

June 27, 2011

INVITATION

- Friends of the *Narcissus* Meeting
- The Florida Aquarium, 701 Channelside Drive, Tampa, Florida 33602
The Taylor Great Room (use the Business Entrance)
- **Wednesday July 13, 2011 from 6 to 8 p.m., free parking in Aquarium lot**
- Initial Meeting of the Friends of *Narcissus* to elect officers to the Board, approve the Mission Statement, gain public support for the nomination by submitting a letter with signatures to be sent to the US Navy, gauge interest and resources to form future Committees to address specific needs with creating the plaque, getting mooring buoys, public relations and site monitoring. This is an open meeting and The Florida Aquarium encourages everyone to invite others who are supportive of the SCUBA diving community, protecting Florida's Archaeological Preserves and Tampa's historical shipwrecks.
- Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Friends of *Narcissus*: Proposed Mission Statement

The creation of a Florida Underwater Archaeological Preserve at the wreck site of the USS *Narcissus* establishes a precedent for cooperation between the United States Navy, the State of Florida, residents around the Tampa Bay region and The Florida Aquarium.

As a war grave from the American Civil War the *Narcissus* represents far more than a simple ship loss site; it is indeed hallowed ground where 26 Union sailors were lost at sea and deserves reverence and honor, as well as, preservation.

The Florida Aquarium and the Friends of *Narcissus* are dedicated to preserving and interpreting the final resting place of this historic vessel, her crew and the vibrant and thriving ecosystem it has become for the diving community, as well as, the public at large with all of the dignity and respect that is due.

The Florida Aquarium's mission is to entertain, educate and inspire stewardship of our natural environment. As a "top 10 aquarium in the country," this 501(c)(3) not-for-profit facility is dedicated to its education, research and conservation programs while constantly working to improve the community and its environmental and cultural resources.