

Public can 'learn and burn' at Archbold

Special to Highlands Today

VENUS — Nature depends on fire — whether wild or prescribed, fire regenerates.

"It is not only plants and landscapes, but many animals benefit from the after-effects of fire," according to a news release. "How can fire be so important to the regeneration of Florida's natural areas?"

Kevin Main, Archbold land manager, will provide answers to such questions during a "Fire in the Landscape" presentation from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Sunday at the station's Learning Center.

"I will conduct a small demonstration burn to show the benefits of fire for managing native habitat and for Archbold's continuing research needs,"



Main

will be offered, weather permitting.

Along the trail are interpretive signs explaining the nature of the scrub, including signage on the importance of fire.

This trail and all trails at Archbold are open daily, sunrise to sunset, for public exploration.

"One species very dependent on frequent fires for their survival is the Florida scrub jay. They require low and open scrub,

Main said.

The public is invited to attend the free talk and demonstration.

After the discussion and fire demonstration,

where they can easily avoid predators and find adequate food," explained Reed Bowman, director of the avian ecology program and a researcher at Archbold, whose focus is on the Florida scrub jay.

"Research proves that dense vegetation causes scrub jay populations to decline. Scrub jays are a perfect example that fire, with its destructive nature, is beneficial to many of the plants and animals native to Florida."

Archbold Biological Station is 8 miles south of Lake Placid. The entrance is 1.8 miles south of State Road 70 on Old State Road 8.

For more information, go to www.archbold-station.org or call (863) 465-2571.