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Retiree Spotlight

Steve Jones
Dennis Bailey

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Steve Jones Just Horsin' Around

When Steve Jones took early retirement from Extension on July 1, 2014, he had a plan. Anyone who knew him had to suspect it would involve horses. It did.

"I took my hobby and turned it into a business. It doesn't feel like a job," he said.

Jones started Steve Jones Horsemanship Enterprises, Inc., in Conway and conducted his first horse clinic two weeks after retiring from Extension. He teaches private horse lessons as well as clinics across the state and in other states like Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska. He also competes in horse events himself.

Jones writes a monthly news article, "Campfires, Trail and Tails," for *Horsemen's Roundup* magazine, the largest equine publication in Arkansas. He's been writing for the magazine for 26 years. He also co-hosts a monthly radio show, Hoof Tracks, that has an audience of 30,000 in the Arkansas River Valley in North Central Arkansas.

Jones occasionally teaches the art of pack and trail riding, which was a program he helped start with 4-H students when he was in Extension. Jones first worked for Extension in Louisiana, beginning in January 1981. He came to Arkansas in July 1989 and accepted a position as the youth livestock specialist at the state office. In 2005, he became the state's first full-time horse specialist.

Before retiring two years ago, he was the specialist in charge of youth livestock and small ruminants.

From 1989 to 2009, he conducted youth horse shows and in 1998 started adult programming. He took 4-H students on multiple trips to New Mexico for packing trips.

Jones is very involved in the Crossroads Cowboy Church in El Paso. He teaches Bible study and horse training for teens on Wednesday nights as well as other ministries.

Jones, a widower, has three children and three grandchildren. His two daughters live nearby and his son is in Abilene, Texas.

Jones plans to keep horsin' around for as long as he can.

"I don't intend to retire," he said. "I intend to do something different. [Working with horses] is my therapy, my peace of mind."

To reconnect with Steve Jones, contact him at 501-733-0016, 181 Crestview Road, Conway, Arkansas, 72034.

– Shannon Magsam



Steve Jones (Photo from *Southern Tales and Trails*, © Aponi)



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**
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Dennis Bailey's Career Includes Time in Extension and Politics

Dennis Bailey first came to work for Arkansas Extension in 2011 when he took a job as staff chair in Pine Bluff. He served in that position for two years.

Prior to that, Bailey had experience in the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, where he worked for 32 years. While there, his accomplishments included discovering the first fire ants in Oklahoma and helping to establish the first Oklahoma countywide tourism authority. After leaving Oklahoma Extension, he served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 2008-2010.

Bailey came to Arkansas because he'd always wanted to work in Extension in a different state. He said he "had a ball" being a staff chair in Arkansas, especially enjoying the people and the different crops.

After retiring from Extension in Arkansas in 2013, Bailey and his wife decided to "hit the road." They traveled around in their RV for a few years before moving to Hudson Oaks, Texas, near Fort Worth.

"We became Texans because of our grandbaby," Bailey said with a laugh.

He also recently became a panda bear for that same grandbaby, Olivia. She turned two on Oct. 2 and her PawPaw, Bailey, dressed as a big panda bear because one of her favorite movies is *Kung Fu Panda*.

"I almost know *Kung Fu Panda*, *Frozen* and *Tangled* by heart," he admitted, adding, "We're hands-on grandparents."

Bailey and his wife, Karen, have three children, but only one grandchild so far.

When he's not hanging out with family, Bailey enjoys hunting at his cabin in Honobia, Oklahoma, camping and working his raised bed garden at the house they built in Texas. He's considering becoming a Master Gardener trainer. "I've never been able to sit still," he explained.



Dennis Bailey, his wife, Karen, daughter Megan and her husband Jacob on the Dallas Cowboys home field.

Bailey also dedicates himself to raising awareness about prostate cancer. His father passed away after developing this cancer, and Bailey himself was diagnosed in February 2015. The doctors caught it early, and he went through two months of proton radiation therapy before being cured.

Bailey likes to speak to men's groups (and really anybody who

crosses his path) about what to watch for and how to catch it in the early stages. He tells his story so others won't have to endure a death in their family. "I've been a billboard for prostate cancer," he said, noting that several friends were found to have the cancer when he encouraged them to get a PSA test done. They were able to get treatment before the cancer spread.

This month Bailey is looking forward to watching the Nov. 19 OSU/TCU game in person. His kids got him tickets for the game on his birthday back in June.

"I didn't know in retirement you could be so busy," he joked.

To reconnect with Dennis Bailey, contact him at 870-784-0016, 404 N. Kaye Drive, Broken Bow, Oklahoma, 74728.

— Shannon Magsam

November Birthdays

Eric Grant, Nov. 3
Massie Silva, Nov. 3
Frances Story, Nov. 4
Sue Palsa, Nov. 9
Wallace Cummings, Nov. 10
Jerry McIntyre, Nov. 11
Gerald Alexander, Nov. 12
Doris Begeman, Nov. 13
Milo Shult, Nov. 13
Patsy Keller, Nov. 15
Gloria Eubanks, Nov. 16
Eugenia Hockett, Nov. 18
Luther Roberts, Nov. 20
Joe Vestal, Nov. 22
John Philpot, Nov. 23
Brenda Hawkins, Nov. 24
Kathryn Fowler, Nov. 25
Vatra Stone Hibbs, Nov. 27
Louise McPherson, Nov. 28
Jim Frala, Nov. 30

From the Editorial Board

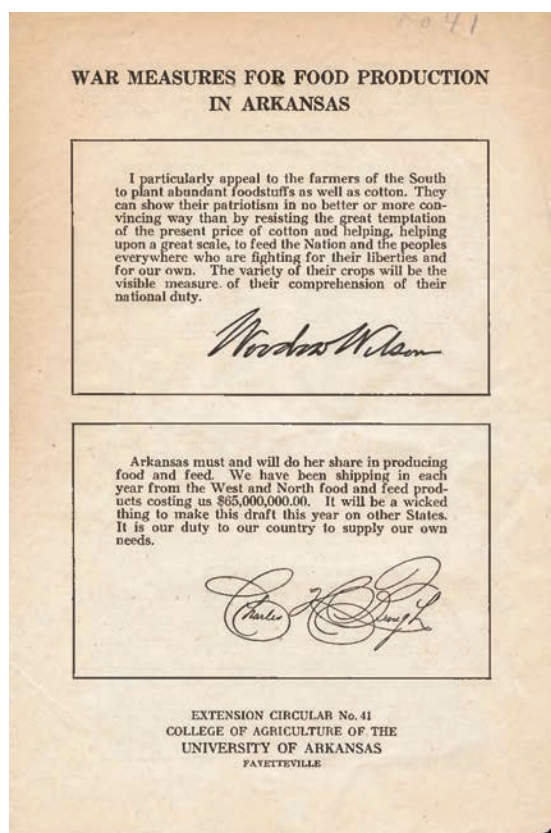
UA Library Digitizes Extension Circulars

The University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department celebrated American Archives Month with an event highlighting the opening of the Arkansas Extension Circulars Digital Collection on Oct. 13 in the Special Collections Reading Room in Mullins Library.

The Arkansas Extension Circulars were published to provide Arkansas working farmers and families education and support for raising crops, livestock and farm buildings, making a living, planning for the future and creating a better life for themselves through clothing and decorative arts, gardening and canning, farm management and financial education.



Arkansas Home Demonstration Agents. Picture is from the Arkansas Extension Circulars Collection, Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville.



A circular from 1941 promoting increased food production in Arkansas to support the war effort.

The original print circulars are housed in Special Collections as part of the Arkansas Collection, which encompasses over 40,000 volumes documenting the history of the state. The Digital Collection contains issues 1-438 spanning the years from 1914 to 1945 (<http://digitalcollections.uark.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/ArkExt>). The remaining circulars, issues 439-561, spanning the years 1946 to 1991, will be digitized and added to the collection in the upcoming year.

Other items of interest in the UA Digital Collections include the Ozark folksong collection, milestones in Arkansas's environmental history, speeches of J. William Fulbright and papers of Brooks Hays, to name just a few. Check out this material at www.digitalcollections.uark.edu.

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