



# Friends of the Loxahatchee River

## May 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
2015-04	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	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

### River Center

Eagle Scout Candidate, Jason Shawver, completed his Eagle Scout project for the River Center. The new storage shed for our kayak paddles and life vests is now available for the River Center to use. We are excited to now have an easy option for storing the vests and paddles. Previously, they were stored in the attic and getting them down, the vests especially, was difficult every time we had a program. It will also allow our campers the ability to carry and store their own gear.



### Friends of the Loxahatchee River

On Friday, May 6th, the River Center welcomed Mr. Beau Yeiser, a Biological Scientist from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He presented research that was conducted in the fisheries of the Indian River Lagoon. During the presentation he described interesting marine life that he and his team have come across in their fisheries monitoring. One of the more fascinating animals he described was a Sunfish, or Mola Mola, that his team found in shallow water in the Lagoon. It was a truly great presentation by Mr. Yeiser and we look forward to working with him again in the future. We had about 40 guests for this presentation.



### Special Programs

#### Night on the Loxahatchee: Shipwrecked in Paradise

Night on the Loxahatchee, the annual benefit for the River Center, was held on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event raised over \$12,000 and will help fund the outstanding environmental education programming the River Center offers to all ages throughout the year. With over 160 people this was our largest event yet! This year's "Shipwrecked in Paradise" themed event transported guests back in time, passing through the River Center's doors to find themselves on an adventurous voyage where weather and pirates are just some of the challenges that travelers faced. Speakers



Peter Leo and Allen Balough brought to life the San Miguel de Archangel wreck just off Jupiter's coast and the exciting life of pirates from the 1700's. A wonderful group of sponsors made this event possible, including Cotleur & Hearing, Gentile, Glas, Holloway, O'Mahoney & Associates, Shipwreck Bar and Grill, and CDM Smith



### **Girl Scout EcoActionWorkshop – BUGS!**

On Saturday, April 30th 52 Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts visited the River Center for a special Girl Scout Bug Workshop. Brownies earned their Legacy Bug badge while the Daisy's earned their



Clover Petal learning how to use resources wisely. The girls created buggy crafts while learning about bug anatomy with antenna, eyes, and wings. They explored the garden finding all kinds of

different and unusual bug species as well as learning about good bugs and creating bug habitats. The Girl Scouts also became bug scientists doing bug research and creating bug posters. Most importantly they learned how much we rely on insects and how amazing they really are. At the end of the workshop, the girls gathered in a friendship circle where they released live lady bugs into the River Center's garden. The River Center staff

would like to thank all the partners and volunteers who participated in the workshop; especially the Society of Women Engineers and ERM Group Foundation Inc. for their continued support.

### **Wild and Scenic Film Festival at the Lighthouse**

River Center staff was invited once again to participate in the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum's second annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival on April 9th. A composition of short films was presented to a crowd of over three hundred like-minded environmental enthusiasts. The River Center was present to distribute information about the center and our upcoming events. It was a beautiful night for a film festival at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.



### **Great American Clean Up**

On Saturday, April 23 the River Center participated in the Great American Cleanup at Coral Cove Park with Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful. Over 30 volunteers came out to clean up trash and debris from the sandy beach and dunes of Coral Cove. We collected over 30 pounds of trash and recycling in just three hours. It was a great day for a cleanup and our volunteers were extremely successful in keeping Palm Beach County beautiful.

### **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, April 23rd. Originally the class was to be taught in Spanish, however, due to lack of interest it was switched back to English. With just a week to go, we managed to almost completely fill the class, with a total of 25 participants. Our next class on Sunday May 15th 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

### Snook Islands Kayak Tour (PBC ERM)

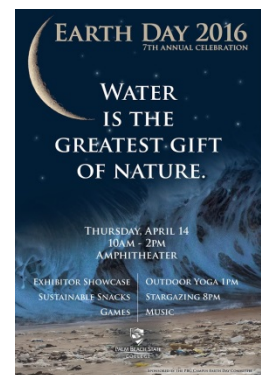


On Wednesday, April 27th the River Center partnered with Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management to lead a kayak tour to Snook Island Natural Area. The “Adventure Awaits” event series was designed to get visitors and citizens of Palm Beach County into the natural areas. They have conducted trail runs, kayak tours, nature hikes, evening stargazing

programs and photography workshops. This kayak tour led 9 guests through the 13 year restoration project of the Lake Worth Lagoon. These manmade islands held a variety of mangrove species, oyster reefs, seagrass, and an abundance of animal life both above and below the water. The highlight of the night was spotting American Oyster Catchers and watching the beautiful sunset overlooking this amazing restored natural area.

### Palm Beach State College Earth Day Celebration

River Center college intern Sam Warwick participated in a special outreach to Palm Beach State College in Palm Beach Gardens on April 14th. The college hosted its seventh annual Earth Day celebration. This event was planned by the Gardens Going Green Sustainability Committee. Its mission is to promote an appreciation for the planet while increasing awareness of issues related to the sustainability of the environment. The event kicked off with the “Earth Talks” forum featuring a series of local experts' presentations. They had exhibits and vendors with fun, food, music, and giveaways to learn more about sustainability! Sam saw more than 200 students and faculty promoting the River Center, our volunteer program, LRD, and the Loxahatchee River.



**Volunteer of the Month:** The River Center would like to announce that May’s Volunteer of the Month is awarded to Chase Vande Zande. Chase has been volunteering at the River Center since June 2013 alongside his wife and former staff member Danielle Vande Zande. Chase is a graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University and professional golf pro where he teaches golf at Don Law Golf Academy. Chase volunteers with our fishing clinics and special events, but is best known as our bartender for the Night on the Loxahatchee annual fundraiser. Chase’s wonderful personality and hard work ethic has made him a wonderful addition to the River Center family over the past three years. We thank him for his service and look forward to his continued support. Thank you for all that you do!!



**Friends Membership** – 63 active members; 8 new/renewals; 39 current sponsors

**Annual Sponsors Recognition** – John & Carol Parker, Edward Butzin (Wolverine Ventures), Geoff & Lynne Lieberman

**Pratt & Whitney** – The River Center received a \$5,000 annual sponsorship and a \$5,000 sponsorship for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs at the River Center. Those funds will directly support the Girl Scout workshops and events that the River Center currently offers. Each workshop includes STEM aspects to help girls earn their skill badges.



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

- June 3 – 12-1p: Friends of the Loxahatchee River Meeting: “Environmental Restoration of the Loxahatchee River” Join guest speaker, Rob Robbins of Palm Beach County’s Environmental Resource Management Division as he discusses the restoration projects in northern Palm Beach County relating to the Loxahatchee River - both past and present. Please RSVP.
- June 4 – 9a-12p: Family Fishing Clinic: 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: knots, lures and bait; fish identification; casting practice; fishing safety; conservation and regulation; and, of course, FISHING! Cost: \$10 per child. Register prior to event.
- June 11 – 10a-12p: Family Seine & Snorkel: Join River Center staff and volunteers for a splashing good time in our local estuary at Coral Cove Park. Snorkel, dip net, or seine to find cool critters. Staff and volunteers will help participants identify their critters and teach them about their role in our estuary. All the “catches” will be displayed temporarily in an aquarium at the shoreline so that everyone can enjoy. Please RSVP.
- 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](http://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.