The Palmateer

Volume 22, Number 4 *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* *December, 2002*

The prize palm in West Melbourne: Corypha utan *dwarfs Faith Bishock at Jerry and Mary Ann Hooper's at the October 26th meeting. The palm is more than 20 feet high, was planted in 1990 from a 3-gallon pot. Story begins at right.* *(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)*

***BALLOT* on page 26. Vote for President (CFPACS, that is) and West Coast Vice President.**

DECEMBER MEETING AT LEU CANCELLED

We had expected—hoped—to have a meeting at Leu on December 14th. However, the fates were unkind. By the time inquiry was made to reserve one of the several meeting rooms there, all had been booked. Both the lateness of the attempted booking and the advent of the Christmas season meant that we came too late. Other organizations had beaten us to it. **By the** time we learned that Leu was not available, it was too late to find another place in which to meet. For those of you who were looking forward to a pre-Christmas meeting, we regret and share your disap-

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Melbourne, Oct. 26

Bring on the Palms & Cycads!

By John Kennedy

The Melbourne area meeting on October 26th had everything going for it: beautiful sunny weather, temperature in the 80s, and two great collections to visit. First stop—at 10 a.m.--was at Jerry and Mary Ann Hooper's place on Vermont Street in West Melbourne. About 40 people strolled the property, struck (as they should be) by the big *Corypha utan*, planted in 1990 from a three-gallon pot and now more than 20 feet high. Twelve species or varieties of *Rhapis* grow on the property, along with a large number of cycads. A sizeable *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* attracted much attention. While most people have not been successful—to put this mildly--with *Euterpe edulis*, Jerry has man-

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RENEW your membership for 2003! Send your check to the Membership Chair, address on p. 31. You don't want to miss the *next* issue of this fabulous publication, right?

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A juvenile Latania lontaroides*, its red coloration very visible—as it will not be, when bigger—attracts the eye at Borassic Park on October 26.*
(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

Bob was as perplexed as a hacker who means to access T:flw.quid55328.com\aaakk/ch@ung but gets T: \ by mistake.
—High school writing (Americana)

The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society service area includes the following counties:
Alachua, Brevard, Citrus, DeSoto, Flagler, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, and Volusia.
Please notify the Membership Chair (see directory on p. 31) of any changes in street address, phone number, area code, or e-mail address. The newsletter is sent to the address of record. Seed Bank offerings are sent to the e-mail address of record.

During a recent consulting trip down in south Florida, East Coast up, Diana Grabowski (above), volunteered to pick-up 40 palms donated by Montgomery Botanical Center for the CFPACS. The palms were to be auctioned off at the cancelled December 14th meeting supposed to be held at Leu Gardens in Orlando. There are several unique palm species sure to be sought after by palmateers during the auction, so bring your checkbook in January! A couple of species worth mentioning are: Arenga obtusifolia *and* Corypha utan. *CFPACS would like to thank Montgomery Botanical Center for this very generous donation of palms. Lastly, a special thanks goes out to Larry Noblick, Collections Manager, and Barbara Judd, Nursery Horticulturist, of Montgomery Botanical Center.*
(Photo by Mark Grabowski)

December Meeting Cancelled

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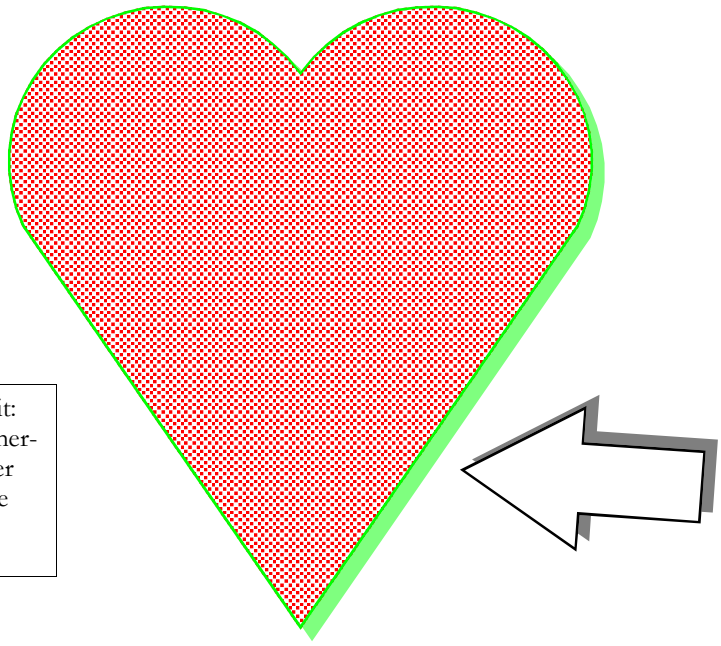
pointment. After all, there are those who licked their chops at the prospect of an auction of palms and cycads donated by the Montgomery Botanical Center.

Don't despair! We are hoping to re-schedule at Leu—no firm date as yet—some time in January, when Santa has returned to the North Pole to recover from the revelry. If Leu is still booked, we'll find somewhere else in the Central area to meet. Postcards will alert you-all to the date, place, and time. (The Montgomery plants are being kept safe, in an undisclosed location.)

To complicate matters even more, the printing of *The Palmateer* has run into unforeseen difficulties—owing to the marvels and the well-demonstrated un-user-friendliness of Microsoft Publisher. No, you don't want to know the details. The Editor, who had the issue pretty much done at Thanksgiving, isn't sure that he wishes to know the details, either.

Be patient, dear friends, and we will meet (somewhere) next month.

—John Kennedy



The deadline for submission of material for the MARCH issue is St. Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

For extra credit: The next commercial holiday after Christmas Daze is. . .?

Oct. 26, Melbourne Palms, Cycads

(Continued from page 1)

aged to grow two healthy individuals.

At noon, everyone set out for Borassic Park, the haunt of the redoubtable Mike Dahme. More people gradually appeared, perhaps 60 in all, to lose themselves in the 8-acre palm jungle. Despite our host's negative feelings about cycads, several were spotted along the pathways. All *Cycas revoluta*, some in the grip of Asian cycad scale. No touring parties had to call for rescue, even though the crossings between the three ponds require a knowledge of the routes. Moderate as always, Mike has planted at least a dozen individuals of most species; the oldest palms are obviously mature, while others have been there long enough to give folks an idea of what the adults will look like.

A remarkable individual palm is a huge *Bismarckia* towering over the house, its vigor due, possibly, to its being planted on the drain field. (One trusts this will never require pumping.)

Our host has been heard to mutter that he is running out of room to plant in his declining years. The east area, where a grove of juvenile *Borassus aethiopum* are growing happily, still seems to have space in the view of those who have only standard house lots but, doubtless, to the avid visionary palm planter this remaining acreage is almost too insignificant to consider. An especially attractive palm, for those who could find it in the undergrowth, is a beautiful 20-ft *Dypsis leptocheilos*.

At first stop, in West Melbourne, on Oct. 26th: host Jerry Hooper (left), Eric Schmidt (center), Bud Wideman (right). (Photo by Eileen Placencia)

In a shady corner of Borassic Park, auctioneer Dave Witt holds up a palm so the assembled group—30 or so standing in a semi-circle—can bid on it. The auction netted $637 for the CFPACS treasury and, adding on seed sales and percentages of vendors' plant sales, the total rose to $809, which seems to be a record. (Photo by Eileen Placencia)

A picnic lunch was provided on tables set up in the driveway, supplemented by covered dishes brought by members. Folks continued to eat as our estimable outgoing president, Dave Witt, expertly auctioned off palms and cycads (as well as some other tropicals) donated for that purpose. Members also offered quite a few palms for sale, the number amazing newcomers. Several visitors, brought by friends or attracted by publicity in newspapers or radio, enthused by their surroundings, caught the fever and joined our chapter.

As is usual, on these occasions, departing vans, cars, and SUVs were full of waving fronds.

Borassoid Germination: Another View

[*The information below is from an e-mail exchange between Paul Craft and Mike Dahme (whose experience with germinating Borassoids has been to assume these were not sporadic germinators). Paul's response is quoted here with his permission.—Editor]*

By Paul Craft

My experience with Borasseae is that I would consider them sporadic germinators. This would be particularly true of *Bismarckia* and, to a lesser degree, *Latania*s. When germinating B*ismarkia*s I found them sporadic over a period of one year with the majority of germination happening in the 60 to 120 day period. One thing of note to consider is that the fresher the seed, the better the percentage germination, the quicker the germination, and germination sporadic over a lesser period of time.

Borassoids do not tend to like being completely dried out before being put in for germination. *Borassus* in particular want to germinate immediately when fruit is ripe. Often the seed will attempt to germinate in the fruit and when semicleaned, dried and shipped, will be dead on arrival to destination. *Borassodendron* is another such species. When fresh, one should get nearly 100% germination occurring within no more than 60 days.

I found *Medemia* to be quite similar to *Bismarckia* in germination. *Hyphaene*, depending on age of seed, tend to germinate quickly (fresh seed) to sporadic over a year time for seed stored for a little while and allowed to dry for a time. None of the Borasseae are as sporadic as the Cocoeae, but I would still consider them sporadic when compared to the like of Areceae.

As in other subfamilies, what may be true for one genus or even species is not necessarily true for the entire subfamily. If you look at *Chamaedorea*, you will find some species germinating all at once within 90 days of planting while other species will not germinate for 6 moths to a year and be sporadic. You cannot always typify a subfamily or a genus even as to how germination will occur.

Bob Kreisher sent this picture of an emerging new leaf on Clinostigma harlandii. *Presently, the palm is resident in a 25-gallon pot, but Bob is preparing, with some nervousness, to plant it in the ground in South Tamps, the peninsula between the two bays. (in late March, Bob?) A mature palm of this species is shown on page 19.*

Below, bypass heart surgery patients compare notes at Borassic Park on Oct. 26th: Ralph Love (left), geezer at right (mouth open), the Editor. Treasurer Mike Merritt (center) watches benevolently. Red cups contain, um, Kool-Aid. Geezer behind camera unidentified.

Left, Sergei Leonoov, Russian friend of CFPACS, stands in front of a Jubaea chilensis*, growing in Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula that juts into the Black Sea. Sergei sent these pictures to Mike Dahme.*

Here's Sergei again, embraced by a Butia *(probably* B. capitata*) in the Crimea, warmest region and vacation spot in the former Soviet Union.*

Foliar Treatment for Scale

***[Doug Caldwell** sent along with the article on the opposite page a table showing his experiments with foliar treatment for the Cycad Aulacaspis Scale. Unfortunately, I was unable to insert the table without distortion of its cells or units, so must here quote his own summary of the experiment. —Editor]*

One queen sago was used; fronds were sprayed using 25-oz. hand-misters (spritzer bottles). Five leaflets were examined from each treatment; 20 individuals examined/leaflet/treatment, using a microscope.

Out of frustration, er curiosity, I just did a trial (counted 2000 scales using the scope) at home with 2% hort mineral oil, snake oil, er, I mean the Organocide, Cygon 2E and Safer Insecticidal Soap. It is very interesting to compare mortality on top of the leaf with that on the underneath side.

Although probably 90% if the population is on the undersides, at least until they get crowded! The top side of queens has "gutters" along the mid-vein that tends to hold liquids, which is good! I was big on the hort. mineral oil based on previous trials with other pests. But, not for this scale! We need something with residual as a foliar. And we must have a systemic if we are to have any hope, maybe Disyston 1G, every 6 weeks or so, but it is toxic stuff. If we could tent the plants and fumigate, that would be the ticket!

[The table shows a high percentage of scale killed on the topside, but not on the bottom, where most are. The Cygon 2E he notes as being prohibited for use on ornamentals in residential landscapes, though the existing label does not include cycad plants.]

WHITE MALADY STRIKES!

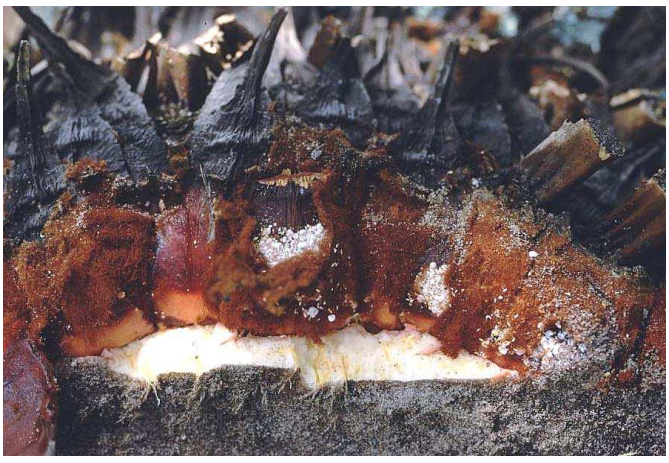
THE CYCAD *AULACASPIS* SCALE (CAS) TAKES ITS TOLL

By Doug Caldwell
Collier County Commercial Horticulture Extension and Landscape Entomologist, University of Florida Extension Service
[Fact sheet reprinted here with permission—Editor]

Cycad Aulacaspis *scale insects have encrusted this sago (above) like barnacles on a ship. Without intervention, this sucking insect will eliminate these classic plants from the Florida landscape. Scales feed under the frond stubs on the trunk (below, left), under the woolly material, making them impossible to reach with a spray.*

In many areas of Naples the king and queen sago (cycad) population is under attack by *Aulacaspis yasumatsui* a small white scale from Asia. This little white scale that arrived in the Naples area about 1997 settles on the undersides of the fronds changing them to a glowing white, resembling a flocked Christmas tree. This flocked appearance is sort of attractive, but the sagos react adversely to the little scales piercing-feeding activity by turning brown and dying.

This pest is very difficult to manage, forget the word control at this point in time. This scale is from Thailand where it is not considered that big of a deal because the native insect parasites and predators keep it at bay. Without the normal complement of insect enemies in Florida, scale populations take off unchecked. Not only that, but it ***feeds on underground structures,*** especially at the point where new "pups" originate, and is untouchable with most homeowner-use type of insecticides.



Populations also accumulate on the underside of the plant's thick frond stubs on the trunk. This pest has repeating, overlapping generations probably at a monthly clip in south Florida. This means a constant re-invasion every 4 to 6 weeks.

A tiny wasp parasite and a predator beetle from the scale's homeland that were released 3 or so years ago seem to be establishing! Unfortunately, I don't think that these good bugs are aggressive enough to help many of our already infested cycads.

What To Do: Scale insects are difficult to control. A systemic insecticide is needed for the stages that feed hidden away, at the base of the emerging "pups" and under the thick woody plates (petiole base) on the trunk. My test with 2% horticultural mineral oil; 2% Safer Insecticidal Soap and 1.56% Organocide, resulted in only 47%, 5% and 21% mortality of the second instar stage. Not good enough! The best strategy, would be a systemic compound which would be absorbed into the root system as a soil treat-

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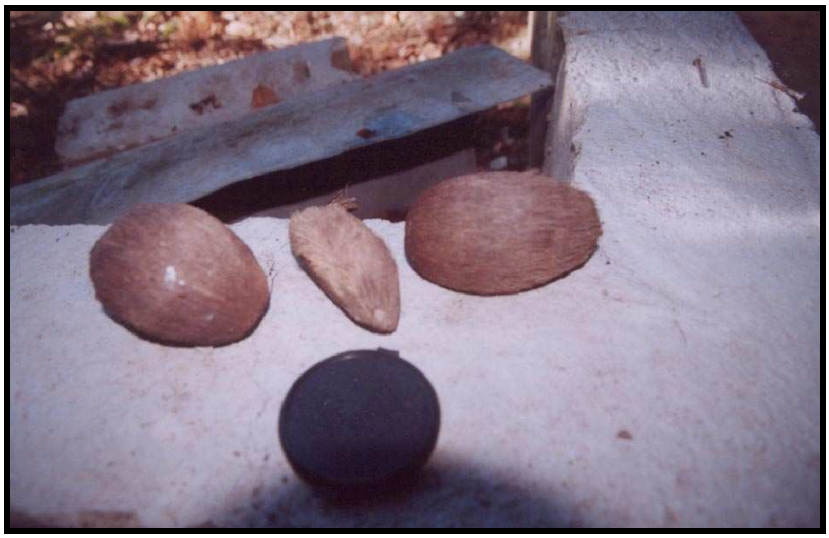


In the center is the spent seed of Borassodendron machadonis. *On either side is sprouting seed of* B. borneense, *the size of which rivals that of* B. flabellifer. *The black circle is a coffee can lid to show scale. Picture comparison sent by Mike Dahme.*

OK, what is it? Right, a leading palmaniac in Puerto Rico sent this along to all of us in Central Florida who grow (of course) spruces and firs suitable to our climate. Scribbled on the back of the picture: "If you can't grow Pigs where you live, move." The palm is one of 8 Pigafetta filaris X P. elata *hybrids planted by said person.*

Her face was a perfect oval, like a circle that had its two other sides gently compressed by a Thigh Master. His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.

—High-school student writing (Americana)

SEED BANK REPORT FOR OCTOBER

Two seed offers were sent out during the month of October. You may have noticed one of these offers included a "pre-order" offer. These seeds were donated by Lou *Thomas and consisted of the following species: Chamadorea adscendens, C. tepejilote, Synechanthus fibrosus, Reinhartdia gracilis, Bactris gasipaes*, *Aiphanes aculeata*, *Gaussia maya*, *Elaeis guineensis*, and *Licuala grandis*. Sales from Lou's seeds alone came close to $500.00 for the chapter.

The palms in Scott Ward's garden seem to produce seeds non-stop. Here's a list of what Scott donated this month: *Caryota* "elvis", *Caryota rumphiana*, *Gaussia maya*, *Sabal etonia*, *Aiphanes aculeata*, *Hydriastele microspadix*, *Syagrus coronata*, and *Coccothrinax miraguama.*

Ed Green, a first time donor, sent *Brahea brandegeei* (a first time offering) from California, all were sold out. Another first time donor, Richard Briscoe from Palm Beach Gardens sent *Dypsis cabadae,* and *Dypsis leptocheilos*, these also were first time offerings and completely sold out.

John and Faith Bishock donated some very popular *Syagrus romanzoffiana* "Santa Catarina" (silver queen) which are said to possess more cold hardiness than the regular queen, in addition they donated *Syagrus* "unknown species".

Mark Grabowski searched his neighborhood for the perfect beau for his female *Latania loddigesii*. He was successful and hand produced a large amount of seeds, many of which were already germinating when they were donated.

Thanks to John Kennedy who donated *Sabal domingensis* and *Sabal etonia* from cultivated plants in his yard , then together with Mike Dahme went to Florida Medical Entomology Lab in Vero Beach to collect *Livistona benthamii* (planted in the early 80's by Bill Bidlingmeyer). Mike also donated *Phoenix rupicola* and *Chamaedorea cataractarum.*

Shri Dhar sent yet another batch of habitat collected *Phoenix* all the way from India, this time it was *P. sylvestris* "blue form" and "silver form".

Sam Sweet is recognized for another donation of *Rhopalostylis sapida* and last, but not least, the *Livistona decipiens* came from my own plants.

Total sales for the month came to just over $1500.00. Additionally, seeds were sold and auctioned at the meeting in Grant, which adds to this amount.

Concerning the seed bank, my computer died recently, (apparently the result of a lightning strike). I lost everything on it, most importantly my seed bank e-mail rosters. I have been able to get most of them back, however if you are not receiving the seed offers and would like to, or if you have changed your address, please e-mail me at: beachpalms@att.net to be added. to the list.

--Charlene Palm

Here is Charlene's famous Borassus aethiopum*, planted from seed in 1994, growing in her backyard in Satellite Beach. That's Charlene (obscured, at right) and Jason Baker (obscured, at left). By comparison, the Editor —not jealous, of course—also has a similar palm planted about 1989 that now has a 15-inch trunk and is possibly 2 feet tall, overall. What has Charlene done that is so right?*

Seed Bank Policy Guidelines

[By vote of the Board, the following guidelines have been added to the chapter bylaws.—Editor]

1. **All CFPACS** members in good standing are eligible to participate in the seed bank.
2. **Seed offers** will be sent to our members only first, via e-mail notification. Seeds are distributed on a "first come/ first serve" basis. After a period of three days or so, any remaining seed will then be posted on the chatlines and non-members may request them.
3. **Seeds will** not be mailed internationally where laws (CITES) prohibit this. These include appendix 1& 2 cycad seeds. International mailing will have the proper postal customs form attached to the package. (Customs-CN 22 is usually sufficient). The sender will list all species on the form that are contained in the package.
4. **Since the** seed bank relies solely on donations not only from our Florida members, but also our international members as well as other individual around the globe, we cannot absolutely guarantee species is true to name, nor can we guarantee germination.
5. **Payment for** seed will be in the form of cash or check in US dollars. We do not accept credit cards or Pay Pal, etc. Foreign requestors may pay by having a check drawn on a US bank or wired in by Western Union, cash by mail is acceptable but discouraged.
6. **We reserve** the right to limit or cut down someone's request (no matter what the species) due to limited availability, when requests exceed quantities on hand. In the case of very rare seed, we shall state in the offer a limited number of seeds allowable per person so that many members may get a few rather than a few members getting most.
7. **Seed Bank** Coordinators will keep records of orders and payments received by indicating whether the payment was cash, check in his/her name or check in the society's name. In addition, seed coordinators should submit ledger sheets or a summary of sales per offer to the treasurer for accountability purposes. He/ She will also save postal receipts, and other receipts for envelopes, tape, and other supplies, so that he/she can be reimbursed for those expenses.
8. **Seed Bank** Coordinators will keep their seed bank e-mail rosters up to date. This includes, changing e-mail addresses, adding new members, and deleting unpaid members when notified by the membership chair.
9. **Seed Bank** Coordinators will submit a quarterly statement to the editor by the deadline given by him for inclusion in *The Palmateer*.

Above is a 50-year-old Corypha umbraculifera, *with 1 foot of trunk, growing in a jungly old garden on Riverside Drive in Indialantic.*
(Photo by Mike Dahme)

Oct. 26: Jason Baker, um, Kool-Aid in hand, stands underneath a Borassus aethiopum *growing in Borassic Park. (Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)*

KAREN BARRESE NAMED MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Karen Barrese, of Land O Lakes, has been appointed Membership Chair by the CFPACS Board. She takes over from Mark Van Antwerp on January 1.

"Palm widow" is how she describes herself. Karen joined the chapter to see more of Tom, her husband of 25 years. They have two sons, ages 13 and 8.

Karen has lived in Florida for 15 years, is originally from Michigan, and has worked for General Motors for 25 years. Palms have always been "a part of paradise" to her.

While Karen doesn't believe that she knows that much about palms, she also realizes that she has been able to answer palm questions from her co-workers.

What are the duties of the Membership Chair? Briefly, this appointed Board member keeps the roster up-to-date, and is the first contact for those wishing to join CFPACS. The duties of the position have recently been specified and voted into the chapter bylaws by the Board. See the description in the next column on this page.

Karen may be contacted at cfpacsmbrship@aol.com

Mark Van Antwerp asked to be relieved of the job. His new business in Melbourne, Two Men and a Truck, has consumed much of his time. He will continue to print *The Palmateer* on the printer leased from Xerox.

—John Kennedy

He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.

—High school writing (Americana)

Peace

Membership Chair Duties

[The duties listed here were voted into the chapter bylaws by the Board.—Editor)

The Membership Chair shall keep the roster of current members.

1—**When new** members send checks to the Membership Chair, their names shall be added within two weeks to the member roster.

2—**The checks** will be forwarded to the Treasurer within 30 days of receipt.

3—**The same** procedure shall hold true with checks for membership renewal.

4—**Additions or** renewal memberships will also be forwarded to the seed bank coordinator

5—**The period/length** of membership payment will be noted in the records.

6—**The Membership** Chair shall promptly note changes in name, address, phone number, and e-mail when so notified by the membership.

7—**A current,** updated membership roster shall be sent quarterly to the President, Treasurer, and other board members.

8—A set of labels of the current members shall be sent quarterly to the appropriate person prior to publication of the chapter newsletter, which is presently published in March, June, September, and December.

9—**Improvements to** the format of the membership roster may be initiated by the Membership Chair.

10—**The Membership** Chair shall consult with the Board in the event of problems, if in need of assistance, or if unable to maintain the duties listed above.

The Membership Chair serves at the will of the elected Board members: the President, the three regional vice-presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer, and may be removed by majority vote of these officers.

The Palm of the Quarter: Nannorhops

By Ray Hernández

When originally conceiving this new quarterly column, the weather was warm and I could envision tons of tropical specimens as potential first article candidates. In fact, until just two days ago, the list had been reduced to an Australian *Livistona* or a Cuban *Coccothrinax*. Well, today is the 17th of November and the first significant cold front of the season has just about cleared Central Florida. Now thoughts have shifted to a warm sweater, hot cocoa and tons of temperate specimens lining my arctic wonderland. Therefore, in keeping with the ever present reality, the first feature palm will be arguably the most cold hardy specimen on earth, *Nannorhops ritchieana* or Mazari Palm.

An inhabitant of the semi-arid regions of Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Middle East, *Nannorhops* is of significant importance to local inhabitants. Seeds are covered with an edible fruity flesh and the young leaves are consumed as a vegetable. The relatively stiff older leaves are useful in thatching and other building needs. This is critical in an area of the world where very few things grow. *Nannorhops* thrives and defies the extremes of nature. It is often exposed to snow cover and deep freezes as well as searing 100+ degree heat and severe drought.

***Nannorhops*, like** other desert dwelling plants, grows in infertile, stony soils and is able to tap ground water for survival. The only disadvantage this palm appears to have is its monocarpic nature. Like *Arenga*, *Caryota*, and *Corypha* to name a few, *Nannorhops* has a terminal inflorescence and dies upon setting seed. Fortunately however, *Nannorhops* is a slow grower and takes years to reach this point in its life. In addition, it is usually a clumping specimen and other emerging trunks continue the individual plant's existence. These trunks, like our native *Serenoa repens*, are primarily subterranean with a few plants exhibiting emergent trunks. *Nannorhops* also resembles *Serenoa* in the variation of leaf color from plant to plant. The grey-green leaf form is more common but glaucous leafed plants can also be found. In short, these are tough, beautiful plants that also provide a source of food and shelter in areas where life would otherwise be nonexistent.

***Nannorhops*, in** all of its toughness and beauty, struggles to do well in many Florida situations. The combination of year round humidity and abundant summer rainfall make growing this palm a bit on the difficult side. Despite this, several large Florida botanical gardens such as Fairchild and Selby (pictured above), have beautifully cultivated specimens. These specimens however are definitely the exception, not the rule.

They benefit from the ideal conditions of heat, full sun exposure and extremely well drained soil. The Selby specimen for example, is planted seaside and frequently inundated by salt water. It is, however, planted in a beach sand/seashell soil mix that holds little if any water for extended periods. Most *Nannorhops* specimens planted in Florida die from the root problems associated with poor drainage and secondarily, too much rain or irrigation. If this is true of large plants, imagine how difficult it is to keep seedlings alive. Oh and by the way, seeds are erratic to germinate and many do not at all. It is apparent that this palm is not for the faint hearted but as with any challenge, well worth the rewards.

The following is a synopsis of the pros and cons to this horizontally growing gem.

(Continued on page 13)

Nannorhops

(Continued from page 12)

Advantages:

1. Unusual appearance with horizontal growth
2. Extremely cold hardy
3. Heat tolerant
4. Requires little or no fertilization
5. Drought tolerant once established
6. Tolerates some salt spray
7. Good container plant due to slow growth

Disadvantages:

1. Erratic seed germination
2. Seedlings are difficult to keep alive
3. Large plants are nearly impossible to find
4. Dislikes humidity
5. Intolerant of excessive overhead irrigation
6. Single trunked specimens die after setting seed
7. Susceptible to some insects, especially scales
8. Will tolerate nothing less than well drained soil
9. Slow grower and therefore not an instant landscape addition

Above, the finely cut leaves of Ceratozamia kuesteriana, *seen by the revelers on October 26th at the home of Jerry and Mary Ann Hooper in West Melbourne.*
(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

OK, what does the Seed Bank lady grow? At Charlene Palm's are (left) Copernicia alba *and (right)* Sabal mauritiiformis. *In the background is quite a large* Dypsis decaryi.

Left, Clinostigma exhorriza, *not on the Cote d'Azur, but at Pauleen Sullivan's place in Hawaii. Black mulch is ground volcanic rock.*
(Photo by Geoff Stein)

The IPS Biennial: Palms and Good Food

By Faith Bishock

The IPS Biennial this year was in the French Riviera and Cote d'Azur. Our hosts were the original chapter of "Fous de Palmiers" (crazy for palms). Included in our itinerary were visits to public and private botanical gardens, nurseries and garden centers, really excellent meals, and as you might expect, lots of good French wine.

Also offered were informative and in-depth lectures covering a broad range of topics--some specific to the region's palms and pests, scientific lectures specific to palmbotany (flowers and pollination), pharmaceutical uses, palm species distribution--*Astrocaryum* in the Amazon Basin, evolution of palms on islands, *Coccothrinax crinita x miraguama* in Cuba, and the palms of Dominica.

From our Hyères base, we visited several nurseries, the highlight of which was the J.M. Rey Nursery. This was a huge facility including a retail garden center, over 100 acres of greenhouses and field nursery which supplies most of European garden centers with commercial horticultural plants. Then there was the landscape section of mature trees and palms. We had a dinner of wild boar stew at the owner's 18th century estate home on the premises and toured the private garden.

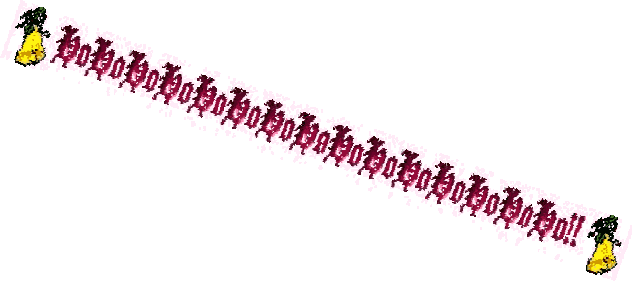
Another highlight was our boat trip to Porquerolles Island. The regional horticultural department purchased the stock of *Phoenix dactylifera* cultivars from the U. S.Dept. of Agriculture and are trying to maintain endemic Mediterranean species for preservation and hybridization. An agricultural and historical center is in the process of being built and Horace Hobbs , IPS president, planted a palm donated by IPS in support of their work to add to their collection. Since the climate there is similar to southern California, there are *Brahea*s, *Phoenix* and *Chamaerops*, of course. We had lunch on the island at Patesky Vineyard under huge ancient trees--we saw the grapes growing, we saw the wine being made and bottled--which we drank.

We moved on to Nice, visiting Monte Carlo and Monaco along the way. At Saint Jean-Cap Ferrat, we visited the Villa Les Cedres, built for King Leopold II of Belgium and now owned by the Grand Marnier Hiers . Aided by a favorable microclimate, there are 125 species of palms and 14,000 species of plants on the 30-acre property. Acres of glass houses contain collections of palms and tropical plants acquired from 1922 to the present.

In Nice, we visited Parc Phoenix. Created in 1989, it covers 18 acres--the most interesting being the pyramid shaped greenhouse habitat containing an impressive palm and tropical plant collection.

This Biennial was different in that we saw mostly beautifully landscaped gardens and impressive collections and, of course, the France experience. John and I did not continue on to the Post trip.

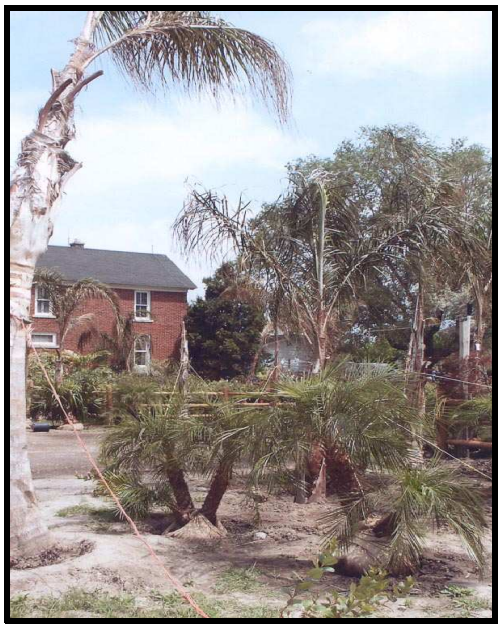
MICHIGAN PALMS



Left, and below, not a nursery in Longwood or Clearwater, but in suburban Detroit.

Says Tom Barrese, who took these pictures, "Species offered were Queens, Royals, *Phoenix roebelenii*, *Adonidias*. Price for Queen was $400.00, quite a steep price for an 'annual'. Poor condition of most of the palms was due to a couple of unseasonably late frosts the region received. Although the region is for the most part 5b, there are some 6a microclimates so some of the hardiest species could be tried in ground with winter protection. I suggested *Trachycarpus*, *Sabal minor*, *Nannorrhops*, *Butia* or even *Sabal palmetto* which, I believe, is being successfully grown in Branson, Missouri. Nursery owner showed little interest, probably because the annual replacement of the non-hardy species was profitable. Claimed that he sells out of them every year running."

This proves, of course, that palms can be grown anywhere in the U.S.—in the summer.



PALM POINTS

[Five more of the endless Palm Points composed by John-the-Editor for broadcast over Indian River Community College's public radio station, WQCS, 88.9 FM, Fort Pierce. Just 42 seconds in which to say something wise, significant, intelligent, and basic about palms. Although the pieces were planned to be broadcast in order, it's not clear that this has happened. Each little treasure was also designed to stand alone. Courage, folks, less than 40 Palm Points remain!]

Palm Points #16 Fertilization, Part One

The University of Florida has issued new guidelines for fertilization. Palms should be fertilized more frequently than previously recommended, but in smaller amounts.

This is because potassium—which is vital to palms—is quickly leached out of sandy soils. At the same time nitrogen in the fertilizer encourages growth.

Palms were pushed to grow, then starved of a nutrient necessary to growth.

Instead of applying fertilizer three or four times a year, this might be applied every 4 to 6 weeks, with a little bit for smallish palms, more for big palms.

It's better to under-fertilize than to over-fertilize. Don't burn the palm's roots.

Palm Points #17 Fertilization, Part Two

Some palm growers stop fertilizing after summer, fearing to encourage growth at the trickiest time of the year. Others believe that fertilization just before winter starts enables palms to survive the cold.

An ordinary complete fertilizer, such as 6-6-6 or 8-8-8, has equal parts of nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium. This kind of fertilizer does not meet the nutritional needs of palms.

Specially-formulated palm fertilizers supply mineral trace elements, called micronutrients.

A good ratio of ingredients in a palm fertilizer is 2 parts nitrogen, 1 part phosphate, 3 parts potassium, and 1 part magnesium. The micronutrients include manganese, boron, iron, and other trace minerals.

Palm Points #18 Fertilization, Part Three

When fertilizing a palm, read the directions on the package carefully.

Remember, never put more fertilizer on than the bag or box says. It's a good idea to broadcast less around the palm than the package indicates.

Package directions also may reflect the old recommendation of using quite a lot of fertilizer, three or four times a year. Now, a small amount of fertilizer should be applied more often.

Fertilizer may be scattered around the palm's base—with mulch or grass pulled back—and watered in. Never apply fertilizer to dry soil. The fertilizer should not touch the palm's trunk.

Palm Points #19 Nutritional Deficiencies, Part One

A lack of nitrogen is shown by an overall light color of the fronds and a decrease in growth. The leaves aren't as dark as they should be, and there are fewer of them.

Potassium deficiency is the most widespread disorder of palms in the sandy soils of southern Florida. Signs are yellow or orange flecking, mottled or discolored leaflets. Leaflet tips or margins may be dead. Symptoms appear first on the oldest leaves. The new crown of leaves is OK.

Magnesium deficiency—this is a minor element—occurs because palms are heavy users of magnesium. The oldest leaves are affected; a broad yellow band appears around the margin of an otherwise green leaf.

Palm Points #20 Nutritional Deficiencies, Part Two

Manganese deficiency—another minor element—reveals itself in the newest leaves first. These are yellowed and small in size. Dead streaking is evident and, later, a scorched, frizzled look as is frequently seen in queen palms.

Iron deficiency—yet another minor element—shows in yellowing between veins, dead tips, and stunted new leaves. These symptoms can also be the result of planting too deeply or from poor aeration, both of which can be remedied.

In attempting to correct any nutritional deficiency, the best approach is to apply a good palm fertilizer. In most cases, simply applying a balanced fertilizer will correct the problem on new, emerging leaves. Affected leaves do not recover.

PALM COLD DAMAGE RECOVERY IN ORLANDO

By Dave Witt

I often write or talk about how palms fare during cold weather and I thought it might be a good idea to put some of that data to practical use. So I decided to take a look back over the ten years that I have been growing palms and try to figure out which palms can recover from annual freezes and or defoliations and which ones cannot. So without going into very specific details on each species listed I have attempted to categorize them into several groups.

The size of the palm plays an important role in this. Small palms (three gallon size and under, also some seven gallons) cannot be relied upon to recover. So for the most part the following info is based on palms of a 15-gallon size or larger. Basically, with few exceptions, this means any palm that has begun to if not already formed some stem at the base. I think the first group can be considered more "cold hardy" than the second, the second more so than the third. None of the palms listed below were "protected" in any way. However, many of them were treated for subsequent bud rot when applicable.

A tree may grow in Brooklyn, but a Washingtonia *grows in the Crimea. Sergei Leonov stands in front of the palm.*

Several items jump out at me after reviewing the lists. For instance "crownshaft" palms are very susceptible to their foliage shrinking in size, reducing their growth rate and having to virtually start all over again, losing a year or more of normal growth time. This means it often takes the palm twice as long to grow (in overall height as well as frond size) as it normally should. But this is not confined to crownshaft palms only, and the reduction in canopy and frond size appears to be the main culprit in preventing many palms from recovering at all.

Many of the larger growing fan palms appear to have problems with bud rot; having the center spear(s) pull out and needing to be treated with a copper fungicide. This, in turn, also forces them to start all over, often producing very small fronds for a palm that size/age. This would explain why I have a *Corypha* that is half the size it should be for its age. But, on a positive note, this species as well as others with their growth buds buried well below ground (e.g. *Sabal*, *Borassus*) can recover quickly enough to have a full canopy by the start of the next winter. This quick recovery seems to ensure their survival, at least for another year. But once this growth bud is finally above ground what happens then? Perhaps a drastic reduction in their ability to regrow leaves and recover?

There appear to be some very "tropical" palm species that can adapt to growing where annual freezes occur, provided the ground itself does not freeze. Almost every example of this is a palm that clusters or grows multiple stems. These palms re-grow quickly from the roots, fast enough to look good by summer's end and thus be considered cold hardy for here, at least as a "palm annual". And, lastly, palms that are normally slow growers in producing fronds don't stand a chance at recovering at all when defoliated more than once.

Palms that completely recovered from more than one consecutive defoliation

Acrocomia aculeata: the *totai* palm never has any damage
Arenga pinnata: some frond shrinkage does occur
Attalea (genus as a whole): the growth bud is well un-

(Continued on page 18)

Cold Damage Recovery in Orlando

(Continued from page 17)

derground for decades
Beccariophoenix madagascariensis: a surprise but these are somewhat shaded
Borassus aethiopum & *flabellifer*: growth bud underground for many years
Caryota mitis: new growth from roots but even tall stems usually recover
Corypha utan: growth bud underground for many years
Cryosophila stauracantha: another surprise, again somewhat shaded as well
Dypsis decaryi: some frond shrinkage occurs
Elaeis guineensis: some frond shrinkage occurs
Euterpe edulis: another "surprise" species but again in partial shade
Hyophorbe verschaffeltii: no shrinkage here, seems to not need full canopy
Hyphaene coriacea: tall stems recover as well, growth bud well underground
Licuala spinosa: some taller stems die back completely, others live
Sabal mauritiiformis & *yapa*: growth bud underground for many years
Syagrus coronata X oleracea hybrid (= *costae*): fairly quick growth
Wallichia disticha: quick recovery

Palms that have completely recovered from one defoliation but not two in a row

Aiphanes aculeata: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Adonidia merrillii: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Archontophoenix alexandrae & *cunninghamiana*: see above
Areca triandra (new stems arise from roots below ground)
Astrocaryum mexicanum: prone to bud rot
Bactris gasipaes & *setosa* (new stems arise from roots below ground)
Borassodendron machodonis: prone to bud rot
Carpentaria acuminata: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Chamaedorea tepejilote: suckering variety can stay alive for many years
Cocos nucifera: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Daemonorops angustifolia: not sure on this one
Dypsis leptocheilos: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Dypsis lutescens (new stems arise from roots below ground)
Gastrococos crispa: prone to bud rot
Geonoma schottiana: growth rate too slow to recover
Heterospathe elata: unsure of problem with these
Hyophorbe lagenicaulis: severe reduction in frond size and

(Continued on page 19)

Cycad *Aulacaspis* Scale

(Continued from page 7)

ment application and then move upwards into the foliage to get the scales on the fronds and on the trunk as well as the scale insects feeding underground. Unfortunately, most systemic insecticides (Merit, Orthene and DiSyston) applied as a soil application (injection, granular or drench) have given mixed results. Pesticide trials are being conducted at several University of Florida locations.

If the scale population has exploded and the predators and parasites are not protecting the cycad sufficiently—try using a product with Orthene (acephate). This recommendation will be updated following some forthcoming test results.

Plant Selection:. A scale resistant substitute plant with a form similar to the king sago, is *Dioon edule* or perhaps some agave species may work.

City crews remove cycads infested with Asian cycad scale from public plantings in Naples.

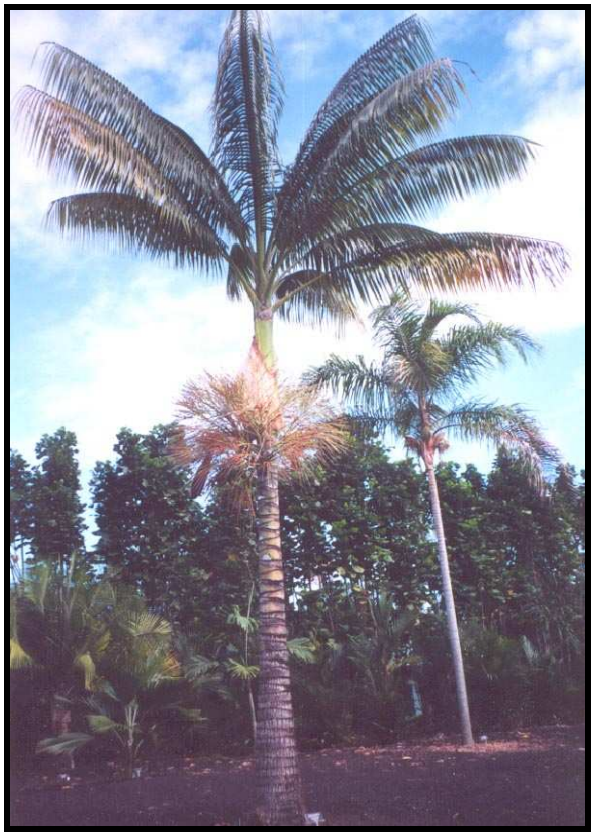
Cold Damage Recovery in Orlando

(Continued from page 18)

canopy
Kerriodoxa elegans: prone to bud rot
Laccospadix australasica (single-stem form): severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Livistona robinsoniana & r*otundifolia*: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Lytocaryum weddellianum: bud rot and growth too slow to recover
Marojejya darianni: bud rot ???
Mauritiella armata: large stems always died, small ones appear but at lower numbers
Normanbya normanbyi: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Phoenix paludosa & *roebelenii:* prone to bud rot
Pinanga coronata = *kuhlii* (new stems arise from roots below ground)
Polyandrococos caudescens: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Pseudophoenix sargentii: growth rate too slow
Ptychosperma macarthurii: older stems usually die off, new growth from roots
Raphia taedigera: bud rot, not sure yet
Ravenea rivularis: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Roystonea regia = *elata*: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Schippia concolor: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Syagrus amara, botryophora, *sancona*: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Thrinax radiata: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Veitchia winin: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Wodyetia bifurcata: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Zombia antillarum: older stems usually die off, new growth from roots

Palms that came close to but did not recover from one defoliation

Actinorhytis calapparia: trialed several specimens with 3-4 ft. of stem; never recovered
Cyphophoenix nucele: growth rate way too slow, severe frond shrinkage
Cyrtostachys renda: small offshoots can re-appear but usually die off as well
Dictyosperma album: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Kentiopsis oliviformis: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Latania (all species): prone to bud rot, however some increase in hardiness as they age
Licuala grandis: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Mauritia flexuosa: prone to bud rot, never recovered
Oraniopsis appendiculata: growth rate way too slow, severe frond shrinkage
Pritchardia remota: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Ptychosperma elegans: severe reduction in frond size and canopy
Satakentia liukiuensis: trialed many times, severe reduction in frond size & canopy
Veitchia arecina: severe reduction in frond size and canopy



This is Clinostigma harlandii *growing at Pauleen Sullivan's place in Hawaii.. Bob Kreisher is hopeful about planting this palm in South Tampa—see page 5.*
(Photo by Geoff Stein)

Brianna Placencia, in her palm dress, was the youngest visitor to Borassic Park on October 26th.
(Photo by Mommy)

Neoveitchia storckii *in Dunedin or DeLand? No, Hawaii (alas). (Photo by Geoff Stein)*

PALMFEST 2003

May 23 – 26, 2003

The Palm & Cycad Societies of Florida (PACSOF) invite you to attend Palm Fest 2003 hosted by the SW FL Chapter in Fort Myers, "The City of Palms". You will drive down historic McGregor Boulevard to Edison Home for a tour of one of the oldest & most significant experimental industrial botanical gardens, filled with more than 400 species of plants imported from around the world. After lunch, the group will tour other well-established gardens in the downtown Fort Myers area, returning to the host hotel for a plant auction. Later that evening Dr. Larry Noblick of Montgomery Botanical Center will be the keynote speaker at the banquet dinner.

Sunday morning, we will begin with a tour of Prall's Palm Tree Gardens in Cape Coral.

Walking down bromeliad-lined pathways, you will see a variety of rare palms, cycads, cactus & succulents, orchids, aroids and other tropical plants. After lunch we will view other local area landscapes.

For those wishing to stay over Memorial Day, garden tours in Sarasota will be on the agenda – more details will be available at a later date.

Friday evening, there will be an informal reception and check–in outside in the Riverwalk dock area.

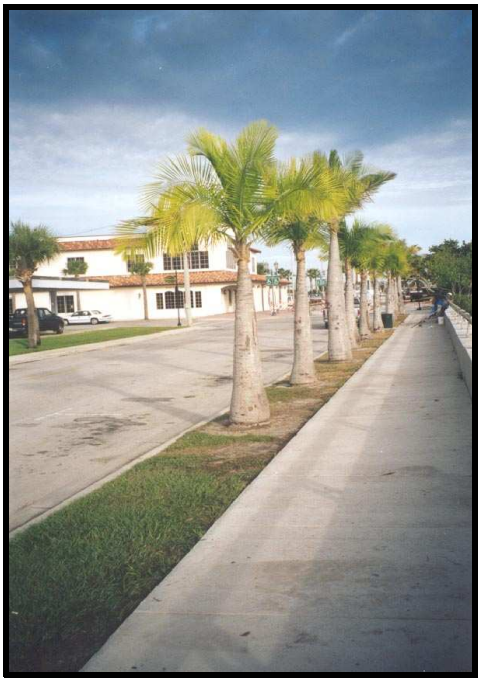
Host Hotel: Holiday Inn Riverwalk, situated on the banks of the Caloosahatchee River is tropically landscaped with a variety of palms. Hotel rooms must be reserved with a credit card prior to April 23, 2003 to be guaranteed the special rate of $64/night (800-664-7775)

PalmFest Registration fee is $75/person for Fort Myers, (does not include Sarasota option). Early pre-registration is encouraged. Seating at the banquet is limited to the first 75 people, and there are a limited amount of rooms available at the reduced rate.

Directions and time schedules will be provided in registration packets.

(Continued on page 21)

Mike Dahme just knew that Bentinckia nicobarica *wouldn't live in Brevard County, so he gave the tiny plant to Mark Thoe of Malabar—who stands behind the poor little palm that now reaches above him.*



A line of Majesty Palms, yellowish and stunted, planted about 1990 along Melody Lane in Fort Pierce. Rail at right is directly on the Indian River. St. Lucie County Library in background. Grass strip once contained others of the same species. Below, closeup of a palm trunk: not suitable for public planting?

PALMFEST 2003

(Continued from page 20)

Registration forms will be included in the next newsletter and are also available on-line at www.plantapalm.com – scroll down to Palmfest link

CANCELLATION POLICY – 48 hours prior notice. The Holiday Inn will cancel your room reservation provided you contact them 48 hours prior to arrival date. PASCOF will also refund your registration fee if you have to cancel for un-foreseen circumstances.

Auction time at Borassic Park, Grant, on October 26. Auctioneer Dave Witt squats at right. Potential bidder gets a closer look at...a Copernicia*? Visible among the hopeful bystanders are Mark Grabowski, Bud Wideman, Juanita Baker, Roberto Placencia. Behind Dave stands Tom Barrese, West vp candidate.*

Left, a 30-year-old Arenga engleri *in a Vero Beach "garden," in the shade created by a large laurel oak and a large bald cypress. The palm is 15 feet high and wide, has 15 trunks, and flowers and fruits almost constantly. There are few volunteers in the vicinity, these being regarded by local rabbits as an irresistible delicacy.*

Right, portrait of a mistake in another part of the same "garden." In the foreground is a 15-year-old Dictyosperma album*, with only about 2 feet of trunk, planted for protection on the south side of a tree canopy. Little did the proprietor realize that the laurel oak would get big and not only protect, but overshadow the poor little palm. Beyond the palm is an Orinoco banana stalk snapped in 40-mph November winds. In the right background is a 10-year-old* Pritchardia thurstonii*, similarly "protected," though not yet completely in the shade.*

From the Editor's Desk

An unhappy member sent an e-mail in August that was bounced back, the message eventually reaching the Editor months later. He was displeased about the caption of a picture in the June issue with the line "Garbage pick-up at Borassic Park." This referred to the removal of a triangle palm. The long-time member felt that this is "palm snobbery" and a turn-off to new members. While he had vowed never to plant a Washingtonia, once he set up his front yard for arid, desert-like plants, he found Washingtonias had a real and useful place in the landscape. He believes that the landscape use of palms is more important than whether they are rare or not.

* * * * * *

He may be on to something here. When visiting another palm-O-phile's garden, frequently Washingtonias or queens are among the biggest (thus, oldest) palms in sight. The owner may look embarrassed if this is commented upon, but "that's where I got started in this madness," before drawing attention away to her impressive *Bismarckia*.

* * * * * *

Another unheralded palm, taken for granted any place in Florida is *Sabal palmetto*. It's just about everywhere, commonplace, routine, looked-down upon, not particularly graceful. But the palm is a toughie, surviving, flourishing in the most unpromising places—and without any care or attention at all. Individuals aren't especially picturesque, though a group, a grove, often has a loveliness, a natural grace, that singles lack. While dismissed as ordinary and uninteresting, especially to palm mavens, *S. palmetto* doesn't arouse the contemptuous dismissal that Washingtonias and queens seem to do.

* * * * * *

Palm Snobbery, Part Two: a few years back, many palm people were really enthused about *Wodyetia bifurcata*, then expensive and not easily obtainable. But when foxtails began to flower and, then, to appear in garden centers, the palm was dismissed—too common. Collectors, of course, tend to value the rare and unusual; when hard-to-get species are no longer hard to get, they move on to another, even more wonderful, more **rare** species.

* * * * * *

As always, the Moment of Truth approaches for us all: will winter be kind and gentle—as has mostly been the case over the last years—or will we get the long-delayed, bitter freeze that everyone fears ? Will we be punished for our presumption in planting tender species in untenable locales? As I look around Vero Beach, I can see *Veitchia*s and *Ptychosperma elegans* (also *Adonidia merrillii*)on home lots all around town, together with the ubiquitous majesty palms. Signs of all of these being available at Home Depot and Wal-Mart. Then, there are coconut palms perhaps 10 miles inland. Foxtails have yet to prove their cold hardiness, which some suspect is rather less than the queen palms that they are replacing in public and private plantings. Old fogies (myself and others) can recall that, in the 1980s, three or four freezes in the winter were the norm. The only hope then was that these wouldn't be too bad (translation: no lower than 25°, with some damage, possibly major, to be expected). No one at the time was planting palms commonly found in Miami. Nor, in that period, were wholesale nurseries in Dade County making large-scale deliveries to Central Florida chain store garden centers. El Niño, the Pacific Ocean current, is supposed to be operational for at least part of the winter and allegedly will bring stormier, wetter, and milder temperatures to the Southeast. Well, we'll see. . .

* * * * * *

The American Horticultural Society (www.ahs.org) has developed a heat map of the United States. Instead of showing cold days, with low temperatures, this measures the annual number of days at 86° or above, thus recognizing the role of heat in plant growth (and the limitation it also places on plants that can't take heat). In the next few years, the ratings from this map will appear on tags of plants sold in garden centers. The USDA is—according to the *New York Times*—ready to publish a revised version of the standard low-temperature zones map of the U. S. in February. How the two will be reconciled is another question entirely. And, we all know that microclimates sometimes permit plants to flourish in unlikely places.

* * * * * *

Speaking of unlikely places, Ed Brown (the gremlin from Jacksonville) informed the Editor at the recent Melbourne CFPACS rally that all his juvenile *Ceroxylon* had died. The reasons aren't recalled very clearly but the old-timers in the group had been amazed, jealous, and (perhaps) hopeful. Jacksonville looks pretty cold to Central Floridians, but is apparently not chilly

(Continued on page 24)

From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 23)

enough for Andean wax palms. Maybe the next attempt, and there always will be another, should take place in the Panhandle: Milton, DeFuniak Springs, Crestview, or maybe South Alabama (Eufaula, Dothan)? Kindly contact the Editor if such experiments are currently going on.

* * * * * *

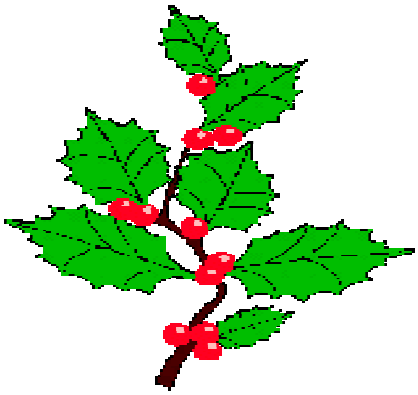
As an aside on the gloomy topic of winter, we are informed that the West Nile virus carried by mosquitoes will continue to be a problem in our area until a "hard freeze." Oh dear, a dilemma. No one wants this threat to personal health and outdoor activity but, on the other hand, who wants a hard freeze?

* * * * * *

Several members have marveled at my turning out *The Palmateer* all by myself. If I have enough material (pictures, articles sent to me), there's no trouble with content. The problems come when I layout the issue. The program is Microsoft Publisher, not one of the most user-friendly programs around. I don't use it often enough, four times a year, to remember all of the details (and there are many). In this issue, for instance, I got hung up on the headers—what appears at the top of each page. Simple enough: page number, title of publication, month/year. However, I want the page number to be on the left side of a back page and the right side of a facing page. The month/year is reversed, according to which side that page is. The procedure for doing this simple task isn't so simple at all—nor is the Help in Publisher always helpful unless you know the correct way to phrase the problem; there's no cross-reference. So, I struggled for a little more than an hour to set this up correctly. If I do it right, the same headers will appear correctly on every page throughout the publication. I have beaten you, Bill Gates, despite your attempts to defeat me. Only 75 minutes to do so. Putting in pictures and text are child's play by contrast. The little details are the hellish parts!

* * * * * *

Our second host on October 26th, Mike Dahme, has flown south (like the birds) to climes even warmer than Miami. His luggage would not, of course, be in any way similar to that of vacationers, but contains palm fertilizer in quantities sufficient to arouse the interest of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. The palms of the estancia (Borassic Park South? Calyptronoma-Prestoea Park?) require nourishment of



a kind not readily available locally in Puerto Rico. Mike expects to return to the arctic shores of Brevard County some time in January.

* * * * * *

We are very fortunate in having Karen Barrese volunteer to take over the duties of the Membership Chair. Mark Van Antwerp has performed nobly in that job for the last two years and we thank him. His new business in Melbourne has, of course, left him very hard-pressed for time. He hasn't gone away, but will continue to print *The Palmateer* on the printer the chapter has on free lease from Xerox. You probably made the connection, but Karen is married to Tom Barrese, the candidate for West Coast vice president. They live in Land O Lakes, in Pasco County. (Yes, Tom, I have—per your request--added Pasco County to the service area list from which it was unaccountably missing.)

* * * * * *

If you have some time to spare and would like to make yourself useful, there **are** two chapter functions that need a little assistance. The first is the website, which could do with more regular care and feeding. Website designers and computer *intelligentsia* (notice how careful I'm being) are encouraged to contact Dave Witt. The second is the seed bank, which can use some extra help in times of heavy onslaughts of seeds and orders. Contact Charlene Palm for further details.

* * * * * *

If you're looking for some beautiful, downloadable pictures of palms to use as wallpaper on your computer screen, go to www.webshots.com , enter "palms" or "palm trees" in the search box. There seem to be dozens of gloriously colored, dramatic pictures of palms. Warning: however lovely, the pictures tend to be generic, many of idyllic settings with coconut palms. (Of course, who's going to quibble?)

—John Kennedy

(this) PRESIDENT'S (last) MESSAGE

As I type this up it is currently 42 degrees outside on a bright, clear Saturday morning in November. It seems a little "early" for 42 degrees but no one bothered to ask my palms or me what we would prefer to wake up to. But if it's "only" 42 degrees here then it must be much colder most elsewhere, which is always my recurring solace whenever I begin to whine about the chilly days ahead.

I'm kind of wandering around in my head, trying to figure out what to say here. Maybe something grandiosely profound … no, not from this brain, at least not since marriage, children, etc., arrived many years ago. I guess the best way to handle this is to thank all the wonderfully eccentric group of people I have worked with on the board. There is no way I am going to make a list because you just know I will forget someone and never hear the end of it (palm people can be so cantankerous at times) …

But suffice to say I have enjoyed my term as President, and any successes during this time are without question due more to the group of people I had around me than to myself or any agenda I set out to accomplish. As a matter of fact the assorted "personalities" involved with running this show is easily the best attribute of this "plant club". Sometimes it seemed that if it were not for a common interest in this particular group of plants there is no way in the world we could spend five minutes around each other. Yet, when faced with a perplexing situation, the same group of people were always the first to rush in, volunteer their time and effort to get it resolved. I'm probably not the first person to note this phenomenon, often it was simply amazing to observe.

The tremendous growth in membership, the ever increasing participation at various sales and the incredible amount of positive comments and feedback from other palm chapters all over the country is a tribute to what we have accomplished over the past six years I have been a board member. I'm looking forward to helping continue our progress for the next few years. I am proud to know you all and happy to claim every one of you as a friend. Thank you!

Now back to the important stuff – the plants. I hope to see most of you at our next meeting, to be held in the familiar and friendly confines of Leu Gardens, right here in Orlando. It's always interesting to observe how the wide array of palms & cycads growing there has progressed since our last visit. And for those of you who are fairly new to this hobby, Leu Gardens will give you an excellent idea on how some species (as young plants) will grow over time and how they fair in a cold inland environment (micro-climates notwithstanding of course). Pizza, palms, plant sale/auction – what more can ya ask for ???

—Dave Witt

From the attic came an unearthly howl. The whole scene had an eerie, surreal quality, like when you're on vacation in another city and "Jeopardy" comes on at 7:00 p. m. instead of 7:30.

—High school writing (Americana)

BALLOT

For President, CFPACS

□ **Ray Hernández**

□ **Write In** _____

For West Vice President

□ **Tom Barrese**

□ **Write In** _____

Mail ballot to Charlene Palm, 220 Ocean Spray Ave., Satellite Beach, FL 32937 no later than January 15, 2003.

Does this issue of *The Palmateer* look a little thinner than usual? Actually, at 32 pages (including the cover sheet), it's about the typical size. At the Nov. 16 deadline, the material on hand would have filled no more than 15 pages. Several pieces included here were solicited very urgently and late— with special thanks to Dave Witt for another of his annotated lists of winter casualties and fatalities. The chitchat in The Editor's Desk yammers on for two whole pages rather than the normal one, just to fill a tad more space.

How about some of you out there in Central-Florida-Palm-Land writing about a favorite palm, sending in pictures? As it is, I am dependent on many of the same old names who come through for *The Palmateer* regularly. But, if you want our newsletter/bulletin to flourish, **you** need to contribute. I can't make bricks without straw, I can't write the whole thing myself. Articles can be sent to me (jkennedy@ircc.edu) electronically as Word document attachments, pictures as jpg attachments.

You like *The Palmateer*? Then help it to continue to be informative, to be fun. End of harangue.

—John Kennedy

Sandy Dimino, of Vero Beach, holds a basket that she made from Queen Palm fronds. The stem is a trimmed fruitstalk. Sandy's house is full of baskets she has created out of natural materials, including one (small) woven out of pine needles.

Ray Hernández

My parents and sister came to the US from Cuba in 1966 and decided to make Tampa home. This choice was made primarily because my Uncle had resided here since 1958 and could help them get established. My parents, like so many immigrants before them, embraced their new country and accepted the difficult transition in order to secure a better future. This must have been the reason they decided to expand the family at what was considered then, an unsafe age for women to have children. My father, mother and sister were 45, 39 and 15 respectively at the time I entered the world. My parents are now 78 and 72 and seem pretty happy about their 33-year old decision.

I graduated from the University of South Florida in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Shortly after graduation, I began my professional career at a steel casting company based in Treasure Island, Florida. After working there for 8 years and getting my proverbial feet wet, I accepted a great opportunity to work for a local, major manufacturer of satellite components. The work is challenging and will hopefully keep me busy for years to come.

From engineering to palms, see the connection??!! It all started in 1994 when my girlfriend at the time and I spent a weekend in Ft. Myers. At that time, a palm was either a cabbage palm or something that got read. One trip down McGregor Boulevard changed me forever. Not two weeks later, I had a couple of three gallon Royal palms of my own. After straying in the desert for three years, I found the IPS and the Central Florida Chapter in 1997. The Royals have since been joined by about 175 varieties of palms in 50 genera. How does this all fit onto a quarter acre in south Tampa's Interbay Peninsula? Fortunately, most are young and manageable but the search is on for some large, cheap tract of land in a freeze-less, frost-proof location. Hmmm……that rules out mainland Florida.

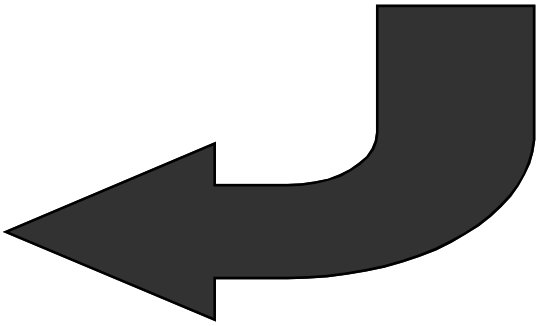
Tom Barrese

I'm Tom Barrese a 15-year Florida resident and candidate for West Coast vice president. Originally from Detroit, Michigan, I moved to Florida to be able to garden year round. I have 25 years of gardening experience ranging from houseplants, vegetable gardening and landscaping to palms and cycads.

I became interested in palms in 1988 when I discovered a small mule palm (and several more since) that had naturalized in my backyard. Although I had no prior knowledge of palms, I guessed that it might be a hybrid of the Queens and Pindo that grew on my property. After a little research about palms to see if my guess was correct, I was hooked on palm culture and joined the International Palm Society. My interest expanded to cycads after joining the CFPACS in 1997.

I am currently growing over 85 species of palms and 11 species of cycads in various stages of development from seedling to mature and now actively cross pollinate my Queens and Pindo rather than rely on the generosity of Mother Nature.

I am pleased with the good work the Society does for its members and by funding research programs around the world and would like to see the Society sponsor public awareness and planting programs here is Florida. One only has to travel to Las Vegas or Palm Springs (where palms are the primary landscape element) to realize the actual lack of palms in the Florida landscape. After all, more palms cannot only add more beauty to our landscape but also bring more tourist revenues to our paradise.



BALLOT
on opposite page

ERRATA!

Mea culpa. Here we go again. My Sharp-Eyed Critic has scolded me (yet once more) for my referring in the caption on page 21 (September) to the *Borassus* at the Michaels' in Wabasso as *B. flabellifer*. Surely I must know better, those black leaf bases, etc. Folks, it's *B. aethiopum* in case you noticed, too.

The same rigorous analyst of my humble prose has also pointed out that in the IPS article I mentioned that the oil refineries, as well as the locals, destroyed the mangrove communities in West Africa in which are now growing that horrific exotic, *Nypa fruticans*. (Oh, would that it would grow in Central Florida, to be able to see it other than at Fairchild!)

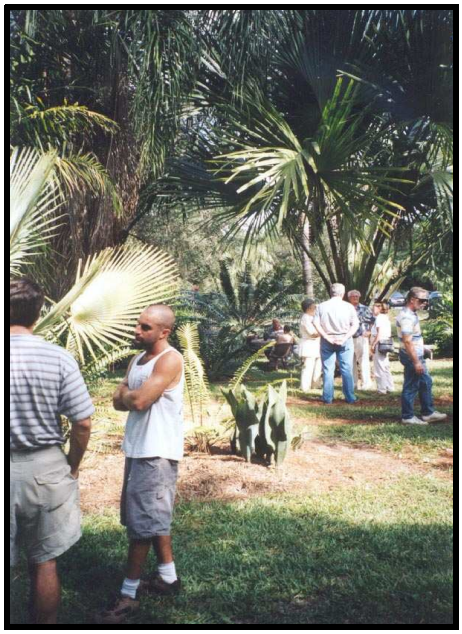
Also on page 21 of the same issue was a picture of a charming small *Cryosophila stauracantha*. Not so, says its owner, the proprietor of Borassic Park: it's *C. warscewiczii*, a name easier to pronounce than to spell. Maybe taxonomists—no, Myrtle, nothing to do with taxes—should be more cautious in the use of Polish surnames for species? Two more of the pictures on the same page (not bad, three out of four wrong) have incorrect captions. The variegated hybrid *Veitchia X Wodyetia* picture was taken by Geoff Stein at Nong Nooch in Thailand; Chuck Grieneisen must be puzzled, not recalling having taken such a picture at Selby in Sarasota—as the caption announces. Well, at least the fourth picture, of *Syagrus botyrophora*, seems to be correctly identified or, at least, no one has so far objected. How can I explain all these missteps? The easiest defense is to plead invalidism, weakness of body (we won't say of mind), vigor sapped in the strain of producing the September issue when scarcely risen from my sickbed. . . .

The contributor of seeds to the Seed Bank was not the eminent Andrew Henderson of New York Botanical Garden fame, but new member Andrew Hendrickson of Tampa. (Not the Editor's mistake, it should be noted, in self-defense.)

Readers who looked closely will have spotted some pieces of sentences floating by a couple of pictures. This was not done for artistic effect or to see if you were paying attention, but was a byproduct of placing pictures within existing text frames (you thought it was all done by magic—not manually and painstakingly—am I revealing the secrets of my sleight-of-hand?). Not painstaking enough, alas, and should have been caught by me had I not been in enfeebled state.

The objector to my using small quotations from "that French guy," points out that the wording to his protest was "that dead French guy." The reference is to LaRochefoucauld, dead Frenchmen being (apparently) more objectionable than live Frenchmen. But there have also been murmurings from quarters that I think not politic to ignore. So *au revoir*, LaRochefoucauld (sorry, René). Instead, I will insert—as long as supplies hold out—quotations from American high school student writing, all original and arresting, provided by Sam Sweet. Feel free, all of you, to send me fillers (in English and suitable for printing in a family-oriented publication, such as *The Palmateer*). One idea, simple enough to accomplish, is to give a list of palm parts with definitions. What is the lamina?

—John Kennedy



Palm talk at the Hoopers' at the October 26th meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 20, 2002 to October 26, 2002

INCOME:

Seed sales……	1,985.31
Membership Dues……	320.00
Donations to CFPACS ……..…….……..	0.00
Public Sales (Fall USF)……..…..…..…….....	282.45
Private Sales (Summer meeting) …….	262.73
Back Issue Sales……	0.00
Total _____	2,580.49

EXPENSES:

Publications (v. 22, no. 3 and future one)…..……..	1,157.76
Computers and Software ……..	0.00
Grants……..……..	0.00
Miscellaneous (postcard)…….……..	93.93
Total _____	1,250.69

INCOME - EXPENSES ……. .1,329.80

Bank balance 07/20/02…… 22,785.54
Bank balance 10/24/02…… 23,963.18

Net increase……. 1,204.64

(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)
……. 7,365.03 (current value, close of market 10/24/2002)
(4,406.22 Washington, 2,958.81 banked from sale of Putnam shares)
Office equipment and tent…… 1,595.00
Computers and software……..… 2,544.41 minus depreciation

—Mike Merritt, Treasurer

Third Quarter Board Meeting Minutes Oct 26/02

The third quarter board meeting was held at the residence of Jerry Hooper on Oct 26/02. The seedbank position was discussed whether it should be an appointed position and if they should be a board member. Also the guidelines to the seedbank job were discussed.
A new membership chair was also discussed. Who would fill it and its guidelines and demands were talked about.
Our website was also brought up. It was felt it needed more regular updates.
The treasurer's report is as follows. Total income from seed sales, membership dues and plant sales were $2,580. Expenses due to publications of our Palmateer and mailing out postcard reminders were $1329 for a net increase of $1204.
Fourth quarter meeting places were also discussed.

--Chuck Grieneisen, Secretary

We invite you to join the fellowship of the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society. An interest, a curiosity to know more about these fabled plants is the only prerequisite for admission to this exclusive group. Had William Bartram only known about us, he would surely have become a member, if only to receive The Palmateer quarterly. The initiation charge is a modest $10 for one year, or $25 for three years. The membership form is below on this page. Kindly supply the requested information; mail your check (made out to CFPACS) to the Membership Chair.

Please print

Name_____
Street_____
City_____
State,
Zip_____
Email_____
Phone (area)_____

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
(see address on opposite page)

A 7-year-old Burretiokentia viellardii *takes the afternoon sun in a Vero Beach "garden." It was planted from a 1-gallon pot. The top of the spear is 7 feet above the ground, the trunk 8 inches across at the base. Behind and overhead is a large bald cypress.*

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

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

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

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

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When you move, change your phone number (or your e-mail address), please notify the Membership Chair. *The Palmateer* is sent to the address of record. Seed Bank offers are sent to the e-mail address of record.

Your membership expires on December 31st (unless you have made a multi-year payment). RENEW FOR 2003! Send your check to the Membership Chair today: $10 for one year, $25 for three years.

Note: Elected board members include the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the three area vice presidents.
Appointed board members include the Membership Chair and the Editor. In case of vacancies in the elected offices, an appointment can be made by vote of the other elected members.

This Ceratozamia de-
boensis *is one of the many cycads admired by visitors on Oct. 26th in the West Melbourne garden of Jerry and Mary Ann Hooper. (Photo by Chuck Grenciesen)*

The Palmateer

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society
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