

## Keynote Speaker: Dr. Steve L. Stephenson

### ***My Life with Myxomycetes***

Dr. Steven L. Stephenson is internationally recognized as one of the world's leading experts on myxomycetes (plasmodial slime molds). Over a scientific career spanning more than fifty years, his research has focused on the biodiversity, ecology, biogeography, and systematics of slime molds across nearly every major terrestrial ecosystem on Earth.

A longtime professor and researcher at the University of Arkansas, Dr. Stephenson has conducted fieldwork on all seven continents, including tropical rainforests, deserts, temperate forests, Arctic regions, and Antarctica. His work has helped shape modern understanding of the ecological roles and global distribution of myxomycetes.

Dr. Stephenson is the author or coauthor of more than 20 books and over 500 scientific publications, including the landmark reference *Myxomycetes: Biology, Systematics, Biogeography, and Ecology*. His research has been supported by organizations such as the National Science Foundation and National Geographic Society, and he has led or contributed to major international biodiversity projects documenting slime molds around the world.

His keynote lecture, *My Life with Myxomycetes*, will reflect on decades of exploration, discovery, and scientific collaboration studying one of nature's most fascinating and overlooked groups of organisms.