The Palmateer

Volume 21, No. 4 *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* *December, 2001*

Lytocaryum weddellianum *in Phil Stager's St. Petersburg garden, visited during Palm Fest.*

Xmas 'sociable' in Cocoa Beach: Saturday, Dec. 15th at home of Diana & Mark Grabowski Details of this quarterly meeting on page 3. Map on page 2.

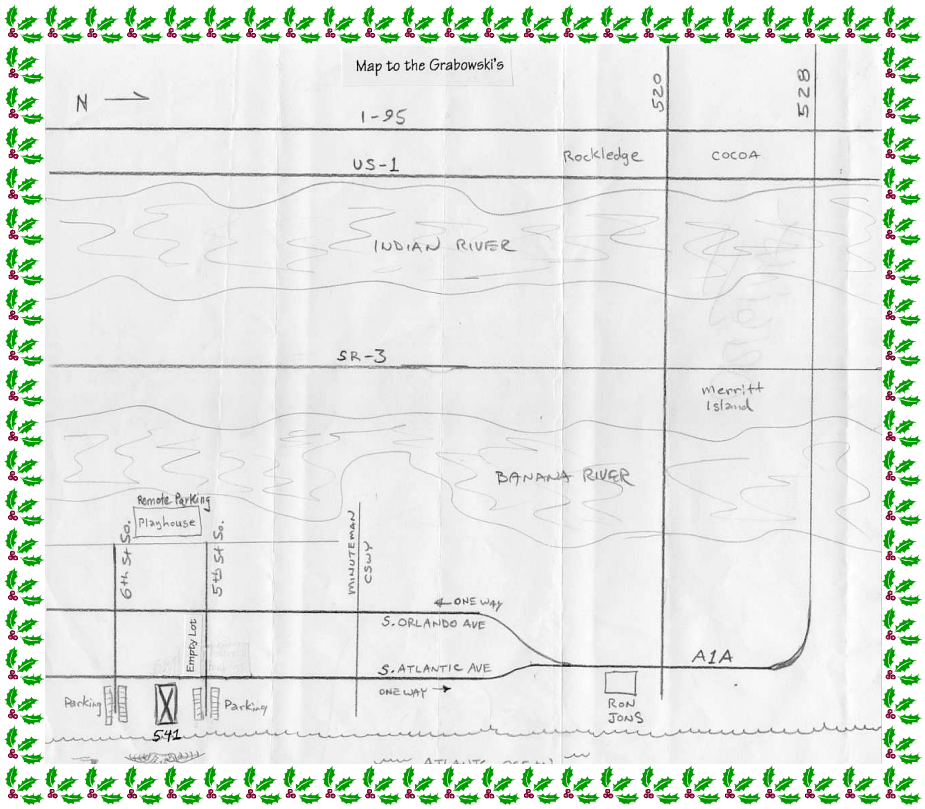
That's Dave the Auctioneer (also CFPACS prez and PACSOF prez, all-round talented guy) conducting the Palm Fest auction at Gizella Kopsick Palmetum in St. Pete. Is it Chamaedorea brachypoda*? Visible, left, is Ray Hernández; Ed Carlson stands behind Ray Gompf (bidding), next to Roger and Marilyn Bachmann. Riveting account of Palm Fest begins on page 4.*

Fabled Dr. Young's? No, not Tampa at Palm Fest, but Angkor Wat in Cambodia, adorned with Borassus flabellifer. *Peter Mayotte's story of adventures in Indochina on page 15.*

Ceratozamia miqueliana, *growing at the entrance of Dr. Young's house. Other cycad pictures on page 5, all taken by Tom Broome.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: PAGE 34

FEBRUARY 11th: the deadline to submit material for inclusion in the March issue.



The Holiday 'Sociable' and Quarterly Meeting will take place at the home of Diana and Mark Grabowski on December 15. Map above shows how easy it is to find the way. Details and specific directions may be found on page 3.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

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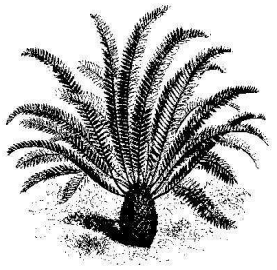


¡Feliz Navidad, Próspero Año Nuevo!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The membership year is the same as the calendar year. Renew your membership in the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society for 2002 *now.* Send a check made out to CFPACS ($10 for one year, $25 for three years) to Mark Van Antwerp, Membership Chair, 4645 Canterbury Drive, Land O'Lakes, FL 34639 (mvanantw@parinc.com). Make sure that you receive the next issue of The Palmateer. Tell Mark if you have changed mailing or e-mail address, phone number, etc.

Holiday Palm Social/Quarterly Meeting: Cocoa Beach Saturday, Dec. 15th 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Plan on celebrating the holidays "beach style" at Mark & Diana Grabowski's wind/salt tolerance proving grounds located in Cocoa Beach on the ocean.

Who? This palm social is open to all CFPACS and IPS members, and all our neighboring palm society friends.
When? Saturday, December 15, 2001
Time? 11:00-3:00 (you are welcome to stay as long as you'd like. . .but no more than three days)
Where? The Grabowskis', 541 South Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach (321) 783-2342. Property planted with palms and cycads suited for salty and windy conditions. . .at least that's what the literature states.
What to bring? 5 things: a covered dish of your choice; lawn chair; any beach equipment, such as fishing poles, surfboard, boogie boards; some $$ to spend during the plant auction; and quarters for the parking meters.
Mark and Diana welcome all of you to come join us for a fun and casual day at the beach, while you browse around looking at palms and cycads which will definitely be showing "signs" of the season. There will be door prizes, a plant auction from plants donated by Montgomery Botanical Center, and great food. We will provide a variety of seafood entries (fish, clam chowder, etc. . . .grilled veggies and key lime pie), your covered dishes will be greatly appreciated to accompany our dishes. Refreshments will be provided, compliments of the CFPACS.
Directions: IMPORTANT NOTE: *Patrick Air Force Base has A1A closed, so access from the south via Pineda Causeway (SR 404) and A1A is NOT POSSIBLE.*

From North: From I-95, take 528 Causeway (Beeline) east, which becomes A1A, heading south.
From South: From I-95, take 520 Causeway east to A1A, go right, heading south on A1A.
From West: Take 528 (Beeline) to become A1A south.
From East: SWIM. . .

Parking Info: Bring quarters for beach street parking meters. There is an empty lot about 100 yds from the property which may be available for parking (check on day of event to see if cars are parked there). Also remote parking at Surfside Playhouse (see map, opposite page).
Do NOT park on shoulder of road. Police give $25 parking tickets for doing so.

—Diana Grabowski

Cycad Duds at UCF?

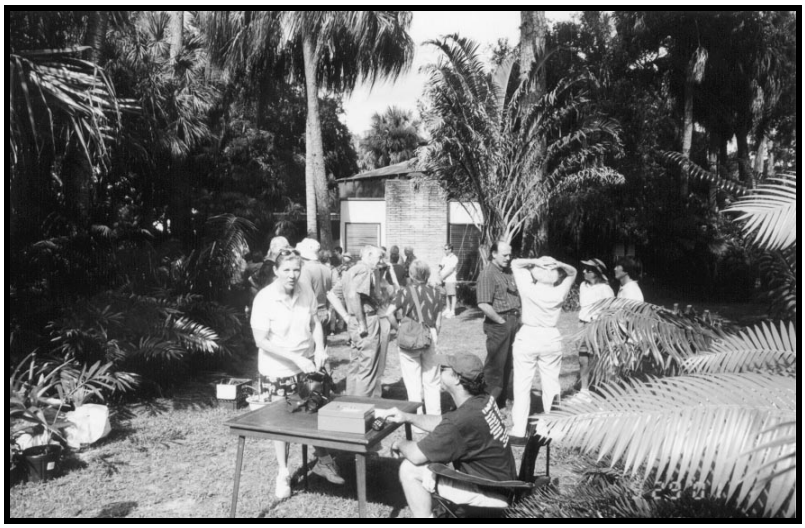
A few of the un-leaved *Cycas spp.* plants auctioned at our last meeting [July] at the University of Central Florida Arboretum have failed to flush leaves. It appears that some of them may not have survived the prophylactic scale treatment. If you purchased a plant at this auction and it has died, please contact Neil Yorio (nkyorio@netzero.net) prior to the December meeting for an exchange. The CFPACS regrets any inconvenience to our members.

Palm Fest 2001: Congenial People, Wonderful Palms & Cycads

By John Kennedy

The heavy rains soaking the East Coast gradually diminished as those driving west to Tampa arrived at the Hillsborough County line. At that approximate point, the sun emerged, the day turned beautiful, with all the dark clouds in the rear view mirror. There could scarcely have been better weather had CFPACS been able to utilize Dial-A-Day for the opening of the Palm and Cycad Societies of Florida (PACSOF) Palm Fest 2001, sponsored this year by our chapter. The two-day event, on Saturday and Sunday, September 29th and 30th, was sporadically overcast but mostly brilliantly sunny, in the mid-80s, with normal humidity.

The first Occasion—no other word being possible—was the often-visited garden of Dr. U. A. Young in Tampa's Beach Park (peninsular South Tampa) neighborhood. The modest, flat-topped 1950s house, unusual only in its atrium, is set on five ordinary house lots under a canopy of oaks and pines. Roy Works, as previously, took the 50 visitors from all over the state on The Tour. Since he helps care for the mature collection of palms and cycads, Roy is well able to answer just about any question. Roy cautioned all those looking in amazement and appreciation not to assume that the species growing so well there would grow equally well elsewhere in Tampa, let alone beyond into other parts of Central Florida. His warning was hard to believe, for the area looks much like Winter Park or even San Marco or Riverside in Jacksonville: that is, semi-temperate. However, the collection is in an unusually favorable microclimate and—further, says Ray—Dr. Young has been exceptionally lucky.



Registration for Palm Fest at Dr. Young's: Dave Witt with the cashbox, Faith Bishock readies to pay up. Just beyond the card table are Norm and Ann Moody. Behind Faith is the well-known pore-boy hat and pink shirt (he thinks it's red).

Early birds at Phil Stager's (Day 2). From left, Ann Moody, the Phil, John Kennedy in white shirt, Norm Moody.

Among the palms on the grounds were *Trithrinax campestris, Jubaeopsis caffra*, a huge *Copernicia macroglossa*, both species of *Borassus*, mature specimens of *Coccothrinax crinita, Attalea cohune, Zombia antillarum,* and *Trithrinax brasiliensis* (to name only a few of many wonderful palms). The list could go on and on.

Among the mature cycads are those pictured on the opposite page: *Bowenia serrulata* and *Macrozamia johnsonii*. And there is that blue *Encephalartos lehmanii* pictured on page 34.

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Bowenia serrulata, *left, in Dr. Young's collection in Tampa..*

Macrozamia johnsonii, *right, another of the magnificent cycads at Dr. Young's.*

Jody Haynes stands next to a luminous palm, one of several variegated cabbage palms, at Ted Langley's seen by the Palm Fest visitors. These are described as "striped but having a big yellow blotch in the middle of each leaf." Interestingly enough, with these Sabal palmetto, *the variegation comes true from seed. Photo by Tom Broome.*

Livistona lanuginosa*, formerly L. "Cape River," in park, Townsville, Queensland.*

*Dooryard—but perhaps remnant—*Livistona muelleri *in suburban Cairns, the southern end of the species' range in Queensland.*

The Lost Boys, Parts 3 & 4 (Concluded)

For those of you who have followed, enraptured, the adventures of the Hardy Boys. . .um, the Lost Boys. . . in darkest Queensland, the Editor is obliged to summarize the ending of their odyssey in order to make room for the mandatory Australian article, "Why Not *Livistona*?" that begins on page 26 of this issue.

Part 3 follows the intrepid travelers through Days 5, 6, and 7, as they moved from Laura to Cairns, via Atherton, Charters Towers, Ravenswood, and Townsville. (Now you know). Bruce Barry was said to have run mad in the Yuruga native nursery, losing "control and started buying what appeared to be a trailer-load of plants, so that he could squeeze them in his suitcase and ship them back to California!" The group managed not to see *Archontophoenix maxima*, since these were on forestry land for which entry permits had to be obtained. Instead, they went looking for *Livistona lanuginosa*, which proved elusive until Mike called Sam Sweet in California; Sam sent a fax with a map and directions to exactly where these palms might be located. Further adventures led them to about 40 mature palms of this species. The "Cape River" *Livistona* resembles *L. mariae* and *L. rigida*, with gray, waxy leaves.

Part 4 takes "the boys" from Days 8 through 11, the return to Cairns, with a fruitless search—literally—for *Livistona* "Paluma Range." They did get to see *Livistona drudei* and various attractive cultivated palms before returning the LandCruiser to the rental agency and bidding each other farewell. Anyone wishing to read the exact account of these two parts, four pages in all, written by Daryl O'Connor, is invited to contact the Editor.

Viewpoint

Whose Trees are These? Botanical Gardens and the Convention on Biological Diversity

[This article is reprinted with the permission of the author and of Carla Pastore, executive director of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, in whose journal, Public Garden*, it was published in the Spring, 2001, issue.]*

By Scott Zona, Ph. D.

Shortly after the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was created in 1992 and entered into effect on December 29,1993, it was hailed as a comprehensive victory for conservationists.[1] The CBD has three broad objectives: 1) the conservation of biological diversity; 2) the sustainable use of biodiversity; and 3) the equitable sharing of the benefits [but not the risks] of exploiting genetic resources. The CBD is unique in that it directs signatory nations to seek solutions to biodiversity crises, rather than set absolute and specific conservation goals.

While many see the CBD as a positive step toward protecting biodiversity, some are taking a wait-and-see attitude. The US has not ratified the treaty, although virtually all of the rest of the world has.

What the CBD Says

A core tenet of the CBD is recognition of the states' rights over biological resources (defined as populations, organisms, parts thereof, and other "genetic resources"). The CBD recognizes that states have sovereignty over biological resources, in particular genetic resources, even when those resources are cultivated outside their country of origin. Article 15 states that "for the purposes of this Convention. . . the genetic resources . . . are those that are provided by Contracting Parties [signatory countries] that are countries of origin of such resources, or by the Parties that have acquired the genetic resources in accordance with this Convention." Moreover, "access to genetic resources shall be subject to prior informed consent of the Contracting Party providing such resources. . ." In other words, the source country has a say in who gets access to materials in cultivation that were collected from that source country after December 29, 1993.

In the language of the treaty, "genetic resources" means "genetic material of real or potential value." This term covers living and dried material, leaves, flowers, and fruits, seeds and other propagative material, and even DNA. It specifically covers anything that contains "the functional units of heredity," i.e., genes. Apparently, it does not cover extracts of plant compounds or chemicals, such as alkaloids, resins, glycosides, etc., as these materials do not contain the functional units of heredity. Moreover, the CBD covers not just the plants collected, but also their offspring, and their offspring, ad infinitum.

The Effect on Botanical Gardens

Scientific researchers always have used botanical gardens as a legitimate source of research material, and botanical gardens welcomed the interest. Documented research "adds value" to botanical collections, so the relationship between botanical gardens and research scientists usually is a happy, mutually beneficial one. Commercial nurserymen, as well as gardeners and plant collectors, also have an interest in the collections of botanical gardens, and many gardens see the development and distribution of new cultivated plants as a part of their mission. Even the simple sharing of seeds or cuttings with hobbyist growers has a long tradition in botanical gardens. All of these activities, however, are severely threatened by the CBD, which says that gardens do not have sovereignty over their collections.

As the effects of Article 15 ripple through the biological community, botanical gardens now are the focus of interest by US and multinational pharmaceutical companies that seek new medicines or useful chemicals in biological organisms ("bio-prospecting"). The companies are expressing interest in pre-1993 plant materials, but botanical gardens are finding themselves under attack by groups who feel that gardens are allowing the companies to exploit a "loophole" in the CBD.[2][3]

Fuzzy Logic

Much of the CBD arose out of the notion that plants or populations are natural, exploitable resources like any other. The language of the CBD makes liberal use of terms like "exploitation of natural resources" and "sustainable use." In the CBD, plants become mineral deposits to be controlled, mined, and sold by the source country. But, unlike mineral ores, plants can be renewed and propagated. They are perpetual, at least in human time scales. One plant can give rise to thousands, even millions of seedlings, which in turn can give rise to millions more. This is an obvious yet crucial distinction between plants and other natural resources.

The questions raised by those wanting access to bo-

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Zona: Whose Trees?

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tanical garden collections and by self-appointed defenders of the CBD boil down to one salient question: *Who owns a plant growing in a botanical garden?*

As an employee of a botanical garden, I believe that the botanical garden owns it. After all, the garden collected or acquired the plant at some expense, tracked it in a record system, and hired horticulturalists to care for it. This concept of ownership seems even more tenable when applied to plants purchased from foreign nurseries or suppliers. The plant was purchased and legitimately imported by the botanical garden, so it follows that the garden is the owner, just as surely as I own my Japanese-made computer monitor. My view, however, is not shared by all. Makhubu, for example, wrote that "there are many collections of plant species. . .[in] botanical gardens in Europe, America, and elsewhere that were originally gathered from African countries."[4] She went on to say, "There is currently no law guiding African access to these genetic resources, *which are African by right*" [italics added].

This concept of ownership is crucial if future claims are to be made in courts of law that source countries are entitled to a share of the profits from these biological organisms or their genes. It is the concept of ownership and, hence, access—not the concept of profit sharing—that is the most troublesome to botanical gardens.

Tough Questions

Who, precisely, owns a country's plants, and who has the authority to grant access to plants growing in botanical gardens outside the source county? Does the government in power own the plants, and is ownership passed to successive governments? Is ownership shared equally by the populace? (These questions become even more urgent when the subject of profit sharing arises, but that topic is beyond the scope of this article.)

The ownership questions become more intractable when genes, not whole plants or animals, are at the center of the debate. Who owns genes? Genes flow. The same gene may be found in many different species, occurring in many different countries. What if the gene is an ancient one that evolved long before countries or even continents came into being? Now who "owns" the genetic material? Does the United States government own my genes because I am a US citizen, or does Italy have a claim because I am Italian-American? What about the genes that I share with yeasts, *Arabidopsis*, and other living creatures? Who owns them?

If we admit that countries own the biological and genetic resources within their borders, then surely with ownership comes responsibility, especially when those biological resources become pests. Will Taiwan pay the US to control the Formosan termite, a voracious pest in the South? Will Brazil pick up the tab for the control and eradication of two of Florida's most noxious weeds, Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) and water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)? Or will the nations of Africa unite to halt the spread of Africanized honeybees, the so-called "killer bees," in the Americas?

These organisms, of course, left their countries of origin before 1993 and are beyond the reach of the CBD, but they serve as examples of the continuing problem of invasive or pest species. Will countries of origin take responsibility for invasive species? The answer is obvious to us all. Ownership, in terms of the CBD, apparently applies only to "good" (read: profitable) biological resources and is unencumbered by liability.

Strict adherence to Article 15 creates a nightmare of clerical work for botanical gardens. Pre-1993 collections are freely accessible; post-1993 collections are not. Extracts containing DNA are covered by the CBD; extracts of simple phytochemicals are not. Some botanical gardens, including the one in which I work, are providing material for research only if the recipient signs a document stating that he or she (the recipient) will abide by the CBD, share profits with the source country, and not distribute the material to others who might not abide by the provisions of the document. Such documents have not been tested in a court of law, and may not carry legal authority. Sadly, some botanical gardens may simply refuse researchers access to their collections, thus limiting scientific inquiry. Moreover, even the best security measures employed by botanical gardens cannot stop visitors from taking seeds, cuttings, or other DNA-containing samples.

If we are to make any progress in the biological sciences in this period of hyperextinction, we need to get beyond the argument of ownership. Stewardship, not ownership, is the paradigm we should embrace. As stewards, we have responsibility to learn as much about biodiversity as possible, and we have the responsibility to preserve that biodiversity for future generations. As stewards, botanical gardens should adopt the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's stance in support of free exchange of useful plants. Gardeners have a rich tradition of freely sharing cultivated plant material, a tradition as worthy of preservation as the traditional uses of plants by indigenous peoples. Botanical gardens should assist sister institutions

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First stop, left, in the Gainesville June meeting: the secluded, lovely home of Marilyn and Roger Bachmann. Look past the gazebo to the house. Picture should have appeared in the September issue, did not because of the Editor's inefficiency. The trees here *belong to the pine beetle, which is rapidly making more sunny space for palms.*

Left, Geonoma undata, *with orange-tinged leaf bases, growing in cloud forest 2000 meters above Cali, Colombia. Picture by our own Peter Mayotte.*

Zona: Whose Trees?

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in other countries, especially those in countries with limited resources to support gardens. Rather than force the acceptance of a flawed treaty—one that hinders scientific advancement and fosters *quid pro quo* relationships among gardens and source countries—all nations must develop biological surveys, train biologists at all levels, create botanical collections, and, yes, even engage in drug discovery, before the organisms with which we share this planet disappear.

♥♥♥

Scott Zona, Ph.D. is a Palm Biologist at Fairchild Tropical Garden in Coral Gables (Miami), Florida.

Acknowledgements

I thank Tsyr Han Chow, Dena Garvue, and Julia Kornegay for their constructive comments on earlier drafts of this manuscript.

Footnotes

[1]Wyse Jackson, P.S. 1997. "Convention on Biological Diversity." Public Garden 12 (2): 14-17.

[2]Dove, A. 1998. "Botanical Gardens Cope with Bioprospecting Loophole." Science 281: 1273.

[3]Galbraith, D. A. 1998. "Biodiversity Ethics: A Challenge to Botanical Gardens for the Next Millenium." Public Garden 13 (3): 16:19.

[4]Makhubu, L. 1998. "Bioprospecting in an African Context." Science 282: 41, 42.

Note: This article represents the personal views of the author and does not represent the views of his employer, Fairchild Tropical Garden, or of the AABGA. Look for another view on this topic in the next issue.

(The disclaimer above appeared following the article, suggestive of some nervousness with Zona's views. —Editor)

This picture arrived with the cryptic message: "Trash pickup at Borassic Park." On the truck are a Canary Island Date Palm, a Caryota mitis, *and a Triangle. Ray Barclay with Mike (left) and Bart (right). Note bottles of palm fertilizer. Now there is room for worthy* Livistona*s or, perhaps, some Puerto Rican palms at the private palmetum and tourist attraction in Grant.*

Palm Fest 2001

(Continued from page 4)

Dr. Young, who is very elderly, sat in his kitchen exchanging greetings through the screen with visitors crowded into the atrium to marvel at his *Lodoicea maldivica*, *Geonoma interrupta*, and other gems planted there.

Across the street was a two-story McMansion, on a single city lot. As a member who is a local Realtor pointed out, the existing simple 50-year-old house had been razed to make way for its successor. He noted that the spanking new house completely filled the lot: about 15 feet from sidewalk to the front steps, and no more on either side. Installation of a regular-sized swimming pool would eliminate the space behind the house. There were many other huge new houses in the area.

Lutz, on the north end of Hillsborough County is a jaunt in the opposite direction from Dr. Young's. Ted and Nancy Langley welcomed visitors to their 1½-acre pine-shaded property that looked to be much larger. Chairs to collapse in, a cooler and tub full of assorted liquid cheer, some munchies—all exactly what was needed at that point and, after partial recovery, more palms and cycads to inspect. Ted was, in years past, president of CFPACS and his collection held well-grown plants that have been there for years—including *Trithrinax acanthocoma*—as well as more recent acquisitions. There was some dispute over a supposed *Livistona saribus* behind the house. Faith Bishock and others agreed that it was not that species. Ted was duly informed.

The final event on Saturday was the banquet at the St. Petersburg Holiday Inn Heritage. And, oh, it's a long, long way from Lutz to downtown St. Pete. Seventy people attended; the dinner was better than edible; the atmosphere congenial. The speaker afterwards was Dr. Andrew Henderson—author of *A Field Guide to the Palms of the Americas*--showing slides of one of his palm trips up (down?) the Amazon. He was an effective speaker, witty and immensely knowledgeable. Until he began speaking, not everyone had been aware that he is English. After his talk, which lasted about 45 minutes, he answered questions for another 15 minutes or so.

Many attendees had really been waiting—past the dinner, past the speaker—for the plant auction. Paul Craft won spirited bidding for *Microcycas calocoma* ($176). Other palms and cycads brought in more modest amounts, such as three *Orania* ($120) and *Caryota zebrina* ($70). Also auctioned off were *Copernicia ekmanii*, *Arenga australasica*, and *Dypsis decipiens*. A first edition of *Principes* went for $75. Four lucky banquet-goers won the door prize drawings for four palm prints (18 x 26 inches), suitable for framing. Several signed copies of Dr. Henderson's book were quickly snapped up.

On Sunday, the pace slackened a bit. Only two stops, both in St. Pete. The first was at Phil Stager's in the south end of the peninsula, almost at the Sunshine Skyway bridge to Bradenton/Terra Ceia. An astonishing sight there was a royal palm fatter than anyone (aside, perhaps, from Scott Zona) has ever seen. At least four feet in diameter at the base and about 50 feet high, Phil had planted it close to the house to shelter it—a common enough practice, even if subsequently regretted.

The second, and final, stop was at Gizella Kopsick Palmetum which is owned by the City of St. Petersburg. Those who had never been there before expected, perhaps, a fenced enclosure, entry gate with admission charge. Gizella Kopsick isn't like that, at all. Instead, it is a few acres—three or four?—of unfenced park on the bayfront just above a marina full of small boats, on the edge of downtown St. Pete.

Among the palms at Gizella Kopsick are *Jubaeopsis caffra* (flowering!), *Pseudophoenix sargentii, Hyophorbe lagenicaulis*, and Jamaican Tall coconut. In this pleasant site, box lunches were served up; the auction of palms and cycads took place in the sunshine and the breeze off Tampa Bay.

At the end of the day, per usual, cars, trucks, SUVs departed for sundry points, fronds waving at the windows. All in all, an exhausting and enjoyable weekend. Smoothly arranged, with no glitches obvious to the attendees.

Palm Fest 2002 will be held in Miami. . . .

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
A HEALTHY NEW YEAR!
A WARM WINTER TO ALL

Archontophoenix- Human Interface?

The Summer, 2000, issue of *NZ Palm & Cycad*, the magazine of the New Zealand Palm & Cycad Society has recently been sent with several back issues in an exchange of chapter publications.

The most startling item is a scanty account of a university in New Zealand grafting the base of an *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* to the serratus ventralis muscle of a possum. (This would be the serratus anterior in a human, under the arm.) Apparently, the possum is now the beneficiary of photosynthesis. An Australian university reportedly expects to graft an *A. alexandrae* onto a human.

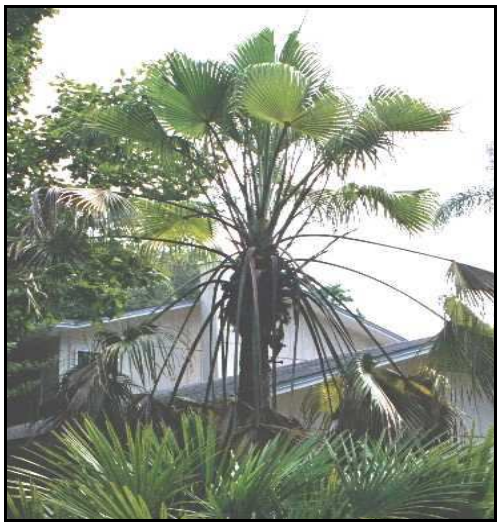
The major implications, at the moment, seem to be for astronauts in the future. However, we of the CFPACS undoubtedly know several people who may already be part-palm, without benefit of photosynthesis or having a built-in oxygen supply.

—John Kennedy

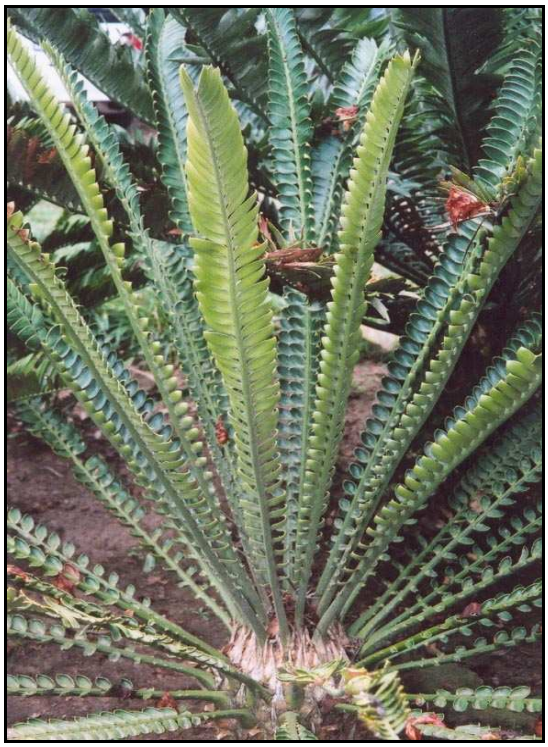
Rick Nale, far right, sells a t-shirt—or is it a baseball cap?—with the Gizella Kopsick Palmetum design to Jody Haynes, PACSOF webmaster. Sale of the shirts and caps assists in the upkeep of the Palmetum, which is owned by the City of St. Petersburg. Rick, who is much involved in the maintenance of Gizella Kopsick, sold many palm shirts. In the background, the auction proceeds.

Our excessive eagerness in paying off an obligation is a form of ingratitude.
—LaRochefoucauld, Maxim 226

Left, the mystery Livistona *at Ted & Nancy Langley's in Lutz. It's labeled* Livistona saribus*, but doesn't' seem to be that species. The spines on the petiole are not the distinctive ones of* L. saribus. *Can you guess what it might be? Contact the Editor with your suggested ID.*
Photo by Mark Van Antwerp



Not Livistona chinensis*, but a* Brahea *hybrid at Merrill Wilcox's in Gainesville (see right)* →



'Spoon' leaflet of Encephalartos natalensis *in South Africa. Peter Mayotte's photo.*

Errata

Merrill Wilcox (e-mailed to the Editor):
"The palm identified on p. 33 of *The Palmateer* [September] as *Livistona chinensis* is, in fact, a hybrid of *Brahea edulis X Brahea brandegeeii*. Also, I may be unaware that a taxonomic lumper may have combined *acanthocoma* and *brasiliensis* within the genus *Trithrinax*, however over the years I have noticed that *brasiliensis*, although similar in appearance to *acanthocoma*, is considerably less coldhardy, so I believe there is a significant horticultural difference between the two. In any case, my specimen was procured under the epithet *T. acanthocoma* (p. 4, w/Mrs. Bishock)."

* * * * *

I expect to be beaten with a palm frond (please, no Acrocomia *or* Aiphanes*) for omitting directions to the June meeting in Gainesville, although Marilyn and Roger Bachmann provided detailed instructions to accompany their excellent Gainesville map. After the September issue, I found a pile of photos taken by the Noted Puerto Rican Landowner at the Bachmanns'. Several of these I have inserted in this issue. My apologies to Marilyn and Roger. In a "senior moment" I think I also referred to the June meeting (at least once) as being the March meeting. The actual putting-together of* The Palmateer *is, in fact, a one-man operation that depends on the care and feeding of material—from many hands--to the Editor who, every so often, drops the ball.* **—John Kennedy**

Joyous Hanukkah!

Palm Fertilizer for Sale

Several 50-lb bags of Leonard's Palm Fertilizer (11-4-11) plus minors have been recently acquired and are available at cost to members of the CFPACS. Cost is $15 per bag; it is available by contacting Neil Yorio at (321) 779-4347 or, by e-mail, at nkyorio@netzero.net

If available, several bags will be brought to the December 15th meeting in Cocoa Beach. Reserve your bags now wile supplies last!

Left, a multi-headed Phoenix roebelenii *in front of the Palacio Nacional in Guatemala City. There are three of these plants at this site, and nowhere else, reports Peter Mayotte, who took the pictures. Below, right, a close-up of view of one palm shows at least 20 "heads" formed from multiple branching.* Principes *(now* PALMS*), the IPS journal, had a picture of the Guatemalan oddity about 20 years ago.*

Membership Directory to Appear in March

The directory of members included with last December's issue of *The Palmateer* turned out to be even more popular than expected.

An updated directory will be sent with the March, 2002, issue of the newsletter.

Anyone wishing to be excluded from listing should so notify the Editor or the Membership Chair.

The directory is a way to know who else in your area, your county is into palms and cycads—a resource for both useful local information and for sheer friendliness.

RENEW your membership now!

—John Kennedy

*Below, old mule palms (*Butia capitata X Syagrus romanzoffiana*) seen on the return from Palm Fest, growing on the Mormon ranch, just north of U. S. 192 in rural Osceola County.*

Growing Palms and Cycads in Temperate Louisiana

By Joe Baucum

Louisiana is blessed with a series of rivers and streams that cut the state into north-south segments. These waterways provide ample fresh water and wonderful alluvial soils made from the best topsoils that the nation has to offer. The Mississippi River basin drains two-thirds of the entire nation and has historically brought to Louisiana rich earth in the form of river sediments.

The state is cut horizontally (East to West) by three rather distinct USDA Plant Hardiness Zones. The upper parishes (counties), represented by the City of Shreveport, are designated Zone 8a, expected annual low temperatures of 10 to 15 degrees F. The middle half of the state, Alexandria to Baton Rouge to New Orleans, is classified Zone 8b, expected lows of 15 to 20 degrees F. The lower one-sixth of the state is stipulated to be Zone 9a, expected lows of 20 to 25 degrees F. The Greater New Orleans area is spared from being Zone 8b by the "lake effect" that it derives from Lake Ponchartrain. As the northerly winds come across this rather shallow lake (typically less than 15 feet), the winds are warmed by the collective heat and deposit this warmth into the city and into an area west of the city.

The stage is thus set south of Lake Ponchartrain to grow a rather large number of temperate palm and cycad species. Disappointingly, as one travels the streets of New Orleans (for an example), the palm family is mostly represented by about seven prominent members: Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix carnariensis*), Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*), European Fan Palm (*Chamaerops humilis*), Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*), Pindo Palm (*Butia capitata*), Mexican Fan Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), and Chinese Fan Palm (*Livistona chinensis*).

Of course, there are others --- seemingly planted either timidly or as afterthoughts: the Queen, the *Arenga*, the *Serenoa*, and so forth. Ironically, outside the built-up areas of the cities and towns, the native palm, *Sabal minor* ("palmetto" in local parlance), grows ubiquitously yet is scorned and abused and neglected by the human population. The cycad world is even more underrepresented, almost exclusively portrayed by the single species, *Cycas revoluta* ("Sago Palm").

So, why is the spectrum of palms and cycads in southern Louisiana not vaster than it currently is? For one thing, in a temperate climate, one never forgets that the "Big Freeze" has visited in the past and has an undetermined date for a return visit. In 1989, the temperatures dipped to about 15 degrees F in the City of New Orleans and stayed below freezing for almost a week. The Queen Palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*) was all but wiped from existence. Even the sturdy seven listed above received varyingly degrees of damage and/or setback. As a result, the cycle of palm acquisition and palm planting becomes hardened into a rigid, nonflexible process. People don't want palms that are going to freeze. Suppliers are not going to supply what people don't want to buy. Newcomers to the area see only certain palms growing in the landscape and assume that these are the only palms that can grow in the area.

Once the supply chain is broken (assuming it ever existed), one cannot readily acquire a mature specimen of (for an example) a Blue Hesper Palm (*Brahea armata*) without much discussion, some debate, and significant expense. Of course, there are those "deep-pockets" businesses such as the gambling casinos (politically correct: the gaming industry) that seemingly have no upper limits on their budget line items and are therefore willing to spend a bundle on their landscaping.

To their credit, Harrah's Casino has brought wonderful specimens of Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), Ribbon Palm (*Livistona decipiens*) and other less-ordinary palms to the foot of Canal Street, the very heart of New Orleans. Once these palms are seen in the "display windows," the landscape shopper develops a desire, a "need," that was not previously there.

Plant societies, such as Louisiana Palm and Cycad Society, must then be willing to commit the manpower, the energy, the resources, and the patience to educate the public on the range of palms and cycads that can successfully be grown in a temperate climate.

We have begun this effort. First, we became a "palm and cycad" society, bringing not only a new word to much of the population but also introducing an exciting family of plants that were previously underutilized, the cycads. Secondly, at both the Spring and Fall Garden Shows (New Orleans Botanical Garden), we expend an inordinate amount of time and energy in the education process and strive to bring a large variety of both palms and cycads to the buying public, species that we believe can survive and even flourish, given minimal care and nurturing.

"Yes, Lady, it may eventually freeze. Even you are not promised eternal life. And don't you occasionally

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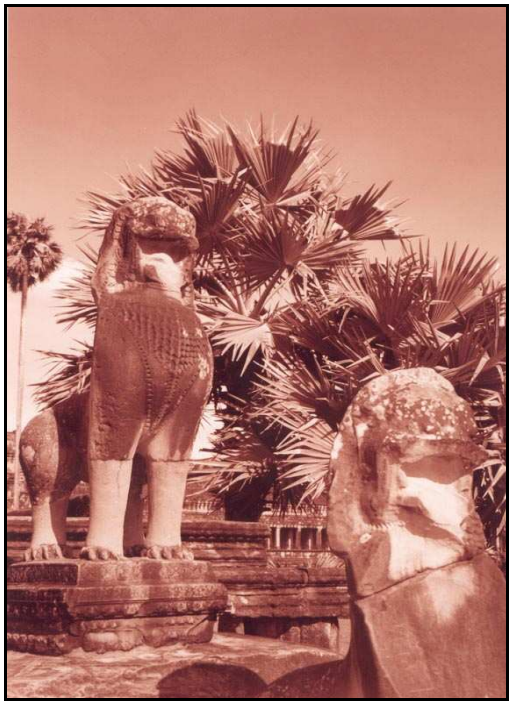
Palms, Cycads in Laos and Vietnam

GLIMPSES OF INDOCHINA

By Peter Mayotte

Indochina, after years of conflict, is finally at peace and open to the traveler. Needless to say, a plant lover would naturally be drawn to this beautiful region of Asia.

Bangkok airport is the "O'Hare" of Southeast Asia, and the starting point for any journey within the area. Many CFPACS members already know of its many botanical delights from the penultimate biennial held at Nong Nooch Gardens nearby. Chatuchak weekend market is a never-ending source of interesting new hybrids of orchids, desert roses, waterlilies and. . .well, where does one stop? Interestingly, Cuban *Copernicia*s are now being sold at Chatuchak (complete with photos from the wild),



Stone lions, with Borassus*, Angkor Wat.*

at prices far less than one would pay in the United States.

Onward, however, to Laos. A dreamy, mysterious land (officially one of the world's last "communist" nations), Laos is fortunate to have large amounts of primary forest due to its low population. Vientiane, Laos' sleepy capital, lies on the fast-moving Mekong River. Faded French colonial villas, some in ruins, decorate the old town. *Borassus flabellifer*, the magnificent "tree of life" of Hindu epics, dominates the streetscapes. Also, a small *Arenga* or *Wallichia* is seen occasionally as a potted ornamental, never exceeding 1 meter in height. Coconut trees are everywhere and eaten, woven and distilled into rotgut "wine."

The small potted Wallichia *or* Arenga *seen in Vientiane, Laos.*

Leaving the official capital, we made our way by road the 400 kilometers or so to Luang Prabang, Laos' old "royal" capital. Here the last king, Sisavangvong, held court and Buddhist traditions live. All young men must pass a period in monastic life, donning saffron robes and carrying umbrellas for the unpredictable summer rains. The road to "L. P." is beautiful, passing dragon-spined mountains. A splendid flowering *Saraca* species is common on the roadside with brilliant fireballs of orange and vermilion inflorescences.

Nearing LP, a tall *Livistona*, likely *Livistona saribus*, begins to occur along rice-paddy margins. At our residence in LP, plantlets with the characteristic "shark-tooth" petioles are used for décor. *Areca catechu* is abundant, but only elderly women still chew betel-nut as evidenced by their blackened teeth. Orchids are abundant in the forests nearby. Elaborate wood-carved temples show bas-reliefs embossed in gold of *Borassus*

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Louisiana Palms & Cycads

(Continued from page 14)

spend more than this on cut flowers which are already dead?!?"

With education, good fortune, and perseverance, we honestly believe (and hope) that we can greatly expand the number of palms and cycads growing and prospering in temperate Louisiana. Toward that goal, we would like to thank our many friends in Florida (Tom Broome, Dave Witt, John Kennedy, Bernie Peterson --- to name a few) for helping us with good counsel, a wealth of knowledge gleaned from years of experience, a variety of plants, and lots of encouragement.

[Joe Baucum is editor of the Louisiana Palm & Cycad Society's newsletter, Et Ceteras.*]*

"Rescue Dog" brings John Bishock. . . a stick! (John pets dog, anyway.) Scene at auction in Gizella Kopsick Palmetum, St. Pete, on the second day of Palm Fest. Mike Frydach (left) and Bruce Holland (right) witness the episode.

Phoenix canariensis*, var. FPL, grows in Cocoa Beach and may be seen at the December meeting/party. An example , unfortunately, of poor foresight in planting. Photo by Mark Grabowski*

Greg and Jadah Hodge at Gizella Kopsick Palmetum during Palm Fest auction, with Bismarckia nobilis.

Glimpses of Indochina

(Continued from page 15)

and the coconut, delicately carved. One could write reams about the beauty of Luang Prabang. The legendary Mekong was high due to heavy monsoons and the melting snows in Tibet, and dangerous, according to the locals.

Nearby Kuangsi Falls, normally delicate sprays, were virtual torrents. A hike, up into the surrounding forest and across marshy terrain, revealed many terrestrial orchids and a rattan with glossy plumose leaves. This rattan was also noted nearby after a hike through muddy terrain to see the tomb of Henri Mouhot, French naturalist and "discoverer" of the temples of Angkor in Cambodia. This rattan, likely a *Calamus*, had delicate leaves but no floral parts evident. Few plants were over 1 meter in height and we were surprised not to see any adults "climbing" into the canopy. Perhaps it was the *Calamus acanthophyllus* described by Evens and Sengdala in *Principes* 45 (1), although its distribution did not include this northern area of Laos. A medium-sized *Arenga sp.* also was common in moist valleys in this area.

Personally, I could have called it quits and checked into a LP monastery, but it was on to noisy Hanoi. The capital of Viet Nam is developing rapidly. Seven hundred motorbikes are sold daily. And the volume of traffic seemed to have doubled, compared to a quick visit seven months earlier. Tree-shaded wide boulevards give the city a pleasant feeling, and *Phoenix roebelenii* is common as a landscape palm. Surprising, given the coolness of the winters, was the abundance of *Areca catechu.*

Trunkless Cycas micholitzii *in a Hanoi garden.*

While in Hanoi, Dr. Nguyen Tien Hiep graciously invited me to his garden outside the city and offered me the local rice wine and a viewing of his impressive collection of Vietnamese cycads. Rice paddies surround the area and the Red River, like the Mekong, was swollen with water.

Areca catechu, *with Golden Bamboo, Luang Prabang, Laos*

Highlights of Dr. Hiep's garden were specimens of *Cycas micholitzii*, which he had collected in southern Viet Nam. Trunkless, its divided leaflets are almost fern-like. The long-leaved *Cycas dolichophylla* from the north has yellow-green emergent leaves. *Cycas chevaloeri* forms open rosettes with drooping leaves. The newly-collected and described species, *Cycas fugax* and *Cycas brachycanta*, piqued my interest to return one day to further explore the forests of this large, dynamic nation. As many know, the World Cycad Conference in Thailand in 2002 has planned a post-conference tour to Viet Nam which should offer much new and curious.

On an early visit in January, the dramatic limestone archipelago of Ha Long Bay had been visited. This "Bay of Dragons" was featured in the French film "Indochine." There, after a long hike, *Livistona halongensis* had been viewed though the winter mists, just beginning to produce its long extrafoliar inflorescences.

Escaping Hanoi's noise, the grand temple complex of Angkor in western Cambodia was the final destination. This tragic nation, at long last at peace, is seeing a resurgence of visitors, and deservedly so. Angkor's temples and shrines, built over a 400-year period, cover an area the size of Manhattan and much time and effort was needed to remove the many landmines and ordnance from the terrible years of Khmer Rouge rule. My guide, Navin, had lost his parents and siblings during this pathologic episode of human history.

Architecture is not my forte, but Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom (a walled city), and its many associated shrines are wonders of the world, on par with Egypt's pyramids. Stunning bas-reliefs again depict our friends

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One City, One Winter
But. . . Many Different Results

By Dave Witt

I thought it might be interesting to observe the different results observed from my garden and Leu Botanical Gardens, both within Orlando city limits. Last winter's prolonged cold spells provided a challenging cold-hardiness test to a great many species recently introduced to our area. Instead of going through each of the hundreds of species planted in both locations I have decided to focus on some same-sized species that somehow came through the cold in different shape and lastly, make a list of the more unusual palms that were basically undamaged at both locations. Now that a full growing season has passed we can gage some definitive results as any latent cold damage has shown up by now. It is important to note that Leu is always warmer than my place by a few degrees, has lots of evergreen oaks to provide a protective canopy as well as a large lake located NW of the palm garden to help moderate the temps ever so slightly. Nearly all of my place is out in open full sun with a few noted exceptions.

According to Eric's earlier report, Leu had three nights below freezing (32F). The night of 1/4/01 was the only night in which frost formed. The lows there: 12/19- 27F; 12/30- 28F; 12/31- 31F; 1/4 - 34F; 1/6 - 33F; 1/9 - 33F;1/20- 33F.

My lows: 12/20/00 - 26F low, advective cold w/ no frost, below freezing for 7 hrs.; 12/30/00 - 27F low, advective cold w/ no frost, below freezing for approximately 7 hrs.; 12/31/00 - 29F low, radiational cold w/ moderate frost in the open, none under canopy, below freezing for approximately 7 hrs.; 1/5/01 - 28F low, radiational cold w/ very heavy frost in open areas, some frost under canopies as well, below freezing for approximately 3 hrs.; 1/7/01 - 29F low, radiational cold w/ heavy frost in open areas, light under canopies, approximately 5 hours below freezing; and 1/10/01 - 32Flow, light frost in open areas, below freezing for 2 hrs.

Aiphanes aculeata, *Cryosophila stauracantha* and *Dypsis crinita* : the last was killed at Leu, the other two were defoliated. At my place all three palms are virtually undamaged, with very slight spotting and/or faded areas on them. The only thing I can figure here is the location of my plants: all are right next to the house, on different walls but nonetheless close to a heat absorbing structure. On the opposite end of the spectrum I lost a *Geonoma schottiana* and *Zombia antillarum* - neither palm was damaged at Leu. I also incurred heavy damage to an *Areca triandra* (losing about 12 of 15 stems), and a mature *Syagrus X "costae"* (a hybrid of *oleracea* and *coronata*) - again neither palm showed any damage at Leu. Both the *Areca* and the *Geonoma* looked okay in February but by May were mere shadows of their once healthy selves. Many of the *Areca* stems died off during the summer, the *Geonoma* was dead by July. The *Zombia* was dead by the end of March but the *Syagrus* hybrid has recovered nicely (but note that it too is located right next to the house but is tall enough for its canopy to exposed).

Syagrus botryophora was undamaged at Leu while mine made it through most of my six freezes only to be damaged severely by heavy frost from the last two. *Arenga pinnata* and *Roystonea regia* or *elata*: mine were killed outright by February, the ones at Leu although defoliated still live. The opposite for *Thrinax parviflora* - mine has recovered from heavy damage while the one at Leu is lost. No damage to Leu's *Licuala spinosa,* mine had bud rot but very little foliage damage. *L.ramsayi* were untouched by the cold, the ones at Leu had minor damage. *Dypsis decaryi* and *Elaeis guineensis* at Leu both suffered minor to moderate foliar damage and bud rot with the centers pulling out. My *Elaeis* palm was completely defoliated and took all summer to re-grow four stunted leaves. But no spears pulled (they just turned brown). My *decaryi* palm eventually defoliated but no bud rot, and it has grown six fronds since then. A *Gaussia maya* was defoliated at Leu but mine showed damage to four of six fronds only. A *Euterpe edulis* showed moderate damage at Leu, mine (under oak canopy) was undamaged the entire winter.

Lesson learned (for me anyway): location, location, location. Know what you are planting, try to find out about its native habitat and simulate that as best as possible. With a few exceptions there is a reason why palms grow where they grow in the wild. Try to fertilize, irrigate and give care to any marginal species, all the way through winter if possible. A healthy well fed palm can withstand the cold better than one lacking these attributes. Even with Leu's wonderful micro-climate and my artificial nutrient supplements (the Fall fertilizing from last year's article), there are some species that cannot handle any type of cold. *Corypha utan*, *Hyophorbe verschaffeltii*, *Adonidia, Roystonea*, *Elaeis* and *Wodyetia bifurcata* were all heavily damaged at both gardens. The trick is getting them to survive and grow back fast

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Left, Cycas dolicophylla *in the garden of Dr. Nguyen Tien Hiep, Hanoi. Below, Dr. Nguyen with a newly-described native species,* Cycas brachycarta. *Photos by Peter Mayotte.*

Glimpses of Indochina

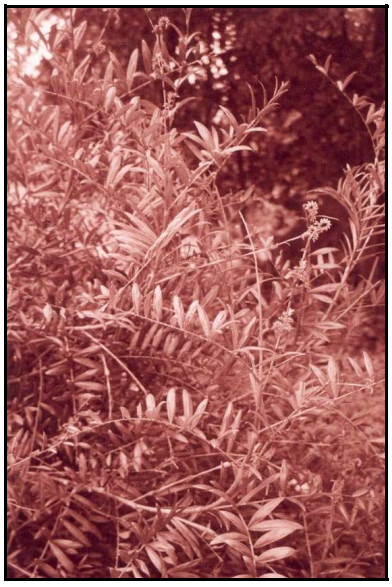
(Continued from page 17)

Borassus and *Cocos*, as well as the fauna of the region. The "Great Lake" Tonle Sap floods in the summer monsoon and the surrounding countryside reminds one of Florida's Everglades, with the grander *Borassus flabellifer* replacing *Sabal palmetto*. The Mekong's waters back up into the lake in the wet months, flooding the entire area, and freshwater fish breed abundantly. One longstanding error I discovered was *Tropica* and *Exotica*'s famous photograph of Angkor Wat labeled with *Livistona saribus*. The palm is, in fact, *Borassus*, of which tens of thousands must occur in the area.

We stopped to eat the wonderful local cuisine at a bamboo pavilion built over a paddy and open to the breezes. Nearby, clumps of a shrubby, abundant *Calamus* occur with grey-green, slightly plumose leaflets. Never more than a meter in height, the locals use the petioles and trunks to weave delicate basketry. Additionally, a shrubby clumping *Licuala*, likely *L. spinosa*, is quite abundant and is often seen in flooded areas. The scent of incense and sight of pink lotus blooms softened the mind to the horrors of the past. Having grown up in the Nixon years, my emotions twisted, yet were balanced by mankind's and nature's ability to recover.

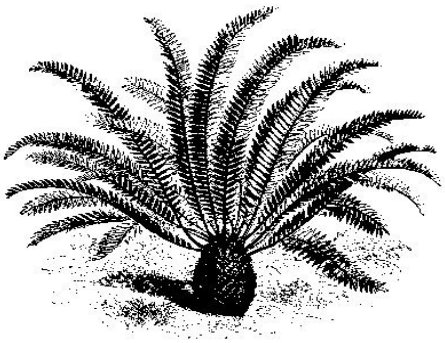
Next, it was on to Japan. . .

But that shall be another story. . .



Left, shrubby Calamus *in Siem Riep, Cambodia.*

ASK



TOM

CYCAD Q's & A's

By Tom Broome

I have several large Zamia *in containers that have grown 10-20 seed cones per container. Will it hurt to cut these off? Will they produce more leaves sooner if I remove the cones? Thanks, Tim.*

The more cones that are on the plant, the more the energy that will be drawn from the plant. I have had *Zamia*s die because too many cones were left on the plant. It will definitely help the plant to remove all but maybe two or three of the cones. If you were to remove all the cones at approximately the same time of an expected flush of new leaves, then the flush will usually be produced much sooner.

I have some 1 gal Zamia pumila *that have a problem on the new leaves. When a new leaf comes out, it gets a shiny substance on it, then later on there are some sort of squiggly tracks on the leaves. Some leaves end up deformed. Is this some sort of insect? The same thing happened last year, then it just went away. Should I spray these with something? Charlene*

You don't see that very often with cycads, but what you are talking about sounds a lot like leaf miners. Leaf miners burrow in the leaves and make this pattern you talk about. Certain palms can get these, too. *Zamia* "fischeri" seems to get these the most of the cycads I have grown. I have seen them on *Zamia floridana* a couple of times. To kill them you need a systemic instead of a direct contact spray. Most people would use liquid Orthene, but any of the systemics will work fine. If you only have a few leaves that are infested, I would cut them off, and you might not even have to spray.

Left, Zamia *"fischeri" at Ed Carlson's, Vero Beach, picture taken by himself.*

Report from New Orleans

The Cycad Society's Board Meeting

On October 6, 2001, The Cycad Society had their board meeting in New Orleans. Many topics were discussed including improving the newsletter, fund raising, and what the society can do to help with cycad conservation. Members of the society were invited to sit in on the meeting, and were given a chance to interact with the board and make suggestions. There was an election of officers for the next year. The results were: Tom Broome- President, R.L. Frasier- Vice President, Jody Haynes- Secretary, and Terrence Walters- Treasurer.

On October 7th, the society had a joint meeting with their first chapter, The Palm and Cycad Society of Louisiana. The Cycad Society provided a mini cycad symposium with a wide range of topics. There were presentations with slides on *Ceratozamia*s in Mexico, the collection at the Montgomery Botanical Center, a preview of the new Hartman Prehistoric Garden (with cycads, of course) in Austin Texas, cycad fossils, and many aspects of cycad cultivation such as cycad seed germination, soil, fertilizer, and container size.

After the talks, Cindy Baucum prepared a lunch with classic New Orleans dishes. With so many of us coming in from other areas, this was a great treat for us.

After lunch, there was an auction of cycads, and cycad seeds. Other cycad items were offered such as stamps depicting cycads, and an old print of a *Zamia* that dated back to the last century. The auction went well, and over $700 was raised for the society.

Joe and Cindy Baucum, and Debra Walters should be commended for all their hard work in arranging this two day event. Next year, the board meeting and other scheduled events will be in California. With a combination of tours and talks, this should be an event to look forward to.

—Tom Broome

The "cycad crew" at The Cycad Society meeting in New Orleans.

Unless they share our opinions, we seldom find people sensible.
— La Rochefoucauld, Maxim 347

President's Message

I can hardly believe how quickly the time seems to pass anymore, it seems only a few short weeks ago I was watering plants and watching them grow out from last winter's prolonged cold spells; now I'm fertilizing the same plants, making all sorts of superstitious gestures and hoping for the best over the next few months as the growth has slowed and winter makes its annual return to our region.

But as far as that subject goes it could be worse, just think of those who live in the panhandle section and what they must be going through each winter. To recap, our hosting of Palm Fest 2001 in the Tampa/St. Pete area was a smashing success. Over 100 people attended each garden, approximately 77 were present for the banquet dinner, Dr. Henderson's informative presentation on "Palms of the Amazon" and a rare plant auction that included such oddities as the 1st ever issue of Principes, a *Microcyas calocoma* cycad from Cuba and a prominently striped *Caryota zebrina* palm. At least that many attendees and a few late-comers joined in for the 2nd day's garden tours and a giant plant auction which netted both PACSOF and our chapter well over $1000 each. For those who missed it - a pox upon ye. But don't fret, next year Dade county and all the fine collections that reside there will be the scheduled host.

For those interested in giving a palmy holiday gift our chapter has in its possession plenty of the "Virtual Palm Encyclopedia" CD-ROMs courtesy of Zone 10. com. Great gifts for anyone with a computer. These are marked way down to $30 each for our members only. You can contact me to obtain one (check officer list in this issue).

I am looking forward to our next meeting very much, in addition to a wonderful beach-side collection we will have an auction of donated plants from Montgomery Botanical Center in addition to our normal plant sale. Our membership has climbed to all-time high since the reorganization several years ago and I look forward to seeing and conversing with as many of you as possible.

—Dave Witt

Craig Nazor talking about the Hartman Prehistoric Garden ("with cycads, of course") in Austin, Texas, to The Cycad Society board meeting in New Orleans. The nearest back seems to be recognizable as Jody Haynes, PACSOF's webmaster.

One City, One Winter

(Continued from page 18)

enough to handle the next winter's brutal onslaught. But that's an article for the next issue …

Unusual Palms with Little - No Damage at Leu Gardens or My Place

Acrocomia totai, Allagoptera arenaria, Arenga engleri (both Ryukyu Island and Taiwan form), *Bactris setosa, Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* (w/windows), *Bismarckia nobilis, Borassus aethiopum, Brahea brandeegei, Caryota obtusa, C. sp.* "Himalayana," *C. sp.* "Laoensis," *Chamaedorea cataractum*, *C. ernesti- augustii*, *C. glaucifolia, C. plumosa*, *Chuniophoenix hainanensis*, *Coccothrinax argentata, C. crinita, C. spissa*, *Copernicia alba, C. baileyana*, *C. hospita, C. macroglossa, C. prunifera, Dypsis ankaizinensis*, *D. decipiens, D. madagascariensis* "Mahajanga", *D. onilahensis*, *Gastrococos crispa, Guihaia argyrata, Laccospadix australasica, Livistona jenkinsiana, L. mariae*, *L. nitida, Polyandrococos caudescens, Pseudophoenix sargentii* var. sargentii, *Ravenea xerophila, Schippia concolor, Thrinax morrisii, Wallichia densiflora, W. disticha.*

Winter Story of a Tampa Foxtail

"We got down to 27.8 twice and had freezing temperatures seven times. More importantly, we spent 48 hours last winter at or below 32 degrees, a month of below 40-degree nights and a week when we did not get out of the 50s. I have never had so much damage to my palms even when it has been colder. It was the persistence of the cold weather that hurt everything. Coconuts on the south side of the house in a heat trap did survive, although they partially defoliated."—Jerold Crawford, on his *Wodyetia*'s survival in Carrollwood, north Tampa. *"It totally defoliated this past winter but has four full leaves, a new spear that is opening right now [October, 2001] and another new spear leaf. I planted it in 1997 from a little 10-gallon pot from Home Depot."*

Left, Oncosperma tigillarium *at Ed & Joyce Carlson's in Vero Beach. Ed's picture..*

From the Editor's Desk

Palm Fest was a big success, lovely gardens to visit, edible banquet, good speaker. . .and, we even made money, split between our chapter and PACSOF. The fact that the event ran so smoothly was due to the energies and hard work of Dave Witt, Ray Hernández, Mark Van Antwerp, and all the folks they recruited to carry out all the small, necessary, behind-the-scenes details, including Mike Frydach and Bruce Holland. **And I** finally got to see Dr. Young's! What I had been told about his collection was not, after all, just delirious ravings. Roy Works took the visitors around, patiently and knowledgeably answering the many questions. However, I must admit that I see palms best when I can potter around on my own, gawking at my own pace. When there are many people about, I am distracted—not unpleasantly—and tend, instead, to chat quite happily with them.

* * * * *

My first visit to Borassic Park, that bucolic Brevard-wonderland, was about 10 years ago. Our chapter met there, in July (I think) with all the heat and humidity that its proprietor could wish. I don't remember much except the crowd and the sign that said "cerveza." I wrote afterwards to ask if I might return on my own in November, to the recipient a peculiar request when chilly, i.e., non-palmy weather might then be expected in a few weeks. I was given the three-hour solo grand tour, was taken to see every single palm (only about a thousand back then), and learned to appreciate the merits and idiosyncrasies of the executive director, who subsequently became my friend (and critic—needless to say).

* * * * *

Difficult as it is to believe, I (*mich*) actually won something. Last time, I think, was in eighth grade. A drawing at the Palm Fest banquet was for a palm print—18 x 26 inches--by Janice Peebles. Everyone present was given a ticket, but mine was the first number called. Four prints to choose from: *Cyrtostachys renda*, the wonderful lipstick or sealing wax palm; *Phoenix canariensis*, the standard (for Florida) date palm; another that I can't recall; and *Copernicia baileyana*. It took me about 10 seconds to pick the *Copernicia*. What I remembered was that spectacular grove of this species at Fairchild, big as royals, with the same smooth trunk, but with big fan leaves, standing there in serenity and majesty. The print, expensively and beautifully framed, now hangs in my office at Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce. The envious may come, look, but not touch.

* * * * *

You will have noticed yet another Australian palm article, but not this time "The Rover Boys Do Queensland." All Central Floridians must, perforce, be interested in any and all *Livistona*s, for several well-known species grow happily in our region. And, there are yet other species in the genus which need to be tried out here, but seed has not been available. Donna and Sam Sweet (but it's really Sam), California members of CFPACS, have a *thing*—we won't say "obsession"—with *Livistona*. It has occurred to Sam that not only do seeds germinate, but that seedlings grow (eventually) into sizeable palms, and that several thousand seeds may eventually need to find homes somewhere else than at his house. Donna's article provides cultural information for several unfamiliar species.

Maybe we should run a *Livistona* poll. How many species are you growing, Comrade Member? I can say seven species, plus an individual that may be a hybrid. The only one fruiting, *L. saribus*, has scattered a large number of volunteers, enough--one might think—to attract the eagle eye(s) of the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, otherwise known as FLEPPC.

* * * * *

Someone asked, several weeks back, why there was so much "stuff" in *The Palmateer* that didn't have anything to do with Central Florida. Why those articles on faraway places? In one sense, many of us like to know what palms and cycads are being grown in those faraway places. Some species may very well turn out to be possible (we won't say "marginal") hereabouts. Less practically, we enjoy travelogues with palms and cycads. We are principally occupied in growing these, sometimes against the odds in Central Florida, and we do appreciate any useful cultural information. That's why we examine very closely the postmortems that follow winter's chills (written principally by Dave Witt, Eric Schmidt, John Bishock, Mike Merritt) to learn what others have found out, not always very happily. Your Editor is always hopeful that the deadline for each issue will bring contributions from those members who haven't previously been heard from. This doesn't happen with any regularity. The Editor does look for usable articles to reprint from other chapters'

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From the Editor's Desk

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bulletins and doesn't hesitate to ask people to write for *The Palmateer*. (Often, they agree.)

The chapter's board authorized the purchase of a CD writer to install on the chapter's computer. I requested this so that I could store, more easily and compactly, the past issues of the newsletter. I had 11 back issues of *The Palmateer* on six, unwieldy (and expensive) zip disks. My son, Matthew, installed the CD burner, reminding me—of course—how much installation would have cost had I had to pay someone to do so. This kind of snappy repartee between technophile and techno-not-quite-phobe was the actual price I had to-pay. The 11 issues are now on a single CD, with room for even more issues, maybe all that will appear in my lifetime? No, not really. I intend to make copies to send to the president and the membership person so that mine is not the sole copy. Perhaps in future, we can offer back issues for sale on CD, for a nominal price. Now, of course, all I need to do is get accustomed to using the new gadget, excuse me, drive. It was bought, on sale (translation: cheap) at a national chain office supply store. I did notice that most items on the front page of the June, 1999, issue are missing; only the logo and a picture are there. I don't know why, and will have to find a print copy to replicate all that should be on the page.

Faith Bishock, long-time CFPACS member and noted palmperson, is a candidate for the board of the International Palm Society. Members of IPS should keep Faith in mind when confronted, as soon will be the case, with an IPS ballot. I have little doubt that Faith, should she be elected, will bring a distinctive voice to the doings of the IPS board. She is the only candidate from Central Florida on the IPS ballot.

***Don't forget to renew your membership! If you forget, you won't get to see the next exciting issue of* The Palmateer!** Remember, your 2002 annual CFPACS membership costs only $10 or (bargain) $25 for three years. Send your check—made out to CFPACS—to Mark Van Antwerp, 4645 Canterbury Dr., Land O'Lakes, FL 34639. You can contact Mark, if you have any questions, at mvanantw@parinc.com If you have moved, changed your phone number, your e-mail address (again), let him know. We will be putting together another directory that will appear in the March issue; if you don't wish your name published, tell Mark. *The Palmateer* is sent to the address that Mark has. If you wish to be added—or removed—from the Seedbank e-mail list, Let Mark Know.

A handsome Rhapidophyllum hystrix *growing at the Bachmanns' in Gainesville. Picture taken during June meeting would have appeared in the September issue had the Editor been operating on all cylinders—which was not the case.*

Old men love to give good advice to console themselves for not being able to set bad examples.
—La Rochefoucauld, Maxim 93

* * * * *

Did anyone notice that the captions for the cycad pictures accompanying "Cycad Tour of Mexico" in the September issue were incomplete sentences? Not my fault (D.g.), but the full captions were on the zip disk taken to the printer, crediting all the pictures to Tom Broome. But some of the words got squeezed out in the copying at ABC Printing. Dare I hope that nothing similar will occur with this issue? (Something usually does go wrong, but few people—aside from the proprietor of Borassic Park—seem to notice.)

* * * * *

Ray Hernández, our West Coast Vice President, headquartered in Tampa, where he made himself very useful for Palm Fest, is now the new secretary of PACSOF. I'm not quite sure of the duties involved, but Ray says he will inform me when he finds out.

John Kennedy

WHY *NOT LIVISTONA?*

By Donna Sweet
Goleta, California
(Reprinted by permission of the author and of Bonnie Stein, editor of The Palm Journal *of the Southern California Palm Society. The article appeared in the March, 2000, issue.* Livistona *as a genus is an exception to the truism that whatever grows well in California won't do that well in Florida, and vice versa. —Editor)*

Twenty-five nights of frost in 1998/99—a palm gardener's nightmare! How do you attain that tropical look without a tropical climate? Why not *Livistona*? Our interest in *Livistona* increased as each frost demonstrated their ability to endure the cold and even thrive. When our group plantings of *Livistona australis*, *L. chinensis*, *L. decipiens L. fulva*, and *L. nitida* experienced the freezes of 1998 without any permanent damage, we decided to increase the diversity of potentially hardy *Livistona* species in our collection. So we set about planning a trip to northeastern Australia. My husband Sam collected topographical and regional maps and researched the literature available. Such planning is essential, since, with the exception of *L. muelleri*, all of the north Queensland *Livistona* have very limited ranges; for example, the northern outliers of *L. australis* ("Eungella Range," "Paluma Range," and others) are restricted to small areas on the ridgelines of isolated ranges (see map). Particularly useful publications included David Jones's *Palms in Australia* (Reed Books, 1990), Robert Tucker's *Palms of Subequatorial Queensland* (PACSOA, 1988) and *Revision of* Livistona (Arecaceae) *in Australia* by A. N. Rodd (Telopea 8:49-153, 1998).

Livistona muelleri *to 40' in habitat, Lakefield National Park, Queensland.*

During the month of August 1999, my family and I traveled to the habitats of seven *Livistona* species in northeast Queensland in hopes of collecting seed and to see what conditions each experiences naturally to maximize our success with them in the garden. August is winter in Australia and it can get surprisingly cool overnight even in the tropics, particularly so in the dry interior. Here there can be occasional frosts, and winter lows often into the 30s. Even in the "tropical" montane forests the thermometer can fall to 40ºF overnight. Winter is also the dry season, although the coastal slopes of the ranges here receive some rainfall even then.

We began our adventure at Cairns, the "capital" of far north Queensland, located between Trinity Bay and the steeply rising east face of the Great Dividing Range which parallels the east coast. While in Cairns, we visited the Flecker Botanical Garden. This is a "must see" for anyone interested in palms. The collection is extensive, if eclectic, and provides a good opportunity to test your palm identification skills without any help from a consistent geographic orientation. Just across the street the Centenary Lakes park has its own palm collection and an elevated boardwalk through a portion of preserved rainforest. The park emphasizes group plantings of Australian palms, often not labeled.

After purchasing camping equipment and securing 4WD Landcruiser we took the Captain Cook Highway north, where we quickly encountered our first *Livistona* in the field. In dense, closed canopy eucalyptus forest alongside the highway grew palms with distinctive crowns of short, stiff leaves. As it turned out, *L. muelleri* is very widespread and occurs on both the east and west sides of the Dividing Range. It grows at sea level and at low elevations in grassy savannas and open eucalypt forests. Most commonly, *L. muelleri* occurred in small groups

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Why *Not* Livistona?

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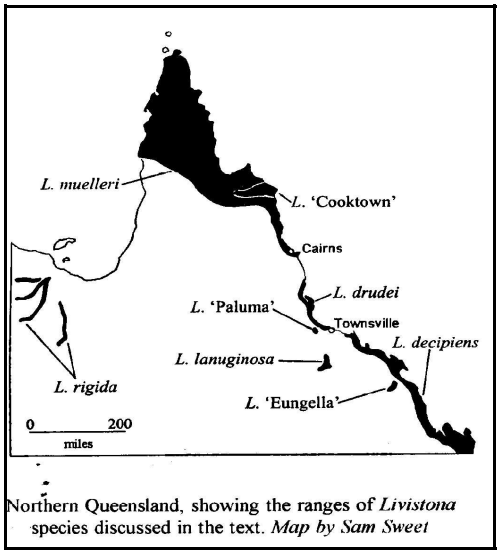
throughout large regions. Occasionally, we would see a single individual isolated by many miles from another *L. muelleri*. Although it is often described as a small palm, many *L. muelleri* that grow in seasonally flooded areas have reached heights of 30' and a few nearly 40'. We saw many trees had been exposed to grass fires—some palms under 4' tall had not produced new leaves, but probably had not been killed.



Northern Queensland, showing the ranges of *Livistona* species discussed in the text. *Map by Sam Sweet*

Continuing north on the Cape York Peninsula, we crossed the Daintree River via cable ferry and drove through the Cape Tribulation rainforest where *Licuala* and *Normanbya* flourish alongside black and yellow orb-web spiders with six-inch leg spans. The unpaved Bloomfield Track is steep in places and would be impassable in the wet season, but since the addition of a paved and elevated causeway at the Bloomfield River, travelers no longer need to wait for low tide to get to Cooktown. North of Cooktown, we camped beside a lagoon edged with pink and purple waterlilies. As down broke, the calls of the Wompoo pigeons (which give them their name) attracted our attention. Several of the large green, purple and yellow fruit pigeons had flown into a nearby *L. muelleri* and were swallowing the ripe fruits as quickly as they could pull them off the infructescence. Within 10 minutes they had finished and the birds flew into nearby eucalyptus where they sat sleepily while we broke camp.

L. muelleri grows within the range of *Livistona* "Cooktown" and to the northwest at the Kennedy River near New Laura. The *L.* "Cooktown" are restricted to the river banks (unlike *L. muelleri*). The leaflets of *L.* "Cooktown" are deeply divided and drooping—quite different from *L. muelleri*—and the adult plants are much taller (to 50'). Inland, *L.* "Cooktown" are widely scattered along the Kennedy River, and perhaps the Hann River farther northwest. In the latter sites a few tall, "Cooktown"-like plants are evident in colonies of *L. muelleri*, distinguished by leaf form and round black fruits (fruits are oval and reddish purple in *L. muelleri*), though seedlings from these plants have *muelleri*-like eophylls and may be hybrids. Juvenile *L. muelleri* are usually near older palms or eucalyptus, but protection from direct sunlight does not seem to be important for these palms. *L. muelleri* near Cairns were flowering in early August, while by late August plants on the Cape York Peninsula had nearly mature fruit. Only a minority of the trees that had flowered last season had set fruit. Few *L.* "Cooktown" were fruiting in August.

After traveling through Lakefield National Park to see the majestic *Corypha* and the elegant *Gulubia* in the Iron Ranges, we headed south, and across the plains bordering the Gulf of Carpentaria to our western-most destination.

One of the most spectacular sights in far northwest Queensland is the narrow zone of riverine forest along the perennial Gregory River where *Livistona rigida* occurs. The palms are very numerous and advertise the presence of the river by their dramatic contrast with the otherwise sparse vegetation of this region. They grow within a short distance of the water or are actually in contact with it and are accompanied by *Pandanus*, paperbarks and figs. The mature trees were in flower in August and had "lawns" of seedlings beneath them. Old but viable seeds (lacking an endocarp) were abundant on the ground. Young red-leaved palms grow in a range of habitats—from rock crevices in full sun to sandy soil under shrubs, and even shallow channels of flowing water. Leafbases are rarely retained on mature plants even where protected from fire, although one unusual individual had a full skirt reminiscent of *Washingtonia*. The winter climate was hot and dry.

At Lawn Hill Creek a colony of thousands of red flying foxes used the *L. rigida* crowns for a roost. These fruit bats have a two foot wingspan and body the size of a kitten. The palms were noticeable from a distance as their leaves bent under the weight of so many bats hanging from their peti-

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oles and some plants were damaged from heavy use.

As we made our way back toward the coast, we located *Livistona lanuginosa*, formerly known as *L.* "Cape River," growing on the sandy banks of seasonal tributaries of the Burdekin River. This is a particularly attractive *Livistona.*

Livistona lanuginosa*, in habitat at Glen Roy Springs. Growing along a dry creek bed, this is the "grove of 78."*

The leaves are a glaucous blue-green, relatively narrow with slightly drooping leaflet tips. The crown holds many long-petioled leaves which are not retained for long a s they senesce, giving the crown an "upright" appearance.

L. lanuginosa has a very patchy distribution; most groups of trees were located at the confluence of two streams. One grove of 78 mature individuals on Old Glenroy Station north of Burdekin Dam was flowering in August. Many seeds of the previous year had germinated under the parent trees, their long roots extending through a foot or so of sand and into a damp but very dense clay stratum. Lone trees did not seem to have set seed the previous year. It is possible that floods or fire kill most seedlings or that fluctuations in ground water levels determine their survivorship; older juveniles were dispersed and much less common than seedlings. Nearly all old seed had been bored by insects—a very few the bugs had missed could be found by delving into the attached petiole bases of trees that had not been burned clean.

Two other populations we located consisted of mostly immature individuals, widely spaced, or groups of three or four trees of different heights. They probably resulted from trees upstream whose fruit had been trapped and deposited by eddies. Most fruits are probably dispersed by flood waters, as they are too large (1½" diameter) to be swallowed by birds.

We finally returned to the Pacific coast at Mackay, a sugar cane farming and shipping port. After ascending a well-maintained, but steep and curving road, we found *Livistona* "Eungella Range" growing in colonies of numerous individuals in the rainforest at the crest of the Eungella Range. Although Queensland is in the tropics, *Livistona* that occur in the eastern montane rainforests do experience freezing temperatures during the Australian winter. The forest is dense and dark, lianas and epiphytes are abundant, and the weather is wet year-round; fire is not a factor there.

The leaves of *Livistona* "Eungella Range" are a glossy light green, not deeply divided and very tropical looking. As reported by Jones, male trees are easily distinguishable from females by their shorter petioles. Fruit was present but not ripe and the crop from the previous season had germinated under female trees. It seemed that any seed not buried by scrubfowl, bandicoots or pigs was bored by insects. Only the tallest palms are emergent. Although younger individuals are occasionally exposed to direct sunlight in tree-fall gaps, and seem to make their best growth

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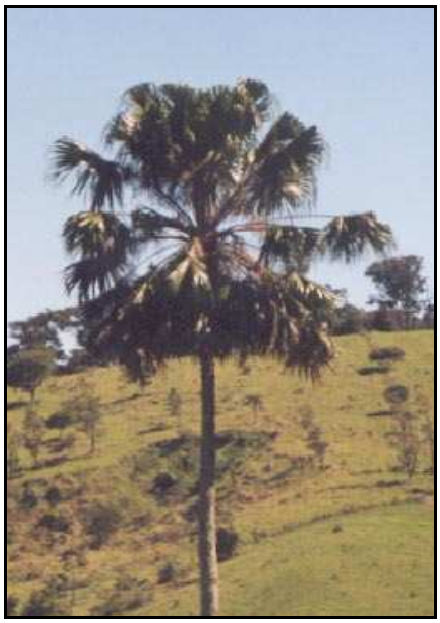

L. *"Eungella Range" individual, spared when habitat forest was cleared. This species and* L. *"Paluma Range" were assigned by Rodd to* L. australis*, but will be designated—along with other outlier* Livistona *from other ranges—as a new species in the Dow monograph.*

Why *Not* Livistona?

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under such conditions, the majority of young plants are in very deep shade. The seedlings do not form "lawns" and the soil is a nearly impenetrable mat of roots of trees other than palms. Fallen palm fronds appear to decay much more slowly than do most other rainforest leaves, thereby creating a zone free from competition with other fast-growing, aggressive species. Palm seedlings are little affected by falling fronds, germinate in the gaps between them, and grow readily.

L. *"Paluma Range" in cultivation at the Townsville Palmetum, admired by John Dowe, the garden's former director.*

Returning to the coastal Bruce Highway, we encountered *L. decipiens* south of Townsville in or along both seasonal and permanent riverbeds. In areas where water was seasonal, *L. decipiens* are often the only trees, accompanied by occasional open scrub. Elsewhere, tall *L. decipiens* are emergent from the narrow borders of dense riverine forest and some young palms are exposed to full sun in places. Although cattle were often pastured with stands of *L. decipiens*, damage to small plants appeared to be mostly in the form of soil erosion and trampling. The palms were clustered and much frequented by cattle for their shade, but did not seem to be preferred forage.

No palm enthusiast passing through Townsville should miss the Palmetum, on the south edge of town near James Cook University. This is an outstanding and superbly designed garden, featuring group plantings and emphasizing Australian species that can cope with the limited rainfall of the Townsville section of coastal Queensland.

North of Townsville, *Livistona drudei* grows along permanent waterways or in soaks (marshes), the latter choked with tall grass and potentially home to many taipans that forage in the surrounding cane fields. Sam insisted on wading into such areas for seed and photos; it's difficult to know whether it was his knowledge as a herpetologist that prevented him from receiving a venomous snakebite or the luck of the obsessed palmophile!

L. decipiens and *L. drudei* occupy both the dwindling patches along stream-edges on the brief coastal plain and the bases of foothills in a narrow coastal strip now heavily affected by sugar cane cultivation.

We were surprised to discover a group of immature palms ranging in height from 4-20' growing on a steep hillside at the lower limit of rainforest in the Paluma Range west of Townsville. Unlike the *L. drudei* we observed at sea level, the leaves of these plants were not as deeply divided, and were a glossy light green. We could not determine whether they were outliers of *L. drudei* or instead referable to *Livistona* "Paluma Range." These plants are some distance from the known, fruit-producing groves of *L.* "Paluma Range," but they could have been the

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Livistona *"Cooktown," Kennedy Bend, Lakefield N. P. In the 1998 monograph, Rodd makes this synonymous with* L. drudei. *Dowe, however, will soon elevated the palm to specific status.*

The gilded Pha That Luang temple in Vientiane, Laos, framed by a Borassus flabellifer. *Temple is on the Laotian national seal. Below, golden bas-relief of* Cocos *and* Borassus *at temple in Luang Prabang. Photos by Peter Mayotte.*

A group of Livistona drudei *at the Townsville Palmetum in Queensland, Australia. Photo by Sam Sweet.*

New deep red new leaf of Ptychosperma waitianum, *Vero Beach, palm reported to be "difficult" by its owner, Ed Carlson, who took this picture.*

Why *Not* Livistona?

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results of well fed fruit pigeons perching there!

Large fruit-producing dicots, such as figs, are an important component of the rainforests and attract flocks of migratory pigeons. Because the trees have irregular fruiting schedules, the birds travel great distances to feed, dispersing seed along the way and at their nighttime roosts. It is surprising that *Livistona* have such narrow ranges when their seed must be so often distributed widely in this way.

All of the north Queensland *Livistona* set fruit during the wet season, though in any extensive stand there may be a few trees out of synchrony. Owing to incipient dioecy, such seed may be infertile, and a sample should be checked on the spot. We collected fresh seed where possible, but often had to fall back on old seed, which turned out to be eager to go. Using plastic bags held at 80-85° F following two days of soaking, old seed of *L. rigida*, *L. lanuginosa*, *L. muelleri*, and *L.* "Cooktown" germinated within days, with 70-95% success. Fresh seed of the species from mesic coastal habitats, treated similarly, germinated in 20-30 days, except for *L. muelleri*, which sprouted after 50-60 days with stragglers long after. Germination percentages were similarly high, in some cases 100%.

Seedlings of each species are distinctive, and may be readily identified by eophyll features. *Livistona* "Eungella," *L. decipiens*, *L.* "Cooktown," and *L. drudei* (as with *L. australis*, *L. fulva*, and *L. nitida*) all from relatively mesic coastal or montane areas, have five abaxial folds but differ in length/width ratios, and the presence of filaments and marginal prickles. By contrast, species from areas with a pronounced dry season (*L. lanuginosa*, *L. rigida*, and *L. muelleri*, and most other inland and northern species) have three abaxial folds, differing among themselves again in leaf size and shape, prickles, etc.

Most of these *Livistona* have survived in gardens both in California and Florida and we look forward to planting ours out eventually. (The most sensitive species at this stage have been the *L. muelleri*—some seedlings have "damped off.) *Livistona* are tropical-looking, fast growing palms that produce a lush effect, especially when planted in groups. They can serve as windbreaks and canopy for more sensitive species while their diversity is pleasing in itself.

Livistonanium sweetorum: the Livistona *incubator at Donna and Sam's home in Santa Barbara, California. The Sweets are currently on sabbatical in Australia; more* Livistona *seedlings will doubtless appear on their return. Encouraged by the Sweets, most can be expected to grow vigorously. Now, what do the proud propagators mean to do with the thousands of* Livistona*s? Remember, eucalyptus originated in Australia before succeeding so well in California. . . . Sammy Palmseed?*

Below, Sam Sweet points the way—to a "black" Pigafetta filaris*, from a "pig seed" he dropped a week before on the lawn. Seriously, though, the species is not <u>that</u> fast! Actually, the young palm is in Anderson Park, Townsville, Queensland.*

Seedbank Report

By Mike Dahme

Not for the first time, seeds donated by the Michael family of Wabasso have been a bonanza for the chapter. *Copernicia macroglossa* was the main attraction this quarter, followed by *Bismarckia*, *Borassus*, and *Attalea*. When payments are received, the chapter will have almost $1,000 from these donations, though about half of the *Copernicia* seeds came from the former residence of Bill Bidlingmayer in Vero Beach. Mr. B's planting efforts of decades past at his former worksite in south Vero also contributed seeds of *Livistona benthamii* and *Coccothrinax argentata*, bringing another $135 in receipts.

Seeds from other central Florida growers were *Licuala spinosa*, *Livistona drudei*, *Coccothrinax miraguama*, *Syagrus schizophylla*, *Bismarckia*, *Wodyetia*, *Ptychosperma microcarpum*, *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*, and *Dypsis decaryi* [thanks to Neil Yorio, Scott Ward, Steve Rael, John Bishock, and Charlene Palm] brought in another $300, while *Cycas taitungensis* from the Montgomery Botanical Center returned $37.50.

Ruth Sallenbach's Palm Beach garden contributed almost $100 worth of seeds, *Chamaedorea tepejilote* and *Caryota mitis* "Ruth" [it's on Palm Beach vendors' lists as such!] proving more popular than *Veitchia winin*, and *Thrinax radiata*. Finally, Shri Dhar sent 200 seeds of *Phoenix sylvestris* "blue" form all the way from India [we could have distributed 1,000 of these, Shri], and *Calyptronoma rivalis* and *Syagrus coronata* collected in Puerto Rico added another $150. Value of seeds distributed during the quarter [including *Copernicia macroglossa* sent in July] was $1,700.

Livistona benthamii, *growing at Rio Piedras Botanical Garden in San Juan, Puerto Rico. It's bigger and, apparently, happier than the individual at the Florida Medical Entomology Lab in Vero Beach, from which the chapter has twice obtained and sold seed (see Seedbank Report, left).*.

Bonsai, maybe? A stumpy Areca catechu, *growing as a potted plant in a Laotian yard. (The pot isn't really visible in the picture.) Photo by Peter Mayotte*

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Volunteer Needed

Central VP Position Open

We need a volunteer to fill the CFPACS Board position of Central Vice President. Marilyn Bachmann of Gainesville is stepping down. The applicant/candidate should be a resident of the center of the state, perhaps someone in the Orlando area.

Ideally, the person should have been active for some time in CFPACS. The duties, not all that onerous, include attending the quarterly board meetings and voting on chapter business. There are also informal e-mail contacts and discussions among members of the board.

The Central VP also helps to set up the chapter's quarterly meeting in his or her area—as Marilyn did for the June meeting in Gainesville.

Interested? Contact Dave Witt (our prez) at dwitt3@cfl.rr.com or call him (407) 352-4115.

Charlene Palm will be leaving her position as East VP. Diana Grabowski of Cocoa Beach has volunteered to replace her. Details in the next issue of *The Palmateer*.

—John Kennedy

IPS Candidate Faith Bishock

Greetings from Sarasota. As many of you know, my name has been submitted for candidacy for the IPS board as the Central Florida Chapter representative and I have accepted. Thanks for the vote of confidence from you all. I'll do my best to represent our chapter and palm enthusiasts in Florida.

Sincerely, **Faith**

Self-confidence adds more to conversation than wit does.

—LaRochefoucauld, Maxim 421

FEB. 11 is the deadline to submit material for the March issue of *The Palmateer!*

Beautiful blue-gray Encephalartos lehmanii *gives scale at Dr. Young's Tampa garden to unidentified Palm Fest visitor.*

In this season of Good Cheer, let us go forward into the marvelous world of palms and cycads where—if desirable—surcease from the troubles besieging us in the last months may be found. Peace reigns in the garden where troubles may only be mealybugs or, more seriously, the prospect of chill.

The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society invites you to join a select group devoted to the contemplation of wondrous plants. The Palmateer assists the peace of palm-lovers. To receive the quarterly bulletin in 2002, send a check (made out to CFPACS) in the amount of $10 for one year, $25 for three years to the address below.

Should you already be a member of the group, kindly renew your membership for the upcoming year.

Merry Chanukah, Joyous Kwanzaa to you all!

Livistona australis, *near Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Photo taken by Daryl O'Connor.*

Please print

Name_____
Street_____
City_____
State,
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Email_____

Wish to be added to Seedbank E-mail list? (Circle one) YES NO

Willing to be listed publicly in roster? (Circle one) YES NO

Mail check made out to CFPACS (domestic: $10 one year; $25 three years; foreign: US$15 one year) to:

Membership Chair
4645 Canterbury Drive
Land O'Lakes, FL 34639

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society service area includes the following counties: Alachua, Brevard, Citrus, DeSoto, Flagler, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, and Volusia.
Please notify the Membership Chair (see directory on p. 33) of any changes in street address, phone number, area code, or e-mail address. The newsletter is sent to the address of record.

The International Palm Society (IPS)
Anyone interested in joining the IPS and receiving the quarterly, illustrated journal, *Palms*, should send a check for $35 (regular membership) or $45 (family membership) to:

International Palm Society
P. O. Box 368
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dues may also be paid online at the IPS website, www.palms.org

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Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society
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Livistona australis, *growing in a park south of the city center of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia,. The species is found much farther south (colder) in a climate with similar winter temperatures as Central Florida's. Maybe this species could replace* Washingtonia *in public and private plantings in our region— if carried by Wal-Mart and Home Depot? We can hope. Photo by Daryl O'Connor*