



## CFPACS on the Space Coast

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Our first meeting of 2025 was spread between three sites, two of which were formally scheduled and one that was an impromptu surprise. It was a perfect progression from one of our newest gardens, the garden of one of our former presidents, and one of the most well-known gardens in CFPACS lore. As the gardens were all on barrier islands in East Central Florida, they enjoy the mildest microclimates available in our region. With a mostly frost-free and freeze-free climate to enjoy, the palms at each of the three gardens were healthy and robust.

The first stop of our tour was at the garden of Dean Morrow in Merritt Island. The entire lot was beautifully landscaped and featured a densely planted garden, filled to the brim with rare and beautiful palm species that push the envelope of even the best microclimates of Central Florida. In addition to the wonderful garden, the fire pit area, complete with a shaded nursery where the Dean grows an extensive array of seedlings for later use in the garden and small sales, provided a great place to relax for those who wanted some time out of the sun. Members continued to show up at regular intervals, so while a second group was getting a tour of Dean's garden, former CFPACS president Dave Reid invited the group that had finished for an impromptu tour of his garden.

The group that left for Dave's got to enjoy an extensive tour of the large lot with canopy in place for shelter against the infrequent cold snaps the area experiences. Large *Veitchia arecina* and *Chrysalidocarpus leptocarpus* greeted members at the entrance to the house. As Dave led the group on a mostly shaded tour, the copious use of crownshaft palms, winding paths, and dense foliage were a welcome treat on a hot afternoon.

At the conclusion of the second tour, we were on to one of the most revered gardens in Central Florida. The garden of Anne Michael and family is quite a sight to behold. Adorned with classic favorites like coconut palms and *Roystonea regia*, the garden also boasts plenty of *Borassus*, *Latania*, and *Ptychosperma* to keep those with more exotic interests attentive to the tour. Jason Baker made an appearance as our tour guide. Easy to find due to his height and large frame and knowledgeable beyond belief, Jason's tour was informative and entertaining for the seasoned veterans and new members alike.

At the conclusion of the tour, it was time for the auction and sale. The auctioneers kept the plants and the cash moving, and attendees were free to buy from multiple vendors and load up for the drive home. We hope that the progression of gardens from newest to oldest provided some great inspiration for everyone, no matter where they are in their own garden journey. The next meeting was announced for Saint Augustine on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 10am. To our knowledge, all of the gardens on the tour are new to our members. We hope that you'll join us for the summer meeting and look forward to seeing everyone there!





*The tour begins at Dean's*



*Dean's seedling room.*



*Party in the front.*





*Approaching Dave's house for the tour.*



*The group congregates near the starting point of the tour.*



*What a wonderful, shady retreat after a long day!*





*A wonderful view of the shoreline at the Michael garden.*



*Tour guide Jason Baker keeps the attendees moving through the garden tour.*

### **Additional Links**

Spring Meeting 2025:

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/88009-central-florida-palm-cycad-society-spring-2025-meeting/>

The IPS Webinar series is available on our Publications page:

<https://cfpacs.com/org/palmateer/>

Summer Meeting 2025:

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/88958-central-florida-palm-cycad-society-summer-2025-meeting/>