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Virginia Cottrell Believes You Should Never Stop Learning

When Virginia Cottrell was laid off from her job, she attended a business school in Memphis, then moved back to Forrest City.

That's when an EFNEP program assistant, Mary Taylor, started coming to Cottrell's house to teach her meal planning, food preservation and other homemaker skills. Cottrell was a married mother of two at the time.

"That's when I started my recipe book," she said. "I still have some of the recipes and I still use them."

In November 1977, Cottrell applied for a clerical assistant job at Extension and became part of the organization she had admired. "I loved the work," she said. "In my spare time, I would go through the files to see what all was available through Extension."

When she remodeled her home, she was surprised that Extension helped. An agent came out to help her with house plans.

"Extension has truly been a friend of mine for many years," she said.

Cottrell, a mother of three and grandmother of three, retired as an administrative office supervisor June 2009. She was able to see a multitude of advancements at Extension during her career, including the amazing changeover from ditto machines to computers. She was skeptical of laptops at first, but came to rely on them to get work done fast. It sure beat getting to the bottom of a triplicate form on the typewriter and then hitting the wrong letter.

At her retirement party, friends gave her a money tree. Ironically, she used the cash toward a brand new laptop.

Cottrell and a friend started college at East Arkansas Community College, and she is 30 hours into an administrative technology degree.

"I'm trying to stay sharp in my old age," she said.

Cottrell helps her husband with the non-profit he founded along with two other veterans called All Veterans Empowerment Service, Inc. The organization assists vets applying for



Virginia Cottrell

benefits, among other things. Cottrell helps with fundraisers, serves meals, helps with filing and is the activity coordinator.

"My husband is a Vietnam veteran, and they just started it to help people," she said. "Then word got out. We're in the process of seeking funding now. We just wanted to give back."

To reconnect with Virginia Cottrell, contact her at 3401 SFC 738, Forrest City, AR 72335, (870) 633-6877.

— Shannon Magsam

Retiree Spotlight

Virginia Cottrell
Barbara Holt

Inside

Honorary and
Memorial Gifts
NEAFCS-AR
Meeting at
Galaxy Conference

Condolences

James Clements,
Retired County
Extension Agent -
Staff Chair, Dies

Thomas Evrard,
Retired NEREC
Director, Dies

From the
Editorial Board

February
Birthdays

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



**Annual Retiree Luncheon
at the Galaxy Conference**
Winthrop Rockefeller
Institute atop Petit Jean Mtn.
**The luncheon is free to
retirees.**

Barbara Holt Still Serving Community

Dr. Barbara Holt's first job after graduating from Ouachita Baptist University was teaching secondary school in Mount Ida, where she was born the first of five children, and then she taught at schools in California and Washington, D.C. Between school assignments, she traveled abroad for work and play. She joined the Peace Corps and served as a consultant overseas.

After earning her master's and doctorate degrees from Cornell University, Holt decided she wanted to move back to warmer climes. She taught at the School of Vocational Education at Louisiana State University. One of her last students – before she retired from LSU after 20½ years of teaching – was a doctoral student who worked at Extension.

Holt decided to move back to Arkansas when her mother became ill. She was hired as a county Extension county agent – home economics in Arkadelphia in 1995.



Barbara Holt

She remained in that post until she retired – *again* – on her 65th birthday in August 2001.

Soon after, Holt moved to her house in the woods nine miles from Norman, Ark. She bought the land when she was in her forties. When she retired the second time, Holt bought adjacent land with a cabin on it and expanded the living quarters.

She shares the house with a menagerie of strays and the many visitors who are always welcomed to her home.

Holt has taken up oil painting and is in the business of encouraging other artists. She and several others founded the Ouachita Artists Gallery Studio, which is across the road from the courthouse in Mount Ida. They are 80 members strong and have attracted visitors from 25 states and three continents since opening in January of last year.

Holt's paintings – of everyday things in her life, like Smith Creek or a rare white flower that grows on her property – will be featured on the back wall of the gallery during the month of January.

"I recently did a radio interview and I said that Montgomery County had a lot of kitchen table artists and we're bringing them out," she said.

To reconnect with Dr. Barbara Holt, contact her at barbholt@hughes.net, 2018 Liberty Road, Norman, AR 71960, (870) 334-3264.

– Shannon Magsam

Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The following memorial gifts were recently received recognizing retirees of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers gifts deposited December 1-31, 2012.

■ Mildred and Liz Childs CES Award

*In memory of Mildred Childs
Elizabeth Childs*

To make an honorary or memorial donation, please forward to the Communications Office, ATTN: Martha Thorpe, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 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. – Merritt Royal

NEAFCS-AR Meeting at Galaxy Conference

NEAFCS-AR invites former FCS agents/home economists to attend their meeting at the Galaxy Conference on Wednesday, March 27, 2013, at 3:15 p.m. The Arkansas Affiliate is making plans for its 75th anniversary in 2015 and would welcome input from FCS retirees.

Make plans now to attend! See the great work being done by the affiliate now and help members make plans to honor their past.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to the family of Mark Bryles on the loss of their son, Steven Mark Bryles. Steven was a former state senator and, at the time of his death, was the director of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission.

James Clements, Retired County Agent – Staff Chair, Dies

James W. Clements, 69, of Mountain Home died Jan. 6. His first Extension position was as a county Extension agent in Lawrence County in 1967, and he subsequently served in Washington and Sharp counties as an agent. He also served as staff chair in Sharp and Clay counties before retiring in 1995.

Clements is survived by his wife, Marjorie Clements; two sons, James W. Clements, Jr., of Vernon, Tex., and John R. Clements of Fort Smith; daughter, Leigh Ann Gibson of Little Rock; two brothers, Joseph Clements of Little Rock and Hiram M. (Mac) Clements of Memphis, Tenn.; two sisters, Doris Vinke of Orland Park, Ill., and Susan K. Steckel of Memphis, Tenn.; and a grandson.

A memorial service was held Jan. 10 at First Baptist Church in Mountain Home with burial at Corning Cemetery, Corning.

Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Marjorie Clements, P.O. Box 375, Mountain Home, AR 72654. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Deacon's Benevolence Fund, 400 Club Blvd., Mountain Home, AR 72653, or Hospice of the Ozarks Hospice House, 701 Burnett Drive, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

– Laura Goforth

Thomas Evrard, Retired NEREC Director, Dies

Thomas O. Evrard, 82, of Mountain Home died Jan. 8, in Gassville.

He received his bachelor's degree from Penn State University, a master's degree from Virginia Tech and a Ph.D. in plant pathology from Rutgers University. Evrard worked for Olin Chemical Company and CIBA Agrochemical before becoming director of the Northeast Research and Extension Center in Keiser in 1983. He served as director of the Rice Research and Extension Center in Stuttgart from 1988 to 1989 and retired as NEREC director in 1997. He was a United States Army veteran.

Evrard is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (Betsy) Cole-Evrard; two sons, Tim Evrard of Maumelle and Bill Evrard of Louisiana; two daughters, Nancy Stringer and Jessie Thomas, both of Maumelle; eight grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren; three stepsons, Brad Cole and Dr. Andrew Cole of Conway and Jeff Cole of Dallas, Tex.; six step grandchildren; and a sister, Ertha Hulbert of Indiana. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Arkansas, 201 Markham Center Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205.

– Laura Goforth

From the Editorial Board

As we reflect upon this month's articles and those in previous issues, we are impressed with how Extension retirees continue to impact the communities where they live. Keep up the good work in 2013!

We are pleased to announce an improvement for those who subscribe to the printed *Extension Cord*. The expiration date of your subscription is now printed on the mailing label. Hopefully, this will be helpful in keeping your subscription to the *Extension Cord* current, and you won't miss any issues.

The 2013 scholarship recipient will be announced at this year's Retiree Luncheon. Please make plans to join us.

While we made great progress in the *Advance 25K* fundraising campaign, we can only award one scholarship this year as we are still short of the \$25,000 endowment total needed to ensure two scholarships. We hope you will consider including the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship in your giving plans this year.

Happy New Year!

Your editorial board

Editorial Board Members

Fann Woodward	Lorraine Hupp
Mike Wright	Earl Wilson
Stan Chapman	William Woodall
Lott Rolfe, III	

Bob Reynolds, Editor

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Charlotte Chitwood, February 2
Booker Clemons, Jr., February 2
Bobby Huey, February 2
Lamar James, February 3
Larry Sandage, February 3
William "Gene" Woodall, February 3
Beverly Henderson-Vincent, February 4
Carol Lackey Patterson, February 4
Edward Rhodes, Jr., February 4
Sheila Brandt, February 5
Mark Phillips, February 5
Dora Dinnan, February 7
Jimmie Lee Edwards, February 7

(Cont. p. 4)

Cooperative Extension Service
 2301 South University Avenue
 Little Rock, AR 72204-4940

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS (CONT.)

- Beverly Hines, February 7
- Wanda House, February 8
- Gertrude Henderson, February 9
- Catherine Koch, February 9
- Joy Buffalo, February 10
- Ella Geisler, February 10
- Jimmie Gooch, February 10
- Steve Kent Rodery, February 11
- Clydine Porter, February 12
- Ann Ward, February 12
- Arthur Layton, February 14
- Betty Oliver, February 16
- Lynda Lee, February 20
- Delores Sowerbrower, February 21
- George Davis, Jr., February 22
- Larry Holeman, February 22
- Gerald Van Brunt, February 23
- Arvell Wyatt, February 23
- Robert Felsman, February 24
- Doyne Potts, February 24
- Clara Garrett, February 26
- Charles Johnston, February 26
- James Geisler, February 27
- Larry Keaton, February 27
- Mary Warren, February 27
- Carole Scaramuzza, February 28

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

	Cost	Amount Enclosed
<i>Extension Cord</i>	\$12.00	_____

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

Yes, I want to support the *Advance 25K: Continuing a Legacy* fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of \$20.12 Other \$_____

My gift is in honor / in memory of _____

Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts:

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