

NREL 50th Anniversary Symposium

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 1:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Lory Student Center Ballroom A

The collective research of the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory (NREL) provides insights into ecosystems, watersheds and the environment on topics such as climate change, water security, sustainable communities, food security, environmental literacy, wildlife and ecosystem management. This symposium highlights research on several of these topics from long-term projects to shorter-term investigations, focused on enhancing basic understanding of processes and drivers, while providing potential solutions to environmental challenges facing society. The program features two keynote speakers who received the 2014 NREL Award of Excellence in Ecosystem Science, Dr. Eldor Paul and Dr. William Schlesinger, in addition to honoring Dr. Mary Firestone as the 2017 recipient of this award. A reception will follow to toast 50 years of research at the NREL, with posters, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Session Moderator: Dr. Stephen Ogle, Senior Research Scientist, NREL

1:30 p.m. – Introduction

- Dr. John Moore, Director, NREL; Department Head, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability (ESS), CSU

1:35 – 2 p.m. – Keynote

- “Soil microbiology, ecology and biochemistry; An important past, exciting present and great future based on basic knowledge, unifying concepts, advanced methodology and sound thinking.”
Dr. Eldor Paul, 2014 Award Co-Recipient; NREL Senior Research Scientist; Professor, Soil and Crop Sciences, CSU

2 – 3 p.m.

- “Advances in Biodiversity Science: Predicting Species in Space and Time”
Dr. Tom Stohlgren, NREL Senior Research Scientist
- “The Causes and Consequences of Microbial Biomass” (Ignite Talk)
Dr. Ed Hall, NREL Research Scientist; Professor, ESS, CSU
- “Pikas, algae, and streams: A story of three citizen science projects at NREL” (Ignite Talk)
Dr. Greg Newman, NREL Research Scientist
- “Water Realities: a Social-Ecological Assessment of Community-Scale Water Resources on the Border of Kruger National Park”
Dr. Melissa McHale, NREL Research Scientist; Associate Professor, Urban Ecology and Sustainability, CSU
- “Developing a Sediment Budget for the Upper Elk River Watershed, Northwestern California: Do Natural or Anthropogenic Sources Dominate?”
Dr. Lee H. MacDonald, Professor, ESS; NREL Senior Research Scientist

- “Putting the WOW into Undergraduate Research Experiences” (Ignite Talk)
Dr. Stacy Lynn, NREL Research Scientist

3 – 3:15 p.m. – Break

3:15 – 4 p.m.

- “Edge Effects: “Poachers” and Uncanny Animals on the Borders of South Africa’s Kruger National Park” (Ignite Talk)
Dr. David Bunn, NREL Senior Research Scientist
- “Different Behavior Requires Different Management: The Difference Between Horses and Burros”
Sarah R.B. King, NREL Research Scientist
- “Causes, Impacts, and Adaptations of Pasture and Climate Change Across Mongolian Ecozones from Integrating Herder and Instrument Observations” (Ignite Talk)
Dr. Steven Fassnacht, Professor, ESS, CSU; NREL Research Scientist
- “A Biotic Awakening: Soil Biota and Feedbacks in a Changing Arctic”
Dr. John Moore, Director, NREL; Department Head, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability (ESS), CSU
- “Understanding Long-Term Ecosystem Dynamics in a World with a Short Attention Span”
Dr. Jill Baron, Ecosystem Ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey; NREL Senior Research Scientist

4 – 4:30 p.m. – Keynote

- “Net Carbon Sequestration in Soils: Let’s Get Realistic About Potentials”
Dr. William H. Schlesinger, 2014 Award Co-Recipient; President Emeritus, The Carey Institute of Ecosystem Studies

4:30 – 4:45 p.m. – Award Presentation

- [Presentation of the 2017 NREL Award of Excellence in Ecosystem Science by Dr. John Moore to Dr. Mary Firestone, Professor, Environmental Science, Policy and Management, University of California, Berkeley](#)