



# Friends of the Loxahatchee River June 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
2014-05	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	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



**Friends of the Loxahatchee River** - On Friday, June 5th, the River Center welcomed Dr. Larry Wood of National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation. Dr. Wood presented an introduction to the biology and conservation of Florida's sea turtles, with a focus on his work with Florida hawksbills. He shared his knowledge, enthusiasm, and passion for his work with attendees. There were over 70 of participants that attended this program.



**2015 Tommy Thompson Scholarship Awards-** Once again, the Friends of the Loxahatchee River received many qualified applicants for the Tommy Thompson Scholarships. Many thanks to Geoff Lieberman and Macy's as well as the Van Pelt Foundation for sponsoring the scholarships. Winners for 2015 were: Hannah Hernandez, Morgan Schad, and Samantha Warwick (pictured with Geoff Lieberman)!

### **Special Programs**

**Lionfish Tournament** – We had another successful Lionfish Roundup, courtesy of Martin County's Lionfish Program at Jupiter Pointe Marina on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. 579 fish were collected, with the largest being over 18 inches! With thirteen teams of four, and nine individuals, the number of registered participants surpassed our expectations. Thank you to all who sponsored, volunteered, and participated!

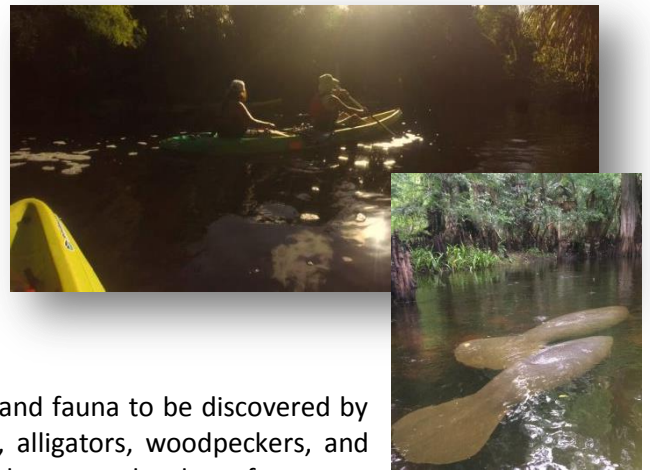


**Family Seine & Snorkel** - Families joined River Center environmental educators on Wednesday, May 20th for a morning of exploration during the first Estuary Family Snorkel and Seine Expedition of the summer at Coral Cove Park in Tequesta. Participants got some relief from the heat in the cool water 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 15 adults and children to this event. The event



was free to attend!

**30th Anniversary Kayak Tour** - To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the "Wild and Scenic" designation, River Center educators led a kayak tour down our beautiful Loxahatchee River. Participants paddled to Lainhart dam, all the while admiring and photographing the beautiful wildlife that call this river home. It was a beautiful morning with a diversity of flora and fauna to be discovered by our participants. The wildlife was abundant with ospreys, alligators, woodpeckers, and even a pair of manatees! The manatees have been living between the dams for over a year according to Florida Fish & Wildlife.



### **Outreach Activities**

**FMSEA Conference** - Founded in 1968, the Florida Marine Science Educators Association is a nonprofit organization whose members are dedicated to making the public more aware of Florida's fragile coastline through education. The major role of FMSEA is to provide a medium for the exchange of ideas, information and resources among Florida's marine educators. It was wonderful to see so many FMSEA members at our annual conference in Tampa May 1st-3rd. The theme "Vision of the Past, Key to the Future" was truly exemplified with the Key to our Future panel. Sessions provided many innovative ideas and resources to bring back to the classroom. Some of the breakout sessions that Megan Harris attended were Tips on Creating a Lasting Teen Program, Teachers Reacher's Experiences, Home School Days, Socializing with STEM, and Bringing Citizen Science into the Classroom.



**Garden Day** - On May 11th the River Center participated in Gardens Day at the Ann Norton Sculpture Garden Day. Seven different Palm Beach County schools brought over 400 students to experience Gardens Day sponsored by Whole Foods. Several different organizations and agencies worked together



rotating groups teaching about different aspects that make gardens important. Students learned about earthworms, aquaculture, organic gardens, palms throughout the world, why we love bugs, bees and pollination, water resources and conservation (River Center rotation). It was a great morning seeing young students learn about food and enjoy eating vegetables.

**Palm Beach County Math and Science Fair** - Students all over Palm Beach County presented their projects for the 59th annual School District of Palm Beach County Mathematics and Science Fair. Individual school fairs were held, regional selections made by individual schools, and the region's SRC (Scientific Review Committee) has approved these selections for this year's fair. More than 650 students in grades K-5th participated in the fair held at the South Florida Fairgrounds in the Expo Center. The River Center participated in the Science Fair judging on Tuesday, May 12th with over 60 other educators from various organizations and agencies throughout the county. This year's fair held a great focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

**Green Schools Awards** - Florida Atlantic University/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, celebrates the 2015 "Class" of Palm Beach and Martin Counties' Green Schools. On May 13, 2015, seventy-nine public and private schools in Palm Beach and Martin Counties made the grade in "going green" and celebrated their efforts at the seventh annual Green Schools Awards Luncheon held in their honor at the West Palm Beach Marriott. Twenty-two cash prizes, ranging from \$250 to \$2,000, were awarded at the luncheon. All Green Schools of Promise, Quality, and Excellence were acknowledged, along with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, as well as the Judge's Choice cash awards. Environmental Educator, and green school judge, Megan Harris attended the event representing the Loxahatchee River District and River Center for this special event.



**Volunteer(s) of the Month:** This month we would like to acknowledge two very special volunteers that completed their Girl Scout Silver Award project at the River Center. Katie Perez and Rose Andreassi, students from Independence Middle School, designed and added to our butterfly and front welcome garden at the River Center. The girls coordinated with local nurseries, community organizations, and schools for guidance, donations, Master Gardeners, and extra volunteer help. The girls planted over 25 different species of native and butterfly plants and have successfully maintained, monitored, and watered the new plants. We would like to extend a special



thank you to Katie and Rose for all of their hard work, research, dedication, and sweat to help make the River Center a beautiful place for our visitors.

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

**Annual Sponsors Recognition** – **Macy's Inc., Edward Butzin, Marine Industries Association (Fishing Tournament), All State Resource Management (Fishing Tournament), True Floridian Realty (Fishing Tournament)**

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

Sat June 27 – Mini Aquatic Camp (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.): for children ages Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

Tues. July 7 – Public Kayak Tour (2 p.m.): Join River Center naturalists as they paddle along the river for a personalized tour of our beautiful Loxahatchee.

Sat July 11 – Mini Aquatic Camp (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.): for children ages Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

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.

## CALENDARLOOKING AHEAD



PROVIDED PHOTO/LOXAHATCHEE RIVER CENTER

### PADDLE, SNORKEL, SEINE-FISHING EXPEDITION

Are you and your family looking for some fun activities this summer?

The Loxahatchee River Center in Jupiter has you covered with two different outdoor experiences.

First, paddle your way through the Loxahatchee River estuary during a kayak adventure that takes participants on a guided tour showcasing the diverse flora and fauna of this local estuarine treasure. There may be opportunities for snorkeling. Interested participants may bring snorkel gear, but it is not required. Kayaks, paddles, and life jackets will be provided. The cost is \$20 for the public and \$15 for members. This kayak adventure is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9 at Coral Cove Park from 1 to 3 p.m.

Join the River Center environmental educators for their Estuary Family Snorkel and Seine Expedition at Coral Cove Park on Jupiter Island, 9 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 10. Get some relief from the heat in the cool waters of the Indian River Lagoon while River Center educators guide you on a seine and dip net trip through the mangroves and seagrass. Participants may bring snorkel equipment or goggles, but it is not required. Water shoes are strongly recommended.

Visit the River Center Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are multi-media and live aquatic exhibits, and a touch tank featuring estuary creatures. The River Center is located at 805 N. U.S. 1 in Jupiter. Call 561-743-7123 or visit [www.loxahatcheeriver.org/rivercenter](http://www.loxahatcheeriver.org/rivercenter).

## CALENDAR from 21

join together to celebrate the flavor and fun of the mango season. The event is produced by the West Palm Beach Community Redevelopment Agency, Northwood Greenlife, Northwood Village Merchants and the City of West Palm Beach.

Highlights of the Northwood Mango & Music Fest include a man-

go chef showcase with chefs from O-BO, Table 427 and Bistro Bistro, a variety of mango infused food and beverages, a community mango recipe contest and an assortment of vendors showcasing their unique products.

Guests will enjoy the eclectic and tropical beats of the local bands Mixed Culture, Moska Project and Jimmy Stowe & the Stowaways as well as other local community entertainment. A family and kids zone will

include a choo choo train, a tropical storm water slide, bounce house, face painting and arts and crafts. Artist Daniel Pontet, of Impulse Art, will perform live to the rhythm of the music as he paints with his feet and hands.

Northwood Village has a rich history of mango cultivation, hence the number of mango trees found in the neighborhood. In the late 1800's, the nation's first fruit-bearing West Indian mango tree was planted at the Gale

house located at 401 29th Street in Northwood.

For more information on the festival, visit [www.mangomusicfest.com](http://www.mangomusicfest.com) or [www.facebook.com/mangomusicfestival](http://www.facebook.com/mangomusicfestival). Northwood Village is located in West Palm Beach. For more information about Northwood Village and events happening, call 561-494-1070 or visit [www.northwoodvillage.org](http://www.northwoodvillage.org).

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## CALENDARLOOKING AHEAD

### CALENDAR from 20

Packet Pick Up for all race registrants will be on Friday, July 31, from 3 to 8 p.m. at Jupiter Beach Resort and Spa (located at 5 N A1A, Jupiter).

All athletes must show a photo ID in order to receive their packet. Relay teams must have all members present to receive their packet.

Call 561-746-7111 for more information. online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/Jupiter/LoggerheadTriathlon>.

#### HARBOURSIDE PLACE

- Friday Nights on the Waterfront – Enjoy live music on the Waterfront Amphitheater.

- Saturday Live Music – Saturdays, from 6-10 p.m. enjoy live music as you shop and dine at Harbourside Place. This month's performers are Jahzilla, Road House, Replay and Making Faces, respectively. Kevin, Virginia and Jason from the KVJ Show on 97.9 WRMF will host Saturday Night Live at the Amphitheater.

- Sunday Live Music – Sundays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 3-7 p.m., enjoy live music as you stroll along the Waterfront Amphitheater and Jupiter Riverwalk. This month's performers include Rick Nelson, Tolliver & Cash, Acoustic Soul, Sierra Band Acoustic, String Assassins and Red Eyed Night.

- Jupiter Farmer's Market – Sundays, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. catch up with friends and listen to live music, while shopping from local farmers and food vendors.

- Free Yoga – Sundays, from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. bring your mats and practice yoga on the Amphitheater.

For more information on Harbourside Place and a full calendar of upcoming events, visit their Website, like them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter and Instagram. Join our Family Fun @ Harbourside page on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/harboursideplacejupiter/events](http://www.facebook.com/harboursideplacejupiter/events) <<http://www.facebook.com/harboursideplacejupiter/events>.

#### TAKE A WALK WITH SEA TURTLES

Did you know that that 10,387 loggerhead sea turtle nests were laid last year on 9.5 miles of beach from Juno Beach up through Jupiter Island? That's a lot of sea turtle traffic.

Loggerhead sea turtles are the most common sea turtle in Florida and the species that guests can see during Log-

# Jupiter Farmer's Market – Sundays, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. catch up with friends and listen to live music, while shopping from local farmers and food vendors.

gerhead Marinelife Center's popular, summertime Turtle Walks. The walks will be held Wednesday through Saturday evenings in June and July, which is the peak time of nesting season for loggerhead sea turtles to emerge from the ocean and lay their eggs.

These walks are held on Juno Beach, one of the most densely nested loggerhead sea turtle beaches in the world. Wildlife Turtle Walks are amazing experiences that allow visitors to learn about, and observe, the nesting and egg-laying process of sea turtles.

Turtle Walks are \$17 per person or \$12 per person for LMC members. The walks start at 9 p.m. and end at 12 a.m. if a turtle is not spotted. Walk-ins are a flat rate of \$20 and a spot is not guaranteed. All individuals, including children, are required to pay in advance to reserve their spot. Children must be 8 years or older to attend the walks. Attendees must be able to walk up to half a mile. For more information on Turtle Walks or to register, visit [www.marinelife.org/turtlewalk](http://www.marinelife.org/turtlewalk).

#### JUNE 6

##### "COUGAR PRIDE" EVENT

A milestone longer than many years worth of cakewalks will soon be celebrated by a local elementary school. Administrators, teachers, staff, parents and students—past and present—will take part in Limestone Creek Elementary's 25 years of "Cougar Pride" event.

The festivities will be held on Saturday, June 6 from 5-8 p.m. at River Center in Jupiter. The public is invited to the silver anniversary celebration, which includes the school's long-popular Spring Fling style cake walk, auctions, raffles and a 50/50 drawing.

Another tradition of Mark and Ed Bohne's famous BBQ pork and turkey

dinners will also be part of the evening's fun. A limited number of tickets will be sold for this event, with ticket prices at \$40 for adults; \$25 for students through the end of May. Although open to the public, tickets must be purchased in advance.

Proceeds go towards the Edward R. Bohne' Cougar Pride and Melissa Ann Bass Memorial scholarships, both longstanding traditions of the school. Additional event details, sponsorship opportunities and specific ticket information may be found on the school's event Facebook page: Limestone Creek Elementary School 25th Anniversary Reunion, or email Carol Beckmann at [cbeeme@gmail.com](mailto:cbeeme@gmail.com).

#### JUNE 8

##### HOBE SOUND NATURE CENTER

Hobe Sound Nature Center is still accepting registrations for the Summer Environmental Camp for children ages 6 to 12. The program is designed to acquaint your child with the natural world around them. Live native wildlife presentations, nature crafts and games, netting and much more are included in the one week program.

The camp is open to all students and

will be held Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. Six, week-long sessions are scheduled, beginning on June 8. Children must have completed kindergarten and may register for one week only. Registration is \$90 per student (\$85 for additional siblings) and forms may be obtained by calling or visiting the Nature Center. They may also be downloaded from our website. Space is limited to only 30 students per week.

The Hobe Sound Nature Center is a private, nonprofit organization, located at the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge on U.S. 1 in southern Martin County. For more information, contact the Center at 772-546-2067 or at [www.hobesoundnaturecenter.com](http://www.hobesoundnaturecenter.com).

#### JUNE 10

##### CERTIFICATION COURSES - ASSOCIATIONS

Kye Bender Rembaum will provide a free HOA Board Certification Course on Wednesday, June 10 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Kaye Bender Rembaum, 9121 North Military Trail, Suite 200, Palm Beach Gardens.

RSVP to [trisha@KBRLegal.com](mailto:trisha@KBRLegal.com) or call 561-241-4462.

#### JUNE 27

##### NORTHWOOD MANGO & MUSIC FEST

Northwood Village will be aglow with mangoes during the expansive tropical and multi-cultural event, Northwood Mango & Music Fest.

The festival, which is free and family-oriented, will take place on Friday, June 26 from 6 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, June 27 from 12 to 6 p.m. in the heart of Northwood Village. Northwood Mango & Music Fest is an opportunity for local residents, visitors and businesses to

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*Baker*

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# Tournament Season is in Full Swing!



## June 5th Jr. Anglers Tourny-by-Photo Begins

The Loxahatchee River District's River Center is thrilled to announce the 2nd Annual Jr. Angler Fishing Tournament. With dozens of young anglers submitting over 4,000 photo submissions, the inaugural contest proved to be one of the most popular events in River Center history! Participation in this year's tournament is expected to grow, so interested anglers should mark their calendars and set their reels for Friday, June 5th when the contest officially opens.

Anglers will 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 submitted online to <http://tinyurl.com/SubmitFish>, 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! These innovative guidelines encourage



Trey Riva (9 years old) pictured with a bluegill that he submitted to the tournament!

contestants to spend time throughout the summer exploring the diversity of habitats and fish species in our Palm Beach and Martin Counties.

The tournament is open to anyone between the ages of 5 and 17, but registration is required before submitted photographs can be awarded points. Register online now at <http://tinyurl.com/JrAnglerRegister> or pick up a registration packet at the River Center located at 805 N. US Highway 1 in Jupiter. A registration fee of \$25 per angler includes a t-shirt and an invitation to the "End of Summer" Fish Fry where the winners will be announced and prizes awarded on Saturday, July 18th at noon.

For more information about the Jr. Angler Tournament, please contact Nicole Sciandra at 561-743-7123 or [Nicole.Sciandra@LoxahatcheeRiver.org](mailto:Nicole.Sciandra@LoxahatcheeRiver.org).

## Big Dog & Fat Cat KDW Shootout July 10-11th

Sailfish Marina on Singer Island will once again host the 2015 Big Dog & Fat Cat KDW Shootout on July 10th and 11th. This year's event is expected to be bigger than ever, with over 200 boats expected to compete for an estimated \$50,000 in cash and prizes. New this year will be a single engine category that should be of considerable interest to many new anglers. The Grand Prize winner is guaranteed \$10,000 in cash and prizes, while the 1st place aggregate winner will walk with \$5000 guaranteed in cash and prizes. Participants can save up to \$100 by completing their early registration by June 30th.



At the 2014 weigh in, Bill Wummer, Sherri Beswick, Howard Tuman and Reese.

While the tournament is all about a great day of fishing, it is also a benefit for A Second Chance Puppies & Kittens Rescue, Riviera Beach Maritime Academy and Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center. At the time of this writing, the all-volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) organization had rescued 7444 animals. Now in their eighth year, A Second Chance Puppies and Kittens Rescue relies solely on donations.

Riviera Beach Maritime Academy is a Public Charter High School that focuses on the Marine Sciences to enable students to pursue a career in the marine industries with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) at the core of their curriculum. Students benefit by not only classroom learning but also many opportunities to get out on the water as well.

Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center serves children and adults with developmental, physical and psychological disabilities in its dynamic stable environment. The horses' gentle nature and rhythmic movement has helped hundreds conquer challenges associated with their disabilities.

## Entry is Automatic in this Charter Tournament



It's not just another fishing trip! "Living on Island Time" and "Southern Comfort IV" host a seasonal fishing tournament. By fishing on one of our boats you are automatically entered into the tournament. No worries about an entry fee or buying bait and tackle, just buy a ticket or charter one of the boats and you are in the running.

Here's how it works. We break the tournament into two different seasons, Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter. There are over twenty species of fish counted in the tournament including dolphin, wahoo, kingfish, black fin tuna, African pompano, and various snapper and grouper. There's also some fun catch and release categories. Catch the biggest overall in any category or have the most releases and you WIN!

If you are lucky enough to be one of our winners you are in for quite a night! Once a year in November we host a BBQ awards celebration for our winners including their friends and family. The event is under the big tiki hut at our marina.

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## Inaugural Richard Black Memorial Award at the 16th Annual Hospice Horizons Fishing Tournament

For 15 years, anglers from all over the county have come to fish in Hospice's Horizons Fishing Tournament. Aside from the allure of competitive prizes, it is an opportunity to honor and remember loved ones. This year, the event added a special memorial to honor a dedicated longtime supporter, Richard Black, who founded the GrandSlam KDW. The Richard Black Memorial Award recognizes Mr. Black for a lifetime of giving to the fishing community and local charities. Almost 15 years ago,

Horizons committee member Steve Gyland asked Richard Black for help promoting the Hospice event. True to his character, Black simply handed over his entire mailing list. This selflessness embodies the spirit of The Richard Black Memorial Award. Mr. Black's wife, Kathy, will present the inaugural award to this year's winner. The angler who lands the heaviest fish in both the GrandSlam KDW and the Horizons Fishing Tournaments gets the honor of being named the

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VIVIANNE HALL/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

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The festivities will be held on Saturday, June 6 from 5-8 p.m. at River Center in Jupiter. The public is invited to the silver anniversary celebration, which includes the school’s long-popular Spring Fling style cake walk, auctions, raffles and a 50/50 drawing.

Another tradition of Mark and Ed Bohne’s famous BBQ pork and turkey dinners will also be part of the evening’s fun. A limited number of tickets will be sold for this event, with ticket prices at \$40 for adults; \$25 for students through the end of May. Although open to the public, tickets must be purchased in advance.

Proceeds go towards the Edward R. Bohne’ Cougar Pride and Melissa Ann Bass Memorial scholarships, both long-standing traditions of the school. Additional event details, sponsorship opportunities and specific ticket information may be found on the school’s event Facebook page: Limestone Creek Elementary School 25th Anniversary Reunion, or email Carol Beckmann at cbeeme@gmail.com.



### CALENDAR from 25

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#### June 10

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For more information on the festival, visit [www.mangomusicfest.com](http://www.mangomusicfest.com) or [www.facebook.com/mangomusicfestival](http://www.facebook.com/mangomusicfestival). Northwood Village is located in West Palm Beach. For more information about Northwood Village and events happening, call 561-494-1070 or visit [www.northwoodvillage.org](http://www.northwoodvillage.org).

#### JULY

#### July 10, 11

#### ‘NATIVE SPEAR-IT SUMMERTIME

#### BASH AND LIONFISH DERBY’

On July 10 and 11, we are working to help out the Andrew “Red” Harris Foundation [www.andrewredharrisfoundation.org](http://www.andrewredharrisfoundation.org) to raise additional funding in order to place the coolest artificial reefs right off our Jupiter/ Juno Coast.

This is much more than a Lionfish Derby! We will have Live Music, Food, Vendors, Challenges and whatever else we can dream up that Harbourside Place in Jupiter will allow.

This event is already sanctioned by [www.Reef.org](http://www.Reef.org) and soon the FWC. Check out the link below and sign up!

High school community service hours are being documented.

Click the link below for the online sign-up sheet. “General” Sign Up tabs and we will carry your information forward --- [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0A4BAEAE28ABF58-native/27399108](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0A4BAEAE28ABF58-native/27399108) ... Piper, Bailey and Dan Goebel Dan@NativeSpearit.com.

The site [www.Nativespearit.com](http://www.Nativespearit.com) will be up soon. Call if you have any questions: 866-442-4141.



# Thirty Years Later – *‘Wild and Scenic’ River Designation - still an honor*



PROVIDED PHOTO/NICOLE SCIANDRA



PROVIDED PHOTO/NICOLE SCIANDRA  
Manatee companions

By **NICOLE SCIANDRA**  
Provided to The Courier Newsweekly

**T**he Loxahatchee River, our local treasure, found itself in the national spotlight when the United States Congress designated a total of 7.1 miles of the river as “Wild and Scenic.”

Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 for the specific purpose of protecting and preserving free-flowing rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational value to the community.

This award indicates that the stretch of river from Riverbend Park downstream to Jonathan Dickinson State Park remain essentially primitive and unpolluted.

## RARE RECOGNITION

A rather rare recognition, the National System protects only 12,598 miles of 203 rivers nationwide, which represents less than one-quarter of one percent of the all the country’s rivers.

The Loxahatchee River is one of only two Wild and Scenic rivers in the state, representing a mere one-fifth of 1 percent of Florida’s 25,949 miles of river, making this title truly a mark of distinction.

The Loxahatchee River District, formed eight years prior to the Wild and Scenic designation, is proudly charged with wastewater and recycling programs that honored river’s stewardship.

A multi-faceted organization dedicated to river-related environmental management, community events and education, and scientific research, the River District encourages all area

residents and visitors to take full advantage of the activities afforded by the river’s stunning beauty and unaltered landscapes.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of becoming a Wild and Scenic river, the River District offered a unique opportunity to take a guided kayaking tour of the Loxahatchee in a section actually protected by the designation located in Riverbend Park on Saturday, May 16.

Whether guests were paddling down the river for the first time or the hundredth, everyone benefitted from this enhanced outing accompanied by River District naturalists who were eager to share their extensive knowledge of the river’s habitats, flora and fauna, and aquatic life.

## INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE RIVER?

The Loxahatchee River District’s River Center is located inside Burt Reynolds Park at 805 N US Highway 1 in Jupiter and is open to the public throughout the year, Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitors can explore freshwater and marine aquatic exhibits with an interactive experience to learn about the river, its majestic environmental value, and diverse wildlife. In addition, guests learn where their water comes from, how it is consumed, and then recycled back into the community.

There are live aquatic exhibits along with a unique touch tank experience where guests can hold and touch living aquatic life. For more information about the River Center, please call 561-743-7123 or visit [www.loxahatcheeriver.org/rivercenter](http://www.loxahatcheeriver.org/rivercenter).