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## Retiree Spotlight

Larry Keaton  
Linda Gaye Tanner

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UofA

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

## Tractor Enthusiast Keaton Enjoying Life in Missouri

**L**arry Keaton is having a busy October.

This is the month he helps out at Right Choices Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch by driving tractor loads of children around the hayfield for fun.

As a tractor enthusiast, this job is right up his alley.

Keaton has time for fun side jobs like this since he retired from Extension nearly 10 years ago. He spent most of his approximately 30 years as a staff chair.

When he started working for Extension in 1973, jobs were a little scarce because employers were concerned that a new hire might be drafted for the Vietnam War right after starting work. But the draft had started to slow down, and Keaton was nearly finished with his master's degree.

The Extension job came just at the right



Larry Keaton

time. Keaton was married and the first of two kids had been born. So the Benton County native was thrilled when he was offered a job in El Dorado, wherever that was.

"I came home and told my wife, 'Let's look it up on the map,' " he said with a laugh.

After being in Union County for five years, the Keatons moved to Mountain View, where Larry Keaton was promoted to staff chair. He was there for 12 years, then moved to Harrison, where he retired in 2003.

While Keaton was still working, he and his wife bought 40 acres just

outside of Northwest Arkansas in Anderson, Mo. They built a house and now live there, raising a little hay to sell, fixing up tractors and taking care of grandkids.

The Keatons' five grandchildren get off the school bus every afternoon, ready for a snack and help with homework. All the grands are in 4-H, and the Keatons recently watched the two older girls participate in the Junior Angus Show.

Throw in a basset hound, a Yorkie and a cat, and that equals a whole lot of fun.

*(Continued, page 3)*

## Linda Tanner Recalls Exciting Days With Extension

There's one thing about working for the Cooperative Extension Service: no two days are alike.

And you never know what might come across your desk.

When Linda Gaye Tanner was working as an administrative office supervisor in Sharp County, she was a little surprised when one day a snake appeared at her desk.

Fortunately, it was in a jar. "A man brought it in and wanted to know if it was poisonous," she said.

It was – and alive.

Tanner was glad when she got back to her paperwork. She worked in the Sharp County office her entire Extension career, spanning from 1972 to 2009, 37½ years.

When Tanner retired, she said it felt like an extended vacation.

Maybe that's because she works on an as-needed basis helping out at the Extension office and also does some clerical work for the county judge.

She's a member of a local community service group that raises funds to help elementary and middle public schools in the area. The group provides money for healthy snacks for the backpack program. Kids who may not have enough food to eat on the weekends are able to take backpacks home from school filled with items like soup,



Linda Tanner

oatmeal, crackers and other food they can prepare.

Tanner likes to collect antiques. She and a friend recently rented a booth at a Batesville flea market and are selling their treasures.

Tanner and her husband of 32 years, James, enjoy driving to Branson and have season passes to Silver Dollar City. They are also active members of First Baptist Horseshoe Bend Church. Tanner helps with the hospitality and bereavement committees.

She's her disabled mother's caregiver, although her mother recently told her, "You're the busiest retired person I know."

Tanner said she's generally a "homebody," but she and her cousin alternate years visiting each other. It's her turn to travel to Washington State. When Tanner was a girl, her family

spent summers picking fruit in Washington State and then they came back to Sharp County to spend the winters.

"My dad never wanted to give up the family farm," she said. "So now I'm the third generation who has lived on this farm."

To reconnect with Linda Gaye Tanner, contact her at 946 Peace Valley Road, Ash Flat, Ark. 72513, (870) 994-2144.

– Shannon Magsam

### November Birthdays

Massie Silva, Nov. 3

Frances Story, Nov. 4

Sue Palsa, Nov. 9

Wallace Cummings, Nov. 10

Jerry McIntyre, Nov. 11

Gerald Alexander, Nov. 12

Ruby Talbert, Nov. 12

Doris Begeman, Nov. 13

Milo Shult, Nov. 13

Patsy Keller, Nov. 15

Eugenia Hockett, Nov. 18

Betty Allen, Nov. 19

Luther Roberts, Nov. 20

Joe Vestal, Nov. 22

John Philpot, Nov. 23

Pearl Ray, Nov. 23

Kathryn Fowler, Nov. 25

Vatra Stone Hibbs, Nov. 27

David Ibsen, Nov. 27

Louise McPherson, Nov. 28

Jim Frala, Nov. 30

## From the Editorial Board

As we mentioned in the September *Extension Cord*, you are invited to the 4-H Center on Nov. 22, 5:30 to 8 p.m., for the “Blue Jeans, BBQ and Beebe” event sponsored by the Arkansas 4-H Foundation and honoring Gov. Mike Beebe for his many years of support of 4-H and youth development.

It will be an informal evening featuring a barbecue supper, a silent auction and performances by some of Arkansas’ talented 4-H members.

So come and enjoy supper and fellowship, check out the new and improved rooms at the 4-H Center, bid on auction items, and know that you are helping our 4-H youth by your attendance.

You can buy tickets by calling the 4-H Foundation at 501-492-3309. Tickets are \$30 per person, or you can get four tickets for \$100 and bring your friends and family. If you cannot attend but would like to contribute to the 4-H program, you will have an opportunity to purchase virtual tickets.

We hope to see you there.

Your editorial board

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## Honorary and Memorial Gifts

The following honorary and memorial gifts were received to support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff of the Cooperative Extension Service. This list covers memorial gifts deposited September 1-30, 2013.

### ■ Cooperative Extension Service Retiree Scholarship

*In honor of Merritt Royal*

Fann Woodward

*In memory of LaVerne Feaster*

Dr. Donna Graham

*In memory of Jimmie Lee Edwards*

Dr. Donna Graham

Honorary or memorial donations may be forwarded to the Communications Office, Cooperative Extension Service, 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204. To ensure that proper notification is sent, please also include in whose honor or memory the gift is made and the mailing address of the person to receive the notification.

– Elizabeth Childs

### Keaton (Cont.)

Larry Keaton is an avid member of a tractor club that has members from various states. The club is hosting a tractor show this month. Keaton also enjoys attending car shows every now and then. He and his wife, Barbara, are active in their church.

To reconnect with Larry Keaton, contact him at 572 Spider K Road, Anderson, Mo. 64831, (417) 845-0851.

– Shannon Magsam



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