



PALM QUEST CONFERENCE

April 12 and 13, 2023

UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research
And Education Center &
Renaissance West Hotel,
Fort Lauderdale, FL



Program Produced by



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An all-new **International Palm Conference** has been created to provide industry professionals with the latest applied research projects and receive up-to-date information on advances in palm production, installation, and management techniques.

Developed through the joint efforts of the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA), the University of Florida/IFAS and industry professionals, this conference is devoted to palm selection, production methods, landscape management, marketing, handling, trimming, BMP's and pest management issues. This program is designed to address the current and future trends of the palm industry allowing attendees to clearly focus on getting results and staying in front of the curve.

About the Program:

A two-day format will provide attendees multiple learning opportunities. First day takes place indoors at the hotel covering historical impacts, production, preservation and physiology of palms. Second day is held at the UF demonstration site where topics will focus on current research and ways to implement the approaches and ideas. Program format will also include an evening reception with conference partners to facilitate and foster one-on-one networking time with attendees.

Platinum Level—\$5,000

Gold Level—\$2,500

Silver Level—\$1,000

**60% OF ALL PARTNER DOLLARS RAISED WILL
GO DIRECTLY TO PALM RESEARCH
AT THE FORT LAUDERDALE RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION CENTER**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FNGLA and SEND
TO: 1533 Park Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32835
OR

SUBMIT PARTNER PAYMENT ONLINE at
<https://bit.ly/PalmPartners>

For More Information about supporting the Palm Quest Conference, contact Linda Reindl, lreindl@fngla.org or Mica McMillan, mica.mcmillan@ufl.edu

Who Should Attend?

All segments of the nursery & landscape industry are encouraged to attend. The conference's target audience includes growers, propagators, landscape contractors, plant brokers, allied suppliers, landscape architects, inspectors, foresters, arborists, city and county planners, water management district staff, educators, research scientists and palm industry professionals.



Reserve Your Room for the Palm Quest Conference at Renaissance Fort Lauderdale West

\$189.00 Single/Double

**Renaissance West
1230 S Pine Island Rd,
Plantation, FL 33324
Phone: (954) 472-2252**

<https://bit.ly/PalmQuestReservations>



**Reserve before 03/21/2023.
Rates available three days prior and
three days after conference dates.**

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**Ft. Lauderdale Research
& Education Center
3205 College Avenue,
Davie, FL 33314-7799
(954) 577-6300**



The programs at UF IFAS FLREC include urban and landscape ecology, landscape and turfgrass management, urban pest ecology and management, invasive wildlife issues, aquatic plant management, geospatial analysis, and biodiversity of insects and nematodes. FLREC has added faculty strength in microbial ecology, nutrient cycling, applied phycology, palm pathology, and palm management since 2020. The 18 tenure-track faculty members, including the center director are the best at addressing issues that arise related to the urban/natural interface presented by our proximity to the Everglades.



Wednesday, April 12th

Sessions Held at the Renaissance West/Fort Lauderdale

7:45 AM

Welcome - Jack Rechcigl, Center Director/ Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL and Tal Coley, Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association, Orlando, FL

8:00 AM

Palms | From the Past to Present

Dr. John Dransfield, Royal Botanical Gardens - KEW, Richmond, United Kingdom

Dr. John Dransfield has spent a life-time researching the wonderful diversity of palms, trying to capture a better understanding of what we know of their relationships and general natural history and reflecting this in a generic classification that can convey information in a maximally useful way. He will join us to share the development of palm systematics over the last fifty years. He will outline where current research is heading and the significance it has to the horticultural industry.

9:00 AM

What's Next For Palms | Industry Research and Conservation

- Patrick Griffith, Montgomery Botanical Gardens, Coral Gables, FL

Established in 1959, the mission of the Montgomery Botanical Center, a non-profit institution, is to advance science, education, conservation, and horticultural knowledge of tropical plants, emphasizing palms and cycads, and to exemplify excellent botanical garden design in its 120-acre garden. As Executive Director, Patrick leads a team of scientists and horticulturists who have been developing an amazing collection of palms and cycads for 90 years. Come hear exciting things happening with palm research.

10:00 – 10:15 AM

BREAK

10:15 AM

Power of Palm

Jeff Caster, Fellow | American Society of Landscape Architects, Tallahassee, FL

When it comes to palms, the word outstanding comes to mind. Palms of every size, shape, color, and country of origin make first and lasting impressions of Florida. At the state line and on the official state seal, palms are welcomed and expected. As retired landscape architect for the State of Florida, Jeff Caster will share why palms are the most prominent plants in Florida's most visible and visited landscapes. Come hear why palms matter.

11:15 AM

Palm Design For Long-Term Success

Craig Reynolds, Craig Reynolds Landscape Architects, Key West, FL

The ultimate goal with any of Craig's designs is for the tension to leave a client's shoulders, for them to relax and want to stay. Every property has a fingerprint, a timbre, an underlying identity. Come and hear how palms are used in the landscape to create those landscape design elements. See how palms can be integrated into existing landscapes and species that work successfully in south Florida and Caribbean gardens with long-term success.

12:00 PM

LUNCH/Morning Wrap

1:00 PM

The Structural Biology of Palms

Larry Noblick, Montgomery Botanical Gardens, Coral Gables, FL

Larry will take a closer look at the biology of palms.

2:00 PM

Palm Nutrient Deficiencies –Their Causes, Symptoms And Correction

Lynn Griffith, Tropical Plant and Soil Expert, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Palm nutrient deficiencies and occasional toxicities are rather common in Florida landscapes, tree farms and nurseries. The talk will discuss the biochemistry of palm deficiencies and show pictures from around the world. Corrective measures will be discussed.

3:00 – 3:15 PM **BREAK**

3:15 PM

Endangered Species of the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park

Mike Owen, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park Copeland, FL

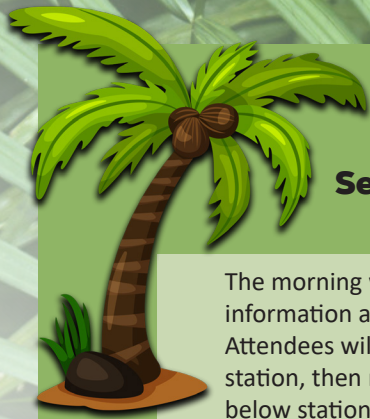
Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park is the largest state park in Florida and home to a variety of plant and animal species that can be found nowhere else in the continental U.S. As park biologist, Mike Owen will share the latest research being done with endangered species in the preserve as well as a special emphasis on royal palms.

4:15 PM **Afternoon Wrap-up**

5:30 – 6:30 PM **Partner Reception**

This is an opportunity at the Renaissance to mingle with conference partners.





Thursday, April 13th

Sessions Held At Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center

The morning will be jam-packed with information and lots of moving parts. Attendees will spend 30 minutes at each station, then rotate to the next station. See below station information.

8:00 - 11:00 AM

- **Palm Lethal Decline Phytoplasmas and Their Vectors in the Caribbean and Southeastern United States** - *Dr. Brian Bahder, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL*
During this presentation, we will discuss insect integrated pest management (IPM) in palm landscapes. We will discuss key pest biology and management, and how cultural practices can be leveraged to reduce key pest abundance and associated damage. We will also provide an update and overview of ongoing LBD research investigating the effects of mixing turfgrass cultivars and palm species on tree quality, resilience to pests, and key pest pressure. We will discuss implications of this work, next steps, and ongoing efforts to develop more effective and sustainable pest management tactics. Disease will be emphasized.
- **Management Strategies for Palms** – *Dr. Mica McMillian, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL*
An overview of alternative fertilization strategies for a variety of palms will be discussed. An update on establishment and rooting of palms in native sand vs compost amended soil will provide attendees with methods for improving transplant of palms.
- **Diagnostics and Management of Fungal Diseases of Palms**
Dr. Braham Dhillon, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL
We will provide updates on ongoing research on fungal diseases of palms. Our efforts on pathogen detection and the impact of disease on palm health will be discussed. Observations on pathogen transmission in the landscape and disease spread will be shared. We will provide updates on the ongoing evaluation of potential biological agents on controlling diseases of palms.
- **Regulatory Updates**
Christine A Zamora, Division of Plant Industry, Gainesville, FL
This session will provide attendees with a special toolbox filled with key information to handle rules and regulations for production, sale and transport of palms statewide, across the country and internationally. Make sure you are up to date and prepared.

11:15 AM

Cabbage Palm Cutting DEMO - *Steve Griffin, Griffin Trees and Russell Adams, CONSOR Engineers, LLC*

Cabbage palmetto got its name because of its edible terminal bud which tastes somewhat like cabbage. The bud, also called swamp cabbage, is good both raw and cooked and is commercially canned and sold. This fun demonstration will give everyone a chance to see how to properly cut and sample.

12:15 – 1:00 PM **LUNCH**

1:00 PM

Grades and Standards

John Conroy, Fish Branch Tree Farm, Zolfo Springs, FL
This session will look at the processes and concepts used for grading palms. A few minutes will be dedicated to the distinctions between grading and specifying. The importance of understanding how and why grading and specifying are separate, discrete processes will be emphasized.

1:30 PM

Grower Round Table

2:30 - 3:00 PM

Program's Final Wrap Up

Continuing Education Units:

CEU's will be offered for the following programs:

American Society of Landscape Architects
ENGLA's Certified Industry Professionals (FCHP, FCLC, FCLT & FCLD, FCLMT, FCLIST) |
Florida Chapter International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) | Pesticide CEUs |
Landscape Inspectors Association of Florida (LIAF)

Conference Speakers



Russell Adams is currently Assistant Project Administrator for CONSOR Engineers, LLC. He has been growing palms in north Florida as a nurseryman since his arrival in 1983. He is a graduate of the University of Florida. He has collected cycad and palm seed in the Bahamas and Panama for Montgomery Botanical Center in Coral Gables. He is part

of the Division of Plant Industries Palm sub-committee and helped develop the latest Grades and Standards for Palms and will be working on further revisions. Over the last 13 years, as a consultant to the Florida Department of Transportation, he has overseen the construction, establishment and maintenance of hundreds of landscape projects throughout the state of Florida. Most of these projects included the planting and establishment of mature palms.



Brian Bahder, Ph.D., specializes in insect vector ecology, specifically in vector discovery of new and emerging pathogens that cause economic loss in agricultural and ornamental cropping systems as well as understanding the evolutionary relationships and molecular mechanisms that determine the ability of species to transmit pathogens. His current research

interests include the epidemiology of phytoplasmas infecting palms as well as other common tropical ornamental plants and their associated diseases and insect pests and developing management strategies to reduce economic losses.



Jeff Caster is former landscape architect for the Florida Department of Transportation and now fellow for the American Society of Landscape Architects, Jeff has decades of professional and leadership experience in the American Society of Landscape Architects, at the Florida Department of Transportation, at Florida A&M University, and in his community. All readied Jeff

to continue being impactful in the nursery and landscape industry. Jeff is an advocate and activist for conservation of Florida's natural resources and scenic beauty, and against bullying and bigotry everywhere.



John Conroy is President, founder, and owner of Fish Branch Tree Farm, Inc. He chaired the committee for the most recent revision of Florida's Grades & Standards for palms. John obtained both a B.S. and M.S. degree in Education from Florida State

University. In the 1970's and 1980's he owned garden centers with landscaping, irrigation, and sod operations. John founded Fish Branch Tree Farm in 1988, a tree farm which has grown to 325 acres, located in Southwest Florida. Over the years John has sought to develop innovative production methods and has promoted new or under-utilized trees. He owns the plant patents to Boardwalk® and Park Side® live oaks. John has presented at many industry venues on various topics relating to palms.



Braham Dhillon's research program focuses on leveraging fungal pathogen biology to investigate host-pathogen interaction, disease etiology and pathosystem evolution. My extension emphasis is on studying pathogen diversity, molecular diagnostics and developing disease management strategies for challenges faced by nurseries and stakeholders.



Dr. John Dransfield was educated at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and gained his PhD under Professor E.J.H. Corner in 1970 with a study of two Malaysian palm genera, *Eugeissona* and *Johannesteijsmannia*. John went on to devote his working life to palm research, working first in Indonesia for four years on palms specializing in the rattans, the climbing palms that are the source of cane for cane-furniture. In

1975, he continued palm research at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew where he was head of Palm Research until his retirement in 2005.

John continues his research as an Honorary Research Fellow at Kew. He has completed several consultancies on rattans for FAO, British Overseas Development Agency and the Commonwealth Development Corporation. Much of his work since retirement has been devoted to the palms of Madagascar, palms of New Guinea and palm generic delimitation. He lives in southeast Wales with his wife, Indonesian-born bamboo taxonomist Soejatmi.



Steve Griffin is owner of Griffin Trees, Inc. which has been in business for over 30 years and is owned and operated by he and his wife Sheri. Griffin Trees currently has over 300 acres of field grown material with different varieties of oaks and palm trees, including a 266 acres tree farm in

Okeechobee County and three locations in Highlands County.



Lynn Griffith, Tropical Plant and Soil Expert, has served as a horticultural consultant throughout Florida, United States and in 34 countries around the world for 42 years. He specializes in turf in ornamental disorders for both commercial nurseries and landscapes. Lynn owned a and L southern agricultural laboratory for 28 years. He has written four books and hundreds of articles about diagnosing tropical plant problems.



Dr. M. Patrick Griffith has led Montgomery Botanical Center since 2005—developing the team, focusing resources, and setting priorities to meet the mission. Patrick has worked in leadership, living collections management, herbarium curation, rare plant survey, floristic inventory, laboratory research, and land management, and for botanic

gardens, universities, government, and private interests. Patrick’s research is in plant systematics and plant conservation and is focused on living botanical collections. As Executive Director, Patrick works to define, strengthen, and promote an important contribution that Montgomery makes to this field—living collections-based conservation and research. Strategic planning for collections, capital improvements, development and collaboration is carefully aligned with the MBC mission, to grow outcomes in botany and horticulture.



Dr. Mica McMillan is the Assistant Professor of Palm Horticulture at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center. She has worked as a researcher in the agriculture, turfgrass and media industries focused on developing chemistries to improve plant and soil health. Dr. McMillan’s research will primarily focus on palm and ornamental plants from seed to establishment

under a variety of environmental and edaphic conditions.



Larry Noblick was born in Ohio and has a B.S. in Biological Conservation (Wildlife Management), a B.S. in Education, and an M.S. in Botany from Ohio State University. He first became interested in palms while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Brazil (1978-80). He founded an herbarium at the Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana (HUEFS) in Bahia, Brazil, and later returned and spent four more

years developing it and continuing his studies on the palms of the Atlantic Forest Region. He came back to the U.S. in 1986 and obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1991. He then went on to complete a post-doc at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Miami, Florida and has worked at Montgomery Botanical Center, Miami, Florida since 1994 as their palm specialist, collections manager, and palm biologist.



Mike Owen has been the Park Biologist at the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park since 1993. His duties include hydrological monitoring, endangered plant surveys, Herbarium collection, wildlife observations including roadkill data, vertebrate species list, plant species list, non-native plant removal, participates in Prescribed burns, and conducts

interpretive programs involving swamp walks, power point programs and guided walks.

1989-1992: Field Tech. with the DNR Fisheries-Independent Monitoring Program at the Marine Research Institute, St. Petersburg, Florida FL

- 1991 - B.S. degree in Zoology at the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
- 1992: Florida Park Service, Park Ranger at Koreshan State Historic Site in Estero, FL
- 1993-present: Florida Park Service, Park Biologist at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park in Copeland, Florida.



Craig Reynold has served as a landscape architect for the last 20 years. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Ohio State University and Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Florida. During his career he spent seven years with Raymond Jungles Design Studio. He believes a well-designed garden should change your perspective when you experience it, if only a few

degrees. The ultimate goal when someone encounters one of his spaces is for the tension to leave their shoulders, for them to relax, for them to want to stay. Every property has a fingerprint, a timbre, an underlying identity. Craig starts sketching and keeps sketching until he finds the lines, shapes, forms and colors that best suit the design. In the end, he wants a garden to feel like it’s always been there. Craig started Craig Reynolds Landscape Architects in 2002, working mostly on local properties, but have since expanded his geographic scope to prop-erties in the Upper Keys, Southern Florida, Miami, Palm Beach, Jamaica, the Bahamas, New Orleans, Saint Kitts, Curacao, and Saint Vincent.



Christine Zamora graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Wildlife Conservation and Ecology. Developed a career at the FDACS-DPI working first in the bureau of Methods and Development on the biocontrol of the Caribbean fruit fly, then on to the nematology lab which lead to filling many roles in the Bureau of Plant Inspection including now as the Export Certification Specialist.

Gardening, hiking and birding are among the many hobbies enjoyed.

2023 Palm Quest Conference Registration

Two Ways to Register

REGISTER ONLINE:
bit.ly/PalmQuestReg

SEND REGISTRATION TO:
Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association, 1533 Park Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32835
Phone: (407) 295-7994 or (800) 375-3642 Fax: (407) 295-1619 E-mail: info@fn gla.org

Attendee Name(s)

1. _____ E-mail _____ vegetarian
2. _____ E-mail _____ vegetarian
3. _____ E-mail _____ vegetarian
4. _____ E-mail _____ vegetarian

Company/Firm Name _____

Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ FL _____

	On/Or BEFORE April 5, 2023	After April 5, 2023	Total
Full Registration	\$ 275 X__	\$300 X__	
Single Day Registration (Weds. Only)	\$175 X__	\$200 X__	
Single Day Registration (Thurs. Only)	\$120 X__	\$145 X__	
Total Registration			

Method of Payment:

Make checks payable to **FNGLA**.

Method of payment: Check MC Visa Discover AMEX

Card # _____
Exp.Date: _____ CVV _____

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Signature: _____

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It is the intention of FNGLA to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Anyone planning to attend these programs that have special needs, please make FNGLA aware of these needs.

Please check here if you require special accommodations to fully participate.