



Haley Dole

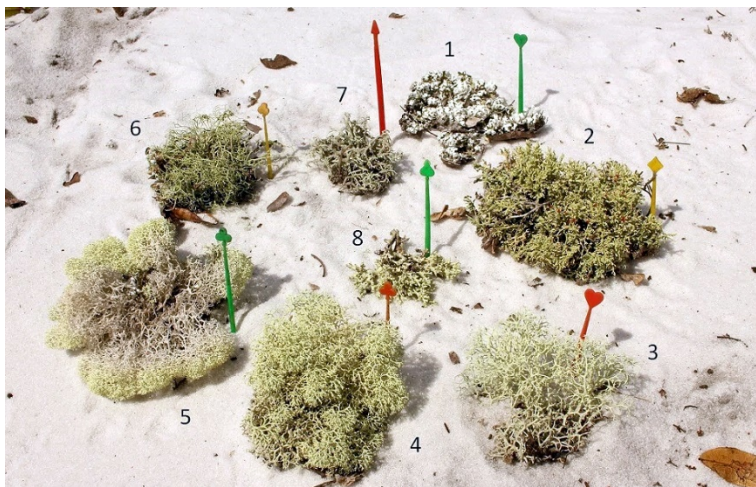
ARCHBOLD MAY 2021 NEWS for curious minds



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The Path to Enlichenment



Multiple species of cup lichen (*Cladonia* spp.) grow on the ground at Archbold: 1. *C. prostrata*. 2. *C. leporina*. 3. *C. sandstedei*. 4. *C. subtenuis*. 5. *C. evansii*. 6. *C. subsetacea*. 7. *C. pachycladodes*. 8. *C. perforata*. Photo by Scott G. Ward and Seth Raynor.

Lichens befuddle us because they are not a single organism. Lichens are composite creations between



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multiple species including a fungus and photosynthetic partner, like alga or cyanobacteria, in addition to yeast and bacteria. According to Seth Raynor, lichens are not only misunderstood but also understudied compared to other species at the Station. He shared, "Every lichenologist I've spoken with made clear how special Archbold is for lichens." **Raynor, a previous Archbold Plant Ecology Intern, set out in 2020 with a daunting task to update the lichen species list for the Station.** In 1985, Bessette and Homola found 49 species. Raynor expanded the list to 178! Like a sleuth, he compiled all lichens collected at Archbold in herbariums collections. In the sandy scrub, he hunted down colorful lichens unattached or encrusted on other plants. The young ecologist had help with identification from a supportive community of lichen specialists. Along the way, he explored the relationship between fire and *Cladonia* in Florida rosemary scrub. There are 22 species of *Cladonia* at Archbold including the only endangered lichen in Florida, the Florida Perforate Lichen *Cladonia perforata*. **Due to their slow growth and sensitivity to fire, Raynor sought to investigate the fire effects on *Cladonia* abundance.** Raynor showed that high severity fires have a negative impact on long term lichen ground cover due to the lack of survivors. Lichens need at least a decade without fire disturbance to thrive again. He recommends a heterogeneous pyrodiverse landscape for maximum species diversity. Take the Path to Enlichenment with Raynor's excellent seminar [here](#). Read the Scrub Blog story 'Live, Love, Lichen' [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

Story of a Bird Lover in Florida



Endangered Pygmy Fringe-Tree in Bloom

Join Archbold Education Program Director Dustin Angell for a close encounter with the endangered Pygmy Fringe-Tree (*Chionanthus*)

Joan Morrison holding a young Crested Caracara on a Florida ranch in the early 1990s. [Watch the film here!](#)

Thirty years ago, Joan Morrison visited Archbold's Buck Island Ranch. The Crested Caracara was just listed as Federally Threatened in 1987 based on the surveys by Dr. Jim Layne, Archbold's first Research Director. Yet, nobody knew much about the Caracara. Morrison was a University of Florida graduate student looking for a PhD project. On this working ranch in south-central Florida, the young raptor biologist was inspired to study the Crested Caracara. Since then, Morrison became one of the foremost experts with decades of insights into this falcon adapted to life down on the ground and up in the Cabbage Palms. **Enjoy a first-hand account of her fascinating discoveries in our new short film [Story of a Bird Lover in Florida](#) created by Into Nature Films at Buck Island Ranch. This is a story about a dedicated biologist, a beautiful ranch opened to scientists by Archbold, and a wonderful bird in Florida.** Morrison shares in the film, 'I keep coming back because over the thirty years, there has been a lot of changes here in Florida. I'm concerned about their long-term persistence because it is an isolated population.' Caracaras are one of many species who benefit from ranchlands and protected areas along the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Watch and [share the film](#) with your friends and colleagues!

pygmaeus) in this short [video](#).

Keeping Florida Wild



Carlton Ward at work photographing wildlife research on Buck Island Ranch, a conservation easement site, and a part of the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Photo by Dustin Angell.

Carlton Ward Jr., an 8th generation Floridian, spent his youth exploring wild Florida on the family ranch. Ward co-founded the Florida Wildlife Corridor conservation group more than a decade ago and for the past five years has been leading the [Path of the Panther](#) project with support from the National Geographic Society. **Ward has combined his love of wild Florida with his passion for photography and conservation on a mission to protect the Florida Wildlife Corridor, a statewide system of public and private lands connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures in the state.** To bring awareness of the need to protect the Florida Wildlife Corridor, Carlton and co-expeditioners Archbold Board member Mallory Dimmitt and Archbold Research Fellow Joe Guthrie, set out on Florida Wildlife Corridor Expeditions in 2012, 2015, 2018, & 2019. The expeditioners traversed thousands of miles across Florida, highlighting the system of connected lands and waterways that are so important for wildlife, particularly animals with large home ranges like the Florida Panther and Florida Black Bear. "Public support is critical to build the green and blue infrastructure of protected lands and waters that will sustain wildlife, wildlife movements, and Floridians into the future,"

Online Events

May 6: 3:30 PM

'The effects of time since fire on insect herbivory rates on *Lyonia fruticosa*, an ericaceous shrub of the Florida scrub'

Haley Dole, Archbold Plant Ecology Intern

[Watch here](#)

May 20: 3:30 PM

'Seed dispersal through agricultural drainage ditches'

Scott Dai, Archbold Agro-Ecology Intern

[Register here](#)

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

stated Ward. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Carlton Ward Jr., and his fellow expeditioners, the vision of the Florida Wildlife Corridor is taking root in the minds of the public, and expanding to become a reality. We must protect as many natural places as we can to #keepFlwild for future generations. To explore Carlton's work, please visit CarltonWard.com or [Instagram.com/CarltonWard](https://www.instagram.com/CarltonWard)

New Plant Ecology Program Director



Dr. Aaron David at the entrance to Archbold.

Archbold is delighted to announce that Dr. Aaron David will assume the position of Program Director of Plant Ecology starting June 1st 2021. **Aaron succeeds Dr. Eric Menges, who is retiring at the end of June after a remarkable 33 years at Archbold in this position.** It was Eric Menges who first welcomed Aaron to Archbold as a plant program intern in 2009—serving as an inspiring mentor and introducing the world of scrub plants and field ecology. After this internship, Aaron built an impressive resume with a PhD from the University of Minnesota in 2016, a Post-Doctoral Associate position at the University of Miami from 2016-2018 and a Research Ecologist position with the US Department of Agriculture Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Ft. Lauderdale since 2018. While working in these positions, Aaron integrated elements of field research at the Station into multiple projects, expanding his strong background in plant populations and Florida scrub. We foresee future collaborations addressing applied management ensuring Archbold science is directed into conservation action. Aaron shared, "I'm very excited to be joining the amazing scientists and staff at Archbold and looking

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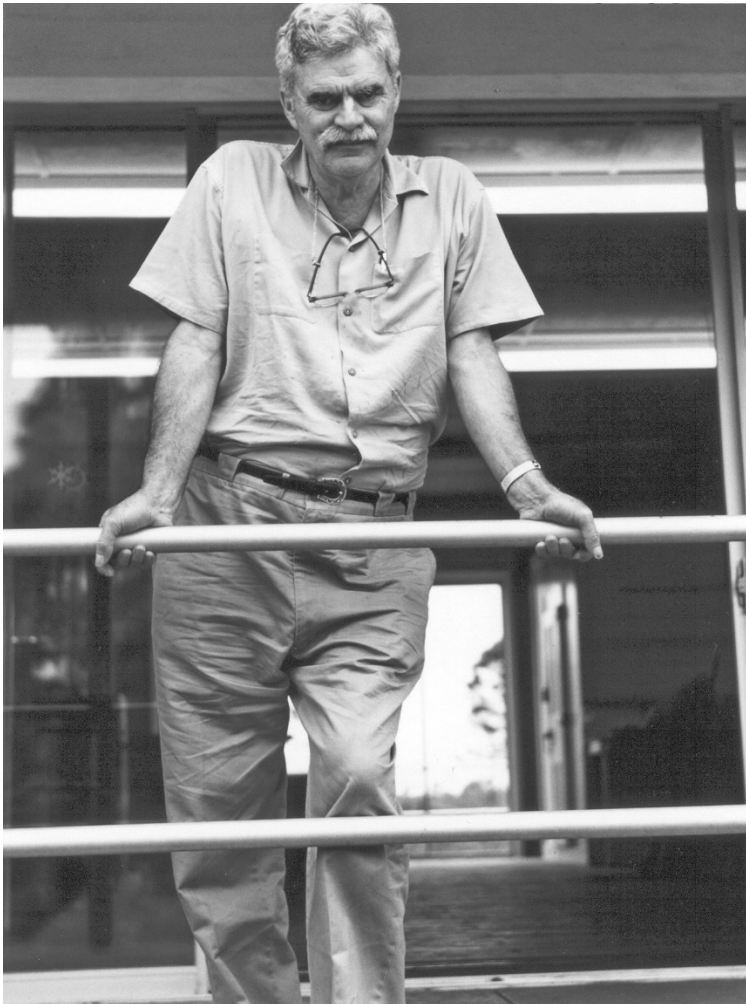
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forward to continuing the extraordinary legacy of plant ecology research and conservation." Welcome, Aaron David.

[Archbold
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80 Years of Science, Conservation, and Education



Richard Archbold in the breezeway at Archbold Biological Station.

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.



This June marks the 80th year since Richard Archbold founded Archbold Biological Station on what was then 1,050 acres of land. Since then, Archbold has achieved formidable growth; we now own and manage nearly 20,000 acres of land; we have undertaken numerous long-term research projects, and we have sought to imbue the next generations with our passion for science and nature by mentoring 600 interns and teaching more than 50,000 elementary school students about wild Florida. All these accomplishments are possible with the loyalty of friends like you—and with your continued support, we will expand our reach and share what we’ve learned, helping to build and share the scientific knowledge needed to protect Florida and beyond. It takes the dedicated work of countless people and many years of hard work to make discoveries that move the needle, making real change, protecting the plants and animals that are vital to biodiversity. Thank you for supporting our critical work. We’re excited for the next 80! **Please click [here](#) to make a special gift to Archbold today and help us continue growing into the future.**

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.

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