



Louise Barton

## ARCHBOLD OCTOBER 2016 NEWS for curious minds



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### Ranch Water Holdup



Dustin Angell

Steffan Pierre on a platform designed to keep his feet dry while performing maintenance on NE-PES monitoring equipment.

The next time it rains in central Florida, some of that water will likely flow through a cattle ranch on its way to Lake Okeechobee. **Ranchers are working with South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to hold back water in some ditches and wetlands on their property during the wet season.**

Archbold's [MacArthur Agro-ecology Research Center \(MAERC\)](#) (Buck Island Ranch) is participating and monitoring this project called the **Northern Everglades Payment for Environmental Services**



Allen McPherson

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**(NE-PES).** NE-PES allows time for water to be cleaned naturally as it resides longer in wetlands and percolates slowly into the soil. Steffan Pierre, Archbold Research Assistant, maintains the NE-PES monitoring stations with once-a-month checkups. The solar powered stations send data wirelessly for Archbold researchers to monitor. NE-PES helps safeguard ranches from development while protecting Florida habitat and wildlife, like Burrowing Owls, Crested Caracaras, wading birds, and large-ranging wildlife like Florida Panthers. The NE-PES project is not enough to solve our nutrient-rich water pollution, especially with Florida's increasing population, but it is a start. Read the full story in [The Scrub Blog](#).

### Two Florida Scrub Beetles Get Names



*Pachybrachis deyrupi*

*Pachybrachis deyrupi* (dorsal and lateral view) collected by Mark and Nancy Deyrup on Small's Jointweed (*Polygonella myriophylla*) in May 2010. Length is just 2.5 mm!

**'The age of biodiversity exploration is not past, it is now', says Dr. Mark Deyrup. Two new beetle species collected by Deyrup at Archbold** sat "unidentified" in the Archbold collection for years. Fortunately, **Robert Barney, a specialist from West Virginia State University, described them as *Pachybrachis archboldi* and *P. deyrupi* in [The Coleopterists Bulletin](#).** Deyrup continued, 'Pachybrachis is a large genus of seldom-seen beetles pronounced "Pack' ee brack' is.". The genus is a roboticist's fantasy: A tiny, cylindrical, painted porcelain box is tightly locked. As if on signal, it activates. Two long antennae appear, a head peeps out, six legs unfold, and the little box scampers away. The larvae eat the dead leaves at the base of the host plant, while the adults nibble live

"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

foliage up above. *Pachybrachis archboldi* lives on Florida Rosemary (*Ceratiola ericoides*), *P. deyrupi* on Small's Jointweed (*Polygonella myriophylla*). When disturbed, adults withdraw all their appendages and tumble down through the leaves to the ground. It is both frustrating and wonderful that there are far more insects in the world than biologists able to describe them.'

## Reflections on 25 Years



Dr. Reed Bowman banding Florida Scrub-Jay in Florida scrub with Avian Ecology intern.

**'After 25 years, I have developed a profound respect for the important of scale, across time and space', says Dr. Reed Bowman, Archbold Avian Ecology Program Director.** 'We develop 10-year research plans that we implement day by day, but our data span many decades and many generations of individual species. We teach students one by one and then suddenly they are professors themselves, sending new interns to our labs. The scale of our prescribed fires is measured in acres yet we develop conservation plans for entire species. As curious naturalists, we are intrigued by minute details or observations but we are constantly integrating those details into the "big picture". And yet, **appreciating the full suite of applications of our data...the "big picture", is often the most difficult skill to teach.** It accumulates over time and is thus scale-dependent itself. However, Archbold's integration of research, conservation, and education fosters that thinking, which I think is critically important.'

## Archbold Heads North to Alaska

## Upcoming Events

### Florida Ornithological Society Meeting Rescheduled for November!

Presentations focusing on birds from the Lake Wales Ridge and South Florida. Field trips and a morning Florida Scrub-Jay walk with Dr. Reed Bowman. Learn more [here](#).





Organization of Biological Field Stations 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Sitka, Alaska. Can you find Hilary Swain, Archbold Executive Director? The [Organization of Biological Field Stations \(OBFS\)](#) held their **50th Anniversary Annual Meeting this September in Sitka, Alaska at the Sitka Sound Science Center**. OBFS is a vibrant organization with about 125 field station members attending from around North Americas plus a few international stations. Archbold was celebrated as one of the original OBFS founding members from 1967 while welcoming new members joining this year. There were wonderful field trips with Humpback Whales, Sea Otters, rivers lined with various species of salmon, and several sightings of Grizzly Bears. Archbold was represented by Executive Director Hilary Swain and Board member Schellie Archbold. **Swain gave a presentation on the progress of digitizing our natural history collections**. There were many useful sessions on communications, fundraising, arts at field stations, working with community colleges, and data management. Swain said, 'It is rewarding to be a member of such a sharing, wonderful community'.

## Live on the Radio

Check out our Youtube Videos!



Connect with us on Facebook!

[Archbold Facebook Event Calendar](#)

## 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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## COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

**Deborah Pollard, Archbold Development Director, and Hilary Swain enjoyed talking on [WGCU radio](#) about Archbold's science, education, and conservation programs during the 3rd Annual Community Campaign fundraising drive.** WGCU, Southwest Florida's national public radio station, teamed up with area nonprofits to raise money for public radio while building awareness for fellow nonprofits over a 7-day period in mid-September. Archbold was live on-air from 9am-10am September 14 raising over \$1,300 for WGCU and earning 35 promotional spots for the coming year. Pollard reported, 'WGCU raised a total of over \$150,000 for Public Radio during this win-win community campaign'. Swain added, 'When you put those headphones on, it is a challenge to be engaging and stay on message while that countdown clock is ticking down. We appreciate the opportunity WGCU offered to Archbold to share our stories with their audience. Thank you to everyone who donated to WGCU on behalf of Archbold in this 2 for 1 gift!'

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