

(Continued from page 17)

culprit here, it is a disease of plants grown in crowded wet conditions. Often plants that are under stress from drought, excessive salts in their soil, or any of a number of other factors will have a few fungal leaf spots of one kind or another, but they are not the primary cause of the plants' decline, they are symptoms.

The spots in the spear leaf indicate to me that the plant may not be actively putting out new leaves, i.e., not growing. This is not a natural state for a palm to be in. Try marking a line across the spear leaf and the bases of the leaves surrounding it to see if there is any movement over the next few weeks; it should grow even though the weather is cooling. If it doesn't move at all, then I would think it may be a goner, but it won't hurt to give it a chance, anyway.

As far as what to do, all I can offer is general advice. Water a lot and keep it up, unless you live in a wamp and they are already flooded. Your mention of their stress during the drought this past spring leads me to guess that lack of water may be part of the problem. For the *Phoenixes* it is best if the water is applied to the soil and roots, not the leaves. It is important to prune

the Canary dates at this time of year, especially any leaves that have the raised warty structures that indicate the presence of False-smut, remove such leaves from the area.

If you are sure that you have been watering enough (a lot), then look at your fertilizer label. It should have all of the micronutrients, and preferably, in my opinion, in the form of sulfates rather than oxides or sucates. Encapsulated fertilizers are especially useful, (see last issue), but others may be useful if applied more frequently.

I hope this helps, and good luck with these sick palms. Bernie

Hi, Bernie,
I was wondering if the differences in various mule palms around Central Florida could be attributed to some having *Syagrus* for a "mom" and some having *Butia* for a "mom." In your experience, does it make a difference which palm is the F or which is the M and, if so, have you been able to link any leaf variations, etc., to this?

Thanks for the question, Dave. I think there are a lot of misconceptions about Mule Palms and a lot that remains to be learned.

I think that most of the differences in Mule Palms can be attributed to the variability of the two parent species; both Queen Palms and *Butias* are quite variable in appearance and, in the case

(Continued on page 19)

Palm Review

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Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

December, 1998

Thai Palm Paradise Found: Biennial at Nong Nooch

By Mike Dahme

When in doubt, start at the beginning. For Floridians, in the case of the '98 IPS Biennial, this involved a transfer of a dozen time zones via flights that lasted 24 hours. For many, the effects of the travel—in a frigid airliner—were not easily overcome, but were momentarily forgotten (in my case) on pre-dawn arrival at Bangkok's Don Muang Airport where I, and the other delegates, were greeted by representatives of the host, Nong Nooch Tropical Garden, holding aloft a placard. We were quickly whisked off to the first hotel and an early breakfast.

The events of those early days now seem as a blur, but included "general tourist" activities, such as open-air market shopping, riverboat tours, looking at too many wats (Buddhist temples), and at private gardens. In addition, I met many other attendees—188, in all.

That we had moved more than time zones quickly became apparent when *Nypa* was observed frequently on the river tour. It was also thriving in cultivation in a fresh water pond at a Bangkok garden, so evidently salt water/tidal action is not a requirement in growing this species (no more than a flooded habitat is for the South American *Mauritia flexuosa*)

Cyrtostachys renda, *Areca catechu*, and "Joeys" (*Johannesteijsmannia altifrons*) were so common in Bangkok, and later in South Thailand, that one scarcely bothered to notice them after a few days

In addition to the tours in Bangkok, the first of the nine talks during the week was given, most with slideshows. Many of these, interesting as they were,

(Continued on page 2)

December meeting: See pages 3 & 6



At Nong Nooch, the IPS visitors were rounded up for a group photo. The tall palms in the background are *Livistona speciosa*. Below, Kampon Tansacha, visionary and founder of Nong Nooch, talks to Lou Thomas of CFPACS and



Remember. . . . Send CFPACS
a Christmas Present: Your
Membership! For the 1999 calendar year, send a check for \$10 to Membership Chair, 7026 Burnway Drive, Orlando, FL 32819.

Biennial

(Continued from front page)

were greeted by a less than completely attentive audience. During one mid-day event I counted four of the eight at our circular table in the "nodded-off" mode and might myself have made it a solid majority had I not noticed amused cartoonist Geoff Stein sketching away.

The final address, by Dr. Lim Chong Keat, was, perhaps, the most well-received of them all (and not just for its coming last). This citizen of Malaysia was introduced by John Dransfield as a doctor, a lawyer, and an architect (once owner of a large firm in Penang). Among these other pursuits he taken it upon himself about ten years ago to become familiar with the flora of his country.

During the course of his explorations of the countryside and of herbaria, he began to notice discrepancies in earlier botanical descriptions and, failing to gain sufficient attention from leading authorities (at this point in his address, Dr. Keat paused and looked in the direction of Dr. Dransfield), he decided to become a botanist himself. The extent to which he has succeeded may be seen in his article in the April, '98 issue of *Principes*.

Leaving Bangkok on the morning of the third day, the group proceeded convoy-style in six modern, comfortable buses—preceded by a police escort that kept us flying through traffic signals—about 150 kilometers east to Khao Yai, the original park in Thailand's now extensive national park system. The contrast between the serenity of this place with its slightly antiquated hotel and the traffic disaster that is Bangkok (where every major intersection seemed under prolonged major reconstruction) could not have been greater. **So nice** was the contrast that spirits were not dampened by a downpour that put a quick end to a group hike on a park trail.

(Continued on page 3)



Nypa seen on canal bank in Bangkok. Was the water saltwater, brackish, or fresh? Perhaps not easily determinable.

REMEMBER to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!

Cyrtostachys renda growing happily lakeside in Sanford. Mistake: growing like a weed canalside in Bangkok. Central Floridians were impressed by just about everything at the Biennial and—maybe—just a little wistful.



Biennial: The Saga Continues

(Continued from page 2)

An end which did not come quickly enough, however, to spare CF-PSer Ed Carlson from being crowned "Leech King"; a total of 16 were removed, many from his neck, by an Australian with "experience," using the contents of a salt shaker. It transpired that Ed had been in the forefront of the line, or second. Afterwards, there was an obvious willingness by others to "follow Ed" on future hikes. **The time** at Khao Yai was all too brief. Sadly, we returned to the buses the following morning for the 6-hour ride to Pattaya, on the Gulf of Thailand, and a luxury hotel, the Montien, which served as the base for the next three days' visits to Nong Nooch Tropical Garden..

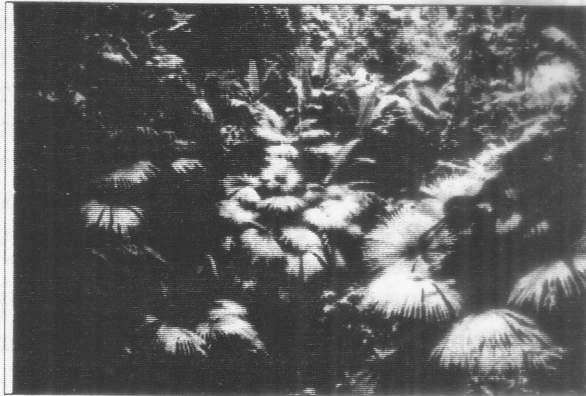
As I will close these remarks with an excerpt by another attendee, more capable of superlative, I won't carry on to exceptional length about the merits of the place to the palm-

the place to the palm-oriented. The garden also has a "few" cycads, as well as uncountable other flora genera: it is a destination of world-wide importance for those with interests in orchids, ferns, bromeliads, heliconias, gingers, cacti and succulents, and Thai native plants. The garden has about 500 acres and about half of the 800 employees tend to plants.

The budget appears to be unlimited; a palm paradise has been created, heavily subsidized, no doubt, by Kampon's many profitable endeavors. He has not been content to set out two or three of a species, no matter how rare, but 10, 20, 40 individuals are more likely. I have no doubt that, whether in acreage or in number of species, Nong Nooch will exceed any other palm garden in the world. **All this** has been done in 15 years. Ultimately, Kampon—who is now only 53—will add even more species than are there right now. Many extremely rare species,

December Meeting!!!

Saturday, December 12, 10:00 a.m. Come to the quarterly meeting in the Melbourne area. Visit four gardens before Plant Sale. Lunch on your own at local fast fooderies. Details on page 6. Questions? Contact Neil Yorio (407)779-4347 or e-mail neil.yorio-1@ksc.nasa.gov



Kerriodoxa elegans at Ton Sai: the black-&-white picture does not do justice to the original color photo of brilliant, shiny green fans emergent from a lush, dark cleft

An apology is in order to Doug Keene of DeLand. After hounding him about an account of a summer visit of chapter members to the Moodys' palm paradise in West Palm, your editor has misplaced (i.e., lost) the story. Sorry, Doug. . . (See Norm Moody's account of a trip on the Amazon beginning on page 12)

Zamia—genus name based on Greek word "azaniae," referring to pine cones. —David Jones, *Cycads of the World*

Wanted: Small male specimen of *Phoenix dactylifera* and of *Cycas circinalis*. Merrill Wilcox, 2911 NW 30th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32605 (352) 376-1174; e-mail Mow@ufl.edu

Biennial. . .

(Continued from page 3) likely found nowhere but in what remains of the “wild” or in a few private collections, already exist in Nong Nooch’s extensive greenhouses. These were opened for viewing for the first time during our visit and are carefully tended by a motivated staff.

The days at Nong Nooch wound up the Biennial. Did I forget to mention the lavish entertainment, ceremonies, and cuisine? All visitors who had n’t expired from overconsumption or the pampering (there was even a medical professional on hand to tend to sore toes or the odd cardiac arrest), returned to the capital for flights home, or to the post-Biennial, in the extreme south of Thailand, on the border with Malaysia.

About 100 of the delegates came along for the second week which was a bit more physical. The pampering continued (I think I could get used to that.) Highlights of the two days based in

the border town of Sungai Kolok were the tours of the nearby peat swamp of Proh Toh Deany and the mountainous border park of Hala-bala. We were escorted to Hala-bala by several dozen Thai military armed with M-16s. Various theories were floated about the need for all the armament:: to protect us from the four known tigers currently living in the park or just from “poachers.” Or maybe to keeping hiking visitors from palming seeds?

Another very interesting part of this stay was exploring the street market that surrounded the hotel on three sides. It was in this market, which was really a string of markets, each type of product having its own area, that John and Faith Bishock encountered a lady selling fresh fruit of *Eleiodoxa conferta*. (The Bishocks made a generous donation of this seed for distribution by the chapter.) Another palm seed available via market fruit was *Salacca wallichiana*.



Above, the greenhouses at Nong Nooch were opened for the visitors’ delight. Their size and extent were impressive. Right, an example of group planting: the golden crownshaft form of *Adonidia merrillii*. (Yes, that’s right, see Scott Zona for details.) This grove of palms is part of a newly-created area at Nong Nooch where similar mass plantings are usual and impressive to those not used to such plenitude



I can only hope that the mesocarp of the *Salacca*, which makes a refreshing drink, tastes less bitter than the *Eleiodoxa*, a species of the peat swamp.

From the border, the group flew north a bit to the island airport at the north of Phu Ket for the finale of the post tour. Definitely not saving the best for last, our buses stopped en route to the hotel at the south end of the 60-kilometer long island at the Ton Sai Waterfalls (another of

the Thai parks, for a muddy hike to the habitat of the indescribably beautiful *Kerriodoxa elegans*. (See photo) Leonel Mera, leader of last August’s rugged week-long tour of the Dominican Republic was observed, with other, ascending by jeep.

The following day’s tour of the grounds of the Phang-nga Agricultural College was even more exciting. But the sight of so many of these plants—which have
(Continued on page 6)

Nong Nooch as a Deep and Personal Experience. . . .

After all business was duly conducted and dealt with, the [chapter] President invited yours truly, spouse Percy, and finally himself to give a short talk on our impressions of the International Biennial Conference in Thailand. This is a topic that is difficult to cover in a few short moments, as it was more than a little overwhelming. I'm not exactly how to analyse my feelings on the overall experiences of the trip, and can only hope I managed to express a little of how the whole conference affected me personally. We were all looking for different things, as individuals, and I am sure we got a great deal more than we bargained for. In saying that I was overwhelmed is an understatement, for this word means to be overcome completely in mind and feeling, and this is what the beauty of Nong Nooch Village did to me. As we approached the village the Guide on our Bus was telling us the history of how Kampon, the owner, had begun to fulfill his dream, but he was drowned out by the audible and long drawn-out sighs of appreciation. As we all looked out the windows of the vehicle, I felt the old familiar feeling in my solar plexus, the lump rise in my throat, and tears of utter joy fill my eyes. The beauty of how this man has taken God's creations and moulded them into such a vast and di-

verse whole is truly a sight no mere words can even begin to express. It never ceases to amaze me, though, that when I am witness to something beautiful, I always want to be able to share it with others, and I was seeing these sights for the first time as though my eyes were the eyes of another. This person knows this, as I have already shared it. All I could think of was to thank God, that I have not been stricken blind, as the memories of this trip will remain with me forever.

When I say this, I am sure Percy and Keith share my sentiments, and one other person who attended from Australia said "I wouldn't have missed it for quids." Now only an Aussie could say that, but the Americans both North and South certainly felt the same, I'm sure. Each of us showed appreciation in a variety of ways, but it still seems to me inadequate. The music, the smiles, the fun and laughter, the camaraderie we shared are all part of it too, and will never be forgotten, as we all said—the hospitality and generosity is a hard act to follow, especially since the Post Biennial Tour will be in North Queensland in the year 2000.

—Val Simonsen

Mackey Chapter

Queensland, Australia

Come to Satellite/Indian Harbour Beach for Dec. 12 Meeting and Plant Sale.

By Neil Yorio

The 4th quarter CFPACS regular meeting and BIG PLANT SALE is on Saturday, December 12th and will be in Brevard County. We have four great garden stops for the day, but don't fret, they are all delightfully small gardens within a mile or so of each other. **The first** garden tour will start at 10 a.m. and will be at the residence of Charlene and Greg Palm which can be visited concurrently with the garden of Gary Houck, host of the second garden stop. These two gardens are almost directly across the street from each other.

Here is how to get there: From I-95 in Brevard County, take exit 72 (SR 518, Eau Gallie Blvd.) east all the way to A1A (about 7 miles from I-95). Turn left (north) on A1A and after passing three red lights, be looking on your left for Ocean Spray Ave. The Palms' address is 220 and the Houcks' address is 125 Ocean Spray. Park on the street between these two residences and feel free to wander between the two gardens until 11:30 a.m.

Lunch is on your own, and there are several of the usual "burn and turn" places to choose from back on SR 518. Two other recommended places are Dos Amigos Mexican Restaurant and Double's Hoagies, in nearby Indian Harbour Beach. To get there from Ocean Spray Ave., get back on A1A and go south (right turn), and turn right at the second red light (Pinetree Drive). Dos Amigos is in the shopping center complex on the south corner of Pinetree and A1A. The restaurant is facing A1A. To get to Double's Hoagies, continue on Pinetree Drive to the first stop sign. This is a 5-way intersection, and you will want to continue straight through the intersection. The road changes names to Banana River Drive. Go past another stop sign
(Continued on page 7)

Chamaedoreas Outside? In Central Florida? Yes!

By Dave Besst

So you've been to southern California and seen their remarkable gardens filled with one of the most rewarding of the smaller palm genera. They are grown in masses under larger palms, and create a tropical effect that is both beautiful and striking. Can we even begin to think about doing something similar here in Central Florida? Yes, we can.

The number of larger palms that we could use for shade doesn't include their exotic crownshaft palms like the *Archontophoenix* and *Rhopalostylis* except in a very few protected locations. But a majestic spreading oak tree can serve the same purpose with a special southern flair, especially when draped in Spanish moss. Whatever you choose to provide a reasonable amount of shade is up to you, and your reward will be a happily growing collection of small palms that will fill up that bare space with both beauty and color.

Most Chamaedoreas are native to Mexico and Central America, with both Guatemala and Costa Rica having a large number of species. The genus has populations all the way down across the isthmus of Panama and extends into northern South America. Their habitat ranges from sea level to high mountain cloud forests with climatic conditions varying from pure tropical rain forest to semi-arid and near-temperate regions. In almost every case, they grow as forest floor plants under the shade of larger species. In many cases, they seem to prefer to put their roots down into a neutral or limestone soil, even though the surface soils consist mostly of leaf litter. They also like well-drained situations and if we confine their root systems in a pot, care must be observed in not over-watering.

But, getting back to the original question,

(Continued on page 7)

Chams in Central Florida

(Continued from page 6)

But, getting back to the original question, you may ask are there similarities in the conditions that are typical of California to those in Central Florida. For the most part, they are not. Coastal southern California has what is called a Mediterranean climate which differs considerably from our climate which is variously called "humid sub-tropical or humid temperate." Can we just take from what they have learned and apply this to our situation? I think we can compare the growing conditions that are characteristic of the two areas and come up with an understanding of what part of their experience applies to us.

1—Their climate is a much more gentle one than Central Florida's. Their winter is mostly cool and they receive the bulk of their annual rainfall at the same time. Max temperature high-to-low differences are generally much smaller than those we experience in Central Florida. Our range during a blowing norther can exceed 50 to 60 degrees F. (a high of 70) followed by a low of 23-25 degrees is not uncommon in the center of the state). The range of daily temperatures in coastal California could reach 30 degrees F. during a freeze, and in many cases would be associated with a calm wind and accompanying radiation frosts. In many cases, plants with adequate tree cover or nearby buildings could provide adequate protection to the palms below. When the same conditions occur in Central Florida, the results are usually the same. Under these conditions, many of the Chamaedorea species would survive with minimum, or no, damage. The actual leaf temperatures determine the extent of damage, and the short nature of most Chamaedoreas puts them close enough to the soil to benefit from the heat from that source, too. Not so in the middle of Central Florida when the cold wind

(Continued on page 8)

December Meeting

(Continued from page 6)

(there will be a fire station on your left) and at the red light (SR 513), take a right and Double's is immediately on the right just behind the 7-11 convenience store.

The garden tour will resume at 1:00 p.m. at the residence of Jim and Maria Parkhurst. From Pinetree Drive (see directions above), go south on Palm Springs Blvd., which would be the first left turn off Pinetree, if you are coming from A1A. Turn right on Ronnie Street and then take the next right on Biscayne Drive. Turn left on Coronado Way, and the "Parkhursts" is on the corner of Coronado Way Alhambra Street.

The final stop of the day will be at the residence of Neil and Karen Yorio, beginning around 2:00 p.m. From the Parkhursts', get back on Pinetree and take a left (west). At the second stop sign (there will be a fire station on your left), take a right on Wimico Drive. The address is 211 Wimico, and will be at the second stop sign on the right.

The BIG PLANT SALE will be held at the Yorios' residence. At least four plant vendors will be there with many species of palms, cycads, and other plants to choose from. This is the perfect opportunity to pick up something in a container that you can hold till early spring for planting out at the beginning of the growing season. If anyone has a plant or two to bring out for the sale, please feel free to do so. A note to plant vendors: You may drop off plants before 10 a.m. at the Yorios' so that they don't have to sit in your vehicles until the afternoon sale. For further information on the BIG PLANT SALE, please contact Neil Yorio at (407) 779-4347.

Chams in Central Florida

(Continued from page 7)

carries away every bit of heat in the leaves and trunks.

2—Their soils for the most part are much heavier than the sandy (soils?) that we have here in Central Florida. Although most Californians need to irrigate at almost every season of the year except for the winter, the soil is very retentive of the water and provides an adequate and stable level of moisture. In so doing, it provides the palms with an ideal carrier of nutrients without the wild leaching that occurs in Florida's summer rains and torrential thunderstorms throughout the year. An important aspect of the California soil heaviness is that it inhibits the development of root nematodes. The excessively drained sands of Florida provide the ideal environment for the large scale proliferation of nematodes in the soil, given a receptive host plant. And, to *Chamaedorea* lovers throughout the world, their favorite palm genus is mostly susceptible to the little critters in a big way. Some compensation for the poor soils in Florida can be had by incorporating large amounts of organic materials amended with sufficient dolomite to make it more moisture retentive and reduce the natural acidity of our sands. It also helps some in controlling the nematode problem.

If you have stayed with me this long, I apologize for the ramblings on climate and soil, but I really want you to experience the pleasure of growing these great little plants in, as one of my old friends from Ft. Lauderdale once told me "what are you doing living in the frozen wastelands of Orlando, Florida?" There are two species of *Chamaedorea* that will survive the worst of everything that Central Florida can throw at them with respect to soils and climate. They are the following:

1—*Chamaedorea microspadix*. This is absolutely the very best of the little giants of the palm world. It has withstood all of the freezes of the 80's here in Orlando with minimum

(some leaf damage when the temperature went to 16 degrees F. and stayed there for over 12 hours). It is the only known species to absolutely turn up its nose at nematodes. (Dent Smith tried almost every known species of *Chamaedorea* at his riverfront beach-sand barrier island in Daytona Beach and managed to kill every one except *microspadix*.) He liked the genus so much that he regularly went out to buy replacements for those that succumbed. See a back issue of *Principes* for the article about the data obtained in New Orleans during, and after the great freeze of 1989 regarding the hardiness of *C. microspadix*.

2—*Chamaedorea radicalis*. This striking, almost trunkless palm wins the number two spot in the contest for a suitable understory palm for Central Florida. Its hardiness to minimum temperatures rivals that of *C. microspadix* and its only drawback is a slight susceptibility to nematodes which can easily be compensated with an adequate supply of water on an amended soil and preferably grown in considerable shade. I suspect that if *C. radicalis* had been available commercially that they would be singing the praises of this miniature palm in New Orleans, too. Their soil is heavy and nematodes wouldn't have been a problem.

Both of these *Chamaedoreas* come from the area in eastern Mexico near Ciudad Victoria and north of Tamazunchale. The area is mountainous and elevations of 4,000 ft. are very typical. *C. microspadix* grows along with *C. elegans* (Neathe Bella) in a very broken limestone under relatively dense cover at these elevations and the area experiences frosts often enough to panic the commercial growers of Neathe Bellas here in Florida in fear of their seed crop price going through the roof.

There are a number of other *Chamaedoreas* that deserve a try in the more protected

(Continued on page 9)

Beyond the Biennial: Other Palm Places in South Thailand

By Mark Wuschke

After the official end of the Biennial post-tour, Mike Dahme and I stayed on in Thailand for an extra week to search for palms in habitat. Feeling fit and relaxed after two weeks of royal treatment at the hands of Nong Nooch, and fully acclimated to Thai weather and food, we were eager for adventure. We spent our last day at the luxurious Kata Thani Resort on Phu Ket, planning out a rough schedule. We plotted a route to cross east across the peninsula to Surat Thani, south to Thung Song, along the Malaysian border and back up the west coast to Phuket.

Fortunately, Mike knew a friend living in Phu Ket whom he hadn't seen for many years, and managed to locate after much asking around. Tim not only generously offered the use of his car to us, but came along as well and became our unofficial guide and interpreter.

Crossing the causeway from Phu Ket to the mainland, we headed north along the coast for some 80 km. Anxious to see some wilderness, we took the first road inland at an official looking sign announcing "waterfall." (The Thais seem to be obsessed with waterfalls—

every one appears to be signposted.) It turned out to be a road into Khao Lam Pi National Park, and it was indeed a beautiful spot. There didn't appear to be a walking track beyond the falls, however; palms were few except for an *Arenga westerhoutii* or two.



The author, Mark Wuschke, from the "other Melbourne," stands in front of a stand of *Kerriodoxa elegans* on Phu Ket island

We were to see these large palms frequently, wherever there were native forest remnants, particularly on steep slopes in well watered areas.

Chams. . .

(Continued from page 8)

locations in Central Florida. With some protection, *C. klotzschiana*, *C. seifrizii*, *C. elegans* have done reasonably well for me, and for those near either of our coasts or in favorable micro-climates in the interior regions, the same should hold true. If you have some of the spirit of adventure in you, try some of the more tender species. If the plant is a suckering plant, and it survives the extremes, you may have a new species to add to our palette of miniature palms for propagating by division. Good Luck!

Back on the main road, turning inland at Takua Pa, the scenery

became more and more spectacular as we climbed into the mountains. The terrain was mainly steep gullies running between gigantic limestone outcrops, some a thousand meters high and heavily forested right to the top. When the mist started to form around them it made one of the most stunning sights we

were to see on the trip.

We were advised to spend our first night at a place called "Treetops," near the Khao Sok National Park, in the heart of the mountain range that runs down the west side of the peninsula. When we actually found it, it appeared to be abandoned for some reason; instead we pulled in at the Khao Sok Rainforest Resort, a very interesting choice. This turned out to be an "eco-lodge," though in a state of disrepair,

(Continued on page 10)

A Week in South Thailand

(Continued from page 9)

was right in the rainforest and offered huts built on stilts with spectacular views of the mountains, forest, and a nearby river. The cost: \$20 per night. At dinner we organised a guide for an 8 km hike the following morning.

The walk was a memorable one. Walking along a rushing river, we passed fantastic stands of bamboo, and a grove of huge *Pandanus* species, before being led to *Borassodendron machadonis*, a very exciting find. This massive fan palm grows on gentle slopes in the dense rainforest. We saw specimens of all ages including some very stout individuals of majestic size and appearance. Other sightings included a small number of rattans and one low growing *Licuala*. And wildlife, too—interesting birdlife, chameleons, and butterflies. And I won't forget the insect life: I "discovered" a nest of green wasps hanging from a branch when my head brushed against it. I was stung six times—it still hurts when I think about it.

Seeing wilderness in Thailand is becoming easier for the independent traveller, the roads are good and new National Parks are being declared all over the country. Not before time—there is precious little native forest remaining.

Next day we took a break from palms and crossed over to the resort island of Ko Samui. Though Mike and Tim managed to catch up with another old friend, the island itself was a disappointment, nothing but wall to wall tourist hotels from one end of the island to the other.

We couldn't wait to move on, catching an early ferry back to the mainland, we cruised down the east coast of the peninsula. There was little wilderness here, but we did manage to spot some fruiting *Metroxylon sagu* by the roadside, though most of the seed turned out to be rotten. With another large mountain range in view, we turned west (inland) again, and searched for the entrance to Khao Luang National Park. As usual, a major waterfall was



This strenuous activity was indulged in during the Biennial after it was too dark to look at palms. Our own John Bishock is seen in familiar pose, as Phyllis Sneed looks the other way.

well marked, this time with a walking track that went into the forest for 2 km. Interesting, though short on palms, except for a lone *Oncosperma*.

Bed for the night was at a hotel in the heart of Thung Song, for the princely sum of \$4. A little noisy, but otherwise perfectly adequate. Sinner was at a sidewalk cafe, a magnificent seafood banquet, for \$5 each. (Thai food was fresh, safe, delicious, and cheap everywhere—I am proud to say I did not have a western dish the whole trip.)

Continuing south through the town of Trang, we chanced upon a botanical garden associated with a nearby agricultural college. There were many large palms, including *Pritchardias* and some *Livistonas* but all were un-named. Amazingly, at a snack bar nearby, was a small stand of *Borassodendron* towering over the tables!

Heading south again, the landscape grew more and more beautiful as we approached the Malaysian border. More of the limestone outcrops we had seen earlier rose from the plains. Stretching between them were well-tended rice fields, the plants the most intense green I have ever seen. Silhouetted against the outcrops, here and there, were crowns of *Borassus flabellifer*. Another unforgettable sight

In rural areas palms were cultivated around

(Continued on page 11)

Beyond the Biennial: Other Palm Places in South Thailand

By Mark Wuschke

After the official end of the Biennial post-tour, Mike Dahme and I stayed on in Thailand for an extra week to search for palms in habitat. Feeling fit and relaxed after two weeks of royal treatment at the hands of Nong Nooch, and fully acclimatised to Thai weather and food, we were eager for adventure. We spent our last day at the luxurious Kata Thani Resort on Phu Ket, planning out a rough schedule. We plotted a route to cross east across the peninsula to Surat Thani, south to Thung Song, along the Malaysian border and back up the west coast to Phuket.

Fortunately, Mike knew a friend living in Phu Ket whom he hadn't seen for many years, and managed to locate after much asking around. Tim not only generously offered the use of his car to us, but came along as well and became our unofficial guide and interpreter.

Crossing the causeway from Phu Ket to the mainland, we headed north along the coast for some 80 km. Anxious to see some wilderness, we took the first road inland at an official looking sign announcing "waterfall." (The Thais seem to be obsessed with waterfalls—

every one appears to be signposted.) It turned out to be a road into Khao Lam Pi National Park, and it was indeed a beautiful spot. There didn't appear to be a walking track beyond the falls, however; palms were few except for an *Arenga westerhoutii* or two



The author, Mark Wuschke, from the "other Melbourne," stands in front of a stand of *Kerriodoxa elegans* on Phu Ket island

We were to see these large palms frequently, wherever there were native forest remnants, particularly on steep slopes in well-watered areas.

Back on the main road, turning inland at Takua Pa, the scenery

became more and more spectacular as we climbed into the mountains. The terrain was mainly steep gullies running between gigantic limestone outcrops, some a thousand meters high and heavily forested right to the top. When the mist started to form around them it made one of the most stunning sights we

were to see on the trip.

We were advised to spend our first night at a place called "Treetops," near the Khao Sok National Park, in the heart of the mountain range that runs down the west side of the peninsula. When we actually found it, it appeared to be abandoned for some reason; instead we pulled in at the Khao Sok Rainforest Resort, a very interesting choice. This turned out to be an "eco-lodge," though in a state of disrepair,

(Continued on page 10)

Chams. . .

(Continued from page 8)

locations in Central Florida. With some protection, *C. klotzschiana*, *C. seifrizii*, *C. elegans* have done reasonably well for me, and for those near either of our coasts or in favorable micro-climates in the interior regions, the same should hold true. If you have some of the spirit of adventure in you, try some of the more tender species. If the plant is a suckering plant, and it survives the extremes, you may have a new species to add to our palette of miniature palms for propagating by division. Good Luck!

A week in south Thailand

(Continued from page 9)

was right in the rainforest and offered huts built on stilts with spectacular views of the mountains, forest, and a nearby river. The cost: \$20 per night. At dinner we organised a guide for an 8 km hike the following morning.

The walk was a memorable one. Walking along a rushing river, we passed fantastic stands of bamboo, and a grove of huge *Pandanus* species, before being led to *Borassodendron machadonis*, a very exciting find. This massive fan palm grows on gentle slopes in the dense rainforest. We saw specimens of all ages including some very stout individuals of majestic size and appearance. Other sightings included a small number of rattans and one low growing *Licuala*. And wildlife, too—interesting birdlife, chameleons, and butterflies. And I won't forget the insect life: I "discovered" a nest of green wasps hanging from a branch when my head brushed against it. I was stung six times—it still hurts when I think about it.

Seeing wilderness in Thailand is becoming easier for the independent traveller, the roads are good and new National Parks are being declared all over the country. Not before time—there is precious little native forest remaining.

Next day we took a break from palms and crossed over to the resort island of Ko Samui. Though Mike and Tim managed to catch up with another old friend, the island itself was a disappointment, nothing but wall to wall tourist hotels from one end of the island to the other.

We couldn't wait to move on, catching an early ferry back to the mainland, we cruised down the east coast of the peninsula. There was little wilderness here, but we did manage to spot some fruiting *Metroxylon sagu* by the roadside, though most of the seed turned out to be rotten. With another large mountain range in view, we turned west (inland) again, and searched for the entrance to Khao Luang National Park. As usual, a major waterfall was



This strenuous activity was indulged in during the Biennial after it was too dark to look at palms. Our own John Bishock is seen in familiar pose, as Phyllis Sneed looks the other way.

well marked, this time with a walking track that went into the forest for 2 km. Interesting, though short on palms, except for a lone *Oncosperma*.

Bed for the night was at a hotel in the heart of Thung Song, for the princely sum of \$4. A little noisy, but otherwise perfectly adequate. Sinner was at a sidewalk cafe, a magnificent seafood banquet, for \$5 each. (Thai food was fresh, safe, delicious, and cheap everywhere—I am proud to say I did not have a western dish the whole trip.)

Continuing south through the town of Trang, we chanced upon a botanical garden associated with a nearby agricultural college. There were many large palms, including *Pritchardias* and some *Livistonas* but all were un-named. Amazingly, at a snack bar nearby, was a small stand of *Borassodendron* towering over the tables!

Heading south again, the landscape grew more and more beautiful as we approached the Malaysian border. More of the limestone outcrops we had seen earlier rose from the plains. Stretching between them were well-tended rice fields, the plants the most intense green I have ever seen. Silhouetted against the outcrops, here and there, were crowns of *Borassus flabellifer*. Another unforgettable sight.

In rural areas palms were cultivated around

(Continued on page 11)

A Week in South Thailand

(Continued from page 10)

around nearly every house. *Areca catechu*, *Cocos nucifera* were grown in every garden. Less abundant were *Metroxylon sagu*, *Corypha utan*, *Oncosperma tigillarum*, and *Phoenix loureiri*.

We had intended to stay at some wilderness huts in the Thale Ban National Park on the border, but a mix-up with keys left us disappointed and we were forced to pack up and head for the city of Satun. This was a delightful town, we had another lovely evening; I'll never forget grilled cili fish and prawns with Singha at a local cafe. (I won't forget the exotically decorated clock I tried to buy from the owner, either. Should have offered another 100 Baht.)

In the morning, we explored some of the back roads around town which, being near the coast, offered us our first good look at *Nypa*. With the tide low, we could walk right into vast stands of this archaic looking palm, its huge leaves rising out of the mud. We saw many fruiting heads, and pulled off a few of them. Most of the seed was past its prime, however; no matter, it was a grand sight all the same. Other finds this morning were *Phoenix paludosa*, apparently growing wild, a *Licuala*, and more *Metroxylon sagu*.

Moving up the west coast, near the town of Kantang was another great find: *Livistona speciosa* in a remnant of forest, on a large hill near the highway. Though we had seen one or two of these before in the north, what amazed us was the incredible height of this palm; there were some at least 30 meters high, literally the tallest palm I have ever seen. In the blazing sun I scaled a hillside to the base of the plants, to set the scale for a photograph, and was rewarded with a few seeds, too. The other reward was an incredible view—the nearby Kantang River was clearly visible all the way to the coast, its banks thickly lined with *Nypa*.

It was an exhausted group of travellers that checked in at the town of Krabi after passing another stretch of great coastline, this time



The crown of a *Livistona speciosa* photographed in Khao Yai National Park in Thailand. This species was a new sighting for most visitors at the Biennial and

with beautiful beaches.

Our last venture was to climb a mountain spur in Kao Phanom Bencha National Park. Though the sign said "beautiful view 400 M" it was easily double this distance to the top, where the view was less than exciting. However, we were rewarded with a dense palm flora, including vast numbers of *Orania sylvicola*, a few *Livistona speciosa*, some unidentifiable *Pinanga* and *Licuala*. It was rattan heaven here, too, as it frequently is in sloping terrain; there were some absolutely monstrous canes we took to be *Plectocomia*; the stems must have been nearly a foot in diameter.

And so it went for a week, driving down every road where there appeared to be wilderness, admiring the palms we saw, admiring the scenery in general. Driving was not a problem—the roads are excellent (better than some country roads here in my home state of Victoria!). The only hazards were the endless motorcycles and the occasional car coming the other way, overtaking with less than common sense. We were pleasantly surprised to find English signs at most major intersections. I don't think we were ever lost once. (Continued on page 12)

By Norm Moody

(The following account of an Amazon trip with Dr. Andrew Henderson appeared last year in the bulletin of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society and is reprinted here for those not fortunate enough to have read it there. Norm and Ann Moody are the creators of a wonderful, lush jungle garden—5 acres—outside West Palm Beach which our chapter has twice visited and hopes for yet another invitation)

A rare opportunity to be on a trip (8-4 to 8-15-97) led by Dr. Andrew Henderson, knowledgeable palm scientist, author of *Palms of the Amazon* and *Palms of the Americas*, and sponsored by the New York Botanical Garden. To Miami via Tri Rail (local train). The plane with our group of 14 eager explorers started off for Manaus, Brazil at 10 p.m. At full speed just before take-off, our pilot saw a light flash on his instrument panel and jammed on the brakes which flattened a tire. The brakes had locked; taxiing back, the wheel caught fire. Three-foot high flames outside our window caused a bit of panic among some passengers. (Norm remained seated and cool, however.) This caused a delay till 7 the next morning.

Week in South Thailand

(Concluded)

Accommodation was no problem, we stayed wherever we happened to be; we ate at local cafes, the food was always cheap and delicious. The people were invariably helpful, we always felt safe, even down remote roads; the curious looks of locals invariably turned to smiles.

Before long it was time to leave, a mere 24 hours from tropical rainforest to Melbourne's traffic jams. It was a wonderful trip. A special thanks to Mike and Tim for making it so. I can't wait to return to Thailand again.

We arrived in Manaus at 1 p.m. and were met by Captain Moacir ("Mo"), pleasant and outgoing, who took us directly to the boat. His smaller boat was being repaired, so we traveled in his larger boat, 72' by 24', with air-conditioned (!) cabins and three decks. The crew consisted of three men, two women, and Mo, our guide, master of ceremonies and program chairman. He was knowledgeable not only of the river and the boat but of the birds, animals, plants, fish, stars, people and towns, and was fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, English, and German.

That afternoon we started up the Rio Negro toward Barcellos, 480 kilometers up-river. Two boats were trailed



Among the many species of palms spotted on the Amazon trip was Mauritia flexuosa (crown above) which was commonplace.

behind us for side trips up tributaries into wooded areas of high water. We were in these boats which had 15-hp motors about three times each day exploring for palms, night trips with spotlight, early morning silent excursions (to hear the crescendo jungle sounds of howler

monkeys, birds, and frogs), or for fishing. We saw a 10-foot anaconda and six other snakes. Mo spotted a 2-foot long caiman, grabbed it behind the head and passed it back to us in the boat. Pink dolphin were abundant. Macaws flew overhead. We saw hund-

(Continued on page 13)

Amazon trip

(Continued from page 12)
reds of parrots. And, of yes, we saw palms—56 species!. We got seeds from 23 species.

On one fishing trip, I caught five silver piranha and one black. The crew cooked all our fish; they were excellent. We went swimming several times with the piranha without any problem. We had to take care removing fish hooks from them as they kept chomping with their razor-sharp teeth.

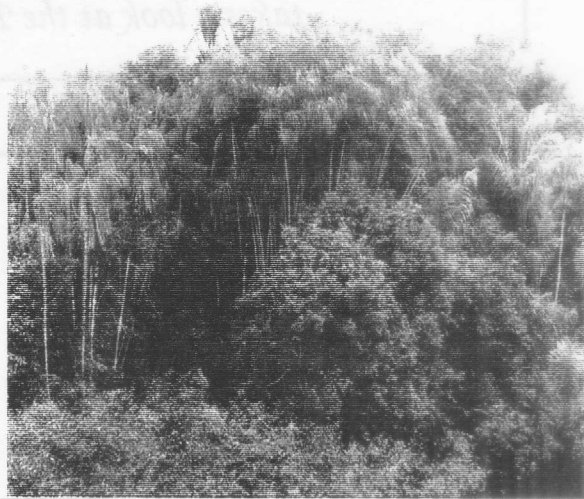
North of Barcellos, a guide took us on an all night trip up river to search for rare palms. We went inland in our small boats, winding around among the trees; sometimes we had to paddle and pole ourselves along, even pulling on trees in narrow places. At times we had to chop trees which were across our path. We then hiked a mile before reaching our goal. We found the rare *Leopoldinia pissaba* palm with 1-meter long fibers all over the trunk and the

small, very rare Barcello in seed.

We often spotted 10-15 new species on a side trip and learned a great deal about the taxonomy of many species. Once we found a large *Oenocarpus beccaba* with seed. It was too large for our crewmen or any of us to climb, so I dug into my backpack and pulled out my wrist-rocket (slingshot) with large ball-bearing ammunition, purchased for this purpose, and let two people who were better shots than I, with better eyesight, use it. We collected quite a lot of seed, much to everyone's surprise.

The Rio Negro was 30 miles wide but appeared to be only 100 to 150 yards wide as it was broken up by thousands of long islands. I missed the hordes of Florida mosquitoes; the water of the river is so acid (4.5 p) that mosquitoes cannot breed in it.

The Caboclo people we visited on their little farms



Sharp-eyed palm-lovers may be able to spot three species of palms seen on Norm Moodys Amazon trip. Left is *Mauritiella armata*. Center is *Astrocaryum jauari*; to the right is *Leopoldinia major*.

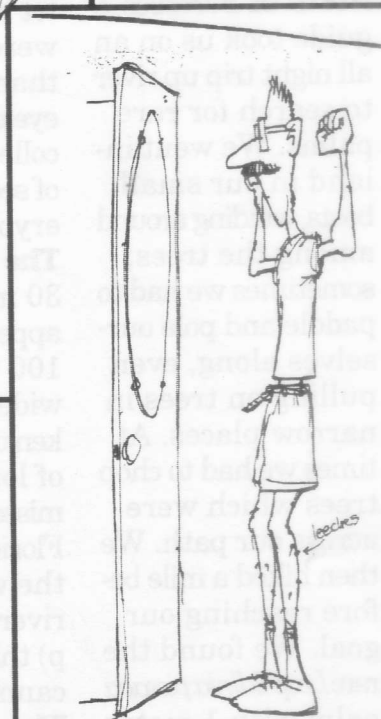
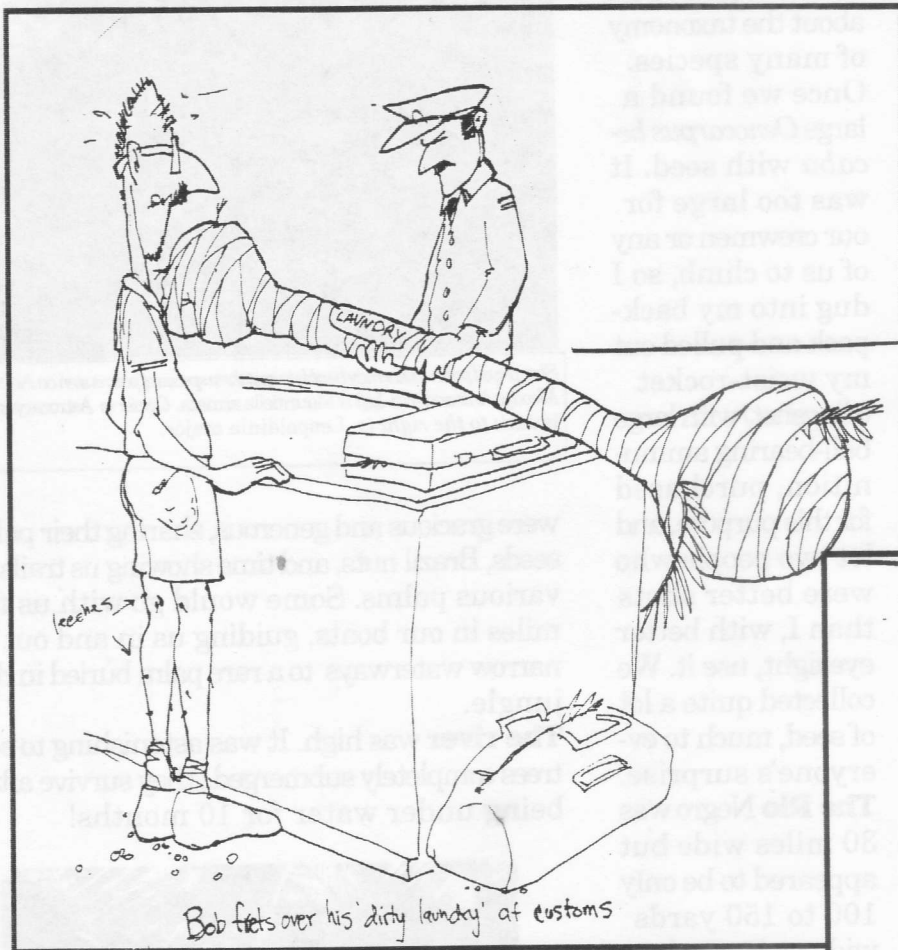
were gracious and generous, sharing their palm seeds, Brazil nuts, and time showing us trails to various palms. Some would go with us for miles in our boats, guiding us in and out of narrow waterways to a rare palm buried in the jungle.

The river was high. It was astonishing to see trees completely submerged.; they survive after being under water for 10 months!



Not the Amazon, but the fruit of *Nypa fruticans* seen in Thailand, in fresh as well as salt water. Norm doesn't mention seeing this in his expedition but many members will recall the article in *Principes* a few years back about its growing in Panamá. Does even Dr. Henderson know all that lurks in the Amazon?

GEOFF STEIN takes a look at the Biennial



Places to See Palms

Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Fort Pierce

By John Kennedy

On the Treasure Coast when someone gets interested in palms, there's currently only one public place in which a variety of palms, large enough to be distinctive, are labelled and on view. This is at Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce.

The Palm Walk there is about 50 years long, looped through a shaded area where an assortment of palms has really thrived. Originally set up with a grant from the Florida Nurserymen & Growers Assn., it was dedicated in 1993 in the presence of Ed and Nancy Hall, representing our chapter. Ed, in due modesty, declined to speak. Eyes turned to me, standing next to Ed. So, gesturing with donut in hand, I spoke glowingly about the smallish palms so recently planted and about the importance of the Palm Walk to the local public and to our chapter.

My predictions have been pretty much on the mark. The most notable fatality was a fair size *Wodyetia* struck by lightning several years ago, much mourned (and since replaced). Several members of our chapter have donated palms to Heathcote.

What has done notably well there has been several species of *Livistona* and *Sabal*—perhaps not all that surprising. Though most other species also look good, particularly a long-established *Bismarckia* that, with some other individuals, pre-dates the establishment of the garden.

Happily, there have been no real freezes—only a few light frosts—since the Great Christmas Freeze of 1989. Fort Pierce (St. Lucie County) is almost at the southernmost point of our chapter's 17-county service area. Zone 10A begins about 10 miles farther south, at the Martin County line.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens occupies the

The inviting entrance to Heathcote's Palm Walk (below) is on the southwest side of the garden, and is one of the first things that visitors see after their arrival..



location of the Heathcote Nursery, established there in 1955. When I visited it in the late '70s, the owner—Jim Crimmins—was very old and the nursery had turned into a jungle. By 1985, the nursery had been closed for a number of years and its site was threatened by a planned new road.

Local residents stepped in to save a Japanese garden that Mr. and Mrs. Crimmins had built and became enthused by the potential in the 3½-acre property. The group raised the money to purchase the land and to develop it as a public botanical garden. Without any public money, on their own time, working originally with machetes, local volunteers turned Heathcote into the charming and pretty place that it now is.

There are cycads, as well as palms, an orchid house, a children's garden (please touch!), a native plant area. And, of course, that Japanese garden, together with a bonsai display. The energetic director (and CFPACS member), Lib Tobey, has been a driving force in developing Heathcote since her

(Continued on page 16)

Heathcote

(Continued from page 15)

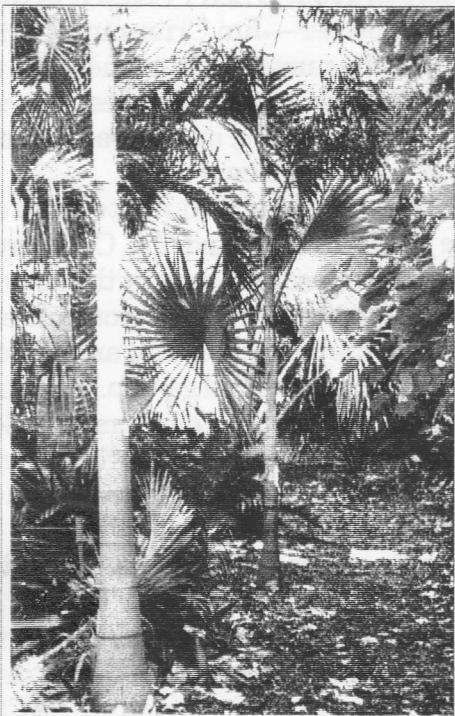
arrival in 1991. She/they aren't finished yet **Heathcote** is especially useful as a local point of reference for those who've moved to the area from the North and to whom Florida gardening comes as a shock: few familiar plants, some very different gardening practices.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens is open from 9:00 to 5:00, Tuesday through Saturday, all year; Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00. It's closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission: \$2.50 per person; children under 12 free with adult. Heathcote is a block and a half east of U.S. #1 (watch for sign) on Savannah Road which is two blocks south of the major intersection of U.S. #1 and Virginia Avenue.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens
210 Savannah Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34982
(561) 464-4672

Palms & Cycads at Heathcote

Acoelorrhaphe wrightii
Acrocomia aculeata
Allagoptera arenaria
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana
Arenga engleri
Attalea butyracea
Bismarckia nobilis
Butia capitata
Chamaedorea cataractarum
C. metallica
C. microspadix
C. radicalis
Chamaerops humilis
Chambeyronia macrocarpa
Copernicia glabrescens
Cryosophila albida
Dypsis decaryi
Elaeis guineensis
Guihaia argyrata
Howea belmoreana
H. fosteriana (Continued on page 17)



Heathcote's Palm Walk:
Wodyetia bifurcata (two in foreground), *Bismarckia* (in background). Below, *Sabal mauri-*



Palms & Cycads at Heathcote

(Continued from page 16)

Hyophorbe verschaffeltii

Livistona australis

L. chinensis

L. decipiens

L. drudei

L. mariae

L. muelleri

L. rigida

L. rotundifolia

L. saribus

Phoenix canariensis

P. dactylifera

P. reclinata

P. roebelenii

P. sylvestris

Ravenea rivularis

Rhapis excelsa

Sabal causiarum

S. etonia

S. mauritiiformis

S. minor

S. palmetto

S. yapa

Serenoa repens

Syagrus schizophylla

Trithrinax acanthacoma

Wodyetia bifurcata

Zombia antillarum

Cycads

Cycas circinalis

C. media

C. media cv. *Mt. Morgan*

C. revoluta

Ceratozamia hildae

C. Kuesteriana

C. mexicana

Dioone edule

D. mejiai

Lepidozamia peroffskyana

D. spinulosum

Macrozamia moorei

Encephalartos ferox

Zamia fischeri

E. gratus

Z. floridana

E. villosus

Z. furfaracea

Ask the Expert

By Bernie Peterson

I wonder if you could respond to a slight problem I have with three palms that have been planted in my yard for 1½ to 2 years. It starts with oldest leaves first. The leaflets get brown to tan necrotic spots that spread and eventually kill the entire leaflet, then the leaf. The palms are two *Phoenix canariensis* and a *Roystonea regia* (I know you're going to ask what I am doing with a *R. regia* but I don't have a satisfactory answer.) They are in open sunny locations long distances from any other specimens and were severely stressed during the hot, dry spring. The description, but not the typical circumstances, fit David Jones's description of Palm Ring Spot. The spear leaf of one of the *P. canariensis* now has the spots on it.

—Mike Merritt

Thanks for the question, Mike, these do sound like palms that are in some trouble, something we hate to see when heading into the winter. The Palm Ring Spot or *Bipolaris* is not the

Hi, Bernie,

I was wondering if the differences in various mule palms around Central Florida could be attributed to some having *Syagrus* for a "mom" and some having *Butia* for a "mom." In your experience, does it make a difference which palm is the F or which is the M and, if so, have you been able to link any leaf variations, etc., to this?

Thanks for the question, Dave. I think there are a lot of misconceptions about Mule Palms and a lot that remains to be learned.

I think that most of the differences in Mule Palms can be attributed to the variability of the two parent species both Queen Palms and *Butias* are quite variable in appearance and, in the case

(Continued on page 19)

Ask the Expert

(Continued from page 18)

of the *Butias*, there are several parents which could be the parent of a Mule Palm.

My knowledge of genetics is so slight as to barely exist, but I think there is no reason to believe that each time the two species are crossed that the same characteristics are imparted to the Mule from each parent, even if the same individual Queen and *Butia* are used. Some Mules seem more Queen-like, while others are more *Butia*-like; this does not necessarily mean that the female parent is one or the other.

I think that Mule Palms with a Queen for a female parent and a *Butia* as pollen donor are quite rare. In my experience of germinating tens of thousands of Queen Palm seeds, I have never found a hybrid. On the other hand, although I've grown far fewer *Butia* seedlings, hybrids, while not common, are sometimes found. In fact, I've never seen a Mule Palm that I knew had a Queen as a female parent, though I know that they do exist.

Soil conditions, and the care which the Mule Palm receives could also, of course, be responsible for differences in appearance from one tree to another.

My Trip to Montgomery and Fairchild: Miami in August

By Tom Broome

In August of this year, I took a trip to Miami to photograph the native cycads in a habitat situation on the grounds of the Montgomery Botanical Center. At the same time I was given a tour of the grounds, and shown the projects they are working on. I was quite impressed with all the new plantings, and the work in general they are doing down there.

This year they have built three more large beds for cycads. For those of you who are not familiar with what they have been working on, they have been building large beds of plants, grouped together from a particular geographical area. These plants will be used for propagation, and for people to study. Large groups of the same species, in some cases, will be planted. Their goal will be to have colonies of plants with broad genetic biodiversity, and with good location data. If a species were to be wiped out in the wild, they would have the plants that could re-establish the wild population, if necessary.

This year they have built their first Australian bed, as well as another Asian bed, and a bed from the Americas. This Americas bed has plants from the Caribbean area. These three beds have added over 200 more cycads to their display area. Since our last trip, they have added a palm walk. This will be under construction for a long time. This year alone, they have planted more than 1,000 new palms, that were all grown from seed, and for which they have full locality documentation.

The Montgomery Botanical Center has been working on a cycad propagation project for almost two years now. Our chapter was proud to donate money to help pay for some of the equipment necessary to facilitate this project. At the time of this writing, in 1998

(Continued on page 20)

SEEDBANK REPORT

By Mike Dahme

Since the last report, seed/seedlings of about 25 species of palms were distributed and, more than ever, it was a group effort with seed donations by 10 people and the Montgomery Botanical Center, and actual mailings by six. Continuing distributions of *Copernicia macroglossa*, *Sabal rosei*, and *Schippia concolor* (this last a gift by Lou Thomas), species mentioned in the previous report, marked the transition to the current one, which featured two donations of *Zombia antillarum* by the Montgomery, a donation of almost 2,000 seed of *Sabal yapa* (that netted \$260) by Bernie Peterson; *Coccothrinax argentata* (seed obtained and mailed by John Kennedy); *Archon-*

Montgomery Cycads

(Continued from page 19)

alone, they have donated 8,445 cycad seeds to different botanical gardens and palm and cycad societies all over the world. I think their efforts are unparalleled by any botanical garden anywhere in the world today.

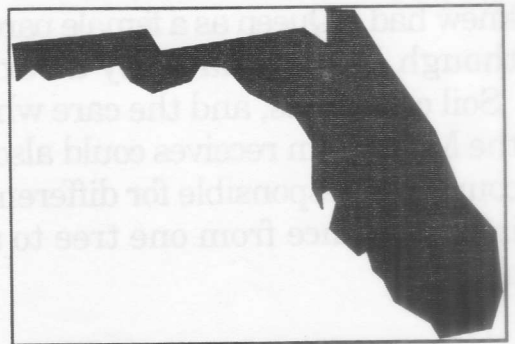
I would like to commend the director, staff, and volunteers for a job well done. We will be lucky to be able to visit this private garden in February. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for details of this "not to miss" meeting.

While I was down in Miami, I went down the road to Fairchild Tropical Garden. I was fortunate to have Chuck Hubbuch take time out of his busy schedule to give me the "private tour" of the new palm and cycad plantings. The plants are looking the best I have ever seen since the hurricane several years ago. They now have a new cycad curator, and it is obvious that a lot of work has been done on these plants. The plants have been trimmed up and new fertilizer could be seen on the ground. The rare plant house has been reconstructed and is now called the conservatory. Many new plants have been put in this area, and this is another place you just can't afford to miss. I was most impressed with the work done at Fairchild, and for anybody with the extra time, I would encourage them to stop by there while we are down in Miami.

tophoenix cunninghamiana (ditto, by Dave Besst); *Livistona australis* (by Mark Wuschke); and a surprise gift of seed of a New Caledonian palm with much promise for Florida, *Cyphophoenix elegans* (by Cesar Díaz). This gift was so much a surprise, arriving on the morning of my departure for Thailand that it fell to Jerry Hooper to do the shilling and posting. **Others to** be thanked include Neil Yorio for filling a late request for *Acrocomia* seed. and Joe Michael, whose last two *Borassus* plants from last summer's seed fetched a generous donation of \$20 from new member Greg Hubbard.

Seed of another ten or so species were obtained for distribution from Thailand and Australia, and for these the Bishocks (John and Faith), who donated *Eleiodoxa conferta*, and Dave Hopkins who donated, or led me to, such as *Normanbya*, *Livistona muelleri*, *Licuala ramsayi*, etc., must be given credit.

Donations by seed recipients to the chapter for the period amounted to \$885.



The Farewell:

This will be my last time I can talk to you in print as president of The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society. My two years are up, but I will still be on the board as past president to lend a helping hand and to vote on issues. I have enjoyed getting to know a lot of new people along the way. The last two years have been a extreme change for our chapter, and things have not always gone as smoothly as they could. We are still trying to get the bugs worked out, but maybe this is always going to be an ongoing experience.

At the time of this writing, I have not heard from anybody else who wants to run for office. Assuming that the nominees are approved (I'm sure they will be), I am pleased to say that I think we will have a great board for next year. I have every confidence in the board members that they will do the best job possible. We have had some problems with membership in the past, and in particular, I think Dave Witt will help things get back on the right foot. Anyone who knows one of our "lost" members, please either contact us, or try to get them the information they need to get back in. I just signed up four more past members in the last couple of weeks.

In the last two years in the CFPACS, we have accomplished a lot. We have donated plants and seeds to many of the botanical gardens in Florida, as well as distributed rare seeds to growers all over the country. We have donated money to two projects that will help cycad conservation all over the world. The Montgomery project, in particular, had produced thousands of seeds. They, in turn, have sent these seeds all over the world, to botanical gardens and palm and cycad societies. We also have got a lot of information into the hands of many people who want to know how to grow and propagate palms and

The Itinerary:

Our first meeting for 1999 will be a road trip to the Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami. We will start the meeting at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, February 6th. The Montgomery Botanical Center has 120 acres, which makes it one of the largest gardens in the U. S. Their main focus is on palms and cycads. There is no other garden quite like it anywhere in the world. This is a private facility, so we are privileged to be able to visit this extensive garden. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terrence Walters (its director) for having us there.

Many people have asked me about motels in the area. There are many motels near the airport, but the most convenient motel I have found is the Quality Inn at 14501 South Dixie Hwy. The phone number is (305) 251-2000. For those of you looking at a map, Dixie Hwy. is the same as U.S.#1. I have talked to the reservation manager, and we will receive a 10% discount on all room rates. At this time of year the rooms are around \$79 a night, and \$85 for a room with two queen size beds. Ozzi Acle is the man to talk to, and you must mention that you are from the palm society. I also told him we may have people staying on the 5th as well as the 6th. He said that he will try and give us rooms in the same area of the motel, if you wish. This motel fills up fast, so try to make your reservations as soon as possible.

Directions on how to get to Montgomery: From the motel, go north for a little over two miles until you reach Killian Drive. Go east for a little over two miles. Killian will dead-end into Red Road. For point of reference, you will be in front of the Parrot Jungle. Turn right, or south, and go no more than ¼ mile. There will be a light at Old Cutler; make a left there. You will see a fire station on the

Full Meeting & Auction

By Dave Witt

Well, another year had rolled around and, like lemmings drawn to the sea, palm and cycad lovers from all over

Central Florida swarmed in mass to Leu Gardens in Orlando for our chapter's annual meeting/auction. This year's guest speaker, Dr. Scott Zona, starts the festivities

by running us through the proverbial hoops of palm nomenclature. I know we all learned a lot, though you couldn't prove it by the scores we received on our class-ending tests. Thanks, Scott, I'm sure we'll invite you back REAL soon! In all seriousness, everyone enjoyed the lecture and, due

to Scott's informative and entertaining presentation we now know exactly how palms end up with their respective monikers.

After chowing down on an ample spread of lunchmeat, salads, and chicken wings, it was time for our auction. The bidding was fast and

(Continued on page 23)

Farewell

(Continued from page 21)

and cycads. I think we should all be proud of our accomplishments, and should strive to do more in the years to come.

Next year we already have planned a trip to the Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami, as well as to another botanical garden. Our spring meeting will be in the upper East Coast area. We also plan on attending at least three major sales next year.

I would like to formally thank my board members for doing a job that normally does not get much reward but the satisfaction of doing a good job. There are many people who have helped a lot, but if I start naming people, I know I'm going to leave someone out. But I would like to say thank you to all the people who have made a positive effect on the society in the last two years. We will be saying good-bye to Mike Dahme as past president. Mike has given me a lot of good advice as past president and has helped the chapter in a number of different ways. He is doing a great job as head of our seedbank, and will continue to do this next year.

And lastly, to Neil Yorio who, unless something earth-shattering happens, will be your president next year. I know he will do a great job as president, and I hope everyone will give him the support he needs to make the CFPACS an even better society to be in. I'll be seeing you all at the meetings to come.

Tom Broome

Itinerary

(Continued from page 21)

right. Just after that, on right, there will be an iron gate. Turn in there. I will see if I can arrange some sort of small sign for you to find us. the address of the **Montgomery Botanical Center** is **11901 Old Cutler Road**. **If you** are coming from the north, there are many ways to get there. If you are coming from the turnpike or from 826, go south to North Kendall Drive. Turn left to go east, and make a right, to go south on Red Road. It should be around two miles to the turn on Old Cutler. If you are coming from I-95, go southwest on U.S.#1 for about seven miles, then turn left to go straight south on Red Road. The turn off to Old Cutler should be around three miles.

This will definitely be a "not to miss" meeting; it will be well worth the trip down. Some people are planning to spend the night and expect to go to Fairchild after the meeting. Fairchild is only around 1½ miles north of Montgomery on Old Cutler. I hope to see everyone there.

Tom Broome

Fall Meeting

(Continued from p. 22)

furious as a wide variety of palms, cycads, and a few other exotics came and went. A special treat was a case of "Jelly Palm Wine" created by Vance Browning. After the dust had settled, our local chapter was left with a tidy profit of nearly \$500. All who participated by purchasing or donating plants are owed a great big thanks. This is one of the best ways our members can support the chapter. Great job, everyone!

After the auction, Eric Schmidt lead the remaining members on a leisurely and informative tour of the collection at Leu. Two consecutive years of freezeless winters (not to mention Eric's care) has enabled many plants in the garden to attain almost mythological proportions—at least for this corner of the Earth. Once again, another fun-filled day of "palming" was had

From the Editor's Notebook

Everyone—almost everyone—had kind comments about the last issue, my first as editor. It *was* kindness, of course, not to mention the pictures, most of which appeared to have been taken outdoors on a moonless night. *Mea culpa*, the pictures were too small to begin with; some were fuzzy to begin with or too dark.. But most wer distinguishable on the computer monitor, if not after going to OfficeMax for reproduction.

However, larger and brighter pictures, in clear focus will now be the rule. Shadowy and indistinct pix are *not* to appear. Hopefully, this current issue will not prove me a liar.

Several people were disturbed that the popular feature, "Ask the Expert," was missing. Bernie Peterson informed me that he had received only two questions, neither of which was (he thought) suitable or of sufficient general interest for publication. "Ask the Expert" returns in this issue with the kind of lengthy, thoughtful answers we have come to expect.. However, for this feature to continue requires that members/readers must send in questions directly to Bernie. His address: 2410 Stanford Dr., Cocoa, FL 32926 or e-mail to bernard.peterson@gte.net

What appears in the newsletter is pretty much whatever is sent in. The officers can be relied upon to produce something (a requirement for holding office?). Those of you out there in Central Florida, privately and anonymously reading this, just remember that I have the membership list and will track you down, soliciting your contribution and help.

by all. For those unlucky souls who missed it, there's always next year!

I've already contacted a number of members; those who have replied so far have indicated a willingness to write
(Continued on page 24)

on a suggested topic.

You will be happy to know that your editor has been on public view on behalf of CFPACS. Right there on U. S. #1, in front of McKee Botanical Garden in Vero Beach, trowel in hand, digging up seedlings from under the big *Acrocomia aculeata* at the entrance. These will be sold at a future meeting when they've grown a bit. It started to rain before I was able to finish, as Tropical Storm Mitch began to cross the state (5.7 inches of rain at my house).

I returned several days later to finish, wearing gloves (of course). The total haul was 49 seedlings. Mike Dahme and I had collected fruit from under the palm in July. At that time, there were no germinated seedlings. By November, most of the seedlings I found were about 10 inches high, with two bifid leaves perhaps 8 inches long. The little palms had penetrated thick St. Augustine grass. **We are** indebted to Janet Alford, McKee's director, and to her grounds maintenance man for saving the seedlings for us, marked with little red flags, behind a taped-off area. We appreciate their NOT mowing and notifying us. As we are all aware, *Acrocomia* is in no hurry to germinate: two years or so in the ground seems to be the usual frantic speed. I think that the parent *Acrocomia* is now in the records as a Florida champion tree.

Member Bill VanGelder traded me four seedlings for two 2-foot *Acrocomia* that he dug up from under the same palm a couple of years ago. These two prickly beauties will be featured at the December 12th sale.

P. S. This issue of the *Palm Review* will arrive late because of problems in production. It was put together on a computer in a classroom at Indian River Community College's Vero Beach branch campus; the room was frequently occupied by classes (on weekends, too). Then there have been transmission

CFPACS Board Meeting

By Edgar Hall

The meeting was called to order at Leu Gardens at 9:15 a.m., October 2, 1998, by Tom Broome, President. Present were Dave Witt, John Bishock, John Kennedy, Edgar Hall, Neil Yorio, and Dave Besst.

Treasurer Dave Besst provided copies of the income statement for the period ending 8/31/98. Income for plant sales was less than the same period last year. This follows the trend reported last June in Sarasota. Income for seeds had not yet been received to report at this meeting, but a verbal report from Mike Dahme indicated sales had been brisk. In the discussion that followed, several members suggested various methods of increasing our income from plant sales. Some of these were: provide newspapers with readers in the "sale" area an article describing the activities associated with the "sale," i.e., chapter meeting, speakers, and the sale of palms. That members support plant sales at local area plant sales, i.e., Leu Gardens, University of South Florida, etc. It was emphasized that offering high quality palms at reasonable prices to the general public was a higher priority than raising money for our chapter.

New Business. Plans are now firm for our February chapter and board meetings at the Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami. The next regular chapter and board meetings will be on (Continued on page 25)

problems; the size of the document (more than 3 MB) was another hurdle. Time and mechanical problems frequently haunt non-commercial publications.

John Kennedy

Board Meeting

(Continued from page 24)

December 12, 1998. East Coast VP Neil Yorio promised us some interesting palm gardens, an interesting program, and a huge plant sale.

John Kennedy apologized for mistakes and problems connected with production of his first issue as editor. He expressed the hope that members and officers will provide sufficient contributions to assure future issues which, he promised, would be better.

Neil Yorio has been requested to investigate the purchase of a computer, scanner, and other units to make the production of the newsletter easier. If the membership is interested in higher quality photos in the newsletter, these can be achieved with relatively inexpensive equipment. Neil intends to report to the board about this at the December meeting.

Dave Witt, membership chair, was asked to establish the duties of the Membership Committee. This should be completed at the December meeting.

Old Business: Membership in the CFPACS covers the period 1 January to 31 December. Anyone joining on or after 1 October is automatically a member for the remainder of that year and the following year. Discussion proceeded about the possibility of changing the membership to be one year in length, and the period of membership would cover the twelve months following the month of sign-up rather than the current period. Both systems have advantages and disadvantages. The board expects to continue this discussion at the December board meeting.

The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society invites you to become a member—if you're looking at someone else's (a *member's* copy of the CFPACS newsletter. If you're already a member, it's time to renew. What do you get for your \$10 membership?

- * the newsletter (four times a year)
- * notices of meetings, also quarterly, but sometimes more often locally
- * access to people who don't think you're strange for being interested in palms and cycads
- * learnign sources for unusual palms and seeds
- * the opportunity of visiting palm collections, small and private, as well as larger and institutional (often behind the scenes)
- * to join, fill in the necessary info below and mail check to the address given.

Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 How did you learn about the CFPACS?

Mail check payable to Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society (CFPACS) for \$10 in U. S. funds to:

**CFPACS Membership Chair
 7026 Burnway Drive
 Orlando, FL 32819**

Join The International Palm Society (IPS) which has members in 80 countries world-wide (the CFPACS is one of the IPS's many chapters). A major benefit of IPS membership is the glossy quarterly journal, *Principes*.

Basic categories of membership are:

Regular (\$35 per year); *Family* (\$45); *Commercial* (\$45). Send check in U.S. funds to :

**The International Palm Society
 P. O. Box 1897
 Lawrence, KS 66044 U. S. A.**

