

## Spring has Sprung

By Libby Luedeke 04/14/2024

**We welcomed** in a fine spring day at the Langley garden in Lutz Fl. April 6<sup>th</sup>. And after two failed attempts to have our winter meeting at Rob Branch's due to rainy weather, we were really ready to get together. By the way, we intend to get to Robs for our winter meeting this year. We enjoyed a large turnout of over 50 people. We welcomed some new members and visited with past members that we haven't seen in many years. I had hoped to see Phil Steger and got rewarded. He is a long time member and supporter who has been a staple in the society.

**Ted and Nancy Langley** have owned this property since 1983. We had our last meeting there in the spring of 2018 and you could really see the growth and changes. Ted's nephew helped him to prepare for our meeting and you could really see the results. The garden was pristine. The property originally only had pines and palmettos, everything else has been added by Ted. Several of the palm species were descendants of Dr. U.A. Young's collection. Thanks to friends and neighbors in the area he started a small collection. Then he became aware of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad society and attended a meeting at Leu Gardens and became hooked. Along with vendors and our plant auctions, Ted became quite a collector. He is focusing mostly on cycads now and has a wonderful collection of encephalartos, dioons, ceratozamia. and cycas species.

**There is a** large host of gorgeous companion plants. Many bromeliads that are thriving in the dappled sunlight, benefiting greatly from the environment, along with ferns and aloes galore. After the grand tour we enjoyed a smorgasbord of amazing food. Which, if anyone is missing a white corning ware casserole dish, let us know. I want to get it back to its owner. Thanks to all who brought food and auction plants. We raised quite a bit with the auction. It's always great to get some real treasures at such affordable prices. That along with our talented vendors who make growing these palms and cycads look easy made it a very special event. Again, thanks so much to the Langley's who shared their home and garden with us and made it a magical place to be. Hopefully Ted has found a spot for his host gift of a South African tree aloe supplied by Jerry Luedeke.

**We look forward** to our summer meeting which will be in Lakeland, FL. See a few places we couldn't fit in on our last visit with some indoor time with a guest speaker to escape the heat. Details coming soon. Hope to see you there!

The crew congregates for the tour.



A walk down the driveway:



“...and if you do this dance right, your plants will not freeze in the winter”:



Our gracious host accepts his gift plant from Jerry:



An aloe blooms in the garden:



Cycads below the canopy:



A *Zombia antillarum* guards the door:

