



ARCHBOLD DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

for curious minds



In This Issue:

1. Be Part of Amazing Archbold
2. Line in the Sand
3. Moving Woodpeckers
4. Scrub SEEDS
5. Conservation through Collaboration

Be Part of Amazing Archbold



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See this short [video](#) to learn about the power of a gift to Archbold.

We hope you will take a moment and make a gift to Archbold because your help has never been more important. One click [here](#) to donate now! **Our short [video](#) showcases the power of your gift to Archbold** by somebody who knows it well, Dr. Mark Deyrup, Archbold Entomology Program Director. Deyrup shares his fascination for the one-of-a-kind Florida scrub at Archbold saying, 'When you look out over this sandy world that is so special, you need to know that something much less special could have happened here. It could have been a strip mall or a golf course... Something we already have a lot of. The only reason that did not happen is because...'. Watch our beautiful video ['Be Part of Amazing Archbold'](#) to see for yourself.

Line in the Sand



Josephine Creek, Highlands County, Florida

[New DNA research](#) reveals that **Josephine Creek, a stream between Lake Placid and Sebring flowing east into Lake Istokpoga, divides the [Peninsula Crowned Snake](#) species into a central and southern subpopulation on the Lake Wales Ridge.** 'The geological history of peninsular Florida includes large-scale changes in sea level that could have isolated different sections of Florida scrub habitat at different times' creating a genetic break around Josephine Creek for not only the Peninsula Crowned Snake but also

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— Edward O. Wilson



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the Florida Sand Skink (Federally Threatened), Florida Scrub Lizard, Blue-tailed Mole Skink (Federally Threatened), and many scrub endemic plants. Today with sea levels much lower, Josephine Creek is a movement corridor for bear and occasional panther. The results 'may also be explained by more recent migration across Josephine Creek'. Author [Aaron Schrey](#) (Armstrong State University) explains 'Our results further highlight the value of the Florida scrub at Archbold Biological Station, as this location has a genetically diverse array of the Peninsula Crowned Snake as well as the Florida Sand Skink, Florida Scrub Lizard, and Blue-tailed Mole Skink'.

Moving Woodpeckers



Male Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Avon Park Air Force Range

Biologists from Archbold's Avian Ecology Program traveled to [Osceola National Forest](#) in north Florida to bring six Federally Endangered Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (RCWs) back to Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR). Called 'translocation', moving birds among populations is an essential management tool along with prescribed fire and tree cavity management. Our biologists spent a week assisting US Forest Service staff find where each of the woodpeckers was roosting at night before capturing them at their pine tree cavity. Osceola National Forest is considered a

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'donor property' with a large, stable population of RCWs that can afford to donate birds to smaller conservation lands with the potential for population growth. The six RCWs were transported through the night, then placed in selected cavity trees and released at dawn with a potential mate. Over the years, we have moved 48 RCWs to APAFR helping to grow the population. These birds have likely **increased genetic diversity at APAFR and reduced hatching failure, both of which increase the health of the population** (unpublished data from APAFR).

Scrub SEEDS



SEEDS students gather examples of different kinds of oak galls and sort them to practice identification skills.

Archbold welcomed students from the [SEEDS Chapters](#) at Florida International University, Florida Atlantic University and Bethune-Cookman University for a Fall field trip. **SEEDS (Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity and Sustainability) is the flagship education program of the [Ecological Society of America](#). The mission of SEEDS is to diversify and advance ecology through opportunities for underrepresented students. **Among many activities, including a swamp buggy ride at the [MacArthur Agro-ecology Research Center](#) working ranchland, the SEEDS students participated in a new research project on oak galls.** Archbold scientists joined the SEEDS students in collecting data to determine if a heavy oak gall burden reduces acorn production.**

[Archbold Facebook Event Calendar](#)

Upcoming Public Events

Dec 19: 9:30am-11:00am

'Family Nature Day'

Decorate a Christmas Scrub tree; Make edible decorations for wildlife to hang from our Christmas Scrub tree; Take your creation home!

Dustin Angell, Archbold

Jan 24: 1:30pm-3:00pm

'Scrub Bugs'

Walking Tour

Dr. Mark Deyrup, Archbold

Feb 6: 9:00am-11:00am

Students from Princeton University collected similar data earlier in November. Initial analyses indicate 'we need more data'. The SEEDS field trip also included a session with a panel of local professionals from different academia, resource management, and conservation organizations to discuss preparing for various career possibilities.

Conservation through Collaboration



A field trip to a river bank restoration project in Arkansas where The Nature Conservancy is working with local residents and city parks.

Rainfall did not dampen the curious spirits of Becca Tucker, Archbold Research Assistant, and Dr. Eric Menges, Archbold Plant Ecology Program Director, at the [Natural Areas Conference](#) in Little Rock, Arkansas in early November. The theme was 'Conservation through Collaboration'. Tucker said, '**It was a meeting of like-minded people from all levels about how science can connect ecological professionals with everyday citizens through outreach and public engagement, as well as how the success of individual restorations often hinges on many agencies working together towards a common goal**'. In addition to some stormy field trips to ongoing restoration projects, Tucker presented a poster about pasture seed bank response during wetland restoration on the [Archbold Reserve](#). Menges presented 'Evaluation of a fire management plan in a Florida landscape'. As editor of the [Natural Areas Journal](#), Menges also summarized developments with the journal. Tucker

'Fire in the Florida Ecosystem'

Lecture & Demonstration

Kevin Main, Archbold

Directions to Archbold Biological Station

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



added, 'The trip rejuvenated my interest in natural areas stewardship, and I have brought some of that enthusiasm back to Archbold!'

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