

Volume 4, Issue 7

November 2009



LOXAHATCHEE RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

# RIVER TIDINGS

## 2nd Annual Haunted Hammock Children's Halloween Party!



The River Center staff would like to thank everyone that attended our 2nd annual Haunted Hammock Children's Halloween Party on Friday, October 30th. This "spook"tacular family event drew over 300 visitors. Many young guests wore their Halloween costumes and Trick or Treated at the River Center all day. In addition to enjoying River



Center exhibits, guests also enjoyed Games, Arts n' Crafts, Hay Rides, and Gross Discovery Boxes filled with "brains", "guts", and "fingers". Spooky snacks were served and featured Spider Web Cupcakes, Lumberjack Fingers, Vampire Mouths, Brownie Headstones, Marshmallow Ghosts, and Graveyard Cheese Dip. Visitors also posed for family pictures with the River Center staff in front of the autumn photograph scene. Volunteers helped throughout the event at the Touch Tank teaching children about animals found



in the Loxahatchee River.

### Creature Feature—Scorpion Fish

Scorpion fish, also known as Rock fish, are named for two of their most prominent features; camouflage and venomous spines. Scorpion fish live in small crevices in and between rocks, camouflaging themselves to blend in with their environment. This camouflage aids this ambush predator by allowing them to employ a "lie-in-wait" strategy when hunting. Well camouflaged, they lie still

on rocks near the ocean floor until quickly striking their prey.

Scorpion fish also mimic their other namesake, the scorpion. When threatened they raise the venomous spines on their backs and fins in self defense.

Scorpion fish are related to Lion fish and live in near shore, shallow waters. They are found in the Red Sea, Pacific Ocean, and the Caribbean region of the



Atlantic Ocean.

Next time you visit the River Center stop by the Mangrove exhibit and try to find our Scorpion fish hiding among the roots!

# THANK YOU!

### RIVER CENTER SPONSORS

Jupiter Dive Center  
The Barkdull Family

Our annual River Center sponsors are recognized on our donor wall at the entrance to the River Center. Each tile is 50% off for 2009, so become a sponsor today!

### Upcoming Events:

- Nov.26 & 27-River Center Closed, Happy Thanksgiving!
- Dec.4-Friends Meeting-JHS Senior Lillian McBee-Migratory Bird Garden, Light Lunch Served, 12 p.m.—1 p.m.
- Dec.10-Holiday Cookie Exchange, 7p.m.—8p.m.
- Dec. 13-JTAA Holiday Parade-Come see the River Center's parade float!, 1 p.m.—2 p.m.

# Volunteer Appreciation Day

*Thanks for all you do!*

On Friday, November 6, the River Center hosted over 30 guests for our monthly Friends of the Loxahatchee River meeting. November's meeting served as a "Volunteer Appreciation Day" for the River Center and Loxahatchee River District. We presented each volunteer with their unique award.

David Porter presented awards to the Loxahatchee River District volunteers for their time and efforts dedicated to the Water Quality Program.

The River Center awards spanned the spectrum of incredible help that our volunteers provide, featuring such titles as "Butterfly Award", "Most Likely to be Found at the River Center Award", and the "Unsung Hero Award". The "B.O.B.", or "Best of the Best" award was created

this year and is the namesake of a volunteer that truly stood out for their time and commitment to the River Center. The recipient of the "B.O.B." award also receives a "Golden Plunger" as a unique thank you to their time dedicated to the River Center.

As a thank-you gift River Center staff chose framed Quotes that they felt reflected the outstanding attitudes of our many volunteers. Each volunteer chose a framed quote when they received their award.

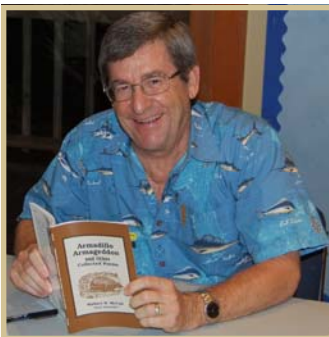
Volunteer Appreciation Day was continued on Saturday, November 7, for volunteers that were unable to attend the Friday ceremony. Together the River Center and Loxahatchee River District recognized over 40



River Center Educator Kristen Ruest presents an award to our dedicated volunteer Cheryl Hicks.

volunteers for their outstanding contributions in the past year. The River Center and Loxahatchee River District staff thanks all of the volunteers that have made our first year such a fun success!

## Wally McCall Poetry Reading



Wally McCall, a local author, lawyer, and Jupiter's own poet "lawreate" was featured at the River Center on Thursday, October 29, for a poetry reading. The reading consisted of selected poems from his book, Armadillo Armageddon, as well as other not yet published works. The event drew over 25 guests and featured wine, cheese, and other treats provided by the McCall family. Following the event was a book signing, where attendees got to meet Mr. McCall and discuss the inspiration behind his humorous poems. Signed copies of McCall's Armadillo Armageddon are available in the River Center gift shop for purchase, so stop by and present your Friends membership card for a discount!



*Thank You!*



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