

McLaughlin Award Recipient

The Foil McLaughlin Award is given each year by the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association in recognition of those individuals and groups that have had a significant impact on the North Carolina Seed Industry. The award is named after the late Mr. Foil McLaughlin who was director of the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association from 1962 to 1991.

This years' McLaughlin Award recipient has made a significant impact on the seed industry by his lifetime work as a plant breeder and educator. He was born in New Jersey, son of a plant scientist from Jersey and a registered nurse from Maine. He received his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University where he was exposed to wheat breeding. Upon graduation from MSU, he headed to Lewiston, NC where he would get his first glimpse of the peanut tree which he came to study. He received his advanced degrees in the Crop Science Department at North Carolina State University under the direction of Dr. Johnny Wynne, then the peanut breeder.

He began his career as a soybean breeder in Michigan in 1982, but was eventually lured back to NCSU in 1990 to assume responsibilities as a peanut breeder. Since then, he has released at least 18 Virginia-type peanuts and one germplasm. He has served in leadership of several organizations including President of APRES and associated editor of Peanut Science. He has taught undergraduate and graduate plant breeding and genetics courses at NCSU and MSU. He has taught 12 PhD Scientists, 5 MS students, and served on many advisory committees; but perhaps his biggest contribution to the seed industry is the release of 'Bailey' and 'Sugg'. These two varieties are planted on at least 70% of the Virginia-type peanut

acreage in the NC, SC, and VA region. The success of these varieties was demonstrated in 2013 where they maintained high yield under intense disease pressure. His research continues with the introduction of varieties with improved disease resistance, high-oleic fatty acid composition, and improved flavor.

With that said, we would like to introduce Dr. Tom Isleib as the 2013 Foil McLaughlin Award recipient for recognition of his lifetime contribution to the North Carolina seed industry. While Tom comes to the podium, we'd like his wife, Sandy, his father Donald, his son Jacob and daughter-in-law Mary-Beth and granddaughter Ele to stand.