



CFPACS at Plantae-palooza

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Our society was fortunate enough to host a booth at Lakeland's Plantae-palooza sale on Saturday, February 22nd, 2025. The day started off like a typical winter day in Lakeland, brisk and overcast with a sharp breeze from the north. Most of the plant vendors at the sale set up their booths the night before the sale. In our case, we arrived early and worked swiftly to get the booth ready for the 9am start of the sale. It took roughly half an hour to set up two tents, three tables, and set out all of the plants, T-shirts, and information.

Our booth was staffed by Steve Farnsworth, Dave Hall, and me. Steve worked as our primary plant vendor and knowledge source, Dave sold the T-shirts and handed out literature, and I rotated in and out of both roles when the other two were tied up or needed a break. We managed to sell a few plants before we were even completely setup. Early bird shoppers set the tone for the day, with a short lull in buying followed by a deluge of customers, requests for information and advice, and introductions from other palm enthusiasts and plant societies.

Several members and friends of the society stopped by the booth to buy plants and say hello. Ron and Maryann Hart stopped by the booth to say hello to everyone and chat about their travels. Our former contact at the City of Lakeland, Kevin Polk, has moved on to assist the city of Lake Wales with their horticultural transformation and stopped by to pitch some ideas and solicit our help with projects that are in the works. Jacob Barker and his girlfriend Mia stopped by to buy out the Archontophoenix section and chat about the changes he is making to the garden. Everyone that stopped by the booth made the day better in their own way, and we appreciate the chance to catch up with everyone.

Each year we participate in the sale, we get requests for coconut palms. While they are popular here, they are not a common nursery stock locally or outside of coastal nurseries. An individual who recently moved to Lakeland from Miami stopped by to ask for a coconut palm and was very disappointed that we did not have any. The last time we participated in the sale, it was easy to re-direct the disappointed patrons to Calusa Palms Nursery, where they could buy any variety of coconut their heart desired. Unfortunately, they had a conflicting sale this year and were not present to provide coconut palms. Luckily, I had a small coconut palm at the house that was easy to take out of the ground and give to our excited patron after the sale, along with a quick garden tour.

The sale was a huge success in every respect. We sold even more plants than we sold at the last sale, the CFPACS tote bags and T-shirts were a huge draw to the booth, the bag of fertilizer donated to the society by Keith Santner brought in a \$40 donation, and we were able to field test a business card design with QR codes as part of our modernization efforts. We look forward to seeing everyone at the spring meeting starting in Merritt Island on Saturday, March 15th, 2025, at 10am.



Every journey starts with a single step. The chairs and one table sit at our booth site at 7:30AM.



A plumeria vendor puts the final touches on the booth before the sale starts.



The vendor tents in the center of the garden sit below rows of Archontophoenix alexandrae.



*Additional vendors set up on the promenade, with *Livistona saribus* and *Archontophoenix teracarpa* nearby.*



Steve puts the finishing touches on the booth as patrons begin to arrive.



President Dave Hall staffs the CFPACS table.



Patrons flood the booths on the promenade.



These are the business cards we test marketed at the sale. The QR codes were a big hit with mobile phone users.

Additional Links

Spring Meeting 2025:

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/87378-plantae%E2%80%93palooza-garden-festival-saturday-february-22nd-2025/>

The Plantae-palooza thread for this year:

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/87378-plantae%E2%80%93palooza-garden-festival-saturday-february-22nd-2025/>

Plantae-palooza thread from the 2023 sale:

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/76607-plantae-palooza-garden-festival-formerly-plantopia-saturday-february-25th-2023/>



After the sale, a patron stopped by to pick up this young coconut and take a tour of my garden.