



Friends of the Loxahatchee River July 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
2014-06	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	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	2050	1031	160	\$1,355	\$837	\$200	\$520	\$2,341	\$4,365	\$320	475

River Center – The cabinetry for the Critter Cabinets was refurbished and new access panels were added for safety and ease in caring for aquaria.

Friends of the Loxahatchee River – No Meeting in July

Special Programs

Summer Training – On June 1st, Busch Wildlife Sanctuary staff and volunteers joined up with the River Center summer interns and staff for a “naturalist” and kayak training day in the Indian River Lagoon and the Wild and Scenic Loxahatchee River at Riverbend Park. Staff learned proper kayaking techniques, participated in safety discussions and scenarios, and learned more about the plants and animals to be found in each location. We were even able to make a rescue that day, returning a lost dog swimming in the channel to their owners.



Summer Camp Starts Off with a Bang! - The River Center’s summer camp season is off to a great start. Already 32 campers, 8 counselors and staff have enjoyed the many activities during the summer (June 15th–19th and June 22nd–26th). The first week, Nature Navigators, was designed for children ranging from ages 6 to 8 entering 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade. The weather was great and we were able to travel throughout Jupiter to visit all parts of the Loxahatchee River. Campers kayaked at Riverbend Park, hiked at Jonathan Dickenson State Park, seine and dip netted in the Indian River Lagoon at Coral Cove Park, explored the Lake Worth Lagoon at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, and snorkeled at Dubois Park.

The second week, River Trekkers, was designed for children ranging from ages 9 to 11 entering 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. Campers went



kayaking, seine and dip netting, snorkeling, swimming, standup paddle boarding, fishing, and all around had a blast! The River Trekkers trekked to the Indian River Lagoon at Coral Cove Park, Dubois Park, explored the Lake Worth Lagoon at John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, Fullerton Island, and went fishing at the Jupiter Lighthouse. Recently, the River Center and the Jupiter Lighthouse have started partnering to provide “wet feet” programs for the Lighthouse. Our camp is providing the “pilot programs” to help us get started.

During each week, campers collected marine species and were responsible for the camp aquarium, participated in numerous games, hands-on activities, and craft projects. On Friday, parents were invited for a camper presentation and pot luck. We had a fantastic week and are looking forward to July summer camps!



Jr. Angler Fishing Tournament - Registration for the River Center’s 2nd Annual Jr. Angler Tournament opened June 4th. Since then, we have registered over fifty participants that have caught more than 90 different species and over 1,300 individual fish. Anglers have until July 11, 2015 to accumulate points in this unique catch-and-release tournament. By having the anglers photographed with the fish they catch and then submit their catch logs and photos, the contest can be run over the course of several weeks instead of just a single day of competition. In addition, the contest awards points not only for the number of fish caught, but also for the number of different species represented in the submissions. The more fish you catch and the more species you catch, the better your chances are to win fantastic prizes! These innovative guidelines encourage contestants to spend time throughout the summer exploring the diversity of habitats and fish species in Palm Beach and Martin Counties. The accomplishments of these young anglers will be celebrated at the Tournament Fish Fry to be held on Saturday, July 18th.

Family Seine and Snorkel Program - Families joined River Center environmental educators on June 10th 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, while 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: Coral Cove Park – On Tuesday, June 9th, participants set out on a kayak adventure launching out of Coral Cove Park and started the week off with a dose of vitamin SEA! After snorkeling with schools of colorful fish at Cato’s Bridge, we checked out Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area’s Wetlands Project. Fourteen guests participated in this event.



Outreach Activities

Florida Trails Association - Environmental Educator Megan Harris presented at the Florida Trails Association Loxahatchee chapter meeting on June 1st. Over 40

members attended the meeting where they discussed maintenance on the Ocean-to-Lake Trail, new member information, and upcoming hikes throughout Martin and Palm Beach County natural areas. Megan was invited to present on behalf of the Loxahatchee River District, the River Center, and the Friends of the Loxahatchee. The talk was titled “Tools and Tricks of an Outdoor Educator.” This presentation aimed to spark creativity for hiking leaders for trailblazers of different ages and backgrounds. Megan presented easy to use items, instruments, and everyday tools that anyone can have available in their hiking backpack.



Volunteer of the Month: This month the River Center would like to acknowledge Owen Mildner as our Volunteer of the Month. Owen is 15 years old and is a student at Jupiter High School. A new volunteer starting this summer, he has already contributed over 20 hours of volunteer service. Owen helps with visitor services, tank interpretation, camp field trips, touch tank demonstrations, and aquarium and River Center maintenance. He is always willing to offer help wherever needed, has a smile on his face, and is eager to come back. The River Center would like to thank Owen for his volunteer services. We appreciate his hard work and dedication.

Friends Membership – 77 active members; 6 new/renewals; 48 current sponsors

Annual Sponsors Recognition – **Geoff and Lynne Lieberman, Wolverine Ventures (Ed Butzin)**

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

Sat July 18 – Jr. Angler Award Ceremony and Fish Fry (12 p.m.): Registered anglers and their families are invited to attend the Tournament Fish Fry and Award Ceremony to celebrate another great summer of fishing! RSVP required.

Sat July 25 – Fishing Clinic (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.) for ages 5-15: Parents and children participate in this three hour clinic learning about fish identification, regulations, tackle, knots, casting, and more! They also have the opportunity to fish at Burt Reynolds Park. All equipment provided.

Sat August 1 – Mini Aquatic Camp (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.): for children ages Kindergarten – 5th grade. Campers have a captivating experience discovering mangroves, collecting fascinating marine critters, and playing educational games. Adventurers will get “hands-on” with the Loxahatchee, seining and dip netting to discover cool critters while learning about our local estuary habitats, and participating in exciting eco-games!

Sat August 1 – Youth Volunteer Appreciation Event – 12 p.m. Join River Center in celebrating our youth volunteers that give so much of their time over the summer!

Fri August 7 – Friends of the Loxahatchee River – 12 p.m.

Sat August 8 – Fishing Clinic (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.) for ages 5-15: Parents and children participate in this three hour clinic learning about fish identification, regulations, tackle, knots, casting, and more! They also have the opportunity to fish at Burt Reynolds Park. All equipment provided.

Tues-Thurs – River Center Closed (Tentative) – for floor resurfacing

The River Center's JUNIOR ANGLER TOURNAMENT

local sports

PROVIDED PHOTO/THE RIVER CENTER/BRYAN WALTERS

Jr. Angler "Power Pro Princess" Calleigh Walters, age 5, reeled in this pompano off the beach in Hobe Sound recently.

A member of the jack family, pompano support a highly important commercial and recreational fishery in Florida. These fish are highly edible, and can be caught in a variety of different habitats.

The River Center's Junior Angler Tournament registration is open all summer, so sign up your child today at <http://tinyurl.com/JrAnglerRegister>.

For more information, contact Nicole Sciandra, Community Outreach Coordinator, River Center - Loxahatchee River District, 805 N U.S. 1, Jupiter, FL 33477; 561-743-7123 ext. 709; Fax 561-743-6314.

Or reach her online - Nicole.Sciandra@loxahatcheeriver.org; www.loxahatcheeriver.org/rivercenter.

local features

'Jr. Angler' tourney under way

PROVIDED PHOTO/THE RIVER CENTER

Jr. Angler Ayla Blalock, age 5, reeled in this lane snapper recently at Du-
bois Park.

Although they are often mistaken for mutton snappers, lane snappers have fairly different colorations and spot locations.

Juveniles can be found in an estuarine ecosystem feeding on small crustaceans and fish. Adults can be found offshore, and are often caught in South Florida.

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