

ESP Life Members & All Extension Retirees
Winter 2019



ESP Extension Connections
Life after a Dedicated Career



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.

Gene McAvoy
*CED Hendry County,
Regional Vegetable Ex-
tension Agent Emeritus*



I officially retired after 22 years with Hendry County Extension on July 31, 2019. The faculty and staff of Hendry County Extension and the Hendry County Cattlemen's Association conspired to arrange a very moving retirement luncheon which featured a 16 oz ribeye with all the fixins and which was attended by nearly 250 friends and colleagues from around the state. I was honored to be granted the title of Emeritus at this ceremony.

Retirement turned out to be short-lived however and after 19 days I took a position as Associate Director for Stakeholder Relations at the UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee. Like many agents, I loved my job and was not really ready to retire, so I was grateful to be asked to return by Dr. Payne in this new role which will allow me to continue to contribute to the industry and work as a liaison

between growers and the faculty at SWFREC.

On other fronts, I have been actively involved, previously as the Southern Regional Director for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) and more recently in the NACAA officer rotation.

This September, at the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in Fort Wayne Indiana, I became President of NACAA. I am only the second NACAA President to hail from Florida in the 104-year history of the Association, the first being John Henry Logan, ag agent from Pasco County who served as NACAA President 70 years ago in 1949-50. I am looking forward to serving in this role and it is even nicer that my wife Donna who is retired can now travel with me as in the past as a teacher she was not free to do so during the school year. I will preside over the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference, in Virginia Beach, in July 2020.

As you may know, the presidents-elect, presidents and past-presidents of the various extension professional societies are automatically seated on the Board of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP). As president-elect, this past year I took my place on the JCEP Board and was nominated and elected by my peers to serve as President-elect of JCEP in 2020 and will become President in 2021. I am happy and honored to be at a point in my career to be able to assume a leadership role and give back in measure to these professional societies that have assisted me throughout my career.

On a personal note, my wife Donna and I remain on our ranch outside LaBelle and are fortunate that two of our sons and their wives and children also live in LaBelle. We enjoy visiting with them and our three grandchildren, Molly, Vaughan and Emma. Our youngest son Andy is currently in Atlanta where he is pursuing a PhD in biochemistry at Georgia Tech.

We are blessed and look forward to future adventures. ■

Editor's Note: <https://www.florida-farmbureau.org/ag-talk-17/>

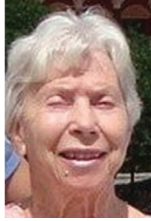
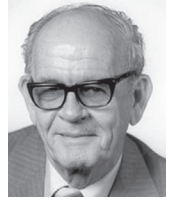
A Fond Farewell ...



☛ **Jesse Godbold** (1940-2019) - Clay County Agriculture CED
<http://www.broadusraines.com/obituary/jesse-godbold>

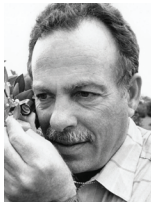
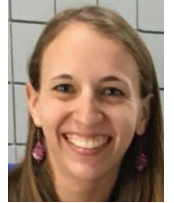


☛ **Bert Harris Jr.** (1919-2019) - https://www.yoursun.com/sebring/news/county-mourns-bert-harris-jr/article_646e0298-7b2c-11e9-a717-6b1fc45d7334.html



☛ **Mary Virginia Peart** (1922-2019) - State Specialist Family, Youth and Community Sciences - <https://www.floridafcs.org/peartvirginia.html>

☛ **Kristen Poppell** (1992-2019) - Nassau County 4-H - <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/nassauco/2019/05/22/kristen-poppell-an-eternal-legacy/>



☛ **Philip A Stansly** (1944-2018) - Prof. of Entomology SWFREC 32 years
https://www.alligator.org/news/bug-doctor-philip-stansly-dies-at-age-leaves-behind-a/article_b9709ea0-bd49-11e8-895c-2307434f7918.html

☛ **Robert Whitty** (1934-2019) - Martin County Agriculture CED
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/tcpalm/obituary.aspx?pid=193228847>



Gene Joyner's Unbelievable Acres Botanic Garden

- <https://www.unbelievableacresbotanicgardens.org>
- <http://floridafoodandfarm.com/farm/gene-joyners-unbelievable-acres-a-study-in-tropical-planting/>



- 470 63rd Trail N., West Palm Beach • 561-242-1686
- The next opening for the general public will be **Sat. Dec. 14, 2019** from 1 PM to 5 PM - Guided tours will be given at 1:30 PM and 3 PM
- Admission \$10 Adults • \$5 Children 6-11
- Reservations Required** 561-242-1686



The University of Florida joined the nation's top-10 public universities three years ago after many years of focused effort. Following that achievement, we set our sights even higher – on reaching the top 5. Today, I am thrilled to announce that we have again made progress toward that goal,

RISE TO #7 FROM #8 AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES in the 2020 edition of the U.S. News & World Report rankings. ~ Ken Fuchs 9/9/19

Check out the **Greetings** choices at <http://branding.ifas.ufl.edu/ufi-fas-extension-holiday-cards/>



Links ...

- **Extension Administration**
<https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu>
- **Retiree Newsletters & Memorials**
<https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/esp/seniortimes.shtml>
- **Extension Comings & Goings**
<https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/communications/newsletternew/>
- **EDIS New & Revised Publications**
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>
- **IFAS Matters is the organization's monthly newsletter by Jack Payne**
<https://ifas.ufl.edu/ifas-matters-newsletter/>

Hello from ESP Members & Retirees



The past year has been extremely difficult. In October, 2018 a call from my daughter Loretta revealed that she had been diagnosed with angiosarcoma - an extremely rare cancer for which there is no cure. I spent her last six months in Virginia with her family - she passed on April 19, 2019. Loretta was an active Florida 4-H member in her youth, serving as a state council officer and receiving state project awards. In her final months, when asked what she needed, her response was "We don't need anything but my family and I would love for you pay it forward, do something kind for someone else". That has been my daily goal since I returned home. It takes so little to say a kind word - and it can mean so much. A Fred Rogers quote is inscribed on a bench at Ma-

son Neck State Park, in Loretta's memory, "And the greatest thing we can do is let people know they are loved". Thanks for keeping me in the retirees' loop. ~ Dr. Elva Farrell, 4-H & FCS Manatee & Sarasota

• Editor's Note: <https://www.floridafcs.org/farrellelva.html>

Retirements 2019

If you know more retirees, please ask them to contact us!



David Holmes 1/3/20 (38 years)

Marion Co. Commercial Hort. CED • holmes@ufl.edu

Dec. 18 Retirement Party at the Marion office 2-4pm

RSVP by Dec. 4 Call 352-671-8400

Steve Futch 6/30/19 (34 years) - Fruit Crops CED Citrus Research & Education Center, Lake Alfred • Multi-County Citrus Agent: Manatee, Hardee, Sarasota, Desoto, formerly Indian River - shf@ufl.edu • <http://citrusindustry.net/2019/06/12/farewell-to-futch/>



Mike Sweat - Agriculture CED IV, Duval County

msweat@ufl.edu

Dr. Richard Tyson, Agriculture – Small Farms/Urban Farms
CED IV, Orange County - rvt@ufl.edu



Diann Douglas - Family & Consumer Sciences CED IV

Madison County 1983-2019

Judy Biss - Ag/Natural Resources/Community Development & Sustainability CED III, Calhoun County - judy.ludlow@ufl.edu

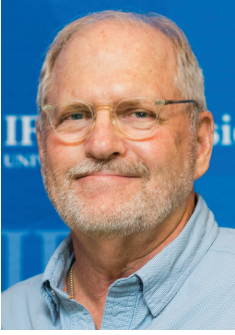


Celeste White - Commercial Horticulture Program Courtesy EA I, Orange County ctwhite@ufl.edu • Certified arborist, past president of Florida Chapter ISA and past president of the Florida Urban Forestry Council.

James Fletcher - Water Resources RSA IV, Central District
jhfr@ufl.edu • <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jim-fletcher-b0a6685/>



In The News



Dr. Jack Payne ~ Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, plans to retire in June 2020. <https://www.gainesville.com/news/20190617/payne-to-retire-from-ufifas>

Monica Dawkins

As the Adult and Youth UF/IFAS Extension Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program

(EFNEP) Supervisor in Miami-Dade County, Monica has had an opportunity to touch many lives. Upon gaining Professor Emeritus status in Dec. 2018 after 41 years, she was honored in April at EFNEP's 50th Anniversary in Washington, D.C., with a Professional Supervisor's Excellence Award.



Governor Ron DeSantis Appoints Dr. Thomas K. Frazer as Chief Science Officer

- Since 2012, Dr. Frazer has served as the Director of the University of Florida's School of Natural Resources and Environment and previously served as Acting Director of the UF Water Institute. Prior to this position, he served as Associate Director of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation and the Leader of the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Program.

<https://news.ufl.edu/2019/03/frazer-appointment-to-chief-science-officer/>



FCS Birthday Lunch Bunch - Dr. Mary Keith (Hillsborough), Nan Jensen (Pinellas), Donna Peacock (Hernando), Betsy Crisp (Pasco).



... and keeping in touch on the other side of the state ...

Another FCS Birthday Lunch Bunch

- Duska Dorschel (Duval) and husband, Tamer Britton (Duval) and Nettie Ruth Brown (St. Johns).

Retirees In Action ~ What YOU can do for the University

Stay up to date on the latest news/issues involving IFAS and speak up! Take action at the local/state/national levels when needed. Mary Ann Gosa-Hooks, Director of Governmental Affairs (UF Lobbyist) can send out updates to our mailing list. Donations are always welcome! This newsletter could also use an update/personal paragraph from you about what you're doing.

As an ESP Life Member - You can volunteer to score abstracts, review award applications, and submit a name for the ESP Retiree Award (Usually due April 1st). <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/esp/membership.shtml>

Contact Us

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kilbride@ufl.edu

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!

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.