



# ARCHBOLD SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWS for curious minds



## In This Issue:

1. Science of Military Lands
2. Under the Corridor Protection Umbrella
3. Big Apple to Everglades
4. Fire Education
5. New Archbold Apparel

## Science of Military Lands



Dr. Angela Tringali with a trap to capture Florida Scrub-Jays in the Florida scrub. Photo by Dustin Angell.



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There are 8.8 million acres of military training lands managed by the Department of Defense in the US. These lands contain more endangered species than National Park Service lands. **Archbold began monitoring some of the threatened and endangered species at Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) three decades ago including Florida Grasshopper Sparrows, Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers, and Florida Scrub-Jays. Dr. Angela Tringali, Assistant Research Biologist, was just appointed Archbold's Program Director for Conservation Science of Military Lands.** Tringali said, "I am so pleased to continue the science begun by Dr. Reed Bowman that will contribute to conservation with funding from the US Department of Defense. This year Greg Thompson, our Red-cockaded Woodpecker Lead Biologist, documented a record-high number of woodpecker groups at APAFR. Elizabeth Abraham, the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Lead Biologist, continued releasing captive-bred sparrows at APAFR. Hannah Miller, Archbold Research Assistant, saw Florida Scrub-Jays establish territories in areas recently restored." Tringali is also investigating the many factors involved in scrub-jay population growth in the nearby Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area. A grant supports this work through the US Fish & Wildlife Service State of the Birds Program. She said, "By studying the growth of the Lake Wales Ridge population over the last decade, we learn from this success and consider applications for the jays at APAFR and across the state." Her other new project, in collaboration with the University of Central Florida led by Dr. Joshua King, will explore the interactions between fire and Red Imported Fire Ants on a suite of threatened and endangered species at APAFR and the DeLuca Preserve. Welcome on board in your new position Angela!

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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

**Under the Corridor Protection Umbrella**

**Job Announcements**



Buck Island Ranch photo by Carlton Ward Jr.

At the August 23 meeting of the Governor and Cabinet, seven parcels of land totaling 19,897 acres within the Florida Wildlife Corridor were approved for acquisition or conservation easement. **They [announced an option agreement for the state to acquire a conservation easement of 1,883 acres within Archbold's Buck Island Ranch.](#)** The proposed easement will protect valuable grassland habitat and provide connectivity for wildlife, contributing to the Florida Wildlife Corridor by linking conserved land. Dr. Hilary Swain, Archbold Executive Director, said, "**This easement will contribute towards Archbold's ability to sustain Buck Island Ranch as a protected working landscape and a vital long-term research center.**"

Our science drives conservation action by providing data and significant results to inform conservation organizations and the future of Florida's agriculture. We are proud that Buck Island Ranch is a critical part of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, embracing the natural and working lands that make Florida unique, valuable, and the state the world loves to visit." In addition, a new 663-acre conservation easement was approved for our neighbors at Hendrie Ranch. Mallory Dimmitt, Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation and Archbold Board member, said, "Today's public investment of more than \$56 million is significant to big-picture progress as we continue to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the passing of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act."

Grants-In-Aid of  
Research for Visiting  
Scholars

Grassland Bird Field  
Assistants

Administrative  
Assistant at the Ranch



## Big Apple to Everglades



George McKenzie Jr photographing the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Photo by Malia Byrtus.

[George McKenzie Jr](#) arrived at Archbold in December of 2021 to support photographer, writer, and National Geographic Explorer Carlton Ward as an employee in his company [Wildpath](#). McKenzie said, "I manage a network of professional camera trap systems across the Greater Everglades Ecosystem capturing images of Florida Panthers and Black Bears, among other species. We work with Archbold on initiatives around the Florida Wildlife Corridor. And Archbold now serves as the home base for our field program." McKenzie is a National Geographic Society award-winning visual storyteller from Brooklyn, New York. Specializing in wildlife, natural history, and conservation for over ten years, McKenzie was well-prepared for his immersion into the Headwaters of the Everglades. He said, "Moving to the Lake Wales Ridge from New York City was initially a culture shock. But I've come to love this unique and diverse place. The community of Archbold conservationists, researchers, and

### Online Events

**Sept 15:** 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

'Embracing the noise: The value of individual behavioral variation for wildlife ecology and conservation'

Justine Becker,  
Princeton University

[Register here](#)

**Sept 29:** 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

Luca Kuziel, Archbold  
Ranch Intern

[Register here](#)

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

scientists is exceptionally supportive. **Being here inspired me to enroll at Polk State College to pursue a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. My time at Archbold opened my eyes to the importance of landscape connectivity.** Protecting the Florida Wildlife Corridor is critical for the resilience of flora and fauna of all sizes."

## Fire Education



Vivienne Sclater igniting a prescribed fire with a drip torch in the Florida scrub. Photo by Kevin Main.

**Kevin Main has led Archbold's fire management program for 24 years through hundreds of safe prescribed fires and occasional wildfires. His success hinges on his extensive experience and the diverse support of Archbold staff.** Main said, "Trained fire crews are necessary to conduct safe burns." Interns attend annual training to learn basic fire management skills before assisting prescribed burn crews. They often recount this opportunity as a significant highlight of their experience at Archbold. For decades, Bert Crawford, Archbold Operation Manager, Lupe Gonzalez, Archbold Senior Crewman, Dr. Eric Menges, Emeritus Research Biologist, and Roberta Pickert, Retired GIS Director, played significant leadership roles on Archbold's fire crew. Full-time staff may receive training from National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) courses in addition to the State of Florida Certified Prescribed Burn Manager

Training. Vivienne Sclater, Archbold Director of Data and Technology, recently completed the requirements to become a State Certified Prescribed Burn Manager. She said, "When I started at Archbold in 2015, I was excited to participate in my first burn. It's challenging to work out in the sun while igniting native and restored habitats. Seeing the results immediately after the burn and watching the plants regrow afterward is rewarding." Archbold recently hosted a field day for the NWCG Basic Firefighter Training S130/190 course. Main said, "Trainees were introduced to fire equipment and got to experience a small demonstration fire. It was a pleasure to host the field day with so many budding, young firefighters."

## New Archbold Apparel



New Archbold apparel designs available at our [Bonfire store](#).

**Archbold has [two new T-shirt designs](#) just in time for holiday gift giving.** One design features the iconic Zebra Swallowtail butterfly. These dazzling butterflies flutter through the scrub, searching for nectar food and pawpaw plants on which to lay their eggs. The second cigar box design pays homage to Archbold's Buck Island Ranch, our working cattle ranch located in the Headwaters of the Everglades and home to Archbold's Agroecology Program. **Both new designs are available on various apparel, including tanks and tees in several colors, in our [Bonfire storefront](#) until **October 2, 2022.** The T-shirt art is the outcome of many creative artists who submitted designs to an Archbold design contest. We incorporated each**

## 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**

submission into one version for the Station, and one for the Ranch. [A portion of every shirt purchased goes towards Archbold and makes a great gift.](#) Your purchase will help us continue to turn our sound science into conservation action. We are grateful for your support! Thank you.

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

### Correction

*Our story 'Creatures of the Night' (Archbold August Update 2022) incorrectly reported a Sherman's Short-tailed Shrew (*Blarina carolinensis shermani*) documented at Archbold. We regret the error. The correct species ID could not be positively determined from our camera trap photos. Based on a review of the scientific literature, we believe the individual was a Southern Short-tailed Shrew (*Blarina carolinensis peninsulæ*; Benedict et al. 2006). We thank readers Frank Price of the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and Steven Blaine for pointing out the error.*

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