



Keeping you connected

xtension cord

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University of Arkansas System

No. 1

Janet Hill: Growing Up With Extension

“My mom was in the home demonstration club, so I kind of grew up with Extension,” Janet Hill said.

Hill, a retired Extension agent, talked about her story and how she was inspired to pursue a career that she felt passionate about.

“When I first graduated from Harding, I couldn’t go to work for Extension,” Hill said. “I had a sister-in-law who worked in Grant County, and if you had family working for Extension, then you couldn’t work. That changed within a year.”

Hill was hired to work in White County in 1975 but moved to Izard County later that year. She worked there for a decade and then finished her extension career in Cleburne County in 2002.

“I was a home economist, which later changed to family and consumer science (FCS),” Hill said. “I worked with the Homemakers Clubs, 4-H and anyone who was interested in the home economics side of the program.”

Hill was passionate about family and consumer science skills from an early age.

“I grew up going to Extension Homemakers meetings with

my mom, and I liked cooking, sewing, and that kind of thing,” Hill said.

Later as an agent, she enjoyed teaching those skills to others.

“What was a lot of fun was just helping people improve and learn,” Hill said. “We taught topics like canning, food safety, childcare and finances.”

Hill also enjoyed working with youth through 4-H.

“It could get really hectic in the summertime, but I loved going to the 4-H Center with kids and to Washington,” Hill said. “I also enjoyed working at the fairs. As I got older, I would count down the time until I retired by county fairs.

“It was rewarding to help the people in the counties that I served,” Hill said. “I also loved working with other Extension agents on their programs. I liked learning new things like that.”

After she retired from Extension, Hill started teaching GED classes at Foothills Vocational School in Searcy, where she worked 16 years.

“I decided I wanted to do something different than what I had been doing,” Hill said. “I loved working with people of all ages who needed their high school diploma. I worked with high school-aged kids that had to drop out for various reasons and people in their seventies who just never had the chance to get it.”

She officially retired in 2019, but she still didn’t slow down. Instead, she filled her time by joining Master Gardeners.

“My mom was great with plants, and I thought I would



Cont. on page 2

THE INSIDE STORIES

Extension's 'adulting' podcast equips teens, young adults with Grown Up know-how

Message from the director

Retirements

Scholarship donations

Obituaries

February birthdays

2

Profile, cont.

like to do that,” Hill said. “I work with a lady who started planting things around the El Paso library when it first opened there. It’s so neat to work around such a historical building.”

Not only did she take care of the landscaping outside, but she also found a way to serve with others inside.

“Several ladies would meet over there on Wednesday to crochet caps for the children’s hospital,” Hill said. “I also participate in a book club that meets once a month because I love to read.”


One of Hill’s biggest adventures is Grandkids Camp, when her seven grandchildren stay with her during the summer.

“We do different things with them. We’ve gone to the Little Rock Zoo and the Clinton Library,” Hill said. “A couple of years ago, my oldest granddaughter helped sew some of the teaching dolls for the children’s hospital, and

the other grandkids helped stuff them. Then we went to the hospital, and they got to go in and see the different parts of the hospital.”

They have also gone to Heber Springs to see the fish hatcheries and to the Ozark Folk Center. This year will be the tenth year of Grandkids Camp, and Hill is excited to have her grandchildren once again.

To this day, Hill remains grateful for the policy change that allowed her to work for Extension.

“Extension was a great organization to work for,” Hill said. “I knew that all my life, and that’s why I decided to work for Extension.” 



Message from the director




We all had high hopes going into Christmas that 2022 would be COVID-free or at least COVID surge free, but it was not to be. Unfortunately, this month has seen a return to stricter adherence to mask and social distancing policies. The Cooperative Extension Service, along with most campuses, has made the

decision to carry on under existing protocols and try to do as much back-to-normal, in-person meetings as possible. Smaller meetings, county meetings and many trainings have gone on as scheduled. A few larger meetings, like the Division of Ag awards which were to be held at the 4-H Center, have been pushed back to February in hopes that the current surge will have subsided by then.

On a more positive note, I am very pleased with the level of support we have seen in giving to the 4-H Foundation this year. John Thomas, managing director of the Arkansas 4-H Foundation, has done such a wonderful job in the face of pandemic odds to have one of the best

years we have had in a long time. Much like the support of Extension retirees for your scholarship fund, support for Arkansas youth programs has not waived during this time. It is one of those “feel-good” things that makes it easier to get up and come to work! Overall, I am happy to report that so far that Extension has fared well — all things considered — when it comes to budget.

I want to end this month’s article by recognizing three retirees who are in this month’s Extension Cord. Hank Chaney, Gus Lorenz and Chuck Wilson all played important roles for me in my own Extension career. Were it not for the encouragement from Gus, I may have never left my job in industry. Chuck Wilson and I shared a stage for years at county production meetings, and his friendship and advice on building my program in rice weed control were invaluable to me. As for Hank Chaney, he really showed me what commitment and service to his clientele looked like and kept me honest as a specialist. I wish all three of my former coworkers all the best in their retirement or new careers.

I also wish you all the best, and as always, thank you for your continued support and interest in the Cooperative Extension Service. 

Extension's 'adulting' podcast equips teens, young adults with Grown Up know-how

There are some things that high school just doesn't teach. Though teens may feel academically prepared for college or ready to take on a job, they often find themselves unprepared for some of the responsibilities that accompany those big milestones.

Alison Crane, a family and consumer science agent in Garland County, realized this as her youngest daughter, Jolie, was preparing to go to college.

Crane shared the idea for an "adulting class" with fellow family and consumer science agents.

Crane worked with agents from more than a dozen counties to create Grown Up U: Facts for Success, a new podcast that provides teens and young adults with practical information they need to successfully navigate life on their own.

New episodes are posted weekly and can be accessed through Apple, Spotify, Facebook and online at <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/grown-up-u>.

"We like to think of ourselves as aunts you would go to for advice for navigating some of life's obstacles," Crane said of the group. "It's both practical information and research-based information for living an independent and satisfying life on your own."

High school students planning to attend college will find several useful episodes. In the first episode, extension agents Pamela Luker from Pope County and Rachel Chaney from Yell County offer tips for making the transition to college or to a first job. Crane has a segment that teaches college students how to budget their FAFSA return. Agents Valerie Turner from Monroe County and Julie Goings from Phillips County discuss grades and college scholarships in another episode.

Additional episodes are dedicated to personal finance — setting up bank accounts, learning budgeting basics, buying versus renting, paying bills and avoiding late fees and shut-off notices.

New episodes are posted on Wednesdays, and each episode runs no longer than 30 minutes.

To learn more and to read the full article, click [here](#).



Retirements

Hank Chaney

Hank began with Extension in July of 1982 and retired on Dec. 6, 2021. His last position was an ANR educator working with new county extension agents. He retired with 39 years of service.

Gus Lorenz

Gus began his career with Extension in March of 1985 and retired on Dec. 24, 2021. He was associate department head and extension entomologist and retired with 36 years of service.

Chuck Wilson

Chuck began his career with Extension in 1993 and retired on Dec. 1, 2021. He was a soil specialist – field crops and retired with 28 years of service.

Russell Wilson

Russell began with Extension in January of 2014 and retired on Dec. 1, 2021. He was a network administrator in the IT Department and retired with seven years of service.

February Birthdays

Bobby A. Huey - Feb. 2
Booker Clemons Jr. - Feb. 2
Charlotte Chitwood - Feb. 2
Brenda Lee Waldrum Feb. 2
Gene Woodall - Feb. 03
Bob Reynolds - Feb. 3
Larry Sandage - Feb. 3
Carol Patterson - Feb. 4
Beverly Henderson-Vincent - Feb. 4
Ed Rhodes Jr. - Feb. 4
Fran Tomerlin - Feb. 5
Mark Phillips - Feb. 5
Sheila Gail Brandt - Feb. 5
Belinda Kay Miller - Feb. 6
Dora Dinnan - Feb. 7
Beverly H. Hines - Feb. 7

Wanda House - Feb. 8
Gertrude Henderson - Feb. 9
Marie Corbin - Feb. 9
Catherine Koch - Feb. 9
Allan Beuerman Feb. 9
Ella M. Geisler - Feb. 10
Jimmie Gooch - Feb. 10
Joy Buffalo - Feb. 10
Steve Rodery - Feb. 11
Yvonne McCool Feb. 11
Ann Ward - Feb. 12
Keith Lusby - Feb. 13
Sharon Lillard - Feb. 15
Paula Seago - Feb. 18
Cheryl Williams - Feb. 18
Lynda Lee - Feb. 20

Delores Sowerbrower - Feb. 21
George Davis Jr. - Feb. 22
Denise Murdoch - Feb. 22
Larry Holeman - Feb. 22
Gerald Van Brunt - Feb. 23
Rebecca Thomas - Feb. 23
Doyne Potts - Feb. 24
Robert Felsman - Feb. 24
Jeri Vangilder - Feb. 24
Charles Johnston - Feb. 26
Clara Garrett - Feb. 26
Mary Warren - Feb. 27
James Geisler - Feb. 27
Larry Keaton - Feb. 27
Linda Simpson - Feb. 27
Carole Scaramuzza - Feb. 28

Scholarship donations

The following gifts were recently received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service.

Liz Childs

In memory of Barbara Ball

In memory of Barbara Chapman

In memory of Fann Woodward

Dorothy Hall

In memory of Fann Woodward

Darlene Millard

In memory of Barbara Ball

In memory of Erica Williams

Frank Plafcan

In memory of Barbara Ball

In memory of Fann Woodward

Portia Short

In memory of Fann Woodward

Inez Young

In memory of JoAnn Bowling

Honorary or memorial donations should be forwarded to the Development Office, ATTN: Brian Helms, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204. If joint recognition is desired, please indicate. To ensure proper notification is sent, please also include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mailing address of the person to receive the notification.

Barbara G. Ball passes

Barbara G. Ball, age 85, passed away on Dec. 15, 2021. She began working for Extension in May of 1963 and retired in January of 1998 from the Communications Department where she worked in the film library. Graveside services were held at Pinecrest Memorial Park near Little Rock. Roller-Chenal Funeral Home handled Barbara's arrangements.

Fann J. Woodward passes

Fann Jeffers Woodward, age 102, of Little Rock passed away on Dec. 12, 2021. Fann began working for Extension in 1963 and retired in 1982 as an Extension Family Economics Specialist. In retirement, Fann was a long time member of the Extension Cord Editorial Board. Arrangements were entrusted to Reubel Funeral Home of Little Rock. A memorial service was held Dec. 15th at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church.

Bill J. Moore Passes

Billy Moore, age 79, passed away on Jan. 9, 2022 in Lincoln, Arkansas. Billy began working for Extension in 1986 and retired in 2005 after serving as an area agriculture agent. Funeral services will be held Feb. 18, 2022 at 2 p.m. at the Central United Methodist Church in Lincoln, AR. Arrangements are entrusted to Luginbuel Funeral Home of Prairie Grove, AR.