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Retiree Spotlight

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UofA

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

Adventure-Loving King Calls Fayetteville and Alaska Home

When Barbara Bennett King graduated with a degree in the early 1970s, she started work at Arkla Gas Company in Little Rock.

It wasn't long before she felt the urge to return to her roots. She had been a 4-H member for many years in the Brightwater Community Club and thought a career at the Cooperative Extension Service would be a great fit.

Adventure and fun have always been very important to King. Since she spent a lot of time in Perry County riding motorcycles in the national forest, she and her husband, Lelson, thought it might be a fun place to live. She went to work as a county Extension home economist in Perry County in 1972 and remained there for 27 years.

In 1993, King took a new post as a county Extension agent in Washington County. She enjoyed being back "home." She was raised in Benton County. King retired in 2005.

King said Extension Homemakers are true angels, serving communities selflessly and expecting nothing in return.

"That has been my true love, working with them," she said.

Now that she is retired, her goal is to "have joy and peace," she said. "I certainly don't ever want to sit and be bored."

King and some of her long-time Extension gal pals like to travel together and recently went on a cruise.

Her love for adventure has led her to

Alaska. For half of the year, King lives on the family farm in Tontitown where she and her husband raise cattle and Cotswold sheep. From May to September, they live in Alaska. They have a house there and enjoy the best salmon fishing in the nation. She sells pottery and various crafts to tourists.

King also has children, stepchildren

and grandchildren. Her newest grandchild was born on Dec. 7.

Her new favorite way to say goodbye to people is to give them a hug and tell them: "Take this love and peace and spread it wherever you go."

To reconnect with King, contact her at 479-371-5689, 1477 Harmon Road, Fayetteville, Ark. 72704.

– Shannon Magsam



Barbara Bennett King

Save the Date March 29, 2012

The Annual Retiree Luncheon will be held March 29 as part of the Galaxy Conference at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute atop Petit Jean Mountain. The Galaxy Conference is scheduled for March 28-30, 2012.

Love of Books Led to Volunteer Work for Janice Wadkins

Janice Wadkins always loved the fact that her focus could change on a dime while working at the Cooperative Extension Service.

She was a secretary in the Searcy County office for 36 years, retiring in 2002. Every day offered a new challenge and usually a laugh.

Wadkins and her peers across 16 counties met once a year and shared their favorite stories, joking that they should write a book about all the anecdotes they had collected.

“I’ve never worked again at a paying job,” she said of retirement.

She stays busy volunteering at the local library. She works in the genealogy department once a month, helps with the Friends of the Library used book sales and is a member of the volunteers’ book club.

Wadkins is an avid reader and especially enjoys books by Christian inspirational authors Janette Oke, Beverly Lewis and Lori Wick.

“If I start a book, I don’t want to do anything else,” she noted. “There are so many books I want to read.”

Wadkins is a secretary at her church, is in a Bible class and helps out with her grandchildren when she’s needed. Wadkins and her husband of 53 years, Floyd, have three children and eight grandchildren.

When Wadkins first started working for Extension, she was a mother to two children, Jesse and



Janice Wadkins

Lynette. Mark was born a few years into her employment. Jesse is on staff at Ecclesia Bible College in Elm Springs, Lynette is a state tax auditor and Mark teaches at North Arkansas College in Harrison.

To reconnect with Wadkins, you may contact her at 870-448-6152, P.O. Box 371, Marshall, Ark. 72650. – *Shannon Magsam*

Celebrating 100 Years of EHC in Arkansas

Arkansas Extension Homemakers invites all retirees to help celebrate 2012 as the 100th year of the organization at its annual meeting in Hot Springs June 5-7. On Wednesday evening, June 6, at 6 p.m., a Gala celebration will be held at which EHC will be recognized by organizations to which they have made significant contributions.

The cost of the Gala is \$25. Persons wishing to attend should send a check, made payable to AEHC, to Denise Hickey, treasurer, at 1403 W. Cherry, Clarksville, Ark. 72830.

Retired Extension professionals have made great contributions to this organization, and the organization would like to recognize all retirees who attend that night. Please notify Betty Oliver, FCS/AEHC coordinator, at boliver@uaex.edu, phone 501-671-2033, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72201-4940, if you plan to attend.

– *Betty Oliver*

February Birthdays

Charlotte Chitwood, Feb. 2	Jimmie Gooch, Feb. 10
Booker Clemons, Jr., Feb. 2	Steve Rodery, Feb. 11
Bobby Huey, Feb. 2	Clydine Porter, Feb. 12
Lamar James, Feb. 3	Ann Ward, Feb. 12
Larry Sandage, Feb. 3	Arthur Layton, Feb. 14
William “Gene” Woodall, Feb. 3	Betty Oliver, Feb. 16
Beverly Henderson-Vincent, Feb. 4	Delores Sowerbrower, Feb. 21
Carol Lackey Patterson, Feb. 4	George Davis, Jr., Feb. 22
Edward Rhodes, Jr., Feb. 4	Gerald Van Brunt, Feb. 23
Mark Phillips, Feb. 5	Arvell Wyatt, Feb. 23
Dora Dinnan, Feb. 7	Doyne Potts, Feb. 24
Jimmie Lee Edwards, Feb. 7	Clara Garrett, Feb. 26
Beverly Hines, Feb. 7	Charles Johnston, Feb. 26
Wanda House, Feb. 8	Kenny Combs, Feb. 27
Gertrude Henderson, Feb. 9	James Geisler, Feb. 27
Joy Buffalo, Feb. 10	Larry Keaton, Feb. 27
Ella Geisler, Feb. 10	Mary Warren, Feb. 27
	Carol Scaramuzza, Feb. 28

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 deposited Dec. 1-31, 2011.

Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

In memory of J.W. Lehman
Bob and Sharon Reynolds♦

In honor of Judy Riley
Debbie DeRossitte♦

In memory of Lynn Russell
Terrie James♦

Martha Blake May♦
In memory of Kenneth Scott
Bob and Sharon Reynolds♦

In honor of Dorothy Sitton
Gerald Klingaman♦

In honor of Louise Walker
Dana Stringfellow♦

In honor of Fann Woodward
Randel Price♦

To make a gift in memory or honor of someone important to you, please use the donation box on the last page of the *Extension Cord*.

♦Reflects gifts associated with the *Advance 25K: Continuing a Legacy* fundraising initiative. – Merritt Royal

Vanita Rhoden, Retired Extension Secretary, Dies

Vanita Marjorie Crutchfield Rhoden, 80, died Dec. 12, 2011, in White Hall.

She worked in the Jefferson County Extension Office from 1950 until her retirement in 1998, beginning as an hourly clerk and retiring as administrative office supervisor. She received the outstanding employee award from the University of Arkansas in 1990.

She is survived by two sisters, Marilyn Fancher of Edmond, Okla., and Christine Mitchell of White Hall. The funeral service was held Dec. 15 at Ralph Robinson and Son Funeral Home in Pine Bluff with burial in Hardin Cemetery near White Hall.

– Laura Goforth

From the Editorial Board

We have great news for this year's retiree luncheon. The retiree luncheon once again will be free for retirees, thanks to Dr. Tony Windham's generosity.

The Galaxy Conference Committee has again invited us to hold our retiree luncheon during this year's Galaxy Conference, which will run March 28-30 at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain. Here is the institute's link: <http://www.uawri.org/>.

The Galaxy planning committee has designated the luncheon on Thursday, March 29, as the retiree luncheon. During the luncheon, we will hear from last year's winner of the retiree-sponsored scholarship and we will honor this year's winner. A display of donors to the scholarship fund will be posted at the Galaxy Conference.

If you want to stay overnight on March 28 or 29 or on both nights, the Galaxy committee has set aside the Orchard Lodge for retirees. The lodge has 10 rooms at a conference rate. Each room has one queen-sized bed. Check out the rooms at the Orchard Lodge, by going to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/winthrop-rockefeller-institute/3330513545/in/set-72157614839396028/>.

To reserve a room call the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute at 866-972-7778. Be sure to ask for the Galaxy Conference rate. If the Orchard Lodge is full, there is other lodging available at the Galaxy Conference rate.

Registration for the conference is free to retirees; however, there are a handful of classes and interesting tours offered for which there is a small fee.

If you choose to eat meals as part of attending Galaxy, prices are breakfast, \$15; lunch, \$17; dinner, \$30. Remember one lunch will be set aside as the retiree luncheon and will be free for each retiree.

The Orchard Lodge does have a common kitchen and living room where retirees may relax and visit. If you wish to attend, please fill out the form located in this month's *Extension Cord* so we can determine how many retirees will attend. We will provide snacks, coffee, tea, water, drinks, pastries, fruit and sandwich makings for those who choose to grab breakfast each morning in the Orchard Lodge.

We hope you will join us. The retirees who stayed at the lodge had a great time visiting and relaxing.

Your Extension Cord Editorial Board

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Little Rock, AR 72204-4940

2012 Retiree Luncheon and Galaxy Conference

Name: _____
Home Address: _____
City: _____ County: _____
Home Telephone: _____ Cell Telephone: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

Please choose from the options below.

- I will attend the luncheon only, Thursday, March 29.
- I will attend the luncheon and opening night
cookout Wednesday evening.
- I will attend Galaxy.
- I will reserve a room for Wednesday, March 28.
- I will reserve a room for Thursday, March 29.
- I will need transportation to and from the event.

Mail to Martha Thorpe
Communications Dept.,
2301 South University
Avenue, Little Rock,
AR 72204-4940.

Yes, I will subscribe to
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Cost:
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Please make check
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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 \$_____

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
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