



Gabriel Kammerer



## ARCHBOLD NOVEMBER 2018 NEWS

for curious minds

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### Ranch Wetland Mesocosm



Chase O'Neil

Ranch wetland mesocosm study at Archbold's Buck Island Ranch.

[University of Florida IFAS](#) (Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences) **research led by Dr. Jiangxiao Qiu and Chase O'Neil are studying a curious meso (=middle) cosm (=world) at Archbold's Buck Island Ranch to explore what happens to wetland ecology after colonization by the non-native Island Apple Snail.** A mesocosm is an outdoor field experiment under controlled conditions to simulate or



Allen McPherson

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manipulate aspects of the natural environment. Previous research on the Island Apple Snail (*Pomacea maculata*), originally from South America, by Steffan Pierre, Archbold Environmental Specialist, found the snails living in more than half of the Buck Island Ranch wetlands. Statewide expansion of the non-native snails into areas that never supported native apple snails appears to be increasing the numbers of Limpkins and endangered Florida Snail Kites that feed almost solely on apple snails. But Qiu and O'Neil wanted to study if Island Apple Snails affect wetland ecosystem structure and function such as water quality, plant growth, and soil nutrients under different management conditions. Their research team transformed 32 trashcans into representations of Buck Island Ranch wetlands (i.e., mesocosms) by collecting soil and plants from improved and semi-native pasture wetlands and then filling all of them with water and adding snails to half of them. O'Neil shared, 'So far, anecdotal evidence from the wetland mesocosms suggests that plant cover decreased with snail presence. However, we are very excited to start digging into the actual data and quantifying the snail impacts.'

## Gopher Tortoise Council Turns 40



Art created for the 2018 Gopher Tortoise Council meeting by Kate Bazany, a 2017 Archbold Intern.

**Over 130 herpetologists and conservationists from all six southeastern states where Gopher Tortoises occur convened at Archbold for three days in mid-October for the 40th Annual [Gopher](#)**

## Archbold Press

"Archbold Biological Station is one of America's iconic centers of continuous research and education in field biology. It is a prototype of what we need all across America."  
— Edward O. Wilson

### Public Events

#### Archbold Research Symposium

**Nov 15: 1:00 pm-5:00 pm**

Archbold staff will deliver presentations & posters from 2018.

Free & open to the public.

Refreshments provided.

[Tortoise Council Meeting](#). The action-packed agenda included 41 oral and poster presentations (24 by student researchers), a keynote talk by Archbold Executive Director Dr. Hilary Swain, scrub nature tours led by Archbold experts, an awards dinner, silent auction, and a 5K Tortoise Trot. Archbold Herpetology Program Director Dr. Betsie Rothermel, who organized the meeting as Co-Chair, said, 'Since starting out as a tortoise biologist 10 years ago, I have always found the Gopher Tortoise Council meetings and resulting informal collaborations to be incredibly helpful so I was excited to host this group. For many of the participants, this was their first exposure to the Florida scrub. I'm grateful to the Archbold staff and volunteers whose creative contributions and hard work made it a memorable and worthwhile experience for all. Some people were unable to attend due to Hurricane Michael which hit just two days before the meeting. But thanks to Archbold Systems Administrator Kevin Patram, **we live streamed and recorded the presentations for all to enjoy.**' Watch [here](#).

## Job Opportunities

[Plant Ecology Research Internships](#)

[Herpetology & Wetland Ecology Research Internship](#)

[Avian Ecology Research Internships \(3-4\)](#)

[Avian Ecology Field Research Assistant \(Red-cockaded Woodpecker\)](#)

## Making Dreams a Reality



Peyton Bredt  
Gabriel  
Kamener will



Read about the fantastic and surprising variety of Ant Lions of the scrub in '[Ant Lion: Fuzzy Predator](#)' by Ann Dunn.

soon add data management for Florida International University to his resume as he continues working at Archbold through March 2019. Congratulations!

In February 2011, Gabriel Kamener drafted an auspicious mock cover letter for a job at a place called Archbold Biological Station while a first year college student. Kamener inquired about opportunities at Archbold and was offered a volunteer position. He shared, 'Radiotracking Gopher Tortoises as a volunteer at Avon Park Air Force Bombing Range with Archbold researchers in 2011 was

## The Scrub Blog

Nature and Science from Florida's Heartland

Explore [The Scrub Blog](#) by Archbold creative staff.

my first exposure to scientific research. I was immediately hooked.' Now, after multiple volunteer experiences at Archbold and two Archbold Herpetology Internships working with Gopher Tortoises, Kamener returned to Archbold in June 2018 as a Research Data Assistant supported in part by the [Environmental Data Initiative](#) which is funded by the National Science Foundation. He said, '**I wanted to get more involved in helping scientists manage and publish their data.**' I plan to continue

pursuing roles where I can work with researchers to best manage, analyze, and share their data with other researchers.

**Archbold has been like a second home to me.** I am just as enamored with the Station today as when I first stepped foot here seven years ago.' Kamener is also an accomplished photographer. Follow his [Instagram page here](#).

He added, **'I find the Florida scrub to be endlessly beautiful,** and I love to capture those scenes and share them with others.'

## Cowboys & Scientists



Dr. Betsey Boughton appreciating an Orb Weaver spider at Buck Island Ranch.

**Archbold staff Dr. Hilary Swain and Deborah Pollard along with Board of Trustees member Vevie Lykes Dimmitt and husband Lawrence Dimmitt traveled to Thomasville, Georgia to attend the Covey Film Festival for the screening of Archbold's newest film 'Cowboys & Scientists'.**

Featuring Buck Island Ranch, the film explores the 30-year partnership between Archbold and Buck Island Ranch where cowboys and scientists work together to advance scientific discovery on a working cattle ranch. Produced by Eric Bendick's team at [Grizzly Creek Films](#) in Bozeman, Montana, 'Cowboys & Scientists' was well-received by the assembled crowd attending the viewing at Tall Timbers Research Station. The film stars Ranch Manager Gene Lollis, Ranch Research Program Director Dr. Betsey Boughton, and Archbold Executive Director Dr. Hilary Swain. Following the main film of the evening, 'Era of Mega Fires', a panel of researchers including Swain and others from Tall Timbers, hosted a Q & A on fire ecology in the Southeast and Pacific Northwest. Kudos to Vevie Dimmitt and Board Chair Mary Hufty who donated a sponsorship for the 2018 Covey Film Festival. Vevie noted, 'Film is a powerful way to introduce the importance of the work done by Archbold at Buck Island Ranch and it was gratifying to hear how many people were inspired by the beautiful cinematography.' **After making its film festival circuit, 'Cowboys & Scientists' will be distributed**



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[Archbold Facebook Event Calendar](#)

to the general public and available online in Spring 2019.

## Help Make a Difference



Backlit Saw Palmettos at Archbold Biological Station.

Because of your generous support this year, Archbold has been advancing long-term, cutting-edge science aimed at understanding, interpreting, and protecting our world's natural heritage. For example, Dr. Warren "Abe" Abrahamson—one of the great cornerstones of Archbold's science and education—has continued his 46-year-old study of saw palmettos on the Station. Abe and his colleagues discovered that palmettos can live to be thousands of years old, rivalling the ancient Bristlecone Pines and Giant Sequoias out west. **To launch our [Year-end Giving Appeal](#), an inspired donor deeply committed to the work we do at Archbold issued an extremely generous \$100,000 Matching Gift Challenge.** This exciting opportunity and the matching gifts it inspires will advance Archbold's work in 2019. Soon, you will find this exciting opportunity in your mailbox, and we urge you to consider making Archbold part of your year-end charitable contributions. Your gift will help sustain many more eye-opening initiatives here at Archbold, and be worth twice as much to Archbold! I hope this encourages you to help Archbold, and remember, every gift to Archbold goes to programs: research—conservation—and—education. So, be on the lookout, and remember, [#GivingTuesday](#) is **November 27**, so perhaps we will hear from you on this national day of

## Directions to Archbold Biological Station

Eight miles south of Lake Placid. Entrance is 1.8 miles south of SR 70 on Old SR 8.





Giving! Thank you for helping make a difference for Archbold.

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