



ARCHBOLD JANUARY 2021 NEWS for curious minds



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Very Sad News: Eric Stein



Eric Stein attending an Archbold event in 2016. Photo by Deborah Pollard.



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It is with heavy hearts that we share the sad news that Eric Stein (1957-2021), Archbold's Chief Financial Officer for 15 years, passed away in Sebring, Florida from complications of COVID-19 on January 13th, 2021. Always kind, immensely friendly, forever-smiling, ever-humorous, Eric was a team member who worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to ensure the financial and fiduciary wheels of our organization ran smoothly. All Archbold's achievements over these years—science, conservation, and education—were underpinned by his skills. He touched the organization in so many ways playing countless, often unrecognized, roles in all our lives. Eric leaves his wife Gail, his daughters Megan and Madison, and son-in-law Matthew Cantrell. Our love, deepest condolences, thoughts, and prayers go out to his family and many friends. He also leaves the entire community of Archbold—staff, board, visitors, volunteers, supporters, and beyond—just devastated in the trail of his untimely departure. **Farewell Eric. Archbold salutes you as one of our real heroes. You are greatly missed and will be remembered, forever. Read Archbold's tribute to Eric [here](#).**

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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

Plant Ecology Program Update



Dr. Eric Menges collecting long-term data on the endangered Wedgeleaf Button Snakeroot (*Eryngium cuneifolium*) with former Research Assistant Stacy Smith and former Interns Tabitha Petri and Lauren Maynard in 2016.

On December 10, 2020, Dr. Eric Menges gave a superb 30-minute talk for the Annual Archbold



Plant Ecology Themes at Archbold 1988-2020

Watch a wonderful 30 minute [presentation](#) by Dr. Eric Menges, Archbold Plant Ecology Director, from the virtual Archbold Research Symposium on December 10, 2020.

Research Symposium presenting a sweeping overview of his vast body of research at Archbold. Watch [here](#). He covered the broad themes of vegetation dynamics, population biology, demographic modeling, fire ecology, land management, physiology, ecology, and restoration. Eric took the opportunity to pay homage to the wonderful community of people who participated in his research projects over the years from interns to collaborators to research assistants. Eric arrived at Archbold on June 1st, 1988 to lead [Archbold's Plant Ecology Program](#). We salute Eric's 33 years of research, mentorship, and contribution to the conservation and management of the imperiled Florida scrub. Even though he announced his retirement for June 30th, 2021, Eric will return to Archbold on a regular basis as an Emeritus Biologist to continue his remarkable work. The search for his successor is underway. More news on these developments will follow in the upcoming months.

Kentucky-Archbold Corridor



Carlton Ward

Joe Guthrie explores a box culvert under US Highway 27 during the 2019 Florida Wildlife Corridor expedition.

Joe Guthrie grew up aspiring to be a writer telling stories about the creeks and hollows in the tobacco farms around his parents home in Henry County, Kentucky. Guthrie shared, "I began studying wildlife as a portal into working landscape stories. **I loved doing**

Online Events

**Jan 26, Feb 2, Feb 9,
Feb 16, Feb 23: 9:30
AM**

Florida Nature Walks with
Mr. Dustin

Join Dustin Angell,
Archbold's Director of
Education, on Tuesday
mornings at 9:30 AM EST
as he live-streams from
the outdoors in sunny
Florida using a selfie-
stick and smartphone.

[Register here](#)

field research. This led me to Archbold in 2004 as a Wildlife Technician to assist a small study focused on the Black Bear population of Highlands and Glades counties for the University of Kentucky. That project eventually became my Master's research under Dr. David Maehr and Dr. John Cox." The bear project inspired the [Florida Wildlife Corridor](#) campaign which Guthrie helped establish with his colleagues Carlton Ward, Mallory Dimmitt, and Tom Hocht. Guthrie returned to Archbold in November 2020 to lead our new Predator-Prey Program. "My time at Archbold shaped my career, providing a community and a landscape to think about and return to. One thing I love about wide-ranging animals like bears is they usually pick wonderful places to hang out, away from roads and neighborhoods. Ample food, good water, shade, and quiet. As mammals ourselves, we can all appreciate! However, there are only a few large chunks of forest remaining for the Highlands-Glades bears. And, their connection to other bear populations is uncertain. **We need decision makers to prioritize the protection of wildlife corridors to ensure these animals continue to be part of this landscape.** Among my first priorities for the Predator-Prey Program is revisiting the unpublished bear data to see if our data can inform some of these priorities." You can see Guthrie, still a storyteller, in four documentary films exploring the Florida Wildlife Corridor including ['Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition: Everglades to Okefenokee'](#), ['The Forgotten Coast'](#), ['The Last Green Thread'](#) and forthcoming ['The Wild Divide'](#) featuring the Lake Wales Ridge and Archbold scientists.

Jan 28: 3:30 PM

'Wild Observations at Archbold Biological Station'

Deborah Mitchell, Artist

[Register here](#)

Watch all past virtual events [here](#).

From Droughts to Deluge



A team of University of Florida and Archbold collaborators at a future Buck Island Ranch location for rainfall manipulation experiments.

Dr. Jiangxiao Qiu of University of Florida and Dr. Betsey Boughton of Archbold's Buck Island Ranch recently received a new grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to study the impacts of rainfall scenarios that our region might experience in the future.

Future climate projections in Florida indicate the likelihood of a shift in precipitation seasonality. Dr. Qiu shared, "Increasing climate variability is one of the most consistent changes forecasted by global climate models. Models show an increasing number of high precipitation events, extended droughts, and extreme wet and dry years. We want to understand how altered

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precipitation affects grassland ecology and agriculture economics." Over the next several months, the team will construct rainout shelters and irrigation plots to experiment with altering rainfall patterns. The experiment will assess four rainfall scenarios: 1) 50% reduced rainfall; 2) 50% increased rainfall; 3) Diminished seasonality, making the wet season and dry season more similar; 4) Enhanced seasonality, making the wet season wetter and the dry season drier. Dr. Boughton shared, "We are placing 48 of the experimental rainout shelters and irrigation plots in different areas of the ranch including both bahiagrass pastures and semi-native pastures. We will allow cattle to graze the plots at different intensities. This is a very exciting, unique experiment to assess how different precipitation scenarios interact with grazing intensity here in subtropical south-central Florida."

Thank you!



Reed Bowman

A juvenile Florida Scrub-Jay at Archbold.

Because of our donors' kindness and generosity, Archbold's [Year-End Matching Gift Appeal](#) was a great success, exceeding the \$100,000 Matching Gift goal. Your contributions help us achieve our mission and do our part to #keepFLwild. We are grateful and honored for the continued support from our friends, colleagues, family, and donors. With your help, 2021 begins hopeful. We are proud to announce five new members to [Archbold's Board of Directors](#): Scientist, businessman, and philanthropist Kyle Ashton (California); Conservationist and Expeditioner with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Mallory Lykes Dimmitt (Florida); Attorney, Advocate for children's education and for non-profits Nicole Love Doppelt (New York); Ornithologist, educator, writer, and conservationist James Kushlan (Florida); and Veterinarian, Veterinary Pathologist, philanthropist, and Veteran Sam Machotka (Florida). We are overjoyed to begin 2021 with such a strong, committed, and

The Scrub Blog

Nature and Science from Florida's Heartland

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

Directions to Archbold Biological Station

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



passionate board filled with exceptional leaders
devoted to Archbold's mission.

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