

# BIG DIAMOND

HILLSBORO  
LIGHTHOUSE  
PRESERVATION  
SOCIETY

January 2016  
Volume 19, Number 1

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Presidents Message	2
Tours	3
Gear Damage	3
Erosion (cont.)	4
USCG Award	8
Volunteer Spotlight	9
Visit our Museum	9
Renewals	10

## RECENT TOUR



Flagpole &  
Hillsboro Lighthouse

## BEACH EROSION AT LIGHTHOUSE EXPOSES FOUNDATION

BY ART MAKENIAN

It is estimated that one-third of the land mass around the Hillsboro Lighthouse has eroded away and is gone from its original 1907 land map area. This erosion threatens the security of the lighthouse foundation. The Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, the caretaker of the lighthouse under license from the U.S. Coast Guard, is proposing to restore the lost portions of the high land and build a permanent barrier to prevent further land loss. This proposal will be identified officially as HLPS Project 16.

The historic Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse was built and commissioned in 1907 and has stood guard over the Hillsboro River Inlet in Broward County, Florida for 109 years. What makes this particular 145 foot tall lighthouse unique is it has the strongest light beam of all the other lighthouses in the United States. Its beam projects 28 nautical miles out to sea, and was placed on the



HLPS Shore Erosion, Sept. 28, 2015

(Continued on page 4)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear HLPS Volunteer Friends and Members.

Welcome to a brand new year with the HLPS – 2016. With this year comes a few announcements. First, you will notice that there is a new person writing the **“From the President”** article. That is because after eight (8) superb years of being the president of the HLPS, Art Makenian decided that he should step aside and allow a new face to manage what he took from being a relatively small organization to what we have today. I know I have very large shoes to fill, but I am certain I can maintain his continuous upward trend of the HLPS. I am confident in this because Art is not leaving the HLPS, but rather moving to a role that will allow him to concentrate on the one thing we all do this for – the Hillsboro Lighthouse. Art has transitioned to the title of Preservationist and will spend his time looking after the needs of the lighthouse, while leaving the daily concerns of the organization to me. The knowledge that Art is still active coupled with the fact that all of the board members and volunteers have remained constant, gives me comfort and confidence of success with my new responsibilities. I have the best support staff for that anyone could hope for.

At this juncture I would just like to take the time to publicly thank Art for his **tenure as president, it's a lot of hard work for a volunteer job. Thank you seems too little for all you've done. But, thank you Art – you've done an outstanding job.** I look forward to the future with you as the Preservationist.

Second, like 2015, we will continue to have twelve (12) tours; we will also continue with some Sunday tours; but we will be cutting back on the number of departures on some of the tour dates. This will lead to altered departure times from the respective dock. Please check the website and our other literature for the specific dates and times.

Third, I would like to mention the new marker that is scheduled to be erected on USCG grounds in 2016. The HLPS will be receiving a historic landmark plaque from the state of Florida. This new sign is currently slated to be placed at the foot of the lighthouse. Along with the sign, we plan to include an arrangement of remnants from the old oil house that were recovered from the sands of the south beach by volunteers during a period of severe erosion in late 2012. Look forward to more about this landmark after it is erected.

Erosion leads me to my fourth announcement. In the last issue of the Big Diamond, Art mentioned the erosion concerns on the south footing of the lighthouse. Since then the HLPS has put together a proposal that is being presented to the USCG and the state of Florida that should help alleviate

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.

### HLPS OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS

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#### Daniel E. Gordon

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Second Vice President

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Secretary

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#### Bill Slager

Tour Coordinator

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Counsel

#### Directors

Ed Dietrich

Dan Dodge

Daniel E. Gordon

Stephen Hoczak

Frederick R. MacLean, Jr.

Susan Taylor

Susan Williams

#### Dave Noderer

Editor

*(Continued on page 4)*

**2015 / 2016 HILLSBORO LIGHT STATION TOUR SCHEDULE**

Date	Tour Boat Dock	Sailing Times						
Sunday March 6 2016 **	Sands Harbor Resort	9:00 am	10:00 am	11:00 am	12:00 am	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	3:00 pm
Saturday April 9, 2016 ***	Sands Harbor Resort	9:00 am	10:00 am	11:00 am	12:00 am	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	3:00 pm
Saturday May 14, 2016	Sands Harbor Resort	9:00 am	10:00 am	11:00 am	12:00 am	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	3:00 pm
Saturday June 11, 2016	Sands Harbor Resort	8:30 am	9:30 am	10:30 am				
Saturday July 16, 2016	Alsdorf Park	8:30 am	9:15 am	10:00 am	11:00 am			
Saturday August 20, 2016	Sands Harbor Resort	9:00 am	10:00 am	11:00 am	12:00 am	1:00 pm	2:00 pm	3:00 pm

\*\* Welcome Snowbirds to Hillsboro Lighthouse

\*\*\* Hillsboro Lighthouse 109th Anniversary

**HLPS Store Now Online!**

<http://www.hillsborolighthouse.org/store>



T-shirt of Hillsboro Lighthouse #2

Wear your support for the Hillsboro Lighthouse! Short sleeve t-shirts 100% cotton and pre-shrunk. Available in white, blue, and tan. Sizes - small, medium, large, extra large. \$15.00



Visit us on  
**Facebook**



Scan code or search for "Hillsboro Lighthouse" Visit our website for lighthouse history and pictures.

**HillsboroLighthouse.org**

Memorial Bricks for sale. Support HLPS and become a part of the Station's Centennial Patio around the flag pole.

<http://www.hillsborolighthouse.org/memorial-bricks>

**Damaged Gear Replaced**



**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (CONTINUED)**

future erosion concerns. The state has made grant monies available to organizations to help preserve Florida's coastline. It is our hope to be among one of the recipients. I don't want to get into specifics at this point, but look for information about this proposal in future issues of the Big Diamond.

Finally, I invite everyone to check out the ongoing changes to our website, [www.hillsborolighthouse.org](http://www.hillsborolighthouse.org). Recently we added a number of nostalgic photos as well as newer photos and videos about the lighthouse, our volunteers, and our members. The online gift shop ([www.hillsborolighthouse.org/store](http://www.hillsborolighthouse.org/store)) has returned! I encourage all visitors to the website to send us your suggestions and comments. Most of the changes mentioned above are due to suggestions from one of our volunteers. Comments and suggestion should be sent to [webmaster@hillsborolighthouse.org](mailto:webmaster@hillsborolighthouse.org).

Ken Herman

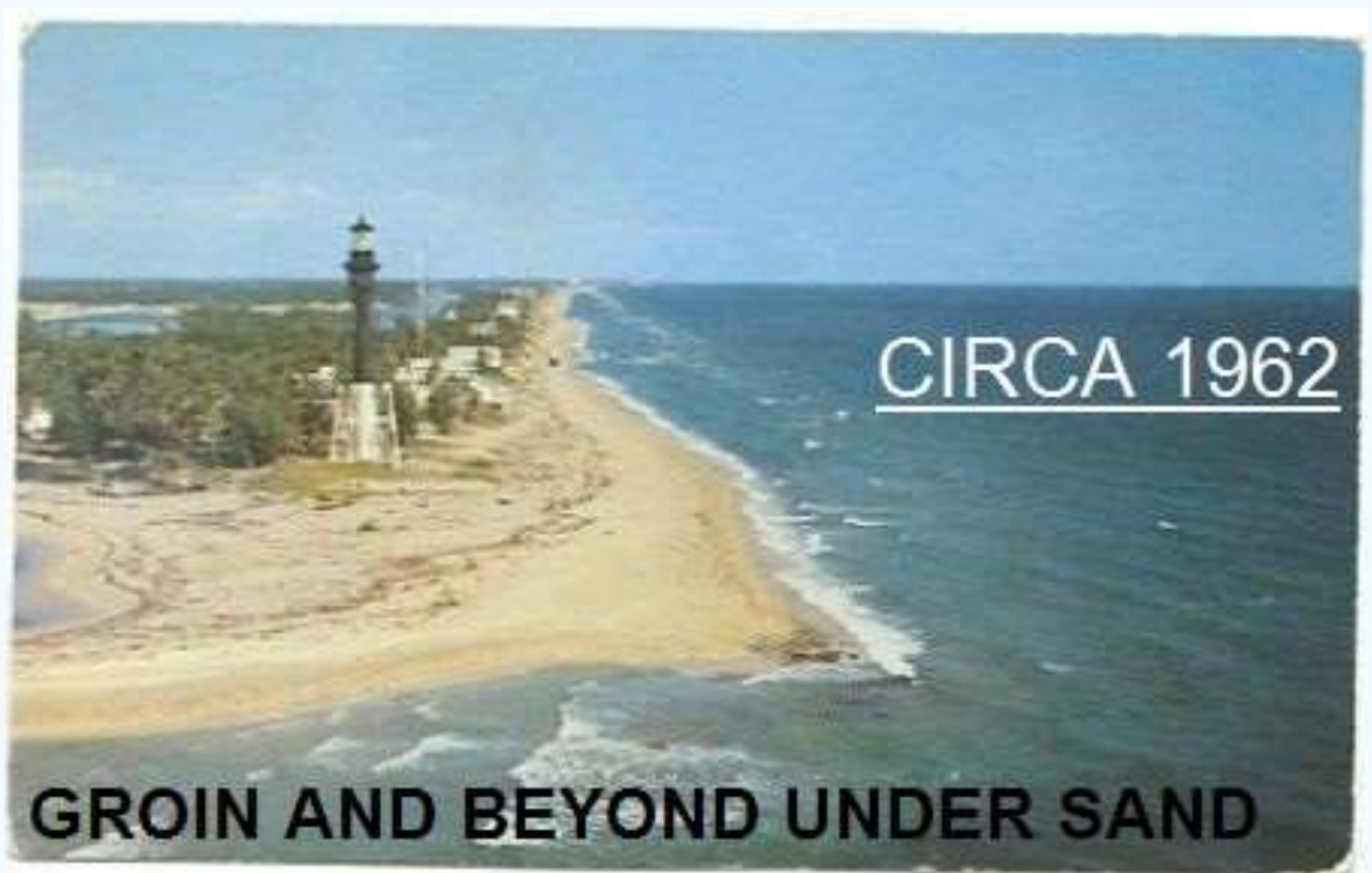
President, HLPS

**BEACH EROSION AT LIGHTHOUSE EXPOSES FOUNDATION (CONTINUED)**

*(continued from Page 1)*

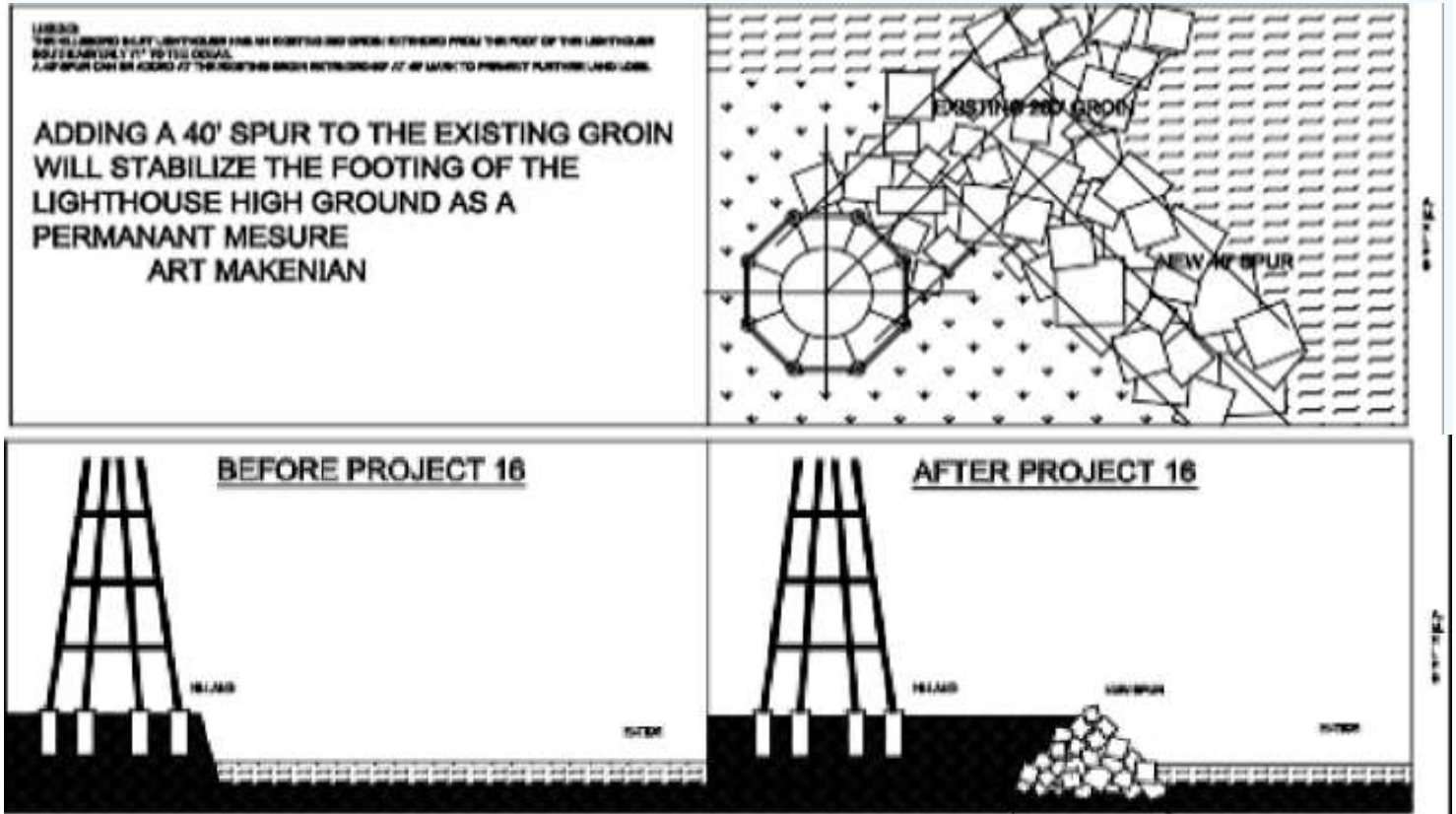
National Register of Historic Places list in 1978 by the Department of the Interior.

The land and the lighthouse which it stands on are protected from sand erosion by a groin built in 1926 and refurbished in 1966. It extends from the foot of the lighthouse 260 feet into the ocean. The groin traps and



## BEACH EROSION AT LIGHTHOUSE EXPOSES FOUNDATION (CONTINUED)

accumulates sand that would otherwise drift along the beach face, and in the case of the Hillsboro River inlet through the barrier island, clog up that inlet. A partial height gap between groin and the south jetty allows migrating sand to collect in a trap on its south side where a dredge sucks up the flowing sand and sends it across the inlet through a large pipe to the Pompano Beach shore.



For the past several years, the lighthouse preservation society has observed that the groin was performing well during the prevailing easterly and northeasterly winds and currents. But when the wind and current switches direction to south and southeasterly, 5 foot swells build-up and wash away the immediate south shore of the lighthouse. This happens when the tide is at its highest level and the wind velocity exceeds 17 mile per hour. Lately these weather conditions have been reoccurring more often.

The Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society proposes a permanent remedy to this problem by adding a 40 foot granite stone spur extension from the upper mid-section of the existing groin, extending southwesterly and parallel to the south shore. This will reclaim the lost portion of high land, and should permanently prevent the south beach erosion, the most critical area for the lighthouse foundation.

This project will be managed and financed by the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society and funded by grants, gifts and funds generated by many other means. The project will be fully coordinated with the US Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit in Miami, and also with the Army Corps of Engineers in Jacksonville as required for legal references and approvals. Florida Atlantic University Ocean Engineering Department will be requested to coordinate technical planning. Assistance from the Hillsboro Inlet District will be required to redistribute beach sand at the newly created high land areas and beach shore.

**BEACH EROSION AT LIGHTHOUSE EXPOSES FOUNDATION (CONTINUED)**

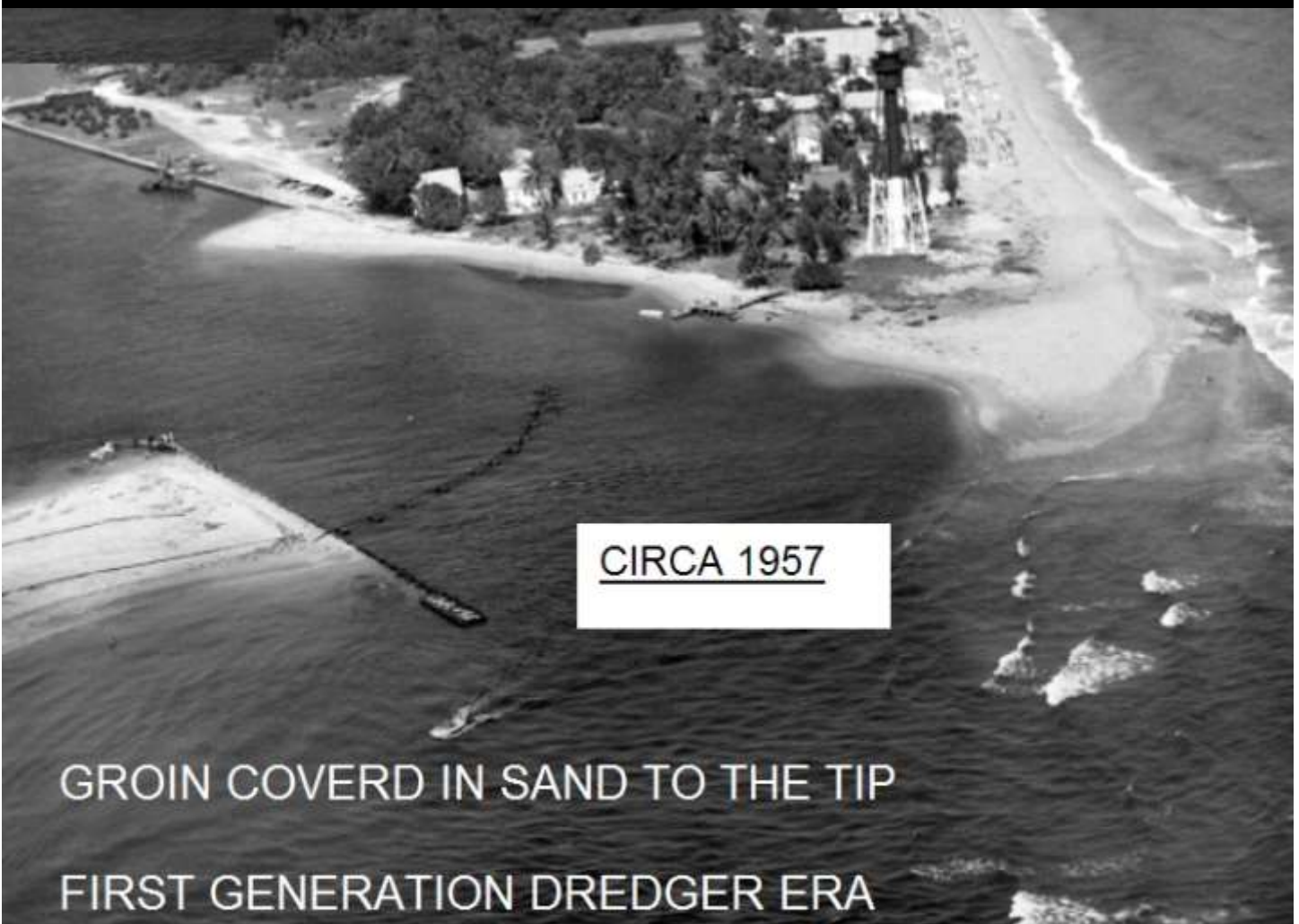
*(Continued from page 5)*

In October 2015, the Hillsboro Inlet District re-nourished the south side of the lighthouse property to a level covering the lighthouse foundation. But this measure is far off its original highland mark of 1997. This proposed Project 16 will re-establish the entire original south boundaries of the highland, and preserve the south sea shore for recreational boating usage.



The damage to the lighthouse shoreline is definitely a recoverable and correctable condition that must be undertaken before it becomes a major issue. The lighthouse preservation society is confident that the present timing is perfect, considering the human resources and the energy available through grants available in 2016 through the Coastal Partnership Initiative by the Florida Coastal Management Program. The Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society seriously considers this proposal to secure the structural integrity of the lighthouse foundation and is willing to take charge of this project before losing those resources. After all, this unique lighthouse, the pride of Broward County, should be and will be here on this ground for many years to come.

**BEACH EROSION AT LIGHTHOUSE EXPOSES FOUNDATION (CONTINUED)**



## USCG MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

On Sunday December 6th, 2015, during a USCG Aux Division Chang of Watch Ceremony, Art Makenian was presented the USCG Meritorious Service Medal by Captain Austin J. Gourd, Commander Sector Miami, for his Exceptional Meritorious Achievement and Superior Performance of Duties. The award was signed by S. A. Buschman, Rear Admiral, USCG Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District.



Art Makenian, left, Captain Austin J. Gourd, Commander Sector Miami , right

### Lighthouse Links:

- Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society: [HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://HillsboroLighthouse.org)
- Florida Lighthouse Association: [FloridaLighthouses.org](http://FloridaLighthouses.org)
- Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation: [ReefLights.org](http://ReefLights.org)
- Florida Trust for Historic Preservation: [FloridaTrust.org](http://FloridaTrust.org)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation: [PreservationNation.org](http://PreservationNation.org)



## HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM IS ENLIGHTENING TOURIST AND LOCALS!



The museum is located at: **Hillsboro Inlet Park, A1A at 2700 N. Ocean Boulevard, Pompano Beach.** It is open Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday - 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. It is also open on Tour days from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. On most other days you can arrange a private tour by contacting Judy Knoebel at: [museum@hillsborolighthouse.org](mailto:museum@hillsborolighthouse.org) or by phone 954-609-7974.

We are very proud of our loyal volunteers, Jerry Smeitanka, Cindy Malaney, Linda Peck, Mona Silverstein, and Judy Knoebel who keep the Museum open every week. If you are interested in helping out for a 2 hour time slot, please contact Judy at [museum@hillsborolighthouse.org](mailto:museum@hillsborolighthouse.org) or 954-609-7974.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT—RALPH KRUGLER

### Ralphs Story...

I first visited the light and wanted to be a part of it, but life dictated and I did not have the time. I also didn't know how to go about it. A person I met was in the USCG-A (United States Coast Guard Auxillary) and told me that they assisted on tour days at the light. I joined them in 2008 and assisted on numerous tours.

Life later took me away from active membership in the USCG-A and I re-joined HLPS in late 2013 or early 14 can't remember, but this time asked if I could assist.

Since rejoining, I've been actively researching the history of the light, the history of all the Florida lights, and Florida history so that I can answer as many questions and offer insights to guests to give them the best experience possible .

I became a lifetime member of the HLPS in 2015..

From the editor.. Thanks for all your hard work Ralph!!



**NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS— JUNE 2015 TO AUGUST 2015**

Join today to help preserve our lighthouse's heritage,:

- A subscription to our newsletter "The Big Diamond"
- Free admission to all tours, programs, and lectures
- Timely updates to events related to the lighthouse

**Membership rates:**

Individual	\$25.00 / year
Family	\$50.00 / year
Business	\$100.00 / year
Lifetime	\$500.00 or more. Lifetime is a one-time fee

To apply or for more information , please contact: [membership@hillsborolighthouse.org](mailto:membership@hillsborolighthouse.org)

Member	George Stevens	Lisa Markley
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Cheryl Woods	JoAnn Daria Cross	Maurine Kozol
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Cindy Lemak	John Garvin	Michael Fischer
Craig / Ann Parrish	John T. Kennedy	Michael Tiffin
David Conner	John-Michael Ruddy	Michelle Hecht
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Deborah Bardill	Judith Bakula	Mike & Beth Brandenburg
Dennis Crudele	Judith Martin	Mike & Terry Roth
Dennis Mora	Julie Tyler	Mike McTiernan
Don & Mary Rogers	Kamlesh B. Oza	Molly Smith
Donna Herb	Karen Deveau	N. & Sandy VonStaden
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Edward Sweet	Kathleen Dempsey	Nora Sanchez
Eric & Amiee Shahan	Kathy Berkowitz	Norm King
Eric Von Gruenigen	Kelly Lee	Palm Tree Doctor *
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Florida Shores Bank *	Kenneth C Donahey	Paul Leyva
Frank & Dionne Donadio	Kim Grimes	Paul O'Duffy
Frank McElroy	Kimberly Heidel	Peter Granzano
Fred & Tania Kussel	Kimberly Palmer	Randy Kelsey
Gaetan Vigneault	Linda Speece	
George & Sue Miceli	Lindy Book **	

(Continued on page 11)

**NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS— JUNE 2015 TO AUGUST 2015 (CONT)***(Continued from page 10)*

Rich & Norma Schwartz  
 Rob Major  
 Robert D. Williams  
 Robert Scott  
 Robert Scott Ireland  
 Robin Vandenburg  
 Ronald H. Goodrow  
 Sarah Atkinson

Shel & Claudia Langsan  
 Stacey Rogers  
 Stephanie Lee & Cheryl Dunn  
 Stephen Robinson  
 Steve Cavrudatz  
 Sue Richards  
 Susan Hudson  
 Thomas Ayres  
 Thomas R. Page  
 Tom Marau

Tracy Mocello  
 Veronica McInnes  
 Victoria Kimball  
 Will & Jane Davison  
 Wyndham Deerfield Beach \*

+ Organization  
 \* Business  
 \*\* Lifetime

**MONETARY AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Cassill Foundation (Shaw & Selback families)

Dailey

Hib & Martha Cassellberry

**BEACH EROSION AT LIGHTHOUSE EXPOSES FOUNDATION (CONTINUED)**

Hillsboro Lighthouse Aerial Photo Circa 1972

You as a member, volunteer or as a reader to this article can demonstrate your support for this and other projects by donating and contacting your County, State and Federal Government representatives.

Arthur Makenian, President Emeritus, Curator and Preservationist, HLPS



Return Service Requested

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 326  
Pompano Beach, FL 33061-0326  
[www.hillsborolighthouse.org](http://www.hillsborolighthouse.org)

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Photo by Helbert Ruiz