**Bandits, Birds, Burning, and Beliefs: The Story of Florida Scrub Jays at Jonathan Dickinson State Park**
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**Presenter's Title:** Park Biologist
**Topic:** Managing fire regimes in a changing world (good fire/bad fire)
**Proposal Type:** Individual Presentation
 **Abstract:**Jonathan Dickinson State Park (JDSP) is a 4,250 hectare property in south-eastern coastal Florida. JDSP is one of 175 state parks in the Florida Park Service system, which as an agency won its fourth National Gold Medal in 2019. JDSP annually welcomes 300,000 visitors and includes a rare ecosystem, Florida scrub. One of the inhabitants of Florida scrub is the Florida Scrub Jay, a Florida endemic bird that is Federally Threatened. The population of the bird, within JDSP, peaked in the early 1990s due to several wildfires in the 1970s and 1980s and then crashed in the early 2000s. Persistent use of prescribed fire and interpretation of these efforts to the public has created an accepting public outlook which supports the parks' prescribed burning. Due to prescribed fire in the scrub Florida Scrub Jays now thrive and are rebounding in numbers, which we know because of supervised citizen science. The park is a model for using prescribed fire in urban settings and in leveraging community efforts to monitor imperiled species.