

The Palmateer

Volume 26, Number 2

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

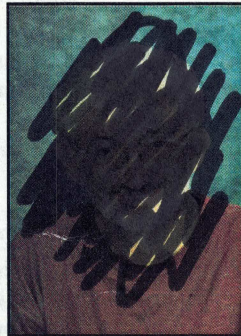
June, 2006

John Dowe in Central Florida Noted Palm Scientist August Speaker in Fort Pierce

By John Kennedy

John Dowe, Australian expert on *Livistona*, will offer three presentations at Indian River Community College (IRCC) in Fort Pierce on Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, August 27. His appearance is sponsored by Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society, Heathcote Botanical Gardens, and the Life-long Learning Institute of IRCC.

A morning and an afternoon session are scheduled for Saturday. At 10:00 a.m., Dr. Dowe will speak on all species of *Livistona* for about 90 minutes, with a question time afterward. After a break for lunch, his topic at 1:30 p.m. will be the cyclone/hurricane adaptation of palms, with particular reference to *Livistona*. This should conclude at around 3:00 p.m. Again, there will be time for questions. Dowe is to be a visiting fellow at Montgomery Botanical Center for about three weeks in August and September; he will be driving up to Fort



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Meeting at Montgomery Botanical Center Saturday, March 11th, 2006

About 20 something CFPACS members made the long haul down to sunny south Florida to spend the day at Montgomery Botanical Center, and what a gorgeous day it was. I can't think of a better way to spend a Florida "Spring-Like" day than strolling amongst an impressive collection of palms and cycads.

The meeting began at 10:40 am with Dr. Patrick Griffith, the new Director of Montgomery Botanical Center giving a brief overview of the history of MBC and goals. He also gave a "run-down" of what fared-

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June Meeting: Tampa/St. Pete

By Tom Barrese

PUT YOUR RUNNING SHOES ON! This quarter's meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 10th on the west coast. We will begin with two Tampa gardens, then a scenic hop across Tampa Bay and conclude with two St. Petersburg gardens. We will have our usual sale/auction at our last stop.

The tour starts at 10:00 am (board meeting at 9:30) and our first host is Joe Toph. Joe is a new member but has been a palm enthusiast a long time. His current palm garden was re-established in 1989 (after the BIG freeze).

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No, you haven't had too many beers. This IS a sight at Monty viewed by the March 11th visitors: a triple-headed Bottle Palm.

(Photo by Mark Grabowski)



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Directions to Joe Toph's, 5006 S. Elberon St., Tampa, FL 33611:

from Orlando/I-4

take **I-4** west to downtown Tampa...
(merges with **I-275** south)

take the **DOWNTOWN EAST/ WEST (45a)** exit
follow to

ASHLEY Street (Drive)

take Ashley south .7 miles to **BROEIN Street**
turn right and cross the drawbridge and take the

FIRST LEFT

on **BAYSHORE BOULEVARD**

go south along Bayshore for 4.4 miles to **GANDY Boulevard** (traffic light)

turn **RIGHT** and take the very first **LEFT** to
ELBERON Street

south two blocks, on left

from Ocala/ north

take **I-275** south to downtown Tampa

Follow directions above

from Pinellas/St. Pete

take the **Gandy Bridge** east to **Gandy Boulevard**
stay on **Gandy** until just *before* **Bayshore Boulevard**
turn **RIGHT** onto **ELBERON Street**
go two blocks south... on left

from South

take **I-75** north to the **Selmon Crosstown Expressway** (sign says Port of Tampa/downtown Tampa)
head west to **downtown West** exit #7

this will put you on **Brorien Street**. Stay on Brorien Street - cross drawbridge - take **FIRST LEFT** to

BAYSHORE BLVD.

Turn **Right** onto **Bayshore Boulevard** to **GANDY Blvd.** (traffic light)

Turn **RIGHT** and take the very first **LEFT** to
ELBERON Street

South two blocks, on left

The second stop should be around 11 to 11:30 am at the residence of the late Dr. Young. This is a mature garden and may be the last opportunity to tour this collection as developers may change its history. Those who have never toured this garden will not want to miss this meeting. His son Brad will be our host.

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June 10th Meeting, Tampa

(Continued from page 2)

Drive time should take about 10-15 minutes.

Directions to Dr. Young's, 505 S. Royal Palm Way, Tampa, FL 33609:

To Dr. Young's from Joe Toph's

Head north on **S. ELBERON ST** and turn right onto **W. GANDY BLVD.**

From **GANDY BLVD.** turn left onto **BAYSHORE BLVD.** and proceed north (watch your speed!).

From **BAYSHORE BLVD.** turn left onto **BAY TO BAY BLVD.** and proceed west.

From **BAY TO BAY BLVD.** turn RIGHT onto **DALE MABRY HIGHWAY** and head north

From **DALE MABRY HWY.** turn LEFT onto **W. SWANN AVE** and proceed west.

While still on **SWANN AVE.** you will go underneath an old Mediterranean style gate. Enter next roundabout and take 2nd exit onto **S ROYAL PALM WAY**

House is on the corner (look for the palms!)

After this stop, everyone is on their own for lunch. There are several locations either in Tampa or in St. Pete which is our next stop. This is about a 30-minute drive.

Our third tour will be round 1:30.

Rick Nale has been a member for several years. He has been at his residence for 13 years and has 70+ varieties of palms and cycads

Directions to Rick Nale's, 535 51st Street S, St. Petersburg, FL 33707

To Rick Nale's from Dr. Young's

From Dr. Young's, turn back on **SWANN AVE** roundabout

Turn RIGHT the next block, **W SWANN AVE**
Turn RIGHT onto **S WESTSHORE BLVD**

Turn LEFT onto **KENNEDY BLVD**

Turn LEFT again (at 3rd light) onto **Kennedy BLVD** before it becomes FL-60

Kennedy Blvd merges onto **I-275 S**

Continue on **I-275S** and exit onto **5TH AVE N** exit
Continue through light at bottom or ramp to **1st AVE N**

Turn RIGHT on **1ST AVE N.** (one-way westbound) to **49th ST N.**

Turn LEFT on **49th ST N** and go to second light, **5TH AVE S**

Turn RIGHT for two blocks to **51ST STREET S**

Turn LEFT, second house on right
(house is barely visible due to vegetation and privacy fence)

Plenty of parking on both sides of the street.

Our fourth and final tour will be around 2:30.

Mike and Marjorie Evans are new members but have been collecting palms for 16 years.

Their current palm garden was started about 7 years ago

We will have a palm sale and auction after the tour

Directions to Mike and Marjorie Evans, 6015 100th Way N, St. Petersburg, FL 33708

To Mike and Marjorie Evans from Rick Nale's (about 15 minutes)

Directions

Head EAST to **49th St** (2 blocks) & turn LEFT

Head NORTH on **49th St** to **5th AVE N**
Turn LEFT on **5th AVE N.**

Turn RIGHT onto **TYRONE BLVD N.** then drive about 5 miles

Turn RIGHT onto **100th WAY N** and go about 1/2 mile
Just past the Pinellas Bike trail, Turn LEFT onto **59th Ave,** & drive 1 block

Immediately turn RIGHT onto **100th Way N**

Garden is second house on Right (6015 100th Way North)

Please park in the circular drive & on the front grass area, until full.

Directions back to Tampa/Orlando from the Evanses':

Start out going SOUTH on **100TH WAY N** toward **59th AVE N.**

Turn LEFT onto **59TH AVE N.**

Turn RIGHT onto **SEMINOLE TRAIL**

Turn RIGHT on **54th AVE N**

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June 10th Meeting, Tampa

(Continued from page 3)

Turn **RIGHT** on **SEMINOLE BLVD**

Turn **RIGHT** onto **PARK BLVD N.**

PARK BLVD N becomes **GANDY BLVD N**

Take the ramp toward **I-275 / TAMPA / ST PETERSBURG.**

Merge onto **I-275 N** toward **TAMPA.**

Merge onto **I-4 E** via **EXIT 45B** toward **ORLANDO.**

I would like to thank the many west coasters who responded to the solicitation I made several months ago to host a meeting. We are working our way down the list and all respondents will be contacted for future west coast meetings. Your patience is appreciated. I would also like to thank Karen Barrese for her great effort in gathering the directions for this multi garden meeting.

— Tom Barrese



Above, March 11th visitors gather around the new weather station at Montgomery Botanical Center for which CFPACS contributed to the funding.

(Photo by Diana Grabowski)



A beautiful stand of Spindle Palms at Montgomery Botanical Center.
(Photo by Mark Grabowski)

March 11th Meeting, Montgomery

(Continued from page 1)

well and what did not during Hurricane Wilma.

Following Griffith's introduction, Jody Haynes and Christine Wiese gave a tour of the cycad sections. Jody provided details on past, present and future plans of the cycad endeavors at MBC. He provided details on latest research on mulches, soils, pests, and cultivation.

The group was also shown the Cycad Savannah Test Plot which our society donated funds towards. The Cycad Savannah Test Plot is home to a new weather station which CFPACS funds helped fund. Jody will be providing an article about the Cycad Savannah Test Plot in the next issue of *The Palmeteer*, providing more long-term details of the project.

The group then took a brief break for lunch on site followed by a nice lengthy walk amongst the impressive collection of palm species. Where else could you view established stands of mature specimens such as *Pseudophoenix vinifera*, *Roystonea regia*, *Nypa fruticans*, *Coccothrinax ekmanii*, *Corypha* species, *Copernicia* species, bottles, spindles, fishtails the list goes on and on.....

The meeting ended around the 2:00 pm and many of the folks headed over to Fairchild Tropical Garden, only a "stone-throw" away.

I want to thank Dr. Patrick Griffith and his staff for their time and all of the CFPACS members who ventured down to south Florida.

--Diana Wehrell-Grabowski

Frank Tintera Interviewed. . .

[This story appeared in the Tampa Tribune on April 6, just before the USF Spring Sale.]

By **Lenora Lake**

TAMPA - Frank and Jennie Tintera's yard of lush tropical plants and fruit trees hasn't always been that way. When they bought their home in the Town 'N Country area in 1968, "There were pine trees galore - and some palmettos," recalled Jennie Tintera, 71. "There was nothing else here," said Frank Tintera, 68. "It's only an acre, but it is packed-in here now."

Each year, the Tinteras lost pine trees to lightning, and they replaced them with palm trees and fruit trees from around the globe. About 20 years ago, they started a nursery, The Banana Patch, at their home in the Pat Acres subdivision.

"**I am** the Top Banana, and she is Chiquita," said-Frank Tintera, referring to his wife of 39 years and the mother of their five grown children. "My parents lived in Ybor City, and we grew all kinds of fruits and trees," said Tintera, adding that the mango tree in his yard came from his parents' yard.

Tintera is among the 70-plus vendors selling plants and plant-related merchandise at the 17th annual Spring Plant Festival this weekend at the University of South Florida Botanical Gardens. He sells his plants through the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society, of which he is member.

From the Tinteras' home, The Banana Patch sells to individuals and landscapers such as Patrick Bailey, of Bailey's Lawn Maintenance of Hillsborough County, who recently was looking for palm trees for customers. "It's the tropical look that everyone loves," Bailey said. Tintera said some of his customers have moved to the Tampa area from South America and Central America "and they want things from where they came from."

Tintera said he spends about four hours a day working in his yard, which includes plants and trees from South America, Central America, Hawaii, Africa, Australia and the Caribbean. He estimated that he has about 100 varieties of palms and a similar variety of fruit trees. He has 10 types of bananas. Palms and banana trees surround his backyard pool. "Everything around the pool doesn't drop leaves; I recommend that to others," he said.

Tintera said palms are popular because they are easy to grow, and their root system is a big ball instead of a spreading one. Some varieties grow in dry, upland areas and others grow only in wet lowlands. He recommends that people considering adding palms to their yard know their soil and research which varieties will thrive there. He recommends regular feeding with



Dave Witt at the USF sale with the Bismarckia donated by CFPACS 10 years ago. Permission to reprint the Tintera article forbids any editing, so the incorrect spelling—column below—stays.

(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

commercial palm tree fertilizer.

One of the biggest sellers he has is a Bismarckia palm from Madagascar. A 3-foot tree sells for about \$40, with 5-foot trees going for \$110. Foxtail palms also are popular and selling for \$45 for a 5-foot tree and \$65 for a 10-foot tree. Kim Hutton, the botanical gardens' special events coordinator, said the nonprofit gardens receive a percentage of the vendors' sales.

The Spring Plant Festival typically draws about 5,000 people. Vendors, clubs and societies will share information about growing plants here. The event also will include the official ribbon cutting of the gardens' new bathrooms. Author and plant expert Monica Brandies will answer garden questions throughout the festival, volunteers will offer a free children's activity area all weekend, and experts will give workshops all day Sunday.

Laurie Walker, the gardens' director, will give a tour of the grounds at 1 p.m. Saturday. "It will be a nice way to see how certain plants can fit into your landscape - and how big they can grow," Hutton said. The Tampa Tribune is a sponsor of event. **IF YOU GO** *WHAT: *Spring Plant Festival *WHEN: *10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday (members admitted at 9:30 a.m.) *WHERE: *University of South Florida Botanical Gardens, Alumni and Pine drives *HOW MUCH: *\$3 for those 12 and older; free for children 11 and younger and for USF Botanical Gardens members *INFORMATION: *Call (813) 974-232

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Dowe in Fort Pierce

(Continued from page 1)

Pierce from Miami to give these talks. He was also at Montgomery last summer, studying the hurricane adaptation of *Sabal*.

On Sunday morning at 10:00, Dowe will speak on *Pychosperma macarthurii*, a species on which he has just completed a monograph.

The Saturday presentations will be held in the River Room of Kight Center for Emerging Technologies on the Fort Pierce campus of IRCC. This small auditorium has a capacity of 150 people. The Sunday presentation will be held elsewhere—to be announced—on the IRCC campus.

All three talks are open to the public, at no charge. Anyone who wishes to attend is welcome to do so. Dr. Dowe's presentations will be publicized regionally and around the state. Not only palm hobbyists are likely to attend, but also scientists and the general public ("intelligent gardeners" who wish to know more).

John Leslie Dowe is Senior Botanist at the Australian Tropical Freshwater Centre of James Cook University in Townsville, Queensland. He is the author of nu-

merous palm articles. Some detail about Dowe may be found at <http://www.actfr.jcu.edu.au/staff/johnd.html>

For those who may want to spend overnight, Friday and/or Saturday, a list of motels and restaurants in Fort Pierce is given on the opposite page, together with directions (below). Lunch is on your own; fast food palaces may be found on U. S. #1 or SR 70 between I-95 and the turnpike.

Since not every detail has been settled at the time of writing (May 15), attendees should check the CFPACS website for any late changes: www.cfpacs.org Further details, when available, may be obtained from the stage manager of the event, John Kennedy, at jkennedy@ircc.edu or--home phone in Vero Beach--(772) 567-9587.

Taxonomists Forever!

Recent Palm Name Changes

Courtesy of Robert Lee Riffle, consider yourself informed of the following "recent" name changes:

Aiphanes aculeata=*A. horrida*

Alsmithia longipes=*Heterospatha longipes*

Areca latiloba=*A. montana*

A. mamillata=*A. vidualiana*

Calyptronoma=*Calyptrogryne*

Gastrococos=*Acrocomia*

Gronophyllum=*Hydriastele*

Gulubia=*Hydriastele*

Livistona decipiens=*L. decora*

L. mariae ssp. *occidentalis*=*L. nasmophila*

Polyandrococos=*Allagoptera*

Siphokentia=*Hydriastele*

Thrinax compacta=*Hemithrinax compacta*

T. rivularis=*Hemithrinax rivularis*

But, then, you knew this already, anyway. Will *Hydriastele* catch up in number (100+) with *Dypsis*?

--Editor

Directions to Indian River Community College, Fort Pierce

Fort Pierce is at the eastern end of SR 70.

From West: take SR 70 to Fort Pierce. Once past I-95, follow directions below.

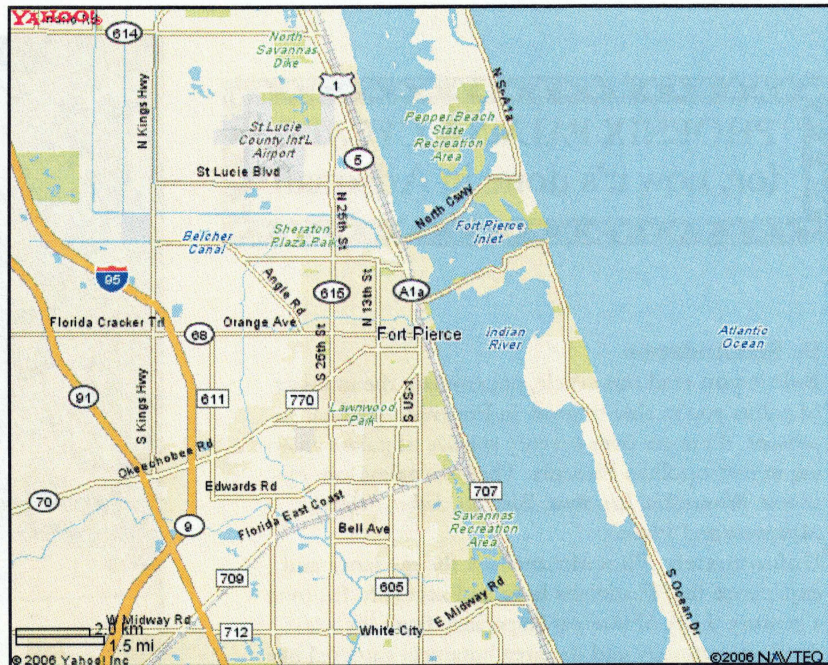
From North and South: I-95 to Exit 129, Okeechobee Road, Fort Pierce (SR 70). There is also a turnpike exit (#152) for Fort Pierce on SR 70, about a half mile west of I-95.

From I-95: drive east on SR 70. The road forks after 1.3 miles. Bear right, follow the SR 70 sign. This is Virginia Avenue. Exactly half a mile ahead, the first traffic light is 35th Street. Turn right on 35th Street. The IRCC campus is on the left. The Kight Center for Emerging Technologies is the big building at the back of the campus with a slant roof. The River Room is on the first floor. There is a balcony if you prefer to eat your popcorn up there.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens, with its small palm collection and surprisingly extensive cycad collection, is on Savannah Road, a half block east of U. S. #1, a left turn from U. S. #1. Savannah Rd. is two blocks south of the intersection of Virginia Ave. and U. S. #1. There is no traffic light at Savannah Rd. but there is a center turn lane. The traffic light before Savannah Rd. is Gardenia Ave. Phone number: (772) 464-4672.

Fort Pierce Motels

Most of the major chains have motels in Fort Pierce. Motels are clustered on SR 70 between I-95 and the turnpike entrance, on U. S. #1, and on A1A on Fort Pierce South Beach. There is also a bed & breakfast, the Mellon Patch Inn on A1A on Fort Pierce North Beach. Virginia Avenue deadends in U. S. #1 about a mile east of Indian River Community College. Harbor Light Inn on South Beach, overlooking the Fort Pierce Inlet, has been recommended.



Fort Pierce Restaurants

Café La Ronde (on Saturday, dinner only:
expensive, reservations)
221 Orange Avenue
(772) 595-1928

Manatiki Restaurant

200 N. Indian River Drive
(772) 460-9014

Tiki Bar & Restaurant

(open air right on Indian River)
2 Avenue A
(772) 461-0880
(the three above are in the downtown area)

Ian's Tropical Grill

927 N. U. S. #1
(772) 785-9169
(2 miles north of Virginia Ave. on U. S. #1,
seafood specialty, in *Fodor's Guide*, dinner only,
reservations)

Out of Bounds Steak & Grill

2838 S. U. S. #1
(772) 468-4363
(about a mile south of Virginia Ave.)

This Yahoo map is a little strange, by local standards. The major road marked only as '91' is, in fact, the Florida Turnpike. Virginia Ave. is the east-west street just below 'Lawnwood Park.' The downtown area is east of U.S. 1 between the two bridges (to North Beach and to South Beach).

Mervis's Café

5th St. & Citrus Ave., 1 block west of U. S. #1,
behind KFC on U.S. #1
(about a mile north of Virginia Ave.)
(772) 462-6600 (Cuban)

Donut Circus (honorable mention!)

2040 S. U. S. #1
(772) 461-8017
(a few sandwiches, great donuts & coffee,
open 24 hours, 50 yards north of Virginia Ave.,
east side of U. S. #1)

Padaria E Restaurante Brasil

Virginia Ave., south side, just east of U. S. #1,
side of Sabal Palm Plaza
(772) 467-0405 (Brazilian)

There are at least 15 restaurants in downtown Fort Pierce; not all are open for lunch on Saturday.

PHOENIX PALMS & CYCADS (or, how it's done in Arizona!)

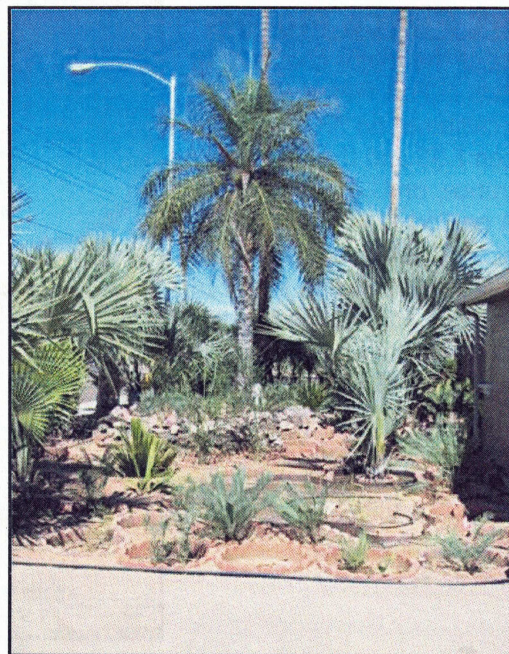
By Rod Anderson

Before you read this article, guesstimate the number of palms you're able to grow in Phoenix, Arizona. At present, there are over seventy species of palms growing in metropolitan Phoenix. The best palms are: *Hyphaene*, *Bismarckia*, *Livistona*, *Borassus*, *Sabal*, *Medemia*, *Acrocomia* and *Phoenix*.

Unfortunately, Phoenicians lack the guidance and experience that Floridians have had access to for over a century. Lack of interest (especially from the academic community and the area botanical gardens) has greatly limited the much needed exposure for growing these exotic palms and cycads. The area's botanical garden has for years decided to focus on only desert/dry climate plants (especially those plants from the Sonoran Desert region) - palms are not allowed and the two *Dioons* in their collection are hidden away. Many new housing developments in our area have decided not to allow any palms or cycads of any kind within view from the street (you could grow them in your back yard if you couldn't see them from the street). Developers say that they only want a select list of plants to be grown, emphasizing 'native' plants. Yet, surprisingly, they will allow Chilean mesquite, Brazilian bougainvillea, Texas *Agave hesperaloe parviflora* (red yucca) - my personal top plant on my hate list, you get my point. What ever happened to having a "creatively different" landscape?

O.K., now that I've got that off my chest, here's what I've been doing for the past 10 years. I've been called "Darwinian" in my approach to growing palms and cycads, and you don't want to know how many plants I've lost even after being assured they would grow in my harsh environment. *Experience is priceless - it's everything!* !!! I'm still learning.

With our alkaline soil (PH 7.8 - 8.3) adding high PH water doesn't help. Just last year (2005), I added an 'injector system' where I could add vinegar to lower the PH in the water to around 6.5. What an incredible difference in my plants - much healthier, incredible growth, and a much easier method to fertilize. I've also started adding charcoal to my soil (there are no nutri-



Rod Anderson's front yard in Phoenix, Arizona, is the more striking in that palms are not widely grown (or approved of) there..

ents in Arizona's soil). There was an article in the local newspaper as well as a Discovery Channel discussion on it. In it they (Amerindians from the pre-Columbian era) took charcoal (as well as high levels of organic matter) as a soil amendment to produce "super plants" in the Amazon rain forest (reportedly poor rain forest soil). This method was called: *terra preta do indio* - Portuguese for **Indian Black Earth**.

Microclimates will aid in growing marginal plants (especially the *Encephalartos* species). If it wasn't for the low humidity in May and June (we're talking humidity in single digits here) we could grow a remarkable number of palms and cycads (especially the Asian cycads). I once planted some *Cycas* sp. Wililak in July (after our monsoons had arrived raising the humidity) and they were thriving so well that I planted more. Unfortunately, when the lower humidity arrived the following year, they burned to a crisp.

All of Phoenix nurseries are supplied with palms that are grown in California or Florida with the ever-present queen palm that just is not suited for Arizona. The local extension office says that the queen palm

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PHOENIX PALMS

(Continued from page 8)

should not be planted here in Phoenix! Please note: with the exception of the *Phoenix* species (usually *Phoenix dactylifera*, *roebelenii*, & *canariensis*), none of the palms mentioned at the beginning of this article are found in our local nurseries.

I once had a horticulturist from the City of Phoenix that was impressed with my 'queen palm' in my front yard and wanted to know what I was doing to make it look so good. After pointing to the spines on the trunk and telling him it was actually a 'queen palm' look-a-like from Costa Rica - my *Acrocomia aculeata* (*vinifera*), I was able to show him some of my other palms in my collection.

My most prized palm is my *Hyphaene compressa*. My parents knew of a missionary in Eritrea and contacted them about bringing back some seeds. They were able to 'bring' me five seeds (this was before 9-11), and all five germinated and I immediately planted them "in-situ". I now have 5 *compressa*'s that in time will shade the front of my house (wouldn't you say this would be a great plant for Arizona: loves full sun, doesn't like a lot of water, and provides shade). I once talked to someone from Arizona State University, and was told they had a *Hyphaene thebaica* that they had growing in a pot and were going to wait until it got larger to plant out (I don't think they ever got to planting it - in a pot it will take decades!).

As for cycads, I really like the blue Australian ones. Do you know how hard it is to obtain seeds/plants of these species? Now with the added restrictions the Australian government is placing on exporting seeds and plants, it's virtually impossible to obtain these. My *Cycas cairnsiana* just glisten in the sun!

When planting my palms, and especially the cycads, I like to amend my soil with several different things: 3/8 inch granite, lava sand, composted mulch, pumice, horticultural charcoal, gypsum, and worm castings (I'm finding I need to use more and more worm castings).

It's funny, I bought my house on a busy street next to an elementary school hoping to be able to get an unlimited supply of piano students (one student as of today). I'll be known more for my plants than as a piano teacher. I guess having a "creatively different" landscape is a good thing!

Plants I would love to get: *Acrocomia hassleri*, *Livistona carinensis*, *Cycas desolata*, *Microcycas*, *Chigua*.

Web links: all about the Sonoran Desert: http://www.desertusa.com/du_sonoran.html

The Palm & Cycad Association of Arizona webpage:

<http://azpalmandcycad.org/>

E-mail Rod Anderson: 1rca@cox.net

Rod's Phoenix Palm List

Acrocomia: media, mexicana, totai, vinifera
Attalea: butyracea speciosa
Bismarckia: nobilis, nobilis (green form)
Borassus: aethiopum, flabellifer, madagascariensis, sambiranensis
Chamaerops humilis var. *cerifera*
Chambeyronia macrocarpa
Coccothrinax: borbhidiana, crinita, dussiana, fragrans, miraguama, plateada, proctorii
Colpothrinax: cookii, wrightii
Copernicia: alba, cowellii, curbeloi, gigas, prunifera, rigida, sueroana, vespertilionum, yarey
Crocosiphila argentata
Dictyosperma album v. *rubrum*
Dypsis decaryi species: *white form*
Hyphaene: compressa, dichotoma, mt. Regan, natalensis, peterianna, schatan, thebaica, thebaica X natalensis, turbinata
Kentiopsis oliviformis
Latania lontaroides
Licuala: ferrunginea, paludosa, peltata, ramsayi
Livistona: australis, benthamii, blackdown tableland, concinnus, decipiens, drudei, fulva, humilis, inermis, lanuginosa, loriphylla, mariae, mariae sp. *Occidentalis, nitida, nitida* v. *carnavon gorge, rigida, saribus, speciosa, victoria river blue, victoriae "frog hole", species: big trunk*
Medemia argun
Nannorhops: ritchiana - blue, ritchiana - green
Phoenix canariensis, dactylifera, loureirii, paludosa, roebelenii, rupicola, sp. black sphinx
Pseudophoenix sargentii
Ravenea glauca
Roystonea violacea
Sabal: causiurum, mauritiiformis, minor, palmetto, riverside, rosei, yapa
Schippia concolor
Serenoa repens (white form)
Syagrus: glaucescens, romanoffiana
Thrinax: excelsa, morrisii, parviflora, radiata, species: caye cochitas
Trachycarpus: fortunei, latesectus, martianus, species: old man, takil
Trithrinax: acanthocoma, biflabellata, campestris (silver form)
Washingtonia robusta
Wodyetia bifurcata
Zamia antillarum

No copies of this list (palm & cycad) is allowed unless written authorization is given by the author.

Rod's Phoenix Cycad List

Bowenia: serrulata, spectabilis

(Continued on page 10)

Rod's Cycad List

(Continued from page 9)

Ceratozamia: mexicana, norstogii

Cycas: angulata, apoa, armstrongii, cairnsiana (Mt. Surprise),
canalis, candida, chamberlainii, circinalis, coultisiana, furfuracea,
guizhouensis, jenkinsiana, litoralis, macrocarpa, media,
megacarpa, micholitzii, mt. morgan, multipinnata, neocaledonica,
ophiolitica, panzhibuaensis, platyphylla, pruinosa, revoluta,
sp. showa, sp. aurea, rumphii, seemanii, siamensis,
sphaerica, taitungensis, thouarsii, species: echo gorge

Dioon: angustifolium, argentum, edule v. tamaulipas, califanoi,
caputoi, dickii, mejiae, merolae, palma sola, purpusii, queretaro,
rio balsas, rio verde, sonorensis, tomasellii, species: dwarf

Encephalartos: aemulans, arenarius – blue, arenarius – green,
arenarius X horridus, altensteinii, cycadifolius, dolomiticus,
dyerianus, gratus, horridus, lanatus, laurentianus, lehmannii,
lehmannii X horridus, lehmannii v. Kirkwood, longifolius,
manikensis, middelburgensis, munchii, natalensis, paucidentatus,
princes, senticosus, trispinosus, turneri, whitelockii

Lepidozamia peroffskyana

Macrozamia: diplomera, dyeri, fearnsidei, fraseri, glaucophylla,
johnsonii, lomandroides, lucida, macdonnellii, moorei, mount-
perriensis, parcifolia, riedlei, spiralis, sp. wollemii

Stangeria: eriopus (grassland), *eriopus* (forest)

Zamia: furfuracea, neuophyllidia, palatka giant, paucijuga,
picta, splendens, sp. "dwarf duba"

No copies of this list (palm & cycad) is allowed unless
 written authorization is given by the author.

Unpollinated
 pistillate infructes-
 cence of
 Encephalartos
 ferox at BJ
 Sutphin's.

**Tribute to BJ Sutphin, Old Friend****The One With The Big Red Thing In The Middle**

By Mike Dahme

BJ struggled mightily with Latin binomials, never mastering the easily-pronounced 'Bismarckia' [which invariably cleared his throat as 'biz-mar-key'], so the inevitable sentence-reference to *Encephalartos ferox* was emblematic. Not being able to remember/pronounce names, however, did not restrain him from a gung-ho [a nice way of writing 'mindless', which, of course, could be applied to many of us] mass-planting approach to landscaping his Melbourne beachside duplex with many specimens of our favorite plant families. A list of which follows, most of these also thriving at the homes on the December '05 meetings trail.

However, one palm is surely unique to his property in Brevard County, perhaps in all of central Florida: a sparsely clustering tropical Australian species, *Hydriastele wendlandiana*. In July '87, when in the midst of my "I'll plant it, what is it?" phase, I received 30 seeds from the IPS seedbank, a number of which germinated, as in addition to BJ's I planted one [in '93] and recall giving some to other friends. While I had initial success with my planting, winters on the mainland side of the lagoon proved too harsh for this slender-stemmed species* in spite of not recording a temperature below 31 deg F since the Xmas '89 freeze.

Shortly before his death we visited Charlene Palm's nearby garden, during which he offered his place to be part of the December meetings. It did not happen, but the collection, almost all of which is in the front yard, can be seen at 300 Ocean View Lane; like Charlene's, Neil's and Scott's, the palmiest residence on his street.

BJ Sutphin died 12-3-05 aged 74 per the newspaper, but 76 is what he told me.

* Jones in *Palms of Australia* [1984] recorded the species as being "... very sensitive to cold [and] being quickly killed by frosts or severe cold snaps". However, he added that the species is "... quite tolerant of dark positions and survive[s] quite well indoors ... [and] make[s] an excellent greenhouse plant that will grow in a tub for many years", so plants of this species should be of interest to enthusiasts anywhere in our region. As for stem diameter the plant at BJ's accords with Jones' description of two to three inches [as contrasted with Riffle's citation in *Cultivated Palms* of six inches - Bob's a Texan, everything is bigger there], and eventual height to

(Continued on page 11)



Above, far right, is BJ Sutphin at a Jerry Hooper plant sale in West Melbourne, 4-5 years ago. Unidentified visitor, center. Seated, left, Neil Yorio; standing, Bud Wideman. Left, BJ's *Hydriastele wendlandiana*, a species that wouldn't grow for more careful palm enthusiasts, showing the effects of recent hurricanes. Below, ripening fruit on this palm.

BJ Sutphin

(Continued from page 10)

25 meters.

Bismarckia nobilis [2]
Chamaedorea [seifrizii?]
Chamaerops humilis
Coccothrinax argentata
Cocos nucifera
Dypsis cabadae
D. decaryi [2]
D. lutescens
D. madagascariensis
Hydriastele wendlandiana

Encephalartos ferox [2]
Zamia floridana
Z. furfuracea

Hyophorbe lagenicaulis [4]
H. verschaffeltii [2]
Latania sp [2]
Livistona chinensis
L. decipiens [6]
Phoenix roebelenii [6]
Ptychosperma [elegans cluster?]
Rhapis excelsa [3]
Ravenea rivularis
Thrinax radiata [excelsa?]

Pandanus sp
Ravenala madagascariensis





*BJ Sutphin's front-yard palm collection, as seen from across the street. The three palms are juvenile *Livistona decora*.*

IPS October Biennial

Greetings from your IPS board representative.

As you may know, we will have our biennial trip this October to the Dominican Republic.

The trip will be from Oct.1-8 and you must be an IPS member to attend. Those of you who are can get all the info from the March issue of *PALMS* along with the registration forms.

Lionel Mera, our host, wrote a description of the trip in the Dec. 2005 issue.

There is lots of info on the palms.org website and Paul Craft posted many intriguing photos on the message board.

The deadline for registration is Aug. 15, and the attendance cap is 200, so if you're thinking of going, decide soon.

The price is \$1450 per person double and \$1900 single and does not include airfare. Further trip details are in *PALMS*, as I mentioned.

Hope to see you there.

Happy palm growing! -

—Faith Bishock



*Do you recognize this palm? Wrong! It's *Allagoptera arenaria*, which we all 'know' is trunkless. Planted at USF, Tampa, about 10 years ago, it hasn't gotten the word. Those are 6 foot trunks. The Editor's two 25-year-old *A. arenaria* merely have 18-inch trunks. (Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)*

PALM PHOTOGRAPHY 101: UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS BEHIND THE CAMERA

By Rick Leitner

Have you ever picked up a copy of a gardening magazine or book and were amazed at how captivating the photographs were? How does the photographer get those incredible shots of the rich maroon *Chambeyronia macrocarpa* frond unfolding with ice blue sky peering between, or the calm lake vistas with the *Sabal palmettos* and *Serenoa repens* in the background, or even the close up of the charcoaled colored thorns of an *Aiphanes* species in deep shade? Garden photographers make their living at bringing a photograph to life. And like any other profession, there are tricks of the trade.

My professional experience with photography, during my days as a Crime Scene Detective, certainly did not include palms. However, whether photographing a homicide, shooting, or suicide scene, there are some fundamental principles that are used regardless of the subject matter. When taking a photograph, every shot should tell a story. A photograph that a viewer wants to look at repeatedly is one that is successful. They may be intrigued with the photograph and return to it because each time they see something different (i.e. the story continues!) These are the photographs that are typically seen in the glossy pages of a magazine, on the cover of a professional trade brochure, or even used as a gallery of photographs in a collection.

You CAN do it. You just need the secrets behind these stunning photographs in your pocket and a little encouragement.

The next time you go out into your garden, take your camera. It need not be an expensive one. We all have access to a camera; be it a disposable, a manual, a "point and shoot" automatic, or a digital one. Use your camera as if it were the eyes of someone who has never been to your garden before. What would interest them? What are the best features of your garden? How can you showcase what you have to look its best? Think broad and narrow alike. That is to say, look at your palm collection as a whole. Perhaps one or two shots of a grouping of 5 or 7 or 9 palms would make a nice statement. Or maybe just the trunks all lined up from front to back showcasing the texture of the old frond scars on the trunk. Now look closely at the interesting things about a specific palm. Isn't this what got you interested in palms in the first place? Remember....you are telling a story with your photograph(s).

Three Points of Interest

There are three basic building blocks for taking photographs that are "keepers," or "trophy" photographs, as I like to call them. Use these photography fundamentals when you are having fun with your camera. Keep them in the back of your mind when composing your picture and you may be surprised to see that your photographs are becoming more and more like professional ones!

Photography is not difficult. However, practice makes perfect sense. You may have to take 3 or 4 photographs of the same subject matter to later pick the trophy photograph.

The three building blocks in achieving better photographs are:

1. Know your subject matter
2. Use light to your advantage
3. Composition is key

1. Know your (Caryota) no...

We all know and love palms. So you are one step ahead of the game! But instead of looking at a palm like you have a million times before, look at it as if you have never seen it before. What makes a *Washingtonia* unique from say, a *Sabal*? You can think of at least a dozen things I am sure! Use them when thinking about your subject matter. For a close up, the thorns on the petiole of the *Washingtonia* are unique. Just the thorns and some of the green of the petiole would make for an interesting photo. What about the bloom spike and/or the seed of the *Washingtonia*? The richness of the green fronds may also be taken into consideration. Is the palm trunk clean or skirted with old fronds? Ever think about leaning against the trunk and shooting straight up into the crown and fronds of the palm? These are the photographs that make a trophy.

Think! Color, shape, texture, size comparison, and the specific characteristics that make a species unique from all others. This is knowing your subject matter. Use the species characteristics to tell your story. You know palms...now just let the viewer of your photographs know that you do!

(Continued on page 14)

PALM PHOTOGRAPHY 101

(Continued from page 13)

2. Lighting the *Livistonas*

I know that many times you do not have the luxury to choose when you are shooting a photograph. We have all been on garden tours at high noon in May and this is the only opportunity to photograph the garden. It turns out that the nice, bright, sunny day, is the least desirable when photographing outdoors.

Have you ever looked at your photographs taken during this example and wonder why they look so harsh? It is because of the intensity of the sun and the angle of the sun as well. Typically, in bright sunny conditions, the photograph portrays a hard contrast between light and dark. The light on the top of a palm frond will most likely be a "hot spot" or a white spot of washed out color. Beneath the frond, the shadow will be dark and distractive to the viewer. This sharp contrast is not appealing.

Overcast days are the best for garden photography. The sun is being filtered by the clouds leaving you with softer, more diffused colors and shadows. But once again, not everyday is overcast, so there are some things you can have up your sleeve to get the softer light onto your subject matter.

Avoid the midday sun. Take your photographs during the early morning hours (before 8:00 am) or later in the early evening (after 8:00 pm). Early morning photographs will often afford shots with dew, little wind, and a sun angle more favorable for that trophy photo.

If you have no choice but to be out and about during the harsh sunlight hours, wait until a cloud passes, and once again use nature's diffusing effects from the clouds.

With a few household objects, you can make artificial diffusers while taking close up photographs of interesting subject matter like that frond of the *Livistona*. Use a white bed sheet, some wax paper, or even a white garbage bag to filter the light. Of course here you will need another set of hands to make it happen. Make sure that the object filters the entire light being cast onto your subject. You don't want most of the frond filtered and a portion of frond with harsh sunlight.

There may be times when you want to totally block all of the sun's rays. This trick is used to showcase a small palm in a pot or planted among many other plants in the garden. Use a piece of cardboard to totally shade

out the background but not your subject palm. This way, your shot will have your palm popping out of a dark background instead of being swallowed by all the busy foliage beside and behind it.

Another trick is to use some reflective material like aluminum foil. If your small palm is in deep shade, use the foil to reflect the light back onto the palm. You could even use a large hand held mirror if necessary.

Ever try backlighting a palm? A general rule of thumb is to always photograph with the sun at your back. This is a good rule, but rules are made to be broken (every once in a while!). Carefully shoot the palm with the sun facing you, but being filtered by the palm itself. A large fan palm frond would work in this instance. Backlighting can create an incredible silhouette of a palm glade or of a single frond hanging from a trunk.



This photograph of a single frond of *Dictyosperma album* has been back lit by the early morning sun. Note that the sun itself has been placed just to the top left and outside of the field of view. Here, it is not about color, but structure and a striking silhouette.

3. *Copernicia* composition

Poor composition is perhaps the most common mistake among amateur photographers. The composition of a photograph is what makes your viewer intrigued and drawn in. Here is where your creativity comes into play.

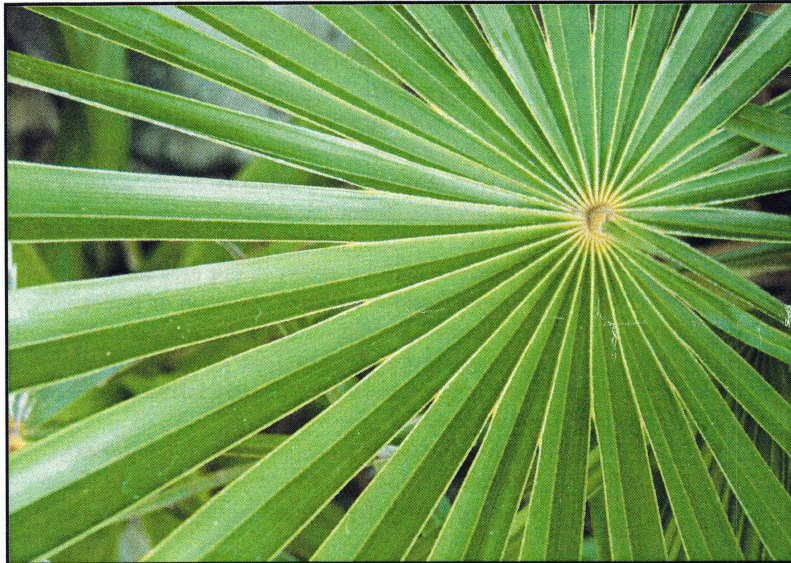
All too often you see a palm and focus it into the viewfinder of your camera. STOP! Where is the center of your subject matter? Is it right in the center of the field of vision? Here is your mistake. Do not be compelled to place everything right smack in the center of view. In fact, this dooms your photograph to be added

PALM PHOTOGRAPHY 101

(Continued from page 14)

to that dreaded dusty shoe box file or deleted digital file. **The rule** of the tic-tac-toe board is essential for the successful composition of that trophy photograph. This is often referred to as the "rule of thirds."

The tic-tac-toe grid has four (4) places where the vertical lines and the horizontal lines intersect. This essentially cuts your field of vision into three vertical columns and three horizontal rows, forming nine boxes. These four intersections are exactly where you want to place your subject matter or the most interesting aspect of your subject matter.



Whether it is a potted *Chamaedorea* palm, a person standing next to a large *Copernicia baileyana*, or just a *Ptychosperma elegans* frond, place the center of the subject into one of these four intersections of the tic-tac-toe grid and you will be amazed how interesting and pleasing to the eye your photographs become. I know that you will feel that your photograph will be unbalanced and you are correct! This is what makes it interesting. Look at a billboard, magazine ads, and other professional photographs and you will note that the rule of thirds is the foundation for successful composition.

Which photograph is more pleasing to your eye? Can you tell which is using the rule of thirds? The photograph (left) has placed the hastula of this *Coccoloba* species on an intersection of the tic-tac-toe grid. The photograph below places the fronds in the center and equally balanced. This makes the photograph less interesting visually. **Use these** professional photography tips to your advantage. Go out, camera in hand, and have fun. Not every single photograph will be a trophy. Professional photographers don't even get that lucky. But think of your species characteristics, the lighting do's and don'ts and your tic-tac-toe grid when taking your shots.

I will guarantee with a little practice,

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STARTING OUT WITH PALMS

By Sue Reilly & Jason Baker

We started collecting palms in 2000 and planting in 2002 when we bought our property in Micco. It was probably for the best that we had to wait to plant because that gave us time to meet several CFPCS members and tour their yards. They taught us where they had done things well and where they had made mistakes. Most palm people want to show you their babies; some people will actually give you beer while you are touring their property. Look at as many palm yards as you can for education and inspiration.

First and foremost, for the beginner, we highly recommend *Betrock's Guide to Landscape Plants*, by Alan Meerow. It is a good book to get you started with learning the botanical names and it is "user friendly". Take it with you to plant sales and nurseries so that you can look up tolerances and condition preferences, before purchasing, to see if the palm(s) of interest will actually thrive on your property.

Get to know your yard. Are there wet areas and dry areas or is your yard consistent in its moisture content. Which areas get the most sun, morning sun only or hot, brutal afternoon sun? Where do you have protection from cold winds? Once you become familiar, you will be able to match palm to conditions; and don't forget to make sure there is ample room for the palm's mature height and the diameter of its crown. **As you** get to know palm people, you will learn that some of them are "specialized" and are the local experts regarding certain species. Ask questions. People who love palms love to talk about palms and want to see new palms growing happily in places where there were no palms before, even in your yard, as long as your specimens don't outshine theirs!

Palms at Home Depot, Lowe's and commercial garden centers are often marked incorrectly. Look for defining characteristics on the petioles, fronds, etc.

From our experience, the following palms are best bought smaller as they will outgrow a larger potted specimen quickly and, of course, cost less: *Phoenix* species, Coconut, *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*, *Wodyetia bifurcata*, *Bismarckia nobilis*, *Washingtonia*, *Syagrus* species.

If you like it and it grows in our area plant it, even if some would consider it common or undesirable. If it is common then it must do well here. Who can deny that a stand of *Sabal palmetto*, a healthy Queen Palm or a robust Canary Island Date Palm looks great?

And the number one lesson that is often heard, and rightfully so, is don't trust anyone who lives south of you as far as what palms will take cold.



The person at the left, in the pointy hat, was billed as 'The Palm Reader' at Heathcote Botanical Gardens' May Fest in Fort Pierce on April 29. That's a crystal ball on this end of the table; the hat had stars on it: a wizard telling potential palm buyers, such as the dubious woman at right, that there was a palm in their future or that they might—at least—take a chance on the 7-gallon *Bismarckia* (bottom left) being raffled off. You've guessed correctly, the palm flogger is none other than the Editor.

(Photo by Allie Comer)

PALM PHOTOGRAPHY 101

(Continued from page 15)

you will see a definite improvement in your palm garden photographs. Heck, what could be more flattering than having a photograph you took blown up into a nice framed print, used for this year's Christmas card, or saved as your screen saver on your computer?

I hope to see you sometime soon...camera in hand!

[Getting into the act, the Editor hopes that those readers applying Rick's lessons to their own garden photography will send examples of their success for publication in *The Palmateer*.]

Winter in August: A Visit to Australia

By Diana Wehrell-Grabowski

There are approximately 160+ botanical gardens in Australia and 629+ surf spots. These numbers make taking an 18 hour+ flight look a little less painful. This past summer Mark and I toured a small section of Australia. We spent 2 days in Sydney, 3 days in Melbourne, and 13 days in the Gold Coast area. It was a wonderful "holiday" as the Aussies would say. The following article is a brief overview of our trip to the "Land Down Under".

Now, mind you here are two folks that just left sweltering Florida--we step off the plane, and it's the middle of winter in Australia... brrrrr.....the temperatures are similar to our winters in January. The cold fronts approach from the south, originating from the Antarctic: brrrrr....

We landed in Sydney in the very early am hours. Not really in the mood to haggle for the best fare, we grabbed one of the first taxi vans we could find (have to have a van when you have two surfboards with you). We headed to the Billabong Hostel, where we had reservations. Billabong is an Australian English word used to refer to an oxbow lake, a stagnant pool of water attached to a waterway. We checked into the Billabong, by the way no sign of a billabong nearby. After settling in we took a public bus down to Coogee Beach where we would begin a three-hour coastal hike from Coogee to Bondi Beach. **This was** a spectacular hike. We walked from Coogee to Bondi Beach along a narrow trail which winds around the coast, the view of the crystal blue ocean waters remains in sight throughout the entire walk. About halfway through the walk we came across the Waverley Cemetery, which borders the edge of the cliff line overlooking the water. As far as cemeteries go, it's probably one of the most beautiful and unique sites we have ever seen. At the end of the hike we stopped at a Surf Life Saving Club built right next to the ocean. There are 304 Surf-Life Saving Clubs built along the Australian coastline. Here we had our first sample of wedges (a seemingly healthy version of American's french fries served with sour cream and a hot-chili

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Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, is close in to all the skyscrapers.



Well, no, the trip wasn't all about palms. There was surfing (wetsuit required) in the chilly waters of Bells Beach, Melbourne. That's CFPACS east vp, Mark Grabowski, showing his form. The picture-taker, prez Diana, stayed dry ashore.

Winter in August: Australia

(Continued from page 17)

sauce), and a Toohey's New, one of the many great-tasting Australian beers that we would miss upon our return to the United States. What a great first day in Australia! Headed back to the Billabong and as jet lag caught up with us we were "down for the count".

We were awakened early the next morning by the calls of the Kookaburra bird, *Dacelo novaguineae*, often referred to as the Laughing Jackass of Australia. Even though the Billabong was located right in the heart of the town of Newton, as we lay listening to the loud laughing calls of the Kookaburra you would have thought we were in the middle of a rainforest. In the hinterland in Australia the Kookaburra is known as the "bushman's clock". On our second day in Australia and overcoming jet-lag with a full-day planned at Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens, we appreciated the rolling, laughing calls of the kookaburra birds at "zero-dark-thirty" to get us going.

After a breakfast of freshly made brioche and yogurt from a nearby bakery we headed to Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens. Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens is divided into 17 themed garden areas. We toured most of the garden, spending the majority of our time in the Palm Grove area. The Palm Grove was established in 1862, it is considered one of the world's finest collections of palms. Several of the Royal Botanic Gardens' oldest trees, grown from wild plants collected in the 1820's and 1850's can be found in this section. Of special note were the many specimens of *Butia capitata*. There were also two rare specimens of *Pritchardia maideniana*. There were also several specimens of very old and established specimens of *Jubaea chilensis*.

Aside from palm observations, there is a specimen of one of the world's rarest plants (Wollemi Pine) with only three stands of adult trees growing in New South Wales' Blue Mountains, the garden maintains the first specimen ever planted out. Also, hundreds of bats make their home at the garden; roosting in fruit-bearing trees, they are active in the day which made for impressive photo opportunities.

It was apparent as the day progressed that the Australians do enjoy spending quality time outdoors, as the grass-covered slopes of the garden overlooking Sydney Harbour began to fill-up with families picnicking and enjoying a lovely Sunday afternoon at the garden. Amazingly enough, there is no fee to enter the garden which is wonderfully planned and maintained. A café and souvenir shop are also on the

(Continued on page 19)



Above, a stand of native *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* at Tamborine Mountain Botanic Garden. Below, Mark with Australian friend, Wendy Rankin, poses by a *Butia capitata* planted in 1903 at Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.





Two very special palms—*Pritchardia maideniana*—at Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. The species was described from two mature plants in this garden, which were the only individuals in the world. Seed has been distributed and young palms are growing here and elsewhere. It's never been found in the wild.



You know that Diana and Mark are not at home in Cocoa Beach as they make the acquaintance of the native fauna at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Winter in August: Australia

(Continued from page 18)

premises. The famous Sydney Opera House is located right next to the Gardens and we spent time touring that magnificent structure also.

Day 3 we headed down to Melbourne, Victoria, via air on Qantas. Temperatures kept dropping as we headed down to southern Australia. We stayed with gracious hosts and native Australians, Wendy and Jack Rankin, long-time friends of my family since the 1960's while living in South East Asia.

Of course, first thing on the agenda, Wendy took us on a tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Melbourne. We started our tour at the Terrace Tea Room, we were amazed at the extensive selection of gourmet foods, and an extensive wine list, and the prices were reasonable!!! After devouring our lunches still in amazement at the quality of food we headed out to tour the garden.

The Gardens was founded in 1846. The success of the Gardens can be attributed to the first two Directors, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller and William Guilfoyle. Mueller is considered one of the greatest botanists of the 19th century; he introduced a vast array of plants to the young Gardens. Mueller came from a scientific background and he concentrated on the scientific and educational aspects of the Gardens. In 1873 William Guilfoyle was appointed as the new director of the Gardens. Guilfoyle took a different approach to the development of the Gardens, he focused his attention on the artistic/ visual design.

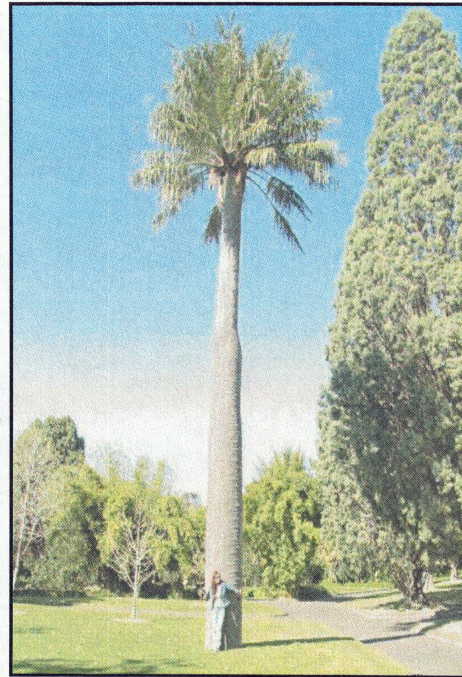
The Gardens spans over 38 hectares [about 96 acres--Editor] and displays more than 50,000 individual plants, representing approximately 10,000 different species from every part of the world. The Gardens is separated into 19 different living plant collections. We covered the entire Garden, spending most of our time in the Cycad Collection, Rainforest, and Tropical Collection sections. The entire garden is wonderfully landscaped and maintained and, again, there is no entry fee. Of special note was a *Butia capitata* planted in 1903, there were also very old and established specimens of *Jubaea chilensis*.

The next day we took a drive up the scenic Great Ocean Road. We stopped off at Bell's Beach where Mark braved the icy-cold waters and full-suit and headed out for a memorable surf at the infamous "Bells Beach", where Cocoa Beach's Kelly Slater has just won the 2006 ASP Rip Curl Pro in April. To give you an idea how cold the air and water was on this day, parts of southern Australia including Bells Beach had

(Continued on page 20)



Above, Burleighs Head, Gold Coast. The tiny figure in the center is Mark, relaxing from palm-viewing. Right, preë Diana embraces—tries to—a very old, very big *Jubaea chilensis* in Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.



Winter in August: Australia

(Continued from page 19)

snow the following day. A fast-moving air stream from the Antarctic caused the freezing conditions. To have snow at sea-level was amazing, apparently no reports of snow at sea-level have ever been reported to this date (*Herald Sun*, Thursday, August 11, 2005). It took Mark a couple of hours to thaw out, but Mark says “it was worth it”!

While touring the city of Melbourne of special interest were the many healthy specimens of *Trachycarpus* thriving in the cooler climates.

After spending several days in southern Australia we headed up the coast via Qantas to what’s known as the “Gold Coast.” We stayed with my son, Ian, who lives in Queensland in a town called Labrador. The temperatures in this area become more temperate and it was beginning to feel a bit more like the cool springs experienced in central Florida. A great bit of our time in the Gold Coast was spent surfing, actually Mark’s time. What great waves, if only the water was a bit warmer!

We spent one afternoon up in Tamborine at the Tamborine Mountain Botanic Garden; this was a small but lovely garden. Of special note in this garden were the very tall and established, dense stands of *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*.

The garden has several themed areas including a Japa-

nese area and Rainforest area. There is no entry fee to this garden and it’s wonderfully maintained. We also visited several “rainforest- type sanctuaries” while in the Gold Coast area. It was amazing to visit such beautiful and unique environments only forty- minutes from the bustling crowds of “Surfer Paradise” in Queensland.

Another very pleasurable day was spent at the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. The Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is for the most part open territory with animals housed in very large and natural settings. All of the unique animals of Australia and surrounding areas can be seen here i.e., kangaroos, koala bears, echidnas, Tasmanian Devils (yes, believe it or not there is a “Tasmanian Devil”) emus, crocodiles, and more.... We have been to plenty of zoos, and we both agreed that Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary was one of the nicest and most natural settings to observe wildlife.

We also spent a day touring and surfing Byron’s Bay, what a beautiful and peaceful town, home to many artists and musicians.

In closing, Mark and I have traveled to many destinations and we both agreed that this was one of the nicest trips we have ever taken. The Australian people, government, food, and scenery were delightful. It was apparent within a few short hours of arriving in Australia that the Australian people do realize the uniqueness of the Australian flora and fauna and are doing their best to preserve it.

[This report was omitted by mistake from the March issue of The Palmateer. We don't wish any contributor to feel unappreciated. —Editor]

CFPACS SEED BANK REPORT 4th Quarter 2005

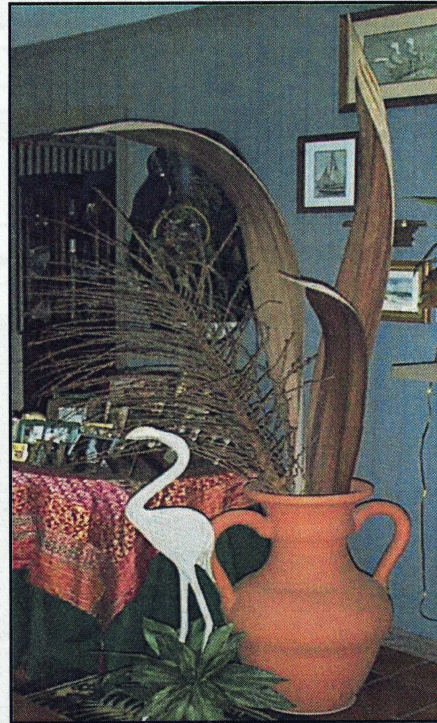
During the fourth quarter, many of our members along the Gulf and Florida coasts continued to struggle with hurricane-related issues and repairs, we missed hearing from them, and hope their situations are improving.

Note to all members: please keep me updated with your email changes, as you will not be able to receive the Seed Bank's Seed Offerings unless I have your current email address. My email address is at the bottom of this report, please notify me if you have an email change.

In October, members Rick Leitner and Paul Drummond contributed *Syagrus amara* (which were very popular), *Ptychosperma schefferi* (we learned subsequently this palm was destroyed by Hurricane Wilma), *Ptychosperma elegans*, *Carpentaria acuminata*, and *Adonidia merrillii* seeds. *Butia capitata*, *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*, *Chamaedorea radicalis*, *Sabal causiarum*, and *Serenoa repens* (both silver and green forms) were donated by member Dean VanderBleek. Member Mike Dahme provided *Licuala spinosa* and *Thrinax morrisii* seeds. From the other side of the world came *Syagrus schizophylla* and *Dypsis decaryi* from member Rene Coativy via Mike Dahme. Ken Hodelmann donated seeds from *Chamaedorea cataractarum*, *Chamaerops humilis* and *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii* species. And member Dorothy Kellogg provided *Chamaedorea seifrizii* and *Phoenix reclinata* seeds, and *Syagrus roman zoffiana* seedlings.

During November Joseph Prabakhar of Ortanique.com sent a large donation of a "new" variety of *Beccariophoenix* germinated seeds, plus *Livistona decora* (decipiens), *Arenga australasica*, *Hyophorbe lagenicaulis*, *Caryota urens*, *Brahea armata*, and *Carpentaria acuminata* seeds. Member Walt Darnall provided a large quantity of *Sabal etonia*; Lyle Niswander donated *Veitchia arecina*; Mike Dahme donated *Sabal causiarum* and *Carpentaria acuminata* seeds.

December donations exceeded my expectations! Member Christian Faulkner provided *Coccothrinax borhidiana* seeds, a rarity that flew out the window with Santa's reindeers! A large donation of *Livistona*



That palm debris that you pile at the curb is raw material for a crafty arrangement. These Queen Palm parts caught the eye of Claudia Walworth's 'spouse' (what is his name, Claudia?), who made them part of the decorations.

saribus seeds, collected from the Gisella Kopsick Arboretum, was provided by member Rick Nale, a personal friend of Santa; and member Mike Dahme donated *Chamaedorea oblongata*, which disappeared in a flash! Member Neil Yorio contributed *Arenga engleri*, *Livistona decora*, *Pseudophoenix sargentii*, *Phoenix acaulis*, *Sabal domingensis*, *Ptychosperma macarthurii* and *Coccothrinax barbadensis* palm seeds; AND a variety of non-palm seeds: *Bombax glabrum*, *Pithecellobium flexicaule*, *Cochlospermum vitifolium*, *Sandoricum koetjape*, *Pachypodium rutenbergianum*, and *Rheedia* species seeds. We thank Neil for his connections with Santa!

And thanks to all of you who supported this chapter with your seed purchases and donations!

—Claudia Walworth, Seed Bank Coordinator
orlbroker@aol.com

GROWING CYCADS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

***Cycas debaoensis*:** plant (below), leaf detail (right)



By Tom Broome

Several years ago Willie Tang told me about a new Chinese cycas species that would have great ornamental value. It was more unusual than any other cycad he had seen and it grew fast in cultivation. That sounded like an unbelievable combination, but he was absolutely right. This new plant would be named *Cycas debaoensis*. A couple of years later, Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society donated to Willie's conservation project to help save these cycads in habitat. He, in turn made a few plants available for our society auction when we had our June meeting at the Bishock's, and I was lucky to have a winning bid on one of these treasured cycads. This plant had a stem that was less than two inches and just three years later, that same plant has a seven-inch diameter stem, and leaves that are eight feet long.

Since this first introduction to the United States, there has been more research done on this species. Xie Jianguang, Jian Shuguang, and Liu Nian from China wrote a paper showing 5 locations of *Cycas debaoensis*, and comparing their genetic diversity. From what I have been told, somebody from a village near one of these other locations has sold seeds to seed brokers. Some of these seeds were spread throughout the world about 4 years ago and some of the plants resulting from those seeds are already producing female cones.

There were also some seeds that were being sold this year from seed brokers, even here in the US, so there are going to be many of these seeds and plants available to people in our area.

I have only seen two other cycad species grow as fast as *Cycas debaoensis*. These were *Cycas taitungensis*, and *Encephalartos laurentianus*. All three of these species will grow fast as long as they are given the specific cultural accommodations they prefer. The one factor they all have in common is that they love root room and can triple their growth rate as compared to the growth rate they would have if they were grown in small, short pots. I have noticed that the *micholitzii* types have a very thick, carrot-like root that will grow down to the bottom of a deep pot in less than a year. Once I saw the root on my *debaensis*, I put it right into a container that was 15 inches by 15 inches. It started to grow incredibly fast after that. The pattern of the split leaflets would change every time new leaves were produced. I would take pictures of the leaves every time they were produced, and if I didn't know all the pictures were of the same plant, I would think that I was looking at different species.

I use a 360-day release, 18-6-8 formula of Nutricote to fertilize *Cycas debaoensis*. I have seen the stems of other *micholitzii* types split down the sides just like some

(Continued on page 23)



Above, closeup of *Cycas debaoensis* leaf. Right, male cone shedding pollen. All pictures are of Tom Broome's plant.

Cycas debaoensis

(Continued from page 22)

zamia species if the plant is forced to grow too fast by using high Nitrogen, fast release fertilizers. I have also noticed that *Cycas debaoensis* stems will grow larger in diameter even in-between flushes. Cycads that grow well in-between flushes usually will produce a stem faster when I use a time-release fertilizer. The long term, even release of the Nutricote also keeps the plant growing, but not so fast at any given time that the stem has a tendency to split. *Cycas debaoensis* can produce cones at an early age as long as they are grown in a way to maximize stem growth. My plant produced a male cone when it was about five years old, and had a six-inch diameter stem. The cone production, and pollen release time seems to coincide with the timings of *Cycas revoluta* here in Central Florida. My plant produced a cone in March and dropped its pollen in June.

You would think that this species is moderately cold hardy because the leaflets are soft, and much like the *rumphii* type cycas species, but that theory was disproved a few months ago. I had 22F for a low and 6 hours that was at or below 24F. To have something to compare with, my *Dioon spinulosum*, *Encephalartos natalensis*, *E. manikensis*, and *pumila* type zamias were all burned. There were many more species that were burned, but those were the obvious species like *Zamia furfuracea*, and *Encephalartos whitelockii*.

I had my *Cycas debaoensis* right next to all these plants and not the first leaf had a sign of burn. Like many cycads the plants are much more cold hardy than frost hardy, so they can tolerate lower temperatures if kept under cover. I can't say for sure how cold hardy these plants are, but they will be a great plant to grow outside, under trees, in most of central Florida. This plant is best grown in mostly sun to medium shade to keep the energy levels up, but at the same time keeping a good color to the leaflets. I keep mine in some shade just because of the frost protection factor.

I have a tendency to use more water on this species than on most of the other cycads. *Micholitzii* type cycas species seem to abort their leaves more often than most other cycads. By watering every day when new leaves are being produced, I have found that I can keep the new leaves from aborting. I think this is another factor that will help grow a large, mature plant much faster.

I would recommend this species to anyone in Florida who wants a very unusual cycad. It grows fast and is very unique. The only negative aspect that I can think about when growing *Cycas debaoensis* would be that it, too, is susceptible to the Asian scale. This species is becoming my favorite cycad, and if all I have to worry about is spraying it for Asian scale every once in a while, it is well worth the trouble.

CFPACS Now a Chapter of The Cycad Society

By Tom Broome

It is now official, the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society is an affiliated chapter of the Cycad Society. Our local society was originally set up as a palm society and has been affiliated with the International Palm Society for a long time. Almost a decade ago, our society changed the bylaws, added cycads to our focus, and turned into the C.F.P.A.C.S. Our board agreed a few months ago that we would ask to be a chapter of TCS, and we were approved. I am especially happy because I am the chapters liaison for TCS, and I am proud our local group wants to be a part of TCS.

Now that we are a chapter, what does this really mean to both groups, and how can it help each group? For the parent society, in this case a cycad society, there are people on the local level that are getting involved with growing cycads. The chapter helps to promote cycads to new people who might only be knowledgeable about palms. With more local members getting interested in cycads, there is a possibility that more local people will join the parent society. The Cycad Society wants to promote conservation of cycads and if more people are growing them, and hopefully producing seeds on cycads, this helps with our purpose.

What does being a chapter mean to our local group? Our group can get worldwide exposure because The Cycad Newsletter is sent to 20 different countries, let alone all over the United States. As long as we have someone who sends updates for printing in The Cycad Newsletter, we can mention what we are doing at the local level in chapter related articles. For people who are not familiar with cycads and are not members of TCS, our chapter will get a free issue of The Cycad Newsletter for our library. (If we had one, I guess John might have to lend out the one he will get from time to time.)

There are other possible benefits of being a chapter of the Cycad Society. One of these benefits will come about this September. The Cycad Society has annual board meetings in various places throughout the United States. I will be hosting the board meeting this year in central Florida. During the same weekend that we have the board meeting, TCS tries to put together a mini symposium to teach local groups about cycads. This helps us to achieve another purpose, which is to educate people about cycads. In the past we usually have the symposium in the morning, and then a cycad related auction in the afternoon, so enthusiasts can



A Florida Silver Palm, Coccothrinax argentata, in decline at Palm Tree Gardens nursery in Cape Coral. After the Editor's lament in the March issue, several members recounted the same sad experience at about the same time, though some individuals didn't die and are recovering. A pathogen is suspected.
(Photo by Geri Prall)

have access to rare cycads, and the money can be used to help fund grants for educational and conservational cycad projects.

At the time I am writing this article, I do not have a specific date for the meeting. I can give as many details now that I can, but there will be a full report in the September issue of *The Palmateer*. For our September meeting, we will have the mini cycad symposium in the morning, a break for lunch, and then a cycad auction in the afternoon. After that, I am expecting that we will have our regular vendors selling palms and cycads that will be for the CFPACS. For many reasons, the best place in our area to have this symposium will be Historic Bok Sanctuary. Most of us missed this place last year because we had our meeting in June, and it was raining very hard. I am shooting for a date of the end of September, which during this time, there may be less of a chance of rain.

CFPACS gave Bok something equivalent to a gift certificate this spring that they could use to buy palms and cycads from our local vendors at the USF sale. We will also get to see the new palms and cycads CFPACS gave to Bok when we go this September. As I said before, I will have a detailed report in the September issue, and I'm sure we will have some information on the CFPACS website. I am proud for both groups that we are a part of the Cycad Society, and I hope that we all benefit from our association.

U.S.F. Sale Report

By Chuck Grieneisen

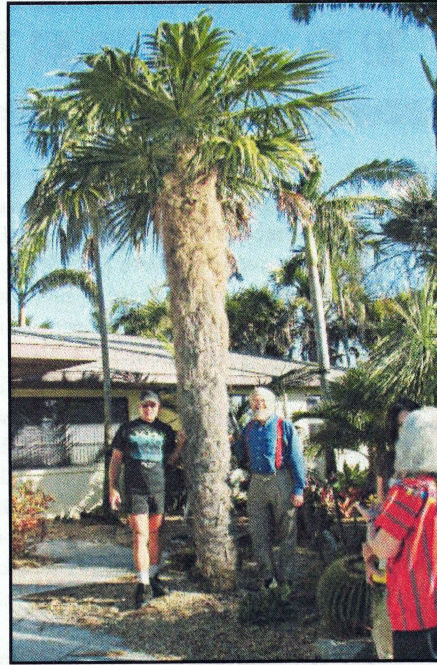
Our sale at the University of South Florida this April was another big success. Over \$3000 worth of plants were sold by our society! Our society netted over \$200. Held every spring and fall at the gardens of USF, most plant societies of Florida are there selling plants. The gardens there have a modest collection of palms and cycads. Several large *Dioons* and the largest *Allagoptera arenaria* I have ever seen. I finally got a photo of it. It has 6 feet of trunk! Most people, including myself, didn't even know that it got a trunk. Several years ago the society also donated a Bismarck palm there. Planted as a 15-gallon plant, about 4 feet tall, it is now about 10 or 12 feet, starting to get some wood.

This year the Palm Society was the featured vendor. Before the sale, the Tampa Tribune did an article on Palm Society member and vendor at the sale, Frank Tintera. Frank is always our "anchor" at the sale, bringing the most and largest plants. I swear he had some palms in 45- gallon containers one year. Frank indicated that this may be his last USF sale. If so, he will be missed.

Last year our board voted to give Bok Sanctuary (Bok Tower Gardens) \$1000 to be spent at our sales on palms and cycads for their gardens. Accompanied by Vice President Tom Broome, a representative of Bok came and spent about \$700 of the allotment. Tom helped pick out plants that would do well at Bok. So the next time you go to Bok Tower, it may be a lot more "palmy".

This was also the first event for new Treasurer, Bob Johnson. It was a very active sale and Bob did a great job.

If you missed this sale, there will be another one this fall at U.S.F. If you would like to be a vendor there you can E-mail me at chuckfg@bellsouth.net. Hope to see everyone this fall.



*That's Old Man Palm, *Coccothrinax crinita*, at Palm Tree Gardens in Cape Coral. Dave Prall is at left; on right is Roger Swain, co-host of HGTV programs "People, Places and Plants" and "Victory Garden." Swain was keynote speaker at the SW Garden & Landscape Conference in February.*

(Photo by Geri Prall)

*Teddy Buhler, longtime secretary of The Palm Society (pre-IPS), embraces her *Satakentia liukuensis* in this 1986 photo from the archives of Tom Pavlucik.*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Most of Florida experienced a pleasant Spring with record lows being recorded on March 25th in many locales. Tampa had a record low of 65 degrees, the last time those temps were recorded were in 1981. Gainesville recorded a record low of 35 degrees, breaking a



previous low record of 39 degrees in 1968. The high temperature at Key West International Airport was only 68 degrees. This broke the record for the coldest high temperature on this date of 69 degrees set in 1915. Lastly, Melbourne

recorded a low of 45 degrees, which tied an old record low of 45 degrees set in 1979.

Florida is once again experiencing a drought similar to the 1998 drought. The drought has affected the entire state with extreme conditions being seen in the central Florida area, this has lead to more than 2,400 fires for the year to date (US Drought Monitor, May 2006).

Palms in the News Again.....

Even though thousands of acres of foliage have been destroyed the resilient *Serenoa repens* specimens found throughout the state have managed to have a "stronghold". While watching the local news recently one of the reporters covering the brush fires in the central Florida area made note of the quick re-growth of the vegetation pointing to none other than a specimen of *Serenoa repens*. *S. repens* is especially resistant to fire even though its foliage is highly flammable. It's a frequent invader to sites defoliated by previous fires and is classified as a survivor species due to its ability to resprout from root-crowns and rhizomes following a fire. Leaf production following fire is initiated by using carbohydrates stored in rhizomes to increase stem density and production. Its fire response is so strong, that even if burned during the winter dormant season, *S. repens* will produce leaves and fruit out of season. *S. repens* recovers from fire very quickly, with cover returning to pre-burn levels within a year. (Hilmon 1969; Abrahamson 1984). Many individuals go through great efforts to remove *S. repens*, perhaps they should consider leaving a few stands.

"Palms may take a bow for billboard views" (Benn,

Miami Herald, April 19th, 2006). Lawmakers are debating a bill that would prohibit trees from getting in the way of billboards. The bill, sponsored in the Senate by Melbourne Republican Sen. Mike Haridopolos, proposes a 500-foot zone around billboards next to roads with speed limits above 35 mph and a 350-foot zone where the speed limit is less than 35 mph.

There is at least one set of royal palms that have been planted along South Dixie Highway near SW 37th Avenue in Miami that may be doomed if this bill is passed since they are blocking the clear view of an existing billboard.

If a billboard owner believes an ad's view zone has been disrupted by a beautification project, the owner must notify the local government and ask officials to fix the obstruction. The government has 90 days to comply; if not, the billboard owner can go to court and force the government to pay either the cost of the billboard or the lost revenue from the blocked view.

Miami and Broward County officials have been trying to fight the bill because local governments won't be able to beautify medians or public rights-of way along roads, nor would garden clubs, etc., interested in creating more appealing communities be allowed to plant foliage if it interfered with a 500-foot "view zone" for a billboard (www.scenicflorida.org/2006).

There are approximately 21,000 billboards in Florida, do we really need anymore? If you are concerned about this bill, the Florida Sierra Club and Scenic Florida Organization encourages you to contact your Florida Senators to vote NO on HB 273.

On a more positive note, a new palm genus was discovered in a remote forest of New Guinea. The palm was discovered during a collaborative expedition to the foothills of the remote Wondiwoi Mountains in western New Guinea. Kew botanists and collaborators from Universitas Negeri Papua and the Indonesian National Herbarium (Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Paul Fernandez de los Muros, March 7th, 2006).

The genus has been formally named by Dr. William J. Baker of Kew and Dr. Scott Zona of Fairchild in the latest issue of Systematic Botany. The new genus will be called *Dransfieldia micrantha*. *Dransfieldia micrantha* is an elegant palm with pinnate fronds and numerous slender cane-like stems. It bears small purple flowers, followed by olive-shaped black fruits. The palm grows

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 26)

in scattered populations throughout the dense rainforest of northwestern New Guinea, in the Indonesian province of Papua. It has potential as an ornamental palm for South Florida and other tropical climate areas (Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Paul Fernandez de los Muros, March 7th, 2006).

In addition to the discovery of *Dransfeldia micrantha*, five new palm species were found in the remote Foja Mountains by an international team of researchers from the US, Indonesia and Australia. The researchers spent almost one month in a remote area of the Foja Mountains, located just north of the vast Mamberamo Basin of northwestern (Indonesian) New Guinea. While there they surveyed the area, detailing the wildlife and plant life from the lower hills to near the summit of the Foja range. A summary of the team's main discoveries:

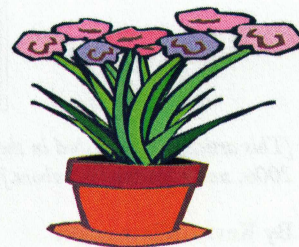
- * A new species of honeyeater, the first new bird species discovered on the island of New Guinea since 1939.
 - * The formerly unknown breeding grounds of a "lost" bird of paradise- the six-wired bird of paradise (*Parotia berlepschi*).
 - * A new large mammal for Indonesia, the golden-mantled tree kangaroo (*Dendrolagus pulcherrimus*)
 - * More than 20 new species of frogs
 - * A series of previously undescribed plant species, including five new species of palms
 - * A white-flowered rhododendron with flower about 15cm across
 - * Four new butterfly species.
- (Bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/468).



The scientists involved with both of these expeditions described agree that we still need to explore tropical forests before they disappear. It's nice to know that new genus and species of flora and fauna are still being discovered from time to time.

In closing, our summer quarterly meeting is planned for Saturday, June 10th. It will be on the west coast of Florida and promises to be a great meet with a diverse line-up of gardens to visit, as well as one last opportunity to view Dr. Young's Garden, a past favorite of CFPACS members. Hope to see many of you on the 10th and if I don't, wishing all of you a relaxing Florida summer with minimal weather calamities.

Diana Wehrell-Grabowski



Flowers for Claudia, who's doing such a great job with the Seed Bank!

CFPACS SEED BANK REPORT 1st Quarter 2006

Members, please report e-mail address changes to the Membership Chair or to me if you wish to receive the Seed Bank's seed offerings.

In January, *Coccothrinax argentata* were donated by member Christian Faulkner, and member Dean VanderBleek provided *Rapidophyllum hystrix* and *Chamaedorea radicalis* seeds.

February was a bonanza month! From member Or-tanique.com came *Johannesteijsmania magnifica*, *J. altifrons*, *Actinorhytis calapparia*, *Pelagodoxa henryana*, *Caryota urens*, *Beaucarnea recurvata*, *Cyrtostachys renda*, *Chamaecrops humilis*, *Chamaecrops humilis* 'Cerifera', *Washingtonia filifera*, and *Washingtonia robusta* seeds. Member Mike Dahme contributed *Sabal bermudana*; member Christian Faulkner donated *Syagrus quinquefaria*, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, *Phoenix reclinata* × *roebelenii*, *Arenga engleri* and *Adonidia merrillii* seeds.

March contributions to the Seed Bank included rare *Coccothrinax boschiana* collected in Azul (Dominican Republic), *Sabal domingensis*, and *Roystonea borinquena* from member Vincenzo Rubino; *Syagrus amara* from member Eddie Williamson; *Pseudophoenix sargentii*, *Adonidia merrillii*, and *Veitchia arecina* from member Ed Carlson; a large donation of *Pseudophoenix sargentii* from member Mac Rogers; and, at long last, some cycad seeds, *Zamia furfuracea* from friend of CFPACS Mary Koevenig.

—Claudia Walworth, Seed Bank Coordinator
orlbroker@aol.com

Nurseryman Cultivates Passion

[This article was published in the Tampa Tribune, April 24, 2006, under the headline above.]

By Kevin Wiatrowski

LAND - O' LAKES - Little has changed in the year since Tom Barrese decided to turn his hobby of growing palm trees into a business selling them.

Like the trees he cultivates from seedlings, Barrese is not in a hurry.

"I measure progress not in leaps and bounds," Barrese said. **He said** he expects to spend five years or more waiting to have plants large enough to catch the eyes of landscapers and their developer clients.

Spending years building inventory isn't unusual in the nursery business, said Ben Bolusky, a spokesman for the Florida Nurserymen, Growers and Landscapers Association. However, plants aren't the only thing Barrese needs to grow, Bolusky said.

"It takes years to build a reputation," he said.

In the past 12 to 15 months, Barrese has begun assembling a nursery, dubbed "Palmnation," on his 5-acre homestead off Ehren Cutoff. He recently expanded his inventory when he bought out a fellow palm enthusiast who moved to Hawaii.

The nascent nursery has grown out of Barrese's nearly 20-year hobby of growing palms on his land. Barrese **grows** many of his palms from seed. One recent morning, he talked about how his fledgling business has fared thus far while preparing to repot seedlings, nothing more than single, foot-long leaves standing in black pots.

Aside from a row of gangly queen palms - a quick-growing favorite among local landscapers - much of Barrese's inventory is about knee-high. While his palms and cycads - living fossils also popular with landscapers - have grown, Barrese often finds himself in the business of giving free advice.

People show up at his place hoping to rescue an ailing plant or looking for ideas about unusual species.

"They're looking for something out of the ordinary,

something their neighbors don't have," Barrese said.

His own yard is a virtual botanical garden of palms, from the enormous gray-green Bismarkia to hybrids Barrese has developed. More often than not, though, advice-seekers save their cash for other locations with larger stocks.

"I've gotten to the point that I'm wary of anybody with a notebook," Barrese said.

A few months ago, an inspector with the state Department of Agriculture visited to check over Barrese's operation and give him a horticulture license so he can advertise. He missed the recent plant sale at the University of South Florida in Tampa, but he said he hopes to show some of his offerings at the Tampa Bay Area Plant Societies' sale May 6 and 7 at Lake Park in Lutz.

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Evolution:

Howea belmoreana/ Howea forsteriana

How do palm species evolve? An article in the February issue of the journal *Nature* (available only by subscription) was reported online. Researchers had come up with the reason(s) why the two species of *Howea* evolved on tiny Lord Howe Island off Australia. Turns out that a species can split into another through allopatric speciation. What this means is that the same species may be separated by, say, a mountain range and then gradually change sufficiently that they are not the same and can't interbreed. But the *Howea* are not separated by some barrier, but grow close to each other. They have changed by sympatric speciation. The key, apparently, is the different soils on which the two species grow have caused them to flower at different times and slowly change so that hybridization is no longer a possibility. Gee, I wish I could have read the actual article, rather than a brief synopsis of it.

—John Kennedy

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 11, 2005 to April 30, 2006

INCOME:

Donations to CFPACS.....	0.00	
Membership Dues.....	2,045.00	
Private Sales (December meeting).....	375.83	
Public Sales (USF Spring).....	210.20	
Seed Sales.....	1,362.78	
Total _____	3,993.81	

EXPENSES:

Grants (Historic Bok Sanctuary).....	618.57	
Meeting Expenses (Food, 12/11/05).....		192.18
Office Supplies.....	133.19	
Publications (Palmateer).....	2,099.06	
Taxes (Corporate Annual Report).....		61.25
Web Site.....	30.00	
Total _____		3,134.25

INCOME-EXPENSES:

Bank Balance 12/11/05.....	19,986.57
Bank Balance 04/30/06.....	22,841.80
Net Increase.....	2,855.23

(Note: Society 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)
.....	10,106.51 (current value, close of market on 04/28/06:
	7,147.70 Washington Mutual, 2,958.81 banked
	from sale of Putman shares)
Office equipment and tent....	1,590.00
Computers and software.....	2,544.41 minus depreciation
Printer.....	4,250.00

— Bob Johnson, Treasurer

Bored with crotons? Too many puncture wounds from the bougainvillea? All those "interesting" hibiscus colors leave you queasy? So many palms around you here in Florida: you're not in Kansas anymore, Toto. Look closely and you can even see there are at least 5 or 6 kinds and—what are those smaller plants, sort of like palms? Don't ask at the Big Box store; the kid there came fresh from Burger King. How to find out more? Join the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society (CFPACS) and find out all that your heart desires about palms and cycads from those already in the fold. No minimum requirements beyond trifling-membership dues (\$15 annually, \$40 for three years). You won't meet any snobbery. Members are delighted to share their knowledge with beginners. The only danger is possible [wonderful] addiction. To join, fill out the form at right and send, with your check, to Membership Chair, Karen Barrese.

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

Please print

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____
 State, _____
 County _____
 Zip _____
 Email _____
 Phone (area) _____

Wish to be added to Seed Bank E-mail list? (Circle one) YES NO

Willing to be listed publicly in roster? (Circle one) YES NO

Mail check made out to CFPACS (domestic: \$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

Deadline for September issue:

AUGUST 11th

The International Palm Society (IPS)

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

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

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



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*After Hurricane Wilma struck Miami in October, 2005, there was much damage at Fairchild, including the crown being mostly blown off the female *Borassus flabellifer*. The empty cavity (above, left) some months later contained a surprise (above, right): a new sprout. 'Mama Bo' is recovering. The picture at left shows undamaged 'Papa Bo' next to her.
(Photos above by Christie Jones; photo left by Scott Zona)*

*New Palm on Mauritius!!! Yes, a *Telecomtoweria mauritiana*. When can we expect to see this in Florida?*

(Photo by Bill Beattie)



*Lawn Moas! You could have bought one in April at the benefit for the Helensville Women's Centre held at Nestlebrae Exotic Gardens near Auckland.
(Photo by John Prince)*

