



SPS Winter Meeting

The Southeastern Palm Society's winter meeting will be held in Savannah, Georgia, at 10:00 am on Saturday, February 28, 2015, at the Georgia Coastal Botanical Gardens (affectionately known to most of us as The Bamboo Farm).

The meeting will kick off in the classroom (near the sugar mill next to the main parking lot behind the cottage) with the annual auction. The auction has always been a source of excellent plants available nowhere else for members, and has become a major source of revenue for the society. Please bring a plant or two to donate, because no matter how small or how common you may think your plant may be, there will be someone in attendance who is looking for just that plant. Late winter is a great time to get a head start on getting your spring palm wish list filled! The auction always is a lot of fun and the plant selection is always incredible.

After the auction, Mr. Jamie Burghardt, the horticulture coordinator for the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, will be our featured speaker. Jamie is not only an excellent and experienced landscape designer, but he also is an avid fan of palms, citrus and other subtropical plants. With the completion of the new Visitor's Center, the Botanical Gardens has boldly stepped into a bright future, and Jamie will explain his vision for the site and how we as a society can play a role in that vision. Over the last 18 years, the Southeastern Palm Society has planted more than 200 individual palms



The new Visitor's Center at the Georgia Coastal Botanical Gardens, and winter survivor *Acrocomia totai* with *Trithrinax brasiliensis* and *Butia capitata* in the foreground. Photos: Jeff Stevens.

SPS Calendar 2015

SPS Winter Meeting

Saturday, February 28, 2015
10:00 am
Georgia Coastal Botanical
Gardens, Savannah, Georgia
Annual plant auction

SPS Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 25, 2015
10:00 am
Aquinas High School, Augusta,
Georgia
Spring plant sale

SPS Summer Meeting

Atlanta Botanical Garden
Date to be determined

SPS Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 10, 2015
10:00 am
The garden of Jeff Stevens,
Apison, Tennessee (near
Chattanooga)

Southeastern Citrus Exposition

Saturday, November 21, 2015
Cypress Gardens, Moncks Corner,
South Carolina

representing some 45 species and cultivars, and we hope to continue this work with Jamie and in accordance with the master plan.

After lunch (on your own), we will take a walking tour of the grounds, including a stop at the new Visitor's Center. Of course, palms will be the feature, but usually at this time of year, the camellia garden is in full bloom, and is a sight to behold. Many other shrubs and trees that bloom in early spring usually put forth a good show as well.

A trip to Savannah in late February often is a little like time travel: winter is left behind, at least for a while, and the south Georgia sunshine often bears a dream of spring. This coastal Georgia city is always a delight, and the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens is quickly becoming a must-see destination. See you in Savannah!

Visit online at www.coastalgeorgiabg.org for a map to the gardens. Address: 2 Cakebrake Road, Savannah, Georgia 31419.



A variety of *Livistona* palms at the Georgia Coastal Botanical Gardens. Photo: Jeff Stevens.

SPS Fall Meeting Report

The fall 2014 meeting was held on Saturday, October 11 in Athens, Georgia, on an absolutely gorgeous day that could only be described as "late summer." Temperatures in the afternoon reached the upper 80s and the meeting's conclusion was punctuated by an afternoon thundershower.

The meeting began at the State Botanical Garden just off the University of Georgia campus. The Southeastern Palm Society donated four palms to the collection at the garden: one five-gallon *Trachycarpus takil*, and three-gallon specimens each of *Sabal minor* 'Taliaferro,' *Sabal* sp. 'Tamaulipas' and *Trachycarpus nanus*. The addition of *Trachycarpus takil* will make the State Botanical Garden one of only two public gardens in the Southeast with this species, the other being the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

After a business meeting, a behind-the-scenes tour was led by Mr. Shelly Prescott, curator of the Flower Garden at the State Botanical Garden. Members were given an outstanding look at what the garden offers visitors, including the Flower Garden, International Garden, Native Garden and Heritage Garden. Staff members have added a number of palms and subtropical plants over the past decade, including *Trachycarpus*, *Chamaerops*, *Sabal*, and *Rhapidophyllum*. The

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For full addresses, see the SPS Membership Directory.

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Heritage Garden featured several types of Asian persimmons, paw paws and hardy citrus, among many other interesting plants.

Lunch was at Cali and Tito's restaurant in, which features dozens of mature *Sabal palmetto*, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, and *Butia*. Then the group headed to the campus of the University of Georgia. The first stop was the Latin American garden on north campus, which holds plants that are culturally important to that region, including *Sabal palmetto*, *Agave spp.*, *Yucca spp.*, and many other plants.

After that, the group visited the UGA Trial Gardens on south campus. As the name indicates, the Trial Gardens tests new cultivars and species of perennials for their suitability to Southern conditions. The group was amazed to see large and healthy specimens of *Antigonon leptopus* (coral vine), *Thunbergia erecta* (king's mantle), variegated *Manihot grahamii*, and many, many other beautiful plants.

All in all, Athens has an incredible variety of plants for the subtropical enthusiast—we will be back!

SPS Meeting Minutes

by Tom McClendon

Minutes from the SPS fall meeting held on October 11, 2014.

Officers for 2015

Elections for the coming year were held, and the following officers chosen:

- Tom McClendon, president
- Joe LeVert, vice president
- Jeff Stevens, secretary
- Phil Bennion, treasurer.

Meeting dates and locations for 2015

See the sidebar on page 1. Some dates may be subject to change.

Changes in the Society: The Way Forward

The Southeastern Palm Society has had a proud history in the horticultural world since 1992. When SPS initially formed, there was very little information available on hardy palms and subtropicals for the Southeast, and the Internet was in its infancy. During the period from 1995 to 2007, SPS was instrumental in developing and promulgating information on hardy palms and in increasing their popularity as landscape plants.

As time passed, information about and access to hardy palms became readily available on the Internet and at retail locations. Landscaping with palms and subtropicals has gone mainstream. At the same time, SPS membership is centralizing to a core of champion enthusiasts. A survey of the membership last year indicated that while attending meetings is very important, locations of meetings should be limited when possible to sites within 100 miles of areas with high concentrations of members.

The following changes to the societal structure were proposed and approved.

Membership

- Beginning January 2015, there will no longer be formal dues for members. Membership will be free and open to all.
- A \$10 gift membership will be instituted. Members paying the \$10 gift membership will keep their name on the official SPS membership list, and will receive the quarterly newsletter and *Southeastern Palms* immediately via e-mail in electronic format.

Southeastern Palms

After 2014 obligations for printed issues of *Southeastern Palms* are met, *Southeastern Palms* will be published only in electronic format. Copies will be available through the web site.

Website

The Society will initiate a new, user-friendly web site.

Meetings

Quarterly meetings will continue at interesting public and private gardens, with an emphasis on locations within 100 miles of membership concentrations.

Revenue

Revenue to the Society will come from four sources:

- The \$10 gift memberships
- The annual auction (winter meeting), and
- A spring plant sale.