

Newsletter

A Message from the President

Summer is here and we can look forward to enjoying the gorgeous weather that Florida has to offer. The best and "coolest" place to be, other than in the air conditioning, is here at Jonathan Dickinson State Park (JDSP). Join our *Friends of JDSP* and receive 12 free passes to the park for the next year.

There are so many things to do at JDSP: visit the Kimbell Center, rent a canoe or kayak, bike on one of the many new trails, or stroll along the Kitching Creek trail. The park has miles of trails where you

can see numerous wildflowers in bloom and the butterflies that enjoy them. The tour boat leaves several times a day for Trapper Nelson's camp.

Don't forget about our upcoming social on July 18th (see Page 6).

We hope to see you at the Park!

Pat Magrogan, President

Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Inc.

Biologist's Corner

By Rob Rossmanith, JDSP Park Biologist

Animal Name: White-tailed Deer
Genus/Species: *Odocoileus virginianus*
Family: Cervidae

Can be found at JDSP: Throughout the park in all of the natural communities. This animal is commonly seen along Park Drive, good viewing areas are also at Eaglesview, the picnic area, and around the Education Center. The best time to see deer is around dawn and dusk, but they can also be seen throughout the day.

Food: White-tailed deer are in the sub-order Ruminantia, which means they have a four chambered stomach that can digest plants such as grasses, acorns, fruit, and a wide variety of other plant materials.

Status: Today, this animal is common throughout most of its historical range (30 million animals is the estimate). However, local over-hunting is a problem in certain parts of its range. Deer were rare in much of the eastern United States in the early to mid 1900s because of commercial exploitation. Both Key Deer and Columbian white tailed deer (Oregon /Washington around the Columbia River) are sub-species that are less common and are protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Range: Occurs in North America, throughout the lower 48 states (except California and Nevada and in most of Canada (except extreme north). They also occur in all of Central America and in select parts of northern South America. They have been introduced into various Caribbean islands, eastern Europe, Finland, and New Zealand.

Interesting Fact:

- Gestation (pregnancy) lasts for about 7 months and fawns are born in May and June (Now you can see several spot fawns throughout the park!).
- The record size for a buck is 500 pounds (Minnesota). In Florida, bucks average 115 pounds and does average around 90 pounds.
- Natural predators include panthers, alligators, wolves, and jaguars (in Central and South America). At JDSP, coyotes and bobcats are predators of fawns or weakened adults. The only predators of adult deer at JDSP are alligators.



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**Friends of
Jonathan Dickinson
State Park, Inc.**

Executive Committee

Patricia Magrogan,
President

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Vice President

Lois Brenner-Nickerson,
Secretary

Joanne Talley, *Treasurer*

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State Park Staff**

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Martin Morse, *Park
Services Specialist*

Libby Reinert, *Park
Services Specialist*

Rich Hauck, *Park
Services Specialist*

Sandy Jensen, *Park
Services Specialist*

Janet LaMont, *Admin.
Assistant*

Sandra Lovelady, *Secretary*
Liz Baxley, Secretary

Rob Rossmannith, *Park
Biologist*

Park Rangers

James Moye

Keith Peterson

Mark Peyton

Barry Richardson

Bob Schuh

Jane Shauan

Scott Tedford

Pat Walsh

The Kimbell Center: It's more than just a visitor center

Programs and events at the Kimbell Center are continuously expanding and improving. One area that has seen significant growth in both research and environmental education is the intern program.

From August '08 through May '09, three students from the Jupiter Community High School Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy interned with Park Biologist Rob, and Park Services Specialists Sandy and Libby. For their senior project, they conducted gopher tortoise surveys and monitored Loxahatchee River usage and impacts. These students began volunteering in the Kimbell Center in summer 2006 and graduated from high school this year - we are sad to see them go!

For two weeks in May, two high school interns from the Pine School worked with Libby on environmental education projects in the Kimbell Center. One student helped adapt the Dip-net Discovery program for preschool children, and the other studied the Loxahatchee River Boat Tour and developed a canoe tour script.

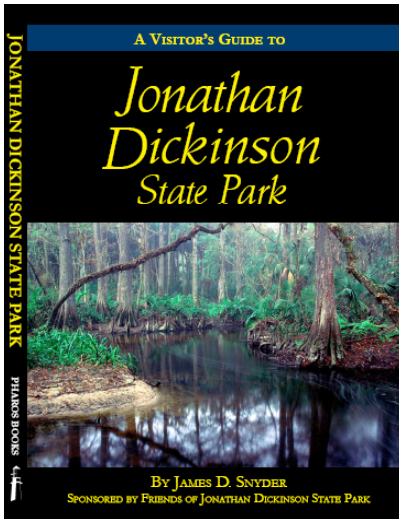
Currently we have two college interns volunteering their time while they are on summer break. Teaming up with Sandy and Rob, these students are conducting Florida scrub-jay surveys and helping with other field projects, such as resource management for endangered species. Both have also already passed the pack test and participated in prescribed burns.

Having interns in the Kimbell Center not only benefits research and environmental education in the park, but also adds an additional branch of teamwork and collaboration. Each new intern provides a unique perspective, and park staff enjoys having them around. We hope that each year will bring new interns with new ideas from which we all can learn.



*Christian Brewer and Andrew Cunningham,
Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy*

Park Visitor Guide Now Available!



In the making for over a year, a first-ever Visitors' Guide to Jonathan Dickinson State Park is now available!

The 96-page, four-color booklet, sponsored by the Friends, was written by Jupiter author Jim Snyder, a member of our Board. Many of our officers and the park staff have been involved in the fact-finding and editorial review process.

In this comprehensive guidebook, with 12 maps and 173 photos, you'll find sections on:

- Plants, trees and animals in the park.
- The park's eight major ecological systems.
- Activities for visitors – including neighboring sites.
- The stories of Camp Murphy, Trapper Nelson & other highlights of our 5,000-plus years of human habitation.

The booklet winds up with a chapter that aims to help visitors understand the many challenges facing park managers in their mission to keep the park's riverfront wild and scenic in a time of surrounding urban development.

The Visitors Guide sells for \$9.95. If you join the friends at the Patron level, we will give you a copy of the book. Because the booklet is published and sponsored by our nonprofit organization, all net proceeds from sales will be used to fund projects within the park and/or add to the Elsa Kimbell Environmental Education Center's endowment fund.

Volunteer Opportunities – HELP NEEDED

We are currently defining areas where members of *Friends of JDSP* who wish to volunteer can help. Please identify where you can assist the *Friends* by calling Libby at the Ed Center at 561-745-5551. If you can help with something that you don't see listed here, please let us know. Your comments are welcome.

Ways you can help the *Friends*:

- Man table at events in park
- Help at socials
- Help with phone calls – for members without email
- Distributing membership forms – libraries, _____ (other?)
- Distributing event flyers
- Help with mailings
- Accounting help
- Other _____



Education center volunteers can help with:

- Greeting visitors at the reception desk
- Maintaining program and activity supplies and materials
- Maintaining exhibits and displays
- Leading school and visitor programs and activities
- Coordinating special events

Also, please tell your friends or neighbors that might be interested in helping about the opportunities at JDSP. We look forward to hearing from you with any questions or comments and appreciate your involvement. **Thank you for being a *Friend*!**

PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION TO HELP YOU FALL ASLEEP AT NIGHT WITH... By Dick Roberts (Florida Park Service Biologist from 1970-2005)

Roberts, R. E., M. Y. Hedgepeth and T. R. Alexander. 2008. Vegetational Responses to Saltwater Intrusion along the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River within Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Florida Scientist. 71(4): 383-397.

From an initial transect survey conducted in 1967 to the present time, one research location demonstrates the collective changes in species composition from the edge of the floodplain to the river's edge. In 1967 the freshwater vegetation was still present, but 40 years later the transect is now dominated by white mangroves.

Hutchinson, J. T. 2004. Bats of the Sub-tropical Climate of Martin and St. Lucie Counties, Southeast Florida. Florida Scientist. 67(3): 205-215.

From 2000 to 2002, surveys for bats using mist nets and acoustic detectors were conducted in Martin and St. Lucie Counties, as well as the extreme northern section of Palm Beach County, including Jonathan Dickinson State Park and the Loxahatchee River corridor. Five species were captured including evening, Brazilian, free-tailed, Seminole, northern yellow and eastern Pipistrelles bats.



Alexander, T. R. and A. G. Crook. 1975. Recent and Long-Term Vegetation Changes and Patterns in South Florida. Appendix G (EVER-N-51). South Florida Ecological Study, National Technical Information, Arlington, VA.

Vegetational changes were examined from the aspect of natural environmental factors such as weather and fire, plus anthropogenic influences for 100 one-square mile quadrats. Comparisons of the 1940 and 1970 aerial photographs were utilized, then field verified. Two of the one-square mile quadrats are selected and analyzed within the park.



Timmerman, W. W., J. B. Miller and C. V. Tamborski. 1994. The Herpetofauna of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Martin County, FL. Special Report of the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, Tallahassee, FL.

Between July 1991 and December 1993, a herpetofauna survey of the park was conducted using ten herpetology arrays, two culvert funnel traps, road-kill records and opportunistic collecting. Fifty-nine species were recorded of which 54 were native and 5 exotic. Species diversity was greatest in the scrubby flatwoods (25), followed by wet flatwoods (23), wet prairie (22), scrub and mesic flatwoods (19 each).

DuBois, B. W. 1981. History of the Loxahatchee River. Jupiter, FL.

This brief history of the river and local community was written from personal research and the understanding gained by living in the area for almost all of her life. It begins with the Seminole Indians and closes with Trapper Nelson's death.



DuBois Family
Loxahatchee River
Historical Society

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF JDSP!

As a *Friend of JDSP*, you already know how important your support is to the park. But YOU can also help us grow by telling your own friends about our worthwhile organization and perhaps forwarding this newsletter to them. Not only do *The Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Inc.* play a significant role as a source of financial support for the many physical needs the park has that are not funded by the state, but the organization also assists park management in meeting the natural and cultural resource management objectives established for the park.

You can tell your friends about the many fun, recreational opportunities the park has to offer, such as camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, canoeing on the beautiful Loxahatchee River and much more! By joining the group, your friends will also enjoy the benefit of 12 free visits to the park and the many social events we offer throughout the year. And the more people we have as Friends of the park, the better!

Our membership form is available online at:
<http://www.friendsofjdsp.org/PDF's/brochuremembershipform.pdf>

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

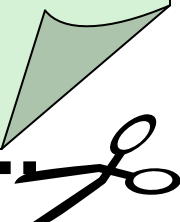
New Friends

Edgardo & Illeana Alvarez
 Kara Baxter
 Ida & Stan Chamberlin
 Elisabeth Ditchkus
 Dan & Jen Glen
 Randy & Danni Hoefling
 Jenny Jackson
 Ed & Sherri Jenkins
 Laura Kerr
 David & Sally Manz
 Sean & Rebecca Petrie
 Ken & Joy Stone
 Michael Vankirk
 Chris Williams
 Ernest & Theresa Woleslagle

Friends Renewed

Nancy Armstrong
 Sheila Autry
 Debra & Douglas Bendix
 David & Joan Berenson
 Rick Binder & Donna Korora
 Ron & Norma Bock
 Donnie & David Clapp
 Christine & Ronald Collins
 Fred & Cindy Cone
 Bobby Cook
 Debra Day
 James Dieckhoner
 Richard & Patricia Dopsovic
 Lana & David Edwards
 Geoffrey Etherington
 Nancy Finnegan
 John Ford
 Thomas & Cynthia Fucigna
 Patrick Hayes
 Roy Kimbell
 Clare Kirchman
 Ron Kocher
 Leo Koski
 Dusty Macpherson
 Lynn, Joe & Mack McGrew
 Kevin & Debra McLaughlin
 Linda Oloughlin
 John & Linda Pelong
 Richard Pereira
 Ronald Polsgrove

Vicky Putnam & E.L. Cantelmo
 Jeff, Lisa & Delaney Ridgway
 Lorraine Ripley
 John & Janet Schick
 Michael & Linda Smith
 Mariam Speakman
 Peter Stuttaford & Jean Kluge
 Bridget Titone
 Allen Trefry



Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Inc.

Membership Application

A not-for-profit Citizen Support Organization (CSO)

- Lifetime Corporate: \$2500 Lifetime Patron: \$1000 Corporate: \$500 Patron: \$100
 Organization: \$50 Family: \$25 Individual: \$15

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____

I am interested in volunteering with the Friends.

Please send this application along with your donation to:

The Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Inc.
 16450 SE Federal Hwy, Hobe Sound, FL 33455

For more information on the "Friends" please call (561) 744-9814

A copy of the official registration and financial information of the "Friends" may be obtained from The Division of Consumer Services by calling 800-435-7352

Our next Social

Boat Cruise to Trapper's and BBQ!

On **July 18, 2009**, the *Friends of JDSP* will have our annual boat trip to Trapper Nelson's camp site. The trip will be followed by a BBQ dinner!

At 4 p.m sharp we will board one of the two JDSP River Tours pontoon boats for a leisurely tour of the upper Loxahatchee. As you wind along the river, you'll learn about its ecology and history from local experts. Then you'll dock and learn about Trapper Vince Nelson's unique role in Loxahatchee history as you tour his hand-built "Zoo and Jungle Gardens."

On the return trip we'll relax and enjoy the wildlife along the beautiful Wild and Scenic Loxahatchee.

After the boat tour, we'll enjoy a BBQ social. **The cost is \$20 a person**, which includes the boat tour, dinner, drinks and dessert.

There's only one hitch: the park's two pontoon boats can accommodate a limited number of guests. Therefore, the trip to Trapper's will be limited to the **first 48 who sign up**. Please reserve your place now by calling President Pat Magrogan at **746-7353 (leave a message and I will return your call) or emailing PMMAGROGAN@ATT.NET**.

We hope you'll join us!

Scheduled Activities at the Park

Family Adventures in the Park—

Offered every Saturday, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., these programs are full of fun and adventure for the whole family. Topics vary, so please call ahead for current information and registration (at least 2 days in advance preferred), 561-745-5551.

Hike with a Ranger—Every Sunday morning JDSP offers a hike with a Ranger. Check for location at the Ranger Station. Hikes begin at 9:00 am. No reservation necessary.

Loxahatchee River Adventures

Spend a couple of hours sightseeing on the Wild and Scenic Loxahatchee River. Board the Loxahatchee Queen at the concessions area. Pontoon tours depart the boat dock daily at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Cost for the tour: Adults-\$18.78, Children (6-12)- \$11.50 and Children under 6 are free.



The Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Inc.
16450 SE Federal Hwy
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

The Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Inc. is a volunteer-based, non-profit organization whose role is one of advocacy for the historical, educational and ecological enhancement of Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Its mission is to assist park management in meeting the natural and cultural resource management objectives established for the park.

We are on the web at:
www.friendsofjdsp.org!