



Friends of the Loxahatchee River January 2015

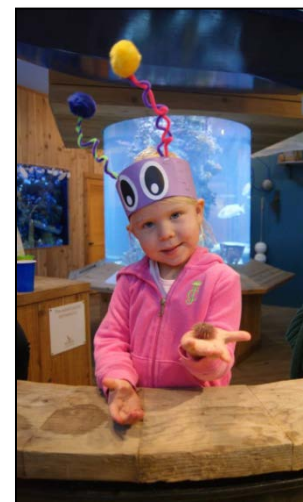
River Center Summary Statistics



Year Month	General Visitors	Program Visitors	Outreach	Gift Shop	Donations	Memberships	Sponsors	Education Programs	River Center Programs	Special Events	Volunteer Hours
2013-12	964	349	2360	\$965	\$749	\$125	\$2,250	\$98	\$445	\$555	217
2014-01	1489	258	190	\$1,183	\$971	\$250				\$1,645	149
2014-02	1129	241	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	825	62	\$1,198	\$975	\$200	\$200		\$3,825	\$633	167
2014-05	1099	510	791	\$965	\$932	\$150	\$2,500	\$342	\$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	115	15	\$573	\$604	\$175	\$2,538	\$18	\$16	\$346	280
2014-10	1311	431	108	\$1,054	\$674	\$125	\$1,765	\$235		\$1,099	226
2014-11	1229	390		\$844	\$1,019	\$50	\$8,000	\$441	\$10	\$377	182
2014-12	1056	372		\$1,352	\$797	\$400	\$5,544	\$249	\$301	\$500	125

Special Programs

Loxahatchee by Night Campfire – The River Center continued our monthly “Loxahatchee by Night” Camp Fire series on December 12th. Over 70 participants of all ages joined River Center educators for a night of “buggy” fun. River Center Environmental Educator Nicole Sciandra gave an exciting presentation about the importance of insects and their ecological role in the Loxahatchee River and its’ watershed. Continuing with the evening’s insect theme, participants made “buggy” headbands. Guests explored the exhibits inside the center, and discovered creepy-crawly bugs of all shapes and sizes in the migratory bird and butterfly garden with microscopes, magnifying glasses, and bug boxes. Families roasted marshmallows on the campfire and enjoyed delicious s’mores throughout the evening.



Winter Storytime - On December 18th the River Center hosted a special Holiday Story Time featuring the music from Disney’s Frozen. Over 50 of our preschoolers and parents listened to Santa stories, enjoyed time with family, and proved they were good boys and girls. We danced, sang, and wished “Happy Holidays” to our touch tank critters up close. Afterwards visitors were invited to play in the classroom at discovery tables and make holiday cards.



Fall 2014 School Programs - As 2014 comes to an end the River Center would like to reflect on our successfully completed education programs during the fall semester. Since September we have completed 34 educational programs with over 1,250 children and chaperones participating. We have welcomed elementary, middle, high school, and college level students from all over Palm Beach, Martin, and Indian River Counties. Many schools returned this year including: Good Sheppard School, Palm Beach Maritime Academy, and Lake Park Elementary. We also had a number of new schools included Lantana Elementary, Marsh

Pointe Elementary, and the Conservatory School of North Palm Beach. Looking towards our spring semester we have over 40 programs on the calendar already and hope to have even more students engaged in our education programs at the River Center.

Adult Citizen Science Program - the River Center hosted the first of our new Adult Environmental Education Series on December 18th. Twenty six participants learned about the Loxahatchee River watershed habitats including freshwater Cypress Swamps, Mangrove Estuaries, and the coral and limestone reefs. This program had a special focus on our oyster reef communities throughout the estuaries and lagoons. Students learned about the Oyster Reef Restoration project that provided habitat for oyster colonization within the St. Lucie Estuary and the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River to offset the historical decline in the area's oyster population. Attendees left with a greater understanding of how oysters are vital to the health of an estuary, effectively filter nutrients, fine sediments and toxins from the water column, and provide habitat for countless numbers of organisms.

Outreach Activities

Volunteer of the Month – Janessa Lynch: The River Center awards Volunteer of the Month to Janessa Lynch. Janessa is a senior at Jupiter High School and comes to the River Center once a week after school. She has been volunteering since August and has contributed over 20 hours of volunteer service. Janessa is part of our Animal Care team leading fish feeding, aquarium maintenance, and creating interpretative displays. Janessa is a valuable member of our team with her positive outlook, outgoing personality, and approachable manner. You can catch her serving as a touch tank docent, exhibit interpreter, and aquarium educator. The River Center staff sends their sincere thanks to Janessa for her consistent hard work and dedication and look forward to the spring semester ahead!



Friends Membership – 69 active members; 6 new/renewals; 40 current sponsors

Annual Sponsors Recognition – Ann Howard, Patricia Walker, Lee & Jenny Owen, Wolverine Ventures, Lucea Keller (renewals) and Frozen Elements (new), and Cotleur and Hearing Landscape (renewal for Night on the Loxahatchee).

Upcoming River Center Events

Sat. Jan 24 (all day) – River Center are exhibitors at the Port Salerno Seafood Festival

Thur. Jan 29 (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. January's class is *Mangrove Adaptations*. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about South Florida's treasured "walking trees"! \$5 lab fee. All adults are welcome. RSVP required to 561-743-7123 or education@loxahatcheeriver.org

Fri. Feb 6 (12 p) – Friends of the Loxahatchee River Meeting: Join us for an exciting presentation on sawfish by Florida Fish and Wildlife Scientist, Beau Yeiser from the Tequesta Field Station. Light lunch provided. RSVP to rivercenter@loxahatcheeriver.org or 561-743-7123.

Sat. Feb 7 (all day) – River Center and Loxahatchee River District are exhibitors at the Jupiter Jubilee

Fri. Feb 13 (6-8p) – Loxahatchee by Night Campfire: Join us for “Backyard Astronomy” with the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium sponsored by Frozen Elements Yogurt Shoppe. This event will include solar system themed crafts, presentations, and activities! South Florida Science Center's Planetarium Technician, Holly Hennessy will join us with a green laser and a telescope to help us get a closer look at the night sky! Flashlights and closed toed shoes are suggested. Please RSVP at rivercenter@loxahatcheeriver.org or 561-743-7123. Register early for reserved seating. \$10/family suggested donation.

Sat.-Mon. Feb 14-16 (all day) – River Center are exhibitors at Artigras

Wed. Feb 25 (10-11:30 a) – Nature Walk at Limestone Creek Natural Area. Learn about various local habitats including scrub, mangrove swamp, pine flatwoods, and hardwood hammocks 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.

COASTAL ANGLER *Magazine* PALM BEACH COUNTY

www.coastalanglermagazine.com

Serving the Coastal Communities of Palm Beach County

JANUARY 2015

Check Out What's Happening at The River Center Inside Burt Reynolds Park in Jupiter

For six years, the River Center has served as the heart of environmental education and activism for the Loxahatchee River, opening its doors in 2008 with proclamations from two Florida counties and an enthusiastic crowd of all ages eager to see this new environmental education center located at Burt Reynolds Park in Jupiter.

Since then, the River Center has remained free to the public and hosted over 130,000 visitors. More than 700 Girl Scouts have earned badges through the River Center's environmental education programs, and 20,000 students have participated in field trips, camps, tours and workshops -- all designed to increase awareness about the Loxahatchee River and its natural habitats.

On any given day, you will find parents and children enjoying Thursday morning Storytime, crafts, eco-tours and fishing clinics; students exploring touch tanks, interactive exhibits and eco-camps; and adults engaging in discussions, river tours, book signings, birding and monthly presentations. The River Center also has an incredible team of volunteers, who collectively have logged more than 21,000 hours caring for aquatic exhibits, developing new attractions, conducting educational programs and camps, and assisting with research and field experience projects.

Along with a network of dedicated volunteers, there is staunch community support of the River Center. Leading this effort is the Loxahatchee River District, which created the center and oversees daily operations. Additional sponsors include Jupiter Inlet District, Solid Waste Authority, South Florida Water Management District, and local businesses like Wolverine Ventures, Inc.

So what it is like to experience the River Center? It begins with the graceful, lifelike reach of an ancient cypress tree replica. It continues with expansive aquatic exhibits which allow you to observe local aquatic life such as yellow bellied sliders, snook and snapper. Get up close and personal with exotic and invasive species such as clown fish and lion fish. Pull a switch and see how a floodplain works. Explore the touch tank where you can touch a starfish, feel the prickle of a sea urchin and the softness of a sea cucumber with the help of River Center volunteers.

Along with interactive and over 6,000 gallons of captivating, live exhibits, the River Center continues to offer a roster of weekly and monthly events, from fishing clinics, river eco-tours, special guest speakers and wildlife presentations. This amazing community environmental center is a great place to bring visitors and family. They would love to have you join the volunteer family. The hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9am to 4pm, and special summer hours include Sundays from 12pm-4pm.

Visitors both young and old will learn more about the Loxahatchee River, its importance to South Florida and our collective responsibility to protect and preserve it. No matter the age, everyone who comes to the River Center leaves a greater appreciation for this amazing watershed.

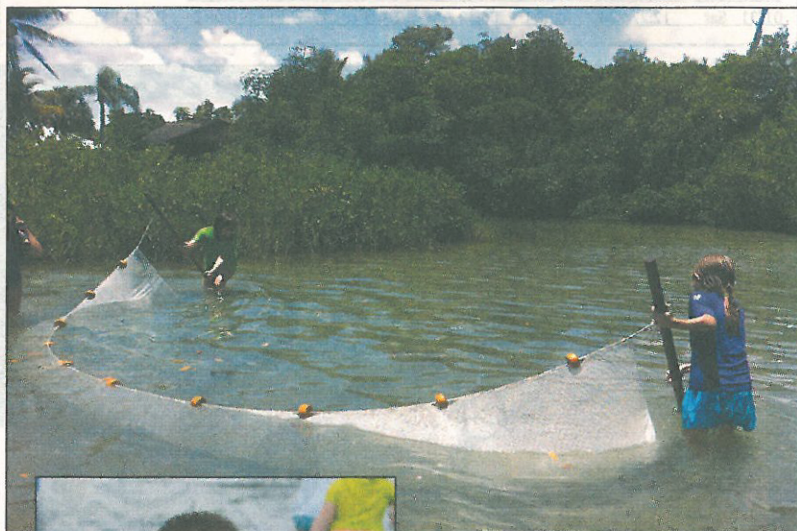
The River Center hosts a monthly campfire event that is a perfect family activity, on Friday, January 9 from 6:00-8:00 PM. You will hear first-hand tales of the search for an infamous sea monster. World-renowned biologist and explorer, Dr. Widder will speak about her adventures and discoveries in the deep sea as well as demonstrate the beauty and wonder of bioluminescence. Participants can explore electrifying exhibits including bioluminescent creatures of the deep and jellyfish crafts for the kids. Guests will also have full access to the permanent exhibits at the River Center. The fun and excitement of the campfire will be accompanied by delicious s'mores and refreshments.

This event is free to the public with a suggested donation of just \$20.00 per family and \$5.00 for students to help support the River Center programming. Please RSVP by calling 561-743-7123 as space is limited. Register early for reserved sitting. Flashlights and closed toed shoes are recommended. For more information about the event, call the River Center or send an email to Rivercenter@Loxahatcheeriver.org. The River Center is located inside Burt Reynolds Park at 805 N US Highway 1 in Jupiter.



Photo: Debbie Thatcher

For more information, visit www.loxahatcheeriver.org or call (561) 743-7123.



- Monthly Campfire Events
- Environmental Programs
- Camps
- Birding
- Eco-Tours
- Touch Tanks
- Workshops
- Field Trips
- Fishing Clinics
- Presentations
- Interactive Exhibits and more!