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June 2010

"Riverbend Park Landscape" by Zen Rial won 1st place in the Loxahatchee River Photo Contest Fauna category.

LOXAHATCHEE RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

RIVER TIDINGS

Wild and Scenic Loxahatchee 25th Anniversary Celebration!

"Wandering Below" by Patrick Campbell.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Loxahatchee River's national "Wild & Scenic" designation. The Loxahatchee River was the first river in Florida to receive this prestigious recognition, and remains one of only two National Wild & Scenic rivers in the state.

On Saturday, May 15 the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative hosted state and local elected officials, environmental leaders, managers, and supporters to celebrate the national significance of our beautiful river.

Representative Carl Domino discusses the river

Gathering in Jonathan Dickinson State Park, along the banks of the Loxahatchee River, several distinguished speakers recalled their fondest memories of the river, noted it's amazing beauty, reflected on the importance of the river, and implored local agencies to sustain their efforts in preserving and restoring the river.

Presentation of "Loxahatchee River Day" proclamations.

The day was officially deemed "Loxahatchee River Day" through proclamations by the State of Florida, South Florida Water Management District, Loxahatchee River District, Palm Beach County, Martin County, Town of Jupiter, Village of Tequesta, Palm Beach Gardens, and Jupiter Inlet District .

LRD Governing Board members, staff, and their families gather around the Loxahatchee River's National Wild & Scenic plaque.

In further celebration, the Loxahatchee River District is creating a time capsule to mark the anniversary event. The time capsule will include environmental and historical data about the river, along with a collection of personal perspectives and experiences by local residents. The public is invited to complete and submit a special form to be considered for inclusion in the capsule. It can be downloaded from and emailed back to the Loxahatchee River District at www.loxahatcheeriver.org. Forms are also available for pickup at The River Center.

The Loxahatchee River's National Wild & Scenic designation plaque.

For more info about the Loxahatchee river, our environmental education programs, special events, or upcoming volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at www.loxahatcheeriver.org.

Story Contributed by Amy Krasker

Photographs Courtesy of Patrick Campbell

Creature Feature: Toadfish

Toadfish, named for the frog-like noise these fish produce with their swim bladders, are found most commonly in western Atlantic waters.

Toadfish can grow up to 12 inches in length and usually weigh less than 1 lb. Their mottled brown-grey coloring helps these bottom dwellers blend in with their surroundings.

Toadfish are large mouthed, carnivorous ambush predators that hide in their surroundings and quickly strike out at small prey.

Most Toadfish generally inhabit shallow salt and coastal waters, but they have been found at depths of up to 820 feet.

Unlike many other fish, Toadfish do not have any scales and can live in waters with surprisingly low levels of dissolved oxygen.

To learn more about these fascinating creatures stop by the River Center and visit Todd, our resident Toadfish!

Want to learn more about an animal at the River Center?
Give us your suggestions and they may be featured in the next newsletter!

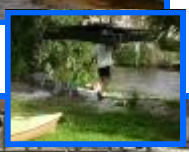
Going Green Tips!

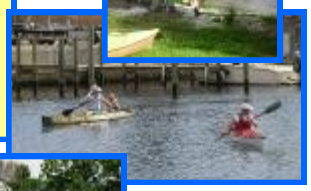
- Plastic food containers can be washed out and reused to store leftovers or small household trinkets.

- When starting the shower place a bucket in the tub to collect cold water, then use the it later to water household plants.

- Reuse worn out clothes as rags for wiping up messy spills and polishing cars and furniture.

The second annual Great Loxahatchee River Race, hosted by Waste Water Management and Jupiter Outdoor Center, took place on Saturday, May 1st. Local individuals and businesses competed in the fun community event.





Welcome College Intern

Stop by the River Center and say hello to our new summer Environmental Education Intern Bob Halstead! Bob is a senior at Florida Gulf Coast University majoring in Environmental Studies and Marine Science.

Volunteer Roundup

Fri, June 11– *Parents Night Out, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., Volunteers needed to help run this fun children's event.*

Wed, June 23 – *Kids Water Play Day, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Volunteers needed to help setup, play during the event, and cleanup.*

Wed, July 21 – *Kids Water Play Day, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Volunteers needed to help setup, play during the event, and cleanup.*

Upcoming Events:

- ***Fri, June 11 - Parents Night Out, Drop the kids off for a night of fun including a pizza party, games, crafts, movies, snacks, and more!, Ages 3 to 11, RSVP's required, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., $25.00 per child, $20.00 per member child***
- ***Wed, June 23 - Kids Water Play Day, Ages 0 to 10, RSVP's required, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., $5.00 per child***
- ***Sat, June 26 through Sat, July 17 –Junior Aquarist Program, Saturday summer camp for kids ages 9 to 13, RSVP's required, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., $75.00 per child***
- ***Thurs, July 8 - Aquarium Club Meeting, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.***
- ***Fri, July 2 - No Friends Meeting, Have a Happy 4th of July!***
- ***Thurs, July 8 - Aquarium Club meeting, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.***

Students LEAP to Learn at the River Center

LRD and Jupiter Farms Elementary Partner To Educate About Lox River

The Loxahatchee River District and Jupiter Farms Elementary School have enjoyed a year-long educational partnership, recently culminating in a very special event.

As part of "Project LEAP", third graders from Jupiter Farms Elementary School were welcomed to the district's environmental learning center, the River Center.

Children's author Marianne Berkes worked with students to make her Marsh Music, among other literary works, come to life.

Berkes led third graders on a journey of exploration of water ecosystems titled "Water, Water, Everywhere...Life in and Around the Loxahatchee River."

In its ninth year, Project LEAP 2010 has grown into a diverse unit of study that allows third graders to explore the delicate and vital connections that exist in a local ecological treasure, the Loxahatchee River.

In fall 2009, teachers began the task of developing a unit of study integrating several subject areas including language arts, science, math, and the visual arts.

Students researched a variety of animals that live specifically in and near the Loxahatchee River.

Information about life cycles, adaptations, and food sources flowed in. The river's bounty led students to the realization that these ecological relationships are fragile and must be protected.

The ecological connection to the river was deepened as third grade classes visited the River Center.

There, students were led through informative hands-on science labs and explorations of the Loxahatchee's many treasures.

The Loxahatchee River District will continue to work with local educational facilities in the future to create new innovative environmental education outreach programs.

For more information on current or possible educational programs please contact the River Center by phone at (561) 743-7123 or through email at Education@Loxahatcheeriver.org.

Story Contributed by Amy Krasker

I Want to Become a Friend of the Loxahatchee River!

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____ Email_____

____Student $10 ____Sponsor $250 ____River Keeper $2,500

____Individual $25 ____Patron $500 ____Environmental Ed. Program

____Family $50 ____Protector $1,000 ____I Want to Volunteer

Please call 561-743-7123 for more information on Friends memberships.
Please make checks payable to Friends of the Loxahatchee River.
Mail to: River Center - 805 N US Highway 1 - Jupiter, FL - 33477

NonProfits Going Green

Community Foundation FOR PALM BEACH AND MARTIN COUNTIES

The River Center was recently awarded $1,500 by the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties as part of their Non Profits Going Green competition. The River Center won 3rd place in the "Most Green for the Least Green" category. Keep an eye out for our newsletter's new "Going Green Tips" to learn more easy ways you can be green and save some green in your home!

Loxahatchee River Cleanup

Thank You Volunteers!

Volunteers removed over 900 lbs of trash from the river!

On Saturday, May 22nd the River Center and Loxahatchee River District, in conjunction with Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful, hosted a Loxahatchee River Cleanup as part of the Great American Cleanup.

Over 150 volunteers participated in the community-wide, family event that took place at four locations around the river. Volunteers gathered at Burt Reynolds Park, Coral Cove Park West, Riverbend Park, and Jonathan Dickinson State Park to collect trash and debris from the river, intracoastal, and shoreline.

Canoe Outfitters of Florida, Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Jupiter Kayak Tours, and Jupiter Outdoor Center generously donated kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards to the cleanup.

Volunteers removed over 120 bags of garbage, recycling, and debris from the river. In total the trash collected weighed over 900 lbs! Items ranged from plastic bottles and soda cans to bicycle parts, tires, traffic cones, construction fencing, glass sheets, carpeting, and even an inflatable boat.

Each Loxahatchee River Cleanup volunteer received a Great American Cleanup t-shirt and a 10% off coupon valid at the River Center's gift shop. Gift certificates, donated by Jupiter Kayak Tours, Jupiter Outdoor Center, and Canoe Outfitters, were also raffled off to event participants.

The River Center and Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful will host another river cleanup on September 25th and invite you to participate. Your support makes these wonderful programs possible and a river cleanup is a great way to have fun, earn volunteer hours, and have a positive impact on your local environment.

To volunteer for any of our upcoming river cleanup events please contact the River Center at (561) 743-7123.

We Will Miss You!

May has been a month of change at the River Center. We will miss two of our wonderful staff members, Environmental Educator Kristen Ruest and Education Intern Stephanie Denton, and we wish them the best of luck in their new careers!

Learn more about the River Center's native Florida plants and landscaping from our new garden signs, donated by the Jupiter Tequesta Garden Club!