

ESP Life Members & All Extension Retirees

Summer 2022



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.

### New UF/IFAS Dean of Extension

Andra Johnson, was associate director of programs with Penn State Extension, the Pennsylvania State University Extension branch, and officially started his new position in Gainesville on Nov. 1, 2021.



Johnson, who holds a doctorate in forest resources from Penn State, spent his childhood on a farm in rural Louisiana. His family raised cattle there and grew cotton, corn and wheat, and his aunt has been a USDA Forest Service employee for more than three decades.

Those formative experiences spurred him to work in Extension and help connect land-grant university knowledge to families like his own. "I'm extremely excited and humbled about the opportunity to work with the amazing faculty, staff and administrators here at UF/IFAS," Johnson said. "This position is really about what we can do together to help improve the lives of all Floridians."

He taught classes and completed research as a tenured associate professor of urban forestry at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for more than a decade. Johnson then became an assistant director of research and graduate research at Alcorn State University before heading back to Southern University as vice chancellor for research and technology development. Penn State came next, and now, UF.

### 2022 EPAF ... Aug. 29 - Sep. 1 Sheraton Panama City Beach

Celebrating retirees has changed this year to be:

- The Retirees/Friends of Extension **Banquet Dinner** on Tuesday, August 30th from 6-9:00 PM, \$80 per person (until July 15).
- New on Wed. a **Retirees Breakfast** (Free) with the Dean from 8-9:30 AM.
- **Sheraton room** group rate is \$143.
- **Register here:**  
<https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/epafreg/>

### Rita Law - FCS Seminole

Retired over 9 years, I am a Seminole County Master Gardener since I've always gardened. Working many hours at the help desk, I was even replying to emails remotely during the first part of the pandemic. As I also volunteer on the Seminole County 4-H Foundation and the overall Advisory Committee, I'm thankful for Zoom over these past several years. When I sit still, I crochet baptismal blankets and prayer shawls for my church. Kale and green beans as well as many herbs are in the garden now!







Here are the **North Florida Retired Ag Agents** (and others), at our annual gathering on March 28, 2022, after a missed COVID year. With our normal venue, 4-H Camp Cherry Lake, closed for kitchen and dining room renovations, we met at Suwannee Valley Farm, UF/IFAS SV-NFREC at Live Oak. We were hosted by Bob Hochmuth and the faculty and staff of the Farm.

*From left to right:*

Jim DeValerio (Bradford) • Will Sheftall (Leon) • Bill Stall (Hort/Veg)  
 Donna Stall (Admin-Personnel) • Tom Kucharek (Plant Path) • Dallas Townsend (Collier)  
 Bill Thomas (Columbia) • Ed Jowers (Jackson) • Roy Carter (Gulf) • Bobby Durden (Gadsden)  
 Eleanor Foerste (Osceola) • David and Chris Holmes (Marion) • Henry Grant (Gadsden)  
 Larry Halsey (Jefferson) • Marvin Weaver (Gilchrist) • Charles Brasher (Jackson)  
 Andy Andreasen (Washington) • Wayne Smith (Forest/Conserv)  
 Clayton Hutcheson (Palm Beach) • Linda Landrum (SV-NFREC/Volusia)  
 Bob Hochmuth (SV-NFREC) • John Woeste (Admin-Dean)  
*Out of photo:* Jim Fletcher • Michael Gutter • Jacque Breman (via Face Time in MN)

*Whit died just before  
our meeting.*



**Winton Oziel Whittle - "W.O." or "Whit"** was recognized for his innovative ideas, presence and directions creating and advancing many of the state's farming institutions and programs in operation today. Examples of offices held: Assistant County Agent for Leon County, Columbia/Hamilton Counties, and Lafayette County. Executive Secretary, Florida Federation of Fairs and Livestock Shows, and Chief, Bureau of State Markets, Florida Department of Agriculture, to name a few. He was a Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame Inductee, Florida/Future Farmers of America Hall of Fame Inductee, a Lifetime Lion's Club Member, Lions Club Melvin Jones Fellow, Lions Club Lion of the Year, Club President, Zone Chairman, and Region Chairman. He was an Alpha Gamma Rho member and AGR 25-year Testimonial Award Recipient.

<https://www.tallahassee.com/obituaries/tad064823>

These are recent deaths of the agents who have been part of the North Florida Ag Agent retiree group.

WO Whittle	October 1, 1925	March 17, 2022
Bill Brown	May 3, 1946	April 17, 2021
Dr. Bill Summerhill	March 6, 1934	January 14, 2021
Edward "EJ" Cowen	October 10, 1925	November 26, 2020
Henry Davis	April 4, 1927	August 31, 2020
John C Russell	October 25, 1925	August 2, 2020
Dr. Ben Whitty	March 5, 1937	July 31, 2020
Hon. Wayne Mixon	June 16, 1922	July 8, 2020
O R "Rudy" Hamrick	June 14, 1922	April 16, 2020





*A lesson for some neighborhood children on the Monarch butterfly life cycle.*

I've been away from Florida Extension for ten years now and away from Florida for four years. Steve and I are currently living near Dubuque, Iowa, to be a bit closer to family. I am very engaged in a number of different hobbies - quilting, gardening with native plants, raising Monarch caterpillars in the summer, and serving as a volunteer in Extension. Being both a registered 4-H volunteer and a Master Gardener creates lots of exciting activities. I've written several gardening articles for the local newspaper and also serve as a gardening coach for ten homeowners who have each installed 130 square feet of prairie plants in their home landscapes. We also completed several video projects on simple gardening techniques. I'm thankfully still in good health!

 **Mary Keith ~ FCS Hillsborough**

Mary Keith will be giving a short report at the IFHE World Congress in Atlanta this September on the International Home Economic Services project with Puerto Rico. IHES shipped several tons of teaching materials for Home Economics teachers and PR Extension Service Agents after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. It followed up with a weeklong visit by Mary to train 87 Agents in home canning and help them get started teaching canning and using some of the equipment that was donated.

Mary also continues to provide Spanish nutrition classes at the Judeo Christian Clinic in Tampa on a bi-weekly basis. Most of the clients at the Clinic are Spanish-speaking, and many either suffer or have family members who suffer with diabetes, hypertension or high cholesterol, so access to a Spanish-speaking dietitian can be a big help to their health.

Her interests also include a lot of birding, some traveling, and helping to organize the 6th Annual Florida Birding and Nature Festival for this October.



*Dec. 2021: Dr. Whitney Fung Uy (Polk), Nan Jensen (Pinellas), Betsy Crisp (Pasco), Donna Peacock (Hernando), Mary Keith (Hillsborough) and Mary Chernesky (Hillsborough)*

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**Contact Us . . .**

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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 <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!



**John L. Hundley** (2022) has been an active part of Florida's agricultural community for more than five decades. He founded Hundley Farms Inc., with his wife, Patsy. The enterprise began on 400 acres of leased land, growing sweet corn and radishes. Today the operation consists of about 16,000 acres in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), Central Florida, and Bainbridge, Georgia.



**Reggie Brown** (2021) served for 12 years as a UF/IFAS Extension Service agent in various capacities and a 10-year stint at the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association as marketing and membership director. Brown was named executive vice president of the Florida Tomato Exchange while also leading the Florida Tomato Committee and the Florida Tomato Growers Exchange. As chairman of the Crop Protection Coalition, Brown was the voice of the industry nationally and internationally.



**Bobby McKown** (2021) took the helm of the state's largest citrus growers association as executive vice president/CEO of the Florida Citrus Mutual. He was appointed by five presidential administrations to every trade committee, task force, and advisory position of any influence including the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement for Tariff and Trade (GATT).



**John Stitt** (2021) saw a great need for research in beef cattle pastures, citrus, and sandland sugarcane production and, through his vision, led to the development of the UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee. Stitt has been extensively involved in industry organizations, including the Florida Cattlemen's Association and Florida Farm Bureau.



**Dr. Wayne Smith** (2021) contributions to Florida agriculture encompass his lifelong devotion to education and research and forestry passion. Smith graduated from the University of Florida, returned to his alma mater in 1964, advancing through the academic ranks as a professor, director, and finally, professor emeritus. In retirement, he served as interim dean for UF/IFAS Research and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

<https://fruitgrowersnews.com/news/feb-15-ceremony-will-honor-five-florida-ag-hall-of-fame-inductees/>



9/20/21 • After five consecutive years of ascension, the **University of Florida's performance has positioned UF among the nation's top five ranked public universities**, according to the 2022 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings. UF's steady climb exemplifies a unified and sustained commitment at all levels, from Gov. Ron DeSantis, the Florida Legislature, our congressional representatives, the Board of Governors and the UF Board of Trustees to the thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni and donors who strive daily to contribute to the university's culture of excellence and integrity in learning, discovery and invention. UF has advanced a record nine spots on the public



university list since 2017. On the U.S. News National Universities list, which includes both public and private institutions, UF ranked No. 28, a rise of 22 spots during the same period.

Historically, five schools have defined what it means to be one of the nation's best public universities - the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of California, Berkeley; the University of Michigan; the University of Virginia, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. These schools have led the nation for 30 years. The University of Florida is now in that group of elite universities as the No. 5 ranked public university in the country.



### Comings & Goings:

<https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/communications/newsletternew/>

- Laurie Albrecht** • Environmental Horticulture EA I, Palm Beach County • 2-22
- John Atkins** • Agriculture and Natural Resources EA IV, Santa Rosa County • 2-22
- Suzanne Fundingsland** • FNP Program EA II, Collier County • 10-21
- Michael Goodchild** • Forestry/Residential Horticulture CED III, Multi-County • 2-22
- BobbiJo Jarvis** • Agriculture & Commercial Horticulture CED IV, Citrus County • 4-22
- Juanita Popenoe** • Fruit Crops EA IV, Lake County • 4-21
- Mary Salinas** • Environmental Horticulture Program EA II, Santa Rosa County • 2-22
- William Schall** • Commercial Horticulture/Pest Management EA IV, Palm Beach Co. • 6-21
- Ed Skvarch** • Commercial Horticulture / County Extension Director III, St. Lucie County • 2-21
- Ed Thralls** • Urban Horticulture EA III, Orange County • 10-21

## A Fond Farewell ...



### 2021 Memorial <https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/esp/memorials/>

- Martha Norton • Rebecca Jordi • John C. Russel • Henry Davis • Shep Eubanks • Charles "Chuck" R. Smith • William Summerhill • Brenda Williams • Kymberly Rollins • William Brown Jr. • Art Hornsby • Vermelle York • Frederic Rhoads



**Lucinda "Cindy" Harris**  
 August 2021 (72)  
 Martin County 1988 - 2013  
 4-H Extension Agent



**Diane Franzen**  
 October 2021 (69)  
 St. Lucie County 1987 - 2005  
 Family & Consumer Sciences  
[Obituary](#)

 **Betsy Nayfield Crisp ~ FCS Pasco**

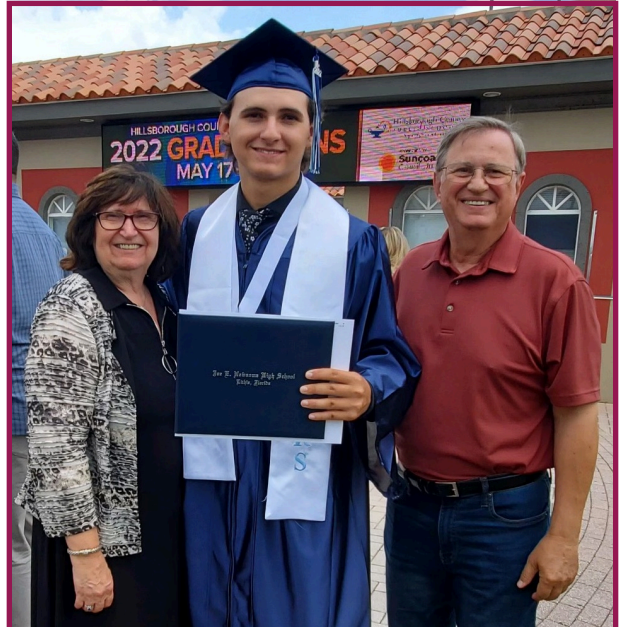
Retired over 5 years now, Betsy spends most of her time with her husband of 49 years, Paul, at their cottage in White Springs, FL. Brother KC, a long-time veterinarian and his wife, Marybeth Nayfield an ARNP in Citrus County (both UF grads) bought 172 acres in White Springs in 2009 and dubbed it “Nayfield Acres” to preserve, protect, and enjoy for current and future generations (wildlife and human residents).

Since retirement, Betsy and Paul have become voluntary caretakers of the property since they live close by. Betsy loves to set up wildlife cameras, documenting armadillos, beavers, black bears, bobcats, cranes, coyotes, deer, eagles, foxes, gopher tortoises, hawks, hogs, mice, opossums, owls, rabbits, raccoons, skunks, snakes, squirrels, and turkeys so far. Her dogs just love the freedom to run around off-leash!

As Community Service Organization (CSO) members at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, this year, wearing new Nayfield Acres T-shirts, they all volunteered to work the beer tent fundraiser at the annual Florida Folk Festival. Proceeds go to a project near and dear to their hearts — the restoration of the American-made (Chicago) carillon 97 bells at the 200’ high campanile tower that they heard from their porch until a storm in 2017! It cost \$120,000 to build in 1957, and \$250,000 is the goal to repair it. This is the world’s largest tubular bell carillon with much historical significance.

Donations for the carillon bells restoration are gladly accepted year-round!

<https://www.stephenfostercso.org/Donate>



Jane and Joe Pergola’s (CED FCS Hillsborough) grandson Luke’s high school graduation (heading to Florida Gulf Coast in the fall).

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# FLORIDA FOLK FESTIVAL

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MAY 27-29, 2022



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VERONIKA JACKSON • THE PEYTON BROTHERS • BING FUTCH • DEL SLUGGS  
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Marybeth and KC Nayfield with Betsy and Paul Crisp.