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Retiree Spotlight

*Linda Lee
Henry Bowden*

Inside

*December
Birthdays*

*Irene Fern Villines
Dies*

*From the
Editorial Board*

UofA

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

Lynda Lee Taking Life Easy

Since retiring June 2011, Lynda Lee has had more time for leisure activities, such as reading.

Lee said retiring was a fairly smooth transition. She worked as a part-time temp at Extension for a few weeks after retirement then went into full-time retirement mode. She went home and picked up some books, started carving out extra time with her retired husband and often seized the day to hunt for flea market treasures.

After many years in various state jobs, Lee started at Extension in 2000. Her first job was as the administrative office supervisor for the human resources and business departments at the state office.

After a year, she was working as an AOS just in human resources and started working with the woman who supervised the benefits section. She

also continued to attend college courses, mostly at night.

Lee received her degree in December 2003 from UALR (at one point, she was attending college with her youngest daughter), and it was around that time that the benefits position became available. In 2004, she took the job.

It was a busy job with lots and lots of paperwork. She really enjoyed working with Extension employees and was glad to help when someone ran into an insurance snafu or needed assistance with a tuition discount.

She helped many federal employees get ready for retirement.

Then it came time for her own.

Lee and her husband, John, who have been married for 45 years, go to breakfast at McDonald's nearly every morning. If they



Linda Lee

head out to shop flea markets, they might go out to lunch or dinner together, too.

"We can spend three or four hours in a flea market," she said.

The Lees also like to watch television together, though that has required compromise. He likes Fox news, the Military Channel, National Geographic and old westerns. She likes good family stories on channels like Lifetime and Hallmark. Lee's husband calls these her "soap opera" movies.

(Continued on p. 3)

Retired Fruit Substation Director Bowden Values His Work at Extension

Henry Bowden felt peachy a few weeks back when he learned the U of A Division of Agriculture released three new fruit varieties and one, a nectarine variety, was named after him.

The Bowden nectarine ripens early July and is the first white-flesh nectarine from the breeding program.

“I was quite honored,” Bowden said of the nectarine naming.

Bowden was a longtime employee of the agriculture division. After graduating from the U of A in 1957, he worked at the university’s experiment station in Hope. A few years later, he went to work as director of the substation in Bald Knob.

Clarksville was the next stop, where he was director of the experiment station and was involved in its extensive fruit-breeding program. His family lived with him at the stations, so he was able to see them every day.

In 1982, Bowden and his family – wife, Betty, and three children – returned to White County to work for the Cooperative Extension Service where he was area Extension agent until retiring in 1996.



Henry Bowden

Bowden said working for Extension brought him a paycheck and great joy. He worked around farms as much as possible. “I was very hands-on,” he said.

In 2000, Bowden suffered a stroke and is now homebound. He said he reads, visits his kids and watches a lot of hunting shows on television.

Bowden and his wife live in Northwest Arkansas, where they moved to be closer to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

To reconnect with Henry Bowden, contact him at 479-306-4511, 6886 Young Farm Avenue, Springdale, Ark. 72762. – Shannon Magsam



Becky O’Neal Mulhollen, Dec. 1
 George Morris, Dec. 2
 Louise Evans, Dec. 8
 Barbara Bennett King, Dec. 8
 Toy Helen Ginn Siler, Dec. 8
 Richard Despain, Dec. 9
 Joel Ferguson, Dec. 9
 Randel Price, Dec. 9
 Albert Squires, Dec. 9
 Margaret Alexander, Dec. 10
 Shirley Lewis, Dec. 11
 Joann Thompson, Dec. 11
 Ann Behnke, Dec. 12
 Claude Clement, Jr., Dec. 12
 Millie Ann Henson, Dec. 13
 Donna Graham, Dec. 14
 Jerry Markham, Dec. 14
 Charles Hodges, Dec. 15
 Ada Raye Hicks, Dec. 16
 Brenda Yusko, Dec. 18
 Mary Askew, Dec. 19
 Agnes Dean, Dec. 21
 Suzanne Smith Hirrel, Dec. 21
 Gayla Ann Brewer Taylor, Dec. 22
 Dennis Gardisser, Dec. 24
 Merle Gross, Dec. 24
 Audrey Hairston, Dec. 24
 Margaret Goodson, Dec. 26
 J. J. Kimbrough, Jr., Dec. 27
 Sandra Smith, Dec. 27
 Betty Jean Brannan, Dec. 29
 Thomas Leslie, Dec. 29
 Gordon Barnes, Dec. 31

Birthdays

Iris Fern Villines Dies

Fern Villines, age 86, of Harrison, passed away Aug. 10, 2012, at North Arkansas Regional Medical Center in Harrison.

Fern was a charter member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Harrison. She was a secretary with Extension for 30 years, serving first in Newton County and later in Boone County. She retired in 1977.

Villines is survived by her husband, J. D. Villines, of Harrison; her daughter, Sharon Mitcham of Salado, Texas; her sisters, Mildred Rowbotham of Harrison and Charlene Bolinger of West Yellowstone, Montana; and her brother, Kenneth Spencer, of St. Charles, Missouri.

A memorial service was held Aug. 14, 2012, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Harrison.

— *Laura Goforth*

Linda Lee (Cont. from p. 1)

Lee is active in North Hills Baptist Church in Sherwood. She works in the nursery on Sundays.

They have two granddaughters and a grandson, so they enjoy visiting them or attending school/sports functions.

To reconnect with Lynda Lee, contact her at 24 Sheraton Oaks Drive, Sherwood, Ark. 72120, 501-392-6640.

— *Shannon Magsam*



From the Editorial Board

During the Extension Board's monthly meeting, we began discussing retirees who had been elected or re-elected to office, so we thought it would be interesting to list the names of those who ran and were elected or re-elected and those who ran a good race.

Tommy Thompson, former county agent, ran to serve again in the Arkansas House and he was re-elected. Congratulations, Tommy.

Jim Frala also ran for re-election and his was to serve again on the Shannon Hills City Council. Jim worked in the print shop as a press operator before his retirement. We congratulate him.

John Payne was elected to the Johnson County Quorum Court. John is a former county agent and staff chair, and after his retirement, he worked as a part-time member of the Division's Public Policy Institute. Congratulations to John.

We had two retired Extension folks who ran for office. It was their drive to make a difference, the same drive that causes folks to work for Extension, that motivated them to risk putting their good names out there for voters to choose.

Dorothy Hall ran for the state House of Representatives but lost her bid during the primaries, and Judy Riley ran for the state House.

We appreciate and admire each person who ran. A strong democracy requires people putting their names on the line for something they believe, and Extension folks once again proved their mettle in running for office.

We thank and admire each of you.

Your editorial board

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