



## SPS Spring Meeting

Join us on Saturday, May 3, 2014, for the SPS spring meeting at the garden of long-time members Bill and Brenda Huie and at Jim and Deborah Rodgers' Nearly Native Nurseries, both just south of Atlanta. Those who attended our 2009 meeting at these locations will know that we're in for a great day.

The Huie garden features mature palm specimens, including many that push the limits of cold tolerance. Bill will explain the effect of last winter's extended cold on the palms and subtropicals in the collection.

And the selection of both native and introduced plants at Nearly Native Nursery is exceptional. Many are not found at typical garden centers. The nursery also features extensive display gardens, including a desert garden that features cactus and other dry-climate plants installed on mounds of red sand. Sedona in the South!

Remember, both members and non-members are welcome at SPS meetings. So bring a gardening friend or two. See you there!

### Agenda

- 9.00 am SPS board meeting
- 10.00 am Meet at Bill and Brenda Huie's garden for the SPS spring plant sale. Bring any palms and other plants you have for sale or trade. The more the merrier!
- 10.30 am Welcome and announcements
- 10.45 am Tour of the Huie garden
- 12.15 pm Lunch is on our own, with plenty of choices in Fayetteville (on the way to Nearly Native Nursery)
- 1.15 pm Meet at Nearly Native Nursery

### Directions

Bill and Brenda Huie  
155 Chimney Springs Road  
Tyrone GA 30290

The Huie's home and garden is about 10 minutes from Exit 61 on I-85 just southwest of Atlanta. From Exit 61 go south on Senoia Road/GA Hwy 74 for 4.8 miles. Turn left on Tyrone Road and continue for 0.5 miles. Then turn right on Farr Road. Take the third left onto Chimney

## SPS Calendar 2014

### SPS Spring Meeting

Saturday, May 3, 2014

The garden of Bill and Brenda Huie, Tyrone, Georgia; and Nearly Native Nursery, Fayetteville, Georgia

### International Palm Society Biennial

May 24-30, 2014

Miami and Key West, Florida

Visit [www.palms.org](http://www.palms.org) for details

### SPS Summer Meeting

Saturday, August 9, 2014

Plant Delights Nursery and other palm sites in Raleigh, North Carolina

### SPS Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 4, 2014

The garden of Jeff Stevens, Apison, Tennessee other palmy sites near Chattanooga, Tennessee

### Southeastern Citrus Exposition

Friday evening and Saturday, November 14-15, 2014

Tifton, Georgia

Visit [www.facebook.com/SoutheasternCitrusExpo](http://www.facebook.com/SoutheasternCitrusExpo) for details.

Springs Road. The Huie's home is on the right.

From the Huie's, it's about 25 minutes to Nearly Native Nursery.

Nearly Native Nursery  
776 McBride Road  
Fayetteville GA 30215  
770-460-6284  
[www.nearlynativenursery.com](http://www.nearlynativenursery.com)

Turn left onto Farr Road and continue 0.6 miles. Turn left onto Dogwood Trail and continue 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Tyrone Road and continue 1.5 miles. Turn left onto GA 54 and continue 4.2 miles into Fayetteville. Fayetteville has several good choices for lunch.

From Fayetteville, take GA Hwy 85 south and continue about 4.5 miles. McBride Road is on the left, though a left turn is not permitted. Continue south until a U-turn is possible. Then go back north and turn right on McBride Road. The nursery is immediately on the right.

## Winter Meeting Report

After a winter of extended cold and even some heavy snow in many parts of the Southeast, it was a welcome break to return to Savannah, Georgia, on a warm and sunny day for the SPS winter meeting on Saturday, March 1, 2014. The Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens (Bamboo Farm) was once again our host.

Tom McClendon shared his years of experience in locating native *Sabal minor* at the northern edge of its range in the Georgia Piedmont. He pointed out that one doesn't have to travel extensively or expensively to find and enjoy palms. By developing an observant eye and knowing where to look, native palms can be found well into the Piedmont of the Southeast. Tom related his early interest in palms grew alongside his "roadside botanist" expertise—spotting palms from a moving car.

Ample maps and photographs illustrated the habitat and conditions dwarf palmettos like in the Piedmont. Look along feeder streams of larger rivers, and in smooth, dark, silty clay. The companion plants American holly, horse sugar, river birch, Southern magnolia, sweetbay magnolia, native bamboo and coastal leucothoe are also likely to occur alongside dwarf palmettos.

The annual SPS winter plant auction followed, with some excellent palms, elephant ears, plumeria, cactus and Thai hybrid crown of thorns up for bid. The winning bids totaled \$450 in income for the society, which represents a lot of generous bidding by the 35 or so attendees.

After lunch, the group reconvened for a walk around the Bamboo Farm. The growth in plant size of the *Sabal* collection was amazing, and the group assessed any winter effects on the entire palm collection. Fortunately, most palms came through with little or no damage.

## Contacts SPS

[www.sepalms.org](http://www.sepalms.org)  
[www.facebook.com/sepalms](http://www.facebook.com/sepalms)

For full addresses, see your copy of the SPS Membership Directory.

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## From the Editor

You all must be as relieved as I am to get beyond this winter. I spent most of January alternating between disbelief and stoical acceptance. And now, like me, you're probably evaluating the condition of your palms and other prized plants, as well as playing in the dirt again.

I and the rest of the SPS volunteers would like to thank you for your patience with our "Southern efficiency" and apologize for the delay in getting an overdue issue of *Southeastern Palms* in your hands. We're working hard to catch up and move into new material for future issues.

In the next issue you'll enjoy an article by Tom McClendon and Hayes Jackson on native *Sabal minor* at the inland edge of its range, and also a simple explanation of the recent reorganization of *Butia* palms.

The good news from the taxonomists is that there is a wider variety of *Butia* species with hardiness potential that should be tried in the Southeast. They include some lovely dwarf species that would be a snap to protect during a winter like the last one. Any volunteers to hop over to Brazil and its southern neighbors to collect seed?

Along with the next issue, you'll receive a confirmation of your membership status at the top of the mailing label. And if you're due to renew for 2014, the notice will be in the envelope. And thank you if you've already renewed.

Future issues of *Southeastern Palms* will feature more original articles, plus assessments of the effect of January's weather on our prized palms and subtropicals. None of us begged for a polar vortex, but we'll at least document what we've learned. And I suspect without freezing our enthusiasm.

—Jeff Stevens, *SPS Newsletter editor*