



Faculty Lectures at SEA

Building a Better South? Port Towns,

Cosmopolitanism and Florida's Reconstruction

Dr. Mark H. Long

Sunday, April 10th at 1 p.m.

Sea Education Association

James L. Madden Center Lecture Hall • 171 Woods Hole Road in Falmouth

Free and Open to the Public • Light Refreshments Served

About the Lecture

The transformation of the Florida peninsula in the decades following the Civil War was spectacular. In 1865 the state was left with a decimated economy, the loss of its slave-based labor force, and no functioning government. Yet, a mere twenty years later, it was home to a rapidly-expanding citrus industry, a vibrant tourist trade a booming real estate market. In short, the “Sunshine State” rose like a phoenix from the ashes of secession.

The forces that forged modern Florida into a booming cosmopolitan center were tied overwhelmingly to the maritime nexus into which its economy was fixed, with the port of Jacksonville serving as the point of connection to the American east coast, the Atlantic rim and the greater Caribbean. We will look at the little-known story of how modern Florida came to be.

About the Lecturer

Dr. Mark H. Long is an Associate Professor of History and Social Science at Sea Education Association. Prior to coming to Woods Hole, Mark was a Professor at the University of Central Florida. His work focuses on the intersections between maritime, economic and environmental history, especially focused on frontier and borderland areas.



Bird's eye view of Jacksonville, 1876.