

Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse

# ILLUMINATIONS

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

4931 South Peninsula Drive • Ponce Inlet, FL 32127 • www.ponceinlet.org • (386) 761-1821 • lighthouse@ponceinlet.org
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Dear Members,

I hope this issue of *Illuminations* finds you happy and well. Summertime is always active at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse as travelers flock to the greater Daytona Beach area from far and wide in search of sunshine and sparkling beaches. The museum's staff looks forward to welcoming these summertime revelers in the months to come as people begin to venture out once again in search of family fun and memorable experiences.

Statistics show the transmission of COVID-19 is on the decline. The Association will continue to adjust its onsite safety requirements in weeks and months ahead according to CDC recommendations, including those related to face masks and other forms of PPE. While we continue to hope that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, the Preservation Association will continue to employ several common sense safety measures throughout the museum for the foreseeable future. Please visit the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse website at www.ponceinlet.org for the most upto-date information regarding onsite COVID-19 safety requirements.

It is my pleasure to announce a major fundraising milestone! As of May 1, 2021, the Association has successfully generated nearly \$110,000 in private

donations in support of the Pacetti Hotel. Half of this sum represents the combined contributions of 6,282 donors consisting of both regular visitors and Association members. Individual donations collected during this time ranged from as little as \$1.00 to as much as \$20,000. Regardless of their size, the total value of all private donations taken together was considerable and every dollar was greatly appreciated.

The second half of the \$110,000 was provided by the Paul B. Hunter and Constance D. Hunter Charitable Foundation. As some may recall from previous issues of Illuminations, the Hunter Foundation entered into a collaborative agreement with the Preservation Association on November 18, 2020. In addition to a generous 1.5 million dollar grant, the Foundation pledged to match all third-party donations in support of the Pacetti Hotel up to a combined value of \$250,000. The Preservation Association is confident the full amount of this pledge can be realized in the months ahead with the ongoing support of daily lighthouse visitors, local advocates, and members like you.

I am also pleased to announce the Association's recent decision to reinstate many of the museum's onsite educational offerings which were temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. All buildings and exhibits have been reopened to the public and onsite workshops and activities will once again be offered to museum guests on specific dates throughout the year. I invite you to refer to the Calendar of Events on page six for more information.

As you read through this issue of *Illuminations* please reflect on the significant accomplishments of the Preservation Association over the past twelve months and consider the substantial costs associated with continuing this important work in the years ahead. Information regarding ways to support the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse can be found online at www.ponceinlet.org. You may also contact me via email at edgunn@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 15 to learn more.

I wish you all a happy and healthy summer and look forward to seeing you at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum in the near future.

With Warm Regards,

Ed Gunn

Executive Director

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## **REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION**

MAY 31, 2021 - SEPT. 6, 2021

SEPT. 7, 2021 - MAY 29, 2022

OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM (LAST ADMISSION SOLD AT 8:00 PM)

OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM (LAST ADMISSION SOLD AT 5:00 PM)

Note: Hours of Operation are Subject to Change According to COVID-19 Conditions.

### **SCHEDULED TOWER CLOSURES**

**JULY 23, 2021 (FRIDAY)** 

AUGUST 22, 2021 (SUNDAY)

TOWER CLOSED FROM 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM (Museum Open Until 9:00 PM)

Tower Closed from 7:45 PM - 9:00 PM (Museum Open Until at 9:00 PM)

Note: Tower Closures Subject to Change According to COVID-19 Conditions.

## **SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

July 19, 2021

(Monday)

**Board of Trustees** and Quarterly Membership Meeting

(Open to General Membership)

Aug. 16, 2021

(Monday)

**Board of Trustees** Meeting

Sept.20, 2021

(Monday)

**Board of Trustees** Meeting

(Closed to General Membership)

(Closed to General Membership)

Note: Meeting Schedule Subject to Change According to COVID-19 Conditions.

## CLIMB TO THE MOON SCHEDULE

Treat your significant other, family, friends, coworkers, or simply yourself to breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, World's Most Famous Beach, Ponce Inlet, and inland waterways under the golden glow of the setting sun. View the full moon as it rises above the Atlantic Ocean and enjoy panoramic vistas of the Florida coast by moonlight. Join the old lighthouse keeper as he leads you on your journey into the past, and discover what it was like to live and work at the Ponce Inlet Light Station long ago.

Climb to the Moon is offered once a month on the night of the full moon. Ticket availability for each scheduled 1.5 hour event is limited to only 30 guests and typically sells out quickly. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are sold on a first come first serve basis. Please contact the museum's administrative assistant by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 10 or via email at admin@ponceinlet.org for additional information. Prices are \$35 for non-members and \$30 for members.

#### CLIMB TO THE MOON EVENT DATES

July 23, 2021 (Friday) 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Aug.22, 2021 (Sunday)

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Sept.20, 2021 (Monday) 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

















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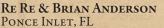
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS (JULY - SEPTEMBER, 2021)

## July 3 -5, 2021 ...... 4th of July Weekend at the Lighthouse (Saturday - Monday); 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Celebrate the 4th of July at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum! Discover the fascinating story of this important National Historic Landmark as you climb 203 steps to the top of Florida's tallest lighthouse and explore the largest, best preserved, and most authentic light station in the country. Special family-oriented activities are scheduled on the light station's grounds between the hours of 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM including kid-friendly crafts and historic reinactors.

## 

The United States Lighthouse Establishment (USLHE) was officially created by the 9th Act of Congress on August 7, 1789. In 1988, Congress officially declared August 7th National Lighthouse Day in honor of this important event in our nation's history. Tour Ponce Inlet's world-famous lighthouse museum and examine artifacts related to history of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, Lighthouse Service, Coast Guard, and local area before heading to the top of Florida's tallest lighthouse. Family-oriented activities are scheduled on the light station's grounds between the hours of 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM including kid-friendly crafts, workships, and historic reinactors. A special presentation about America's Twelve National Historic Landmark Lighthouse will also be offered at 1:00 PM.

## 

Visit the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and catch the spirit of 1945! Established by Congress in 2010, Spirit of '45 Day coincides with August 14, 1945; the pivital date in our nation's history when President Truman officially declared that WWII had come to an end and when the United State's assumed the mantle of leadership in rebuilding the post-war world. Special family-oriented activities have been scheduled for museum guests between the hours of 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM including a presentation highlighting Volusia County's role in the war effort at 1:00 PM.

## SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2021 ..... Labor Day Weekend (SATURDAY - MONDAY); 10:00 AM TO 9:00 PM

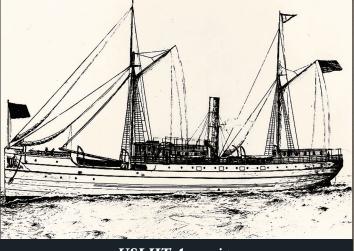
Take a break from the beach and visit the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum duirng Labor Day Weekend! Discover the fascinating story of this important National Historic Landmark as you climb 203 steps to the top of Florida's tallest lighthouse and explore the largest, best preserved, and most authentic light station in the country. Special family-oriented activities are scheduled on the light station's grounds between the hours of 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM during this three-day event.

Attention Reader: The availability of scheduled events and adverised activities are subject to change due to COVID-19. All activities are provided with regular admission at no additional cost. Advanced reservations are not required unless otherwise noted. Additional details regarding scheduled events can be found online at www.ponceinlet.org under the events tab.

## TENDERS AT THE LIGHTHOUSE Part 2: 1901 - 1939

Things were changing in Florida. Tourism was becoming important and Florida's warm climate, exotic landscape, and rich hunting and fishing grounds were attracting more and more visitors. The Pacetti Hotel, located a stone's throw from the Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse, had been a destination for hunters, fishermen, and sight-seers since the very early 1880s. Henry Flagler was building hotels and a transportation network to serve them. By 1889, one could take the train from Jacksonville to Daytona, and by 1894, Flagler's rail system had reached Palm Beach and would soon connect to Miami and finally to Key West. Roads, too, were expanding, and by 1908 there was a shell road from Port Orange to the village of Ponce Park at Mosquito Inlet. In 1916, a road paved with oyster shells ran from Daytona all the way to the lighthouse. The lighthouse tenders were still very necessary, but now there were multiple alternative ways to move people and supplies to Mosquito Inlet. The inspectors would no longer have to depend on vessels to make their visits to every single lighthouse, but the tenders continued to be the main carriers of supplies and work crews.

On January 11, 1901, annual supplies for the Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse arrived on the USLHT *Armeria*. The ship was constructed in 1889 and launched the following year. She was built to replace the *Fern* and her home port was at the Light-House Establishment's third district headquarters at Tompkinsville on Staten Island, NY.



USLHT Armeria; collection of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association

The *Ameria* was tasked with making annual visits to every light station on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to deliver supplies of oil and other necessities. Eventually, she was transferred to service in Alaskan waters, and in 1912 the *Armeria* was wrecked on an uncharted and submerged rock. This was considered a shocking and devastating loss to the government. She was replaced a few years later by USLHT *Cedar*.

Armeria made many visits to Mosquito Inlet during her time on the east coast and was active in the sixth district beginning in 1895. She delivered the annual supplies for the new year to Mosquito Inlet from 1901 until at least 1905 when she came twice, once on January 3rd and again on December 31st.

Also active in the district during the early 1900s were the tenders *Snowdrop* and *Water Lily*. Both were constructed at the Gas Engine & Power Company yard in Morris Heights, NY, the *Water Lily* in 1895 and the *Snowdrop* in 1896. They were launch type vessels, with the *Water Lily* assigned to the sixth district as the inspector's launch, and the *Snowdrop* serving as an engineering launch in the sixth and seventh districts. The *Water Lily* was replaced by USLHT *Althea* in 1929.

The *Water Lily* visited the light house numerous times in 1906. In March she delivered medicines and also a new burner for the first-order lens to replace one that had melted in January. Also, on board at that time was the district inspector who determined that the principal keeper dwelling needed repair, as did the other dwellings and the tower. He returned twice again in June to inspect those repairs, and it is assumed that the *Water Lily* was his usual conveyance for the majority of his inspection visits.

In May of 1906, the tender *Snowdrop* visited the lighthouse. Repairs to all the structures on the station were getting underway including painting the tower interior and replacing porch floors, railings, and uprights on the three keeper dwellings. The tender delivered the supplies and the crew undoubtedly lent a hand with some of the projects. A new well was dug, but that project was completed by local well digger William E. Ballough. Major repairs, including

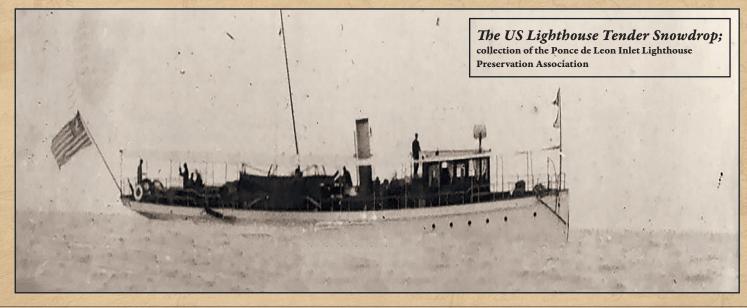


USLHT Water Lily c. 1920s; courtesy of the National Archives; collection of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association

repointing the tower masonry and work on all the station's buildings, continued through 1907. On February 17, 1907, Light-Vessel No. 53 was recorded as anchored off the bar, having delivered both the annual supplies and Engineer G. P. Howell who inspected the station. This was a departure from the more typical use of tenders to supply lighthouses. LV-53 was one of only four iron-hulled light ships constructed at West Bay City, Michigan in 1892. She served at Frying Pan Shoal, Martins Industry, and other locations in 1892 -1895. She had a variety of assignments after that, including postings in the first and second districts, and in 1906-1907, LV-53 served as a tender along the east coast traveling 2,860 miles during that time.

She then resumed her normal missions as a lightship, serving until 1951 when she was retired from her final post at Stonehorse Shoal in Nantucket Sound.

The 1907 work at the station, some of which was perhaps generated by damage from a strong storm, included the construction of a new frame boat house and a real dock at the river shore. The contract for the dock had gone to Bert Pacetti, whose family had long lived at Mosquito Inlet and had sold some of their land to the federal government to use for the light station. A previous structure, a thatch-roofed boat house, remained and was used for the storage of buoys. Along with various

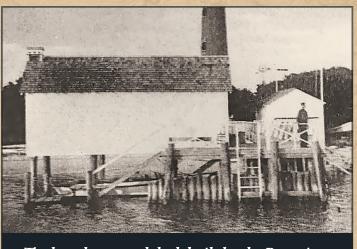


repairs, the keeper dwellings received screen doors. The supplies for the boat house project were probably carried on LV-53 since the Snowdrop was too small to carry the needed items, and some of LV-53's crew may have assisted in the construction, perhaps joining with the lighthouse keepers and men from the Snowdrop. The crew from one of the tenders did repoint the lighthouse tower, the mortar having weathered out to a considerable degree.



The original thatched boat house at the Mosquito Inlet Light Station;

collection of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservtion Association



The boat house and dock built by the Pacettis at Mosquito Inlet Light Station in 1907; collection of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservtion Association

On April 15, 1907, John Lindquist, the principal keeper of the Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse, received a letter from the district inspector informing him that the tender *Wistaria* was expected to arrive off Mosquito Inlet on April 17th. Lindquist was certainly familiar with the *Wistaria*, having served aboard her from 1883-1886. Bert Pacetti, who was the inlet's buoy master at the time, was directed to take a buoy out to the ship as quickly as possible so she could continue on her journey without delay. The inspector

requested that he be informed about the weather and the *Wistaria*'s direction of travel upon leaving the lighthouse. The *Wistaria*, built in 1881 as an inspection tender, was serving in the sixth district, having replaced the *Alanthus* in that assignment.

A letter of April 6, 1908, to Principal Keeper John Lindquist from the sixth district inspector stated that *Light-Vessel No.* 53 would probably arrive off Mosquito about April 11, with oil and supplies; "inform Mr. Pacetti.... I wish the keepers to assist the crew as much as possible." Unloading supplies from tenders was often difficult and dangerous work, since tenders and other larger vessels often did not have access to nearby docks or deep inlets. There are reports of tender crews being injured while trying to float large casks of oil



The USLHT Wisteria; collection of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservtion Association

through the surf to reach lighthouses, and at Mosquito Inlet most supplies were off-loaded to smaller vessels that could enter the inlet and bring the supplies safely to shore on the bank of the Halifax River. But even the use of lighters was dangerous and extra hands to help transferring the goods were always needed.

On January 27, 1909, the district inspector visited the station. His mode of transportation was not recorded, but it was most probably the inspection tender *Water Lily*. During this year, another round of major work was carried out at the light station including interior plaster work and exterior re-roofing or roof repairs. The station was inspected again in February, possibly in preparation for the installation of an incandescent oil vapor (IOV) lamp in the first order Fresnel lens at the top of the tower. USLHT

Cypress was anchored off the Mosquito Inlet bar, but the purpose of her visit was not recorded. The Cypress was part of the second Manzanita class of vessels constructed in 1907-1908 at the New York Shipbuilding Company in Camden, New Jersey. She would replace the famous Wistaria in the sixth district. More visits to Mosquito Inlet by the Cypress were recorded in the keeper's log in November and December of 1912.

On June 13, 1909, the *Snowdrop* made a brief overnight visit, purpose unknown. In early August, there were two supply ship visits to deliver 3,000 shingles for roof repairs (just enough to re-roof the principal keeper's dwelling), and 200 bags of cement. The cement was destined to cover a wooden plank walkway that led from the tower to the river shore which covered the path of the construction tramway, installed prior to building the light station and used to bring supplies from the river landing to the construction site. The names of the supply ships involved were not recorded. A



Lighthouse IOV Lamp; collection of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association.

days later, Snowdrop brought the new IOV lamp and a trained lampist to install it. installation took days and was followed by a lengthy inspection by Superintendent M. Royall who stayed at the station from August 15th to August 24th. This project involved not just Mosquito Inlet but a number of lighthouses including those at Cape Cape Romain, Fear, Hunting Island, Tybee Island, St. Augustine, Cape Canaveral, and Jupiter Inlet. These sites all had something in common - locations that made oil

deliveries difficult. It was thought that the IOV lamp would save up to 72% of the losses that resulted from damage to large oil containers incurred during deliveries.

In 1910, the Light-House Establishment became officially known as the United States Lighthouse Service. The number of districts expanded from 16 to 19, and these districts were reorganized by the following year. The Mosquito Inlet Light Station remained in the sixth lighthouse district. The

Lighthouse Service had been transferred from the Treasury Department to the Department of Commerce and Labor in 1903, and during the 1910 reorganization, it was decided to replace the Light-House Board with a Bureau of Lighthouses. The new commissioner of lighthouses was George Putnam, a man would serve with distinction until shortly before the Lighthouse Service was folded into the Coast Guard. These reorganizations continued into 1913, when the Department of Commerce and Labor, home of the Lighthouse Service, was divided into separate departments, with the Lighthouse Service being assigned to the Department of Commerce.

The year 1913 saw another round of repairs at the lighthouse. In May, the *Water Lily* arrived with several new pilings for the boat house, and new deck planking. The fence around the station was repaired, the picket fence was replaced, and the old wood fence posts were replaced by concrete ones. Areas of the tower were repointed and a variety of minor repairs were carried out. Tenders operating in the sixth district at this time included *Cypress*, *Snowdrop*, *Water Lily*, *Mangrove*, and *Lilac*. USLHT *Lilac*, a seagoing tender, was built in 1891 at the Globe Iron Works in Cleveland, Ohio. It had served in the first and ninth districts before being briefly listed in the sixth. A visit from the *Lilac* to Mosquito Inlet was never recorded in our keeper logs.

World events began to impact the light station in 1914. War was spreading throughout Europe, and the United States government was watching this situation unfold. Repairs at the light station continued, and the station's windmill was removed and replaced with a large cedar water tank on a tower where water was pumped up from a well and stored. Deliveries of a 20-foot steel tower and pumping equipment for this project were recorded by the principal keeper in December, but the method of delivery was not mentioned.

Although the United States had not entered the Great War, this was becoming more and more of a consideration, and preparations were beginning to move forward. In January of 1915, the Revenue Cutter Service, the Bureau of Navigation the Steamboat Inspection Service, and the Life-Saving Service merged to form the United States Coast Guard. In February, March, April, and May, the *Water Lily* was often at the light station. Keepers and the tender crew were working on the roads around the station, clearing and improving these. Also, a boardwalk from the light station to the main road was being installed. In April and May, gravel was being spread around the exterior of the "engine house," the keepers' name for the station's pump house.

In early 1916, the Water Lily was again at Mosquito Inlet delivering supplies in January for more dock repairs and installation of new pilings. The station's delivery of oil and other annual supplies came in February. As of this year, the lighthouse keepers at Mosquito Inlet had a new duty. They were assigned the task of buoy keeping in the nearby waters (resulting in a small boost in pay), and reports of the keepers assisting tender crews with this task grew more frequent.

In 1917, the pace of work greatly escalated with upgrades and maintenance to many navigational aids. The United States entered the Great War in April and found itself urgently trying to update its methods of communication between stations, as well as to bring the majority of its stations and vessels into the best condition possible. On April 11, the Lighthouse Service was temporarily transferred to the Navy, and many Lighthouse Service vessels suddenly had new duties such as setting submarine nets in vulnerable inlets and harbors, as well as patrolling the coastlines and securing US waters. In the sixth lighthouse district, the tenders Mangrove and Cypress were temporarily assigned to the sixth naval district. Both tenders already had mineplanting equipment on board.

The Mangrove was built in 1897 at the Crescent Shipyard in Elizabethport, New Jersey. She was to be used as a lighthouse cargo tender and was assigned to the seventh lighthouse district at Key West. She had the distinction of bringing back from Cuba the survivors from the USS Maine after it exploded in Havana harbor, and the Mangrove continued to serve with the US Navy during the Spanish American War. The Water Lily, along with the St. Augustine, Mosquito Inlet, and Jupiter Inlet Light Stations, was assigned to the commandant of the seventh naval district at the Key West Naval Station during the Great War. Snowdrop was also under seventh naval district command for the duration of the war. In fact, so many Lighthouse Service vessels were busy with war-related work that Commissioner of Lighthouses George Putnam complained that lighthouses were in danger of being neglected. A new tender for the sixth lighthouse district's inland waterways, USLHT Palmetto, was constructed in Jacksonville, Florida, and went to work in the district in 1917.

Water Lily had been at the station in January of 1917 while servicing minor aids to navigation in surrounding waterways. Mangrove, Cypress and Palmetto were also working in the district. In November, Water Lily was at Mosquito Inlet for an extended visit while her crew worked to install more new pilings and other upgrades to the boat house and dock. Repairs were also made to the IOV lamp in the tower, to the keepers' dwellings and outbuildings, and to the fences that surrounded the station. The tender's crew and the lighthouse keepers finally enjoyed some rest with a Thanksgiving Day celebration at the light station.

The year of 1918 began with stormy weather and a real gale on January 11. When the Water Lily brought 50 gallons of gasoline on February 28th, the lighthouse keepers were still cleaning up the station after the storms. A different kind of storm was coming, however, as an influenza pandemic was sweeping the globe and moving into Florida, making the coming fall and winter months difficult.



Schoolboys in Starke, Florida during the 1918 pandemic; State Archives of Florida, Fl orida Memory Project

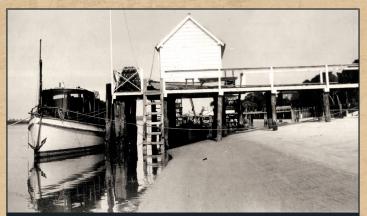
On November 8, 1918, District Superintendent H. L. Beck visited the station, traveling on the Water Lily. Formerly Beck's title had been district inspector, but in June of 1918 the title was officially changed to superintendent. On November 14th, the Water Lily returned and anchored at the lighthouse dock work on navigational aids in the Halifax River as well as to wait for a possible of delivery containing paychecks.

The World War I armistice took place on November 1, 1918, but this event was not mentioned in the keeper's log. From November 14 through December 6, Water Lily was in the area with her crew working on the lighthouse boat dock and rebuilding navigational aids in the Hillsboro River.

So much work was done to prepare and maintain the light station during the war that little needed to be done in the several years following the war's end. The Lighthouse Service was returned to the Department of Commerce in 1919, and the installations and vessels resumed their previous identities and functions. From February 9 through February 17, 1920, the Water Lily was at Mosquito Inlet, and the tender crew worked to repair the floors under the kitchen sinks in the keepers' dwellings and to install new plumbing. They were back

again in November to deliver supplies, work on river beacons, and take on provisions. On the 27th, the *Water Lily* was kept at the lighthouse dock due to a heavy storm. On the 29th, they "filled the water tanks" but the tender log does not make clear if the ship's water tanks were filled, or if the *Water Lily* was delivering fresh water to fill the light station's cisterns. These had to be refreshed from time to time as a result of improper cleaning and faulty sterilization of water in the cisterns. Over the years, almost everyone at the lighthouse would become ill at least once from the cistern water.

The next big project took place in 1921, when the Lighthouse Service decided to add indoor plumbing and bathrooms to the keeper dwellings. The *Water Lily* arrived on April 16, 1921, and the keepers and tender crew worked together for a month to build the bathroom additions by enclosing the porches of the dwellings, to install sewer (septic system) lines, to make repairs to the cisterns, repair window sashes and replace screens, install concrete curbing and a concrete walkway around the tower, and make repairs to the station's dock. The *Water Lily* did not depart until May 17th.



Coast Guard photograph of Water Lily at the Light Station Dock, 1921; collection of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association

In 1922, the *Water Lily* and her crew were at Mosquito Inlet for a month, starting on March 11. The keepers and tender crew were working on the dock and boat house. Something was aggressively eating the pilings and had done serious damage to the structure. The project wrapped up on April 11, and the keepers whitewashed the building the following day.

Another tender, the *Palmetto*, was also operating in the sixth district at this time. She had been built in 1915 at the Merrell Stevens Dry Dock & Repair in Jacksonville, Florida, and was a shallow water tender

meant to possibly replace the *Snowdrop*. The *Palmetto* was assigned to the sixth district where she spent her entire Lighthouse Service career. After a replacement of its engines in 1930 and some further updates, the *Palmetto* served as a Coast Guard vessel during World War II. It was eventually sold out of the service and became a private vessel, operating until the early 1970s. The *Palmetto* was replaced by the USCGC *Azalea*.

The *Water Lily* visited Mosquito Inlet many times over the next few years, bringing annual supplies and drums of gasoline to the lighthouse. In January of 1925, a Fairbanks Morse lighting plant was delivered to the lighthouse to supply electricity to the keeper dwellings. The keepers worked with the *Water Lily* crew and a local "wireman" to place the knob and tube wiring, install the lights, and make other upgrades to the buildings. This project took most of the month to complete.

October brought the *Water Lily* back to the lighthouse. Her crew was assisting with removal of old shelving and the installation of a new concrete floor in the station's oil storage building which was to receive two new large oil tanks. Kerosene for the station would now be brought in by a tanker truck instead of by tender, and stored in the new tanks rather than in small tins on shelves.

In late December of that same year, the *Water Lily* was again at the lighthouse. A bad storm had taken out 10 feet of the river shore, and the keepers were working alongside the tender's crew in a project that created serious trouble for Principal Lighthouse Keeper Charles Sisson. A tender crewman allegedly had a stash of alcohol which he freely shared with his mates and with the light keepers. Drunkenness was absolutely forbidden to Lighthouse Service employees, and Sisson felt obliged to report that his first assistant keeper was disorderly and threatening to "blow the keeper's brains out." The report and the subsequent investigation did not go well for either man and both were punished. The assistant keeper resigned from the service but Keeper Sisson took his punishment, remained with the Lighthouse Service, and soon redeemed himself.

In April of 1926, the *Water Lily's* crew assisted in repositioning the brick walkways between the lighthouse tower and the second assistant dwelling, as well as placing new pilings under the boat house. On October 10th the tender *Cypress* brought the station's annual supplies, and in November, the *Cypress* crew and the keepers worked together on the pipes that ran from the cisterns to the houses

as well as the sewage pipes for each dwelling. Serving in the sixth district along with USLHT *Cypress* were the tenders *Mangrove* and *Palmetto*. At about this time, the *Water Lily* was identified as needing to be replaced.

The Florida State legislature formally changed the inlet's name to Ponce de Leon Inlet in 1927, and so the name of the light station was changed to match it. The tenders *Cypress* and *Mangrove* underwent extensive overhauls at this time, and the well-used *Water Lily* was again identified as needing replacement within the next few years. USLHT *Palmetto* continued to work in the district.

Also in 1927, the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station's oil storage building again required repairs as a result of storm damage. A new roof and a replacement set of oil tanks were installed but no mention was made in the keeper's log book of assistance from a tender. In November, the *Water Lily* did arrive and her crew worked with the keepers on a project to repair the station's dock. The *Water Lily* again assisted with plumbing repairs in 1928 and more dock repairs in 1929.

By the 1930s, the principal keepers were making fewer and fewer notations about tender visits. The tender *Althea* was at the station in October of 1932 and the keepers were helping her crew with buoy tending duties. USLHT *Althea* was built in 1928 at the New London Ship and Engine works of Groton, Connecticut. She was a shallow water vessel destined to replace the *Water Lily* and was assigned to the sixth lighthouse district at Fort Pierce, Florida.

The next major project at the lighthouse involving tenders was the replacement of the first order Fresnel lens in the tower. The area around the lighthouse had become populated to a degree that made it difficult for mariners to pick out the fixed and steady lighthouse beacon from other nearby lights. A rotating, flashing light was deemed a better choice and a discontinued third order light from Georgia's Sapelo Island was refitted with an electric motor and installed in the tower. The lighthouse tower had to be electrified, and in June of 1933 two LeRoi generators arrived at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. By August the keepers were working with a tender crew to remove the first order fixed lens and install the third order rotating lens. The process took several weeks, and on September 1st a Notice to Mariners advised of the change of characteristic at Ponce Inlet. On December 15, 1933, the USLHT Althea arrived to retrieve the first order lens and return it to the Lighthouse Service.

During the fiscal year ending in 1935, the tender Mangrove

underwent a major overhaul and the Cypress received similar work the following year. The Lighthouse Service was rapidly modernizing. New radio beacons, antenna designs, batteryoperated aids to navigation, and even remote-control devices were changing the service and causing a reduction in personnel. Also in 1935, George Putnam retired from his position as commissioner of lighthouses and his post was taken over by H. D. King. King would not serve long, as another world war was on the horizon and more massive changes would impact the Lighthouse Service. In 1938, a new Coast Guard station opened on the south shore of Ponce de Leon Inlet. And in 1939, the Lighthouse Service was disbanded and its assets were transferred into the Coast Guard. The Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station was now part of the seventh naval district as the Coast Guard came under Navy control during World War II. During the war, the former Lighthouse Service vessels received new hull numbers and the tenders were designated as United States Coast Guard Cutters. The Althea, the tender most often recorded at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse during the 1940s, was now the USCGC Althea with the hull number WAGL-223. At the war's end, the Coast Guard returned to its status as a unique branch of the military tasked with safeguarding America's waterways and coastlines, ensuring safe and lawful maritime commerce, performing rescue missions, and maintaining the nation's aids to navigation.



The USLHT Althea approaches a palmetto "finger marker" along Florida's Intercoastal Waterway; collection of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association.

By 1953, resident keepers were no longer needed at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, and through the 1960s the maintenance crews from the nearby Coast Guard station visited less and less often. The Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station was declared excess property by the Coast Guard in 1970 and aquired by the Town of Ponce Inlet two years later. The site came under the management of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association in 1972 and continues to be operated by the Association to this day.

## QUARTERLY UPDATE:

# THE CONSTANCE D. HUNTER HISTORIC PACETTI HOTEL MUSEUM

#### Museum Restoration & Development:

The restoration of the Historic Pacetti Hotel remains ongoing. In the meantime, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association would like to give our members a sneak peek into some of the exhibits and themes that will be discussed and interpreted inside the Pacetti Hotel once it opens as a museum for the public. These topics are tentative and subject to change during this planning and development stage of the restoration. They are but a small sample of the extensive research conducted by members of our curatorial department Ellen Henry and Felipe De Paula. Artifacts, furniture, exhibit cases, light fixtures, and various photographs are being acquired as we gradually prepare for the opening of the Historic Pacetti Hotel in a few years' time. Any readers interested in donating a historic artifact, piece of furniture, or document should feel free to reach out to our registrar Felipe De Paula at fdepaula@ponceinlet. org or by phone at (386)761-1821 ext. 23.

#### Fishing on the Halifax River

There's no denying that the main draw of the Pacetti Hotel was its proximity to nature. Hunting, fishing, and sightseeing were some of the most memorable pastimes enjoyed by visitors that 'luxuriated' in all that the Hotel had to offer. The Hotel sits right on the Halifax River less than a mile away from the mouth of Mosquito Inlet, now called the Ponce De Leon Inlet. Its dock offers the possibility of fishing and boating in the Atlantic Ocean, the Halifax River, and various creeks and canals that extend inland into the Port Orange and New Smyrna Beach areas.

Guests spent their mornings fishing and then would return to the Hotel in the afternoon to enjoy a home cooked meal, featuring the days' catch of course, prepared by Martha Pacetti. The men of the Pacetti family, as well as long-time caretaker Jesse Linzy, were regarded as legendary fishermen in these waters. They were featured in countless articles written for newspapers, travel journals, and angling publications of the time. Some of these articles, of which there are many, will be featured in an exhibit dedicated to

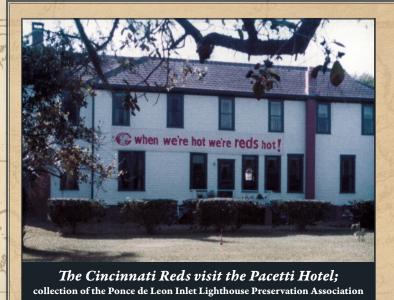


Pacetti Hotel guests on a fishing expedition; collection of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association

the history of fishing in the Ponce Inlet area. These articles frequently mentioned the many exotic species of fish and animals commonly found in the waters around the Pacetti Hotel. Visitors from the North did not often see aquatic creatures like sharks, sea turtles, 'stingarees' (stingrays), and alligators in their normal day-to-day lives, so their upclose encounters with them in Florida made them not just interesting stories, but newspaper staples.

#### The Nipperts and the Cincinnati Reds

Another topic to be interpreted and presented in the Pacetti Hotel will be its ownership by Louis and Louise Nippert. Louis Nippert inherited the property from his aunt Olivia Gamble in 1961 and visited the Hotel various times throughout his life. He and his wife Louise Nippert were the owners of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team during the Big Red Machine era in the 1970s where the Reds won two back-to-back World Series in 1975 and 1976. The team would come down to Florida for preseason training and enjoyed partying at the Pacetti Hotel multiple times throughout that period. The Pacetti Hotel thus became adorned with an endless supply of Reds memorabilia. From regular household knickknacks like ash trays, towels, and shot glasses, to baseball collectibles like bats and commemorative pennants, the Hotel had it all.



Equally common inside of the hotel were the many lighthouse-themed objects acquired from our very own Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Gift Shop. Mr. Nippert was a big fan and patron of our lighthouse, as evident by the many lighthouse paintings and replicas he displayed at the Pacetti Hotel. Some of these objects will be displayed at the Pacetti Hotel along with photographs and stories of the Nipperts enjoying the Pacetti Hotel that they affectionately referred to as their 'Fishing Lodge'.

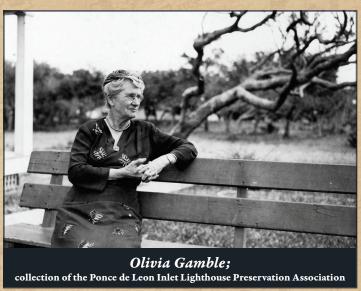
#### The Women of the Pacetti Hotel

A common theme in the history of the Pacetti Hotel has been the dedicated women that have cared for it, restored it, and allowed the building to survive all these years. We at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association are thankful to all these women, and hope to feature them in an exhibit that highlights their direct contributions to preserving this historic site.

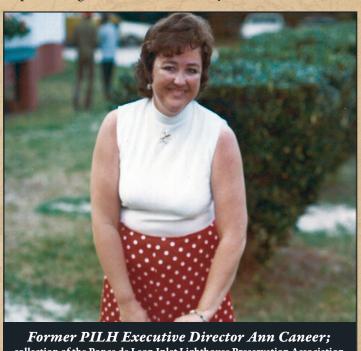
The first woman on the list would have to be none other than Martha Pacetti. Known for her incredible fish dinners, she ran and operated the hotel from its construction in the 1880s until her death in 1917. She regularly took visitors on sightseeing boat trips into the beautiful and untouched Florida wilderness.

After the Hotel became a private residence, it was purchased by Olivia Gamble, whose grandfather had founded Proctor and Gamble. Ms. Gamble came to own the Pacetti Hotel in 1936, a vital point in its history, after it had been abandoned for about a decade and desperately needed repairs. Thankfully, she oversaw the complete restoration of the building, including a new dock, improved landscaping, an entry gate, and a fresh coat of paint. These repairs saved

the building from becoming a bygone relic and ensured its survival into the modern day. Ms. Gamble visited the Hotel a few times throughout her life, often bringing friends and family to stay and enjoy the mild Florida winters.



Another important woman in the history of the Hotel was Virginia Ann Caneer. Ann became the caretaker of the Pacetti Hotel in 1970 and lived there until 2010. It was while living there that she became involved with some local efforts to save the town's abandoned lighthouse. Not only did she take care of the Pacetti Hotel for all those years, she also fought for the preservation of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse, eventually becoming our association's first executive director. These stories and more will all be featured in the Pacetti Hotel to help remember these important figures in the site's history.



collection of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association



# THE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE & MUSEUM GOES VIRTUAL!

The Volunteer Advisory Committee helps modify educational programs for the online world!

It is not uncommon to see the museum's annual events calendar filled to near-capacity, with hundreds of tours and workshops scheduled each year and ample opportunities for volunteers to donate their time and engage with the public. However, this was not the case from May 2020 through May 2021 when health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the temporary suspension of nearly all in-person educational programs normally offered by the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. These cancelations, coupled with the CDC's recommendation for people to isolate at home and the Volusia County School District's decision to ban all field trips and in-school educational outreach events for the safety of students and staff, greatly reduced the number of educational opportunities provided to the general public and K-12 school groups during the pandemic.

It did not take long for museum staff to realize something needed to be done to overcome the many restrictions imposed by COVID-19. In fact, much of the work completed by the assistant curator and programs manager in April, 2020 focused on the development of an online virtual tour that teachers could use with their students in lieu of visiting the lighthouse in person. Completed in the summer of 2020, this virtual tour is now available on the museum's website at www.ponceinlet.org.

Although the virtual tour was a significant achievement in and of itself, the development of virtual offerings did not stop there. The museum's director of operations Mike Bennett and lead docent John Mann remained hard at work in the months that followed converting many of the museum's most popular educational offerings for the virtual environment. They did not do it alone however, and were greatly aided in their efforts by the Association's Volunteer Advisory Committee (VAC.) Formed in the summer of 2020, the VAC worked in close collaboration with Mr. Bennett and Mr. Mann over the next twelve months evaluating the museum's portfolio of educational

programs, identifying those that were best-suited for virtual use, and redesigning them for online delivery using virtual platforms like Zoom or Microsoft Teams. VAC meetings were initially held online but eventually transitioned to live, in-person gatherings as more and more committee members were vaccinated and the threat of COVID-19 within the group diminished.

Review and revision are integral steps in the creative process, and the task of reimaging a traditional hand-on program for virtual use requires a considerable amount of creativity. The VAC members worked very well together and frequently bounced ideas off each other as they went. This team-centered approach proved highly productive and produced new ideas for further expansion, refinement, and the inclusion of hands-on activities with each meeting. As each program neared the finish line, the committee member tasked with its completion asked a professional teacher to "check their work" and make suggestions on how it could be improved. One of the teachers recruited to perform this important task was retired elementary school teacher and Preservation Association Board of Trustees President Tara Lamb who, after attending her first VAC meeting, was so impressed that she decided to became a committee member, herself! "I have always known we have the most dedicated and talented volunteers, but it is such a privilege to see them in action while sitting in on the Volunteer Advisory Committee meetings. It is a truly exceptional team," said Lamb.

The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association would like to thank the members of its volunteer corps, especially John and Jackie Mann, Janice Lowry, John Butterfield, Steve Oshinski, Tana White, Dorothy Beard, Gerry Harris, Tara Lamb, Rick and Cathy Safarik, and Sean O'Dwyer for their dedicated service during the past fourteen months. We could not have done it without you!

## SUPPORT HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Did you know that the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that typically receives zero tax-funded support at the local, state, or federal level? It's true! Nearly 100% of the Association's annual funding is derived exclusively through private donations, admission and merchandise sales, and annual membership dues. As such, the Association relies heavily on the generosity of donors like you to continue its mission and preserve this important National Historic Landmark for this and future generations to enjoy.

#### SEVEN WAYS TO GIVE

- 1. **DONATE TO THE LIGHTHOUSE FUND:** Help fund the Association's current preservation and educational efforts by donating to the Lighthouse General Fund.
- 2. GIVE TO THE LIGHTHOUSE ENDOWMENT FUND: Help ensure the long-term financial stability of the Preservation Association by contributing to the Lighthouse Endowment Fund.
- 3. MEMORIAL BRICK PROGRAM: Help safeguard the historic lighthouse with the purchase a memorial brick.
- 4. **BECOME AN ANNUAL MEMBER:** Join the lighthouse team by becoming a member or renewing your current membership at the same or higher level.
- 5. **BECOME A VOLUNTEER:** Volunteers are one of the Preservation Association's most valuable assets. Help us continue our important work as a volunteer.
- 6. **DONATE AN ARTIFACT:** The museum is always looking for relevant objects, documents, and images to add to its collection. Offers to donate historic items are always welcome.
- 7. Help Fund the Pacetti Hotel Project: Join the Preservation Association in its efforts to restore, rehabilitate, and develop the Pacetti Hotel into a public space, history museum, and event venue.

#### **Double Your Donation Dollars!**

In addition to an already generous grant, the Paul B. Hunter and Constance D. Hunter Charitable Foundation has pledged to match all third-party donations in support of the Pacetti Hotel up to a combined value of \$250,000. This offer is a wonderful opportunity for anyone looking to maximize the funding potential of their charitable

contribution. Any donations made to the Preservation Association for the purpose of restoring the Pacetti Hotel will be matched one-hundred percent by the Foundation, effectively doubling the efficacy of your gift.

Your Pacetti Hotel donation will help fund the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and development of the historic Pacetti Hotel. The goal of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is to preserve the property's historic structures indefinitely. Your financial support will help us in these endeavors. In addition to simply restoring the historic site and preserving it as a monument to Ponce Inlet history, rehabilitation work will also be completed to convert the building for use as a public history museum. One can only imagine the sense of pride the Pacetti's would have felt knowing their humble fishing resort would one day house exhibits and artifacts telling the story of the community that they helped construct.

#### How to Donate

Donations can be made through various ways. You can call us at (386) 761-1821 to make a donation over the phone. Checks for the restoration of the Pacetti Hotel can be mailed to 4931 S. Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL, 32127. Please make all checks payable to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Online donations can be made at www.lighthouselocker. org/lighthouse-donations. Donations can also be made in person at our gift shop located right here on our grounds.



# WE WANT YOU!

-To Join the Lighthouse Team!

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER!



Do you have a have a passion for history that you would like to share with young and old alike? Are you looking for an opportunity to socialize with other and contribute to a worthy cause? Does the opportunity to learn new things and instill a love of history and culture in others excite you? If you answered yes to any of these question then the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum is the place for you!

Established in 1972, the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association relies heavily on the generosity, commitment, and enthusiasm of its volunteer corps to achieve its ongoing mission to preserve and disseminate the maritime and social history of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station. Month after month and year after year, this dedicated group of selfless men and women can be found giving guided tours of the lighthouse and museum, leading on-site programs, assisting staff with administrative tasks, or facilitating educational workshops in classrooms and public venues throughout the local community.

Volunteering at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse is not all work and no play. Docents are also provided ample opportunity to socialize with each other throughout the year during monthly training sessions, scheduled luncheons, off-site field trips, and the Association's annual volunteer award dinner. As an added bonus, all volunteers are provided a free annual membership in appreciation of their valuable contribution to the museum.

With the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic hopefully behind us, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum anticipates resurgence in public demand for its award-winning educational programs. As such, the Association has begun the systematic reinstatement of many of the educational offerings which were temporarily suspended in 2020 and early 2021 due to safety concerns. It is the

museum's hope that the coming months will witness a steady increase in the number of visiting school groups, onsite events, and scheduled educational outreach workshops as the threat of COVID-19 continues to fall.

The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is always looking for a few good men and women to join its dedicated corps of volunteer docents and help the museum meet its growing educational programming needs. Current volunteer opportunities at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse include:

- Museum Tour Guide
- Tower Monitor
- Living History Interpreter
- Costuming Assistant
- Seamstress/Tailor
- Workshop Facilitator
- Administration Assistant
- Historic Restoration Assistant
- Woodworker/Cabinetmaker
- CURATORIAL Assistant
- Events Assistant/Coordinator
- Lighthouse Ambassador
- Educational Outreach Facilitator
- And MORE!

Previous docent or teaching experience is not required and complete training is provided to all volunteers.

Those wishing to learn more about current volunteer opportunities at the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum and scheduled volunteer training sessions are encouraged to contact director of operations Mike Bennett by email at mbennett@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 14. Thank you for your consideration!

# BECOME A MEMBER OF THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

# Free Admission to the museum and lighthouse during normal hours of operation # 10% discount on all regular priced merchandise in the museum gift shop and online # One annual subscription to the Association's quarterly journal <i>Illuminations</i> # Invitations to special museum events # Volunteer Opportunities		2nd Assistant Keeper Member
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:		† Recognition in the quarterly journal <i>Illuminations</i>
# Includes all benefits listed above for one person  Senior Member		Corporate Member
Family Member\$40		FLORIDA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
<ul> <li>‡ Includes benefits listed above for all members of the immediate family including up to two adults and all children age 18 years and under.</li> <li>‡ Grandchildren are not elligable for inclusion.</li> <li>‡ One membership card issued per family</li> <li>‡ Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult</li> </ul>		CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION NUMBER AND DISCLAIMER: REGISTRATION #: CH137  A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BY OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.
<b>%</b>		
SELECT MEMBERSHIP TYPE:		MAILING ADDRESS:
☐ GENERAL MEMBER ☐ STUDENT MEMBER ☐ SENIOR MEMBER ☐ FAMILY MEMBER	☐ 2nd Assistant Keeper☐ 1st Assistant Keeper☐ Principal Keeper☐ Corporate Lampist	Street:Unit: City:State:Zip: Payment Information:
☐ FAMILY WEMBER	CORPORATE LAMPIST	(Please make checks payable to the "Ponce Inlet Lighthouse")
MEMBER INFORMATION:		Membership Cost: Donation Amount:
Your Name:		Total Amount Due:
Additional Names:  Company Name (if Corporate):		Mail Completed Form with Enclosed Check to:  Ponce Inlet Lighthouse 4931 South Peninsula Drive Ponce Inlet, FL 32127
Email: Phone: ()		Note: Memberships may also be purchased online with a debit/credit card at www.lighthouselocker.org

#### GIFT SHOP



#### Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Memorial Brick Program

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Memorial Bricks are a unique and thoughtful way to honor the lives of friends and loved ones or celebrate special events like weddings, birthdays, and annual family

vacations. Each laser-engraved brick features the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse logo and up to three lines of text. Each personalized brick will be installed in the light station's Memorial Walkway leading out onto the historic grounds where it will remain in perpetuity. As an added bonus, a portion of your brick purchase may be tax-deductible. Full-size and miniature duplicates are also available!

Lighthouse Memorial Brick: Full-Size Duplicate Memorial Brick: Miniature 1"x3" Duplicate Brick:

Item #: 0289; Price: \$100 Item #: 0290; Price: \$85 (+S&H)

Item #: 0291; Price: \$40 (+S&H)

## Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Mug

Relax and enjoy a hot cup of coffee, tea, or favorite morning beverage as you sip from this custom designed 12-ounce ceramic mug featuring an antique map of Florida and the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse shining brightly as the sun just begins to rise over the distant horizon. This custom mug also makes the perfect gift for any lighthouse enthusiast.

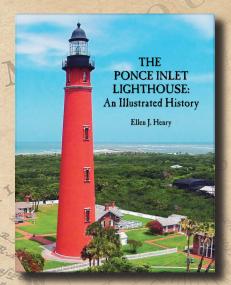
Item #: 1234; Price: \$15.99 (+S&H)



## The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse: An Illustrated History

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse: An Illustrated History is the culmination of more than 40 years of research by the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association. Written by museum curator Ellen Henry, this fully illustrated hardback volume is the definitive history of the historic Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station. Signed first edition copies of this recently published book are now available for purchase Online and in the lighthouse gift shop.

Price: \$49.95 (+S&H)



#### Turtle Bracelet & Ornament:

Support the Marine Life Rescue Project and help protect the turtle species by wearing this bracelet made of all recycled and sustainable materials. This includes a 4" laser engraved wooden ornament. You purchase will help fund the critical work performed by the Clearwater Marine Research Institute. Other varieties of bracelets are also available.

Price: \$20.00 (+S&H)

Non-Profit Org. US Postage Paid ORLANDO, FL

PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

4931 South Peninsula Drive Ponce Inlet, FL

## Glazed Ceramic Lighthouse Bell

This blue and white glazed ceramic modeled in the form of a lighthouse creates a beautiful tone as it gently swings in the cool summer breeze. Whether hanging from your porch or simply taking pride of place in your home office, living room, or den, this beautiful piece will surely please lighthouse lovers everywhere.

Price: \$16.99 (+S&H)

## MEMBER COUPON 20% Off Any Single Item

Limit one coupon per member per

guarter. Cannot be used with any other discounts or memorial brick purchases Expires 10/1/2021

