

BIG DIAMOND

HILLSBORO
LIGHTHOUSE
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

July 2010
Volume 13, Number 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the President	2
Upcoming Tour	3
Largest Fresnel Lens in the World	4
National Lighthouse Day	5

MISS FLORIDA USA VISITS HILLSBORO LIGHT STATION

Megan Clementi, Miss Florida USA 2010, visited the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station on Monday, June 28 as part of her "Climb for the Cure" campaign. Ms. Clementi aims to promote breast cancer awareness and early detection to support Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the world's largest source of non-profit funds dedicated to finding a cure for breast cancer.

Clementi plans to climb all 30 of Florida's lighthouses during her term, while promoting the "Visit Our Lights" specialty license plate sponsored by the Florida Lighthouse Association to raise funds for lighthouse preservation. Not only is she raising money for cancer research and treatment

programs across the state, but by climbing every step to the top of the Hillsboro Inlet Light — all 175 of them — Megan is also raising awareness of Florida's lighthouses and collecting



Miss Florida USA 2010, Megan Clementi, catches up on Hillsboro Lighthouse history with HLPS Past President and Historian Hib Casselberry.

funds that will be put toward maintaining and restoring them.

"The idea came to me when I was driving with my dad," said the 26-year-old Jupiter, Florida native. "We would pass all of these lighthouses, which I have loved since I was a child. I said to him, 'Maybe there's a way we could do some good for them, too.' There is so much funding that's needed to preserve these structures and keep them well maintained. I'd heard of people who 'Race for the Cure,' so I decided that I would climb for it," she said.

Since January, Clementi has been visiting lighthouses throughout the Sunshine State. The week Megan climbed to the

(Continued on page 3)

UPCOMING TOUR DATES

Saturday, August 7, 2010

Details, Page 3

AWARDS GIVEN AT HLPS 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

The Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society (HLPS) presented a series of awards to its Member Volunteers and Board Members at the HLPS Annual Meeting. The meeting was held on Saturday, May 8, at Christine's by the Sea at the Lighthouse Cove Resort in Pompano Beach.

Paul Bradley was presented with an award in appreciation of his talents, providing an informational architectural rendering and beautiful artwork for benefit of the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station. Martha Casselberry was presented with an award in appreciation for her eight years of editing and

publishing the *Big Diamond* newsletter for HLPS, and Dr. Ray McAllister was presented with an award for his narration of the history of Hillsboro Lighthouse and its keepers on the shuttle boat rides during scheduled tours to the community.

(Continued on page 5)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On May 8, the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society conducted its Annual Membership Meeting & Luncheon at Christine's by the Sea restaurant at the Lighthouse Cove Resort in the City of Pompano Beach. We were honored with the presence of the Mayors of Broward County and the Town of Hillsboro Beach, as well as the Pompano Beach City Manager.

This year, our very special guest was Captain James O. Fitton, Commander USCG Sector Miami. When Capt. Fitton was the Commanding Officer of the USCG Station Fort Lauderdale ten years ago, many changes came about which were directly related to the lighthouse, and it was during that same period when the Coast Guard Auxiliary took over the renovation and repair of the lighthouse lantern mechanism. (Not to forget, during that same period the Commandant of the CG 7th District was ADM Thad W. Allen, the man who knew how to use volunteer forces effectively.)

During this meeting, I was very proud to honor three of our HLPS icons that have devoted endless time and energy to elevate this organization to first class status: **Mr. Paul Bradley**, one of the founding Board Members of HLPS and a very talented architect and a national lighthouse artwork contributor; **Mrs. Martha Casselberry**, who took over the publishing of the *Big Diamond* from Mr. David Butler (second president and co-founder of HLPS). She categorically transformed it to what it is today - an interesting and very informative newsletter. **Dr. Ray McAllister, Ph.D.** is one of the founding Board Members and a regular contributor to the *Big Diamond*. In spite of his physical condition, he continues to narrate to the shuttle boat passengers with interesting lighthouse stories.

This year we enjoyed a very special treat from two talented and creative artists. **Mr. Ray Artz**, a song writer, poet and musician, whose "Keepers of the Light (Hillsboro)" song was a hit with the guests. I hope we will be hearing from him at our future events. Also, **Mr. David Hampel**, a song writer, lyricist and musician, whose "Lighthouse Keeper Warren Bennett (Second CG Keeper)" song was also a hit with all. Not to forget, David was accompanied by Lonny (daughter of Keeper Bennett) on base guitar. We will be promoting these talented artists at many local events to come.

The May 29th Lighthouse tour went well; we had a good turnout, and as usual our visitors loved the event. Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers staffed a table as an extra attraction to promote children wearing life jackets (PFDs) for National Safe Boating Week.

Finally, at this year's annual meeting, a motion was approved defining the Directors' terms of office. Directors were elected in 2009 for staggered four year terms, with half to be elected every two years. The five current elected Directors/Officers will hold office until the Annual Meeting in 2013. The remaining five Directors will hold office until the Annual Meeting in 2011. This will bring us in compliance with HLPS Bylaws.

Hope to see you at the August 7th lighthouse tour. We plan to have a Short Wave Radio communications link with many other participating lighthouses for National Lighthouse Day.

Art Makenian

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. (HLPS) is in compliance with the registration requirements of the Solicitation of Contributions Act, Chapter 496.405, Florida Statutes: Registration #CH8700. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800) 435-7532 from within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State of Florida.

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.

2010 OFFICERS & BOARD

Arthur A. Makenian
President

Daniel E. Gordon
1st Vice President

Frederick R. MacLean, Jr.
2nd Vice President

Jack Burrie
Secretary

Charles J. Seitz
Treasurer

Joyce Hager
Director/Gift Shop Manager

Hibbard "Hib" Casselberry
Director/Historian

Ed Dietrich
Director/USCG Liaison

Dr. Ray McAllister
Director/Maritime

Barry J. Dockswell
Director/Media

=====
Edward J. Chandler, Esq.
Counsel

MEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Mike Hager
Publicity

Stephen J. Hoczak
Newsletter Editor

Linda Peck
Membership Chair

Doug Matthes
HLPS Web Master

MISS FLORIDA USA

(Continued from page 1)

top of the Hillsboro Inlet Light (her 11th) she also climbed to the top of Sanibel's 98 foot-tall lighthouse, as well as lighthouses in Boca Grande and Gasparilla.

Megan Clementi was born in Kendall, Florida and attended Jupiter High School and the University of Central Florida, where she majored in Electrical Engineering and minored in

Engineering Leadership. She spent time in Japan as a dancer for Tokyo Disneyland's dance show *Once Upon A Mouse*, and is a former Orlando Magic Dancer.

To read more about Megan Clementi and her Climb for the Cure, visit her blog at <http://missfloridausa2010.blogspot.com/> or www.MissFloridaUSA.com. ♦



Megan Clementi, Miss Florida USA 2010, at the Hillsboro Lighthouse on June 28, 2010.

UPCOMING LIGHTHOUSE TOUR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2010

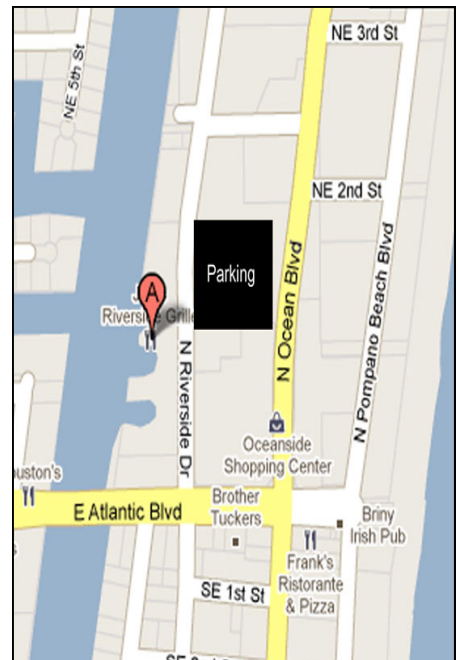
Please join the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society and the Coast Guard Auxiliary for a summer tour of the Hillsboro Lighthouse. The next tour is scheduled for **Saturday, August 7, 2010**.

Park in the **Pompano Beach City Parking Lot** (fee required) across from the **Sands Harbor Hotel & Marina**. HLPS member volunteers will be at the HLPS Lighthouse Tour table under the HLPS sign at the Sands Harbor Hotel dock.

Transportation to and from the Lighthouse is by tour boat provided by South Florida Diving Headquarters via the Intracoastal Waterway. The HLPS table opens at 8:45 a.m., with the first boat departing at approximately 9:00 a.m.

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 the Sands Harbor Hotel at 2:30 p.m., with the last boat from the Lighthouse returning at approximately 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.hillsborolighthouse.org and click on **Tours**.



- Sorry, no pets are allowed -

THE LARGEST FRESNEL LENS IN THE WORLD

12 feet tall by 9 feet wide, 17 metric tons in weight.

Makapu'u Summit, located at the southeast corner of Oahu, Hawaii, is 647 feet above sea level and consists of lava flow layers. Between the summit and a wave-cut terrace, a site was selected for a lighthouse, about 420 feet above sea level. A trail across the steep lava rock incline was blasted, as was the shelf for the light tower. The light tower itself, because it sat so high above the sea, did not have to be tall. By October 1908, workers finished the 48 foot tower. The thickness of the conical tower wall at the base is 27 inches, tapering to 20 inches at the parapet. The distance from the base of the tower to the ventilator sphere of the lantern room measures 35 feet, while the diameter of the tower's base is 14 feet 10 ½ inches. The foundation is reinforced concrete block and is 8 feet below the surface.

The Makapu'u lens is special. Originally, the plan called for a third order lens, then changed upward to a second order, and finally, to a first order. The Lighthouse Board decided to use a huge "hyper-radiant" lens. Mentioning that the lens is huge is an understatement; the inside diameter of the optic is 8 ¾ feet. Part of the reason for the use of this lens is that the Board had purchased one and displayed it at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, where it "was one of the most popular exhibits at the fair." After the fair, however, the lens was stored away.

Improvements in lighthouse illumination, such as incandescent oil vapor, no longer required lenses of such size. Makapu'u's would have a large first order optic, probably because the Board decided that rather than purchase a new lens, they would use the hyper-radiant lens they had already acquired. The lens at Makapu'u is the largest lens ever used outside Europe.

As mentioned, the inside diameter of the lens is 8 ¾ feet, large enough for several people to stand within. It has a height of 12 feet and weighed, as shipped with its pedestal, about 17 tons. The keepers worked the lamps within the lens.

On October 1, 1909 the Makapu'u light was first displayed. The signature of the light was white, with a 7 ½ second flash and 1 ½ second dark period. The light beam reached 25 miles to sea, and the giant lens revolved on ball bearings.

A road runs from the main Highway 27 to the lighthouse keeper's quarters, which consisted of three dwellings located about 120 feet uphill from the lighthouse. This light station was provided with a team of mules and a wagon to haul goods and supplies and provide transportation to Honolulu.

In 1925, however, tragedy struck. The first and second assistant keepers were changing watches, when the first assistant suggested to the second assistant to fill the alcohol lighter, located at the bottom service room.

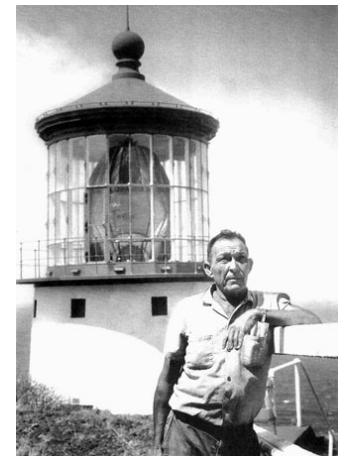
The alcohol was used for heating the oil-vapor lamp. Most of the alcohol from the tank was drawn off, with some dripping on the floor. For some unknown reason the first keeper struck a match and the room exploded. The first keeper did not survive his injuries and died the next day. The second keeper received serious burns, but managed to stagger out of the room.

On October 27, 1963, Joe Pestrella retired as a civilian light keeper after 24 years of service at Makapu'u. The Coast Guard resident keepers maintained the light until January 4, 1974 when the lighthouse was automated. In 1984 vandals shot a hole through the lantern room glass, damaging the glazing and the priceless Fresnel lens. The glazing was later replaced but the lens was damaged beyond repair. In May 1996, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 23 started to host escorted tours to the lighthouse and the unique Fresnel lens on monthly basis. ♦



Makapu'u Point Hyper-radiant Lens

"For some unknown reason the first keeper struck a match and the room exploded."



Joe Pestrella at the Makapu'u Point Light on the island of Oahu

ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from page 1)



USCG Captain James O. Fitton,
Ret'd.

Finally, Captain James O. Fitton, Commander, Sector Miami of the United States Coast Guard was presented with a special award from the Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA) for his outstanding contribution to Sector Miami's four Lighthouses: The Jupiter, The Hillsboro, The Cape Florida and The Fowey Rocks. Fitton, who has been in command since June 2008, retired after 32 years of active duty service at ceremony on June 25, relinquishing command to Captain Christopher P. Scraba.

Captain Fitton had a broad background in Coast Guard Sector Operations and Boat Forces, having served as Operations Officer at Group Charleston, South Carolina, Commanding Officer of Station Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Deputy Sector Commander at Sector Key West, Florida. His staff tours included District Seven Operations and Law Enforcement, and he served as the Operations Officer for the Coast Guard during Operation Restore Democracy in Haiti. As the District Seven Command Center Senior Duty Officer from 1999 to 2002, Captain Fitton oversaw the successful execution of over 30,000 search and rescue cases, with his most recent assignment as the Chief of Enlisted Assignments at the Coast Guard Personnel Command.

The award given to Captain Fitton came with praise from the FLA that the Association will be forever grateful to his efforts, which have assisted in pursuing its preservation and awareness goals in the service of the general public. ♦

NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY IS AUGUST 7TH

It was on this day in 1789, that Congress approved an Act for the establishment and support of lighthouses, beacons, buoys and public piers. In Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the signing of the Act and the commissioning of the first Federal lighthouse, Congress passed a resolution which designated August 7, 1989 as National Lighthouse Day. National Lighthouse Day honors and commemorates a beacon of light that symbolizes safety and security for boats at sea.

Throughout maritime history, lighthouses have shined their powerful, sweeping lights through the fog and storms, allowing ships of all kinds to find their way back to port during bad weather. With the advent of radar and GPS technology, lighthouses have taken a back

(Continued on page 8)

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Thanks to Wayne Boswell who created the *Big Diamond* nameplate on the cover.

Wayne is an advertising and graphics professional who lives with his wife, Mary Beth, in Lighthouse Point, and spends most of his volunteer time with thefruitfulfield.org in Deerfield Beach. Wayne can be reached via e-mail at wayneboswell@comcast.net.

Thanks also to HLPS volunteer Jennifer Burns, who spent many hours working on the *Big Diamond* redesign. Jennifer is the Chief Marketing Officer at City County Credit Union in Margate, Florida. She holds a

Master's Degree in Publications Design from the University of Baltimore.

Credit for the photo used in the nameplate goes to David Copeland of Alexandria, Virginia. David and his family were staying at the Assistant Lighthouse Keeper's quarters in October 2007, and he took the photo of the lighthouse and the Hillsboro Club cottage with a Canon PowerShot SD550. See more of David's photos at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/davetron5000/>.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions for articles in a future newsletter, please e-mail them to editor@hillsborolighthouse.org.



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
ControlAltDispute 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	
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

Adam, Tania	Dilliner, Ben	Killilea, Kevin M. & Lisa	Rabozzi, Ro
Armstrong, Viki	Donahey, Kenneth C.	Kinder, Joseph G.	Rodormer, George & Doris
Azcona, Stephen & Colleen	Doody, Richard	Kittock, Aileen	Rudolph, Clarence F. (Buddy)
Bannister, Robert & Linda	Ecker, Ron & Chris	Kiwior, Ted	Rutledge, Lissette
Beach, Dennis & Debra	Ellington, Chris	Kowalsky, Fred	Sharkey, Mrs. Rita
Bell, Ron	Ellis, Allison	Kruse, Doug	Siae, Alicia M.
Bittering, "Butch" & Ruth Ann	Enrikin, Carol	Kuhn, Howard & Jennie	Siegel, Leslie
Blakesburg, Jon & Andrea	Emond, Bryan & Christine	LaBarge, Carolee	Silcox, Lt. Emma
Borshay, Robert	Fitton, Capt. James O.	LaMarca, Angelo	Spkyer, Chelsea
Brands, Rich & Michelle	Fowler, David Jr.	Lange, Marianne	Stern, Beverly
Breitenstein, Jim & Nona	Fox, Bill & Sherry	Lent, Barbara	Stevenson, Bill & Wilma
Brochu, Marita	Gaber, Lori	Lindner, Beverly	Stewart, Merle & Pamela
Burns, Robert K.	Gaitor, Linda	Luettoem, Andrew	Stone, Susan S.
Butler, Susan	Gardner, Bud	MacIntyre, Jennifer	Suchocki, John & Kacey
Calabrese, Matthew & Heather	Giles, Doug & Linda	Martell, Tom	Swayzee, Tim & Amy
Cameron, Steve & Ruth	Glassberg, Robert & Beth	McCable, Richard & Nancy	Tobey, Wayne
Caplan, Susan	Goodman, Steven	McDonald, Kay	VonStaden, Nicholas & Sandy*
Chetta, Michael	Hakman, Asher & Jeneva	Mellinger, Mark	Warden, Shaun
Cook, James A.	Hernet, Steven & Carol	Meyers, Bart & Donna	Watson, Lt. Douglas
Cooper, Martin & Lorilyn	Higgs, Tamara	Moll, Mark	White, Edward
Davis, Larry	Jenkins, Paul	Nash, Scott	
Davis, William & Linda	Joswick, Don	Niebling, Richard*	+ Organization
DeCook, Ben & Jen	Kain, Michael	Pace, Ron	* Business Membership
			** Life Members

MONETARY DONATIONS

Stephanie Heins-Bauer	Jackie Kaehler	Linda Peck
Dennis & Debra Beach	Debra L. Newbern	

MARCH 13, APRIL 10 AND MAY 29 LIGHTHOUSE TOURS

HLPS Workers at Sands Harbor Hotel Dock	Martha Casselberry, Linda Peck, Susan Taylor
Coast Guard Auxiliary	Howard Blair, Gene Cain, Ed Duda, Marie Duda, Pat Feighery, Jane Mueller, Tom Thayer, Bob Weisman (USCG Auxillary Division 3)
HLPS Workers at Lighthouse	Jennifer Burns, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Ed Dietrich, Robin Haywood, Steve Hoczak, Art Makenian, Bill Slager
Gift Shop	Joyce and Mike Hager
Narrator, Boat Ride	Dr. Ray McAllister
Narrator, Barefoot Mailman	Ben Ellis
Provided use of their dock, tables, chairs and umbrellas	Sands Harbor Hotel
Provided Water Transportation on Aquaview	South Florida Diving Headquarters
Provided Tables and Chairs at the Lighthouse	USCG Station Manager Chelsea Spkyer
Special Thanks for Publicity	Balistreri Realty and Sands Harbor Hotel

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 Danny Garcia

<http://dannygarcia.smugmug.com/>

Email: dannygarcia@FloridaPhoto.com

NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE DAY

(Continued from page 5)

seat in guiding ships to port. However, they remain the universal symbol of safe harbor to ships and communities that rely upon the sea for their livelihood.

Senator John H. Chafee (Rhode Island) sponsored a joint resolution that was introduced to Congress on April 28, 1988 designating the day of August 7,

1989 as "National Lighthouse Day." The summary of the resolution stated, "Designates August 7, 1989, as National Lighthouse Day and calls for lighthouse grounds, where feasible, to be open to the public." The resolution passed the Senate on July 26, 1988 and the House (sponsored by Representative William J. Hughes, New Jersey) on October 21, 1988. President Ronald Reagan signed the Bill into public law (No. 100-622) on November 5, 1988.

Consider a donation to HLPS on National Lighthouse Day when visiting the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station! Meet members and volunteers of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society as we honor National Lighthouse Day at our tour on August 7th. See tour information on page 3 of this newsletter, or visit www.hillsborolighthouse.org and click on [Tours](#) for more information. ♦

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL