



ARCHBOLD FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER for curious minds

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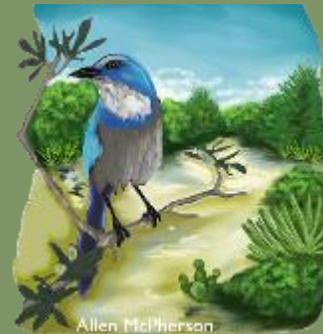
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Vegetation Icon of Florida

We all think we know the Saw Palmetto *Serenoa repens* which occurs in almost ALL Florida uplands. But a [report](#) by Linda Duever on the '**Ecology and Management of Saw Palmetto**' with Archbold contributions reminds us how little we know. Did you know most **palmetto biomass exists belowground** with massive rhizomes to store

carbohydrates ([Abrahamson 2009](#)). Understanding carbohydrate storage is key to understanding flowering, fruiting, leaf growth, and fire responses with implications for multispecies management. Hundreds of insect species tank up at palmetto flowers which fuels biodiversity ([Deyrup 2012](#)). Quail, foxes, turkey, deer, tortoises and especially Black Bears eat palmetto fruit. Bears and panthers require dense palmetto thickets for denning while Florida Scrub-Jays require low and open scrub. 'If Saw Palmetto is not the **plant species most highly used by Florida wildlife**, it certainly is in close contention for that honor' ([Maehr and Layne 1996](#)). Read full report [here!](#)



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Highlights from 20 Spatial Years

Roberta Pickert has been mapping Archbold's world for 20 years as our Geographic Information System (GIS) Manager. After collecting and managing data ranging from fire histories to scrub-jay territories to water distribution to Black Bear movements, Roberta is retiring this summer. 'I have been honored to work with the many dedicated scientists here

providing maps and spatial data to advance science, conservation, and restoration. **The use of spatial data has transformed how our research is addressed**, allowing a fuller examination of the biology and ecological functions of Archbold lands and waters, the Lake Wales Ridge, and the surrounding landscapes. These data have informed decision-makers at the local, regional, and state level. For a passionate GIS junkie like myself, it does not get better than that'. Good luck on your next adventure in the Land Down Under Roberta! Please share the upcoming GIS Manager job announcement [here](#).



Science Bugs

Don't miss the [Science Bugs show](#) on exhibit until **March 5, 2015** at the South Florida State College Museum of Florida Arts

& Culture in Avon Park! 'All the insects in Science Bugs are locals of Highlands County, found on the Lake Wales Ridge and part of the entomological studies at Archbold (exhibit excerpt)'. The **three artists represented in Science Bugs demonstrate different artistic approaches**. Field Photography by Tim Lethbridge offers a glimpse into the lives and ecological roles of insects. Studio portraits by Dustin Angell, Archbold Education Coordinator, shows specimens collected, identified, and preserved for science. Drawings by Dr. Mark Deyrup, Archbold Entomology Director, represent the minute details needed for scientists to identify species. Angell, also the show's designer, commented 'Photographing the insects in Archbold's collection was a **way for me to learn about entomology** and use photography for education and conservation. Hopefully viewers will visit Archbold to learn more!'



Connect with us on Facebook!



Check out our Youtube Videos!

"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

Upcoming Public Events

Feb 28: 8:30 am-10:00 am
Making a Living in Scrub:
The Natural History of the
Florida Scrub-Jay
Dr. Reed Bowman, Archbold

Mar 14: 10:00 am-11:00 am
[Pygmy Fringe Tree Wildflower
Festival](#)
Walking Tour
Stacy Smith, Archbold

Mar 27: 7:00 pm-8:30pm
Stargazing Telescope Night
Family Activities
Kye Ewing, Archbold
Dustin Angell, Education
Coordinator



Top 10 Conservation Messaging Tips

In her recent [blog](#) written for the **Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation**, Hilary Swain, Archbold Executive Director, begins with a basic, challenging question that stumps most public audiences: 'Where does all the weight in this downed log come from'? Then, using experiential knowledge and links to additional reading that served to inspire her, **Swain shares her personal top 10 tips to improve conservation messaging**: 1) Provoke Emotion; 2) Provoke Thought and Inquiry; 3) Speak in Anecdotes. Share Epic Narratives; 4) Know Your Audiences. Find Common Ground; 5) Speak with Other Voices. Use Other Messengers; 6) Think Globally. Translate Locally; 7) Address Other Perspectives; 8) Engage Artists and Writers; 9) Don't Create Paroxysms of Despair; and 10) Marketing to People Who Don't Seem to Care About Nature. She wishes she had realized these 30 years ago, but **it's never too late to try new approaches**.



Invest in an Enduring Organization

Archbold invites you to help protect Florida's ridges, ranches, and rivers by supporting our research, conservation, and education programs. Your annual financial contributions will cover costs not met by grants, contracts, and endowment, allowing Archbold to launch or expand timely projects; make vital capital improvements; offer public lectures, workshops, and activities; and attract and retain talented staff. Opportunities also exist to designate funds for specific projects. **Supporters in the Founders Circle** receive special opportunities to meet with Archbold's senior scientists and learn about their exciting research with plants and animals, some found nowhere else on Earth. Founders and Friends receive our monthly e-newsletter and invitations to events throughout the year. **You can play an integral part in helping Archbold** understand, interpret, and protect Florida's wild and working lands. To make your gift today, go [here](#) or [email](#) us!

[Archbold Facebook Event Calendar](#)



Archbold conducted a safe, beneficial prescribed fire in long unburned sandhill habitat on January 7 with Eric Menges as the burn boss.

Directions to Archbold Biological Station

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



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