



Friends of the Loxahatchee River September 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
2014-08	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	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	\$552	\$215	\$892	404

River Center –

- New inserts for the Critter Cabinet were installed. We will start acquiring animals according to our FWC permit for these terrariums.
- Eagle Scout Candidate, Jonathan Lynn, applied new recycled plastic boards to the tops of our campfire benches. Guests will now be able to enjoy not only a wider bench, but splinter-free as well!



Friends of the Loxahatchee River – On Friday, September 4th, the River Center welcomed Barbara Brunnick, Director of the Research and Conservation Program of the Taras Oceanographic Foundation. She presented a closer look at the wild dolphins that frequent the waters of Palm Beach County. For over ten years, Barbara has conducted regular surveys along the coast Palm Beach County, during which she has photographed and catalogued close to 300 individual dolphins. Through her exploration of the lives of dolphins, Dr. Brunnick has become aware of the need to monitor the health of the habitats that humans and dolphins share. She has recently developed, and successfully employed, cutting-edge methodology that allows her to produce maps of critical habitats. 70 People attended.

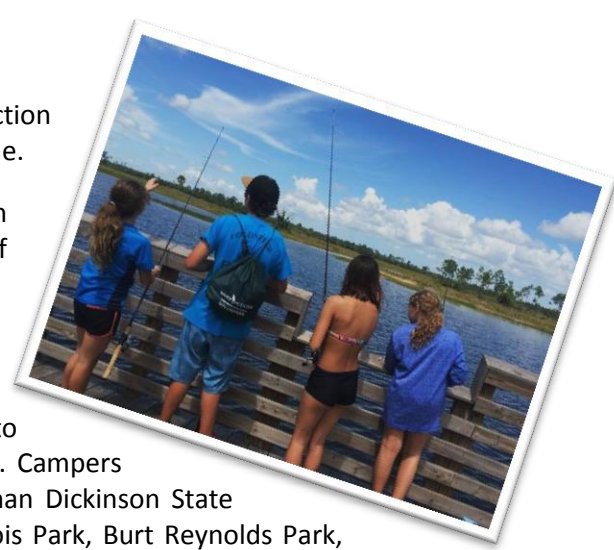
Special Programs

Summer Program Highlights - We provided 7 weeks of camp with 108 campers and 11 high school volunteer counselors from Palm Beach and Martin Counties participating. This summer has been the most successful summer by far, not only with our Aquatic Adventure Summer Camp, but with River Center’s visitation and Summer FUN Field Trips. ***The River Center hosted over 2,600 camp participants for our Summer FUN Field Trips; 1,000 more than last year. The River Center’s total summer visitation was over 5,400 families stepping through our doors; 2,000 more than last year.*** As an environmental education facility, we are so grateful that



the community encourages children and families to create a connection to the natural world and instill an appreciation that will last a lifetime.

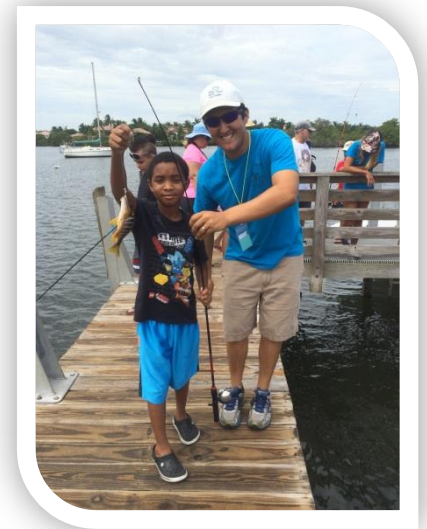
FWC Fishing Camp – With the success of last year’s partnership with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Department of Marine Fisheries, we were able to provide two weeks of the Loxahatchee Fishing Camp; August 3rd-7th and August 10th-14th. 1 week of Middle School and 1 week for grades 4th-6th with 14 campers each week totaling 28 experienced anglers. Danielle Vande Zande from Pine Jog Environmental Education Center came to join the River Center staff as camp director for these two weeks. Campers visited fishing locations such as Pine Glades Natural Area, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, John D. MacArthur Beach State Park, Coral Cove Park, DuBois Park, Burt Reynolds Park, and Jupiter Beach. Campers learned different fishing techniques, equipment, fish identification, anatomy, regulations, and conservation efforts. They also went kayaking, snorkeling, and swimming.



Family Seine and Snorkel Program - Families joined River Center environmental educators on Wednesday, August 12th for a morning of exploration during the last summer Family Seine and Snorkel Expedition at Coral Cove Park 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, conchs, and jellyfish were 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 free event.



Fishing Clinic – On Saturday, August 8th, 30 children and parents attended the clinic conducted at Burt Reynolds Park. Ages ranged between 5-15 years old. The program began with a classroom session lasting about 45 minutes, discussing fishing regulations, knot tying, various forms of tackle, and fish identification. Before heading down to the water, we discussed the importance of safety while fishing, and considered potential hazards if these rules were neglected (i.e. holding the fishing pole vertical by your side, being aware of your surroundings when casting, and hooks). Opting to fish on the west side of Burt Reynolds Park due to minimal boat traffic, we had an extremely successful day of fishing, with most children catching at least one fish. In addition to the standard rod and reel, kids also had the opportunity to learn and practice different methods of fishing,



***Outreach Activities – Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy:
River Center Enviroservice presentation***



Volunteer of the Month: This month the River Center would like to honor Brianna Graves as August’s Volunteer of the Month. Brie has volunteered at the River Center for the past two summers specifically with our Aquatic Adventure Summer Camp as a youth counselor. She is a student at South Fork High School and has contributed over 50 hours of volunteer service. Brie has a natural ability working with children of all different age levels helping with kayaking, fishing, snorkeling, water activities, and various arts and crafts projects. With all

of the fun and exciting aspects of summer camp, Brie never hesitated to help with early morning preparations, loading and unloading campers and equipment, first aid patrol, and just all around help with the not so glamorous side of summer camp. Brie's smile, excitement, and enthusiasm are contagious and her constant hard work and dedication to the River Center is not unnoticed by staff, campers, and visitors. The River Center would like to thank Brianna for her continued service and commitment.

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

Annual Sponsors Recognition – **Lucea Keller, Geoff & Lynne Lieberman, US Coast Guard Auxiliary**

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

Thurs September 17 – Special Firefighter Storytime (9:30a-10:30a)

Thurs September 17 – Family Seine and Snorkel at Coral Cove Park (1-3p)

Sat September 19 – International Coastal Cleanup at Burt Reynolds Park (8a-12p)

Sat September 19 – Jupiter Branch Library Outreach – Turtle Talk (2-4p)

Fri September 25 – Pine Glades Natural Area Kayak (12-4p)

Fri October 2 – Friends Meeting with Farmer Jay for a closer look at your food, where it comes from, and how to be involved (12-1p)

Sat October 3 – Girl Scouts: Fish Like a Girl! For older scouts (8:30a-2:30p). Cost \$15

Fri October 9 – Loxahatchee by Night Campfire (6-8p)

Wed October 21 – Public Kayak Tour at Riverbend Park (8a-12p)

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

CommunityYour Issues

Your weekly briefing

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Jupiter Courier Newsweekly seeks to keep readers in tune with their community using a weekly sampling of issues-oriented journalism. The following is an update on local issues that affect our readers.

BARKS AND BEACHES

This fall will mark the 21st year the Friends of Jupiter Beach has been looking out for the furry friends of our community.

On Oct. 24, the group will be celebrating the anniversary with their 1st Annual Barks and Beaches fundraiser.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Abacoa Town Center. There will be dogs and kid's activities, food, music and much more.

"I always love Friends of Jupiter Beach events," said Tara Donner. "There are always tons of dogs; it's so cute."

So make a date with your pooch to come out and support a great local organization this Oct. 24. Visit the Friends of Jupiter Beach website: <http://friendsofjupiterbeach.org>.



ANDREA LUSSIER/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

Friends of Jupiter Beach will hold its 1st Annual Barks and Beaches fundraiser Oct. 24.

Fundraising

TOWN LOOKS OUT FOR ALL RESIDENTS

The Jupiter Town Council is always looking out for its residents, whether they be animal or human.

Recently, the council approved funding donations for a number of establishments that support local residents.

Jupiter High School, Jupiter Middle School and William T. Dwyer High School received funds to support the human residents.

While, Furry Friends Adoption Clinic, Busch Wildlife and the Loxahatchee River Center all received funds to help support other local, non-human, residents.

Municipal funding

SEA HARES SIGHTED

It's a jelly fish, it's a mini stingray... no, it's a Sea Hare. A what?

Many residents in Martin County have been bewildered by dark colored creatures about the size of a hand swimming in their waters this summer. Sea Hares are out there in view.

These anomalies have been found to be an Atlantic Black Sea Hare.

The sea critters are said to be like a snail but without a shell. The hares are harmless to humans, but when startled they secrete purple ink like an octopus.

Seeing these Sea Hares so close to shore is not a normal occurrence - cold water currents and westerly winds are said to be the reason for the visitors.

"I grew up here and have never seen them," said local resident Tom DeMarco.

For more information on these creatures see <http://www.floridaocean.org/uploads/docs/blocks/169/black-seahare.pdf>.



ANDREA LUSSIER/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

Environment

JUPITER STREETS EYED

The Town of Jupiter is standing behind the Florida Department of Transportation's proposed project to make Jupiter's streets safer.

The project will look at how to create safer intersections at Alternate A1A, Old Dixie Highway and Riverside Drive.

As well, it will look at revamping the section of U.S. 1 between Jupiter and Tequesta, including adding turn lanes and bicycle lanes.



ANDREA LUSSIER/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWSWEEKLY

A project will look at how to create safer intersections.

Safety first