

The Palmateer

Volume 14 Number 3

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

October 2022

Tour of the Swan City

By Jeremy Evanchesky

The Fall Tour began on a brisk Saturday morning at Hollis Gardens. Sited dead in the middle of a quickly growing metropolitan area, it is a welcome break from the concrete jungle that now exists in place of this formerly sleepy citrus town. Upon parking, one immediately notices that the parking lot is adorned with *Caryota obtusa*. In years past, the parking lots would have featured the usual suspects for Central Florida; with palms in the Phoenix, *Syagrus*, *Butia*,



Left, Those attending the fall meeting at the last stop, Jeremy's yard in Lakeland.

*Right, Hollister Gardens, Lakeland's municipal botanical garden with *Archontophoenix alexandrae*.*

and *Sabal* genera dominating the landscape due to their bulletproof cold tolerance and ease of care. The advent of Lethal Bronzing in Central Florida has forced both public and private

plantings to move way from common staple genera in favor of more resistant genera like *Archontophoenix* and *Livistona* that dominate the streets

of the city.

When attendees were welcomed into the garden, you can immediately see how quickly things have changed. Accord-

ing to census data, the Lakeland-Winter Haven metro area is tied with Boise, ID for the second-fastest growing in the country. Just down the Frances Langford Promenade surrounding Lake Mirror, the new Summit Tower is adorned with *Archontophoenix* and *Livistona* species, showing the separation from Lakeland past and present. Additional new large office buildings and multi-story apart-

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Above, Entering The Grotto in Hollister Gardens. Lakeland. Left, Zombia antillarum seen in that city (Photos by Jeremy Evanchesky)



The Palmateer

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 Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society
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October Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Wodyetia bifurcata and *Adonidia merrillii* that were recently added give you the feeling that you traveled through a time warp. Even outside of our small but intense urban heat island, *Roystonea regia* are replacing the often-malnourished *Syagrus romanzoffiana* and rarely see damage.

Long ago, Lakeland was known primarily as a citrus town. The Florida Citrus Mutual office across from City Hall was consistently busy with activity, and the National Weather Service operated out of a few small offices in City Hall until its operations

were moved to Ruskin in 1978. After citrus greening decimated the already weakening citrus industry, Florida Citrus Mutual sold their office building to Publix in November of 2016. The building is now expected to be demolished by the new owner. With the pending demolition, an almost complete erasure of the past is looming. Florida Citrus Mutual now occupies a small building in Bartow. The weather service has not completely cut ties with Lakeland as the Hurricane Hunters are based out of Lakeland Linder International Airport (KLAL). Since e-commerce became a

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Below (left) Roystonea regia, the Royal Palm and (right) Satakentia liukiensis, the Satake Palm.

(Photos for this article by Jeremy)



October Meeting

(Continued from page 3)

staple during the pandemic, Lakeland was in position to benefit as the airport is also an Amazon hub.

Our guide for the first leg of the tour, Kevin Polk, has 20 years of experience cultivating and maintaining the formal, neoclassical garden sited on the south shore of Lake Mirror on the Frances Langford Promenade. Bill Koen, our guide for the urban landscaping near City Hall and the Orange Street parking garage, manages all site reviews for the city of Lakeland and also awards the best Residential and Commercial landscapes each month. Both deserve the credit for the

transformed horticultural image of our city from seemingly overnight. Through careful study of microclimates, preferential siting, companion planting, and ample experimentation they have provided denizens visiting our public parks and buildings examples of alternatives to the palms of years past. After entering the garden and starting the tour in earnest, Kevin spoke to the group about the theme of the garden view from the grotto made of native limestone toward the north shore of Lake Mirror symbolizing our transition from the past to the future. After advancing through the grotto, attendees enter a native plant area featuring standard native understory palms like *Sabal minor*, *Serenoa repens*, and

Rhapidophyllum hystrix comfortably growing under a canopy of native pines and maples.

It's no surprise that Hurricane Ian impacted the gardens significantly. Moving from the native garden to the flowering tree section, several of the trees were staked and uprooted. In this area, Kevin gave the history of each tree to the attendees. One of the saddest losses was the *Kigelia africana* (Sausage Tree) in the back of the garden.

As attendees approached the Koi fountain, many questions came up about the odd *Archontophoenix* species

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Above, Coconut Palms in Lakeland. Below, Trachycarpus fortunei planted in the street.



large, flowering

Below is Archontophoenix 'teracarpa'.



Kevin Polk explains the Grotto to visitors.



October Meeting

(Continued from page 4)

decorating the entrance. Since the gardens order a lot of plants from Jungle Music, it will be little surprise to the folks familiar with Phil Bergman that the mystery palms were Archontophoenix teracarpa. If you can't find that in an official species list, that is be-

cause it doesn't exist. No one has done a genetic study on these plants to see if they are just a special variant of Archontophoenix maxima, a hybrid, or a new species entirely.

There was something to catch everybody's interest including Buddha Belly Bamboo, Arenga pinnata, Chrysalidocarpus decaryi (Triangle Palm), large Allagoptera arenaria, Panda-

nus utilis, and many other agricultural staples like cotton, corn, and sugar cane all somehow jammed into a 1.2-acre space while maintaining the necessary open space to remain a formal garden capable of hosting weddings.

As the tour transitioned outside of the garden, attendees were treated to interesting conversations about the many cycads along the outside border of the garden, along with multiple Beccariophoenix alfredii and a large Chrysalidocarpus leptocheilos (Teddy Bear Palm). Several species of Chamaedorea, a Kerriodoxa elegans, and even a Verschaffeltia splendida rounded out the area near the parking garage.

Bill Koen picked up the

tour from the back of the garden to the middle of the city, showing off an impressive lineup of palms including Carpoxyton macrospermum, Areca catechu, and Hyophorbe lagenicaulis. While the airport recorded a low of 30F in January 2022, it was obvious that this garden did not get anywhere near that low. The visit to city hall was capped a gorgeous, large Chrysalidocarpus leptocheilos (Teddy Bear Palm) towering over the treetops and a heavily variegated and seeding Caryota mitis at the west entrance.

There was so much to see that our tour had already run 45 minutes past the predicted conclusion time. Those who needed to eat were advised we would have to cut Lake Wire from

the tour in order to keep the schedule intact for the auction and sale, and to meet us at Common Ground at 1:30PM. Those who elected to take another 15-minute tour were guided to the Orange Street parking garage to observe a flowering Ptychosperma elegans and a large Satakentia liukiensis on the southeast and southwest corners of the garage. Several large Pseudophoenix sargentii were present on the northwest side of the garage, accompanied by an incredible array of cycads including an Encephalartos ferox.

Everyone needed a break to eat after all of the long walking, so those of us who took the extended tour decided to eat at the

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October Meeting

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Garden Bistro and then head to Common Ground. Upon arriving, both parking lots listed on the itinerary were nearly full and we had to park some members at the Cleveland Heights Golf Course and at Lake Hollingsworth. After making all of the necessary adjustments, we got started on our tour.

The typical Lakeland favorites of *Beccariophoenix alfredii*, *Carpoxylon macrosporum*, *Roystonea regia*, *Chambeyronia macrocarpa*, and *Areca catechu* were present for a view, but a few were leaning from the heavy winds in the area. Making our way up the hill to the Cleveland Heights Country

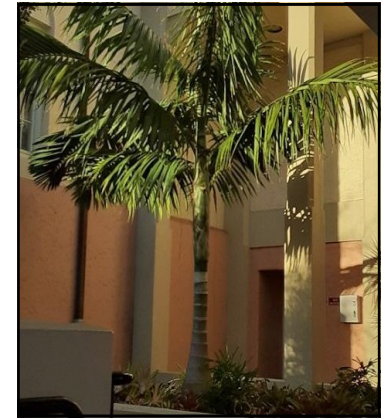
Club, few people knew what awaited them. When we arrived, a *Roystonea regia* with a trunk diameter over 2 feet had phones flashing with activity.

A very well-feed *Roystonea regia* dwarfs everything around it. Some attendees opted to head to the final destination from here. The rest of us went down the hill to view the palms at the Lake Hollingsworth parking area. In addition to the usual suspects, there was a new face in the crowd as *Zombia antillarum* made an appearance. Sometimes a common palm grown uncommonly can grab attention. The *Livistona* with the curled trunk provided everyone a chance to take photos and get a laugh.

At this point, everyone was ready to head to the shade and start the auction. When folks arrived at the garden of Jeremy Evanchesky, our current membership chair, they were treated to a landscape with ample open space and plenty of shade to provide a break from the hot sun. Each of the palms had a label detailing species information as well as information about that individual specimen, including whether it was seed grown and when it was placed in the ground to start its outside life. In addition to the labels for the plants, several labels gave information about the soil regime for that section of the garden. Soils ranged from completely neutral dead sand with few nutrients in the

desert areas, to acidic humus in the low areas covered with tree canopy, to alkaline areas modified with broken concrete for the bulk of the plants that require the soil pH above 7.0. The garden has five varieties of coconuts and three species of *Veitchia* growing in tandem with *Howea forsteriana* and *Trachycarpus fortunei*. In the desert garden, *Washingtonia filifera* grown from seeds collected in Moapa Valley, NV are the stars of the show. While some of the plants are young yet, there are fruiting specimens of Coconuts and *Trachycarpus* within only a short drive of each other in the city.

At the conclusion of the auction and sale,



Kentiopsis oliviformis in Lakeland..

attendees were encouraged to take as much food as they could handle with them. The hosts hope everyone had a wonderful time in the Swan City and plan to return at some point!

Cheat Sheet for Updating Book, *The Palms of Madagascar*

By Charlie Beck

Dypsis Reclassification 2022

<u>New name</u>	<u>Page #</u>	<u>Old name</u>			
Chrysalidocarpus acuminum	211	Dypsis acuminum	Chrysalidocarpus hovomantsina	149	Dypsis hovomantsina
Chrysalidocarpus ambanjae	229	Dypsis ambanjae	Chrysalidocarpus humblotianus*	221	Dypsis humblotiana
Chrysalidocarpus ambositrae	195	Dypsis ambositrae	Chrysalidocarpus ifanadianae	171	Dypsis ifanadianae
Chrysalidocarpus andrianatonga	203	Dypsis andrianatonga	Chrysalidocarpus lanceolatus*	222	Dypsis lanceolata
Chrysalidocarpus ankaizinensis	182	Dypsis ankaizinensis	Chrysalidocarpus lastellianus*	173	Dypsis lastelliana
Vonitra antanambensis	367	Dypsis antanambensis	Chrysalidocarpus leptocheilos	176	Dypsis leptocheilos
Chrysalidocarpus arenarum	214	Dypsis arenarum	Chrysalidocarpus ligulatus*	177	Dypsis ligulata
Chrysalidocarpus baronii	198	Dypsis baronii	Chrysalidocarpus loucoubensis*	152	Dypsis ampasindavae
Chrysalidocarpus basilongus*	193	Dypsis basilonga	Chrysalidocarpus lutescens	212	Dypsis lutescens
Chrysalidocarpus bejofo	146	Dypsis bejofo	Chrysalidocarpus madagascariensis	184	Dypsis madagascariensis
Chrysalidocarpus cabadae	219	Dypsis cabadae	Chrysalidocarpus malcomberi	165	Dypsis malcomberi
Chrysalidocarpus canaliculatus*	148	Dypsis canaliculata	Chrysalidocarpus mananjarensis	163	Dypsis mananjarensis
Chrysalidocarpus canescens	410	Dypsis canescens	Chrysalidocarpus nauseosus*	156	Dypsis nauseosa
Chrysalidocarpus ceraceus*	151	Dypsis ceracea	Vonitra nossibensis	358	Dypsis nossibensis
Vonitra crinita	361	Dypsis crinita	Chrysalidocarpus onilahensis	207	Dypsis onilahensis
Chrysalidocarpus decaryi	187	Dypsis decaryi	Chrysalidocarpus ovobontsira	180	Dypsis ovobontsira
Chrysalidocarpus decipiens	191	Dypsis decipiens	Chrysalidocarpus pembanus*	218	Dypsis pembana
Vonitra dransfieldii	355	Dypsis dransfieldii	Vonitra perrieri	351	Dypsis perrieri
Vonitra fibrosa	365	Dypsis fibrosa	Chrysalidocarpus prestonianus*	167	Dypsis prestoniana
Chrysalidocarpus heteromorphus*	197	Dypsis heteromorpha	Chrysalidocarpus psammophilus*	216	Dypsis psammophila
			Chrysalidocarpus pumilus*	223	Dypsis pumila
			Chrysalidocarpus saintelupei	178	Dypsis saintelupei
			Chrysalidocarpus sanctaemariae	264	Dypsis sanctaemariae

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So You Want To Start a Botanical Garden Part 3

By Dr. John Rossi

President, St. Johns Botanical Garden

president
@stjohnsbotanicalgarden.org

In our last two discussions, we summarized the beginning stages of starting a botanical garden. Now we will get into the real brutal part...the long, hot days working through the summer, designing, planting, weeding, decorating, creating and placing signs, weeding, shopping for new plants, and did I mention weeding! But seriously, there is a lot that goes into trying to create a botanical garden and here are some more things to consider!

The legal trap! If a botan-

ical garden is a non-profit corporation in the state of Florida, many counties do not consider it a bona fide agricultural operation, and they will not grant an agricultural exemption for the land on which it exists.

Every single definition of agriculture includes the term “cultivation of plants” and every single definition of botanical garden includes “cultivation of plants”, but yet the Property Appraisers Office in many counties wants to see rows of cabbage or corn and receipts for the sale of such before they will grant an agricultural exemption! Never mind that thousands of different kinds of plants are growing in the botanical garden and are

reproducing. They want sales!

So a nursery dedicated to selling plants has to be incorporated into the botanical garden. But wait! There is a catch! If nursery sales exceed income from other sources, including grants, donations, admissions, etc., the IRS might remove the 501(c)3 non-profit status!!!! That would be devastating for a public garden. But why do you need an agricultural exemption anyway?

An agricultural exemption is critical for most fledgling botanical gardens because it provides an extra layer of legal protection against slip and fall type accidents.

Many businesses oper-

ating under an agricultural exemption in the state of Florida function as “agritourism operations”, and they are given extra protection under state law. Furthermore, an agricultural exemption reduces the strict requirements of county building codes regarding drives and parking lots, etc.

The county denied our initial application for an agricultural exemption because they did not see sales. So we went to court. In our packet of evidence, we included: 1. Definitions of botanical gardens and agriculture 2. State of Florida Department of Agriculture Certificate of Nursery Registration 3. State of Florida Department of

Agriculture and Consumer Services Certificate of Inspection 4. State of Florida Annual Resale Certificate of Registration 5. St. Johns County Local Business Tax Receipt 6. State of Florida Consumer Certificate of Exemption 7. Receipts of plant purchases from wholesalers 8. Photographs of nursery area and plants for sale growing in garden 9. First receipt for sale of plants from the new Shivering Palms Nursery at the St. Johns Botanical Garden! 10. Nursery price list 11. A map of the area on the property for which the agricultural exemption is sought 12. Federal IRS letter of tax-exempt Sta-

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Chrysalidocarpus tanalensis	182	Dypsis tanalensis
Chrysalidocarpus tokoravina	169	Dypsis tokoravina
Chrysalidocarpus tsaratananensis*	154	Dypsis tsaravoasira
Vonitra utilis	363	Dypsis utilis

* species name change

Starting a Botanical Garden, Part 3

(Continued from page 8)

tus, and a few other items as well. And we have not been given a decision at the time of this writing. However, the county property appraiser approached us after our presentation in court and told us that he would likely grant us the exemption once he saw the business plan.

The former paragraph not only shows the difficulty of “threading a legal needle” when it comes to

starting a botanical garden in the state of Florida, but also the sheer mountain of paperwork involved in starting a botanical garden. **Then there** is insurance. A fledgling botanical garden can expect to spend approximately \$500 per month on insurance! That is the going rate from BHS insurance, a major insurer of botanical gardens, and preferred partner of the American Public Garden Association, of which we are a member.

Then there is advertising.

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Below. Shivering Palms Nursery being built at St. Johns Botanical Garden. Jist mpw p[em nu appointment..Bottom left, lush beds of hundreds of new plants being grown. Bottom right, new parking area under construction. (Photos by John Rossi)



Starting a Botanical Garden. Part 3

(Continued from page 9)

30 half minute spots and a half hour interview on a local radio station every month costs around \$750. **All of** this is being done while construction of parking lots and fencing and planting and irrigation and weeding are! **But we** are beginning to see some progress. Slowly but surely, the garden is beginning to take shape. It has changed dramatically since early December of last year, when the CFPACS held a meeting there. Construction of an events pergola has begun. Transformation of the barn into an entrance building and gift shop has begun. A covered seating area

near the gift shop has been started. Permits have been applied for and received for both projects. Professional signage is increasing dramatically. Beautiful new green park benches have begun to arrive, thanks in part to a grant from the CFPCS. Many new species of plants aside from palms and cycads have been added. The Shivering Palms Nursery is now open and stocked with some very rare palms (at this time by appointment only... call 904 553 7563). Progress is also being made on the website and Facebook pages and donations are beginning to trickle in. In summary, things are moving forward nicely, but as you can tell, starting a botanical garden is a ma-

jor undertaking, that requires a massive effort by a lot of dedicated hard-working people, a lot of money, and a lot of luck. Stay tuned for further updates on the insanity of starting a botanical garden!



Ptychosperma elegans in Lakeland.

Hurricane Strength!



Left, *Brahea brandegeii*.
Right, *Copernicia baileyana*. Far right, *Copernicia curbeloi*. (Photos by Geri Prall)



By Libby Luedeke

Most of our members were affected by Hurricane Ian, but none as much as David and Geri Prall. The night before they headed off to bed thinking that the storm was headed to Tampa or Sarasota, but upon waking on Thursday morning they were on direct path with little time to do final preparations. They were on the bad side of the

storm. Upon reaching them, there were recordings of gusts at the high end of category 4 and some 5. They had no electric or water “for two weeks”, no communication, but most fortunate of all no storm surge. Their pool screen also made it through mostly unscathed. About a dozen screens ripped out but the frame still standing. Nothing fell on the house, whereas across the street their pool

cages were down. They had recently had the roof replaced and it was in perfect condition. They learned a few days later that just two miles away people had water in their homes.

Once they were able to get out and survey the damage, there were some amazing revelations. The PalmTree Gardens in Cape Coral would never be the same. Palms that they thought invincible were snapped off at the base and others were

just wind damaged. The *Satakentias* came through fabulously as were the *Carpoxytons*. They seemed not to notice there was a hurricane. The *Kentiopsis* were gone right away. The Triangles, *Sabals* and *Adonidia* did well. *Pseudophoenix* are still standing with some frond damage. The Queens and *Washingtonias* snapped off at the base. Their *Coccothrinax crinita* snapped although two of them are

still miraculously standing. No rhyme or reason. *Adonidia* had little trouble and *Copernicia albas* were all down and the King palms. The royals are still standing but their fronds were all over the neighborhood. A lot of the bamboo came down. Some of it on the

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Hurricane Strength!

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neighbor's roof which they got off right away to avoid issues. This was the only thing that affected their neighbors as everything else fell within their property lines. They also lost a lot of the ponytails of which they had the *Beaucarnea recurvata* which were stunning and will be sorely missed. Can you tell I like them?

The cycads came through with some wind damage, but mostly unscathed. They plan on planting more, but they must figure out how to get around the remaining stumps which are littering the area and will most likely be display areas for bromeliads which by the way did great.

Once they had some cell

service, Geri reached out to CFPACS on our Facebook page to find anyone that could come save some of the uprooted palms. My husband Jerry sent them information for Tom Dickinson who was able to come out and help them right away. He came out with a crane and a trailer and fixed them up quickly. Tom and his crew came away with *Brahea brandegeei*, *Copernicia curbeloi* that came from Jeff Searle in 1998, and *Copernicia baileyana*. They really did a fine job.

I am so glad that we got to visit a few years ago and see the PalmTree Gardens at its finest. I am sure this will be a



Finally, some relief from all the debris.

rebirth of something new and just as wonderful as time goes on. Once a gardener, always a gardener. We look forward to seeing the beauty rise from the debris.

The native
Coontie
survives.



From the Editor's Desk

I am going to print out the cheat sheet on

Dypsis reclassification and will tuck it into my copy of the book on Madagascar palms. There will be room on the sheet to cross out names as a few species could revert to their old names.

And there could even be some new names. Who knows what next lurks in the minds of botanists? After all, there are many species of *Sabal* to think about. . .

John Kennedy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To begin with, I would like to thank Jeremy, our membership chairman, for putting together this wonderful meeting in Lakeland. There was so much to see that we didn't have time to walk around Lake Wire. I would like to thank Bill who works for the city of Lakeland (and has for 53 years) for his foresight in planting non-traditional palms not only in and around City Hall but throughout the public gardens of the community. The city hall collection alone is like going to a private garden worthy of one of our members.

Next, I would like to thank Kevin of Hollis Gardens for his very informative tour. I can't believe that I learned so much in such a small space right in downtown Lakeland. For example, who ever plants red okra, frankincense and brown cotton in their park?

Our next meeting will be at Chip Jones' new place west of Lake Okeechobee. Just off Highway 80, directions will be forthcoming. December 3 is our date so stay tuned as this will be here before you know it. As we are traveling so far, consider making a weekend of it. Naples Botanical Garden is reopening this week and Edison House and Gardens is hosting their annual Bromeliad Sale that Dave and Geri Prall participate in.

Hurricane Ian proved to be catastrophic. We are so glad the Pralls were safe and their house wasn't damaged as they were at ground zero. Unfortunately, their yard and garden suffered extensive damage with many mature palms and plants knocked down. So grateful for all the assistance they received with clean up and removal of some of the specimens able to be salvaged. It was very nice of them to share their experience at our meeting and wonderful to hear that they are motivated to bringing it back.

Please take the time to share your hurricane damage in your own garden. Which palms did well and which did not. Send pictures and a short review to John Kennedy. Our Palmateer editor would be delighted with submissions to our newsletter.

Upcoming meetings are in the works. March will see us return to

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A bent Livistona invites weary passersby to sit for a moment in Lakeland.

(Photo by Jeremy Evanchesky)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 13)

Brevard County (Date TBA) and June 2-4 will take place in Savannah. The June meeting will involve the North Florida and Southeast Palm Societies. Savannah will be a weekend event starting Friday evening June 2nd and continuing through Sunday. Let us know if you would like to try and get a block or rooms or if you wish to make your own travel arrangements. As of this publication, we have nothing on the books for October or December of 2023 so, if there is a suggestion or you would like us to visit your garden and area please reach out to a board member.

On a final note, Jeremy is sending a plant list of the items we need to recreate the Dent Smith Collection at Sugar Mill Gardens. If you have any of the plants for sale or donation, please let us know.

So, looking forward to seeing you all in December

David 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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*Here is Jeremy Evanchesky with his host gift (an Encepjalartos ferox) from the chapter..
 (Photo by Libby Luedeke)*