



## Educators In-Service Workshop | Presenter Bios

### **Briana Wyatt, PhD**

Briana.Wyatt@ag.tamu.edu

Dr. Briana Wyatt is a soil scientist whose research focuses on soil physics and hydrology. Her research interests include applications of meteorological, soil moisture, and soil physical property data and studying the influence of soil moisture on various components of the hydrological cycle and soil health. The overarching goal of Dr. Wyatt's research program is to provide useful information and tools that will allow fellow researchers, land and water managers, and the public to better steward the increasingly threatened soil and water resources of our planet. Dr. Wyatt has served on the SSSA K-12 Education and Outreach committee since 2018 and is the current Chair of the committee.

### **Margaret (Missy) Holzer, PhD**

Missy.holzer@gmail.com

Missy taught high school Earth and space, environmental science, and physical geography for more than 30 years, and currently adjuncts at different universities, and is a science standards specialist with Great Minds, PBC™. While teaching, her focus was on connecting students to their local environments through place-based learning to encourage the next generation of stewards. She is the secretary of National Earth Science Teachers Association (President 2012-2014), has served on many state and national committees, and presents at local, regional, and national conferences. She has been an active participant in New Jersey state science standards projects since 2008, which includes the recently completed New Jersey science standards review. She supports formal and non-formal educators in their transition to NGSS through numerous workshop offerings and is currently assisting New Jersey teachers with the integration of the new climate standards into their units. She has a BS in Environmental Planning and Design, MAT in science education, MS in geography, and PhD in science education.

### **Jennifer M DeBruyn, PhD**

jdebruyn@utk.edu

Jennifer DeBruyn is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biosystems Engineering & Soil Science at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. She received her B.Sc.H in Biology from Queen's University (Kingston, Canada) and her Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Tennessee. She is an environmental microbiologist studying decomposition and biodegradation in both agricultural and natural ecosystems. She founded and runs Backyard STEM (<https://backyardstem.tennessee.edu/>), a curriculum development and educator training program focusing on environmental science activities for 4-H clubs and camps across the state of Tennessee.

*Continued next page.*

## Educators In-Service Workshop | Presenter Bios

### **Maninder K. Walia, PhD**

waliam@unr.edu

Dr. Maninder K. Walia is an Assistant Professor and Field Crop Specialist at the University of Nevada, Reno Extension. She did her Bachelor's in Agriculture and Masters in Crop Science from India and Doctorate from Ohio State University in Environment and Natural Resources. She is particularly interested in enhancing agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability by adopting strategies such as soil amendments, alternate cropping systems, cover crops, and nutrient management strategies to improve crop yield and soil quality.

### **Susan M. Chapman, CAE**

schapman@sciencesocieties.org

Susan is the Director of Member Services for the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA) and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) where she is responsible for ensuring member engagement and value for the 8,000 members of the three scientific organizations. She has overseen the creation of the SSSA K-12 program. The program includes a stand-alone website [www.soils4teachers.org](http://www.soils4teachers.org) and a "kid" focused site at [www.soils4kids.org](http://www.soils4kids.org), lessons and activities, and two peer-reviewed publications written by SSSA K-12 Committee members - *Soil! Get the Inside Scoop* (Lindbo et al., 2008) for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level and *Know Soil Know Life* (Lindbo et al., 2012) written for the high school level. The program also includes an Ask a Soil Scientist program, outreach via the National Science Teachers Association, materials, and educator-focused webinars. She expanded the trademark I "Heart" Soil campaign (now in 14 languages) and was instrumental in the development of materials and year-long program for the International Year of Soils. She earned her B.B.A. in Marketing and Management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

---