



# Friends of the Loxahatchee River April 2015



## 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
2014-03	1529	158	670	\$1,436	\$1,079	\$720	\$100	\$410	\$2,405	\$10,418	376
2014-04	1295	905	62	\$1,198	\$975	\$200	\$200	\$318	\$3,825	\$633	167
2014-05	1099	520	791	\$965	\$932	\$150	\$2,500	\$358	\$4,873	\$451	217
2014-06	1802	760	695	\$1,315	\$1,089	\$175	\$1,544	\$2,572	\$5,029	\$328	475
2014-07	2135	1014	125	\$1,632	\$1,038		\$1,750	\$3,122	\$1,561	\$200	798
2014-08	1636	169	42	\$915	\$960	\$100	\$288	\$486	\$260	\$1,168	388
2014-09	1260	132	15	\$573	\$604	\$175	\$2,538	\$18	\$16	\$346	280
2014-10	1311	511	108	\$1,054	\$674	\$125	\$1,765	\$909		\$1,099	226
2014-11	1229	417		\$844	\$1,019	\$50	\$8,000	\$441	\$10	\$377	182
2014-12	1056	372		\$1,352	\$797	\$400	\$5,544	\$249	\$301	\$500	132
2015-01	1433	645	942	\$905	\$1,583	\$185	\$550	\$564	\$1,348	\$1,379	267
2015-02	1259	308	1313	\$1,360	\$987	\$200	\$532	\$130	\$3,025	\$2,872	197
2015-03	1695	219	274	\$1,451	\$1,003	\$365	\$3,500	\$100	\$5,390	\$9,647	317

**River Center – Migratory Bird Garden Eagle Scout Project:** Eagle Scout Candidate, Spencer Edwards, constructed an entrance to the migratory bird garden at the front of the River Center including a connecting path back to the bird garden. Spencer constructed the project completely with recycled materials - beams and bolts were from an existing structure, and the mulch was from FPL’s tree trimming projects.



**Friends of the Loxahatchee River:** On April 3rd, the River Center welcomed Mr. Timothy O’Neill, Board Member of Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. Mr. O’Neill

gave an exciting live raptor presentation with his Harris hawk, Metis, and told fascinating stories about hunting with birds. He described the steps necessary to become a certified falconer, and spoke about current conservation issues. Adding to the event, Mr. David Hitzig, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary Executive Director, brought raptors including a red-shoulder hawk and eagle owl. Over fifty participants attended this program.

### Special Programs

**Night on the Loxahatchee –** Over 140 guests attended this year’s fundraising event for the River Center. Guests arriving at the River Center were invited aboard a “steamboat” from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and enjoyed hors d’oeuvres from Food Shack. To continue with the “River Rhapsody” theme, our local storytellers regaled the guests with “a day in the life” aboard a steamboat (Mr. Jim Snyder) and tall tales from the days when the Loxahatchee River became “Wild and Scenic” (Mr. Bobby Culpepper) all while enjoying a variety of music. Our guests raised over \$13,400 for the River Center during this event. Pictured: Mr. and Mrs. Lieberman (annual sponsors) posing at the “photo booth”.



**Limestone Creek Elementary Camp Fire** – After learning about the River Center’s successful camp fire events, the PTO of Limestone Creek Elementary approached the River Center with the “wild idea” to host the PTO’s annual Mother/Son fundraising event. Careful planning led to a hugely successful event on March 6<sup>th</sup> with a sold-out crowd of over 400 parents and students. Guests enjoyed a festive occasion that featured an “Into the Wild” theme, great food and music, photo booths, raffles, crafts, and even a safari through the migratory bird and butterfly garden.



**Jupiter University** – As part of the town’s “Jupiter U” program series, more than 60 Jupiter residents enjoyed a day of immersion into the Loxahatchee River at the River Center. Jupiter U provides the opportunity for residents to learn about life and government in Jupiter. Offered each spring, this free series of courses, including and information sessions, gives residents an overview of their Town’s government organization, supporting services, sister organizations, as well as information on the Town’s history and

heritage. The River Center staff provided a detailed tour of the River Center and an “Oyster Shake Ecology” lab where we discovered many of the microorganisms that inhabit the oyster reefs in the Loxahatchee River estuary. Staff then led a kayak tour to Fullerton Island, the recent environmental restoration project by Palm Beach County’s Environmental Resource Management.

**Audubon Birding at the Loxahatchee River District** - On March 7th the Audubon Society of the Everglades and Friends of the Loxahatchee hosted a bird walk at the Loxahatchee River District. The ASE’s mission is to inspire people to conserve wildlife, especially birds, and the environment that supports them. This is the fourth walk conducted around the District’s equalization ponds. Audubon’s Mr. Jim Howe helped participants identify more than 30 species of birds, including rare finds like Forster’s Terns and Bonaparte’s Gulls.



**Spring Break Aquatic Adventure Camp –**

Following on the success of our Aquatic Adventure Summer Camp, we offered a new Spring Break Camp March 16-20. The session was a near sellout with 14 campers, 4 counselors and staff the was tailored for children ranging from kindergarten through 5th grade. The weather cooperated and campers visited many gems of the Loxahatchee River and area parks including hiking at Riverbend Park, kayaking MacArthur Beach State Park, fishing at Burt Reynolds Park, seine and dip netting in the Indian River Lagoon at Coral Cove Park, and snorkeling at Dubois Park. Campers also helped care for the River Center’s aquariums, and participated in numerous games, activities, and craft projects. On Friday, parents joined their children for a camper presentation and a private tour from their newly educated young “naturalist”.



**Adult Citizen Science Program: Flying Wild - Bird Basics** - On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 18 participants took part in the River Center's Environmental Education Series about the fascinating birds in our area. Florida is home to over 500 species of birds between year-round populations, winter residents, and migratory birds just passing through. The Loxahatchee River is a great place to find some of these birds, including blue herons, ibis, osprey, egrets,

wood storks, sandhill cranes, owls, and peregrine falcons. The students took a guided discovery walk in the River Center's Migratory Bird Garden while sharpening species identification skills, and gained an understanding of bird populations, migration patterns, and adaptations. More than 75 adults have participated in the River Center's Adult Citizen Science Environmental Education Programs.

### **Outreach Activities**

**Marsh Pointe "Ecopalooza"**: On March 5th the River Center participated in the 5th Annual Marsh Pointe Elementary "Ecopalooza". The River Center was an exhibitor at the environmentally friendly festival to help bring awareness about the importance of taking care of the environment to the students and parents of Marsh Pointe Elementary. More than 200 students and parents enjoyed the River Center's critters from the touch tank, bio-facts, and learned about the River Center and our summer camp options.



**NatureScaping**: the River Center were exhibitors at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park's 19th NatureScaping Outdoor Festival on March 14th. With 1,200 visitors attending this event, NatureScaping promotes nature plants, native landscaping, and a joining together of nature lovers of all ages. This event was a free, educational day of family fun, with native plant vendors, live animal shows, presentations, fishing clinics, children's crafts, environmental organizations, paddle boarding and kayaking, photography contest, live music and food.

**Friends Membership** – 76 active members; 26 new/renewals; 45 current sponsors

**Annual Sponsors Recognition** – **Bob and Annie Hite, Patricia and Bill Magrogan, Town of Jupiter**

**Upcoming River Center Events** – RSVP at [rivercenter@loxahatcheeriver.org](mailto:rivercenter@loxahatcheeriver.org) or 561-743-7123.

Wed. April 15 (10-11:30 a) – Nature Walk at Jupiter Ridge Natural Area. Learn about the scrub habitat and critters with River Center naturalists. \$10 for non-members, \$5 for members.

Thurs. April 23 (5:30-7:30 p) – Sponsor Appreciation Event. The River Center will honor our annual sponsors and event sponsors aboard the Manatee Queen for an evening Loxahatchee River Cruise.

Fri. April 24 (6-8p) – Lionfish Clinic. Attend our informative clinic to learn everything you need to know about lionfish, including how to capture them and prepare them for cooking.

Sat. April 25 (8a-1p) – Lionfish Clint and Hunt. Get out there and put your lionfish training to work – go lionfish hunting and maybe even come home with a catch for a fantastic meal.

Fri. May 1 (12-1p) – Friends of the Loxahatchee River - Join us for a presentation on basic biology, ecology, and behavior of the Florida Scrub Jay, by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Angela Tringali.

Sun. May 17 (8-10a) – Loxahatchee River Wild and Scenic 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kayak at Riverbend Park.

Sat. May 30 – Lionfish Round-up sponsored by Martin County Artificial Reef Program at Jupiter Pointe Marina. For more information: [info@mclionfish.com](mailto:info@mclionfish.com) or 772-221-1387.