PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE ILLUMINATIONS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of the maritime and social history of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station.



Illuminations is a Quarterly Publication of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association, Inc. Subscription to *Illuminations* is a Benefit of Annual Membership

Dear Members,

I hope this issue of *Illuminations* finds you happy, healthy, and well. The months of June July, and August are always bustling with activity at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. I am pleased to report that this summer was no exception. Undeterred by the record setting heat, staff and volunteers remained fully engaged throughout the season welcoming visitors from far and wide, completing important historic preservation projects, conducting research, hosting summer camp groups from throughout Volusia County, and providing exceptional educational programs to the general public both onsite and within the local community.

As many of you know, the Preservation Association is currently engaged in multi-year project to restore, preserve, and rehabilitate the 19th-century Pacetti Hotel which is located on the Halifax River across the road from the lighthouse. This historic property was acquired by the Preservation Association in 2019 for the purpose of developing the site into a public museum that will allow the Association to interpret the history of the lighthouse and the Ponce Inlet area in greater detail.

We have been aided in this worthwhile endeavor by hundreds of supporters who have helped finance the Pacetti Hotel Project through monetary donations both large and small. Among them is the Paul B. Hunter and Constance D. Hunter Charitable Foundation. Named after former Ponce Inlet residents Paul B. and Constance D. Hunter, the Foundation has remained one of the Project's most generous supporters, providing more than \$1,750,000 in direct financial support to the Association in exchange for naming rights to the museum in honor of Constance D. Hunter.

As we all know, the cost of doing business has risen considerably over the past year due to inflation, skyrocketing interest rates, and the scarcity of skilled labor. This is especially so in the field of construction where ongoing material and labor shortages have pushed the cost of building and restoration well beyond what could have been predicted. As a result, the anticipated cost of completing the Pacetti Hotel Project has risen as well, creating some shortfalls despite the Association's best efforts to eliminate unnecessary expenses whenever possible. Although not in jeopardy, the Pacetti Project is in need of additional financial support.

I am pleased to report the Paul B. Hunter and Constance D. Hunter Charitable Foundation's recent decision to elevate its already-generous support for the Pacetti Hotel Project by an extra \$250,000 to help cover the cost of some of these price increases. However, we still need your help to ensure the Association has adequate funding to complete the Pacetti Hotel Project in accordance with its original vision. You can learn more about the hotel, current onsite restoration activities, and ways to help support this worthwhile project on page 13 of this issue of *Illuminations*.

As you may recall from my previous Letter from the Executive Director, the Preservation Association was awarded a \$45,281.25 Gene Oakes Lighthouse Preservation Grant from the Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA) in January, 2023. This important lighthouse preservation grant was provided in direct support of planned masonry and plaster restoration work to several historic light station structures including the oil storage building, Coast Guard radio room/tool shed building (formerly the 1st assistant keeper's woodshed/privy), and all three keeper dwellings. I am pleased to announce that work on this project will begin began in mid-October. A future article discussing the project in greater detail will be included in the January issue of *Illuminations* after it all planned work has been completed.

Are you looking for that perfect gift for a friend or loved one this holiday season? Look no further! The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse is receiving unique and exciting merchandise daily. Our wide selection of high quality gifts includes clothing, housewares, toys, games, jewelry, artwork, books, custom lighthouse curios, collectibles, and more. Be sure to view our online selection of merchandise at *www.lighthouselocker.org* or visit the gift shop in person. Don't forget all members receive 10% off their entire purchase!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being a member and to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who has helped support the museum this fiscal year through their generous donation of time and/or financial resources. Those who are interested in learning more about ways to support us are encouraged to contact me at *edgunn@ponceinlet.org* or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 15 for more information.

Have a wonderful fall and winter season!

With Warm Regards,

Ed Gunnlaugsson Executive Director

Elevated Donors

The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association, Inc. would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support of the historic Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Pacetti Hotel Museum at an elevated level.

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2 October 2023 • Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station

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SEPT. 5, 2023 - MAY 26, 2024 OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM (Last Admission Sold at 5:00 PM) MAY 27, 2024 - SEPT. 2, 2024 OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM (Last Admission Sold at 8:00 PM)

SPECIAL HOURS OF OPERATION

October 20 & 21, 2023 (Friday & Saturday) Open to the Public from 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM (Last Admission sold at 6:00 PM)

SCHEDULED TOWER CLOSURES

October 28, 2023 (Saturday) Tower Closed from 5:30 PM - 6:00 PM (Museum and Gift Shop Open Until 6:00) November 27, 2023 (Monday) Tower Closed from 4:15 PM - 6:00 PM (Museum and Gift Shop Open Until 6:00)

Scheduled Association Meetings

October 16, 2023 (Monday @ 6:00 PM) Board of Trustees & Membership Meeting (Open to General Members) November 15, 2023 (Monday @ 6:00 PM) Board of Trustees Meeting December 18, 2023 (Monday @ 6:00 PM) Board of Trustees Meeting (Closed to General Members)

eral Members) (Closed to General Members) (Closed to General Members) (Closed to General Note: Scheduled Association meetings are closed to the general public

CLIMB TO THE MOON SCHEDULE

October 28, 2023 (Saturday) 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM November 27, 2023 (Monday) 4:45 PM - 6:15 PM

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The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association would like to thank the following organizations/individuals for their generous support of Lighthouse and Museum and for choosing to join the Association at the Corporate Lampist annual membership level.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS (OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 2023)

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT THE TOWER SELECT DATES

Enjoy a fascinating historic presentation followed by a guided tour of the lighthouse and museum led by one of the museum's knowledgeable staff on select Tuesdays and Thursdays of each month at 11:00 AM. Pre-registration is required. Please contact the museum's programs manager Zach Hopple by email at *education@ponceinlet.org* for details.

Scheduled Tuesdays at the Tower Events:

Ост. 24, 2023:	Lecture Topic: Jane Murray-Sheldon: A Pioneer Family Legacy- Presented by Greg Holbrook, New Smyrna Museum of History
Nov. 21, 2023:	Walk & Talk Topic: Building the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Presented by John Mann, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Lead Docent
Dec. 5, 2023:	Lecture Topic: World War II on the Halifax Presented by Mike Bennett, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Director of Operations

Scheduled Thursdays at the Tower Events:

Ост. 12, 2023:	Walk & Talk Topic: The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Presented by Bill Henry, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Volunteer Docent
Nov. 9, 2023:	Lecture Topic: The Timucua of Northeast Florida Presented by Felipe De Paula, PILH Assist. Curator/Museum Registrar
DEC. 28, 2023:	Walk & Talk Topic: Treacherous Waters
	Presented by Felipe De Paula, PILH Assist. Curator/Museum Registrar

OCTOBER 19-22, 2023 Biketoberfest

Take a scenic ride down South Atlantic Avenue to visit one of Daytona's favorite Biketoberfest destinations – the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse! In addition to the museum's regular offerings, a special exhibit exploring the history of motorcycles on the beach will remain on display during this four-day event.

OCTOBER 26, 2023 Fall Homeschool Day

Calling all homeschool families! Join the staff and volunteer docents of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum on Thursday October 26th for a fun-filled day of hands-on educational workshops focusing on the indigenous people of the local Florida region! Parents can register their student(s) for this special one-day event at *www.lighthouselocker.org* beginning at 12:00 PM on Monday September 25th until all available tickets are sold. Preregistration is required and special event rates per child apply. Please contact Programs Manager Zach Hopple vea email at *zhopple @ponceinlet.org* or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 18 for more information.

Visit the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum on Veterans Day and help us honor our nation's men and women in uniform. All active-duty military personnel and veterans will be admitted free of charge with proof of service.

NOVEMBER 18, 2023 Indigenous Peoples Heritage Day

Travel back in time and discover the fascinating history of the indigenous people who once lived along the Volusia County inland waterways and throughout the local Florida region. Learn about the Timucua and Seminole as you explore the historic light station and participate in interactive workshops, living history demonstrations, and other activities presented by lighthouse staff, volunteers, and representatives from museums and cultural sites located throughout Central Florida.

NOVEMBER 24, 2023 Thanksgiving Gifts at the Lighthouse

Escape the hustle and bustle of Black Friday shopping by visiting the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum on Friday, November 24th for a fun-filled day of activities including information booths, living history reenactments, and kids' craft workshops. Explore the museum and climb 203 steps to the top of Florida's Tallest Lighthouse!

EARLY TOURISM IN PONCE PARK

A simple Google search of 'Ponce Inlet' quickly returns dozens of recommended things to do and sights to see around town. Climbing our historic lighthouse is top of the list, of course, but there are many other sites and sights available to visitors from near and far: the Marine Science Center featuring aquariums and live sea turtles being treated in their turtle hospital; Lighthouse Point Park, which gives visitors access to both the beach and the inlet; various smaller parks around town that provide ample space and facilities for outdoor activities like jogging, kayaking, fishing, and cycling; restaurants offering local delicacies freshly caught in the nearby Atlantic waters; and charter boats that afford visitors the chance to catch their own delicacies. Like any good Florida town, tourism is undoubtedly at the heart of Ponce Inlet. But has it always been that way?

Well, yes actually. From its early days in the late 1800s as a small community called Pons/Ponce Park, this town has always relied on tourism in some form or another.

When did visitors first come to Ponce Inlet?

In a manner of speaking, we are all visitors to this area in one way or another. The first inhabitants of this peninsula, descendants of those we now refer to as Timucua, arrived here some fifteen thousand years ago. In the 1500s, European colonizers first arrived in Florida. While it is doubtful that Juan Ponce De Leon, namesake for this inlet, ever stepped foot here, there is no doubt that other Spaniards, as well as Frenchmen, passed by this area in their search for 'unclaimed' territory to colonize and upon which to settle.

In 1768, a Scottish physician named John Turnbull established a 101,000 acre plantation on the south side of Mosquito (now Ponce De Leon) Inlet. Turnbull named the settlement New Smyrna in honor of his wife's birthplace on the Aegean coast and recruited more than 1,500 Greeks, Italians, Minorcans, and Corsicans to come to Florida and work the land as indentured servants. The horrible living conditions in New Smyrna coupled with the abusive nature of the plantation's overseerers took a huge toll on the indentured population, leading to the death of more 1,000 over the next seven years. In 1777, the colony's estimated 500 surviving inhabitants petitioned the British Governor of East Florida to be released from their contract with Turnbull. The governor granted their request and the New Smyrna settlement collapsed shortly thereafter.

Most of New Smyrna's surviving residents chose to relocate to St. Augustine or other areas in Northeast Florida, but a few decided to remain near the inlet.



De Bry engraving showing Timucau agricultural methods; Source: Wikipedia commons



1769 Map of John Turnbull's New Smyrna Plantation; Source: The British National Archives/Library

Antonio Pons, or Ponce depending on what language it is written in, settled on the north side of the inlet with his wife Benita. Antonio would eventually be the namesake for the small community that developed in and around his land: Pons Park/Ponce Inlet.

By the 1820s, Florida had once again changed hands. Following the Treaty of Adams-Onis, Florida officially became a territory of the United States. It soon became a state in 1845. Various conflicts occurred during this time, first the Seminole wars and then the American Civil War, preventing all but the most intrepid adventure-seekers from traveling to the harsh and untamed wilderness of Florida.

Finally, by the late 1800s, Florida had at last become an area safe enough for regular visitation. The Seminole Wars had ended with the forceful removal of the few remaining Seminoles to lands located deep into the Everglades. The conclusion of the Civil War meant that the Union was no longer blockading southern ports, cities, and inlets like the Ponce De Leon Inlet. Reconstruction was underway, and Florida became open for business as a 'pacified' land known for its rich wildlife and unmatched natural beauty.



Many "snowbirds" flocked to Florida in the late 1800s to enjoy the state's warm weather, natural beauty, and exotic wildlife like this brown pelican painted by John Audubon in the 1830s.

WHERE DID VISITORS TO THIS AREA COME FROM AND WHY?

Ponce Park in the late 1800s became a hotspot for visitors, as did Florida as a whole. These visitors mainly came from northern states like New York and Ohio. The most apparent reason why these northerners came down here was to experience our milder winters. Hotels and boarding homes throughout the state would get ready for the winter visitors, then remain quiet during the summer months. Some would even close after the winter had come and passed, operating as a seasonal business to match the influx of visitors just as the cold set upon the northern half of the country.



Large resorts like the Ormond Hotel catered to wealthy tourists visiting the Daytona Beach area in the late 1800s; Source: State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory Project

Many of these early northern visitors enjoyed their trips down south, electing to return year after year. 'Snowbirds' they became known as, mimicking the countless species of migratory birds that similarly head south for the winter in order to escape the harsh temperatures of the north.

While the milder climate was one main reason why northern visitors came to Florida, another was the fresh air. The idea of getting some fresh air was a bigger deal to those living a century or two ago than we might realize today. A prevailing medical theory at the time was that diseases like cholera and chlamydia were caused by pockets of 'bad air' known as miasma. These pockets would originate from organic waste, which bustling northern cities produced plenty of, and would waft in and out of towns, wreaking havoc and epidemics wherever they meandered.

Getting some nice clean air was thus not just a mental break from the responsibilities of everyday life, like how it is today, but instead a matter of actual life and death. Entire families uprooted their lives to pursue a home

Feature Article: (Continued)

somewhere where miasma was not as common. Parents brought their sick children down to Florida as a desperate effort to preserve their lives. The elderly came to retire here, long before state income taxes were introduced, in the hopes that the milder climate and cleaner air would extend their lives. Northern city dwellers of all ages flocked to Florida as outbreaks of cholera and tuberculosis took hold of their hometowns. Some stayed for a winter, or until they recovered from their debilitating diseases. Others stayed for longer once they saw their health improve with the open air and increased time for leisure or sport activities now that they had left their hurried city lives behind.

Leisure and sport activities abounded in Ponce Park. From fishing to sightseeing to cycling to swimming, tourists had their pick of relaxing-yet-fulfilling exercises and activities with which to pass the time. It was not long before word got out that this area was perfect for aquatic activities. Local residents began opening their doors to these visitors, creating boarding houses, hotels, and restaurants, while also providing services to these visitors in order to take advantage of the increased demand in what Ponce Park had to offer.

PACETTI HOUSE

PONCE PARK By-THE-SEA

A few of the attractions: Unsurpassed Hunting and Fishing, Boating, Bicycling: At Mosquito Inlet, where Sea Shells abound.

Table the very best, and home-like.

G. A. PACETTI. Manager.

1902 Advertisement for Ponce Park's Pacetti Hotel in the Daytona Gazette News emphasizing the many outdoor activities the local area had to offer; collection of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association

The 175-foot Ponce De Leon (then Mosquito) Inlet Lighthouse was the tallest building in Florida from 1887 until 1913. Considered a modern marvel of engineering at the time of its construction, the lighthouse was a popular destination for local visitors in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Tourists of this time, as with tourists today, would often come down to the inlet, check out the lighthouse, enjoy the beach, eat some locally caught seafood, and then head back to their hotel or home to regale their friends

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and families with stories of their wonderful experience in Ponce Park. The public's fascination with lighthouses was so great and their visits so frequent, the US Lighthouse Establishment issued instructions to lighthouse keepers on how best to welcome and interact with tourists.



Visitors from Deland, FL at the top of the Ponce De Leon (then Mosquito) Inlet Lighthouse, circa 1900; collection of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association

How did tourists get to Ponce Park and where did they stay?

For many decades, ships were the preferred vehicles for any northern nature-seekers looking to spend a winter in Ponce Park. By the 1860s and 70s, steamships were beginning their routes through Florida's extensive inland waterway network. Freshwater rivers like the St. Johns, as well as brackish estuaries like the Halifax River, became channels in which passenger ships began bringing tourists to our state's shores.

Visitors coming from the north would often take ocean schooners to Jacksonville, then hop aboard a steamboat down the St. Johns River to visit various sites in the center of Florida. Visitors could then catch a ride down the Halifax River from either Daytona or Ormond.



The Cherokee was a small passenger ferry that transported visitors down the Halifax to Ponce De Leon (Mosquito) Inlet; collection of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association

Beginning in the 1900s, local tourists had another method of making their way to Ponce Park: automobiles. The wide flat sands of Volusia County's beaches made great roadways and provided easy access to inlet from Daytona and Ormond by car. Transportation businesses even offered combination tickets, where a visitor could take a boat ride down to the inlet and then drive back along the beach. Such a trip presented the best of both the Halifax River and the Atlantic Ocean.

Another key way in which visitors could come down to Ponce Park, and Florida in general, was by railroad. Pioneering tycoons like Henry Flagler and Henry Plant brought various railroad lines into the state in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Wherever those lines were laid, commerce soon followed. Large hotels and a plentitude of stores began popping up all over the state as more and more visitors came to see what Florida had to offer.

Ponce Park residents capitalized on this boom in population, opening their homes as places where visitors could grab a meal, spend a night, or find out about local fishing and hunting opportunities. The Pacetti family participated in all three, establishing a boarding home and hotel that soon became known for its fish dinners and unparalleled fishing guides.

But the Pacetti Hotel was not the only game in town. Other hotels, like the La Ponce Hotel located on the Halifax River by Front Street, saw tourists come in winter after winter. The Ellison Hotel, located a few blocks north of the Hasty's cottages, also saw some success during this time. While the Pacetti Hotel remains standing today,



The La Ponce Hotel in Ponce Park, circa 1900; collection of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association

both the La Ponce Hotel and the Ellison Hotel were destroyed by fires in the early 1900s.

Worse yet was the fate of a proposed hotel to be built directly at the mouth of the inlet by entrepreneur Robert Pacetti, grandson of William Rowlinski, the first principal keeper here at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. This Inlet Terrace Hotel project, started in the 1920s, faced financial difficulties before it could even finish construction. After only a few brick walls were erected, the project was terminated. Remnants of this failed project can still be seen in Lighthouse Point Park.

By the 1930s, hotels in this region had become so plentiful and large that their lights were competing with the single fixed light of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. A change was called for and the Fresnel lens at the top of the lighthouse was changed from a fixed first-order light to a rotating third-order one. This change meant that the beacon at the top of the tower flashed a consistent pattern, known as its flash pattern, in order to better differentiate it from the competing hotel lights that were beginning to crowd the beaches of Volusia County.

Ponce Park remained a charming community known for its lighthouse, fishing, and overall natural beauty through the decades. By the 1970s and 80s, various fish camps had developed around town, which was renamed Ponce Inlet in 1963. Whether they are fleeing from miasma or just looking for a great seafood meal, tourism remains alive and well in Ponce Inlet as evidenced by the many cars from states around the country and beyond that fill the lighthouse parking lot on a daily basis.

A BUSY SUMMER DRAWS TO A CLOSE

A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER OF LEARNING

The Summer of 2023 was a record-breaking season at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse for more than one reason.

This past summer was a hot one, with average daily temperatures approaching, or in many cases surpassing, the highest on record. Although unpleasant at times, the sweltering heat wave did not deter local summer camp kids from visiting the lighthouse and museum in droves during June, July, and August. Transported to the museum in buses and vans on an almost daily basis, groups of children wearing colorful camp t-shirts became a common sight on the light station's historic grounds and at the top of Florida's tallest lighthouse. Scores of children ranging from as little as five years old through their early teens were treated to guided tours of the light station and other hands-on learning activities facilitated by the museum's knowledgeable docents and staff.

In addition to these onsite activities, lighthouse docents and staff also visited five public libraries this summer to teach kids about games children would have played in the past. These hands-on activities focused on games that taught physical and mental skills including the ring and stick game that was enjoyed by indigenous children hundreds of years ago. This simple toy was nothing more than a wooden hoop or ring that was tied to a slender stick with a strip of rawhide or a woven string. The act of flipping the ring onto the end of the stick reinforced eye-hand coordination, an invaluable skill needed for hunting and fishing. In all, more than 1,000 children directly benefitted from the museum's educational offerings throughout the 2023 summer season, setting a new record for the lighthouse.

The educational programs department did not limit its summertime focus to children alone, however. The museum also scheduled a variety of adult-oriented programs as well. These offerings included the Association's Tuesday and Thursday Talks at the Tower which is a historic lecture and guided tour series that is offered twice per month, the museum's popular after-hours Climb to the Moon event that is scheduled on the eve of each full moon, and other onsite public offerings including Independence Day at the Lighthouse on July 1, National Lighthouse Day on August 5th, Spirit of 45' Day on August 12th, and the Lighthouse's Labor Day Celebration on September 4th.

SCHEDULED FALL EVENTS

The Fall season brings not just cooler weather, but also some of Ponce Inlet Lighthouse's most popular and anticipated events.

The museum's next Homeschool Day event is scheduled for Thursday, October 26th. Homeschool Day is a day-long educational event specifically designed for K-12 homeschool students. Typically scheduled in the Spring and Fall of each year, this unique biannual event provides 100 or more homeschoolers the opportunity to participate in 5-6 thematic workshops that are developed by former school administrators and teachers. Each homeschool day activity addresses a specific element of a central topic or theme and is aligned with Florida's current educational standards. This year's Fall Homeschool Day will focus on the Indigenous Peoples of Northeast Florida. Those wishing to learn more about Fall Homeschool Day should contact programs manager Zach Hopple via email zhopple@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 18 for more information.

This year's Indigenous Peoples Heritage Day is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 18th from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Museum guests will be provided the opportunity to learn about the Timucua and Seminole as they explore the historic light station and participate in interactive workshops, living history demonstrations, and other educational offerings presented by lighthouse staff, volunteers, and representatives from museums and cultural sites located throughout Central Florida.

The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum has a busy Fall season planned. Please refer to the Fall 2023 Calendar of Events on page six of this issue of *Illuminations* for more information about this and other scheduled events at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse in the coming months.

VOLUNTEER FIELDTRIP TO THE CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE

On August 1, 2023, museum registrar/ assistant curator Felipe De Paula and maintenance manager Tom DiTusa took 22 members of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse volunteer corps on a day-long excursion to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. The trip was both a thank you to the docents for their dedicated service to the lighthouse and an opportunity for them to meet and interact with volunteers from our closest lighthouse neighbor to the south.

The day's activities began bright and early with a 74-mile drive from Ponce Inlet to the south entrance of the Cape Canaveral Space Force Base. In addition to serving as an active military and commercial launch and control site, the Cape Canaveral Space Force Base is also home to numerous historic sites where the nation's earliest rockets and missiles were developed and tested. Docents were provided the opportunity to visit many of these locations including the Sands Space History Center and several block houses that once served as early launch control facilities for both NASA and US Air Force.

Volunteers learned about the early days of space exploration as they explored the museums and examined a wide variety of important space artifacts including rocket motors, missiles, flight suits, and more. High on the list of everyone's favorite experiences was a guided tour of the old concrete bunkers where scientists and technicians monitored rocket and missle launches in the 1950s and 60s. Included among these was the Redstone blockhouse at Cape Canaveral's Launch Complex 5/6, the site where astronaut Alan Shepard ushered in the age of American manned spaceflight by riding an eight-story Redstone rocket capped with a Mercury capsule into the heavens.

Following the conclusion of the Space Force Museum tour, the Ponce Inlet volunteers moved on to the day's main event: the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. A short van ride soon saw them standing at the base of the iconic black-and -white tower where they were warmly greeted by a small group of knowledgeable Cape Canaveral docents who led them on a fascinating tour of the lighthouse, museum, and grounds. The Ponce Inlet volunteers learned a great deal about the light station's history and the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation's public educational programs. The two groups spent some quality time together as they exchanged ideas and learned from each others' unique and similar experiences. Following the conclusion of the day's tours, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse enoyed a delicious lunch at Dixie Crossroads restaurant before heading back home to Ponce Inlet.

The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association would like to express its sincere gratitude to Ron and Chris Ecker from the Cape Canaveral for helping us set up and schedule this wonderful volunteer event and to all the Cape Canaveral volunteer tour guides who warmly welcomed us with open arms.

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities to choose from. Those wishing to learn more about becoming a lighthouse volunteer can contact Programs Manager Zach Hopple by email at *zhopple@ponceinlet.org* or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 18 for more information. Thank You!



Ponce Inlet Lighthouse volunteers explored and toured the historic Cape Canaveral Lighthouse on August 1, 2023.

CONSTANCE D. HUNTER HISTORIC PACETTI HOTEL MUSEUM UPDATE

After a lengthy process spanning back to October of 2019, major restoration work has officially begun at the Pacetti Hotel! Those who have been following our progress will know of the many steps involved in this process, including acquiring the building and site, placing it on the National Register of Historic Places, working with a historic-preservation architect to plan out the development of the building, and then obtaining permits and approval for all the work that needs to be done to ensure that the 130+ year-old building remains standing for many years to come.

Some town residents might even have seen construction work near the south side of Sailfish Drive. Currently, different teams are working on a variety of restoration and preservation projects inside the Pacetti Hotel and throughout the grounds surrounding this historic structure. While window technicians restore the hotel's many historic windows, others are installing fire suppression lines and equipment outside. Interior ceilings have been uncovered for the first time in over a century.

Museum staff have been recording and photographing this process as much as possible for the benefit of future generations who would like to learn more about this process. Here at the lighthouse, we are lucky to have a relatively comprehensive overview of the construction and changes that happened at the light station. The Pacetti Hotel, however, is a different story. Being that it was a private building for nearly all of its existance, detailed records of building repairs and modifications over the years were not kept like they were at the lighthouse. This modern-day restoration is a wonderful opportunity for our staff to be able to learn more about the history of the building by studying whatever is found during this phase of the project.



SUPPORT HISTORIC PRESERVATION

BECOME A MEMBER

Purchasing an Annual Membership is one of the most popular and affordable ways to support the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association in its mission to preserve and disseminate the maritime and social history of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse.

Membership Benefits Include:

- Free Admission to the museum and lighthouse during normal hours of operation
- ‡ 10% discount on all regular-priced merchandise in the gift shop and online at *www.lighthouselocker.org*
- ‡ One annual subscription to the Association's quarterly journal *Illuminations*
- **†** Invitations to special museum events

AVAILABLE MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

General Membership -	\$20
Senior Membership -	\$10
Student Membership -	\$10
Family Membership -	\$40
2nd Assistant Keeper Membership -	\$100
1st Assistant Keeper Membership -	\$200
Principal Keeper Membership -	\$500
Corporate Membership -	\$500

MAKE A DONATION

Did you know that the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that currently receives zero tax-funded support at the local, state, or national level? Its true! Nearly 100% of the Association's annual budget is financed exclusively in-house through daily admission and merchandise sales, private donations, and annual membership dues. As such, the Association relies on the generosity of its visitors and local supporters to fund its ongoing efforts to preserve and interpret this important National Historic Landmark and deliver educational programming to all Volusia County K-12 school groups free of charge. Donations can be made online at www. lighthouselocker.org, inside the gift shop, or by mailing a check made out to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse to 4931 South Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127.

VOLUNTEER

The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is always looking for talented individuals to join its dedicated corps of volunteers and help the museum meet its annual educational programming goals. Prior volunteer docent experience is not required and comprehensive training is provided to all qualifying candidates. Contact Programs Manager Zach Hopple at *education@ponceinlet.org* to learn more.

MEMORIAL BRICKS

Memorial bricks are a wonderful way to honor your friends and loved ones or commemorate a special event while providing much needed support of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum. 100% of all brick sale proceeds are used to support the Association's ongoing preservation and educational efforts. Each laser engraved brick features the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse logo and text of your choosing. Available brick sizes include the standard 4"x8" brick and the recently introduced 8"x8" paver. Miniature bricks are also available at the time of your initial memorial brick purchase. You can learn more about the museum's Memorial Brick Program by visiting us online at *www.lighthouselocker.org/memorial-bricks*.



Membership Application

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

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- [‡] Free Admission to the museum and lighthouse during normal hours of operation
- [‡] 10% discount on all regular-priced merchandise in the museum gift shop and online
- [‡] One annual subscription to the Association's quarterly journal Illuminations
- *†* Invitations to special museum events
- * Volunteer Opportunities

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

General Member	\$20				
‡ Includes all benefits listed	above for one person				
Senior Member	\$10				
‡ Includes all benefits listed					
age 65 years and up					
Student Member					
‡ Includes all benefits listed	above for one student				
age 12 years and up wi	th valid student ID				
Family Member	\$40				
‡ Includes benefits listed ab					
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and all children age 18					
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One membership card issued					
‡ Children under 12 must be a					
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2nd Assistant Keeper Member...... \$100

FLORIDA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION NUMBER AND DISCLAIMER: **REGISTRATION #: CH137**

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BY OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

MAILING ADDRESS:

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Unit:

City:_____State:__Zip:____

Payment Information:

(Please make checks payable to the "Ponce Inlet Lighthouse")

Membership Cost: Donation Amount:

TotalAmountDue:

MAIL COMPLETED FORM WITH ENCLOSED CHECK TO: PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE **4931 South Peninsula Drive** PONCE INLET, FL 32127

Note: Memberships may also be purchased online with a debit/credit card at www.lighthouselocker.org.

GIFT SHOP

UNIQUE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE GIFT IDEAS!

The Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum gift shop specializes in unique lighthouse and nautical themed merchandise for people of all ages. Our wide selection includes clothing, housewares, toys, games, jewelry, artwork, books, custom lighthouse curios, collectibles, and more. Be sure to view our online selection of merchandise at www.lighthouselocker.org or visit the gift shop in person. Members receive 10% off all regularly priced merchandise throughout the year. Please contact the gift shop via email at giftshop@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 21 for current offerings.



Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Annual Memberships

This Holiday Season, give your family and friends the gift of history and adventure with an Annual Membership to Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse! For the cost of a scratch off lottery ticket you can treat that special someone to a full year of unlimited access to Florida's tallest Lighthouse and one

of the most authentic historic light stations in the nation. Please see the membership enrollment form on page 19 for more details.



HAPPY

HOLIDAYS

Item #: 7012

Item #: 7011

DAYTIME SCENE:

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse: An Illustrated History

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse: An Illustrated History is the result of over 40 years of research by the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association. Written by museum curator Ellen Henry, this fully-illustrated hardback volume is the definitive history of the historic Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station.

Price: \$49.95 (+S&H)

Custom Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Holiday Greeting Cards

Send your friends and loved ones a message of holiday cheer this Christmas season with limited edition greeting cards designed exclusively for the

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! NIGHTTIME SCENE: Price: \$18.99 (+S&H) Price: \$18.99 (+S&H)

Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum! Choose a sunny daytime Christmas scene with a Florida snowman basking on the beach in front of the tower -or- a nighttime scene with featuring Santa flying his sleigh past the lighthouse. Each box set includes ten blank greeting cards w/envelopes. Orders yours while supplies last.

NON-PROFIT ORG. US Postage Paid **Jrlando**, FL ACG

PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC. 4931 South Peninsula Drive 321 ww.ponceinlet.org Ponce Inlet, FL 386) 761-1821

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Custom Ornament

No Christmas tree complete without a custom ornament from the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse. Designed specifically for the Preservation Association, this unique unbreakable ornament features a decoupage image of the Ponce Inlet Light Station.

Item #: 1295 Price: \$8.99 (+S&H)

Member Coupon 20% Off Any Single Item

Limit one coupon per member per quarter.

Cannot be used with any other discounts or memorial brick purchases

Expires 12/31/2023

16 October 2023 • Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station