

WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 147
May 2010

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, things are back to normal here on the East Coast. The snow is gone and the grass mowing has begun. I had a long conversation with Jim Blakey about a month ago and I was griping about the record 75 inches of snow we had here. He said, "What's the big deal? We have at least that amount in Denver every year!" So much for that conversation! We did talk about the reunion, which is still slated for September 9-11, 2010, in Denver. Jim assured me that all things were taken care of and under control. So, if you haven't made arrangements yet, fill out the reservation forms found later in this edition of the newsletter. The reunion committee under Jim's leadership has done a great job of putting together a good-looking program.

There have been a number of retirement activities that have taken place in the last quarter. First, we always seem to have a list of retirees who are delinquent in paying the annual dues. The Regional Directors have made calls or sent emails to see if we could recoup at least some of the overdue money. We are quite certain that most of the members don't even know they are delinquent so a little reminder was in order.

Second, Jim Biesecker sent out over 200 email messages to members known to have computers. The messages asked members to consider having their copy of the newsletter sent to them electronically or by reading the Newsletter on our web page, thus saving the organization surface-mailing costs. Over 90 members responded positively bringing our total of members receiving the Newsletter electronically to more than 500.

Last, we did some preliminary planning for our 2012 reunion to be held somewhere in the Western Region of the country. Some places being considered are Washington and the Reno-Lake Tahoe area. As with any reunion, its success depends on a strong committee with a strong leader. So far, no leader has stepped up. There will always be plenty of activities such as above to be done within the confines of the WRD Retirees. However, they don't happen by themselves. We can use all the volunteers we can get.

I hope you all have a good spring and summer season.



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Harriet Allen writes, "I've been enjoying volunteering at Wildlife Rescue of New Mexico for the past year. Okay, I'm easily amused, but it's been sheer joy just to watch a duck get into a deep sink full of water after recovering from an injury, or rubbing a Ross's goose's tummy to calm it while it's being examined!"

Andy Anderson reports, "**Jared Bales**, WRD Chief Scientist, gave a wonderful talk to 35 retirees/spouses at the April HQ retirees meeting. He talked about current programs and reorganization (yes, another one) at USGS. The Regional Directors have been eliminated – one less layer. There will no longer be technical disciplines: water, geology, etc. The GS will be organized along 6 areas of scientific investigations."

Pete Anttila writes, "It's hard to believe **Joyce** and I have lived 7 years in Fairfield Glade, TN. The Glade is a resort community on the Cumberland Plateau, which now has 5 championship golf courses. We enjoy the golf, new friends and travel. For the last 6 years, we escape in late January for 2 weeks in South Carolina, staying at time shares in Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head. Last year we took a 2-week, Atlantic- Mediterranean cruise. We had excellent weather and a fantastic time. We had stops in the Azores, Portugal, Spain, France, and Italy. At the end of the cruise we spent 2 nights in Rome, where we had a private tour of the city and a tour of the Vatican. We enjoyed ourselves so we booked a 2-weeks cruise again in the Mediterranean during May and June this year. We will start in Italy and have stops in Italy, Greece, and Turkey. Unfortunately, we will miss the Retirees meeting in Denver, because we will be in Maine to celebrate my aunt's 100th birthday. We really enjoyed the 3 reunions that we have attended and look forward to the 2012 Reunion in the Western Region."

Angel Alvarez says, "Greetings to fellow retirees."

Jeff Armbruster reports, "Laurel and I have been quite busy the past year with grandchildren, my Mother, consulting work, and getting a book ready for publication. We have 3 grandchildren (5, 3 and 1) here in Atlanta--our daughter and her husband's children. Our son David and his wife Patti have no children yet; they live in Charleston, SC. We enjoy our visits to see them. My Mother, who had moved to Atlanta several years ago, had a very difficult 6 months in early 2009. We lost her just shy of her 93rd birthday, in June. My consulting work has involved a great deal of time with EPA in Dallas, DOE across the country and a wide variety of other agencies and companies, each needing assistance with leadership and management issues. The work remains fun. One big difference between this and a full time job is the flexibility. At this writing, we are less than 1 week away from "Some Practical Lessons in Leadership--Observations from Daily Life" being available on Amazon.com. The book is drawn

heavily from material we sent on a weekly basis over about a 2 year period, to the folks who attended the USGS leadership program. Laurel is very close to retirement; she has only one client, and is now only spending about 2 days per month with them. Look forward to seeing all of you in Denver!!

John Bader writes, "Things are going reasonably well here in central CA. We've had some pretty cold weather over the last few weeks and it took quite a toll on our citrus trees. The crop of limes, lemons, and a variety of tangerine were a total loss while the two other tangerines, oranges, tangelos and kumquats lost a lot of fruit. But it looks like we'll be getting a little production from them. The grapefruit evidently knew what was coming and didn't even set any fruit this year, although they had a prolific bloom last spring. We just hope all the trees will survive and be able to produce again. The stone-fruit and other trees should benefit from the freeze and keep us well supplied next year. If the recent predictions are correct we might get a reprieve from the very dry conditions we've been experiencing for the last few years. It sounds like there's another El Nino out there and it's drawing a bead on us. I'll let the future weather reports supply the details. If you are veteran of WWII or one of the later conflicts, or are just interested in some of the problems encountered during that war, you might be interested in a book that recently came out. It's called: "DECLASSIFIED: The Columbian Platinum Intrigues of WWII" -- check Amazon. The book tells of the intelligence efforts of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Warfare, the Army and the Navy during WWII in Columbia, South America, to help prevent Columbian platinum and other commodities from being smuggled to the Axis. This story is not fiction but a documentary based on years of research through the files of the FBI and other governmental agencies of the U.S. as well as Columbia, South America, Great Britain and other countries. I suspect that you might find it very interesting. I look forward to the WRD Retirees Newsletter and wish to congratulate all who have a part in producing it. Keep up the good work."

Merilee Bennett writes, "The 2010 WRD Reunion Committee has been working hard on a great program for the Sept. 9th-11th meeting with some wonderful tours in the Denver area. Registration forms are coming in slowly and we would like to encourage everyone to register early (at least before the August 1st deadline) to join us in Sept. and renew old friendships. Regarding old friendships the following poem, "Around the Corner", by Charles Hanson Towne should offer some inspiration to attend!

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end;
Yet days go by, and weeks rush on,
And before I know it a year has gone,

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And I never see my old friend's face,
For life is a swift and terrible race,
He knows I like him just as well,
As in the days when I rang his bell,
And he rang mine. We were younger then,
And now we are busy, tired men:
Tired with playing a foolish game,
Tired with trying to make a name.
"Tomorrow," I say, "I will call on Jim,"
"Just to show that I'm thinking of him,"
But tomorrow comes - and tomorrow goes.
And the distance between us grows and grows.
Around the corner! - yet miles away.
"Here's the telegram, sir..... Jim died today."
And that's what we get, and deserve in the end,
Around the corner, a vanished friend.

Jim Borchers writes, "**Alice**, my wife of 26 years is a speech pathologist with the local school district. My oldest son Steven, is a senior at California Polytechnic State University and plans to be a teacher. My youngest son, Andrew, is in 7th grade and plans to play professional soccer, football, handball, dodge ball, golf, and anything other sport he tries."

Tony Buono reports, "All is well with us. We may be moving back to Nevada. We'll know in a few weeks."

Bob Burchett reports, "For the March meeting of the TX WRD Retirees, **CT Welborn** sent out a reminder that we were going to have our photo taken for the WRD Retirees Newsletter and to please come wearing green as March 17 was St Patrick's Day. I sent a follow up email stating that if our members did not have green to wear it was OK to come wearing a big smile on their face. You would be amazed at how many of our members do not have any green clothing. I hated to do it but was forced to tell a few of our members that if they wanted to be in the picture they would just have to put a few clothes on. As you can see, we look pretty good dressed — see the photo on p. 13! "

Denny Cline writes, "It has been some time since I have sent in any News. **Dorothy** and I spent 3 weeks in Mesa, AZ in 2007, 2 in Palm Springs, a week in Solvang, CA and several days with our son Doug and his family in the Bay area. In June we visited Victoria, BC and in July we had a 2-week trip to Banff National Park and Jasper National Park. In Sept. we visited Glacier Mt. National Park. Our life hit a bump in Jan. 2008 when I had a mild heart attack resulting in double bypass surgery. I had very little heart damage so my cardiac rehab went well. By July I was climbing hills so we headed to St. George, UT to see Zion, Cedar Breaks and Bryce Canyon National Parks. In Jan. and Feb. 2009 we visited AZ, CA and ID and then flew to Orlando for a 10-day cruise with high school classmates for our 62nd reunion. During June we went to Hawaii for 2 weeks – the big Island and Maui. Dorothy was really

beat by the end of this trip and we discovered she was suffering from anemia resulting from an abdominal hernia attack. She is now recovering from surgical repair so we are hoping to be able to travel again later this year."

Judy Cornwall writes, "**Dick** and I are taking a 10-day bus tour to Washington DC, beginning April 13, but I won't be able to tell you about it in time for the May newsletter. Dick also is doing a 300-mile, 5-day bike tour in NE in June, we're going to a music camp in Decorah, IA, in July, the Santa Fe Opera in August, and Quebec and the Gaspé Peninsula in October, provided the Lord continues to grant us the health and strength we are enjoying, so far. So I hope to contribute something to the newsletter down the road. I had breakfast this morning with **Jim Blakey**, **Jerry** and **Sandra Duncan**, **Rudy Dosch**, and **Bob Brennan**. It's always enjoyable to get together."

Dale Cotter writes, "My friend **Lee Holt** passed away March 6th. Many of you remember him. I came to the WI district in 1966, shortly after Lee had been named district chief. Lee ran the district like a family. He often had the staff out to his home, and I quickly learned that, as a section chief, I was expected to do the same. Camaraderie was high. The office picnics (we often had two a year) were sometimes at our homes, and the Christmas parties were something to look forward to. There was a lot of talent on the district staff and our get-togethers usually included skits that "roasted" all of us, including Lee – maybe especially Lee, jabbing him on his optimism that he (and we) could do anything. He lived his life that way – trying new things and usually succeeding. Lee was promoted out of the district to higher level positions. While in the Regional Office in Atlanta, he met and married **Pat**. After Lee retired they returned to Madison and **Gerry** and I became close friends with them, traveling together and sharing meals and good times. Lee's last activity with the USGS was his involvement with the WRD Retirees reunion in Madison in 2006. Lee was a true artist. His fertile mind and skill in working in 3 dimensions allowed him to produce innovative art forms. He carved pipes from burls, cast wax candles, created ceramic sculptures and expressed himself on paper in watercolor paintings and wood block prints. He excelled in his work with clay, producing ceramic bells, half-size figures of clowns and mythical gods, 3-dimensional wall hangings and an assortment of figures -- often with "green" or "earth" motifs."

Russ Curtis says, "Since enjoying the '08 WRD Reunion and Caribbean Cruise, **Lavonne** and I have been very active. In Jan. '09, Lavonne retired from her 40-year plus career as an RN and was given a grand party organized by her 4 children honoring her retirement and 65th birthday. The party was held at my house in Wellington, FL, and attended by all of her

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children, grandchildren and many, friends and coworkers. With our new-found freedom, we began making plans to travel. In February, we spent a week in Costa Rica doing all of the touristy things like visiting volcanoes, beaches on both coasts, wood factories, a coffee plantation, a butterfly hatchery and flying across the rain forest canopy on cables. I decided to reduce the size of my orchid collection which had grown to over 1,000 orchids over the past 25 years so we had an auction. My local clubs, the Wellington Garden Club and the Tropical Orchid Society agreed to help with auction and I donated half of the proceeds to them. We kept about 100 orchids which we are growing on Lavonne's patio. In June, we spent a week with Lavonne's daughter in Plymouth, MA visiting the "Rock" and replicas of the Mayflower and Plymouth Plantation. It was interesting to learn the interaction between the Native Americans and the Pilgrims. July found us on a 5,000 mile driving tour from FL to KS,CO,OK,TX and back .We visited most of my kids, grandkids, great - grandkids and a few friends including my old USGS buddies **Jim** and **Janet Craig** in KS. I had always planned to move into my Palm Beach condo when I turned 75 so I put my Wellington house up for sale. With the housing market as it is, I expected it to take all winter to sell so I rented my condo for the winter. It sold in Oct. and I became officially "homeless". Fortunately Lavonne agreed to let me hang out in her Boynton Beach town home for the winter. We celebrated Christmas '09 in Boynton Beach with a visit from three of Lavonne's kids and all 5 of her grandkids. This past winter turned out to be one of the coldest on record in So. FL. so in January we flew to AZ to visit family. Our timing was good as the weather in was very nice while everything was freezing in FL. Our orchids really took a hit. Finally, my renters move out of my condo at the end of March. I am in the process of finding room for a lifetime of accumulated "crap" in my little 2-bed final resting place .It really helps me decide what is important and what is not. But sitting on my balcony, watching the sunrises over the ocean makes it all worthwhile. We have many plans for the remainder of this year. The ones we have confirmed are a trip to Maui, HI, a cruise to the Bahamas, a 7-day stay with Lavonne's daughter at the Colorado Rockies fishing resort owned by my brother-in-law and sister-in-law, and finally a 26-day cruise of the Med. Sea. We love living in south FL so much that the best part of any trip is coming home. Lavonne and I are a rare couple, as both of us were born in the Sunshine State. I was saddened to learn of the death of **Leo Bohner**. Leo was my mentor when I started with WRD in 1954 in Topeka, KS. He and his wife **Della** (he called her Shorty), were extremely helpful in getting me and my young family oriented,"

Terry Danielson says, "After reading our newsletters about the activities and adventures of retirees, many times, I have a feeling of inferiority but still, I am so very

proud that I was and still am associated with the USGS. It's hard to believe that I have been retired for almost 16 years and living here in SW Utah for almost 12 of those years. When we moved here to Leeds, there were only 300 people here; today there's 900. I get up every morning and look at the snow covered Pine Mountains to the west and the Virgin River canyons and red and white sandstone outcrops to the east and think I'm in heaven. Three hundred days of sunshine and 8 inches of moisture and surrounded by National and State parks; beautiful! I served in the town government for a few years but today **Nina** and I spend our spare time hiking, jeeping, playing tennis a few times a week and ballroom dancing many Saturday nights. I still have my 1974 Honda motorcycle, and 1965 Willys Jeep I bought while stationed in Denver and my 1974 Lincoln Mark I bought while in Salt Lake City so I never run out of work. Thanks to those who work so hard putting the newsletter together; the Survey and its people make up one of the greatest organizations in the world!!!"

Bob Dingman writes, "Ginna and I moved out here to Normal, IL 7 years ago. We moved here to be near a daughter and granddaughter. The last time I had wintered in IL was in 1943 when I was in the Army Air Corp stationed at Chanute Field for meteorology training. I remember that it was colder than my home in MN. And you know what? I was right. When that wind blows it gets 50 degrees colder. This was the worst winter in 100 years, so they say. We have been "Snow Birds" and wintering in Casa Grande, AZ where my brother lives but this year we decided to stay in Illinois. Mistake!!! Ginna and I are both in reasonably good health. I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease two years ago but the Doc said the disease was progressing so slowly that he would worry about it when I was 114. We enjoy reading the Newsletter and wish that the older members would write more."

Dan Duerr reports, "There were 26 WRD Retirees/spouses in attendance at the annual dinner in Tampa: Attendees included: **Bob & Madalyn Wylie, Lewis & Sandra Fletcher, Tom & Jeannie Yorke, Ray & Aggi Mularoni, John and Lee Vecchioli, Mario Fernandez, Judy Thompson, Craig & Tai Hutchinson, Lynn & Peggy Barr and their N.J. friends, Dan & Kathy Duerr, Ben McPherson, Carl & Bettye Goodwin, Ron & Joanne Miller & Luther Mills.** Social hour went well. Tom and Jeannie were on their southeast tour and stayed in Tampa tonight after spending time with Jeannie's mother in Naples. Luther drove all the way down from Cross City. The Wylies drove over from Lakeland. Mario came from the beach. Luther offered money-making pointers about growing pine trees. I wondered why I had an account with Fidelity. Instead, I should have given investment money to Luther years ago. I'd most likely be a billionaire now and hosting this shindig on my yacht in Tampa Bay. I

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was pleased with tonight's big turnout and thanks to the Barrs for taking pictures."

Bill Emmett reports, "I just received the news that **Reds Wolman** died yesterday afternoon, February 24, at age 85. I have little information except that Reds passed away quickly and without pain. We have lost a giant, marking the end of an era. But even more, we have lost an extraordinary human being who inspired and delighted so many of us. Prof. Wolman's career was defined by contributions to our understanding of rivers, supported by pioneering work in developing interdisciplinary education and an extraordinary commitment to the application of research to river management. In his Ph.D. research at Harvard and subsequent work with **Luna Leopold** at USGS Prof. Wolman played a central role in defining rivers in a modern, framework that still provides the standard against which new concepts are evaluated."

Bob Faye writes, "My life since retirement has been relatively uneventful. My wife **Theresa** and I enjoy generally good health, which is reinforced by the fresh air and great climate here in north GA. Our son Brandon has recently stepped into and then out of matrimony, so there are no grandchildren on the near horizon. We live near a small college town called Dahlonga, which now seems to be a top ten destination for boomer retirees. We also own a cabin on Lake Notiley, a TVA reservoir in north GA, where I look forward to spending more time as soon as other activities allow. I resist traveling anywhere that I cannot drive to in two or three days, although Theresa persuaded me recently to take a cruise to AK, which we greatly enjoyed. Most of my time is taken up working on various engineering and groundwater investigations here in the southeast. I've worked almost continuously since I retired in 1997 and greatly enjoy engineering again. I incorporated several years ago and the formal name of my company is Robert E. Faye and Associates, Inc. My good wishes to all of my friends and colleagues who make it to Denver. Take care and stay well."

Herb Freiberger reports, "I got an email from **Andy Anderson** saying that the 6AM radio news from Washington quoted USGS for helping to locate a water main break by using the gaging station network. Andy is retired but he is up that early! Herb talked with **Rick Saffer**, a valued hydro tech in the MD-DE-DC water science center. He said that one of our hydrologists, **Jon Dillow** in the data section heard a report on Baltimore news about the break. He called Rick for a rating curve and looked up the flow on the web for all of our stations on the Gwynn Falls in NW Baltimore. The downstream station had a rise in flow even though there was no rain and the snow was almost gone. The upstream station had no rise. The next downstream station had no rise so by process of elimination the

break had to be in a few mile stretch above the downstream station. Jon went onsite and walked the stretch and found the break about the same time city employees who he had contacted arrived. The break was in such an isolated area that the city had to build a road to get the heavy duty equipment to the scene for repair work, thanks for going the extra mile (literally) to help out the city. You made the USGS proud."

John George has a new phone number: 303-969-7666. He'd love to have calls from his old friends!"

Elaine Gockel reports, "**Dan** and I are doing very well. We keep busy volunteering and I am a substitute receptionist for a local business. We just got back from 10 days in St. Marrrtan – we recommend it! We have a daughter working for the Department of Defense in Falls Church and will be visiting her after Easter."

George Gravlee writes, "Last year, 2009, found **Diane** and me once again traveling the eastern half of the country in our motor home helping build low income housing with local groups from both Habitat for Humanity and The Fuller Center for Housing. During the winter and spring we volunteered in FL and LA and then during the summer and fall in IO, OH, MI, IN and NC. Between building periods and for the holidays we managed to make several visits to CT and OH to visit our children and grandchildren. We were saddened to learn recently of the death of **Bob Fish**. Last summer on one of our trips to the northeast we stopped in Milford, PA and visited with him. I worked with Bob in the Office of the Delaware River Master in Milford from 1966 to 1971. I learned a lot from Bob about regional water problems & politics and he encouraged me to become involved, like him, in local community service activities. One of the highlights of the year was taking one of our grandsons on a 2 week trip in our motor home, doing things that interested him. We spent his time traveling through eastern PA, NJ and NY visiting factories, Steamtown NHS, forts, and New York City, which included a tour of the NBC Studios. We have done this for each of our grandchildren, when they turn 13; this was our second grandchild's trip. We are starting 2010 at a slower pace. In Jan. I had shoulder surgery and the recovery and rehab period is keeping us at our home in Greenwood, SC through at least April. We hope to be back on the road by mid May. Our TX address in the Directory is a mail forwarding address."

Scott Hamlin writes, "Reading **Dick Engberg's** farewell President's Message – the statistical summary of the average number of reports written by WRD retirees made me realize how much our folks had contributed to the scientific community. I thought that I might have lowered the average number of reports per retiree -- 20. Then I did retrieval from the reports system and, lo and behold, I had 22 reports listed!

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Actually, one of the 22 reports was from my brief tenure with USGS Conservation Division at the start of my career in Feb. 1978. I have so many good friends and experiences from my time in "active duty". Transferring from a cushy office job in LA to the Salinas WRD field office in 1979 almost cut my WRD career short. My first day in the field was spent with **Wendell Ayers** on a cold, rainy day on the Salinas River without rain gear. It was the worst day of my career. If not for a pep talk from **Bill Boning**, I might have gone back to LA. This experience guided my career and led to my decision to choose ground water over surface water as my future work. Field work for GW projects is generally scheduled to avoid rainy days, SW is the opposite!"

Mark Have says, "We continue to have our monthly breakfasts of MN WRD Retirees on the first Monday of each month. I always email a reminder to everyone a few days before and **Kevin Guttormsonis**, our most recent retiree is on my email list. We average about 6 retirees at our breakfasts. I will try and talk to him on the phone and welcome him to this wonderful retirement world that we all enjoy."

Paul Hayes reports, "All is well with us. **Alice** and I are still snow birding between IN and CA."

Steve Hindall writes, "I hate to admit it but it has been some time since I've updated **Sandy** and my activities. We are still in Columbus, in good health, enjoying being close to our children and grandchildren and very active in our church and food pantries. I am chairman of the Columbus well field board and a member of the Franklin County water board. The OH WRD Retirees meet every other month for lunch and chatter. We usually have about a dozen retirees/spouses at our gatherings. I still stay in close touch with the OH Water Science Center – usually visit the office every few weeks to find out what is happening with the program and personnel. The new Director, Jim Morris, is a longtime friend – he used to be one of our cooperators but saw the light when the position became available. Sandy and I still enjoy traveling but don't do as much as we would like. We visit family in FL and Rehoboth Beach, DE. Sandy and I spent some time this fall in the Smokies. We also went to OK for a reunion of cousins – a real ball! Since I last reported we took a Med. cruise with 20 friends and are currently planning a trip through the Panama Canal for with a dozen good friends. Sandy's mother is not doing too well which limits the amount of time we can spend at our cabin in McGregor Bay, Ontario and some other travel."

Helen Ipsaro writes, "I enjoy reading the Newsletter immensely. My husband, **Chuck**, and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary September 20, 2009."

Don Jorgenson reports, "I live in Jefferson, SD, on the Missouri River. I pretend I am a farmer. I do some

consulting. I do significant gratis work on the management of the Missouri River. Recently, the ASCE Journal of Hydrologic Eng. published an article on Missouri River hydrology that I authored."

Roger Knapton writes, "After retirement in 1993 **Gail** and I moved to Polson, MT. Polson is in the northwestern part of the State at the south end of Flathead Lake. Much of our traveling these days is to Seattle and to Ennis, MT where our children and grandchildren reside. Contrary to much of the country, we experienced one of the mildest winters on record. The warmth was welcome, but the downside has been a struggle for the ski areas and the likelihood of low streamflows and forest fires during the summer. Hopefully, this past winter represents short-term weather, not climate."

Darwin Knochenmus says, "We have been out of the cattle business for about 3 years now. The problem is to keep the pasture cut so the brush doesn't take over. I miss the cows but I don't have much time to think about that. Between volunteering and traveling there isn't much time left. In Feb. **Linda** and I celebrated our 50th anniv. in Lake Tahoe. Last year we visited our son and his family in France; Thailand with the Friendship Force and the Chautauqua Institute discussing Cuba. I spend many hours at the local elementary school."

Henry Ku reports, "I just returned from a winter trip to Yellowstone NP, which is something I all ways wanted to do. One trip was by snow coach from Grand Teton to Old Faithful to see the thermal springs and the animals that came to keep warm. The other trip was by plane. My brother and I flew for 2 hours over Yellowstone on a clean and calm day. We could see as far as Sew Tooth Mountain. We took tons of pictures and movies. Best wishes for the new year."

Sol Lang says, "**Yetta** and I are doing well and we appreciate your efforts in keeping us informed. Keep up the good work with the Newsletter."

Anna Lenox writes, "I LOVE receiving the newsletter. Many thanks to those dedicated folks who make it possible!! I'm finding retirement less fun than working (of course, I had the best job at the USGS). But, I do manage to stay very busy (the secret to happiness). I think everyone knows that I volunteer as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for abused and neglected children (CASA). It's a rough job, but needs to be done. Sometimes I think that the skills learned in the Middle East Peace Process were preparation for my volunteer work! Last November I accompanied my youngest daughter and her husband on a trip to Belgium, Germany, and France. Focus was WW II battlefields. We had a guide a couple of days, floated the Rhine, stayed in castles, and drank a lot of beer/ate a lot of cheese. Need I say that a great time was had by all?"

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Oh, we also visited many cathedrals--beautiful. This was our second trip --first round was to visit WW I battlefields. In Jan., my daughter and I flew down to Orlando to see **Dina Shampine (Bill and Faye's daughter)** run in a half marathon at Disney. Dina was able to finish, and we helped baby-sit her 2-year old daughter. We enjoyed reconnecting with Bill and Faye.

Bill seems to be enjoying retirement--he's very involved with musical endeavors and Faye is partaking of the several activities available in their retirement home. My 4-year old Chesapeake Retriever is my constant companion, and we try to walk 1-2 miles each day. As a result, I've lost those "computer pounds" that I'd gained at the office. Now I'm down to 138 pounds from 150. We currently have nothing planned, beyond dinner Saturday nights and lunch during the week. I'm blessed by a nearby family, and several grandchildren (one of who lives with me) as well as my eldest daughter and her significant other. In my free time, I run "poop patrol" in the back yard, cook for the family, clean house, do laundry, etc. And then there is the most enjoyable WRD Retirees luncheon."

Russ Livingston says, "**Anita** and I are far too busy and thus have failed retirement. Of course staying busy is a good thing, but keeping up with 6 grandchildren and 2 businesses, as well as taking time for hiking, snowshoeing, canyoneering, and four-wheeling excursions; RV trips and occasional overseas travel; and home-remodeling projects is almost too much. We hope this year to reduce our number of activities by ending the two businesses (www.4xGuard.com and a hydrologic-consulting company), which have been very interesting and enjoyable but require far too much of our time. We hope to replace that time with more travel, both with our travel trailer and with international tours such as those offered by Overseas Adventure Travel. We are very thankful for good health (both being cancer survivors) and for the blessing of each new day, and we look forward to the upcoming reunion and the chance to see everyone again."

Jaye Lunsford writes, "I love being part of WRD Retirees. After retiring in September 09, I hung up the phone from my last teleconference at about 3:30 PM, and by 4:00 we had untied the docklines and set sail on our 33-foot sailboat/home. We're just back in the U.S. after spending the last 3 months in the Bahamas - delighted to have missed one of the snowiest winters on record in the Washington, DC area! We'll be cruising slowly up the southeast coast - we're currently in central Florida, but that's subject to change."

Mary Lou Malo says, "My kids have dragged me into the 21st century - I have a high speed computer connection and got rid of dial up. It will be able to get my Newsletter by email. It will be delivered sooner and I'll be able to see color photos."

Larry Martens writes, "All is well in Alabama, **Rita** has basically recovered from her fall but still may need some dental work. We have now been in Alabama for 18 years and this has been by far the worst winter. Almost reminds us of Wisconsin. I am still golfing and fishing a little and we both continue to play bridge. Rita more than me. We will be going to Fort Huachuca, AZ. this April and also up to Chicago in June. Maybe continue on to Green Bay, WI but those plans are not firm. All in all, except for Rita's fall, we both are fairly healthy. We both will be 80 this year and are still driving but Rita questions my ability at times—as she has been doing that for the past 59 years. We enjoy the WRD Newsletter and hope to see all in Denver."

Bob Meade reports, "Three main threads run through my life these days. The Emeritus thread is a good one, that I recommend to anyone who (like me) is still unable (after being retired 14 years now) to sever the cord that ties him to the USGS. One of my wisest career moves was to hire, back in 1978, a younger and stronger colleague (**John Moody**), who now is still on the active payroll, and is still getting me out for a couple weeks a year of field work on Powder River. (It's so much nicer being the Field Assistant and letting somebody else do the hard thinking and heavy lifting; but, come to think of it, John ALWAYS did the heavy lifting -- and, so far as I am now able to recall, most of the hard thinking.) We even manage to get out a report now and then. Right now we're cranking on a SIR on the Powder River flood of 1978: perhaps we're not as timely as we might have been, but it's amazing how much more interesting the story has become (at least to us) in the light of a few decades of hindsight. Besides, at our age, hindsight is a heck of a lot clearer than foresight, so we might as well go with what we do have, instead of trying to fake what we don't. Thread #2 is the National Research Council that has drafted me as panelist on a couple of their committees. Our Committee on the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) Program got its final report out last year. (This is all pro bono on our part, so NRC makes life pleasant for us by putting us into nice hotels and feeding us at fine restaurants. Suffice it to say that all our LACPR gatherings were in New Orleans.) Our NRC Committee on Missouri River Recovery and Sediment Management Issues is finishing its final report about now. This is pretty good duty, which I strongly recommend to other geezers who might like a chance to mix it up with old acquaintances and to get to know some of the younger hotshots who are picking up where we left off. And my Salvation Thread is tree farming. We're not talking here about anything as constructive as **Roger Wolff's** Christmas trees. "Tree farming" in the Colorado Front Range is a euphemism for arboricide. A hundred and fifty years of wildfire suppression (thanks a lot, Smokey!) has left the forests overstocked with fuel, and folks like me can get a break on their property taxes by

NEWS OF RETIREES

following a systematic program of thinning. This is soul-satisfying stuff (all except the slash management), and, after 15 years or so, some parts of our woods are looking nice.”

Linda Meadows says, “Thanks to all of you fellow retirees for providing such an informative Newsletter. I enjoy reading about long time friends.”

Daisie Oden writes, “I do read the Newsletters and enjoy them each and every time. I have to admit that I no longer know a third of the people in WRD, not to mention who is who in the USGS. It's wonderful how we are blessed with each new day but the days could slow down a bit don't you think. It really seems as if I am busier now than when I worked 10-hour days, took work home, worked weekends, etc, and still found time to do the house chores. It's amazing how we all stay so busy. What do I do with my time? I am now working with my daughter Kim who has her own business in her home; doing medical transcription. She has 5 other employees who really are employees. I am sort of an employee; doing the grunt work since I don't have a medical background nor do I want a medical background. Grunt work is fine; I am good at copying, sorting, delivering, etc--I do some editing--placing those commas and constructing complete sentences, not always according to the USGS correspondence regulations, but I score with the doctor's approval. I do a lot of volunteering at the Mary Washington Hospital and their sponsored Thrift Shop. I am involved with my Church and try to do what I can to help the less fortunate in the community. I used to think DC had all the homeless, but not so. There are plenty here in this area and my grandchildren are learning that life is not always about "me." One of them recently asked his Daddy if they could give this one particular homeless fellow a tent. Several days later, he and his Daddy took the tent to the guy standing at the bridge. It was quite a moment and one my grandson won't forget. It was an excellent learning experience as well as inspirational. Other than missing **Hillary**, and it has been almost 4 years, I am doing okay. I am seriously thinking about selling and downsizing. We bought a house with a nice size yard and had so much fun planting and planting, and planting. Now, I can hear him say "Daisie, these trees and shrubs are going to grow." Yep, they did and now I have more than I can care for. So, it's time now for me to find a smaller place, but will remain close to my daughter who lives next door. Will keep in touch and let you know when my address changes. It won't be a quick sale because I am going to wait until I get what I want. I don't need to give it away; I can wait it out.”

Fred Paillet writes, “Last summer I promised to send an update on my own doings, and then promptly got distracted by another hospitalization. All of this

superimposed on a transfer from my former University of Maine association to an adjunct position with the University of Arkansas. **Ann** and I are now established in the quiet little college town of Fayetteville in the Ozarks. This places us much closer to the grandkids and much farther from winter, even if the latter went out of its way to visit us this year. I continue to deal with coronary issues in a situation that is critical, occasionally life threatening, but never serious. Almost every incident in recent history stems from equipment failure and programming errors in my pacemaker system - most of which have close counterparts in my chosen well logging occupation. I am still active working with the local USGS office and with the geophysical program in Storrs at the University of Connecticut. Still backpacking in the summer in northern Alaska. And still enjoying my work with students at the university in the company of fellow WRD retiree **Van Brahana**.”

Jerry Parker says, “Not much new with me. I still spend about 6 months in Tacoma and get to the Retiree breakfasts when I can. The winter is spent in Sun City, AZ golfing with grumpy old men. Still play to about a 12 handicap but the lower rounds are more and more occasional. My only daughter, **Becky**, blessed us with a second granddaughter last year. Too bad **Essie Mae** had to miss it all. Regards to all.”

Merv Petersen writes, “I enjoy the Newsletter. There are not as many names that I recognize now because I retired 30 years ago with 42 years service in Water Resources Division and enjoyed those years with many friends. I served in several locations in the US and enjoyed each assignment. I was a SW specialist in two Regions and had many WRD friends throughout the country. Now I am getting rather old – I just had my 90th birthday. I send greeting to all and want to keep hearing about my longtime friends in the Newsletter.”

Ron Rathbun writes, “**Barbara** and I have spent a lot of the past 7 months getting our home repaired from the July 20th hail-wind storm. We have 6 new windows on the north side of the house, 2 new windows on the east side, a new condenser unit for the outside part of our AC system, and a new roof. Our home owners' association has finally decided that maybe shake roofs are not the best type for this area. So, we now have a stone-clad steel roof that is reportedly hail resistant. Still to be done once it warms up is to have the house painted. Unfortunately, there was hail damage to only three sides of the house, so we will have to pay for the painting of the fourth side. We still have found time to continue our winter trips to Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Rocky Mountain National Parks. On a recent trip to Rocky Mountain, we saw a group of at least 50 bull elk in a meadow. Unfortunately, because of an overpopulation of elk, the Park Service has put up a bunch of fences to protect some of the vegetation from

NEWS OF RETIREES

the elk. These fences make my photography more difficult, but do not bother Barbara with her paintings. If she is working from a photo and there is a fence in it, she simply does not include it in her painting. She recently completed a watercolor of two sparring bulls and it is now at www.rathbungallery.com. Barbara won best of show in the 51st Annual Arvada Fine Arts Guild Show with a textured oil painting of a cowboy on a bucking bronco. But the best part was three days later when she got a phone call informing her that the painting had sold. Our health remains generally good, although Barbara still has an occasional flare up of the shingles she had over two years ago. She recently found a list of foods on the Internet that reportedly may contribute to these flare ups, and she also recently began taking an amino acid, lysine, which seems to help. Most mornings, I take our dog for about a 3-mile walk, so we get to enjoy many glorious Colorado sunrises, and every 28 days, a full moonset."

John Ritter reports, "**Judy** and I are still helping the Friends of the Library. They made \$167,000 on the last book sale. We traveled to Glacier National Park last fall and found the house my mother lived in when she taught in Libby, MT. Daughter Amy and I went to York, England, also last fall--she on business, me doing the usual tourist stuff. Good trip. Judy and I will be married 50 years next summer. We're going to have a family get-together on the North Shore of Lake Superior in Minnesota. **Ken Vanlier** who also lives here in Gainesville has been in the hospital with an operation for colon cancer and an infection. We see Ken and his wife about twice a month for dinner or lunch and at the monthly NARFE meeting. Hope to see you in Denver."

Carroll Saboe writes, "**Betty** and I now live in a Del Webb Community in Fishers, IN. It's adult single family housing with no yard work and we moved to be close to our daughter and her family. Instead of a 550 mile drive to see her it's now only 13 miles. Health wise, I'm doing OK and Betty has started taking a new drug called to treat atrial fibrillation. She was on the medication for a week when they shocked her heart to get it into a normal sinus rhythm. It has been 3 days since the shock so we are hoping it stays in rhythm. Keep up the good work on the newsletter."

Bill Schaefer reports, "As with **Bob** and **Elinor Beall**, 2009 has not been a banner year in my house. In brief, the removal of 2 tumors from my nose was followed by a series of radiation treatments. Next a heart condition, two hospital stays and a pacemaker. Then a fall led to a 911 trip to the emergency room, stitches and rehab. My vision decreased steadily and by year-end I could not read names and addresses. Treatment has finally got me back to this level – for which I thank God!"

Gerald Schultz reports, "My wife, **Cerese**, and I are both doing ok. Gerald transferred from the NY USGS District to the BOR Regional Office, Amarillo, TX in Dec 1976. The Office was closed and he along with many others transferred to the BOR Technical Center, Denver in Jun 1988 where he remained until he retired. I volunteer with the local Gila National Forest compiling over 100 years of grazing data. The results of this were to be used to develop better grazing practices on the forest lands. I also volunteered for many years with a Stakeholder effort to develop projects to utilize Gila River water as a result of the Arizona Water Settlements Act which was signed into law in 2004 to provide NM with Central AZ Project -- water that NM never got during the original CAP project. This is still an ongoing effort and goes very slow when members of the general public are part of project planning each and every step of the way. We have two daughters and a son. Cerese works in the local Walmart as a checker. We have traveled to many places. We usually have our granddaughter (Gabrielle, she would normally never get to go to -- the Pacific NW, the mountain states, the Gulf states, and all of the NE. I was able to get back to my old USAF base (closed in 1961) in Newfoundland after 49 years. We took the famous Caravan Tours train trip over Copper Canyon this past Feb. I go to various water conferences and see some people that I worked with over the years. I enjoy reading the newsletter."

John Shen says, "Since moving out west we have been splitting time between California, where our daughter's family lives, and Washington, where our son's family lives. Thus far the arrangement seems to be working OK. We are now living in a retirement community, Rossmoor, California. It is a large facility with all kinds of recreation equipment, golf, tennis, swimming pool and even a small movie theatre. Nevertheless, we are still missing you folks back east and the nice monthly meetings in Herndon."

Eileen Smith reports, "I had a long and wonderful telephone conversation with **Harry Barnes**. He and **Jean** are both having some health problems but Harry remains very upbeat, as we all would expect. He would love to hear from his old friends so give him a call at 601-482-3611."

Tim Smith says, "Hi to all WRD Retirees. You can check out my latest adventures on the web site at <http://waterwiki.wik.is/user:etsmithsiri>."

Betty Spahn reports, "It has been over 19 years since I retired from WRD. The years have flown by – my "bucket list" is almost complete! Reading about the reunion in Denver makes me nostalgic for my good friends and coworkers. Perhaps it comes as no surprise that I am now on oxygen 24/7 so my traveling is curtailed. I still manage to use my timeshare vacation

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with my bridge friends by choosing areas within a one-day drive. My son, Mike, is recuperating from chemo he had last year. Jane, the lawyer in our family, is busy working and traveling. After moving around a bit, I believe I am at the right place at this time of my life. Of my 22 years of Federal service, I am very pleased the last 11 years were with WRD."

Richard Stahl says, "I was saddened to read of the passing of **Oscar Lara**. As noted in his In Memoriam, Oscar began his WRD career in the IL District. On his first field trip, he was assigned to accompany me to measure the Illinois River at Meredosia. The measurement was made from a "swing span" railroad bridge of about 1000 ft. It required the use of a 4-wheel crane and 100 lb. weight. It was not an easy task! On the morning of the field trip I picked up Oscar at his home. The always dapper Oscar emerged for the house resplendent in a white shirt, tie, three-piece suit, shined shoes and a camel hair overcoat. He was a joy to behold! However, he was not properly dressed for the task at hand. During the three-hour drive to the site, I made the suggestion that maybe he should consider a change in his dress code. Oscar was one-in-a-million! I will never forget him!"

Herb Stevens writes, "I was 83 in June. **Elaine** and I really enjoy reading the newsletter. I do hope we will be able to participate in the WRD reunion this year. We are older and slower--I am so impressed with people over 80 who are quick on their feet, still playing golf etc. That isn't us. We actually had a little bit of a blizzard on Friday. Visibility was about half a block when we were out to get haircuts and we live in town. Can't imagine what it was like in the country."

Lee Trotta says, "The news has been good! In October I visited my daughter, **Natalie**, at her apartment in Los Angelus to help her pack for a move to San Francisco. During the days, I would visit the CBS Studios and was in the audience for "The Price is Right" and 3 episodes of "The Late Show with Craig Ferguson". In late December I helped my brother Tony close of a home in Poynette, move in and start repairs. At Christmas, **Beth** and I traveled up to celebrate with her relative in Manitowoc. Natalie traveled to France to celebrate with a close friend at his home in Alsace Lorraine, France. Upon her return she found a new job as a real estate contractor in San Francisco. In January, Beth went into the hospital for foot surgery and the recovery took a couple of months. In February I traveled to Tarpon Springs, FL to visit family. When I got back my son, **Kyle**, let us know that he and his wife are expecting. We will be grandparents in October."

Pat Tucci says, "As a member of the Denver Reunion organizing committee I can guarantee you will have a great time Sept. 9-11 in Denver and at the post reunion trip to Glenwood Springs. Information about the

reunion, including how to register, appears on pages 11 and 12 of this Newsletter. Information is also available at the following web sites: http://home.sprintmail.com/~ptucci/WRD/index_retire.htm or through the "Reunions" page at the WRD Retirees website at: <http://wrcretirees.org/>. Register early and come have a great time."

Russ Wagner reports, "**Pat** and I are doing well. We are trying to help the economy--had a fall trip to Chile with a boat trip around South America and she has a March Cruise to the Caribbean set up, then the summer in Ontario."

Pat Walker says, "I really enjoy the WRD Retirees Newsletter but each one brings more new names and fewer familiar ones. Tempus does fugit, doesn't it?"

CT Welborn reports, "We had our February Texas WRD Retirees meeting a week early, because **Jim** and **Paula Blakey** were in Austin. All of our local members were notified of the change of date of our February meeting. Those that came out to visit with Jim and Paula were: **Bob and Libby Burchett, Bud and Beverly Anderson, Freeman Andrews, Paul Rhone, and CT Welborn**. A great time was had by all. Bob opened the meeting by wishing everyone a good morning and welcomed Jim and Paula. Paula gave a report on **Bonnie Hawkinson**. Bonnie is still not feeling up to par, but is able to get around with a walker. She hasn't been able to travel for some time. She needs our prayers. Paula broke her foot and is on crutches. She fell in her home. Jim had a problem a while back but he now is feeling well and is back to his old self. They are on their way to Galveston to visit relatives. Jim and Paula come to our meetings more often than some of our local members."

Frank Wells writes, "**Cindy** and I continue to enjoy life in the country. We have been busy pruning and fertilizing our fruit trees and planting our spring garden. After a long hot dry summer in 2009, El Nino has found its way into Central Texas and we had a wet fall and winter. We are looking forward to spring which promises to produce an abundance of wild flowers. I really enjoy receiving the Newsletter!"

Dick Whitehead writes, "A few weeks ago, I was volunteered to be interviewed as a participant in a Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan for the Treasure Valley in Idaho. The first meeting is 2-19-10; we will see how that goes."

Leonard Wollitz says, "I really enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter. I send regard to all of my fellow retirees."

FIFTHTEENTH WRD RETIREES REUNION

Denver, Colorado

September 9 – September 11, 2010

HOTEL

The WRD Retirees 2010 Reunion will be at the Holiday Inn/Lakewood, when temperatures range from the low 70s to mid 80s during the day with much cooler evenings. One-hundred rooms have been reserved for the Reunion and more rooms are available if reservations are made before August 1. Both king and 2-bed rooms are available at a rate of \$89 plus tax and include a complimentary breakfast for both occupants. Rates will be honored if guests wish to stay either before or after the reunion. Room reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn/Lakewood at 303-980-9200 or online at www.hilakewood.com and referencing the Group 'WRD Retirees' for the Reunion dates and, if you are staying for the post Reunion trip to Glenwood Springs, for the return night of September 14. The Hotel address is: 7390 W. Hampden Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80227. Hotel parking is free.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM AIRPORT

Either by: (1) Car Rental; (2) SuperShuttle, \$58 per person round trip, by calling 1-800-525-3177 or visiting their website www.supershuttle.com; and, (3) local taxi services at the airport (approx. \$100 one-way).

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Thursday, September 9 (Hotel check-in time is 4:00 PM)

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

Friday, September 10

Business Meeting, 9 AM -11 AM -- All retirees and spouses are invited to participate in the business meeting. Agenda for the meeting will follow at a later date. Optional afternoon activities: Golf outing with Jack and Judy Weeks – please contact them directly by email at ijnweeks@gmail.com if interested; Rockies baseball – tentative; or free time.

Saturday, September 11

Tours: 8 AM -4 PM -- Please refer to specific tour for times.

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

TOURS

Titles of the five tours are shown below: Please see NL 146, Feb. 2010 or WRDRetirees.org web page for details.

Celestial Seasoning and Leanin' Tree Tours (8:45 AM – 4:00 PM)

Georgetown Museums and Train Ride (8:45 AM – 4:00 PM)

Denver Museum of Nature and Science (9:30 AM – 2:30 PM)

Front Range Tour (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

Garden of the Gods (7:30 AM – 4:00 PM)

REUNION POST TRIP -- Glenwood Springs, Colorado

September 12 – September 14

Take a trip back in time; visit THE HOTEL COLORADO that opened in 1887. You will spend two nights where Teddy Roosevelt, Molly Brown, and President Taft stayed. In 1977, the hotel entered into the National Register of Historic Places. The 6-hour bus ride from and to Denver will include 2-hour lunch stops near Lake Dillon. We will travel over the Continental Divide thru Eisenhower Tunnel, then over Vail Pass, and thru spectacular Glenwood Canyon. The cost of the round trip bus ride is \$80 per person. If you prefer, drive in a POV. However, you will miss the on-going presentation on geology, hydrology, and biology. The Reunion Post Trip hotel (including a full buffet breakfast) will be \$132/night – double occupancy. Call the hotel directly at 1-800-544-3998 and ask for 'WRD RETIREES'. You will be charged for the first night when you make your reservation. Buses will leave Lakewood on September 12 about 9:30 AM and will leave to return to Lakewood about 9:30 AM on September 14 (Tuesday).

Please note: Registration for the Reunion and Hotel Reservations must be made by August 1.

Please register and make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.

More information is available on the WRD Retirees 2010 Reunion website

http://home.sprintmail.com/~ptucci/WRD/index_retire.htm or through the "Reunions" page at the WRD Retirees website at <http://wrcretirees.org>

If you have any questions, please contact the following:

Merilee Bennett

merjimeric@comcast.net

303-232-5205

Jim Blakey

jblakey@comcast.net

303-988-8520

N.L. 147; p. 11

**WRD RETIREES 2010 REUNION, DENVER, COLORADO
SEPTEMBER 9 – 11, 2010**

NAME(S) _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

REGISTRATION FEE—DEADLINE AUGUST 1, 2010

Registration Fee -- Number attending _____ @ \$40 per person \$ _____
Refunds are available prior to the August 1st deadline date.

FOOD -- Group meals are listed. Other meals are on-your-own.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

Reunion 'Kick-Off' Party at the Holiday Inn (6 – 9 PM) – Hors d'ouvres (cash bar after 1st drink)
Number of people attending _____ @ \$20 per person \$ _____
(A ticket for the 1st drink, will be included in your package at Reunion check-in)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2010 (Afternoon Optional Activities)

-Golf Tournament (Jack and Judy Weeks) – refer to information on page 11 for details
-Rockies Baseball Game (vs. Arizona Diamond Backs) Number Attending _____ \$ _____ TBD _____

TOURS -- A 55-passenger bus is reserved for each tour. All tours run simultaneously; cancelled tours due to lack of participation will either be refunded or we will try to accommodate the participants in a remaining tour as available.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

Celestial Seasoning and Leanin' Tree	Number attending _____ @ \$26 per person	\$ _____
Georgetown Museums and Train Trip	Number attending _____ @ \$53 per person	\$ _____
Museum of Nature and Science, Denver	Number attending _____ @ \$31 per person	\$ _____
Front Range Tour	Number attending _____ @ \$36 per person	\$ _____
Garden of the Gods	Number attending _____ @ \$45 per person	\$ _____

NOTE: All lunches will be on your own, except for the Garden of the Gods tour where a 'Catered' lunch is included in the tour price. **Catered Lunch:** French bread Sandwich, Soup, Potato Salad, Dessert and a Beverage

Please indicate your choice: Ham and Cheddar ___ Turkey and Swiss ___ Vegetarian ___

GALA BANQUET -- SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

Buffet Dinner Number attending _____ @ \$35 per person \$ _____

NOTE: *Special arrangements for a Vegetarian Meal can be arranged if desired*
Please indicate Number of People _____ for this selection only.

POST REUNION TRIP -- SEPTEMBER 12 – 14

Glenwood Springs Trip Number attending _____ @ \$80 per person (*transportation only*) \$ _____
Please refer back to 'REUNION POST TRIP -- Glenwood Springs' on page 11 for cost

TOTAL (registration, kick-off party, tours, banquet, post-reunion trip) \$ _____

Reunion registration and hotel reservations must be made by AUGUST 1, 2010.

Mail this form, with your check, payable to "WRD Retirees 2010" to WRD Retirees c/o Merilee A. Bennett,
3026 Parfet Drive, Lakewood, CO 80215.

LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Texas WRD Retirees are one of our most active groups. They are shown below at their March meeting. Note the green clothing in honor of St. Patrick's Day. CT writes a TX WRD retirees Newsletter!



Front LtoR: Dana Barbie, CT Welborn, Paul Rohne, Libby Burchett, Sierra Burchett Moran, Max Burchett Moran, Bob Burchett. Back LtoR: Bev Anderson, Kari Knower (Bev and Bud's daughter), Bud Anderson. Ann Ardis, and Helen Davidson.

The Louisiana retirees are still having lots of fun! They are shown below at their March meeting. John Musser has served as the LA District Contact for 17 years. Thanks, John.



Seated LtoR: John Musser, Nancy Musser, Linda Knochenmus, Dan Tomaszewski, Elinor Sloss, Gen Floyd, and Louise Chaisson. Standing LtoR: Dale Nyman, Darwin Knochenmus, George Cardwell, Will Martin, Don Dial, Virgie Couvillion, and Charlie Demas (Director, LA Water Science Center).

LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Tampa retirees having a great time at a gathering in March. There were 26 retirees/spouse in attendance. A subset is shown. Some of these retirees hosted our 2008 reunion.



The Denver WRD Retirees will be our hosts at the September 9-11 reunion. Here we see some of them at their annual Spring luncheon for 2010. Come join us at the reunion! A fun and outstanding event has been planned.



LtoR: Pat and Dick Luckey, Jim Blakey, Elaine Brennan, Bob Meade, Karen Lystrom, Jim Bennett

LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Indiana WRD Retirees have become a very active bunch. Some are shown below at a spring lunch meeting. Obviously everyone was having a great time!



Left front to back: Cheryl Silcox, Kathy Fowler, Les Arihood, Rick Goss, Rich Duwelius, Lee Watson, and Jim Stewart. Right front to back: Jennifer Pritchett, Sonja Sanders, Mark Ayers, Konrad Banaszak, Jeff Martin, Gene Hammil, Phyllis Lynch, and Jerry Davis. Photo by Sharon Goss.

Some of our members have retired recently and some WRD Retirees have been out of the work force for a few years! Below are some Denver retirees who cover a wide range of retirement years.



L to R: Bob Brennan (retired 30 years), Jerry Duncan (15 yrs.), Rudy Dosch (29 years), Bob Meade (14 years) and Jim Bennett (rookie, retired 5 years). Congratulations retirees and we all wish you many more years of retirement! Members, come to the Denver reunion and congratulate these retirees personally. See Merilee Bennett's "News" item on page 2 for a poem that will offer some inspiration to attend.

WRD NEWS

Recent Retirements

Note to all WRD Retirees. Recent retirees automatically become new members of WRD Retirees. Please treat these new members like old friends – welcome them aboard and invite them to participate on Local Meetings and Gatherings. Call them and ask them to become active in our organization.

Northeastern Region:

Leslie D. Arihood, Hydrologist, 7844 Paddington Lane West, Indianapolis, IN 46268, 317-876-3471, 03/31/10
Alban W. Coen, III, Hydrologist, 216 Oakland Park Avenue, Columbus, OH 43214, 03/03/10
James M. Ellis, Hydrologic Technician, 516 South 32nd Street, Escanaba, MI 49829, 906-789-0234, 04/03/10
Ronald L. Leuvoy, Hydrologic Technician, 13855 Bernier Drive, Bath, MI 48808, 517-641-7279, 03/31/10
Steven P. Nieswand, Hydrologist, 42 Woodmont Drive, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648, 03/26/10

Southeastern Region:

William P. Bennett, Hydro. Technician, 4214 Cedar Creek Trail SW, Lilburn, GA 30047, 770-921-4983, 02/27/10
Michael A. Holmes, Information Tech. Specialist, 13729 Country Court Drive, Tampa, FL 33625, 02/27/10

Central Region:

Larry D. Beaver, Information Tech. Specialist, 7271 Otis Court, Arvada, CO 80003, 303-403-0316, 03/31/10
Barbara Sue Corland, Hydrologic Technician, 9518 W. San Juan Circle #103, Littleton, CO 80128,
303-973-7382, 03/26/10
Evonne S. Mitton, Hydrologic Technician, Box 286, East Helena, MT 59635, 406-227-8281, 04/01/10

Western Region:

Alan M. Preissler, Hydrologic Technician, P.O. Box 1378, Carson City, NV 89702, 775-882-7412, 03/31/10
Gary L. Turney, Hydrologist, 9205 74th St. SW, Tacoma, WA 98498, 253-581-5966, glturney@msn.com,
02/03/10
Craig L. Westenburg, Hydrologist, 335 Kansas, Henderson, NV 89015, 702-565-3776, 04/03/10

Headquarters

Thomas E. Reilly, Hydrologist, 10718 Oldfield Drive, Reston, VA 20191, 703-476-5123, 03/01/10

“What’s New in Research?”

Biological Carbon Sequestration

By Jerad Bales, USGS Chief Water Scientist

As discussed in last month’s newsletter, the term “carbon sequestration” is used to describe both natural and deliberate processes by which carbon dioxide (CO₂) is either removed from the atmosphere or diverted from emission sources and stored in the ocean, terrestrial environments (vegetation, soils, and sediments), and geologic formations. Existing CO₂ uptake mechanisms (or sinks) are insufficient to offset the accelerating pace of emissions related to human activities. Annual carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels in the US are about 1.6 billion tons, whereas annual uptake amounts are only about 0.5 billion tons, resulting in a net annual release of about 1.1 billion tons in the U.S. USGS scientists are providing information that will help maximize carbon storage through both geologic and biological sequestration, and minimize undesirable effects of this storage on humans and the environment. This article addresses biological carbon sequestration; the previous newsletter addressed geological carbon sequestration.

Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations increased from about 280 ppm (parts per million) before the industrial revolution to more than 384 ppm in 2008. This increase in atmospheric CO₂ reflects only about half of the CO₂ emissions from human activities, and it typically is assumed that the other half has been sequestered in the oceans and on land. USGS scientists performed a rapid assessment of current biological carbon storage (above ground and below ground), which provides a baseline for assessing future biological carbon stores and biological carbon sequestration capacity in forest biomass of the conterminous United States. Results from this assessment were presented at the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. More detailed assessments currently are underway by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the USGS.

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Carbon storage in soils and in biomass was estimated from existing national data sets, and hypothetical storage in forest biomass was estimated from existing land cover and land use data, and from the LANDFIRE database that provides information on existing and potential vegetation, fire regimes, and other relevant forest characteristics for the U.S. About 161 billion tons of carbon are stored in the soils of the conterminous U.S., and current total forest carbon biomass is 37 billion tons. It was estimated that an additional 7 to 15 billion tons could potentially be stored in forest biomass of the U.S., but such an increase would require changes in land use, i.e., conversion of agriculture to forest. Others have estimated that the global maximum potential carbon sequestration is about 250 billion tons for both vegetation and soils, whereas potential global geologic carbon sequestration capacity is about 3,000 billion tons.

Conversion of existing land to forest for carbon sequestration can have other unintended effects. A review of more than 500 studies found that reforestation of grasslands, shrublands, and croplands decreased streamflow by about 40 percent. Tree plantations also affect soil chemistry including nutrient depletion, increased acidity and salinization.

In the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta, CA, USGS scientists have created wetlands that are re-building peat soils and storing atmospheric carbon in the first Carbon-Capture Farming Demonstration project (fig. 1). As the plants die and decay, their root mats and other decayed material build up the soil, sequestering carbon, and reducing hydraulic pressure on the Delta levees. Research associated with this effort is identifying areas that most effectively store carbon and methods that might improve carbon capture. Because wetlands also can be sources of other greenhouse gases (methane and nitrous oxide), research also is focused on verification of net reduction of greenhouse gases.

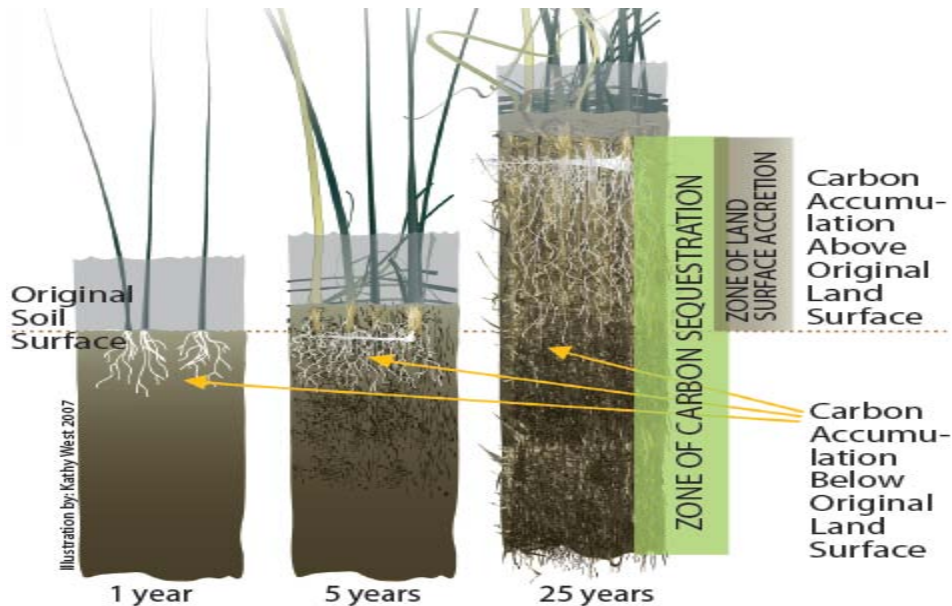


Figure 1. Schematic of California Delta carbon-capture farming (from http://ca.water.usgs.gov/news/carbon_briefing.pdf)

Additional information on USGS Biological Carbon Sequestration activities, can be found at <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/usgspubs/fs/fs20083097> (Overview of geologic and biological carbon sequestration) <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2009/1283/> (Rapid assessment of biological carbon sequestration capacity)

WRD RETIREE VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION
Drinking water for the school in Axum, Ethiopia
By Pat Tucci

One of the highlights of my USGS career was the opportunity to do some work overseas through the International Water Resources Program. Part of that work had me traveling to Ethiopia several times to help the Ethiopian government develop a National ground-water program and database, and to conduct ground-water training classes. Ethiopia was never a place that I had considered a "travel destination" before I went there, but I was impressed with the beauty of the country and its people. Shortly after my second trip to Ethiopia in 2001, I was introduced to Tsegaye Hailu, an Ethiopian geologist with EPA in Denver. Tsegaye was involved with Denver Sister Cities International (DSCI) and was the chair of their Axum (Ethiopia) committee. Tsegaye told me about Axum's water and sanitation problems, and that DSCI was trying to help them solve these problems.

Axum is a city of over 50,000 people, but its people have almost no access to clean water. Most of the population gets their water from a small reservoir, which is muddy and contaminated by runoff, but some get water from the city's small well field. The water from these wells is high in iron and manganese, has an unpleasant taste, and is usually contaminated with bacteria. Tsegaye asked me if I'd like to join DSCI and help with Axum's water problems, and I signed on.

DSCI has had several water and sanitation projects in Axum. Volunteers on the Axum committee have designed and built a pilot water-treatment plant for the wells, trained local engineers in collecting and analyzing water samples, provided funds for equipment for the city's sanitation workers, and are trying to raise funds for a septic-tank truck to service the latrines that are used throughout the city. Since joining the Axum committee, I have reviewed a detailed hydrogeologic study that was done for the city and recommended alternative sites for new wells. I've also helped write several grant proposals that would have provided alternate sources of water for the city. In 2009, I was asked to head up a pilot project to provide clean drinking water for the students, staff, and their families of the Hawelti Elementary School in Axum. We had obtained a grant that would provide over 80,000 PUR water-treatment packets developed by Proctor & Gamble. These packets could provide over 211,000 gallons of clean drinking water for the students during the 6-month duration of the project. The students and their families were shown how to properly use the packets, and the packets were distributed to the students at the start of each week. We had someone locally help with the distribution and to collect data on student absences during the previous school year and during the project. At the end of the project, we observed a decrease in student absences of almost 50 percent. At the end of the project, shop owners in the city were trained on how to use the packets and provided with packets that they would sell at a cost of about 5 cents each (each packet will purify 10 liters of water). As of January, about a dozen shop owners had sold over 90,000 packets. I traveled to Axum twice during the project. During my first trip, I found out that the school had neither a water supply nor toilet facilities for their 600-plus students. Since then, DSCI has provided a grant for the school to complete a latrine, and we've started talking to them about a rainwater-harvesting project to collect runoff from the roofs of the school buildings.

Volunteer work in Menomonie, Wisconsin
By Neil and Marie Koch

In 1988, I retired from the South Dakota District where I was Studies Section Chief and Reports Specialist. My wife (Marie) and I moved to Menomonie, WI, where we did not know anyone. I joined the Red Cross and was on the disaster team for 16 years. In 1989, I helped organize a lake association and became its first President. In 2002, I organized the Dunn County Groundwater Guardian Community a National organization and have been President for 8 years. In order to be an organization there must be an ongoing project. The first project was to determine the recharge areas to the aquifer in Dunn County. Using 91 soil types, I came up with five recharge rates from excellent to poor. This published map is now being used to control development to protect the best recharge areas in the County. In 2003, I was elected to the Menomonie Town Board on which I still serve. I also sit on the township Land Use Commission. Marie and I are also busy with Meals-on-wheels and taking church service tapes to shut-ins. Over the years, I have been writing articles in the local newspaper about groundwater and giving talks to service clubs, schools, townships, County Boards, and Stout University. We still have had time for camping and travel throughout the lower 48 plus Hawaii and Alaska. It may sound like we are too busy; however, we are enjoying cross-country skiing in the winter, biking in the summer, and living in the country for the first time.

IN MEMORIAM

Edward R. Cox, 82, passed away on December 17, 2009, in Columbia, MO, after a brief illness. Ed retired in 1983 as a hydrologist with 30 years of service with WRD. He started his federal career with the US Army from 1945 to 1947, serving in Europe. After graduating from Oregon State University, Ed joined the US Army Corps of Engineers from 1951 to 1953 (in Pierre, SD and Omaha, NE). His career with WRD started in Albuquerque and Carlsbad, NM, from 1953 to 1966 and continued in Cheyenne, WY, from 1966 until his retirement in 1983. Ed's career included studies of interactions between ground water and surface water chemistry with a focus on monitoring ground water chemistry in Yellowstone National Park, his beloved park that he knew like the back of his hand. Ed and his wife Fran moved to Bend, OR, in 1983 to start a second career fishing the waters of Oregon until moving to Columbia, MO, in 2005. Ed is survived by his wife of 57 years, Fran; his daughters Barb Ingersoll and Carol Steadman and four grandchildren.

Eddie Barbara Goolsby, wife of WRD Retiree Donald A. "Don" Goolsby, passed away April 6, 2010, at age 68. Eddie was born in Leesburg, FL, and graduated from Florida State University in 1962. She moved to Colorado with her husband in 1979 and returned to Florida as a seasonal resident in 2001. A retired elementary school teacher, she loved crafting, flowers and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a member of the Columbine United Church in Littleton, CO. Don worked for WRD as QW specialist, starting with the Ocala, FL, office in 1964. He later served with the QW Branch in HQ, as the Regional QW specialist in CR and as Chief of the Mid-continent Herbicide Project, retiring in 2001. Eddie is survived by her husband of 46 years, Don; a son, Greg; a daughter, Kim Adair, and six grandchildren.

Richard H. "Dick" Johnston died December 23, 2009. He was 80. Dick is survived by his wife Mary Lou and his son Richard Flaherty. Born in Philadelphia, PA, he grew up in Philadelphia and graduated with his B.A. in Geology from Pennsylvania State University and an M.A. in Geology from the University of Wyoming. His career as a groundwater geologist was chiefly with the U.S. Geological Survey. He worked in New York, Nevada, Delaware, Virginia, and Georgia. He also worked overseas with the United Nations in Nigeria, India and Sri Lanka. He also worked in the Dominican Republic with a private company. Dick Johnston is the author of more than 40 publications in geology and hydrology and was selected as a Senior Fellow in the Geological Society of America. Following retirement from the USGS, he moved to St. Simons Island, GA, where he served on the Glynn County Beach Renourishment Task Force and the Water Resources Management Advisory Committee. He was active in the Golden Isles Sailing Club. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, having served during the Korean War.

Dawne R. Lamonds, wife of WRD retiree Andrew G. "Andy" Lamonds, died May 14, 2009, at age 67, in Lincoln, AL. She was a member of the Peel City First Baptist Church and an avid collector of antique glassware and Elvis memorabilia. Andy began his USGS career as a Technician in the Little Rock office in 1964. He was shortly after converted to Chemist and served in the Arkansas District until transferring to Winter Park, FL, in 1972, and later to the Jackson, MS, District in 1976. He served as the SE Regional Reports Specialist from 1988 until his retirement in 1994. Dawne is survived by her husband, Andy; and two daughters: Lori Bradley and Leslie Alford.

Dorothy Leggat, 88, passed away December 28, 2009, in Austin, TX. She was born in Carbondale, PA, on August 5, 1921 and moved to Austin after marrying her husband, Edward Leggat, on October 28, 1942. Dorothy was a Registered Nurse graduate of the New Rochelle School of Nursing. She moved to Central Texas after her marriage to Army Air Force Pilot, Edward Leggat and her enlistment in the Army Nurse Corps. She was stationed at the Army Hospital near Waco, TX, caring for amputee soldiers. After the war, Dorothy worked as an RN at St. David's Hospital while her husband Ed obtained his BS in Geology from the University of Texas under the GI bill. Ed began his WRD career with the GW Branch in Austin in 1948, transferring to California in 1977 and retiring in 1980. She left St David's to raise her family but returned 15 years later. She retired after more than 20 years of caring for newborns in the neonatal intensive care unit. Edward Leggat, her husband of 65 years, preceded her in death in 2007. She is survived by daughters, Bonnie Hagan and Alice Wendlandt; and two grandsons.

Elmer Philip "Phil" Matthews, age 94, passed away February 16, 2010, in Maryville, TN. A Mississippi native, he graduated from Mississippi State University with a BSCE and served during WW II with the U.S. Navy as a Lt. Commander. Phil began his WRD career in Chattanooga in 1940 as a Jr. Hydraulic

IN MEMORIAM

Engineer, transferring to Knoxville in 1944. In 1961, he moved to Little Rock as a SW specialist in the Arkansas District, retiring in 1975. He was an active member of the Eusebia Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Joy Grigsby Matthews; son, David Jean; daughter, Lin Stepp; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Margaret G. Merchant died January 24, 2010, at age 94. At the time of her retirement in 1975, she worked as Secretary to the Associate Chief Hydrologist, Water Resources Division, in Reston, Virginia. A Meritorious Service Award received near the end of her career cited "her absolute dependability, cheerful disposition, far above average secretarial competence, and relatively high order of technical knowledge and skill." Born in Minnesota in 1915, Margaret grew up in Minneapolis and attended the University of Minnesota for a short time. She went to Washington, DC, to work on the 1940 census and met and married Richard Merchant of Winsted, MN. They raised eight children, and were blessed with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They moved to Onemo, VA, upon her retirement and lived a full, rich life with many friends in this beautiful community on the Chesapeake Bay. Richard died in 2007.

Charles E. "Chuck" Novak died in Chantilly, VA, on February 26, 2010, at age 79. Chuck received a BS in Mathematics from Colorado State University in 1957 and an MS in Mathematics from CSU in 1959. Following graduation he taught high school mathematics in Colorado and California. He joined the USGS in the QW office in Sacramento in 1963, serving there until he transferred to the Assistant Chief for R&TC in 1968. Chuck moved to the Fairfax, VA, office in 1975, retiring in 1995. Chuck's wife, Mary Ann preceded him in death in 2009. He is survived by 3 daughters: Susan Rieder, Judith Socolow and Leigh Stephens and three grandchildren.

Charlotte J. Petersen, wife of WRD retiree Mervin S. "Pete" Petersen passed away on April 1, 2010, at age 83, in Lakewood, CO. She had been married to Merv for 66 years. They met while Merv was in the Navy and were married during WWII. Charlotte was widely read in all genre of literature and had a wonderful sense of humor that led people to seek her counsel. Charlotte was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, loved music, loved to sew, and was recognized as a wonderful cook and baker. Charlotte recently had volunteered to teach the young women from her church on baking techniques from scratch. Mervin worked in WRD as a SW specialist, starting in Salt Lake City in 1946. He later worked in Riverton, WY, and Rolla, MO. He was the SW specialist in CR from 1964 until his retirement in 1980. Charlotte is survived by her husband, Merv; 5 children: Patricia York, Susan Taylor, Karen Smith-Holub, Lee M. Peterson and Denise Wood; 16 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Arthur Lee Putnam, 72, of Hampstead, NC, died Tuesday, November 10, 2009, at Lower Cape Fear Hospice and LifeCareCenter. Since his retirement from the U.S. Geological Survey, Art enjoyed woodworking, fishing, gardening and the company of good friends and family. He also enjoyed woodcarving and was a member of Cape Fear Woodcarvers. Art was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Surviving is his wife, Dianne Putnam; two sons, Keith Putnam and wife Fawn, Joel Putnam; stepson, Ben McNelley; and four grandchildren.

Harriett Anne Stark Rohne, wife of WRD Retiree Paul Rhone, passed away March 8, 2010, after a long battle with cancer. She was born October 4, 1938, in Dessau, TX. She attended elementary school, University Junior High School and Stephen F. Austin High School in Austin, after which she attended Texas Lutheran College and the University of Texas. She was active in the band in High School and at UT. While at UT, she married Paul B. Rhone Jr. of Clifton, TX, on June 26, 1959, and three children were born to this union. Harriett was very active in her church her entire life and in support of her family, which she greatly enjoyed. She taught Sunday school while in High School and was a Teacher's aide while her children were in elementary School and finally retired from the IRS. Paul retired from WRD in 1988 after serving WRD as a Surface Water specialist in the Texas and Indiana Districts. Paul is a U.S. Navy veteran who received his BS in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Texas in 1962 and is a registered Professional Engineer in Texas. Harriet is survived by her husband of 50 years, Paul; three children: Sue Ethier, Russ Rhone, and Becky Rhone and four grandchildren.

MEMORIAL

Robert L. “Bob” Laney, 1933-2009

Have you ever driven through the desert on a moonlit night without headlights? Been issued a parking ticket for a helicopter landing on a boat ramp? Has the office décor of your colleague included, among other objects and artifacts, a sun-bleached skull of a horse he had found in the Arizona desert; a large, flat, desiccated specimen of material that had passed through the digestive system of a free-ranging steer; and a 20-foot long “Fire Escape” rope for that office on the 20th floor of a Phoenix high-rise? If not, then you did not have the privilege of working with Bob Laney, my long-time friend and WRD colleague, who died in late October 2009. A “Hoosier” by birth, Bob was born in August 1933 in Terre Haute, where as a young man he worked in his family’s small businesses, including a general store where he clerked, stocked the shelves, and swept the floor. He received his B.S from Indiana State College in his hometown in 1956. After a 2-year stint with the U.S. Army, Bob entered Indiana University, from which he graduated in September 1960 with an M.A. in Geology. Bob’s next stop was Midland, Texas, where he worked as a “seismic computer” in the geophysical department of Texaco, Inc.



Bob’s USGS career began in 1961, as a Geologist with the QW Branch in Raleigh, NC, where he was responsible for the geochemical aspects of four ground-water investigations in North Carolina. In 1963, Bob was selected for graduate school training in geology at the University of Arizona in Tucson. A transfer to the Arizona District in 1964 and the resumption of full-time work with the Survey – on the geochemistry of water in the Tucson basin – delayed Bob’s completion of his dissertation “Weathering of the Granodioritic Rocks in the Rose Canyon Lake area, Santa Catalina Mountains, AZ.” His Ph.D. degree was conferred in 1971. In August 1971, Bob transferred to the Phoenix Subdistrict, where he worked on several projects over the next decade. Early duties included mapping geology and quality of groundwater in the Phoenix basin, and the beginning what were to become long-term geohydrologic studies in the Lake Mead National Recreational Area. As work continued or neared completion on various aspects of those projects, Bob took charge of the Subdistrict’s groundwater data program and served a year as Acting Subdistrict Chief. In early 1977, Bob began planning with the Bureau of Reclamation for a study of subsidence and earth fissuring along the proposed Salt-Gila Aqueduct and in September was appointed chief of that project, which became his principal focus for his remaining tour in Phoenix.

In 1981, Bob moved to Headquarters to join the GW Branch. There Bob served as the District Review Coordinator, and took a leadership role in developing and coordinating the Self-Paced Ground-Water Concepts Course. Bob co-authored “Aquifer Nomenclature Guidelines,” which has had lasting impact in dispelling confusion and bringing consistency to the definition, designation, and naming of aquifers and confining units. He became the “go to” man in GW, the one who could and would handle any emergency or “fire drill” effectively and efficiently while maintaining the highest technical standards. In the words of colleague Tom Reilly, “Bob was the consummate team player and the model scientist for future members of the Office of Ground Water.” Following his retirement from the Survey in 1992, Bob worked at McDonald Morrissey Associates for six years, until he retired “for good.” As Mike McDonald remembers: ‘Yeah, I know he was Dr. Robert L. Laney, PhD. But he was really “Bob,” and he preferred it that way. He wrote well and organized well. He brought attitudes about geology as a profession and about the USGS that was a credit to both.’ But most of us will probably remember Bob for his personal qualities and ‘talents’: honesty, politeness, and unpretentiousness that were admired by all who knew him; a quick wit that readily surfaced during most conversations, yet was always respectful of others; puns, double entendres, and “irreverences” that brought groans or guffaws, even on the fiftieth telling; the agility to tiptoe along the narrow ledges (inside!) of the big windows of our offices in that high-rise, to the shudders of us all; and the perfection of the Groucho Marx walk, arms and legs all out of synch. Bob’s other; more serious hobbies included those as a ham radio operator and an amateur seismologist, but an amateur who had built his own seismograph and digital readout system. Those of us who knew Bob for many years – three decades plus for me – will surely agree with the coordinator of the Salem Volunteer Park Patrol, on which Bob and I served, who knew Bob for only a short time: “He was one of the nicest people walking on the Earth, and we will miss him.”

By Chet Zenone, Salem, Oregon

Bob is survived by his wife Carol, daughter Jan and husband Craig; sons Matt and Nate and their wives Kate and Jenny; and by 4 grandchildren.

MEMORIAL
Charles L. R. "Lee" Holt, Jr.
1924 – 2010

Lee Holt died March 6, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia. Lee graduated from the University of Texas with a BS degree in Geology in 1949. He then began work as a Geologist with the Texas Board of Water Engineers while pursuing his Masters degree at UT. After receiving his MS in Geology in June, 1950 he joined the Ground Water Branch of the U.S. Geological Survey in Hondo, Texas, as a GS-5 Geologist.



In January 1953, Lee was promoted to Geologist, GS-9 and transferred to Madison, Wisconsin, under W. J. "Bill" Drescher, District Engineer. He conducted studies on the effect of irrigation wells on surface flow in the Sand Plains of central Wisconsin and on the effect of mining on the hydrology of the Lead-Zinc District of Wisconsin. In 1954, he became Assistant to the District Engineer.

By 1957, after Drescher had assumed the duties of Branch Area Chief, Lee was promoted to District Geologist. During the period 1957-1962, the Wisconsin program more than doubled and reports were completed in 11 major and 7 minor projects. On July 1, 1966, the Wisconsin WRD District was reorganized and Lee was named District Chief, and in February, 1967, was promoted to GS-14. During the 1966-1967 period, the Wisconsin District underwent rapid growth in personnel and projects, applying a "systems analysis" approach to program planning and development, largely utilizing the multidiscipline (team) approach.

During his tenure in Wisconsin, Lee authored or co-authored several reports and served on numerous committees including Dane County Regional Planning Committee, Waste Management Committee, and Great Lakes Commission. He served as President of the Madison Hydrology Club and served a 30-day detail to USAID Mission in India. Governor Lucey appointed him to the Red Clay Erosion Committee and the River Basin Coordinating Committee of State and Federal agencies.

In July, 1975, Lee transferred to the Southeastern Regional Office in Atlanta as Associate Regional Hydrologist. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1980, after which he was rehired to assist the Government of Jordan in assessing their water resources.

After retirement, Lee had the best of both worlds, spending winters in Port Aransas, Texas, and summers in Madison, Wisconsin. He was a ceramic sculptor and had studios in both Wisconsin and Texas, producing many fine pieces. As a professional artist, he was represented by galleries in both Texas and Wisconsin and won many competitions.

Lee's last activity with the USGS was his involvement with the Retirees Reunion held in Madison in September 2006.

By: Dale Cotter and Marv Sherrill

Unused Medicine for Belize
By
Bob Burchett (WRD Retiree) and Kim Updegrove (RN)

Libby and I attend monthly meetings of heart transplant recipients at Seton Medical Center in Austin, Texas. The meetings are sponsored by the Seton Heart Specialty Care and Transplant Center. Meetings are educational in nature but also act as a support group for those of us who have received a new heart. A few months ago, a young lady named Kim Updegrove was the speaker for the evening. Kim volunteers with a group that was organized 18 years ago to address the huge medical needs of Belize. Kim and other volunteers travel to Belize in March of each year to help with the medical needs of the Nation. March has been declared Women's Healthcare Month by the Belizean Government. Some of the volunteers are graduate students from Loyola University and the University of Chicago, all are health care providers. Anyone with health care experience that is willing to pay their own way and to work for 2 weeks in Belize is welcome to join the group. Kim told us that the Belize Government allows this completely volunteer organization to bring unused medicine and medical supplies into the country for distribution to the needy. Most prescription drugs can be used beyond the expiration date.

A few weeks ago Libby suggested that we should ask the WRD Retirees to donate their unused prescription drugs. So, as they say, here is our opportunity to get two birds with one stone. We can stop polluting our water resources when we flush old meds down the potty and help some needy people get some of the medicine that they desperately need. Our WRD Retirees group is of the age where all 1,400 of us use medicine from time to time. If you are like me, you use a lot of medicine all the time and the doctors seem to like to change my medicine just after I have ordered a 90-day supply. So, what do we do with the old 90 day supply? Now you do not have to flush, you can donate! Those of you who attended the WRD Reunion in Tampa Bay 2 years ago heard a presentation on how the flushed meds pollute our water supplies. Those of you who took the Caribbean Cruise after the reunion saw Belize and the poverty first hand.

I ask that each of you send to me your old meds for the Belizean people and for our water resources. I know that you are concerned about our water resources because each of you worked for the USGS Water Resources Division for over 30 years! Go to your medicine cabinet and pull out all the old medicine bottles. Then follow the procedure listed below:

1. Send to me any and all medicine that has an expiration date of less than 3 year ago.
2. Do not remove the medicine from the original bottle.
3. Use an opaque marker and mark thru your name and prescription number only.
4. Mail your old medicine to:

Bob Burchett
12312 Indian Mound Drive
Austin, Texas 78758

5. Sit back and feel good about yourself. You have done a good thing for yourself, your country, and humanity! I will deliver your donated meds to Kim.
6. Those of you that will attend the WRD Reunion in Denver this fall can bring your old meds with you and I can take them to Austin as Lib and I will be traveling by car.

TREASURER'S REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2010

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$20,104.58 in its treasury at the end of the first quarter for calendar year 2010. Receipts for the quarter were \$4,719.41 from dues and contributions from 236 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$970.66, including the costs for the printing of WRD Retirees Newsletter 146. During the quarter a total of \$954.00 was received in contributions from 66 members.

Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: Robert W. James, Charles and Carole Nethaway, James R. Rollo, John M. Klein, Celso Puente, Claire A. Richardson, Raymond Abrams, Stanley Sauer, Judith A. Boohar, G. Alan and Jean L. Brown, David E. Click, William W. Emmett, Leonard Woolitz, Linda Meadows, Mrs. Eileen Smith, Carney Humphreys, Chester Thomas, Robert MacNish, Elinor Handman-Bugli, R. Hal Langford, James B. Hood, Kenneth Taylor, Coleen Babcock, Kelly Donovan, Roger K. White, Herbert Freiburger, William J. Shampine, Ennio Guisti, John H. Lambing, Janis Ward, Mervin S. Petersen, Mrs. Bernard "Mary Lou" Malo, Donald Jorgenson, Steven M. Hindall, Kenneth Van Lier, Donald Richardson, Gerald Meyer, Patricia Ladd, Wyatt J. Gambrell, Gerald Rockwell, Henry Trapp, David Madril, Gilbert Bertoldi, Walter C. Swain, Anthony Buono, Henry Garland, Vincent Lai, Chester Zenone, Norman Hutchison, Paul R. Jordan, Billy Paul Robinson, Marvin Fishman, Norman E. Schmidt, Kenneth Markham, Gerhard Kuhn, June Cox, Irwin Kantrowitz, William C. Roth, Francis Schaefer, Dennis K. Stewart, Alexandra Anderson, Thomas K. Edwards, Paul F. Kapinos, Charles R. Gamble, Charles A. Appel, and Richard L. Stahl.

DID YOU KNOW THAT WRD RETIREES HAD ITS OWN WEB PAGE?

WRD Retirees has had its own web page since 2006. The world-wide-web address is WRDRetirees.org. It's great we were able to get that address which should be easy for all to remember. Ken Lanfear is the web master and does a great job of keeping information on the web page current. If you have any suggestions for additions or improvements email Ken at Lanfear@his.com.

Visit our web page! The contents of the web page are quite informative – browse the page and judge for yourself. It includes: a welcome message from the President, a list of the 40 locations in the USA where regular meetings of WRD Retirees are held, a list of the 14 reunions that WRD Retirees has held, including photos from the Madison and Tampa reunions, information about the upcoming Denver reunion, complete copies of all of the WRD Retirees Newsletters since May 2006, a list of all District Contacts, a list of WRD Retirees officers, a copy of the constitution and bylaws of WRD Retirees, a history of the WRD Retirees hydrologic technician scholarship program, a brief and interesting description of the history of our organization, an online application form to assist interested folks in joining WRD Retirees, and a link to the USGS, Water Resources home page. All of these are live links; just click on the item of interest and that part of the web page will open automatically.