

# The Palmateer

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Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

March 2021

## Spring Has Sprung

Dean Vanderbleek's was the first stop, South Daytona Shores

By Libby Luedeke

Even though the weather threw us a curve ball on our original meeting date, the decision to postpone a day worked out great. Spring can always be unpredictable and had we gone Saturday to our first destination at Dean Vanderbleek's home, we might have seen hail. Thanks to quick thinking by Jerry Luedeke and Dave Hall, we got out the message to wait till Sunday early. We still had a real good turnout and some gorgeous sunshine to boot.

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Above, Dean Vanderbleek's property in South Daytona Shores is heavily planted as protection from wind and salt from the oceanfront. Below, welcome to the second stop.



## Hall's Happy Place

Second Stop, Dave Hall's, Oak Hill

By Libby Luedeke

The second garden we visited for the palm society meeting belongs to our president Dave Hall. The land has been in the family for multi-generations starting with his grandfather. He was working for the East Coast Railroad at the time. Dave inherited approximately 18 acres of the property in the 80's. In the beginning the land was used as orange groves. There were many varieties of citrus including oranges, tangerines and grapefruits. Between the freezes, hurricanes and rampant development, the orange

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*Even the kids are having fun at Dave Hall's nursery.*



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**RENEW  
YOUR  
2021  
MEMBERSHIP  
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**Dean Vanderbleek's**

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**Dean's property** is just a couple of streets off the ocean in South Daytona Beach. They bought it about 6 years ago. The original home was built in the 1950's and is on about 1/2 an acre. As you can imagine it is very challenging to grow palms in this area not only due to the salt air and sandy soil.



Dean Vamderbleek looks at his *Beccariophoenix alfredii*.

**Dave Hall's**

(Continued from page 1)

industry took a big hit. Now, the ultimate bug called the yellow dragon, aka citrus greening, has all but finished it off. Dave's trees, once thriving, are pretty much gone.

**In the 1990's** he shifted gears and decided to trade citrus for palms. He mostly caters to what local landscapers desire such as Queen Palms, *Phoenix roebelenii*, Bismarcks, and *Phoenix sylvestris*. You will also find Canary Island dates, a few *Attaleas*, Ribbon Fan Palms, Spindles, Mules, and Pindo Palms. Throw in a handful of cycads and you've got yourself a pretty well stocked nursery. Native Coonties are a local hit due their low stature as well as *Dioon edules* and a few others that dot the landscape. As pictured, the host was gifted with an *Encephalartos kisambo* from Jerry Luedeke's garden to expand the cycad presence. He has also expanded his repertoire to include

olives and guava trees, but these are still in their infancy, so time will tell.



Dave Hall points to his Mule Palms.

**Dave Hall** and Trace Hines put on quite a spread for our luncheon. There were local steamed oysters, smoked oysters and swamp cabbage harvested from a cabbage palm right behind the pole barn. Members brought lots of beautiful, yummy salads and desserts which made for an enjoyable day.

**After we** fed our bellies and toured the grounds, we began our plant auction. All the plants are provided from our members

except for a select few that were donated by Montgomery Botanical Center. These came from our visit in October last year. The feature attraction was a donated *Microcycas calocoma* from MBC. This is highly prized in the cycad world and drew instant attention. After several back and forth bids between the last two standing, the plant pulled in a whopping \$170 on that single specimen. It was a very good day for the socie-

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## Dave Hall's

*(Continued from page 3)*

ty. **Thanks to** all who attended and those who donated and bought plants. It helps us to continue to have great meetings and visit beautiful gardens, plus fulfill our mission to educate and further the conservation of palms and cycads.

*Left, Jerry Luedeke and Phil Stager (seated) await the beginning of the plant auction. Right, the chapter's host gift of *Encephalartos kisambo* is presented to Dave Hall by Jerry Luedeke.*

## Seen in Dean Vanderbleek's Young Seaside Garden



*Above, Dean Vanderbleek stands by his beautiful *Thrinax radiata*. Right, *Dioon spinulosum*.  
(All pictures of the meeting were taken by Libby Luedeke.)*





Rare cycad., *Microcycas calocoma*, donated by MBC, brought a record-breaking \$170 at the plant auction.

## Zone Pushing, the Big Game

By John Rossi

**We all** do it. It is the gardener's version of gambling. It is the palm lover's version of a competitive sport and the individual palms in this game are like players on a team. We are acting as their coaches...we pick them, we pick their positions, we nurture them, and we face our opponents together. Who are the opponents we face when we zone push? They call them....Cold Fronts!!!! And our Superbowl is the Polar Vortex!!!

**Sometimes we** win, sometimes they win, and sometimes it's a blowout! Just ask our fellow palm addicts in Texas right now. Three weeks ago, they got walloped. Imagine if you can a temperature of 18 degrees Fahrenheit in zone 10 Corpus Christi! Imagine 18 degrees in Miami!!!! What could we do? What would we do?

**Well, assuming** that we are not moving to Central or South America, there are a few things that all of us can do short of keeping a team of all *Trachycarpus* Tom

Bradys! Firstly, build the foundation of your "team" with those more cold hardy palms. There are tough (and beautiful) *Sabals*, *Livistonas* and *Trachycarpi*, oh my! And there's *Butias* and Mules and other hybrids that won't fry!!

**And then** there are the challenges on our team. They have potential but we know that they could be defeated by one of those cold front players. What can we do as coaches? Place them properly!!! Give them the help they need. Surround that big oak with your soon to be star players. If they need more sun, place them on the eastern side, because in Florida, morning sun is more reliable than afternoon sun due to our afternoon thunderstorms. Conversely, if they like more shade, place them in a shaded area on the west side of that oak (or other large tree ).

**Secondly, feed** that team a great diet! Fertilize them heavily and

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## **IPS Webinar - A Blank Slate to Flourishing Palm Garden: The Palm Journey of an Appalachian Transplant**

Our membership chair, Jeremy Evanchesky, gave a presentation about his individual journey from a climate where no palms grow to a climate where over 500 species of palms are able to survive. Some of the topics covered include seed germination, plant selection, cold protection, landscape planning, phased landscape implementation and using palms as the primary plants in the garden.

The webinar can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/afJKV5Mhbo8>

In addition to the information above, some links to resources created by the presenter include:

### **Cold Hardiness Master Data:**

A link to a project where a spreadsheet has been compiled of cold hardiness observations for thousands of species of palms from growers all over the world:

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/61358-0000-cold-hardiness-observation-master-data/>

### **Florida Temperature Data Google Maps:**

There are over 350 NOAA weather stations with at least some weather data in Florida. On this map, you can see station data for time periods of 30, 50, 70, and 100 years. Clicking on one of the blue markers will give you the station name, the absolute low, and the average low for the station at that location, along with a myriad of additional infor-

mation.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1QCS-fTHGPMghnQJ7Q1phu7gSXSD6Rtxq&ll=27.800689743304154%2C-83.73333500000001&z=7>

### **Florida Freeze and Weather Station Data:**

Ever wonder how various locales compared as far as their lows during some of our worst impact freeze events? Was 1835 really the worst freeze event, or have we had comparable events since? The Excel data available at this URL will help you determine that for your own neck of the woods. In addition, lists of NOAA weather stations and Airport weather stations help those who would like to compare weather on sites like WeatherUnderground.

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/66320-florida-freeze-and-weather-station-data/>

### **Make Your Own Zone Map:**

The USDA maps are a bit slow to come out. If you'd like to see various opinions on the growing zones in the various areas of Florida or have a map that you have made and would like to share, please visit the link below. Several of Florida's best minds have put their talents together to submit their various maps and debate regarding their validity:

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/6179-make-your-own-zone-map/>

### **Presenter's Plants:**

Many of the presenter's plants can be viewed at the first link. Since the presenter grows a lot of plants from seeds or small seedlings, you can also view some of the seed starting successes at the second link.

## IPS Webinar

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Link 1: <http://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/52296-palms-and-others-of-interest/>

Link 2: <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/53287-new-arrivals/>

### **Some Lesser Known Central Florida Garden Visits:**

#### **Lake Wire - Lakeland, FL:**

Situated just west of Downtown Lakeland, FL, you get to see tons of native and non-native species in a short walk around the lake.

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/61996-lake-wire-lakeland-fl/>

#### **Hollis Gardens - Lakeland, FL:**

A neoclassical garden in the middle of downtown Lakeland. For those that love the *Archontophoenix* genus, this will be a little slice of urban paradise. There are more palms in the area at City Hall and around the Orange Street parking garage, as well as new street plantings of Mule Palms on Kentucky Avenue.

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/18482-hollis-gardens-in-lakeland-florida/>

#### **Common Ground - Lakeland, FL:**

Not quite as palmy as Lake Wire or Hollis Gardens, but it does take advantage of the hilly Lakeland landscape to give more of a rocky, mountainous vibe in the playground area.

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/61890-common-ground-lakeland-fl/>



The presenter, Jeremy Evanchesky, with one of his *Veitchia arecina*.



## From the Editor's Desk

I was thinking in February that I hadn't heard of any newly-discovered palms that had been found in a remote valley in the Andes or in some back-water place in Indonesia. Sometimes the New Palm becomes very desirable and a must-have for many collectors. Think of *Tahina spectabilis*! (Well, maybe not for quarter-acre lots, unless the house is removed.)

\* \* \* \*

**Didn't really** know where to find information, so asked Bob Blenker, CFPACS member and IPS board member. He consulted several notables. The answer came from Larry Noblick at Montgomery Botanical Center who suggested looking at IPNI—International Plant Names Index (<https://ipni.org>)

Following directions provided, I went to the website, clicked on Advanced Search and entered Araceae in the blank for Family. For year, I entered 2020.

**Voila! Immediately** the names of species newly described last year appeared. No less than 64 new species and subspecies of *Calamus*! What a boon for us in Florida, wherever the temperature doesn't drop below 50° (or is it 60°?). Climbing palms, rattans, how glorious. There's also a new *Chamaedorea* (*C. vanninii*) and a new *Calyptrocalyx*, a new *Iguanura*, and a new *Pinanga*.

\* \* \* \*

**I remembered** that I actually have a *Calamus*, *C. caryotoides*, and went to look for it. Spotted lots of stuff around where I had planted it, but eventually found the

*Calamus*. Still very small after at least 10 years but its growth probably prevented by the big *Caryota mitis* next to it.

**My *Calyptrocalyx elegans***, var. Boalak, planted in 2017 is still there and seems to be higher than it was. Don't have any *Iguanura* or *Pinanga*. I haven't had the nerve to look for new palms described in 2019, the last 'normal' year. And 2021 is barely underway. . .

\* \* \* \*

In the March 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the *New York Times* the Food Section has an odd little article. A Canadian food writer has discovered that Canadian butter is hard. When taken out of the refrigerator, it doesn't soften. If that's what she wishes, she has to put it in the microwave.

French butter and organic butter softened without treatment. She investigated and discovered that dairy farmers were feeding dairy cows "palm fat" to increase their milk production.

Could this be our old friend, palm oil? A brief sentence says that production of "palm fat" increases deforestation in Indonesia and Malaysia. The national dairy association denounced the food writer, saying that there had been no such change/transformation of Canadian butter. But an array of voices pointed out that this was a lie and that her discovery was accurate.

**I've looked** at the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's two-part list of invasive plants for 2019 (the most recently published list).

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## From the Editor's Desk

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Plants on the Category 1 list have already created serious problems for native plants. This is where Pothos and Brazilian Pepper are listed. No palms are on this list. Category 2 is a list of exotic plants that present potential for making inroads on native ecology but haven't yet done so. Six palm species have been listed here for years: *Chamaedorea seifrizii*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Livistona chinensis*, *Phoenix reclinata*, *Ptychosperma elegans*, *Syagrus romanzoffianum*. The latest addition to this list is *Washingtonia robusta*.

**When I** look around my neighborhood I see these species just about everywhere. I would guess that folks hereabout have never heard of

FLEPPC and are buying palms at Walmart, Home Depot, and Lowe's. Years back, I asked how *Ptychosperma elegans*, the Solitaire Palm, had been added to the list. The answer I received was that a FLEPPC committee member had seen a palm of this species growing in his sister's yard in Palm Beach County and she had not planted it. OK, where else was it noted? No answer on that. Wasn't once enough?

**Thanks to** my son, Matthew Kennedy, who helps his dad when he occasionally blanks out while doing the newsletter.

*John Kennedy*

## Zone Pushing, the Big Game

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frequently throughout the growing season. A strong tree can handle more cold and recover faster.

**If all** else fails, maintain a good seed bank!!!

**Even with** all of the challenges, some of the palm team will survive, and some will thrive. The more you zone push, the more likely your palms will lose the big game, or perhaps they survive but do not thrive. But that is our competitive nature at work. We are

driven to play this game. It is the thrill of victory when we raise a palm large enough to produce viable seeds and the agony of defeat when that young star doesn't make it to the Superbowl! Good luck. SET 24 35 17 HUT HUT HIKE PLANT!!!

(**John Rossi**, from the 9a/9b border, at the developing St. John's Botanical Garden, in St. John's County.)



*Beautiful silver Pindo Palms at Dave Hall's Oak Hill nursery. (Photo by Libby Luedeke)*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Thanks everyone** for showing up on a Sunday at my nursery in Oak Hill. Sorry that we had to postpone the meeting Saturday because of the weather. It did rain about the time of the meeting there. Also, Dean's place in South Daytona had half a foot of hail on the ground from the severe thunderstorm. The meeting in Oak Hill went well, nice sunny weather. I hope that everyone enjoyed the oysters, which were local, from the Mosquito Lagoon. Also, I hope that everyone enjoyed my Aunt's swamp cabbage made from the heart of the *Sabal palmetto*. This was my family's recipe passed down from my great-grandmother who lived in Oak Hill in the early 1900's.

**I'd like** to thank Dean Vanderbleek for hosting us Sunday morning at his beachside house in Daytona Beach Shores. Many had the opportunity to visit both locations. For the membership on the west coast our plan is to return to the Tampa Bay area in the fall. We also will be returning to Dr. Rossi's for our December event at his newly named St. John's Botanical Garden and Preserve. Have a great spring, enjoy the weather.

**Dave Hall**

**PayPal Tutorial**

Here is how to make a payment to CFPACS using PayPal

- 1) Log on to <http://www.paypal.com>
- 2) If you have a PayPal account, log into your account. If you do not have a PayPal account, click on the 'Personal' tab. Once on the 'Personal' page go to 'Send Money' and then 'Send Money Online.'
- 3) Once on the 'Send Money' page, type 'payments@cfpacs.com' in the 'To' field. Type in your email address in the 'From' field and the amount you wish to pay in the 'Amount' field.
- 4) From there you will be taken to a secure page where you can enter your name, address and credit card information.
- 5) When you are ready to finish up the payment process, please indicate whether your payment is for membership or seeds or t-shirts in the message field.



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Regular membership, \$60, other levels of membership (including free), quarterly journal

<http://palms.org>

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*Oysters and swamp cabbage at Dave Hall's Oak Hill nursery on March 7th.  
 (Photo by Libby Luedeke)*