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

(Continued on page 5)

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)
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.

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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 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 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).

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 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 ¾ 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.
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.”

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 polices 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.”

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>.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
<th>Email Addresses</th>
<th>Websites</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ben &amp; Jeannie Ellis, CRS Real Estate Brokers</td>
<td>PO Box 2103, Pompano Beach, FL 33061</td>
<td>954-401-6471</td>
<td><a href="mailto:waterfronthomes@bellsouth.net">waterfronthomes@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.waterfronthomesandliving.com">www.waterfronthomesandliving.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Beacon Images Photographs by Von Staden</td>
<td>Pompano Beach, FL 954-695-0918 954-401-0932</td>
<td>954-401-4411</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nvonstaden@comcast.net">nvonstaden@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Rhino Hurricane Shutters &amp; Impact Glass</td>
<td>1590 SW 4th Circle, Boca Raton, FL 33486</td>
<td>954-734-4411</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alexm@blackrhinosutters.com">alexm@blackrhinosutters.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.BlackRhinoShutters.com">www.BlackRhinoShutters.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CareyCo Financial Group, Inc.</td>
<td>2920 NE 22nd Ct., Pompano Beach, FL 33062</td>
<td>954-781-8549</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Ways, Inc. Dave Noderer, CEO</td>
<td>10 Fairway Dr., Deerfield Beach, FL 33441</td>
<td>954-418-9799</td>
<td><a href="mailto:daven@computerways.com">daven@computerways.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.computerways.com">www.computerways.com</a></td>
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<td>Curran Law Group Glenn Curran</td>
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<td>954-334-1883 954-938-9923 (fax)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sandy@controlaltdispute.com">sandy@controlaltdispute.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.ControlAltDispute.com">www.ControlAltDispute.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden Passport Photos, Inc.</td>
<td>1891 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311</td>
<td>954-739-5190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grass River Publishing, LLC</td>
<td>5510 SW 7th Street, Margate, FL 33068</td>
<td>954-974-7383</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wslager@aol.com">wslager@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>JenCo Plumbing Services</td>
<td>901 E. Sample Rd., Pompano Beach, FL 33064</td>
<td>954-788-2802</td>
<td><a href="mailto:JencoPlumbing@bellsouth.net">JencoPlumbing@bellsouth.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Kidwell, CPA</td>
<td>950 N. Federal Hwy. #211, Pompano Beach, FL 33062</td>
<td>954-784-0090</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Marty@Kidwellcpa.com">Marty@Kidwellcpa.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Palm Tree Doctor</td>
<td>430 S. Dixie Hwy W., Pompano Beach, FL 33060</td>
<td>954-946-3600</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Linda@Palmtreedr.com">Linda@Palmtreedr.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pompano Waterway Development Richard L. Niebling</td>
<td>2629 N. Riverside Dr., Pompano Beach, FL 33062</td>
<td>954-943-9738 866-678-5997 (cell)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:NieblingRichard@gmail.com">NieblingRichard@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Pristine Marine Service</td>
<td>2275 SE 8th Ct., Pompano Beach, FL 33062</td>
<td>954-781-6530</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pristinemarine@bellsouth.net">pristinemarine@bellsouth.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trio Development Corporation</td>
<td>1701 NW 22nd Court, Pompano Beach, FL 33069</td>
<td>954-971-2288</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sar@rapdev.com">sar@rapdev.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Triton Publishing Group</td>
<td>205 SE First Court, Dania, FL 33004</td>
<td>954-921-9500</td>
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<tr>
<td>William A. Webb &amp; Associates, CPA</td>
<td>404 E. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach, FL 33060</td>
<td>954-782-5250</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Bill@webbcpa.com">Bill@webbcpa.com</a></td>
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NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

Ages, Fran  Devendorf, Dan & Anne  Koslik, Dieter  Rabb, Laura
Antoine, Mary  DeVito, Linda  Kwon, Howard  Reid, Betsy
Asher, Robert  Dooner, Karin  Latham, Terry & Marion  Righter, Gail
Attis, Steve  Donahue, C.  Le Goff, Georgette  Roberts, Arleen
Bald, Mike & Elizabeth  Donnelly, Kevin  Lusk, Terri  Roberts, James & Alaine
Bardhe, Peter  Dubay, Reginald & Cynthia  Malavenda, Edward W.  Russack, Jeanne
Baurley Family  Endo-Systems, LLC*  Malcom, Pam  Sethness, Ed
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  Matsos, Juan R.  Skirdlant, Ronald
Brooks, Dave & Terry  Gibson, Don & Arlene  McDonald, Patricia  Smith, Ken & Dede
Brooks, Jeffrey & Sara  Golden Passport *  McCallard, Robert & Terri  Stark, Lee & Dottie
Brown, Cynthia  Goodall, Greg & Lisa  McGuire, Mary & Tim  Trio Development Corp.*
Buntrock, Marvin  Grass River Publishing, LLC.*  Merzer, Cynthia  Wegman, Lela
Cantanese, Jay  Hager, Mary  Mikashus, Lawrence  Weyenberg, Matt, Erin & Eleanor
Cogan, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth  Hawkins, George  Mitchell, Matt  White, Joanne & Ruth
Comeau, Norman & Jeri  Hecker, Christian & Karin  Moniz, Liliana  Wilder, Martha
Computer Ways, Inc*  Hertner, Thomas & Claudette  Morris, Denise  Williams, Richard & Lynette
Cooper, Lawrence  Hohman, James & Audrey  Murphy, Marian  Winslow, Betty
Cornish, Bob  Howard, Jr. Theodore D.  Nagy, Karen  Wolfs, Ineke
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

NOVEMBER 13TH AND JANUARY 8TH LIGHTHOUSE TOURS

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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

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
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 handyperson 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