

## Closing Plenary Session

Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 10:30am - 12noon



# Introducing... The Golden Cattail Award!

for exceptional contributions to the science of wetland biogeochemistry



# Congratulations to Dr. K. Ramesh Reddy

Recipient of the 2018 Golden Cattail Award



# Sue Newman



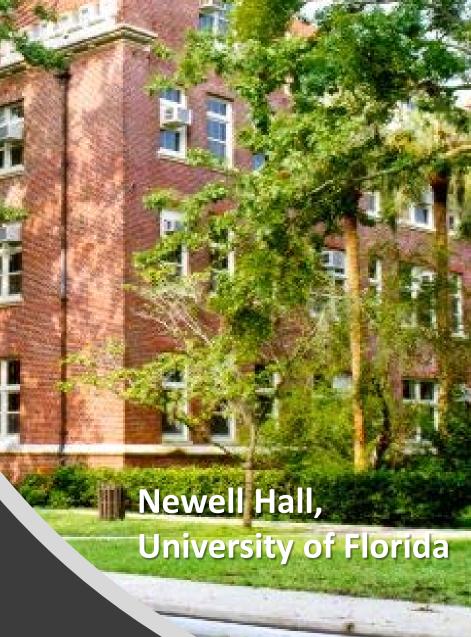


### Dr. K. Ramesh Reddy

Professor, Mentor & Friend

### The University Years







B



#### **Our Adventures in Panama**

#### We Almost Killed Ramesh!!



#### The Motley Crew

Stable Isotope Dosing Experiment in WCA2A



# Walk carefully!



### Thank you Ramesh!

You lead by example, inspire, and challenge us.

We are better scientists, and better people, for having known and worked with you.





# Ron Corstanje





# Mark Clark

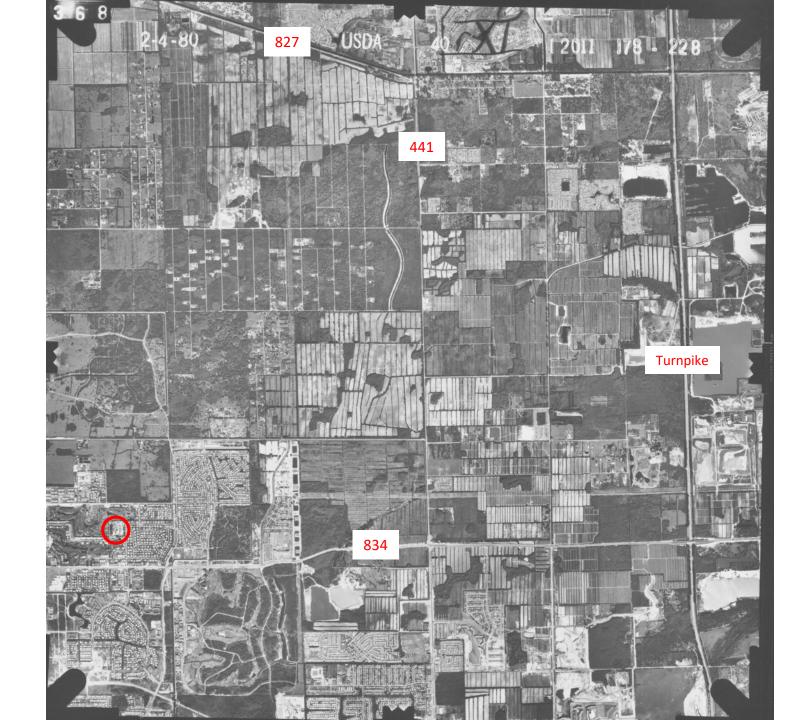






# Tom DeBusk

















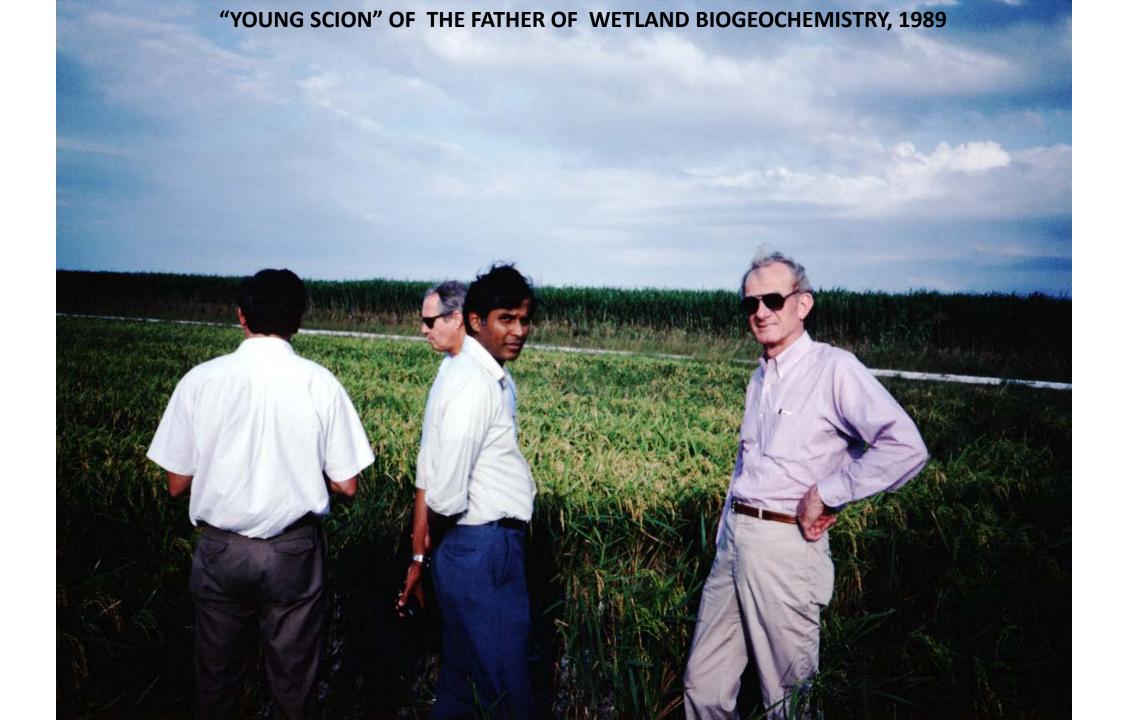
## **Curt Richardson**



#### FATHER OF WETLAND BIOGEOCHEMISTRY



DR. WILLIAM (BILL) PATRICK JR. LSU



BILL GAVE RAMESH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO DO RESEARCH IN PEATLANDS .

RULE 1: ALWAYS RENT A HELICOPTER

RULE 2: NEVER ATTEMPT TO WALK INTO OR OUT OF A LARGE WETLAND



#### Bill Cooper, FSU

Panama, Swamp

KYTRIK

RAMESH AT THE END OF HIS JOURNEY INTO BOCAS DEL TORO PEATLANDS IN PANAMA

WHERE IS THE HELICOPTER ?



TRAINED HIM IN PEAT SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

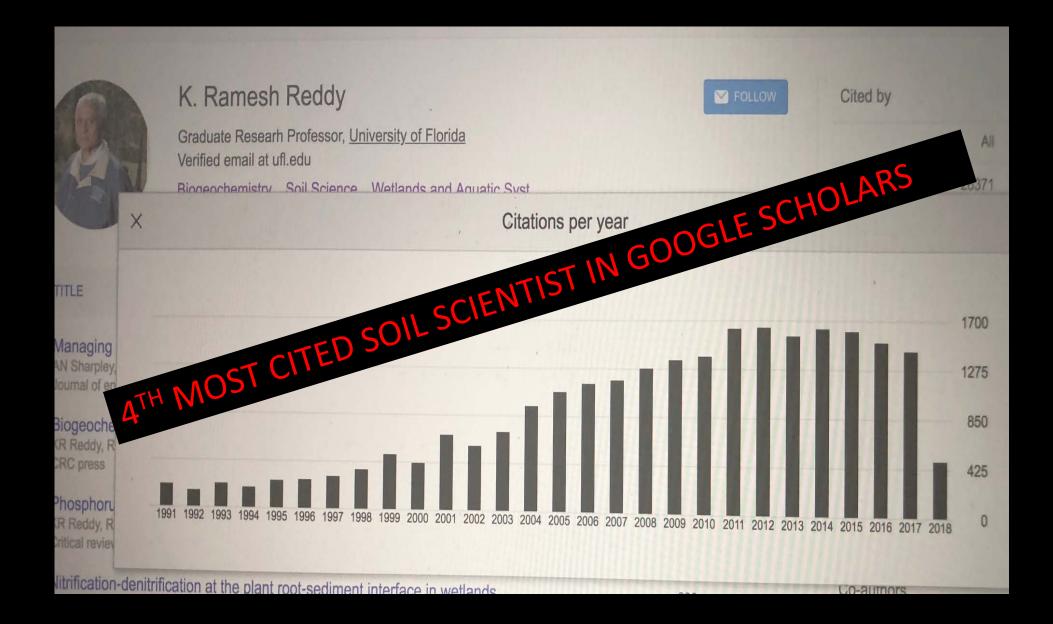
ADVICE: IN BIOGEOCHEMISTY KNOW ABOUT ALL CHEMICAL INTERACTIONS WELL BEFORE DOING ANY EXPERIMENT



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EVALUATING THE BULLWHIP EFFECT ON UNRULY GRADUATE SOIL SCIENCE STUDENTS IN HARSH ENVIRONMENTS BY USING NEW STIMULATION TECHNIQUES. K. R. REDDY, 2014. International Journal of Unknown Research 5 (7) Pg. 1-72.





#### Ramesh joined the Party

#### Funding is Great







# Len Scinto





# Phillip Moore



#### The Ramesh Effect on my Career

Philip A. Moore Jr. USDA/ARS Fayetteville, AR

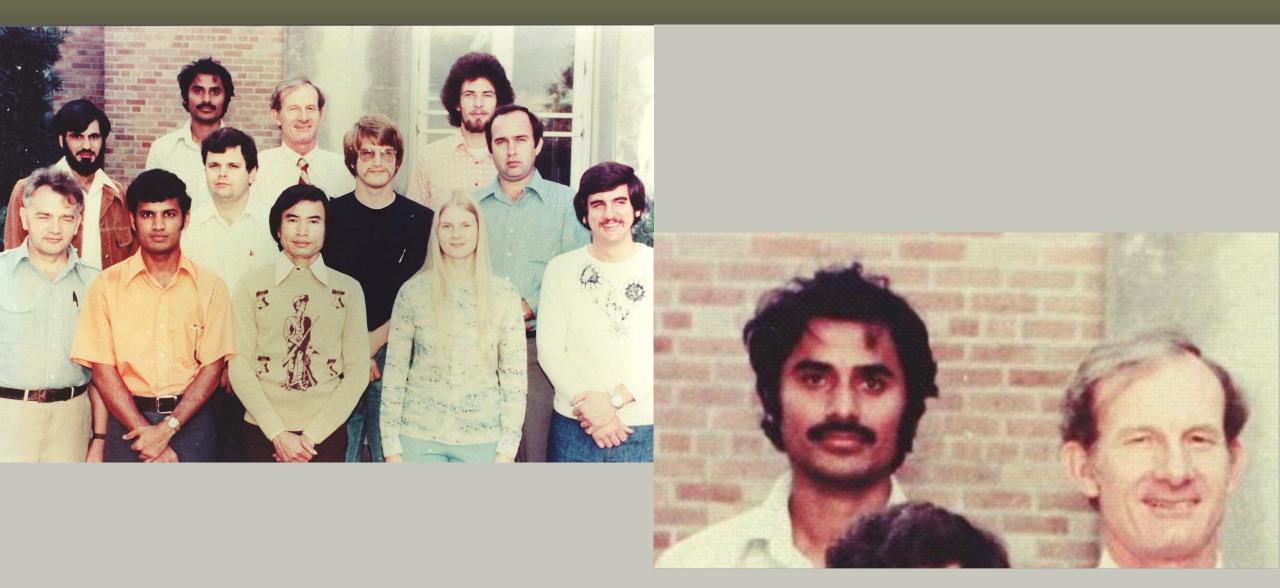
Wetland Biogeochemistry Conference Coral Springs, FL April 26th, 2018

## Ramesh and I both worked with Bill Patrick



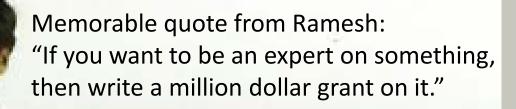
- Ramesh and I both did our Ph.D. under Bill Patrick at LSU in the Wetland Soils and Sediments Lab, which is now the Wetland Biogeochemistry Institute.
  - Ramesh was there during the heyday of Patrick's career.

#### Ramesh and I both worked with Bill Patrick



## Ramesh gave me my first real job!

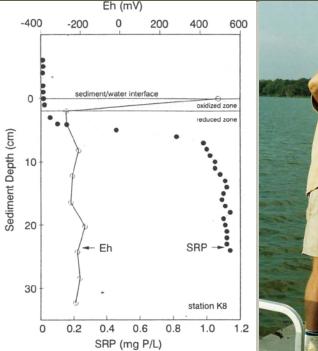
- When I arrived in Gainesville and met with Ramesh the first time, he told me he wanted me to work on internal phosphorus cycling in lakes (Lake Apopka and Lake Okeechobee).
- ✓ I had never worked on P.
- For the first six months Ramesh had me go to the library and do a very thorough literature review on
  P. I made copies of the papers for
  Ramesh and wrote up briefs for
  each paper.



In Arkansas, I have 25 fields equipped with flumes and automatic water samplers to measure phosphorus runoff. I was trying to get microbiologists to measure pathogen runoff, but they all said it was too expensive.

So I wrote the grant "Quantification and Control of Bacterial Pathogens in Agricultural Watersheds" to NRI. Although I am no microbiologist, it was funded for the full amount. We're still measuring pathogen runoff.

#### Ramesh had me focus on the biogeochemistry of P



(mg P/L) 0.6

**Overlying Water Column** 

SRP Concentration of

0.5

0.4

0.3

0.2

0.1

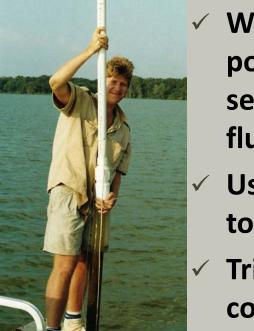
aerobic

anaerobi

10

20

TIME (days)

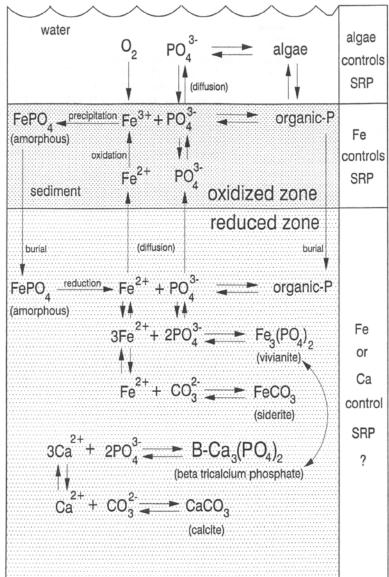


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We measured Eh and porewater P profiles in sediment and measured P fluxes from intact cores.

- ✓ Used Eh/pH microcosms to study P solubility.
- ✓ Tried to figure out what controls P solubility.





#### Did that phosphorus work with Ramesh help my career?

#### **Phosphorus Publications**

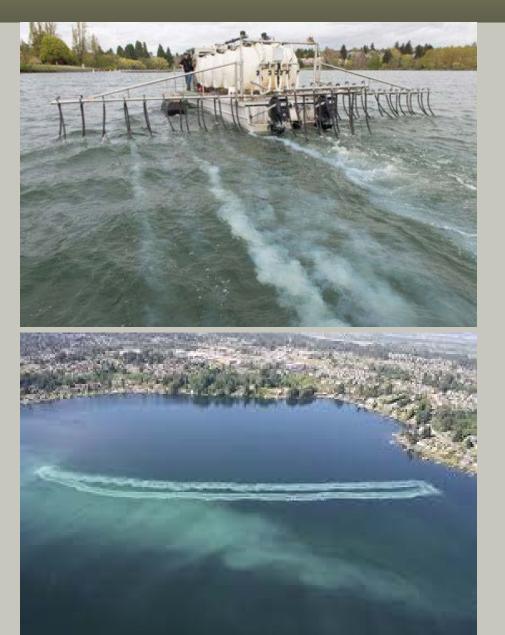
- 10 U.S. Patents on P
- 8 book chapters on P
- 83 refereed journal articles on P
- 108 non-refereed articles on P
- 1 State Law (Arkansas Phosphorus Index)

That phosphorus work basically made my career.

# Treating lakes with alum to precipitate P

- Internal cycling of P in Lake Apopka is high enough to keep it hypereutrophic for centuries.
- One solution we looked at was adding aluminum sulfate (alum) to the lake to precipitate the P.
- The problem is Lake Apopka is so big, alum-treatment would cost several hundred million dollars, so we never did do that.



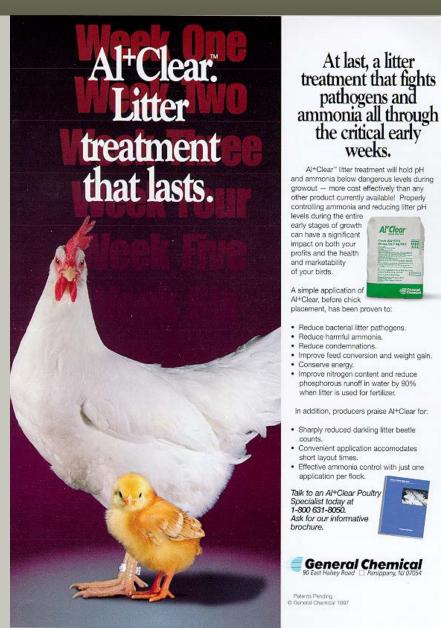


#### Treating poultry litter with alum to precipitate P

- ✓ When I returned to Arkansas, the big environmental problem was phosphorus runoff from poultry litter.
- ✓ I discovered that adding alum to poultry litter not only reduced P runoff; it reduced NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from litter, which made chickens healthier and grow faster.
- I patented this technology and it is used to grow a billion chickens in the USA each year. It has annual impact of about \$10 million and greatly reduces air and water pollution.







#### Memorable Quote from Ramesh

"If you write a paper that is really good and it gets rejected by more than one journal, then send it to Science or Nature, because if it's that controversial then it's probably really good science."



## What was the Ramesh Effect?

- ✓ Ramesh gave me my first job and trained me in P research, which made my career.
- ✓ Ramesh wrote letters of reference for my job with Univ. of Arkansas, then USDA/ARS.
- ✓ Ramesh wrote letters of reference every time I went up for promotion.
- ✓ Ramesh wrote letters of reference for every award I was nominated for.
- ✓ Ramesh was a fantastic mentor and has been a great friend for decades!

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#### **Thanks Ramesh.**

We Love You Man!



Ronnie "The Very" Best



#### A Dissertation

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

in

The Department of Agronomy

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by Konda Rameshwer Reddy M.S., Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, 1967 August, 1976



