



# Friends of the Loxahatchee River January 2016



## 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
2014-12	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	116
2015-10	1055	549		\$872	\$636	\$25		\$128	\$128	\$626	139
2015-11	881	255	140	\$1,192	\$560	\$150	\$460		\$667	\$815	128
2015-12	1078	276	51	\$2,749	\$663	\$250	\$8,460	\$14	\$210	\$186	141

**River Center** – The River Center made repairs to the graphics for several exhibits. The graphics, after several years, were starting to come away from the walls. They were reattached and reinforced them with cypress molding to prevent any further problems.

### Friends of the Loxahatchee River

On Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, the River Center welcomed local historian and Loxahatchee River District Governing Board member, Jim Snyder. Mr. Snyder gave us a sneak peek at his new book, *A Trip Down the Loxahatchee*. The book describes an imaginary boat ride from the river's 140,000 acres of headwaters down through Jupiter Inlet, and celebrates the beauty and history of the Loxahatchee through the eyes of 52 leading artists and photographers. Mr. Snyder was also on hand to sign his books for all those that attended. We sold over 30 books in the gift shop that day! There were 64 participants that attended this program.



Guests observing an experiment showing the difference in density of fresh and salt water.

### Special Programs

**Loxahatchee by Night Campfire** – The River Center continued with the “Loxahatchee by Night” Camp Fire season on Friday, December 11th. Over 65 participants of all ages joined River Center educators for a night of fun. Our December theme was “Frozen, the Wonders of Water.” In our Chiki Hut we had a special viewing of the popular Disney movie Frozen and inside the center guests had the opportunity to conduct numerous water-based experiments. Guests were invited to explore the exhibits inside the center, touch animals in the

touch tank, and discover various plants and animals in the migratory bird and butterfly garden. The campfire was roaring all night, as families roasted marshmallows and enjoyed delicious s’mores throughout the evening.



### River Center's Adult Environmental Education Program: Understanding Climate Change

On Thursday, December 17 the River Center held another Adult Environmental Education Series titled: Understanding Climate Change: How We Know What We Know...and What We Don't! While global climate has been relatively stable during the span of human civilization these last 10,000 years, regional variations in climate patterns have influenced human history in profound ways, playing an integral role in whether societies thrived or failed. We now know that in addition to climate change affecting humankind, the opposite is also true; human activities including the large-scale burning of fossil fuels and extensive deforestation have had a profound influence on Earth's climate. To protect fragile ecosystems and to build sustainable communities that are resilient to climate change, a climate-literate citizenry is essential. Participants identified the essential principles and fundamental concepts that individuals and communities should understand about Earth's climate system. Such understanding improves our ability to make decisions about activities that increase vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and to take precautionary steps in our lives and livelihoods that would reduce those vulnerabilities.



### River Center Public Kayak Tour

The River Center hosted a public kayak tour of Fullerton Island on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The calm waters around Fullerton were bursting with various local birds and wildlife. After a nice trip through and around Fullerton Island, we had time to kayak around Adventure Island as well then we made our trip back to Burt Reynolds Park. There was little boat traffic so it was a great day to be out on the water. We had a total of 9 participants for this event.

### Blueline Kayak Tour

On Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, the River Center co-hosted a kayak trip of Riverbend Park with Blueline Surf and Paddle Company. It was a beautiful sunny day on the river with a very high tide. Participants paddled their way over Lainhart Dam and up over the high waters of the winding Wild and Scenic Loxahatchee. Along the way we learned the meaning behind different animal totems and how they all fit into nature. It was a unique look into our local wildlife and great day out on the river! We had over 13 participants at this event.



### Family Seine and Snorkel

The River Center presented a Family Seine and Snorkel event at Coral Cove Park on Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. As part of our winter holiday fun activities, Families joined River Center environmental educators on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 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, 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 35 adults and children to this event. The event was free to attend!



### Craft-A-Palooza

On Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, the River Center held a winter crafting event entitled "Craft-A-Palooza." With various crafts set up around our classroom, there was no limit to what the kids





could make. From snowflakes to snowmen, messages in a bottle and decorating their own biodegradable planters, there was a craft for visitors of all ages to create. This event was so popular with our guests that we left the crafts out for the days leading up to and after the Christmas Holiday.

### Fishing Clinic

About 10 children and parents attended the clinic conducted at Burt Reynolds Park on Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>. The program began with a classroom session lasting about 45 minutes, discussing fishing regulations, knot tying, various forms of tackle, and fish identification. We even took some time for casting practice. 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). We had an extremely successful day of fishing, with every child catching at least one fish.



### Loxahatchee River District's Volunteer Appreciation Event

On Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> the Loxahatchee River District honored the volunteers of the WildPine Lab and the River Center. The Loxahatchee River District, River Center, and Friends of the Loxahatchee had 25 volunteers attend the 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Awards Dinner. The Loxahatchee River District

volunteers that dedicate their time, energy, and resources to the WildPine Lab and the River Center were honored for their service. Volunteers and their guests enjoyed dinner, drinks, music, awards, and fun time with friends. River Center volunteers have earned over 3,200 hours of volunteer service. All of the Loxahatchee River District staff would like to thank our volunteer team for their outstanding support and dedication to the River Center and WildPine Lab. We could not do it without them!



### Special Winter Story Time

The River Center hosted a special Winter Story Time on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 60 of our preschoolers and parents listened to Santa stories, celebrated time with family, and remembered to be good boys and girls. We sang "Jingle Bells" and said "Happy Holidays" to our touch tank critters up close. Afterwards guests were invited to play in the classroom with different discovery tables, make holiday cards, and winter crafts.



### Outreach Activities



**Volunteer of the Month:** The River Center Volunteer of the Month of January is Marisa Hart. Marisa has been volunteering at the River Center since June of 2015 and has contributed over 35 hours of volunteer services. Marisa is a student at Suncoast High School and become a staple volunteer on Saturday mornings helping with visitor services, administration, and maintenance. In the past three months Marisa has also donated her time to our evening Loxahatchee by Night Campfire Program helping with children's arts and crafts activities. The River Center would like to thank Marisa for her constant dedication and volunteer support!

**Friends Membership** – 80 active members; 5 new/renewals; 41 current sponsors

**Annual Sponsors Recognition** – **Curtis Shenkman, Lee & Jenny Owen, Patricia Walker, Solid Waste Authority**

**Shark Exhibit Sponsors** – **Randy Jordan (Emerald Charters), Roger Ruddick, Jeffrey Trotta**

**Night on the Loxahatchee Sponsors** – **George Gentile (Gentile, Halloway, O’Mahoney & Assoc)**

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

January 21 – 2pm: Adult Environmental Education Series: “Separating” Myth from Reality: Squid Dissection and the Family Cephalopod.

January 28 – 5:30pm: Support the River Center at Guanabanas Give Back Thursday event!

February 5 – 12pm: Friends of the Loxahatchee River. Join Benji Studt, from Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management, as he presents a discussion entitled "Palm Beach County's Natural Areas: Healing the Land and Opportunities for Adventure." He will discuss the restoration efforts that have occurred at our local natural areas and how they are ready to be explored by nature lovers just like you! So make sure to join us for an exciting presentation of these natural areas that are right in your own backyard.

April 2 – 7pm: Save the Date! Night on the Loxahatchee: Shipwrecked in Paradise annual fundraiser for the River Center. Presentations by shipwreck and pirate experts, food by Food Shack and imported wines.





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A BUSCH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY ANIMAL CARE STAFF MEMBER HOLDS AN INJURED SANDHILL CRANE; ONE OF BUSCH WILDLIFE'S RESIDENT FLORIDA PANTHERS; CATCHING A GAME BEHIND THE PLATE AT ROGER DEAN STADIUM; NORTH COUNTY'S WATERY SENTINEL, THE JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE.



BOBBY WUNNEMER

## FOR THE KIDS

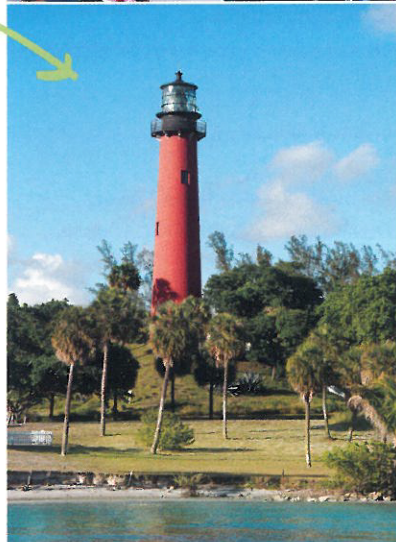
The **Busch Wildlife Sanctuary** is home to injured, orphaned and rehabilitating animals as well as endangered species like Florida panthers and a number of birds. Explore at your own pace, or stick around for sanctuary tours, feedings and wildlife encounters. (561-575-3399, [buschwildlife.org](http://buschwildlife.org))

The heart of Abacoa's Town Center, **Roger Dean Stadium** is the spring-training home of the Miami Marlins and the St. Louis Cardinals as well as the Major League squads' respective Minor League teams: the Jupiter Hammerheads and the Palm Beach Cardinals. Though spring training runs only from the end of February through March, the stadium hosts a Florida State League game nearly every day from April through September 6, giving locals a chance to root for the home team, whoever that might be. (561-630-1828, [rogerdeanstadium.com](http://rogerdeanstadium.com))



First lit in 1860, the **Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse** stands 108 feet tall, offering spectacular panoramic views from the gallery deck—25 miles on a clear day—for those daring enough to climb the 105 spiraling metal stairs. While there, visit the museum and learn about the lighthouse and the sprawling town that grew around it. (561-747-8380, [jupiterlighthouse.org](http://jupiterlighthouse.org))

Located in Burt Reynolds Park, the **Loxahatchee River Environmental Center** is home to aquariums, touch tanks and interactive exhibits all about the Loxahatchee. For a real treat, head to the center on a Saturday at 2 p.m., when staff members drop krill and fish food into the tanks for eager, swimming mouths. (561-743-7123, [loxahatcheeriver.org](http://loxahatcheeriver.org))



AS WITH MOST OF SOUTH FLORIDA, THE JUPITER INLET DISTRICT HAS BEEN IN A CONSTANT STATE OF CHANGE. THE LATEST MANIFESTATION, AN ONGOING PROJECT CALLED THE **FUNKY FISHING VILLAGE**, WILL INCLUDE AN OPEN-AIR SHOPPING BAZAAR AND CONNECT THE INLET DISTRICT TO PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY RIVERWALK. CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETE IN 2016.

One of Palm Beach County's cultural gems, the **Maltz Jupiter Theatre** stages award-winning performances from the fall through the spring. During the warmer months, it's kids' time: The theater offers summer camps for children ages 4-18 with classes on acting, dancing, singing, magic, improvisation and more, including full productions of such works as *Hair Spray* and *Peter Pan, Jr.* (561-575-2672, [jupitertheatre.org](http://jupitertheatre.org))