



# LIGHTHOUSE NEWSLETTER

2011

On the Web at  
[www.CanaverallLight.org](http://www.CanaverallLight.org)



Volume 1; Issue 1

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## Mission Statement

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

## *Opportunity to have your name engraved in Cape Canaveral Lighthouse History*

### **Our brick walkway project has been approved!**

We are re-creating the original walkways that our lighthouse keepers used to walk between the lighthouse and their homes. The walkways will be lined with bricks that will honor you, your friends or loved ones. You can create your message on a brick. This is a **wonderful** way to remember or acknowledge special occasions.

Be a part of the **inaugural** walkway by purchasing and personalizing a brick at the annual members' meeting on June 18. This will be an ongoing project and our hope is to have the first order of bricks installed in the near future.

Attached is the form to purchase your brick with your message for this historical project. Forms will also be available at the membership meeting. Inscriptions on bricks will be limited to a maximum of 3 lines of 12 characters per line.

4" x 8" brick \$150

Purchase may be made by cash, check or credit card.

## 2011 Board of Directors

**RADM Robert Merrilees, President**  
**Dr. David Paterno, Vice President**  
**Ms. Janey Powell, Treasurer**  
**Mrs. Ginny Davis, Secretary**  
**Ms. Peggy Armey, Keeper's Cottage**  
**Mr. John Byron**  
**Dr. Maxwell King**  
**Mr. Eric Kucera**

**Mayor Rocky Randels**  
**Mr. Jim Roche**  
**Mrs. Helen Stubbs**  
**Mrs. Yvonne Thornton**  
**RADM James Underwood**  
**Dr. Sonny Witt, AF Liaison**  
**LtCol Shane Sullivan, AF Advisor**  
**Mr. Tom Penders, AF Advisor**

## **“Name our Newsletter” Contest**

We are looking for a name for our Newsletter and are asking you to help. Submit your suggestions to Bev Merrilees at [Bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Bmerrilees@cfl.rr.com) or mail to 1735 S. Shelter Trail; Merritt Island, FL 32952. Entries will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and a selection made. A gift will be presented to the winner. Those that have already submitted a suggestion will be considered along with others received by the deadline. Entries must be received no later than June 30, 2011. Put you thinking caps on and let us hear from you.

### **“Drawn to the Light” by Dr. Elbert E. “Sonny” Witt**

**“Drawn to the Light” The History of Cape Canaveral and its People, is a fascinating and historically accurate account of Cape Canaveral including the Lighthouse. The Author, Dr. Witt, has done thorough research from historical documents as well as discussions with descendants of those people that lived at Cape Canaveral between the years of 1847 and 1950. Signed copies are available. Go to [www.CanaveralLight.org](http://www.CanaveralLight.org) and click on “The Keeper’s Closet”.**

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—Saturday, June 18, 2011**

The Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Reservations must be made by June 1st (see RSVP and Membership Renewal Forms on Page 3. Air Force Security requires that you provide your Social Security Number, show a photo ID (Drivers License, etc.) be a U.S. Citizen, and be at least 8 years old. Just a reminder—you must check in at the registration desk before you board the busses and check-out at the registration desk when you return to the Space-Florida Building.

Directions: Registration is at the Space Florida Building on the North side of Port Canaveral. Turn right at Poseidon Road at 3rd stoplight past Disney Cruise Lines. Buses will load only between 11:00 am and 12:00 Noon to transport you to the Cape Café for a brief program, lunch, and door prizes. You may shop at the Keepers Closet gift shop for many new items. Please bring cash or check for your purchases—no credit cards.

Jim Roche, CCLF Security Coordinator will be our emcee and has planned an interesting program. The keynote speaker will be Clifford McNulty, a former Keeper of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. After lunch, the buses will transport you to the “Old Site” - the original location of the Lighthouse near the ocean. The concrete foundation bed remains. Then you will be transported to the Lighthouse, where you may climb up to the 5th level. Be sure to bring your cameras. The buses will transport you back to the parking lot at the Space-Florida Building.

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**CCLF Annual Membership Meeting**  
**11:00 am—3:00 pm Saturday, June 18, 2011**  
**(Buses will leave between 11:00 am and noon)**  
**Meet at Space-Florida Bldg., Poseidon Rd.**  
**Cape Canaveral Air Force Station**

**RSVP deadline for Annual Meeting is June 1st**

**Meeting includes lunch so number attending is important so that we can prepare.**

**This is a members-only meeting. The membership year is June 1 to May 31 each year. If you joined after January 1, 2011, your membership will be extended to May 31, 2012. Otherwise membership renewals are due no later than June 1, 2011.**

**Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_**  
**(Air Force Requirement for Cape Access at Annual Meeting)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**Head Lighthouse Keeper \$100**

**Lighthouse Keeper (Family) \$ 50**

**Assistant Lighthouse Keeper (Individual) \$ 35**

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please mail your RSVP and Membership Renewal to CCLF; P.O. Box 1978; Cape Canaveral, FL 32920**

**New 2011 lapel pins and complimentary gift will be given out at the Annual Meeting or sent to you by U.S. Mail.**


## **Our Vision**

**By Dr. David Paterno**

**Ever since the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation was formed, we have had a vision of what we wanted to accomplish. First, the Foundation was set to assist the Air Force in promoting access to the lighthouse and provide the public with knowledge and history of what is certainly one of the most unique lighthouses in the United States. This vision is still a primary goal of the Foundation today. Subsequent to this initial vision, it also has seen the need for future generations to have the opportunity to understand the importance of the role that the lighthouse has played in the safety of the maritime travel on the eastern seashore as well as in the history of Cape Canaveral. To that end and for the reasons stated below, the Foundation realized that the Keepers' Cottages should be rebuilt to complete the historical integrity of the original configuration of buildings surrounding the lighthouse. The buildings housed the families of the head lighthouse keeper and those of his two assistants. Historically, therefore, rebuilding the cottages is the proper thing to do. Practically, rebuilding the Keepers Cottages would provide an arena in which to tell the story of the lighthouse.**

**The story of the lighthouse is a compelling one. It includes the depiction of men and women who lived at a time when keeping a signal in the form of a beam of light was critical in order to warn of the danger of treacherous shoals on the coastline. Therefore, the Foundation envisioned a museum/ educational center to be constructed on site that would enable us to tell the story of the courageous keepers of the light who kept the lamp lit often under arduous conditions. The story of the lighthouse and its keepers is not the only story of Cape Canaveral that needs to be told. The early settlers and pioneers at the Cape is a unique history that is an essential part of the history of the lighthouse. Another story for future generations is the diverse and delicate eco system that begs to be told. As Dr. Witt tells relates in one of his talks about the Cape, there is not just one but many eco systems on the Cape. Most citizens have trouble identifying any.**


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**Important in the history of Cape Canaveral are the people who occupied the land before the European invasion. Much needs to be told about the Native Americans who were on the grounds centuries before thoughts were even given to having a lighthouse. Consequently, with all the numerous stories that make up the Cape, it is incumbent upon us to have a place to relate these histories. What better place for a museum /educational center is a Keeper's Cottage? The facility would contain artifacts, documents and materials of this bygone era as well as house an interpretive center.**

**As many of you know, one of the sources of the funding for the work of our Foundation up to this point has been the gift shop otherwise known as the "Keeper's Closet." However,, sales at the "Closet" have been limited to space and availability of days of the week to be open. Surveying many of the gift shops at other lighthouses, our Foundation has realized that the potential exists for the gift shop to generate an income ten-fold, perhaps even more, if an accessible permanent facility were available. Again what better place to have such an enterprise than one of the Keeper's Cottages? This vision has become even more, sales at the "Closet" have been limited to space and availability of days of the week to be open. Surveying many of the gift shops at other lighthouses, our Foundation has realized that the potential exists for the gift shop to generate an income ten-fold, perhaps even more, if an accessible permanent facility were available. Again what better place to have such an enterprise than one of the Keeper's Cottages? This vision has become even more poignant with the announcement that our partner, the Air Force, will be providing free bus tours with one of the stops being the lighthouse. This would increase the public's access to the lighthouse from one day a month to 3 times a week.**

**A third cottage is envisioned for the lighthouse to complete the rebuilding of the original configuration of the lighthouse property. This cottage would allow the Foundation members and its Air Force partner to have a conference center in which to hold meetings in a comfortable and conducive atmosphere. Finally, our vision for the lighthouse would not be complete without plans for the grounds to be completely landscaped and gardens installed. The grounds would have picnic tables and benches for family outings for Foundation members.**



### Membership Report by Yvonne Thornton

Our membership has reached 555 members. The CCLF Annual Membership runs from June 1 to May 31 each year. If you joined after January 1, 2011 your membership will be extended to May 31, 2012. Otherwise membership renewals are due no later than June 1, 2011. Please mail your dues to Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation (CCLF); P.O. Box 1978; Cape Canaveral, FL 32920. Please encourage your family and friends to join. Visit our website for a Membership Application at [www.CanaveralLight.org](http://www.CanaveralLight.org). If you have questions or comments, please contact Yvonne Thornton at (321) 267-5208 or e-mail [myvonneLight@aol.com](mailto:myvonneLight@aol.com) CCLF welcomes its newest members:

#### Head Lighthouse Keeper

Barbara Read

#### Lighthouse Keepers

Jacyne & John Ells

Edwina & Mickey Tutolo

Phyllis & Lorenz Vasquez

#### Assistant Lighthouse Keepers

Mary Schmitt

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

By Eric Kucera, Volunteer Coordinator

The Foundation is in need of volunteers to help with the Annual Membership Meeting on June 18. You can be part of this exciting undertaking! Positions available include:

- Setup on the Friday afternoon before the event (arranging tables and chairs).
- Take-down after the event on Saturday.
- Cafeteria assistant (help serve food and empty trash).
- Directing cars parking in the parking lot.
- Registration and check-in and check-out tables
- Keepers Closet (sell lighthouse merchandise).
- Lighthouse Docent (show and explain the lighthouse to visitors).
- Bus Escort (Must be familiar with the roads on the Cape, and be able to direct the bus drivers to the cafeteria, lighthouse, and Space Florida building).
- If you can lend a hand in any of these areas, please let me know at [kucerae@yahoo.com](mailto:kucerae@yahoo.com) or (321) 452-6660