



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Naples Historical Society Celebrates 10 Years of The Norris Gardens at Historic Palm Cottage™ with FREE Admission to the Cottage and a Dixieland Band Performance**

**Naples, Fla. (February 20, 2017)** – Naples Historical Society will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of The Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage on Saturday, April 29, 2017, with two special events. The Norris Gardens has played an important role in the Society's mission to educate, advocate and preserve the history of Naples. As a thank you to community supporters, Naples Historical Society will recognize the first decade of The Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage's legacy with free admission to Historic Palm Cottage and The Norris Gardens from 1pm to 4pm.

In addition, Naples Historical Society has partnered with StayInMay, a popular annual arts and cultural festival that showcases a variety of performers over a two-week span, to bring a performance by the Naples Dixieland Jazz Band to The Norris Gardens starting at 4pm on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Tickets to the music performance are sold separately for \$17 and can be purchased only at [www.stayinmay.com](http://www.stayinmay.com). Society members may attend the jazz band performance for free (membership card or member number is required).

The history of The Norris Gardens may be young compared to the Cottage, but its story is just as important. Up until the early part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the property included a residence once owned by Naples' most famous land developer, Ed Crayton. When this property, adjacent to Naples' oldest house, became available for purchase, the Board of Directors of Naples Historical Society initiated a capital campaign to purchase the land. Community support rallied around the project and funding from major contributors, including the Norris family, allowed the Society to officially acquire the lot and put a plan into place for its careful remastering.

An official design plan was drafted with help from a local landscape architect and a handful of volunteers who had experience in Florida gardening and horticulture. Working non-stop, the

project took nearly two years to complete and The Norris Gardens at Historic Palm Cottage opened to the public in the spring of 2007.

“Each garden was uniquely crafted to replicate a specific native Florida garden that might have existed when the area was first settled,” said Barbara Lee Jones, Garden Team Leader. “For example, the Pioneer Garden features plants that require minimal water such as the resurrection fern and rose cactus, while the Edible Garden features fruits and vegetables like dwarf bananas, herbs and wild coffee.”

Composed of five unique gardens: The Pioneer Garden, The Palm Collector’s Garden, The Edible Garden, The Everglades Shade Garden, and The Garden of the Senses; The Norris Gardens at Historic Palm Cottage continues to adapt and thrive under the loving care of a team of volunteers.

“This garden gave me a deeper appreciation of the role of history in nature,” said Elaine Reed, CEO of Naples Historical Society. “To understand one aspect of our local history through the lens of a garden story is creative and resourceful. Each garden section has an abundance of information and with sitting benches throughout the area, visitors can choose to ponder life from yesteryear in a lovely garden from today.”

Because of smart design, each garden within The Norris Gardens was situated at a specific location on the property. For instance, the Garden of the Senses was strategically placed just off the front porch of the Cottage as this was a typical method used by settlers as wafting aromas from flowering plants were best enjoyed from the front porch. The aptly named Everglades Shade Garden was placed on the east side of the Cottage to provide a reprieve from the hot glare of the early morning and mid-day sun.

Learn more about the Garden and meet the volunteers who tend to it on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Entry to The Norris Gardens and Historic Palm Cottage between 1pm and 4pm is free for all history lovers and requires no reservations.

The Naples Dixieland Jazz Band’s performance will begin at 4pm. Tickets can be purchased at [www.stayinmay.com](http://www.stayinmay.com) for \$17. (Sorry, tickets are not available at the door the day of the event). Members of the Society may attend at no charge, but must bring their membership card or number. Light refreshments for the Dixieland Jazz event will be provided by StayInMay.

To become a member of Naples Historical Society, visit [www.NaplesHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.NaplesHistoricalSociety.org). Members enjoy access to events like the two described above as well as the popular Garden Side Chickee Chats, member mixers and much more free of charge.

*Naples Historical Society's Historic Palm Cottage™ is located one block east of the Naples Pier at 137 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Historic Palm Cottage was built in 1895 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Naples Historical Society receives no government funding and relies on membership dues and donations to accomplish its mission.*

*Naples Historical Society, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is dedicated to preserving Naples history and heritage for the community and future generations to enjoy. For more information, please call 239.261.8164 or go to [www.napleshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.napleshistoricalsociety.org).*