sounding reel and a pulley wheel on the end that extended over the bow of the boat for the weight and current meter. The idea was to sit on the tag line and hold the boat pointing upstream into the current as you moved from section to section across the stream. Our technician used this homemade boom on every trip to Northeast Arkansas.

On the fourth day of the field trip, I arrived at the Spring River at Imboden to make my first boat measurement using the wooden boom. The boat measuring section was a half-mile below the recording station. I found a very nice measuring section and stretched the tag line and started to make the measurement. The current was very strong and my lightweight of 120 pounds was not enough to hold the boat straight into the current. The boat turned sideways and water came over the side and wet my wallet pocket and shoes. I turned loose of the cable and drifted downstream. I decided to try again, and this time I took off my shoes and put my wallet in my shirt pocket. The second try was a mistake: the cable skinned my chest, knocked my wallet and me into the river. The current carried the boat to the center of the river and it was out of sight in a few minutes. With the help of a local man I found my boat 3 miles downstream stuck in the brush. Lucky for me, Clifford Gilstrap from our office was 150 miles to the east doing construction work so I drove back to where he was staying. I borrowed his USGS standard crosspiece and boom and money to finish my trip the next day making that measurement the safe way.