

ARCHBOLD JULY 2017 NEWS for curious minds



In This Issue:

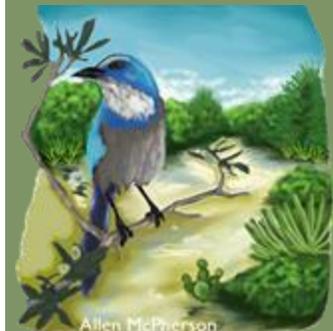
1. Teaching Biology in the Field
2. Remembering Jim Layne
3. Scrub Camp Turns 25!
4. How I Fell in Love with Florida Scrub
5. Technology Gift

Teaching Biology in the Field



Archbold Biological Station is a mecca for welcoming field studies.

When you live in the delightful Archbold bubble, with students flocking here from all around the world, it seems so obvious that, **'Learning that occurs in a field setting is a powerful experience that promotes the development of new generations of creative scientists, enhances environmental literacy, and instills social responsibility in our citizens.'** But a paper about [Teaching Biology in the Field](#) recently published in *Bioscience* by lead author Tom Fleischner and coauthor, among many, Archbold Director Hilary Swain, paints a challenging picture of the declining health of field studies. The authors note that, 'Institutional challenges to field studies include decreasing financial resources and increasing regulatory concerns. These are coupled with changing student interests, in particular the growing misconception that field study is not relevant to many biological careers. Collectively, these factors contribute to a significant decline in field-study opportunities for students and lack of pedagogical guidance for instructors interested in conducting field courses.' The article has many positive ideas to counteract these trends: 'We suggest expanding the definition of "the field" to include human-influenced ecosystems, as well as more conventional natural habitats. More than ever, the world needs the passion, insight, and wisdom that come from field studies.'



Allen McPherson

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Remembering Jim Layne



Dr. Layne (1926-2017) holding a Crested Caracara in 1974.

June 8, 2017 marked a special anniversary for Archbold Biological Station and Highlands County. 50 years ago on June 8, 1967, [Dr. James Layne](#) was appointed as the first Director of Research at Archbold by its founder, Richard Archbold. In the ensuing 26 years Jim became the institutional cornerstone who first advanced Archbold's vision of the Station as a world-renowned facility. Sadly, just two days later on June 10, 2017, Dr. Layne passed away at his home in Lake Placid. Dr. Layne's training and expertise mostly centered on mammals. Before coming to Archbold, he had served on the faculty at the University of Florida and at Cornell University, his Alma Mater. He was attracted to Archbold by 'the lure of excellent facilities, unlimited time for research, and living in a part of the country that appeals to me very much.' Dr. Layne did not limit his career to mammals. He also studied Crested Caracaras, Kestrels, Sandhill Cranes, Gopher Tortoises and Indigo Snakes. One of his first research projects he began was on Gopher Tortoises in 1967. This study, now the longest running Gopher Tortoise study anywhere, continues to this day managed by the next generation of Archbold researchers. Realizing that environmental education is an important part of science and conservation, Dr. Layne started a variety of education programs that are still carried out today. He initiated Archbold's research internship program that brings college students from across the country for training at Archbold. In an unbroken chain from Richard Archbold to Dr. Layne to the present and the future, Archbold continues to understand and conserve our precious natural heritage extending Dr. Layne's enduring legacy.

"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

Scrub Camp Turns 25!



Archbold Scrub Campers explore a seasonal pond in the Florida scrub.

What do you remember about your childhood summers? Many of us fondly recall catching frogs and fireflies, spotting animal tracks and wildlife, or hiking and swimming. **This summer marks Archbold Biological Station's 25th year creating memories like these for children attending the [Ecology Summer Camp](#).**

The camp emphasizes outdoor activities in nature and engagement with scientists. It is a science camp designed to meet the needs of all children including future scientists and non-scientists alike. Archbold's Educator Coordinator, Dustin Angell, offers a mix of lesson styles and activities saying, 'I try to incorporate music, art, physical movement, or gameplay into the learning. For example, this summer when teaching about Florida Scrub-Jays, we first have researchers give short talks about the birds. Then, we let the kids play a game where they physically act out the life of a jay family in team competitions, and finish by letting them share what they experienced.' One camper in the first session has big plans saying, 'I don't want to forget this awesome summer camp and the things we do. I also like that we saw a lot of wildlife! I will work here and be a scientist because this place inspired me.' Angell added, 'I hope they all fall in love with Highlands County and feel they have a role to play as citizens and environmental stewards.'

[Archbold Facebook Event Calendar](#)



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How I Fell in Love with Florida Scrub



Dr. Jim Carrel using calipers to measure the width of a Burrowing Wolf Spider burrow.

Dr. Jim Carrel, Archbold Research Associate and former University of Missouri Professor, presented '50 Years of Field Research at Archbold: How I fell in love with Florida Scrub' on June 3, 2017. Nearly 75 people, including Jim's family, members of the public as well as the Archbold community gathered to hear him share his wonderful stories and insights. He explained how he began his research at Archbold 50 years ago in June 1967. Jim reminisced on his many interactions with Richard Archbold, the founder of the Station, and Thomas Eisner, a former Archbold Research Associate from Cornell University. He told memorable stories of meeting Richard Archbold as a young student. Over these 50 years, Jim has made over 70 visits to Archbold, and studied more than 26 different animal species in a variety of research projects while publishing 30 scientific papers on his work here. Now retired, he continues to conduct field studies on spiders and insects at Archbold. Jim shared, 'I find the long hours out in the harsh scrub habitats to be a rejuvenating, almost transcendental experience. In daytime, I find it to be quiet and peaceful, hardly an animal can be seen, but at night the scrub comes alive as thousands of animals emerge from their daytime retreats to carry out their life's agendas. **I am in awe of how much I have learned and about how little we really comprehend about the intricate workings of the natural communities at Archbold.** To quote Tom Eisner: "So many species, so little time".'



Check out our Youtube Videos!

Technology Gift



Citizen scientist campers share data on iPad tablets during a buggy ride at [Buck Island Ranch](#).

Every summer, Scrub Campers enjoy nature immersion, meeting scientists, and engaging in discovery. Because of the wonderful support of donors who give sponsorships for Scrub Camp each year, we have once again filled each camp session. **This year, we are grateful for a generous gift from Reflections on Silver Lake in Avon Park. With this gift, [Archbold Education](#) introduced a new program that incorporates digital tablet technology with citizen science.** Campers use tablets to document exotic ambrosia beetles found in their insect traps as part of the [University of Florida's Backyard Bark Beetles Project](#). These beetles attack healthy Red Bay trees causing laurel wilt disease. Campers are also participating in a photo Bioblitz by photographing as many species as they can for a web portal called [iNaturalist.org](#). After uploading their pictures, naturalists and scientists from around the world help them identify the species. This exciting new camp program allows the campers to become content creators blending nature with science, art, and technology. Thank you Reflections on Silver Lake and everyone who contributes to the wild success of our [Scrub Camp Program](#), now 25 years in the making. If you would like to contribute to keep the tradition going, [click here](#).

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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