The Palmateer

Volume 25, Number 3 *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* *September, 2005*

Sept. 17th Meeting, Ruskin
THINK BIG!

By Tom Barrese

This quarter's meeting will be held at the residence of Rob Pittman on the banks of the Little Manatee River in Ruskin. Rob has created an instant landscape through his acquisition of mature specimens from a nursery in South Florida that was going out of business.

Species include *Hyophorbe* (some hybrids), *Veitchia*, *Adonidia*, *Thrinax*, *Coccothrinax*, *Wodyetia*, *Licuala spinosa* (biggest I have even seen, some at 10 ft. with many trunks), *Archontophoenix*, many *Phoenix* clusters (many hybrids), cycads and more including many hardy palm and non-palm species. In addition to our regular ven-

(Continued on page 3)

A Double Coconut—Lodoicea maldivica—*at Flamingo Gardens, Davie, visited during Palm Fest. Story on p.15.*
(Photo by Diana Grabowski)

A familiar landmark, Bok Tower in Lake Wales. The June meeting was at Bok. No, you can't go up the tower, dedicated by President Coolidge. Carillon, beautiful ornamentation. (Photo by Karen Barrese)

Lake Wales June Meeting

By John Kennedy

June 11th: the quarterly CFPACS meeting in an unfamiliar place, Bok Tower Gardens or—more correctly—Bok Sanctuary in Lake Wales. Your intrepid Editor is at last going to Bok after living nearly 34 years straight down SR 60, 80 miles away in Vero Beach. (But, then, the number of Florida attractions he's visited is smaller than those he hasn't.)

It will be an interesting day at Bok, if ever he gets there. The sky is ominous and black, it's rained off and on, and he remembers, from driving *through* Lake Wales that SR 60 often floods, in heavy rain, near the Osceola County line east of Yeehaw Junction, forcing drivers to return nearly to Vero Beach, 30 miles back, before any alternative route becomes possible. The month (so far) has featured little sunshine and considerable rain.

The sign for Bok, near the Lake Wales Wal-Mart, features a zigzag course through residential back streets. The entrance gate, he gives his name, the attendant consults a clipboard and he is waved through, **free**! (He has sent in his name to organizer, Tom Broome.) Then a drive of about a mile past citrus

(Continued on page 4)

CENTRAL FLORIDA
PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

CONTENTS

Claudia Walworth Appointed New Seed Bank Coordinator

Claudia Walworth has been appointed Seed Bank coordinator to succeed Dean VanderBleek. Dean did the heavy lifting on this demanding office for a year but is unable to continue because of work pressures. (We all have day jobs, too.) Claudia lives in Oviedo with husband, Wayne, and describes herself as a "hard-core gardening enthusiasts." Her home landscape was 99% destroyed in three hurricanes last year and she is doggedly rebuilding it. Her orchid collection, 250 plants, also requires her attention, including fighting the scourge of Southern orchid growers, the Bois-du-Val scale. Lest it seem that she is wondering what else to do with her time, Claudia has served as Horticulture Chair for her garden club and is currently Membership Chair.

Claudia believes that she may have the largest *Cycas circinalis (rumphii)*, Queen Sago, in Central Florida. It is 18 feet tall by 15 feet wide, and is two-trunked at the top. "I am determined to keep it safe from the *Aulacaspis* scale, even if I have to be out there at night with a flashlight," she says.

Other qualifications of Claudia's that will come in handy in slaving (oops, "genteel work") for the Seed Bank is her Bachelors degree from the University of West Florida, Pensacola, in Accounting and Information Systems. Magna cum laude, no less.

The Editor first encountered Claudia at the famous January, 2003 meeting. As all of you will recall, there was no room for us in the building, so we met in the parking lot at Leu Gardens in Orlando on that nippy morning.

Seed sales help support our chapter, including this newsletter. If you have seed to donate (none is purchased), do contact Claudia.

--John Kennedy

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE
NOVEMBER 11

Sept. 17 Meeting, Ruskin

(Continued from page 1)

dors, Rob is offering large specimens of the above at wholesale prices for those who are interested. His off-site fields are within a short drive from the meeting. So bring your trailer, truck or van if large specimens at a good price are what you want!

Itinerary is as follows:

Saturday, September 17th
9:30 - 10:30 a.m. board meeting (everybody welcome)
10:30 Tour garden
- catered "Cuban" lunch mid day (ropa vieja [pork],chicken, black beans and yellow rice, salad, bread, dessert: $7.00 per person)

BRING CHAIRS

- followed by the plant sale/auction
- tour of off-site fields for those interested

Directions to Rob's:

From south bound I-75 (south of I-4), take the Ruskin exit #240B, travel west on College Ave. E (Hwy 674) crossing US 41 (Tamiami Trail) to 10th St. SW (abt. 3 miles from I-75), turning RIGHT.
Make a RIGHT on 4th Ave. SW. Proceed about 50 feet to brick paver driveway on LEFT. Limited parking in his driveway or park on the street on the south side (across from his property).

901 4th Ave. SW
Ruskin, FL

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

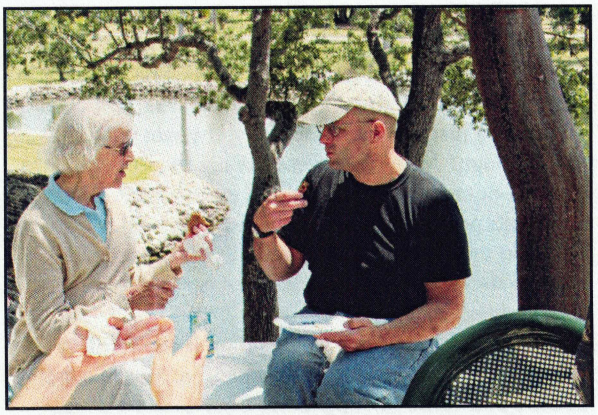
Mark Grabowski Appointed East VP

The new East Coast Vice President is Mark Grabowski of Cocoa Beach. Mark has been actively involved in the CFPACS for over a decade. His first exotic palm acquistion was an *Allagoptera* seedling.
Mark enjoys spending his time outdoors in the early morning and evening hours tending to his extensive palm collection. If any members are questioning what plants can survive in the harsh conditions of coastal zones, Mark can probably give you the information based on his own trials and tribulations of trying to grow palms and cycads along the coast.

--DWG

Below, CFPACS Life Member Libby Besse chats with Tim Cooke, IPS bookstore manager, at the IPS board meeting in April at Montgomery Botanical Center. The disembodied hands are Jim Cain's.

(Photo by Paul Craft)



Lake Wales June Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

groves. We've hired a meeting room, there must be a building here somewhere. Ah, yes, single story, Spanish style, red
tile roof. But where are the other cars? His is the only one; the board meeting is supposed to begin in 20 minutes. He goes into the gift shop, set up clearly to trap female visitors, better stuff than is usually found in such places. Off the gift shop, a small screened area with garden plants, some uncommon, the male visitor trap.

Twenty-five minutes later, board members arrive, one after the other, and the board ponders significant issues. Members arrive, but not many. Hersh and Jackie Womble are here, real regulars. It's raining hard by now. La Presidenta has reported squalls of heavy rain on the way over from Brevard County. Thirty people sit for the program.

The speaker, Russell Adams**,** shows slides of cycads in Panamá. Many cycads, beautiful countryside, then those pictures of clear cutting, everything gone. David Price, horticultural director at Bok, tells the group about Bok's history and organization, stressing the fact that it is not a botanical garden, but more a conservation area.

After the speakers are done and the questions asked, members venture out between showers for quick exploratory sprints around Bok. The place is beautiful, no carefully labeled palms, cycads, or other plants; the broken oaks look like everywhere else in Central Florida, now coming back, but injured.

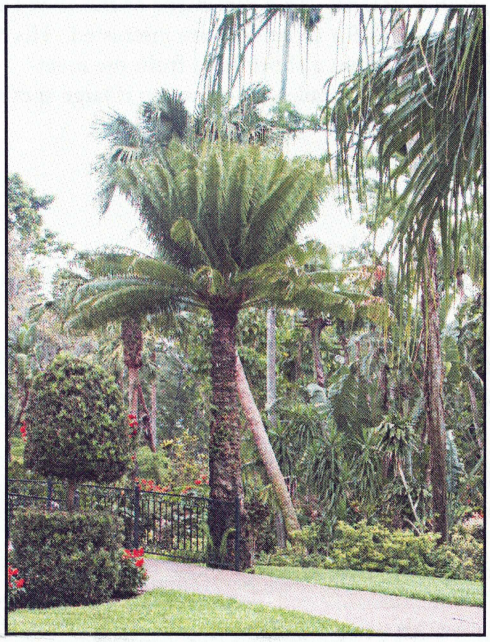
Bok sits on a high point of the Lake Wales Ridge. The carillon plays—how often? every half hour?—and the visitors look down on a fairy tale countryside of small towns and patches of citrus, looming black clouds above. No sign (yet) of KB Homes and other mass builders.

We must be out of the meeting room by noon, for a wedding is coming in to use the room. The bride and her attendants will dress there; the wedding will be in a grassy area just outside. Hopefully, the rain will stop long enough. As the four vendors lug their plants onto a porch outside, bridesmaids and guests hurry back and forth past the palms and cycads. Only later does it occur to the observer that none of these people, including the bride and the sulky groom, show any signs of happiness or smiles.

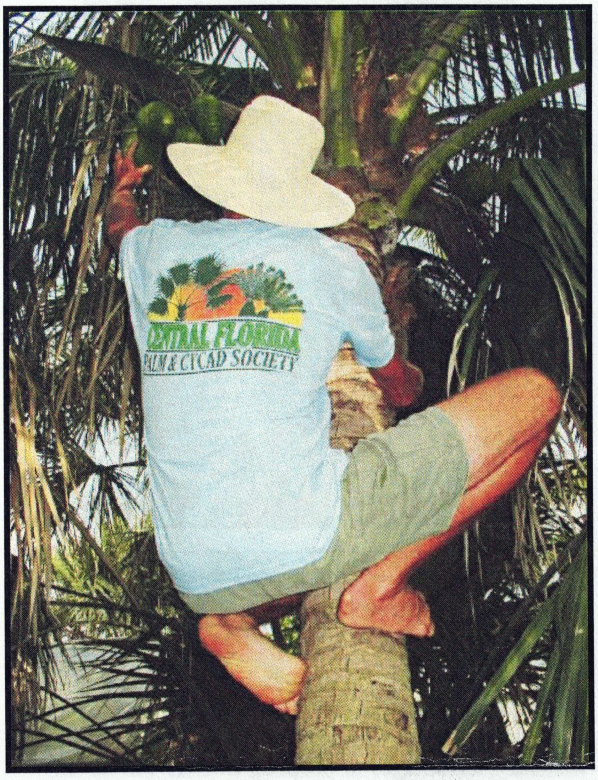
On the opposite side of the building is the Carillon Café, very pretty, a somewhat expensive lunch, but all in the good cause of supporting Bok. After a while, after another shower or two, the vendors sadly pack up most of their plants for the journey back. The few people attending the meeting depart with some visible waving fronds in car, van, or SUV.

The weather remains consistent for the rest of June, the sun mostly unseen, and concluding in Vero Beach with a remarkable total of 18.06 inches of rain.

A very old Cycas revoluta *at Bok, healthy too.*
(Photo by Karen Barrese)



Below, the grassy walled area outside the meeting room at Bok where the wedding was held.
(Photo by Tom Broome)



MAIL ORDER CFPACS T-SHIRT

Get your CFPACS t-shirt here! Publicize palms and our society! Special offer: adult shirts, $15 postpaid, youth size, $12 postpaid. The shirt comes in blue (as seen left, suitable for palm-climbing) or in yellow. Note the beautiful CFPACS logo. The preshrunk 100% cotton shirts are available in Large and Extra Large, also in Youth size 14-16.

How many do you need? Specify size(s) and color(s), make out check to CFPACS. Send to Mark Grabowski, 541 S. Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach, FL 32931. Domestic orders only.

--John Kennedy

(Photo by Diana Grabowski)

Below, the Editor's most unusual palm: Oraniopsis appendiculata. *No trunk, of course, since it's only about 15 years old. Trunk will start to form maybe 15-20 years after the owner's death, just as the new people in the house bulldoze to put in a swimming pool.*

(Photo by Matthew Kennedy)

Latania lontaroides, *once star of a Vero Beach backyard, did not recover—as hoped—after Hurricane Frances last September. The leaves, mostly still green, are turning yellow at last.* Arenga pinnata *is directly behind.*

(Photo by Matthew Kennedy)

Palms in Pinellas Update

St. Pete Maintenance Program

By Phil Stager

Greetings again from sunny St. Pete, fellow palm enthusiasts. This article provides additional details about the St. Pete - Palm Paradise program described briefly in the June, 2005 issue of *The Palmateer.*

The City of St. Petersburg, Florida, located in Pinellas County – Florida's most densely populated county - - has a population of approximately 250,000 according to the 2000 census. The City's semi-tropical climate supports a wide variety of deciduous, coniferous, and palm trees, both native and exotic.

Although some residents and property owners know how to properly select, locate, trim and maintain their palm trees, the vast majority have little to no education, training, or experience in proper palm maintenance. The problem is further compounded by a large portion of the City's population who have moved here from colder climates where palms trees do not grow. The problem is not unique to St. Petersburg or Pinellas County.

Some cities and counties have attempted to address the problem of poor palm maintenance by enacting legislation or ordinances. However, without adequate enforcement, these laws and ordinances are almost worthless. Licensing of tree trimmers and pruners without adequate education only serves to restrict or limit entrants into the profession or serves as an occupational tax.

The City of St. Petersburg proposes to develop a pilot program, suitable with minimum modification, for use in cities and counties throughout Florida, for educating the following groups and persons in proper palm selection, location, and maintenance with the emphasis on proper trimming and pruning:

1. Homeowners
2. Yard maintenance firms
3. City workers
4. Condominium associations
5. Commercial property owners -
   a. Apartment complexes
   b. Shopping and retail centers
   c. Business and office centers
   d. Light and heavy industrial complexes
6. Neighborhood organizations (over 100).

This pilot program will emphasize education instead of costly and intrusive enforcement. The program will be participatory instead of regulatory in nature. The following advantages to property owners will be emphasized:

1. Increased property values
2. Reduced maintenance
3. Better hurricane resistance
4. Improved electrical service.

Dictyosperma album var. rubrum *inflorescence here caught by Mike Dahme at Borassic Park, Grant.*

In establishing this pilot program, with statewide applicability, the City will partner with the following organizations:

1. Pinellas County Co-operative Extension Service
2. Palm and Cycad Societies of Florida (PACSOF)
3. International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
4. Progress Energy

The City, with assistance from ISA, will develop and produce a professionally prepared video presentation on proper palm selection and location, trimming and pruning, fertilization and irrigation and common palm pests. This video would have immediate application throughout the state for use on commercial or government channels. We will begin production on the video this summer since the City's TV crew will have some spare production time. (With a City election in November, local politicians are very limited in their on-air time in the months preceding the election - we

(Continued on page 7)

David Price, horticultural director at Bok Sanctuary, explains its history, organization, and purpose to members at the June 11th Lake Wales meeting.
(Photo by Tom Broome)

Deadline for December Issue:
NOVEMBER 11

New Zealand Threat to Palms

John Prince, editor of *NZ Palm & Cycad*, the New Zealand chapter's journal, reports a proposal to the Auckland Regional Council that would legally ban *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* as a threat to native biodiversity. Homeowners could be required to remove this species from their property. If enacted, the order might well pave the way for banning palms not native to New Zealand.

—John Kennedy

St. Pete Maintenance Program

(Continued from page 6)

should be so lucky on the state and national level!).**The City** will develop or use existing printed materials for the following:

1. Flyers in utility bills - approx 90K per mailing
2. Broadsides for distribution at City brush disposal sites
3. Lesson plans for tree trimming and pruning for use by a speakers' bureau
4. Sample specifications for tree trimming
5. Color brochures on selection and location, pruning & trimming, irrigation and nutrition of palms
6. Reprints of flyers on common palm diseases.

This pilot program will be inaugurated at the 2006 GreenThumb Festival held annually for the past 19 years in conjunction with Arbor Day and attended by over 30,000 people last year. The 2006 GreenThumb Festival will be the 20th annual festival of its type. Since 2006 is also the 50th Anniversary of our International Palm Society, we have an opportunity to make GreenThumb 2006 the **palmiest** ever.

Some of the special palm-related events we are planning for GreenThumb 2006 include the following:

- Book signings
- At least six distinguished speakers on palms from Florida
- A US Postal service substation with sales area and a special palm related cancel
- A large palm sales and display area
- Palm seedling give-aways (with care and maintenance instructions) for youngsters.

I have already informally contacted some of you reading this concerning the book signing and speaker opportunities. Palm vendors, please mark your calendars now.

Since most of us live in the real world, an ambitious pilot program such as this depends upon adequate funding. We have applied for a one time grant of $15K from Progress Energy and will be applying for a State grant for $10K. Progress Energy is a logical partner in this program since they and their customers suffer from the effects of poorly located and maintained palms. Approximately 128 palm-related power outages occur per year in St. Petersburg (not including storm or hurricane related damage). The average outage time is 75 minutes, and the average cost to restore service is $800.

If this pilot program prevents 19 power outages per year in St. Pete, it will return Progress Energy's investment within the first year. I realize this scenario is optimistic since we are trying to correct a lifetime of apathy and bad habits.

I will continue to keep you informed of our progress in this ambitious program and look forward to seeing you at GreenThumb 2006 (April 22-23, 9-5, Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum) here in St. Pete.

Notes on Several Hawaiian *Pritchardia* Species

By Mike Merritt

Introduction

On a trip to Hawaii in March for personal business, I used my free time to investigate palm species, both endemic and exotic. Most of my time was spent on Hawaii Island (the "Big Island"), but I also had a few hours on Oahu. The free time enabled me to get numerous photos of trees, leaf details, flowers, and fruits of some of the endemic slightly costapalmate *Pritchardia*s.

Hawaiian *Pritchardia*s are fun palms because of their large, broad leaves and the fact that they are easily germinated and grown. As garden specimens, they are probably at their best as young specimens before a trunk forms. In larger, trunked specimens, older, declining leaves may detract from the overall attractiveness of the tree.

Few Hawaiian *Pritchardia*s are grown in central Florida, and not too many in south Florida. I believe that the reputation of these species suffer by their relation to Pacific *Pritchardia* species, such as *P. pacifica* and *P. thurstonii*, which are intolerant of temperatures much below 40-45 deg. F. My experience is that *P. pacifica* declines in winter even when protected from freezes and looks ratty in the spring months. My *P. thurstonii* seedlings have not shown this degree of cold sensitivity, but have never been exposed to temperatures below the upper 30's.

Hawaiian *Pritchardia*s, however, have the reputation in southern California of surviving temperatures in the upper 20's, and suffering little damage in normal winters. It has been noted that the remaining individuals in the wild are often found at high altitudes, where relatively cold temperatures can occur, which might help to explain their relative cold tolerance. Florida is "different" climatically from California, one difference being the long, hot summers. Comments I have on file suggest that the Florida summer heat could be a problem for some of these species. I have tried to alleviate this problem with other heat-sensitive palms by growing them in scattered light, partial shade, or morning sun.

Fruit size and shape varies considerable, but several species share nearly identical fruit size and appearance. Fruits are usually black or brown when ripe. The two colors seemed to be interchangeable – I found apparently fresh fruit at adjacent trees of the same species where fruit from one tree were black and from the other tree were brown. I noticed that black fruit

(Continued on page 9)

Photo 1: a young Pritchardia affinis, *Paneawa Zoo, Hilo, on Hawaii Island.*

Photo 2: Leaf detail on another Pritchardia affinis, *also at Paneawa Zoo. Note the white tomentum..*

Photo 3: A skirt of old leaves retained on an older specimen of Pritchardia affinis on southern Hawaii Island.

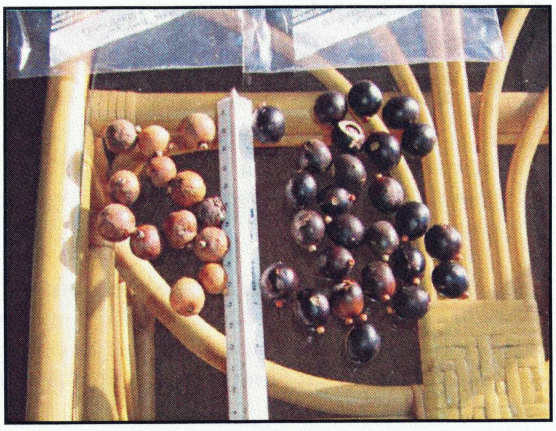


Photo 4: Fruits of adjacent Pritchardia affinis *trees in isolated grove of old trees , southern Hawaii Island.*

(Continued from page 8)

tended to lose a surface layer of glossy black scales with time to eventually become browner in appearance.

When the mesocarp is scraped from the fruits, a grainy shell is revealed. If this shell is cracked, the seed inside, having a smooth, dark brown surface, is revealed. Germination rates for pot sowing of mature, but not old, seeds, are usually better than 50 percent. If germination does not occur within a month, it probably will not occur. Seeds sown with the outer shell will also germinate, but will take several more weeks. Seeds from fruits that are mature but still green may germinate.

Growth of seedlings is usually rapid, and a large size is achieved after two years. However, I once had a group of *P. hillebrandii* languish and yellow out in an unhealthy-looking way for a year or so. I added iron sulfate, regular fertilizer, and other minors, and eventually they all greened up nicely and began to grow faster. Whether my ministrations had an influence on this outcome, or whether the plants were just negotiating a natural developmental problem, I do not know.

Variations in leaf morphology can appear subtle to the casual observer, and are such that some species are more obviously distinctive than others. When species groupings are planted near one another, as at the National Tropical Botanical Gardens McBryde Garden on Kauai, morphological differences between species become evident. During my window of opportunity, I tried to collect pictures of the flowers of the various species, but didn't find flowering individuals of a sufficient number of species to use in this article.

The list of accepted names of species endemic to the Hawaiian Islands has changed drastically since Don Hodel published an article about them in *Principes* in 1980 (v. 24). The current number of recognized species endemic to the Hawaiian Islands is 23, with none found naturally on more than one island. All of the Hawaiian *Pritchardia*s have been hypothesized as originating from Pacific ancestors (Chapin, 2004). Most of the latter have small seeds that might promote their dispersal across reaches of the ocean. After some species reached the Hawaiian Islands, speciation into different environments might have occurred, including the development of larger seeds, which might have provided a reproductory advantage before man, pigs, and rats arrived. (All of this is speculation from a non-botanic amateur.)

Following is a list of currently accepted species names, arranged according to island:

Hawaii	Kauai	
affinis	*flynni*	*napaliensis*
beccariana	*hardyi*	*perlmanii*
lanigera	*limahuliensis*	*viscokaalae*
schattaueri	*minor*	

Oahu
waialealeana
martii

Molokai	Lanai
hillebrandii	*lanaiensis*
owreyana	
munroi	

(Continued on page 10)

Hawaiian *Pritchardia* Species

(Continued from page 9)

Niihau *aylmer-robinsonii*

Maui
arecina
forbesiana
glabrata

Nihoa
remota

In the following paragraphs are some observations about *Pritchardia* species that I encountered during my recent trip. None of the Kauai species will be covered, or *P. lanaiensis*, but I did observe species from the other islands.

Photo 5: Pritchardia glabrata *in the Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden, west coast, Hawaii Island.*

Pritchardia affinis

In 1980, *P. affinis* was found at scattered locations in the lowland areas on the dry side of Hawaii Island. Hodel (1980) suggested that "the *P. affinis* existing today are perhaps remnant cultivated populations" and that a wild population did not exist. To me, the impression of cultivated *P. affinis* is of spiky, upthrust, slightly grayish-green leaves with wide, generally stiff leaflets, as shown in a photo of a specimen planted at the Paneawa Zoo near Hilo (photo 1). The leaves have three or more tight folds (photo 2, also a tree at the Paneawa Zoo) and there is a white tomentum on the

Photo 6: Rare Pritchardia aylmer-robinsonii, *growing in the Koko Crater Botanical Garden on Oahu's east coast. Only two individuals remain in the wild.*

petioles and ribs in the underside of the leaves, sometimes extending all the way to the tips of the leaves. Old trees can retain a "skirt" of old leaves, as shown in a plant in the southern part of Hawaii Island (photo 3). Fruits are black or brown, slightly elongated and slightly less than an inch long (photo 4).

P. affinis is now widely planted in landscapes on Hawaii Island. Blooming and seeding trees can be found within a short walking distance of the tourist hotels on Banyan Drive near Hilo.

The "*remota* group"

Several *Pritchardia* species from different islands were once considered members of the "*remota* group" [*P. remota* (Nihoa), *P. napaliensis* (Kauai), *P. aylmer-robinsonii* (Niihau), and *P. glabrata* (Maui)] and were considered subspecies of the species *P. remota* (Riffle and Craft, 2003). They are presently described as individual species (Chapin, 2004). The previous lumping was partly based on the similar leaf morphology, which is demonstrated by the attached photos. *P. glabrata* (photo 5) was imaged in the Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden on the west coast of Hawaii Island. *P. aylmer-robinsonii* (photo 6) and *P. remota* (photo 7) were imaged in the Koko Crater Botanical Garden on the east coast of Oahu. The islands (Nihoa and Niihau) that *P. remota* and *P. aylmer-robinsonii* are found on are

(Continued on page 11)

Photo 7: Pritchardia remota, *pictured above at Koko Crater Botanical Garden.*

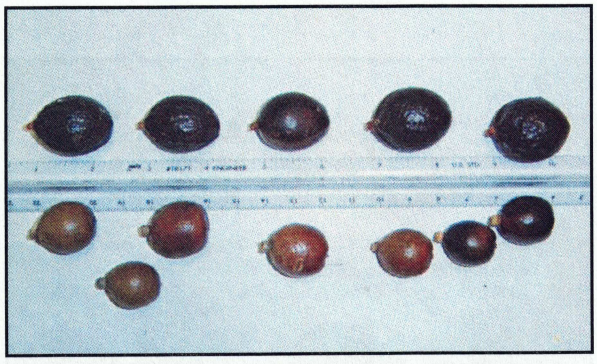


Photo 8: Fruits of the "remota" group. The larger seed (top) are those of Pritchardia glabrata. *The smaller, 1-inch fruit is* Pritchardia remota.

Photo 9: A trio of Pritchardia schattauerii *at Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden.*

Hawaiian *Pritchardia* Species

(Continued from page 10)

small and relatively dry. Only two individuals of *P. aylmer-robinsonii* remain in the wild.

As shown in the photos, all of the species have dark green, cup shaped leaves with pendant leaf tips. Some leaves may have an upward fold in the middle. *P. aylmer-robinsonii* reaches 50 ft in height, *P. remota* reaches 20 ft (Riffle and Craft, 2003), and *P. glabrata* is one of the smallest *Pritchardias*, reaching only 6 ft in height (Chapin, 2004). The author finds that the relaxed appearance of these species is pleasing in a landscape setting. The use of the diminutive *P. glabrata* near large rocks, as shown in photo 5, seems to be particularly pleasing.

The fruits of the former "*remota* group" vary somewhat in size (photo 8), those of *P. glabrata* being somewhat larger than the 1-inch diameter fruits of *P. remota.* Fruits of *P. aylmer-robinsonii* were not observed. Despite their stature, the trees shown in photo 6 showed no evidence of having ever bloomed or fruited. The *P. glabrata* in photo 5 had numerous bracts with heavy green fruits, all lying on the ground beneath the leaves.

Pritchardia schattaueri

This species was discovered in 1960 on the dry side of Hawaii Island. A subsequent population count revealed 12 trees remaining in the wild. *P. schattaueri* is considered the tallest of the Hawaiian *Pritchardias*, reaching 100 ft or more. The species is now being used in cultivated settings.

A trio of *P. schattaueri* at the Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Gardens is shown as photo 9. The fruits (photo 10) are large and somewhat pear-shaped. On

(Continued on page 12)

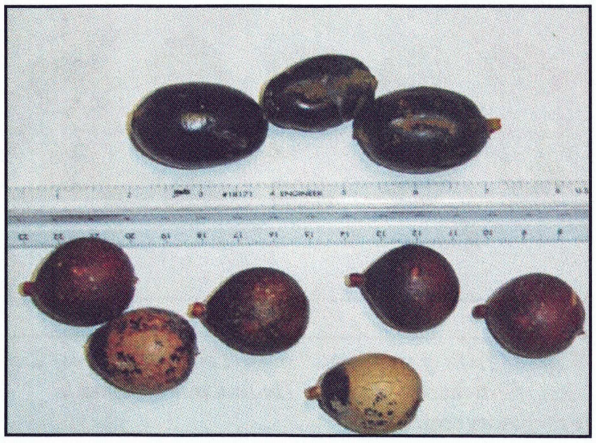


Photo 10: Fruits of Pritchardia arecina *(larger, above) and* Pritchardia schattaueri *(pear-shaped, below).*

Photo 11: Pritchardia lowreyana *in Koko Crater Botanical Garden.*

Photo 12: Fruits of Pritchardia lowreyana *(larger, above) and fruit of* Pritchardia kaalae *(smaller, below).*

Hawaiian *Pritchardia* Species

(Continued from page 11)

the trees I have seen, the leaves are generally large and mainly flat, but with one to three tight folds or one large one in the center. The long leaflets remain stiff and erect for most of their length, but, on the trees shown in photo 9, the very narrow tips are pendulous. To me, there is a distinct "*schattaueri* look", in which the tree holds many leaves outward from the trunk, most of them at a downward angle. As the leaves age, their downward droop increases as the leaflets become more pendulous.

My two-lanceolate-leaf seedlings differ from my other *Pritchardia* seedlings in having longer leaves with a hint of yellow green in color, in having a noticeable trace of tomentum along the ridges of the upper sides of the leaves, and in having even more tomentum underneath.

Pritchardia lowreyana

This is a species of the island of Molokai. It is a short-statured species like *P. glabrata*, but with a less relaxed appearance (photo 11). The fold of the sometimes pendulous leaflets is rather abrupt. The leaves are generally flat, with several tight folds. The tree shown in the photo was growing in Koko Crater Botanical Garden on Oahu, and the author trusts the identification provided by park managers.

The fruits, slightly pear-shaped and more than 1.5 inches long (photo 12), are the largest I saw during my trip. Like the *P. glabratas* I saw, the small tree in photo 11 had numerous bracts of large green fruits, all lying

(Continued on page 13)

Photo 13: Pritchardia kaalae *in Koko Crater Botanical Garden, Oahu.*

Hawaiian *Pritchardia* Species

(Continued from page 12)

on the ground underneath the leaves.

Pritchardia kaalae

This is a species found naturally in the drier western part of Oahu (Hodel, 1980). The tree shown in photo 13 is a juvenile in Koko Crater Botanical Garden on Oahu. Mature trees can reach 25 ft in height (Riffle and Craft, 2003). My reliance on park management identification is buttressed by the observation that the inflorescences emerge well beyond the crown of leaves, a characteristic that *P. kaalae* shares with *P. hardii* and the Pacific species *P. thurstonii.*

As shown in the picture, the leaves are large with substantial folding. Leaflets are pendant near the tips where they become very narrow. Fruits (photo 12) are in the one-inch class. The green fruits shown were of size common to those in several seed bracts, but were immature and not yet viable. The old fruits/seeds shown were no longer viable.

Other *Pritchardia* Species

I viewed several trees reported with some authority to be *P. martii*, a species of Oahu. One tree (photo 14) at the Paneawa Zoo had large, mainly flat leaves with several tight folds. The upper and lower leaf surfaces were medium green in color, with little sign of tomentum underneath. This is unlike the *P. martii* whose pho-

(Continued on page 14)

Photo 14: Tree at Paneawa Zoo identified as Pritchardia martii.

Photo 15: Large fruits of the palm in the preceding picture, supposedly Pritchardia martii.

Left, Photo 16: Tree identified as Pritchardia martii *at the University of Hawaii, Hilo campus. Below, Photo 17: Leaf detail of* Pritchardia arecina, *at Lyon Arboretum on Oahu, showing silver-bronze tomentum on the undersides.*

Hawaiian *Pritchardia* Species

(Continued from page 13)

tograph appeared in vol. 24, no. 3 of *The Palmateer*. The latter tree had dark, almost olive-green leaves with a pronounced silver-bronze tomentum on the lower leaf surfaces. But the tree at the Paneawa Zoo had large, round fruits (photo 15) that are characteristic of the species. A smaller tree at the University of Hawaii at Hilo (photo 16) was similar to the one at the Paneawa Zoo.

I recalled that the description of *P. martii* represented the lumping of eight species still represented as distinct at the time Hodel wrote (*Principies*, 1980), though he indicated that some lumping might be called for. Additional confusion (for me) was introduced when I observed a tree labeled as *P. arecina* at Lyon Arboretum on Oahu (photo 17) that also had the silver-bronze tomentum on the lower surfaces of the leaves.

I was particularly interested in seeing the remaining species of Hawaii Island, where I had spent most of my time. I saw two or three trees identified as *P. beccariana*, a tall species that somewhat resembles *P. schattaueri*, and has similar large, oval fruits. But the trees I saw differed from one another, and I would need more experience with this species before discussing it.

Finally, I really wished to view the Big Island species *P. lanigera*, which is said to be remarkable for its huge, round leaves and highly prized for landscapes. An individual at one of the botanical gardens I visited suggested that I try Manuka State Park, on the southwest coast of the island, and showed me a landscape map of the park that indicated the position of a specimen. So, I drove to the park, went to the indicated location, and ..... there was nothing but a large empty space where a large tree might have once been. Rare *Pritchardias* are sometimes dug up and stolen like large rare cycads, so possibly this was its fate. So I am still looking forward to eventually seeing one of these palms.

There is evidently a great deal more for us hobbyists to learn about these remarkable *Pritchardia* palms, and I am looking forward to future opportunities for study.

References

Chapin, Melany H., 2004. The Palms of Hawaii: Palms & Cycads, no. 83/84, p. 4-10.

Hodel, Don, 1980, Notes on Pritchardia in Hawaii: Principes, vol. 24, no. 2, p. 65-81.

Riffle, Robert Lee, and Craft, Paul, 2003, An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms, Timber Press, Portland, 528 p.

These and other photos of Pritchardia*s taken by Mike Merritt may be seen at http://community.webshots.com/user/mmerritt113*

PACSOF Palm Fest 2005

By Diana Grabowski

The PACSOF Palm Fest 2005 was held in Fort Lauderdale May 20-22nd. Approximately 60 palm and cycad enthusiasts attended the event. The Schubert Resort was the host hotel, it was a perfect setting for the event being that it had a tropical landscape, cozy environment, pool, and other amenities which made for a great weekend.

The kickoff of the event was an informal get together at The Florida Tap Room located on the Intracoastal Waterway. While folks were chowing down on dinner and sipping cocktails, Jody Haynes gave a brief overview of his Panama 2004 expedition which focused on exploring *Zamia* species. Friday evening activities continued at the Schubert Resort where an auction of cycad species donated by Montgomery Botanical Center took place by the poolside. Ken Johnson, master auctioneer, did a great job.

Ken Johnson, master auctioneer, does his thing at Palm Fest. Could that be Our Faith sitting in front of him? Faith Bishock's picture has been in every Palmateer *since 1953.*

Saturday was an early start with a presentation by Dr. Alan Meerow, which began at 8:00 a.m. at the University of Florida Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center. Rare is it that one can gain such insight into the latest genetic research being done on coconut genetics, specifically "molecular markers" aimed in particular to the up and coming Fiji Dwarf Coconut.

That's Jeff Searle showing Palm Fest attendees around his Rainforest Collection nursery. Jeff and Peter Balasky (both Broward Countians) accompanied Bill Beattie on the grueling pleasure trip to Madagascar. Story begins on page 21.

Attendees then toured the grounds of the University of Florida Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center. The group then converged across the street to Broward Community College to get a tour of BCC and Nova's Southeastern University Medicinal Garden. The tour was led by David McLean, retired Director, Horticultural Program at BCC and owner of Trinity Churchside Garden. David McLean gave an exceptionally informative and insightful tour full of practical advice and humorous quips.

The group then headed over to Jesse Durko's Garden and Nursery. Jesse's well-designed plantings were visually stunning. His collection of cycads, palms, heliconias, bamboo was a delight to the eye. Jesse gave a brief tour of his garden and attendees also had the opportunity to browse the nursery for specimens to purchase.

Back at the Schubert Resort the group met for lunch and an eventful fund-raising auction was held of many rare palm and cycad species. Once again, Ken Johnson did a superb job as "Master Auctioneer." Just how does he keep track of all those waving hands and bids what a talent, it's amazing! Murray Corman, owner of Garden of Delights provided a wonderful edible rare fruit display for all participants to enjoy throughout the afternoon.

(*Continued on page 16*)

Striking orange crownshaft of an Areca *seen by Palm Fest visitors. But what is the species?*

Harvey Corman, left, provided the dazzling array of fruit for appreciative Palm Fest attendees. Is that our own Mike Merritt chomping, at right?

PACSOF Palm Fest 2005

(Continued from page 15)

On Saturday evening participants enjoyed happy hour and a wondrous dinner at the famous River House Restaurant located on the River Walk area in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Some members chose to take the enjoyable water taxi from the Schubert Resort to the River House Restaurant. The water taxi provided members with another perspective of the many mansions and sizable yachts in the area. Impressive!

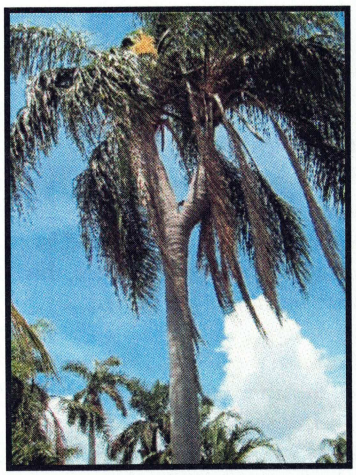
Sunday's events began at Flamingo Gardens which had something to offer for everyone. There were palms and exotics, and wildlife. The tour of the garden was led by Laura Tooley. Of special interest was the Double Coconut, *Lodoicea maldivica*, *Verschaffeltia splendida*, and a grouping of orange crownshaft *Areca*s, and much more. Palm Fest concluded with a picnic/ barbeque at Jeff Searle's Rainforest Collection. Members enjoyed a nice relaxing picnic and also had a chance to show off their knowledge of palm identification via a palm frond ID game. Jeff gave a tour of two of his impressive and well-engineered one acre each greenhouses, as well as open-plantings of exotics. Jeff pointed out several noteworthy specimens such as *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis*, some unusual *Dypsis* species, *Copernicia* species, and a collection of rare species from Madagascar.

A note of thanks goes out to Larry Davis for his efforts and time. Larry pretty much organized the Palm Fest 2005 single handedly. Also a note of acknowledgment to Paul Craft, the President of the International Palm Society for sharing his expertise throughout the event. Lastly, a big thank you to all the individuals who helped with organizing the event in some form or another whether it was providing a lecture, a tour, or providing food and beverages for the participants.
I look forward to the next Palm Fest; the adventurous outings, informative tours and lectures, and festivities make for a nice weekend.

[PACSOF is, of course, Palm and Cycad Societies of Florida. —Editor]

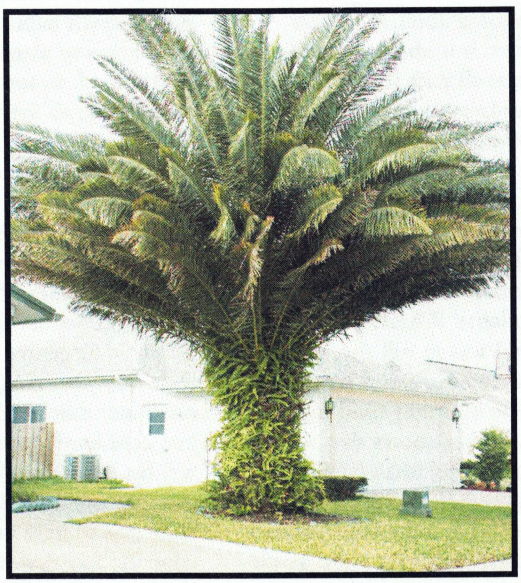
DRIVE BY SHOOTINGS

The twisted trunk below is the common Adonidia merrilli *and was twisted when bought.*
(Photo by Rick Nale)

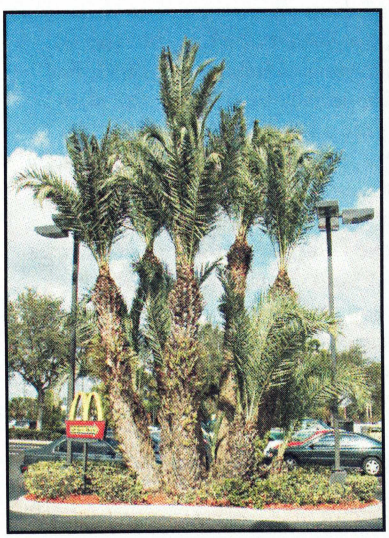


Two Butia capitata*: 40 years old? 50? Looks like a 1950s house, in Lutz.*
(Photo by Karen Barrese)

"Victory" Queen Palm at Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum, St. Pete.
(Photo by Rick Nale)



Left, a perfectly shaped Phoenix sp., *probably* canariensis, *also in Lutz.*
(Photo by Karen Barrese)



A clump? A cluster? Lots of Phoenix *at this Tampa McDonald's!*
(Photo by Karen Barrese)

Send a picture of an unusually beautiful or really odd palm or cycad spotted in a public place to jkennedy@ircc.edu Please identify the palm or cycad and give the town/ locale.

GROWING CYCADS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

Growing *Encephalartos hildebrandtii*

By Chuck Grieneisen

The *Encephalartos hildebrandtii* is a great cycad for the Central Florida area. It gets to be a large cycad, with leaves up to 10 feet long. In the full sun they will be shorter though. It is a "typical looking" *Encephalartos*. There are some people that say if you've seen one *Encephalartos* you've seen them all. It is somewhat similar to a *E. gratus*. The *hildebrandtii* gets a little larger leaf (the leaf being a little different as well). It seems to be a little slower grower than *gratus*, but not by much. One thing that makes the *hildebrandtii* stand out is the new leaves are a bronze emergent. The cones are also a yellow color.

I got one plant from Tom Broome about 4-5 years ago. It was a 1 leaf seedling, now it is about a 3 inch caudex. I have had no trouble at all with it (which I sometimes do with small *Encephalartos*). First, I haven't killed it by over/under watering. No mineral deficiencies or pests either.

About 2 years ago I was able to get a large one, with about 2 feet of trunk. I had to dig it out of the ground and transplant it. I got several other species that I dug out of the ground at the same time. The *hildebrandtii* is doing the best of all the transplants. Where it was when I dug it out of the ground was in full sun, in just ordinary gray Florida sand. I asked the lady I bought it from if she ever fertilized it. She said they used to long ago. It had **5** female cones on it (that shows that it liked where it was). There were approximately 500 seeds. They were not fertile though. I also got a smaller one from her. It was multi headed and the biggest head was about 12 inches. Where it was growing there was a water line that was constantly dripping on it. It was growing in mud. It seems to be a very hardy and adaptable plant. It seems to me to be as adaptable to growing conditions as the *Cycas revoluta* (king sago) though I don't think as cold hardy. Mine have only taken 27 degrees, so I can't comment on cold hardiness. Certainly one of the toughest of the *Encephalartos* for me.

By Tom Broome

Encephalartos hildebrandtii makes an excellent large landscape cycad for most of central Florida. This is just one of many *Encephalartos* species that come from the central part of the African continent, and in this case, coming from Kenya. Just like the others, this species grows to be a large plant that will exceed 10 feet in height in 10 years or less.

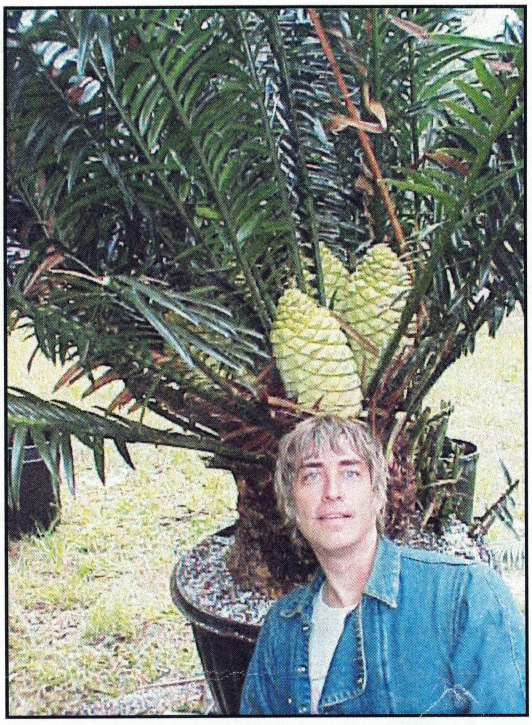
Encephalartos hildebrandtii is often confused with *E. gratus*, but you can tell the difference between the two because g*ratus* will have leaves that are arching down, where *E. hildebrandtii* will have more of an upright growth habit. The leaves can be 9 feet long so even a young plant will be 10 feet tall and have a 16-foot spread. In time, this plant will get several feet of clear trunk, so they will get a lot larger than that. For this reason you must choose a location carefully before you plant it, but it will be a main focus in any landscape.

I have most of the central African *Encephalartos* species at my nursery, but when people come out that don't know the names of rare cycads, more of these people have commented that the *hildebrandtii* plants I had were the most attractive of them all.

For the most part, the farther north in the African continent that an *Encephalartos* habitat is located, the less cold hardy, and especially frost hardy, the plant will be. Most cycads are a lot more cold hardy than they are frost hardy. I would plant this species under a large tree to help protect it from frost, yet acknowledge the fact that they look better when grown in shady situation. I have had plants growing under trees that had minimal leaf burn damage at 21F, where when they were grown out in the open, they would get at least 50% leaf damage during a freeze event that went down to 25F, and included frost. It would take lower temperatures to actually kill the entire plant, and I would estimate the danger point to be around 17F for our typical, short duration freeze events.***Encephalar-***

(Continued on page 19)

Tom Broome stands next to a big Encephalartos hildebrandtii. *Still potted here, it will get even more impressive once in the ground.*



No, Chuck Grieneisen is not balancing Encephalartos hildebrandtii *cones on his head. Below, a close-up of those spectacular female cones.*

Broome

(Continued from page 18)

tos hildebrandtii grows very well for us, prefers a moderate amount of water, and reacts very well to fertilizer applications. I have noted that even though I have only had 3 flushes of leaves in any given year, the stems will grow in diameter in between flushes if taken care of well. This species produces cones and seeds readily in Florida, and can mature with a stem size of 12 inches in diameter. Cones are produced in mid summer, and receptivity time, and pollen shedding is in the fall, usually in October. The cones are a very attractive bright yellow color. Female cones can be as large as 18 inches tall and 12 inches wide. Very old female plants can produce as many as 5 cones at the same time, which is an incredible display.

Encephalartos hildebrandtii is commonly grown in rare cycad collections here in Florida. If you are looking for one of these plants, seeds have been made available to our members through our seed bank that came from donations made by the Montgomery Botanical Center on more than one occasion, and I'm sure they will be available again in the future. There is always at least one vendor at our USF sale area that has at least one plant available each sale, and if you are ever looking for a large, full size plant to put in the yard, there are cycad nurseries in central Florida that have these available. I would recommend this species to anyone from the cycad novice to the experienced cycad collector.

Here are five more of the endless palm spots taped by your Editor for broadcast over WQCS, 88.9 FM public radio, in Fort Pierce. Only 42 seconds to say something pithy for beginners. The intro announces: "Beautiful palms for your yard and home from IRCC English professor and palm enthusiast, Dr. John Kennedy."

Palm Points #46
Landscaping with Palms, Part One

Palms provide vertical accents in a landscape. As such, they are useful in defining boundaries of a property. Sometimes palms frame an attractive feature.
When planted in a row, the effect is lost if one of the palms dies, for the gap is evident.
When planted in groups staggered in number, that is, three, five, or seven, the effect is softer and more complex. Should anything happen to a single palm, the empty space is not so obvious.
Palms planted in groups can be of the same species or mixed.
But the palms should be compatible in appearance.
A big, strikingly dramatic Bismarck Palm, planted with more commonplace palms, wipes them out visually.

Palm Points #47
Landscaping with Palms, Part Two

Palms grouped in the landscape provide the tropical look most people associate with Florida.
Using palms not ordinarily found in most ordinary garden centers adds a touch of distinction to the home landscape.
Many palms are available from wholesalers and may be ordered through retail nurseries. A monthly publication called *The Plant Finder*, lists palms by Latin and popular names.
It's a good idea to know what palms will look like when mature. A visit to botanical gardens is helpful.
If you spot an unknown and interesting palm in someone's garden, knock on the door and ask its identity. Most owners are proud of unusually beautiful palms and are happy that you noticed.

Palm Points #48
Redneck Palm

A recent addition to the array of ornamental palms is Redneck Palm. This pinnate palm owes its popular name to a reddish-brown fuzz, almost like velvet, that covers the leaf bases.
The trunk is striking in appearance. It's white, marked with horizontal lines that are leaf scars, where dead leaves fell off. Redneck Palm is self-cleaning. The white on the upper part of the trunk is a wax coating.
Redneck Palm grows fast to possibly 30 feet. It takes full sun or light shade and has medium salt tolerance.
Redneck Palm's cold hardiness is unknown, probably not much below freezing. As the new, must-have palm, it is likely to be expensive.
[The Latin name should have been included here: Dypsis leptocheilos.*]*

Palm Points #49
Palms and Critters

Anyone planting out a very small palm may, one morning, find it eaten to the ground. The local critters, the ones that have learned to live quite nicely with suburban housing, have struck again.
The culprit is a nocturnal animal that has found inside the trunk of the little palm a tasty tidbit similar to the canned palm hearts in the supermarket.
Preventing this destruction is easy. All it takes is chicken wire of one-inch mesh, 12 or 18 inches high, and stakes to secure it.
The animals that enjoy eating palms can get over this slight barrier. But they are usually too lazy and other edibles are easier to come by.

Palm Points #50
Palms and Latin Names

Anyone who gets interested palms had better get used to using their Latin names.
Redneck Palm is a made-up name for *Dypsis leptocheilos*, which apparently doesn't have a common name in its native Madagascar.
The so-called Bamboo Palms are *Chamaedorea*s, with well over 100 species. Perhaps 25 of these are available from specialty nurseries. One of the most popular is *Chamaedorea seifrizii*. I don't know that it has a common name. Would it be Seifrizi's Chamaedorea?
Queen Palms have many relatives in South America. Some have Indian or Spanish common names. It's easier, all around, to call them by their Latin names.
There is no one correct pronunciation of Latin names.

Further Travels in Madagascar (April-May 2005)

High up in the Marojejy Mountains, Madagascar.

By Bill Beattie

Marojejy National Park.

There are four pristine vegetation zones within the 60,150 ha of awe-inspiring mountains in the north of Madagascar. Lowland rainforest and bamboo to 800m, mid-altitude rainforest to 1400m, sub-montane moss forest to 1850m, and finally montane, heath vegetation to the summit of Marojejy Peak at 2132m. First explored by Humbert in 1948, the region was classified as a Strict Nature Reserve in 1952 and re-classified to a National Park in 1998. Seen from the Sambava/Andapa road on a sunny day, the thought of spending 7 days 'somewhere up there' was a daunting yet exciting prospect.

It did not take long to organise, through the ANGAP Office at Manatenina, 5 porters, cook and guide which swelled our group to a total of 11 persons. Large quantities of rice, beans, sardines, bottled drinks and bread rolls were all packed up and at mid-day, we were off in single file heading for the distant mountains. Two hours later, after crossing the same river twice and passing through villages, rice fields, small coffee and vanilla farms, we reached the entrance to the Park.

How much further to Base Camp ?...I asked our guide. Only 300m, he replied. Yahoo, we thought! No problems! Into the forest at last, stumbling, slipping and climbing ever upwards on the wet rocks and root strewn path. 'Breather stops' became more frequent. It was hot and the going was hard. More hours passed and I realised that I was not as fit as I thought and weakening fast. How much further?...I asked. Not far now ...said the guide. But you said only 300m some hours ago...300m altitude, said the guide...not distance! We did not laugh much.

Half an hour later and just on dark, we reached Mantella tented campsite. I was much relieved to see my companions Peter Balasky, Jeff Searle and Guy Rafamantanantsoa stagger in before me with significant signs of distress. We found our tents, had a wash in the cold water and Primo our cook, served up heaps of rice and beans and by 8pm we were all asleep. Palms seen were a few *Raphia farinifera*, *Dypsis catatiana* (entire and pinnate leafed forms), *D. mirabilis*, *D. pinnatifrons*, and *D. fasciculata*. With vision limited to <30m either side of the trail, there is no doubt that many other palms were there. In the latter stages of this first day, anxiety had set in and it was heads down from then on.

Next morning up early and serious palm hunting

(Continued on page 22)

Further Travels in Madagascar

(Continued from page 21)

began on the way to check out Camp 2, which is called Marojejia. The track is long in terms of time but not really difficult. Set in a most picturesque spot and facing a sheer cliff of maybe 400m in height, this camp is a veritable epicentre for palms. Within a short distance are populations of *Dypsis marojejyi, D. perrieri, D. thiryana, D. baronii, D pinnatifrons* (pink form), *D. heterophylla, D catatiana, D. lokohensis, D. sp. aff. tsaravoasira, Ravenea robustior, R. sambiranensis* and *Marojejya insignis.* Far up on a ridge was a tall, solitary palm that looked like *D. pilulifera.* There were some more too…still under investigation. What a wonderful place!

Dypsis sp. aff. heteromorpha *(?)*

A cool wind blows up the steep valley here and along the edges of a rocky stream the long, snaky stems of *D. baronii* peer out into daylight. The seed of this form of the species is quite small (5x4mm). *Dypsis marojejyi* appeared as a squat, fibrous palm with older specimens of disappointing appearance. Gone are the elegance and leaflet configuration of the 'Foxtail.' Remaining are a few leaves and well scattered grouped and fanned leaflets. This species favours deep shade.

Peter, Jeff and some of our porters somewhat bravely continued on to Camp 3. I stayed behind with Guy and the remainder of our group ready for this major climb the next day. A blood sugar crash had me staggering about but it is amazing what a litre of Coca-Cola and a bar of chocolate can do in terms of recovery!

The steep trail from Marojejia Camp to Camp Simpona is well worth maximum effort and can be done in about 6 hours. Even the strongest and fittest are severely tested. So far, we had been lucky with fine sunny days but to attempt this climb in wet weather, which is the norm, might be very difficult indeed. The views are spectacular, the vegetation ever-changing and hundreds of tiny Orchid sp. litter rocks and cover mossy branches. *Dypsis cookei* grows up here in scattered groups and its unmistakable, metallic upper leaves are very attractive. We found one specimen nearly 5m long stretching a course towards better light.

Dypsis cookei, *Marojejy.*

Both *Dypsis andrianatonga* and *D. oreophila* were sighted. The latter with very small fruit. High on a ridge, just before the short descent to Camp Simpona, grew two 6m tall palms that had us scratching our heads. Single stemmed (20cm diam,) ascending, pinnate leaves, stiff leaflets and immature fruit (20x16mm, ruminate) on a short infructescence. *Dypsis heteromorpha*? This provisional identification is awaiting a verdict from Kew Gardens.

Camp Simpona is the final camp before the ascent to Marojejy Peak and I was much impressed to hear that Peter and Jeff had had enough energy to climb a third of the way up! They reported sightings of *Dypsis coursii* and *D. pumila*! The former is a short squat palm favouring high altitude rock and heath and both species carry very large seed. It seems however, that the higher the altitude in these mountains, the greater the chance of weevil infested seed. Even immature seeds had been damaged in the many palm species we investigated. On the brighter side, based on evidence from our porters, Peter and I claim to be the two oldest foreigners ever to climb to Camp Simpona. We had our 60 seconds of

(Continued on page 23)

Further Travels in Madagascar

(Continued from page 22)

fame by draining water chilled beer of excellent quality! Our porters drank a bitter brew derived from boiled leaves of a small tree called 'Bea-te.' This daily drink gave them the energy and endurance of Himalayan sherpas.

The descent took two days and we were all fairly burned out by the end. As experienced walkers know, it is often much harder coming down over difficult ground than climbing up. This is no place for a family outing. One look at the stricken face of a 70yr old German, part of a small tour group we met in Base Camp, confirmed our view that information on Marojejy displayed on various web-sites does not tell the whole story! Wet weather closed in as we set out on the final leg and we still wonder about their fate.

Marojejy National Park is one of the best managed Parks in Madagascar. Highly efficient and knowledgeable ANGAP office staff, guides and young, immensely fit porters. We cannot thank them enough. For me it was the most physically demanding experience since my youth in the 40's and 50's. It was also the most exhilarating. An absolute must for nature lovers. From Samabava we flew back to Toamasina and next day, back up north to Maroantsetra for another look at the Masoala Peninsula.

Masoala Peninsula.

Maroantsetra is an ever changing town now boasting a Casino! Why such an enterprise would be based in this far-off place is the subject of much domestic speculation! The town survived the Cat 5 cyclone in 2004 and most of the tourist facilities rebuilt. Two days of organising and we were back in familiar territory about half way down the coast. Guy had returned to Tana and Pierrot Rahajanirina from Earthwatch joined us. We returned here to recheck some of the palms Peter, Ivan Nozaic and I had found 18 months previously and extend our investigations further afield. Miles and miles of tropical rainforest! We were not disappointed! Very fit indeed now, we trotted off almost immediately to check seed from 'Peter's palm' discovered two years before. This proved to be homogenous, so the identification finger points, at the moment, to *Dypsis carlsmithii*. With due respect to the specimen of this species that Jeff Marcus has in Hawaii, which represents an example of *D. carlsmithii* outside Madagascar, the astonishing beauty of the species in its native habitat cannot be over emphasised! For me...the palm of palms!

Over the next four days we traversed dark swamps, clear streams and climbed as high as we could up one of the major hills in the region. This latter proved thin in terms of palm species although *Dypsis hovomantsina, D. lastelliana* and *D. catatiana* were present in fair numbers. *Satranala decussilvae, Dypsis beentjii, D. procera* and *Orania ravaka* among the many palm species growing elsewhere. *D. procera* is extraordinarily variable with either green, yellow, red or blackish crownshafts and entire or pinnate leaves. A reasonable but not infallible way to separate this species from *D. paludosa* (in the absence of floristic material), is the length of the leaf petiole. If it is very short and the palm is growing in a wet or swampy area then the probabilities are that it will key out to *D. paludosa.*

Undescribed species, Ile Sainte-Marie

We did find quite a few palms that will require further investigation and I will briefly describe two of them. The first was a squat, robust palm with a 2.5m trunk covered in matted black fibre, old leaf bases and tree roots. The leaves were up to 3.5m long including petioles and held regular, pinnate leaflets. The inflorescence was 2m long, branched to 2 orders and had a faint purplish appearance. Unopened peduncular bracts were dark green with some brown scaling. From a distance, this palm resembles a cross between *Dypsis fibrosa* and *D. perrieri*. There were no seeds. A most unusual and interesting plant. The second palm is, if anything, even odder. We saw only a few of these and this only because we were studying other palms! Serendipity! With a trunk diameter of only 5cm and stretching straight upwards to 12m in height and topped by a few short, wispy, pinnate leaves...this undescribed species is almost impossible to see, let alone photograph! The seeds are quite large and hairy, and the endosperm deeply ruminate.

Back at our camp site we were very well fed with perfect rice, a variety of excellent beans and even some chicken! Naturally, all this was washed down with sev-

(Continued on page 24)

Further Travels in Madagascar

(Continued from page 23)

eral bottles of cold beer. Sometimes we cheerfully discussed the potential of the local 'Viagra' tree. (The species has recently been identified by Guy Rafamantanantsoa.) Readers may remember details I gave in a report on our previous visit to Masoala. Perhaps the foreigner has yet to sample the liquid end-product. Most Malagasy are aware of the many medicinal benefits within the tree genus *Uapaca* but 'field experiment' sexual stimulation trials remain untested. We call into the wind again...where are the volunteers? But hey! There is no need for foreign confirmation! Just ask the local people and consider their thousand years or so of ethnobotanical knowledge and experience.

Back in Maroantsetra, Peter, Jeff and Pierrot took a pirogue upriver to Sahavary and I hired a car to travel back down the coastal mainland to Rantabe. They reported that *Dypsis bejofo* and *Lemurophoenix halleuxii* had survived ever encroaching forest disturbance but they had no time to reach the *Marojejya darianii* site. I got as far as the Rantabe river crossing and found that the nearest forest was now several kilometres inland. Good news in the offing though, as the nearby vast and mostly botanically unexplored forest region of Makira has been identified as the next to achieve National Park status.

Ile Ste Marie

Only by good fortune did we stay at 'La Crique,' one of the best beachside food and accommodation 'resorts' on the western part of the Island and about 15 minutes brisk walk from the fragmented forest of Kalalao. This inland forest has now lost most of the larger trees and palms. We found several *Dypsis cornicu lata,* including a 4m flowering beauty which cleared up my mistaking this species for *D. thiryana* on our previous visit. Juveniles of both species are remarkably similar in appearance but it did remind me to take more care in future! Elsewhere, a very pretty single-stemmed palm with leathery leaves puzzled us. The palm grows to 3m, has entire leaves when small and later 2-3 broad leaflets. New leaves are red and the distal leaf margins are markedly dentate. The stems are covered in red/brown, measles-like spots and the stubby inflorescence branched to 1 order. Apart from the inflorescence this species seems closest to *D. coriacea.* Of the larger palms, *D. lastelliana, D. fibrosa, Ravenea robustior* and R. *sambiranensis* were seen in small numbers.

Further to the north-east lies the coastal forest of Ambohedina and this provided some very interesting palms. Most of the plants here are growing on nutrient deficient white sands and are short and windblown in structure. After a futile hour spent searching burned scrub we moved to the marshy areas around the wet-season streams. Experience taught us that great care must be taken here as a misplaced step can result in one or both legs plunging down to groin level!

Jeff found a suckering palm growing in one of the wettest spots that really attracted our attention. To 5m tall and holding leaves with stiff, grouped and fanned leaflets. Each group of glaucous leaflets subtended by a large brown node. Pending identification from Kew Gardens, we tentatively suggest this palm as a new species.

On drier ground we came upon several extraordinary examples of the entire-leafed form of *Dypsis sanctae-mariae.* This palm is rarely seen and as far as I know, not in cultivation. It should be, as it is quite remarkable in having a shuttlecock arrangement of very large (>1m) almost entire leaves. One specimen was almost 4m tall.

Dypsis sanctaemariae, *whole leaf form.*

Back at 'La Crique,' we spent convivial evenings with other guests before dining on superbly prepared food. Highly recommended to all travellers. Hard days in the bush does have its rewards! Then yet another flight back to Tana where Peter and Jeff, before flying back to Florida, had but a day to spare organising phytosanitary certificates and seed export permits. Regulations have tightened in this field and we can assure readers

(Continued on page 25)

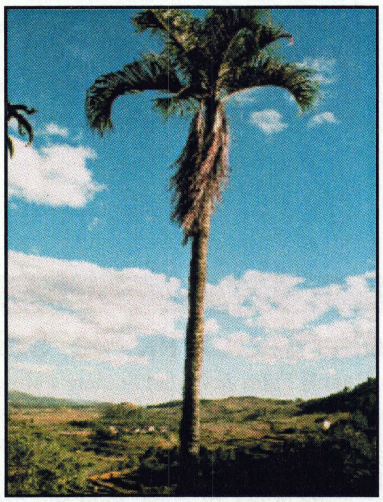
Further Travels in Madagascar

(Continued from page 24)

and visitors that every case is thoroughly searched for illegal export items. I was shown some seized material by one of the Customs staff and they included *aloala* which had been cut from Malagasy tombs. *Aloala* are intricately carved wooden stelae topping tombs and commonly depict the life of the male deceased in terms of number of wives and Zebu cattle or are of an erotic nature. Imagine the outrage in western societies if foreigners broke up their carefully maintained family tombstones for export!

Ambositra

Arrived down here on the plateau with Pierrot and Thoma from the Earthwatch Inst. in one of this organisation's 4WD's. A most attractive town and famous for the quality of its carvings, fruit and vegetables. We headed south to the well known site of the remaining, easily accessible *Dypsis ambositrae.* There were no palms left on the rocky hillslope. However, after lengthy discussions with local residents we had a surprise. Yes, there was one tall, old one remaining, we were told...about a mile away and this man here has some seed from it! And there are more way up in the hills! The ever energetic and enthusiastic Pierrot



This picture appeared in the last issue of The Palmateer *and was incorrectly identified as* Dypsis ambositrae. *Actually, identification has not yet been authenticated, so the palm should be labeled* Dypsis sp. aff. ambositrae.

(Photo by Pierrot Rahajanirina)

Dypsis decipiens, *near Ambositra.*

trotted away with guides and cameras to photograph the solitary palm while I wrote up details of what we had learned so far. The seeds (13 x 11mm) from the alleged *D. ambositrae* were old, ruminate and interesting! I am reasonably certain that, based on my own experience and evidence from seed exporters in Madagascar, few viable seeds of the true species have ever been collected from this region. *D. ambositrae* juveniles are so colourful, with yellow stems, purple crownshafts, dark red leaf spikes and stiff, green leaflets, that collectors anywhere would treasure and publicise them!

Next morning we headed for another area where palms had been sighted and found a new location for *Dypsis decipiens*...the 'bottle' palm of Madagascar. About 30 individuals all in the care of a local 'Guardian of the Forest'! It was an extraordinary, quite moving sight and well worth the effort. In the afternoon we drove back to Tana and I began preparations for the 2 day flight back to Australia. So what did we learn from this trip to Madagascar? In Marojejy, we enjoyed one of our lives' greatest experiences and recorded many rarely seen palms. A small part of the Masoala Peninsula yielded at least 5 palms that will require further detailed examination and on Ile Ste. Marie we observed the continuing loss of Kalalao Forest. The coastal forest of Ambohedina is largely unexplored and in need of thorough botanical study. The mysteries of *Dypsis ambositrae* and perhaps one other palm species south of Ambositra are slowly being unveiled. All is not doom and gloom here as some readers will be aware that a new population of *D. ambositrae* has re-

(Continued on page 26)

This picture of Pelagodoxa henryana *appeared in the June issue of* The Palmateer *in black-and-white, which did not do justice to the palm. Here it is, in glorious color, taken by Richard Lundstedt in the Jardin Botanique, in Tahiti.*

Florida Tech Sale, Oct. 15

Florida Tech Botanical Fest will be held in Melbourne on Saturday, Oct. 15, 9-4. Free admission. This is a first-time event centered on the refurbished botanical gardens. Vendors are sought.. Florida Tech's address is 150 W. University Drive, Melbourne, FL 32901. For further info call (321) 674-6155 or contact btaylor@fit.edu

Third Quarter Meeting Minutes 2005

The third quarter meeting was called to order at Bok Tower ,Lake Wales.
It was agreed that the seed bank person needs to keep records of the seed transactions.
A motion was made and passed that the society spend $175 for a new computer for publishing of the *Palmateer* .
A server for the website was discussed. The server would enable board members to add stuff to the website. It was agreed to try to find one.
The membership chair informed us that the memberships are up to date.
The September meeting was discussed. It was agreed to have it on the west coast on the second Saturday in September.
Years ago our society helped pay for Chris Dalzel of the Durban Botanical gardens to give a cycad talk at the Universiey of Central Florida. Contact has been made to him once again. Support for the Durban Botanical gardens was discussed. Our society would support the gardens financially for specific projects (providing our funding guidelines are met) in exchange for seeds.

—Chuck Grieneisen, Secretary

Further Travels in Madagascar

(Continued from page 25)

cently been discovered on the high, rocky plateau.
Everywhere we went we met kind, stoic and friendly people, the majority of whom live a life that has great emphasis on village community. There are many famous Malagasy sayings and I end with this example. 'If you wonder about where you are going…look more closely at where you are now'.

(The author expresses sincere thanks to Guy Rafamantananantsoa, Pierrot Rahajanirina and the Earthwatch Inst. for their generous support during our travels.)

Palm Beach Picnic, Sale

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society's annual picnic and auction will be held Sept. 17, from 9 a.m. till finish. The usual venue is Ruth Sallenbach's astonishing garden in Lake Worth. Guided tours in the morning, food and drink will be supplied. Attendees are asked to bring a plant for the auction.
The fall sale of PBPCS will take place on Oct. 8-9 at Caloosa Park in Boynton Beach. Saturday hours are 9-5; Sunday, 9-4.

The USF Fall Plant Festival 2005

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, October 8th, and Sunday, October 9th. 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.

Set up times for vendors are 8:00am.-6:00pm. Friday . On Saturday morning it's from 7:00 till 9:00. You must be a member of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad society to be a vendor. You must also have a vendor number to be a vendor. You just have to ask the treasurer for a vendor number .He is Mike Merritt. His E-mail is mmerritt85@cfl.rr.com

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 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 Chuckfg@mpinet.net or 407-359-6276. I hope to see everyone there.

Heathcote, Fort Pierce, Nov.19-20

Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce will hold Garden Festival on Saturday, Nov. 19 (9-4) and Sunday, Nov. 20 (10-3). Vendors of plants and garden supplies will be on hand. Admission: $4 adults, $2 kids 6-12, free if under 6.

For further information, Heathcote Botanical Gardens, 210 Savannah Road, Ft. Pierce. (772) 464-4672, or info@heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

Russell Adams answers questions about Panamanian cycads after his June 11th presentation at Bok.
(Photo by Tom Broome)

PEST OF THE MONTH

Coconut Borer

Subject: First Record of Cocount Borer, *Pachymerus nucleorum, in the United States*

Date posted: June 17, 2005 **Source:** Center for Environmental and Regulatory Information Systems (CERIS), Purdue University

News :

The coconut borer, *Pachymerus nucleorum* (F.), was found for the first time in the United States at a light trap in Palm Beach, Florida. This bruchid beetle feeds on numerous palm species within the following genera: *Acrocomia, Attalea, Cocos, Elaeis, Orbignya,* and *Syagrus.* Adults lay their eggs on palm fruits/seeds as seeds are a preferred foodsource and means of protection for the developing larvae. Feeding by the larvae usually renders the seeds nonviable. *Pachymerus nucleorum* has been reported in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguayen, and Sao Tomé e Príncipes.

For more information, see:

CERIS website: http://www.ceris.purdue.edu/napis/states/fl

For biological information on *P. nucleorum*:

Johnson, C. D., S. Zona, and J. A. Nilsson. 1995. Bruchid Beetles and Palm Seeds: Recorded Relationships. *Principes*, Vol. 39(1): 25-35.

[The above item was picked up online from www.pestalert.org —an excellent source for palm hypochondriacs or hysterics. Tip-off from, I think, Scott Zona?—Editor.]

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 12, 2005 to June 11, 2005

INCOME:

Seed sales	305.03
Membership Dues	825.00
Donations to CFPACS	0.00
Public Sales (FIT and USF Spring Sale)	1,080.06
Private Sales	0.00
Back Issue Sales	0.00
Total	2,201.09

EXPENSES:

Publications (v. 25, no. 2)	815.01
Grants	0.00
Miscellaneous (Corporate annual report)	70.00
Miscellaneous (purchase of new printer)	4,505.00
Total	5,390.01

INCOME - EXPENSES ..... –3,179.92

Bank balance 03/12/05	22,631.95
Bank balance 06/11/05	19,893.51

Net decrease..... 2,738.44

(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)
.....	9,445.14	(current value, close of market 06/07/2005)
		(6,486.93 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	4,250.00	

Treasurer's note: Our budget this quarter was somewhat stressed by the necessity of purchasing a new printer for *The Palmateer*. Our seed sale income was minimal this quarter, though dues income from spring renewals was robust. Our income from the CFPACS public sale at FIT was good, and we realized the usual good income from our participation in the spring sale at USF. Our broken printer required outsourcing the printing of the June *Palmateer* in b&w, thereby reducing the expense.

Ponytail 'Palm,' Beaucarnea recurvata, here *in bloom, is one of those non-palm 'palms' that people always ask about.*

By Pat Alazraki

This Ponytail is at least twenty years old and then some! Height to the top of the crown is almost 12 foot, bottom is 7' 8" and then the inflorescence is 3' 6." The base measures 2' by 2' above ground. Four individuals were transplanted about three years ago from a house in Barefoot Bay where they had grown too large to be under the carport. Since moving to our home in Grant, they have grown even larger, we figured that each base weighed over 200 pounds when they were moved to our yard. Two have started making "pups" at their bases. One shown here has bloomed and we're not sure if the one beside this one will bloom or not, it's sending up a lot of growth.

One Ponytail has four heads and a lot of pups at its base. I never knew they blossomed and was amazed! Will see if it seeds, will let you know.

Garden Fest, Largo, Nov. 19

The Florida Botanical Gardens will hold Garden Fest on Nov. 19, 10-4. The address: 12175 125th St., North, Largo, FL 33774. Phone: (727) 582-2200 or e-mail: www.flbg.org

SEED BANK REPORT

2nd Quarter, 2005

Hi Members!

Please contact Membership Chair Karen Barrese if you have recently changed your email address and want to continue to receive the Seed Bank offerings. Her email address is cfpacsmembership@msn.com

I did not assume the seed bank responsibility until early in the third quarter, and hope I do not omit mention of any of our second-quarter seed donors, as you are all appreciated!

During May, Mike Dahme contributed ***Prestoea acuminata*** var. montana that were harvested during his stay in Puerto Rico. And thanks to Dean VanderBleek, who provided ***Chamaedorea seifrizii***, ***Chamaedorea radicalis***, and ***Adonidia merrillii*** seeds.

Former CFPACS member Ken Hoddelmann contributed hefty seedlings of ***Acoelorraphe wrightii*** and ***Phoenix roebelenii***, which sold out, generating $85 for the treasury.

Barbara Shirley, owner of Everglades Foliage in Pahokee, Florida, donated several ***Corypha utan*** seeds from a relative's tree in Hawaii, which proved to be popular. And **Shri Dhar**, a frequent supporter of our chapter, sent ***Ptychosperma macarthurii*** seeds from India.

During June, ***Allagoptera arenaria*** seeds were provided by *Palmateer* Editor John Kennedy, which sold out and then some.

Forever generous Joseph Prabhakar, of Ortanique in California, contributed "huge brown gnarly looking" ***Voanioala gerardii*** seeds, which no doubt caused a flurry of email. Mr. Prabhakar also donated ***Bismarckia nobilis*** (always in demand), ***Chamaerops humilis 'Cerifera'***, ***Beccariophoenix madagascariensis*** (snapped up!), ***Caeroxylon alpinum*** (nearing extinction, seeds disappeared quickly), ***Caryota mitis***, ***Dypsis sp. 'Mahajanga'*** (which have been very popular with members and are nearing sold-out status), ***Chamaedorea microspadix***, ***Phoenix canariensis***, and ***Cycas clivicola ssp. lutea*** (thank goodness for these!! Our cycad fans were on a starvation diet this quarter).

A large quantity of ***Pseudophoenix ekmanii*** seeds was donated by Vincenzo Rubino in Italy; these seeds continue to be popular with members. And thanks also to Andrew Henderson for ***Attalea speciosa*** seeds, which did not last long!

Thanks to each and every one of our seed donors for supporting this chapter!

--Claudia Walworth

From the Editor's Desk

A Strangler Fig embraces its dead Sabal palmetto *victim in Bok Sanctuary, Lake Wales. (Photo by Karen Barrese)*

Well, how do you like it? We're back to color again. New printer, new photo program. The pictures represent my first, hesitant attempts at using the Gimp program—which scares me. Meant for web designers, it is filled with a vocabulary of terms I don't understand and, most of which, I don't need to know. Except that I do teach an online course and wouldn't it be great if I could set it up the way **I** want instead of handing over to techies to set up.

We do owe thanks to **George Grabowski**—brother-in-law and brother—who built the chapter computer with its large memory (1,024 MB) for us at cost and even added an icon to the desktop that opens to his phone and e-mail address, should urgent help be required. Twice I've troubled him when I couldn't figure something out. And **Jeremy Thorne** has been most patient in answering panicked questions about Gimp. And webmaster **Frankie Ramos** explained some operations in simple terms.

* * * * *

The masochists are at it again. Ozzie Bill Beattie and Florida friends—Jeff Searle and Peter Balasky, Broward Countians— have gone, once again, to Madagascar, undergoing all kinds of privations (but the beer is good). I was tempted to headline Bill's article as **The Rover Boys Do Mada**, but more prudent reflection brought a more sober head.

* * * * *

If you were wondering if there is any connection between Diana Grabowski and newly-appointed East Coast vp Mark Grabowski, the answer is Yes. Wife (president) and husband, have just returned from a trip to Australia to visit the son living there. Diana has promised to write up their Australian palm-gazing for the December issue.

* * * * *

Mike Merritt, our treasurer of how many years, will be leaving Central Florida in 6 months to a year. The personal business taking Mike to Hawaii (that he mentions in his article on *Pritchardia*, see p. 8) was the purchase of property on Hawaii Island. Doubtless, he is planning to grow all the species enumerated in the article. We will miss him, but the Editor envisions Mike as the Hawaii correspondent accredited to *The Palmateer*. Fiji isn't all that far away—by air—Mike, so after you settle in and plant a few *Pritchardia*s, more genera can be investigated, and written up, that grow just a few hours away. We will also miss Mike's reliable presence as a vendor at our meetings. But he will really leave a hole in his role of treasurer, guiding/monitoring our expenditures, shepherding our little nest egg, telling us if we can afford to give grants, buy equipment, and so forth.

Mike will be looking to train his successor. Ideally, this person should have a financial background and experience, with the willingness to spend time on CFPACS business affairs (all those little details the State of Florida requires of a non-profit corporation). The treasurer provides a quarterly statement of finances that is published in the newsletter—haven't seen this in any other palm society publication—and should attend board meetings. Equal volunteer opportunity. Perhaps a retiree would enjoy doing this instead of moping around the house or mowing the lawn for a third time in a week. Anyone interested should contact Mike Merritt. See the board list on page 33.

* * * * *

Get out the labels for a new round of name changes. The taxonomists have struck again. But these are palms not usually seen in Central Florida: *Gronophyllum, Gulubia,* and *Siphokentia* become *Hydriastele. Livistona mariae* var. *occidentalis* is now *Livistona nasmophila. Calamus hollrungii* changes to *Calamus vitensis.* (Thanks to Bob Riffle and to Ian Edwards, Tropical Garden Society of Sydney, an IPS chapter, for the news.) And, of course, *Livistona decipiens* turned into *Livistona decora* maybe a year ago. Some nurseries hereabouts still have tags for Queen Palms as *Cocos plumosa*, so it's obvious that not everyone keeps up with the latest fad in names.

John Kennedy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Dog Days of Summer. . .

This summer has definitely been an example of the classic saying "The Dog Days of Summer". You've probably had to tend to your plants in the wee hours of the morning or into the early evening hours in order to avoid sweating to death. In June Florida had a record rainfall of 58% more than the norm. However, this figure did not break a record but it sure helped us Palmateers save a few dollars on our June water bills. Records were also set for the highest average temperatures and driest July in Central Florida. Also of note were the formation of four named storms by early July and the earliest category 4 storm on record. Let's hope that August 2005 is kinder to Floridians than last year's August, which brought eight named storms compared to the normal three or four storms, which are the norm for August. If you really want to dig into some interesting meteorological research being debated at the moment you might want to "read-up" on the latest studies on the impact of global warming and hurricanes.

On a lighter note, palms have made it in worldwide and national news again... In Fort Wayne, Indiana a ten-foot tropical palm tree was planted in front of the Courthouse Green. Apparently, not everyone took a liking to the tropical specimen. Those in disagreement with the planting of the palm felt that the palm took away from the majestic Allen County's Courthouse. It would not be transplanted without controversy, apparently some courthouse employees circulated a "save our palm" petition. The battle was lost though, the palm will be transplanted to another location (K. Leininger, FortWayne.com, June 28th, 2005).

And of miraculous palms in the news stories a seed of an extinct date palm sprouted after 2,000 years. Elaine Solowey, a botanist who teaches at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies at Kibbutz, Ketura, sprouted the seed. Solowey has nurtured more than 100 rare or near extinction species back to life as part of a 10-year project she is involved in that is used to study plants and herbs used as ancient cures. Solowey was given three seeds from a batch of ancient seeds that were found thirty years ago by archaeologist HUD Nether during an archeological excavation on Mount Muscidae.

The Department of Botanical Archaeology at Israel's Bar-Ilan University identified the seeds. The seeds had been stored for the past thirty years. Solowey was able to obtain three seeds after Sarah Sallon, Director of Louis L. Borick Natural Medicine Center at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem found out about the ancient seeds.

Solowey was doubtful they would sprout however she gave it a go and soaked the seeds in warm water, and added gibberellic acid, and a special rooting hormone, and an enzyme-rich fertilizer. The seeds were then planted in sterile potting soil on the Jewish festival of trees, on January 25th. After five weeks, Solowey was amazed to find a small little date shoot. Two of the leaves were abnormal, they were very flat and pale. However, the third leaf had striations of a date plant. When the seed sprouted, additional seeds from the cache were sent to the University of Zurich for radiocarbon dating. The results showed the samples were 2,000 year old, plus or minus fifty years. DNA testing will be conducted to obtain detailed genetic information. Sallon and Solowey hope that the tree will provide valuable information about the Judean economy and society at the time of Jesus. During the Roman Empire, Israel was known for the quality of its dates. However date growing for commercial purposes ceased at the end of 70 A.D., during the Roman invasion. The date forests of long ago no longer exist in Israel. The date palms grown today in Israel are imported mainly from California (M. Kalman, SFGATE.com, June 12, 2005).

***So the** moral of the story is that for those of you that are still waiting on those seeds to germinate that you planted months ago or longer, don't give up miracles can happen, as Solowey and Sallon have witnessed.*

In closing, I do hope to see all of you at our Fall meeting to be held on Saturday, September 17th in Ruskin. The Barreses have done a great job on organizing this meeting and it looks like it will be a fantastic meet!

Diana Wehrell-Grabowski

In your luxurious, prestigious, waterfront, deluxe gated community, there are many experts on many subject: politics, golf, begonias. Be the expert on palms and cycads. Don't let go-sh ignoramuses kick dirt in your face. Know your palms and cycads! Show the owners' association what you're made of. But how to acquire such recondite information? Easy. Join the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society (CFPACS) today and we will reveal ALL to you through this authoritative publication, through quarterly meetings, and access to those more knowledgeable than yourself. Membership for 1 year is $15, three years for $40. Fill out the form to the right and send your check, made out to CFPACS to the Membership Chair at the address provided. Begin to know whereof you speak!

Please print

Name_____

Street_____

City_____

State_____

Zip_____

County_____

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: $15 one year; $40 three years; foreign: US$20 one year) to:

Karen Barrese
CFPACS Membership Chair
5942 Ehren Cutoff
Land O Lakes, FL 34639
cfpacsmembership@msn.com

Membership also available at website:
www.cfpacs.org

The dues of anyone joining after October 1 are applied to the following calendar year and include the December issue.

Those joining before October 1 receive all four issues of *The Palmateer* for the current year (March, June, September, December).

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

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER NOVEMBER 11

CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

President
Diana Grabowski
541 S. Atlantic Avenue
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
(321) 783-2342
ScinceLady@aol.com

Past President
Ray Hernández
4315 W. San Juan Street
Tampa, FL33629-7703
(813) 832-3561
SubTropicOfCancer@hotmail.com

Secretary
Chuck Grieneisen
2450 Simmons Road
Oviedo, FL 32765
(407) 359-6276
chuckfg@mpinet.net

Treasurer
Michael Merritt
1250 Bee Lane
Geneva, FL 32732-9172
(407) 349-1293
(407) 349-2924 FAX
mmerritt85@cfl.rr.com

East Vice President
Mark Grabowski
541 S. Atlantic Avenue
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
(321) 783-2342
windburn@hotmail.com

Central Vice President
Tom Broome
P. O. Box 325
Polk City, FL33868-0325
(863) 984-2739
cycadjungl@aol.com

West Vice President
Tom Barrese
5942 Ehren Cutoff
Land O Lakes, FL 34639
(813) 996-7148
Palmnation@msn.com

Membership Chair
Karen Barrese
5942 Ehren Cutoff
Land O Lakes, FL 34639
(813) 996-7148
cfpacsmembership@msn.com

Editor, *The Palmateer*
John D. Kennedy
3225 13th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960-3825
(772) 567-9587
Palmateer@cfpacs.org

CFPACS Seed Bank
Claudia Walworth
479 Palm Drive
Oviedo, FL 32765
(407) 366-4860
orlbroker@aol.com

CFPACS Webmaster
Frankie Ramos
4169 N. Indian River Drive
Cocoa, FL 32927
(321) 634-5223
webmaster@cfpacs.org

This grinning face is carved into a living Washingtonia *in the 1800 block of 31st Ave. in Vero Beach.*
(Photos by Matthew Kennedy)

The IPS board tours Montgomery Botanical Center during its April meeting in Miami. Left, Larry Noblick explains a palm / cycad point to the visitors. Below, the same group, with John Dransfield in the right foreground.
(Photos by Paul Craft)