



# Friends of the Loxahatchee River October 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
2014-09	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
2015-08	1544	305		\$1,432	\$691	\$75	\$1,460	\$732	\$215	\$892	404
2015-09	1047	278	34	\$771	\$491		\$520	\$60		\$160	113

### River Center –

**Friends of the Loxahatchee River** – On Friday, September 4th the River Center welcomed Jason McCobb as our October’s Friends of the Loxahatchee speaker. Jason McCobb is an expert in Sustainable



Agriculture, specializing in Urban Gardening. Jason gained most of his experience in Sonoma, California from Bob Cannard, long time farmer for Alice Waters and her critically acclaimed restaurant Chez Panisse. With the belief that the garden is an extension of nature and something that must be protected and nurtured, Farmer Jay never uses pesticides or synthetic chemicals. In addition to farming and building gardens, Farmer Jay has also developed a program for children called Farmer Jay’s Jr. Sprouts, which teaches kids where food comes from and helps to pass along the lost art of Sustainable Agriculture to the next generation. Sixty Friends members and their guest came to hear Farmer Jay speak.

### Special Programs

**Macy’s Manager Team Meeting** – Eight Macy’s store managers from our area, including annual sponsor Geoff Lieberamn, met at the River Center for a team building meeting. After their meeting, River Center staff gave them a tour of the facility and then provided an environmental education program for them.



**Family Seine and Snorkel Program** - Families joined River Center environmental educators on Thursday, September 17th for an afternoon of exploration at Coral Cove Park with a Family Seine and Snorkel Expedition on Jupiter Island.



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, parrot fish, sea urchins, conchs, and a manatee were just a few of the animals that

participants were able to experience up close and personal during our afternoon adventure! Educators welcomed thirty two adults and children to this free event.

**International Coastal Cleanup (30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)** –On Saturday, September 19th the River Center at Coral Cove Park joined The Ocean Conservancy and Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful for the 30th anniversary of the International Coastal Cleanup, a global event that mobilizes hundreds of thousands of people to take action for our ocean. It is the world’s largest volunteer beach cleanup. By joining the movement for Trash Free Seas, volunteers helped clean up trash already in the ocean and shoreline and worked to reduce their own trash impact before it happens. Ocean trash compromises the health of humans, wildlife, and the economies that depend on a healthy ocean. Every piece of trash volunteers found was tracked and included in an annual index of global marine debris to be released in 2016. A special thank you goes out to the wonderful volunteers that joined us Saturday morning!



### **Outreach Activities**

**Palm Beach County Jupiter Library:** On Saturday, September 19th Environmental Educator, Megan Harris, presented a family program at the Jupiter Branch Palm Beach County Library entitled “Turtles of the Loxahatchee.” Twenty five adults and children came to discover the different species of turtles that inhabit the Loxahatchee River, also known as “Turtle River.” They learned the differences between sea turtles and fresh water turtles and had the opportunity for an encounter with “Freckles” our yellow-bellied slider as well as other critters from the River Center’s touch tank.



**Volunteer of the Month:** The River Center would like to honor James Greene as our Volunteer of the Month. James started volunteering at the River Center this summer and has contributed over 60 hours of community service. James goes above and beyond as a touch tank docent and aquarium interpreter. James also volunteers as an Animal Care Specialist helping with animal feeding and aquarium care. He was such an amazing help throughout the summer months and we appreciate all of his hard work and dedication. The River Center would like to thank James and the entire Greene Family for their support to the River Center and look forward to James being part of our volunteer family for years to come.

**Friends Membership** – 75 active members; 2 new/renewals; 40 current sponsors

**Annual Sponsors Recognition** – **Ed Butzin (Wolverine Ventures)**

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

Wed October 21 – Public Kayak Tour at Riverbend Park (9a-11a)

Sat October 24 – Volunteer Orientation (10a-12p)

Thurs October 29 – Special Halloween Storytime (9:30-10:30a)

Fri November 6 – Friends of the Loxahatchee River: “Discover a Local Treasure – Lake Worth Lagoon” with Wendy Puz of Palm Beach County’s Dept. of Environmental Resources Management. (12-1p)

Thurs November 19 – Adult Environmental Education Series (2-3:30p)

Fri November 20 – Loxahatchee By Night Campfire: A Florida Thanksgiving (6-8p)

Sat November 21 – “Canal Naming” at Admiral’s Cove