



ARCHBOLD FEBRUARY 2023 NEWS for curious minds



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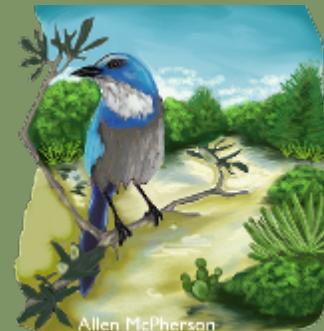
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Eyes on Lake Annie



Aerial of Lake Annie on buoy deployment day by Jennifer Brown.

Almost one year ago, a group of diverse people came together to launch a shiny new data buoy into



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the middle of Archbold's Lake Annie up on the Lake Wales Ridge. The bright yellow buoy bristles with scientific instruments to collect and transmit data every 15 minutes on Lake Annie's waters and weather. Unlike the previous buoy, this is a profiling buoy with sensors moving up and down, collecting data from the surface to the bottom 67 feet below. March 31, 2022, was deployment day or D-Day. The sun rose through the surrounding Florida scrub and wetlands protected by Archbold. The wind stirred the pine treetops as morning traffic noise on Highway 70 blended into the aquatic soundscape. **Our 6-minute video, [Eyes on Lake Annie](#), tells the story of the events leading up to this momentous day.** Meet Andri Laidri, CEO and engineer of [FlyDog Marine](#), who traveled from Estonia to direct the launch of his first buoy in North America. Meet [Dr. Evelyn Gaiser](#), Florida International University Aquatic Ecologist, who is determined to understand how lakes like Lake Annie function. **Gaiser says, "Lakes are the best sentinels of changes on Earth. We just have to listen."** Meet Dr. Amartya Saha, Archbold Ecohydrologist, who is bridging the gap between technology and the science of environmental monitoring. Behind the scenes, we see Dr. Hilary Swain, Archbold Executive Director, overseeing the new buoy launch, and Bert Crawford wading into the waist-high water to facilitate a successful launch alongside Kevin Main, Archbold Land Manager. Funded by the National Science Foundation, Jennifer Brown/[Into Nature Films](#) created this short film. **Watch [Eyes on Lake Annie](#).**

Path of the Panther



Florida Panther photo by Carlton Ward Jr.

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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

[Reserve your Gopher Tortoise License Plate Today](#)



The Gopher Tortoise plate with artwork by [Matt Patterson](#) will be produced once 3,000 vouchers are purchased. Vouchers cost \$33 each. \$25 will go directly towards Gopher Tortoise conservation. [Get yours here.](#)

Perched on the edge of extinction, the Florida Panther is an emblem of a once connected world. The survival of the species depends on the protection of a network of statewide public and private lands, known as the Florida Wildlife Corridor. **The panther's story inspires hope for a future in which both humans and wildlife can thrive in the face of rapid development.** [Wild Path](#) and [Grizzley Creek Films](#) are telling that story in their new film [Path of the Panther](#). Directed by Eric Bendick and produced by Carlton Ward Jr., Thomas Winston, and Tori Linder, the film shows that heroic efforts by wildlife agencies, landowners, sportsmen, lawmakers and broad public support have helped bring the panther back from the brink of extinction. However, with nearly 200 left in the wild, their fight for survival continues in the face of rapid development. Thankfully there is still enough habitat in the Florida Wildlife Corridor to support the panther's recovery, if we come together to protect it before it is too late. **Go see the film, playing in theaters across Florida starting February 24**, to witness the odyssey of heartbreak and hope as the culmination of more than five years in the field, half a million photographs, and over 800 hours of ultra-high-definition camera trap footage document the Florida Panther's fight for survival. Against all odds, the species demonstrates a path forward in which both humans and wildlife can thrive. Visit www.pathofthepanther.com to learn more.

New Avian Ecology Director



Dr. Sahas Barve in the Florida scrub at Archbold. Photo by Jennifer Brown.

Job Announcements

[Florida Grasshopper Sparrow
Research Assistant \(Full-
time\)](#)

[Florida Grasshopper Sparrow
Research Assistant
\(Seasonal\)](#)

[Plant Ecology Research
Assistant](#)

[Postdoctoral Research
Associate: Isotope
Biogeochemistry](#)

Public Events

Science Seminars 3:30 PM

Mar 2: [Dr. Willm Martens-
Habbena](#)

Mar 7: [Dr. David Toews](#)

Mar 16: [Dr. Jason Evans](#)

Feb 22: 10 AM-10:45 AM

'The Science of Conserving
Wildlife Corridors'

The Nature Conservancy &
Archbold

Dr. Reed Bowman's last official day with Archbold was February 3rd. After 32 years at Archbold, Bowman retired as the John W. Fitzpatrick Director of the Avian Ecology Program. **Dr. Sahas Barve is the new John W. Fitzpatrick Director of Avian Ecology.** Sahas began transitioning into his new job in January leading our world-renowned 50+ year study of Florida Scrub-Jays. He said, "As a field biologist through and through, I can't wait to spend quality time with scrub-jays and other native Florida wildlife. Right now is an exciting time to be at Archbold. We are launching new projects using cutting-edge animal tracking and bio-logging technology to understand the effect of climate change on scrub-jays. I am enjoying the opportunity to mentor my first batch of scrub-jay interns who are taking their first steps towards becoming curious scientists and thoughtful ecologists." **His background as an evolutionary ecologist is stellar.** Sahas earned his Master of Science at the Wildlife Institute of India and a Ph.D. from Cornell University, where he studied the drivers of bird distribution in the Himalayan mountains. From 2019-2022, he was the Peter Buck Fellow at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. His past research into the evolutionary drivers of breeding strategies of Acorn Woodpeckers in California aligns with Archbold's research studying the evolution of cooperative breeding in scrub-jays. **He said, "The long-term data on scrub-jays and excellent research infrastructure at Archbold present many exciting opportunities for applied research.** I also look forward to working with the Archbold Education program to engage a wider, more diverse international audience." Welcome, Dr. Barve. The Archbold community and Florida Scrub-Jays are curious about you too.

[Register here](#)

Feb 25: 1:30 PM-3:00 PM

'Amphibious Adventure'

Rachel Fedders, Archbold

Mar 17: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

'Ranch Swamp Buggy Tour'

RSVP [here](#)

Dr. Gregory Sonnier,
Archbold

Mar 18: 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

'Preserving Plants: A Plant Collection Demonstration'

Dr. Aaron David, Archbold

Mar 19: 1:30 PM-2:30 PM

'Florida Scrub-Jays and Bird Science'

Dr. Sahas Barve, Archbold



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Come on Down



Darwin Day Open House on February 12. Photo by Dustin Angell.

The Archbold nature trails are open to the public, Thursdays through Sundays, from 8 AM-5 PM. Grab a trail guide at the Learning Center and embark on a 45-minute journey through the Florida scrub. **Our [public talks and guided tours](#) led by Archbold staff are also back for the first time since March 2020.** We celebrated Darwin Day on February 12 by hosting a unique Open House of our extensive Natural History Collection with 28 curious visitors. Join Rachel Fedders, Archbold Herpetology Research Assistant, for 'Amphibious Adventure' on February 25 at 1:30 PM. Join Dr. Gregory Sonnier, Archbold Assistant Research Biologist, and Agroecology research staff for a 'Ranch Swamp Buggy Tour' on March 17 at 1 PM. RSVP [here](#) for the ranch tour. Join Dr. Aaron David, Archbold Plant Ecology Director, for 'Preserving Plants: A Plant Collection Demonstration' on March 18 at 10 AM, which includes a short hike. Join Dr. Sahas Barve, John W. Fitzpatrick Director of Avian Ecology, for 'Florida Scrub-Jays and Bird Science' on March 19 at 1:30 PM. Join Dustin Angell, Archbold Director of Education, for a 'Guided Ecology Hike' on March 25 and April 22 at 9 AM. Join one of our regular scientific seminars at the Learning Center. All events begin at the Learning Center. Learn more [here](#). Watch our short video [Exploring the Florida Scrub: Archbold's Nature Trail](#) by Jennifer Brown/Into Nature Films for a taste of what you might encounter.



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The Scrub Blog

Nature and Science from Florida's
Heartland

Fun Run



2023 Buck Island Ranch Fun Run participants. Photo by Brett Budach.

This month, Archbold staff and family gathered at Buck Island Ranch, Archbold's 10,500-acre working cattle ranch, for fun, exercise, and camaraderie.

Held nearly every year for over a decade, the Buck Island Ranch Fun Run is a 5-kilometer race through the scenic pastures on the Ranch. This family-friendly event also saw parents, friends, spouses, babies, toddlers, and dogs come out to enjoy the breezy Saturday morning. Shefali Azad, Archbold Data Manager, organized this year's race. There were over 40 participants, from serious runners to leisurely walkers and encouraging helpers. Alana Strauss, Agroecology Research Intern, and Haoyu Li, Archbold Environmental Specialist, tied for first place along with Haoyu's dog Brahma. Joe Gentili, Archbold Librarian, Shefali Azad, and Meredith Heather, Avian Ecology Research Assistant, won the much-coveted award for slowest walkers. Archbold strives to be a welcoming and inclusive work place and is committed to promoting team-building activities, like the Fun Run, for its staff. Zach Forsburg said, "One of the greatest things about working at Archbold is our supportive community.

Activities like the Fun Run bring us closer, making our organization stronger." If you are interested in helping Archbold build capacity and support our mission, please visit our [website](#).

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.

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.

[Archbold Biological Station](#) | [Buck Island Ranch](#) | [Archbold Reserve](#)

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