

Announcement of the 2021 NCSS Award Recipients

JEROME L LANGLINAIS IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE NCSS SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR AWARD



Jerome Lynn Langlinois is the MLRA Soil Survey Leader within Soil Survey Region 7 located in Loxley, Alabama.

Jerome is a 1986 graduate of University of Louisiana Lafayette (then, the University of Southwestern Louisiana) at Lafayette, Louisiana with a B.S. degree in Agronomy. Post-graduation, he worked as Agronomy Lab Assistant with ULL, and in 1988, began a career with NRCS as a Soil Scientist in Buena Vista, Georgia. Moving from his French cultural background to west Georgia was a societal challenge to speak where locals could understand, after repeating himself many times in conversation, he cleaned up his speech a little but never lost his Cajun culture.

With Jerome's NRCS career starting in west central Georgia, this gave him a fast track opportunity to map soils in 8 counties (Marion, Chattahoochee, Harris, Talbot, Taylor, Clay, Quitman, Randolph) within the Southern Piedmont, Georgia Sand Hills, and Southern Coastal Plains MLRAs. In 1991, accepted a Project Leader position in Bainbridge, Georgia, and mapped soils in Decatur and Grady Counties soil survey areas. Soil interpretations in southwest Georgia also included technical soil services in resource work in Baker, Miller, and Mitchell counties. In 1993, he accepted a 2nd Project Leader position in to map soils in Wilkinson County, Mississippi. This area included mapping soils along the Mississippi River with soils within the Southern Mississippi River Alluvium, Southern Mississippi Valley Silty Uplands, and a few small exposed areas of the Southern Coastal Plains. While in southwest Mississippi as Project Leader, also acted for 8 years in the Resource Soil Scientist role and added technical soils services responsibilities in an additional 10 southwest Mississippi counties. In 2004, he accepted a MLRA Project Leader position in Tuscaloosa, Alabama with responsibility to manage the initial soil mapping progress in Bibb and Lamar Counties. Upon completion of these soil survey areas, he continued to assist with the completion of Washington County Alabama initial soil survey. In 2012, relocated the MLA Project Leader Position to the present Loxley Soil Survey Office. From Loxley, continued with the remaining initial acres in Alabama. Completing Washington County was the closing of the remaining initial soil mapping in Alabama. This initial project as completed while other of the soil survey offices were proceeding with the harmonizing efforts of similar map units in NASIS. With harmonizing efforts in full force, the Loxley staff is given an incredible task of updating the Mobile County soil survey. With himself, staff of one and more than 10 detail assignments from multiple MLRA soil survey offices, he managed the Mobile County spatial and tabular update. This team consisted of both field and remote database assignments at sporadic intervals in a 30-month period updating 816,000 acres. His accomplishments among multiple soil survey areas has given him the opportunity to personally map soils covering one million initial acres in his career. Jerome is presently managing the Loxley and Denham Springs

Soil Survey Offices including Coastal Zone and near shore landscapes along the gulf coast of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Jerome is a member of the Coastal Zone Soil Survey Focus Team including an active member in CZSS boat design(s), boating safety policy/training, maintenance/safety checklists, and equipment/gear design(s). He is a licensed member of the Professional Soil Classifiers Association of Alabama and Mississippi and a ARPACS Certified Professional Soil Classifier. His career has been decorated with numerous Certificates of Merit and Awards for extra efforts, sustained performance, and outstanding annual performances. From his local responsibilities and past acting state soil scientist and regional duties, he has always greeted new experiences and challenges with an optimistic and passionate outlook. Jerome is also blessed with an incredible and supportive wife of 35 years, two wonderful daughters paired with hard working sons-in-law, and an energetic grandson.

CARLA REBERNAK IS THE CO-RECIPIENT OF THE NCSS SCIENTIST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Carla Rebernak is an NRCS Soil Scientist with the Soil and Plant Science Division and MLRA Officer Leader in Idaho Falls, Idaho. While studying soil science at The Pennsylvania State University, Carla started her first position with NRCS in 1996 in the Land Analysis Laboratory. Working over a light table, Carla transferred soil lines to mylar for digitizing. After a soil scientist described how those soil lines were first drawn in the field, Carla instantly knew she wanted to be a field soil scientist and map soils.

After graduating from Penn State in 1999 with a B.S. in Soil Science, Carla mapped soils on the Eastern shore of Maryland. She always dreamed of mapping mountains, so in 2004, she welcomed the opportunity to map in Idaho. Carla worked on a variety of update, initial, and detail projects for Teton County, Bear Lake County, City of Rocks National Monument, and the Caribou National Forest. Working alongside some great mentors, Carla learned how to manage projects and see them through the correlation process.

In 2014, Carla was promoted to MLRA Office Leader, responsible for updating, maintaining, and providing quality control of the soil and ecological data, which support Web Soil Survey in Major Land Resource Areas 11, 12, and 13. She also advanced two of the last initial acre projects on private land, Clark County and Caribou County, to completion. This experience led up to and prepared her for engaging with partners on reimbursable agreements to complete initial mapping on millions of acres of forest and wilderness areas by the goal of 2026.

Carla's collaboration and coordination with partner agencies has fostered strong relationships. Her close work with her counterparts in these agencies has exemplified both the intent and spirit of the collaboration that is envisioned between federal agencies. Her working relations with the Forest Service have increased knowledge of resources for others, provided needed information for land management decisions, and increased other agencies efficiency and outputs. Most importantly, her efforts have opened communications and initiated projects to meet common goals across government agencies.

In 2019, work started in the Challis National Forest where the mountains are so rugged the crew broke custom-built shovels at an alarming rate. The stronger but heavier Montana Sharp Shooter was too cumbersome for the distance and terrain covered by foot. Carla designed a shovel to meet field staff specifications and collaborated with an Idaho business to produce the Borah Sharp Shooter. This tool, named for the highest peak in Idaho, will be available on GSA soon.

Carla developed a plan for personnel and resources to survey, analyze, and post to Web Soil Survey over 500,000 acres per year and is on track to meet the 2026 Initiative. She is concurrently overseeing the development of

digital soil mapping models for testing and incorporation in the mapping process for NOTCOM areas totaling over 9 million acres, including 2 million acres of wilderness at the center of Idaho. Also, she is involved in the Idaho SnoTel program—sampling sites for soil moisture instrument installation and supporting and expanding research projects for collecting soil moisture data to better understand the role of soil moisture in soil genesis, morphology, and land management in the Western United States.

In 2010, Carla received the “Idaho NRCS Excellence in Supervision” award. She has served on the national training cadre for Basic Soil Survey for six years and has developed many regional and national NASIS interpretations over the years. Carla and her work were featured in the Idaho Public Television series, *Outdoor Idaho*, *Jobs Without Walls* and as a guest scientist on *Science Trek*. Carla has also drawn attention from some unexpected sources. She said, “One of my favorite mapping stories was being mistaken for and surveilled as a marijuana grower. Local undercover narcotics officers became suspicious because I was alone in the forest on a dirt bike every day with a shovel strapped to the side.” “It’s all in a day’s work,” she added.

Carla has been a Certified Professional Soil Scientist for 16 years. When asked what professional accomplishment she is most proud of, Carla said, “I am very proud of the team of excellent people around me and the culture of collaboration and productivity we have created. I have worked and learned from the best folks. I have grown as a supervisor and enjoy helping shape the new soil and ecological scientists. The new scientists inspire me every day to think differently and learn new skills.”

DAVID KINGSBURY IS THE CO-RECIPIENT OF THE NCSS SCIENTIST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



David Kingsbury is currently one of the Regional Directors for the Northeast Soil Survey Regions, as part of the NRCS Soil and Plant Science Division (SPSD). Formerly Soil Survey Region 6 Director, headquartered in Morgantown, West Virginia, Dave has had a long career with NRCS and its precursor, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Dave earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees agriculture and agronomy at West Virginia University. He began his career with USDA-SCS as a student trainee in Pleasants County, WV in 1984 (initial survey of Wetzel County, WV), resigning in 1985 to pursue a master's degree. While completing his thesis he returned to the family dairy farm in northwest New Jersey and worked for a local engineering firm primarily conducting on-lot sewage evaluations ("soil logs and perc tests"). Within a year he was hired by Professional Soil Investigations, of Flemington, NJ, a firm which specialized in wetland identification and delineation. This was a short-term career move, since Dave had applied for a soil scientist position with NJ-SCS after meeting the soon-to-be NJ State Soil Scientist, Ronnie L. Taylor, at a training session on soil morphology and New Jersey soils. Dave rejoined the SCS in 1989 and worked as a field soil scientist, Area Resource Soil Scientist and Soil Survey

Project Leader for the update soil survey of Warren and Sussex Counties, New Jersey from 1989 through 1995. He completed one initial mapping detail to King and Queen County, Virginia in 1990.

While in New Jersey, Dave taught six semesters of soil chemistry for a two-year turf grass management program offered by Rutgers University, Office of Continuing Professional Education, and was involved with a number of other soils training courses including on-lot sewage disposal and hydric soil identification. He was also fortunate enough to have worked with Dr. Robert Grossman, Research Soil Scientist with the National Soil Survey Center, and assisted in developing methods for quantifying above ground biomass.

With the establishment of the Major Land Resource Area Regional Soil Survey Offices in 1995, Dave made the move back to Morgantown, WV, to join the MLRA Regional Office –13 (MO-13) as a Soil Data Quality Specialist (SDQS). MO-13 was led by Steve Carpenter, who remained Dave's boss until his retirement in 2010. The MO-13 region, at various times, consisted of parts of from 9 to 15 states. During his time as an SDQS, Dave provided quality assurance and correlation guidance for roughly 35 soil survey projects in ten states. Although he never completed a soil survey manuscript, he reviewed more manuscripts and field sheets than he cares to remember. Dave served as a training cadre member for the "Correlation and Management of MLRA Soil Surveys" course in the early 2000's, which led to his involvement in coauthoring subsections of the revised Soil Survey Manual (maintenance of soil survey information). He also served as the MO-13 Database Manager for a brief period before being selected as the MO-13 Senior Regional Soil Scientist in 2010, a position he held only slightly longer than his stint as a soil scientist trainee.

Dave became the MO-13 Leader and WV State Soil Scientist in 2011, following the retirement of Steve Carpenter. Following the realignment of Soil Survey Regions in 2012-13, he became Regional Director (RD) when MO-13 - the Central Appalachian Mountains and Mid-Atlantic Coast Region, became Soil Survey Region 6 - the Central Appalachian Interior Mountains and Plateaus Region. Soil Survey Region 6 managed 11 MLRA Soil Survey Offices (MSSOs) and covered all or parts of 18 states. At the same time, the WV State Soil Scientist role became a separate position. In spite of the separation of state and regional responsibilities, Dave continues to support the WV Soils Partnership, meeting regularly with representatives from USFS, West Virginia University and the NRCS Geospatial Research Unit (GRU), and WV-NRCS in order to maintain a healthy relationship between local partners. This local collaboration has helped develop soil survey field weeks and more regional events such as a Digital Soil Mapping Field Week (2014) and field weeks held in other parts of the region, such as Eastern Kentucky, southern Missouri (Mark Twain National Forest) and in the Smoky Mountains. These field weeks have been, at various times, led by not only NRCS, but USFS and university partners as well.

Dave currently serves as the NCSS Initial Mapping Focus Team lead. This team coordinates with other Focus Teams, such as the Database and Digital Soil Mapping Focus Teams, to help identify products, processes and resources that will assist NCSS in providing full soils and ecological site coverage by 2026. The team has worked with Soil Survey Regional Directors and staff to develop a web map of initial soil survey project plans. The web map can be used by NRCS leadership, NCSS partners and, potentially, congressional staffers to view initial mapping progress. His role on the Initial Mapping Focus Team led Dave to be active with the Federal Lands Advisory Group (FLAG), which was established for facilitating the development and maintenance of the soil and vegetation inventories of the nation's federal lands. This working group includes staff from multiple land-managing Federal agencies.

Dave and his wife, Diana, met at WVU, and have been married for nearly 36 years. They have two sons, a daughter-in-law and a beautiful grandson who was proudly named for his grandfather. He's one and a half years old and begins his soils training this summer.

JEFF BRUGGINK IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE NCSS COOPERATOR AWARD



Jeff Bruggink is the regional soil and post fire program manager for the USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region. The Regional Office is in Ogden UT and provides support services to 12 forest administrative units that include 19 National Forests and 1 National Grassland in the states of ID, UT, WY, NV and CA.

Jeff is a 1986 graduate of the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point with a B.S. in Forestry Management and Soil Science. He is also a 1988 M.S. graduate of Michigan State University in Forest Ecology.

He worked as a soil and vegetation inventory contractor prior to accepting a Soil Scientist position with the Forest Service in 1989. Jeff has worked in 3 different regions of the Forest Service including the Eastern, Rocky Mountain and Intermountain regions. He has been the Intermountain Region soils and post fire program manager since May 2000.

Throughout his entire career Jeff has been involved with some aspect of the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS). He was a field mapper completing Terrestrial Ecological Unit (TEU) inventories, contract and soil data steward, and grassland ecological site specialist. Currently he is the Forest Service regional partnership coordinator for completing soil and TEU inventories and is responsible for promoting use of soil and TEU inventories for land management activities.

In addition to his NCSS responsibilities, Jeff has been the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) coordinator for the largest region of the Forest Service for the past 21 years. He believes his background in soil science and the NCSS has been one of the greatest assets in his career to understand the effects of land management and natural disturbances to our public lands.

