



PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE ILLUMINATIONS

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

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Dear Members,

I hope this issue of Illuminations finds you well as we celebrate the arrival of the New Year. As many of you know, this time of year is always active at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse as race fans and bikers descend on Daytona Beach for its annual Race Week and Bike Week events and others come to soak in Florida's sunshine on its sparkling beaches.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who participated in the Preservation Association's 2015 Annual Ask Event and to Annual Ask Event. Those wishing to donate to either the General Operating Fund or Lighthouse Endowment Fund may do so online at www.lighthouselocker.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 15. Additional information regarding how you can support the Light Station can be found on the Association's main website at www.ponceinlet.org under the Support Us tab.

One of the most commonly asked questions' regarding financial contributions to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse is "How is my denotation spent?" The answer to that question depends on whether or not the donation was made to the Lighthouse Endowment Fund or the General Operating Fund.

All donations to the Lighthouse Endowment Fund are held in perpetuity. The fund is invested and only a portion of its average annual investment return is used for preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation. To guard against the eroding consequences of inflation, the

remaining investment return is added to the principle. The goal is to ensure that the principal maintains its value over time. Thus a donor who creates an endowed gift today can be confident that it will grow and continue to support the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse in the years to come.

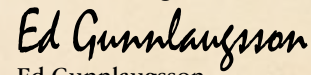
In contrast, donations to the General Operating Fund are added to the Association's annual budget. One hundred percent of all tax-deductible donations to the General Operating Fund are used in the Association's ongoing efforts to restore, preserve, and interpret this important National Historic Landmark. Projects and programs funded in part through general operating donations during Fiscal Year 2014-2015 included;

1. The acquisition of numerous historic photos and documents related to the US Light-House Establishment (USLHE) and Ponce Inlet, twelve USLHE artifacts, and a vintage 1906 US Life-Saving Service Lyle gun.
2. Re-pointing of exterior masonry on the Oil Storage Building and three keepers' dwellings
3. Replacement of several climate control systems in the historic and modern buildings
4. Installation of Plexiglas panels in Building 10 to protect the museum's growing collection of historic Fresnel lenses
5. Construction of display cabinets to house newly acquired artifacts

6. Ongoing development of the museum's Docent Training Program
7. Lighthouse participation in community and collaborative museum events
8. Two onsite teacher training workshops and delivery of thirteen educational outreach presentations, five lectures, seventy three onsite student tours, and twenty one onsite educational events.

The generous contributions made by you and other like-minded donors will help fund the ongoing restoration, preservation, rehabilitation, and educational programming efforts of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association throughout this year and the years to come.

Thanks to you, the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is better equipped than ever to meet the growing cost of preserving and interpreting this important National Historic Landmark for this and future generations. Your ongoing support and advocacy is greatly appreciated.

With warm regards,

 Ed Gunnlaugsson
 Executive Director
 Ponce Inlet Lighthouse

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Subscription is a benefit of membership in the Association. ILLUMINATIONS welcomes letters and comments from our readers.

REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION

Sept. 6, 2015 – May 29, 2016
OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 6:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 5:00 PM)

May 30, 2016 – Sept 5, 2016
OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 9:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 8:00 PM)

SPECIAL HOURS OF OPERATION

MUSEUM AT NIGHT EXTENDED HOURS
JANUARY 16, 2016 (FRIDAY)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 8:30 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 7:30 PM)

RACE WEEK 2016 EXTENDED HOURS
FEBRUARY 12 & 13, 2016
(FRIDAY & SATURDAY)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION AT 6:00 PM)

FEBRUARY 19 & 20, 2016
(FRIDAY & SATURDAY)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION AT 6:00 PM)

FEBRUARY 22, 23, & 24, 2016
(MONDAY – WEDNESDAY)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION AT 6:00 PM)

BIKE WEEK 2016 EXTENDED HOURS
MARCH 10, 11, & 12, 2016
(THURSDAY-SATURDAY)
OPEN FROM 10:00 AM UNTIL 7:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 6:00 PM)

SCHEDULED TOWER CLOSURES

JANUARY 23, 2016 (SATURDAY)
TOWER CLOSED FROM 5:00 PM UNTIL 6:00 PM
MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP OPEN UNTIL 6:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 5:00 PM)

FEBRUARY 22, 2016 (MONDAY)
TOWER CLOSED FROM 5:00 PM UNTIL 7:00 PM
MUSEUM AND GIFT SHOP OPEN UNTIL 7:00 PM
(LAST MUSEUM ADMISSION SOLD AT 6:00 PM)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JANUARY 18, 2016 (MONDAY)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
(OPEN TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP)

FEBRUARY 15, 2016 (MONDAY)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
(CLOSED TO GENERAL PUBLIC AND MEMBERSHIP)

MARCH 21, 2016
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
(CLOSED TO GENERAL PUBLIC AND MEMBERSHIP)

CLIMB TO THE MOON SCHEDULE

JANUARY 23, 2016 (SATURDAY)
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
(SOLD OUT)

FEBRUARY 22, 2016 (MONDAY)
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
(SOLD OUT)

MARCH 23, 2016 (WEDNESDAY)
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

APRIL 22, 2016 (FRIDAY)
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

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 KAREN AT (386) 761-1821 EXT. 10. PRICES ARE \$25 FOR NON-MEMBERS AND \$20 FOR MEMBERS



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JANUARY 9, 2016 (SATURDAY) 10:30 AM TO 2:30 PM **GIRL SCOUT DAY**
Calling all Girl Scouts! Spend the day engaged in science and history activities on the grounds of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Earn a Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Fun patch when you complete the themed activities available that day. Registration for this event will only be available online. Online registration will begin one month prior to the event. This special event is limited to 100 participants. Please contact Mary Wentzel at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org, or (386) 761-1821 ext. 18, for more information.

JANUARY 15, 2016 (FRIDAY) 6:00 PM TO 8:30 PM **MUSEUM AT NIGHT**
Climb the lighthouse at night and enjoy an evening of Lighthouse and maritime history. Meet our own Captain Murphy and learn about his adventures on the high seas. Also on that evening, visit with the most famous female Lighthouse keeper and American heroine, Miss Ida Lewis from Lime Rock Lighthouse in Rhode Island. All active teachers will be admitted free of charge with proof of employment. All activities are included with regular admission, no advance reservations required. Please contact Mary Wentzel at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org, or (386) 761-1821 ext. 18, for more information.

FEBRUARY 14, 2016 (SUNDAY) 10:30 AM TO 2:30 PM **BEACH RACING DAY**
Travel back in time and discover the wild and woolly roots of Stock Car Racing during the 12th Annual Beach Racing Day at the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse and Museum. See historic beach racing cars from the Living Legends of Racing and talk with drivers, owners, and mechanics who risked life and limb in pursuit of the checkered flag on the World's Most Famous Beach. Join us at 1:00 for a talk on the history of Beach Racing with author and historian William P. Lazarus. All activities are included with regular admission, no advance reservations required. Please contact Mary Wentzel at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org, or (386) 761-1821 ext. 18, for more information.

MARCH 3-6 & 10-13, 2016 (THURS THRU SUN)..... **DAYTONA BIKE WEEK**
Explore the historic Light Station and enjoy spectacular views of the World's Most Famous Beach, Ponce Inlet, and inland waterways from the top of Florida's tallest lighthouse.. All activities are included with regular admission, no advance reservations required. Please contact Mary Wentzel at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org, or (386) 761-1821 ext. 18, for more information.

MARCH 26, 2015 (SATURDAY) 10:30 AM TO 2:30 PM **FLORIDA HERITAGE DAY**
Enjoy a day of re-enactors discussing Florida's role in some of the States pivotal moments in history. Join us at the Lighthouse for fun interactive family-oriented activities. Explore our historical exhibits and climb the largest lighthouse in Florida. All activities are included with regular admission, no advance reservations required. Please contact Mary Wentzel at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org, or (386) 761-1821 ext. 18, for more information.

APRIL 9, 2016 (SATURDAY) 10:30 AM TO 2:30 PM **FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY**
Join us at the Lighthouse for educational activities and interactive workshops developed especially for children and families. Explore the museum and climb to the top of Florida's Lighthouse where spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean, Ponce Inlet, and inland waterways await. Meet our lighthouse keeper as he describes his duties at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. All activities are included with regular admission, no advance reservations required. Please contact Mary Wentzel at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org, or (386) 761-1821 ext. 18, for more information.

Volunteerism at the Ponce Inlet Light Station

What is volunteerism and why is it important within our society? What constitutes a successful volunteer program? How does becoming a volunteer benefit the individual and the organization where he/she volunteers? These and other questions related to volunteerism were addressed by Richard B. Young in a report published by the University of South Carolina titled *Volunteerism: Benefits, Incidence, Organizational Models, and Participation in the Public Sector*.

“Volunteerism in the United States is neither a new concept nor an uncommon activity. Historically, America has long recognized the importance of a societal responsibility to join in, to give freely of one’s time to assist or aid others. This responsibility is frequently iterated in the literature. For example, Alexis de Tocqueville, in 1831, stated in his seminal work, *Democracy in America*, that the U.S. was a nation of joiners that regularly formed groups to meet or accomplish common goals.”

The past century has seen many notable examples of volunteerism, particularly those associated with federally sponsored programs. In the 1960s, the Peace Corps began work to assist the poorest countries in the world by constructing schools, treating the sick, and assisting in agricultural needs. The Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program, initiated during the same decade, undertook assistance to low-income communities across the nation ranging in services from the conservation of natural resources to the cleanup and restoration of urban centers. Today, AmeriCorps, Learn



and Serve America, Senior Corps, and USA Freedom Corps are national programs that enlist thousands of volunteers to address virtually every kind of pressing human problem or need.

State governments also actively recruit volunteers to help in providing essential services to the citizenry. For instance, volunteers provide various integral emergency services in the wake of natural disasters. Volunteers also lend a helping hand to the state courts and correctional systems. This includes the provision of probation and parole mentors, counselors, teachers and trainers, and foster parents. “Adopt-a-highway” programs, tax preparation assistance, “meals on wheels,” hospital care giving, and literally dozens of other state government-sponsored volunteer programs exist.

Local governments additionally utilize volunteers. Volunteers provide valuable services to local schools and libraries, parks and recreational programs, senior citizen centers, police, ambulance and firefighting units. Statistically, for example, 80% of the manpower needs of local fire departments in the U.S. are provided for by volunteers.

Non-governmental organizations significantly utilize volunteers as well. Churches, civic groups, neighborhood associations, philanthropic organizations, and a host of other nonprofit groups provide a wide-range of volunteer opportunities and services.”

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association was founded by a small group of Ponce Inlet residents concerned with the uncertain fate of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station. Decommissioned in 1970 by the United

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Volunteerism at the Ponce Inlet Light Station (continued)

States Coast Guard, the light station quickly fell into a state of extreme disrepair. Vandals, time, and the harsh coastal elements quickly took their toll on the abandoned light station.

Alarmed by the station's rapid decay and rumors of the planned demolition of the keepers' quarters and outbuildings, the Preservation Association's founding members urged recently incorporated town of Ponce Inlet petitioned the U.S. government for ownership of the historic light station. Deeded to the town of Ponce Inlet, responsibility for the preservation and operation of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station immediately given to newly formed Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association.

Work immediately began on the seemingly insurmountable task of bringing the Light Station's buildings, grounds, and tower back to their former glory. With little or no money to begin the project, the Preservation Association relied almost entirely on the hard work and ingenuity of its volunteer members to complete this important task. As the years progressed and the work performed at the Light Station became more specialized and strenuous, the once all-volunteer Association slowly developed into the professional volunteer-supported organization that exists today.

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse now exists as one of the finest and best preserved light stations in the country and is one of only twelve lighthouses to have been designated a National Historic Landmark. Lighthouse Associations across the country look to Ponce Inlet as the lighthouse preservation organization to emulate. Our award-winning educational programming promotes an understanding and appreciation for the importance of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Light Station and generates a sense of pride and appreciation for this great American monument.

Now in its forty-third year of existence, the Association still relies on its dedicated corps of volunteers to achieve its ongoing mission to preserve and disseminate the maritime and social history of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station. Although no longer directly engaged in the restoration and preservation of the facility's physical structures, volunteers remain essential to the Association's educational programming and several have even become assistant lampists, lending a helping hand to the curator in the preservation of historic Fresnel lenses.



In Part 1 of *The Museum Educator's Manual; Docent Training Guidelines* author Anna Johnson states, "Docents have a critical function in the visitor's experience at museums. They are often the primary people visitors interact with, and as such play key roles in the understanding and memories visitors have of the museum. Therefore, high-quality training programs are vitally important in developing effective docents who project a good image of the museum."

Ms. Johnson goes on to explain, "Creating a visitor experience that is positive and rewarding involves organization and attention to detail. As ambassadors of the museum, docents often set the tone for the entire visitor experience. Docents are generally caring, concerned volunteers who want to represent the museum well and who truly appreciate the training and support that the museum provides. Frequently, they choose to be docents because they themselves are lifelong learners and see a carefully planned and rich docent training experience as a personal growth opportunity. In addition, these volunteers are usually socially oriented individuals who are seeking opportunities to meet and interact with others.

The institution's commitment to creating a supportive environment for docents results in their leading successful museum tours and educational workshops and having positive and engaging interactions with the public. A successful visitor experience is characterized by a guest who is actively engaged in the museum experience, develops personal connections to the exhibits and subject matter, learns new information, and plans to return to the museum in order to know more.

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Volunteerism at the Ponce Inlet Light Station (continued)

Based upon the thoughts of Anna Johnson and other experts in the field of volunteer program development, a successful docent training program should:

1. Provide docents with a clear understanding of the museum's established mission statement
2. Follow a training syllabus that reflects the museum's goals for its docents as well as what it is that the docents need to know in order to lead successful tours and workshops.
3. Afford docents the opportunity to improve their interpretive and presentation skills through hands-on training and formal instruction
4. Inspire docents to learn as much as possible about the museum and historic site.
5. Include an evaluation process designed to help docents master the skills needed to provide visitors an enjoyable, memorable, and educational experience.
6. Foster group cohesion, celebrate achievement, and reinforce how docents contribute to the museum's continued success.

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse is pleased to announce the unveiling of its recently updated docent training program. Developed by Programs Manager Mary Wentzel and Lead Docent John Mann (with assistance from museum administrative staff), the newly expanded training syllabus addresses the six features of a successful docent training program listed above.

Scheduled monthly, docent training sessions are held in the education building and throughout the Light Station's historic grounds. Presented by both seasoned docents and members of the administrative staff, the goal of each scheduled workshop is to increase docent understanding of the unique maritime and social histories of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station, the United States Lighthouse Service, Florida, and the local community. In addition, the museum's docent training program also addresses the more scientific aspects



of lighthouse operations including the science of light and lighthouse optics, lighthouse architecture, coastal geography, lighthouse preservation and restoration, and much more.

Since its' unveiling in September, 2015, the Preservation Association has held five training sessions. These include:

Tuesday, September 15, 2015:

Executive Director Ed Gunn, Programs Manager Mary Wentzel, and Lead Docent John Mann led a discussion addressing the Preservation Association's ongoing efforts to preserve and disseminate the maritime and social history of the Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station along with the goals and objectives of the newly revised docent training program.

Tuesday, October 6, 2015:

Museum Curator Ellen Henry presented an overview of the unique features of the late-Victorian coastal cottage, the architectural style the Light Station's historic keeper's dwellings were modeled after. A group discussion regarding architecture tour ideas that address the entry points to learning (aesthetic, narrative, logical/quantitative, foundational, and experiential) along with a power point presentation exploring Blooms Taxonomy of Learning and the art of asking great questions was held immediately after Ms. Henry's presentation.

Tuesday, October 20, 2015:

Lighthouse volunteers accompanied Programs Manager Mary Wentzel, Lead Docent John Mann, and Museum Registrar

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Volunteerism at the Ponce Inlet Light Station (continued)

James Powell on a field trip to the Postal Museum in Orange City and to the outstanding Morse Museum in Winter Park. The excursion was both a thank you to the volunteers for their service, and an opportunity for the volunteers to observe other museum docents and tour guides in action as an integral part of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Volunteer Training Program.

Tuesday, November 10, 2015:

Lead docent John Mann led an interesting discussion focusing on the construction of the Light Station between 1883 and 1887. Topics of interest included the anatomy of a lighthouse, how the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse was built, who designed and oversaw its construction, and why the Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1998. Additional topics included how to engage teenage students and encourage individual and group participation in the learning process.

Tuesday, November 24, 2015:

Volunteers explored the Principal keeper's dwelling and examined Reflections on Light, an interactive multi-station exhibit exploring the science of light, Fresnel lenses, and the evolution of lighthouse illumination. Longtime docent Allen Bestwick led the group into the kitchen breezeway where he discussed the history of the United States Life Saving Service (USLSS) and examined USLSS artifacts currently on display. Additional topics of discussion included the role of the chaperone and how to make a tour of the Light Station more meaningful for younger students.

Volunteer training session dates and topics of discussion currently scheduled for 2016 include:

Tuesday, January 19, 2016:

Docents will discover new and exciting ways to explore history using the Gladys Meyer Davis House and learn interactive teaching strategies that facilitate critical thinking and encourage students to develop personal connections with historic events using historic artifacts and hand-on activities with Curator Ellen Henry and Lead Docent John Mann.

Tuesday February 9, 2016:

Attendees will explore the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit building and further develop their understanding of lighthouse optics used in both lighthouses and minor aids to navigation. Docents will also examine strategies for encouraging individual and group participation during adult-oriented tours.

Tuesday, February 23, 2016:

Docents will learn about the centerpiece of the historic Ponce De Leon Inlet Light Station, the tower itself, as they climb the lighthouse with Director of Operations Mike Bennett and discover interesting facts about the tower's construction and the men and women who maintained it during its 128 years of near-continuous operation. Attendees will also learn strategies for leading a tour group to the top of the tower and examine the importance of individual and group evaluations in the docent training program.

Tuesday, March 15, 2016:

Docents will gather together to discuss the current training program and examine the pros and cons of the new training syllabus and revise as needed.



Individuals wishing to explore volunteer opportunities are encouraged to contact Programs Manager Mary Wentzel by email at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 18. Additional information regarding volunteerism at the Lighthouse along with videos of past training workshops may be found online at www.ponceinlet.org. With the invaluable aid of its dedicated volunteer corps the Ponce De Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association will continue its proud tradition of preserving and disseminating the maritime and social history of this important National Historic Landmark.

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum
Thanks all of its Present and
Past Supporters for
Their Generous Support

Each donation is greatly appreciated. This quarter the Museum received many donations of note. Earl and Gladys Davis continued their generous support with several donations including the 1944 book, *Georgetown Houselore* by Julian Stevenson Bolick, a 1930s butter dish, and a 1930s 'refrigerator box'. Julie Davis donated a vintage Art Deco serving tray, an 1891 book *Everyday Cookbook and Encyclopedia of Practical Recipes* by Miss E. Neil, and a vintage small miniature disc pitcher. Kathleen Ruding donated an historic men's straight razor and sharpening strop. In addition to donating many hours of their time, PILH volunteers John and Jackie Mann also donated an historic gas can. We especially appreciate this donation, the Mann's donated the gas can in response to last quarter's Illuminations wish list for items to be displayed in the Lighthouse's Generator Room. Be sure to search for this red gas can during your next visit to the Lighthouse.

And, a sincere thank you this quarter to Robert 'Bud' Midgette. Mr. Midgette donated his time and provided valuable information during a recorded oral history on the Midgette family's long connection to lighthouse history including his relative Camillus Midgette. In 1941, Camillus Midgette served approximately six months at the Ponce Inlet Coast Guard Station.

Calling all former lifeguards! This quarter we have a special wish list. Here at the Museum, we will soon add a small section to the exhibits on Volusia County lifeguards. We hope to expand on this initial step by adding to the Museum's lifeguard holdings. And, in the near future we hope to create a larger lifeguard exhibit. Please think of the Museum if you have any vintage lifeguard related items that you would like to donate. We are searching for most lifeguard items, but in particular we hope to acquire historic rescue rings, buoys, or boards; historic swimwear, including early wool items; and historic lifeguard instructions, certificates, documents, and photographs.

Thank you!



VOLUNTEERS TOUR CENTRAL FLORIDA MUSEUMS

On October 20, 2015, seventeen members of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Volunteer Corp along with Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Registrar/ Assistant Curator James Powell and Programs Manager Mary Wentzel went on what might be called a businessman's holiday to the Postal Museum in Orange City and the outstanding Morse Museum in Winter Park. The trip was both a thank you to the volunteers for their service and an opportunity for the volunteers to observe other museum docents and tour guides in action as an integral part of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Volunteer Training Program.



“Our intention was to provide our docents with the opportunity to socialize with one another and to observe and evaluate the docent programs at the Postal Museum and Morse Museum. The experience led to lively discussions comparing the Association’s volunteer program to those of the Morse and Postal museums. The feedback we received was extremely positive and intuitive. All of the Ponce Inlet volunteers were impressed with the knowledge of both the Morse Museum staff and the Postal Museum staff. The fact that it was delivered with such high quality professionalism made it that much more entertaining and enlightening”, stated Ms. Wentzel.

Founded by former Deland Postmaster Joe Guthrie and Lead Docent Dallas Wittgenfeld (who also led the tour), the Florida Postal Museum recounts US Post Office history. Filled with numerous Postal Service artifacts, the museum is located in the 1876 Heritage Inn Hotel on Volusia Avenue in Orange City.



Located on North Park Avenue in Winter Park, the Morse Museum houses the world’s most comprehensive collection of Louis Comfort Tiffany’s works including jewelry, pottery, art glass, leaded-glass windows, and late 19th and early 20th century American Decorative Arts.

The Preservation Association is always looking for individuals interested in accepting the challenge of becoming a lighthouse volunteer. Those wishing to do so may contact Programs Manager Mary Wentzel by email at mwentzel@ponceinlet.org or by phone at (386) 761-1821 ext. 18. You can also learn more about volunteering opportunities online at www.ponceinlet.org.



Sena Hinnant Zane



Sena Zane with her loving husband Tom Zane

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association is sad to announce the passing of Sena Hinnant Zane on October 13, 2015. A longtime lighthouse volunteer and wife of former museum registrar Tom Zane, Sena was born in Wilmington, NC on August 18, 1935 to James Reed, and Margaret Walton Hinnant. She graduated from Gainesville Florida High School and the University of Florida where she earned a BA degree and was active in Alpha Omicron Pi. While at UF she met her husband of 58 years, Tom, and they married after her graduation in 1957. In addition, she earned a Master in Library Science from the University of Rhode Island in 1977.

From a young age Sena lived and traveled throughout the United States as the daughter of a Coast Guard officer. Her travels continued as the wife of a career Army officer living in many states as well as Germany, the Panama Canal Zone and Japan. Sena would immerse herself in the culture of wherever she was living and instilled an appreciation and respect for other cultures in her three children.

Upon Tom's retirement from active service they moved to Daytona Beach. Here they purchased their first home yet continued their many travels including trips to China, Europe, and Africa. Sena began her own career with the Volusia County Library System as a volunteer. She then became a paraprofessional and the audio-visual librarian for City Island Library. She concluded her career as a reference librarian for the New Smyrna Beach Library.

Sena was an active volunteer throughout her life and spent many enjoyable hours participating in activities with the local Brandeis University National Women's Committee, Oceanside Women's Club, and Arlington Garden Club. She was also a founding member of the Women Into Lifelong Learning. Sena was a passionate patron of the arts and had many interests including traveling, reading, playing bridge, flower arranging, the opera, and visiting family. In addition to all these activities and obligations, Sena donated more than 250 hours to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse where she diligently transcribed oral histories for the museum.

Mrs. Zane is survived by her loving husband Tom, her brother James Reed Hinnant of Gainesville, son Thomas Wesley Zane of Draper, Utah and daughters Margo Sena Myers of Oakdale, Connecticut and Reed Zane Bailey of Jacksonville, Florida. Sena was also blessed with ten grandchildren and nine great-grand-children, all of whom she made efforts to visit frequently.

The family has asked that any memorial gifts be given to the Community Unitarian Universalist Church, in Port Orange, Florida.

US LIFE-SAVING SERVICE LYLE GUN

This Quarter, we want to highlight an important and exciting new acquisition. The new addition is a US Life-Saving Service (USLSS) line-throwing Lyle gun.

The gun was manufactured in 1906 at the Richmond Iron Works in Virginia. The muzzle is bronze, and the carriage is oak, bound with ironwork. The flat parimeter end of the muzzle is embossed, "R.I.W., No 751, 1906, and O.C.H."

The flat side of the trunion on the right is embossed, "USLSS." The gun is in excellent condition, with only expected aging and wear from normal use.

This gun was used as a means to send a rope from one location to another distant location. This was done in a two step process. First, the gun would fire a projectile, weighing approximately 12 pounds, with a shot or messenger line attached. This line would then be used to pull over a heavier rope that was secured at both locations. A rescue breeches buoy was rigged to the rope, and it was used to pull stranded mariners and passengers to safety.

In the USLSS, Lyle guns were used primarily to send a line from shore to stranded or wrecked ships near to shore. The gun could fire the projectile up to 600 or 700 yards under the best of conditions. Rescues of ships further from shore would have been carried out by lifeboat. These Lyle guns were in use from the late 1870s to 1915 by the USLSS, and from 1915 to the early 1950s by the US Coast Guard.



The US Department of the Treasury established the USLSS in 1878. The USLSS was 'charged by Congress to render assistance to sailors, passengers, and cargo of distressed vessels off the shores of the US.' The roots of the USLSS began as early as the 1840s with private and volunteer efforts to aid and save the lives of shipwrecked victims. In 1915, the USLSS, the Steamboat Inspection Service, and the Revenue Cutter Service were

merged to form the US Coast Guard.

The gun derives its name from David A. Lyle. Lyle attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated with a commission in 1869. Lyle developed the gun at the request of USLSS Superintendent Sumner I. Kimball. Following the establishment of the USLSS, Superintendent Kimball began work to modernize, upgrade, and standardized the equipment used by the Service including a line-throwing gun. Lyle guns soon became the standard for the USLSS.

The Lyle gun has been added to the USLSS section of the Museum's exhibits. We hope everyone will soon have a chance to visit the Museum to view this impressive gun.



When viewing the Lyle Gun, be sure to notice the also newly acquired octant that has been placed in the exhibit just next to the Lyle gun. This beautiful piece of equipment was manufactured by The Chapin-Stephens Company in Riverton, Connecticut, circa 1900. It is made of boxwood and brass, and includes a metal fold-out scale and a bubble level. The gunner used the octant to set the firing elevation of the Lyle gun.

A WONDERFUL FALL SEASON AT THE LIGHT STATION

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse had a wonderful fall season. Enjoyed by visitors from across the country and beyond, the museum's regular offerings and participated in several educational workshops scheduled on specific days throughout the quarter. In addition to onsite events, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse programs department also attended several off-site community events including the City of Port Orange's annual Family Days Festival and the Volusia County Marine Science Center's Bird Release event.

In August, the Preservation Association was invited to attend the Volusia County School System's annual history and science teachers' preplanning meetings. Attended by Programs Manager Mary Wentzel and Lead Docent John Mann, local teachers were informed of the Lighthouse's many educational offerings which are provided free of charge to both public and private schools. Well-received by those in attendance, many teachers scheduled lighthouse workshops at their schools on the spot while others sent in requests in the days following Ms. Wentzel's and Mr. Mann's presentation.

Our Fall Museum at Night event on October 9th was a resounding success. The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse remained open after dark in support of the Museums at Night initiative. The Museum at Night concept began as a national campaign in the United Kingdom as a means of encouraging museum visitation by opening museums, galleries and heritage sites beyond normal operating hours. Organizations had the opportunity to host unique educational events at their sites. This idea spread to the United States and has become very popular with museums across the country.

Museum at Night activities included guided tours of the Lighthouse and museum, and the opportunity to talk with volunteers and staff from neighboring historical organizations including Lilian Place Historical House in Daytona Beach and the Ponce Inlet Historical Society. Designated a teacher appreciation event, all Volusia County educators received free admission in recognition of their valuable contributions to our children's lives.

Scheduled on November 12, 2015, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse's Fall Homeschool Day was attended by nearly one hundred homeschool students and their parents from across the state. Related to the central theme of *The Three Historic Lighthouses of Volusia County*, scheduled activities included; *Ida Lewis: Lighthouse Keeper and A true American Heroine, Yesterday and Today: The stuff we rely on, Ianthe Bond Hebel: Teacher of the Lighthouse Children, The Environment at the Lighthouse in 1890s and Lighthouse Animal Tracks.*

On November 17th the Preservation Association had the honor of hosting the Volusia County School District's Elementary Science Curriculum Cadre. Attended by more than fifty K-5 science teachers, lead docent John Mann presented *The Science of Light* before leading the educators on a guided tour of the lighthouse and museum with special stops at the Reflection on Light exhibit and the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit Building.

Unveiled to the public in the spring of 2014, Science of Light is a unique interactive program that explores the physics of light, the evolution of lighthouse optics, and the history and design of lighthouses through the ages.

On Saturday November 21, the Preservation Association hosted *Girl Scout Earn A Patch Day*. Developed in cooperation with the Girl Scouts of Citrus Counsel, Earn a Patch Day is a unique program that teaches scouts about the unique maritime and social history of this important National Historic Landmark. Attended by twenty Girl Scouts, afternoon activities included workshops focusing on early methods of communication between lighthouses and how the Ponce Inlet Light Station was constructed in the 1880s.

Held every year on the day after Thanksgiving, *Thanksgiving Gifts* is a unique holiday-themed event at the museum. Instead of braving the stampeding hordes on "Black Friday" many chose to visit the Lighthouse where staff and volunteers had scheduled several "old-timey" activities for young and old alike including workshops where families could work together or individually as they made homemade pine cone ornaments and orange pomanders (oranges studded with cloves). In addition to enjoying a leisurely stroll through the light station and views from the top of Florida's tallest lighthouse, visitors also discovered that the Lighthouse gift shop offers a wide assortment of merchandise that make wonderful holiday gifts.

We have a very exciting winter planned at the Lighthouse. Upcoming educational events include: Girl Scout Fun Patch Day on Saturday, January 9, from 10:30 to 2:30 pm; Museum at Night on Friday, January 15, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm; Beach Racing Day at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse on Sunday, February 14, from 10:30 to 2:30 pm; Florida Heritage Day on Saturday, March 26, from 10:30 to 2:30pm. Take a ride to the lighthouse during Bike Week 2016 (March 3-6 and 10 - 13) and climb the tower, visit our museum and learn about the history of motorcycle racing on the World's Most Famous beach. A complete list of this quarter's event can be found in this newsletter.

Happy New Year!

A Tragic Turn of Events at Boston Light

Commissioned by the General Court of the Colony of Massachusetts to guide maritime commerce in and out of the bustling port, Boston Light was built atop Beacon (now Little Brewster) Island, a rocky outer island situated at the northeastern edge of the Boston's main shipping channel. Completed in September, 1716, Boston Light was the first lighthouse to be built in the American Colonies. A tax on tonnage of 1 pence per ton on all vessels, except coasters, paid for the construction of the lighthouse and its ongoing maintenance.

Selected by the Town of Hull and appointed by the Massachusetts General Court to the position of lighthouse keeper, 43-year old George Worthyake illuminated the tower for the first time on September 14, 1716. Born and raised on George's Island less than two miles away, Worthyake possessed an intimate knowledge of the treacherous waterways throughout Boston Harbor. In addition to his assigned duties as lighthouse keeper, George Worthyake would also serve as Harbor Master and pilot for ships entering and exiting the bay. When he wasn't actively engaged in fulfilling his lighthouse keeper, harbor master, and pilot duties, George maintained a farm on nearby Lovell's Island and a herd of sheep on Great Brewster Island, a stone's throw away.

Moving to Beacon Island shortly after his appointment as keeper, Worthyake had no intention of living a life of solitude on the

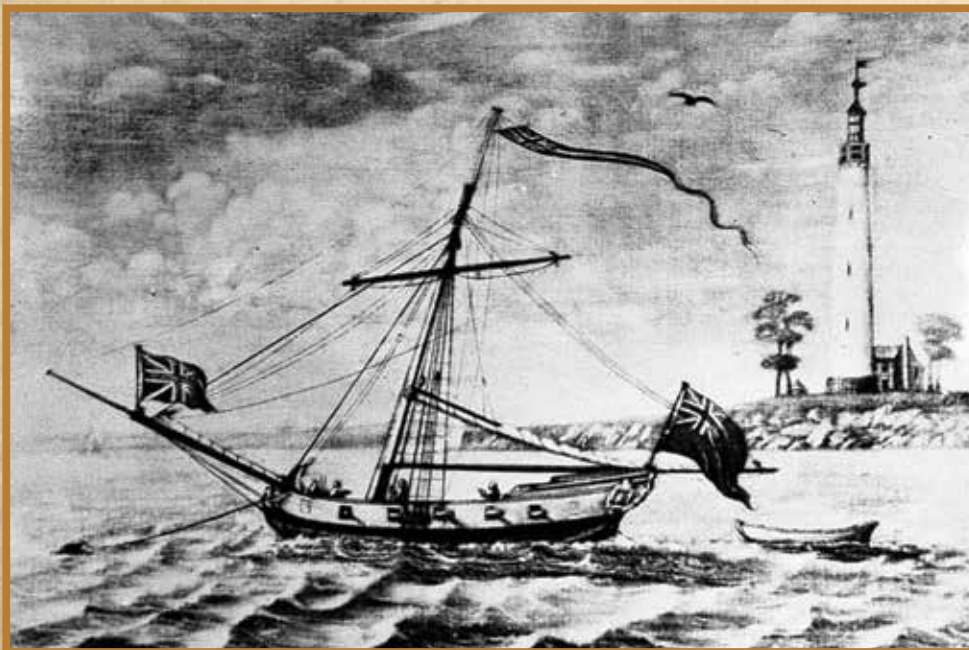


wind swept rock that qualified as an island in name only. Joining him at the light station were his wife Ann, two of the couple's five children, Ruth and Ann, a personal servant named George, and two African slaves named Shadwell and Dina. Together they made the previously uninhabited two-acre island one of the most densely populated in Boston Harbor.

A little over two years after his appointment as keeper at Boston Light, George Worthyake departed Beacon Island on the morning of November 1, 1718, for the purpose of collecting his monthly keeper's pay and to attend Sunday morning services. Accompanying Mr. Worthyake on this routine trip to town was his wife Ann, fifteen-year old daughter Ruth, and his servant George. Rowed

to the mainland by Worthyake's slave Shadwell (who returned to Beacon Island following their departure), the family continued on to the city of Boston where they stayed the night in order to attend church in the morning.

Following the conclusion of Sunday services, Mr. Worthyake and his family departed Boston on Monday morning, November 3rd, with the intent of making it home by early afternoon. Stopping briefly at Lovell's Island to check on the condition of the farm, the Worthyakes boarded a small sloop scheduled to pass by Beacon Island where they would transfer to the small boat in which they had originally departed two days earlier.



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Seeing the ship anchored just offshore around noon, Shadwell paddled the small boat out to the sloop carrying Worthylake, Ann, Ruth, George, and a close friend named John Edge who decided to join them on the last leg of their journey at Lovell's Island. Climbing down from the sloop the group quickly discovered that the rowboat was of insufficient size to accommodate them all as water began to wash over the gunnels. Waiting on shore for her family's return, Worthylake's second daughter Ann and her friend Mary Thompson watched in horror as the tiny boat capsized, tossing all six passengers into the frigid waters of Boston Harbor. Seeing their heads bobbing above the surface for only a few moments, Ann could only stare as one after another slipped beneath the waves. Within minutes of departing the sloop all aboard the rowboat were dead.

Recovered in the days following the accident, the bodies of George, Ann, and Ruth were interred at Copp's Hill Burial Ground in Boston's North End. The remains of John Edge, George Cutler, and Shadwell were buried elsewhere. Although shaken by the tragedy, the need to maintain Boston Light as an active aid to navigation necessitated the hasty appointment of a local mariner named Capt. Robert Saunders "to repair to Beacon Island and take care of the Lighthouse till a (permanent) keeper be chosen and appointed by the General Assembly."



Capt. Saunders had been performing the duties of interim keeper at Boston Light for less than two weeks when tragedy struck the light station a second time. Occurring in a manner that was eerily similar to the chain of events that claimed the lives of the Worthylake party two weeks earlier, the unforgiving waters of Boston Harbor also took the lives of Robert Saunders and his companion John Chamberlin. An article in the November 17, 1718 edition of the Boston Newsletter described the second incident in some detail:

"There being a necessity to supply Mr. Worthylake's place to keep up the lights on that island, Capt. Robert Saunders and two others, viz {namely} John Chamberlain and one Bradduck, were

The Lighthouse Tragedy

By Benjamin Franklin

*Oh! George. This wild November
We must not pass with you
For Ruth, our fragile daughter,
Its chilly gales will rue.*

*So, home to Lovell's Island
Take us when fails the sea
To the old house where comfort
And better shelter be.*

*Comes the long weary winter
With its storms of driving snow;
I can only watch the beacon
Sure that you are near its glow.*

*Yes, dear wife, my constant service
Binds me to this narrow isle,
Love must ever yield to duty
Though the heart be sad the while.*

*Only grant that on the morrow
We may safely pass the sea,
I can bravely bear my sorrow
You and Ruth here will not be.*

*With wild nor'wester came this morning,
Cold and clear the heartless sky.
Come wife, take Ruth. The pull will be long.
So - into the boat I will row you home.*

*Nestled within her mother's cloak
Frail Ruth is sheltered from the blast,
While Anne looks into George's face
With quick, strong strokes they leave the shore.*

*Though starting in the Brewster's lea,
Rough and empty rolls the sea.
Low the boat -- too deeply laden
Heavy hearts make heavy burden.*

*Now they reach the open channel
Where the flood tide breasts the gale
Rears a toppling wall of water.
Making Anne's cheeks grow pale.*

*Quick the prow is upward borne
George in Ann's arms is thrown
Husband, wife and child together
To the chilly waves have gone.*

*Frenzied clasp of wife and daughter
Bears the sturdy swimmer down,
Save the boat upon the water
Nothing of their fate is known*

>> CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



appointed to go down, who accordingly went on Friday {November 14} last, to the Lighthouse about three a clock, and a ship coming in from sea put out a waft [beckon]; and Capt. Saunders with the other two went on board her, and Capt. Saunders inquired, if they wanted a pilot, seeing they made a sign for them. The master said, no, he only wanted to know what news; whereupon Capt. Saunders told him that if he had known as much he would not have ventured aboard in such stormy weather, so returning to their boat to come on shore; a saw of wind upset her, Capt. Saunders & Braddock both drowned, Mr. Chamberlin swam directly to the shore, but rested upon...rocks, ere he got on shore, where he laid before the fire and begun to revive, and is now lying sick in Boston."

Inspired by the tragic tale that left all of Boston in shock, a twelve-year old printing apprentice named Benjamin Franklin immortalized the drowning of the George, Ann, and Ruth Worthylake in a poem titled *The Lighthouse Tragedy*. Sold to passersby's in the streets of Boston by Franklin himself, the celebrated statesman later described the poem as "wretched stuff that sold prodigiously." Believed lost for all time, no copy of *The Lighthouse Tragedy* was ever found until 1940, when one was discovered in an abandoned house on a nearby island by Maurice Babcock Jr., son of the Principal Keeper of Boston Light.

Identified as the lost poem written by the young Benjamin Franklin with assistance from local historian Edward Rowe Snow, the aged document has never been authenticated due to the absence of anything to compare it to. Despite the lack of supporting evidence, the poem is regarded by many as authentic.

During the early part of the American Revolution, the original 75 foot Boston Lighthouse was held by the British occupiers and twice attacked and burned by American forces. When the British withdrew from Boston in 1776, they blew up the first tower and completely leveled it. It was not until 1783 that the current tower was built by the Massachusetts Legislature. While Boston Light was the first light station, it is the second oldest working lighthouse in the United States (after Sandy Hook Lighthouse in New Jersey).

Transferred to the federal government by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on June 10, 1790, the seventy-five foot tall Boston Light remained relatively unchanged until 1856, when it was raised to its present height of 98 feet and a new lantern room was added. A second order Fresnel lens, which replaced a Winslow Lewis optic, is still in place and fully operational. Boston Light was automated in 1998, but it is still staffed, as tradition and law would have it, by volunteer watch-standers from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Its characteristic is one white flash every ten seconds that is visible from a distance of approximately 12 nautical miles.

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

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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.



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Thank You for Your Generous Support!



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STAVE OFF THE COLD DAYS OF WINTER WITH A COZY PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE HOODED SWEATSHIRT/T-SHIRT COMBO. THIS COMFORTABLE COMBO INCLUDES AN 80%/20% COTTON POLYESTER BLEND SWEATSHIRT WITH FULL HOOD AND DRAWSTRING CLOSURE AND A COLOR COORDINATED 100% COTTON FITTED T-SHIRT. BOTH ITEMS FEATURE THE NAME OF THE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRINTED BOLDLY IN BLOCK LETTERS. AVAILABLE IN FOUR COLOR COMBINATIONS: RUST/NAVY, CHARCOAL/RED (PICTURED), SKY BLUE/RASPBERRY, AND BERRY/TURQUOISE. AVAILABLE IN SIZES SMALL THROUGH XX-LARGE. PLEASE INDICATE DESIRED COLOR AND SIZE WHEN ORDERING.

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PROCLAIM YOUR LOVE FOR THE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE WITH THIS COMFORTABLE POLY/COTTON BLEND CREW NECK NANTUCKET SWEATER FEATURING AN EMBROIDERED IMAGE OF THE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE ALONG WITH ITS NAME. AVAILABLE IN GRAY OR WHITE IN SIZES SMALL THROUGH XX-LARGE. PLEASE INDICATE DESIRED COLOR, SIZE, AND CONFIGURATION (ZIPPERED OR PULL-OVER) WHEN ORDERING.

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KEEP YOUR COLD BEVERAGES COLD AND YOUR HOT BEVERAGES HOT WITH THIS WONDERFUL 16 OUNCE INSULATED TRAVEL MUG FEATURING THE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE. THE SCREW ON CAP FEATURES A SLIDING TAB TO PREVENT ACCIDENTAL SPILLS.

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ITEM #: 4016 PRICE: \$26.99 (+S&H)



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 ITEM #: 2534 PRICE: \$35.00 (+S&H)



**A BEACON FOR MOSQUITO:
 The Story of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse**

WRITTEN BY MUSEUM CURATOR ELLEN HENRY, A BEACON FOR MOSQUITO CHRONICLES THE HISTORY OF THE PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE AND LOCAL AREA FROM PRE-HISTORIC TIMES THROUGH THE MODERN ERA. LEARN HOW THE HISTORIC PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE WAS ALMOST LOST AND HOW A GROUP OF CONCERNED CITIZENS SAVED THE LIGHT STATION FROM AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE WITH THE FORMING OF THE PONCE DE LEON INLET LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION IN 1972.

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