



Bryce Lo

ARCHBOLD AUGUST 2021 NEWS for curious minds



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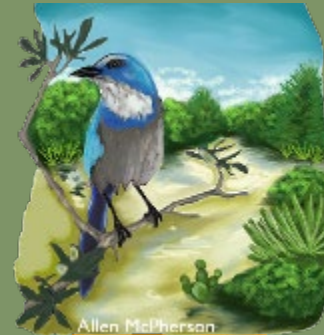
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Archbold Science Blitz



Plant surveyors take a hot afternoon break in a sawgrass wetland. Photo by Joe Guthrie.

In late May 2021, 60 Archbold staff and collaborators gathered on the shores of Lake Kissimmee at Eagle Haven Ranch for a science blitz. **After a long and difficult year apart, the science blitz gave Archbold staff an opportunity to reconnect. Our field teams**



Allen McPherson

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worked together to capture a snapshot of biodiversity and conservation management at Eagle Haven Ranch

from the scrub, flatwoods, hammocks down through the prairies and wetlands. Dr. Reed Bowman's bird team of 16 spotted abundant Snail Kites, Florida Scrub-Jays, and more. They write, "We hoped for the usual suspects of avian diversity typical of a central Florida ranch...and we were well rewarded. Our team saw 832 individual birds of 59 species!" Led by Dr. Gregory Sonnier and Scott Ward, the plant team recorded over 160 species. They write, "The science blitz was an opportunity to teach new interns and research assistants how to recognize iconic scrub and wetland plants. Highlights included Scrubland Goldenaster (*Chrysopsis subulata*), Sundews (*Drosera capillaris*), Giant Airplant (*Tillandsia utriculata*), and Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes*". Most of the herpetology team arrived the night before the blitz to set minnow traps in the wetlands. "Trapping was productive with ten species of fish, several invertebrates, six species of frog and one baby alligator, bravely captured by Alan Rivero". The mammal team, led by Joe Guthrie, deployed three camera traps documenting everything from deer to turkey, feral hogs, coyote, and opossum. The most abundant mammal caught on camera? Cows, of course. This is a working ranch, after all. We are grateful to our hosts at Eagle Haven Ranch for providing a venue and joining us in the field. A special thanks to our Operations/Administration/Dining staff who shuttled vehicles, provisioned supplies, and organized three delicious meals for 60 people. Our friend Leon Pollard generously lent equipment and hosted a fantastic Low Country crawfish boil at the end of our long field day overlooking Lake Kissimmee. This rare gathering of our entire staff in one place was a wonderful opportunity for all.

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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

Goodbye Friend

The Signs of Archbold



2016 Christmas Bird Count at Avon Park Air Force Range with Paul Ebersbach (left) and Dale Knapp (right). Photo by Reed Bowman.

Paul F. Ebersbach, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret) was a cherished member of the Archbold and Lake Wales Ridge conservation community. He passed away in Sebring, Florida on July 19, 2021 with his family by his side. As Environmental Chief, Paul led the natural resource management program at Avon Park Air Force Range. His work over four decades earned many conservation awards including the Thomas D. White Outstanding Natural Resources Professional. Well-known for his collaborative spirit, Paul helped found the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Working Group in 1991. This group meets regularly to coordinate regional science, conservation, and management. That same year, Paul invited Dr. Reed Bowman and the Archbold Avian Ecology Program to survey for Florida Scrub-Jays and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. These avian surveys led to a nearly 30-year collaboration of Archbold monitoring and researching endangered bird species for the Department of Defense. For 27 years, Paul and Reed joined forces for the Christmas Bird Count in the varied Avon Park Air Force Range habitats along with other colleagues, friends, and Paul's mother for several years. Reed shared, "Paul and I share common roots in New York's Adirondack Mountains and a love for Florida's wild places, craft beer, and woodworking which solidified our enduring friendship. **He was tireless in the field with a passion for the outdoors.** I learned much from Paul. **He left his imprint in many places, but none so strongly as**



In honor of our 80th anniversary, we welcome you to take a virtual tour of the educational signs used in Archbold's Walk Through Time trail. Follow this [link](#) to a StoryMap created by Archbold volunteer and conservation communicator Bill Parken.

Avon Park Air Force Range. Its natural beauty, biodiversity and ability to protect natural resources while serving a critical military mission is a testament to his vision and fortitude. I will greatly miss him".

Becoming a Botanist



Stephanie Koontz working with the endangered Florida Ziziphus on the Lake Wales Ridge. Photo by Dustin Angell.

Stephanie Koontz first arrived at Archbold in 2008 as an intern in the Plant Ecology Program. She reflects, "I was immersed into a close knit community and diversity of scientists. Our living laboratory was just outside my dorm room window. If I wanted to learn a new skill, someone would teach me or point the way. I remember being in awe that this place was real. For the first time, I felt like a valued young scientist". Koontz went on to earn her

Online Events

Sept 16: 3:30 PM

Avian Ecology Intern
Double Feature

Watch the Archbold Intern
Seminar Triple Feature by
Brittany Welch, Grace
Trankina, and James
Longo [here!](#)

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

Master's degree in successional plant ecology and invasive species. She shared, "Many fellow students remarked at how prepared I was in designing and implementing my research. I attribute this to lessons learned while at Archbold". In 2013, Koontz returned to Archbold as a Plant Ecology Research Assistant alongside Dr. Eric Menges. **For eight years, Koontz led multiple rare plant management projects along the Lake Wales Ridge** from the endemic Garrett's mint (*Dicerandra christmanii*) to initiating new monitoring protocols for Florida's Hartwrightia (*Hartwrightia floridana*), a proposed candidate species for federal listing. "This freedom to pursue my own ideas kept me engaged and challenged during my time at Archbold. I greatly appreciate everything Eric Menges and other scientists taught me. Archbold gave me a solid career foundation and confidence in my abilities as a scientist, communicator, and leader". **This past June, Koontz began her new position as a Botanist for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.** She now works with rare plants across the state of Georgia including habitat management and restoration. The Archbold community and one-of-a-kind plants from the Florida scrub miss her already. Good luck Stephanie!

100 Portraits



Portrait of Young Ha Suh, Florida Scrub-Jay Wildlife Biologist, by Dustin Angell.

Dustin Angell has been photographing conservation workers across Florida including biologists, artists, and cattle ranchers for his Florida Stewards project since 2014. This photo project aims to document the people, places, and careers related to conservation of the Florida Everglades headwaters. To that end, the subjects each pose in their work clothes while holding the tools they use. Due to the importance of conservation in the community, the nature context is also featured including grasslands, scrublands, pinelands, ranchlands, wetlands, and more. **Dustin's portraits,**

[Archbold Facebook Event Calendar](#)

now numbering over 100, are featured in the [August-September issue of the Heartland Living Magazine](#). Many of his portraits feature Archbold staff, interns, and volunteers. Describing his photographs, Angell shared, "These are modern, secular versions of Renaissance saint depictions, something you might see in a European history book. Many elements of the portraits, like setting and lighting, postures and expressions, and even the angle I photograph from are intended to highlight the heroic aspects of the subjects. After all, these stewards spend hundreds or thousands of hours in Florida's hot and humid interior". To learn more about the Florida Stewards project, visit Angell's website [here](#).

602 and Counting!



Archbold Avian Ecology Research Assistants and interns monitoring Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. L-R: Meredith Heather, Brittany Welch, Tori Bakley, Dereck Fucich, Lyn Brown, Bryce Loschen, James Longo and Greg Thompson (background). Photo by Meredith Heather.

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.

2021 marks the 53rd year of Archbold's Research and Education Internship Program. **From 1969 to today, 602 hard-working people from across the globe benefited from the program. This internship program is one of only a few programs in the United States where recent college graduates can gain scientific research experience before pursuing higher education or other career choices in ecological research.** Lasting between six months and a year, internships offer exceptional opportunities to shadow scientists. Under the watchful gaze of experienced biologists, interns learn and refine skills including: Banding adult and nestling birds; Measuring plants; Taking biological samples; Collecting data; and Designing & presenting independent research projects. These specialized skills often become the qualifying experiences that propel research interns into graduate programs across the country and also into permanent employment. Thanks to your [support](#), Archbold's passion for protecting our natural world and training the next generation of scientists 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.

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