



Spring Sale 2026: Inaugural CFPACS Spring Sale at SJBGNP a Great Success

By: Jeremy Evanchesky

Dr. Rossi took the lead on putting together our first spring sale in a very long time. The 2026 February Freeze provided plenty of incentive for enthusiasts to restock their gardens, and the selection provided plenty of opportunity to do just that. Vendors at the included Jeff Searle, Clay Porch, Alex Steeg, Cody Martin, Joe McCain, George Baker, and the garden's own nursery, Shivering Palms. The slate of vendors represents the entire peninsula from Jacksonville down to Homestead.

The weather did not cooperate in terms of rain, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm. It stayed dry long enough for everyone to pick up their favorite palms and enjoy a tour through the garden to see the palms that did well, and a few others that did not do so well. The temperature in the garden reached 21.5°F, providing a very strong benchmark for near-record freeze survival for much of Central Florida.

When the rain did decide to visit, we had time for everyone to huddle under the roof near the admission area to enjoy some freshly delivered pizza. Once the sky started to clear, it was time for everyone to start packing their wares and make the trip back home. CFPACS President Dave Hall provided an interesting final thought at the event; if anyone needs rain, tell them to host a meeting.

We hope that everyone who attended had a great time and we'll see you next year!

Spring Fever 2026 in Winter Garden

By: Jeremy Evanchesky

I was personally unable to make this event due to scheduling constraints. President Dave Hall, along with new vendor and 2025 Fall Meeting Host Alex Steeg, anchored the booth for the first day of the event. Anyone who has ever looked at Winter Garden on a map knows that Lake Apopka typically keeps this area several degrees above what a location in Florida at this latitude would experience each night. There were plenty of plants sold, but our biggest contribution to the event was education. Most of the folks did not know a lot about palms. This is odd for an area that has dozens of fruiting coconut palms.

On the second day, one of our vendors had to cancel due to unexpected circumstances. We hope to give this sale another try next year. There is a lot of foot traffic in an area with an enviable microclimate that could support many of our favorite palms for any year that doesn't bring record cold to the region.

Summer 2026 Meeting in Melbourne

By: Jeremy Evanchesky

A concerted effort was made last year to start expanding our palette of gardens to visit, resulting in three events covering six new stunning private gardens. Our summer meeting of this year marks the seventh new garden in 1.5 years. The private garden in Melbourne did not disappoint in a year in which several gardens were damaged to the point where the tours had to be moved.

It was easy to be confused as to where exactly the meeting would take place, as the address given to the RSVPs was only one of the two lots the host has landscaped. Upon arriving, there was already a canopy setup, all of the plants were labeled, and there was plenty of open space for vendors, auction plants, tables, and parking. It was clear that the host put a lot of effort into planning for the event.

The landscaping utilizes copious amounts of stone for borders and aesthetics, emphasizes the unusually steep grade of the two properties, and includes a broad swath of hardy native plants that provide contrast to some of the exotic species of palms. One of the first details folks noticed during the tour was the relatively low amount of damage sustained during the February Freeze. It is difficult to comprehend how so much progress could be made in only 2 years, especially with the amount and size of the stones used and the impact of the weather we had only 4 months ago.

The host lead everyone through the front of both properties before inviting everyone into the back to see the sprawling layout and various paths between the beds. After the formal part of the tour ended, attendees spent some time getting to know each other before light refreshments were served. The auction started promptly at 12:15pm and finished very quickly, leaving the rest of the afternoon to shop with our vendors and return to areas of interest during the tour or ask questions.

The weather was as good as it could get for a summer day in Florida, with no rain and a breeze all day. Our host received a *Stangeria eriopus* from the society as a host gift. We hope to visit again in a few years to see the jungle approaching final form and any other innovations by our host.

Our fall meeting is four short months away, and if all goes as planned, will mark the 8th new garden visited in under 2 years by the society. For planning purposes, the private garden is very close to downtown Orlando. Look for further details via email, PalmTalk, and/or Facebook.



The spring sale at SJBGNP in progress.



Dr. Rossi kicks off the Tour de Freeze during the Spring Sale at SJBGNP.



Dr. Rossi keeps the crowd engaged during the Tour de Freeze.



This is where we buried the last plant thief... not really.



President Dave Hall staffs the booth at Spring Fever.



Alex and Dave teamed up for the Spring Fever sale.



The summer meeting and tour begins.



The summer tour enters the backyard.



"Alright, no one better have brought a shovel with them."



It was easier to walk down the hill.



*Our host with CFPACS East VP Jerry Luedeke and his gift plant - *Stangeria eriopus*.*

Links:

Event PalmTalk Links:

- [Spring Fever in the Garden](#)
- [CFPACS Spring Sale at SJBGNP](#)
- [2026 Summer CFPACS Meeting](#)

Fall Meetings 2026: *Plan for a meeting near Downtown Orlando in October. Dates, times, and locations being finalized shortly.*

February 2026 Freeze Map: <http://tinyurl.com/4xyx52p5>

Winter 2025-2026 Weather and Damage Discussions:

- **Weather:**
 - <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/91751-2025-2026-florida-winter/>
 - <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/92674-historic-east-florida-freeze-feb-2026-screen-shots/>
 - <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/79400-for-some-florida-drought-is-getting-very-extreme/>
- **Damage:**
 - <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/92659-2026-02-florida-palmeddon-observations-and-damage-photo-thread/>
 - <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/92723-2026-02-documenting-freeze-damage-in-south-brevard/>
 - <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/92792-2026-02-february-2026-cold-snap-in-cape-coral-florida/>
 - <https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/topic/92884-2026-02-preliminary-cold-damage-to-my-palms-after-23f-central-florida/>