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Retiree Spotlight

*John Payne
Jane Mowry*

Inside

*Honorary and
Memorial Gifts*

*Arthur Layton
Dies*

*From the
Editorial Board*

June Birthdays



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**
University of Arkansas System

Payne Just Can't Let Go of Extension



Before John Payne sat down to chat about his time at Extension, he'd been out spraying weed killer at a deer cabin where he manages 480 acres.

And before that, he'd been on a three-hour bike ride with his grandkids.

You might call him active.

Payne retired from Extension in January 2013 but still works several jobs. For the past two summers, Payne, who turned 66 last month, has been consulting for the soybean processing plant in Mulberry, helping out with the edamame crops. He also works with his brother and other family members in managing their 230-acre tree farm in Yell County.

He's also a contracted bus driver for the Clarksville School District and trains other bus drivers for the district. Payne is an elected Justice of the Peace for the Johnson County Quorum Court.

Additionally, Payne holds some nonpaying jobs.

He is president of the Johnson County Farm Bureau. He's also the incoming president of the Clarksville

Lions Club and has been a Gideon for 18 years. He and his wife of nearly 45 years, Brenda, have been active in their church since 1977.

Throw in his love for kayaking and fishing (in addition to the bicycling and hunting) and you've got a busy man.

The Paynes have two sons and four grandchildren. They all live fairly close to one another, so they enjoy spending time together. Each of the grands is in sports, some on traveling teams, so that means lots of cheering from the bleachers.

Payne was a different kind of busy when he was at Extension. He started working for Extension in July 1973, after graduating from the University of Arkansas with a master's degree in poultry science. Payne's first son was born on a Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. and the new dad started work at Extension as a 4-H agent in Benton County less than 18 hours later on Monday morning.

Payne was in Benton County for nearly four years, then moved to Johnson County as agriculture/community resource development agent in May 1977. Within 2½ years he was named staff chair and remained in that position for 18 years.

Payne then transferred as staff chair in Pope County in May of 1998. In June 2004, he retired from there after 32 years with the organization.

However . . .

His retirement party was on a Thursday and he went back to work for

(Continued, page 3)

Retired Support Supervisor Not Done at Extension Yet



Jane Mowry

Jane Mowry retired from Extension in July 2011, but she still enjoys working on an as-needed basis for the office in Marion County.

She spent a little more than 21 years as the administrative support supervisor in that office and likes going back every few weeks to help out and see her friends, who have become more

like family. Plus, she said, “it’s energizing.”

Mowry started working for Extension as a married mom of two. She had just moved back to Arkansas after a few other careers, the last in sales. She had grown up knowing all about Extension in Colorado. Mowry’s mother had been involved in Extension there and often hosted the county agent overnight when she was in town for a program – since the county seat was over an hour away.

Mowry was also involved in 4-H as a child.

“We were not a farming family, but my mother used what she learned from Extension in our everyday lives,” she said. “I consider myself a child of Extension.”

But she’s soaking up retirement. “Now that I’m retired I’m getting to do all the things I thought I wanted to do when I was working,” she said. Staying in her house and vegetating was not on that list. “I think that’s unhealthy. You need to get out in the community.” (Although she does plant vegetables and enjoys tending them.)

Nini, as her three grandsons call her, is still on the Marion County Fair Board and just went out of office as the secretary. She is also passing the torch on the fair catalog, which takes tons of time to put together. She’s training someone right now to take that over. The fair received a grant to revamp some of the buildings and the board is branching out to rent the facilities for other community events in the off season.

Mowry stays in contact with lots of the 4-H kids she used to see on a regular basis, mostly through Facebook.

Mowry also stays in contact with legislators through her involvement with the Friends of

Extension Council. She noted that the country is always going to need support from Extension and she wants to help remind legislators that they should aid Extension when possible.

She’s also very active in her church and is the outreach chairperson, which involves working to help the community through projects like Angel Tree at Christmas.

One of Mowry’s grandsons lives with her and she feels like she should have re-earned her high school diploma because she’s immersed herself in helping him with his papers and tests. “I had forgotten a ton of stuff,” she said with a laugh. “But in working with him, tutoring him, I have learned so much. I didn’t remember all this stuff about biology and history.”

To reconnect with Jane Mowry, contact her at 870-453-8645, 6295 Highway 202 East, Flippin, Ark. 72634.

– Shannon Magsam

Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The following honorary and memorial gifts were received to support the professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers honorary and memorial gifts recorded April 1-30, 2015.

■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

In memory of Randel Price

Carl Koone, Ida Newberry and Kim Newberry
Elizabeth Childs
Wanda Ibsen and Michael Ibsen
Howard and Inez Young
Margaret Alexander
Ruben and Charlotte Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. William Woodall
Portia Short

In memory of Kaye Shrout

Margaret Alexander

In memory of Virginia Hutchins

Portia Short

Honorary or memorial donations made payable to the UA Foundation, Inc., may be forwarded to the Development Office, 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.

Arthur Layton, Former Randolph County Staff Chair, Dies

Arthur C. Layton, 86, of Pocahontas, died May 5 at St. Bernard's Medical Center in Jonesboro.

Layton served in the United States Army in the Korean War.

He began his Extension career as an assistant county agent in Greene County in 1957 and was an agent in Clay and Randolph counties before retiring as Randolph County staff chair in 1986.

Layton is survived by his wife, Emily Layton, of Pocahontas; son, Ken Layton, of Rogers; daughter, Kem Tyler of Mountain Home; brothers, Emil Layton, of Kansas City, Kansas, and Remil Layton, of Mountain Home; five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Funeral services were held May 9 in Pocahontas with burial in Combs Cemetery near Melbourne.

John Payne (cont. from p. 1)

Extension the next morning as a half-time instructor at the new Public Policy Center. Payne worked out of Johnson County but traveled to Little Rock about three times a month. He worked on ballot issues, helped with research projects, conducted seminars and wrote training materials for agents regarding public policy. Among other things.

He retired eight years later. For 53 weeks of that eight years, he was acting staff chair in Monroe County, while simultaneously doing his public policy work.

That's why his current activity level seems pretty balanced.

"I had a wonderful career," he said.

Payne, who's co-chair of the retired agents program for the Arkansas Association of County Agricultural Agents, is still affiliated with Extension. He enjoys seeing 4-H kids he worked with over the years, and he's looking forward to Arkansas hosting the National Association of County Agriculture Agents next year. He's gearing up for that now.

To reconnect with John Payne, contact him at 479-754-8545, 217 County Road 3319, Clarksville, Ark. 72830.
— Shannon Magsam

From the Editorial Board

The UA Foundation received a number of donations to the retiree scholarship fund in April. The board extends its thanks to all who so generously gave.

* * * * *

Donald Plunkett has agreed to serve as our newest *Extension Cord* editorial board member, replacing Gene Woodall who resigned in April. Plunkett was staff chair in Jefferson County before retiring in 2011. We look forward to working with him on the board.

* * * * *

The C. A. Vines 4-H Center has been refreshed and refurbished. The center's lodging rooms now have fresh color, new carpet, bedding and curtains, and TVs have been added in two lodging units.

Now available for guests are hot, fresh and complementary cinnamon rolls at 10 a.m. and popcorn at 2 p.m. and new meal choices that put the emphasis on fresh and light.

The Center has also added new fiber optic lines and plans to have faster, more reliable wi-fi by July.

Editorial Board Members

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Mike Wright | Stan Chapman |
| Lorraine Hupp | Lott Rolfe, III |
| Earl Wilson | Donald Plunkett |
| Diane Jones | Tom Leslie |
| Laura Goforth, Editor | |

June Birthdays

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



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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.

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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Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts:

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