

USGS RETIREES

NEWSLETTER No. 191

May 2021

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

Hello Members:

I hope all is well and you are enjoying the beauty of spring. Also, I hope you and your loved ones have received your COVID-19 Vaccinations or have them scheduled. This message was submitted earlier than usual to accommodate our outstanding Layout Editor, Merilee Bennett, who had a scheduled surgery in early April, needed from a rear-end collision by another vehicle in February. On behalf of the Membership, herein, I am sending her our thoughts and hopes for a successful and painless recovery.

We received 7 applications for this year's Technician Scholarship Program. Vice President, Phil Turnipseed, has assembled a selection committee and the recipients will be presented their scholarships by the end of April or early May. Presentation pictures and write ups from the recipients will be in our August or November Newsletter. I want to thank Phil and our Regional Representatives for their efforts in the success of this most worthy program.

The August Newsletter will contain the registration and related information for the March 10-12, 2022 Biennial Reunion in Tucson. Mark Anderson and his planning committee are guaranteeing an interesting, informative, and FUN event. Travel should be safe in March 2022, so make your travel arrangements soon. It will be almost 4 years since our last reunion, and we want to make the Tucson reunion a great event.

Our Strategic Plan, which you can find at our web site (<http://wrdretirees.org>), identifies our objectives and related actions. Your Officers have reviewed those actions and have set the following priority actions for 2021:

New Actions

- *Define and implement a set of specific actions that directly enhance attendance at biennial reunions*
- *Have Regional Representatives schedule and lead a Zoom meeting with State Representatives in their Region*
- *Define a set of processes that will increase and diversify our membership, especially Hydrologic Technicians*

Continuing Actions

- *Increase the number of Affiliate Liaison Members*
- *Support the Scholarship Program*
- *Monitor progress of Tucson Reunion planning committee to assure the registration form and related information are in the August Newsletter*
- *Provide a vehicle to keep members informed about earth science and about the work of USGS*

Pages 2-8 contain the first of a two- part series on interviews with USGS personnel to obtain information on changes in the organization and operations of the USGS Water Program and related impacts from the COVID pandemic. Our Archivist, Herb Freiburger, assisted by Cathy Hill and Dennis Sulam, are conducting the interviews via Zoom. The first interviews were with Water Management Area staff and several Water Science Center Directors. The second article to be published in the August or November Newsletter will report on their interviews with Data Chiefs and Technicians. I believe you'll find this Newsletter report most informative and interesting. We welcome and encourage your comments and will publish them in subsequent Newsletters.

Lastly, don't forget to submit an article for the "News of Retirees". We all want to hear the latest information about your activities and status.

Happy spring,
Pete

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

Newsletter Staff:
Editor: Jeff Stoner
Layout Editor: Merilee Bennett
NR: Debbie McLean
SR: John Clarke
CR: James (Jim) Bennett
WR: John Klein

Regional Directors:
Norm Grannemann, Northeast
Ed Martin, Southeast
Ken Lindskov, Central
Pat Tucci, Western

National Officers:
Peter W. (Pete) Anttila, President
Phil Turnipseed, Vice President
Kate Flynn, Secretary
Cathy Hill, Treasurer
Herb Freiburger, Archivist

Brief Highlights of USGS Reorganizations and COVID-19 Impacts

In this article we will go through the current organizational structure at the USGS Bureau level and the Water Headquarters level, currently called the Water Mission Area (WMA). Additionally, we will talk about how the Water Science Centers (WSCs) have dealt with COVID-19. To obtain this information, interviews were conducted with WMA staff and several WSC Directors in February and March 2021. We appreciate their willingness to take the time to speak with us. The interviews were conducted by Herb Freiburger and Cathy Hill, National Officers of the USGS Retirees, and Dennis Sulam, retired and staff member of the former Northeastern Region. The interviews were virtual, carried out by Zoom video conferencing. On that note, we want to thank Kate Flynn, a National Officer and Secretary of the USGS Retirees Organization for handling all the Zoom calls flawlessly.

1960's – 1995 Background

In the 1960's, then Chief Hydrologist, Luna Leopold, fired a shot that was heard around the country at the USGS offices of the Water Resources Division (WRD). He reorganized the field structure to have one leader (in general; the discipline was secondary) to head up each District Office rather than having separate leaders to head up each of the water disciplines namely surface water, groundwater, and water quality. Luna did this to emphasize that each District Office needed to be one entity with one leader and not three separate offices. He also wanted to reinforce real technical interaction among these water disciplines. This reorganization was accomplished with some pain, but no one lost their overall job with the USGS. It was successful in that it lasted multiple decades without too much significant change. There were some subtle changes in instrumentation such as the introduction of the acoustic doppler current profiler (ADCP) for measuring flows and the automatic data recorders (ADR's). The ADCP's had a by-product of moving towards solving a lingering long-term national safety problem associated with employees on cableways. Most cableways, nationwide, have now been eliminated. Computerization of every office played a huge part in all aspects of a District Office, including human resources. Perhaps the most significant change of the half century occurred with the designation of the first female District Chief. Kathy Peter was named District Chief, Oklahoma, in 1990. Before that the District Chief, or the lead person in any office, was male (WRD was founded in 1896).

1995 - 2021

During the last 25 years (late 1990's to 2021) the changes in all aspects of the WRD, including its' demise in name only, have been monumental compared to decades before that. It seems that keeping up with the changes has been near impossible, particularly for those no longer working at USGS. For instance, some of the major changes include the addition of a Biological Resources Discipline from the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service to the USGS. Later, the elimination of the term "Divisions" and the origin of the term "Mission Areas"; blending all the former Divisions into Disciplines and soon thereafter five Mission Areas; creating 12 Regions of the country that coincide with the Regions of the Department of the Interior (DOI) (**Fig. 1**) in which each of the former Divisions are represented; changing the titles of all lead personnel; and changing the name to "Water Science Center" from "District."

Bureau Level Organization

The Director of the USGS has a Chief of Staff, a Chief Scientist, and 2 Deputies (**Fig. 2**). The Director position is currently held in an acting capacity by Dave Applegate, the bureau's Associate Director for Natural Hazards. The 5 Associate Directors, formerly called Division Chiefs, are each in charge of one of the Bureau's Mission Areas and report to the Director and the Director's Chief Scientist. Descriptions of the Mission Areas are in Table 1. The Deputy for Administration and Policy has the 8 Bureau Offices, such as the International Program, Communications and Publishing (where all interpretive reports are approved), and the Information Office. The Deputy for Operations has the 7 Regional Directors reporting to her. The Region boundaries align with the 12 DOI Unified Regions, however some USGS Regional Directors oversee more than one DOI Region. The WSCs report to the Region Directors, which is consistent with the prior Regional concept. Regional Directors, however, may be from any discipline (Water, Geology, Biology, or Geography) and are responsible for all USGS offices in their Region, not just the WSCs.

Water Mission Area

There are two main organizational units under the Associate Director for the Water Mission Area (WMA): The Office of Planning and Programming, which has the Program Coordinators and Science Program Managers, and the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, which has the National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL), the Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility (HIF), and several Branches (**Fig. 3 – see also <https://www.usgs.gov/media/files/usgs-water-resources-mission-area-organizational-structure-0>**). The WMA has about 400 FTE in Reston and in the field. The WMA has no line authority over the WSCs.

A major change in the WMA is the reorganization of the National Research Program (NRP) and the Regional Technical Specialists. The Regional Technical Specialists were moved to the Office of Office of Quality in the WMA, as were many of the NRP scientists. The RGE Program remains strong at the WSC level.

The National Training Center is still located in Denver, CO, although its offerings are greatly diminished compared to the 1990's. The Bureau, which is aware USGS needs a strong training program, will be developing a strategic vision of what USGS training program should look like in the near future.

The HIF will be moving to Tuscaloosa, Alabama on the University of Alabama Campus, hopefully in 2024. Congress has allocated \$30M for construction of a new building adjacent to NOAA and the National Water Center. Plans are to have, in addition to instrument development and testing, state of the art training programs for electronics and wet chemistry.

Check-in with Selected Water Science Centers

As we have seen in the past, many WSC's have been combined, such as Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. Several of the benefits are that travel time from any of the major offices to another is 2-3 hours, the combined Centers seem to be able to work with less overhead. Because combined budgets are about two to three times what each was, they have much more financial stability and flexibility to balance budgets, should a shortfall occur. In the past several years, WSC's have been combined to the point where there once were 46 Districts (1995) and now there are 27 WSC's.

During COVID-19, the WSCs have operated with a very small staff. National programs, such as the HIF and the NWQL, continued to operate at full capacity.

The COVID-19 crisis has had an immense effect on the operations of the USGS as a whole and specifically at the WSC level where field work also had to be completed. Most employees worked at home from the beginning of the crisis. Some employees worked limited time in the office, but only as the 25% of office capacity protocol allowed them. This had to be a highly coordinated effort and probably was easier to work at home. Field technicians were, for the most part, able to maintain a schedule of 6–8-week visits to any sites that had water-monitoring equipment. However, they had hoops to go through. Over-night travel had to have Regional approval. Also, any high-priority field work that required more than one technician also required a separate vehicle for everyone who was needed. We asked the WSC Directors “What were the high points and low points during the crisis?” The results were as follows:

- First of all, the WSC Directors unanimously praised the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the USGS headquarters for doing an excellent job of taking the crisis seriously and invoking safe and stringent protocols as a number one priority.
- Most WSCs went from an in-office workforce to a remote workforce within 2 weeks, quite an accomplishment.
- By working at home, Water Headquarters and WSCs had roughly a 30 % increase in interpretive report writing and processing during the first year of the covid.
- The WSC Directors said that their employees made the best of a bad situation and still exhibited the old USGS job spirit that we have all been used to.
- There were also negatives from working at home. Entire families were affected. They had both parents at home as well as children, who needed home schooling, and they were home day after day with no breaks from the same daily activities for a year.
- Some employees were working many more hours a day than anyone expected. Some WSC Directors had to intervene and practically order some employees to “back off” to avoid emotional “burnout”.
- Some WSC Directors said their day at home consisted of almost 70 percent (of the day) being on “Zoom” calls or regular calls, both of which became exhausting. Some said a normal thing was realizing at 3:30 p.m. they had missed lunch. Some said that if they didn’t “just say no”, they wound up working on Saturdays and Sundays.
- WSC Directors worried about employees losing activities such as training, scientist-to-scientist communication, mentoring, and conference attendance.
- One WSC Director poll asked employees if they wanted to continue to work at home or come into the office once activities were back to normal. Most employees missed the interaction with co-workers whether it was for water-cooler talk, mentoring, brain storming, team meetings, etc. The general consensus was employees wanted at least 2 mandatory days/week in the office.
- One of the first things one thinks about if the brunt of your staff is working at home is, you can probably decrease your office space significantly the next time your lease comes up for renewal. Most of the WSC Directors agreed but warned that the issue needs to be looked at very carefully as much of their existing space during the first year of COVID made working at home possible. The computer, telephone, in-office equipment, warehouse, and garages are just a few of those spaces.
- Most of the WSC Directors were concerned with potential program effects with the lack of “face to face” interaction with cooperators during the past year and for the long term.

Our bottom-line impression from talking with WSC Directors: The USGS mission continues to provide outstanding career satisfaction and personal and professional growth. The organization provides supportive working conditions with supportive colleagues. The activities follow the scientific passions of the individual scientists and the supporting staff. The work remains meaningful and job satisfaction remains high.

Table 1--USGS Mission Areas

Water Resources

Water information is fundamental to national and local economic well-being, protection of life and property, and effective management of the Nation's water resources. The USGS works with partners to monitor, assess, conduct targeted research, and deliver information on a wide range of water resources and conditions including streamflow, groundwater, water quality, and water use and availability.

Natural Hazards

Every year in the United States, natural hazards threaten lives and livelihoods and result in billions of dollars in damage. We work with many partners to monitor, assess, and conduct targeted research on a wide range of natural hazards so that policymakers and the public have the understanding they need to enhance preparedness, response, and resilience.

Core Science Systems

CSS leads USGS's mission as the civilian mapping agency for the Nation. We conduct detailed surveys and develop high quality, highly accurate topographic, geologic, hydrographic, and biogeographic maps and data. Our maps allow precise planning for critical mineral assessments; energy development; infrastructure projects; urban planning; flood prediction; emergency response; and hazard mitigation.

Energy and Minerals

The Energy and Minerals Mission Area conducts research and assessments that focus on the location, quantity, and quality of mineral and energy resources, including the economic and environmental effects of resource extraction and use.

Ecosystems

The USGS Ecosystems Mission Area, the biological research arm of the Department of the Interior (DOI), provides science to help America achieve sustainable management and conservation of its biological resources. This work is done within the broader mission of the USGS to serve the Nation with science that advances understanding of our natural resources and inform land and water stewardship.

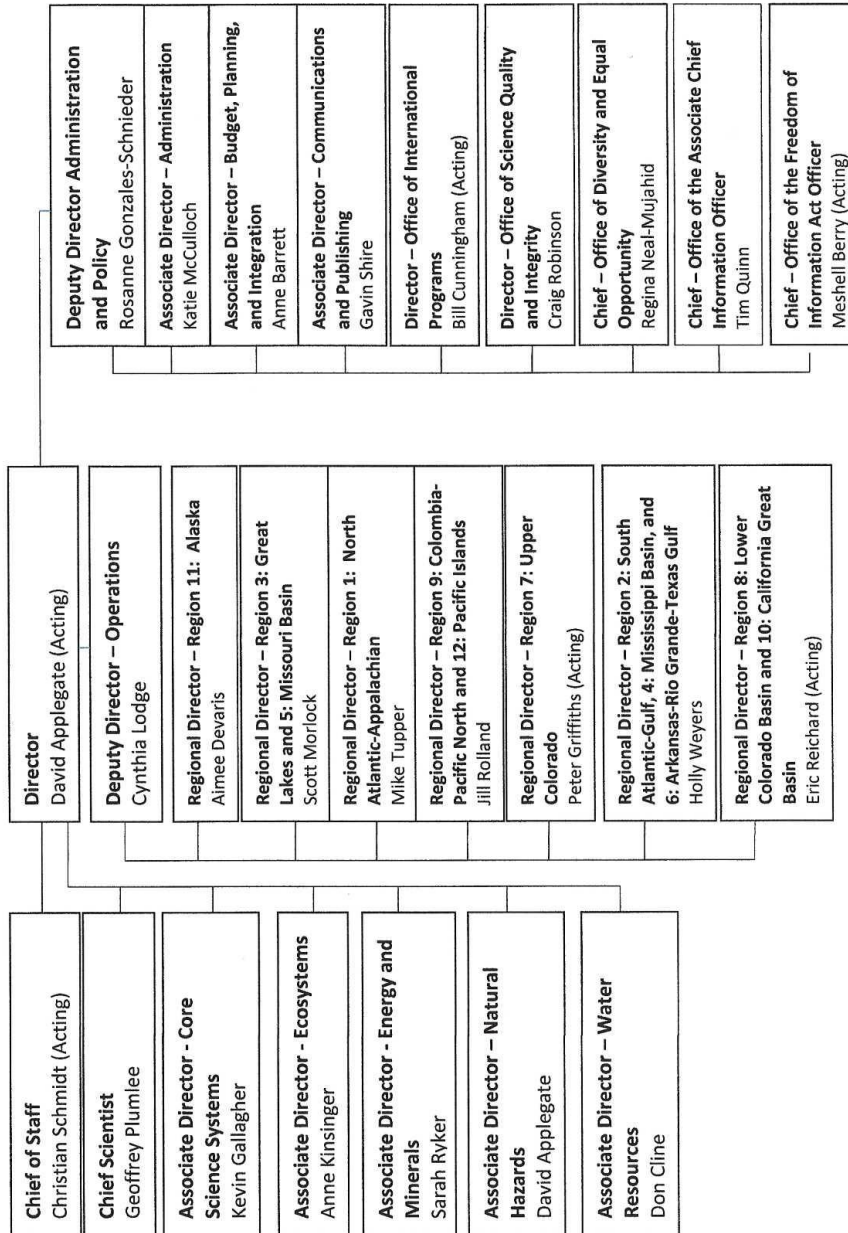
USGS Regions

- Northeast
- Southeast
- Midcontinent
- Rocky Mountain
- Southwest
- Northwest - Pacific Islands
- Alaska

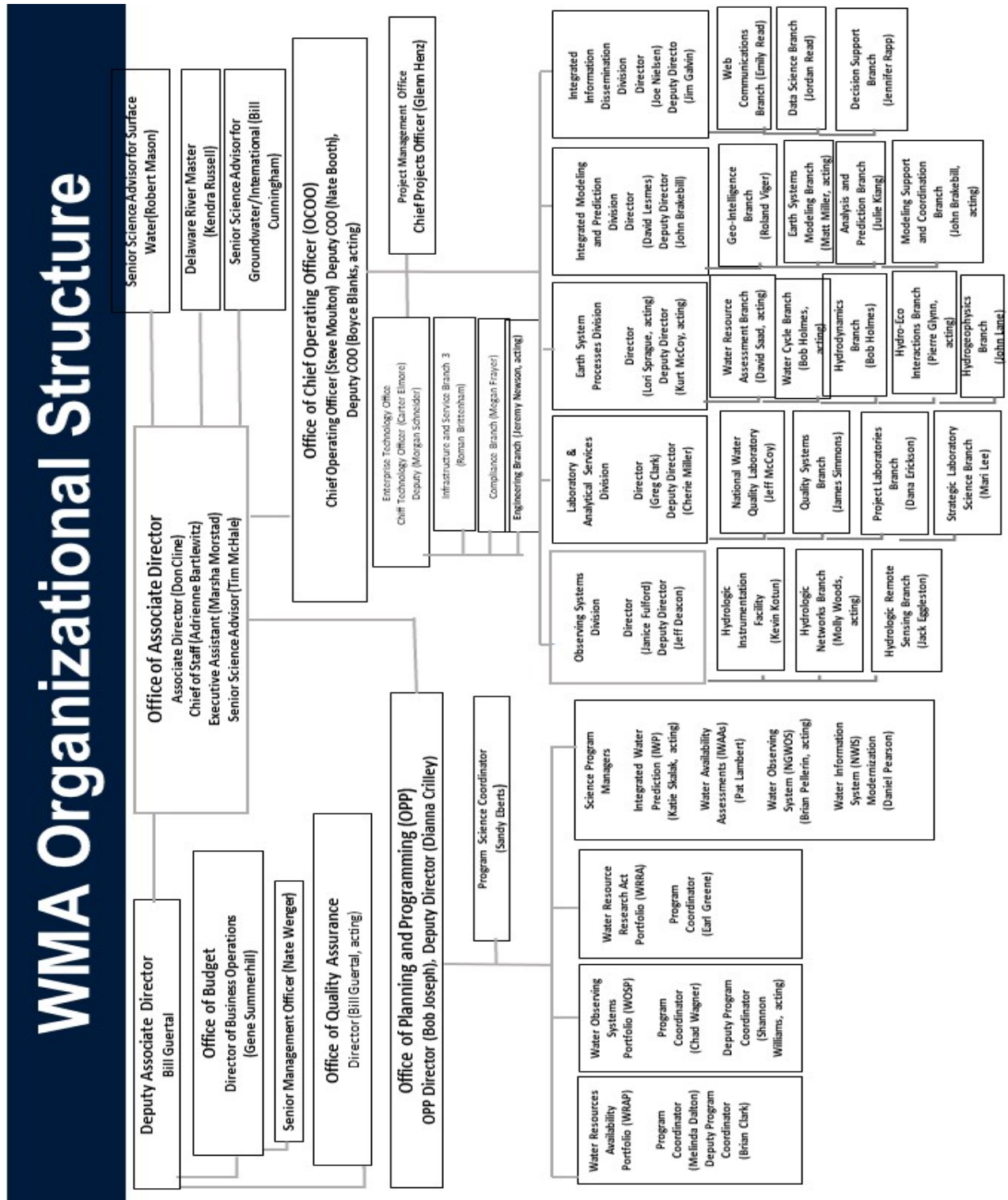
DOI Unified Region

- 1 North Atlantic-Appalachian
- 2 South Atlantic-Gulf
- 3 Great Lakes
- 4 Mississippi-Basin
- 5 Missouri-Basin
- 6 Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf
- 7 Upper Colorado-Basin
- 8 Lower Colorado-Basin
- 9 Columbia-Pacific Northwest
- 10 California-Great Basin
- 11 Alaska
- 12 Pacific Islands

USGS ORGANIZATION CHART – Figure 2



WATER MISSION AREA (WMA) – Figure 3



RETIREMENTS

After nearly 35 years of service with the USGS, please help us congratulate **Dr. Brian Andraski** on his retirement from the USGS effective March 31st. Brian began his career with the USGS in November 1986 after receiving BS (1979) and MS (1984) degrees in Soil Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Brian completed his education in Nevada, receiving a PhD in Hydrology/Hydrogeology in 1998. As a Research Hydrologist with the Nevada Water Science Center, Brian has been widely recognized for his work on Amargosa Desert Research Site (ADRS) science and having published more than 60 reports on unsaturated zone hydrology and contaminant transport processes at the ADRS and desert regions. From 1999 to 2016, he served as project chief and co-team leader coordinating research scientists and technicians from across the Bureau on ADRS studies. In addition to his ADRS, Brian most recently has been a Lead Scientist for studies of uranium transport at mine sites in the Grand Canyon watershed and has been a key contributor on the team identifying research needs and strategies to assess per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in watersheds, aquifers, and ecosystems throughout the Nation. Brian's previous work on tritium and mixed-waste transport from a low-level waste repository provided critical information on unexpected long-distance tritium transport in the unsaturated zone, on exposure pathways for atmospheric release of contaminants, and on linkages between mixed-waste migration and anomalous tritium transport. His studies on transpiration changed the conceptual model of shallow water movement in desert environments by revealing a reversal in the expected downward flux of water in the unsaturated zone. Moreover, his research on naturally occurring perchlorate changed the prevailing framework for understanding how soil, vegetation, and terrain control the accumulation and redistribution of perchlorate in a desert landscape. Throughout his career, the goal of his research has been to integrate hydrology, soil physics, chemistry, and biology to develop a process-level understanding of water, gas, and solute movement in unsaturated zones with applications ranging from water-resource availability to climate change and environmental health. Brian's status as a recognized expert in the hydrology of desert landscapes is evidenced by his 13 years as an associate editor of the Vadose Zone Journal, an invitation to contribute two chapters to a Soil Science Society of America book on methods of soil analysis, and requests for expert advice and review by state and federal agencies addressing issues of waste disposal in arid lands. His many successful collaborations for more than three decades, his mentoring of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, and numerous lectures and training he has provided are clear evidence of his reputation and his dedication to the mission of the USGS. In recognition of his work, Brian has received numerous USGS Star and Performance, as well as Editor's Choice and Excellence awards. In 2020, his exceptional work culminated in Brian receiving a citation for Meritorious Service in recognition for his outstanding science contributions to the USGS and the Department of the Interior in the specialized field of unsaturated zone hydrology of arid regions, and for his extraordinary, selfless leadership of the Amargosa Desert Research Site (ADRS). Fortunately for the Bureau and our programs, Brian will be staying on with the USGS in an Emeritus position to support the transition of his work and knowledge to other Survey staff. Please join me in wishing the best for Brian as he transitions into his emeritus position and retirement!

-Jill Frankforter, Center Director, Nevada Water Science Center



Cory Stephens, Hydrologist/Safety Officer, retired on March 26, 2021.

-Alan M Duran, CO Water Science Center, Data Management Unit, Denver Federal Center



It is with great sadness that I announce the retirement of the ETO Engineering Branch Chief, **Tim Kern**, with the USGS Water Mission Area Enterprise Technology Office on 30 January 2021. While Tim has only logged a mere 14 years as a government servant, he has been serving our Nation in a variety of capacities since he started his career in 1978. Tim started in federal service in 1978 with the National Park Service Water Resources Division in San Francisco, CA. Tim's leadership and technical acumen are exemplary of what an IT Engineering Chief should be and his impact to the Water Mission Area and the Bureau will surely be felt for years to come. After graduate school he worked as a semiconductor

process engineer, section head in charge of high energy plasma processes, and computer engineer on Department of the Interior projects. Since GS-05 pay in San Francisco did not go far, he sold out and went to work in Silicon Valley in the early 80's. That experience enabled him to land a job as a section head for a defense contractor building guidance systems for submarine-based missiles, a skill set that is always in demand. In the early 90's he went back to the federal space as a contractor developing water quality models for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Collins, CO. That group spun off as the National Biologic Survey in 1993, which became the National Biologic Service in 1995, which became the USGS Biological Resources Division in 1996, and finally morphed into the USGS Ecosystem Mission Area. Tim was the Information Science Branch Chief at the USGS Fort Collins Science Center in 2013 and moved to the Enterprise Technology Office (ETO) in 2018. The ETO Engineering Branch currently provides software architecture, design, and development support to Water Mission Area priorities including: NWIS Modernization; Water Prediction Work Program (2WP); and Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS). In retirement, Tim will, among other things, be available as a volunteer for ETO support activities.

-Carter J. Elmore, CISSP/CCSP, Chief, Enterprise Technology Office, Chief Technology Officer, Water Mission Area, Fort Collins, CO



Dave Krabbenhoft retired on January 29, 2021. He began his career with the USGS in 1988 as a Hydrologist with the Wisconsin District office. He quickly put his knowledge of geochemistry and isotopes to work studying groundwater interaction in lakes. His first work focused on groundwater-surface water interaction, both with lakes in the north and wetlands in the south, using multiple lines of evidence to elucidate important processes. As a co-PI of the Trout Lake Water, Energy and Biogeochemical Budgets (WEBB) project, Dave brought his insight and ideas to bear as we began to understand how water moves and evolves as it makes its way through the

pristine headwater catchments of northern Wisconsin. He quickly formed close working relationships with numerous USGS researchers across the country, bringing a variety of unique perspectives to bear on the questions at hand but also developing close friendships that continued long after the work was complete. As the WEBB project was taking shape, Dave began working with several colleagues at the University of Wisconsin Water Chemistry Department looking at the movement of mercury through the highly connected groundwater and lakes in Northern Wisconsin. Dave and his UW colleagues realized that there was an opportunity to develop both field methods for studying the movement and interaction of mercury within these systems, and analytical methods for quantifying and understanding the speciation of mercury at extremely low levels in the natural environment. He convinced the District Chief that this was a unique opportunity and began putting together the equipment to build what would become the USGS low-level National Mercury Research Lab. Dave's natural curiosity and drive was a good fit for the RGE program, where his entrepreneurial spirit, willingness to collaborate, and open-mindset reset the view of how research can be done in a water science center, a reset that benefits USGS to this day. To the surprise of no one who knows him, he quickly advanced through the grade levels as his expertise and impressive bibliography expanded. This research campaign culminated with Dave being one of two ST scientists to ever be based in a water science center. As Dave's career evolved and the Mercury Lab grew, his influence and stature in the mercury research field expanded as he worked on several high-profile projects, including seminal work in the Experimental Lakes Area in Canada and a massive undertaking to understand Mercury cycling in the Everglades – now an effort that continues 25 years after its inception. Recognizing the complex nature of mercury in the environment, Dave built teams of experts across numerous disciplines – air, water, soil, and subsurface – to work on these projects together. Dave became a leader in the field and became involved with several organizations to deliver sound science to the Bureau, DOI agencies, and other federal and non-federal agencies. He provides leadership to the scientific community by serving as the Chair of the US Government Interagency Committee for Minamata Treaty Scientific Planning and Response, by advising the USGS Director as a member of the COSSA committee of ST scientists, and by serving as a member of the committee to select USGS Shoemaker Lifetime Achievement in Scientific Communication awardees. Dave is extremely active in professional societies through organizing and conducting sessions at local, national, and international meetings. A brief history and listing of accomplishments doesn't capture the qualities that make Dave a top scientist, supervisor, mentor and leader within our Center and the broader scientific community. First and foremost, Dave is thoughtful and he cares. He cares about his employees, his colleagues, the work that he does, and the USGS. He works incredibly

hard. He searches out collaboration with top-notch experts to challenge his understanding. He is giving with his time to junior scientists. He is passionate about his beliefs and is constantly working to make sure that his employees are engaged in their work, that his colleagues receive the recognition they deserve, that his research is scientifically sound and has an impact on the health and well-being of people and aquatic systems, and that the USGS remains the premier unbiased scientific agency in the world. When Dave sees something that threatens what he knows to be right, he is as relentless as a mother bear protecting her cubs in championing these fundamental beliefs. I personally have been fortunate to work with Dave throughout his 33-year career and have benefitted from our many interactions in the field and in the office. Working with Dave made me a better scientist and manager, and for that I'm forever grateful. When asked why he has decided to retire at the top of his game, he said he feels like "... it's just time that I need to step back and let the younger folks have a turn at the wheel and bring their new thoughts and energy to mercury research." Dave has worked hard to set Mercury Lab up to succeed, and I have no doubt that they will continue to excel in his absence because of its strong foundation. Dave is planning to come back in Emeritus status to finish up some publications and help as needed. Whether he likes it or not, when we get to a point where we can gather in person, I will be hosting a retirement party to celebrate his retirement. Please join me in congratulating Dave on his accomplishments and wishing him a happy and fulfilling retirement!

-John F. Walker, Director, Upper Midwest Water Science Center



After 35 years of government service, nearly 34 with the USGS, **Kirk A. Miller** will retire from the US Geological Survey on February 28, 2021. After receiving his degree in geology from the University of Wyoming, Kirk began his government career in 1986, working as a Physical Science Technician with the Bureau of Land Management in Casper, Wyoming. In 1987, much to the fortune of the USGS, Kirk was hired as a Hydrologic Technician with the Wyoming District in Casper. While in Casper, he applied for a Hydrologist position, and soon after transferred to Cheyenne in 1988 to collect groundwater samples for the assessment of TCE in groundwater as part of the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) at FE Warren Air Force Base. Kirk's drafting skills, honed while working for Continental Pipeline in high school, were soon used creating multiple maps of potentiometric surfaces and contaminant plumes.

In his early years with the Survey, Kirk learned the hard work and dedication required by USGS Hydrologic Technicians and Hydrologists to endure the challenges of Wyoming weather and landscapes while collecting complete and accurate hydrologic datasets. Kirk worked for several years on the IRP, and then moved to the Studies Section where he served as a principal investigator on a flood-frequency regionalization study, the Yellowstone River Basin NAWQA, county-wide water-resource assessments, and a variety of other stream studies from seepage runs using AA meters to more novel ones such as a time-of-travel study using dye on the Snake River. Kirk became the Wyoming District's Surface Water Specialist in 1995. He also assisted on glacial geochemistry investigations, spending weeks at a time on the remote Wind River Range glaciers, including epic winter trips. In 2004, Kirk became the Data Chief of the Wyoming Water Science Center, and later he took on the position he is now retiring from- Chief of the Hydrologic Data Section for the merged Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center. During his career, Kirk worked on several national and international programs for USGS. In 2005, he provided training and field support to the National Science Foundation's McMurdo Dry Valleys long-term ecological research program in Antarctica, spending five weeks on the ice. Kirk was also instrumental with advancing the Web presence of streamgage data by serving as co-lead of the group that guided the development of NWISWeb and bringing a field perspective to planning and implementing the transition from ADAPS to Aquarius for processing, storage, and presentation of continuous hydrologic records. Kirk's witty humor and humility, along with his passion and dedication for hydrography and people who further its understanding, will be dearly missed by those of us who had the pleasure of working with him. In retirement, Kirk plans to drink beer with his feet up, and start sleeping through the night again. In the short term, he and Cheryl plan to get away for a little while from the wind and cold of Wyoming, and head south for some much-needed relaxation. After that, Kirk plans to spend hours roaming off the beaten path in nearby mountains looking for just the right shot to capture with his camera.

-John Kilpatrick, Center Director, U.S. Geological Survey, Wyoming-Montana Water Science Center



Margaret (Peggy) Phillips retired on March 31st after 46+ years of dedicated service with the USGS. She began her career on June 17, 1974 after graduating with an associate degree in Business/Secretarial Science. She was hired as a manuscript typist using the “new magnetic card” typewriters. She also did cut and paste layouts for report publication. Computers were punch card format at that time and were reserved for data processing. The report subject material interested Peggy and prompted her to continue her education starting with another associate degree, this one in Math and

Science. Peggy transferred to the Ithaca office for a year for career advancement and started assisting with field work, having her own network of wells to monitor. She then returned to the Albany (now Troy) office as support staff and coauthored two reports. She continued her education toward a bachelor's degree in Geology. Family obligations took priority over completing that degree, however. In addition to report production, library assistant, and fieldwork team member there was a need for a new database administrator. Peggy took on that role for both GWSI and QWDATA and was promoted to Hydrologic Technician. She provided staff support wherever possible. She also became the Information Officer, handling hundreds of requests for information annually and the Records Archive Officer. Peggy learned the sport of triathlon while in Ithaca and continues to compete. She is now a 4-time Ironman triathlete, hoping to make it 5 this summer. She would show up at the office wet from her morning swim with stories of the fish and bald eagles seen at the lake. Lunch breaks were spent running or working out in the office gym with coworkers. It is how she spends her free time on weekends. Peggy is also an avid gardener and member of her local garden club. There will be no weeds this summer. The only moss under her feet will be from her husband, a veterinarian by profession and avid botanist/bryologist by hobby. He is also retiring this year. Their son is graduating this year with a master's degree in Social Work. Having spent time in the Army himself, he hopes to work with other veterans, especially those suffering from PTSD. Peggy's positive attitude and the exceptional quality of her work will be sorely missed by all of us in the New York Water Science Center. Peggy can be reached at mphilli2@nycap.rr.com, 645 County Route 7, East Schodack, NY 12063.

She wishes you all the best.

-Robert F. Breault, Center Director, U.S. Geological Survey, New York Water Science Center

Rodney Sheets writes: Colleagues and friends (in many cases, both): I have decided to retire, so today, Friday January 29, 2021 will be my last day in service to the USGS. I'm not going to make this like many of the other retirement emails where someone gives my work history (usually 'enhanced' somewhat), how admired I was (which often are brazen lies anyway), and a bunch of boring stuff about what I want to do in retirement (rest assured, I'll stay busy). I also don't want a zoom party, e-card, and you can withhold the obligatory congratulatory emails. I know you are all happy for me and wish me well on my journey--that's why you are on this email list. Suffice it to say, many of you will just forget about me in a few weeks or months anyway, maybe sooner -- that's called "reality". I just want to say that employees like you in the USGS have my respect and admiration for the hard work and dedication that you provide the American public and others across the world. As government employees, we owe the American taxpayer our very best....and that's a big part of what drove me forward, especially these last several years. Whenever I visited a Center, or went to a Data Conference, or whatever I was up to, I would always be in awe of the types and variety of data collection, the home-grown development of new tools/programs, and the dedication of the people. I just hope that you will continue to instill future generations of hydrologic technicians and hydrologists with that same 'esprit de corps' no matter the current organizational schema. I have always believed that the organization is driven by the people that collect, process, and analyze the water data -- everyone else should be in service of those people. I felt like I was privileged to work for you and often, when I was lucky, with you. Some of you may be shocked at my announcement, but don't be -- it's been a long time coming and I deserve to move on (see, I can write my own obligatory congratulatory email 😊). If any of you need the type of assistance I used to provide, Office of Quality Assurance will be flying a SWAP for my job on Monday. I have faith that they will find a person that is willing and able to help you. I have made a lot of USGS friends over the years, some that I hope will return my calls in the future. If you see the number 614-271-3493 pop up on your phone, please answer. And thank you. It truly has been my pleasure. Rod rasheets@yahoo.com I most likely missed a lot of people with this email and for that I apologize in advance -- chalk it up to late career senility and not to intentional oversight.....at least tell them that if they ask why they didn't get it.

Joanne Taylor retired January 3, 2021, after a long and notable USGS career. Her career began in 1976 when, just a few months shy of graduating high school, she was hired as a GS-1 clerk-typist in Water's National Research Program (NRP). In those early days, she worked for the Ground Water group (Jim Mercer, Charlie Faust, Peter Trescott, Steve Larson, and Stavros Papadopoulos) and the Geochemists (Bill Back, Mary Jo Baedecker, Eric Sundquist, and Ty Coplen). She topped off her NRP career working for Roger Wolff, where she coordinated second level RGEF panels, budget meetings, and annual WRD Research Committee meetings. From the NRP, Joanne moved to the Chief Hydrologist's office where she served as staff assistant to Phil Cohen, Bob Hirsch, Jack Fischer, and Paul Beauchemin. While in the Chief's office, she gained a deeper understanding of the broader WRD and USGS programs and the importance of leadership that values the individual as well as the science. She also had fun on her days off waking up at 4AM to go fishing with Phil and others! After 8 years in the Chief's office, she transferred to a congressional liaison position within WRD working for Jim Peters. When the 1998 reorganization occurred and the Divisions were essentially abolished, she moved to the Director's office working for USGS Congressional Liaison Officer Tim West, becoming involved in congressional liaison activities at the bureau level. Working with USGS managers and scientists across the United States, she interacted with congressional staff and Members, coordinated the USGS Congressional Briefing Series, and served as co-lead on USGS congressional staff field trips. In 2002, Joanne received a B.A., in English, from George Mason University. Shortly thereafter, she was promoted to Deputy Congressional Liaison Officer. From that position, Joanne joined the Director's office as Special Assistant to the Director/Deputy Chief of Staff. During her 14 years in the Director's office, Joanne worked for and with Judy Nowakowski, Chief of Staff, as well Directors and Acting Directors Mark Myers, Marcia McNutt, Suzette Kimball, Bill Werkheiser, and Jim Reilly. **From Joanne**, "Supporting the science and programs of the USGS and working with so many brilliant and sincere people was more rewarding than one could possibly imagine. I am proud to have been a part of it." Joanne's plans include "training" her two Rottweilers and spending time with her husband, Bruce, and family and friends in their new "old" log cabin on Lake Champlain.



After a phenomenal career, **Mark Woodworth** will be retiring from the USGS after 30 years of service. The announcement of Mark's retirement is bittersweet. We are happy for Mark to enter the next chapter of his life, but he and his leadership, knowledge, and expertise will be missed by his colleagues in the Quality Systems Branch (QSB) and all of those around the Water Mission Area that he has supported during his career. Mark's last day was February 12, 2021. Mark graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1983 with a BS in Geology. He joined the USGS in 1991 as a physical science technician at the NWQL. After several years in the Organics Section of the NWQL, Mark moved to the QSB in support of the Inorganic Blind Sample Project with sample planning and distribution, report writing, website maintenance, and laboratory investigations. In 1999, Mark accepted a position as hydrologist within QSB. In 2001, he was promoted to Project Chief of the Standard Reference Sample Project (SRS). In 2008, he became Project Chief of the Sediment Laboratory Quality Assurance Project (SLQA) in addition to his existing responsibilities. During his tenure as project manager, Mark has made numerous improvements to the products and processes of both projects. He has grown both programs to where they are today. Mark is looking forward to lots of golf, long hikes up tall peaks, mountain biking, road biking, distance running, nature photography, and much more. Please join us in wishing Mark the best of luck in retirement.

-James Simmons, Chief, Quality Systems Branch, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, CO

UPDATE HYDROLOGIC TECHNICIAN WINNER 2020



Greetings from **Shannon Pace**, a 2020 scholarship recipient. Shannon attends Ohio State University and works in the Richmond, VA office. "I wanted to send a quick update on my semester for the USGS Retirees. Thank you again for your support for this semester! I did well in all my classes this semester (Intro to statistics application—R for Environmental Sciences, Fundamentals of GIS, and Remote Sensing), in addition to narrowing down what my thesis might be. I submitted a proposal last week for an internal graduate grant in my department (proposal attached). I am hoping to do some type of comparison of new water sampling/analyzing technology and more traditional methods. I am sure I will continue to narrow this down as I move forward, and I am excited for what is to come!"

Shannon in her dining room by ISCO sampler with cat supervision

Phil Turnipseed, National lead for the USGS Retirees Association Scholarship Program added that the USGS has a bright and sustainable future with awardees and candidates such as Shannon. *Shannon's self-made energy and positive aspirations serve the agency and the Nation. Her pursuit of advanced academic achievement and her dedication to doing great hydrologic work in the USGS comprise the exact formula needed for our future."*

NEWS OF RETIREES

Walt Aucott writes: The pandemic has greatly reduced our travel escapades and our writing about them. Given that I have never written anything for the newsletter, here's something that touched me on a bus and cruise trip to Greece in Nov 2018. On the trip we befriended a couple of Jewish immigrants from Russia living in Brooklyn. They invited us to visit the synagogue in Rhodes (city) on the island of Rhodes, where some distant relatives had once lived. We accepted, being mildly interested as we had never been in a synagogue and trying to be Midwestern polite. What we found in their little museum of what claimed to be the longest continuing operating synagogue in Europe was a very personal Holocaust story in this little backwater on the edge of Europe. Once the Nazi's took over from the evacuation of the Italian occupiers of Rhodes in 1943, the 1820 Jews on the island were deported to the death camps, from which only 179 survived. Remarkably 46 were saved from deportation by the Turkish consul who claimed they were Turkish citizens. The courage and determination he exhibited in the daily struggle to protect those people under the most challenging circumstances with all the historical and cultural baggage between people there was amazing and was appropriately recognized by the museum curators. For more on the history of the Jewish experience in Rhodes - jewishvirtuallibrary.org/rhodes-greece-jewishhistorytour. The pandemic has robbed us of the enrichment of our lives through new travel experiences, but has also amplified some of the memories.

Joyce Biesecker sent us an article from Public Citizen News titled "Taking the Measure of Rainfall and Climate Change in Texas" (vol. 40 no. 6 Nov/Dec 2020 p 5.) The article is about construction standards and codes with respect to frequency of large rain events. Joyce asks, "What is USGS doing to help update these codes."

Steve Blanchard writes: Thanks to all those who put the Retiree newsletter together! My wife Julia and I have been living in Ireland for the last 6 years, helping with ministry in some Irish Baptist Churches. My mom, who is 91 and is legally blind (macular degeneration), has been living on her own in Tucson, AZ. After several visits to

her over the last year, it become obvious that we needed to move to Tucson to live near her to provide her with some assistance. So, on May 15 we left Ireland and moved to Tucson, AZ. The move went as smoothly as it could have given that we moved during the Covid lock down; we are now pretty well settled in. We exchange a wet, cool, and green location (Ireland) for a dry, hot, and brown location (Tucson). We have enjoyed experiencing the desert and all its wildlife including three encounters with rattlesnakes already. Our new address is 6537 West Cedar Branch Way, Tucson, Arizona. I have the same cell phone number 571-261-8974.

Larry Bohman writes: Hope all is well. I'm fully 'retired' now (no more consulting for Puerto Rico following Maria). Good to see Verne Schneider retired. I thought I was pretty young when on a detail to Reston which I met him (already in high-level position) and he still worked 3 years more than me. Got my (1st) COVID shot so ready to do some Europe Travel in May if they let me. Take Care.

Rich Frehs writes: Jennifer and I continue our annual two-week trek down to Pawley's Island, S.C. for two weeks every spring. We have also been knocking off remodeling projects on our home in Columbus, Ohio. Jennifer looks forward to planting a garden each year and I swear our yard grows larger every time need to mow. I miss our annual luncheon with USGS Ohio WRD retirees due to COVID-19 restrictions. It was enjoyable to see former colleagues and hear about their retirement life. Hope this finds you all in good health for 2021. Best regards.

Colleen Frost writes: I really enjoy getting the newsletter. Keep up the good work!!

Charles Gamble writes: Thanks to all who have any part in getting the Newsletter and the Directory out. I really enjoyed the May 2020 newsletter (NL187) especially the article on the Mount St. Helens eruption. I was a long way from it (Tennessee) but remember seeing much TV coverage of it. The article brought back many memories of the event. Rebel and I are doing well for our age-still living in "Harmony at Brentwood" a retirement facility. They keep us pretty busy if you want to participate in their activities. We have had several cases of Covid 19 Virus in the building, but we have been blessed by avoiding that. We have gotten one vaccination and will get our second tomorrow (Feb 8). Hopefully, we can revert to more normalcy shortly. We had a 'walkathon' during November and December in which I participated (somewhat against my will) but managed to win first place by walking 147 miles in 8 weeks. I'm looking for Spring and more outside activities. It saddens me to enclose a short note of the death of my good friend Edward Bush Boyd. I hope his children have sent you more information because this is all I have.

Harold Golden writes: Thanks to all of you for a great job on the newsletter. Harold Jr is still in Hungary with his wife doing mission work for EFCA. Best regards to all!

Dave Grason writes: All's well here on the far Northwest Left Coast.

Bill Harenberg writes: Jean and I have escaped the Covid-19 virus so far. We are among the people in Idaho that wear masks when we are out. Haven't had a whole lot of direct contact with some of our kids because half (2) of them have had the virus along with most if not all of their families. I had a bowel blockage in mid-August. When they went in to remove the blockage they found cancer so now I'm doing chemo every two weeks. Feeling pretty good. Been Nordic skiing 8 times this winter, going again next Tuesday. The surgeon said to plan on a life span measured in months, but the oncologist said make that years, so I guess I'll vote for the oncologist. The only side-affect that bothered me was a cold sensitivity but I'm now on maintenance chemo and the drug that causes that was dropped. We miss family get-togethers, philharmonic concerts, church, and some boy scout activities. Our troops are still meeting weekly but outdoors in a park. They have managed to get campouts in, too. I stepped out of my job as Chapter Organization Representative after the surgery but am continuing to serve on the Troop committee. I had been COR for 40-years, so I suspect it was time to step down anyway. Our son, John, took over the job so it's still in the family. I finally decided that I am out of the consulting business. Was basically doing field ground water field work for the past 5 years. I still have my stream measuring equipment and if someone asked, I would probably go stand in a creek or ditch for the fun of it.

Paul Hayes (class of 2000) writes: All's good here in Indianapolis. Looking forward to traveling some this year. My truck and 5th wheel are getting bored sitting in the driveway. Everyone stay safe.

Rick Iwatsubo writes: Despite Covorona virus, I was able to make my annual giant yellowfin tuna fishing trip in January. Each crew and passenger were tested prior to boarding and with all having negative results, we headed out for the next 16 days. After a few days following social distancing and wear masks, we all felt safe in our own bubble out on the ocean. For the past 2 years, the big tuna have been elusive, and this year was no exception as only 3 were caught. Having "Jack Ass" Luck, I was fortunate to catch one of them. Weather was great, lots of smaller tuna were caught, fun fishing with friends, and we all enjoyed getting away from Covid for a few weeks. Please everyone continue to take care and be safe.

Clayton Kauffman writes: Brenda and I are doing OK. Our first great grandchild (a boy) was born on July 6, 2020 and we got to see him about once per week. He is pure joy!

Ken Lanfear writes: In 2020, the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) established the Kenneth J. Lanfear Award to recognize the author(s) of an outstanding technology-related paper published in the Journal of the American Water Resources Association (JAWRA) during the previous year. More information can be found on the [AWRA website](https://www.awra.org/Members/Scholarship_and_Awards/Award_Descriptions/Kenneth_Lanfear_Award.aspx), https://www.awra.org/Members/Scholarship_and_Awards/Award_Descriptions/Kenneth_Lanfear_Award.aspx

Lee Lenfest writes: Thanks to the pandemic, there really isn't much new up here in Maine. I was supposed to go on a river cruise in the Netherlands in April with Elementary through High School friends, but that was unfortunately canceled (or fortunately depending on how you look at it). We had a spectacular summer, and I spent a good part of my time on my dock in East Pond reading, kayaking, and swimming. Cards (bridge and cribbage) played with a select group of friends weekly. Then winter slithered in and I have been pretty much home bound. I think things are looking up; I have scheduled my first vaccination in a couple of days and the second a month later. Praying that universal vaccinations put at least a partial lid on this hideous disease. My fellow retirees stay safe and healthy!

Linda Britton (McMullen) writes: My husband Patrick and I are weathering the COVID storm and will be fully vaccinated soon. Thankfully we got in a wonderful trip to South America including Iguazu Falls and Antarctica prior to the virus outbreak last winter. We are looking forward to future travels from our home here in Puget Sound in Gig Harbor, WA. I enjoy reading the news from my past colleagues although names of newer retirees are becoming less recognizable as I realize that I have now been retired for 16 years. I wish everyone the best for a brighter and hopeful 2021.

Jeff Sallas writes: Thank you for all that you are doing for the USGS retirees.

Bill Shampine writes: Thank you for all you do to keep us informed. Your time and efforts are appreciated by all. By the way over the years, I have sent in a comments update a couple of times when I sent in my dues payment but my updates were never published. I am curious do I need to send updates to some address other than this one? Best wishes and keep safe! *(Jeff Stoner responded to your question "Bill, thanks for the question. Member messages sent to the Retirees' email address wrdreirees2014@gmail.com have a better chance of not being misplaced")*

Donald Spencer writes: Sometimes it's a little mind boggling to remember that 68 years ago this month (February 1953,) I began a 37-year amazing career with WRD. After graduation from MSM (University of Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy), I began as GS7 for Harry Bolon, District Engineer for Missouri. The Regional Engineer was Henry Beckman, at that time in Rolla MO. After transfers to Iowa District, Tennessee District and St Louis MO, retirement was accomplished February 1984. My wife and I were blessed with 2 children, 5 grandkids, and 4 great grandkids. Life is Good. My wife passed in 2010, and I am blessed with fairly good health (with the aid of a cane.) and manage to keep kickin on the 160 acre "ranch" close to Rolla, MO.

Sadly not many of my co-workers are as fortunate as I to have lived for 90 plus years, but a big hello to those who may remember those times.

Pete Van Metre writes: I'd like to join (application is attached) and also to send a donation to the Hydro Tech scholarship fund. I started as a Hydro Tech and worked my way up taking courses on the side (which at the time, USGS paid for) and eventually went to grad school under the USGS/WRD grad school program, so I think the scholarship fund is a wonderful idea. Best, Pete.

PS: I still have USGS email because I'm working emeritus. Alternate email is pcvanmet@gmail.com

Ken Vanlier writes: Thank you for keeping me informed on the doings of the Survey. As I said when I retired "You can take the man out of the Survey – but you can't take the survey out of the man – I assume that goes for the women also."

Wayne Webb writes: Sue and I are bowling in 2 leagues. Sue is enjoying Red Hat, Bunco and church choir. I am enjoying Friday night poker with some of folks from bowling. I am starting the third 4-year stint as a soil conservation director for Clarke County to Lord Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation District. Also if you want to swim in the Shenandoah River I am running a website: <http://www.swimshenandoah.com/> from May through September that is updated daily with information on temperature and bacteria safety for swimming. Virginia has no standard for freshwater swimming so the old standard of 235 cfu/100m1 is used. Conditions for the day are posted for 19 sites and predictions are made for the next 2 days. In 2020 about 1500 site days were posted as less than 235 cfu/100ml. Of the 1500, 300 were sampled and they were all less than 235cfu/100ml.

Dues Received since last February's Newsletter:

Rich Frehs	Leslie Lenfest	Wayne Webb
Colleen Frost	Linda Britton (McMullen)	
David Grason	Jim Peters	
Bill Harenberg	Jeff Sallas	
Paul Hayes	Verne Schneider	
Rick Iwatsubo	Bill Shampine	
Clayton Kauffman	Yvonne Stoker	

**2021 International Hydrology Prize Medalist
Employee Shoutout: Harry Lins
March 29, 2021**

The USGS would like to recognize retired USGS hydrologist Harry Lins for being awarded the Volker medal by the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS).

The Volker medal is one of two medals awarded annually as part of the International Hydrology Prize by the IAHS, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The Volker medal is "aimed at outstanding applications of hydrological science for the benefit of society at large," and recognizes "hydrologists who have applied their research and hydrological expertise to the benefit of society, addressing issues of public interest and development."

Harry received the award, in part, for his accomplishments as President of the WMO's former Commission on Hydrology over two consecutive terms (2012-2019). Closer to home, Harry was the inspiration and guiding light for development of USGS WaterWatch, compilation of the Hydro-Climatic Data Network (HCDN), and the USGS Circular 1347, "Water—the Nation's Fundamental Climate Issue A White Paper on the U.S. Geological Survey Role and Capabilities".

Read more about the IAHS and the International Hydrology Prize, and see past winners.
Congratulations, Harry!

MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

NL190-FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER STUFFING GROUP Reston, VA



Little table: Paul Hearn and Cathy Hill

Big table: Katherine Lins on left and Kate Flynn on right

NOTE: The Board would like to recognize and express our appreciation for the time and effort that Kate Flynn volunteers to make this happen every quarterly newsletter. With the Reston Headquarters Office being closed due to the pandemic this requires additional coordination: getting the supplies, printing the mailing labels, retrieving the newsletters from the printer, recruiting volunteers for stuffing 340 envelopes, arranging the distribution date and time, and taking the boxes back to the headquarter's mailing facilities for Post Office pick-up.

MEMORIALS



Edward Bush Boyd, 94 years old was born in Nashville, TN on July 2, 1926. Bush attended Davidson County schools (Eakin and Hillsboro High School), Vanderbilt University and trained in engineering at Purdue University. He served in the US Navy aboard the USS Chowanac and USS Arikara in WWII. His sea duty was in the Asiatic Pacific theater. He had a long career with the U.S. Geological Survey, retiring in 1983. He was an active member of Belmont Methodist Church all his life, served on the board for many years, and was a member of the fellowship class. He made many dear friends and colleagues. Bush had a ready smile, was able to talk to almost anyone and always knew the right thing to say in difficult times. He will be missed for his keen mind, indomitable spirit and warmth. Preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Sarah Boyd and his wife of 66 years, Sara F. Boyd. Bush is survived by his two sons and a daughter, and two grandchildren. Arrangements are pending.



Melba Marie Carter, 95, (wife of retiree Jack R. Carter) passed away on February 26, 2021. She was born in Salt Lake City, UT on September 10, 1924, to Leonard Victor Beckman and Ivy Marie Walker. Jack met the love of his life, Melba Marie Beckman, at a "Mat Dance" their freshman year at BYU. Thus, began a courtship that lasted through his deployment in the Army during WWII, and continued when he returned to Utah where they were married on April 5, 1946. Melba graduated from Brigham Young University where she studied home economics and art. They loved traveling and camping. Roberta, moved in with her parents in order to help them maintain their home and help with their care. That loving help has been a special blessing to our family. They would have celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary in April and were completely devoted to each other through the decades. She is survived by her husband, Jack; five daughters, 15 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Leonard Beckman. A short graveside service was held in Orem City Cemetery on Saturday, March 6, 2021 and a family memorial celebration of Melba's life will be held later.



Frederick Carl Dreher Jr., age 98, of Verona, passed away peacefully on August 9, 2020, at St. Mary's Hospital. He was born on July 11, 1922, in Chippewa Falls, WI, the son of Frederick "Sonny" Carl and Laura Ann (Frasl) Dreher. Fred, also known as "Buck" to friends and family in Chippewa Falls, graduated from Chippewa Falls High School in 1940 as the salutatorian. After serving in the U.S. Army, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the G.I. Bill and graduated with honors in 1948 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering as a member of Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society and Chi Epsilon civil engineering honor society. Fred was a World War II Veteran, proudly serving from 1942 to 1946 in the 103rd Infantry, 11th Armored and 335th Infantry Divisions of the U.S. Army. He participated in the European Theater including campaigns in Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and helped liberate the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. Fred began working as a Hydrologist at the USGS in 1948, where he met the love of his life, Geraldine "Gerry" McDermott, whom he married on October 9, 1954. Together, they raised three children and celebrated 60 years of marriage. Fred enjoyed a rewarding career and retired after over 32 years of service retiring in 1981 with the Surface Water Section, Wisconsin District. After retiring they also enjoyed sight-seeing in central Europe and many trips covering most of the U.S. Fred felt honored to join other veterans by participating in the Badger Honor Flight to Washington DC in 2012 and especially enjoyed visiting the WWII Memorial. Most importantly, Fred loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and most recently his two new great-grandsons. Fred is survived by his daughter and son, 4 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Fred was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Geraldine; and a son. A Mass of Christian Burial followed by military funeral honors was held on August 20, 2020. Burial was held at Resurrection Cemetery.



Maria Guadalupe "Lupe" Perea Frenzel 81, (wife of retiree Peter F. Frenzel) passed away on November 13, 2020 at home in Los Lunas, NM peacefully, gracefully, and surrounded by her husband and daughters. Lupe was an amazing spouse, mother, grandmother, and sister who will be remembered for her tranquility and strength as well as her love of books, art, and music. She enjoyed laughing at silly things, gardening, and flowers Peter cut from the garden. Her deep faith carried her through life and especially during her last years. She was a member of San Clemente Parish in Los Lunas, New Mexico. Lupe was preceded in death by her parents, Ambrosio and

Adelaida Perea, and her aunt, Celedona "Sally" Gomez. She is survived by her husband, her daughters and their families, as well as her siblings.



Arthur J. "Art" Horowitz, USGS Research Chemist, passed away on February 26, 2021. While his research with USGS primarily focused on sediment geochemistry, it ran the gamut of hydrologic settings from oceanographic environments to large river systems to small urban streams. Art grew up in the Bronx, New York, he earned a BS in Chemistry from Queens College, New York, an MS in Marine Geology from the University of Miami, and a PhD in Geology from the University of London, U.K. After completing his graduate studies in 1974 in the U.K., Art had a brief stint as an Assistant Professor at Queens College, CUNY. Art joined the Department of the Interior in 1976; first, with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and then with the USGS Water Resources Division (WRD) in 1978 as a Supervisory Chemist at the Atlanta National Water Quality Lab (NWQL) in Doraville, GA. When the Atlanta NWQL closed in 1983, he relocated to the Georgia District Office (USGS-WRD) and began his long tenure as Chief Research Chemist of the Sediment Partitioning Research Project. Over the next 33 years Art pioneered many of the laboratory analytical techniques to partition sediment into its chemical components with a primary focus on indicators of anthropogenic contamination. He developed and tested many of the field-sampling and -processing techniques used daily across the US and abroad by the water resource community. In addition, Art was dedicated to the optimization of the design of hydrologic studies, effective study implementation, and to the interpretation and communication of study results. He published over 100 scientific products during his career, with his most recent co-authorship published in December 2020. Art is survived by his wife, Lyn Horowitz, of Atlanta Georgia, and a son, William Horowitz, of Cape Town, South Africa. William wrote of his father: "Dad, was a loving husband and father and a contributing member to his communities. We will always remember his extraordinary memory, incredible vocabulary, and dry, sardonic wit. We will continue to be inspired by his integrity, reliability, and his belief that science can be used for the greater good. He is sorely missed." Art maintained a wide network of professional relationships and collaborations across the world but always made the time to mentor early career scientists who often did not realize at the time how fortunate they were to gain his insights into their studies and work.

John R. Gray writes: Art was no wallflower. He never hesitated to vociferously defend Good Science produced by himself -- which he did without fail -- or others. He could be quite cantankerous and seemed to enjoy being a contrarian. I recall an exchange in the mid-1990s at a fluvial-sediment conference in Oslo, Norway, that concluded a now-forgotten diatribe by Art. Exasperated with Art's relentless stridency, I exclaimed, "Art! Is the glass half full or half empty?" Art's pithy response: "The glass is cracked!" At the same conference, I indicated contemplating pursuing a "mid-career" Ph.D. Art's succinct advice: "Why not take up bungee jumping instead?" But beneath the "crusty" exterior of this Certified Character was a heart of gold. Those of us who really knew Art loved the man. In a characteristic contribution to USGS work, **Mark Landers writes**, when Art was asked to review a sweeping proposal to monitor and evaluate streamflow, sediment, and nutrient loads in metro Atlanta streams in the late 1990s. Then District Chief Tim Hale, phoned Mark and said he should come to his office to discuss the proposal with Art noting, "...and Mark, tire tools are the weapon of choice!" Art proceeded to berate and declare doom on the project; but in the ensuing years Art never failed to support and improve the project and its staff with his solid, if acerbic, expertise and wisdom.

Charlie Demas writes: Art was the classic NY City product. The world's last angry man with a heart of gold. Nancy Simon told a story of working with Art on the Coeur d' Alene project with the Idaho WSC. Art was sampling for several days and then returned East to be replaced by Nancy. When she got out there, one of the female technicians asked Nancy if there were many people like Art back East! Art was a great scientist and a better person. Art's expertise and reputation spanned national and international spheres. The USGS was exceptionally fortunate to have this outstanding Scientist and Character in its ranks. As a lasting tribute to the memory of Art, one of his signature red plaid wool shirts resides in the Norcross, Georgia, office of the South Atlantic Water Science Center.

John Klein writes: I hate to see all these incredible folks moving on. I had met Art over the years at a number of meetings, etc. In 2000, Joyce and I spent a lot of time with Art in The Netherlands at the 3rd annual Monitoring Tailor Made International Workshop on Water information. He presented a paper on the results from the first three years of NASQAN II: suspended sediment and trace element fluxes in the Mississippi, Columbia, Colorado, and Rio Grande Drainage Basins. Now..don't be led to think I have an incredible memory. Joyce and I are cleaning out boxes from our storage units and just the other day I opened a box with several years of programs from the Monitoring Tailor Made conferences I had attended and presented papers as part of my work with the National Water Quality Monitoring Committee. Art was a participant in these meetings, and I had noticed Art's name in the

program and I wondered how Art was doing. I really enjoyed knowing Art and discussing the problems of the world over several liters of that great Dutch beer.



Jim Hudson, aka the “Ironman”, was an extraordinary, hardworking, sometimes hard-headed man. He was reserved, yet witty and wasn’t afraid to use his right eye as a good joke. He was a man who all respected and valued his wisdom. Jim attended University of Mississippi. He worked with the USGS as a hydraulic engineer for over 40 years retiring in 1992. Turned out he wasn’t ready to retire. Along with long-time colleague and friend, Bill Colson, they started a consulting firm, Aqua Engineering. He loved Ole Miss football, fishing, water skiing and coached church basketball for several years. You could always find him doing odds and ends at the church and around the community, finding something to do on his tractor, shelling peas or surrounded by his grandkids. He is survived by his 3 sons and two daughters and step-children, and more grandchildren and great-grandchildren than we can count. Jim accepted Christ early in life and sought to follow God’s leadership and plan all his life. He served in the church in multiple capacities. Now that he has gone to be home, let us all strive to be more like the “Ironman”! Pallbearers are Ryan Hudson, Nathan Hudson, Josh Boyd, Tyler Redmond, Corey Rimes, and Scott Nichols.



Victor ‘Vic’ F. Labson, 68, of Lakewood, CO and Reston, VA, died in his Lakewood home on November 1, 2020. He was born in Washington, D.C. to Arnold and Dorothy (née Deskin) Labson, and relocated with his family to San Francisco, CA, during his high school years. While still pursuing his Ph.D. in Engineering Geosciences from the University of California at Berkeley, he joined the USGS in 1977, relocating to the Denver, CO office in 1985. A voracious reader and a man whose humility belied a probing intellect, he devoted his life to civil service in the name of science and was recognized for his collaborative approach and global vision. Vic will be remembered for his thoughtfulness, a wry sense of humor, his devotion to his family, and his dedication to fostering the careers of many colleagues at the USGS and around the world. Vic’s career at the USGS spanned 43 years. In the first half of his career, he made great contributions first as a research scientist and subsequently as a science manager of a USGS research group that develops and applies geophysical techniques to map variations in the magnetic and electromagnetic properties of the Earth’s crust. He provided scientific expertise on globally important issues such as geologic hazards, water, energy, mineral resources, and the environment. As a science manager, Vic also fostered innovative, interdisciplinary collaboration among diverse groups of scientists. In his last role at the USGS, Vic served as the Director of International Programs in Reston, VA. In that capacity, he was the Survey’s principal advisor regarding international activities and scientific cooperation on a broad range of natural resource and natural hazard science projects. Vic’s leadership in this area greatly enhanced the scientific contributions of the USGS globally, and positively influenced the innovation of geological surveys worldwide. As stated in the condolences offered by his colleague Danielle Lebel, Director General of the Canadian Geological Survey “he was the quintessence and personification of soft science diplomacy.” Recently, Vic was the driving force behind a tri-lateral Canada-US-Australia collaborative research project on critical minerals and served on the Steering Committee of the new venture aimed at creating a world community of geological survey organizations. In summary, as stated by Karen Senhadji, Director, Office of International Affairs, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior: “Vic was passionate about the international mission of USGS, and an effective leader who navigated complex intra-agency and inter-agency challenges with patience, persistence, kindness and an excellent sense of humor.” He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Rebecka Snell Labson, and his children, Eva Labson and husband Kevin Blum; and Daniel Labson and wife Linsey Labson.

Harold H. Leymeister, 85, passed away in January 2021 in Schuylkill Haven, at home with family by his side. Harold was born in Maryland, September 26, 1926, and grew up in Orwigsburg. He was a son of the late Margaret Neifert and Victor Leymeister. He was a member of St. John’s Reformed Church, Friedensburg. He was a staff Sargent in the Army during World War II, serving in both Korea and the Philippines. He retired in 1989 from USGS in Harrisburg, PA and worked as a press operator for the Schuylkill Haven Call, prior to working for the U.S. Government. Harold was a life member of DAV Marine Chapter 12, Pottsville. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Nancy, who died in 1966; three brothers; a sister; his second wife, Arlene who died in 2011. Harold is survived by two daughters and a stepdaughter and a stepson, three grandchildren, a great-granddaughter, and three step-grandsons and one step-granddaughter.



Allen Wesley Noehre, 88, of DeKalb, IL, died Sunday, March 8, 2020, at his home. He was born May 18, 1931 in Chicago, IL, the son of Edward and Grace (Lundeen) Noehre. Allen married Barbara A. Zipse on December 1, 1956, in Chicago, IL. Allen was a graduate of Steinmetz High School in Chicago and received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois. He was a Veteran of the US Army, having served during the Korean Conflict. Allen was employed at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for 33 years and retired in 1986. He was a member of

American Legion Post #66 DeKalb. He is survived by his children, two sons and a daughter; five grandchildren; one brother; and several nieces and nephews. Allen was preceded in death by his wife Barbara in 2011; two brothers and one sister. Services for Allen will be rescheduled at a later date due to the current virus restrictions.

George Garklavs and John R. Gray write: Al (as he was known by his USGS staff in the Dekalb Subdistrict Office) was generous with his time and patient when it came to welcoming and nurturing new hires into the USGS family. He and his second-in-command Howard Allen drilled their charges rigorously on the requisite techniques to produce Good Science. Many who worked under Al rose to positions of considerable responsibility within the USGS. His memory as a supervisor and fine person will not fade from our minds or our hearts.



Miyoko Umeno Prych, age 78, (wife of retiree Edmund 'Ed' Prych) passed away on January 12, 2021, in her home in Spokane Valley, Washington, in the accompaniment her husband of 48 years. Miyoko was born to the late Moichi and Kyoko (Kawai) Umeno on November 7, 1942, in Iwadeyama, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan. Miyoko was educated in public schools in Japan and graduated, in 1961. While in high school she corresponded with a pen pal, Elford H. Messer, in South Portland, ME, who with his wife Louise Messer arranged for her to repeat her senior year at South Portland High School

while living with them and their three children. After graduating from South Portland High. In June 1962, she was able attend Portland Community College and the University of Maine in Orono on scholarships. After graduating with a degree in mathematics she worked for a short time as a computer programmer at Harvard University before returning to Japan. There she was employed by Kjellberg Successors, a Swedish trading company, and transferred to the company's Stockholm office in 1971. When in Stockholm she enrolled in a Swedish-language evening course where she met her future husband Edmund. They were married in Stockholm City Hall on June 3, 1972. They spent four months touring Europe by car, camping all the while. They then returned to the United States and settled in Tacoma, WA, where they lived for 35 years. In 2008, when they recognized that Miyoko had dementia and it was worsening, they moved to Spokane Valley to be near their daughters and their families. Miyoko loved children (especially her grandsons), traveling, sewing, cooking, reading and roses. She is survived by her husband; two daughters and their husbands, and four grandsons. Her death was a result of severe dementia. During her final days, despite her reduced mental capacity, her daughters, and her caregiver, Patricia J. Chain, made sure that Miyoko knew that she was loved. Miyoko's body will be cremated, and this summer her remains will be scattered at one of her favorite places.



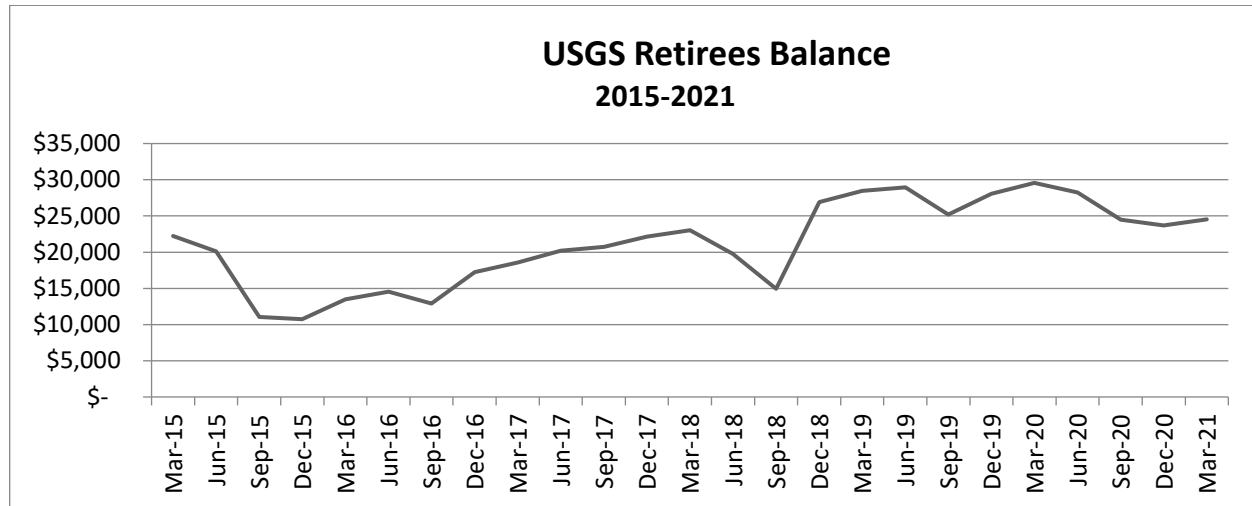
Klyda June Steele, 96, (widow of Eugene K. Steele) of Lincoln, NE died on February 1, 2021. She was born on June 24, 1924 in Purdum, NE to Henrietta (Maseberg) and Albert Greenland. Klyda married Eugene in 1943. Together, they raised five children and were married for 58 years until his passing in 2002. Klyda was a former Schoolteacher, Home Health Aide at Tabitha, and a Homemaker. She was an amazing cook, seamstress, quilter, and gardener. Her family will miss the delicious homemade pies she continued to bake up until her death. She was a member of First Plymouth UCC where she was recognized as a Woman of Distinction, Eastern Star (Dorcas #144),

past 4-H Leader, lifetime member of PTA, Charter member of North Hills Extension Club, past Cub Scout mother, and a volunteer for many years at Belmont School. Survivors include her three daughters and 2 sons, 17 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by her parents, and husband. Private graveside service at Ainsworth Cemetery in Ainsworth, NE with a memorial service to be held later.

TREASURER'S REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2021

Treasurer Cathy Hill reports the organization had \$24,530 at the end of the first quarter, 2021.

Special thanks for contributions significantly above dues to John Lambing, Yvonne Stoker, Linda Britton, Mary Garrelts, Jeff Sallas, Pete Van Metre, and Deborah Lowe. Many thanks for your generosity. These contributions go directly to the Scholarship fund. Also, for those watching me, the 2020 Federal taxes have been filed successfully.



NEWS NOTES ON SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES (Tim Smith)

You may find this recent AGU EOS paper about an Alaskan tidewater glacier interesting—great aerial scenes. Long an anomaly among glaciers, advancing while most others shrank, Taku Glacier is starting to succumb to climate change, offering an unprecedented look at the onset of tidewater glacier retreat. A collaborative effort with USGS scientists.

Citation: McNeil, C., J. M. Amundson, S. O'Neel, R. J. Motyka, L. Sass, M. Truffer, J. M. Zechmann, and S. Campbell (2021), The imminent calving retreat of Taku Glacier, Eos, 102, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021EO154856>. Published on 18 February 2021.

Text © 2021. The authors. [CC BY 3.0](#)

Except where otherwise noted, images are subject to copyright. Any reuse without express permission from the copyright owner is prohibited.

DIRECTORY

UPDATE

Over the last year, we have received several suggestions/concerns about the Retirees Organization publishing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. The newsletters are published in an open domain and are made available online (<http://wrdretirees.org/>). Beginning with this issue of the newsletter, we will stop including directory changes. For New Members, Affiliates, Affiliate Liaisons, and Regional and State Representatives, we will only include member's name with their city and state in this Directory section. We will also not include this information with News of Retirees unless the Member gives permission to publish. Previous newsletters will not be revised or removed from the website.

The member directory will continue to be updated annually and distributed via the US Post Office as a paper copy or emailed as a PDF. The format of delivery is up to each member. We will not make the directory available online. Thanks for the comments on this privacy issue.

Again, we would like to encourage members to submit directory updates (i.e., addresses, phone numbers and email addresses) on-going throughout the year.

NEW MEMBERS

Francy, Donna (20) (Thomas) – Westerville, OH
Glynn, Pierre D. (21) (Simone) – Reston, VA (change from Affiliate to Member)
Jennes, Jane E. (?) (Gerald) – Sterling, VA
Maupin, Molly A. (21) (Jeff Woody) – Boise, ID
Miller, Kirk A. (21) (Cheryl) – Cheyenne, WY
Norris, J. Michael 'Mike' (21) (Deborah) – Contoocook, NH
Peterson, James C. (16) (Tricia) – Little Rock, AR
Phillips, Steven P. 'Steve' (19) (Lisa Hicks) – Sacramento, CA
Robbins, Jeanne C. (18) (William) – Raleigh, NC

AFFILIATE

Vanderpool-Kimura, Ann Margaret (A) (Nori Kimura) – Tacoma, WA