

# CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM BULLETIN

VOL 10 NO. 3

JULY 1990



TRITHRINAX ACANTHACOMA AT PALMHEAD  
SEE THIS AND OTHER PALMS ON AUG 19

## THE CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

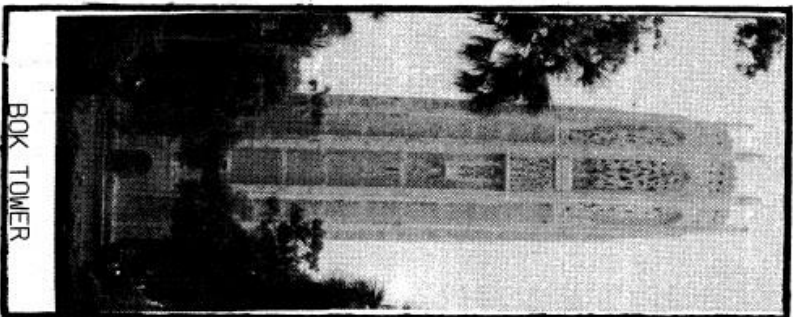
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BOOK TOWER



**FIRST CLASS**



REMOVE THIS STAPLE ONLY

The good news is that there will be significant savings in fertilizer purchases this year. The bad follows a digression on the relative effects of the three major freezes in Florida of the Eighties. Though I have recently read in the South Florida Chapter newsletter that the Xmas 89 freeze was nothing extraordinary when compared with freezes of previous decades, it is certainly the one which I will use as the standard for measuring future freezes. Following is a listing of plants which passed the test of January, 1985 (and, in some cases, the lesser test of Xmas 83) but which suffered or died as a result of Xmas 89:

Syagrus schizophylla: 3 of 3 dead; 2 had survived 85, albeit with total defoliation.

Rhapis humilis and excelsa: in some area all taller trunks dead. These species had not shown cold injury earlier.

Australian Tree Ferns: 3 survivors of approximately 15 specimens. One which survived, of 8 foot trunk, was completely defoliated in 89 whereas it was, when smaller, untouched in 85.

Ficus repens: a vine, the tops of this plant were killed where exposed. Unaffected in 83 and 85.

Bananas, Plantains: majority of taller stalks killed, a rarity in the earlier freezes of the 80s.

Philodendrum selloum: specimens with trunks to 8 foot killed to close to ground level. In 85 no permanent damage.

Cattleya guava: severe damage in 89 compared with light in 85.

Thrinax Sp. (parviflora?): greater defoliation in 89 but 3 specimens of 2 foot trunk appear to have survived.

Licuala spinosa: Just when I had come to consider this delightful palm cold-hardy for the purposes of South Brevard, one specimen of 6 foot trunk killed to ground, from which it tried, but evidently failed, to sucker. This individual had breezed through 85 without significant damage. RIP.

Syagrus romanzoffianum: One of approximately 20 specimens dead, two others recovery uncertain (mid-June). Much higher percentage of casualties in the area. Previous freezes of the 80's did not affect healthy specimens in the area.

Java Plum: killed to ground. Not so badly affected in 85.

Royal Poinciana: 15 foot specimen now suckering from below ground. Froze to approx. 6 foot level in 85.

Bottlebrush: Of approx 15 specimens, 3 killed, several others almost totally defoliated with growth not evident as yet. Previously unaffected.

Screw Pine (Pandanus): One specimen dead which had survived 85.

Paurotis (Acoelorrhaphe wrightii): generally minor leaf burn. However, in one "cold spot" the northern-most three trunks of one cluster of 8 to 10 foot trunks killed, a first-time occurrence for the 80's.

Following is a report of palm damage:

Acrocomia totai: 3 of 3 okay.

Archontophoenix alexandrae (1), a var Beatrice (1), cunninghamiana (1): all dead.

Areca guppyana: a greenhouse plant. Killed to ground in covered but unheated enclosure in which temperature was well below freezing but frost-free.

Arenga australasica: one specimen of 2 foot trunk frozen to ground from which a 1 inch leaf sucker appeared by February but which has yet to commence growth. Recovery uncertain.

A. engleri: no damage

Bismarckia nobilis: 6 of 6 survived with total defoliation.

Brahea brandegeehi (4), armata (2), edulis (1): undamaged

Brassiophoenix schumanii: one of one dead.

Caryota "Giant Mountain Variety": one minute specimen retained a green frond (protected by a large bucket) but has yet to resume growth.

C. mitis: several clusters frozen to close to ground, all recovering

Chamaedorea brachypoda: half, generally the largest, of stems in cluster dead, but plant survived.

C. costaricana: one dead, one alive.

C. elegans: dead

C. ernesti-augustii: 2 of 2 dead

C. erumpens: killed to ground, now recovering.

C. glaucifolia: one of two, the largest, dead.

C. microspadix: no damage

C. metallica: one specimen of 3 foot dead

C. radicalis: no damage

C. seifrizii: One cluster of 8 foot stems under eave undamaged.

Another, evidently more exposed, severely damaged.

C. tepejilote: 3 of 4 dead

Chamaerops humilis: no damage

Chrysalidocarpus lucubensis: no luck here, Frank: 1 of 1 dead.

C. lutescens: Most clusters killed outright, a few suckering.

Coccothrinax miraguama (3), fragrans (3), argentea (1): all dead though many made promising efforts through February to survive.

C. argentata: 1 of 1 alive and healthy; I now can easily recall the difference between "argentea" and "argentata" - the latter is hardy.

Copernicia: 26 specimens of baileyana, berteroana, glabrescens, and macroglossa. No losses, though the single specimen of

glabrescens has not commenced growth. All small individuals (though of 4 years of age) and recently planted. Most covered with buckets and thus retained green foliage. Two inadvertently uncovered totally defoliated, but with good recovery.

C. alba: 3 specimens of approx 2 foot trunk approximately 50% defoliated. Recovery never in doubt.

Drymophloeus bequini, subdistichus (1 each): I should have covered them. Cold temperatures seemingly not a problem down to freezing, but they hadn't a chance.

Elaeis guineensis (2): Feigned death til early and late May, now appearing to recover. At least one of the two large (3 to 4 story) specimens in the lee of Grissom Hall at the FIT campus in Melbourne is showing some new growth (mid June).

Howea forsteriana (2), belmoreana (1): dead

Hyophorbe lagenicaulis (1), verschaffeltii (2): dead

Hyphaene: 16 total including indica, turbinata, coriacea, and

specimens from seed collected from the Michael estate in Wabasso. All survived though larger and thus uncovered specimens simulated death for several months. The large specimens at FIT have recovered.

Licuala grandis: 5 healthy specimens of 2 to 3 years age survived untouched in greenhouse. Evidently more hardiness than some of the palm literature indicates.

L. paludosa and spinosa: these "look-alikes" have similar hardiness. Specimens in protected locations survived though with loss of larger trunks.

Livistona: thanks be to Allah for this genus. Losses confined to the species mariae and rotundifolia.

L. australis: 5 of 5 survived, little or no damage.

L. benthamii: 2 of 2 survived undamaged in pots in greenhouse.

L. chinensis: no losses and slight damage to plants in ground. Approx 10% loss rate to several hundred in #3 gallon pots outside.

L. decipiens: 8 of 8 survived. Younger specimens lost hearts while larger specimens had no damage.

L. drudei: 9 of 9 survived though all suffered near total defoliation and the survival of one specimen was in doubt til April.

end of it's range is in the coastal forests of central Brazil, while at its southern extent it is found on the banks of the Rio Uruguay in Argentina and Uruguay. Incidentally, Dr. Glassman also states that Queen palm is one of the world's most widely cultivated palms, second only to the coconut among coccosoid palms. It has long been believed that Queen palms from the southern extent of their range are the most cold hardy, and seeds from Argentina and Uruguay have been sought after for this reason. Now those of us in central Florida have an excellent opportunity to exploit the cold hardy characteristics of those Queen palms which were left relatively undamaged by the recent freeze. Bill Hahn gave us good advice in the January issue of the Central Florida Palm Bulletin on how to select the hardiest palms for seed collection. He said to look for survivors in exposed, unsheltered locations. In my locality (Brevard County) undamaged Queen palms are beginning to bloom for the first time since the freeze. Since severely damaged, less hardy trees won't bloom till later this summer any seeds produced on the first infructescences of hardy undamaged palms should give the best results, since they are unlikely to have been cross-pollinated by less hardy trees.

While there is no guarantee that the offspring of very hardy Queen palms will be extra hardy themselves, the chances are good that many will be. If you have access to the seeds of a hardy Queen palm, you might wish to tell your local nurseryman about them and encourage him to grow them instead of bringing in plants and seeds from south Florida. Even the most hardy Queen palms cannot be grown in every locality in Central Florida. But by making the most of the selection process that the freeze has provided us, we should be able to have hardier Queen palms than we have in the past.

#### References:

- Glassman, Sidney F., Revisions Of The Palm Genus Syagrus, etc. 1987, Illinois Biological Monographs  
 Hahn, Bill, Central Florida Palm Bulletin, Jan. 1990 editor: Stacey Peacock.  
 Smith, Dent, More About Cold Hardiness, Principes 8: 26-39.

#### WELCOME TO THE NEW EDITOR OF THE CALIFORNIA NEWSLETTER:

The California Newsletter has a new editor who recently replaced Walt Frey. Congratulations are in order for Brad Carter of Costa Mesa on the release of his first issue: July 1990. As of this issue of our own Bulletin, his name will be added to our "Complimentary Exchange Editors" list. The current list is as follows:

- BOB PETERSEN, Naples.....South Fla  
 SUSAN FREIDRICH,.....Palm Bch Chap.  
 KYLE BROWN...Fla First Coast Chap  
 TOM MIGNEREY...Gulf Coast Chap (F1)  
 WILBUR LEGARDEUR...Louisiana Chap.  
 TAMAR MYERS....Temperate Zone Chap.  
 BRAD CARTER...California Chap.  
 JIM CAIN...Inter Chapter Coordinator,  
 to whom we send 12 issues  
 for foreign distribution.

#### PALMHEAD FREEZE ARTICLE:

Space limitations have once again forced me to axe this planned article from this issue. Since the summer meeting will include a visit to Palmhead, the article will have to go "live" for anyone interested in what happened here. Hope to see you in August.

To date we have received regular communications and/or newsletters from all of the above EXCEPT the Palm Bch Chapter. Because we can freely reprint articles from each others newsletters, the benefit to individual chapter members is clear....the world wide network of chapters comes to you!!!!!!!

**EDITORS PLEASE NOTE!** We do not usually obtain permission to reprint cartoons, etc from other media so reprint these at your own risk!

#### RESIDENTS NOTE!

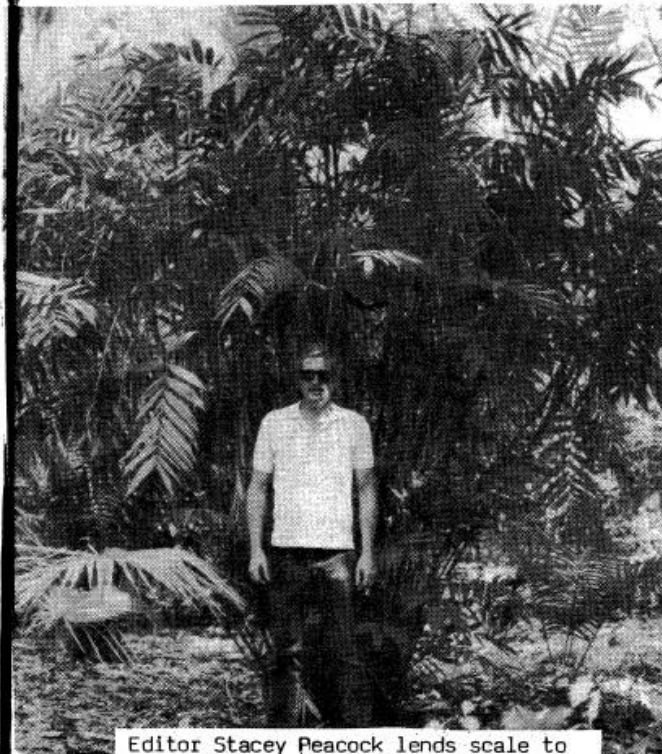
#### 2 DAY WEST COAST MEETING PLANNING UNDERWAY:

Ted Langley informs me that he, Jerry Shrewsbury, and Rob Pressrich will be getting together at the end of July to lay down a format for the 2 day meeting planned for the fall on the West Coast of Fla. Potential "hosts" and people with ideas for institutional or other types of meet-places are urged to come forward at this time by contacting one of these guys. WE NEED YOU!!!!!!!

Jerry...813-398-5755  
 Rob.....813-344-3336  
 I don't have Ted's number but he does live in Lutz.

Hey Guys! Do you think we might have a party or BarBQue of some sort on Saturday night where members might socialize? Perhaps very very close to one of the hotels? Just an idea.

CHARLESDONER MICROSLIDER AT BOK TOWER



Editor Stacey Peacock lends scale to this large specimen which can be seen at Bok Tower on Sun Aug 19th.

**BELOW:** This clipping comes from Mike Dahme under the guise of "Palm Humor"! I hope someone straightens this mis-informed reporter out. Some nerve!!!

#### Let's save environment by planting more trees

By John H. Barenbruegge  
 Palm Bay

Hurray for D.L. Capraro for advocating the planting of many more trees and foliage along our highways and streets and on private lots.

President Bush wants us to plant a billion trees in a year. Well, what are we waiting for?

If we all pitch in and do our part, we can save the environment from total destruction, which will happen if we do not reverse the present trend of deforestation and public apathy.

Trees can change the climate and bring rain to parched soils, preventing famines. Planting trees has to become a worldwide movement, and every country has to become involved if we want to save this planet.

This requires leadership at all levels of government and personal involvement. Let everyone start in his or her own back and front yards.

P.S. Palm trees don't count as trees.

#### WORLD'S TALLEST BUTEA CAPITATA:

Well to be honest, its discovery is not likely based on the response of our membership from the call for tall Butea photos in the last issue. Come on folks, every town in Fla has at least one 50 year old specimen. I did receive a couple of photos but decided to save them until I have enough for a complete article...hopefully in the next issue.

So to sweeten the pot, we'll turn this into a contest. Since judging relative tallness will be difficult from photos, we'll simply say that the "best" Butea will win. The prize will be a year's free subscription for the two people of your choice in the U.S. The winner will be chosen at the first meeting following the release of the issue of that photo article.

So send in a photo of that special Butea/Pindo/Jelly palm you have long admired.

# The Illawarra King Palm

by Gary and Lynette Wood

As palm fans know, the king palm, *Archontophoenix cunningghamiana* is a popular and attractive plant, but it does not have a few minor drawbacks: it does not transplant well after it has been grown in the ground, it requires protection from direct sunlight for the few years, and it is only moderately frost hardy.

This last factor is probably the most important one for those who enjoy surrounding themselves with palms — controlling the weather is usually beyond the capabilities of even the most ardent palm fan (or fan palm). Unless you live on the side of a hill along the coast somewhere (like in Sunset's Zones 23 and 24), chances are you've experienced more frost during most winters than you or your king palm really care for.

It is generally accepted that king palms can withstand light frosts. However, patchy brown spots appear on the leaflets when the temperature gets much below 32°F. Mature plants will take 28°F or lower if they are in a sheltered location, but young plants usually will not tolerate any frost at all. Of course, survival experiences vary according to individual circumstances.

For the last four years, we have been experimenting with a variety of the king palm called *Archontophoenix cunningghamiana* Illawarra. We don't know whether that is a legitimate name, and the variety is not to be found in any palm books that we are aware of.

The name Illawarra is derived from the district in New South Wales, Australia, where these particular king palms grow. Differences between the Illawarra and the regular king palm seem to be nonexistent except in the matter of cold tolerance.

The king palm is native to eastern Australia. It occurs naturally along the coast in stands ranging from central Queensland to southern New South Wales (see Figure 1).

The Illawarra king is native to the Illawarra District, a 40-mile-long strip of land along the coast that begins about thirty miles south of Sydney and extends to the area below Nowra. Minimum winter temperatures in the district average 40°F along the coast and 30°F farther inland.

The Illawarra king grows in all areas of the district and reportedly receives frost every year, though we haven't yet been able to find out exactly how frequent or how severe those frosts are. Through our own experiences, however, we have determined that the Illawarra king is significantly more tolerant of temperatures below freezing than the regular king palm.

We have several one- and two-year-old Illawarra seedlings that we keep under shade cloth (50% shade). The plants are on benches three feet above the ground. This winter (1989 - 1990) we had one night of 23°F and fourteen other nights below freezing. See figures 2 and 3, pages 20 and 21.

We also had 2" of hail and snow one evening in January. The weight of the ice on the shade cloth caused our shadehouse to collapse.

Damage to the Illawarras that resulted from frost was limited to small brown spots on the leaves of less than 10% of the plants. Light browning of the entire leaf occurred where the snow and ice rested on the plants overnight, as well as some mechanical damage from the weight pressing down on them. Very few plants were lost entirely.

You will note from the low temperatures for last winter that there initially were several nights where it barely got below freezing. The less severe frosts may have helped the plants to "harden off" so they could withstand the low of 23°F that came later in the season. We wonder how the Illawarras would have done if the low of 23°F had come earlier.

Andrew Batson, Richard Lesperance and Hans Peterhansel, Palm Society members living in Fresno, bought

Illawarra seedlings from us last year and report that the seedlings survived several nights of frost during the winter. Andrew and Richard said their plants were practically unaffected by temperatures of 22 and 23°F in a sheltered position (one had them under a tree and another had them on his porch). Hans' area experienced ten hours of frost one night, with temperatures down to 18°F. He had some Illawarra seedlings in a shadehouse that came out with nothing but a few brown spots on the leaves. He also had five one-gallon Illawarras outside exposed to the night sky. Of those, three plants died about two weeks after the 18 degrees frost. The other two survived, barely, having lost all the leaves except the center spear. It will be interesting to find out how the Illawarras do under similar conditions once they have been put in the ground.

Incidentally, we have two Illawarras planted in the ground near our house that seemed to thrive during the winter. The temperature near the house is usually two or three degrees warmer than in the shadehouse, but that location nevertheless had its share of frost last February. We planted three Illawarras there in the summer of 1989, along with three *Archontophoenix* sp. 'Mt. Lewis' located a few feet away. All six plants were seedling with three to four leaves about six inches in height.

Over the winter the Mt. Lewis plants, admittedly less hardy, stopped growing and turned rather yellowish. The Illawarras, on the other hand, continued pushing out new leaves all winter. They are now (in March 1990) about 18" high, have characteristic leaves, and are a healthy-looking dark green color. They are comparable in appearance to other species of *Archontophoenix* that we kept in our greenhouse over the winter.

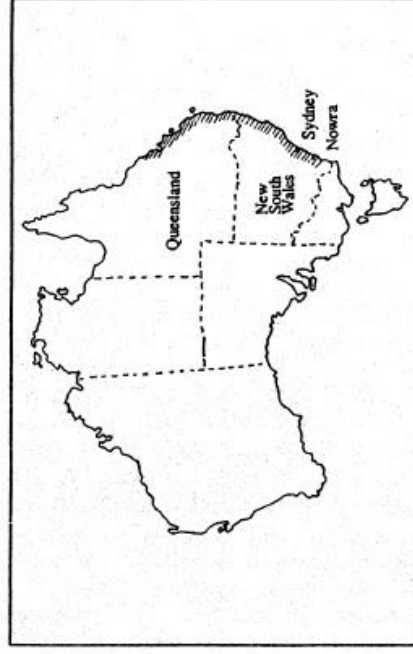


Figure 1 Distribution of *Archontophoenix cunningghamiana*

Date	Temp. (°F)	Date	Temp. (°F)
Dec 26	31	Jan 25	37
27	28	26	38
28	30	27	34
29	30	28	40
30	30	29	31
31	31	30	37
Jan 1	26	31	42
2	29	Feb 1	34
3	31	2	43
4	NR*	3	41
5	NR*	4	NR
6	31	5	34
7	31	6	31
8	33	7	31
9	42	8	35
10	45	9	NR
11	46	10	NR
12	47	11	33
13	47	12	NR
14	52	13	NR
15	48	14	31
16	NR	15	32
17	NR	16	32

\*NR = no reading taken, but no frost.

Figure 2 Minimum temperatures in Fallbrook, Calif., Winter 1988 - 1989

Date	Temp. (°F)	Date	Temp. (°F)
Dec 30	32	Jan 27	38
31	35	28	43
Jan 1	34	29	35
2	42	30	34
3	32	31	39
4	35	Feb 1	40
5	35	2	30
6	38	3	34
7	32	4	32
8	37	5	30
9	42	6	34
10	45	7	35
11	42	8	43
12	40	9	34
13	53	10	37
14	48	11	40
15	40	12	45
16	40	13	44
17	36	14	27
18	30	15	23
19	31	16	27
20	36	17	36
21	34	18	41
22	45	19	27
23	40	20	28
24	43	21	30*
25	45	14	31
26	39		

\*No frost between Feb. 20 and Mar. 13

Figure 3 Minimum temperatures in Fallbrook, Calif., Winter 1989 - 1990

From our experience, it appears that *Archontophoenix cunningghamiana* Illawarra may truly be a frost hardy king palm and is well deserving of further trials in colder areas.

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PALM JOURNAL OF  
SO. CALIF. CHAP.  
JULY 1990



SUGARMILL/DORIS SMITH HOST CFPS (Con't)

Next it was on to the residence of Doris Smith, widow of the late Dent Smith, founder of the Palm Society. The palm collection Dent started on the property in the late 50's is still in the caring hands of Doris and we are grateful for her continued association with the Society. After touring through the palms, members sat down for a picnic lunch and our official business meeting was held.

One matter discussed was the proposed sale to be initiated at the Uni of So Fl by Dr. Fred Essig. If and when it will be held, he wanted to know if the Chapter would be interested in participating. We agreed that we probably would. Finally a plant sale was held which brought in \$100.00 for the Chapter. Thanks to everyone who contributed plants, among them Bernie Peterson and Ted Langley. I'm sorry I did not get everyone's name. Approximately 40 people attended.



CFPS MEETINGS  
1990

PHOTOS: Top Left: Members are dwarfed by one of the many interesting concrete dinosaurs sculptured in the 1950's by "Manny" Lawrence when Sugarmill Gardens was operated as a tourist attraction called "Bongo Land". On the day we visited he was at work on a new sculpture of a giant sloth. Top R.: Debbie Lowe admires a Brahea armata at the Smith's. Bottom Left: Members admire the many palms planted by the man who started it all, Dent Smith. Bottom R.: Joe Alf and son admire a recovering Hyphaene sp. at the Smith's.

ONCE AGAIN...A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!!

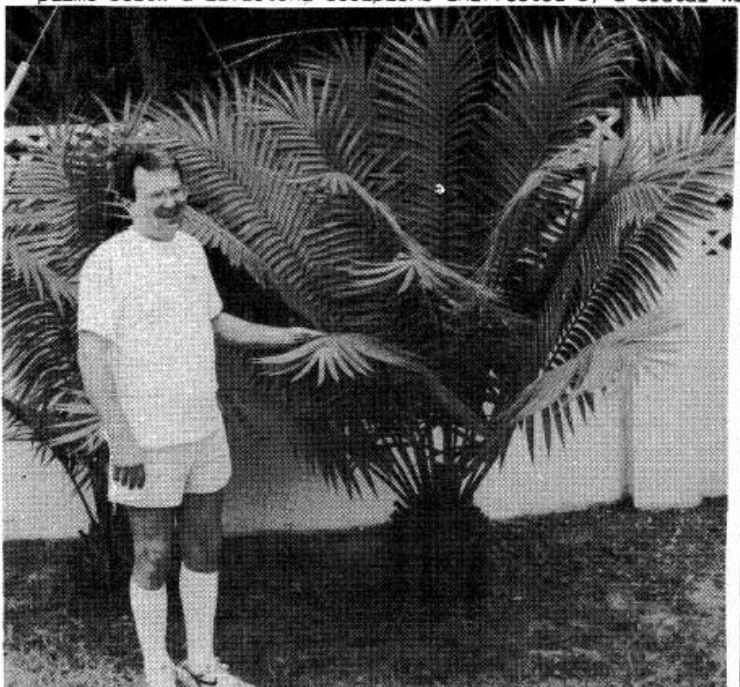


OVER 40 MEMBERS ATTEND MAY 20TH MEETING IN DAYTONA



Sunday, May 20th saw members gathering at Sugarmill Gardens in Port Orange for what was to be a pleasant day of palming. The site of Sugarmill Gardens was selected by the non-profit Botanical Gardens of Volusia for developing as the area's official Botanic Garden. It is a beautiful spot with great potential and one area of the garden has been designated for a palm collection. The force behind the effort is Martin Wittbold and we were all disappointed that he was unable to attend the meeting because of a sudden illness. Plans to visit the "Serpent Palm" were also postponed for this reason. Attendance by BGV members was few but hopefully there are enough palm enthusiasts in the area to ensure the "palmetum's" development. To help, contact Martin Wittbold.

PHOTOS: Above Left: William O'Conner fills in for Martin Wittbold and discusses BGV's plans for developing Sugarmill Gardens with members. Above Right: Members tour through the old ruins of the sugarmill which operated in the 1800's. Below Left: Bob Bobick gives scale to this freshly flushed *Ceratozamia mexicana* at Doris & Dent Smith's residence. Below Center: Joe Alf's son gives scale to what is likely a *Copernicia alba* at the Smith's. Right: Ed Hall and the Schuster's discuss palms below a *Livistona decipiens* unaffected by a brutal winter. STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

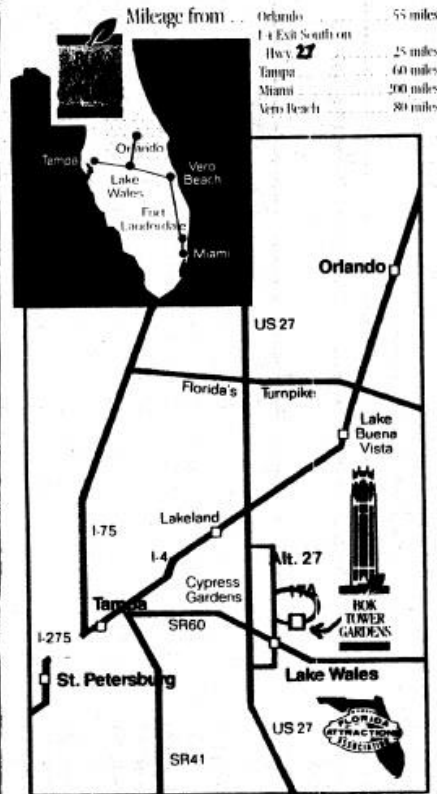


## SUMMER MEETING PLANNED FOR SUNDAY AUG 19TH

Central Florida's Heartland will be the site of an exciting day of palmateering on Sunday, Aug 19th so be sure and mark your calendars. The next meeting of the CFPB will begin with a visit to Bok Tower Gardens located about 3 miles to the N.E. of Lake Wales, Fl. This is a place of unique beauty...a gift to the American people by a grateful immigrant, the late Mr. Edward Bok. The "Singing" Tower and surrounding gardens are a delightful place--dedicated to peace, serenity and harmony. Plans are to get off to an early start due to the summer heat and the full itinerary scheduled that day. Members should plan on gathering at the base of the Tower at around 8:30 AM. Since the gardens are centrally located to most of Central Fla, I hope this will not be a problem. (See Map). Admission to the Gardens is \$3.00 per person.

Our next stop is planned for Wirt's Point in Hillcrest Heights. This is the property and residence of Jan Wirt who also operates a nursery on the site. The "Point" is located on the sizeable Crooked Lake near Babson Park about 8-10 miles south of Bok Tower on Alt. US 27. Jan Wirt and Doug Morrison (who is in charge of the nursery for Jan) are members of both the Palm Society and the Native Plant Society. The "Point" is actually a peninsula jutting out into Crooked Lake on its south shores and is a place with its own history (which will be expounded upon at the meeting). You may remember that Wirt's Point was mentioned in a previous article "The Acrocomias of Hillcrest Heights" in the Jan 1989 issue of the CFPB. You may want to bring that old issue with you as it included a map with the palm locations denoted in this Hillcrest Heights neighborhood. We estimate arriving at the "Point" somewhere around 11:00 to 11:30 AM depending on our visit at Bok Tower (Singing Tower). Members will need to bring a complete picnic lunch since we will be lunching under the lush canopy provided by the site. After lunch, we will hold a short meeting before proceeding on to our third and final stop.

While at Wirt's Point, members who find plants of interest in the nursery, will probably be able to make purchases when Doug will open up for a few minutes if necessary. Just



### BOK TOWER GARDENS

PHOTO: This palmy scene is from Bok Tower gardens in May of this year. The gardens' collection of palms does have a fair number of species represented but a large number are not. We are hoping that a member of the horticultural staff will join us on Aug 19th so we can bend their ear and encourage them to join the Palm Society.



express your interest to him and place your selections next to the nursery office. This way everyone can make their purchases at once.

Our third stop is probably not for everyone considering the time of the year (heat) and day. But being as we will be so close and all, I feel it is appropriate to open up Palmhead for those wishing to risk the elements. Palmhead is the residence of your editor and is pretty primitive but worth the visit if you haven't ever been there. Visitors will be able to view the results of last year's freeze first hand and there are ample nature trails at both Palmhead and member Bill Hahn's property next door to please the native plant enthusiast. Insect repellent is a must in your day bag and you might wish to wear clothing with Mr. Mosquito in mind if you plan on coming. There is plenty of shade in the "Bayhead" but muggy conditions will likely prevail. One other consideration is the road getting into the property. It is var-

iable depending on the amount of rain preceding the visit. If road conditions warrant, plans are to convoy in from Avon Park, as there is an alternate reliable way in but rather to complicated for directions. Road conditions will be announced at the prior meeting site and if OK, maps will be available.

**PALMHEAD PALM SALE:** Once again members are asked to bring palms for a plant sale to be held at our meeting in order to raise funds. Besides mail in donations this is our only other source of revenue. Members can either donate the entire proceeds from a few plants or bring a larger number of plants to be split with 20% minimum to the chapter (or more if you wish...just let Ed Hall know) All sales handled in this manner must be tagged so reimbursement can be made. Tags will be available in the A.M....see Stacey Peacock to obtain them and they must be completed by sale time at Palmhead. I recommend a list on paper to facilitate making the tags if you bring very

many. Marita Bobick informs me that she will have overgrown gallons of the new Archontophoenix "Illwara" available to sell (see Article). BY making the palm sale worthwhile for vendors we hope to encourage a larger and larger palm sale at each of our meetings so as to draw larger numbers of folks out to the meetings.

**MORE DIRECTIONS:** When coming south on US 27 there are signs to direct you off of 27 to the Tower.

To get to Wirt's Point, take Alt 27 south from Lake Wales and you will pass through the tiny town of Babson Park. Soon after, you will reach the neighborhood of Hillcrest Heights on your right. Turn right onto Seminole and follow it for several miles until it dead ends at the "Point". Palmhead directions available at the two sites above.

**PLEASE NOTE!!!** Bring a lawn chair for yourself at the picnic lunch site.

## LONG LIVE THE QUEEN

by Bernie Peterson

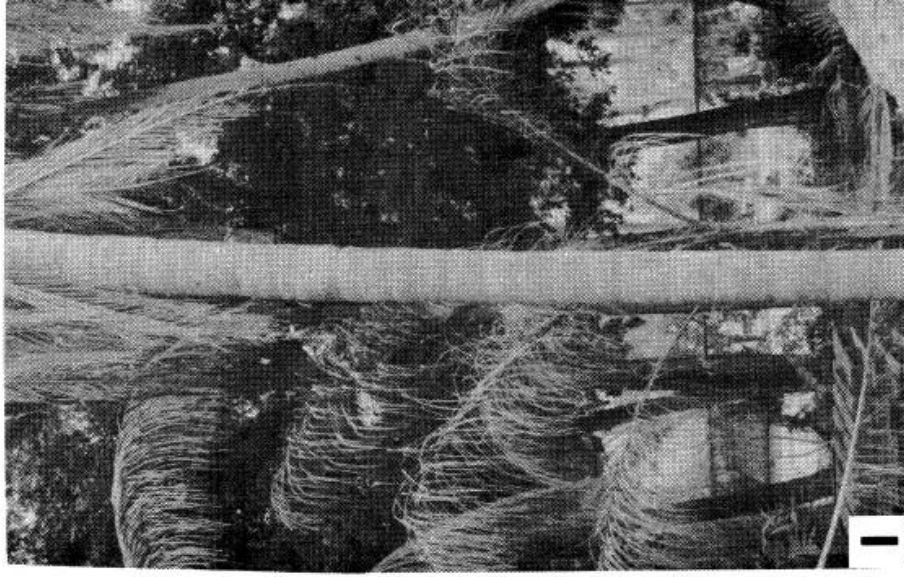
Once again a devastating freeze has decimated both the numbers and the popularity of central Florida's most common non-native palm. Queen palms, or *Syagrus romanzoffiana* as it is now known botanically, have long been the favorite of central Floridians because of their many fine qualities. But people can hardly be expected to replant Queen palms when so many of them have been killed by recent freezes.

A drive around most central Florida communities will reveal varying degrees of damage to Queen palms, from dead to undamaged. Many undamaged palms have escaped the effects of the cold because they are located in protected areas. But there are some located in exposed positions whose survival without damage can only be attributed to an inherent hardiness.

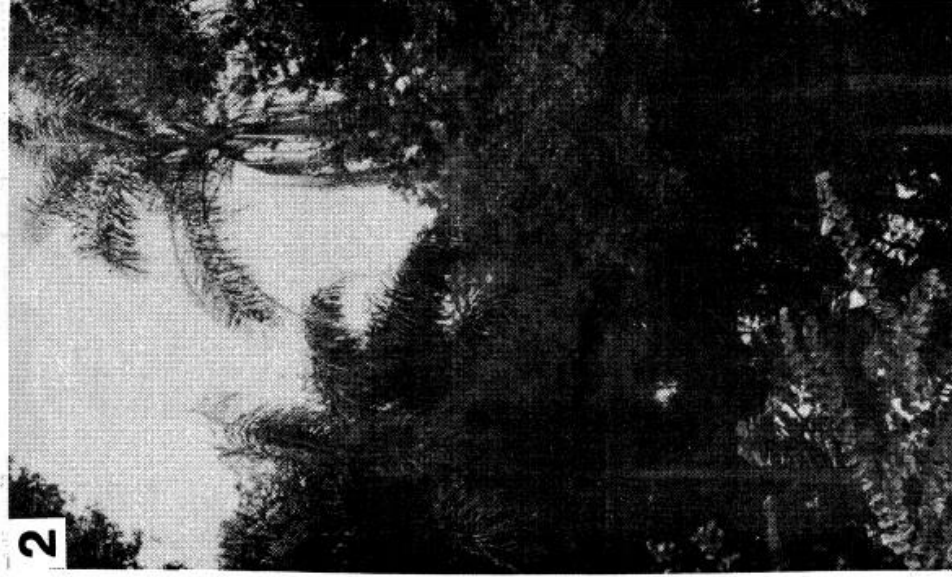
Some differences between individual Queen palms can be attributed to "nurture" rather than "nature". This would include many of the differences in appearance and size between individual trees. Few plants respond so well to water and fertilization as Queen palms. Conversely few suffer so much from lack of fertilizer and adequate care. A Queen palm that thrives without care is an indicator of good soil conditions. A big healthy Queen palm that is planted in a poor location and then neglected is a pathetic sight. The leaves that are produced gradually become smaller and smaller, while the trunk tapers almost to a point.

Other differences in appearance can be attributed to the palm's exposure to sunlight. Well fed Queen palms growing in full sunlight develop robust trunks and heavy foliage. Sun grown trees flower and produce fruit when they are relatively short. Queen palms grow very quickly until they reach the stage of maturity when they produce flowers and fruit. This can be seen in photo #1, which is of the trunk of a mature Queen palm. Notice the wide spacing of the leaf scars near the bottom of the trunk while farther up on the part of the trunk that was formed after flowering had begun the leaf scars are much more closely spaced, indicating slower upward growth. Queen palms grown in shady conditions produce a more slender, but very fast growing stem. Flowering does not occur on shade grown Queen palms until the crown of leaves has broken through the leafy canopy of the trees that are shading it. Photo #2 shows very tall Queen palms that have overtopped the surrounding trees at Leu Gardens. Palms that withhold flower and fruit production until their crowns have reached open sky are said to have an emergent habit of growth.

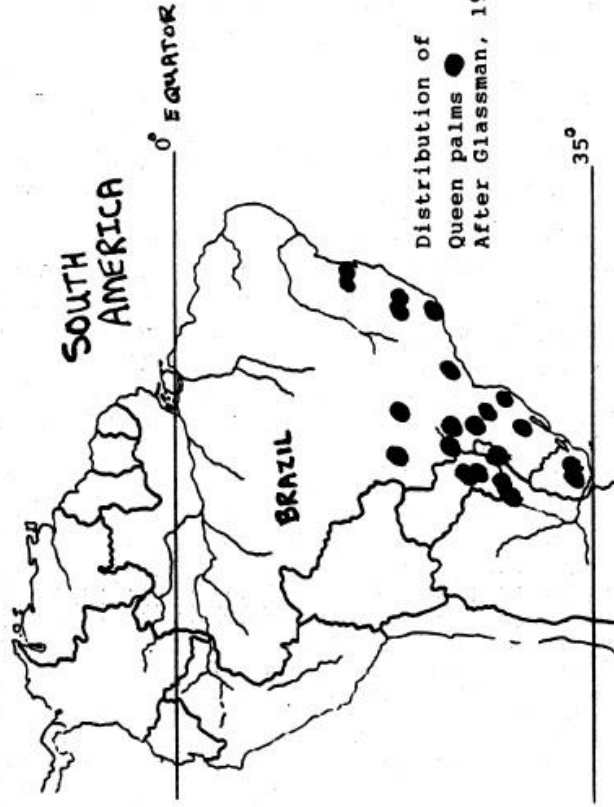
While many differences in the appearance of Queen palms are attributable to health and the conditions under which the tree is grown, there is also a lot of inherent variability involved. This is not surprising, since according to Dr. Sidney Glassman, who is an expert on palms of the western hemisphere, Queen palm has the largest natural range of any member of the genus *Syagrus*, or it's close relatives. (see map) The northern



1



2





BREVARD FREEZE RESULTS.....CONTINUED (DAMME)

L merillii: 2 of 2 survived in pots in greenhouse undamaged.  
L muelleri: 6 of 6 survived. Plants very small and recently planted. Leaf-tip burn, growing slowly.  
L rigida: 4 of 4 survived. Significant leaf damage, though not as severe as with drudei.  
L. mariae: 1 of 3 survived, though another tried hard. Plants small. Large specimen at administration building at FIT okay.  
L rotundifolia v. luzonensis: 3 of 4 survived. Plants small. total defoliation and loss of heart fronds. Late and slow recovery.  
L saribus: 10 of 10 survived, no evident damage.  
Neodypsis decaryi: 1 of 3 survived handily, another observed attempting to do so in mid June. One evidently dead. Total defoliation for all.  
Pseudophoenix sargentii: 1 of 1 dead.  
Phoenicorhphium borsignianus: 1 of 2 in large pot in greenhouse dead.  
Phoenix da. ylifera: 2 of 2 undamaged.  
P canariensis: 6 of 6 undamaged.  
P reclinata: Severe leaf burn but only losses were to unhealthy specimens in deep shade.  
P roebellini: greater than 50% losses, total defoliation.  
P rupicola: 5 of 18 dead. p theophrastii: 1 of 1 survived.  
Pinanga Sp: 1 of 1 dead  
Ptychosperma nicolai and elegans: One specie of each dead. The nicolai had a trunk of 8 feet and had survived 85.  
Rhapidophyllum hystrix: undamaged  
Rhapis subtilis: 2 of 2 dead.  
Roystonea Sp: 8 of 8 dead.  
Sabal blackburniana (1), causiarum (10), mauritiformis (1), minor (several), parviflora (1), and yapa (5): all okay  
Schippia concolor: 2 of 2 dead  
Syagrus comosa: 2 of 2 dead  
S. oleracea: one specimen totally defoliated but recovered in Feb.  
Synechanthus fibrosis: 2 of 2 dead.  
Thrinax Sp: 2 of 2 recovered

ARTICLE CONTINUES  
 BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER

ED HALL WINS LANDSLIDE VICTORY!!!!!!!!!!!!

Now that I've gotten your attention, congratulations are in order for our hardworking Treasurer Ed Hall who has been officially elected to the Int'l Society's Directors for the term 1990 to 1994.

Ed, and his wife Nancy, are recently returned from the 1990 Biennial held in Hawaii where his election was confirmed. Ed tells me that the Central Fl Chapter was fairly well represented at the event, and has promised us an article on the meeting for the next issue complete with a photo of local participants.

Other exciting news coming out of the Biennial is that Florida will host the event in 1992!!!! Ed hopes that Central Florida might be able to host at least one of the events but surely the focus of the meeting will be in South Fl.

Thanks for putting us on the map Ed!!!!

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.....

ED HALL reports on the recent Biennial in Hawaii  
BERNIE PETERSON has sent me an article on the "Hybrid" palm taken from the Proceedings of the Fl State Hort Society, which offers a historical view of it  
TED LANGLEY of Lutz reports on the discovery of an enormous Needle Palm with photos  
YOU will certainly send us something!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE CONTRIBUTORS WHO MADE THIS ISSUE POSSIBLE:

Bernie Peterson....Cocoa  
 Mike Dahme.....Grant  
 Pam Vest.....Altamonte Spgs  
 The Palm Journal...California  
 The Palm Enthusiast..So Africa  
 Ed & Nancy Hall....Maitland

I've said it before and I'll say it again....this is your newsletter, without your efforts, there won't be much life in this baby....so, please ....share it with us!!!!!!

1990 FIT PLANT RAMBLE

Joe & Janie Alf inform us that the "Friends of FIT" plan to hold their annual Plant Ramble to benefit the campus gardens on Sept 29th of this year.

Last year's "Ramble" featured good food, entertainment, and over 25 vendors selling plants of every kind. This year even more vendors are expected to attend and garden tours are planned. The Florida Institute of Technology has an extensive palm collection and members who attend will not only enjoy themselves but assure the continued expansion of this important collection through their support. 10% of all proceeds go to the garden's improvement.

Bernie Peterson of Rockledge Gardens participated as a seller last year and was delighted with the enthusiasm of the public for palms in Melbourne. This year he has agreed to display Palm Society information at his booth for us and encourage new members to join up. Anyone wishing to assist Bernie in his efforts can contact him at 407-636-3661 in the evenings.

At this point, no formal participation by the chapter has been organized but we hope to in the future in order to raise funds and promote the Palm Society to the public. Anyone who wishes to organize such an effort and round up the necessary vendors and staffing is encouraged to do so for next year. Many thanks to Bernie for volunteering to fill the void this year!!!!

MEMBERS! PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR NEWSLETTER WITH AN ARTICLE OR PHOTOS!!!!!!

BREVARD FREEZE (Con't)

Calamus caryotoides--2 Of 5 still have green foliage but no new growth  
T eckmanii v microcarpum: 1 of 1 dead  
T morrissii: 1 of 1 recovered  
Trachycarpus fortunei: 1 of 1 undamaged.  
Trithrinax acanthacoma: 4 of 4 undamaged  
Veitchia merrillii (7) and montgomeryana (2): dead  
Wodyetia bifurcata: moderate leaf burn in greenhouse.  
Latania Sp (4): Total defoliation, 3 of 4 recovering.  
Washingtonia robusta and filifera: no problem  
Zombia antillarum: 1 of 1 dead, but loss probably unrelated to freeze.

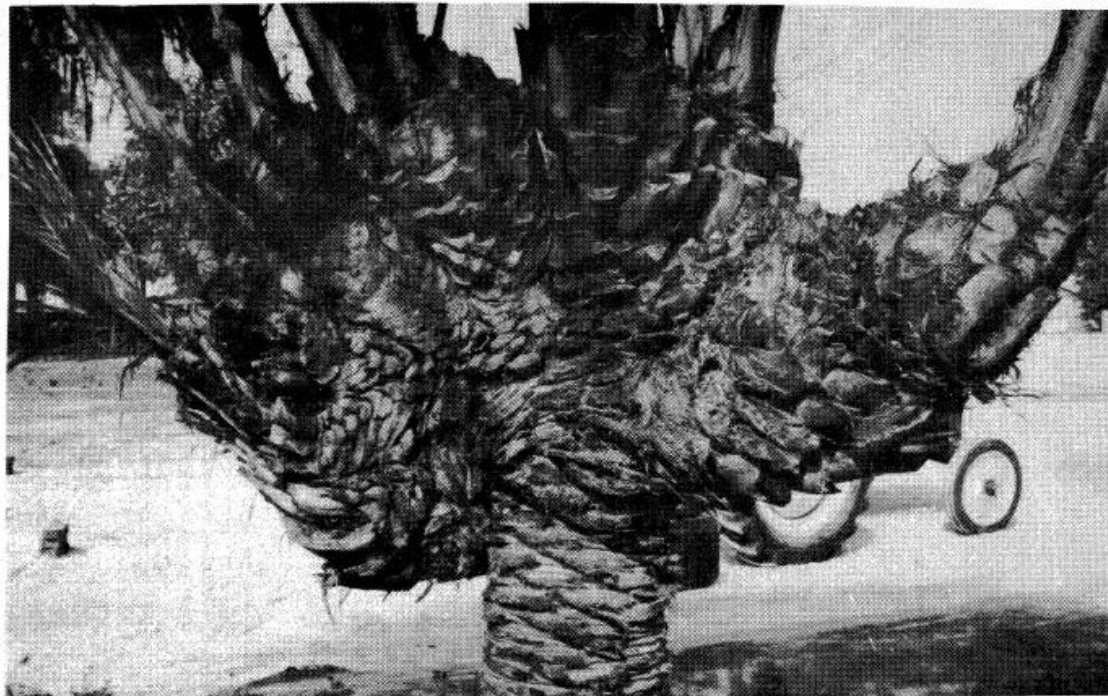
ANOTHER FUNDRAISER APPEAL:

Members are once again reminded that our efforts to establish a \$10,000.00 newsletter endowment are still underway until our planned 2 day fall meeting on the west coast of Fla.

At present, we have approximately \$3,000 to apply toward our \$5,000 goal.....this thanks to the impressive generosity of a handful of members. The other \$5,000 will come from an anonymous member upon reaching our goal. (AND WE ARE SO CLOSE!)

This is an unusual opportunity, unique among chapters of the Palm Society. If we let this offer slip through our fingers, we have no one to blame but ourselves. A quality newsletter requires money. An endowment would of this sort would give the chapter a guaranteed income in perpetuity and would be the basis of an improved bulletin. With the additional revenue we could guarantee a glossy cover ( as with several issues in the past) with each issue, sign up for bulk mailing with the postal service, and perhaps even include a color photo on the inside cover as do the California and Temperate Zone chapters. With bulk mailing, the length of the newsletter could be expanded. At present, we must keep the length of each issue to what we can mail for 25¢. When I first took over the bulletin, I was worried about filling the four pages, but it soon became apparent that my problem was to cut material out to fit into the size allotted. When you love palms as I do, this is quite an unpleasant task!

SO THE QUESTION IS, DO YOU ENJOY RECEIVING THE BULLETIN? If your answer is yes, the natural progression is: ISN'T IT WORTH A CONTRIBUTION OF SOME SORT?.....Don't put it off, that probably means forgetting about it. STAND UP AND BE COUNTED....SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION (large or small) TODAY!!



Once again that tireless supporter of this newsletter, Pam Vest, has stunned me with another incredible discovery. Above is an astounding specimen of a nine headed *Butea X Syagrus Hybrid* (Mule Palm). She writes: "You are going to love this-- a multi-headed hybrid. It has at least 9 heads on it. And it is only one block from where I live. The owner just bought it. He is developing his estate into a subdivision. The tree is visible from the road. He is a real friendly fellow and even invited me to have my club ( the CFPS) over for a picnic by the lake." Pam, I wish we had more folks scouting neighborhoods!!!

**A LESSON IN ENTHUSIASM**

Once upon a time in California in the U.S.A., Inge Hoffmann viewed a local vacant tract of land with the intention of establishing a succulent garden. She approached the City council to obtain permission to beautify this property but the Council was adamant, no garden.

Inge turned to her attorney. In the legislation it appeared there were some loopholes. A church could occupy this land, and so Inge became an ordained Minister and the "Church of Harmonious Relationship of Man and Plants" came to be.

The church now has a congregation of 50 members and Inge has already married two of these couples.

In the picture Inge Hoffman in her garden of succulents. The photo was taken by Prof. Werner Rauh.



REPRINTED FROM THE PALM ENTHUSIAST

**Most Wanted Palm For California's Coastal Climates**

by Inge Hoffman

If there ever was a Palm that was wanted by just about everybody it has to be *Parajubaea cocoides* or *Parajubaea torralyi*. Until I saw this gem at Ed Moore's garden in San Diego, it did not mean a thing to me and I'll admit I did not fall-in love with it even then.

However, it seemed that my indifference to *Parajubaea* was not shared by my colleagues. My old card files were full of requests for the palm. These and dozens of new requests haunted me as I entered them into my first Seed Bank computer software program.

There simply was no supplier. But that is like showing a carrot to a donkey. It got me going. I scoured the earth and, as luck would have it, I found a collector in Bolivia named Paolo.

It took a few letters and some funding and the seed started to roll in. However, a steady supply seemed unlikely. The fiber of *Parajubaea torralyi* is used to make door mats, rope and other household items. Unfortunately, the inflorescences are removed in the process. No inflorescences, no seed! Paolo had to climb high up into the mountains to obtain the seed from untouched plants. I still had no idea what conditions these palms would prefer, or what suggestions for growing to give to my customers.

I have always enjoyed photographing palms and collecting seed. So after my new Seed Service got off the ground, I decided I had to see *Parajubaea* growing in the wild.

We found it growing in Vallegrande, in the Province of Santa Cruz, Bolivia at approx. 2,000 m. The terrain reminds me of the high chaparral country of California.

Fairchild Botanical Garden had once returned seed to me as unsuitable for Florida growing conditions. No wonder - high and dry is what they like.

A new expedition into the area has been funded and I have high hopes that we will get by drips and draps some seed for our cool and dry coast. My own pipe-dream: Let's change that coastal picture a little to include a touch of Bolivia — not of the illegal kind.

REPRINTED FROM THE PALM JOURNAL