



Friends of the Loxahatchee River June 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
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	144	\$1,192	\$560	\$150	\$460		\$667	\$815	135
2015-12	1078	277	51	\$2,749	\$663	\$250	\$8,460	\$82	\$210	\$186	149
2016-01	1083	606	348	\$1,083	\$496	\$150	\$2,410	\$93	\$4,065	\$679	158
2016-02	1178	295	2088	\$1,237	\$501	\$250	\$5,060	\$41	\$4,655	\$963	126
2016-03	1928	478	528	\$1,428	\$1,167	\$360	\$6,200	\$677	\$7,271	\$3,375	205
2016-04	1256	472	138	\$679	\$548	\$150	\$5,705		\$1,010	\$13,433	235
2016-05	1108	552	7	\$978	\$304	\$225	\$4,349	\$111	\$3,974	\$701	120

River Center Shark Exhibit

The River Center celebrated the opening of its new “Jupiter Shark Exploration” exhibit on Friday, May 20th. This exhibit, funded by the Van Pelt Foundation, Emerald Charters, Laurie DiMartino and others, aims to teach visitors about why sharks are important to our ecosystems, interesting facts about sharks, and to demystify common misconceptions about sharks. Many artists contributed to this exhibit and several of them came for the opening event on the 20th.



Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout Jacob Buck completed a trail project for the River Center. He and his volunteers replaced the broken trail edge and also added additional trail edge along parts of the path that did not yet have it. We thank Jacob for helping to make the River Center garden more beautiful.

Friends of the Loxahatchee River

On Friday, June 3rd, the River Center welcomed back Benji Studt, Environmental Program Supervisor from Palm Beach County's Department of Environmental Resources Management, as his presentation brought us up to date on restoration projects for the Loxahatchee River, highlighted new public use facilities, and introduced us to some charismatic "characters" of the Loxahatchee River Watershed, such as the swallowtail kites. Benji had a beautiful array of photography that complimented his fascinating information about our local river. Over 61 people attended this presentation.





2016 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 Jupiter Inlet District Commissioners (past and present) for sponsoring the scholarships. Winners for 2016 were: Samantha Baker, Amber Pearce and Christine Smykowski (pictured above with Patricia Walker and Jocelyn O'Neill)!

Special Programs

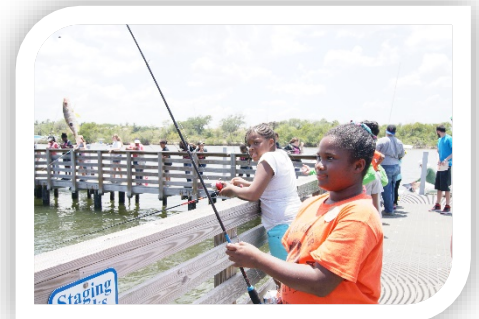
Family Seine and Snorkel-On Saturday, May 7th, the River Center presented a Family Seine and Snorkel event at Coral Cove Park. Families joined River Center environmental educators for a morning of exploration in estuary waters. Participants got some relief from the heat in the cool water while River Center educators guided guests on a snorkel trip through the seagrass and mangroves, while discovering some critters along the way. Pufferfish, conchs, and sea urchins are just a few of the animals that participants were able to experience up close and personal during our morning adventure! Educators welcomed over 24 adults and children to this event. The event was free to attend!



River Center Public Kayak Tour-On Tuesday May 17th, the River Center hosted a public kayak tour of Riverbend Park. Our kayak tour was to celebrate the 31st Anniversary of the "Wild and Scenic" designation of the Loxahatchee River. What better way to celebrate than kayaking! It was a beautiful day on the river with great weather and great company, led by all River Center staff. We had a total of 9 participants for this event.

Girl Scouts Eco-Action Workshop "Fish Like a Girl"

Forty-six Girl Scouts visited the River Center on Saturday, May 14th for a special fishing clinic workshop. With the help of our educators and volunteers as well as volunteers from Florida Atlantic University and Beau Yeiser from Florida Fish and Wildlife, we were able to provide a day filled with Fishing 101. From habitat activities to knot tying, casting practice to fish dissections, all topics were covered in order to prepare the girls for fishing. After the morning activities the girls finally got to test their newly acquired knowledge and went fishing. We would like to especially thank the ERM Foundation and Society of Woman



Engineers for their continued support and dedication to the River Center's Eco-Action Girl Scout Workshop. In addition, fifty girls were able to go home with a new rod provided by "Fish Florida" and the West Palm Beach Fishing Club. Today we fished like girls!



About Boating Safely Course

The River Center once again hosted the "Boating Safely" course presented by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 52 and sponsored by the AustinBlu Foundation on Saturday, May 15th. Our next class on Saturday June 18th has been full for over a month with a total of 38 participants signed up. The River Center is proud to be able to provide the opportunity for the people in our community to become better and safer boaters.

Outreach Activities

Palm Beach County School District Science Fair Judging

Students all over Palm Beach County presented their projects for the 60th 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 10th with over 30 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) and aviation.

Greens School Recognition Awards Luncheon



Florida Atlantic University/Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, in partnership with the School District of Palm Beach County, celebrates the 2016 "Class" of Palm Beach and Martin Counties' Green Schools. On May 25th seventy-nine public and private schools in Palm Beach and Martin Counties made the grade in "going green" this year and celebrated their efforts at the eighth annual Green Schools Awards Luncheon held in their honor at the West

Palm Beach Marriott. 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. They also celebrated the Green Principal and Teacher of the Year. Environmental Educator and green school judge Megan Harris attended the event representing the Loxahatchee River District and River Center for this special event.

Green Schools Facts

- 79 schools
- 15 business partners
- \$16,000 in awards to schools
- 68,000 students reached
- 1,000 conference participants

Palm Beach State College Earth Day Celebration

Volunteer of the Month: The River Center would like to announce that June's Volunteer of the Month is awarded to John Fenner. John has been volunteering at the River Center since January 2016 . He is a



retired computer security specialist from the Ford Motor Company and he volunteers every Tuesday and Thursday here at the center. John is a real asset when it comes to set up of events and completes any task we throw at him, no matter how difficult. Since his first day he has accumulated over 130 hours in his short span of volunteering. John loves getting the chance to meet new people and is a great volunteer to have at the center. We thank him for his service and look forward to his continued support. Thank you for all that you do!!

Friends Membership – 53 active members; 7 new/renewals; 35 current sponsors

Annual Sponsors Recognition –Edward Butzin (Wolverine Ventures), Theresa Halstead, Town of Jupiter, Mathews Consulting (Shark Event)

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

June 18 – 8:30a-4:30p: About Boating Safely: While boating can be a fun and relaxing experience, operating a boat, especially for young people, can be dangerous. This issue was brought to light last summer when Austin Stephanos and his good friend were lost at sea. In hopes of preventing similar tragedies the River Center is collaborating with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary “Flotilla 52” to provide Boating Safely Classes targeted specifically to young boaters in our community. These classes are provided through a generous sponsorship by the AustinBlu Foundation, a not-for-profit founded in Austin’s name and dedicated to raising awareness and promoting educational programs to improve boater safety. Participating in effective boater safety training is the most significant thing boaters can do to decrease their risk of mishap while on the water. Potential boaters need to understand the dangers of boating in hazardous waters like the Jupiter Inlet. Although there is no cost for the class, a \$10.00 deposit per student is required to reserve a seat. This deposit will be refunded in full to all students who complete the class. Please bring a lunch. Pre-registration is required because space is limited. Registration will take place promptly at 8:00, the morning of class. Please register online now! www.tiny.cc/boatsafe.

June 18 – 9:30a – 11:00a: Little Otters Family Fun: This is a NEW summer program designed for families with children ages 3-6 held on selected Saturdays this summer. The program will include a themed story, touch tank demonstration, garden exploration, dip netting and crab hunting. There are both inside and outside portions along with opportunities to get your feet wet. Cost is free, but please RSVP to the event.

- June 24 – 6-9:00p: The River Center will participate in the Sea-Fari event at the South Florida Science Museum
- June 25 – 2-4:00p: Volunteer Orientation. To learn more about how to become a River Center volunteer please contact the River Center.
- July 2 – 9-11:00a: Family Seine & Snorkel: Join River Center staff and volunteers at Coral Cove Park for a morning of snorkeling, dip netting and seining. Have an interactive “touch tank” right there in the water and discover new critters. Free, but please RSVP.
- July 9 – 9a-12p: Fishing clinics are a great way for kids to learn the basics of fishing methods and tactics! Parents will learn important safety tips for taking kids fishing and how to abide by regulations when out fishing. The River Center in partnership with Fishing Headquarters provides half-day fishing clinics for kids that give your child a fun, engaging overview of fishing.
- July 16 – Jr. Angler Fishing Tournament Ends!
- July 22 – 6-8p: Jr. Angler Fish Fry! Competitors and their families gather together for a meal and award ceremony. Every child receives a t-shirt and goodie bag. Prizes will be awarded in four age categories with a grand prize winner.
- July 23 – 8:30a-4:30p: About Boating Safely: Registration will take place promptly at 8:00, the morning of class. Please register online now! www.tiny.cc/boatsafe.
- July 30 - 9:30a-11:30a: Little Otters Family Fun! Cost is free, but please RSVP to the event.