

DECEMBER 2020

# THE CHICK PAPERS

*Georgia Poultry Laboratory Network's Monthly Newsletter*



**DECEMBER  
TOURS**



We had a good mix of visitors for this particular tour. From left to right: Jimbo Floyd of Turner Wood & Smith Insurance, Abit Massey with the Georgia Poultry Federation, Will Bentley with the Georgia Agribusiness Council, Drew Echols of Jaemor Farms, Georgia State Senator Tyler Harper, Dr. Zavala, Mike Giles with the Georgia Poultry Federation, Greg Tench of Mar-Jac Poultry, and Jake Tench with the Georgia Agribusiness Council



Mike Giles brought his family by for a tour of the lab led by Dr. Zavala.

 **HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
2021** 



# IN MEMORY OF DR. ROBERT BARNHART

GPLN Veterinary Clinician 1974 to 1996

*Dr. Barnhart passed away on December 14, 2020.*

"I first met Dr. Barnhart in 1983 as a young veterinarian and new employee with the Georgia Poultry Improvement Association in Tifton Georgia. Bob was an older more experienced diagnostician than I certainly was, and he encouraged and helped me, and answered a lot of questions I had as a young learner. Over the years, we became not just professional colleagues and co-workers, but friends. My children knew Dr. Barnhart and his wife as Dr. Bob and Ms. Sara. We visited and stayed in touch into retirement. I remember taking him with me to the Annual meeting a few years ago, probably the last time he was able to attend to see the new Laboratory. The veterinary profession is a closed group, and we spend a lot of time with colleagues. The best thing I can say about Dr. Barnhart, he was my professional colleague, co-worker, but most of all a good and trusted friend. I will miss you and think of you often. Your Friend, Martin."

*-Dr. Martin Smeltzer*

"When I came to the lab over 30 years ago we had a great team of veterinarians of which Bob was one. He was very involved in hatchery testing so we spent a lot of time together. He really helped me learn about the industry. Bob was also the one to first invite me to his church, Blackshear Place Baptist, name changed to Christ Place, to which I continue to go. Bob was a good friend and influence on my life."

*-Dr. Doug Waltman*

"I worked with Bob for a number of years at the old lab in Oakwood. He was a good mentor for me, as I was just out of graduate school, and he had years of experience in poultry. He often talked about the period when he was the veterinarian for Vantress, before they became Cobb-Vantress. Bob helped me a lot over the years, and I always appreciated his expertise and his friendship."

*-Dr. James Davis*

"Bob Barnhart was an excellent poultry pathologist who served the industry well from the Georgia Poultry Laboratory. He always responded when needed and was respected in the poultry industry in Georgia and throughout the country. Prior to joining the lab at the Oakwood location, Bob worked for Vantress farms, major poultry breeder headquartered in Duluth, Georgia, in Gwinnett County."

*-Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation*

"When I became acquainted with Bob he worked with Vantress breeder farms. As a young person then I considered Bob to be an intellectual mentor and he taught me many things for which I remain thankful today. Of course, later on we became more like peers and Bob remained a thinker for our group, still lending his expertise to each of us. Thanks Dr. Barnhart!"

*-Dr. Donald Waldrip*



Fond memories captured at the wedding of Dr. and Mrs. Barnhart along side the Smeltzer children.  
*Photo provided by Dr. Smeltzer.*





Mr. Harp (right) is pictured here with Dr Barnhart at the GPIA Annual meeting in 2015.

## IN MEMORY OF BRAD HARP

"We also lost Brad Harp in December 2020. Brad was chairman of the GPIA Board in 2010, and a fantastic mentor for so many of us. What great common sense he had, and how well he understood the chickens we all care for every day! One of his most famous quotes: Do not repeat the same action and expect a different result! Love it!

We will greatly miss Brad's bigger-than-life persona and his friendship, warmth, and laughter!"

*-Dr. Louise Dufour-Zavala*

## IN MEMORY OF JESSIE SPARKS

"Mrs. Sparks started working at the lab in 1988. Her husband, Ron, was the lab's accountant. Jessie worked in 'transfer' where Mycoplasma and Pullorum serological testing was done. The Mycoplasma testing was by plate agglutination. It was called 'transfer' because for the pullorum test they had to transfer the serum from the blood tube to a tube where antigen would be added for the test. Jessie was in charge of paperwork. She made sure all the results were summarized and loaded into the computer (yes, we actually had computers back then).

She was a kind, sweet lady and very competent in what she did. During the 2000's there were issues with the Mycoplasma plate antigens and we made the switch to ELISA. Jessie took the new techniques in stride and continued until she and her husband retired in 2005. Everyone who had the privilege to work with her still have such fond memories of Ms. Jessie."

*-Dr. Doug Waltman*

*Mrs. Sparks passed away on December 23, 2020.*



Mrs. Sparks in the lab, hard at work but always with a smile.