



2009 Annual Sponsors

Thanks For Your Continuing Support!



The River Center and Friends of the Loxahatchee River would like to give a big "Thank You" to all of our 2009 Annual Sponsors!

Your contribution to the River Center is a tangible sign of your commitment to our community. Your donation has helped to further the educational and outreach opportunities of the River

Center throughout 2009 and into 2010.

The River Center currently has over twenty Annual Sponsors who have provided donations ranging from \$100 to \$5,000. In total our sponsors have contributed over \$15,000 in 2009.

In 2010 we hope our present sponsors will renew their sponsorships and we look forward to welcoming new sponsors to

this growing resource of our local community.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of this great opportunity to sponsor the River Center. When you become a sponsor your name or business will be featured on a tile on our donor wall, where the community can see your commitment to the Loxahatchee River.

Please see page 2 for a complete list of all of our current Annual Sponsors.

Creature Feature—Graysby Grouper

Graysbys are tropical groupers found in the northern Atlantic Ocean, specifically in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico regions. These small, secretive fish prefer a complex reef habitat that offers many caves and crevices. Graysby groupers are often found lurking close to their hiding places, usually 10 to 60 feet below the ocean's surface.

Graysby groupers feed during dawn and dusk.

Graysbys will eat many small marine animals, but research indicates they seem to prefer a diet of Brown Chromis when the smaller fish are available.

Graysby groupers are generally grey to reddish-brown in color with small, red-brown spots on their bodies and fins. Graysby groupers are most readily identified by the 3 to 5 distinctive pale or dark spots that run along the base of their dorsal fins. Of the



many types of Groupers found in the north Atlantic region Graysbys are some of the smallest, ranging between 6 and 10 inches in length and up to 1 pound in weight.

THANK YOU!

NEW RIVER CENTER SPONSORS

Angela DiTerlizzi
Aimee Dee- Microwave
Service Co.

Our annual River Center sponsors are recognized on our donor wall at the entrance to the River Center.

Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 14, Aquarium Club Meeting, 7-9 p.m.
- Jan. 16-17, Sleepin' with the Fishes-Kids Slumber Party, Ages 7-12, 6 p.m.-9 a.m., Pizza Party, Snacks, Games, Crafts, Movies, and More!
- Feb. 5, Friends Meeting, Cindy Elliser-Spotted & Bottlenose Dolphins of the Bahamas, 12-1 p.m.

River Center Parade Float

JTAA Annual Holiday Parade



On Sunday, December 13th the River Center participated in the 33rd annual JTAA Holiday Parade. The 2009 theme was "Toys on Parade". The River Center float featured numerous aquatic children's toys. The stars of our float were SpongeBob SquarePants, his starfish friend Patrick, and a life sized mermaid who waved to the crowd from her perch of rocks. The float also featured many of our wonderful volunteers who helped make our entry in this year's parade so successful and fun!



Loxahatchee River Oyster Reef Restoration

For the past two years the Loxahatchee River District, other environmental managers, and our local community have created oyster reefs along the Loxahatchee River.

Oyster reefs are an important part of improving and maintaining water quality in the river, and they provide a habitat for a variety of species of marine life. However, environmental factors and historical development have diminished the oyster populations in our local waterways.

Over the past year the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Nature Conservancy, and the Loxahatchee River District

have partnered to restore the oyster reefs in the Loxahatchee River. Student interns and volunteers collected oyster shells from area restaurants and placed the oyster and fossilized shells into mesh bags used to create the oyster reefs. Local residents along the river volunteered the space beneath their docks to build these reefs and students from Jupiter High's Environmental Academy assisted LRD staff to install the shell bags to create the new oyster reef.

The reefs are already providing crucial habitat for new oysters to grow and quickly form living reefs. Scientists have documented large increases in the juvenile fish populations and other aquatic life around the oyster



reefs and spat, or oyster larvae, have begun settling onto the new reefs.

In the coming year LRD and Martin County will expand this restoration effort in the northwest fork of the river, with plans to create over 3.5 acres of new oyster habitat. The River Center will host an open house closer to the beginning of construction in 2010 that will give specific information about the locations of the reefs and construction schedules.

Thank You Annual Sponsors!

*Jupiter Inlet District
Solid Waste Authority*

Town of Jupiter

CMH Swim School

Jupiter Dive Center

*T.A.C. Environmental
Consulting*

David & Sandra Lidberg

David Nickerson

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The Krasker Family

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The Arrington Family

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Sherry Corbett

Angela DiTerlizzi

The Halstead Family

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Laura Kerr

Pat Magrogan

Microwave Service Co.

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