



The Southeastern Palm Society™

Quarterly
Newsletter

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Editor: Jeff Stevens

www.sepalms.org and www.facebook.com/sepalms

SPS Fall Meeting

Join us on Saturday, October 10, 2015, for the SPS fall meeting. Jeff Stevens is hosting the event at his home and garden in Apison, Tennessee, just east of Chattanooga.

Jeff began planting palms in the early 1990s, beginning with two little seedlings of *Rapidophyllum hystrix*, whose survival and success made him a hardy palm believer. Other palms followed, so there are mature examples of *Rapidophyllum*, *Sabal minor*, *Trachycarpus fortunei* and others surrounding his home.

There are limited number of palms that will grow outdoors in southeastern Tennessee, so the garden interest had to extend to other winter-denying plants, such as broad-leaved evergreens. These include oaks from Asia, magnolias, and other unusual specimens such as *Trochodendron aralioides*, the wheel tree. They're punctuated by unusual conifers, such as *Sequoia sempervirens* (coast redwood) and what is likely the largest, most inland *Araucaria angustifolia* (Paraná pine), in the Southeast. (Jeff would love to be proven wrong, as he loves this prickly Brazilian tree, the symbol of the southern state of Paraná.)

There's also a mature collection of oaks from Mexico and the Southwest, which was established as YuccaDo first began providing those trees from their Mexican expeditions in 2000. The trees fill a hillside and offer a glimpse of the amazing variety among oaks.

Lunch will be provided, accompanied by a selection of Brazilian fruit juices.

After lunch, there will be time for a visit to the palm collection at Bonny Oaks Arboretum. Most of the palms are thriving after the past two cold winters, but the loss of several is surprising.

As always, both members and nonmembers are welcome at SPS meetings, so bring a friend! And feel free to bring plants for sale or trade.



A imitation of South Florida in Tennessee: Jeff's *Sabal palmetto* with Fireball bromeliad.

SPS Calendar

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 (near
Charleston)

SPS 2016 Meetings

Planning is underway for 2016 meetings. Watch for locations and dates in the next SPS Newsletter.

Agenda

- 9:00 am Board meeting
10:00 am Welcome and announcements
10:15 am Tour of Jeff's garden
12:00 noon Lunch (provided)
Afternoon Bonny Oaks Arboretum, 6183 Adamson Circle,
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37416 [[map](#)]

Directions

Jeff Stevens [[map](#)]
10665 High Point Road
Apison TN 37302

From Atlanta

Follow I-75 north and take Exit 345 (Ringgold, Georgia). Turn right on US 41/76 and continue 1.5 miles. Turn right on Cherokee Valley Road* and continue 5.6 miles. Turn right on East Brainerd Road (entering Tennessee) and continue 1.8 miles. Turn left on Camp Road and continue 0.9 miles. Turn left on High Point Road and continue to the second drive on the right.

*The April 2011 E4 tornado tore through Ringgold and Cherokee Valley, Georgia, and Apison, Tennessee.

From Chattanooga

From I-75, take Exit 3, east on East Brainerd Road, and continue 9.1 miles. Turn left on Camp Road and continue 0.9 miles. Turn left on High Point Road and continue to the second drive on the right. (There are more routes from Chattanooga and Ooltewah; this one has the least turns.)

A note on parking. Park along High Point Road. If you or a passenger have trouble walking up the hill, feel free to drive up the driveway.

SPS Summer Meeting Report

It was with expectation that SPS members returned to the garden of Bill and Brenda Huie in Tyrone, Georgia, on Saturday, August 1, 2015.

The Huie's palm collection, which encompasses the back of their home and surrounds their pool, was in great condition after two punishing winters, and the survival of a new row of hardy citrus trees added to the sense of success.

Tom McClendon provided easy instructions on how to graft citrus trees to rootstock for the best results. One of the main advantages of



The Mexican oak *Quercus germana*, with hot-pink new leaves, growing in the hills of Tennessee.

Contacts SPS

www.sepalms.org
www.facebook.com/sepalms

For full addresses, see the SPS Membership Directory.

President and Editor of *Southeastern Palms*

Tom McClendon
tmccclendon@camden.k12.ga.us

Vice President

Joe LeVert
jlevert@ix.netcom.com

Secretary, *SPS Newsletter* Editor and layout/production/ mailing of *Southeastern Palms*, Webmaster

Jeff Stevens
jeffstev@comcast.net

Treasurer and Membership Contact

Will Taylor
tnpalmdude@comcast.net

Alabama Director

Hayes Jackson
N2tropicAL@aol.com

Georgia Director

Will Fell, Jr.
wfell@darientel.net

North Carolina Director

Keith Endres
endres.keith@epa.gov

South Carolina Director

Rick Davis
rickdavis@comporium.net

Tennessee Director

David Cox
david@acmeengraving.net

Director-at-Large

Johnny Cochran
johnnyc9@aol.com

General Counsel

Alex Woollcott
woollcott2004@comcast.net

grafting, Tom says, is that grafted trees will commence fruiting in a season or two. This is in contrast with growing citrus from seed. Some citrus seedlings may take as long to bear fruit as it took Tom's son to grow from infancy to his admission to the University of Georgia.

A lunch of delicious sandwiches and salad were provided by Alex Wollcott, accompanied by homemade desserts by Brenda Huie.

Early afternoon was spent at Jim and Deb Rogers' Nearly Native Nurseries in Fayetteville, and no one left empty handed. In fact, several vehicles drove away with many of the nursery's unusual native offerings, including the hard-to-find Southern poinsettia, *Pinckneya bracteata*.

Many were sorry to find the nursery's collection of snakes had been discontinued since our last visit. And perhaps some were not?—though the editor missed them.



Summer meeting photos

Above: The south-facing side of Bill and Brenda Huie's home and palm collection. *Sabal* and *Trachycarpus* predominate.

Center: Smaller *Sabal* palms make an excellent surround for a swimming pool without casting shade on swimmers.

Below: Tom McClendon was suddenly assisted by an unexpected helper as he explained simple methods for grafting and propagating citrus trees.

Photos: Jeff Stevens

