The Association would like to express its sincere appreciation to all those who answered the call by generously contributing to our summer fundraiser. We would also like to welcome our newest member to the Association. Our ability to continue the important mission of preserving and disseminating the maritime and social history of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station is dependent upon the continued support of individuals like you.

In July, a discussion was held during the Ponce Inlet Council meeting, at the request of a resident, regarding the establishment of an outside committee to oversee the Association’s continued operation of the Light Station. Thanks to the impressive turnout of Association advocates and the continued support of a majority of the Town Council, a motion to not form such a committee was approved by a vote of 4 to 1. The Preservation Association would like to express its sincere gratitude to its members and the Town Council for their ongoing support.

Summer conservation projects completed these past few months included the painting of all interior and exterior tower iron work, repairs to the historic pump house and laundry shed, and much needed work to the education building. Work on the Chance Brothers Third Order Middle Fresnel lens continued through the summer in the kitchen of the Principal Keeper’s dwelling which has been temporarily converted into a conservation lab. Visitors can still interact with the restoration team as they work on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. until the project is completed. Please call ahead to confirm dates and times.

As we welcome the fall season and the return of cooler temperatures, exterior mortar re-pointing and brick repair will resume on the keepers’ dwellings. Interior work to the First Assistant Keeper’s Dwelling will also begin with the restoration of the building’s deteriorating plaster walls and brick fireplaces as carried out in the Second Assistant Keepers Dwelling earlier this year. Previous experience has taught us that cooler temperatures slow the evaporation process resulting in a more stable, higher quality repair.

The Preservation Association will roll out several new educational programs this upcoming year in its recently acquired outreach trailer. Attractively wrapped in colorful vinyl featuring a full color image of the Ponce Inlet Light Station and the phrase “History on the Move”, the trailer will proudly advertise the Lighthouse’s growing selection of educational and community outreach programs. This exciting addition will allow for easier delivery, storage, and display of our growing list of educational offerings. Be sure to look for us at community events and local schools near you. Additional information regarding current and future educational programming can be found in the Education Article in this issue.

The Association is pleased to announce that its first quarterly installment of the Cycle 20 General Program Support Grant in the amount of $630 was received in September of this year. The Association was awarded a total grant of $2737 in July 2008. Due to ongoing state fiscal and budgetary restraints the grant amount received this year has been significantly reduced from the levels awarded in previous years. The Association understands that grant reductions are an unfortunate consequence of the current economic downturn but is confident in the state’s continued support of historic and cultural preservation in the years to come.

This issue of the Light Station contains a special four-page holiday catalog featuring many of our gift shop’s most popular items including memorial bricks and lighthouse memberships. Please keep us in mind for all your holiday shopping needs. Additional products may also be found on our recently expanded online store at www.poncelighthousestore.org.

Happy holidays!

Respectfully,

Ed Gunnlaugsson
Executive Director
**Corporate Lampists**
Battelle Institute  
Columbus, OH

Bennett Brothers Construction  
Daytona Beach, FL

Berlin and Denys, Inc.  
New Smyrna Beach, FL

Boondocks Restaurant  
Wilmington, DE

Bright House Networks  
Orlando, FL

Brochure Displays, Inc.  
Daytona Beach, FL

Brown & Brown, Inc.  
Daytona Beach, FL

Caring Cleaners  
Daytona Beach, FL

Darkhorse Design, Inc.  
Daytona Beach, FL

Daytona Beach News Journal  
Daytona Beach, FL

Down the Hatch, Inc.  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Florida Power and Light  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Giles Electric, Inc.  
South Daytona, FL

IBM Corporation  
Orlando, FL

Inlet Harbor, Inc.  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Inlet Harbor Realty  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Racing’s North Turn  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Raymond James & Associates Inc.  
Ponce Inlet, FL

State Farm Insurance  
Daytona Beach, FL

Bill McCabe  
Port Orange, FL

Sunset Quay Outfitters  
Port Orange, FL

**Principal Keepers**
Casa Grande – L. Keith  
Daytona Beach Shores, FL

Toni Girolami  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Louise Nippert  
Cincinnati, OH

**1st Asst. Keepers**
Bill & Virginia Bayer  
Ponce Inlet, FL

George & Misao Beckert  
New Smyrna Beach, FL

Charles, Michelle, Joey, Austin, & John Cameron  
Daytona Beach, FL

Joe & Judy DiCarlo  
Port Orange, FL

Michael, Lauren, & Lisa Elsberry  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Janice, Dana, & Alain Fredey  
Oviedo, FL

Patrick & Debbie Pawling  
Hampton, OH

Ernest C. & Margaret Rieth  
Ponce Inlet, FL

**2nd Asst. Keepers**
Harvey & Connie Bach  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Kristine & John Bradley  
South Orange, NJ

Andrew, Heide, Celia, & Andy Carbone  
Lynnfield, MA

Warran & Rose Mary Cole  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Carolyn Day  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Dr. G. Scott & Kristi Drumheller  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Frederick & Shirley Eckerson  
Alexandria, VA

Dennis & Zackary Engel  
Owatonna, MN

Dr. C.W. & Gail C. Fain  
Holby Hill, FL

Art & Barbara Giles  
Ponce Inlet, FL

James & Martha Goodlet  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Cliff & Kim Greene  
Minnetonka, MN

Al, Paula, Michael, & Emily Jenkins  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Dr. Herbert & Ruth Kerman  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Steven Kover  
Sixter Spring, MD

John L. & Patricia Ann La Belle  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Bob & Diane Lamontagne  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Jacquelyn Law  
Oak Lawn, IL

Lester & Tami Lewis  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Lauren & Paula Liebrecht  
Laurel, MD

Donna Lough  
DePew, NY

Ponce Inlet LH Volunteers  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Kenneth & Sue Marshall  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Raymond & Stacey Mayernik  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Peggie & Victor E. McClellan  
Ponce Inlet, FL

John McGowan  
Rockrose Park, NY

Ward & Terry Mead  
Ormond Beach, FL

Susan Pesce  
Port Orange, FL

Riverside Bank  
Port Orange, FL

Alan & Mary Ann Redinger  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Philip A. Rhodes  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Robert, Margie, Robert, & Tony Riggio  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Diane Schamay  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Frederic Schaub  
Winter Park, FL

Bob & Jan Shaw  
Ponce Inlet, FL

Robert, Mary Ann, & Katie Shrum  
Gahanna, OH

Robert & Mary Ruth Trump  
Plymouth, IN

L. Col. William & Sandra Wester  
Ponce Inlet, FL

**Lighthouse Events October–December 2008**

**Oct 11 (Sat)**
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Oct 16–19 (Thu–Sun)**
12:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Nov 6 (Thu)**
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Nov 28 (Fri)**
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Dec 20 (Sat)**
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Canaveral Lens Demonstration**
Meet the old-time lighthouse keepers in the Lens Exhibit Building. Learn about the Cape Canaveral 1st Order Fresnel Lens from knowledgeable volunteers as they conduct weekly maintenance on the historic lens. All activities are included with the price of regular admission. No advance reservations are required.

**Biketoberfest 2008**
Participate in family-oriented activities and examine turn of the century artifacts. See new museum exhibits and climb the tallest lighthouse in Florida. All activities are included with the price of regular admission. No advance reservations are required.

**Homeschool Day**
Enjoy a fun-filled day of all new educational activities and workshops designed especially for home-schooled students. Special admission rate and reservations required. Reserve a space for your student(s) online at www.poncehouseday.com.

**Thanksgiving Gifts at the Lighthouse**
Participate in family-oriented activities, enjoy holiday music, and interact with volunteers dressed as 1930s-era lighthouse keepers as they work on the historic 1st Order Canaveral Lens. Children can make turn of the century Christmas ornaments that are theirs to keep. All activities are included with the price of regular admission. No advance reservations are required.

**Early New Years**
Enjoy family-oriented activities including our ever popular Kid’s Crafts workshop. Talk with volunteers dressed as 1930s-era lighthouse keepers as they perform routine maintenance on the magnificent Cape Canaveral 1st Order Fresnel Lens. All activities are included with the price of regular admission. No advance reservations are required.

**Normal Hours of Operation**
September 2, 2008 – May 24, 2009
Open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. (last admission at 5:00 p.m.)

**Special Hours of Operation**

**November 27th:**
Thanksgiving Day
Closed for Holiday

**November 28th—29th:**
Thanksgiving Holiday Extended Hours
Open 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (last adm. 6:00 p.m.)

**December 24th:**
Early Close for Holiday
Open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (last adm. 3:00 p.m.)

**December 25th:**
Christmas Day
Closed for Holiday

**December 26th—28th:**
Christmas Holiday Extended Hours
Open 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (last adm. 6:00 p.m.)

**December 29th:**
Normal Hours of Operation
The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association

As the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station’s 120th year draws to a close, it seems an appropriate time to look back at the group of individuals who came together to save this historic place and who worked so tirelessly to make it into one of the finest lighthouse museums in the nation.

After 1952, the Coast Guard families left the lighthouse compound. The beacon was fully automated, and resident keepers were no longer needed. Gradually, Coast Guardsmen visited the station less and less, and vandalism became a continuing problem. Residents of the Town began to make use of, and take care of, the Light Station property, at first informally.

The Town of Ponce Inlet, formed in 1963, with only 150 residents and very little income, were therefore unable to financially support the Light Station. However, the Town’s first mayor, Ayres Davies, and many of the Town’s residents, were supporters of efforts to preserve the Lighthouse and took an active role in volunteering to help save the historic site.

In 1966, the Women’s Club, referred to in correspondence as the Ladies’ Auxiliary, was formed and its members began to take an interest in cleaning up the abandoned Light Station. The Women’s Club wrote to the Coast Guard in Washington, DC to explore the possibility of getting funding to help with ongoing restoration work. Mrs. Earl K. Brown explained that the Town had so few residents that its income was barely enough to support its basic functions and services. Her letter pointed out that the Lighthouse reservation would make a wonderful museum, a museum capable of generating an income.

The Coast Guard responded in the spring of 1967 registering some alarm at the Women’s Club’s extensive plans, which included petunias and white curtains. The Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District wrote, “The enclosed copy of reference (a) describes the efforts of the Ponce Inlet Ladies Auxiliary to refurbish the buildings on the Ponce de Leon Light property. The ladies plan further efforts which could prove embarrassing to the Coast Guard if we should later desire to dispose of or utilize the buildings.” He goes on to ask that recommendations be made as to whether the Coast Guard should dispose of some of the Light Station reservation or the entire Station itself.

By 1968, the Coast Guard gave notice that the beacon would be discontinued and replaced by a light on a 50 foot lookout tower at the Coast Guard Station on the south side of the Inlet. The Lighthouse would be renamed Ponce de Leon Inlet North Side Daybeacon. This left the already disintegrating Light Station abandoned except for the care given by Ponce Inlet residents, and inquiries about obtaining the property from the Coast Guard were made by Volusia County and by assorted individuals. The County plan was to turn the Light Station reservation into a park. The keepers’ dwellings and outbuildings would be torn down, and the brick used as jetty or seawall material. The tower would be bricked up and left standing as the park’s centerpiece. Documents do not record the plans of other potential buyers such as the Florida Fruit Company. Even the Department of the Army and the Ponce Inlet Port Authority expressed interest in Lighthouse land. Several letters were sent by B.G. Timmons, Mayor of Ponce Inlet, to Coast Guard headquarters asking about the future of the Light Station. In one letter he wrote, “I would like to have it put on record that the Town of Ponce Inlet will consider buying the property if possible…”

The Government was impressed with the plans of Ponce Inlet’s citizens to turn the Light Station into a museum and historic monument. After much debate between the Federal Government and the Coast Guard, the decision was made to declare the Light Station and some of its surrounding acreage as surplus. On June 2, 1972, Senator Edward J. Gurney
presented the Town with the title for the property. As of June 20, 1972, these citizens were now organized as the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association, with Ann Caneer as their president. A Board of Trustees and an Advisory Board, drawn from the residents of the Town of Ponce Inlet would oversee the site’s operations. Supporting memberships would be sought for the growing museum. Finances would be overseen by independent audits.

One of the first acts of the new Preservation Association was to seek permission from the Coast Guard to place a light in the tower. This would not, of course, be a navigational beacon, since the Coast Guard was maintaining one at their station across the Inlet. Instead, it would simply be a low-power fixed and steady light, and a streetlight filled the bill perfectly.

The grounds underwent a speedy clean-up, and the work of creating a museum was begun by a dedicated and all-volunteer workforce. By September, the site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and Ann Caneer had learned that the Third Order Rotating Fresnel lens that illuminated the tower from 1933 until 1970 was in the Coast Guard Museum in New London, Connecticut. With the aid of Senator Gurney, she was able to obtain the lens for the new museum. The Preservation Association cleaned up and repaired the buildings, constructed a security fence around the property, and within a year the grounds were open to the public on weekends. Admission was 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

For the next several years, local citizens continued the efforts to raise funds and create a public museum. Volunteers such as Ayres Davies and Gordis Preston were also closely involved with the development of the Town of Ponce Inlet. Since no financial support was available from the Town, the state, or the Federal Government, efforts were directed at creating a self-sustaining institution.

During 1975, volunteers worked at restoring the keepers’ dwellings. Many materials were donated, and there was a small source of income from gate receipts. Windows were restored, exteriors were repaired, window screens were replaced, the pump house received a new roof, and the original picket fence was repaired and painted. The Principal Keeper’s dwelling underwent interior restoration, as did the Second Assistant Keeper’s dwelling.

Actual museum work began in that year with displays of historic photographs and copies of historic documents related to the Lighthouse and its construction. The Third Order lens was reassembled and put on display, and the quarterly newsletter was begun. Restoration of the First Assistant Keeper’s dwelling was undertaken, and plans were made to furnish it as it would have been during the Station’s early years. Six large floodlights were donated and used to illuminate the tower’s exterior, making it a spectacular sight after dark.

The improvements continued. By 1977, the First Assistant Keeper’s house had been furnished and named after life-long Ponce Inlet resident Gladys Meyer Davis who was actually born at the Station while her father was a keeper there. A wooden entrance building was constructed in the style of the Station’s brick outbuildings. The property was then opened daily, and for longer and longer hours. The Lighthouse started to become a popular destination, and it became evident that the museum could no longer operate with an all-volunteer staff. During the summer, two students were hired to help with admissions and maintenance. Ann Caneer turned the Generator Building into a gift shop which quickly began to provide needed revenue for the museum. In October 1978, a major restoration of the metalwork at the top of the tower was begun. This restoration continued until 1980.

Visitation to the museum continued to increase, placing greater and greater demands on the tiny staff. In 1977, 19,868 visitors enjoyed the museum. In 1978, the annual visitation was 48,741!

The year 1982 began a new relationship with the Coast Guard. When condominium construction blocked the beacon on the Coast Guard Station, it was decided to reactivate the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station as a navigational beacon. More tower restoration work was completed and the new light, a modern marine aero beacon, was installed. New exhibits in the keepers’ dwellings had been created, and more artifacts relating to maritime history had been collected.
By the mid-1980s, money was being saved for new construction and restoration projects. A gift shop manager had been hired, as well as full time maintenance help. Track lighting was installed in some of the galleries, the laundry shed behind the First Assistant Keeper's dwelling was re-created, and new display cases were added to several buildings. In 1985, after nearly 15 years of dedicated and daily volunteer work, Ann Caneer was hired as the museum's Operational Manager. The educational value of the site was recognized and volunteers began giving more and more tours to school children. It was decided that all accredited schools in Volusia County would be given free admission for tours.

In 1987, the historic boat yard display was begun with the acquisition of the river tug F.D. Russell. (In 2000, the charter fishing boat Gay Wind would be added to the collection.) Work at the top of the tower was also finished, including the installation of a metal cage to protect visitors who wanted to step out onto the main balcony. The Association undertook the restoration of the historic Oil House in 1989. This building had been severely vandalized, and the upper portion of the structure plus its roof and door needed to be replaced.

With the growth of visitation came the need for more space, more staff to maintain the successful operation, and a more professional way of handling the growing collection. The museum had joined the American Association of Museums and was beginning to follow its guidelines for education, exhibitions, and handling of the collection. In 1987, a consultant from the American Association of Museums visited the Light Station and made suggestions for meeting its high standards. Museum staff conducted a self-study and implemented the AAM suggestions.

In 1992, the Preservation Association had saved enough money to construct a new entrance building that would house the gift shop, offices, and a conference room. Another new building was also needed to house the growing collection of Fresnel lenses. Museum staff had begun to acquire expertise in the restoration of these lighthouse lenses, and the Coast Guard responded by sending the Cape Canaveral rotating First Order Fresnel lens to the Light Station for restoration and display. In 1995, the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit Building opened. It was named for the Town's first mayor who had also worked tirelessly in support of the Lighthouse museum and its educational programs. The Light Station was granted National Historic Landmark status in 1998 and is currently one of only 10 lighthouses in the country to be so designated.

By the year 2000, the Light Station was hosting well over 100,000 visitors per year. Its maintenance and gift shop staff had increased to keep up with this demand, and in 2001 the Association proudly completed an Administration Building. This provided space for the maintenance department, a workshop for exhibit construction, a Fresnel lens restoration and artifact conservation lab, an archive and library room, artifact storage, and offices for the professional staff. That same year, a complete restoration of the tower, inside and out, was begun. This project was completed in 2001.

Museum staff members began to expand their restoration skills by becoming certified in historic mortar and plaster repair. An extensive program of building restoration was begun in 2006. Exterior brickwork and interior plaster repairs are ongoing.

The museum's commitment to educational programs was formalized with the hiring of a full-
time educator and a full-time curator. In order to help manage the artifact and document collections, a part-time registrar was also added to the staff. To facilitate the growing number of visitors and educational tours, the Association added a modern tour entrance and restroom building to the museum complex in 2005. The 1977 wooden entrance building was converted to classroom space. New educational programs have been embraced by schools and home school associations from around the state, and new outreach offerings include in-school workshops with Lighthouse docents, U.S.L.H.E. Library Brax, online educational resources, and traveling exhibits.

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association has evolved over the years into one of the most respected lighthouse museums in the country. The site is known for its authenticity, completeness, and for the restoration abilities of its employees. In 2004, the museum’s staff completed the full restoration of the Third Order rotating Fresnel lens that had been used at the top of the tower from 1933-1970. With permission of the Coast Guard, this lens was returned to service in the tower and the Lighthouse became a private aid to navigation, completely maintained by the museum.

In 2007, the museum’s Fresnel lens collection was expanded by the acquisition of a Fourth Order rotating ‘clamshell’ style Fresnel lens and an 1850s era Chance Brothers Third Order Middle lens. This rare lens is one of only two complete Third Order Middle Fresnel lenses in the United States. The restoration of the lens is nearly finished, and it will soon go on display in the Lens Exhibit Building.

During the next five years, the Association’s plans include the continued interior and exterior restoration of the keepers’ dwellings, several new exhibitions, and the development of a special hands-on Science of Light outreach program for schools.

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Preservation Association’s accomplishments continue to be carried out without direct financial support from either the Town of Ponce Inlet or the Federal Government. Over the years, some grant monies have been used on projects such as the 2000-2001 restoration of the tower, and a small amount of general operating support comes from the State each year, but the great majority of the work has been funded by gate receipts, Preservation Association memberships, donations, gift shop sales, and the generosity and dedication of our volunteers. We invite all of you to join with us in our continuing efforts to preserve this wonderful historic site and to provide the finest possible exhibits and educational programs.
Ann Caneer, Lighthouse Pioneer

Ann Caneer was born in Hollytree, Alabama, on February 14, 1942. Hollytree had a population of about 40 people, and Ann spent her earliest years on her grandfather’s farm, a farm that had been in the family since the early 1800s! Playing with her two older brothers and her cousins on this venerable homestead encouraged her love of history. The children found arrowheads, old bottles (often used for target practice) and many other treasures.

When Ann was of school age, the family moved to Huntsville, Alabama. Ann attended Huntsville High School, and eventually met and married Billy Joe Potts, a GI stationed nearby. Billy Joe was from Daytona Beach, and after the young couple spent time in Germany, they returned to Daytona. Ann worked at General Electric as a secretary and computer programmer. They had a boat and visited the Ponce Inlet area often for camping, fishing, and fun.

Billy Joe’s grandfather Jesse Sutton had worked for 20 years as a caretaker at Gamble Place, living with his wife in the main house. The job was then taken over by Billy Joe’s uncle, Allen Sutton. This family connection introduced Ann and her husband to the Gamble descendants, who owned, among other area properties, the old Pacetti Hotel in Ponce Inlet. The hotel had been constructed by the Pacetti family with proceeds from the sale of land to the Government for a lighthouse reservation at what was then known as Mosquito Inlet. When the Pacetti Hotel’s caretaker died, Ann and Billy Joe were invited to move into the historic building. Shortly after this move, Ann and Billy Joe were divorced and Ann Caneer became the permanent caretaker of the Pacetti Hotel. She found herself immersed in the history of the hotel and the nearby Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station.

Ann recalls that in 1970 vandals were very active at the old Light Station and had even set a fire inside the base of the tower. The historic Third Order rotating Fresnel lens at the top of the tower was removed by the Coast Guard for protection, and concerned town residents blocked up the tower’s entrance. Ann decided to help preserve the Light Station by organizing Saturday work parties for her friends and neighbors. They cleaned the grounds and buildings, scraped old paint, and repainted. Their activities considerably slowed the assaults on the Lighthouse. She even convinced the police to drive past the Lighthouse every night. When asked what prompted her efforts she said, “I think it was the beauty of the architecture and the romance of lighthouses.” She never questioned that they would be able to save the place, but she also said that in the evenings she would sit on the steps of the tower wondering, “What have I gotten myself into?”

Financing the rehabilitation of the Light Station was her most immediate concern. Ann and some of the Town’s residents formed a telephone committee to solicit memberships in the newly formed Lighthouse Preservation Association. Ann also realized that the Light Station could benefit from a gift shop, and much of her time was spent developing this important source of income. An admission charge was also important for generating enough revenue to carry out restorations. In 1974, admission cost 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

From 1970 until 1985, Ann Caneer worked as a volunteer at the Light Station. When she was hired by the Board of Trustees to become the Operational Manager, she was delighted. Her title was eventually changed to Executive Director, a position she held until her semi-retirement at the end of 2007.

Of her many fond memories about the preservation of this National Historic Landmark, Ann recalled a day when two huge white owls managed to enter the tower through a broken window. The birds made themselves at home at the top of the Lighthouse. Ann had to climb the tower and gently herd them down to the open door at the bottom.

When asked what she felt was her most important legacy, she had many to choose from. Not only was she a leader in saving the Light Station in its entirety, Ann was also responsible for tracking down and acquiring the two original lenses that illuminated the tower. She was able to save many important artifacts related to the Light Station, and she spent nearly 15 years working almost full time without pay. But for Ann, establishing the Gift Shop was most important to her, because it is an ongoing source of necessary financial support for the museum.

Today, Ann Caneer still lives in the old Pacetti Hotel as its caretaker. She continues to be active in the Ponce Inlet community and in the preservation and restoration of its historic buildings and sites.

Ms. Caneer’s dedication to the restoration and preservation of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse contributed greatly towards its designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1998. A distinction shared with only nine other lighthouses in the country.

The Preservation Association recognized Ann Caneer’s many years of service in 2001 by naming the newly constructed Gift Shop building in her honor.

Ann enjoys the holidays with friends and co-workers during one of the Lighthouse’s annual Christmas parties.
Lighthouses of the World

Cape St. George Lighthouse

Located 80 miles southwest of Tallahassee along what is commonly referred to as the “Forgotten Coast”, Apalachicola is a popular tourist destination renowned for its pristine beaches, quiet getaways, and succulent oysters (Apalachicola supplies 90% of the state’s annual harvest). Now home to fewer than 3,500 residents, Apalachicola’s relaxed coastal atmosphere conceals its bustling seaport past.

Situated at the mouth of the river for which it is named, the area known as Apalachicola was home to numerous Native American cultures including the Apalachicola, Hitchiti, and Creek prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the 1600s. A blend of two Hitchiti Indian words; apalahchi, meaning “on the other side”, and oldi, meaning “people”, Apalachicola roughly translates into the English language as “the people on the other side of the river” or “the land beyond”. The numerous Native American shell mounds located along the gulf coast attest to the fact that Apalachicola’s seafood was as popular then as it is now.

The first Caucasians to explore the Florida panhandle were Spanish conquistadors and Franciscan friars, the latter of whom succeeded in establishing approximately ten Catholic missions throughout the area by the mid-1600s. Early trade goods exchanged between the Natives and Spanish included furs, cloth, and other manufactured items. Despite the relative success of the Spanish missions, ongoing conflicts between the European powers prevented large scale settlements from ever being established along the gulf coast through most of Florida’s Spanish and English periods. The first recorded permanent white settlement in the Apalachicola region occurred in 1803 when the Creek Indians ceded a large tract of land at the mouth of the Apalachicola River to trader named John Forbes.

The acquisition of Florida by the United States in 1822 marked a turning point in the history of the Apalachicola region. Sheltered by a 28 mile long barrier island named St. George’s Island and providing plantations throughout Georgia with easy access to the Gulf of Mexico via the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint River systems, the coastal community of Apalachicola quickly grew into the region. In 1833, over 50,000 bales of cotton were being shipped annually from the bustling coastal community.

Built in response to the growing need for an aid to navigation to guide ships in and out of the harbor, the United States Light House Establishment constructed Apalachicola’s first lighthouse on the western shore of St. George’s Island. Completed in 1833, the 65 foot tower proved difficult to see by ships approaching from the east, resulting in numerous groundings on the bay’s shallow shoals. When the tower fell during a violent hurricane in 1846, the decision was made to rebuild the tower on the island’s southern tip. The second lighthouse was constructed using materials from its predecessor. Completed in 1848, the second tower stood 75 feet tall and remained in operation until it too was destroyed by a hurricane in August, 1851.

The third tower, completed in 1852, was located 500 yards inland from the site of the second ill-fated tower. The new Cape St. George Lighthouse stood 70 feet high and unlike its predecessors, was constructed atop a foundation of pilings for added stability. The third lighthouse served the community of Apalachicola until the Civil War when its light was extinguished by the Confederates to prevent Union ships from using its beacon to navigate the area’s treacherous waters.

The Cape St. George Lighthouse was relit on August 1, 1865. The tower’s beacon, which was replaced in 1888 due to damage sustained during the Civil War, continued to guide ships entering and exiting the sheltered harbor for many years. The beacon was electrified in 1933, and the United States Coast Guard, which had absorbed the duties of the United States Lighthouse Service in 1939, replaced the tower’s Fresnel lens with an automated light in 1949. Fully automated by the 1950s, the Coast Guard decided that a full time keeper was no longer required and the Cape St. George Lighthouse became an unmanned facility.

At 140 years old, the third St. George Lighthouse proved harder than its predecessors which had lasted less than twenty years combined. It was not, however, immune to the ravages of both time and Mother Nature. Decades of erosion and violent storms had taken their toll on the aged structure. In 1992, Hurricane Andrew struck the Apalachicola region with violent storm surges and high winds that washed away much of the beach surrounding the tower. Believing the third lighthouse at Cape St. George would share its predecessors’ fate and topple into the gulf, the Coast Guard deactivated the light in 1994.

Subsequent hurricanes over the following years further endangered the old tower which was pushed off its foundation by Hurricane Opal in 1995. Leaning at an angle of seven degrees and now completely surrounded by water, the fate of the lighthouse looked bleak. A group of concerned citizens formed the Cape St. George Lighthouse Society in 1995 in hopes of saving the historic structure. Raising over $200,000 in four years, the Society worked hard to save the light. The foundation was repaired and a concrete island was poured around its base. Standing vertical once again, the future of the lighthouse seemed assured.

The 2004 hurricane season brought an end to any hopes of saving the tower when violent storm surges once again undermined the lighthouse’s foundation. On October 21, 2005, the historic Cape St. George Lighthouse toppled into the Gulf of Mexico. The Cape St. George Lighthouse Association reformed in 2005, returned to the site and began to salvage the demolished tower. Within three years over 20,000 bricks were recovered in addition to the remains of the lantern room, lens pedestal, and soap stone floor.

With the aid of state, local, and donor funding, the Association began the daunting task of rebuilding the historic lighthouse. The tower’s new home would be located in the county park in the center of St. George Island. Thousands of volunteer and contractor hours were spent cleaning recovered bricks, preparing the new site, and forging the lantern room.

On September 15, 2007, the first of over 160,000 bricks that would eventually be used in rebuilding the lighthouse was set onto the tower’s newly poured foundation. Historic materials were incorporated into the construction whenever possible including 20,000 original bricks. The tower, which quickly rose to its final 65 foot height over the following months, was topped with the newly forged lantern room on April 2, 2008. Those wishing to learn more about the ongoing reconstruction of the Cape St. George Lighthouse may do so by visiting the Cape St. George Lighthouse Association website at www.stgeorglight.org.
The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is pleased to announce several recent additions to its growing list of educational outreach programs.

Association staff worked hard over the summer months to update and expand the website’s online educational resources page. These changes, implemented in response to feedback provided by local educators, include: pre- and post-visit activities, lighthouse themed lesson plans, group guidelines, and tour scheduling information. Developed in accordance with Florida’s Sunshine State Standards of Learning by State certified teachers, the Association hopes that these newly developed lighthouse themed lessons and activities will be utilized by local educators to promote a greater understanding and appreciation for the maritime and social history of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station.

The Association is also proud to announce the upcoming completion of the Open Boat Literary Unit. Written by Stephen Crane, author of The Red Badge of Courage, The Open Boat is Crane’s personal account of the sinking of the filibustering tug S.S. Commodore approximately 12 miles off the coast of Ponce Inlet in 1897. Begun in the fall of 2007, this new addition to the Association’s growing collection of educational programs includes language arts lessons related to The Open Boat in addition to social studies lessons focusing on the Cuban War of Independence, American Filibustering expeditions, the Spanish American War, and Florida’s role in the events of that time. Developed in accordance with Florida’s Sunshine State Standards of Learning, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the National Center of History, this unique literary unit is intended to be used in conjunction with the Filibustering to Cuba Traveling Exhibit.

With the 2008-2009 school-year fully underway, the number of requests to schedule educational outreach programs at local schools has risen dramatically. The Association is once again offering the Keeper in the Classroom presentation and more than 125,000 annual visitors.

Conducted by Ponce Inlet Fire Department personnel Lt. Derek George, Susanne Williams, and Albert Gregory, the July 24th training session proved an educational and entertaining experience for all. In addition to Lighthouse staff members, Ed Gunn, Mike Bennett, Joe Demilio, Ed Milano, Donna Ryan, Janet McSharry, Michael Tatum, Jecanine Tatum, Sam Hawthorne, Bob McClean, Jimmie Vanover, Jim Foley, and Steve Linkfield, the training was also attended by Ponce Inlet Police Officers, William Ryan, Gary Schleifer, and David Redman.

An A.E.D. or Automated External Defibrillator is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a patient, and is able to treat them through defibrillation. The application of electrical therapy stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, or C.P.R., is an emergency medical procedure for victims experiencing cardiac arrest, or in some cases, respiratory arrest. Performed by hospital personnel, the U.S.L.H.E. Traveling Library Box to local educators free of charge. Introduced during the 2007-2008 school year, both programs have become quite popular with local teachers who truly appreciated the opportunity to have the lighthouse come to them in a time when budgetary cutbacks make going to the Lighthouse difficult to arrange.

Look for us on the roads with our brand new educational outreach trailer in tow. Purchased this past summer to facilitate the continued growth of the Association’s outreach programming, the new trailer is adorned in a colorful vinyl wrap featuring an image of the Ponce Inlet Light Station and the phrase “History on the Move”. Capable of hauling a much larger collection of materials and equipment, the trailer will be utilized for community outreach and educational programming alike.

As educational programming offered by the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association continues to grow, so too does our need for experienced teachers to help us with this important mission. We encourage anyone interested in becoming part of the Lighthouse’s dedicated group of volunteer educators to contact Bob Callister at (386) 761-1821 or via email at bobcallister@ponceinlet.org. You may also visit our website at www.ponceinlet.org to learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities.

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As the winter season rapidly approaches, now is the perfect time to get an early start on all of your holiday shopping needs. Avoid the holiday rush and the hustle and bustle of malls by purchasing many of your gifts from the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Gift Shop specializes in unique lighthouse and nautical themed gifts for people of all ages. Our wide selection includes clothing, housewares, toys, and collectibles including a wide selection of Harbour Lights and other miniatures. Customers may also shop online at www.poncelighthousestore.org. Orders may be placed online or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 21. Please make checks payable to the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association.

Please contact the Gift Shop at (386) 761-1821 or via email at connie@ponceinlet.org for more information. Usual UPS shipping rates and a $4.00 handling fee apply to all orders.

**Surfboard Clock**

A surfboard is stuck in the sand and surrounded by sandals and sea shells. Measures 10” x 9”. Available in Red or Blue. Batteries not included. Item #: 4829 Price: $9.99

**Ships Wheel Ornament**

Beautiful 4” wooden ships wheel ornament inscribed with “Ponce Inlet, FL.” Item #: 4614 Price: $4.99

**24K Gold Lighthouse Ornament**

This beautiful 3-D cutout Ponce Inlet Lighthouse ornament is made of genuine 24K gold plated brass. Packaged in an attractive gift box. Measures 3” x 2 ½”. Item #: 0141 Price: $7.99

**Lighthouse Ornament**


**Resin Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Ornament**

This round cutout resin ornament of Ponce Inlet Lighthouse measures 3 ½” tall. Suitable for hanging from your tree or from any smooth surface using the accompanying suction cup holder. Item #: 4331 Price: $7.99

**3-D Cutout Wood Ornament**

This three dimensional cutout wood ornament features the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse guiding passing ships with its beacon of light. Measures 3 ¼”. Item #: 1228 Price: $4.99

**120th Anniversary Commemorative Ornament**

Enjoy the holidays with this beautiful 3-D ornament commemorating Ponce Inlet Lighthouse 120th Anniversary. A great keepsake ornament available this year only. Item #: 0041 Price: $5.99

**Stock Cars of the 50s & 60s DVD Set**

Daytona Before NASCAR
This soft cover book by Dick Punnett explores the history of the “Birthplace of Speed” and beach racing before the days of NASCAR and is the perfect addition to any racing enthusiast’s library collection.
Item #: 1077
Price: $25.00

Tales of Ponce Inlet
Discover the unique and interesting history of Ponce Inlet from the days of the Spanish explorers through the Roaring Twenties, and beyond. Written by long time resident Ayres Davies, founding member of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association and Ponce Inlet’s first mayor. One of the most complete histories of the Ponce Inlet area available.
Item #: 2801
Price: $12.00

Lighthouse Families
Discover what daily life was like for keepers and their families living at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Station and other locations in this hardcover edition of “Lighthouse Families” by Cheryl Shelton-Roberts and Bruce Roberts. A great addition to any maritime history and lighthouse lover’s library.
Item #: 0852
Price: $19.99

Southern Lighthouses
This acclaimed soft cover coffee table book features breathtaking images of the South’s most popular lighthouses including the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station. Autographed by author and photographer Bruce Roberts.
Item #: 3167
Price: $19.95

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Yard Flag
Proclaim you love for the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse with this custom-made mini yard flag depicting the Lighthouse on a blue background. Measures 18” x 12”.
Item #: 0668
Price: $11.99

Tapestry Handbag
Tapestry Handbag with Lighthouses. Zipper and Velcro top with change purse inside. Available in two colors.
Item #: 3328 (Beige)
Item #: 3329 (Blue)
Price: $40.99

Large Denim Tote
This custom made denim tote features the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Logo embossed on the front. Measures 18” x 11”.
Item #: 0282
Price: $19.99

Replica Fresnel Lens
This limited edition 3rd Order Bi-Valve Fresnel Lens by Harbour Lights is modeled after the magnificent lens from California’s Point Vicente Lighthouse. The soft glow of this beautiful lamp will warm the hearts of lighthouse lovers everywhere. Battery and electrical powered. Limited to only 3,000 pieces.
Item #: 1893
Price: $99.00
**Gift Shop**

**Salt and Pepper Shaker Set**

This custom designed three piece salt and pepper shaker set depicts the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, Keeper’s Dwelling, and Lighthouse grounds. A great addition to your salt and pepper shaker or lighthouse collection.

Item #: 0168
Price: $12.99

**Lighthouse Globe**

This brand new custom designed 4’ snow globe features the magnificent Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Shake the globe and watch the glittering snow twinkle around Florida’s tallest lighthouse. Available only through the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Gift Shop.

Item #: 409
Price: $20.99

**Ponce Inlet Light Station Model**

This beautifully detailed statue of Ponce Inlet Light Station features the tower surrounded by all of the Light Station’s dwellings and outbuildings. Measures 5 ½” tall.

Item #: 0112
Price: $21.99

**Brass Telescope**

This beautiful 6 ½” collapsible telescope is wrapped in leather and attractively packaged in a 4 ½” wood box with inlaid brass anchor. The perfect gift for those who love the sea and all things nautical.

Item #: 1354
Price: $6.99

**Captain’s Decanter**

Store your favorite spirits in this beautiful brass plated Captain’s Decanter with stopper. The brass plated sleeve features nautical themed cutouts through which the glass liner can be seen. Decanter measures 1 ½” tall.

Item #: 0678
Price: $27.99

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Item #: 1354
Price: $6.99

**Ponce Inlet Light Station Denim Jacket**

This custom made denim jacket by Lee features a beautifully embroidered 10” x 7” image of the Ponce Inlet Light Station on the back. Available in sizes Medium and Large. (Modeled by Gift Shop Manager Connie B.)

Item #: 3166 (Medium), 3167 (Large)
Price: $69.99

**Denim Shirt**

Proclaim your support of the Ponce Inlet Light Station and your love for lighthouses everywhere with this long sleeve denim shirt embroidered with the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and “Florida’s Tallest” on the left chest. Available in sizes Medium through XX-Large. Please indicate size when ordering. (Modeled by Gift Shop Sales Associate Eileen G.)

Item #: 3156 (Medium), 3157 (Large), 3158 (XX-Large)
Price: $22.99 (M-XL), $23.99 (XXL)

**Salt and Pepper Shaker Set**

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Gift Shop

Sea Turtle Statue
This beautiful copper plated resin sea turtle statue resting on a wood base is the perfect gift for lovers of aquatic life. Measures 6" x 13".
Item #: 0902
Price: $65.99

Cast Iron Compass Rose
This cast iron compass rose with artificial rust finish will keep you pointed in the right direction. Measures 19 ½" tall.
Item #: 4317
Price: $14.99

Ship’s Wheel Clock
Steer a straight course and stay on time with this magnificent wooden ship’s wheel clock. Solid brass clock housing with nautical face is inset into the center of the large solid wood wheel. Over 26" in diameter.
Item #: 1289
Price: $165.99

Brass Bell
Ring in the New Year with beautiful brass captain’s bell with wooden handle. Aged with a wonderful Verde finish. Measures 11 ½” tall. (Captain’s bell shown by lighthouse visitor L. Chapman of Waite Hill, OH)
Item #: 1881
Price: $72.99

Brass Tidal Clock
Keep track of the time and tides with this wonderful solid brass clock. Clock face includes hour, minutes, and tidal hands. Solid wood base sold separately.
Clock Item #: 1169
Wood Base Item #: 1170
Clock Price: $155.00
Wood Base Price: $25.99

Seahorse Statue
This beautiful copper plated resin seahorse statue resting on a wood base is the perfect gift for lovers of aquatic life. Measures 6" x 13".
Item #: 0902
Price: $65.99

Lighthouse Votive
Celebrate your love for lighthouses with this unique brass lighthouse votive. Lighthouse stands 11 ½” tall and sits on a resin base modeled after a light station. A must have for lighthouse enthusiasts everywhere.
Item #: 4340
Price: $59.99

Wooden Ship Model
Imagine the days of sail and celebrate our maritime heritage with this beautiful wooden model of the windjammer “Prusens”, the only fully rigged ship with five masts to ever sail the world’s oceans. Model stands over 31” tall.
Item #: 1366
Price: $105.99

Stained Glass Lighthouse Panel
Celebrate our rich lighthouse heritage with this colorful stained glass panel featuring 7 of Florida’s most beautiful lighthouses including the Ponce Inlet Light Station. Bevel cut compass rose adorns the center of this magnificent stained glass panel measuring 9” wide x 40” tall.
Item #: 0481
Price: $137.99

Illuminated Blown Glass Lighthouse
Decorate your favorite table, bookcase, or curio cabinet with this beautiful blown glass lighthouse featuring a sailboat, dolphin, and seagull. Optional rotating base illuminates the lighthouse with multi-colored lights that highlight the finely crafted details of this wonderful piece.
Lighthouse Item #: 1498
Illuminated Rotating Base Item #: 0468
Price: $34.99

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Lighthouse Item #: 1498
Illuminated Rotating Base Item #: 0468
Price: $34.99

Sea Turtle Statue
Bring a little of the tropics inside with this lovely statue of a Sea Turtle exploring a reef with his fishy friends. Heavy duty resin plated in copper. Statue stands 12” tall and 9” wide.
Item #: 4317
Price: $14.99

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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

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 during normal hours of operation. This meeting will include a personal guided tour of the Light Station.
• Recognition of your companies support in the newsletters’ New Corporate Lampist List
• Exhibit sponsorship recognition

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

Select type of membership:

☐ General .......................... $20
☐ Senior .......................... $10
☐ Student (submit copy of ID) .......................... $10
☐ Family .......................... $40

☐ Gift Membership  From: ________________________
☐ Renewal

☐ 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
Begins___________________  Ends____________________

Limit one coupon per member. Coupon may not be used in conjunction with any other discount. Proof of membership must be shown at time of purchase. Not valid for purchase of Memorial Bricks.
Good from October 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008.

Thank You for Your Generous Support!
Despite the heat and humidity, 11 volunteers greeted more than 500 Lighthouse visitors during National Lighthouse Day on August 7, 2008.

Working under the cheerful tutelage of Joanne Roberson, Jackie Mann, and Mariann Elkowitz, over 150 kids made lighthouse pennants and yarn dolls during this important day. Volunteers JoAnn Hamilton and Tana White helped visitors learn about turn-of-the-century artifacts and John Mann talked about lighthouse history. Art Hahn explained the delicate process of restoring the historic Chance Brothers Fresnel lens in the Principal Keeper’s Dwelling, while Paul Milward and George Silver taught visitors about Radio Beacon Navigation. Meanwhile, Tommy Campbell and Tony Girolami scurried around filling in for various volunteers throughout the very busy day.

We held two Girl Scout Days this summer, one on June 7th and one on September 6th. We hosted over 100 scouts each day as they worked toward fulfilling the requirements for their Brownie Try-It Badge, Junior Lighthouse Badge, and Cadette Lighthouse Interest Project Badge. Our thanks go out to volunteers Tommy Campbell, Rebecca Callister, Art Hahn, John & Jackie Mann, Elizabeth Peitz, Joanne Roberson, Al Sepa, Art & Tana White, and Annette & John Yatko for spending their time helping the Girl Scouts have a fun-filled learning experience at the Lighthouse.

The Lighthouse demonstrated the Cape Canaveral Lens Maintenance on seven different occasions, from April through September. This complex demonstration was primarily done by the “old-time Lighthouse Keepers” Art Hahn and John Mann who never fail to draw a crowd.

As always, the educational programs held at the Lighthouse could not happen without the generous support of all our dedicated volunteers. Our sincere thanks go out to each one of them. If you love lighthouses and history, and would like to become a part of this growing

CPR & AED Training, cont’d.

emergency response professionals, or laypersons with proper training, C.P.R. can, and has, saved millions of lives. Consisting of a combination of artificial blood circulation and artificial respiration via chest compressions and lung ventilation since its inception over fifty years ago, the American Heart Association and European Resuscitation Council, in a historic reversal, endorsed the effectiveness of chest compressions alone, without artificial respiration, for adult victims of cardiac arrest.

These changes to the prescribed method of administering C.P.R. are not the first to occur in its long history. New C.P.R. techniques including breath to compression ratios, and victim manipulation methods have occurred on several occasions through the years. Routine recertification training is the best way to ensure that you are fully prepared to properly administer C.P.R. to a person in need.

Individuals wishing to learn more about Automated External Defibrillation or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation should contact their local fire department, the American Heart Association at www.americanheart.org, or their local hospital or medical care facility. Ponce Inlet residents are encouraged to contact Jeni Trepasso of the Ponce Inlet Fire Department at (386) 322-6720.