

# 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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Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse celebrates 160 years with a fresh coat of paint. More on Page 5.

# Recognizing the Gladwin Family

Skip and Rosalyn Gladwin have local connections back to the 1940s. Rosalyn's father, Clifford M. Redding, was Principal of the Jupiter School on Loxahatchee Drive from 1943 to 1945 and the family permanently settled in Palm Beach County. Rosalyn followed in her father's footsteps as a teacher. Skip came to Jupiter with his family shortly after World War II. Their first residence here was the 1898 DuBois House which they rented from Susan DuBois. R. F. "Pop" Gladwin Sr. served on the Jupiter Town Council from 1955 to 1962. R. F. "Bud" Gladwin Jr. started Gladwin-Bassett with Jim Bassett and built countless banks, churches, shopping plazas, and other commercial buildings in the Jupiter-Tequesta area. R. F. "Skip" Gladwin III followed in his father's footsteps, first as General Manager of Gladwin-Bassett then starting his own company, RFG General Contractors, which specialized in high-end homes on Jupiter Island. The Gladwins are also longtime members of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society. Skip is a former LRHS Board Member and oversaw the move of the 1892 Tindall House to its permanent home at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum. Rosalyn is a long-time docent with the Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

Skip and Rosalyn have a lifelong interest in history, especially of the local area. They have spent many decades building a remarkable private collection of photos, postcards, artifacts, and archival material from a variety of sources. Many of the items are quite rare. Among other things, this includes possibly the largest collections of Spencer Stereoviews and Camp Murphy items in private hands. The Gladwins enjoyed showing parts of the collection at reunions and presentations, and sharing it for museum exhibits and history publications. The Gladwin Family Collection is the result of a great deal of time, effort, money, and love of history.

In recognition of their lifelong efforts, the Loxahatchee River Historical Society was proud to present Skip and Rosalyn Gladwin with its annual Outstanding Stewardship Award at the first Lighthouse Luminary Luncheon on April 16, 2019.

LRHS is also honored to have been chosen by the Gladwins as the "forever home" for much of the Gladwin Family Collection. It is one of the largest and most significant collections LRHS has ever received. We look forward to sharing their collection with the public through exhibits, presentations, and publications including future issues of this newsletter.



Rosalyn and Skip Gladwin with the Outstanding Stewardship Award

# Introductions Are In Order

**Welcome to the first issue of the new quarterly e-newsletter** for the Loxahatchee River Historical Society that operates Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum. This newsletter's goal is to share the latest discoveries and research, and to highlight recent donations and parts of our collection not currently on exhibit. And what better time to launch this newsletter than as part of the celebration of our lighthouse's 160th anniversary?

## **My name is Josh Liller and my title is Historian and Collections Manager.**

2020 is my seventh year on the staff here, and my eighth overall after starting as a volunteer tour guide and archives intern in 2013. I have a History BA from Florida Atlantic University and a lifelong love of history. My duties include answering reference questions, fact-checking, research, cataloging and digitizing our collections, exhibit writing, special tours, lectures, and writing history books and articles. I also serve as our representative to the [Florida Lighthouse Association](#).

Although I grew up in Palm City and lived mostly in Stuart as an adult, I was not very familiar with local history - certainly not Jupiter's. Before I started here, my entire lighthouse experience consisted of a single visit to our lighthouse in 2011. However, I have rapidly educated myself about lighthouses and local history - both familiarizing myself with what was known and forging ahead with new research. Among my projects have been expanding and updating our extensive local genealogy files, developing a nearly complete list of our lighthouse keepers (and writing a book about their lives), and improving our knowledge of local military activity, especially the Coast Guard. Working here has given me new appreciation for and interest in local history.

**Josh Liller has been published in *Keeper's Log* and *Lighthouse Digest* national magazines, as well as several local publications. His first two books are new editions of [Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee](#) with Jim Snyder (see next page), and [The Florida Lighthouse Trail](#) (coming soon - details in our next newsletter).**

I am always striving to improve our understanding of the past and expand our collections. Our historical society is dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of the Loxahatchee River region: Jupiter, Tequesta, Limestone Creek, and Jupiter Farms, and our shared history with Hobe Sound and Juno Beach.

I want to extend a special thanks to Jennifer Chapman who has volunteered her time and design skills to put this newsletter together.

For history questions and collection donations, you can email me at [jliller@jupiterlighthouse.org](mailto:jliller@jupiterlighthouse.org).

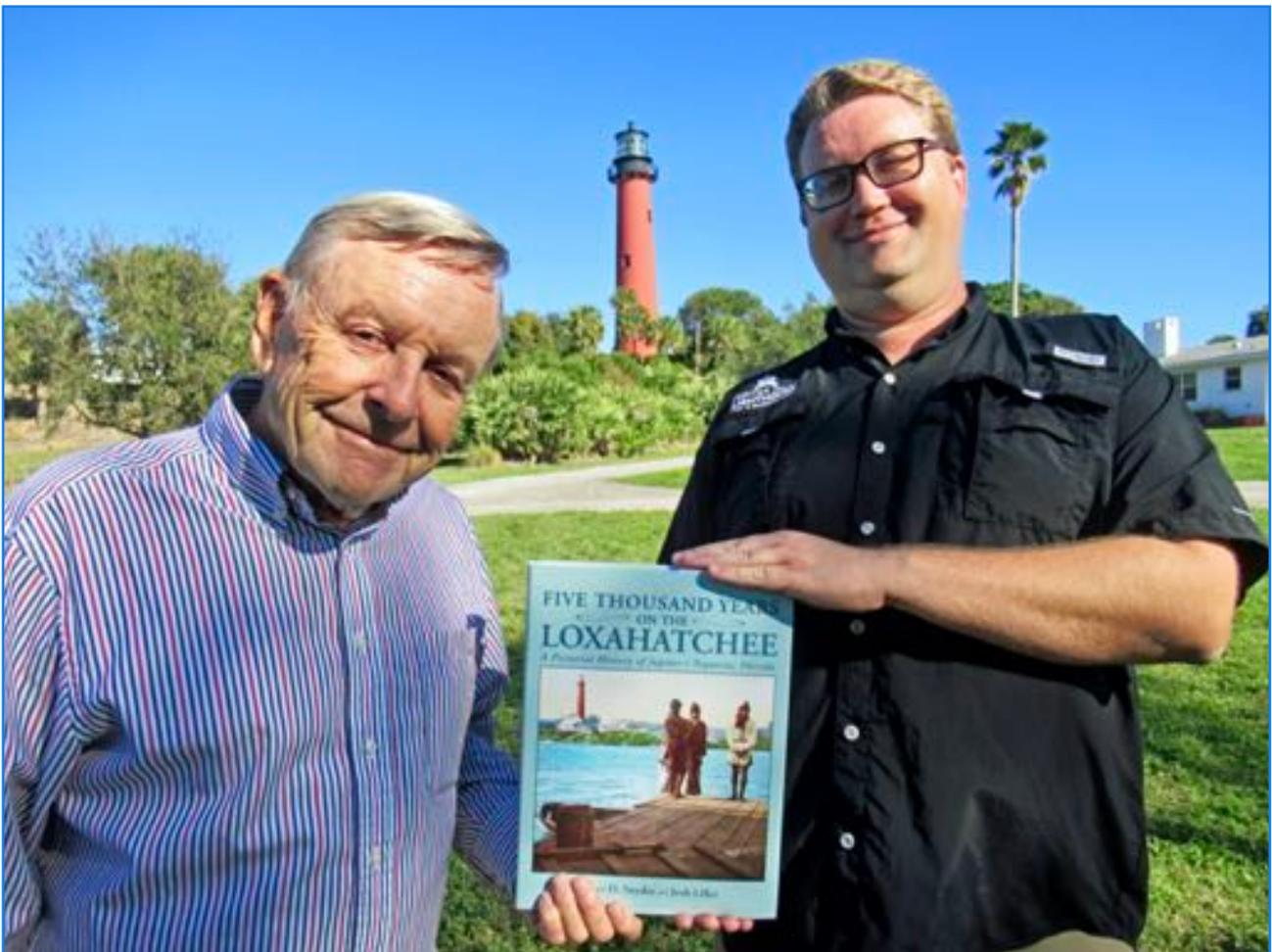
# Five Thousand Years Revisited

The Revised Edition of *Five Thousand Years On The Loxahatchee* debuted at our annual Rendezvous at the Light fundraising event on Saturday November 23, 2019.

Jim Snyder originally wrote and published the book in 2003. He teamed with Josh Liller, LRHS Historian, to produce this new edition which has been published by the historical society.

The book reflects new research and interviews, as well as historical society acquisitions over the fifteen years since its original publication. Of over 250 photos in the book, more than a hundred are new to this edition. In addition to updates throughout the text, the chapter about the Loxahatchee River has been completely rewritten and reflects continued preservation and restoration efforts through present day. A new chapter covers important events during the last three decades, starting with the completion of I-95.

The book is now available from the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum gift shop for \$39.95.



Jim Snyder (left) and Josh Liller with their new book

# Fresh Coat of Paint for Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse



Razorback LLC painted the tower using a swing stage scaffold that is safer and sturdier than those used by lighthouse keepers a century ago, but is functionally the same.

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse was temporarily closed and darkened for four weeks in October and November 2019 for a major preservation project.

The tower exterior bricks received a fresh coat of red paint for the first time since 2010. The interior of the tower was also repainted, which is needed more often due to visitor traffic and the humid climate. Additional preservation work included rust remediation and repointing cracked mortar.



Workers from Razorback LLC hoisting scaffolding.



LRHS Maintenance Chief Joe Martino at the top of the lighthouse. Joe handles many of the same maintenance duties as the lighthouse keepers of old, but without needing to tend an oil lamp, wind the clockwork, or keep watch all night.

The Loxahatchee River Historical Society, the nonprofit that has operated and maintained the lighthouse since 1994, raised \$234,000 for the project. Funding included grants from the Florida Lighthouse Association, the Bureau of Land Management, and Keim paint, along with hundreds of private donations. Razorback LLC served as contractors with support from metalsmith Alex Klahm, engineer Jude Kostage, and historic architect Ken Smith.

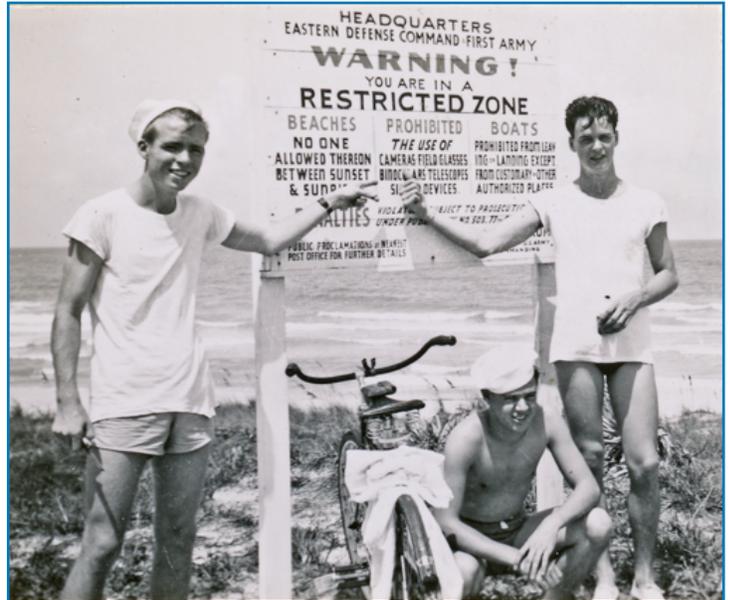
# World War II Veteran Shares Rare Photos, New Information About Station J

The US Navy operated a radio station near the lighthouse from 1905 to 1945. In 1940, the station became one of the country's earliest high frequency direction finding (HF/DF) stations, codename Station J. This was an important part of military intelligence during World War II, especially as part of the Battle of the Atlantic against German submarines. The last remaining radio station building is now home to our museum.

It was a pleasant surprise to receive a phone call from Frank Wili. The 97-year-old World War II veteran was happy to find the history of Naval Radio Station Jupiter aka Station J was being preserved and wanted to share his part of that history.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Frank Wili enlisted in the US Navy in November 1942. Following basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station followed by radio training at Indianapolis, IN and Cheltenham, MD, Wili was assigned to Station J from the summer of 1943 until June 1945. He concluded his service at Naval Radio Station Dupont, SC before being discharged at the end of the year as a Radioman 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

In addition to confirming the known primary role of Station J – taking bearings on German U-boat radio transmissions and recording the messages for Naval Intelligence – Wili revealed the station was also tracking neutral shipping, especially the Spanish. Although Spain was officially neutral in World War II, it provided some aid to the Axis powers. Wili stated that “we found Spanish ships were getting oil from South America and refueling U-boats.” Station J also copied all French commercial radio traffic to watch for any French collaboration with their German occupiers. This included not only Martinique and other Caribbean islands, but West Africa and even Saigon (French-owned, Japanese-occupied). Wili and his fellow radiomen



Warning sign on Jupiter Island. Station J personnel, L-R: Louis Jefferys, W. D. James, Elmo Dillon.



Station J personnel deep sea fishing. L-R, facing camera: Frank Wili, Doc Ivey, E. L. Smith

## WW II Veteran Shares Station J History, continued from page 6

underwent 16 weeks of radio training where they learned to transcribe Morse code at rate of 22 words-per-minute and plain language transmissions at 40 words-per-minute.

On the menu at Station J: baked beans, deep-fried French toast, hard-boiled eggs, corned beef hash, fish, sausage, and potato salad. Coffee was available 24/7. Station J had a liberty bus (a converted 2.5-ton truck) to take the men to West Palm Beach for off-duty recreation. Their favorite establishments were the Three O'Clock Club and Skinney's BBQ.

Wili shared a particularly memorable anecdote:

I think one of the most unique experiences was to listen to the surrender of the German fleet to the British. A funny thing took place during this surrender. A British vessel was telling a German U-boat captain where to rendezvous, transmitting in plain language German. The U-boat broke in with "BK" meaning "stop sending." The submarine then told the British to "please speak in English as we can't understand your German." One last great act of defiance.

Station J personnel enjoying a picnic with some fine Scotch.



Station J veterans reunion 1985, Winer Park, FL

# Transfer Ceremony Marks 80 Years of Coast Guard History at Jupiter

On Veterans Day 2019, the Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS) hosted a ceremony to mark the transfer of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse from the US Coast Guard to the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The transfer brings to an end 80 years of Coast Guard ownership, dating back to the Lighthouse Service merger in 1939. In addition to the lighthouse, Coast Guard operations on the site have included a direction-finding radio station, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and housing for Loran Station Jupiter, Small Boat Station Lake Worth Inlet, and Small Boat Station Fort Pierce.

Capt. James Passarelli, 7<sup>th</sup> District Chief of Staff, represented the Coast Guard. Bob Swithers, Southeastern States District Manager, represented the BLM. LRHS President Jamie Stuve and LRHS Historian Josh Liller also spoke at the event. Guests included Capt. Harry Mautte (CG Base Miami CO), members of the local Aids to Navigation Team from Fort Pierce, veterans of the Coast Guard station, local government officials, BLM district and site staff, and LRHS staff and volunteers. Pat Dixon, a Coast Guard civilian real estate officer, received special acknowledgment at the ceremony for her invaluable support over the last two decades.



Framed photos of a World War II Coast Guard lighthouse lookout at Jupiter were provided as a gift to the Coast Guard officers.

L-R: Peter DeWitt (BLM site manager), Capt. Harry Mautte, Capt. James Passarelli, Bob Swithers.

## Transfer Ceremony, continued from page 8



LRHS Historian Josh Liller shared highlights of Jupiter's Coast Guard history.

The transferred property includes the 1860 lighthouse, 1860 oil house, 1928 radio beacon transmitter building, several auxiliary light station structures, and eleven former single-family Coast Guard dwellings built in 1960 and 1962. This "historic corridor" is part of the 120-acre Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, specially designated by Congress in 2008. It is one of only three ONAs in the country and the only unit of the BLM's National Conservation Lands east of the Mississippi River.

The nonprofit Loxahatchee River Historical Society has been involved with the Coast Guard and Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse since 1973 when they opened the Oil House Museum. LRHS has been responsible for operating and maintaining the lighthouse under a Coast Guard lease since 1994 and will continue that same role with the change of ownership. Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse remains an active public aid to navigation with its rare first-order Fresnel lens. The tower and grounds are open to visitors on a daily basis as part of the LRHS-operated Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum.

"This ceremony marked another historic milestone in the life of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse," said William Perry Pendley, Acting BLM Director. "The BLM remains committed to working shoulder-to-shoulder with our local partners, especially the Loxahatchee River Historical Society."

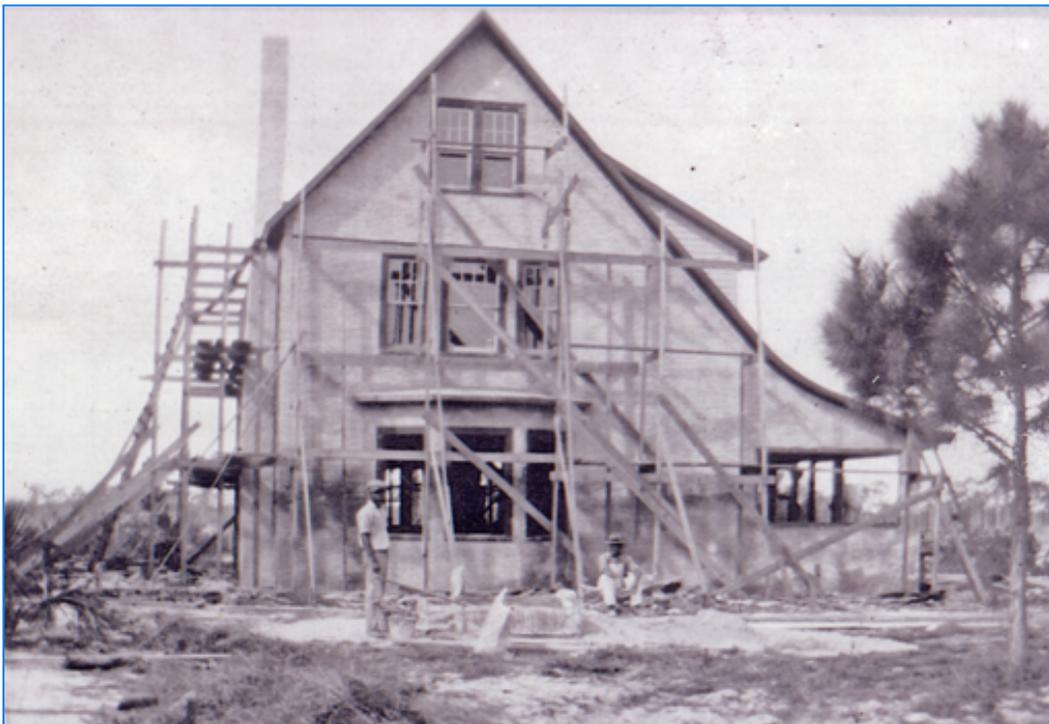


The Fort Pierce Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) with Joe Namath. The famous retired NFL quarterback is a local resident and lighthouse supporter. ANT maintains local public aids to navigation on the Treasure Coast.

# Collection Donation Highlights for 2019

In addition to the Gladwin Family Collection and Frank Wili, donations to the LRHS collections in 2019 included (donor name in parenthesis):

- Bed frame and domestic life artifacts from 1920s Florida (Arlene Redner & Sylvia Reinhardt)
- Seminole jacket and vest (Bishop Lennon)
- Florida Lighthouse photos and ephemera (In Memory of Lee Graham)
- Photos of the Minear House at Palm Point and Anna Minear's memoir about the 1928 hurricane (Dave Busch).



Sears house for the recently married Lloyd V. Minear and Anna Pennock Laird Minear under construction at Palm Point, 1923.

Coin commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pratt & Whitney in Jupiter Farms (1958-2008).

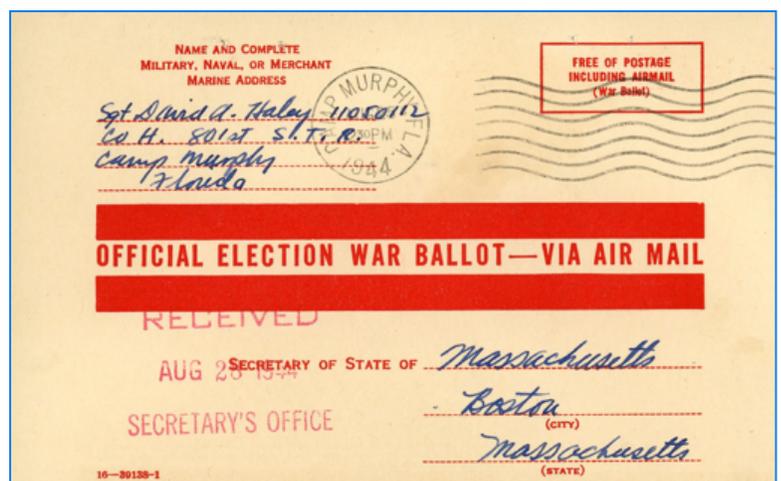


## Collection Donation Highlights, continued from page 10

- Camp Murphy lighter, mechanical pencil, pennant, matchbooks, and correspondence
- Oversize panoramic photo of the Jupiter High School Marching Band in Washington, DC in 1989
- Jupiter Island Public Safety Department patch.
- Pratt & Whitney 25th anniversary book and 50th anniversary commemorative coin
- Photo slides of the Loxahatchee River, including the 1985 Wild & Scenic River dedication, and St. Lucie Inlet Preserve (Richard E. Roberts)
- Logbooks from the Jupiter Weather Bureau Station (transfer from the Historical Society of Palm Beach County)
- Handheld radio direction finder (Paul Lamparelli)
- Newspaper clippings about the early years of the Loxhatchee River Environmental Control District (Bill Wood)
- Archaeological artifacts from the DuBois Mound (J. Alden DuBois)
- Photos, letters, and other archival material from the DuBois Family (J. Alden DuBois)
- Zippo lighter with the logo for Loran Station Jupiter (Gary D. Olson, USCG station veteran)
- Silver coins recovered from The Jupiter Wreck, the *San Miguel de Arcangel* (Kris Burke)
- Scrapbook about Helen Webb and the Jupiter Marine Life Center in the 1970s (Kevin Webb)



The Coast Guard operated Loran Station Jupiter from 1957 to 2010, part of a pre-GPS worldwide navigation network. This lighter was sold at the station's PX in the early 1970s. The logo shows the loran antennas and the lighthouse.



War Ballot Request from Sgt. David A. Haley at Camp Murphy.



Frank Lund stands in knee-deep water by the Lainhart Cabin in Jupiter Farms, Oct 1995. More than a foot of rain fell on October 17 in most of Palm Beach and Martin Counties, sending the Loxahatchee River spilling over its banks in a hundred-year flood. "SOAKED" declared the front page *The Palm Beach Post*.

## Roberts Collection 2019

Richard E. "Dick" Roberts, retired Florida Park Service naturalist-biologist, and his wife, Lorraine, have been supporters of the Loxahatchee River and the Loxahatchee River Historical Society for decades. They have also contributed to the LRHS collections with photos, archival material, and the replica Seminole War era Dragoon uniform on exhibit in our museum. Here are just a couple highlights from their donations this year.



Sen. Doc Myers speaking at the ceremony dedicating the Loxahatchee River Northwest Fork as Florida's first National Wild & Scenic River, 14 Dec 1985. VIPs seated in the front row include: Nat Reed, environmentalist (green sweater); Elton Gissendanner, Executive Director, Florida Department of Nature Resources (suit); Paul Daniel Smith, Asst. Secretary of the Interior (arms crossed); and Gov. Bob Graham (plaid shirt).

# Collection Most Wanted List

Help us preserve local history! The Loxahatchee River Historical Society accepts appropriate donations for our collections. While items are not usually put on display immediately, donations may be used for research, publications, and future exhibits - especially once we are able to expand our museum facilities.

Of particular interest, for ongoing research projects and/or to correct shortcomings in our collections:

- Lighthouse Service artifacts, especially any connected to our lighthouse.
- Photos, artifacts, and archival material related to our lighthouse keepers (civilian or military) and their families
- Spencer Stereoviews - stereoscopic photos from the 1870s and 1880s taken by our lighthouse keepers, Melville Spencer and Frederick Whitehead
- Camp Murphy Message newsletter and newspaper issues
- Camp Murphy letters and photos
- Booklets, photos, and other material related to local churches and schools
- Photos of Gaines Grocery, The Tree, The Mexican Bamboo, the old Church of God (pre-1988), the West Jupiter Community Center, L. M. Davis School, or other Limestone Creek area churches, businesses, and events.
- Photos, artifacts, archival material, and/or reminisces related to any local military station. Even basic information - name, rank, dates served - is helpful to compile a more complete roster.
- Photos and memories related to other organizations that used what is now our museum building.

Upon request, documents and photos can be scanned and returned. This allows us to collect and preserve the history while allowing owners to retain the originals.

**The Loxahatchee River Historical Society's collection policy is only to acquire items related to the local area from any point in our history. Non-local items are only accepted if they are representative items. We are often offered items of historical value, but which are not appropriate for our collection. This can include family heirlooms from the Northeast or Midwest, and military artifacts for individuals who neither lived nor served locally. We also cannot put a value on your donation; please seek a professional appraiser for that purpose. LRHS does not normally purchase items for its collection, but it is a 501(c)3 non-profit so your donations are tax-deductible.**

# Upcoming Events

## Hike Through History

Saturdays March 7, April 4, May 2 and June 6 @ 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

A monthly guided hike through Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area.

Learn about this history and nature of our 120-acre site beyond the lighthouse.

RSVP at [www.jupiterlighthouse.org](http://www.jupiterlighthouse.org)

## A Short History of Jupiter (speaker: LRHS Historian Josh Liller)

Saturday February 15, 10:30 AM @ The Elliott Museum, Stuart

Southeast Florida Archaeological Society (SEFAS) guest speaker series.

Free event, no RSVP required.

## Jupiter History Trolley Tours. SOLD OUT

Wednesday February 26, 10 AM – 11:30 AM & 12 PM – 1:30 PM

Saturday March 21, 10 AM – 11:30 AM & 12 PM – 1:30 PM

Guided tour of Jupiter history on a Molly's Trolley with LRHS Historian Josh Liller.

\$25/person. 25 tickets per tour. All tours follow the same route.

Tickets available at [www.jupiterlighthouse.org](http://www.jupiterlighthouse.org)

Sponsored by Village Bootery of Tequesta.

## Book Talk & Signing: The Florida Lighthouse Trail (Second Edition)

Friday April 10, 2:30 PM @ Jupiter Library

RSVP with library. Books will be for sale at the event.

## Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Friday April 10 & Saturday April 11

<https://www.jupiterlighthouse.org/special-events-tickets/wild-scenic-film-festival/>

## Autism Family Night at the Light

Wednesday April 29, 5:30 PM – 7:30

<https://www.jupiterlighthouse.org/special-events-tickets/autism-family-night/>

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### Newsletter Credits

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