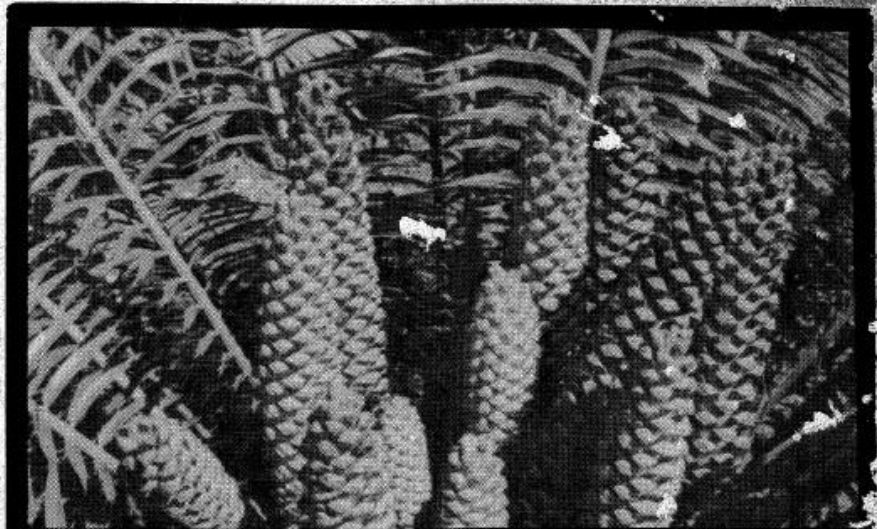


CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM BULLETIN

VOL 10 NO. 1

JANUARY 1990



ABOVE: Top: One of the Besse's cycads sporting a large number flower cones. Below: Our hosts Bob & Libby Besse with their *Copernicia macrotrocha*.

THE CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
Published at Palmhead
Stacey P. Peacock, Editor
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20160 Scripps, FL 33890
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FIRST CLASS

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addressed to:

ED HALL
1111 GLEN GARRY CIRCLE
MAITLAND, FL 32751



FIRST CLASS

THIS LETTER COMES FROM DOUG KEENE COMPLETE WITH PHOTOS:

Dear Bob and Marita:

December 15, 1989

I'm sitting here holding your Christmas card once again realizing just what I missed the most during this past year. The joy that I received from meeting people like you in the Palm Society. Your concern for us is truly appreciated and please rest assured that you have not been forgotten. Nor has anyone else in the Society.

Since going on strike March 4th, our lives have literally been consumed by the events of same. You closed your card by saying, "....let's talk palms, and politics...." Funny, there's nothing I like talking about more. I'm going to start rambling on and I'll let the palm fronds fall where they may.

The year is almost over and we've had two freezes (one more is predicted for this coming weekend) to date. I'm glad to say that my palms and tropical trees have all come out of the cold relatively unscathed. Right now, we have several varieties of Bauhinia (orchid trees) blooming with a white variety about ready to. AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL PALM & TROPICAL TREE LOVERS! PLEASE COME VISIT DOUG & BARBARA KEENE'S PALMIARIUM, TROPICAL FLOWERING TREE AND FIRE ANT FARM, LOCATED JUST OFF OF HIGHWAY 17-92 IN BEAUTIFUL DEADLAND FLORIDA. WINTER (also spring, summer and fall) HOME OF GEOMYS PINETIS, THE SOUTHEASTERN POCKET GOPHER, WORLD'S UGLIEST AND MOST DESTRUCTIVE RODENT. WE ALSO HAVE 37 VARIETIES OF IMPORTED FIRE ANTS IN NATURAL SURROUNDINGS. WATCH IN TOTAL AWE AS THEY PLAY BASKETBALL WITH AMDRO!*** Maybe Stacey Peacock will run that ad in a future newsletter! How about Principes?

You, of course, don't know it, but I just took a little break to bring in the mail. Today was certainly a good haul, indeed. In addition to two beautiful catalogs from Thompson & Morgan and Wayside Gardens, I received yet another little seed bundle of joy from everyone's favorite seed lady, Inge Hoffmann from way out west in San Leandro, California. The woman is truly amazing. In spite of a lot of problems ranging up to and including an earthquake!!!.....she still manages to "ship them seeds out." If I could find a hat to fit my head I would definitely take it off to this lady! She deserves all of our thanks and at the risk of becoming redundant, a big round of applause. Incidentally, the seeds are Copernicia tectorum from Columbia...."Expedition Bernal///Growing also in Venezuela together with Cacti in the higher, dry inland high Savanna...6 - 12m high, trunk 30cm diameter." Thanks again Inge and continued success with your new Seed Service

Glad to hear you've started a nursery with mainly Livistona decipiens and L. saribus. I'm rather fond of Livistona myself, having acquired about thirteen species at last count, including two or three species which still haven't germinated. The late freeze we had last March nearly wiped out my Wodyetia collection which were left in pots with only an oak canopy to protect them. All six experienced total browning and subsequent loss of all leaves! Two died and four have since fully recovered, fortunately. So much for the highly touted cold-hardiness of these palms. Perhaps they would have done better "in the ground" but I don't wish to take the chance at this time.

Although I have not been keeping close tabs, I estimate my total collection of palms to be over 80 species. I have my share of cold sensitive exotics but, in addition to Livistonas, I'm trying to build up my supply of Phoenix and Sabal species with Sabal Yapa still managing to elude my greedy clutches. Speaking of greed.....

I certainly regret having missed most of the Palm Society meetings this past year, most notably Jerry Keuper's Beach Beer Blast in Melbourne! In order for me to have missed an event like that.....I'd have to be either dead or on strike! But I DID manage to attend the member's day sale held October 21st in Leu Gardens, Orlando where, voila, I was able to "pick up" three more Butia x Syagrus hybrids which were available for "a song." These are the only cold-hardy palms that we can grow in Central Florida that can give the beauty of Cocos nucifera a good run for the money, in my opinion.



Speaking of Butias and hybrids, I'd like to bring to your attention a less-than-one square mile development called Breezewood Park, located off of 17-92 in Orange City, Florida. Consisting mainly of retirees, I believe that Breezewood Park must have one of the largest collections of Butia capitata in Central Florida with at least one planted in nearly every yard! I also counted and photographed five or six mature hybrids as well as a colossal Sabal sp. The photos are going to Stacey Peacock for his expert evaluation.

As far as I can tell I'm the only member of the Palm Society who lives in DeLand, Volusia County, Florida. Now, as I see it, there may be several ways of interpreting that fact. Either I'm crazy or everyone else is. I realize that DeLand is noted for its stately oak trees, but, naturally, as soon as I moved in nearly ten years ago the oaks started to die and the orange groves all froze. Maybe my palms haven't been told that they aren't supposed to grow here. Kind of reminds me of the last Presidential campaign. Either I was crazy.....

Volusia County's most famous Palm Society member was a gentleman by the name of Dent Smith who just happened to have founded the society nearly thirty-five years ago. I will always regret that I never had the opportunity to have met Dent for he was my inspiration into the wonderful world of palms. One of Dent's closest friends, Dave Besst, I have since come to know quite well and he has also played a big role in getting me started in palms. Frank Radosta of New Smyrna Beach, Bill Hahn of Daytona, Carol Graff of Miami and Stacey Peacock of Zolfo Springs are all friends that I have met as a direct result of the Palm Society and I really miss their association, although, hopefully, this will only be a temporary situation. If I have left anyone out, please don't feel slighted. Simply attribute it to the aging process.

If you're not the type who likes long letters then I may have lost you a couple of pages back. But, look at it this way...You may not hear from me again for another year! Feel free to call, let's get together.

Happy Holidays, have a great New Year, and may the good Lord keep you in His "palms."

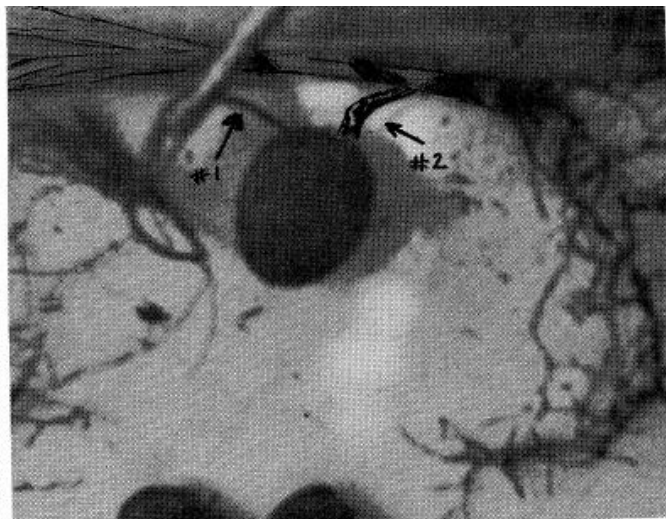
MORE PHOTOS GREAT ARTICLE
NEXT PAGE.. DOUG! THANKS!

Kindest regards,
Doug Keene

**AMDRO...for any non-Floridian who may read this letter, AMDRO is a granulated fire ant insecticide.



SHEELLEA MACROCARPA A. MIKE
Dahme of Grant, FL sends these photos of a Scheelea macrocarpa seed (IPS Seedbank # 287) that produced 2 seedlings from a single seed. Whether it is caused by multiple embryos or an example of parthenocarpy in palms, I am not sure but perhaps someone can tell us. I have also experienced the same occurrence in Scheelea cephalotes and would tend to suspect that it also occurs in other members of the genus. GREAT DOCUMENTATION OF THE EVENT MIKE !!!!!!!



PBS VICTORY GARDEN FEATURES PACIFIC TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN IN HAWAII:

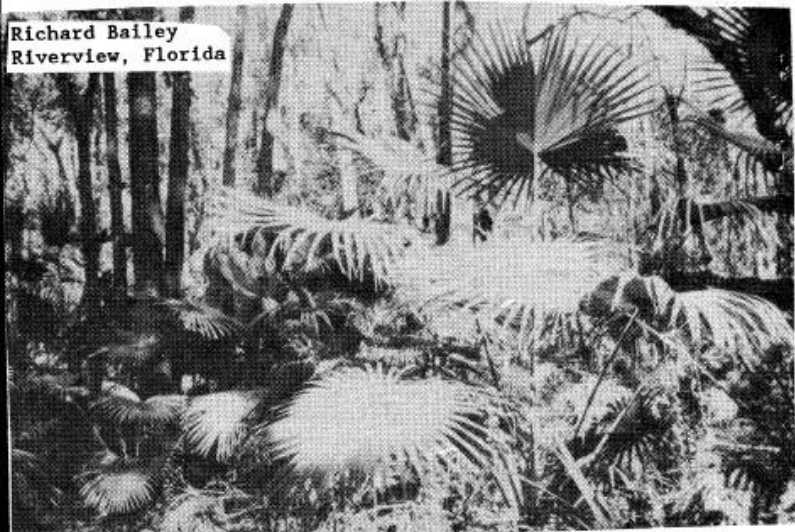
I was delighted to see the above garden featured on "Victory Garden" last month. The video tour was conducted by Bill Theobald over the 200 acres of Tropical Garden and an associated estate of about 100 acres. I was astounded by the beauty of the garden, so green and lush as well as topographically pleasing amid rivers, streams, hills and ocean. The garden receives about 80" of rainfall each year and is downstream from a highland area receiving about 120"/year. The garden is located in Lawai, isle of Kauai, Hawaii.

THIS BISMARKIA IS AN EARLY BLOOMER:

This remarkable photo comes from Bernie Peterson. It is of a 3½ year old Bismarkia nobilis in a 15 gallon pot that has attempted to bloom. It had been mildly damaged by frost in the previous winter, which may be one of the reasons for this response at such a tender age. THANKS FOR SHARING THIS UNCOMMON EVENT WITH US BERNIE!

Naturalized Livistona chinensis near Brooksville, Florida

Richard Bailey
Riverview, Florida



Behind a beautiful old mansion at Chinsegut Hill is an area with Livistona chinensis growing in the wild. Chinsegut Hill is approximately five miles north of Brooksville. The palms are growing under a solid canopy of hardwood trees. The site appears to be about four acres with over a thousand individuals. The palms are thriving in the wooded area with absolutely no care. I would have thought it would be too cold for the palms that far north.

The old wooden mansion was build back in the 1850's and is now owned and preserved by the University of South Florida. The grounds have several mature specimen palms including: Rapidophyllum hystrix, Acrocomia totai, Sabal sp. and others.

The hill is the second highest point in the State of Florida, over 300 feet of elevation and the views are breathtaking. The grounds has a meeting room and dormitories. Maybe we can have a meeting there sometime.

OTHER →

SEED NEWS! SEED NEWS! SEED NEWS!

Inge Hoffmann (former head of the IPS Seedbank) has formed her own seed service since vacating that post. Her seedlist is impressive and the cost per packet of seed is only \$3.00 with a few exceptions. If you'd like to get started with her service, write to Inge Hoffmann at 695 Joaquin Ave, San Leandro, Ca 94577 Tel (415)352-4291/fax14153524291

Meanwhile, our own Seedbank (IPS) is almost reorganized. Robert Egge, the new Seedbank Director has announced that there will be two main distribution centers, one of which will be operated out of Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami, FL. This is exciting news since FTG is bound to be more involved with seed contribution than they were in the past. Great News indeed! I'm not as thrilled with the idea of a prepayment plan. Maybe an explanation of just how this is supposed to work might change my mind but at any rate it seems to be a step toward a less "user-friendly" system.

Bob & Marita Bobick have sent me the Seedlist of a man who supplies seed of Columbian palms, among them Cerroxylon. The list was an extensive one but did not include prices. The address on the envelope was Luz Eugenia Tobon A. Cra. 79B #45-21 ap. 201 Medellin, COLOMBIA

If anyone attempts this please let me know of your results.



SABAL CAUSIARUM IN HOLLY HILL: This photo comes from Bill Hahn of Daytona Beach. The Sabal causiaryum pictured with Bill was planted in 1978 from a 2-gallon pot which he paid about \$2.75. The palm is located on the N.E. corner of 8th St and Hibiscus.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

BERNIE PETERSON MAKES APPEARANCE

DOWNUNDER: I was surprised to see Bernie's smiling face in the Oct 1989 issue of Principes minor; a publication of the Sydney Branch of the Palm & Cycad Societies of Australia. They had reprinted the photo of Bernie & the Ravenea rivularis featured in an issue of the CFPB last year.

PAM VEST REPORTS: "I saw something wonderful the other day. Of course I didn't have a camera. In Ormond Beach there were two old houses entirely made of Sabal palm logs--they were charming and beautifully crafted. One of them was even two stories. They are located on Orchard Lane, which is the street on the north side of the old Ormond Beach Hotel. The Hotel is located on Granada Ave. If anyone goes to Ormond, they might want to take a picture". [Sounds like a job for the Lowes!..ED.]

Dear Fellow Palm Enthusiast,

I am introducing a new service to make available palm seed to you.

I am a nurseryman and have become an avid palm enthusiast through my experimentation with different species of palms. I am trying to find new species that will adapt well in Florida. With well over 2500 species of palms out there, it seems a crime we only use a dozen or so in our landscapes, and only a hand full for interior use.

Over the past few years, I have tried to get unusual seed through the usual channels but to no avail. If I found a species I really thought had potential, I could not get large quantities of seed.

Through much hard work I have established connections throughout the world to bring in fresh, viable palm seed.

I understand the importance of working with freshly harvested ripe seed, so I only deal with reputable collectors and suppliers.

On my enclosed seed list, I have listed over 400 species of seed. I am constantly finding new sources and other species of seed. At times, I find new species never before brought into the country as well as rare endangered species.

I truly believe that the only way many species of palms are going to survive is through their cultivation away from where their habitats are being destroyed.

Whether you are looking for a few seed of this or that species, a large commercial quantity of a particular species, or anything in between, I feel I can be of service.

Please look over the enclosed list and if you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call or drop me a line.

NEED SEEDLIST? WRITE TO:

Sincerely,

Paul R. Craft
Paul R. Craft

PALM NUTS
a division of
CRICKET CREEK NURSERY, INC.
16651 Rembrandt Road
Loxahatchee, Florida 33470
(407) 793-9029

EXCERPT FROM SEEDLIST:

If interested in a packet of seed of any species, place an X next to that species, and return this list back to me. When that seed becomes available over the year, it will be sent to you. Price will be from \$3.00 to \$5.00 depending on my costs in obtaining the seed and mailing charges. Most packets will cost \$3.00 to \$4.00. You will receive from 6 to 20 seeds. It is my intention to send 10 to 12 seeds for as low a price as possible. However, costs for some species are much higher than others, so, sometimes smaller amounts will be sent at a higher price.

SEND NO MONEY NOW!!! Pay after you have received the seed.

With each packet of seed, there will be an ascension number that you should keep track of. If you should have a problem with bad germination or the like, that number will help me in backtracking to see if your problem was unique or whether the whole batch of seed was bad. If it turns out a batch of seed was not viable, a credit will be issued.

For larger quantities of seed please inquire separately for a price quote.

IT WAS NICE WHILE IT LASTED BY ROB PRESSRICH

I got a little tired of so many people asking me, "Did you have a nice Christmas?" It was not a very pleasant one for me as I awoke to a 26 degree frosty morning. Not since the big freeze of Christmas 1983 has my yard suffered a hard freeze here in St. Petersburg. We had escaped the worst of the 1985 freeze and had enjoyed the nearly "frost-free" winters since. It really showed, too. Those tender palms had flourished without the brutal cold of some winters past. My six year old coconut had reached 20' in height and produced four small coconuts for the first time this past year. The schefellaras had blossomed, too. It really gave those of us who tended to grow the more tropical species the look of success. Then along came the morning of December 24 with a windy 28 degree low. Damage was evident, but not severe. Over one inch of rain the day before and cloud cover along with the wind had kept frost away and freeze damage to a minimum. Then came Christmas morning with a low of 26 degrees, preceded by a long night of below freezing temperatures, and a heavy frost under clear skies. As the sun came up, the damage was already evident. The tropicals were either gone or severely damaged, and as the next few days went by, it only grew worse. Those mild winters, well, it was nice while it lasted.

The frost damage the second morning appears to have made a major impact on many of my palms. Phoenix roebelenii and rupicola as well as reclinata are all "burned" where exposed to the frost and then to the sunlight that morning. Those that were covered by tree canopy or otherwise are generally spared. Some showed immediate damage (coconut, royal, veitchia, archontophoenix, caryota, dictyosperma, ptycosperma, hyophorbe) while others turned those sad shades of brown as the days and even weeks passed. Our local queen palms have begun to show some damage that after the first few days looked unscathed. In my travels around Central Florida, more damage is everywhere. Tampa as usual was colder: 19 on the north side of Tampa Bay, 22-24 in the Interbay area of Tampa, 25-28 in the St. Petersburg and Sarasota/Bradenton area except 30-32 along the waterfront. As you drive east from Tampa the severity is worse with Washingtonia near Lakeland nearly completely burned.

I hope this finds my fellow palm enthusiasts eagerly awaiting our next meeting. What with the freeze, our original dates have been delayed. Don't give up as we know that we shall overcome and will have a fresh new spirit as the spring returns.

January 23, 1990

YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS ABOUT YOUR NEWSLETTER:

WERE YOU AWARE of how much a single issue of the CFPS Newsletter costs to publish? A simple issue of the CFPB with four pages printed front and back and some photos runs us about \$205.00 and this is without the glossy cover (add \$35 for that). This covers a mailing list of 250. This particular expand-issue w/ ample photos can be roughly broken down as follows:

Print-7pgsX\$30=	\$210
Halftone-	\$ 25
Postage- \$.45X250=	\$113
Miscellaneous	\$ 10
TOTAL	\$358

Cost per member \$1.45

Consider this to be the expanded issue for 1990 and we had hoped to be able to have at least one. Certainly everyone deserves a little palm pumping up after this winter so the timing seems right. (not to mention the ample amount of member contribution of materials for this issue) I think member response in support of the Newsletter has helped to make this an excellent issue, and so I will say again:

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER, ONLY YOU CAN MAKE IT WORK!!! (and you are!)

Let us hear from you.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| William Boller Seminole, Fl | \$10.00 |
| Barbara Gulick Sarasota, Fl | \$10.00 |
| Michael Dahme Grant, Fl | \$25.00 |
| Michael Gutman Orlando, Fl | \$ 5.00 |
| Bill Hahn Daytona Beach, Fl | \$25.00 |
| Rockledge Gardens Rockledge, Fl | \$25.00 |
| Doris Smith Daytona Beach, Fl | \$20.00 |
| Wesley Wilson No Miami, Fl | \$ 7.00 |
| Jean & Mike Hunt Homestead, Fl | \$10.00 |
| Harriet DeLoach Largo, Fl | \$ 5.00 |
| Louise Futch (2nd time) Hialeah, Fl | \$ 5.00 |

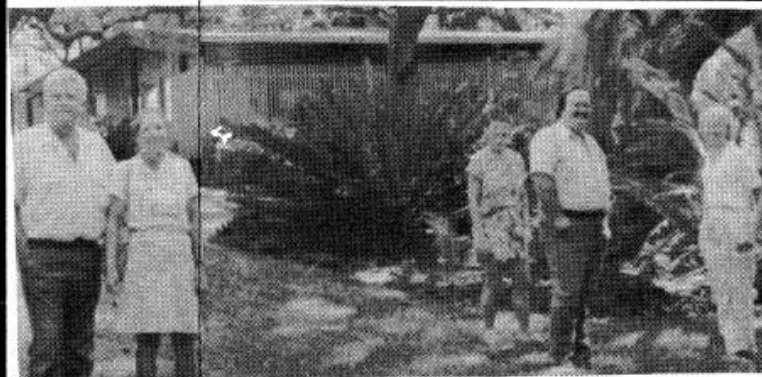
Total \$147

The generosity of chapter members continues to shine through. Forgive me if anyone was inadvertently left off the list, but donations arrive at several locations and confusion does result. We also received another anonymous donation for \$1,000.00 with an offer of \$5,000.00 more if the chapter could match it. (See Chapter Endowment Article) Many, many thanks to the people above. Because of the fundraiser now underway, we hope the list is even longer next time especially from first time supporters.

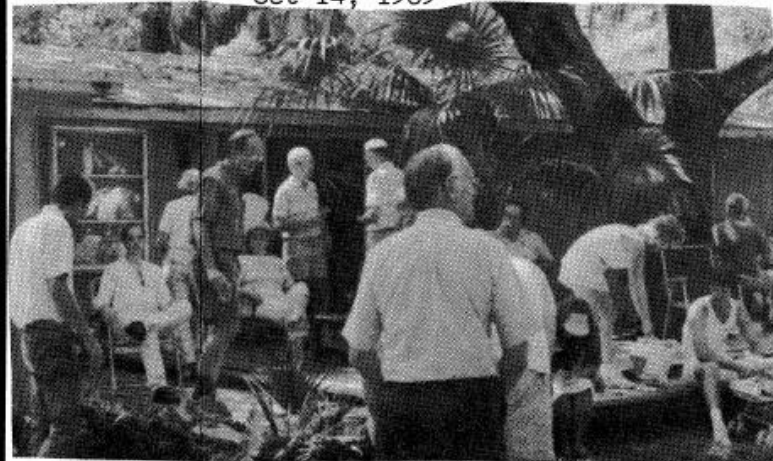
ONCE AGAIN, THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT !!!!!

PLEASE NOTE: All donations, change of addresses, subscriptions, and IPS membership inquiries should be addressed to:

ED HALL
1111 GLEN GARRY CIRCLE
MAITLAND, FL 32751



More Scenes From the Besse Meeting
Oct 14, 1989



THE PALMYRA PALM (Borassus Flabellifer)
Palm of Plenty
by Joe Alf



ABOVE PHOTO: The Palmyra Palm, *Borassus flabellifera*, as it appeared at the Oct 89 FIT Ramble. Photo: Bernie Peterson

The palmyra palm (*Borassus flabellifer*) epitomizes the civilizing force of palms. Dating back before the history of mankind, the palmyra has been a source of food, drink, firewood, timber, tools, clothing, writing material, toys, medicine and intoxicants.

An ancient Indian poem the "Tala Vilasam" extols the great virtue of this palm and its 801 uses. Leaves were used for thatching, fencing, mulching and matting, baskets, umbrellas, fans, hats and as braided leaflets; their fibers extracted for string and cord.

Today, sugar, brandy, fruit (raw or roasted or pulped into confection), and of course honey are derived from the *Borassus*.

It is said that there are more *Borassus* palms in the world than any other tree except for the coconut. The palm thrives in Africa, Asia, Indonesia, Seychelles and all surrounding areas of the Indian Ocean.

Aside from man, elephants too are passionately fond of the palm and paths are often seen converging to an isolated tree. David Livingstone in his "Missionary Travels" tells of how the elephant shakes the tree for its desirable fruit. They often discard the seeds, which are hard for them to crush and swallow, and consequently lines of *Borassus* palms in east Africa mark the trails of the roaming herbivores.

NOTEWORTHIES

DID YOU LOSE A LAWN CHAIR AT THE BESSE MEETING?????? Libby Besse writes that 2 webbed lawn chairs were left there after our last meeting. One is a low beach type and one is a regular chair. Get in touch with Libby to get them back.

MESSAGE TO FRANK RADOSTA: I was encouraged by your belief several years ago that *Chrysalidocarpus lucubensis* showed promise in the cold-hardy sense for Central Fl. Early indications for me seem to concur with yours. *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* really can't cut the mustard here in Cent Fl. So, the search goes on for that miracle crownshaft palm...maybe the *lucubensis* will prove to be the one.

SELECTING FOR COLD HARDINESS: Bill Hahn writes that now is the time to select palms of common varieties (e.g. Queens and Washington) that withstood the freeze in the best condition for future seed gathering purposes. In effect, you might be selecting for hardiness. The best survivor in exposed (not sheltered) situations would probably be the best choice.

IMPORTANT NEWS.....IMPORTANT NEWS.....IMPORTANT NEWS!

CHAPTER ENDOWMENT PROPOSED

Once again the CFPS has received a generous donation from our anonymous donor...this time for \$1,000.00. Along with the donation came a challenge; the challenge being that if we can come up with \$5,000 from the general membership by April 1, 1990, then this same donor will match this amount with another \$5,000 to be placed into an endowment specifically for the publication of the CFPS Newsletter. An endowment of this sort would provide an annual income to the chapter from now on and add much needed stability to our financial future.

CAN WE DO IT? I believe we can but we need your ideas, and I will publish the results in the next Newsletter. Our usual methods of raising funds will definitely not work here but will certainly help some. We will need some large contributions to close the gap. We also will have our Palm Society booth again this year at the Leu Gardens sale in March (God & volunteers willing). Should we have a drawing of some sort and what would we offer as a prize worthy of selling a lot of tickets?

So once again the cry goes out for anyone who has not supported the chapter before, to send in a donation and be as generous as you can. Or perhaps you would like to bid on the woodcarvings offered by Bernie Peterson of Cocoa (and they are beautiful). [See Letter From Bernie in This Issue] Other ways you can help is to donate a palm for our Leu Gardens Sale on March 10-11th or to buy some palms at the sale. Other items that can be donated for the sale could be extra palm books and literature, palm products, palm art, etc., and we will have a display table for these items.

At any rate, the ball is in our court and the challenge is a worthy one. An opportunity like this will not likely come along again. How often does a group like ours have their every donation doubled in size or at least the possibility offered. REMEMBER! THERE IS A DEADLINE SO ACT NOW.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE LEU GARDENS SALE

\$5,000 DEADLINE April 1, 1990

WRITE TO STACEY PEACOCK Rt. 2 Box 168, Zolfo Springs, Fl 33890

The greatest contribution of the palmyra palm and to civilization, which by the way it shares with the talipot (*corypha*), is its role in the birth of the written word. The oldest Hindu writing is on the leaf of the palm. The dry leaflets were ruled by the parallel veins and the soft tissue between them was tightly inscribed by what else - a palm thorn! Today, palm leaves are still used for letter writing and storytelling.

Many of you may recall the very tall specimen seen at Joe Michael's in July. Also the group at Fairchilds is a site not soon forgotten.

If your all set to plant a palmyra its much more difficult than a trip to the nursery. Once the elusive seed is obtained a planter at least three or four feet is recommended for proper germination. When Dr. Jerome Keuper planted F.I.T.'s specimen in 1967, he built a large wooden box over five feet high and when the palm was established, he buried it, box and all, to avoid shocking the tree. Planted in a fairly well protected area it has passed thru several hard freezes. Surviving temperatures in the teens with only leaf damage. You can find the now ten-foot palmyra palm growing 15 yards due south of the old schoolhouse near the F.I.T. garden entrance. Just look for the fan palm with black trunk and leaf stems and let your imagination run wild.

Thanks for the great article Joe.[Editor]

12:00 NOON SAT FEB 24th

LATE BREAKING NEWS

IMPORTANT DEADLINE EXTENSION: LEU VENDORS NOW HAVE UNTIL FEB 14TH TO CONFIRM

ISSUE CONTAINS 7 OTHER PAGES

PRINTED FRONT AND BACK

CONTACT STACEY PEACOCK FOR

REPLACEMENT PAGES IF NEEDED

Our winter meeting will be held on Saturday, Feb 24th at the Club House of the DUBSDREAD GOLF COURSE located at 549 Par Ave in Orlando at 12:00 Noon. (SEE MAP FOR DIRECTIONS) There will be a luncheon meeting at which the new 1990 Officers will be installed. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Fred Essig and he will be giving a presentation on a trip he recently took to the South Pacific. Dr. Essig is a professor with the Biology Dept at the University of So Fla in Tampa.

A CHOICE OF TWO ENTREES WILL BE OFFERED:

- ***Spaghetti & Meatballs, garlic bread, salad, and desert for \$8.75 per person including tax and tip.
***Chicken kabobs, rice, vegetable, rolls, salad, and desert for \$10.00 per person including tax and tip.

RESERVATIONS A MUST!!!!!! Please mail your reservations and a check made payable to the Central Fl Palm Society to Ed Hall 1111 Glen Garry Circle, Maitland Fl 32751 in order that he can make 'headcount' arrangements with the restaurant. YOUR RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY TUESDAY, FEB 20th AT THE LATEST.

If you have any questions, please call Karen or Tony Rudgers at (407)896-4038 or Ed or Nancy Hall at (407)647-2039.

Members may want to go and Visit Leu Gardens on their own either before or after the meeting. You'll likely bump into someone you know and see how the freeze may have affected the garden.

My own experience was as follows:

Freezing temperatures with wind started at 6:00 P.M. on Dec 23 and lasted till 11:00 AM Dec 24 (a total of 17 hrs below 32°). Although the high on Dec 24 was a remarkable 43°F, for the first time I was not able to shut the pump down (if even only briefly) between nights. The wind increased ice accumulation and plant breakage was significant. Freezing temps were reached again at 6:15 PM on Dec 24, and lasted till 9:30 AM on Xmas day.

(A total of 15 hrs below freezing) This freeze was different from '83 and '85 in that on the 3rd morning I did not see freezing temps and was blessed with a low of 37°F on Dec 26. In spite of this, ice remnants still remained well into the afternoon of Dec 27th. (the acculation was that heavy)

FREEZE ARTICLE PLANNED: WE NEED YOU

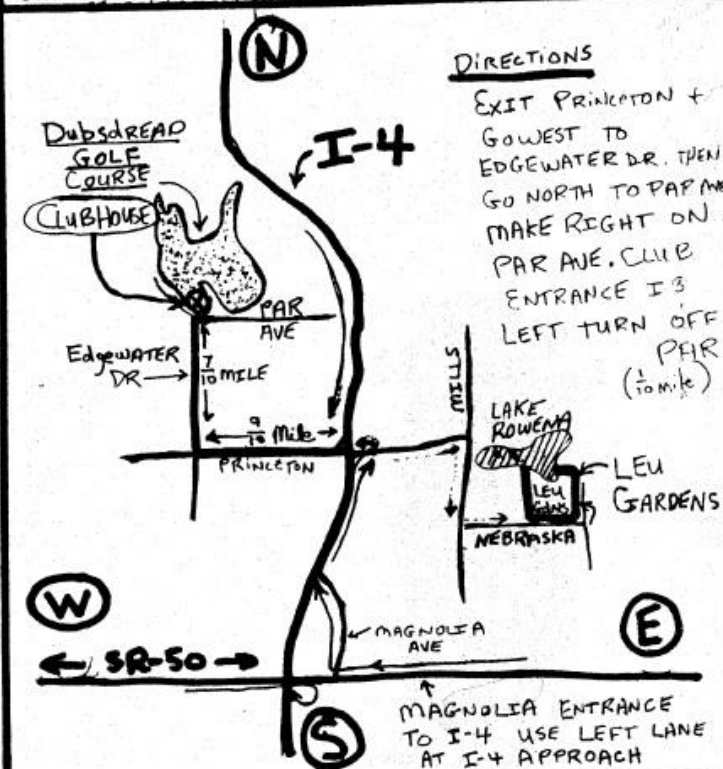
Since we all went through this together, then let's compare notes. I would like to compile all of these experiences together into one large article for the next issue. By pooling our info we could get a more accurate view of what did happen. I would like to include someone from at least the following locations: Ft Myers, Sarasota, Tampa, Gainesville, Lakeland, Orlando, Daytona Beach, Melbourne/Cocoa, and Ft. Pierce. It doesn't have to be complicated, just jot down some basic info on temps, durations, power outages. I would also encourage you to give some brief description of the effects to some of your favorite species; both the surprises and the disappointments. A complete list is not needed, and we'd like to

Another factor that made this freeze memorable was a man-made ingredient: namely the widespread use of rolling blackouts by the various power companies. Demand for power was unprecedented and most of us were affected by an "electrical emergency". I personally experienced 7 ten to fifteen minute outages from 5AM till the last one at 11:30 on Dec 24th. I'm sure that many people will remember this freeze as the one when "the lights went out".....

Weather just prior to the passage of the front was wet (many got 2" & more)

In summary, "The Blackout Freeze" of 1989 was preceded by an extended period below normal temps and moisture conditions at freeze time were good. The whole peninsula experienced freezing temps with wind with significant durations. Wholesale power outs made things even worse.

JUST NORTH OF DOWNTOWN ORLANDO



DIRECTIONS
EXIT Princeton +
GO WEST TO
EDGEWATER DR. THEN
GO NORTH TO PAR AVE.
MAKE RIGHT ON
PAR AVE. CLUB
ENTRANCE IS
LEFT TURN OFF
PAR
(1/2 mile)

MAGNOLIA ENTRANCE
TO I-4 USE LEFT LANE
AT I-4 APPROACH

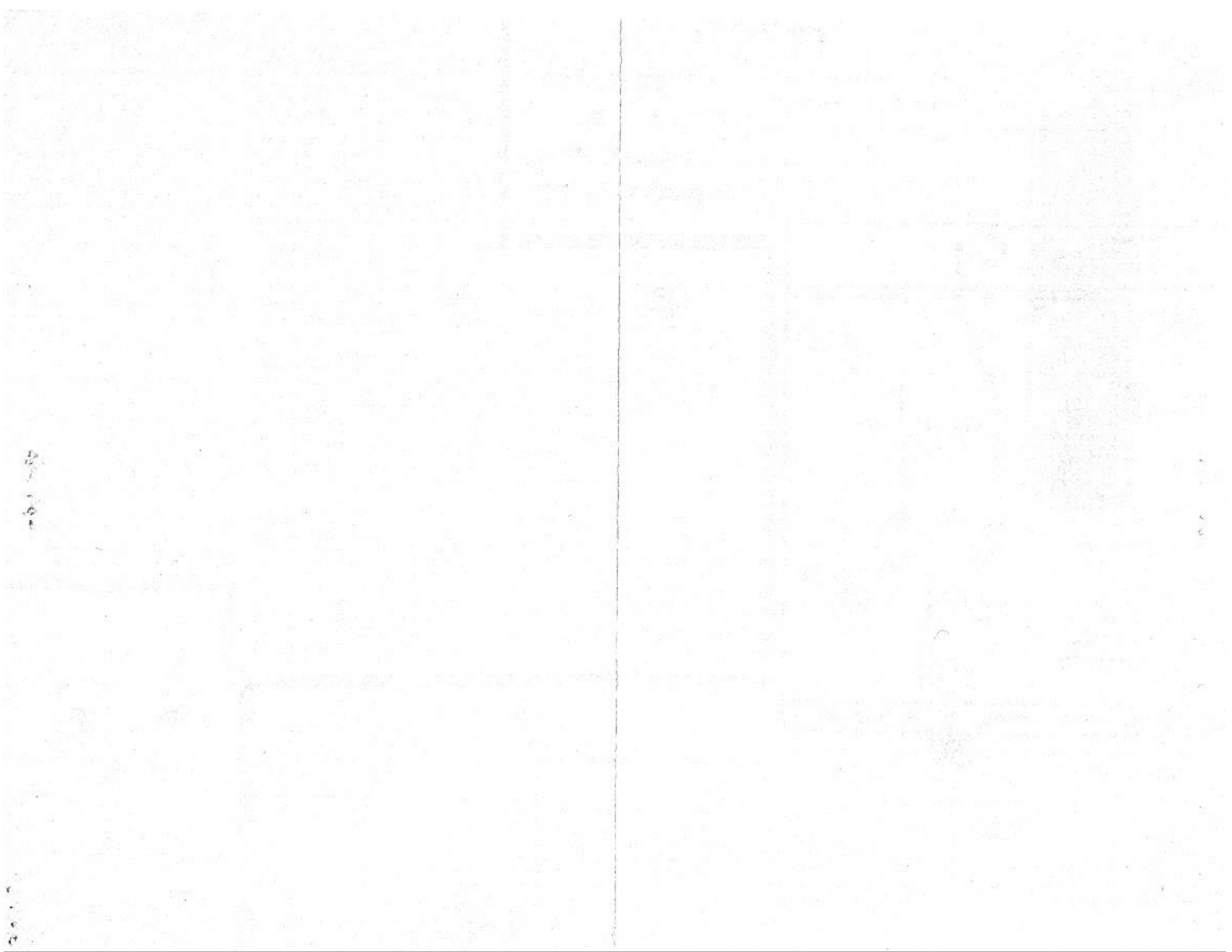
Cut + detach
this form
&
RETURN

Name
_____ Spaghetti and meatballs @ \$8.75
_____ Chicken kabobs @ \$10.00
(indicate the number of dinners in each category)

KILLER FREEZE BLASTS FLORIDA !!!!!!!

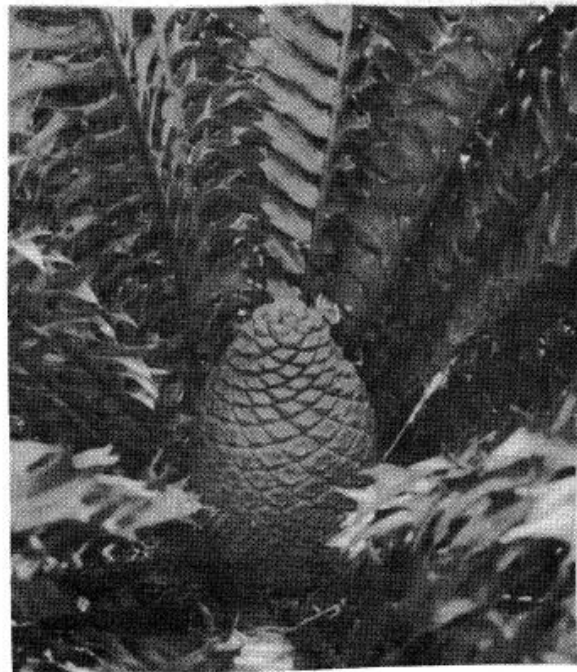
Christmas Eve & Day were not a very joyous occasion for Florida Palm collectors and growers. For me it was like riding out a hurricane; all night weather forecasts and listening to the wind howl (forgetting the exaggeration). Early reports seem to indicate that no one in the state was spared (haven't heard from Naples area). Mother Nature's "scorched earth policy" was evenly applied throughout the peninsula.

As in all freezes of historic note, each one has its own character and personality (Noriega's pock marked face comes to mind for some reason). For folks, this one did get ugly! Weather preceding the freeze had been cold enough to promote dormancy in some plants that benefit from this "suspended animation" before going into a freeze. (Palms???) An example in my area was citrus. Although the trees were totally defoliated, it now appears that the stems are alive to the tips in most cases. Another characteristic of the freeze was its wind. Low 20's with wind must certainly be twice as bad than if it were still. When palms were battered and I fear a substantial portion of their population has been reduced throughout Central Fl, but I must admit it is too early to tell. Certainly palms are in poor nutritional condition



LIBBY & BYRON BESSE HOST THE CFPS

It was a fine October day when members last got together at the



home of Libby & By Besse on Siesta Key in Sarasota. From 9:00 AM till almost noon, members arrived and began exploring the lush environs of a truly remarkable place. With hindsight I feel fortunate to have seen this garden after 3 relatively good winters. Things were at an absolute peak of beauty on this October day and visitors were noticeably awed by it all. Beautiful Palms and enormous cycads abounded under the sculptured (and aged) live oak canopy. Many of the cycad specimens sported impressive flower cones. Of particular recollection was a huge one that was the most beautiful hue of red. As if that weren't enough, several manatees (what we believe to have been a mother and two calves) decided to visit the Besse's private lagoon.....and the most delighted among us were the Besses, for it was their first sighting of these mammals in their lagoon since moving there many years ago.

Members enjoyed lunch under the trees and afterward, our normal informal "formal" meeting was held. Some ideas were put forward for members to think about and perhaps act on. Hersch Womble agreed to act as liaison with Leu Gardens in arranging our needs for the sale on Mar 10-11th. We dismissed and held our plant sale. The sale raised \$147.00 for the chapter and the following folks are to be acknowledged for their generous contributions:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| HERSCH WOMBLE | CLAIR JIRETZ |
| DR. U A YOUNG | BARBARA GULICK |
| GORDON SMITH | MIKE DAHME |
| PAM VEST | D&G PRALL |

And anyone missed due to chaos. ALSO... thanks to everyone who bought palms.

PHOTOS: Top Left: A large Coccolthrinax crinita with an impressive mane. Lower Left: The large 'red' cycad cone mentioned above. Top Right: Kaye Grant studies the perfect symmetry of another cycad (Please forgive me but I didn't get the names and my knowledge of cycads is limited). Center Right: Karen & Tony Rudgers dwarfed by a rather large cycad. Lower Right: The Besse's place as viewed from the entrance look-down the drive toward the house. A truly beautiful setting!!!!!!

MANY THANKS TO THE BESSE'S FOR A WONDERFUL TIME!!!!!!

