

# Loxahatchee River Historical Society Quarterly

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The Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS) is the 501(c)3 non-profit organization that operates Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum.

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Oil painting of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse that hung in Jupiter Quarters A when CWO James W. Allen Sr. lived there there decades ago. Allen commanded the rescue stations at Lake Worth Inlet and Fort Pierce Inlet, and the painting was a gift from his superior officer in Miami.

# Jupiter Hotels: Wayside Inn (1902?-1950s)

After the arrival of Flagler's FEC Railway, Henry Brooker opened a store at Sawfish Bay, near the new Jupiter railroad station. He later added the small Jupiter Hotel, probably after the Neptune House burned. Around 1906, his Jupiter business ventures failed and Henry Brooker moved to Homestead where he started a new store.

In 1912, Graham W. King Sr. and Edith Carlin King reopened Brooker's former hotel as the King House. Edith no doubt put to use lessons learned working with her mother and sisters at the Carlin House. Unfortunately, Graham died a year later. Edith continued to operate the hotel for the rest of the decade.

William H. Reeves purchased the King House in 1920, renaming it the Wayside Inn. Reeves added several cottages to the property and operated until his death in 1932. Besides the hotel, Reeves also served a term as Mayor of Jupiter and a separate term on the town council. Wayside Inn hosted the wedding reception for John and Bessie DuBois in 1924.



On the left is the Wayside Inn circa 1910, when it was the home of E. F. Bowers. The Jupiter Post Office and Ziegler Store are on the right.



Wayside Apartments cottages in 1953. (LRHS Evelyne Bates Collection)

Joseph and Florence Bingham purchased the Wayside Inn from Reeves' estate. During World War II the motel advertised to married personnel stationed at Camp Murphy; given the shortage of family housing in the area they were likely successful.

Dr. C. W. Nelson purchased Wayside Inn shortly after the war, rebranding it Wayside Apartments. Nelson began to transition the business away from short-term lodging. He also added a dock and bait shop: the first Jupiter Marina. Nelson sold the property in 1952 and subsequent owners focused on marina operations. The hotel and cottages were demolished in 1964.

# The Loxahatchee River Historical Society

## Part 2: 1994-2022

With the success of SeaFare, the Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS) approached the Coast Guard about the future of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. The Coast Guard stated they would not consider relinquishing ownership of the historic lighthouse as long as the military family housing on site remained in use, but they were willing to discuss a lease. LRHS gathered community endorsements, including letters of support from legislators and a resolution from the Town of Jupiter. After two years of negotiations to reach a satisfactory agreement, especially one that would not disturb the Coast Guard residents, LRHS signed a 30-year lease in July 1994. The historical society could open the lighthouse to visitors year-round, on a limited schedule. In exchange, LRHS would restore and maintain Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. On 22 Nov 1994, a ceremonial switch was flipped to commemorate the “transfer of power.”

Docent-led tours began on 4 Dec 1994, based out of the Lighthouse Visitor Center in the east wing of the “old Coast Guard barracks” in Lighthouse Park. The original agreement required all visitors be on guided tours, not more than 15 people per tour, and limited access to four days per week. LRHS explored the possibility of moving the Coast Guard Exchange to make way for a new museum building, but the military had no interest in relocating what was then a very profitable store.

Also in 1994, under new Executive Director Alicen McGowan, the “Loxahatchee Historical Society” and “Loxahatchee Historical Museum” were collectively rebranded the “Florida History Center & Museum.” The organization attempted to broaden its scope to include a wider range of



Cast. Dale Walker, USCG, presents LRHS Board President H. Allen Holmes a symbolic key to the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse in 1994. The switch next to Holmes represented the “transfer of power.”

Florida history in hopes of appealing to a larger audience and increasing eligibility for grants.

The Coast Guard relinquished unused portions of the Jupiter Lighthouse Reservation north of Beach Road to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 1996. Designated Jupiter Inlet Natural Area, this property would be jointly managed with Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management (ERM) for the next decade, although its future was uncertain.

In 1997, Anna Minear donated the 1892 Tindall House to LRHS. The historic building moved from

## LRHS, Part 2: 1994-2022 continued

Palm Point to Burt Reynolds Park, next to the museum.

On 14 Nov 1998, the historical society held a centennial celebration for the 1898 DuBois House. Joan Hudiburg and Roz Wood, event co-chairs and historical society docents, made a DuBois family tree quilt to commemorate the event. It is still displayed at the DuBois House Museum today.

Between October 1999 and April 2000, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Oil House underwent an extensive top-to-bottom restoration. Bert Bender was the historic architect and the firm of Dooley & Mack served as contractors. LRHS secured an \$858,000 Florida Department of Transportation grant to fund the project.



Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse undergoing major restoration  
1999-2000

The first phase of engraved bricks in the Pathway to History were installed in 2001. Volunteer Evelyne Bates served as the project chair. She oversaw every order and installation for 22 years, earning her nickname “The Brick Lady.” Over 3,000 engraved bricks have been placed so far.

Jamie Stuve was promoted to executive director of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society in April 2002. At the same time, the organization underscored its renewed focus on local history by formally changing its name to the “Loxahatchee River Historical Society.”

In 2004, the Coast Guard relinquished Lighthouse Park to the Bureau of Land Management, who in turn gave it to the Town of Jupiter. The “barracks building” in Lighthouse Park was determined to be from World War II, the last surviving building from Naval Radio Station Jupiter. With the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse as the primary attraction for visitors and no possibility of expanding facilities in Burt Reynolds Park, Jamie Stuve looked to the historic Navy building as the future for LRHS. After an extensive restoration, LRHS dedicated Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum on Pearl Harbor Day 2006. The new museum subsequently hosted the permanent exhibit “Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee” which covered many aspects of local history beyond the lighthouse. The 1988 museum building in Burt Reynolds Park was badly damaged by Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne in September 2004. The repaired building later became The River Center, operated by the Loxahatchee River District.

The Tindall House moved to the new site in 2007. Restoration and the addition of a replica kitchen followed, overseen by board member

## LRHS, Part 2: 1994-2022 continued



Jupiter Mayor Karen Golonka and LRHS Executive Director Jamie Stuve dedicate the retired Navy housing building at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum on Pearl Harbor Day 2006

and experienced contractor Skip Gladwin. The Loxahatchee Guild raised \$250,000 for the project.

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse requires regular maintenance, from changing light bulbs and weekly cleaning, to major projects. The latter have included hurricane repairs in 2005, repainting in 2010 and 2019, roof restoration in 2017 and 2019, and new gallery deck railings in 2022. LRHS funds these projects through donations and a variety of grants. In recent years, the Florida Lighthouse Association's "Visit

Our Lights" license plate and the Bureau of Land Management have been the main sources for such grants.

At the suggestion of Bruce Dawson, Bureau of Land Management Southeastern States Director, LRHS championed the creation of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (JILONA). A coalition of the historical society, local residents, municipalities, Palm Beach County, the Coast Guard, and local congressmen worked together to create and pass Congressional legislation that protected not only the lighthouse, but the entire lighthouse reservation of approximately 120 acres. President George W. Bush signed the act into law on 10 May 2008, henceforth celebrated as JILONA's anniversary. A dedication ceremony took place 5 Dec 2008. The Loxahatchee River Historical Society has the rare honor of being a legislated partner in the ONA.

In 2010, LRHS celebrated the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse sesquicentennial with several events, an infrastructure improvement project, the addition of a Seminole teaching chickee, and the planting of a native hammock.

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum experienced rapidly growing annual visitation during the last decade, from 30,000 in 2011 to 88,000 in 2019. Staff has grown to meet these challenges, but the organization still relies heavily on its more than 90 volunteers. The exhibit "Keeping The Light at Jupiter Inlet" opened in 2017. The long-awaited end of mandatory guided tours finally arrived in 2018, replaced by Tour Your Own Way.

The Coast Guard moved out of the site housing in 2013, but the relinquishment process lasted until 2019. The Coast Guard Exchange closed



LRHS staff and volunteers at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area dedication in 2008.

that same year. These are important steps toward expanding visitor services at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum.

LRHS was able to reopen the lighthouse after a 2 ½ month closure during the pandemic. The historical society worked through this challenging time to provide a safe experience for visitors, staff, and volunteers. The subsequent closure of the main museum building for the duration of the US 1 bridge replacement project represents another major challenge.

Jamie Stuve retired in 2022 after two decades leading the Loxahatchee River Historical Society. Katrina Heller, Visitor Services Manager

and Director of Operations since 2015, has been named Interim Executive Director. Lori Houchin has succeeded Dr. Robin Sykes as LRHS Board Chair, becoming the 20<sup>th</sup> person to hold that position since the organization's formation.

The staff, volunteers, and board members of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society are proud to build on the legacy of dedicated history advocates, especially Bessie DuBois, Anna Minear, Ethel Gravett, and Jamie Stuve. We will continue our mission for another 50 years and beyond: to preserve the 5,000+ years of history of Jupiter, Tequesta, and the Loxahatchee River region.

# Jamie Stuve Retires from Society

After 21 years with the Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS), Jamie Stuve retired effective November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jamie started with LRHS as a DuBois Pioneer Home Museum volunteer in 2001 and was hired later that year as Educational Curator. In April 2002, she was promoted to Executive Director, later becoming President/CEO. Her two decades in charge provided much-needed stability to our historical society which had been through 9 executive directors in the 17 years prior to Jamie.

The first decade of Jamie's tenure involved successfully guiding the Loxahatchee River Historical Society through many major changes and challenges. These included relocating operations from Burt Reynolds Park to Lighthouse Park, recovery from the 2004-2005 hurricanes, and championing the Congressional act that established the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) in 2008.

Jamie successfully applied to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund a transformational site project in 2010. This project involved infrastructure improvements, native landscaping, construction of the lighthouse deck under the ficus tree, restoration of the historic Keepers' Workshop, repainting of the lighthouse, archaeological monitoring of the aforementioned projects, and an archaeological survey of the new ONA. Jamie helped design many successful exhibits, including the "Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee" permanent exhibit (2009-2022). Jamie maintained an excellent

relationship between LRHS and the Coast Guard, which allowed the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum to expand facilities and programs for the growing number of visitors. She also worked closely with the federal Bureau of Land Management in the management of the ONA.



Jamie Stuve (right) with "one of my favorite people", Idella "Ida" Simmons Harris Connaway.

Among Jamie's proudest accomplishments were the increased recognition of Jupiter's African American history, especially through the "Black Jupiter: Untold Stories" community exhibit and the historical markers for the Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery (2013) and the L. M. Davis School (2016).

Under Jamie's leadership, LRHS earned a Muse Award from the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County; the Judge James R. Knott Historical Contribution Award from the Historical Society of Palm Beach County; numerous awards from the Bureau of Land Management, including the national Partnership Award; and commendations from the U.S.

Coast Guard for exceptional stewardship and care of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.

Jamie poured her heart, soul, and time into the Loxahatchee River Historical Society. She has been a tireless advocate for our historical society and its mission to preserve and share our community's heritage. We wish her the very best with her well-earned retirement, which will include completing her Master's degree in Scotland and spending time in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

# In Memory of Bill Wood



The lighthouse family is saddened by the passing of a longtime docent this fall at age 85.

William Stuart “Bill” Wood” was born in Beckley, West Virginia in 1937. His father, physician Dr. Edward W. Wood, moved the family to Palm Beach County shortly after World War II. Although they resided in Lake Worth, the Wood family purchased a weekend home in Jupiter in 1953. They particularly enjoyed the Loxahatchee River. Dr. Wood was offered the job of community doctor at the Salhaven retirement village in Jupiter, but declined due to the salary offered.

Bill graduated from Lake Worth High School and attended University of Florida for his undergraduate and law degrees. In 1960 he married Judie Render, a fellow Lake Worth High School alum. A few years after finishing their respective college educations, Bill and Judie settled in Jupiter, where they raised three children. They later retired to Tequesta Country Club.

When Bill opened his solo law practice in Jupiter in the mid-1960s there was only one other lawyer in Jupiter at the time (Jim Chiappi). Wood’s legal work included six years as Jupiter’s town attorney and a temporary position as Tequesta’s municipal judge. He served as legal representative for three different owners of Jupiter Marina, the first legal counsel for the Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District, and a lawyer and lobbyist for the Izaak Walton League conservation organization. As a self-described “lifelong environmentalist”, Wood remained very proud of his work for the District and League. He credited the River District with saving the Loxahatchee River.

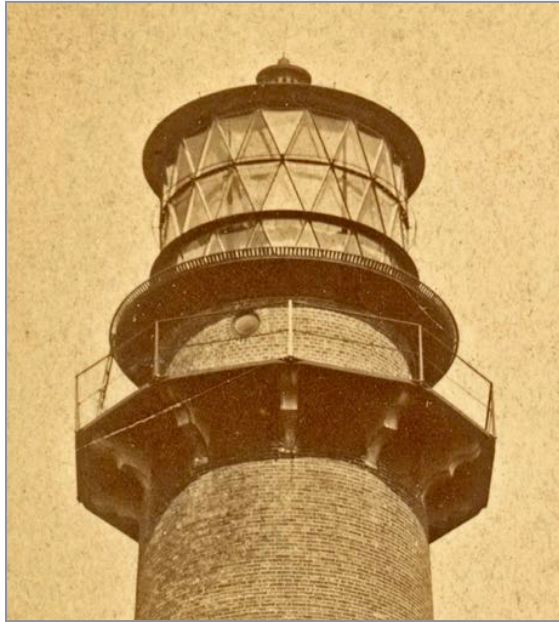
Bill had fond memories of the Jupiter town council meetings in Old Town Hall, which he described as “The best free entertainment in town.” He described Jupiter in the 1960s and 1970s as “an exciting time to see a farming and fishing community blow up [in size].” Wood understood the frustration and sadness many felt about those same changes. “You get a piece of paradise and you don’t want to share it because other people might ruin it.” The Jupiter of his youth was “quaint and beautiful” but Bill saw the development as inevitable.

Bill Wood had a long history with the Loxahatchee River Historical Society. He filed the society’s original incorporation papers in 1972 and for many years served as the organization’s legal counsel (1971-1982 and 2005-2015). In the mid-1990s, Bill and Judie Wood both began more than 25 years each volunteering regularly at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse; they stopped only when their respective health issues interfered. Bill also served on the LRHS Board of Directors (2005-2015), including a term as Board Chair (2011-2013).



# Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Railings Through History

When you enjoy the view from the top of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse the metal platform you stand on is called the gallery deck. Each lighthouse has some kind of metal railing around its gallery deck for safety, but the size and design of these railings vary.



Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse was originally built with very simple railings. Nobody in the 19th century imagined a future where ten of thousands of visitors climbed the lighthouse annually!



Lighthouse renovations in 1917-1918 included a handrail for the staircase (still in use) and a newer, sturdier railing for the gallery deck.



Due to deterioration, the Coast Guard replaced the railing in the 1970s. Two of the ten sections of the old railing were donated to our historical society.



The 1999-2000 lighthouse restoration replicated the appearance of the 1917 railings. Extensions were added in 2010 for safety.

# New Lighthouse Railings

Robinson Iron manufactured and installed the new gallery deck railing. Kenneth R. Smith served as historic architect and helped facilitate the project. The new railings look like the old railings, but with subtle changes for improved visitor safety. They are made of marine-grade stainless steel which should prevent the persistent rust issues experienced with the previous railings.

Project funding came from grants issued by the Florida Lighthouse Association Gene Oakes "Visit Our Lights" License Plate Fund and the Bureau of Land Management.



Cutting away the old railings.



Hoisting a section of new railing.



Installing the new railings



The completed railings

# LRHS Historian Josh Liller Programs: Jan-Apr 2023

## Historian at the Pavilion

Included with Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum daily admission (free to LRHS/JILM members)  
20-minute presentation on specific topic, followed by 10+ minutes Q&A on any local history topics

Wed Jan 25	11:00 AM	Loxahatchee River Historical Society
Wed Feb 22	11:00 AM	Jupiter Inlet Life Saving Station
Wed Mar 22	11:00 AM	Women in Jupiter History
Wed Apr 26	11:00 AM	What We've Learned in the Last Decade

## Public Speaker Outreach (free)

Fri Jan 27	2:30 PM	Jupiter Library	Spencer Stereoviews
Fri Feb 24	2:30 PM	Jupiter Library	Pennock Plantation
Tue Feb 28	6:30 PM	Juno Beach Town Hall	Juno Beach History Through Postcards
Wed Mar 15	6:00 PM	Hobe Sound Library	Camp Murphy
Fri Mar 24	2:30 PM	Jupiter Library	Camp Murphy
Fri Apr 28	2:30 PM	Jupiter Library	Jonathan Dickinson State Park

*Jupiter Library programs should be RSVP'd with library due to limited space.*

# Keepers' Update

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum is open Tuesday-Sunday. Admission is sold each day 10AM-4PM and the Gift Shop is open until 5PM. Daily access is now through the former PX gate on the east side of the parking lot.

**Early Closings:** There will also be early closings on several Saturdays in January for weddings and other events. Please be sure to check our website for the latest information before visiting.

Thank you to everyone who attended or sponsored our annual Rendezvous at the Light fundraiser on November 19. The weather was wonderful this year!

The historic World War II Navy housing building on the waterfront is closed until further notice due to the US 1 bridge project. Lighthouse Park, operated by the Town of Jupiter, remains open normally.

With the end of hurricane season and a lull in the bridge pile driving, the historic first-order Fresnel lens in the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse was able to shine again for the latter half of November. The lens has been wrapped up once again to protect it against possible vibrations from the bridge work. The lighthouse will remain open for climbing as part of daily admissions and sunset/moonrise tours throughout the bridge project. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team has installed a temporary LED beacon on the ocean side of the lantern.

Most of the utility work on the lighthouse grounds is finished and the brick Pathway to History has reopened to visitors. The 33rd phase of more than 100 engraved bricks was installed in December.

**Save The Date:** Our annual [Family Adventure Day](#) is Saturday Jan 21.

Also, we will hold our annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Saturday, April 8.

**Monthly Kids' Programs:** Lighthouse Explorers Club program is the second Saturday of each month, for elementary and middle school children. Lighthouse Storytime program, for preschool-age children, is the third Saturday of each month.

Education Curator Hannah Lundell has accepted a position with JM Family Enterprises. We wish her well.

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## Newsletter Credits

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