



Jen Brown

ARCHBOLD APRIL 2020 NEWS for curious minds



In This Issue:

1. COVID Response at Archbold
2. Tracking Wild Pig Populations
3. The Joyful Ecologist
4. Sentinel Landscapes
5. Coloring the Florida Scrub

COVID Response at Archbold



Into Nature Films

Take a virtual walk through Hatpin flowers in a seasonal wetland at Archbold in ['Misty Morning: Hatpin Season'](#).

Archbold staff and board joins you in staying well, safe, and making the best of this time sheltering. Archbold enjoys sharing science and the wonders of nature with our community. Until we all can venture out together, we will bring Archbold to you! **We are planning a variety of [engaging virtual events](#) to keep you connected to nature and science during the pandemic.** Join us for online presentations, virtual walks, activities, videos, and science seminars beginning Tuesday April 7th at 3:30 PM EST. Check the upcoming ['Online Events'](#) links in the right-side column of this newsletter. **If you are looking for solace in nature at Archbold or inspiration to get outside, we invite you to take a morning walk in Archbold's sandy dunes with our short film ['Misty Morning: Hatpin Season'](#) produced by [Into Nature Films](#).** Right now, Hatpin flowers are awash in fog in the dry wetlands. A morning walk in nature reveals much to those who pay attention. Enjoy pastel blueberry flowers, Eastern Towhees on the hunt, Powder-Puff Lichens, and tiny Oak Toads in this beautiful film. Watch out for more beauty from Archbold in our online video series 'Wonders From Wonderland'.



Allen McPherson

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"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

Tracking Wild Pig Populations



Feral Hog captured on a camera trap at Buck Island Ranch.

Wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*), or Feral Hogs, have been in Florida since the Spanish introduced them here along with cattle 500 years ago. Throughout the world, wild pigs thrive following introduction by people because of their generalist diet, adaptability, sociability, and high reproductive potential. Due to economic and ecological costs that result from their foraging, reliable population estimates are essential for management. Dr. Raoul Boughton, who conducted this study while at the University of Florida Range Cattle Research and Education Center, together with lead author Dr. Peter Schlichting, Arizona State University, and coauthors Dr. James Beasley, University of Georgia, Dr. Ryan Miller and Dr. Kurt Vercauteren from USDA APHIS, and others, **"evaluated the use of 10-day camera grids for rapid population assessment (RPA) of wild pigs at 3 study sites that varied in vegetation communities and wild pig densities" published in the [Wildlife Society Bulletin](#)**. One of the study sites was Archbold's Buck Island Ranch. Researchers deployed motion-triggered camera traps with bait in a grid during different seasons and in response to population control efforts. In addition to marking some pigs with ear tags, researchers used experimental and natural marks (i.e., pelage and scars) to estimate the total population. **This cost-effective and less labor-intensive approach proved to be a "useful tool for monitoring wild pig presence, tracking population trends, and evaluating the effectiveness of management actions"**. Increasing the number of camera traps increased the precision of their results.

Online Events

April 7: 1:30–3 PM

'The Lake Wales Ridge'

For students K-12 and the general public

Dustin Angell, Archbold

April 9: 3:30 PM

'Hicoria: A Brief History of a Florida Ghost Town'

Joe Gentili, Archbold

April 16: 3:30 PM

'What We Do and Why It Matters'

Dustin Angell, Archbold

April 23: 3:30 PM

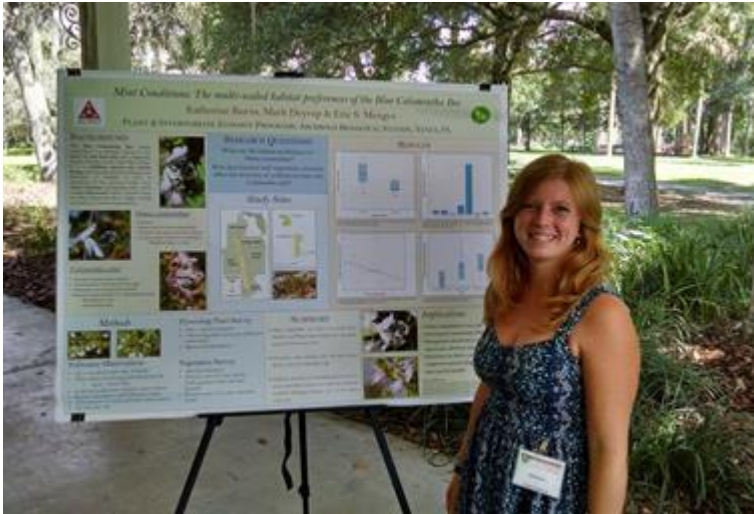
Agroecology Intern Seminar

Hannah van Zant, Archbold

April 29: 3:30 PM

Herpetology Seminar

The Joyful Ecologist



Katherine Burns' Blue Calaminta Bee (*Osmia calaminthae*) study at Archbold provided much-needed data for scientists to better evaluate a 2015 petition by the Defenders of Wildlife to have this bee listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Katherine Burns has made it to the finals (to be held late April) of FameLab Ireland, the world's leading science communication competition, with her riveting three-minute speech ['The Bitter Truth About Honey Bees'](#). Burns is a researcher and science communicator currently based in Ireland at [University College, Dublin](#). Before she began her multidisciplinary PhD study on insect pollinators and public perceptions of pollinators in Ireland, Burns was the first intern at Archbold supported by the Florida Wildflower Foundation under the direction of both Archbold Plant Ecology (Dr. Eric Menges) and Invertebrate Ecology (Dr. Mark Deyrup) in 2016. She studied the rare, endemic Blue Calaminta Bee (*Osmia calaminthae*) which might depend exclusively on the nectar and pollen of Ashe's Mint (*Calamintha ashei*), an endemic, threatened mint. Discovered at Archbold in 2002, little is known about the life and range of the Blue Calaminta Bee. Burns changed that. She hopes to change a lot of things. She describes herself as a "[joyful ecologist](#)" with a passion for getting people excited about this glorious planet that we live on, especially all of the 'little things that run the world'." **As unique and complex as the Blue Calaminta Bee, Burns multifaceted work is untangling the human-insect-plant relationships found in both wild and tame nature.**

Dr. Betsie Rothermel,
Archbold

May 7: 3:30 PM

Agroecology Intern Seminar

Juan Olivares, Archbold



Check out our Youtube
Videos!



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Sentinel Landscapes



Screenshot from 'Sentinel Landscapes' by Grizzly Creek Films.

['Sentinel Landscapes'](#), a new documentary from [Grizzly Creek Films](#), tells the intriguing story of the [Sentinel Landscapes Partnership](#)—a collaboration among the **U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Department of the Interior**. While the military has the vital role of defending our national security, their mission also includes stewardship of the lands they manage, some of the last intact landscapes in the US. Providing clean air, clear water, and wide, wild landscapes, these lands and waters are also protected from urbanization, encroachment, and land conversion. Filmed on three military bases involved in the Sentinel Landscape Partnership—Avon Park Air Force Range FL (APAFR), Fort Huachuca AZ, and Camp Ridley MN, 'Sentinel Landscapes' tells the stories of individuals living, working, and training on these installations—sustaining working lands, conservation, and national defense. [Click here](#) for the 2 minute trailer and hear from locals **Hilary Swain (Archbold Director), Jimmy Wohl (landowner, rancher), Carlton Ward (photographer and writer), and Lt. Colonel Buck MacLaughlin (APAFR) as they talk about conserving natural resources, strengthening military readiness, and bolstering the agricultural economy**. The exciting film premiere scheduled for mid-March at the Environmental Film Festival in Washington D.C. was postponed due to COVID. Please stay tuned for messages about the 12-minute version, due to be released online in early April, and other short releases leading up to Earth Day. The full film premiere is delayed until the time is right.



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The Scrub Blog

Nature and Science from Florida's
Heartland

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

Coloring the Florida Scrub



Cover page of the Florida Scrub Coloring Book colored by Charlotte Wilson, previous Archbold Education Assistant.

Archbold released its fourth edition of the popular Florida Scrub Coloring Book thanks to a kind donation by Warren Abrahamson (Archbold Research Associate) and Chris Abrahamson. The Florida Scrub Coloring Book was first written and illustrated in the 1990's by Dr. Mark Deyrup, Archbold Emeritus Research Biologist, and Kevina Vulinec, now at Delaware State University. **More than a coloring book, Deyrup conceived an interactive experience for people of all ages to discover the wonder of the ancient Florida scrub ecosystem.** As well as the beautiful artwork waiting to be colored, the book combines natural history descriptions with enlightening stories, humor, history, conservation, and activities. Don't miss the 'Gopherwood Apartments' and 'Nobody Knows' sections! This inspiring book is given to Archbold field trip participants and [available for free](#) to anyone who visits in person or [online](#). The Abrahamsons write, "The Scrub Coloring Book is dedicated to our daughter, Jill Raye Abrahamson (1973-2017), who first visited Archbold Biological Station and the Florida Scrub in 1974 at 6-months of age. Seeing how our daughter's appreciation of and respect for natural communities was cultivated by her experiences at Archbold, we are delighted to support the publication of this latest edition." Whether you are a child or an adult, enjoy coloring the scrub.



Directions to Archbold Biological Station

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

Archbold
123 Main Drive, Venus, FL 33960

