



PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE ILLUMINATIONS

4931 South Peninsula Drive • Ponce Inlet, Florida 32127 • www.poncinlet.org • www.lighthouselocker.org • (386) 761-1821 • lighthouse@poncinlet.org
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**Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station
circa 1971**

Dear Members,

Constructed in 1887, the Ponce Inlet Light Station has guided mariners along the treacherous Florida coast for nearly 130 years. In that time, the light shining atop the station's 175 foot brick tower has served as a beacon of hope for countless individuals and saved thousands who would have otherwise fallen victim to the unforgiving nature of the temperamental sea.

Decommissioned and abandoned by the U.S. Coast Guard in 1970, the Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station faced an uncertain future until 1972, when a group of concerned citizens banded together to form the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association in hopes of saving the historic light station and returning it to its former glory. The intervening years have born witness to the tireless efforts of the Association as it has transformed this once dilapidated facility into one of the best preserved and complete light stations in the country. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1998, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse is one of only 12 lighthouse facilities in the United States to have earned this prestigious designation.

However, care of the light station is an ongoing process necessitated by the caustic conditions of the

coastal environment in which it is located. This past year witnessed the completion of numerous projects including the: restoration and preservation of exterior and interior masonry walls on each of the three keeper woodsheds and privies; repointing of the tower's granite steps and apron; conservation of several historic Fresnel lenses; restoration of historic doors and windows throughout the facility; repainting of the tower's interior ironwork, and; the replacement of the reproduction 1980s gallery deck door with a new door constructed from structural grade aluminum plate and historic hardware.

In addition to its restoration and preservation efforts, the Association is also an award winning provider of educational programming for local schools. Focusing on the maritime and social history of the Ponce Inlet Light Station, these exceptional programs were provided free of charge to more than 14,000 students last year alone!

As members, you can take great pride in the knowledge that your annual dues have helped the Association achieve its past goals and will continue to do so in the coming year. However, in light of the financial losses incurred with the passing of Hurricane Matthew in October and the increased costs associated with the Association's ongoing restoration and

maintenance efforts, your continued support is needed more than ever. We therefore invite you to consider making an additional donation to the Lighthouse General Operating Fund which will be used in its entirety to help finance the Association's ongoing efforts to restore, preserve, and interpret this important National Historic Landmark.

Making a donation is easy, simply log on to the museum's online store at www.lighthouselocker.org. Select the *Donations* tab within the category menu followed by *Lighthouse Donations* to access donation options. Those wishing to contribute by mail may do so by mailing a check directly to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse at 4931 South Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly by phone at (386) 761-1821 or via email at lighthouse@ponceinlet.org for additional information regarding donations or the Association's efforts to fulfill its ongoing mission. We thank you for your past and future support.

With Warm Regards,

Ed Gunnaugsson
Ed Gunnaugsson
Executive Director
Ponce Inlet Lighthouse

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THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE MARITIME AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHT STATION.

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Subscription is a benefit of membership in the Association. ILLUMINATIONS welcomes letters and comments from our readers.

REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION

Sept. 6, 2016 – May 28, 2017
OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 6:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 5:00 PM)

May 29, 2017 – Sept 4, 2017
OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 9:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 8:00 PM)

WINTER 2017 SPECIAL HOURS OF OPERATION

January 13, 2017 (Friday)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 8:30 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION AT 7:30 PM)

Race Week 2017 Extended Hours
February 17 & 18, 2017
(Friday & Saturday)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION AT 6:00 PM)

February 24 & 25, 2017
(Friday & Saturday)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION AT 6:00 PM)

February 27, 28, & 29, 2017
(Monday through Wednesday)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION AT 6:00 PM)

Bike Week 2017 Extended Hours
March 16, 17, & 18, 2017
(Thursday through Saturday)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION AT 6:00 PM)

SCHEDULED TOWER CLOSURES

JANUARY 12, 2017 (TUESDAY)
TOWER CLOSED FROM 4:30 PM UNTIL 6:00 PM
MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP OPEN UNTIL 6:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 5:00 PM)

FEBRUARY 10, 2017 (TUESDAY)
TOWER CLOSED FROM 4:30 PM UNTIL 6:00 PM
MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP OPEN UNTIL 6:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 5:00 PM)

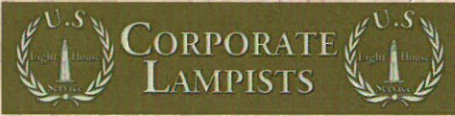
UPCOMING MEETINGS

JANUARY 16, 2017 (MONDAY)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
(OPEN TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP)

FEBRUARY 20, 2017 (MONDAY)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
(CLOSED TO GENERAL PUBLIC AND MEMBERSHIP)

MARCH 20, 2017 (MONDAY)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
(CLOSED TO GENERAL PUBLIC AND MEMBERSHIP)





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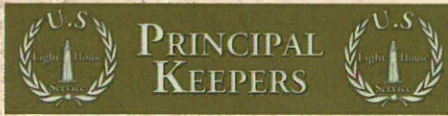
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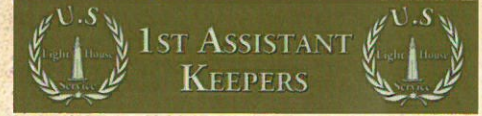
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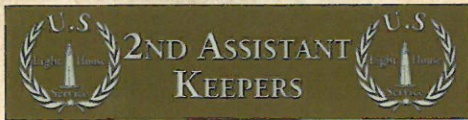
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 Ponce Inlet, FL
 Wayne & Joanne Thaller
 Port Orange, FL
 Pam Williams
 Gainesville, FL
 Kathy Wilson & Bob LeDone
 Ponce Inlet, FL

JANUARY 7, 2017, SATURDAY, 10:30 AM TO 2:30 PM GIRL SCOUT DAY
 Calling all Girl Scouts! Spend the day learning about geography and lighthouses at the Ponce Inlet Light Station. Earn a Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Fun patch when you complete the themed activities available that day. Registration for this event will only be available online. Online registration will begin one month prior to the event and is limited to 50 participants. Please contact Mary Wentzel at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org, or (386) 761-1821 ext. 18, for more information.

JANUARY 13, 2017, FRIDAY, 6:00 PM TO 8:30 PM.....MUSEUM AT NIGHT
 Climb the lighthouse at night and learn about the science of lighthouse illumination at the tallest Lighthouse in Florida. All active teachers will be admitted free of charge with proof of employment. All activities are included with regular admission, no advance reservations required.

FEBRUARY 19, 2017, SUNDAY, 10:30 AM TO 2:30 PM BEACH RACING DAY
 Travel back in time and discover the wild and woolly roots of Stock Car Racing during the 13th Annual Beach Racing Day at the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum. See historic beach racing cars from the Living Legends of Racing and talk with drivers, owners, and mechanics who risked life and limb in pursuit of the checkered flag on the World's Most Famous Beach. Meet radio talk show host "Chocolate Myers" of Sirius XM's 24-7 NASCAR channel and listen to him speak at 11:30 am about the history of the world's most popular motor sport and his many experiences with NASCAR. A color commentator for ESPN, Myers starred in the film *Smokey and the Bandit*, was a member of Dale Earnhardt's pit crew, and worked for Richard Childress Racing for more than 20 years. Be sure to stick around after Chocolate's presentation to meet William P. Lazarus, author of the book *Sands of Time* which is widely regarded as the definitive history of beach racing. Mr. Lazarus will be onsite to talk with fans, sign books, and discuss the history of auto racing starting at 1:00 pm. All activities are included with regular admission, no advance reservation are required.

MARCH 9-12, 2017 & MARCH 16-19, 2017, BIKE WEEK AT THE LIGHTHOUSE THURSDAYS-SUNDAYS, 12:00 NOON TO 2:00 PM

Join us at the lighthouse and explore our historical exhibits chronicling motorcycle racing on the beach and climb the tallest lighthouse in Florida! All activities are included with regular admission, no advance reservations required.

MARCH 25, 2017, SATURDAY, 10:30 AM TO 2:30 PM FLORIDA HERITAGE DAY
 Enjoy a day of re-enactors who played important roles in Florida's pivotal moments in history. Join us at the lighthouse for family fun activities. Explore our historical exhibits and climb the tallest lighthouse in Florida. All activities are included with regular admission, no advance reservations required.

CLIMB TO THE MOON SCHEDULE

CLIMB TO THE MOON

**January 12, 2017
 Thursday
 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

**February 10, 2017
 Friday
 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm**

**March 12, 2017
 Sunday
 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

Journey to the top of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and experience this National Historic Landmark in all its glory. Join the Old Lighthouse Keeper on a personal tour of lighthouse and Lantern Room, and enjoy breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, Ponce Inlet, and scenic inland waterways.

Toast the setting sun with a sparkling beverage and enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres by the light of the full moon with your significant other and friends. Offered only on the eve of each full moon, this special event is limited to 25 participants only. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling Karen at (386) 761-1821 ext. 10. Prices are \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members.

AMERICA'S GRAND SENTINELS OF THE SEA: RISE OF THE BRICK GIANTS PART II

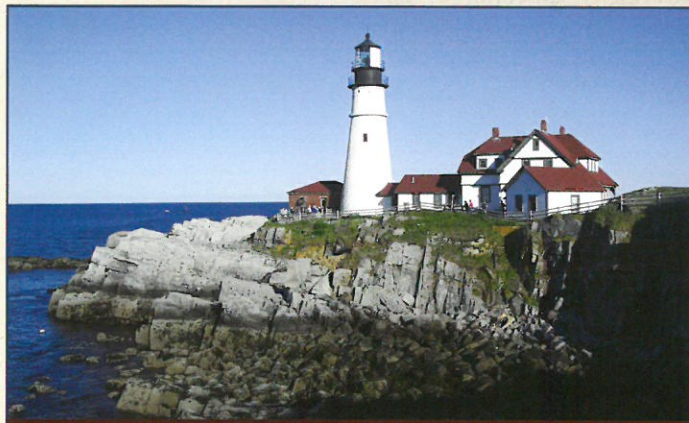
A FOUR-PART SERIES ON THE EVOLUTION OF AMERICA'S LIGHTHOUSES AND THE BIRTH OF HER GIANT BRICK TOWERS.

In addition to the volume of maritime traffic and the existence of natural navigational hazards within a specific region, coastal geography is the most influential factor in determining the location, design, and construction of a lighthouse. In fact, if one were to examine the lighthouses of the United States in their entirety, it would become evident that these important navigational aids come in many shapes and sizes.

In most cases, the necessary height of a lighthouse is determined by the elevation of its base above sea level and the distance of the beacon from nearby shipping lanes. Another factor also to be considered in the tower's height is its focal plane; a narrow imaginary line that runs perpendicular to the center of its lens and source of illumination. Measured according to its height above sea level, it is the focal plane and not the actual height of the tower itself that determines a lighthouse's visible range.



Completed in 1875, the Thomas Point Lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland is an example of a protected cottage style screw pile lighthouse. Perched atop iron stilts featuring corkscrew-like feet that were designed to screw into the soft sandy bottoms typically found in slow moving rivers and bays, lighthouses of this variety were far shorter than their loftier counterparts because the necessary range of their beacon was only a few miles.



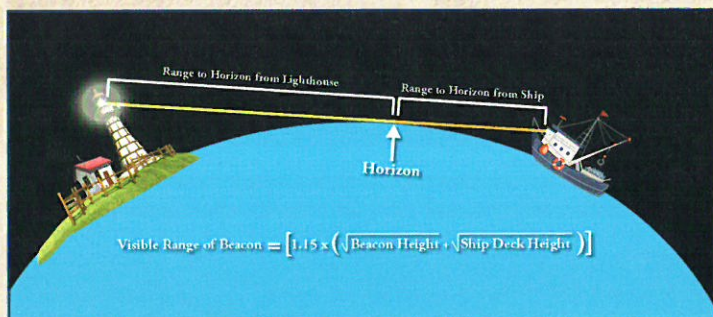
Constructed in 1789 atop a 20-foot cliff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, the Portland Head Lighthouse is a free-standing, rubble-stone tower marking the entrance to Portland Harbor in southern Maine. With a focal plane of 101 feet above sea level, the lighthouse's beacon is visible nearly 12 miles out to sea.

If high coastal cliffs, hills, or promontories are present, a lighthouse will generally be constructed atop one of these lofty perches to achieve the highest possible focal plane for its beacon. Lighthouses found in such locations are generally short in stature due to the natural elevation on which they are built. Conversely, towers built on low lying barrier islands or above submerged reefs will typically be lofty affairs so as to raise the elevation of their beacon's focal plane and maximize the distance from which it can be seen.

Based upon a table listing the distance from which lighthouses of varying heights can be seen that is found in the 1910 Chance Brothers & Company's publication *A Few Notes on Modern Lighthouse Practice*, the visible range of a lighthouse beacon can be calculated using the formula $Vr = [1.15 \times (\sqrt{Lh} + \sqrt{Dh})]$; where Vr = the visible range of the lighthouse beacon (miles), Lh = height of the lighthouse focal plane above sea level (ft), and Dh = height of the ships deck above the water line (ft). Using this formula, the visible range of lighthouse with a focal plane of 200 feet above sea level viewed from the deck of ship 15 feet above the waterline would equal the following, fog and other naturally occurring obstacles to clear visibility notwithstanding.

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RISE OF THE BRICK GIANTS (CONTINUED)



$$Vr = [1.15 \times (\sqrt{200} + \sqrt{15})]$$

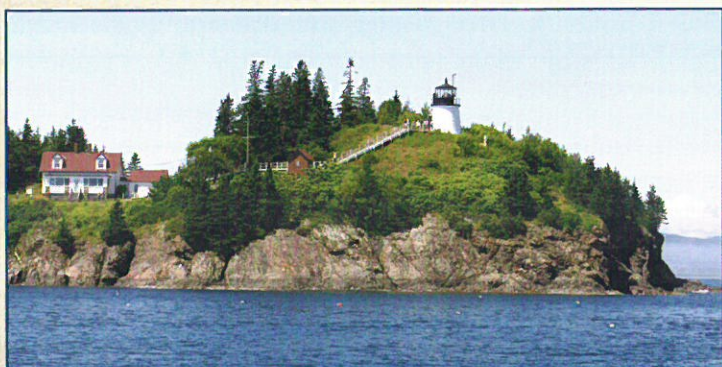
$$Vr = [1.15 \times (14.14 + 3.87)]$$

$$Vr = [1.15 \times 18.01]$$

$$Vr = 20.7 \text{ miles}$$

Stretching five hundred miles from the Quoddy Head Peninsula in northern Maine to Long Island, New York, the topography of the eastern seaboard includes numerous geographical features of considerable height including hills, cliffs, and rocky promontories. Peppered with seamounts, islands, inlets, and bays, the headlands along the New England coast often soar hundreds of feet above the Atlantic Ocean.

However, south of New York Harbor the coastline quickly flattens with the exception of a few select locations including New Jersey’s Navesink (or Atlantic) Highlands. Located directly south of Sandy Hook, a low-lying barrier island that marks the southern boundary of New York Harbor, the Navesink Highlands are an isolated collection of hills rising more than 200 feet above the New Jersey coast that mark the southernmost



Completed in 1852, Maine’s Owls Head Lighthouse and attached keeper dwelling is perched atop a 70-foot bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and south entrance to Rockland Harbor. Although standing a mere 30 feet tall, the focal plane of the tower’s beacon is 100 feet above sea level and is visible from more than 11 miles away.

naturally occurring geographic feature of notable elevation on the east coast.

Extending 1,300 miles south from the Highlands to the Florida Keys lies more than 1,300 miles of flat sandy beaches. Peppered with numerous inlets, bays, and barrier islands formed by slow moving rivers, wetlands, and tidal forces, the eastern coastline of the United States rarely rises more than thirty feet above sea level. It is along this relatively flat southeastern coast in the 1850s, that the U. S. Lighthouse Board initiated an audacious program to build some of the world’s tallest lighthouses.



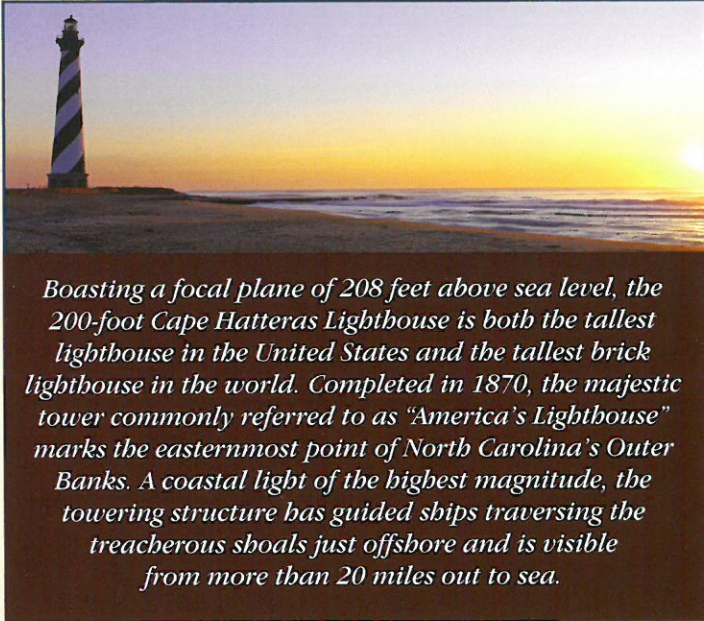
Perched atop a concrete pier situated at the mouth of the Thames River in Fishers Island Sound, the New London Ledge Lighthouse is a 58-foot structure of unique design. Borrowing from both the Colonial Revival and French Second Empire architectural styles, this three story brick and granite lighthouse was completed in 1909 to guide ship transiting Connecticut’s New London Harbor. Operating as a harbor light, the required range of the lighthouse’s beacon was nominal, resulting in its relatively low if not elegant stature.

As addressed in Part 1 of *America’s Grand Sentinels of the Sea* (Note: Part 1 was featured in the October, 2016 issue of *Illuminations*) American lighthouses built prior to 1850 typically failed to meet the needs of nation’s growing maritime industry. Regulated to a height of 65 feet or less, the visible range of navigational beacons displayed by these early towers were generally less than 5-9 nautical miles due to their diminutive size.

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RISE OF THE BRICK GIANTS (CONTINUED)

Constructed during the reign of Fifth Auditor of the Treasury Stephen Pleasonton, a quintessential bureaucratic bean counter and notorious penny-pincher who served as the head of the US Light-House Establishment (USLHE) from 1820 until 1852, the limited height of the nation's lighthouses was the product of the auditor's desire to save money whenever possible.



Boasting a focal plane of 208 feet above sea level, the 200-foot Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is both the tallest lighthouse in the United States and the tallest brick lighthouse in the world. Completed in 1870, the majestic tower commonly referred to as "America's Lighthouse" marks the easternmost point of North Carolina's Outer Banks. A coastal light of the highest magnitude, the towering structure has guided ships traversing the treacherous shoals just offshore and is visible from more than 20 miles out to sea.

When he assumed control of the US Light-House Establishment in 1820, Pleasonton's primary goal was to eliminate waste, cut costs, and improve efficiency rather than help the agency achieve the mission for which it was originally formed. Choosing to focus his energy on the collection of maritime taxes rather than ensuring the safety of the ships and crews that constituted the backbone of the maritime industry, Pleasonton demonstrated time and again that the effectiveness of the nation's aid to navigation system was a secondary objective at best. It was a poor, and many would argue, irresponsible position for the head of the lighthouse service to take.

As a result of Pleasonton's poor judgement and questionable leadership, America's aid to navigation system was widely criticized and its coastline was considered one of the most poorly lit of any maritime region in the world. Complaints regarding the state of the nation's lighthouses and other navigational

aids arrived on the desks of elected officials, political appointees, and career public servants with alarming regularity. Captains and ship owners alike disparaged the lighthouses built under Pleasonton's administration as being too short, too dim to see, poorly constructed, badly surveyed, crudely engineered, too close to the water, and simply unreliable. The list of complaints went on and on. One ship's captain went so far as to say that one had a better chance of running his ship aground looking for a US lighthouse than he did by simply taking his chances and ignoring the existence of the beacon altogether.

Congress finally took action to address these complaints in 1847, following the release of a major report that damned and shamed the quality of construction, maintenance, and effectiveness of the nation's lighthouses. Congress stripped Pleasonton of his responsibility for the US Light-House Establishment and placed it under the authority of the newly formed Lighthouse Board in 1852. Under the Board's direct supervision, a planning staff dominated primarily by military officers was formed to conduct research and further develop the nation's aids to navigation system.



*The subject of the popular children's book **The Little White Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge**, the Tarrytown Lighthouse is a caisson-style beacon commonly referred to as a sparkplug lighthouse. This 48-foot cast iron structure mounted atop a concrete pier (caisson) is well-suited for rivers, bays, and inland waterways that are subject to ice flows and harsh winter conditions. Erected in 1883, the Tarrytown Lighthouse guided mariners navigating the Hudson River between New York City and the small river town of Sleepy Hollow.*

>> CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

RISE OF THE BRICK GIANTS (CONTINUED)

Adhering to strict chain-of-command military protocol, Army Corp engineers assigned to the Board explored, researched, and brought new designs and construction techniques to the US Light-House Establishment. Military engineers were also assigned as lighthouse inspectors. However, the objective of the newly established Lighthouse Board remained firmly focused on the building of tall masonry towers where they were needed to address the demands of the nation's maritime industry.



Located seven miles southeast of Cape Florida, the 110-foot Fowey Rocks Lighthouse was completed in 1878. Often erected on sandy low-lying barrier islands or in the open water above hazardous reefs, iron screw pile lighthouses like this one were economical, easily assembled, and well-suited for offshore and isolated locations due to their sturdy and minimalist design. The Fowey Rocks Lighthouse is visible from the deck of a ship nearly 16 miles away. The lantern room of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse is a clone of the one mounted atop this unique oil-derrick-like tower.

Developed in response to a congressional act designed to reform the US Light-House Establishment and address the inadequacies of the nation's antiquated aids to navigation system entitled *An Act Making Appropriations for Lighthouse, Light Boats, Buoys, &c*, the Light House Board launched an ambitious plan to modernize lighthouses throughout the country in 1852. A public works project of a size and scope that would not be seen again until the Great Depression when the Roosevelt Administration's New Deal program established a number of "Alphabet Soup" agencies to put Americans back to work, the Board's plans included



Viewed from the Navesink River five miles south of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse, the advantages of building atop high elevations can be clearly seen when examining the Navesink Twin Lights. Although standing only 73 feet high, the twin lights have a focal plane of 246 feet above sea level thanks to the lofty 200 foot perch on which they were constructed. Completed in 1862, the twin beacons can be seen from the deck of ship up to 23 miles away. In comparison, the visible range of the beacon atop the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, which is nearly three times taller than the Navesink towers, is only 21 miles.

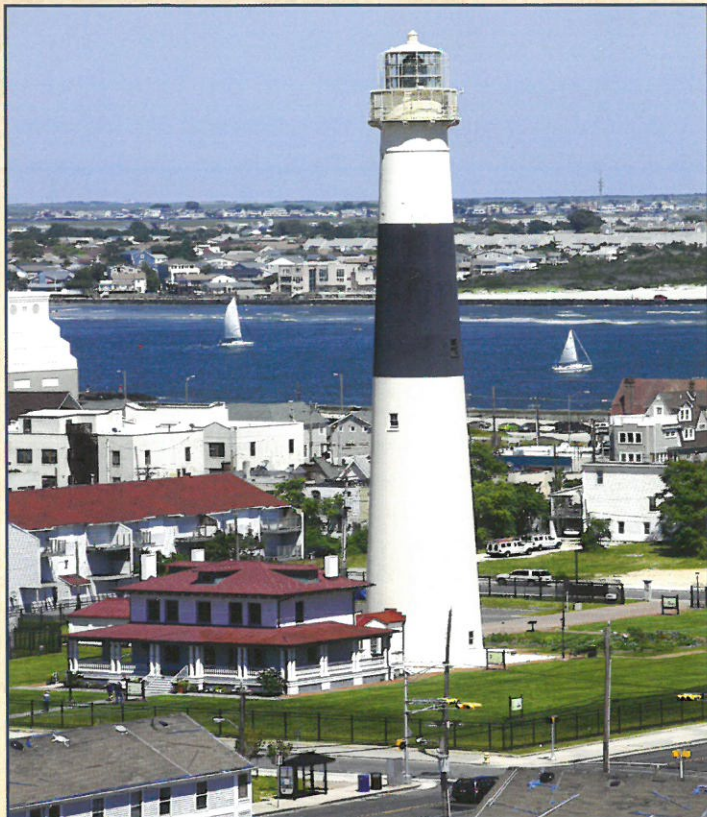
the replacement of every antiquated Winslow Lewis lighting apparatus in the country with a Fresnel lens, the acquisition of new minor aids to navigation, and the erection of a number of new lighthouses exceeding 100 feet in height.



Commissioned by Stephen Pleasonton and designed by Winslow Lewis, the original 65 foot tall St. Mark's Lighthouse was located on Florida's Gulf Coast just south of Tallahassee. An example of the type of towers erected during the Fifth Auditor's tenure as head of the US Light-House Establishment, the St. Mark's Lighthouse was poorly constructed and had to be rebuilt several times. With a focal plane of only 74 feet above sea level, the range of the beacon was less than ten miles under the best of conditions.

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RISE OF THE BRICK GIANTS (CONTINUED)



The first of the brick giants to be constructed by the US Light-House Establishment following the creation of the US Light-House Board in 1852, the 171-foot Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City, New Jersey boasted a focal plane of 167 feet above sea level. Completed in 1857, the light projected by the tower's fixed first order Fresnel lens could be seen nearly 20 miles out to sea.

With most of the nation's maritime industry centered on trans-Atlantic and coastal shipping, the Light House Board focused its initial lighthouse building efforts along the eastern seaboard where the beacons were most desperately needed. Although much effort was spent modernizing towers along the entire coastline, the Board also invested a considerable amount of time and resources surveying potential locations for future towers and designing a new generation of lighthouses that would be of sufficient height to be seen from more than 15 miles out to sea regardless of the building site's natural elevation above sea level.

In 1853, the US Light-House Establishment initiated its audacious lighthouse construction plan when it broke ground on its first three giant towers, the 150-foot tall Cape Romaine Lighthouse located on Lighthouse Island thirty-five miles northeast of Charleston, North Carolina; the

171-foot Absecon Lighthouse in the heart of Atlantic City; and the 170-foot tall Barnegat Lighthouse on Lovelady Island midway down the New Jersey coast.

Completed in 1856, the Absecon Lighthouse was the first of the three to become an active aid to navigation with the lighting of its first order Fresnel lens's oil lamp on January 15, 1857. Visible from more than 19 miles out to sea, Absecon represented the first of the nation's new long-range beacons. Completed less than a year later, the Cape Romain Lighthouse joined Absecon as an operational aid with its inaugural lighting on January 1, 1858. The initial lighting of the Barnegat Lighthouse's beacon followed Cape Romain exactly one year later.

Due to the success of these initial projects, a limited number of tall towers were also erected on the Great Lakes and along the Pacific coast including Lake Huron's 109-foot New Presque Isle Light in 1870, California's 115-foot Pigeon Point Lighthouse in 1872, and Lake Michigan's 107-foot Little Sable Point Lighthouse in 1874. Although all three builds were successfully executed, the Light-House Establishment's primary focus for lighthouse construction remained centered along the eastern seaboard where the European maritime industry remained firmly rooted.

During a near continuous thirty-five year period of construction (the Light-House Establishment suspended the building program during the Civil War) a veritable procession of brick lighthouses exceeding 100 feet in height were erected along the coasts of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, and Pacific Ocean. At the time, these sentinels of the sea represented some of the tallest man-made structures on Earth.

*To be continued in the
April, 2017 issue of Illuminations:
The Brick Giants of the 1850s, 1860s, & 1870s.*

CELEBRATING THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ED GUNN AND LEAD DOCENT JOHN MANN WELCOMED MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION TO THE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE FLA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

Hailing from all corners of the Sunshine State, approximately 125 members of the Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA) journeyed to Ponce Inlet on the weekend of October 21, 2016, to celebrate the organization's twentieth anniversary. Founded in 1996, the Florida Lighthouse Association is dedicated to the ongoing preservation of the state's 30 surviving historic lighthouses. Now numbering more than 400 members, the FLA's support for Florida's historic coastal beacons takes many forms including volunteerism, promotional advertising, public advocacy, restoration and preservation grants, and ongoing research.

Meeting at the Ponce Inlet Community Center on the evening of October 21st, the Florida Lighthouse Association governing board kicked off the weekend's festivities by honoring Ann Caneer, a founding member of both the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association and Florida Lighthouse Association as well as the PILH's first executive director and the FLA's first board president. A key figure in the Town of Ponce Inlet's 1972 acquisition of the historic light station, Ms. Caneer was regarded as one of the nation's leading lighthouse preservationists until her death in 2012.

The FLA's general session began the following morning with a presentation from Ed Gunn, Executive Director of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Mr. Gunn launched the Saturday event by welcoming members of the

Florida Lighthouse Association and providing those in attendance with an informative presentation regarding the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, the many accomplishments of the Preservation Association over the past forty-four years, and Ann Caneer's role as a national leader in lighthouse preservation.

Following his presentation, FLA President Chris Belcher introduced Ponce Inlet Mayor Gary Smith who graciously welcomed the FLA members to the community. Initially addressing how the lighthouse serves as both a cultural landmark and the symbol of the town, Mr. Smith went on to discuss the importance of the Preservation Association's work and the role of the lighthouse and museum as the economic engine powering the local economy. Having the Mayor present at the opening session provided representatives of fledgling lighthouse associations throughout the state valuable insight into the importance of maintaining positive working relationships with local government officials.

Following the executive director's and mayor's presentations, FLA members were given the opportunity to participate in several entertaining educational sessions developed by Ponce Inlet Lighthouse staff and volunteers. Among these offerings was an informative VIP tour led by museum



MUSEUM REGISTRAR/CURATOR JAMES POWELL DISCUSSES ARTIFACT CONSERVATION WITH FLA MEMBERS DURING ONE OF THE MANY WORKSHOPS PROVIDED TO FLA MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE.

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CELEBRATING FLA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY (CONTINUED)



LONGTIME LIGHTHOUSE VOLUNTEER ART HAHN JOKES WITH MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION PRIOR TO THE CANAVERAL LENS MAINTENANCE DEMONSTRATION.

Curator Ellen Henry. Participants were treated to a behind-the-scenes look at current Fresnel lens restoration projects as well as the interior of the First Assistant Keeper's dwelling.

In addition to Ms. Henry, FLA members also met with Registrar and Curator James Powell who discussed the importance of artifact conservation and shared some of the museum's newest acquisitions including a recently restored writing desk that was once used here. The personal property of Pinckney Whiteley, a career Lighthouse Service employee who served as the Ponce Inlet Light Station's Second Assistant Keeper from 1908 until 1911, and as its First Assistant Keeper in 1918, the desk was donated to the museum by Mr. Whiteley's descendants and is currently on display in the Second Assistant Keeper's Dwelling.

Following Ms. Henry's and Mr. Powell's presentations, FLA attendees made their way to the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit Building, where they were given the unique opportunity to observe how historic keepers once maintained the magnificent rotating first order Fresnel lens that once graced the lantern room of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Dressed as a 1920s lighthouse keeper, lead docent John Mann provided a step-by-step commentary of the maintenance process as the work was completed by the museum's restoration technician Tom DiTusa. This unique demonstration provided FLA members with an up-close and personal look

at the late 19th and early 20th century maintenance tasks required of early US Lighthouse Service keepers. The demonstration proved especially fascinating for many lighthouse enthusiasts whose grandparents and relatives were once keepers.

FLA members and regular lighthouse visitors alike were also treated to a day of historic reenactments. Wearing period appropriate costumes, volunteer docents John Mann, Allen Bestwick, John Butterfield, Janice Lowery, and Carol Jerson provided guests with an insightful glimpse into the lives of several historic figures that played an important role in the history of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse and the local area including three historic lighthouse keepers, Mrs. Thomas O'Hagan, and Dr. Jose Rogers.



INTERPRETING MRS. O'HAGAN, WIFE OF PRINCIPAL KEEPER THOMAS O'HAGAN, VOLUNTEER DOCENT JANICE LOWRY TALKS WITH FLA MEMBERS AS THEY TOUR THE HISTORIC LIGHT STATION GROUNDS.

The festivities concluded with a relaxing social hour at the end of the day. Attended by FLA members, lighthouse staff, and volunteers, the event provided everyone the opportunity to unwind and discuss the day's many activities. One articulate volunteer from a neighboring Florida lighthouse summarized the day by saying, "It was an exciting and enriching afternoon, but exactly what else would you expect from the consummate Ponce Inlet lighthouse. I love coming here."

Beyond its participation in the FLA event, the programs department was actively engaged throughout the fall

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CELEBRATING FLA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY (CONTINUED)



LEAD DOCENT JOHN MANN, DRESSED AS AN HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER AND LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION TECHNICIAN TOM DiTUSA DEMONSTRATE THE PROCESS OF PERFORMING MAINTENANCE ON THE CAPE CANAVERAL FIRST ORDER FRESNEL LENS AS FASCINATED FLA MEMBERS LOOK ON.

season delivering educational programs to local schools and civic groups both onsite and within the local community. The Lighthouse once again participated in the Port Orange Family Days event which was held from September 29th through October 2nd. Scheduled every



LIGHTHOUSE VOLUNTEERS DON BOLLOCK AND JAMES LEA HELP STUDENT JOHNATHAN GLENFIELD COMMUNICATE WITH A FELLOW HAM RADIO OPERATOR IN IRELAND DURING THE NOVEMBER HOMESCHOOL DAY EVENT.

fall, Family Days is the city's event of the year! Providing the Preservation Association a wonderful opportunity to showcase the many educational and cultural offerings of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station to local residents, attendance to this annual community event has grown from 15,000 in 1995, to more than 60,000 today.

Additional programs provided by the Association during the months of October, November, and December included: two adult-oriented lectures presented by Lead Docent John Mann for the Town of Ponce



DRESSED AS AN HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER, VOLUNTEER ART HAHN INFORMS A CURIOUS FLA GUEST THAT WHAT HE IS HOLDING IS IN FACT NOT A TOILET PLUNGER BUT A TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY AGITATOR FOR WASHING CLOTHES.

Inlet and the Daughters of the American Revolution; a guided tour of the light station for 114 Future Business Leaders of America students; a manned educational booth at the Marine Science Center's Wings on Wind event, 12 onsite school tours, and; 8 educational outreach presentations throughout the county. In all, the lighthouse staff provided educational services to more than 1,100 students and 70 adults during the first quarter of fiscal year 2016-2017.

Each year, the Preservation Association schedules a volunteer field trip to a regional museum or historic site in an effort to provide lighthouse docents with additional training opportunities and the ability to observe museum operations from different perspectives.

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CELEBRATING FLA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY (CONTINUED)

On November 15th, the volunteer corps traveled to Daytona's Museum of Arts and Sciences for a guided tour of the Cici & Hyatt Brown Art Museum which houses the couple's extensive collection of historical Florida-themed oil and watercolor paintings. Following the informative tour of the gallery, the group headed south to New Smyrna where they enjoyed a nice lunch at the River Grill before continuing to the New Smyrna Museum of History where they were treated to a showing of the film *Smyrna Settlement: Archaeology & History of an 18th Century British Plantation in East Florida* before touring the rest of the museum. Focusing on the history of the Turnbull Plantation and founding of New Smyrna, the film's subject can be explored further by reading the museum's recently published booklet of the same title.



JOHN MANN TALKS WITH A GROUP OF SPELL-BOUND STUDENTS ON HOMESCHOOL DAY IN NOVEMBER.

We have a full schedule planned for the winter season. Upcoming educational events include: Girl Scout Day on Saturday, January 7 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm; Museum at Night on Friday, January 13 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm; Beach Racing Day on Sunday, February 19 from 10:30 am until 2:30 pm; Bike Week at the Lighthouse on Thursday - Sunday, March 9 - 12 and March 16 - 19 activities from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm.; Florida Heritage Day on Saturday, March 25 from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm. For more information on these events contact Mary Wentzel at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org or call (386) 761-1821 X 18.



VETERAN LIGHTHOUSE VOLUNTEER ALLEN BESTWICK TEACHES STUDENTS HOW TO USE AND MAKE A MAGNETIC COMPASS ON HOMESCHOOL DAY.

Now is the time to plan for the 2017 Climb to the Moon events. Sign up early for the opportunity to toast the setting sun with a sparkling beverage and enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres by moonlight. Limited to only 25 participants per evening, Climb to the Moon events sell out a few months in advance. We suggest you make your reservations early by calling Karen at (386) 761-1821 ext. 10. We really appreciate the support of Ponce Inlet's Hidden Treasures Restaurant and Inlet Harbor Restaurant for providing us with all the delicious food during our Climb to the Moon events.

The Preservation Association is always looking for individuals interested in accepting the challenge and becoming a lighthouse volunteer. Those wishing to participate are encouraged to contact Programs Manager Mary Wentzel by email at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 18 to sign up. You can also learn more about volunteering opportunities online at www.ponceinlet.org.

Special Event to be Held in April

MEET WITH A CONSERVATOR



Conservator Alexandra VonHawk at Work

Have you ever wondered what the best methods are for safeguarding and conserving your most precious items and important family heirlooms? Are you interested in learning how to best store textiles like wedding dresses and christening gowns? Do you have any historic papers or photographs that you would like to preserve or display? Are you in need of any advice regarding the proper storage, restoration, or preservation of paintings, artifacts, or documents? If you answered yes to any of these questions we have some very good news!

The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum is pleased to announce that historic conservator Alexandra VonHawk will be onsite from 10:30 am until 3:00 pm on April 15, 2017, to discuss best practices for displaying, storing, conserving, and preserving historic documents, textiles, artifacts, and artwork. An expert in her field, Ms. VonHawk will be available to answer visitor questions, offer advice, and share her extensive knowledge.

Ms. VonHawk is a long-time conservator with many years of training and experience. Now based in Florida, she has worked on many notable artworks and with many important organizations nationally and internationally. She is a professional associate member of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC).

On the day of the event, just bring those smaller items, or snapshots of larger items, that you would like to discuss with Ms. VanHawk to the Lighthouse. Each participant will have the opportunity to meet with her individually or in small groups to ask questions, receive advice, and learn more about their items.

The price to participate in the event is \$10 for lighthouse members and students with current school ID, and \$15 for non-members. The price also includes admission fee to the Light Station on this day. All proceeds from the event will be used for preservation and conservation projects here at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum.

***-Please keep in mind this is a preservation and conservation event,
Ms. VonHawk will not be able to make any type of monetary evaluations or appraisals.-***

Be sure to mark your calendars now for this special event. For further information and questions, please contact Programs Manager Mary Wentzel by email at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org, or by phone at (386) 761-1821, extension 18. As the event nears, we will also place further information on our website and Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you here!

Volunteer of the Quarter: Rick and Cathy Safarik

Committed to the ongoing preservation and dissemination of the maritime and social history of Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station, the Lighthouse Preservation Association relies heavily on our fabulously dedicated volunteer corps. These men and women provide quality educational programming to museum visitors and others throughout the community.

Each quarter, the Preservation Association recognizes docents who exemplify the spirit of volunteerism. In this issue of *Illuminations* the Preservation Association is pleased to recognize Rick and Cathy Safarik as this issue's Volunteers of the Quarter.

Rick and Cathy are both from Long Island, New York. They met when Cathy was 14 and Rick was 16 at a friend's party. The night they met Rick wasted no time and asked Cathy to marry him. Cathy said she would. Since then they always joke that they both knew they would end up married to each other. Cathy and Rick dated for a few months and then parted ways but would see each other at Jones Beach and other venues. When Rick got his driver's license at 18, he called Cathy for a date. They have been together ever since. They were married in 1978 and just recently celebrated their 38th anniversary.

Rick was a Regional Sales Manager for a large Snack Food Company. He worked throughout New York City and Long Island during his career. He interacted with independent distributors, store owners, and warehouse managers resolving disputes and promoting new product lines. Before the onset of the digital photography era, Rick was also a professional photographer specializing in weddings and portraits.

Cathy worked for the Department of Defense. Her responsibilities included the administration of contracts for complex weapon systems on military aircraft, submarine navigation systems, as well as the procurement of support equipment and other items for such systems. Near the end of her career, she was placed in charge of several offices in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Cathy also served



for 7 years on the board of the Long Island chapter of the National Contract Management Association.

Cathy retired after more than 37 years with the DOD in 2011. Rick retired a month later after they sold their home in Long Island. They left the next day and came to Ponce Inlet for what they thought would be a one year rental to decompress and adjust to retirement. Cathy and Rick enjoyed living here so much that they decided to become permanent residents in 2012.

Both Rick and Cathy began volunteering at the Marine Science Center not long after their arrival. Cathy started volunteering at the Lighthouse in July of 2012. On her first day as a lighthouse volunteer, Cathy joined former Programs Manager Bob Callister and Lead Docent John Mann in a presentation of artifacts to a small group of guests with visual impairments. She watched as John gave each person a chance to feel the artifact and guess what it was before he explained its purpose. Interestingly enough, almost every artifact was correctly identified by someone in that group. Afterward, Bob and John instructed Cathy to lead the group as they climbed the tower. They were a great group and despite the 94-degree temperature outside the tower, made it to the top where they were given a description of what the view was like by Cathy, the new Tower Monitor.

Within a year, Rick joined Cathy manning the lighthouse booth at Port Orange Family Days and helping at special event days at the lighthouse. Eventually, they volunteered for a Climb to the Moon event. The couple enjoyed the event so much that they have continued to volunteer for it ever since.

Cathy enjoys volunteering at other lighthouse events as well, with her favorites being National Lighthouse Day, Homeschool Day, and the annual Ponce Inlet Christmas Parade. The couple has also represented the museum at the Ocean Center's annual Light Up Volusia event for the past several years.

Cathy and Rick enjoy learning about early Florida history. Growing up on Long Island, the couple often visited the Fire Island and Montauk Point Lighthouses which were easily accessible and fun to climb. Volunteering at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse has proven a natural fit for the Safariks. They enjoy the comradery of the volunteers and staff as well as the training sessions.

The energetic couple share many common interests including golf, NASCAR, motorcycle riding, and ball room dancing. Cathy and Rick belong to the LPGA in Daytona Beach and golf several times a week. Running was an activity they loved but had to give up due to injuries. Cathy and Rick have completed all types of marathons in the New York area.

Cathy was a 5K Race Director for five years. Rick and Cathy enjoyed participating in and volunteering with the Greater Long Island Running Club as well as the Long Island Rollerblading Club which Rick served as Vice President. Most spring and fall weekends would find the couple either running a race or skating with their friends in Central Park.

Cathy and Rick were avid ballroom dancers and enjoyed dancing at all the clubs during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Rick and Cathy spend more than one Saturday dancing the day and night away with their friends at either the famous Roseland Ballroom in New York City or at other dance venues in upstate New York.

Cathy and Rick have one son, Dave, who is a graduate of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and currently is living his dream as an airline pilot. While growing up, Dave was involved in many of his parent activities either as a volunteer or a participant. Dave, who became an Eagle Scout while in the Boys Scouts of America program, was also active in many school and extracurricular activities. Cathy and Rick had plenty of experience volunteering for all the organizations that their son participated in. In addition to dancing, skating, and other urban activities, the family also enjoyed tent camping, mounting biking, and hiking in upstate New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

These last few years have brought them back to some of the activities they once enjoyed. In addition to spending lazy days at the beach, Cathy and Rick have gone on numerous golf excursions throughout the southeast, hiked in the North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains, and traveled extensively in the Northeast and Canada. They recently traveled to Amsterdam and went on a Rhine River cruise stopping in cities in both Germany and France.

Volunteering has always been a way of life for Cathy and Rick and we are fortunate that they relocated to Ponce Inlet. We are very proud to recognize Cathy and Rick Safarik as the Lighthouse's Volunteers of the Quarter.



JOIN THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

A GENERAL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Free admission to the museum and lighthouse during regular hours of operation
- 10 percent discount in the museum gift shop and online store
- One subscription to The Light Station quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to special events
- Volunteer opportunities

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

- General** \$20
- The benefits listed above for one individual
- Senior** \$10
- All privileges of General Membership for one individual 62 years or older
- Student** \$10
- All privileges of General Membership for one individual 12 years or older with a valid student identification
- Family** \$40
- All privileges of General Membership for the immediate family
 - Immediate family is limited to one or two adults and your children under age 18. Grandchildren are not eligible.
 - You will be issued one membership card for each parent, and each card will list the names of your children.
 - Child under 12 must be accompanied by an adult



Please complete the entire form to enroll, or join online at www.lighthouselocker.org.

Select type of membership:

- General \$20
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- Student (submit copy of ID) \$10
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- Renewal
- 2nd Assistant Keeper \$100
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2nd Assistant Keeper \$100

- All privileges of General or Family Membership
- Recognition of your membership in the quarterly newsletters' 2nd Assistant Keeper List

1st Assistant Keeper \$200

- All privileges of 2nd Assistant Membership
- Two gift General Memberships
- Recognition of your support in the quarterly newsletters' 1st Assistant Keeper List

Principal Keeper \$500

- All privileges of 1st Assistant Membership
- A personalized guided tour of the Light Station
- Recognition of your support in the quarterly newsletters' Principal Keeper List

Corporate Lampist \$500

- All privileges of General or Family Membership for up to five company principals
- A personalized guided tour of the Light Station
- Use of the Light Station's conference room for one meeting.
- Recognition of your companies support in the quarterly newsletters' Corporate Lampist List

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Thank You for Your Generous Support!

PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE LICENSE PLATE

Show your love for the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse with a custom European style license plate for your car, truck, or SUV. Bumper stickers are also available online or in the Gift Shop.
 ITEM #: 0752 PRICE: \$13.99 (+S&H)



CUSTOM PONCE INLET TERVIS WATER BOTTLE

Keep hydrated with this custom Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Water Bottle. Made by Tervis, this unbreakable insulated plastic bottle features a hinged water-tight snap lid and molded strap loop. Like all Tervis products, this dishwasher-safe custom water bottle is guaranteed for life.
 ITEM #: 4018 PRICE: \$26.99 (+ S&H)

U.S. LIFE-SAVING SERVICE T-SHIRT

Enjoy the warming days of spring with this wonderful cotton t-shirt featuring the name and logo of the U.S. Life Saving Service along with its famous motto "YOU HAVE TO GO OUT... YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME BACK". Available in blue, olive, and white; sizes small through xx-large. Please indicate desired size and color when ordering. Add \$1.00 for xx-large.
 ITEM #: 0605 PRICE: \$14.99 (+S&H)



LIGHTHOUSE COFFEE MUG

Put some pep in your step as you sip your morning coffee or tea in this unique Ponce Inlet Lighthouse mug. Featuring engraved graphics of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse lantern room, a compass rose, and the name of the lighthouse, a cup of joe in this 16 ounce mug will help you greet the day with vim and vigor!
 ITEM #: 3346 PRICE: \$11.99 (+S&H)

PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE COASTER SET

Avoid damaging water stains on your furniture with this beautiful set of four coasters featuring a colorful collage of lighthouse images including the exterior of the tower with the inlet in the background, the interior spiral staircase, and a close up of the lighthouse lantern room.
 ITEM #: 1276 PRICE: \$19.95 (+S&H)



CUSTOM PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE HOODED SWEATSHIRT

Keep warm on chilly spring nights with this lightweight hooded pull-over featuring the name of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and the year the Light Station was founded in 1887. Available in charcoal, blue, grey, and pink in sizes small through xx-large. Please indicate desired color and size when ordering. Add \$1.00 for xx-large.
 ITEM #: 4282 PRICE: \$23.99 (+S&H)

PINK FLAMINGO UMBRELLA

Keep the raindrops from falling on your head this spring with this high quality eye-catching pink umbrella featuring the head of a flamingo for a handle and attached bird foot stand.
 ITEM #: 3921 PRICE: \$25.99 (+S&H)



Flamingo Head Handle

WOOD LIGHTHOUSE WINE RACK



Display your wines and your love for lighthouses. Designed to hold three bottles of wine and two wine glasses, this eye catching piece will surely bring a nautical flair to any home décor!

ITEM #: 4155 PRICE: \$55.99 (+S&H)

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Good from January 1, 2017 - March 31, 2017