

Egmont Key Notes

April 2011



Egmont Key Alliance 2011 Calendar

MAY

- 2 Board Meeting
- 21 Workday / Bird Stewards

JUNE

- 6 Board meeting
- 18 Workday / Bird Stewards

JULY

- 6 Board meeting
- 12 General Meeting & Pot Luck
- 16 Workday / Bird Stewards

AUGUST

- 1 Board meeting
- 20 Workday

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Board Meeting
- 17 Workday

OCTOBER

- 3 Board Meeting
- 11 General Meeting & Pot Luck
- 15 Workday

NOVEMBER

- 5 Possible extra work day
- 7 Board Meeting
- 12&13 Discover The Island
- 19 Christmas Light on lighthouse, lighting and pot luck dinner

DECEMBER

- 6 Board Meeting

Please note that this calendar does not include social events due to the variability of dates. Those dates will appear on Meetup.com and be announced via e-mail.

President's Corner

By Richard Sanchez

It's hard to believe that three months have passed since I became President of the Egmont Key Alliance! It has been a busy time but I am happy to report that we have made progress in several areas and we are on track to have a successful year. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the progress we have made.



The lighthouse restoration has moved ahead in a couple of ways. First, we have added a line item in the Egmont Key Alliance (EKA) budget for lighthouse restoration and preservation. EKA will soon be asking for donations and be looking for ways to fundraise. We have identified a couple of organizations that will help us raise the funds needed to restore the lighthouse to its 1858 appearance. I have reached out to U.S. Representative Kathy Castor of the 11th District to help us get the permissions needed to begin work on the lighthouse. I'll keep everyone informed as time goes on. We have found a local manufacturer that can do the work needed to construct a historically accurate replica of the lantern room. He is located in St. Petersburg and if he does the work it will save on transportation costs. I plan to invite him to a Board meeting soon to talk about the work needed to complete the lighthouse.

Discover the Island (DTI) 2011 is being planned and promises to be a successful one. All the presenters from last year have volunteered to return again this year and we have added some new ones. First are the Rough Riders who have done a lot of work on the island in the past. They paid for and installed the flagpole and also did cleanup and painting of the gun batteries. Next is Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful. Egmont Key is an Adopt-a-Shore Partner with them and they will be telling visitors about what they do. Elizabeth Neeley of the Panama Canal Museum has been asked to do a presentation of some kind during DTI. She will let us know soon what she plans to do. We are considering others and I am still hopeful we can get some Seminole Indian Re-enactors this year. We will reach out to Hillsborough County residents this year to let them know who we are, what we are doing with the lighthouse and hopefully recruit new members.

The EKA is looking at moving to a new software package called Wild Apricot which will provide us with an integrated solution to our website, membership database and communications needs

that we now do with several separate applications. It will automate several functions like membership renewals and allow for donations to easily be made. The Florida Lighthouse Association is migrating to this software package also. We can expect to see an increase in membership and also present a new look to our website.

Melissa Buhler, head of EKA membership, will be working to get the database ready for the new software and is also reaching out to past members to get them to rejoin. We are near 100 members and I expect to see many more members by the end of this year.

Our monthly social activities have been well attended, a lot of fun and have proven that you don't have to go far to find excellent museums and restaurants. There will be at least one outing per month with Janica Johnson planning trips in September and October. This year's workdays have been well attended with the February workday having thirty-three participants.

Egmont Key has had a small beach nourishment, recently completed and will be looking for more in the future.

I can go on with other things that are in the works but I'll leave that for the next newsletter. We are making progress with many things and I think that 2011 will be a great year for the Egmont Key Alliance!

Island Notes

By Tom Watson - Assistant Park Manager

As we begin another season of shore bird and turtle nesting on the island, let's all remember the importance of educating visitors about Egmont Key. The protection the EKA provides will ensure success for the island and it's inhabitants. Whether they are protecting the island's birds as bird stewards, keeping the beach litter free, or pulling logs so the sea turtle's journey on shore is without obstruction, all of the volunteers make a big difference. Thank you to all who will participate this year.

We were fortunate to have received a sand re-nourishment in December. The Geo Tube is once again covered and the northwest beach is wider. Special thanks to Jim Spangler for his continued active participation in an effort to keep the beaches of Egmont re-nourished. Shifting sand and strong tides will always be a challenge, so we will hope for fair winds and soft rains during this 2011 season.

It is with great pride; we all are looking forward to the journey and forward motion of the Egmont Key Alliance to restore a light tower to the day in 1858 when she was crowned with a top. The preservation of this piece of history is a large project, a worthy undertaking, and an amazing goal. May we have success as we advance forward on this mission.



sand re-nourishment on Egmont Key



Key Events

Annual Egmont Key Alliance Awards and Election Dinner

By Kathy Keleher

The annual Egmont Key Alliance Awards and Election Dinner was held on January 11th, 2011 at The Club 400 Treasure Island Causeway. We started off the New Year by meeting our new Egmont Key Alliance president, Richard Sanchez. Our past president Richard Johnson will continue on the board. Awards were given to show our appreciation to our members who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to help "restore, preserve, and protect" Egmont Key. Everyone also got acquainted with our new board member Jim Iglar.

It was wonderful to see such a turn out because everyone of our members plays such an important role with things such as workdays, bird stewarding, Discover the Island and maintaining the Oil House, the Radio Room and the Compressor Room with EKA memorabilia and displays from the Coast Guard. So many people are involved in the work that goes on getting grants for the sea turtles, exotic plant removal, and native plantings to help with erosion, and without the ferry service provided by the Hubbards, we would have a hard time getting all of these things done. As you can see we need the diversification of the group to fill all the needs of Egmont Key.



Charlie Canerday, Richard Johnson & Jim Spangler proudly showing their Hero of Egmont Key Award medals



Egmont Key Alliance members attending the annual Awards and Election Dinner

Pete Krulder and Tom Watson of the Florida State Parks Service were there to give us updates about the island. Everyone enjoyed seeing new and old friends and getting ready for the New Year and all it holds for our special island Egmont Key.

2011 Volunteer Appreciation Day

By Kathy Keleher

The February 5th annual volunteer appreciation day at Oscar Scherer State Park was fantastic. What a wonderful way to spend the day, with so many volunteers for our beautiful State Parks of Florida. We all enjoyed the activities including, music award ceremony, lunch, ice cream social, tram tours, fishing, and just relaxing and enjoying the park and all the other park volunteers. We are already looking forward to the next Volunteer Appreciation Day.



Key Events

Egmont Key Alliance 2011 Overnight Outing to St. Augustine September 9th - 11th

FRIDAY September 9th

- noon** Fort Mose Historic State Park
www.floridastateparks.org/fortmose/default.cfm
15 Fort Mose Trail, St. Augustine, FL
- 3 pm** register at the Carriage Way B&B
www.carriageway.com
- 5 pm** happy hour - gather & talk over days events
- 7 pm** supper - restaurant to be announced

Alliance members and their guests are welcome. If you are not yet a member, send in your membership application and join us for this fun weekend! Come for the entire weekend or for a day trip.

SATURDAY September 10th

- morning** breakfast at Carriage Way B&B
- noon** Anastasia State Park
www.floridastateparks.org/anastasia/default.cfm
after tour you are on your own to explore St. Augustine
- 5:30 pm** happy hour - location to be announced
- 7 pm** supper - restaurant to be announced

If interested, email:
janicajohnson@tampabay.rr.com
or leave message at (727) 344-1135

To book your own lodging at Carriage Way B&B, St. Augustine, FL go to www.carriageway.com
ask for John to get a special rate on your reservation

OR

Camp at Anastasia State Park
<http://www.floridastateparks.org/staythenight/cabins/default.cfm>

SUNDAY September 11th

- Morning** breakfast at Carriage Way B&B
- 11:00** check out
- noon** Washington Oaks State Park
<http://www.floridastateparks.org/washingtonoaks/>
after tour, on your own to return to Tampa

Discover the Island Planning

We are starting our Discover The Island planning early this year. The committee is already hard at work planning a successful event. Discover the Island is November 12th & 13th. This will be our fourteenth Discover the Island and will once again be a two-day event! Keep these dates open. You will be receiving more information in the near future. We need all members to take an active part in this fun-filled event. So please come and help out this year.

Volunteer Ventures

Egmont Key Alliance Workdays

By Nancy Whitford

January

What a wonderful sight to see twenty-five volunteers on Egmont Key for our first for workday of 2011! Upon arrival, all of the volunteers went on a short trip to see the new Wally Watt (aluminum storage unit). Thanks to the Egmont Key Alliance and the John Moyse Memorial Fund, we have plenty of storage. Please be sure to thank Rangers Ken and Bob when you see for an outstanding job assembling the Wally Watt assembly from a kit!

Volunteers went off into four groups and spent the day enjoying fresh air, pleasant conversation and, of course, work. The first team removed the Christmas lights from the light tower, placed them in the new storage bins by the EKA, and then placed those bins in the new storage units. Another team swept, cleaned, and organized the radio room, compressor room, and oil room. Two more teams cleared the main trails and brick roads of the many downed palm fronds. Thank you so much to each and every volunteer who braved somewhat chilly weather to help.



Thank you to all thirty-three Alliance members and guests, many who came out to join us from *February* MeetUp.com, to lend a hand. Egmont Key Alliance gained one new member, had one renewal and really appreciate the support. Battery McIntosh, Battery Howard, and Battery Mellon are clean as a whistle.



The surrounding areas look fantastic. Lots of hands made for quick work, a busy radio room, and tours for the new arrivals. Thank you to each and every volunteer! While we were all busy working on the interior, many workers were busy on the north tip preparing for the arrival of sand to nourish the island. All the grains of sand on Egmont Key are so very precious. Thank you to all who made this sand placement possible! May we have fair winds and no storms.



Well twenty-four must be a March magic number! We had twenty-four wonderful volunteers last year and twenty-four again this year. What a gorgeous sunny day, just beautiful spring weather! Special thanks to Captain Jeff and the Tampa Bay Ferry for transportation! It was a workday scavenger hunt

March



with team captains! Each team was given a card and had to locate their area and complete the tasks given. Teamwork was outstanding, as all teams completed the tasks in time to enjoy some afternoon free time exploring and socializing. To the volunteers who brought recipes out, thank you so very much.





Egmont Key Wildlife

Calling All Bird Stewards!

If you have not contacted me to be involved with this program, now is the time to do so. I will be submitting the list of all those who have signed up at the end of this month. Just email firstmatenaw@aol.com, state if you are available on Saturday or Sunday or both days, and include your phone number. We traditionally begin Memorial Day Weekend and end Labor Day Weekend.

The Pelicans and Ibis are building nests in the trees, sharing space at the moment. The first seven Royal Terns appeared on Saturday. We have many pairs of Oyster Catchers, and the Osprey are on eggs. Oh, and don't forget to laugh with oh so many Laughing Gulls. The Birds need you and Egmont needs you! See you at the next Egmont Key Alliance Workday!
Thanks, Nancy Whitford



Osprey Nesting

By Nancy Whitford



The osprey are busy building mansions for nesting all over the island, the gopher tortoises are underground waiting for warm days with sunshine, and many birds and loggerhead sea turtles will come very soon to begin another nesting season.

Tree Planting Update

By Nancy Whitford

It's been four years now and most of our evergreen trees are doing very well out on the Island. The Oak is struggling a bit but is still trying to grow.



Egmont Key Wildlife

The Yellow Garden Spider (*Argiope aurantia*)

By Nancy Whitford



Female Yellow Garden Spider on her web

the web over a conspicuous zigzag band of bright white noncapture silk known as stabilimentum. The female usually eats her web each day and constructs a new one. Females can handle prey much larger than themselves, including grasshoppers, katydids, cicadas, June beetles, moths, wasps, bees, and other insects.

Spiders reach maturity in summer. Although males build webs, after they reach maturity they wander in search of females, and they can be found in the females' webs. Light brown, oval or spherical egg sacs up to an inch long are produced in late summer or early fall. Each sac contains up to a thousand or more eggs. Spiderlings winter over inside the sacs, and they disperse in the spring. Mortality due to predators and parasites can be very high. In the spring, the young spiders build small webs in low vegetation. As they grown, they tend to build larger and more conspicuous webs higher in vegetation. These spiders are not dangerous to people, and their bites result in nothing more than a sore, itchy swelling that goes away in a few days. I hope she has a playmate on Egmont Key.



Yellow Garden Spider with egg sac

On a beautiful sunny day, off the beaten path, the beautiful web she wove amazed me. I had never seen such a white and ever so large web, and although really scared of spiders, this one was very interesting. So I snapped a photo, did some research, and have never seen another on Egmont. This one is a brightly colored and conspicuous species frequently observed in open, sunny areas. Female yellow garden spiders can reach a length of one inch or more. The males are much smaller, rarely reaching much over a quarter of an inch long. This was definitely a female. The carapace is silvery-white, and the oval, yellow and black abdomen bears a pair of humps near the base.

Females build large webs, up to two feet in diameter, in open areas among tall grasses and weeds, often in wet or marshy areas. The web consists of dry spokes supporting a spiral thread of adhesive silk. The hub is separated from the spirals by a free zone. The spiders rest head down day and night at the hub of



Yellow Garden Spider

Alliance Outings

The Panama Canal Museum

The Egmont Key Alliance had our first outing, Feb. 12th, arranged by our new President Richard Sanchez, to the Panama Canal Museum in Seminole, Florida. <http://panamacanalmuseum.org/> It is the only museum in the world founded to preserve the history of the United States in Panama with a focus on Panama Canal (1904-1999). The museum recognizes the contributions of all nations in making this 20th century engineering marvel.

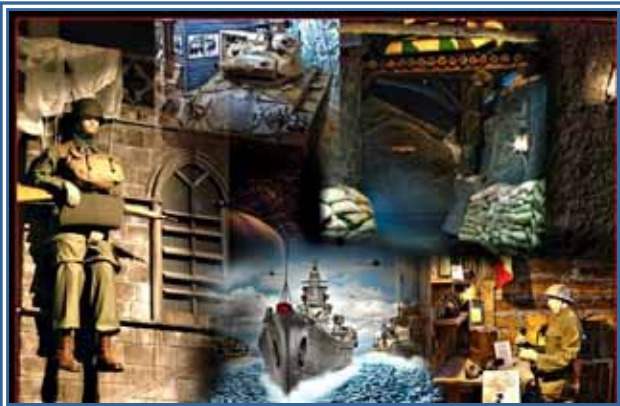


EKA members at the Panama Canal Museum Outing



It was a very informative and interesting visit. Our tour educated us about how and why the canal was built, the length of time it took, the massive loss of life during the building and much more. It is hard not to leave with a fascination and appreciation for this wonder of the modern world that has helped Panama become “the land divided, the world united.”

The Armed Forces Military Museum



<http://www.armedforcesmuseum.com/afmm-exhibits.html>



EKA members at the Armed Forces Military Museum

On the 12th of March a group of Egmont Key Alliance members went on one of our monthly trips to the Armed Forces Military Museum in Largo, FL. For those that have not been, this is a great museum with \$10 million worth of exhibits spanning from WW1 to present day. Artifacts include fully functional vehicles, uniforms, weaponry, models, aircraft, artillery and dioramas of various battles. Their latest acquisition is a Russian MiG fighter jet. Our social events are open to members, family and friends!



Florida Birds

F	R	I	G	A	T	E	B	I	R	D	T	R	M	A
H	Y	N	O	S	N	S	O	E	G	R	E	T	O	N
K	U	L	R	O	K	S	N	Y	O	H	L	T	C	H
R	J	M	R	E	P	I	B	E	C	G	W	N	K	I
O	C	E	M	R	T	N	M	T	V	O	O	A	I	N
T	H	R	E	I	A	R	A	M	O	A	H	R	N	G
S	P	Y	A	C	N	C	E	D	E	A	R	O	G	A
T	W	D	I	N	R	G	P	P	W	R	E	M	B	I
K	V	L	Q	E	E	E	B	K	I	X	Z	R	I	B
E	E	T	T	E	C	O	P	I	J	P	X	O	R	I
P	S	S	K	K	L	L	U	G	R	G	D	C	D	S
L	Y	S	E	L	G	A	E	P	H	D	G	N	Y	H
O	B	R	S	L	L	I	B	N	O	O	P	S	A	S
N	M	Q	P	V	U	L	T	U	R	E	H	J	P	S
B	C	T	O	B	R	M	C	Q	K	Z	V	X	Q	J

ANHINGA
 CORMORANT
 CRANE
 EAGLES
 EGRET
 FRIGATEBIRD
 GULL
 HAWK

HERON
 HUMMINGBIRD
 IBIS
 MOCKINGBIRD
 OSPREY
 OWL
 OYSTERCATCHER
 PELICAN

RAVENS
 SANDPIPER
 SKIMMER
 SPOONBILLS
 STORK
 TERN
 VULTURE
 WOODPECKER

Egmont Key Business

If you have any ideas or suggestions you would like to see in future issues the *Key Notes* newsletter, be sure to contact

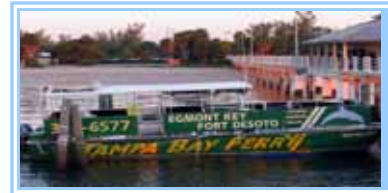
Kakeleher@aol.com

Your suggestions and ideas will help to make *Key Notes* a success!

View our past Egmont Key Alliance newsletters at:

<http://www.orgsites.com/fl/egmontkeyalliance/pgq2.php3>

A very big, thank you to Hubbard's Marina and the Egmont Key Ferry for providing transportation to the Egmont Key Alliance volunteers



Egmont Key Alliance General Meetings

July 12th is the Alliance meeting at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Offices. Dinner at 6:30pm, followed by meeting at 7:00pm. The meal will be pot luck and the theme will be announced via e-mail. Everyone is welcome. Drinks, cups, plates, etc. will be provided. Let Amy Bradley know what you are bringing. alb639@verizon.net

Come and renew your membership. Your membership dollars assure the continued care of our great little Island, and allows help our dedicated all-volunteer group to continue its mission

7:00 pm General meeting begins

7:30 pm Guest Speaker

8:30 pm Adjournment

Meetings are held at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.
Address: 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd. Suite 100
Pinellas Park, Florida 33782. For directions go to:
http://www.tbrpc.org/about_us/dirctions.shtml

Board Members

Richard SanchezPresident
Charlie CanerdayVice President
Barbara SamuelSecretary
Phil SorensonTreasurer

Richard Johnson	Nancy Whitford
Mark Hubbard	Janica Johnson
Doug Bradley	Jim Spangler
Jan Platt	Jim Igler
Michael Sorah	

Visit our web site <http://www.egmontkey.info>

If you are not receiving Alliance emails, and would like to be added, email Doug Bradley at info@egmontkey.org

You will receive reminders for our monthly meetings and workdays as well as information about our outings and calendar updates.

Egmont Key Notes is published quarterly by the Egmont Key Alliance, Inc., a Citizen Support Organization designated by the State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks. Copyright © 2011 all rights reserved. Address all correspondence to: P.O. Box 66238, St. Pete Beach, FL 33736. Egmont Key Alliance, Inc. is a non-profit corporation designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Thanks to the volunteers of the Egmont Key Alliance, many of the historic structures on this island have been preserved. Alliance members receive *Egmont Key Notes*, a quarterly newsletter, bi-monthly meeting notices and invitations to special events. Membership starts at \$25. Mail to P.O. Box 66238, St. Pete Beach 33736. For additional information, go to www.Egmontkey.info. If you are already a member please take a moment to fill out the membership application/renewal form at the end of this newsletter and send it in to the address on the application. **Your support enables us to continue to "restore, preserve, and protect" Egmont Key.** Remember, because the Egmont Key Alliance is a not-for-profit organization your contribution is tax deductible. Give today!

Egmont Key Alliance, Inc. Membership Application

I'd like to join

I'd like to renew

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

E-Mail (please print clearly!) _____

If joining as a student, where are you attending school? _____

\$100.00 Corporate \$40.00 Family \$25.00 Individual \$15.00 Student

\$750 Lifetime Member - single \$1000 Lifetime Member - family
(Includes recognition for lifetime membership)

I'd like to donate \$ _____

Please make your check payable to: Egmont Key Alliance
And mail to: Egmont Key Alliance, Inc. P.O. Box 66238 St. Pete Beach, FL 33736

Thank you for your continued support!
Please visit our website at www.egmontkey.info

Egmont Key Related Links

The Egmont Key Alliance Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Egmont-Key-Alliance/105703182834874>

The Lighthouse Man

This music video by singer Alex Mason features some spectacular videography of lighthouses, lenses and a personal message:

http://www.youtube.com/akmason#p/a/u/2/6_URFA-fD_E

Tampa Bay Online - Editorial - Abandoning paradise

<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2011/apr/02/MEOPINO1-abandoning-paradise/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov/>

Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge

<http://www.fws.gov/egmontkey/>

1,930 PICTURES OF EGMONT

<http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=egmont+key#page=0>



St. Pete Beach, FL
33736

This newsletter is a
publication of the
Egmont Key Alliance:

President,

Richard Sanchez

Kathy Keleher, Editor
info@egmontkey.org