



Reed Bowman

ARCHBOLD JULY 2020 NEWS for curious minds



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How Birds Can Save the World



Dr. John Fitzpatrick delivers his online presentation via Zoom.

Dr. John Fitzpatrick began his online presentation '[How Birds Can Save the World](#)' for Archbold's Distinguished Speaker Series asking, "Is it possible for us to coexist on this planet over the long-term with stable and intact natural systems?" Fitzpatrick is the past Executive Director of Archbold ('88-'95) and current Director of the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) (the Lab). He revealed four powers of birds including: 1) Superb models for showing us how nature works; 2) Environmental



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indicators; 3) Migration by the billions each year across the planet is like a global heartbeat of annual cycles; 4) Universal appeal to the human spirit. eBird embodies all four of these powers. Begun by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with Fitzpatrick at the helm in the late 1990s, [eBird](#) is a powerful online citizen science project. Users enter their bird sightings from around the world into an online database revealing bird migration stopovers, breeding grounds, wintering grounds, presence, and absence. For bird enthusiasts, eBird provides the ideal way to store personal bird lists, share them with others, and explore the world's bird distributions. Lab scientists, in turn, now gather these millions of data points to archive, analyze, and translate into conservation applications. eBird data creates a more accurate species range map that appears heterogenous on the landscape. And, eBird reveals population trends showing in detail where birds are declining or increasing. **Fitzpatrick shared, "Humans sensing birds and entering that into a phone or computer is translating into a deeper understanding of earth. We are learning details about migration pathways that we did not understand before."** Lab scientists led the team that authored a [recent paper in the journal Science](#) showing bird populations in North America declined by over three billion (nearly 30%) over the last 50 years. At a time when all habitats and bird populations are declining, we need eBird more than ever to avoid repeating past extinctions, like the Passenger Pigeon and Eskimo Curlew. He concluded, "We must never give up." Listen to the entire talk [here](#). Explore eBird [here](#).

Florida Cattlemen's Association President Gene Lollis



Gene Lollis at Archbold's Buck Island Ranch.

Archbold Press

"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

Online Events

July 9: 3:30 PM

'Endemic plants of the Lake Wales Ridge'

Scott Ward, Archbold

[Register here](#)

We are thrilled to announce that Gene Lollis will serve as the President of the [Florida Cattlemen's Association](#) for the coming year. Lollis began working at Archbold's Buck Island Ranch in 1993. From his first day, he understood the value of science to ensure the future of the cattle industry in Florida. Over the past 27 years, Lollis worked alongside Archbold scientists to build an understanding of the ecology of a working cattle ranch. His experiential knowledge and detailed tracking of operations is a critical part of our ecological and economic sustainability. A genuine Florida Cowboy with a gift for reading the land and relating to all people, Lollis was featured in two documentaries last year including ['Cowboys and Scientists'](#) and ['The Science of a Florida Ranch'](#). With humility and gratitude, Lollis just accepted his new honor on June 24th during the first-ever online meeting for the Florida Cattlemen's Association. His vision for the coming year follows in the steps of past Presidents with his own guiding words of wisdom for this year's presidency: 'Open Gates, Open Minds'. Lollis intends to persevere during these challenging times by forging partnerships, learning from others with differing perspectives, and exploring solutions that better not only the industry but also society. A sixth-generation Floridian, Lollis knows how to adapt. In his first monthly [President's Message in the Florida Cattlemen's Magazine](#) he shared, **"In order to 'Open Minds' we must open ours, and be willing to show our passion and share our heritage with others who share a love of the land, the waters, and the wildlife of 'OUR' Florida."** Congratulations Gene!

Diversity Strategy. Strategic Planning



"The need for change bulldozed a road down the center of my mind." Maya Angelou

July 16: 3:30 PM

'Inspired by Nature: Using Wild Populations to Inform Rare Species Translocations and Evaluate Success'

Stephanie Koontz, Archbold

[Register here](#)

July 23: 3:30 PM

Two Intern Seminars

Caroline Wade, Archbold Ranch

Elena Prado-Ragan, Archbold Avian Ecology

[Register here](#)

July 30: 3:30 PM

'Artificial Light at Night Affects the Physiology and Growth of Amphibians'

Dr. Zachary Forsburg

[Register here](#)



Check out our Youtube Videos!



Following the movement around the country, Archbold has been called to action by the deeply disturbing killing of George Floyd, and other similar tragedies in the long trail of inequality and mistreatment suffered by the Black community. **Staff and visitors of racial and ethnic diversity are woefully underrepresented at Archbold. We have not done enough, and we must address this through leadership focused on recruiting and nurturing Black and other underrepresented groups** as scientists, students, and interns. Our science will be better for engaging minds enhanced by the perspectives of racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. Conservation and interpretation of the natural world we seek to protect will be more relevant when we increase opportunities, accessibility, and meaning for all. We embrace this challenge as part of our upcoming 5-year strategic planning scheduled for July. As we develop our diversity strategy, the goals must be authentic, tangible, trackable, and transparent. We plan to seek guidance and training that will identify and remove internal barriers that hinder diversity and inclusion. In addition to our customary academic and conservation allies, we hope to partner with the diverse communities surrounding Archbold to help build and share a social and cultural history of this place to complement our environmental history. As Archbold supporters, many of you may have personal experiences and ideas, and we would appreciate your insights (please email diversity@archbold-station.org). Setting a new course to promote diversity and inclusion is, and will be, one of the hardest things I have faced as Director. I appreciate your help in this long-term endeavor, as we work towards becoming a more impactful, diverse organization that looks like, beckons, and serves all communities. Hilary Swain

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Nameless Insects Roam Archbold



Microgaster archboldensis collected at Archbold by Dr. Mark Deyrup, Archbold Entomologist. Photo by Stephanie Leon.

Many species remain to be discovered and named, even in such well-explored places as Florida. The main reason for this is the mind-boggling number of different kinds of small animals, especially insects. A resident of Highlands County strolling through the backyard is never going to see a species of bird unknown to science, but there is a possibility that some small insect buzzing by has never been discovered, described or named by a biologist. "It's not that biologists are bored by bugs," says Dr. Mark Deyrup, emeritus entomologist at Archbold Biological Station, "We all think it's exciting to discover a never-before-seen species. The catch is that one would never know a species was unknown unless one can recognize all the similar species that are already known. This requires a level of expertise way beyond nerdiness. Whole paragraphs may be filled with such descriptive phrases as 'flagellum with three rows of placodes', or 'subscutellar sulcus with 5-6 costulae'. These phrases are taken directly from Jose Fernandez-Triana's 2018 description of a new predatory wasp, *Microgaster archboldensis*, found at the Archbold Biological Station. This new species belongs to a huge group of small predatory wasps that attacks caterpillars and includes more than 1,400 described species and probably thousands of additional species still to be discovered and described. **It might be thanks to their appetite for caterpillars that there are uneaten leaves on trees in forests, and healthy blooming wildflowers in meadows and roadsides.** Some of these wasps, however, we can't thank by name, because they are still nameless."



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The Scrub Blog

Nature and Science from Florida's
Heartland

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

Successful Spring Intern Appeal



Marisa Grillo measuring Sky Lupine (*Lupinus diffusus*) on a sandhill for her Archbold Plant Ecology independent research project. Photo by Plant Lab.

Thank you to those who contributed to Archbold's Research and Education Internship Program. Because of your generosity, our [Spring Intern Appeal](#) has done well, despite the unique challenges COVID-19 has placed on us all. We are grateful for your support as we celebrate the importance of science and research now more than ever. The global pandemic placed an unusual burden on this year's intern group in addition to their daily rigors of field and lab work. While following health guidelines and social distancing, Archbold interns worked tirelessly to ensure the long-term ecological data at Archbold continues to be gathered in the same dedicated manner. We applaud our 2020 intern cohort. Well done! **Katherine Charton, Archbold Plant Ecology Intern 2017-2018, shared, "Archbold's intellectual and social environment allowed me to grow and flourish as a scientist. I am more excited than ever to continue down this career path."**

If you enjoy these stories from Archbold, please consider a gift to support our research and education programs. [Donate now](#). Your gift really makes a difference.



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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123 Main Drive, Venus, FL 33960