



Reed Bowman

## ARCHBOLD MAY 2019 NEWS for curious minds



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### Archbold Purchases Buck Island Ranch



Carlton Ward

Buck Island Ranch cattle operation.

Thirty years ago, a partnership between Archbold Biological Station and Buck Island Ranch inspired a new mission: cowboys and scientists working together to advance scientific discovery on a ten thousand acre working cattle ranch. Bridging this scientific and cultural divide has resulted in a series of transformative scientific discoveries that have begun to reshape approaches to agriculture, sustainability, and conservation in the 21st century. **Archbold is pleased to announce that we have taken advantage of a tremendous opportunity to purchase Buck Island Ranch from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, making the Ranch part of Archbold forever.** Archbold is thrilled to make this announcement, one that preserves and protects this important piece of Florida's heritage and natural



Allen McPherson

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"Archbold Biological Station is one of America's iconic centers of continuous research and education in field biology. It is a

habitat, and advances science and conservation in Florida and beyond. Buck Island Ranch is a natural laboratory to conduct scientific fieldwork here and throughout the vast ranchlands that form the headwaters of the Everglades. We need your help. Click [here](#) to help Archbold with our fundraising efforts to complete this amazing purchase.

## Two New Ranch Films



Screen shot from 'Cowboys & Scientists' film.

**Transport yourself to the beautiful and inspiring people and place of Buck Island Ranch with our two new short films.** Archbold released these films to serve as a celebration, promotion, and search for support for Buck Island Ranch. '[Cowboys & Scientists](#)' by [Grizzly Creek Films](#) provides a compelling overview of the relevance of the Ranch for science, conservation, and education. The story is seen through the eyes of Ranch Manager and cowboy Gene Lollis, scientist Betsey Boughton and Director Hilary Swain. '[The Science of a Florida Ranch](#)' by [Into Nature Films](#) features our exciting research projects illuminating the ecology of a working cattle ranch. 'Cowboys & Scientists' is also on the road at film festivals throughout the country. Enjoy and share!

## All of Life's Experiences...

prototype of what we need all across America."  
— Edward O. Wilson

## Grants-In-Aid of Research for Visiting Scholars

New field research opportunity for young scholars at Archbold. Archbold will award two grants-in-aid of research by visiting scholars in 2019. Applications are due by April 4th at 5PM awarded by April 30th, and available for the 2019 field season. [Click here](#) for more information and instructions for applying.

## Public Events

May 15: 3:30-4:30 PM



Dr. Hilary Swain, Archbold Executive Director, at Buck Island Ranch under a Live Oak Tree.

Archbold's Executive Director, Dr. Hilary Swain, is often asked, "How can I get a job at a biological field station?". In the April edition of the [Ecological Society of America 'Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment' publication](#), she writes, "Invariably my response is that all of life's experiences will count." Everyone working on Archbold's 20,000 acres wears multiple wide-brimmed hats to cover the vast array of responsibilities and to adapt to the interdisciplinary culture. At the helm of the ship, the Executive Director wears hundreds of hats. Swain began her career back in the United Kingdom and was recruited by Archbold while she was faculty at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL. She writes, "It is vital to convey a passionate sense of place, and to take part in the special role field station ecologists play in applying science toward local conservation, and explaining research findings in a global context." Anyone who has seen Swain speak knows of her boundless enthusiasm for science, conservation, management, and education not only at Archbold but throughout Florida. Her typical day may range from overseeing wetland restoration to grant writing to intern training to hosting guests for fundraising. She concludes, **"A field station career is not a linear progression, a beginning to an end, but rather is a river gathering all of life's valuable tributaries of experiences as it flows to the sea."** Read the full publication [here](#).

## Interns on the Fireline

'How Tall is the Gall?'

Intern Seminar

Jane Jordan, Archbold Plant Ecology



Check out our Youtube Videos!



Archbold Interns and Research Assistants after a successful prescribed burn in the Florida scrub.

[Archbold Land Management](#) has been busy burning open pastures and prairies on the Reserve and Buck Island Ranch along with sandhill habitat on Red Hill. Kevin Main, Archbold Land Manager, shared, "It usually takes a crew of at least 4-8 people to conduct a safe burn operation. Experienced staff are necessary for crew leaders, but with some training, volunteers and interns are also a valuable part of the fire crew. **Most interns want to help on as many burns as they can during their time at Archbold.** Interns receive training before the burn covering basics in fire ecology, techniques for lighting and suppressing fire, and important safety considerations. While supervised by a crew boss, interns are involved in all aspects of the burn including lighting the fire with a drip torch, driving the fire trucks, and riding ATVs looking for any escaped fire spots outside the burn unit." Previous Avian Ecology intern and current Research Assistant Becky Windsor shared, "My first burn will always remain the most vivid in my mind. **It was fascinating to learn the mechanics of burn management and experience the camaraderie throughout the burn. Everyone was working together to transform the landscape.** At first glance, the blackened landscape seemed dead and void of life. But when I returned to the area a couple of days later, I found a beautiful renewed ecosystem with bright green plants sprouting out from the black soil."

**For the Children**



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The Scrub Blog

Nature and Science from Florida's  
Heartland



Dustin Angell

Alan Rivero shows campers how to check fish traps at a seasonal pond at Archbold during Summer Ecology Camp.

For some children, experiencing nature happens during their first trip to Archbold. That impact can last a lifetime. We [still need to raise the necessary funding](#) to support our growing Education Program. Many of you received letters asking to help Archbold with this beloved program, now dating more than 30 years, serving children the very best science here at Archbold. As we all reflected last weekend about what it means to celebrate Mother's Day, let's remember our children.

**All children need a safe, nurturing place to discover, explore, and share the wonder and beauty of science and nature.** We hope you will consider a gift to Archbold for Education. Our goal is to invest in the most important asset of all—our children. To help Archbold, [give here](#). We are grateful for all you do to support Archbold.

Explore [The Scrub Blog](#) by Archbold creative staff.

### 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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