



Friends of the Loxahatchee River August 2013



River Center Summary Statistics

| Year Month | General Visitors | Program Visitors | Outreach | Gift Shop | Donations | Memberships | Sponsors | Education Programs | River Center Programs | Special Events | Volunteer Hours |
|------------|------------------|------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 2012-07 | 1934 | 363 | 65 | \$ 1,699 | \$ 1,600 | | | \$ 5,161 | | | 659:40 |
| 2012-08 | 1161 | 249 | 106 | \$ 1,462 | \$ 1,099 | \$ 75 | | \$ 1,069 | | \$ 500 | 423:19 |
| 2012-09 | 1714 | 80 | 700 | \$ 1,147 | \$ 687 | \$ 25 | | \$ 267 | | \$ 835 | 269:15 |
| 2012-10 | 995 | 379 | 720 | \$ 772 | \$ 444 | \$ 135 | \$ 500 | \$ 259 | | \$ 801 | 305:52 |
| 2012-11 | 861 | 321 | 87 | \$ 825 | \$ 561 | \$ 225 | \$ 6,700 | \$ 333 | | \$ 451 | 112:26 |
| 2012-12 | 881 | 229 | | \$ 1,153 | \$ 626 | \$ 125 | \$ 6,150 | \$ 112 | | \$ 1,066 | 245:15 |
| 2013-01 | 1228 | 432 | 94 | \$ 1,005 | \$ 723 | \$ 175 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 276 | | \$ 472 | 306:29 |
| 2013-02 | 1068 | 443 | 514 | \$ 1,103 | \$ 956 | \$ 425 | \$ 300 | \$ 47 | | \$ 830 | 261:08 |
| 2013-03 | 1642 | 483 | 907 | \$ 1,735 | \$ 1,607 | \$ 185 | \$ 250 | \$ 459 | \$ 2,250 | \$ 2,630 | 219:21 |
| 2013-04 | 1248 | 440 | 805 | \$ 1,033 | \$ 913 | \$ 110 | | \$ 43 | \$ 5,498 | \$ 7,571 | 369:07 |
| 2013-05 | 1267 | 465 | 226 | \$ 1,629 | \$ 809 | \$ 200 | \$ 400 | \$ 22 | \$ 3,945 | | 206:39 |
| 2013-06 | 2187 | 506 | 225 | \$ 1,448 | \$ 1,039 | \$ 50 | \$ 900 | \$ 1,922 | \$ 1,835 | | 751:50 |
| 2013-07 | 2032 | 794 | 55 | \$ 1,324 | \$ 1,147 | \$ 50 | | \$ 1,899 | \$ 1,105 | | 706:49 |

River Center

- The River Center is preparing for termite fumigation in mid-August, and we have been coordinating and consulting with our aquarium contractor, termite contractor, and the pesticide representative from DOW Industries.
- Please welcome Nicole Sciandra as the new Community Outreach Coordinator! Nicole has worked with the River Center since January 2013 as a college intern. She brings great eagerness and enthusiasm while leading new activities such as the very successful Fishing Camps. She is excited to join the River Center in a full-time capacity.

Friends of the Loxahatchee River –There was no meeting in July due to the Independence Day holiday.

Special Programs

Lionfish Roundup - On July 13th, the River Center was the southern event site for the Martin County Artificial Reef Lionfish Roundup. Congratulations to Albrey Arrington and the Fish Rules App team who won the Round-Up's awards for "Most Lionfish Caught" and "Smallest Lionfish"! They caught 73 lionfish and their smallest lionfish was 5 inches.



Special Story Times – EllieBellie's Sunshine Shop Storytime

Elora and Isabella Fucigna are two teen girls that have started their own business dedicated to promoting literacy in our community. They illustrate beautiful watercolor greeting cards, and sell them to local area gift shops including the River Center. They use the proceeds from the cards to purchase books for schools and libraries. They also made a donation to the River Center to purchase books for our "library". On July 11th they came to a special story time to share their love of books with our Story Time guests.

Sunset Paddle - On Tuesday July 16th the River Center led a tour of the Loxahatchee River at Jonathan Dickinson State Park for 25 guests. The River Center provided our kayaks and others brought their own kayaks, canoes and paddleboards. The guests enjoyed a leisurely hour and a half paddle that included short talks about mangroves, oyster restoration, sea grass, water color and quality, fish, turtles, and more. This new activity was a success based on the numbers of calls we received the next day from members wanting to sign up for the next kayak trip on August 30.

Summer Programs

Fishing Clinic for Kids and Families – Two more sessions of the popular River Center fishing clinic took place on July 19th in Carlin Park and again at Burt Reynolds Park on July 27th. Thirty kids and their parents/guardians came out to learn the basics of fishing –



tackle, knots, fish identification, regulations, and more. Fishing Headquarters tackle shop and the West Palm Beach Fishing Club donated all of the fishing equipment, including 20 fishing poles, and informational books about fish identification and conservation. Fish Rules App donated all the bait supplies for this summer's clinics. Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. restaurant also provided the River Center with meal vouchers for the young participants. The event received great promotion and press such as the "top pick" on Macaroni Kid Palm Beach Gardens/Jupiter and prominent placement in the Jupiter Courier. Building on our successful platform for teaching fishing skills, we incorporated the requirements from the Boy Scouts of America to provide a fishing merit badge program to a Boy Scout troops.

"{The} fishing clinic was very helpful, now we know how to tie the proper knot. Thanks!"

Summer Camps – The River Center offered another highly successful week of camp where campers hiked, fished, and kayaked at Riverbend Park, explored at Jonathan Dickinson State Park and Hobe Sound Nature Center, seine and dip netted in the Indian River Lagoon at Coral Cove Park, swam at Blowing Rocks Preserve, and snorkeled and explored the mangrove habitats at DuBois Park. We had two more sold-out *mini-aquatic camps* as well. The River Center's partner camps with both *Jupiter Outdoor Center* and *Blueline Paddle-Surf* have also provided successful environmental education programs.

Outreach

Treetop Academy – An interactive Loxahatchee River program was provided for 50 pre-school students at the Treetop Academy in Jupiter. The experience included a touch tank demonstration, bio-facts, and games about the Loxahatchee River.

Volunteers of the Month – Rene Blaustein and Nicole Osetek: This month we give "Volunteer of the Month" to two of our best! Rene Blaustein and Nicole Osetek are best friends who have volunteered together at the River Center since May of 2013. This dynamic duo are always eager to help out with visitor services, touch tank, animal care, special events and cleaning at the River Center. There is no job these two can't handle!



Friends Membership – 154 active members; 1 new/renewals

Upcoming River Center Events

Fri., Aug. 9 – Youth Volunteer Appreciation Party (5-8 pm) – Celebrating our dedicated youth volunteers for all the great work that they did this summer!

Tues.-Sat., Aug. 20-24 – River Center CLOSED for major maintenance.

Thurs., Aug. 29 – Public Eco-Tour Kayak Trip (6-7:30 pm) – Burt Reynolds Park (\$10/pp; please RSVP)

Thurs., Aug. 15 – Water Play Day – Splashing good time for kids of all ages (\$5/per child; please RSVP)

Fri., Aug. 30 – Friends Members Kayak Trip (6-7:30 pm) – Join your fellow Friends members and enjoy a kayak tour of the lower estuary out of Burt Reynolds Park (please RSVP – FREE for current Friends members).

Fri., Sept. 6 – Friends Meeting with Mark Zilberberg – A History of Fisheries Regulations (please RSVP)

To RSVP please call (561) 743-7123 or email at rivercenter@loxahatcheeriver.org.