The Palmateer

Volume 23, Number 3 *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* *September, 2003*

Left, arborescent Serenoa repens, *20 ft. high, visited at Lake June during CFPACS' June 14th meeting in Lake Placid. Below, the plant auction at Palm-Fest in Fort Myers. Ken Johnson, left (South Florida chapter president), is assisted by Dave Prall (Palm & Cycad Society of Southwest Florida), right. Story begins below.*

Saturday, September 13th: **Meeting at the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society's annual picnic and plant auction at Ruth Sallenbach's 5-acre palm paradise in Lake Worth. Directions, map, details on page 3.**

June 14th Lake Placid Meeting

By John Kennedy

June 14th in Lake Placid, Flag Day in the Caladium Capital of the World (signs of growers, shippers around town). Weather for palms, with the temperature about 98°, possibly higher, when CFPACS held its summer meeting at the home of Walt and Cathy Darnall. No one would be disloyal enough to our shared interest/craze/obsession to admit an interest in air conditioning. But, oh was it hot! Humidity, of course, about 100 percent (but seemed greater). Sunshine blinding. In other words, a fine Florida summer day. **Highlands County**, in which the town and lake are

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Palm Fest 2003 in Review

By Ray Hernández

Palm Fest IV, hosted by the Palm and Cycad Society of Southwest Florida, took place in the Ft. Myers area over the long Memorial Day weekend (Saturday-Monday May 24-26th, 2003). Prior to this gathering, I was beginning to think that the entire Palm Fest concept had run its course. Thanks to the tremendous organizational effort put forth by Dave and Geri Prall, it seems the yearly Palm Fest meeting is alive and well. Although biased through my involvement in organizing Palm Fest II for CFPACS in 2001, I must admit that this Palm Fest was the best ever. **The Holiday** Inn Riverwalk was the host hotel with

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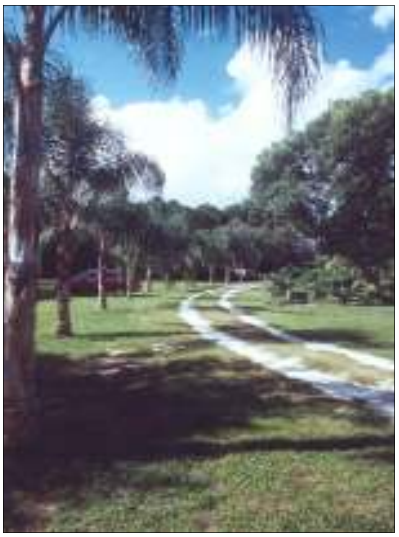
PLANT SALES

October: CFPACS is planning an East Coast sale, date and details not yet settled. The Palm Beach chapter is also planning a sale in October, again not definite. Check our website—www.cfpacs.org—for information on both, when this becomes available.
October 12-13: USF Fall sale, Tampa.
November 2-3: South Florida chapter, Fairchild, Miami (the big one).
November 22-23: Garden Festival, Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Ft. Pierce.
If there are any other sales out there in Floridaland before December that we've not heard of, contact our webmaster, Steve Wasula, with facts and a contact for confirmation.

NOVEMBER 4 is the deadline for materials submitted for the December issue.



Out of sight at the end of this driveway is Walt and Cathy Darnall's house. Lots of room, you will note, for more palms and cycads at our June 14th meeting place.

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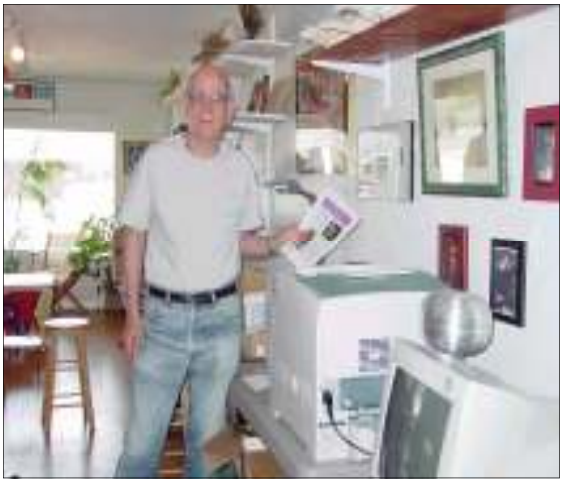


John-the-Editor holds the first copy (June issue) of the newsletter printed on the new super-duper Xerox printer at Diana Grabowski's office in Cocoa Beach. Not a big smile, for it took 20 minutes for the copy to print. Diana took the picture.

Directions to the Festivities

Ruth's address is 6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth.
Take I-95 south to Lantana Rd, west to Military Trail, south to just past Blue Pine Cir (third street on right),
look for small picnic sign on right at 6285. Ruth's phone is 561.965.5430 or my cell is 561.254.3872. Hope to see some of your members there. Please have them look for me so I can make a mention in the next newsletter.
—Dennis McKee, Editor,
[Palm Beach] ***Palm & Cycad Times***

Above, the attendees at Palm Fest in Fort Myers last May. But the picture could be duplicated at any palm/cycad meeting that tours a mature collection. The site here is the Thomas Alva Edison House. —*Ray Hernández*

December 13**: Mark the Date! Holiday Palm Sociable and Plant Auction (Montgomery donations!) at the Cocoa Beach oceanfront house of Diana & Mark Grabowski. See page 30. Details in December issue of *The Palmateer.***

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society's Annual Picnic, Auction

Who? This picnic and sale is open to all IPS members, all PBPCS members and our neighboring palm society friends.
When? Saturday, September 13, 2001. Starting at 10:00 a.m.
Where? Ruth Sallenbach's home and magnificent 5-acre garden full of rare palms and cycads. 6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth, FL 33463. (561) 965-5430
What to bring? 3 things: a covered dish of your choice, any kind of plant you can donate, and a lawn chair.

You'll be in good company with this group of palm nuts! After a delicious meal you can enjoy walking the grounds of Ruth's garden on your own or take an informal tour of the property. The fun-filled day will have **door prizes, giveaways, a raffle**, and **silent auction.** The auction will feature palms and cycads for the most part; however, what ever our members choose to bring will also be auctioned off! (This might be a good time to thin out your bromeliads or orchids.) All proceeds will go to the PBPCS treasury and be used for funding palm/cycad research, educational seminars, donations of palms to public gardens, and newsletter costs, etc.

(The info above is taken directly from the Palm Beach chapter's August, 2001, bulletin, The Palm & Cycad Times. *Only the date has been changed: the event is September 13, 2003. And the time listed is a half hour later than previously. Ruth Sallenbach's property is on the west side of Military Trail, no more than 500 feet south of Lantana Road.)*

(Ruth says there's too much food left over, so it's not really necessary to bring a covered dish. However, it would be a good idea to bring water.)

A Jerry Hooper Palm Painting

Will be auctioned at the PBPCS picnic on Sept. 13th, with the proceeds split 50-50 between PBPCS and CFPACS. The auction includes not only palms and cycads, but many other tropical plants. Bring your checkbook!

—Editor

June 14th Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

located, actually is high. Driving west to the meeting, a member-passenger traveling in a decrepit van, noted a high point about a mile ahead on State Road 70. "Must be an overpass, over a railroad." No, it was arrival from the uniform flatness of southern Florida to the Lake Wales Ridge and Highlands County. Then, there were glimpses of lakes—more than 20 in the area—with roads suddenly not so straight, to curve around those lakes.

The Darnalls were great hosts. Look for Walt in the pictures: taller than most of the males, wearing a tank top with a towel around his shoulders which he used to wipe his face every three minutes. Cathy probably isn't in the pictures, but a clever sheet cake frosted with a beach and ocean scene was her creation as was a palm decoration: scalloped edged green peppers atop trunks made of carrot. The perfect edible palm. The Darnall palms are young and growing well, an enviable *Euterpe edulis*, a small variegated *Chuniophoenix nana*, numbers of *Trachycarpus fortunei*, *Bismarckia* (of course), among many others. In line with the signs in the town, a number of caladiums accompanied the palm plantings.

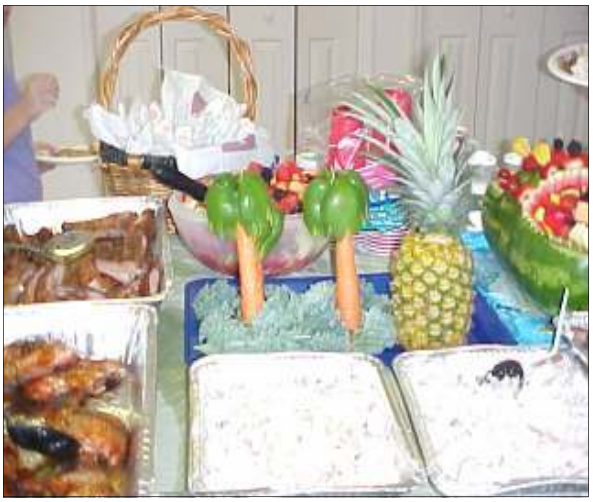
After the barbeque lunch and the many trips to the coolers containing sodas, water, and some other beverages, the approximately 40 attending members got down to the real purpose of the meeting: scoping out the palms and cycads brought for sale by five vendors.

Walt then led a convoy of cars for a quick trip around Lake Placid. It's very pretty, with favorable microclimates in which old and good-looking royals are evident. The final stop on the day was a visit to Lawrence Luepschen's nursery a little way out of town, where home-made cookies and more sodas/water were available to the grateful.

One of the most impressive sights in the Lake Placid area was the literally thousands of *Sabal etonia* growing on the ridge. Visitors at first thought these were the usual *Serenoa*, but soon realized that the palms were smaller and didn't spread to cover larger areas. Walt and Cathy's place backs onto a state reserve with many *S. etonia.*

As usual, departing cars/vans/SUVs carried waving fronds. Oh yes, the Board met early on at the Darnalls' to consider the weighty matters confronting the chapter.

The Tour on June 14th: that's Walt Darnall (center), towel at the ready. Front (left) Robert O'Bryant; beyond, in dark shirt, author and raconteur, Robert Lee Riffle. White shirt and hat? The Editor, carrying a camera that was never used. Too busy talking?



A major part of any CFPACS meeting is the scheduled eating session (also called lunch). Looking at palms and all that fine exercise gives members a good appetite. Cathy Darnall's creative whimsy is apparent in the edible 'palms' decorating the table set up in their garage, out of that fine Florida sun.

(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

Collecting *Borassus* L. in Madagascar

By Ross P. Bayton
School of Plant Sciences, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 221, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 6AS, United Kingdom, and Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AE, United Kingdom.

In March 2003, thanks to the generosity of the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society, I travelled to Madagascar to collect palms. In particular, I was searching for the two endemic species of *Borassus*, *B. madagascariensis* and *B. sambiranensis*, both known as *dimaka* in the local Sakalava language.

The palms of Madagascar have, until recently, remained rather mysterious. However, after extensive fieldwork by Henk Beentje and John Dransfield, we now have a greater understanding of the diversity of palm species present on the island. The product of this research, *Palms of Madagascar*, contains the descriptions of many new species and genera. However *Borassus* remained enigmatic. Both species were poorly represented in herbaria and consequently, few conclusions could be drawn as to their taxonomic status. Dransfield & Beentje (1995) were doubtful that these taxa could be distinguished from *Borassus aethiopum* of mainland Africa. The aim of this trip therefore was to make new herbarium collections of both Malagasy *Borassus* species.

The full distribution of *Borassus* in Madagascar is relatively unknown. The few specimens which are present in the herbaria of Kew, Paris and Antananarivo represent diverse geographic localities from Ambanja in the north of the island to Toliara in the south. However the original description of *Borassus madagascariensis*, by Bojer in 1837, describes the distribution as "*sur les bords de la rivière Marou-voai dans la baie de Bombetok, autour du village de Majungay*" and so we began our hunt in the town of Marovoay as part of a ten-day excursion to the north-west of Madagascar. I was accompanied by my colleague, Rolland Ranaivojaona, from the Parc Botanique et Zoologique de Tzimbazaza in Antananarivo (Tana).

The town of Marovoay is located on the banks of the Betsiboka River, approximately 1 ½ hours drive south of the provincial capital of Mahajanga. *Borassus madagascariensis* was abundant there, with several specimens in the centre of town. Though the palms were growing in gardens and on the streets they appeared to be wild and were not utilised by local people. In the early 20th Century, the French built an agricultural research station in Marovoay, and *Borassus* specimens from here were collected and examined by the French taxonomists Jumelle and Perrier de la Bâthie. They later went on to write *Palmiers de Madagascar* (1913), the original account of the Malagasy palm flora. Unfortunately, the specimens collected by them in Marovoay have since been lost.

Figure 1. Borassus madagascariensis *outside the town of Ambato Boeny. This particular individual, at only 8 metres tall, was particularly suitable for our collection technique. Pictured next to the palm are Rolland Ranaivojaona (white hat) and the land owner.*

Our main priority on this trip was to collect as many herbarium specimens of *Borassus* as possible. We began by trying to find suitable candidate trees from which herbarium specimens could be collected. *Borassus* palms can grow up to twenty metres tall and have a distinctive swelling in the stem with a girth of over two metres. This makes it difficult to climb the palms using traditional techniques. In addition *Borassus*, like all palms in tribe *Borasseae*, is dioecious and material must

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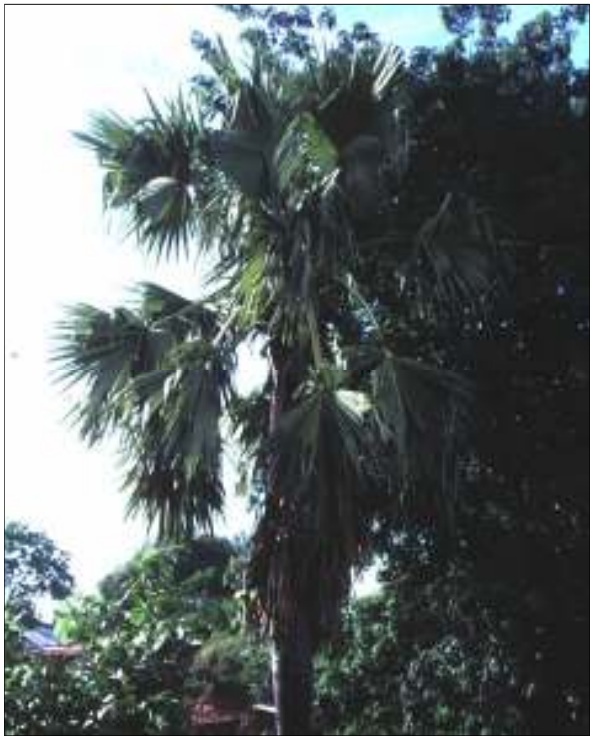

Figure 2. Borassus madagascariensis *in the centre of Maevatanana town.*

No, not in Madagascar, but at an undisclosed location in Polk County, Tom Broome embraces his 300-year-old male Dioon edule *clump. Nearby is a slightly smaller female clump of the same species.*

(Photo by Cindy Broome)

Borassus **in Madagascar**

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be collected from both male and female trees. Our approach was to use a ten-metre long pole-saw though this did limit us to those adult palms of ten metres or less.

Our first collection was of a female tree which was bearing young infructescences. The owner of the field where the palm was located assisted us but the job took several hours. Eventually we succeeded in collecting three leaves and three partial infructescences. These were sawn into smaller pieces, wrapped in newspaper, and doused in methylated alcohol to prevent decomposition. All of our specimens were collected with three duplicates of which the first two were deposited at Kew and Tzimbazaza respectively. The third specimen was donated either to the Missouri Botanical Garden or the Musée de Histoire Naturelle in Paris, both of which maintain considerable collections of Madagascar plants.

Our next collection, of a male tree, was somewhat more challenging as we had to climb an adjacent mango tree to gain access to the canopy. However, this gave me a great view of the plant in flower. The canopy was alive with assorted *Phelsuma* geckos, chameleons and Sakalava Weaverbirds (*Ploceus sakalava*), which had attached their pendulous grass nests to the tips of the palm leaves.

My first impression of *Borassus madagascariensis* was that this was an impressive and distinctive palm. When compared with *B. aethiopum* in mainland Africa there are a number of morphological differences. The leaves of *B. madagascariensis* have bright green petioles which are particularly distinctive against the grey stem. The petiole margins are armed with tiny spines like sawteeth. In *B. aethiopum* the petioles are yellow-green near the hastula, but become dark brown near the trunk, and the petiole spines are large and blunted. The fruits of *B. madagascariensis* are pointed at the apex, and the bracts within the male inflorescence have distinctive rounded apices. In *B. aethiopum* the fruits typically have a flattened or depressed apex and the inflorescence bracts are pointed.

We departed Marovoay after two days and drove north to the city of Mahajanga. We hoped to catch a car ferry across the Bay of Bombetok to the village of Katsepy where *B. madagascariensis* had been collected by Dr Larry Noblick of Montgomery Botanical Centre in 1995. However the ferry had been hired by a local sugar refinery to ship sugar (and rum) from their factory near Katsepy back to the port in Mahajanga. Instead, we searched in the vicinity of Mahajanga (the village mentioned by Bojer) in the hope of discovering

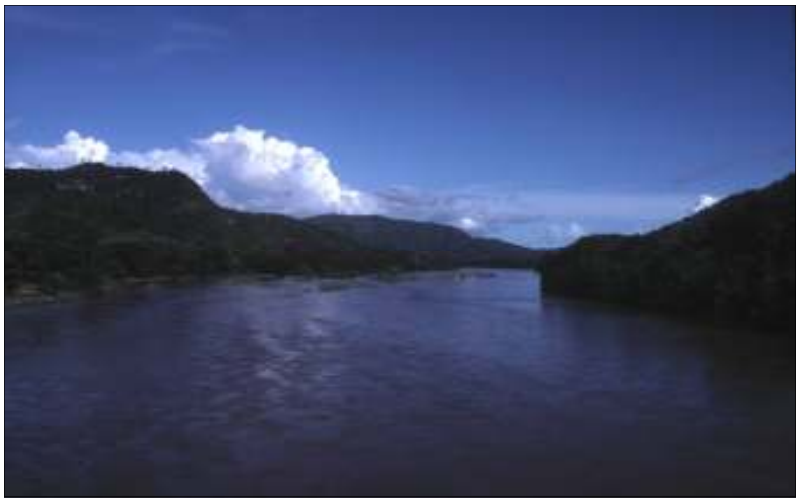

Figure 3. *The River Sambirano south of the town of Ambanja.* Borassus sambiranensis *is named after this river.*

Borassus in Madagascar

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new populations of *Borassus*. This proved to be optimistic and we found none. We did however take the opportunity to make a collection of *Hyphaene coriacea* which was abundant.

With a distinctive lack of *Borassus* in the Mahajanga area, we retraced our steps and began to slowly return to Tana. Four days previously we had driven from Tana to Marovoay along the main Route National 4 and had spotted several possible *Borassus* populations. When observed from a distance, the outline of *Borassus* is remarkably similar to that of *Bismarckia nobilis*, which is very common in Madagascar. However it is possible to pick out one from the other even without binoculars, and the key is to observe the stem. In *Borassus*, the stem is ventricose or bellied and appears light grey in colour. In *Bismarckia*, the stem is dark and straight, though fire can damage the stem and distort its shape. If infructescences are present, then they are spicate with large fruits in *Borassus* and branched with small fruits in *Bismarckia*.

During the return journey we investigated several sightings made by ourselves or by colleagues from Tzimbazaza and Kew. We located small groups of *Borassus* at Lake Amboromalandy, the towns of Ambato Boeny and Maevatanana, and at Lake Ravelobe in Ankarafantsika National Park. The latter was an unexpected discovery as the vegetation fringing the lake was very dense. Growing within metres of the shoreline were four juvenile palms of about two metres height. I was immediately struck by the similarity of these palms to the photos of *Satranala decussilvae* in *Palms of Madagascar*. Finally we returned to Tana to dry our specimens and prepare for the second and final excursion.

Borassus madagascariensis is apparently a widely-distributed species in Madagascar and occurs in suitable habitat at several locations in the west. *Borassus sambiranensis*, which was first described in 1913, is entirely restricted to the Sambirano region in the northwest of Madagascar. Our only herbarium specimens of this species were collected by Dr George Schatz in 1988 outside the town of Ambanja and by Dr Henk Beentje in 1992 near Maromandia, and so we flew to the nearest airport on the island of Nosy Bé (Big Island in Malagasy). From there we caught a ferry to Ambanja.

In their description of *B. sambiranensis*, Jumelle and Perrier de la Bâthie described its distribution as between the Sambirano and Ifasy rivers. The town of Ambanja is located on the north bank of the Sambirano River and a new road affords good access towards the Ifasy River in the north. However it was incredibly hard to find *dimaka*. There was considerable confusion amongst local people as to the identity of this palm. We were frequently guided towards the more common *satranbe* (*Bismarckia*) which is sometimes

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Borassus in Madagascar

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called *dimaka*. Despite intensive searching to the north of Ambanja, we found only one *Borassus*, a juvenile specimen in an abandoned field. However it was still the cause of some excitement. The petioles of this palm were armed with long black erose spines like those of *Borassus aethiopum*. We made a collection and headed south.

The road to the south was not surfaced and the recent rains had seriously damaged some sections. We travelled as far as we could but could not reach Maromandia where Henk Beentje had collected. Local people did tell of two large palms, which they called *satranbe*, some distance from the road. Viewing these involved wading through several muddy rice paddies, whilst fervently hoping that we would not find more *Bismarckia*. Luckily our efforts were rewarded with two male *Borassus* palms, though a female would have been helpful! We had finally found the mysterious *Borassus sambiranensis*, and only 5km from the Sambirano River. These palms had the characteristic petioles spines of *B. aethiopum* and their petioles were orange-yellow at the hastula, fading through to a dark red brown at the base of the petiole. Our seven days in the Sambirano were almost up and so we left Ambanja for Nosy Bé the next day.

We spent a day on the island examining the palms in Hell-Ville. These included two very old specimens of *B. sambiranensis*. The female tree, located outside Hell-Ville's main police station, was at least 20 metres tall and so we were forced to collect material from the ground beneath. This included several old endocarps which were very small, a characteristic of this species.

Whilst hunting for *Borassus* we found one of its close relatives in full flower in the grounds of a Catholic mission. My only previous encounter with *Lodoicea maldivica* was with the two-metre tall seedling in the Palm House at Kew. This tree, a male tree with several large inflorescences in the canopy, was magnificent! The large purple-brown rachillae were velvety in texture and several *Phelsuma* geckos could be seen scurrying about on the surface. The flowers themselves were five centimetres long as compared to those of *Borassus* which are barely reach one centimetre. We were given permission to collect and gained access to the canopy by climbing the mission's outer wall. After 17 days of collecting *Borassus*, we were used to the physical strain of cutting up palm leaves, or so we thought! *Lodoicea* is tough! We had to settle for taking 30cm sections of the 130cm long rachilla back to our herbaria at Kew and Tzimbazaza as the weight of a single male rachilla was beyond any reasonable carry-on baggage allowance. From Nosy Bé we returned to Tana to make preparations for my return to the UK.

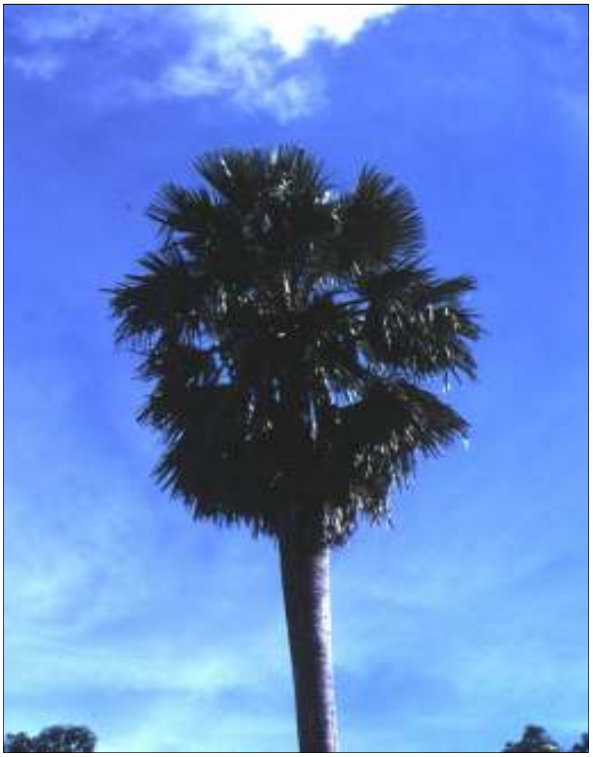

Figure 4. Borassus sambiranensis *outside the police station in Hell-Ville, Nosy Bé. This female tree was the only one we found during our visit to the Sambirano area.*

Since then, I have been studying the morphology of Malagasy *Borassus* in some detail. *Borassus madagascariensis*, the more common of the two species, is easily identifiable. The leaves have small reddish scales on the lamina, and green petioles armed with small sharp spines. The fruits have pointed apices and in the male inflorescence, the bracts have rounded tips. Generally, the fruits and pyrenes are larger than those of *Borassus aethiopum*, though there is some overlap. *Borassus sambiranensis* is rare with a restricted distribution. The small size of the pyrenes in this species is often cited as a reason to distinguish it from *B. madagascariensis*. Indeed, the pyrenes of this species are small but well within the range of variation found in *B. aethiopum*. Morphologically it is indistinguishable from that species and should be reduced to synonymy.

I would like to thank my supervisors Dr Barbara Pickersgill (University of Reading), Dr John Dransfield &

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Palm Fest 2003

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its fantastic location on the Caloosahatchee River. The deck adjacent to the river was the meeting place for registration and mingling on Friday evening. Those who registered early received a sage-green colored Palm Fest T-shirt with a mature *Pseudophoenix ekmanii* adorning the front. The hotel itself had quite an assortment of mature palms. *Carpentaria, Dypsis decaryi and lutescens, Heterospathe elata, Dictyosperma album, Roystonea regia, Coccothrinax sp., Wodyetia, Thrinax radiata, Cocos, Hyophorbe lagenicualis, Adonidia* and *Ptychosperma elegans* were some of the palms on the premises.

Saturday morning started with a walk up McGregor Blvd to the Thomas Edison/Henry Ford estates. The street itself is quite a site as Thomas Edison lined the street with hundreds of Royal Palms imported from Cuba. After a brief introduction inside the Edison Museum, the hundred plus attendees were divided into several groups. Each group had a guide that was somewhat plant-wise but all were more than willing to be educated by the palm "experts" on the tour. *Bismarckia, Borassus aethiopum, Roystonea, Sabal yapa,* the rare *Calyptronoma plumeriana,* the state's tallest *Archontophoenix, Astrocaryum, Attalea, Reinhardtia, Hyophorbe, Coccothrinax crinita* and *Arenga pinnata* were among the hundred or so species of palms on the property. Also worth mentioning was the impressive collection of crotons (*Codieaum*), the giant *Bombax* and *Ficus* trees including the giant Banyan given to Edison by Firestone in the 1920's as a seedling. It was under this Banyan that the group gathered for lunch and a book signing by Robert Lee Riffle and Paul Craft, authors of *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms*.

After lunch, the group walked up the street to the Bochette residence. It is a private residence catty corner from the Edison estate. The home is Mediterranean style and is surrounded by a variety of plants. Featured palms included *Attalea, Archontophoenix sp., Elaeis, Areca catechu, Copernicia baileyana, hospita* and *macroglossa, Coccothrinax sp., Thrinax parviflora, morrissii and radiata, Normanbya, Dypsis sp., Licuala grandis* and a pair of shaded, towering *Aiphanes* that caught everyone's eyes.

The third and final stop on Saturday was downtown Ft. Myers' Palm Park. A testament to the fantastic microclimate south of the Caloosahatchee River, the park boasts a 50'+ foot Corypha umbraculifera that may be the most impressive in Florida. Other palms present include *Elaeis, Bismarckia, Syagrus sp., Licuala spinosa* and a 40'+ tall *Dictyosperma album* to name a few. According to Dave Prall, the park's palms were planted in the 1950's and survived the freezes of the 1980's which did affect the area.

After heading back to the hotel for a little freshening-up, the group met on the riverside deck for a gigantic plant auction. South Florida President Ken Johnson quickly and efficiently auctioned off such palms as *Polyandrococos*, a variety of *Dypsis, Livistona, Coccothrinax, Syagrus, Chamaedorea* and *Copernicia* just to name a few. Aside from sitting in the blazing May south Florida sun, the auction was a blast. Ken Johnson could easily be a professional auctioneer if he ever decided to quit his day job.

Sunday started off at the incredible Cape Coral garden of our hosts, Dave and Geri Prall. The garden consists of three city lots resembling a backwards letter "L" from above. Palms of note were *Satakentia liukiensis, Copernicia*s and *Coccothrinax* of all types, *Pseudophoenix sargentii, Dictyosperma, Ptychosperma macarthuri, Laccospadix australasica, Zombia, Chamaedorea sp., Sabal yapa, Sabal mauritiiformis* and too many other species to mention here. The Pralls are also avid collectors of agave, yucca and bromeliads and this completes the tropical feel of the garden. For those who have never been, the Pralls' alone was worth the price of admission.

Sunday's lunch was at the Banyan Trace and Golf Club a few minutes from the Pralls'. To say that it was a veritable feast of food would be an understatement. The meal was followed by Mike Harris' slide show presentation on "Palms of Cuba and the Dominican Republic". Perhaps my complete and utter enjoyment

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Borassus in Madagascar

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Dr Bill Baker (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) and Mr Rolland Ranaivojaona for his assistance in the field. In addition, I should like to thank the Board and members of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society for their funding for this trip. Many thanks to the International Palm Society (IPS), and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) for their financial support for this trip.

References:

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GANODERMA ZONATUM – A. I. D. S. FOR PALMS

By Mike Dahme

Sometime in the early '90's, about 10 years after I started planting palms in numbers, was when I first noticed the lethal fungus *Ganoderma zonatum* infecting them at my house in south Brevard. The first to exhibit the wilting and general decline, as well as the basidiocarps ["conks"], the reproductive phase of the organism, were Paurotis and Queens. Since then the list of species hasn't grown much, but now includes *Butia*, *Phoenix* and a *Pinanga coronata* clump. To date the toll stands at about five *Acoelorraphe* clumps, a half dozen Queens, one each Pindo and *Phoenix reclinata*, the *Pinanga* [which was growing in an isolated position in the courtyard] and possibly one or two Canaries [palm beetle another possibility for these]. The rate of infection of healthy palms appears to be increasing. In some instances once-healthy palms were close enough to diseased ones to have root contact, but in other cases disease transmission had to have been aerial via the spores produced by the basidiocarps.

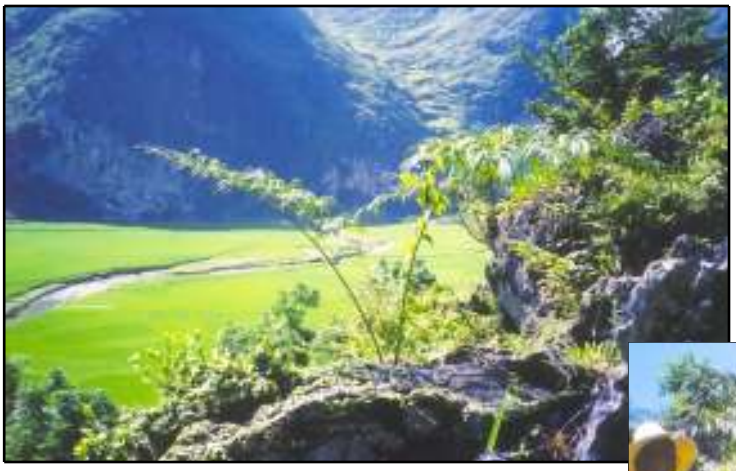
The exact means of transmission, whether via root contact or by spore, hasn't been defined yet. What is known was presented in a 2001 paper by Elliot and Broschat, salient points being as follows:

- The fungus destroys the palm by decaying the wood from the inside out, not the other way around. This means that once the basidiocarp formation occurs the palm is effectively kaput.
- Until the diseased palm is cut down and removed, frequent inspection for and removal of the basidiocarps ["conk patrol"] is important because another finding of the Univ. of Florida botanists was that " . . . viable spores are produced very early in the formation of the conk."
- In an about face from prior cultural advice, it is no longer believed that the disease is initiated via wounds to the trunk of a palm [as might occur during lawn maintenance] or transmitted from one palm to another by pruning tools. However, since the spores somehow manage to infect healthy palms in the basal four or five feet of trunk, it would seem to be a very good idea to not inflict damage to palm trunks.
- Culling stems from clumping palms [such as, in my case, Paurotis] likely greatly increases the chance for infection as the spores could easily infect healthy culms via the cut ones. Therefore, careful consideration should be given before "beautifying" clumping palms in Ganoderma zones [which, per *Ornamental Palm Horticulture*, Broschat and Meerow, 2000, includes the SE United States and Africa]. Now when I have to thin a clumper I seal the cut stump tightly with a plastic freezer storage bag of suitable size. A friend suggested using heated wax on a cut stem for a seal, another possibility. Too, any such culling might be best undertaken in winter, for Elliot and Broschat observed that conk formation in northern Florida may be seasonal, more likely in summer.

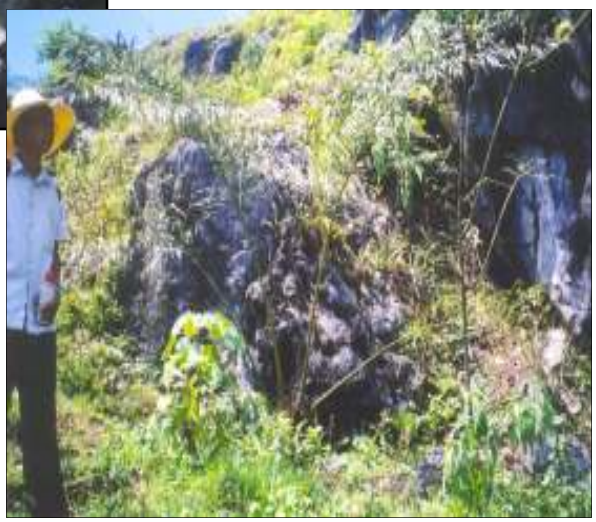
Ganoderma *on a queen palm trunk on Mike's property in Grant.*

I have observed *Ganoderma* at a number of established gardens such as F. I. T. in Melbourne, the Bidlingmayer site in Vero, at Joe Michael's in Wabasso, and Eric Schmidt advised of it at Leu in Orlando as did Norm Moody for his 5 acre garden in West Palm Beach. Both F. T. G. and M. B. C. in Miami have long experience with it. The current Fairchild list of species known to be susceptible is 46, and 59 are listed by Elliot and Broschat, who advised that all palms [except those that do not form woody trunks] should be considered at risk. In addition to the genera listed earlier, such central Florida stalwarts as *Livistona*, *Arenga*, *Washingtonia*, *Acrocomia* and *Sabal* are on the lists. It seems that if you plant enough palms in one location, sooner or later *Ganoderma* will come to you. In my case it was sooner.

CFPACS Funds Cycad Conservation, School



Left, wild Cycas debaoensis *growing out of a rock crevice. Below, Prof. Liu Nian's graduate student (wearing hat) will conduct regular censuses of the wild population.*



By William Tang

In the March 2002 issue [of *The Palmateer*] I reported on the first stage of the "Shangri-La Cycad Project", of which CFPACS is a founding sponsor. The Shangri-La Cycad, otherwise known as *Cycas debaoensis*, is an unusual and beautiful species known for certain only from a single mountainside deep in the remote limestone country of southern China. Throughout the world a new conservation strategy is needed to protect endangered plants, like this one, located next to villages and rural areas. In many "protected reserves" established for cycads, plants continue disappearing rapidly and an alternative conservation approach is needed if we wish to avoid the extinction of these cycads in our own lifetimes. Experience in forestry programs have shown that when local people are given a role in protecting their own natural resources, the land is much better cared for.

This past August I went back to Guangxi Province, China with a grant from CFPACS to develop the next stage of the Shangri-La Cycad Project. The project managers now include Prof. Liu Nian of South China Botanical Garden, Anders Lindstrom of Nong Nooch Tropical Garden, and myself. Our team members have visited this site 5 times now, and more and more of the villagers are being convinced of our commitment to the conservation of this cycad and are being won over in participating. As I work on this project, I am finding again and again that effective conservation is more about educating people than it is about putting up some kind of physical barrier around plants.

Debao County, where this cycad is endemic, is a poor region. The people here, as in Chinese culture at large, look forward to their children's future. Thus, it is not surprising that when we asked them what they needed in exchange for their participation in the conservation of this plant, they requested a schoolhouse. Using the grant from CFPACS we began constructing the school (see pictures). The schoolmaster, village headman, local mayor, as well as the women and children worked in the hot sun to help put in the foundation for the school. Skilled construction workers built the molds and poured concrete for the supporting columns. All stones, concrete blocks, and cement are produced in local quarries. Even the local newspaper reporter, who came to cover the story, pitched in. The name of the school is the "Debao Cycad School", dedicated to this cycad and its conservation. Already, during construction, the village school children were speaking about

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Cycad Conservation, School

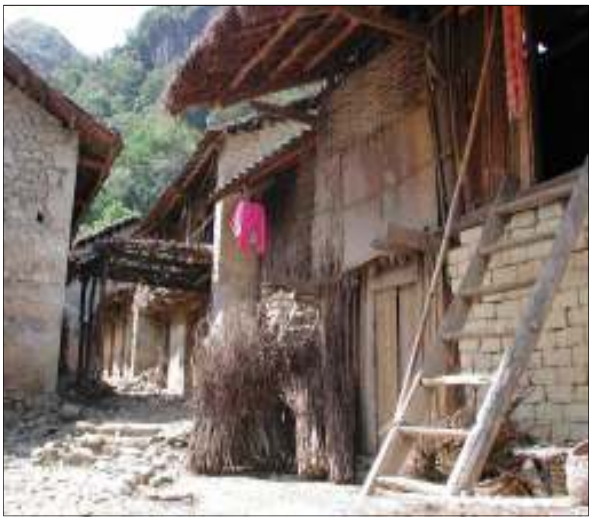
(Continued from page 11)

the cycad and about protecting it from collectors. **The official** exchange rate of the Chinese yuan is about 8.2 to the U.S. dollar. Practically speaking, this multiplies the purchasing power of the dollar by eight times. With the help of CFPACS' $1000 grant we were able to complete the first floor of the school. The villagers are looking forward to finishing the second floor on our next visit. Seedlings of the Shangri-La Cycad are growing in the nursery and regular patrols are made of cycad population, mainly by the villagers (particularly seniors) who tend the cattle. The mountainside is used for grazing as well as a habitat for the cycad. Fruit tree orchards are planted in some areas. In addition, shrubs and ground cover are collected for fuel. The cycads are located mainly on rock outcrops or those areas too steep for other uses. In general, the cycad seems to benefit from the clearing of the surrounding vegetation, by holding more leaves and coning more often than those in forested, less disturbed spots. The habitat of the cycad has been used by humans for centuries, perhaps even thousands of years, and a coexistence has been maintained for many generations. We conducted a recensus of the cycad population on this trip. We marked and mapped most adult plants on previous visits. The results are encouraging. The great majority of the plants are intact. A few stems appear to have been removed and the villagers suspect that someone from a nearby village took them and they planned to confront the man. In a small community such news spreads quickly. This is in marked contrast to the first two years after the cycad was discovered when more than two thirds of the population was dug out and sold. Ironically many of these were sold to a Chinese botanic garden. The concept of conservation, as understood in the West, is not widely grasped and appreciated in China even among those responsible for conservation. The importance of the Shangri-La Cycad Project does not merely concern the conservation of this one species – it is a model for an alternative approach to conservation for the entire region. It is a path for the future, which only the next generation, now attending in the Debao Cycad School, can bring to full fruition.

William Tang is a Research Associate at Fairchild Tropical Garden, where he has worked on cycad pollination, ecology, and conservation for over 20 years. He pays for all his own travel expenses. 100% of CFPACS grants go toward conservation work.

Female Shangri-La cycad with ripening seeds; females are marked with red numbers.

The village is tucked in just below the cycad mountain.



Paradise Over Again!

By Rick Leitner

For an avid palm collector, starting over with a new home and garden, brings about a myriad of emotions. On one hand, the chances of beginning anew are exciting. I was going to use a variety of species that I had never used before. I was not going to make the same mistakes as I did with my last garden. That is, planting small seedlings too close together only to grow up into each other. I had planted and once mature, then wondered how to install an irrigation system. I wanted instant canopy so I must have planted a dozen Queen palms. Don't get me wrong. When cared for the species is incredibly beautiful. But what palm collector with limited garden space has so many common species? These mistakes were not about to be duplicated.

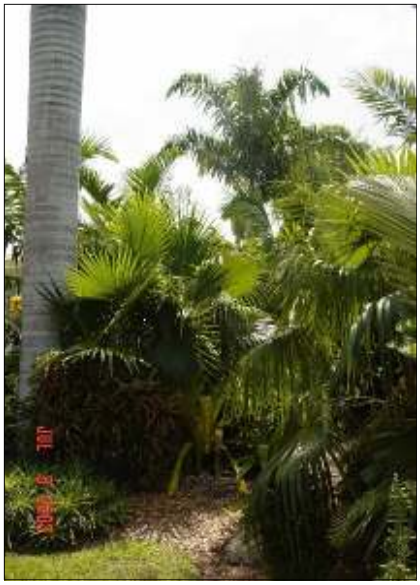
On the other hand, I shuddered at the thought of all that work; the removal of all this sod, wheelbarrows of soil, mulch, and rock. My back felt the pain in advance! The installation of larger species was going to be a problem in the backyard since there was only a narrow passageway along both sides of the house. Not to mention leaving some of my prize palms behind with the sold house, knowing only the strong shall survive.

And all this while the new house was being gutted inside and out. I was certain that the guys who do the roof, the new doors and windows, the stucco work, and the painting will know that these are unusual species of plants and respect the fact I was working hard to pull all this together.

I must have had heat exhaustion!

Most construction workers do not care about anything beyond their trade (and lunch!). Scaffolding, concrete, hoses, ladders, and size 12 boots were creating such damage that I felt a true sense of "going postal." I was warned, but for a palm nut, I couldn't take not getting the species in the ground! Many species had been root pruned from my last residence and I had to literally find a home for them in my new garden immediately. I had no containers large enough, so I was at the mercy of planting these palms right after closing. Species which I had transplanted were *Ptychosperma macrocarpum*, *Chambeyronia macrocarpa*, *Pelagodoxa henryana*, *Clinostigma samoense*, and *Coccothrinax crinita*. Unfortunately, the *Coccothrinax crinita* went to palm heaven. I had heard that they did not transplant well. I received a house warming gift of a hybrid of *Wodyetia bifurcarta* and *Veitchia montgomeryana*. I planted it immediately! A *Kentiopsis oliviformis* from a 3 gallon was another specimen planted out in full western sun.

Some 8 months later when all the workers were gone and the bills were paid, I really started getting down to the planning and design of the work. I had a few "anchor" palms that were already established in the previous owner's garden. Since I am not an advocate of moving palms around when it can be helped, they stayed put. A 50-foot healthy *Roystonea elata* makes a royal statement in the front garden. Three mature (40') *Sabal palmetto*s placed strategically about the garden, front and back, needed to be cleaned up, but were nice specimens that I would not plant myself due to their slow growth rate. One sole 20 foot *Adonidia merrillii*, probably the last soldier of a wrath of lethal yellowing, stood along the walkway to the front door. It had a nice curve to it and was a species that I enjoy. I liked the curve as I was going to attach some sun loving bromeliads to the curvature. A large "haystack" of a *Dypsis lutescens* was a staple in the rear garden. I spent about 10 hours just cleaning out many trunks, suckers, and dead parts to reveal a really nice specimen. Wow! Something to attach orchids to! This was the extent of the existing landscape.



Not quite a jungle, huh, Rick? Roystonea elata *trunk,* Coccothrinax sp. *in foreground,* Neoveitchia X Wodyetia *hybrid in back.*

I swore to myself that I was not going to take on the persona of my old self. Collect first, design later. I thought if I could stick to a sketched plan, then my urge to buy more and more species would be squelched.

I wanted three large, pinnate palms that were available, yet unusual. I decided upon *Neoveitchia storckii.*

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Paradise Over Again!

(Continued from page 13)

This palm is not commonly seen in South Florida, but a friend has one in his garden and it is truly remarkable. I found and planted three spaced about 15' on center of varied heights. They were quite small to begin with. The tallest was about 2 feet tall. I soon realized that this species as a juvenile enjoys more shade than I had to offer. It suffered a bit of sunscald.

As I like on-going color, I planted numerous varieties of crotons as carefree undergrowth. I also used *Dypsis cabadae*, *Coccothrinax alta*, *spissa*, and *miraguama*. I planted *Syagrus amara* as another specimen on the other side of the front garden. *Syagrus sancona* was a species I had cherished in my other garden. It is refered to as the "Colombian foxtail" and how true. What a beautiful palm. I used three *Veitchia spiralis* (a small *Veitchia* species) in varied heights next to the driveway. *Ptychosperma solomonense*, *microcarpum*, and *elegan*s were used as well. I thought I would give a shot to *Actinorhytis calapparia.* It is now over the second story roof!

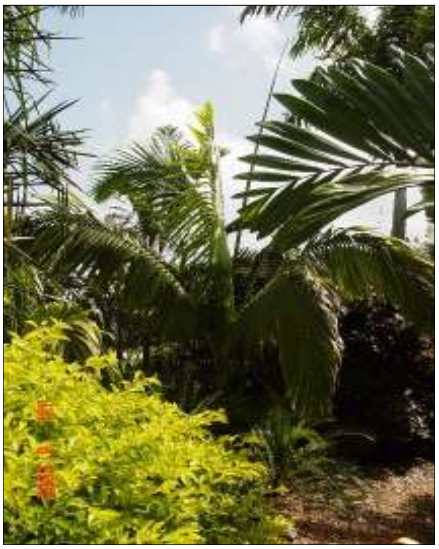
In the backyard, I had to give special consideration to being on the water. The Middle River of Ft. Lauderdale is a brackish wide river which serves many boaters in the western suburbs of Broward County. I was not keen on being on the water since I enjoyed the previous privacy of a thick, fenced tropical garden. I didn't want to feel as if I were "on stage" in my own garden. Now, I really enjoy it and have some privacy while allowing a view of the water as well.

In addition, since there was nothing to block the wind, I gave higher priority to those species which could take the wind and possible salt spray. I used numerous *Cocos nucifera*, *Veitchia montgomeryana*, *Dictyosperma album*, and numerous species of *Ptychosperma.* Two tall *Washingtonia robusta* were situated by the previous owner along the northern property edge. This proved to be a decent northwest wind block in the winter. A tropical Hawaiian bamboo was also planted along the north side as a windbreak. Numerous *Heterospathe elata*s were used, as their reputation was exceptional for waterfront plantings.

Cocothrinax spissa, *proctorii*, and other species were used along the water as they fair well in wind and salt spray. For kicks, I planted a three-gallon *Pritchardi*a sp. that I picked up at a nursery being sold as a "Chinese fan." I love finding goodies that are mistaken for others.

Fast forward three short years. The garden has matured a bit and how it has taken on a life of its own. Most of the coconuts and *Veitchia*s are now over the house. The *Coccothrinax* are established and were an excellent choice for waterfront. They tolerate much abuse. The *Pritchardia* has exploded to holding about 20 huge fanned fronds and people always stop to ask what type of palm it is. I have it on a tetracycline injection program along with the 'Panama Tall' coconut. I need more things to do.

Neoveitchia storckii *(right foreground) has fronds tilted in one plane.*



If the palm species were not enough, I have underplanted with numerous species of cordyline, croton, bromeliads, ginger, heliconia, anthurium, and philodendron. The palms are now getting up far enough to now establish smaller shade loving species such as *Chamaedorea*, *Licuala*, *Synecanthus*, *Geonoma*, *Dypsis*, and even a few unusual cycads for good measure. A prized *Cyrtostachys renda* is planted on the southeast corner of the house and is now 8 foot tall.

I have now been transformed from the Dr. Jekyll to the Mr. Hyde I swore I would not become. Although I have a design established, I am again collecting the smaller, rarer, and expensive palms that I vowed to steer clear of.

Sans a small patch of sod in the front to "conform" to the other neighbors, I have no grass. Therefore, my pickup truck yearns for bags of mulch to weigh the bed down at all times. My sprinkler system needs to be updated since the foliage is now blocking most of the heads. Bags of palm special fertilizer are on my birthday list. Last winter during a cold front, I actually sacrificed myself being cold indoors because all of the com-

(Continued on page 15)

Right up against Rick Leitner's Ft. Lauderdale house: Chambeyronia macrocarpa.

Paradise Over Again!

(Continued from page 14)

forters and blankets were on palms! I plan my weekends around what palm or plant shows are on tap. I have adopted small under story species from friends moving to North Carolina. My Christmas gifts are certificates to nurseries and home improvement warehouses. I am now asking my neighbors if I can plant in their yards. I will buy it, plant it, care for it. I just need more space.

What I need is psychiatric help!

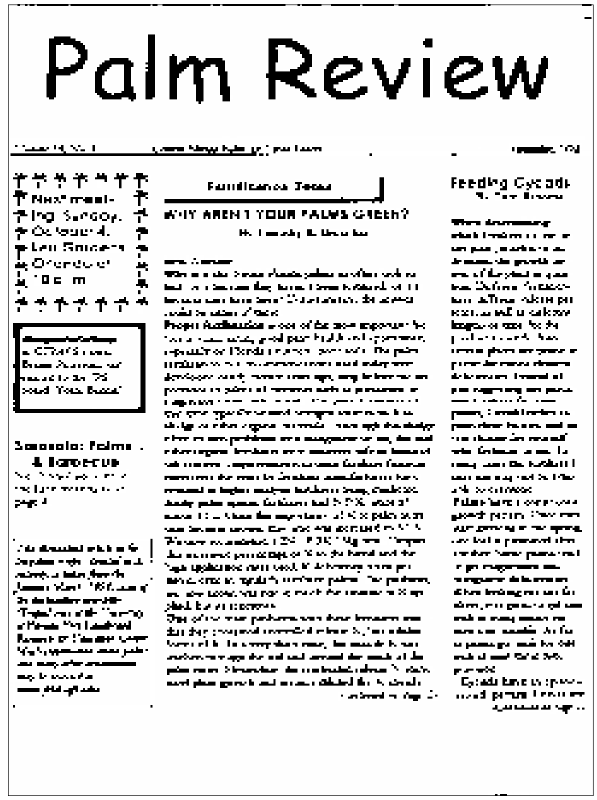
As with any garden, I have had some problems. Most all *Veitchia* species have a red spider mite infestation and need to be treated regularly. I have been battling a few nutritional deficiencies with the *Dictyosperma album* and *Ptychosperma* species. Lethal yellowing got the lone *Adonidia merrillii* even after injecting with tetracycline. Of course, when that 50 foot *Roystonea* frond drops, it smashes any small *Cocothrinax* to smithereens. My alkaline sandy soil is not the greatest for all palms and some have suffered and died. And the typical garden variety of snails, mealybugs, aphids, and blue land crabs. However, nothing that a palm nut has not seen before.

If you are ever in the Ft. Lauderdale/Miami area, please stop and say hello. As with any other palm collector, half of the enjoyment is sharing with others.

I'd be lost without my palms.

Rick Leitner
Ft. Lauderdale

[Rick's lot is pie-shaped, 80 feet wide on the street, becoming 100 feet wide on the water.—Editor]



Palm Review

Feeding Cycads

WHY AREN'T YOUR PALMS GREEN?

Above, John-the-Editor's first effort—5 years ago, this month. Printed on cream-colored paper, the pictures are best described as "unidentifiable." The content wasn't all that bad, but production values, um. Of course, it was put together by someone completely inexperienced, on a classroom computer, 18 pages long, in only 50 hours. The name was changed three issues later, the editor gradually understood what he needed to know; the chapter's computer, scanner, printer assisted progress. Then,

[Below, another of the apparently numberless 42-second palm spots taped by your Editor for WQCS public radio in Fort Pierce.]

Palm Points #21
Everglades Palm

Everglades Palm or Paurotis Palm, a Florida native, is now available in many garden centers. A clumping palm, it grows to about 30 feet.

Each trunk is less than 6 inches across, wrapped in brown fiber. The small fan leaves are on thorny stems.

The trunks are different heights. Their number is up to the homeowner. Emerging suckers can be cut off. The entrance to the library on the Fort Pierce campus of Indian River Community College is flanked by an Everglades Palm on either side.

Everglades Palm lives happily in damp spots, but grows nicely in drier locations. It prefers full sun but

From Houston to Fort Pierce, or

Getting Closer to Palms: Author Robert Lee Riffle

Left, Robert Lee Riffle, co-author of An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms*, enjoys the sparse shade at the June 14th meeting with Faith and John Bishock.*

By John Kennedy

Liberty Hyde Bailey's late 19th-century classic *Encyclopedia of Horticulture* is the direct ancestor of this year's *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms*.

A teenage Robert Lee Riffle convinced his doubtful Houston parents that a decaying copy of this two-volume work, found in a used bookstore, was really worth the-then astounding sum of $25. Hooked! Read straight through, as only a fanatic or a lover could do.

A little later, working after college in a nursery owned by a man from Miami who had brought all kinds of unsuitable palms—e.g., *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*--to Houston only confirmed a life-long interest in palms.

If you were imagining an austere scholar of palms, a grind from some graduate biology department, in actuality Bob's career could only be described as "checkered." He earned a bachelors degree in piano performance from Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana. "Basically, I'm a musician."

Piano-teaching lasted only a few months and was followed by many graduate courses, but no degree, from the University of Houston, where he says he taught (as a teaching assistant) French, Spanish literature, even English literature. Next, Bob's graduate study in botany at the University of Texas at Austin was quickly defeated—as for so many—by a required course in Inorganic Chemistry. Later, he also worked in a hospital.

In the 1960s, Bob came across another classic book, McCurrach's *Palms of the World*, reviving his awareness of palms.

In 1995, he began to write *The Tropical Look* for Timber Press, encouraged by an editor, Sally Roth. He finished the book in 1996; it was published in 1998. This brought him a certain amount of celebrity. For those who may not have encountered the book, it is filled with many excellent pictures and basic information about all the plants shown, which tend to have large, dramatic leaves. (hey, palms!) The audience for the book doesn't live in the tropics or subtropics but likes this lush "look." How did he "narrow" his choice down to a manageable number? "I just eliminated anything deciduous."

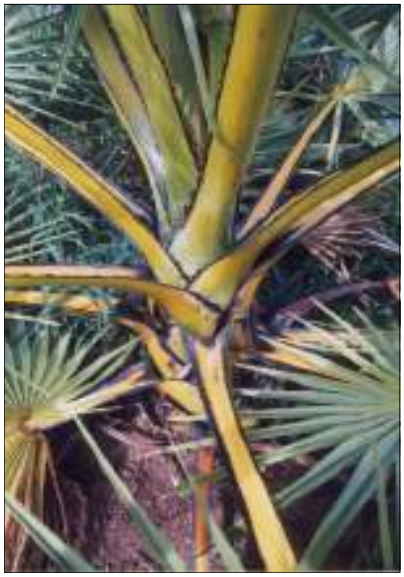
Until the freeze of 1989, Bob grew most of these tropicals (R. I. P.) in his Houston garden.

After moving to Florida in September, 2000, he en-

(Continued on page 20)

Distinguishing Features of the Two Commonly Grown Species of *Borassus [1]*

Left, the leaf bases of Borassus aethiopum. *Right, the leaf bases of* Borassus flabellifer.



By Mike Dahme

Over the years there has been more than occasional confusion in Florida in distinguishing between the Asian and African species of this genus [2], the pages of the central Florida palm bulletin not being immune in this regard. Likewise, the recent palm book, *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms*, confuses the two. This paper is submitted to enable the reader to easily distinguish between them in the landscape.

SIZE: The African, *B aethiopum*, is considerably the larger, well-grown specimens in Florida being three feet in diameter at the base after the leaf bases have detached. The best specimens in central Florida are the two at the home of Joe Michael, planted in 1959, but good ones can also be seen in the public gardens of Fairchild and Flamingo in S Florida. There are not many "palmyra palms", *B flabellifer*, to be found in Florida but a fine specimen of 21 years age is located at the home of Joe Alf in Melbourne. Stem diameter is about half that of the African, which is also considerably larger in terms of leaf, petiole and overall crown dimensions.

LEAF: the frond of the Asian [*B flabellifer*] has a deep fold, or plication, in the center.; that of the African is essentially flat by comparison.

STEM VENTRICOSITY: the African [*B aethiopum*] often has a bulge, or "belly" in the trunk. [This feature only of use when confronted with *Borassus* of considerable age/size.]

LEAFBASE COLORATION: the leafbase and proximal portion of the petiole of the Asian species exhibits a range of colors from orange through yellow to pale green, as the accompanying pictures show. By contrast the African species' leafbase color merges from ink black to green on the abaxial [underside] surface of the petiole.

Almost all of the *Borassus* in Florida are of the African species, this because today's population largely derives from US Department of Agriculture introductions from Africa in the 1920's and '30's. However, the Asian species is well worth growing if plants or seeds can be obtained. Early indications are that *B flabellifer* is not only more foliage-hardy to frost [3] but is faster-growing, at least during the establishment phase, than the notoriously slow *B aethiopum*.

[1] For purpose of this article the Madagascan species are considered as *B aethiopum* and the Indonesian *B sundaicum* as *B flabellifer*.

[2] Much of the nomenclatural confusion is due to USDA introductions from Africa being misrecorded as *B flabellifer*, the original errors then perpetuated in ac-

Above, the larger, flatter lamina of Borassus aethiopum. *Right, the leaf fold of* Borassus flabellifer.

Two Species of *Borassus*

(Continued from page 17)

cession data and memories over the years.

[3] Relative hardiness to cold temperatures and frost also an observation of Brisbane grower Daryl O'Connor.

Above, Joe Alf (former CFPACS president) stands next to his Borassus flabellifer *in Melbourne. Left, petioles of the same palm.*

A LETTER from THE BRITISH ISLES

Introduction, *Trachycarpus* and The New Wonder of The World (the View from East Anglia)

By Mike Horwitz

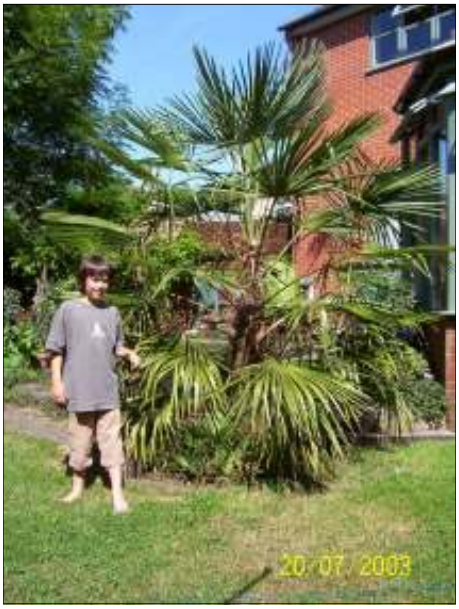
Hello Central Florida,

For those of you who don't know me I am the oldest son of Jules, who most of you do know. I grew up and was educated in Miami (which hopefully explains why my grammar and spelling is so poor, if we only had had teachers like our editor). At the impressionable age of 20, with a diploma in my hand from Miami Dade Junior (Community) College in Marine Survey, having failed the physical for Viet Nam (broke my heart, that did), I ended up in England with a job in the North Sea Oil / Gas Industry. Where I learned my trade as a hydrographic surveyor, met my wife, had children and learned how to drink beer (and not necessarily in that order).

Along with this article is a picture, taken in my back garden (yard in American) of my largest and second favourite palm, which for the first time flowered. The first one to send me an e-mail with the correct name of the palm in question will win a stained beer mat from our local pub (Mike Dahme, the Editor, and members of my Family excluded). Enough of this nonsense, I am here to talk about palms and other exotics (meaning anything from plants to well, let's just say, anything British).

In this letter I will describe the palm in the picture. As most of you would have guessed by now it's a *Trachycarpus fortunei*. This plant (and a second) were given to me by Paul Craft, Xmas '92, when I was visiting his nursery in Palm Beach with my Father. At that stage of my palm growing career I had not a clue as to what I was doing or the difference between one palm and the next. It was gallon size, maybe less I cannot remember, Paul recommended giving it a try, I did.

As I had two Trachys I could afford to experiment, so I left one out over the winter. It was covered with snow at one stage and went through a few freezes. No damage at all, no real surprise if I had bothered to read more about this species. So, in 1994, I planted one out and the second went to a friend up the road. The early years in the ground were tough, '96 we were in Houston for the year, the poor plant had to fend for itself. In '98 the poor Trachy nearly died as builders were working on the foundations of our house and almost dug it up. Since then with plenty of food and water this palm has really taken off at the following rate:



A recent picture of the Trachy in East Anglia with Sam Horwitz, 9, the author's son..

Date	Height	Height Diff	New Fronds
Nov '99	1.17m / 3.8ft		
Nov '00	1.84m / 6.0ft	0.67m / 2.2ft	8
Nov '01	2.13m / 7.0ft	0.29m / 1.0ft	10
Nov '02	2.65m / 8.7ft	0.52m / 1.7ft	12

All the above measurements are from soil level to the tip on the tallest frond. I can no longer reach the tallest frond, so I will now have to start measuring the trunk. Which brings me up nicely to what I believe to be unusual about this palm and that is the circumference of the trunk at its base, which is one meter (3.3 feet), unusual from what I have seen of Trachys. In the early years this palm seemed to do nothing but swell at the base. I put this down to the water table, only about a metre below. The roots must have tapped into it, resulting in a steady supply of liquid feed.

You may (or may not) have wondered what happened to the to sister Trachy which went up the road. Well, unfortunately, it also went up a hill consisting of sandy soil, (much like you have in Central Florida) with poor water retaining qualities. Where our back garden had at one time been a marsh (swamp to us ex-Floridians). As a result it has only reached about a third the height of the Trachy I kept.

Trachy growing has now become quite commonplace in Southern England, as exotic gardening has become more and more popular. And they do thrive well,

(Continued on page 20)

Robert Lee Riffle

(Continued from page 16)

countered Paul Craft at a Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society meeting and saw in him an ideal collaborator for *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms*. Bob began work on the palm book in 2001, worked 12-hour days in October-November, 2002, to finish; it was published in March, 2003. "People fail to realize how long it actually takes to get a book through from writing to publication." Aside from pictures taken by himself and by Paul, obtaining necessary pictures from overseas was a "strenuous" process. Getting the pictures through the actual printing was another hurdle. And, of course, many of those who contributed photos wished their return. Remember, the book has more than 900 pictures.

What's ahead? Timber Press would like Bob to do a popular version of the palm book, concentrating on 150-200 species, aimed at a bigger, less knowledgeable audience than palm society members. An "extension" of *The Tropical Look* is also under discussion.

The Liberty Hyde Bailey book (in two volumes) is still a cherished possession found in the most lived-in room in the White City house, a bedroom turned into a study—computer on, to Garden Web, a small TV on, to the Weather Channel and piles of books, CDs, and just plain "stuff." Is there a piano in there, somewhere? Not very many palms have been planted (yet) around the modest house, just a small assortment of young palms—like anyone else recently moved to Florida. What's his favorite palm? A hesitation, while Bob sorts clearly sorts through a number of possibilities. "Maybe *Mauritia flexuosa."*

Palm Points #22
Where to See Palms

Right now, the best place to see mature palms on the Treasure Coast is at Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce. Heathcote is on Savannah Road, a half block east of U. S. #1. Heathcote is open most days except Mondays. The phone number is (772) 464-4672.

Palms are also on display at McKee Botanical Garden in Vero Beach. McKee is on U.S. #1 on the south side of Vero Beach. The telephone number there is (772) 794-0601.

The most spectacular place to look at palms—perhaps in the whole United States--is in Miami. Fairchild Tropical Garden is one of the great botanical gardens of the world.

Trachy in East Anglia

(Continued from page 19)

which is no surprise as I am led to believe they grow better in a cooler / damper climate than what you experience in Central Florida. Well, we get plenty of cool and damp here, which must explain why this palm has been so successful.

(**Definition of** Exotic Gardening: In England equals palms, bananas, tree ferns, bamboos, cannas etc, any vegetation that I grew up around. In Central Florida, "exotic" equals apple trees, roses, and pears, any Northern vegetation where most of the residents come from)

And I am doing all I can to spread the word, as I have far too many *Trachycarpus fortunei* growing in 1 to 4 litre (0.3 to 1.1 gallon US) pots. So I readily give them out to any of the locals who are interested (and some that are not). Some day I hope to see our village lined with them.

The ultimate height? – well, in a village only a few miles from me there grows a Trachy of 25 – 30 feet in height (8 - 9 metres). Obviously a forerunner in the exotic craze!

For the future I am looking to grow outdoors all the available species of *Trachycarpus*. At present I have the following in up to 3 litre (0.8 gallon US) containers: *latisectus*, *martianus*, *martianus* "nepal", *nanus*, *takil*, *wagnerianus*. When they reach a reasonable size I plan to plant them out. If any of any of you have seeds of any *Trachycarpus* species, especially those I don't have (*princeps, oreophilus*, for example), I would be interested in hearing from you.

NEWSFLASH ……. BBC …… Friday, 4 July, 2003, 17:48 GMT 18:48 UK

> "Kew is newest 'world wonder'
> Kew Gardens is to join the likes of the Taj Mahal and the Great Wall of China as a modern wonder of the world. The Royal Botanic Gardens in south-west London was recognised as a "unique cultural landscape" by the United Nations, which has given it World Heritage Site status. The 132-hectare site contains some of the world's largest and most famous botanical glasshouses and historic buildings. There are also gardens which the more than one million yearly visitors can enjoy…"

Now that is quite incredible news. I am embarrassed to have to admit, that in my over 20 years of having lived in England I have only visited Kew once. Well, the greenhouses are a good place to visit in the winter, I shall be sure to do it this year. The article continues:

Trachy in East Anglia

(Continued from page 20)

> "…As well as a tourist attraction, Kew is a world famous scientific organisation, internationally respected for its living collection of plants and scientific facilities.
>
> The site houses more than 40 listed buildings and structures including the Palm House, Temperate House, Orangery and Pagoda…"

I know it might seem a bit like "taking coals to Newcastle" or should I say "oranges to Florida", but if you come to London you must visit Kew (close to Heathrow Airport, as is Martin Gibbon's nursery "Palm Centre"). The collection of palms is quite incredible and the greenhouses are so large you actually get the feeling you are outside in a tropical jungle. This newsflash linked to the following, which I am sure you will all find very interesting …

BBC ….. Monday, 11 June, 2001, 15:21 GMT 16:21 UK

> "Record-smashing palm gets the chop
> The tallest house plant in the world has been cut down after it broke through a glass roof at Kew Gardens in London.
> The 35-year-old Roystonea palm had to be removed by five men suspended from the top of the Palm House.
> The plant had grown to more than 18 metres (60 feet) tall but could not be pruned because it grows on one central stalk.
> The palm was donated to the gardens as a seed from South America.
> Also known as the Florida Royal Palm, it can grow up to 30 metres (100 feet) tall.
> The tree has grey bark and feather-shaped leaves that can grow about three metres (10 feet) long.
> The palm has been replaced by a baby Roystonea grown in the nurseries at Kew Gardens. "

Well, I suppose this must be the first Royal to be decapitated in this way! Anyway, this article should give you a fair idea as to how big the Palm House at Kew is , obviously not tall enough for this Royal, though.

Back to the personal side, I once said that I would live no further North then you can grow a palm outdoors. I think it was Paul Craft that pointed it out to me that Trachys grow in Scotland and was wondering what I would look like in a kilt! However, that is probably the only palm that grows there, anyway it is far too cold and grey for me up there. At present I have eight species growing outside with no protection.

Any questions? Any comments? My email address is below, feel free to contact me. Look forward to hearing from you..

For those Brits reading this letter, my apologies.

Bye for now,

Mike Horwitz
Reedham, Norwich, England
mikedhorwitz@aol.com

P.S. Does a US gallon nursery pot hold a gallon of liquid? It looks smaller then our 4 litre pot, maybe it is just my failing eyesight!

Palm Fest 2003

(Continued from page 9)

of Mike's presentation could be attributed to the fact that, I feel this part of the world has the most beautiful palms. We wrapped up the day's agenda with a trip to Pine Island's PalmCo. The company, owned by Mark and Ronda Dean, grows about 30 or so palm species for landscape purposes. The sheer size of their palms—moveable only by crane— was in itself something to see.

Monday was bonus day as this Palmfest was the first to extend into a third day. On this Memorial Day, the festivities shifted from the Ft. Myers area to Sarasota. In the morning, Rob Branch led the now smaller group on a tour of Selby Gardens. The late morning included a tour at the Siesta Key residence of By and Libby Besse. Of special interest here is the vast collection of rare cycads. The day was wrapped up with a brief tour and barbecue at the Old Myakka ranch of John and Faith Bishock.

The Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society, organizers of Palm Fest I in 2000, has been tentatively selected to host Palm Fest V. Plans are to hold the meeting in Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County over the Columbus Day

Palm Points #23 Dwarf Sugar Palm

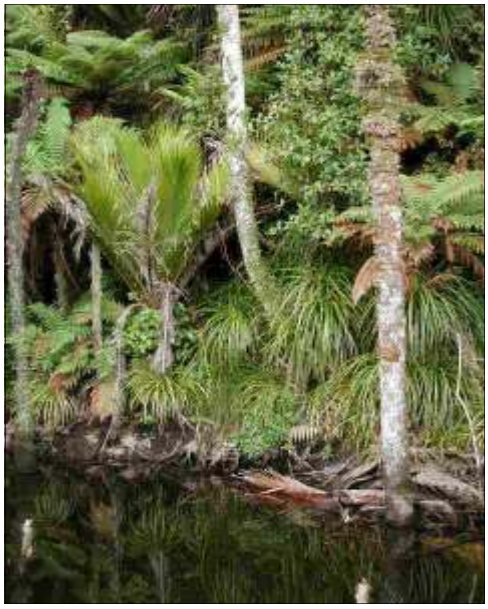
Dwarf Sugar Palm is a clumping palm, with 6-8 trunks that get no higher than about 8 feet, with a spread of perhaps 15 feet.

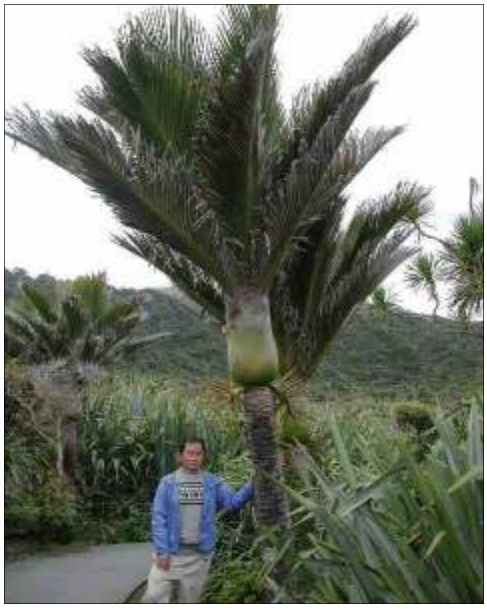
The pinnate leaves are 6 to 8 feet long. The wavy-edged leaflets are dark green on the upper side and silver below. Their color is best when the palm is growing in light shade. Dwarf Sugar Palm is a striking specimen plant. This palm doesn't bloom until it's about 20 years old. The flowers have a lovely odor.

Ripe fruit is red and contains stinging crystals. Dwarf Sugar Palm doesn't fruit when young or small, so presents no immediate danger to small children.

The Latin name is *Arenga engleri.*

The Southernmost Palm (Almost)





Above, author William Tang with Nikau Palm at Pancake Rocks & Blowholes. Left, individuals of the same palm growing in marshy conditions.

By William Tang

I was recently in the southern hemisphere in New Zealand. The two main islands of New Zealand extend from about latitude 34° to latitude 47°. Corresponding latitudes in North America would place us between Wilmington, North Carolina and the northern tip of Maine. Although there are no native cycads here, there is one species of endemic palm. The nikau or shaving brush palm, *Rhopalostylis sapida*, occurs naturally throughout the warmer North Island of New Zealand and in the northern end of the South Island. One would think that this palm would be adapted to a cold climate, however, because of the ameliorating influence of the surrounding ocean the climate in the lowlands here is classified as subtropical to warm temperate. Wandering around the South Island I stumbled onto one of the southernmost populations of this species, near the city of Greymouth on the west coast. At just beyond latitude 42°, this population is at higher latitude than the European fan palm, *Chamaerops humilis*, probably the northernmost palm species.

Perhaps the best route to Greymouth, begins in Christchurch. Christchurch is the main city of the South Island and can be reached easily by plane from most other major New Zealand cities. From Christchurch you can drive over the mountains or take the scenic Transalpine Express, considered by train buffs to be one of the best rides in the world. Along the way you will be able to see snow covered peaks of the Southern Alps during the winter months, which is June through August. After a four-hour ride you will reach Greymouth, the largest city on the west coast of the island. With a population of 20,000, Greymouth is, by most standards, a small city. Until recently the main economy of the locals was coal mining and lumbering, but tourism is becoming increasingly important, with visitors coming from Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Europe. With this economic shift has come a greater concern for the preservation of the natural forests. They form the blanket for the spectacular beaches and stunning mountains along this coast. The plants here are mostly unique to New Zealand and include tree ferns and strange and ancient southern conifers, like the Rimu, *Dacrydium cupressinum*, which is a valuable timber tree.

In Greymouth a range of accommodations is available from backpacker hostels to higher end hotels. I would

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Southernmost Palm (Almost)

(Continued from page 22)

recommend the middle range. Half-day tours are available that will take you up the coast and stop at scenic spots. North just beyond town you will begin to see soliatry nikau palms emerging out of the forest, which in most areas is really just tall scrub. They become more and more common further along and really reach abundance at the Pancake Rocks & Blowholes. Here an unusual combination of fissured limestone rocks and ocean waves create explosive gusts of water at the right tides. There is a tourist hotel at this spot, which is the best place to stay if you really want to spend time with these palms. A walk through the coastal scrub here will bring you up close and personal with numerous specimens from seedlings to fruiting adults.

I spoke to my tour guide/bus driver, who has lived here all his life. He said that along this section of coast the temperature never falls to freezing. Further into the mountains and south beyond Greymouth freezing temperatures do occur in winter and the palm is not present. The only possible threat to this particular population of nikau palms is the presence of titanium deposits in the area, but since this area is also the only breeding ground for the black petrel, there is little chance that this resource will be exploited in the foreseeable future, especially in this presently environmentally conscious society. I asked our driver what he did before he went into the tour guide business and he sheepishly admitted that he was in lumbering and he subsequently took us to a coastal preserve where a few of the towering conifers, once probably more numerous, remained.

On my way out of New Zealand through Auckland, I paid a visit to Keith Boyer, author of *Palms and Cycads beyond the Tropics*, still one of the best books on cold tolerance in palms. Keith, a gentleman and gracious host, as most New Zealanders tend to be, pointed out that *Rhopalostylis sapida* is a cool climate species and that most seeds he has sent to Florida have died except for one batch from islands off the north coast of the North Island. This variant is the most subtropical in the range and seed grown specimens have survived in Jacksonville, Florida. *[These were defoliated last winter, according to Ed Brown, but are recovering.—Editor]* The peculiar climatic conditions of Central Florida, namely tropical summers and relatively warm winters with occasional killing freezes, is not really suitable for this species. Upon further thought CFPACS members are better off looking in regions analogous to Florida – this would be the subtropical coasts on the eastern side of continents, such as Queensland, Australia, southern China, and southern Brazil, where cold artic or Antarctic air masses occasionally ruin what would otherwise be perfect winter growing conditions.

Ripening fruits of Rhopalostylis sapida.

Upon further perusal through Keith's book, I found that another population of *Rhopalostylis sapida* on the Chatham Islands, at latitude 44 ◦ 18' and 865 km east of the main islands, has the distinction of being the southernmost of all palms. Oh well, almost.

Palm Points #23 B Palm Handout

I have put together a 9-page handout entitled "Suggested Palms for the Treasure Coast."

Approximate size, cold hardiness, and salt tolerance are provided. The palms listed are relatively easy to grow and may be obtained without much difficulty.

General cultural information about fertilization, grooming, and preparation for freezes is also given.

My experience of more than 20 years of growing many kinds of palms has gone into the handout. I have also consulted friends who are serious palm growers, and I have read extensively.

I have been much involved in the activities of the regional palm society, the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society. **The handout** is available—free—by writing to me, Dr. John Kennedy, WQCS, Box 89, Fort Pierce, FL 34979. *[This is on the radio, in a local area.. Anyone who might like a copy, write to my home address.]*

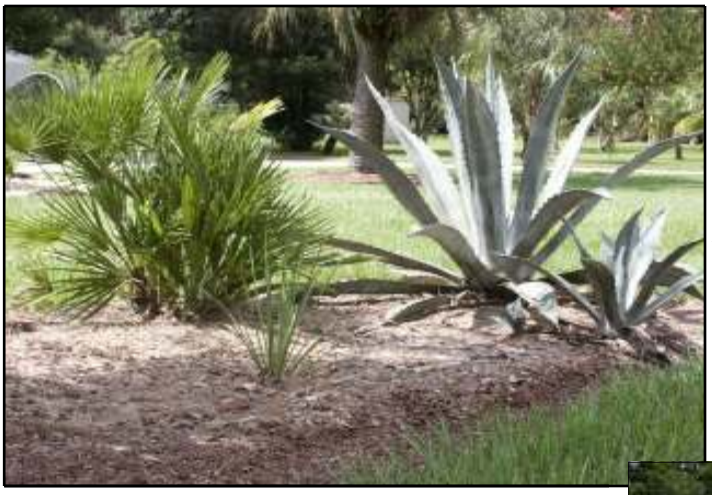
A Fun Project for Winter

DESERTSCAPING!

By Tom Barrese

When the winter season is fast approaching, we all tend to lose a little interest in our collections. Our efforts move from the planting mode to the protecting mode and this can be a little boring. Here is a way to keep our planting interests stimulated during our winter season by the creation of a desertscape.

Why a desertscape? Well, it involves a particular compass orientation and the use of particular palms and plants for "the look" with moisture needs and cold tolerance that are compatible with our central Florida winter season. Our winters tend to be dry when we are in our normal pattern. With desertscaping, the usual establishment watering isn't as necessary because the plant materials used have low moisture requirements.



Above, an example of desertscaping: Chamaerops humilis *with* Agave americana *and* A. stricta. *Right, a multi-headed* Chamaerops *with Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*) and rock mulch.*

Our first concern should be orientation. Pick an open sunny exposure facing southwest. The sun is strongest at this mid to late afternoon position ensuring adequate light for nice compact growth. The lack of a protective tree canopy in an open site does not need to be considered because the palms and plants used are hardy in the open.

This brings us to our next concern… plant selection. The "desert" palms, of course, would be an obvious choice. These would include the genera *Phoenix*, *Washingtonia*, *Chamaerops,* and *Brahea* species that are Florida proven. Some additional choices could be *Trachycarpus*, *Trithrinax*, *Nannorhops*, and *Medemia. Sabal minor*, green, silver or blue *Serenoa*, and *Rhapidophyllum* could be used for their scrubby appearance. *Butia*, and --yes, even *Bismarckia*s with their glaucous appearance could be effectively used in a desertscape.

The anchoring plants come next. In a tropical landscape bromeliads, aroids, crotons and other leafy plants are used. But in a desertscape the choices are assorted agaves, yuccas, dracaenas, cacti and succulent species. *Phormium* and even the large and small *Strelitzia*s are compatible as accents. How about the cycads? I have never been in a public botanic cacti and succulent garden that did not include *Dioon edule* in the collection. But why stop there? Expand your choices to *Encephalartos ferox* or *horridus* for their spiny and glaucous appearance or other cycads that convey that spiny or arid look.

Now that a group of plants have been highlighted, planting technique can be addressed. While most palm plantings among our members are thickly planted, closely spaced and jungle like, the key words are sparse and well spaced in a desertscape. Try a cluster of three, then a large space followed by a single plant of

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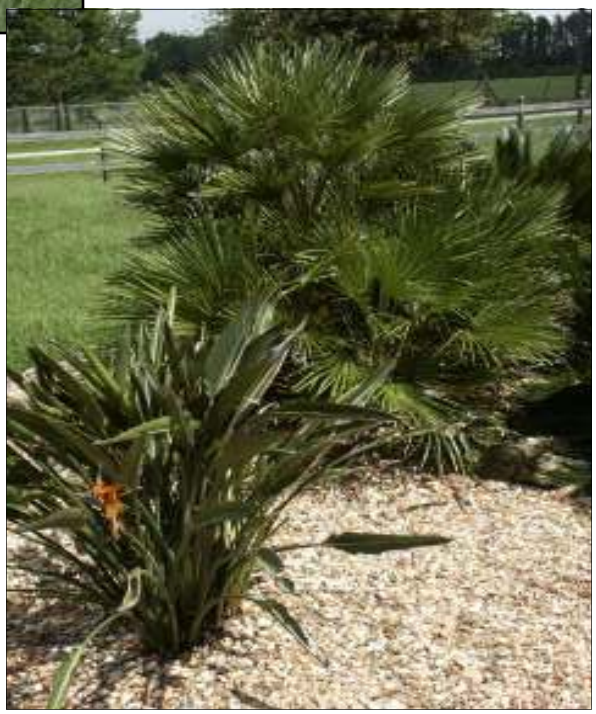

Desertscaping

(Continued from page 24)

the same species (palms, agaves or cacti for example). Arrange the grouping, then plant all at once rather than one plant at a time. Remember, odd numbers look more natural. The idea is to make things look as if Mother Nature has planted them.

Mulching is important in desertscaping not so much for its moisture retaining abilities, but for its visual impact. Some organic mulches can be used, but the bulk of the mulching should be done in rock. A nice effect is a base of small gravel followed by a light randomly placed layer of larger material of a contrasting color, followed by even larger rocks or "boulders". Remember to follow the clustering and spacing techniques as for plants because rocks are key visual elements which are as important as the plants themselves. Arrange and rearrange until the desired effect is achieved.

Using our winter season to establish a desertscape has many benefits. Foremost, it keeps us outside and actively planting instead of indoors nervously awaiting the next freeze. Additionally, it helps us to use palms that are generally looked upon with contempt (i.e.,*Washingtonia* and *Phoenix*) in a setting that is compatible and thus enhancing to their appearance. Finally, desertscaping falls in line with the moisture and temperature regimens that usually accompany the season. I hope I have helped you visualize how a desertscape might appear and how and where to work one into your own collection. Good luck and happy

The USF Fall Plant Festival 2003

By Chuck Grieneisen

It's time again for the Fall sale in Tampa. The University of South Florida, in Tampa, is hosting the Fall Plant Festival on Saturday, Oct 12th, and Sunday, Oct 13th. The hours will be 10AM to 4 PM on Saturday, and 10AM to 3 PM on Sunday. Members of the USF Botanical Garden get in early at 9:30 AM.

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.

Also for the vendors: at the spring sale we made a list of all the palm and cycad species that were going to be at the sale. It will be posted on our website as well as the list will be E-mailed out to all CFPACS members. Several people showed up at the sale with the printed list in hand looking for certain plants. We will be doing this again this time. To get your plants on the list you can send them to me by E-mail at chuckfg@mpinet.net. Or you can mail them to me, Chuck Grieneisen, 2450 Simmons Rd., Oviedo FL 32765. Have the list to me by October 2.

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. Most of the other plant 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.

Left, Corypha umbraculifera*, at the Garden of Palms, Fort Myers, visited during Palm Fest last May.*
(Photo by Ray Hernández)

From the Editor's Desk

If you've never visited Ruth Sallenbach's spectacular palm garden, now is the time for rectifying that omission. Our neighbor chapter, the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society (PBCS) has—for years--held a September visit-cum-picnic-mit-auction to which CFPACS members are invited. It's a truly wonderful place that contains some species of palms and cycads that we of the frozen north can only salivate at. The place seems like a small botanical garden; perhaps not all that small, either, and is well worth the long drive. The directions are on page 3. As to the instructions about bringing a covered dish and your own lawn chair, I would also suggest bringing your own water. Baldies, such as myself, have learned long since to wear a hat in sunny, muggy, wonderful Florida. The PBCS people are delightful and friendly hosts. Do come on September 13th!

* * * * *

An anniversary! Mine, as Editor. Five years ago, I produced the first newsletter for CFPACS, the September, 1998, issue. Break out the champagne, hold back on the brickbats. What did it look like? *The Palm Review* was the title I inherited. It was printed on cream-colored paper. The production values were about 6th grade, compared to the relative sophistication of the current *Palmateer*. First, I had no computer, so the newsletter was assembled on a classroom computer at Indian River Community College. I can't remember—mercifully—how the pictures were handled, for I certainly had no scanner. None in the bulletin were more than 2 inches by 1 inch high and seemed (as I later said) "to have been taken in a parking lot on a moonless night." In other words, it wasn't possible actually to see the palm or person in the picture.

The content and the writing weren't all that bad, but the appearance was dismal. In addition to finagling the issue on a classroom computer, I had also inherited Microsoft Publisher 97, about which I knew nothing, and quickly discovered that the accompanying handbook was geared to users who already (unlike me) knew the basics. In short, I was on my own to learn, by trial-and-error (mostly the latter). My own computer skills were just about being able to send an e-mail; little did I know that, in a few years, I would be teaching an online course.

The second issue, December, 1998, was equally horrible, prompting a California member to write a scathing letter to me, who had spent 50 hours to produce what he objected to. My chilly response fell just short of telling him what he could do with his opinion. The Board, with Neil Yorio as president (succeeding Tom Broome, who recruited me), took mercy on my struggles and realized that I was too poor at the time to run right out and buy a computer. So, CFPACS bought a Gateway computer, a Hewlett-Packard scanner, and Adobe Photo Deluxe scanner program in January, 1999, at the Gateway store in Melbourne. Dave Besst and Neil discussed what I would need, while I tagged along, barely understanding their conversation.

Beginning with the March, 1999, issue the newsletter has been composed on this computer. The original software programs on it included Publisher 1998, which was an improvement; later in the year, the company offered an upgrade to Publisher 2000. The Board told me to dream up another name for the newsletter, wishful for a new start. I came up with *The Palmateer*, as a play on Mouseketeer, saying we live under the shadow of Disney in Central Florida anyway, as well as a play on Musketeer (We are the 350 Palm [/Cycad] Musketeers?).

The issues were not in full color until March, 2002, when Mark Van Antwerp (then printing the newsletter) produced this marvel. For a couple of issues previous to that date, there was a single, and very expensive, color page, but everything else was in black-and-white, printed expensively at a commercial printshop.

Most of the material stored in this computer is pictures, articles, info connected with *The Palmateer*. There are also some course handouts and tests, but 77% of the 64-MB memory is unused. The Internet service provider to the computer, at my home, is my employer. A freebie since I am thus able to access my online course in my office and also at home.

I've learned so much that, when I think of it, I am amazed. I don't really like computers, but that's beside the point. What I think doesn't matter. Progress marches on! I'm still dragging my feet, of course, since I don't own a cell phone. But how lovely sometimes to be out of touch.

* * * * * *

I boasted in the last issue—written prior to the actual printing--that the chapter's new printer could mix a martini or make cole slaw. I should not have bragged. Hubris is always punished by the gods. The setup, at Diana Grabowski's office in Cocoa Beach, did not run

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From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 26)

smoothly. First, how do I download a CD-ROM in Publisher 2000 into a computer that has Windows 95? With difficulty, but it could be done. Then there was the matter of the Ethernet card (wazzat?) and Diana's being sold the wrong connector cable. Eventually, all difficulties were overcome. Diana and I waited with anticipation for the first copy; the printer would produce a single, complete 36-page copy, one at a time. It was beautiful and it took **20 minutes!** Only 300+ to go. Folks would be singing "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" by the time we got finished. Fortunately, before I succumbed to hysteria, Diana was on the phone, again calling her brother-in-law, the computer geek who works for a technical company in Boca Raton. He walked her through complicated steps on the computer, and we won't say how frequently she called him. Eventually, the time to print one copy was reduced to 4 minutes (still too long). Whether the same handy brother-in-law, her husband Mark's brother, has managed to speed this up a little, I'll soon find out. Since we had no idea how far/how long the four toner cartridges would last, both the original cartridges and the spare set were used, and more had to be ordered, delaying the operation for a couple of days. Your Editor printed some of the copies; Diana did most. Charlene Palm came to assist, but the printing itself doesn't require more than one person, perhaps more to staple, to fold and to insert in mailing envelopes. I am more than impressed by Diana's coolness and self-possession and good nature in the face of lurking disaster. I would have thrown the printer through the office's plate glass window, then had to go work as a bagboy at Publix to pay back the cost to CFPACS.

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From Tom Broome: "Oh yea, you mentioned in the last newsletter about wondering if *Bowenia spectabilis* could handle our weather. If they are under cover, or trees they have been tested to 16F without damage. I have had them to 20 without any noticeable damage at all. I have a couple that are almost 4 feet tall, and had both a male a female cone this year."

—John Kennedy

Seed Bank Report: May-July

By Charlene Palm

The Seed Bank started off rather slow for the first two months of the quarter with only one small offer, but then picked up toward the latter end of July with another, larger offer. Here's a list of donors and species distributed.

John Kennedy—*Coccothrinax argentata*, *Livistona benthamii*, and two accessions of *Allagoptera arenaria*

Joe Alf—*Heterospathe elata*

Neil Yorio—*Bismarckia nobilis*

Sam Sweet—*Chamaedorea microspadix*

Montgomery Botanical Center—*Arenga australasica*, *Zombia antillarum*, *Cycas schumanniana*, and *Cycas riuminiana*

John and Faith Bishock—*Licuala spinosa* and *Ptychosperma "kakabona"*

Mike Dahme—*Attalea phalerata*

Jason Baker was kind enough to collect much needed *Bismarckia nobilis*, along with several other species from Joe Michael's, to be offered in August, and reported in December.

Total sales for the quarter came to just over $750.00.

Thanks to everyone who donated or bought seeds.

Palm Points #24 Seashore Palm

Specialty palm nurseries may carry Seashore Palm, otherwise known as *Allagoptera arenaria*.

This palm grows, trunkless, on the dunes of beaches around Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where it takes wind and salt spray all the time.

The clumping palm is pinnate, with leaflets in five planes around the stem. The leaflets are green above, silver below. Plants 20 years old may have leaves 5 feet long and can be 8 to 10 feet high, overall.

Seashore Palm really likes full sun, but will tolerate light shade. This palm requires very good drainage.

If only Seashore Palm did not grow so slowly, it would be planted as an anti-erosion plant on beaches all around Florida.

President's Message

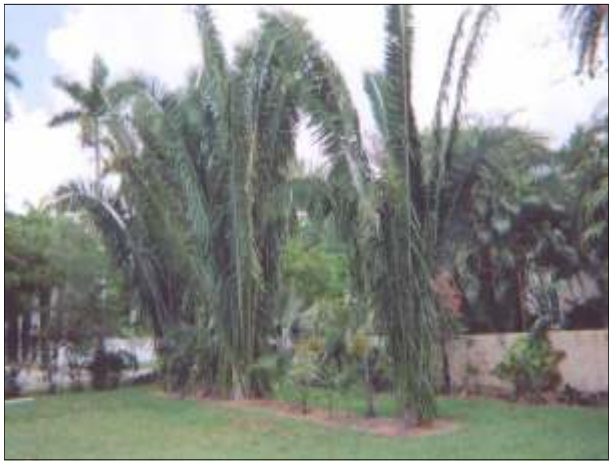
Welcome to summer in Central Florida. Heat, humidity, frequent showers and a few lightning storms rule the day. This is the time of year when most of our plants are growing their fastest and making any winter damage a distant memory. CFPACS is also growing with 300+ members worldwide. It is this growth that has caused us to make some necessary changes.

In the spring, CFPACS purchased a new Xerox color printer. The print quality is far superior to that which we were producing in the past. Check our older color issues dating back to last year and compare the resolution. More importantly, our editor is having a much easier time of it. Collating, which used to take a majority of the time, is now a thing of the past. The first issue (June) took a bit of time and patience but we've worked out the bugs. I'd like to thank our east coast VP, Diana Grabowski, for going the extra mile in getting the printer to crank out the pages.

Speaking of special thanks, have you checked out our website (www.cfpacs.com) lately? Our new webmaster, Steve Wasula, has turned our site into the premier palm/cycad website. A new observation database has been added where one can provide his or her two cents on plant cultivation and, to boot, post photos. There are folks from all over the world posting daily. Please take a look and add a little taste of your own garden experiences to our website. The site also has mention of upcoming meeting and sales. The next chapter meeting will be Saturday, September 13, 2003, at Ruth's Sallenbach's Lake Worth garden. The meeting is actually the Palm Beach Chapter's yearly picnic. Many thanks to PBPCS president Mike Harris for inviting CFPACS to tag along. It has been far too long since our last visit in September of 1999. For those who have never been, Ruth's garden is one of the most incredible outside of Fairchild.

For those who look forward to sales, there are two in the month of October. CFPACS will, of course, be participating in the USF Fall sale in Tampa on October 11 and 12. It is by far one of the best plant sales on Florida's west coast. For you east coasters, CFPACS is planning a palm/cycad sale on October 25 and 26 in your neck of the woods. Location and times are still to be determined but details should be finalized soon. I hope to bump into some of you at one of our upcoming events.

—Ray Hernández



Above, Attalea sp. *at the Bochette estate in Fort Myers, one of the sights of Palm Fest in late May. Below, CFPACS member Henry Homrighaus at Palm Fest, far from his Galveston, Texas, home—holding onto* Areca catechu *Shirt at right appears to be Paul Craft.*

(Photos by Ray Hernández)

Third Quarter Board Meeting Minutes June 14/03

The third quarter board meeting was called to order at the residence of Walt Darnall. The main topic of discussion was the society's new printer. It was agreed to get an Ethernet card for it to speed printing. How to buy supplies for the printer was also discussed. It was suggested for someone to set up an account with a supplier. The next meeting was also discussed. It was suggested to have it at Diana Grabowski's. Getting a logo for the Central Florida Palm and Cycad society for T-shirts, hats, etc., was also discussed. Modifying the seedbank was also discussed. It was agreed to get the money before sending the seeds out, which had not been the policy before. **Keeping ledgers** for the seedbank were also discussed. It was also agreed to send reminder postcards to members who are delinquent in their membership dues. Funding of grant proposals was also discussed. It was suggested that anyone approaching us for grants should show that they have applied to other organizations.

--Chuck Grieneisen, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 25, 2003 to June 14, 2003

INCOME:

Seed sales……	3,183.59
Membership Dues……	1,895.15
Donations to CFPACS……..……..……..	0.00
Public Sales (Leu, USF, UCF)…….	495.50
Private Sales (Jan., Mar. meetings) ……...…….	1,134.40
Back Issue Sales……	0.00
Total _____	6,708.64

EXPENSES:

Publications (v. 23, no. 1)……..……..	1,328.94
Computers, Printers, and Software ……..	3,583.39
Grants (MBC, Jody's field digital equip.)…….	1,169.63
Miscellaneous (corporate annual report)……	61.25
Total _____	6,143.21

INCOME - EXPENSES …….. 565.43

Bank balance 01/25/03……	24,650.55
Bank balance 06/14/03……	25,216.33

Net increase……. 565.78

(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)
…….	7,917.92 (current value, close of market 6/12/2003)
	(4,959.11 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
Printer……..…	2,200.00 minus depreciation

— Michael Merritt, Treasurer

You are artistic, clever, gifted in argument, a keen observer. Your garden is beautiful, yes, but looks just like everyone else's who bought from Wal-Mart, Home Depot, and the like. What you need is a lift, a spice in the garden that is provided by the cultivation of uncommon palms and cycads. But—you don't know anything about these intriguing plants? That lack can easily be remedied. Just fill out the coupon below to join The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society (or visit our website for further information: www.cfpacs.org).

Please print

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

Wish to be added to Seed Bank 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:

Karen Barrese
Membership Chair
5942 Ehren Cutoff
Land O Lakes, FL 34639
cfpacsmbrship@aol.com

Membership also available at website:
www.cfpacs.org
The dues of anyone joining after October 1 are applied to the following calendar year.

CFPACS' December 13th, "*Second Holiday Palm Social*"

Plan on celebrating the holidays "beach style" at Mark& Diana Grabowski's wind/salt tolerance proving grounds located in Cocoa Beach on the Ocean.
Who? This palm social is open to all CFPACS and IPS members, and all of our neighboring palm society friends.
When? Saturday, December 13th, 2003.
Time? 11:00 am- 3:00 pm (you are welcome to stay as long as you'd like... but no more than 3 days)....
Where? The Grabowskis' wind and salt tolerance proving grounds. Planted with palm and cycads suited for salty and windy conditions... at least that's what all the literature states....541 South Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach. (321) 783-2342
What to bring? 6 things: plants to sell, a covered dish of your choice, lawn chair, any beach equipment such as fishing poles, surfboard, boogie boards, some $$ to spend for plant sale and plant auction, and quarters for the parking meters.
Mark and Diana welcome all of you to come join us for a fun and casual day at the beach while you browse around looking at palms and cycads which will definitely be showing "signs" of the season. There will be door prizes, a plant sale, and auction from plants donated by Montgomery Botanical Center, and great food. We will provide a variety of seafood entries (fish, clam chowder, etc., grilled veggies, and key lime pie).Your covered dishes will be greatly appreciated to accompany our dishes. Refreshments will be provided, compliments of the CFPACS.

—Diana Grabowski

[Detailed directions will be given in the December issue of The Palmateer *and on the CFPACS website. —Editor]*

The International Palm Society (IPS)
Anyone interested in joining the IPS and receiving the quarterly, illustrated journal, *Palms*, should send a check for $35 (regular membership) or $45 (family membership) to:
International Palm Society
P. O. Box 368
Lawrence, KS 66044

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

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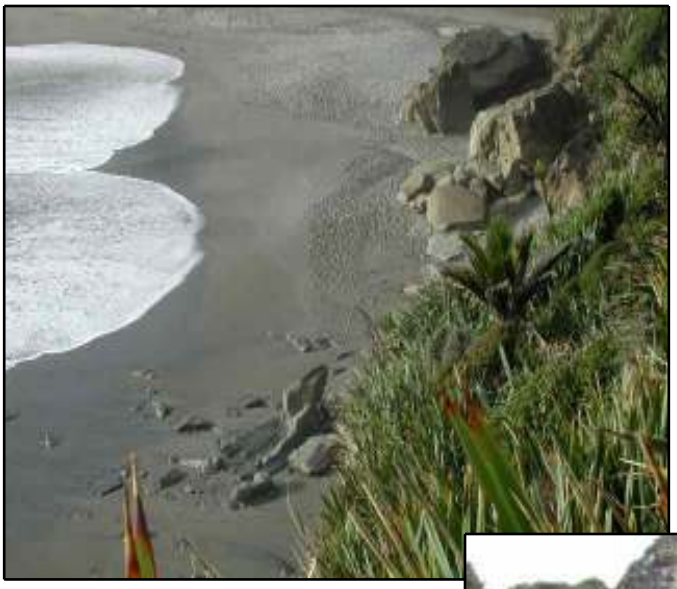
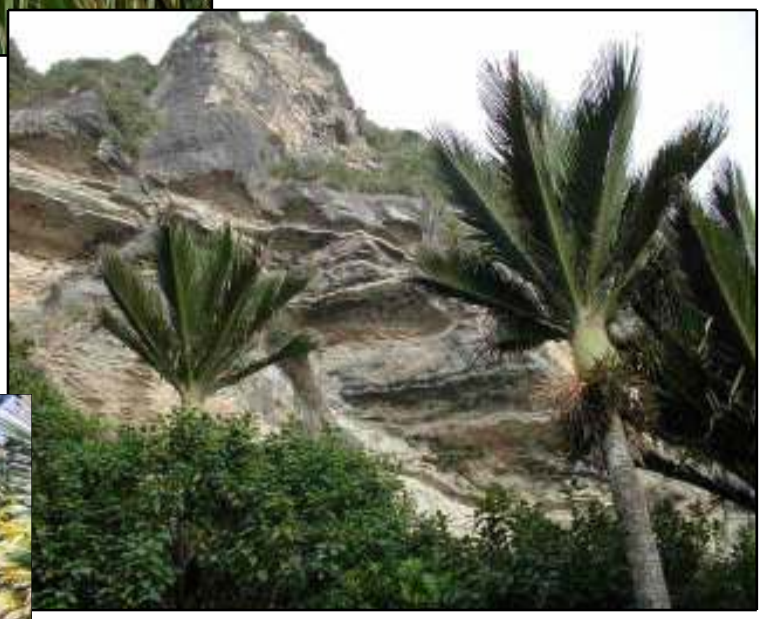
The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society service area includes the following counties:
Alachua, Brevard, Citrus, DeSoto, Flagler, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Lucie,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



Rhopalostylis sapida, *the Nikau Palm, growing in New Zealand (left) at the beach edge and (below) under a limestone cliff.*
(Photos by William Tang)



Look familiar? Yes, it's the same Copernicia macroglossa *from an 'unknown' location published in the June issue of* The Palmateer. *Libby Besse let the Editor know that it is her Petticoat Palm.. (The chapter visited her place in Sarasota in November, 1999.) Then, Ed Brown sent this picture with his friend Nette providing the scale.*