

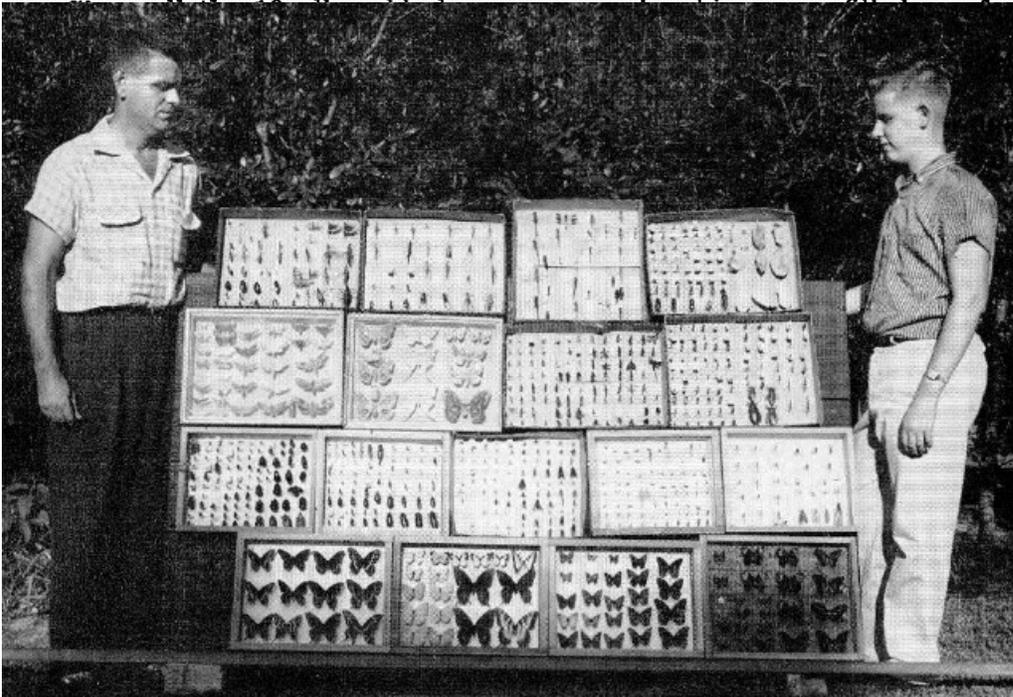
### **James E. Brogdon (1919-2015)**

Jim Brogdon, retired extension entomologist and past president of the Florida Entomological Society, has passed away. As the first full-time Extension Entomologist of the Florida Extension service, he co-created the first insect and plant disease control guide for commercial vegetables in Florida, edited Plant Protection Pointers and the Entomology Newsletter, built the 4-H Entomology project and was a frequent guest on radio and TV news programs. James served as president of the FES and published his presidential address, "Extension Entomology: Past, Present, and Future" in Vol. 50 (4) 1967 edition of The Florida Entomologist, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the journal. In that article, he reflected on his career in extension entomology and others that preceded him in several states. FES honored him in 1980 upon his retirement:

#### **REPORT OF THE HONORS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

On 28 August 1980, immediately after the poolside banquet, Dr. Fred A. Johnson provided the membership with a very accurate account of our honoree's extensive and distinguished entomological career. The honoree, Mr. James E. Brogdon, then received a plaque from Mr. Allen Selhime which reads as follows:

"The Florida Entomological Society pays tribute to James E. Brogdon, retired, in recognition of your many years of diagnosing pest problems and prescribing cures while maintaining the utmost professional 'bedside manner'. We hereby confer to you the honorary title, "Dr. of Entomology" August 28, 1980."



James Brogdon, left, inspects a 4-H member's entomology project, 1958.  
Source: Extension Annual Report, 1958.

**Obituary of James E. Brogdon** (provided by the Brogdon family)  
**October 27, 1919-June 18, 2015**

James E. Brogdon passed away on June 18, 2015 at the age of 95. He was born in October of 1919 in Alapaha, Berrien County, Georgia. He was the youngest son of Ed and Mary Alice Brogdon, who had seven children, and was the only one to receive a college education.

He attended North Georgia Military College, Class of 1940, enlisting in the U. S. Army Air Corps in 1942. He received military training at the Aviation Cadet Center, San Antonio, Texas and then the Army Air Forces Gunnery School, Tyndall Field, Florida, graduating with the Flexible Gunnery Class 43-49. Clark Gable was also at Tyndall Field at the same time but was with the Flexible Gunnery Class 43-39. They apparently never met, but ironically, he was nicknamed “Capt. Rhett” by his baseball team members at North Georgia Military College in reference to the debut of *Gone with the Wind* of 1939. He was a pitcher on Technical School Team 311. Jim served as a gunnery instructor on Saipan with the 73<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Wing, 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 1944-45.

At the end of WWII Jim returned to Alapaha, Georgia and took over his father’s ice route, purchasing a WWII surplus military jeep to pull a homebuilt insulated trailer to haul ice to people in the county not having electricity at the time. Eventually he was accepted to the University of Florida, and moved his wife and two children in the jeep, pulling a 2-bedroom trailer to Gainesville. Student housing was scarce at this time so he and his family first lived in the old military compound located on the north side of the Gainesville Airport. Eventually he relocated to student housing on campus, and lived in Flavel III until his graduation. He eventually received his master’s degree and joined the University staff in 1953, retiring in 1980.

During his retirement Jim played golf, enjoyed travel, friends, and spent 15 years or more as a volunteer at the Veteran’s Hospital in Gainesville. He is survived by his wife Vera of 74 years, three children, Jim, Beth and Steve, three grandchildren, Ryan, Jason and Brad; and three great grandchildren, Donovan, Aislinn and McKensie. He is also survived by his youngest sister Euretha, and numerous nephews and nieces.

A memorial service will be held at the 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Church of Gainesville at 419 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street on Friday June 26 at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers donations can be given to Haven Hospice of Gainesville in his name.

