



# Newsletter

## A Message from the President

Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park are looking at a very busy year. In the Spring the new Elsa Kimbell Environmental Education and Research Center will open. And we need volunteers and more Friends.

Several socials are being planned, including an open house. Riverfest will take place at J.D. State Park on Sunday March 25, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Entrance to the Park will be free that day.

In February past President Roger Burse presented a slate of directors and we voted in the officers for 2007. President, Patricia Magrogan, Past President Roger Burse, Vice President John Ford, Secretary, Roy Kimbell, Treasure, Joanne Talley. Pat Jebb will remain our membership chair. Other directors are Patrick Hayes, Jim Snyder, Kit Tomalka, Alana Edwards, and we welcome a new director Mason Walsh.

We are looking forward to this very busy year.

*Pat Magrogan, President*

Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Inc.

## National Recognition for Trapper Nelson

By Barry Richardson, Park Ranger

Cultural Resource Management is one of many challenges faced by the park's staff, the Citizen Support Organization (CSO) and volunteers. Just about every new project here at Jonathan Dickinson State Park comes into contact with the history of the area. Several examples are The Elsa Kimbell Environmental Education and Research Center and the newly constructed equestrian facility. An archaeological survey had to be completed before their construction to make sure that a part of the park's history would not be affected. Even though there were no findings from these surveys, we do know of several cultural sites within the park's boundaries.

Jonathan Dickinson State Park has many Native American sites, remnants of a saw mill, Camp Murphy and the Trapper Nelson Interpretive Site. Resource management of these areas consist of (continued on Page 2)

# Biologist's Corner

By Rob Rossmannith, JDSP Park Biologist

**Animal Name:** Cotton Rat  
**Genus/Species:** *Sigmodon hispidus*  
**Family:** Muridae (Old World Rats and Mice)  
**Can be found at JDSP:** You will find the Cotton Rat from the scrub to the floodplain of the Loxahatchee River within the park and all points in between. Suitable ground cover is needed so that this animal can stay hidden from predators.  
**Food:** The Cotton Rat is an omnivore. Its diet consists mainly of plant material such as roots, stems, and leaves of grasses and sedges. However, this species will occasionally eat insects, bird eggs, and other small rodents.



Photo of Cotton Rat, Rob Rossmannith

**Status and Range:** This animal is very common throughout Jonathan Dickinson State Park and ranges from southern Virginia to northern Missouri, west to Arizona, and throughout Central America into South America. This animal has expanded its range northward in recent history.

### Interesting Facts:

- Although very common, not that many people see the small (5 to 8 inches body length plus 3 to 6 inches of tail) Cotton Rat in the park because it is nocturnal and hides beneath vegetation when it is active. This animal provides food for many animals including owls, hawks, snakes, and mammalian meso-predators such as foxes, coyotes, and bobcats.
- The Cotton Rat is an extremely prolific breeder with up to 9 litters per year, with a gestation period of 4 weeks, and its young leave the nest at only 9 days of age.

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## Friends of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Inc.

### *Executive Committee*

Patricia Magrogan,  
*President*

Elsa Kimbell,

*Immediate Past President*

John Ford, *Vice President*

Roy Kimbell, *Secretary*

Joanne Talley, *Treasurer*

### *Board Members*

Roger Burse

Alana Edwards

Patrick Hayes

Pat Jebb

James Snyder

Kit Tomalka

Mason Walsh

### *Club Scrub Liason*

Steve Bucina,

*Vice President*

## Jonathan Dickinson State Park Staff

Mark Nelson, *Park  
Manager*

Thomas Brown, *Asst. Park  
Manager*

Martin Morse, *Park  
Service Specialist*

Libby Ormes, *Park Service  
Specialist*

Janet LaMont, *Admin.  
Assistant*

Lisa Davidson, *Secretary*

Rob Rossmann, *Park  
Biologist*

### *Park Rangers*

Frank Magistro

Sherri O'Neal

Rachel Payne

Barry Richardson

Bob Schuh

Jane Shauan

Susi Toledo

Pat Walsh

Cheri Wells

(Trapper Nelson—continued from Page 1) protecting them from disturbances and how to use them for recreation and education with no or minimal impact. The park's biological communities are also considered. Much of the concrete foundations of Camp Murphy were removed to help with the healing of the endangered Sand Pine Scrub.

Along with preservation, restoration is another part of cultural resource management. The Trapper Nelson Interpretive Site is an example. The park's staff has worked diligently for more than three decades preserving the site and restoring some of its original features. Unlike the many shell middens, shipwrecks and historic sites scattered throughout Florida the Nelson site has proven to be rare and unique. The site is recognized for its primitive setting of hand-hewn pine log pole structures and cabins. Most importantly, Trapper Nelson's personal interest in the land played a major role in the protection of the Loxahatchee River. By purchasing large tracts of land along the banks of the river he had paved the way for preservation.

In recognition of his contribution to the people of Florida and to aid with future cultural resource management efforts, a recommendation was made by park management to give the Trapper Nelson Interpretive Site national historic status.

On October 3, 2006, The Trapper Nelson Interpretive Site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C. Designated as "*Trapper Nelson Zoo and Historic District*".

## There's a lot happening at the Elsa Kimbell Environmental Education and Research Center!

By Libby Ormes

The time to move into our brand new research center is close at hand, and we're busy getting ready for our exciting upcoming programs! On March 27th Martin County Environmental Studies Center pilots their Freshwater Ecology program, which in April we'll be providing for all 7th grade students in Martin County! Our state of the art laboratory is equipped with 15 new microscopes, and more exciting equipment is on the way!

Our AmeriCorps member, Scott Tedford, has been working hard since his arrival in January. His first major accomplishment was the development of an excellent birding program designed to fulfill merit badge requirements for Boy and Girl Scouts. The first Scouts to complete our program built nine wood duck nesting boxes that will placed

around the park. Next up on our list is the development of an insect program also designed to meet Scout badge requirements.

Stephanie Cooper, a sophomore at Southfork High School, is a park volunteer who will be collecting and identifying insects for this exciting upcoming program.

Thanks for your support, and we hope to see you at the center soon!

### **More About the Freshwater Ecology Program**

In the Freshwater Ecology program, the students will be investigating a Sandhill Upland Lake with dip nets, then taking a closer look at what they find under microscopes. Students will also take a walk through the Scrub and the Pine Flatwoods to learn more about these important ecosystems of Florida.

### **Easter Sunday in the Park!**

From 1999-2001, I conducted my Master's research at Jonathan Dickinson. My research focused on butterflies and how prescribed fires affect them. Although it seems counterintuitive, prescribed fires play an important role in the ecology of many species of butterflies, including those in the Pine Flatwoods at JDSP.

While doing my studies, I discovered a large population of a very rare butterfly called the Southern Dusted Skipper. Most people don't find skippers all that exciting as they are typically very drab in color. This skipper, however, is very boldly patterned — I think it is pretty snappy! As is the case with many

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<p><b>ADOPT-A-BRICK!</b></p> <p>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!</p> <p><b>YOU CAN BE A PART OF IT ALL BY ADDING A BRICK ON THE PATHWAY TO THE CENTER!</b></p>	<p>Three lines, 20 characters per line, spaces and punctuation count.</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Line (20) _____</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Line (20) _____</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Line (20) _____</p> <p><b>Your Information:</b></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>	<p>Youth Brick \$35.00</p> <p>Adult Brick \$50.00</p> <p>Business \$250.00</p>
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<p><b>MEMBERSHIP UPDATE</b></p> <p><b>New Friends</b></p> <p>Stacey Andrews Ronald &amp; Rose Marie Barker Eleanor Bauer Grace &amp; Nicholas Bochain Deb Day Dawn Devenport Paul Feinsinger Kitty Fockler Susie Holloway Christian Jacobson</p>	<p>Rick Johnson Nathalie &amp; Zafar Kahn Allen Karsh John &amp; Cathy Lieber David &amp; Rose MacGillivray Kenneth &amp; Judith McBrayer Lupita McElroy Lynn &amp; Joseph McGrew Mark Harris &amp; Lori Miller Walter &amp; Bernadette Moore Susan Pitcher Andrew &amp; Beth Ross Chris Spath Dave &amp; Sigrid Wallace Mason Walsh Betsy Warr</p>	<p><b>Friends Renewed</b></p> <p>Ginger Baldwin Bud &amp; Carrol Barney Terrie Bates Lynn Bellizzi Douglas &amp; Debra Bendix Roger &amp; Carole Bursey Ron &amp; Chris Collins Susan DeLuccia Tom Duke John &amp; Joan Eymer Claire Fenton Edgar &amp; Carol Fulton Sheldon &amp; Naomi Gawiser Victor Gingell Tom &amp; Mary Ann Grieser Heather Lamond</p>	<p>Margaret Leason Winnie Lo Mary Helen Miller Harlan &amp; Lynne Lanou Pat &amp; Bill Magrogan Chuck &amp; Joanne Mailat Linda O'Loughlin Ronald Polsgrove Vicky Putnam Daniel Sifar Debbie Sobel Jim &amp; Sue Snyder John &amp; Judy Wakeman William &amp; Mildred Zamperini Ann Zeegers &amp; Wayne Butler</p>
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**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

(Easter in the Park—continued from Page 2)  
rare butterflies, it only has two broods a year, flying around Easter in the spring and then another brood that flies in the fall.

I would like to invite you to join the Palm Beach and Miami Chapters of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) for our annual Easter Sunday



*Southern Dusted Skipper*

Walk and Pot Luck Lunch. We will meet at the front entrance at 9am and work our way back through the park. By 10am, you will find us along the roadside near Eagle's View, checking out the Thistle along the road's edge where we will look for a variety of Butterflies, including the Dusted Skipper. We will then make our way to the Kitching Creek Pavillion between 11:30-Noon. Bring your favorite Pot Luck dish and \$3 per person to cover the cost of the pavillion. Questions? Send an email to atala@prodigy.net or call 561-706-6732. More information can be found on the Palm Beach NABA website: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabaac/index.html>.

## Scheduled Activities at the Park

**Riverfest**—Sunday March 25, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Entrance to the park will be free.

**Easter Sunday in the Park**—Join the North American Butterfly Association at 9am for a butterfly walk, followed by a potluck lunch. See article on page 2.

**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.

**We are now on the web!**

<http://www.friendsofjdsp.org>

**Download a copy of this newsletter in color!**



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.