



Keeping you connected


extension cord

February 2018

No. 2

2018 Retiree Luncheon

The 2018 Retiree Luncheon will be held at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale on Friday, March 16. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a time set aside for retirees to visit and reconnect with former colleagues. Lunch will be served at 12 noon. At that time, new retirees will be recognized and the 2018 Extension Scholarships will be presented. J. J. Pitman, 4-H Center director, will present an update on changes in the works for the 4-H Center.

The cost of the lunch for each retiree and one guest will be paid by Dr. Rick Cartwright, associate vice president for Agriculture-Extension. You should have received information on registering for the luncheon in the mail but you may also contact Brian Helms (bhelms@uaex.edu (501) 671-2156) or Verna Waddell (lwaddell@uaex.edu (501) 671-2326). Retiree Luncheon registration is due to the Development Office by March 1, 2018. We hope you will make plans to attend. 

Division of Agriculture honors Extension faculty, staff

Seven Cooperative Extension Service faculty and staff were among those recognized Jan. 12 during the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and Bumpers College Agriculture Awards Luncheon at the new Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences in Fayetteville.

Cecilia Harberson administrative support secretary and “go-to” everything for the Howard County Cooperative Extension Service, received the Division of Agriculture Classified Support Personnel Award.

Paul Beck, professor of animal science received the John W. White Outstanding Research Award for his work on forage and pastures. He joined the Division of Agriculture in 1997 as a herdsman while working on his Ph.D. He holds both research and extension appointments to the division and is now serving as interim director of the Southwest Research and Extension Center near Hope.

Tom Barber professor and extension weed scientist, received the John W. White Outstanding Extension State Faculty Award. Barber’s on-farm research on the control of PPO-resistant pigweed has helped more than 600 county agents, consultants, producers and industry personnel cope with the weed pest. He is frequently called on to provide expertise to the Arkansas State Plant Board and the media.

The Discovery Farm Team received the John W. White Outstanding Team Award. The team is led by **Mike Daniels** and Andrew Sharpley, both professors in the department of crop, soil and environmental sciences. Other

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Howard County's Cecilia Harberson honored for outstanding support.



Extension Weed Scientist Tom Barber honored for outstanding extension work.



Paul Beck, professor - animal science, honored for outstanding research.

THE INSIDE STORIES

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There's help available for tax filers

Tax filing season kicked off Jan. 29, 2018, and many tax filers find that they could use a little help. Here are some things that you might find useful as you prepare your tax return this year.

Guard against tax-related identity theft

Information on how to guard against tax-related identity theft (when a criminal uses someone else's Social Security number along with other personal data to file an income tax return, and reap any refunds, is available from the National Cyber Security Alliance (<https://staysafeonline.org>) and the Identity Theft Resource Center (<https://www.idtheftcenter.org>). A fact sheet offering tips for identifying cyber scams, actionable online safety steps and what to do if you fall victim to tax identity theft is available at <https://staysafeonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Tax-Time-Tip-sheet-2018.pdf>.

Some helpful online IRS tools

The IRS has a few tools to help answer your tax questions. Taxpayers can access Publication 17, *Your Federal Income Tax* the *Interactive Tax Assistant* and *Where's My Refund?* on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax

This publication covers the general rules for filing a federal income tax return. It explains the tax law to make sure someone pays only the tax they owe and no more. Using eBooks, taxpayers can view Publication 17 and other frequently used tax publications on their mobile devices such as smart phones, tablets and eReaders. IRS tax products are generally available online six to eight weeks before paper products are distributed. To view and download tax products, use the 'Forms and Pubs' tab on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

Interactive Tax Assistant

The ITA provides answers to several tax law questions. The ITA includes a question-and-answer session for a variety of topics. Users simply respond to basic questions to find the answers they need.

Where's My Refund?

Taxpayers can use this tool on [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) or with the IRS2Go mobile app for a personalized refund status. Taxpayers can generally check the status of their refund 24 hours after the IRS receives their e-filed return.

Tax time money-saving tips

Here are some ways to save money on your taxes from Laura Hendrix, associate professor – Family and Consumer Economics, Accredited Financial Counselor.


Tax preparation: Paid tax preparation costs an average of \$300. If using a paid service make sure it is reputable. For complicated returns, a paid tax preparation service or accountant may be the best option.

Most consumers can use a low-cost or no-cost option. If your taxes are straightforward you may want to file your taxes online with MyFreeTaxes. **If your household earned less than \$66,000 in 2017, you can file both your federal and state returns for free using [MyFreeTaxes.com](https://www.myfreetaxes.com).** This is the only free, national, online tax filing product offered by a non-profit the United Way.

If you would rather have someone help you prepare your taxes, visit the [IRS website](https://www.irs.gov) to find your closest free tax preparation site. Free tax volunteers are trained and certified each year by the IRS to ensure accuracy.

Tax Credits: Tax credits can lower the amount you pay or increase your refund. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), in particular, is an important credit to look out for. Many families who qualify for the EITC can also claim the Child Tax Credit. If you or your child are in college you may qualify for The American Opportunity Tax Credit or the Lifetime Learning Credit.

Save Your Refund: Plan now to use your refund wisely. Use Form 8888 to have your refund deposited directly into your bank account. You can designate up to three accounts; so part of your refund can go into your checking account and part can go into your savings account. If you have high interest debts, paying those debts first helps avoid losing money to interest payments. Additional money can be saved for an emergency fund in a savings account or put into retirement.

Enter the **Save Your Refund contest** for a chance to win one of 100 prizes of \$100 each. The grand prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$35,000. <https://saveyourrefund.com/home> 



Marvin Wall, retired Extension entomologist, dies

Marvin Leslie Wall passed away at the age of 77 on Jan. 30 after a sudden illness. Graveside funeral services were held Friday Feb. 2, at the Tillar Cemetery in Tillar, Arkansas.

Marvin attended the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville where he received an M.S. degree in entomology. After college he served as an assistant county agent in Lincoln County. Marvin left Extension and served as a navy lieutenant in the Vietnam War. After serving his country he returned to Extension in 1969 as the Southeast Arkansas entomologist until his retirement in 1995.

Marvin was a hard-working entomologist and one of the most knowledgeable people I have ever worked with in my career. At a recent meeting where he was recognized by the Arkansas Crop Protection Association for his outstanding achievements in serving Arkansas agriculture, I was honored to be able to give him his award. When I handed him his award he told the audience that although he had tried to teach me all he could, I still didn't know anything!

Marvin was "bigger than life" and was the living embodiment of the Land Grant Mission, serving the growers and county agents in southeast Arkansas. He was the quintessential Extension entomologist and one of the best people I have ever worked with in the field. While he will be missed, he won't be forgotten, and his legacy of service to the growers and agriculture in Arkansas will live on through those of us he touched in his life.

Marvin was a member of the McGehee Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Frances Wall; two children, Leslie Pierce and Steven Wall; and four grandchildren.

– Gus Lorenz 

Honorary and memorial donations

The following honorary and memorial gifts were received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers honorary and memorial gifts deposited Jan. 1-31, 2018.


■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

By Mark Bryles

*In memory of Keith J. Bilbrey, D.V. Maloch,
Lola H. Lehman, Effie Rogers, Robert W. Schroeder,
Woody Miley and Wallace C. Cummings*

By M. Portia Short

*In honor of Margaret Alexander and Fann Woodward
In memory of Evelyn Ammons and Sara Jane Newlin*

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72204. To ensure that 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. 

To our Extension retirees

Welcome to February the shortest month and for some the most difficult what with the weather and flu and all.



As seems more often today than when I was younger we recognize the passing forward of several more friends and colleagues. Please note in the issue the heartfelt memory to Marvin Wall retired Extension entomologist, by Gus Lorenz. Marvin passed at the end of January, but I was lucky enough to see him again last fall at the retiree luncheon in McGehee. As was usual in our relationship Marvin gave me good advice this time about what I should think about in being a "good" director if there was such a thing. I worked with him a number of times on trying to figure out "odd" things that he noticed on cotton, soybeans, pecans and vegetables in the southeast part of the state and often his observational and reasoning skills were better than mine – but I at least had the opportunity to learn from the best.

Noal Lawhon passed forward last week, and I was fortunate enough to attend his visitation. Noal and I went back to about 1980, and he taught me a tremendous amount about dealing with people in an ethical and friendly manner. Noal was a major player in ag business over the years and volunteered for many thankless jobs supporting the industry in this state and the country. He was a role model of respect and sincerity to others, and he was so very proud of his family. At the crowded visitation, I saw many old friends from the ag industry and heard so many testimonies of the character that Noal lived every day. It is easy to talk ethics and morals, but Noal actually lived his.


Dennis Gillam, the founder of Gillam Farms near Judsonia, also passed forward last week. He was a great friend and a supporter of thousands of people and organizations. Dennis would do anything for anybody give you the shirt off his back and never say anything to anyone about it. He was a remarkable person. I went to his visitation in Searcy and waited over an hour to get in, and I was in the middle of the line. This attendance was a simple testament to the impact that Dennis had, in a too short lifetime. I watched a movie once where a character noted "the candle that burns the brightest only burns half as long" – seems true. Dennis Gillam certainly was one of the brightest candles I have known.

While it is depressing to think about their passing I am better for having known each of them, but we simply say goodbye for now.

On a happier note, please read the article on the Division of Agriculture honors where many of our fine

(See Cartwright, page 4)


March Birthdays

Mr. Peter G. Faison, March 1
 Ms. Lynn Whitlock, March 1
 Mrs. Carolyn R. Hester, March 2
 Ms. Janet L. Hill, March 3
 Mrs. Glenda McLaughlin Rushing, March 5
 Ms. Sandra Lea Schlinker, March 5
 Mr. Danny Gene McCarter, March 8
 Mrs. Bobbie Floyd, March 10
 Ms. J. Alene Bates, March 10
 Mrs. Bonita Mueller, March 10
 Mrs. Dorothy R. Rodgers, March 12
 Mr. John B. Baker Jr., March 13
 Mr. Danny Ray Allen, March 14
 Mrs. Sue Seevers, March 14
 Ms. Judy Ann Drewrey, March 14
 Mrs. M. Dorene Wills, March 16
 Ms. Doris L. Markle, March 17
 Mr. Larry H. Pitman, March 19
 Mrs. Nina Boston, March 19
 Mr. Danny O. Walker, March 21
 Dr. Steven Charles Seideman, March 22
 Mr. Charlie E. Parsons, March 23
 Dr. John F. Robinson, March 24
 Mr. Ronnie Joe Bateman, March 24
 Mrs. Helen R. Morris, March 26
 Ms. Ocsie Barnes, March 26
 Mr. Thomas D. Moody, March 27
 Ms. Debbie B. Henry, March 28
 Mr. Eddie Hubbell, March 29
 Mrs. Celia Solis Boon Shireman, March 29
 Ms. Patsy Hall, March 29
 Ms. Karen L. Fite, March 31 

Faculty honors (cont.)

members of the team include Barber, Kristofer Brye, professor of applied soil physics and pedology in the department of crop, soil and environmental sciences, cotton agronomist **Bill Robertson** agricultural engineers **Chris Henry** and **Karl VanDevender**, and agricultural economist Jennie Popp.

The mission of the Arkansas Discovery Farm Program is to assess the effectiveness of conservation practices, document nutrient and sediment loss reductions in runoff water, deliver educational programs and assist farmers in achieving production and stewardship goals. To accomplish these objectives, the team employs state-of-the-art water quality collection and monitoring systems.

John W. White
 Awards for outstanding teaching research and extension service are named for the U of A System's first vice president for agriculture when the Division of Agriculture was made a statewide unit of the U of A System in 1959. 



Discovery Farm team honored for research and extension work in water quality. Team members (left to right) Karl VanDevender, Tom Barber, Mike Daniels, Andrew Sharpley and Kris Brye with Jean-Francois Meullenet, interim associate vice president for Agriculture-Research.


Cartwright (cont.)

colleagues were recognized for their extraordinarily hard work. We hope you can pass them a note of congratulations or, if not, just think good thoughts in their direction. We have some really fine people working for the Division today that carry on your legacy.

Also, note the help on taxes in this issue. Recent changes have confused filing this year, but we hope this information can assist you.

I also note that people are still having birthdays in this issue, and I hope you can remember them in your thoughts. I quit having a birthday several years ago, as it did not seem to serve much purpose other than making me feel a little down, so I simply gave it up.

Finally, we will have the Annual Retiree Luncheon on Friday, March 16 at the 4-H Center starting at 10:30 a.m. Please put this on your calendar and try to attend. We would love to see you at this event. Please come, and have a great February and early March!

– Rick Cartwright 

Yes, I will subscribe to the *Extension Cord*.

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Please make check payable to **UA CES** and mail to Martha Thorpe Communications Department, 2301 South University Avenue Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.

NOTE: Please do not combine payment for an Extension Cord subscription and a scholarship donation in one check. Payment for the **Extension Cord** should be made to **UA CES**. Payment for **scholarship donations** should be made to the **UA FOUNDATION**. If you include payment for an Extension Cord subscription in a check made payable to the UA Foundation, the entire amount will go to the UA Foundation.

Yes, I want to support the fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____. My gift is in honor / in memory of _____.

Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts: _____

Please make check payable to the **UA Foundation** and mail to Martha Thorpe Communications Dept., 2301 South University Avenue Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.