



Naples Historical Society



COTTAGE REVIEW

MARCH 2015

SAVE THE DATES!

COUNCIL OF LONGTIME FRIENDS

Next Get Together: May 15th from 5-7pm



Doris Turner and Marta Keene share some memories over photos at the Fall 2014 Longtime Friends get together

The Council of Longtime Friends is a special group of self-proclaimed "old timers" who get together twice a year at Historic Palm Cottage to help the Society add definition and perspective to historic accounts and details in the Society's archives. The Council is an important element of the Society as it unlocks the past with valuable brainpower.

The Council is open to anyone with an historic viewpoint of Naples. Attendance to one of the two annual receptions is free. The next reception will be Friday, May 15th from 5pm-7pm at Historic Palm Cottage. Contact Geraldine at (239) 261-8164 to add your name to the reception list.

GET READY TO MIX IT UP

2015 Member Mixer

Thursday, March 19, 2015

5-7pm

Historic Palm Cottage & The Norris Gardens

Meet the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and other Society members and learn about the Society's progress and its plans for the coming year. Longtime resident and history buff Ray Carroll will also be at the Mixer to discuss excerpts from the diary of F. Watt Hall, a 25-year-old teacher who taught near the Henderson Creek area near Marco in 1898.

Members are encouraged to bring a friend, too, to join that day! Refreshments and door prizes are included. Please call Geraldine Pessolano to make a reservation at 239.261.8164.

Christmas Gala at Historic Palm Cottage

Friday, December 4, 2015
at 6:30PM

Founded in 1962, Naples Historical Society is dedicated to preserving Naples history and heritage for the community and future generations to enjoy.

Board of Directors

Mary S. Smith, Chair
Kris Kaltenborn, Vice Chairman
Fred Wakelin, Treasurer
Elaine L. Reed, Secretary (*Ex Officio*)

Joe Burke
Joe Frontiero
Denny Glass
Kaleigh Grover
Mark R. Klym
Diane Koestner
John Mayer
Darrin Phillips
Richard Prebish
Jim Steller

President & CEO

Elaine L. Reed

Cottage Review is currently published twice annually in the Fall and Spring for members and friends of the Naples Historical Society. Join as a member to receive additional member-only communications.

Editor

Mollie Page

Mailing Address:

Naples Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 201 • Naples, FL 34106
Phone: 239-261-8164
Email: nhs@NaplesHistoricalSociety.org



Naples Historical Society

Historic Palm Cottage™, The Norris Gardens at Historic Palm Cottage, and Administration & Archives, our 2011 acquisition located at 107 Broad Avenue South, support the preservation of Naples history. Historic Palm Cottage™ is located at 137 12th Avenue South—one block east of the Naples Pier—and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

LETTER FROM THE CEO



Elaine L. Reed

Contemplating a career as a bio-mechanical engineer, my 14-year old son said recently, "I wish I could stop time." His idea was to stop time so he could

figure out the mechanical intricacies of a human movement problem in order to design a device to make it better. I am proud of his desire to improve quality of life.

Improving the quality of life is at the heart of preservation. Preserving the past stops time for the moment, but more importantly, it galvanizes a community's sense of belonging and ownership. Remembering the past not only honors the memory, but also serves to remind us of what once was. Ideally, our perspective is enriched, perhaps enough so that we make better decisions for our future.

The Society's oral history project, marketed under the brand name *If These Walls Could Talk!*, is one of our best endeavors to preserve the past so we can savor the memory. We cannot stop time, but these coveted films bring us one step closer to times gone by.

Naples Historical Society has interviewed well over three-dozen pioneers or family descendants. We have available for your enjoyment a multitude of slices of life from those wonderful old timers with us today, as well as those who have sadly passed away.

Some slices include: **Sam Colding**, the County's Property Appraiser from 1960-1990, declared in his oral history film that the total taxable value of all real and personal property in Collier County in 1960 was \$162 million. The TOTAL. One or two properties alone will meet that these days.

*Letter from the CEO
continued on page 3.*

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Mary S. Smith

THE SENSE OF PLACE is the title of Wallace Stegner's 1992 Random House book. Born in 1903, Stegner is gone, but he left a wonderful body of work; and for all having a sense of place in life, these title words resonate.

Today, the book's title words have been discovered by "everyone," and are even stamped on the courtesy pens found in every room at a very fine Caribbean resort. The resort's name isn't even mentioned.

Each of us has chosen a room, house, space—somewhere—that makes the heart "rest easy," or simply "fits" perfectly. The Sense of Place.

Many years ago I was at a friend's old and very beautiful house. A meeting was about to be held in the living room, and the first-time guests, not willing to be pegged as a rube or naïf, faced the speaker square on, but eyes darted all over the place. The speaker was a drama teacher, and in seeing this happen, told the audience that they were in a beautiful place, and should look around and simply enjoy being in the host's glorious room. The invitation was accepted. Rest easy.

Here in Naples I know an old house, built long ago in the vernacular style of its time. From the sidewalk it looks simple but friendly. I have seen and watched a lot of people, who, upon coming through the front door for the first time, catch their breath in delight and surprise; and not only school children arrive and spontaneously state that they "could live in this place." For good reason, the house still provides an easy welcome to all who enter; thus providing an unexpected sense of place.

You know that I'm referring to Historic Palm Cottage; and you also know that the house has its own sense of place for us Naples Historical Society members.

In the last few years you and I, as members of the Society, have invested about \$290,000 in updating the infrastructures of both Palm Cottage and 107 Broad Avenue South. Please continue to support our fine Board of Directors and Elaine and me in keeping the Society's houses beautiful, stare-worthy and with a sense of place of their own, and in proper repair for today and for the future. We have in our hands two houses, and proudly showcase them as the "faces" of a multifaceted, viable, carefully administered and privately funded Naples Historical Society.

Thank you, as usual!
Mary Smith

It Takes a Community to Preserve One



One of my favorite pictures from the 50th Anniversary Open House in 2012 shows a crowd of visitors navigating nicely through the Cottage.

WHY I AM A MEMBER

I was first bit by the nostalgia bug in 1984 while attending Gulfview Middle School. My science teacher also taught my dad in 1959 and this led to some interesting stories around the dinner table. I learned that placing dead fish from a red tide bloom into empty school lockers will close down a school for the day. In 1986 I became the president of a new club at Naples High School: The Now and Then Club. It was a local history club for students and I mostly remember tagging along with John Barrio to nearby archaeological digs. We also interviewed some old timers and donated the videotapes to the Naples Museum.

As a local freelance writer for nearly 15 years, I've had the opportunity to work on many assignments that demand I dig into the community's past. I've written about the histories of the Tamiami Trail dredge and Swamp Buggy Queen pageant. I created a commemorative 50th Anniversary book for the Collier County Medical Society, where I interviewed some of the first doctors to arrive in the area including Dr. John Meli, who, at the time, was the last living member of its original founders. And in 2011, Elaine approached me to assist with public relations and event planning for the Society's 50th Anniversary reception. Today, I continue to help the Society with various writing assignments including this newsletter.

Mary Smith's letter in this issue perfectly describes why I am a member. The Society helps me keep a Sense of Place about my hometown. I find incredible amounts of peace when I enter the Society's historic properties, and a safe and familiar connection with other members. This town, and all its archived and living history, is magical to me. As a member, my memories don't fade. They grow with every new visit and handshake.

Mollie Page
Proud Society Member



2015 Garden Side Chickee Chats!

LAST CHICKEE CHAT OF THE SEASON!

Sign up early and don't miss this exceptional presentation.
FREE for members, \$5/non-member.



Friday, March 20, 2015

11am - 12pm

Join Robert and Carole Leher, authors of the new book, Naples Beach Homes: Cottages, Castles and the Families That Built Them for a visual glimpse into the past (and present) of our local neighborhood charm from yesteryear to today.

All Garden Side Chickee Chats are held in
The Norris Gardens at Historic Palm Cottage.
Rain or shine. Apply Chickee Chat admission to a
membership – same day only. Seating is limited!

239-261-8164

Welcome New
Business Member



Gulf Coast
INTERNATIONAL
PROPERTIES

Letter from the CEO
continued from page 2.

Of course, **Chester Keene**, a law enforcement officer from 1965-2003, writes the Society's *Old Timer Corner* column, which is found in every newsletter including this one...check it out.

Bem Storter, one of a few pioneers born in this area, pays tribute in his film to Fred Lowdermilk for his foresight in having alleyways behind the houses in old Naples. He also comments on the growing population, "I adapt to it. I still like Naples."

There are many stories and slices of life waiting to lend perspective to all of us...take a moment to stop time and listen to some of these invaluable pioneer films. They are available at the Society's Archival Viewing Center (formerly the Guest House of Palm Cottage).

Thank you and enjoy this issue of *Cottage Review*.

Elaine L. Reed

NEW MEMBER LIST -- THANK YOU!!

A Friend

American Board of Trial Advocates

Anonymous

Mr. & Mrs. L. Kent Babcock
Ms. Denise Bagley

Mr. & Mrs. David Barry

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Barter *

Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Benson

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald T. Berry

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Bickelmann

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Bilbrey

Mr. & Mrs. Glen T. Blauch Jr.

Dr. Evelyn M. Bluhm *

Ms. Nancy Blum *

Ms. Mary Bohlen

Ms. Robin Boies

Mrs. Pat Bonness

Mr. & Mrs. David Bott

Mr. & Mrs. Norman B. Buckman

Col. Robert N. Burhans

Dr. Pamela Burhans

Mrs. Christine M. Burke

Mr. Joseph Burke *

Ms. Kandus Cage

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cambria

Mr. & Mrs. David Campbell

Ms. Karen Carr

Mr. Robert Chase

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Cherney

Ms. Linda B. Colvin

Dr. Steven E. Come

Ms. Pamela Currey

Mr. & Mrs. J. Burwood Daly

Ms. Lori Daniel

Mr. & Mrs. Vin DePasquale

Mrs. Dale F. Doehrman

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Engelhardt *

Mrs. Anne B. Evans

Mr. & Mrs. John Fain

Ms. Marilyn Faught

Mr. & Mrs. William E. Ferry

Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Fesmire *

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Field

Mr. Richard B. Fohl

Ms. Patricia Forkan

Mrs. Mary Ann Freer

Dr. Linda Fusco

Mr. Ernie Gaddy

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Genel

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur W. Gilbart

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Glass

Ms. Celine Godof

Ms. Shirley F. Godsey

Ms. Stephanie E. Goforth *

Mr. Joe Gravino

Ms. Mollie Page Griffin

Gulf Coast International Properties

Mr. & Mrs. Walter N. Haldeman, III

Mr. & Mrs. Seth Hall

Mr. & Mrs. John Hannah

Ms. Marcia Hawken

Ms. Alison Haynes

Dr. & Mrs. Jeff Heitmann

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence W. Hendrickson

Mr. Paul Heuerman

Mr. Thomas Hinton

Mrs. Patty A. Holmes

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Holmes

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Holmes

Mr. Barbro Holst

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hoskins

Mr. Richard Hudson

Mr. Keith A. Jackson

Dr. Marvin E. Jaffe

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jaynes

Mr. & Mrs. Donald C. Jensen

Mrs. Anne C. Jones

Ms. Fran Jorin

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Jouris

Ms. Sharon K. Karr

Ms. Mary Katterfeld

Mrs. Patricia Kean

Mr. & Mrs. Henry K. Kelly

Ms. Barbara Prince Kelly

Ms. Christina Kerchner

Mr. Robert Klomparens

Mr. Norman John Klym

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Koch

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Koestner

Ms. Phyllis Kraft-Hendrick

Mr. & Mrs. Doug Kramer

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Kubly

Ms. Ann K. Lambert

Mr. & Mrs. William Lambert

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Leher

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Leitner

Mr. Neal Lewis

Ms. Cynthia Lind

Mr. & Mrs. James Loonam

Ms. Sally Lowdermilk

Ms. Sheila Lux

Mr. David Lyons

Ms. Georgene MacLennan

Mr. & Mrs. John Mangel, II *

Ms. Stephanie A. Marshall

Mr. & Mrs. John G. Martin

Mr. & Mrs. John F. Mayer, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Donald S. McCann Jr.

Mrs. Debbi McComb

Ms. Patricia McConnell

Ms. Heather McDermott

Ms. Jean McGillicuddy

Mr. & Mrs. Tom McMeekin

Mr. & Mrs. James D. Mehrer

Ms. Cindy Miller

Adm. & Mrs. David Miller

Ms. Amy H. Moglia

Mr. & Mrs. Randy Morris

Ms. Barrie Murray

Mrs. Trula Myers

Dr. & Mrs. Edward Negley

Ms. Terri Neuman

Mr. Herb Newman

Ms. Anna H. Nguyen

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Novetzke *

Mr. & Mrs. William Oley

Mr. Michael Oliveri

Mr. & Mrs. James F. Orr

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Penniman

Mr. & Mrs. G. H. Pettway *

Mrs. Jennifer Pliska

Ms. Claudia Polzin

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Power

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Prebish

Mr. & Mrs. John Pullaro

Mrs. Phillip G.A. Ratliff

Mr. & Mrs. Karl Rauschert *

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Redfern

Mrs. Carol Reed

Mr. Forrest L. Reeves

Ms. Amanda Reilly

Mr. Donald B. Romans

Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Rosenfeld

Mr. Jerry Ruane

Mr & Mrs. Frederick W. Schulte

Mr. & Mrs. William R. Scott

Ms. Marguerite Scribante *

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Seass *

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Sexton

Mrs. Peggy Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Solomon

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Soukup

Mr. & Mrs. Dexter D. Spanitz

Mrs. Juliet C. Sproul

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Steele

Mr. Joe Stevens

Mrs. Jeanne D. Stoll

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick P. Stratton

Ms. Christine Sutherland

Mr. & Mrs. Lindsey J. Thomas *

Ms. Kelly A. Thomas

Ms. Barbara Timken

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Turner *

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Vik

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Voigt

Mr. & Mrs. Dolph W. von Arx

Ms. Jean A. Warters

Ms. Edith Watson

Mr. James Weigel

Mr. & Mrs. Jay B. Weiss

Mr. Thomas G. Westfall

Mr. & Mrs. Mac Willett

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H. Wilson

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Womack

Mr. John A. Wrafter

Ms. Marciadee Zolot

* Asterisks denote Club of 100! Members

Bold represents Palm Cottage Society Members

Italics show Corporate Members

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



1



2



3



4



5

1. After over 100 years, the wood window posts on the Palm Cottage's front porch suffered from serious dry rot and were replaced
2. The Cottage's new posts and porch frame is set into place
3. Renovations to the Cottage's front porch return it to how it looked 100 years ago
4. No more dodging drips, the Chickie in the Norris Garden was outfitted with a new palm frond roof
5. The Society's offices at 107 Broad enjoyed a little sawdust too as the first floor living room received some structural enhancements and a new ceiling

“OLD TIMER CORNER”

by Chester Keene

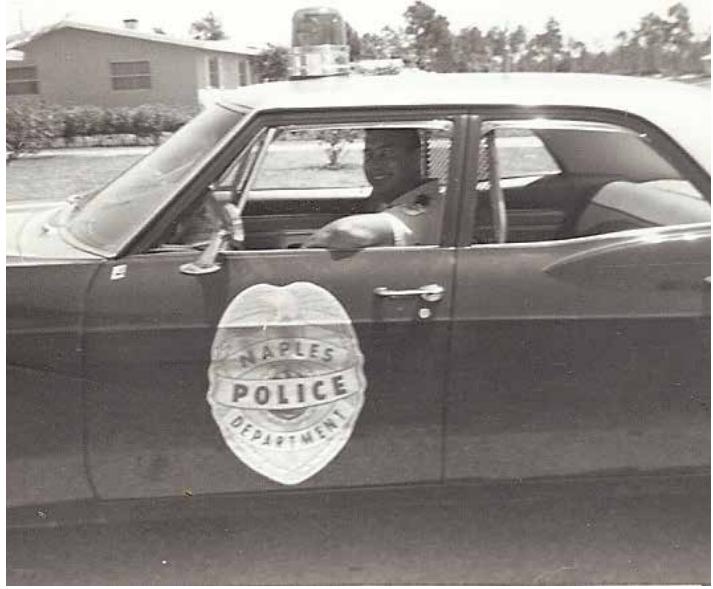
Some people in Naples were better at keeping tabs on their animals about knowing where they were if not at home. One person who lived on Gordon Drive had several kinds of animals and dolphins he shared with most who stopped by. He had one animal that liked to sleepwalk, or so it appeared that way.

Right after starting my first solo patrol on midnights, I got a call one night to go to the pier. The call came in as a big animal was on the pier with the fishermen. I parked my patrol car and walked out onto the pier thinking it must be a large dog. As I got closer I saw it was a donkey or burro. It was standing there in a mooching manner with about a foot of rope left on its harness. The rope was chewed into and I grabbed it and started to guide it back away from the crowd. Then it locked its feet and would not move.

All this time some of the fishermen got a smile on their face. I said, “What are you grinning at?” I thought this was a prank being pulled on me. Well, one good old boy said, “He wants to jump off the pier and swim back to the beach where he came from.”

I was advised to go to the bait house where I could lift up a section of the rail. Still thinking my goat was being gotten I did it. When I opened the rail, the burro jumped off the pier and swam back towards the beach.

I heard someone say, “You must be new here. He comes out here about every night he gets free and mooches snacks.” Yep, I was new on the job. I placed the rail back and started back to my car thinking what else is going to show up? Come to find out the owner put a chain on his harness and this stopped the beach-going burro from chewing his escape again.



TAKE A TOUR



Docent-Guided Tours of Historic Palm Cottage™

Built in 1895 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Historic Palm Cottage™ offers an historic view of life in a 3,500 square foot gulf-side house museum. A docent-guided tour includes access to The Norris Gardens. Museum tours run Tuesday through Saturday, from 1-4 p.m., year-round. Great for groups! Admission is \$10 for adults...members and kids under 10 are FREE!

Join Today!

Docent-Guided Tours of The Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage

Nature lovers will marvel at The Norris Gardens at Historic Palm Cottage™. The gardens feature four unique sub-tropical areas including an aquatic and edible garden with shaded seating. This tour includes a self-guided walk through the house museum. Docent-guided tours of the gardens are available every first and third Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$10 for adults. Kids under 10 and members are FREE! Reservations are required. Call (239) 261-8164.

HEIRLOOM ART DONATION

Special thanks to Alexandra S. and James B. Gunderson for recently donating two oil on canvas paintings that depict an historic vision of the Naples Pier and Naples Hotel. See them on display today in the Cottage's living and dining room.

Guided Walking Tour of the Naples Historic District

A 90-minute tour of Naples Historic District (listed in the National Register of Historic Places) offers visitors a glimpse of early Neapolitan life. Starts with a brief tour of Historic Palm Cottage™ and its gardens. Docent-guided walking tours are offered every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Cost is \$16. Member cost is \$10. Reservations are required. Call (239) 261-8164.

Full Moon Tour

Reserve now to join the last Full Moon Tour of the season. This docent-guided tour of Historic Palm Cottage starts at 8:00pm and ends in The Norris Gardens just in time to see the property lit by the full moon. A full moon tour is available on March 5, 2015. Please arrive by 7:45pm. Cost is \$10/person. Members and children 10 and under are free. Reservations are required. Please call (239) 261-8164.

Want to Volunteer?
Call Us!

Stay Connected

Join the conversation online and share your thoughts too! The Naples Historical Society encourages members and guests to become a fan of its Facebook page or leave a review on TripAdvisor. The more you brag and share, the more we can touch and preserve.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE



Students love the hands-on opportunity to peer through an antique Stereoscope



Elaine makes friends with members of the Residents Club Card



Society volunteers spend a Saturday morning talking to people outside the Naples Depot.

Pupils at Palm Cottage

Nearly every Tuesday morning we take about 40 students from area schools on a special guided tour of Palm Cottage. Our Pupils @ Palm Cottage Program will reach over 1,325 students during the 2014/2015 calendar school year.

Club Member Events

Another way we connect with the community is by co-hosting events with various civic and social club groups. Having these events at Palm Cottage allows us to showcase our services and programs, the benefits of membership, and the uniqueness of our property to a variety of member organizations.



Mr. & Mrs. William Hurdle won the complimentary Cottage rental at the 2014 Mixer. Will you be the member who wins it this year?

Naples Historical Society is often invited to participate in public outreach and awareness events hosted by government agencies like the Naples Museum or Parks Department.

Public Service

Membership Benefits:

- Free admission to Historic Palm Cottage and the Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage
- Free admission to the Cottage Theater
- Free access to the Archival Viewing Center
- Free admission to Christmas at Palm Cottage
- Free admission to all Garden Side Chickee Chats
- Discount on Historic District Walking Tours
- Discount on Palm Cottage Rentals
- Discount on in-store merchandise
- Advance notice of special events
- Satisfaction knowing your memberships supports Naples preservation



Rent Historic Palm Cottage!

Reserve an extraordinary setting for your wedding, reunion, or business event. Historic Palm Cottage in downtown Naples provides a unique venue with a rare touch of historic elegance. Host a house or garden event and your guests will remember the special day while they enjoy the magic of Naples history. Contact us at (239) 261-8164 to book your event at Historic Palm Cottage and The Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage.



Naples Historical Society

P.O. Box 201 • Naples, FL 34106

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NAPLES, FLORIDA
PERMIT NO. 36

In this issue of Cottage Review:

- ❖ Member Mixer
- ❖ Letter from CEO
- ❖ Letter from Chair
- ❖ Garden Side Chickee Chats
- ❖ Capital Improvements
- ❖ Tours of History
- ❖ Old Timer Corner



Carol & Katy pose in front of Naples High School where they worked in the English department together for over 25 years



VOLUNTEER CORNER

New docents are lifelong friends

What do you do when you retire from teaching after 30 years? If you're Carol Mitchell or Katy Weidenmiller, two recently retired Naples High School English teachers, you grab your best friend and volunteer as a teacher, of course.

Responding to an ad the Society placed in the newspaper this past summer for new Pupils at Palm Cottage volunteers, Carol thought the opportunity might be a good transition into retirement and encouraged her friend to consider it as well. After meeting with the veteran Pupils volunteer docents this past August, the two new recruits agreed that the opportunity was a perfect fit, and also left plenty of free time to exercise, join social clubs and travel.

"We worked with teenagers so it's fun to watch these fourth and fifth graders react to new information so enthusiastically," said Carol.

"I get big hugs from all the kids after the tour," said Katy. "The kids don't hide their curiosity like teenagers, and so I get asked a lot of questions."

When asked what item on the Pupils at Palm Cottage tour gets the most surprised looks, Carol said, "The vacuum; most of the kids think it's a safe."

"The Disney movie 'Frozen,' has helped the kids identify the ice tongs," said Katy. "But the grumbles I get when I show and explain the chamber pot is always the same."

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Monday, March 30, 2015 • 4:00 pm-6:00 pm