

USGS RETIREES

NEWSLETTER No. 178

February 2018

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope you all had a nice holiday season and are having a great New Year. It is my honor to have been elected president of this organization for the next two years. This is a great organization and I am honored to follow Jim Kircher, as president. Jim led this organization with vision and we hope to keep him involved, as member, and as an advisor.

I recently retired as Center Director of the Minnesota Water Science Center. Prior to that, I worked in the Minnesota Water Science Center, as studies chief and NAWQA chief, and as a hydrologist in the Michigan and Utah District Offices. I am adjusting to retirement and miss the day to day contacts that I have had with the great people who work for the USGS. I live in St. Paul with my wife Carol. I have two grown children and two wonderful grandchildren.

I want to express my appreciation to the officers who have just completed their elected terms. They include: Jim Kircher (President), Al Condes (Vice President), Andy Anderson (Secretary), Cathy Hill (Treasurer), and Dick Enberg (Archivist). I also want to thank Jay Kiesler, Jeff Armbruster, Bob Burchett, and Jim Crompton for serving as Regional Directors. In addition, we owe our gratitude to Dan Fitzpatrick, Merilee Bennett, Dorothy Tepper, Vivian Olcott, Jim Bennett, and John Klein for preparing, editing and arranging the printing of the newsletter. Also, those Reston retirees who gather quarterly to snail-mail the hard copies, post the newsletter on the retirees' website, and make the electronic distribution of the newsletter. Someone else who deserves recognition is Tim Smith, who has consistently volunteered in places where the organization has needed additional manpower support, and continues to provide his wisdom and support to the newsletter and the retirees' organization.

We also owe our thanks for those who agreed to serve, or have agreed to continue to serve, as officers. They include: Al Condes (Vice President), Kate Flynn (Secretary), Cathy Hill (Treasurer), and Dick Enberg (Archivist). Our new, or re-newed, Regional Directors include Jay Kiesler (Northeast), Ed Martin (Southeast), Ken Lindskov (Central) and Jim Crompton (West). I am likely missing others that should be thanked for their past, present and future service. Thank you so much!

The 2018 retiree's reunion will be held on September 13-15, in the Twin Cities of Minnesota. I hope you will be able to attend. You will find much more about the reunion in this newsletter, including the registration form. Timely registration will be greatly appreciated to facilitate the organization of events. The planning team is putting together a great schedule of events. I want to give special thanks to Jeff Stoner, as lead of the planning committee, as well as to the entire planning committee, for all their work.

Some of our goals for the next two years are to revitalize the scholarship program, to grow our membership to include a greater cross section of all of the employees, and to better connect our membership with the current employees in Headquarters and across the country. We would like to see more active involvement among Center Directors and with staff in each of the Science Centers. We will discuss these goals, and will seek your input, during business meetings at the reunion.

There are a lot of changes in planning at the Bureau. A reorganization is in progress that includes more direct management alignment between Science Center Directors and Headquarters. The new mission areas will include: Energy, Minerals and Environmental Health; Ecosystems; Natural Hazards; and Water. This may be more like the "Divisional" structure that was familiar to most of you. The goal is a more efficient and simple management structure. The realignment is working its way through Departmental and Congressional approval. We will spend some time discussion these changes in September and will explore how these changes may affect the retiree's organization.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Thanks for your support of this organization. Please consider making your plans to attend the September reunion. I hope to see you there! If you would like to contact me, I can be reached at stark@usgs.gov.

Address:

WRD Retirees
P.O. Box 280
Herndon, VA 20172-0280
Phone (703) 596-5468
Web Page: <http://wrdretirees.org/>
Email: wrdretirees2014@gmail.com

Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Daniel (Dan) Fitzpatrick
Layout Editor: Merilee Bennett
NR: Kenneth J. (Ken) Lanfear
SR: Vivian Olcott
CR: James (Jim) Bennett
WR: John Klein

Regional Directors:

James (Jay) Kiesler, Northeast
Edward H. (Ed) Martin, Southeast
Ken Lindskov, Central
Peter W. (Pete) Anttila, Western

National Officers:

James (Jim) Stark, President
Alberto (Al) Condes, Vice President
Kate Flynn, Secretary
Cathy Hill, Treasurer
Richard (Dick) Engberg, Archivist

Prepare for the Great Minnesota Get Together USGS Retiree's Reunion 2018

Hotel and Transportation from airport

The Reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza AiRE, near the airports (Terminals 1 or 2)

The Hotel address is: 3 Appletree Square (Interstate I-494 & 34th Avenue South), Bloomington, MN 55425.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport includes two terminals located across Interstate 494 from the Hotel.

The Crowne Plaza AiRE Hotel operates a shuttle to and from Airport Terminals 1 and 2:

- Follow the signs from the baggage claim to shuttle transportation for Terminal 1.
- From Terminal 2 (Humphrey), one must call the Hotel for shuttle pickup.
- Taxi cabs and rental cars also are available at the terminals.

For Hotel Reservations

Call 952-854-9000 [800-227-6963] or online using www.crowneplazaaire.com and use the Group Code **USG** (USGS Retiree Reunion 2018).

A block of rooms has been reserved for the Reunion at the guaranteed single or double total rate of \$159.19 per night (includes all taxes and fees). Hotel Reservations must be made by **August 23, 2018 to receive the Reunion group rate, but the planning committee strongly suggests reserving much earlier to ensure a room at this good rate.**

If you book rooms with the Group Code **USG**, you can always cancel without deposit 24 hours prior to check-in.

Hotel reservations received after the deadline will be based on availability at the Hotel's prevailing rate. The hotel also made the Reunion Group room rates available for three nights before and after our event based on availability of rooms.

Free self-parking is available at a structure near the hotel—obtain a parking pass from the Hotel registration desk.

You may register for the Reunion and make your hotel reservations beginning March 1, 2018.

The **Reunion registration deadline is August 1, 2018**. 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/Reunion2018>

Payment by check is requested and should be mailed with the completed registration form to the address shown on the form. PayPal will not be an option for payment because a three percent transaction fee is charged now with credit card payments.

Weather and general information about the Twin Cities Area

The Twin Cities area is a great place to visit in early September, temperatures average in the low 70s during the afternoon and in the low 50s at night. Of course, temperatures can vary greatly from that. The average rainfall for September is about 3 inches.

Downtown Minneapolis is alive during the day and evenings. Numerous restaurants, bars, music venues, museums, theaters, art galleries, parks, and more are available to the visitor. See also the suggested list of activities, suggested restaurants (soon) and associated maps provided by the Local Planning Committee:

<http://wrdretirees.org/Reunion2018/index.html>

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Reunion Check-in: 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. (official hotel room check-in time is 3:00 p.m.) Information packages containing Reunion functions and more will be available at "Reunion check-in" desk near the Hotel Ballrooms. The Hospitality Room will open at 3:00 p.m. (cost is included in the registration fee).

Informal Reunion kickoff-gathering 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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

NOTE: A request for interest to have a golfing event on Thursday is on the registration form. If we see enough interest **by June 1**, the planners will arrange the final time and let people know if it is a go well before travel. **IF YOU'D LIKE TO PLAY GOLF, BUT PLAN TO REGISTER AFTER MAY 29, PLEASE CONTACT JEFF STONER** usgsreunion2018@gmail.com or (651) 808-5795 to help us plan the golf event.

Friday, September 14, 2018

Pre-Business Meeting Breakfast 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Breakfast is part of room rate on your own at Hotel restaurant.

Business Meeting 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. -- All attendees are invited to participate in the business meeting. An agenda for this meeting will be provided later. Coffee, tea and water cost included in registration fee.

St. Croix River Cruise (prepay option) 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bus from Hotel to riverboat docks in Stillwater, MN. Includes food on boat and cash bar. Bring your camera for this scenic cruise.

Some people have expressed possible interest in a meeting room (outside the hospitality room) during the free time from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. A meeting room with the capacity of 80 has been reserved, but the planning team needs to know by May 10, 2018 if this extra room really is needed. Contact Jeff Stoner (Chair), (J_stoner@comcast.net) for interest to keep this room.

Saturday, September 15, 2018

St. Paul and Gangster Tour (prepay option) 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bus from Hotel to St. Paul sites. Includes pop and water refreshments.

Banquet (prepay option) 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. – Event is hosted in the AiRE Ballroom 3 of the hotel, and the event will include a cash bar, dinner, remarks by the USGS Retirees President, and an awards and recognition ceremony.

The Planning Committee promises that this structure will be gone by September:



2018-st-paul-winter-carnival-ice-palace-rendering.jpg

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Local Arrangements Committee, Jeff Stoner (Chair) (J_stoner@comcast.net) or any Committee member: Mark Have, Jim Stark, and Linda Stoner (Minnesota), Gregg Wiche (North Dakota), Ken and Judy Lindskov (South Dakota), Marv and Rosann Sherrill (Wisconsin), and Lee Case, Colorado.

REGISTRATION FORM--NINETEENTH USGS RETIREES REUNION 2018**Twin Cities, Minnesota****Thursday, September 13 through Saturday, September 15, 2018**<http://wrcretirees.org/Reunion2018/index.html>

Complete this form, keep a copy, and make check payable to "USGS Retirees Reunion 2018"

and mail all to:

USGS Retirees Reunion

c/o Jeff Stoner

P.O. Box 25671

Woodbury, MN 55125

REGISTRATION--Deadline August 1, 2018 - Refunds are available prior to the August 1 deadline.**Print first name(s) as you'd like on name tag(s):**

FIRST NAME(s) _____ LAST NAME(s): _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

REGISTRATION FEE: _____ **NUMBER** _____ **@ \$77 per person****\$** _____

Includes Thursday evening ice-breaker reception and Hospitality Room activities for the three days.

Thursday, September 13, 2018

Reunion check-in is 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Hospitality Room open at 3:00 p.m. Informal Reunion ice-breaker reception (6 pm to 10 pm). The Hospitality Room will be closed during the reception and subsequently reopened.

**Number** _____ **planning to play 18 holes of golf THURSDAY** (9:00 am - 3:00 pm)

Estimated cost with cart \$45 per senior (62) payable at course.

Contact Jeff Stoner (651) 808-5795, or usgsreunion2018@gmail.com **by June 1** if interested**TOURS: (One Friday and one Saturday)** capacities are limited and filled based on date of registration. Refunds will be given for applications received after maximum capacities have been reached:**St. Croix River Cruise, Friday (11:00 am - 5:00 pm) September 14:**

Tour includes lunch buffet & cash-bar option on boat.

NUMBER _____ **@ \$63 per person** **\$** _____**St. Paul Gangster Tour, Saturday (8:45 am to 1:00 pm) September 15:**

Tour includes refreshment. (Maximum Capacity 100).

NUMBER _____ **@ \$59 per person** **\$** _____**Banquet, Saturday (6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.) September 15:**

Banquet at AIRE Ballroom 3 in hotel. The Hospitality Room will be closed during the banquet and subsequently reopened. Choose from entree's below:

Indicate Entrée Choice(s):	Fish	NY Steak	Chicken	Vegetarian	NUMBER _____ @ \$61 per person	\$ _____
	\$61	\$65	\$58	\$55	NUMBER _____ @ \$65 per person	\$ _____
					NUMBER _____ @ \$58 per person	\$ _____
					NUMBER _____ @ \$55 per person	\$ _____
TOTAL (Registration, Tours, and Banquet):						\$ _____

See Reunion Web site for other information including maps to help plan your trip:<http://wrcretirees.org/Reunion2018/index.html>**Questions?**usgsreunion2018@gmail.com

or call Jeff Stoner cell: 651-808-5795

MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

RESTON-HERNDON USGS RETIRES LUNCHEON

November 6, 2017



Isabelle Cozzarelli speaking at the Herndon-Reston USGS Retirees luncheon. She is Team Leader of the USGS Toxics Program. Her topic was Water Quality and Biological Responses to Accidental Releases of Oil and Gas Products. In front are some of the spouses who also attend the luncheons.

RESTON-HERNDON USGS RETIRES LUNCHEON

January 8, 2018



The speaker is Christopher Berkhart, who gave a talk on "The Role of Climate on Past Civilizations in the Middle East and North America. On the far right of the photo in the blue shirt is John Keith, President of the Geologic Retirees. As usual, spouses of the members attended the lecture. Both water and geology retirees attend these luncheons each month.

USGS RETIREES LUNCHEON – GEORGIA
October 2017



L to R:
Rick Krause, Jeff Armbruster,
Jim Smoot



L to R:
Ed Martin, Glenn Faulkner,
Mary Dunn



L to R:
Mike Peck, Eve Kuniasky, Keith McFadden

Those in attendance were Rick Krause, Jeff Armbruster, Jim Smoot, Mike Peck, Eve Kuniasky, Keith McFadden, Ed Martin, Glenn Faulkner, and Mary Dunn. As we ate we browsed Jeff Armbruster's new book "Live Humbly, Serve Graciously: Reflections on Baptism, Mission and Service", you can see it on the table in front of him in the photograph.

USGS RETIREES – OHIO
October 10, 2017



The Ohio District semi-annual lunch gathering was held October 10, 2017. Attending starting on the left going up and around the table clockwise are Karen Dickson, Dick Swisshelm, Jr., Steve and Millie Frum from New Philadelphia, Bill Yost, Jim and Cindy Mangus, John Roberts, Steve Vivian, Mike Eberle, Max and Merle Katzenback, Sandy and Steve Hindall, Alan Sedam, Janet Welday, Jerry Stewart. Not shown is Marc Dickson taking the picture. We sadly lost Jerry Angelo 2/24/17, Jesse Klingler 7/15/17, and Bonnie June Bricker 11/19/17 (**Reference 'Memorials'**)

NEWS OF RETIREES

Myron Brooks writes: Enclosed check is for past/current/future dues. Please note that I do not need a paper version of the newsletter. (*Reference: Directory Changes for new contact information*)

Steve Curtin writes: Enclosed please find a check to cover my 2017 dues. Feel Free to use the remaining amount where it is most needed. Have a nice holiday season.

Douglas Harned writes: Retirement is underrated. The first year I took all my Professional wife's classes at North Carolina State University – French, Great Books, and Paris. The second year I wrote a book about the making of a film that was never made. This last year we (with my recently retired wife) have been travelling like fiends – North Carolina to California in two months, Paris, London, Amsterdam, Venice, and New York. Our first grandson 'Orion' was born – now I actually have time to watch the amazing and fun phenomenon of child development. Next year – Vienna and making a film about a book that was never written.

Ernest S. Denison writes: Thanks to our leaders and the editorial staff for each quarterly newsletter. I enjoy reading about retiree activities although the names I recognize are getting fewer and fewer. Jim Blakey was the only name I recognized in the November 2017 issue. It is hard to believe it has been 34 years since I retired. Traveling has been curtailed considerably in past years. However, in July 2015 I attended a Family Reunion at Aspen Grove (next to Sundance, UT with 75 of my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In January 2016 I flew to Hawaii to witness the 'Pinning on' of his Major's rank for a grandson. In September 2017 I flew to Boston to spend a week with my son living in New Hampshire. From Boston I flew to Salt Lake City for a three-week stay with my daughter. While in Utah I helped an old childhood friend celebrate his 90th birthday. That is about enough for a 90-year old. The address label on my envelope shows 2015. I don't know if that means I owe for that year or if I was paid up for that year. Anyway, I'm enclosing a check that should bring me up-to-date.

Glen Faulkner writes: Enclosed please find my check sent to update my membership dues through 2018. If there is anything left to spare, please retain it for your general treasury. Considering our years, Beth and I continue to be doing well here in Duluth, GA. We are not doing much travelling around these days, but continue to enjoy our house and activities in our community. We have many friends here for a good social life and are fortunate to have an abundance of our extended family nearby. I enjoy the newsy bulletin received through the internet. Keep up the good work. I continue to get to most of our local USGS retirees monthly lunch meetings.

Don Helm writes: Am sending a check today by snail-mail. The newsletter is always a welcomed arrival. Though I left full-time service in the GS in '78, it feels like home. The Survey is where I cut my teeth in trying to face unknown hydro-geophysical processes - under seers like Joe Poland and friends like Francis Riley and Gene Hampton. News from this end (Maryland) is fairly uneventful. No surgery, no illness, no medicine intake, not even a new cavity! Just trips to Australia and California a couple of times a year to visit family and to New England for reunions and to visit friends. For my 80th birthday earlier this year, some former students sent Karen and me off to Havana for a grand week. The Charleston my mother taught me and the jitterbug of the late '40s had historical appeal to our gracious, graceful, and exceptionally rhythmic and warm Latino hosts. Geohydrology remains my greatest adventure. I still spend my days and nights with visions of flow through deforming host rock, searching for equations to describe a hidden interrelation. For example, I'm finishing a paper on what happens during hydraulic fracturing, resource production, and recovery. Thanks again for the news in the newsletter.

Sandy Hindall writes: Enclosed are Steve's dues for five years. All are doing a great job. Regards

Clayton Kauffman writes: Enclosed are my dues for 2018. Brenda and I are doing okay, and we are looking forward to another good year in 2018.

Libby Meyer writes: A donation in memory of Gerald (Jerry) Meyer for the Scholarship Fund. I have such fond memories of the many years we shared with our friends at the USGS Retirees.

Rose Pinnix writes: Hello – Enclosed are my dues for past years and future (2016-2018). If I owe more, please let me know. Thanks

Jim Putnam writes: Enclosed is election form. Also, please update my email address in the USGS Retirees' Directory. (**Reference: *Directory Changes for new contact information***)

Roger Rumenik writes: In these recent years I raised my hand and was selected to be part of a church team that was tasked to install clean water systems in small communities in the eastern Matanzas providence, Cuba and to educate the people of the communities on the proper uses of the clean water. The knowledge and skills provided to me during my career were most helpful and much appreciated--so, thank you, WRD.

Stan Sauer writes: Greetings from Texas! It was good to hear from you - thanks much for the information regarding the dues spreadsheet. Cathy, I'm confident you will enjoy your retirement, even in the winter months. A great thing about being retired is that you can escape temporarily to warmer climates any time you wish and for as long as you wish. I am pleased you accepted the job of Treasurer for the retirees' organization. I appreciate all the work very much that you and the other officers do to prepare the newsletter to keep us all informed as well as all the other work to keep the organization strong and moving forward! My check for is for 2017, 2018, and 2019 dues, along with an additional contribution, is enclosed. Regarding news, it has been a quiet year here except for the weather. Hurricane Harvey was in the national news quite a bit this year – it was certainly a record breaker. Fortunately, we live some 180 miles inland from the coast and at an elevation about 1,800 feet above sea level, so we were spared of damages here in the Fredericksburg area. It was heartbreaking to see the suffering endured by many residents of the Houston area, as well as those in the path of subsequent Hurricanes Irma and Maria. It must have been a very busy time for those involved with the USGS streamflow monitoring programs - I look forward to reading the related publications that will be forthcoming. It reminded me about the exciting times of chasing hurricane related floods in the early years of my career here in Texas! On a personal note Virginia and I were blessed to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary this year. Our daughters and their families insisted on marking the occasion with a barbeque with all the trimmings at our ranch with family and numerous friends and neighbors - it was a memorable, festive occasion! Best wishes to all and thanks again to all the retirees that work so hard to maintain our organization and keep us informed.

Karen Steele writes: It's been awhile since I've written. Gary and I have been in Grove, OK for 4 years now. We chose the area because were between his daughter and my daughter. We're in the NE corner of the state. We don't live on the lake, but we're surrounded by it on 3 sides. We love the area and do a lot of road trips to KS, MO, and AR. I substitute for the office manager at our church. I'm also very active in our United Methodist's Women's group and became a board member this year. Gary keeps himself busy taking care of our 2 acres plus all the honey-do's I give him. Gary's had to deal with a lot of health issues for several years now. After talking to a DAV rep last year and getting his paperwork from the NAVY, he was approved for VA benefits. That's been a lifesaver on our medical costs. He's been averaging 3 visits a year to the ER with most of the visits ending up in the ICU. Last year we made a trip to CA to visit Gary's sister stopping wherever we saw something that interested us. After 3 days at his sister's we headed up the coast to OR and WA then came home through ID, WY and CO. We were hoping to see some of our USGS friends, but our schedules didn't sync. It was a great trip but after 3 weeks we were glad to be home. Gary and I would still love to make it to another reunion. It's great seeing old friends and catching up. I love that the Computer crew is meeting. I enjoy reading the newsletter and appreciate all the hard work to get it published. Also, I've mailed a check to cover my dues through 2018.

Dick Swisshelm writes: I am uncertain about the status of my dues. I have enclosed a check, please apply it to my dues account. Thank you.

Doreen Y Tai writes: A check is enclosed for my dues. Thank you very much for your attention. (**Reference: *Directory Changes for new contact information***)

Chet Thomas writes: Greetings from Connecticut. Enclosed is my 2018 dues and some for the pot as needed. Thanks for keeping the Retirees in the loop. I enjoy reading the newsletter and the items on its history and future. Keep this going. It is the best connection with us old folks.

Judy Fretwell Thompson writes: 2017 has been a memorable year for our family. We witnessed a magnificent total solar-eclipse in Wyoming with Ernie's son and family and an amazing display of the Northern Lights in Iceland with my middle grandsons (17 & 14). Unfortunately, we also witnessed a direct hit by Hurricane Irma. I'm hoping to be back in my condo with its new sliding-glass doors, window-wall and floors early in the new year. Fortunately, the insurance will help defray some of the cost. My writing has been put on hold while I have been dealing with the condo problems, but I hope to return to that project soon. I did do more research, in western New York for my book, in spite of Irma. Congratulations to Pat Tucci and Zelda Bailey on their new home. Thanks for keeping us informed about our Survey friends. Sorry my dues are arriving so late but at least next years are included. Does that balance things out?

Gary Turney writes: Hello to everyone from Washington! My wife Sue and I have been busy enjoying retirement since 2010, so I thought it was about time I checked in. First, business - I've mailed a check to cover dues for 2017 and 2018, please put the rest towards the Hydro Tech fund. And thanks for all you do with the newsletter, it's interesting to see what everyone is up to. Sue and I recently wrapped up our annual ski trip to Tahoe, Utah, and Colorado. We buy a Vail Epic Pass each year (any skiers will know about this) and are fortunate to be able to hit the road and use it for all it's worth for about 6-7 weeks. Our two Pomeranians, Molly and Maggie, accompany us along the way, though they weren't real fans of the 5-foot snow drifts in Tahoe. This year's bonus got us a few days in Whistler BC too. We have kids in Boise, ID so we get to see them along the way. Travel is our first love, so around the skiing we've spent a few springs in Greece, Italy, and most recently, in 2016, Spain. The Spain trip included walking the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. Literally the trip of a lifetime! We walked the entire 500 miles, packing everything to boot! It's not exactly the Appalachian Trail, but is challenging in its own way. Met some wonderful people and saw countless churches and other medieval structures along the way. Our one concession to age was staying in private rooms each night - a hostel with 50-200+ pilgrims just didn't seem especially conducive to getting the sleep we both knew we needed. Finally, last year our youngest daughter moved to Fayetteville North Carolina, so we get to work in visits to her when we head to the east coast. This year's plans include a family reunion in Tampa, and after that who knows?

Kathy Wilson writes: Enclosed is my check to renew my membership for 2018 and 2019. I do enjoy reading what everyone has been doing, so please continue the excellent work you do. The last 24 months or so have been "interesting". We drove back to Pennsylvania to see my husband's family and help sort out all the things in his mother's home before it goes to the new owner. (She's now living in a facility for Alzheimer's patients). It was fun to go through the family photos and correspondence. We got to have dinner with his mother, brother, youngest sister, her husband, and their grandson. After we returned home, Bill and I each had some health issues. He continues to have chronic pain from his back, even though he had a spinal fusion of five vertebrae in 2003 that helped reduce the level of pain. He has also had some other issues crop up. including diabetes and COPD. My issue was primarily a return of the lymphoma I had in 2002. This time it was in my back, which was uncomfortable, but accessible. Thankfully, I was able to receive immunology infusions and radiation treatments that have killed off the cancer once more. Thank goodness, I didn't have to have chemo, so I didn't lose my hair or get sick to my stomach. I just have a large tan spot on my back. Our favorite activity is to go camping with our Trail Manor owners' group, mainly in Colorado. We usually get to go to a weekend camp-out at least once a month from April to October each year. We make sure we can arrive on Thursday and stay until Monday, so each trip is about 4 days long. Because of our health issues, we only attend the ones that are held at campgrounds with full-service sites, so we often get in 4-5 trips per season. This year, we attended the one in May, and planned a 10-day trip in Wyoming for June, then scheduled to go to three more over the summer. However, on June 10, our hometown was hit by a short, powerful rain storm, with softball-sized hail. The storm only lasted about 30 minutes, but the damage was extensive. We ended up spending the rest of the summer getting the roofs of our house, garage, and storage shed, gutters, downspouts, and siding fixed. Our camper, which was parked in front of our home, received roof damage that would cost more to replace than the camper was worth, so the insurance company declared it a total loss. My friend and I had just finished replacing all the curtains in the camper, damn it. We had to go camper shopping! We finally found what we wanted, got it set up, and were able to join our group for the October camp-out in Buena Vista, CO. Although we had snowfall the week before, this weekend was gorgeous, with temperatures in the 60s and lots of sunshine. The mountains were snow covered, but the campground was still green and lovely. The trees were in full color. We will keep

busy over the winter, but probably won't do much traveling until the weather improves in the Spring. I am heavily involved with my United Methodist Women group and other church activities, which keep me pretty busy. Best wishes for a Happy Holiday season to everyone!

News from the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Association

<http://www.narfe.org/home/articles.cfm?ID=4301>

The Department of Health and Human Services released the Medicare Part B premium rates for 2018 November 21, 2017.

According to Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, the premium amounts for Medicare Part B are not changing from 2017 to 2018, however the premium you actually pay may go up.

Your premium might go up for one of two reasons:

Reason #1:

Since Social Security is being increased by 2%, the folks who were previously protected under the "hold harmless" provision, currently paying less than \$134 from their Social Security, will most likely see an increase to their Medicare Part B premium... and the slight increase to their Social Security benefit will most likely be fully or partially absorbed by the increasing cost of the Medicare Part B premium.

Reason #2:

The income bracket limits are changing for the highest 3 brackets. This may move some folks in the higher income brackets to higher premium rates.

INFORMATION for 2018 RETIREES' TELEPHONE DIRECTORY UPDATE

The Retirees' organization publishes an updated Members' Directory every May. The directory is available in print or electronic format. Between the annual updates, information on new members and changes in contact information for members can be found in the quarterly newsletters under "New Members and Directory Changes".

Please take a minute to review the May 2017 Retirees' Telephone Directory, and if your information or that of others you may be aware of require change, please complete the **form below**. You can either mail the form to WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280 **OR** email it to wrdretirees2014@gmail.com.

You may also submit changes in contact information via an online google form at:
<https://goo.gl/forms/frq86UfxYHx7pw1A3>

Kate Flynn, Secretary

	Member	*Spouse		Mailing Address
**Last Name			Line 1	
First Name & MI			Line 2	
Nick Name			City	
Email			State	
***Phone:			Zip Code	
Year Retired:				
****Membership Category				
Delivery Method:	Newsletter (pick one below)	Directory (pick one below)		
Paper:				
PDF emailed:				
Link emailed:				

Tell us what you have been doing:

- *Include spouse's last name if different
- **Last name including any suffix such as Jr.
- ***Reflect telephone numbers with hyphens (i.e. (xxx-xxx-xxxx)
- ****Membership Category: Retiree; Surviving Spouse, Affiliate, Other

RETIREMENTS

Ron Baker retired as a Research Hydrologist with the New Jersey Water Science Center on December 31, 2017, after nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Geological Survey. Through his service with the USGS, Ron has helped provide New Jersey water managers and the public with valuable water-quality science related to supply issues. Ron completed a B.S. in botany from U.C. Berkeley in 1974, then worked for 7 years as an industrial chemist. In 1981 he enrolled in Drexel University, Philadelphia, and received an MS in Environmental Engineering in 1983. He was recruited to serve as the District Laboratory Coordinator for the USGS-NJ in 1988. Ron joined Dr. Arthur Baehr's research group about a year later as the analytical chemist, and established a field gas chromatograph and developed methods to quantify gasoline hydrocarbons at the USGS Toxic Substances Hydrology Program site in Galloway, NJ. He conducted contaminant fate and transport research in the district laboratory, where he quantified fluxes and biodegradation rates of petroleum hydrocarbons in unsaturated porous media. This work was the topic of his Ph.D. dissertation, completed in 1993 at Drexel University with Dr. Baehr as his graduate advisor. He studied vapor-phase contaminant transport at several other locations, including USGS Toxics sites at Bemidji, MN; Norman, OK; Beaufort, SC; and Beatty, NV. He was the science lead for studying volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at the Beatty, NV site. From 2000-2006, Ron was project chief of two surface water projects supported by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection in which the effect of urbanization on nutrient loading to streams was quantified. This led to extensive work to quantify nutrient loading from the Barnegat Bay, NJ watershed to the estuary, which was funded by the USEPA and the Barnegat Bay Partnership. Ron led a 3-year project to characterize water-quality variability in two large water systems with post-9/11 USEPA funding to protect water-supply systems. This information was used to develop algorithms to alert water-system managers when water quality changed unexpectedly. From 2014-16, he modified a solute transport model and used it to estimate contaminant concentrations reaching streams, wetlands and homes from landfills for water managers to triage closed landfills and give those that pose the highest risk of resource contamination the highest priority for capping or remediation. From 2015-17 Ron worked with other scientists at USGS-NJ to quantify chlorides, mostly from saltwater-intrusion, in 10 aquifers in southern New Jersey. Ron is credited with writing or coauthoring more than 100 journal articles, USGS reports and abstracts for scientific meetings. He plans to stay active in the environmental community and pursue teaching and other opportunities, as well as, thankfully, being a USGS volunteer to help in the completion of his current work. Ron has provided those whom he has worked with his expertise, friendship, and sense of humor. Thank you, Ron, for your dedication and service to the U.S. Geological Survey, your colleagues, and the scientific community. Wishing you the goodness of life and much happiness in your retirement.

Scott Bartholoma, also known as Mr. ADAPS, has announced that he will be retiring after over 42 years with the USGS on January 3, 2018. Scott began his career in September 1975 as a GS-4 Hydrologic Technician in the Utah District and worked his entire career there. It was while working for the Oil Shale project that he started programming on the HP 9830 using HP Basic on ROM with a single line LED display. At that time there were two people in the Computer Section, and one of them was a part time person working 2 hours a day who wanted to work less. When that employee left, the job was offered to Scott. Fortunately, he accepted and started as a permanent part-time employee in April 1976. Later that year, Scott was converted to full time employee. Working in the Utah Water Science Center's computer section, Scott continued to program in Basic on the HP 9830, writing among other things, a program to plot and compute Indirect Discharge measurements. Scott also wrote programs in FORTRAN and PI/1 on the IBM Mainframes in Reston using punch cards to reformat output from WATSTORE. In the early 1980s, Scott spent some time writing software to process DIPS time sheet records using a Harris minicomputer. When the DIS Prime computer contract came along, Scott re-wrote the DIPS software for the Prime, and it was used by several Water Science Centers. In 1984 Scott was approached to write programs for the Water Mission Area's (WMA) Automatic Data Processing System (ADAPS) for time-series streamflow data, initially being responsible for the Daily Values Monthly and Annual Statistics program. Scott then took on Daily Values and quickly became involved deeper in ADAPS to the point that he was offered the position of the National ADAPS database manager and transitioned to a Headquarters position. Scott had the leading role for the National Water Information Systems (NWIS) as the primary developer and support contact for ADAPS. Scott assisted users across the WMA with their data processing issues, earning the nickname "Mr. ADAPS." His work in providing data mining across the distributed data sets to support the technical offices, has been crucial in meeting the data dissemination goals of the WMA. Scott supported the ADAPS system through many fundamental changes in how the WMA stores and processes data, including satellite telemetry integration, the advent of real-time data processing, the focus on instantaneous data (Unit Values), the transition to continuous records processing, the incorporation of electronic field data and many others. Each of these forced both Scott and NWIS to stretch the original design of ADAPS beyond what was ever envisioned. All were successful due to his efforts. As Scott was there at the beginning, it was poetic that he was also there to assist with the retirement of ADAPS as a critical part of the Commercial ADAPS Replacement Project and the implementation of ADAPS' successor, AQUARIUS. The outstanding quality of Scott's work has earned him the respect of his colleagues and reflects Scott's dedication to the mission of the USGS and the Department. Please join me in congratulating Scott on his many years of devoted service to the USGS.

Sheila Bernard, Center Management Officer for the Lower Mississippi-Gulf (LMG) Water Science Center will retire at the end of this month after more than 30 years of devoted public service. All of us who have worked with her have come to appreciate and depend upon her dedication to the USGS mission, her attention to detail, and her creative tenacity in getting things done. Sheila grew up on a farm outside Clarksville, TN, where she and her three sisters learned to work hard, to never give up, and to give their personal best to each task regardless of how small or great. These principles have served her and the Nation well throughout her career. Sheila began her career with the Federal Government as a temporary Clerk Typist in 1984. As a military spouse for many years, she traveled with her husband and gained experience in various positions ranging from clerical to procurement to budget and management analysis in agencies, as varied as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and several branches of the Department of Defense. When her husband received his final military assignment to Fort Campbell, KY, Sheila took the opportunity to settle down near her hometown. In November of 1994, she accepted a position with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and the rest, as they say, is history. In 1994, Sheila began her USGS career as an Administrative Operations Assistant in the Tennessee District Office in Nashville where she took on the whole gamut of administrative tasks, processing personnel actions, budget transactions, purchase requests, and anything else the office needed. As a natural leader, Sheila advanced steadily in her profession, and soon became acting Administrative Officer for Tennessee. In 1997, she was selected as the Administrative Officer for the Tennessee Water Science Center. Over the next several years, Sheila worked hard to refine and perfect the processes of the Tennessee Water Science Center as well as to assist in administrative reviews, serve as acting Administrative Officer in the Alabama Water Science Center (2001 and 2005) and as Acting Administrative Officer for the Mississippi Water Science Center (2013). In 2014, Sheila helped create the Lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center (Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana and Arkansas) and became its first Center Management Officer (CMO). As CMO, Sheila has played an instrumental role in transforming the USGS Water Program in the five LMG states and beyond. She has helped pioneer new approaches to internal organization, financial accounting, personnel management, and relations between the LMG and its partners within and outside the USGS. Sheila's strong work ethic and devotion have been essential to the success of the organizations she has worked with and to the LMG Water Science Center and its programs. Not surprisingly, upon retirement, Sheila will not sit still. She plans to pursue new careers, travel, start an organic community garden on the home farm, and spend much more time in volunteer work to save young lives and promote programs for children with Autism.



Larry Bohman retired on January 3, 2018 from the USGS after a 39-year career. After graduating from Colorado State in 1976, Larry joined the USGS as a hydrologist in the Montgomery, AL Subdistrict office where he was introduced to basic data, and conducted several 1-D and 2-D modeling studies. After a short break in service (1980-83) he returned to the Survey as a hydrologist with the South Carolina District performing rural and urban flood frequency studies. He completed his Master's Degree in Earth Resource Management from the University of South Carolina and eventually led the Surface Water Studies Unit, overseeing several bridge scour, low flow, and modeling studies. In 1992 he transferred to Carson City, NV where he was Chief of the Truckee-Carson Program. There he oversaw the development of the Truckee River Basin Operations model for use in negotiations amongst the many competing Federal, State, Native American Tribes, and local interests. The model compared the results of alternative allocation, storage, and diversion scenarios over long periods of time and was structured to allow integration of other modules, such as water-quality and precipitation-runoff modules. In 1999, Larry was selected as the Southeastern Region Surface Water Specialist in Norcross, GA. There he helped to coordinate many training courses and data conferences, participated in about 75 technical reviews and assisted the Office of Surface Water in the development of numerous policies, most notably the collection and display of precipitation and tidally-affected data. Larry now lives in Opelika, Alabama with his wife of 42 years, Theresa. They have three children – Brian (orthodontist), Bridget (Marine Corps Major), and Brittany (Veterinary Technician) and five grandchildren. Larry plans to travel and golf with his wife, serve in the community, fish, and hike. Larry can be reached via lrbhman@gmail.com or lrbhman@usgs.gov as he continues to support the USGS in an emeritus role. Thank you, Larry, for your dedication and service to the U.S. Geological Survey, your colleagues, and the scientific community.

-Jeffery Deacon, Hydrologist, NAWQA Program Support, NH-VT Water Science Center



Aimee Downs is retiring on January 31, 2018 after 29 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Geological Survey in several capacities. Aimee will be retiring and leaving a legacy of achievement, encouragement and work ethic for the Kentucky Sediment Lab employees and those who have worked with her over the years. Aimee began her career with USGS in 1988 during her senior year at the University of Louisville. She worked digitizing drainage basin maps using ArcGIS on the Prime system (OMG). After graduation she moved over to the data section and worked as a Hydrologic Technician running surface water data collection trips for the next six years. In 1995 she was converted to a Professional Geographer and spent the next 14 years providing GIS expertise to various modeling and interpretive projects. From 1997 to 2012 Aimee served as the Kentucky Water Science Center Water Use Specialist performing the 2000, 2005, and 2010 data compilations. Beginning

in 2003 Aimee trained in the analysis of fluvial sediment and became the Laboratory Chief of the Kentucky Sediment Laboratory in 2009. Some of her accomplishments as Laboratory Chief include doubling the size of the program, developing methodologies and protocols for handling samples for a wide variety of new projects, facilitating all the Sediment Laboratories working together as a collective resource for the agency, and advancing the implementation of a robust Sediment Laboratory Quality Management System. Aimee and her husband Rik plan to hit the road and fill out the state map visiting the entire continental United States and much of Canada with their truck and camper.

**-Allison E. Kunze, Chief, Public Health Science and Laboratory Services,
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Water Science Center**

Robert Eganhouse will be retiring from the USGS on December 31, 2017 after 27 years of service. Bob first became involved with the USGS in 1983 in early investigations of the Bemidji oil spill site. As part of the Toxic Substances Hydrology Program, Bob's work at Bemidji involved a study of the transport and fate of hydrocarbons in the oil and the contaminated groundwater plume. Upon arrival at the USGS in Reston in 1991, Bob developed a research program in groundwater contamination. Soon he was drawn into a large environmental lawsuit concerning the impact of DDT and PCBs in the coastal zone off Los Angeles, CA where his effort was directed to investigating the behavior and fate of these chemicals in sediments of the Palos Verdes Shelf. In 2000, Bob was one of scientific experts who provided testimony on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice and the State of California. He continued geochemical studies at the Bemidji oil spill site and participated in the characterization of the Toxics Program site in Norman, OK. He initiated a collaboration with scientists at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on the application of a new technology, comprehensive two-dimensional gas chromatography/time-of-flight mass spectrometry (GC x GC/ToFMS), to characterization of complex mixtures of organic chemicals. Bob will remain a Scientist Emeritus while he completes papers for publication.



Tana Haluska will retire at the end of the year with almost 28 years of federal service. After graduating from high school in Texas, Tana started her federal service serving in the Army in the late 70s and early 80s. After obtaining a computer studies degree, she returned to work as a human resources assistant at Fort Lewis in Washington in 1994. While working, Tana completed math and computer science courses at a community college. In 1997, Tana started in the USGS Washington District as a computer assistant in the evolving field of Geographic Information Systems. She transferred to the Oregon District using her GIS skills to perform LIDAR analysis and other spatial analyses. In Oregon, she continued taking classes eventually receiving a bachelor's degree in Geography from Portland State University. With her new degree, she became a geographer at the now Oregon Water Science Center where she has been a major force in applying GIS to studies, including evaluating stream migration and developing tools to understand how changes in lake management and dike deconstruction affect water storage and inundation. Recognized as a leader in GIS, she was asked to serve on the StreamStats Advisory Team, and later the StreamStats Development Team, where she was instrumental in the implementation of StreamStats in several states. For StreamStats and other applications, Tana was called on to compile data layers and extract basin characteristics for many watersheds to understand the relation between the characteristics of the land and streamflow. When asked to assist the National Water Quality Assessment program with editing the National Hydrography Dataset, she quickly mastered the details of the dataset and improved the connectivity of flowpaths and worked with the NAWQA Team members to improve GIS locations of the national inventory of dams. Tana's great work ethic, attention to detail, timelines and budgets, and wonderful personality are appreciated by staff in the Oregon Water Science Center, NAWQA, and StreamStats.

A note from Tana: *I enjoyed all the challenging GIS tasks and the wonderful people I have worked with. I hope to stay in touch. I will be busy gardening in my yard, adopting a puppy, and finding the perfect retirement home in Oregon or Washington, not necessarily in that order. Thank you for the privilege of working at USGS.*



Frank Henry retired after 35 years of service to the USGS on January 3, 2018. Frank began his career as a student intern at the Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility (HIF) in 1980 as a GS-3 Hydrologic Field Assistant. After receiving his undergraduate degree in Petroleum Engineering from Mississippi State, Frank began his career appointment in 1982 with the HIF's drafting department. His first 15 years with the USGS were spent primarily in the engineering department overseeing instrumentation drawings as a Mechanical Engineer. In 1997, Frank was promoted to Chief of Field Service Section as a Supervisory General Engineer. With Frank's vast knowledge of advancing technologies in instrumentation and field needs and demonstrated management skills, he was

selected in 2009 to be Associate HIF Chief while continuing as Chief of the Field Services Section (warehouse). Frank also ably filled the role of acting Chief for the HIF numerous times and as a Contracting Officer's Representative. Frank has been a selfless, employee dedicated to the promotion of the HIF and the USGS. His rapport with vendors, field techs, Water Science Center Directors, and HIF employees along with his knowledge and expertise has helped to evolve the HIF

warehouse to a successful multi-functional facility for the Water Mission Area. One of Frank's notable achievements was an ability to consistently satisfy the field's needs while balancing tight budgets and stocking levels. Please join me in congratulating Frank on his exemplary career. Thank you, Frank, for your dedication and service to the HIF, the U.S. Geological Survey, your colleagues, and the Water Mission Area. Frank plans to enjoy more time with his family and grandchildren and keeping up with the Mississippi State Bulldogs.



Stuart Hill, Field Office Chief of the California Water Science Center Santa Maria Field Office retired on December 31, 2017 after 32 years of public service. His dedication to technical excellence and his dry wit will be sorely missed. Please take time in the next few weeks to wish him well. Stuart, a former U.S. Marine, began his career as a hydrologic technician with the USGS in 1988 with the Florida Water Science Center (WSC - formerly called Districts) Fort Myers Field Office. In Florida, he worked on a groundwater project locating abandoned artesian agricultural wells for the South Florida Water Management District, and operated several NASQAN streamflow and continuous water-quality sites. In 1991, he transferred to the USGS California WSC working in the Bakersfield Field Office, and the Santa Rosa Field Office (closed in 1993 and reopened in Ukiah), all while continuing to

progress as a technician. In 1995, he transferred to the USGS North Carolina WSC Washington Field Office to be closer to family, but in 1997, he missed California too much, so he returned to the California WSC working in the Santa Maria Field Office, a new office that would replace the Bakersfield Field Office. In 2001, he transferred back to the Ukiah Field Office for few months before opening a new one-person satellite field office in Hayward, CA. The Hayward service area was large and included streamgages and sediment sampling in the San Francisco Bay area. The satellite office eventually grew to include several sediment observers and 3 full-time technicians. Stuart stayed in the Bay area for 12 years, until 2013 when the Hayward Field Office was closed, and he transferred back to the Santa Maria Field Office. In 2015, Stuart became the Field Office Chief of Santa Maria, overseeing a two-million-dollar program and 8 full-time technicians. In this role, Stuart provided leadership, fostered cooperator relationships, and contributed greatly to the high-quality data produced by the Center. *Stuart states: "Working for the USGS has been a pleasure. The challenging work and dedicated individuals have made the past years very rewarding. I have had support from many people during my career and appreciate each and every one."* Stuart will be moving to Roanoke, VA, where his wife has accepted a nursing position at a local hospital. He will miss the USGS and California, but he looks forward to new adventures and exploring the Blue Ridge Mountains on his motorcycle. **(Photo: Stuart Hill speeding across Lake Cachuma to hike in and measure flooding on Santa Cruz Creek, 1998.)**



Nathan D. (Jake) Jacobson will retire on January 3, 2018 after 44 years of government service, 42 with the USGS. Though his first documented discharge measurements were made with his Dad and Uncle in 1957, he began his government career in 1973 working with the US Forest Service in Swan Valley, ID. In 1975, seeing his talent for making discharge measurements, the USGS hired Jake in Boise, Idaho, as a GS-3 Hydrologic Field Assistant. He performed sediment and bedload work with Bill Emmett while obtaining his degree in Geology/Geophysics from Boise State University. He transferred to the Idaho Falls field office in 1977 and was converted to a hydrologist in the studies section, focusing on developing projects involving the phosphate mining industry in southeast Idaho. These projects culminated in several USGS reports describing the groundwater/surface water relationships and contamination resulting from phosphate mining. All the while Jake maintained a surface water field trip in the Jackson Hole area. In 1982, Jake became the field office chief of the Idaho Falls office,

taking an instrumental role in making it one of the best field offices in the USGS. There are very few gages in southern and eastern Idaho which have not felt Jake's hand either through gage construction, cableway installation or repair, or major upgrades. He dealt with adverse environments, harsh weather and downright dangerous situations, always displaying a can-do attitude and getting the job done in an exemplary manner. Jake has taken part in 17 Surface Water Reviews and 12 field office operational reviews. Since 1993, Jake has assisted the Office of Surface Water in teaching rating development, levels, cable inspections, field techniques and surface water records computation courses at the Denver Training Center and across the United States. Jake and his wife Patti, are the parents of 4 children and are also blessed with 3 grandchildren. Following retirement, they plan to continue to serve in the community, travel, fish, hunt, hike, and ski, raise Angus cattle on the home ranch in Swan Valley, and serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

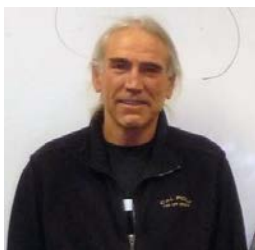
Sonya Jones, the Program Coordinator for the Water Availability and Use Science Program, has decided to retire on December 30, 2017. Sonya's leadership and vision will be greatly missed by the WAUSP and the WMA. Sonya began her career with the USGS in 1991 as a student employee. After receiving a B.S. in Geology from the University of Texas, Sonya worked in the Austin, TX, District Office as a hydrologist focusing her work primarily on modeling of groundwater TCE plumes and their attenuation through bioremediation processes. In 2000, Sonya was selected as the Chief of the Hydrologic and Environmental Investigations Section in the Texas District where she developed a robust applied science program. In her role as Section Chief, Sonya supervised a staff of 15 individuals and managed an annual budget of approximately \$3M. In 2004, Sonya was selected as the Assistant Program Officer for the Southeastern Region, Water Resources Discipline,

in Norcross, GA. In 2006, Sonya was chosen as the Program Officer for Water Programs in the Southeastern Region. She led the transition of that Water science based role to one that included all USGS Science Disciplines in the Southeast. In her later role as the Science Program Officer, Sonya provided scientific coordination and leadership to all USGS scientists and multidisciplinary project personnel in the Southeast. In addition to nurturing internal partnerships, Sonya has established strong ties with the other DOI Bureaus in the Southeast and promoted partnerships with numerous other Regional organizations. In 2010, Sonya helped to establish the USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center Program and was chosen to serve as the Interim Director for the newly established DOI Southeast Climate Science Center located at North Carolina State University. In 2011 the USGS Director selected Sonya to lead the development of the Bureau science plan for the USGS response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Shortly after completing the Deepwater Horizon effort, Sonya was selected to lead the USGS Hurricane Sandy Coordination Team. In October 2014, Sonya returned to the Water Mission Area and began working as the National Water Census Coordinator, and on October 1, 2015 became the Coordinator of the Water Availability and Use Science Program. Sonya plans to move back to Austin after retirement to spend time with her family and enjoy the "weird" culture and music scene in Austin.



Eve Kuniansky is retiring from her job as the Southeastern Region Groundwater Specialist (since 1998) on December 31, 2017, after 35 years with the USGS in the WRD, now WMA. She provided technical assistance to groundwater projects and data collection throughout the southeastern USA, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. She began her career January 1983 starting in the Southeast Region working on two Regional Aquifer System Analysis projects before transferring to Baton Rouge, LA. She was in Louisiana for 3 years and then on to Austin, TX from 1986-1998, before heading back to the Southeast. Eve gained experience during the past 35 years in surface-water modeling, project management, borehole geophysics, geologic mapping, field data collection, groundwater flow and transport simulation, Geographic Information Systems, karst hydrology, and aquifer hydraulics. She also provided training within the USGS and was selected for short term international assignments by the USGS International Water Resources Branch in China, Israel,

Cyprus, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Africa, where she has either done groundwater training in field data collection, numerical modeling, hydrology, or worked on groundwater projects for the U.S. State Department and Department of Defense or United Nations programs. She still plans to be available to assist the Floridan aquifer system study in retirement, but mostly will be playing music in the Atlanta Mandolin Orchestra and the Atlanta Balalaika Orchestra, hanging out at Jackson Lake, and traveling to other continents-- she hasn't been to the Galápagos Islands or visited every National Park, UN Natural Heritage site, or Antarctica.



Scott McFarlane is retiring after 28 years in the USGS! Scott's formative years were spent in California. Graduating from Livermore High School in 1968, a year after the "summer of love", Scott obtained a BS in Mathematics from CalPoly in San Luis Obispo. He joined the Air Force in 1977 and was assigned to Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. This was a fortuitous assignment since he met his wife Terry, a psychologist and ROTC instructor. The next few years proved challenging for Scott and Terry to situate themselves at the same location. In 1984, Scott moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico where he converted to the Active Reserves and earned an MS in Electrical and Computer Engineering. In 1988, Scott moved to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois where Terry was an ROTC instructor at the University of Illinois. Scott worked as a contractor at the nearby

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. In 1989, Scott began his USGS career with the USGS California District in Sacramento. In 1991, he transferred to the USGS San Antonio office where Scott and Terry were reunited. In 1995, Terry retired and joined Scott as he transferred to the Central Region USGS National Research Program (NRP) office after interviewing with Jack Weeks and Myron Brooks. Scott had a long career with the NRP supporting their various hardware systems while also displaying a strong knack for developing creative software solutions to meet the needs of NRP researchers. Scott joined the NWISWeb development team as a JAVA developer in August 2009 to help complete the unit-value web-services work. Prior to joining the NWISWeb team, he had worked with David Briar on developing a DV web service in collaboration with the Consortium of Universities for Hydrologic Science (CUAHSI). Scott's attention to detail and ability to translate complex requirements into working code helped the NWISWeb team deliver both Instantaneous and Daily Value web services, which were soon followed by additional services for site and period-of-record information, groundwater levels, and statistics. Scott's quick wit brought many smiles and laughter to the, at times, arduous team meetings. His ability to quickly adjust to challenging (and changing) requirements and deliver robust working code in a timely manner endeared him to the team where he has continued to improve the role of web services within the NWISWeb code base. To the very last days of his tenure in the newly formed Water Mission Area, Scott exhibited flexibility, a desire to learn, and support for his colleagues. Scott's retirement is not resulting in a complete severing of ties with the USGS. Scott intends on coming back as a volunteer in the Support Branch of WMA's Integrated Modeling and Prediction Division.



Mickey Messer, the Field Operations Chief in the Lutz office of the Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center has decided to retire on January 3, 2018. Mickey's wealth of experience, dedication, and sense of humor will be sorely missed. Mickey began his career with the survey in 1975 in the Tallahassee office. He also worked in the Stuart, FL office until becoming the Field Operations Chief at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Denver, CO in 1991. While in Colorado, Mickey later worked as a Project Chief and the Safety Officer for the Colorado Water Science Center. Mickey returned to Florida in 2008 to be the Field Operations Chief in Lutz. During Mickey's career, he's proud to have had the privilege to contribute to 13 OSW technical reviews, 15 Basic SW Techniques courses, and 10 gaging station levels courses. He was also able to participate in international assignments in Israel, Jordan, the Cape Verde

Islands, and Honduras. Finally, Mickey estimates that he's had the pleasure of completing roughly 1000 sets of station levels all over the country.

-Rafael W. Rodriguez, Director, USGS Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center



Donna Myers will retire on January 31, 2017 after 33 years with the U.S Geological Survey (USGS). Currently, Donna is the Senior Laboratory Advisor in the Water Mission Area (WMA) and is helping to develop a quality management policy for USGS laboratories. From 2010 to 2017, Donna served as Chief of the Office of Water Quality and Senior Water Quality Advisor in Reston, VA and in Denver, CO. During this time, Donna championed the development of new field and laboratory methods and techniques for water-quality programs and networks, developed technical policies, and was responsible for the National Water Quality Laboratory and Branch of Quality Systems. Donna also had the honor of serving as the Chief of the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program from 2003-2010. While in Reston, Donna contributed to investigations of the effects on water quality of

disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, Mississippi River floods in 2011 and 2015, the Gulf Oil Spill, and the Elk River chemical spill in West Virginia. In 1985, Donna began her career in the Ohio District Office of the Water Resources Division in Columbus, Ohio. From 2001-2003, Donna served as the first USGS Great Lakes Program Coordinator. From 1994-2000, Donna was the Study Unit Chief of the Lake Erie-Lake St. Clair Basin NAWQA project. As a water -quality scientist in Ohio, Donna focused on public health microbiology and helped start the Ohio Water Microbiology Laboratory in 1988, authored a chapter of the National Field Manual for the Collection of Water Quality Data on microbiological water analysis, and developed the first microbiology training module for Field Water-Quality Methods for Groundwater and Surface Water. Over her career, Donna has authored or coauthored more than 30 publications. In 2017, Donna received the Water Mission Area's Benchmark Award for leadership of the Office of Water Quality and was one of a team of federal employees in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership to receive the People's Choice Award, part of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals. In 2004, Donna received the Department of Interior's Honor award for "Communication, Consultation, and Cooperation for Conservation and in 1996, she received a Superior Service Award. Prior to her career at the USGS, Donna worked at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) in Columbus, Ohio from 1979 to 1984. Donna served as the first water-quality scientist and quality assurance officer at the Ohio EPA Laboratory. She received a M.S. in Biological Sciences in 1979 from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio with a focus on limnology. Donna earned a B.S. in Zoology in 1974 from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Donna attended The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio in 1984 completing post-graduate coursework while working at Battelle Memorial Institute. Donna lives in Golden Colorado with her husband Gerry. As a volunteer Emeritus Scientist, Donna plans to complete a third book chapter on the history of water-quality monitoring and assessment and other unfinished projects. Donna is looking forward in retirement to pursuing a variety of personal and family interests. Please join me in congratulating Donna on her retirement. A Retirement gathering for Donna was held in Reston on November 9, 2017 at the National Center at the 5th Floor "Confluence Center", and at the National Water Quality Laboratory in the break room on November 15, 2017.



Kevin Oberg joined the USGS in April 1978 as a GS-2 student Hydrologic Aid never dreaming that it would lead to a 39-year career with the USGS. Early in his career Kevin worked on projects such as streamgauge network analyses, flood-frequency analysis, rainfall-runoff modeling, and hydraulic modeling. In 1991 he was asked to become the Data Chief in the Illinois District (now Water Science Center). While he was Data Chief, he pioneered the use of ADCP technology for streamflow measurement along with others. While still Data Chief, from 1996 to 1999 he also led a team of programmers responsible for implementing NWISWeb. Based on his work with ADCPs and involvement in the Office of Surface Water's Hydroacoustic Work Group (HaWG), Kevin was asked to work for OSW as the National Hydroacoustics Coordinator. In 1999, Kevin moved to a

full-time position at OSW and has worked in the field of hydroacoustics ever since, helping to spark a revolution in discharge measurements that transformed streamgaging, vaulted the USGS into the lead of hydroacoustic science, and impacted water management around the world. He has developed/ evaluated methods for application of hydroacoustic instruments for discharge and other hydraulic measurements, developed and led the USGS hydroacoustics training program, and provided technical assistance to USGS staff and other agencies. He co-authored two Techniques and Methods reports

documenting our methods for ADCP discharge measurements and the Index Velocity Method. He has received a number of awards, including the Department of Interior Distinguished Service Award in 2016, the USGS Excellence in Leadership Award (with the USGS Hydroacoustics Work Group) in 2013, and the Chandler-Misener Award for Most Notable Paper in Journal of Great Lakes Research for 2012. Kevin has measured flow in the Amazon River, the Paraná River, the Mississippi River (1st, 12th, and the 15th largest rivers in the world) and helped organize a measurement campaign on the Congo River (2nd largest river in the world) and processed/published the results of that campaign. Kevin has been instrumental in developing meaningful partnerships with international monitoring agencies. Kevin plans to take a little time off to relax and then get caught up on many home-improvement projects for his home and those of some of his children. He also anticipates getting involved in some volunteer work as well as some hydroacoustics consulting work in the future. Kevin plans to stay on as emeritus and will teach at least one more USGS hydroacoustics class in February 2018. Many of us will truly miss Kevin's dedication, expertise, and insight (ok, maybe not all of the emails in the middle of the night). USGS capabilities in acoustic measurements would not be what they are without the leadership of Kevin and his colleagues in the hydroacoustics program.



Theresa Olsen, a GIS Specialist, retired on January 3, 2018, after 37 years of dedicated service to the U.S. Geological Survey with the Washington Water Science Center (WAWSC). Theresa started her career in 1980 as a Hydrologic Field Assistant in the WAWSC as one of the "Mount St Helen's children," and became a permanent Hydrologic Technician in 1987. By 1996, she transitioned to Geographer where she developed into a Geographic Information System (GIS) expert and the WAWSC's GIS specialist. Over the years, Theresa has been involved in numerous field studies, including important projects stretching from the sandy beaches of Coos Bay to the basalts of Eastern Washington to the high mountain lakes of Olympic National Park. Her role as GIS specialist has provided extensive technical support to numerous projects, and was known as a major technical resource to the Center. Theresa was involved in 40 publications, along with

contributing to numerous others through her GIS work. Along with her technical contribution, Theresa was an excellent team member, which earned her the respect of her colleagues in the USGS, the WAWSC, and throughout the State of Washington. On a personnel note, Theresa has always done her work with a smile and good humor, along with being a good friend to many at the Center. The USGS and WAWSC greatly appreciate and thank her for all that she has accomplished during her career. If you would like to contact Theresa to send her your congratulations, please send them via Stephanie Cha (scha@usgs.gov), the WAWSC Human Resources Specialist, who will forward them to Theresa. A retirement party for Theresa will be announced at a later date.



Betty Palcsak retired after more than 38 years with the USGS, on January 3, 2018. Betty began her career in the Ohio District, Water Resources Division, in Columbus, OH, shortly after graduating from The Ohio State University. During the next 19 years, she worked with amazing people and acquired skills that contributed to many aspects of the Ohio District's mission. She started in the sediment lab, which serviced several districts in the Northeast and Midwest. When the sediment lab was closed, she started working in the field, primarily in sediment and water quality, with a field trip that included NASQAN stations. She learned to work up records back in the day when the only tools needed were a basic calculator, graph paper, and a french curve and straight edge. She was a member of the Northeast Federal Women's Program Advisory Committee, which at the time

focused on identifying the training needs of employees in the Northeast Region and finding ways to help employees network across district boundaries. In 1990, upon returning to work from a brief absence to do her student teaching, she decided to stay with the USGS and began working with Mike Eberle in the Northeast Region Editing Unit for Dave Aronson, Northeast Region's Reports Improvement Advisor. Betty worked with authors throughout the Northeastern Region, taught the class "Writing and Editing Hydrologic Reports" with Mike Eberle and Tony Pegis at USGS offices across the country, and served on a national Reports Stewardship Team. In 1994, Betty was selected for the WRD Graduate School Training Program and was attending classes at Miami University (of Ohio) during the government shutdown of 1995-96. She completed course work to become a hydrologist, and in 1999, she made the move from Columbus to Denver. In 1998-99, Betty received two United States Department of the Interior awards for her mentorship of a mentally handicapped gentleman who worked for the Ohio District: The Public Service Recognition Award and the Unsung Hero Award. Since 1999, Betty has been the Reports Specialist for the Colorado District/Water Science Center and has mentored several other budding reports specialists as well. Betty's knowledge of the rules and history of USGS publishing, scientific writing, and her earlier experience as a hydrotech working in sediment, data collection, and water quality gave her an understanding of more than just how to write a USGS report. She saw her job as being a mentor to new authors and a buffer between authors and their managers, the BAO, and the publisher; all in the interest of keeping the author's personal sense of style intact. This was all done with professionalism, diplomacy, and a willingness to push the envelope when appropriate. Too young to *really* retire, Betty plans to volunteer at some local non-profits in the Lakewood area and to also see where she might fit into the public school district. She plans to spend her new-found *free* time with her family and friends exploring the Rocky Mountains, working in her yard, and playing. After January 3, Betty can be reached at bpalcsak@gmail.com



Martin 'Marty' Risch is retiring after 43 years of public service. He has worked as a project chief, section chief, and research hydrologist with the Survey. He directed the Indiana groundwater protection program before joining the USGS Indianapolis office in 1990. Marty led 11 groundwater and water quality investigations at five military bases in Indiana during his early years at the Indiana Water Science Center. He served as the agency-wide Department of Defense Earth Science Program manager during 2006-2014, hosting a national USGS-DoD meeting in Indianapolis. As a research hydrologist, Marty has studied the environmental toxin mercury in precipitation, air, reservoirs, and watersheds of Indiana, and established a statewide baseline of information from 2000 to the present. His mercury research was recognized with a Department of Interior Superior

Service Award in 2009. He continued his mercury research through 2017. Marty has been very active with the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) since 2000. NADP is a 40-year old organization that coordinates monitoring networks for mercury and acid rain at some 400 sites in North America, including six sites that Marty managed in Indiana. He helped NADP develop and operate two national networks to measure dry deposition of atmospheric mercury. Marty organized and chaired the NADP international scientific symposium in Indianapolis in 2014 and was executive chairman of the NADP in 2015-2016. As the ecosystems studies section chief in the Indiana-Kentucky Water Science Center from 2013-2015, he managed numerous multi-state water quality investigations and monitoring programs. Through his career, Marty was an advocate for scientific communication. He authored over 30 USGS publications and scientific journal papers and presented regularly at state, national, and international scientific conferences. For the past 5 years, he has been an adjunct professor with the Earth Science Department of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, teaching senior and graduate level courses in ecosystems and hydrogeology. He will continue teaching after his retirement from the USGS. He plans to volunteer as a USGS scientist emeritus in 2018. Perhaps Marty's most fun with the USGS was as a member of the "LostWaterBoyz" band, whose performances of 100 work-themed parodies of folk and rock classics were a staple at 25 USGS holiday and retirement parties and meetings of state water professionals. The LostWaterBoyz song "Shutdown" was a YouTube favorite during the Federal government shutdown in 2013 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42XjjsMfTFI>). The NADP will remember after-hour performances by Marty's other parody band "Low pH" at some of their meetings, including the songs "What's in The Rain?" and "Sample the Water". Marty plans to spend his post USGS years enjoying travel, outdoor recreation, gardening, and grandparenting with his wife Jane and their faithful dog, Sadie.



Cheryl A. Silcox, USGS Hydrologic Technician with the Indianapolis office of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Water Science Center retired on January 3, 2017 after 40 years of USGS service. Cheryl began her career as a Hydrologic Technician GS-4 in the Indiana District on November 14, 1977 and through sustained performance and increased responsibilities reached GS-11 grade. Cheryl graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Water Resources from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana in 1974. She'll continue here as a volunteer. Cheryl is "the ultimate team player" and through her career has demonstrated capability with the very little to the very big details of water science. She leads whenever a need is seen and willingly shares her knowledge. She was often the last to leave the office, because of her dedication to completing the job. In private life, she

volunteers extensively in Indianapolis and the surrounding area. She's served as president and other board positions with the Indianapolis Ambassadors and was voted their Volunteer of the Year in 2008. Cheryl has received four Department of Interior honor awards: two Superior Service Awards (1995, 2008), a Meritorious Service Award (2017), and an Unsung Hero Award (2005), and from USGS, the 2013 Safety and Occupational Health Award of Excellence (2013). Her 1995 award recognized her many and long-standing contributions to advancing the role of women in the USGS through the Federal Women's Program in Indiana and nationally through chairing the USGS FWP advisory committee. She was also Vice-President of the Indianapolis chapter of Federally Employed Women. Cheryl's contribution to delivering USGS water science to the public is in the data from most Indiana water-quality projects during the last four decades. Among these include: Indiana Dunes surface-water quality, NASQAN, Coal Hydrology, National Atmospheric Deposition Program, Mid-Continent Herbicide Initiative, Elkhart ground-water-quality-monitoring program, Crane NSWC (under the hill gang), NAWC Indianapolis, Neal's landfill (waiting for the rain), E. Coli in surface water, NW Indiana groundwater quality sampling, Fort Harrison landfill studies, Valparaiso groundwater sampling, Mercury in dry deposition (an original mercury maven), ECI Confined Disposal Facility air monitoring, Posey County brine sampling, support for MSQA and NRSA, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative tributary nutrient monitoring, contaminants of environmental concern monitoring, and Lake Michigan nearshore water-quality monitors to assess beach conditions. Cheryl's studies of E. coli concentrations from the Kankakee, Wabash, and Ohio River watersheds affected efforts to understand and protect those resources. Her water monitoring for nutrients and chemicals of environmental concern in northwestern Indiana helped the USGS to understand loads to Lake Michigan from an important urban watershed. Her sampling of brine-affected wells in S. Indiana helped health officials understand an important drinking water contaminant. Cheryl's work has been instrumental to the quality and success of the USGS Indiana water quality, safety and environmental programs. She's managed the water-quality database for Indiana since 1986, managed the Center laboratory since the early 1980's, and directed field parameter training and quality-assurance (NFQA) for USGS in Indiana. Her quality database and laboratory management were particularly noted and valued during moves to new systems and facilities. Her collateral duty safety and environmental work in Indiana and

Kentucky made our Center a better place to work through improved safety education, proactive chemical hygiene, and waste reduction efforts. Cheryl retires to be with her husband Mark and her dog in Indianapolis. She will have more time for family, to volunteer, travel, read, horseback riding; and to visit the many restaurants and establishments she's shared during our Indiana travels. She'll have fewer occasions to wear a PFD or float coat and will only have to go out in the rain or on boat trips when she wants to. Send messages to casilcox@usgs.gov



Robert 'Bob' Swanson is retiring. He has pushed back the decision to hang up his waders and retire several times. Bob's last day in the office was January 3, 2018. In the rearview mirror, since that first day in 1978, are seven Presidents, ten Secretaries of the Interior, seven USGS Directors, three Chief Hydrologists, and three Associate Directors for Water, one A-76 study, plus four Water Science Centers, four different regional hierarchies, and several government shutdowns. Bob started with the (then) Nebraska District, Hydrologic Surveillance Section in 1978, and served as a hydrologic technician and hydrologist in the Lincoln, Cambridge, Ord, and North Platte Field Offices. He served as field hydrologist for the National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) program's Central Nebraska River (CNBR) Basins Study Unit research team and later as CNBR Study Unit

Chief. From 1999 to 2004, Bob was the USGS Wyoming Water Science Center's Chief of Hydrologic Surveillance. He returned to Nebraska as Director, USGS Nebraska Water Science Center in 2004 and also served as the Acting Director for both the Iowa and Missouri Water Science Centers. He has served on numerous committees for the advancement of science and technology in the USGS, as well as opportunities to mentor and promote recruitment youth and diversity in the organization. Bob commented, "It's really difficult to 'step off the merry-go-round' when you love your job, have a great staff, and really feel you make a difference, but when I see the amazing strengths and skills of those coming up in the USGS, I'm anxious to clear the path so that the next generation can raise the bar. There will always be a project on which I'd like to work, I'll never cross a stream without looking for a streamgage, and there will always be a staff member that I want to guide a little further.... but at some point, it becomes necessary to do what is best for yourself. I've loved whatever USGS has asked me to do for 39+ years, - now is the time to do what is best for my wife and family." "I have a great appreciation and gratitude for those who mentored me from a young hydrologic technician to director of a USGS Water Science Center. If I have succeeded at all, it is because of the dedication and talents of those scientists, technicians, and support staff that served with me and for me." Bob is looking forward to an empty inbox, travel, and home renovation projects. He intends to continue to volunteer with the USGS and other environmental organizations. Bob's retirement celebration was held on January 12, 2018.



Mike Unthank, USGS Hydrologist with the Louisville office of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Water Science Center retired on January 5, 2017 after 34 years of Federal service and 32 years of USGS service. Mike has helped provide information for cooperators, private industry and the public to develop, manage, and protect water resources supplying hundreds of thousands of Kentucky residents and water users. He is a graduate of the University of Louisville's JB Speed School of Engineering with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. Mike's friends say he's most professionally fulfilled by his relationships with staff at Louisville Water Company, SD1, Carrollton Utilities, Kentucky Geological Survey, Kentucky Division of Water, U.S. Army

and Corps of Engineers and connecting their technical issues with USGS science to understand and address problems. His willingness to answer scientific and technical inquiries from the outside public is a hallmark of Mike's service and will be deeply missed. His interview in the Carrollton Utilities Wellhead Protection video "H2O Below" is a concise statement of the relevance of groundwater science to the public (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhzWK5PqRBQ>). Mike's work on the Ohio River alluvial aquifer advanced the understanding of alluvial aquifers and groundwater-surface-water interactions. Mike's USGS work started near West Point, Kentucky with well inventories, water level measurements, groundwater quality samples, and geophysical surveys to understand freshwater and saline water distributions in that aquifer. His groundwater flow simulations helped protect fresh groundwater supplies vital to maintaining the Army mission at Fort Knox and water supplies of the region. His work at Owensboro, Carrollton, and Louisville helped utility managers understand how pumping strategies affect groundwater supplies. He worked on several groundwater contamination studies and provided technical assistance on many other water issues. Mike's work to monitor a riverbank water withdrawal system at Louisville helped managers understand how streambed armoring from fine sediments infiltrating into streambed porosity affects water production. He applied advanced aquifer testing practices to understand and assist with stormwater management. He has recently led a team that met a demanding bi-weekly and monthly review and release of approved real-time groundwater level data from 48 piezometers and over 56 vibrating wire transducers that benefitted Federal efforts to assure safe conditions during rehabilitation at Rough River Dam in Kentucky. Mike's nearly done it all: budgets, planning, drilling and well installation, coring and testing hydraulic properties of streambed sediments, sampled contaminated groundwater, surface and borehole geophysical surveys, single and multiple well aquifer tests, prepared groundwater flow models. His quality assured transducer-derived water-level records with complex responses that most hydrologists never see. He has prepared new USGS leaders. He may miss: Catherine Fargen's jokes, Doug Zettwoch's shared work and stories, field work, time with colleagues around the break table, presenting and discussing technical issues and cooperators bringing treats to

work sites. He won't miss: medical surveillance, project reviews, supervisors and deadlines, and policies in general. We'll miss him. In retirement, Mike plans to whittle down Shari's to-do list, travelling, sailing, helping his son and daughter launch their careers, helping at his church, herding house cats and joining his USGS friends left behind on random Taco Tuesdays.



Anne Withrow is retiring after 37 years with the USGS. After a lucrative career in Hollywood as a member of "The Banana Splits", Anne Withrow graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1975 with a Bachelor of University Studies, with an emphasis in computer programming and compiler construction. She took a job with a government contractor at Nellis Airforce Base outside of Las Vegas, NV, working as a FORTRAN programmer – identifying and modeling super-sonic dogfighting tactics – and as a system administrator for nearly five years before being told that the USGS was hiring. Anne began her USGS career on December 1, 1980, exactly two months after becoming a parent. She started in the New

Mexico District Office and was hired by Jim Daniel, District Chief. Anne was hired primarily to work as a programmer on the Albuquerque-Belen Water Basin Project, but eventually became the system administrator for the NM District Harris minicomputer. It was not Anne's favorite piece of hardware. The Harris was soon replaced by a Prime minicomputer as part of the advent of Water's Distributed Information System, and there was much rejoicing. Anne participated in the first National Prime User's Group (NPUG) meeting in Lakewood, Colorado. This was the first National USGS meeting to discuss common computer configurations and X.25 networking. There, Anne met many of the pioneers of USGS distributed computing, including Bob Wakelee, Gloria Stiltner, Gail Kalen, Richard Hollway, Darcy Person, Arlen Harbaugh, Merritt Blalock, Pat McAlwee, and Daphne Chinn, all of whom preceded Anne in retirement. In 1999, Anne was selected to be on the team that designed NWISWeb and NatWeb. She was subsequently invited to work on these projects. For a time, she worked for both NatWeb and the NM District, essentially working two full-time jobs. In 2004, after 24 years of work in the NM Water office, she was assigned to work 100% of her time for HQ, and slowly let go of her duties in the Albuquerque Office. As is appropriate, she has great pride in the design, implementation, and value these projects have given to the USGS (and the world). She says she has been honored to work with many bright and dedicated co-workers related to these projects. She has also taken great pride in working for such a respected science organization as USGS. Anne plans to spend her retirement surrounded by friends, music, and continued charity and social activism. The NatWeb Team wishes her all the best for a long and happy retirement.

USGS Priority Ecosystems (Abstracted from the USGS Web Site)

<https://access.usgs.gov/about.html>

The mission of Priority Ecosystem Science (PES) is to provide science in support of adaptive management of ecosystems that have near-term societal concern and significant long-term societal value. Studies are designed to serve local ecosystem management needs and to provide knowledge and approaches transferable to similar ecosystems across the Nation. PES efforts focus in areas where new integrated science approaches can be developed to address the needs of a diverse group of decision-makers and to meet Department of the Interior's responsibilities to manage the Nation's lands.

Activities require collaboration and integration of expertise from the four USGS disciplines, Biology, Geology, Geography, and Water to achieve a system-scale understanding of the natural and anthropogenic factors affecting ecosystems and to better understand the interactive nature of resources and the environment. On a larger scale, PES efforts contribute to a broader capability needed to understand and assess the health of the Nation's ecosystems.

Current PES study units include the Greater Everglades, San Francisco Bay, Chesapeake Bay, the Mojave Desert, and the Platte River.

MEMORIALS

John Aaron, who was 81, died on November 20, 2017 from cancer. He was widely known in the Survey from his many years as Chief of Scientific Publications, Geologic Division, which also included the management of the Library System. He retired in 1995. One of his many accomplishments was the development of CD-ROM publishing, a major advance in information release at the time. Early in his career, he worked in North Atlantic marine geology and did geologic mapping in Puerto Rico and Antarctica. He was a superb birder and active member of the USGS Brooke, VA Christmas Bird Count for more than 40 years. He requested no memorial, but agreed to a party in his honor. His daughters are planning an event early in the New Year. Please pass this note along to your respective branches, to reach those who knew John.

-John Keith on behalf of the Geologic Division Retirees

Gerald 'Jerry' Angelo, 95, of Westerville, OH passed away peacefully on February 24, 2017. Born on July 4, 1921 in Cotton Plant, AR, Jerry was a WWII veteran serving in the Pacific Theatre as a member of the 418th Night Fighter Squadron from July 1942 to November 1945. After 30 years of service, Jerry retired from the U.S Geological Survey in 1986. After retirement, Jerry enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of almost 70 years Sammye (Nena) Angelo and his parents, Tilmon and Agnes Angelo of North Little Rock, AR. He is survived by his two sons and two grandchildren. Visitation was held on March 2, 2017 at the Moreland Funeral Home, Westerville, OH. A graveside service followed at Blendon Central Cemetery on March 3, 2017.



Victoria 'Vicki' A. Averett, 85, (widow of WRD retiree Robert C. 'Bob' Averett) formerly of Boulder, CO, died August 18, 2017 at Kirkland Village in Bethlehem, PA. Born May 24, 1932 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Ogal, immigrants from Ukraine. She was married for 33 years to the late Robert Craig Averett. Victoria earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Manitoba and a Master's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley, CA. She worked as a health educator for the Montana State Board of Health in Helena, MT where she met and married Bob. Vicki dedicated herself to her husband and raising her family. Outside of those duties, she was especially proud of her work lobbying Congress for women's rights as a volunteer with the American Association of University Women when she and Bob resided in the Washington D.C. area. She was also an avid traveler, opera and classical music lover, gourmet cook, and a passionate Anglophile—she was named after Queen Victoria, whose birthday she shared. Vicki was also extremely proud of her Canadian heritage. She will be lovingly remembered by her two daughters, and her four granddaughters. The family plans to hold a service in Boulder in the summer of 2018.



Robert 'Bob' L. Blazs, 72, was born in Tallahassee, FL on March 11, 1945. Bob passed away peacefully after patiently and fearlessly battling prostate and bone cancer for two and a half years. He went to be forever with his Savior on December 4, 2017. Bob grew up and lived in many different states from coast to coast, but eventually settled down with his family right in the middle, in Oklahoma. He graduated from West High School in Phoenix, AZ in 1963. He then went to college, but interrupted his studies when he enlisted. He was a Marine Corp veteran, holding the rank of Sergeant, having served two tours in Vietnam. After his return, he finished his education and graduated from California State University of Long Beach with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics in 1975. He retired as the Assistant Director and Data Chief of the Oklahoma Water Science Center in Oklahoma City after 44 years in the US Geological Survey. Even after his retirement in 2010, he continued to serve as the Presidentially appointed Federal Commissioner of the Canadian River Compact Commission, and was presented the Oklahoma Water Pioneers Award in 2013. He was a loving and devoted husband for 37 years. Bob and Ginny met in their thirties and took their sweet time dating. Bob in his typical patient and unhurried demeanor was in no rush to head down the aisle, but Ginny on the other hand was eager to snatch him up. They married on June 28, 1980. They enjoyed many years as just the two of them, but in 1988 and 1992 they welcomed a son and then a daughter. He is remembered fondly for his constant presence, kindness, guidance and fun-loving spirit. He passed down a love for the woods, trains, road trips, fresh-cut wood in the fireplace, and food – specifically waffles and anything grilled. Each of these hobbies and

memories were enjoyed and cherished in the context of family. He is survived by his faithful wife, Ginny Blazs; his son and his daughter; as well as his grandson. A service celebrating Bob's life was held on December 8, 2017 at Henderson Hills Baptist Church in Edmond, OK.

Bonnie June Bricker, age 95, of Mt. Sterling, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on November 19, 2017 at Mount Sterling Place. She was born July 11, 1922 in Pickaway County, daughter of the late Abraham Ross and Edna Loraine Hill. Bonnie was a member of The United Church in Mt. Sterling; 70-year member of Sterling Chapter #74 Order of the Eastern Star; she retired from U.S. Geological Survey as a Report Editor; active in the community EMT; and taught Basic Adult Education. She was preceded in death by her husband John L. Bricker, a daughter and grandson. Survived by her loving family, two grandsons and two great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. A Funeral service was held on November 22, 2017 at the Porter-Tidd Funeral Home, Mt. Sterling, OH. Rev. Dortha Ross officiated with the interment following in Pleasant Cemetery. The family would like to thank both Mount Sterling Place and Hospice of Fayette County for all their special care giving.



Edward 'Ted' Callender, 79, who passed away in October 2017, had a very notable scientific career that started in academia and flourished in the USGS. His interdisciplinary work spanned geology, geochemistry, limnology, and oceanography. After his PhD dissertation on Devil's Lake in North Dakota, he became a faculty member in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at the University of Michigan. He quickly established himself as an expert in the exchange of nutrients and trace elements between sedimentary pore fluids and the overlying water column in lacustrine, estuarine, and ocean environments. He formed research partnerships with other leading geochemists to study these exchanges and to collect data on the fluxes of nutrients and trace elements from streams into the Great Lakes and oceans. Those early partnerships led to several seminal papers on the processes that form ferromanganese deposits in lake and ocean bottoms. Ted's accomplishments and his collaborative research approach caught the attention of the leadership of the USGS National Research Program which recruited Ted to join NRP in Reston in 1974 to study the influence of sediment-water interactions on water quality. His first major USGS project was on nutrient exchanges across the sediment-water interface in the Potomac River Estuary. Other early USGS work included projects on the effects of mining on trace elements in lake sediments and the geochemistry of brines in geopressured geothermal waters. He contributed to an Office of Naval Research (ONR) project on two rivers in Russia to study the mobilization and transport of radionuclides discharged to the Russian Arctic Marine System. Later in his career, Ted was part of a USGS team studying Lake Baikal in Russia, working on the effects of suspended sediment on the mass balance of major ions in the lake. Ted made important contributions to the NAWQA and Toxics Programs, collaborating with scientists in water science centers. He worked with Pete Van Metre to introduce paleolimnology—use of dated sediment cores to reconstruct contaminant histories—into the NAWQA “Reconstructed Trends” project, which assessed trends in over 100 U.S. lakes and reservoirs resulting in over 20 journal articles. Ted worked with Karen Rice on a NAWQA synthesis of trace element data from bed sediment samples, co-authoring a paper that is still frequently cited. He also worked with Briant Kimball on trace elements in the Upper Arkansas River Basin. Ted left an important legacy as a worldwide expert on how trace elements are exchanged between water and sediment. His scientific legacy extended into retirement as he continued to co-author papers and work with citizen scientists on water quality in the salt water ponds of the Rhode Island coast where he resided with his wife, Gail Mallard, a fellow USGS retiree. But equally important was his legacy as a good friend and mentor to many USGS colleagues among which he was known for sharing fine cognac, wine, and cigars after long days in the field. His was a good life.

-Addendum prepared by ROBERT SHEDLOCK (WRD Retiree 2016)

Paul Conrads, 60, passed away suddenly on December 2, 2017. Paul attended Landon School, Connecticut College and received his Master's degree from University of SC. Paul was the Surface-Water Specialist for the US Geological Survey in South Carolina. He assisted many water utilities, state agencies, universities and non-profits in making science-based decisions in water-resource management. He was on the cutting edge of science regarding “big data” and data mining. He was one of the pioneers of Artificial Neural Networks, a science that utilized the real-time data of the USGS with a means to understand it. He was working on a project that used

these techniques to understand the effects of drought, which are challenging to quantify adjacent to the ocean. His work in this field was recognized internationally.

He was a huge Gamecock supporter in all sports. The Baltimore Orioles and the Washington Redskins were also followed avidly. Paul was an incredible husband, brother, uncle and friend. He loved his work but also his fishing, gardening, cooking and anything he could newly conquer. As one colleague wrote "Paul was truly special in a way that very few people are. It was easy to love him, his zest for life, his intelligence, his endless willingness to help, his love of good food and wine, his mischievous way and so much more. I can honestly say that I know no one that compares to his integrity of spirit." He was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Marjorie Conrads. Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Cindy, his brother, and nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service was held on December 6, 2017 at Lake Murray Presbyterian Church, Chapin SC.



James K. 'Jim' Culbertson, 93, passed away at home December 8, 2017. Jim was born in Fort Scott, KS in 1925 and was raised in Jackson, TN. He joined the Navy in October 1943 and moved to Albuquerque, NM to attend University of New Mexico with the Naval ROTC program. There he met the love of his life, Connie, and they were married in June of 1946. Jim had a distinguished career with the US Geological Survey as an internationally known sediment specialist. Jim's passions were music and singing. He was in numerous singing groups and was a dedicated member of the Highland Harmonizers for the past 25 years. He was also an active member of the University Heights United Methodist Church for 35 years. Jim was an incredibly talented civil engineer and was amazing with his hands, having built the first home that he and his wife lived in. He was also a loved Boy Scout leader. Jim loved genealogy and spending time with extended family at Family Reunions all over the country. He will be dearly missed by his wife of 71 years, Connie, his son and daughter, a granddaughter and grandson, three great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter. We will miss his loving nature, sense of humor, and beautiful tenor voice.

NOTE – this message was received from Richard Lepp: He had been in declining health for the last year due to old age. His wife Connie, son Kinley, and daughter Kay had been caring for him with help from Hospice. Jim had a long career with the USGS having served in Albuquerque, Pakistan, and other middle eastern countries, and finally at headquarters in Reston, VA retiring in 1982. Jim had been my Boy Scout Leader and hired me in 1955 to work part time while attending University of New Mexico (UNM) when the USGS offices were in the Geology building on the campus. I subsequently stayed for a long career with the USGS remaining in Albuquerque." After retiring, Jim and Connie returned to Albuquerque and we belonged to the same Church and remained close friends. Jim will be cremated, and a memorial service will be announced later."



Chris DeHerrera, 73, (husband of Affiliate member **Carole (Coburn) DeHerrera**) passed away on November 2, 2017 from cancer. Chris was born and raised in Denver, CO. He was a Ballroom dance instructor for 50-years for dance studios like Arthur Murray and Fred Astaire in New York, in Denver, and a studio he and his brother owned in Hawaii. After getting the final diagnosis in January 2017, Chris decided to stop any more treatments and chose quality over quantity of life. He continued taking care of the yard and he and Carole continued to dance every Thursday night at the Elks Lodge. He will be remembered for his positive attitude and his love of life. He is survived by his wife Carole, 5 brothers, two sisters, a son and daughter, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. A celebration of Chris' life will be held on April 19, 2018 at the Elks Lodge in Lakewood, CO, where he and Carole spent many wonderful years of dancing and lasting friendships. If you wish to contact Carole, you may email her at cdsnogirl1966@gmail.com



William 'Bill' W. Dudley, Jr., 80, passed away on November 15, 2017 surrounded by his loving children, after battling cancer for the last several months of. Bill was born on April 8, 1937 in Olean, NY to Dr. William W. Dudley, DDS, and Ruth MacCordy Dudley. Growing up in Olean with his older sister Anne, he enjoyed spending time outdoors in the woods and water, hunting and trapping. He took up golf at an early age, both playing and caddying at the Bartlett Country Club. Bill attended The Hill School, a preparatory school in Pottstown, PA. There he continued honing his golfing skills, becoming varsity squad captain and winning the school championship during his final year in 1956. During his tenure there he was also active in the Christian Association, Pipe Club, and Outing Club. He was voted "First to get married" by his classmates by a landslide vote. After graduating from The Hill School, Bill moved on to Princeton University in Princeton, NJ. There he

majored in Geological Engineering and was active in the R.O.T.C. In 1960 he graduated with honors and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Between these activities and school work, he found time to hustle billiards and trap muskrats to earn spending money. His roommates were not amused at the stretched pelts drying above the fireplace. His intent to enter the Army Corps of Engineers after Princeton was deferred due to a leg injury caused by being faster on the trigger than the draw. Instead, he entered graduate school at the University of Illinois, Champaign, IL concentrating on geophysics and groundwater geology. He completed his MS thesis and began work on his Ph.D. thesis, but was interrupted by the end of his active duty deferral by the Army in 1965. His assignment was with the Corps of Engineers in Livermore, CA. There he was part of the Nuclear Cratering Group, exposing him to the field that would be the focus of his professional life. After being discharged from active duty and completing his Ph.D. in 1967, he joined the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Lakewood, CO. After spending some years analyzing the hydrologic effects of the underground nuclear test program, he turned to developing and coordinating a multi-discipline earth-science program to study and recommend a site for long term disposal of high-level nuclear waste. This study resulted in the recommendation of the Yucca Mountain site in 1979. With the study complete, he was reassigned to Cheyenne, WY as the District Chief for Wyoming. This was relatively short-lived, as in 1982 he returned to Lakewood to manage the continuing USGS scientific evaluation of Yucca Mountain. He continued to work on this project until his retirement in 2003. During his career he received a Meritorious Service Award in 1987, and the Distinguished Service Award -- the highest honor of the Department of the Interior -- in 1994. Outside of work, Bill's passions included golf, hiking, skiing, motorcycles, bicycling, and his cat, El Gato. He continued to be a gun enthusiast throughout his life, spending hours at the shooting range and adding to his ever-expanding collection of guns. Bill was married in 1961 to his high school and college sweetheart, Priscilla Johnson, also from Olean. They had a daughter, Lisa, in 1965, and a son, Bill the 3rd in 1966. They were divorced in 1969. In 1972 he married Virginia Wegman, a junior high school science teacher that grew up in Hoxie, KS. Together they had a daughter, Tamara, in 1973, and a son, Kirk, in 1974. They divorced amicably in 2002. Bill is survived by his ex-wife, Virginia, his four children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



Herbert M. Grossman, age 86, a long-time WRD illustrator from the Albuquerque District Office, died of bone cancer April 27, 2017. He was a superb artist, his outstanding illustrations appeared in many USGS professional papers and open-file reports. He retired from the Survey in 1994. Herb graduated with a Fine Arts degree from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM where he played football for the Lobos. He was a veteran of the 82nd Army Airborne and an avid fisherman. He was known by all his friends and colleagues for his wit and unique ability to evoke laughter. His extraordinary sense of humor will be missed. He is survived by his wife, Patsy, two sons, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Frederick P. Haeni, 76, of Deep River, CT, passed away peacefully at home on November 26, 2017, after a long battle with cancer. There he developed his love for the water and for boats. That passion led him to the United States Naval Academy, where he joined the sailing team, and raced Luder 44s. After his commission and nuclear school in Idaho, Pete served aboard the USS Becuna (SS-319) and the USS Ethan Allen (SSBN-608) and completed patrols in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean. While earning his master's degree from Wesleyan, Pete built his home in Deep River. Working on the home and surrounding farm became a lifelong passion for

Pete. Pete's career at the United States Geological Survey focused on developing and teaching new techniques to mitigate environmental and engineering challenges associated with ground water. His work took him around the globe to sites like the Grand Canyon, Mount St. Helens, and the United Arab Emirates. In retirement, Pete focused on the things he loved - sailing his boat, spending time in Maine, gardening, and playing with his four grandchildren. Geologist, builder, sailor, farmer, brother, husband, dad, and Pop-Pop - Pete was a man of unending talent, energy, and enthusiasm who will be missed by all. Pete is survived by his wife, Jane; his two sons, and his four grandchildren. Pete was born and raised in New York City and spent summers on Long Island. Services were held at the First Congregational Church in Essex on Friday, December 8, 2017.



Craig B. Hutchinson, 74, passed away on December 25, 2017 in Tampa, FL. Craig was hospitalized and remained in a coma following a fall while trimming trees at his home in Tampa. Craig was born in Detroit, MI on October 4, 1943 to Donald W. and Esther E. Hutchinson. After serving in the U.S. Army as an MP from 1965 to 1967, Craig attended the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL graduating in 1971 with a Master of Science degree in Geology. Craig began his career with the USGS in 1970 as a part-time Hydrologic Technician in the Tampa ground-water studies program while still in graduate school at USF. Following graduation in 1971, he was selected to a full-time position in Tampa as a Hydrologist in the ground water studies section. After several years in Tampa, Craig accepted a re-assignment to the ground-water studies section in Laguna Niguel and the Santa Barbara Field Office in California. He returned to Tampa several years later, remaining in the ground-water studies program from 1980 through 1993, including assignments as Ground-Water Specialist and Section Chief. Also during this period, Craig accepted a short-term international assignment teaching ground-water modeling to hydrologists in Suriname, South America. From 1993 until his retirement in 1998, Craig's final assignment was with the USGS International Program working cooperatively with the United Arab Emirates National Drilling Company studying water resources and ground-water storage of excess desalination water. Craig's 28-year career left a legacy of scientific studies and dozens of USGS publications including two Water Supply Papers and two publications reporting on USGS studies in the UAE. Arguably a more important part of his legacy is the knowledge and skills he was so willing to share with his colleagues throughout his career. After retirement in 1998, Craig and Tai returned to Tampa and their home on Halfmoon Lake. Aside from his professional accomplishments, Craig had wide ranging interests including boating and water skiing; scuba diving and spear fishing; golfing; old cars; shooting pool; pinball; horseshoes; coin and stamp collecting; tubing; camping; and especially creating his personal paradise on Halfmoon Lake. Craig had a great sense of humor and loved hearing and telling a good joke. Most of all, Craig loved his time with Tai and his family. He was a loyal friend and was called friend by many. Craig truly was an exceptional guy and will be missed by all who knew him. Craig is survived by his wife, Tai, two sons, a daughter, and four grandchildren. Services were held on December 29, 2017 at Blount and Curry Funeral Home Carrollwood Chapel, Tampa, FL. Burial will follow at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL. Craig was active in the USF Geology Alumni Association, which honored him with a lifetime achievement award in 2006. (A USF Geology Department scholarship fund has been established in his name. Donations may be sent to "**Craig B. Hutchinson USF Geology Scholarship Fund**" account reference **5973** on the memo line of your check, Wells Fargo bank, 7931 Gunn Highway Tampa, FL 33626.) For those who wish to share their personal memories of Craig please visit the website:

<http://www.legacy.com/guestbooks/tampabaytimes/craig-b-hutchinson-condolences/187653302>

Jesse H. Klingler, age 79, passed away on July 15, 2017. He was born March 9, 1938, in Somerset, OH, and grew up in the south end of Columbus, where he made many life-long friends. He was a 1956 graduate of South High School. Soon after graduation, he began his career at the United States Geological Survey, where he worked 37 years until his retirement in 1993. Jesse loved his years spent, and more importantly, the friendships made during his years at the Survey. In 1960, he married Mary Bell Seeger. They began their married life on the east side of Columbus, where they raised their three sons. He is preceded in death by his father and mother, Jesse H. and Mary Ellen (Reese) Klingler, his sister, and a brother. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Mary, three sons, and a sister. Jesse cherished time spent with his nine grandsons, and his two great grandchildren. The family would like to express gratitude to Dr. James Soldano and the many caregivers at Mount Carmel East ICU and Hospice for their kindness and loving care during Jesse's final days. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on July 19, 2017, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Interment followed at St. Joseph's Cemetery.



Richard L. 'Dick' Kraus, 80, passed away on December 22, 2017. He was born July 18, 1937 in Thompson Falls, MT to Albert and Ruth (Westberg) Kraus. Dick was raised in Montana and married JoAnn Hendren on January 7, 1957. In 1959 they moved to Portland, OR and later Medford, OR before settling in Turner, OR. Richard received his Bachelor's Degree from Portland State University and worked for the USGS. as a hydrologist, retiring in 1994, after 35 years. He also worked for Multi-Tech engineering in Salem for 10 years. Richard was a member of the Willamette Valley Model A Club and Willamette Woodturners. He enjoyed fishing, cutting firewood

and was a rock collector. He fished in Alaska for the last 20 summers with his brother in law. Dick loved working with his wood lathe and was a skilled woodcrafter for over 50 years. He also enjoyed gardening, working on his yard, as well as mowing fields with his tractor. Dick is survived by his wife JoAnn, their daughter, and two grandsons, Dicks daughter, son-in-law and grandsons were the light of his life. A Celebration of life was held on January 13, 2018 at Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service.



John E. Moore, 86, passed away on January 6, 2018 following a brief illness. John was born in Columbus, OH in 1931 to Thomas and Cheryl Moore. He attended Ohio Wesleyan University graduating with a degree in geology. This would begin his distinguished professional and educational career that includes a MS and Ph.D. degree from the University of Illinois, as well as a stint in the Air Force as an electrical engineer. John was an internationally recognized scientist whose career included roles as research scientist, teacher, technical advisor, senior hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, and hydrologist with the EPA. He retired from the U.S. Geological Survey in 1989. He is the author/co-author of 10 books and numerous scientific articles, past president of the International Association of Hydrogeologists and the American Institute of Hydrology, a senior Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and a member of Sigma Xi. He traveled the world with his wife of 58 years, was active in the Cub Scouts, volunteered at the St. Francis Center and participated in the Rides the Rockies bicycle tour twice. They were avid standard poodle parents and are survived by Soleil, Peter and Henry, the last in a long line of outstanding companions. John is predeceased by his wife Unetta (Dickie) Moore and is survived by his two children and four grandchildren, as well as his brother. The services for John will be private and family only.

Gerald G. 'Jerry' Parker, Jr., 82, passed away in Puyallup, WA on November 10, 2017. During the late 1950's and mid-1960's, Jerry began his career in the Quality of Water Branch (QWB) of the North Carolina District as a streamgager. In the early 1970's, Jerry worked in the Washington District where published several reports on water supplies in the Puget Sound area and Lummi Island. During the mid-1970's, Jerry was back in the Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta, GA where he worked as a Hydrologic Personnel Specialist. He also co-authored a comprehensive report entitled "Hydrology of Major Estuaries and Sounds North Carolina", first published in 1979 as WRIR 79-46 and reprinted in 1983 as WSP 2221. In 1977, Jerry and family then transferred to the Oregon District as the Associate District Chief, continuing to expand his career goals. Jerry then transferred back to the southeast to serve as the District Chief in Mississippi from 1981 to 1986. While in Mississippi he worked with the Office of External Research (OER) out of Reston, VA. One of the first tasks facing OER was an onsite evaluation of all 54 Water Resources Research Institutes. Jerry served as leader of one of WRD's 5-person multi-agency review teams from 1985 to 1987. In 1986, he returned to the West Coast after the retirement of Les Laird to become the District Chief for the combined Washington-Oregon District. During this time, he oversaw the incorporation of the Cascades Volcano Observatory into the District. Subsequently, in 1990 when the Washington-Oregon District was divided back into individual states, Jerry became the Northwest Area Regional Hydrologist, working with John Conomos in that position until he retired in 1992. However, Jerry continued to work intermittently as a reemployed annuitant until 2002. In this role he served as acting District Chief of both the Arizona and Utah Districts when those offices had gaps in that position. He also co-chaired both International Joint Commission's (IJC) Osoyoos Lake and Columbia River Boards of Control, assuring that the IJC's management objectives were met. Finally, he was a key member of the Western Regions' Management Development Program, helping develop and mentor new WRD managers. With his expertise and experience in District management, as well as his exceptional supervisory skills, Jerry made significant contributions not only to the USGS, but to the careers of many USGS scientists and staff. In retirement Jerry loved golfing and family, at one time driving around the country and stopping at whatever course caught his eye at the time. Jerry was preceded in death by his wife and daughter. He is survived by his son-in-law and two granddaughters. No service was held at his request.

-Gary Turnery, WRD Retiree



Alice L. Pifer, 73, passed away November 21, 2017 in Holt, MI. She was born April 18, 1944, in Saginaw, MI, to the late John and Helen (nee: Kneile) Pifer. Alice graduated from Houghton Lake High School, Ferris State College, and received her BBA from Northwood University. She worked 30 years with the U.S. Geological Survey in Washington, D.C., Reston, VA, San Francisco, CA, Ann Arbor, MI, and Lansing, MI. After retirement, Alice held several private sector jobs including The Wild Strawberry Florist in Holt, at MSU and LCC. For the past 10 years, she was the financial secretary at her beloved church, Central United Methodist Church in Lansing. She is survived by her two sisters and a brother; 8 nieces and nephews; 7 great-nieces and nephews; several aunts, uncles and cousins. A memorial service was held on

December 2, 2017 at the Central United Methodist Church in Lansing, MI.



Earl L. Skinner, age 82, of Heber Springs, AR, passed away November 4, 2017 in Little Rock, AR. Born on December 25, 1934 in Barton, AR, he was the son of the late James Ervin and Lena Lee Hughes Skinner. He was a graduate of Bethany Nazarene College in 1956 with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry. He served his country as a member of the United States Army. Earl married his wife of 62 years Ruth Ann Lay Skinner on September 2, 1955. He was employed by the United States Geological Survey for 33 years and retired in 1989. Earl was a loving son, brother, husband, father and grandfather. He was preceded in death by 6

brothers and 3 sisters. He is survived by his wife Ruth Ann Skinner, his son, his brother, and his three grandchildren. Earl is also survived by many nieces and nephews as well as other relatives and many friends. Visitation was held November 8, 2017 and funeral services were held on November 9, 2017 at Olmstead Funeral Home. Interment will follow in the Heber Springs Cemetery, AR.



Bert W. Thomsen, 91, passed away on October 15, 2017 at his home in Scottsdale, AZ. Bert was born February 15, 1926, to Lauritz and Iscle W. (Embree) Thomsen on his grandparents' farmstead near Crookston, NE. He attended Sittin Up School, a one room grade school, situated along Sitting Up Creek, a short walk from the ranch. He attended and graduated from Wanblee High School in 1942. After High School, he taught in a country school for two years and worked on the ranch. He enjoyed riding horses, hunting, and being outdoors. In 1951, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force for 4-years during the Korean War. Upon being honourably discharged from the military, Bert attended and graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City, SD.

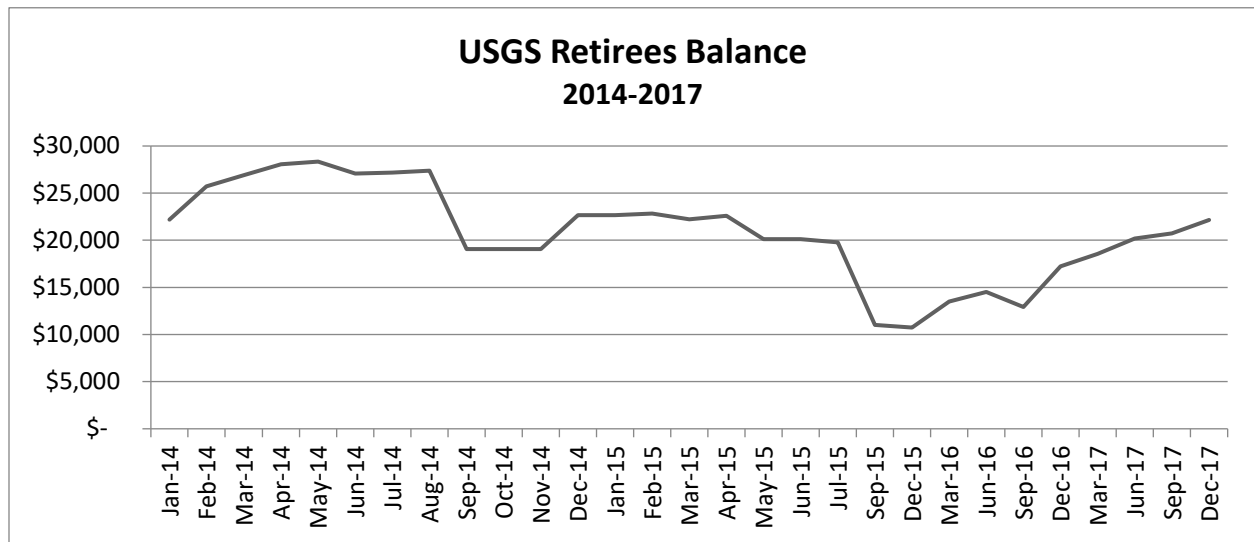
It was at the School of Mines where he met his wife Irma (Micki) Moen in 1958. They lived most of the rest of their lives in Arizona. First living in Tucson where Bert began his career as a Hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey. He continued his education and earned a Master's Degree from the University of Arizona in Hydrology. In 1965 Bert and Micki began their family and moved from Tucson to Scottsdale, AZ. Bert, a free spirit, enjoyed his later years traveling with his wife, working on his cabin, spending time with family, and returning to SD in the fall for pheasant hunting. He is survived by his daughter and son, 7 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild, and many nieces and nephews. Bert was preceded in death by his parents, wife Micki, a brother and sister, and a baby brother. Burial services will be in the spring of 2018 at the Black Hills National Cemetery, Sturgis, SD.

TREASURER'S REPORT, FOURTH QUARTER 2017

Treasurer Cathy Hill reports that this organization had \$22,165 in its coffers at the end of the fourth quarter, December 31, 2017.

Special thanks for contributions above dues go to several people:

First, a very special thanks to Libby Meyer who donated \$100 in honor of her late husband, Jerry. Thanks also to Gerald Idler, Pierre Glenn, Elaine Gockel, and Bill Davis. Many thanks for your generosity.



DIRECTORY CHANGES

Anderson, Henry W. 'Bud' (90) 13323 W Hardwood Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375 – addr
Averett, Mrs. Robert C. (Vicki) (W) – passed away August 18, 2017 *remove from directory*
Blasz, Robert L. (10) – passed away December 4, 2017 *remove from directory*
Brooks, Myron H. (16) (Andrea Vala) 7225 Blue Ridge Highway, Blairsville, GA 30512, mhb9856@gmail.com
– addr email
Culbertson, James K. 'Jim' – passed away December 8, 2017 – *amend directory to reflect Culbertson, Mrs. James K. (Connie) (W)*
Dudley, William W. 'Bill' (03) – passed away November 15, 2017 *remove from directory*
Duncan, A.C. 'Jerry' (95) (Saundra) 4951 Woodstock Way Drive, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739 (h) 225-778-5503 – addr phone
Duncan, Saundra (91) (Jerry) 4951 Woodstock Way Drive, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739 (h) 225-778-5503 – addr phone
Grossman, Herbert M. (94) (Patricia) – passed away April 27, 2017 – *amend directory to reflect Grossman, Mrs. Herbert M. (Patricia) (W)*
Haeni, F. Peter 'Pete' (Jane) (01) – passed away November 26, 2017 – *amend directory to reflect Haeni, Mrs. F. Peter (Jane) (W)*
Hutchinson, Craig B. (98) (Tai) – passed away December 25, 2017 – *amend directory to reflect Hutchinson, Mrs. Craig B. (Tai) (W)*
Klingler, Jesse H. (93) (Mary) – passed away July 15, 2017 – *amend directory to reflect Klingler, Mrs. Jesse H. (Mary) (W)*
Moore, John E. (89) – passed away January 6, 2018 *remove from directory*
Parker, Garald G. 'Jerry' (92) – passed away November 10, 2017 *remove from directory*
Perry, Robert A. (94) (Mary) robert.and.mary.perry@gmail.com -- email
Putnam, Jim (15) (Debi) jimputnam996@gmail.com – email
Ramavick, Mrs. Orlando (Janice) (W) Heritage at Fox Run, 3121 Macineery Drive Apt. 203, Council Bluffs, IA 51501 – addr
Rogers, Gary (00) (Janet) g@gjrogers.com – email
Skinner, Earl L. (89) (Ruth) – passed away November 4, 2017 – *amend directory to reflect Skinner, Mrs. Earl L. (Ruth) (W)*
Tai, Doreen Y. (96) (Han) 5031 Hillsboro Road Apt. 317, Nashville, TN 37215, (h) 615-812-8535, dhtai@charter.net – addr phone email
Teasdale, Mrs. Warren E. (Dee) (W) 1345 City Springs Rd, Rapid City, SD 57702, (p) 303-941-7413, dfteadale36@gmail.com – addr, phone, email
Thomsen, Bert W. (89) – passed away October 15, 2017 *remove from directory*

VOLUTEERING
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
By Jim Daniel

I thought it might be time to write a bit about my volunteer work here in Las Vegas. I volunteer 12 hours (3 mornings) per month with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department at McCarran Airport. I don't have any police power; rather, it's just information delivery – like 'Where's the restroom?' and 'Where's the rental car counter?' I do wear a yellow shirt with an embossed badge on front and with 'Police Volunteer' in BIG letters on the back and wander around the baggage claim area.

A big reason for having volunteers wandering around in baggage claim is to deter baggage theft. The idea is that visibility of the uniforms might make a thief think twice about trying to make off with someone's bags. Maybe that works and maybe it doesn't. Thieves have been caught but the problem persists. Occasionally, a blanket claim check effort is mounted whereby we all stand at the exit doors and compare claim checks with ID's before letting people out the doors. One time I asked Christie Yamaguchi for her ID to compare with the claim check on her skate box. I told her that even though I knew who she was, I had to see it for the benefit of the big 'eye in the sky.' She was very pleasant and cooperative – nice lady.

Aside from the information function, we do try to solve problems in some odd circumstances.

Once, one of the limo drivers came up to me and asked where the airport police station was located. I told him and asked if he could tell me why he wanted to know. He said that while he was standing beside his limo waiting for a fare, his girlfriend pulled up in an active traffic lane, jumped out of her car, ran over to him where she yanked his glasses off his head, ran back to her car, and drove off. His glasses were required on his limo driving license, so it was a pretty big deal for him. He said he was thinking of turning her in and wondered what punishment she might get for the theft – what did I think might happen to her. I replied, "Beats the s*** out of me!" A few weeks later I saw him and asked what finally happened. He said he had a new girlfriend!

Then there was the guy who came up to me and asked how he could 'get out of here.' I started to show him the exits, but he interrupted and said no, he needed to get out of Las Vegas. How could he do that? I asked where he needed to go. He replied Lubbock, Texas. From my vast knowledge of airplane routes, I mentioned that both Southwest and American had connections to Lubbock through Dallas. He never did say why he was so anxious to 'get out of here' but my answer seemed to satisfy him and off he went.

Most recently, it was the Friday before the consensus 100th anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide in Turkey. I always look for passengers who display that 'puzzled' expression and ask them if they need some help. I spotted a couple who looked to be in their 50's wearing this look and asked if I could help. The man explained that they were looking for some hot tea and wondered if any of the restaurants had it. I told him that almost all the restaurants would have it, but it would be from bags rather than brewed. He spoke with a heavy accent, so I ventured to ask where he was from. He replied that they were Turkish Armenians. I then launched into a spiel about growing up near Fresno, California, the home of a large Armenian colony. There was Freddie Agabashian, a famous Indy car driver, Ross Bagdasarian, musician of Chipmunks fame, and William Saroyan, author and playwright. All of them were from Fresno. The man asked if they were good people. I said yes. He then put his hands on my shoulders, pulled me toward him, and proceeded to kiss me on both cheeks. That was a first for me. As an aside, while I was a ticket agent at Washington Dulles, I once checked in the entire Armenian National Arm Wrestling Team. They knew about Fresno, but that's another story. Our new cardiologist is named Danielian, an Armenian Daniel. But, he's from the Glendale, California colony.

The whole Metro experience is fun and rewarding. It's similar in many ways to the Traveler's Aid function we helped with at Dulles Airport. But, it was much more difficult to get qualified for the Metro position. I had to undergo another extensive background check which didn't bother me in the least. I had been cleared through at least 5 or 6 in the past – entering Federal service, SES, security clearance, etc. while in the Survey. The security clearance was for a low-level category. I was once pressured to get a 'Secret' classification. I refused, reasoning that if I had a Secret clearance someone would want me to keep a secret – just not in my DNA. After government service, I had to go through another extensive check when I began work for American Airlines, then one for getting an airport badge for Traveler's Aid, and then a recheck after 9/11. So, I had no problem with going through another one.

The thing that almost floored me with the Metro one was that they required that I present my Social Security card. I told them that I hadn't even SEEN my card in 40 or 50 years. I didn't want to go to work for them if I had to fill out a lot of paperwork and pay a rather large fee to get a replacement. Would my annual SS earnings statement suffice? They said, 'Guess so.'

Keen observer that I am (WRD trained me well) I have noticed that there are unplanned 'theme' days in the passengers. Every now and then it's 'ugly baby' day. More frequently there is 'enhancement' day – use your imagination. Well, I don't know how much longer my old legs will hold up to allow me to wander around for hours at the airport. Until then, I can simply enjoy the people.

How I (Finally) Got to Water Resources Division

By Tim Smith

After my years in the Resources and Land Investigations (RALI) Program and then the Director's Office, I finally got to Water Resources Division (WRD) somewhere around 1986, as a result of the usual reorganizations and reshuffling that always goes on. I ended up as deputy in the Office of Water Assessment and Data Coordination (WA&DC), which was run by an old friend of mine. WA&DC consisted of two parts, housed on opposite sides of the fifth floor at the National Center. Right next to the Chief Hydrologist's office was the National Water Summary (NWS), and on the other side of the building was the Office of Water Data Coordination (OWDC).

The National Water Summary was a truly new idea. Each year a report would be published on some aspect of the nation's water resources, such as water quality, groundwater, water use, etc. The front part of the report contained articles by experts in that particular topic, usually (but not always) USGS people who were well known in the field. The back part was a state-by-state set of summaries focused on the specific topic, prepared by the USGS offices located in the states. For this contribution, the local offices received a modest fee, usually far less than the work involved in preparing their summary. The report was heavy on maps and graphs, to make it easier to understand both regional and national patterns. I recall that this information was used by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in the Executive Office of the President, and also appeared in the Statistical Abstract of the United States. Not a bad thing.

The NWS staff was a dedicated crew of professionals, and tried very hard to make sure all this information was correct in the final publication. In an odd way, this worked out to be a disadvantage. During the printing process which was done by a commercial contractor each year, a team of NWS people would travel to the printer's location, and monitor the pages as they came off the press. As is inevitable for any publication, things would creep in. For example, a page might be out of registration, or some typo would be detected at the last moment. These were corrected on the spot, so that the final report was of exceptionally high quality. But, there was a side effect: because the changes were made in real time, the resulting printed report no longer agreed with the computer files originally submitted to the printer. The printed report was the product, but there was no longer a computer analog that exactly matched. That is why this excellent series is hard to find on line. Unless you had a printed copy, you were out of luck. Some are available from the Government Printing Office. Today these reports can be found, but with difficulty; even my own copies have been donated to the local library. With 20-20 hindsight, it is now clear that the lifetime of the report depended as well on the computer file.

For those who are determined, here is the best I can offer. Use Google or your favorite search engine to look for "USGS national water summary." At least some of them should appear, and you can access PDF files of the reports. Most were published during the 1980s or early 1990s. These are big files, so be patient. I have had less success searching via the USGS web site, but you may do better. The reports are all Water Supply Papers. Good luck.

The Office of Water Data Coordination was entirely different, and existed from, I think, the 1960s. The authority was OMB Circular A-67, and the purpose was to promote coordination of water data among federal and non-federal organizations. The major focus was on two committees; the Interagency Advisory Committee on Water Data (IACWD) for federal agencies, and the Advisory Committee on Water Data for Public Use (ACWDPU) for non-federal organizations. There was a lot of communication with all sorts of organizations outside the USGS, and many subcommittees and work groups.

Evolution occurred over the years, and these offices changed too. People retired, and there were reorganizations. WA&DC disappeared, and the National Water Summary faded away. But something interesting happened with OWDC. The need for interagency coordination was still there, and subsequently OMB Memorandum 92-01 reconstituted the function under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The former two committees were combined to form the Advisory Committee on Water Data (ACWI), and the Water Information Coordination Program (WICP) was formed. You can find this office on line at <https://acwi.gov/>

As things turned out, I was tasked with getting WICP started. I knew how packages could languish on desks for weeks (or longer), and I determined to break the pattern. So, I hand-carried the package from desk to desk as it progressed up the floors of the Interior Building, which meant innumerable trips on the shuttle from the National Center into Washington. But, it got done, all the way through Secretarial signoff, and the program exists today.

I finally retired from what was then Water Resources Division in 2000. In all, I spent 1974-2000 in the USGS. Nowadays I try to help out with the USGS Retirees. As you might suspect, there were other adventures in my career, and perhaps I will write about them in the future.