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# STETSON UNIVERSITY

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## Stetson University Photography Exhibit Features Conservationists Making a Positive Impact on Environment

*Goal of 'Florida Stewards' artist: seek knowledge through experiences with the land*

**DELAND, Florida**, Jan. 2, 2020 – Preserving animal and plant species ensures the existence of native habitats and allows future generations to enjoy nature and its resources for years to come.

[Archbold Biological Station](#) environmental educator and conservation photographer Dustin Angell will be displaying 20 large-format photos that highlight conservationists who are working to protect the wildlife and ecosystems of Florida, including biologists, land managers, artists and others during his **“Florida Stewards” exhibit** at the Rinker Environmental Learning Center’s environmental gallery, 230 E. Michigan Ave., DeLand, 32723. The building is adjacent to the [Gillespie Museum](#) on [Stetson University’s](#) campus.

Guests will have a chance to learn more about the exhibit during a free opening-night reception and gallery talk by Angell on Thursday, Jan. 16, 6-8 p.m. The display runs through Friday, March 13.

"My goal is to put these photos to work and for viewers to feel inspired by the stewards in the photos as well as become more engaged in conservation themselves," said Angell. "I also want viewers to seek first-hand knowledge of the environment, not just from scientific articles and lectures, but through experiences with the land."

Angell, who has a BFA from Alfred University, builds community relationships and interprets ecological research for audiences of all ages in his environmental educator role at the Archbold Biological Station in Venus, Florida, which is near the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.

He began taking his camera to work to document educational outreach and ecological research after he moved to Venus from Syracuse, New York, seven years ago. Conservation photography became his passion and life purpose, which led to him participating in photography shows and creating a photo essay on Florida grasshopper sparrows that was published in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's spring 2017 issue of *Living Bird Magazine*.

He presented slides on his conservation photography during a successful Science Café at the Gillespie Museum in spring 2019 and has been invited back to exhibit his inspirational photographs.

Angell's educational work has garnered him recognition and provided him with leadership roles throughout the state, which have included serving as the past president of the League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF) and is currently on the steering committee for the Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem Working Group. He also was the recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Educator Award from the Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

This past summer, Angell introduced an arts project, #MyScienceFuture, to children at Archbold Biological Station's Ecology Summer Camp sessions. This multi-day project used his "Florida Stewards" photo series as a way to promote science careers. Students learned about local science and conservation, dressed up for their own photo shoots with Angell and wrote accompanying messages for viewers about their feelings on science and nature. The project combines photography appreciation, imaginative play, drawing and creative writing as tools for learning about nature and science.

Angell has been presenting #MyScienceFuture at education conferences, created a selfie-booth for community festivals and is planning to design a mobile version for classroom teachers to use in the future.

The Archbold Biological Station is providing Angell and others with opportunities to promote conservation and preserve nature for years to come.

"Working at the Archbold Biological Station is like having a ringside seat to the best show in Florida," said Angell. "I don't mean all of the wonderful encounters with nature, but the chance to see conservation science in action. I'm surrounded by people making discoveries, restoring scarred landscapes, nursing species back from possible extinction and creating a future with healthy human communities and natural ecosystems."

#### About Stetson University

*Founded in 1883, [Stetson University](#) is the oldest private university in Central Florida. Stetson focuses on intense learning experiences in a supportive community that allows students to develop their voice in a connected, inclusive environment. Stetson University ranks No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2019 list of Best Regional Universities (South), and has been recognized as one of The Princeton Review's 385 Best Colleges, 2020 edition. [Stay connected](#) with Stetson on social media.*

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