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LOSS OF COLLEAGUE



Edward T. "Ted" Elliott Jr., 50, of Lincoln, Nebraska died June 7, 2002 after a valiant battle with cancer. We mourn the loss of a colleague who shaped and cared so much for the future of the NREL.

Ted was an internationally-renowned ecosystem scientist whose work provided important advances in ecology and soil science. Early in his career he illuminated the role of microscopic soil animals in controlling nutrient cycling and the functioning of whole ecosystems. He later pioneered new methods for studying soil organic matter and was one of the first scientists to study agricultural systems from an ecosystems perspective. He also led new approaches to combine the disciplines of ecosystem science and economics to study agricultural systems at regional and national scales.

He earned his BA in Soil Science at CSU in 1977, his MA in Soil Chemistry/Microbiology at CSU in 1978, and his Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of Georgia in 1982.

Ted first joined NREL in 1973 working as a technician in the field and laboratory. Over the years, he became a highly successful scientist and in 1993, was appointed as Associate Director of NREL. Although he left two years ago (June 2000) to assume the Directorship of the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska, CSU and NREL remained close to his heart.

Dr. Elliott presented numerous invited symposia and invited workshop presentations around the world. He published more than 70 articles in refereed journals, more than 50 book chapters, and 3 books. Dr. Elliott was amongst the 250 most cited researchers in the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) coverage of research in Ecology/Environment, out of more than 19,000 scientists surveyed, illustrating the importance and impact of his work. He was a member of the Ecological Society of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Soil Science Society of America and the International Soil Science Society.

Ted's love of nature inspired the pursuit of his career, and his passion for his work led to his many academic achievements. His greatest gift was his love for his wife, Kathy, and family. We will all miss him, his humor, and his intellectual contributions.

Ted asked "...not to have a funeral, but rather a celebration" in Ft. Collins with his friends and colleagues which was held June 17 at the Lory Student Center, CSU. Services were held in Lincoln,

NE at a later date. Ted requested that gifts in his memory be sent to the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory, c/o Nancy Gus, NREL, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1499.

**NREL'S 35-YEAR ANNIVERSARY REUNION, SYMPOSIUM, AND LECTURE
PROFESSOR AV COLEMAN, RECIPIENT OF THE NREL AWARD OF
EXCELLENCE IN ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE**

The NREL and the College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University will be holding the rescheduled NREL 35-Year Anniversary Reunion and Symposium entitled "Our Vision For The Future Of Ecosystem Science" on October 30, 2002 in the North Ballroom, Lory Student Center, CSU. This event will provide an opportunity for former colleagues and friends who have worked and studied at NREL, from its beginning as the headquarters of the Grassland Biome Program to the present, to visit and reflect on NREL's challenges for continuance as a global leader in ecosystem science. **The Symposium will conclude with a lecture given by the past recipient of NREL's Award of Excellence in Ecosystem Science, Dr. David C. Coleman, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia.** Immediately following, **Dr. Thomas Rosswall, Executive Director, International Council for Science, Paris, France, will be presented with the 2002 Award of Excellence in Ecosystem Science.** The Symposium agenda (enclosed), as well as additional information including campus maps for the Lory Student Center and Ammons Hall, hotel information, and the availability of parking passes, can be found on our web site at <http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/events/reunion.html>.

Rocky Mountain Futures, An Ecological Perspective, Edited by Bill S. Aron presents a comprehensive and wide-ranging examination of the ecological consequences of past, current, and future human activities in the Rocky Mountain region of the United States and Canada. The book brings together 32 leading ecologists, geographers, and other scientists and researchers to present an objective assessment of the cumulative effects of human activity on the region's ecological health and to consider changes wrought by past human use. This combined view of past and present reveals where Rocky Mountain ecosystems are heading, and the authors project what the future holds based upon current economic and social trends and the patterns that emerge from them.

SEMINAR SERIES

The NREL Fall 2002 Seminar series **Future Directions of Global Ecosystem Science** has enjoyed many exciting speakers and has been well attended. Our presenters have included:

- Dr. Barry Noon, Fishery & Wildlife Biology, "New Pathways of Conservation Science"
- Dr. Michele Betsill, Political Science, "Future Directions in Global Ecosystem Science: Linking Science to Policy"
- Mark Easter, NREL, "The NREL Environmental Footprint: Results of the Internal NREL Resource Use and Environmental Impact Audit"
- Dr. Marlis R. Douglas, Fishery & Wildlife Biology, "Back to the Future: Genetic Analyses at the Ecosystem Level That Blueprint the Past and Plot the Future"
- Dr. Dennis Ojima, NREL, "Terrestrial Science Planning for the next decade of Global Change Research"
- Dr. Roger A. Pielke Sr., Atmospheric Science, "Ecosystem Processes as a Component of Global Climate Variability and Change"
- Dr. David Merritt, U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station and NREL, "Rivers and Riparian Ecosystems: Traversing Landscapes, Integrating Disciplines"

UPCOMING SEMINARS □ 11:00-11:50, B215, NESB, CSU

- Oct. 18: Dr. Michael Lefsky, Forest Range Watershed Stewardship Department, "Recent Developments in Remote Sensing: Applications to Ecological Inventory and Modeling"
- Oct. 25: CANCELLED
- Nov. 1: Dr. Joe Ron Fischer, NREL, "When Microsites Matter: Controls of Methane Emission"

From Temperate and Tropical Ecosystems”

- Nov. 8: Dr. N. Leroy Poff, Biology, Title: “Freshwater Frontiers: On Scientific Challenges in the 21st Century of Water”
- Nov. 15: Dr. Gene Kelly, Soil and Crop Sciences, “The Coupling of Terrestrial and Oceanic Si Biogeochemistry”
- Nov. 22: Dr. Michael Antolin, Biology, “GMOs, Genetic Diversity, and Biodiversity”
- Dec. □ Final Discussion

An ad hoc committee of NREL employees has finished the report entitled **“The NREL Environmental Footprint Resource Use at the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory.”** The report □uantifies the NREL’s environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas production from travel and energy use, waste and greenhouse gas produced from office paper and other consumables, and hazardous waste generation from research. This report then proposes ways to reduce these impacts. The report may be downloaded from the NREL web site at <http://www.nrel.colostate.edu/reports/reports.html>.

NREL NEWS

Researchers **Andy Burke** and Jason Kaye were on the front page of The Fort Collins Coloradoan Newspaper, August 28, and Dr. Burke provided interviews for Colorado Public Radio and a local AM station in Pueblo, CO, on their studies on the effects of urbanization in the Front Range on carbon and nitrogen cycling.

Tom Hobbs interview with Tom Brokaw regarding Chronic Wasting Disease was featured on the NBC Nightly News in August.

National Public Radio interviewed USGS and NREL scientist, **Thomas Stohlgren**, for a story on fire ants and mealy bugs. Stohlgren discussed the economic costs associated with invasive species in the United States (□37 billion per year) and the use of science in developing biological control techniques to protect native species. Stohlgren also shared his observations about aspen abundance and resilience in a story published in the Fort Collins Coloradoan on October 1. Fears of dwindling aspen stands in Colorado due to fire and excessive elk populations are unfounded, according to a new study he led at Rocky Mountain National Park. Elk affect lower-elevation aspen and fire suppression allows conifers to move in, but aspen root systems are more plentiful than previously thought and will regenerate with the return of fire or an insect outbreak.

APPOINTMENTS

Anthony Galvin became Chair of the Department of Anthropology in August.

Tom Hobbs serves on the Fall Advisory Panel for the Program in Ecological Studies of the National Science Foundation, the Executive Committee of the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology, and the Board of Editors of Ecological Applications.

Jim Wittell was recently appointed as a Research Affiliate with the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR), University of Colorado at Boulder.

Jana Ball was appointed a Committee member of the NASA PPAC (Planetary Protection Advisory Committee), the Island Press Board, and NRC member, Frontiers in Polar Biology Committee.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

- **Adams, G.A. and J.H. Ball**. Biodiversity in soil and sediments: Potential effects of global change. Pages 152-159 in: H.A. Mooney and J.G. Canadell (eds.). Volume 2, The earth system: Biological and ecological dimensions of global environmental changes, encyclopedia of global environmental change. John Wiley □ Sons, Ltd., Chichester.

- **aron, .** , editor. Rocky Mountain Futures: an ecological perspective. Island Press, September 2002.
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- Doran, P.T., J.C. Priscu, W.B. Lyons, J.E. Walsh, A.G. Fountain, D.M. McKnight, D.L. Moorhead, R.A. □irginia, **.H. all** , G.D. Clow, C.H. Fritsen, C.P. McKay, and **A.N. Parsons**. 2002. Antarctic climate cooling and terrestrial ecosystem response. Nature 415:517-520.
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- Jackson, R.B., J.L. Banner, E.G. Jobbagy, W.T. Pockman, and **.H. all** . 2002. Ecosystem Carbon Loss With Woody Plant Invasion of Grasslands. Nature 418:□23-□2□
- Kaye, J., J. Barrett, and **. urke** . 2002. Stable Nitrogen and Carbon Pools in Grassland Soils of □ariable Te□ture and Carbon Content. Ecosystems 5:4□-471.
- **Manier ..** , R.D. Laven. 2002. Changes in Landscape Patterns Associated With the Persistence of Aspen (*Populus Tremuloides Mich□*) On the Western Slope of the Rocky Mountains, Colorado. Forest Ecology and Management 1□7:2□3-284.
- **Merritt, .M.** , E.E. Wohl. 2002. Processes Governing Hydrochory Along Rivers: Hydraulics, Hydrology, and Dispersal Phenology. Ecological Applications 12:1071-1087.
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- **Porainska, .L.** , **.H. all** , R.A. □irginia. 2002. Invertebrates in Ornithogenic Soils on Ross Island, Antarctica. Polar Biology 25:5□9-574.
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- Treonis, A.M., **.H. all** and R.A. □irginia. 2002. Field and Microcosm Studies of Decomposition and Soil Biota in a Cold Desert Soil. Ecosystems. Ecosystems 5:159-170.
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HAPPENINGS

Gina Adams, Program Director, IBO and **Diana Hall**, Chair, IBO were invited to the ICSU: The International Council for Science 27th General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 23-29, where Diana presented a talk on "The Legacy of the International Biodiversity Observation Year."

Jill Aron presented the talk, "Meeting Ecological and Societal Needs for Freshwater: Managing Freshwater Ecosystems in Light of Growing Worldwide Human Water Demand," which she co-authored with LeRoy Poff, at a SCOPE meeting in Granada, Spain in Sept. (in press in Ecological Applications) and hosted a workshop to develop a South Platte Basin Integrated Assessment on Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at Pingree Park, CO, to begin to address the vulnerability of the South Platte environment to climate variability and societal activities. The workshop was sponsored by the USGS, CSU, and the CU Western Water Assessment. Jill also participated in a SCOPE Rapid Assessment Project workshop on Element Interactions in Prague, Czech Republic in Oct.



Kathy Galvin, along with her sons and colleagues, conducted fieldwork on livestock production and wool and cashmere marketing in Kazakhstan in Aug. In addition, Kathy Galvin, along with **Mike Coughenour**, attended the working group on "Serengeti: The Origins and Future of a Complex Ecosystem" at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara, organized by Craig Packer and Stephen Polasky, from Sept. 2 to Oct. 3.

Tom Hobbs gave a featured presentation at the Workshop on Impacts of Large Herbivores on Ecosystems in Umea, Sweden, May 15 and attended the NIH/NSF Ecology of Infectious Diseases workshop in Washington D.C., June 12-14 and gave a presentation and served on a panel on Life Choices at McGraw Elementary School in Sept. discussing what it is like to be a scientist and the life choices he used to put him on that career path.

Jim Ittell was an Instructor with the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation (CERC), Columbia University, New York, teaching a class on ecology and conservation biology of Brazil's endangered Atlantic Forest (Mata Atlântica).

Ben Oima presented "Ecosystem Land-surface Process Modeling and Analysis for Global Change Studies" at the 8th International Congress of Ecology Symposium in Seoul, Korea in Aug. as part of his project "Integrated Research Challenges: Biological Control of Terrestrial Carbon Fluxes" funded by NSF and presented "Ecosystem Level Changes in Semi-arid Grasslands" at the UNESCO-MAB/SCOPE Workshop on developing a research framework on "Emerging Ecosystems" in Granada Spain and spoke on Regional Perspective of Land Use and Disturbance on Biogeochemical Cycles at the IGBP/GCTE-LUCC Workshop in Guangzhou, China in Sept.

Keith Paustian presented a paper on "Erosion, carbon sequestration and soil health: an ecosystem perspective" at the National Research Council Colloquium on Science and Conservation: Farm Bill Opportunities and Challenges, Washington, D.C., in April, and spoke to the National Board of Environmental Defense on "Science, Policy and Economics of Agriculture Carbon Sequestration" at the ED Science Day at Menlo Park, CA in Sept. Keith is also working as a Lead Author in developing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Good Practice Guidance for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and attended workshops in Tampere, Finland in July and Rio De Janeiro in Oct.

Diana Hall attended the 4th International Congress of Nematology in Tenerife and was part of the Bay Foundation Biodiversity Award Panel in New York City in June.





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