

THE CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM SOCIETY

**TREASURER & SECRETARY**  
ED & NANCY HALL  
1111 GLEN GARRY CIRCLE  
MAITLAND, FL 32751  
PHONE (407) 647-2039



The Humphreys share a recent photo of their "pride and joy", a Royal Palm nursed through the bad freezes of the 1980's. This palm has been in the ground (Ormond Beach) for twelve years.

**FIRST CLASS**



**VOLUME 12**  
**No. 3**

**The Palm Society**  
CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

#### VARIATION IN SABAL PALMETTO

By Roy E. Works  
4610 central ave.  
Tampa, Florida 33603

It all started after the freeze of 1989. The foliage of most of my palms had to be defoliated because of the desiccating freeze. Because of this the Sabal palmettos became much more noticeable. They were one of the few plants not affected by the freeze. I started looking at them more closely. It kept my mind off of my garden and Doctor Young's garden.

I had been told by several people that the variation that you see in the Sabal palmetto was mostly do to the difference in soil types and the available moisture. Don't get me wrong, soil types and moisture do play a part but there is always the variation that occurs naturally within a species. There are other factors not listed, here that may or may not make a difference in leaf size but lets keep things simple. Knowing this I set out to look for the variations. It can make one of those long rides a little more fun. To this day I cannot stop looking for those little differences.

To begin with, the first most noticeable difference to me is the leaf size. I have seen different palms growing naturally in the same soil type and light levels with noticeable difference in leaf size. Looking closer I noticed that the way some of the sabal's leaves were pleated played some part in this. Some are tightly pleated while others are much flatter.

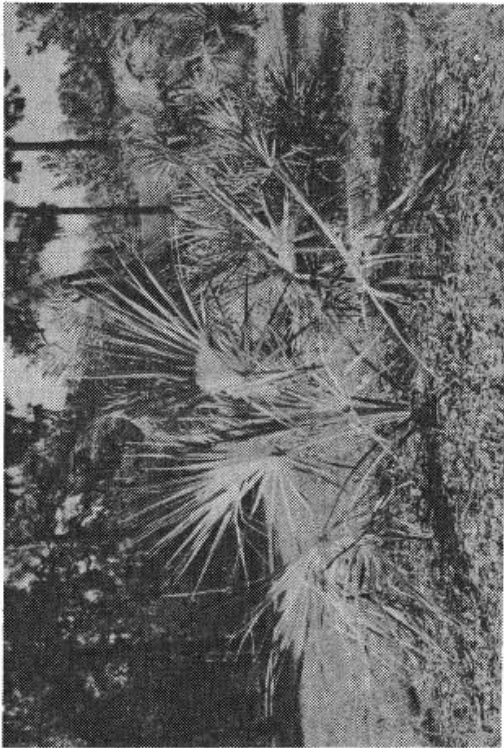
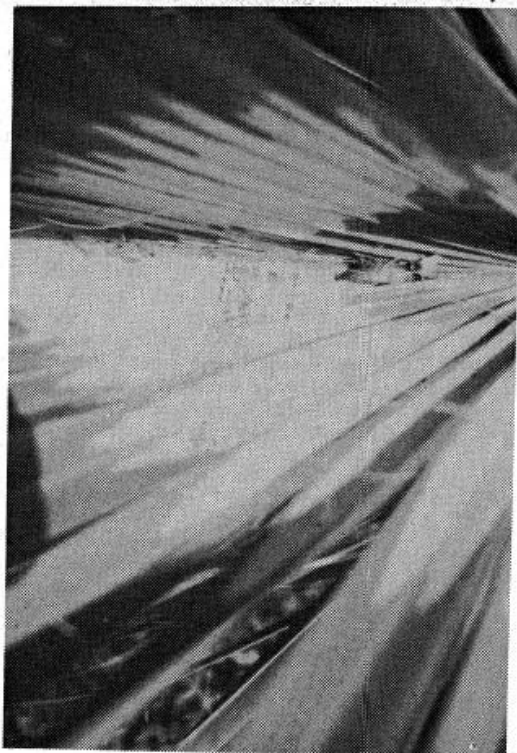
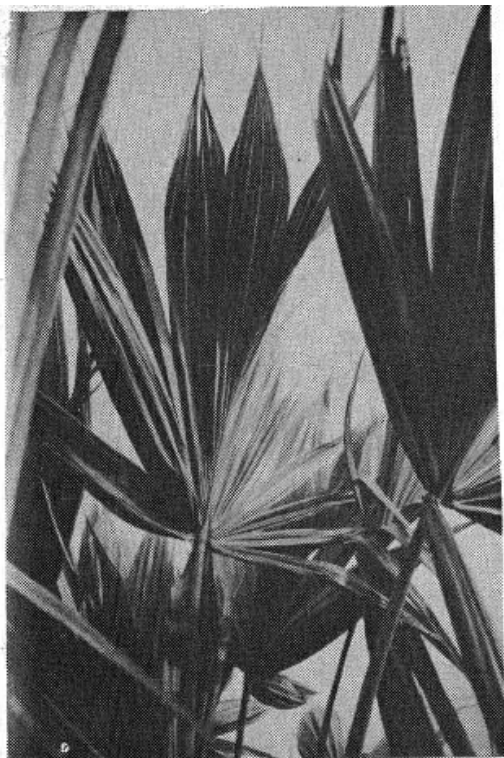
The second most noticeable variation is the leaf segment size. Some have very short segments while others have much longer ones. The same goes for the thickness of the leaf segment. The palms that stand out the most are the ones that have the long lax or drooping leaf segments. These individuals look very similar to Livistona deceptiens. On the other end you have a small pleated leaf with short thin segments with no drooping tips.

Of course there are always the variegates. These really stand out the most but they are kinda rare. There are a few of them around and they are quite variable too. The variegation can be white or it can be yellow. The area of the leaf that is variegated is usually different in each palm. The more beautiful ones have the variegation extending into the leaf halfway or more. I am more partial to the white variegates because the yellow brings to mind deficiencies. The yellow variegates do seem to be a little tougher while the white one tend to brown out. If you are fortunate to have one consider yourself lucky or very rich. I have seen variegated seedlings around the parent plants before. This would mean to me that this particular variegation could be passed genetically through the seeds. I have collected seeds from a plant that had a variegated seedling at it's base.

The seeds have sprouted and now have a few leaves but no variegation as of yet. The variegates are perhaps the most ornamental among the variations. That is, if you like variegates.

Last of all but perhaps the most rare are the mutations. I'll never forget the first time I saw one. I honestly did not know what it was. I looked at the trunk and the petiole and said that it could be no other than Sabal palmetto. The leaf tip segments were fused together in groups forming a triangular pattern. I have seen a total of four specimens like this. Two plants are in one fence row, one being the parent of the other evidently. The other two are in people's yards. I have heard of another specimen but I haven't yet seen it.

In conclusion, I would say that central Florida has the most diverse population of Sabal palmettos in perhaps all of Florida. It would be informative to hear from other members who have seen some unusual Sabal palmettos. I have seen two other types of mutations but not in the adult form. One has spiraled petiole. I have seen three of these all of which are juveniles. This makes me think that it might be some chemical imbalance since this occurs in other species of palas that tend to grow out of it. But it would be nice to hear about some of the other mutants around.



A Suggestion for Field Production of Nabonnand's Hybrid  
(*xButyragrus nabonnandii*) in South Central Florida

Literature Review

The earliest reference to a hybrid of *Butia* and *Syagrus romanzoffianum* we have seen was one by Barbosa-Rodrigues 2) in 1903. This hybrid, growing in Uruguay, was believed to be derived from a *Butia* seed. Drawings of the fruit of the hybrid (external, and transverse and lateral cross-sections) were included, which show the typical, but not universal, three rudimentary endosperm of the seed from these hybrids. No illustrations of other parts of tree were included. Barbosa-Rodrigues concluded the hybrid was sterile. Beccari 3) described another such hybrid in 1916 growing in the Mortola Gardens in northern Italy, pistillate parent unknown.

Figure 1 is the oldest photo we know of depicting this hybrid in its entirety. This specimen resulted from work by Paul Nabonnand at Cannes, France ca. 1890. *Butia capitata* v. *pulposa* was pollinated from *Arecastrum romanzoffianum australe* 10). This hybrid was therefore named by Robertson-Proschowsky *xButiarastrum nabonnandii* in honor of Nabonnand, who was apparently the first to intentionally produce it. Bailey 1) also reported a hybrid derived from a *Butia* seed growing at the Royal Palm Nurseries in Oneco, Florida. This specimen was 15-18 years old in 1936.

Burret 5) described a hybrid in 1940 (Figures 2 and 3) which seems in present light to be a reciprocal (*i. e.* *Syagrus romanzoffianum*? x *Butia capitata*) cross. The vast majority of hybrids in our experience were mothered by *Butia*, and have unclustered leaflets which are in one rank, or in two ranks which differ only by a very acute angle. In contrast, Burret stated that although the leaflets of the hybrid were arranged much less irregularly than in the case of *S. romanzoffianum*, still they were arranged in noticeable groups with orientation in all directions, giving the tree a plumose aspect. The margins of the rachis were free of the teeth which are characteristic of *B. capitata*. The hybrid resembled *S. romanzoffianum* because of the rings around the trunk, although the rings were very close together. A lateral cross-section of the seed shows a single well developed endosperm; this reviewer's experience has been that hybrids of this type, even those with well developed endosperm, are virtually sterile.

Yashiroda 14) photographed an unusual "*Butia*" which we would now identify as *Butia* x *S. romanzoffianum*, which was planted in 1928, seed source unknown, in an area of southern Japan having frosts and snow.

Glassman 6) reduced *Butia* to *Syagrus*, and then 7), while offering a good review of the non-English literature for this hybrid, named it *Syagrus* x *fairchildensis*, in honor of Fairchild Tropical Garden where he observed three specimens. The earlier name, *xButiarastrum nabonnandii*, was rediscovered and supported by H. E. Moore 9). Vorster 12) noted reduction of *Arecastrum* to *Syagrus* 11) and changes in the rules of nomenclature 8) and concluded renaming was required; he chose *xButyragrus nabonnandii*. This hybrid is also known as *Syagrus* x *nabonnandii*, *Butia* x *Arecastrum*, or *cocos* hybrid. Further discussion regarding the naming of this hybrid is quite likely; *Syagrus* has priority over *Butia*, and *Jubaea* has priority over both 11). The apparent ease of hybridization between *Butia* and *Jubaea* suggests reduction on the basis of population genetics to one genus, *i. e.*, *Jubaea*, requiring renaming of Nabonnand's Hybrid to something like *xJubaeagrus nabonnandii*. If some future activist taxonomist reduces *Butia*, *Jubaea*, and *Syagrus* to one genus, Nabonnand's Hybrid will be named *Jubaea* x *nabonnandii*.

Brown 4) has described some later observations of these hybrids in Florida. Wilcox *et al.* 13) have described pure pollen methods for production of this hybrid.

Brahea (con't):

species may prove successful for our central Florida climate. Its native environment extends down into the more humid Guatemala. As for availability, it is quite rare to find one at a palm sale ( I imported mine from Calif over 10 years ago) and in fact, I don't believe I ever have. Inge Hoffman's California seed service does list this species on their seed roster. In summary, my experience with this species would seem to indicate that it may have potential to be a successful species for our area. Get one!!!!

BRAHEA SALVADORENSIS: No experience. From San Salvador?? Humidity!!!!  
BRAHEA EDULIS X BRANDEGEII: No experience but parentage appears intriguing.  
OTHER SPECIES OF BRAHEA: Depending on which source you believe, there are from 12 to 16 species of Brahea. Above have been listed 8 so where are the other 4 to 8 species? If anyone can enlighten us please do so.

THE GENUS BUTIA: Most of us are familiar with the species "capitata" so I won't go into too much boring details about that particular one. The other species are so rare that my experience with them is almost nonexistent. In general this genus is cold hardy and acid loving. They inhabit southern South America in climates similar to that of Central Florida. Following are some quick observations:

- BUTIA BONETTII: No experience. Description in literature is that of a small species and small seeds. Native to Brazil.  
BUTIA ARENICOLA: No experience. I once received seed from a seed service but had 0% germination after 2 years.  
BUTIA CAPITATA: Very adaptable to a range of water situations and soils but does not do well in the limestone soils of south Florida. Often described as slow growing but given the right environmental conditions and liberation from the pot can be a strong grower. It does well close to the water table but not directly in the water. Young plants are very susceptible to fire ant infestations and I have lost a number of these palms in wet areas where fire ants seek higher spots from times of higher water table. They will use the roots to farm mealy bugs and the plants are stressed so much as to expire. Literature references several varieties of capitata e.g. "strictior" which is a very erect form and "odorata" a taller form. There is a lot of variation in form around the state probably owing to seed being introduced from the varied habitats down south over so many years. One form that has no formal variety name has red blooms and seeds. Is it possible that we have combinations of hybrids of the various species (several of which look quite similar) introduced unwittingly as the same species years ago?  
BUTIA ERIOSPATHA: No experience....several seeds germinated once and died.  
BUTIA YATAY: Not much experience....one seedling is doing well planted in full sun just above the water table (6-8 inches). But it has only been in the ground for a year. This species does have a described variety--var. *paraguayensis*--which is often described as a separate species and is from Paraguay.  
BUTIA PONI: No experience. This is a small species from northern Argentina that was described by Pingitore in an extensive article on Argentinian palm flora a number of years ago in Principes. I want this one!!!!

Well that concludes the article for this issue. Once again I urge anyone with more info and insight to write me about what has been written here and I will include your comments at the beginning of the article in the next issue. STACEY PEACOCK RT.2 BOX 168 ZOLFO SPRINGS, FL 33890



## The Genus Brahea:

The members of this genus come largely from Mexico with about 2 species extending down into Guatemala as well. They are widely grown in California collections where they thrive in a climate of low humidity. Although they tend to be cold hardy palms only a few are adapted for growth in Florida where our high rainfall and humidity spell disaster for most of the species of this genus. Over the years, I have tried a number of different species but they usually decline with blighted looking leaves and eventually die. For these reasons it is rare to see nice specimens of this genus in Florida but exceptions and successes can be found around the state. The only two species that I have ever been able to grow for more than a couple of years are *Brahea nitida* (calcareosa) and *Brahea brandegei* each represented by a single specimen in the collection. Although they are slow and languish, they do continue to increase slowly in size. Let's go through the species:

**BRAHEA ACULEATA:** No experience

**BRAHEA ARMATA:** This beautiful "blue" leaved palm comes from Baja Calif in Mexico. The native habitat is one of low annual rainfall and low humidity. I believe they also come from alkaline soils. The ones I have tried have always died but I have seen a few successes in Fla. Several mid sized specimens can be found on the Uni of Fl campus in Gainesville but even these don't appear totally happy. Fairchild Gardens in Miami has (had?) a large specimen in the lowland area near the bay (salty air?) in marl/alkaline soil planted several feet above the water table.....and is the nicest/happiest armata that I have ever seen in Florida. Write me if you know of others.

**BRAHEA BRANDEGEII:** This is probably the most likely Brahea to do well for someone in central Florida although it too can be temperamental. Overall there are probably more success stories with this Brahea than the others. Mike Dahme of Grant has grown at least one to nice size and it is thriving in his collection. Perhaps he will give us the specifics of his planting site by next issue??? As for my own plant....it has never been damaged by freezes and is planted about 4-5 feet above the water table in a well drained spot. It grows slowly in a sunny spot and is ever so gradually increasing in size. Shade is not recommended for this species even when young. As for pH of the soil...I have limed mine on occasion but from what I've heard this might be a mistake. Maybe that's why it is growing so slowly...Mike's seems to be a rapid grower and I don't believe he limes his. At any rate, if you want to try Brahea this may be the one.

**BRAHEA DECUMBENS:** No experience...pictures of the intense blue color of the foliage are striking.

**BRAHEA DULCIS:** Seedling tried have all died quickly.

**BRAHEA EDULIS:** Several small seedlings died...several more tried again recently don't have a good prognosis...looking blighted.

**BRAHEA NITIDA** (Calcareosa syn?): To my delight this is another Brahea that seems to be doing well for me and has proven itself to be totally cold hardy in the past two major freezes. The leaves are very round in shape and light green in color. My palm is planted about 3 feet above the water table with good drainage. It has been limed several times over the years with what I believe has been good result. At first it was pretty much in full sun but over the years has been more and more shaded by plants growing up faster around it. The shade has not been so good for it and so I would recommend that a sunny spot is the preferred site for this species. I believe that this

## Discussion

It always has been my desire to live in a frost-free area, or at least one where the queen palm may flourish. It seems that in such a climate a combination of isolation and association might facilitate production of *xButyagrus nabonnandii*. Discussions with Bernie Peterson at a recent Central Florida Palm Society Chapter meeting encouraged me to offer these suggestions for field production of *xButyagrus nabonnandii* seed in south central Florida. The procedures described recently (13) could be simplified somewhat while producing higher yields of hybrid seed.

An isolated population of appropriate size of *Butia* spp. together with *Syagrus romanzoffianum* would be required. The required isolating distance is not known; 200' is sufficient for some small grains. It also is necessary not only to emasculate the *Butia*, but to prevent any live pollen from escaping from any *Butia* inflorescence and accidentally pollinating another *Butia* inflorescence. This may be avoided if the *Butia* inflorescence is enclosed in a plastic bag before pollen is released by the opening of the male flowers. The bag would be removed with care just before the female flowers became receptive so that viable pollen in the bag or remaining on the inflorescence would not be released. Spraying the inflorescence and other surfaces holding pollen with 10-20% alcohol in water after emasculation would probably kill the pollen without harming the as yet unreceptive female flowers. The male flowers thus removed would be disposed of in a manner that would prevent them from pollinating. The female *Butia* flowers then uncovered would probably be pollinated much better by *S. romanzoffianum* in nature's manner than the author's (13), thus producing a heavier crop of hybrid seed.

## Literature Cited

1. Bailey, L. H. 1926. The Butias. Gentes Herbarum IV(1):15-50.
2. Barbosa-Rodrigues, Joao. 1903. Sertum Palmarum Brasiliensium 1:116, T. 69 D.
3. Beccari, Odoardo. 1916. Il genere *Cocos* Linn. e le palme affini. L'Agricoltura Coloniale x:489-524.
4. Brown, Kyle. 1991. Reflections on the Cocos Cross. Central Florida Palm Bulletin 11(2):9,10.
5. Burret, Max. 1940. Um caso de hibridacao entre *Arecastrum romanzoffianum* e *Butia capitata*. Rodriguesia 4:277.
6. Glassman, S. F. 1970. A conspectus of the palm genus *Butia* Becc. Fieldiana: Bot. 32(10):127-172.
7. Glassman, S. F. 1971. A new palm hybrid from the Fairchild Tropical Garden. Principes 15(3):79-81.
8. Greuter, W., et al. 1988. International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. Regnum Veg. 118.
9. Moore, H. E. 1982. An overlooked name for the hybrid between *Arecastrum* and *Butia*. Principes 26:50.
10. Robertson-Proschowsky, A. 1921. Un beau palmier hybride: *Butiareastrum nabonnandii*. Revue Horticole 93:290-291.
11. Uhl, N. W., and Dransfield, John. 1987. Genera Palmarum. Allen Press, Lawrence, KS.
12. Vorster, Piet. 1990. *xButyagrus*, a new nothogeneric name for *xButiareastrum* (Arecaceae). Taxon 39(4):662-663.
13. Wilcox, Merrill, et al. 1991. Practical methods for hybridization in the *Syagrus* alliance. Central Florida Palm Bulletin 11(3):11-12.
14. Yashiroda, Kan. 1956. Some palms at Yashiroda Junkaen. Principes 1(2):60-64.



Over the years several people have mentioned that they have had trouble growing *Washingtonia filifera*. Taking into consideration the fact that the palm comes from the desert many people have treated the palm like a cactus including myself. This is just the opposite of what it wants. I have had the pleasure of seeing this palm in it's native habitat. It occurs in southeast California, western Arizona, and Baja California. But it only thrives where there is an abundant supply of water. You usually see them growing in streams and areas of seepage.

If you look at some of the most successful *Washingtonia filifera*s in our area THERE IS USUALLY PLENTY OF WATER AVAILABLE ALL YEAR. For example the best specimens I have seen growing beside canals. Whether or not they know it they are duplicating the native habitat somewhat. The only other condition possible to duplicate is to keep it's foliage as dry as possible, which is hard to do in Florida. When watering in containers, water from bottom. I have mine on a drip irrigation system, this allows the foliage to remain dry. The palms seem to be most sensitive while they are young. Its easier to remember that it likes its feet wet and its head dry.

Enclosed are photos of palms in their habitat and a shot of cultivated plants that line the driveway of Monrovia nursery in California.

Submitted by  
Roy Works  
4610 Central Ave.  
Tampa, Fl. 33603  
[813] 237-1926

#### More on Arenga:

A. pinnata: Oh! that wonderful Sugar Palm. Probably the most majestic member of the *Arenga* clan and like most only moderately hardy to low temperatures. I only have one specimen in the collection and it is planted about 3 ft above the water table in an understory situation. It would probably be better off in full sun but the site was chosen to give canopy protection during freezes. What I didn't plan on was the slow recovery it makes in the shade after defoliation so think about that when choosing a site. However, the plant does appear happy with graceful stretched leaves attempting to capture more light. In the literature it is reported that they will take full sun even as pretty young plants. It is also reported they like plenty of water but with adequate drainage. Because they have been widely cultivated for so long as a crop plant their origin is unclear (much like the coconut), but it is speculated to be Indonesia or Malaysia. Even though they defoliate readily in severe freezes, they seem to be quite bud hardy...a large specimen survived and recovered from the Xmas Freeze at Leu Gardens in Orlando. As for the pH requirements of this species, I can only speculate that they are probably adaptable across a fairly wide range.

Bactris Gasipaes: Only quick mention of this palm is in order. It would seem that because this is a suckering palm it is possible to maintain this palm in one's collection if only as a matter of interest. Mine is located in an understory position right next to the water table in acid soil. It has recovered from the last two major freezes but really never amounts to much. Strictly academic and for fun for us central Florida folks!!!! If in full sun, it might amount to more with quicker recovery (but not much). For many central Americans this is an important crop plant.

Bismarkia Nobilis: Everyone should have at least one of these beauties! As the name implies this is a noble palm with a beautiful blue type color in the leaves. Best planted in full sun for maximum growth and girth. Not only is this a fast grower but it possesses a remarkable degree of hardiness. While it can be expected to lose a major amount of foliage during freezes in the lower 20's it seems that the palm is bud hardy in most of central Florida and recovers quickly in a sunny spot. This palm needs a large spot when planted and likes lots of water. Although the two specimens in my collection are planted well above the water table, I would guess that they would also thrive under wetter conditions very close to the water table as they are at Fairchild Garden in Miami. As for the preferred pH of this palm, I can only guess that they are at least adaptable across a fairly wide range. Specimens in the limestone soils of South Florida appear to be as happy as those in the more acid soils of Central Florida. My guess would be that a little lime wouldn't hurt. Anyone with experience with pH is encouraged to write me.

The Genus Borassus: My experience with these palms is quite limited but I do have several plants in the collection now which have only been planted a short time. I have seen some success stories with these plants around Central Florida. Dr Young has a nice plant in the Tampa area as well as Joe Michaels near Vero on the east coast. Definitely plant them in full sun, — but by all means, Plant Them!!!!!!!

The Genus Arenga (conclusion):

A. englerii: This is the most common species in our area with its proven history of hardiness. Seedlings and young plants should always be kept out of full sun. Later in life they can tolerate more sun exposure perhaps around age 5 or thereafter ( a guess). Their best location in the garden is that of an understory palm and I believe they attain the most elegant form in the shade. Plants I have seen in full sun grow well enough but lack that happy look. Most of my plants are growing in a drained site within 2-4 feet of the mean water table so they are in easy reach of moisture. Some look and grow great while others are languishing. I conjecture that they may have nematodes. Coming from Taiwan and the Ryuku Islands (Okinawa) it may be that they actually prefer alkaline conditions but are adaptable to the acid side since the ones that grow well have never received lime. Having lived in Okinawa while in Junior High School, I can testify to the island being formed almost entirely of coral rock that was both porous and sharply edged to the bare feet.

A. mindorensis: This species is represented in the collection by one palm that has been in the ground during all three major freezes in the past decade. Surprisingly it has made it with only minimal protection and total defoliation on only one occasion. The plant is small but is continually increasing in size even with all the freezes. The leaves are glossy and resemble a fishtail pattern in shape with nice rounded edges. There is virtually no information about this species in the major palm books except for reference to the name and that it comes from Indonesia. I was surprised at this since I had always figured this palm to be named for the island of Mindoro in the Phillipines. Perhaps it occurs there as well? At any rate the palm is thriving in an understory position within 6-8 inches of the water table (wet!). I would rate this an acid location. In closing, this appears to be a species deserving of more extensive trial in Central Florida and may prove to be at least moderately hardy. Availability is limited but you do occasionally see one at a palm sale.

A. tremula: An Arenga that most of us start out having high hopes for after referencing it in the literature but soon realize it will not amount to much more than a dwarf specimen of limited appeal in our collections. The most interesting observation I have made about *A. tremula* is the lateness of recovery after a freeze. After the Xmas disaster of 1989 I had given the various plants in the collection up for dead by early June and it was not till August or September that I realized there might still be some life in them. Now, after 2½ years they are starting to regain some size although they have still not regained their former size. All of my plants are in an understory situation and are about 2-3 ft above the water table in areas that don't receive lime. They all have a "happy" appearance. I would class them as moderately hardy and slow growing. All in all they are strictly for fun and due to their slowness rank fairly low on my joy meter.



Some hardy cycads For The Tampa Bay area

The following information was collected after the freeze of 1989. I hope that it may be of use to those people who would like to add cycads to their palm collection. Hopefully, this will eliminate some losses and heartaches along the way.

Surprisingly there were a few cycads that had no foliage damage with the low being at 22 degrees fahrenheit. The following had little or no damage:

|             |                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Ceratozamia | hildae "bamboo cycad"            |
| C.          | kuesteriana                      |
| C.          | microstrobila "Dwarf mexicana"   |
| C.          | mexicana "TAMAZUNCHALE"          |
| C.          | mexicana "MOLONGO" *             |
| C.          | mexicana "RED BACK" *            |
| C.          | zaragozae *                      |
| Cycas       | revoluta "king sago"             |
| C.          | taiwaniana "chinese cycad"       |
| Dioon       | edule                            |
| Dioon       | edule var. angustifolia          |
| Dioon       | tomasellii *                     |
| Macrozamia  | communis                         |
| M.          | diplomera                        |
| M.          | fawcettii                        |
| M.          | heteromera 'blue'                |
| M.          | macdonnellii                     |
| M.          | miquelii                         |
| M.          | moorei                           |
| M.          | pauli-guiliemi sub. sp. flexuosa |
| M.          | secunda                          |
| M.          | spiralis                         |

This is actually a list of the hardiest cycads known to me. There are many others that had received much more foliage damage and recovered. They should not be overlooked. To keep this from becoming a long boring list, lets just stay with the hardiest for now. There is one problem with this list. It contains some plants that are not available to us at this time. Hopefully that will change in the future. I will mark these with a star so that you will know that it may be next to impossible to locate these. At least you will have a hardy list to work from. The remaining names on the list, I think, may be the best to start out with since many people live in areas colder than the warmest part of Tampa. I might add that this is just a list of the damage from one collection, while other people have mentioned slightly different results. I think that this might give us something to start with since there seems to be a lack of cultural information on this primitive group of palm like plants.

R.W.

Letter from John Kennedy continued: In June of 1992 the official rainfall for Vero Beach was 22.55 inches. I didn't keep track of it at my house but I think I received a couple of inches more...perhaps closer to 25 inches. The fruit on the one plant just stopped ripening and four seed heads just sat there. In July, we had very little rain (officially just over 2 inches). The fruit has once again began to ripen fully. I have been giving a lot of the seed to Mike Dahme in kind for his generous sharing of palms with me over the years. I've tried a number of times to germinate the seed but with little success. Perhaps Mike will have more luck and can tell me how it is done. When the next heads ripen I'll send the seed off to Fairchild Gardens in Miami...but how I hate cleaning the slippery and smelly fruit.

I bought my Allagopteras from Bill Bidlingmayer who used to live in Vero and had raised them from seed. He had a magnificent, huge plant that he had bought from Fairchild, long ago. (One of the members' day sales I guess). He told me that the seed had a very low germination rate and that the plants did not do well in pots and should be planted out when quite small. One thing I think that is important when choosing a planting site with this palm is that it have good drainage."

READER RESPONSE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!!!! I would like to thank Mike Dahme and John Kennedy for the letters above which added immensely to my knowledge of Allagoptera. Shared experience is so much more meaningful than a singular one....so I encourage everyone to keep those cards and letters coming so all of us can expand the horizons of palm culture here in central Florida.

Allagoptera.....a final observation: My plant at Palmhead is fruiting regularly this summer (and July and August have been deficit rainfall months for me). The seed clusters (which remind me of those of a coontie cycad) often bend down to touch the ground and when they do fireants find them irresistible habitats for building and enclosing them within their mounds. I believe they like the sweet sugary seed coats and do not know if they harm the seeds themselves in doing this.

HURRICANE ANDREW—THE DESTROYER!!!! As I began composing this article, Hurricane Andrew began forming and heading for Florida. It has now been about 6 days since its deadly winds tore through south Florida leaving misery and despair in its wake. Botanically, the city is in tatters with an almost decapitated canopy. Early reports say that Fairchild Gardens is severely damaged and we can only wonder what it will look like when we do finally see it again. When called by phone, a beleaguered voice answers "Hello...what's left of Fairchild Gardens". I do know that some help is on the way to the garden...one Central Florida couple has even rented a generator, bought some chain saws and headed south to assist as these words are being typed. There is something about this type of disaster that calls on the soul to offer help. We can only hope that local area residents who came through this relatively intact will rush to the aid of their garden to save what can be saved. But it seems clear that the Fairchild Gardens we have loved over the years will not be recognisable upon our next visit....truly a tremendous loss to all palm enthusiasts. Surely there are many plants that survived and Fairchild will grow again. HOW THIS WILL AFFECT THIS YEAR'S BIENNIAL IS NOT YET KNOWN.

## A CULTURAL REVIEW OF MY COLLECTION AT PALMHEAD (CONTINUED)

BY Stacey Peacock

Last issue I began writing down some of my amateur observations about the palms I have been growing for the past 10 years or so. My speculations are mainly focused on the cultural requirements of the various species which include light requirements, water/drainage, fertilizer, pH (alkalinity vs acidity), and cold hardiness/response. I invited the response of the readers to share their particular experiences regarding the discussed species and was delighted to have received two letters about *Allagoptera arenaria* that should further expand our knowledge of the growth requirements of this wonderful species. Before going on to any new species I would like to share these letters with you.

FROM MIKE DAHME--GRANT FL: "Regarding *Allagoptera*, i think that you may be underestimating the cold-hardiness factor. Recently, i visited John Kennedy at his home in Vero (about 4-5 miles W of the Indian River) and of great delight were 2 relatively large specimens of *Allagoptera*, one of which was full of seed "pods" in various stages of development. So far, i have rec'd 95 seed of viable size from him and would guess that there will be hundreds if not thousands more, as my total came from only 2 "pods".

Both of these plants went thru 89 with moderate damage, but totally unprotected. The locale is perhaps 30 miles S of here but that couldn't have mattered more than a degree or two (F) and i suspect that i was lower than Palmhead's 20 F reading.

I already had 2 *A. arenaria* in 1 gal pots (for some years) when, earlier this year, Bernie Peterson noticed them and advised me to plant them right away--apparently they don't do well in pots. In the few months since acting upon his advice, the larger of the two, which i parked in a relatively high, dry and sandy (higher pH?) site has (for a palm!) exploded in growth, while the smaller, also planted high but in an acidic soil, has grown more slowly. I mention this because your *A. campestris* may also benefit from planting." ( Thanks Mike, and I already have--several weeks ago.)

FROM JOHN KENNEDY--VERO BEACH: "I have two mature specimens of *Allagoptera arenaria*. They are about 14 years old and have been in the ground about 12 years ( I think). One flowers and fruits all through the hot weather and occasionally in the winter; the other rarely flowers and never fruits.

I planted them at the same time in islands in my front (filled) lawn. Both are much too close to *Tabebuia umbellata* trees. The fruitful plant is smaller and more compact. It's under a small *Tabebuia* which actually shades it very little (pretty much in full sun). The other non fruitful plant is under a sizeable tree and crowded on one side by a large feijoa. This palm is taller, very handsome and possesses darker foliage. I believe that the reason it doesn't fruit is due to the shade.

Both plants survived the 1989 Freeze unprotected (Xmas night the temp went to 18 F) but were about 80% defoliated. They recovered fairly well in the following summer but the fruitful plant didn't flower for more than a year (Summer 91) and the fruit were less than normal in size.

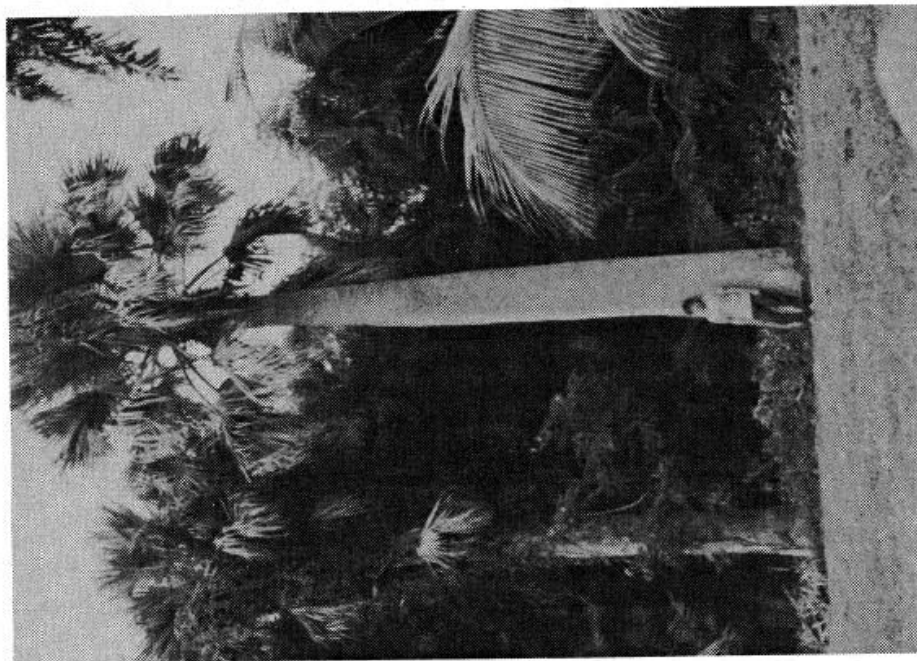
The following picture was taken at USDA plant introduction station in Miami Florida a few years ago. It is no longer possible to go to this wonderful, wild jungle - like place. That is very sad to think about. So many people over the years have had so many wonderful experiences roaming its boundaries. It was like going on a safari. You never knew what plant you were going to upon next and what country it might have come from. The pleasures are thinking about those faraway countries and the plant explorers that have helped to bring us so many beautiful and useful plants into cultivation.

Though I have to admit the garden was for research and was not maintained like a botanical garden. That some how created an air of mystery about the place. You would begin to wonder if the place had been abandoned and then by chance come upon a clumping Phoenix roebelinii of such delicate beauty that would make you forget about the waist high weeds that you had to walk through to get there.

Yes I used to sit around and listen to people like Doctor and Mrs. Young reminisce about the place that they had always gone to when their family use to frequent Miami. They and others talked so fondly about the place I just had to see the place myself.

On one of my trips to Miami, my friend Michael and I stopped by for a casual walk ( we thought ) in the garden. It ended up being a wild safari trying to see as much as possible, wearing ourselves out after spending the better part of the day at Fairchild Tropical Garden ( my home away from home ). This will kill you if you like plants as much as we do. But before I dropped. I leaned up against the largest *Sabal causiarum* I think that I have ever seen. to pose for a picture, or I should say give scale to the photograph, since you can't really see me. The garden is full of beautiful bamboos, flowering trees and shrubs and many other plants from various parts of the world.

I know that it is still possible to get there if you belong to the South Florida Chapter of the Palm Society and the Caribbean Chapter of the Bamboo Society. But the catch is volunteering your services in maintaining the palms and bamboos. They have set days during the year that they meet work and enjoy themselves doing what they love best. During special events like the International Palm Biennial meeting arrangements have been made to put USDA on the list of places to tour during the meeting.





4TH ANNUAL FALL MEETING - OCTOBER 10TH & 11TH

HOST CITIES: WIMAUMA, TAMPA, LUTZ

Sat. October 10th will begin with a visit to "Aloha Palms" in the Wimauma - Sun City area. This is about 20 miles south of Tampa, along I-75. Our hosts will be Donna and Michelle of Aloha Palms. Aloha Palms is a retail/wholesale palm tree nursery that they have developed over the last eight years. There will be a general tour of the nursery and palms will be for sale.

Next, we head north to Tampa for a visit of Roy Work's nursery. There we will be viewing Roy's collection of palms, cycads, flowering trees, agaves, bamboo, and banana trees. Here again, plants will be for sale.

Saturday evening at 7:00 P.M. we will be meeting at the Azalea Room at the Holiday Inn at 2701 E. Fowler Avenue in Tampa. Roy Works will be giving a slide presentation on Palms and Cycads grown in the Tampa Bay area: cultivating tips will be discussed. Dr. Merrill Wilcox will also be giving a talk on the Hybridization in the Syagrus Alliance.

**Sunday - Day #2** will bring us to Lutz. This is just north of Tampa about eight miles. First, we will be visiting the garden of James Mayer. James is a landscaper and has a variety of plants, including cycads, bamboo, flowering trees, and palms. His yard is shaded by a high tree canopy which gives a very nice feel to his yard.

Our next step will be a visit to the collection of Ted and Aly Langley of Lutz. Our yard includes a variety of tropicals and covers one and three fourth acres. We hope you will enjoy visiting our collection. A display of butia x syagrus will be on hand for a discussion on how to identify young hybrids. At the Langley home we will be having a palm sale. **VENDORS PLEASE BRING YOUR PLANTS FOR THIS SALE.**

As always, please pack your lunches and lawn chairs.

We would very much enjoy seeing you for this 4th annual two-day fall meeting. These meetings are for your enjoyment. It would be great to see some new faces along with our old Palmy Friends. So plan now to be in the Tampa Bay area on October 10th and 11th. Remember both days we will be having palm sales. This is a great chance to get those palms that you have been looking for. Hope to see you October 10th and 11th in the Tampa Bay area.

**Itinerary:**

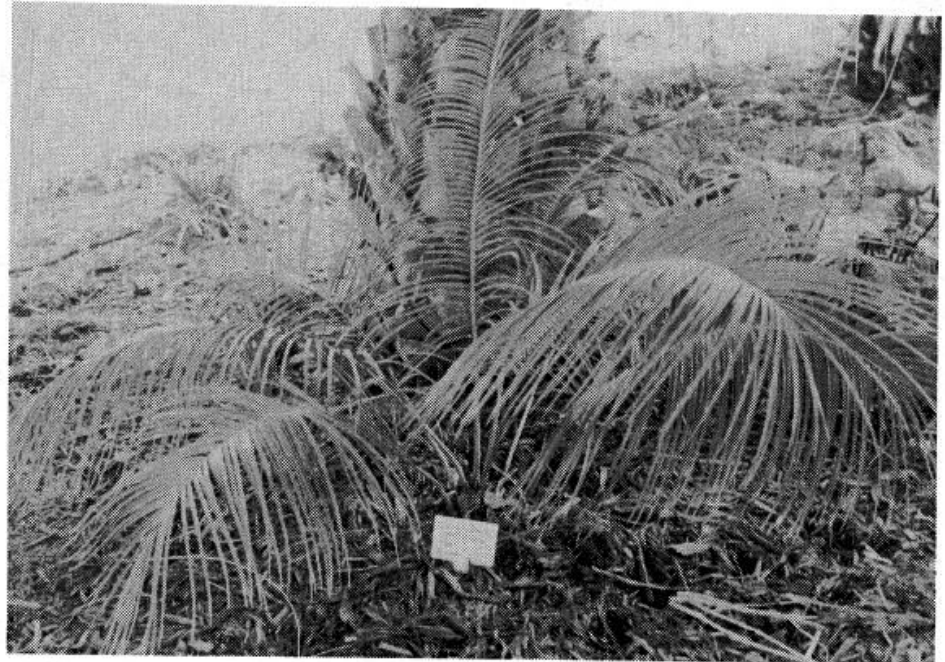
**Wimauma/Tampa - Sat. Oct. 10th**

1. Aloha Palms - arrive at 10:00
2. Lunch - you will need to plan for your own lunch.
3. Roy Works' Nursery - arrive at 12:45.
4. Holiday Inn - arrive at 7:00 P.M. till?  
2701 E. Fowler Ave. \*\*AZALEA ROOM \*\*

**Lutz - Sunday Oct. 11th**

1. James Mayers' home - arrive at 10:00
2. Lunch - you will need to plan for your own lunch.
3. Ted and Aly Langley - arrive at 12:15.

Plant sale of vendors will take place at the Langleys at about 12:45 P.M.



**FUTURE MEETING PLACES NEEDED**

We are always in need of new places to have our meetings. If you would like to have a meeting in your area, please contact Ed Hall, Alan Ingalls, Bernie Peterson, Stacey Peacock, or Ted Langley for suggestions on planning a meeting. Any ideas out there in palmland?

A fall two day meeting is planned for the Tampa Bay area on October 10th and 11th, 1992. There are also tentative plans in place for a full two day meeting in 1993 in the Fort Myers/Cape Coral area.

## REPORT ON SUMMER MEETING IN COCOA

### HOSTED BY: BERNIE PETERSON AND ROCKLEDGE GARDENS

It was a beautiful day for a meeting as we gathered at the home of Bernie Peterson of Cocoa. There was a nice turn out of members of the Central Florida Palm Society. An estimated 50 members attended. WOW! That's Just Great!

Bernie's collection was a real treat to see. He has everything from Allagophora to Zombia. As promised, the plants were labeled with name, date planted and source from which the plant came. This was a very nice touch indeed. As you walked the yard looking at the varieties of palms and cycads, you could feel the enjoyment plant people get when talking palms. After about an hour of looking over his collection on our own, Bernie gave us a most informative tour of his yard. He gave us the history and growing tips on many of his plants. (We can never get enough information, can we?)

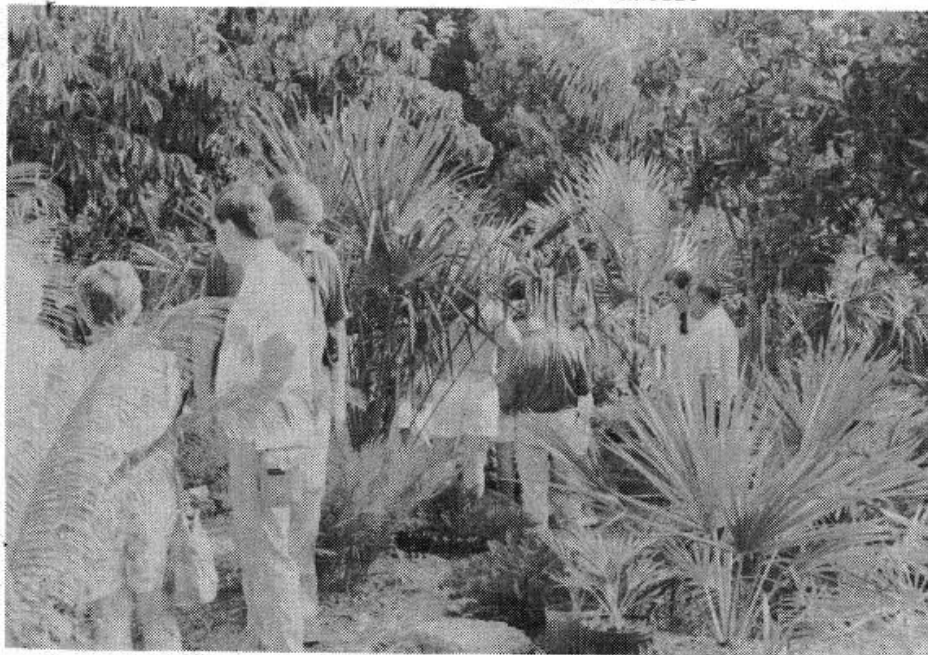
Bernie had available to members a gift of XANTHORROEA PREISSI (an Australian Palm Look-A-Like). This is a grass-like plant from Australia that has a trunk. Also, SABAL ROSEI were available. Thanks, Bernie.

Next, we broke for lunch before heading to our next stop, Rockledge Garden Nursery. For those of you who have not been to Rockledge Garden Nursery, it is a great place to find those hard to find palms and cycads.

Shortly after arriving, the "Plant Riot Began". As with all our meetings, sales were very brisk. After a great sale, Bernie gave a tour of the nursery. A demonstration and discussion on potassium deficiency in palms was also given by Bernie.

In closing, we would like to thank Bernie Peterson for putting together this meeting for our enjoyment. It was a very nice day in Cocoa, indeed.

TED LANGLEY



ABOVE : VIEW OF THE LANGLEY'S RESIDENCE.

### TAMPA ---ACCOMMODATIONS---

1. Red Roof Inn - Rates 35.00 Per Night  
2307 East Busch Blvd.  
813-932-0073
2. Howard Johnsons - Rates \$35.00 Per Night  
720 East Fowler Ave.  
813-971-5150
3. Holiday Inn - Rates 70.00 Per Night  
2701 East Fowler Ave. Sat. Nights Meeting  
Place \*\*\*AZALEA ROOM\*\*\*
4. Ramada Inn - Rates \$39.00 Per Night  
400 East Bearss Ave.  
813 -961-1000
5. Quality Inn - Rates \$35.00 Per Night  
210 East Fowler Ave.  
1-800-626-0085 813-933-7275
6. Americana Inns Rates 20.00 Per Night  
321 East Fletcher Ave.  
1-800-766-6546 813-933-4545



WANTED: Seeds of the Acrocomia totai, Copernicia alba, Trachycarpus wagnerianus. Please write to Donna at Aloha Palms, 3026 Saffold Road, Wimauma, FL 33598 or call (813) 634-8253.

## Hurricane Andrew

The weekend was spent worrying about whether or not the Tampa Bay area was going to be affected by the hurricane. I was devastated when the satellite showed it going ashore in the area of Fairchild Tropical Gardens. The next week was spent worrying about how bad the damage really was and when the news camera crews started showing the severe damage in the South Miami area I knew that Fairchilds must have been severely damaged.

Indirectly, I heard that Mathison Hammock Park was flattened. From the opposite side of the street you can see all the way to Biscayne Bay. Fairchilds is next to this park so I naturally could not expect it to look much better than Mathison Hammock Park. But I can hope for the best.

Finally, a week after the hurricane my friend Michael Perry talked to someone at Fairchild Tropical Garden that said the palm collection did not fare well. There were many losses. The cycads fared much better than the palms. Why, I don't know.

Fairchild Tropical Garden has been through a hurricane before, 1928 if my memory serves me. Recalling the photographs in the Rain Forest Cafeteria doesn't help much. Such devastation, in such a place that I love so dearly, makes one wonder what is going to happen to the plants that can be salvaged. When and if this is going to be done. There are so many rare and valuable plants there that might not be saved in time.

I know that the people of Miami will pull through this. It will just take time for everyone to rebuild their lives. I know that the gardens will be taken care of eventually but I can't help but worry about one of the most special places in the Miami area.

Sad to hear that De Hull's garden in Miami has been severely damaged. Paul Drummond's collection has suffered, losing most of his palms. I hope that everybody can pull their lives back in some kind of order. Once they see all the plants coming back into growth it may give the people some encouragement. Life goes on and so do we. My heart goes out to all the people affected by Hurricane Andrew. We all suffer at the loss of plants at Fairchild Tropical Garden. I know that Fairchilds will once again recover.

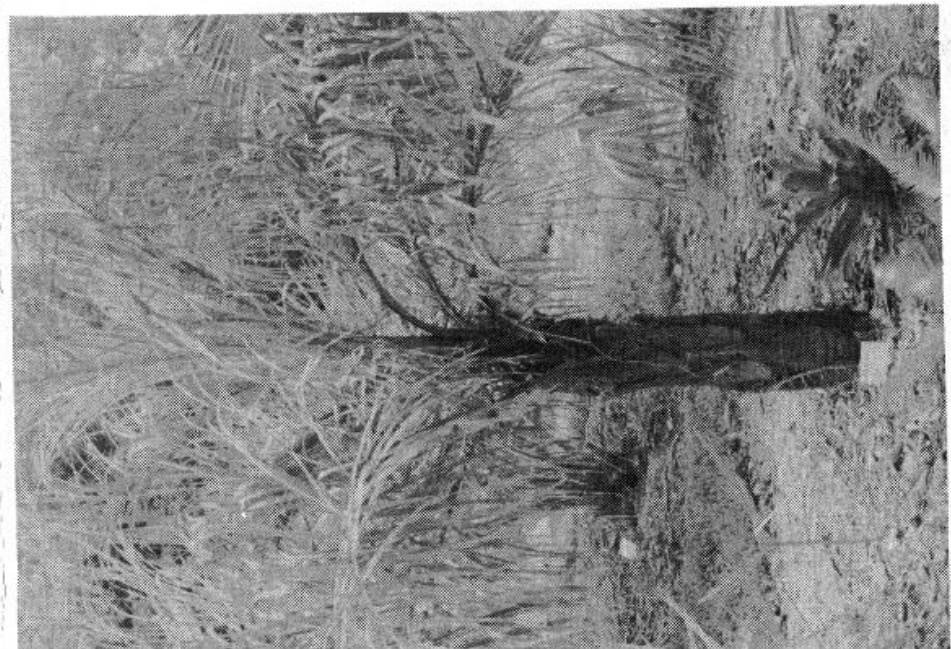
Roy E. Works  
4610 Central Ave.  
Tampa, Fl. 33603

## THE CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM SOCIETY



### CONTENTS

**Ted Langley** reports on the CFPS Summer Meeting in Cocoa on August 9 that **Bernie Peterson's**, and **Bob Walker** shares his photos of the event. **Stacey Peacock** shares his cultural information of the palm collection at Palmhead. **Roy Works** not only shows us some fascinating variations in our state tree the Sable palmetto, but also his expertise on hardy cycads and much more! **Dr. Merrill Wilcox** shares more of his extensive knowledge of *Butia x Arecastrum*. News of our upcoming 4th Annual Fall Extravaganza is provided courtesy of **Ted Langley**, including maps and itinerary, and accommodations, and all you need to know.





MEMBERS EXPLORE BERNIE PETERSON'S COLLECTION IN COCOA ON AUGUST 9th. MEETING PHOTOS: BOB WALKER.

COVER: ALLOGOPTERA ARENARIA Photo by Bob Walker

The Central Florida Palm Bulletin is published four times annually and is free to members of the International 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.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Anyone residing outside the free service area (USA) must subscribe. The cost is \$7.00 annually. All subscriptions run from January through December. Make check payable to the Central Florida Palm Society and send to Nancy Hall at 1111 Glen Garry Circle, Maitland, FL 32751. Telephone number (407) 647-2039.

**ARTICLES & NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS:** Send any items for publication to Alan Ingalls at 172 S.E. 3rd. Street, Satellite Beach, FL 32937. Telephone number (407) 773-6714.

**ADDRESS CHANGES, DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS:** Send to the attention of Ed & Nancy Hall: 1111 Glen Gary Circle, Maitland, Maitland, FL 32751. Phone (407) 647-2039.

**FREE SERVICE AREA:**

ALACHUA..BREVARD..CITRUS  
 DESOTO..FLAGLER..HARDEE.  
 HERNANDO..HIGHLANDS..  
 HILLSBOROUGH..INDIAN RIVER  
 LAKE..MANATEE..MARION..  
 OKEECHOBEE..ORANGE..OSCEOLA  
 PASCO...PINELLAS...POLK..  
 SARASOTA..ST. LUCIE..  
 SEMINOLE..SUMTER..VOLUSIA

1991 OFFICERS  
**PRESIDENT:** UP FOR RE-ELECTION  
**VICE-PRES:** BERNIE PETERSON  
 COCOA  
**VICE-PRES:** STACEY PEACOCK  
 AVON PARK  
**TREASURER:** ED HALL  
 MAITLAND  
**SECRETARY:** NANCY HALL  
 MAITLAND  
**NEWSLETTER:** ALAN INGALLS  
 SATELLITE BEACH

**PALM BULLETIN EDITOR**  
 ALAN INGALLS  
 172 S. E. THIRD STREET  
 SATELLITE BEACH, FL 32937  
 Phone (407) 773-6714

**TREASURER & SECRETARY**  
 ED & NANCY HALL  
 1111 GLEN GARRY CIRCLE  
 MAITLAND, FL 32751  
 PHONE (407) 647-2039

**HELP!  
 FAIRCHILD TROPICAL GARDENS**

Several CFPS members have spent time at the Gardens helping out in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew. Volunteers are needed. There are water and electricity and simple accommodations including some meals available. There are also grocery stores and restaurants nearby. Bring your chain saw, garden tools and gloves. The area nurseries were devastated and in the light of the upcoming Plant Ramble, the Garden is asking if anyone can donate plants. Mike and Pam Vest just spent two weeks there and said they would be willing to take plants down if you are unable to. You can reach the Vest's at (407) 834-0923. Many of the homes of staff and employees of Fairchild Tropical Gardens were devastated. An employee fund has been set up to help them in their time of need. Another fund is set up for Garden Restoration. ..... Alan Ingalls

\*\*\*\*\*  
**HELP IS NEEDED FOR PLANNING AND COORDINATING THE LEU GARDEN SALE. LET'S NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY AGAIN THIS YEAR. CONTACT TED LANGLEY OR ED HALL.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**THERE ARE TENTATIVE PLANS FOR A WINTER MEETING IN PALM BEACH AT PAUL CRAFT'S. MORE INFORMATION IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.**

