



CANAVERAL BEACON

The official newsletter for members of the
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation.

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Our Mission

To assist Space Launch Delta 45 in preserving, protecting, promoting, and interpreting the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and its historical significance to the Florida Space Coast, State of Florida, and our Nation

Vol. 12, No. 1

January 1, 2022

Message from Our Foundation President



I hope everyone had a great holiday and happy new year. I would like to say thank you for your support to the lighthouse during 2021 which was a challenging year. That said, in 2021 the lighthouse was visited by 2148 visitors from 41 states and we now have 545 members. The continued support by our sponsors, donors, members and volunteers allows the foundation to fulfill our mission of preserving the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, promoting public awareness and making the full restoration of the lighthouse grounds a reality, while educating our youth and providing public access to this unique national landmark.

Due to the generosity of our 2021 sponsors, members, and private donors, we were able to keep the light shining during the pandemic. We opened the keeper's cottage doors to celebrate the opening of our Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Museum and Gift shop. In a continued challenge to return to normalcy we held our annual Descendants Day and Volunteer Appreciation Day. In October we held a very well attended fundraiser at the American Muscle Car Museum in Melbourne. We finished 2021 with the lighthouse being included on the Museums of Brevard Holiday Tour of Historic Homes. We are working with Brevard County Schools to begin field trips to the lighthouse again. Prior to the pandemic our history education program had surpassed hosting more than 800 fourth graders from Brevard County Schools on field trips.

In 2022 we expect a full return to normalcy and will host Sponsor Appreciation Day, Descendants Day, Volunteer Appreciation Day, a fund raiser at the American Muscle Car Museum and a 5K/10K race which will begin and end at the lighthouse.

As a final thought I want to say thank you to our members, the brick owners, and our sponsors who provide the funding to keep the light shining. I hope each and everyone of you take advantage of the opportunities to visit the lighthouse and museum which continues to evolve and exist due to your generosity. If you are not a member please join and if you are please renew. All of you are key to the mission—"to preserve, protect, promote and interpret the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse and its historical significance" to others. Please visit our website <https://canaverallight.org> for additional information.

Everyone have a great 2022 and help us keep the light shining.
Let's keep the light shining bright. Have fun and be safe.

Larry

Museum Highlights

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse participated this year in the annual Museums of Brevard Holiday Tour of Historic Homes. We sold out, with 150 tickets purchased! Over the first three Saturdays in December, we escorted ticket holders to enjoy the lighthouse, museum and Hangar C. The lighthouse and museum were decorated in the spirit of the holidays by our volunteers with help from the crew of Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team Ponce Inlet. Ticket holders also enjoyed visiting the other seven historic homes on the tour, all beautifully decorated for the holidays.



(Photos Courtesy of Cheryl Bennett)

Another Important Happening

Keep Brevard Beautiful has selected the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse as its very first participant in a new program called Adopt-a-Landmark. Working with experts, including Sally Scalera, an urban horticulture agent and master gardener coordinator for the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences, we are developing a landscaping plan around the cottage that focuses on historical accuracy, Florida friendly plants, ease of upkeep, and low-cost implementation. We hope to have the implementation completed in the spring in our first steps in beautifying the light station.

If you'd like to become a docent, please visit our website's Get Involved page and complete the Volunteer form. <https://canaverallight.org/get-involved/> Enjoy all the other interesting things you can learn on our website, as well at www.canaverallight.org.

Museum Highlights (Continued)

Did You Know?

It's amazing to think back on how radically Cape Canaveral has changed since the first lighthouse was built in 1848. There are probably only one or two other places in the world (if that) that can boast an historic site that is 150+ years old right amongst reaching for the stars. Imagine explaining to George Center (in 1847) and John Mallery (in 1887) how wrong they were when they each proclaimed Cape Canaveral as "...good for nothing but a lighthouse."

Good for Nothing but a Lighthouse?



We now know how special, unique and valuable our Lighthouse location is as it shares this property with our nation's premier gateway to space. This certainly wasn't obvious over a hundred years ago to those responsible for determining the original and current locations for the Lighthouse.

After selecting the original site, George Center wrote to Stephen Pleasonton on May 3, 1847 that he had "selected a spot deemed most eligible..." and "...of no value whatever other than for the purpose of a light."

Then, when recommending reserving more land in case the iron Lighthouse needed to be moved from its original location, Chief Engineer John C. Mallery reported in 1887, "This land is of little or no value but as higher suitable ground for a lighthouse."

What do you think they would say if they could see the Lighthouse today – if they could even get out here through military security?

Becky Zingarelli
Museum Director
museumdirector@canaverallight.org.

American Muscle Car Museum Volunteers Tour Lighthouse

In the last issue of *Canaveral Beacon*, we highlighted the terrific fundraiser hosted at the American Muscle Car Museum by Mark & Tetiana Pieloch, his staff and volunteers. On December 19th, CCLF was pleased to “return the favor” by supporting a tour and picnic for our friends at the AMCM to the Lighthouse and Keeper’s Cottage Museum. Our docents and volunteers did a superb job of welcoming and sharing the historical significance and beauty of the 153 year-old lighthouse and reservation. It was a nice way to give great thanks to Mark, his staff and volunteers who worked with enthusiasm and care to make our October fundraising event so successful. Stay tuned for a similar event in October of this year!

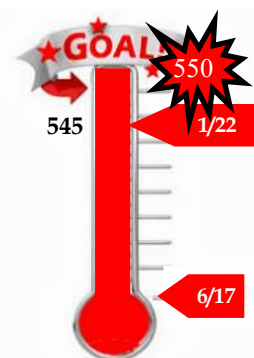


Keeping the Light Shining

Membership Musings

There are currently 545 active members in The [Cape Canaveral Lighthouse](#) Foundation (CCLF). Since our November 2021 newsletter, we have added 13 new members, *2 of whom joined as Lifetime Members*. Wow! There were also 27 renewals. Welcome to all our new members, and thank you to all our established members for your renewals and support of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation. We couldn't succeed without you.

Our last Membership/Brick Owner convoy of the year was held in late afternoon on 4 December 2021. We had hoped by going up later in the day it would be dark enough to see the Christmas wreath at the top of the tower light up, as well as the flash in our lighthouse. What a beautiful afternoon it was; the weather could not have been better, and cookies and candy canes were enjoyed outdoors as our members and brick owners meandered around the grounds and Hangar C. Eggnog was requested a couple times, so maybe we'll look into that when we do this again next year. It wasn't quite dark when we left the grounds, but the lights were on, and we could clearly see the flash in the lighthouse. It was beautiful! We'll plan to leave a little later next year; five or 10 minutes, perhaps, because it gets dark quickly out there once the sun sets.



In addition to our Membership/Brick Owner tour, there were three Museums Of Brevard (MOB) tours in December which this year included the lighthouse and Space Force museums. These tours proved to be quite enjoyable and successful. It is very fitting to be included in the MOB Tour of Historic Homes since our lighthouse is among the oldest structures in the area and is indeed historic. From one of those tours the CCLF grew by 2 new **Lifetime** Members: A BIG welcome to Kathy and Pierre Alix!

Our next Membership/Brick Owner convoy is being planned for the March timeframe, and we hope to add to the event the museum at "Launch Complex 26".

By the time you receive this newsletter Christmas will be over and we'll already be in a new year. After the challenges we have all faced these past two years, let's hope this is all behind us and moving forward we can enjoy more activities at the lighthouse.

When shopping online, choose smile.amazon.com where 0.5% of the price of *eligible* purchases will be given to the CCLF. It's easy to get an Amazon account and doesn't cost anything unless it's for AmazonPrime, in which case there is a fee. Remember, you must go to smile.amazon.com each time you shop for all of this to work; *Amazon.com and Amazon mobile app purchases do not apply*.

Happy New Year!

Welcoming the newest and celebrating our renewed members of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation family!

NEW MEMBERS 31 OCT – 21 DEC 2021

Assistant Lighthouse Keepers (\$35—1 Member)

Vicki Anderson
Gina Grey
Scott Hickey
LeeAnn Kunkle
Catherine Vecchio

Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 = 2 Members)

Kelly Lyerly
Ellen Scott (Scarlet Fire Designs)
William J. Terry, Jr.

Lifetime Members Family (\$1500=2 Members)

Pierre and Kathy Alix

RENEWALS 31 OCT—21 DEC 2021

Assistant Keeper (\$35 = 1 Member)

Thomas Guthrie
Karen Pessaro
Emma Richard

Lighthouse Keeper (\$50 = 2 Mbrs)

Gary & Karen Barrows
Kelly Guldi
Duane & Katrina Kaufhold
Terry Ryan
Chris & Pauline Simpson
Shane & Marian Smith
Kim & Salvatore Zocco

Head Lighthouse Keeper (\$100 = 2 Members)

Peter Fischer
Bill & Mary Lou Heink
Barbara & Gary Nawrocki
Mark Tomassone
Mitch Varnes (Smooth Running LLC)

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Lifetime Members

Pierre & Kathy Alix
Titusville, FL

Carolyn Burby
Port St. John, FL

Lloyce Campbell
Merritt Island, FL

Sharon Crockett
Rockledge, FL

[Charles] & Ginny Davis
Manvel, TX

Robert Davis
Merritt Island, FL

Jill & Jim Dooley
Merritt Island, FL

Ron & Christine Ecker
Satellite Beach, FL

Albert & Marie Elebash
Melbourne, FL

Ric & Nancy Garwood
Merritt Island, FL

Rep. Tom Goodson
Rockledge, FL

Beth & Dwight Greenberg
Cocoa, FL

Bobbie Grine (Dec)
Tuscaloosa, AL

Bill Jelen
Merritt Island, FL

Rocky & Lisa Johnson
Cocoa, FL

Al & Carol Koller, Jr.
Titusville, FL

Jeanna & Mike Merrifield
Titusville, FL

RADM Robert & Beverly Merrilees
Merritt Island, FL

Cal & Virginia Myer
Naples, FL

Jim Ravitch
Merritt Island, FL

Dixie & Jerry Sansom
Cocoa, FL

James Trammell
Melbourne, FL

RADM James and Kathie Underwood
Merritt Island, FL

Rose Marie Wiley
Cocoa Beach, FL

Dr. Jess & Bertie Yates
Melbourne, FL

Dr. Elbert (Sonny) & Kay Witt
Melbourne FL

*** * * CCLF Membership Application Form * * ***

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY & JOIN CCLF TODAY!

Completed forms should be submitted along with payment to:
CCLF | P.O. Box 1978 | Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

☐ **Yes, please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.**

Please select a membership level from the categories below:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head Lighthouse Keeper | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighthouse Keeper (Family) | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Lighthouse Keeper (Individual) | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Lighthouse Keeper | \$15 |

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (Family-2 member) | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership (Single) | \$1,000 |

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chris Ecker, CCLF Membership
Phone: (321) 591-9844
Email: cclfmbrship1@aol.com

Bev Merrilees, CCLF Volunteers
Phone: (321) 452-5426
Email: bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com

To pay your membership dues online via PayPal, visit CanaveralLight.org

CCLF Member Benefits

- Admittance to annual membership appreciation meeting held at the lighthouse;
- Subscription to *The Canaveral Beacon*, CCLF's bi-monthly newsletter;
- Discounts at the Keeper's Closet Gift Shop, including 10% off commemorative brick orders;
- Volunteer opportunities to support & promote the lighthouse in its historical context; and, most importantly,
- Supporting CCLF's efforts to restore the lighthouse grounds and resurrect history!

**MEMBERS SAVE 10% AT
KEEPER'S CLOSET**

Stop by the Keeper's Closet gift shop during your next visit to the lighthouse. Browse our selection of souvenirs, books, apparel, jewelry, children's items and other lighthouse memorabilia. Proceeds support Foundation initiatives and community events. Members who present their membership card when shopping will receive a 10 percent discount on their purchase.

Volunteer Spotlight on Todd McDowell



Todd McDowell has been a Brevard resident a total of 27 years. He was stationed on the CGC Diligence and Vigilant from 1990 – 1992 and then back to Station Port Canaveral as an Electronics Technician from 1992 – 1996. While an ET at Station Port Canaveral, one of Todd's duties was to

maintain the LORAN repeater that was housed in the lighthouse as well as the fenced in area that held the antenna. He also assisted with maintaining the radar system in the lighthouse that was used for tracking vessels offshore during Shuttle launches. Todd grew to become very fond of the lighthouse and recognized the importance of preserving its history.

After completing his service, he and his wife, Jennifer, moved to Georgia. After graduating Culinary School in Atlanta, they moved to Athens, so Jennifer could complete her degree in Dietetics. Upon her graduation they moved back to the Atlanta area and Todd completed his B.S. from Georgia State. Now with two small children (nothing like being full time students, working full time and having two kids at the same time!!) they moved back to Brevard to be near Jennifer's family in 2000.

After the Lighthouse Half Marathon in 2019 Todd was introduced to volunteer opportunities at the Lighthouse. He signed up to volunteer and served some time helping in the Keeper's Closet. He was eventually asked, and accepted, to serve on the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Board of Directors. Currently he serves as the 2nd Vice President.

Todd co-owns Alpha-Omega Training and Compliance (AOTC) and Salvation Safety. AOTC is a full-service Environmental Health, Safety and Emergency Response company based out of Cocoa with its main Emergency Response office in Newberry. Salvation Safety specializes in providing high level safety professionals and confined space rescue attendants to its clients in North, Central and South America as well as the Caribbean.

Todd and Jennifer have three children, Richard "Christos", Brianna and Ellieana. All three also reside in Brevard County.

Todd has been a consistent supporter of the Foundation by generously sponsoring events and willingly aiding when various jobs needed to be done. We are fortunate to have Todd on our team.

Women Who Kept The Lights



Francis Augusta Burnham Wilson

When you visit the Museum be sure to see our the new Women Who Kept the Lights board. These two examples highlight the tremendous contribution of women who kept the lights shining.

Very often the wife of children of keepers served as unofficial assistants. Robert Ranson, husband of Frances Burnham's daughter, relates in his book *East Coast Florida Memoirs* how Frances served as assistant to her father Mills Burnham a Cape Canaveral in the early 1850s. Frances also married Henry Wilson, who was an Assistant Keeper for several years both before and after the Civil War, though he was gone for the war years, fighting for the Confederacy. Frances likely continued to help her father and her husband for many years. Although no women held official, paid positions as Cape Canaveral Keepers, hundreds of women at other light-houses did. The Women Who Kept the Lights board tells several of their stories. If this captures your interest, buy the book of the same name, available in the Keeper's Closet gift shop.

Next up with our Women Keepers is Ida Lewis, who served as keeper of the Lime Rock Light in Rhode Island from 1857 to 1911. Ida was the most famous lighthouse keeper of her time, male or female. She took over from her disabled father at the age of 15. She was also an expert rower. Her lighthouse was along exceptionally treacherous waters, and she is credited with saving at least 18 lives by rowing her boat out to rescue foundering sailors in all types of storms. She received the Congressional gold medal and the highest award of the US Life Saving Service. She was on the cover of many magazines and newspapers in her era, with several famous paintings done of her rescues. In 1924, the Lighthouse Service changed the name of the light to Ida Lewis Rock Light Station. This is the only time in US history any such honor was ever paid to a keeper.



Ida Lewis
Lime Rock Light, RI
1857 - 1911

Paving the Way & Building a Legacy

BRICK WALKWAY NEWS

Buy an engraved paver for your friend, colleague or family member to commemorate life's milestones and support Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation's (CCLF) Brick Program. CCLF's Brick Program is one of our major funding sources helping to rebuild the keeper's cottages and restore Cape Canaveral Lighthouse grounds. Some service clubs have special locations with members' bricks such as Propeller Club Port Canaveral and local Rotary Clubs. It's a great way to show your support of CCLF and another organization at the same time.



You can purchase a 4" by 8" brick for \$150. Includes engraving of three (3) rows, up to 12 characters per line. Insignias and art designs, such as a lighthouse or heart, are available for an additional \$20. CCLF members will receive a 10 percent discount on all brick orders. All donations are tax deductible. For additional information, please contact Ann Bolton, CLF's Brick Project Coordinator, at annbolton@cfl.rr.com.



**Restore a Part of Florida's Space Coast History Today!
CCLF Members Receive a 10% Discount on All Bricks**

***** BRICK ORDER FORM *****

To purchase a 4" X 8" brick paver, complete this form and return along with payment to:
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, P.O. Box 1978; Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

☐ Member ☐ Non-Member

Engraving Instructions: Each line is limited to 12 characters, including punctuation and spaces.
CCLF retains the right of final approval of copy.

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Florida Lighthouse Association Update



The Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA) mission is to protect, preserve, restore, and defend Florida's Lighthouse towers, along with their material culture, buildings, artifacts, and records to assure that the magic of Florida's lighthouses and lighthouse keepers will be available for the enjoyment and understanding of future generations.

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation has been the recipient of about \$70,000 from FLA since 2011. If you are due to renew you tag and would like to help the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation and other Florida lighthouses, we hope you will consider buying the "VisitOurLight.org" tag. FLA raises most of its money through the sale of a specialty license plate, which currently features the Jupiter Lighthouse.

PRESERVING FLORIDA'S LIGHTHOUSES IS AS EASY AS DRIVING A CAR

Florida residents can show their love of lighthouses while driving when they purchase a "Visit Our Lights" license plate for their vehicle. The design features Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and 90 percent of the proceeds from plate sales help support the Florida Lighthouse Association's mission to protect, preserve and restore the Sunshine State's remaining lighthouses. For further information on how to get a "Visit Our Lights" tag, visit FLA's website at FloridaLighthouses.org.

Our members are also encouraged to join and attend the FLA meetings, which are not only informative, but fun as well.

For additional information about FLA membership and meeting registration, go to FloridaLighthouses.org.



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United States Space Force Celebrates Second Birthday

With a ceremony at Hanger C and visits to the lighthouse, US Space Force members of Space Force Station Cape Canaveral celebrated the second birthday of the newest Defense Force of the United States on December 20, 2021.



(Photos courtesy of Daryl Gilbert)

2021 Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation Board of Directors & Advisors

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 Mr. Todd McDowell, 2nd Vice President
 Mr. Brendan McMillin, Treasurer
 Mrs. Cheryl Bennett, Secretary
 RADM Jim Underwood, Past President

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 Mrs. Chris Ecker, Membership Chair
 Mr. George Eustis, Jr., Docents Coordinator
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 Mr. Rocky Johnson, Director
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 Mrs. Bev Merrilees, Volunteer Coordinator
 Mr. R. Norman Moody, Public Relations/Media
 Ms. Mary Anne Moore, Tours Chair
 Mrs. Dixie Sansom, Legislative Advisor
 Mr. Shane Smith, Race to the Lighthouse Coordinator
 Maj Gen Ed Wilson, Director
 Mrs. Lisa Wilson, Director & Education Co-Chair
 Ms. Becky Zingarelli, Museum Director, *Ex Officio*

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 Mrs. Yvonne Thornton, Director Emeritus
 Mr. Ken Arbuckle, Keeper's Closet Co-Leader
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 Mr. Chris Broome, Esq., Legal Advisor
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 Mrs. Kate Chase, Education Co-Chair
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 Mr. Ric Garwood, Maintenance Team Co-Leader
 Mr. Steve Moore, Maintenance Team Co-Leader

45TH SPACE WING REPRESENTATIVES

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 Mr. Shawn Walleck, CCSFS Liaison
 Mr. Tom Penders, USAF Archeologist