



The Southeastern Palm Society™

Quarterly
Newsletter

Volume 2-2, Summer 2013

Editor: Jeff Stevens

SPS Summer Meeting

Location The garden of Robert Craddock
430 Deer Ridge Drive
Hardy VA 24101-3413
(Hardy is just southeast of Roanoke in Franklin County.)

Date Saturday, August 3, 2013

Agenda 9.00 am SPS Board Meeting
10.00 am The meeting begins with a plant sale
10.30 am Welcome and announcements
10.45 am Tour Robert's garden
Lunch We'll take orders and cash for lunch

Join us for the SPS summer meeting on Saturday, August 3, 2013 at the garden of SPS member Robert Craddock near Roanoke, Virginia. Robert's garden features over 100 *Trachycarpus* palms, Sabal palms, needle palms, and collections of evergreen and deciduous magnolias, hardy agaves and yuccas, the rare *Torreya taxifolia*, bamboo, and flowering plants, such as hibiscus. It's a great example of what can be grown successfully in Zone 7a in the Southeast.

Robert wrote an article for *Southeastern Palms* in 2005. For a preview of what's in store for us, it's reprinted on pages 3 and 4 below. The meeting will give us a chance to see the many additions to the garden and how it's changed in the past eight years.

The day will begin with a plant sale, so bring whatever you've been sprouting and propagating this year. Be sure to wear walking shoes and bring lawn chairs. Drinks will be provided. See you there!

Directions

From Roanoke at I-581/US220:

- Take Exit 6 and go east on VA 24 for 3.1 miles. (VA 24 changes names several times.)
- Turn right on VA-634/Hardy Road and continue for 7.3 miles.
- Turn right on Edwardsville Road and continue 2.4 miles.
- Turn right on Winterhill Drive and continue 0.4 miles.
- Turn left on Owl Ridge Drive and continue 0.1 miles
- Turn Left on Deer Ridge Drive and continue 0.3 miles.

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SPS Calendar

2013

SPS Summer Meeting

Saturday, August 3, 2013
The garden of Robert Craddock
Hardy, Virginia

SPS Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 12, 2013
The garden of Kyle Brown
Glen St Mary, Florida

Southeastern Citrus Exposition

Friday and Saturday,
November 15-16, 2013
Clanton, Alabama (includes tours
of Longleaf Botanical Garden in
Anniston and Petals From the
Past in Jemison)

2014

SPS Meetings

Under consideration are prime
locations ranging from Georgia
and southeastern Tennessee to
North Carolina. More details
coming in the next issue.

International Palm Society Biennial

May 24-30, 2014
Miami and Key West
Visit www.palms.org for details.

From Rocky Mount and US 220 to the south:

- Go northeast on VA 40/Franklin Street and continue 0.9 miles.
- Turn left on VA 122/Booker T Washington Highway and continue 10.8 miles.
- Turn left on Harmony School Road, which becomes Edwardsville Road, and continue 4.7 miles.
- Turn left on Winterhill Drive and continue as above.
- Turn left on Owl Ridge Drive and continue 0.1 miles
- Turn Left on Deer Ridge Drive and continue 0.3 miles.

Note: Robert reports that some GPS services can't find Deer Ridge Drive. MapQuest recognizes it, though Google Maps only gets as close as Owl Ridge Drive.

Spring Meeting Report

SPS member Dick George hosted the spring meeting at his garden, Quinta del Sol in Macon, Georgia, on Saturday, May 11, 2013.

Dick was a fascinating host and storyteller, and the gardens showed off his imagination for both palms and subtropical plants and for garden art.

Photos: Johnny Cochran



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

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Palms in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia

Text and photos by Robert Craddock, Hardy, Virginia

Reprinted from *Southeastern Palms*, Vol. 13-3, Fall 2005

I've been growing palms outdoors for nearly a decade here just east of Roanoke, Virginia. When I began, I knew that even though my site has good cold-air drainage, any palm planted here would have to withstand the long periods of cold that are frequent in my USDA Zone 7a climate, with its winter lows of 0°F to 5°F (-18°C to -15°C). That meant that for the most part, I'd use windmill palms, dwarf palmettos and needle palms. I also have a strong interest in bananas, yuccas and magnolias.

All of the palms I'm growing were planted in amended soil and given protection for the first few years from overhead moisture and cold. I also gave them one or two applications of 10-10-10 liquid fertilizer annually. I've noticed that my palms sustain little or even no damage if they are not trying to push out lots of new growth in the fall and are well hardened off. In fact, palms that appear almost chlorotic with light green to almost yellow leaves from lack of fertilizer seem to make it through the winter looking the best.

The oldest and tallest palm I'm growing was purchased from Endangered Species in 1989. It was listed as *Trachycarpus khasyanus*, evidently now called *Trachycarpus martianus* 'Khasia Hills form' by Gibbons and Spanner. At the time, it was thought to be very cold hardy, though since then, something of a mystery has developed around its identity. I raised it in a pot and then planted it outdoors in March 1996 when it was about three feet tall.

For the palm's first few winters outdoors it was completely covered with plastic and the enclosure stuffed with straw. But some of those winters were mild and the palm was overheated once, resulting in 50 percent defoliation. I later

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Palms enhance any season. Here amidst the southwestern Virginia fall foliage are a trio of Robert Craddock's *Trachycarpus* palms. Left to right are 'Charlotte', 'mystery identity' and 'Greensboro'.



Yucca torreyi and *Pinus palustris* on a nearly-electric fall day.

learned to provide plenty of ventilation whenever anything is protected that way.

I'm also growing the 'Norfolk', 'Charlotte' and 'Greensboro' forms of the windmill palm, *Trachycarpus fortunei*. Each has a different look, growth rate and cold hardiness. 'Norfolk' was planted in 1997 and is a fraction the size of the *Trachycarpus khasyanus*, but has been the most cold hardy of the windmills for me. It exhibited absolutely no cold damage after the winter of 2003–2004, at a low of about 8°F (-13°C) and has the most drooping leaf tips of all the windmill palms I'm growing. I thought the drooping leaf tip forms were less cold hardy, but not in this case. The least cold hardy of my windmill palms has turned out to be the *Trachycarpus khasyanus*.

At last winter's low temperature the *khasyanus* suffered damage to about 30 percent of its leaves. And though it has bloomed since 1999, it set seed for the first time this spring, and without a *Trachycarpus* pollinator. The seeds are reniform, or kidney-shaped, meaning that at least it couldn't be *Trachycarpus martianus/khasyanus*. Its leaf form and general appearance has also turned out to be similar to *Trachycarpus fortunei*.

So my first and tallest palm, now reaching 16 feet overall, may be something other than what I thought it was, perhaps a hybrid of some sort. But it doesn't matter. The palm is still the pride of my collection.



Yucca schottii.



Robert with his *Trachycarpus fortunei* 'Norfolk', with a small *Rhipidophyllum hystrix* to the left. This photo: Mike Morgan.