The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation Announces Winners of the 2017 Sustained and Outstanding Achievement, and Excellence in Journalism Awards

- **Sustained Achievement Award**: Dr. Rattan Lal
- **Outstanding Achievement Award**: Start of Spring Maps and Access Tools, USA National Phenology Network
- **Excellence in Journalism Award**: *Anthropocene* magazine, published by Future Earth

**Dr. Rattan Lal is the Recipient of 2017 Sustained Achievement Award**

Dr. Rattan Lal is the recipient of RNRF’s received 2017 Sustained Achievement Award. The award recognizes a long-term contribution and commitment to the protection and conservation of natural resources by an individual.

During his 50-year career Dr. Lal studied sustainable intensification and climate-resilience of agroecosystems, working to advance global food and nutritional security through soil health management, carbon sequestration, and erosion control.

Dr. Lal has advanced soil resources science through his extensive accomplishments as a researcher and mentor. He has written 818 journal articles, 485 book chapters, 16 books, and has given 425 keynote presentations on the sustainable management of world soils. In addition to teaching two classes at Ohio State University, he has mentored 106 graduate students, 55 post-doctoral researchers, and 156 visiting scholars from around the world.

Dr. Lal has promoted the application of sound scientific practices to soil research and policy over the years by serving as lead author of the Special Report of IPCC on Land Use, Land
Use Change and Forestry (2000), as science advisor to the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam, to initiate the Global Soil Week (2010-2015), and as Chair of Advisory Board of the UNU-FLORES, in Dresden, Germany. He has worked with the U.S. Senate to approve Soil Resolution 208 (2008) and has witnessed 6 congressional hearings (2000s) regarding soil resources and carbon sequestration. Furthermore, Dr. Lal has worked with several heads of state, including the President of Bangladesh (2007-2008), the President of Iceland (2006-2010), Vice President Al Gore (2010-2015), the former Secretary of the Environment of Germany (2010-2015) and the French Minister of Agriculture (2015) to help translate soil science to actionable policies.

Dr. Lal is currently a Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science at Ohio State University and serves as the President of the International Union of Soil Sciences, representing 60,000 scientists.

Dr. Lal holds a B.Sc. in Agriculture from Punjab Agricultural University, a M.Sc. in Soil Science from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, and a Ph.D. in Soil Science from Ohio State University.

The award will be presented on November 15, 2017 at the annual meeting of the RNRF Board of Directors in Potomac, Maryland.

2017 Outstanding Achievement Award to USA National Phenology Network’s Start of Spring Maps and Access Tools

The USA National Phenology Network’s (USA-NPN) Start of Spring Maps and Access Tools is the recipient of RNRF’s 2017 Outstanding Achievement Award. This award recognizes a project, publication, piece of legislation, or similar concrete accomplishment in the natural resources field.

USA-NPN is a national-scale science and monitoring initiative focused on phenology—the study of seasonal life-cycle events such as leafing, flowering, reproduction and migration—as an approach to better understand how plants, animals and landscapes respond to environmental variation and change. Their objective is to collect, organize and distribute phenological data, data products and information. Their data is distributed to stakeholders who make decisions about resource management and societal adaptation to variable and changing climates and environments.

In early 2017, USA-NPN released two new data products that describe and forecast the biological start of spring across the nation: daily maps of the onset of spring and of accumulated growing degree days. To enable a wide range of users to explore and to access these products, USA-NPN enhanced their existing online data visualization tool to enable all map layers to be viewed either alone or in concert with ground-based plant or animal observational data. The USA-NPN website was further updated to provide daily maps, graphical summaries and non-technical interpretation to increase accessibility to the public.
These products fill gaps in availability of phenological information at national scales, and are delivered with spatial (kilometer) and temporal (daily) resolution that can support informed natural resource management decision-making while advancing natural resource science and broadly informing and engaging the public.

For more information about USA-NPN's Start of Spring project is available at https://www.usanpn.org/

The award will be presented on November 15, 2017 at the annual meeting of the RNRF Board of Directors in Potomac, Maryland.

**Anthropocene magazine is Recipient of 2017 Excellence in Journalism Award**

*Anthropocene* magazine, published by Future Earth, is the recipient of RNRF’s 2017 Excellence in Journalism Award. The award honors and encourages excellence in print journalism about natural resources, part of RNRF’s goal to advance public education and understanding of important natural resources issues through dissemination of accurate and scientifically-based information about the environment.

*Anthropocene* is a digital and print magazine that brings together writers, designers, scientists, and entrepreneurs to investigate innovative solutions to environmental and development challenges and craft in-depth stories about the people and technologies behinds those innovations.

The magazine’s mission is to curate a global conversation about data, technology, and innovation that can lead to solutions to persistent environmental challenges. The editors of *Anthropocene* aim to build a thought-leading publication for the sustainability and development world.

*Anthropocene* is an initiative of sustainability research platform Future Earth, and will be built in partnership with the Future Earth Media Lab based in the Stockholm Resilience Center. The first issue launched in October 2016 at the UN Habitat III Summit in Quito, Ecuador. The second is due out in the summer of 2017.

The inaugural issue featured insightful articles and an engaging overall design, which, coupled with the magazine’s overarching mission and editorial concept, warranted RNRF’s endorsement through the Excellence in Journalism Award.

More information about *Anthropocene* magazine can be found at http://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/

The award will be presented on November 15, 2017 at the annual meeting of the RNRF Board of Directors in Potomac, Maryland.
The Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (RNRF) is an I.R.C. §501(c)(3) nonprofit, operating foundation, founded in 1972. It is a consortium of scientific, professional, educational, design and engineering organizations whose primary purpose is to advance science, the application of science, and public education in managing and conserving renewable natural resources. RNRF’s member organizations recognize that sustaining the Earth’s renewable resource base will require a collaborative approach to problem solving by their disciplines and other disciplines representing the biological, physical and social sciences.

A call for 2018 nominations for the Outstanding and Sustained Achievement and Excellence in Journalism Awards will be posted at www.rnrf.org in January 2018.

For more information or high-resolution photographs of award winners contact:

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