Ohio Lighthouses
By Wil and Pat O’Connell
Reviewed by Thomas A. Tag

I read many lighthouse books, and I found that Wil and Pat O’Connell’s book Ohio Lighthouses is one of the best lighthouse books I have read. I used to live in Ohio and studied the Ohio lighthouses for many years, and yet I can tell you that this book contains a number of photos that I had never seen before and some short stories that are little gems of local knowledge.

This book is one of the Images of America series where the book contains mostly photographs with a short paragraph after each photo serving as an extended caption. However, unlike some of the books in this series, Ohio Lighthouses is a book about a single subject with great detail and has many rare photographs of the lighthouses themselves and of the life styles of the area, ships, fisheries, etc.

The O’Connells have done a fine job of detailing the history of all of the Ohio lighthouses, including the history of many lighthouses no longer in existence. They also cover some of the technical details of the lighthouses, as well as the fog signals, the district buoy depot, and other elements of the lighthouses of the area, and they include many short stories of life in the area.

In my opinion, this is one of the best Images of America-style books I have seen and will give the reader a complete history of these very important American lighthouses. If you are interested in the history of the lighthouses in Ohio, you will find this a great book to add to your collection.


Letters to the Keep

To the Editor:

A quick note to clarify an announcement in The Keeper’s Log, volume XXVIII, Number Five, 2012. On page 44 there is an announcement that Fowey Rocks transferred to the National Park Service and you mention that the transfer is to “Key Biscayne National Park.” That is incorrect, it is actually Biscayne National Park which emphasizes marine life associated with Biscayne Bay and the coral reef system. The park includes several keys, but not Key Biscayne—that is just outside the northern boundary. Both the bay and the island were named by Juan Ponce de Leon in 1513—who also named Florida and Cape Canaveral.

Thanks,
Juan L. Riera

GLLKA President Retires

Dick Moehl, the longtime president of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association (GLLKA) has retired. Moehl said that at age 82, it was time for new leadership. Since retiring from the business world in 1988, Moehl has devoted 100% of his time to the efforts of GLLKA, which is one of the largest nonprofit lighthouse preservation organizations in the world. Moehl has played a significant role in lighthouse preservation legislation, on both a state and federal level, and he has led GLLKA though its biggest years of growth. We all owe Dick Moehl a sincere debt of gratitude. He has helped to make the world a brighter place.