

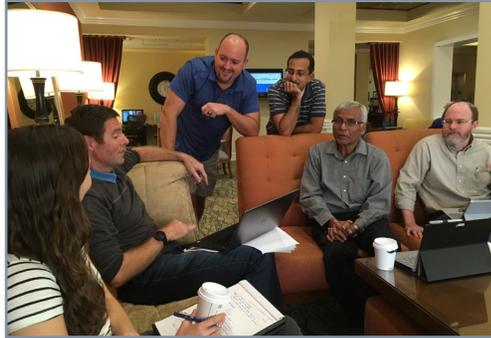


The Early Days

Dr. K. Ramesh Reddy (back row far left circa 1974) standing with his mentor Dr. William Patrick (back row center), a pioneer in wetland biogeochemistry. We think Dr. Reddy should bring back that impressive moustache!

The Student has become the Teacher

Dr. Reddy working with former students and current collaborators. From left to right: Dr. Elise Morrison, Dr. Stefan Gerber, soon to be Dr. Paul Julian, Dr. Rupesh Bhomia and Dr. Patrick W. Inglett (Everglades research meeting 2016).



Hard Working and Diligent

Never one to shy away from hard work, Dr. Reddy collecting soil cores in the field with (L to R) Dr. Rupesh Bhomia, Dr. Susan Newman, and Dr. Todd Osborne (Everglades WCA-2A 2017). Thank you Dr. Reddy for all of your contributions. We look forward to your next paper!



CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

In honor of Dr. K. Ramesh Reddy



Introducing the **Golden Cattail Award** for exceptional contributions to the science of wetland biogeochemistry



April 26, 2018
Coral Springs, FL, USA



Dr. K. Ramesh Reddy

Recipient of the 2018 Golden Cattail Award!

The hosts of the 12th International Symposium on Biogeochemistry of Wetlands wish to initiate a new tradition among our community of research in the form of an award for outstanding practitioners in our field of science. The *Golden Cattail Award* is intended to honor individuals among us who have made exceptional contributions to the study of wetland biogeochemistry. In this spirit we have chosen to honor Dr. K. Ramesh Reddy with this inaugural award for his extensive contributions to the foundation of our science.

Dr. Reddy has carried out research for over 40 years on biogeochemical cycling of nutrients in natural and managed wetland and aquatic ecosystems focused on water quality, function and recovery, and ecosystem restoration. His early research as a biogeochemist focused on the fate of nitrogen in flooded rice paddies, followed by applying biogeochemical principles to study nutrient/contaminant behavior in primarily freshwater and coastal wetlands. His research contributed to establishing the role of wetland soils as sinks, sources, and transformers of nutrients and other chemical contaminants, and their impact on water quality and ecosystem productivity. Dr. Reddy promoted the concept that surface water quality is governed by the biogeochemical processes functioning at various spatial and temporal scales. Often, these processes are ignored and the ecosystem is treated as a “black box”. This traditional empirical approach is inadequate for effective evaluation of an ecosystem’s performance. Dr. Reddy and his students and collaborators effectively integrated biogeochemical principles to address these issues by collaborating with scientists from various disciplines including ecology, biology, limnology, and engineering.

Dr. Reddy is author or coauthor of over **350 refereed journal articles**, edited 5 books, numerous non-refereed publications, and invited presentations. He was named as “Highly Cited Researcher” in Ecology and Environment by ISI (Institute for Scientific Information). Major findings from his research are summarized in the text book entitled “Biogeochemistry of Wetlands: Science and Applications”. This book, coauthored with Dr. Ron DeLaune, was published in the year 2008 and has become the standard in wetland science. Dr. Reddy has been the Principal or Co-Investigator on several extramural grants/contracts, with a combined value in excess of **\$30 million** from various state and federal agencies and private industry.

Dr. Reddy’s major educational contribution is the development of a strong graduate program, built with students recruited from soil and water science and other related disciplines including biology, limnology, and engineering. He diligently trains his students in an inter-disciplinary framework, and prepares them to apply modern principles of soil and water sciences in solving complex problems. His students have made major contributions to integrating biogeochemistry principles in determining the role of soils and sediments in regulating water quality and other ecosystem functions. He served as chair of **34 Ph.D and 20 MS** students and as graduate committee member of over 130 students and has mentored 27 post docs and 8 Research Scientists. One measure of the success of any graduate educator is how well his former students and mentees become established. Dr. Reddy’s former graduate students and former post-docs are highly regarded as faculty members at major universities, and as research scientists in governmental agencies and private industry R&D labs.

Dr. Reddy developed strong linkages between research and its application to solve real-world problems in ecosystem management. To develop this linkage, he is in constant interaction with state and federal agencies and provides them with the scientific information that can be incorporated into management and policy. The following is just a few examples of Dr. Reddy’s service to the nation in helping to inform policy on Wetlands Issues: 1) [USEPA Science Advisory Board - Ecological Process and Effects Committee \(EPEC\) 2014-15.](#) 2) [USEPA Science Advisory Board - Panel for the Review of the EPA Water Body Connectivity Report 2013-14.](#) 3) [International Atomic Energy Agency - Expert Mission to Guatemala, March 3-9, 2013.](#) 4) Member, [U.S. National Research Council Committee - Everglades Restoration, National Academy of Sciences - 2007-2014](#) 5) USEPA, Science Advisory Board’s Ecological Processes and Effects Committee -2012-2015. 6) Member of National Committee to develop nutrient criteria for wetland ecosystems, USEPA. 7) Member, U.S. National Committee on Soil Science, National Academy of Sciences 2003-08. 8) Member of the National Environment Research Council and the Global Environmental Research Committee of the Royal Society, Feb 8-10, 2010, London. Dr. Reddy was also one of the first to document the nutrient trigger to the degradation of the Florida Everglades Ecosystem, with research ongoing in this area for the past 25+ years.

One of the many remarkable things about Dr. Reddy’s accomplishments is that he has been extremely active in research these past 18+ years while simultaneously serving the University of Florida and the Soil and Water Sciences Department as the Department Chairman. During this time, he developed a distance education graduate degree program in Soil and Water Sciences, Environmental Science Track, for place-bound students. In addition to his extensive research dossier, Dr. Reddy has taught several classes, even while serving as the department chair. His major educational contribution has been the introduction of interdisciplinary courses in wetland sciences “Biogeochemistry of Wetlands”, “Wetlands and Water Quality” and “Advanced Biogeochemistry”. Dr. Reddy is one of the most accomplished and respected academics in the field of Wetlands and Aquatic Systems and we, as researchers and colleagues, are especially grateful for his contributions to our field!

