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The Quarterly Newsletter of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association, Inc.
Dear Members,

I hope this issue of Illuminations finds you happy and well. The spring and early summer seasons are always active at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse as travelers flock to the Daytona Beach area from far and wide in search of sunshine and sparkling beaches. In addition to its regular daily offerings, the Preservation Association hosts numerous events throughout this time of year. Be sure to visit us on Saturday, April 6th for Florida Lighthouse Day. Held annually, this important event celebrates Florida’s rich maritime and lighthouse history. Onsite activities will include guided tours of the light station and numerous family-oriented workshops. I would like to express my sincere thanks to VyStar Credit Union for its sponsorship of the museum’s Beach Racing Day event this past February as well as its upcoming Florida Lighthouse Day, International Museum Day, and Flag Day events on April 6th, May 18th, and June 15th respectively. Please refer to the Calendar of Events on page six for more information regarding these and other scheduled offerings in the coming quarter.

We are pleased to announce that the BB&T 4th order bi-value Fresnel lens currently on display in the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit is now mounted on a rotational mechanism that more accurately replicates its original characteristic. Inspired by what is believed to be the lens’s original base, this modern addition to the historic lighthouse optic was designed and manufactured by Dan Spinella of Artworks Florida. Based in Central Florida, Dan has worked with the Association on numerous occasions on a variety of lens projects and is one of the nation’s leading experts on Fresnel lenses and lens replication. I invite you all to visit the museum in the near future to see this wonderful lighthouse optic in action.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Rocky Pagliarulo on December 29th, 2018. The husband of long-time Board of Trustee member and lighthouse advocate Ellen Pagliarulo, Rocky was 91 years old when he passed away. Our sincerest condolences go out to his friends and family including Ellen, his children Rocky and Cindi, and his entire extended family. Rocky was loved and will be missed by all those who knew him.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Phyllis Campbell for her many years of service to the Association as both an Advisory Committee member and lighthouse volunteer. Phyllis stepped down from the committee this past winter after selling her home in Ponce Inlet and moving out of state to be closer to her children and family. We greatly appreciate everything Phyllis and her late husband Tommy did for the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. God speed and good luck Phyllis, we will miss you.

The Association’s maintenance department has remained actively engaged in ongoing lighthouse tasks since the extensive preservation work to the tower’s interior and exterior metalwork and lantern room tie-down rods was completed in October, 2018. The maintenance department’s accomplishments during this time includes the full restoration of a tower window, the installation of new interpretive signs, the restoration of the tower’s watch room cabinets, installation of new Plexiglas shields around the base of the lantern room, and the repainting of much of the tower’s interior masonry walls. Restoration and preservation work is one of the Association’s most important responsibilities and we take great pride in the commitment and dedication of each member of our maintenance department.

Membership is the cornerstone of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association. In an effort to increase public awareness and advocacy for this important National Historic Landmark I ask you to consider purchasing an annual membership for a family member or friend. Gift memberships cost as little as $10 and are a wonderful way to support the Association while passing on your love for the lighthouse to others.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continued support and to express my sincere appreciation for those who have contributed to the Lighthouse General Operating Fund and/or Lighthouse Endowment Fund this fiscal year. Your generosity will help ensure the continued success of the Association’s ongoing mission of preserve and disseminate the maritime and social history of this Ponce Inlet Lighthouse for this and future generations. Those wishing to donate may do so online at www.lighthouseinker.org, by mailing a check directly to the lighthouse using the envelope provided in this issue of Illuminations, or in person by visiting the museum’s gift shop.

Have a wonderful spring and summer season! We hope to see you soon!

With Warm Regards,

Ed Gunnlaugsson
Executive Director
Ponce Inlet Lighthouse

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**Preservation Association Staff**

**ADMINISTRATION**

Ed Gunnlaugsson
Executive Director

Mike Bennett
Director of Operations

Ellen Henry
Curator

Mary Wentzel
Programs Manager

Angel Wuest
Admin Assistant/Bookkeeper

John Mann
Lead Docent

**MAINTENANCE DEPT.**

Tom DiTusa
Robert Hemings
Dave Doiron
Stump Madison
Mike O’Heron
Matt Ricco
Frank Skirbe
Andrew Paine

L.H. BEACONETTE: Nelly

**GIFT SHOP**

Danielle Szemborski
Gift Shop Manager

Mary Akom
Assistant Gift Shop Manager

Rebecca Munroe
Lead Sales Associate

Deborah Banks
Dorothy Senne
Donna Doan
Antje Nordman
Jennifer Stewart
Jake Dudley

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**PORT ORANGE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**

**WINNING PHOTO IN THE NOVICE/BEGINNER CATEGORY.**

**PHOTOGRAPHER:**

Richard Squillante

Taken with a Nikon D5500
Settings: f/16 1/1250 Nikon
A/F 34mm 18-140mm ISO 1600

Bio: Richard hails from Long Island, NY. His life-long passion for photography began in high school.
REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION

Sept 4, 2018 – May 26, 2019
Open Daily from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 5:00 PM)

May 27, 2019 – September 2, 2019
Open Daily from 10:00 AM until 9:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 8:00 PM)

SPECIAL HOURS OF OPERATION

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
May 25 & 26, 2019 (SAT & SUN)
Open from 10:00 AM until 7:00 PM (LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION AT 6:00 PM)

SCHEDULED TOWER CLOSURES

JUNE 17, 2019 (MONDAY)
Tower closed from 7:15 PM until 9:00 PM
Museum and Gift Shop open until 9:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 8:00 PM)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

APRIL 15, 2019 (MONDAY)
Board of Trustees and Quarterly Membership Meeting
(OPEN TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP)

JUNE 17, 2019 (MONDAY)
Board of Trustees Meeting
(CLOSED TO GENERAL PUBLIC AND MEMBERSHIP)

CLIMB TO THE MOON SCHEDULE

April 19, 2019
(Friday)
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

May 18, 2019
(Saturday)
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

June 17, 2019
(Monday)
7:45 PM – 9:15 PM

Climb to the Moon

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

Toast the setting sun with a sparkling beverage and enjoy delicious hors d’oeuvres by the light of the full moon with your significant other and friends. Offered only on the eve of each full moon, this special event is limited to 25 participants only. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling Angel at (386) 761-1821 ext. 10. Prices are $35 for non-members and $30 for members.

Food for this event is generously donated by Hidden Treasure Rum Bar and Grille. Locally owned and operated, Hidden Treasure Restaurant offers a wide selection of delicious entrees, appetizers, and beverages and is located directly across from the lighthouse on the north bank of the Ponce Inlet waterway. You can visit them online at www.hiddentreasurerestaurants.com
The Connection
Harvey & Connie Bach
Ponce Inlet, FL
(Endowment Fund Donor)
In Memory of Earl Davis

VyStar
Basilia Brown
Port Orange, FL
(Beach Racing Day Sponsor)

Ponce Inlet Corvette Club
Frank Italiano
New Smyrna Beach, FL

Ponce Inlet Corvette Club
Ponce Inlet, FL
(Endowment Fund Donor)

Raymond James & Associates
Brian & Kasey Layman
Ponce Inlet, FL
(Endowment Fund Donor)

Uhar & Company, Inc.
John Uhar
Washington D.C.

Rue & Ziffra, PA
David Sweat
Port Orange, FL

Keeper Listings

Thomas Bush
Port Orange, FL
(Endowment Fund Donor)

L. Keith Casagrande
Daytona Beach Shores, FL

Kadie Davis
Maryville, IL

Jesse & Nancy Dillard
Ponce Inlet, FL
(PILH Volunteer)

Janice & Donald Doudna
Ponce Inlet, FL

Tom & Peggy Ellwood
Saluda, NC

Elsa Garrett
Oak Harbor, WA

Joe & Tammy Gentry
Ponce Inlet, FL

Mike & Stephanie Johanns
Ponce Inlet, FL
(Endowment Fund Donor)

Jim & Kathy Kotas
Daytona Beach, FL

Beverly McCall
Longwood, FL
In Memory of Hollis McCall

Andrew Naglak
Ponce Inlet, FL

Debra Rachul
Holly Hill, FL

Mary Ann Redinger
Ponce Inlet, FL

Wilbur Taft
Ponce Inlet, FL

Frederick Telling
Port Orange, FL

Calvin Willard
Port Orange, FL
(Endowment Fund Donor)

David & Jennifer Ahrend
Port Orange, FL

Mark & Amy Albenze
Ponce Inlet, FL

Harriet B. Anderson
Ormond Beach, FL

Bruce & Janet Babbit
Daytona Beach Shores, FL

Brad & Anne Blais
Ponce Inlet, FL
(Board Member)

Richard & Diane Boynton
Exeter, NH

Kristine & John F. Bradley
Ponce Inlet, FL

Phyllis Campbell
Ponce Inlet, FL

Bill Carrico
Longwood, FL

Cheryl & Jim Cunningham
Ponce Inlet, FL
(Board Member)

Joe & Judy DiCarlo
Ponce Inlet, FL

Frederick & Shirley Eckersen
Port Orange, FL

Julius Elenbach
Ponce Inlet, FL

Ted & Suzi Hahn
Ponce Inlet, FL

Colin Harmer
Ponce Inlet, FL

Michael Harvey
Andover, MA

Jeffrey & Andrea Kidd
Oviedo, FL

Gregory & Elizabeth Kissel
Cincinnati, OH

John and Patricia La Belle
Ponce Inlet, FL

Jacquelyn & Alan Law
Oak Lawn, IL

Tami Lester
Monticello, FL
(Trustee Emerita)

Helen & Bill Magale
Ponce Inlet, FL
(Lighthouse Volunteer)

Ken Marshall
Ponce Inlet, FL
(Lighthouse Volunteer)
Keeper Listings

1st Assistant Keepers

Raymond & Stacey Mayernik
Ponce Inlet, FL

Victor McClellan
Ponce Inlet, FL

Ward & Terry Mead
Ormond Beach, FL

John & Denise Peterson
Port Orange, FL

Robert & Margie Riggio
Ponce Inlet, FL

Larry & Jennifer Short
Port Orange, FL

Robert G. & Marsha H. Smith
Tucson, AZ

James & Melissa Taylor
Ponce Inlet, FL

Bill & Marie Van Houten
Ponce Inlet, FL

Keeper Listings

2nd Assistant Keepers

Jay & Leila Adams
Daytona Beach, FL

Roy Ambinder
Ponce Inlet, FL

William Beier
Port Orange, FL

Joseph & Mary Blasewitz
Safety Harbor, FL

James Bond
South Daytona, FL

Joe & Kathy Cannon
Ponce Inlet, FL

Ralph & Priscilla Carbone
Lynnfield, MA

John & Terry Carroll
Ponce Inlet, FL

Ben & Susan Coe
Powell, OH

Bart & Roberta Colwell
Utica, NY

Denise Cordrey
Crown Point, IN

Michael Cove
Winter Haven, FL

Russell J. & Alice Coyne
Harrisburg, PA

Kelly & Teri Crumley
Long Grove, IL

Robert & Mary Darge
South Lyon, MI

Lois Davino
Port Orange, FL

Edwin & Barbara Davis
Ponce Inlet, FL

Dr. Philip Day
Daytona Beach Shores, FL

Charles & Phyllis Drummond
Coupeville, WA

Kenneth Dunne
Ponce Inlet, FL

Ronald & Chris Ecker
Satellite Beach, FL

Dennis & Patricia Engel
Mesa, AZ

John & Beth Fitzgibbons
Ponce Inlet, FL

Dana & Janice Fredey
Oviedo, FL

Tony & Donna Goudie
Ponce Inlet, FL

Joan Griffith
Norwich, NY

John & Mary Lou Hinson
Ponce Inlet, FL

Carlton & Cler Hudgins
New Smyrna Beach, FL

Karen Huffman
Port Orange, FL

Judy & Ron Huggins
Ponce Inlet, FL

Al Jenkins
Ormond Beach, FL

Mike & Jennet Jones
Ponce Inlet, FL

Nick & Catherine Klasne
Port Orange, FL

Edwin Klecian
Monroe Township, NJ

Rick Kolodinski & Ann Bradey
New Smyrna Beach, FL

Rick Ann Brady Kolodinsky
New Smyrna Beach, FL

Larry & Chris Kopelman
Charleston, WV

Dr. Mary Ann Lederhaus
New Smyrna Beach, FL

Noreen & Mark Levitt
Daytona Beach, FL

Donna Lough
Depew, NY

John & Ann Macdonald
Jacksonville, FL

Patrick Magrady
New Smyrna Beach, FL

Eric S. Martin
Orlando, FL

Judy & Ron Huggins
Ponce Inlet, FL

(Board Member)

James Morris
Ponce Inlet, FL

Cledith & Dinah Oakley
Daytona Beach, FL

Ellen & Rocky Pagliarulo
Ponce Inlet, FL

(Board Member)

Howard & Lois Paritsky
Ponce Inlet, FL

Patrick & Debbie Pawling
Hamilton, OH

Billy Joe Potts
Port Orange, FL

Earl Shutzman-Miller
Ormond Beach, FL

Harry & Teresa Suter
Ponce Inlet, FL

Wayne & Joanne Thaller
Port Orange, FL

Mary Jane Thompson
Port Orange, FL

Patio R. Vagts
Ponce Inlet, FL

Gordon Russell
Daytona Beach, FL

Joseph Semas
Ponce Inlet, FL

Bob & Jan Shaw
Ponce Inlet, FL

William & Jackie Sheenan
Tiverton, RI

Lisa & Stuart Sixma
Ponce Inlet, FL

Robert & Mary Ann Shrum
Gahanna, OH

Earl Shutzman-Miller
Ormond Beach, FL

Mary Jane Thompson
Port Orange, FL

Patio R. Vagts
Ponce Inlet, FL

Pam Williams
Gainesville, FL
April 6, 2019,  ................................................................. Florida Lighthouse Day
Saturday, 10:30 AM TO 2:30 PM
Celebrate our state’s rich maritime and lighthouse history by visiting the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse on Florida Lighthouse Day! Tour the historic grounds, climb to the top of Florida’s tallest lighthouse, and participate in family-oriented activities and workshops. Learn about lighthouse and regional history from the museum’s historic reenactors and stop by the Principal Keeper’s office to talk with the “Old Lighthouse Keeper” about his many light keeping duties as well as Florida’s historic light stations.

May 9, 2019,  ................................................................. Spring Homeschool Day
Thursday, 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Join us on May 9th for the museum’s Spring Homeschool Day! An annual event that draws students and parents from far and wide, Spring Homeschool Day is one of the lighthouse’s most popular educational offerings. The theme of this year’s spring event will focus on navigation by exploring how early mariners steered their vessels across the open ocean and will include a multitude of hands-on interactive workshops including compass reading, quadrants, map reading, knots per hour, sundials, and more.

Special admission prices apply for this event. Limited to 75 participants, advanced reservations are required. Parents may register their student(s) online at www.lighthouseclocker.org starting April 9th at 1:00 pm. Please contact Mary Wentzel at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org, or (386) 761-1821 ext. 18, for more information.

May 19, 2019, ................................................................. International Museum Day
Saturday, 10:30 AM TO 2:30 PM
The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse is proud to be a part of the international museum community. Museums are the story tellers of mankind’s collective knowledge and experiences. Observed annually by museums around the world, International Museum Day celebrates these important centers of learning. Participate in fun, hands-on activities and workshops designed for children and their families, and meet with lead docent John Mann at 11:00 as he discusses his extensive travels visiting lighthouses all around the world.

May 25-27, 2019 ............................................................... Memorial Day Weekend
Saturday - Monday, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Join us at the historic Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station and climb to the top of Florida’s tallest lighthouse! Explore one of the nation’s largest surviving light stations and discover the fascinating history of the US Light-House Service, Ponce Inlet, and the local region. In honor of our men and women in uniform, all active and inactive military personnel will be admitted free of charge on May 28th with proof of service.

June 15, 2019, ............................................................... Flag Day
Saturday, 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Join us at the lighthouse in celebration of Flag Day! Participate in numerous family-oriented workshops and activities! Explore the historic Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station and climb to the top of Florida’s tallest lighthouse! Scheduled activities include learning how Semaphore flags were used by mariners to communicate with other ships at sea and with those on shore; discovering what life was like for lighthouse keepers and their families more than 100 years ago, and; a special arts-and-craft workshop for the kids where they can make their very own lighthouse pennant or flag to keep.

July 4 - 6, 2019, ............................................................ Independence Day Celebration
Thursday-Saturday
Join us at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum during the July 4th weekend in celebration of Independence Day! Explore our historical exhibits and climb the tallest lighthouse in Florida.

Visit us online at www.ponceinlet.org to learn more about these and other upcoming scheduled events at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum.

ATTENTION READERS: All activities are included with regular or member admission and without advanced reservations unless otherwise noted. Additional information regarding upcoming events can be found online at www.ponceinlet.org under the Calendar of Events tab. Individuals wishing to learn more about these and other museum offerings may contact Programs Manager Mary Wentzel by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 18, or via email at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org for additional information.
In the era of instant cyber communication, postcards are rapidly going the way of dinosaurs. Although their glory days are over, they still provide a fun and relatively inexpensive way to experience the joy of collecting, and they give us glimpses of histories that might otherwise have been lost.

At the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, our collections include postcards of (naturally) lighthouses and especially cards depicting our own site. These cards provide a record of not just the light station but of postcards in general. They embody a history that really began with the establishment of some form of postal service that was both affordable to many and had at least semi-regular deliveries. In the American colonies, such postal services were attempted in colonies like Massachusetts Bay and Virginia. Boston had a service connecting citizens with England and, by 1672, you could send mail between Boston and New York City. The British Crown generously set up a North American Postal Service in 1691 for use by their colonies and other holdings. But an official postal service would not be created until after the Revolutionary War when the Post Office Department was founded via the authority of the Constitution. Postal routes and roads were established, and mail was also carried by rail and by the famous Pony Express riders on horseback. By 1862, free mail delivery was available in some larger cities.

Although most people seemed to prefer the privacy of letters sent inside envelopes, blank cards, cards with hand drawn images, cards with photographs, and cards with printed advertising began appearing in late 1848. John Charlton of Philadelphia patented a commercially printed card and then sold the patent rights to Hymen Lipman, whose commercially printed “Lipman’s postal cards” began appearing in the early 1860s. These cards had no images but did sport decorative borders.

The US Postal Service began to offer its own postal cards in 1872. These cards were also printed without images, but persons sending the cards could freely decorate them and personalize them. Early cards were called pioneers by collectors, and the Pioneer Era lasted from 1870 until 1898, but by 1873, postcards with printed images were appearing in the United States. Pre-stamped cards were introduced at this time and were often referred to by the public as penny postcards. Private companies were not allowed by the government to use the term Post Card, so they were called private mailing cards (the **Private Mailing Card Era**) until 1901, when this prohibition was lifted. Up to this point, postcards were not allowed to have divided backs. The recipient’s address was written on one side and a message from the sender was confined to the other. This time period is referred to by collectors as the Undivided Back Era, or the **Post Card Era**.

Our collection of Mosquito Inlet/Ponce Inlet postcards does not include any examples from the Private Mailing Card Era. One of our earliest cards is an undivided back card from the Post Card Era that features a black and white image of the lighthouse tower and two of the keeper dwellings.
It was produced c. 1905-1907 by the Peninsula Publishing Company, Seabreeze (now part of Daytona Beach), Florida. It shows the tower with the protective bird net encircling the lantern room. On the right is the second assistant keeper dwelling and on the left is a corner of the principal keeper’s house.

A divided back style was adopted in 1907. One half of the back was for the message and the other side for the address. This kept the front of the card available for an image, and between 1907 and 1910 there was a sort of postcard craze that is sometimes called the Golden Age. During this time, beautifully printed color cards from Germany helped to encourage
fascination with postcards, especially as souvenirs, but this golden age came to an end in 1915 as World War I began to disrupt the import of the colorful German cards.

Dating to 1907, the postcard “Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse, Fla.” is an early version of the divided back. The sender’s message went on the left, and the recipient’s address was written on the right. The image on the front side shows the tower, the second assistant dwelling, and on the left side of the tower, a newly installed windmill can be seen which is not in evidence on the previous card.

Another example from the Golden Age is a card produced by The Hugh C. Leighton Company of Portland, Maine, and made in Germany. The card dates to around 1915, but the image is a color version of an 1898 photograph. Projecting from the main balcony of the lighthouse is a halyard that was installed briefly in 1898, during the Spanish-American War. The halyard was used to display signal flags to offshore vessels.

The popularity of privately printed souvenir cards continued to grow, and millions of postcards were mailed. From 1916-1930, many cards had a white border around the image leading to the term White Border Era. There are many examples of white border cards in our collection.

John Lindquist, along with one of his assistant keepers, is seen in a sepia-tone white border postcard from the early 1920s captioned “Mosquito Inlet Light, Near Daytona, Florida.” During his tenure as principal keeper, Lindquist built a small boat at his own expense which he used in a number of rescues. The boat in this photo is the Tango II, registration number V554. The postcard was produced by the Hanksins Drug Company of Daytona.

Beautiful color postcards were also produced in America during the White Border Era. A good example is this image of the lighthouse that may date from 1926-1929. The lighthouse is not named on the card, and the publisher may have been aware that the name of the inlet and the lighthouse was about to change from Mosquito Inlet to Ponce Inlet. During the Florida Real Estate Boom, Mosquito Inlet was understood to be a name that would not appeal to prospective land buyers.

Around 1930, postcards got a new look with the development of a linen-like finish on the image side of the card, and much more colorful and rich images were made possible by a card stock with a high rag content. One well-known producer of Linen Period cards was Curt Teich and Company, which is represented in our collection by cards marked “C.T. Art-Colortown printed by Curteich of Chicago.” Curt Teich was an American publisher who was a pioneer of the offset printing
process. A stunning Linen Era image of the lighthouse produced by Curteich is an unusual night scene showing the full moon, the lighthouse beacon with two spokes of light, and a car driving on the nearby beach.

By 1945, the linen-look was being replaced by the Modern/Chrome Era cards whose images closely resemble color photographs and are particularly suited to the souvenir market. These cards were under production by 1940 and continue to the present day.

Control of the Lighthouse Service and its facilities had officially passed to the Coast Guard in 1939. By the time the 1960s postcards were produced, the beacon at Ponce Inlet had long been automated, and resident keepers were a thing of the past. Men from the Coast Guard Station at Ponce Inlet would visit from time to time but only minimal upkeep was performed. Signs of neglect are evident in the postcard images.
A Modern/Chrome Era postcard dating from the late 1960s and featuring a trash barrel in the foreground is remarkably similar to the 1959 snapshot of the light station taken by a visitor. In 1970, the lighthouse reservation was decommissioned by the Coast Guard and was sold as surplus property to the Town of Ponce Inlet. The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association was formed in 1972 to manage and restore the site. Over the years, the Preservation Association has created the museum, gained National Historic Landmark status for the site, added new buildings, and expanded the museum’s collections to world-class levels.

Of course, our gift shop still carries a variety of postcards for your collecting and souvenir needs, and cards featuring the light station show the much improved and restored facility.

If you have a yen to make your own Ponce Inlet Lighthouse postcard, join us on Saturday, May 18, International Museum Day, when we will be hosting a free (with your museum admission) make-and-take your own postcard workshop throughout the day from 10:30 am until 2:30 pm.

Lighthouse keepers often kept cats both as companions and as a line of defense against pests. Our current lighthouse cat is Nelly, who stands guard over the property and is our staff ambassador. Her postcard says it all.
April 2019 NL Volunteer Article

All volunteers at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse take part in a series of training sessions beginning in September and ending in April. Our training in February was all about Daytona’s early aviation pioneer Ruth Law. Born in 1887, the same year the Mosquito (now Ponce) Inlet Lighthouse was first lit, Ruth Law earned her pilot’s certificate in 1912, and purchased her first airplane from Orville Wright himself. She spent many years honing her flying skills on the white sands of Daytona where she offered beach goers the thrill of lifetime by taking a ride in her flying machine for $15. When she wasn’t aloft, Ruth and her airplane could often be found inside the wooden hanger she’d built on the beach near the Clarendon Hotel. Numerous images of Ruth Law, her Wright Model “B” airplane, and her beach front hanger appear throughout the USLHS Airways Division exhibit in the principal keeper’s dwelling at the lighthouse.

In addition to thrilling spectators with aerobatic demonstrations and other feats of flight, Ruth spent the late 1910s setting three aviation endurance records, delivering mail, and serving as the US military’s first uniformed female pilot as she toured the nation during WWII raising money for the American Red Cross and Liberty Loan drives with exhibition flights. When the war came to an end, the “Queen of the Air” formed “Ruth Law’s Flying Circus with her husband and chief airplane mechanic Charles Oliver. The three-plane troupe amazed spectators at state and county fairs by racing against cars, flying through fireworks, and setting altitude and distance records. Ruth herself would climb from the cockpit to stand on the wing while another pilot did the flying during many of these death defying shows. At the peak of her career in 1921, Ruth Law was earning $9000 per week.

Historic reenactors Alice and Ronald Howell often portray Ruth and her husband Charles Bancroft at local events. Mr. and Mrs. Howell were in attendance during the museum’s February training session to talk about the many contributions of Ruth Law and how Daytona played a pivotal role in early aviation history.

Alice discussed how she and Ron’s interest in Ruth Law drove them to write a book. Ruth Law: Daytona’s Pioneer Aviator, Her Place in Aviation History was published in March of 2010, and is available in paperback form in the lighthouse gift shop. The book chronicles the idea of heavier than air flight as early as the late 1400s when Leonardo da Vinci pondered how man could fly. Da Vinci’s detailed drawings inspired future aviators. Alice writes in her book, “Gallant men and women have long dreamed the dreams of flight. Many engineers and inventors laid the groundwork for those who came after.” The book follows the flight of men and women up to 1983, when America’s first female astronaut Sally Ride was launched into space aboard Space Shuttle Challenger as mission specialist of STS-7; and to 1998, when construction of the International Space Station that begun.

Alice and Ron have written many books and are very active within the community. Because of their love for the lighthouse and its history, they still find time to volunteer despite their busy schedule. Ron is one of the uniformed lighthouse keepers who perform weddings at the base of the tower. When asked what they like most about what they do and Alice replied, “Our passion for history and knowledge is a persistent part of our lives and brings us closer together as a couple. We are delighted to share our passion for history with everyone we meet, through our books and presentations.”

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

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse had a busy winter season. The Association’s volunteers were out in force throughout the months of January, February, and March, sharing their love for this important National Historic Landmark. This dedicated group of individuals donated a considerable amount of their personal time facilitating educational activities and workshops on the historic grounds and throughout the local community, learning new information, attending monthly volunteer training sessions, and brushing up on their storytelling skills. The museum staff greatly appreciates these wonderful men and women for their continued service. We could not achieve the Association’s ongoing mission of preserving and disseminating the maritime and social history of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse without you. Thank you!

On January 5th, more than 50 young women participated in the museum’s semiannual Girl Scout Day. The winter event provided scouts the opportunity to earn their coveted lighthouse badge by learning about famous women lighthouse keepers and what it was like to live and work at an isolated light station at the turn of the 19th century. Although Ponce Inlet never had a female lighthouse keeper several light stations did; including Maine’s Matincus Rock Lighthouse where Abbie Burgess of the children’s book Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie started her 30 year carrier with the US Light-House Establishment in 1856. In addition to hearing about the life of Mrs. Burgess, the scouts also learned about other influential women in lighthouse and local history including Ida Lewis and others. A great time was definitely had by all!

The museum had the honor of welcoming a school group from China on the afternoon of January 28th. Hailing from various regions of their country, the students were excited about visiting Florida’s tallest lighthouse. The tour of the lighthouse and museum was arranged by the international tour company Education First. In addition to learning about the history of the Ponce Inlet Light Station and the role of lighthouses in maritime navigation, participants were also given the opportunity to hone their English speaking skills as they followed the museum’s knowledgeable tour guides. Each group was accompanied by a professional interpreter who helped the students better understand what was being said by translating the information into their native tongue. Hundreds of photographs were taken, especially of the tower and its uniformed lighthouse keeper. Kids are kids no matter where they are from and the gift shop...
proved to be one of the highlights of their day.

The museum hosted its 15th Annual Beach Racing Day event on February 10, 2019. Developed in collaboration with the Legends of Auto Racing Museum, this popular event provides race fans the unique opportunity to examine historic race cars that once ran on the sands of the World’s Most Famous Beach and to talk with former owners, drivers, and mechanics who participated in the wild and wooly days of early stock car racing. VIPs in attendance included Buz McKim, historian at the NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte and author of The NASCAR Vault: An Official History, and; Eddie Roche, former archives manager for ISC/NASCAR and the author of Florida Motorsports Retrospective Pictorial.

The museum followed up Beach Racing Day with its first annual Welcome Race Fans Event on Friday, February 15th. Author and historian William Lazarus was onsite to share his knowledge of auto racing with lighthouse guests during a special presentation focusing on two of his most popular books; Sands of Time: Celebrating 100 Years of Racing and Around the Turn: How stock cars became one of the most popular sports in the United States. Attendees were amazed to learn how the familiar oval track of modern motor sports was first used in shadow of the lighthouse back in 1936. Stretching south from Ponce Inlet’s North Turn Restaurant to the corner of Beach Street approximately one mile to the south, this historic race course straddled South Atlantic Avenue and the white sands of the World’s Most Famous Beach and required drivers to master racing on dirt and asphalt to capture the checkered flag.

The beginning of March witnessed lighthouse volunteers reading the museum’s favorite children’s book Nelly, the Lighthouse Cat to hundreds of school students in elementary schools throughout Volusia County as part of the Read Across America program. Now in its 20th year, Read Across America is a nationwide event scheduled to coincide with the anniversary of Dr. Sues’ birthday that promotes adolescent literacy. The lighthouse and museum has participated in this remarkable program for a number of years. Often accompanied by a volunteer dressed as Nelly, Read Across America has become of the museum’s most popular events. So many schools request it nearly every one of the lighthouse’s volunteers is needed to meet the enormous demand.

The Preservation Association would like to offer its sincere appreciation to VyStar Credit Union of Port Orange, FL, for sponsoring this year’s Beach Racing Day in addition to several other events in the coming quarter including, Florida Lighthouse Day on April 6th; International Museum Day on May 18th; and Flag Day on June 15th. VyStar joined the Association as a Corporate Member in the beginning of 2018, and has remained a strong advocate of the organization ever since. We can’t thank VyStar and its local representative Basilia Brown enough for their continued support and sponsorship. Thank you!

We have a full schedule planned for the spring season. Please refer to the Calendar of Events on page 6 for a full listing of scheduled offerings at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. You may also contact programs manager Mary Wentzel at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org or call (386)761-1821 ext. 18 for more information.

The success of the museum’s programs department would not be possible without the help of our dedicated volunteer corps. The Ponce Inlet Preservation Association is always looking for individuals interested in accepting the challenge and becoming a lighthouse volunteer. Those wishing to participate are encouraged to contact programs manager Mary Wentzel by email at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821 X 18 to sign up. You can also learn more about volunteering opportunities online at www.ponceinlet.org.
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 quarterly newsletters 2nd Assistant Keeper List

1st Assistant Keeper............... $200
• All privileges of 2nd Assistant Membership
• Two gift General Memberships
• Recognition of your support in the quarterly newsletters' 1st Assistant Keeper List

Principal Keeper.................. $500
• All privileges of 1st Assistant Membership
• A personalized guided tour of the Light Station
• Recognition of your support in the quarterly newsletters' Principal Keeper List

Corporate Lampist............... $500
• All privileges of General or Family Membership for up to five company principals
• A personalized guided tour of the Light Station
• Use of the Light Station's conference room for one meeting.
• Recognition of your companies support in the quarterly newsletters' Corporate Lampist List

FLORIDA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION NUMBER AND DISCLAIMER:
Registration #: CH137
A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Please complete the entire form to enroll, or join online at www.lighthouselocker.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: ( )_________ –_________
E-mail:__________________________________________

Office use only
Begins__________________ Ends__________________

2nd Assistant Keeper ....................... $100
• All privileges of General or Family Membership
• Recognition of your membership in the quarterly newsletters 2nd Assistant Keeper List

1st Assistant Keeper............... $200
• All privileges of 2nd Assistant Membership
• Two gift General Memberships
• Recognition of your support in the quarterly newsletters' 1st Assistant Keeper List

Principal Keeper.................. $500
• All privileges of 1st Assistant Membership
• A personalized guided tour of the Light Station
• Recognition of your support in the quarterly newsletters' Principal Keeper List

Corporate Lampist............... $500
• All privileges of General or Family Membership for up to five company principals
• A personalized guided tour of the Light Station
• Use of the Light Station's conference room for one meeting.
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☐ 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: ( )_________ –_________
E-mail:__________________________________________

Office use only
Begins__________________ Ends__________________

For family memberships, list spouse/partner and all immediate children under eighteen years of age:

Spouse/Partner:
Children:

(List any additional names on a separate sheet.)

We will contact 1st Assistant Keeper, Principal Keeper or Corporate Lampist members to obtain gift membership and company principal information.

Membership enclosed: $  
Donation enclosed: $  
Total enclosed: $  

Please charge my: (check one)
☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard  3-Digit Security
Code:_______
CC#:______
Exp. Date:_______
Signature:

Or, make check payable to:
Ponce Inlet Lighthouse
4931 S. Peninsula Dr., Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Thank You for Your Generous Support!
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, house wares, toys, and collectibles. Customers may also shop online at LIGHTHOUSELOCKER.ORG. Please contact the Gift Shop at (386) 761-1821 ext. 21 or via email at giftshop@ponceinlet.org for more information.

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 April 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019.

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Annual Gift Membership
Give your family and friends the gift of history and adventure with an annual membership to Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse for as little as $10! The benefits of membership include a subscription to the Association’s quarterly newsletter Illuminations, free admission to lighthouse and museum for an entire year, and much more. Please see the membership enrollment form on page 15 for more details.

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Memorial Bricks
The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Memorial Brick Program is a unique and thoughtful way to honor friends and loved ones or celebrate special events including weddings, birthdays, and family vacations. Each laser-engraved brick features the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse logo and up to three lines of text. Each personalized brick is installed in the Light Station’s memorial walkway leading out onto the historic grounds where it will remain in perpetuity.

Lighthouse Memorial Brick: Item # 0289 Price: $100
Full Size Duplicate Memorial Brick: Item # 0290 Price: $85
Miniature Duplicate Memorial Brick: Item # 0291 Price: $40

Light Up Lighthouse Model
Enjoy the warm glow of this 12” illuminated resin model of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse flanked by the First Assistant Keeper’s dwelling. Includes a 60” power cord with mini-bulb socket commonly used in snow-villages.

Item #: 0716
Price: $20.99 (+ S&H)

Stacking 4-Piece Lighthouse Mug Set
Enjoy a hot cup of coffee, tea, or your favorite morning beverage with this unique set of four ceramic mugs that create an image of lighthouse when stacked inside their chrome storage rack. This unique mug set also serves as interesting and space saving piece of lighthouse-themed kitchen décor. Includes four 14 oz. mugs and one 12” high chrome-plated wire rack.

Item #: 5521
Price: $28.99 (+S&H)

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Yard Flag
Add a little POP! to your front yard, garden, or patio area with this colorful yard flag featuring a stunning image of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Appropriate for both indoor and outdoor use, this durable flag is made of 100% polyester and measures 12” wide by 18” tall. A 38” display rod can be purchased separately.

Yard Flag: Item # 5879 Price: $12.99
38” Metal Display Rod: Item # 5880 Price: $8.99

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Hoodie
Enjoy the cooler days of spring and protect yourself from the harsh summer sun with this lightweight performance hoodie featuring the name of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse across the chest and images of the lighthouse and lantern room along the sleeves. Made by Gildan, this 100% polyester, moisture-wicking high performance shirt will keep you cool, dry, and protected all year long. Available in either blue or gray, and in sizes Small through XXL. Please indicate desired color and size when ordering.

Item #: 5859
Price: $24.99 (+ S&H) Sizes S-XL
$25.99 (+ S&H) Size XXL

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Membership Coupon
20% Off Any Single Item

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, house wares, toys, and collectibles. Customers may also shop online at LIGHTHOUSELOCKER.ORG. Please contact the Gift Shop at (386) 761-1821 ext. 21 or via email at giftshop@ponceinlet.org for more information.