



Friends of the Loxahatchee River August 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
2014-07	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	215
2015-03	1695	219	274	\$1,451	\$1,003	\$365	\$3,500	\$100	\$5,390	\$9,647	358
2015-04	1326	518	150	\$1,600	\$1,023	\$250	\$1,400	\$1,818	\$6,770	\$1,561	130
2015-05	1138	358	183	\$944	\$643	\$210	\$2,950	\$49	\$5,179	\$1,599	81
2015-06	2078	1031	160	\$1,355	\$837	\$200	\$520	\$3,087	\$4,365	\$420	487
2015-07	1936	1294	46	\$1,985	\$524	\$50	\$650	\$5,073	\$1,490	\$377	645

River Center – New inserts for the Critter Cabinet to convert them to terrariums for reptiles are almost read to be installed.

Friends of the Loxahatchee River – On Friday, August 7th, the River Center welcomed Ms. Nancy Kim Pham Ho of the Vero Beach Marine Laboratory. Nancy gave an overview on seahorse biology, aquaculture, and conservation projects taking place in the Treasure Coast. She explained how citizens could participate in research using small DNA test kits to help scientists better understand population distribution. There were 62 participants that attended this program.



Special Programs

Summer Camp Going Strong! - During the month of July the River Center held

the 3rd, 4th and 5th session of Aquatic Adventure Summer Camp. Two weeks were devoted to Nature Navigators designed for children ranging from ages 6 to 8 entering 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade. River Trekkers, designed for children ranging from ages 9 to 11 entering 4th, 5th, and 6th grade, ran for one week. Each Friday, parents were invited to a camper presentation and pot luck. Parents gave us a great response and positive feedback. We had great campers! Campers visited a wide



variety of locations throughout the Loxahatchee River watershed as well as the Indian River and the Lake Worth Lagoon systems. Campers went kayaking, seine and dip netting, snorkeling, swimming, standup paddle boarding, hiking, fishing, and all around had a blast! Campers collected marine species using various catching techniques, were responsible for caring for our camp aquarium, and participated in numerous games, hands-on activities, and craft projects.

2nd Annual Jr. Angler Fishing Tournament – We had 56 anglers for our second year. Many of them were returning anglers. The young anglers were hooked and the competition exceeded our expectations again this year. We are thrilled to report that the tournament more than achieved its goal of helping contestants to explore the diversity of local fisheries and learn more about the area's unique aquatic habitats, all while honing their fishing skills. The tournament lasted six weeks and participants reeled in more than 2,500 fish and almost 120 different species! In hopes of accommodating all interested participants, both fresh and salt water photo submissions were accepted. Some kids enjoyed fishing from the lake in their backyard for a trophy bass, while others preferred heading offshore in hopes of reeling in snappers. It was important for our tournament to cater to each angler's preferences. The excitement of the tournament culminated in a family fish fry at the River Center on July 18, where the winners were announced and prizes awarded. *A hearty congratulation goes out to the grand prize winner, Jr. Angler Calleigh Walters, age 5, who managed to reel in and photograph more than 240 fish!* After collaborative efforts from our ever-growing list of sponsors and partners, we are proud to announce that the completion of our second Jr. Angler Tournament was just as successful as the first. With such tremendous turnout and interest in the tournament, the River Center hopes to continue building on this accomplishment. We are already looking forward to next year's competitive and educational summer adventure.



Gardens Give Back - On Thursday June 18th and Tuesday July 28th the River Center welcomed back Gardens Gives Back. Sponsored by the City of Palm Beach Gardens, this community service based camp takes “field trips” to various agencies and locations helping with community service projects. Projects range from beach clean-ups and landscaping beautification to helping at a food bank and writing letters to active military personnel. The River Center provided an opportunity for these teens to assist in a kayak river

cleanup and maintain our migratory bird and butterfly garden. River cleanups are important, as well as fun. Campers were paired in tandem kayaks, and sent out to gather trash along the mangrove shoreline. While cleaning up the bird garden, campers spent time weeding, trimming, mulching, and planting.

Family Seine and Snorkel Program - Families joined River Center environmental educators on Wednesday, July 15th for a morning of exploration during the first Estuary Family Snorkel and Seine Expedition at Coral Cove Park in Tequesta. Participants got some relief from the heat in the cool water while River Center educators guided guests on a snorkel trip through the seagrass and mangroves, discovering some critters along the way. Pufferfish, conchs, and seahorses are just a few of the animals that participants were able to experience up close and personal during our morning adventure! Educators welcomed over fifty adults and children to this event. The event was free to attend!





Public Kayak Tour: Pine Glades Natural Area – On Tuesday, July 9th, participants set out on a kayak adventure launching out of Pine Glades Natural Area! During a brief presentation provided by Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management, guests learned about the role Pine Glades plays in our watershed, benefits to the Loxahatchee River, and the County’s efforts to restore the area. Fourteen guests participated in this event. Thank you to all who attended!

Mini Camp Experience – On July 11th the River Center held its second Estuary Exploration Mini Camp of the summer. Eight Campers ages 6 to 11 participated in a seine and dip netting experience catching pin fish, puffer fish, pipe fish, crabs, shrimp, and snails at Burt Reynolds Park. After they collected marine species, campers were able to identify them, view some under microscopes, and add some to our aquariums. Campers participated in a touch tank demonstration, made crafts out of recycled materials, and viewed our River Center tanks and aquariums. This is a great way to get young campers out and about with the River Center for a morning of fun in the sun!

Fishing Clinic – On Saturday, July 19th, twenty children attended the clinic conducted at Burt Reynolds Park. Each child had at least one parent accompanying them. Ages ranged between 5-15. The program began with a classroom session lasting about 45 minutes, where we covered fishing regulations, knot tying, various forms of tackle, and fish identification. Before heading down to the water, we discussed the importance of safety while fishing, and considered potential hazards if these rules were neglected (i.e. holding the fishing pole vertical by your side, being aware of your surroundings when casting, and hooks). Opting to fish on the west side of Burt Reynolds Park due to minimal boat traffic, we had an extremely successful day of fishing, with every child catching at least one fish. In addition to the standard rod and reel, kids also had the opportunity to learn and practice different methods of fishing, such as cast netting and yoyo reels. The cost of this event was \$10 per child.



Outreach Activities – None this month



Volunteer of the Month: The River Center’s Volunteer of the Month is awarded to Samantha Baker. Samantha is a senior at Jupiter High School and a member of the Jupiter Environmental Research and Fields Studies Academy. She has volunteered at the River Center since July of 2014 and has earned over 35 hours of community service. Some of her responsibilities are greeting visitors, acting as a touch tank docent, guiding education programs, and all around extra help wherever needed. She

has been a great extra pair of hands during some of our summer programs! We thank her for her services and look forward to her interning during the school year.

Friends Membership – 75 active members; 2 new/renewals; 69 current sponsors

Annual Sponsors Recognition – **Mark & Arline Slifkin**

Upcoming River Center Events – RSVP at rivercenter@loxahatcheeriver.org or 561-743-7123.

Tues August 18 River Center Closed for floor resurfacing

Sat August 22 – Volunteer Orientation (10a-12p), RSVP to education@loxahatcheeriver.org or 561-743-7123.

Fri September 4 – Friends Meeting (12p): Join Barbara Brunnick of Jupiter's Taras Oceanographic Foundation for a closer look at the wild dolphins that frequent the waters of Palm Beach County.

Thurs September 17 – Special Firefighter Storytime (9:30a-10:30a)

Thurs September 17 – Family Seine and Snorkel at Coral Cove Park (1-3p)

Sat September 19 – International Coastal Cleanup at Burt Reynolds Park (8a-12p)

Fri September 25 – Pine Glades Natural Area Kayak (12-4p)

local sports

'Junior Angler Journey' awards Saturday!

PROVIDED PHOTO/THE RIVER CENTER

Returning Jr. Angler Brenna O'Neill, 11, is pictured with a hairy blenny, caught at Dubois Park in Jupiter.

This saltwater species thrives in rocky substrate and reef environments.

Blennies rest on their pectoral and dorsal fins while camouflaging with their environment. These fish are commonly found in the Atlantic Ocean, from the shallow waters of the Americas to the African coast.

A carnivorous species, the Hairy Blenny feeds on crustaceans, gastropods, echinoderms, and other fishes.

Jr. Angler Tournament scores are tallied this week!

So placing winners within each age category will be awarded at the Tournament Fish Fry this Saturday, July 18.

For more information about the tourney or The River Center - Loxahatchee River District, 805 N.U.S. 1 in Jupiter, call 561-743-7123 ext. 709 or visit www.loxahatcheeriver.org/rivercenter.



local features

FAMILY & COMMUNITY

In 1989, Jupiter's Limestone Creek Elementary opened its doors, after the school district determined another such school in the area was badly needed.

It was placed in a location where, at the time, two differing neighborhoods met.

This summer came the school's 25-year reunion. And what a celebration it was!

Pictured, Aubrey and Ethan Inglima did very well with their "cakewalk" during reunion day.

See the story of the gathering of Limestone Creek Elementary family and community, Page 33.

VIVIANNE HALL/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY



COMMUNITY FEATURES

Limestone Creek Elementary anniversary

... all about FAMILY, COMMUNITY

By VIVIANNE HALL
Special to The Courier
Newsweekly

With summer, it seems only fitting that a large number of school reunions take place.

They usually represent milestones for a particular class such as 10 years, 25, 40 or even 50.

But recently a special type of reunion - spanning 25 years - included several hundred "graduates" and well-wishers to celebrate a local elementary school's beginnings.

IN 1989/THRIVING

In 1989, Jupiter's Limestone Creek Elementary opened its doors, after the school district determined another such school in the area was badly needed. It was placed in a location where, at the time, two differing neighborhoods met; one desirable, the other not quite so much.

Former Riviera Beach Elementary School principal Ed Bohne, who is now retired, was brought in to help assemble a teaching team and staff which many say was "terrific."

So since its inception, Limestone Creek Elementary, affectionately known by many as "LCE," has thrived.

It was off to a great start, thanks to two hard-working representatives from a very full-capacity Jerry Thomas Elementary and from nearby Jupiter Elementary.

At the time, Carol Beckmann was heading up the Jerry Thomas



VIVIANNE HALL/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

Four-year-old Janiyah Lewis takes aim at the graffiti board.

Elementary PTO. Her friend Pat Watkins had been very active at Jupiter Elementary. The two of them worked together to help unify the neighborhood - focusing on the positive aspects they felt would come about because of the new Limestone Creek school.

OVER THE YEARS

Over the years, a number of teachers, students and staff have come and gone from LCE. Amazingly, there is still a handful of what could be called the Old Guard who are still teaching.

Honoring young and old was one of the main reasons for the "25th Anniversary Celebration," which was held at Jupiter's idyllic River Center facility and grounds. A brief stroll through the



VIVIANNE HALL/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

Former Limestone Creek Elementary student and kicker for the Philadelphia Eagles, Cody Parkey, gave to the cause of the "25th Anniversary Celebration" of the school recently. It was held at Jupiter's idyllic River Center facility and grounds. It became a special type of reunion, spanning 25 years, and including several hundred "graduates" and well-wishers to celebrate a local elementary school's beginnings.

crowded center found many families who came proudly boasting of their

three generations of LCE students.

"We have a cake walk



VIVIANNE HALL/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

Carol Beckmann and Pat Watkins started LCE's PTO.

with donated cakes from dozens of people," grins Ann Bass, a longtime and original teacher and event co-organizer. "We have live music with our in-school DJ, Mary West, a sponsor wall, a live and a 50/50 auction and famous BBQ from Mark and Ed Bohne."

The same Ed Bohne who founded LCE.

All food and beverages, along with raffle items, were either donated or underwritten by a number of local sponsors happy to get behind the event.

A sea of aqua blue T-shirts emblazoned with the school's mascot, the Cougar, was the domi-

nant shirt for the event. Retro buttons were pinned on many lapels, signifying the quarter-of-a-century milestone.

Mario Zola showed up for the event. He was one of the original kindergartners to start at Limestone Creek. Mario and his family, many who attended the event, said the evening's gathering brought back "a lot of memories."

"ALL ABOUT FAMILY"

"It's all about family," Zola reflected. "It's a sense of community, with Jupiter being a small town."

See FAMILY, 34

COMMUNITY FEATURES



VIVIANNE HALL/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

Original teachers Kelly Textor-Bush, Candice Carter, Ann Bass, Kay Doering and Cissie Robertson

FAMILY from 33

Annett Rose brought her daughter and granddaughter, 4-year-old Janiyah Lewis, to the celebration. Rose has taught at LCE “almost the whole time,” she said, looking back. “I have one more year (before retirement),” the first-grade teacher bittersweetly added.

A number of those attending were in some of the early, original classes at LCE.

Scott Parrish and his wife Nicole brought along their three small children. Their oldest, Giovanna, will next year walk down the same halls her parents did more than two decades ago.

“We are probably the only LCE married couple here who both went to

Limestone Creek,” muses 32-year-old Nicole. The two have known each other “since we were 5,” she pointed out, although they kept it noncommittal until they started dating in high school.

Throughout the celebration, warm embraces were plentiful, along with loud laughter and the sight of many longtime friends shouting out cheerfully at others they may not have seen in years.

ED BOHNE

As far as his success in founding the school, a very jolly and outgoing Ed Bohne became relatively humble, saying, “I did my job.” Moments later, he adds, “This was a great school — great parents, teachers and students.”

The celebration took on a special meaning along

with its fun-and-games aspect. It also rekindled two very important scholarship programs the school has offered to its deserving alumni.

Proceeds from the event, which doubled as a fundraiser, go toward the Edward R. Bohne Cougar Pride and Melissa Ann Bass Memorial Scholarship Fund. Close to 250 tickets were purchased prior to the anniversary.

Former LCE students who are now in college can apply for the financial aid as a way to keep close ties to their educational foundation at Limestone Creek Elementary.

For information on donating to these scholarships, please contact the George Snow Scholarship Fund, which manages and awards the funds at www.scholarship.org.



VIVIANNE HALL/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

Ed Bohne grins along with Katie Kuretski, whom he’s known since she was a tiny girl.



VIVIANNE HALL/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

A lot of Cougars wore their pride pins.



VIVIANNE HALL/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

Amanda Brown and her daughter Madison both support an organizer – their mom and grandma, Ann Bass.