



ARCHBOLD OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER for curious minds



In This Issue:

1. Battle of the Rosemary Bald
2. Spotlight on Tortoises
3. Rob Returns!
4. What is the Organization of Biological Field Stations?
5. Recruiting Science Data Volunteers

Battle of the Rosemary Bald



High elevation Rosemary bald on a foggy morning in the Florida scrub.

Hike to the highest elevations of remaining scrub on the Lake Wales Ridge and you'll encounter Rosemary scrub, also called Rosemary balds, dominated by [Florida rosemary](#) *Ceratiola ericoides* (no relation to the culinary rosemary). Many herbs grow in the 'bald' sandy gaps where they can stay clear of the chemical arsenal from their unfriendly shrub neighbor, Florida rosemary. This is where chemistry meets ecology in a plant interaction called allelopathy. **Rainfall releases the chemical ceratiolin from Florida rosemary leaves and roots which degrades to hydrocinnamic acid.** Dr. Eric Menges, Archbold Plant Ecology Director, and his interns ([2002](#) & [2007](#)) found that **rosemary**



[Donate Now](#)

Please be on the look-out for Archbold's Annual Appeal: Coming Soon to a Mailbox Near You!

allelochemicals inhibits the nearby germination of other herbs like Federally Endangered [Highlands Scrub *Hypericum* *Hypericum cumulicola*](#). Recently, Archbold intern Susan Deans found that Deer Moss *Cladonia evansii*, a ground lichen that can form dense mats in Rosemary scrub, reduced germination of neighboring herbs through physical interference, but there was **no evidence for lichen allelopathy**. Looks like, for now, rosemary rules the high scrub!

Spotlight on Tortoises



Nicole White leads the field trip to Archbold's long-term tortoise monitoring site established in 1967 by Dr. Jim Layne. Monitoring continues today with funding from [Disney Conservation Fund](#).

Archbold welcomed 100 tortoise aficionados from 24 agencies and other organizations to a **Gopher Tortoise-focused meeting of the [Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Working Group](#) on September 18th**. The morning included talks about tortoise social behaviors by Dr. Craig Guyer ([Auburn University](#)) and Nicole White ([University of Georgia](#)) and an overview of insects that depend on tortoises (and their dung) by Dr. Mark Deyrup (Archbold Entomology Director). **These talks underscored the complex ways tortoises interact with each other and other species in sandhill and scrub.** [FWC's](#) Gopher Tortoise Plan Coordinator, Deborah Burr, presented the status of tortoises on public lands with an update on regulatory requirements. Dr. Betsie Rothermel, Archbold Herpetology Director, organized the event and presented an Archbold case study of restoring fire-suppressed sandhill for tortoises, commenting, 'With so many groups represented, there was a lot of information sharing. **It was great to see this much energy and attention focused toward tortoise conservation on the Ridge!**'

[Archbold Biological Station Website](#)

[Subscribe to our Newsletter](#)



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

Rob Returns!



Rob Aldredge near flatwoods habitat at Avon Park Air Force Range.

Dr. Rob Aldredge is Archbold's 'new' postdoctoral research fellow in the [Avian Ecology Program](#), overseeing their research at Avon Park Air Force Range. No stranger to Archbold, Rob was an intern in the Avian Ecology Program ten years ago saying, 'I then continued working at Archbold as a graduate student looking at how incubation behavior of female Florida Scrub-Jays influences offspring survival. **I look forward to analyzing the incredible long-term datasets and sharing what we have learned over the last 20+ years on three imperiled bird species at the Range: Florida Scrub-Jays, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, and critically endangered Florida Grasshopper Sparrows.** So far, I am really enjoying the unique working collaboration between military and civilian staff here. It is amazing to have Sandhill Cranes calling outside my office window, and then hear military missions in the distance. A big reason that I took this position is because of all of the wonderful people associated with Archbold Biological Station.'



Archbold Job Openings

[Development Assistant](#)

[Data Assistant](#)

[Assistant Collections Manager](#)

More information [here!](#)

Upcoming Public Events

Oct 29: 3:30pm-4:30pm

Pasture management, fire and grazing: Interacting disturbances affect wetland communities

Dr. Betsey Boughton,
Archbold/MAERC

[Archbold Facebook Event Calendar](#)

What is the Organization of Biological Field Stations?



The views at the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab (RMBL) were unendingly distracting during the OBFS meeting. Photo courtesy of RMBL.

Archbold is a member of the [Organization of Biological Field Stations](#) (OBFS), an umbrella group of field station directors and managers that meets annually to share knowledge, attend training, and listen to talks. Meetings are always held at field stations with the 2012 venue at Archbold. The September 2015 meeting 'Communicating The Value Of Field Stations To Policy Makers And The Public' was at the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab (RMBL), a stunning mountain setting upslope from Crested Butte, Colorado. Hilary Swain, Archbold Director, and Mary Hufty, Board Chairman, joined 120 other participants in a wonderful week of field trips and tours. Hufty is also the OBFS historian and an OBFS board member. **Swain was engaged in four workshops including one for setting metrics to measure success, and two in conjunction with [iDigBio](#) for training the community how to digitize their natural history collections.** Swain said, 'No big surprise, such a grouping of directors leads to a lot of shared hilarity, although it was hard to catch enough breath at 9,500' elevation to laugh heartily'.



New [Scrub Blog](#) story features Dr. Warren 'Abe' Abrahamson who has studied plant and fire relationships at Archbold since 1972!

Recruiting Science Data Volunteers



Dr. Reed Bowman (left) showing volunteers the Archbold mammal collection during the 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Event. Ed Cunningham (right) helps with digitizing data from the mammal collection. Janet Phipps and Marylou Woodard (to the right) work together compiling extensive data entries for the Florida Scrub-Jay monthly census.

Archbold scientists are constantly in the field collecting data about species such as Gopher Tortoises, Florida Scrub-Jays, plants, and scrub bugs. It is a challenge to keep up with data entry and checking that data are correct is essential for good science. **Archbold is always looking for local, computer savvy people willing to help us with the job of conscientious data entry!** Data [volunteer opportunities](#) exist in the Avian Ecology Program with Dr. Reed Bowman and Entomology Program with Dr. Mark Deyrup. All are welcome to inquire about this unique opportunity to work with Archbold scientists and staff while learning about Florida plants and animals. Since 1995, **volunteers have become a very important part of Archbold's activities.** Contact [863-465-2571](tel:863-465-2571) or email [here](#) for [more information](#). Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and we hope to meet some new ones!



Directions to Archbold Biological Station

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

[Archbold Biological Station](#) | [MacArthur Agro-ecology Research Center](#) | [Archbold Reserve](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Directions](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Donate](#)

We are a publicly supported organization exempt from income taxes under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Archbold](#)

123 Main Drive, Venus, FL 33960

