Palm Review

Volume 17, Issue 4 *Journal of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society* *August, 1997*

The next issue will focus on our chapter's elections. Again, we will need participation from all our members to not only find nominees but to submit a paragraph on each so they can be introduced to the rest of the membership. The deadline for this all-important issue will be September 1st. Elections will be held in November. It is critical to the vitality of our society to choose people who have the best interests of our society at heart and will promote our society from within and without. If you know of someone who can motivate people, who loves our society and would like to have an important role in it's success, please submit their names (or your own) to President Tom Broome and the *Palm Review*. If you have a question about the elections, an idea you'd like presented at a Board meeting, etc., please submit that as well! Your participation is essential and we need to hear from you!

Palm & Cycad Maintenance Techniques

What Fertilizer Should I Use On My Cycads?

by Tom Broome

Fertilizers can be the most important "tool" for manipulating your cycads to perform the way you want them to. First, you have to ask yourself, what am I trying to accomplish by using a particular fertilizer?

A homeowner-collector may want the healthiest plants possible, in the easiest possible way. A lot of times people don't have enough time to fertilize all their plants several times a year. The nurseryman wants to grow the fastest plant possible. The faster the finished product, the better the turnover, and the more money you make. Companies like Disney, that are concerned more about display purposes, want their plants to look good. With our frosts and freezes, *Cycas revoluta* can get spotted and burned. By forcing leaves out earlier, the waiting time for new leaves can be minimized. The person who is interested in producing seeds wants a plant to grow as fast as possible until it cones. After that point, a female bearing seeds needs to be strong enough to take the strain of holding seeds (usually for a year). Also, I have found that a strong, healthy plant produces more seed than a weak plant. As an example, I have a *Ceratozamia kuesteriana* that produced 188 seeds. The next year, in a weakened state, it produced 97 seeds. After fertilizing the plant and waiting a year, it produced 270 seeds. After experimenting for several years I have found a way to "force" cones on cycads. The first year I succeeded, I doubled, and tripled my seed production, depending on the species. For the last three years, my seed production has continued at this level, or increased on multi-headed cycads.

People are just finding out how energy oriented cycads really are. In habitat, many cycads push leaves, at most, once a year. Plants that are hundreds of years old, in many

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Our May Meeting

by Ray Khiss

Where is this "Lambert Lane"? Riding through the towns and farms and fields of central Florida, we seemed to be in the middle of nowhere. Could this be right? Then, finally, there it was. Turning in, we bounced down the country lane. Passing a sign that said "Peas for Sale", we wondered where we were supposed to go but when we spotted a line of parked cars sporting bumper stickers like "Plant a Palm" we knew we were in the right place. This was the Lambert Home. Tucked away in amongst a stand of grand old live oaks.

Figure 1: Ron Lambert leads a tour through his Buckhorn Nursery for CFPACS members on May 24th.

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Letter From The Editor

Another *Palm Review* issue is almost out and I find myself again reviewing the milestones of the current printing. In doing so, I find that another topic is paramount to the journal. Can this be possible you ask? Yes, and I will discuss that subject after quickly thanking those that helped me with this issue. The biggest help came from my husband John who spent over a week upgrading my computer. This is quite a "bulky" publication and I used to spend much of my time waiting for processes to be completed but thanks to him, that's all over now. I would also like to thank Neil Yorio who went back through several of the articles after they were scanned and corrected mistakes the that had been introduced by that process. I would like to add that I received several great articles for this issue but was unfortunately not able to include them all in this printing. If you don't see the article you submitted, please understand that your contribution is still very much appreciated. Space constraints unfortunately make it impossible to print everything but be assured that it will be included in an upcoming issue. Also, please note the "Instructions to Authors" section below. Neil and I have made up this list of suggestions that will make the job of editing much easier.

And finally, it's election time! We need a group of candidates to choose from! Elected positions are president and 3 vice presidents (one from each region). Think of those you know. Is there someone out there who has the potential to do great things for our society? If you know of someone, or if you'd like the job yourself, let our chapter President Tom Broome know and submit a short bio to the *Palm Review*. These bios will be printed in the next issue and will serve to introduce the candidates to everyone. Participate in **your** society!

Our Experience With Ecosane

by Dave and Geri Prall

We started using Ecosane in March, spraying our orchids, container palms & cycads, small cycads planted in the landscape as well as landscape palms showing deficiencies. We have been spraying 2oz of EcoSane mixed with Peters 20-20-20 in a 3 gallon backpack sprayer, every two weeks.

I don't know if it is too soon to expect to see results. At this point, I can't attribute any difference in growth, etc., to EcoSane. I have not seen any increased growth in the small cycads (both in containers and in the ground). There has been improvements in many plants but is it the effect of Ecosane or is it the new improved fertilizer program. The (yellowing) deficiency in a couple of palms has not been corrected. My orchids are growing and blooming better than before, but I have also improved their culture (they were protected this winter, and the water and fertilizing schedule has been increased). We have not done any controlled experiments to make a judgement.

As explained to me by Dr. Michael Bitz of EKMA in Miami, EcoSane is a biocatalyst that stabilizes the symbiotic microorganisms whose byproducts directly benefit the plant. EcoSane was created to provide the plant with the ability of expanded tolerance to normal stresses such as varied watering, temperature, and soil pH. It is time activated and the long term effect will take several months. He recommends keeping the gallon of EcoSane refrigerated to increase shelf life.

We are interested in learning more about the product and results other growers have had, so this forum is a great opportunity for us to share information. From the look and smell of the product, I wonder if it has a similar formulation to SuperThrive (a vitamin/hormone product often used on orchids); or Dyna-Gro's ProTekt (which is Potassium with silicon which is supposed to reduce environmental stresses). ■

My Short Experience With Ecosane

by Phillip Stager

I have about 60 varieties of palms and ten of cycads in the ground in my modest suburban type yard. I started using Ecosane in March 97. The only events worthy of comment are that several species flowered for the first time, i.e. *Licuala spinosa, Sabal causiarum, Syagrus quinquifera, Hyphaene* sp.

My bamboos seem to love the stuff and are thriving this year. However, four months is hardly a reasonable time period for evaluation.

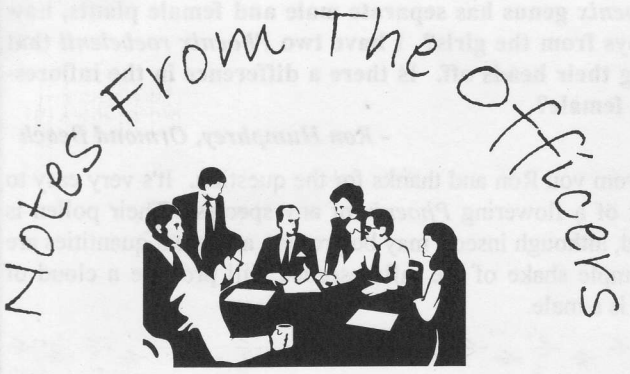
Look for Phil's article entitled "The Palms of San Francisco" in the next issue of the Palm Review.. ■

Instructions to Authors

The following are suggested guidelines to follow when submitting articles for publication. Please understand that if you cannot comply with these suggestions, your input is still welcomed. These are only items that will make editing easier.

- provide a title with your article
- provide figure/photo captions. Captions may be written on the back of the picture. Include the names of people who are in the pictures.
- electronic submissions are preferred (WordPerfect files cannot be accepted). Please send them to: editor@cfpacs.palms.org
- if electronic submission is not possible, please type your article (rather than hand-writing it) in a regular font (i.e., do not use italics).
- please send your article through the mail (rather than by fax) to:

  CFPACS
  5155 Wildwood Ave
  Merritt Island, FL 32953
- deadlines are stated in the bulletin. Do not expect personal notification
- editor may slightly modify the article to fit in the constraints of the bulletin format, but content will not be changed



The Board of Directors consists of 10 members. 6 of these members are elected to their positions, 3 are appointed by the elected officers and the remaining seat is filled by the immediate past president.

President - Tom Broome

I would like to thank Ron Lambert for hosting a very enjoyable meeting at his place. I apologize to those who were inconvenienced by our late running board meeting. Even though I was against the idea, the board voted to have dues, payable starting January 1, 1998. Dues would be $10 for members within the US, foreign members a little more (see meeting minutes below).

Anyone interested in running for office needs to contact Nancy Hall, Liz Stryjewski or myself as soon as possible. Liz would like to have a short bio from each candidate for the September issue of the *Palm Review*. The submission deadline for that issue is September 1st. Before this, the nominating committee will have to review all the names. I would like to see at least two people running for each office.

Our next meeting will be on August 3, 1997 at the homes of Jerry Hooper in the morning and Mike Dahme in the afternoon. Mike will have a cook-out after the tour of his place and we will finish with a plant sale. I hope to see everyone at the meeting.

Secretary — Nancy Hall

MINUTES MAY 24,1997 CFPACS BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Broome at 10:28AM on May 24, 1997. In attendance were John & Elizabeth Stryjewski, Tom Broome, Mike Dahme, Ed Hall & Dave Witt.

The major item under discussion was the bylaws. After significant discussion, several minor changes were made. After a motion and second, the revised bylaws were passed unanimously.

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May Meeting...

(Continued from page 1)

Ron Lambert, our host, was kind enough to offer space on his back porch for a CFPACS Board of Directors meeting which was held just before the general meeting began. Although I did not venture back there myself, some of those who did (possibly to see what was taking them so long) reported that several key issues concerning our society were discussed. Since their decisions effect us all (and our wallets), you might want to take a look at the Meeting Minutes section of the Secretary's report (left) for details. While waiting for the board meeting to end, we had a great opportunity to socialize with those we see far too seldom (and to find out who got lost after turning at the "Peas for Sale" sign). When the board meeting was over, Ron started the tour of his impressive estate (Figure 1). We strode by rows of meticulously kept potted plants, large groups of *Phoenix* Ron uses solely for seed production and rows of mature mule palms, the sight of which made many drool. We took a break for a pleasant picnic lunch under the oaks after which, some were lucky enough to get a golf cart ride to the farther reaches of the property. First stop: the largest East Palatka Holly tree in the state. Ron planted it himself back in the 50s. Ron and his family have been living on this piece of property since the 1930s and it was fascinating to listen to the tails of how he cleared the land and planted orange groves here all those years ago. His barn is filled with farm implements of the past. Some reminisced as he pointed out certain pieces from a bygone era while others wondered what those things were for.

Figure 2: *Livistona drudei* in the "Peacock Jungle".

After our discussions, a raffle of donated plants was held to raise money for our chapter. I had my eye on that *Encephalartos ferox* but apparently everyone else did too as it was long gone when my number was drawn. I instead snatched up a *Dioon edule*. Many thanks to all who donated these plants and especially to Ron Lambert for graciously providing such an outstanding venue for our meeting. After a very enjoyable day, we caravaned over to the near-by property of Stacey

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Ask The Expert by Bernie Peterson

Dear Mr. Peterson

I have a rapidly growing *Hyphaene* sp. in my garden that has just begun to flower this year. I have been able to determine that it is a female by the small fruits beginning to form on the infructescence. However, this is the only flowering *Hyphaene* (or any other Borassoid palm) in my garden, nor is there another in the locality of my neighborhood (that I know of). Are these fruits viable, and if not, why would a palm spend the energy to produce non-viable fruit? Would you recommend removing these inflorescences?

- Neil Yorio, Indian Harbour Beach

Thanks for the question Mr. Yorio. I'm nor sure that I have a very good answer for you. I don't have any firsthand experience with *Hyphaene* flowers so I'll have to refer to other genera and families that I do have experience with.

It's possible for unpollinated flowers, or perhaps pollinated by an incompatible pollen source, to begin to form a fruit which may drop at one stage or another in the development of the fruit. This has been an experience I've had several times when using the pollen of various species of *Syagrus* to pollinate *Butia*.

Some plants have the capability to produce fruits without pollination. This is called parthenocarpy (virgin fruit), usually there is no seed or a poorly formed one. In the case of oriental persimmons we get lovely seedless fruit, in the case of *Allagoptera* we get undersized fruit with poorly formed non-viable seeds. If the fruits on your *Hyphaene* attain normal size and ripen you can dissect some and look for the embryo, it would be near the end of the seed farthest from the stem of the fruit. It is normal for *Hyphaene* seed to have a hollow space inside like a coconut, also they can float and still be viable.

Dear Bernie,

Since the *Phoenix* genus has separate male and female plants, how do we tell the boys from the girls? I have two *Phoenix roebelenii* that are just blooming their heads off. Is there a difference in the inflorescences of male & female?

- Ron Humphrey, Ormond Beach

Nice to hear from you Ron and thanks for the question. It's very easy to determine the sex of a flowering *Phoenix* of any species. Their pollen is spread by the wind, although insects may be present, and great quantities are produced, so a simple shake of the inflorescence will produce a cloud of pollen if the plant is a male.

Dear Bernie,

I've lived in Florida for nearly 30 years, certainly not as long as *Syagrus romanzoffiana*, *Butia capitata*, and *Phoenix canariensis* (and others) have been here. All the before mentioned species produce seed profusely, and yet, I have never seen any growing "wild", so-to-speak. Why haven't they become "naturalized" after so many years?

- Doug Keene, Deland

That's a good question Doug but I'm not sure I can do more than propose a theory. To begin, one does see the odd exotic palm self-sown in the wild or in vacant lots etc, *Washingtonia* and *Phoenix reclinata* come to mind. *Livistona chinensis* is reproducing successfully at the F.I.T. Garden in Melbourne, but only in the damp shady areas.

One way of looking at your question is to consider the qualities possessed by our most ubiquitous native palm, *Sabal palmetto*. On germination *Sabal* seedlings begin to push their buds or stem deep into the soil unlike most palms whose vulnerable buds are at or near the surface of the soil. As the *Sabal* seedling develops it's bud descends even more deeply into the soil, anyone who has dug a *Sabal* seedling has noticed the unusual shape of the stem which has been compared to that of a saxophone. A palm seedling which possesses this underground structure gains protection from rodents and other herbivores, dryness, fire, and extreme cold. Over the years only one exotic palm genus which has the underground "saxophone" type bud has been planted with any frequency, that is *Acrocomia*. Naturalized stands of *A. totai* I've heard of are, or were, in Babson Park, Cocoa, Dade City, Ft. Meade and others, this is interesting considering how rarely *Acrocomias* are planted compared to *Butia, Phoenix* and *Syagrus*. It really comes down to whether or not a species is well enough adapted to Central Florida conditions to survive the sensitive seedling phase of their development. ■

Palms Planted at the Brevard Zoo

Thursday July 10 was planting day for several members of the CFPACS. Special thanks to Dan Peterson and Jerry Hooper who did most of the work. Sixteen 15 gallon size palms were planted including; 4 species of *Livistona,* 2 of *Sabal, Copernicia and Rhapidophyllum*. The palms were donated by Rockledge Gardens. Several species of Bamboo were also planted, these were donated by Sherry Snodgress and Bernie Peterson. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Sources of Weather Data and Forecasts

by Dan Peterson

Articles in the *Palm Review* issue of March, 1997, which stressed the theme of cold-hardiness, addressed the fate of palms that were exposed to various conditions during freezes. A few authors expressed surprise when a freeze occurred during the night of January 19, 1997 (this was the freeze that caused an estimated 300 million dollars in damage to south Florida crops). This was unfortunate, considering that the National Weather Service had forecast a freeze the previous morning. Consequently, I thought it would be useful to discuss sources of weather data and forecasts other than the evening news on TV and the interpretation of available weather information to discern frost/freeze conditions so that palm growers can become more comfortable in their decisions to protect or not to protect their specimens outside. I'll start with a frost/freeze climatology (the average dates) for central Florida, then progress to listing sources of weather data and forecasts for central Florida. Finally, I'll provide pointers on using the most recent observational data to get a handle on the potential for a frost or freeze during the upcoming night. As always, caveat emptor!

As most of you already know, the frost/freeze season begins in late December and ends in March, with a few weeks when frost is still possible on either side of the first/last freeze. The first frost date averages mid December, with the first freeze typically near the end of December. The last freeze averages about the end of February, with the last frost average date about mid March. Temperatures in the 30s have been recorded at one time or another throughout the month of March across all of central Florida. The average number of freezes generally decreases the farther south you go, with long-term averages for each cool season shown in the table below.

Location	Days of Freezing Temperatures
Gainsville	13
Daytona Beach	5.5
Tampa	3.2
Orlando	2.7
Vero Beach	1.5
Fort Myers	0.8
West Palm Beach	0.7
Miami	0.2

Variations of about 25% above/below these numbers are most common, with occurrences of winters without a freeze being unusual but not unheard of. The last date of recorded freezing temperatures at Daytona Beach is March 25th, at Orlando it was March 3rd, and in Melbourne, March 23rd (Orlando was likely just above freezing on that March 23rd morning).

Freeze forecasts are issued within both the traditional public forecast (the forecast for today, tonight, tomorrow ...) issued by the National Weather Service (and TV/radio stations) and within statements and advisories issued by the Weather Service, such as the hazardous weather outlook, and specific frost/freeze warnings. A freeze warning is issued when widespread freezing (32°F/ 0°C) conditions are expected within a county. A freeze may or may not be accompanied by frost. A hard freeze is forecast when temperatures are expected to be within the middle 20s or lower for several hours. A frost advisory is forecast when conditions are expected to support widespread frost in an area, which are generally near or below freezing temperatures coupled with light or calm winds and sufficient atmospheric moisture.

Location	Frequency
Belle Glade	162.400 Mhz
Daytona Beach	162.400 Mhz
Fort Myers	162.475 Mhz
Fort Pierce	162.425 Mhz
Gainesville	162.475 Mhz
Inverness	162.400 Mhz
Jacksonville	162.55 Mhz
Key West	162.400 Mhz
Melbourne	162.55 Mhz
Miami	162.55 Mhz
Orlando	162.475 Mhz
Panama City	162.55 Mhz
Pensacola	162.400 Mhz
Sebring	162.500 Mhz
Tallahassee	162.400 Mhz
Tampa	162.55 Mhz
West Palm Beach	162.475 Mhz

How do you obtain these forecasts and other information in a timely manner? The most direct method is through NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Weather Radio, which broadcasts all National Weather Service forecasts and advisories continuously on the frequencies listed (table, left). If you have a friend who is a boater, chances are good they use NOAA weather radio.

Weather radios are commonly available at electronics stores, with radios available that broadcast just the NOAA weather radio frequencies, and radios that have the NOAA weather radio frequencies as just one of many bands.

Do you enjoy surfing the Internet? Here are a few suggested locations to use to keep up to date on the latest data, statements, and advisories:

gopher:geografl.sbs.ohio-state.edu/11/other-states/Florida

http://www-atm.ucdavis.edu/~wxauto/fos/states/Florida.html

http://www.nws.fsu.edu/flwx.html

http://www.marine.usf.edu/nws/

These sites should allow you to get the following products and services:

- Short term forecasts describing winds, clouds, temperatures, precipitation, etc. for the next few hours
- Hourly weather roundup, which consists of the latest conditions for the Florida locations which take official weather observations
- Area forecast discussions, which are occasionally technical discussions of what each forecast office thinks is going to happen

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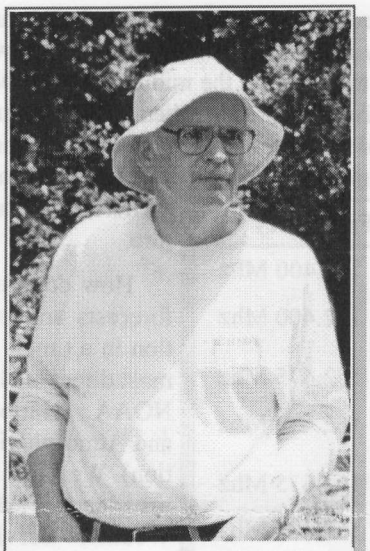
MEMBER PROFILE



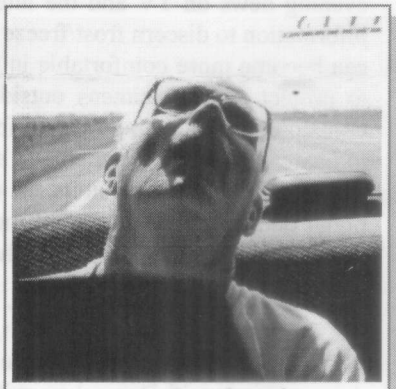
John Kennedy on the go...

by Mike Dahme

Succumbing to the extortionate threat of our editor to reprint a photo of the chapter's most photogenically-challenged member (well, there is that big, dumb guy in Deadland, what's his name?), I submit this profile of Professor John D. Kennedy, scholar, Trollopean, and plant-lover who shares his interest in palms with other families of plants (but not, it should be reported, with cycads) including many of the natives of the Sunshine State (which mitigated in his favor when the conditions of his dooryard once came to the attention of the zoning authority); in fact, he is also a member of the Treasure Coast Native Plant Society.

John, a loquacious man who has the same regard for silence as nature a vacuum, has been addressing various groups on behalf of the Indian River Community College's speakers bureau, as far from home as Stuart and Melbourne, on the subject of palms for several years and it was his address to the Native Plant Society in Melbourne that I recently attended. With an engaging and self-deprecating speaking-style that encourages audience participation, his talk of about half an hour on various aspects of the family (he tailors his address to the particular audience) proceeded effortlessly to the (inevitable) slide show that followed (by the way, he is need of a slide of a well-grown *Thrinax morrisii*), during and after which questions were asked and palms (that John nurtures) given away. (*Livistona saribus* in this instance, perhaps a poor choice for that particular, potentially hostile, group!) In addition to the free palms John also distributes IPS and CFPACS application forms, and provides a five page hand-out of his preparation, "Suggested Palms for the Treasure Coast" (see excerpts following), which covers some of the not so common, as well as the "regular" palms suitable for the area, fertilization tips, etc. It should be mentioned that while a group may offer an honorarium for a speaker, the far-sighted policy of John's employer requires that any emolument be passed on to the college, so his community involvement is very much at his own time and expense.

Personally, I have benefited greatly from knowing John (how else might I have come by an "Ice Cream" banana plant, for example, or learned everything I know about Philadelphia in the 1820s - I might have the decade wrong), whom I first met in the Summer of '91 at a palm meeting. John's disdain for the heat and humidity of the Florida Summer meant that a second meeting would not occur til the following winter (a reverse hibernation period in play here), but we have since sojourned together many times to palm meetings near and far. Having been a member of the IPS since the mid '70s (it was actually John's wife Ann who developed the interest in palms first), the "mists of time" in terms of the present incarnation of the central Florida chapter (which dates only to the early '80s), he is as fully tenured in the chapter as he is with his school's English department and his knowledge developed over the years of his area's hidden palm treasures greatly benefited the two days of palm meetings that he arranged in the Spring of '94.



...and recharging.

There. Now, as I understand the "ground rules", it will be a picture of John that will grace the journal until another member's send-up is submitted for the Member Profile column, a further ground rule: "no sending up the sender". ■

*The Case of the Tabby Cottage** Allagopteras

by John Kennedy

About 12 years ago a palm-visitor who had been civil about the scanty Kennedy palm collection stopped in mid-pleasantry, gasped, and pointed. "You have an *Allagoptera*!"

"Yes," I replied, wondering at his strong reaction. After all, didn't everybody have one? I was quickly made to realize that this was an unusual treasure. At the time, living in Vero Beach meant isolation from the many palm enthusiasts north and south.

"Actually, there are two plants," I said. The visitor was much more impressed than he had been. If only I had exhibited any real knowledge of *Allagoptera arenaria*, he would have been even more strongly impressed. Since that visit, I've learned quite a bit through more attentive observation.

The two *Allagoptera* were bought, I believe, in one-gallon pots in 1979 for $3.00 each at the annual private sale of Bill and Moffie Bidlingmayer in Vero Shores. Their sale--which sometimes skipped a year--was by invitation only. The fortunate received postcard invitations to attend. Bill sold palms raised from his own seed and which he placed under a mature plant of the same species. His wife sold bromeliads. (Their 32-acre place is now the site of the Garden Grove subdivision, still full of palms, which was toured by the chapter in March, 1994.)

I can only recall one sizeable *Allagoptera* at the Bidlingmayers', though I think there was another. The source of these was Fairchild in the late Fifties or early Sixties. The two palmlets that Ann and I bought, then perhaps two years old,

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Letters to The Editor

This column is provided as a forum by which readers may express their opinion on any issue of general interest to our members. Keep our society growing by discussing issues that are important to you. We need to hear from you!

Dear Editor

I have noticed in reading the bulletins of our fellow palm and cycad brethren in other IPS chapters that they incorporate business as well as classified advertisements in their publication. I think this might be an excellent addition to the *Palm Review* in order for members to become aware of the plant material that is available to them year-round, rather than just a CFPACS meeting sales. In addition, business ads (from recognized plant vendors) could be for a nominal fee and classified ads (non-vendors) could be gratis as part of the member services covered by the dues.

- Neil Yorio, Indian Harbour Beach

Seed Distribution Update

by Mike Dahme

Distribution of the Talipot Palm seed (*Corypha umbraculifera*) continued, thanks to further efforts of Francisco Bermudez, and, unexpectedly, Ed Brown, who returned from a business trip with about 300 seed (distribution donations for Ed's seed was split with the First Coast Chapter). Altogether, well over 1000 seed were sent out, saved from the lawn mowers, thanks to their collective efforts. Other seed posted (to the usual world-wide destinations) included *Syagrus inajai* (thanks to Larry Noblick for identifying this seed), *S. flexuosa, Allagoptera arenaria, Jubaea chilensis*, and *Livistona* sp. "Victoria River" (*L. victoriae*?). Special thanks to Bernie Peterson and John Kennedy (see "Tabby Cottage *Allagopteras,* page 6) for the *Allagoptera* seed donations, over 400 in all, and to Bernie for hand-cleaning his! This cold-hardy offering was well-received, and remains in demand. Finally, thanks to Mark Wuschke, of that "other" Melbourne, for the *Jubaea* and the *Livistona* (and promises of more), in "payment" for a few dollars worth of Bernie's *Allagoptera.*

Usually, seed receipts are without much advance notice but we are now expecting good quantities of *Nannorhops ritchieana*, the extremely cold-hardy "Mazeri" (what does that mean?) palm and a *Caryota* referred to by the suppliers Martin Gibbons and Toby Spanner (who are also sending the *Nannorhops*) as *C.* "*himalaya*", which they state is cold-hardy to -7°C. Conceivably, this palm is equal to *C. ochlandra*, or even an undescribed species, but whatever its name, if it's as cold-hardy as claimed it's definitely one for central Florida. Requested donations for these 2 species will probably be in the 30-35 cent range.

...if it's as cold-hardy as claimed, it's one for central Florida...

Also anticipated is a quantity, much less than last year, of *Borassus* species aff. *B. aethiopium*, thanks to donations of Jerry Hooper and Richard Lundstedt (who collected from Joe Michael's). Whereas last year perhaps 1000 seed were produced and distributed (300 by the CFPACS), this year only about 30 fruit have been collected; perhaps the pistillate plant is taking a rest, or maybe it's just a case of the wind blowing (rain?) the wrong way on the important days.

Other offerings expected before summer's end are as diverse as *Hyphaene* sp., *Chamaedorea tepejilote*, and *Cycas beddomei*, with seed of *Hyophorbe verschaffeltii* and *Caryota mitis* available presently. Anyone interested in these offerings, or who wishes updates, should call me (407-724-8417) or Neil Yorio (407-779-4347). ■

Feature Foto

Mike Dahme was lucky with this seed- 3 *Attalea* sp. plants ("triplets") sprouted from it! Thanks for sending it in Mike!

The next issue theme is.... *ELECTIONS! Our chapter needs energetic people to lead us in 1998! Submit names with a short bio by Sept. 1st for the next issue!*

Internet Spotlight

By Mike Dahme

May 23: A California grower requested advice concerning the relative cold-hardiness of the various varieties of Coconuts (for application to their climate). Dave Witt responded that the Jamaican Talls, is the hardiest, citing personal experience in the Orlando and Stuart areas with that variety and "Malaysians": Jamaican Talls, in his experience always showing less (sometimes no) damage. He also mentioned Jamaican Talls on a St. Petersburg beach, about a dozen fruiting specimens, that had survived temperatures below 20°F in the December '89 freeze. Finally, he mentioned that the known susceptibility of the Jamaican Talls to L. Y., or Lethal Yellowing, should not be a consideration for planting in areas outside of LY zones. Jay Ostaffe, of Palm Beach, concurred with Dave's assessment, adding that Malayan varieties, especially the "golden/yellow", require extra nutrients in winter to retain a healthy appearance.

June 4: A questioner, concerned with the condition of his recently- planted *Sabal* sp. "Riverside" that was losing color of the most recently emerged spears, was replied to by Neil Yorio who pointed out that bud rot is a hazard of container-grown *Sabal*, particularly with overhead irrigation systems, and suggested use of fungicide/insecticide in the bud area concomitant with draining of water (if any) from the cavity via a drainage hole.

June 9: In response to a question as to how to excise old leaf bases from palms for a "clean" appearance, a respondent (Jim Cain?) stated that a "sharp, curved linoleum" was very useful for such genera as *Washingtonia*, *Sabal,* and *Livistona*, the instructions being to cut away at the base of the fibers with a caution against doing this too close to the crown.

June 19: A question from a California hobbyist as to the requirements for success with *Schippia concolor* was answered by Paul Craft: "...*Schippia* grows well in sun or shade .. " but looks better with some filtering of the sunlight. He finds the species to be slow-growing but having no problem with excessive heat and has found that it accepts short cold-spells (high 20s F). I would add that two specimens at my house had a considerable problem with the low 20s in the December '89 freeze, dying immediately. ■

The Tabby Cottage Allagopteras...

(Continued from page 6)

languished in pots for another year or so, growing not at all. I finally asked Bill (my mentor in palms) who told me to plant them, that *Allagoptera* hate pots and should be put in the ground, however puny or small the plant may look. (A year ago I dug up, by hand, an *Allagoptera* seedling from under a shrub: two simple leaves, 4 inches long, attached to 2 inches of scallion-like base. There were three roots, each 12 inches long.)

So--I planted one tiny *Allagoptera* (*Allagoptera* One) in the summer of 1981 in an island in the lawn 30 feet beyond the front door, at the north property line. I also planted, lined up in the same island, a one-gallon *Serenoa* (from Bill B.), a small *Tabebuia umbellata* (gift of Gordon and Barbara Smith of Orlando), and a wax myrtle (later mattocked for its attempt to take over the lawn, possibly the world, and replaced with a banana shrub, *Michelia figo*). All these plants were small. As a big-city boy (Philadelphia), planting his very first garden in early middle age, I had no idea of how large everything might (and did) get.

Figure 1: *Allagoptera* One under the "small" tabebuia, banana shrub (left)

On the northwest corner of the lot, I planted another island: a second *Tabebuia umbellata*, the second *Allagoptera* (*Allagoptera* Two), a *Carissa*, and a *Feijoa*. Everything was small, the *Allagoptera* smallest of all.

Allagoptera One grew oh-so-slowly and, after five years in the ground, flowered for the first time with the smallest flowerstalk imaginable. This was 1986. I didn't pay much attention to it; *Allagoptera* Two didn't flower at all. I wrote to Chuck Hubbuch at Fairchild three years later to ask why some fruit were quite large and others very small. He replied that uneven pollination was the reason. This made clear to me that each pollinated flower on the crowded stalk, which looked something like a pineapple, should produce a fruit about the size of a large grape.

Bernie Peterson showed me, some time later, how to assure efficient pollination: when the male flowers at the top of the stalk are full of pollen to fold my hand around the top and bring it down over the female flowers. I don't know whether the female flowers are receptive then or that they open slightly after the males and the male pollen is still on them; I'm inclined to believe the former. The male pollen is only available for a few days before the male flowers dry up and disappear. With any flowerstalk on which I've performed my function as pollinator,

(Continued on page 12)

Syagrus oleracea

by Mike Dahme

A plant of this species grown from seed (source given as Brazil) received via the IPS Seed Bank in February, 1986 was planted in the Fall of 1989, just in time for the cold-hardiness test provided by the Xmas freeze of that year. While apparently not as resistant as the common Queen (though three *S. romanzoffiana* were killed here by the freeze) in that the unprotected plant was completely defoliated, it recovered rapidly beginning in the following February. As there has been no significant freeze at this location since the species has not been further tested, but as subsequent freezes are unlikely (I hope!) to exceed that of 1989 in severity I am optimistic that the species will not be killed from the occasional dip deep into the 20's.

As Figure 1 shows, the plant, now over 30 feet overall, resembles the Queen but is in all respects more diminutive, the bole being but six inches in diameter (about 15 cm, at variance with dimensions given in *Palms of the Americas* of 25 - 30 cm), the frond length and individual leaflets being considerably shorter, and the inflorescences much shorter - but two feet in length. And while being matched by the Queen in rate of growth, *S. oleracea* has the distinct advantage of being self-cleaning, the fronds abscising (from wind) while still green.

(Continued on page 10)

Figure 1: *Syagrus oleracea* resembles it cousin, the Queen.

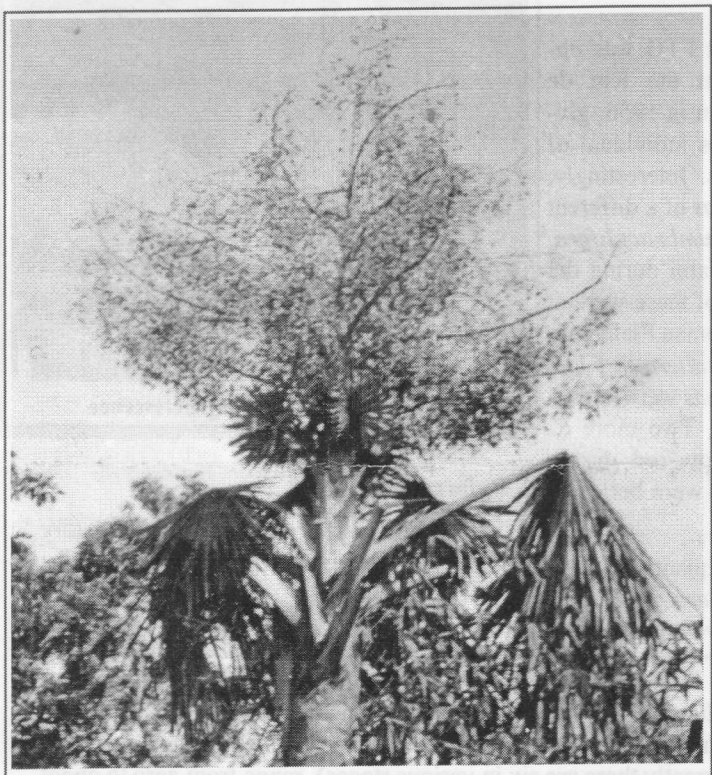


Figure 1: *C. taliera* in Adityapur village in West Bengal in 1979.

Corypha Taliera: Endangered Palm Extinct in the Wild

by Shri Dhar

When Inge Hoffmann from the U.S.A. was with us in Calcutta towards the end of December last year, we had gone to the Indian Botanical Garden, Howrah with Dr. S.K. Basu who showed us the *Corypha taliera* tree which was in seed. Dr. Basu informed us that this species of *Corypha* has become extinct in its natural habitat. According to him, after this tree has produced all the seeds, it will die and therefore we will not be able to get anymore seeds till plants are grown from these seeds and they in turn produce seeds which might take 50-60 years. Therefore the seeds which we have now been able to collect, are all the seeds we can expect for the next 50-60 years. I collected all the seeds I could and have distributed them to all my friends all over the world as they are extremely rare. It has been suggested by my friend, Mr. Paul Craft that I write an article about this endangered palm which has become extinct in the wild.

The giant *Corypha* palms have a characteristic life history. The trees flower and bear fruits once in their life time after about 50 years of vegetative growth and then die after fruit maturation.

In India, we have four species of *Corypha: Corypha umbraculifera* in the Malabar coast of India as semiwild plants, *Corypha utan* as semiwild in the Andaman islands and cultivated in the Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah and some other gardens in India, *Corypha macropoda* one of the giant palms endemic to the Andaman islands, rarely found in cultivation and lastly, *Corypha taliera*, a native palm of Bengal now extinct in the wild. This giant palm was discovered in 1819 by William Roxburgh in Bengal.

(Continued on page 11)

Corypha Taliera *Flowering In Florida*

by Bernie Peterson

It is always distressing to read an article like Shri Dhar's (page 9) about the impending extinction of another life form. In this case the fact that yet another palm species faces oblivion is particularly disturbing.

Photo 1: *C. taliera*'s massive flowering structure.

Florida may have a head start on ex situ preservation of *Corypha taliera*. A beautiful specimen of *C. taliera* flowered and produced seeds from January 1988 to March 1990 at Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami. At the time of flowering I observed and photographed this palm on a regular basis. Presented here are the first and last of the series of photographs.

Photo 1: taken in June of 1988 shows the massive flowering structure nearly fully formed but without the flowers open. Note that the palms in the background and to the right are *Borassus* sp., very large palms in their own right, but seemingly dwarfed by the *Corypha*. Photo 2 was taken in 1990 and shows the massive infructescence which has already shed most of its fruits which littered the ground and the pockets of certain passersby. Soon a carpet of seedlings grew under the tree, these were eliminated by lawn maintenance equipment.

It's interesting to compare the overall condition of the FTG specimen in the two photos; note that in Photo 2 hardly any foliage remains intact and most of the leafbases have fallen away. After more than two years of intensive flowering and seed production the giant palm was depleted.

The *C. Taliera* at FTG was obtained as seed from the Rio de Janeiro botanic garden in 1956, giving a lifespan for this individual of no more than 34 years. Interestingly, several other *Coryphas* of a different larger species, *C. umbraculifera*, were in flower in Miami during the same period. Three of these were at the USDA Garden at Chapman Field only a few miles from the *C. taliera* at FTG. Two of the USDA *Coryphas* were known to be about 38 years old. Two more *C. umbraculiferas* which flowered during the same period in Miami were believed to be about 58 years old.

Presumably the large quantities of seed produced by the *C. taliera* at FTG has resulted in a quantity of young plants both in Florida and elsewhere. At least one is known in Brevard county. Hopefully many of these as well as the plants resulting from Mr. Dhar's distribution efforts will survive to flower and produce seeds of their own. Even if this happens, however, if all of the *Corypha talieras* currently existing are the offspring of so few parents and do not exist at all in the wild the situation is little better than extinction.

Photo 2: The massive infructescence

Reference:

Hubbuch, Charles E. Natural History Note *Flowering in Corypha* Principies: 33(1) page 44.

■

Syagrus oleracea...

(Continued from page 9)

The palm, the identity of which has been confirmed by Larry Noblick, started flowering in 1994 and has proven to be mildly protandrous, male flowers shedding a few days before the females. I attempted hand-pollination, though pollen is sparse with this species, on the first three inflorescences (which contained but seven female flowers each on the first two, 44 on the third), but due to increasing elevation (of the plant) and age (of the animal) pollination, so far without indication of hybridity, has occurred naturally. Fruit set on the inflorescences, which occur year-round (currently there are six in various stages), range from zero to about 40 or so, the fruits being quite large, two inches by one and 3/8 when mature, with peak production from late Summer through the onset of Winter when growth slows. Germination of seed has been erratic, from a few months to years; I've yet to discard a seed, which date back to 1994, even the oldest still appearing viable.

■

Sources of Weather Data...

(Continued from page 5)

- Special weather statements, including the hazardous weather outlook, which is issued by the Melbourne and Tampa Bay offices of the weather service each morning to describe expected frost/freeze conditions for the upcoming night
- Florida zone forecasts, covering public forecasts for county groupings
- Computer guidance we use in generating temperature forecasts

For sites that use station identifiers, here is what they stand for:

JAX- products originating from the Weather Service office in Jacksonville, covering counties in northeast Florida from Marion, Putnam, and Flagler on north

MLB- products from the Melbourne Weather Service office, covering the counties of Volusia, Lake, Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Brevard, Indian River, Okeechobee, St Lucie, and Martin

TBW- products from the Tampa Bay/Ruskin Weather Service office, covering the counties of Levy, Citrus, Sumpter, Lake, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Hardee, DeSoto, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee

Most people already have the Weather Channel as part of their basic TV cable package. On the eights (:O8; :18; :28; :38; :48; :58) of every hour, they display the regional conditions, radar data, local (county) forecast, and the local update short term forecasts for the next few hours, which includes expected temperature trends.

For a few pointers on using the information, here are the factors that determine the frost/freeze coverage and potential: how cold and dry the airmass is, the wind speed and direction; cloud cover, geography (have a lake or ocean nearby ?), surface albedo (how readily a surface reflects solar radiation and transmits heat to the atmosphere) and moisture. Variations in these factors determine the changes in frost/freeze conditions across the region. Ideal freeze conditions consist of clear skies, calm winds, and a dry ground.

For a frost to occur, the ambient temperature has to decrease to the dewpoint temperature. The dewpoint temperature is the temperature at which condensation occurs in the form of dew or frost. If the low temperature is forecast to be at or near 30°F and dewpoint temperatures are forecast to remain near 20°, frost is unlikely. If dewpoint temperatures are near 30° and the forecast low temperature is near 30°, then a frost is likely. Situations in which the forecast temperature is below the prevailing dewpoint temperature means more moisture will be condensed out of the atmosphere, so a hard frost is likely. Frosts can form with temperatures in the mid 30s, since reported temperatures are measured at four feet above the ground and ground temperatures can be lower.

Unfortunately, the flip side of low dewpoint temperatures (frost not as likely) is that they represent dry conditions, which, as noted above, is favorable for cooling to occur. If dewpoint temperatures are in the 20s or lower during the daytime, this should be a "red flag" for growers to consider protecting their plants if a forecast indicates clear skies and light or calm winds are on tap for the overnight period. This was readily evident the afternoon of January 18, 1997 and tipped off the upcoming freeze conditions the morning of January 19, 1997. Of course, lots of complications occur, and assuming the same conditions will continue can be a mistake. Most of our misses in forecasting freezes involve missing the wind speed by a few miles per hour or the cloud cover by a few tenths. Also, nighttime atmospheric conditions differ from the daytime conditions enough that the evapotranspiration of water from vegetation and evaporation of water from lakes can increase the amount of moisture near the ground overnight.

Dan Petersen is a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Melbourne. For additional weather information, you can call the Weather Service in Melbourne at (407) 255-0212 or the weather service in Tampa Bay/Ruskin at (813) 645-2323. ■

Endangered Palm...

(Continued from page 9)

A solitary palm was last located by Dr. S. Basu in Adityapur village near Shantiniketan in West Bengal in 1979 (Figure 1). Despite our efforts, the rare tree could not be saved from the hands of the villagers, who were in the mistaken belief that it was an abnormal Tal tree (*Borassus flabellifer*) as it was flowering from the top. The tree was cut down before its fruits matured. That was the last remnant of the species in the semiwild. The only cultivated tree at the Indian Botanical Garden, Howrah flowered in 1994 (Figure 2). Fruits matured from December 95 onwards. All the fruits were shed by the end of February 1996.

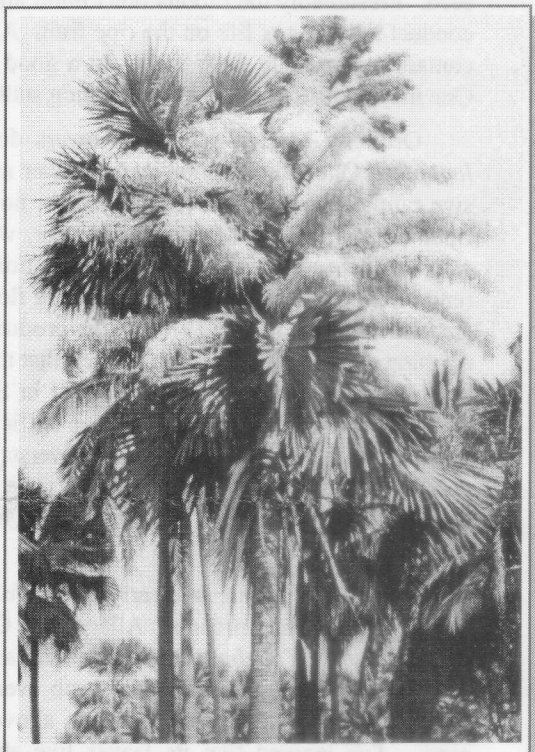


Figure 2: Indian Botanical Garden specimen

The stem of the tree is solitary, erect and about 10m long and 60-70cm in diameter near the base. Leaves are costapalmete about 6m long. Inflorescence is terminal. Fruits are deep green, globose 3-3.5cm in diameter with short pedicel. Seeds are approx. 2cm in diameter.

Photographs courtesy of Dr. S.K. Basu. ■

Tabby Cottage....

(Continued from page 8)

the resulting fruit (usually ripe in three or four months) are uniformly large. If I miss the strategic moment, the fruits are uneven in size, most being smaller than average.

I had let the fruit fall on the ground for a couple of years before I noticed that *Allagoptera arenaria* wasn't on the IPS Seed Bank list. I wrote to the Seed Bank offering seed; after a short time I was directed to send seed to Fairchild which was briefly (a year?) the East Coast depot for the Seed Bank before this was closed down. For the last several years I've been sending most of the seed to a palm nursery, trading seeds for palms. This summer I will give some seed to the CFPACS for chapter fund-raising. Since *Allagoptera arenaria* is somewhat susceptible to Lethal Yellowing, and though the disease is not transmitted by seed, seed from a non-LY area is welcome elsewhere.

I know when the fruit is ripe- it stinks with a pungent aroma only tropical fruit lovers can appreciate. I have hated cleaning the slippery, slimy fruit (my family can smell it on my hands three rooms away). Bernie has suggested an easier, non-messy way of dealing with the fruit which I am about to try. Last year, rabbits cleaned some of the fruit for me; it is fibrous and thin over a large seed. Presumably the rabbits don't mind all the little weevils that conduct a lively sex life on the ripe fruit. A regular-size stalk can contain at least 100 fruit/seeds. In a good summer, *Allagoptera* One may mature as many as ten fruiting stalks.

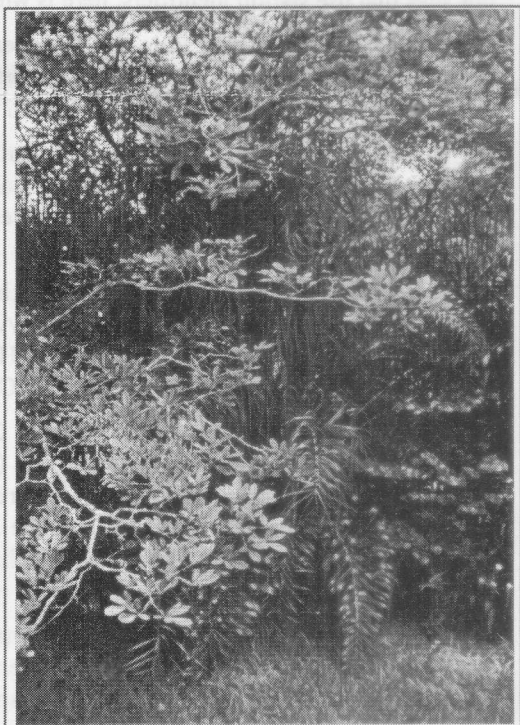
Ordinary Florida summer showers don't seem to faze *Allagoptera* One which continues to flower and fruit. With excessive rainfall, however, everything stops: no new flowerstalks, no ripening of fruit. In March of this year, we received something over 10 inches of rain, more than three times the average. Now (end of May), there is only one emerging flowerstalk when five or six would be the norm. Three stalks produced in earlier heat are ripening normal size fruit. I've learned that the fruit definitely need heat in which to ripen; fruit produced in September or October come too late in the season to receive sufficient heat to amount to anything. If there is any heat at all, flowerstalks continue to appear year-round but the fruit is undersized. The leaves of *Allagoptera* One stretch 6½ feet high; their spread is 8 feet. The plant is 3 feet across at the base.

Allagoptera arenaria clearly needs full sun and very good drainage in which to prosper. Allagoptera One is partially shaded by a thin, small *Tabebuia umbellata* that casts a thin, high shade. I hack back the adjacent banana shrub every year to allow more sun to the palm, which sits 18 inches above a swale 3 feet to its north. I've learned that its leaves live about three years from opening to brown.

Allagoptera Two, in deeper shade, never flowered until two years ago when I trimmed the tree to allow more sunlight to reach it. (The Palm Dervish from Grant would have me cut down the big *Tabebuia umbellata*--impossible, of course, for its wheels of 3-inch luminous yellow flowers make it the most spectacular sight in the neighborhood when in bloom.) Allagoptera Two is darker green than its fellow, with fewer suckers, but its leaves reach high into the tree to catch the sunlight. The leaves of Allagoptera Two, constricted by its location, reach 8 feet high; the plant is about 3 feet across at the base.

I haven't fertilized either *Allagoptera* very frequently or on a regular basis. In the past, when I did so more conscientiously, I didn't see much response. And I stopped fertilizing the grass 10 years ago, so there's no residual effect. I have no irrigation system and don't water *Allagoptera* except in real drought. However, both *Allagoptera* are situated slightly downslope from the drainfield.

Occasional frosts, and freezes down to 23° or 24° , have left both plants almost unmarked. The Great Christmas Freeze of 1989 (18° in my yard) badly damaged Allagoptera One, perhaps 70% destroyed. Yet, in the summer following, it came back strongly and was almost fully recovered by year's end, though no flowerstalks were produced in the next summer. The little *Tabebuia* over it could muster only three or four flowers instead of its usual hundreds. *Allagoptera* Two, sheltered by the big *Tabebuia* which did not bloom at all, was damaged though not nearly as badly, and recovered in the following summer.



***Allagoptera* Two deep in the arms of the "big" tabebuia**

My attempts at germinating seed have not been very successful. Bill Bidlingmayer just told me to lay them on top of the ground and cover very lightly. Bernie Peterson referred me to Eric Fowler in Fort Pierce as someone who had successfully germinated *Allagoptera*. His method, I learned, was to put seeds under a shrub so that you know what it is when first leaves appear, maybe a year later. I've been told by several people that 10-15% is the usual germination rate, though the percentage may be higher as seeds continue to sprout sporadically for several years.

Mike Dahme says he had almost 100% germination from about 100 fresh seeds I gave him several years ago, but squirrels got into his greenhouse, and ate all the seeds that had just begun to sprout. Mike also thinks that squirrels are the reason I got not one

(Continued on page 15)

Fertilizer On My Cycads...

(Continued from page 1)

cases, only produce female cones every five to eight years. Most species of cycads can cone every year, and produce multiple leaf flushes each year, with the proper energy. *Cycas taitungensis* in particular, can produce leaves up to six times a year. I find many people using palm fertilizer on cycads. They think because cycads look like palms, they are closely related. Of the seed bearing plants, cycads are about the farthest plant group away from palms. Most palm fertilizers are low in nitrogen (with N around 7-10). To produce a high enough energy level so that previously mentioned results can be attained a fertilizer with a nitrogen level around 18-25 needs to be used.

After documenting leaf flushes on 150 species and coning cycles from 25 species and correlating these results with fertilizer applications from eight brands of fertilizer, I am pleased with two brands. The first is Scott's Premix with Minors. It is a 24-7-8 plus minors, with 14 of the 24% being derived from a fast reacting nitrogen. The second is Nutricote 360. It is an 18-6-8 with minors, 360 day formula. According to the distributors, the pellets are plastic coated, and do not release more fertilizer when watering is increased. The Premix gives a big push in the beginning, but levels off. It lasts about three months, so it is used in cycles, four times a year. Nutricote starts out slow, but after 6-8 weeks, stays at a constant level for up to 10 more months, depending on the temperature of the growing area.

After documenting leaf flushes... and correlating this with fertilizer applications, I am pleased with two brands.

In the beginning stages of growth, usually only one leaf is pushed at a time. With each consecutive leaf flush, the number of leaves per flush increases. In these beginning stages, it is common for leaves to push several times a year. At a certain point, when larger, cycads seem to change the way they grow and only flush once per year, but many leaves per flush. As the number of leaves per flush increases, the higher the energy level necessary to force these new leaves out.

In the beginning stages, the Nutricote wins hands down for the fastest, healthiest plants. When the plants get larger (around the six leaf per flush stage), the Premix works better. As an example, I have a group of eight *Encephalartos ferox* that produce 3-4 flushes per year using Premix. When I switched to Nutricote, they flushed once during the entire year. The next year, I went back to Premix and got 3-4 flushes on all eight plants. According to an article written by Hannes Robbertse in The Journal of the South African Cycad Society, cycads have an episodic growth pattern. In most cases, I have found this to be true. Palms have more of a continuous growth pattern. For this reason alone, your strategy for growing cycads needs to be different from growing palms. My *Macrozamia* and *Stangeria* seem to have a continuous growth pattern. For these two genus, Nutricote works better.

After plants get burned in the wintertime, apply Premix at the highest level on the label instructions. After that, wait two weeks and cut off all the burned leaves. Usually within three weeks, new leaves will be produced. I have used this procedure in the middle of winter, and produced leaves on *Zamia furfuracea*, *Cycas revoluta*, and *C. taitungensis*. If you use this procedure in the wintertime and expect a frost before the leaves harden, application of a copper based fungicide to the new leaves when they are full size will harden them in a fraction of the normal time.

A problem with some (usually central American) *Zamias* is that they can grow too fast, and the caudex will split right down the middle. They usually harden up, but sometimes they die. Not only did all the *Zamias* react well to Nutricote, producing many flushes per year, I have not had a single plant split in years. With Premix, I had 3 or 4 plants splitting every year. They really seem to like the constant feed. It is important to note that some people have found that increasing or decreasing watering schedules has caused splitting of *Zamias*.

If you are looking to produce seeds, first you have to grow a cycad to the size that it can tolerate the strain of holding seed. Most cycads have a starch content of about 65%. This starch reserve is somewhat depleted while holding seed. To stimulate cone production, the plant needs to feel strong enough to hold seeds. If you fertilize with Premix two months before the expected emergence of cones, the plant will have this extra strength. Once you have produced cones, switch to Nutricote, and this will keep the plant healthy for the rest of the year. Each species has its own timing for producing cones. If you don't know when to expect cone formation, you may have to watch your plants the first year and chart their timing. Either that or ask someone in your area who has dealt with that species before.

Some species react well to fertilizer applications, some do not. The plants that react best, at least in my collection, are *Cycas taitungensis*, *C. revoluta*, *Encephalartos arenarius*, and *E. ferox*. You will see the best results of the use of Premix with these species. *Dioon mejiae* does not react well to fertilizer. This species seems to wait until about June or July when the weather heats up before leaves are produced. For plants like this, you may as well use Nutricote because it's easier.

A homeowner may not have enough time to fertilize often. In many cases, a homeowner may want nice looking plants, but may not care how fast the plants grow. In this case, they can use Nutricote. One application in the spring and forget about fertilizing for the rest of the year.

Fertilizers can be the most important tool a grower can use. Keep in mind that over-use or over application of fertilizers can kill your plants. As long as the pH of your soil does not incapacitate your fertilizer, the proper use of it will show you great results. Cycads are thought to be very slow growing plants. In habitat, these plants are relying on their coralloid root systems, which produce very low levels of nitrogen. If you use a high nitrogen fertilizer that has a release pattern similar to the growth pattern of a particular species, growth can be optimized. With the proper use of fertilizers, cycads may no longer need to be known as "slow-growing" plants. ■

Community Clipboard

August

3rd: Our next meeting is at the Hooper's home. Afternoon BBQ at the Dahme's- see details at right.

October

5th: CFPACS trip to Leu Gardens in Orlando featuring a plant auction and speaker Larry Noblick from the Montgomery Foundation - details below.

December

6th: CFPACS meeting at the home of Frank Rodasta in New Smyrna Beach. Details to follow in a future issue.

If you have events you would like to let other CFPACS members know about, please submit them to the Palm Review.

Our Next Meeting

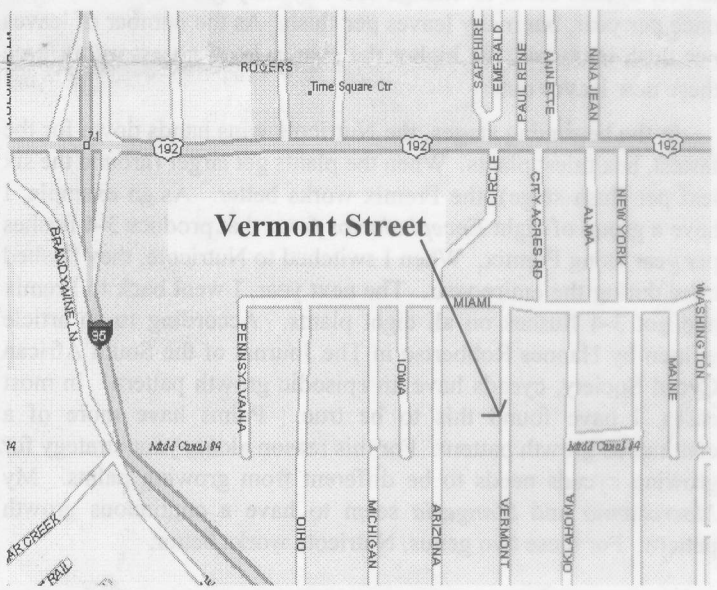
The next CFPACS meeting will be on Sunday, August 3, in S. Brevard County. The site of the morning meeting is the home of Maryann and Jerry Hooper in West Melbourne. Expect the tour, which will feature many recent rejects from the Experimental Station at 2410 Stanford Dr. in Cocoa, to start around 10. Parking is along the West side of Vermont Street.

After the Hooper's, the afternoon stop will be at Jiamjai and Mike Dahme's home in Grant, "The Droppings". Parking is restricted (due to palms having been planted on two foot centers), so, except for vendors, please park on the N. side of Berry Rd. A BBQ lunch will be provided, as well as beer and soda, for a cost of $5. (payable to the Treasurer at the meeting); however, attendees are requested to bring portable chairs if possible. For those coming from a distance and who may wish to stay the night (before or after):

Holiday Inn: Just East of I-95 on US 192 (4500 W. New Haven). Phone: (407) 724-2050. Group Rate: $49.

Glen Oak Motel: Hwy 1 (on Indian River) in Grant (6275 Hwy 1). Rates range from $37 - $48. Phone: (407) 723-2713. In both cases, ask for the Palm Society Meeting discount.

Directions to Hooper's (map below): Exit I-95 at US 192 (Melbourne). Go East on 192 to City Acres Rd. Take City Acres Rd South to Miami. Go right onto Miami and the next left is Vermont St, go South to 2360. From the Hooper's, either East on 192 to Hwy 1 and South about 14 miles to Grant OR South on I-95 two exits to SR 514 (Malabar/Palm Bay), East to Hwy 1, S about eight miles to Shell Pit Rd., right (West), cross RR tracks to Old Dixie, right (North) about 300 feet to Berry Rd., left (West) about 7/10 mile to 4625.



October Meeting at Leu Gardens

It has been a couple of years since we have had a meeting a Leu Gardens in Orlando and too much has occurred there to let more time go by before we meet there again. So mark your calendars now!! The date has been set for Sunday, October 5th. The meeting will begin at 10:00 in the morning with a presentation by Larry Noblick from the Montgomery Foundation in Miami. Larry will be speaking in (of course) the "Palm Room" on *Syagrus* palms. Lunch, consisting mostly of "finger foods" so we can eat on the go, will be after Larry's presentation. Prices will be in the neighborhood of $8 - $10.00/person. This meeting will also feature our "giant auction" which was so successful at our meeting last fall at the Bobick's home. Any plant donations you would like to bring for the auction would be greatly appreciated. All proceeds go directly to our society's coffers. *For info, call Dave Witt at (407) 352-4115.*

CFPACS T-Shirts are now available! The price is $18.00 plus $3.00 postage. Please send your check (made payable to "CFPACS") to: Ed Hall, 1111 Glen Garry Circle, Maitland Florida, 32751

Notes From the Officers...

(Continued from page 3)

Other motions that were made & passed included:

1) John & Liz Stryjewski, Membership & Publications Chairpersons respectively.

2) Edgar Hall as West Coast VP

3) Beginning 1998, annual dues will be $10 US and $15 foreign

4) Any person outside the CFPACS donating $100 or more will receive a one year subscription to the *Palm Review*

Meeting was adjourned at 11:42AM.

-Respectively Submitted by Ed Hall for Nancy Hall

May Meeting...

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Peacock.

An impressive row of *Sabal domingensis* lines his driveway. Several mature *Livistona* species (Figure 2) and *Washingtonias* are dotted around the entrance area but after that, it's all jungle. Stacey no longer lives at the location and is in fact looking to sell it if there are any palm enthusiasts out there looking to adopt a wonderful collection. Of particular note was a *Licuala ramsayi* which came through last winter (28°F) unscathed. I had no idea any of the *Licuala*s were this coldhardy. We toured the adjoining jungle of Bill Hahn as well who's garden sports a beautiful group of Monkey Puzzle trees along with several *Sabal minor* and *S. etonia* which sparked a discussion of just how to tell the two apart. A great time was had by all and we extend our thanks to Bill and Stacey for allowing us this opportunity to tour their gardens.

Special thanks to Mike Dahme for supplying photos for this article ■

Tabby Cottage...

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palmling from 75 seeds that I put in an open spot in the shrubbery. What's inside the seed is very tasty, reminiscent of coconut: obviously a squirrelly treat. Remarkably (or maybe not so remarkably), there have been very few volunteers from Allagoptera One, perhaps five or six over the years, in a location offering too little cover for squirrels' peace of mind. There have been no volunteers from Allagoptera Two, which produced its first normal size fruit last summer.

I have three very small *Allagoptera* elsewhere in the ground. Patience is required (and a long life?) for this palm. One of these toddlers has now, in its third year in a sunny, dry location--and at least five years old-- just issued its first, very small divided leaf. The second has achieved three simple leaves, 6 or 7 inches long; the third palmlet has two similar leaves.

Thus, the story of My Favorite Palm. I would be interested in knowing how far north *Allagoptera arenaria* has been grown. Perhaps anywhere that doesn't drop regularly to 18°?

**"Tabby Cottage", the name of the Kennedy homestead, the external material being tabby - the unpainted stucco containing pieces of seashell (mostly oyster shell here) used on many houses on the Georgia coast and also around Jacksonville.* ■

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