

VOL.10 No. 3

www.HillsboroLighthouse.org

September 2007

## Arborist Day @ Hillsboro Lighthouse Saturday, 15 September, 8 AM to Noon Sign up before 13 Sept.

During the last 90 days the Coast Guard and their contractors have renovated the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station's keepers cottages, historically restoring them back to the 1920s era. Nine feet high Gumbo Limbo trees have been planted to replace the Australian pines (see story on page 3.).

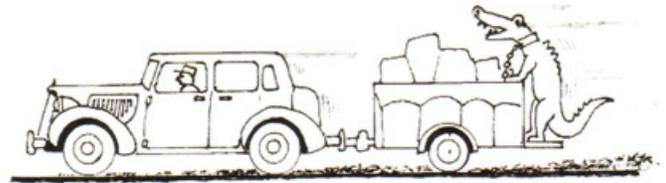
Now, the next phase is to install new plants and shrubs plus trimming existing bushes and moving lots of sand to its rightful place. *HLPS members can help.* CDR James Pruett is in need of a small, local "bobcat" and driver to move sand from the lawn where it has piled up.

Those who would like to help on "Arborist Day @ Hillsboro Lighthouse" on Saturday, 15 Sept must sign up before Thursday morning, 13 Sept with Commander James Pruett, USCG, E-mail: James.B.Pruett@uscg.mil He needs information from you to make a list for the security guard at the entry gate. The Station's office phone is 954-781-1817 for messages.

After you have registered with CDR Pruett, sharpen up your shears and shovels and bring them along with any rakes to the Arborist Day clean-up. The work will end at 11:30 at which time we will be treated to a barbeque.

There will be an afternoon of activities at Emma Lou Olson Civic Center on NE 6th Street, one block west of US Hwy 1, an AACA Antique Automobile Show in the early afternoon. Jerry Bowman has lined up many vintaged vehicles dating from 1907 through 1997. HLPS will provide posters of Hillsboro Lighthouses' keepers names for each decade indicating what car their family might have used to start work at

HillsboroLighthouse. The auto display will be on the outside of the west end of the building.



Videos of turtle protection at the Lighthouse's shore, reefs, and our lighthouse history will be in the inside of the building. In the evening we will move to the inlet park where fiddlers will entertain us along with remarks from dignitaries.

Florida Governor Charlie Crist has declared that same day to be "Florida Lighthouse Day".



CHARLIE CRIST  
GOVERNOR

### FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY

WHEREAS, lighthouses have played a significant economic and historical role in the settlement and development of Florida; and

WHEREAS, since 1824, lighthouses have protected coastal shipping and guided mariners into Florida's rivers and ports; and

WHEREAS, thirty of the fifty-nine lighthouses constructed are still standing on the land and in the waters of the Sunshine State; and

WHEREAS, lighthouses are tourist attractions; and

WHEREAS, Florida's lighthouses represent the romantic spirit and sense of adventure of Floridians; and

WHEREAS, it is in Florida's best interest to preserve, protect and promote these treasures of our seashores;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 15, 2007 as Florida Lighthouse Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, in the year two thousand seven.



*Charlie Crist*  
Governor

## Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse Centennial 7 March 2007

A 100th birthday party was given for the Hillsboro Lighthouse Tower on Wednesday, March 7th. It was held at Hillsboro Inlet Park with Ed Dietrick as Master of Ceremony. Captain Christine Balbone represented RADM Kunkel as the keynote speaker. Gwen Leys, Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 3 Captain, representatives from Senators Martinez and Nelson's offices and Ron Klein's office and City officials were there to present proclamations. Three of Keeper Benjamin Stone's children came for the party. Art Makenian dedicated a beautiful bell monument that he donated in memory of all the Hillsboro Lighthouse Keepers and the men who worked so diligently to repair the flotation system supporting the 2000 lb. Fresnel lens back in the year 2000. When dusk came and the lighthouse beam shone, fireworks burst forth across the Inlet. Birthday cake was cut and served to attendees as the string group, "Old Time Jammers" entertained. If you haven't been to the rather new Inlet Park, check out this beautiful spot just south of the Inlet in Pompano Beach. The bell monument and a large anchor found by Vonne Research Group from a nearby wreck are both on permanent display here. Below are pictures taken by David Shing that evening.



## Lighthouse Tour Saturday, October 20th, 2007 101 Year Old Station with New Facelift !

by H & M Casselberry

Circle October 20th on your calendar for a fun and educational day at the lighthouse. Come to our usual spot - the City of Pompano Beach Parking Lot just a block north of Atlantic Blvd. on N. Riverside Drive, (east of the Intracoastal Waterway), pay the parking fee (allow 2 to 3 hrs.). Come anytime between 8:45 AM and 2:45 PM to the HLPS table. Friendly members will be accepting new memberships, checking you in and giving you a wrist band before you board the 48 passenger sightseeing bus for a pleasant ride up to the lighthouse station with narration by Dr. Ray McAllister, a grandson of a Hillsboro Inlet keeper. Dr. Ray is a delightful gentleman who will tell you of some of the special treats and points of interest awaiting you at the lighthouse.

The Light Station was hit hard by Hurricane Wilma in 2005, the worst to hit this area since 1947. It sand blasted everything, tore down a dozen tall scraggly and slow Australian pine trees and ripped off some of the vinyl and aluminum siding on the cottages. Sand piled up 3 feet high at some corners of buildings and 3" to 6" deep over the lawn. In late May the Coast Guard removed the remaining hollow pine trees. They have given the cottages a facelift, returning them to the early 1920 era historic image. Come see these changes and the 18 points of interests on this Station.

The chartered sightseeing bus will be shuttling all day beginning at 9:00 A.M. No reservations, but be sure to arrive by 2:45 P.M. as that will give you

time to register for the bus's last trip out to the Light with passengers. This Lighthouse Station closes at 4:45 PM during tour days. You will probably want to climb the tower and enjoy the spectacular view from the Observation Deck. Back at ground level, Sheldon Voss will be available to share stories his mother used to tell him about her life at the light station back in the 1920's as a daughter of Lighthouse Keeper, Thomas Knight. Sheldon's great uncle was one of the Barefoot Mailman (as those barefoot troopers were called) who walked up and down the beach from Palm Beach to the Miami River village six days a week with a precious mail pouch to deliver news to the sparsely populated outposts from 1885 to the time a road was established some eight years later. Each mailman would pass the beach where our Lighthouse Station now stands. The stone statue at the Station is in memory of Ed Hamilton, the mailman who mysteriously lost his life right here at Hillsboro Inlet. Sheldon can tell you more about the Barefoot Mailman.

Why not make a day of it by packing a picnic basket that day and bringing a blanket for an old fashioned dinner on the ground at our beautiful lighthouse retreat? We suggest everyone bring along some water or other nonalcoholic beverage, as the usual lemonade and tea will not be available on this particular tour date. We hope for sunshine, light cool breezes blowing and a little crispness in the air.

At the bus stop adjacent to the lighthouse station, Joyce Hager will have items from our Gift Shop Collection for sale. Visit our Website, [www.HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://www.HillsboroLighthouse.org) and click on "Gift Shop" to view the many items for sale.



## ASSISTANT KEEPER JAMES HEALAN 1949-51

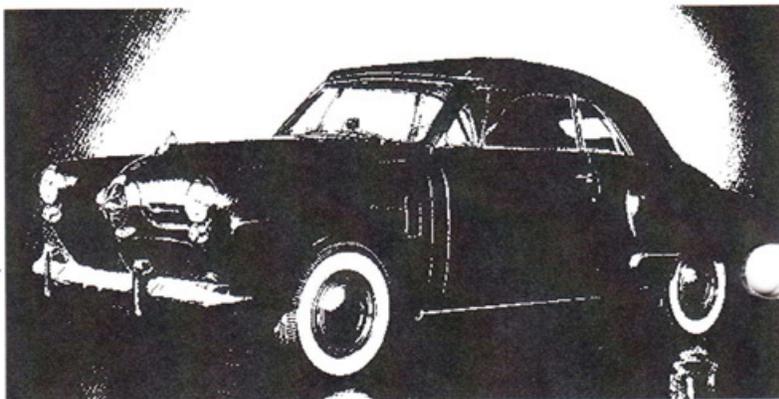
We received a very nice e-mail from Pastor Jim Healan of Mobile, Alabama this summer. We have been looking for stories about former Keepers at Hillsboro and were delighted to hear about his father who was stationed here.

“My father joined the Coast Guard the last year of the war (1945) while a senior in High School and left Florida and the farm he grew up on in Winter Garden for the first time in his life. When he got to the Hillsboro Light he was an engine man. He kept the diesel generators going and any other heavy mechanical equipment running. He also met this “Yankee” city girl who swept him off his feet. She was quite a party girl--very hot looking, and worked at the Hillsboro Club. They both would laugh about how different their backgrounds were and how opposite they were. Mom had been living on her own since she was 16. She was born and raised in Rhode Island and lived in New York City during WW2. My grandmother had spent most of her life in the hotel business as an executive housekeeper in upscale hotels all across the US, so my grandmother might have had something to do with my Mom getting a job at the Hillsboro Club.

I do remember Dad talking about something that happened to him in 1950. He had decided to make the Coast Guard a career and was offered a bonus of a couple thousand dollars if he would reenlist. That was a huge sum of money then--more money than he had ever had in his life. He had two financial opportunities to spend his reenlistment bonus--he was offered 2 beach front lots in Pompano Beach for \$1000 a lot (worthless sand at the time he called it) or buy a brand new flashy 1951 Studebaker Coupe. He had just gotten married that year and you can guess which one he chose being only 24 years old with a new “party girl” wife. He bought the car and immediately got orders for the Coast Guard cutter Matagorda in Miami. Just after my Mom got pregnant with me in 1953, he got orders to one year isolated duty on Wake Island to be followed by orders to Hawaii. As an enlisted 2nd Class Petty Officer, couldn't take a car with him and had to sell the coupe. Through the years, our family at times wondered what those two lots would be worth today? Probably more than a memory of a “hot” 1951 Studebaker coupe!

My wife and I have become Lighthouse buffs in the past several years--my folks having met and married while my dad was a lighthouse keeper might have something to do with it! We have visited several lighthouses on the Great Lakes and for our 25th wedding anniversary in 2001 made a trip to New England and eastern Canada to visit quilt shops and lighthouses.

I would like to tell you more about my dad's life as a Coasties, but both of my parents passed away in the late 1990s.” (Note: We wrote Pastor Jim and told him those lots today would probably buy hundreds of Studebaker Coupes. But isn't hindsight always easier to understand than foresight?)



## FLA Meeting at Hillsboro Inlet Light July 21

See pictures on page 7

The Florida Lighthouse Association has quarterly meetings at lighthouses throughout the State. On July 21st, 120 members met for a morning meeting and luncheon at the Hillsboro Club with an afternoon tour of the Lighthouse Station. Our own Barefoot Mailman interpreter, Michael Bornstein, was guest speaker. He appeared in full costume including bare feet and charmed the group. Most every one of these lighthouse enthusiasts also climbed the tower on that beautiful Saturday afternoon.

Commander James Pruett of the 7th District Coast Guard, which includes our State, welcomed the group early in the day and spoke about the work going on this summer at this lighthouse station. When he was transferred to this district, he was told by Admiral David W. Kunkel to fix things up at Hillsboro and that is his plan.

The last week of May, large equipment was brought in to remove all the Australian pine trees that didn't fall during "Wilma". They are not native trees and can do great damage during fierce storms. These near 100 year old giants as well as their roots were removed. The inner core of each tree looked like open pipe. Twelve lovely gumbo-limbo trees now stand in their place and an arborist has properly trimmed the sea grape hedges. It all blends in well with the disease-resistant palm trees that C.G. Keeper, Mike Sutton and his wife Mary, planted and nurtured back in the early 1980s.

Night lighting at the Station has been modified to help the young turtle hatchlings safely make their trip to sea. A round of applause rang out when CDR. Pruett announced the restoration of the exterior of the two remaining cottages to their original condition. The vinyl siding was removed, then the aluminum siding under that. The hardwood under all that was carefully removed and the many coats of dangerous lead paint were stripped off and insulation installed before replacing the hardwood.. That will be painted with the same original color of white with original dark green trim. Keeper children at one time had carved their dog's name on one porch and that carving will remain.

On the grounds new fencing will be installed and some protection will be placed around the Barefoot Mailman Statue. The old outdoor restroom will be replaced with a modern, handicapped facility.

CDR. Pruett noted that relations between the Coast Guard and HLPS have improved greatly in the last six months. (Editor's note: This is due in our opinion to Jim Pruett's love of this Station and his ability to converse with our Board with real answers to the Board's questions.) He said that in the next few years, this Station will be a "Shining Star". It will probably include a replaced dock (after required environmental study), a brick walkway from the dock to the tower and a historical drinking fountain - all three items that we have been inquiring about for many years. Tower repainting and gazebo repairs are also included in future plans.

A question was asked as to who can request to stay in the cottages for R&R time. Pruett stated that there was once a time only high ranking Coast Guard Officers could apply, but now any "Coasties" of any rank can apply to come with his or her family. As of today, while restoration continues on the cottages, no one is occupying them.

A weekday civilian property manager has been hired and in the future, someone will also be there part time to pick up brush and coconuts and tend the yard. FLA members came away knowing that Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse is in good hands. All this is exciting news for HLPS. Read about the first Arborist Day plans CDR. Pruett has for us the morning of Saturday, September 15th ( see page 1 ).

**DID YOU KNOW?** According to meteorologist, Brian Norcross, the record high wind speed recorded at the lighthouse lantern room roof during the September 13-15, 1947 hurricane was 158 MPH. The Lantern Room with the Fresnel lens WAS displayed in 1904 at the St. Louis Exposition, but not with any tower.

Statewide Kiwanis International has designed a lovely Christmas ornament of Hillsboro Lighthouse. They will be available at the October 20th tour and on our Website "Gift Shop" page.

### NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS SINCE H.L.P.S.'s Feb. '07 NEWSLETTER

Andruski, Chuck	Curry, Charles, Jr.	Latham, Terry & Marion	Rudolph, Buddy
Aurilio, Aldo & Sue Blanton	Curry, Robert E.	Laviolette, Anna	Ruttger, Sally
Baekkelund, Arne & Suzan	Delray, George	Lucarelli, Mary Jo	Schlusemeyer, Ron
Bayer, Deborah	Downie, Donald & Rosalynn	Martini, Francis	Schmidlin, Charles & Alice
Bean, David	Emmons, Roger	Morrison, Mary	Shareef, Raliyyuddin /Zainab
Ben & Jeannie Ellis, Real Estate Brokers, P.L. *	Evans, George & Maddie	Moser, Barbara	Stark Lee & Dottie
Bettner, Steve & Jean	Farrar, Donna	Mowry, Richard & Mary	Steinnetz, Gladys
Blunt, Shelly Grogan	Forland, Frank	Muir, William & Susan	Stubblefield, Julie
Breen, Harold & Shellie	Forland, Frank	Nicholson, Jim & Linda	Sunderlin, Don & Jeanne
Brekka, John & Flo	Fowler, David	Noble, Dick & Pat	Theisen, Gerald & Regina
Brock, Thomie & Sheila	Furbish, Tom & Pat	O'Mara, Thomas & Ali	VanDyke, Del
Brooks, Dave & Terry	Gartner, George	O'Meara, Shane	Volk, Madeleine
Burrows, Roland	Glynn, Howard & Beverly	Oyer, Harvey, Jr.	VonStaden, Sandra,
Campbell, J.R.	Hanson, John	Palm Tree Doctor *	Beacon Images *
Carey, Bill	Hecker, Karin	Bill & Linda Giles	White, Edward
Cease, Karen	Hogan, Judy	Perrelli, Pat & Marlene	Williams, Timothy
Chalson, Paul & Betty	Hoyer, Lou & Doris	Perrin, Kent & Susan	Wolven, Alison & Frank
Cleary, Scott	Hudson, Mark & Karen	Petrillo, Anthony & Kellie	Albritto
Colody, Jack & Betty	Johns, Tracey	Phillips, Marty & Tia	Workman, Tom & Maureen
Computer Ways, Inc. *	Keane, Carolyn	Proffit, Steve & Patty	Yarbrough, Larry & Annette
Dave Noderer	Kempf, Renee	Resmondo, Jack E.	Zubero, David & Sally
Connell, Tom & Beverly	Kendall, Deloris	Richard, Gloria	
Conner, James & Joyce	Kenoyer, Steven & Linda	Rigby, R.	* = Business Membership
Cowdrey, Bob & Dot	Knell, Lynne	Robbins, Melvyn	** = LIFE MEMBERS
	Kuntz, John & Karin	Rozar, Ron & Sandra	
	Lantigua, Marianny & Jocelyn		

## THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEER HELPERS

**Newsletter Layout:** Lee Bennett & Casselberrys.

**Publisher:** Minuteman Press of Ft. Lauderdale

**Newsletter Mailing:** Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Peggy Cook, Joyce Hager, Suzanne Hamilton & Laurie Kunkel. (All above for Feb. 2007 Newsletter.)

**Feb. 24th Tour at the City Parking Lot:** Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Ben & Jeannie Ellis, Mike & Joyce Hager, Diane Hardy, Laurie Kunkel, Fred MacLean. **At the Lighthouse:** **USCG-ANT.:** MK2

**March 7th Centennial Celebration: Story Tellers:** Bud Gardner, Ray McAllister, Stuart McIver & George Stone.; Music by USCG Bagpipers & Appalachian Mountain Old Time Jammers; Cake Servers: .Suzan Baekkelund & Linda Peck. (See article in this issue for other participants.)

**July 21st Volunteer Helpers for the Florida Lighthouse Association Hillsboro Light Tour:**

**USCG-ANT:** BMCS Mike Winans, OC, MK3 John Lyons, & BM3 Ryan Nicholson. Peter Dillun, BM3 Wick Bennett, BM2 Scott Molway; **USCG Dis.7:** OS2 J. Sam Gardner, BM2 David Daes, PN2 Jeff Meyer; **Sector Miami:** EM3 Chris Cummings, MK2 Dustin Savage, MK3 Robert Ocasio; **USCG-Aux. Div.III:** Richard & Gwen Leys, **Flot. 3-4:** Howard Blair & Steven Petrozella; **Flot. 3-6:** Jerry & Gail Edelman, Liliane Neghabghab; **HLPS Members:** Suzan Baekkelund, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Linda Peck, David Shing, & SheldonVoss. **Sands Harbor Hotel & Marina:** Use of tables and chairs at the parking lot.

**USCG-Aux.Div.III:** Richard & Swen Lays, Liz Clark From Flotillas: Alan Burrows, Scott Clerry, Jane Mueller & "Turtle Info"Matt & Valer Kolbert.

**Local Volunteers:** Michael Bornstein (Barefoot Mailman), Paul Bradley, Jack Burrie, Hib & Martha Casselberry, Ed Dietrich, Dan Godon, Joyce & Mike Hager, Jack & Sharon Holland (Dredge System), & David Shing (Photos)

# Pictures from the Florida Lighthouse Assoc. Meeting & Tour at Hillsboro 21 July 2007.





Hillsboro Inlet Light Station May 2007



Hillsboro Inlet Light Station June 2007

**Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.**

Post Office Box 6062

Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

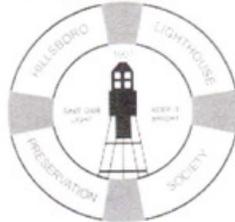
Phone: 954-942-2102

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

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

Martha Casselberry, Newsletter Editor

OCTOBER 2006



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*This is your HLPS Membership Card*