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WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 149
November 2010

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I looked back at some of my previous messages and they all started out with a weather report in the northeast. So, I'll tell you that today the leaves are falling and the temperature is dropping. It seems like I said that just yesterday. Where I'm going with this is that when we get to our ages, time seems to fly beyond comprehension. When I was a kid at 16 and waiting for my 17th birthday, so I could drive, the date seemed like it would never come. I loved my father and mother dearly, but I swear that they always put up last years calendar on the wall to trick me. It worked. Today it seems like this year's calendar lasts only 2 months! This past reunion in Denver made me think, we retirees should stay in closer contact with each other. We all have telephones and WRD Retirees Directories so call your friends just for the heck of it. We don't have to wait 2 years.

The Denver reunion, which had about 175 attendees, was a great success. I think one of the biggest highlights was the meet and greet appetizer social on the first night. People took the opportunity to meet and greet long time friends in a large ballroom setting that would not have worked in our usually crowded 2-room happy hour space.

At the reunion I had the privilege of presenting three life-long service awards to retirees who have dedicated a significant amount of their retired life to the WRD Retirees Association. They are 1) John Musser, Baton Rouge, LA for over twenty years of keeping the LA retirees together and in contact with District Activities, 2) Jim Biesecker, who served as President and is still involved in all management aspects of the association but is now best known for the terrific job he is doing as Editor of the newsletter, and 3) Jim Blakey who was also president, Central Region Director twice, and most recently Chairperson of the 15th biennial reunion committee. Jim Blakey is another name that seems to show up in all management activities. Congratulations to all!

With the good, sometimes we have to deal with the sad issues. During the past 2 years, 127 of our members, colleagues and or spouses passed on including an unprecedented seven married couples. We announced every one of them at the business meeting and gave them a proper moment of silence.

I want to congratulate the Denver reunion committee on a job well done, a job that would have made our founder and mentor George Ferguson extremely proud.

Here is one housekeeping issue and it concerns paying our annual dues. It seems that numerous members do not know when to pay or how much to pay. The dues are \$10 dollars annually and there is an **article on page 24** that explains the details of your dues status. Please pay your dues.

Lastly, I am excited to inform you that the 2012 reunion will be in Boise, Idaho. Kathy Peter, who retired last year as the WRD Chief of the Idaho office, has agreed to chair the committee to set up the reunion. And hey, just to let you know, Kathy was the first female district chief in the history of the Water Resources Division, a formidable feat when the WRD was totally male driven. She made us proud!

Pat and I wish all of you good health and a happy holiday season.

Herb

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Lee Ann Alf says, "I love retirement. Also, I think the email version of the Newsletter is terrific."

Jeff Armbruster reports, "I enjoyed the Denver reunion but am sorry my wife, **Laurel**, was not able to attend. She was babysitting for our daughter, **Amy**, who recently needed some corrective surgery as the result of childbirth. It was a great opportunity to visit with so many old friends."

John Bader writes, "As Garrison Kiellor might say, "it's been a quiet summer at Wilton" so far. I have been keeping the garden and trees producing quite well. Had a good crop of apricots this year and the peaches are coming on strong. Despite the freeze during the winter, all the citrus trees survived, although several are still recuperating and putting on new growth. A few will be bearing lots of fruit this winter. I received an interesting set of pictures by e-mail from a friend showing a feature in Yosemite Park that I had never heard of before. They show a natural waterfall coming over El Capitan that is highlighted by the setting sun at just the right time to give the impression of a flaming fall. It reminds me of the "firefall" when they used to shove glowing embers from Glacier Point down to Camp Curry in the valley below. That production was stopped several decades ago but I'm reminded of a picture I took of it back then. I was proud of that photo because I managed to get the entire fall for the entire time it was falling without it being overexposed. I also remember that I loaned that picture (a slide) to someone when I was in Menlo Park so he could get a copy of it and it never got back to me. Unfortunately, I have since forgotten who it was that I gave it to. I'm hoping that whoever it was might be reading this newsletter and remember that occasion, still have the slide, find it and send it back to me. I would be most grateful if it were to come back home again. My compliments to all who are involved in producing the newsletter. It's always a pleasure to read about all the things the ol' USGS folks are doing these days."

Jerad Bales reports, "Now you can receive instant, customized updates about water conditions by subscribing to USGS WaterAlert. WaterAlert allows users to receive updates about streamflow and stage, groundwater levels, water temperatures, rainfall and water quality at any of more than 9,500 sites where USGS collects real-time water information. WaterAlert users start at <http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert> and select a specific site. Users then select the preferred delivery method (email or text), whether they want hourly or daily notifications, which data parameter they are interested in, and the threshold for those parameters. Users can set the system to alert them when conditions are above a value, below a value, and between or outside of a range. There is no limit to the number of subscriptions per user at a single site or multiple sites. "This is fantastic," said Jim Cantore,

Weather Channel field meteorologist. "The new WaterAlert system from the USGS provides the latest river information to people in harm's way. This could be the first alert to a developing flood and can even help out during drought periods." "The WaterAlert service is a fantastic resource for boaters of all abilities and disciplines," said Wade Blackwood, executive director of the American Canoe Association."

Lynn Barr writes, "**Peggy** and I had a great time at the reunion. We have arrived back home in Florida. We're sure glad to be back in the land of heat and humidity! Glenwood Springs and Paonia CO had great weather with temperatures in the 40-50s each morning. I got lots of great reunion photos and really enjoyed visiting with so many friends from the ole USGS."

Anne Bisset says, "Thank you for the Newsletters."

Jim Blakey writes, "I think the 2010 WRD Retirees reunion was a great success and it was due to the super committee and great volunteers. The committee, with **Merilee** (and **Jim**) **Bennett** doing much of the work; **Pat Tucci** and **Zelda Bailey** developing and maintaining the great web page; **Sara James** (a CPA) managing the money; and **Sandra Duncan**, **Dave Lystrom**, **Janice Ward**, **John Moore** and **Paula** made it work! **Jack Weeks** was our golf pro; **Bill Wilson** did a great job of guiding a tour of historic Georgetown; **Sandra Duncan** arranged a great outing to a Colorado Rockies baseball game and **Steve Sorenson** gave a slide show of his trip to Australia in his homemade plane. **Warren** and **Dee Teasdale**, **Becky Hudson**, **Debi Treseder** and **Bob** and **Elaine Brennan** managed the registration desk. We had several outstanding bartenders taking care of the 172 members of the WRD Retiree family who attended the reunion. There were a few new stories told and many old ones retold. The biggest problem was we ran out of time. A solemn moment occurred when **Jeff Armbruster** and **Dick Swishhelm** read the names of the 118 brothers and sisters, WRD Retirees, whom we lost in the past two years. We want to see you all in Idaho in 2012 but we need you to get involved now! Attend a local meeting of WRD Retirees. If you don't have one, please organize one. Talk to the new retirees and get them involved in our activities. Give another retiree a phone call or send them an email. Remember the Newsletter is what keeps this family together. Send us a note -- let us know what you are doing! Let's keep the family strong and as **John Monis** said at our closing banquet, "God bless us all". **Editor's note:** **Jim Blakey**, being the great person he is, did not mention the superb contribution he, as reunion committee Chairman, and his wife, **Paula**, made to the reunion effort. Thanks to all!

Bob Burchett reports, "**Libby** and I want to thank WRD Retirees for the Prescription drugs that they have

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donated to the "Unused Meds for Belize Program." As reported at the Denver reunion, we have delivered 194 bottles of drugs to the volunteer nurse that takes the drugs to Belize for distribution. We returned home from Denver with another 47 prescriptions. We have received these prescriptions from 10 WRD Retirees, 2 classmates, and friends. I was told by 4 WRD Retirees that they did not know about the project or they would have sent unwanted drug to me. If you did not see the article, it appears in the May Newsletter.

1. Send any meds that have an expiration date of less than 3 years ago.
2. Leave the meds in their original bottle.
3. Mark out your name and prescription number using an opaque marker.
4. Mail your old meds to:

Bob Burchett
12312 Indian Mound Drive
Austin, Texas 78758

Sit back and feel good about yourself. You have done a good thing for your country, yourself and humanity."

Dave Camp reports, "We're not going to make the reunion. My wife, **Shirley**, just isn't much of a traveler - and we have a trip planned for San Antonio a couple of weeks after the USGS reunion. We will be visiting with my sister and brother -- which doesn't happen very often -- one of us lives in Tennessee, one in Texas and one in Arizona. I considered trying to come to Denver, but we just decided it wouldn't work very well for us. I'd love to come and show some of you "young upstarts" a few things about the golf game -- but it won't happen this time. I'm still "taking my whacks" at the little white ball. Sometimes I hit it where I look and sometimes I don't. I still enjoy the game and so far, have been able to maintain a 9 handicap. Don't know how much longer that will last as age and arthritis are creeping along, but I'll keep hacking as long as I can."

Angel Class says, "I enjoy the Newsletter although there are not many of us old timers left to hear about!"

Derrill Cowing writes, "Looks like FEMA is deploying me in September and October so I will miss the Denver reunion. I'll be in Maine so I will have to choke down more of that darned lobster for dinner again. The email version of the Newsletter is great. Keep up the excellent work."

Phil Emery continues to do some very interesting writing. Below is a poem-- "Who Will Inherit the Earth?"

*Now that our planet is over-populated
I would think the squirrels are surely elated*

*They can run and climb, and some can even fly
And often I think they are smarter than I*

As we proceed to conquer space

We approach extinction of our race

*While autos and such increase pollution
We continue to fail to find a solution*

*Nuclear rockets and tomahawk missiles
Remain at the ready in silos and vessels*

*Viruses, toxins, or nuclear waste
Will soon do us in, unless we make haste*

*We Homo sapiens, both the needy and greedy
Had better be wise and extra speedy*

*For after all we have turned in dust
And all our machines are nothing but rust*

*The squirrels, so thrifty, so clever, so nifty
May inherit the earth in a geologic jiffy*

Harold Guy reports, "**Katherine** and I would very much like to attend the Denver reunion but at 88 and with my battle with cancer, we find that our travels are very limited. I did much traveling when I crossed the country many times to get the information for the book on the Guy family genealogy. Treatment for cancer with chemotherapy ended last March when progress seemed less than the rather bad side effects. The side effects did not keep me from doing some yard and garden work, for example, I used a battery operated week whacker which operates 15 to 20 minutes on a charge -- about the time of my physical endurance. This past week my Dr. advised me that the FDA has approved a new drug for treatment of cancer, and I expect to be on this for the next few months. I was saddened to read the Memorial for **Chuck Collier** in the last Newsletter. A bit of additional history is that when I was first on the job with WRD in Norton, KS (1951), he supervised my efforts at collecting sediment samples on the Arickaree River in western NE. My efforts at finding more knowledge about sediment in streams progressed nicely from there for 28 years."

Al Harr writes, "Unfortunately I will miss the Denver reunion as I will be visiting my late wife's cousins in several villages near Milan, Italy. They are in the foothills of the Alps. I will be there 12 days. I will especially miss the Denver reunion because I was born in Englewood, CO and used to fish the Frying Pan and Colorado Rivers. I am an Inpatient Volunteer three days a week at the local Hospice care center -- feeding, bathing and just being a companion to patients. **Phil Kammerer** and **Pat Stark**, also retirees from the Madison, WI office also volunteer at the hospice center. I hope everyone has a smashing time at the reunion. I will be at the next one."

Mark Have reports, "The Minnesota retirees still enjoy getting together to revisit old times and share stories."

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Craig and Tai Hutchinson say, "We had a great time in Denver at the WRD Retirees reunion. We took advantage of the trip to do some other sightseeing and to visit family in the western US."

Bill Kerby writes, "Thanks for your efforts at keeping the WRD Retirees organization running and putting out an excellent Newsletter."

John and Joyce Klein write, "We have just returned from a very busy time in Kauai. We were working at Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge and Lighthouse or helping with NOAA's Kauai Monk Seal protection program. That translated to getting back to our timeshare each evening tired, sweaty, thirsty and hungry. Why would we do this on a so called vacation in Hawaii? Well this is our 15th year to travel to Kauai and we are well beyond the tourist stage. Sure we have our favorite places to return to and some favorite beaches, but we wanted to do something different and so last year, following our lead of volunteering at wildlife refuges on the mainland, we started volunteering at the Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge and Lighthouse and working with a local volunteer group that is dedicated to helping the endangered monk seals. We had lots of fun and since they keep inviting us back we felt we were making a contribution."

Pat Latkovich reports, "I just changed apartments, since my sister is living here now and taking care of me. Address: 14086 Airline Highway Apt. 2017 Gonzales, LA 70737. I have Breast Cancer in my right lung. I had a double mastectomy in 2009 so this is a metastasis. I have a very good chance to beat this, but it will continue to come back. Our daughter, Michelle and family have been in England for a year and will stay one more. They are having a wonderful time seeing all the sights. Our son, Tom is married and has 2 children. They are doing very good. They live about 8 miles from us."

George Leavesley says, "I just got back from my week in Addis Ababa. It was an interesting experience. I met **Rose Ann** last night in Frankfurt and we are now in Jena, Germany. I start my class tomorrow. The weather is great and the beer is even better. It was great seeing so many old friends at the reunion."

John Moore reports, "I received an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree on October 5, 2010 from Ohio Wesleyan University. After the award presentation by Ohio Wesleyan President Rock Jones he was introduced to the geology students and presented a talk on his experiences as a hydrologist."

Fred Morris III reports, "I enjoy reading the newsletter. It is nice to see what all my old friends are doing. Keep up the great work on the newsletter."

John Musser writes, "I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the WRD Retirees for giving me the "WRD Retirees Lifetime Award" at the Denver reunion. I am truly honored to be recognized by my colleagues for my services since my retirement in 1989. Thank you." **Editor's note:** John has served diligently as the LA District Contact for 17 years. He is the heart and soul of the Louisiana WRD Retirees.

Carole Nethaway wrote on September 20, "Making progress, but still in the hospital. I May be released next week. I cannot have chemo until they think that I have recovered enough from surgery. The risk of infection, etc. is too great. Operation seems successful, and the intestines are functioning. Drs. are working on nutrition and pain/nausea control. I walk as much as possible every day. Sleep is variable, but better with the current machine. Cancer was the cause of the damaged colon. This is a common complication with Primary Peritoneal and Ovarian cancers. The colostomy is working. It is hoped that it will be temporary, but due to the cause, that may not be possible. Removing the damaged portion and reattaching the colon may not work with so much cancer in the area. Because of what has happened, the doctor says that he considers the last chemo drug a failure. When we begin again, he will try Gemzar and Carboplatin. These were two of the first drugs we tried after my initial allergy reaction. Cancer numbers went down significantly while I was on them. There is little possibility of anaphylactic reaction. **Charles** and I are so thankful to have your prayer support. The first few days in the hospital, it was like I was floating above the whole thing...and it wasn't the pain meds. Please pray that I will be able to stay on an effective chemo medication." On September 27 Charles sent a follow-up message: "Charles here, giving you a status report on Carole. I'm sending this update to several groups of friends and family, so I may be repeating some of this for some of you. Sorry 'bout that. We thought Carole might be going home today, but doctor changed his mind, and I'm sure that it will be helpful. It is Monday morning, and Carole will begin chemotherapy today here in the hospital, day number 18 in Reston Hospital Center. The doctor decided to begin the chemo here rather than wait until she goes home, gets settled, etc., before chemo -- that could take an extra week. The particular chemo medicines that Carole will receive worked well when given to her in January through May. Those were stopped because we thought Carole had a potentially serious skin reaction to them. Now, however, we believe that the skin reaction resulted from an anti-nausea medicine that she took. This combination of chemo medicines worked quite well and quickly earlier this year. So let us pray that they work well now: if they work as well as earlier, we could see good, measurable results in a month or six weeks. We are ready for good news! "Good News" -- let's pray for that! Carole is recovering

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from the ostomy surgery quite well. She has a good nurse who is helping her with post-op care. We are very thankful for our entire medical group. However, Carole has been increasingly nauseated from the cancer, apparently putting pressure on organs within abdomen. After talking to Carole this morning, her oncologist decided to begin chemo today, resume the TPN (total parenteral nutrition) intravenous nutrition, and keep her in the hospital for at least a couple more days. The TPN ensures that she receives all required nutritional intake. God bless! And thank you so much for your support."

Kathy Peter has agreed to host the 2012 WRD Retirees reunion that will be held somewhere in Idaho during the early autumn of 2012. We'll notify retirees as soon as more details are available. Plans are now in the initial stage, as you can expect. If you would like to assist Kathy, please phone her at 208-761-2929 or email her at kathypeter@gmail.com. The reunions are terrific but require considerable work by the organizing committee. Get in touch with Kathy and lend a hand.

Ev Richardson writes, "I enjoy reading the WRD Retirees Newsletter and keeping track of my old friends. **Billie** and I were very saddened to read in the August edition of the Newsletter of Walt Scott's and **Red Longfield's** deaths. Both had great careers with WRD. Walt and I worked together under **Merv Peterson** in Riverton, WY at the start of our careers. Both of us were proud stream gagers and sediment transport samplers in the Wind River Basin. Red and I worked together in Iowa and in 1955 co-authored a book "Quality of Surface Water in Iowa, 1886-1954," Iowa Geological Survey Bulletin #5. For some reason, **Ken Love** would not let us put our name on it."

Jim Rollo reports, "**Anita** and I had a great time at the Denver Reunion. Many of the attendees heard about our travels; for all others, here is our tale. We spent most of July driving from our Kerrville, TX home to Ocean Park, WA with another couple. Anita and her friend were enrolled in a watercolor workshop there. We spent two days with **Charles** and **Pauline Morgan** in Boulder City, NV, on the way. On August 1, we drove to Houston for a flight connection to Mongolia, China, Tibet, Hong Kong and Cambodia. We spent 24 hours in airports and on airplanes. We got 4 hours sleep in Beijing before flying on to Mongolia. We were exhausted, but found it to be a delightful place. We returned to China and did the tourist thing—Beijing, the Great Wall, terra cotta warriors, the Yangzi River gorges. We then flew to Lhasa, Tibet at 12,000 feet elevation. We had one day to condition ourselves to the altitude before climbing 322 steps to the top of Potala Palace, former residence of the Dalai Lama. Age is cutting into my mountain climbing ability, but I won't admit it yet. Anita declared "enough" about half way up. We went on to Hong Kong, a commercial city

of the highest order. We enjoyed the bird, flower and jade markets and the city in general. Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, Cambodia was our last stop. This was our second visit—it is a fascinating site. It is difficult to imagine the labor that went into the construction of all of those buildings, storage reservoirs for irrigation, etc. Some of the building stone was transported tens of miles and there are thousands of tons of it. It makes my back hurt just to think about it. We returned to Kerrville on Sunday, September 5 and left three days later to drive to the Denver reunion. By then we had difficulty in telling where we were. We expect to stay home for a while, but are making tentative plans for a trip to Costa Rica with my brother and his wife. This will wait until the dry season, January to March. 2011 is our 60th anniversary year so we may make another around the world junket like we did to celebrate our 50th."

Norma Stewart says, "What a wonderful article on **Chuck Collier** by **Les Laird**. We will all miss Chuck — he and his wife were my friends for 40 years and we worked in the Columbus, OH office together."

Bert Thomsen says, "The Denver reunion was great!"

Marcella Wark writes, "At the end of last January, **John** had major surgery for colon cancer. They did well by him, but said that there was cancer elsewhere that they could not take out. He lost a lot of weight before and during all that, and has gained some of it back. He feels pretty good, is in good spirits, and is up and doing things. We try to play nine holes of golf at least a couple of times a week. But at this point we have to take a cart, rather than pull one, so that is very helpful. This keeps us socializing and exercising! Because we were not strong enough, we decided not to try the WRD Reunion this year. As for me, last year, I had chemo infusions for leukemia, and it put the leukemia in remission for a year, but it is acting up again, and I am taking more infusions for the next couple of months. Hopefully, it will bring about another good remission. Otherwise, we are chugging along, just keeping our heads above water."

Note to all WRD Retirees: "News of Retirees" remains one of the most popular and informative sections of each Newsletter. However, we need input from the members to help guarantee the future success of this section. When you mail us your 2011 dues payment, please add a note containing a few sentences about what is going on in your life. Any note paper will do. Your long-time friends and colleagues would love to hear about your life!

The Great Russian Buffalo Caper

By Hal Langford

The heavy snows and freezing weather of this past winter here in Northern Virginia reminded me of a tale told to me by my grandmother when I was a boy in western Nebraska.

Grandmother was the daughter of a pioneer cattleman, Russell Watts, whose ranch headquarters were in North Platte, Nebraska, and who ranged his cattle many miles southwest and northwest of that town.

During the winter of 1871-72, the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia toured North America, and after visiting President Grant in Washington, D.C., was invited by General Philip Sheridan to hunt buffalo in the West. The Duke and his party must have liked the idea because he and his party arrived by special train in North Platte in January 1872. General Sheridan had arranged for Buffalo Bill Cody, whose ranch near North Platte served as headquarters for his famous Wild West Show, to guide the Duke's party and show him how to hunt buffalo. In addition to Duke Alexis and General Sheridan, the hunting party consisted of General George Custer, two companies of cavalry, two of infantry, and wagons of supplies, tents, champagne and royal spirits. The party also included my great-grandfather, Russell Watts, for it was on his range that the hunt was to take place.

The hunting party camped northeast of present-day Hayes Center, Nebraska near Red Willow Creek. Chief Spotted Tail and about 100 of his warriors also joined the party to demonstrate the Sioux way of hunting buffalo with bow and arrow and to perform their war dance.

The hunt was successful and the Duke reportedly killed the first of many buffalo. Following the hunt, the Duke and Buffalo Bill were entertained at a dinner party at the home of my great-grandfather in North Platte. I inherited the elk horn carving set of knife, fork and sharpener used at the dinner party, shown in the photo below.

Several months after the dinner party my grandmother received a package from the Duke. It contained a beautiful tanned buffalo robe, which had been carefully embroidered on the tanned side by Russian women. The robe, of course, became a family heirloom, and ended up after my grandmother's death with her son Isaac, who lived in Omaha, Nebraska.

Year's later Omaha received a big snow storm, like the one we had here last winter, accompanied by very cold weather. My great Uncle Ike (as I called him), fearing that the water pipes in the basement would freeze, wrapped one of the pipes with the buffalo robe. You guessed it! The pipe froze, broke and ruined the buffalo robe. So, the only vestige of my families' role in this event is the carving set!

To this day the hunting event is celebrated annually in September, at the site of the hunt near Hayes Center, Nebraska.



The Langford's elk horn carving set.

Photos from the 15th WRD Retirees Reunion, Denver, September 9-11, 2010.

The Denver Reunion Committee did a fantastic job. Thanks from all of us.



Pat Tucci, Zelda Bailey, Sara James, Sandra Duncan, John Moore, Janice Ward, Merilee Bennett, Dave Lystom, Jim Blakey

The Heart and Soul of the Denver Reunion, Jim and Paula Blakey and Merilee and Jim Bennett



All the retirees got a fantastic reception at the registration desk.



Jack and Judy Weeks register at the desk which is hosted by Bob and Elaine Brennan.

Retirees checking in at the Lakewood Holiday Inn. The banquet food was wonderful.
Rosann Sherrill, Shirlee Knutilla, Marv Sherrill, Bob Knitulla, Helene Mann and Bill Mann at the desk.



President Herb Freiburger ran the business meeting.

Chief Hydrologist Matt Larsen talks about the new USGS.



Three WRD Retirees were presented with the WRD Retirees Lifetime Award.



John Musser, Jim Blakey and Jim Biesecker received beautiful wooden plaques with the USGS benchmark.

There were 17 retirees attending a reunion for the very first time. We're sure they will come again!



Front: Lee Lenfest, Carole Loskot, Judy Cornwell, Janice Ward, JoAnn Huffman, Linda Britton, Ron Rathbun, Janet Pascale, MaryJo Baedecker. **Back:** John McLean, Jack Weeks, Debi Treseder, Julia Huff, Craig Bentley, Bob Boulger, Jerry Pascale, Stephen Sorenson

The hospitality room is always the center of attention. The committee had lots of food and drink for everyone.



Dave Appel having fun with Steve and Sandy Hindall



Herb Freiberger, Jim Blakey and John George discuss old times



Don Goolsby, Cynthia Norman and Anita Livingston
Don't they all look like they are having a great time!



Janet and Jerry Pascale enjoying some
Rocky Mountain hospitality.

The field trips are always an enjoyable part of the WRD Retirees reunions.



Retirees on the train ride through the Georgetown Loop. Bill Wilson gave a great tour of historic Georgetown, CO.



Chet Zenone and Phil Emery aboard one of the field trip buses.



Kathy Peter, MaryJo Baedecker, Laurel Click and Helene Mann having fun.

Photos courtesy Lynn Barr, Paula Blakey, Joyce Biesecker and Bill Boning

WRD NEWS

Recent Retirees

Note to all WRD Retirees: Recent retirees automatically become new members. Please treat these new members like old friends – welcome them aboard and invite them to participate in local meetings. Call them and ask them to become active in our organization!

Northeastern Region:

David A. Cohen, Hydrologist, 3909 W. 71st Street, Indianapolis, IN 43268, 317-299-7717 – 07/31/10
Jon C. Denner, Hydro. Tech., 451 Hampshire Hill Road, Worcester, VT 05682, 802-229-4338 – 09/30/10
John F. Dudek, Hydro. Tech., 47 North Chester Avenue, Delran, NJ 08075, 856-461-9620 – 09/30/10
Joanne V. Irvin, Computer Asst., 180 Conrad Lane, Gardners, PA 17324, 717-677-7223 – 08/01/10
John C. Knudsen, Hydro. Tech., 1909 F. Road, Bark River, MI 49807, 906-786-4015 – 09/30/10
Connie A. Loper, Hydrologist, Box 253 Bull Run Road, Craley, PA 17312, 717-244-7469 – 07/31/10
Dora L. Post-Ennen, Budget Analyst, 2182 Phillips Avenue, Holt, MI 48842, 517-694-7708 – 07/03/10

Southeastern Region:

Arthur R. Adams, Hydro. Tech., 4138 Evangeline Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70805– 10/01/10
Rene J. Freret, Hydro. Tech., 34000 Kanis Road, Paron, Arkansas 72122, 501-821-7621 – 09/30/10
John W. Melton, Hydro. Tech., P.O. Box 1421, Rolla, Missouri 65402, 573-364-1474 – 07/31/10
John E. Terry, Jr., Hydrologist, 14201 Robinwood Tr., Alexander, AR 72002, 501-557-5056 – 10/01/10

Central Region:

Michael J. Burr, Hydro. Tech., 111 Kansas Avenue, SE, Huron, SD 57350, 605-352-5599 – 09/03/10
Michael Enright, Hydro. Tech., 601 Country Club, Stansbury, UT 84074, 435-882-0266 – 10/01/10
Michael F. Fahy, Hydrologist, 6573 Annapurna Drive, Evergreen, CO 80439, 303-674-0810 – 09/30/10
Kiyoto Futa, Chemist, P.O. Box 15543, Lakewood, CO 80215, 303-987-3882 – 09/30/10
Loretta M. Kwak, Chemist, 1759 S. Quail, Lakewood, CO 80226, 303-989-8615 – 09/30/10
David L. Macke, Physical Scientist, 3030 W. 46th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211, 303-455-6869 – 07/31/10
Jayne E. May, Hydrologist, P.O. Box 870, Pflugerville, TX 78691, 512-989-7569 – 10/01/10
William J. Oatfield, Hydro. Tech., Box 213, Kittredge, CO 80457, 303-236-5050 – 09/30/10
Daniel L. Rosemore, Hydro. Tech., 29326 East Shore Drive, Pengilly, MN 55775, 218-885-2810 – 07/23/10
Joseph R. Sullivan, Jr., Hydro. Tech., 16150 Elk Drive, Glade Park, CO 81523, 970-245-6402 – 08/01/10

Western Region:

Jennie E. Crook, Info. Tech., 8016 65th Ave. CT. SW, Tacoma, WA 98499, 253-584-3741 – 07/31/10
James A. Davis, III Hydrologist, 101 Lombard Street, Unit 208W, San Francisco, CA 94111, 415-421-6578 – 09/30/10
Louise M. Lupton, Financial Mgt. Spec., P.O. Box 27074, Las Vegas, NV 89126, 702-242-4916 – 07/31/10
William U. Savage, Hydrologist, 1917 Sierra Oaks Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89134 – 07/31/10
Ralph L. Seiler, Hydrologist, 2513 Baker Drive, Carson City, NV 89701, 775-885-6985 – 08/01/10

WRD NEWS

“What’s New in Research”

By Jerad Bales, Chief Scientist, WRD

Pharmaceuticals in Streams

The presence of pharmaceuticals and other human use compounds in U.S. streams was first documented by the USGS in 2002 in a national reconnaissance. Following this seminal study, additional research has been conducted to better understand the source, the persistence, and the effects of these compounds in streams. (See <http://toxics.usgs.gov/highlights/whatsin.html>.)

USGS scientists have now demonstrated that pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities can be a significant source of pharmaceuticals to the environment. Effluents from two wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) that receive discharge from pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities (PMFs) had 10 to 1,000 times higher concentrations of pharmaceuticals than effluents from 24 WWTPs across the nation that do not receive PMF discharge. The effluents from these two WWTPs are discharged to streams where the measured pharmaceuticals were traced downstream, and as far as 30 kilometers from one plant's outfall. This was the first study in the United States that assessed PMFs as a potential source of pharmaceuticals to the environment. The PMFs investigated are pharmaceutical formulation facilities, where ingredients are combined to form final drug products and products are packaged for distribution. While pharmaceuticals have been measured in many streams and aquifers across the nation, levels are generally lower than one part per billion (1 ppb). Concerns persist, however, that higher levels may occur in environmental settings where wastewaters are released to the environment.

In this study, 35 to 38 effluent samples were collected from each of three WWTPs in New York State and one effluent sample was collected from each of 23 strategically selected WWTPs across the nation. The samples were analyzed for seven target pharmaceuticals including opioids and muscle relaxants, some of which have not been previously studied in the environment. Pharmaceutical concentrations in effluents from two of the three WWTPs in New York State, which both receive more than 20 percent of their discharge from PMFs, were compared to the measurements made at the third plant in New York State and at the other 23 plants across the nation, none of which receive discharge from PMFs. Maximum pharmaceutical concentrations in effluent samples from the 24 WWTPs that do not receive discharge from PMFs rarely (about 1 percent) exceeded 1 ppb. By contrast, maximum concentrations in effluents from the two WWTPs receiving PMF discharge were as high as 3,800 ppb of metaxalone (a muscle relaxant), 1,700 ppb of oxycodone (an opioid prescribed for pain relief), greater than 400 ppb of methadone (an opioid prescribed for pain relief and drug withdrawal), 160 ppb of butalbital (a barbituate), and greater than 40 ppb of both phendimetrazine (a stimulant prescribed for obesity) and carisoprodol (a muscle relaxant).

The pharmaceuticals investigated in this study were identified using a forensic approach that identified pharmaceuticals present in samples and subsequently developed methods to quantify these pharmaceuticals at a wide range of concentrations. Additional pharmaceuticals, which may be formulated at these sites, also were identified as present in the effluents of these two WWTPs. Ongoing studies are documenting the levels at which these additional pharmaceuticals occur in the environment. Additional information is at <http://toxics.usgs.gov/highlights/PMFs.html>.

MEMORIAL
Francis T. "Bill" Schaefer
1913-2010

Francis T "Bill" Schaefer, former Delaware River Master for the U.S. Geological Survey, 50-year federal employee, and World War II veteran, died on September 15, 2010 of complications triggered by congestive heart failure. He was 97 years old. He passed away at his home in McLean, VA, where he had lived for the last 51 years.



Bill was born in Hamilton, MN on March 11, 1913 and grew up mainly in Shakopee, MN. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1934, with a BS in Civil Engineering and became a lifetime member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. His first professional job was surveying for oil and gas deposits in Louisiana for Gulf Oil. He began working for the USGS in 1937, and was assigned to Oklahoma City before World War II.

He was a long-time Naval Reservist, enlisting in early 1942, and retiring as a Lieutenant Commander in the mid-1960s. He was a member of the Seabees, the Navy's renowned on-shore engineering arm. During World War II he served in the South Pacific, in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, and Guam. When WW II started, he was already employed by the U.S. Government as a Hydraulic Engineer, a defined shortage category, and petitioned the Department of Interior to allow him to serve in the military. Bill was proud of his military service to his country.

Over the course of his career he also worked in Jackson, MS; Memphis, TN; Lincoln, NE; Louisville, KY; and Madison, WI, before moving to the Survey's Northeastern Regional headquarters in Northern Virginia in 1959. Bill was a renowned specialist on the flow of large rivers – the Mississippi and Delaware in particular. He served as the Assistant Regional Hydrologist for the Northeastern Region for 25 years. He also served as the Delaware River Master during the drought that decimated urban water supplies in the Northeast in the late 1970's. The position was created by a 1954 Supreme Court decree directing a federal master to oversee apportionment of water from the Delaware River Basin between New York City and the state of New Jersey. Bill retired from the USGS in 1987 after 50 years of service. Bill was known as a solid manager with a sly sense of humor. He labeled photos of his wedding day, July 1, 1936, as "Start of new fiscal year."

My first contact with Bill occurred in the late 1960s when I was invited to join the "Thanatopsis Poker Club." This group included such stalwarts from WRD headquarters as Joe Wells, Warren Hastings, John Adamson, Herb Swenson, Ben Benson, Roy Oltman and Orv Mussey. The group met monthly on the second Friday of the month, promptly at 8:00 PM, adjourning at 11:30 PM for sandwiches and coffee prepared by the host's wife. It was as a result of one of these sessions that I met Bill's charming wife, Margaret, who much to our delight always had special sandwiches for us. Wild poker games were not unusual, highlighted by Roy Oltman's favorite game, "Ma Ferguson."

Bill was pre-deceased by Margaret, his wife of 62 years. He is survived by sons Jim Schaefer of Arlington, VA; Fred Schaefer of Fairfield, CT; and daughters-in-law Peg Schaefer of Arlington, VA and Beth Schaefer of Fairfield, CT. His five grandchildren are Blake Schaefer (spouse, Erin Schaefer) of Broomfield, CO; Eliot Schaefer (spouse Jessica Schaefer) of Arlington, VA; Alexander Schaefer, currently on Peace Corps assignment in Kenya; Geoffrey Schaefer of Port Chester, NY; and Theodore Schaefer, a student at Syracuse University in New York. He has one great grandson, Mason Schaefer, of Broomfield, CO. He also has three step grandchildren.

His funeral service was on September 21, 2010 and was attended by many of his former USGS colleagues as well as family members and other friends. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

By Hal Langford

LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

WRD Retirees who worked in Grand Rapids, Minnesota held a lunch meetings in July. These folks worked in Grand Rapids during the 60s and 70s. Jerry Lindholm arranged the gathering.



L to R: (Seated) Jan Zirbel, Jim Zirbel and Greg Melhous; **(middle row)** Don Ericson, Jessie Ericson, Muffy Lindholm, Jerry Lindholm, Char Helgesen and John Helgesen; **(back)** Bill Gothard.

WRD Retiree Hydrologic Technician Scholarship Winners, 2010

First Place Winner



Travis Gibson, a student at GateWay Community College, Phoenix, was an intern in the Salt Lake City WRD office. He received \$3,000 from WRD Retirees. It was presented by Pat Lambert, Utah Water Science Director.

Second Place Winner



Michael Blumberg, from Vermillion Community in Ely, MN received \$2,000 from WRD Retirees. He interned in the Richmond, VA WRD office.

LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Ohio WRD Retirees had an October lunch meeting. Great turnout!



L to R Front: Millie Frum, Sandy Beck **Middle:** Jerry Stewart, Sandy Hindall, Dick Swisshelm, Paul and Joyce McClure, Steve Frum **Back:** Steve Hindall, Dean MacFadden, Bernie Sroka, Sandy Coen, Janet Welday

Indiana WRD Retirees at their October meeting. They will meet with the Indiana District for a Christmas party.



L to R: Sitting: Jerry Davis, Danny Renn, Jim Stewart, Gene Hammil, Paul Hayes, Mark Ayers, Jackie Ibsen, Lee Watson, Kim Greeman, Rich Duwelius **Standing:** Les Arihood, Rick & Sharon Goss, Jackie's daughter Brenda and wife Sandra

The New Mexico retirees had a July lunch meeting. All had a great time!



L to R: Back: Bobby Tribble, Barbara Hensen, Richard Lepp, Jack Veenhuis, Jerry Larson
Front: Patsy Grossman, Herb Grossman, Bobbie Cloud, Jim Culbertson, Kim Ong

LOCAL MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS

The Washington Retirees had a meeting this summer. The Pacific NW must be a great environment!



Left to Right: Mick Schurr, Dave Kresch, Karen Schurr, Jan Kresch, Thelma Laird, Les Laird, Patrice Carpenter, Chet Zenone (kneeling), Phil Carpenter, Norm Dion, Denny Cline, Madeleine Dion, Gil Bortleson, Marlene Bortleson

Minnesota WRD Retirees from the Twin Cities area at their recent breakfast meeting.



L: Front to back: Lan Tornes and Greg Stratton. **R: Front to back:** Mark Have, Charlie Cornelius, and Tom Winterstein. These MD WRD Retirees attended the Maryland District summer picnic.



L to R: Dan Phelan, Jim Gerhart, Nancy Gerhart, Jim Manning, Herb Freiburger

WRD Retiree Volunteers in Action

Building Houses for People in Need By George C. Gravlee (Retired USGS-WRD 1994)

Habitat for Humanity was started in 1976 by Millard Fuller who believed that every man, woman and child should have a simple, decent place to live in dignity and safety. Habitat for Humanity International is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action. Since it was started, Habitat has built over 350,000 houses world wide, completed over 5200 houses in the US in 2009, and was recently recognized as the 8th largest homebuilders in the United States. In 2005, after separating from Habitat, Fuller and his wife started another organization, The Fuller Center for Housing, based on the same goals as Habitat fore Humanity.

I started with the USGS in 1958 a few days after I graduated from high school, and spent the next 4 summers during college years building gaging stations in the mountains east of Sacramento, CA. Over my 34-year career, I worked in CA, PA, OH and NY. In 1993 my wife, Diane, and I were starting to think about what we might do after I retired. We felt we had been blessed with good health and an adequate income so we wanted to use our skills to help others. When we saw a notice that Habitat was looking for 125 volunteers from the mainland to go to Kauai, HI and help build 7 houses in 7 days we thought this might be something we should explore. The Island of Kauai had been devastated in 1992 by Hurricane Iniki and Habitat was helping with the rebuilding effort. We signed on and found that we enjoyed building, that it was a rewarding experience and that we really enjoyed the feeling of accomplishment & fellowship with the other volunteers. After we returned home to Albany, NY we got involved with the local Habitat affiliate. Soon after I retired I was asked to be the Project Chief for the Albany Habitat group. This seemed a reasonable part time task since they had only completed 1½ projects in the last 5 years. Five houses were completed in the next 30 months and this was no longer a part time job and I resigned.

In 1999 Diane and I bought a motorhome and became full time RVers. Both Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller Center have groups of traveling builders and we have worked with both groups. The Habitat group is called the Care-A-Vanners. Local affiliates that are short of volunteers and need extra hands for a project contact Habitat's main office and request a group of 4 to 10 RVs to come to their community for usually a 2-week period and help build. In the 1990s there would have been about 10 requests a year and 20 or 30 RVs that might consider helping. Now there are about 140 requests and 400 to 500 RVs that might answer the call. When we first became full time RVers we thought we would try to spend 30% of the year playing tourist, 30% visiting family and friends, and 40% helping build houses, which has worked well for us. In the 16 years since retirement we've help build homes in 41 states, worked on over 200 houses, and each averaged about 700 hours a year of volunteer work.

In the spring of 2005, we spent 3 weeks in Slidell, LA supervising college students who were spending their spring breaks helping build Habitat houses. Five months later these homes, which were built with their floors 1 ft above the projected 100 year flood level, received 18 inches of water over their floors as a result of Hurricane Katrina. In January 2006, we went back to Slidell and spent 10 weeks coordinating the work of volunteers that came down to help. These volunteers, like most of the Care-A-Vanners, were not from the trades but were teachers, clerks, lawyers, dentists, engineers, etc. that were willing to learn to do what ever was needed. When we left 5 families were back in their homes. We and many of the volunteers that worked with us came back to Slidell for 1 or 2 months in 2007 & 2008. In 2007 and 2009, we also helped prepare for 2 one week 20 house disaster rebuilds in Gulfport, MS and Cedar Rapids, IA. People occasionally ask why you would spend so much of your retirement time working instead of relaxing. For us it's for the kids of the families that benefit from the opportunity to buy and live in a safe, dry home of their own. And for the comments like –

- The homeowner in Kauai (a mother and 3 teenagers that had been living on a lean to on the beach for a year) crying and saying, "I can't believe that all these folks would come all this way to help me build a house for my family."
- The young child wandering proudly through a partially framed house and pointing out, "This is going to be my bedroom." Or the 3rd grader excitedly running to tell his mother, "The bathtub is here - the bathtub is here." He had no running water where they were now living!
- The proud home owner, when asked what she was doing up on a ladder, proudly replied, "I'm siding my house."
- An elderly husband commenting to his wife, "After 42 years we're finally going have a house of our own."
- The owner of the first house I supervised in Albany wrote a Christmas note that included, "I thought you'd like to know that Jimmy is going to graduate this spring from Western Connecticut State University with a BS in Business Administration."

We're no longer full time RVers. We bought a small house in Greenwood, SC, in 2005 and visit there about 2 or 3 months a year to see doctors and dentists. We are on the road 9 or 10 months a year and plan to continue this life style as long as our health holds out. Then we'll have to find some other way to give back.

WRD Retiree Volunteers in Action

Volunteering for Missouri River Activities is not for Wimps

By Don Jorgensen

I thought I had a few tough jobs in my assignments for WRD. But volunteer work associated with management of the Missouri River seems to give tough a new meaning. The national importance of the Missouri River and its basin to the country is obvious. I egotistically felt that my training in hydrology, geology, and civil engineering could be beneficial, thus, I naively became active in Missouri River affairs about 1998.

The Missouri River is managed for eight congressionally authorized purposes. The river is also being managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to try to preserve three endangered and threatened species. Flood control is the primary authorized purpose: flood control benefits average more than a billion dollars annually. The Missouri River is a large and ferocious river with a large resilience to change; however, the river has not been a match to the work of the U.S. Corps Engineers, as well as to numerous other Federal, state agencies, and private identities. Six main-stem dams (along with more than 5,000 small dams on tributaries) have harnessed the Missouri River. This, of course, has resulted in many positive changes and some negative changes.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declared that the decline of the piping plover, least tern and the pallid sturgeon to be the result of past management of the Missouri River by the Corps. Many management changes were cited as needed. The Service has given special emphasis to altering the present hydrograph to more closely match the historic 'natural' hydrograph. Recreating the June rise was stated to be essential. The fact that the historic June rise flooded the nests of the two bird species at exactly the time the birds were mating, nesting and rearing the pre-fledge chicks was ignored or obfuscated by much verbiage. The June rise is also said to be needed to cue the pallid sturgeon to spawn. This assertion was made with zero historic data. Even after many years of recent studies, no body of data exists to show that flooding cues the fish to spawn.

Nearly any topic about the river seems to be contentious; accordingly much wrangling ensues. Litigation, with little meaningful results, dominated the conflict for years. However, one very interesting and important clarification resulted from the litigation. It seems that Congresses' Endangered Species Act does not necessarily trump Congresses' directions in relation to the eight authorized purposes for the river. After decades of contentious meetings and litigation, the conflict has now largely shifted to a new arena. Principles of conflict resolution are now being used. A broad based identity called the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) is attempting to guide or direct 'recovery' efforts.

Decisions from this group require 100 % consensus. More than half the members are volunteers representing numerous interests. It takes days to make even a simple decision. (We seem to be largely following the principle: 'no topic is so simple that we can't make it impossible'.) However, progress is being made, but it is tough. Volunteering in Missouri River controversies is not for wimps.

MEMORIAL
Walter R. "Walt" Scott
1922-2009

Walter R. Scott, 87, died at his home in Providence, Utah, on March 21, 2009. He was born in Banning, California, and had a difficult childhood living with various family members. He "rode the rails" in the Great Depression looking for work. In 1940, he joined the U.S. Army and served throughout World War II. In September 1947, while attending Utah State University, Walt went to work for the Surface Water Branch of the WRD in Logan, Utah as an Engineering Aid WAE. After graduation in 1949 with a BS in Civil Engineering, he was converted to the position of Hydraulic Engineer and assigned to the Riverton, Wyoming Office and placed in charge of all surface water field work. In 1952, he was transferred to Kemmerer, Wyoming, as Engineer-in-charge of this field office.



Walt transferred to the Office of the Delaware River Master in Milford, Pennsylvania, in 1956. His duties included studies to determine the safe yield of New York City's reservoirs in the upper Delaware basin, using rainfall-runoff relationships, to maintain minimum flow in the lower river. In 1960, Walt moved to Spokane, Washington, as Engineer-in-charge of the sub-district office responsible for all surface water investigations in eastern Washington. He supervised a research study of the vertical velocity curves and velocity distribution in the cross section in the Columbia River. He was also a member of the inter-agency group to rate the turbines in hydropower plants on the Columbia River.

Following the reorganization of the Washington District, Walt moved to the Tacoma District Office in 1965 to become the Assistant District Chief - Programs and Plans with responsibility for cooperator relationships, new program development, and long range plans for the district. In 1973, he became the Assistant District Chief in New York, which included oversight of all of the District functions in support of the District Chief.

In 1974, Walt was selected to be the District Chief in North Dakota. Over the next three years, with an emphasis on energy problems the District budget almost doubled. He also served as Chairman of the Yellowstone River Compact Commission, a tri-state compact between Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota. In addition, he served as Department of Interior representative to the Souris-Red-Rainy Regional Committee of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission.

Walt retired in October 1978, completing a career of over 30 years with the Geological Survey. Not willing to rest on his laurels, Walt became a water commissioner for several water districts in Utah and Wyoming. He was also very active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints occupying many positions of service and leadership. In 1967, he was honored to be ordained a bishop in the LDS Church.

Walt is survived by Floy, his wife of 63 years, sons Jim and Dennis, daughters Jean and Mary, 15 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren!

By Les Laird

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Maxine Clark, 84, of Cheyenne, WY, died October 3, 2010, at Mountain Tower Healthcare. She was born December 17, 1925 in Cheyenne and lived in Cheyenne all of her life. Mrs. Clark was a member of the Red Hat Club and the Birthday Club of Cheyenne for 50 years. She worked for the U.S. Geological Survey until her retirement. Helen served WRD from 1962 until her retirement in 1983 as an Administrative Assistant. Mrs. Clark was Cheyenne's first police woman in 1955. She is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Robert "Bob" and Nancy Lee and Jack and Tina Lee; one daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Reid Fletcher.; one brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Bessie Adams; 16 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ivan in 2000, whom she married in 1967.

James L. "Jim" Hatchett, 83, of Shenandoah Junction, VA, died Saturday, August 14, 2010, at his home. Born November 20, 1926 in Kenton, OH, Jim was a veteran of World War II serving with the U.S. Army Air Corp. He was a graduate of the University of New Mexico (1947-1950) where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, and was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. Prior to this, he was a student of the University of Dayton (1944) and Indiana University (1945), School of Military Science, while serving as an aviation cadet. He also attended Stanford University (1957-1958) where he studied atomic physics while employed for the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) in Stanford, CA. He was also a member of the American Chemical Society, American Water Works Association, and Shepherdstown Men's Club. He was a member of Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church where he served as Usher Emeritus, Elder and one of the founders of the "Lunch Bunch." Jim's WRD career began in Arizona in 1950, transferring to Bismarck, ND in 1963. He joined the Planning Section in HQ in 1967, retiring in 1987. Jim is survived by five children, John Hatchett, Kenneth Derrenbacker, Lisa Derrenbacker, David Hatchett, and Cindy Peterson; four grandchildren, Jessica, Geoffrey and Timothy Hatchett, and Evan Peterson. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ada Evans Hatchett; also, a WRD Retiree.

Evelyn A. Johanson, age 85, passed away with her family by her side on April 14, 2010, in Tacoma, WA. She lived a full and happy life with her family, friends, and her faith. Evelyn loved dancing, music, being kind to others, and musicals. Evelyn was born on June 8, 1924. She was a proud graduate of Stadium High School, class of 1942. She met the love of her life, John L. Johanson, at a box social while attending the University of Washington. They were married and settled in Tacoma, where they raised four children. The Johansons were among the founding members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows. After spending years raising her kids, she began careers at both the University of Puget Sound and U.S. Geological Survey. Evelyn was a proud member of the Daughters of Norway and enjoyed volunteering at Tacoma General Hospital. She continued to be a loyal member of the St. Mark's congregation. Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband John L. Johanson. She is survived by three children: Larry, Jenny and Sandi and her grandchildren.

Gordon E. Lokke died on September 22, 2010, at the age of 85. He was born in Fargo, ND, and graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in electrical engineering. He served in the Navy in WWII. He retired with 30 years of service with the U.S. Geological Survey, serving as a Hydrologic Technician in Boise and Sacramento. Gordon was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church. He was also a member of the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association, European Train Enthusiasts, Sons of Norway, and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. He had a lifelong commitment to many organizations that furthered peace and social justice. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Gwen; his 4 children: Janet, John (Shar), Anne, and Brad, and grandchildren, Adam, Matt, Emily, and Ashley.

IN MEMORIAM

Merlin V. “Mel” Marcher, 81, passed away on October 5, 2010. Mel grew up in Centerville, MO, and received a BS in Geology from the University of Missouri. He began his USGS career in 1954 in the Memphis GW office. In 1956, he transferred to Nashville to initiate a project to map the Highland Rim Geologic Province. He transferred to Anchorage in 1963 as Geologist-in-Charge of the Alaska Ground Water Program. Mel moved to the Oklahoma District in 1965 to prepare a hydrologic atlas for the state. In 1970, he became the Chief, Hydrologic Studies Section of the OK district. Mel retired in 1984 after 30 years of service. He was preceded in death by his wife Jeanne in 2006. He is survived by his children: a son, Clinton and a daughter Sonya Purvis.

Virginia Morris, 64, passed away on December 19, 2009, in Jackson, MS. A native of Minter City, MS, she had lived in Jackson most of her adult life. She was a member of Christ Church United Methodist Church. She is survived by her husband, Fred Morris III; son Fred; daughter, Virginia Glenn Hengst and three grandchildren. Fred, a WRD Retiree, began his USGS career in Little Rock as a Hydrologic Technician in 1963. He transferred to the Jonesboro, LA field office in 1967 and to Jackson, MS in 1971, retiring in 2006.

Richard L. “Rich” Mulks, died unexpectedly on December 18, 2008, at the Cayuga, NY Medical Center. He was 59. A native of Ithaca, NY, Rich graduated from Ithaca High School in 1967 and worked for the USGS for 38 years, retiring in 2005. He began his WRD career as an Engineering Aid in Ithaca in 1967 and was converted to a Hydraulic Engineering Aid in 1968. Since his retirement he spent his time pursuing the love of the outdoors, spending time with his grandson, Tyler Wead, ice skating and following hockey and NASCAR. Rich was a volunteer paramedic, fire fighter and Director of Lansing Ambulance. Most recently he had driven a van for Lansing Senior Citizens, taking folks to the grocery store and to medical appointments. He is survived by Debra, his wife of 33 years, daughters Terri Mulks, Kristi Wead, and Kimberly Smith, and his mother, Eleanor.

Lloyd A. Wagner, age 74, died September 26, 2010, in the hospital in Hudson, NY. A Gloversville, NY native Lloyd began his USGS career as a Hydrologic Technician in Ithaca, NY, in 1957. He served as a Technician in the New York District for 37 years until his retirement in 1994. Lloyd was an avid gardener and coin collector. He was an active Free Mason and a member of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Valatie, NY. He also served on the Board of Directors for Woodlawn Cemetery.

Thomas C. “Tom” Winter died at his home on October 15, 2010. Although retired from USGS in 2007, Tom never left his USGS home and continued to actively pursue research on lake and wetland hydrology and groundwater-surface-water exchange. Tom was born and raised in West St. Paul, MN. After receiving BS and MS degrees in geology at the University of Minnesota in 1958 and 1961, Tom began his career with part-time employment with USGS and the University of Minnesota Limnological Research Center. After serving as Minnesota assistant district chief, Tom returned to graduate school at the University of Minnesota to study hydrogeology and the effect of groundwater on lake hydrology. Just prior to finishing his PhD, Tom obtained what he considered to be the best possible position with USGS, working as a research hydrologist with the National Research Program. Moving to Denver and the mountains of Colorado was icing on the cake. Over the next 30 years, Tom worked on lake and wetland hydrology, and groundwater-surface-water exchange. Tom was a fellow of both the Geological Society of America and the Society of Wetland Scientists and a member of the American Geophysical Union and National Ground Water Association.

“Just Enough Breeze”

By Don Kelly, WRD Retiree

Just enough breezes to stir the upper reaches of the tall oaks and get them fighting among themselves. A gentle fight, a half-hearted pillow fight, a sparring of outer branch against outer branch, red oak against white, trying to establish territory and breathing room. Isn't that what all pillow fights are about?

Sixty feet up the breeze was strong enough to stir the oaks, but nothing stirred down here at people level. Officially autumn, yet the day filled with a most un-autumnal heat. The only breeze came from the wings of the hummingbirds fighting over the freshly filled sugar feeders. Why did they fight so much? Was it a constant sugar high? Why couldn't they stir more fresh breezes to cool my extended dog days body?

Maybe we had gotten our allotted share of autumn breezes the night before at the outdoor concert. I don't know how the organizers did it, but just as the concert began, a gentle breeze came across the park and the sun finally began to sink behind the trees. Our park bench was in shade at last and the heat began to sink with the sun, or at least promised to.

Sometimes just enough of a breeze blew to be an ill wind that let us know that all was not well in the direction of the restrooms. True, we sat on the bench nearest the restrooms, the one that faced the restroom door if one were so inclined to face. Instead, we turned to watch the concert and listen to the Blue Rhythm Boys open by singing “Sweet Sue” and creating a sweet swinging breeze of their own.

Sweet Sue. Good name for a restroom deodorant. Ahh, how the mind can wander in and out of the background music. Like a sailing ship pushed along by an ocean wind, the mind needs just a little musical breeze to carry it to unknown ports and strange exotic shores.

Don't know why we don't go to more concerts. Good music, good people watching. Why did the man with the biggest pot belly always wear the tightest, thinnest tee-shirt?

Why did that trim young woman jog past the concert crowd at least six times in 20 minutes? Was she stubbornly keeping to her schedule of six times around the park, crowd or no crowd? Or did she just enjoy having an audience? I asked my wife.

“What trim young woman?” she said. Then I remembered that people watching is sometimes best played alone.

“Ahh, that breeze feels good,” I said, hoping there was just enough breeze to change the subject.

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Loskot, Carole (04) -- correct spelling of first name
Lumpkin, Larry J (08) 573-759-7935 – phone
Maloney, Thomas J (08)(Jeanine) 303-279-8004 – phone
May, Jayne (10) – conversion from affiliate
McClain, Dennis (08) dennis.mcclain@insightbb.com – email
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Shaw, Aubrey A (08) (Sandra) 228-388-2248, alleyoopshaw@cableone.net – add spouse, phone, email.
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Sorenson, Stephen K (04) (Jo Anne) josteve@verizon.net – add spouse, email
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Steinkampf, William C (08) 520-320-1918, bsteinkampf@gmail.com – phone, email

DIRECTORY CHANGES (continued)

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Vaughn, Edward C (08) 504-645-0877 – phone
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Zynjuk, George L (08) 410-643-0255 – phone

NEW MEMBERS

Case, Carol (10) (Bill) 10885 W Beloit Pl, Lakewood CO 80227, 303-980-9793, hubcase@comcast.net
Miller, Glenn () (Charlotte) 2264 Willow Wood Rd, Grand Junction CO 81507, 970-208-4586
Stewart, Marty (10) 651 Kiowa St, Flagstaff AZ 86001, MsMartyStewart@gmail.com, 928-853-5510

TREASURER' S REPORT, THIRD QUARTER 2010

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$15,789.03 in its treasury at the end of the third quarter for calendar year 2010. Receipts for the quarter were \$1,560.45 from dues and contributions from 48 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$5,691.36, including the costs for the printing of WRD Retirees Newsletter No.148 and the 2010 Hydrologic Technician Scholarship Awards for two recipients. During the quarter, a total of \$550.00 in contributions was received from 23 members.

Special thanks for contributions above dues go to: Mrs. Sam West, Harold Guy, Anne Bissett, Mrs. James "Joan" Cook, Frederick Meyer, Derrill Cowing, William M. Kirby, Joseph D. Camp, David Morgan, Anna M. Lenox, Marjorie Martin, Loren E. Young, Richard McCullough, Bert Thomsen, Eugene Patten, Mary J. Dunn, A.H. Ludwig, C. Albert Harr, Robert Brennan, Alan L. Messmore, Melvin "Doug" Edwards, George A. Irwin, and Georgina De Pineiro.

Do I owe WRD Retirees dues for 2011?

You will be notified of your dues status depending on how you receive your Newsletter. About half of the members receive their copy by U.S. Mail, and the other half electronically. If you receive a paper copy of the Newsletter by U.S. Mail, there is a number in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label on the envelope. This number is the last year you paid dues. If the number is 2010, then you owe dues for 2011; if the number is 2009, then you owe dues for two years (2010 and 2011). If you receive your Newsletter electronically you will receive an email message from our Secretary describing the status of your dues.

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