

# BIG DIAMOND

HILLSBORO  
LIGHTHOUSE  
PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Editor	2
Hillsboro Inlet Web Cam	5
HLPS Art Show & Sale	7
Rally in Support of Hillsboro Lighthouse	9
Shoe Party	10
Archeology Report	14

## BRONZE BAREFOOT MAILMAN STATUE UNVEILED AT MARCH LIGHT STATION TOUR

Artist Frank Varga on site to unveil his work in front of an excited crowd

As the bright sun cast a shadow of the 105-year old lighthouse on the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station, dozens of HLPS members and lighthouse buffs gathered with anticipation as a tribute to the Barefoot Mailman was unveiled in the form of a heroic-sized bronze statue. Broward County dignitaries, including Hillsboro Beach Mayor Dan Dodge, were on hand to commemorate the legacies of 19<sup>th</sup> century postal workers who traversed the beaches between Palm Beach and Miami, delivering the mail along the 68-mile route.

Delray Beach's Frank Varga was the sculptor on the Barefoot Mailman statue, depicting the barefoot mailman in rolled-up pants and a postal service hat, with a satchel and machete adorning his right side. There's also the mailman's lightweight canvas sack, the result



HLPS President Art Makenian with BFMM reenactor Ben Ellis looking on  
Source: Ken Herman

of Varga's attention to detail and understanding that Barefoot Mailmen didn't have to use the standard USPS cowhide version.

The 8-foot tall statue on its 5-foot tall black galaxy granite pedestal

(Continued on page 3)

## REMAINING 2012 TOUR DATES

- Saturday, June 16
- Saturday, August 4 for National Lighthouse Day
- Saturday, September 8 National Survivors and Remembrance Day
- Saturday, October 13 James E. Hamilton The Barefoot Mailman
- Saturday, November 17 Volunteer and Philanthropy Day

## HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM AND VISITORS CENTER OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

The Hillsboro Lighthouse Museum and Visitors Center opened its doors during a soft opening on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

The new museum features works of art, photographs, lighthouse artifacts and summaries of the

historical aspects of the lighthouse itself and the families that kept the light shining.

HLPS President Art Makenian said HLPS was looking to show off its collection of artifacts, and saw the museum as an opportunity to get

young people interested in science and history – especially the history of Broward County and the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.

In December 2011, HLPS signed a

(Continued on page 6)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As noted in the Letter from the Editor in this edition, it has been a while since I communicated with our loyal members. Not that I am using it as an excuse, but I have moved from my apartment into a new house, and as you can imagine, moving can be hectic, and my move was no exception.

**HLPS is growing beyond our staff's capacity, and we simply need more caring volunteers to join our team.** Other lighthouse preservation organizations in the state of Florida and elsewhere are doing equally or much better than us, yet in so many cases, their growth and productivity does not come close to our achievements. Our membership is up, yet our revenues are down, and many of our projects which we have so proudly accomplished are running a deficit. So far, we have managed to keep our membership dues down, but are now reconsidering.

In addition, our immediate area municipalities are enjoying the benefits of their icon in the Hillsboro Lighthouse, yet their contribution is none. This could be because of our failure to keep in touch with the local business community on a one-to-one basis, yet to do that, it will require more volunteers to meet business people and explain our quest.

*Art Makenian*



HLPS President Art Makenian at the Hillsboro Lighthouse Museum and Visitors Center site

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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=====

**Edward J. Chandler, Esq.**  
Counsel

### MEMBER VOLUNTEERS

**Doug Matthes**  
HLPS Web Master

**Jennifer Burns**  
Media Coordinator  
media@hillsborolighthouse.org

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

## BAREFOOT MAILMAN STATUE DEDICATION

(Continued from page 1)

was met with huge applause as the tarp was lifted, and for the first time the public was able to view the statue overlooking the Hillsboro Inlet.

Varga was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1943 and has lived in Belgium, France, Italy, Canada and now the United States. After serving an apprenticeship with his father, Professor Ferenc Varga, an internationally acclaimed sculptor, he received a scholarship to study at the Accademia di Belle Arte in Florence, Italy. He worked under Florence's great sculptor, Antonio Berti, whose works are found in the

Vatican National Museum Collection, establishing the beginnings of Frank Varga's international reputation. After receiving his Documento di Arte from the Accademia di Belle Arte Florence Italy in 1964, he returned

to the United States to continue his association with his father and earned a B.A. in Fine Arts from Honolulu University.

Varga is responsible for many notable bronze projects throughout the country and the

many of notable historic figures such as Enrico Caruso, St. Anthony, Colonel Michael Kovats and General Casimir Pulaski. He created the original Barefoot Mailman Statue nearly 40 years ago, and spoke about the legacy of the Barefoot Mailman and the

sculpture. "It is such an honor to work on these types of projects," said Varga.

"Replacing the ailing Athena stone statue was inevitable, but it is so very special to be a part of the ceremony as pieces are unveiled. This is a huge thrill for me as a sculptor and local resident."



BFMM Committee Chairperson Carmen McGarry with Artist Frank Varga

Source: Ken Herman

world, including a bust of Nicolaus Copernicus in Detroit, a metallic art relief of JFK at the White House, a cast bronze relief of Danny Thomas at the St. Jude's Research Hospital in Memphis, and life-size statues of

History records very little about what actually happened to James Edward Hamilton, the most famous of all of the Barefoot Mailmen,

(Continued on page 4)

## FROM THE EDITOR

It's been six months since our last newsletter. But within those six months, the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society has been incredibly busy working to preserve the history of the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station.

We've replaced the Barefoot Mailman Statue at the inlet and are still holding fundraising events. We've installed the Centennial Brick Patio. We've held a rally in support of the lighthouse. We've held an Art Show and Sale. We've supported the U.S. Government and the USCG to repair to the exterior of the lighthouse. We've acquired space, and have

been busy working on the grand opening of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Museum and Visitors Center. We've been at grand openings, trade shows, art shows and other public and lighthouse events around Florida.

Many of these items are detailed in the pages of this newsletter, including some great photos from the events. However, there's another matter which needs to be addressed before you read the pages that follow.

We need volunteers!

With nearly 2,000 paid and honorary members, HLPS is indeed a strong organization. But, HLPS is run by a very small, very dedicated group of people on the Board and Advisory Committee, and a very tiny (less than 10) group of member volunteers who graciously volunteer their time at our museum and on tour days.

We need volunteers!

Volunteers to help with the newsletter, assist in the museum, help with tours, help promote HLPS and help test our new Web site that is

## BAREFOOT MAILMAN STATUE DEDICATION

(Continued from page 3)

who disappeared from his appointed duties sometime during the night of October 11, 1887. Newspaper accounts suggest that Hamilton drowned and was swept out to sea, or was taken by an alligator or crocodile while trying to swim across the Hillsboro Inlet to retrieve his rowboat. Others believe that he may have faked his own death, or that he was a victim of foul play. Hamilton's story was adapted into a 1943 novel, followed by a 1951 movie, and the mystery remains to this day.

**"This is why this statue is such a fitting tribute to Ed Hamilton and the Barefoot Mailmen,"** said HLPS Barefoot Mailman Committee Chairperson and former Hillsboro Beach Mayor **Carmen McGarry**. **"It honors the dedication of the men who braved all kinds of challenges in delivering the mail along the eastern coast of**

Florida, and **reaffirms HLPS's** commitment to preserving the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and the Hillsboro Lighthouse for future **generations."**

HLPS President Art Makenian concurred with McGarry, saying **"Frank Varga has captured the essence of the Barefoot Mailman in his sculpture and we are proud to have been able to once again display**



Statue unveiling  
Source: Ken Herman

**HLPS's resilience in the challenges we face in safeguarding the heritage of the lighthouse."**

Hillsboro Beach Mayor Dan Dodge added, **"Broward County Commissioner Chip LaMarca was instrumental in helping with the fundraising, and I would like to thank Carmen McGarry for her tireless efforts to replace the Barefoot Mailman statue. Through their efforts this statue preserves October 11th in honor of James Edward Hamilton and all that served the mail route."**

Hib Casselberry, HLPS Historian, recalled the **statue's donation** from the Town of

**Hillsboro Beach to HLPS, saying, "Carmen McGarry has been so involved in the Barefoot Mailman statue project for so many years. She was HLPS President at the time of the statue's donation to HLPS from Hillsboro Beach, was all-important in driving its restoration and personally paid for the marble pedestal on which it was originally installed. As part of this effort, she "found" Frank Varga and negotiated to have this bronze statue created. HLPS cannot give her enough thanks."**

The replacement of the Barefoot Mailman statue marks one of several projects that the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society has been involved in on the site of the Hillsboro Lighthouse and inlet area, including the recently completed Centennial Brick Patio, and the opening of the Hillsboro Lighthouse **Museum and Visitor's Center located across the waterway from the lighthouse at the Hillsboro Inlet Park. ♦**



Patina on the newly installed BFMM Statue  
Source: HLPS Member

## A REAL-TIME, LIVE PICTURE OF THE MAGNIFICENT HILLSBORO INLET

BY ART MAKENIAN

Last year, the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society came into an agreement with the Coast Guard, Hillsboro Inlet District and EarthCam® to bring you a live view of the Hillsboro inlet during the daylight hours. The purpose of the Web cam was to increase **traffic to our Web site, and for our area's recreational boaters and fishermen to assess inlet sea conditions prior setting sail.** Other

viability, consider finances, and then finally determine an appropriate location. To find a suitable place to erect a camera at the inlet was not an easy task, but HLPS got very lucky, as the Hillsboro Inlet District allowed us to erect the camera pole in their yard. Then, despite funding promises from a few Hillsboro Shores residents, one of our own board members, The Heritage Investment Group

tournament is taking place, such as the Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo and Bluewater Movements Saltwater Shootout.

This priceless tool of our community will only stay alive if the site is sponsored by commercial organizations - HLPS is a non-profit organization that can only survive by sponsors who believe in us. If you are interested in this sponsorship opportunity,



Snapshot from the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society Inlet Web Cam

local ocean inlet municipalities, such as those of the Palm Beaches and Port Everglades, are equipped with such visual aids by their governments. Our great inlet, which went through many improvements for the past few years, was not to be left out of that privilege.

Erecting a Web cam is not a simple task. It takes time to plan, research and assess

([www.heritageinvestment.com](http://www.heritageinvestment.com)) came forward to fund the entire project.

The Web page is a success - in six short **months of operation, we've counted over one thousand hits** on our website related directly to the Web cam. The primary users surely are recreational boaters and boating clubs, especially when a regatta or fishing

please email Art Makenian at [president@hillsborolighthouse.org](mailto:president@hillsborolighthouse.org).

After you are finished reading this article, please go to [www.hillsborolighthouse.org](http://www.hillsborolighthouse.org) and click on the Inlet picture at the upper right corner of the page - and after seeing the live picture of the Inlet, please send your thoughts to [editor@hillsborolighthouse.org](mailto:editor@hillsborolighthouse.org). ♦

## HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM AND VISITORS CENTER

(Continued from page 1)

five-year agreement, with an option for five more, to house the museum and visitor's center in a building at the City of Pompano Beach's Hillsboro Inlet Park, just across Hillsboro Inlet from the lighthouse, which finally brings the twelve year project for a museum to fruition.

The museum was constructed inside a 400-square foot space off A1A (North Ocean Boulevard) in Pompano Beach. To enhance the lighthouse theme, HLPs member volunteer Susan Taylor designed and made custom window treatments covered with lighthouses. Like minded volunteers labored to bring their community a museum that will enhance educational resources in the region, said Makenian.

However, right after the soft opening, the museum closed its doors to the public as the park was shut down so that extensive work could begin on the seawall that surrounds the park.

**"The interior renovation has really benefitted from a devout set of our member volunteers, and we're hoping to attract a big crowd at our grand opening, once the seawall is completed and the park reopens,"** said HLPs Museum Manager Judy Knoebel.



Museum patrons peruse an exhibit  
Source: Pompano Today Magazine



Patrons take in one of the many displays at the Hillsboro Lighthouse Museum and Visitors Center  
Source: Pompano Today Magazine

**"The museum is expected to become a great educational resource for students of all ages, as well as the community. Pompano Beach should be proud to say it's home to a wonderful museum that highlights the history of the lighthouse and all who served her,"** said Knoebel.

**"We started this project in 1998, but eventually realized that if we wanted to do justice to the compelling story of the Hillsboro Lighthouse, we needed to have a space that could only be in one place – the Inlet Park across from the lighthouse,"** added Hib Casselberry, HLPs Historian and former HLPs President.

**"Visitors will learn the fascinating history of the Hillsboro Lighthouse – from its origins in Detroit to the myth about being in the 1904 World's Fair, to the physics of how it has been able to stay standing through so many hurricanes, and especially how a Fresnel lens works – through displays designed to be engaging as well as informative,"** said Casselberry.

The grand opening date has not been announced due to the work on the seawall at

the park, but the expected hours of operation are Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.



A worker at the lighthouse museum  
Source: Art Makenian

## HLPS HOLDS 4TH BIENNIAL ART SHOW

Lighthouses seem to be as popular on a canvas these days as they are with visitors to a beach – and paintings of lighthouses draw big crowds and big interest.

At the biennial “lighthouses only” art and photography show and sale sponsored by the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, a record number of pieces were submitted for the juried show, said Judy Knoebel, HLPS Museum Manager who helped run the event.

HLPS’ Lighthouse art and photography show is one of the few in the country devoted solely to lighthouses. It was one of the best shows in years, Knoebel said, adding, “Lighthouses in the art market are certainly turning a corner as more and more retirees are spending their leisure time with a brush and camera.”

“We certainly have had an increase in visitors at this show over past years, but also a substantial increase in submitted art compared to the last show,” said Linda Peck, HLPS Membership Chair, and an avid collector of lighthouse art.

Knoebel added, “Thanks goes in large part to the efforts of Marcia Hirschy, a Pompano artist and HLPS member who got the word out to her many artist friends and to local artist groups.”

The exhibit was at the Herb Skolnick Community Center for the month of February and the Pat Larkins Community Center for the



Artist Manny Jamok receives “Best in Show” from Judge Tom Rossetti

*Source: HLPS Member*

month of March. HLPS Volunteer Tim McGuire provided musical entertainment for the Herb Skolnick Community Center opening.

Artwork was submitted by artists from around the world, including Barbara Quackenbush of Harrisburg, Virginia and Sandra Hynds of Champagne, Illinois.

“Pompano Beach as a whole is a really crafty community, and a lot of what I’m doing is

staying immersed with what I love when I’m not there,” said Quackenbush. “I really love putting paint on paper. It’s microscopic. I love to watch how it evolves, to see where the paint goes on paper.”

Indeed, it appeared that the lighthouse offers that in everyone, as Hynds added, “I spent significant time sitting in the park absorbing what the lighthouse was, and why it is appealing, asking myself, ‘what do I love about it?’” she said, discussing a variety of different attempts she made to capture the essence of the Hillsboro Lighthouse. “There is incredible variety, considering the subject matter,” she added.

The show was judged by Tom Rossetti of Rossetti Fine Arts ([www.tomrossetti.com](http://www.tomrossetti.com)) at 132 SW 15th Street (McNab Rd) in Pompano Beach. Mr. Rossetti is a native Floridian, and graduated from Florida Atlantic University in 1986 with B.F.A. degrees in Fine Art and Art History, and his career has been divided as both professional artist and art dealer. Classically trained, Mr. Rossetti has developed into an abstract expressionist, and

*(Continued on page 8)*



“Hillsboro Inlet at Dawn” by Manny Jamok

*Source: Manny Jamok*

## HLPS ART SHOW

is also gifted in the area of interior and landscape design, and is an accomplished pianist and published poet. As an art dealer, Mr. Rossetti has directed several of the most prestigious galleries in South Florida. Many of his works are in private collections in the United States and in Europe.

Mr. Rosetti said, "It is always an honor being asked to judge an art show, and this lighthouse themed show was a pleasure. There were many wonderful works entered, but only a few could be awarded. Consequently, there were several selections that were in contention that were equally as successful as some of the award winners. I always base my decisions on strong composition, masterful technique and



Barbara Quackenbush and Sandy Hynds at the HLPS Art Show and Sale  
Source: HLPS Member



"Lighthouse Entry" by Marilyn Johansen  
Source: HLPS Member

unabashed creativity. And of course, the skillful use of color, line, shape and form." ◇

Congratulations to all of the winners!

- Best in Show - Manny Jamok for "Hillsboro Inlet at Dawn"
- Best Painting - Tammy Seymour for "Early Morning Flight"
- Best Photograph - Marilyn Johansen for "Lighthouse Entry"
- Merit Award - Sandra Hynds for "Hillsboro Light"
- Merit Award - Barbara Quackenbush for "Beacon Bright"
- Judge's Recognition - Joan Steinmeyer for "Approaching Storm"
- People's Choice - Marcia Hirschy for "Fresnel Light"
- People's Choice - Sandra Hynds for "Hillsboro Light"

## “RALLY TO SUPPORT HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE” DRAWS A CROWD IN SUPPORT OF 105-YEAR OLD LANDMARK

A rally sponsored by HLPS on the possible darkening of the historic Hillsboro Lighthouse swung from raucous to heartfelt and back on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, drawing both political theatrics and searching pleas from lighthouse aficionados.

Testimony from a series of attendees of the over 50 who assembled at Emma Lou Olson Civic Center Auditorium in Pompano Beach seemed to resonate most with HLPS Historian Hib Casselberry, who sat stoically throughout the high-volume proceedings.

"We don't like this any more than the people in this room," Casselberry said, responding after a string of impassioned testimonials.

The USCG had sought public and mariner opinion regarding the lighthouse's value as a navigational aid, after sea turtle advocate John Carlson and Richard Whitecloud of Sea Turtle Oversight Protection (STOP) claimed that the light disturbed sea turtles. As a result, the Coast Guard is still considering three options: shut down the light completely, obscure portions of the light, or maintain the status quo.

USCG LTJG Andrew Haley has said previously that the Coast Guard has sent letters to both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service indicating that the light does not negatively affect the turtles. USCG Sector Miami Command wanted further input from the public that illustrated the light is still important to mariners despite the use of global positioning systems, and HLPS did its best to rally the public in support of the 105-year old landmark.

Despite arguments from sea turtle advocates printed in the South Florida *Sun Sentinel* and on the Internet, most local political officials lined up in support of the lighthouse. The Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), the City of Lighthouse Point, and the Broward County Commission (led by Commissioner Chip LaMarca), all passed resolutions in support of the lighthouse.

"The lighthouse is a historical landmark and has been in operation for 100 years, and there are no issues that can be reported to

the best of our knowledge," said Ryan Saunders, LaMarca's legislative aide.

The web site [www.savethelighthouse.com](http://www.savethelighthouse.com) also sprang up in support of the lighthouse, with a banner that states, "**Since launch of website, it becomes clear federal legislation must be formulated and enacted to exempt select federally owned, managed and supported assets from actions brought on by conservation advocacy groups based in**

*whole or part on federal Endangered Species Protection Acts whose original 39 + year old "to the extent practicable" words have long been discarded, forgotten or ignored.*" The site also cites a study by Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center that found that with the lighthouse on:

- Hillsboro Beach turtle nest counts are

*(Continued on page 10)*



Sea Turtle nest in the shadow of the Hillsboro Lighthouse

Source: HLPS Member

## RALLY TO SAVE THE LIGHTHOUSE

(Continued from page 9)

the highest in Broward County

- Hillsboro Beach has highest density of turtle nests in Broward County
- Hillsboro Beach and Broward County have seen the highest nest counts since 2000
- Decreased disorientation incidents have been reported on Hillsboro Beach (from 739 in 2006 to 115 in 2010).

HLPS even received inquiries via Facebook about an online article whose headline read, "Florida Lighthouse Tragically Leads Sea Turtles to Their Death." We responded:

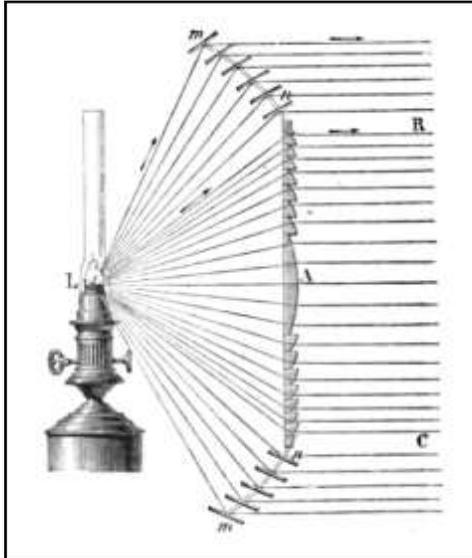
*There's science, and then there's hyperbole. And there's another more subtle notion which, though also hyperbole, seems to be quite widely accepted as fact:*

*"The Hillsboro Inlet Entrance Lighthouse in Pompano, Florida casts an extremely bright, 1,000-watt light onto the beach that attracts sea turtle hatchlings and lures them to their doom."*

*This blanket statement, though much less hyperbolic than "Hillsboro Lighthouse Kills Sea Turtles," can still undermine rational thinking, for both statements can't ever really be proven.*

**Fact:** The Hillsboro Lighthouse has a 1,000 watt bulb, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> order Fresnel lens's

*concentric rings of glass prisms bend the light into a narrow beam horizontally, that has been scientifically measured to reach downward to only nine or ten stories above land.*



How a Fresnel lens bends light  
Source: Wikipedia

**Conventional Wisdom:** *Only about one in 1,000 turtles ever survive to adulthood, as most hatchlings are caught by predators like birds and crabs before ever reaching the beach, and if a nest hatches in daylight, typically only about 0.01% actually survive. In addition, it is postulated that a significant number of deaths of adults are mostly due to pollution and capture by shrimping and fishing boats.*

*Given the first statement that is factual, and the second is "generally accepted," how can the lighthouse be scientifically correlated to an unknown?*

At the "Rally to Support Hillsboro Lighthouse," John Carlson of STOP indicated that the science regarding turtles and the lighthouse is outdated and somewhat anecdotal, and that a recorded survey of both Loggerhead and Leatherback turtles laying their eggs is the highest in number at the Hillsboro Beach southern peninsula coast (the lighthouse) versus the entire Florida coastal shoreline, which appears to be directly opposite of the inference that the lighthouse is having "devastating effects" on the sea turtle hatchlings.

HLPS President Art Makenian was very concerned, saying, "It is this type of hyperbole that becomes anxiety that turns to fear-mongering and manifests into a movement to extinguish a part of South Florida's history to "save" the sea turtle, when the original argument draws a conclusion that is stated more strongly than the evidence actually supports. I was a keeper at the lighthouse from 1998 to 2002, and have been around this lighthouse ever since, and want HLPS to be part of the discussions, but I want them to be rational, scientific and evidentiary discussions."

(Continued on page 14)

## HLPS HOSTS "SHOE PARTY" AT SANTA LOLLA SHOE SALON TO BENEFIT BAREFOOT MAILMAN RESTORATION FUND



Champagne, hors d'oeuvres and special Brazilian chocolates were served to a bevy of HLPS supporters and shoe lovers on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, as Santa Lolla Shoe Salon (<http://santalolla.us>) at the Town Center at Boca Raton hosted a benefit in support of the Barefoot Mailman Statue Restoration Fund. All participants received a 10% discount on their purchases, and 5% of the evening's purchases were donated to HLPS. HLPS thanks Santa Lolla Shoes and the Boca store manager Jaime. ♦



## BAREFOOT MAILMAN INSTALLATION



## FROM THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 3)

currently in development. We've tried to reach out via our Facebook page, previous newsletters, via Flickr and with email appeals, and have gotten a scant response from our members.

**For the newsletter:** We know we have members with valuable information, tips, stories, and other items that will make your newsletter much more interesting. Please contribute items, ideas, storylines and photos you may have for the newsletter...I invite you

to share whatever you have at [editor@hillsborolighthouse.org](mailto:editor@hillsborolighthouse.org).

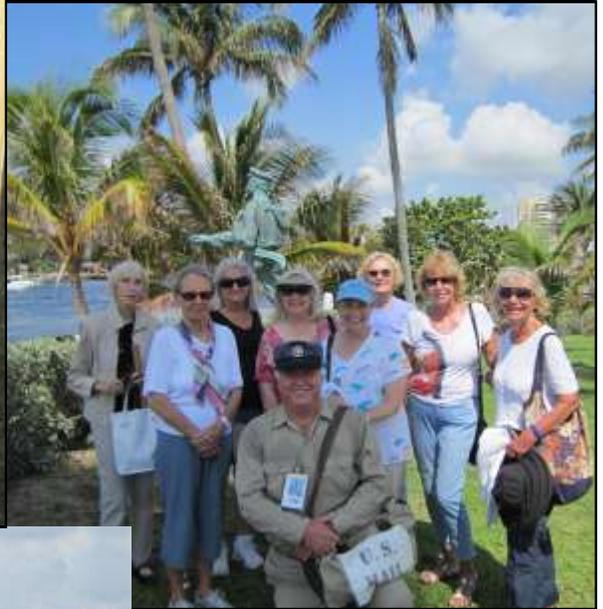
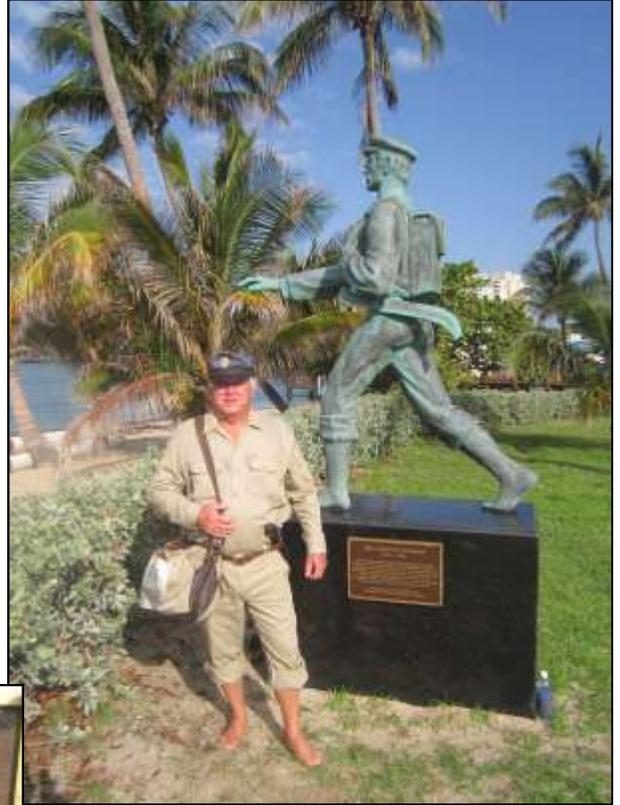
**For the organization:** HLPS has embarked on a program to offset the cost of our newsletters by selling newsletter advertising. We need a volunteer to coordinate this effort, mail letters, and follow up with potential advertisers.

**For the museum:** Volunteers are needed for the soon-to-be-opened Hillsboro Lighthouse Museum at Hillsboro Inlet Park in Pompano Beach. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact HLPS Museum Manager

Judy Knoebel at [judyknoebel@att.net](mailto:judyknoebel@att.net) or 954-609-7974.

So, please consider contributing an article about your experience with the Hillsboro Lighthouse, or consider many of the other volunteer activities that are available within our organization. Network, socialize or just enjoy the sense of accomplishment that comes from being an active member volunteer of HLPS.

Stephen J. Hoczak  
-Editor



Clockwise from top left:

Barefoot Mailman in the shadow of the lighthouse.

Ben Ellis prepping before lighthouse tour guests arrive.

Ladies from Gumbo Limbo Nature Center pose with Ben Ellis in front of the Barefoot Mailman statue.

The story of the Barefoot Mailman as told by HLPs member volunteer Ben Ellis.

The statue's plaque.



Clockwise from left:

A storm brewing during the May 19<sup>th</sup> tour, as seen from the top of the lighthouse.

The newly painted façade.

Iron girders with new paint.

The updated pedestals.



## A REPORT ON CONSTRUCTION MONITORING FOR OBSERVATION, COLLECTION AND RECORDING OF CULTURAL RESOURCES: A PATIO ON THE SITE OF THE HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE

EXCERPTS OF A REPORT BY PAUL CALLSEN, M.A., MPA AND KARL CALLSEN, A.A.

### PROJECT HISTORY IN BRIEF

In 2011, HLPS initiated a project that would result in the installation of a brick patio south of, and adjacent to, the radio room located on the grounds of the [Hillsboro] Lighthouse. The patio and its defining low retaining wall would be bound by the existing sidewalk and an existing monument would be moved but relocated within the patio itself. The existing flagpole and base would remain in place at the center of the patio. The roughly rectangular area bound by the sidewalk covers 57.01 square meters (614 square feet).

As an element of due diligence, the HLPS contacted the Broward County Archaeologist, Matthew DeFelice, to ascertain whether any cultural resource preservation considerations might apply. Subsequently, and at the

recommendation of the County Archaeologist, the archaeological team and HLPS entered into communication. HLPS plans called for the installation of a footer to support the retaining wall that would abut the sidewalk along the perimeter of the project. The footer would require excavation to a depth of 61 centimeters (2 feet) below the surface of the



Cup and bone fragment  
Source: Paul Callsen

sidewalk. As such, that depth became the excavation control depth for the entire patio area.

Excavation was executed on September 15, 2011.

### CULTURAL RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Because of the nature and scope of the cultural resource project, the observation, recovery and recording of cultural resources that might be uncovered during excavation, a fully developed research design was not in order. Nevertheless, the archaeological team visited the site several times prior to excavation in order to develop a model of anticipated artifact deposition. During those visits the team observed the condition of the surface and interviewed HLPS members who

*(Continued on page 15)*

## RALLY TO SAVE THE LIGHTHOUSE

*(Continued from page 10)*

Dr. Kirt Rusenko, a sea turtle specialist at the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, has indicated that the best option regarding the lighthouse might be to obscure a small portion of the beam, and to obscure a lighthouse window which faces east, towards the beach. Mr. Rusenko indicated that a small portion of the beam at the bottom would be blocked, which would be sufficient to keep the lighthouse beam off the beach, if the light were confusing the sea turtles.

In a letter to USCG LTJG Andrew Haley, long-time local resident and fisherman Charles T. Berkley summed up what HLPS has heard from many lighthouse devotees when as he wrote, "...I am a believer in conservation, regularly practicing catch and release. BUT, I also listen and learn from various experts and



HLPS President Art Makenian listens as Dr. Kirt Rusenko addresses the crowd  
Source: Hib Casselberry

am a pragmatist, if not occasionally and rightfully skeptical of the 'science' and the 'source' of any particular study. And while I am not casting aspersions on those who may disagree with my [following] position and comments on the Hillsboro Light, I have read and heard enough on this Hillsboro Beach/ Hillsboro Light turtle issue that I cannot help but feel (1) the various studies cited to date do not even come close to justifying a move to alter or turn off the light; in fact from what I see lost turtle 'counts' along Hillsboro Beach are significantly down; (2) these are the actions of well intentioned, but poorly informed, individuals; and/or (3) there are, **indeed, other motives or politics in play here.**"

HLPS is awaiting the USCG report, and is working with the USCG and STOP to consider a solution to "save" turtles over what very well could be a non-issue. ♦

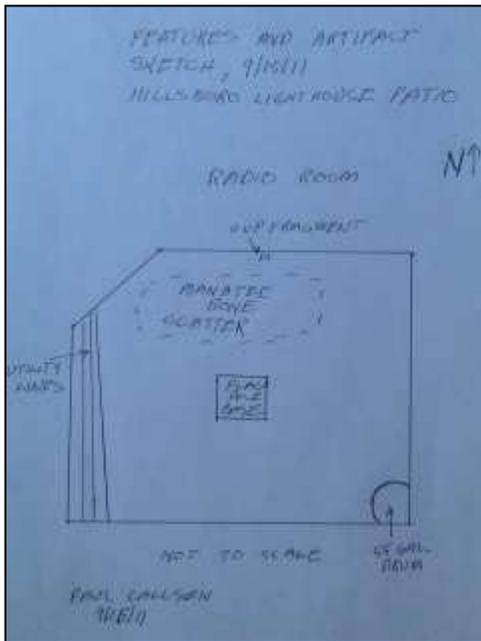
## ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORT

(Continued from page 14)

were most likely to have knowledge of the site's construction and events that might have left a mark on the archaeological record in the subject area.

The archaeological team made the following observations:

- a. HLPS members pointed out that the Lighthouse property had been battered by numerous tropical cyclones through its century-long life. In some cases storm surge depths had exceeded the crest of the beach dune so that the buildings and grounds received the direct force of violent wave action as well as that of high speed winds. The facility's buildings had experienced extensive damage resulting from these storms. Tropical



Manatee Bone Scatter  
Source: Paul Callsen

cyclones played a major role in the history and condition of the facility including its grounds.

- b. The radio room, which had been constructed around the time of World War II, might well have been staffed 24 hours a day, especially during the war, itself.
- c. In its first decades, the Lighthouse would

have been fairly isolated so that keepers and their families would have engaged in all manner of activities on the grounds (Butler and McAllister: 2000, p. 337) and visits by outsiders might have been considered special occasions.

- d. Military personnel are known to supplement issued rations with catches taken from the surrounding environment. Occasional outdoor meals prepared over open fires may have been a part of off duty activities. However, military bases tend exhibit little surface debris as a result of regular "policing" by enlisted personnel.
- e. None of those HLPS members interviewed mentioned any previous recovery of pre-historic artifacts/ecofacts on the site.
- f. The patio site lies only 30 meters (91 feet) from a high energy beach.
- g. Some disturbance of the interior of the area had previously resulted from the installation of utility lines as demonstrated by sidewalk cut repairs, the bell and monument and especially the flag pole base installation. Construction of the radio room footer would also have caused extensive soil disturbance within a one meter (3 feet) distance of that building.

The above led the archaeologists to form the following model of that which might be observed upon excavation:

- a. Hydraulic and aeolian erosion and subsequent natural and human re-deposition of sand during and after tropical cyclones would leave evidence of strata. Differential distribution of quantities and types of artifacts and natural material such as shells throughout the area would reflect stratigraphy and re-deposition.
- b. Construction and repeated repair and reconstruction of the building would leave behind considerable quantities of debris such as wood fragments, nails, pieces of shingles and bricks, broken

window glass and brick and pipe fragments.

- c. Operation of the radio room should have caused deposition of broken or lost tools and radio parts such as vacuum tubes



Juvenile conch shell  
Source: Paul Callsen

as well as some broken heavy military kitchen ware.

- d. Proximity to the beach suggests the presence of a high density and variety of mollusk shells that would be scattered evenly through the sand matrix.
- e. Outdoor meals held by lighthouse keepers and military personnel would leave fire pit features containing charcoal and burnt wood and scattered ash as well as bone and kitchen ware debris.

In short, material culture representing common activities at a military base and residence of families should emerge. The damage caused by tropical cyclones should be evident.

## FINDINGS

The material immediately below the sod layer was undifferentiated sand containing quantities of finely crushed shell. We use the term "undifferentiated" because no stratification, features (except as noted below) or dense defined concentrations of artifacts/ecofacts could be discerned. Even in those places where utility trenches had been dug, trench backfill could not be distinguished from the undisturbed matrix

(Continued on page 16)

## ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORT

(Continued from page 15)

into which the trench had been cut.

### FEATURES

None of the expected features such as cooking pits or trash pits were encountered. No natural or human created strata of any kind were evident.

### MOLLUSK SHELL

1. 9 bi-value shells or fragments
2. 1 juvenile conch
3. 1 whole snail
4. 1 West Indian Top Shell fragment, (*Cittarium pica*)

### KITCHEN-COOKING WASTE (HISTORIC)

1. 1 bone, band saw cut bone fragment, 2.5 cm diameter
2. 1 cup fragment 4 cm.

### MANATEE (*Trichechus manatus*) BONE

1. Manatee ribs, ends cut with metal tool.
2. Manatee bones exhibit cut marks from a metal tool.



Manatee vertebrae that have been split

Source: Paul Callsen

3. Manatee vertebrae that have been split.
4. Miscellaneous manatee bones that do not exhibit cut marks or splitting.

### ANALYSIS

The excavation reveals finds that are most intriguing, manatee bones that seem to exhibit an appearance of considerable age, some of which had been cut with metal tools and a fragment of West Indian Top Shell (*Cittarium pica*).

Live West Indian Top Shell currently can be found from time to time in the Florida Keys and certainly throughout the Caribbean. However, that species has been extinct on the Florida Peninsula since before European contact in the 1500's. West Indian Top Shell specimens are frequently found in pre-historic Native American coastal sites and some researchers believe that they were driven to extinction on the peninsula through pre-historic over-fishing. Nevertheless, West Indian Top Shell was native to the area and therefore the species would have left specimens in the environment that had not been exploited by humans of long ago.

(Continued on page 17)



Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) bones

Source: Paul Callsen

## ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORT

(Continued from page 16)

Metal tools such as sabers, axes, knives and machetes arrived in South Florida with **Europeans in the early 1500's** and those tools were part of a vast array of objects that Europeans traded to the native peoples. But metal tools are a fundamental component of the butchering process to this day. Metal tool cut marks on butchered wildlife could have been made in 1630 or in 1930. Given the absence of diagnostic archaeological strata or other indicative context in this case, without further research, little can be determined regarding dating.

We suggest that the presence of the materials discussed here does not necessarily indicate that the Hillsboro Lighthouse property was the site of a prehistoric Native American occupation. In addition to the lack of strata and relative lack of artifacts that would speak to the more than 100 years of historic occupation, there is simply too much evidence of modern grading and the spreading of fill material from off site to conclude that the manatee bones represent primary deposition.

Butler and McAllister (2000, p. 338) report that after the severe hurricane of 1926, **"Much of the beach and the "high ground" of palmetto scrub south of the lighthouse was washed away. Late 1926 photographs show four feet of the concrete lighthouse foundations exposed."** In this regard, the patio site lies approximately 50 meters (55 yards) from the lighthouse base so one can conclude that the patio area would have been subject to the same degree of scouring. In the wake of the hurricane of 1926, and perhaps in the wake of other subsequent tropical cyclones, sand fill would have been



Lucia and Luke Souza of Coconut Creek look on as Archeologist Paul Callsen explains about manatee bones found at the dig site of the Centennial Brick Patio, seen in the background

Source: HLPs Member

brought in to restore the proper grade. Since dredging operations continued in the inlet and Intracoastal Waterway throughout the life of the facility, an inexpensive nearby source for material was readily available. Any or all of the material listed as artifacts/ecofacts above could have been placed in and near the patio in this manner.

Note that this and other scouring events contrast with recent storm related depositional events recounted by HLPs members wherein sand had to be removed in the wake of storms. Evidently, all tropical cyclones are not created equal.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society for access to the site during their open house events. The lighthouse grounds are certainly a beautiful place to do this kind of work. In this regard, special thanks go to Art Makenian who diligently coordinated our participation in this project. In addition, we thank Christian Davenport, Palm Beach County Archaeologist, for his generous inspection and evaluation of the artifacts and manatee bones. Finally, Matt DeFelice, Broward County Archaeologist, identified the key historical scholarly article cited here and provided modern elevation **data for the property.** ♦

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HLPS Workers at Lighthouse	Jennifer Burns, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Ed Dietrich, Barka Herman, Lol Herman, Steve Hoczak, Art Makenian, Ray McAllister (boat), Tim McGuire, Dave Noderer, Bill Slager, Joe Suggs
Gift Shop	Joyce and Mike Hager
Museum Manager	Judy Knoebel
Barefoot Mailman	Ben Ellis
Photographer	Ken Herman
Catering	<b>Anne Devendorf, Dan Devendorf, Bob O'Connell, Terry O'Connell, Scott Opperude</b>
Water Transportation	South Florida Diving Headquarters
Provided tables and chairs at the Lighthouse	USCG Station Property Manager Ashley Purinton

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Send your e-mail address to Hib Casselberry at: [info@hillsborolighthouse.org](mailto:info@hillsborolighthouse.org).



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