



Keeping you connected

xtension cord

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
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No. 6

Retired district director Jimmie Bowling still has full schedule

Jimmie Bowling still plans a schedule every day even though he's been officially retired from Extension for 25 years.

"There's never a dull moment around here," he said.

Bowling makes a note (usually in his phone) if he plans to mow the lawn, take care of maintenance at one of his rental properties, meet a need at his church – or attend a grandchild's piano recital or play performance or take a trip. He joked that activities planned now require more doctor visits and leisure time in the mix.

Bowling was doing many of those things before he retired, but opportunities seem to have multiplied in the years since then. He facilitates a Bible study group at his church, First United Methodist of North Little Rock, and for the past decade or so, he and some other men have worked at the church (building things, etc.) every Monday morning. He and two other men in the church started a flag ministry to honor and memorialize those who served in the military. They place flags on certain holidays – and each of the flags they place has the name of the person who served. Bowling also drives the church van on a rotating basis. He also attends a men's prayer breakfast every week at another church that requires a 4:30 a.m. wake-up call on Thursdays.

Family comes first with Bowling.

He spends lots of time with his three children, five grandchildren and a great-grandson. They all live close, which he considers a huge blessing. Three grandchildren and the other seven great-grandchildren live in Massachusetts. The Bowlings visit as often as possible.

Bowling and his wife JoAnn celebrated 60 years of marriage last summer. They met when he was 12 and she was 13. Their grandmothers lived across the street from one another. "I knew she was the one for me back then," he said.

The two married before Bowling graduated from the University of Arkansas. He started working for Extension less than a week after receiving his diploma in 1961 and the Bowlings moved to Franklin County for Bowling to work as an assistant county agent in Ozark.

After a little over two years in Ozark, Bowling was promoted to associate county agent in Carroll County, where he remained for about four years, until being promoted to county Extension agent - staff chair in Newton County. After about two years, Bowling was promoted to county Extension agent - staff chair in Sharp County.

After three years in Ash Flat, Bowling was promoted to county Extension agent - staff chair in Independence County. He was in Batesville for six years before moving to the State Office where he worked as district program leader for agriculture in the Northcentral District, then district director of the Northcentral District and district director, Northwest District.

He also managed to earn a master s degree in the first few years of working for Extension.



Jimmie and JoAnn Bowling

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Administrative support supervisor recognized for dedicated service in Mississippi County. -

To Extension retirees

Dr. Rick Cartwright talks about the Pink Tomato Festival and reminisces about working with Jimmie Bowling.

In memoriam


Retiree scholarship fund update

The Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship Fund endowment was established as a way for CES retirees to assist current CES employees to further their professional development and education. It has been funded from contributions from Extension retirees and employees.

Established in 2003, the fund has grown to almost \$32,000 which produces enough interest to annually award two \$500 scholarships to current CES employees to further develop their professional skills for the betterment of the employee and Extension.

The scholarship fund has continued to grow each year due to honorary and memorial contributions from retirees. The contributions have caused the endowment principal to grow to a point where two scholarships are awarded annually. With additional endowment growth, a third scholarship can be awarded in the future.

At the 2017 Retiree Luncheon, the 14th and 15th employees were awarded scholarships to help them further their education. Each January, employees submit applications to the Development Office. The *Extension Cord* editorial board has the pleasure of reading and evaluating the applications to select the recipients.

Please consider making a contribution to the Retiree Scholarship fund. You may make your check payable to ADC and send it to the Development Office at 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72204. This is a tax-deductible contribution. 


New retirees

Congratulations to the following individuals who joined the ranks of retirees during the month of May.

Kris Rutherford, Pre-Award Grants Officer, Office of Sponsored

Programs, is retiring after five years with Extension.

Pamela Ferrill, Print Shop Manager, Print Shop, is retiring after 26 years with Extension. She began work in 1991 as a printer.

Celia Boon, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Benton County, is retiring after 11 years with Extension. 


Jim Martin, former head of Division of Agriculture, dies

Former Vice President for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, James “Jim” Martin, died Saturday, June 3, at his home in Decatur, Alabama. He was 84 years old.

Martin, who led the Division of Agriculture from 1975-1980, went on to become president of the University of Arkansas from 1980-1984, during which time he created the chancellorship position at UA Fayetteville. He had previously served as a faculty member at both the University of Maryland and Oklahoma State University, and as dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1968-1975.

Rick Cartwright, interim associate vice president for agriculture-extension, said Martin arrived at the Division of Agriculture at a time when public interest in agriculture and the environment meant addressing many concerns that had previously been downplayed.

“Jim Martin marshaled the Division of Agriculture through some interesting times,” Cartwright said. “The environmental movement was at its start and the question arose for agriculture: Can the way we have been doing things be sustained? Can it co-exist with the environmental movement? This was all at the beginning of the sustainable agriculture movement.

Cartwright said Martin, along with Lloyd Warren, then director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, pushed to unify agricultural centers and programs statewide, including the concept of research and extension centers that would host Ph.D. faculty from both branches of the Division. 

Honorary and memorial donations

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 May 1-31, 2017.

■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

By Margaret Alexander


In memory of Wallace Cummings

In honor of Fann Woodward


In honor of Portia Short

In honor of Brenda Henderson Pratt

In honor of Pat Cole Hayden

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


Ella Geisler named NARFE treasurer

Ella Geisler, retired 4-H program specialist and current *Extension Cord* editorial board member, was elected treasurer of the Arkansas state chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association at the 2017 State Convention in Heber Springs on April 27-28, 2017. 

Louise Williams honored for 40 years of service to Extension

Louise Williams was honored on Friday, June 2, with a surprise drop-in reception hosted by her co-workers in recognition of her 40 years of service to the Cooperative Extension Service in Mississippi County.

During her time with Extension, she has worked with many different agents and four staff chairs – Mark Bryles, Keith Martin, Dave Freeze and currently Ray Benson – and seen many changes in office equipment and procedures.

Williams said that during her time at Extension she has been amazed at the range and volume of requests for assistance received by the agriculture agents and the miles of in-county travel required to service those requests. She also talked about the importance of family and consumer science agents in promoting proper nutrition and good health practices in the county and of 4-H in developing youth for their role as adults. 

July birthdays

Michael A. Hedges, July 1	Candace Carrie, July 15
Wanda Snow Pemberton, July 3	Patsy R. Stephens, July 16
Dr. John E. Gunter, July 3	James E. Aikman, July 17
James E. Jefferson, July 3	Joyce Whittington, July 19
Randy M. Chlapecka, July 3	Ora Lee Yates, July 19
Shirley Hesselschwerdt, July 4	Leon Marvin Ferguson, July 20
Jane A. Mowry, July 5	J. B. Williams, July 21
Mary B. Dunn, July 6	Dr. John W. Boyd, July 21
Debbra E. Still, July 6	Helen Glass, July 22
Millie Jo Collins, July 7	Gail Kizer, July 22
Betty Archer, July 8	Relda S. Washburn, July 24
Carolyn H. Lewis, July 8	Virginia Cottrell, July 24
Quinton Hornsby, July 8	Dr. David E. Foster, July 25
Howard S. Young, July 9	Dr. Tony E. Windham, July 26
Dr. Jim Bemis Jr., July 10	Ruben H. Johnson, July 28
Elizabeth A. Childs, July 10	Wanda W. Shelby, July 28
Linda Gaye Tanner, July 10	Tommy Thompson, July 29
Thomas F. Vaughns, July 12	Henry L. Bowden, July 30
Carolyn L.W. Burns, July 12	Madlyn Mason, July 30
Dolores McBride, July 14	Dr. A. Edwin Colburn, July 31

To our Extension retirees

I hope this issue of the *Extension Cord* finds you in good health and attitude and that you have a prosperous June.

On Saturday June 10, we attended the Pink Tomato Festival All Tomato Luncheon in Warren, and it was again the best event of its type in the country. It was indeed heartening to hear the speakers, including Rep. Westerman and Gov. Hutchinson, talk about the value of the Division of Agriculture and the dedicated service of the men and women of the Cooperative Extension Service.

I was intensely proud of Michelle Carter and John Gavin for organizing so many components of the annual festival and of Karen Bell Fox and her husband George and all the Extension Homemakers Council members who fundamentally make this festival and the luncheon happen. This type of community spirit and positive bit of Americana seems to be getting more rare, but not in Bradley County.

And it is a matter of legacy that Jean Frisby and her many years of service in the county and to this festival was again honored, rightfully so, even though she has passed on to her greater reward. We often forget those who walked this path before us, but we should always remember and recognize the trailblazers – many of whom are reading this newsletter. So, to all our retirees, I say thanks for making our jobs today better, for blazing the trail, for doing things right – we carry on in your names.

Speaking of this, the *Cord* this time has a nice update on Jimmie Bowling and life in retirement. It is certainly worth the read and brings back my own memories of Jimmie when he was staff chair in Independence County. I was working as an incredibly young and naive “agronomist” at the Livestock and Forestry Branch Station west of Batesville, and I worked with Jimmie to sample, analyze and amend the soil on hundreds of acres of pasture and cropland. I still remember the look on the secretary’s face in the county extension office when I showed up with half a pickup load of boxed soil samples. She sat for a little while with her face in both hands then stood up and smiled, and we started working on the forms. They all took care of me, and I have never forgotten their positive attitude and straightforward willingness to get it done. Some things about Extension have not changed, have they?

Brian Helms has updated me on the survey recently conducted, and he will be working with you on a summary report of where we will have the next retiree get-together(s) as well as ideas for the program. We will have a great time.

Again, please have a great and wonderful June – the best month of the year!



The Pink Tomato Festival was a family-friendly event.



– Rick Cartwright 

In memoriam

The editorial board mourns the passing of these retirees who have died in recent months.

Raymond T. Webb, 91, retired county Extension agent - agriculture, Desha County - McGehee, died Nov. 1, 2016. He served in the U.S. Army from 1943-45 and graduated from Arkansas AM&N College, now known as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, in 1949. He retired from the Extension Service in 1980. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Barbara Webb of McGehee; one sister, Rebecca Dawkins of Phoenix, Arizona; four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Winfred "Pete" Hart, 95, of Harrison, retired district community development specialist - Northeast Arkansas, died Jan. 2, 2017. Hart was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and served in World War II. He is survived by his wife, Alice. Interment was in the Fayetteville National Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children.

Patsy McDougald, 77, retired administrative office supervisor, Ashley County, died Jan. 29, 2017. McDougald was a lifelong resident of Hamburg and worked for Extension in the Ashley County office for 36 years. She is survived by three sons, Alan McDougald, Steven McDougald and Mark McDougald, all of Fountain Hill; a sister, Bernice Nelms of Houston, Texas; a brother, Willard Noble of Hamburg; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Burial was in the Flat Creek Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Arkansas, 201 Markham Center Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72205.

Ethelyn McKinney, 87, retired Pulaski County secretary, died Feb. 1, 2017, in Little Rock. McKinney was employed by Extension in Pulaski County for 20 years where she was secretary for the Master Gardener program. She is survived by sons David Rinehart of Little Rock, Timothy Rinehart of Bryant and Tony Rinehart of Little Rock; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and her sister, Geraldine Maddox of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Burial was at Pinecrest Cemetery in Alexander.

Pamela J. Hall, 69, of Hot Springs, retired associate designer/editor, Communications, died May 31, 2017. Survivors include her brother, Keith Hall; niece, Lauren Whitley; nephews, David Hall, Douglas Hall and Will Whitley; seven great nieces and nephews, and her aunt Frieda Wooten. (e)

Bowling, cont.

After Bowling officially retired in 1992, he was approached to work in the Pulaski County Extension Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays, a part-time program funded by Pulaski County. He accepted and spent another seven years with Extension, working on a variety of projects including Master Gardener-related activities.

Bowling himself (along with his wife) became a Master Gardener in the years following retirement. He is now a life member.

Bowling had nothing but praise for Extension and the people who work there. "I still think the world of all of them," he said. "There is not a finer group of men and

women or boys and girls (in the youth programs) than what you find at Extension.

"It was always a team effort. The most important team was my wife and family.

Bowling recalled some of the fulfilling – and fun – times he had with his various teams, and the community members they served, over the years.

He remembered one farmer in particular who was having trouble with weeds choking out his crop and with a few items in management. Bowling, along with specialists in the state office, determined the problem and helped the farmer eliminate the weed issue and improve his management.

"[The farmer] came in one day and said, 'I'm a little upset with you'," Bowling recalled. "With all the extra produce I'll have to buy a larger truck!"

Chuckling, Bowling also remembered 4-H students fondly and said it's rewarding to see those students all grown up now and doing amazing things. One of them, Dr. Rickey Medlock, is a retina specialist in Little Rock and has helped save the sight of Bowling's wife, who suffers from macular degeneration.

He also recounted stories of boys and girls who blossomed while learning by doing as 4-H members. "Extension did that," he said.

One of Bowling's goals after retirement was to travel even more than he did while working. He and his wife have racked up some frequent flyer – and driver – miles since then. They've visited every state in the U.S. as well as other countries including Israel, Iceland, Australia and many others. He and JoAnn once spent 21 days on a cruise from Vancouver, Canada, to Australia.

So how does Bowling answer a parting question, "What are you looking forward to?"

Without hesitation, he answered: "Every day." (e)

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Yes, I want to support the fundraising initiative in support of the Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship.

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____. My gift is in honor/in memory of_____.

Name/Address for notification of honorary and memorial gifts:

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