



## Preserving Our Lighthouse - 2024



The St. Simons Lighthouse tower and Fresnel lens mechanism were inspected to ensure visitor safety and identify any maintenance issues. On April 29, 2024, Jude Kostage, Principal of Atlantic Engineering Services in Jacksonville, completed an assessment of the tower, which the Society commissions every three years. Mr. Kostage has 15 years of experience with our Lighthouse. He provided engineering services during the extensive restoration of the tower in 2010.

On May 17, 2024, Mike Bennett, Operations Director at Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum, did a detailed inspection of the French-made Fresnel lens mechanism, which consists of a fixed light surrounded by four lens panels that rotate to create the characteristic flash every 60 seconds. Mr. Bennett is a member of the lens restoration team at Ponce Inlet, one of only a few facilities in the country that undertake repair of historic lenses. He was assisted by Ralph Ainger, a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary team that faithfully maintains the light as a Federal Aid to Navigation.