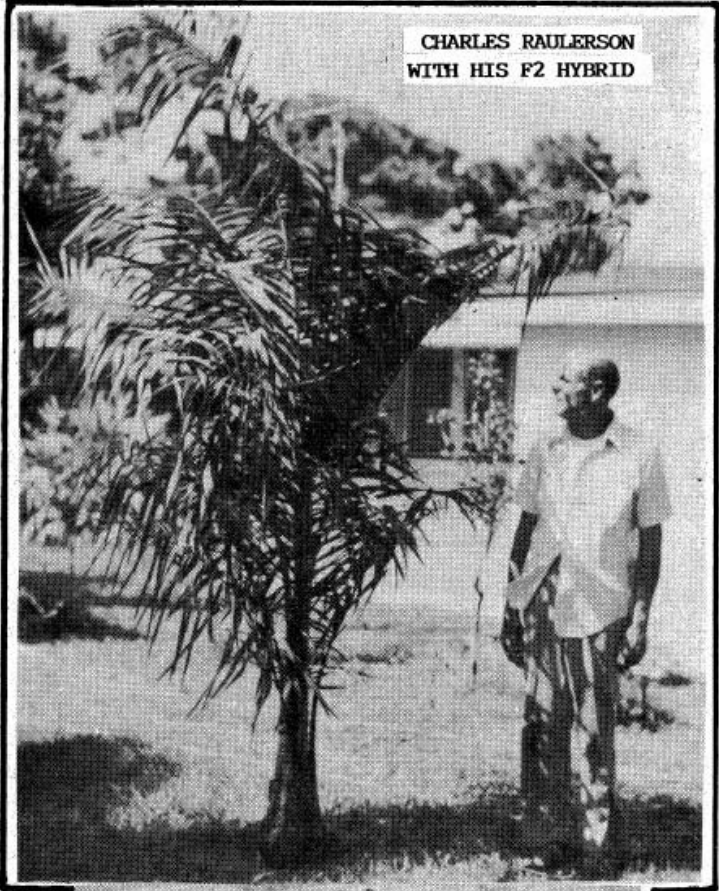


CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM BULLETIN

THE CHARLES RAULERSON MEMORIAL ISSUE



CHARLES RAULERSON
WITH HIS F2 HYBRID

**CHARLES RAULERSON
PALM HAMMOCK**

The Palm Hammock is dedicated to the memory of Charles Raulerson whose devotion to the study of palms has enriched our community and our precious world.

**JULY
1991**

**VOL 11
NO. 3**

THE CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
Ed & Nancy Hall
1111 Glen Garry Circle
Maitland, FL 32751
Ph # 407-647-2039

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The Central Fla Palm Bulletin is published four times annually and is free to members of the Int'l Palm Society living within the free service area of the CFPS. We exist and operate solely on the goodwill of this membership. Your support is needed and encouraged.

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REMOVE THESE STAPLES ONLY

GAINESVILLE HOSTS ENTHUSIASTIC TURNOUT ON APRIL 13th

Saturday April 13th was a fine Spring day when last we gathered in Gainesville for a joint meeting with members of the F1 First Coast Chapter. The turnout was exceptional and a lot of new acquaintances were made.

Two major tours were scheduled for the day and our first stop was at the University of Florida. Merrill Wilcox and Noel Lake welcomed arriving troops in front of the J Wayne Reitz Student Union. About 12 people started off on the walking tour of the campus with Noel Lake in the lead. As we trekked along, the group started growing as more and more members joined in a growing throng. Our modest contingent soon became a respectable force of 35 or so. Many thanks to Noel Lake for sharing his extensive and personal knowledge of the campus grounds which have been so much a part of his life for the past 25 years.

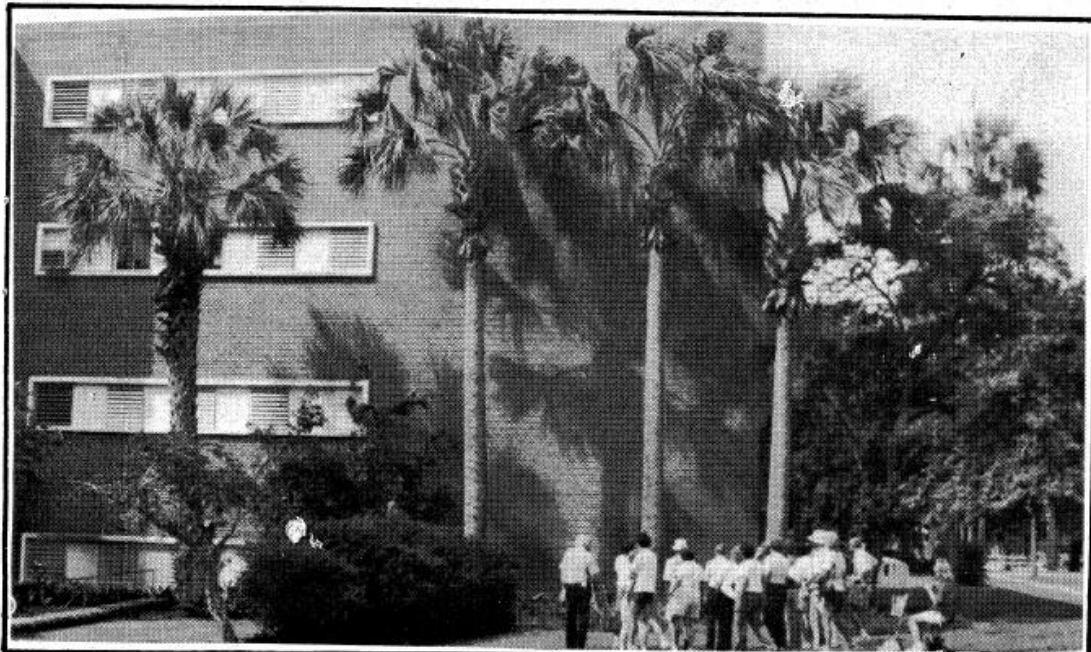
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA PHOTOS.....APRIL 13, 1991:

BELOW: Members admire a group of 3 stately Sabals next to McCarty Hall. They are reputed to be *S. domenguensis* but this is uncertain. Whatever they are, they are hardy and possess that distinctive solid white trunk (compare to the S palmetto on the left).

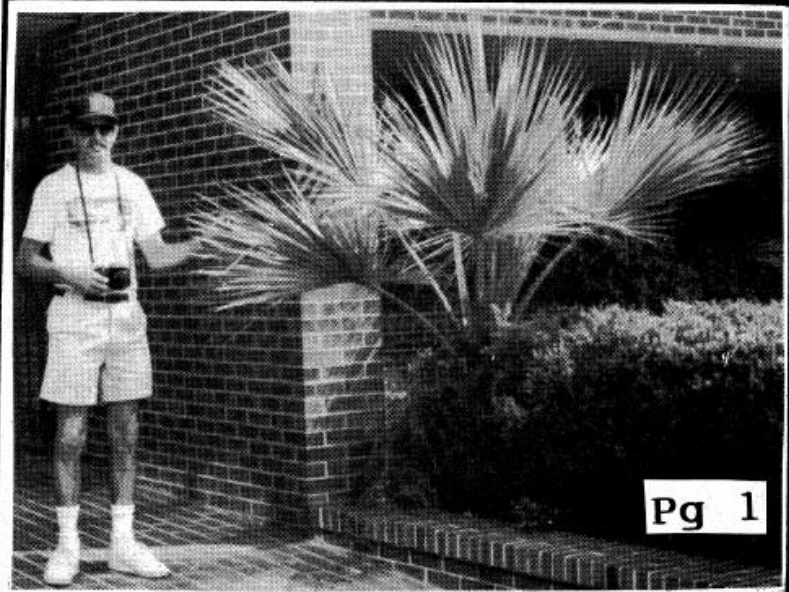
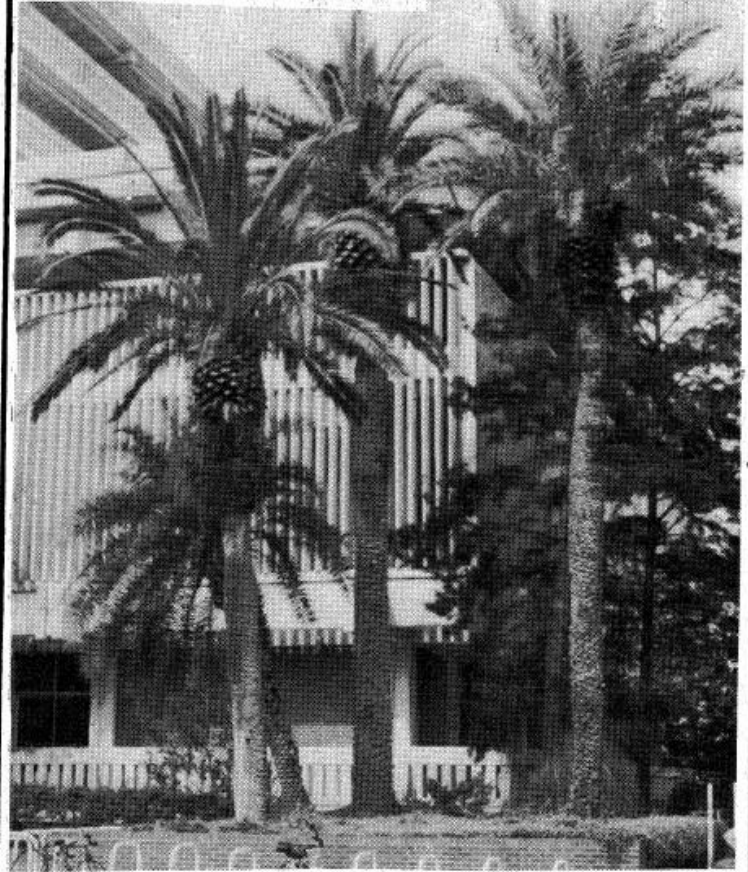
ABOVE RIGHT: A nice grouping of blue-grey dates next to the Reitz Union.

BELOW RIGHT: Ted Langley of Lutz lends scale to a beautiful specimen of *Brahea armata*. This species seems to do well in Gainesville.

ARTICLE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



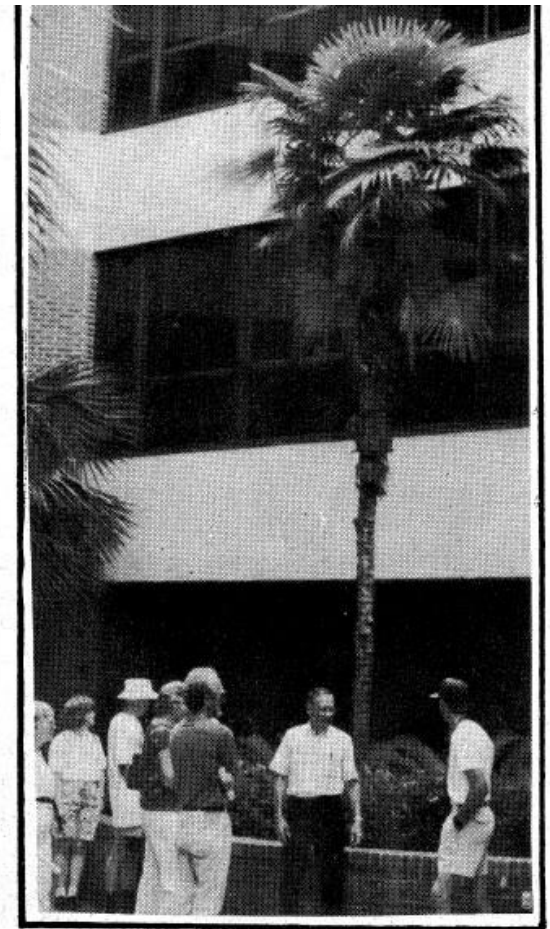
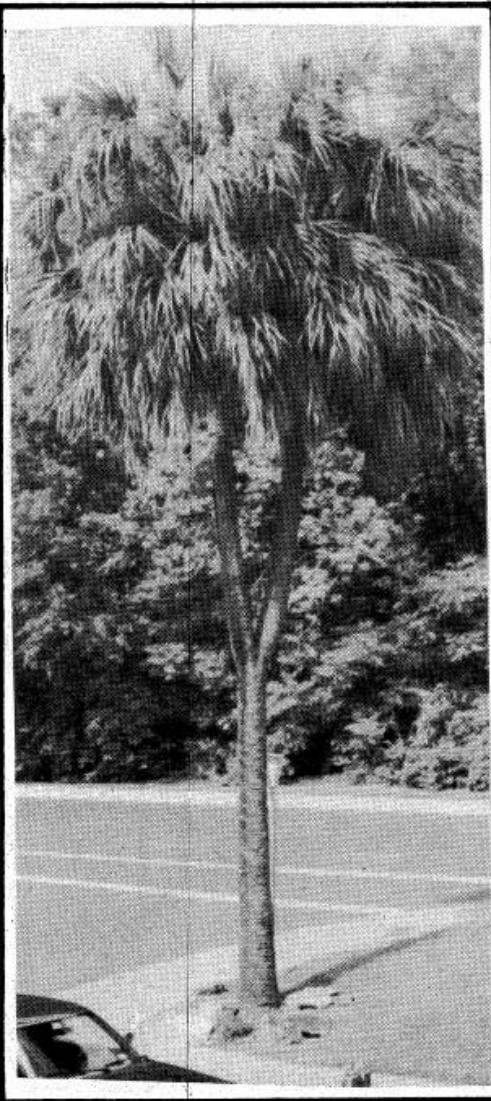
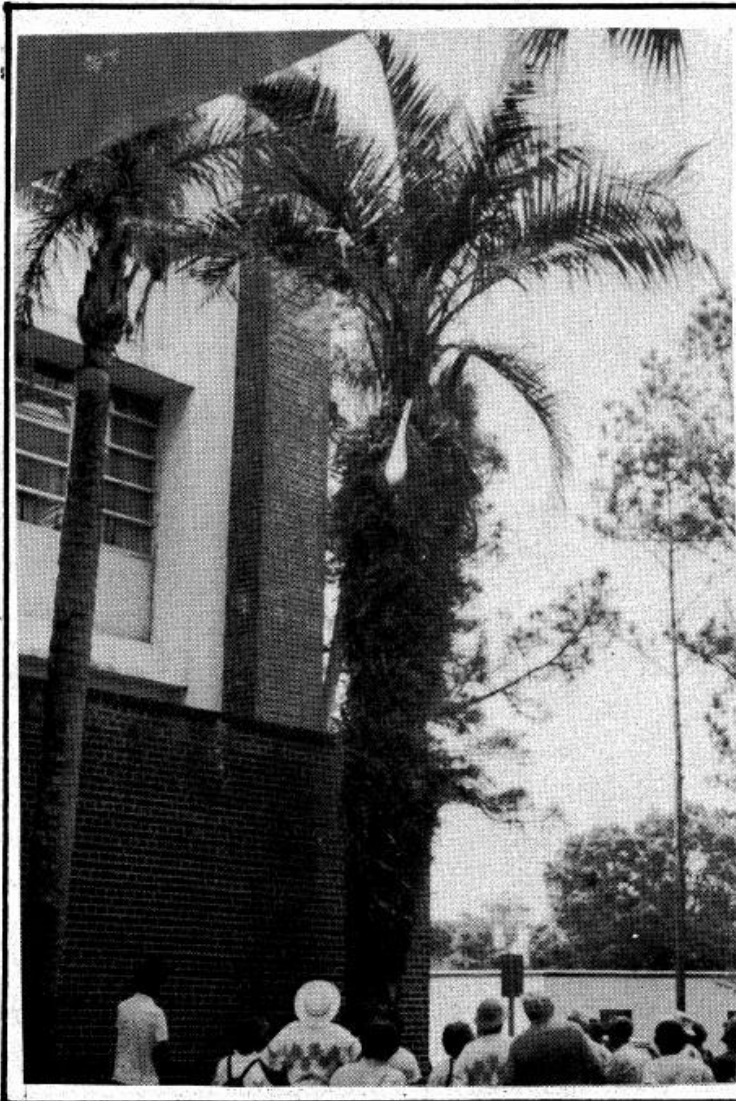
MEETING PHOTOS S. PEACOCK



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IN GAINESVILLE.....SIMPLY DELIGHTFUL!!!

Our walking tour was extensive, but in spite of covering so much ground, everyone made it to the conclusion. The last time I was on campus was back in 1977 and it was amazing to me how much building has taken place since then. It was difficult to reckonize the campus I once knew. Editor.

UF PHOTOS FROM APRIL 13: LEFT: Members gaze skyward at an old Hybrid (Syagrus x Butea) that grows between the buildings of McCarty Hall. The trunk is laden with ferns. To the left of the Hybrid is one of several surviving Queen Palms. CENTER: A beautiful double headed Sabal palmetto graces the entrance to the Reitz Union parking lot. RIGHT: Noel Lake fields questions from the group who has stopped to admire a tall specimen of Trachycarpus fortunei.



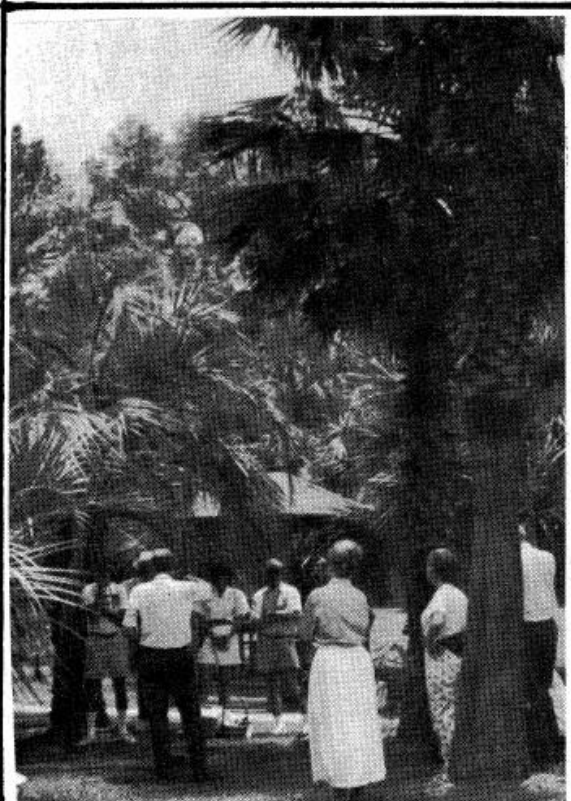
ON TO KANAPAHA

After completing our tour of the UF Campus members adjourned for lunch on their own and prepared to head for the second stop of the day at Kanapaha Botanical Garden. The photos and text for that assembly are on the next page (pg 3). The reasons for this being dedicated as the Charles Raulerson Memorial Issue become clear with the important event scheduled for the coming afternoon....a memorial dedication in his honor.

KANAPAHA GARDENS HOST DEDICATION CEREMONY

Upwards of 45 people came out to Kanapaha Bot Gardens that warm spring day. Everyone gathered in the "Palm Hammock" for a walking tour of the garden to be conducted by Director Don Goodman. For most of us it was our first visit to the garden and the further our tour progressed the more impressed we all became, both for the beauty of the garden and with the charismatic nature of its director, Don Goodman. An outstanding attribute of this garden was the several sinkholes we encountered along the way, each progressively larger. The last and largest was awesome....replete with a beautiful stairway leading to the bottom and a deck overlooking a nice pool of water. The slopes of this large sinkhole have been heavily planted with Needle Palms. Most are young plants but several are nice aged specimens. The overall garden compises a number of subgardens....among them an area to be left undisturbed (all endemic natives), herb garden, vine garden, bamboo garden, palm collection, carnivorous plants, and aquatic plants are cultured in Lake Kanapaha. VERY NICE INDEED!!!! We returned to the Palm Hammock for a dedication ceremony to rename the 'Palm Hammock' as "The Charles Raulerson Palm Hammock". The text of the dedication ceremony can be found on the next page (pg 4 & 5) which was given by Don Goodman.

MANY THANKS TO DR. MERRILL WILCOX FOR ALL HIS EFFORT IN ORGANIZING A MEETING WORTH REMEMBERING.



SATURDAY
APRIL 13

PHOTOS:

LEFT: Members gather in the Palm Hammock for the tour to be led by Don Goodman.
TOP RIGHT: View of the newly renamed "Charles Raulerson Palm Hammock". The dedication plaque is on the rock indicated by the arrow. See photo of the plaque on front cover.
CENTER RIGHT: Don Goodman renders the dedication ceremony address to a large group of members and old friends of Charles Raulerson who have come to commemorate him at this event. See text of the address on pg 4 & 5.
LOWER RIGHT: View from the bottom of the largest sinkhole at Kanapaha. Members can be seen atop the higher overlook deck looking down on the slope planted with Needle Palms. This is also termed the sunken garden.



It is my pleasure to welcome you to Kanapaha Botanical Gardens on this special occasion. Many of you are familiar with our facility but this represents the first visit for many others. Thus I would like to tell you briefly about the development of our palm garden which is, in many respects, a microcosmic glimpse of the evolution of the facility as a whole---Kanapaha Botanical Gardens.

Development of Kanapaha Botanical Gardens began in March 1978. At that point, we held many dreams but few resources to bring them to fruition. Throughout its development---but especially then---Kanapaha Botanical Gardens derived its strength from its human resources. While we always seemed a bit threadbare fiscally, we were rich in the creative energies of individuals who believed in the dream of Kanapaha and invested those energies in its success. The palm hammock you see today was, like all of Kanapaha, put together in a piecemeal fashion but each piece was part of a collective vision that had long existed in the hearts of those who worked to give substance to our dream.

The smaller cabbage palms you see here existed in or around the site and were 'relocated' with assistance from the City of Gainesville's tree spade. Above the strenuous objections of the machine's operator, we also made six trips to a site near the town of Archer to bring back the six palmettos that constitute the drift to your right. The operator noted vehemently and repeatedly that countless acres of palmettos abound throughout the peninsula and that they are more deserving of eradication than relocation. He seemed unimpressed when informed that none of those acres were at Kanapaha which was totally devoid of this fine species of palm. The six palmettos were carefully selected to insure that they were established seedlings rather than the upturned crowns of prostrate trunks whose root systems were elsewhere. I believe it is Mr. Noel Lake, who is with us today, that can be credited with the remark that the only way to kill a palmetto is to transplant it. And so we wanted to utilize the tree spade for this important venture which, as you can see today, met with success.

The needle palms you see here, as well as some of those in the sunken garden and bog garden, were rescued from a site in Polk County that was soon thereafter strip-mined for phosphate by Mobile Chemical Company. The three large washingtonias were relocated from a patently illegal landfill adjacent to the site from which we were excavating antique bricks---vestiges of Gainesville's old cobblestone streets---for use in our herb garden walkways. And then two years ago, our collection underwent a startling visual transformation when ten large cabbage palms were relocated here as the gift of an individual who has remained anonymous but whom I wish to recognize today as Dr. Merrill Wilcox.

And so it went. As one after another of the pieces of our puzzle fell into place, an image of great beauty emerged. And today we come together to dedicate this collection to an individual whose many contributions exemplify the generous spirit of goodwill that has always been our greatest resource. Charles Raulerson was a committed horticulturist who was serious about the things he undertook. In particular, he was interested in researching the cold-hardiness of various palm species since most forms are tropical and relatively few can survive in regions possessed of freezing winter temperatures. Perhaps the greatest of his many contributions was his commitment to the production of an F2 hybrid of the beautiful queen palm, Arecastrum. This commitment certainly

qualified Charles Raulerson for the designation of genius according to the Edisonian definition. For he was possessed not only of a wonderful inspiration but also the will to expend the perspiration necessary to realize his dream.

Every biologist knows that hybrids are sterile. Mules can be produced in the cross of a donkey and horse but are themselves incapable of producing offspring. And zoos sometimes display the progeny of lion-tiger crosses---ligers or tiglon, the name depending on whether the mother was a lion or tiger respectively. Once again, these fanciful beasts are incapable of producing offspring, either by other such hybrids or either of the parental species. The question nonetheless arises whether this presumed sterility is absolute, ie. whether hybrid organisms are completely sterile or whether they are 'essentially' or 'virtually' sterile. For in the former case, there is no chance whatever that they can be backcrossed to either of the species of which they are hybrids whereas in the latter case, there exists such a possibility---however remote.

Charles Raulerson undertook the tedious and toilsome task of attempting to backcross a hybrid Arecastrum-Butia to an Arecastrum to thereby produce a palm that is genetically 3/4 Arecastrum. Such a constitution should confer the aesthetic essence of the elegant queen palm and a measure of Butia's celebrated cold-hardiness. To determine the probability of effecting such a cross, Charles Raulerson hybridized these two plants and attempted to germinate hundreds of thousands---possibly over a million---seeds. Finally, he succeeded in germinating a seed to produce the long-sought F2 hybrid, a plant that was pronounced by palm fanciers who saw it to be the most attractive palm specimen adapted to northern Florida. Unfortunately, Charles Raulerson died in October 1983 shortly after this success and his prized plant was lost to the extreme cold of the infamous Christmas Eve freeze two months later.

This record-breaking winter low might have written the final chapter in this saga of dedication and toil but for a remarkable and miraculous discovery. For about the time of Easter 1991, just weeks ago, I received an excited call from Merrill Wilcox informing me that it seemed that a second specimen of Charles Raulerson's treasured F2 palm existed and was in the possession of Raulerson's brother-in-law Mr. George Petrakis. Mr. Petrakis had been dutifully providing winter protection to the plant during each of the three periods of exceptional cold that characterized the 1980s, unaware that he possessed the only known palm remaining from Charles Raulerson's monumental work. Today, we have with us both Mr. Petrakis and the celebrated palm which, after being rehabilitated by Dr. Merrill Wilcox, will be planted in our hammock to commemorate the labors of Charles Raulerson.

Charles Raulerson died rather suddenly in 1983 and did not enjoy the luxury of an Ebenezer Scrooge being confronted, late in life, with his mortality or an opportunity to amend matters not to his liking. And so we meet here today to assess his life as he lived it and evaluate his work as he left it, unamended. It is a measure of the significance of his accomplishments that we assemble here 7 1/2 years after his death to recognize his enduring accomplishments and honor his memory. Charles Raulerson changed

RAULERSON DEDICATION CONCLUDED HERE

the earth and left it a different place; he brought into existence a life form that had never existed and---given the commitment and labors involved---will likely never be seen again. We are honored to accept this unique and wonderful palm into our palm garden that shall be known hereafter as the Charles Raulerson Palm Hammock.

It is wholly appropriate that we should memorialize this important work, but in what fashion? Traditionally, we commemorate such triumphs by fashioning memorials from long-lived materials, especially metal and stone. But from a grander perspective, even these materials ultimately succumb to the obliterative forces of nature; of the seven wonders of the ancient world, for instance, only one, the great pyramid of Cheops---in greatly diminished form---remains to the present day. And if kings and pharaohs are unable to prevail in their attempts to leave a permanent mark, the prospects seem dim for the rest of us. And this is why we leave not only a bronze marker to commemorate Charles Raulerson's life work, but also dedicate to his memory this living collection of the palms he loved so. For like all forms from the realm of life, these plants are possessed of the capacities for repair and renewal. It is true, of course, that no palm---however long-lived---will persist indefinitely. But unlike stone and metal, they will grow, mature, and eventually cast their progeny to the winds. Centuries, in fact millennia hence, there is great likelihood that the posterity of these palms will enrich a world peopled by our own.

It is great honor to accept for our collection the plant that represents the crowning achievement of Charles Raulerson's research into the nature of his beloved palms. And it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to this rich and fruitful pursuit by officially dedicating this palm hammock to the memory of Charles Raulerson. I invite you to visit Kanapaha Botanical Gardens often to share in our triumphs and help us over the rough spots. And as you traverse palm hammock, I hope you will remember with fondness the perfect April day when we assembled to share a few moments of our lives to honor the memory of Charles Raulerson.

**THANKS TO DR. MERRILL WILCOX AND
DON GOODMAN FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THIS TEXT**

WELCOME TO KANAPAHA BOTANICAL GARDENS

This 62-acre facility is being established by the North Florida Botanical Society, a non-profit organization, on land that has been made available by the Alachua County Commission. Kanapaha Botanical Gardens is the nearest such resource to over a million area residents. Work began in March 1978 and is continuing.

Photoengraved aluminum signs are now being placed throughout the gardens to introduce visitors to the many plants on display. In the meantime, please use this guide and map on the back to gain an overview of the facility. Gardens are described in the order you will encounter them. Because the face of Kanapaha Botanical Gardens changes with the season, we invite you to visit often to more fully experience its special beauty. The summer months offer the most color.

Hours:

Mon., Tues., Fri.

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wed., Sat., Sun.

9 a.m. - dusk

Thurs. closed

For more information write:

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
4625 S.W. 63rd Boulevard
Gainesville, FL 32608



Editor's Comment

GOODBYE 1990/HELLO 1991

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY !

By Stacey Peacock

Spring was an eventful time for the CFPS with both an exciting meeting in Gainesville for the first time in many years and our first time participation in a public palm sale on the USF campus in Tampa...one which was quite successful. The momentum con-

tinues thanks to all those members who contribute their time and energy toward these efforts. And to think...just for the fun of it all!!! If you've never come out to one of our meetings please consider it in the near future.

As for this issue of the newsletter, members continue to come forward with pictures and articles which sure make my job a heck of a lot easier. I'm really impressed with the pool of talent that has awakened out there. Thanks to all the folks that have contributed articles for this issue...you are the spark in the engine. And to everyone else...it's never too late...we can always use another good photo and another sharing of experience of any kind. SO PLEASE, SEND IT IN.....DON'T DELAY...WE'RE WAITING TODAY.

LOOKING TOWARD THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE: Our next issue is already starting to take on shape. Paul Meadows of Bithlo has submitted an article on *Serenoa repens* in its varied forms complete with photos. I plan to include some of my own photos of resplendent specimens along with his and would also ask that anyone else with *Serenoa* pictures please send them in at this time. David Besst of Maitland has sent me an article detailing his 12 year search to relocate *Chamaedorea stolonifera* in the wild which he has written for *Principes*. I originally planned not to include it in our CFPS so as to save some enjoyment for that eventual issue, but I'm told that it could be years before it appears so I have decided to begin with an installment of this long and wonderful story in our next issue. Jake Freije of Clearwater has promised me his first written article for the CFPS pertaining to the effects of microclimate on growing palms in Central Florida. All this unbelievable talent!

FALL MEETING PLANS ARE TAKING SHAPE: Preliminary plans are to hold a meeting this fall in the Tampa/St Pete area. It should be a one day affair with our probable hosts being Roy Works and Dr. Gary Litman. More on that in our next issue.

POSSIBLE GARDEN FUNDRAISER TO BE STUDIED: Our recent CFPS fundraising efforts being so successful have given us the idea that we might give our attention to helping others. It has come to our attention that a number of Botanical Gardens are in dire need of financial assistance. Since all the money we raised was promised to be held in trust for continued publication of this newsletter, a separate fundraiser may be in order to assist some of these gardens as much as we can. Among them are: the USF Botanical Garden in Tampa, SugarMill Gardens in Daytona, Kanapaha Botanical Garden in Gainesville, and FIT Botanical Gardens in Melbourne. STAY TUNED.



The following pictures were received in a 'packet' from Jake Freije of Clearwater. The interesting content of these pictures combined with the equally interesting tongue-in-cheek comments on the back of each one sparked the idea for this unique article. What follows is the photos and their accompanying remarks.

PHOTO LEFT: Anybody questioning the salt tolerance of these two *Washingtonia robusta* should have their head examined. These two, undercut by the water many years ago, have their root balls inundated many times a year by strong or storm tides from Clearwater Harbor. Yes that is salt water in front of them (probably the mean over-all tide level. **Please note** the root cap of the more recumbent palm emanates above that of the more incumbent palm. **PHOTO BELOW:** A four headed *Trachycarpus* in Clearwater. **PHOTO RIGHT:** This *Syagrus romanzoffianum* in Dunedin has too many heads to count.

GLOSSY INSERT (pg 7&8) PHOTOS: **PHOTO 1:** Clearwater Beach Coconuts which I haven't identified (possibly Jamaican tall x Malay green). Totally unfazed by the Xmas Freeze of 89. **PHOTO 2:** Two *Sabal 'decumbenta'* (one is dead). The trees were inundated by tidal action and fell to the beach. The dead one lived upwards of 2 years even though completely uprooted and exposed to the air. The other is recurving skyward and flourishing. High bluffs...Bellair. **PHOTO 3:** This wretched critter stood a "blowin' and kept on growin'". (I think she's really quite lovely...Editor) Clearwater. **PHOTO 4:** Two headed *Sabal palmetto* in Clearwater. **PHOTO 5:** Jan Weaver lends scale to this *Washingtonia 'pseudococonutii'* in Bellair (High Bluffs). Jan is 5'10" tall. Please note the inflorescence pointing out of the crown to the left of the photo. There are 2 *S palmettos* in background. **PHOTOS 6&7:** The much heralded *Phoenix sylvestris 'variegata'* in Clearwater. Note some fronds have half green pinnae and half variegated. (My apologies but the variegation did not reproduce well at printing in black and white...the original photos were quite striking.....Editor). **PHOTOS 8 & 9:** This *Syagrus romanzoffianum* is Clearwater's own. There is no telling what happened to it but there are 11 growing heads (crowns?).



FOR PHOTOS LISTED BELOW THE BLACK LINE ABOVE, SEE GLOSSY INSERT ON PAGES 7 & 8.



Thanks are in order for Jake Freije's sharing a glimpse of his unique stomping grounds. If more members would share their localities in such a manner, all of our horizons would expand. So many neighborhoods.. so little time. Ed.

SEARCH FOR NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR A BOMB???

I wish I could say that I was flooded with responses from members who want to come to the service of their CFPS Chapter but alas, there was nary a bite. If I made it sound like a lot of work, well it is, but there are a lot of ameliorating perks as well. If you want to be in touch with things, this is the job for you. Because of the worldwide chapter exchange for

editors you will receive every newsletter there is for free. And there are quite a number of them. You also get a lot of other correspondence from members, a lot of which you can use in the newsletter. **WANTED: ONE NEWSLETTER EDITOR...NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.**



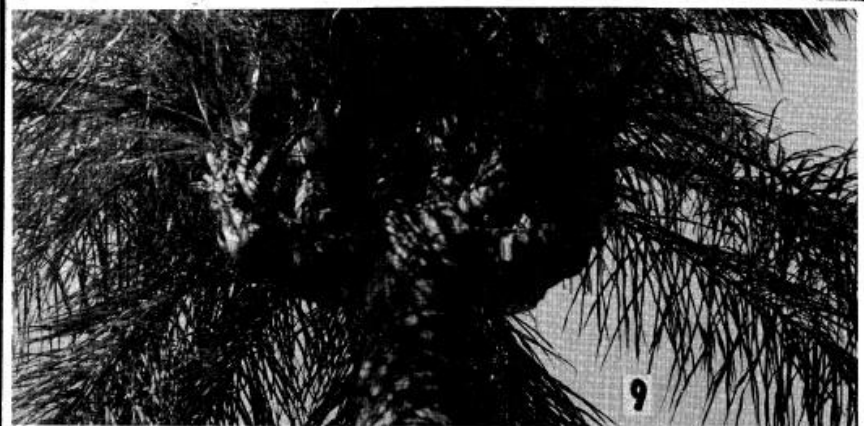
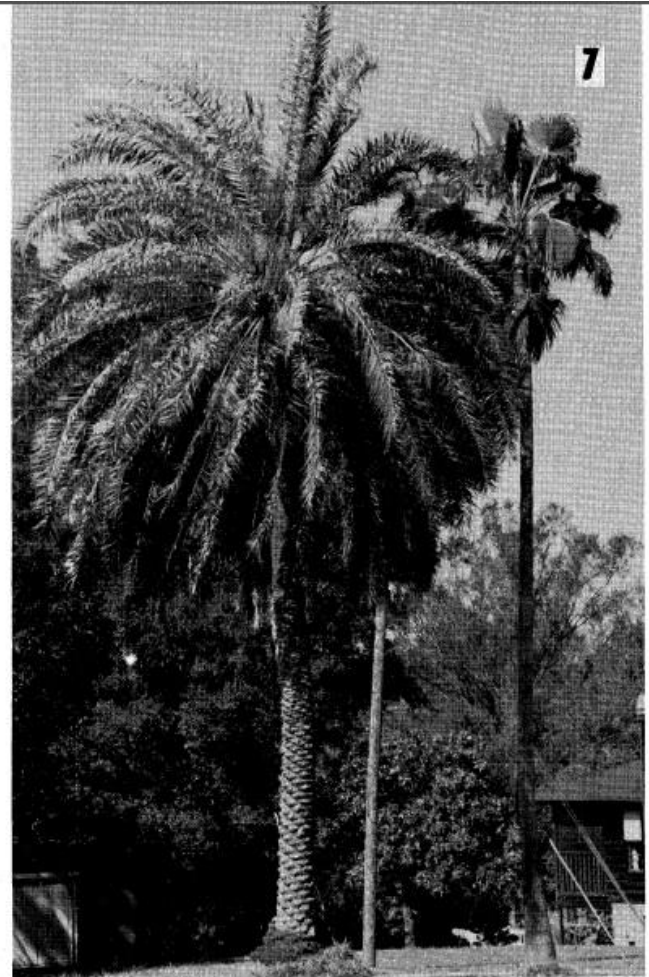
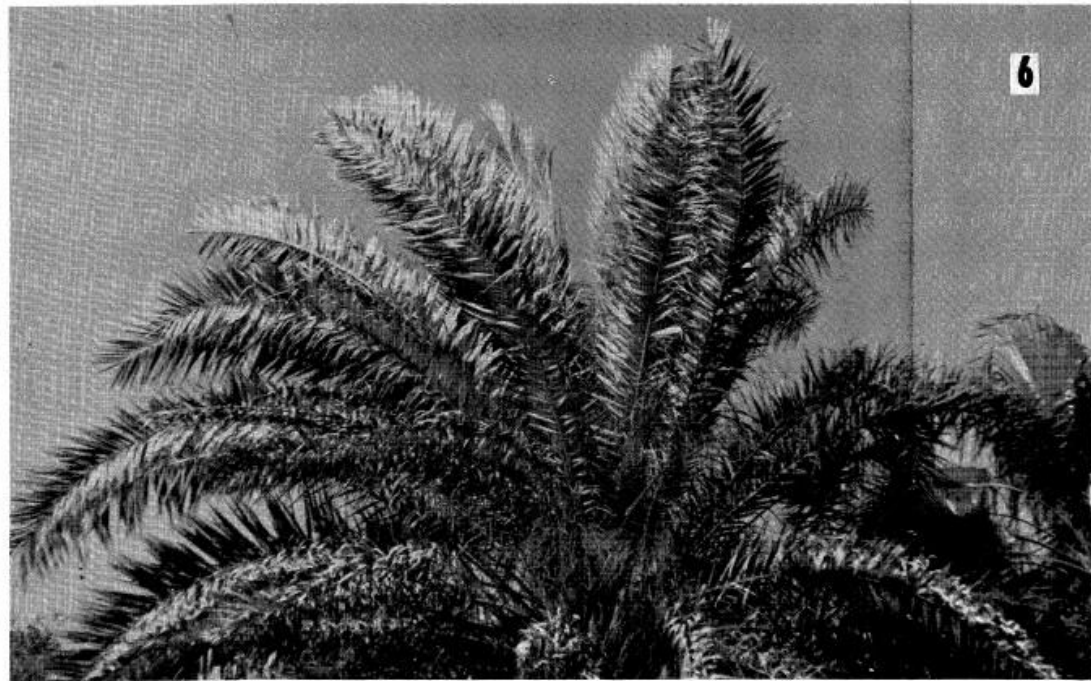
by
Jake Freije

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PAGE 7





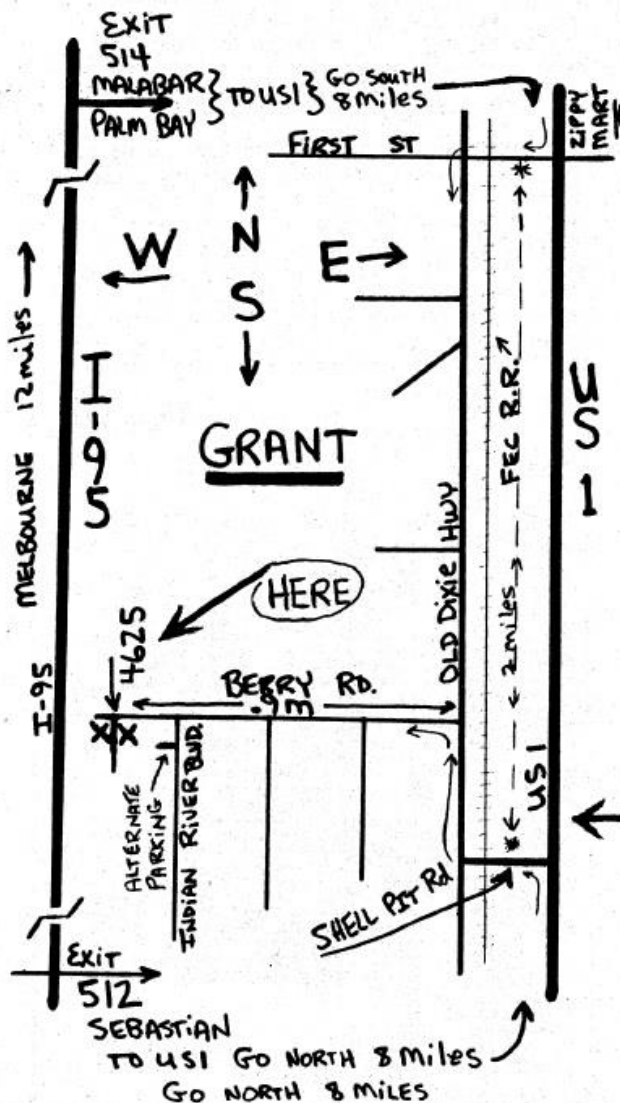
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PAGE 8

BREVARD COUNTY SITE OF MEETING ON JULY 28TH

PLAN TO ATTEND THE NEXT CFPS CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 28TH ON THE EAST COAST. This Sunday event will be hosted by two area enthusiasts with visits to their private collections in Melbourne and Grant....about 15 miles apart. It has been some time since we last met in this area so if you are a Brevard or Indian River resident don't weeny out, be there!

The first stop of the day will be in Melbourne at the residence of Joe Alf. Expect to see a number of larger more tropical specimens which Joe has gone the extra mile for in terms of winter protection.
TO GET TO JOE'S: It is really pretty easy: Take I-95



or US 1 to Rt 192 in Melbourne. Go east from I-95 or go west from US 1. When coming from US 1 you can take either Central or Abington to the right just a block west of the FIT turnoff. If you come from I-95, after 4-5 miles you will see the Melbourne Golf Course and will turn to the left on either Central or Abington, just past the golf cse. Joe's house is at the junction of Central and Abington. Look for the Big Latania!!! (1904)

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC LUNCH.

After touring Joe's we will have lunch on the grounds around 11:30 to noon. Members should plan on arriving around 10:30 AM for the tour.

Next we head south the fair city of Grant for a visit with Mike Dahme (SEE MAP ON LEFT)

We expect to arrive on site from 12:30 to 1:00. Mike has an 8 acre site snaked with waterways and plenty of palms. A tour of the collection is on tap and so is the BEER. Besides beer, Mike will provide some snacks. **SO COME ON OUT, YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!**

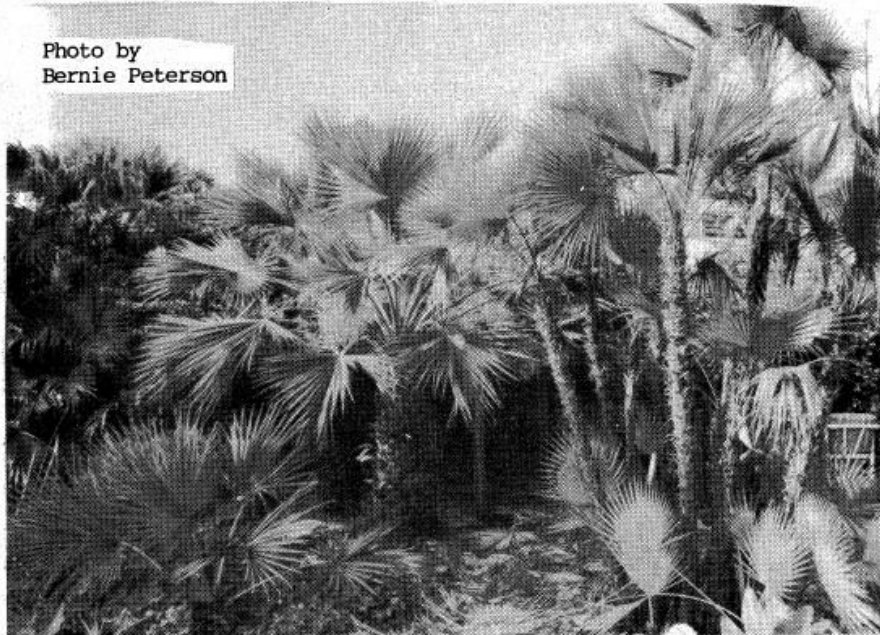
**PALMS IN GROUPS: NO RESPONSE FROM MEMBERS
 ARTICLE IS CANCELLED**



A call for photos of palms in groups drew little response. Thanks to Ted Langley for sending the only photo. It will be used in the next issue. **ABOVE:** A condo in St. Pete.

BELOW: An advance look at the collection of Mike Dahme. The most prominent palm (center) is a Brahea.

Photo by Bernie Peterson



CHAPTER PALM SALE: As usual members are asked to bring palms to sell at the meeting. We'd like to keep this tradition alive so please help. This will be the last event of the day at Mike's.



A busy cashier booth (under cover thanks to Ted Langley)



John Q Public storms the Palm Society booth making it among the busiest.

Saturday April 20th saw the CFPS participating in a new and resurrected plant sale at the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa.....and with astounding results.

Not only was it a record in terms of dollars sold but it was done in record time...only 6 hours. Needless to say but things were quite hectic at the checkout and many thanks to the volunteers who helped keep up with that frantic pace...we couldn't have done it without you. We beat our old record for a public plant sale by almost \$1800 and this was for a 2-day event at Leu Gardens. I think we were all amazed by the enthusiastic turnout of Tampa palm fanciers.

Special thanks must go to Ted Langley (who organized the event) and Roy Works who created the marvelous display pictured below. Ted also amazed us all by erecting a canvas structure to keep the money dry (photo left) and designing a tasteful sign carved from wood denoting the IPS & CFPS (not pictured). Also thanks to Jake Freije, Pat Napper, and all the vendors (below) who participated.

FROM TED LANGLEY: Member participation made for a wonderful day at the USF sale. Thanks to all the members whose efforts made this a success. Let's do it again next year!! Many thanks to Roy Works in helping me to organize the sale...it was greatly appreciated. Also I would like to thank Stacey Peacock and Jake Freije for their cashiering work and Stacey for the Palm Bulletin which keeps us informed and moving forward. Thanks is also due to Ed & Nancy Hall for their never-ending support of the CFPS.....Ted.

**SALE
PHOTOS
BY
TED
LANGLEY**

Pg 10



Michael Perry next to Roy Works' display.

| SELLER # | NAME | GROSS SALES | CFPS 20. % | SELLER 80% | PLANTS SOLD | PRICE AVERAGE PER PLANT SOLD |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| 63 | Paul Craft (Loxahatchee) | 1880 | 376 | 1504 | 281 | 6.69 |
| 21 | Aloha Palms (Wimauma) | 699 | 139.80 | 559.20 | 61 | 11.46 |
| 49 | Gary Litman (St Petersburg) | 547 | 109.40 | 437.60 | 38 | 14.39 |
| 80 | Wirt's Point Nsy (Babson Park) | 531 | 106.20 | 424.80 | 23 | 23.09 |
| 18 | Roy Works (Tampa) | 392.5 | 78.50 | 314.00 | 50 | 7.85 |
| 73 | David & Geri Prall (Cape Coral) | 180.5 | 36.10 | 144.40 | 11 | 16.41 |
| 54 | Stacey Peacock (Zolfo Springs) | 180 | 36.00 | 144.00 | 30 | 6.00 |
| 32 | Ted Langley (Lutz) | 101.5 | 20.30 | 81.20 | 20 | 5.08 |
| COMBINED PLANT SALES | | 4511.50 | 902.30 | 3609.20 | 514 | 8.78 |

COMMON PALMS OF MEXICO

Photos & Text by Ed Hall

During this past March, your Treasurer had a once-in-a-lifetime chance to tour southern Mexico with an avid palm collector. On March 11th David Besst and I left Orlando on a 1300 mile automobile trip within Mexico. After driving to Miami, we picked up an Aero Mexico plane to Merida and then early the next day a plane to Villahermose. There we started the auto trip in a rented VW Bug. Seven days later we returned the rental car and headed home. From Villahermosa we traveled southeast to the ancient Myan ruins of Palenque; then on to Tuxtia. To understand the importance of our visit to Tuxtia, see the article on rediscovering Chamaedorea stolonifera by David Besst.

After a two-day stay in Tuxtia, we headed back toward the Gulf of Mexico through some wild mountainous country. About a days traveling later we reached the city on the edge of Lake Catemaco by the same name. This large lake was formed by multiple volcanoes and today is a most picturesque area. To the northeast is the northern most rain forest in Mexico. An attempt was made to explore the rain forest but the terrible condition of the road from Lake Catemaco to the Gulf required we turn back.

After an evening of rest and good food we headed north and west to Fortin de Las Flores. There we stayed at the Hotel Posada Loma. Though there are numerous hotels and motels in Fortin, the Posada Loma is a must. The price is excellent, the food likewise, the service superb and the grounds a botanical garden. What more can one want? From our room we could look west to see Mt. Orizaba; a spectacular cone shaped mountain, snow covered year-round due to its 18,000 ft. height. During mid day the mountain is obscured by clouds but mourning and night the sight is unforgettable.

The country around Fortin is rich in bromeliads and palms. According to one local nursery man who collects orchids, there was over 8 varieties of Chamaedorea in the area. I collected several varieties of bromeliads; one never seen by me before.

Though the primary reason for me making the trip was to see Mexico and collect bromeliads, I couldn't help being fascinated by the variety and quantity of palms propagating naturally. As we traversed the country we saw many varieties of palms; the most abundant being Sabal mexicana, Scheelea liebmannii, Acrocomia mexicana and the many species of Chamaedorea.

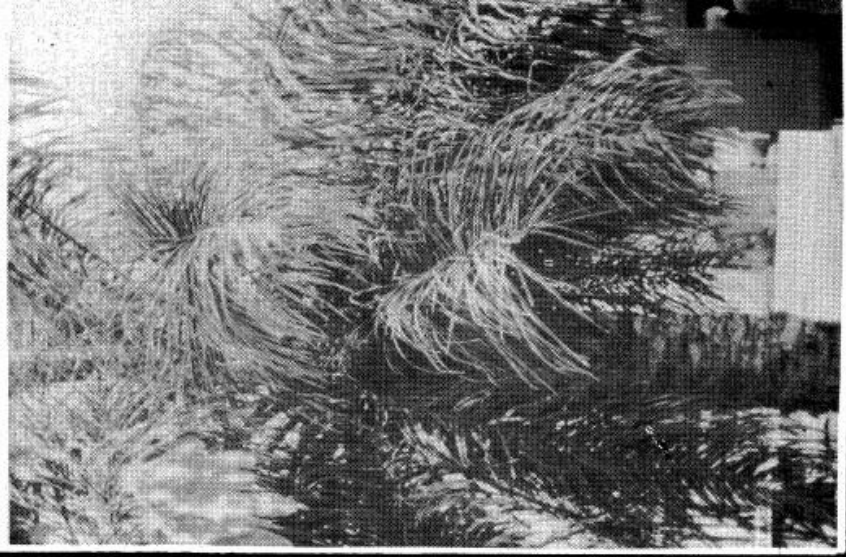
Sabal mexicana looks just like Sabal palmetto. Every mexicana I saw had boots on the trunk. None were smooth trunked like many palmettos. The one good distinguishing factor according to G. Stevenson's 'Palms of South Florida' is the fruit color. Mexicana is brown and palmetto is black. Unfortunately I didn't inspect any mexicana in sufficient detail to determine the seed color.

Scheelea liebmannii is likely the most common palm in Mexico. This palm is found in two distinctly different states; either with a full crown of fronds or extensively "carrot topped" depending upon the proximity of houses with newly thatched roofs. This palm is one of the most beautiful found in Mexico. It has unique lush shape and presents a majestic view in clumps. The palm is probably the most important source of construction material in Mexico. Nearly all rural houses have thatched roofs. Thus, propagation of the species is a benefit to the local people.

Acrocomia mexicana is significantly different than the Acrocomia totai found in Florida. The Ac. mexicana is a stout plant; the trunk being over twice the diameter of the totai. The plants typically are about 2 ft. in diameter, seldom over 10 ft. tall, with a dense upper foliage. Fruit is usually found on older plants with dark brown seeds about 2 inches in diameter. Like totai, the trunk and fronds are covered with large spines or needles. The only obvious enemy of this palm is fire.



ABOVE: *Scheelea liebmannii*
BELOW: *Acrocomia mexicana*



ARTICLE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

COMMON PALMS OF MEXICO/HALL/CONCLUSION

Chamaedoreas are everywhere, but being small understory palms, their existence requires much greater effort to find and appreciate. For example, at Palenque, by merely following a path into the jungle we were greeted with various species of the palm. Around Lake Catemaco area, we found several species growing in the jungle. A nursery man we visited in the country around Fortin de Las Flores indicated he could show us at least eight species. Elsewhere in Mexico native stands of both Cham. elegans & seifrizii are known to exist that supply over a million seeds a year. An initial indication regarding Cham. stolonifera, lead one to believe known native stands of this plant will be capable of providing nearly as much seed.

installment of the companion article to this one written by David Besst. Ed was accompanying Dave on a recent trip to Mexico which was the culmination of a 12 year search for Chamaedorea stolonifera in the wild. His article details the full 12 years NEXT ISSUE

VIDEO

NEWSLETTER????????????

AN EXERCISE IN FANTASY? Well maybe but the potential does exist (but probably not on a Chapter level). I for one would like to give it a try. It might work like this:

Members on a worldwide scale would submit VHS cassettes to a central editor much like articles are submitted to the newsletters or Principes. The mailing list would be by subscription only and offered to IPS members through the IPS... perhaps through the Bookstore. It would in turn be supported by the IPS with the purchase of some basic equipment which could probably be done with \$500-\$1,000. Members would supply the cameras and footage and the editor would compile it all with the equipment. It would be a paying proposition that could benefit everyone. The IPS would be offering a new 21st Century service (to be touted) to attract and retain members. Members would benefit from having the world at their doorstep... seeing things they might never otherwise get a chance to enjoy. And over time we would be developing an IPS video library that would be available for sale through the Bookstore. The possibilities are boggling.

ATTENTION WORLDWIDE CHAPTER EDITORS

I realize that this may not be an idea whose time has come but would certainly like to explore the possibilities. Do you have many members that possess VidCams? What about potential subscribers? Any helpful ideas on how we might make this work? I need to hear from you.... run it up the flagpole at one of your meetings and see if anyone salutes. It would seem that with financial backing from the IPS and the volunteerism of supportive members...we could make this thing work in the next few years. Or am I just palm nuts?

Stacey Peacock

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

There are still a few of the "Palm Tree Gardens" T-shirts available for sale....and when these are gone that is the last of the breed. The shirt is printed as follows:

Front
Neodypsis decaryi
Latania
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Copernicia macroglossa
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Rear
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PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR SHIPPING

Advertising is always free in the Cent Fl Palm Bull but is on a space available basis. A new ad must be submitted each time you wish it placed in an issue.

Do you have land that you would like to remove from the tax roll? If so, consider planting a palm field. Phone us, ask for our price list, and if you are in our area drop by our nursery for a visit.

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If interested in a packet of seed of any species, place an X next to that species, and return this list back to me. If you would like a double or triple order, place a 2 or 3 next to that species. When that seed becomes available, it will be from \$4.00 to \$6.00 per packet depending on my costs in obtaining the seed and mailing charges. Most packets will cost \$5.00 and contain 6 to 10 seed.

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

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

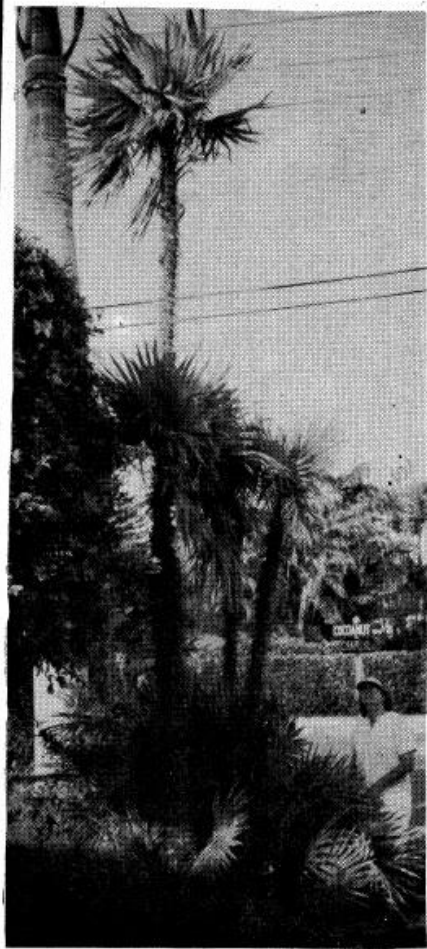
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MEMBER PHOTOS



THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS FOR THEIR PHOTOS: Top Left: Bernie Peterson of Cocoa found these lovely and tender specimens of *Livistona rotundifolia* at a local mall. Center Photos: Bill Black of St Cloud took these pictures on a trip to Puerto Rico in 1990. Above is an *Acrocomia* sp while below are 3 "scraggly" *Sabal causiarum*; all located in San Juan. Above Right: Pam Vest admires a *Zombia antillarum* in Palm Beach. Left: Two photos of a three headed *Butea capitata* in the Jacksonville area by Jim Menge. The purported asking price is around \$2500. Three heads must be better than one!!!!