



Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park

SPRING 2007

Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

After a very busy and successful event session, Riverfest in March and Ocean to Lake event in April, we are now into the month of May.

Spring time in Jonathan Dickinson State is spectacular.

The four B's are there for everyone to see: Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Beauty. As members, your 12 free entrance passes will surely be used to take advantage of all the Park has to offer.

New trails are going in, take a trip to Trapper's, or just sit in the shade and listen to the many creatures make their own brand of music.

So much to enjoy and so close to home. we are so lucky.

We hope to see everyone at our potluck dinner on Saturday, May 19, 2007 5:00 pm at the Loxahatchee Pavilion, just west of the new Elsa Kimbell Center.

Patricia Magrogan

President

Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park

Biologist's Corner

By Rob Rossmannith,
JDSP Park Biologist

Fire at JDSP: I'd like to take a little time to talk about an event that shapes the plants and animals we see here at JDSP – fire. Here's some pieces of information that I think about when I try to understand fire in Florida.

Weather: You might know that summertime in Florida means thunderstorms and that Florida is the lightning capital of the United States (~8 to 10 lightning flashes / km² in our part of Florida). Lightning strikes within, and all around the thunderstorm clouds. A strike can occur in an area that receives no rainfall or a minimum amount of rainfall, and if wind and moisture conditions are right then that small spark can turn into larger fire. In a typical year, Jonathan Dickinson State Park staff responds to 2 to 3 wildfires started by lightning and there are an untold number of other strikes that go unnoticed.

Biology: Where to start? Many of the plants and animals in the pine flatwoods ecosystem are adapted to a frequent fire interval (every 2 to 4 years) and in the scrub there is a more moderate fire interval (5 to 15 years). Let me give you a couple examples of organisms adapted to fire. Perhaps you have visited the park after prescribed burns conducted in the winter time. In the next few months we will attempt to do some growing season prescribed fire in the pine flatwoods, especially – you will see a huge difference in the response of wiregrass to summer burning versus winter burning. Wiregrass will seed and the landscape will look much more like the grassland dominated ecosystem it should be versus the palmetto

dominated landscape after a growing season burn. A second example of adaptation to fire can be found with a quick glance at the park's list of rare species that occur in pine flatwoods and scrub. Within the park these plants and animals are rare in no small part because of a lack of an adequate fire regime. Examples of rare organisms include but are not limited to the Florida Scrub Jay, Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (gone from the park), Gopher Tortoise, Brown Headed Nuthatch, Bachman's Sparrow, Four Petal Paw-Paw, Perforated Reindeer Lichen, Snowy Orchid, and on and on.

Prescribed fire: For reasons of public safety we can no longer allow wildfires to burn unchecked within JDSP. Generally, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Forestry, JDSP, and Martin County and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue partner to either extinguish or corral wildfires. Therefore, we proactively use the tool of prescribed burning to restore our properties to the way they functioned prior to European settlement, which includes bolstering native plant and animal populations through the use of fire.

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Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Inc.

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Multi-use Trail....Coming Soon!

Lately several visitors have asked about the construction seen along the Park drive, between EaglesView and the Kimbell Center, on the south and east side of the road. What they are seeing is the first phase of construction of our new Multi-use Trail, an asphalt-paved path that will eventually connect the picnic area with the existing paved bicycle trail along Old Dixie Highway. This first segment, about one mile in length, meanders past cypress trees and through the pine flatwoods and crosses tiny seasonal streams. As the name implies, the trail is intended for a variety of users including bicyclers, walkers and rollerbladers. One of the greatest benefits will be to allow bike riders to disconnect from the road and its traffic and to enjoy a much more peaceful experience.



RiverFest 2007 Draws Record Crowd of Almost 6,000

RiverFest 2007 was a tremendous success! Drawing the largest crowd ever in the nine-year history of the event, RiverFest offered a day to celebrate the Loxahatchee River and raise awareness and funds for the new Loxahatchee River Environmental Center.

Nearly 6,000 people attended the annual event, which usually draws between 2,500 and 3,000 people. Held at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, participants enjoyed interactive environmental exhibits, wildlife presentations by the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, live music and a delicious barbecue lunch by the Cub Scouts Pack 812.

An animal calls competition drew contestants who hooted, croaked and squealed. Winners were presented with gift certificated donated by The Food Shack in Jupiter and honorary memberships to Friends of JD park and Friends of the Loxahatchee River.



Live bands included Brokin, The Dillengers, F.M., The Shakers, The Whistling Moon Travelers and The Persuaders.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Friends of the Loxahatchee and the new Loxahatchee River Environmental Center. Scheduled to open in 2008, the Loxahatchee River Learning Center located at Burt Reynolds Park will provide an interactive exploration of the Loxahatchee River watershed with exhibits and live aquatic tanks. Tracing the river from a freshwater cypress swamp to the estuary to marine ecosystems, the center will provide an opportunity to learn about Florida's first federally designated Wild & Scenic River, and the many habitat it sustains.


RiverFest is presented by the Loxahatchee River District in partnership with Friends of the Loxahatchee River. Special thanks to Jonathan Dickinson State Park, and to sponsors: Pro-Sound Studios; Busch Wildlife Sanctuary; A Bouncy Party; Budweiser; Pepsi; WJTW 100.3; The Jupiter Courier; TAC Environmental Consulting, Inc.; Shalloway, Foy, Rayman & Newell, Inc.; Mathews Consulting; LBFH, Inc.; Hazen & Sawyer and Jupiter High Environment Field Studies & Research Academy.

For more information about the new Loxahatchee River Environmental Center and Friends of the Loxahatchee River, please visit www.loxahatcheeriver.org or call (561) 747-5700, ext. 143.

Ocean to Lake Greenway Celebration by Patrick Hayes

This year's Ocean to Lake Greenway & Trails Event was the largest ever. For the first time in its three year history the "OTL" (Ocean to Lake) Event, celebrating our public lands and recreational areas, we incorporated horseback riders, hikers, offroad bicyclers, and kayakers. The event dubbed "hooves, heels, wheels and keels" and hosted by the Jupiter Farms Environmental Council and the Loxahatchee River Coalition drew a wide variety of sponsors, volunteers and participants. The event, normally held in

Continued on page 4

<p>ADOPT-A-BRICK! The Elsa Kimbell Environmental Education and Research Center at Jonathan Dickinson State Park is underway. This center belongs to us all, from here to international visitors! It will house our Visitor Center, classrooms for students and adult programs, research labs for ongoing environmental studies, interpretive displays, special events, administrative offices and a meeting place for the Friends and volunteers! AND NOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF IT ALL!</p>	<p>Three lines, 20 characters per line, spaces and punctuation count.</p> <p>1st Line (20) _____</p> <p>2nd Line (20) _____</p> <p>3rd Line (20) _____</p> <p>Your Information:</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____</p> <p>Fax: _____ Email: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Check Enclosed: ()</p>	
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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

<p>New Friends</p> <p>Ricky Christo John & Ann DeLisa Carl Engel Trafton Foster Ed & Margo Kilgus Jay Newman & Family Dana & Lanita Mohammed</p> <p>Friends Renewed</p> <p>Nancy Armstrong Sheila Autry David & Joan Berenson</p>	<p>Ron & Maryann Beyer Donna Korora & Rick Binder Don & Mary Beth Cory Michael & Mary Cunningham Gretchen Dewey Alana Edwards & Rick Nevulis Richard & Elizabeth Evans John Ford Gordon Johnson Wally & Michelle McCall Kevin & Deb McLaughlin Thomas & Barbara Reilly Lorraine Ripley J. Michael & Linda Smith Jean Kluge & Peter Stuttaford Allen Trefry Eric & Karen Zudans</p>
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Scheduled Activities at the Park

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-\$14.50, Children (6-12)-\$9.50 and Children under 6 are free.



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: _____

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

Continued from page 2 February - delayed due to the equine virus, started with a dozen riders leaving Lake Okeebhobee and riding through the Dupuis Management Area in western Martin and northern Palm Beach Counties. They road 24 miles and camped overnight in the Corbett Wildlife Management Area. On Saturday, having picked up a few more riders, they road from Corbett to the Jupiter Farms Equestrian Park and then road to the Jupiter Farms Park. They dined and met with event organizers to plan the main event for the next day, Sunday. There were 53 riders who went from Jupiter Farms through Riverbend Park along Palm Beach County ERM and Save our Rivers Land, through both Martin & Palm Beach County's Cypress Creek Property. With the support of the Hobe Grove Conservancy, they traversed the Hobe Grove ditch and entered the western portion of Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Stopping at the remote campsite at Kitching Creek for water, they rode into the Loxahatchee River area of the park where they were met with music, food, and various exhibitors, and were greeted by the Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

In the past, a group from the Florida Trail Association hiked the entire 63 miles, camping out several nights. That portion of the event was held back in February. This year, there were 17 hikers who hiked from Riverbend Park into Jonathan Dickinson State Park with great gusto. This year, with the generous help of Club Scrub of JDSP, there were 18 riders who rode mountain bikes from Eagles View in JDSP out to Riverbend Park and along part of the C-18 Canal and back into JDSP. A special thanks to Club Scrub and the Jupiter Horseman's Association for many hours of trail marking and trail maintenance and improvements.

Last but not least was the contribution of the Jupiter Outdoor Center of several kayaks and a class on kayak techniques, which several families enjoyed for free. There were also five kayakers who paddled from the C-14 Canal, through Riverbend Park down the Wild and Scenic Loxahatchee River into JDSP.

In addition to the number of exhibitors like Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, Palm Beach County's Mounted Unit, Friends of JDSP, and the SFWMD Land Stewardship group to name a few, this year we also had 63 participants hunting "geo-cash" treasures, some of whom came from as far away as the Netherlands. Of course none of this would have been possible without the tremendous support and help from both Palm Beach and Martin County's Park & Recreation Departments, and the rangers at JDSP. On this gorgeous April weekend, everyone had a fabulous time.



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.