

Community News



Dustin Angell, education coordinator from Archbold Biological Center, poses for a photo with Mary Birge, branch manager of Harbor Community Bank and director of the Lake Placid Noon Rotary.

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Rotary hears from Archbold education coordinator

LAKE PLACID — Dustin Angell, education coordinator from Archbold Biological Center, Venus, spoke with the Lake Placid Noon Rotary Club.

Archbold offers ecology summer camps at the station, and Angell is in charge of these camps. He just finished seven camp sessions, which give children the opportunity to learn about science firsthand. Angell said, "Some of the children don't know what it means to go hiking. I take them through the woods and swamps and show them nature that they have never had the chance to see. This camp has been in existence for 25 years. Archbold recently teamed up with Delray Plants and had a two-day camp for Delray Plant's employees' children."

He also heads up the Buck Island Ranch tours, driving a swamp buggy ride through a

working ranch, along with free tours for the public, which will restart in October.

They also give field trips for the elementary schools here in Highlands County.

Archbold's founding member Richard Archbold was born in 1907 in New York City and was the heir to the early fortunes of the Standard Oil Co.

Archbold became an internationally renowned aviator and explorer.

In 1941, he moved to Lake Placid to fulfill a dream to establish a permanent biological research station on a 1,000-acre preserve, where scientists could live, explore and conduct research on animals and plants in their native settings.

Following World War II, Archbold continued to support biological explorations in New Guinea and Australia, but he remained in Lake Placid the rest of his life.

Living at the station, he became an active member of the Lake Placid community, assisting countless services organizations. He helped bring electricity

to the rural regions of Highlands County by being the founder of Glades Electric Cooperative.

"He worked constantly at improving the Station's facilities, collections and library, and personally supported the research and living costs of every scientific visitor," a news release states. In 1973, he added 3,000 acres

of adjacent native habitat to the station. Archbold died of cancer in 1976 and left his estate, Archbold Expeditions, to provide permanent core funding for the unique biological station that bears his name.

Archbold Biological Station has been a National Historic Site for 74 years.