



ARCHBOLD MAY 2020 NEWS for curious minds



In This Issue:

1. A New Virtual World for Science Collaboration
2. Where Are the Nightjars?
3. Full Circles in the Scrub
4. Life at Archbold during the Pandemic
5. 573 and Counting...

A New Virtual World for Science Collaboration



Dr. Peter Kleinman with a presentation on the USDA LTAR network at the annual meeting held this year via Zoom. Screenshot by Caro Cordova.

Archbold's Buck Island Ranch, partnering with the University of Florida, is one of 18 sites nationwide in the [Long-Term Agroecosystem Research \(LTAR\)](#) network of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By early March, University of Michigan organizers planning the annual LTAR meeting at Kellogg Biological Station for April pivoted to a virtual multi-day zoom meeting due to COVID-19. Dr. Hilary Swain, Archbold Director noted, "This is a harbinger of new ways of doing business. The zoom meeting had 300 attendees (~15 from Archbold). This was double the number the physical site could accommodate. There were plenary talks and we joined breakout rooms where videos enabled face-to-face conversations and recorded discussions helped generate reports. **Online meetings are productive and increasingly valuable for research networks like LTAR with scientists scattered across the US.** Costs are lower and there are fewer demands on resources like people's time and the environment". Dr. Betsey Boughton, who leads Archbold's LTAR research noted, "Of course everyone misses the camaraderie of being with colleagues which is especially hard on new team members and students. We all lose those informal discussions where great science collaborations and new ideas emerge. With the power of online meetings, I see many more virtual meetings in the future to move projects forward".



[Donate Now](#)

[Archbold Biological Station Website](#)

[Subscribe to our Monthly News](#)

[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

Where Are the Nightjars?



A Chuck-will's-widow perched on a branch during the daytime.

Archbold and Highlands County is home to three nightjars on rotating schedules. The Chuck-will's-widow and Common Nighthawk breed here in the spring and summer but fly south for the winter. The Eastern Whip-poor-will breeds farther north and arrives here for winter. Their tiny bills belie their enormous mouths with stiff whiskers used to catch insects flitting in the dark. All three species are declining in numbers throughout their range, especially in Florida. **In 2019, Dr. Reed Bowman, Archbold Avian Ecology Program Director, and Yosvany Rodriguez, Archbold Research Assistant, began studying the Chuck-will's-widow and Whip-poor-will at Archbold to better understand their decline.** Bowman shared, "The decline may be driven by changes in flying insect populations or changes in breeding or wintering habitat. We wanted to understand their habitat preferences at Archbold". Both nightjars are very territorial, calling frequently, which makes surveying for them easier in the dark during the waxing gibbous and full moon phases. Bowman said, "In 2019, we discovered that Chuck-will's-widows preferred scrubby flatwoods and avoided any area that had burned within the last 2 years. They were most abundant in patches that burned 3-20 years ago. Because we protect native habitats and have a long history of fire management, Chuck-will's-widows are abundant at Archbold". The researchers are repeating these surveys this year and hope to get better data on Whip-poor-wills, which don't seem as abundant as Chuck-will's widows. Read the full story [here](#) in Archbold's Scrub Blog.

Online Events

May 14: 3:30 PM

Landscapes and Seascapes of Behavioral Ecology

Dr. Erika Milam, Princeton
University

[Register here](#)

May 21: 3:30 PM

Demography of Rare Golden Asters in Central Florida

Dr. Eric Menges, Archbold

[Register here](#)

May 28: 3:30 PM

Full Circles in the Scrub



Dr. Angela Tringali in her Florida scrub office at Archbold.

Thirteen years ago, Angela Tringali first arrived in the Florida scrub at Archbold. She recalls, "It was hard to reconcile the idea of the small stature scrub being such an ancient habitat. I soon learned how the Florida Scrub-Jay sentinel system relies on that short structure". The [Archbold Avian Ecology](#) Internship was the perfect opportunity to see if the jays and potential mentor, Dr. Reed Bowman, would be a good fit for Tringali's graduate studies. It was! After her internship, she returned to the short, ancient scrub of central Florida for her PhD examining scrub-jay behavior and genetics in relation to plumage color. After working for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to coordinate conservation actions for scrub-jays across the state, Dr. Tringali returned for a third time to the Archbold Avian Ecology program as a Postdoctoral Researcher. She shared, "**Archbold is such a special place. I love stepping out of my office and into the field. Being able to pay the formative experience of my internship forward feels great.** I want all the Archbold interns to have the same wonderful experience I did". Living away from their family in New York, Tringali and her spouse Joe Gentili (Archbold Librarian) recreate her family's big Thanksgiving every year by inviting their 'Archbold family' over to celebrate with their favorite dishes. She concluded, "We've been introduced to so many delicious things including my first ever green bean casserole! A casserole seems like a silly thing to bring up. But, this dish is representative of all the relationships I've made through Archbold: Completely new yet impossible to imagine living without".

The Path to Enrichment

Seth Raynor, Archbold Intern

[Register here](#)

Watch for information on Archbold's Virtual Ecology Summer Camp, coming soon!

Life at Archbold during the Pandemic



Dustin Angell, Archbold Director of Education, led a 'Archbold Discovery Classroom: Virtual Field Trip' using Zoom every Tuesday in April.

We appreciate how extremely difficult the COVID-19 pandemic has been for many in our community and around the world. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for all those on the front line that are keeping us safe. **COVID-19 is causing massive disruption to experiences at biological field stations.** The impacts on research and education in the United States and internationally is anticipated to be substantial. We are sorry to close Archbold's doors to visitors during this time, especially when so many are seeking solace in nature, but our goal is to keep staff and residents safe. Many staff are working at home remotely—kudos to everyone in IT (Kevin Patram), data management (Vivienne Sclater) and human resources (Sharon Hawkins). Our communications team have done a remarkable job offering a wide range of virtual Archbold experiences (see sidebar). Many of our interns and staff, including their families, are residents on Archbold property, especially at the Ranch. Work is home, and home is at work. **Archbold's COVID response team have implemented evolving guidelines with the principle of 'safety first' while practicing social distancing and isolation.** This approach allows for residents to continue living on-site and to ensure essential services including: Land management and care of livestock, paying bills and payroll, maintaining critical facilities and infrastructure, and collecting a subset of vital long-term field data. Archbold Executive Director Hilary Swain extends her, "Profound thanks to all staff, board, volunteers, and vendors who have acted so thoughtfully and worked so hard to keep ourselves and others safe. We were ahead of the curve in implementing our guidelines in response to COVID, and we anticipate being behind the curve in loosening restrictions. Our deep appreciation for everyone's support and understanding at this time. Stay safe please."

The Scrub Blog

Nature and Science from Florida's
Heartland

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

573 and Counting...



2016 Buck Island Ranch Interns Sarah Garvey, Ruth Whittington, and Matty Gaff (left to right).

2020 marks the 52nd year of Archbold's Research and Education Internship Program, which began in 1969. To date, 573 hard-working students have benefited from the program, which now supports nearly every program at Archbold. Most of these internships last between six and 12 months, during which interns glean exceptional field and real-world experience, strong mentoring, and critical, independent research training provided by Archbold. All told, Archbold has accepted interns from 142 colleges and universities located in 37 states and 12 countries. Many former interns have gone on to graduate studies (Master's and/or PhD) at 156 college or university institutions in 48 states and 14 countries. Thanks in part to your support, Archbold's passion for protecting our natural world has been felt across the globe and will continue to impact generations to come.

If you enjoy these stories from Archbold, please consider a gift to support our research and education programs. [Donate now](#). Your gift really makes a difference.

We are a publicly supported organization exempt from income taxes under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

Archbold
123 Main Drive, Venus, FL 33960



Directions to Archbold Biological Station

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