

Volume 17, Issue 5

Journal of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society

September, 1997

## Reminder:

CFPACS meeting at Leu Gardens THIS WEEKEND! Featuring a talk by Larry Noblick, lunch and a plant auction. Meetings have also been scheduled for November and December. See Page 14 for details.

It's that time of year: election time! Well, sort of. We do have people who want to serve on the Board of Directors for 1998, but since there is only one candidate for each position, there is no need for an election, or an election issue theme. This issue does contain a lot of great things though that I'm sure you will enjoy, including a new "Bulletin Board" feature- see page 2. Prompted by the sprouting of one of my Borassus seeds, the next issue theme will be "Borassus". So go out there and take pictures of those seedlings (or trees if you have them or know where one lives) and send us experiences your with Borassus!

## The Palms of San Francisco by Phil Stager

recently spent eight days in San Francisco, CA at PACIFIC 97, an international philatelic exhibition at the Moscone Center. Whenever my

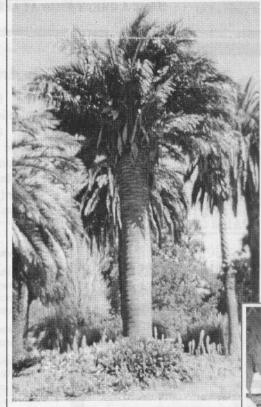


Figure 1: Chilean wine palms (Jubea chilensis)

eyeballs needed a rest from looking at stamps, it was off to Golden Gate Park to check out their palms.

Of particular interest to those in warmer climates were several huge Chilean wine palms (*Jubea chilensis*) at the entrance to the park and near the DeYoung Museum of Asian Art (Figures 1 and 2). These were planted in between many large

*Phoenix caraiensis.* I suspect these plams were planted when the park was intitially developed for

### (Continued on page 7)

## CFPACS Summer Meeting by Kerry O. Tanno

It's been a long time coming, but the CFPACS finally held a summer meeting on Sunday, August 3. The venue of the meeting was the morning tour of Jerry and MaryAnn Hooper's garden in Melbourne and an afternoon garden tour and cookout at Mike and JiamJai Dahme's residence. It was apparent that a summer meeting was received well by the CFPACS membership and guests, due to the 70+ headcount at the cookout. A board of directors' meeting was held before the general meeting at the Hooper's, and a plant sale was held during the visit to the Dahme's.

Visitors to the Hooper's garden were treated to a number of *Syagrus/Butia* hybrid palms lining the driveway to the house, as well as other beautifully maintained specimens of *Bismarckia nobilis, Corypha utan, Euterpe edulis,* and *Arenga pinnata.* Jerry has been busy lately with recent acquisitions of cycads, as evidenced by very nice plants of *Dioon spinulosum, Encephalartos gratus, E. manikensis, E. villosus,* 

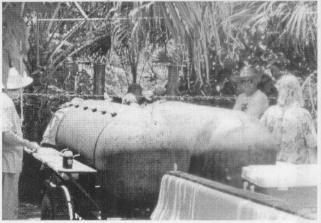


Figure 1: Members of the CFPACS eagerly await the succulent lunch prepared for them at the Dahme's garden. Who's the guy that elbowed his way to the front of the line?

> Ceratozamia kuesteriana, and C. robusta, to name a few. This is a truly inspiring garden when one considers that the Hooper's have only (Continued on page 15)



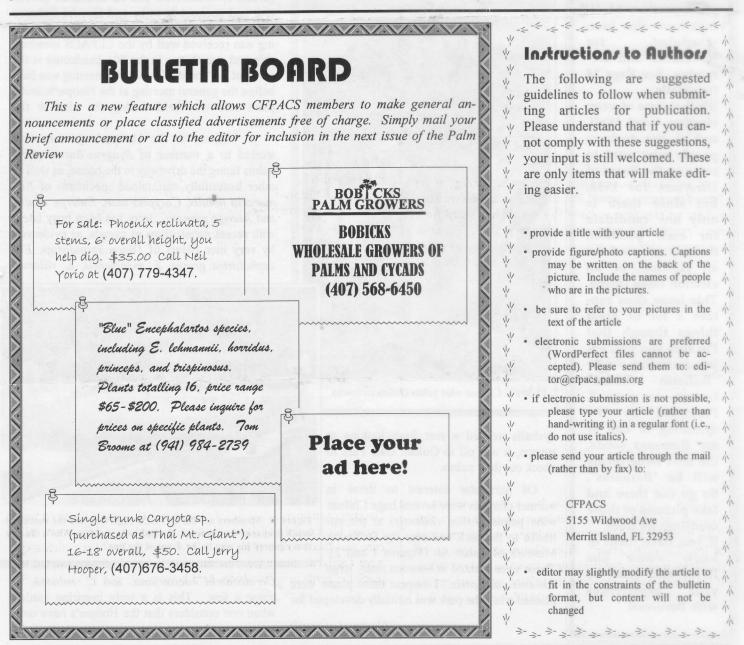
I would like to thank all those who something that's about the size of a business card. continue to contribute to the journal, es-

pecially Bernie Peterson and Mike Dahme for their efforts with the "Ask The Expert" and "Internet Spotlight" columns (respectively) which they write for each issue. Also, in response to a directive from the Board of Directors to look into advertising in the journal, Neil Yorio came up with the idea for a new feature for the Palm Review. Take a look below and you will find a "bulletin board", space on which is available for any CFPACS member to display what they have for trade or sale. It is available to commercial and private venders alike, we are just asking that you restrict your ad to

Letter From The Editor

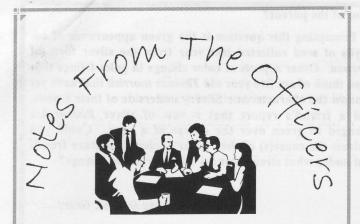
A wonderful thing happened in "The Garden of Weed'n" last month, my Borassus seed sprouted! This event has prompted the next journal theme: "Borassus Seeds: Where are they now?". Our seed distribution team has been spreading these seeds world wide over the past few years. Did yours ever sprout? How long did it take? Please include a picture along with any other commentary you may have on Borassus, their growth habit, abundance in Central Florida, etc.

### HAVE A GREAT TIME AT LEU GARDENS ON SATURDAY!



### **Palm Review**

### Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society



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 everyone who came out for our East Coast meeting. I met quite a few members, as well as visitors just checking out what our meetings are like. I found it especially interesting to observe coning cycads at Mike Dahme's place. I understand he has at least three species of cycads growing on the property.

A lot has happened since our "new beginning" at the first of the year. I would like to thank everyone who has written articles for our *Palm Review*. I have heard from many people who really enjoy our new journal. The most moving letter I have received came from someone in Miami. This person got discouraged with the yard after hurricane Andrew hit in 1992. Now after reading the *Palm Review*, at 86 years old this person is planting cycads in the garden again. It is testimonials like this that make everything we do worthwhile. Our seed bank has sent out thousands of seed this year. Many have been from very hard to get species. By the end of the year, we will have had more meetings, and more journals issued per year than we have had in a long time.

We are looking for ways to improve your experience as palm and cycad society members. I would like to get some feedback on a couple of ideas. I met a lot of new people at our last meeting and felt that it would be nice to see name tags available at meetings to help people get to know each other. There are many people who show up to meetings regularly. Would you like to see some sort of nicely made, and more permanent name tags, or do you think people would just forget to bring them to meetings or lose them altogether? From observing people at the meetings, it seems that the plant sales are eagerly awaited. If we had a plant finder type list printed, with our central Florida members as vendors, would this help people find

## Experiences With Medemea argun in Central Florida by Neil Yorio

In November of 1995, seeds of the elusive desert palm *Medemia* argun were secured by a small group of enthusiastic Central Florida Palm Society members. The seeds were obtained from the intrepid palm explorers Martin Gibbons and Toby Spanner after their historic expedition to the Sudan desert in search of this (until recently) believed extinct palm [Principes 40(2):65-74]. According to the description, the palm closely resembles *Hyphaene*, it's desert

relative, and is also closely related to Bismarckia. In the spring of 1997, another allotment of seed (from a different Medemia population than the first) was delivered to approximately the same small group of eager Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society bedlamites (Note the chapter's name change which is included for historical posterity). In the following article, I would like to provide some information on the experiences that I have had in the germination of seed and maintenance of seedlings of this wonderful new palm. If Medemia

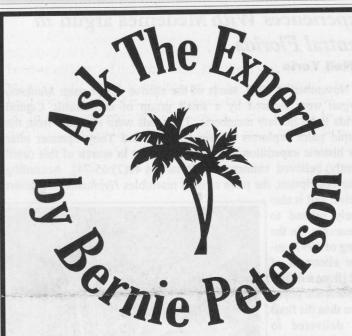


Figure 1. *Medemia argun* palm resulting from seed receipt of Fall, 1995. Plant in photo is one of two planted in the garden and photographed on April, 1997. Palms have since then doubled in size. Conditions are full sun and sandy, well-drained soil.

has growing requirements like it's taxonomic cousins, it appears to be fairly well-suited for central Florida conditions.

The receipt of seed in Fall of 1995 was immediately followed by portioning out the loot to the respective "shareholders" of the 100 seed minimum order. The seeds were in a variety of conditions, including sinkers, floaters, epicarp present/absent, and size. Care was taken so as each share had an equal distribution of seed qualities, and appropriate deliveries made. The seed I received was soaked for a couple of days in water, changed on a daily basis. No care was taken to clean the seeds any further than that which they were received. Since we were entering the cool season, I opted to place the seeds in an incubator kept between 95 and 100 degrees F.

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### Dear Mr. Peterson

I have used a fungicide on my palms periodically during the cooler months as a preventative measure against fungal infections following cold snaps. After a cold snap, I spray the more cold-sensitive species with Mancozeb fungicide. Is there any concern for multiple (frequent) applications of a fungicide?

- Neil Yorio, Indian Harbour Beach

Thanks for the question Neil. I think it is probably okay to spray your palms with Mancozeb several times during the winter following cold snaps. Keep in mind, however, that Mancozeb does not offer protection from bacterial bud rot. Copper fungicide would protect against both fungus and bacteria but does have some toxicity to plants if used too strong or too often. Either product should be safe if used wisely. Some CFPACS friends of mine recently told me about an organic fungicide called Mycostop, they have had good results using this product to prevent fungal rot in the buds of cold sensitive palms, being organic the possibility of damaging your palm or poisoning your soil would be minimized. Mycostop would not prevent bacterial bud rot, however.

### Dear Bernie,

Certain genera of palms are known to have different color forms, coming to mind are *Bismarckia*, *Serenoa*, and *Butia* (and not just *B. capitata*, in Brazil we noticed a field full of highly silver *B. archeri* whereas elsewhere this diminutive palm was seen only in the green form). Can you advise whether the eophyll resulting from seed collected of a silver form of a palm is necessarily true to the

### color of the parent?

Prompting this question is the green appearance of eophylls of seed collected last year from the silver form of *Serenoa*. Other aspects of color change in palm foliage that I can think of are five year old *Thrinax morrisii* that have yet to show the characteristic Silvery underside of their fronds, and a friend's report that a row of silver *Bismarckia* changed to green over the course of a year. Could you address the cause(s) of the "silver" color on mature fronds and under what circumstances the color might change?

### - Mike Dahme, Grant

Mike thanks for the interesting complicated question, I wish I had an answer worthy of it. To begin: some palms that are silver leaved as adults are green as young seedlings, *Butia* and *Serenoa* are examples. Assuming that they are silver leaved type they will acquire their coloration as they develop. *Bismarckia* seedlings have a distinctive color from the start as do some *Hyphaenes* and undoubtedly others. As far as what could cause the color of *Bismarckias* to change from silver to green I have no idea. Such a change seems amazing to me especially if permanent. Could it possibly be a trick of perception as one goes from being a palm novice to an experienced connoisseur? The only color change I've seen in my *Bismarckia* is from silver to brown and back to silver again on a yearly basis.

### **U.S.F.** Plant Sale

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The U.S.F. Botanical Garden Fall Plant Festival will be held on October 11-12. This will be the first two-day fall sale. For all new people, these sales have been the place where palm society

members can get together to talk about palms and
cycads, even pick up a few to bring home. The time will
be on Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Garden members can
get in at 9:30 a.m. On Sunday, the times will be 10 a.m.
to 3 p.m. The botanical garden is close to the southwest corner of the campus. The main road on the
south side is Fowler Ave. Most of the other plant
societies show up to the sale as well, so you can find
many types of other plants besides palms and cycads.
We always have a great time at these sales, and I hope to
see everyone there. For more information, call me
(Tom Broome) at (941)984-2739.

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### **Palm Review**

## Medemea argun in Central Florida ...

### (Continued from page 3)

were visible at the bottom of the citrus

liners.

seeds were placed outside in a sunny location to facilitate their further development. In April, leaves appeared at the surface of the potting media, and I removed about 2 inches of media from the surface of the liner to expose more of the first leaf (a method commonly used for other Borassoid palms such as Bismarckia, Borassus, and Hyphaene). It did not take long for the leaves to continue to grow and additional leaves soon followed. A mild Mancozeb fungicide solution was applied to both the sprouted seeds as well as the seedlings approximately once every 2 weeks during this time.

In the spring, the germinated

1/2 perlite and 1/2 same mix as in the 2 gal pot, and newly sprouted seeds were sown in the 4" pot. The pots were placed under the eve The seeds were kept in a ziplock bag with some perlite moistened of my house so they would not receive the full brunt of the summer with Mancozeb fungicide. The first "button" appeared in 10 days storms, but would get direct sunlight for at least a few hours per followed by several more within the next 2 weeks. I observed no day. When the first plumule appeared through the soil mix, the 4 correlation between germination success and apparent seed qual- pot and it's soil was removed to allow more exposure of the ity. Sprouted seeds were planted in citrus liners with a mix of 1/2 plumule and emerging eophyll (Figure 2). The benefit of this is perlite and 1/2 potting mix and emained inside my house for the that there is no root disturbance to "raise up" the seedling as is remainder of the winter. At this point, I could report 60% commonly done for Borassoids, and with this technique I have not germination success of the seeds. By the end of January, roots lost a single plant this year. Germination success was approaching 90% for the 1997 seed lot, which can be attributed to receipt of

placed atop the soil mix in the 2 gal pot. The 4" pot was filled with

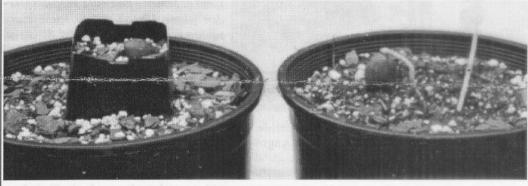


Figure 2. Medemia seedlings from seed receipt of 1997. Pot on the left shows the pot-in-pot technique used to successfully grow the palms in a 2 gal pot without disturbing the roots in an attempt to "raise up" the seedlings as is commonly done for other remote-germinating type palms. Pot on the right shows the first plumule exposed after the 4" pot was removed. The seedlings in this figure currently have 3 leaves. Growing conditions for seedlings is full sun.

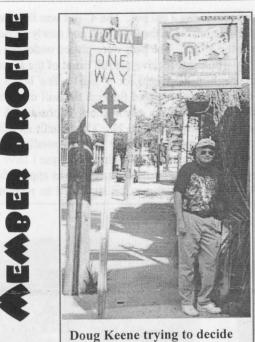
Just when things were looking great for these initial 9 plants, tragedy struck as I decided to repot them into larger containers. Because they were in such tall and narrow citrus liners, there was little support for the hypocotyl and root structure of the seedlings. I accidentally killed 3 plants by breaking the main root. It became apparent that the hypocotyl and main root emanating from the young seedlings is significantly more brittle than that of my experiences with other Borassoid seedlings. Two other plants damped off soon after repotting, so my success was measured by 4 surviving palms. Finally, by the spring of 1997, I had two nice Medemia palms ready to be parked in the garden (the other two each having been donated to CFPACS experimental stations). These palms had 7-8 leaves and the most recent 2 leaves had divided lamina (Figure 1).

With lessons learned still fresh in mind upon receipt of the second allotment of Medemia seed from the intrepid ones, I set out to increase my success rate with the husbandry of this palm. First, the fuzzy epicarps were removed from each seed, which presented a nice, smooth "nut" inside. Previous observations showed that with the epicarp on the seed, it appeared to increase the incidence of fungal contamination on the seed surface. To prevent the tragic loss of plants due to breaking of the roots during transplanting, a pot-in-a-pot technique was devised. A 2 gal pot (the kind without a center drain hole) was filled with a welldraining potting mix. A 4" pot with the bottom cut out was next

seed during onset of summertime high temperatures in addition to the lack of root disturbance. It must be noted that this same technique has worked very well for seeds of Bismarckia, which are the same size as seeds of Medemia.

As far as cold hardiness of the Medemia palm, there has been no testing due to its recent introduction. Richard Lundstedt who also notes successful germination of seed from 1995 and 1997 has reported that significant foliar damage has occurred to a single Medemia palm planted in the ground at his garden after exposure to  $\leq 27$  degrees F and significant frost last winter. Optimistically, Richard can also report that in a separate "hardiness" test, the palm (at least as a seedling) recovers well after exposure to lawn mowers.

Finally, I would like to conclude that my experience with germination of Medemia argun has been successful, and there is no secret method how to do it. If you have grown Bismarckia, Hyphaene, or Borassus in containers, the techniques are the same. To recap, seeds germinate well with some kind of heat, I have used both incubator and sunlight. Seedlings should be grown in full sunlight, or a bright as you can provide. A little fungicide periodically applied is useful in maintaining high success. Once the plumules emerge, seedlings should be "raised up" either by removing a few inches of soil from the top of the pot, or using the aforementioned pot-in-a-pot technique. When choosing a planting site in the garden, one that is well-drained and in full sun would be the best suited for Medemia.



by Sarah Noah

which way to go in St. Augustine

If you've ever tried to accomplish something on a computer, you know that whatever project you begin, it will always take a lot longer to complete than you ever thought it would. More problems than you could have possibly imagined continuously occur and as minutes turn into hours and the hours begin to drop away, you start to wonder if the rest of the world still exists. AND THEN THERE WAS EMAIL. With the wonder of electronic mail, you can check and see if anyone else is out there still working into the wee hours of the morning without ever leaving your chair. As you may have guessed, I do this often and someone who is always out there to answer my queries is Doug Keene (although I think he has some kind of a bell or something on his computer that lets him know when mail has Serenoa." arrived, no one could always be there). I, as well as several others, have begun to know Doug quite well over the past year through this medium and we look forward to reading his comments. His jovial wit reminds us all to keep things in perspective.

The following is an excerpt from a recent interview.

### •When did you join the Palm Society?

"Hey! Am I being questioned here????? I just caught on! I'd better clean up my act. OK, WHICH society? National Geographic? Cousteau? Audubon? Greenpeace? I've been a member of those societies for many, many years

and I joined the palm huggers back in 1987, if my memory serves me correct."

### •Do you remember who introduced you to it?

"Yes, of course I do. It was our own David Besst, and I'm sure that he now regrets that day! He was a guest on PBS's 'Florida Home Grown,' and he was talking about palms and the palm society. At that time I was primarily interested in tropical flowering trees. I had commuted from Miami to DeLand for five years and two days a week were spent at Miami's Fairchild Tropical Garden where I soon got to know every square foot of those beautiful 83 acres. Ironically, I overlooked the palms until Dave's appearance on TV. An article on the late Dent Smith appeared about the same time and I was instantly hooked on palms, and it's been 'Palm Power' ever since!"

•Is your wife Barb a palm enthusiast too or does she just "go along for the ride" to humor you?

"It's my job to humor her! She's been laughing ever since the honeymoon...



Barb Keene next to a double coconut (Lodoicea maldivica) at a CFPACS meeting at Dr. Young's palmetum.

Actually, she's developed a green thumb in the last three months, since her job change and all that good stuff. She's the official weed puller now. Several times a day she'll scream after being attacked by fire ants or wasps, one of life's joyous moments usually experienced only by me. She's a trooper though, she still goes to work afterwards. And she loves the spahhhhhhhhhhhh, but those damn chemicals. I think they're affecting me."

•You are hosting a CFPACS meeting in November, do you want to say anything about your collection? How many species you have or what your favorites/highlights are?

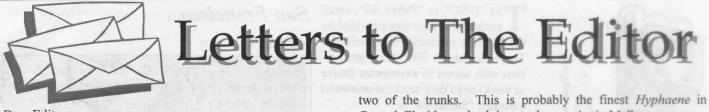
"I haven't taken inventory for quite awhile, but I'd say the count is somewhere in the neighborhood of 130 species of palms and 20 cycads. My favorites? Any that remain green after a freeze! I've got a lot of exotic species, but I still love our native Rapidophyllum

and the silver-blue Serenoa."

You will have the opportunity to visit Doug and Barb's collection once again as they will be hosting our November meeting on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>. Please see page 14 for details.



Doug after accidently spilling some Ecosane on an ant hill!



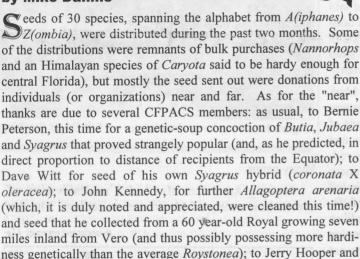
Dear Editor.

### PALMNEWS

Good news for Hyphaene lovers: the huge 4 trunked specimen at Florida Tech has begun to dichotomize on at least one or

## Seed Distribution Update

### by Mike Dahme



Richard Lundstedt for further Borassus seed donation (a total of 40, which though at \$3 a pop were in great demand); and finally to Tom Broome for seed of nine species (some in large number) in four genera, his donations also resulting in well over \$100 of proceeds for the chapter treasury.

Slightly further afield, the Montgomery Foundation of Miami continues to contribute seed for distribution, more Zombia, the Hispaneolan Royal (Roystonea borinquena), the unusual (and difficult to germinate) Pseudophoenix vinifera, as well as Coccothrinax crinita and two uncommon Copernicia spp, C. hospita and the clustering C. glabrescens. These donations likewise greatly benefitted the treasury.

Overseas contributors of the past few months include Dave Hopkins, Mark Wuschke, and Ian Edwards, all of Australia, and Shri Dhar in India. All donations are very much appreciated, but Mark's of Dypsis perrieri (some of which were also donated by Tom) and Masoala madagascariensis deserve special mention.

Several chapter members have called to learn how to be made aware of seed available. The best way by far is to subscribe to the IPS "Palms All" (see Inter Net Spotlite column) list server, as that is the medium by which the availability is made known. Unfortunately, seed, even when receipts are anticipated, is usually distributed prior to bulletin publication, and listing of species anticipated would be of little value. 

Central Florida so check it out when you're in Melbourne.

- Bernie Peterson, Cocoa

**Palm Review** 

## San Francisco...

### (Continued from page 1)

the Panama - Pacific Exposition in 1915. Strybing Arboretum



Figure 2: Chilean wine palms planted among Phoenix canariensis

within the park had a modest variety of cool weather palms including the following some of which we rarely see in Florida:

- 2 Ceroxylon quindiunense ~ 15 ft OA (Figure 3)
- 1 Ceroxylon hexandrum ~ 10 ft OA (Figure 4)
- 1 young Juania australis (Figure 5)

• several mature Chaemerops humilis and several struggling Archontophoenix cunninghamiana 'Illiwara'. These were not

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Palm Review



## By Mike Dahme

the IPS bookstore for \$7.00, plus shipping (\$2.00 domestic, 4.00 foreign).

In late July a three-way dialogue amongst two Australians, Mark Wuschke and Ian Edwards, and Frank Streeter of the US ensued on aspects of the genus Geonoma. Desirable attributes of this "little known genus of 75± species" (which MW compared favorably with Chamaedorea and Dypsis) include attractive, often undivided fronds, with a frequently reddish hue, and cold-tolerance. The three participatants seemed to concur that species of the genus are highly intolerant of drying conditions (all citing losses due to change in humidity or drought) and excessive sunlight, success stemming from shade (which MW felt promoted the reddish coloration), high humidity (but not high temperature) and careful attention to watering, to ensure that plants, whether in ground or containers, do not dry out. As regards the genus in Florida, Dent Smith regarded at least one species, G. schottiana, as suitable for all of Zone 9b, which includes his area in Daytona Beach and most all of central Florida (Principes 30:1, Jan. 1986). To appreciate how cold-hardy he deemed this particular species it requires explanation that the differentiated between palm species that he considered hardy enough for all of the zone and those that he recommended only for warmer sections of 9b; included in the latter, for example, was the Oueen Palm.

At the end of the month Toby Spanner advised of the formal naming of *Trachycarpus "sikkimensis"* (seed of which were previously distributed through the chapter's seed bank) in the Edinburgh Journal of Botany as *T. latisectus*. He further stated that an article on the species will appear in the January 1998 issue of *Principes*. He advised that it grows to elevations of 2400 meters, enduring snow and heavy frost.

Of interest to Florida growers, he also predicts (personal communication) that this species will succeed (where *T. fortunei* has not) in our conditions, adding that the species is closest to *T. martianus*. I would add that my experience has been total failure with about a dozen individuals (in three or four accessions) of *T. fortunei* while one plant received as seed of *T. wagnerianus* persists (though growing slowly), so perhaps there is hope for success with the new species in peninsular Florida.

On August 5 a question as to degree of difficulty in transplanting *Dypsis madagascariensis* was replied to by a Costa Rican, who said that held transplanted hundreds without difficulty.

The "IPSC", or "Palms All", email exchange is a service provided by the IPS free of charge to subscribers. To participate in this exchange, persons with access to a computer (home or work) need only send the one word message, "Subscribe" to:

### "ipscrequest@palms.org"

In late June announcements were made concerning two publications, a Broward County government brochure dealing with the planting and maintenance of palms, and the republication ( $2^{nd}$  edition) of *Palms for Southern California*. Gary Wood said that the booklet of 24 pages had been greatly expanded and now covers 249 species. It is currently available from incidence (C2 00 domestic 4 00 foreign)

## San Francisco...

(Continued from page 7)



Figure 3: Ceroxylon quindiunense ~ 15 ft OA at Strybing.

### happy palms.

Strybing Arboretum also had a modest variety of cycads in a variety of Mediterranean settings. The Ar-

(Continued on page 15)



Figure 4: Ceroxylon hexandrum ~ 10 ft OA

## Palms in Northern Virginia by Eric Schmidt

The last couple of years I have had the opportunity to experiment with growing palms in a climate much colder than Central Florida (at least in the winter!). My wife's parents live in Northern Virginia in Dale City which is about 25 miles south of Washington, D.C. This falls into Zone 7A on the USDA Climate Zone Map.

The first palms planted were Rhapidophyllum hystrix, Sabal minor, and Trachycarpus fortunei. These three were planted in June of 1995. The winter of 1995-1996 was a particularly cold one. Snow was a common sight and often covered the palms which were 2 to 3 feet in height. The coldest temperatures were around 0 to -5° F. No type of protection was given except a thick mulch of leaves fallen from the nearby hardwoods. When Spring came around, the Rhapidophyllum and the Trachycarpus were the casualties. The Sabal minor's fronds were heavily damaged but still partly green. It fully recovered during the Summer of 1996. In July of 1996, several more palm species were added including another Rhapidophyllum hystrix and Trachycarpus fortunei to replace the dead specimens. The following list details the palms planted in 1996 and how they fared through the Winter of 1996-1997. This past winter was less severe with the coldest temperatures in the 5 to 10° F range.

• Butia capitata (3') killed

· Chamaerops humilis (3') main trunk killed, suckers regrowing

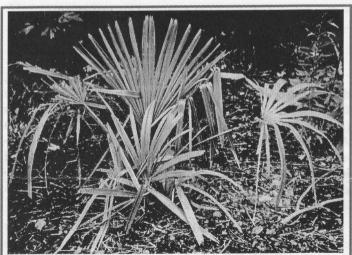


Figure 1: *Rapidophyllum hystrix* planted in July 1996, photo taken the following July. Needle palms were damaged but not completely defoliated.

- *Guihaia argylata* (1') totally defoliated, began to put out new growth but then died
- *Rhapidophyllum hystrix* (3') fronds were only partly damaged, healthily regrowing

(Continued on page 10)





*Boystonea vangeloerii* found at McKee Gardens in Vero Beach

(Bill Van Gelder's photo of his son Donny)

# ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS

Back issues of the Central Florida Palm Bulletin are available from the Treasurer. Starting with Vol. 9 No.1 Jan 1989 through Vol.

I6 No. 3 Oct. 1996, a complete
 set of these back issues are available for a brief time period. Send check (made out to
 CFPACS) to Ed Hall in the amount of \$30.00 (handling L)



shipping included) to 1111 Glen Garry Cir., Maitland, FL 32751. Reprints of all prior issues of the Central Florida Palm Bulletin starting with Vol 1 No. 1 April 1982 are available. Contact Ed Hall if interested.

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Palm Review

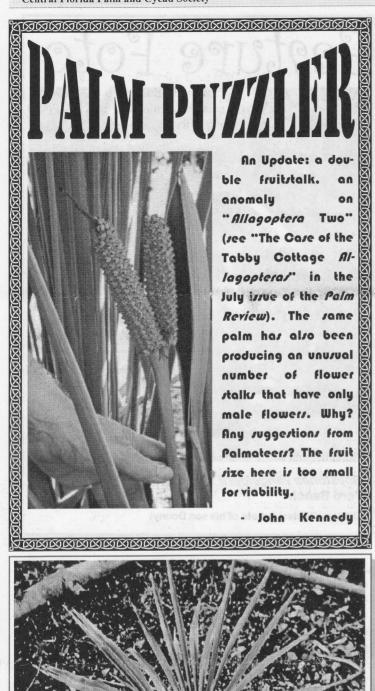


Figure 2: *T. fortunei* planted in July 1996, photo taken July 1997. Palm defoliated but regrowing

## Palms in Virginia...

### (Continued from page 9)

• Sabal minor (3 separate palms planted in a clump, each 2') defoliated but regrowing, these also survived the previous, more severe winter as noted above

• Serenoa repens (3', green form) three main stems killed but suckers regrowing

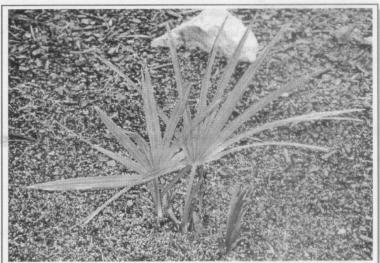


Figure 3: *S. minor* planted in June 1995, photo taken July 1997. 3 seperate palms in a cluster. Palms defoliated but regrowing as they did after the winter of 1995/1996.

- Trachycarpus fortunei (2') defoliated but regrowing
- Trachycarpus martianus (2') killed
- Trachycarpus takil (2') killed

A Nannorhops ritchiana awaits planting next summer. Also, these are some other palm species I am interested in trying in the future: Butia capitata (never give up!), Guihaia argyrata (another one to try again as I was told it took 14 degrees F. in Atlanta, Ga. with no damage), Jubaea chilensis, Phoenix canariensis, Sabal etonia, Sabal mexicana (northerly form found in Texas), Sabal palmetto, Sabal rosei, Sabal uresana, Trachycarpus wagnerianus (and the several new-to-cultivation species including T. Nanus), and Trithrinax campestris.

In addition to palms, I would like to try some of the hardier cycad species. A *Cycas revoluta* was planted this summer. Some other cycad species for future consideration include *Cycas taitungensis, Zamia pumila* (the native form), and possibly some of the species of *Encephalartos* and *Macrozamia* which come from cold winter locations.

Most of the palms and cycads being tried in Virginia, if they do survive, will probably never reach their mature heights, as they will most likely freeze down every few years (if not every year) and have to regrow from the roots. If they do survive or regrow, then it makes an interesting addition to the landscape where one does not expect to see palms and cycads.

### **Palm Review**

### Brazil Trip by Ed Brown

Part I (Part II to appear in a subsequent issue)

I had visited Brazil in 1991 just weeks before the South Africans made their well documented visits. Subsequently, I had talked with them and read their articles. This lit a "real fire" to return to this paradise. Therefore I had hoped to retrace my steps, see things I had missed and benefit from what the South Africans had recorded. I will refer this earlier trip to



through out this article. During this trip, we had visited 5 areas Chamaedoreas. I counted on... including Rio de Janeiro. Minias Gerais, the Pantanal, Iguazzu Foz, and Bolivia. This article will describe our visit during the first week of the 3 week trip.

Syagrus holds a lot of interest for me as the palms have delicate pinnate fronds in soft hues of green which capture "the wonder of the tropics" and yet can tolerate some cold. Most are absent from Florida and as for the "ones" in gardens one can never be sure of the identify. Seeing things in habitat provides so much insight and knowledge that can not be acquired from garden visits or speculation from afar. Thusly, having prevailed over the good judgement of 2 friends, Mike Dahme, Mark Fascher, and I were unsoberly flying to Rio for this adventure.

### **Rio de Janeiro:**

The first stop was Rio. Rio is a real happening place full of beautiful people. The first attempt was a 4 hour trek to Parati to see S. pseudococcus in habitat. The 10 hour night flight, no road signs and no sleep resulted in us getting completely lost and found ourselves (ironically) at the estate of Burle Marx. No luck was to be had with this irony as we were locked out. We next took in the botanical garden and some of the scenery. There is still a remnant of the East Coast rain forest with various plants to be seen and arboreal animals such as monkeys.

Rio is and was designed with the Palm lover in mind (no small thanks to Burle Marx). One sees broad avenues lined with the South American Royal palm Roystonea sp.. Massive Encephalartos (possibly, E. gratus or E. laureiiti) can be viewed in the Gloria has quite a few section.

Of extreme fascination and wonderment were the many royal palms. Many 100 feet and some over 150 feet tall. The tallest I had ever seen. These were the most royal of the royal palms and Plumose, membratruly deserved their moniker. They do not have lightning storms nous leaves and mul-

On balance, the garden is not completely developed. One can walk up a hill and still see an extant forest of Bactris tucum.

Rio is no longer the inflation-ridden boom to the traveler that it was in 1991. The higher prices forced us to gravitate to the Gloria neighborhood where reasonable hotels and flop houses can be found. It is also near Flameco Park (Figure 2). One can go to

this park (by the sea) and see a fantastic postcard view of the Sugar loaf, walk among the many planted Coryphas and walk along the side walk next to the sea and see expanses of Allagoptera arenarius. On a previous trip in November 1991 these were full of seeds. Then, I picked many and was unable to find one which had an endosperm, all the work of voracious insects. Flameco Park species of Syagrus including :

• S. flexuosa:

in South America so they survive to grow to such great heights. The garden is venerable and has thousands of palms and even a few cycads. You can look up to the mountains and see the Christo de Redentor looming out from the clouds of the rain forest.

Rio offers a world class botanical garden and a rain forest all within city limits. The botanical garden has a display rivaling FTG unfortunately, the gardens are in disrepair. One can walk among the myriad of palms and see Aiphanes canota, an imposing promenade of Roystonea oleracea (Figure 1) and a circle of some very tall Copernicia australis. Then one proceeds into the shaded respite full understory of so many unique and exotic feather palms. As I walked, I noted Pinanga, Polyandrococcus. Chambeyrona and scores of



Figure 2: Flameco Park: Mike Dahme ponders Syagrus comosa

## Brazil

(Continued from page 11) tiple trunks. It superficially resembles the Pygmy date palm but the leaves have a prettier green color.

• S. Botryphora per Noblick (The Palm Journal # 126). A very elegant palm with deeply recurved leaves which give it a highly ornamental appearance which it shares with S. psuedoccocus and S. sancona. It is differentiated from the other Bahian Syagrus by its very thick and deeply sulcated peduncular branch.

Figure 3: Diamintina Minas Gerais, Syagrus glaucescens

• S. comosa (Babao)

is a small palm 6-10 cm in trunk diameter and 4-5 feet tall but a few individuals get much taller. It has persistent leaf bases and travel a long ways to see trees. Fortunately palms are close to has very leathery coconut-like leaves which are closely spaced and deeply divided. It is specified by it's very tan, deeply sulcated peduncular branch (but more about this in the next article).

### • S. romanzoffium: and ...

• S. schizophylla "Arikitriroba". Single or multiple trunked, it has persistent leave bases and very round seeds that look like bright orange ping-pong balls. It is the only Syagrus that has armed petioles.

### The Tijuca Forest

After Flameco we visited the Tijuca Forest. The Tijuca Forest is a remnant of the original Atlantic Coast Rain Forest. We saw 5 species of palm: E. Edulis, S. romanzoffianum, S. pseudococcus (tentative), Astrocaryum and Geononia schotianna and one unknown species. There is an area by the water falls at the top of the mountain that has a grove of Euterpe edulis perhaps 20 meters tall. The lacy foliage forming a canopy in the humid mist of the rain forest is the hyperbole of transcendental pleasure for the palmophile (Palmophilia). Of interest was sporadic Syagrus growing as an undestory to the huge trees (Tabunuco?) in the forest. So large that at first glance I took them to be Arenga pinniata but there weren't. They had the true plumose effect of S. romanzoffianum. However, we were within the range of S. pseudococcus and this was the habitat rain forest growing soil found on gneissic rocks. S. pseudococcus is very closely related to S. romanzoffianum and hybridizes with it. It is differentiated from the Queen Belohorizonte. It is in a rocky, windy area with lots of outcrops of Palm by its very large female flowers and its very thick pedunciular branch Regrettably we were in advance of flowering and

could not conclusively identify this tree as S. pseudococcus.

On the exit to the park we saw a 70 foot tall S. romanzoffianum, the tallest I have ever seen. Evidently, the taller trees in the forest and the lack of lightning allow these palms to achieve a stature that is unachievable in Florida and other lightning-threatened areas. You are probably wondering why we went so far to see the Queen Palm and that's a good question. Seeing Queen palms is truly unique. We saw them over their entire range from North of Rio in Minais Gerais to the South of Brazil in Iguasu Foz and even in Paraguai. They have an expansive range certainly larger than Sabal palmetto or S. mexicana. You see depauperate spindly representatives in the dry cerrados of the north to acualescent monsters we saw in the Tijuca Rain Forest to awesome giants in the pampas in Paraquai.

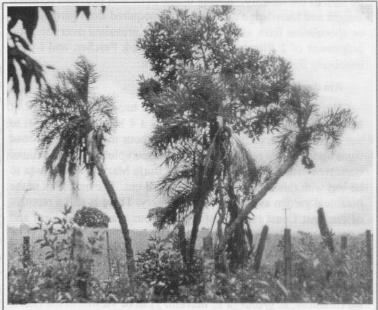
### **Diamintina:**

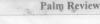
After Rio, we proceed to Minais Gerais which is in the mountains and about 200 km north west of Rio. We went here to retrace my steps of '91 and visit the Scro de Cipo. On the surface this does not look like a good place for palms but it is the locus of distribution for Syagrus. 9 species are found in the vicinity of this state. It is cut over

and in pastures or abandoned pastures so you have to everyone's heart and these are protected by mankind and even encouraged on pasture lands. We set off from the airport in Pampullia and headed north to Sero. This area is frost-free but

Figure 4: Datas Minas Gerais, Syagrus flexuosa

temperate and very dry. Scro is about a hundred miles from





### (Continued from page 12)

quartzite. The soil is very bright orange indicating a volcanic origin and its high in minerals. One sees quite a diversity of plants including an indigenous tree fern Cvathea sp., yuccas/petite Joshua trees. Monkey Puzzle trees (Araucaria imbricata?), several

species of Tilandsia, other bromeliads and very colorful wild flowers. In the rocky reliefs, one finds S. duarti, S. pleiocada and further north S. glaucesens.

These diminutive species of Syagrus, S. duartei and S. glaucescens look superficially alike and both have very stiff, upright foliage and broad leaflets. S. duartei can achieve a height of several feet and we saw some large ones (2-3 feet) but typically it is acaulescent growing out of rocky outcrops. We saw them in very rocky harsh terrain which was unsuitable for agriculture. The seeds roll down and lodge in crevices and grow undisturbed until they put forth from the rocks. Here, food is scarce and predation high so this survival technique works. The area is rocky and cattle can not eat their foliage in the rocky places.

• S. pleiocada: This is an interesting species with a small bottle-shaped trunk and very plumose, deeply spaced leaves. It is typically less than a foot of trunk but we saw one or two venerable specimens with a meter or more of trunk. It's gray-blue foliage and deeply divided

Palm (Pseudophoenix sargentii), which adds to its charm.

Allagoptera campestris: We saw these along the roads growing in proximity to S. duartei and S. pleiocada. It was very interesting to see three species of cocozoid palms with identical forms and function (presumably) growing within one hundred feet of each other. I have speculated why 3 species would evolve in such close proximity (why would not one out compete the other 2) and I figure it is the ecotones provided by the rocks. This favors S. duartei. S. pleicoada grows around the outcrops but usually not in them. We saw A. campestris growing farther out in places it grew it was eaten on by cattle.

• S. glaucescens: Talk about S. romanzoffianum, this appears identical to S. duartei but forms trunks and gets taller. It is found outside the Sero de Cipo Park and is further differentiated by the 5 ranked leaflets (similar to a diminutive S. coronata, though some in that it has a single eophyll and the others are normally bifid. individuals have 3). The fruit of S. duarei is globose and S. glaticescens is almost conical. Alas many characteristics overlap including the number of fruiting branches. S. duartei has 5-8 and S. glaticescens ranges 8-17.

Of noteworthy mention is the minute differences between S. duartei and S. glaticescens. These are as follows:

a) S. glaucescnes fruit is globulose and S. duartei is slightly conical

b) There is a difference in trunk size, however these overlap hence a small S. glaucescens would be identical to a large aberrant Peterson, Bernard (1988) Central Florida Palm Society Bulletin upright S. duartei.

c) S. duartei has fewer fruiting branches, 5-8 as opposed the 8-17 of S. glaucescens.

The only conclusive difference is the habitat range. S. duartei is endemic to Sero de Cipo and S. glaucescens ranges north to Diamintina. The distance is less than 40 miles.

This makes me question why these two species are segregated



Figure 5: A spectacular hillside of Acrocomia intumescens

weeping leaves give it a superficial resemblance to the Buccaneer but the genera Acrocomia is combined. Especially when we consider the species Acrocomia aculeata, which has a range exceeding the continental U.S. (probably more), is lumped into a single species. Just from the many times I drove in Brazil I observed at least 2 forms. A larger form and a consistently smaller form. The smaller form had a trunk about 4-6 inches and was never taller than perhaps 20 feet. The larger form was 12" or more of trunk and a tree of 50 feet or more. Even the shorter ones had a large trunk at 10 feet. I noticed the smaller form was consistently in the Southern Portion of the range (Pantanal, Bolivia and Paraguai). The larger form I saw in Minais Gerais. Similarly, larger ones are seen in Mexico and Puerto Rico. Henderson's book differentiates 2 species: an acualescent form and an arborescent form but classifies all of them as A. aculeata presumably on floral characteristics but does not elaborate. Bernie Peterson (CFS 1988) notes a difference in the Florida A. totai form (the smaller) We did not find a singular eophyll in our travels. One thing this trip has done has made me question the consolidation of many species of Acrocomia into a single and yet the pronounced speciation for a second genera.

### **References:**

13

Noblick, Larry (1996) Syagrus. The Palm Journal #126.

Henderson, Andrew. Palms of the Americas

Fischer, et al., In Search of Syagrus. The Palm Enthusiast



October

5th: THIS SUNDAY!!! CFPACS meeting at Leu Gardens in Orlando featuring a plant auction and speaker Larry Noblick from the Montgomery Foundation - details below.

### November

9th: Meeting at Barb and Doug Keene's home



with an afternoon BBQ - see details at right.

### 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 ...

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*.

Black Sunday, November 9, 1997 CFPACS Meeting Doug & Barb Keene's Florassic(k) Park, DeadLand, FL

\*\*\*\*\*

This will probably be the only written notification you receive for this meeting, so pay attention! The meeting will start at 9:30 and will feature a noon time Bar-B-Que (cost will be ~\$10 per person) and plant sale. Please bring lawn chairs. Any questions? Call Doug Keene at 904-736-1211

From I-4:Exit 56, Hwy 44 - DeLand (There are THREE DeLand exits). Go WEST to Kepler Road (Handy Way). Turn RIGHT and go 3 miles to Route 92 (International Speedway Blvd). Turn LEFT at light and go four miles to intersection of 17-92 (Taco Bell) Turn RIGHT and get into LEFT lane. 1/2 mile turn LEFT onto Mercers Fernery Road (Sun State Auto Leasing on corner) Next intersection turn RIGHT on N.Clara Ave. Fourth house down (1790) All houses are on the left side of the road. Plenty of parking on right side.

 IF YOU WANT TO DRIVE THROUGH OUR AWARD-WINNING DOWNTOWN (DeLand won BEST MAINSTREET AWARD, 1997) take EXIT 54 to 17-92 NORTH 6 miles to Mercers Fernery Road, turn LEFT and then RIGHT on N Clara ave to 1790.

**FROM I-95**: Exit HWY 92 -WEST to DeLand Pick up directions above from Taco Bell.

**FROM 17-92:** NORTH Take 17-92 north through DeLand and pick up directions above from the intersection of 17-92 and 92.

FROM 17: SOUTH When you see Ardmore Farms Citrus plant in north DeLand (on EAST side of HWY 17) slow down and turn RIGHT at the next intersection (Mercers Fernery Road.). Take next right on N. Clara Ave. Fourth house on your left. Please park on EAST side of road.

FROM FARGO, ND: See Mike Dahme

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

## Summer Meeting .....



Figure 2. Barklie, a juvenile emu, is just one of many birds that visitors to "The Droppings" were able to enjoy. Of course, many beautiful palms were also enjoyed by all.

well-drained soil for CFPACS member. the cycad plantings, as

(Continued from page 1)

seemingly infinite collection of potted palms and cycads which he routinely makes available at the CFPACS meeting sales. Jerry is very amiable with visitors to his garden, and if you missed this \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* meeting, it would be certainly worthwhile to arrange with him to stop by.

A quick drive south to Grant led the group to the garden known as "The Droppings" or "Borassic Park". It has also been (Continued from page 8) referred to as the garden in Brevard Co. with the largest Coperni- boretum is well worth a visit if you are in the area. cia macroglossa (nearly 4" of clear trunk) and the largest



Figure 3: View across a pond at Dahme's home.

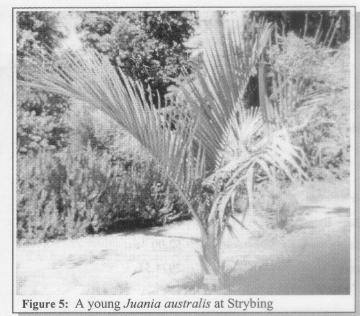
Jubaeopsis caffra. Upon entering the driveway of this garden, one discovers themselves under a parachute tent for shade and not far away was the large cooker that the lunch was prepared on (See Figure 1). A truly nominal fee of \$5 for the excellent lunch, with lager generously provided by Mike, and no CFPACS subsidy certainly made this meeting one of the most successful ones for the chapter.

The scent of deliciously prepared chicken filled the air as visitors toured the garden and inspected the plants offered for sale by fellow CFPACS members. In addition to inspecting plants, visitors became aware of how Mike's garden became known as been planting palms "The Droppings". Birds. Yes, all kinds of birds both roaming and and cycads for about 7 penned are also members of the garden. An emu, by the name of years. In this garden, "Barklie" (See Figure 2), considers himself a good candidate for Jerry has resorted to the revenue committee chair, and a cinch to win on good looks using raised beds of alone especially if his opposition is the likes of a certain Deland

Mike has been planting palms on the 8-acre plot for he has found this tech- about 15 years, and still has plenty of room to plant more. This nique to be useful for becomes more believable when one examines his planting techmaintaining cycads on niques with ultimately large palms (Bismarckia, Borassus, and his native soil. Upon Arenga pinnata) on close centers. Like many of us, Mike likes the entering Jerry's back- "jungle effect". Unlike many of the gardens in our society, Mike's vard, one is awed by is one where you won't see one or two specimens of a particular the clean and orga- species of palm, rather 20 or 30 (hence the name "Borassic nized plant nursery he Park"). In addition to palms, it was pointed out by CFPACS maintains. Nothing is president Tom Broome that there were also number of cycads on ever lost, and Jerry the premises, surprising many of the guests. Perhaps a "closet" knows exactly where cycad lover is among us? Like the Hooper's garden, Mike's is one everything is in this to get to see if you missed the meeting.

San Francisco .....

Two areas of the city were greatly improved with the planting of numerous mature Phoenix canariensis. These are upper Market Street between Church St. and Castro St. and several sections along the Embarcadero between Fishermen's Wharf and the Ferry Building.



## Notes From the Officers...

the plants they are looking for? This could be a form of advertising or a service. Would this be something that the people would want? Please let me know what you think of these suggestions.

On the same subject, the U.S.F. sale will be October 11-12. See page 4 for details. Our next meeting will be at Leu Gardens in Orlando. We will have a speaker, tour of the garden, and our second annual plant auction. This should be a very enjoyable meeting, and I hope to see everyone there.

### Secretary — Nancy Hall

### AUGUST 3, 1997 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began at 9:05AM at the home of Jerry and Maryann Hooper. Present were Tom Broome, Mike Dahme, Jerry Hooper, Edgar Hall, Dave Witt, Ed Hall and Neil Yorio.

Minutes of the previous meeting regarding donations of \$100.00 or more was modified to include anyone in the organization. This includes plants or seeds donated by any person. The free *Palm Review* subscription will be provided upon request by the donator.

Motion made by Mike Dahme and seconded by Jerry Hooper to approve Dave Witt's plans for fall meeting. Motion approved.

Motion made by Ed Hall and seconded by Tom Broome to donate \$100.00 to The Montgomery Foundation. Motion approved.

The treasurer was directed to purchase a seal rubber stamp.

Meeting adjourned 9:55 AM.

Respectively Submitted, Ed Hall for Nancy Hall, Secretary.

### **Treasurer - Ed Hall**

Treasurer's Report

(as of 7/31/97)

Major Income (YTD)	1
Seeds Sales	1498.61
Membership	<u>133.00</u>
	1631.61
Major Expenses (YTD	2
Newsletter	1514.55
Bank Balance	2922.51
Cash	52.00
total	2974.51

## Our Chapter Officers and How to Reach Them:

President:

Tom Broome 9128 Golden Gate Blvd. Polk City, FL. 33868 (941) 984-2739

**East Vice President:** 

Jerry Hooper 2360 Vermont St. West Melbourne, FL 32904 (407) 676-3458

**Central Vice President:** 

David Witt 7026 Burnway Dr. Orlando, FL 32819 (407) 352-4115 palmhead@msn.com

### West Vice President:

Edgar Hall (352) 596-2914

**Immediate Past President:** 

Mike Dahme P.O. Box 89 Grant, FL 32949 (407) 724-8417 palmyra@palmnet.net

**Palm Review Editor:** 

Elizabeth Stryjewski editor@cfpacs.palms.org

Membership Chairman:

John Stryjewski 5155 Wildwood Ave. Merritt Island, FL 32953 (407) 453-1303 membership@cfpacs.palms.org

Revenue Committee Chair: Position Vacant!

Treasurer:

Secretary:

Ed Hall

Nancy Hall 1111 Glen Garry Circle Maitland, FL 32715 (407) 647-2039

Only 2 medium CFPACS T-Shirts remain. Closeout price is \$13.00 plus \$3.00 postage. Please send your check (made payable to CFPACS) To Ed all, 1111 Glen Garry Cir., Maitland, FL 32751.

### Palm Review

What is the The C palm Palm Why Join t O Learr O Meet O You c O Help j How do I joi O Fill or How do I joi	e Central Florid EFPACS is dedice s and cycads. W Society which he Central Flor a how to grow exc interesting people an get this journ promote somethis n the Central F ut the CFPACS n the Internati	ial! 1g great — the greening of o lorida Palm Society?	promotion of cernational egion. ty? our cities	Central Florid Palm and Cyca Society	
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membership dues for paying by internationa (3 yrs total (name) (street address) (city, state or provir	non-USA destinations i be added to your subs mail, but slower than D ccepted on a calendar ye up to three years (at the back draft in US dollar	or an extra fee of US\$20 per year. Please cription charges. [Note that the "airlift" de irect Airmail.] ar basis. New members' dues received a ates specified above). This would protect s. MasterCard and Visa payments are al: s must be in US\$ payable on US bank. Ci	indicate by a check he livery to most non-USA fter October 1 will be a you from any dues incre so accepted. Please in redit card orders my be (telephone) (fax)(e-mail address	re [ ] if you wish this optional service for faster delivery to addresses is included in dues and is faster than surface opplied toward the following year unless otherwise specific ase in 1998 or 1999 – but is offered primarily as a conver dicate here if you wish to sign up for additional years:	ed.You may also pre-pay
Amount paid Circle one: chec	(US\$		Card Number _ Card Holder's S	Expiration date/	_



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Michael Merritt P.O. Box 160152 Altamont Springs, FL 32716

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**Elections?** 

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