



Kevin Main

ARCHBOLD MAY 2022 NEWS for curious minds



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Florida Wildlife Corridor Summit



Dr. Hilary Swain presented a keynote address about lessons learned from the history of conservation land acquisition in Florida at the Florida Wildlife Corridor Summit. Photo by Lauren Yoho.

The 18-million acre Florida Wildlife Corridor Campaign is a bold vision for ecological connectivity in a state



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balancing 22 million people with awe-inspiring biodiversity. The stakes are high for the future of imperiled species, water resources, and rural livelihoods, not to mention over \$30 billion in annual revenue from Corridor-compatible industries. **Without action, Florida could lose nearly one million acres of yet-to-be-protected Corridor lands by 2030 (e.g., to development). The time to act is now. To this end, the [Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation](#), [Archbold](#), and [WildPath](#) hosted the Florida Wildlife Corridor Summit on April 12–14 in Orlando.** Nearly 300 people from environmental non-profits, government agencies, state agencies, academic institutions, and the corporate community attended the meeting to discuss 1) Corridor science, 2) Conservation funding, 3) Conservation implementation and 4) Storytelling for public inspiration. Dr. Josh Daskin, Archbold Conservation Director, said, "Because the Corridor vision is ambitious but achievable, the Summit generated huge engagement and buy-in. Moving forwards, the Corridor Foundation, Archbold, and WildPath will support five new collaborative groups to advance Corridor conservation." The new lifestyle brand [Live Wildly](#) made its debut at the Summit to capture public attention for the Corridor. [Join the Live Wildly](#) movement to help turn the vision of the Florida Wildlife Corridor into a reality.

National Geographic Photo Camp



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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

Maehr Florida Wildlife Corridor Applied Science Fellowship

Apply for a new fellowship opportunity at Archbold to create innovative science solutions for Corridor land conservation. Deadline for submitting proposals is August 15, 2022. [Learn more here.](#)

[Annual Giving Manager](#)

National Geographic Photo Camp student Rood-Olson Benel taking photographs in the Florida scrub at sunrise. Photo by Kevin Main.

Archbold was the proud host of a National Geographic Photo Camp in late April for teenagers from across Florida,

including Highlands County, Seminole Tribe, Miccosukee Tribe, and Miami. Students participated in a nature photography immersion led by National Geographic Explorers and world-class photographers Carlton Ward Jr., Erika Larsen, and Gena Steffens together with several Archbold scientists. The students shared a curiosity about the environment, photography, and storytelling. Kirsten Elstner, [National Geographic Photo Camp](#) and [VisionWorkshops](#) Director said, **"This was an incredible group of 20 young people, some of whom were not familiar with the Florida scrub or northern Everglades.** Some had never seen a sunrise before. Many were amazed this part of Florida existed. They were all mesmerized during a morning scrub excursion with the enthusiastic Dr. John Fitzpatrick, recently retired Director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology." Students spent time with each Archbold research program from scoping Gopher Tortoise burrows to exploring ranch wetlands. Dr. Jessica Judson shared Archbold's mosquitofish genetic rescue research. Judson said, "My favorite part was learning through a team leader, George McKenzie, that the campers were educating others about mosquitofish in the wild." Dustin Angell, Archbold Education Director, worked with the Highlands County School District to recruit local students. He said, **"This camp is all about empowering youth with the tools, mentoring, and opportunities needed to share their unique visions about water and conservation in Florida.** Archbold's staff commitment went above and beyond the expectations of the camp organizers." The students all grew exponentially and became more confident by the end of the week. After exploring the scrub, Buck Island Ranch, and an airboat ride on Lake Okeechobee, what stories would the students tell for their big show at the Archbold Learning Center? Elstner said, "Their stories were all about how water connects us and the crucial role water management plays in Florida." The inspiring story behind the camera was how all these young people found a genuine connection with each other. Elstner added, "Every morning, the students had the option to

We are seeking an individual to oversee activities related to annual gift fundraising and provide support to the Director of Philanthropy. [Learn more here.](#)

sleep in or begin at sunrise. Every morning, they chose the sunrise."

Hooked on Archbold for 50 Years



Dr. John Fitzpatrick with a beloved Florida Scrub-Jay at Archbold in April 2022. Photo by Dr. Harry Greene.

Years before Dr. John Fitzpatrick served as Archbold Director, championing the conservation of the Florida scrub and establishing the MacArthur Agro-Ecology Research Center (now Buck Island Ranch), he took a summer internship at the Station with Dr. Glen Woolfenden. The year was 1972. He said, "For this Minnesota boy, who had never spent a summer away from home, Archbold felt like paradise. I fell in love with the scrub and its jay within minutes of my arrival. I soaked in the summer rains, the warm nights filled with deafening frog choruses, the scrub, which I now call 'the elfin oak woodlands', and the amazing stories about New Guinea and Madagascar regaled by Mr. Archbold. I was hooked. I returned to Archbold in the summer of 1973, the year I started mapping Florida Scrub-Jay territories." Fitzpatrick, or 'Fitz', returned in 1988 with his wife, Molly, and two children, Dylan and Sarah, to take the reins as Director. Fitz led Archbold for seven beautiful years with many achievements, including helping to establish the Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge. In 1995, Fitz left Archbold to become Executive Director of the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#). Still, he kept a tether to Archbold, returning every year. Now

Online Events

May 26: 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

'Causes and consequences: Counting the cost of dung beetle abundance losses in US working lands'

Dr. Roisin Stanbrook,
University of Central
Florida

[Register here](#)

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

in phased retirement, he says, "Archbold is a magical place made possible only because of the extraordinary care provided to these lands by generations of passionate caregivers – beginning, of course, with Richard Archbold. The Florida Scrub-Jay has taught us (and the world) so very much during this 50-year study. For example, protecting processes (e.g., fire, water, ecological interconnections) is just as important as protecting species. **I'm working as hard as I can to keep growing what we can learn from studying the scrub and its flagship bird.** This April, I helped map about 85 jay territories together with Dr. Reed Bowman and the Avian Ecology staff. It's important that we do this every year, because territory means EVERYTHING to these birds. Over the years, I have walked through every square meter of our study tract. I treasure being able to know a place so deeply."

Cornell Pilgrimage Resumes



Cornell University graduate students with Emeritus Professor Dr. Harry Greene in a seasonal wetland of the Florida scrub at Archbold. Photo by Dr. Kelly Zamudio.

After missing 2020 due to COVID, the Cornell University pilgrimage to Archbold resumed with gusto in April 2022. Professors from [Cornell's](#)



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[Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology](#)

began bringing their graduate student field ecology course to Archbold in 1970 to facilitate student field investigations. Now led by Dr. Jed Sparks and co-taught by Dr. Kelly Zamudio and Dr. Harry Greene, they were "mighty happy to be back in the Florida scrub". Greene continued, "**I can't exaggerate the looks of awe and delight in our students when they dropped to their hands and knees to look at Sundews, or first watching Florida Scrub-Jays up close and personal! And THEN they spend a couple of weeks being field ecologists, which is to say, asking and answering questions about nature at the Station and Buck Island Ranch.**" Watch our short video [Cornell Pilgrimage](#) to see how the process works. Greene said, "The course starts in the Cornell classroom with their presentations on topics like mangrove ecology, biogeography of Florida, and cattle ranching. Then comes the core two weeks of field work at Archbold, done individually although very much in a group format, and finally the inevitable synthesis—wherein we contemplate back and forth, from individual organisms out to ecosystems and their human cultural contexts." Archbold is thrilled to be part of shaping the next generation of curious scientists and continue our long-term collaboration with

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Cornell. Greene concluded,
"We'll be back!"

Buck Island Ranch Laboratory



Florida Cracker cow at Buck Island Ranch. Photo by Haoyu Li.

Florida is one of the largest cattle-producing states in America. With a rich 500-year history, ranching is a vital part of Florida's heritage, culture, and economy. Yet today, there is increased pressure on ranchers to adopt more sustainable practices while remaining economically viable for future generations. Ranching in Florida is challenged to continue supplying food for a growing population while also maintaining biodiversity and the health of our land, air, and water. **Thanks to ongoing support from our generous donors, we're learning how ranching and the environment can coexist at Buck Island Ranch, Archbold's 10,500-acre cattle ranch that serves as a living laboratory for sustainable ranching practices and conservation.** Buck Island Ranch is also a haven for wildlife, with more than 700 species of plants and animals, including six federally threatened or endangered species documented to date. Here, cowboys and scientists work together in a unique collaboration that's received national recognition, including selection as one of 18 sites nationwide that form the US Department of Agriculture Long-term Agroecosystem Research Network, scaling our work to the nation. With help from friends like you, we're

The Scrub Blog

Nature and Science from Florida's
Heartland

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

[Archbold Facebook Event Calendar](#)



Directions to Archbold Biological Station

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

making vital contributions to discoveries that are reshaping our nation's ideas about agriculture, sustainability, and conservation in the 21st century.

Please help support [Archbold's Spring Campaign here](#). Thank you!

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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