

ESP Life Members & All Extension Retirees

Spring 2021

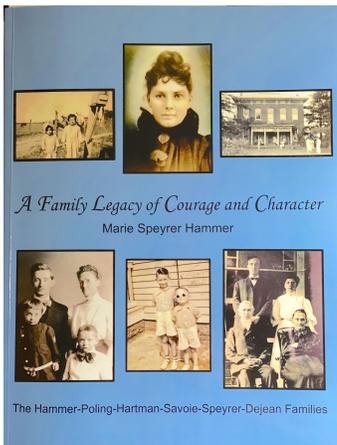


ESP Extension Connections Life after a Dedicated Career

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Staying Connected

We are hoping to use this newsletter as a way of keeping in touch after retirement. You invested so much time and effort to a mission of helping others through education. Along the way you made many new friends and became a part of our Extension family. With your help, we can keep track of our retirees, share stories, and maintain this important connection.



It's Never Too Late... to write an ancestral history

- Start with a **burning desire** to learn more about your family.
- **Research** different types of ancestral books from libraries, friends, family, etc. Creating a book unique to your family is only limited by your creativity. There is a

myriad of themes, almost anything you can dream of is possible.

- Every family has a story that is **unique**. Highlight your uniqueness by creating interesting stories utilizing **clues from the past** which will enhance the narrative. Collect and incorporate items from the family or other sources including photographs, letters, diaries, public records, notes, wills, scrap books, and family trees.
- **Create interest** by utilizing opportunities to incorporate mystery, intrigue, celebration and recognitions in the narrative.
- **Consider the family** and include topics that were relevant in the past, pertinent today and will also be of value to future generations.
- **Create an outline**, time line and scope for your book and try to stick to the plan.
- **The overall goal** is to create a book that is truly informative, educational and also interesting to read.

Written by **Marie Hammer**, Professor Emeritus, IFAS (photo on page 6) who just completed a traditional ancestral book featuring eight families and dedicated to her four grandchildren. She completed the book two months before her 85th birthday. *It's never too late!*

President Fuchs Commemorates A Year of Change

Thinking about the impact of COVID-19 can stir a variety of emotions. To reflect on that change and see just how far we've come, we're looking back on our journey. Video: <https://is.gd/81QrTG>



A huge **Thank You** goes out to all the Extension retirees, staff, volunteers and youth who used their time, talent,

funds and sewing skills to make millions of masks for family, friends, community groups and medical staff.

2021 EPAF Conference • Sheraton Panama City Beach Golf & Spa

Registration information will be available early summer.

<https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/epaf/epaf-conference/>



A Fond Farewell ...



Dr. Elver Hodges
9-25-19 (age 107)
Elver attended grades 1-8 at the school built on the corner of the Hodges' property. As a Cattle Forage Agronomist and professor at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center for 39 years, Dr. Hodges focused primarily on legumes and grasses in his research and Extension work.

<https://is.gd/mrIPEg>



Dr. Freddie Johnson
12-17-19 (age 80)
Freddie served as District Extension Director for ten counties from 1996-2007, "the job he loved the most". At the end of 34 years of service, Freddie retired as UF Professor of Entomology and as Professor Emeritus.
<https://is.gd/GaaczH>

2008 Bio -

<http://www.flaentsoc.org/2008annmeetabstracts.pdf>

Margaret "Peggy" Dessaint

11-29-19 (age 72)
Peggy was the Commercial Horticulture Agent in Manatee County from 1991-2010.



Dr. Charles J. Wilcox

12-16-19 (age 89)
Dr. Wilcox was a tenured Professor of Dairy Science at the University of Florida (1959-95) and Professor Emeritus. He was a world-renowned consultant in the areas of bovine genetics and international agriculture, with numerous textbooks, textbook chapters, and scientific articles to his credit. <https://is.gd/rGmvQV>



Ruth Milton

1-19-20 (age 92)
State Specialist 4-H Youth • Home Demonstration Agent for Hillsborough, Gulf, Taylor and Manatee • 1952-1985
<https://is.gd/QJogpj>
<http://florida4h.org/foundation1/FL4H/MiltonR.htm>

Contact Us • • •

• **ESP Retiree & Life Member Chair**

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• **Newsletter Design**

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• If you have any information about yourself or your County that you would like to share in the next issue, please contact Betsy or Chris.

Websites • • •

• **ESP** – Alpha Delta Chapter <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/esp/>

• **EPAF** – Conference information

<http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/>

• **FCS** – Profiles - <https://www.floridafcs.org/>

FCS agents past and present, be sure to fill out a profile (*click on the puzzle*) so that we can stay connected!

• **UF Masks** - <https://shop.floridagators.com>

A Fond Farewell ...



Grover Smart

Jan. 2020 (age 90)

In 1964, Grover joined the UF faculty in the Entomology and Nematology Department until retiring in 2003. He had 188 scientific publications, the Distinguished Service Unit Award from the US Dept. of Agriculture, and was elected Fellow of the Society of Nematologists.

<https://is.gd/R4UuS5>



Frank Lawlor

10-9-20 • (age 71)

Frank moved to West Palm Beach in 1976 and was employed as an associate professor at the University of Florida. He found immense pleasure serving the marine community

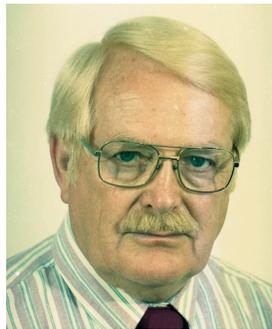
through the Florida Seagrass program.

<https://is.gd/D2vxCj>

Rex L. Smith

1-5-20

Rex served on the faculty of the UF/IFAS Agronomy Dept. from 1968-2002 and was Professor Emeritus. His research focused on improving and increasing the food supply in underdeveloped countries.



Edward James "EJ" Cowen

11-26-20 (age 95)

EJ received a BSA in Animal Science and a Master's in Agricultural Extension from the University of Florida. He went on to be employed with the University of Florida as County Extension Director for Dixie County and then Escambia County, where he eventually retired in 1985 after more than 30 years of service.

<https://is.gd/EA5M4i>



Jack Tichenor Jr.

5-9-20 (age 77)

Jack graduated UF in Agriculture with a Masters in Mechanized Agriculture, working as the Water Conservation agent in Manatee County from 2001-2011.

<https://is.gd/b0R4Lv>

Shepard "Shep" Eubanks

11-6-20 • (age 58)

In 1988, Shep started as the Livestock Agent I for Columbia County. In 1993 he began his new position in Holmes County as the County Extension Director and Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent. Having an opportunity in 2015, Shep moved "home" to Gadsden County, to become the County Extension Director and Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent for Gadsden County. Shep worked with the former County Extension Director Dr. Henry Grant, along with the Gadsden County Commissioners and leadership, to continue to secure funding and build a new Gadsden County Agricultural Center and convert the older building into the Inman Livestock Pavilion.

<https://is.gd/6hlxWd>



A Fond Farewell ...



Leroy Creswell

10-27-20 • (age 70)
Florida Sea Grant
Extension Agent in St.
Lucie County from 2000-
2011, then until his
retirement in 2019, Leroy
worked for Florida Sea
Grant as a regional
Extension program
manager. Some of his

many accomplishments included creating and managing a volunteer-based program to restore degraded oyster reefs and improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon, publishing numerous articles on candidate species for aquaculture, helping create a curriculum for teaching aquaculture in schools, and developing restoration modules for the Florida Master Naturalist Program. He was also past president of the World Aquaculture Society and was the executive secretary and proceedings editor for the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) for the past eighteen years. <https://is.gd/q69HCY>



Dr. Bill Summerhill

1-14-21 • (age 86)
Bill was employed by the
University of Kentucky for 19
years serving in the positions
of assistant and associate
county agent, state 4-H
specialist, and area Extension
Director. Following receipt of

his doctorate, he and his family moved to Gainesville, FL where he was employed as Extension Specialist in Program Evaluation and Organizational Development. During his 18 years at UF, Bill served twice as Interim Associate Dean of Extension, and was a professor teaching in the department of Agricultural Education. He was co-leader of a national program in Extension Evaluation. He retired as Director of Personnel for IFAS and as Professor Emeritus. <https://is.gd/F4lpoV> • <https://is.gd/0Q4giS>

Dr. Brenda Williams

1-21-21 • (age 70)
Brenda began her work
with the University of
Florida in November
1973 as a Home
Economist / 4-H Agent
in Okeechobee County.
She served as
president of the FL



4-H Agents Association
and received the Florida 4-H Agents and National
Distinguished Service Award. After 13 years in
Extension work, she moved to the Okeechobee
County School Board and was director of the
school lunch programs.

Dr. Williams and her husband moved to
Gainesville in 2000 for her work as the Family and
Consumer Sciences Agent in Alachua County,
remaining for the next 17 years.

<https://is.gd/IOrxWK>

Dr. Ronald H. Schmidt

10-12-20 (age 77)
Ron was an
internationally known
expert on food safety
and sanitary design.
He traveled the world
to speak, train, and
consult. He published
dozens of scientific
papers and authored
or contributed to 25
books. His teaching
career with the University of Florida Food
Science and Human Nutrition Department
spanned almost 40 years.



Music was a love and passion for Ron. He
performed around town on his accordion
and guitar with his band, Moderate Speed.

<https://is.gd/pM3CAN>

A Fond Farewell ...



Dr. Elmo Benjamin Whitty

7-31-20 • (age 83)
Ben began his professional career as a faculty member in the Agronomy Department, UF/IFAS with responsibilities in research and extension work with various

agronomic crop species. He contributed greatly to our knowledge of the production and management of numerous crops but with primary focus on peanuts and tobacco.

<https://is.gd/SMxJNl>

John C. Russell

8-2-20 • (age 94)

John graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. in Agricultural Science. His first position as a County Agricultural Agent was in Independence County, Arkansas in 1950. In 1952, John accepted the Agriculture Agent position with UF/IFAS Extension Service in Holmes County, and later moved to Gadsden County (1956-1985).

<https://is.gd/OQMscP>

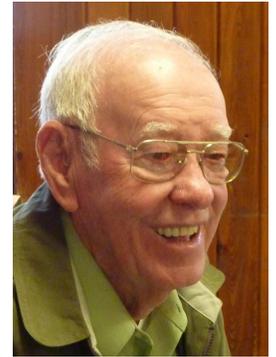
Henry Davis

8-30-20 • (age 93)

Graduate UF Agriculture in 1950. Henry was instrumental in starting numerous programs that are still in existence, including the Taylor County Farm Bureau, the very first Florida Forest Festival, 4-H Forest Ecology Program, The Cattleman's Association, Big Bend Beekeeper's Association, and the establishment of the Lifeline program in this county. He felt his most significant contribution was the time he invested in the youth through 4-H.

- Extension Agent, Santa Rosa 1950-52.
- Extension Agent, Escambia 1953-54.
- CED, Taylor County FL 1954-82.

<https://is.gd/0m0BBT>



noteworthy 



Father & Son Arborists

Chuck and Danny **Lippi** work as a team serving north and central Florida from offices in St. Augustine and Gainesville. As a Board Certified Master Arborist (FL-0501B) and a **retired UF/IFAS Flagler Extension Agent & CED (1995-2004)** with a Masters Degree in horticulture, Chuck has both the practical experience and the latest scientific training to provide professional consulting advice on the health, structural condition and maintenance of shade trees, palms and citrus.

<https://shadetreeexpert.com>



Rebecca Lynn Jordi

7-31-20 • (age 66)
Rebecca found her calling as an Extension Horticulture Agent in Nassau County, achieving certification with the International Society of Arborists, and becoming the Nassau County

Extension Director. One of her greatest achievements was seeing her children's book "**Zoe's Mission**" published. <https://is.gd/qT7bXG> • <https://is.gd/XpmdO3>

Retirements 2020-21



Doug Caldwell
Environmental Hort.
EA IV - Collier
Sept/Oct 2020



Joseph Sowards
Residential Hort.
EA II - Volusia
Sept/Oct 2020

Christopher Van
Agriculture
EA II - Lafayette
Sept/Oct 2020



Joanne Cooper
Family & Consumer Sciences
EA II - St. Johns
Sept/Oct 2020



Ed Skvarch
Commercial Hort.
CED III - St. Lucie
Jan/Feb 2021



Ada Medina-Solorzano
Family & Consumer Sciences
EA I - Palm Beach County
Nov/Dec 2020



Alicia Whidden
Vegetable Crops
EA III - Hillsborough
Sept/Oct 2020



Nick T. Place, an academic leader with a record of applying research-based expertise to the needs of agricultural producers and communities, has been named Dean of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Director of the UGA Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Experiment Stations. His appointment was effective Jan. 1, 2021. Place was Dean for Extension, Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication at the University of Florida. The Interim Dean and Director for Extension is currently Tom Obreza. <https://is.gd/ym51M2>

This is their first lunch meeting since February 2020 due to COVID-19. Now that all ladies have been vaccinated, they were able to enjoy outdoor dining in March 2021.

Family & Consumer Sciences retirees **Donna Peacock** (Hernando), **Nan Jensen** (Pinellas), **Betsy Crisp** (Pasco) and (seated) **Marie Hammer** (State Housing Specialist).





Outstanding Service to Agents and Retirees

Mary Keith worked six years in South America and then earned her MS and PhD in Food Science from Penn State. She spent six years as

Extension Specialist for Food Safety at the University of Illinois, followed by work in Kenya before moving to Florida. While working for WIC she became a licensed dietitian. Mary worked for UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County for 15 years, teaching food safety, home canning, and nutrition. Since retiring, she continues to offer dietary health classes in Spanish at two local free clinics, and has taught several home canning classes. In 2018, after Hurricane Maria, she spent a week working with the Extension agents of Puerto Rico, teaching home canning in Spanish for their emergency preparedness initiative. Mary practices what she teaches, making dozens of jars of marmalade and jam from local fruit each year.



Hernando County CED/FCS retiree **Donna Peacock** and husband Mark provided transportation in their Gator-designed golf cart for residents to get COVID-19 vaccines at their Americana Cove Park. When not serving as a taxi, they decorated their cart for the local parade! A Lake Alfred REC retiree and his wife were among other volunteers providing golf cart transportation.

<https://floridaaghalloffame.org/category/2021/>



Hall of Fame Inductees

John Jackson will be inducted into the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame. He served 38 years as a UF/IFAS Extension agent.



UF/IFAS SHARE Council members **Reggie Brown** and **Wayne Smith** will be inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame.



Reggie served 12 years as a UF/IFAS Extension agent. Wayne served IFAS as Director of the School of Forest Resources & Conservation and Interim CALS Dean, among countless other ways.

Congratulations, John, Reggie and Wayne!