



ROMANZOFFIANUM

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Abstract. Butia capitata (Martius) Beccari is a native palm of South America and is hardy as ar north as South Carolina. Arecastrum romancoffianum (Chamisso) Beccari, a native of Brazil, s also a pinnate-leafed palm which grows faster, sigher, and broader than B. capitata, but is less formal in appearance and not as hardy. The cross between these two species displays the best qualties of each and is intermediate in every growth haracteristic between the parents. Even though a ew plants existed, the hybrid was virtually unthough a prior to 1949.

This natural cross was observed in the seeding beds of the Florida Nursery and Landscape lompany of Leesburg, in 1949, undoubtedly due o the tremendous quantity of seeds that had reminated and to the atlentiveness of the late loss Lafler, propagator for the nursery.

The availability of this hybrid will always be

limited since the cross is not readily accomplished; therefore, such hybrids would be relatively expensive. This paper presents the author's observations on this unusual and magnificient palm and offers procedures for its propagation to nurserymen.

The hybrid palm Butia capitata x Arecastrum romanzoffianum is intermediate between the parents in cold hardiness, size, rapidity of growth, and appearance. The trunk is heavy, up to 2 feet in diameter; leaves are more persistent than Arecastrum, but less than Butia. The margins of the petiole have stiff long fibers at the base and are smoothly dentated at the apex. Leaflets are not as stiff as Butia.

The first sprouted palm seeds that appeared to be of hybrid origin occurred in 1949, according to Gervin Pringle, owner of the Florida Nursery and Landscape Company in Leesburg. When the seedlings were a few inches high, it was apparent that about 5% were different. The original seed came from a street planting in Leesburg that was heavily planted in Arecastrum and Butia palms. Seed was also gathered from other adjacent counties where the two species grew in close proximity. Ross Lafter made hand pollinations by tying the Arecastrum inflorescence to that of *Butia*. He placed bee hives under the trees, as well as other get over 5% hybrids. Butia was always used **as** the maternal plant; no seed taken from an *Arecastrum* developed into a hybrid.

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During this period millions of liners and hundreds of pounds of Butia and Arecastrum seed were germinated yearly by the Florida Nursery and Landscape Company. Most of the hybrids observed by this writer came from this nursery.

The first literature report concerning this putative hybrid was by Barbosa Rodrigues (1903). Beccari (1916) partially described it. Liberty

Hyde Bailey (1936) described a paim growing at the Royal Palm Nurseries in Oneco, Florida, that ... "probably was *Butia capitata* by *Arecastrum romanzoffianum*. It has never produced fertile seed. It is 15 to 18 years old." Bailey described the trunk as relatively slender. The balance of the description was similar to the hybrid. This palm was growing near the nursery office which was destroyed by fire a number of years ago. The palm also succumbed during the fire.

Professor S. F. Glassman, who previously made a taxonomic revision of the palm genus Syagrus, and who had placed both Butia and Arecastrum under Syagrus, described and named the three hybrid palms at Fairchild Tropical Garden Syagrus x fairchildensis Glassman 1971. These three hybrid palms were donated to Fairchild Garden by Florida Nursery and Landscape Company and planted iff Plot 3 in 1959-60.

Following Glassman's publication Eric Golby, Horticulturist and Production Control Manager at Reasoner's Tropical Nurseries, wrote to Professor Glassman: "the late Egbert N. Reasoner who died in 1926 made the first hybrids between the various members of the cocoid group in 1906 or 1907. These were palms generally classed as 8 to 10 species of "Cocos" and can be referred to in the 1887 to 1897 issue of the Reasoner Brothers Royal Palm Nurseries' catalogs that may be found in a few large and old horticultural libraries." Mr. Golby suggested the hybrid should be named 'Reasoneri'.

Paul S. Mears of Sarasota pointed out that four hybrid palms were located in the southwest corner of the property, just east of the Royal Palm Nursery. He estimated that they are at least 50 years old. They all appear to be about the same age and could be the oldest in Florida. One of the palms nearest the road has a trunk which measures 13 feet high with 7½ feet of clear wood. The trunk diameter is 12½ inches, measured 4½ feet from the base. The fiber on the basal margins of the than on many of the others observed.

Thirty-three fruits were collected from the base of another of the four hybrid palms. Most of the rearly round, orange fruit was small and measured 11/16 inch high x 13/16 inch across. Large fruit measured 14/16 inch high and 15/16 inch in diameter. Seed of large fruit measured from 8/16 to 10/16 inch wide and from 12/16 to 14/16 inch long. Seed of small fruit measured from 6/16 to 8/16 inch wide and from 10/16 to 13/16 inch long. This seed was planted 20 February 1973.

The USDA Plant Introduction Garden in Coconut Grove has several cocoid hybrids. One is *Butia* capitata x B. ericapatha, a natural hybrid combining characteristics of both parents. The seed was received 21 June 1932. Other Butia hybrids are located near the fence on Old Cutler Road and all resemble *Butia* capitata. All seed from these hybrids was shipped from Leningrad and was produced in the Soviet Union at the Sukhum Subtropic Branch of the All Union Institute of Plant Industry, Sukhum Caucasus. These palms were grown for the fruit which tastes like loquat.

After Glassman published A New Palm Hybrid from the Fairchild Tropical Garden, Dr. Frederick C. Boutin of Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California, wrote "The accompanying photograph will at least attest to the existence of this hybrid. Pictured is plate V of two plates in Ruffo (1920) showing Arecastrum romanzoffianum x Butia growing in the garden of the Villa Lucia, Castellammane di Stabia, near Naples, Italy. Ruffo reported that this and another plant were planted in the open in 1908 and 1909 and produced viable seedlings (sic) after 1915 and 1916.

"Giorgio Roster, a photographer, reported in 1923 that Arecastrum romanzoffianum x Butia was being grown in six gardens in Italy and France located as follows: Chauvassaigne (Villa San Louis), Garavan, Mentone: Nabonnand Nursery, Golfe Juan: Garbari, Trento; Villa Ludica, Castellammare di Stabia; Giardino dell'Ottone, Island of Elba; and Roster's own Giardino dell'Ottonella, also on the Island of Elba.

"Ruffo indicated that the hybrid plants at the Villa Lucia were acquired before 1908 from the Nabonnand Nursery. These hybrids sold as *Cocos nabonnandii* were most likely produced by Paul Nabonnand, who was known for his breeding of tea roses and Rosa gigantea hybrids. Nicolas (1937) reported that "Nabonnand was commissioned by the French government to hybridize and improve coconut, date and ornamental palm trees for the French Colonies . . ."

This article was reprinted from the 1973 Proceedings of the Fla State Hort Society. Submitted by Bernie P

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Dear Stacy & Friends of Palms,

I wanted to share with you a palm I discovered a few months ago. The palm is a beautiful Rhapidophyllum Hystrix, The Needle Palm. It is located in a yard in Lutz, Fla. (Lutz is just north of Tampa) These palms are located at Highway 41 & Whitaker Road. Whitaker Road is the first road past the apex heading north on Highway 41. Turn right at the True Value Hardware. They are at the first house on the left. There is also a real nice Chamaerops Humilis, The European Fan, just to the right of the Needle Palm.

Pictured in the photo is Larry Barton, to help give scale to the size of this beauty. The leaf spread measures 9 feet tall and 12 feet wide. The Needle Palm has about 6 large trunks about 2½ to 3½ feet tall. They are growing in an area that gets about 3/4 of sun a day. It also seems to be a relatively dry area they are growing in. This is very large for a resident grown Needle Palm. Do you have a large Rhapidophyllum Hystrix in your area? I would like to hear about it.

I would like to thank Larry Barton, for being so kind as to share this very special palm with us.

If you would like to talk palms, please give me a call. My phone # is 920-4746.



might be interested to know that there is a large population of Needle Palms in Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring...many quite large. Another protected population can be found in the panhandle at Florida Caverns State Park. These occur on limestone outcroppings and don't seem to get as large.]

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PHOTOS: Right: Closeup of bloom peeking out from the thick mat & needles of the crown. Below Left: Larry Barton of Lutz is dwarfed by a large Needle (left) & and a European Fan (right). Below Right: Larry Barton poses on the backside of the same Rhapidophyllum.





CHAPTER COMMITTEE FORMAL REPORT by JIM CAIN

- With the exception of one affiliated chapter [New Zealand], all chapters are now providing the Chapter Committee with copies of their newsletters and/or meeting notices. Channels for further correspondence have been established with all affiliated chapters.
- II. With the exception of only 3 affiliated chapters [New Zealand, Temperate, Calif] all affiliated chapters are providing the Committee with multiple copies of their

newsletter or journal (where appropriate) for dissemination to other chapters. Some (e.g. So Africa) are supplying only a few copies of each issue but avenues have been established to expand to enough coples for all chapters within the next six months.

III. Without exception all chapters (both affiliated and nonaffiliated, have expressed the desire to continue and expand this interchange of journals/newsletters.

WHO IS JIM CAIN?

Jim Cain is the Chapter Committee Chairman responsible for promoting relations and communications between all the various international chapters affiliated with the Palm Society. And I might add, he's doing a great job. These reports were taken from materials brought back from the Biennial by Ed Hall. Jim lives in Houston, Texas.

HAWAII REVISITED ... OUR BIENNIAL JUURNEY by Ed & Nancy Hall

Nancy & I had the opportunity to arrive several days before the start of the meeting. It gave us time to see parts of the island not included on the meeting agenda...especially the recent lava flows. We also needed time to catch up from crossing 5 time zones.

The meeting started on Sunday night with a delightful cocktail party which included a 'lei' greeting at the top floor of the HaniLoa Hotel in Hilo.

Monday morning initiated the garden tours with a trip to Rainbow Tropicals and home of Jules Gervais, President of the IPS. My favorite palms at the Gervais' were the Metralelon though there were many beautiful palms and the Crytostachys renda and Neodypsis decaryii were the best specimens I had ever seen.

From Rainbow Tropicals we traveled south a few tenths of amile to Palms of Paradise where in addition to seeing the largest collection of nursery grown palms, we also sa a very rare blooming vine of red jade.

Next we headed a short distance to Nani Mau Gardens. After a guided tour of its tropical environs we had a wonderful lunch overlooking the gardens. The extensive collections of ginger, heliconias and bromeliads made for a striking vista.

Following lunch, the Board of Directors convened for the first half of its annual meeting. A summary of this meeting is printed following this article. The high-point of the evening presentations was the one made by Don Hodel on the genera Chamaedorea. Much of the material will appear in a book on the same subject scheduled to be printed in late 1990 or early 1991 by the IPS. Based on the material presented, I recommend you order your copy ASAP.

The second day started after an early lunch with a trip to Tropical Botanical Gardens. Several of us were fortunate (I guess) to be able to reach the gardens via van. The road was cut into the side of a vertical cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Since it had been built with private funds, the one lane road was no wider than absolutely necessary. For those of us on the right side of the van it was both spectacular and scary. The garden was beautiful, located below Don Carlsmith's property in very rugged terrain. There were some nice rare palms and a naturalized stand of Archontophoenix. Following this treat we all migrated up to Don Carlsmith's fontastic estate. Here we were allowed to collect seed and roam to our heart's (and body's) content. Numerous beautiful palms abounded everywhere. Among the rarest is the Wodyetia bifracta (new species or bifurcata? ed.) from Australia. After dinner we were treated to a wonderful program of Hawaiian music and dance.

The third day was a day of leisure, the second half of the annual board meeting, and the big banquet at the Hilo Yacht Club which was located at the outer edge of Hilo harbor on an extremely scenic piece of shoreline. After the excellent dinner, our President reported on the elections, the annual meeting, and indicated the next biennial would be in South Fla. I plan to write Jules with aproposition to include Central Fla in that 1992 Biennial.

The next morning we were up early to put all bags outside our rooms by 5:15 AM. By 7:30 we arrived in Honolulu to visit the Lyon Arboretum where we had another excellent meal. The University of Hawaii made us feel very welcome and even provided tourguides throughout the gardens. The beautiful grounds made this one of the highpoints of the convention. Don't miss a chance to see them. After a fantastic lunch we departed for a tour of Foster Gardens which was located closer in to Honolulu at a lower altitude and a less rainy dlimate.

The last day of the meeting was an optional trip to the National Botanical Gardens on the island of Kauai. This writer didn't make that trip but those friends that did attend have told me that NBG was equally as beautiful as any of the wondrous places we had seen in the preceding days.

As a smaller group of palm enthusiasts left for the Post Convention tour to Malaysia & Singapore, Nancy & I departed for the island of Maui to visit the island we lived on for two years about 21 years ago. Plan to attend the winter indication meeting of the error and total the hawarran islands like we did. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those Palm Society members of the Hawaiian Chapter for organizing an exciting and well planned event. Florida faces a challenge as we prepare to host the next Biennial in meeting a similar standard of hospitality.

ED & NANCY HALL

SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The following are some highlights from the two-day annual meeting of the IPS that took place in Hilo, Hawaii in June 1990:

- 1. The IPS membership roster reached 2900 by the end of 1989. About 25% of our members are international (non U.S.).
- 2. The Seedbank is now organized with a central control center headed by Robert Egge in Hilo, Hi. In addition there are three distribution centers at Fairchild Tropical Gardens (Miami), Lyon Arboretum (Honolulu) and Huntington Botanical Gardens (So. Calif) At the time of the meeting negotiations were in progress with Huntington to sign on as the third distribution center. If you want to use the Seedbank you must prepay in the amount of the Order. When your balance reaches "zero" you will be notified. Potential donors of material should contact Robert Egge.
- 3. Donations are being encouraged for color reproductions.
- With the anticipation of membership exceeding 3,000, the bylaws were changed to reflect 31 Directors (approximately 1% of membership).
- 5. The bylaws were changed to provide for two Vicepresidents. This should alleviate many of the problems that arose when Ed McGehee died and when the President is unavailable.
- 6. The IPS authorized the printing of Don Hodel's book on the genus Chamaedorea. Expect this at the end of '90 or early '91.
- Plans are to change the nominating committee rules to allow/insure a more uniform representation of directors. As a side note, California has 800 members versus Florida's 700 members.
- 8. Expect IPS dues to increase to \$25.00 in 1992.
- 9. The midterm meeting will be in San Diego in June/July 1991.
- 10. The next Biennial will be in South Fla with a possible Post Biennial to Costa Rica.

FROM PAM VEST:

Gary Paul Accepts New Directorship In Huntsville

He's gone to Alabama, without a banjo on his knee, but with his family of five! After five productive years at Leu, Gary Paul has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Huntsville/Madison County Botanical Garden. A bit about his new challenge...its mostly 113 undeveloped acres. It has 600 roses, a formal Herb Garden, and beds of hemerocallis, iris, spring bulbs, annuals and wildflowers. The Master Plan calls for many traditional features, including a conservatory, but the thing that has Gary most excited is the proposed "Biosphere"a high-tech look at plants and their impact on the rest of the globe's living things.

The structure will include research facilities - which is appropriate for a town that lives on high technology.

Gary says he never expected to leave, but the opportunity of working with a brandnew garden and a brand-new setting proved irresistible. We'll certainly miss Gary, but wish him well in this new challenge in his life.





Last month while I was out scouting the neighborhoods of several small towns close to here in search of tall Buteas, I came across a surprising find. At the end of a street in Ft Meade, I came to a stop and in front of me was a large group of Sabal Causiarums. They were next to an old "cracker house" and towering high into a blue sky. Eight palms can be counted in the photo (some are in the shadows) and there were several more besides these. They appear to be naturalizing themselves. I have a greater appreciation for Ft Meade. There are Acrocomia totai and Phoenix rupicola in town as well.

STACEY PEACOCK











PHOTO BELOW: This is a composite of two photographs of the State Office Bldg in Daytona Beach. Daytona must be commended for its extensive use of palms around public projects in recent years. The building is located at US 92 and US 1. Besides the two Butea lined sides pictured, a third side of the building is also lined along the roadway and even has a Hybrid in its lineup, S. Peacock

PHOTO ABOVE: Two views of the same palm. This is the tallest Butea that I have ever seen. The left photo was taken from the SW while the right view is from the East. The palm is well above the attic's peak of the house. This pindo is both stout of trunk and sports an enormous head. The palm is located in Bowling Green on W. Main St. Photo by Stacey Peacock.

Thanks to a collective effort from our rank and file, we are able to pay an honest tribute here to an often overlooked friend. Among the many, the palms pictured here represent ones that caught someone's eve or were extra tall. Pam Vest obened the door by sending some Hybrids. They were so nice, I just had to include them. (There will be two nice Hybrids in 3-gal offered up for raffle at the next meeting) I think you will have to agree that when members participate in their newsletter...we produce our respectable best.

FRONT COVER PHOTOS:

Left: Pam Vest poses with a lofty Butea X Queen Hybrid near her home in Altamonte Springs. This plant is only yards away from the nine headed Hybrid featured in our last issue. Another great shot Pam!!! Right: Roy Works writes: "This is the tallest Butea I have ever seen. It is located in Lake City and appears to have about 26 ft of clear (?) trunk. The trunk is dedlining and appears to be rotting away in layers. Buddy in the picture is 5'81" tall." [Editor's note: It makes one wonder what the typical lifespan of this species might be. Does decline set in when it reaches this approximate height or even earlier? Could Butea be considered a "short-lived" species? 40 Years? 50 years? 80 years? 100 years? One thing is certain, this appears to be the tallest one pictured in this article. Surely there must be others. Ed.]

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LISTINGS HERE REFER TO THOSE ON THE NEXT PAGE

PHOTO A: This stiffly arched Hybrid can be found at the McDonalds on Hwy US 27 in Sebring. Photo by S. Peacock

PHOTO B: With a slight lean and a trunk adorned with Boston ferns. this old gal stands at the corner of the county courthouse in Sebring. Photo by S. Peacock.

PHOTO C: Famous for her incredible encounters with the spectacular, Pam Vest once again lives up to her reputation. Here she poses with three towering Hybrids at N. Dale Mabry & W. Kennedy in Tampa. Pictured is the Tampa Commons Bldg. Photo was taken in May 1990.

PHOTO D: In a graceful sweep this beauty reaches out from under the cover of a large oak. Leaves seem to reach the roof peak of this 2story home. The palm is located in Rockledge. Photo: Bernie Peterson.

PHOTO E: Ted Langley writes: "This Pindo Palm has 15% ft of trunk and about 5 ft of fronds for a total of 201 ft. Located on US 41 in Lutz. Pictured is Ted Langley.

PHOTO F: Bernie Peterson finds another "leaner" at this old residence in Rockledge. These early Floridians certainly believed in palms judging from their landscape.

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THE WORLD OF CHAMAEDOREA PALMS



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GLOSSARY

I. No new affiliations for the IPS are requested at this time. Reaffirmation of chapters already thought to be affiliated has been received in one form or another from all such chapters. The new 1990 Roster reflects such affiliation.

II. The India Palm Society has expressed interest in IPS affiliation. New reports have been received of a new Palm Society Chapter in Palm Beach, Fl but no direct news from that chapter has been received by the Chapter Committee. PACSOA reports the formation/affiliation (with PACSOA) of two new groups in Australia (South Australia and West Australia).

III. As Chairman of the Chapter Committee, I would like to express particular appreciation to Stacey Peacock of the CFPS and Paul Anderson of the Sydney Branch, PACSOA for their very substantial support of the "Complimentary Exchange Editors" program.

[EDITOR'S CORRECTION: On page 7 of the 1990 Roster, The Central F1 Palm Society was credited with initiating the Exchange Editor Program. This is not true...the real credit must go to the "California Chapter" and probably more specifically to Bill Gunther. Sorry Jim, I guess you must of heard of the "Exchange" from me first.]

PUBLISHING EXCITEMENT !!!

I extracted this info from materials brought back from the Biennial by Ed Hall. It is nice when any book about palms will be published but what's so exciting here is the plan to include so many color photographs. This will be a first for the society and I hope this is an indication of where we are headed in the future. The Australians can probably be credited with starting this trend when they published two full color books on palms about 5-6 years ago. These are:

Palms In Australia by David Jones Palms by Alec Blombery & Tory Rodd

I must say that these two books are cherished possessions and had often wondered why the Americans had never mustered such an effort. Well, at least we now have an International effort which Americans will be a substantitive part of.

THE WORLD OF CHAMAEDOREA PALMS by Donald Hodel is exciting news indeed. I recommend we all support this pioneering effort by purchasing a welcome new edition to our libraries. The more successful the project is, the more we can look forward to new endeavors of a similar nature. Other news on proposals for a SPECIES PALMARUM, PALM SPECIES IN CULTIVATION, and a book on growing and cultivating palms can be found elsewhere in this issue.

In addition to the color photos, this book will also be illustrated with numerous line drawings and black & white photos. Those planning to attend the 2-day meeting in Tampa/St Pete on Oct 20-21 are urged to donate palms for the Sunday sale which will finally cap our year long fundraiser. This will be the official end and we need your help. If you would like to sell palms, a 80% Seller/20% Palm Society split is our normal arrangement with all plants tagged and reimbursement delayed for a few days. Our normal vendors are not likely to participate so we need some "west coasters" to step in. Interested vendors please send a S.A.S.E. to Stacey Peacock, Rt. 2 Box 168, Zolfo Springs, 33890 for info or call 813-452-2798 no later than Octl6th.

Member participation is needed to make this sale a success (as well as our final fundraising efforts). So please support your Palm Society Chapter by selling, buying, or DONATING PALMS!!!!

PLEASE NOTE: Please note that a plant shuttle is being made available on a lst come lst served basis, for those folks who must carry their plants around all weekend. (See meeting article)

TWO BUTEA X QUEEN HYBRIDS TO BE RAFFLED AT THE 2-DAY MEETING:

Yes, its true. Two of those elusive HYBRIDS will go to some lucky winners on Oct 21, Sun. Also to be raffled are two large Needle Palms (Rhapidophyllum hystrix)& all proceeds will go to our fundraiser. We can thank Ted Langley for pulling this one off. It's almost as exciting as the \$100,000,000 LOTTO.









Sunday, Aug 19th saw members gathering at the base of the enormous Bok Singing Tower just outside of Lake Wales. The turnout was excellent and we were surprised that the Gardens had provided us with a capable tour guide, David Price, Although a formal tour was not requested we were appreciative that David was there to provide access and information to parts of Bok Tower not normally accessable to the general public. Many thanks to David Price and Charlene Lawson for their hospitality.

One area we visited was the adjoining estate acquired by the Garden in later years called Pinewood. It was built by the founder of Bethlehem Steel and has expansive grounds including a number of unusual Sabals and Acrocomia totai. There were 3 nice specimens of an unknown darkgreen to bluish Sabal with compacted petioles making for an oblong tightly gathered crown. (See Photo) They remind me of two Sabal blackburniana in my own collection. I feel fairly certain that there is indeed a separate species involved rather than domenquensis being held synonymous with blackburnia. The Sabals....they're so con-

Next, we were off to the estate at Wirt's Point in Babson Park where members enjoyed lunch under the live oaks at the tip of the point surrounded by Crooked Lake on three sides. It was an ideallic setting and quite relaxing. We never mustered an actual formal business meeting but we did pull off a very successful plant and "T" shirt sale. (See article about new shirts). Other info regarding this can be found in the Treasurer's Report.

<u>PHOTOS:</u> Top Left: Members enjoy lunch under the Live Oak canopy at the tip of Wirt's Point. Top Right: David Price of Bok Tower Gardens leads the tour of that garden. (He's in the white safari hat) <u>Below Left</u>: Members troop through the heat passing under one of the unusual Sabals mentioned in the article. <u>Below Right</u>: Three Sabal domenguensis rise at the base of Bok Tower.

> Thanks to Jan Wirt for allowing us to visit her beautiful place. And special thanks to Doug Morrison for all his help in organizing the event. His afternoon tour was highly thought of by those who attended. Thanks to everyone for handling the usual amount confusion.

Unfortunately the trip scheduled to Palmhead had to be cancelled thanks to that capricious Mother Nature. In the week preceding the meeting, Palmhead was deluged with 9½" of Tain coming on top of already saturated ground. To make up for the inconvience an informal openhouse will take place at Palmhead on Sun Nov 18th. Please see article this is-



Once again, A GOOD TIME WAS

The following is a conceptual proposal by IPS editors Dr. John Dransfield (U.K.) and Dr. Natalie Uhl (N.Y.) outlining their estimation of IPS publishing needs in the immediate future. They are bold proposals and call for membership participation. Perhaps to increase the appeal each chapter should include a short presentation of its particular growing area: addressing climate, species successes, failures, and hopefuls, and geography. Native species of that area could also be detailed for habitat...including pH of the soil, soil type, temperatures experienced, fire resistance, water conditions & drainage, etc...CERTAINLY TO BE AN ORGANIZATIONAL NIGHTMARE requiring input from hundreds of members everywhere.

Definition of the Problem:

Although palm genera are relatively well defined, many of the species remain poorly known. Many taxonomists are today working to clarify species but such work is often very time consuming.

An ideal scientifically based *Species Palmarum* would provide an account of every known palm species. To achieve this would require detailed critical research on large genera such as *Calamus* and *Bactris* which would take many years. It is questionable whether members of The Society are really interested in information concerning about 400 different species of *Calamus*.

Work in Progress

Nomenclatural Data Base: Work on a revised checklist of all palm names indicating which are accepted names, which are synonyms, etc. is being carried out already at Kew. By the end of 1992, this revised checklist should be ready for publication. It will provide a list of accepted palm species with their synonyms (i.e. will provide a guide to the correct names of all palms). It will also give the distribution of the species, notes on their ecology, uses, vernacular names and simple abbreviated descriptions. An important part of it will be indications of which species are insufficiently known. The idea is that this checklist should be printed as a small book which would easily fit in the pocket and act as a "vade mecum" - a handy reference. The process of building up the data base for this checklist would also provide an excellent basis for future palm monographic work of which a Species Palmarum would be the ultimate goal.

Besides the data base the following floristic studies are in progress or have been completed:

Amazonian Palms (Henderson and Balick)

Guide to Palms of the New World (Bernal, Galeano, and Henderson)

Guide to Palms of Africa (Tuley, Otedoh, and Dransfield)

Palms of Madagascar (Dransfield, Uhl, and A.N. Other)

Palms of China (Pei Sheng-Ji)

Palms of the Southwest Pacific (Dowe)

Palms of Australia

Flora Malesiana (Beginning 1995: Dransfield and Collaborators)

Flora of Thailand (Barfod and Dransfield)

Flora of Ecuador (Balslev et al.)

With the completion of all these accounts, most of the palms of the world will be covered. Thus the research towards a *Species Palmarum* is underway but it will be some time before it is completed.

Prologue below.....Photos begin on next page:

Travel around Central Florida and you will see them everywhere. They are tried and true and common. For many of us they are one of the earliest if not the first acquisitions for our Central Fl palm gardens. Being common, they they don't even come up in conversation as time passes since the more ephemeral and elusive species get all the attention. I guess you could say that <u>Butea capitata</u> has a bad case of being taken for granted.

But what a stroke of good fortune nature has bestowed upon us! Not only is this a beautiful palm ... it is a common palm, able to succeed andflourish in what we have to offer it. Because of large numbers of specimens in our area we are able to enjoy its genetic variations. In a strange way, I almost think of this palm as being one of our own...a native if you will. If you look at it in that way it would be the only native palm that is pinnate here in our area. But alas it is not (but we can still delude ourselves).

Butea capitata has beautiful qualities in addition to its obvious physical attributes. It blooms when quite young and is a prolific seed bearer. The fruit is tasty. It is one palm you don't give a second thought to when the artic air invades (it almost makes you resent all those other species you're out throwing sheets over in frantic terror). They are very available and widely sold. They're adaptable to a variety of planting conditions. I find that they thrive very close to the water table as well as in high and dry locations. Their petioles are virtually unarmed making for safer pruning and disposal of the fronds. Its color is quite variable and can be bluegreen or almost a silver-grey. They are popular palms that add beauty at almost every turn in our landscapes. And above all, they are the mother of the only cross generic hybrid in the palm world...the pride of central F1... the Butea X Queen Hybrid. With all its great qualities, how lucky we must count ourselves that nature just happened to have one of these in her inventory. SPP

'Photos begin next page 🕳

Proposal

However, information on palm species needs to be available in a format useful to palm enthusiasts. <u>One possibility is the production of a Species Palmarum</u> of a different kind and with a different title - Palm Species in Cultivation. As we see it, the grower requires brief descriptions of species and information on their cultivation in a user-friendly form. One problem is that growing conditions differ from area to area and it will be difficult to provide an exhaustive guide to the cultivation of each species. We propose the way forward might be to publish as they become available accounts of palm species and their cultivation following a format similar to one enclosed. Input on this preliminary format will be welcomed.

We, as editors of *Principes*, feel that the whole membership of The Society should be involved in providing information for this work. Writing will be done by various people depending on who has the relevant experience and information. Methods of production and costs can be discussed once the format is decided.

A Book on Cultivation

A second need is a how-to-grow book summarizing all that is known on cultivating palms. The IPS embodies a greater expertise on palm cultivation than is available anywhere else and it behooves us to get this information into print. We need to find an author(s) among the membership





Two-Day Meet

The two-day fall meeting of the C.F.P.S. is being hosted by the Tampa-St. Pete area. We feel we have a nice two-day package planned for you.

Day one, Saturday, October 20, starts by meeting at the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa. We will be meeting in the picnic area from 9:30 to 10:30. From there, we will go to the zoo part of the park for a viewing of this new facility. After the zoo, we will return to the picnic area for lunch. This will be a bring-your-own-lunch. Chairs might be a good idea, also.

After lunch, we will be visiting the Hudson Nursery. This nursery has been established since the '60's and has some very interesting palms, like a variegated Trachycarpus-Fortunei. The nursery is on about 6 acres. After the Hudson Nursery, you are on your own to have some time for yourselves, so you can enjoy your hotel and the area. This will also give you time to get your dinner before the evening meeting at the Embassy Suite Hotel.

<u>Gill Whitten will be our quest speaker</u>. He will be speaking on "Cultivation of Palms and Other Tropical. Plants of Central Florida". Afterwards, there will be a question and answer period. You may wish to have some questions on hand. Mr. Whitten is a local horticulturist in the Tampa Bay area.

The Embassy Suite Hotel has a beautiful atrium inside the lobby with many nice and unusual palms and other tropicals. We are sure you will enjoy the atmosphere of the Embassy.

Day two starts in St. Petersburg. We will begin with a visit to Mr. & Mrs. Tom Pavluvcik's home to see their palm collection. They have been collecting palms since 1973. They have some very nice specimens to be viewed. We will be meeting at a Frank's Nursery, very close to the Pavluvcik's home, to car-pool to their home, since parking is limited.

After the visit to the Pavluvcik home, we will be going to the Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum in downtown St. Petersburg for a viewing of this palm collection, (More cities should have palm arboretums like the city of St. Pete). At the arboretum, a box-lunch will be provided. There will be a charge to you for this service.

After lunch we will begin the plant sale. We hope people will bring plants for the sale. Those who are staying the night, can bring their plants to Lowry Park on day #1. A truck will be available to transport your plants to the sale the following day, if you like. Your plants should be labeled and identified before they are loaded on the truck. Also, all weekend we will be selling raffle tickets

for two, 3-gallon Butia-Syagrus Hybrids and two, 3-gallon Rhapidophyllum Hystrix. The raffle and plant sale will help to raise needed funds for the C.F.P.S.

We sure hope you can make it to the C.F.P.S.'s two-day-meet in Tampa/St. Pete on Oct. 20 & 21. IF you can not make both days, try to make Day 1 or Day 2. We look forward to seeing you.

[Editor's Note: I would like to thank everyone involved with organizing this event and especially Ted Langley all his efforts in getting everyone together. Ted also furnished the text and maps for this article in a most timely manner. Thanks for making it easy Ted!]



An informal <u>openhouse will take place on Sun Nov 18</u> at Palmhead. This was to have been our 3rd stop at the Aug 19 meeting but was postponed by $9\frac{1}{2}$ " of rain in the week preceding the meeting (see calendar).

This is not a formal chapter meeting but rather a simple gathering. If you would like to attend, please try to drop me a line and confirm your intentions by Nov 12th, or call 813-452-2798. A map to Palmhead is available by sending an S.A.S.E. to Stacey Peacock, Rt 2 Box 168 Zolfo Spgs 33890.

Because of variable road conditions, it is also requested that you call on the prior evening (Sat night, Nov 17) between the hours of 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM for a road report. <u>Please don't let this</u> scare you off, but just in case, its better to be safe than sorry.

PLANS ARE to welcome members from 9:30 to 11:00 AM with a walking tour shortly after. Members who wish to bring a lunch are encouraged to picnic in the garden...soft drinks will be provided. There will also be plants available for sale (although limited).

I HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT.

Storey Reacork

PALMHEAD VERY WET IN AUGUST: It was certainly the wettest I have ever seen it in my six years of residence here. In all, there were 17 days with rain that totaled 18.6 inches for the month. The weekly totals were as follows #1-1.8" #2--(3") #3--(9.4" #4--(2.2") #5--(2.2") On the other hand, as of Sept 18th, there has been no recorded rain in Sept. The calendar records the date & amount in August.



The annual palm extravaganza of the So Fla Chapter of the IPS will take place at Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami on the weekend of Nov 3rd & 4th. Priscilla Forthman who is pictured below attests to the madcap atmosphere of the affair. Priscilla was a vendor last year and poses before her wares.

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QUEEN FOR THE DAY PRISCILLA FORTHMAN



FINAL ASSAULT NEEDS SILENT MAJORITY

Comments Below.....Please read!!!!! TREASURER'S REPORT by Ed Hall

DONATIONS IN BANK AS OF JAN 1990	\$ 812.11
DONATIONS AS OF APRIL 1990	\$1552.20
DONATIONS AS OF THIS ISSUE	\$1180.00
INCOME FROM:	
MAY PLANT SALE	\$ 101.00
AUGUST PLANT SALE	\$ 245.60
AUGUST "T" SHIRT SALE	\$ 122.50
ESTIMATED TOTAL	\$4313.41

PROJECTED INCOME FROM OCT MEETING

PLANT SALES & RAFFLE "T" SHIRT SALES	\$ 150.00 <u>\$ 150.00</u> \$ 300.00	
NEEDED FOR MATCHING FUNDS LESS THE ESTIMATED TOTAL	\$5,000.00 \$4,313.00	
DEFICIT NEEDED TO REACH GOAL	\$ 700.00	

TREASURER'S COMMENTS:

As you can see we (the CFPS) are about \$700 from meeting our \$5,000 goal. The closing date for our Fundraiser is at the end of the 2-Day Meeting on Oct 21st 1990. I appeal to everyone, especially those not here-to-fore heard from, to come to the aid of your Chapter. It has been a worthy effort to date and with your help is within grasp of achievement. We all enjoy the Chapter's Newsletter so don't let us miss this \$5,000 gift which will insure its continuance for years to come.

PLEASE, SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE EFFORT TODAY....DON'T PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER! Your donation at a time of critical importance like we face now would be greatly appreciated.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS THE FINAL APPEAL, PROMISE.

Who would have thought that this disorganized. scattered bunch of palm aficianados could have raised \$5,000 when it was first proprosed a little over a year ago. I must admit that I. for one,was skeptical. And now, after seeing all those generous donations continue to come in, I must concede....it's possible, very possible. In honor of all those people who care, and hopefully to spark an interest in those who don't seem to, this issue of the CFPB will be the largest yet attempted by me. I hope you enjoy what I feel is an interesting issue. If you do. and you are still wavering about sending in a small donation for the first time...then sit down and do it for goodness sake!!!! We need every person on deck. A little can go a long way...afterall \$5 times 100 is \$500. Just think, if we make our goal you won't have to listen to me whine for money anymore.

PALM BYTES

ORGANIZER NEEDED FOR LEU GARDENS SALE:

Someone is needed to work out the details for next year's (usually March) Palm Sale at Leu Gardens in Orlando. If noone is found, our participation in the event is in question. Whomever takes the job, the first task will be to see if Gary Paul's leaving the staff has in any way changed things. Is there still going to be a Spring Show? Anyone willing to work as liasion in taking care of details with the Garden is asked to contact Ed Hall...ph # 407 647 2039

PHOTOS BELOW: Bill Black of St. Cloud sends some nice pictures of Ravenea rivularis at the Wakulla Motel in Cocoa Beach. They were planted by Rockledge Gardens after the Xmas Freeze of 1989. Bill and Rodger the Palm Dog are pictured in the lower photograph.



CALL FOR PHOTOS: PHOENIX RUPICOLA IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:

With "Tall Buteas" behind us, it's time to look forward. The assignment this time is a little trickier....we're in search of something a little more unusual..... the graceful Cliff Date, Phoenix rupicola. So dust off that camera lens. load in a fresh roll of film and set off on a photo safari. Let's once again make this a collective effort ... and expand everyone's horizons.

The conclusion of the Hybrid Article Hyphaene photos from Kenva by Randy & Tammy Schuster Mailing list revision to be announced You will certainly send us something!

LIVISTONA HASSELTII: Does anyone know which of the unnamed species in the native section of "Palms In Australia" has now been given the name Livistona hasseltii?????

I purchased one several years ago and still don't know. Respond to Stacey Peacock (see back cover).

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: I would like to see all materials arrive by no later than the end of the first week of January 1991 in order to get the next issue out in time to announce the Winter Meet. All articles, Leu Gardens Sale Organizing Info, items for the meeting announcement, Phoenix rupicola photos, advertisements (free of course), and pictures of Oct 20-21 need to be in then.

AUGUST MEETING REPORT by Ed Hall

Number of Attendees.... Approx 44

Plant Sale: 97 plants were sold for a gross of \$732.00 netting \$245 for the Palm Society. Thanks to vendors David & Geri Prall of Cape Coral. Stacey Peacock, Bob & Marita Bobick of Orlando. Also many thanks for donated plants...Bernie Peterson of Rockledge Gardens, Hersch Womble of Groveland, Nina & Dave Freeman of Chuluota, Ted Langley of Lutz. Sorry if I overlooked anyone.

" Shirt Sale: Sales of the new "Palm Gardens" shirt created by Geri Prall netted \$122.50 for the CFPS after expenses. More shirts have been ordered for the 2-Day meeting in Oct and there will be 40 available for purchase at the event in Tampa & St. Pete.

TENTATIVE PLANS FOR A WINTER MEETING:

Plans aren't yet formulated for our WINTER MEETING but expect a Jan/Feb luncheon meeting somewhere in Central Fla. The program will be a slide show of the 1990 Biennial Meeting of the IPS held in Hawaii. The slide show will combine the efforts of a number of different members who attended...and should provide a complete and interesting account of the event. We look forward to seeing you there. Watch for details in the next CEPBulletin



NANNORRHOPS RITCHIANA: Bernie Peterson of Cocoa inspects a sizeable specimen of Nannorrhops ritcheana while attending the Palm Sale at Fairchild Tropical Garden last year. This "Mazari Palm" is planted in the lowland garden area and is thriving in marl of alkaline pH. Although I have seen it bloom a number of times, I have never seen any viable seed produced. The palm is

A PHOTO SPREE

- PHOTO A: A beautiful group of Bottle Palms, Hyophorbe lagenicaulis, inspires tropical dreaming. The taller columns are trunks of Royal Palms. This Fairchild Tropical Gardens scene is from Nov 89.
- PHOTO B&C: Steve Bagenski of Miami poses before a Veitchia winin in his back yard. In a little over 2 years, it has more than quadrupled in size. Veithia winin thrives in the porous, alkaline oolitic limestone that underlies Miami. Photo C is a closeup of the trunk featuring the showy patterns of brown/black "fuzz" where the petiole joins the crownshaft. South Florida dreaming becomes reality.
- <u>PHOTO D</u>: A pleasing array of leafbases converts photography to newsletter art. I can't for the life of me recall exactly which palm it is that I took a picture of...but does it really matter?

by S. Peacock

Thanks to the following people for helping with this issue: Ted Langley, Ed Hall, Jim Cain, Pam Vest, Bernie Peterson, Dave & Nina Freeman, Vance Browning, Roy Works, David & Geri Prall, & Bill Black







ABOVE: David Prall models one of his wife's "Palm Tree Gardens" shirts. BELOW: Close up of front design





ABOVE: Closeup of the back design BELOW: Brittany Prall shows off the Tote Bag also available.



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HANKS TO THE	DONORS L	ISTED BELOW		
JIM MENGE Neptune Beach, Fl	\$ 5	AGNES COLLINS Sebring, Fl	\$ 25	
DORIS SMITH Daytona Beach, Fl	\$350	EDWIN BROWN Jacksonville, Fl	\$ 10	
NANCY EDMONDSON Nokomis, Fl	\$ 25	ED & NANCY HALL Maitland	\$100	
J. BURNS CREIGHTON, Tampa, Fl	JR. \$250	STACEY P. PEACOCK Zolfo Springs, Fl	\$ 50	
TED E. LANGLEY Lutz, F1	\$ 40	List submitted by Ed are in order of recei	pt. Very	
WILLIAM E. D'CONNOR Daytona Beach, Fl	\$ 50	special thanks to all of these good people for supporting their Chapter's efforts. In the next issue we hope to see a long list of \$5 donors		
DONNA K. LIVENSPIRE Wimauma, Fl	\$ 25			
LIBBY BESSE Sarasota, Fl	\$250	those donations are just as important. But remember, have		
M. BRENT BURRIS Lakeland, Fl	\$ 50	them in by Oct 15th so as to include them by our deadline.		
Second and the second second				

THE "PALM TREE GARDENS" T-SHIRT

Thanks to the effort of Geri Prall of Cape Coral there is a beautiful new shirt available to our membership. She calls it the "Palm Tree Gardens" "I" shirt, and Geri unveiled her enterprise at the Aug 19th meeting. Judging from the response, it would seem to be just what folks have been looking for.

The shirt is a 6-color print on both front and back. The words "The Palm Society" appear discreetly on the sleeve and it is made of a nicely weighted 100% cotton material. Featured on the shirt are:

Neodypsis decarvii Latania Roystonea regia Copernicia macroglossa Coccothrinax argentata

FRONT:

SyaarusXButea Hybrid Livistona decipiens Rhapidophyllum hystrix Butea capitata Phoenix rupicola

BACK:

For our Fundraising efforts, Geri has allowed the Chapter to sell the shirts after paying the wholesale cost. There will be approximately 40 of the shirts for sale at our next meeting. They come in S--M--L, one color (beige), and are priced at \$15 each. Remember, each sale benefits the fundraiser. If you can't attend the meeting or just simply can't wait, the shirts can be mail ordered from Geri Prall. The cost: \$15+90¢ tax+postage of \$1.75 for one or \$2.40 for 2-4 shirts. Total for one shirt is \$17.65. Make check payable to Geri Prall, 328 SE 33rd Terrace, Cape Coral, F1 33904. WHAT A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT... SHOP EARLY !!!!!!

All of us in the CFPS extend our appreciation to Geri for her assistance with the fundraiser and putting in all the hard work in coming up with this shirt It's the most of !!