

BIG DIAMOND

HILLSBORO
LIGHTHOUSE
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

January 2011
Volume 14, Number 1

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USCG APPROVES HLPS CENTENNIAL BRICK PATIO

USCG LCDR Emma E. Silcox instrumental in pushing project through red tape

On December 14, 2010, Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society received news from United States Coast Guard that the dormant HLPS Centennial Brick Patio project had been approved. "On behalf of the United States Coast Guard, I accept the in-kind gift offer from Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society (HLPS) to

construct a commemorative brick patio at the Coast Guard's Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse facility," began the letter from LCDR Emma E. Silcox, USCG Hillsboro, to HLPS President Art Makenian, "The administrative efforts regarding the acceptance and use of the gift, while significant, have already been resolved at this point in time."

While notification of the project to the State of Florida Clearinghouse for Coastal Zone Management and submission of the proposed construction to the State of Florida Department of Environment Protection still remains, the Centennial Brick Patio, originally proposed to the

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LIGHTHOUSE ANNIVERSARY TOUR ANNOUNCED

Celebration geared toward family fun, includes a cookout and entertainment

The date was March 7, 1907. That was the day that "Big Diamond" was first lit, and sailing along the southeastern shore of Florida took a significant leap forward for the safety of captains, crew and cargo.

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society is holding a 104th Anniversary Celebration on March 12, 2011 to coincide with the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station tour scheduled for that day. The free event, held at Hillsboro Inlet Park in Pompano Beach, will honor the Lighthouse, its Keepers

and members of the HLPS who have contributed to the success and preservation of the Lighthouse.

A family-style picnic will set the tone for the event that will allow

(Continued on page 3)

2011 TOUR DATES

- Saturday, March 12
Hillsboro Lighthouse Day
- Saturday, April 16
Florida Lighthouse Day
- Saturday, May 14
- Saturday, June 18
- Saturday, August 13
following National Lighthouse Day
- Saturday, September 10
- Saturday, November 19

JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE DOCENTS ASSOCIATION VISITS HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE - See Page 3



President Marylou Shirar (back row, center) and JILDA Members

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Approved! The long dormant Commemorative Brick Patio project (as reported in our last issue) has been finally approved, thanks to LCDR E. Silcox, the officer in charge of the Hillsboro Light Station. Her perseverance and determination led to the resurrection of this project, but for an unknown technical reason, the proposed water fountain was excluded. HLPS will always be grateful to the present CG District 7 leadership, THANK YOU.

HLPS now is planning to place the order for the bricks by mid-March, and start ground leveling and construction after the scheduled May 12th tour. The reason for this postponement is two fold. First, increasing the number of commemorative brick sales to people that are not yet aware of this project, and secondly, the Hillsboro Club's winter season concludes in May.

On all other fronts, things are looking great for our members. You probably have noticed by now that "The Big Diamond" newsletter has a new look. All credits go to HLPS member volunteer Jennifer Burns, and our Editor Steve Hoczak, who together are responsible for its creation. This issue will be their fourth, and I would also like to add that Steve has been responsible for launching our Hillsboro Lighthouse page on Facebook and getting the Facebook link added to our HillsboroLighthouse.org Web site.

Speaking of our Web site, have you noticed our new HLPS logo at the top left corner of our Home page? After 15 years, the white and red life buoy of HLPS has been retired and replaced by eye-catching artwork and more familiar graphics of our light with the two shades of blue water waved across. Very soon, you will also be able to see a real-time panoramic view of the Hillsboro Inlet sea conditions as HLPS just received a go-ahead from the Coast Guard for a Web cam installation at the Hillsboro Inlet District office building. A special thanks to the Chairman of HIDA, Mr. Jack Holland, for allowing us to use his grounds. In addition to a Web cam, we plan to add a direct link to NOAA's Tide Tables of the Hillsboro Inlet CG Light Station, a one-stop-shop for all Hillsboro Inlet information for the safety of our members, boating and fishing friends. All these challenging features will surely keep the HLPS webmaster Doug Matthes busy. Thank you, Doug, for all your patience!

As HLPS grows and the conditions change, our challenges become more demanding. In the past, our organization has not had a reason to solicit funds for the lighthouse, simply because the Coast Guard had fully maintained the lighthouse and the grounds. Due to the financial condition of the economy and the government, the budgetary constraints imposed on the military – of which the Coast Guard has not been exempt – is a factor to reconsider in maintaining aging lighthouses.

In addition, modern technology with precise navigational aids to mariners have made these magnificent structures with their shining beams obsolete. It is the opinion of many, including myself, that a lighthouse located at a mouth of an ocean inlet will always be a valuable asset to any helmsman, as these light towers served well throughout the years, saving countless lives of seafarers.

Now we have been given the choice of getting rid of them, or keeping these symbolic structures as monuments of the past. With a new and more sensible government policy, the surplus inventory of the lighthouses and their properties have been auctioned off for sale by GSA, or ownership has been transferred to state parks, and even to caring and not-for-profit organizations such as ours to continue maintaining as historic landmarks.

HLPS is a not-for-profit organization, and every person associated with HLPS is a volunteer. Every penny collected by means of donations and/or services from the public is spent directly on the Hillsboro Lighthouse for its welfare and associated expenses. In the near future, we will be assuming more and more of this responsibility, and your participation as a volunteer, or as a financial contributor, will help our community maintain a very historic monument.

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

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Hillsboro Lighthouse
Preservation Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 610326
Pompano Beach, FL 33061-0326
954-942-2102
www.hillsborolighthouse.org

Art Makenian

UPCOMING LIGHTHOUSE TOUR

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011

(Continued from page 1)

guests to enjoy live entertainment, activities and picnic-style food.

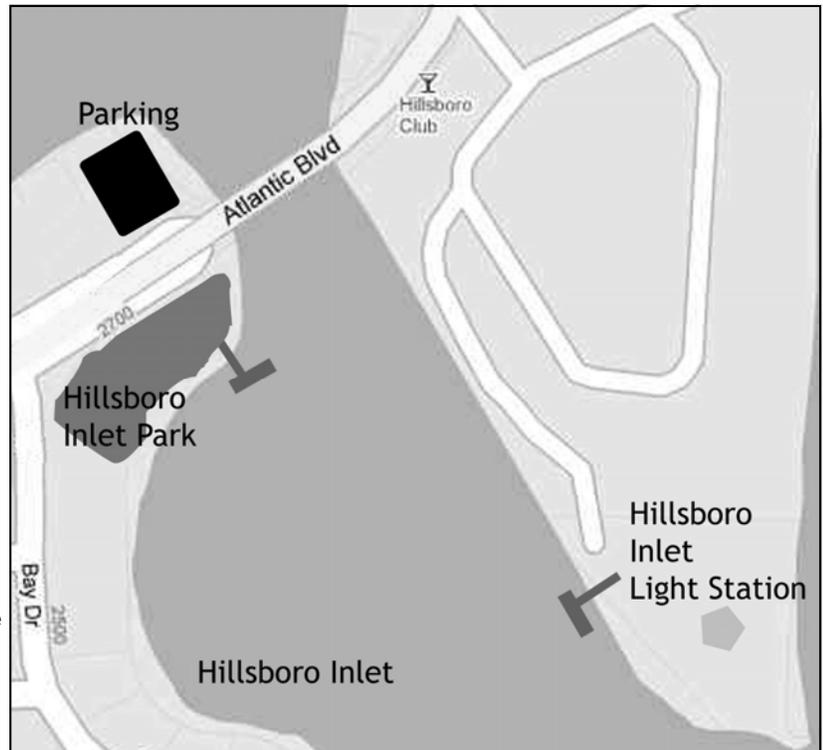
Scheduled for 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m, guests can enjoy free parking across A1A at Old Tails restaurant. In addition, HLPS member volunteers will be at HLPS Lighthouse Tour tables at the Inlet park to help direct guests.

Transportation to and from the Lighthouse is only by tour boat provided by South Florida Diving Headquarters via the Inlet. The HLPS table opens at 8:45 a.m., with the first boat departing at approximately 9:00 a.m. **Do not go to the Hillsboro Club or try to enter the lighthouse grounds by foot, as you will be denied entry.**

Round trip boat transportation cost is \$15 per person, but is FREE to HLPS members. Annual HLPS dues are \$25 for Individual membership, \$35 for Families and \$50 for Business or Organization (with the latter limit of 10 people on each tour date). While you can wear flip-flops on the boat, or go barefoot to walk the sandy beach at the Lighthouse, USCG regulations require that **in order to climb the Lighthouse, you must have flat shoes with rubber soles and closed toes. No sandals, flip-flops, or shoes with heels are allowed inside the Lighthouse.** Children must be accompanied by an adult and must be a minimum of 48" (4 feet) tall to climb the tower.

We suggest you allow at least two hours to enjoy the Lighthouse and all that the grounds have to offer. The last boat leaves Hillsboro Inlet Park at 2:30 p.m., with the last boat from the Lighthouse returning at approximately 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.hillsborolighthouse.org and click on <Tours>, or call HLPS at 954-942-2102. Information about Hillsboro Inlet Park can be found at www.mypompanobeach.org.

- Sorry, no pets are allowed at the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station -



Jupiter Lighthouse

JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE DOCENTS ASSOCIATION VISITS HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE

Thirty-three members of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Docents Association visited Hillsboro Lighthouse on the November 2010 tour, starting their day with a trip to Bonnet House Museum and Gardens in Fort Lauderdale, then travelling to Pompano Beach to visit the Hillsboro Lighthouse. According to President Marylou Shirar, the group makes at least one trip to a museum or area of interest each year. The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Docents Association is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2011, and has over 100 volunteers that lead tours of the lighthouse and museum, offer educational programs or work in the gift shop.

Visit www.jupiterlighthouse.org for information or to plan your visit to the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.



DID YOU KNOW? Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse has a first-order Fresnel lens that can be seen approximately 25Nm out to sea. The 105-foot tower is actually 146 feet above sea level, as it is built upon an Indian shell mound, or "midden."

SAILING BEFORE THE HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE

BY DR. RAY MCALLISTER

Over 44 shipwrecks litter Florida's coastline between Hillsboro and Jupiter Inlets

Hillsboro Light is located on a spur of old dead coral reef from a higher stand of sea level, probably the same stand that built Conference Ridge in Boca Raton and Cutler Ridge in Miami. When sea level fell, the existing coral reef died and then offered a firm rock base for our lighthouse. Hillsboro Lighthouse sits just a mile or so from the west edge of the Gulf Stream, which carries an enormous load of freight and passengers from anywhere north to the SE Coast of Florida, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. A lighthouse here, in the days of sail, would give mariners another useful waypoint between Jupiter Light and Key Biscayne. Remember that there were no condos, TV antennas, water towers or other high, light-bearing structures on land at the time the Lighthouse was built, and there were no white buildings along the shoreline either, which would have made it easier to tell when you were close to shallow water.

Since the Gulf Stream flows north just offshore at a speed of about 2 to 7 knots, with 3 or 4 knots a good average, the slow sailing vessels hugged the shore while heading south. Too many of them, unable to see anything on a moonless night, ended up on the beach. More were lost when, during an onshore storm, they were given little notice until they saw or heard the breaking surf on the beach. Not being motorized, the ships ended up hard



The Norwegian Schooner *Lofthus*
Source: Library of Congress

aground and often battered to pieces by the storm.

Before it was built, the coast north and south of Hillsboro Inlet was littered with the hulls of shipwrecked vessels like the *Gil Blas* and the *Copenhagen*. Along with shipwrecks goes "wrecking" as an occupation. Local residents, tied to the ocean, were quick to seize the opportunity to salvage cargo from wrecked ships, and many houses were built with lumber from the sunken schooners, which themselves were carrying lumber (I am told the Captain's desk from the *Copenhagen* is in one of the beach restaurants in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea).

**"Not being motorized,
the ships ended up
hard aground and
often battered to
pieces by the storm."**

Tragically, however, while Justice of the Peace William Cooley (1783-1863) was leading almost the entire male population of New River settlement in an attempt to salvage the *Gil Blas* (which had beached in September of 1835), the Seminoles attacked the settlement and massacred the male tutor and the women and children, an event which came to be known as the New River Massacre. This led to all the white settlers leaving the area, and is considered the start of the Seminole Indian War, setting back the peopling of SE Florida by nearly 50 years.

When the area was resettled, and shipping



Wreck of the *Lofthus*
Source: Peter Schulz

resumed along the coast, at least twelve additional schooners beached, swamped or sank between Hillsboro Inlet and Jupiter inlet in the years 1870 to 1898, and yet Congress responded slowly to pleas from shipping companies for funds (unbelievably small amounts) to help delineate the dark coastline with the Hillsboro Light, the lack of which resulted in our coast becoming a "Graveyard of the Atlantic."

Oh Kim Soon, which went down in February of 1897, and the iron-hulled *Lofthus*, while en route from Pensacola to Buenos Aires, went down in February of 1898. Each wrecked in nearly the identical location near Manalapan, Florida. This wreck site is a very popular dive location, located approximately 175 yards off the shore of Manalapan and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north of Boynton Inlet. In 2003, *Lofthus* became Florida's eighth Underwater Archaeological Preserve and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is easy to understand why the construction of the Hillsboro Lighthouse was such a big event, and assisted shipping even after steam and diesel powered ships were common on the Gulf Stream.

Hopefully Big Diamond, in its present configuration, will assist shipping and our recognition of its place in history for another hundred years.

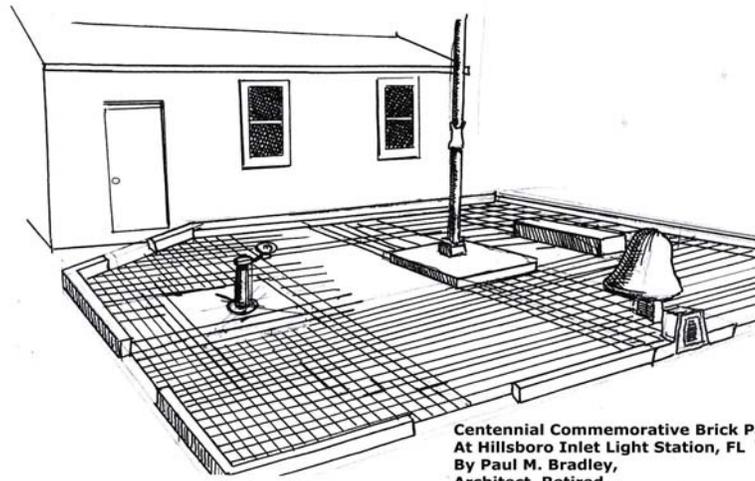


CENTENNIAL BRICK PATIO

(Continued from page 1)

Coast Guard in 2003, has been green-lit by all parties involved.

“As President of HLPS, and a devoted champion of The Hillsboro Lighthouse and the Centennial Brick Patio Project, I cannot express in words how grateful we are to LCDR Silcox in helping push this project through the dozens of USCG departments and state and federal agencies that were involved in the approval during this seven-year effort,” said Art Makenian. “Five District Commanders and dozens of Commanding Officers have come and gone since 2003, all whom have helped in some way to get this project approved for the benefit of the people of South Florida and the United States, but LCDR Silcox will be remembered as our advocate and proponent at the USCG who persevered. Now that the project is approved, I urge every HLPS member to consider purchasing a brick with their choice of inscription.”



Centennial Commemorative Brick Patio
At Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, FL
By Paul M. Bradley,
Architect, Retired

HLPS has begun all the necessary agreements, documentation and insurance requirements, and has also started planning for the permitting and proposed starting dates for construction, with an aim to have the Centennial Brick Patio completed in the second quarter of 2011.

In addition to the Centennial Brick Patio, LCDR Silcox advised HLPS that the USCG approved a “Hillsboro Lighthouse Web cam” at the Hillsboro Inlet area, and

gave a go-ahead for the Lighthouse lantern room see-through door manufacturing and installation.

“We know that many visitors to the Light Station in the past few tours have been disappointed after climbing the 175 steps only to find the lantern room door locked, with no way to see the lens.

While we previously stationed HLPS volunteers in the lantern room, amended USCG policies required the doors to be locked,” said Art Makenian. “The approval and completion of the see-through door will provide members of the public access to “Big Diamond,” the brightest lighthouse in the world.”



BUY A BRICK!!

HELP BEAUTIFY HILLSBORO INLET LIGHT STATION

Be a part of the Lighthouse Centennial Brick Patio!

Our newly approved Centennial Brick Patio needs your help! To help pay for the completion of the new patio, we are asking you to buy a brick so that in the years to come, you will be able to bring your children, grandchildren and friends to the Centennial Brick Patio to see your name, their names and/or your commemorative note and/or place as a permanent legacy of Hillsboro Inlet Light Station. These specially engraved, decorative bricks can contain your personalized message, or you can choose from selected designs for your brick(s). Everyone is invited to buy a brick, either for yourself or for someone else, to commemorate special occasions or to honor or remember a special loved one.



For more information, visit our Web site at www.hillsborolighthouse.org and click on <Brick>.

PLEASE PATRONIZE HLPS BUSINESS MEMBERS

The following local businesses have joined HLPS at the Business / Corporate / Company level of membership. We thank them for their generous support of HLPS and our projects.



Ben & Jeannie Ellis, CRS Real Estate Brokers	PO Box 2103 Pompano Beach, FL 33061	954-401-6471	waterfronthomes@bellsouth.net www.waterfronthomesandliving.com
Beacon Images Photographs by Von Staden Nicholas & Sandy Von Staden	Pompano Beach, FL	954-695-0918 954-401-0932	nvonstaden@comcast.net
Black Rhino Hurricane Shutters & Impact Glass	1590 SW 4th Circle Boca Raton, FL 33486	954-734-4411	alexm@blackrhinoshutters.com www.BlackRhinoShutters.com
CareyCo Financial Group, Inc.	2920 NE 22nd Ct. Pompano Beach, FL 33062	954-781-8549	
Computer Ways, Inc. Dave Noderer, CEO	10 Fairway Dr. Deerfield Beach, FL 33441	954-418-9799	daven@computerways.com www.computerways.com
Curran Law Group Glenn Curran	2400 E. Commercial Blvd. Suite 206 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308	954-334-1883 954-938-9923 (fax)	sandy@controlaltdispute.com www.ControlAltDispute.com Christian Dispute Mediation & Resolution
Golden Passport Photos, Inc. Joe Suggs	1891 W. Oakland Park Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311	954-739-5190	
Grass River Publishing, LLC Bill Slager	5510 SW 7 th Street Margate, FL 33068	954-974-7383	wslager@aol.com
JenCo Plumbing Services Wayne Jenkins	901 E. Sample Rd. Pompano Beach, FL 33064	954-788-2802	JencoPlumbing@bellsouth.net
Martin Kidwell, CPA	950 N. Federal Hwy. #211 Pompano Beach, FL 33062	954-784-0090	Marty@Kidwellcpa.com
Palm Tree Doctor Doug & Linda Giles	430 S. Dixie Hwy W. Pompano Beach, FL 33060	954-946-3600	Linda@Palmtreedr.com
Pompano Waterway Development Richard L. Niebling	2629 N. Riverside Dr. Pompano Beach, FL 33062	954-943-9738 866-678-5997 (cell)	NieblingRichard@gmail.com
Pristine Marine Service	2275 SE 8th Ct. Pompano Beach, FL 33062	954-781-6530	pristinemarine@bellsouth.net
Thomas Workman & Associates, CPA	1700 S. Dixie Hwy. Suite 403 Boca Raton, FL 33432	561-393-8220	
Trio Development Corporation	1701 NW 22nd Court Pompano Beach, FL 33069	954-971-2288	
Triton Publishing Group	205 SE First Court Dania, FL 33004	954-921-9500	sar@rapdev.com
William A. Webb & Associates, CPA	404 E. Atlantic Blvd. Pompano Beach, FL 33060	954-782-5250	Bill@webbcpa.com

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

Ages, Fran	Devendorf, Dan & Anne	Koslik, Dieter	Rabb, Laura
Antoine, Mary	DeVito, Linda	Kwon, Howard	Reid, Betsy
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Bald, Mike & Elizabeth	Donnelly, Kevin	Lusk, Terri	Roberts, James & Elaine
Bardhe, Peter	Dubay, Reginald & Cynthia	Malavenda, Edward W.	Russack, Jeanne
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Belanger, Patricia	Farfaras, Peter & Phyllis	Manning, William	Shanks, Gil
Bettner, Jean	Flick, Pat	Martin, Ester	Shepherd, Mr. & Mrs.
Bohan, Gregory	Flick, Bryan	Masullo, Christie	Shorline-East of S. Florida, Inc.*
Bor, Ellen	Gardner, Kathleen	Matos, Juan R.	Skirdlant, Ronald
Brooks, Dave & Terry	Gibson, Don & Arlene	McDonald, Patricia	Smith, Ken & Dede
Brooks, Jeffrey & Sara	Golden Passport *	McGallard, Robert & Terri	Stark, Lee & Dottie
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Comeau, Norman & Jeri	Hecker, Christian & Karin	Moniz, Liliana	Wilder, Martha
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Craig, James & Roberta	Hume, Kathy	Neil, Joseph & Carol	Yarbrough, Capt. L.T. & Annette
Crosby, Lillian	Jacobsen, Nils	Norman, Marcia Ann	Youngblood, Brian & Gilda
Crowell, Charles	Josephson, Kenneth & Virginia	Nunez, Heriberto & Elena	
Dailey, Jack & Beth	King III, Alfred	O'Keefe Linda	
Danner, Kathy	Kliza, Gary & Nancy	Phillips, Shirley S.	
DAR Lighthouse Pt. Chapter+	Kirschten, Samuel J.	Poisson, Toni	

+ Organization
 * Business Membership
 ** Life Members

NOVEMBER 13TH AND JANUARY 8TH LIGHTHOUSE TOURS

HLPS Workers at Sands Harbor Hotel Dock	Nov 13: Jeannie Ellis, Annie Garrick, Linda Peck Jan 8: Martha Casselberry, Linda Peck, Susan Taylor
Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCG Auxiliary Division 3)	Nov 13: Liz Clark, Art Makenian, Marvin Merrit, Jane Mueller Jan 8: Liz Clark, Ed Duda, Marie Duda, Jerry Edelman, Gail Edelman, Ralph Krugler, Art Makenian
HLPS Workers at Lighthouse	Nov 13: Jennifer Burns, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Ed Dietrich, Steve Hoczak, Bill Slager Jan 8: Jennifer Burns, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Ed Dietrich, Ben Ellis (Barefoot Mailman), Steve Hoczak, Dave Noderer, Bill Slager
Gift Shop	Joyce and Mike Hager
Provided use of their dock, tables, chairs and umbrellas	Sands Harbor Hotel
Provided Water Transportation on Coral Princess and Aquaview	South Florida Diving Headquarters
Provided tables and chairs at the Lighthouse	USCG Station Manager Chelsea Spyker

e-News

Join our mailing list and receive "eNews of HLPS" detailing HLPS news and the progress of projects at the Hillsboro Inlet.

Send your e-mail address to Hib Casselberry at:
info@hillsborolighthouse.org



Photo by Todd Stein of Steinsphoto.com
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/photowantobe/> Email: todd@steinhouse.com

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

Hillsboro Lighthouse needs volunteers! The Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society is seeking a CPA to volunteer to assist the HLPS Board. HLPS is also seeking a Media Coordinator, a writer to help create print-ready articles for publication, a handy person to assist in maintaining the structure of the lighthouse, and volunteers to assist on tour dates. For more information, e-mail editor@hillsborolighthouse.org.

Support Florida lighthouses by purchasing a 'VISIT OUR LIGHTS' auto tag.

www.saveourlights.com



Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.
 P. O. Box 610326
 Pompano Beach, FL 33061-0326
www.hillsborolighthouse.org

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