

## Rhode Island



J. Whitney Bancroft  
State 4-H Program Leader

4-H member with major projects in gardening, forestry and leadership.

4-H Efforts: State 4-H Program Leader in RI from 1974-2000.  
Volunteer development was an important emphasis in his work.

4-H Honors: National 4-H Forestry winner and scholarship winner as a member, Distinguished Service Award from National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, Citation from Governor and legislature of Rhode Island for service to youth. Recognition for leadership as President of South County Habitat for Humanity.

Hometown: Wakefield, Rhode Island  
Nominated by: Rhode Island 4-H  
Year Inducted: 2002

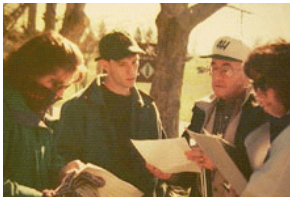
Whitney served as State 4-H Program Leader at the University of Rhode Island from 1974 to 2000. As a 4-H member, he was active in gardening and forestry projects and leadership at the local and county level. He received degree in Horticulture from the University of New Hampshire, Master's degree in Cooperative Extension Education from Michigan State University and Doctorate in Adult Education from North Carolina State University. Whitney became a County 4-H Agent in Montgomery County, New York for 1964 to 1973.

As RI State 4-H Program Leader, Whitney also served as Executive Director of the Rhode Island 4-H Club Foundation. During this time, sources of support for 4-H increased and leadership developed. Volunteer development in 4-H was the focus with his dissertation topic - the satisfaction of 4-H volunteers with their jobs. Volunteers in the 4-H program became involved in management roles, expanding educational programs at times of decreasing staff numbers. Advisory committees were managed to give diverse volunteers a voice in program decisions.

"We all have learned much more about leadership and management by watching you do your job." - URI Dean.

"He prepared youth to run our programs, giving them training to make it through life successfully. He always found time to help me work on my project or guide me through any obstacle...He has gained success and admiration for anyone who has been fortunate enough to work with him." - RI 4-H member.

"...comments were insightful and meaningful regarding what is good for young people." - RI 4-H staff person.



Whitney's 4-H forestry/horticulture background was valuable to RI 4-H youth.



Whitney and RI delegation at the National 4-H Center.