

# WV Agriculture & Forestry Hall of Fame Inducts Eight Members

The West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame (WVAFHF) Foundation inducted eight outstanding individuals at the annual banquet at Jackson's Mill, July 16. Enshrinement in the WVAFHF is reserved for those individuals, businesses, organizations, institutions and foundations that have made outstanding contributions to the establishment, development, advancement and improvement of the agricultural, forestry and/or family life of West Virginia. The Hall of Fame Foundation was chartered in 1974. In 1976, the Board of Governors voted to include forestry professionals.

Inductees for 2016 are: **Agriculture:** Jenny Carder, Edmond Collins and Dr. Larry Watson. **Forestry:** Gerald W. Huffman, Barbara McWhorter and Lannes "Lanny" Williamson. **Family Life:** Jean Woloshuk and Vivien Woolfer.

## JENNY L. CARDER

Jenny L. Carder was born in Hundred, West Virginia. She has spent the past 56 years directly involved in state organizations that have had and continue to have an impact on the state's agriculture industry. Carter participates in beef industry promotion events throughout the state such as the State Fair of WV and the WV Beef Cook-Off. While working at the Weston Livestock Market, she was key in developing the feeder and yearling cattle board sales. In 2002, 2007 and 2012 Carter traveled to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Convention as a West Virginia representative. She was also the first woman president of the WV Cattlemen's Association.



In 2007, Carder helped re-introduce the "Beef for Father's Day" promotion event. She is an active volunteer with the event every year. She also established the WV Youth Beef Quiz Bowl, now in its fifth year.

Carder served with the Taylor County EMS squad from 1982 to 1996. She is a member of the Hundred United Methodist Church.

Jenny and her husband Ronnie own and operate Circle C Farm located in Grafton, WV.

## EDMOND BYRL COLLINS

Edmond Byrl Collins was born in Ritchie County. He was raised there by relatives after losing his mother at a young age. Later, he relocated to West Milford to live with an aunt and uncle after being hospitalized with an illness at a Clarksburg Hospital. He went on to graduate valedictorian from West Milford High School. Collins started WVU in 1952 with only \$10 in his pocket, but much determination.

He graduated with his BS degree in 1957 and at the same time had completed much of the coursework for his Masters. He was called to the draft in 1957 and was honorably discharged in 1960. He continued with the U.S. Army Reserves rising to the rank of Captain.

In 1960, he married Linda Hare; that same year, he completed his MS degree. In 1961, he started his career as an instructor in the WVU Agricultural Engineering Department. His research while in this position dealt largely with poultry housing, forage processing and tobacco mechanization.

In 1965, Collins accepted a new challenge as an agricultural engineering instructor in Kenya, East Africa. He taught there for eight years.



Upon his return from Africa, Collins started a new position at WVU in 1973 as a full-time agriculture extension specialist. In the mid-70s he was promoted to Division Leader of Agriculture, Forestry and Community Development.

Collins and his wife Linda had three children, Christopher, Colleen and Curtis and nine grandchildren. They celebrated their golden anniversary in 2010. Collins passed away in October 2011.

## DR. LARRY WATSON

Dr. Larry W. Watson was born in Mannington, WV. He received his bachelor's degree at WVU and then began his 47-year-long agricultural education teaching career, starting at Shady Springs in 1969. In 1974, he returned home to Marion County to continue his teaching at the Marion County Career and Technical Center.

Under Dr. Watson's leadership, the first 4-year secondary level, comprehensive Pre-Vet program was established at the Technical Center. The program offers students advance study in animal anatomy, hematology and microbiology among other things. This resulted in the school being named in the top four of National Agriscience Education Program. The program is still thriving today.

Dr. Watson's expansion also brought the first in-depth secondary level Meat Science program to the state. Numerous prize winning hams have been completed by his students since 1986.

In his teaching career, Dr. Watson saw 20 State Gold Emblem FFA Chapter Awards, 12 National Gold Emblem FFA Awards, 8 Eastern Regional US Land Judging Teams, 8 state FFA 1st Place Entomology teams, over 100 State FFA Degree Recipients and 27 State FFA, Ham, Bacon and Egg Show individual winners, among other accomplishments.

Dr. Watson is a member of the Llwellyn Baptist Church in Mannington where he serves as lay pastor to the small congregation. Dr. Watson and his deceased wife Marleen also raised two daughters.

Dr. Watson officially retired in the spring of 2016.

## GERALD HUFFMAN

Gerald Huffman was born into the logging business in Petersburg, WV. His father was a logger and his mother worked as a cook in the logging camps. At the young age of six, Huffman started helping his father in the woods. His first job was to help skid logs with horses. Upon graduation from Petersburg High School, he began immediately working in the woods. In 1978, Huffman Logging Inc. was officially established as a business entity in West Virginia. Huffman was one of the first loggers in WV to purchase a tree harvester to assist with the safety of the timber cutter and production.

In 1996 Gerald formed a new company, Potomac Trucking and Excavation, Inc. and G&T Repairs, Inc. to better manage his companies. In 2012, he added a forester to his staff to help procure timber and manage logging operations to ensure that West Virginia's Best Management Practices (BMPs) were being followed.



He has been a leader in the promotion and practice of BMPs on all his logging operations and has been recognized by the West Virginia Division of Forestry as a good steward of the forest.

Huffman and his wife Myra have been married for almost 51 years and have two sons, John and Todd, and two grandchildren.

He was awarded the Logger of the Year in 1980 and a Logger of Excellence, 2009-2014. He is a lifelong member of the Bethel Church of the Brethren in Landes, WV.

Huffman and wife Myra own over 500 acres of timberland in the State and manage their lands to promote future timber growth as well as excellent forest management.

## BARBARA MCWHORTER

Barbara A. McWhorter was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She knew early on that she didn't want to live in a city and wanted a more rural lifestyle. She attended WVU in the early 1980s and found her passion in forestry. In 1983, she was received as a Gamma Sigma Delta National Agriculture and Forestry Honorary.

She has since devoted her career to advocating for the conservation of natural resources, and specifically, for forest resources as a renewable resource.

Her success continued into her career as a state forester and then with the NRCS/SCS. Her knowledge of conservation education, technology development/training and conservation programs have been passed on to thousands of landowners.

McWhorter developed the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) which has provided more than a million dollars of financial and technical assistance to hundreds of state woodlands. She was also the key developer of forestry skills materials used at the International Envirothon Competitions hosted in WV. In addition, she was a collaborator on the creation and implementation of the WV Forest Stewardship Partnership.

This project is dedicated to managing vegetation and soil on state and private lands.

She also serves as an agency-provided Adjunct Professor with WVU's Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design.



She is a WV 4-H All-Star, was named the WV Forestry Association Forester of the Year in 2010 and also named a Distinguished Mountaineer in 2010. In 2013, McWhorter was presented with the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design Distinguished Alumni Award.

McWhorter attends Homer United Methodist Church. She and her husband Ralph are parents to three sons.

### **LANNES "LANNY" C. WILLIAMSON**

Lannes "Lanny" C. Williamson was born August 27, 1944, in Huron, Ohio. Williamson grew up on a dairy farm tasked with common farm chores before and after school.

His parents sold the dairy when he was in college and founded Lannes Williamson Pallets, Inc. In 1970, after finishing college and teaching, he returned to the family business.

He became president of the business after his parents' deaths and remained so until 2012 when he made the difficult decision to close.

The customers and inventory were successfully sold to Millwood, contingent on Williamson continuing on as a consultant. While President, Williamson kept the spotlight on the industry by bringing innovation and expansion to the business through computerization of the manufacturing equipment used to produce wood pallets.

Throughout the years, the business received numerous recognitions and had customers spanning the Kanawha Valley, Huntington, Parkersburg and Columbus. Williamson often used his time to educate on environmental and forest protection measures.

Williamson has served on the Forest Management Review Commission, as well as various West Virginia Division of Forestry committees. He also served on the WV Forestry Association board for multiple years, including two terms as president.

In 2012, Williamson received the Community Service Award from the Mason County Chamber of Commerce where he is a member and director. He



has also served 25 years on the board of directors of the Mason County Fair.

He attends the Bellemead United Methodist Church. He and his wife, Judy, are parents to two sons, grandparents to six, and great grandparents to two.

### **JEAN WOLOSHUK**

Jean Woloshuk's commitment to the youth of West Virginia started in 1977 when she joined the WVU Extension Service as an agent in Wetzel County. In 1980, she became an agent in Monongalia County and in 1989 she became the 4-H Events Coordinator and Extension Associate Professor, Division of Family and Youth Programs. In this position, she continued her years of work with 4-H in the implementation of statewide events, including livestock, dairy, poultry and land judging contests among others.

She served as a liaison with the WVU College of Agriculture and Forestry and the State Department of Agriculture as well as other commodity groups. Woloshuk continued with Extension becoming a tenured Professor and Adjunct Professor in the Division of Resource Management at the Davis College.

Throughout the years, she has been a tireless advocate for lifelong learning and dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life of those she serves. She worked for many years with the state dairy show and judging event, the State Fair of WV youth events, Beef Expo Judging Contest, State 4-H Livestock Judging Event, State 4-H Horse Judging event and many more. She introduced the Skillathon events for all 4-H animal special projects.

Woloshuk is a Cum Laude graduate from WVU and holds a bachelors and masters' degree in agriculture as well as her Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction with a minor in agricultural education. She is a 4-H All Star, Gamma Sigma Delta inductee, has Honorary State FFA and American Farmer Degrees, received the Extension Outstanding Performance Award for Team Program Excellence - 4-H Shooting Sports Program, Inductee in the WV 4-H Hall of Fame, a WVDA Woman in Agriculture and was named a WVU Distinguished Alumni in 2012.



Woloshuk retired in 2014 with 38 years of dedicated service.

### **VIVIEN WOOFER**

Vivien Woofter was born in Weston but moved to Clay where she grew up and graduated from Clay High School. She earned a scholarship to WVU and had a great desire to learn about furnishing, fabrics and design. Her professors at WVU often had to prepare extra classes and assignments to fill the void in the Home Economics Department.

Woofter began her service to the United States in 1968 as an interior designer for the General Services Administration in Washington D.C. Her projects included Army Hospitals, courthouses, congressional offices and all Navy Flag residences.

Most noteworthy is her work to develop the first furniture standards for the handicapped. In 1976, Woofter became the Head of Interior Design for the White House. From 1977-1981, Woofter served as the head interior designer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this role, she developed an art program for all the HHS offices in the nation.

In 1988, Woofter began her stint as the U.S. Department of State, overseas Building Operations Director. In this role she was responsible for 360 residences worldwide as well as offices. In her presumed last role with the State Department, Woofter served as the Interior Designer and Heritage Preservation Officer for the Office of Overseas Building.

In the late 1990s, Woofter spearheaded the development of the cultural resource management program at WVU. Because of this program, WVU graduates are working across the state preserving and restoring many iconic structures.

Woofter retired in 2014 but only for a weekend before she was called back by the State Department in the position of Historic Cultural Advisor.

