

# USGS RETIREES

NEWSLETTER No. 183  
May 2019

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Dear Fellow USGS Retirees,

Happy spring! As I write this, some snow banks remain in the Twin Cities area. With spring, our officers are working hard to plan for the future. A downward trend in membership continues. We are implementing many of the ideas discussed at the reunion. These include being more proactive in attracting new members. We have revised our Affiliate category, dividing it into 2 categories: (1) Friends - Former USGS employees who did not retire from USGS and others who have close ties to USGS, either in a working relationship or a family relationship and (2) Affiliates - active duty USGS employee. We invite all active USGS employees to join as an Affiliate. We are seeking Affiliates who will serve as liaisons between retired state representatives and USGS Offices and current employees. We are asking these Affiliate liaisons to promote our organization, to let us know who is retiring and, sadly, who has passed. In appreciation for this, we will wave dues for Affiliate liaisons. We are piloting this effort in Minnesota; James Fallon is our first Affiliate liaison.

The officers also have developed a draft strategic plan. That draft is included in this newsletter on pages 2 and 3. We would like to obtain your comments and suggestions. We also have a group of officers and members who are documenting files, pictures, and videos that are housed in Reston. If you are interested and available to help in this effort, please let us know by contacting emailing us at [wrdretirees2014@gmail.com](mailto:wrdretirees2014@gmail.com). Finally, we are reviewing and documenting the responsibilities of our officers and processes to track membership and finances that help keep our organization running.

As always, I want to thank our officers and staff members for all they do to support this organization. We are in need of a Regional Director, in the Northeast, because Jay Kiesler has asked to take a break. My thanks go out to Jay for all that he has done. A bit of good news is that Herb Freiburger has agreed to assist Dick Engberg with archiving. We are encouraging Herb to transition into the role of Archivist. Mark Anderson and Pete Anttila are beginning to plan for the next reunion. Herb Freiburger has helped us reinvigorate the George Ferguson Award.

Our organization is limited only by the number of volunteers who get involved. Please let us know if you would like to help. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Thanks for your support of this organization.



Jim Stark  
[stark@usgs.gov](mailto:stark@usgs.gov)

### Do I owe dues to WRD Retirees?

If you receive a paper copy of the newsletter, you can find the year your dues are paid thru on the envelope's mailing label. It appears in the upper right-hand corner of the label. IF you receive a PDF or link for the newsletter via email, you will also receive a PDF containing a list with names and the year dues are paid thru. You are current if the year is 2019 or later. You are in arrears if the year is 2018 or earlier. Surviving spouses do not pay dues and should be shown as XMPT. If you think an error has been made in recording your past dues payments, notify Kate Flynn at [wrdretirees@gmail.com](mailto:wrdretirees@gmail.com).

Annual dues are \$10 per household. Members may pay for multiple years in advance. Checks should be made out to USGS Retirees; mail it to USGS Retirees, P.P Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280. Contributions are welcomed and appreciated, so indicate how much of your check is for dues and how much is a contribution.

**National Officers:**  
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Cathy Hill, Treasurer  
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## **Draft Strategic Plan: USGS Retirees' Organization 2019**

The USGS Retirees' organization "retirees" is composed of retirees and friends of retirees, from the U. S. Geological Survey. "Retirees" was founded in 1974 as Water Resources Division (WRD) Retirees. It is run by elected volunteers and volunteer staff. A principal purpose of "retirees" is to keep members in touch with each other and with their former bureau. Membership is open to individuals outside the USGS, i.e., other Bureaus' within DOI and other federal agencies.

Those of us who have worked for the USGS know what an outstanding organization we retired from and we have many interesting stories about the work we did and the people with whom we worked. USGS Retirees is an excellent way to maintain contact with our friends and colleagues and to stay current with what is going on in our former agency. Membership is open to anyone retired from the USGS. The quarterly newsletter is a good way to keep in contact. We also publish the USGS Retirees' Directory each year.

The purpose of this plan is two-fold. First, it intends to communicate goals and objectives of the organization. In so doing, we hope to spark conversations about how we can better collaborate to address the work and mission of the organization. Secondly, it serves a guide for planning. The officers began working on this plan in the winter of 2019. A significant part of the process is to gather input from fellow members. The plan, and its contents, should reflect the range of feedback that we received. Therefore, this plan is a work-in-progress.

Based on what we heard, we are suggesting the following mission statement: Provide a forum for all retirees to remain in contact, through newsletters, meetings, and reunions; inform members of current activities of USGS; and provide resources to individuals with potential to become valuable employees of the USGS. **The plan is based on five broad goals:**

- Maintain a viable organization
- Provide support for the USGS and encouragement for potential USGS employees
- Provide a platform to celebrate our careers
- Provide a way to keep members informed about USGS programs
- Preserve the history the USGS retirees' organization and its members

Our mission is supported by a foundation of four core values: Communication, outreach, partnership, and teamwork.

### **Based on our broad goals and core values, our objectives are as follows:**

- Provide active forums for retirees to stay in contact with each other and to socialize with fellow retirees through newsletters, local meetings and the biennial reunion
- Provide a vehicle to keep members informed about earth science and about the work of the USGS
- Provide a link between retired employees and USGS management
- Grow the organization by including retired USGS employees beyond the Water Mission Area."
- Grow the organization by focusing recruitment beyond former managers. *(We need to improve participation from those who hold all level of positions in the GS. It may be that more can be done along these lines in the Water Science Centers, if we can strengthen the ties and get some volunteer work done there.)*
- Support and encourage young scientists to consider careers in the USGS through mentoring and scholarships
- Provide support for USGS programs. The collective wisdom about specific issues would be useful at critical times.
- Celebrate the careers of retired USGS employees. Instill a sense of pride in our careers.

**Based on these objections our current action items are as follows:**

- Support and encourage young scientists to consider careers in the USGS, through mentoring and scholarships--continue scholarship program, increase mentoring of recipients)
- Provide support for USGS programs from the outside. The collective wisdom about the importance of the organization should be useful at critical times (need help on this)
- Celebrate the careers of retired USGS employees. Instill a sense of pride in our careers. (newsletter ideas)
- Provide a forum for retirees to stay in contact with each other and with science centers by communicating with fellow retirees through newsletters, local meetings and the biennial reunion. (needs help on this)
- Increase attendance at our biennial reunion
- Increase the awareness of "Retirees" in USGS offices
- Provide a vehicle to keep members informed about earth science and about the work of the USGS (change newsletter focus?)
- Provide a link between retired employees and USGS management
- Grow the organization by including retired USGS employees beyond the Water Mission Area
- Grow the organization by focusing recruitment beyond former managers
- Staff recruiting table in the Reston cafeteria at lunchtime, maybe every six months?
- Add Affiliate Members to the E-version of the Retirees' Directory

As you read this plan, we hope that you will identify opportunities to collaborate with our fellow retirees and with active and future USGS employees. The plan is intentionally short and meant for members to use as they consider how to advance our mission and objectives. Our activities and programs should be able to use this document to guide our work and other work with our members to build on our strong foundation of communication and connections.

If you would like to discuss the plan, including how we might better work together, please send a note to Jim Stark ([stark@usgs.gov](mailto:stark@usgs.gov)). We look forward to hearing from you!

**USGS\_Strategic\_Plan4\_Jeff\_JRS\_rev.docx**

## USGS DIRECTOR

James F. Reilly, II  
May 14, 2018



### Biography

As Director of the USGS, Jim Reilly is responsible for leading the Nation's largest water, earth, and biological science, and civilian mapping agency.

### Career History and Highlights

Prior to joining the USGS, Dr. Reilly served U.S. and allied militaries as a subject matter expert on space operations, and as a technical advisor supporting the National Security Space Institute of the U.S. Air Force. He served with the U.S. Navy as a Reserve Engineering Duty Officer. He's held management positions in academia, as well as at TAEUS Corporation, and PhotoStencil Corporation, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. As an astronaut at NASA, he had a distinguished 13-year career where he flew 3 spaceflight missions and conducted 5 spacewalks totaling more than 856 hours in space. Prior to NASA, he served as chief geologist at Enserch Exploration, Inc., working on projects around the world. He has been active in geological research in Antarctica and on the continental slope of the Gulf of Mexico.

### Education

Dr. Reilly received a bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in geosciences from the University of Texas at Dallas.

[-https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/jim-reilly](https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/jim-reilly)

## Luna B. Leopold: Geoscience Pioneer

There is a very nice Op-Ed article in the American Geophysical Union Newsletter EOS that is worth the read:

**Citation:** Prestegaard, K. (2019), **Luna B. Leopold: Geoscience pioneer**, *Eos*, 100, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019EO118505>. Published on 19 March 2019.

"He conducted river morphology research based on systematic and reproducible measurements, pushing fluvial hydrology to become a more quantitative science."

Many of you might know that Luna, son of land ecologist and conservationist Aldo Leopold, joined the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Washington, D.C., in 1950. There he went on to develop a significant career, serving for a decade as the agency's chief hydrologist. The article reminds the reader that among his interests in meteorology and engineering, his research conducted at the USGS forms the core of his contribution to geomorphology. "He explored what he called the "hydraulic geometry of rivers." And was keen on applying data-driven, empirical approach to the study of natural river channels."

### Bob Hirsch wrote to the author of this article:

*"Karen: Well done!! Thanks for writing this. One other thing I want to mention is the profound influence that Luna had on the water resources programs of the USGS. 1) He created the District Offices (essentially one per state) that covered surface water, ground water, and water quality. Previously these were in totally separate silos. 2) He created the National Research Program, designed as an investigator-driven research activity aimed at keeping the USGS at the cutting edge of water science. 3) He insisted that we be involved in the important environmental issues of the day including water pollution, flood control, and erosion/sediment transport. The USGS and the Nation owes him a big thanks for these three things in addition to the many contributions to science that you mention. Again, many thanks to you. I also love the photos. These are ones I've never seen and show a very youthful energetic Luna Leopold. Bob"*

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Bob Adsit** writes: Hello from Spokane, WA. 2018 was such an event filled year that I decided to finally write. 2018 marked my 20<sup>th</sup> year of retirement, my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and Virginia and I celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We treated ourselves to an eleven day "Panama Canal" cruise with Holland America. We didn't make a full transit of the canal, just into Lake Gatun and back out. But what a wonderful experience. To fill the voids in our activity schedule, we attended the wedding of two of our grandchildren, one in Boise ID and one in Anchorage, AK. And, in September I attended the National Championship Air Races in Reno, NV. It was a busy year. It's cold today, about 15 degrees this morning and no warm-up in sight. With 14" of snow on the ground. We should have a great spring run-off?

**Andy Anderson** writes: Hello Folks! Since Aug. 2017, when I resigned as secretary of the retirees, a series of things occurred that were unforeseen. Within 2 months my wife had her gall bladder removed, then 6 months later uterine cancer showed up and chemo began for 3 months. We, our whole family, had a fantastic Christmas together. But at the end of Jan. the cancer began to reappear. By mid-Feb., due to the seriousness of the situation, Mary the family and I decided to go with hospice, and on Mar. 16 Mary passed away. I am doing well, just getting a little older and a bit slower, with many things to do and trying to get them done. Had a great time at the reunion, missed a number of regulars.

**Deb Bringman** writes: Hello, I want to give a big shout out to my local Retirees' Rep – Herb Freiburger. He sent me the retiree's application and interviewed me for the Retirees' newsletter which actually came out before my retirement date. Efficiency – top notch! Bonus: Herb was my district chief in the MD-DE-DC District when I was hired in 1986! I love the long (life-long) connections. Additionally – your newsletter is amazing. Proud to be joining such a great group of folks. Best to everyone (Retired Hydro Tec, 33+years Fed. Service, and 31 with USGS).

**Jim Daniels** writes: Well, here's another composition which you might find appropriate for inclusion in the Newsletter. Last Saturday, Groundhog's Day, I became an octogenarian. At my age, I'm just full of anecdotes and stories begging for an outlet. If you think I'm submitting too many, just politely let me know. You won't hurt my feelings at all. *(See page 22)*

**Lois Douglas** writes: I've been busy down-sizing from 4,000 sq. ft. to 1,400 sq. Ft. and getting my home ready for sale. Next, finding a buyer and closing the sale in December 2018. My family and friends have helped with everything. The College Hunks moved my furniture. It was a lot of work but worth it. This is the ideal place in the ideal location.

**Jim Eychaner** writes: I think life is better in retirement than for our friends still trying to do good science under the administration. This too shall pass.

**Don Goolsby** writes: Barbara and I thoroughly enjoyed the Retirees Reunion in Minneapolis and seeing so many former coworkers. The Reunion organization team did a fantastic job and deserve many thanks. The tours were great. Our favorite was the Gangster Tour which included a lot of history about the St Paul area. I also want to thank the Staff of the Retirees Newsletter for the excellent work they do in keeping us informed about the activities of our Retirees. Barbara and I continue to enjoy our retirement life in the Harbor Hills community in Lady Lake, FL. We stay pretty active playing golf and managing some rental property. Fortunately, we are still enjoying good health.

**Rick Jones** writes (new member): I worked with USGS WRD Ohio from 1976 to 1989 under Blakey, Click, Hindall etc. as a Hydrologic Technician. Stan Sauer appointed me to a Northeast Technicians Advisory Committee around 1987. I left USGS for private employment as a water quality specialist with Metcalf And Eddy, Lawhon and Associates and my own company. While at M&E, I served as a Quality and Equipment Specialist for projects in Austria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Gaza Strip. I retired in 2014 with my last position being a Senior Hazardous Waste Specialist. Currently reside in Westerville, Ohio and spend winters in Sarasota, Florida. I recently served, last year, on the USGS Scholarship Review Committee for the Northeast Region. Hope this helps classify me. Not sure if it makes that much difference. Still proud to say I worked with USGS and a great bunch of professionals. Thank you. Contact me if you have questions, 614-937-7881

**Clayton Kauffman** writes: Brenda and I are doing OK. Still able to live by ourselves and go on an occasional trip to visit relatives and spend some time at our beloved trailer at the shore.

**Pat McKinley** writes: Still climbing 14ers and finished the Colorado Trail. Started in June 2016 finished September 1, 2016. I'm fortunate to live in the great state of Colorado.

**Doug Posson** writes: Thanks for the dues notice. Time flies. Enclosed are dues for 2 years with some for the scholarship fund. Keep up the good work. Living in Rockport, ME for the past 9 years, Linda and I are moving South. To South Maine that is, to be closer to family. We'll be busy building a new house and moving this year. Fortunately, we had lots of

practice during our time with the USGS. To keep those synapses snapping, I've been teaching an online course each winter with retired USGS geologist friend David Howell on "The Geology and Wines of California and France." The course is thru Stanford University's Continuing Studies Program. Isn't the Internet amazing? David has been leading geology field trips in Napa Valley for some years. Last year we organized two tours in the Rhône River valley in France for groups to learn more about the geology and wines over there. Burgundy is new for this year. Check out <wineandgeologytours.com>. It's been fun. We still enjoy travels with long trips to Scotland, the Isle of Skye, Brittany and Normandy, Provence, Catalonia, Portugal, Prince Edward Island & Nova Scotia, California, and to Reston where one of our daughters' lives. Meanwhile my wife Linda has been painting up a storm with Maine landscapes, and has finished writing a novel based on the last days of Jean Moulin, leader of the French Resistance during WWII. Keeping active, Linda's an enthusiastic walker taking long-distance walks with friends in France and elsewhere and shorter hikes during our travels. I still get out on my bikes regularly though I've noticed I'm setting fewer personal speed records as time goes by. During Maine's winters I spin in the cellar while watching movies on TV and she gets her steps on the treadmill while watching beautiful worldwide hiking scenery on YouTube. All the while I like to stay in touch with USGS colleagues and friends around the country, mostly by email. The USGS Retiree's Newsletter and Directory are great resources. Thanks!

**Ron Rickman** writes: Many thanks to everybody for their hard work with everything. We've had a great winter with lots of snow and relatively mild temperatures. Happy Spring!

**Don Spencer** writes: The last five years have been hectic. My excuse for missing the dues. My health has been reasonably good for my advanced youth. This past fall a lady friend and I drove to the state of Washington in our Winnebago to visit her daughter in the big town of Concrete. Going we took the northern route, I-90 and coming back, the southern route, I-70. The trip was uneventful and enjoyable. Most of my time, other than routine living, has been spent with my son and nephew fishing in Venice Louisiana and Kentucky's Lake Barkley. I also now have returned to a teenage hobby of model airplanes, except now I use RC (radio control). Other than that, I'm still on the farm of 160 acres of Oak/Hickory woods along with too many Eastern Cedar trees. My G-daughter has some livestock on about 60 acres of the farm. Not bad for 88 years young last June, I know I've been blessed.

**Phil Turnipseed** writes: Hey, I wasn't going to write until I scanned down the list of email addresses and realized how many people, I had the privilege and (really) honor of having met over my career with the USGS on this list. As quite a few of you know, I almost died at USGS HQ in 2005 from a cerebral aneurysm. I really should have died, but for reasons beyond my capacity, I lived, and 14 years later am still counting the multitude of blessings I've had. My wife, Cindy, and I have been retired for over 3 years now and are enjoying it immensely. Cindy was diagnosed with critical heart disease and had a procedure last spring. She is keeping her chin up and we're hoping and praying for mitigation to resolve this matter. Any prayers, good thoughts for Cindy are much appreciated. We've curtailed most of our travel, canceled plans to move and live in Ecuador, but we are going to Seoul in May to see our 4th child get married in a traditional Korean wedding. I wish all of you the very best this year. And most of all, health, happiness and best wishes to the best science agency this side of Jupiter.

**Sandy Williamson** writes: Thanks for not bcc so we can easily find emails. I could volunteer some. I am in Tacoma. I plan to come to AZ meeting. Daughter and 3 grandkids live there. I go to about 1/3 of our monthly breakfast since is far off freeway and I am busy working. We host summer BBQs every other year. Gil does the other years. Still pretty full-time but starting to cut back since now 66.

**Dues Received since last February Newsletter:**

Bob Adsit  
David Cohen  
Lois Douglas  
Jim Eychaner  
Don Goolsby  
Bob Hirsch  
Michael Jones  
Rich Jones  
Clayton Kauffman  
Jim Kratz  
Vincent Lai  
Harry and Katherine Lins  
David Mazzaferro  
Kevin Oberg  
Ron Rickman  
Leanna Sweet  
Gary Turnney

**AZ RETIREES  
Guadalajara Grill  
February 6, 2019  
Tucson, AZ**



From **L to R**: Bob MacNish, Don Pool, Sandy Owen-Joyce (not yet retired), Stan Leake, Rich Hawkinson, Zelda Bailey, and Pat Tucci.

A small group of USGS retirees got together for lunch. It was a welcome break from shopping at the Tucson Gem & Mineral show for Pat & Zelda.

**USGS RETIREES LUNCHEON – TAMPA, FL  
Retirees lunch at Ukulele Restaurant  
Friday, April 5, 2019**

A group of WRD Tampa Office retirees kept the spirit of Craig Hutchinson going by meeting for lunch at Ukulele Restaurant on U.S. 41 in Land O'Lakes. Craig spearheaded this gathering for years. I was honored to round up the gang in 2019, even if it was with less vigor than Craig might have done.

We arrived at 12:30 for socializing and seated ourselves a little after 1:00. I was glad not to begin at 11:30 (and even more glad not to have to sign for annual leave after 30 minutes).

It was especially pleasing to see such a strong representation from Craig's family with Tai, Tammie, Daris, and Bernard.



**Clockwise from left:** Bernard Dew, Tammie McBride, Ray Mularoni, Aggi Mularoni, Kathleen Duerr, Rose Marie, Lewis Fletcher, John Trommer, Ron Spencer, Terrie Lee, Rick Spechler, Dan Duerr, Tai Zhang, and Daris Dew. (Ben McPherson left before lunch).

An almost perfect day made sitting at our table on the back porch even more enjoyable. East Lake Ellis loomed in the background as a pleasant breeze streamed across the porch.

A big thank you to Terrie and Ron for suggesting the location. We filled two and a half delightful hours at this setting and left with hopes of doing it again.

**Back porch view:**



**GA RETIREES – GROUNDWATER STAFF  
Holiday Luncheon  
December 20, 2018**



**Pictured (L-R):** John Clarke, Rick Krause, Charles Joiner, Keith McFadden, and Michael Peck.

**GA RETIREES – RETIREMENT CELEBRATION BRIAN HUGHES  
March 27, 2019**



Georgia retirees met on March 27 and held an impromptu retirement celebration for Brian Hughes. Pictured from left to right: Brian McCallum (active), Keith McFadden, Mary Dunn, Michael Peck, Helaine Markewich, Brian Hughes (holding his retiree plaque), Eve Kuniansky, Ed Martin, and Dan Calhoun (active).

**NM RETIREES' LUNCHEON**  
**March 27, 2019**

It was great to see everyone at the USGS New Mexico Retiree Luncheon today, we had 12 attendees. John Bumgarner filled us in on the status of WRD (including another reorganization), answered questions, and gave the status of various projects. Everyone gave an update on what they've been doing. Afterward, 6 retirees (7 including Nathan who is still working part time) went back to the office and John Bumgarner gave us a great tour of the facility, which is a fantastic place to work. John says to drop by anytime to see the office. I am now on the office's email list to be notified of upcoming talks, I will forward this info as it is received.

Attendees included:

Cyndie Abeyta  
John Bumgarner  
Richard Lepp/Aurora Lepp  
Steve Lewandowski  
Doug McAda  
Nathan Myers  
Dave Ortiz  
Steve Richey/Kathy Mondragón  
Elsie Sanchez  
Pat Soule

Barbara Henson was not feeling well, we send her our best wishes.  
Jim Hudson sent his regrets, he said he thinks of us often. Today is his birthday.  
Scott Waltemeyer also sent his regrets, he's in Yuma.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting! --Steve

**NY WATER SCIENCE CENTER RETIREES**  
**Monthly Luncheon -- Spouses and Friends**  
**February 14, 2019**



Front Row **(L-R)**: Sue Durocher, Leanna Sweet, Peggy Phillips  
Second Row **(L-R)**: Anne Finch, Helen Cohen, Judy Moore  
Third Row **(L-R)**: Bob Fakundiny, Angelo Kontis, Andy Cohen, Allan Randall, Rich Reynolds  
New York Retirees meet every month, as organized by Judy Moore, widow of Grady Moore, former New York District Chief.

**RESTON-HERNDON RETIREES  
LUNCHEON  
March 4, 2019**



Dr. Nancy Rybicki spoke on "Trapa: Invasive Aquatic Plant in the Potomac River Watershed". She works as a biologist in the Water Mission Area. Recently retired and now emeritus.

## RETIREMENTS

**James ‘Jim’ Campbell** retired on 3 January 2019 after 42+ years of service to the USGS. The Pennsylvania Water Science Center congratulates Jim Campbell, the Pennsylvania Water Science Center Director. Jim is one of the most well-traveled and experienced employees in Northeast Region with respect to the many duty stations and positions he held. After earning a degree in Civil Engineering from Penn State, he began his USGS career working in the Data Section of the New Jersey District Office where he learned the essentials of collection and management of water-resources data. Jim took the ‘move to move up’ model of the day to heart, with a progression of career moves to Ithaca, New York as the Data Chief; Richmond, Virginia as the Study Section Chief; and to Providence, Rhode Island, as the State Office chief. Jim completed his career journey in the New Cumberland Office of the Pennsylvania Water Science Center, first as the Associate Director and shortly thereafter as the Center Director. In retirement, Jim has taken a liking to south central Pennsylvania and the many friends and acquaintances he's made there and will be setting up residence and enjoying time with friends, hiking, motorcycle riding, and eventually jet skiing as we thaw out this spring. We hope to wish him well and regale in his many stories and experiences at a future time.

*-Curtis Schreffler, Associate Director, USGS Pennsylvania Water Science Center*



**Devin L. Galloway** retired on December 31, 2018 following 40+ years as a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. He began his career in 1978 in the Illinois District Office in Champaign-Urbana, IL where he led flood modeling studies in and around Chicago and conducted watershed studies in coal mining regions of western and southern Illinois. Devin joined the Nuclear Hydrology Program in Lakewood, CO in 1984 as member of the Saturated Zone Fractured Rock Hydrology Project that evaluated hydrologic conditions as part of a suitability study for storing high-level radioactive waste beneath Yucca Mountain, NV. In 1990, he joined the California District Office in Sacramento, CA where he led hydrogeology and land subsidence studies in the Antelope Valley (Mojave Desert). In 1996, Devin joined the Heat Flow and Mass Transfer project in the National

Research Program where he collaborated on hydrologic research of hydrothermal flow systems and continued research on land subsidence studies. Devin joined the Office of the Western Region Hydrologist in 2000 as Regional Groundwater Specialist, a role he held through 2017 under various organizational realignments, ultimately culminating in Groundwater Specialist on the Water Science Field Team. In 2018, Devin joined the Earth System Processes Division, Water Cycle Branch, where he continued to perform some transitional Groundwater Specialist duties while continuing subsidence research and participating in future science planning within the Branch. Devin earned degrees in Biology (BA, Indiana Univ.), Environmental Sciences (M.S., Indiana Univ.) and Civil Engineering (M.S., Univ. of Illinois). He has authored or coauthored more than 80 reports/articles/chapters published in USGS series publications, peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings and books. Devin also contributed to the USGS and to the science community through his service on national and international committees including with NASA, UNESCO (Working Group on Land Subsidence [Chair, 2010–15]), ASCE (Committee on Land Subsidence [Chair, 2012–present]) and IAH (U.S. Chapter [Board of Directors, 2015–18]). His honors include the U.S. Department of the Interior Superior Achievement Award (2005) and the Distinguished Chair Award from the Standards Development Council of EWRI/ASCE (2012). Devin resides with his wife (Sharon), grandson (Zion) and Maxwell (the dog) in a log cabin in Hidden Hollow (‘Holler’), near Bloomington, IN. He is looking forward to continuing contributing to USGS in the role of Scientist Emeritus. Devin’s plans include (1) the study of subsidence hazards accompanying the compaction of aquifer systems caused by groundwater depletion, (2) the analysis of groundwater-level responses to active and passive stresses (e.g. earth tides), and (3) the evaluation of groundwater resources impacts related to energy development.

**Ron Harvey** retired on January 31, 2019 after 38 years. He began his USGS career in Menlo Park, CA as an NRC postdoc in 1981, having completed his PhD at nearby Stanford University. Ron led research efforts focusing on microbial transport and ecology in granular, fractured-rock, and karst-limestone aquifers, first in Menlo Park (1982-1990), then in Boulder, CO (1991-present). During his long USGS career, he served on 24 advisory and review boards concerning subsurface microbiology issues, was a member of organizing and technical committees for 11 international scientific conferences, advised program managers in three federal agencies, and has worked with and (or) given advice to 30 USGS Water Science Centers. Ron served as Chair for the ~3,700 membership of the Environmental Division of the American Society for Microbiology. During that time, he also founded the International Society for Subsurface Microbiology (ISSM) with the goal of supporting ISSM conferences, two of which he proposed and co-organized. He later went on to serve as its first elected President of ISSM and currently maintains the ISSM webpages and serves as Secretary. Throughout his career, Ron has maintained close ties with academia, serving as Consulting Assistant Professor at Stanford University, Adjunct Professor at the University of Colorado, Affiliate Faculty member at the University of Hawaii’s Water Resources Institute, and Visiting Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland. Ron has enjoyed interacting with students through the years, hosting many in his lab and serving 23 times as external thesis examiner at the request of 13 different universities within the US, Canada, and Europe. Ron identifies the highlight of his career as being his long-time association with his extraordinary group of colleagues, both

within the recently-retired USGS National Research Program and at the USGS Toxics Hydrology Research Site in Cape Cod, MA. Ron intends to continue at the USGS in an Emeritus position and as an Adjunct at the University of Colorado maintaining his association with ISSM. He also intends to devote more time to his love of distance cycling. Ron and his wife, Michelle, plan to travel more and eventually split time between Boulder, CO and Victoria, British Columbia, where their children, Jeff and Jennifer, now live. And, will continue his contributions as an Emeritus Scientist.



**Scott Hoffman** writes: Here's my path into retirement...an interesting 39-year trip! On March 9, 1980, the journey started by being hired into the USGS as a hydrologic technician (GS-4, part-time) for the sediment lab in Harrisburg, PA. Throughout the next few years, while processing sediment samples, projects were in need of field help, which I assisted. One included lake water-quality studies with Jim Barker; using the EPA EnviroPro aerial camera system strapped to the bottom of a Cessna 172 aircraft to map algal growth on lakes. Eventually, I transitioned to running low-flow and stream-station trips. During a first of its kind to use the GOES satellite to relay stage, and rainfall, data during normal and flood conditions project, I created an interface for a NOAA weighing-bucket reengaged to communicate with a Synergetics Data Collection Platform. In 1987, I became the water-use project chief for PA and

was converted from a hydro tech to a geographer. As a geographer, I was thrown head-first into geospatial science and never looked back. Since 1988, I have been the GIS technical lead for the Pennsylvania Water Resources Division (WRD) District office. There were many fun and interesting projects I worked on but there were two that are special. The first was the development of Pennsylvania StreamStats application (version 1 in 2004; version 2 in 2019-ish). This was the third operational state in the country in 2004 to provide streamflow statistics and basin characteristics for a selected point on a stream. The second project was the development of the PA Drought Web Page (first of its kind) in 2002 using the now antiquated, Arc Macro Language (AML) programming and (gasp!) ArcPlot. I also had the privilege to work on flood inundation mapping, and Deepwater Horizon oil spill support as one of the USGS Federal mapping liaisons, bathymetric mapping, and water-quality sampling on the Monongahela River. Many USGS people and cooperators have contributed to my experience and success. My official retirement date was January 3, 2019, but I elected to continue to support the PA WSC as a volunteer in the emeritus scientist program through FY2019. When I take my foot off the gas pedal, there are many options to pursue: Mapping buried Civil War artifacts in Gettysburg National Military Park? Finding meteorites in the desert southwest? Teaching GIS? Traveling with my wife? Finding the ultimate bourbon-barrel craft beer? The sky is the limit but rest assured, Yvonne and my kids, Danika and Dax, will certainly be part of the plan. I wish you all well, continued success, and the utmost in happiness as you continue your careers in the greatest science agency on the planet!



**Brian Hughes**, retired on December 31, 2018 as a Supervisory Hydrologist with the South Atlantic Water Science Center (GA), with more than 31 years of service to the USGS. Brian attended Clemson University and Southern Illinois University where he received undergraduate and master's degrees in geology. His first government job was with the South Carolina Water Resources Commission in Beaufort, SC. As a state cooperator, he worked on a project with USGS to assess saltwater encroachment in Port Royal Sound, near Hilton Head Island. He left South Carolina in 1987 for a position in Baltimore, MD to assess groundwater contamination at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The study site had been used for decades for testing and disposal of chemical and high-explosive ordinance. Brian collected and analyzed geologic, geophysical, and water-quality data from the site and developed a groundwater-flow model to predict transport of organic compounds in

groundwater. His time in Aberdeen resulted in some unique experiences, such as drilling monitoring wells remotely from a bomb-proof shelter, wearing military chemical protective clothing, and training in how to use the Mark III nerve agent antidote auto-injector. In 1993, Brian transferred to SC to become the Chief of the Santee River Basin and Coastal Drainages NAWQA study. For six years, he led the SANT team in examining groundwater, surface water, and aquatic ecological conditions in the study area. He worked on a project with the National Biological Survey (now USGS Ecosystems), US Forest Service, and Corps of Engineers to examine the hydrologic and ecological functions of a forested wetland system in coastal SC. He also became the southeast Regional water lead for the Amphibian Monitoring and Research Initiative (ARMI), a program to investigate causes for amphibian population declines in the US. In 2000, Brian moved to Atlanta, GA to become the studies chief for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) NAWQA Study Unit. In addition, he worked with colleagues in Ecosystems in obtaining venture capital funding for investigations of instream flow needs for aquatic species and effects of saltwater flooding of breeding ponds on amphibian species. In the ACF Basin, Brian worked on the Flint River Thrust, the Southeast Regional Assessment Project (SERAP), and the ACF Focus Area Study for the National Water Census. These studies had different objectives, but all included analysis of interaction among ecology, hydrology, geology, and climate. Since 2015, Brian has been the chief for the Hydrologic Modeling and Geospatial Analysis Group in the South Atlantic Water Science Center, and since 2017, he has been the co-lead for a project to support the Agência Nacional de Aguas (ANA - Brazil National Water Agency) to develop expertise in hydrologic investigations. In retirement, Brian and his wife Ellen are looking forward to travel, summers in the North Carolina Mountains, and visiting their youngest daughter in Colorado. Please join me in congratulating Brian on his accomplishments. We wish him well and are looking forward to hosting his retirement party later.

**Thomas 'Tom' Imbriotta** retired on January 3, 2019 after 41+ years of service to the USGS from the New Jersey Water Science Center, Trenton, NJ. Tom received a B.S. in Chemistry from Oakland University, Rochester, MI and an M.S. in Water Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI before joining the USGS in 1977 as a hydrologist in the Indiana District of the Water Resources Division (WRD) in Indianapolis. His first project in Elkhart, IN involved sampling wells around a landfill and an industrial park where pharmaceutical waste and chlorinated solvents (VOCs) were leaching into the groundwater. In a career studying groundwater contamination chemistry. Particularly memorable were the studies evaluating groundwater contamination from US Steel and a nuclear power plant around the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore for the National Park Service. Tom transferred to the New Jersey District in 1984 to head up a project for the USGS Toxics Substances Hydrology Program comparing the ability of different sampling pumps and bailers to recover VOCs from wells. The expertise gained from this project led him to help develop and give workshops on groundwater sampling for organics in all regions and at the National Training Center in Denver. In 1988 he was named project chief of the Toxics Program chlorinated solvents research site at Picatinny Arsenal, NJ where he led a group of researchers in studying the fate and transport of VOCs in a sand-and-gravel aquifer for the next 10 years. In 1995, Tom also began working at the Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) chlorinated solvents contamination site for the Navy and then with National Research Program (NRP) researchers when it became the Toxics Program's bedrock research site. Recognizing the uniqueness and convenience of this field site (located only 1 mile from the NJ office), he made it a priority to find work at this site with the Navy and other Department of Defense (DoD) projects for the next 24 years. In 2002, Tom received DoD funding to help develop the regenerated cellulose dialysis membrane (RCDM) diffusion sampler for groundwater wells. Tom's vast experience led to the writing of the USGS Techniques and Methods Report on the protocol for use of groundwater passive samplers and has mentored other USGS hydrologists in the construction and use of these samplers. In 2009, Tom served as supervisor of the Hydrologic Research Program section for 5 years. The highlight during that time was hiring and mentoring many bright young interns, some of whom eventually became fine USGS employees. Tom then became the Water Quality Specialist for the NJ Water Science Center (WSC). Over the past few years he continued to help conduct DoD research evaluating the effectiveness of bioaugmentation, matrix diffusion rates, and per fluorinated compound contamination in the fractured bedrock aquifer at the NAWC site. Overall, Tom authored or coauthored more than 50 papers and reports and 80 talks or posters at technical meetings during his career. Tom wants to thank all the great people he has worked with over the years at USGS. He has enjoyed learning from everyone he's worked with. Their camaraderie and support have been second to none. In fact, he has extended his time at USGS by becoming a Scientist Emeritus to finish up a few more papers over the next year. During that time, he and his wife Jeanne will be fixing up their house to sell. They will eventually move to Virginia to be closer to their sons, daughters-in-law, and grandkids. Tom would appreciate and enjoy any and all reminiscences or stories anyone would care to send to his USGS email [timbrig@usgs.gov](mailto:timbrig@usgs.gov) and/or his personal email [tomimbro@gmail.com](mailto:tomimbro@gmail.com)



**David Mueller**, Hydrologist, WMA Hydrologic Networks Branch, retired on January 3, 2019 from the USGS, Water Mission Area, Observation Systems Division, Hydrologic Networks Branch after 36 years of service to the Federal government. Dave began his Federal career as a Research Hydraulic Engineer at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station (WES), after completing his Master's degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Missouri at Rolla. Dave worked at WES for 8 years, joining the USGS in February 1991. Although an employee of the Kentucky District, Dave spent much of his time working on national projects. From July 1994 to October 2002, he served as the USGS National Bridge Scour Coordinator. As part of cooperative projects with the Federal Highway Administration, Dave developed portable bridge scour instrumentation for inspecting scour around bridge piers and collecting detailed real-time bridge-scour data, conducted and coordinated nationwide field research on scour at bridges, provided training on scour processes, and helped develop and maintain the national bridge scour database. During this time, he began to serve on the Hydroacoustic Work Group (HaWG). In 2002, Dave was asked to join the Office of Surface Water to work on Hydroacoustics. Dave's work was key to the adoption of hydroacoustic technology in the USGS, including adapting dGPS to work with ADCPs, developing techniques for correcting ADCP measurements for moving bed conditions, testing and evaluating ADCPs, applying numerical modeling to determine the effects of flow disturbance on measurement accuracy and bias. Perhaps his greatest contribution has been in software development for hydroacoustics. He and Kevin Oberg helped shape the WinRiver software used by many. He developed the QRev software, now used daily by USGS personnel and others around the world. QRev has been successful beyond any of our expectations. It was one of those rare pieces of software that headquarters made mandatory based on requests from field hydrographers! Dave has also served on other work groups and committees, including the Sediment Acoustics Leadership Team and the World Meteorological Organization, Project X - Assessment of the Performance of Flow Measurement Instruments and Techniques. He also served on the Federal Interagency Sedimentation Project, Technical Committee. The Hydroacoustics Workgroup and the entire community of hydroacoustic users owe a lot to Dave for his many years of outstanding technical contributions in the application of hydroacoustics in the USGS and around the world. A retirement dinner is being planned for Dave to be held in Louisville, KY; a date will be announced soon. (It was originally scheduled

for February but will likely change due to the government shutdown and schedule uncertainties). For details, contact Kevin Oberg ([kaoberg@usgs.gov](mailto:kaoberg@usgs.gov)) or Molly Wood ([mwood@usgs.gov](mailto:mwood@usgs.gov)). If you would like to wish Dave well in his retirement, contact him via phone (502) 558-5907 or (502) 244-6524 or via email ([dmueller@usgs.gov](mailto:dmueller@usgs.gov) or [hikingwithjc@gmail.com](mailto:hikingwithjc@gmail.com)). The Hydrologic Networks Branch is working to bring Dave back to work part time on an NDAA appointment, especially to work on the QRev software. However, as he retires, he does plan to spend his time training and competing in marathons and triathlons, volunteering, and spending more time hiking and cycling with Cathy, his wife of 34 years.

**Ronald S. 'Ron' Oremland** retired on February 1, 2019 as a Senior Research Scientist (ST) in Menlo Park, California. Over his 42 years of service with the USGS, Ron has amassed an impressive number of research accomplishments including publishing over 195 papers in the peer-reviewed literature, supervising and mentoring 28 postdocs, graduate students, and technicians, holding 6 patents, serving on 4 Editorial Boards, and being named as a Fellow to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Geophysical Union, the American Academy of Microbiology, and the International Symposia for Environmental Biogeochemistry. Ron has also received the DOI Distinguished, Meritorious, and Superior Service Awards. Ron will continue to contribute to the USGS as an Emeritus. What you will not find among these numbers on his CV is that Ron has dedicated his entire adult life—literally—to the service of the American people. Going against his parents' wishes for him to attend medical school and a draft deferment for the Vietnam War, Ron voluntarily enlisted in Navy in the hopes that he could pursue his dream of oceanography once the war ended. Through grueling training in the cold, polluted waters of the Anacostia River, Ron completed his training and eventually became a Diving and Salvage Officer on an ocean-going fleet tug. After three years of Naval service, Ron was honorably discharged and pursued his educational goals, coming to the USGS six years after his active duty service. In Ron's own words upon reflecting on his retirement: "I have metamorphosed into a retiree, an ex-employee, an emeritus annuitant, a former working stiff, etc. It is a very bittersweet emotion for me as I was so wrapped up in the process of my work over all these years, I never really saw time flying by, nor did I come to grips with the day when it ends taking place. My love of the science we do and the joy of working with my many colleagues convinced me to have retirement plans that would simply let me expire at my desk a couple of decades hence with a broad smile on my face. But, it doesn't work out that way (thankfully). But enough about me, only to say that this has clearly been the second-best job I ever had. The first one was being a lifeguard at Coney Island back in my distant youth."



**Gordon W. Rattray** retired after 28 years of Government service on March 29, 2019. In 1991, Gordon started his USGS career with the Yucca Mountain Project Office in Colorado. He worked in the Unsaturated Zone Geochemistry group on experiments to determine the sorptive behavior of sulfur hexafluoride in contact with silicate rocks along with investigations of groundwater movement in the unsaturated zone. In 2000, Gordon transferred to the USGS Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Project Office and worked from 2000 to 2008 on the INL groundwater flow model and water quality studies with a focus on the solute transport portion of the modeling program. In 2008, Gordon transferred to the New Mexico Water Science Center and worked on a geohydrologic study of the Upper Rio Hondo

Basin and a NAWQA Project assessing the vulnerability of public supply wells to contamination (TANC). In 2010, Gordon had the opportunity to return to his original science passion of groundwater geochemistry and moved back to the INL as the Project Office Geochemist. Gordons's career has been highlighted by his contributions to numerous scientific papers and technical reports and most recently by the publication of USGS Professional Paper chapters on the comprehensive analyses of the groundwater geochemistry at the INL. Gordon looks forward to more time fishing, hiking, and enjoying all the other great aspects Idaho's outdoor environment has to offer. Please join us in celebrating Gordon's career on Tuesday March 26, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Sandpiper Restaurant, 750 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls.

**George Ritz writes in an email:** The rumor mill has been working extra hard lately, so I wanted to reach out to each of you to let you know that yes, indeed, my last official workday prior to retiring is this Friday, 29 March 2019. To each of you in the "To" line; please know how very fortunate I have been to know you, and together, move our science and organization along the best paths we could over these many years. You have been valued colleagues, friends and sources of inspiration and challenge. It has been an honor and privilege to have worked with you from the plains and hills of Wyoming and Colorado, through the halls of regional EPA Superfund, to the archive of earth's history at the National Ice Core Lab, to the vitally important training class cadres, in innumerable reviews, and finally within the efforts in our water-quality laboratory science. I could not have accomplished any measure of success without all your help; I wish all of you the best of health and success in your future. I'll be remaining in the Denver area; please take this as an open invitation to come visit/keep in touch. My new contact information is: email: [bumblebz@comcast.net](mailto:bumblebz@comcast.net) cell: 303-912-9499 I hope to see each of you somewhere down the trail...

**Rob Striegl** retired on January 3, 2019 after more than 43 years of federal service. Rob started his federal career as a seasonal employee with the U.S. Forest Service, and finishing his master's degree in Aquatic Ecology from the University of Illinois-Urbana. In January 1978, Rob joined the USGS as a Hydrologist with the Dekalb, IL Subdistrict Office of Water

Resources Division, where he led a Nationwide Urban Runoff Program project on the water quality effects of routing stormwater through urban lakes. Following that, he worked on the design and implementation of the Upper Illinois River NAWQA Pilot Study and became involved with investigations at the low-level radioactive waste burial site near Sheffield, IL as part of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Program. Rob measured and modeled radioactive water vapor, carbon dioxide and methane transport in the unsaturated zone adjacent to buried waste at that site for his PhD research at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Upon completing his PhD, Rob transferred to the National Research Program at the Denver Federal Center in 1987, where he was a team member of Ed Weeks' project, "Field Applications of Unsaturated Zone Flow Theory". Rob then started the research project, "Biogeochemical Interactions at Environmental Interfaces" in 1992, which he led until the NRP was dissolved in late 2017. The project focused on interdisciplinary investigations, spanning ecosystem to global scale, of aquatic carbon biogeochemistry, hydrologic exports of aquatic carbon, and on hydrologic controls on carbon dioxide and methane exchange across water-air and soil-air interfaces. His research included collaborative field studies with the USGS Shingobee Headwaters Aquatic Ecosystem Project, the Water Energy and Biogeochemical Budgets projects, the Amargosa Desert Research Site, the Yucca Mountain Project, and a variety of national and international efforts such as the NSF Long Term Ecological Research Program and the Arctic Great Rivers Observatory. Rob has very much enjoyed the privilege of leading some great interdisciplinary research teams over the past couple of decades, most notably the USGS science team that conducted the first comprehensive water quality investigation of the Yukon River and its tributaries in NW Canada and Alaska, the team that conducted the first nationwide assessment of the importance of Inland Waters in the USA carbon budget for the LandCarbon biologic carbon sequestration program, and the team of USGS and university hydrologists, biogeochemists, geophysicists, geographers, and remote sensing scientists currently collaborating on the NASA Arctic-Boreal Vulnerability Experiment investigation of the vulnerability of inland waters and the aquatic carbon cycle to changing permafrost and climate across boreal northwestern North America. Service to the scientific community has been a high priority for Rob throughout his career, manifesting through his involvement in several national and international working groups, his tenure as associate and guest editor for multiple scientific journals, and his strong commitment to mentorship of students and postdoctoral researchers. Rob will stay active as an Emeritus Scientist and as a mentor to early career scientists and graduate students, while also pursuing projects and enjoying time with family and friends. He particularly looks forward to spending quality time with his three young grandsons and fostering their love of the outdoors through Colorado camping trips, spending time on the Oregon coast, and canoeing in Minnesota, where Rob and his family have a lake house.

**Thomas 'Tom' C. Wood** retired from the USGS on January 3, 2019, after +37 years of dedicated service. He began his career in August 1981 in the former National Mapping Division, Eastern Mapping Center, as a Cartographic Technician where he worked on scribing 1:24,000- and 1:100,000-scale topographic maps. In 1983, he moved to the Water Resources Division (WRD) as a Computer Specialist in the Distributed Information System (DIS) Office, where he rose to become the DIS Office Chief. After twenty years in WRD, Tom joined the USGS Geospatial Information Office, as Chief of the Computing Infrastructure Unit. He led this group in implementing the wildly popular and award-winning USGS IT Service Desk, which is still in place today. In 2010, Tom joined the new Core Science Systems (CSS) Mission Area as the Chief of Staff, and later as the Senior Program Advisor to the Associate Director. His wealth of experience and discerning judgement helped transform what was then a very diverse group of programs into a single, cohesive organization with a common mission and purpose. Tom's even temper and sage advice will be greatly missed by all his current and former colleagues at the USGS. As he starts the next chapter of his life, Tom is looking forward to spending more time with his family, to traveling, and along with his wife Cathy, to planning their daughter's wedding.

## MEMORIALS

**Mary Moran Anderson, 81, (wife of retiree Clarence W. "Andy" Anderson)** of Herndon, VA died peacefully at home on Saturday, March 16, 2019. Mary was born on December 8, 1937 in Altoona, PA to Gerald and Adeline (Vizzini) Moran. She graduated in 1955 from St. Mildred's High School in Laurel, MD and went on to work for the Navy Department in Washington, DC. She married Andy on May 11, 1963 at St. Mary of Mills Catholic Church in Laurel, MD. In 1973, Mary and her family moved to Herndon, VA where she attended mass and sang in the choir at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, sang with the Herndon Towne Square Singers and retired from the United States Geological Survey in Reston, VA. She is survived by her husband of 55 years Andy, three sons and a daughter, three granddaughters and a grandson. In addition, she is survived by her sister, 19 nieces and nephews. Mary was predeceased by her father, mother, and a brother. The family received friends on March 24, 2019 at ADAMS-GREEN Funeral Home, Herndon, VA. A mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 25, 2019 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Herndon, VA. Burial followed at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Silver Spring, MD.

**Jack Fischer writes:** Mary was a gentle, kind and genuinely nice person. My heart goes out to Andy.



**Edward L. "Ed" Ford, 75,** passed away peacefully at his home on March 1, 2019 in Slidell, LA. Ed was a native of Columbia, SC and a long-time resident of Slidell. Ed served his country in the South Carolina Air National Guard from 1966-1970. He worked for 34 years for the US Geological Survey first in the South Carolina District office (hired by Rolland Carter) before transferring to the USGS Gulf Coast Hydroscience Center (at Carter's recommendation) as part of the Center's initial staff. He worked extensively with Surface Water Branch researchers doing 'roughness' experiments in the indoor flume, then later, the outdoor flood plain. As those experiments wound down, Ed became part of the staff that set up the Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility (HIF) at Stennis Space Center and worked there until his retirement in 1999. ED was heavily involved in the USGS-HIF science outreach program with local Slidell public schools. Ed volunteered as a Cub Master, Scout Master, and Committee Chairman with the Boy Scouts of America; read for WRBW, the New Orleans radio station

for the visually impaired; and volunteered at the Aquarium of the Americas. He was a member of the Slidell Kiwanis Club where he was the secretary, president, and on the Board of Directors. He also served as a Lt. Gov. and District Trustee of Kiwanis International. Ed enjoyed traveling with Becky in their RV, playing with his grandchildren, and friendly pestering of his sons and daughters-in-law. He is survived by his loving wife of almost 49 years, Becky Armbruster Ford; his mother, two sons, three grandchildren, a sister and a brother, and cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Kate Flynn writes:** I worked with Ed in Mississippi. He was one of the nicest people I have worked with. From my (short) viewpoint, he was a soft-spoken, gentle giant. He initialed all his notes ELF, which I found amusing. Though I asked, he would never tell me what the 'L' stood for (and I am proud of myself for not checking his driver's license one day when he had me hold his wallet while he waded out in the water - I was tempted.) For several years, I shared an office with Ed, 2 other full timers and 3 - 5 students; the room was subdivided into three spaces using those old 5-foot room dividers. Ed was a great cubie-mate; he was so soft spoken that, even if you wanted to, you couldn't eavesdrop on his phone conversation. Interesting that his obituary says he read for the blind, he had a great voice for that.

**Jeff Armbruster (Ed's brother-in-law) writes:** I was Ed's first officemate when he came to work in South Carolina. He and I were both assigned to the small-stream flood frequency project. We did extensive field work together and spent many a night on the road building the gaging network and measuring floods. He was strong, hard-working, and a perfectionist in all he did. He was fun-loving and dedicated to everything he committed to, most especially his family. (And...I know what the 'L' stands for, but...)



**Fred Charles Gozzi,** of Norcross, GA, died December 16, 2018. Fred was a Hydrologic Technician for the USGS, Georgia District Office for nearly 20 years when he retired in 2005. Fred remained in the Norcross, Ga area after retirement to be close to his USGS family. During his career in Georgia, Fred's primary duties were associated with discrete surface-water-quality sample collection for the USGS-Georgia Environmental Protection Division Statewide Water-quality Monitoring Program. Fred was an avid coin collector and provided state quarters to many employees and their families during their initial release. I know my son filled his state map thanks to coins we obtained from Fred. Fred also ran an honor system "post office" where he made available stamps in his unlocked desk drawer where you

could get stamps anytime whether he was there or not. Fred kept in touch with former co-workers since retirement during his convalesce dealing with a disease at an assisted living facility in Norcross, GA. Fred is survived by siblings Marie, Philip (Sandy), and Daniel (Laurie); 3 nieces and a nephew.

**-submitted by John Clarke**

**Rebecca 'Becky' (nee:Ely) Hudson, 92, (widow of retiree Hugh H. Hudson)** passed away on March 16, 2019 in Lakewood, CO. Becky was born April 7, 1926, in Winona, MS and was graduated from Millsaps College in Jackson, MS and the University of Northern Colorado. In 1949, she married Hugh H. Hudson and they enjoyed living in Jackson, MS, Santa Fe, NM, Kaneohe, HI, Vienna, VA, and Lakewood, CO. Before coming to Colorado, Becky had been a Director of

Youth Work for the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Church and an elementary school teacher. In Jefferson County, she was a special education teacher at Arvada Senior High School for sixteen years. Since she retired, Becky has been a volunteer for many organizations including Jeffco (Jefferson County) Action Center, Lifeline (for suicide prevention), Oasis tutor, Listening Post, and Mile Hi Church for Religious Science. Becky belonged to Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association and the Jeffco Unit of League of Women Voters. Becky is survived by two sons, Mark, in Arvada, CO, and Lawrence, in Tempe, AZ, and five grandchildren. Her body was cremated. There will be no funeral service.



**Donald K. Leifeste, 85**, died unexpectedly January 23, 2019 in Gonzales, TX. He was born on September 13, 1933 in Cost, TX to the late Ruby Smith and Erwin C. Leifeste. He was the youngest of three sons. Don was born and raised in Cost and was a graduate of Gonzales High School and Southwest Texas State University. He proudly served in the U.S. Army at Camp Hanford, Washington for two years and then upon his return, completed his Bachelor of Science degree in 1957. Following military service in college, he accepted a position as Chemist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in Austin, TX. At the USGS, Don met Jo Ann Snapp who would become his beloved wife of nearly 60 years. They were married at the First United Methodist Church in Gonzales by Reverend Lamar Leifeste, Don's cousin, on May 16, 1959. He served 31 years with the USGS in Texas, Georgia, Iowa and Northern Virginia. He retired from the USGS in 1988 and he and

Jo Ann made their final homeplace in Gonzales, TX. He enjoyed spending time fishing and raising cattle on the family farm. He also loved music and followed his father as a member of the Monthalia Men's Choir as well as many other church choirs. Don gave his time and construction expertise on mission trips to Guyana, SA, Mexico, Roswell, GA, and here in Texas. One of his most cherished accomplishments was serving as President for the Independence Homes Board of Directors. During his presidency, there were 24 residential units built for the mental health community. In the communities and churches where Don and Jo Ann lived, Don gave of his time serving the military with collecting care packages, tutoring children, recycling programs, developing homeless shelters, hosting exchange students and foster children as well as leadership positions. Don loved his country, his church, his community and his family. He loved cowboy boots, cowboy hats, cattle, chili, really anything cowboy related because he was truly a most special and beloved cowboy. He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann, their one son and two daughters, his seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Visitation was held on January 25, 2019 at Seydler Hill Funeral Home. A celebration of life service to honor Don's life was held on January 26, 2019 in the Monthalia United Methodist Church in Cost, TX.



**Lenora 'Lenny' Leveen, approx. 83, (wife of retiree Larry Leveen)** passed away on Feb. 4, 2019. Raised in Illinois, she graduated from nursing school at St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago, IL. She and two girlfriends left for a grand adventure in Alaska in 1957. The three nurses got a job at Palmer Hospital, where they intended to stay for one year. Fate intervened when Lenny's sparkling smile caught the eye of charming engineer Larry Leveen at the Palmer Dorm. They married in 1960 and settled in Palmer, AK where they raised their four children and enjoyed becoming an integral part of the community. Lenny's loving and generous nature was at the heart of who she was and everything she did. She was devoted to her family and friends and loved by all who knew her. Nobody was a stranger to Lenny and her matchless sense of hospitality. She found great joy in helping people through her numerous volunteer activities in church, school, PTA, her kids' 4-H clubs

and Habitat for Humanity. Her years serving cheerfully as a secretary within the Mat-Su School District benefited students and staff alike. Lenny's compassion and kindness, her sense of fun and her easy laugh, and her magnanimous gift for service were the hallmarks of this remarkable woman and will be forever missed. Lenny is survived by her husband, Larry Leveen, a son and three daughters, a granddaughter and five grandsons, and a great-grandson. A Celebration of Life was held at Lazy Mountain Bible Church in Palmer, AK where friends and family were invited to share memories and tributes.

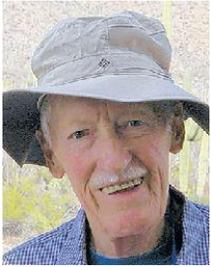


**Rita Mae Martens, 88, (wife of USGS Retiree Larry Martens)** passed away on January 12, 2019 of Pell City, AL. Rita was born November 28, 1930 in Pulaski, WI to the late Clement Huberty and Rosalie Huberty. Rita was a 1948 graduate of Lena (WI) High School and was employed by the Green Bay (WI) Press Gazette when she married Lawrence A. Martens (Larry) December 29, 1951. They were stationed in Greenville SC with the Air Force and then moved to Madison WI where she worked for the University of Wisconsin. Subsequently the family lived in Raleigh NC, Springfield VA, Baton Rouge LA, Champaign IL, Albany NY, and Reston VA. While rearing their family, she enjoyed bridge and bowling, volunteered with the Arthritis Foundation, and was active at the Catholic churches in each community. In 1992 they retired to Pell City, AL where she

continued to play bridge, enjoyed traveling, and participated fully at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. She is survived by her husband, Larry, three daughters and one son, and nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She

was preceded in death by her parents and four brothers. The Funeral Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church on February 2, 2019 in Pell City, AL.

**Winifred (nee: McGuire) Nuckels, 83, (widow of retiree Edward H. Nuckels) passed** away on April 6, 2017 in Henrico, VA. She was born in Barboursville, VA on September 17, 1933, to parents John and Elsie Asbury McGuire. She is survived by a daughter and a son, a sister, and two grandchildren. Mrs. Nuckels worked at Blue Ridge Sanatorium until 1967 when she moved to Richmond, VA. The family will receive friends on April 11, 2017 and services will be held on April 12, 2017 in the Bennett Funeral Home West Chapel, Glen Allen, VA. Burial will follow in Greenwood Memorial Gardens.



**Rodney H. 'Rod' Roeske, 86,** passed away on January 9, 2019 from pneumonia following a hip fracture in late December 2018 in Tucson, AZ. Rod lived in the desert Southwest and its rivers for the past 58 years. Rod was born on December 12, 1932 in Valders, WI, third of four children to Ed and Arline Roeske. He grew up in Wayside, a very small German community near Green Bay, WI. His love for baseball, polka music, canoeing, and good home-cooked food came from those roots. He had an adventurous spirit, and after graduating from De Pere High School (1950) he took time at University of Wisconsin Madison to explore liberal arts as well as a degree in Geological Engineering. His love of reading and art lasted throughout his life. He served in Korea (post-war) as a 2nd Lt. in the Army for two years after college. Rod started his career in hydrology in the U.S.

Geological Survey in 1958, first in Columbus, OH and then in Tucson, AZ starting in 1962. His study of Arizona surface water allowed him to explore both local (Rillito) and distant (Colorado) rivers, and he had many fine adventures on them. Known for his great sense of humor and straight-forward manner he enjoyed a diverse group of friends he met through work, baseball, and beyond. He continued to explore, taking a 2-year leave to work for the World Meteorological Organization in Malawi in the late 1970s. He retired from the USGS in 1989, and then helped friends with their field work and traveled extensively until a serious stroke in 1999. The stroke slowed his stride and his speech but not his intellect. He worked hard to recover and did to the extent that he lived independently in his home, traveled abroad through the Road Scholar program and locally with friends, and continued to make new friends. The Aphasia Center of Tucson played a major role in his recovery, reinforcing his positive outlook and giving him tools to live his life on his terms. He is survived by his brother and a niece, and numerous friends.

**Andrew Maute Spieker, 85, (August 15, 1932 – March 17, 2018).** Andrew grew up in a stimulating academic, bilingual, and musical household, as the sole offspring of Edmund and Helen Spieker. His Dad, a highly respected Geology Professor at Ohio State University, purposely spoke only French with Andy throughout pre-college years. Meanwhile, both parents were musical, which substantially influenced their son. Edmund also had a strong interest in photography that eventually led to encouragement of young Spieker's camera-aided fascination with railroads.

Andy earned a bachelor's degree in geology at Yale (*not* Ohio State!) in 1954, followed by an MS from Stanford. His USGS-WRD career began in September 1956, when he was hired by Stan Norris of the Ohio District. About four years thereafter, A.M.S. met Gail Stainsby, and they were married in 1961; daughters Marguerite and Deborah arrived thereafter.

By 1965, Andy had also acquired a Stanford Ph.D., and the Spieker quartet moved to Illinois where he became that district's Ground-Water Specialist. Half a decade later, the family migrated westward again, after Andrew was appointed Deputy Project Director of the pioneering, "high-visibility" San Francisco Bay Region Study.

In 1984, following additional hydro-science activities, Andy was selected as the Western Region Reports Improvement Specialist. During the next 14 years in that position, he was praised for his benevolent (but suitably firm) editorial "touch," eagle eye, and prompt responses. In 1996, he also was appointed to WRD's elite Reports Stewardship Team. In recognition of Andy's scientific contributions and valued leadership in reports improvement, he received the U.S. Department of the Interior's impressive Meritorious Award.

After a productive 41½-year career, A.M.S. retired in March 1998 ... an event that should have triggered special anticipatory stockholder dividends at Kodak and selected wineries, along with alerts to railroad police, nationwide. Soon thereafter, he, Gail, and her dog-show champion Samoyeds moved to the east shore of spectacular Lake Tahoe at Glenbrook, Nevada where the Spieker clan had long owned a vacation "cabin."

Musically, Andy savored many symphonic compositions, and he eagerly fed that enthusiasm, both at home and away. During the Yale years, for example, he frequently travelled to Manhattan (by train, of course) to hear and see his favorite Maestro, the famed Arturo Toscanini, at Carnegie Hall; later, in San Francisco, CA, Michael Tilson-Thomas and the S.F. Symphony were substantial attractions. (Fortunately, Gail enjoyed music too: in fact, she had been a soloist in her youth.) So, here we have the "one-of-a-kind" Andrew Maute Spieker: scientist and editor, railroading enthusiast and photographer, wine expert and music lover ... and avid sports fan as well. Along the way, he influenced, positively, the lives of many coworkers and other friends, and he genuinely enjoyed himself while doing so. Quite a guy! Andy is survived by three of the four principal women in his life – Gail, Marguerite, and Deborah – along with Debbie's husband, Paul Martin.

**-by Steve VanDenburgh, Carson City, NV**



**Walling, Faulkner B., 81**, passed away on March 12, 2006 in Palestine, TX. He was born on March 4, 1925 in Monroe, LA to Ira Francis and Mary S. Walling. He served in the Army Air Corp during WWII. He graduated from the University of Texas, Austin, TX with a degree chemical engineering and worked for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Faulkner was the District Chemist in Alaska and was transferred to Washington, D.C. in 1961. In 1962, he worked in the Reports Section and assisted in the editing of 'A History of Water Resources Division (Volume VI, May 1, 1957 – June 30, 1966). Faulkner made the move from the headquarter offices in Washington, D.C. to Reston, VA in the reports and information unit until he retired in 1980. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his wife Margaret who passed in 1986.

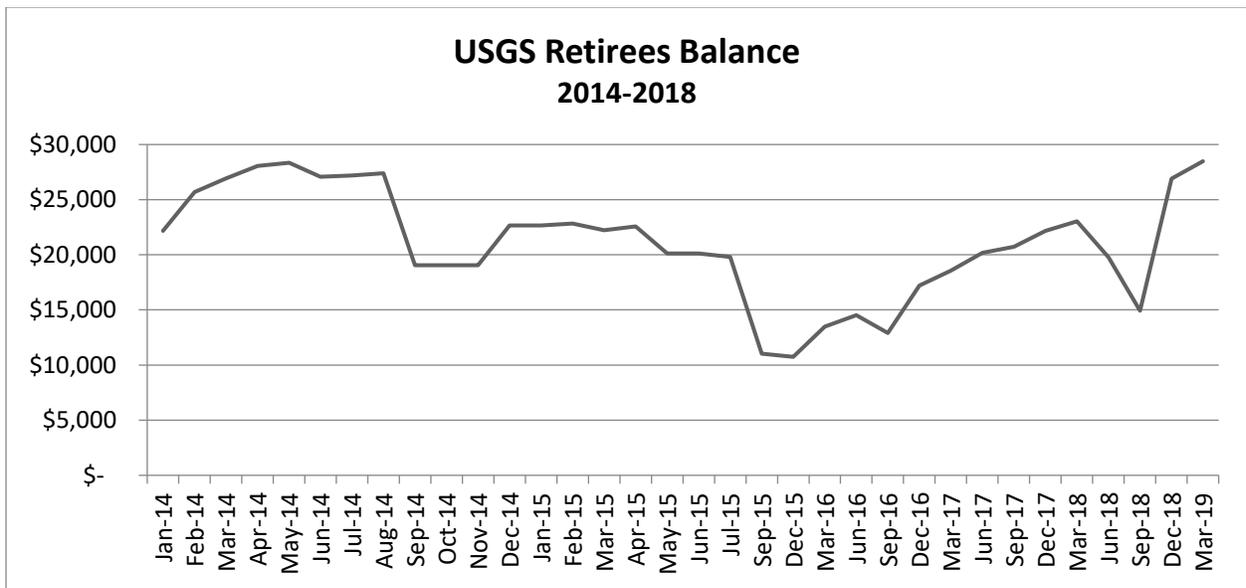
**Dian L. Williams** of Rensselaer, NY passed away on July 28, 2017, at her residence. She was a native Albanian and lived all her life in the Albany area. She worked at the young age of 13 till her passing. She celebrated her 29th birthday many times over on her birthday of April 17. Dian retired from the USGS in 2002. She leaves behind three sisters and a brother, and three nieces and two nephews. A memorial service was held on August 1, 2017 at the Levine Memorial Chapel, Albany, NY.

### TREASURER’S REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2019

Treasurer Cathy Hill reports the organization had \$28,483 at the end of the first quarter, March 31, 2019. Expense this quarter included the printing of the 2018 Directory and the last Newsletter.

Special thanks for contributions above dues to Bob Hirsch, Jim Eychaner, and Denis LeBlanc. Many thanks for your generosity.

The 2018 Federal taxes have been successfully submitted and accepted.



## NEW MEMBERS

**Bringman, Deb (19) (Fred)** – 581 Sean Lane, Clayton, DE 19938, (c) 302-242-5728, [d.bringman@gmail.com](mailto:d.bringman@gmail.com)  
**Davenport, Marjorie S. 'Marge' (18) (Mike McLester)** – 464 Running Doe Ct., Suwanee, GA 30024, (h) 678-327-4261, (c) 678-482-7597, [msdaven@bellsouth.net](mailto:msdaven@bellsouth.net)  
**Galloway, Devin L. (19) (Sharon E.)** – 2901 N. Pierce Dr., Solsberry, IN 47459, (c) 812-826-3355, (c) 812-929-3039, [devingalloway2@gmail.com](mailto:devingalloway2@gmail.com)  
**Harvey, Ronald W. 'Ron' (19) (Michelle)** – 2466 Powderhorn Lane, Boulder, CO 80305, 720-290-0759, 303-541-3034, [ronwmharvey@gmail.com](mailto:ronwmharvey@gmail.com)  
**Hess, Glen W. (15) (Mary Jo)** – 13770 SE Kanne Road, Happy Valley, OR 97086, (c) 503-686-5192, [hessmrj@comcast.net](mailto:hessmrj@comcast.net)  
**Hoffman, Scott (19) (Yvonne Harhigh)** – 305 Yorkshire Dr., Harrisburg, PA 17111, (c) 717-645-7652, [Panther20Pride@yahoo.com](mailto:Panther20Pride@yahoo.com)  
**Jones, Rick L. (F)** – 354 Wildwood Dr., Westerville, OH 43081, 614-937-7881, [jones7252@aol.com](mailto:jones7252@aol.com)  
**Striegl, Robert G. 'Rob' (19) (Kim Wickland)** – 7031 Pierson St., Arvada, CO 80004, (h) 303-424-6803, (c) 720-539-1282, [robstriegl@gmail.com](mailto:robstriegl@gmail.com)  
**Torres-Gonzalez, Sigfredo (18) (Olga Marin)** – HC-05 Box 8289, Guaynabo, PR 00971, (c) 787-221-0959, (h) 787-557-1855, [stgtorres@msn.com](mailto:stgtorres@msn.com)  
**Wilson, Richard C. 'Rick' (19) (Karen)** – 610 Sumner St., Lincoln, NE 68506, 402-802-4003, [rwkgwilson@gmail.com](mailto:rwkgwilson@gmail.com)  
**Wood, Thomas C. 'Tom' (19) (Catherine)** – 116 Palomino Pl., Charles Town, WV 25414, (c) 304-668-0060, (h) 304-728-6196, [tcwcyw@yahoo.com](mailto:tcwcyw@yahoo.com)

## DIRECTORY CHANGES

**Anderson, Mary M. (SP)** – *delete -- passed on March 16, 2019, wife of retiree Anderson, Clarence W. 'Andy' (95)*  
**Goss, Richard L. 'Rick' (03) (Sharon)** – 4 Essex Ct., Lake Oswego, OR 97034-7306, 812-229-1089 addr phone (*email remains the same – remove phone no. 812-268-1711*)  
**Goss, Sharon S. (99) (Rick)** – 4 Essex Ct., Lake Oswego, OR 97034-7306, 812-229-0209 addr phone (*email remains the same – remove phone no. 812-268-1711*)  
**Gozzi, Fred C. (05)** – *delete, passed on December 16, 2018*  
**Grover, Richard L. 'Rick' (02) (Gil)** – [rlgrover@icloud.com](mailto:rlgrover@icloud.com) email  
**Green, Sharon L. 'Sherry' (05) (Stephen)** – *resigned as member*  
**Hahl, Daniel C. (88) (Melva)** – 309-221-4884 phone  
**Hudson, Mrs. Hugh H. 'Becky' (S)** – *delete, passed on March 16, 2019*  
**Jones, Michael L. (95) (Jeannie)** – 208-869-4025 phone  
**Leifeste, Donald K 'Don' (85)** – *passed on January 23, 2019 – change first line to Leifeste, Mrs. Donald K. 'JoAnn'*  
**Levings, Gary (00) (Julianne)** -- 2151 Cebolla Creek Way NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120, (h) 505-286-6303, (c) 505-980-9521 addr phone  
**Martens, Rita M. (S)** – *delete, passed on January 12, 2019, wife of retiree Martens, Lawrence A. 'Larry'*  
**Mazzaferro, David L. (90)** – [dlmazz@att.net](mailto:dlmazz@att.net) email  
**McAda, Doug (13) (Karen)** – 505-269-3558 phone  
**Peart, Dale B. (11)** – 421 S. 100 E., Santaquin, UT 84655, 303-929-5445, [dbpeart@gmail.com](mailto:dbpeart@gmail.com) addr phone email  
**Peters, Jim (04) (Barbara)** – [jimpeters540@gmail.com](mailto:jimpeters540@gmail.com) email  
**Porter, Jo (95) (Charles)** – 859-380-8900 phone  
**Posson, Douglas R. (03) (Linda)** – P.O. Box 155, South Berwick, ME 03908, (c) 970-215-2080 addr phone  
**Ritter, John R. (95) (Judy)** – 352-375-1320 phone  
**Schlotfeld, Mary Jo (06) (Merle)** – 402-440-4945, [mjschlotfeld@gmail.com](mailto:mjschlotfeld@gmail.com) phone email  
**Smith, Barry S. (06)** – North Chesterfield, VA *corrects city from Richmond, VA*  
**Sorenson, Stephen K. (04) (Jo Anne)** – [josteve100@gmail.com](mailto:josteve100@gmail.com) email  
**Steele, Mrs. Eugene K. 'Klyda' (W)** – 4100 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE 69521  
**Walling, Faulkner B. (80)** – *delete, passed away March 12, 2006*  
**Wessner, Barbara E. (10) (John)** – 12310 Jeffery's Place, Rolla, MO 65401, (c) 573-308-7846, [SooterWessner@hotmail.com](mailto:SooterWessner@hotmail.com) addr phone  
**Williams, Dian L. (02)** – *remove from directory, passed July 28, 2017*  
**Zogorski, John S. (14) (Nancy)** – 605-390-2640 phone

## State Contact

### Northeast Region

Kentucky

Vacant

## UPDATE FROM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE -- OLIVIA STROKEN

Below are excerpts from emails Olivia sent to Bill McFarland (State Representative, OR).

**Olivia's response on October 31, 2018** -- I appreciate you reaching out about my scholarship and class and am grateful to the retirees for providing financial support. I need to take integral calculus to meet the OPM qualifications for the hydrologist series. My plan is to take the class starting January 2019. We have a five-month field season in Klamath. I have purchased the textbook already and am planning to spend the next two months reviewing the Calculus 1 fundamentals to prepare myself for Calculus 2 in January. Thanks for checking in.

**Olivia's follow-up email on January 29, 2019** -- I wanted to get in touch with you since we are finally back to work, and I am about 3 weeks into my Calculus class. All is going well with the class. So far, I have a 94% and the first midterm is today! Fortunately, all the review I did in November and December has paid off and the class isn't too difficult. I'll get in touch with you again once I've finished up my class at the end of March. I'm supposed to attend the National Water Quality Monitoring Conference at the end of March. Thanks again for the scholarship support! It's made taking this class less stressful since I don't have to worry about it digging into my budget too much. Hope all is well!

***email received from Olivia Stoken Oregon Water Science Center -- April 12, 2019***

"Hi Bill,

I wanted to let you know that I passed my calculus class with an A. I'm pretty proud of that considering I was working full-time. I'm also quite happy to have my free time back after work and on weekends.

The national water quality monitoring conference in Denver a few weeks ago was great. USGS and USEPA had a strong presence so it was nice to network with other federal colleagues from across the country.

Again, I wanted to send my thanks to you and everyone else at USGS retirees for my scholarship. It's great that there is a way for technicians to fund the classes they need to meet OPM hydrologist requirements. I hope you continue to provide the opportunity for future USGS employees.

## UPDATE FROM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE -- JOHNSE OSTMAN

**Gordie Nelson (State Representative, AK) writes:** I met with Johnse last week. He seems to be well along on his thesis. I basically warned him not to allow himself to keep expanding and improving forever. He has plenty to warrant an MS thesis as it is. I also volunteered to review it for him. He has a very fragmented record to work with. Most records were kept by various individuals and agencies for brief periods. Nevertheless, he can clearly show spring runoff is coming earlier in more recent years. He also assured me that there is good correlation with data from Wolverine Glacier, our USGS long term research glacier in the Chugach Range, although he didn't show me those data. He was also a little concerned about ground-water input to the lake. I told him to blow that off (something that pains me as a ground-water type). I suggested he do a quick recon of the perimeter of the lake and estimate base flow in seeps. He said he already identified these as afeis along the shoreline but I'm not sure he measured the volume of afeis, even qualitatively. The bottom line is that I'm sure he is capable of finishing up. Now it's just a matter of determination. I was a little surprised to find that he is not a student coop, but a full-time permanent employee with full-time duties above and beyond his thesis as well as a family to keep him busy.

## HAL LANGORD AND THE MALLARDS, ACT 2 Richard Engberg, Archivist

Some of you may remember a story that was carried in a recent newsletter about a conversation between Hal Langford and me, both native Nebraskans, about our early careers with USGS in Nebraska, and about whether we ever considered changing careers. Hal had moved on by the time I came upon the scene we both fondly remember our time there. But regarding a possible career-changing moment, you might recall that Hal's was a close encounter with a mallard duck while he was making a discharge measurement.

At the Retirees reunion last September in the Minneapolis area, Hal at age 93 was the oldest retiree in attendance. Upon receiving his prize for being the oldest attendee, he remembered the duck encounter I just mentioned, and told us another duck story again from his time in Nebraska as a young hydrologist. This would have occurred in the early 1950's and with Hal's blessing, I'm recounting it here.

In the fall of the year, Hal was in the field by himself and was preparing to make a discharge measurement at the Niobrara River near Cody, Nebraska. This site is in the Nebraska sandhills which has one of the lowest population densities in the United States. Some might justifiably call it boonies. Because there was no bridge, or for that matter, anything else nearby, the station had a cableway which was used if you couldn't wade the river.

So, Hal was preparing to make a cableway measurement when looking across the river he saw several mallards on the ground near the cableway standard on the other side of the river. He was an avid hunter and just happened to have a shotgun with him in the government vehicle because you never know when you might need it.

He quickly went back to the vehicle and retrieved the shotgun. When he returned, ducks were still there but were least 150 feet away and he knew that his chances to hit any of them was near zero because of the distance. "Aha", he thought, "I'll just ride the cable car over close to them. I should be able to get more than one with one shell."

Quietly he climbed into the cable car and sitting with his shotgun at port arms, released the car. That was when all hell broke loose. Cable cars are not quiet and when the ducks heard the racket of the car on the cable, they immediately took to the air and quickly disappeared. So here sat Hal on the cable car halfway across the Niobrara shotgun in hand not having gotten a shot off and with no ducks to be had.

Hal retold this story to me again about two weeks ago. "It never occurred to me that the racket from the cable car being released would scare them away", he said. "I was more than a little embarrassed."

## **NATIONAL CENTER NOTES AND SACRAMENTO MEMORIES**

### **By Jim Daniel**

Dick Engberg's article about the National Center building in the November Newsletter reminded me of several things.

The Sacramento offices of the USGS in the downtown Federal Building contained not only the Sub-District office of WRD Surface Water Branch but also statewide offices and labs (chem and sediment) of the Water Quality Branch plus statewide offices of the Ground water Branch and the Conservation Division. This was before consolidation of branches in the Division. So, what does this have to do with the Reston Building? Well, it happened that the head of the Conservation Division office in Sacramento, Richard 'Dick' Doolittle, was tapped to move to Headquarters to oversee the contracts to build our new Headquarters in Reston. I knew him as a member of our noontime penny ante poker group. We would play as many hands as possible in our half-hour lunch time. The group included Sterling Osborne (SW Office Engineer), Buzz Royce (GW Chief Illustrator), and Bill Silvey (Chemist-in-Charge QW Lab). Why they let a lowly tech like me participate is beyond my ken. Perhaps they were just taking pity on a struggling college student – but they rarely let me win.

Sometime after Dick had finished his job on the National Center, he shared some trivia about the building with me. It seems that the weird design of the building had originally been submitted to a University (Minnesota as I recall) for a new hospital on their campus. The University rejected the design as 'unworkable.' When the GSA and USGS came along, the design was already on-the-shelf for consideration. GSA had the final say and accepted it as the least-cost design alternative – something GSA has always been known to do. If one thinks that the building had been originally been intended as a hospital, some of its weirdness might make some sense. It would be easy to imagine that the 'corners' would be nurse's stations with patient rooms trailing down the hallways. Central shaft elevators would provide equal access to each of a few stations. Labs and diagnostic facilities would be where Survey labs are now. In sum, the building was NOT designed for the USGS. Rather, it was an adapted hand-me-down. The building and its campus setting came to be known at Main Interior as 'The Enchanted Forest.' Well, weirdness and all, it is what it is.

One of the folks from the Geologic Division in Sacramento was Chuck Berkstresser. His 'In Memoriam' piece was in a recent Newsletter. When I knew him, he held the record for getting the most vehicles stuck on a field trip. He got his Survey vehicle stuck in some Coast Range mud. He flagged a passing truck for help and that truck got stuck. He then called a tow truck and the tow truck got stuck! Eventually, he and the other drivers were pulled to solid ground by a D-8 Caterpillar. For all I know, Chuck still holds the record.

Bill Silvey's chemistry lab had some real characters in it. One of them was a retired military tech who seldom spoke. But he whistled continuously while he tested. Another, named Friedel Schneider, always checked the morning papers for the temperature in McAllen, Texas. He had determined that McAllen was always the warmest place in the 48 states and that's where he wanted to retire. Yet another was Carl Pollard (later to transfer to Pennsylvania), nicknamed 'The Ghost.' He was pale and walked softly, frequently startling people when he showed up beside them in his white lab coat.

The GW Branch office had the pre-eminent National expert on subsidence, Joe Poland. He and his colleagues Ben Lofgren and Frank Riley spawned a whole passel of studies across the country. Included in the children of their San Joaquin Valley work are significant investigations in Phoenix and Houston. It's hard to imagine a nicer, more down-to-earth scientist than Joe.

Before I transferred to Sacramento, I started in the Merced Field Office. So, when I finally graduated from Sacramento State, I had been a tech streamgager for 7 years. The summer after I graduated, I was converted to hydrologist. While building a new station I was digging an intake trench 21 feet long, 4 feet wide at the top, and 2 feet deep. I said to myself, this is NOT why I went back to college. So, within 6 months I transferred to Indianapolis as Project Chief of a meandering streams investigation. As Cleavon Little said in 'Blazing Saddles:' "The rest is history!"

***The Conway, SC Field Office is officially closed.*** It is amazing looking at its history how many people came through that office and the innovations that occurred there. John "Duke Erbland wanted to try in some way to preserve that history. He is the last one out of the door. For those of you who are interested or associated with the office, Duke offers this history below. Conway, you served the USGS well!

Eric W. Strom  
Director  
USGS South Atlantic Water Science Center  
<https://www.usgs.gov/water/southatlantic/>

## **CONWAY/MYRTLE BEACH FIELD OFFICE HISTORY**

### **By John "Duke" Erbla**

**The Early years:** The Conway Field Office, now merged with the Charleston Field Office, is closing after 45 years. The office started back in 1973 on 3rd Street in Conway in a one room space across the street from Town Hall. Alan Zack was the Field Office Chief from 1973-1978, when he then became the District Chief of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. In 1978 the field office moved to 10th Ave N. in Myrtle Beach and shared space with the City of Myrtle Beach Water Dept. Ivan Roberts was Sr./Lead Tech from '78-'85. Ivan distinguished himself as a jack of all trades technician and served as the South Carolina (SC) representative on the then Sr. Technician Advisory Committee, the earliest version of the CHIDER and now HDAC groups. Alan Brown transferred in and served as tech-in-charge from '85-'89. Alan later moved to Paducah, Ky, and was the long time Field Office Chief there until his retirement. During Al's time, the office moved from 10th Ave. N to 28th Ave N. in 1986, to a single-wide trailer procured by District Chief Rod Cherry. This trailer previously served as a USGS office in Yemassee, SC in the early 70's. As many who visited this office found out, it was a real 'fixer-upper' that never really got fixed up. On one visit, we nearly lost then SC District Chief Marge Davenport through a hole in the floor by the front door! Rod Cherry was the District Chief during this era, and Richard Hayes was the Data Chief.

**The Later Years:** In 1989, Paul Drewes transferred from Columbia to Myrtle Beach to oversee his projects with B.O.D and flow models on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIW) at a time when both Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority and City of Georgetown were planning to build surface water treatment plants and provide the Grand Strand with better water than the ground water with high fluoride content they were then using. Paul later signed papers making him the Field Office Chief (he claims it was disguised as a travel authorization) and he served in that role until his retirement in 2010. The single-wide was upgraded to a double-wide at the 28th Ave. North location around 1992. The double-wide was rolled into place from Columbia where it previously served as a Golf Course Pro Shop, as was evident by all the metal cleat holes in the floor. The Myrtle Beach gang loaded up their trailer and moved to Coastal Carolina University property in 1996, adding to what was then known as 'trailer row'. CCU's growth into a major university happened quickly and trailer row was put on death row. In 2008 the trailer donated to a local church and offices moved across Hwy 501 to the Burroughs and Chapin Center for Marine and Wetland Studies. Marge Davenport, Glen Patterson, and Eric Strom served(s) as Directors during this period and Scott Bennett, Ted Cooney, and John Shelton served(s) as Data Chiefs.

#### **Notable projects and accomplishments:**

Through the years, the Myrtle Beach/Conway office has been a leader in SC and the southeast in new technology and projects that will continue in Charleston.

----- South Carolina's hub for NASQAN from late 70's to early 90's until NAWQA.

----- Dye studies in the Waccamaw/AIW and Pee Dee/AIW to determine flow percentages north and south in AIW and the division of flow into major tributaries.

- Salt water intrusion network and model design developed to determine exact location of salt water wedge. This data was used by cooperators to determine where to build their surface water plants, and later an early salt water detection alert system developed so cooperators would know when to shut intake pumps down.
- Intensive B.O.D studies in the Waccamaw, AIW and Pee Dee for use in regulatory agencies determining 7Q10 permits.
- In 1994, SC bought their first ADCP and entered the acoustic age. The Myrtle Beach office used 'The Herniator' to measure major rivers throughout the state.
- In 1996, the Conway FO installed the first of its kind Ultrasonic Velocity Meters (UVM) at three tidal sites and developed the first real time tidal discharge record. These were hard wired cross paths spanning the Waccamaw, AIW and Great Pee Dee.
- Early 2000's, Conway office installed and maintained the first 5 and 6 parameter water quality stations (Turbidity and Oxygen Reduction Potential added to the basic 4 suite).
- From late 90's to present, the Conway FO has been the leader in SC's acoustic data collection network. In this time, a total of 35 AVM/Index Velocity stations have been installed and discharge ratings developed. Around 2005 was the hay day, with the Conway crew was operating 22 active IVQ sites.
- Conway and Sullivan's Island office was one of the first in the USGS to establish a permanent Hurricane Storm Tide Network under the direction of Paul Conrads. These offices have installed, maintained, and deployed this network multiple times since its' development in 2009.
- The office survived through a category 3 hurricane (Hugo - 1989) and many smaller storms, participating in collection of storm surge data as well as measuring record peak discharges at dozens of major rivers and streams in the coastal plains.

The Conway office has always served the USGS with integrity and distinction. This is directly attributed to the exemplary work ethic and diligence of its' staff and leadership. It has been an extreme honor and privilege for me personally, to have been a part of something great that has made a difference in our corner of the world.

(thanks to Ivan Roberts for providing early history)

**In recognition to those who have served:**

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