

REPENT! It's not too late to **RENEW!** for 2002. Send your check made out to CFPACS (\$10 for one year, \$25 for three years) to Membership Chair, 4645 Canterbury Drive, Land O'Lakes, FL 34639. Don't miss a single thrilling issue of *The Palmateer*. Stay in the know.

The Palmateer

Volume 22, Number 1

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

March, 2002

COLOR

Comes to CFPACS (at long last)

By Mark Van Antwerp
Membership Chair

You may have noticed that *The Palmateer* is now in color. Thanks to the folks at Xerox we will now be printing our newsletter in-house, in color and at a better price than we have previously been paying for the black and white issue.

A few months ago I was looking around for costs on a printer to run *The Palmateer* on. With the rising cost of postage and printing *The Palmateer*, the board was

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MARCH 16th, MELBOURNE MEETING AND PLANT SALE

Florida Institute of Technology campus will be the site of the first quarterly meeting of CFPACS. A number of vendors, more than usual, are expected to offer their wares at FIT. Starting time is 9 a.m., with closing late in the afternoon.

The FIT campus is a historic place to palm-lovers. The founding president of the university, Dr. Jerry Keuper, was the second president of The Palm Society (later transformed into The International Palm Society, more familiarly, the IPS). Because of Dr. Keuper's love of palms, the campus was heavily planted with palms from the 1950's through the 1970's. Not all have survived, but a sufficient number to attract attention by their variety and their age.

Visitors can wander the campus, gawking (no other word). The identity of quite a few palms is unclear,

(Continued on page 3)

December Meeting

Seaside Palms, near Christmas

By John Kennedy

An outdoor party, steps from the beach, was the site of the fourth quarter (2001) CFPACS meeting in Cocoa Beach at the home of Diana and Mark Grabowski on Saturday, December 15.

The northbound stretch of A1A on the south end of Cocoa Beach is noteworthy for grubby duplexes and general shabbiness. That's the west side of the road. On the east, or beach,

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Under the spreading coconut palm, the auction at the December meeting in Cocoa Beach goes forward. Is that an Arenga in the foreground? Auctioneer/Pres. Dave Witt is behind the frond. Former Pres. Neil Yorio stands by. (Photo by Diana Grabowski)



In Living Color!*(Continued from page 1)*

looking for ways to improve our newsletter while still keeping the low yearly dues. (Which are due for 2002 if you have forgotten)

While surfing the net one evening pricing the costs of a decent printer I typed in "Free Printer" as a joke and was quite surprised at what came back. The Xerox website offers a printer to customers to use as long as they print so many copies a month and buy the color ink from them.

This seemed to be the ideal setup for us so after a vote by the board of directors, we are now the proud parents of a Xerox Phaser 860 color printer. This printer comes with a 3-year warranty and all the black ink we care to use for free.

Our first full color issue will be the one you are holding right now and we hope it makes this issue more enjoyable to read and view!



Remember this picture in the December issue? Greg and Jadab Hodge in front of a Bismarckia at Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum in St. Petersburg? Well, not exactly. The palm is on Terra Ceia Island, next to Bradenton, and was planted by Greg on his aunt's property. The Editor—it is shameful to say—stood next to the photographer as the picture was taken, and is most grateful that Greg and Jadab were kind enough not to point this out. The Editor's nemesis, the Sharp-Eyed Critic (who took the picture) blew the whistle on this mistake.

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Mea culpa!

This is where I apologize or, better yet, explain away my mistakes in the previous issue. I've only had a few exposed to me, so far, fortunately. If you spot something, just contact me and I will abase myself in print. **Another teeny** miscue: "Gizella Kopsick Palmetum" appeared in how many places in the December issue? Looking at my souvenir t-shirt, I am disturbed to note that it reads "Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum." I like my version better, even if it is erroneous.

Sam Sweet, Australophile, is pointing the finger in the picture on page 31 at the black *Pigafetta*, which is *P. elata* (not, as identified, *P. filaris*).

That stumpy *Areca catechu* in the pot in Vientiane, Laos, on page 32, was photographed by Peter Mayotte. The credit was in the original caption but got squeezed out at the printers.

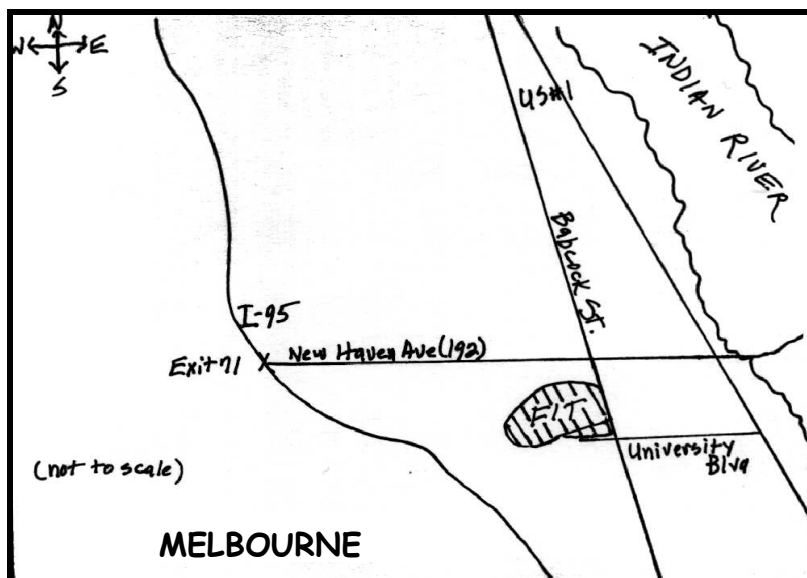
For those whose Latin is minimal or non-existent, the head says "My fault!"

—The Editor

Directions to March 16 Melbourne Sale/ Meeting

From the North: Take I-95 to Exit 71 (US 192, New Haven Avenue). Drive east on 192 about 2½ miles to Babcock Street (CR 507). Turn right—south—on Babcock. Florida Institute of Technology is one mile down Babcock, at University Blvd. Turn right into the FIT campus. Follow signs for parking and sale site.

From the South: Take I-95 to Exit 71, then follow the directions, as above.



MARCH 16th, MELBOURNE

(Continued from page 1)

since the markers have been lost or decayed for some time. A project somewhere in the offing for members of our chapter may be in confirming the identity of the survivors of the past now standing on the FIT campus.

On one side of the campus is the Dent Smith Trail, dedicated to the memory of the founder and first president of The Palm Society. At present, it is not entirely passable.

A Board meeting will take place at some time in the afternoon.

Any vendors of palms, cycads—or any tropical plants—should contact Dave Witt (dwitt3@cfl.rr.com).

Directions and a map are above, on this page.



Above, the CFPACS Board (in the year 2032) digs into chapter activities. Literally, on the beachside patio in Cocoa Beach during the December sociable/meeting. We're not all long in the tooth. Some us are still working through our baby teeth, and having a good time at meetings, as are these junior members. (Photo by Neil Yorio)

Membership Directory

Because of difficulties with time, with layout, and with the necessity to check information, the Membership Directory will appear with the June issue of *The Palmateer*, rather than with this, the March issue.

Vote for East VP

Ballot for East Coast Vice President may be found on page 30.

December Meeting, Cocoa Beach

(Continued from page 1)

side the houses are larger, the landscaping handsome and well cared for. A concealing wooden gate opens into the Grabowskis' surprisingly large patio on the south and east sides of a decked two-story house. A step gives access to the broad beach immediately behind the patio. The confined space holds more palms than might be expected, a good example of what can be done in what is, essentially, a town-house planting area that is mostly paved. Fortunately, palms provide vertical accents so that collectors are able to sneak yet another palm into the landscape.

Among the palms planted at the Grabowskis' "salt and wind tolerance proving grounds" are some unexpected species, including several *Pritchardias*: *P. loweryana*, *P. affinis*, *P. thurstonii*. (They think it's Hawaii?) Of course, there are the coconuts—green and yellow Malayan dwarfs, Maypans, Panama Tall, Malayan Tall. Then, the *Hyphaene* clumps, the female *Latania loddigesii* lovingly hand-pollinated by Mark, plus personal favorites, *Thrinax radiata* and *T. morrisii*. . . The first exotic Mark planted as a tiny one-leaf seedling from Rockledge Gardens is now a four-foot *Allagoptera arenaria*. The lesson seems to be that more palms can take wind and salt than would first seem possible.

The food. Ah, yes. Fish chowder, baked salmon, and other fishy dishes were provided by the hostess, Diana being a bodacious cook. The 40 or so guests also brought covered dishes. No one could complain of going hungry, there being enough for the 40 others who didn't come. Some visitors requested the recipe for Diana's quick-fix key lime pie. Among the beverages was a South Carolina beer, Palmetto Beer, with a handsome picture of that state's tree, *Sabal palmetto*, on the label. Whether this was purchased locally or in Charleston wasn't clear.

Mark and Diana also gave the attendees a souvenir of the occasion: a hand-painted (or glittered) Christmas ornament that they themselves had decorated. Needless to say, the basic design was a palm. The date and CFPACS also appeared on the ball.

An auction of palms and cycads donated to the chapter was followed by a sale. Most small vendors brought plants, especially those living in Brevard



The palm and cycad auction continues on the patio in Cocoa Beach during the December 15th meeting. Central figure is Neil Yorio, with Dave Witt, CFPACS president, dealing with plants at the rear. (Photo by Diana Grabowski)

County.

Is it necessary to add that everyone attending had a good time? The hospitality of our good hosts and the unusual and attractive setting assured this. For a little self-congratulation, our chapter is noted for friendly, chatty people who lived up to this commendation at Grabowski-by-the-Sea. Mark Van Antwerp, the membership chair, signed up several new members during the meeting.

The CFPACS board met before most members arrived for the fun part. An account of the board's actions appears on page 28.

**NEW AREA CODE FOR INDIAN RIVER,
ST. LUCIE, MARTIN COUNTIES (FEB.11):**

772

**OLD AREA CODE CAN BE DIALED UNTIL
NOVEMBER. 561 CONTINUES IN USE
FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY.**



No, it's not Arenga engleri, a familiar species in Central Florida, but Phytelephas aequatorialis, from the far western basin of the Amazon, in Ecuador. At home here on Pauleen Sullivan's palmetum on the Big Island of Hawaii.

(Photo by Geoff Stein)

Recognize the palm below? Not quite a Queen Palm? You've almost got it: a near relative, perhaps handsomer, Syagrus sancona, growing not far from P. aequatorialis in Hawaii.



The USF Spring Plant Festival 2002

It's time again for the Spring sale in Tampa. The University of South Florida, in Tampa, is hosting the Spring plant festival on Saturday, April 13th, and Sunday, April 14th. The hours will be 10AM to 4 PM on Saturday, and 10AM to 3 PM on Sunday. Members of the USF Botanical Garden get in early at 9:30 AM.

The Spring sale last year was a little down from the year before. We are hoping that this year will be a little better and encourage our members who have ever come to these sales to try and make it to this one. We can really use your support in order for us to be able to continue making palms and cycads available at these sales.

If there is anyone who would like to be a vendor, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. We need to get nametags for you, so we need to know who is coming out as early as possible, and not at the last minute.

If there is someone new who does not know how to get to the garden, it is near the southwest corner of the USF campus, in Tampa. You can get to the campus on the Fowler exits from either I-275 from the west, or I-75 from the east. From the east, you will drive a few miles before you see the campus. Turn right into the main entrance, and go to the first light. Turn left, the road will end at the entrance to the garden. From the west, get onto Fowler and drive about a mile, and then turn left into the main entrance, and follow the other instructions. There will be people to show you where to park.

The spring sale is good for purchasing plants and getting them established before the next winter. I would like to invite everyone to come out, especially the people who have not been to this sale. Most of the other societies are there as well, so if you enjoy growing plants such as bromeliads, orchids, ferns, or anything else unusual, you can find it at this sale.

If you need more information on the sale, or would like to be one of our vendors, please contact me, Tom Broome at 863-984-2739. I hope to see everyone there.

-Tom Broome

Joe Michael's Account of Christmas Freeze, 1989, Earring Point, Wabasso

12-23-89	7:30 a.m.	48°	light rain	1.4"
	2:00 p.m.	39°	Cold front arrived—steam off river cut visibility to 100'. Wind N. W. 20-30 mph. Making orange cranberry sauce	
	4:00 p.m.	35°	Cloud cover overcast	
	6:00 p.m.	31°	"	"
	8:00 p.m.	28°	"	"
12-24-89	12:45 a.m.	23°	Clear	
	6:30 a.m.	19°	"	Wind 15-25 mph N. W.
	12:00	32°	"	"
	3:00 p.m.	36°	"	Burke Gordon Fruit shop frozen pipe [illegible]
	8:00 p.m.	29°	"	Wind 5 mph N. N.W.
	9:30 p.m.	28°	"	Light wind [no direction noted]
12-25-89	1:50 a.m.	25°	"	Hear ocean roaring. High level wind NE off ocean
			Temp inversion	
	7:00 a.m.	23°	"	Light N. W. winds
	11:30 a.m.	41°	"	" [no direction noted]
	3:45 p.m.	47°	"	[no notation about wind for this or following two entries]
12-26-89	7:00 a.m.	32°	"	
12-27-89	7:00 a.m.	38°	"	

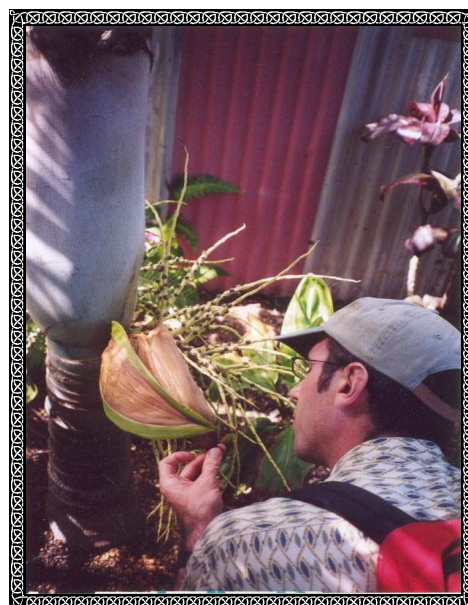
Document faxed to John Kennedy by Mike Dahme, November 13, 2000. This was the coldest episode in recent memory, here detailed from possibly the most favorable palm-growing locale, on the east side of the Indian River lagoon, in southernmost coastal Central Florida.



Phoenicophorum at IPS board member Pauleen Sullivan's place in Kapoho, Hawaii.
(Photo by Geoff Stein)

Below, Scott Zona gets a very close look at a *He-dyscepe canterburyana* infructescence in Phil Morgan's Leucadia, California, garden.

(Photo by Geoff Stein)





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Seeing how the hardships of Winter have passed our corner of the world by it's now time to think about Spring and all the new additions we can make to our gardens. This season our chapter will be participating in three sales spread out all over the region. The first one is will something we've talked about before but never managed to arrange until recently. On one day only, Saturday, March 16th our chapter will conduct its first ever "giant palm & cycad sale". This not to be missed event is scheduled to take place in mainland Melbourne, Brevard county at F.I.T. Some members may recall this site as our group has toured it several times during the 1990's.

Many old palm specimens still remain including a *Borassus*, some huge *Elaeis* oil palms, a fruiting *Sabal mauritiformis*, and many others. We will attempt to get as many vendors to participate as possible so there should be a wide selection of unusual plants for sale. The 2nd sale will be the following weekend on March 23-24th at Leu Gardens in Orlando. This one is always big fun with an incredible display of virtually any plant group you can think of. And the 3rd event is our annual participation in the USF school sale in Tampa (off Fowler Ave.). We always have a big turnout for this one as well. So hopefully that will have most all of our areas covered for the Spring. We may try and get into Selby Gardens or the Green Thumb Festival in St. Pete, if possible.

I'd like to take time to comment on my favorite subject (cold damage or lack thereof). This past Winter

was unusual in several ways for me. For one I still have green leaves on most all of my palms including the tender *Corypha utan*. I can't remember the last time it didn't start into the Spring being completely defoliated. Some plants did show a little damage from a 3-hr 29F low but the most amazing thing to me happened a week later. A one night drop to 25F did the normal "browning-out" around Orlando of most tropical plantings but for some reason this freeze caused virtually no damage to my garden or others around the SW part of town. Some of the usual micro-climates escaped the cold too but my area has traditionally been one of the hardest hit each year since I have lived here. Even the airport recorded a 25F low but other than some minor leaf-spotting no damage! I typed down my thoughts as that morning progressed; they are elsewhere in this issue. Months later it reads like some odd science fiction to me so I just wanted to assure everyone (including myself) that it actually happened. To this day I'm still not sure of what happened and why but I'm certainly not going to complain about it ...

And, lastly, a quick reminder for those whose membership is up - please get it in soon (otherwise I'll be forced to send one of my kids to live with you). Your dues pay for the newsletter only and we'd hate to lose anyone. Each year our roster increases and the palm & cycad gospel is spreading far and wide. And don't forget that our seedbank is offered to members only before anyone else so ... if you have any questions about your dues you contact Mark, our membership chair, or myself. Thanks to everyone for a great year in 2001, and I'm sure we'll be able to do even better in 2002. I look forward to seeing you at the sales, please stop by and say hi.

—Dave Witt
Orlando, FL

25F Low in Orlando, an E-mail Sent (1/9/02)

It was at least six or seven years ago, in the beginning for me; not sure where I first heard this, think it was the inimitable Bernie Peterson—"each freeze in central Florida seems to bring along some different characteristic that separates it from the others"—or something close to that effect. As usual, he espoused words to live by, at least for amateur palm growers such as myself. I'm still not sure what the hell happened last night, my temperature readings coincided almost directly with what was reported from nearby Orlando International Airport throughout the entire night/

morning. At 3 am the low was 34F and dropping fast, nearly two degrees per hour. At 4 am the low had leveled off, 34F here and up one degree to 35F at the airport. A false sense of security had now permeated my thoughts, not unlike the time I recently bet my last \$100 on a sure thing at the Longwood racetrack. Homer Simpson has absolutely nothing on me, except hair maybe.

5 am—an off and on 5 mph wind that had been present the entire evening has suddenly disappeared,

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25F Low in Orlando

(Continued from page 7)

faster than the aforementioned \$100. One single hour after the balmy 34F reading, my thermometer now displayed 28F. Six degrees in one hour??? What the hell happened to 32 or at least 31F? I grabbed that plastic stick of mercurial torture and shook it hard, contemplating how those evil sweatshop workers were probably laughing their collective asses off at me and any other poor sucker who plunked down his cash for one of those wretched devices. A jump—up one degree to 29F, that rise probably due to the intense heat steaming off my forehead. At once I came to the realization that I was very cold standing barefoot and shirtless outside, and that the thermometer was probably right. In a panic, I ran back inside, clicked on my computer to have a look at the National Weather Service's latest "forecast"—that term used loosely here, the acronym NWS could stand for National Weather Stooges and on one'd be the wiser, including them. The past few years it's become almost laughable to observe their attempts at predicting figures such as an actual low temp reading, the time below 32F or other non-essential tidbits.

6 am—27F degrees. Okay, I've dealt with this kind of trouble before, as recently as last winter. I'm actually kind of proud at the way I've been handling the freezes from the last two or three years, dispensing my supposedly sage advice to those who ask and even to a few who didn't—after all, what good is being an "expert" if hardly anyone knows? As I literally (and, yes, figuratively) walked around in the darkness outside—sans flashlight, and yet nimble as Minnesota Fats on a 20-oz Caffé Latte—I noticed something very odd: it was really **really** wet out here, almost like I had stepped into a steam room only without any heat. It wasn't raining, yet the air was misty like nighttime at the beach, minus the rolling background noise of waves crashing ashore. The turf grass was soaked, all palm leaves were covered in a dewy-type moisture whether laying horizontal or upright. I don't run any automatic irrigation, so that possibility is out—strange. I clutched and grabbed at palm foliage everywhere, expecting to feel that painstakingly familiar texture of crispy palm frond edges being gnarled and twisted like so much Xmas lights. But nothing, hmmm. Still cold and now hungry, I returned inside. I began devouring a leftover steak burrito and some cheesecake—it was going to be a long sunrise.

7 am—25F degrees (Okay, technically, it was 25.6) but we're now going for bragging rights here; I'm getting a little exasperated with other palm growers telling me how much colder they are than me, despite them being

a good two or three hours drive south of here, or how good I've got it due to my "heat-island" effect. I checked the Florida Surface Temperature webpage. Ha, I knew it! I was colder than Lakeland even, colder than interior Manatee or Sarasota counties all the way across to Avon Park and Sebring. It's kind of mind numbing, what 25F degree reading will do to a palm grower's psyche. I'm almost giddy thinking ahead of how I'll describe the mass destruction that has befallen my collection. "My *Enterpe edulis* is burned way more than your is" I'll say, with demonic glee. Outside the overall wetness I had noticed earlier was still present and along with it—was fog! So foggy I almost tripped into the neighbor's wife, who was out walking Butch, the block's non-stop barking detector of squirrels, doves, or anything smaller than a prowler. You could be attired in a jumpsuit hued penitentiary-orange with a ski mask covering your face and that animal would believe you're invisible. But, God forbid, you try and slide a newly purchased 15-gallon *Roystonea* past the wife during the twilight hours—he'll bark so loud you'd think someone had chopped his furry tail off. Hey, accidents with shovels are more common than one would think.

Now 7:15 am, the sun peeking over the eastern horizon, its usual pink/orange cast. I can finally begin to see the damage the past several hours of freezing has rendered—or can I? There is noticeable frost formed on the turf grass, mainly in the open areas. My van's windshield is coated with a thin layer of crusty ice. But I cannot find anything wrong with my palms! The foliage is still wet but no ice has formed, at least on anything within reach. Now 7:30 am, the thermometer reads 26.6F. I rub my eyes—26F, that's better?! I can finally see clearly up to 20 ft in height—still no curled or off-color foliage in sight. Some off the moisture on palms at eye level is now beginning to transform into very thin ice. I rub it with my hands, it melts harmlessly to the ground. Now 8 am, the temperature is 29F and rising rapidly. By 9 am it would be 37F.

I spent the last hour or so of daylight today walking around my yard in an (unfortunately) drunken-less stupor, absolutely stunned at what I see. There is a 10 ft *Corypha utan* with nearly perfect green foliage, an equal sized *Wodyetia bifurcata* looking like it's the middle of Summer; rooftop high *Hyophorbe verschaffeltii*, *Archontophoenix maxima* as green-leafed as they'd be in July! A 20 ft. *Caryota mitis*, a *Roystonea regia*=*elata*, even a 25-gallon *Elaeis guineensis*, for crying out loud—each one of the aforementioned palms are perennial frost victims every winter, yet all are a darker green than the 12-pack of Heineken I'm about to finish off. Was it really 25F here this morning or has this palm-afflicted

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Notes on *Jubaeopsis caffra* Becc., The South African Pondoland Palm

By N. P. Smith, The New York Botanical Garden,
Bronx, NY 10458

From the mouth of the Msikaba River, one may stare east, over the dunes of a white sand beach, and out to the horizon of the Indian Ocean. From this vantage point, there is nearly 5000 miles of straight water separating the river mouth and the coast of western Australia. The importance of this river is obvious to the locals and tourists who live and fish along its banks, but it is also significant to South Africa's government and environmental movement.

In 1977, South Africa designated this river mouth as the southeastern border of the Mkambati Nature Reserve. The Reserve, totaling nearly 15,000 acres¹, was

originally established as a leper colony, however, most of this was reestablished as agricultural land when the reserve was formed. Nevertheless, Mkambati is still impressive, its beaches, gorges, grasslands and forests, are presently home to many of South Africa's most

incredible mammals and endemic plants, including *Jubaeopsis caffra* Becc., the Pondoland palm.

What makes *Jubaeopsis caffra* unique is that it is one of the world's rarest palms, known to grow only along the northern banks of two rivers, the Msikaba and the Mtentu², the latter approximately ten miles north of the Msikaba river and the northern border of the Reserve.

It was in a very dilapidated aluminum rowboat, on December 4th, 2001, that I found myself and six others staring out at one of the largest single stands of *Jubaeopsis* on the Msikaba river, a count which did not exceed 25-30 visible stems. I was there to make a collection of the palm for the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) as well as help make a rapid count of the population and informally assess its conservation status. Subsequently, this enabled NYBG to obtain its

¹This is just over 23 square miles. In comparison, Miami, Florida, is roughly 34 square miles.

²Pronounced Mmm-si-kaba and Mmm-ten-too, respectively.



Jubaeopsis caffra growing at the mouth of the Mtentu River.
© N. P. Smith, 2002.

first herbarium collection of *Jubaeopsis*, an act made possible by a generous grant from the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society.

On arriving in South Africa, I met Robert Brand, a botanist working in South Africa for NYBG and the individual who had arranged this trip with NYBG's palm expert, Dr. Andrew Henderson. Robert and I traveled with his assistant, Phillip Swart, to the reserve where we met Carol and Bart Logie, who often join Robert on forays to help him collect. Arrangements had been made with the reserve manager, Joggie (pronounced Yo-hé) Ackerman, for a place to stay and for the use of the boats on both rivers, including the one which the seven of us were squeezed into that morning.

During the previous two days, we were unable to row up the river and Joggie had explained that this was be-

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Notes on *Jubaeopsis caffra*

(Continued from page 9)



Group on the southern bank of the Mkambati River. The northern bank and habitat of *J. caffra* are visible in the background. From the left: Robert Brand, Jane Logie, Bart Logie, Phillip Swart, and Joggie Ackerman (green hat).

© N. P. Smith, 2001

cause the winds (and rain) were too strong and we would never have been able to fight both this and the current. However, on the morning we departed I soon realized that it was not just the current or the weather that limited our abilities to paddle up stream, but rather that the boat's oars consisted of two pieces of driftwood, each with a narrow board nailed to the end and each loosely attached to the boat with wire. In short, rowing this boat was analogous to rowing with oversized toothpicks. It took us hours just to move a few hundred yards, and in that time, we each took turns rowing, making notes/counts of the palms, and bailing the water that slowly leaked through the bottom.

Fortunately, on that day, we were lucky for one reason, and that was because *J. caffra* only grows for a few miles up each river and then ceases to exist...a phenomenon that has yet to be explained.

After hours of rowing only a few miles, we had reached a point where the northern bank had developed into a series of cliffs and only a few palms grew on the ledges and in the cracks of the rock. The river had turned to a series of rapids that were too large for the boat to handle, and although Joggie thought there may be a few more populations, he felt the only efficient way to reach them would be to come in from the other direction³. Since the day was running out, we decided to turn around, only to fight the then incoming tide as

we paddled back to the mouth.

Jubaeopsis caffra, thought to have been first collected in 1898, is a multi stemmed species that occurs on the river banks (sometimes near but never appearing to be submersed in the saline water) and steep rocky ledges which in some places tower hundreds of feet above the water.

The palm's strikingly yellow rachises lined by its long green leaflets make it stand out among the plants on the river, which include the palm *Phoenix reclinata*, and the large leaved *Strelitzia nicotia*, both similar in appearance to *Jubaeopsis* from a distance. I must admit that more than once I was tricked by the similar habit of these look-alikes and if it was not for binoculars we would not have been able to distinguish the modified spines on the *Phoenix* petioles or the wind torn leaves of the *Strelitzia* that scattered the cliffs and hillsides far

³This was something we did not have time for. My personal thoughts on this, if anyone reading this decides to go and view these populations, is to walk along the southern shore of the river with a good pair of binoculars. The southern shore is quite clear of vegetation and would be a good vantage point for much of the way. Though, a collapsible kayak would be best.

Robert Brand displaying the yellow rachises of *J. caffra*.

© N. P. Smith, 2001.



Notes on *Jubaeopsis caffra*

(Continued from page 10)

above our boat.

For palm enthusiasts, *J. caffra* has been a curiosity since a collection made by Charles Ross was described by the Italian botanist Odoardo Beccari (1843-1920) in 1913. This species is most intriguing for not only its incredibly restricted distribution and aesthetic beauty but also because it morphologically resembles the co-



Author displaying infructescence and mature fruits of *Jubaeopsis caffra*. © N. P. Smith, 2001

conut (*Cocos nucifera*) in many ways.

The flowers and fruits of *Jubaeopsis* are virtually identical to the coconut, except the fruits are much smaller, usually only an inch or two wide. Like the coconut, the outer layer of the fruit is a thick green husk; however, this turns a bright orange as the fruits mature and fall from the tree. The hard inner layer displays the same three germination pores seen on the coconut except they are more lateral in location.

Interestingly, the origin of the coconut and *Jubaeopsis* are still a mystery. Some have theorized that *Jubaeopsis* was originally a cocosoid species introduced to the area by a ship wreck or by immigrants from Indonesia,



Group overlooking the Mtentu River mouth and Indian Ocean. In the background, the northern bank can be seen where a large population of *J. caffra* grows. © N. P. Smith, 2001.

however, these hypotheses seem far fetched. A more reasonable answer is probably found in the geological history of the region where *Jubaeopsis* occurs. Briefly, it is theorized that while South America and Africa were part of Gondwanaland (the present continents being one large landmass), the area of the reserve lay at the same latitude as *Jubaea chilensis*, another cocosoid palm presently found on the coast of Chile. It is thought that the ancestor of these two palms may have extended from present day Chile to present day South Africa and with the split of Gondwanaland the ances-

(Continued on page 12)

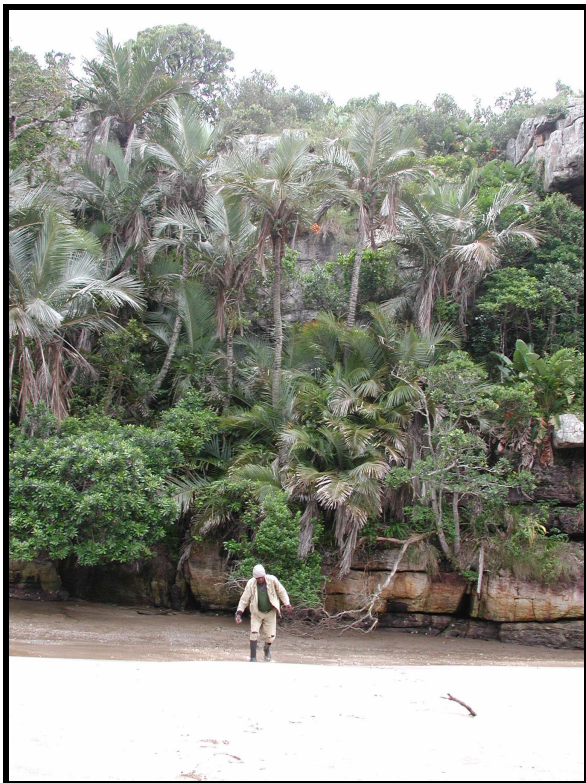
Below, Phillip and Carol kayaking to a population of *J. caffra* that grows on the cliffs near a waterfall. © N. P. Smith, 2001.



Notes on *Jubaeopsis caffra*

(Continued from page 11)

tor evolved into two genera (i.e., *Jubaeopsis* and *Jubaea*). Today, these palms are thousands of miles apart but it took an estimated 200 million years for this to happen. In 1975, Robertson and Visagie (The Eastern Cape



Local boatman with fruiting *J. caffra* in background.
© N. P. Smith, 2001.

Naturalist) estimated the population on the Msikaba River to be 200-300 trees whereas the Mtentu River boasted more than 5000 individuals. In a sense, Robertson's estimations were accurate in that many more *Jubaeopsis* grow on the Mtentu relative to the Msikaba and often in much larger stands. Joggie had explained that the northern bank of the Mtentu was technically outside the reserve. And thus, unfortunately, the *Jubaeopsis* on this river were under more of a threat.

We had the opportunity to observe this two days after our excursion up the Msikaba. Joggie had again arranged for transportation up this river, except this time we were able to rent three tandem kayaks which turned out to be the best investment we had made on the trip. The six of us glided up the river with little trouble, tak-

ing GPS readings of each population and estimating the number of stems growing along the northern bank.

Unlike Robertson's report of 5000 individuals, we estimated at the most around 500 visible stems and concluded that there were even far fewer individuals (because the species is multistemmed). Nevertheless, these were only the visible stems from the river and I can say without a doubt that there are far more than this growing in the understory.

As the trip unfolded, Robert and I were able to come closer to many conclusions. To start, Andrew Henderson had been curious to know if the palm was successfully reproducing. In our trips to view individual populations along the cliffs, Robert, Phillip, and I observed that there were many small *Jubaeopsis* growing near or below (because it was so steep) mature individuals. On many occasions we found mature seeds scattered on the ground under debris, wedged in the cracks of the bedrock, or submerged under the water of streams that flowed from cliffs and hills to the river. As reported in past literature, we recognized that many of these individuals were sprouting as suckers from axillary buds, however, there were immature plants below and away from mature individuals suggesting that the populations were also reproducing from seed. It is well known that the local peoples actively collect the mature fruits for food. These are known to taste just like the coconut and we were convinced of their popularity after finding many trails to certain populations as well as piles of shells scattered near trees on large flat rocks (used as a base for smashing through the thick shells).

After speaking to Joggie about this, he mentioned that he had just caught an individual with an entire grocery bag of fruits. We asked him what was being done to help conserve the population and to make sure it stays healthy. "We do what we can" Joggie replied, "but we have no funding and not enough people to monitor all the problems with the reserve". Joggie did mention that one employee at the reserve was attempting to germinate seeds in hopes that the seedlings could be planted in their native habitat. However, he said that this project was moving along slowly as it did not have the necessary funding.

Another interesting side note is that the distribution of *J. caffra* may be slightly larger than previously reported. Robert and I were unable to explore the upper northern banks of each river and Joggie did mention that he thought there were more individuals to be seen. We also observed that *J. caffra* was growing on a nearby hill on the Mtentu that was set back hundreds of feet from the riverbank. Although the palm has always been reported to grow on the river and nearby cliffs, this seemed to be an unusual exception and should be

Notes on *Jubaeopsis caffra*

(Continued from page 12)

further explored.

The habit and habitat of this palm make it difficult to



Robert and Phillip taking in a cultivated *Jubaeopsis* in the Mkambati Reserve. © N. P. Smith, 2001.

study and Robert and I also concluded that it would take months of field work to really determine how large the entire population of *J. caffra* is as well as to accurately map the individuals and determine if the population on each river is decreasing, stable, or increasing.

Overall, the key to protecting this palm lies not only in understanding its natural history but also in understanding the people who live around and in the reserve. The locals must have reason and incentive not to eat the fruit, and the staff of the reserve must have the funding and resources to bring this plant's rarity to greater attention.

South Africa harbors approximately 230 seed plant families and thousands of endemic plant species. Why should *J. caffra* stand out among them? In all, it should

not, however, *J. caffra* is a relic and possibly a key to the origin of the coconut. Further, its ornamental value is well known and well appreciated. This in itself should be incentive enough for many botanists and palm enthusiasts to support further preservation of this palm.

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25F Low in Orlando

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sickness finally overtaken my senses to the point I cannot function properly? You know I figured my Fall fertilizing with Extra K program would work fairly well, but this is ridiculous. I may have to submit something for *Principes*, er, uh, *Palms*.

**Dave,
Orlando**

[In case you haven't guessed, the delirious palmperson sending the e-mail is none other than Our Dave, the prez.—Editor]

We should not be offended that other people conceal the truth from us, seeing how often we conceal it from ourselves.

—LaRochefoucauld, Maxim 516

CFPACS Funds Conservation Project

THE SHANGRI-LA CYCAD

By William Tang

In 1998, a new cycad was discovered deep in the karst country of southern China. It was named *Cycas debaoensis*. Professor Liu Nian, of the South China Botanical Garden, took me to visit the wild population of this

true - I have met many collectors who deeply wanted to prevent the extinction of the plants they loved. The problem is to develop an effective way to harness the enormous enthusiasm and knowledge of collectors for the benefit of wild plants. It seems to me that what is

missing is an appropriate link between the two, a kind of project, organized at the right scale and aimed at the right people, to connect the two goals for the benefit of all.

With this in mind, I approached my friend Prof. Liu with the challenge of developing such a project for China. After many months of discussion with the local villagers we began a conservation project. With the full cooperation of the villagers we mapped all adult plants in their valley and assigned numbers to each by spray painting a number on adjacent rocks. We opened the idea of farming these plants like a crop. We would guarantee a price for seeds and seedlings they produce above any comparable crop they could grow. In the end of my visit I was very surprised by

the reaction of the villagers. First, they were extremely

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View of the remote and isolated valley in which Cycas debaoensis is found. This is karst geography, characterized by steep limestone mountains with extensive limestone caves. (Photo by William Tang)

plant. Accessible only through a limestone cave, the isolated valley in which this cycad is found reminded me of the legend of Shangri-La. To my eyes the spectacular scenery and the friendly inhabitants of this remote valley and their idyllic existence, reinforced this impression. Known for certain only from one isolated mountainside, this cycad was not just rare, but was also exceptionally beautiful with finely divided leaves. This was a cycad that was not only in immediate need of conservation, it had a great potential as an ornamental as well.

For more than 20 years I have had great interest in both cultivating cycads and in promoting their conservation. Some people see these two activities as being incompatible - that the activity of plant collecting does not help the cause of preserving plants in the wild. At the gut level I know this was not necessarily



Cycas debaoensis growing amongst limestone outcrops on steep slopes. The local people believe that they are related to Russians, but their language is a version of Thai, indicating their true ancestry.

(Photo by William Tang)

The Shangri-la Cycad

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honored that foreigners would come to their remote village. Second, it was a great source of pride to them that this special plant grew only by their village and nowhere else. Third, they asked that instead of buying



Male plant in cone. Note that a number has been spray-painted on the rock behind. This numbering system will help village volunteers monitor the plants to ensure that they are not being removed by collectors. The mapping system will help the scientists managing the project to gauge the effectiveness of conservation measures being tested. (Photo by William Tang)

plants from them that we help build them school.

From the inception of this conservation project CFPACS has been a contributor. In 1998 I asked Tom Broome, then CFPACS President, if he and the Society would be interested in supporting the project. I asked for only \$100 - at the time moral support was more important than the amount of cash. I used this money to pay the villagers for their assistance in mapping and tagging their plants. This winter the CFPACS Board of Directors awarded me \$1000 to continue the project. This money will be used to construct the school, which will be



This archaeological site at a cave entrance served as a refuge for villagers when the valley was invaded in the past.

(Photo by Anders Lindstrom)

named the Debao Cycad School. Growing tropical plants at the edge of their climatic range is the challenge of all Society members. In a similar way, I'm sure members of the Society appreciate that this kind of experimental project is perhaps our best hope of preserving the vanishing flora of our planet, not only for ourselves, but for future generations to come.

William Tang has been a Research Associate at Fairchild Tropical Garden since 1989, and is currently a member of the Cycad Specialist Group of the IUCN, the world conservation organization. [He has also been a member of CFPACS for several years.—Editor]

Below, Prof. Liu Nian (second from left) and three students examine the largest cycad on the mountain.

(Photo by William Tang)



Where's the Proof? The Importance of Herbarium Specimens

[This article is reprinted by permission of the author and of Cameron Donaldson, editor of The Palmetto, magazine of The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS), in which it was published in the January, 2002, issue.]

By Dr. Richard P. Wunderlin,

Department of Biology

University of South Florida

The Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu>) of the University of South Florida (USF) Institute for Systemic Botany and the Florida Center for Community Design and Research provides the user with distribution and nomenclature information on all native and naturalized seed plant and fern species reported for Florida. The most used feature on the website is the mapping feature, which provides county by county distribution of species. The atlas is continuously updated as new information becomes available. It now receives about 25,000 hits a week.

Since the atlas became available on the web in 1995, communications from people reporting the sighting of new county records or even species they believe to be new to the state have increased each year. After checking the atlas database to verify that the species is not documented from a particular county or from the state, my usual response is: "Did you collect an herbarium (or a voucher) specimen?" In other words, "do you have the proof?"

Depending on the expertise of the person, the response varies considerably. Some know exactly what I mean and usually provided me with a specimen or information that a specimen has been deposited in another herbarium. Some of them actually seek out new records and collect specimens for us to "fill in the gaps." Others who deposit or file specimens on a regular basis in other herbaria, such as Loran Anderson at Florida State University, Kent Perkins at the University of Florida, and Keith Bradley who puts his specimens in the Fairchild Tropical Garden, send us new information on a regular basis. This type of cooperation is greatly appreciated and contributes to our knowledge of the distribution of Florida species, making our easily accessed database even more useful. Funding for development and maintenance of the website is currently provided by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Science requires proof through experimentation and

documented observation. The report of the occurrence of a plant species in Florida, and subsequently its report on the atlas or in publication, needs to be substantiated. This is done by the collection of a specimen and placing it in an herbarium where it will be permanently preserved and available for study by others when necessary. If the species is not documented in this manner, there is no record that the plant ever existed at that location or even existed at all. It is like the Loch Ness Monster, Bigfoot, the Skunk Ape, and UFOs, where the evidence is circumstantial and hearsay; there may be something there, but without physical evidence, all is speculation. For years I have been hearing second-, third-, and fourth-hand reports of ladyslipper orchids in northern Florida, but no one has ever produced a specimen of one as proof its existence in the state. About 4100 taxa of seed plants are documented to occur in Florida. However, there are over a thousand further taxa reported, both verbally and in the scientific and popular literature, for which an herbarium specimen is not known to exist. There is, therefore, no proof of their occurrence here. In other cases, many reports of species have proved to be erroneous because the plant was originally misidentified. This can only be determined when the herbarium specimen that provided the basis for the original report is found and correctly identified. This happens even among the best botanists! For example, there are recent reports in *The Palmetto* and *Florida Scientist* made by a highly respected Florida botanist of a certain exotic species in South Florida heretofore unknown from the state. Requests to see a specimen of the plant were unsuccessful for nearly a year because the person making the report had not bothered to collect one or a collection was made but was "temporarily misplaced." When a specimen was finally studied, my suspicion was confirmed that the material had been misidentified and actually represented a different species of the genus, one already known from the state.

At the recent Florida Exotic Plant Council (FLEPPC) Symposium in St. Augustine, it was mentioned that some distribution maps maintained by FLEPPC do not agree with those of the *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants*. Part of the problem is that databases maintained by some groups, such as FLEPPC, may include reports

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Herbarium Specimens

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based on undocumented "sight records," that is, records based on "I saw it then and there with my own eyes." No doubt these observations are made by knowledgeable individuals and the species really does occur where stated, but the report is only anecdotal and not "good science." In some cases, a valid reason exists why an herbarium collection could not be made, but in most cases, it was just "too much bother." Each distribution record on the atlas website is documented by an herbarium specimen or a reliable published source, such as a monograph or revision. These records are traceable to the source. In the event of a question of the identification or locality information, the specimen can be located and examined. FLEPPC members, and FNPS members as well, need to get on board and document their observations. Research funding for exotic pest plant research and control is often dependent on the degree of the problem. If the problem is not properly documented, it becomes more difficult to obtain funding.

How the Process Works

HOW DO I GET MY NEW RECORD LISTED ON THE ATLAS OF FLORIDA VASCULAR PLANTS WEB SITE OR THE FLEPPC WEB SITE? To get a new county record on the atlas, it is required that a voucher specimen be deposited in a recognized herbarium. Once the identification is confirmed by someone at the herbarium, the data will be entered into the USF database immediately available on the web. To get your plant into the FLEPPC database, you must fill out a field form (www.fleppc.org/database/data_intro.htm) [note: data_intro] and mail a hard copy of it to:
Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council
3915 Commonwealth Blvd.
MS 710
Tallahassee, FL 32399

WHAT IS A VOUCHER SPECIMEN? A voucher specimen is a pressed, dried plant deposited in a recognized herbarium for future reference and study. This is the documentation of the species' occurrence at a specific location.

HOW IS A VOUCHER SPECIMEN MADE? The plant specimen, consisting of a stem with attached leaves and, if possible, flowers and/or fruit, is placed in a single sheet of newspaper folded in half (roughly 11½" x 13½" folded, depending on the newspaper), pressed flat by squeezing or putting a weight on it, and dried. Information containing the scientific name, detailed location, habitat, plant habit (e.g. growth form and approximate height), frequency of occurrence in the area,

collector(s) name, and date of collection is written on a sheet of paper and placed with the specimen. For detailed information on preparation of a voucher specimen, visit the following websites:

www.fleppc.org/her_prep.htm [note: her_prep]

www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/herbarium/voucher.htm

www.science.siu.edu/hebarium/potpouri/prepare.htm

www.virtualherbarium.org

When obtaining a specimen, be aware that you may need permission from the landowner to take a plant from private land, or a collecting permit for public lands.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE AFTER A VOUCHER SPECIMEN HAS BEEN MADE? The specimen should be sent by mail or personally delivered to the person in charge (curator, collection manager, or director) of maintaining a recognized herbarium which is committed to long term maintenance of the specimen. Someone at the herbarium will verify the identification of your specimen, prepare a permanent label (if necessary), mount the specimen on acid-free paper, and file the specimen in a specially designed herbarium storage case. If the specimen is not acceptable or more information is needed, the herbarium manager will tell you what is needed. It is always a good idea to contact someone at the herbarium by phone or email for instructions before sending any specimen. Sometimes a specimen can be sent unpressed in fresh condition in a plastic bag, but the herbarium needs to be contacted before shipment so that special instructions can be given and that the herbarium manager can anticipate its arrival and process it immediately on receipt.

WHAT IS A RECOGNIZED HERBARIUM? A recognized institutional herbarium is one with an official listing in Index Herbariorum (<http://nybg.org/bsci/ih.html>), an international listing of herbaria, and with an official code to be used whenever a specimen from that herbarium is cited. In Florida, the main herbaria (over 100,000 specimens) and their official codes are:

- University of South Florida Herbarium (USF)
- Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (FLAS)
- Florida State University Herbarium (FSU)
- Fairchild Tropical Garden (FTG)
- Marie Selby Botanical Garden Herbarium (SEL)

For more information, please feel free to contact me: Richard P. Wunderlin, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620-5200, rwunder@chuma1.cas.usf.edu [Note: chuma1 (one)]

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Federal Agents Arrest Six Men Charged with Illegal Trafficking in Rare Plants

Washington, D.C.- **Federal agents** have arrested six individuals charged with crimes related to the illegal importation of internationally protected species of rare orchids or cycads.

Special agents of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on July 20 [2001] arrested Peter H. Heibloem, 47, of Queensland, Australia, and Ernest J. Bouwer, 56, of Sandton, South Africa. Heibloem and Bouwer are charged with 15 counts of conspiracy, smuggling, and making false statements, in an indictment unsealed on July 20 in U. S. District Court in San Francisco.

According to the indictment, Heibloem, Bouwer and three other individuals sent approximately \$542,000 worth of protected cycads to the United States from South Africa, Australia, and Zimbabwe.

Cycads, which resemble palms or tree ferns, are a small group of primitive-looking plants whose ancestors date back more than 200 million years. Like orchids, certain cycad species face threats in the wild from habitat loss and over-collection. Both groups of plants are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) treaty through which the United States and more than 150 other countries regulate global commerce in imperiled animals and plants.

Also charged in the indictment and arrested on July 20 is Donald Joseph Wiener, 64, of Mexico. He is alleged to have knowingly purchased about \$200,000 worth of these plants from Heibloem.

Three other individuals charged in this indictment, John H. Baker of Gauteng, South Africa, and Ian S. Turner, of Harare, Zimbabwe, and Rolf Kyburz of Queensland, Australia, remain at large, outside the United States.

The indictment alleges that the men used invalid permits for the shipments of the rare plants and falsely labeled many of the plants shipped to cover up the lack of a valid permit. The shipments all were allegedly for commercial purposes.

Federal agents on July 20 also arrested Rolf D. Bauer, 44, of Johannesburg, South Africa and Jan Van Vuuren, 54, of Centurion, South Africa in a separate 29-count indictment that was unsealed on July 20 in U. S. District Court in San Francisco. Bauer and Van Vuuren are charged with conspiracy, smuggling and making false statements. According to the indictment, these two men sent more than \$300,00 worth of protected cycads to the United States from South Africa.

The indictment alleges that the men used invalid permits for the commercial shipments and falsely labeled many of the plants to cover up the lack of a valid permit.

Jose "Pepe" Portilla, 34, of Ecuador, also was arrested on July 20. He is charged with smuggling in a one-count complaint in U. S. District Court in Los Angeles. According to the complaint, Portilla sent approximately 10 protected cycads into the United States, contrary to law.

In a third indictment unsealed today in federal court in San Francisco, Antonius Juniarto, of Surabaya, Indonesia, and Iwan Kolopaking, 32, of Jakarta, Indonesia, are charged with 21 counts of conspiracy, smuggling and false statements related to the shipment of rare orchids into the United States from Indonesia. Juniarto and Kolopaking remain at large. According to the indictment, the two men sent multiple packages of the orchids through the mail with customs declarations falsely identifying the contents as toys.

A fourth indictment unsealed today in the U. S. District Court in San Francisco charges Terence Leung, of Hong Kong, with four counts of smuggling orchids from Hong Kong into the United States. Leung remains at large.

The maximum penalty for each of the charges against each of these men is five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. An indictment contains allegations against an individual, and all defendants must be presumed innocent of the charges against them unless they are convicted.

All of the species of cycads at issue are protected under CITES, to which the United States, South Africa, Australia, Zimbabwe, Indonesia and China are parties. The United States implements CITES through the Endangered Species Act. Most of the species at issue are listed in Appendix 1 of CITES, which species are threatened with extinction and may be traded only in exceptional circumstances, and then only with required permits. Because trade in Appendix 1 species is permitted only if it is not detrimental to the survival of the species, and is not primarily for commercial purposes, an Appendix 1 listing effectively bans commercial trade of the species, unless the plant specimen is artificially propagated.

The undercover investigation into the international trade in protected species of orchids and cycads was

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Where Do We Draw the Line in the Sand?

By Tom Broome

John Kennedy has asked me to write something about the cycad arrests mentioned on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife website, which he has shown [on the opposite page]. This whole situation has rocked the cycad world and has also affected the palm world because some of the people involved are very well known palm growers. The mention of the indictments just scratches the surface of what is happening. There is no mention of other people's nurseries, and private properties that were raided by the FBI and F&W officers, and the plants that have been confiscated. I really shouldn't get into any details having to do with what people have done because I would have to speculate on their guilt or innocence. There are also many rumors going around and sometimes it is hard to know for sure what are the true facts.

Most of this situation seems to have been started during the 5th International Conference on Cycad Biology, otherwise known as "Cycad 99", which was held in Miami. There were a few people going around trying to drum up business and were offering plants to as many people that would listen to them. I was told from one person that he had 1000 *Encephalartos lehmanii* that all had at least 1 foot of clear trunk, and I could buy all of them if I had the money. He also went on to say that if I had the money he could get me just about anything that came from South Africa. For those who don't know, each of these plants can be worth 1000s of dollars. I was appalled that anyone would even say something like that to me. Apparently there were a few agents attending the conference, and I would assume they were approached as well.

From what I understand, a company was formed by the agents, and a big cycad sale and barbecue was set up to happen in California. Some of the importers were lured into the country to help sell the already imported plants and were arrested before the sale would have come about. I have been told that some of the plants were mislabeled as far as species goes to insure they could be imported, and some of the plants had microchips implanted in them which proves they had been removed from habitat. There is talk of one person who came up to quite a few people in California and tried to sell them illegal plants and seeds to find out who would be interested in purchasing items known to be illegal. Apparently, a few people took the bait.

Now many cycad people are afraid to talk to strangers about what they have in their collections because they

are afraid someone will be knocking on their doors to confiscate their plants.

A great deal of the flow of information about cycads has stopped, because people don't know whom they can trust any more. I have learned a great deal since all this has happened. I have been told in the past that most of the authorities do not look highly upon society members in general. There are quite a few cycad people who may talk about wanting to further conservation by saving cycads, and removing them from the wild before they get destroyed by people needing the land for some other purpose, but in reality the bottom line is that they want the cycads for themselves, or want to sell them to other people to make money. The authorities seem to see things in a very black and white manner. If a collector who is touring Panama sees a *Zamia* growing in a field that is getting ready to be bulldozed, he might want to remove it and bring it back home, thus saving the plant. To the authorities, this person has violated the law if this plant was not brought in with the proper permits, and you know, they would be right. What if you were touring Mexico and found a huge colony of *Ceratozamia* loaded down with seeds? Would you be tempted to take a few seeds and bring them home? Certainly that couldn't hurt anything? Well, if you did, you would be breaking the law.

A few months ago I was contacted by John Donaldson, who is the head of the IUCN Cycad Specialist group. This group makes determinations on what species are most endangered and form some sort of plan to help save cycads. They then give their recommendations to the main cycad people who attend the CITES conferences.

John asked me to find someone who would sit on his board and represent The Cycad Society. He told me this person "should be beyond reproach." I asked around to find out who would be interested in this position, and who would be appropriate for the job. I also mentioned that the person should be beyond reproach. I was told by a few people that nobody was beyond reproach, that everyone draws a line in the sand somewhere. This disturbed me a great deal, but got me to thinking.

Who is beyond reproach? Where does each of us draw their own line in the sand? Would you remove plants from the wild? Hopefully not, but would you buy plants from someone else who has already brought them in? How about seeds? You need to get permits to

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Where to Draw the Line?

(Continued from page 19)

bring in any Appendix 1 species of seeds from other countries. Certainly bringing in seeds can't hurt anything? What if it wasn't a large commercial amount, but was only a few seeds sent to you by a fellow collector? What if you didn't import the seeds yourself, would you knowingly purchase seeds that were already brought in but without permits? No matter how trivial some of these things may seem to you, and where you draw your line in the sand, these things are illegal and not looked upon too highly by the authorities. Bringing in a handful of seeds is just as illegal as someone who takes an Orangutan from the forest and sells it on the black market.

Societies that promote conservation should work alongside of the authorities and should try educate their members about what is legal and what is not. What should we do as cycad collectors to make sure we have legal collections?

You should always ask as many questions as possible to find out where the plants or seeds you purchase have come from. If you don't like the person's answers, don't take the chance. Most species become available from time to time, so it is not worth jumping into something just because you think that might be your only chance at obtaining a species. I try to purchase seeds and plants from people I know have their own breeding colonies in the United States. I don't import any plants from other countries, and don't even purchase plants from people who are known for importing plants. I know that there are people who import legal plants, but personally, I don't take the chance. There are a few botanical gardens who donate seeds to seed banks.

Montgomery is known for donating seeds to our society. This is always one of the best ways to get rare, but legal seeds. There are people who are bringing in plants that come from the wild, but are able to get permits for these plants. Legally these plants can be purchased, but I have a moral problem with this and refuse to purchase plants that I know came from the wild. If you purchase seeds or plants that are known to be propagated here in the United States, try to keep a record of your purchase and the contact information of the person you bought them from. Any plants or seeds that are second generation or artificially propagated from cultivated plants can be certified by Fish and Wildlife. Any plants or seeds that are certified to be second generation can be shipped anywhere in the world with permits. There is a growing number of people who have been working towards this goal, where

someday we all will be able to purchase certified plants and seeds and we will know that they are legal.

There are many people out in the world who have different opinions about the arrests and how they feel about the authorities. I don't think things will ever be the same in the cycad world. The good thing is that there are plenty of people who collect cycads and want to do things in a legal manner. These people have nothing to hide and are not intimidated by the authorities. I guess we all have to think about where we draw our own lines in the sand, and what we can do to further cycad conservation.

[Tom Broome, a past president of CFPACS, is the current president of The Cycad Society, and a regular contributor on cycads in The Palmateer.—Editor]

Truth does less good in the world than its appearances do harm.

—LaRochefoucauld, Maxim 64

Cycad Arrests

(Continued from page 18)

conducted by special agents of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Office of the Inspector General, as well as the South African Police Endangered Species Protection Unit, Australian Customs, and Environment Australia. The cases are being prosecuted by the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division and the U. S. Attorney's Offices for the Northern District of California and the Central district of California.

[The above is a joint press release of the U. S. Department of Justice and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (<http://www.usdoj/enrd/orchids.htm>), dated July 23, 2001. Rolf Kyburz is a member of the board of the International Palm Society (IPS).—Editor]

LEU GARDENS SALE (ORLANDO)

March 23-24, Saturday & Sunday, 9:00-5:00. No plant pickup: bring own wagon.

GREEN THUMB FESTIVAL (ST. PETE)

April 27-28, Saturday & Sunday, Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum



Palm scholars Natalie Uhl and Scott Zona share a quiet moment in Phil Morgan's garden in Leucadia, California, last year. (Photo by Geoff Stein)

Herbarium Specimens

(Continued from page 17)

About the Author: Dr. Wunderlin is a tireless and very modest volunteer on FNPS' behalf, very actively serving on our Board of Directors, as a Director at large, Publications Committee Co-Chair, Past President FNPS, and current President of the Suncoast Chapter.

"This article was originally printed in *The Palmetto*, Vol. 21, No. 2, January, 2002, and is reprinted here with permission of the Florida Native Plant Society (www.fnps.org)."

Newcomers, Beginners. ATTENTION!

If you're just starting out with palm/cycad madness and need some answers to basic questions, send these to the Editor. (See page 31 for addresses.) All cycad questions will go to Tom Broome, resident cycad proficient. Palm questions will be floated past some experienced growers. No questions are too basic or too dumb. Someone else is likely wondering about the same thing. Your identity will be hidden—if you wish—when the answers are published. Example:
"—Wondering, Howey-in-the-Hills"



Pinanga javana flowering at Pauleen Sullivan's property in Hawaii. The Editor is told that Jerry Hooper boasts a palm of this species, though in West Melbourne it's unlikely to look this good. How's it doing, Jerry?

(Geoff Stein's Photo)

A Radio Evangelist—for Palms: John-the-Editor's Story

In April of last year, I taped—in (I think) three sessions—51 spot items on palms for Indian River Community College's public radio station, WQCS-FM, 88.9, in Fort Pierce. I had heard one Sunday morning in February on the station—which mostly runs classical music, NPR news, and special programming—an interview with a St. Lucie County Master Gardener. As most of you know, the Master Gardener program is sponsored by the state extension service of the University of Florida and trains laypeople to answer basic questions on gardening brought to the county agent's office by the general public.

I called the station manager, Jim Holmes, and volunteered to be interviewed about palms. I had thought of a one-shot interview. He, however, had another idea: that I should tape some information about palms for broadcast; he would need 25 spots to be usable. I realized that these had to be short and were aimed at an audience that knew nothing about palms. So, whatever I did had to be very, very basic. The first 10 that I wrote took me a minute and a half each to read. I then asked Jim Holmes how much time I had in which to say something. His reply: 42 seconds! After all, there had to be an intro (what it was, who I am) done by himself, together with a brief conclusion. Everything had to be completed in 60 seconds.

I consulted two other faculty members who also taped for the station, Jon Bell (astronomy) and Jim Lett (geography), both of whom offered practical suggestions and moral support. I went back to the computer and cut each of the scripts in half, then re-worked the items. I was limited to not much more than about six sentences that could not be too complex. Oh, how useful to be an English teacher and a long-ago magazine editor!

My one stipulation to the station manager was that I not be called an "expert." I suggested "enthusiast." In my mind were

two balances or cautions, beyond brevity itself: to remain aware that everything must be fundamental and that the WQCS signal is heard from about Melbourne south to West Palm Beach. Many "experts" in the listening area, so I had better not get anything wrong.

What I came up with was some very simple botany, together with tips on selection, planting, freeze protection. And I suggested several palm species that were relatively easy to grow and readily obtainable in Central Florida. (I went to look at Lowe's, Home Depot, Wal-Mart, K-Mart). Each segment was designed to follow in order, but also to stand alone. If the items were taken out of order, each would still make sense in itself. The title, "Palm Points," was the invention of the station manager. In one of the late segments I gave a plug for membership in the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society and in the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society.

Since Palm Points is not broadcast on a regular schedule, but used as filler whenever needed, I could not tell anyone of a particular time to listen. I've heard about five or six myself, colleagues and acquaintances seem to have heard more, and I now have a certain notoriety? celebrity? (very minor) in St. Lucie and Indian River counties.

A Noted Puerto Rican Landonner thought, initially, that Palm Points should be syndicated for broadcast elsewhere, to a wider audience. He was reluctantly convinced by me that there was no wider audience, that the content was largely tailored to the Treasure Coast, by extension to Florida's East Coast, and—since I was fairly conservative in my species selection—to the lower end of Central Florida. He thought, however, that the Palm Points might be useful inclusions in The Palmateer, particularly for beginners with palms. So, herewith, a few Palm Points (5 minutes of air time), with a few more in the June issue.

Palm Points #1 Palms in Florida

When Americans think of Florida, they think of a tropical place, with palms waving in the balmy breezes. **Florida has *many* palms**, whether Florida is truly tropical can be argued. The sabal palm—commonly called the cabbage palm—is the Florida state tree.

While millions of palms grow here, most are probably from 6 or 7 species. Yet there are about 2800 different species of palms.

Palms never look quite real to Northerners. Indeed, palms are a little unreal (however beautiful).

For one thing, palms are not really trees but are related to grasses, to onions, to lilies.

Caring for palms and identifying some uncommon palms will be the subject of these talks.

Palm Points #2 Palm Botany, Part One

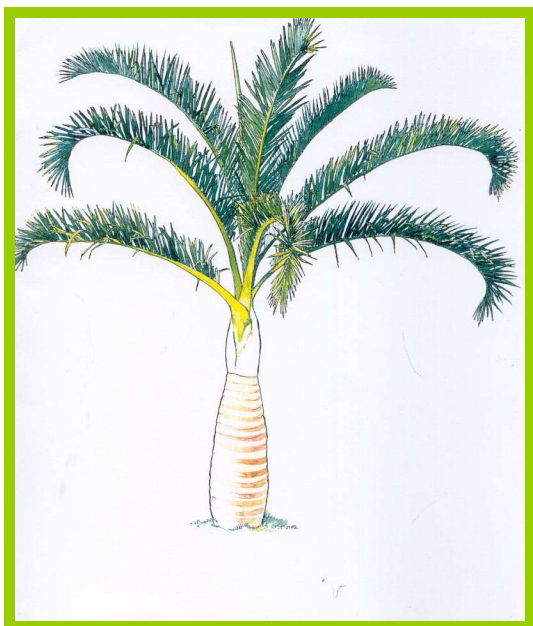
It's true. Palms are not woody and are not trees, but are related to grasses, onions, and lilies.

Trees have a cambium layer under the bark. The tree trunk expands as the cambium gets larger.

Palms don't have a cambium layer. For the most part, when a seedling palm forms a trunk and emerges from the ground, the trunk is as wide as it will ever be. (There are some exceptions.)

Palms don't have bark, though they may have the remains of old leaf stalks on the trunk. What's visible on the outside is a weathered version of what's inside the trunk.

OK, What is It? Name That Palm!



The palm above, drawn by Geoff Stein, decorates his notepaper. But what is it? A generic palm? Our own native *Pseudophoenix sargentii*? Its creator provides no identification. What do you think?

Palm Points #3 Palm Botany, Part Two

Inside the palm trunk are vessels for carrying water and nutrients—xylem and phloem, if you remember your high school botany.

In the center of the palm is the true growth area, pushed gradually upward from the base of the trunk. As the cells are pushed from below, they gradually form into leaves.

The number of leaves in a palm's crown is determined by the species.

The two growth points inside the trunk are the palm's vulnerable points. If the one at the base or the one at the top where the leaf emerges is damaged or destroyed, the palm will probably die.

Palm Points #4 Planting a Palm, Part One

OK, you've bought a palm in a one-gallon pot at the garden shop. Now all you have to do is dig a hole and put it in, right?

No, it requires a little more thought, and answers to several questions.

First, is it a sun-loving or a shade-loving palm?

A shade palm planted in the sun will quickly bleach yellow and, just as quickly, die.

Plant a sun palm in the shade, and it will linger for a time, gradually becoming thinner and smaller until it, too, checks out.

Many palms will live happily in sun or partial shade, but few will live in deep, dark shade.

Palm Points #5 Planting a Palm, Part Two

It's no longer necessary to dig a much bigger hole than the palm's root ball, and to add peat moss and, maybe, cow manure.

Just dig the hole and stick the root ball in. Make sure that the palm is at the same level—or slightly above—as it was in the pot.

Don't add fertilizer at this time.

Water in the newly planted palm to eliminate air pockets in the root ball.

A small mound of dirt heaped around the hole keeps water from running off.

Mulch around the palm, so it doesn't dry out. Mulch can be purchased pine bark, or just dried leaves from the yard.

A true friend is the greatest of all blessings and the one we are least concerned with acquiring.

—LaRochefoucauld, Maxim 544



By Tom Broome

I'm about to plant two Sago Palms and I'm concerned about their tolerance for salt air. One site is fairly exposed to winds off the sea and the other is somewhat screened. Do I dare plant one in the exposed location?

I'm not sure how close they are going to be from the water, but *Cycas revoluta* comes from Japan and lives on the slopes overlooking the water in many locations. You will find that many cycads like *C. revoluta*, and *Dioon edule* have a fairly good salt tolerance. I know of coonties and some *Cycas taitungensis* that have been flooded with salt water for four days and showed no ill effects.

I've received some Cycas seeds that were mostly bad (had rotted inside with black soot mold). I kept cracking them open until I found 8 that were not bad and threw out the rest. My question is that now I have removed the outer shell, I'd like to try and get the good ones to germinate. Other than following your latest proc

ess for germination (VERY useful, by the way), are there any variations I could try with these? My main concern is too much or too little moisture and potential for fungus.

I have been experimenting with just this thing. I have found that if you take good seeds that have been sitting around for 2 years, they will germinate within 2 days if you remove the outer shell. You are right. You don't want to over water. You will also need to fungicide these seeds. I have been placing these seeds directly on pure sand, about one third covered, but with the sprouting end kept above the medium. Try to keep the medium as sterile as possible and maybe fungicide the seeds every week or two. I think you need to warm up these seeds this time of year to force them to sprout as fast as possible. It is very easy to keep these too wet. These insides of the seeds are more vulnerable than they would be with the hard shell still on them, but they probably would not have germinated otherwise.

**DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE:
MAY 13**



In the foreground, Mauritiella sp. in Kapoho, Hawaii.

Hawaiian Palm Pastoral:

Pauleen Sullivan's property in Kapoho, Hawaii, was visited last December by Geoff and Bonnie Stein, co-editors of the Southern California Palm Society's *Palm Journal*. Geoff took stunning pictures of stunning palms shown here and elsewhere in this issue. The black soil is trucked-in, crushed lava rock. The area around the palms is kept scrupulously clear of vegetation and debris.



Above, the Wodyetia X Veitchia hybrid. Left, Beccariophoenix madagascariensis given scale here by Bonnie Stein.



From the Editor's Desk

COLOR! once only the province of rich chapters, unlike our own down-to-earth, jus'-folks group, has come to *The Palmateer*, enhancing our newsletter's tone of quiet modesty. It's all through the miracle of Xerox and Mark Van Antwerp, our Membership (**send in your money, if you haven't already**) Chair. We are able to do color less expensively than black-and-white has cost us at the printshop in Vero Beach. Mark, who works at a Tampa printers, is doing all the work himself, with the assistance (one hopes) of volunteers.

Mark has only requested that I not run mad (just yet). We must pay for color cartridges, though not black ink cartridges, but it isn't clear how much color ink would be used in putting together a single issue. I have promised not to do whole pages in color tint blocks, overprinted with type—at least, not right away. Should it become apparent that color cartridges last a long time—not now known—I will feel free to attempt borders in fuschia and mauve. In other words, tune in for the future. If the entire June issue is in black-and-white, you will understand that the experiment turned out to be more expensive than anticipated.

Hopefully, the fill color behind "From the Editor's Desk" is OK. Mark?

Palm Fest is in Miami on the weekend of May 17-18-19. Reserve the weekend. Last year's Palm Fest in Tampa, sponsored by our chapter, was a lot of fun and well-attended. The details of the May saturnalia are not yet available. But, **Miami!** Known for many things, to palm-lovers Miami is a place of pilgrimage—to Fairchild Tropical Garden, to Montgomery Botanical Center. Grown there are palms of species that we snowbound Central Floridians can only dream of. Doubtless, visitors will get to see some notable private collections not ordinarily open for inspection.

You have noticed, undoubtedly, that there is no Australian article in this issue. An oversight, clearly. We are looking for volunteers to go to Australia and write about palms in strange places inhabited by caimans or, perhaps an in-depth tour of the delirious pleasures of the Townsville Palmetum.

Speaking of volunteers, we're still looking for a Central vice-president to succeed Marilyn Bachmann. The area runs vaguely down the middle of the state, from

about Lakeland to about Gainesville, including (of course) the Orlando metro. The duties are not onerous, coming to board meetings—usually held at the same time and place as the quarterly general membership meeting—and participating, via e-mail, in discussions of CFPACS projects and problems. The sole duty requiring more energy than described is helping to set up whatever quarterly meeting takes place in the Central area. And, it should be emphasized, other people are involved in scheduling this. It's not a solo activity. If interested—or, if you know someone who might be—contact Dave Witt or any other member of the CFPACS board. Any name sent to me, I'll pass on to Dave.

The cycad sting is presented here twofold: last July's joint press release from the Department of Justice and the Fish & Wildlife Service, followed by Tom Broome's examination of the issues raised. I know that some people have been outraged by the actions of the Federal agencies and not much perturbed by the alleged actions of those who have been apprehended. When ethics and money are in the shaker together, which becomes the dominant flavor? The cases have not been tried at this time. Presumably, the investigation continues.

A seemingly permanent feature under the current editorship is an Errata column in which the perpetrator apologizes abjectly to the membership for lapses in memory, fact, commonsense (or any combination of the three).

I haven't asked the treasurer—should I?—whether any of our small endowment has been invested in Enron stock. If so, I suppose CFPACS could join one or more of the swarm of class-action suits now pending.

An unexpected and welcome present to me at Christmas from Janice Broda was a T-shirt printed with Florida's 11 native palms, purchased (I believe) at Fairchild Tropical Garden's glorious gift shop, a place filled with enticements. You know the wonderful line from Oscar Wilde's drawing-room comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest*: "I can resist anything, except temptation." Clearly, this applies to palm- (and cycad-) lovers.

John Kennedy

Overseas Payment

By Mike Merritt, CFPACS Treasurer

Here's a non-palm/cycad article that addresses a problem that comes up periodically, specifically, how our members and seed purchasers outside of the United States can conveniently remit small payments. CFPACS has elected not to affiliate with Paypal for several reasons, one of which is that the granting of "password" authority to one or more individuals to move money from our bank account or a credit card account (which we don't have) is incompatible with our security system for protecting our assets from misuse by individual board members. (The mental image of a drunken or deranged palm nut or cycad addict transferring funds to the World Ostomiological Society comes to mind!) But there are several means other than the use of Paypal that will permit overseas members or purchasers to remit small payments to CFPACS that CFPACS can process without undo trouble or expense. Such are:

- a) **Western Union money order.** Western Union has numerous offices in all developed countries of the world, and in some not so developed. The individual goes to the office and purchases a money order in U. S. funds and mails it to CFPACS. The treasurer (me) simply deposits the money order to a local bank in the same manner as an ordinary domestic personal check, and there is no additional bank charge. I don't know what the charges are that are assessed by overseas Western Union offices, but I would hope that they are nominal. I would appreciate getting some information about this from overseas payers who choose to use this system. I also don't know if there are other international companies that provide this service.
- b) **Bank Draft.** The overseas payer can also go to a local bank that has a business relationship with a domestic U. S. bank (such as Chase Manhattan, etc.), sometimes referred to as a corresponding bank, and purchase a bank draft in U. S. funds, which can then be mailed to CFPACS. Again, the draft can be deposited directly to our bank account without additional charge to CFPACS. Here, the key is that there is a corresponding U. S. bank, so that the draft is treated as a domestic check. If there is no corresponding U. S. bank, the draft is treated as a foreign check, even if in U. S. funds, and the collection charges assessed to CFPACS will be large. The drawback to the use of bank drafts is that the charges to the foreign payer are rather high. One payer in South Africa recently submitted a draft for a little over



Recognize the speaker? Talking, as usual, Famous Local Editor gives basic palm presentation, preaching to the choir at the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society meeting on Feb. 6, waving for emphasis frond retrieved from PBPCS prez Mike Harris' trash heap. That's his palm handout in the left hand, Chambeyronia macrocarpa on auction table at back.

(Photo by Susanna Walker)

\$90 (U. S.) and was charged the equivalent of \$18 (U. S.) in the local currency.

- c) **Cash.** The overseas payer obtains cash in U. S. funds and mails it to CFPACS. The problem is obvious. We recently had a cash payment mailed by an Italian member that arrived torn violently open. The letter was still there but the cash had been removed. (How did they know?!)
- d) **Barter.** Here's an idea to explore further.
- e)

Means of payment that are not recommended are, again, payment by foreign personal check, and payment by wire transfer, both for the same reason – the collection charges assessed to CFPACS are large. These methods are not suitable for small payments (seeds in hobbyist quantities or membership dues).

There is a great deal that I have yet to learn about this topic, and if any of our readers have alternative payment methods, ideas, or suggestions, I would appreciate greatly if they would forward them to me. Any additional information about charges assessed to our foreign customers/members, or related experiences, would also be appreciated.

Fourth Quarter Meeting Minutes Cocoa Beach, Dec. 15, 2001

Since the last meeting several board decisions were made via E-mail. The CFPACS grant guidelines were made official. Two grants were given. One to Dr. Henderson for a *Jubaeopsis* project in South Africa. The other to Willie Tang for a *Cycas debaoensis* project in China.

And also, a new printer was approved to do *The Palmateer* in color that would cost less than our current printing.

The board meeting was called to order at the residence of Diana and Mark Grabowski. All board members were present.

The treasurer's report as done by Mike Merritt is as follows. Income for the period which included seed sales, membership dues, private and public plant sales were \$5511. Expenses which included publication of *The Palmateer*, a CD writer and software purchase, grants, and miscellaneous expenses totaling \$5277 for a net increase of \$233.

A specific funding request by Montgomery Botanical Center was turned down. A general funding grant was discussed for the near future.

It was also decided not to join with the South Florida seedbank due to high costs.

Mark Van Antwerp not only got us a color printer but also volunteered to print *The Palmateer* for a year. He also brought the first color *Palmateer* to the meeting.

How to do an online *Palmateer* was discussed.

It was decided to keep the membership dues at \$10 per year.

A motion was made and passed for Lifetime Memberships for Merrill Wilcox and Lou Thomas.

It was announced that a central Vice President was still needed.

--Chuck Grieneisen, Secretary

The International Palm Society (IPS)
Anyone interested in joining the IPS and receiving the quarterly, illustrated journal, *Palm s*, 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.palm s.org

*Join the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society today! We are looking for upright, solid citizens who, to the untrained eye, seem perfectly sane. The cognoscenti, of course, can perceive palm/cycad madness at a glance. The only known treatment is to delve even deeper into these wondrous plants. Most health insurance is not accepted, but checks made to CFP&C are happily acknowledged. Fill out and mail the membership blank below. As a reward, you will receive the four annual issues of a newly colourful *The Palmateer*.*

Please print

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State, _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (area code) _____

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

Membership also available at website:
www.cfpacs.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 22, 2001 to December 15, 2001

INCOME:

Seed sales.....	2,661.91
Membership Dues.....	625.00
Donations to CFPACS.....	0.00
Public Sales (USF Fall and UCF sales).....	419.56
Private Sales (Arboretum meeting and PalmFest).....	1,764.72
Back Issue Sales.....	40.00
Total	5,511.19

EXPENSES:

Publications (v. 21, nos. 3 & 4).....	2,518.16
Computers and Software (CD writer).....	109.66
Grants (Henderson and Tang).....	2,400.00
Miscellaneous (John K. and Dr. Dalzell).....	250.00
Total	5,277.82

INCOME - EXPENSES 233.37

Bank balance 07/22/01..... 17,287.85

Bank balance 12/15/01..... 17,508.22

Net increase..... 220.37

(Note: Club-budget and bank reporting periods do not exactly coincide.)

ASSETS:

Endowment (mutual funds).....	10,000.00	(purchase price)
.....	9,456.26	(value at time of purchase)
.....	8,335.79	(current value, close of market
		12/14/2001)
		(5,334.63 Washington, 3,001.16 Putnam)
Office equipment and tent.....	1,595.00	
Computers and software.....	2,544.41	minus depreciation

—Mike Merritt, Treasurer

We—the CFPACS Board—welcome suggestions as to handling expenses and the money generally. With the new process of printing The Palmateer, it is hoped to achieve a considerable saving. Postage costs are significant, especially for members outside the U. S. The possibility of transmitting The Palmateer

electronically to offshore members has been discussed, though no conclusion has presently been reached. The Editor must also restrain his natural exuberance in producing a newsletter that outruns such mundane matters as mailing and printing expenses. (No more 40-page issues.)

—John Kennedy

Vote for East Vice President

☐ Diana Grabowski

☐ Write-in candidate: _____
(Please print)

*Mail to Charlene Palm, 220 Sea Spray Avenue, Satellite Beach, FL 32937,
to be received no later than March 30, 2002.*

Diana Grabowski: In Her Own Words

"It started off innocently enough, me tagging along with my husband, Mark, about 5 years ago to every palm meeting we could venture to. Soon I was also addicted to the palm meetings, sales, and mingling with the people who admire palms. So why not put my time and interests to good use and run for the East Coast VP position.

"My goals if elected for this position would be to increase the level of our presence with the 'general public' through meetings, developing informational literature/brochures, and increase our membership.

"I'm a self-employed science education consultant and travel quite a bit. This allows me to attend many other chapter meetings held in distant areas and 'steal some good ideas' from other chapters.

"Unlike most politicians, I'll be honest with you: if you're looking for a botanical whiz kid, don't vote for me because I can't identify a heck of a lot of the 'unique palms,' but I try. . . . However, my better half can, and I'm a good student."



"Here's an 8 m Livistona inermis in rather atypical habitat, tropical woodland on lateritic soil, rather than deep sand in a rocky area. Site is S. of Nourlangie Camp, Kakadu National Park." [Northern Territory, Australia] The words are Sam Sweet's, his is the figure clutching Exhibit A. This picture is included for those who will be disappointed at the lack of the usual article on Australian palms usually found in most issues of The Palmateer.

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The Palmateer



Bonnie Stein admires an especially beautiful Bismarckia at Pauleen Sullivan's place, Kapoho, Hawaii. The black soil is ground lava rock.. Central Florida Bismarckias don't always get this luxuriant.

(Photo by Geoff Stein)