



JANUARY 2020

New Year, New Beginnings

There are exciting changes going on with the Friends Board of Directors and park staff! Join us in saying hello, goodbye, and congratulations to the park family during this transition.

Janet Rios

Janet Rios has joined the Friends Executive Board as Treasurer. She has been volunteering with the Friends for some time and we are excited that she has stepped up to contribute her finance and accounting expertise to the Board.

welcome
TO THE TEAM



Doug Marcello

The most recent addition to the Friends team is Doug Marcello. As a Board member, Doug will bring an enthusiasm for the park's resources and recreational opportunities that is critical to moving forward with the Friends mission.

Open Board of Directors Positions

Are you interested in being a part of the team? The Friends Board of Directors is searching for dedicated volunteers to fill the roles of **Vice President** and **Secretary**.

The Friends are also looking for a **Membership Services Specialist** to represent the organization at community events and secure sponsorships and new corporate members.

To express interest or for more information, email contact@friendsofjdsp.org.

Congratulations on your new role!



Join us in congratulating Libby Reinert on her promotion to Assistant Park Manager! Libby is a familiar face at the park, serving in the Kimbell Education Center for 15 years as a Park Services Specialist. During this time, she has developed and delivered engaging educational programs to the public and dedicated herself to ensuring a positive experience for all who enter the Kimbell Center's doors. We know great things will come to pass for Jonathan Dickinson as she joins the leadership.

New Rangers



Erinn Mullen-Oliver

While this is Erinn's first ranger position with Florida State Parks, she is anything but new to JD. Erinn has worked hard in a variety of roles at the park including AmeriCorps volunteer, resident volunteer, and fire technician. Her diverse experience with natural resources and education pair with her hard work and perseverance to make her a great asset to our team!



James Lee

James brings a wide variety of experience and abilities to his new role as a Park Ranger. He spent six years in the Air Force before moving to South Florida, where he developed his skills in construction and landscaping. His love for the outdoors was instilled in him as a child in Georgia and is what attracted him to a career with Florida State Parks.



Cassi Bliss

If you've been to the park in the last few months, you may have already met Cassi. Her smiling face has been greeting visitors in the ranger station since she began volunteering at the park in September. Cassi's dedication to customer service and willingness to rise to any challenge are a recipe for success as she begins her new role at the park.

Congratulations on your retirement!



After 28 years of dedicated service to Jonathan Dickinson State Park (33 with the Florida Park Service), Administrative Assistant Jan LaMont is embarking on her next big adventure--retirement! While we will miss her terribly, we wish her well in this next chapter. Thank you, Jan, for all you've done to keep the park running smoothly!

Eagle Update



Photo by Bonnie Larson

This is the time of the year when bald eagles get a new beginning of their own. For decades, visitors at Jonathan Dickinson State Park have stopped to look at the bald eagle nest visible from Park Drive at Jonathan Dickinson. The birds that occupy the nest are migratory and return to the park in the fall and, if their eggs are successful, they typically hatch in late January or early February. So for now, we watch and wait and hope for evidence of new life soon.

If you've got park wildlife observations to share, feel free to email and let us know. We'd love to hear from you!



Jonathan Dickinson State Park
16450 SE Federal Hwy
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
Kimbell Education and Visitor Center
561-745-5551

Learn more about Friends of JDSP membership [here](#).

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