



## SPS Winter Meeting

Join us at 10:00 am on Saturday, February 27, 2016, for the Southeastern Palm Society's winter meeting. The day will offer late-winter palm and subtropical therapy at outstanding palm collections at the intersection of coastal Georgia and northeastern Florida.

We'll begin at the garden of Tom and Kay McClendon in St. Marys, Georgia. Tom and Kay have lived in St. Marys for the past 13 years, so enough time has passed for the development of a mature garden. Tom has been working on his doctorate degree for the past three years and hasn't had time to devote to further developing his plantings, but the garden has mature specimens of unusual palms for the area such as *Arenga engleri*, *Phoenix roebelenii*, *Trachycarpus martianus*, *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*, and many other common palms. The garden also contains many subtropical plants and also a citrus collection.

After a tour of the garden, the annual plant auction will be held. This has become the Society's largest single fund-raiser, so please bring a plant or two to donate. After the auction, the group will head briefly to downtown St. Marys to see some unusual palms that Tom planted in a median, including pure *Washingtonia filifera* and *Sabal pumos*.

For lunch we'll drive to the Kingsland Chick-fil-A, and then head down I-95 to the campus of the Florida State College at Jacksonville (South Campus), a 30-minute drive from Kingsland. FSCJ has an outstanding palm collection that boasts palms not normally seen outside of central Florida, including *Bismarckia nobilis*, *Sabal mauritiformis* and *Dypsis decaryi*—and this just begins to describe the many outstanding specimens there, all within a small area and all excellently labeled. For those inclined, the FSCJ is near some excellent



Tom's prize hardy queen palm, with palmettos to the right.  
Photo: Tom McClendon.

## SPS Calendar

### SPS Winter Meeting

Saturday, February 27, 2016

Locations:

- The garden of Tom and Kay McClendon, St. Marys, Georgia, and
- The palm collection at the Florida State College Jacksonville (South Campus)

### SPS Spring Meeting

Date and location to be determined

### SPS Summer Meeting

Date and location to be determined

### SPS Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 1, 2016

Locations:

- Longleaf Botanical Gardens, Anniston, Alabama (at the Anniston museum complex), and
- The garden of Hayes Jackson, also in Anniston

### Southeastern Citrus Exposition

November 2016

Fort Valley, Georgia

[Watch](#) for more details.

nurseries and within a few miles of the Atlantic Ocean.

### Agenda and addresses

Tom and Kay McClendon

810 Park Street

St. Marys, Georgia 31558 [[map](#)]

9:00 am Board meeting

10:00 am The general meeting begins with welcome and announcements, garden tour, annual plant auction, and a tour of palm in downtown St. Marys

Chick-fil-A, 1369 GA-40, Kingsland GA 31548 [[map](#)] for lunch, then

Florida State College at Jacksonville (South Campus)

11901 Beach Boulevard

Jacksonville FL 32246 [[map](#)]

## Obituary: Rick Davis

It's with sadness that we write that long-time SPS member Loyd Richard (Rick) Davis, 65, passed away on November 27, 2015. Rick gardened and maintained a palm collection in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He served as SPS director for South Carolina from 2010 until his passing.

Rick was an early winner of the SPS Hometown Grant Award, which he used to plant a hardy palm display at the US Post Office where he worked and from which he later retired.

Rick is survived by his wife Karen, his mother, two daughters, six grandchildren and many members of his extended family.

We remember Rick:

- "He was a true Southern gentleman and a friend to us all." (Tom McClendon)
- "Rick was very kind to everyone and truly loved plants and the Southeastern Palm Society." (Gary Hollar)
- "Smiles, friendliness, and stories of palms, fishing and family, plus true generosity of spirit are things I remember about Rick. I was fortunate to visit Rick and Karen in November at his mother's home in Mableton, Georgia." (Jeff Stevens)
- "Just a few weeks ago my wife and I walked with Rick on a rainy day through his garden enjoying the many things he had planted. He spoke passionately of things he had planted and what he was going to do in the future. I am sure Rick is in a more beautiful place now but I will try to remember the small special moments here that I so often overlook." (Mick Hartley)



## Contacts SPS

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

[www.facebook.com/sepalms](https://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

In memory of Rick Davis

### Tennessee director

David Cox

david@acmeengraving.net

### Director-at-large

Johnny Cochran

johnnyc9@aol.com

### General counsel

Alex Woollcott

woollcott2004@comcast.net

# SPS Fall Meeting Report

Given that southeastern Tennessee was the center of a stationary rain system and is out on the edge of SPS territory, host Jeff Stevens of Apison, Tennessee was pleased with the attendance at the Southeastern Palm Society fall meeting on October 10, 2015. Some members came from as far away as south Georgia.

The rain let up long enough to have a hour's time in the garden to observe mature hardy palms and also subtropicals from Mexico and Asia. And there was plenty of conversation and food to keep the group going when indoors. The group parted about 3 pm.

Given the weather, we didn't get to the palm garden at Bonny Oaks Arboretum. But the past two winters left its *Trachycarpus fortunei*, *Rhapidophyllum hystrix*, *Sabal minor*, *Sabal etonia* and *Sabal* 'Birmingham' with anything from some leaf loss (*Trachycarpus fortunei* and *Sabal etonia*) to no damage at all. *Chamaerops humilis* lost its main trunk, though suckers survive, and the two big *Sabal minor* var. *Louisiana* were killed outright, in interesting contrast to *Sabal etonia*.

Chattanooga is a couple degrees warmer in absolute low temperatures than Jeff's place in the county, where he recorded 3°F (-16°C) in 2014 and 7°F (-14°C) in 2015 with days below freezing on two occasions in both winters.

The survival report from Jeff's garden is similar, though his two *Sabal minor* var. *Louisiana* and a *Sabal* sp. 'Tamaulipas' had a little unusual leaf damage, but are fine.

## Greetings from Tamar

Tamar Myers recently phoned and revealed that her latest palm garden is now firmly established in Sun City, Arizona.

Tamar and husband Jeffrey recently moved to the arid-zone Phoenix suburb from Charlotte, North Carolina. Besides maintaining her position as an expert on cold-hardy palms, Tamar continues to author multiple series of entertaining mystery novels.

At right Tamar is looking great on a visit to the colder climate of the Flagstaff area. Below is her *Phoenix reclinata*, guarded by Pagan, the serious-looking African basenji. And look, Southerners: Not a single wet-climate weed, either of the native or foreign type, creeping in to take over of the desert gravel!

Tamar founded the Temperate Zone Palm Society (1983 to 1990), and edited and illustrated its journal, *The Palm Quarterly*.

Photos provided by Tamar.



Some of Jeff's hardy and non-hardy plants (on a sunnier day) and tropical refreshments for the meeting. Photos: The editor.

