



## Interpreting our environment...

We recently finished a two-year exhibition for the Elsa Kimbell Environmental Education and Research Center at Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Jupiter, Florida. It was a lot of "roadwork" for our group, but a very rewarding experience. We got to know the water, the land and the people that make up the park and left an educational media program that is helping the staff share their love and concern for the environment with their park visitors.



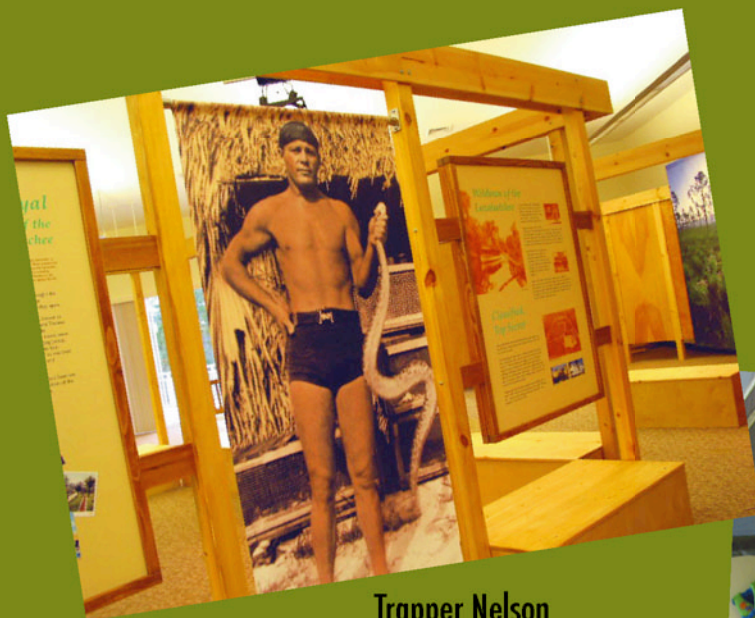
*Curt Bowman*

## Along the Loxahatchee Discovering the Land and the River



This project... one of the most ambitious educational media programs recently undertaken by Florida Parks... started out like many exhibit projects with planning meetings and a concept plan. The central planners and park staff wanted a modular, bright and easily changeable exhibit. With over 3000 square feet and a historically and naturally diverse story to tell, we started identifying the messages that would best present this unique place. Emphasis was placed on the understanding of the natural plant and animal communities, the impacts of development on the park, the balance between recreational use and preservation, and small but significant ways in which we could all make a difference by conserving these irreplaceable resources.

We decided to incorporate seasonal mini-exhibits that the rangers could change as new blooms appeared, birds were sited or other dynamic happenings occurred in the park. To better prepare visitors for their outdoor adventures, we chose not only explanations of the environment but also opportunities that awaited them as they continued. Many interactives, including hands-on manipulatives and short interspersed videos, as well as beautiful large-format photographic murals and micro-habitats added to the texture. A high-definition orientation film, A Balancing Act, capped off the exhibit. Directed and filmed by group members Jody Marcil and Kevin O'Brian, the film will be shown regularly in the large adjoining theater.



Trapper Nelson



Early Concept Sketch



'Discovery' Style Floor Plan



Learning About Recreational Resources



Building the Modular System



### Tip...

Models of birds and animals in micro-habitats are great alternatives to taxidermed mounts. There are many talented wood carvers that can provide exhibit components that are durable, won't attract pests and look great!



Environmental Messages on Video Repeaters



Interactive Throughout

This interpretive exhibit was made possible by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida State Parks