



University of Arkansas,  
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## Suzanne Smith Hirrel Is a Champion of the Environment

**I**n January 1976, Suzanne Smith Hirrel became the first woman with a degree in agriculture to work for Extension.

Hirrel was hired as a 4-H and agriculture agent after graduating from Oklahoma State University with her master's degree in animal science.

She remained in that post for 16 years. In the late 1980s, Hirrel's 4-H members became very aware of the environment. That's when her journey (maybe her true calling) began.

The group started Project STOP (Stop Trashing Our Planet). The group had a mascot and presented topical

speakers who shared recycling and solid waste information with many groups.

In 1992, Extension partnered with

what is now the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Extension offered her the recycling and solid waste education position, and she was named Extension specialist – waste management.

Arkansas had recently passed new legislation that changed the way counties dealt with

solid waste. She educated communities, county leaders and elected officials

(Cont. **Suzanne Smith Hirrel**, p. 2)



Suzanne Smith Hirrel

### Retiree Spotlight

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**Don't forget to turn in your registration as soon as possible for the Annual Retiree Luncheon, March 29, at the Galaxy Conference. The luncheon is free of charge to Extension retirees.**



If you haven't already registered, you may do so at <http://www.regonline.com/2012galaxyconference>. If you have questions about registration, contact BeVerly Sims at 501-671-2263.

UofA

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

## Taking a Chance With Knuteson Paid Off for Extension

Dianne Knuteson is still grateful after all these years that Albert Squires, head of the Extension business office at the time, “took a chance” on hiring her in 1985.

“I get teary-eyed when I think about it,” she said.

Knuteson’s sister, Rena Loux Fisher, was working for Extension at the time, so she applied for a position in the business office.

She started out auditing travel accounts for county agents and state employees. It wasn’t the most popular job in the organization, but Knuteson stuck with it for eight years.

After that, she moved to the purchasing department. On-line requisitions phased out her job, but she just shifted into other purchasing and was promoted to purchasing agent.

“I loved what I did,” she said. “I had a lot of interaction with employees out in the county and at various offices,” she said. “I got to know a lot of different people.”

Knuteson retired in 2009, after 24 years with Extension. She keeps in contact with many of her old friends at the State Office.

Knuteson and her husband, John, have been married 45 years. They met while he was stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base and wed right before he left for Vietnam, “the longest year of my life,” she said.



Dianne Knuteson

Knuteson recalled the day he called her at work, right before she retired, to say he thought they should buy a camper. They did. Now, for at least a week each summer, they camp and take their black lab, Molly, along for the ride.

Their children are grown and have babies. The Knutesons have three grandchildren.

When she’s not at church, enjoying grand kids or running the roads, Knuteson enjoys solitude. She loves to read scary novels, and she’s also a computer fanatic.

“My time is filled,” she said.

To reconnect with Dianne Knuteson, contact her at 501-943-7114, 6153 Remington Drive, Bryant, Ark. 72022.

– Shannon Magsam

## Suzanne Smith Hirrel

(Cont. from page 1)

on the new rules and helped ease them into implementation. She also helped them start recycling programs.

She’s on the board of the Keep Little Rock Beautiful campaign and the board of the Arkansas Recycling Coalition, and she’s helping Little Rock upgrade its recycling program. She’s co-chairing a citywide cleanup project, which involves working with residents to clean up their neighborhoods and nearby city parks.

Not long ago, she inherited the ranch where she was raised in Oklahoma. Hirrel and her husband, Marc, go there to kick around and “chill out.”

To reconnect with Suzanne Smith Hirrel, contact her at 501-224-9419, 11580 Bainbridge Drive, Little Rock, Ark. 72212.

– Shannon Magsam

## Betty Oliver Featured in Yell County Record

The *Yell County Record* has highlighted Betty Oliver’s life and career in an interesting and informative article. You can check it out at [www.theyellcountyrecord.com/editionviewer/default.aspx?Edition=edf2f660-ddad-4d0f-aa25-4da95420b695](http://www.theyellcountyrecord.com/editionviewer/default.aspx?Edition=edf2f660-ddad-4d0f-aa25-4da95420b695).

### New Retiree

Please welcome Dorothy P. “Dot” Temple, administrative associate, LeadAR, who retired January 31, 2012.

## 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 Feb. 1-29, 2012.

### Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

*In honor of Margaret Alexander*

Randel Price ♦

*In memory of Mike French*

Tony and Rose Windham ♦

*In memory of J. O. Gibson, Jr.*

George Davis, Jr. ♦

*In honor of Woody Miley*

Stanley Chapman ♦

*In memory of Elmalee Parks*

Howard and Inez Young ♦

*In memory of Lynn Russell*

Tony and Rose Windham ♦

*In honor of Milo Shult*

Tony and Rose Windham ♦

*In honor of Gene Woodall*

Randel Price ♦

Merritt Royal ♦

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

## R. J. Haney, Retired Agriculture Agent, Dies

R. J. Haney, 84, of El Dorado died March 2.

Haney served in the U.S. Navy on Midway Island during World War II.

He retired in 1987 after 40 years with the Cooperative Extension Service. He served as assistant county agent and associate county agent in White County and as county Extension agent in Independence and Union counties. He received the National Extension Distinguished Service Award in 1967.

Haney served as president of the Farm Bureau board of directors and received a 60-year membership award.

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Mary Haney of El Dorado; two sons, Ronald Haney of New Braunfels, Tex., and Robert Haney, Jr., of Rogers. Also surviving are one sister, Aileen Coston of Monticello, Ark., and one brother, Werner Haney of Little Rock, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held March 6 in El Dorado. Memorials may be made to the John R. Williamson House, 2301 Champagnolle Road, El Dorado, Ark. 71730, or First United Methodist Church, 201 S. Hill, El Dorado, Ark. 71730. – Laura Goforth

## Kenny Combs, Retired County Agent, Dies

Kenny Combs, 60, of Russellville died March 8 in Little Rock.

Combs retired from Extension in 2007 after 32 years of service. He began as an agriculture agent in Little River County and subsequently served as area livestock specialist in Lee County, agriculture agent and staff chair in Hempstead County and staff chair in Pope and Yell counties.

He was a member of the Yell County Farm Bureau board of directors and the Yell County Cattleman's board.

Survivors include his wife, Jennifer Combs of Russellville; mother, Frankie Combs of Shady Grove; sister, Judy Daves of Shady Grove; daughter, Robyn Smith of Prairie Grove; son, Dustin Combs of Russellville; and four grandchildren.

Funeral was March 12 at Humphrey Chapel in Russellville with burial at Walnut Grove Cemetery in Hector.

Memorials may be made to Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 5496 SR 124, Russellville, AR 72802 or GIST Cancer Research, 55 Sawmill Road, New City, NY 10956.

– Laura Goforth

## April Birthdays

Linda King, April 1

Yvonne Mizell, April 1

Kenneth Williams, April 2

Woody Miley, April 3

Nancy Winterbauer

Olofson, April 3

Fran Arnold, April 4

Susan Sanders, April 4

Easter Tucker, April 5

Janice Wadkins, April 5

Kathryn Lynch, April 6

D. C. Blanchard, April 7

Bonnie Wright, April 7

Ann Gray, April 8

Inez Hennigan, April 8

Colleen Owen, April 8

(Cont. *April Birthdays*, p. 4)

Cooperative Extension Service  
2301 South University Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72204-4940

## April Birthdays

(Cont. from page 3)

Stanley Chapman, April 9  
Louise Walker, April 10  
Rich Maples, April 12  
Charlotte Fant, April 15  
Mary Ruth Miner Fallin,  
April 17  
Brenda Henderson Pratt, April 18  
Mary Butler, April 21  
Phil Tacker, Jr., April 22  
Tommie Wyatt, April 22  
Claude Bonner, April 25  
Virginia Bates, April 27  
Eleanor Walls, April 27  
Diane Jones, April 29

Yes, I will subscribe to the *Extension Cord*.

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Amount Enclosed</b>
<i>Extension Cord</i>	\$12.00	_____

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 \$\_\_\_\_\_

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 University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-4940.