



RICE STEWARDSHIP

FIELD STAFF DIRECTORY

2023-2024

THE RICE STEWARDSHIP MISSION

The USA Rice-Ducks Unlimited Rice Stewardship Partnership
was founded in 2013
to conserve 3 of our Nation's critical natural resources;
working ricelands, water, and wetland wildlife.

– ARKANSAS –



EMILY WOODALL

Manager – Rice Conservation Services

Phone: (571) 213-3006 Email: ewoodall@usarice.com

Experience with USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service and Arkansas Department of Agriculture. Responsible for managing USA Rice led projects and coordinating with Natural Resources Conservation Service state offices on conservation efforts. With Rice Stewardship since August 2017.



PATRICK DILL

Coordinator

Phone: (870) 316-9939 Email: pdill@ducks.org

Worked for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in various roles and Arkansas State University and other conservation partners conducting research on the Arkansas Groundwater Initiative. Currently delivering conservation assistance to rice producers across Arkansas and Missouri. With Rice Stewardship since July 2022.



JESSICA ALLEN

Coordinator

Phone: (870) 222-7770 Email: jallen@ducks.org

Background in agriculture business, finance, and marketing with an emphasis in foundations of sustainability. Experience as project coordinator with College of Technology at McGehee, Arkansas. Currently covering all aspects of conservation operations in Southeast Arkansas. With Rice Stewardship since January 2023.



CINDY NEAL

Rice Specialist

Phone: (501) 940-3811 Email: cneal@ducks.org

Thirty plus (30+) years with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Provides support in conservation programs and contract management and follow up with rice participants with on-site farm visits. Coordinates efforts with National Black Growers Council. With Rice Stewardship since February 2022.



DR. MERLE ANDERS

Systems Agronomist

Cell: (870) 456-8527 Office: (870) 241-9021

Email: ricecarbon@centurylink.net

Through his role with the Rice Stewardship Partnership and his work as an independent crop consultant, Dr. Anders supports rice farmers across Arkansas in scaling their adoption of sustainable practices. His early research in rice irrigation, fertility management, rotation, and tillage have been pivotal in developing recent advances in sustainable rice production, particularly Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) and fertility management. Anders couches all his research in economics, which provides a net-profit component, ensuring rice producers have accurate cost/benefit analyses when implementing new practices. With Rice Stewardship since May 2015.



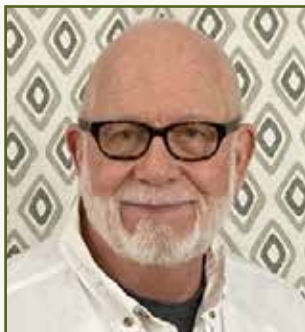
MISTY ADAMS

Rice Specialist

Phone: (870) 930-8318 Email: madams@ducks.org

Seven (7) years with agriculture land management company followed by 5 years with Northeast Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development Council. Currently providing top-notch USDA Field Office support in conservation contract management. With Rice Stewardship since May 2020.

– MISSOURI –



DAVID WISSEHR

Rice Specialist

Phone: (573) 579-9847 Email: dlwissehr@gmail.com

Worked 35 years with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Experience working with agricultural producers in Southeast Missouri to enhance resource conservation. Also, worked 8 years for the Southeast Missouri Wetland Team in various capacities of the Wetland Reserve Program. Currently provides support in conservation contract management to producers and USDA staff. With the Rice Stewardship Program since October 2016.



TONY JACO
Rice Specialist

Phone: (573) 587-3055 *Email:* tonyjaco2021ducks@hotmail.com

Worked 33 years with Missouri Department of Conservation ending as Lead Administrator for the Southeast Region. Collaborated with private landowners on farm bill and state cost-share programs. Currently coordinates efforts among USDA, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, conservation partners, and rice producers. With Rice Stewardship since October 2021.

– CALIFORNIA –



CRAIG GARNER
Manager of Conservation Programs

Phone: (707) 301-3667 *Email:* cgarner@ducks.org

Sixteen (16) years with Ducks Unlimited serving the Sacramento Valley as Regional Biologist. Currently the Manager of Conservation Programs for all of California. Works with landowners to improve migratory bird habitat in the Pacific Flyaway. Implements Rice Stewardship efforts to benefit producers in the Sacramento Valley. With Rice Stewardship since July 2016.

– LOUISIANA –



KYLE SOILEAU
Coordinator

Phone: (337) 322-4565 *Email:* ksoileau@ducks.org

Fifteen (15) years with Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Office of Soil & Water Conservation. Background in rice conservation as a Section 319 Project Manager in southwest Louisiana. Conservation planner who excels in program outreach. Excellent working relationship with rice growers and USDA Field Offices. With Rice Stewardship since January 2016.



BIFF HANDY
Rice Specialist

Cell: (318) 331-0170 *Office:* (318) 582-3620

Email: bhandy@ducks.org

Currently provides technical assistance to landowners and rice producers targeting irrigation operations on working rice lands. The focus of assistance is toward reducing dependency on agricultural groundwater use, increasing surface water use, irrigation water management planning, and irrigation system efficiency. Worked with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Louisiana for 40 years as an agricultural engineer. Service included terms as the Area Engineer for northeast Louisiana and the State Irrigation Engineer. With Rice Stewardship since January 2017.



RICHARD HARDEE

Rice Specialist

Phone: (337) 581-1197 *Email:* rhardee@ducks.org

Rice grower in southwest Louisiana for 37 years before joining Rice Stewardship. Expert in rice irrigation and pumping plant and well components. Brings a unique perspective to the program having spent his entire life in the rice industry. With Rice Stewardship since May 2017.

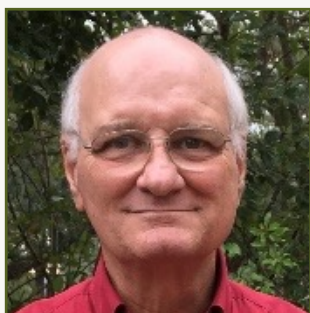


KEITH LATIOLAIS

Rice Specialist

Phone: (337) 692-0551 *Email:* klatiolais@ducks.org

Has 38 years with Natural Resources Conservation Service including 36 years as a District Conservationist. Expert in USDA program administration and conservation planning. Leader in the field having been with Rice Stewardship since inception in 2012.



KEITH NORMAND

Rice Specialist

Phone: (337) 296-6859 *Email:* knormand@ducks.org

Forty-two (42) years with the Louisiana State University AgCenter cooperative extension service as a county extension agricultural agent. Leads conservation practice 590 nutrient management for producers to follow the 4R's; right rate, right source, right placement, and right timing. With Rice Stewardship since March 2018.



BRITTAIN POTEET VI

Allen SWCD Technician

Cell: (337) 529-7766 *Email:* brittain.poteet@la.nacdnet.net

Background in operation, safety inspections, calibration, and maintenance of various types of farming equipment. Currently serves as Allen Parish's Soil and Water Conservation District technician. With Rice Stewardship since October 2021.

- MISSISSIPPI -



MEGAN E. MARTIN

Research Scientist

Phone: (601) 345-7304 *Email:* memartin@ducks.org

Five (5) years' experience in agricultural landscape mapping and data analysis. Creates maps, manages, and analyzes production and conservation data. Works closely with the Fieldprint Platform to assess sustainability metrics. With Rice Stewardship since December 2020.

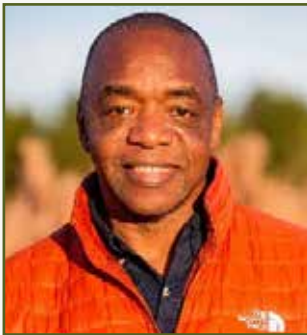


ETHAN ADKINS

Rice Specialist

Phone: (601) 499-6254 *Email:* eadkins@ducks.org

Served 4 years in the U.S. Marines. A recent graduate of Mississippi State University where he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Geographic Information Systems. Provides technical assistance to rice producers and supports engineering survey crews. With Rice Stewardship since May 2022.



JOHN GLOVER

Rice Specialist

Cell: (601) 667-0465 *Email:* John.GloverCSS@gmail.com

Recently retired from productive career with USDA in Washington, D.C. Led implementation of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) under the 2018 Farm Bill. Served as Implementation and Stewardship Branch Chief for Natural Resources Conservation Service. As Branch Chief, ensured that conservation easement program policies, procedures and guidelines were developed, maintained, and applied in accordance with program requirements, as well as state and federal laws. Currently focuses on outreach to historically under served producers and landowners. With Rice Stewardship Partnership since November 2022.

- TEXAS -



DENNIS NEUMAN

Rice Specialist

Phone: (512) 373-5736 *Email:* dneuman@ducks.com

Retired after 39 years with Natural Resources Conservation Service in Texas, with last position held as Resource Team Leader supervising 7 counties in Gulf Coast area. Expert in program administration, employee relations, and conservation planning. Led annual multi-million dollar contract administration and payments to Gulf Coast producers. With Rice Stewardship since June 2016.



RAUL VILLARREAL

Rice Specialist

Phone: (713) 816-0784 *Email:* rvillarreal@ducks.org

Retired after 38 years with Natural Resources Conservation Service in Texas, with last position held as Resource Team Leader supervising 3 counties. Expert in Conservation Desktop with credentials in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Currently providing Texas Field Office support in conservation contract development and management. With Rice Stewardship since August 2019.

DIRECTORS



JOSH HANKINS

Director of Grower Relations

Phone: (501) 398-6678 *Email:* jhankins@usarice.com

A native of Arkansas with a wide range of work experience in the field of agriculture. Currently leads efforts to deliver on-the-ground conservation initiatives by working with rice producers across the Mid-south to improve their on-the farm energy and nutrient use efficiencies, water and soil conservation, and wildlife management practices. With Rice Stewardship since November 2015.



DR. SCOTT W. MANLEY

Director - Agriculture Support

Phone: (601) 956-1936 *Email:* smanley@ducks.org

Actively engaged with agricultural producers and the rest of the supply chain to find and implement conservation solutions that have both positive bottom-line impacts and quantifiable ecological benefits in our nation's working landscapes. With Rice Stewardship since inception in 2012.

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

*We are here to help
in anyway that we can.*



THANK YOU TO OUR LEADING FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

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