RENEW your membership for '03—or the June issue will *not* arrive!

The Palmateer

Volume 23, Number 1 *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* *March, 2003*

March 29th in St. Pete: 2 Stops

The last time we all went to St. Pete, it was our chapter's turn to sponsor Palm Fest (2001). Except for the banquet, nosing around Phil Stager's plantings, and enjoying Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum on the bay, we spent most of our time elsewhere, mostly across the bridge in Tampa and Lutz.

It's all in St. Petersburg this time around. We make two scheduled stops: Sunken Gardens, an old tourist attraction, and The Florida Botanical Gardens, a new destination that's actually in Largo. The Board will meet at Sunken Gardens at 9 a.m.; all members are invited attend. The general meeting begins at 10.

Here is a description of Sunken Gardens, taken from its website, as the adjectives and adverbs make evident:

(Continued on page 2)

January 25th: cold proving ground at Leu Gardens—chilled visitors above, chilled palms below. Story begins at left. *—Photos by Chuck Grieneisen*

January 25th Meeting in Orlando

Baby, It's Cold Outside. . .at Leu

By John Kennedy

The most informal meeting—ever?—for the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society took place on January 25th at Harry P. Leu Gardens. In the parking lot. There was, you see, no room at the inn (actually, all the meeting rooms had been booked). Since the meeting originally scheduled for December had fallen through, the Board was determined to meet somewhere in Orlando in January. The options were limited to non-existent, so we are grateful to Eric Schmidt—the arranger-in-chief and head palm person at Leu—for getting permission for us, on very short notice, to meet in a distant parking lot at the garden.

The times of the meeting were pushed back an hour, on the same morning, because of frosty temperatures in the Orlando area. The Board had been supposed to meet at 9 a.m., and the general meeting to begin at 10. Instead, at the rescheduled starting time for the Board meeting, the temperature had risen almost to 50: a brilliant, sunny fall day in the

(Continued on page 4)

Ray Hernández Is New CFPACS President; Tom Barrese New West Coast Vice President!

The vote is in. Both candidates were unopposed. So saith Charlene Palm, to whom ballots were to be sent. The closing date was January 31st.

Torn Copy? No Copy of *The Palmateer*?

If your copy of the newsletter arrived torn and damaged or didn't arrive at all, let the Editor or the President, Ray Hernández, know about it, ASAP. Several members have sent to the Editor the plastic-windowed envelope containing only the back page of the December issue that arrived from the U. S. Postal Service, with a printed apology for "inconveniencing" the recipient. Overseas members already have their copies mailed in an envelope, and we will now be doing this domestically as well. (Were we paranoid, we would interpret this as hostility on the part of the post office, but we have larger minds and ascribe damage to incompetence.)

CONTENTS

Renew your 2003 membership!

March 29: St. Petersburg

(Continued from page 1)

"Sunken Gardens is a delightful contrast to the fast paced world outside its historic, vine covered walls. The garden has been an historic, world renowned attraction in St. Petersburg since 1935. Its mixture of tropical gardens and wildlife has entranced visitors for over 65 years. This unique, four acre garden, with meandering paths, drops 15 feet below street level and has unique specimen tropical trees and flowering plants.

"The property was purchased in 1903 by George Turner, Sr., who was an avid gardener, to plant vegetables and fruit trees. He drained a small lake to plant in the rich, muck soil. Area residents enjoyed strolling around his garden on Sunday afternoons and by the early 1920's Mr. Turner was charging a nickel to tour his garden. In 1935 the garden was officially opened as Turners Sunken Gardens and this historic attraction was born.

"Sunken Gardens combines the lush tropical gardens with flowing ponds and waterfalls. Flamingoes, turtles and other tropical birds enjoy the quiet of this serene garden. Visit the Butterfly Aviary, with 300 native butterflies, and the Gift Shop display in the Rainforest Information Center."

The second stop—after lunch—is The Florida Botanical Gardens, a new 150-acre garden in the middle of densely populated Pinellas County. There is a variety of plants: we'll get to see just how many palms there are. This will be the site of the ever-popular sale of palms, cycads, and a few other tropicals.

(Continued on page 3)

March 29: The Schedule

9-10 a.m., Board meeting, Sunken Gardens
10-11:30 a.m., Tour Sunken Gardens
1825 4th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33704
(Phil Stager will give tour.)
11:30-1 p.m., Lunch on your own; 4th Street North has every fast-food franchise known to American ingenuity (calorie-free!)
1-2:30 p.m. Tour The Florida Botanical Gardens
12175 125th Street North
Largo, FL 33774
(No guided tour.)
2:30 p.m., Plant sale

Note: Admission to Sunken Gardens is $4; $3 for children 3-12. No admission is charged for The Florida Botanical Gardens, though donations are accepted.

Directions to Sunken Gardens

From the North

Take I-75 South to I-4 West to I-275 South. Follow I-275 South through Tampa, across the Howard Frankland Bridge and through St. Petersburg. Exit at 22nd Ave North. Go east (under the overpass) and proceed east to 4th St. North. Turn right (south) at 4th St. North and Sunken Gardens will be on the left at 1825 4th St. North.

From the East

Take I-4 West to I-275 South. Follow I-275 South through Tampa, across the Howard Frankland Bridge and through St. Petersburg. Exit at 22nd Ave North. Go east (under the overpass) and proceed east to 4th St. North. Turn right (south) at 4th St. North and Sunken Gardens will be on the left at 1825 4th St. North.

From the South

Take I-75 North to I-275 North. Follow I-275 North over the Sunshine Skyway Bridge and through St Petersburg. Exit at 22nd Ave North. Exit right (east) and proceed to 4th St. North. Turn right (south) at 4th St. North and Sunken Gardens will be on the left at 1825 4th St. North.

To The Florida Botanical Gardens

From Sunken Gardens exit right (north) onto 4th St. North and follow until reaching 22nd Ave North. At 22nd Ave turn left (west) and follow to I-275 North. Merge right onto I-275 North and follow to Exit 30 (Roosevelt Blvd or State Road 686) for Largo/ Clearwater. Follow Roosevelt Blvd north or west to State Road 688 (Ulmerton Road). Follow Ulmerton west to 121th St. and turn left (south) and then right onto 125th St.. The gardens will be located on your left at 12175 125th Street.

There are many places to eat along 4th Street North near Sunken Gardens.

—Ray Hernández

March 29: St. Petersburg

(Continued from page 2)

Needless to say (though I'll say it), the people at the meeting will be, as always, the main attraction. We're good folks, and we don't see each other often enough. Plan to come. Introduce yourself to anyone you don't know.

Directions at right.

—John Kennedy

RENEW your 2003 membership today!

January Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

Piedmont or in Pennsylvania, but not exactly what folks spend big money to come to Florida for. (Ah, but how cold might it be at the same hour in the Piedmont or in Pennsylvania?) Since there were no seats available, other than one white plastic chair awarded to the Editor as the most decrepit person present, Board members sat on the grass in a semi-circle, reminiscent of a Scout meeting. New president Ray Hernández led the group through a full agenda of items; a report on the Board meeting may be found on page 25.

By 11:00, quite a few members had appeared in the parking lot. Eventually, more than 50 people attended, wearing their parkas, sled dogs panting nearby. It was, of course, the lure of palms and cycads for purchase that brought people into the invigorating air of Leu's parking lot.

After all, the temperature by 1:00 p.m.—the time fixed for the plant auction and sale--was in the mid-50s and would be, by the time everyone left, nearly 60. Dave Witt performed, as previously, his function as auctioneer

At 2:00 p.m., Eric Schmidt took a big crowd on a tour of the palm collection. Some damage to palms was noted, but all seemed cosmetic rather than life-threatening. The live oak canopy protected those palms beneath it.

Especially impressive was a completely undamaged *Dypsis manajarensis* aka *D. madagascariensis* 'Mahajanga' by Eric. Thestandard form, near the other, showed considerable foliage burn.

After 4:00 p.m., the last stragglers drove away. As usual, there were waving fronds visible in the windows of all departing vehicles.

Surely, the March meeting—March 29th in St. Pete—will have more congenial temperatures and the Board may even meet indoors! (President Ray?)

The parking lot at Leu before everyone else arrived. New CFPACS president Ray Hernández (right), rallies the morale of the troops. From left, treasurer Mike Merritt; East vp Diana Grabowski; (in ridiculous red hat) the Editor; Mark Grabowski; Jerry Hooper; Mike Dahme (in shoes and socks).
—Photo by Chuck Grieneisen

A Burretiokentia hapala *leaf, spotted with cold damage—which looks cosmetic—in the collection at Leu.* *—Photo by Chuck Grieneisen*

Palms of Arunachal Pradesh & Kerala (India) and Sri Lanka

By Andrew Henderson
New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458

The success of the *Field Guide to the Palms of the Americas*, written by myself, Gloria Galeano and Rodrigo Bernal and published in 1995, inspired me to start writing a companion volume. This, provisionally entitled *Field Guide to the Palms of the Old World*, will be published in two volumes. The first volume will include all the naturally occurring palms of Africa, Madagascar, India, the Indian Ocean islands, and Indochina as far south as the border between Thailand and Malaysia; and the second volume will cover all of Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Guinea, Australia, and the Pacific Ocean islands.

Draft treatments for most genera are already complete, and field work has been carried out in Cameroon, Madagascar, the Seychelles, Australia, and Papua New Guinea. My most recent trip, to India and Sri Lanka, was supported by a generous grant from the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society. The purpose of the trip was to check the draft treatments against palms in the field, and to take photographs.

I arrived in India in early November. Before arriving in India I had been in contact with Mr. Shri Dhar, a long time IPS member. Mr. Dhar was really extremely helpful in organizing my trip, and I would not have seen nearly as many palms without his help. Mr. Dhar *[a CFPACS member]* met me in Delhi and later I stayed at his house in Calcutta and admired his fine collection of palms.

On the morning flight from Calcutta to Tejpur, in Assam, one gets a spectacular view of the mighty Brahmaputra river, the Himalayan foothills, and huge snow covered peaks of the Himalayas in the distance, along the border with China. Far off in the distance is Kanchanjunga, the highest mountain in India. This

(Continued on page 6)

Plectocomia sp.*, on the road to Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh.*

Livistona jenkinsiana*, near Daporijo, Arunachal Pradesh, India.*

Henderson: India and Sri Lanka

(Continued from page 5)

part of India, in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, has been out of bounds for visitors for some time, but is now opening up. On arrival in Tejpur I was met by Dr. Bipin Balodi of the Botanical Survey of India, and we were off on a tremendous ten day tour of the Himalayan foothills of Arunachal Pradesh.

Along the road from Tejpur to North Lakhimpur, and from Tejpur to Kaziranga, on flat land in the floodplain of the Brahmaputra are few palms. *Cocos nucifera* and *Areca catechu* are commonly planted around houses, and less commonly *Phoenix sylvestris* and *Borassus flabellifer*. There are three rattans. *Calamus leptospadix* is very common in ditches along the road, often forming colonies of short stemmed palms. Very occasional are plants of *Calamus floribundus.* Also near the roadsides, but not common except near Tejpur, is *Daemonorops jenkinsiana.*

As soon as one leaves the floodplain of the Brahmaputra River one sees *Wallichia*, even at low elevations, such as near Tejpur. It is easily the most common palm, and almost always grows on impossibly steep slopes. On the road from North Lakhimpur to Daporoji we saw numerous plants. Only one was seen with an old inflorescence and this was elongate. However, on the road from Tippi we saw an almost identical plant with a much shorter inflorescence. A third *Wallichia* we saw near Ziro had the leaves irregularly arranged at the base of the leaf. I don't know what species this was. Local folks say that *Wallichia disticha*, the species commonly seen in cultivation, is usually cut for the edible pith in the center of the stem, and is rarely seen.

There are two other caryotoid palms. *Caryota maxima* is scattered on the hills near Ziro and Tippi, and is occasionally seen on the floodplain. It has a tall solitary stem and tiers of leaves, with three leaves in a tier. The other caryotoid, *Arenga,* we only saw a few times, beyond Ziro. I took this to be *Arenga micrantha*, with short stems and large leaves with regularly arranged leaflets. One plant we saw was epiphytic.

As soon as one leaves the plain and enters the mountains on the road to Ziro, one sees *Phoenix rupicola*. It grows on extremely steep, rocky slopes, where there are no other trees, and forms large colonies. It has a solitary stem and regularly arranged leaflets. We saw short-stemmed plants flowering, but more typically it had stems to 8 m tall. It is a real beauty. There are a few *Livistona jenkinsiana* near houses, but the largest populations we saw were near Daporijo. Here they were very abundant and much used for thatching. The only arecoid palm we saw, apart from the cultivated *Areca catechu*, was a species of *Pinanga*. This was quite common near Ziro and Tippi, but inconspicuous.

On the road to Ziro we saw a *Plectocomia*. It was an enormous plant with regularly arranged leaflets silvery on the lower surface, cirri, and very thick stems. Way off in the distance I thought I could see one with a huge terminal inflorescence, not pendulous but candelabra shaped. Beyond Ziro was another *Plectocomia* with irregularly arranged leaflets. We saw one with clustered stems and huge juvenile leaves, bifid and silvery on the lower surface.

We saw about 12 species of *Calamus. Calamus erectus* was common. It has a short, free-standing stem and does not climb. It also has very large fruits, and dis-

(Continued on page 7)

Phoenix rupicola*, the Cliff Date Palm, in the mountains of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.*

Henderson: India and Sri Lanka

(Continued from page 6)

tinctive inflorescence bracts which tatter as the fruits develop. The next most distinctive *Calamus* was *C. inermis*. This has a cirrus and looks more like a *Plectocomia* than a *Calamus*. *Calamus acanthospathus* grew at about 1000 m elevation had a flagellum, slightly irregularly arranged leaflets, and was climbing. *Calamus latifolius* was photographed from a plant cut near the road. It had a cirrus, very spiny sheath with flattened yellow spines, and irregularly arranged, broad leaflets.

I said goodbye to Dr. Balodi and his colleagues, and continued on the next stage of my journey. I left Tejpur with many happy memories of those spectacular mountains and their palms.

From Tejpur I flew to southwestern India, via Calcutta and Bangalore. Dr. C. Renuka of the Kerala Forest Research Institute was my host in Kerala. Near Trichur, and between Trichur and Cochin the two common palms are *Cocos nucifera* and *Areca catechu*. There are thousands of them planted around houses. The road from Peechi to Natt starts through rice fields, and there are numerous *Borassus flabellifer*. Noticeable is that the bases of the stems of most plants are not erect but rather curved, as if they started life as decumbent plants. The stems of younger plants are covered with persistent leaf bases.

Entering the forest at around 500 m, the most common palm, along steep water courses, is *Arenga wightii*. Most plants are seen as stemless juveniles but a few were reproductive. Next we found *Phoenix loureirii*, growing on steep rocky, grassy slopes, apparently in places where the soil is too thin for trees.

We saw five *Calamus*. *Calamus delessertianus* is quite common. It has solitary stems, no ocrea, and a poorly developed knee. In the same area were a few plants of *Calamus vattayila*, with few, broad leaflets per side. *Calamus thwaitesii* was common at slightly lower elevations, distinctive here by its irregularly arranged leaflets. It has rings of dense, flattened spines on the sheath. *Calamus hookerianus* is a clustered palm with regularly arranged leaflets and the spines much longer at the sheath apex. They are quite impressive. *Calamus travancoricus* is a delicate climber with a few, distantly clustered leaflets per side, the apical few in a fan shape.

From Trichur I took the night train and arrived early in Trivandrum for the short flight to Colombo in Sri Lanka. *Areca catechu* and *Cocos nucifera* are commonly planted everywhere, but *Caryota urens* is also very common. Occasional in disturbed areas is *Phoenix pusilla*. It is a large solitary stemmed palm. In a forest near Ingiriya we saw plants occurring apparently naturally in the forest, more spindly than ones in disturbed places. Also in this forest we saw *Areca concinna*, a smaller palm with clustered stems and small inflorescences. Also here was *Calamus pachystemonus*, a slender rattan with green stems, few spines, and four leaflets per leaf, the basal two spreading and the apical two joined. It had very small, brown fruits. Also here was *Calamus rivalis*. Earlier in the day we had seen this at Harabakanda. It had leaflets in remote clusters, not regularly arranged as the description says. It has flagella and the spines in rings. Also in this locality we saw *Calamus deliculatus* with regularly arranged, linear leaflets, and flat spines with hairs.

Not India, but Puerto Rico—member Edwin Guzmán, wife Migdalia and their five niños *(Edwin, Jonathon, John Michael, two-week old baby Mahebae Marie)—lend scale to a dying* Metroxylon salomense *at USDA, Mayagüez. Fruits had started to fall, but were hollow and non-viable. At left appears to be a dead palm of the same species.*

The high point of the trip to Sri Lanka was a visit to Sinharaja, a forest reserve in the southwestern part of the country. We saw three *Calamus*. The common small one is *Calamus digitatus*. Also very common here are

(Continued on page 8)

What Happened?

A tale of woe, except maybe it was a comedy of errors. The December issue of *The Palmateer* appeared in January, sort of. Nearly every possible delay occurred. Here's the schedule of the tragedy/comedy:

December 1: the CD-ROM containing the issue was picked up by Mark Van Antwerp from Neil Yorio, at whose Indian Harbour Beach house the Editor had left it. Mark handles the printing of the newsletter on the printer leased from Xerox at his Melbourne business.

December 3: Mark calls the Editor in late afternoon. The CD-ROM won't open. Consternation. The Editor's in-house computer consultant, Matthew Kennedy, zeroes in on a parental mistake. In inserting a title on the issue (limited to 11 letters) for the CD-ROM, the Editor has put *Palma 16*, signifying the 16th issue of *The Palmateer* of his editorship; we don't mention two prior issues best forgotten, but under another title. The error is the space between the word and the number. The computer, not as intelligent as many seem to think, believes that here are two documents and can't open either one. The Editor saves the issue once more to a new CD-ROM as *Palma16*, and drives up to Melbourne into the rush hour to deliver the issue to its printer. Mark puts the CD-ROM into his computer; it opens, and he prints an advance copy for the Editor. Wonderful.

December 6: Mark calls the Editor in late afternoon. His printer wants to print a larger sheet with two pages on it, as a commercial printer would do. Problem? The Editor, wishing sharper, better color pictures had switched the color to Pantone colors from the RGB colors previously used. (Mark's suggestion, so his fault, right?) Unfortunately, Microsoft Publisher—the program in which the newsletter is printed—recognizes Pantone colors as a job of commercial printing, and won't permit single-page printing. Mark has called Microsoft which acknowledges that this is a problem in Publisher, one for which (at present) no solution is possible. Microsoft regrets.

December 7: The Editor goes back on the computer to switch the color back to RGB, then saves to yet another CD-ROM, and drives to Melbourne from Vero Beach once more (third time in a week, only 45 miles one-way).

December 18: The Editor calls Mark, not having heard anything more on the progress of the issue. Mark has been unable, due to press of business, to complete the printing. The Editor will come up to Melbourne on the next Saturday to collate the issue. Mike Dahme, whose particular province this has been, is still busily planting *Pigafetta filaris* at his Puerto Rican *plantación*.

December 21: Saturday, the Editor appears at Two Men and a Truck to attack the stacks of uncollated pages. Three hours later, by noon, he has assembled and stapled 75 copies. Mark's wife, Brenda, closes the office at noon; she and Mark leave for Tampa on the first leg of their Christmas trip Up Home to Michigan. The office will open again on January 2.

January 2: The office opens again, this time with Mike Dahme on duty. The printing goes slowly onward. First priority mailing is to Central Florida members, in each of whose copies is an insert announcing the meeting at Leu Gardens on January 25. Copies are sent later to other Florida addresses, then to U. S. members outside the state, and, finally, to foreign members, as late as January 18.

The prolonged agony of the December issue is, we trust, an anomaly that won't occur again. We will not have this happen again. What became evident, along with the slowness in the printing, is how much Mike Dahme has contributed to the smooth production of *The Palmateer*. He has collated, stapled, folded, taped, affixed labels, and taken to the post office for mailing every single issue. Without his being available to volunteer time and energy, there was no immediate substitute(s) to do that time-consuming and tiresome job. Given the time frame, and the Christmas season, it was not possible to contact potential volunteers on such short notice. And, indeed, there was little room at Mark's business for several people to work on the issue; it would be necessary to find another location.

Mike has agreed to work on all issues save the December issue: he will have departed already for Sanford (Pan American Airways) en route to San Juan or Aguadilla. He has delayed his March departure to help with this issue. What is needed, among other things, is a crew of volunteers to help assemble the issue. When

(Continued on page 10)

Henderson: India & Sri Lanka

(Continued from page 7)

two large palms with cirri and pendulous leaflets. Both can grow right next to each other. *Calamus zeylanicus* has distant rings of spines, while *Calamus ovoideus* has the spines in oblique ridges and these are very closely spaced, giving the sheath a densely spiny appearance. The most spectacular palms of Sinharaja are *Oncosperma fasciculatum* and *Loxococcus rupicola*, growing together on a steep ridge in the forest. They both occur on very steep, rocky slopes.

MEXICO (left)
indialantic (below)

Above, Sabal uresana *growing in habitat near Guaymas, Sonora. Below,* Sabal rosei *in the Mexican state of Sinaloa, south of Mazatlán. Others of the same species are nearby.*
(Photos by Bill Black)

Scott Ward's Caryota rumphiana *that contributed so valiantly to the seed bank. Below, closeup with Scott.* *(Photos by John Martin)*

The fountain of leaves in the center of the picture is Dypsis madagascariensis 'Mahajanga,' as *seen—virtually undamaged—during the January meeting at Leu. A nearby standard version of the same species was described by one visitor as "fried" by temperatures in the upper 20s. At far left, barely visible, is* Dypsis lutescens. *The large-leaved small palm is* Beccariophoenix madagascariensis. *The Malagasy corner at Leu? (Photo by Charlene Palm)*

A spiny beauty seen on the January 25th palm tour at Leu: Astrocaryum mexicanum. *(Photo by Charlene Palm)*

ww.seedmerchant.com is CFPACS member Bob Kreisher's new business specializing in seed of palms, cycads, and other rare and interesting ornamental plants. He started his business to provide the freshest possible seed to growers and hobbyists alike. As a result, theseedmerchant.com places no restrictions on who may purchase what quantities of seed. Theseedmerchant.com also does not hold an order up while waiting for all of the seeds to be available. Orders are sent as they are available so they are always fresh. Theseedmerchant.com will find the seeds you want if they are not currently offered. We also will sometimes take interesting seed of rare and special palms and other plants in trade.
—Submitted by Bob Kreisher

What happened

(Continued from page 8)

a number of people work on it, not necessarily all at the same time, the tasks are accomplished quickly.
Potential volunteers should contact the Editor or Mike Dahme or Diana Grabowski or Charlene Palm.
Sorry about the issue, folks.

-John Kennedy

A Caribbean Palm Gem

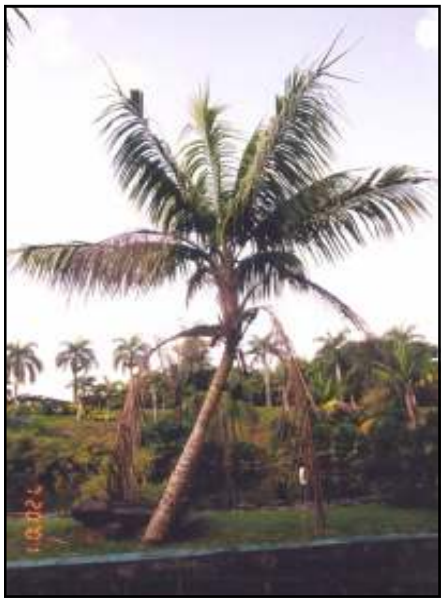
University of Puerto Rico's Río Piedras Garden

By Mike Dahme

Puerto Rico boasts two public gardens worth visiting for their palm collections though the one in the metropolitan San Juan area is by far the more interesting of the two. Located perhaps five miles from the airport, the University of Puerto Rico garden in Río Piedras was established 30 years ago and is quite large [acreage not indicated in brochure] but the palmetum section, other palms of interest, is located closest to the parking lot and so may be toured in as little as 30 minutes.

Some of the more interesting species in the collection are the native [and on P. R. quite rare] Manaca Palm [*Calyptronoma rivalis*], five individuals growing in full sun and though young already mature, *Euterpe oleracea*, a clustering species of great beauty, a *Livistona* that may be *L nitida*, *L benthamii,* groupings of *L rotundifolia* and *Neoveitchia storckii*, and three tall *Sabal mauritiiformis*.

A few years ago chapter member Francisco Bermúdez and I met the garden director and learned that he was



Upper right, Calyptronoma rivalis *and, below,* Neoveitchia storckii. *Both are growing at the Río Piedras garden of the University of Puerto Rico.*

enumerating each palm in the garden to determine identity and affix labels – few are currently identified by tags [and several that are have incorrect identification]. On my most recent trip I learned that this director has been replaced, the position being appointive by the uni president, so this effort is likely aborted although numeric labels are now attached to most palms.

Seeds of many species are produced here throughout the year and, as there is no accession data the institution has no use for them, are available for collection. One impediment, however, is the presence of the fire-ant, *Solenopsis invicta*, the same lovely exotic that graces the US southeast, many other regions of the world. Mounds are often concentrated where fresh fruits fall.

Other sections of the Río Piedras garden that may be of interest have collections of aquatic plants, heliconias, bamboos, orchids and a section called the Monet Garden for use by landscape painters. [Go Jerry go.] Tropical fruit trees are also interspersed. The garden is open to the public 7 days but is hardly visited save when school kids are bused in.

At the opposite [west] end of the island is the 100 year old U. S. D. A. facility located next to the U. of P. R.'s Mayagüez campus. Depending on traffic upwards of a three hour drive from San Juan, many visitors include

(Continued on page 14)

PALM FEST 2003

The Palm & Cycad Society of Southwest Florida
Is hosting the 4th Annual PACSOF Palm Fest!

The Palm & Cycad Societies of Florida (PACSOF) invites you to attend Palm Fest 2003 hosted by the Southwest Florida Chapter in Fort Myers, "The City of Palms." The event begins with an informal reception and check-in outside in the Riverwalk dock area of the host hotel, the Holiday Inn Riverwalk, in Ft. Myers.

Saturday morning, you will drive down historic McGregor Boulevard to the Edison Home for a tour of one of the oldest and 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 where you will walk down bromeliad-lined pathways to see a variety of rare palms, cycads, aroids and other tropical plants. We will then go to The Golf Club for a Sunday Lunch Buffet, followed by a slide presentation by Mike Harris on the "Palms of Cuba and the Dominican Republic." Then on to Pine Island for a tour of PalmCo.

For those wishing to stay over through Memorial Day, informal garden tours (Selby Gardens, the Besses' collection, and the Bishock Ranch) in Sarasota will be on the agenda – more details will be available at a later date.

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).

The Palm Fest registration fee is $75/person for Fort Myers (does not include Sarasota option). Early preregistration 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.

**** Golfers** – If you've seen enough palms and would like to play golf after the Sunday brunch, you may reserve a T-Time for after 12 pm. Reservations must be made at least one week prior. Note "Golf" on your Palm Fest Registration Fee. Golfing fees ($15 includes 18 holes & cart) are payable to The Golf Club on Sunday, May 25.
Directions and time schedules will be provided in registration packets.

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 unforeseen circumstances.

If you have any questions, or just want more information, please contact SW_FL_PalmCycad@hotmail.com.

When:
Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday -- May 23-26
Where: Fort Myers / Cape Coral area

Schedule of Events

May 23: 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Welcome reception and Palm Fest registration at Holiday Inn Riverwalk -- Ft. Myers

May 24: 9:00 am Edison Home – meet near Banyan Tree

9:30 am - Noon Edison Home tour
1:00 pm Lunch at Edison Home picnic area
7:00 pm - until Bochette Rainforest Garden tour
- Garden of Palms – downtown Fort Myers
- Plant Auction at hotel (NW Dock area)

(please bring potted palms and cycads for the auction!)
Banquet dinner @ host hotel -- Larry Noblick, Keynote Speaker

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

May 25: 10 am Palm Tree Gardens tour -- Cape Coral
1 pm Brunch at the Golf Club -- with slide show "Palms of Cuba & Dominican Republic by Mike Harris.
PalmCo tour – Pine Island

May 26: Optional Tour Selby Gardens, the Besse's collection, and the Bishock Ranch
.

Cost: There is a registration fee of $75 per person. The fee does not cover Sarasota (which is optional). Pre-registrants will receive a free Palm Fest 2003 t-shirt.

Make all checks payable to PACSOF.

Send checks to:
PACSOF Palm Fest 2003
Geri Prall c/o Avalon
1620 Cape Coral Parkway East
Cape Coral, FL 33904-7605

Host Hotel*:
Holiday Inn Riverwalk*
Ft. Myers, FL
800-664-7775

* Special hotel rate for event is $64.00 per room (mention PACSOF). You MUST register by April 23rd to get the special rate.

The idea of this event is to bring members from the various palm and cycad societies throughout Florida together to renew friendships, make new ones, talk about our shared interests in palms and cycads, and just have fun.

PLEASE BRING POTTED PALMS OR CYCADS FOR THE SATURDAY AUCTION!

If you have any questions, or just want more information, please contact SW_FL_PalmCycad@hotmail.com.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 26, 2002 to January 25, 2003

INCOME:

Seed sales……	1,574.47
Membership Dues……	340.00
Donations to CFPACS (Prescott Ward)….	25.00
Public Sales ……..…..….	0.00
Private Sales (Fall meeting) …….	809.10
Back Issue Sales……	0.00
Total _____	2,748.57

EXPENSES:

Publications (v. 22, no. 4)……..	1,343.00
Computers and Software ……	0.00
Grants (Ross Bayton)……	757.50
Miscellaneous (postcard)……	0.00
Total _____	2,100.50

INCOME - EXPENSES
…….. 648.07

Bank balance 10/24/02……	23,963.18
Bank balance 01/25/03……	24,650.55

Net increase……. 687.37

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

ASSETS:

Endowment (mutual funds)……. (purchase price)	10,000.00
……. (value at time of purchase)	9,456.26
……. (current value, close of market 01/24/2003)	7,520.87

(4,562.06 Washington, 2,958.81 banked from sale of Putnam shares)

Office equipment and tent……	1,595.00
Computers and software……..… minus depreciation	2,544.41

—Mike Merritt
Treasurer

Left, at Río Piedras, a palm that may be Livistona nitida. *This was the guess of Chuck Hubbuch, then of Fairchild, who assisted in re-identifying palms in the botanical garden. Leaflets are not split deeply enough for* L. decipiens. *The palm is a close match for the cover photo of* L. nitida *on the cover of the Livistona issue of* Palms & Cycads *(magazine of the Palm & Cycad Societies of Australia—PACSOA), #64 & 65, July-December, 1999. To the left is a royal of some kind, to the right,* Dictyosperma album*?*

Río Piedras Garden

(Continued from page 11)

a round-the-island tour in their stay and so a stop here would not be out of the way. Palms have apparently a zero priority to the managers of this facility, which is directed from Athens, Georgia, the species count having dropped precipitously in the eight ½ years that I've been visiting. [In fairness it should be mentioned that Hurricane Georges in '98 – more devastating by far than Miami's Andrew – played a role.] Per the lit provided visitors [who in these post-osama days are required to check-in for badges] the mission is to experiment with and improve germplasm of sorghum, beans, cocoa and soybeans, as well as tropical and subtropical plants [including fruit trees]. Also, there are extensive plantings of bamboo species located within the small part of the 127 acres that visitors frequent. Of the palms I would judge the two *Borassus flabellifer* [one mature, a female, will the other prove staminate?] and the massive *Arenga pinnata* and *Corypha umbraculifera* [specimens of these latter two being spontaneous naturalizations of earlier generations] of most interest: though all three of these species can be found in central Florida gardens, only in the tropics can their potential be realized.

The garden is open to the public 5 days, from 7 AM til 4 PM. Judging by the lack of entries in the sign-in log, visitors are an endangered species.

Right, an unknown single-stemmed Licuala sp. *at Río Piedras. Although the stems are short and slender, the plants are already mature.*

The Palm of the Quarter

Livistona australis, the Australian Cabbage Palm

By Ray Hernández

The central Florida winter has been long and cool so an article on *Cyrtostachys* or *Phoenicophorium* hardly seems appropriate. Therefore, in keeping with a winter type theme, this quarter's palm will be the widely adaptable yet "Floridian-underutilized" Australian Cabbage Palm. It is surprisingly better recognized amongst palm people by its Latin name *Livistona australis*.

As mentioned in Jones' *Palms in Australia*, *Livistona australis* is the most common of its genus in the Australian landscape. Like our *Sabal palmetto*, it thrives in variety of places including large population centers. It is an inhabitant of rainforests yet feels at home along streams and in larger colonies near swamps. More significantly, it thrives in the southerly areas of Australia more than any other native palm. This is a point of significance for central Florida palm growers since the southern Australian climate closely resembles central Florida in winter. When full grown, it is an impressive palm reaching heights of 40 feet. Its globular black fruit, which may take as long as 2 months to germinate, are a nice contrast to the shiny green, droopy leaves typical within this genus.

Historically, *L. australis* has been useful to the inhabitant of the continent down under. Early dwellers stripped the leaves and used them to make baskets and/or hats for protection from the sun. The cabbage, like our native *Sabal*, is edible and supposedly quite tasty. According to Jones, early Australian settlers used the trunks for slab huts or hollowed them out and used them as pig feed troughs. The hard outer wood was used by Aborigines to make spear heads and in the more modern day, for walking sticks.

***Livistona* as** a whole is quite adaptable to central Florida conditions with 75% of the genus capable of withstanding extended sub freezing temperatures (i.e. 1983, 1985 and 1989). *L. australis* is arguably however, the most cold hardy of the genus, surpassing the more widely planted Chinese Fan Palm (*L. chinensis*). In fact, *L. australis* should be more widely planted throughout central Florida with its wide adaptability to soil conditions. It is unfazed once established, at least in the author's experience, by the poor sandy soils so prevalent in our region. It seems to perform best however, in rich, moist soils, in partially shaded situations. The latter is especially true until the palm is a few feet tall at which time it better adapts to full sun exposure.

Young plants are readily available with many

Both these striking photos are Livistona australis*: the crown shot from below, and of an individual juvenile leaf, are from the website—www.pacsoa.org.au— of PACSOA (Palm & Cycad Societies of Australia)*

CFPACS members growing seeding specimens in their own yards. This is a testament to the fact that *L. australis* has and can be grown in central Florida with long term success.

UCF Spring Plant Sale in Oviedo

On April 18 and 19 our society has been invited to join the spring plant sale at the University of Central Florida campus in Oviedo. That is a *Friday* and Saturday. The times are on *Friday* the 18th at 9:00-4:00 and on Saturday the 19th from 9:00-4:00. It is free to attend, although it costs $3 for parking on Friday only. Saturday is free. **I'm looking** for vendors and participants.

Although smaller than the U.S.F sale there will be at least two vendors from our society; the Orchid Society and the U.C.F. arboretum will also have plants for sale. The arboretum usually has some great prices on lady palms.

I will also try and E-mail everyone with a partial list of what plants will be there. To get there from the main entrance take a right, then go past 2 stop signs and through one traffic light. Then left on Libra. The arboretum is there. School will be in session on Friday so parking will be crowded and cost $3.

But for the vendors, Friday is when a lot of the university faculty is doing the buying. On Saturday school is not in session, and there will be plenty of free parking. Hope to see you there! If you want to be a vendor or have any questions, E-mail me, Chuck Grieneisen at chuckfg@mpinet.net or call me, at 407-359-6276.

—Chuck Grieneisen

Close-up of a Calyptronoma rivalis *inflorescence in the Río Piedras botanical garden of the University of Puerto Rico.*

The USF Spring Plant Festival

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 12th, and Sunday, April 13th. The hours will be 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, and 10 AM 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 never 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, Chuck Grieneisen at 407-359-6276. I hope to see everyone there.

—Chuck Grieneisen

Palm and Other Sales

Leu Gardens, Orlando, March 22-23. Details at right.
South Florida Palm Society (Miami), Fairchild Tropical Garden, March 22-23.
University of South Florida, Tampa, April 12-13.
Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society , Caloosa Park, Boynton Beach, April 12-13.
Caloosa Park is at 35th Ave., south of Woolbright Rd. and north of Atlantic Ave.; both are exits off I-95. Atlantic Ave. is a turnpike exit.
University of Central Florida, Oviedo, April 18-19 (Friday & Saturday).
Heathcote Botanical Gardens, 210 Savannah Rd., Fort Pierce, May 3. Savannah Rd. is just south of Sabal Palm Plaza on U. S.#1.

LEU GARDENS SPRING SALE

Our chapter will be participating in the annual plant sale at Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando.
Sale dates are Saturday March 22nd from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday March 23rd from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
As usual, there will be NO ADMISSION FEE. We will have plenty of palms & cycads for sale plus all the free "advice" your ears can stand. Please stop by and see us - if you don't who will ???

—Dave Witt

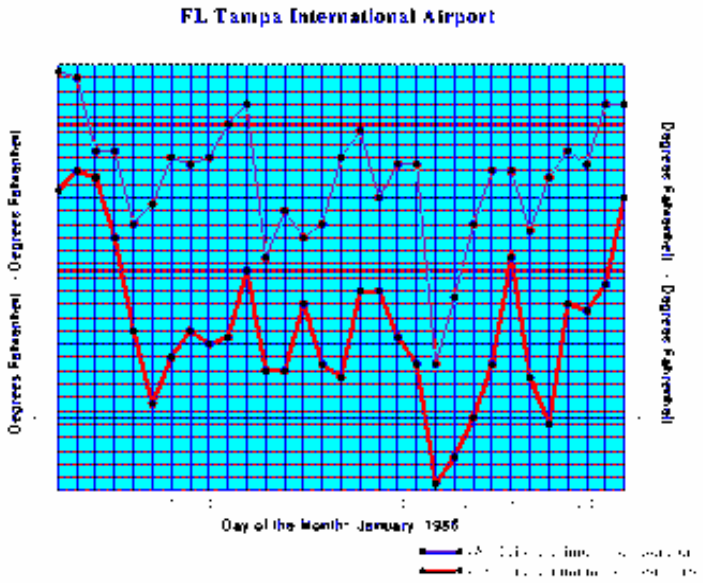
A Different Kind of Freeze

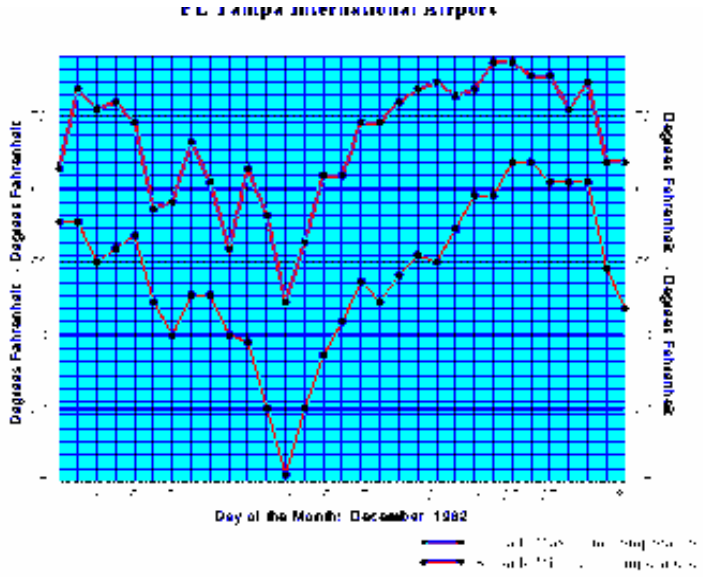
YET MORE COLD DAMAGE IN ORLANDO

By Dave Witt
The first half of the above title refers to the type of cold air mass that invaded the central Florida region last month (Jan. 24-25th to be exact). For what was the first time in ten winters of coddling palms here, my little plantation of paradise was subjected to a true advective freeze instead of radiational cooling and the accompanying frost that forms with it. For people unfamiliar with the two terms here's a quick description: advective cold is wind driven, usually originating from the Arctic and it arrives fast, nearly too fast for our local weather gurus to predict with any precision. It's not uncommon to observe the temperature drop as much as 40-50 degrees overnight from the previous day's high. The cold air pushes its way into every part of the terrain: hills, valleys, swamps, scrub plains, forests, etc. No frost forms as the wind mixes the air and keeps it from doing so. Plant damage occurs from being subjected to below freezing temperatures. Here the extent of the damage is almost always a direct correlation on how long it stays below 32 degrees (or the plant's individual threshold). What usually follows the advective cold is radiational cooling. The next night after the advective cold has pushed on out to sea, the air is still, and there is little to no cloud cover to trap ground heat. Thus it is radiated away into the sky. No wind also allows normal Florida humidity to settle back in. Windshields and vehicle roofs are among the first areas to be covered with frost. Plant foliage not adjacent to or under a protective canopy of some sort (e.g. live oaks) is susceptible to the frost forming on it, which without going into chemistry class 101 damages the leafs.
"Frost burn" as it is often termed is usually not fatal to palms but can damage them enough to inhibit a normal growth rate thus affecting the overall size of the crown, not to mention obliterate the palm's aesthetic appeal. I've had plenty of experience with radiational freezes, as it has been a near annual event here for nine of ten years. Previously any advective cold that passed through here lowered the temp to a few degrees below freezing, not nearly enough to pose a serious threat - until now …

At 1a.m. on January 24th the temp dropped to 32F. It did not rise above 32F until a little after 10a.m. The "breaking point" for most of my palms has been right around 28F. Anything below that inflicts damage, anything over that mark usually doesn't, in part because the freeze lasts only several hours. But the low for this morning was 25F and just as important - it stayed be-

(Continued on page 18)





*The graphs on this and the opposite page are from the National Weather Service (NWS) Melbourne and illustrate historic low temperatures. Two other graphs—not included here— are also of Tampa temperatures. Our President is from Tampa. Might we suspect a connection? The graph of Vero Beach temperatures could be a sop to someone else who happens to live there as inducement to include these.. But **5** Tampa graphs? What about Orlando and the official Historian of Freezes who resides and records temperatures in that delightful place?*

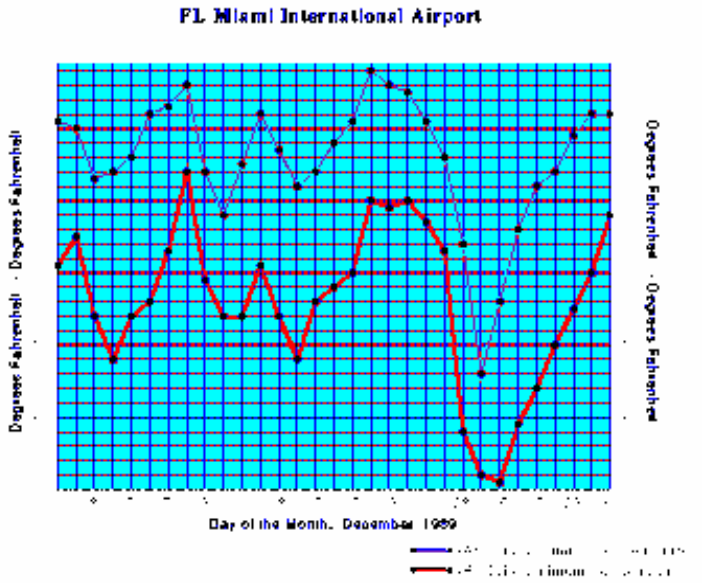
More Cold Damage

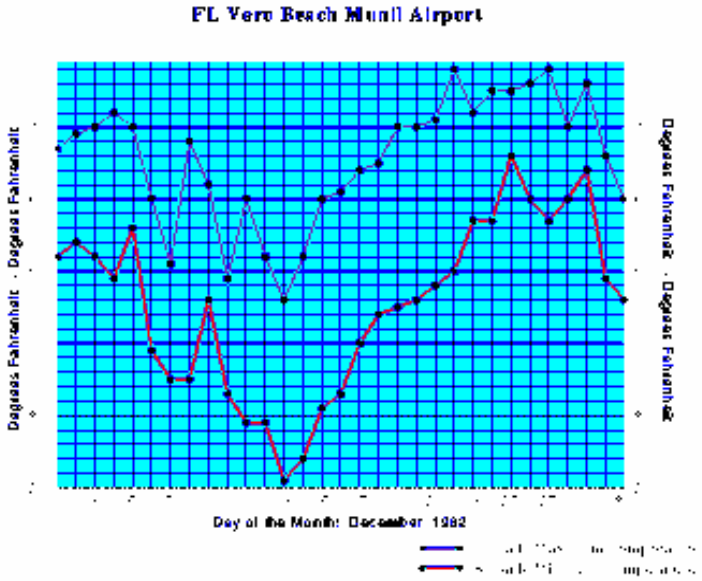
(Continued from page 17)

low 28F for about 5 hours! "Holy crap" was about the only thing I could be heard muttering to myself that morning. I have well over 100 species of palms stuffed in here, and I left about 95% of them to fend for themselves. Suffice to say the vast majority didn't care for it. But like something akin to Agent Mulder on an X-Files mission I have made it my holy grail to debunk various mystiques associated with certain species and weed out the weak sisters of the palm kingdom. And so here it is – yet another one of my interminable lists, all for you …

Acoelorraphe wrightii – 3' - none
Acrocomia aculeata – 6'– at least 50% damaged
Acrocomia 'totai' – 18' - none
Aiphanes aculeata – 8' – latent damage, over 75%
Allagoptera arenaria – 5' - none
Archontophoenix alexandrae – 2' (in pots under oak) damage confined to upper leafs
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana – 2' (in pots under oak) some spotting, little to no browning
Archontophoenix maxima 10' – over 50% damaged, will be fine
Areca catechu – 6' - protected, but

(Continued on page 19)





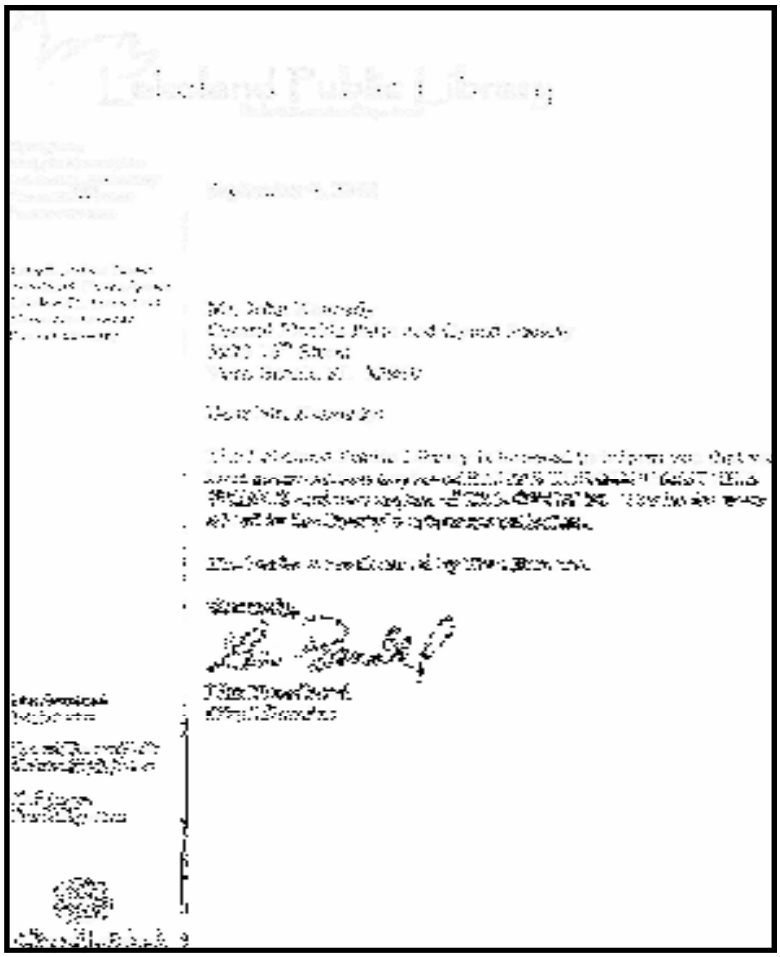
More Cold Damage

(Continued from page 18)

spotting on all fronds
Areca triandra – 5' - protected, some spotting on all fronds
Arenga caudata – 6' – approx. 75% damaged
Arenga engleri – 10' - none
Arenga micrantha – 2' - none
Arenga pinnata – 1' - major spotting on sdlgs under oak
Attalea butyracea – 3' - latent damage to only 2 of 4 leafs
Attalea humilis – 1' - none
Attalea speciosa – 2' - none
Bactris setosa – 3' - protected, none
Beccariophoenix madagascariensis – 9' – 100% damage to all but newest leaf
Bismarckia nobilis –18' none; 12' very slight to 3 NW facing leafs; 6' defoliated
Borassus aethiopum – sdlg - none
Brahea armata – 1' (potted) - none
Brahea brandegeei – 3' - none
Butia capitata – 10' - none
Caryota maxima – 2' – maybe 25% damaged
Caryota mitis – 22' - defoliated
Caryota obtusa – 2' - minor spotting
Chamaedorea benziei – 3' – damage to newest frond only
Chamaedorea cataractarum – 3' – very slight (planted in a very protected spot)
Chamaedorea glaucifolia – 5' – 75% damaged, planted under oak
Chamaedorea metallica – 3' – covered but still about 25% damaged
Chamaedorea microspadix – 2' (potted) - none
Chamaedorea plumosa – 4' - around 50% damaged, mainly lower leafs
Chamaedorea radicalis – 3' - none
Chamaedorea stolonifera – 3' – none, protected spot
Chambeyronia macrocarpa – 2' - protected, but damaged about 25%
Chamaerops humilis var. *cerifera* – 2' - none
Chuniophoenix hainanensis – 1' - none

(Continued on page 20)

Below is a letter received during the Editor's convalescence that should have been included in the December/January issue of The Palmateer.



More Cold Damage

(Continued from page 19)

Chuniophoenix nana – 1' - none
Coccothrinax argentata – 6' no damage; probable hybrid (5') very slight
Coccothrinax barbadensis – 1' - none, protected
Coccothrinax borhidiana – 1.5' (15-gal. potted) - slight spotting
Coccothrinax crinita – 2' – none
Coccothrinax inaguensis – 4' - none
Coccothrinax miraguama var. *havanensis* - 2' - none
Coccothrinax miraguama var. *roseocarpa* – 2' – none, protected
Coccothrinax scoparia – 1' - none
Coccothrinax spissa – 1' - none
Copernicia alba – 4' - none
Copernicia baileyana – 2' - none
Copernicia gigas – 1' - none
Copernicia glabrescens – 2' (10-gal. potted) – few leaves show slight damage
Copernicia macroglossa – 1.5' showed none, 1' slight damage to one leaf
Copernicia prunifera – 7' - none
Copernicia yarey – 1' - none
Corypha utan – 12' – completely defoliated
Cryosophila stauracantha – 2' – none but in a very protected spot
Daemonorops angustifolia – 3' – all stems defoliated
Dypsis ankaizinensis – 3' - defoliated
Dypsis decaryi – 15' – few healthy leaflets remain, at least 90-95% damaged
Dypsis decipiens – 2' - none
Dypsis mahajanga – 2' - at least 50% damaged
Dypsis onilahensis – 2' – none, but in a very protected spot
Dypsis utilis – 1' – none, protected
Euterpe edulis – 8' – severe, about 90% damaged; some green left
Gaussia maya – 7' – defoliated
Guihaia argyrata – 2' - none
Howea forsteriana – 3' - 1 of 5 fronds totally brown
Hybrid: *S.romanzoffiana X B.capitata* – 6' - none
Hybrid: *T.morrisii X C argentata* – 2' - none
Hyophorbe "Bottle X Spindle" hybrid" – 2' - protected, under 50% damaged
Hyophorbe lagenicaulis – 5' (15-gal.) – none, protected, pulled in garage
Hyophorbe verschaffeltii – 10' – completely defoliated
Hyphaene compressa – 1' – protected but major spotting
Hyphaene coriacea – 8' – about 75% damaged but several healthy leaves remain
Kerriodoxa elegans – 1' – none, but planted next to house
Licuala spinosa – 2' – very slight spotting/streaking
Livistona australis – 6' - none
Livistona benthamii – sdlgs. - none, protected
Livistona decipiens – 7' - none
Livistona jenkinsiana – 1' – very

(Continued on page 21)

More Cold Damage

(Continued from page 20)

slight, maybe 10% damaged
Livistona lanuginosa – 1' – very slight, maybe 10% damaged
Livistona mariae – 12' - none
Livistona nitida – 2' - none
Livistona rigida – 8' - none
Livistona rotundifolia – 1' - none, protected
Livistona saribus – 2' - none
Livistona victoriae – 2' – very slight spotting, hard to see
Phoenix canariensis – 15' - none
Phoenix loureiri – 6' - none
Phoenix reclinata (true form) 15' - some streaking & browning, under 25%
Phoenix roebelenii – 6' – none but planted next to house; specimens in open were damaged at varying levels from 100% to nothing
Phoenix rupicola – 6' - about 50% damaged
Phoenix sylvestris – 6' - none
Pinanga coronata – 2' – very slight browning despite protection
Pseudophoenix sargentii ssp. sargentii (the Fla. native)– 8' – spotting on a few fronds, 10% damage at most
Pseudophoenix sargentii ssp. saonae – 2' – slight spotting
Ravenea glauca – 2' – none (under oak)
Ravenea rivularis – 10' – foliage over roof 100% damaged, under still green
Ravenea xerophila – 2' – very slight *streaking*
Rhapidophyllum hystrix – 3' - none
Rhapis excelsa var. *Tenzan* – 6' – none (under oak)
Rhapis subtilis – 2' - none
Roystonea oleracea – 6' (10-gal.) – protected, placed in garage
Roystonea regia = *elata* – 8' – nearly defoliated, some green on newest leaf
Sabal "California Blue" – 2' - none
Sabal causiarum – 4' - none
Sabal domingensis – 9' - none
Sabal etonia (native to area) – 1' - *none*
Sabal mauritiiformis – 10' – some green on a few fronds only
Sabal minor var. miamiensis – 1' - *none*
Sabal rosei – 1' (potted) - none
Sabal uresana – 1' - none
Sabal yapa – 4' - none
Schippia concolor – 3' - none
Serenoa repens (white form) – 3' - none
Syagrus amara – 8' – nearly defoliated, some green on newest two leafs
Syagrus cearensis – potted sdlg. - protected, none
Syagrus coronata - 6' – nearly defoliated, some green leaflets remain
Syagrus romanzoffiana "Santa Catarina" – 25', 12', 9' – all undamaged
Syagrus sancona – 9' – some green on newest leaf only, near defoliation
Syagrus schizophylla – 2' – slight streaking/spotting, planted under oak
Syagrus vagans – 1.5' – some streaking, at least 50% damaged
Syagrus X 'costae' Hybrid – 12' – 100% defoliated
Thrinax excelsa – 2' – browning on only one leaf
Thrinax morrisii – 7', 6' – slight streaking on uppermost fronds only
Thrinax parviflora – 3' – over 50% damaged, under oak
Thrinax radiata – 2' – about 75% damaged
Trachycarpus fortunei – 2' - none
Trachycarpus latisectus – 1.5' - none
Trithrinax brasiliensis – 1' - none
Trithrinax campestris – 1' - none
Veitchia winin – 8' - defoliated
Wallichia densiflora – 2' – slight browning to upper leaves, maybe 25%
Wallichia disticha – 8' - well under 50% damaged
Washingtonia (probable) *filifera X robusta* – 25' - none
Wodyetia bifurcata – 12' - defoliated
Zombia antillarum – 1' – about 50% damaged

CYCADS
Bowenia serrulata - none/shaded
Ceratozamia hildae - none
Ceratozamia mexicana / robusta ? - none
Cycas angulata - one of 7 leafs burned, others fine
Cycas media var. *Rockhampton* - none
Cycas panzhihuaensis - none
Cycas rumphii – only several leafs browned
Cycas thouarsii – only several leafs browned
Dioon edule var. *edule* – none
Dioon edule var. *angustifolia* - none
Dioon spinulosum - minor to several leafs
Encephalartos ferox - none
Encephalartos gratus – slight overall yellowing, no browning
Lepidozamia peroffskyana - none
Macrozamia communis - none
Macrozamia diplomera - none
Zamia encephalartoides - none
Zamia fisheri = vazquezii ? – none (very surprising)
Zamia furfuracea - 50% of leaves are totally brown, 50% totally green
Zamia inermis - none, but covered
Zamia integrifolia / floridana – none, just seasonal leaf discoloration

ADDENDUM:
Enough time has passed to make some final judgments (except for latent cryptic damage), a real possibility for crownshaft palms once they begin to grow again. But that aside after reading through the list a few things jumped right out at me.
One, there were quite a few palms with much less or no damage to them from this type of cold (advective) versus the radiational (frost forming) cold. For example the foliage of *Sabal domingensis* (but not *causiarum*) will fry almost completely in heavy frost no matter the low but at 25 w/ no frost it didn't

(Continued on page 24)

From the Editor's Desk

Was January a month of fear and mourning? After so many years in which we brushed through winter with temperatures on (perhaps) the low norm, we were brought up against the climatic realities of Florida. Lulled through these years, many of us planted palm species that would have been—in the 1980s—unthinkable north of Palm Beach County. As we survey the damage that temperatures in the mid-20s brought to Orlando, Tampa, and north, we are also unhappily aware that the complete bill is not in. It will be a while yet before the all injured palms and cycads exhibit their wounds.

* * * * *

What will we learn from this? Anything? Collectors always push the envelope and, if they succeed for a time, forget that they are taking chances, and are crushed when the inevitable occurs. After the benchmark Christmas freeze of 1989—when the air of Vero Beach was filled for weeks with the smell of rotting bougainvillea, crotons, hibiscus, and—yes—palms, a local nursery went to Jacksonville and brought back a flatbed truck full of plants grown in North Florida. When the succeeding winters proved not as cold as had been feared, the North Florida plants receded into the background (or died, being unsuitable for the climate) and the tropicals from South Florida crept in once more. All this collective loss of memory has been assisted by thousands, or maybe millions, of new residents who had moved to the Sunshine State subsequently and had never watched their gardens turn brown, then black. Will these newcomers take the recent chilly unpleasantness seriously, as a warning? We'll see. (Four young coconut palms on an exposed lawn not two blocks from the Editor's palatial establishment are black.)

* * * * *

An interesting result of the January freezes—only over three or four mornings?—was a sort of Internet wailing wall. Maybe 30 or so members exchanged e-mails about temperature lows and discernible damage. Most active respondents seem to be from the Orlando, Tampa, and Sarasota areas, though there were also sad stories from Gainesville and other outposts.

Since I experienced (briefly) 30 degrees on the coldest morning and couldn't see any obvious damage from several hours exactly at freezing, I had little to contribute. I will hereby remedy this omission by telling the world that a small *Livistona rotundifolia*, with maybe eight adult leaves, planted in the open, is heavily spotted with cold damage. I am hoping, of course, that there will be no unpleasant surprises in the near future. A juvenile *Burretiokentia veillardii* seems to have some dark spots at the base of the emerging spear. I have my eye nervously on the big *Latania lontaroides* behind my house: so far, so good.

* * * * *

A website worth investigating is www.plantatlas.usf.edu. This is the Institute for Systemic Botany at the University of South Florida in Tampa, which sponsors the *Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants*, providing information on both native and exotic plants that have naturalized in the state, together with maps that show the counties where these grow. Clicking on the family Arecaceae (palms) brings up a list of 26 species. Considering the fact that there are only 11 native species (plus *Sabal X miamiensis*), this means that quite a few species are naturalized in various spots around Florida.

Unlike FLEPPC (Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council), whose classification system appears to rely largely on visual sightings (if not intuitive knowledge), the USF institute bases its information on vouchered specimens, that is, authenticated herbarium materials from clearly defined locales. The counties where a particular plant species grows are shown in green. Other counties are white. This may mean that the plant in question does not grow in that county, but also could mean that it has not yet been collected there.

On <u>this</u> listing, only two species qualify as major threats to native ecology: *Ptychosperma elegans*, the Solitaire Palm, and *Phoenix reclinata*, the Senegal Date Palm. Among the small surprises is *Livistona rotundifolia* naturalized in Dade County. Maybe not unexpected is *Acrocomia totai*, noted for several counties in the Panhandle. However, it was my impression that taxonomists had folded *A. totai* into *A. aculeata*, but—hey—we all fall foul of those guys upon occasion. Besides, not everyone agrees with Henderson on two species, that all arborescent *Acrocomia*s are automatically *A. aculeata*.

* * * * *

Your Editor has been named to the board of Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce. This is quite small---5 acres, only 3½ of which is presently developed—and it is not supported financially by either the

(Continued on page 23)

From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 22)

City of Fort Pierce or St. Lucie County (the bottom-most county in our service area). So, you can expect to see a small increase in notices of activities at Heathcote. There is, after all, a Palm Walk—rather nice, if limited—the inauguration of which in 1993 was attended by Ed and Nancy Hall. When Ed modestly declined an invitation to speak, the then-director, Lib Tobey, turned to the future Editor to offer a few words. Needless to say, I had no difficulty in doing so, waving at the young palms with donut in one hand, Styrofoam coffee cup in the other. Had there been champagne, I could have been even more eloquent.

* * * * *

If you're disappointed that there is nothing about cycads in this issue, there's a simple reason: no one sent in anything about cycads. The Editor is not himself at all knowledgeable about cycads and depends on those who are.

* * * * *

No High-school writing (Americana) fillers this time, either. The editorial filing system has placed the Sam Sweet list in a very safe place, yet to be found.

* * * * *

The problems with the December—or was it the January?—*Palmateer* highlight the need for volunteers to help get out the issue. Mike Dahme knows all the likely candidates and they can rely on being called by him in the near future. Several members received only the back page of the issue, the post office having mangled the rest. So, we are going to a safer mode, your copy now arriving in an envelope, rather than just taped shut. This should do, at least until the post office upgrades its mail handling system sufficiently to damage envelopes more efficiently than at present.

* * * * *

One member (at least) has e-mailed me that he actually liked the maxims of LaRochefoucauld that were used as filler items in the newsletter until several forceful objections were made to this entirely innocuous practice.

--John Kennedy

RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP—OR THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST *Palmateer* IN 2003

DEADLINE
For submission of material for the June issue:
MAY 16

Below, Trithrinax campestris*, with* Trachycarpus fortunei *nearby. The setting is Abbotsbury Sub-Tropical Garden on the English south coast near Weymouth, Dorset. Photo taken by Paul Moloney, a British member of CFPACS.*

Our intrepid Puerto Rican explorer and seed collector has this to say about the Sabal causiarum *(right):*
"The tallest P.R. 'hat' palm I've ever seen, ±65 feet, growing in a cow pasture (why no regeneration) in Coamo municipality, interior part of the island, but in eastern section. Only non-transplanted [specimen] I've seen anywhere away from the west end. Current property owner said her mom—died aged 89, 27 years ago—said it was a small palm when **she** *was young, making it 115 or more.*
"No one there had a clue to what it was. A neighbor said Spaniards brought it from Costa Rica 200 years ago!
"P. S. Seed collected for distribution. The palm had multiple infructescences and was in great health sexually."

More Cold Damage

(Continued from page 21)

flinch; same for most of the *Phoenix roebelenii*, and plenty of others with some green leafs left. Also a large *Pandanus utilis* (I know, not a palm) remained mostly green.

And the opposite effect happened on other palms, mainly specimens that were supposedly somewhat sheltered from the cold by being placed under an evergreen canopy. Various *Chamaedorea*, *Euterpe edulis*, *Howea*, *Wallichia densiflora* to name a few showed lots of damage, some severely.

If it had been a 25F low with no driving wind pushing the cold into & through the canopy they surely would have been fine. I think that was the biggest disappointment to me in all this. Advective cold can pretty much eliminate the microclimates you may have around your property. It seems having any sort of windbreak is the best natural protection for this type of freeze. I may have to break out a few culms of *Bambusa oldhamii* in the near future.

Some positive items for future consideration – several "newer" species performed exceptionally well in this cold – *Arenga micrantha, Dypsis decipiens*, both *Chuniophoenix spp.*, *Attalea speciosa*, *Ravenea glauca*, most every Cuban *Copernicia* as well as any of the "stiff-leafed" species of *Coccothrinax*. These all passed with flying colors as small palms, a good omen to be sure but we can't forget that small palms close to the ground are not as exposed to cold/wind as much as larger palms. In a few years if they pass this same kind of test you're liable to be seeing some of them in Home Depot's, etc. Of the larger palms planted here I was very happy with the performances of *Pseudophoenix sargentii*, again the Champion of Crownshaft Palms (for cold tolerance anyway).

Other solid results belonged to *Schippia concolor*, *Coccothrinax argentata*, *Thrinax morrisii*, and *Cryosophila stauracantha*, all denizens of the Caribbean. Other "winners" included *Licuala spinosa* and *Livistona jenkinsiana*, these with the others mentioned are all palmate palms in form.

In the pinnate category other than *Pseudophoenix,* the only other palm that did well under the circumstances was *Archontophoenix maxima,* but that's really it. Looks like if you want a well varied but cold hardy palm collection for inland central Florida, your best bet is to plant palmate.

[It's worth noting that all these palms and cycads are growing on a standard lot in a regular subdivision. There's also a house in there, somewhere. —Editor]

President's Message

Greetings to all palm lovers in the great white north of central Florida. As our former president Dave Witt pointed out in his last message, the gun is indeed pointed at me. I must first take this opportunity to apologize for the confusion associated with January's meeting. First of all, the meeting was been pushed back to January because Leu Gardens was booked solid throughout the month of December. Secondly, an untimely freeze prompted the board to push back the starting time to 1PM just days before the meeting. This last minute decision resulted from the belief that no one would want to roam the garden in 30 degree weather. The board made a concerted effort to reach everyone via e-mail, however, we were unsuccessful and many braved the morning cold regardless. As they say, it can only get better from here.

Speaking of cold weather, that's all we've had around here since Thanksgiving. In fact, it was the fourth coldest January on record since 1890. For many of us planting unchecked the last several years, this winter was an inevitable awakening. Temperatures hit the mid twenties to near thirty in most locales throughout our region on Jan 24th. My first thought was of all the unsuspecting homeowners, landscapers and otherwise oblivious newcomers that were unaware of what central Florida has, can and will throw at us. That said, it's almost spring and warmer weather is surely just over the horizon. So get your copper fungicide, treat your cold damaged palms and dig a hole for your replacement Coconut palm, *Carpentaria* or *Adonidia*. It's at least 10 warm, problem free months coming up!!

Lastly, I'm sure all of you noticed the new "Palm of the Quarter" section in this year's bulletins. I've done the first two but strongly encourage everyone to get involved. It doesn't have to be about a huge imposing specimen at a botanical garden although that's ok. It can be a palm in your own collection that has survived bud rot, freeze and/or a drought and is worthy of being tried in our area. I'd especially like to hear from those individuals that have never contributed to a bulletin. It's always cool to see something you've written make the "headlines."

See you all on March 29th and remember to Plant a Palm.

--Ray Hernández

[*The Editor will pick a volunteer to write the "Palm of the Quarter." Those refusing to cooperate will be reported to the Authorities, i. e., the IPS.]*

Two young Livistona australis *at Abbotsbury Sub-tropical Garden in Dorset, England. (Photo by Paul Moloney)*

First Quarter Meeting Minutes At Leu Gardens

The first quarter meeting was called to order at Leu Gardens on January 25 2003. Presiding over the meeting was our new President Ray Hernández. Also attending her first board meeting was our new membership chair Karen Barrese. Also present was Secretary Chuck Grieneisen along with all the other board members except for central vice president Richard Hufnagel. .

Items on the agenda included investigating whether the Society should buy our own printer to publish our newsletter, *The Palmateer*. Ray Hernández and Diana Grabowski are going to look into buying one and Mike Merritt is going to look into leasing one.

The need for a new webmaster was also discussed. Advertising for one in *The Palmateer* was discussed. Also the possibility of paying for a webmaster rather than continuing with it as a voluntary position was also discussed.

It was agreed that a new central vice president was needed. A motion was made and passed to amend the by-laws to require that vice presidents have regular access to E-mail.

Where to have the March 29 meeting was also discussed.

A motion was made and passed that editor John Kennedy could take the next issue of *The Palmateer* to a printer of his choosing if there are publishing problems.

—Chuck Grieneisen, Secretary

Reflections of a Volunteer

What Does It Take to be Editor?

By John Kennedy

Editors of chapter bulletins wear out fast. Anyone who receives the publication of another IPS chapter knows that there is likely to be a new editor every two years. Sometimes the editor doesn't last even that long. Clearly, it is a task that not everybody is prepared to do and may be unlikely to understand—until put to the test—what, exactly, is required? After 4½ years of editing *The Palmateer*, some of these necessities have become very clear to me.

Most basic is mechanical skills. The candidate-for-editor had better be handy on the computer, for the publication will be composed there, possibly in Pagemaker (ugh) or Microsoft Publisher (ugh). These programs are not impossible to master, it only seems that way occasionally. Dealing with pictures, whether those sent as electronic attachments to e-mail messages or those sent as glossies that must encounter the scanner, is another facet of the job. In addition, the future editor should be fully literate, not unacquainted with the rules of Standard English spelling, punctuation, and usage. It does help to possess writing ability.

A second set of skills involves personal qualities or—in psychobabble—"interpersonal relations." How well does the editor know the leading personalities of the chapter? What does it take to get along with these luminaries? Are they difficult to satisfy and extremely critical? An accurate answer to any of these questions may well lead to a very short-lived editorial stint, especially if the editor is regarded as an (unsatisfactory) employee rather than as a volunteer.

Then, there is the matter of palms. It's a good idea that the editor should be at least moderately knowledgeable about palms; too often, the rawest newcomer—enthusiastic, of course—gets landed with the editor's job. Unfortunately, this person may not be able to judge the accuracy of the material coming in, nor know how or where to check on suspect "facts," let alone decipher exotic spellings of species' names.

A third area of competence lies in the ability to deal with frustration. The deadline approaches, but there is little or nothing on hand to put into the bulletin. No one—or maybe the few old reliables—has written anything. Appeals to members for contributions bring in nothing (though they may send pictures, if so implored) except for those old reliables who feel duty bound to answer the plea. Even if all goes well, up to this point, there may be unanticipated problems with the computer or with the printing of the bulletin, disasters outside the editor's ability to solve.

Perhaps the fourth necessity encompasses all the others: time. It takes **time** to produce an issue of a bulletin, even when everything goes well. And the less experienced the editor, the more time is consumed from personal life, maybe as much as 50-60 hours. Not everyone can afford such a chunk out of his/her life.

I know whereof I speak. I have experienced all of the difficulties outlined above, have fallen into rages at the computer, the non-contributors as well as the contributors, the printer, the bulletin itself. Since this newsletter is manufactured only four times a year, every time I start it, I must re-learn some of the basic mechanics that I've forgotten. But I do bring to the effort offsetting strengths. In my youth, I was for three years a very junior editor at the-then second largest publisher of trade magazines in the United States (27, none of which you are likely to have heard of). There I learned to process material quickly and efficiently, to copyread with an eagle eye for misprints and errors, and to meet deadlines. (This is not to say that I catch <u>all</u> mechanical, let alone factual, mistakes.)

In my alternate life, lived in Vero Beach and Fort Pierce, I am a community-college English teacher. In this function, I am accustomed to students who do not listen to instructions, fail to observe deadlines, make egregious (mortal-sin) mistakes in usage. I've learned patience and to curb sarcasm, if not exasperation. I read a million words a year in student essays—as does every teacher in my department—as the State of Florida requires with the mandated Gordon Rule. That works out to 4,000 words per student per semester. I have learned to be an efficient worker on the assembly line of words.

Some of you may recall my first few issues of the newsletter, so awful that I can hardly think of them without wincing. But I started out without any knowledge of MS Publisher, which came with no instructions; I learned everything by trial and error, mostly the latter. Eventually, I understood (enough to sympathize with every damaging criticism of Microsoft) and was able to establish a routine in handling contributions and the actual layout of the issue. All pictures and articles go immediately on arrival into the computer; the pictures are modified and filed, the articles proofread and put into the correct font. This leaves time in

(Continued on page 27)

Left, a Euterpe oleracea *clump in the Río Piedras garden in Puerto Rico. Above, a close-up of the trunks.*

What Does It Take?

(Continued from page 26)

which to contact contributors if there are questions about the material, which is then ready to be dropped in when it's layout time.

How long will I do this? I don't know. As long as it's fun—which it has been, but wasn't always. As editor, I've gotten to know interesting people outside of Central Florida, some of whom I have successfully begged to write for me (ah, didn't mention the begging e-mails!). As editor, I am plugged into the world of palms and, lately, cycads, more than I could ever have believed. I was recruited to be editor, when it was clear that my predecessor would be departing precipitously. No one else was handy who could take over in short order. It was thought, I believe, that an English teacher would be (at the least) literate, which all conceded was a good idea. I have been more than fortunate in having the cheerful support of CFPACS officers (and members, as well). Whenever I have desperately needed help or counsel, they have come through for me.

What has saved me, time and again, when the frustration level has approached boiling is my sense of the ridiculous. No editor should be without it.

Thank You, MBC!

The auction and sale on January 25th at Leu brought CFPACS $1,070. Of this amount, $939 came from the auction of palms and cycads donated by Montgomery Botanical Center. We are most appreciative of the generosity of MBC and our continuing mutual good relations.

Recruits wanted to join a private intelligence organisation devoted to the uncovering of rare and unusual palms and cycads wherever these may lurk. No experience required, will train; merely fill out the blank below to join the august group, Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society. A small initiation fee is charged. Sign up today! Help keep Florida beautiful: plant a palm and/or a cycad.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The background figure is Paul Moloney, who gives scale to the several Trachycarpus fortunei *at Abbotsbury Sub-Tropical Garden near Weymouth, Dorset, on the English south coast.*

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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 opposite page) of any changes in street address, phone number, area code, or e-mail address. The newsletter is sent to the address of record.

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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

We're suckers for any good picture of Cyrtostachys renda*, since the Lipstick Palm (or Sealing Wax Palm) is too tender even for Miami. The luxuriant specimens above aren't growing in De-Land—as you all know—but in the Río Piedras garden of the University of Puerto Rico, in the San Juan metropolitan area.*

Left, the water buffalo is admiring a particularly fine specimen of Calamus leptospadix *in Arunachal Pradesh, India, in this photo from Andrew Henderson.* *Story begins on page 5.*

The Palmateer