



Official Newsletter of  
Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society

# Big Diamond

VOI 9 No. 3

[www.HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://www.HillsboroLighthouse.org)

May, 2006

## Next Public Lighthouse Tour Slated for Saturday, June 3rd

The next tour was scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>, a day we now realize is the same date as the Air & Sea Show on Ft. Lauderdale Beach. The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary must use all their people to keep order among the hundreds of pleasure boats that will be anchored in the ocean to watch that show. Without the help of those people, a tour cannot take place.

So the next available date for our lighthouse tour is **Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Please come and invite your neighbors and friends. Where could they spend a better early summer day than signing up for a one year HLPS membership (\$35. Family or \$25. Individual) right at the Sands Harbor Hotel dock that day for a narrated trip (by our own Ray McAllister) up to the lighthouse? Let them know they can even bring a picnic lunch and blanket for dinner on the grounds. Tell them of the beautiful views from the top of the lighthouse, the interesting little museum on the property and our own little "gift shop" where Joyce Hager will be selling a new batch of Centennial year T-shirts and tote bags as well as books, bookmarks, pins & patches and other souvenirs of the day at the lighthouse. Kids (both young and old) can hear stories about the early days of lighthouse families who lived here and the Barefoot Mailman who walked this beach from Palm Beach to the Miami River every week during the 1890s making deliveries to sparsely populated outposts along the way. The original stone statue representing these deliverers of mail is also at the lighthouse station. Hurricane Wilma gave it a real beating; but repairs have been made and his pedestal has been veneered.



*After Wilma John Brouchard fixes up the cracks and blemishes to make the Mailman look good for the tour.*

The tour boat will shuttle visitors from 9:00 AM with the last trip to the lighthouse beginning by 3:00 PM. Paid parking is available at the City lot just east of the Sands

Harbor Hotel, 125 N. Riverside Drive, Pompano Beach, 33062. Before you board the boat for your return to the Sands Harbor dock, have a glass of ice tea or lemonade and a piece of birthday cake honoring this century old lighthouse station.



*Police Chief John Ballard and Lodus Joseph replace tiles on statue.*

## First Foul Weather Tour in Eight Years

Our last public tour at Hillsboro Lighthouse Station on February 4<sup>th</sup> was far from an ideal day. The weather bureau warned of driving rains, but since we must coordinate tour dates far in advance with the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and South Florida Diving Headquarters (whose boats we charter for each trip), we had hoped that the weather people were wrong in their prediction. Just as those scientists stated, the squall line reached us about noon. Three early boatloads of enthusiastic folks had gotten to the lighthouse station that morning and one group had returned to the Sands Harbor dock all smiles, thankful that the threatening sky had given them a reprieve. The next group returning was not a pretty sight. Everyone was drenched, but surprisingly still in good humor. The empty boat returned to the Station to rescue the rest of the tour participants. The remainder of the afternoon was our first ever washout.

## President's Corner . . .

By: Camen McGarry



**Happy Birthday to the Hillsboro Lighthouse!** One hundred years old, a historical landmark and one of the best preserved lighthouses in the country and it still looks majestic! Yes, you have come a long way!

In 1890, six families lived at the Inlet; 1898, twenty settlers petitioned for a post office; the Inlet qualified for a school in 1911 as nine children lived in the area; 1914, a telephone line connected Deerfield and Delray; and 1917 brought the wooden-swing type bridge over the Intracoastal.

A camp for the US Coastal Geodetic Survey was established in 1884 at the Inlet where it was studied in detail. During this time, the Barefoot Mailman carried mail in South Florida. (The statue now stands there and was recently restored.)

In 1903, after rejecting the petition 17 times, the US Congress approved \$90,000. for a lighthouse. Hillsboro Point had previously been designated as too hazardous for navigation and it would now have its own light. The land originally purchased for seventy cents an acre was purchased by the government for \$150. an acre for a three acre parcel!

If the lighthouse could tell stories, I'm certain we would hear about shipwrecks, hurricanes, WWII incidents, daily life, as well as guiding many ships to shore and more recently all the immigrants that have found their way. For many years, it was the third most powerful light in the world.

In 1979, it was honored by being placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thanks to HLPS, in recent years they have been responsible for the preservation of the light as well as promoting enthusiasm and education of its rich history. Remember to keep this Centennial year on your calendar. Watch the website as HLPS, thru its Centennial Committee, plans special events as well as the Town of Hillsboro Beach. Hope to see everyone there

*Camen*

## Meet Your Board of Directors -

*Eighth in a series, compiled by Martha Casselberry*



We are fortunate to have such a versatile person as **Kay McGinn** serving on the Board. Kay was born in New York City, grew up in Greenpoint, Brooklyn where she lived with her parents and one brother, Tom, who retired after 25 years of working for the United Nations. She attended St. Catherine's Hospital School of Nursing and worked in various local hospitals.

Kay returned to school to receive a BA degree from Marymount Manhattan College in NY. Her interest in the arts brought her to South Florida to start her own business selling art and setting up Florida art shows.

She sold her NY real estate and bought a house with a large orange tree in Pompano Beach. There were the annual visits from family and friends to enjoy every winter. They all especially enjoyed the Hillsboro Lighthouse when they took beach walks to view the jetty and inlet. Kay's art business developed into an art gallery on Atlantic Blvd. that she still has today. Her outside interests began to focus on civic and environmental issues. As a member of the Broward Sierra Club.

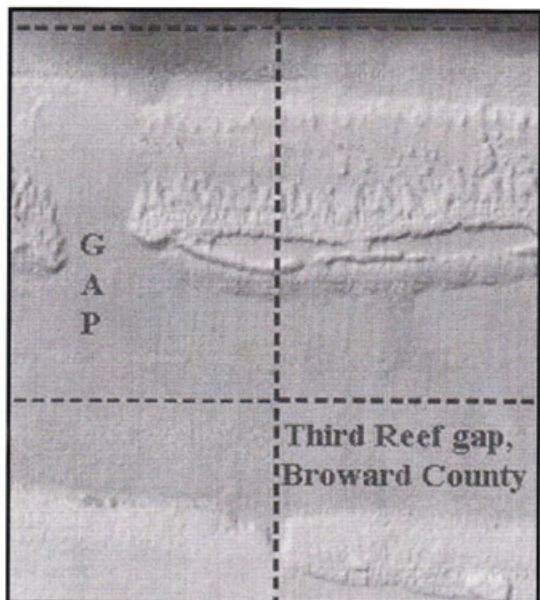
A proposal was presented at the Pompano Beach City Commission that an airport runway be extended. Many acres of trees would be cleared and create a noise problem for neighborhoods, so it was then she became more involved with political and civic issues. She began to understand our local government and how you can influence it for the better. Kay says, "I have learned over the past eight years as a City Commissioner that you can succeed in any plan by carefully working with others, including everyone, in decision making to develop a consensus. I am still working to improve the quality of life for the City's residents. I continue to use my nursing, business and environmental experiences to make sound decisions on the Commission."

When Kay takes time for a vacation, she tries to visit a lighthouse in that particular location. She admits, however, that her favorite lighthouse is right here at home, one she can see flashing nightly into the sky. "I continue to feel privileged and thankful to have found Pompano Beach and have the Hillsboro Lighthouse in my backyard."

# The Third Reef - A Drowned Barrier Reef

by Dr. Ray McAllister, Florida Atlantic University

Several local divers participated in a recent search for gaps in the 65 mile long reef along the shelf break of SE Florida, to provide latitude and longitude of the gaps to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. We proposed that these gaps be future sites of cables and any pipelines to S Florida. Local divers knew of several such gaps but the DEP wanted them all located. As we looked at the results of this



survey, it became abundantly obvious that the reef, 40 to 43 feet down and a mile offshore along much of its extent, was a drowned barrier reef much like the Great Barrier Reef of Australia. Approximately 7000 years ago the melting of the continental glaciers came to a halt for long enough to permit a barrier reef to form. The crest of this barrier has ubiquitous *Acropora palmata* stumps on the top and in the ocean outfall trenches cut through it. *Acropora palmata* is, in this part of the Caribbean-West Indian area, mainly found with the tips of its coralla just at low tide. A barrier reef typically has passes through which the tidal prism can enter and leave the lagoon behind the reef every 6 hours. When the ice began to melt again, the rise of sealevel was rapid enough to drown these corals which depend on zooxanthellae algae, in a symbiotic relationship. Rising water filtered out much of the life giving sunlight, massively impacting both the algae and their symbionts, the hermatypic corals. The result is the soft coral & sponge reef common to SE Florida north of Miami.

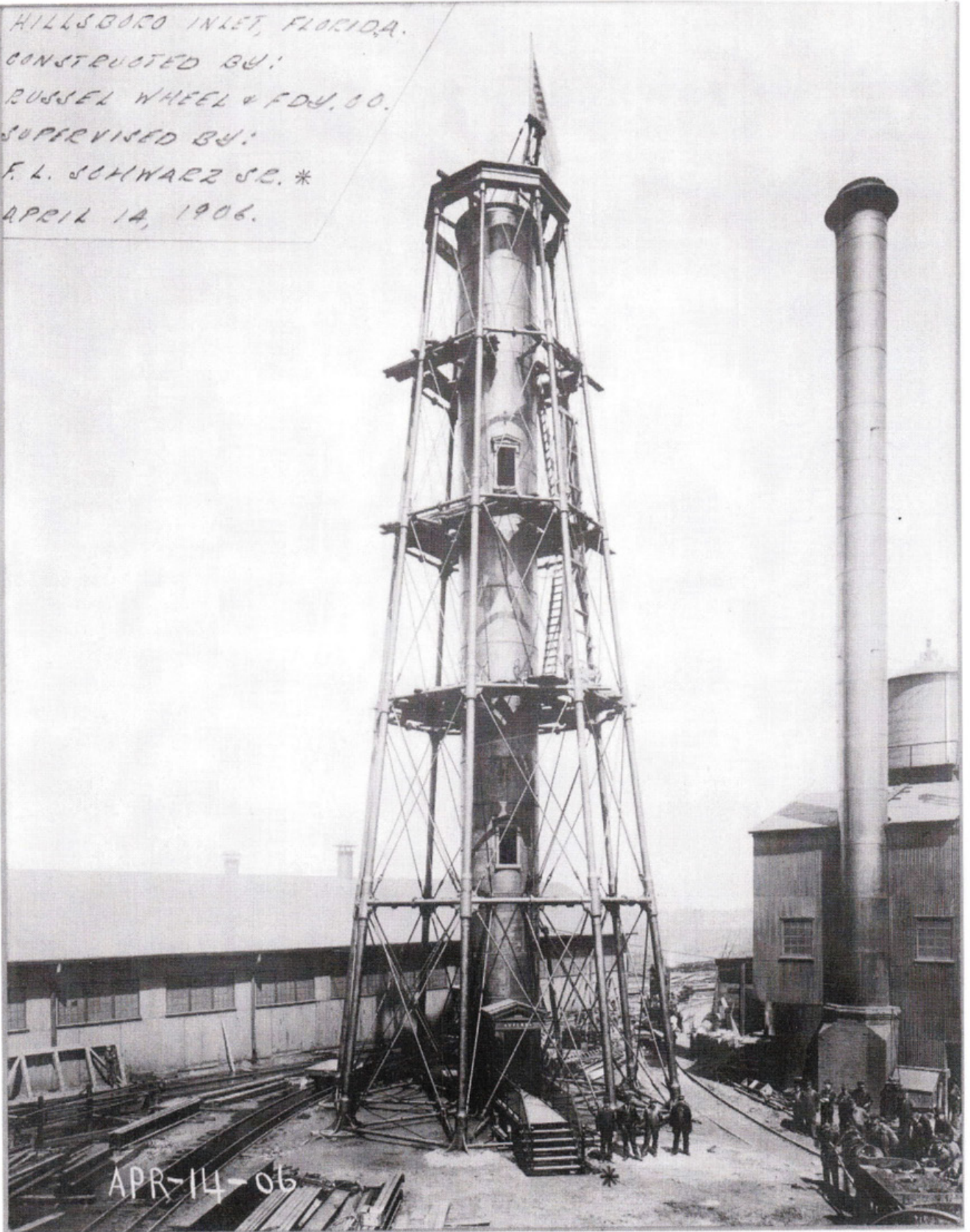
The figure at right shows the appearance of one of the gaps on a LADS (Laser Airborne Depth Survey) view of the Broward County portion of the coastal area, with 150 feet of water effectively removed. The gaps show up very well.

An underwater view of one of these gaps would show a flat sand bottom about 60 feet deep on the inner edge sloping to 88 to 100 feet on the outside of the reef.

Prior to our mapping these gaps, the DEP was permitting fiber optic cables, and is still being asked to permit gas pipelines, through or under the live reef.

A typical picture of the coast shows a reef (usually called the Third Reef) consisting of Gorgonian corals and sponges, with some scattered hermatypic corals, and of course, algae, and many small invertebrates. Shoreward of the reef there is a zone from 5500 feet wide along much of the coast to more than three miles wide at Miami and Jupiter Inlets. At irregular intervals, former passes cut through the reef, dropping from 43 or 50 feet to sand at 60 or 65 feet. On the other side of the gaps, the reef quickly rises to 43 to 50 feet. The sand in one pass, the Delray Gap, is more than 10 feet deep over most of its length and width as shown by about 15 jet probes. These gaps allow sand to migrate downslope and be lost to deeper water. On the other hand they may help prevent winter buildup of sand from burying portions of reef still above the sand. The presence of this hundred mile long barrier off East Florida must have made a spectacular sight from space.

HILLSBORO INLET, FLORIDA.  
CONSTRUCTED BY:  
RUSSEL WHEEL & FDY. CO.  
SUPERVISED BY:  
F. L. SCHWARZ SR. \*  
APRIL 14, 1906.



# Hillsboro Lighthouse, Its History

By Stuart McIver

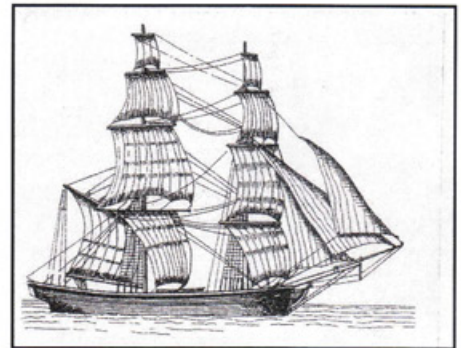
From the moment the big kerosene lamp was lighted in March 1907, it brought an important distinction to the Hillsboro Lighthouse. The brilliant light, beamed toward seafarers near the Hillsboro Inlet, made it the most powerful lighthouse in the United States at that time.

And none too soon. The waters off the inlet were treacherous, particularly for southbound ships which tended to hug the shoreline to avoid the northward tug of the Gulf Stream. Ships risked a deadly encounter with reefs which lie just east of the inlet. The reefs' rocky shoals could rip holes in the bottom of boats. Over the years the reefs and the protruding shoreline had claimed many victims. The nearly new two-masted Spanish brigantine, *Gil Blas*, was driven ashore just north of Hillsboro Inlet by a terrible hurricane in 1835. The Spanish brig, *Formento*, sank in 1848 near the inlet, its treasure salvaged soon after. Just before the Civil War the American barkentine, *Thales*, an Africa-bound slave ship, sank and was salvaged by Seminoles led by Chief Tiger Tail. On May 27, 1900, the also nearly new 325-foot steamer, *Copenhagen*, bound for Havana with a cargo of coal, ran aground. And the four-masted schooner, *Alice Holbrook*, loaded with cement, went down in 1913.

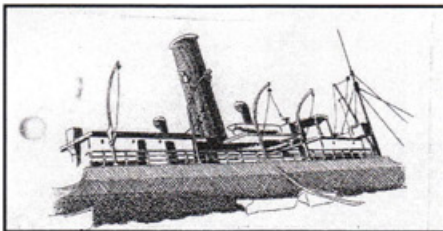
The light was needed too, to fill the gap between lighthouses along the southeast Florida coast. Hillsboro was roughly halfway between lights at Fowey Rocks off Biscayne Bay and the Jupiter Inlet.

It took two years for the Russel Wheel & Foundry Co. of Detroit, Michigan to complete construction of the tower as you see it (100 feet tall) in the adjacent picture dated Apr.- 14, 1906. When the watch, machine, and lens rooms and bonnet were added at the lighthouse site, the structure was 142 feet tall. The 1904 nine foot tall clam shell-style lens was built in Paris at a cost of \$7,250. The lighthouse is locally called "Big Diamond" because of its unusual lens room's glass wall, which consists of large glass diamond-shaped glass panes set in brass frames arranged on all sides.

The first lighthouse keeper was Alfred Berghell, who served for four years. He was succeeded by Thomas Knight, whose father and grandfather before him were keepers of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Tom's brother was Cap Knight who became famous later for Cap's Place restaurant across the Intracoastal Waterway from the light.



*Spanish Ship Gil Blas Pre-1835*



*Copenhagen running aground*

and pleasure boating.

The Big Diamond's eye has blinked several times — when the 1926 hurricane and 2005 Hurricane Wilma briefly extinguished its light. It went out for a lengthy time when the lens stopped turning in 1992. A small modern optic was added to the east railing as a temporary light until the relighting inside the Fresnel lens in 2001. Today the lighthouse, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is a picturesque landmark for South Florida.

## NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS SINCE H.L.P.S.'s Sept. '05

|                            |                              |                             |                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Albritton, Frank           | Feinberg, Dick               | McNiel, Greg & Trish        | Susan Roberts              |
| Aschinger, Larry           | Fleming, John & Joan         | Mellander, Justin & Donna   | Stark, Lee & Dottie        |
| Baekkelund, Arne & Suzan   | Fowler, David                | Merriman, T.J. & Susan      | Steinman, Charles & Pam    |
| Barnes, Dave & Rita        | Graham, Denise               | Meyer, John & Mert          | Stone, David & Susan Brown |
| Barone, Louis              | Gruber, Dale                 | Middleton, Robert & Becky   | Stride, Wilfrid            |
| Beaufrand, Dominique       | Gschwind, Diane              | Miller, Harold & Dorothy    | Sunderlin, Don & Jeanne    |
| Bettner, Steve & Jean      | Haddow, William & Marjorie   | Mott, Joe & Carol           | Tracey, Dr. Charles        |
| Brooks, Dave & Terry       | Hanfland, Linda & Stan Albin | Murphy, Odette & Christine  | Valentine, Nancy           |
| Buehner, James             | Hecker, Karen                | Noble, Richard & Pat        | VanBuren, Lenny & Pat      |
| Burns, Greg & Patricia     | Hulden, Liesel               | O'Mara, Thomas & Albina     | Visser, Richard & Ruth     |
| Burrows, Roland            | Johnson, Gordon & Ollie      | Oyer, Harvey, Jr.           | Volk, Madeleine C.         |
| Campbell, J.R.             | Kiriloff, Bill & Michele     | Pearson, Ron *              | Von Staden, Sandra         |
| Carey, Bill                | Knight, Bob                  | Pokusa, Teri                | Walls, Byron & Ellen       |
| Carroll, Ann R.            | Knox, Donna                  | Proffitt, Steve & Patricia  | Weeks, Don & Betty         |
| Castro, Isabel             | Lambeth, Eloise G.           | Richard, Gloria             | White, Edward              |
| Conahan, Cormac & Linda    | Landis, Lance/ Jackie Repass | Robb, Barbara               | Willson, Miles & Elfriede  |
| Cooper, Larry & Penny      | Lane, Gail                   | Rodormer, George & Doris    | Wilson, Emmy               |
| Craig, Jim & Bobbi         | Lighthouse Insur.Resources * | Ruttger, Sally              | Yarbrough, Larry & Annette |
| Curry, Robert E.           | Lomer, Lloyd & Beverly       | Schmidlapp, Jay & Angie     | Young, Crystal             |
| DAR, Lighthouse Pt. Chap.* | Mannina, FayLyn              | Schmidlin, Charles & Alice  | Zubero, David & Sally      |
| DeHaan, Howard & Verna     | Marchant, Dixianne           | Schimitke, Harry & Susan    |                            |
| Delp, Maggie               | Martin, Eric                 | Shropshire, Randy & Cathy * | * = Business Membership    |
| Downie, Donald & Rosalynn  | McClafferty, L.              | Skuda, Dane                 | ** = LIFE MEMBERS          |
| Ellis, Ben & Jeannie *     | McCullar, George & Muriel    | Snider, Margaret &          |                            |

## Will YOU help the Century Old Hillsboro Lighthouse?

Miriam Hood, our benefactor, charter member and Board member is celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 24. Hib Casselberry, Paul Bradley, and Ray McAllister are in their mid-eighties. These seniors have been the oldest engines of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society since its formation in 1996. Age and health issues are derailing this group.

Will you help volunteer for the century old Hillsboro Lighthouse? You younger members need to volunteer and participate in the HLPS committees and Board. You have heard that "many hands make light work". At this writing, too few hands are doing the work of our organization. As we go forward into the future, it is essential for new hands to come on board. We need a **Big Diamond** newsletter editor, a web master, a volunteer coordinator, a public relations coordinator, someone to host the HLPS telephone in their home or office. and a membership chairman with an assistant having knowledge of computer database. It is up to you how HLPS will continue in the future. We want your input and to learn what interests and experiences you have. Telephone us with your willingness to serve, 954-942-2102

### VOLUNTEER HELPERS H.L.P.S.

**Newsletter Mailing:** Jim & Laurie Kunkel, Hib & Martha Casselberry, **Newsletter Publisher:** Lee Bennett, **Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Tour at the Lighthouse:** USCG-ANT. MK1 Wilson George & ----. **USCG-Aux.** Jerry & Gail Edelman, Jane Mueller, Joan Rauert, Isaac Trejo. **HLPS Members:** Jeanne Amato, Suzan Baekkelund, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Joyce Hager, Linda Giles, & Ray McAllister, **Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> Tour at the Sands Harbor Dock:** Martha Casselberry, Diane Hardy, Laurie Kunkel, Paul & Vikki Murphy. **Art & Photographic Exhibit March 11<sup>th</sup> Helpers:** See article in this issue.

**DONATIONS:** Bill & Michele Kiriloff, George & Muriel McCullar, Carmen McGarry, monetary donations. Noreen Grice, 15" x 12" framed print of Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse & Cottage.

## ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY BIENNIAL EXHIBIT ANOTHER SUCCESS

*By Margaret Delp*

The Emma Lou Olson Center in Pompano Beach was the site of our 3rd biennial exhibit held on Saturday, March 11th. Approximately 175 visitors came to admire the art and photography on display. Entries for this exhibit came from our local artists and from two area high schools. Judging was undertaken by Professor Claire Dorst of Florida Atlantic University for the adult entries. Marcia Hirschy and Eldes Whitsett judged the student work. The professional quality of the 80 entries was remarkable for an exhibit which had not been widely publicized.

For those who are not familiar with these exhibits, the entries must relate to a nautical, lighthouse, or marine theme (preferably South Florida) and must be original work. This year the winners shared \$700 in prize money and received ribbons at the Awards Ceremony which also recognized those receiving Honorable Mention. We wholeheartedly congratulate the winners for their exceptionally fine work and thank all the artists and photographers who took the time to mat and frame their work, deliver it to the Center and support our effort to showcase local marine art and photographic talent.

Thanks go to those people who helped prepare the exhibit. The following were absolutely indispensable: Jeanne Amato, Paul Bradley, Hib Casselberry, Marcia Hirschy, Sandi Jo Larson, and Vikki Murphy. To all, our appreciation for another outstanding endeavor by the Lighthouse Preservation Society members, our community helpers and talented exhibitors.

Thanks also go to staff members of Pompano High School: Principal Bill Bell, Sharon Rhoads (Media), Gregory Zolne (Art), Angelo LaMarca (History Club), Jeffery Williams (Social Studies), and Art Mumhaz (Website) and to those from Cardinal Gibbons High School: Paul Ott (Principal) and Bonnie Busby (Art).



Alexandra Moss and her Mom display award on Alexandra's entry

### **Adult Art work:**

- First Prize, Robert Hunt, oil painting entitled "Bimini Crossing"
- Second Prize, Joan Hughes, mixed media "Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse"
- Third Prize, Jerry Smietanka, oil painting, "Lagoon"
- Honorable Mention  
Paul Bradley, pen and ink, "Squirrel Point Light, ME"
- Maggie Delp, watercolor, "Walking on the Beach"
- Timothy Leister, paint, "Key West Lighthouse, FL"

### **Adult Photography:**

- First Prize, Scott Martin, "Hillsboro Light at Sunrise"
- Second Prize, Bonnie McCabe, "Paradise Found"
- Third Prize, Michael Novak, "Sunset at Sea"
- Honorable Mention:  
Carol Bryer, "Out to Sea"
- Bonnie McCabe, "Night Dreams"
- Rory Moran, "Scenery at Boca Lake"

### **Student Art work:**

- First Prize, Jenna Munsey, paint "Lighthouse on the Beach"
- Second Prize, Christi Rheinhardt, paint "Lighthouse 1"
- Third Prize, Caitlin O'Brien, graphite "Lighthouse"
- Honorable Mention:  
Danielle Boller, paint "Pink Sunset"
- Horberto Rodreguez, paint, "Untitled"

### **Student Photography:**

- First Prize, Olivia Adkins, "Memories"
- Second Prize, Alexandra Moss, "Wilma Battles the Pier"
- Third Prize, Olivia Adkins, "Summer Love"
- Honorable Mention:  
Alexandra Moss, "After Wilma at the Pompano Pier"
- Alexandra Moss, "Wilma Weathering the Pier"
- Olivia Adkins, "Best Friends"

**Be a part of History: Join The Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society Inc.**

## H.L.P.S. Membership Application and Renewal Form

Please enroll me (us) in the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society. Enclosed is a check or a money order for the level of membership I (we) have selected in the column on the right.

Check Type of Membership desired  
 Individual \$25.00 Annual  
 Family, \$35.00 annual  
 Business, \$50.00 annual  
 Lifetime, \$500.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family (How many?) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in helping on COMMITTEES, please indicate

Publication  Membership  
 Meeting Help  Tour Guide  
 Art Collection  Education  
 Wherever Needed

H.L.P.S. is a non-profit corporation,  
thus tax deductible

The mission of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc., "HLPS" is to promote the history of the Hillsboro Light Station and the Hillsboro Inlet area through preservation of structures and artifacts, education, and public access tours.

### Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.

Post Office Box 6062

Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

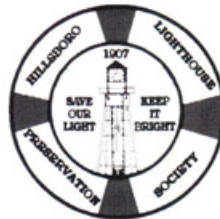
Phone: 954-942-2102

Website: [www.HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://www.HillsboroLighthouse.org)

E-mail: [Info@HillsboroLighthouse.org](mailto:Info@HillsboroLighthouse.org)

Martha Casselberry, Newsletter Editor

MAY 2006



FIRST CLASS MAIL

*If there is a red mark around your expiration date, please send in your renewal payment.*

*This is your HLPS Membership Card*