

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS
WRD Retirees' Reunion Banquet
October 4, 2014
Tim Smith

Good evening. I am Tim Smith, the President of the WRD Retirees for 2014-2015. I want to thank all of you for attending the reunion this year, and I hope you have been enjoying your time here, and have had a chance to see some of the beautiful aspects of the area.

Some others who deserve our sincere thanks are Keith Robinson, the New England Water Science Center Director. The Local Arrangements Committee has worked hard to make this an enjoyable experience for all of us. I would like to mention Derrill and Mary Jean Cowing, Bill Bartlett, Lee Lenfest, Rick Fontaine, Marion Fisher, Walton Low, Carolyn and Alan Lumb, and Doug Posson.

Pat Hammond should also be recognized for doing a great job on our name tags for this reunion, from her home in Arizona.

Also thanks to my fellow officers for all the work they do behind the scenes, to make our group successful.

This year you may know that we were able to award two intern scholarships, thanks to the tireless efforts of Jim Blakey and Jim Kircher. I will return to this topic presently to read to you a really wonderful thank you letter that we received.

We have been working hard to find a new editor for the newsletter, since Charles Nethaway had to drop out because of serious illness. We wish him all good luck for the future, and will continue to look for a replacement. So far we issued some invitations, but so far no takers. In the meantime I want to thank Andy Anderson and especially Merilee Bennett for stepping in to keep things running. Without them there would be no newsletter.

For the future, I want to mention that we plan to have the 2016 reunion in Nashville, Tennessee. Many thanks to Pete Antilla for heading up the local arrangements committee for that meeting. He will need help from members living close to Nashville, so please help him if requested. The committee is an essential part of success for any reunion.

We have done well during this year, and have been able to support the scholarships I mentioned before, plus the normal costs of printing and distributing the newsletter and directory. I am told that the current bank balance is \$19,056 thanks in part to voluntary contributions from many of you. This reflects the disbursement of \$8000 for intern scholarships. We try to publish the current bank data in each newsletter, so you can see what's going on.

Turning to future challenges, we know that the average age of our members continues to increase. One thing that means is that we have to recruit new members. This is harder now because of Privacy Act restrictions within Human Resources. One thing I hope to do is find ways to recruit new members as affiliates, while they are still employed at the Survey. Then they can carry the membership with them into retirement. Ideas about how to do this are most welcome.

In parallel, a newer and younger membership will have different interests, so I am thinking about how to evolve the content of the newsletter and web site to attract such new members. My own

preference is to include more articles on science, and from the Water Science Center Directors. Please let me know if you come up with further notions that would promote this process. What exactly should we emphasize?

Finally, I want to share with you part of a letter we received from Carl Turner, who received one of our intern scholarships this year. If you listen to what he says, you can see why this is such a good thing to do.

“I will be starting my second year at Vermilion (community college) coming up in a couple of weeks in order to complete my Watershed management A.S. and Water Quality A.A.S. degrees. I will then transfer to the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point to finish off with a degree in Hydrology. I chose these fields over a lot of the other ones that I really liked because I have always been fascinated with water and all of the things that live in and around it.

“Currently I am about to finish being a Hydrology Student at the Georgia Water Science Center and about to try and find a job while I am back in college. I have learned a lot in the two and a half months being with the geological survey. A few things to mention as my favorites would have to include bacteria sampling, levels, and gage installs. The things I have learned I know I will use in the future as work for the geological survey.

“The WRD Retirees scholarship is going to help me a lot with being able to afford to go to college this fall. It will not only help while I am in college but also when I finish my degree. If I am able to concentrate less on paying off my debt I will be able to put a lot more effort into helping the environment. Thank you once again for choosing me to accept this incredible offer.”

As I said, a good thing to do...

Thank you.

2014 Portland WRD Reunion Attendees

Dan and Charlotte Ackerman	Rick and Sharon Goss	Mark Sweny
Andy and Mary Anderson	Dave Grason	Dick and Sheri Swisshelm
Peter and Joyce Anttila	Tim and Katie Hale	Judy Thompson and
David and Alice Appel	Bob and Pat Hammond	Ernest Meeder
Jeff and Laurel Armbruster	Bill and Marian Herb	Ruth Thornberg and
Gary and Delores Balding	Steve and Sandy Hindall	Terry Duhaney
Bill Bartlett	Richard Hollway and	Susan Trapanese
Tom and Dorothy Bast	Nancy Kurkinen	Pat Tucci and Zelda Bailey
Paul Beauchemin	Julia and Steve Huff	Don and Carolyn Vaupel
Jim and Merilee Bennett	Ivan and Sara James	Daphne Wahl
Ronnie and Sam Best	Herb Johnston	Pat Walker
Joyce Biesecker	Gail Kalen	Janice Ward
Jim and Paula Blakey	Darwin and Linda Knochenmus	Jack and Judy Weeks
Merritt and Mindy Blalock	Tom and Jo Kraemer	C.T. Welborn
Bill and Shirley Boning	Jim Kratz and Barbara Bengston	Tom and Jeannie Yorke
Pat and Dolores Borland	Hal Langford	Chet and Merrilee Zenone
Candice Bostwick	Lee Lenfest and Leah Sprague	
Richard Bow	Ken and Judy Lindskov	
John Briggs	Lari Lopp	
Bob Burchett	Walton Low and Marion Fisher	
Tony and Jane Cannarsa	Alan and Carolyn Lumb	
Bill and Linda Carswell	Chip and Elaine Marshall	
Lee Case	Leslie and Peter Martin	
Pat Clark	Pat McAlwee	
Dave and Laurel Click	Harry McWreath and	
Derrill and Mary Jean Cowing	Susan Aragon-Long	
Jim Crompton	David and Jeanne Moody	
Patty Damon	Joe and Kay Moreland	
Virginia DeLima	Cheryl and Michael Music	
Isabelle des Fontaines	Kim Ong	
Glenn Doonan	Doug Posson	
Sandy and Jerry Duncan	Kim Rogers	
Jerry Feese and	Paul Rohne and	
Robilea Swindell	Rea Wiruscheske	
Jack and Maria Fischer	Lorna Schmid and David Boldt	
Dan and Betty Fitzpatrick	John and Mary Scott	
Rick Fontaine	Darryl Serio	
Herb and Pat Freiburger	Marv and Rosann Sherrill	
George Garklavs and	John and Micki Singer	
Donna Lambert	Tim and Ellen Smith	
Doug and Erin Glysson	Steve and Jo Anne Sorenson	
Carl and Bettye Goodwin	Gloria Stiltner	

17th WRD REUNION – PORTLAND, ME



Casco Bay Ferry



Derrill Cowing “be on time for the ferry or I will eat your lobster”



Beer Crawl in Old Port

Clockwise: Derrill Cowing, Bill Bartlett, Janice Ward, Dave Grason, and Walton Low

17th WRD REUNION – PORTLAND, ME



Keith Robinson addressing the Friday morning 'business meeting'



Conway Scenic Railway, New Hampshire



150 lobsters cooked at one time

17th WRD REUNION – PORTLAND, ME



Attendees around picnic tables at Lobster Bake



Conway Scenic Railway train station

August 24, 2014

USGS Water Retirees Association
Hydrologic Technician Scholarship

Dear Tim Smith,

This letter is to express my gratitude to you and all the members of the USGS Water Retirees Association for not only making this scholarship available, but for selecting me as an honored recipient. Words cannot begin to express the true joy and appreciation I have felt along side with my family since I received the notification.

Working towards a major in Environmental Engineering provides a variety of challenges in which I have to overcome. Part of the reason I choose this path is because I felt it gave me the opportunity to use my full potential and give something back to my community. Working to overcome the financial burdens of college was something I was willing to face head-on because of the importance of this field of study and what it can do for others. This scholarship is a major help in allowing me to focus on the future and what I have to do academically to succeed.

Thus far my time with the USGS has provided me with ample opportunity to learn the applications of my education and apply them in a way that makes a positive impact on my community. I could not be happier with my decision to work alongside such amazing people and I look forward to staying with the USGS in the future.

Thank you again for your investment in my future. I am extremely appreciative of your support in my educational goals. It is my hope that I can pay forward this generous act in a way that will make a lasting impression on someone as you have done for me today.

Sincerely,



Adam Mastalir
335 Second Street
Brooklyn, WI 53521

8/15/2014

6625 22nd Street N
Oakdale MN 55128

(651) 341-0363

Carlturner23@hotmail.com

Dear WRD Retirees

My name is Carl Turner and I was the recipient of one of the WRD Retirees scholarships this year. I was born in Woodbury MN and moved to Oakdale MN when I was 4 and have lived in the same house since. I have a lot of hobbies including camping, hiking, 4 wheeling, fishing, and hunting. I am now currently enrolled at Vermilion Community college in Ely MN. I chose to attend Vermilion Community College due to them having a large variety of classes that involve the environmental Sciences. Natural resources have been a fascination of mine ever since I was a little kid and has grown to the point that I now want a college degree in the field. As a Boy Scout and Eagle Scout I have learned a lot about nature and have spent 100s of nights camping. This has taught me the importance of preserving our natural resources. Being chosen to receive the WRD Retirees scholarship is going to help me achieve what I have always wanted to do, and that is preserving what I love and grew up watching and observing.

I will be starting my second year at Vermilion coming up in a couple of weeks in order to complete my Watershed management A.S. and Water Quality A.A.S. degrees. I will then transfer to the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point to finish off with a degree in Hydrology. I chose these fields over a lot of the other ones that I really liked because I have always been fascinated with water and all of the things that live in and around it.

Currently I am about to finish being a Hydrology Student at the Georgia Water Science Center and about to try and find a job while I am back in college. I have learned a lot in the two and a half months being with the geological survey. A few things to mention as my favorites would have to include bacteria sampling, levels, and gage installs. The things I have learned I know I will use in the future as a work for the geological survey.

The WRD Retirees scholarship is going to help me a lot with being able to afford to go to college this fall. It will not only help while I am in college but also when I finish my degree. If I am able to concentrate less on paying off my debt I will be able to put a lot more effort into helping the environment. Thank you once again for choosing me to accept this incredible offer.

Carl Turner