

## NREL NEWS NOTES

*NATURAL RESOURCE ECOLOGY LABORATORY*  
*Colorado State University*

*No. 8 August & September 1994*

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### Announcements

**The "BIG MOVE" took place the week of August 22, 1994. The new building is extremely nice and being enjoyed by all of the NREL staff even though there are numerous details in need of completion.**

**The dedication for the NESB is scheduled for Thursday, September 22. The ceremony will be from 2:15-2:45 p.m. and tours from 3-5 p.m. Open House hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, September 23. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend!!**

Xiangming Xiao left NREL on September 12 to begin his postdoctoral research in the Ecosystems Center, Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA. He will be working with Dr. Jerry Melillo.

The offices for CSU's new Graduate Degree Program in Ecology are located on the first floor in the west wing of NESB. Dan Binkley is in A116, and the new GDPE secretary, Sarah Garey, can be found in the mornings in A118. Drop by and say hello -- to keep Dan and Sarah from getting too lonely, and to make sure GDPE benefits as much as possible from NREL connections!

Indy Burke is teaching a new Honors course in Environmental Conservation (NR120B), and is interested in attracting NREL researchers to help out in providing field, lab, and computer experience to these budding ecologists. Jill Baron has already taken the class to Rocky Mountain National Park, and the students have begun a field experiment on aquatic ecosystem function across an N deposition gradient from the alpine to subalpine forest, then in a few weeks to agricultural watersheds and urban effects. This is a great opportunity for getting very high quality undergraduates involved in your research, and for getting an annual, long- term dataset going! Call Indy if you have interest!!

Andrea Rayte, a Master's student in RES and Yanqing Zhang, a visiting Chinese scientist will be working with Jeff Welker and Andy Parsons on ITEX related studies from both Niwot Ridge, CO and Toolik Lake, AK.

Indy Burke is on the NSF Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis panel - they conducted site reviews the week of September .

Andy Parsons has returned from Toolik Lake, Alaska where he was overseeing the initial year of the NREL-INSTAAR field experiment (ITEX) addressing the impacts of changes in snow cover and warmer summer temperatures on moist and dry tundra. Well done, Andy!!

## Meetings

As part of a NSF International Program grant funded to Diana Freckman (McMurdo LTER) and Debra Coffin (Central Plains LTER) at Colorado State University, 16 Hungarian scientists representing a wide range of specialties visited five LTER sites (Kellogg, Sevilleta, Niwot, Andrews and the CSU CPER) in September to discuss management, analysis and synthesis of long-term data. The final meeting under the grant will be a workshop in February 1995 in Hungary to initiate and establish research collaborations in the areas of biodiversity and climate change.

Bill Parton will be presenting a paper at the Tenth Annual Clean Air Conference in Estes Park on September 28. The paper is titled "Nitrogen Deposits in the Rocky Mountain Tundra and Forests: Suspect the Car".

Tim Kittel, Dennis Ojima and Dave Schimel attended the VEMAP Results Workshop, August 4-6 in Knoxville, TN.

Bob Niles attended the ESA meeting in Knoxville, TN, August 10-11 and presented a poster by himself, D.W. Freckman and E.M. Courtright titled "Changing Morphology and Identification of Nematodes: Constraints on the Measurement of Nematode Biodiversity".

Tim Kittel presented a poster titled "A Physically Consistent Data Base for Modeling Vegetation/Ecosystems Sensitive to Climate Change: The VEMAP Data Set" at the ESA meeting in Knoxville, August 10-11.

The EOS Project Workshop was held August 21-22 at the University of Colorado's Mountain Research Station, Nederland, CO. Attendees from NREL were: Dave Schimel, Tim Kittel, Dennis Ojima, Dave Valentine, Bill Parton, Bill Pulliam, By Brown, Becky McKeown, Monica Engle, Brian Newkirk, Melannie Hartman, Rob Kremer, Arvin Mosier, and Mary Scholes.

Indy Burke just returned from her last National Academy of Sciences Committee to Review EMAP meeting, September 2-4 in Woods Hole, MA. This has been a 2-year committee to review the EPA's 100 million dollar program. The report will be forthcoming.

The CPER-LTER held a data management review on August 18. Drs. Bill Michener of the J.W. Jones Ecological Research Center, James Brunt of the University of New Mexico, and Terry Smith of UC-Santa Barbara reviewed the data management system of the LTER and will provide recommendations for changes in their final report.

## Visitors

Dr. Imanuel Noy-Meir of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem visited with LTER scientists August 2 and 3, and toured the long-term grazing treatments at the CPER.

Dr. Joy Bergelson, a plant population geneticist from the Department of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Chicago, visited the LTER group August 23-26. Joy is a 1994 NSF Presidential Faculty Fellow and has published numerous articles in Ecology, Oecologia, American Naturalist, and others. On Wednesday, August 24, she presented a special seminar titled "Spatial Heterogeneity and the

Spread of Resistant Weeds".

Dr. Nancy Huntly, Cedar Creek Natural History Area LTER, Idaho State University, will present a seminar titled "The Effects of Environmental Structure and Species Diversity" on Friday, September 16 at 12:00 noon in the NREL Conference Room, B21 NESB.

Dr. Shiou Pin Huang is on sabbatical for a year and will be working in Diana Freckman's laboratory. He is visiting from the Department of Phytopathology, University of Brasilia, Brazil.

### **New Employees**

Linda Palmer has joined the LTER group as a secretary. Linda was previously with the Public Relations Department. Her office is NR206.

Mohammed Kalkhan began working at NREL as a Research Associate/GIS Specialist for the Landscape Gap Analysis Project directed by Tom Stohlgren. Mohammed is a citizen of Iraq and recently completed his Ph.D. in Forest Biometrics with application in Remote Sensing and GIS. Welcome to NREL, Mohammed!

### **Grants Funded**

NSF Equipment Award to: D. Schimel, G. Kelly, J. Welker, D. Valentine, W. Parton, D. Freckman, B. Wunder, T. Holter, I. Burke and T. Elliott. "An Isotope Facility to Study Atmosphere -Ecosystem Interactions". Our facility will initially consist of a GC-IRMS (Gas Chromatograph-Isotope Ratio Mass spectrometer) and sample preparation lines and related equipment. The new facility will likely be housed in the new NESB along with related laboratory facilities.

Bill Lauenroth and Indy Burke along with Osvaldo Sala from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina have a new 3-year project funded by NSF entitled, "Constraints on Production and Decomposition in Temperate Semiarid Grasslands". The research will be conducted at the CPER and a site (Rio Mayo) in Argentina.

### **Project Progress Reports**

Dave Valentine is in Saskatchewan, Canada (August 29- September 2) for the third (and last) BOREAS 1994 field campaign.

Bob Niles, Mark Easter, Shiou Pin Huang, and Mary Krat are traveling to the Univ. Calif., Riverside, to conduct the final sampling of the USDA/Citrus Ecosystem Project, September 1 -2.

### **Proposals Submitted**

Diana Freckman submitted "Supplement to: The Ecology of Nematodes in Antarctic Dry Valleys" to NSF/OPP.

Bill Hunt submitted a revised proposal titled, "Analysis of Changes in Soil Carbon Balance" to USDA/ARS

Dave Schimel, Gene Kelly and Jeff Welker submitted a revised proposal titled, "An Isotope Facility to Study Atmosphere- Ecosystem Interactions" to NSF.

Jill Baron submitted "Operating Costs for Organizing the Ecological Society of America 199 and 1996 Annual Meetings" to ESA.

Frank Singer and Mike Coughenour submitted "Models of Metapopulation Management" to NPS.

Bill Parton and Dennis Ojima submitted "Application of CENTURY Model to Evaluate the Ecological Effects of Climate Change" to USDA/USFS.

### **Manscripts Published**

Parsons, A.N., J.M. Welker, P.A. Wookey, M.C. Press, T.V. Callaghan, and J.A. Lee. 1994. Growth responses of four sub-Arctic dwarf shrubs to simulated environmental change. *J. Ecology* 82:0 - 18.

Wookey, P.A., J.M. Welker, A.N. Parsons, M.C. Press, T.V. Callaghan, and J.A. Lee. 1994. Differential growth, allocation and photosynthetic responses of *Polygonum viviparum* to simulated environmental change at a high Arctic polar semi-desert. *Oikos* 0:11 -19.

Milchunas, D.G., J.R. Forwood, and W.K. Lauenroth. 1994. Productivity of long-term grazing treatments in response to seasonal precipitation. *J. Range Manage.* 4:1 -19.

Stapp, P., J.K. Young, S. VandeWoude, and B. Van Horne. 1994. An evaluation of the pathological effects of fluorescent powder on deer mice. *J. Mammalogy* :04 - 09.

Lee, C.A. and W.K. Lauenroth. 1994. Spatial distributions of grass and shrub root systems in the shortgrass steppe. *Am. Midl. Nat.* 12:11 -12.

### **Personals**

Bob Gilpin and Susan Smith would like to announce their engagement with plans for a summer 199 wedding. Congratulations Bob and Susan!!

*The NREL NEWS NOTES will be published the first week of each month. Please give your news items to Kay by the last Monday of each month.*

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