

Where Do Your Membership Fees Go?

- Pigeon Key is designated as a National Historical Landmark because it once housed the workers who built Flagler's Key West Extension of the Florida East Coast Railway. We have eight historical buildings on the island with the oldest thought to have been built in 1908. The buildings are excellent representations of past architectural feats that has allowed structures to survive over 100 years of hurricanes and tropical conditions. Along with construction techniques that continue to be used today, such as the hurricane windows in the Section Gang building and the stilts our museum and Bridge Tender's House rest on, Pigeon Key also holds historical treasures in the construction of our buildings that cannot be rendered today. For example, the hardwood floors in the Section Gang are made of a strong wood resistant to insect activity and decay produced from Dade County Pine, a tree that has been extinct due to it being overharvested in the early 1900s. All of our buildings are important pieces of history and restoration and preservation must be completed in a way which respects the historical integrity of the structure. As such, much of our donations from members go to helping preserve these priceless structures and the artifacts and history they contain.
- Conservation of the Florida Keys ecosystem is another priority of the Pigeon Key Foundation. Pigeon Key is home to many variations of indigenous species of trees, fish, corals, and other flora and fauna unique to the Florida Keys and other tropical regions. Hurricane Irma destroyed over half of the trees and plants on the island and while things are starting to come back, it is important to cultivate our native foliage, particularly our mangrove trees. These specialized trees help stabilize the sediment surrounding the island and act as a first line of defense against hurricanes and the changing tides. Our staff work hard to ensure the establishment and protection of these plants and animals and use donations to not only preserve the historical past of the island but also the ecological future.
- Pigeon Key strives to be a front runner in environmentally friendly operating practices here on the island. All projects are completed with ethically sourced and ecofriendly materials. All of our cleaning products are environmentally green and does not damage the delicate island ecosystem. When it comes to powering the island, Pigeon Key utilizes a 26-kilowatt solar array which allows us to have renewable power supply and reduce the foundation's carbon footprint. Over the past few years, our members have helped fund our recycling program, the solar panels, and all other practices that allow us to be a leader in renewable energy and environmentally friendly practices here in the Keys.