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**WHITE HOUSE LANDSCAPE HISTORIAN JONATHAN PLISKA TO KEYNOTE
122ND SPRING OUTING AT ANDREW JACKSON'S HERMITAGE**

Hundreds Expected at Annual Event Wednesday, May 17

NASHVILLE (April 18, 2023) – The annual Spring Outing at The Hermitage, one of the longest-running social occasions in Nashville and a tradition with roots dating back to the 1890s, will return to the home of Andrew Jackson for the 122nd time Wednesday, May 17. Known for its elegance, hospitality and philanthropy, the seated luncheon is anticipated to again welcome more than 400 guests to the grounds of the 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark property.

Renowned landscape historian and author Jonathan W. Pliska will deliver this year's keynote presentation. Pliska's most recent book, *A Garden for the President: A History of the White House Grounds*, was published by the White House Historical Association, the non-profit founded by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy. The book received the Gold Benjamin Franklin Award from the Independent Book Publishers Association, one of the nation's highest honors for small and independent publishers.

"It is an honor to attend this year's Spring Outing as keynote speaker," said Pliska, whose research and scholarship includes work for the National Park Service and contributions to *White House History*, the quarterly journal of the White House Historical Association. "The Hermitage is well known among presidential documentarians as one of our nation's most important historic properties, and I'm excited to be a part of this long-standing tradition."

For *A Garden for the President*, Pliska extensively explored the White House archives to present the stories behind the cultivation of the Executive Mansion gardens and grounds, along with biographical, historical and social context from different presidential eras.

"I'm grateful to have the opportunity to chair this year's event and be a part of the 122 years of history," said 2023 Spring Outing chair Dara Russell. "My family has a legacy of supporting this national historic treasure, and I could not be more pleased to share The Hermitage's story with friends, neighbors and our community."

Spring Outing originated as a picnic on the mansion's main lawn hosted by the Ladies' Hermitage Association, a group of women who organized to preserve the 7th president's "farm" and his legacy. The association later became the Andrew Jackson Foundation. Spring Outing grew in scale and prestige year after year, evolving into a premier fundraiser benefitting the foundation's education and preservation initiatives. Past speakers include former First Lady Laura Bush, former Tennessee First Lady Crissy Haslam and former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman.

The 122nd Spring Outing luncheon will feature table settings with floral arrangements created by Kerry Allen DeWitt and a menu prepared and served by Chef's Market, along with champagne and a featured cocktail. Supporting sponsors include CedarStone Bank, First Horizon, Pinnacle Financial Partners, Dara Russell and Michael Bussard, Susan Basham, and HDLA. Retired federal judge George Paine II will deliver the event's invocation and John Nau, Andrew Jackson Foundation Board Regent, will officially welcome the attendees.

"Spring Outing is an opportunity for the Nashville community to support the work that is done throughout the year to encourage education and dialog around the Jacksonian legacy," said Howard J. Kittell, president and CEO of the Andrew Jackson Foundation. "We look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones as we continue a beloved tradition at The Hermitage."

The 2023 Spring Outing begins at 11:30 a.m. May 17. Tickets start at \$150 and are available at <https://thehermitage.com/spring-outing/>. Andrew Jackson's Hermitage is located at 4580 Rachel's Lane in Nashville. For more information, visit www.thehermitage.com.

About Andrew Jackson's Hermitage

Andrew Jackson's Hermitage: Home of the People's President is one of the largest, most well-preserved and most visited presidential homes in the United States. Opened to the public in 1889, The Hermitage is one of America's first presidential museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with more than 20 historic buildings, including Jackson's mansion and tomb, restored slave cabins, a church and gardens. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as the history of slavery have enhanced the experience of more than 230,000 annual visitors. For more information, visit www.thehermitage.com.

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