



# Flat Top Preservation Fund

A campaign to preserve  
13 Skyline Road  
a 1953 Frank Stick  
Southern Shores  
landmark



Now the permanent office of Outer Banks Community Foundation

## Frank Stick

artist, architect, visionary, developer

Frank Stick (1884–1966) was a native Dakotan with a passion for roughing it. Lured by lake and sea, he romanced the great outdoors from the Midwest to the East Coast.



Bluefish by Frank Stick

Stick became a writer, then illustrator of outdoor fiction. He studied at Chicago Art Institute and under the renowned Howard Pyle before building a studio in Interlaken, New Jersey. His original paintings appeared on calendars and on the covers of popular magazines like *Field and Stream*.

Yet Stick's wanderlust never ebbed. The spirited pioneer

was eventually drawn to North Carolina's barrier island wilderness. His interest shifted to land conservation and real estate development, and in 1929 he settled his family on Roanoke Island. His activism and philanthropy helped establish the first national seashore at Cape Hatteras, the Wright Brothers National Memorial and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site.

In the mid-1930s he moved to Kill Devil Hills where he built several large Cape Cod style homes on a stretch of beach now known as Millionaire's Row.

In 1947, Stick finally realized his dream of creating an ocean-to-soundfront community which he dubbed Southern Shores. "For eight years...he supervised the platting of lots and installation of roads, designed and built homes and cottages, and headed up the sales program," wrote his son, the late David Stick.



Frank Stick

## Southern Shores Flat Top Style

The Southern Shores Flat Top is a vernacular architectural form minted by artist, architect and visionary developer Frank Stick, who blended elements of Frank Lloyd Wright's formal 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture with a colloquial island style familiar to the Florida Keys.

Stick was a maverick designer and builder, using indigenous materials — sand mined from the barrier island beaches — and very little lumber, completing the first Flat Top cottage at 60 Ocean Boulevard for himself and his wife Maud in 1948.

Concrete blocks made in Kitty Hawk formed the walls of the one-story cottage. A flat roof, raked slightly to aid the drainage of rainwater, wide overhangs, exposed soffits and wooden storm shutters became emblematic of the style. The interior walls, doors and cabinets were finished with juniper harvested locally from the Currituck mainland.

Stick built a second Flat Top for his friend, Huntington Cairns, for whom the Kill Devil Hills Library is named. Soon an oceanfront colony grew around them and the Flat Top block cottage became the predominant architectural style along Ocean Boulevard.

Flat Tops were built throughout the community into the 1960s. Today, fewer than half of the original structures remain.



Frank Stick's cottage at 60 Ocean Boulevard

Photographs courtesy of Outer Banks History Center, Manteo, NC; Stick portrait by Aycock Brown

# 13 Skyline Road



Foundation office at 13 Skyline Road

Believed to be the first Flat Top constructed on the dune overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, 13 Skyline Road was built in 1953.

The home was privately owned until 2007 when it was given to Outer Banks Community Foundation—a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization—for use as its office under the stipulation that the Foundation preserve the cottage in honor of Frank Stick's memory.

Since then, historic preservationists have been consulted to document the authenticity of the Flat Top architecture and the circa 1950s era construction. The Foundation refurbished the property and now uses the house and grounds as its headquarters.

The blocks, interior juniper paneling, juniper doors and exposed beams are original to the structure. The grounds have been groomed with fresh landscaping and the shutters have been stowed to await repairs.

In 2009, the Foundation established the Flat Top Preservation Fund, a separate endowment fund expressly for the preservation of the historic Skyline Road cottage.



# Calendar

Frank Stick, a successful commercial illustrator, discovered the North Carolina coastline and its virtually unblemished Outer Banks landscape in the 1920s. His mid 20th century Southern Shores Flat Top style was an architectural innovation and an inspiration for artists who followed.

As a benefit to the Flat Top Preservation Fund Campaign and to commemorate the artistic legacy of Frank Stick, a special calendar of public events has been planned.

*We hope to see you there.*

## 2011

**Jan. 29-Feb. 25**

### **Frank Stick Memorial Art Show**

Organized by Dare County Arts Council — *33rd annual community art show and sale of more than 100 new works. Biographical information about Frank Stick and his art career will be available.*

Reception: Saturday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m.

Glenn Eure's Ghost Fleet Gallery, Nags Head, NC  
(252) 473-5558

### **May 2-31 Art and Architecture: Enduring Inspiration**

*Flat Top themed paintings by five regional artists. A percentage of sales will benefit the Outer Banks Community Foundation Flat Top Preservation Fund.*

Greenleaf Gallery, Duck, NC  
(252) 261-2009



Artist Phil Cameron with the painting he generously donated to the Flat Top Preservation Fund campaign.

**Oct. 1-31**

### **Flat Top Flat Works**

*New work by Dare County Arts Council artist members. A silent auction will benefit the Outer Banks Community Foundation Flat Top Preservation Fund.*

Reception Friday, Oct. 7, 6-8 p.m.

Dare County Arts Council Gallery, Manteo, NC  
(252) 473-5558



To preserve 13 Skyline Road now the permanent office of Outer Banks Community Foundation



13 Skyline Road, Southern Shores, NC 27949  
Phone: 252-261-8839 Fax: 252-261-0371  
info@obcf.org www.obcf.org



## To preserve 13 Skyline Road now the permanent office of Outer Banks Community Foundation

The purpose of the Outer Banks Community Foundation Flat Top Preservation Fund is to establish an endowment to maintain, protect and preserve the 1953 Frank Stick Flat Top cottage at 13 Skyline Road. Donations to the fund are fully tax deductible.

Gifts will be acknowledged in the Foundation's annual report and on its website.

The Stick family has generously contributed the first \$5,000 toward the \$100,000 fundraising challenge.

Please join us by giving to the Flat Top Preservation Fund. Suggested amounts include:

- The Stick Circle, \$5,000 or more
- Skyline Road Benefactor, \$500 or more
- Flat Top Preservationist, \$1,000 or more
- Flat Top Lover, \$100 or more

Please return this form with checks made payable to Outer Banks Community Foundation with "Flat Top Preservation Fund" written in the memo line may be mailed to:

**Outer Banks Community Foundation, 13 Skyline Road, Southern Shores, NC 27949.**

To donate by credit card please visit [www.obcf.org](http://www.obcf.org) or call the Foundation at (252) 261-8839.



Thank you for helping to preserve 13 Skyline Road, an architectural legacy of acclaimed Outer Banks artist, architect and visionary developer Frank Stick.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_