

The PALMATEER

Volume 19, no. 3

September, 1999

COME TO PICNIC MEETING NEXT SATURDAY (SEPT. 4) IN LAKE WORTH

Map, directions, page 3

The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society will hold a joint meeting with the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society on Saturday, September 4, in Lake Worth. It's a picnic, so bring a covered dish. Beverages will be provided. The place is Ruth Sallenbach's 5-acre paradise on Military Trail: the event begins at 9:30 a.m., the serious eating about noon. There's plenty of time to mooch around and feel envious of people who live in the "tropics" as opposed to us Central Floridians who live only in the "sub-tropics." If you haven't been here before, it's well worth the drive. There will be a plant auction, too, so bring a plant to donate. It need not be a palm or cycad. Door prizes (note plural) are also a feature. The Palm Beach chapter is filled with friendly, hospitable people. (Remember Norm Moody's last year?) Plan to attend.



**Next Meeting, November 13-14,
West
Coast (Sarasota) Details being**

Orlando Area June Meeting Draws More than 60 Members



Laura Wilcox (above) is caught in mid-departure from the Maitland house of Ed and Nancy Hall, first stop in the June garden visits. Below, the Editor (wearing a bald-guys' hat) stands before the entrance to Gordon and Pat Smith's, also in Maitland. To the left is Treasurer Mike Merritt's vintage Snazmobile. (All pictures of June meeting—and subjects thereof—by Mike Dahme.)

By John Kennedy

The June 13 quarterly meeting of the CFPACS in and around Orlando took place in more palm-favorable weather, not as exciting as the March meeting in Vero Beach (tornado warning, temps in the 60s, 40 mph winds). The day began warm before moving into the usual Florida conditions we all know and love: 90s, blinding sunshine, muggy, exhilarating.

First stop was at that well-known address, 1111 Glen Garry Circle, Maitland. Ed and Nancy Hall who live here, were the longtime secretary and treasurer, respectively, of our chapter which they kept alive until its re-vitalization a few years ago. Their beautifully landscaped house was the site for

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MORE PICTURES. . .FROM THE JUNE MEETING

Right, the view from the Smiths' jungle-like property of a corner of Lake Maitland.

The property across the way is in bare lawn; Gordon and Pat know how to put their space to better use. No palms were seen on their pontoon boat. (We didn't think to ask. Gordon?)



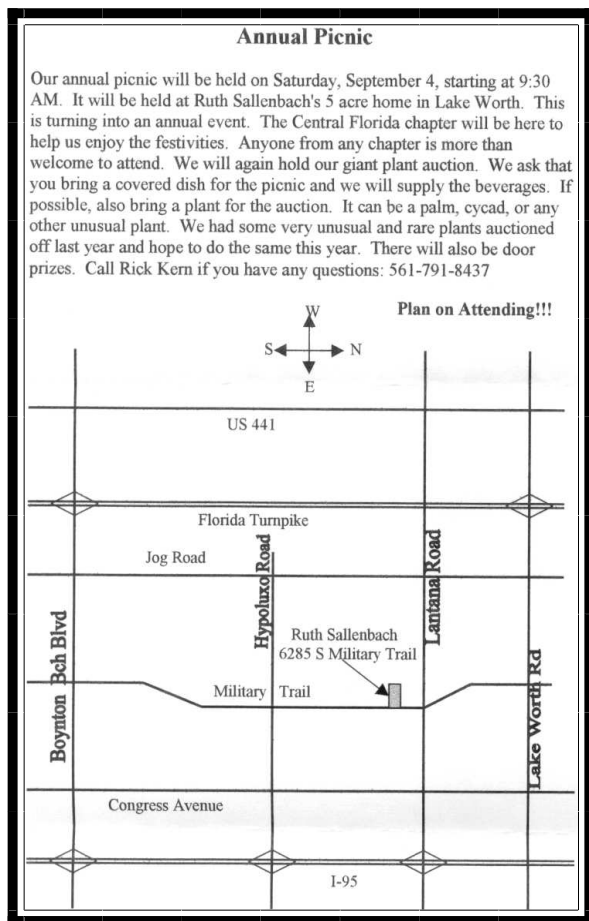
Below, two Sabals: Sabal mexicana (left) and S. uresana. Pat says they are about 25 years old.



Gordon has fenced in an Allagoptera arenaria to keep it upright. This has the added advantage of keeping the critters away.



Mike Harris of the Palm Beach chapter provided the map and info scanned in below. Access is easy from I-95 or from the turnpike. Rick Kern is the contact person. Questions may be directed to him: (561) 791-8437.



June Meeting

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the Board meeting. The many bromeliads (thousands?) made evident Ed and Nancy's *other* interest. An unusually vigorous and symmetrical mule palm drew everyone's attention.

Second stop was the jungle-like habitat of Pat and Gordon Smith, not very far away in Maitland. The

The U.S.F. Fall Plant Festival

By Tom Broome

The Fall Plant Festival at the University of South Florida in Tampa will be on Saturday, October 9th and Sunday, October 10th. The times are 10:00 AM to 4 PM on Saturday. The members of the garden can come in at 9:30 AM. Vendors can purchase plants at 9 AM. On Sunday the times will be the same but closing will be at 3 PM.

The USF sales are our best sales of the year. We have many people coming out to buy plants and to talk about palms and cycads in general. We are happy to answer any of your questions about cultivation of your plants and sometimes we even give out free plants that have been made available.

To get to the garden from I-75, get off at the Fowler exit and go west. You will travel a few miles and then will see the campus. Make a right at the main entrance. Stop at the first light and turn left. The road will end at the garden entrance. From I-275, you will want to go east for about a mile and then turn left into the main entrance.

If you need more information on the sale, or would like to be one of our vendors, please contact me, Tom Broome- 941-984-2739. I hope to see everyone there!

property looks ordinary from the street, if rather heavily forested, but backs onto a corner of big Lake Maitland. Among the many jewels here (some pictured), is a huge clump of *Rhapis humilis*, which isn't all that common in Florida. There were the informal gardener's giveaways, of lilies and an unknown soft-wooded lavender-flowering bush. (Break off some pieces, said Pat, they'll root. Yes!) Not a *Thunbergia* (Gordon's guess), not a native *Hibiscus* (Pat's), but identified later in Vero Beach by a knowledgeable nurseryman as a West Indian bush morning-glory, *Ipomea carnea*.

After lunch, the final stop was at Dave Witt's in Orlando. By this time, the temperature had risen to true summertime proportions that we Floridians expect and love. Nosing around Dave's collection, everyone paused in admiration before his wonderful *Bismarkia nobilis*. There were more people here than at the Halls' or the Smiths' drawn, no doubt, by the sale. Did anyone leave empty-handed?

More June doings. . .



Dave's Delight is a handsome Bismarckia growing happily in the small space (20 feet?) between his and the next house. The third garden on the

The attraction inside Dave Witt's garage, not visible in this picture, is Mike Merritt, our treasurer. Visitors are lined up to pay him for their purchases at the palm (and cycad) sale. A successful meeting is always marked by fronds nodding in cars/trucks/whatever leaving the site of the last garden, the place of the sale.



That's the vintage Snazzmobile lending aid (and juice) to the recent-model SUV of our prez, Neil Yorio (center, bending under hood, identifiable by shirt: brown palms on white background). Mike Merritt watches, at right, while Ralph Love, left, stands closer to the action. The jump was successful, and Neil—and passengers—was able to leave Dave Witt's for Brevard County.

CYCAD 99: SYMPOSIUM AT FAIRCHILD

*Dr. Terrence Walters, below left, director of the Montgomery Botanical Center, Miami, points out to the tour group a pollinated female cone of *Dioon spinulosum* that is nearly as long as his leg. Below right, conference attendees talking about... cycads. (What else?) From left, Peter Lindblad, Jack Fisher, Loran Whitelock, Byron Besse, and Irvin McDaniel.*

(Photos by Tom Broome)



By Tom Broome

The Fifth International Conference On Cycad Biology, or "Cycad 99" was held on August 7th, through August 10th this year. This is a conference that takes place every three years. This is the first time it has been held in the United States, and we were lucky that it took place in our own back yard down in Miami.

People from all over the cycad world got together to hear presentations, look at posters, go to banquets, and have formal meetings. Somewhere around 180 people

were in attendance for this historic conference. The first two days of presentations were geared more towards horticultural related topics. The last two days were more scientifically related, even though only a few really seemed to fit into this category. Most of the talks were no more technical than some of the talks presented the first two days. Formal tours of Fairchild Tropical Garden, and The Montgomery Botanical Center were also part of the itinerary.

A lot happened after conference hours as well. The IUCN Cycad Specialists group had an important meeting, and also The Cycad Society had its first board meeting in probably twenty years. The Cycad Society is in the middle of a little re-structuring. There will now be a working board that will formally meet every year and will also communicate by e-mail on a regular basis. There have been a few committees set up to look into changing some of the bylaws, and also to look into having separate chapters around the world. Even the name may be changed to reflect the fact that there may be chapters on an international level. An endowment

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An effective fungicide?

Have you heard of a “biofungicide” called Mycostop®? Allan McCarthy, co-owner of Native Habitat Landscaping in Vero Beach, swears by it. His business involves raising many native plants and tropical exotics from seed. He says that damping off of seedlings has become pretty much a thing of the past since he’s been using Mycostop® for the last couple of years. It’s for use on vegetable and ornamental crops; the active ingredient (30%) is “dried spores and mycellum of ray fungus (*Streptomyces griseoviridis* Strain K61).”

The product comes in five 1-gram packages that are dissolved in water, then sprayed as a drench on seeds in pots. Manufactured by a Finnish company, Kemira Agro Oy (P. O. Box 330, 00101 Helsinki, Finland), Allan orders it over the Internet and says the cost is “reasonable.”

Sounds intriguing, has any CFPACSer used it? Miracle products do appear on a regular basis, though seldom live up to the hype.

Cycad 99

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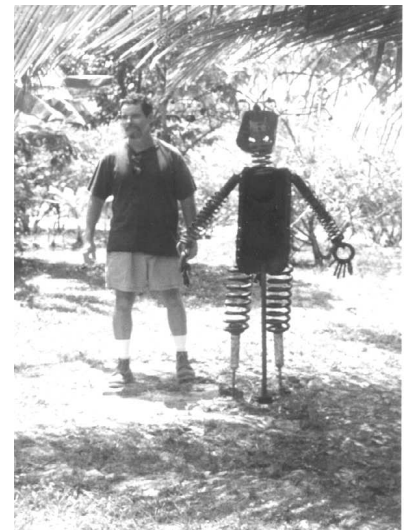
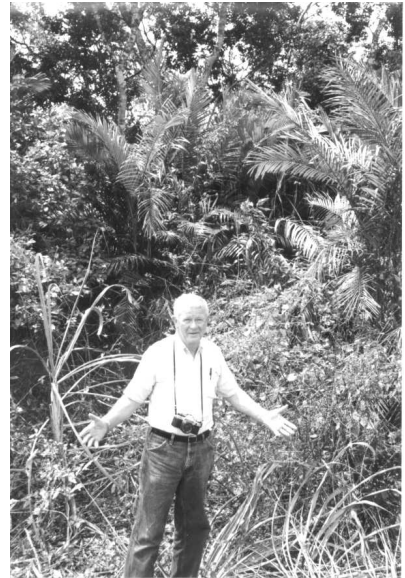
fund was started so that some day the interest on this money could be used for cycad research. There was also a society party and auction that raised more than \$2000 for the society. A portion of this money will be used to increase the endowment fund, and the rest will be used for improvements on the newsletter or other needs of the society.

Personally, I learned a lot about cycads and related topics from the presentations, but I learned a lot more from talking with people that attended the conference. I talked to people from South Africa, Australia, Mexico, China, and many other countries as well. I talked to many of the cycad curators from botanical gardens all over the world. These people had great insight on what is happening in their own countries. There is so much information that is never made public. Between the presentations, the tours, and the private conversations I experienced, I must say this was one of the top few important experiences of my entire life.

I would like to thank all the people who put this conference together. From my standpoint, everything ran very smoothly, and I know everyone who attended enjoyed themselves tremendously. I think I will start saving my money now, so that I will be able to go to

Right, top, author and Central American traveller Hersb Womble asks, Where are the palms? (Look behind you, Hersb.) Middle, Jerry Hooper with Belizean friend.

Bottom, right, historic picture: Mike Dahme, well-known cycad non-lover, face averted, digs a cycad seedling. In cap, Jerry Hooper assists.



BELIZE AND BEYOND: THE THREE PALMATEERS

By Hershell Womble (D'Artagnan?)

Three avid palm seekers, Mike Dahme, Jerry Hooper, and Hershell Womble, spent two weeks traveling the length and breadth of Belize seeking indigenous palms and cycads to view, climb, discuss, and photograph.

Upon landing in Belize City, we rented a car and headed north on the main highway. Right away we began to see lots of *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*. We discovered that *Acoelorrhaphe* was to Belize as *Serenoa* to Florida.

Belize is a small English-speaking country (a former British colony) which is sparsely populated (approximately 200,000 people) and, generally, a very poor country. It seems that the country relies on sugar, citrus, and bananas for export, and on tourism in the Keys.

There are four main roads in Belize: the north highway out of Belize City is paved, the western road out of Belize City is paved, and the Hummingbird Road south out of Belmopan (the capital) is partially paved to Dangriga. The southern highway south from Dangriga is unpaved and very rough except for about 10 miles north of Punta Gorda.

North from Belize City, we saw *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii* and the crown jewel of Belize, *Attalea cohune*, which was to Belize as the *Sabal palmetto* is to Florida. We saw *Sabal mauritiiiformis*, *Sabal yapa*, *Thrinax radiata*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Roystonea regia*, and *Acrocomia aculeata*. In addition, we saw *Bactris mexicana*, *Desmoncus acanthacomus*, and *Chamaedorea* species. It was interesting (and saddening) to note lethal yellowing (LY) slowly eliminating the coconut palms north of Belize City, with great quantities already dead.

After an overnight stay in Corozal Town, we headed south but took the old road after a few side trips through sugar cane fields. During one of our stops to view palms along the road, we discovered a tire going flat, then on to Mayan ruins at Altun Ha. As we approached Belize City, we noticed a bypass, so we missed Belize City and headed for Teakettle Village and Young Gal road, both of which we missed on the first pass. After getting our tire repaired, we turned around and found Teakettle Village and Young Gal road.

We arrived at Lou Thomas's farm and were

warmly welcomed by Lou and his son, Lee. We enjoyed several meals and nights with Lou, thanks to his generous hospitality. Lou has about 150 acres on which he is growing palms exclusively for seed

See photos on opposite page.

production. It was quite awesome. There were lots of *Attalea* at Lou's place also. The *Attalea* is used for cabbage in Belize, as well as for thatch.

As we traveled around the country we were astonished to see so much slash-and-burn, particularly in the southern and western areas. Both the Indians and the Mennonites were clearing land for farming.

We left Lou's place and worked our way south, with a stop at Dangriga, then on the peninsula at Placencia. We arrived in Punta Gorda and were unable to get rooms where Lou had recommended, so we found rooms elsewhere, and were driving around when we spotted Lou. During dinner, a boat owner we had spoken to, came by and we arranged a trip up the Temash River. We saw lots of *Acoelorrhaphe* palms and *Manicaria saccarifera*.

A guided tour in the hills of southern Belize was awesome in terms of quantity of palms spotted. There were *Reinhardtia* species, several *Chamaedorea* species, *Gaussia*, *Cryosophila*, *Desmoncus*, *Euterpe*, *Sabal*, and someone said there was a total of 16 species viewed. I lost track, but it was an unforgettable trek (5 hours). We also found cycads in the same area.

I now have proof that Mike Dahme does recognize plants other than palms and was seen digging a cycad seedling. May have been the heat.

A trip to Belize is recommended, but not during the dry season (especially not in May), as it was too hot and no rain to cool us off.

P.S. We also took a side trip to Guatemala for a visit to Tikal to see the awesome Indian ruins. There were lots of palms and other interesting plants and trees to be seen also. After staying overnight at the jungle lodge, we returned to Lou's place.

Marilyn Finds Palms—Far, Far Away in the Pacific Northwest

Seedbank Report

By Mike Dahme

Since the last bulletin and through the end of July, seed of 26 species of palms and one cycad were distributed. In chronological order, the following are thanked for their generous donations:

Lou Thomas, for *Chamaedorea neurochlamys* and *Enterpe precatorea*; **Jules Horwitz**, for *Wodyetia bifurcata*, his second donation of this greatly-desired species; **Greg & Charlene Palm**, for more *Copernicia alba* seed to fill a late request; **Bill Black**, our wide-ranging plant explorer, for *Brabea armata* obtained in Baja California; **Montgomery Botanical Center**, for 10 species, including *Cycas media*, *Gastrococcus*, and *Syagrus coronata*; **César Díaz**, for his donation of the very rare (and reputedly very tender) *Neoveitchia storckii* and more *Mauritia flexuosa*; **Martin Sloos**, he of the Low Country, for 300 seeds of *Nannorrhops ritchiana*; **Joe & Anne Michael**, once again for *Borassus*, *Bismarckia*, *Copernicia macroglossa*, and others.

Monetary receipts for the quarter will exceed \$1000, with the donations of Lou, Jules, and César all equaling or exceeding \$100, while those resulting from the generosity of the MBC exceeding \$250. The recently-collected seeds from the Michaels' home in Wabasso have so far resulted in donations of \$400, with seed of *Borassus aethiopum*, *Bismarckia*, and *Copernicia macroglossa* (the "Petticoat Palm") remaining available.

Requested donations are, respectively, \$2.00, 25¢ and 25¢ (or \$20/100). Please write or call me if interested in these.



That's our own Marilyn Bachmann—posed above, with familiar plant--traipsing with husband Roger, far from Gainesville, in the Pacific Northwest. In her own inimitable words, e-mailed to the Editor:

We were driving down a road north of Victoria, B. C., on Vancouver Island, when we spotted a pair of palms at a garden nursery. We had to go back to see them and found they were a pair of Windmills about 20 feet tall. The owner said he set them out several years ago to attract attention and did not protect them in the winter. They looked great. There was also another pair of somewhat smaller Windmills at a miniature golf course just down the road. These must be some of the northernmost palms in North America? The Pacific Ocean moderates the climate somewhat, so that snow is rare, but it did occur in 1996, so they must have come through it. We had heard that there were some palms in Vancouver but hadn't thought to see any on the island.

Actually, there is an active chapter of the IPS called the Pacific Northwest Palm & Exotic Plant Society

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PALMING IN BAJA CALIFORNIA

By Bill Black

During the spring of 1999, my two dogs and I embarked on a month-long RV trip down the Baja peninsula of Mexico. I expected to see majestic desert, mountain and beach scenery, as well as wild palm trees, and Baja did not disappoint.

Canyons around Cataviña in Baja Norte are populated by *Washingtonia robusta* and *Brahea armata*. These are healthy populations with individual trees of all ages. South of LaPaz in Baja Sur fine stands of *Washingtonia robusta* grow along the banks of generally dry but seasonally torrential streams. I found seeing one of the most widely cultivated palm species in the world growing wild in habitat quite exciting.



Above is a Brahea armata growing in Baja California del Norte, Mexico. At right, top, is the familiar Washingtonia robusta growing in an unfamiliar place—habitat, Baja California del Sur. At right, bottom, a group of Brahea armata in Baja Norte. From Bill Black's pictures it is evident that the two species are similar in appearance, less so to the photographer than to the camera.

ZANZIBAR AND PEMBA, A PALM TRAVELOGUE

By Peter Mayotte, M.D.

Centuries ago, Arab traders sailed their elegant dhows down the coast of East Africa and established settlements along this fertile littoral. They followed the monsoon winds which blow from the northeast during the summer months, returning home with the shifting winds of winter. Luring them south from their arid homelands were spices, ivory, gold, precious woods, and the sad trade in humanity which slavery represented. Gradually, the Sultanate of Oman established a strong presence in the Zanzibar archipelago in the 1600s.

Modern Zanzibar reflects its colorful past, although it is no longer the thriving entrepot it once was. Here Arabia, Africa, and the Indian subcontinent meet in a swirling melange reminiscent of some faded Caribbean port. Zanzibar was “merged” with mainland Tanganyika in the early 1960s and this period saw a violent upheaval where a majority African population rose up and overthrew the Omani sultanate in a swift, bloody coup that Zanzibaris are reticent to discuss. Tanzania, the result of this post-colonial fusion,



The bare, parched mountains of Oman rise above the rich groves of Phoenix dactylifera growing in the Nizwa oasis.



Above, Dypsis pembana, native to Pemba, growing at the Zanzibar airport. The species is a popular ornamental on its neighbor island.

experimented heavily with socialist and Marxist theories, and the famous island became a forgotten destination until the worldwide changes of the past decade.

One can still follow the monsoon to Zanzibar but by 767 jet rather than lateen-rigged dhow. Nonetheless, this gives the traveller the opportunity to visit Oman, the sultanate occupying the southeast chunk of the Arabian peninsula. Disembarking in the capital, Muscat, in the 112-degree heat of July belies the notion of “dry heat” being tolerable. This ancient city has 16th century Portuguese forts and yet has seen tremendous modernization since the late 1970s when the present Sultan Qaboos bin-Said deposed his xenophobic father.

Escaping the torrid coast for the mountains, one reaches the oasis of Nizwa where millions of date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) thrive. The “Tree of Life” earns its nickname as it shades you from the searing midday sun.

Its fruits are proffered widely in public places *gratis* as a gesture of Omani hospitality.

Flying from Muscat to Zanzibar is a colorful experience, every seat taken by an odd collection of Omani bourgeoisie returning to the Spice Island, suspicious-looking East Indian and Chinese “traders,”

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ZANZIBAR AND PEMBA

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quiet African families, loud young Tanzanian hustlers hitting on European tourists, zealous missionaries, a Coptic priest in long vestments and silver cross—and one palm freak.

The archipelago is composed of two islands, Unguja (“Zanzibar” proper) and Pemba, which in the 19th century was made wealthy by the clove trade. Alas, those days are past and today Pemba is a forgotten backwater. However, Pemba has the only remnant of original rainforest (which once covered both islands) called the Ngezi Forest. Here, a small population of *Dyopsis pembana*, the only native palm of the group, persists. This forest is maintained as a reserve by the Tanzanian government.

After the chaos of clearing customs at Zanzibar’s Lilliputian airport, one immediately encounters the *Dyopsis* growing on the airport road. The magnificent tradewinds blow and erase all recollection of the furnace of Oman. The locals call the palm “mpapindi” in Swahili and it is rapidly becoming the favored ornamental.

Socialism’s dreary heritage of mildewed ranks of East German apartment blocks are a blight further along the airport road before you enter the Old City or “Stone Town.” This is situated on a rounded peninsula and contains many historic buildings of a fanciful design from the 1700s onward. Reminiscent of Habana Vieja, it is a confusing barrio of narrow lanes, pungent aromas of spices and rubbish, constant din of human discourse, and electronic blather of loud radios, punctuated by the occasional booming call to prayer from the loudspeakers of the mosques. Omani wedding parties surge through the streets and savory curries can be had at the many Goan restaurants such as the cleverly named “Chit Chat.” Aggressive young men calling themselves “guides” swarm about Western-looking types. These endearing fellows are termed “papaasi” or “fleas” by the locals.

There are architectural marvels such as the “Palace of Wonders,” once a government building but now dilapidated. In the garden of this palace are many stately old examples of *Dyopsis pembana*, as well as the ubiquitous coconut, and a tall *Pritchardia pacifica*, a common ornamental on the island, dating from the British period in the late 1800s.

This Florida boy was surprised to be shown an “unknown” palm by my guide, Suleiman, growing in front of the former U.S. consulate from the colonial

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A magnificent Dyopsis pembana growing in a private garden in Stone Town, Zanzibar. (Picture taken from above.)



Dyopsis pembana seedlings at the government nursery, Zanzibar.



Top, native cycad *Encephalartos hildebrandtii*, a female plant in a Stone Town, Zanzibar garden. Below, a "corkscrew coconut" in the Zanzibar countryside.

ZANZIBAR AND PEMBA

(Continued from page 12)

periods. The edifice is now a faded office, the palm none other than our beloved *Sabal palmetto*.

Mpapindi are found scattered throughout the Stone Town, and are cultivated at a government nursery. Several magnificent examples are in private gardens. One such garden, now a private residence, is where the glam rocker, Freddie Mercury (born Farouk Barsheed), grew up. Interestingly, he was born on Zanzibar of a Parsi or Zoroastrian family, and his ashes were returned there for his final repose.

In the old British Quarter, more spacious than the warrens of the Stone Town, is a neglected Botanical Garden, with examples of large *Corypha utan*, *Licuala grandis*, and the usual other common tropicls we take for granted. Further wanderings around Stone Town revealed fruiting specimens of the cycad *Encephalartos hildebrandtii*. This cycad once had an endemic population Zanzibar, which has nearly disappeared.

On to Pemba, an island known for its mangoes and its sorcery. Apprentice shamans venture here from throughout Africa, and even the West Indies, to learn ritual. Fortunately, none of these appear to involve the mpapindi. Accommodations are rudimentary, and the main bourg of Chaka Chaka is the *sine qua non* of fadedness. Bizarrely, there are Art Deco structures of the 1930s which, if renovated, would look hip on South Beach.

This once-rich island nonetheless is verdant, with rice paddies, magnificent stands of the large palm *Borassus aethiopum*, and groves of citrus, ylang-ylang, and clove. The Ngezi reserve lies at the northern tip of the island and is bisected by a difficult mud track. Suleiman Khamis Ali is the forestry officer at Ngezi and was extremely helpful. Besides its unique flora, Ngezi harbors endemic animals, such as the Pemba flying fox (a giant bat), the Pemba vervet monkey; the reclusive blue duiker found only here. It is a shy dwarf, nocturnal antelope. The pest Indian mongoose and Javan civet also cavort about.

Dyopsis pembana grows throughout the reserve. It is a graceful, moderately tall palm, growing to 10 meters in the forest and to 15 meters in cultivation. Often solitary, it may also form loose open clusters with bamboo-like stems highly similar to those of its relative, *Dyopsis cabadae*. Examples grow in deep shaded forest, as well as littoral forest within 50 meters of the sea. Leaflets may be in a single plane or almost plumose, as an example from a Zanzibar garden

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ZANZIBAR AND PEMBA

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beautifully shows. Fortunately, there is little local pressure on the “Monsoon Palm.”

Occasionally, trunks will be cut for house beams or for soccer posts in the nearby village. However, better alternatives of greater durability exist. One definite threat to the mpapindi is the encroachment of the aggressive African Oil Palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) invading the reserve from the south. As yet, the foresters have no real plan to halt this interloper. **Ngezi** also boasts a rattan (see *Principes* 39:2, 1995), *Calamus ornatus*, visible from the mud track, scrambling high into the canopy. It has robust canes and the forestry department is studying its harvest for commercial uses. It is uncertain if it is truly native or if it was introduced from Asia. “Mbungo,” or *Saba comorensis*, though not a palm, is a local liana yielding fruits that produce a fine punch tasting like passion-fruit juice.

Leaving Ngezi, one comes to the northern end of Pemba and a magnificent arc of beach named “Vumawimbi” completely deserted except for local fishermen mending and drying their nets, and

Marilyn and Palm Sighting

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that has members in British Columbia, Washington State, and Oregon. Its quarterly is called Hardy Palm International, and contains articles on plants other than palms. The August issue (received as an exchange) has pieces on Asiatic oaks and on agaves; Jeff St. Gelais reports, rather despondently, from Victoria on the delayed arrival of summer. If you'd like the latest on palm-growing in British Columbia, e-mail him at stgelais@islandnet.com *Trachycarpus fortunei* (smiling with Marilyn, above) is the staple palm of the area.

Marilyn relates another adventure on her trip:

*We were eating supper in a restaurant in Seattle, WA. When we looked out the window at a small casino next door, we thought we saw a palm tree near the front door. The trunk was about 7 feet tall, and was topped by pinnate fronds. The fronds looked funny—they were rather flat and stiff and looked more like a cycad than a palm. After supper, we rushed over to see what it was! The trunk looked like a Washington palm. As we got closer, we found we had been had. It was a *Palmus plasticus*! The trunk was pretty good, but the leaves were not. Can't figure why they would put that thing there. They had planted small *Chamaedoreas* near it—they were real. We were disappointed, had thought somehow they had a large cycad. Didn't have the camera, so can't have fun with that.*

littered with cowries and murex. Plunging into the spring-clear waters, one feels the pure joy of finding a rare forgotten corner of our world. . . palms have been good friends, indeed. . .



(Photo by Mike Dahme)

Vero's Fruiting Foxtail

By John Kennedy

Member Jules Horwitz installed a *Wodyetia bifurcata*, no more than 5-gallon, as part of a landscaping job in 1992. It has grown into a lush, bottle-shaped tree with a 15-foot trunk and about 20 feet of height overall. The foxtail is planted on a west-facing lawn on the barrier island. A small channel of the Indian River lagoon is a few feet away.

We know that foxtails have been fruiting for several years in Florida's Far South (Broward and Dade County), for prices of plants and seed have dropped significantly. However, no other foxtail in the Central Florida region has yet begun to flower (as far as is known), as has this plant beginning two years ago. Bob Grice, owner of a Vero Beach insurance agency and this *Wodyetia*, has given the seed to Jules. And Jules has given most of the seed to the CFPACS seedbank for fund-raising. (Some has gone to support Jules' favorite charitable activity, Habitat for Humanity.)

Fresh seed from the Grice foxtail has been known to germinate in three weeks.

Palm Symposium Report

By Ed Brown

What do you get when you cross 200 palm enthusiasts, 20 papers and expert speakers, and tropical locale? "You get the International Palm Symposium." I had the good fortune of attending the Palm Symposium in Fairchild Tropical Garden. It was quite an array of papers, from taxonomy to travel, and all aspects of the palm-culture. There were papers on seed germination, diseases, pot culture, nutrition, cold hardiness of various palms, and recent developments in taxonomy. I have been growing palms for almost 15 years and learned things I did not know. The audience comprised denizens from all parts of the globe.

We even had a representative from our own CFS chapter: Bernie Peterson, who discussed "The Cold Hardiness of Palms in Central Florida." We even had a discussion of what to with the palms that didn't make it, as Barry Massin spoke on "Palm Woodworking."

Tim Broschat discussed "Palm Nutrition and Fertilization" which gave a lot of insights and indirect information on this practical subject. This topic was companion to Jack Fisher's discussion on "Mycorrhizal Associations in Palms." This gave us insights into how nutrition is introduced to the plants. Alan Meerow gave a fascinating overview of "Palm Diseases." The well-prepared slides and information diagnosis helped clarify much mystery on this subject. From each one of these talks I learned facts and information I did not know.

I particularly enjoyed Dr. Noblick's Travelogue on a truly fascinating place. Dr. Noblick discussed not only the palms, but his travels, the sociology, and many other aspects of this place. The slides were excellent and it permitted the audience to sojourn in the full wonder of the tropics.

Paul Craft's travelogue of Cuba made a good impression with the audience. He had beautiful slides, good commentary, and reduced the 80 or so species of palms down to a digestible talk. I could go on with accolades to the many other distinguished speakers, but brevity is a virtue in writing.

Fairchild Tropical Garden gave very pleasant accommodation and was a good host. The refreshments and lunches were excellent. Thanks goes to Ms. Julia Kornegay and Ann Schmidt for all the efforts they did to make the Symposium a success!

Yes, I will remember the Symposium fondly.

The Michael Collection in Wabasso: An Inventory

By Mike Dahme

As those who attended any of the recent meetings—1989, '94, and again this past March—at Joe and Anne Michael's home in Wabasso know, their palm collection is Florida's oldest and most spectacular outside of the tropical south. The collection was formed in the 1950s through 1965, and almost everything listed survived the freezes of the '80s, including the 19°F recorded prior to daybreak on 12-24-89. (It had already dropped to 23°F just after midnight of that morning.)

Following is the listing of palm species, compiled with Joe's help on May 30th. In most cases, there are multiple plantings for each species indicated.

BINOMIAL

Acoelorrhaphe wrightii
Acrocomia aculeata
Adonidia (=Veitchia) merrillii
Arenga engleri
A. pinnata
Attalea cohune
A. speciosa
Bactris sp.
Bismarckia nobilis
Borassus aethiopicum
Caryota mitis
Chamaedorea seifrizii
Chamaerops humilis
Coccothrinax argentata
C. crinita
Cocos nucifera
Copernicia sp., likely *hospita*
C. macroglossa
Corypha umbraculifera
C. utan
Desmoncus sp. likely *orthacanthus*
Dypsis cabadae
D. decaryi
D. leptocheilos
D. lutescens
Elaeis guineensis
Guibaia argyrata
Hyophorbe lagenicaulis
Hyphaene sp., likely *coriacea*
Latania lontanoides
Licuala spinosa
Livistona australis

COMMON NAME

Paurotis Palm
Manila Palm
Dwarf Sugar Palm
Sugar Palm
Cohune Palm
Babassu Palm
Bismark Palm
Clumping Fishtail Palm
Bamboo Palm
European Fan Palm
Silver Palm
Grandfather Palm
Coconut, several forms including Jamaica Tall
Petticoat Palm
Talipot Palm
Cabada Palm
Triangle Palm
Redneck Palm
Areca Palm
African Oil Palm
Bottle Palm
Gingerbread Palm
Red Latan Palm
Spiny Fiber Palm

BINOMIAL

L. chinensis

COMMON NAME

Chinese Fan Palm



Part of a group of Sabal palmetto in the vicinity of one of the houses on the property. In 1955, Joe added a foot or two of fill (for the housepad) in the area and thinned the native vegetation, after which the cabbage palm stems noticeably thickened. As only five or six feet of clear trunk has resulted in the intervening 44 years, Joe calculates that the palms of this grove are several centuries old.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>L. saribus</i> | <i>Taraw Palm</i> |
| <i>Phoenix reclinata</i> | <i>Senegal Date Palm</i> |
| <i>P. roebelenii</i> | <i>Dwarf Date Palm</i> |
| <i>Ptychosperma elegans</i> | <i>Solitaire Palm</i> |
| <i>P. macarthurii</i> | <i>Macarthur Palm</i> |
| <i>Rhapidophyllum hystrix</i> | <i>Needle Palm</i> |
| <i>Rhapis excelsa</i> | <i>Lady Palm</i> |
| <i>Roystonea regia</i> | <i>Royal Palm</i> |
| <i>Sabal causiarum</i> (?) | <i>Puerto Rican Hat Palm</i> |
| <i>S. mauritiiiformis</i> | |
| <i>S. mexicana</i> | <i>Cabbage Palm</i> |
| <i>S. palmetto</i> | |
| <i>S. sp.</i> | <i>Saw Palmetto</i> |
| <i>Serenoa repens</i> | <i>Queen Palm</i> |
| <i>Syagrus romanzoffianum</i> | <i>Arikury Palm</i> |
| <i>S. schizophylla</i> | <i>Brittle Thatch Palm</i> |
| <i>Thrinax morrisii</i> | <i>Thatch Palm</i> |
| <i>T. radiata</i> (?) | |
| <i>Veitchia sp., likely arecina</i> | |
| <i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i> | <i>Foxtail Palm</i> |
| <i>Zombia antillarum</i> | <i>Zombie Palm</i> |

Candidates for Office, 2000

By Mike Dahme, Nominations Chair

In compliance with the ByLaws, following is the list of candidates for chapter positions for calendar year '00.

- President - Neil Yorio
- West VP - Ray Hernandez
- Central VP - Eric Schmidt
- East VP - Charlene Palm
- Treasurer - Mike Merritt
- Secretary - Chuck Grieneisen

Appointed positions can be determined by next year's board, but are not anticipated to change - unless Dave Witt relocates to Tennessee. Tom Broome will remain on the Board by virtue of being the immediate past president.

Per the By Laws, candidates for the 6 elective positions should submit short bios to the editor for printing in the 4th quarter bulletin - John will advise of the deadline for that. I imagine that he can reuse the information that was contained in the issue for this year's officers for those continuing in their positions, and thus that only Ray, Charlene and Mike M need submit.

JOIN THE CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY!

For the amazingly reasonable price of \$10, you receive four issues of this fine publication, are put in contact with palm/cycad nuts, and advance public knowledge of these wonderful plants!

Send name, address, phone number, e-mail address (don't forget the check made out to CFPACS) to the Membership Chair. His address is on page 11.

The deadline for the December issue is 8 November. Those who have not been elected previously, should send to me, John K, 50-100 words about yourself, your interest in palms/cycads: whatever you think interesting or pertinent.

Do you know someone interested in joining THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY?



The International Palm Society
P.O. BOX 1897
Lawrence, Kansas 66044-8897, U.S.A.

Membership is accepted on a calendar year basis. New members' dues received after October 1 will be applied toward the following year unless otherwise specified by the applicant. Members for the current year will receive all issues of the year's *PALMS*, formerly known as *PRINCIPES*. Please indicate your preference below:

- Current Year Next Year Both Years

NAME _____ DATE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
COUNTRY _____ TELEPHONE _____
—PLEASE PRINT—

1999 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| One Year Membership | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular | \$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | 45.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | 45.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | 45.00-99.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | 100.00-499.00 a year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life | 500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | 2500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries | 40.00 |

DIRECT AIRMAIL DELIVERY
to non-USA addresses is an extra \$25 per year
(Note: Airlift delivery to most non-USA addresses is included in dues and is faster than surface delivery, but slower than Direct Airmail.)

- Payment Enclosed VISA MasterCard

Card # _____
Expiration Date ____/____/____ Signature _____

NOTICE: Except for credit card charges, payment must be in USA dollars and payable on a USA bank.

Membership Dues Bargain!

Annual dues are \$10.00. However, join for three years and pay \$25.00. (That's \$5.00 saved toward the purchase of that coveted palm or cycad.)

Anyone joining after October 1, the dues apply for the following calendar year, as well as the remainder of the current year.

Pay dues after the beginning of the calendar year, before October 1, and get all issues of the newsletter published previously in that year.

The Treasurer's Report

November 30, 1998 to June 12, 1999

Income

Seed sales	2,060.22
Membership dues	1,361.00
Donations	102.50
Public sales	142.56
Private sales	435.40
Sales of back issues, Palm Review	125.00
Total	4,226.68

Expenses

Publications	1,473.31
Computers and software	2,544.41
Donations	100.00
Miscellaneous	222.11
Total	4,339.83

Income – Expenses	-113.15
Bank balance 11/30/98	9,120.95
Bank balance 06/12/99	8,993.85
Net decrease	-127.10

Assets

CD, matures 01/09/00	6,450.00
Annual interest	241.88
Office equipment and tent	1,570.00
Computers and software	2,544.41 minus depreciation

Any questions about these figures should be addressed to Mike Merritt, Treasurer. His address, phone number, e-mail address are listed on page 11.

What Was Discussed at the June Board Meeting in Maitland

Minutes of the second quarter meeting of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society.

Date: June 13, 1999

Location: Ed & Nancy Hall's residence, Maitland FL

1. Old minutes from first quarter meeting were agreed upon (without corrections)
2. Upcoming events were discussed and if there would be anyone from the CFPACS there. At the upcoming palm symposium Hersh Womble will be there. At Cycad 99, Tom Broome will be speaking there. Everyone is invited to the PalmFest (our next meeting will be held there).

[Editor's note: PalmFest has since been cancelled, has been re-scheduled for May 20-21, 2000, in Palm Beach County. Instead, the next CFPACS meeting will be the joint picnic/plant auction with the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society in Lake Worth on September 4. See front page and page 3 for details.]

3. Other announcements: Jim and Maria Parkhurst know of a school in Palm Harbor that is in need of some donated palms for a planting they are going to do there.

4. Officers' reports are as follow:

Treasurer's report (by Mike Merritt) is that the CFPACS is solvent. There is a CD that matures 1-9-00 and a motion was made (and passed) to redeem it. Ed Hall is the representative on the current CD. The two representatives on the redeemed CD will be Mike Merritt and Neil Yorio. It was also discussed to put the money into a mutual fund instead of a CD.

Membership Chair (Dave Witt) informed us we now have 200 members. Ten to 15 new people having joined us since last meeting.

A motion was made and passed to have our next meeting at the PACSOF Palmfest on Sept. 4 and 5.

[Ed.: See above, under #2]

It was also decided to have the fourth quarter meeting with the French chapter of the IPS on the weekend of Nov. 13. It was also discussed to have an auction at that meeting.

5. The new CFPAC brochure is completed. It has horticultural info and the membership application. It will be free for distribution at nurseries, gardens and ag. extensions and anywhere else that new members would be found (also any members that would want any to recruit members). It was discussed how many to print.

We will now have our own info on the PACSOF web page.

The amended by-laws were given to the secretary (Chuck Grieneisen) for his and the president's (Neil Yorio) signature.

It was also discussed to get the complete *Principes* collection. There were some missing issues and Hersh Womble agreed to donate any to make the collection complete (if he had them). It was also discussed on indexing them or listing their contents so that members would know what was in each issue.

To make it easier to produce *The Palmateer* it was discussed about getting an Office 97 update and getting a business account at the printers.

The last order of business was Ed Hall donated a sign, to be used at all the plant sales that the society participates in to identify us as the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society.

--submitted by Chuck Grieneisen
Secretary, CFPACS



From the Editor's Desk
John Kennedy

I'll bet you expected me to whine again about how much trouble I've had with the computer, the program, the scanner. After all, I've done so in the four previous issues I've edited. And, yes, there have been a few problems in assembling this issue, notably a virus I brought home from work (vaporized by Janice Broda as Wonder Woman). However, the technology cooperating—it doesn't, quite regularly—it always helps to know what you're doing. I think I now understand almost everything and don't fear what I do not. (Please, Lord, don't take this statement as *hubris*.) I still await, trembling, the advent of Microsoft Office 2000, containing Publisher 2000, with whatever lurks in that program.

* * * *

The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society currently has a little more than 200 members. Sounds good, right? How many people live in the Orlando and Tampa-St. Pete metropolitan areas? I'm guessing, 6 million? Then, there are the smaller but still populous areas: Daytona Beach, Gainesville, Ocala, Melbourne-Cocoa-Titusville, Sarasota-Bradenton, Fort Pierce-Port St. Lucie. Maybe another 2 million people? In the 17 counties of our service area, 200 members.

All of us love palms, many of us also love cycads. We need to evangelize, proselytize, get the word out. Almost everyone in Florida is from Somewhere Else (Up North) where tropical plants are pretty much unknown. It's not all that easy to find CFPACS (the IPS website link notwithstanding): we're not really visible here in Central Florida. This is about to change. Neil Yorio, our prez—remember, the busy guy in the palm shirt—with input from members on and off the Board, has prepared a trifold brochure to be placed in nurseries, garden centers, county extension offices, libraries: wherever customers/clients/people buy plants or look for information.

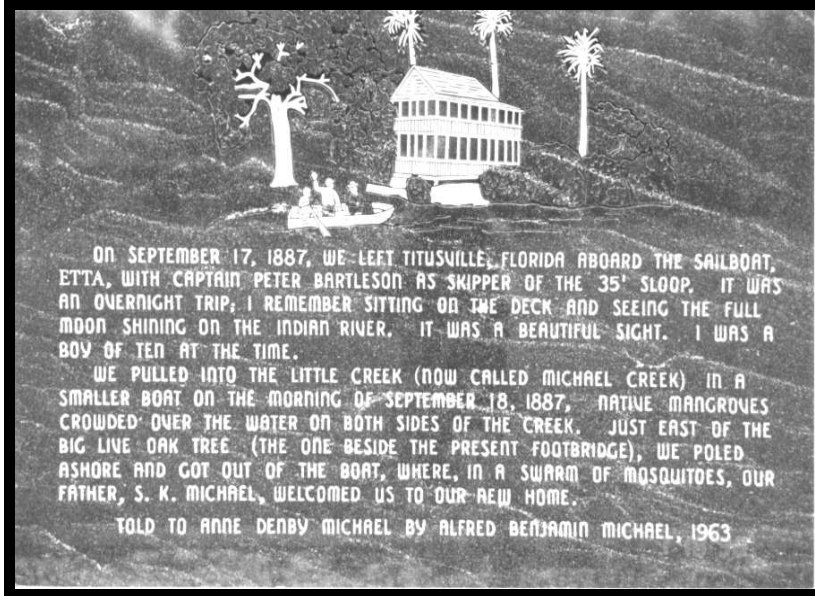
What's on the brochure is basic, intended for beginners, a list of relatively easy-to-grow species, together with cultural information. The address of the Membership Chair will be printed or stamped on one flap, and there are more details about the chapter and dues. Perhaps most significant for anyone picking up this brochure at, say, Home Depot, is the space

containing the name and phone number of a local contact. This is voluntary, an experienced member willing to answer some questions about palms and cycads.

I've given a slide show presentation on palms from Melbourne to Jupiter Island and I've been featured in the Vero Beach newspaper a couple of times. Though I didn't give out my phone number (I **am** listed), I've received three or four calls after each public appearance. None has been from cranks. Chiefly, I've been asked about fertilization, sometimes about particular species.

To make the membership drive work, we'll need volunteer contacts for all of our 17 counties. I've agreed to be the contact in Indian River County and St. Lucie County, small counties with only a few members now. Brevard County can use three or four (Melbourne, Cocoa/Cocoa Beach, Titusville). The real challenge, of course, is the larger metropolitan areas; more than one person needs to volunteer. Possibly, block captains to re-supply brochures or info to more localized members: in Orlando, could we have someone as back-up to a contact in Longwood (north) and another contact in Kissimmee (south)? I'm just throwing out ideas, for no such loose structure now exists.

Membership brochures are expected to be available later this month. Be the first one on your block to help out the Good Cause of spreading our love for and information about palms (and cycads). For further information, contact members of the Board (listed on page 11), in particular, Dave Witt (Membership Chair) and Neil Yorio (president). Membership Chair, and Neil Yorio, our president.



Marker at Earring Point, Wabasso homestead of Joe and Anne Michael, with account of family settlement there. See inventory of the Michaelpalms, on pages 16 & 17. Story and pictures by Mike Dahme.

The Palmateer
Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society
3225 13th Street