



Friends of the Loxahatchee River February 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
2014-01	1489	289	190	\$1,183	\$971	\$250				\$1,645	149
2014-02	1129	263	530	\$1,139	\$1,147	\$525		\$84	\$3,670	\$150	177
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	125
2015-01	1406	595	912	\$905	\$1,583	\$185	\$550	\$559	\$1,348	\$1,129	263

Friends of the Loxahatchee River: On Friday, February 6th, the River Center, and more than 80 participants, welcomed Mr. Beau Yeiser of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. Mr. Yeiser gave an overview on sawfish biology and life history followed by specific examples of research results from studies in southwest Florida and Everglades National Park. Mr. Yeiser also discussed local sawfish sightings in recent years.



Special Programs



Loxahatchee by Night Campfire – The River Center continued our monthly “Loxahatchee by Night” Camp Fire season on January 9th. Over 200 participants joined us for an evening of bioluminescent fun. We were honored to have world-renowned scientist Dr. Edie Widder present information on her deep sea expeditions and discoveries. Her captivating presentation included live bioluminescent dinoflagellates that glowed bright blue. Dr. Widder was eager to answer all of the questions of our curious guests, no matter how big or small. In addition to this fascinating presentation, young guests made deep sea-themed fishy crafts. As always, everyone enjoyed delicious s'mores around the camp fire.

Professor Clark Storytime – Children’s book authors Karen and Scott Lamberson visited the River Center for a very special Professor Clark Story Time on January 8th. Karen read the story of a Tiger Shark named Clark who helps people learn about sharks, coral reefs, and protecting all the animals in the ocean. Over 55 children and parents listened to Clark’s story, danced to ocean songs, and made shark crafts. The River Center sincerely appreciates the Lamberson’s support and dedication to the River Center and the Loxahatchee River. They are planning another special Story Time in June celebrating World Ocean’s Day.



Girl Scout C.S.I. Workshop - On January 31st the River Center hosted another Girl Scout Eco-Action Workshop. “Clever Science Investigators” (C.S.I.) focused on Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts earning their Special Agent and Detective badges. This program was so popular in October that we provided this encore workshop for those who could not attend. Over 50 girls learned what it takes to be a “detective” using microscopes, cracking codes, and interpreting body language. Our Scouts also developed their special agent skills creating “cryptic” and “mimicry” disguises, practiced the art of environmental detection, and followed the clues to solve a real River Center mystery. Special thanks to Laura Kerr, volunteers from the Society of Women Engineers, and ERM foundation for their support and dedication.



Adult Citizen Science Program - the River Center hosted its second Adult Environmental Education Series titled Estuary Exploration: Mangrove Adaptations on January 29th. Fifteen participants learned about the important functions that mangroves serve in the Loxahatchee River estuary. River Center staff members helped participants identify the different mangrove species and understand their remarkable root, leaf, and reproductive adaptations required for survival in waters with fluctuating salinity levels and low oxygen sediments. Attendees practiced their new identification skills during an exploration of the mangroves in Burt Reynolds Park. Our next adult education program in February will focus on turtles of the Loxahatchee River.



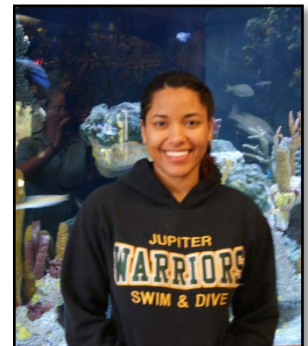
Outreach Activities

Lighthouse Elementary STEM Night: On January 22nd Lighthouse Elementary hosted a night for their teachers, students, and parents to discover Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The South Florida Science Center provided a variety of interactive, experiments, and demonstrations. Students touched a plasma ball, held arthropods, watched bubbles mist with subzero dry ice, and conducted light. The River Center participated with the “Under the Ocean” theme that included a touch tank, microscopes, and biofacts and information on the different ecosystems of the Loxahatchee River. More than 500 students and parents enjoyed this fun science night.



Port Salerno Seafood Festival: Nicole and Megan represented the River Center at the Port Salerno Seafood Festival on January 24th, proving an exhibit showcasing Loxahatchee River the environmental education programs offered by River Center. The event featured live music, arts & crafts, vendors, a kid's fun zone, and delicious seafood of the Treasure Coast.

Volunteer of the Month – Angela Fischer: This month we honor Angela Fischer as our Volunteer of the Month. Angela is a senior at Jupiter High School and a member of the Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy. She is currently completing her senior internship with the River Center for the 2014-2015 school year. Angela has provided over 100 hours of service to the River Center serving as our Animal Care Specialist, feeding and maintaining our aquariums each week. She is also a great help with visitor services, exhibits interpretation, and serving as a touch tank docent. Angela is also a member of Jupiter’s swim team and ladies weight lifting team.



Friends Membership – 61 active members; 9 new/renewals; 43 current sponsors

Annual Sponsors Recognition –Wolverine Ventures, Gentile Glas Holloway O’Mahoney and Assoc. (renewal for Night on the Loxahatchee), **Atlantic Filter** (renewal for Night on the Loxahatchee).

Upcoming River Center Events

Wed. Feb 25 (10-11:30 a) – Nature Walk at Limestone Creek Natural Area. Learn about the scrub, mangrove swamp, pine flatwood, and hardwood hammock habitats with River Center naturalists. Free for member, \$5 for non-members. RSVP to rivercenter@loxahatcheeriver.org or 561-743-7123

Sat. Feb 28 (2-4 p) – New Volunteer Orientation. Contact rivercenter@loxahatcheeriver.org or 561-743-7123 for more information.

Thur. Mar 5 (2-3:30p) – Citizen Science – Adult Learning Program: Experience the fascinating science, ecology, and environmental study that you didn't appreciate when you were 12 years old. *Flying Wild: Bird Basics* is the topic for March. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn about the variety of birds around the Loxahatchee River. \$5 lab fee. RSVP required to 561-743-7123 or education@loxahatcheeriver.org

Fri. Mar 6 (12 p) – Friends of the Loxahatchee River Meeting: Join us for an informative presentation about water resources planning and alternative supplies for future use with Robert Wanvestraut of South Florida Water Management District. Light lunch provided. RSVP to rivercenter@loxahatcheeriver.org or 561-743-7123.

Sat. Mar 7 (8-10 a) – Birding at the Loxahatchee River District with the Audubon Society of Everglades. Join Jim Howe and River Center staff for a morning of bird identification and counting at the District’s reuse storage lakes. RSVP to rivercenter@loxahatcheeriver.org or 561-743-7123.

Mar 16-20 – Spring Break Aquatic Adventure Camp – ages 6-12, 9a-4p daily. \$215 per child (discount for current Friends members). Children will have a captivating experience discovering Florida’s ecosystems, collecting marine critters, and caring for their own aquarium. With 4 counselors and just 16 campers per week, kids will explore the Loxahatchee River from the ocean’s beautiful reefs to the freshwater cypress swamps at Riverbend Park in a safe, personal environment. Adventurers will get “hands-on” with the Loxahatchee, hiking & kayaking diverse habitats, participating in exciting eco-games, and seining and dip netting.

Sat. Mar 28 (7-9:30 p) – **Night on the Loxahatchee: River Rhapsody**, a benefit for the environmental education programs at the River Center. Guests of this “River Rhapsody” themed event will be transported back in time, passing through the River Center’s doors to find themselves inside a turn-of-the-century riverboat. While on board, guests will enjoy storytellers, live jazz, calypso, and a capella music to set the mood, while River Center “ship’s crew” will serve a savory selection of Florida-Caribbean inspired hors d’oeuvres prepared by the chefs of legendary local eatery Little Moir’s Food Shack. RSVP and tickets online at: www.tiny.cc/NOL2015.



Photos from the Girl Scouts CSI Workshop on January 31.