

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Root and mycorrhizal ecology, ecosystem science, global change biology, forest ecology, biogeochemistry, plant physiology, landscape ecology, ecological modeling, soil ecology.

EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University	PhD	2012	Ecology and Biogeochemistry
College of Charleston	BS	2005	Biology

APPOINTMENTS

2018-current	Research Scientist. Center for Tree Science, The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL.
2023-current	Adjunct Research Professor. Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois Chicago, IL.
2015-2018	Research Associate. Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN.
2013-2015	Postdoctoral Research Associate. Chinese Academy of Science, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Beijing, China.
2007-2012	Graduate Research Assistant. The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.
2005-2007	Research Technician. Department of Biology, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. Located in the Nicholas School for the Environment, Duke University, Durham, NC.

PUBLICATIONS

- Tran N, M Lo, MG Midgley, R Dybzinski, EC Segal, CH Cannon, CS Kua, CR Rollinson, CM Iversen, **ML McCormack**. Acquisitive root exploration strategies help maintain higher peak sap flux rates during summer drought, but more root biomass does not. *New Phytologist*, in press (2026).
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- Wang S, LH Comas, PB Reich, **ML McCormack**, RP Phillips, J Gu, T Sun. Variation of root resource acquisition and conservation strategies in a temperate forest is linked with plant growth forms. *Tree Physiology*, tpaf027 (2025).
- Wang D, GT Freschet, **ML McCormack**, H Lambers, J Gu. Nutrient resorption of leaves and roots coordinates with root nutrient - acquisition strategies in a temperate forest. *New Phytologist*, 246: 515-527 (2025).
- Campioli M, LJ Marchand, C Zahnd, P Zuccarini, **ML McCormack**, D Landuyt, E Lorer, N Delpierre, J Gričar, Y Vitasse. Environmental Sensitivity and Impact of Climate Change on leaf-, wood- and root Phenology for the Overstory and Understory of Temperate Deciduous Forests. *Current Forestry Reports*, 11: (2025).
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- Dybzinski R, E Segal, **ML McCormack**, CR Rollinson, R Mascarenhas, P Giambuzzi, J Rivera, L Fitzpatrick, C Wiggins, MG Midgley. Calculating Nitrogen Uptake Rates in Forests: Which Components Can Be Omitted, Simplified, or Taken from Trait Databases and Which Must Be Measured In Situ? *Ecosystems*, 27: 739-763 (2024).
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- Xia M, V Suseela, **ML McCormack**, PG Kennedy, N Tharayil. Common and lifestyle-specific traits of mycorrhizal root metabolome reflect ecological strategies of plant-mycorrhizal interactions. *Journal of Ecology*, 111: 601-616 (2023).
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*Authors contributed equally to this work.

*Supervised undergraduate student

DATASETS

Cordeiro AL, DF Cusack, N Guerrero-Ramírez, RJ Norby, L Toro, MY Wong, SJ Wright, KGM Cabugao, KM Andersen, L Fuchslueger, CM Iversen, F Soper, OP Ghimire, LF Lugli, AC Miron, O Valverde-Barrantes, M Arnaud, S Batterman, LH Dietterich, MY Lee, M Weemstra, D Yaffar, SD Addo-Danso, K Pierick, R Bridges, C Easton, I Felsing, NB Gonçalves, R Krudop, MR McKinzie, J Perbohner, AN Pozzoli-Oropeza, M Samaniego, AW Smilor, IS Vargas, L Webb, T Nikitin, JS Powers, **ML McCormack**. Data from TropiRoot 1.0 database: tropical root characteristics across environments. ESS-DIVE repository: doi:10.15485/2507279 (2025) and *Ecology*, 106: e70074 (2025).

Lo M, **ML McCormack**, T Nikitin. Soil respiration, soil temperature, and soil moisture integrated from 0-10 cm at The Morton Arboretum 2022-2024. ORNL Terrestrial Ecosystem Science SFA, ESS-DIVE repository: *in progress*.

Nikitin T, M Lo, **ML McCormack**. Leaf phenology data at The Morton Arboretum Forestry Plots 2019-2023. ORNL Terrestrial Ecosystem Science SFA, ESS-DIVE repository: doi:10.15485/2428005 (2024).

Lo M, T Stoycheva, **ML McCormack**. Dendrometer data at The Morton Arboretum Forestry Plots 2019-2023. ORNL Terrestrial Ecosystem Science SFA, ESS-DIVE repository: doi:10.15485/2345681 (2024).

Lo M, **ML McCormack**, T Stoycheva, N Tran. Weather data at The Morton Arboretum 2017-2023. ORNL Terrestrial Ecosystem Science SFA, ESS-DIVE repository: doi:10.15485/2345682 (2024).

ORGANIZED SESSIONS and WORKSHOPS

Hauser E, A Malhotra, **ML McCormack**, SJ Tumber-Dávila. Measuring and modeling the role of roots and belowground processes in biogeochemical cycles. Annual Meeting of the American Geophysical Union, New Orleans, LA, USA, December 2025.

McCormack ML and C Rollinson. Beyond budburst—Connecting phenological transitions among tissues and times in woody plants. Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD, USA, August 2025.

Erktan A, C Roumet, F Gerard, **McCormack ML**. Roots at the Heart of Belowground Ecology (organized session). International EcoSummit, Montpellier, France. August 2016.

Wurzburger N, **ML McCormack**, J Brookshire. Mycorrhizal Fungi as Drivers and Modulators of Ecosystem Processes (organized session). Ecological Society of America, Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA. August 2016.

McCormack ML and DL Guo. International Symposium on Using Trait-based Approaches to Better Understand Ecosystem Ecology (Organized Meeting). Beijing, China, October 2015.

McCormack ML and DL Guo. International Symposium on Critical Zone Biochemistry and Belowground Ecological Research—森林联盟之关键带生物地化循环及地下生态学联网研究 2014 国际研讨会暨中国. (Organized Meeting). Beijing, China, May 2014.

Guo DL and **ML McCormack**. 森林联盟之关键带生物地化循环与地下生态学会议—Critical zone biogeochemical cycling and underground ecology (Organized Workshop). Beijing, China, November 2013.

McCormack ML and DM Eissenstat. Measuring and modeling roots, the rhizosphere and microbial processes belowground (organized session). Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Austin, TX, USA, August 2011.

MEETING ABSTRACTS

Guerrero-Ramírez N, **ML McCormack**, A Cordiero. Leveraging scientific literature to integrate root functional traits in our understanding of terrestrial ecosystems. World Biodiversity Forum, Davos, Switzerland, June 2026.

Sanaei A, S Saxena, KE Mueller, **ML McCormack**, B Schuldt, DC Laughlin, BHP Rosado, GT Freschet, SD Addo-Danso, KE Barry, J Bergmann, N Eisenhauer, FC Jaeger, H Poorter, HO Venterink, J De Vries, M Weemstra, L Mommer, A Weigelt. On the relationship between root economics and plant hydraulic traits. European Geophysical Union, Vienna, Austria, May 2026.

McCormack ML. Integrating Tree Water Use Strategies into Landscape Design and Maintenance. The Impact Conference—Landscape Illinois, Naperville, IL, USA, October 2025.

McCormack ML. The global root economics space: recent progress and critical next steps. Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD, USA, August 2025.

Rao M, A Pacheco-Solana, R Li, B Oryan, JE Jensen, M Rodriguez-Caton, L Klinek, ZA Pierrat, S Ruehr, R Oelkers, LE Boeschoten, KL Griffin, **ML McCormack**, X Yang, J Verfaillie, D Baldocchi, J Hise, AJ Turner, TM Scanlon, L Andreu-Hayles JUH Eitel, N Pederson, D Griffin, D Stahle, JT Maxwell, S Voelker, SA Kannenberg, J Peñuelas, Troy S Magney. Aridity decouples carbon assimilation and growth in temperate deciduous oaks. Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD, USA, August 2025.

Medina N, K Patrick, T Nikitin, M Lo, C Kaliski, PG. Kennedy, **ML McCormack**. Seasonal underground phenology of ectomycorrhizal fungi varies by group and host tree traits. Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD, USA, August 2025.

Dietzen S, M Lo, **ML McCormack**, A Cho, M Gonzalez-Meler. Water-Use Patterns of Temperate Tree Species in Response to Drought. Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD, USA, August 2025.

Cordeiro AL, DF Cusack, K Andersen, J Holm, D Yaffar, L Lugli, **ML McCormack**, OP Ghimire, JS Powers. How do natural episodic disturbances alter belowground dynamics across tropical regions? Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD, USA, August 2025.

Medina N, K Patrick, T Nikitin, M Lo, C Kaliski, PG. Kennedy, **ML McCormack**. Gathering inferences about the tropical phenology of globally abundant ectomycorrhizal fungi using temperate forest data. Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Oaxaca, Mexico, July 2025.

Cordeiro AL, DF Cusack, K Andersen, J Holm, D Yaffar, L Lugli, **ML McCormack**, OP Ghimire, JS Powers. How do natural episodic disturbances alter belowground dynamics across tropical regions? Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Oaxaca, Mexico, July 2025.

- Patrick K, N Medina, P Kennedy, **ML McCormack**. Shifting our focus to belowground phenology: High frequency community analysis of ectomycorrhizas associated with two temperate tree species. Annual meeting of the Mycological Society of America, Madison, Wisconsin, USA, July 2025.
- Medina N, K Patrick, T Nikitin, M Lo, C Kaliski, PG. Kennedy, **ML McCormack**. Seasonal underground phenology of ectomycorrhizal fungi varies by group and host tree traits. Annual meeting of the Mycological Society of America, Madison, Wisconsin, USA, July 2025.
- Galarneau M, **ML McCormack**, B Gendreau-Berthiaume, C Messier, J Messier. Examining the effects of traits on tree community productivity during drought. Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution, Sherbrooke, Québec, Canada, July 2025.
- Medina N, K Patrick, P Kennedy, **ML McCormack**. Frequent sampling reveals changes in ectomycorrhizal communities over time with notable differences between soil vs. root tip samples and host tree species. DOE ESS PI Meeting, Reston, Virginia, USA, April 2025.
- Patrick K, N Medina, CW Fernandez, P Kennedy, ML McCormack. Seasons change and so do fungi: a review of ectomycorrhizal fungal phenology. International Conference on Mycorrhizas, Manchester, UK, August 2024.
- Medina N, K Patrick, M Lo, S Romy, R Ramos, CM Iversen, P Kennedy, ML McCormack. Mycorrhizal production and community phenology patterns are seasonal and may be coupled with fine-root phenology. International Conference on Mycorrhizas, Manchester, UK, August 2024.
- Rao MP, A Pacheco-Solana, JE Jensen, R Li, KL Griffin, N Pederson, **ML McCormack**, J Verfaillie, X Yang, D Baldocchi, L Andreu-Hayles, B Oryan, J Hise, T Nixon, M Rodriguez-Catón, A Turner, J Eitel, A Hosseini, Z Pierrat, J Peñuelas, TS Magney. Summer aridity decouples growth from carbon assimilation in temperate oaks. American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, California USA, December 2023.
- Cho A, N Dziedzic, C Hanson, A Davis, MB Berkelhammer, R Matamala, **ML McCormack**, MA Gonzalez-Meler. Do Trees in Urban Areas Have Higher Evaporative Cooling Capacity Than Those in Suburban Areas? A Study from the Chicago Metropolitan Region. American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, California USA, December 2023.
- Dziedzic N, A Cho, C Hanson, A Davis, MB Berkelhammer, R Matamala, **ML McCormack**, MA Gonzalez-Meler. Can Plant Functional Traits Be Used as Integrators of Environmental Stressors in Urban Areas? American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, California USA, December 2023.
- Wang B, **ML McCormack**, DM Ricciuto, X Yang, CM Iversen. Root of overestimating carbon capture by current ecosystem models lies in roots? American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, California USA, December 2023.
- ML McCormack**, N Tran, M Lo, CM Iversen. Production phenology of fine roots and ectomycorrhizal hyphae are closely linked but vary across monospecific stands of temperate tree species (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Portland, Oregon, USA, August 2023.
- Xia M, **ML McCormack**, V Suseela, PG Kennedy, N Tharayil. Formations of arbuscular mycorrhizas and ectomycorrhizas increase carbon quality of fine roots and leaves in temperate woody species (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Portland, Oregon, USA, August 2023.
- Oh YE, MG Midgley, **ML McCormack**, KV Beidler, M McCall, S Henderson, R Braghieri, RP Phillips. Root traits and plant functional groups determine variability in root exudation and N uptake rates in mature temperate trees (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Portland, Oregon, USA, August 2023.
- Patrick KR, M Lo, C Rigsby, CE Rosenfeld, **ML McCormack**. Root responses of congeneric tree species to waterlogging (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Portland, Oregon, USA, August 2023.
- Lo M, I Vergara, KR Patrick, JM Warren, **ML McCormack**. Partitioning root, mycorrhizal, and heterotrophic respiration within monodominant stands of phylogenetically and functionally diverse

temperate trees (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Portland, Oregon, USA, August 2023.

McCormack ML, Tran N, Lo M, Midgley M, Dybzinski R, Rollinson C, Cannon C, Segal E. Efficient root exploration strategies support greater whole-tree water use during summer drought (presentation). American Geophysical Union, Chicago, Illinois, USA, December 2022.

McCormack ML, Lo M, Tran N, Rollinson C, Dybzinski R, Segal E, Cannon C, Midgley M, Rosenfeld C, Hiron A, Rigsby C, Patrick K. Highs and lows: fine-root strategies associated with tolerance to too much and too little water in urban trees (virtual presentation). Association of Applied Biologists, Rothamsted, UK, November 2022.

McCormack ML, Lo M, Tran N, Iversen. Linking fine-root phenology to whole-plant phenology across multiple years in 18 diverse temperate tree species (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Montréal, Québec, Canada, August 2022.

Langguth J, Zadworny M, Andrzejak K, Mueller KE, Lo M, Tran N, **McCormack ML**. Fine-root functional traits across the gymnosperm phylogeny (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Montréal, Québec, Canada, August 2022.

Dybzinski R, Segal E, **McCormack ML**, Midgley M. Calculating nitrogen uptake rates in forests: which components can be omitted, simplified, or taken from trait databases and which must be measured in situ? (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Montréal, Québec, Canada, August 2022.

McCormack ML, Lo M, Tran N, Iversen CM. Fine-root phenology and its relationship to whole-plant phenology in temperate trees (presentation). 8th International Woody Root Symposium, State College, PA, USA, July 2022.

Wang B, CM Iversen, **ML McCormack**, X Yang, DM Ricciuto. Taming root systems heterogeneity to reduce Earth System Model uncertainty (poster). American Geophysical Union, New Orleans, LA, USA, December 2021.

Xia M, **ML McCormack**, V Suseela, P Kennedy, N Tharayil. No Evidence that Arbuscular Mycorrhizal and Ectomycorrhizal Associations Induce Differential Effects on Carbon Quality Of Leaves and Fine Roots (poster). American Geophysical Union, New Orleans, LA, USA, December 2021.

Bergmann J, A Weigelt, CM Iversen, DC Laughlin, **ML McCormack**, OJ Valverde-Barrantes, F van der Plas, sROOT working group, L Mommer. The root economics space. British Ecological Society Conference, December 2020.

McCormack ML, M Lo, N Tran, CM Iversen, DM Ricciuto, D Lu. Species differences in fine-root production phenology: implications and model relevance (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, August 2020.

Tran N, M Lo, MG Midgley, C Rollinson, R Dybzinski, **ML McCormack**. Linking fine-root traits in shallow soils to sap flow reductions in response to mild drought among 7 temperate tree species (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, August 2020.

Liu Y, **ML McCormack**, K Ogle, AP Walker, CM Iversen. Understanding taxonomic, environmental, and mycorrhizal influences on fine-root trait variation using the global Fine-Root Ecology Database (FRED) (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, August 2020.

Dybzinski R, MG Midgley, **ML McCormack**, C Rollinson, E Segal, A Nordgren R Mascarenhas. Plant community nitrogen uptake is independent of fine root mass in established forest (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, August 2020.

Langguth JR*, M Lo, N Tran, **ML McCormack**. Fine-root functional traits across the gymnosperm phylogeny (poster). Ecological Society of America, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, August 2020.

- Rewald B, GT Freschet, C Roumet, A Stokes, M Weemstra, RD Bardgett, AG Bengough, LH Comas, GB De Deyn, D Johnson, J Klimešová, M Lukac, **ML McCormack**, IC Meier, L Pagès, H Poorter, I Prieto, N Wurzbürger, M Zadworny. Root traits as key proxies to unravel plant and ecosystem functioning: entities, trait selection and outlook ([presentation](#)). European Geophysical Union, Vienna, Austria, May 2020.
- McCormack ML**, MG Midgley, N Tran, M Lo, CM Iversen. Long-term observations of fine-root, stem, and leaf phenology across 13 diverse and model-relevant temperate tree species. American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, CA, USA, December 2019.
- Liu Y, **ML McCormack**, K Ogle, AP Walker, CM Iversen. Controls on fine-root trait variation and implications for defining Root Functional Types. American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, CA, USA, December 2019.
- Defrenne C, SW Simard, **ML McCormack**, WJ Roach, TJ Philpott, BJ Pickles, SD Addo-Danso, CM Iversen, J Childs, PJ Hanson. Fine root and mycorrhizal trait adjustments to the environment. American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, CA, USA, December 2019.
- Xia M, N Tharayil, P Kennedy, **ML McCormack**. Mycorrhizal colonization induces changes in the metabolomes of tree species depending on mycorrhizal species. Metabolomics Association of North America, Atlanta, GA, USA, November 2019.
- Liu Y, CM Iversen, **ML McCormack**, RJ Norby, K Ogle, AP Walker. Short- and long-term dynamics of leaf, wood, and fine-root production at the ORNL FACE site ([presentation](#)). Ecological Society of America, Louisville, KY, USA. August 2019.
- Midgley MG, **ML McCormack**, R Sims. The Morton Arboretum forestry plots: A classic experiment supports a vision for the future ([presentation](#)). Ecological Society of America, Louisville, KY, USA. August 2019.
- Li F, H Hu, **ML McCormack**, X Liu, D Feng, W Bao. Community-level economics spectrum of fine-roots driven by nutrient limitations in subalpine forests ([poster](#)). Ecological Society of America, Louisville, KY, USA. August 2019.
- See CR, **ML McCormack**, SE Hobbie, H Flores-Moreno, WL Siler, P Kennedy. Global patterns in fine-root decomposition: climate, chemistry, mycorrhizal association and woodiness ([presentation](#)). American Geophysical Union, Washington, DC, USA, December 2018.
- Malhotra A, RZ Abramoff, PJ Hanson, JW Harden, C Hicks Pries, RB Jackson, **ML McCormack**, RJ Norby, D Sihi, BN Sulman, PE Thornton, SJ Tumber-Davila, A Walker, Z Werbin, CM Iversen ([presentation](#)). The persistence of root carbon in soil: data and modeling gaps. American Geophysical Union, Washington, DC, USA, December 2018.
- McCormack ML**. Patterns and implications of root turnover in trees ([presentation](#)). The Landscape Below Ground, Lisle, IL, USA. October 2018.
- Defrenne CE, **ML McCormack**, SD Addo-Danso, SW Simard. Fine-root strategies along an environmental gradient in western Canada: Support for a multidimensional root trait ([presentation](#)). Ecological Society of America, New Orleans, LA, USA. August 2018.
- Iversen CM, PJ Hanson, A Malhotra, ML McCormack, RJ Norby, VG Salmon, SD Wullschlegel. Linking belowground plant traits with ecosystem processes: A multi-biome perspective ([presentation](#)). Ecological Society of America, New Orleans, LA, USA. August 2018.
- Hedin LO, M Lu, Z Ma, **ML McCormack**, RD Bardgett, DM Eissenstat, X Xu. The role of plant root strategies in resolving biome-scale biogeochemical cycles ([presentation](#)). Ecological Society of America, New Orleans, LA, USA. August 2018.
- Ma Z, D Guo, LO Hedin, RD Bardgett, DM Eissenstat, M Lu, **ML McCormack**, X Xu. Global root trait biogeography: Diversity, economics, mycorrhizal dependence, and physiological convergence. Ecological Society of America ([presentation](#)), New Orleans, LA, USA. August 2018.

- Defrenne CE, **ML McCormack**, SD Addo-Danso, SW Simard. Fine-root strategies along an environmental gradient in western Canada ([presentation](#)). International Society of Root Research, Yearim, Isreal. July 2018.
- McCormack ML**. Applying an ecosystem approach to manage urban trees belowground. International Symposium of the Management and Cultivation of the Urban Street Tree. 城市树木栽培和养护管理国际研讨会. Shanghai, China. April 2018.
- McCormack ML**, CM Iversen, H Flores-Moreno. Revisiting old assumptions and developing new paradigms informed by robust data and trait-based perspectives (invited presentation). Ecological Society of America, Portland, OR, USA. August 2017.
- Zhu K, **ML McCormack**, N Wurzburger, RA Lankau. Patterns in soil carbon and nitrogen relate to mycorrhizal and phylogenetic identity of forest trees across eastern North America (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Portland, OR, USA. August 2017.
- Iversen CM, **ML McCormack**, AS Powell. Harnessing a galaxy of root traits to address belowground challenges in plant ecology (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Portland, OR, USA. August 2017.
- McCormack ML**. Linking root traits to ecosystem processes: updating definitions and conceptual frameworks (invited presentation). 39th New Phytologist Symposium, Exeter, United Kingdom. June 2017.
- McCormack ML**, CM Iversen, DM Ricciuto, D Lu, H Flores-Moreno, AS Powell, JM Warren, AP Walker. A Growing And Global Fine-Root Trait Database: Current Coverage And Scientific Applications (poster). Department of Energy TES and SBR PI Meeting. April 2017.
- McCormack ML**, CM Iversen, DM Ricciuto, AS Powell, JM Warren, AP Walker, D Wang, Y Xu. How does a terrestrial biosphere model respond when confronted with observations from a global root trait database (poster)? International EcoSummit, Montpellier, France. August 2016.
- Zadworny M, **ML McCormack**, R Zytowski, P Karolewski, J Mucha, J Oleksyn. Intra-specific variation of Scots pine fine root adjustment along a large-scale climatic gradient (presentation). International EcoSummit, Montpellier, France. August 2016.
- McCormack ML**, RA Lankau, JF Egan, N Wurzburger. Patterns in soil carbon and nitrogen relate to mycorrhizal and phylogenetic identity of forest trees across eastern North America (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA. August 2016.
- Iversen C, R Norby, J Childs, **ML McCormack**, A Walker, P Hanson, J Warren, V Sloan, P Sullivan, S Wullschleger, AS Powell. Linking Belowground Plant Traits With Ecosystem Processes: A Multi-Biome Perspective (presentation). American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, CA, USA, December 2015.
- McCormack ML**. Are root and belowground traits ready for the big time? (invited presentation). DOE workshop on trait methods for representing ecosystem change. Rockville, MD, USA, November 2015.
- Iversen CM, **ML McCormack**, AS Powell, D Wang, Y Xu. The need for a global root trait database (presentation). DOE workshop on trait methods for representing ecosystem change. Rockville, MD, USA, November 2015.
- Iversen CM, **ML McCormack**, JM Warren, AP Walker, X Yang, D Wang. 2015. A path forward to improve the representation of fine roots in terrestrial biosphere models (presentation). ‘Climate models revisited: the biogeochemical consequences of mycorrhizal dynamics’ meeting. Amsterdam, Netherlands, Spring 2015.

- McCormack ML** and JF Egan. Associations with ectomycorrhizal fungi do not lead to greater soil carbon storage than arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in temperate forests (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD, USA, August 2015.
- McCormack ML**. Power to the people: Getting models and model modules into the hands of non-modelers (invited presentation). Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD, USA, August 2015.
- Iversen CM, **ML McCormack**, JM Warren, JL Trumbo, AS Powell, SD Wullschleger. Fine roots in models: The answer to life, the universe, and everything (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD, USA, August 2015.
- Trumbo JL, CM Iversen, AS Powell, **ML McCormack**, JM Warren. Engaging FRED (Fine-Root Ecology Database): Leveraging variation in root functional traits within and among plant functional types to better understand and model above- and belowground ecosystem processes (poster). Ecological Society of America, Baltimore, MD, USA, August 2015.
- McCormack ML** and A Weigelt. Root turnover and decomposition in terrestrial ecosystems: what are we measuring and what does it mean (invited presentation and invited session convener). Rhizosphere4, Maastricht, Netherlands. June 2015.
- McCormack ML** and DL Guo. Estimates of forest fine root productivity based on functional classification of fine roots and root traits (Session B-198: Forests, Roots and Soil Carbon). International Union of Forest Research Organizations, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, October 2014.
- McCormack ML** and DL Guo. Linking fine root diversity to ecosystem processes in models and the real world: Allocation of NPP belowground and fine root phenology (invited presentation). Ecological Society of America, Sacramento, CA, USA, August 2014.
- Eissenstat DM, **ML McCormack**, KP Gaines, TS Adams. Scaling root processes based on plant functional traits. American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, CA, USA. December 2013.
- Cheng L, X Wei, T Adams, L Li, W Chen, **ML McCormack**, J Deforest, RT Koide, DM Eissenstat. Are roots and mycorrhizal fungi complementary in nutrient foraging of tree species (presentation)? Ecological Society of America, Minneapolis, MN. USA, August 2013.
- McCormack ML**, TS Adams, EAH Smithwick, DM Eissenstat. Fine root turnover: a story of root production and root phenology (presentation). American Geophysical Union, San Francisco, CA, USA, December 2012.
- McCormack ML**, E Crisfield, B Raczka, SG Pritchard, DM Eissenstat, EAH Smithwick. Fine root lifespan and turnover at ecosystem and landscape scales: sensitivity of four ecological models and new strategies for model incorporation (presentation). Ecological Society of America, Portland, OR. USA, August 2012.
- McCormack ML**, TS Adams, EAH Smithwick, DM Eissenstat. Predicting fine root lifespan from plant functional traits in temperate trees (presentation). Scaling Root Processes: Global Impacts Workshop. Arlington, VA, USA, March 2012.
- Eissenstat DM, **ML McCormack**, Q Du. Root lifespan and global change (presentation). Scaling Root Processes: Global Impacts Workshop. Arlington, VA, USA, March 2012.
- McCormack ML**, TS Adams, EAH Smithwick, DM Eissenstat. Patterns of fine root turnover in temperate forests (presentation). Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Austin, TX, USA, August 2011.

Pritchard SG, AE Strand, BN Taylor, ER Cooper, **ML McCormack**, S Zhang. Effects of CO₂ and nitrogen enrichment on production, standing crop, and survivorship of mycorrhizal root tips in a loblolly pine FACE experiment over 12 years (poster). Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Austin, TX, USA, August 2011.

Pritchard SG, AE Strand, BN Taylor, ER Cooper, S Zhang, S Breland, **ML McCormack**. Production, standing crop, and survivorship of mycorrhizal root tips in a loblolly pine forest exposed to free-air-CO₂-enrichment for a decade: Interactive effects of soil N availability (poster). International meeting on Ecology of Soil Microbes, Prague, Czech Republic, April 2011.

Strand AE, SG Pritchard, BN Taylor, ER Cooper, S Zhang, S Breland, **ML McCormack**. Influence of rhizomorph presence upon the persistence of temperate forest fine roots: summary of a 10 year FACE study (presentation). International meeting on Ecology of Soil Microbes, Prague, Czech Republic, April 2011.

McCormack ML, DM Eissenstat, EAH Smithwick. Estimating current and future fine root turnover rates at landscape scales (poster). Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, August 2010.

McCormack ML, EAH Smithwick, DM Eissenstat. Estimating current and future fine root turnover in Pennsylvania (presentation). Environmental Chemistry Student Symposium, University Park, PA, USA, March 2010.

McCormack ML, TS Adams, DM Eissenstat. Linking fine root lifespan with suites of plant species traits (presentation). Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, Albuquerque, NM, USA, August 2009.

McCormack ML, SG Pritchard. Elevated CO₂ affects rhizomorph and ectomycorrhizal tip dynamics (presentation). Plant Biology Symposium: Plant-Soil Interactions in Future Climates, University Park, PA, USA, May 2009.

McCormack ML, TS Adams, DM Eissenstat. Predicting fine root lifespan: Is it possible and what's it good for? (presentation). Environmental Chemistry Student Symposium, University Park, PA, USA, March 2009.

Pritchard SG, **ML McCormack**, A Strand, MA Davis, S Breland, R Oren. Soil fungal dynamics in a loblolly pine forest exposed to elevated atmospheric carbon dioxide over a seven year period: interactions with soil N fertility (presentation). Annual Meeting of the Botanical Society of America, Vancouver British Columbia, Canada, July 2008.

Pritchard SG, AE Strand, **ML McCormack**, MA Davis, R Oren. Fine root dynamics in a loblolly pine forest exposed to FACE: an eight year minirhizotron study (presentation). 92nd Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America, San Jose, California, August 2007.

Pritchard SG, AE Strand, **ML McCormack**, MA Davis, R Oren. Effects of FACE on fine roots and soil fungi in a loblolly pine plantation (poster). North American Carbon Program Investigator's Meeting, Colorado Springs, Colorado, January 2007.

**Supervised undergraduate student*

INVITED LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Invited Seminar. Urban trees and drought stress. Master Gardener's of Knox County joint with municipal foresters of Knoxville, Tennessee. November 2024.

Invited Seminar. Multiple perspectives on belowground strategies of trees: evolution, phenology, and function. Syracuse University. September 2024.

Guest Lecture, Biology Seminar Series, College of DuPage. Tree water stress from a belowground perspective. September 2024.

Invited Talk. Integrating the rhizosphere into a whole-plant and ecosystem context. Rhizosphere Function Workshop. Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL). August 2024.

Invited Seminar. Challenges in Forest Ecology Series at Mendel University. Belowground phenology: links to whole-tree carbon allocation and implications for future forests. June 2024.

Invited Seminars (2). Institute of Applied Ecology (Chinese Academy of Sciences) and Northeast Forestry University. Root traits and root phenology help shape functional strategies of temperate trees. May 2024.

Invited Lecture. Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course. Highs and lows: fine-root strategies associated with tolerance to too much and too little water in urban trees. March 2023.

Guest Lecture, Biology Seminar Series, Associated Colleges of the Chicago Area. Root and water stress in trees. February 2023.

Invited Seminar. Intercollege Program in Ecology, Pennsylvania State University. Using evolution, ecosystem science, and earth system models to understand belowground strategies of trees. February 2023.

Invited Seminar. Department of Forestry, Michigan State University. Belowground strategies of trees and their links to whole-tree and ecosystem processes. October 2022.

Invited Seminar. Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago. Belowground strategies and whole-plant phenology at The Morton Arboretum and beyond. March 2022.

Invited Seminar. Wuhan Botanical Garden. Trees, roots, and phenology. February 2022.

Invited Seminar. Arnold Arboretum and Department of Organismal and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University. Linking belowground phenology to ecosystem processes in the real world and in models. March 2021.

Invited Seminar. Laboratoire des sciences du climat et de l'environnement, Institut Pierre Simon Laplace. Belowground phenology from empirical observations and links to leaves, wood, and models. February 2021.

Invited Seminar. Plant and Environmental Sciences Department, Clemson University. Belowground phenology: links to ecosystem processes and plant responses to changing climate. October 2020.

Invited Seminar. Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Defining belowground resource acquisition strategies. April 2018.

Invited Seminar. Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Improving understanding of fine roots and fine root dynamics in perennial species: methods and definitions. April 2015.

Invited Seminar. Earth Sciences Division of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Linking roots, the rhizosphere and soil science with aboveground ecosystem ecology—*RhizoNet*. August 2014.

Invited Seminar. Ecology Research Group, Zhejiang University (浙江大学). Belowground ecology and links to ecosystem processes across an extensive research network. June 2014.

Invited Seminar. Center for Agricultural Resources Research, Institute of Genetic and Developmental Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Global relevance and universal problems measuring and modeling fine roots. November 2013.

Guest Lecture. Root Ecology. The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Horticulture. *Controls and Constraints on Fine Root Lifespan*. October 2011.

Guest Lecture. Concepts in Ecology. The Pennsylvania State University, IGDP in Ecology. *Global Change Ecology*. December 2009 and 2010.

Guest Lecture. Plant EcoPhysiology. The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Horticulture/Plant Biology. *Growth, Carbon Allocation and Cost of Plant Tissues*. March 2009.

Guest Lecture. Special Topics in Tree Research. Duke University, Nicholas School for the Environment. Durham, NC. *Methods and Study of Fine Roots*. March 2007.

Guest Lecture. Introduction to Environmental Studies. College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. *Renewable Energy Technology, Policy, and Predictions*. October 2006.

Invited Seminar. Alliance for Planet Earth, Earth Day Seminar Series. College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. *An Introduction to Wind and Solar Energy*. April 2005.

Invited Seminar. Sierra Club, Charleston, SC. *Wind Energy*. April 2005.

Environmental Studies Seminar Series. College of Charleston, Charleston, SC. *The Answer is blowing in the wind: A whirlwind tour of the world of wind energy*. February 2005.

TEACHING

2008-2010 Teaching Assistant. Plant EcoPhysiology, Department of Horticulture, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA.

2005 Teaching Assistant. Introductory Astronomy Lab, Department of Physics and Astronomy, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.

Additional Training: Active Learning in Life Sciences Classrooms Workshop with the Partnership for Undergraduate Life Science Education, University of Minnesota, January 2016.

Course in College Teaching through the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence at Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2012.

STUDENTS MENTORED

Penny Yost, Undergraduate student, Wellesley College, 2025.

Yoara Nadal García, University of Puerto Rico, 2025.

Deborah Duong, Undergraduate student, St. Joseph's University, 2024.

Jada Martinez, Undergraduate student, North Texas University, 2024.

Emily Myers, Undergraduate student, Franklin and Marshall University, 2023.

Isabella Vergara, Undergraduate student, Grinnell University, 2022.

Jessica Langguth, Undergraduate student, Ohio University, 2019-2022.

Ashley Wrobel, Undergraduate Student, Hope College, 2020.

Eva Carlson, Undergraduate Student, University of Minnesota, Plant Biology, 2017.

Melissa Pastore, Undergraduate Student, The Pennsylvania State University, Biology, 2013.

Hope Brooks, Undergraduate Student, The Pennsylvania State University, Agroecology, 2015.

Travis Haussener, Undergraduate Student, The Pennsylvania State University. Chemistry, 2009.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Connecting above- and below-ground plant phenology to soil nutrient and water availability. PI. Oak Ridge National Laboratory. 2023-2028. \$644,000.

MycoPhen: Linking mycorrhizal network phenology to above- and belowground plant phenology and environmental factors. PI. DOE. 2022-2025. \$299,962.

Building a More Drought-Resilient Urban Forest Ecosystem. Co-PI. NOAA. 2022-2024. \$599,658.

Integrative Plant Phenology: understanding functional variation among tree species through resource trade-offs in leaves, stems, roots, and fungi. PI. Oak Ridge National Laboratory. 2019-2023. \$365,528.

Elucidating the chemical plasticity of fine roots in response to soil heterogeneities and developing a robust parameter to forecast fine root decomposition. Co-PI, local PI at UMN. NSF. 2018-2020 (557,984 USD).

Postdoctoral Fellowship for Young International Scientists, Chinese Academy of Sciences. 2013-2015 (366,000 CNY).

China Postdoctoral Science Foundation (中国博士后科学基金) Research Fellowship. 2014-2015 (50,000 CNY).

Research Fellowship for Young International Scientists, National Natural Science Foundation of China, 2013-2014 (200,000 CNY).

Graduate Research Environmental Fellowship, Department of Energy. 2010-2013.

SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Associate Editor: Plant & Soil (2019-present)

Guest Editor: Oikos—Special Issue: Root traits and functioning: from individual plants to ecosystems. Volume 2023, Issue 1, January 2023. Plant & Soil, Special Issue S-71: Roots at the heart of belowground ecology. Volume 424, Issue 1-2, March 2018.

Journal Review: American Journal of Botany, Annals of Applied Biology, Annals of Botany, Annals of Forest Science, Arboriculture & Urban Forestry, Biogeosciences, Biologia Plantarum, Biology Letters, Canadian Journal of Forest Research, Ecological Research, Ecology, Ecology & Evolution, Ecology & Experimental Botany, Ecology Letters, Forest Ecology & Management, Forests, Functional Ecology, Global Change Biology, Geoderma, Journal of Ecology, Journal of Plant Ecology, Methods in Ecology and Evolution, Nature Plants, New Forests, New Phytologist, Oecologia, Plant & Soil, Plant Biology, Plant Cell & Environment, Plant Ecology, PLOS One, Soil Biology & Biochemistry, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Restoration Ecology, Tree Physiology, Turkish Journal of Agriculture and Forestry, Urban Forestry and Urban Greening.

Grant Review: Panel: Department of Energy, Terrestrial Ecosystem Science Program. Ad hoc: DFG-German Research Foundation; National Science Foundation, Population and Community Ecology; Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, Discovery Program.

Member: Ecological Society of America, American Geophysical Union.