



The Palmateer

Volume 26, Number 4

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

December, 2006

Palms/Cycads/Food: December 9th Meeting in Micco



Above, two views of where CFPACS will meet on December 9th in Micco, Brevard County. Jason Baker and Sue Reilly haven't been collecting palms and cycads all that long, but they have managed an impressive array of species. (Photos by Sue)

Desperately Needed:

New CFPACS President & Others

I was asked by someone why our chapter flourishes when this has not been the case with some other regional chapters. I replied that the Board works well with each other, everyone pulls his/her weight, no one has a particular agenda. No infighting, no ego trips, in other words.

But now, with vacancies looming, there are *no* replacement volunteers. The president serves for two years and the position requires time and attention. Diana Grabowski's term ends on December 31st. There is, at this point, no one stepping up to take her place. The Central and West Vice Presidents supposedly serve for a year but, in practice, stay

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December 9th Social Meeting

CFPACS' Winter Social, Plant Auction and Sale will be held 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the property of Sue Reilly and Jason Baker, located at 5150 Thompson Road in Micco.

The schedule: Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.

Social begins at 10:30, wraps up around 2:00 p.m.

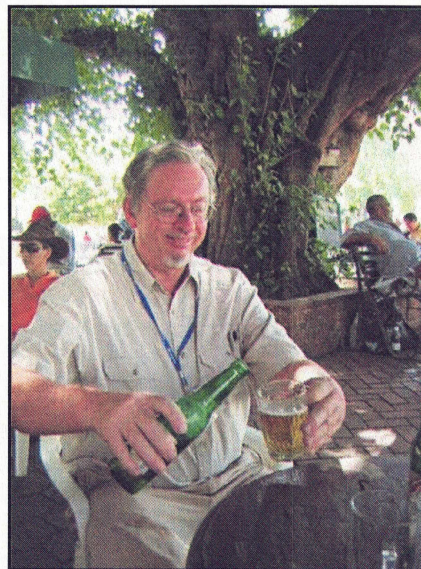
A plant auction will be held after lunch.

Vendor plant sale will be held following the auction.

Our hosts, Sue and Jason, will be cooking up two different types of chili, which will be accompanied by bread, salad, and beverages. As the Winter Social tradition continues, we encourage those of you that would

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Tom Broome's account of the September Bok meeting is on p. 8.



*A familiar face in the pause that refreshes. . . Long-time CFPACS treasurer Mike Merritt at the IPS Biennial in the Dominican Republic in October. Note: humidity in new Hawaiian home has caused sprouts on chin.
(Photo by Mike Dahme)*

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The Palmateer

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The Palmateer

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society
3225 13th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3825
(772) 567-9587

Editor: John D. Kennedy
jkennedy@ircc.edu

December 9th Social Meeting

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like to bring along your favorite covered dish to share (cold salads, breads desserts, etc) to do so.

The couple's description of their garden:

Just under five years ago there were two species of palms, Sabal palmetto and one lonely Syagrus romanzoffiana, on the 2.3 acre property that Jason Baker and Sue Reilly bought in Micco. Now there are approximately 500 palms of 130 species represented, multiples of many but mostly in the juvenile states. Palms of special interest include Coccothrinax borhidiana, Borassus madagascariensis, Kentiopsis oliviformis, and Nypa fruticans.

Another nearby garden possibly may also be visited, but arrangements to do so have not yet been confirmed.

—Mark and Diana Grabowski

For those unfamiliar with the area, Micco is just north of Sebastian, along the Indian River, on U. S. #1. (Wreath in window below not in Micco.)



**CLOSING DATE
FOR MARCH ISSUE
FEBRUARY 9**

Directions to December 9 Meeting in Micco

Google Maps link to Sue and Jason's home.

Remember that to get exact driving directions from your point of origin, just use the Google Maps link provided and click on the "To here" link provided in Sue and Jason's address pointer bubble that appears near the center of the map!

From the North

- 1—Take I-95 to Exit 173 (SR 514 Palm Bay / Malabar) on to Malabar Road and head East.
- 2—Continue East on Malabar Road to U. S. #1.
- 3—Turn right (South) on U. S. #1.
- 4—Drive for 9.5 miles on U.S #1 to Micco Road.
- 5—Turn right (West) onto Micco Road and drive about 1 mile to Fleming Grant Road.
- 6—Turn left (South) on Fleming Grant Road and drive for about 2.4 miles to Thompson Road.
- 7—Turn right (West) on Thompson Road.

From the South

- 1—Take I-95 to Exit 156 (CR 512 Fellsmere / Sebastian) onto Fellsmere Road and head East to U. S. #1
- 2—Continue East on Fellsmere Road to U. S. #1.
- 3—Turn left (North) on U. S. #1.
- 4—Drive for about 7 miles on U. S.#1 to Micco Road.
- 5—Turn left (West) onto Micco Road and drive about 1 mile to Fleming Grant Road.
- 6—Turn left (South) on Fleming Grant Road and drive for about 2.4 miles to Thompson Road.
- 7—Turn right (West) on Thompson Road.

5150 Thompson Road
(772) 663-9450



Above, Thrinax morrisii pictured in the September issue is here in its new site in St. Lucie Village, north of Fort Pierce. All the king's horses (and machinery) did put the little palm together again. The Indian River lagoon is in the background, its brackish water—and spray—no problem for the salt-tolerant native.

(Photo by Julie Lounibos)

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007

John Prince says, from New Zealand, that the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) has banned the sale and planting of *Phoenix canariensis* as of 2010. The council is still 'studying' *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* and *Trachycarpus fortunei* for possible future bans. The ARC has come under fire for the accuracy of its criteria in banning palm species. The body has also refused to publicize the credentials of its researcher, on whose findings the ban is based.

—John Kennedy

CFPACS President Needed

(Continued from page 1)

on until they wish to be released. Both want out, have done their duty.

Without officers, there is no CFPACS.

It's as simple as that. Diana will stay on for a while, but this can only be temporary.

Anyone who has been involved with a volunteer organization knows that it works only because four or five people make it work.

The membership, alas, is mostly inert.

While CFPACS can limp along for a bit without the two vice presidents, it cannot function with a President, who sets the agenda and keeps the ball rolling. Ideally, a President needs to be knowledgeable about palms and cycads and must be familiar with our society and its dynamics. Sounds like an active, long-time member? Yes.

Recruiters don't always meet their goals, as we know. But if CFPACS is to survive, there must be a CEO. If you think you could do it, but have some questions, contact Diana:

ScinceLady@aol.com or call her at (321) 783-2342.

There once was a Broward Palm Society; some other chapters in Florida are, well, *dormant*.

—John Kennedy

Peace



*Salt-tolerant?
Yes! Endemic
Coccothrinax
boschiana, in
dramatic silhou-
ette (left), above
the Caribbean,
and close-up
(below) in the
Dominican Re-*

2006 Biennial in the Dominican Republic, October 1 - 8

By Geri Prall

IPS knows how to do it right, after all, this is the 50th anniversary of the Society. Getting together with old and new friends/fellow palm lovers at the elaborate buffets and informative presentations is customary at a biennial. But unlike the paved garden tours of some years, the 2006 Biennial to the Dominican Republic was a habitat tour. IPS is truly an international group with 148 registrants coming from Europe, Australia, Central and South America and, of course, the USA. Out of the 85 registrants from the US, about 40 were from Florida, and 30 from California. We were immersed both environmentally and culturally as we rode in the four-wheel drive safari trucks through local villages to see endemic populations of palms.

It was obvious that a lot of planning went into this biennial. From making a new dirt road for the four-wheel drive trucks, clearing pathways through the native shrub, clearing the vegetation around specimen palms, obtaining permission from farmers to travel on their land, to flying us in helicopters saving us from a long exhausting hike. Even though they made it as easy as possible to see native palms in habitat, it was

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The real star here is the silvery Coccothrinax boschiana. Posed in front are Judy Kay (seedbank coordinator at Montgomery Botanical Center), Larry Noblick, and Geri Prall.

2006 Biennial

(Continued from page 5)

more than some attendees could handle. But at the end of the day, there was a keg of el Presidente Cerveza (beer) waiting.

Monday - Our first contact with palms was the National Botanical Garden in Santo Domingo. We toured the garden, which had around 110 different palms, on trams with an armed soldier following behind on a moped. The Japanese Gardens were very impressive and well groomed. **We then** boarded our modern luxury buses for a delicious buffet at the Guavaberry Golf Casa Club. Hundreds of *Acrocomia aculeata* were rescued and transplanted in the landscape. There were also *Coccothrinax argentea* growing in the native shrub forest.

Tuesday - One of the most magnificent sights that I have ever seen, were thousands of *Coccothrinax boschiana* growing along the steep cliffs, emerging from the Caribbean Sea in Barrera. The ambitious took to steep rock climbing, while others used the ropes that were set up to help us up the narrow steep trail that had been previously blazed.

Tents with tables & chairs were set up for our lunch break.

Wednesday - A highlight of this trip was being air-lifted by helicopter for an aerial view of *Coccothrinax ekmanii* in Jaragua National Park. Although it was level ground, the dog-toothed limestone was challenging to walk on, through a forest of thorny scrub brush. In the evening, we were all invited to "Casa Bonita," a family home turned into a guest lodge on top of the mountain overlooking the sea. It lightly drizzled as we relaxed in the cushy lounge chairs before a delicious buffet was served.

Thursday - We stopped to see *Coccothrinax ekmanii* growing along a coastal hill with cactus and agaves. Then we continued on to Pedernales to the high altitude *Sierra de Bahoruco National Park* to see *Coccothrinax scoparia*. The Haitian border could be seen from the lookout building.

Friday - We traveled to Azua to board our 4-wheel drive trucks. After going through the center of town, we put those trucks to the test, climbing the steep, narrow dirt road to *Pseudophoenix vinifera* growing along the mountainside. As a native farmer rode down the road on his horse, some of us wished that we also had a horse or donkey to climb the hill. The brush had been cleared around many of the specimens along the path allowing us to get a perfect close-up view and photograph.



Dave Prall shoots *Coccothrinax ekmanii*. Wife Geri photographs photographer taking photo.

It was back on the trucks to a farm field to see *Copernicia berteriana*. There was evidence of fire on the trunks, contrasting green and black in this forest of *berteroana*.

We then stopped in Bani, where after climbing a hill we saw a magnificent stand of *Coccothrinax spissa* - each palm with a different shape. The cool breeze blowing on top of the hill was so refreshing.

Saturday - Not only was transportation to and from the airport provided, but a guided tour of the historic area of Santo Domingo was also included. After our tour, we ventured across town to *Vivero Inmaculada*, a nursery with an impressive collection of palms in the landscape. Our hostess provided us with sandwiches for lunch, and of course, the keg of el Presidente was there. The nursery was started in 1999 and already had beautiful specimen groups of *Pseudophoenix vinifera*, *Wodyetia bifurcata*, *Cyrtostachys renda*, *Copernicia alba*, etc. The palms were magnificent but the cities and impoverished villages that we drove through left much to be desired. There seems to be no traffic control but I felt safe in our large luxury bus, high above the crazy local drivers. I got the impression that the biggest vehicle rules.

The biennial came to a close with a scrumptious buffet and Caribbean Night Party.

We're looking forward to the 2008 Biennial in Costa Rica.



The cactus demonstrates the environment in which Coccothrinax ekmanii flourishes in the Dominican Republic.

REPENT!!

Ah, gotcher attention. The word really is **RENEW**. All annual CFPACS memberships expire on December 31st. Look at the address label on the envelope containing this issue of *The Palmateer* to see the expiration date for your membership. If above your name appears "12-06," you need to renew for 2007.

Annual membership is \$15 or three years for \$40.

Send your check made out to CFPACS to:

Karen Barrese

Membership Chair

5942 Ehren Cutoff

Land O Lakes, FL 34639

You *Do* wish to receive the March issue of *The Palmateer*, don't you? To keep in touch with what's going on with Central Florida palms and cycads, **RENEW now for a Happier New Year.**

—The Editor

*OK, what **is** it? A palm decoration that is a bird-of-paradise, so spectacularly native to New Guinea with a magnificent tail. Here conjured up by member Juanita Baker who, with husband Dick, recently enjoyed a visit to Papua New Guinea.*

(Photo by Juanita)



September CFPACS Meeting

By Tom Broome

On September 30, we had a joint meeting of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society, and the Cycad Society, at Bok Sanctuary, in Lake Wales. As the Central Vice President, it was my turn to host the meeting and since I am the president of the cycad society, I decided to host the annual board meeting and cycad symposium this year for the Cycad Society. When it is my turn, I have always tried to put together an educational meeting for our members, as well as having a place to look at palms and cycads. I wanted to go back to Bok because many of our members didn't make it last year because it was raining too hard. This year, the weather was beautiful.

We started the morning with a mini cycad symposium. Jody Haynes talked about some of the zamias in Panama that have plicate type leaflets. Maurice Levin discussed cultivation practices, germination techniques, and the importance that cultivation and propagation has in regards to cycad conservation. Craig Nazor showed slides and talked about the Hartman Prehistoric garden, which is within Zilker Botanical Gardens in Austin. I talked about the natural growth habits of cycads and how they make it easy for us to manipulate how they grow and cone. I discussed how I could increase the growth and coning of cycads using particular fertilizers at specific times in the cycles of cycads. I also discussed how I have been able to change the sex of coning size cycads. Lastly, I discussed how I have been able to increase growth cycles of multiple headed cycads by removing the leaves from offsets. So far the best is 14 sets of leaves in one year on a *Zamia portoricensis*.

After the presentations, we had an auction that benefited TCS. After the auction, the CFPACS vendors had plants available for sale, which a cut of those sales benefits CFPACS. For the rest of the day, we were allowed to tour the extensive garden at Bok.

I think our members really enjoyed the talks and both the Cycad Society board members and the CFPACS members got to meet each other face to face and talk about their favorite plants.



Above, Jody Haynes talks about newly discovered zamias before a projected map of Panamá during the September 30th meeting at Bok Sanctuary. Below, the audience for the four speakers at Bok. Dave Reed, front row left, is distracted by the photographer. Sharp eyes will detect some familiar faces.

(Photos by Frankie Ramos)



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007

Companion Plants for Cycads

We are used to considering companion plants for palms. **Craig Nazor**, a speaker at the September Bok meeting, focused on "Companion Plants for Cycads." He has been deeply involved in the creation of the 1½-acre Hartman Prehistoric Garden, in Austin, Texas, which was intended to show what grew on Austin's site 150 million years ago.

Naturally, cycads play a very prominent role in the plantings. Nazor recommended *Ceratozamia robusta* ('El Mirador' cultivar in particular). He noted, with some pleased surprise, that *Ceratozamia kuesteriana* had not even been browned by seven days of freezes and snow.

Horsetail, a true fern and very ancient, was used in and around small ponds onsite. Montezuma cypress, dawn redwood, ginkgo, and podocarpus were the garden's trees. *Loropetalum*, a shrub in the witch hazel family, was placed in several sites.

Palms were also planted: *Brahea armata* and *B. nitida*, as well as *Sabal minor*, *Arenga engleri*, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, and *Livistona chinensis*. Several species of *Bauhinia* added to the diversity of the plant life, as well as *Magnolia virginiana* (a Florida native plant, enthusiastically endorsed by Nazor as a companion for cycads). An old Southern—and North Florida—favorite, *Michelia figo*, Banana Shrub, was also added to the garden.

Floridians probably might add a few more native species to the list: maybe bald cypress, tough bumelia, Simpson's stopper, gallberry, dahoon, and other hollies. I would add a particular favorite, a Panhandle plant wiped out in the 2004 hurricanes, Florida Anise (*Illicium floridanum*), just recently replaced.

And, of course, a bigger list of palm species would be easy to compile.

--John Kennedy



Above, *Zamia kuesteriana*, a cycad species recommended by Craig Nazor at the September Bok meeting.
(Photo by Tom Broome)



Need a lift? Cuban rural transport, October, 2006.



GROWING CYCADS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

COLLECTION & STORAGE OF CYCAD POLLEN

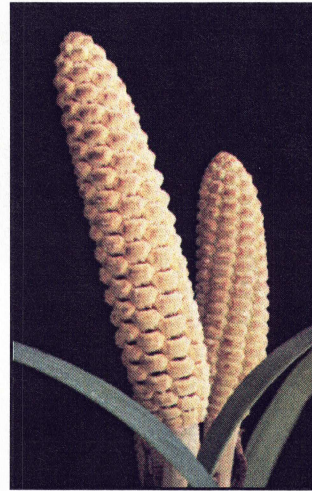
By Tom Broome

Propagation of cycads starts with producing and germinating seeds. This seems to be the most difficult part of growing cycads. Once you are working with established plants, your job is much easier. One of the keys to producing viable seeds is the proper collection of, and if needed, storage of pollen. I try to make sure the pollen I use is viable. I am going to discuss how I go through the whole process. Pollen can stay viable for at least a week or two outside of the refrigerator. I don't recommend waiting this long because it is important that pollen be as fresh as possible. This will prolong its viability during storage. Using pollen that is older is still better than nothing, if that is all you have to work with. Pollen that has become inviable does no good and wastes time and energy.

Cycads are dioecious (possessing separate male and female plants). Male plants produce the pollen and females produce the seeds. Male cones are typically thinner and taller than female cones. Most species have a particular time of year when the males shed pollen and the females become receptive. This timing will vary at the same location from year to year depending on the weather. The timing of each species will also vary depending on the location in the world where the plant is being grown. This window of time can be as little as a three weeks for most species, and up to three months for many *Ceratozamia* spp.

Male cones emerge from the apex of the plant and grow to full size. You can tell the cone is close to the time of shedding when the peduncle (stem under the fertile portion of the cone) is visible. A few days before pollen is shed, the cone will elongate and cone scales will loosen. When I see this, I tap the top of the cone slightly with my finger to see if the pollen falls out of the cone. If it is a very small cone, it is best to put a piece of paper under the cone to catch any pollen that may fall out. If ANY pollen falls from the cone, it is ready to harvest. *Stangeria* cones are the exception, and I will cover this in the next paragraph.

With few exceptions (a couple of *Zamia* species), pollen sacs are located on the underside of cone scales. You will notice that some of the pollen sacs are ruptured when you see that pollen has fallen out. If you don't catch the male cone on its first day releasing pollen, it is best to see how many of the pollen sacs have



Two male Zamia cones. The one on the left has elongated and is ready to collect; the cone on right has not yet elongated.

ruptured. If all the pollen sacs have ruptured, it may be hard to determine when the pollen has been released, and therefore may be inviable.

I never collect pollen from a cone that has completely shed unless that is the only one I have to work with. If the cone is ready to pick, gently cut the cone off and put it on a piece of paper. I don't recommend newspaper because it is coarse and the pollen sticks to the paper. Notebook paper works very well. Put the cone in a cool area. Anywhere in an air conditioned house is just fine. Extremely high temperatures will reduce the viability of pollen.

Pollen will continue to shed for approximately five days. I collect the pollen every two days and place it in paper packets I make by folding small pieces of notebook paper and sealing the side and ends with tape. It is important to make sure that the tape covers as little of the surface as possible so that the paper packet can breathe. *Stangeria* is unusual in that it sheds pollen over a three-week period. If you cut the cone off the plant when the pollen first starts to shed, it will stop shedding and you will harvest very little pollen. Instead, every three or four days, hold a piece of paper under the male cone and knock as much of the pollen out of the cone until the three-week period is over. You may also wait until the pollen has been shedding for ten or more days, cut the cone, and usually the pollen will

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PALMS IN CUBA: POST-BIENNIAL SIDE TRIP

By J Crow

"**Socialísimo O Muerte**", that was my favourite exhortation to the masses of the many dozens that our Mercedes-Benz tour buses sped past on the country roads and the streets of the towns and cities of Cuba. Not much of a choice if socialism is to be credited for the poverty that we witnessed through these same windows, the housing all appearing to pre-date the Revolution's success in 1959, and nothing apart from some of the political signing having have been painted in 20 years. Public transportation, in addition to the justly-famous 1950's vintage cars, was of a dazzling variety of form: people crammed standing-room only onto open bed trucks or into decrepit buses of apparent eastern-European manufacture, these being the faster of those vehicles incorporating the internal combustion engine, but it was common to see tractors pulling all manner of carriages. It was also not unusual to see farm ani-



Coccolthrinax borhidiana in the Jardín Botánico Nacional just outside Havana.



After the October IPS Biennial in the Dominican Republic, these foreign participants visited Cuba to see its wealth of palms.

mals, even once that most cantankerous of critters, the goat, so occupied, even on the principal roads. Otherwise, transportation consists of walking or bicycling, the absence of traffic on the rural highways makes the island nation a driver's paradise. Another upside of this is there are no overweight Cubans, the obesity epidemic has passed them by. But in the ongoing ideological quarrel between the Castro regime and 10 US administrations it is the Cuban people who have paid. **But this** is seriously off-topic, for one thing that is not in short supply is palms - and, when it comes to *Copernicia* and *Coccolthrinax*, the island all but owns the patents. With so many species in these two genera to decipher it was fortunate that present was Raúl Verdecia, the reigning palm expert of Cuba, who flew with us from the Dominican Republic to the eastern city of Santiago: passengers on the starboard window seats likely getting a view of Guantánamo as we arrived. We could have passed the night in Cuba's 'second city' but to make the next day's travel more manageable we bussed to the small town of Bayamo, 125 kilometers west, passing numerous groves of *Roystonea regia*, the 'common' Royal whose centre of distribution is this island.

Early the following morning - all mornings on palm tours begin early - our buses set out along the rural, unnumbered roads [1], again westerly, the island's geography leaving little choice, but this meant bypassing

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CUBAN PALMS

(Continued from page 11)

entirely the highest mountain range, the Sierra Maestre, in the SE of the country: where one could surely palm-hunt happily for days. The day ended in Camagüey, however, where our old hotel was located in the town centre across the narrow road from a particularly active train station - for this once I was happy to have not been assigned a room fronting the exterior. It was on this day, likely before midday, that we stopped taking pics of "palmares", or stands of *Roystonea*, as they hove to view on one side or the other of the highway, so common this proved to be. Also, we began to see fields of *Copernicia*, and the buses made occasional stops in the middle of nowhere for 'palm grazing', there being some extremely avid seed collectors present. Palms identified by Raúl for us - he was worth his modest weight in a valuable metal - included *Copernicia yaray*, *baileyana*, *gigas* and *hospita* as well as the *Sabal* with island-length distribution, *maritima*, and the distinctive [by virtue of its highly-silver abaxial leaf surface] *Coccothrinax macroglossa*. [2]

Day 3 started with an impromptu itinerary change that took us on a looping route across the central-northern range of the Sierra de Cubitas, the better to see more palms. Many species of palms in groups of their own kind and intermixed are in that short interval that traversing this low elevation range entailed - the *Sabal* and

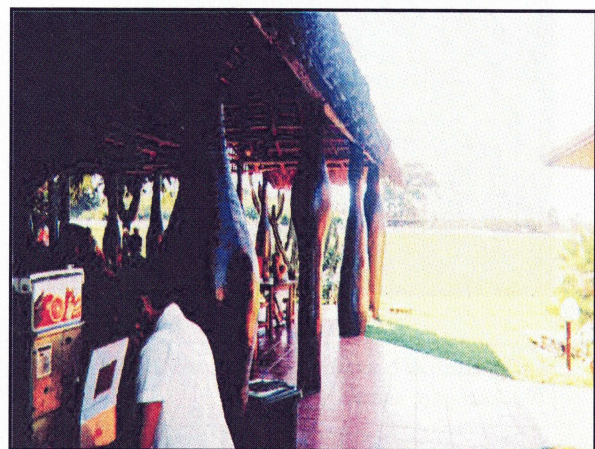
Royal, *Coccothrinax macroglossa* and *Copernicia hospita* among them. But the highlight of the day came before our side-of-the-road stop for box lunch, a pre-arranged visit to a grove of *Copernicia fallaensis*, the largest species of the genus. Raúl explained that the various *Copernicia* species ripen their fruits at different times of the year [as in Florida *C. macroglossa* fruits fall at the end of July], and, as this species had dropped fruits just a few weeks prior to our visit, a gunny-sackful had been collected by the family whose property [3] we were visiting, for 'distribution': the ensuing scrum was not rated PG.

After a late dinner in the historic quarter of Trinidad, the island's original capital and also formerly its principal port, and the night passed at a massive hi-rise hotel on the beach [4] we headed to the botanical garden at Cienfuegos, a short distance from Trinidad. Once operated by Harvard University, it features plantings that date a century - an immense *Hyphaene*, likely *H. compressa*, was planted in 1907, while a 'young', still immature, *Lodoicea* with less than three meters of clear trunk was set out in 1943. The garden's curator, Hermán Rodríguez, was on-hand to tour us; our visit also likely the reason that the knee-high 'grass' was in process of being bush-hogged. Among the many exotics were Cuban endemics, and this is when we first saw the *Microcycas* cycad, some being mature but without fruits. The garden, we were told, comprises some 12 hectares for the palms, of which there are present 246 spp and 12 hybrids.

With far too little time available to explore properly the old Cienfuegos garden, we left following lunch under the palms for Havana, and a three story, long-ago, sugar baron's residence cum hotel in the 'old

(Continued on page 13)

Below, left, Cuban endemic *Colpothrinax wrightii* persisting in a cleared field. Below, right, trunks of that palm used to support a roof in what seems to be an outdoor restaurant.





Above, a grove of *Roystonea regia*, so common that the visitors stopped photographing them after the first few sightings. Right, a beautiful Cuban cycad, *Microcycas calocoma*.



CUBAN PALMS

(Continued from page 12)

town' quarter [perhaps equivalent in age to Antiguo Santo Domingo and Viejo San Juan] being our base for the last three days. The main attraction in the capital for palmophiles is indisputably the Jardín Botánico Nacional, which though located in city limits, is on the rural outskirts.

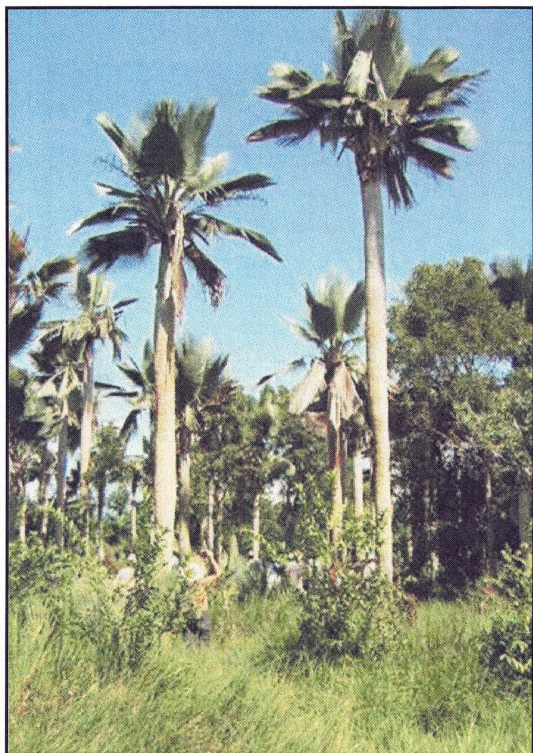
Likely the distance from populated areas and lack of personal transportation [and an admittance fee] accounted for the scarcity of other visitors during our two visits. As opposed to the one at Cienfuegos, which if not in a state of disrepair showed no evidence of recent plantings, this immense, 600 hectare, young [5] garden is well-maintained and with labeling for most of the palms around the park headquarters building. Here was the only place we were to see some of Cuba's other Royal species, such as *maisiana* and *lenis*, as well as some of the *Copernicia* and *Coccothrinax* that we didn't encounter in habitat. Of course, many exotics were in evidence as well, some in seed, and the garden director, perhaps sensing grave danger, graciously gave her blessing to collecting.

This garden also featured a huge tract of land that was being sparsely utilised - great spacing between species - for mass plantings of the Cuban palm endemics [perhaps for the *raison-d'être* of Miami's Montgomery Botanical Centre but with space for many more individual plants in the groupings]. Again, without Raul V as guide, the walk through this part of the

garden would have been much less fruitful [no pun intended] for the lack of labeling and explanations of the species delimitations.

The other day operating out of Havana was to the far-western province of Pinar del Río, with floristic distinction so great from the remainder of the island that an additional plant-person was added, specialist of the area, for the trip. Of course, the 'belly palm', *Colpothrinax wrightii*, was encountered, but the ultimate destination was the Valle de Vinales, flanked by 'mogotes', or limestone outcrops often sheer in aspect, left from the erosion that created the valley. Here is the home of one of the island's two endemic *Gaussia*, *G. princeps*, and *Microcycas calocoma*. [A form of *Thrinax morrisii* as well, one in which the white colour of the leaf underside is lacking.] Although the elevation is not high, the greater rainfall and distinct vegetation [two spp of pines included] make the area seem quite different, almost alpine, and that it remains a resort destination is clear from the numerous guest houses and restaurants. **All in all** it is hard to believe that such a place exists in the shadow of the US. I imagine that in terms of how the society operates - top down by government fiat - one would have to visit palmless N Korea for an equivalent. But to paraphrase one of our group, it is well to see it now, before further change [via regime collapse or, more likely, gradually, with compromise

(Continued on page 14)



CUBAN PALMS

(Continued from page 13)

with market forces that leave it a dictatorship but, as with China, communist in name only] arrives.

Post-biennial travellers are indebted to Leonel A. Mera, who also organized the prior week's tour in the Dominican Republic, for the opportunity to visit. For those wishing to travel on their own, the country is open to tourism, which sector perhaps now surpasses the sugarcane crop/rum production as a foreign exchange earner. Auto rentals are easily arranged and affordable, and it's possible to rent in one location and drop off in another.

Notes:

1 The road map shows the highways with numbers but I didn't notice any enumeration. An occasional sign at intersections indicating a destination ahead was it, a compass would be useful for the sideroad wanderer. In sharp contrast were the towns and cities, every intersection being 'street-signed' and every doorway, whether of an occupied or abandoned house, whatever the structure, clearly numbered.

2 Users of *The Field Guide to Palms of the Americas* will notice a distinction between the species mentioned in

this report and those of the book. At every juncture Mr. Verdecia was at pains to explain the differences between what as he was showing us, say *Coccothrinax macroglossa*, which in the book is treated as synonymous with *C miraguama*, or *Copernicia fallaense* [= *C baileyana* per the book], including inflorescence detail. Anyone visiting Cuba for the purpose of seeing the palms should contact him, email at a garden in the city of Las Tunas, verdecia@ltunas.inf.cu

3 My understanding is that while people can possess real estate, property sales are not allowed; and that as a result there is an active, if informal, 'exchange' market. A realtor's paradise on the horizon?

4 I was told that beaches on the south coast are rare, most of them, and therefore most of tourism, being on the north side, but the one at Trinidad was nice.

5 Development began in 1968, the garden opened to the public in 1984.

Left, *Copernicia fallaensis* in the Jardín Botánico Nacional.
Below, *Gaussia princeps*.



Collection & Storage of Cycad Pollen

(Continued from page 10)

continue to shed for the remaining time.

In order to store pollen for long periods of time, it is important to remove as much of the water content in the pollen as possible. Store the pollen in a glass jar or vial, avoiding plastic bags, which can breathe and are not the best for long-term storage. To reduce the water content in the pollen, place some desiccant in the bottom of the container. I use an indicating desiccant. When dry this material is blue, and as it absorbs moisture, it turns pink. By using an indicating desiccant, you can tell when it has absorbed all the moisture it can. It is impossible to tell whether regular desiccant is still dry just by looking at it. Once indicating desiccant has absorbed all the moisture possible, it turns pink. Place it in the oven and bake it until it turns blue again. This desiccant can be used over and over again. The amount of desiccant you use depends on the amount of pollen you are trying to dry out. I have found that 1/2 - 1" in the bottom of the container works well.

The paper packets are then placed on top of the desiccant. By using paper packets, which can breathe, the desiccant can do its job. Instead of using one big packet for all of your pollen, place the pollen in small packets so one packet can be removed quickly without disturbing the unused pollen. I try to put enough pollen in each packet to pollinate a single cone once. If you plan to pollinate the same cone a few times, fresh pollen can be removed each time for maximum viability. Write the species name and date stored on both sides of the packet so you can tell later on how old the pollen is.

Once I cap the vial, I place it in the refrigerator for two days. I do not place it directly in the freezer because the pollen's moisture content is too high; water expansion can rupture the pollen and render it inviable. Once the pollen has been in the vial for at least two days, and as long as the paper packet has had enough breathable area, moisture content will be reduced enough for you to put the vial in the freezer. Once the vial is in the freezer, the pollen should be good for years. I have found that pollen will stay very fresh for at least three years. I know one person who used pollen that had been stored for six years and got a good seed set. I have been told that if pollen were to be stored in liquid nitrogen, it would stay viable forever. Of course this method is not practical for most people. If you collect pollen on separate occasions, but eventually want to keep the pollen in the same container, it is best to store the newer pollen in a different vial and go through the same process in the refrigera-

tor. Once the new pollen is desiccated, the newer packets can be quickly placed in the original container.

When removing packets for use, it is important to minimize the time that the vial is open because the pollen and packets can reabsorb moisture. This is another reason to use several packets instead of removing a small amount of pollen each time from one larger packet. Once you remove a packet, use the pollen as soon as possible.

Pollen loses viability quickly at room temperature and even faster at higher temperatures. Pollen can stay viable at room temperature for several days, but I attempt to maximize its viability so that more good seed is produced in the long run. Just because an entire cone is pollinated does not mean all of the seeds will germinate. Quality of the pollen has a great deal to do with how many seeds in each cone are viable. Another reason to keep moisture content low in pollen is to lessen the chance for fungus to grow on and kill the pollen.

When I send pollen to someone who lives far away, I send it in a vial containing desiccant. This will keep the viability high. If the shipping time will be longer than one week, I add a cold pack to the box, which seems to help. I have been thinking about making a shipping container that would have two compartments. The inner middle compartment could hold the vial, and the outside compartment could hold ice to keep the vial cooler while shipping. If dry ice were used in the outer compartment, pollen most likely could be shipped anywhere in the world without loss of viability.

I would like to remind everyone that all parts and products of cycads are poisonous. This includes pollen. I have known people who have been hand-pollinating their cycads for decades and have never shown any obvious side effects from this, but I would still recommend using a mask and gloves when handling pollen.

I hope this information helps everyone store pollen correctly to insure its viability. This is especially important for those who are mailing pollen to others. More and more people are propagating their cycads every day, and they are also coordinating their efforts with others by sending pollen to people who do not have male plants. I hope this article will help everyone produce more seeds and, eventually, more cycads.

[Picture and article reprinted from the Cycad Jungle website, <http://cycadjungle.8m.com>]

THE AMAZON TRIP—2006



Left, the Rio Negro and surrounding forests in the morning mist (Photo 1). Below, our ship, the Dorinha, named after the owner/captain's wife. Photo 2).

By Mike Merritt

In the early morning light, the forest on the fog-shrouded shore (photo 1), the mud flats, and the river are familiar sights that could be from any familiar river that one has seen before, perhaps in Florida – the Suwannee perhaps, or the Hillsborough. But closer attention reveals details that prove this to be a very different river. Brilliantly iridescent blue morpho butterflies flutter over the tributaries. Overhead, big-billed toucans perch on trees or fly overhead, as do scarlet macaws. Flocks of primitive, squawking hoatzins, huge white-and-black king vultures, sloths and howler monkeys in the trees, all these are proof that this is not a river of one's previous experience. And fishing trips yield 3-pound piranhas for the dinner table. This river is the Rio Negro, a tributary of the Amazon River, a few degrees south of the equator in Brazil.

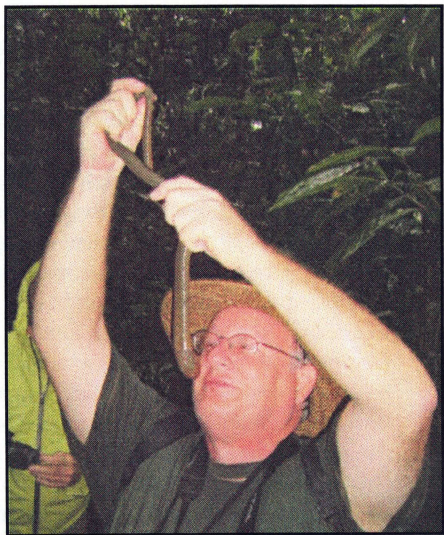
The Expedition

Sixteen people, including leader Dr. Andrew Henderson, a palm biologist and taxonomist with the New York Botanical Garden, joined the 2006 Amazon palm field trip and river ecotour. Most of the group met in Miami, prepared for a five-hour flight on the Brazilian carrier Tam Airlines to Manaus, a large city with an interesting history at the conjunction of the Rio Negro and Amazon Rivers, slightly more than three degrees south of the Equator. Arriving at about 1:30 am, clearing customs by 3:00 am, we were quickly whisked to the ecotour boat, the Dorinha (photo 2), to be awakened well upriver from Manaus at 5:00 am by an aria

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Half the group on the way to a forest hike. Brown baseball cap in front is Andrew Henderson. To his left, John Lok of New Zealand, who has been a CFPACS member. In green hats in front of the tiller are George and Aurora Yao, of the Philippines, also former members (Photo 3).



Ed Brown examines a giant earthworm found on a rainy forest hike (Photo 4).



Group of Mauritia flexuosas planted outside a café in Airao (Photo 5).

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(Continued from page 16)

sung by Luciano Pavarotti over the boat loudspeakers. It was time for the first forest hike.

This established the pattern for the trip, which eventually took us 225 miles up the Rio Negro, and many miles up its tributaries. During the following nine days, Captain Moacir Perriera ("Mo") awakened us between 4:30 and 6:00 am with the Pavarotti aria. Then we quickly dressed and clambered into two motorboats (one is shown in photo 3), which took us to a landing along the river, where we disembarked for hikes through forests having many species of palms. After returning to the Dorinha, we had breakfast at 8:30 am. We generally had additional forest hikes in the early or late afternoon. Lunch was at 1:30 pm and dinner (by candlelite - electric power was limited when the boat's generator was not running) after dark at 8:30 pm. Mo liked to have nighttime boat excursions to see caimans, frogs, and tree boas. We were often invited to swim in the river by the boat or in rapids areas in tributaries during hikes. Some early morning excursions were for the purpose of hearing or seeing wildlife (howler monkeys, hoatzins).

Generally, the trip was comfortable, though the hikes were fairly strenuous. The clayey soil and dense forests of lands drained by the Rio Negro make its water very acidic (4.5-5.0 □ S/cm). This means that mosquito larvae do not survive in river waters, and I never saw a mosquito on this trip. Temperatures are similar to summer in central Florida. It could be 90 dF with 95% humidity in the early afternoon, but cooled to below 80 dF at night. When the boat was moving, the induced breeze made everyone comfortable. The cabins had air conditioners that could be operated when the boat was moving, usually at night. Because it was near the end of the dry season, it didn't rain often. Only one forest hike was marred by rain. Since our time on the Rio Negro was limited, we pulled out our rain gear and continued on our mission.

The river stage was quite low. Though the river is wide, much of its width at low stages is comprised of islands and sandbars. We could see a staircase of parallel lines on the banks of the river indicating previous stages, mostly several feet higher than at the time of the trip. Marks on trees as much as 12-15 feet higher resulted from unusual flood conditions of a few years earlier. Generally, settlements were few and far between and located on high ground. They could be a small village, a group of buildings used by a single family, or merely shelters used by farmers as they moved

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Group of *Mauritiella armatas* planted near farming area (Photo 6). Below, *Astrocaryum aculeatum* planted in Airao (Photo 7).



between fields. While the land along the river was usually forested, in some places it was savannah-like. It was hard to distinguish these areas from formerly cleared fields reverting to forest.

The forest itself was not dense enough to prevent relatively free movement. The main problem encountered was vines and branches of small pieces of brush. On most hikes, Mo and his son and employees used machetes to clear a trail and to put markers on trees as we followed them. We encountered various creatures as we moved through the forest. Photo 4 shows expedition member Ed Brown examining a huge earthworm. We also found large tarantulas, lines of leaf-cutter ants that paid absolutely no attention to a mob of human beings, and indirect evidence (tracks) of tapirs and jaguars. There were wild bromeliads with beautiful inflorescences, heliconias, and some tiny plants

belonging to the *Eriocaulaceae* family. Creatures encountered in the river included small caimans, river otters, and pink dolphins. At the town of Airao, one of the latter allowed itself to be fed by humans at the wharf.

The Large Palms

We tended to find typical palms of the region in two main settings, either cultivated by the local inhabitants as landscaping or blushing unseen in the forest. Even a small family settlement was likely to be surrounded by majestic palms of the *Attalea*, *Mauritia*, *Mauritiella*, *Euterpe*, *Astrocaryum*, and *Oenocarpus* genera. In areas cleared for agriculture, the large palms were usually left standing. We observed *Astrocaryums* and *Oenocarpi* regenerating vigorously after being burned with fields being prepared for crops, so this fact may not be entirely of the farmers' volition. *Euterpes* can also be used for food, and a drink high in antioxidants is made from the fruits (Captain Mo offered us some – the flavor could use some improvement).

I expected to find *Mauritia flexuosa* (photo 5) and *Mauritiella armata* (photo 6) growing in wetlands and reaching monstrous proportions, but was surprised to find them mainly planted on high ground as an impressive addition to the other landscaping and generally assuming the same proportions. The magnificent *Astrocaryum aculeatum* (photo 7) was also found mainly in landscaping at settlements. Groups of *Bactris gasipaes* were also found in cultivation. This palm, whose fruits are edible, is not known in the wild.

The single-stemmed *Euterpe precatoria*, a striking palm

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whose leaves have a double curtain of pendulous leaflets, was found cultivated, often in groups (photo 8), but also growing in the forest, where it survives in the understory until it grows large enough to emerge in the canopy. The multi-stemmed *Euterpe oleracea*, having smaller individual crowns than *E. precatoria*, was also present in cultivated areas. Leaves of *Attalea* species can be of enormous proportions even before the plant forms a stem. *Attalea maripa* was ubiquitous, found cultivated, left standing in farmland, and in wild forest situations. Leaves of *A. maripa* have pendulous leaflets arranged irregularly in groups along the rachis. We found many individuals of *A. speciosa* in one forested area between sections of cultivated land. The long, regularly-arranged, stiff leaflets of *A. speciosa* are spread out in a plane.

Astrocaryum jauari (photo 9) is ubiquitous along the river and is also used in landscaping. Leaves are erect with an open, somewhat plumose effect. *A. jauari* appears to be semi-aquatic. All of the seeds I collected along sandbars floated, and numerous juveniles of one to three years of age were found growing on sandbars that would have been submerged by several feet at higher river stages. Another striking palm found along some sections of the river was *Astrocaryum murumuru* (photo 10 shows the leaf structure and white undersides). This palm had leaves with long, regularly-arranged leaflets generally in a plane and slightly drooping at the tips. When the wind blew, the striking white undersides were displayed to dramatic effect.

Large *Oenocarpus* species present were the ubiquitous *O. bacaba* and *O. batana*, the latter only found in one inland location near *A. speciosa* and *Manicaria saccifera*, where a patch of forest separated farmlands. *O. bacaba* is a relatively massive palm with erect or horizontal leaves having long pendulous leaflets, a horsetail inflorescence, and generally having a somewhat disorderly (but striking) effect. *O. bacaba* is used for landscaping, and we also frequently found juvenile specimens in the forest. *O. batana* (photo 11) has more regularly arranged leaflets and a more elegant appearance.

Several *Bactris* species were riverfront residents. *B. brongniartii* and *B. riparia* were sighted. *Leopoldina major* (photo 12) was present in large numbers along one section of the river. This is a truly aquatic species. Even at the low prevailing river stages, every stand of this large, multi-stemmed species was growing in standing water.

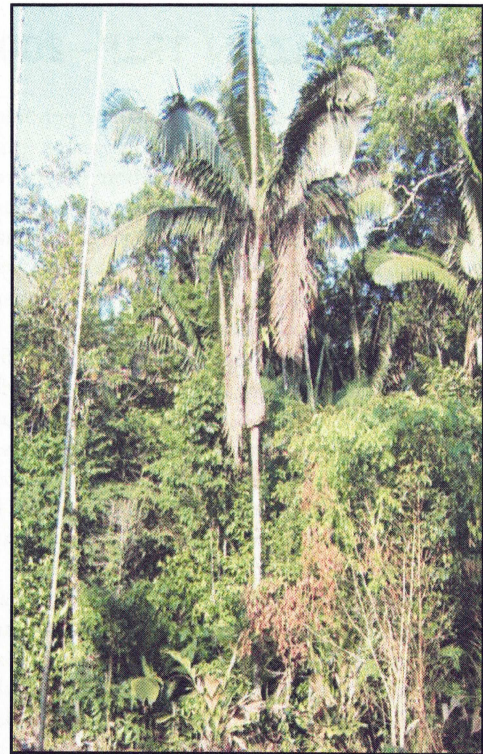
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Top, group of *Euterpe precatoria* growing along a street in Airao (Photo 8). Bottom, a pair of *Astrocaryum jauari* along a river bank (Photo 9).



Above, leaf detail of *Astrocaryum murumuru* showing white undersides (Photo 10). Right, *Oenocarpus bataua* growing near a field just burned for farming (Photo 11).



THE AMAZON TRIP—2006

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The Forest Palms

After our first foray into the forest, Andrew gave us the general rules for division of the palm genera in that environment:

Geonomas – no spines, leaves with green undersides;
Bactris – spines, leaves with green undersides;
Astrocaryums – spines, leaves with silvery undersides;
Oenocarpus – no spines, leaves have silvery undersides, horsetail inflorescences.

The understory species *Astrocaryum gymnocanthum* was a common sight in the forest. We also found a few of the aculeascent *Astrocaryums*, *A. acaulea* and *A. sciophillum*. In the inland forest area, near the *Attalea speciosa*, we found the aculeascent *Attalea microcarpa*. Forest *Bactris* species found included *B. acanthocarpa*, *B. acanthocarpoides*, *B. bidentula*, *B. bifida*, *B. elegans*, *B. hirta*, *B. kilipia*, *B. simplicifrons*, and *B. tomentosa*. *B. simplicifrons* was interesting, in that the only spine found on the forest form is a barely discernable one at the end of each simple leaf. The open-area form, however, had a spiny stem.

Geonoma species found included *G. aspidiifolia*, *G.*

baculifera, *G. deversa*, *G. leptospadix*, *G. macrostachys*, *G. maraja*, *G. maxima*, *G. spixiana* (a form of *G. maxima*), and *G. stricta*. *G. deversa* (photo 13) was remarkable for the red new leaves (which it shares with many *Geonomas*) with three ranks of broad leaflets and was often found in association with *G. baculifera*, the latter species being more numerous. *G. maxima* was ubiquitous in numerous forms. Some forms have regularly-arranged narrow leaflets, others have fewer, larger leaflets. One of the latter forms is the form previously known as *G. juruana*, which has red new leaves that we viewed in abundance throughout the forest in one area. A favorite of mine was *G. stricta*, a diminutive plant with beautiful leaves almost like an aroid (photo 14).

The understory *Oenocarpus* was *O. minor*, which has red new leaves. We found one large tree of *O. minor* in the open. The leaves of this tree were mainly held horizontally and had regularly-arranged, slightly drooping leaflets. Another ubiquitous species found in the understory near the river was *Leopoldina pulchra*. This species has a small crown of horizontal pinnate leaves on a narrow non-spiny stem of remnant leaf bases (photo 15). In several forest hikes, *Hyospathe elegans* was found. A frequent sight were small plants of *Iriartella setigera* and larger plants of *Iriartea deltoidea*. Both of the latter are stilt-root palms. Most of the *Iriartellas* we observed

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were too small to have notable stilt roots. However, the *Iriarteas* were mainly quite large, very stilt-rooted, and were reaching for the canopy.

A well-known forest species found in the inland forest near *Attalea speciosa* was *Manicaria saccifera* (photo 16). This species has large simple or slightly divided leaves. We found several in a burned field being prepared for crops. The *Manicarias* had survived and were rapidly regenerating. Many *Manicaria* seeds, mature but still green, were collected by the eager palm hobbyists on the expedition.

Plants of two *Syagrus* species, identified by their typical flower stalks, were found, but neither could be identified. One species was quite small, acaulescent, and found in a semi-open area below the higher water stages. The other species was larger and had a thin stem, and was found in the forest above flood stage.

Epilogue

Previous Amazon treks have featured some touring in Manaus, but the morning of our departure found us on another forest trek, one of the best. Later, disembarking from the Dorinha in Manaus, we only had time for a hurried visit to the famous opera house, where members of a symphony orchestra, in street clothes, played selections for groups of tourists who paid the performance entry fee. Then, we were

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Left, above, a clump of *Leopoldina major* growing in water near a riverbank (Photo 12). Right, above, *Geonoma deversa* in forest (Photo 13). Below, *Geonoma stricta* in forest (Photo 14).





Leopoldina pulchra in flood zone near river (Photo 15).

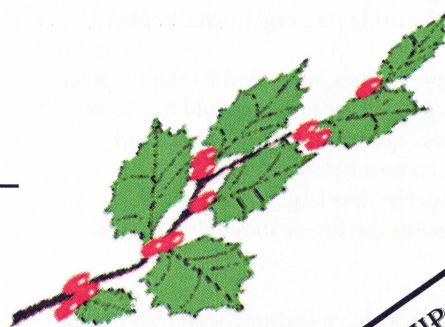


Manicaria saccifera in forest (Photo 16).

THE AMAZON TRIP—2006

(Continued from page 21)

whisked to the airport to reenter the world of security areas and terminal gates, with images of toucans and understory palms remaining only in our minds and on our camera memory sticks.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007

From the Editor's Desk

Somebody asked me why on earth was all that equipment needed to move so small a palm as pictured at Phil and Julie Lounibos' house in St. Lucie Village in the September issue. My fault. The dining room of their old wooden Florida house (up on piers, as was usually the case, no slab) was sinking into the good old Florida sand. The equipment was there to jack up the dining room; the palm was in the way and so was removed. Phil and Julie are muscular and really could have dug it up unassisted.

The September meeting at Bok was very interesting. To someone like myself who doesn't really know much about cycads, it was a view of another mania (the palm kind, I'm familiar with). I wish that Jody Haynes had talked a bit longer and in a little more detail about *Zamia*s newly discovered in Panamá. Maurice Levin, from California, has a cycad nursery and spoke on horticultural practices: germination, re-potting, and saving injured cycads. Fascinating and, I would think, some of his suggestions certainly would apply when dealing with palms.

Craig Nazur's account of re-creating a dinosaur-era cycad garden in Austin, Texas illustrated the challenge and the frustrations of starting from scratch without an entirely clear idea of the outcome.

Who is going to step up to take Diana's place as President? We desperately need a president, can't function without one. One of the reasons we have succeeded as an organization is because we have always had, every two years, a turnover at the top. This means that there's always been a fresh face and a different view—which has never harmed our consistency. We've never had a president for two terms (relieved to hear that, Diana?), which does mean that no one gets bored or sluggish in the job after a while. Also, the president never gets so accustomed to being there as to believe that the position has been inherited from the king, his/her father.

A new palm garden will be explored during the December 9th meeting in Micco. That means no more complaints about why we always go to the same old places (because we're welcome in these established gardens and because there's an assortment of palms and cycads). Actually, no one can say that this year,

with one exception. There was a trek to Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami in March, but CFPACS usually visits there every 12-18 months. Otherwise, the June meeting was entirely new gardens: Joe Toph's in Tampa, Rick Nale's in St. Pete, and Mike & Marjorie Evans' also in St. Pete. This month it's Jason Baker & Sue Reilly's in Micco. September at Bok was a special meeting and not in the same category as looking around someone else's collection to spot species you'd like to have. Or maybe theirs is growing better than yours. Or, happy day, yours is better!

Food and drink and holiday chat are what's on in Micco. Of course, you could say that all our meetings at private houses tend to be a lot of talk, poking around, and eating. But the season makes it more enjoyable, especially for those of us who guiltily acknowledge that they really like the somewhat cooler weather and considerably lower humidity of winter rather than the **real** Florida weather (summer in the Amazon) that palms and cycads prefer.

Well, here we go again. Any bets on the winter ahead? Will the Alberta Clipper that oldtimers believe ilies in wait finally come to annihilate our very tropical plants? Or will global warming once more protect us—at least until the ice caps melt and we can all grow *Nypa* from our houseboats? Will the temperatures in Brooksville once again project the damage that may follow in Sarasota? Tune into the March issue of *The Palmateer* for what actually happened.

I once asked that members send in to me the dumbest things they had done with palms. The silence was encouraging: no one had done anything truly stupid. But maybe I should have promised anonymity. If you care to tell me now, I promise not to reveal your name, only with your permission, perhaps your county.

What is your most unusual palm? How did you acquire it? How well or poorly has it done? I'll go first. My most unusual palm is an *Oraniopsis appendiculata*. It's as old as my daughter (22) but not nearly her height. Now the leaves reach almost to my waist, certainly well above my knees. There's no real trunk, just a rosette of leaves nearly 3 feet long. Some day, long after I have gone to visit the great palm paradise in the sky, there will be a real trunk, almost as high as a man. Actually, before this happens the then owner of the house will have bulldozed the area to put in a swimming pool. (Notice that I didn't ask your most unusual cycad: I know better than to do so.) But do send a picture of your most unusual palms, together with

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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007

CFPACS SEED BANK REPORT

3rd Quarter 2006

Hi Members!

If you wish to receive the Seed Bank's monthly seed offerings, don't forget to update me if you change Internet service providers. Also, several members routinely do not receive the seed offerings because their mailboxes are full, or spam filters reject the offerings. My e-mail address is at the bottom of this report; please add it to your address book to ensure delivery of the seed offerings.

During July, *Palmateer* Editor John Kennedy donated *Allagoptera arenaria*; member Mike Dahme contributed *Ptychosperma elegans*; and member Dean vanderBleek sent in *Wodyetia bifurcata* and *Livistona chinensis* × *decora*.

In August, member Ken Hodelmann donated *Chamaedorea cataractarum*, *Phoenix canariensis*, *Chamaedorea seifrizii*, *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*, and *Serenoa repens*; member Shri Dhar sent us *Gmelina hystrix* all the way from India; Dean VanderBleek contributed *Phoenix dactylifera*, *Butia capitata*, *Chamaedorea radicalis*, *Livistona decora*, and *Phoenix canariensis* × *sylvestris*; Mike Dahme contributed *Ptychosperma microcarpum* from his plants that were grown from seed received from Fairchild in the 1980's, and *Dypsis decaryi*. And, from Mr. and Mrs. Joe Michael's palmetum, came *Syagrus schizophylla*, *Copernicia macroglossa*, and *Latania lontaroides* (collected by Mike Dahme, and hand-delivered to the Seed Bank by member Chuck Grieneisen).

September's contributions included *Chamaerops humilis* from Mike Dahme; *Wodyetia bifurcata*, *Dypsis decaryi*, *Washingtonia filifera*, *Dypsis lutescens* and *Phoenix roebelenii* from Dean vanderBleek; and *Sabal minor* from John Kennedy. Members Geri and David Prall hand-delivered a truckload of seeds during the quarterly meeting at Bok Sanctuary Gardens that included *Copernicia hospita*, *Satakentia liukuensis*, *Coccothrinax crinita* and *Ptychosperma microcarpum*.

The CFPACS Seed Bank welcomes your contributions. Call or write if you have seeds to share.

—Claudia Walworth

CFPACS Seed Bank

407-366-4860

ClaudiaWalworth@bellsouth.net



From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 23)

some info about it. I'll write it up, or you can.

* * * * *

Once again a couple of knockout articles: on a trip up (down?) the Amazon, and on a quick visit to Cuba. The writers in this issue are folks who have informed us many times before, though this is Geri Prall's first (welcome) article. She's sent photos in the past. In an effort to widen future possibilities, I fully intend to buttonhole every single person attending the December fiesta in Micco to shame each one into contributing something—a picture?—to the March issue. Look for me there.

John Kennedy

Third Quarter 2006 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for September 30, 2006
Bok Tower meeting.

The first order of business was the Treasurer, Bob Johnson explaining how the treasurer's report is done.

The upcoming vacancies for the offices of Central Vice president, East Coast Vice president, and President were discussed, on how to fill the positions.

The December meeting was finalized

It was also discussed how to increase our membership. Pro-rating of our membership was also discussed.

Participation in an upcoming F.I.T. sale was also discussed.

The seed bank donations were discussed. Our seed bank person, Claudia Walworth, wants people to check with her before sending seed donations, due to some very common seeds being received in such large quantities that she is unable to sell them all. Also, methods to sell the surplus seed were also discussed.

—Chuck Grieneisen, Secretary

The exhibit of the New Zealand Palm & Cycad Society at the Ellerslie Flower Show that attracts 65,000 people. The theme, as you might surmise, is the native Nikau Palm.

(Photo by John Prince)

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, will hold a plant sale—with many vendors—on Saturday, February 24, 2007, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For additional information (vendor or visitor), contact Beverly Sanders at FIT: sandersb@fit.edu



Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society**TREASURER'S REPORT**

August 1, 2006 to October 31, 2006

INCOME:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Membership Dues..... | 221.85 |
| Private Sale (September meeting).... | 71.40 |
| Public Sale (USF Fall Sale)..... | 214.31 |
| Seed Sales..... | 933.22 |
| Total _____ | 1,440.78 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Bank Charges..... | 32.00 |
| Events (Dowe Lectures)..... | 682.79 |
| Office Supplies..... | 5.25 |
| Publications (Palmateer)..... | 1,293.39 |
| Total _____ | 2,013.43 |

INCOME-EXPENSES

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Bank Balance 07/01/06..... | 21,680.97 |
| Bank Balance 10/31/06..... | 22,039.64 |
| Net Increase..... | 358.67 |

(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) |
| | 10,643.57 (current value, close of market on |
| 10/31/06:7,684.76 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

The petunias die in June, just when they should be blooming Up Home. The gazanias don't do much better, while as for the impatiens, they need to be watered three times a day, even when it rains daily.

There have to be other plants less trouble and more suitable for this crazy place. Palms? Cycads? Seem to be a couple kinds. . . To find out more (O so many species), join Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society: \$15 for annual membership, \$40 for three years. Send your check, made out to CFPACS to: Membership Chair Karen Barrese. Her address is at right.

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society service area includes the following counties: Alachua, Brevard, Citrus, DeSoto, Flagler, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, and Volusia.

Please notify the Membership Chair (see directory on opposite page) of any changes in street address, phone number, area code, or e-mail address. The newsletter is sent to the address of record.

**CLOSING DATE
FOR MARCH ISSUE
FEBRUARY 9**

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

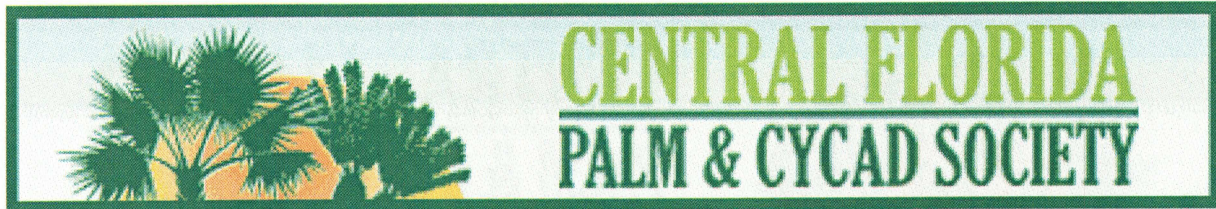
Mail check made out to CFPACS (domestic: \$15 one year; \$40 three years; foreign: US\$20 one year) to:

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

Membership also available at website:
www.cfpacs.org

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



President

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

Past President

Ray Hernández
4315 W. San Juan Street
Tampa, FL 33629-7703
(813) 832-3561
SubTropicOfCancer@hotmail.com

Secretary

Chuck Grieneisen
P.O. Box 621689
Oviedo, FL 32762
(407) 359-6276
chuckfg@bellsouth.net

Treasurer

Bob Johnson
P.O. Box 560907
Orlando, FL 32856
(407) 438-0250
tropicalbob@earthlink.net

East Vice President

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

Central Vice President

Tom Broome
P. O. Box 325
Polk City, FL 33868-0325
(863) 984-2739
cycadjungl@aol.com

West Vice President

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

Membership Chair

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

Editor, *The Palmateer*

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

CFPACS Seed Bank

Claudia Walworth
479 Palm Drive
Oviedo, FL 32765
(407) 366-4860
ClaudiaWalworth@bellsouth.net

CFPACS Webmaster

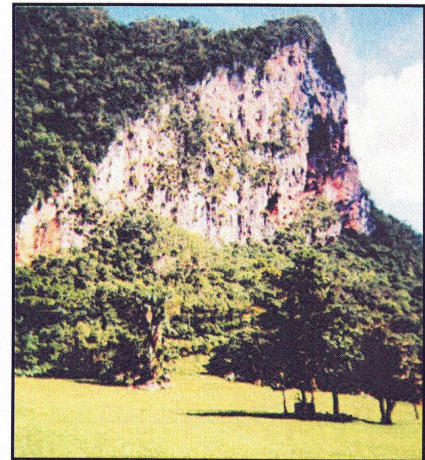
Frankie Ramos
4169 N. Indian River Drive
Cocoa, FL 32927
(321) 634-5223
webmaster@cfpacs.org



CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY



*Arenga hookeriana: two different leaf forms seen at Vivero Immaculada nursery in Santo Domingo during the October IPS Biennial.
(Photo by Mike Dahme)*



Valle del Vinales in Cuba: called "mogote" or, in Florida, just limerock.. Impressive, but not higher than the Lake Wales Ridge?



*Left, Salacca magnifica, right, 'Me & Joey,' Johannesmannia magnifica with Ray trying to figure if he can get it into his suitcase.
Both pictures from honeymoon in OZ.
(Photo by Miriam Hernández)*

