



The Southeastern Palm Society™

Quarterly
Newsletter

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Editor: Jeff Stevens

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SPS Spring Meeting

Join us for the Southeastern Palm Society's spring meeting and plant sale on Saturday, April 25, 2015 in Augusta, Georgia. The day begins at 10:00 am at Aquinas High School, where our host SPS member Joe LeVert teaches.

But it's tempting to say *Aquinas Botanical Garden*, because for decades Joe has planted a wide array of experimental and successful plants there. Extensive collections of hardy palms and hardy citrus are accompanied by agaves, bamboo, bananas, cycads, and many of the more interesting examples of the horticultural alphabet all the way to Z.

The meeting will feature a plant sale, so bring any plants you'd like to sell or trade. And if you can't bring anything, you can always shop. This is the perfect time of year to find that palm or subtropical you've always wanted.

Agenda

- 9:00 am Board meeting
- 10:00 am General Meeting and tour Aquinas High School gardens
- 11:00 am Tour Joe's garden
- 11:30 am [Bedford Greenhouses](#)
- 12:30 pm Lunch (on your own)
- Afternoon [Woodlanders](#) Open House

Directions

Aquinas High School is located at 1920 Highland Avenue, Augusta, Georgia 30904. From I-20, take I-520 south to Exit 3A for US 78/278. Turn left onto US 78/278 and go 1.7 miles. Turn left onto Highland Avenue and go 0.8 miles. Aquinas High School is on the right. Joe will have maps on hand to guide us to the nearby nurseries.

Great Nurseries Nearby

Make the most of April 25 by combining the SPS Spring Meeting with visits to unique nurseries just a short drive from Aquinas High School.

[Bedford Greenhouses](#) is a hidden gem of a nursery in the Lake Olmstead area of Augusta. The variety of summer annuals they offer is astounding and not to be missed. For example, you will find cultivars of *Salvia* and *Caladiums* that you have read about but will never find in a big-box store. Bedford Greenhouses also has some

SPS Calendar

SPS Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 25, 2015

10:00 am

Aquinas High School, Augusta,
Georgia

Spring plant sale

SPS Summer Meeting

Atlanta Botanical Garden

July (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

SPS Winter Meeting

Location to be determined

Saturday, February 27, 2016

great perennials, broadleaf evergreens, and other plants that broadcast “Southern garden.” Many plants are offered that will complement your palms. On site are some amazing plants as well, such as a large *Erythrina crista-galli*, gorgeous camellias, and a semi-famous Sabal palm that defies classification.

And it’s open house and plant sale day at [Woodlanders](#) in Aiken, South Carolina. Many plants will be on offer, but remember to place a prior order if you want to pick up specific plants. Hours: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

SPS Winter Meeting

The Georgia Coastal Botanical Gardens (the Bamboo Farm) in Savannah, Georgia was the site of the Southeastern Palm Society’s winter meeting on Saturday, February 28, 2015.

Jamie Burghardt, the horticulture coordinator for the Gardens described the history of the gardens and the progress and plans to add theme gardens, many of which include palms. We also toured the entire garden, including the beautiful new Visitor Center. Watch for an article by Jamie in a future issue of *Southeastern Palms*.

The SPS annual auction offered hardy palms, many citrus varieties, other subtropical ornamental plants and several books about palms. A big thank you to everyone who both donated plants and bid on them. Your bids earned \$475 for the society.



Left: Jamie Burghardt, horticultural coordinator, explained the vision for the gardens.

Right: Jaime obtained these large and perfect *Dioon edule* for the garden. That’s Phil Bennion giving an idea of the size of these striking cycads.

Photos: Jeff Stevens.

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For full addresses, see the SPS Membership Directory.

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