



## CFPACS Does St. Augustine

Author: Jeremy Evanchesky

The Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society has experienced a large influx of membership from the areas in Florida north of Daytona Beach. We've also been invited to attend joint meetings with the First Coast Palm and Cycad Society (FCPACS) and the Southeastern Palm Society in recent years. Many of the new members and the members we share with other societies like to attend our meetings when we are able to schedule them within a respectable driving distance. Since three of our members in the St. Augustine area volunteered to host us for the summer meeting, it was a natural fit for a joint meeting. With members from three societies, the tour was packed with familiar faces.

The first tour was in the St. Augustine South neighborhood, our lone sight on mainland Florida. Sited only a few blocks from the intercoastal waterway, crownshaft palms and mangoes that have difficulty growing only a few more miles inland grow quite comfortably in the sheltered garden of Lou Greco. To our knowledge, this is the only meeting we've ever had where we had high enough attendance to schedule a shuttle service. After a riveting tour, Lou was awarded two host plants, an *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* and a *Ptychosperma macarthurii*.

Members gradually filtered through the tour and stopped to converse and ask Lou questions about the garden. After satisfying their curiosity, it was time to head back to their vehicles and depart for the second site on the tour; the garden of Justin Alderfer on Anastasia Island. Once again, the group filtered through the pathways of another seemingly impossible garden for a location at 29°N on the Florida peninsula. Of the stars of the show, the *Chrysalidocarpus cabadae* lining the property's fenceline stood out, along with the dense plantings along the paths and the *Copernicia fallaensis* and *Satakentia liukuensis* at the entrance. As folks departed from Justin's garden to take lunch on the way, Justin was awarded a *Dioon edule* as a host gift.

The society, vendors, and attendees alike were in for a real treat whenever everyone arrived at the garden of Christian Chorneyko in the Davis Shores area of Anastasia Island. After a quick tour around the incredible property, everyone settled in the shade for the auction and then the vendor sales. Air Plant Supply also provided a wonderful selection of air plants for purchase at incredible prices. If you left this meeting empty handed, it was your own fault. 😊

A very big thank you to each of our hosts for putting in all of the hard work getting their gardens in tip-top shape and showing the rest of us that living above Daytona and the I-4 corridor is not a gardening death sentence. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Meeting in the area of Longwood near Wekiva Springs on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 10am.





*The entrance to the garden of Lou Greco.*



*Lou receives one of his two host plants, an *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*.*





*Lou guides the tour and answers questions..*



*One of the many Beccariophoenix alfredii in Lou's Garden.*





*Copernicia fallaensis* at the entrance to Justin Alderfer's garden..



*Justin leads the tour as attendees literally wrap around his house.*





*Justin receives a *Dioon edule* from Libby.*



*The tour commences at Christian's garden.*





*Christian greets CFPACS President Dave Hall.*



*Christian's pool area is incredible!*





*Attendees packed both the front yard and the back yard.*



*This Roystonea regia stole the show.*

## **Additional Links**

Summer Meeting 2025:

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

The IPS Webinar series is available on our Publications page:

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

Fall Meeting 2025:

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/89888-central-florida-palm-cycad-society-fall-2025-meeting/>