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Retiree Spotlight

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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Bonnie Taylor Can't Stop Working

Bonnie Taylor graduated from high school in May 1958, turned 18 in June and started her first job at Extension in February, where she worked 44 years. She retired in 2009.

"I had been in the work force so long I couldn't stop working," she said.

Taylor substitute teaches sixth grade and older in the Hoxie School District since she retired. Taylor's Facebook profile picture is one taken the day she retired from Extension.

"I wouldn't take anything for my Extension family," she said. "They did and still do so much for me."

Taylor began with Extension as a clerk stenographer and retired as an administrative office supervisor.

In a *Walnut Ridge Times Dispatch* article, Gail Clark, one of the staff chairs Taylor worked with, said, "She was the glue that held the office together."

Former Staff Chair Lee Hunter told the newspaper, "She was doing the work of office supervisor long before she had the title."

Another colleague joked that people learned fast that Taylor did not approve of anyone coming into the office wearing muddy boots or carrying ticks.

Taylor laughed, saying, "You can see we had good times and lots of fun."

Taylor teaches Sunday school at her church, and she's involved in the bereavement ministry.

Taylor's husband of nearly 50 years passed away last year. Her son,



Bonnie Taylor

Jeff, was killed in 1992 when the car he was driving was struck by a drunk driver.

Taylor is selling her house in Hoxie and may move either to Florida to be near her sister or to Beebe where her brother lives.

To reconnect with Bonnie Taylor, contact her at 1248 Midway Road, Hoxie, Ark. 72433, (870) 886-5335.

— Shannon Magsam

Patsy Stephens: Helping Make Families Healthier

Patsy Stephens started working for Extension in Craighead County as a program assistant in 1973 and enjoyed it so much she remained in the same position for 31 years.

“We learned about nutrition, budgeting and preserving food together, along with clients,” she said.

Since Stephens often runs into former clients, it’s gratifying to see how well they’re doing and how much Extension helped make their families healthier.

A woman who participated in her group food demonstrations recently called. She couldn’t remember how to make peanut butter kisses, a recipe that Stephens shared many years ago.

“She told me, ‘My kids have been wanting me to make those,’” Stephens said.

Stephens loves to cook, and she’s already looking forward to canning a pantry full of fresh tomatoes. She loves using her canned tomatoes in stews and soups in the winter because they taste so much better than the store-bought variety.

Stephens and her daughter, Angie, also love home decorating and have taken classes together. The two recently



Patsy Stephens

worked together to remodel Angie’s house in downtown Jonesboro. Stephens also enjoys floral arranging.

Stephens and her husband, Raymond, traveled extensively together for several years after she retired in 2004. He passed away in 2007 after 47 years of marriage.

Stephens is helping plan her 57th high school reunion. She graduated from Nettleton High School just outside of Jonesboro, and the class has always been very close.

“I really enjoyed working at Extension. It was good to have helped so many people.”

To reconnect with Patsy Stephens, contact her at 4400 Prospect Road, Jonesboro, Ark. 72401, (870) 935-2366.

– Shannon Magsam

Honorary and Memorial Gifts

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 April 1-30, 2013.

■ Honorariums

In honor of Margaret Alexander
Patsy Keller

In honor of Randel Price
Lloyd Westbrook

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to the Development Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, Ark. 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.

– Elizabeth Childs

Special Recognition for the Bill Russell Family

Bill Russell has been informed that his late father, William Leon Russell, Sr., will receive a posthumous Honorary Doctor of Public Service from the University of Central Arkansas. Bill’s father is being recognized for his public service in World War II for which he was awarded eight Purple Hearts. – Merritt Royal

Joann Thompson, Retired County Agent, Dies

Joann W. Thompson of Clarksville passed away April 11, 2013, in Little Rock.

Thompson earned a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State and a master's in education from Arizona State. She became a county Extension agent - home economics in Ashley County in 1970 and served as the home economics leader in Columbia County and in Johnson County before her retirement in 1995.

She is survived by a daughter, Lisa Jo Velliquette of Weatherford, Texas, and one granddaughter.

A graveside funeral service was held April 19 at Oak Grove Cemetery in Searcy.

– Laura Goforth



Ford Baldwin, June 1
Mae Rosby, June 1
Linda Hon, June 3
Ted Jones, June 5
Jelyne Coldwell, June 6
Brenda Vick, June 7
Lanny Ashlock, June 8
Vetress Strong, June 8
Jo Howard, June 10
Joe Bradley, June 11
Martha May, June 11
Michael Hamilton, June 14
Janet Kuykendall, June 16
Lila Grist, June 20
Sherry Ann Black, June 23
Clifford Coker, Jr., June 24
Carroll Garner, June 25
Dorothy Hall, June 29

Birthdays

From the Editorial Board

The *Extension Cord* editorial board meets on the first Wednesday of each month to review articles written for the current month's newsletter and to make assignments for the following month's issue.

The board hears a report on donations to the scholarship fund and, once a year, announces to current Extension employees the opportunity to apply for a scholarship from the endowed fund you have supported and helped grow through your generous donations.

With business out of the way, board members bring each other up to date on issues that may affect retirees and on what is going on in each other's lives.

During the May meeting, the board discussed this year's Galaxy and attendance at the luncheon set aside to recognize retirees who awarded two \$500 scholarships.

We enjoyed getting together during the luncheon with other retirees and with current employees who visited with us and who are carrying on the legacy we handed off to them. The retiree luncheon is an event all retirees should determine to attend next year. You will be pleased with the food, the visit and the warm welcome you'll receive.

We hope all retirees who attended the luncheon this year will take a moment to drop a thank-you note to Tony Windham who covered the cost of lunch for retirees and their spouses or guests. We appreciate Dr. Windham's support, and we appreciate each and every retiree.

Your editorial board

Editorial Board Members

Fann Woodward
Mike Wright
Stan Chapman
Lott Rolfe, III

Lorraine Hupp
Earl Wilson
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Bob Reynolds, Editor



Cooperative Extension Service
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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 \$_____

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