

A Message from the President

This time of year, we especially focus on thankfulness and giving. As Friends of course we can be very thankful to have the fabulous resources of Real Florida within our Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Throughout the year the Park is available to us for recreation, relaxation, and hands on education. Park staff is more than happy to guide us through the different habitats, provide educational and historical information and assure we leave the Park having experienced something new or special and completely satisfied with our visit. Please thank them for their service the next time you visit.

Giving volunteers from among you helped make Fire Fest 2011 the most successful yet for the Friends. Special thanks are due to our Board of Directors and the following members: Debra and Dale Day, Rosemary Sell and Molly, our

fabulous bartender.

Our membership as Friends provides financial resources to our Park. As example, the anxiously awaited Partnership in Parks solar project was just completed and the new solar panels on the roof of the Kimbell Center provide electricity that can be used to offset partially that consumed by the center. Electricity cost savings may be used to supplement other programs in the Park. Your membership and assistance with our fund raisers helped make that possible.

As you may know, our mission is support of the park staff, facilities and programs. We conduct these activities in support of the Park Manager's Unit Management Plan. The current draft 10-year plan is to be presented to the public on January 11 at 7:00 PM at the Kimbell center. Public comments will be used to help shape the final plan.

(Continued on Page 2)

Biologist's Corner

By Rob Rossmann, JDSP Park Biologist

Name: Bald eagle

Genus/Species: *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Family: Accipitridae (diurnal birds of prey)

Can be found at JDSP: Anytime from early September to early June. Our eagles soar throughout the park and are often seen along the Intracoastal Waterway and the North and Northwest Forks of the Loxahatchee River. Currently, we have eagles sitting on eggs in single nests at both JDSP and Atlantic Ridge Preserve SP. By early April we hope to have as many as 2 juvenile or sub-adult eagles per nest (although typically a nest produces only 1 juvenile).

Status: Eagle populations suffered severe declines in the lower 48 states especially because of the pesticide DDT (a low of 417 nesting pairs in 1963). Since DDT application has stopped in the US populations have rebounded to over 7,000 pairs.

Range: Eagles occur throughout the US, but are most common near water because fish are their primary food.

Interesting Facts:

- Before young can fly, birds are called "eaglets." After fledging but before reaching maturity eagles are called "juveniles" and can be easily distinguished from adults because they are almost completely dark with little or no white feathers (they have full adult colors at 5 years).
- Eagles were first observed nesting in the park (post-DDT) in 1966; nesting records have been kept since 1979 and in the ensuing 33 years JDSP has fledged 33 juvenile eagles. A juvenile has been seen for 3 straight nesting seasons – a nesting pair is very territorial, so the juvenile keeps its distance from them.
- Florida's eagle population has increased 3-fold since 1987 and the eagle was taken off the USFWS's Threatened status (2007) but is still protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.
- The adjective "bald" is derived from "piebald" meaning different colors. The word is most commonly used in reference to black and white colors and spotting or in a blotchy pattern.



Photo Credit: Microsoft Office

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

Executive Committee

Dave Nickerson, *President*
Michael Pat Gostel,
Vice President
Lois Brenner-Nickerson,
Secretary
Henry Blakiston, *Treasurer*

Board Members

Anne Cox
Alana Edwards
Patrick Hayes
Pat Jebb
Patricia Magrogan
Ronald Orr
Jim Snyder
Joanne Talley
Mason Walsh

Club Scrub Liaison

Bill Meyers, *President*

**Jonathan Dickinson
State Park Staff**

Mark Nelson, *Park Manager*
Thomas Brown,
Asst. Park Manager
Martin Morse,
Park Services Specialist
Libby Reinert,
Park Services Specialist
Rich Hauck,
Park Services Specialist
Scott Tedford,
Park Services Specialist
Janet LaMont,
Admin. Assistant
Sandra Lovelady, *Secretary*
Rob Rossmanith,
Park Biologist

Park Rangers

Chris Camargo
Cristina Martinez
Corey Possinger
Keith Peterson
Barry Richardson
Bob Schuh
Jane Shauan
Pat Walsh
Cheri Wells

FireFest was a great success this year with more than 1800 participants, 200 volunteers and many park staff. Kids made matchbox crafts and enjoyed live snake demonstrations in the kids zone area. The Kimbell Center was full of craft tables such as making bats, and coloring biting plant pictures. They also enjoyed the mystery boxes and making masks. Martin County Fire Rescue, Martin County Sheriff's Department, and the American Red Cross filled the Kimbell Center parking lot with vehicles and displays for kids to explore. Almost 30 local organizations and schools worked together this year to provide a fun safe event for everyone. Thank you to all who helped throughout the event process, from beginning to end. We are looking forward to next year.

FireFest 2011



Participants at Firefest enjoyed a swamp buggy ride and learned about the importance of prescribed fire management in the Pine Flatwoods ecosystem.

(President's Message, continued from Page 1)

I encourage all of us to participate in helping plan the future of JDSP by attending on the 11th and providing our input that will bolster the 2012 Unit Management Plan to be the best yet. Also, please let your Board of Directors know which aspects of the plan you want the Friends to prioritize. With your input and the Park Manager's guidance, your board will select parts of the plan and develop our own plan to assemble the people and resources needed to assist the Park in making them a reality.

Thank you for being a Friend of JDSP and for participating in your corporation's activities and events. I wish you very happy holidays and a prosperous new year.

Dave Nickerson, President

Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Inc

NEW BRICK POLICY Bricks are available again! Bricks will be installed in batches, *four times a year*. So get your order in today!

YOUR INFORMATION:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____
 Fax: _____ Email: _____
 Signature: _____ Date: _____



Check Enclosed:
 ()

Three lines, 20 characters per line, spaces and punctuation count.

1st Line (20) _____
 2nd Line (20) _____
 3rd Line (20) _____

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| MEMBERSHIP UPDATE | New Friends | Korora & Rick Binder | Floyd & Gail Hodge | Sean & Rebecca Petrie |
| | Kara Baxter | Dan, Nicole & Taylor Ann Bishop | Arthur & Adrienne Hochberg | Tom & Sandra Price |
| | Anthony Bozzo | Henry & Patricia Blakiston | Jack Horniman & Debbie Clark | Ernie Cantelmo & Vicky Putnam |
| | Susan Burns & Family | Ron & Norma Bock | Pat & Herb Jebb | Anthony Rawson |
| | Jeffrey Collier | Carolyn Brawley | Jill Johnson | Barbara & Thomas Reilly |
| | John & Patsy Cusick | Roger & Carole Bursey | Zafar & Nathalie Kahn | Jeff, Lisa & Delaney Ridgway |
| | Lynne & Perry Feyk | Bob & Fayola Cook | Steven Karsh | Edward & Joan Riordan |
| | Peggy Fischer | Ronald & Christine Collins | Laura Kerr | John & Jan Schick |
| | Regina Gerlt | Fred & Cindy Cone | Karen Kerwin | Peter Kluge & Jean Stuttaford |
| | Henry Haire | Don & Mary Beth Cory | Roy Kimbell | Jamie Stuve |
| | Kristi Hof | Paul & Sherry Cummings | Louise Koski | Joanne Talley |
| | Kevin Kimball | Constance Davis | Winnie Lo | Chris Teters |
| | Steven & Maryann Klein | Sara Davies | William & Catherine Madden | Bridget Titone |
| | Scott & Darcie Lunsford | Richard & Patricia Dopsovic | Dave Manz | Allen Trefry |
| | Margaret & George McNeill | Lana & David Edwards | Charles & Sara McCarthy | Jerry & Gloria White |
| | Jim Newsom | Donna Goodwin & Brian Elam | Kevin & Debra McLaughlin | Ursula Alebrand & Jan Wijnand |
| | Clayton Rodgers | Doris Fenner | Kent & Judy Mergler | Shirley Willis |
| | | Ted & Karen Friesner | Kathryn Miller | Thomas & Blanche Winton |
| | | Sonja Gray | Darren Obrien | Judie & Bill Wood |
| | Friends Renewed | Jack & Liz Hailman | Ronald & Ursula Orr | |
| Nancy Armstrong | Mark & Joyce Halloran | Rich & Jan Otten | | |
| Doug Bendix | Patrick Hayes | Paula Pappalardo | | |
| Mary Ann Beyer | | | | |



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: \$30

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

BIRD LIST
Jonathan Dickinson
State Park




Clare-Rue Morgan

Florida Scrub-Jay
(Aphelocoma coerulescens)

Jonathan Dickinson State Park (11,471 acres / 4,642 hectares) contains some of the most significant and diverse biological communities in southeast Florida. The park offers a variety of trails to experience these habitats, including sand pine scrub, flatwoods, wet prairies and dome swamps. It also includes 9 miles (15 kilometers) of boating and canoeing along Florida's first National Wild & Scenic River, the Loxahatchee. This mosaic landscape attracts a large variety of birds. Some are permanent residents and others are migratory, but all 158 species have been documented within the park.

This list was last updated August 2010.



Hey Birdwatchers!

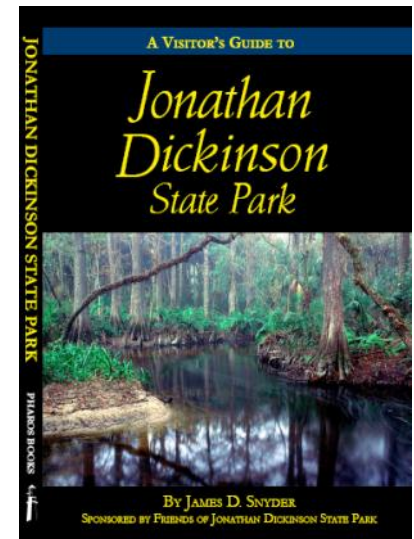
The park now has a bird list to help you track the bird species that you see in the park. You can pick up your copy at the ranger station or the Kimbell

Center, OR you can download a copy from our website at www.friendsofjdsp.org/PDFs/birdlist.pdf.

Available Now!
A Visitor's Guide to
Jonathan Dickinson
State Park

Only \$9.95

Pick up your copy
today at the
River Store



This 96-page, four-color booklet with 12 maps and 173 photos has sections on:

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

Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative awarded Water Conservationist of the Year!



Manley Fuller III, Paul Millar, Mark Nelson and James Schuette.

On June 11th, Paul Millar, Water Resource Manager for Martin County and Park Manager Mark Nelson accepted, on behalf of the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI), the Water Conservationist of the Year Award for 2011 from the Florida Wildlife Federation. LRPI is a coalition of governmental, NGO and general public groups formed in 2000 for the purpose of providing funding for projects that serve to restore and protect the Loxahatchee River, of which about nine miles flow through Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

LRPI has proven very successful, responsible for kick-starting more than \$34 million worth of endeavors with the aim of enhancing the water quality of the

Loxahatchee, Florida's first federally-designated Wild & Scenic River. Key projects have included septic tank removal from large areas of the river's floodplain, restoration of tributaries and estuarine habitats and the funding of community-based oyster reef restoration projects under privately-owned docks. The current LRPI Chairman is D. Albrey Arrington, Ph.D.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Deb Swim has been volunteering in the park at the Kimbell Center since September and has been a wonderful addition! Deb is a seasonal volunteer and helps with scheduling, exhibit upkeep, volunteer coordination, visitor services, and anything else that needs to be done in the center. She extended her stay in the park until the end of January when she will take a volunteer position at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park.

A note from Deb:

"Being a park volunteer is an immensely enriching -- highly recommended. I'm really enjoying this opportunity to work with a special group of people in a glorious natural setting. From seeing folks, young and old, appreciate the park and its programs to learning about the thin film solar photovoltaics being installed on the Kimbell Center's roof, volunteering is truly a special experience."

Park staff, volunteers, and visitors all enjoy Deb's welcoming smile, and her appreciation of Florida State Parks does not go unnoticed. She will return to Jonathan Dickinson in October of next year and we will happily welcome her back! Thank you for everything you do, Deb!



We are now on Facebook! Search for us under *Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park!*



Club Scrub's Leach, Lil' Bleeder & Tick Adventure

By Ken Kandefer

It was a seasonable November day for the 6th annual Leach, Lil' Bleeder & Tick Adventure Run. The day started early as eleven Leach long course adventure race teams checked in and received their maps prior to the 8am start. Leach participants paddled, mountain biked and ran around J.D.S.P. for up to 8 hours finding checkpoints & punching a passport along the way. Of course, every time they switched discipline they had to conquer the infamous Club Scrub obstacle course before moving on! All teams made it in safely by the 4pm deadline.



DON'T FORGET!!
A membership to the Friends of
Jonathan Dickinson
State Park, Inc.
makes a great gift!
Membership includes
12 free visits to the Park!



Wednesday, January 11th, at 7 P.M.

There will be a public meeting at the
Kimbell Center to discuss the
Park's upcoming Unit Management Plan
for 2010-2020

We hope to see you there!

Scheduled Activities at the Park

Family Adventures in the Park—Offered every Saturday (times vary), 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.

Special Film Presentations - Kimbell Center Theater, 1:00 & 4:00 p.m. daily; Learn about "The Balancing Act" in Jonathan Dickinson's feature film or enjoy a variety of other film topics. Films are also shown by request. Please call the Kimbell Center for more information, 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 - \$23.47, Children (6-12) - \$15.49 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