

# FWS Retirees Association NEWSLETTER



Fall (September) 2022

## 2022 Board of Directors

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## Board Business



**Message from the Chair.** It was a real treat to see the retirees and guests who attended the Reunion in South Dakota this summer! There's a summary of this event later in this newsletter. Looking back on the June event, it was the last time that I saw **Jerry Grover**. This newsletter also provides a summary of the life and times of Jerry, passing away at his home on August 13, 2022. I'd like to take this opportunity to pay tribute (and dedicate this newsletter) to the memory of Jerry. In 1998, Jerry and his wife Judy were founding members (with the

Holland's and French's) of the Association of Retired Fish and Wildlife Service Employees (Association or FWSRA), and he served on its Board of Directors until his passing. I'll go out on a limb and say that no one in the Association has worked harder to keep the Association going. Here are just a few noteworthy accomplishments: Establishment of its status as a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, Board Chair (2002-2006), participating in nearly all of the monthly conference calls, planning and attending all of the 19 Reunions. What a legacy, and high bar, that Jerry leaves for the rest of us. It was an honor for me to attend the Life Celebration open house, hosted by Judy at their home in Tigard, Oregon. Two families were in attendance...the Grover family

and the FWS family. Eldest son Jeff concluded the Celebration by playing *Taps* on his military bugle. Flawless, befitting, memorable. *Cindy Uptegraft Barry, Chair*

## We had a great 2022 Retirees Reunion in South

**Dakota!** Over 80 people, including 50 retirees and spouses/partners, two guests and numerous current Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS or Service) employees, attended the Association's 19<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Spearfish and Deadwood, South Dakota, June 20-24. The reunion was held in conjunction with the FWS's Broodstock and History committees which held meetings that week. The choice of location for the reunion this year recognized that 2022 was the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery (NFH) and Archives in Spearfish, as well as the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NFH System.

The reunion started with the Greenwalt Walk for Wildlife, in honor of former Service Director Lynn Greenwalt. Led by Board member Lew Gorman, the hikers ascended the Mt. Roosevelt summit (0.5-mile hike) and viewed the Black Hills from the Mt. Roosevelt Friendship Tower. The Walk for Wildlife, which raises money each reunion for nearby friends' groups, raised \$245 for the Booth Society (the DC Booth Friends Group). The society is using the money for signage on the hatchery grounds.

Association Board Chair Cindy Barry and Board members updated the group on some of the accomplishments of the Association. Board member Lew Gorman talked about Association outreach efforts and solicited ideas from membership. Board member Steve Rideout told us about Craig Brook NFH and the role of Charles Aikin in Atlantic Salmon restoration. A day and a half of presentations from the Service and other partners covered a variety of topics. A highlight was presentations from

*In Memoriam – Jerry C. Grover – 1936-2022*

the Service's Director Martha Williams and Region 6 Regional Director (RD) Matt Hogan and staff on priorities and important issues. It is good to know that the Service is in good hands. We also learned about the Service's History Committee and the National Eagle and Wildlife Repository.

Several partner organizations also talked about some of their work. We heard from Ducks Unlimited, the National Wildlife Refuge Association and the Service's Experienced Services Program. Retiree advocates, the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees and the American Association of Retired Employees, informed us about retirement legislation, policy and benefits and how to avoid fraud and scams, respectively.

The program portion of the reunion was closed out by a surprise phone call! Lynn Greenwalt, former Director and Service legend inspired the group for a few minutes. He had planned to attend in person like he always does but was happy to be there with us on the phone.

We toured the DC Booth Historic NFH and Archives one afternoon and learned about the historic rail car and the items in the archives. When they saw all the items in the archives, a lot of the retired "fish heads" were reminiscing about their days with the Service. That was followed up by an evening barbeque and live music at a nearby park.



Thursday was a free day, but most attendees opted to take a bus trip to Mt. Rushmore National Memorial—a glorious tribute to four past presidents. On the way we stopped at Bear Butte State Park, a Native American Heritage site, where Park Manager Jim Jandreau, a Lakota tribal member, passionately talked about the cultural significance of Bear Butte and the park.

The banquet on the last night featured a special appearance and performance by Mr. D.C. Booth, featuring Max G Merchen, a Spearfish, South Dakota resident and community theater actor. Board Chair, Cindy Barry, formally recognized Life Members of the Association. The 2021 History Committee Award was presented to Board Member Jerry Grover, and Craig Springer received the 2022 History Committee Award. Dale Bast was honored as the 2022 inductee into the American Fisheries Society's Fish Culture Hall of Fame.

Special thanks to Ducks Unlimited for their generous support of the reunion and to the staff of DC Booth Historic NFH and Archives and the Booth Society for their hospitality and enthusiasm. Please see Page 19 of this newsletter for a group photo and roster of the retiree attendees and guests. *Nancy Gloman*

### **And Now, Start Getting Ready for the Next**

**Reunion at NCTC!** It was enthusiastically decided at our Reunion in SD that the next one should be held at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV. We're currently planning for the week of October 8-14, 2023, although those dates are still pending confirmation of room availability by NCTC. We'll provide more details in future newsletters and posted on our website at <http://www.fwsretirees.org/PastReunions/UpcomingReunion.html> as planning proceeds.

**Election for 2023 Board of Directors.** Each year, the terms of three members of the Association's Board of Directors expire and we must have an active Board to keep this Association running. This year, terms will expire for Nancy Gloman, Lew Gorman, and Robin West. While Lew will be running for re-election, both Nancy and Robin have decided not to run for another term. In addition, Steve Rideout has decided to depart from the Board at the end of 2022, and we'll need to fill his unexpired term as well. This is the opportunity for those of you interested in being active and influential in the Association to throw your hats into the ring. The criteria for candidacy are experience, competence, ability, and dedication to the purposes and goals of the Association. Candidates must be able to conduct Association business by phone and electronic mail. Board members participate in monthly video/audio conference calls with other duties of individual Board members through the year being determined by their roles on the Board.

Every dues-paying member can run for one of these four seats or nominate someone else to run. Once a slate of candidates has been identified, every member **who is current with their dues** can vote for the candidates of their choice to serve on the Board. Elected Board members take their seats in January. The election process begins with making sure your membership dues are current, which means that your dues for 2022 are paid by October 15, 2022. If you can't remember whether you are current with your dues, you can go to [http://www.fwsretirees.org/Documents/FWS-Retirees-Paid\\_current.pdf](http://www.fwsretirees.org/Documents/FWS-Retirees-Paid_current.pdf) to determine your dues status. If that link doesn't work go to [www.fwsretirees.org](http://www.fwsretirees.org), and in the first article on that page click on "Membership List and Dues Status". If that

still doesn't work for you, you can contact our Database Manager, Marc Epstein ([membership@fwsretirees.org](mailto:membership@fwsretirees.org) or 843-813-0163) for the information.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, please let us know directly at [secretary@fwsretirees.org](mailto:secretary@fwsretirees.org). Or if you know of someone else you believe would make a good Board member, please confirm their interest before submitting their name for consideration. To make the ballot, each candidate's name, a biographical summary (in Microsoft Word format), and an optional photo (in JPEG format) must be submitted by October 20 to [secretary@fwsretirees.org](mailto:secretary@fwsretirees.org) or by phone 602-796-0769. When a slate of candidates has been identified, the names and bios of all qualified candidates will be mailed to members without an email address before November 1, and on-line election ballots will be launched by November 1 with an e-mail message to all members whose dues are current. The voting period will be open November 1-22, 2022. Every active dues-paying member can vote for candidates of their choice, and voter returns will be accepted through November 22. *Denise Baker, Secretary*

**Treasurer's Report.** As of August 31, we had received \$3,775 in regular dues (of a projected \$5,500 by year's end). However, we had already received \$2,000 in Lifetime memberships (four), and we had only projected two for the year. In addition, we had received \$144.38 in miscellaneous and donated funds. Thus, total income by the end of August was \$5,919.38, just \$580.62 shy of our projected total income for the year. We usually get some significant dues payments following this newsletter and the anticipation of voting for our slate of nominees. Thus, I feel confident that we will easily surpass our total expected income and close the gap on hoped-for regular dues.

We budgeted \$6,500 for all expenses but have only needed \$2,342.63 so far. Reunion expenses did exceed income for by \$2,027.46 (see details below) and have covered the shortfall from our base funds. As you will note, slightly over \$1,500 of this was anticipated. Even with that, our current total expenses are less than our income to date. Our Main Checking Account has a balance of \$20,548.29 with all outstanding reunion bills paid.

The reunion generated \$11,283.00 in income, including a generous \$3,000 donation from Ducks Unlimited. Reunion expenses totaled \$13,310.46 resulting in an overage of \$2,027.46, as noted above. Of that total, \$1,520.00 resulted from a Board decision to hire professional IT support knowing that significant portions of the program would be provided virtually, and FWS IT support was not reasonably available for the challenges we expected. Participants were pleased with the program and its production confirming the decision to get professional assistance was sound. When we made that decision, we had already set the registration fee and did not wish to change it given that attendees were facing significant travel costs to attend.

The Association manages two grants, Heritage (now History) and Youth/Career Conservation, both from the FWS. Both are in their final year based on the original applications and the last annual funding to both being received in 2019. Then COVID-19 happened. Long story short, we have only recently expended significant portions of available funds in each. Our History Grant

has a remaining balance of \$13,983.22 and the Youth Grant \$24,287.25, and these will not be expended before our original completion date of September 30 this year. We applied for no cost extensions for both, and they have been granted. Our Grant Checking Account (supporting both) is \$30,670.48 and both have substantial funds remaining that we can now draw on well into next year.

In summary, our financial condition is sound, and we can now see our grant projects moving forward as we had anticipated. *Steve Rideout, Treasurer*

## Membership

**New Life Member.** Congratulations and a big "Thank You" to **Bob Stevens**, as our newest Life Member. Bob retired in 2002 from Region 7 and was working in Migratory Birds. *Deborah Holle*

**Thank You Sustaining Members!** We appreciate our sustaining and new members of the Retirees Association! Without your continued support through joining or renewing your memberships we wouldn't have reunions, travel opportunities with other FWS retirees, funds for field station projects, and an easy way to keep in touch with our former colleagues and friends in the FWS. Thank you for your support!

The following folks either joined or paid their dues during June - August 2022. We welcomed 10 new Regular Members, 1 new Life Member, and 19 members paid their dues.

- **ANDRES**, CPT Gary M. (Sharon), Hadley, MA, Retired 2017, R5, RO Refuges & Wildlife, Chief of Law Enforcement – NE Region – **New Member**
- **BEANARD**, Matthew (Linda), Pierre, SD, Retired 2002, R6, RO, Fisheries
- **BEARDMORE**, Carol, Phoenix, AZ. Retired 2017, R2, RO, Migratory Birds–Sonoran Joint Venture – **New Member**
- **BLOOM**, E. Clark (Lois), Hereford, KA, Retired 2000, R8, Refuges & Wildlife, Salton Sea NWR Complex
- **BROWN**, John T. (Patricia), Johnson City, TN, Retired 1995, R9, Administration, Fisheries & Federal Aid
- **BROWN**, Patricia (John), Johnson City, TN, Retired 1994, R4, RO, Budget & Finance
- **GILBERTSON**, Nancy (Tom Prall), Oro Valley, AZ, Retired 2011, R3, Refuges & Wildlife, Neal Smith (Walnut Creek) NWR
- **GRANILLO**, Kathy (Luis), Los Luna, NM, Retired 2021, R2, Refuges & Wildlife, Sevilleta NWR – **New Member**



- **HANLEY**, Alice, Cheney, WA, Retired 2021, R1, Refuges & Wildlife, Inland Northwest NWR Complex – **New Member**
- **KARMAN**, Shirley, Charlotte, NC, Retired 2016, R3, RO, Refuges & Wildlife, Division of Realty
- **KOPP**, Tanner, Martinsburg, WV, Retired 2016, R9, NCTC, Administration
- **KNUDSEN**, Brad (Ann) Crofton, MD, Retired 2019, R5, Refuges & Wildlife, Patuxent Research NWR – **New Member**
- **LANGELIER**, Lise (Bruce Kessler) Cheney, WA, Retired 2013, R1, Refuges & Wildlife, Inland Northwest NWR Complex – Turnbull NWR
- **LEINECKE**, Jerry F, New Athens, IL Retired 2009, R1, RO, Refuges & Wildlife
- **LINDELL**, John (Bev Nycklemoe), Bayfield, WI, Retired 2005, R3, Refuges & Wildlife, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
- **NELSON**, Peggy, Burnsville, MN, Retired 2007, R3, RO, Diversity & Civil Rights, Diversity
- **PARISI**, Maria, Shepherdstown, WV, Not Retired, R9, NCTC, History & Partnerships Branch
- **PAULLIN**, Dave (Cathy), Sheridan, WY, Retired 2005, R8/CA-NV, Refuges & Wildlife, Sacramento, CA
- **PERRY**, Matthew, Michellville, MD, Retired 2011, Refuges & Wildlife, Patuxent Research Refuge
- **POOLE**, Ann Post (Matt), South Berwick, ME, Retired 2016, R9/5, NCTC, Conservation Library
- **POS**, Robert, Westerly, RI, Retired 2021, R9, Fish & Aquatic Conservation, Falls Church, VA – **New Member**
- **PRIOR**, Tim (Ann Marie), Plymouth, MA, Retired 2005, R5, Refuges & Wildlife, Eastern Massachusetts NWR Complex
- **SAUL**, Susan, Vancouver, WA, Retired 2006, R1, RO, External Affairs
- **SCHAFF**, Bill (Chris) Vancouver, WA, Retired 2021, R7, Refuges & Wildlife, Alaska Peninsula - Becharof NWR
- **SHULL**, Alisa (Patrick Conner), Broken Arrow, OK, Retired 2022, R3, RO, Division of Endangered Species, **New Member**
- **STEVENS**, Bob L. (Cathy), Green Valley, AZ, Retired 2002, R7, RO, Migratory Birds – **NEW LIFE MEMBER**
- **TUTTON**, Jane (Bob), Vero Beach, FL, Retired 2014, R4, Ecological Services, South Florida Ecological Services Office – **New Member**
- **VANDERVORT**, Ronald, Bowie, MD, Retired 2017, R9, HQ, Falls Church, VA, Ecological Services – **New Member**
- **WATHEN**, Wayne (Laura) Highlands Ranch, CO, Retired 1995, R6, RO, Ecological Services
- **WYNN**, Anthony (Adrian Flores), Copperas Cove, TX, Retired 2018, R1, RO, Office of Diversity & Inclusion – **New Member**

Deborah Holle

**Fun Facts and Other Interesting Stories.** I hope everyone that went to Spearfish, SD for our Reunion had a lovely time. It was wonderful to reconnect with friends and meet new ones. Not sure how many of you read the **Fun Facts and Other Interesting Stories** section of these newsletters, but if you do I hope you enjoy them. I brought up a small, interesting fact at the Reunion when I asked what Hollywood notable was fined \$400 by the FWS for exceeding the number of birds listed on their incidental take permit. The answer is . . . Alfred Hitchcock for his movie *The Birds*. See further below for the rest of the story.

Thank you to all the people who submit fun, interesting facts and stories about people who are related and work or worked for the FWS. If you have anything to share, please email them to Deborah Holle at [miamibig99@aol.com](mailto:miamibig99@aol.com) or [promote@fwsretirees.org](mailto:promote@fwsretirees.org). Wives, husbands and other significant others are also invited to submit items. *Deborah Holle*

**A Story of Artistic “License”?** Alfred Hitchcock produced and directed the American natural horror film classic, *The Birds* in 1963. It focuses on a series of sudden and unexplained violent bird attacks on residents of Bodega Bay, California over the course of a few days. I’m guessing that most of us saw that movie and still can visualize Tippi Hedren being trapped in the phone booth and being saved by Rod Taylor. In 2016, *The Birds* was deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" by the United States Library of Congress and selected for preservation in its National Film Registry.

But did you know it was also loosely based on a short story of the same name written by Daphne du Maurier in 1952. Her story takes place in England and the unexplained bird attacks also started along the coast. A novel was written by Norwegian author Tarjei Vesaas in 1957 called *Fuglane (The Birds)* and made into a movie along the same lines as Hitchcock’s. The Hitchcock film was also partly inspired by an actual mass bird “attack” on the seaside town of Capitola, California on August 18, 1961, when residents awoke to a scene that seemed straight out of a horror movie. Hordes of seabirds were dive-bombing their homes, crashing into cars, and spewing half-digested anchovies onto

lawns. Alfred Hitchcock heard of this event and used it as research material for his film which was then in progress. The cause of the birds' behavior in Capitola was toxic algae but that was not known back in the 1960's.

A FWS incidental take permit was presumably issued for "take" of up to 600 migratory birds for use in the movie. However, Alfred Hitchcock revealed on the Dick Cavett Show in 1968 that actually 3,200 birds were trained for the movie. He said the ravens were the cleverest, and the gulls were the most vicious. Either \$400 was really a modest fine for such an excessive permit violation or Mr. Hitchcock's statement wasn't entirely correct.

Most of the birds seen in the film were real but there were also mechanical birds plus special effects with film. One technique was to place "meat" next to the camera lens to make sure the gulls flew directly at the camera. Ray Berwick, famous Hollywood animal trainer, oversaw the live birds used in the production, catching and training many of them himself. An aviary, along with observers from the ASPCA were on the set to ensure the birds safety. Berwick was quoted in his obituary of July 1990, that he only lost one bird that was crushed by a wagon during filming. He trained at least 300 of the birds for that film. Some of the crows were actually ravens. The gulls were caught in the San Francisco garbage dump and the sparrows were caught by John "Bud" Cardos. The captured sparrows had to be used alongside birds from pet shops to achieve full effect in the scene where they invade the house.

I would like to know what apparently attracts people to horror movies and books based on unexplained bird attacks. Were they attacked by an angry Mocking Bird or Blue Jay as a child? I would like to also know who actually issued the permit to Mr. Hitchcock's production company and if a copy of the permit still exists somewhere. It would make a nice artifact for the museum at NCTC.

And for aficionados, Hitchcock made his signature cameo as a man walking two dogs out of a pet shop at the beginning of the film. *Contributed by Deborah Holle*

**We hope he got a good bonus for that!** What former US Department of Interior employee may be the person most responsible for Alaska's statehood? Probably G. Ray Arnett, who held positions with the National Wildlife Federation, California Fish and Game, and the National Rifle Association in addition to being the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks during 1981-1985. As a young man, Mr. Arnett was a geologist working for the Atlantic Richfield Company and is said to be the person pointing to where they should drill for oil in the Kenai National Moose Range. The Swanson River discovery (1957) came after 165 unsuccessful wells were drilled in the Alaska Territory and is heralded as the proof of economic viability that tipped the scales for statehood. *Contributed by Robin West*

**Other Interesting Stories in this Issue.** Turns out there are a three other interesting stories embedded in articles about Jerry Grover and Charley Maloy in the "Passing of Colleagues" section. Check them out on pages 11 (fourth paragraph) and 12 (third and fourth paragraphs).

## FWS News



**Wendi Weber Appointed FWS Deputy Director of Operations.** Wendi Weber, formerly the Service's Northeast Regional Director, was appointed Deputy Director of Operations for the FWS in July. In her new capacity, Wendi oversees the day-to-day operations of the Service. Throughout her career Wendi has been a strong advocate for increasing workforce diversity and she will bring that energy to the Director's office in supporting

continuing efforts to make the FWS a more diverse and inclusive place for both employees and the public. *From Fish and Wildlife News, Summer 2022*

**Steve Williams Retiring from the WMI.** Former FWS Director Steve Williams has announced that after 18 years as the President of the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) he has decided to retire from that organization on March 31, 2023. Steve served as FWS Director in the George W Bush Administration from February 21, 2002 until March 16, 2005. *From WMI Outdoor News Bulletin, August 2022*

**You Can Still Receive the *Fish and Wildlife News!*** Do you ever find yourself missing the FWS? We know . . . some of you say "Ha!". . . but maybe just a little? If you'd like to kind of keep up with what's going on there you can still subscribe to receive the *Fish and Wildlife News* electronically (they don't do hard copies anymore). Just go to <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/fish-and-wildlife-news>, and on the page where that takes you, click on "Click to Subscribe", then fill in your e-mail address in the box on that page and choose "Fish and Wildlife News" among the choices, and you should start receiving it in your e-mail inbox with the next issue . . . for Free! You can also get to previous issues by clicking on "here" as above. Looks like it is still being published quarterly.

## Natural Resource Issues

*The Association believes it is important that we keep our readers informed on what we think may be the most important or highest profile fish and wildlife matters of regional or national significance, especially those of major importance to the FWS. While we have no illusions of being comprehensive in selection of articles, we believe those of most interest or significance for fish and wildlife conservation in the United States should be brought to our members' attention. Please note that we also try to keep our website updated with more expansive information on important fish and wildlife issues. Please visit the website at [www.fwsretirees.org](http://www.fwsretirees.org).*

**FWS Rescinds 2020 Regulations for Exclusion of Critical Habitat.** The Service is rescinding regulations from 2020 that changed the process for excluding areas from critical habitat designations under section 4(b)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This action restores the Secretary of the Interior’s discretion to determine how and when to exclude areas from critical habitat designations and make it consistent with NOAA Fisheries procedures for designating critical habitat. The previous, restored, approach, which is currently used by NOAA Fisheries, is outlined in a 2016 policy on 4(b)(2) exclusions. Under this approach, the Service considers the economic impacts of a proposed critical habitat designation and publishes the economic analysis concurrent with the proposed designation. In addition, the Service considers exclusion of areas covered by a permitted voluntary conservation plan, Tribal lands and areas for which a federal agency has asserted national security concerns. The final rule can be found here: <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2022-15495.pdf>. *Contributed by Nancy Gloman*

**Interest in Oil and Gas Drilling on the Arctic NWR Continues to Dwindle.** Since 2021 three major oil companies have given up their rights to conduct exploratory drilling for oil in the Arctic NWR that were granted to them in a lease sale held on January 6, 2021. Regenerate Alaska, a division of an Australian company, was the only oil company to directly acquire a lease tract on the Refuge’s 1.6-million-acre Coastal Plain in that lease sale held by the Department of the Interior (Interior) under the Trump Administration. They relinquished their lease in June, after Chevron and Hilcorp, two other major oil companies, had earlier given up their interests in leases acquired in that sale, as well as leases previously issued for exploratory drilling on Native Corporation lands within the Refuge. In August Knik Arm Services similarly gave up their lease acquired in the 2021 sale.

The relinquishment of those leases makes it far less likely that drilling will ever take place on the Refuge and leaves only one oil and gas lease still being held on the refuge. That one is held by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), a public corporation of the State of Alaska, which lacks the expertise and capacity to conduct drilling operations on it’s own. The AIDEA’s intent is to hold that lease for possible future sub-leasing to exploration companies. Because of a provision in the tax bill passed by Congress in 2017 that authorized oil and gas leasing on the Refuge, Interior is required to hold at least one more lease sale for the Coastal Plain, and Congress would need to act in order to prevent that lease sale from taking place. Find more information at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2022/06/02/arctic-national-wildlife-refuge-drilling/>. Additional published information can be found at <https://environmentamerica.org/blogs/environment-america-blog/ame/place-no-oil-companies-want-drill> and at <https://www.ktoo.org/2022/08/23/last-remaining-private-bidder-from-2021-anwr-lease-sale-pulls-out/>. *Contributed by Doug Frugé*

**Monarch Butterfly Declared Endangered by IUCN.** Although the Western Monarch Thanksgiving Count for 2021 was the highest since 2016, Western Monarchs have declined by more



than 95% since the 1980s. Range-wide, the species has declined by 85% over the last two decades, prompting the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to announce on July 21 that they were placing it on the organization’s “Red List of Threatened Species” joining more than 40,000 other species worldwide that are threatened with extinction. Major threats to Monarchs include habitat destruction, pesticide use and the effects of climate change. In December 2020 the FWS determined that listing the Monarch under the ESA is warranted but precluded due to higher priority listing actions (<https://www.fws.gov/press-release/2020-12/endangered-species-act-listing-monarch-butterfly-warranted-precluded>). *Contributed by Doug Frugé*

**Record Number of Whooping Cranes Wintered in Texas in 2021–22.** During Winter 2021-22 an estimated 543 whooping cranes wintered in coastal Texas on and around the Aransas NWR after migrating 2,500 miles from their breeding grounds in Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada. The FWS conducts aerial counts annually on Aransas to analyze population trends. Preliminary analysis of last winter’s survey indicated 543 whooping cranes, including 31 juveniles, in the primary survey area. This is an increase from the last survey conducted in winter 2019–20 (the survey was not conducted during winter 2020–21 due to COVID-19 concerns), which estimated 506 whooping cranes. An additional 38 birds were recorded outside the primary survey area last year, which was also a record high. This marks the fifth year that the total population count has exceeded 500. The next survey is planned for January 2023. *Condensed from Fish and Wildlife News, Summer 2022.*



**Infrastructure Funding Goes to Klamath Restoration.** About \$26 million from President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has been allocated for Klamath Basin restoration projects, including nearly \$16 million for ecosystem restoration projects in the Basin and \$10 million to expand the Klamath Falls NFH. This was the result of close collaboration and engagement with Klamath Basin stakeholders, Tribes, and federal, state and local leaders. *Contributed by Nancy Gloman*



**Devil’s Hole Pupfish Spring Population Count Indicates Positive Signs for the Species.** The April 2022 spring population count for the Devil’s Hole pupfish indicated 175 of the critically endangered species. This was the most observed in a spring count in 22 years. Observers conducting the count also noted a “surprising” number of young fish and that the fish appeared to be in “remarkable condition and very active.” The



species lives only in the upper 80 feet of a deep water-filled cavern and a sunlit shallow pool at the cavern's entrance, the smallest range of any vertebrate species on Earth. Devils Hole is in a detached unit of Death Valley National Park and surrounded by Ash Meadows NWR in Nevada. Monitoring of the pupfish population has been ongoing for the past 50 years. Prior to the 1990s the population was around 200. However, pupfish numbers dipped during the ensuing 20 years, averaging only 90. This spring's count continues an increase over the past nine years from the all-time low of 35 fish in spring 2013. Managers attribute the positive trends in recent years to coordinated partnership recovery efforts between the National Park Service, the FWS, the Nevada Department of Fish and Wildlife and others. *Condensed from Fish and Wildlife News, Summer 2022.*

## Notes From the Field and Other Things

*This is the section formerly called "Miscellaneous". We welcome your contributions of stories or articles on just about anything that may be of interest to FWS Retirees. Just send them to Doug Frugé at [communications@fwsretirees.org](mailto:communications@fwsretirees.org).*

**Adventure Travel with FWS Retirees.** As we emerge from our COVID cocoons and get back out into the world, we would like to tell you of a couple of FWS Retirees travel opportunities. Many of us have wanted to journey on a safari to Africa. Today's safaris are not of the *Out of Africa* mold – but are still filled with adventure and fantastic wildlife viewing. Both trips are booked with Africa Through Your Lens, a company that has been hosting FWS Retirees in South Africa for over 10 years. We have two such adventures to share with you scheduled for 2023 and 2024.

### KwaZulu Natal, St. Lucia Wetlands, Indian Ocean, and ChaZen Game Reserve

**Dates:** Depart US October 2 and return October 14, 2023

**Price:** \$4,100 plus round-trip airfare to Johannesburg.

**Includes:** all lodging, in-country transportation, meals, wine/beer with lunch and dinner, entry fees, and tips

**Itinerary:** Upon arrival we will venture to ChaZen Game Reserve (a private game reserve owned by our hosts the Viljoens) for the first half of our safari. This



*Photo by Donna Stanek*

40,000-acre reserve is home to a breeding program for the African lion and endangered African painted dog. Also, there is an amazing array of South African ungulates: impala, kudu, eland, cape buffalo, black and blue wildebeest, sable and many more. We will return to

Johannesburg to catch a short flight to Durban (included in cost) to the east coast of South Africa and the KwaZulu Natal region. Potential activities include plenty of wildlife viewing with daily game drives to nearby wildlife reserves (Hluhluwe/iMfolozi Park, swim/picnic at the Indian Ocean, St. Lucia Wetlands, night game viewing in Isimanagaliso, and Hippo cruise.

### ChaZen Volunteer Safari/Pilanesburg National Park

**Dates:** Depart US January 22 and return February 2, 2024

**Price:** \$2,750 plus airfare to Johannesburg

**Includes:** all lodging, in-country transportation, meals, wine/beer with lunch and dinner, entry fees and tips

**Itinerary:** If you want to do some good with your travel time and dollars, plus enjoy a wonderful

safari experience, this is the trip for you! Since 2011, FWS retirees have participated in this do-good adventure. Volunteer work is at ChaZen Game Reserve (a private reserve owned by our hosts the Viljoens). Past projects have included habitat restoration, relocating wildlife, assisting in the breeding programs, trail maintenance, and general repairs. The workday is usually in the mornings with the afternoons spent in free time before a late afternoon game drive and sundowner. The last few days of this volunteer experience is spent in the Pilanesburg National Park area north of Johannesburg. Here we should see elephants, hippos, and possibly a leopard!

If you are interested in either of these trips, contact Donna Stanek at [dstanek0418@hotmail.com](mailto:dstanek0418@hotmail.com) or give her a call at: 505-917-2023. *Contributed by Donna Stanek.*

### Association Member Offering Free Books for Downloading.

Sandy Wilbur, one of our fellow FWS retirees and a member of the Association, has been busy writing in his retirement, fiction as well as non-fiction, on various topics, including reminiscences about his 35-year career, most of it with the FWS, during 1960 - 1994. Sandy's career spanned the country, from the Northwest to the Southeast, as well as spanning three FWS programs -- the NWR System, Endangered Species and Research. His collection of publications

includes some that are sure to be of interest to most any former FWS employee. Sandy is now making his work available free for downloading as PDFs. Take a look for yourself at <http://www.condortales.com/bookpages/index.html>.

In addition to his books, Sandy is also offering his collection of essays on a variety of subjects, such as wildlife, climate and nature as free PDFs. You can see what's available at <http://www.writing-it-down.com>.

If any of Sandy's material strikes your fancy, shoot him an e-mail at [symbios@condortales.com](mailto:symbios@condortales.com).

### Region 2 Retiree Luncheon Held September 14.

Pete Stine and his wife Marlene are continuing their tradition of hosting semiannual FWS Retirees luncheons in Albuquerque, NM. The most recent one on September 14 took place at the Village Inn restaurant on San Mateo Blvd. NE. Thirteen retirees and spouses attended . . . not as large a group as in previous years

but they all had a great time telling stories about travels, hunting and fishing, health, grandkids, etc. Pete circulated a copy of the very nice obituary for Jerry Grover that was written by Paul Tritaik and David Klinger, as well as a copy of the Spring 2022 issue of this newsletter. Denise Baker also shared her report on the June Retirees Reunion that was held in Deadwood and Spearfish, SD. Finally, Marlene passed around their ever-growing photo album from past luncheons. Two hours later everyone departed looking forward to their next luncheon to be held on the second Wednesday in April 2023. We appreciate and thank Pete and Marlene for hosting these events for FWS Retirees in their area. It would be great if similar gatherings are taking place in other regions, and if they are, we'd love to hear about them!

*Contributed by Doug Frugé*

## Bill would Repeal Social Security WEP and GPO

**Provisions.** The Social Security Fairness Act (HR 82), introduced into the US House of Representatives by Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL), with 290 co-sponsors, would repeal the windfall elimination provision (WEP) and the government pension offset (GPO) under the Social Security system. The WEP and GPO reduce or eliminate Social Security benefits for those covered by a government (federal, state or local) guaranteed pension plan. This would include federal employees who are covered by the Civil Service Retirement System. The bill was advanced by the House Ways and Means Committee by voice vote on September 20. Representative Davis is urging House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other House leadership to allow an immediate floor vote on the bill. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) is supporting the legislation and has advocated for repeal of the WEP and GPO for years. Similar bills have been introduced in previous years, but none were ever considered by a House committee until this year. *Condensed from an article that can be found at <https://www.myfederalretirement.com/hr-82-house-vote/> for more information.*



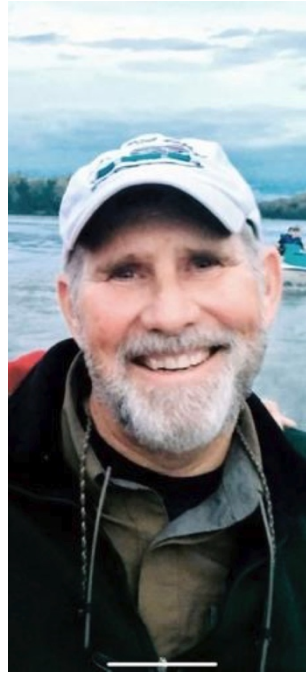
## Combined Federal Campaign is Now Open.

We thought it would be good to remind everyone again that, even though you're retired, you can still make contributions to many

charitable organizations through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC is managed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and is an easy way for federal employees and retirees to manage their charitable giving. You can donate through the CFC even if you never did when you were still working for the government. There is even a way to donate using funds from your required minimum distribution (RMD) from your retirement account. Donations can be initiated through your OPM Retirement Account online or at [GiveCFC.org](http://GiveCFC.org). The CFC has a full range of options for donating, including deduction from your annuity, by credit/debit card, e-check, or you can print and fill out a paper form and send them a real check. The CFC 2022 campaign began September 1 and continues through January 14, 2023. *Contributed by Doug Frugé.*

## Passing of Colleagues

*Note that with this issue we are expanding the scope of this section of the newsletter to include the passing of current employees we become aware of, in addition to retirees. If you are aware of the passing of any retired or active FWS employees, including those who left the Service before retirement because of organizational or later career changes, please let us know so we can pass that information on to our readers. If you can provide us with links to online obituaries, that would be most helpful, and should be sent to [Doug Frugé at \[communications@fwsretirees.org\]\(mailto:Doug.Frugé@fwsretirees.org\)](mailto:Doug.Frugé@fwsretirees.org)*



## George Michael Constantino (1949 – 2022).

George Constantino passed peacefully in his sleep June 6, 2022, in Folkston, Georgia, at the age of 72. George was born in Redlands, California November 13, 1949, to Rachael P. Tenney Constantino and George C. Constantino. After growing up in the little town of Banning, California where his parents had a candy shop for 60 years, and graduating from Banning High School in 1967, he chose to attend Humboldt State College 800 miles away. This was after receiving a state scholarship to anywhere in California due to his high test scores. As a teenager, George became friends with a California Fish and Game biologist from Bishop, California who was

tracking Mountain lions in the San Bernardino Mountains. This experience inspired him to pursue a career in wildlife conservation, so he majored in wildlife management. He was particularly interested in protecting endangered species, like the mountain lion. So, as a student, he wrote his US Senator to support the Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969, and his letter made it into the Congressional Record. George was selected at age 19 as a student trainee for the FWS, starting in the summer of 1969 at Ruby Lake NWR in Nevada, and then the following summers at Medicine Lake NWR in Montana, and Lower Klamath NWR in Oregon. In December 1970, George married his high school best friend, Flor D. Herrera, at a convent under the redwoods of Humboldt, California. They eventually had three children, Amber, George Jr., and Nicholas. Upon graduation in December of 1971, George landed a job as a Biologist at Desert NWR in Nevada. This was serendipitous as George was one number away from being drafted. However, George and Flor still had a close brush with the military when they were accidentally bombed by the US Air Force with three fly-bys with six 500-pound fragmentation bombs as part of a military exercise. A few years after starting his full-time career, George transferred to Blackwater NWR on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to serve as Assistant Refuge Manager. He then was selected as the Refuge Manager for Cibola NWR in Arizona, all before he was thirty



years old. The latter was the place of special memories where he used to hunt and fish with his father when growing up. After Cibola he was named Assistant Manager of Wichita Mountains NWR in Oklahoma, then onto eleven years managing wildlife refuges in Oregon, first at the Umatilla Refuge Complex (including Cold Springs and McKay Creek NWRs), and then Malheur NWR, where his biological and people skills were put to the test working on controversial management practices related to grazing, migratory bird production, and predator management. George's friendly, but resource-focused management style was not welcomed by a notorious neighboring rancher, resulting in George receiving death threats. In 1989, George headed north to Alaska, first as the supervisor for Refuges, and then as the Chief of Policy and Planning for Alaska Refuges, where he spent 16 years. In this role George helped steer the future for nearly 80 million acres of lands within the NWR System. George was also instrumental in implementing the steel shot program in Alaska by personally instructing locals in remote villages.

George's Refuge LE credentials were as unique as he was (Badge #7007). Like their time in Nevada, George and Flor had another close call when a commercial airplane engine fell out of the sky through their house in Anchorage. Fortunately, they were at work and no one was home. As a family of five, they often took 200-mile trips down wild rivers in Alaska, often bringing along associates, priests and friends, and even celebrating Sunday Mass on sandbars. In 2005, George took his last job with the Service by trading the freezing tundra of Alaska for the sweltering swamp of Okefenokee NWR. in Folkston, Georgia, where George was warmly welcomed by the local community. George provided exceptional leadership to continue Okefenokee's outstanding partner-based fire management program for which he was recognized with the Regional Director's Stewardship Award. George and Flor loved the community so much, they decided to retire there in 2010.

After retirement George and Flor served in the U.S Peace Corps teaching people and helping the disabled in the Republic of Armenia for 27 months. Upon returning to their home in Folkston, George became a certified scuba diving instructor in the coastal town of St. Marys, Georgia and enjoyed diving deep in Florida springs with friends and student divers. Whenever George and Flor visited their family in Anchorage, George went to his grandsons' hockey games and often was there to drive his grandchildren to school and pick them up singing his impromptu funny lyrics they so much enjoyed. A proud moment was certifying his daughter and her three kids to scuba dive.

George was dedicated to his Catholic Faith, diving 100 feet weekly, wild river rafting, reading novels, and learning whatever he could about saltwater fish identification. George was a proud Eagle Scout and Scoutmaster, who, with Flor, guided other boys from Tiger Cubs to Eagle Scouts, including their son, Nicholas. George's exceptional leadership in scouting earned him the Pelican Award in 2002 by the Archdiocese of Anchorage for the instruction he gave to Catholic scouts. He shared his passions enthusiastically, especially his faith. The last two years he taught a Confirmation Class, at his church, St. Joseph's in Waycross, Georgia and was instrumental in planning retreats and gatherings for the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Savannah. George

also volunteered for the Kairos Prison Ministry in Folkston and Anchorage.

George is survived by: the love of his life, Flor, his wife of 51 years. He took exceptional care of her whether traveling, underwater, hiking or at home. Their daughter, Amber Forth, her husband, Landon, and teen children, Kyler, Rylan and Aubrey live in Anchorage, Alaska. George's first son, named after him, lives in Jacksonville, Florida. His second son, Nicholas and his wife Tina, live in Anchorage, Alaska with school-age sons, Cooper and Jax. George also leaves behind his sister, Rose Constantino Lee of Victorville, California and his brother, John Constantino, of Fortuna, California. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Rachael Constantino.

George contributed to many charities from 100miles.org, a nonprofit in Brunswick, Georgia, whose mission is to protect the Georgia coastline to Catholic Relief Services (crs.org), which works internationally to aid people in need. George was kind, dedicated and a great asset to the NWR System. He lived out this favorite credo of *Baba Dioum*, "In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught." George made our world a better place and is dearly missed. *Written by Paul Tritaik and Robin West with help from Flor Constantino*



**Nita M. Fuller (1950 – 2022).** Nita Fuller was born March 15, 1950 at the Indian Hospital in Tahihina, Oklahoma to Loyd and Ethel Fuller. She had a brother Curtis and a sister Louise along with her stepsister Martha and nieces and nephews. She grew up in Idabel, in the far southeast corner of Oklahoma. Nita was Native American -- Dakota Sioux (or Dakota) and a member of the Yankton Tribe. When she retired she moved to Midwest City in

Oklahoma. Nita passed away on July 12, 2022.

Nita attended Oklahoma State University (OSU) where she earned a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Zoology (1972) and a Master of Science (MS) in Wildlife Ecology through the FWS Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit in 1976. Her thesis was *Nutrient Analysis of Plants Potentially Useful as Deer Forage on Clearcut and Selective-Cut Pine Sites in Southeastern Oklahoma*. Nita was the first woman to graduate with a Master's in Wildlife from OSU.

Nita started college wanting to be a pediatrician. Fortunately, for the FWS she was not accepted the first time. After getting her MS in Wildlife Ecology, Nita took the Medical College Aptitude Test again and was accepted by three medical schools at the University of Nebraska, University of Oklahoma, and John Hopkins University in Maryland, but Nita said she was tired of school and even more tired of being inside all the time. Nita loved the out of doors and wanted to work with wildlife.

Instead of medical school, Nita called the FWS Albuquerque Regional Office (RO) and spoke with Gordon Hanson, Chief of Refuges in Region 2. After undergoing an interview with Mr. Hanson and getting on the “register”, she was offered a job in 1977 as a Biological Technician at Wichita Mountains NWR in southwest Oklahoma. After 18 months, the Manager promoted her to “Acting” Primary Assistant Manager after the incumbent transferred.

While at Wichita Mountains, she learned to imitate the call of a bugling elk bull for the Refuge’s Interpretive Program. Visitors delighted in going on Nita’s tours and learning how in September and October the male bull elk compete for available female cow elk, ward off competing bulls and attract and keep cows in their harems. The bull elk produce a high pitched ‘whistle’ or “bugle”. Nita also loved participating in the Refuge’s bison and longhorn round-ups on horseback. But mostly she loved exploring the Refuge and being outside.

From 1979 to 1983 Nita served as the Assistant Manager for the Bosque del Apache NWR Complex in southern New Mexico. Bosque is noted for its huge flocks of wintering Sandhill Cranes and tens of thousands of Snow Geese.

Toward the end of 1983, Nita moved to Santa Ana NWR in South Texas as the Project Leader and stayed until March 1989. The job also included the newly established Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR. Nita was instrumental in getting a new visitor center built with the help of Senator Pete Domenici’s office. At the time Nita served there, the Lower Rio Grande NWR was appropriated the highest ever amount of land acquisition funding for a refuge in one year – over \$10 million. After leaving the Lower Rio Grande Nita served as Refuge Supervisor for Arizona and New Mexico in Region 2, beginning in 1989 where she supervised 14 NWRs until 1993.

While in Region 2 Nita’s supervisors encouraged her to apply for Deputy Chief of Refuges in Washington, DC. Nita was deeply involved in the Refuge Compatibility lawsuit with Defenders of Wildlife and The Wilderness Society and was well qualified. Nita served as Deputy Chief from 1993 until August 1995.

After her two years in Washington, the RD in Region 3 called and asked her to apply for the job of Regional Chief of Refuges the eight-state Midwest Region. Nita was the Regional Chief there from 1995 until September 2009 when she retired. Nita was most proud of her accomplishments in building up the NWR System’s biological programs and improving the Cooperative Education Program, which provided a pool of highly qualified candidates for FWS technical and professional positions.

During her career Nita had been offered the position of Chief of Refuges (AKA the Assistant Director for Refuges and Wildlife) in Washington, DC. That was around 2000 when Ecosystem Management was on the horizon as a reorganizational strategy to replace the existing programmatic management structure. At the time Nita was also suffering from health issues. She did not support the proposed organizational change. She believed it would not have been ethical to accept the position when she couldn’t embrace the proposed ecosystem management structure for the NWR System. At the time she made that decision, Nita stayed in

the Midwest Regional Office because she loved her job – she frequently said she was paid to do her hobby. She also said she had to make up for all her transgressions. Her father, whom she adored, taught her to hunt and fish. They frequently hunted Bobwhite Quail together. She received a BB gun at about the age of 7 and hunted birds with it, not just quail, but any bird that flew. She wandered the neighborhoods with her BB gun hunting mostly songbirds.

Nita is an enrolled member of the Yankton tribe of the Dakota Sioux. She wanted to become a professional woman because of her mother and grandmother. Her grandmother spent her early years in an Indian school. She also knew how to butcher bison and was a cook. She eventually became an arts and crafts specialist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She worked in South America, with the Dakota tribes and the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations in Oklahoma. Her mother attended a “white” school in South Dakota and was the Valedictorian of her class. She attended the Haskell Indian Institute in Kansas and completed a two-year degree in one year. She then moved to Oklahoma to be closer to her mother, where she met and married Nita’s father.

Nita had an amazing career and life. She adored her family, was a great friend, humble and she wouldn’t be pushed around. She worked exceptionally hard and gave so much to the NWR System, and the System is richer for it. She was well respected by her co-workers, employees, supervisors, friends, fellow conservationists, and many political leaders. People who knew her well, will always remember her quiet smile and how she loved wildlife.

*Written by Deborah Holle*



**Kenneth V. Gillette (1950 – 2022).**

Ken Gillette of North Chittenden, Vermont passed away peacefully on September 1, 2022 at The Pines in Rutland, Vermont. Ken was born in Rome, New York on April 21, 1950, the son of Harold and Evelyn (VanDuyne) Gillette. Ken lived in Newark, Ohio for many years. He earned a BS degree in Biology from Ohio State University and went on to work for the FWS. He retired as Hatchery Manager of the White

River NFH in Bethel, Vermont. Ken loved his family, job and church and enjoyed tinkering with electronics and working in his garage. He is survived by his wife Joy Gillette of North Chittenden, as well as his daughter Michelle Gillette, her husband Michael Kruszewski and their children Emilia and Evelyn, his daughter Sarah Bright, her husband Ryan and their son Jaxon, his brother Robert Gillette and wife Elaine and their son Eric and brother Daryl Gillette. A funeral service for Ken was held September 10, 2022. Ken’s family advised that memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association. *Adapted by Doug Frugé from online obituary.*

*Special thanks to Roseann Montefusco, FAC, FWS, Hadley, MA, for notifying us of Ken’s passing.*

## Gerald “Jerry” Carlton Grover (1936 – 2022).



Association founding member Jerry Grover, affable and avuncular federal fisheries leader and mentor, whose accomplishments as an employee of the FWS were matched by his contributions as a retiree, died of complications from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in his home on August 13, 2022.

Jerry was born July 19, 1936, in Pasadena, California to Berenice L. Stratford Grover and Carlton O. Grover. Jerry grew up in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains hunting, fishing, and enjoying the outdoors when not

tending to his parent's citrus groves. After graduating from Chaffey High School, Jerry attended the local Chaffey Junior College. Jerry then attended Humboldt State University in Arcata, California for a semester. During the semester break Jerry attended a dance at his old junior college, where he met the love of his life, Judy Mae Moffitt. Jerry got a job with the California Fish and Game Department before transferring to Utah State University in Logan, Utah to study fisheries. Judy also transferred to Utah State and in June of 1959, they married in Upland, California. Jerry graduated in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in Fishery Management Biology. After graduation, Jerry went back to work for California Fish and Game to sample fish and served in the US Navy Reserve.

Jerry began his Service career in 1961, and he and Judy started a family while traveling to different duty stations. They had three boys, Jeffrey, Joel, and Jared. Jerry started as a GS-482-5 (fish biologist) at the White Sulphur Springs NFH, West Virginia. Jerry's career continued as follows: Leetown NFH, West Virginia; Craig Brook NFH, Maine; Cortland NFH, New York; Winthrop NFH, Washington; Ennis NFH, Montana; Coleman NFH, California; Department Manager Development Program, Washington, DC; Carson NFH, Washington; Southeast Region Area Office for Florida-Georgia-Caribbean, Jacksonville, Florida; Pacific RO Fishery Supervisor for Lower Columbia River; Chief of the NFH System, Washington, DC; Chief of Division of Anadromous Fish, Washington, DC; Fishery Supervisor for California, Nevada and Western Washington; Pacific Region Deputy Assistant Regional Director of the Ecological Services and Endangered Species Program; Pacific Region Supervisor of the Fisheries Program in California and the Klamath River Basin. Jerry retired in 1997 after an illustrious 36-year career.

Perhaps Jerry's most unique distinction while an up-and-coming hatchery manager was being a target of the infamous Manson Family in 1975. While at Little White Salmon NFH in Washington, Jerry and an undetermined number of other FWS refuge and hatchery managers throughout the United States were targeted for assassination by Manson camp follower Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, who herself made an attempt on the life of President Gerald Ford that year in Sacramento. Jerry discovered

that his and other agency employees' names had been found on Fromme's "hit list", an attempt by Manson camp followers and their "International People's Court of Retribution" to execute alleged despoilers of the Earth. He learned about it from a rural Skamania County sheriff, who tipped him that FBI agents had been making discrete inquiries locally about his well-being. Jerry shrugged and returned to feeding his fish. It was a story Jerry was fond of repeating to others whose names wound up on the assassination roster, and to any disbelieving agency employees who struggled to connect the gregarious Jerry Grover with the dark side of the Manson Family's antics during the waning years of the Age of Aquarius. "We once tried to figure out the common denominator among us. How did we make the list?" Jerry said of his fellow hit-list members. "Heck, there were high-powered people like oil company executives on the list, with their six-figure salaries. I was just a ... practicing conservationist!"

Jerry's passing removes one-half of the "Ozzie and Harriet-like" duo that is acknowledged by most agency veterans to be the foremost public persona of the small and tightly networked FWS family, unique among agencies in the Federal bureaucracy for its closeness and sense of shared purpose. With wife Judy, herself an accomplished assistant to RDs and senior managers, the Grover team welcomed new employees into the agency fold, watched over and counseled them as their careers matured and blossomed, and then ushered them into a subsequent round of service as retirees, vocal and still actively engaged in the business of conservation.

Jerry and Judy were co-founders of the FWS Retirees Association in 1998 and Jerry served on the Board until this year, as well as serving on the FWS History (formerly Heritage) Committee beginning in 2000. Jerry and Judy have been stalwart contributors of time, effort, and wisdom for the FWS Retirees Association, attending every Retiree Reunion and helping organize each one of them, including the 19<sup>th</sup> Retiree Reunion in South Dakota this past June to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NFH System. Though Jerry struggled with his COPD while coordinating the reunion, he would not miss the opportunity to celebrate a major milestone at a historic fish hatchery with friends and colleagues he cared about. Even when it wasn't easy, Jerry and Judy loved to travel around the country and the world. They even named their dog and cat after places they visited.

Jerry once said that the thing he was most proud of was the people he'd hired and been associated with. Indeed, he mentored and influenced many employees who went on to have successful careers, several in leadership positions. Jerry was an out-of-the-box thinker and a people-empowering manager. Many give Jerry credit for giving them opportunities, standing behind them, and encouraging and inspiring them to express their talents and achieve their dreams. Jerry believed in hard work, but also having a good time. He encouraged social get togethers whenever FWS colleagues and friends would meet, especially if they had musical instruments. Jerry touched a lot of lives and a lot of careers. In his honor, the flags at NCTC were flown at half-mast for two days.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents Berenice and Carlton; sister Gabrielle; and grandson Joshua. Survivors include his wife Judy, sister Pollianne; children Jeffrey Carlton Grover (Marina), Joel Walter Grover (Barb), and Jared Clay Grover (Alisa);



grandchildren Tristan, George, and Nicole; many nephews and nieces; Tharu the Abyssinian cat, and Dalwhinnie, the Corgi dog.

A Celebration of Life for Jerry was held September 10<sup>th</sup> at his and Judy's home in Tigard, Oregon. Contributions in memoriam for Jerry can be made to The Nature Conservancy or any conservation organization working to save our precious fish and wildlife resources for future generations. *Written by David Klinger and Paul Tritaik with help from Judy Grover*

**Bill Kirk.** We were notified this year that Bill Kirk, a FWS Retiree Association member, had passed away, but at this time no other details are available, including the year that Bill was born or the year he actually died (probably 2021 or 2022). No obituary is available online, but we are continuing to try to find out more details. Bill was employed at the RO in Anchorage, Alaska as a botanist in the NWR System during the 1980s for at least part of his career, and he was living in Chugiak, Alaska after retirement. If and when we receive more information, we will publish a more complete article. *Thanks to retired FWS employees Keith Bayha and Jerry Stroebele for informing us of Bill's passing.*



**Kevin John Kritz (1959 – 2022).** Kevin Kritz (*not yet retired*), a wildlife biologist in the Migratory Bird Program of the Mountain-Prairie Region (Region 6), died unexpectedly January 13, 2022, at his home in Denver, Colorado. An *In Memoriam* tribute article about Kevin can be found on Page 44 of the Spring 2022 issue of *Fish & Wildlife*

*News.* That issue and others can be found by going to <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/fish-and-wildlife-news>.



**Charles Ray "Charley One L" Maloy (1929 – 2022).**

Charley One L Maloy, age 93, of Cape Coral, Florida passed away on August 25, 2022. Charley was born June 17, 1929 in Granite, Oklahoma. Charley grew up hunting, fishing and trapping, and when he was 14 or 15, he got a part-time job at the permit stand at the city reservoir. Charley attended public school in Oklahoma City and received a BS

degree in Wildlife Conservation from Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University) in 1950. Charley met his love, Patricia Ann Baker in college and married her after graduation in 1950.

After graduation, Charley was employed by Oklahoma City as a Lake Ranger/Lake Biologist/Fish Culturist before joining the FWS in 1958 as Assistant Hatchery Manager at Austin National Fish Hatchery in Texas. After three years, he became the Hatchery Manager at Dexter NFH in New Mexico, where he helped with the original stocking of bass in Lake Powell in

Arizona. He then transferred to Cedar Bluff NFH in Kansas. In 1964, Charley went to Headquarters in Washington, DC to serve as a Staff Specialist in the Division of Fish Hatcheries. He was soon promoted to the Branch Chief of Fish Distribution.

One memorable experience was when he was called by the FBI, Federal Aviation Administration, and the US Postal Service about a mail bag explosion at Washington National Airport that yielded fish remains and an FWS address. Apparently, the Eastern Fish Health Center in WV had sent an all-points notice to hatcheries seeking sick catfish. They were to be frozen and shipped to the lab ASAP. A young Mississippi biologist dutifully prepared some frozen catfish in a vacuum bottle filled with dry ice, and to assure timeliness, sent them by air . . . frozen CO<sup>2</sup> sealed in a vacuum bottle! Mystery solved and terrorism alert averted.

In 1968, Charley transferred to Atlanta to serve as Regional Supervisor of NFHs. It was in Atlanta where Charley attained the nickname "One L" from Regional Director Ed Carlson, after he informed Ed, not too subtly, that he was misspelling Charley's name. Charley set out to reinvigorate hatchery management through manager rotation, improve stocking ratios, increase efficiency of moving fish, and provide standby pay for dedicated hatchery workers. While in Atlanta, Charley also established the Service's only Regional Aquarium Curator position, in charge of setting up the popular aquariums in all the fish hatcheries and some of the refuges in the Region. One of Charley's proudest achievements was finding the first US Fish Commissioner's roll-top desk in a dusty storage shed at the old Wytheville Hatchery in Virginia. He had it restored and transferred it to the FWS Archives at NCTC when he retired.

In 1977, Charley's last official move was to serve as Area Manager in Concord, New Hampshire. When the Area Office "concept" imploded, Charley retired in 1983 and moved to Bokeelia, Florida where he "flailed" Pine Island Sound waters for snook, redfish, sea trout, and tarpon for many years. He also made five trout fishing trips to New Zealand, two to Alaska, and numerous others to the Navajo Dam tailwaters. He and his wife Pat also traveled to Australia, Great Britain, and Hawaii. Charley was also an ardent bird hunter shooting woodcock, grouse, and quail over his brace of Vizslas.

Charley is survived by Patricia, wife of 72 years, daughters Linda Ozier and Laura Richmond, six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by son Lyle Patrick and daughter Leslie Smith. *Written by Paul Tritaik with help from Linda Ozier and Herb Reichelt*



### **Charles "Charlie" Burnett McDonald, III (1946 – 2022).**

Charlie McDonald (76) died peacefully on Wednesday, July 13, 2022. He was born and grew up in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, to parents, Charles Burnett McDonald, Jr., and Phyllis Fisher McDonald. Charlie graduated from Bartlesville College High School in 1964. He attended Oklahoma State University from 1964 to 1969 where he studied biology and participated in the US Army

Reserve Officers Training Corps and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in January 1969. After graduating from college, Charlie served on active duty for four years and was stationed in Korea. He attended graduate school at North Carolina State University (NC State) at Raleigh, earning his PhD in Botany in 1979, specializing in plant taxonomy. Charlie taught Biology at NC State for several years before moving to Albuquerque, NM to work as a biologist for the FWS. He later became the Rare and Endangered Plant Species Botanist for the US Forest Service. Charlie retired from the Forest Service in 2012.

Charlie was an active member of the New Mexico Mountain Club for many years. Desert day hikes and back-pack trips he led in southern Utah were very popular and well attended. For over 20 years, Charlie coordinated the teams of volunteers who built and maintained a 50-mile portion of the Continental Divide Trail that runs between Grants and Cuba. In addition to hiking, Charlie enjoyed fine wood working, golfing, cross-country skiing, kayaking, gardening, and traveling. He met Connie Merrell on a Mountain Club hike, and they were married on June 19, 2004.

Charlie was a great field botanist with a passion for rare plants. His field knowledge was impressive, as was his generosity in sharing his knowledge, enthusiasm, and concern for the treasures of our native plants and the need for good stewardship for them. He left a legacy of building partnerships for stewardship as well as written contributions and photographs that will endure.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Constance Merrell-McDonald; his stepchildren, Jeffrey (Kim) Kusiciel, Thomas Kusiciel, and Robyn (Andy) Blomberg; five grandchildren, Lauren, Carter and Daniel Kusiciel, Garrett, and Paige Blomberg; and three sisters, Susan (Jim) Mahan, Donna McDonald, and Mary McDonald. *Compiled by Paul Tritaik with help from Denise Baker*

### **William Henry "Bill" Meyer (1937 – 2022).**

Association member Bill Meyer, 85, passed away July 3, 2022 at Rooted Care Communities residential care facility. Bill was born May 14, 1937 in Cherokee, Iowa to Henry and Norma Meyer. He spent his youth in Northwest Iowa, where he gained a lifelong enjoyment for the outdoors and nature – fishing, hunting and hiking. He attended Storm Lake High School, where he met the love of his life, Nancy Nelson; they married in 1958. Bill received his BS in Fish and Wildlife Management in 1960, followed by an MS in 1961, from Iowa State University.



The couple moved to Greenville, Maine (along with their one-year-old son, Jeff) in June 1961, where Bill worked as an Assistant Regional Fisheries Biologist for the State of Maine and where their daughter, Cindy, was born in 1962. The family moved to Lebanon, Ohio in 1965 when Bill joined the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife (now the FWS) River Basin Studies Office, to do Comprehensive River Basin Surveys.

As Bill transitioned from research work to management within the Service, he attended the Department of the Interior Management Training Program in Washington, DC. Upon completing that training, Bill then transferred to Minneapolis to head the Regional Comprehensive Planning Unit within River Basin Studies. His primary responsibilities were leading the Service efforts on the Great Lakes and the Upper Mississippi Basin Studies.

After only a year in that position, the Service sent him to graduate school for economics at the University of Maryland. While Bill was in the Departmental Management Program, he had suggested that the Service's most serious issues were people problems having their basis in the social sciences and therefore, the Service should cross-train some people. Bill became the first such employee to be cross-trained. After completing his graduate studies, Bill was assigned to the Division of Program Analysis in Washington, DC where he coordinated a comprehensive maintenance backlog inventory that resulted in major funding increases for the Service.

Bill then was selected as Chief of the Division of Program Plans, which he helped establish. He was successful in developing and implementing a program management system that sharpened the Service's budget preparation and presentations in a more targeted and strategic way that resulted in increased funding for Service priorities.

Before Bill left the Program Plans job at Headquarters, he received another special assignment on the heels of the 1973 oil crisis that created an impetus for our Nation to become energy self-sufficient. Bill was asked to assemble and lead the newly formed Biological Services Task Force to better protect wetlands, migratory birds and coastal zones from oil shale fracking and coal development. Bill and his team developed issue packages that identified specific problems or opportunities, described what needed to be done, estimated near-term costs, and identified various funding sources. That effort successfully raised millions of dollars to address these issues across multiple Bureaus.

In 1975, Bill and Nancy moved to Portland, OR, when Bill was selected to be the Service's Deputy RD for the Pacific RO. There Bill tackled many controversial issues including conversion to steel shot, long-standing issues of anadromous fish migration on the Columbia River, disputes over water rights, enforcing the Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act, and

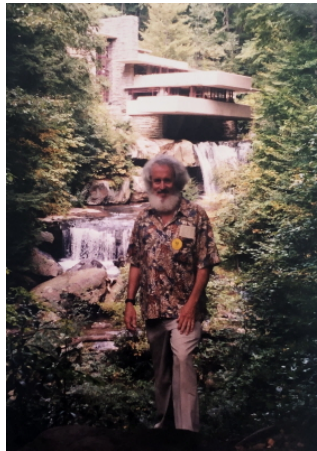


implementing the ESA. Many of these issues caused conflicts with powerful, well-connected interests such as agribusiness, power companies, and ranchers. Bill believed that the Service's most important product was the quality of its science and ability to use it wisely in negotiations and management. He was fond of saying that "you win credibility very slowly and you lose it damned fast if you mess up". Though challenged often, the Service rarely lost in court, and the few times it did, it was not for lack of good science. Sometimes court decisions put the Service at odds with their state partners, such as with the Boldt and Belloni decisions, both of which upheld Indian fishing rights in the Pacific Northwest. Sometimes the Service was challenged by the environmental community, as in the removal of the last wild California condor and their eventual reintroduction, but the most difficult pressure came from within at higher levels, particularly from political appointees overseeing the Service. Sometimes there was pressure to have the Service fudge data to make decisions less difficult, but Bill would not do it. Several times Bill and Regional Director Kahler Martinson were told to get rid of someone for doing their job, but both of them told their bosses that they would resign if that were to happen. That defense of their employees earned them critical credibility with their folks, but not with their superiors. Things came to head when Regional opposition to the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) siting of transmission lines through the Klamath Basin Refuge Complex and across the Columbia River at Crow Butte had angered then BPA head, Don Hodel, who later became Under Secretary of the Interior. They won on Klamath but lost on Crow Butte. Kahler resigned after refusing a transfer in 1982. Bill continued until 1985 when he accepted the Regional Public Affairs Officer position before retiring in 1987.

Bill and his family loved the Pacific Northwest, and spent weekends and holidays hiking, bird-watching, beach-combing, wildflower hunting and cross-country skiing; Bill became proficient in nature photography, and leaves behind an extensive visual record of the places he and Nancy traveled to over the years. Soon after Bill retired from the FWS, Nancy retired from TriMet, Portland's public transportation company. They spent the decades afterward traveling all over the country and the world – primarily hiking and camping in wilderness areas. But Oregon was always their "home base," and they returned to many local hiking trails and wildflower areas again and again. They loved the time with their parents, children and grandchildren, and the friends they had made throughout their life's journey. Mostly, they loved each other's company very much, and spent as much of their retirement years together as they could.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother, Gene. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; children, Jeff and Cindy; and grandchildren, Emily and Ian Kleckner. *Written by Paul Tritaik.*

**Richard F. "Dick" Nugent (1942 – 2022).** Association member Dick Nugent, of National Park, New Jersey, passed away on August 27, 2022. He was one day short of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dick was born on August 28, 1942 in Newton, Massachusetts to Marion Andrews Nugent and Daniel Francis Nugent, Jr., and raised in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Dick was in the first graduating class (1960) of Marion High School. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in Wildlife Management from Nichols College in Dudley,



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he served until his retirement in 2003.

Dick's tenure at John Heinz NWR was highly successful and earned praise from FWS Director Dan Ashe and US Congressman Curt Weldon, who gave a tribute to Dick in the Congressional Record upon his retirement. Throughout his government career, Dick was an environmental champion and a respected public servant, whose selfless contributions earned him recognition. Among his accomplishments were his involvement with the Refuge's master planning process and land acquisition efforts during the 1970s and 1980s. Dick assisted in the planning, designing, and construction of the Refuge's maintenance complex and the Cusano Environmental Education Center, the latter of which earned him and his design team the Interior Department's Environmental Achievement Award in 2001. He was instrumental in increasing the Refuge staff from 4 personnel to 14 full-time positions and several internships. Dick also started the Refuge friends' group (Friends of Heinz Refuge), consisting of over 200 members and a large cadre of volunteers. He worked with the Environmental Protection Agency and other Service staffers for two decades assessing the contamination status of the Folcroft landfill, prior to it becoming a component of the lower Darby Creek Area Superfund Site. Dick was also involved with the cleanup and natural resource damage assessment of Sunoco's 192,000-gallon oil spill on the eastern portion of the Refuge that occurred on February 5, 2000.

In the 1980s, Dick assumed management responsibilities for Supawna Meadows NWR in Pennsville, New Jersey, where Dick and his one-person staff rejuvenated the long dormant land acquisition program, resulting in protection of the refuge's largest inholding. Among the assistant managers who worked under Dick's supervision at Supawna Meadows was Rich Guadagno, who gave his life on United Flight 93, September 11, 2001. Dick was ahead of his time when it came to realizing the value of urban refuges, and the value of providing local opportunities for youth and teachers of environmental education. He was an effective advocate, both in deeds and words. Dick was an "outside the box" manager, whose unique and non-conventional approach enabled him to become the original champion of urban refuges. Dick pioneered the incredible value of restoring unique degraded wildlife habitat and making conservation education accessible to countless urban youth. Dick summed it up well when he said "Some folks still debate the issue of having an urbanized wildlife



refuge, with its inherent ‘problems’ of air, ground, and water pollution; expensive land acquisition; security concerns; and public apathy. I side with the many counterpoints and opportunities presented by each ‘problem’ and redefine them as challenges.” He was quick to point out that the NWR System Improvement Act emphasizes that the Refuge System shines bright for wildlife, habitat, and people.

As a young boy, Dick was fortunate to have been able to travel with his mother and brother to join his dad, a US Department of State staffer and an independent management consultant, in various parts of the world. These visits provided Dick with a broad worldly perspective that widened upon his travels as an adult to Mexico, Central America, and Southeast Asia. In his later years, Dick preferred taking “armchair adventures” as an avid cinephile, listening to his favorite blues and rock & roll artists, and enjoying time in nature with his family. He had a heart of gold for wildlife and generosity to admire. Dick’s love for wildlife was only topped by his love for his late wife Andrea and their beautiful daughter Michelle. Dick was very proud of Michelle. He was exceedingly generous to friends and worthy causes and had a coarse sense of humor. Dick was a true character; one of a kind. He had numerous exotic pets, from chickens to sugar gliders, hairless rats, emus, two monkeys, tortoises, a ferret, a boa constrictor, and his pot-bellied pig, Weiner.

Dick was the beloved husband of the late Andrea Duria Nugent; loving father/father-in-law of Michelle Duria Nugent and her husband Matthew Pihokker; dear brother of the late Daniel A. Nugent; and son of the late Marion and Dan Nugent. *Written and compiled by Paul Tritaik with help from Cindy Uptegraft Barry, Libby Herland, Gary Stolz, Lamar Gore, and Mike McMenamin.*



### **David George “Dave” Patterson (1944 – 2021).**

Dave Patterson, a FWS Retiree Association member, passed away October 27, 2021, in Anchorage, Alaska, from COVID-19. He was born in Manitoba, Canada on March 5, 1944. He was 77. Dave started his working career as a newspaper delivery boy to help

his Canadian immigrant parents support their family. He worked through high school at Wissers Sporting Goods store in Anaheim, California, where family business owners loved him. He graduated from Anaheim High School in 1962, then went to Humboldt State University and finished with degrees/majors in biology, forestry and business. Between semesters he fought forest fires as a member of a Hot Shot crew and was a seasonal naturalist at Bryce Canyon National Park (NP) in Utah as well as Yellowstone NP in Wyoming, where he met and later married Katie Winslow. After attending the National Park Service Academy at Grand Canyon, he relocated to Mount Rainier NP in Washington. He later served as a Law Enforcement Park Ranger at Yosemite NP, and upon his return to Yellowstone. Dave and Katie decided to end their marriage after 12 years but remained good friends. After five years in Yellowstone, Dave accepted a position in 1977 as a Recreation Specialist with the FWS in the

NWR System at the RO in Anchorage, Alaska. Two years later he married Rindi Vick.

Dave loved Alaska, and seriously loved hunting and fishing, mostly fishing on the Kenai River. He served as Council Commissioner with the Boy Scouts of America, and served as Cub Master, Troop Committee Chair, and sat on numerous Eagle and Boy Scout Boards of Review. He was awarded the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award at the Council level. Dave was a very caring and compassionate man, and a favorite mentor to the boys in Troop 210. He took up woodcarving in self-defense as everyone else in the family had become woodcarvers, plus he became a woodturner. An accomplished handyman, he could fix most anything and loved working on cars. He was an active member of St John United Methodist Church (UMC). As an active Shriner, Dave joined the Clown Unit, driving his little clown car in parades. Dave loved his family and was always helpful to neighbors and friends. He is survived by his parents, George W. and Mary C. Patterson; loving wife, Rindi Patterson; their two sons, Scott (Jessica) Patterson, Bryan Patterson (Rachel Kain); grandchildren, Carlee, Mason, Grayson Patterson, Brooklyn Kain-Patterson; brother, Ken Patterson (Paula); and sister, Cathy Bunting (Jack).

A Celebration of Life for Dave was held September 17, 2022, at St. John UMC. Donations in Dave’s memory may be made to the Shriner’s Hospitals, 911 W. 5th Ave., Spokane, WA 99204; or to the Boy Scouts of America Troop 210, c/o St John UMC, 1801 O’Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99507. *Adapted from online obituary by Doug Frugé with special thanks to Jerry Stroebele for notifying us of Dave’s passing.*



### **Thomas Laurence Sechrist (1931 – 2021).**

Tom Sechrist, 90, met death on November 11, 2021, after a week-and-a-half-long struggle with a COVID infection. Tom was born May 16, 1931, near Garrettsville, Ohio, to Jacob Sechrist and Thelma Rice Sechrist. He had three older brothers: Richard, Robert, and Paul, all of whom were raised and worked on the family dairy farm. Tom enjoyed the outdoors and trapped muskrat, mink, and other furbearers for

money. Tom attended Hiram College, earning a bachelor’s degree in art and biology in 1953. After college, he joined the US Army and was stationed first in Camp Rucker, Alabama and then Fort Benning in Georgia, serving as liaison to an artillery officer and advancing to Sergeant before his discharge in 1955.

In 1958, he married Paulla Jean Wolfe of Hiram, Ohio. Tom and Paulla had three children: Timothy, Mark, and Susan. In 1959, Tom worked for the Ohio Division of Wildlife and Law Enforcement as a game protector for about seven and a half years. Tom started his FWS career in 1967 as a GS-7 Game Management Agent, stationed in Evansville, Indiana. Tom worked mostly in southern Indiana doing migratory bird law enforcement (LE) but also did surveys and banded ducks in South Dakota and Saskatchewan, Canada in the summer. Tom moved to Devil’s Lake, North Dakota in 1970, also as a Game Management Agent.

One of his duties was working to decrease depredation problems on farms in North Dakota, which was a constant complaint among farmers. Another was enforcing wetland easements on private lands that were important for waterfowl, but unpopular with farmers. The Service reorganized in 1972 and Tom became a Special Agent, dropping the game management duties of depredation, surveying, and banding. He and other special agents became strictly LE. Tom moved to Casper, Wyoming in 1975, where he was the only Special Agent in Wyoming, investigating big game hunters violating the Lacey Act and ranchers killing eagles. Tom made two eagle cases in Wyoming and prosecuted a hunter who brought a Florida panther hide to a Wyoming taxidermist claiming it was a Wyoming mountain lion.

In February 1978, Tom moved to Albany, New York where he was promoted to a Senior Resident Agent position. Tom supervised three special agents in upstate New York. As a supervisor, he was still able to go into the field and work waterfowl seasons. One case almost got him killed when he caught a notorious hunter, who happened to be a policeman, hunting with two other LE friends, taking way over the limit of canvasbacks. Tom retired in 1987 when he was 55 and had twenty years of service.

A year after retirement, Tom and Paulla moved to Bloomington, Indiana, where they spent the remainder of their lives together. Tom worked for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources part time until he turned 70. Tom loved the outdoors. He was able to watch a parade of wildlife in his backyard, from deer and raccoons to songbirds and flocks of sandhill cranes.

To stay in shape, Tom began throwing the discus and shot put, as he had done in high school and college. He was a regular participant in the state and national Senior Games, earning a gold medal in the discus event at the 2017 National Senior Games championship for discus in his 85-90 age bracket. His last event was in Albuquerque, in 2019, where his family and some dear friends got to watch him compete. He was curious and adventurous, traveling all over the country in his hand-customized pickup truck, including two solo trips to Alaska. Tom faithfully attended yearly gatherings of his Retired FWS LE colleagues and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Bloomington.

Tom was preceded in death by his wife, Paulla, who died of breast cancer in August 2011; and his son Mark's two daughters, Sara (10) and Alexandra "Sasha" (7), who were victims with four other family members in a tractor-trailer crash near Phoenix, Arizona, in 1998.

Tom is survived by his brother Paul; children, Timothy, Mark (Beth Morgan) and Susan (Tom Wojtusik); grandson, Brandin and granddaughter, Rilee; and great grandson, Tamlin. *Compiled by Paul Tritaik with help from Jerry Smith*

**Gary Lee Stackhouse (1943 – 2022).** Gary Stackhouse was born on August 5, 1943, in Marshalltown, Iowa. He passed away on March 14, 2022, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Gary grew up in the cornfields of Iowa with his four brothers. He graduated from Saydel High School and joined the US Army at a young age. He served in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart and



Bronze Star Medal for Heroism. He was married to Claudia and had two children, John and Tiffany. He went on to graduate from Iowa State University with a degree in Biology and then pursued a long career as a FWS Biologist. He moved his family to Alaska in 1978 and settled in Palmer where his kids were raised. He later married his second wife, Doris, and became stepdad to Erich. They spent weekends at their cabin on the Kenai until they retired and became snowbirds in Mexico. They lived in Mexico for over 20 years.

Gary's passion was playing golf, and he was good at it as evidenced by the many trophies he won. He and a group of his retired friends played together as often as they could. He was instrumental in building a small golf course in Mexico that is still operating successfully. He spent time learning how to speak Spanish by visiting a small mountain village when he first started traveling to Mexico. He also had interests in reading, bird watching, gardening, fishing and being outdoors. He was a lover of all animals, big and small. His failing health during the past few years brought an end to most of those activities.

Gary is survived by his four brothers, Dennis, Jim, Randy, and Don Stackhouse, his wife, Doris "Moo" Stackhouse, son John "Johnny" Stackhouse, daughter Tiffany "Spider" Collier, stepson Erich Schnell, grandson Spencer Stackhouse and granddaughter Sage Collier. *Compiled by Paul Tritaik. Special thanks to Jerry Stroebele for informing us of Gary's passing.*



**Gary Wallace ( – 2022).** Dr. Gary Wallace, retired botanist at the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office in California, died in June 2022. Gary worked for the Carlsbad office from 1996 until his retirement in 2014. Born in Pasadena, California, Gary received his bachelor's and master's degrees from California State University, Los Angeles. He went on to earn a PhD from Claremont Graduate University. Gary honorably served in the US Army, including a tour of duty in Vietnam (1969–1970) and received the Bronze Star.

Before working for the FWS, Gary served as a taxonomist for the Los Angeles County Arboretum during 1975-1981, and as an associate curator for botany at the Los Angeles Natural History Museum.

Throughout his career, Gary diligently strove to elevate the importance of plant taxonomy, noting that systematics and nomenclature is foundational to species conservation. He worked toward conservation of numerous plants in Southern California, including the Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Peirson's milk-vetch,

ash-gray paintbrush, southern mountains wild buckwheat, willow monardella, San Clemente Island lotus, and San Clemente Island paintbrush. For his efforts to further the FWS mission, Gary was selected as a Recovery Champion in 2014.

Outside of his work at the Carlsbad office, Gary was involved with numerous botanical organizations. He was on the Board of Trustees for the California Botanic Garden and was a regular contributor to research on plants. Gary provided the treatment of *Ericaceae* (the heath family) for the second edition of the Jepson Manual (2012), the most comprehensive treatment of California flora. He was a longtime contributor to the Flora of North America project and served as a reviewer/editor to the southwest section for several years.

As testament to the international recognition of his expertise and contributions to plant knowledge and conservation, in 2008 Gary was inducted into the Linnean Society of London for his lifelong dedication, expertise, and commitment to excellence in botany and taxonomy. Founded in 1788, the Linnean Society is the world's oldest active society devoted to natural history.

Gary enjoyed people. He gave his undivided attention to helping staff. He was serious about the work of the FWS. He had a wry sense of humor, enjoyed a good laugh, and was always inclusive of the folks around him. Those who knew and worked with Gary will miss him. The Service was lucky to benefit from his expertise and contributions to its conservation mission. *Adapted from an article in Fish and Wildlife News, Summer 2022. No obituary with other key details was found for Gary.*



**Rolf Lennart Wallenstrom (1932-2022).**

Association member Rolf Wallenstrom, of Cypress, Texas passed away on February 15, 2022 at age 89. Rolf was born July 12, 1932 in Albany, New York to Hilda M. and Gustaf A. Wallenstrom, but raised in a suburban neighborhood of Schenectady, New York. By the time he was in high school, his parents had moved to Syracuse, New York. Growing up, he and his dad regularly hunted, fished, and camped.

Rolf attended Syracuse University because of its College of Forestry. He wanted to study something having to do with the outdoors. He graduated in 1955 with a BS in Forest Products Engineering. His first professional job was with Diamond Match Corporation in Superior, Montana, as a management trainee.

Rolf married his eighth-grade sweetheart, Virginia "Ginnie" McGean in April 1956 in Syracuse, with plans to live in Montana. While traveling back to Syracuse for their wedding, his draft notice arrived. Rolf enlisted in the US Army, completed Basic Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and reported for duty at Fort Meade, Maryland. For two years, he worked in Engineer and Special Services Battalions as a surveyor and was on the Honor Guard/Drill Team. After the Army, Rolf and Ginnie moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where Rolf worked for Crown Central

Petroleum Corporation in a Management Training Program. He and Ginnie eventually had a daughter, Lou-Anne, and a son, Jeff.

Rolf started with the FWS in January 1959, as a GS-5 Real Estate Appraiser in the Minneapolis, Minnesota RO. He transferred in 1961, as a Supervisory Appraiser, to Fergus Falls, Minnesota. In 1964, he was appointed as a Wetland Program Supervisor in Aberdeen, South Dakota and had the unenviable task of trying to convince people to let the Service continue the unpopular acquisition program which required county approval. One major success was getting South Dakota counties to resume wetland acquisitions after the deauthorization of the controversial Oahe irrigation project. He stayed there until 1971, when he entered the Departmental Manager Development Program in Washington, DC for a year. One of his assignments was to work on the Area Management concept. A new FWS Region (6) was established and headquartered in Denver, Colorado, and Rolf was selected to be the Area Manager for South Dakota and Nebraska, headquartered in Pierre, South Dakota, with supervisory responsibility over Law Enforcement, Hatcheries, Refuges, Land Acquisition, and Endangered Species from 1972 to 1979. Rolf then got a promotion/transfer to be Deputy Associate Director for Habitat Resources in Washington, DC. He was there for one year before being promoted to Associate Director for Federal Assistance in 1980, where he continued to work on controversial irrigation projects in North and South Dakota and Nebraska. In 1986 Rolf went to Portland, Oregon as RD for Region 1, the Pacific Region, where he tackled such controversial issues as the selenium contamination of Kesterson NWR and oil drilling off the California coast. Perhaps the biggest decision Rolf ever made was to take into captivity the last surviving wild California condor (with only 27 left in the world), which was opposed by the Native Chumash Tribe and the National Audubon Society. That decision helped save the condor from extinction, as the population has grown to just over 500 birds worldwide by this year, with more than half the population flying free in the wild. The other controversial endangered species issue Rolf contended with was the then potential listing of the northern spotted owl.

Rolf revealed in his oral history that, with all of these politically sensitive issues happening at once, FWS Director Frank Dunkle suggested that he take a position as Special Assistant to the Director, to be replaced as RD with a political appointee. Rolf said that, though he had the support of 26 US representatives and senators, as well as many career employees, when he refused the offer, he was terminated. Rolf successfully challenged the action, resulting in the Department rehiring him with back pay. Rolf went back to work for a day, and then retired in May 1989 with the commitment that his replacement would be a career professional. Rolf's principled leadership, in the face of unrelenting political pressure, to carry out the Service's mission, legal obligations, and controversial conservation actions for the long-term viability of fish and wildlife resources, is an inspiration for all FWS employees.

Rolf was predeceased by: his parents Hilda and Gustaf Wallenstrom; his half-sister Virginia Salmonson; and his beloved wife Ginnie (December 3, 2021). Rolf is survived by: Virginia Salmonson's daughter, Brenda Quackenbush, and her children Linda, Mike, and Donna; daughter Lou-Anne Tandy (Gene) and their son Trevor; son Jeff (Judy) and their children Kyle and



Nikki. *Written and compiled by Paul Tritaik from Rolf Wallenstrom's oral history with help from Lou-Anne Tandy and Cindy Uptegraft Barry.*



Retiree Attendees at 2022 Reunion in Deadwood, SD

*Note that not all attendees are in the photo.*

### **Roster of FWS Retirees and Spouses/Partners/Guests Attending the 2022 Reunion**

*Listed alphabetically by surname – not as appearing in photo.*

*This list is based on the Reunion registration record. If you attended but your name is missing and you would like to be added please notify Denise Baker at [secretary@fwsretirees.org](mailto:secretary@fwsretirees.org) and Doug Frugé at [communications@fwsretirees.org](mailto:communications@fwsretirees.org), and we will update the list posted on the 2022 Reunion webpage at <http://www.fwsretirees.org/PastReunions/2022Reunion.html>.*

Denise Baker	Albuquerque, NM
Cindy Uptegraft Barry	Vancouver, WA
Dave & Joyce Frederick	Pagosa Springs, CO
Doug Frugé	Whitingham, VT
Jim Gillette	Pungoteague, VA
Nancy Gloman	Rio Rancho, NM
Lew & Peggy Gorman	Cherry Hill, NJ
Jerry & Judy Grover	Tigard, WA
Pollianne Grover	
Warren & Sharon Haganbuck	Rio Rancho, NM
Dale & Sarah Hall	Collierville, TN
Bruce Halstead	Sequim, WA
Dave & Catherine Heffernan	Littleton, CO
Libby Herland	Pittsfield, MA
Deborah Holle & Terry Friggel	Austin, TX
Royce & Lana Huber	Custer, SD
Judy Jacobs & Dennis Lassuy	Portland, OR

Bill Knauer	Lampasas, TX
Steve Parry	St. Helena, CO
Sandy & Joe Perchetti	Audubon, NJ
Dr. Matthew Perry	Mitchville, MD
Larry Peterson	Kalispell, MT
Ray & Cindy Phillips	Buffalo, WY
Steve Rideout	Hampden, ME
Ken & Janice Schwindt	Fort Collins, CO
Randi & David Smith	Spearfish, SD
Charlie & Holly Storrs	Mobile, AL
Bob & Karen Streeter	Fort Collins, CO
Jim & Jacque Tisdale	Starkville, MS
Paul Tritaik	Sanibel, FL
Wayne & Laura Wathen	Highlands Ranch, CO
Larry & Arlene Visscher	Lakewood, CO
Tom Worthington	St. Louis Park, MN

## **Are You up to Date on Your Dues?**

The Fish and Wildlife Service Retirees Association depends primarily on dues and income generated at our reunions to maintain its operations. We receive no funding from the federal government or outside sources of funding for the day-to-day activities of keeping the organization functioning. Please help keep YOUR Retirees Association going and active by paying your dues each year. If you're not sure whether you've paid your dues yet for this year or not, click on [Membership List and Dues Status](#) to find out.

*This Newsletter was compiled by Newsletter Editor Doug Frugé with contributions from other Board, Association members and others.*

*If you have information or would like to contribute articles that would be of interest to Association members for inclusion in future newsletters, please contact Doug at [communications@fwsretirees.org](mailto:communications@fwsretirees.org).*

*Also, be sure to visit our website for more up-to-date information at [www.fwsretirees.org](http://www.fwsretirees.org)*