

THE PALMATEER

Volume 15 Number 3

Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society

Fall 2023

Déjà Vu at St. Johns Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve

By: Jeremy Evanchesky

Originally scheduled for Sunday, October 1st, 2023, the Grand Opening was pushed back until Saturday, October 14th, 2023, due to steady overnight rain. Since the garden was still open, a few brave souls showed up to take a quick tour around the garden.

The trip from Lakeland involved plenty of thunderstorms and a flat tire due to a piece of steel. The bulk of the other attendees arrived from northeast Florida. Eric and Barbara Katz made it from east Central Florida.

For those who made it the first day, the ground was wet, but most of the garden drains really well and provided a good surface for exploring. The overcast sky provided a respite from direct sun, and the temperature never became uncomfortable for the steady stream of guests.

CFPACS Secretary Libby Luedeke was at the entrance to greet us in her St. Johns Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve uniform, as was Dr. Rossi. The garden boasts some great volunteers, all of which were available to help if anything is needed.



CFPACS Members Richard Lindberg, Ed Brown, Scott Wallace, and Mike Benton tour the garden.



The Nature Shop and path to Shivering Palms Nursery.



CFPACS member Chuck Grieneisen and CFPACS President Dave Hall staff the booth.

Fast forward two weeks, and the Grand Opening of St. Johns Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve was full speed ahead. Food trucks pulled in, attendance was high all day, the CFPACS booth was staffed and the pergola played host to live music and a creature feature by Dr. Rossi's brother.

CFPACS T-shirts were a big seller and many of the attendees took pamphlets and literature with them. Some of the attendees stopped by to ask for advice regarding palm selection. The most commonly recommended palm was *Beccariophoenix alfredii* since most of the attendees wanted a coconut lookalike that could reliably survive in northeast Florida.

One of the more unique attractions, Tiki Key, was closed during the grand opening as was the pathway to Deep Creek. With the rest of the garden open, it never feels crowded, though. We were informed at the meet-up that the botanical garden will likely be expanding in the near future, with more land area for creativity to run wild.

Many of our members from the St. Augustine area stopped by the booth. Christian Chorneyko and his wife stopped by the booth to say hello before their tour of the garden. Our newest member from the area, Mignon Anthony, also stopped by to introduce herself.

Those in attendance also got witness a solar eclipse while touring the gardens and enjoying the festivities. At the close of the day, the cycad near our table was donated to the new botanical garden, and discussions began for our holiday meeting.

As we prepare to close out 2023 at the garden of Rob Branch in Sarasota, we offer a warm welcome to our new members, a big thank you for our long-time members, and well wishes for the coming winter.

Right: *Dr. John Rossi does the introduction for the creature feature at the pergola.*



Background Information:

- **Fall 2018 Meeting:**
 - **Link #1:** <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/57636-central-florida-palm-cycad-society-first-coast-palm-society-fall-field-trip-meeting-sat-10132018/>
 - **Link #2:** <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/58209-the-garden-of-dr-john-rossi-hastings-fl/#comment-1023150>
 - **David Casella's Video Tour:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm-p_9NbkrE
- **Holiday 2021 Meeting:** <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/71053-central-florida-palm-cycad-society-holiday-meeting-sat-12042021/>
- **Coming Soon:** <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/71456-st-johns-botanical-garden-hastings-fl-coming-soon/>
- **Grand Opening:** <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/80973-central-florida-palm-cycad-society-fall-meeting-sun-10012023/>

Official Website: <https://www.stjohnsbotanicalgarden.org/>



Left: A blast from the past – the graphic created for the first joint meeting at what is now St. Johns Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve on Saturday, October 13th, 2018.

Bottom: Does anyone still have their t-shirt from the meeting?



Announcements

Next Meeting:

The Holiday 2023 meeting will take place on Saturday, December 16th, 2023, at the garden of Rob Branch in Sarasota from 10am to 4pm. Members are asked to bring a plant for the auction, a chair for comfort, and a side dish, dessert, or salad to share. Please RSVP for a headcount to cfpacs.membership@gmail.com.

PalmTalk:

<https://tinyurl.com/y5keha6k>

Any Interest?:

If anyone is interested in accepting the role of Palmateer Editor, please let us know at the Holiday Meeting or by contacting us at:

cfpacs.membership@gmail.com

Email Issues:

If you tried to reach any of the board members using the links on the CFPACS website and did not receive a response, your email may not have been delivered. The issue is currently being worked on in conjunction with our webmaster. Please send correspondence to cfpacs.membership@gmail.com if you do not have a personal email address for the officer you wish to contact until the issue is resolved.

Plant Sales:

29th Annual Mount Dora Plant and Garden Fair: <https://mountdoraplantandgardenfair.com/>

Saturday, November 4th, 2023, 9AM-5PM, Sunday, November 5th, 2023, from 9AM-4PM

Donnelly Park

530 N Donnelly St.

Mount Dora FL 32757

Calusa Palms Annual Fall Plant Sale: <http://www.calusapalmsnursery.com/index.html>

Saturday, November 11th, 2023, 9AM-2PM

6190 Santa Barbara Blvd.

Naples, FL 34112

Edison and Ford Estates – Fall Garden Festival:

Saturday, November 18th, 2023, 9AM-3PM, Sunday, November 19th, 2023, 9AM-3PM

2350 McGregor Blvd.

Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Florida Botanical Gardens – Gift and Plant Sale: https://www.flbgfoundation.org/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=479557&item_id=2044006

Saturday, December 9th, 2023, 10AM-9PM, Sunday, December 10th, 2023, 10AM-3PM

12520 Ulmerton Rd.

Largo, FL 33774



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Join Us!

Join the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society (CFPACS)

<https://cfpacs.com/org/membership-info/>

You can renew via PayPal or check at the site above.

If you are a new member renewing by mail or your information has changed, please download a membership form at the site, print, complete, and return it with your payment.

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.

Join the International Palm Society (IPS)

<https://palms.org/membership/>

Free and paid memberships available.

CFPACS is an affiliate of the IPS.

Join the Cycad Society

<https://cycad.org/content/membership/>

Multiple membership options available.



Our beloved Palmateer editor John D. Kennedy at McKee Botanical Gardens in on February 26th, 2017. Photo submitted by Steve Swinscoe. Steve and John exchanged newsletters from their respective societies.