Fifteen years ago in June, Carol Mumola, our gift shop manager, heard an odd little noise coming from the bushes near the museum’s gift shop. For three days the noise remained a mystery until a small black and white cat revealed himself. Being a dedicated cat lover and a good judge of the feline character, Carol knew right away that the snuggly little animal loved people and would quickly adapt to life at the lighthouse. A few days later TC could be found snoozing on the gift shop counter where he could be sure he would get petted. Even the four cats that already lived at the lighthouse came to accept him as part of the family.

TC, or Top Cat, has had a distinguished career as our lighthouse ambassador. Since 1991 he has personally greeted almost every visitor to the museum. Some visitors return year after year to see him. He has appeared in a book and several films, and you can still see him every day in our current Woodshed Theater introductory film.

In the last week of May, TC was clearly not himself, and in early June he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. On Monday, June 5, 2006, TC died peacefully in the arms of the woman who found him fifteen years ago. Bon voyage, TC! We were proud to know you.

**Electricity at the Light Station**

In 1883, General Orville E Babcock, chief engineer for the construction of the newly proposed Mosquito Inlet Light Station, suggested that the beacon be electrified. The technology was certainly possible at that time but due to Mosquito Inlet’s remote location it was decided that it was simply not feasible to keep a generator running reliably at the site. The decision was made to fit the tower with a kerosene lantern instead, a system that was considered to be a fairly advanced technology for its day.

The first actual electric system at Mosquito Inlet Light Station was TC's call bell. An order for this device appears in the original cost estimates for the Station. These small, doohickey style calling devices were usually located in each keeper’s dwelling and Light Station journals confirm that this was the case at Mosquito Inlet. The bells were operated by a 6 or 12 volt battery and used to signal a keeper when the person in the tower needed assistance or at the change of a four-hour watch. Little information remains about these systems and few still exist. In the Principal Keeper’s Dwelling you can still see a ceramic tube in the floor of the keeper’s bedroom through which the bell wiring could pass. The keepers’ logs mention the call bells fairly often. It was typical for lightning strikes to disable the system, as was the need to repair or replace the wiring several times a year. One of the last entries to refer to the call bells states that the Second Assistant Keeper bell required repair. After August 20, 1928, the call bell system is not mentioned again.

Another early electrical device was the battery operated telephone. Installed in the fall of 1917, the phone connected the lighthouse to other lighthouses and Coast Guard facilities along Florida’s east coast. (The keeper’s log of May 1907 states “received telephones.” No further mention of these phones or information about their use is documented “after 1917.”) In 1917, a phone was installed in the Principal Keeper’s office and later, possibly in the tower.

In 1923, the Lighthouse Service decided to electrify the keepers’ dwellings, and a Fairbanks Morse lighting plant was ordered. The plant itself was expensive to do so. Engine problems ceased when the switch to gasoline was completed. The houses were fitted with knob and tube wiring, some of which still remain in place today.

**Summer Hours of Operation:**

As of Memorial Day (May 29th) Ponce Inlet Lighthouse hours of operation will be from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Sunday through Saturday, July 4 will be at 8:00 P.M. Our regular hours of operation (9:00-6:00) will resume after Labor Day (September 4, 2006).

**Upcoming Meetings:**

- Jul. 12, 2006 - Budget Finance Committee Meeting 8:30 a.m. in the Gift Shop Conference Room
- Jul. 17, 2006 - Board of Trustees and Quarterly Membership Meeting 7:30 p.m. in the Gift Shop Conference Room
- Aug. 21, 2006 - Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. in the Gift Shop Conference Room
- Sept. 18, 2006 - Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. in the Gift Shop Conference Room

Meetings are open to the public, and we welcome your attendance and participation.

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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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Lighthouse Ambassador: TC
The Lighthouse is sponsored quarterly by the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association, Inc.

Subscriptions are a benefit of membership in the Association. The Light Station welcomes letters and comments from our readers.

MEMBER:
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY
FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
This past season has been one of discovery and growth at the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station. The staff have not only worked diligently over the past several months to maintain the appearance of the station’s grounds and historical exhibits, but they have also been engaged in numerous projects that will increase our understanding of the area’s unique history, and the everyday lives of past keepers.

The excavation of the Principal Keeper’s privy, which began mid-January, concluded in April. As one can imagine, the findings from the privy dig revealed many interesting facts about the day-to-day life of the keepers and their families and their dietary habits prior to the introduction of indoor plumbing in 1912 (yes folks, it was that type of privy). Among the artifacts discovered were remnants of a women’s silk stocking, a belt buckle, and a variety of buttons of assorted sizes. Finding a magneto typical in use in telecommunications of the early 1900s created quite a stir with staff since no evidence has been found indicating one was ever employed at the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station.

Staff explored, drained, cleaned, and inspected the historic cisterns that supplied water to each of the keepers’ dwellings in May. An examination of each cistern’s condition was made and several artifacts were discovered in the process including several bottles and an antique fire extinguisher. Conservation of these historic structures will be completed as needed in the coming months.

We would like to thank Cathedral Stone and Chuck Spetzner of Maryland who flew down to train the staff in the proper technique for repairing our aging masonry work. With Chuck’s guidance the staff quickly learned how to best remove and/or stabilize deteriorated mortar. Thanks to his help, we are now engaged in conserving and restoring the eastern wall of the Principal Keeper’s dwelling. Please see the article about Chuck’s visit on page 6 for more details.

Hinges discovered during privy excavation
We are quite excited to announce two of the station’s newest acquisitions. We were fortunate enough to purchase an extremely rare Light House Establishment Banjo-Clock No. 5 and an E. Howard & Company Boston Regulator Clock No. 70 in April. Both time pieces are extremely rare and only a few are known to exist in any collection within the United States. Be sure to come and see them after they have been put on display. More information about these rare and beautiful clocks will be provided in future newsletters.

In financial news, we are happy to announce that the Ponce de Leon Lighthouse will received $41,199 as a result of our Cycle 18, General Operating Support Grant application which was submitted to the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Historical Museums Grants-in-Aid Program, in December 2005. The grant was defended in March, 2006 and we can look to begin encouraging the funds in July, 2006, pending state legislature approval.

The association submitted the final report for last year’s cycle 17, GOs Grant at the end of June, 2006. The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse was awarded $59,246.00 for Cycle 17 (July 7, 2005 through June 30, 2006). These funds were utilized to help meet the financial demands required to operate the light station during that time period.

We are grateful for the continued support of the Historical Grants-in-Aid Program through the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. Although we are fortunate enough to rely largely on admissions, gift shop purchases, and our continued member support for a predominant portion of our operating and development budget, the GOs grant funds help us cover regular operating costs such as utilities, office expenses, and advertising. Please encourage your local and state representatives to continue their support for historical sites and museums.

We were proud to host Family Fun Fridays hosted by the County Teachers Workshop and the Girl Scouts Day and look forward to future events that celebrate the rich history of the light station and its ongoing role in the community. We invite you to visit the light station and say hello. While you’re here, be sure to stop and see our newly improved navigation exhibit in the Principal Keeper’s dwelling along with the recently updated Beach Racing exhibit in the 2nd Assistant Keeper’s dwelling. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,
Ann Caneer
Executive Director

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 Light station 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
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

We will contact 1st Assistant Keeper, Principal Keeper or Corporate Lampist for any questions that may arise.

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

Select type of membership:
☐ General .................................... $20
☐ Senior ....................................... $10
☐ Student (submit copy of ID) ........... $10
☐ Family ..................................... $40
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☐ 2nd Assistant Keeper ................. $100
☐ 1st Assistant Keeper ................. $200
☐ Principal Keeper ....................... $500
☐ Corporate Lampist ................. $500

Name:

Address 1: ........................................
Address 2: ........................................
City: ........................................
State: ........................................
ZIP: ........................................
Phone: ( )-...........
Email: ........................................
Office use only
Beginns ____________________ Ends ____________________

For a family membership, you may list an additional adult and the names of all children:
Adult: ........................................
Children: .....................................

We accept Visa and MasterCard
Exp. Date: ........................................
Signature: ........................................

Or, make check payable to:
Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association, Inc.
4591 S. Peninsula Dr., Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

2nd Assistant Keeper ............... $100
☐ All privileges of General or Family Membership
☐ Recognition of your membership in the newsletters/New Keepers List

1st Assistant Keeper ............... $200
☐ All privileges of 2nd Assistant Membership
☐ Two gift General memberships

Principal Keeper ....................... $500
☐ All privileges of 1st Assistant Membership
☐ Personal guided tour of the light station
☐ Exhibit sponsorship recognition

Corporate Lampist .................... $500
☐ All privileges of General or Family Membership for up to five company principals
☐ Use of the Light Station’s conference room for one meeting with up to twenty attendees. This meeting will include a personal guided tour of the light station.
☐ Recognition of your company’s support in the newsletters/New Corporate Lampist List
☐ Exhibit sponsorship recognition

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Membership Coupon
20% Off Any Single Purchase
20% discount not valid towards purchase of previously reduced priced item. Limit one coupon per member quarterly. Coupon not valid after September 30th, 2006. We reserve the right to cap at time of purchase. Discount limited towards one item only. For more information regarding memberships please see gift shop staff.

Please charge my: (check one)
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

CC#: ........................................
Exp. Date: ........................................
Signature: ........................................

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

4931 S. Peninsula Dr., Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association, Inc.

For a family membership, you may list an additional adult and the names of all children:
Adult: ........................................
Children: .....................................

We accept Visa and MasterCard
Exp. Date: ........................................
Signature: ........................................

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☐ Two gift General memberships

Principal Keeper ....................... $500
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☐ Recognition of your company’s support in the newsletters/New Corporate Lampist List
☐ Exhibit sponsorship recognition
as much as possible about the 3rd Order Fresnel station. This unique experience is limited to only 8 keeper uniforms, the tour guides provide their visitors restricted to visitors). Dressed in reproduction 1930s rotating Fresnel lens “up close and personal”. Several months ago, has provided visitors with the opportunity to view the Light Station. The tour, which included both the grounds and the tower itself, proved to be as enjoyable as it was informative. Our thanks go out to the St. Augustine Lighthouse’s Volunteer Coordinator Debe Thompson for arranging the tour and Paul Wenglickyev’s Director of Education, for sharing his knowledge and expertise regarding tour procedures. The Saint Augustine Lighthouse’s hospitality was happily reciprocated at the end of May when they came to Ponce Inlet to tour our facility and learn about our volunteer and tour programs.

In April, the museum was visited by Chuck Spitznagel from Cathedral Stone Products in Hanover, Maryland. Chuck provided us with two days of consultation and instruction in masonry that will enable our own staff and volunteers to carry out the repair and pointing of the historic brick and granite at the Light Station. Chuck began his masonry career at the age of eight, working with his father. He is now the lead mason for Cathedral Stone. He generously shared his lifetime of experience with us and taught us the correct (and safe) way to remove damaged or incompatible mortar, patch or remove broken bricks or repair cracked wall sections of brick and granite. We now use John masons that are completely compatible with our historic materials and are specially color-matched to our buildings. You can see some of our progress on the east side of the Principal Keeper’s Dwelling.

Cathedral Stone Company and Cathedral Stone Products were founded by Dennis Rude, whose extensive experience in masonry led him on a search for better restoration materials. This search led him to the laboratories of Dr. Brian Jahn in Holland where research into these problems had been carried out. Cathedral Stone has been importing John mortars since 1982 that are designed to be compatible with historic materials like those used in the construction of the Light Station. Employees of Cathedral Stone are trained in Europe and the United States and are available for consultation on a wide variety of masonry problems.

If you would like to volunteer some weekdays to our masonry restoration project, please contact Ellen Henry at 386-761-1821, extension 17, or email her at ellen@ponceinlet.org. No masonry or building experience is needed and fall training will be provided.

Our “Climb with the Keepers’ program, introduced several months ago, has provided visitors with the opportunity to experience our original 1930s 3rd order rotating Fresnel lens “up close and personal”. Participants are provided with the opportunity to climb on the inside of our glass dome (restricted to visitors). During an introduction of the 3rd order Fresnel system, the tour guides provide visitors with the unique opportunity to step back in time and learn about the past technology of our historic lighthouse. This unique experience is limited to only 8 participants in order to ensure each person has the opportunity to attain the keepers and learn how this magical beacon is possible at the 3rd order Fresnel beacon atop our tower.

New Keepers
We would like to give extra special thanks to our new keepers:

Corporate Lampists
Brown and Brown, Inc.
Daytona Beach, FL
Boondocks Restaurant
Willbar by the Sea, FL
Brochure Displays
Daytona Beach, FL
Carroll Painters
Daytona Beach, FL
Cobb & Cole
Daytona Beach, FL
Hall Construction Co. Inc.
Daytona Beach, FL
Inlet Harbor Restaurant
Daytona Beach, FL
Inlet Harbor Realty
Ponce Inlet, FL
Racing’s North Turn
Ponce Inlet, FL
Raymond James and Associates, Inc.
Daytona Beach, FL
Stewart Marchman Center
Daytona Beach, FL
Volusia Properties
Daytona Beach Shores, FL
Wickham’s & Bowers
Daytona Beach, FL

Principal Keepers
Frederick and Barbara Treadway
Ponce Inlet, FL
Offered by Visit Florida & the Ponce de Leon Light Station Preservation Association.

2nd Assistant Keepers
ReRe, Brian, Ariel & Bridget Anderson
Ponce Inlet, FL
Bruce & Janet Babbitt
Daytona Beach, FL
Command Medical Products
Ormond Beach, FL
Turgut & Martha Dervish
Ponce Inlet, FL
Michael, Lauren, & Liso Elsberry
Ponce Inlet, FL
Dennis & Zachary Engel
Ormond Beach, FL
Janice, Dana, & Alain Freedy
South Daytona, FL
Robert, Diane, Robert J., & Scott Gilpatric
South Daytona, FL
Cliff & Greene
Minneapolis, MN
Lauren Grotzinger
Kalamazoo, MI
Mark & Karen Hudson
Mims, FL
Dr. Herbert & Ruth Kerman
Daytona Beach, FL
John L. & Pat Treadway
Daytona Beach Shores, FL
Janice & John A, Alanna Ann La Belle
Ponce Inlet, FL
Lester & Tami Lewis & Family
Ponce Inlet, FL
Bobb & Brenda Lustindroom
Woodstock, GA
Donna Lough
Daytona Beach, FL
Wendy Michael
Daytona Beach, FL
Bill & Maralinn Poth
Ponce Inlet, FL
Alan & Mary Ann Redinger
Ponce Inlet, FL
Philip A. Rhodes
Ponce Inlet, FL
Robert, Margie, Robert Jr., & Tony Rigico
Ponce Inlet, FL
William & Alice RIPPEY
Port Orange, FL
Diane Schamay
Ponce Inlet, FL
Frederic Schaub
Winter Park, FL
Virginia Schow
New Smyrna Beach, FL
Karen M. Senecal
New Smyrna Beach, FL
Robert & Mary Ruth Trump
Plymouth, IN

Laundry List
The Ponce de Leon Light Station Preservation Association would like to thank the following people and organizations for their donations of time, supplies, and historical artifacts and images:

We would like to express our gratitude to Cathedral Stone Products of Hanover, Maryland, and CEO Dennis Rude, who provided us with two wonderful days of demonstrations and instruction by one of their representatives. Chuck Spitznagel of Cathedral Stone arrived at the tour in the form of John mortars. The tour guides were taught to accurately replace historical mortars with compatible, color-matched formulas. Lighthouse staff members had the opportunity to work with a real expert, trained in both the United States and France to sharpen their masonry skills and learn the proper techniques for preserving the brick and stonework of the lighthouse station. We are deeply grateful for the company’s generosity.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Ocean Design, Inc., corporator of Edison Beach, whose donation of office furniture has enabled us to considerably upgrade our work spaces. We would also like to thank Meredith Beck for donations of much needed medical supplies.

Janice Peppler Cliffs of Melbourne has donated a copy of a wonderful historic photograph taken of the lighthouse during construction and has promised the eventual donation of an original. The photograph was donated by E.G. Harron, one of Daytona’s most famous early photographers.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Rick Tarrant of Port Orange who donated a lighthouse inspector’s pennant. Thanks to Rick’s sharp eye the pennant was saved and is destined to become a real museum treasure.

Jim Bruns, San Antonio, Texas, contributed to our oral history project by sharing his memories of life in Daytona Beach and Ponce Inlet from 1942-1946.

Our “Climb with the Keepers” program, introduced several months ago, has provided visitors with the opportunity to experience our original 1930s 3rd order rotating Fresnel lens “up close and personal”. Participants are provided with the opportunity to climb on the inside of our glass dome (restricted to visitors). During an introduction of the 3rd order Fresnel system, the tour guides provide visitors with the unique opportunity to step back in time and learn about the past technology of our historic lighthouse. This unique experience is limited to only 8 participants in order to ensure each person has the opportunity to attain the keepers and learn how this magical beacon is possible at the 3rd order Fresnel beacon atop our tower.

As a result of several requests, we have restructured this special tour to accommodate the seasonal visitors to the area. We are now able to offer the tour at the visitor’s convenience. Reservations to “Climb with the Keepers” are accepted for appropriate scheduling. “Climb with the Keepers” tour costs are $10 per person ($5 for children and $3 for group rates because of a fundraising activity). Payments are due at the time reservations are made and are refundable up to 2 days prior to the day of the tour. Additional information regarding this and other events/programs are available on our website at www.ponceinlet.org.

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who contributed so much of themselves to the light station program. We look forward to seeing you fly back north for the summer (as all snow-birds must do) and look forward to your swift return in the fall.

EVENTS CALENDAR
Before you go off to see the July 4th fireworks, come over to the lighthouse for tours, entertainment, activities, and a historic character or two. Included in cost of regular admission, no advance reservations required.

Tuesday, July 4
Independence Day Celebration
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 8
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Canaveral Lens Demonstration
Meet the old-time lighthouse keepers, in the Lens Exhibit Building. Learn about the Cape Canaveral 1st Order Fresnel Lens, and the maintenance that had to be done every week. Included with regular admission, no advance registration required.

Saturday, Sept. 16
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Florida Lighthouse Day
Celebrate Florida’s lighthouses on this special day. There will be tours, demonstrations, entertainment, and activities for the whole family to enjoy. Come and join in the fun! Included in cost of regular admission, no advance reservations required.
into general use in the 1880s, this earliest form of standardized wiring consisted of single insulated copper wiring and ceramic conductors running across interior walls and ceilings. Wires were passed through porcelain insulating tubes whenever necessary and were supported along their length by porcelain knob-and-tube insulators. Conductors entering a lamp or a switch were protected by insulating sleeves. Wire connections and splices were either soldered and wrapped with cloth tape or made inside metal junction boxes. These early electrical systems were not very reliable, however.

Another form of wiring, developed in 1922, was also used at the Station. Two (or more) copper wires separated by bar and wrapped in paper and woven cloth formed an electrical cable. These insulated cables could be passed through walls and floors without having to make room for the ceramic insulating knobs and tubes. There is evidence of the use of these cables in the keeper dwellings, as well as the knob and tube style wiring. Wires for both these types of off-the-shelf systems were heavy because they were usually direct current and ran at a lower voltage than the alternating current provided by electrical utility companies. These early wires are on view in the Principal Keeper's Dwelling in a room devoted to the original construction of the Light Station. The Fairbanks Morse light plant may have finally given out in the early 1940s, or perhaps was joined by another system. Oral history reports indicate that the Station also possessed a Delco glass battery system, a popular light plant for rural home and farm use during the 1930s. There is, however, no written evidence that a Delco system was purchased for Ponce Inlet although it is possible that some of the glass batteries used at the lighthouse were Delco brand. An original Fairbanks Morse electric light plant was located off the Lighthouse Service stock at a cost of $841 plus labor and shipping. Previously installed at the St. John's River Light, these generators never worked very well at Ponce Inlet.

In advance of this change, the Lighthouse Service determined that substantial savings could be made by electrifying the beacon and eliminating the need for three keepers to maintain the lighthouse. An electric beacon would result in a reduced need for labor and the subsequent elimination of the need for a Keeper's Assistant's position. A Principal Keeper and Relief Keeper would maintain the Station. Additional funds could be garnered by leasing one of the keeper's dwellings, or by selling the old electric beacon. By the early 1960s, most light stations, including Ponce Inlet, were fully electrified and automated and the need to generate their own electricity had disappeared. Today, one of the World War II era Kohler generators, a 1935 model, still remains in the Generator Room and is connected to some of the Station's historic buildings. Power and Light Company was given a permit to power lines across the Light Station. The old generators were probably still in use for quite some time, but the need for such systems was diminishing. By the early 1960s, most light stations, including Ponce Inlet, were fully electrified and automated and the need to generate their own electricity had disappeared. Today, one of the World War II era Kohler generators, a 1935 model, still remains in the Generator Room and is connected to some of the Station's historic buildings.