The Palmateer

Volume 27, Number 1 | *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* | *March, 2007*

Venice, Sarasota County

March 17th West Coast Meeting

By Christian Faulkner

The owner of the property "The Hague" is Robert Hague, Jr., a collector of palms, cycads, and other tropicals for 20 years. In the five acres, two exist for the growing of plants, one is for the new homesite under construction, and 2 are mainly his garden.

On the property there are specimens of *Chamaedorea*, *Acrocomia*, *Chambeyronia*, *Dypsis*, *Butia*, *Sabal*, *Howea*, *Ravenea*, *Wallichia*, *Ptychosperma*, *Guihaia*, *Coccothrinax*, *Thrinax*, *Arenga*, *Bismarckia*, *Copernicia*, *Phoenix*, and more.

For cycads, there are *Ceratozamia*, *Zamia*, *Encephalartos*, *Dioon*, and *Cycas*.

There are also hundreds of species of bromeliads, aroids, orchids, bamboos and other tropicals dotting the property. The back of the property has a home under construction that is almost done, and we are currently breaking ground on a second greenhouse for orchids and palms next to the existing one, as well as making a large shadehouse for plants on the south side.

The property was acquired as an abandoned citrus farm in 1995 and now has become a plant lover's paradise. A small pond sits on the north side of the

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Palms in Micco:

Report on the December Social Meeting on page 12.

Just look at all the space at the Baker-Reilly homeplace in Micco. More than 500 palms on 2+ acres and room for more. *(Photo by Dave Reid)*

Membership Renewal for 2007!

If you're reading someone else's copy of *The Palmateer* instead of your own copy, there **is** a reason: your membership expired at the end of December. There were 10 renewal notices scattered throughout the December issue. Still, more than 100 members have not renewed. Most will eventually do so after they realize that they should have received a copy of this March newsletter. Remember, it's $15 for one year, $40 for three years. Send a check made out to CFPACS to Karen Barrese, 5942 Ehren Cutoff, Land O Lakes, FL 34639 *immediamente.*

Officers Still Needed: President and Central VP

Fortunately, we have replacements for Seed Bank Coordinator and for West VP. President Diana is hanging in, for the moment, but is looking at the exit. Tom Broome has vacated his position as Central VP. His successor should live on neither coast but in the central part of the state, running from around Gainesville down to Okeechobee.

To volunteer yourself or someone else, contact Diana Grabowski, ScinceLady@aol.com

The Palmateer

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CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

CLOSING DATE FOR JUNE ISSUE:
MAY 11

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Livistona rotundifolia *doesn't seem to get that big hereabouts, but in Oz, yes. Flecker Botanic Gardens, Cairns, Queensland.* *See back page for more.*

(Photo by Ray Hernández)

March Meeting, Venice

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property and the main road winds around it. There is some seating here and there but folding chairs would be nice. The address for the property is 254 Keystone Rd, Venice, FL 34292. There is a large field for parking next to the greenhouse as you drive up towards it in the back.

Next stop is my place. My house is a young garden started in 2004 with smaller but rarer species of palms situated in a residential area. A sweeping view of the backyard gives the backdrop for palms such as *Astrocaryum*, *Dypsis*, *Gaussia*, *Latania*, *Marojejya* and more. I grow most of my garden specimens from seed, hence the smaller sizes.

Motels in Venice

Best Western
400 Commercial Court
Venice, FL 34292
941-480-9898

Days Inn Venice
1710 South Tamiami Trail
Venice, FL 34293
493-4558

Thrinax morrisii, *a double, in Christian Faulkner's young Venice garden. Two never-before-visited gardens will be toured during the St. Patrick's Day meeting.*

March 17th Meeting, Venice

10:00 a.m. - Board meeting at
The Hague, 254 Keystone Road
Venice, FL 34292
10:30 - Members arrive
11:00 - Tour of the garden and nursery
12:30 - Meet back at Christian Faulkner's house/lunch* 1015 River Oaks Court
Venice, FL 34293
(941) 726-0524
1:00 - Auction and Sale
***bring your own picnic lunch: soft drinks, water will be provided**

Directions to Venice Meeting

Take I-75 to exit 191/River Road/Englewood. Take a right off the exit ramp onto **River Road**. After a half of a mile or so, the first right will be **Venice Avenue**. Once on **Venice Avenue**, go about another half mile, and your first right will be **Keystone Road**. Going down the road, you will see a mailbox on the left hand side that says both 3395 and 254, with the top of the mailbox painted purple.

Across the street is a driveway lined with bromeliads - this is the turn into the property. Take the right fork and drive around to the back where parking will be to the right of the greenhouse in the open grass field.

Directions from The Hague to the second stop, Christian Faulkner's house:

Exit the Hague property and go back down **Keystone Road**. Take a right back onto **Venice Avenue** and continue to the first stoplight. Take a left here onto **Jacaranda Blvd**. The next stoplight will be **Center Road**.

Take a right here, and continue to the first stoplight, which will be **Shamrock Blvd.** Take a left onto Shamrock, then the fourth street on your left will be **North Gondola Drive**. The road veers 90 degrees to the right and after this turn, look for the second road on your left.

This is **River Oaks Court**. The house is dead in the back of the cul-de-sac, with a red roof and a *Bismarckia* as the largest palm out front. You are allowed to park in the circle as well as the side of the road.

When returning home, take **Jacaranda Blvd** back all the way to I-75 (exit 193).

Faulkner Named West VP

Christian Faulkner has become West VP. He succeeds Tom Barrese. Like so many of us, he came to Florida from Up North and now lives and works in Venice, Sarasota County. Christian was born in Manhattan, New York , but was raised in Richmond, Virginia. (Does growing up in the capital of the Confederacy make him a genuine Southerner? We will have to consult authoritative sources.)

College meant Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. , and Connecticut College in New London, Conn. Christian's goal was pursuing a degree in International Politics with a minor in Latin. (Ah, something useful with palms!) His route to Florida was influenced by much time while growing up that he spent with his grandparents in Cocoa Beach, the start of "my obsession with palms."

In early 2004, he moved to Venice, where he "took a year off from school and work." Soon—are we surprised?—he found himself "growing more palms that I could imagine." Late in 2005, he was selling palms as a backyard grower. January, 2006 saw the opening of Faulkner's Palms, a rare palm and cycad nursery in Venice. He says he works about 60 hours a week and has small plants grown from seed, as well as large specimens.

"I am unmarried, single, and my plants are my family." He is 25 years old.

--John Kennedy

Peters Heads Seed Bank

Mark Peters is the new Seed Bank Coordinator. He succeeds Claudia Walworth. Mark brings a varied and sophisticated background in horticulture to the position. A graduate of the University of Connecticut in Horticulture, he has spent 15 years as a grower, designer, and nurseryman. For 10 years he was owner and president of an interiorscape and exterior design/build company. For six years, he was Director of Horticulture at a historic rural garden cemetery in Boston.

New York Botanical Garden is also on Mark's résumé. For three years he was Associate Vice President of Horticulture and Living Collections there. More recently he spent three years as Director of Horticulture at McKee Botanical Garden in Vero Beach.

A resident of Vero Beach, he is currently Landscape Designer at Oslo Oaks Landscape in Vero Beach.

Mark's plant interests are broad and range beyond palms and cycads. Besides being a member of CFPACS, he also belongs to the Vero Beach Orchid Society, the Treasure Coast Bromeliad Society, the Florida Croton Society, and the American Public Gardens Association. He was elected member of the Boston Horticultural Club in 1999. Some of you encountered him at the December meeting in Micco

Take heart! Despite this impressive array of credentials and memberships, he's a mild and approachable guy, more Clark Kent than Superman. . .

--John Kennedy

Left, Archontophoenix myolensis, *in the Palms 'n' Weeds garden in Vero Beach. Purchased about 20 years ago from Carol Graff as a 1-gallon 'Kuranda Palm' wisp, it's now 20 feet high, still has not flowered. Behind and to the left is a younger* Carpentaria acuminata *that is the exact same height.*

Triple Seven:
7 Years Later, 7 Lessons Learned, and 7 Tried & True Palms

Now, is this a palm-lover's house? The neighbors' lots probably run to grass and a few coconut palms, maybe an Adonidia*? The author's house is engulfed by more intriguing exotic species.*

By Rick Leitner

I can hardly believe that it's been seven years since I first moved into the house I now call home. Yes, it was a house that needed major renovations including a new kitchen, bathrooms, flooring, roof, doors, windows, not to mention that walls needed to be removed, the place needed new wiring and plumbing, and the entire house was settling to the northwest. Ugh. Quite an undertaking.

All of this, but the thought of starting a new palm garden scared me more than any of that. I had renovated a house in 1988, 1993, 1998, and each time I swore it would be the last. Like all palm lovers, the garden is where I did my 'real' living. Some palms I dug and transplanted each time. I am not a good "transplanter" as I have not had the best luck when attempting this process. Not sure why, just not my thing. So, upon closing of this property, I literally left the title company office and with the file of documents in the backseat of the car, I picked up my shovel (also with me) and headed over to begin the ordeal of creating yet *another* palm glade.

I swore that I would not make the same mistakes I had in the past. One of which was less emphasis upon a palm collection, and more focus upon the design of the garden. We have been to all too many gardens where you can't see the palms for the jungle. Honestly, I love the thick, tropical, and density of a garden like this. But from a functional garden viewpoint, my chocolate Labrador does need *some* space! So along with this lesson, I have learned other points along the way that may come as a surprise to you (not that I can learn, but that these may not be points that you have considered!)

7 Lessons Learned

7. Think about the mature size of the palm before wedging it into a spot suitable only for a *Chamaedorea metallica.* This may sound like common sense, but I see *Bismarckia*s jammed between three *Wodyetia*s all the time. Heck, when it is planted out from a three-gallon container, it is difficult to imagine the space required for the mature palm. This is where education and

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7 Years Later

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research plays a role. Although every palm has interesting characteristics like spines, color, texture, visible when only up close, the best features of a palm are often viewed from afar. Leave space around your anchor palms to be viewed from all sides. When afforded the luxury, there is nothing like a vista!

6. When planting, think about the environment that your garden is in. I have had no previous experience with a waterside garden and this has proved to be a real challenge. My entire rear garden is open to the river's elements and offers no wind protection. I am in a proverbial wind tunnel. Therefore, my effort to provide protection to tender palmate goodies like *Licuala elegans* and *grandis* get sent into the shop vac. Choose palm species which, in their native habitat, are most like your environment and microclimate.

5. Check the pH of your soil. Many palms, despite how hard you try, will never perform well in your soil. I planted a *Syagrus amara* in my sandy soils and it continued to struggle with nutritional deficiencies that I attributed to the very high pH. Turns out that 40 years ago, right beneath the palm, all of the drywall and excess tile from the original construction of this house, was buried. Eventually, no matter the amount and grade of fertilizer, both granular and foliar, the palm succumbed to Bob Vila's leftovers.

4. Never give up on a palm racked by the winds of Hurricane Frances or Jeanne or Charlie or Katrina or Ivan or Dennis or Wilma. I became so frustrated after one (or was it all) of these storms that if the palm looked even like it may not have a chance, I was tempted to cut it out and start over (again.). But for whatever reason (probably exhaustion!), I hesitated. Many palms, within reason, will slowly emerge from their injured rehabilitation and make a full recovery. Of course, a palm whose trunk has been folded or split is history. I am referring to the head of a palm being twisted or blown off. With a little TLC, prayer (for no more additional storms), and a shot of copper fungicide, you may be surprised. With the exception of one huge *Pritchardia pacifica*, all that I left have recovered. One coconut is still humping along, and will make it… without an additional climatic hurdle of a late frost this spring or another hurr…(I can't even think about it.).

3. Always keep a record. I was never big on a diary or specific plant record, but I wish I had been. I take photos, but a written record of where I bought it, how much it cost, what size it was, what species it is, and the trials and tribulations of its growth….fertilization, needed staking after Wilma, cold sensitivity, sunscald, etc. may be of great assistance next time around or to the new palmophile coming to you for consolation or sympathy.

2. Too much mulch can be a real disadvantage. I have always been under the impression, to keep the mulch heavy to keep the soil temperature fairly constant, prevent erosion, and keep weeds at bay. But, I have realized that when the mulch is too thick, it mats down and merges together forming one thick layer. This mulch deck is somewhat impermeable to water, fertilizer, and most importantly air. Some of my palms were actually showing stress signs that I attributed to root suffocation. I raked the thick layer away, turned the soil about, and now keep a light layer of about 2 inches around the palm. It is doing much better. Keep all mulch from coming into contact with the trunk(s) of the palm.

1. Water, water, is not everywhere. We as palm growers may automatically assume that more water is better. At a time when we are being faced with growing water conservation efforts in the state, we should really think about cutting back on the watering of our palm gardens. Remember that with many, frequent, heavy waterings, the soil's nutrients, either occurring naturally or added from fertilizer, can actually be leaching back into the sewer system, the bay/river/canal, or the water table. In this case, the fertilizer will not actually have any benefit to the palm. Regular deep, waterings may be required, but when a rainstorm or thunderstorm is forecast, turn the irrigation system off and let Mother Nature do her thing. You may be surprised how little water a palm requires once established.

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Mike Merritt, our esteemed long-time treasurer who deserted us for Hawaii, has posted many more photos of his Amazon trip (described in the December, 2006 *Palmateer*). To view these pictures, go to the address below:

http://community.webshots.com/user/mmerritt113

7 Years Later

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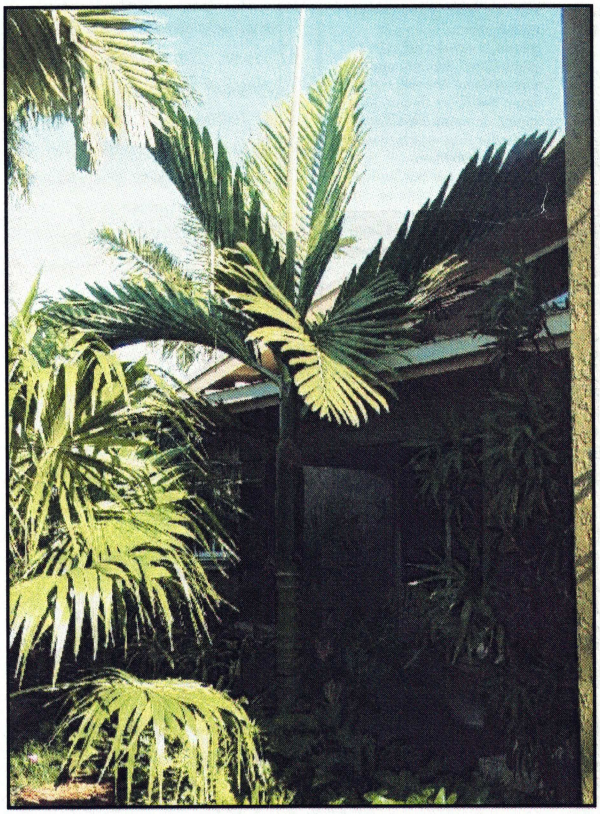
My 7 Tried and True Palms

7. *Chambeyronia macrocarpa*—this guy is a real trooper. Place it as an anchor because when it throws that red flame frond, you should call the evening news!
6. *Syagrus botryophora*—a new introduction from Brazil that is a fast grower. With a bit of mulch and regular irrigation, I think it may surpass the growth of other *Syagrus* species. Perfect for a small compact garden or courtyard.



Above, #7 on Rick Leitner's list of favorite palms: Chambeyronia macrocarpa, *sometimes hyped as the 'Flamethrower Palm" because of the spectacular wine-red emerging leaf. The color doesn't last, alas. The spear here is not yet showing any red.*

***5. Dictosperma album*—**what palm can beat the tropical magic offered by this beauty? I used these for their tolerance to wind.
4. *Veitchia spiralis*—another relatively new introduction from the South Pacific islands. A fast growing *Veitchia*, but much more petite. Does not appear to like full sun as a juvenile.
3. *Carpoxylon macrocarpum*—Bingo! Once established this rare Vanuatu native rocks! Withstood 38 F, 5 hurricanes, and no irrigation for 3 weeks. Needs regular manganese.
2. *Kentiopsis oliviformis*—Once said to be almost extinct in its native habitat, you may see more of these since they are now fruiting in Florida. Mine takes full western summer sun and the cold northwestern January/February fronts with no problem.
1. *Ptychosperma schefferii*—A clustering *Ptychosperma* with thicker fronds than *macarthurii*. A fast grower which appears to enjoy a bit more water and shade. Great deep violet seed.

[Before everyone in Land O Lakes and Daytona Beach rushes out to find these sweeties, do remember that Rick is gardening in balmy Fort Lauderdale. But what are YOUR seven 'tried and true' species in Winter Park, Cocoa, and Okeechobee? —Editor]

Jason Baker, Bismarckia, *Tom Broome, unidentified junior member, December in Micco.*
(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

Palm Review

Volume 18, No. 3 Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society September, 1998

Next meeting: Sunday, October 4, Leu Gardens Orlando at 10 a. m.

Congratulations to CFPACS's own Bernie Peterson, just elected to the IPS board. Yeah, Bernie!

Sarasota: Palms & Barbecue
Neil Yorio's account of the June meeting is on page 4.

The Broschat article on fertilization (right), printed in its entirety, is taken from the January-March, 1998, issue of the horticulture newsletter (TropicLine) of the University of Florida Fort Lauderdale Research & Education Center. Much information about palms and many other ornamentals may be accessed at www.ftld.ufl.edu

Fertilization Issue

WHY AREN'T YOUR PALMS GREEN?

By Timothy K. Broschat

ineral Nutrition

Why is it that South Florida palms so often look so bad? Is it because they haven't been fertilized, or is it because they have been? Unfortunately, the answer could be either of these.

Proper fertilization is one of the most important factors in maintaining good palm health and appearance, especially on Florida's nutrient-poor soils. The palm fertilization rate recommendations used today were developed nearly twenty years ago, long before the importance to palms of elements such as potassium or magnesium was understood. The palm fertilizers of that time typically utilized nitrogen sources such as sludge or other organic materials. Although this sludge often caused problems with manganese tie-up, this and other organic fertilizers were relatively safe in terms of salt content. Improvements in palm fertilizer formulations over the years by fertilizer manufacturers have resulted in higher analysis fertilizers being marketed. Early palm special fertilizers had N:P:K ratios of about 3:1:2. Once the importance of K to palm nutrition became known, this ratio was increased to 3:1:3. We now recommend a 2N-1P-3K-1Mg ratio. Despite this increased percentage of K in the blend and the high application rates used, K deficiency often persisted, even in regularly fertilized palms. The problem, we now know, was not so much the amount of K applied, but its efficiency.

One of the main problems with these fertilizers was that they contained controlled release N, but soluble forms of K. In a very short time, this soluble K was leached through the soil and beyond the reach of the palm roots. Meanwhile, the controlled release N stimulated plant growth and actually diluted the K already

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Feeding Cycads

By Tom Broome

When determining which fertilizer to use on any plant, it helps to understand the growth pattern of the plant in question. Different fertilizers have different release patterns, as well as different lengths of time for the product to work. Also, certain plants are prone to particular minor element deficiencies. Instead of just suggesting any particular fertilizer for your plants, I would rather explain these factors, and let you choose for yourself what fertilizer to use. In many cases the fertilizer I may use may not be available to everyone.

Palms have a continuous growth pattern. Once they start growing in the spring, one leaf is produced after another. Some palms tend to get magnesium and manganese deficienicies. When looking for any fertilizer, it is good to get one with as many minor elements as possible. As far as palms go, look for one with at least these two, plus iron.

Cycads have an episodic growth pattern. Leaves are

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Left, the first page of the first issue of the CFPACS newsletter under the editorship of John Kennedy (September, 1998), put together on a classroom computer at the Mueller Campus (Vero Beach) of Indian River Community College. No color, of course, and the black-and-white photos inside are best forgotten, once memorably described as "taken in a parking lot on a moonless night."

The next, December , issue was also called Palm Review. *But with the purchase of the chapter computer in January, 1999, quality improved gradually—still no color. The name was changed to* The Palmateer *in March, 1998, since there wasn't exactly any 'review' of palms.*

Microsoft Publisher was, and is, the program used to produce the newsletter.

Many curses were uttered against Bill Gates over the years for the, um, flaws in the program.

ERRATA: Mea Culpa

Geri Prall has pointed out an error in her article on the Biennial that appeared in the December issue. The visit to the Jaragua National Park in the Dominican Republic brought folks by helicopter to see **Pseudophoenix ekmanii**, not as appeared in print, *Coccothrinax ekmanii*. Sorry, the one-man shop that assembles the newsletter slips up every so often. Both are valid species names, according to the Kew checklist, but *Coccothrinax* is palmate, while the pictured palms are clearly pinnate.

—John Kennedy

CLOSING DATE FOR JUNE ISSUE: MAY 11

"Chapter member Francisco Bermudez with his mom, Joann, and the Corypha umbraculifera *he planted at her house in San Juan a number of years ago. Fortunately, he has a dayjob and is not reliant upon his outdoor architectural talent as an income source."* *(Photo and comment by Mike Dahme)*

The December issue didn't arrive until late January. . .how come?

Out-of-state members may wonder why the long delay. The chapter printer requires that several parts be replaced after some thousand printed pages. As the December issue was printing, the printer signaled that one of these parts was failing. But President Diana managed to coax the printer to keep on until it had printed exactly the number of copies needed to mail to Florida members—the Micco meeting was December 9th.—and then it quit. She had ordered a new part at first warning but when this came, discovered that it was incorrect—the *wrong* part. However, there were no correct parts available so that the item had to be backordered. The correct part arrived a month later, in the second week in January.

Fortunately, members outside of Florida did not need to get the issue early in order to attend the meeting, though the Christmas ornaments scattered throughout the issue were, perhaps, just a tad dated. We're sorry for the inconvenience.

—Editor

Attalea speciosa *in the Baker-Reilly Collection in Micco, in the ground no more than 5 years.*

(Photo by Dave Reid)

'Mount Zamia' a general term for *Macrozamia moorei*

A Visit to Carnarvon Gorge, Queensland, Australia

Latitude 24°07' north, Longitude 148°05'east

By Renė Coativy

Australia is my second home and Queensland within my favorite. For sometime I wanted to visit the Carnarvon Gorge palm and cycad sanctuary. At 24° latitude north and 148° longitude east it is located in a very remote area surrounded by huge open sky coalmines.

After a night in an exotic motel in Springsure, a sort of lost spot, we woke up with 'Mount Zamia' above our heads.

From the motel we could see the numerous darker spots of the *Macrozamia moorei.*

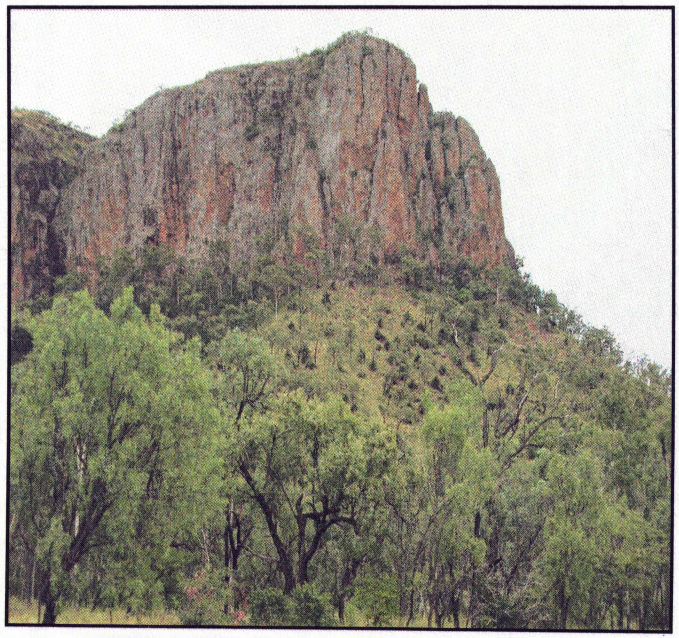
We were soon on the dirt track to the summit where thousands of *M. moorei* of all sizes including seedlings thrive in a bare environment. They grow in rocky and very poor and dry soil where they sustain long periods of drought.

Nevertheless they all look in good health and some are even fruiting.

According to local people it freezes quite frequently in winter and it is very hot in summer.

M. moorei is indeed a tough cycad that also grows well on the French Riviera.

After stopping by some *Xanthorrhoea sp.* on our way down we drove south to Carnarvon Gorge.



Scenic view of Carnarvon Gorge, Queensland.

The last 25 miles are on dirt track and a 4w drive vehicle is mandatory whenever it rains.

But it is dry today and we drive a 4w car anyway.

The first *Livistona nitida* we see are in a dry canyon and of small size with kangaroos resting in their shade: it is very hot in the middle of January. A few miles further we park the car and the visit can start.

There two major tracks. We choose to start along a permanent stream quite astonishing in this area. *L. nitida* and a few *M. moorei* are in good number including surprisingly up the hill in apparently dry slopes. Are they thriving along springs down the cliff (on the model of *Washingtonia filifera* in Palm Springs?). Some *L. nitida* are amazingly tall.

The second track is much drier with all streambeds dry. *M. moorei* more present and *L. nitida* in greater number!

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Left, the author with some of the Macrozamia moorei *in the Carnarvon Gorge.*

Young Macrozamia moorei *in the Carnarvon Gorge. Note how tough and dry the setting in which they flourish.*

Carnarvon Gorge

(Continued from page 10)

It ends at a rock with aboriginal paintings. It is still not clear how all these palms grow and survive in this hostile and remote environment .We were very happy indeed with our visit and we encourage palms enthusiasts to visit Carnarvon Gorge and 'Mount Zamia' even if quite out of the way!

The area is also home to *Brachychiton rupestris* a remarkable tree well adapted to the dry climate. For your information, a small *L. nitida* in my Mediterranean garden grows rather fast and looks good so far.

Below, Dominique Coativy stands next to a Xanthorrhoea sp., *called a Grass Tree and formerly known as a Blackboy. Supposedly these plants grow an inch annually; if true, a 15-footer would be 200 years old!*

Above, the tallest Macrozamia moorei *seen by the Coativys during the visit to the Carnarvon Gorge.*

GOOD FOOD, GOOD COMPANY, LOTS OF PALMS & CYCADS IN A NEW, UNFAMILIAR GARDEN: MICCO IN DECEMBER

Saturday, December 9th, Micco in southern Brevard County. Sunny day, delightful, warm, low humidity, people weather—why snowbirds come to Florida—not hardcore palm weather, as it had been in September. Sixty people have descended on the property of Sue Reilly and Jason Baker. It's a new garden dating back no more than 5 years ago; CFPACS has not visited here before.. At first glance, it seems to be quite big. Five acres? Actually, slightly under 2½ acres. But there's a lot of open space, in what seems to have been former pasture land (no trees). And, there are a lot of palms here: perhaps 500 palms of about 130 species.

Jason begins The Tour, attended by a crowd while Sue deals with the logistics of feeding the group. Since everyone has brought a covered dish, there is more than enough food. Connoisseurs rate the keg of Key West Ale as 'very tolerable.'

Single individuals of the same species are few here. More evident and more lavish are groves of particular kinds of palm. How about 18 *Borassus*? Five are *B. flabellifer*, 10 *B. aethiopum*, while there are four hybrids. Then there are 24 *Copernicia baileyana* (smallish, naturally) and 25 *Bismarckia* (some largish, 18 in one location). A *Phoenix* hybrid (*rupicola* x *canariensis*?) attracted attention by its beauty and vigor. *Attalea spp.* here and there, no trunks (of course) but already 6-8 foot leaves.

Surprising—as always—is how big some individuals have become in favorable locations in a relatively short time. This is offset by the parallel perpetual mystery of side-by-side palms of the same species planted the same size at the same time, one now very large and the other very small.

After The Tour, after much time devoted to reducing the pile of food to a few remnant spoonfuls, came the auction, followed by plant sales by five vendors. As usual, did anyone resist temptation? The windows of departing SUVs, vans, trucks, compacts all showed waving fronds.

—John Kennedy

Above, a small pond with a palm growing in the water. You recognize (of course) Nypa fruticans. *Is Jason brave or just foolhardy? Below, crownshaft buddies,* Dictyosperma album *(left) and* Kentiopsis oliviformis *(right).*

(Top photo by John Kennedy, bottom photo by Dave Reid)

Jason Baker gives an affectionate pat to his *Wallichia disticha.* This palm caused the Editor to be worked over by his Sharp-eyed Critic because of erroneous info when pictured in the December issue. The caption in this misfortunate instance stated that the palm was a female plant. No, the genus is monoecious and individual plants can produce fertile seed. However, the inflorescences contain flowers of only one sex or the other, in this case in the December picture, female, but not both sexes on the same flowerstalk. To add to the crime, the caption also stated that the species is pleonanthic—that is, that it keeps on blooming until it finally dies of old age. Actually, the species and genus are hapaxanthic, blooming all the way down the trunk, after which that trunk dies. In a single-trunk species, such as *W. disticha*, this is the end. With clumping species, for instance *W. densiflora*, the individual trunk dies but others do not and more trunks appear from the base.

Let's <u>not</u> get into the term "monocarpic," which means the plant blooms once, then dies. I offer abject apologies for misleading the Palm Pioneers of America, Post 1.

—John Kennedy

(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

Below, as far as the eye can see: all Bismarckia*s, all the time. In fact, 18 of them. Left,* Borassus madagascariensis.

(Photos by Dave Reid)

GROWING CYCADS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

Growing *Dioon edule* in Central Florida

Dioon edule *with spectacular reddish emergent leaves.*
(Photo at left by Tom Broome, at right by Chuck Grieneisen)

By Tom Broome

Dioon edule is probably the best cycad to grow in most of central Florida, that is, next to *Zamia floridana* (our native cycad in Florida). It is more cold hardy than the cycas and zamia species we commonly see in general landscape nurseries and is very resistant to the Asian scale. In fact, I have never seen any insects on my plants. The size of the over all plant is very close to the dimensions of the king sago, *Cycas revoluta*, so as more and more sagos are being eliminated from the landscapes all over Florida, people will be using *Dioon edule*. They grow a little slower than *Cycas revoluta*, but that is offset by the fact that they are very easy to grow without giving them special care. And for what its worth, a single stem of a *Dioon edule* can live 1500 years, so when you grow these, it makes you think about which grandchildren will eventually get your plants.

All *Dioon edule* plants are very cold hardy. During the bad freeze in 1989, it was 17F in my nursery. All of my cycas totally defoliated, where none of the edules even got tip burn. If you live near the coast, salt is always a concern. Some of the types grow near the Gulf of Mexico, in fact, just to show you how tough these plants are, there is a location where they are growing on solid rock, hanging over a cliff that overlooks the gulf.

Dioon edule is a very versatile species in many ways, this includes the amount of light it can tolerate. They grow best in the full sun in our location, but can tolerate being in some fairly deep shade. If you give it too much shade the leaves will elongate so that they look spindly and they will not produce leaves as often. For the garden, there is a fine line in-between these two where it gets enough light to have a good amount of energy, but at the same time, the leaves are a little darker green and the plants becomes a much larger plant, altogether. The leaf span can increase from a 5 foot spread to an 8 foot spread in just a little shade. Cones must be hand pollinated here in Florida. All female dioon cones open to receptivity from the bottom of the cone, so it makes hand pollination difficult. I remove the top of the cone and pour the dry pollen

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Left, Dioon edule *in the ground. Below, still in the pot, with Chuck Grieneisen holding the yardstick for scale.*
(Photo left by Tom Broome, photo below by Kelly Grieneisen)

Growing *Dioon edule*

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down the cracks, or I mix the pollen with water and pour the mixture into the cone. Male cones will shed pollen and female cones will become receptive about the same time each year. The most common time here in central Florida is mid October, but depending on the weather in a given year, this timing can go either way one month.

Dioon edule comes from several locations in Mexico. There is a northern area that is a more xeric growing situation and the lower and eastern coastal area where the larger and more luxurious plants grow. The taxonomy has been in turmoil with these plants. The northern forms were described as *Dioon angustifolium* and the lower to coastal plants were *Dioon edule.* In most of the cycad books on the market, the authors will say there are two subspecies of *Dioon edule.* They would be *D. edule ssp. edule* and *ssp. angustifolium. Dioon edule* was described five years before *D. angustifolium*, so until the taxonomists battled this one out, the species of edule has been used for both types. A recent paper written in 2005 claims with DNA proof that the two types are distinct species, so today, we are actually talking about two different species that are very closely grouped. Who knows what the future will bring on this group of cycads?

The edules from the area near Palma Sola, Mexico are large growing, green emergent plants. They grow tall stems and have wide leaflets. Nursery people like this type because they grow faster than most of the other types. The angustifolium types are smaller plants with thinner leaflets. They are more frost and cold hardy than some of the edule types but for us, they are all considered cold hardy. There may be a difference in one or two degrees in their hardiness and I have seen variation like that within a group of seedlings that all came from the same cone. The forms from Queretaro and Rio Verde are smaller and have a tendency to cluster faster than some. Some of the plants from these areas produce new leaves that are blue. Some of the Rio Verde plants have blue emergent leaves with yellow leaf stems. Others have reddish emergent leaves. Most collectors usually display one to three plants of any one species in their gardens. With all these different forms, you could have a very diverse garden with a grouping of different forms of size and emergent leaflet color.

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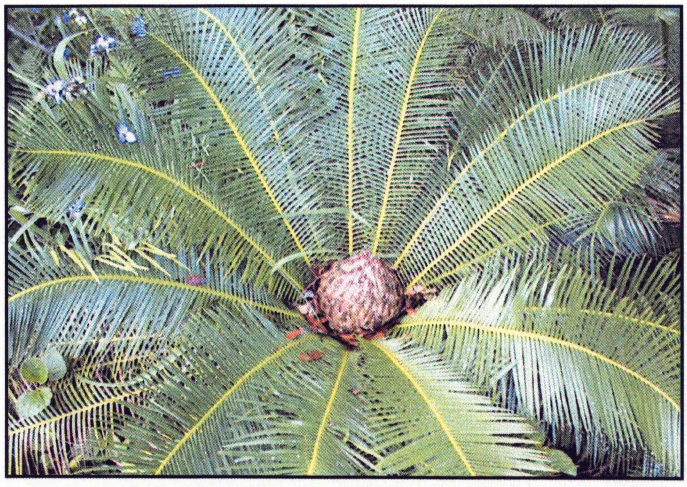

The angustifolium *form of* Dioon edule. *Here, a female cone.* *(Photo by Tom Broome)*

Above is a receptive female cone on a Dioon mejiae. *The lowered plates on this species are yellow. On a* D. edule, *the lowered plates would be green.*

(Photo by Tom Broome)

Growing *Dioon Edule*

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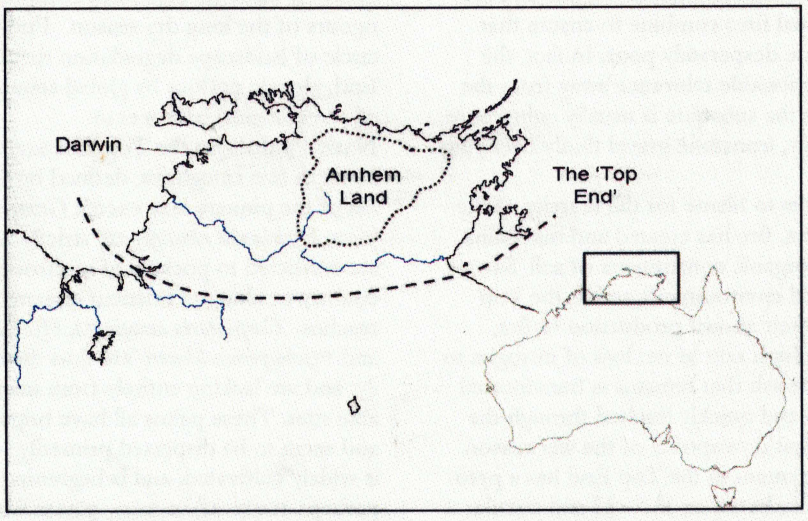
No matter what form of *Dioon edule* you are growing, it will be a winner in our landscapes here in Florida. Plants are fairly easy to find within our group, but this is still not a species that Home Depot or places like that will regularly carry. Seeds have been made available over they years and specialty cycad nurseries will usually carry more than one form, and hopefully label them so you know what you're getting. With some of our pictures, hopefully, you will be able to recognize these for yourself. If you don't want to take the time to grow one from seed, you can find plants that have stems up to one foot tall without a lot of problems, but they will cost a couple of hundred dollars, or so. I think we will be seeing more of this plant in the future. I know of a few people who are planning to field grow these plants by the tens of thousands, so hopefully someday, there will be plenty of them available in a good size.

Left, the common , wide-leaved form of Dioon edule, ssp. edule. *Right, the thin-leaved form, known as* Dioon edule, ssp. angustifolium.

(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

Palms in Australia's Top End: Two *Livistonas*



Above, Australia's Top End—the northernmost extension of the Northern Territory. At right, inset shows location in Australia. (Map by Sam Sweet)

[The Top End is the tropical northern part of Australia's Northern Territory (NT). This article appeared as 'Palms in the Top End' in Wodyetia, *journal of the Far North Queensland Palm & Cycad Association, now unhappily defunct, in the May, 2002 issue, and is reprinted here with permission. Of particular interest to Central Floridians are the observations on* Livistona.*--Editor]*

By Sam Sweet

A guy with a history of growing palms in California should have little enough to say to palm growers in FNQ [Far North Queensland] aside from something like "Jeez, so that's what a trunk looks like on. . .". Californians would all like to knock a couple of dozen degrees off our latitude and to have some rain when it's warmer than 12 C [53.6F].

Being temporarily transplanted to Jabiru, in the Top End of the NT (latitude 12°40", rainfall 1.6 m [63 inches]), it has been easy to see that these things alone are insufficient, and on this slim premise I can offer some observations about the challenges to be met by native palms here. These observations have been more opportunistic than exhaustive, and admittedly lean heavily towards my own interests in fan palms of the genus *Livistona.*

Taken generally, the Top End encompasses the area of the Northern Territory having a strongly monsoonal weather regime, north of a line around Mataranka or Katherine. This is the region firmly if subtly constructed around the great Arnhem Land Plateau, its rivers and their outwash plains, where eucalypt woodlands increasingly replace plant communities dominated by species of *Acacia.* The native flora and fauna share strong affinities with both the Kimberley and the western Cape York Peninsula, but each unit is now more or less separated by the dry lowlands bordering Bonaparte Gulf and the Gulf of Carpentaria, respectively. In addition to suffering the long-term drying trend experience across most of Australia since the Miocene, the Top End has experienced repeated cycles of aridity throughout the last two million years. This is because glacial intervals have resulted in the draining of the extensive Sahul Shelf, and routed monsoonal activity well to the north of the present coastline.

As is the case in most of Australia, landforms in the Top End are ancient erosional surfaces that have experienced no appreciable tectonic or volcanic activity

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Livistonas in the Top End

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for hundreds of millions of years. The absence of fresh igneous or metamorphic rocks to erode, plus intense leaching from the monsoonal rainfall regime and the long history of annual fires combine to ensure that most upland soils are desperately poor. In fact, the term 'soil'is of questionable relevance away from the floodplains here, as the substrate is usually either pure sand, or more widely, ironstone gravel thinly overlying a lateritic hardpan.

If geologic history is to blame for the scarcity of the more stable nutrients, fire has created and maintains the absence of the organic constituents of soil. Savanna and woodland environments across the Top End lose much of their annual production to fire, which also causes a high rate of net loss of nitrogen to the atmosphere. The ash that remains is transformed into a caustic broth and quickly leached through the soil profile by the first downpours of the wet season. Current land management in the Top End has a pyromaniacal flavour to it, based on the odd and circular logic that the environment is fire-adapted anyway. It's hardly rocket science to see that that's what will be left if you burn an area annually for thousands of years. However, it is well worth noticing that areas that are protected from fire by accidents of topography often have deep, comparatively rich soils, and support dramatically more diverse plant communities, despite the rigours of the long dry season. Fire initiates a vicious circle of landscape degradation that has left the Top End, already parlous by global standards, as something of an ecological basket case.

Native palms in the Top End are rather few, and come in two categories, defined by adaptations to fire. All of the pinnate taxa except *Gronophyllum ramsayi* [now *Hydriastele ramsayi*] are strictly fire intolerant, and are restricted to pockets of monsoon forest in rock country or along permanent streams where fire seldom reaches. *Carpentaria acuminata, Hydriastele wendlandiana* and *Ptychosperma bleeseri* are thus distributed very patchily, and are lacking entirely from many seemingly suitable sites. These palms all have brightly-colored fruits, and seem to be dispersed primarily by birds. *Carpentaria* is widely cultivated, and is beginning to appear (or perhaps reappear) in many places where it was not

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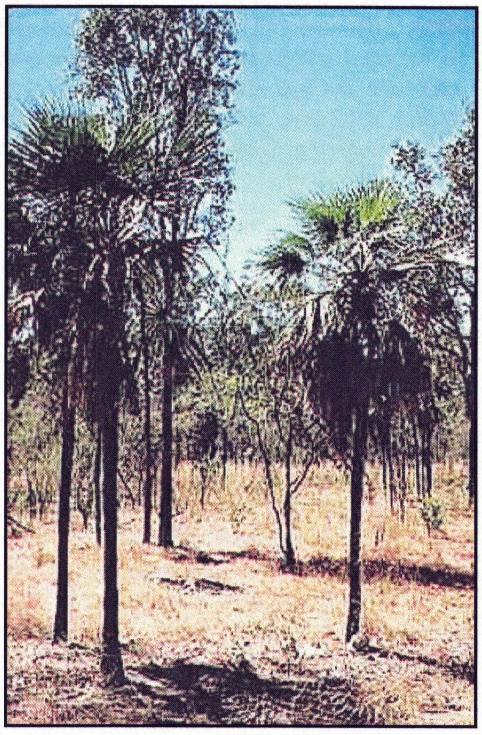

Above, Hydriastele ramsayi, *formerly* Gronophyllum ramsayi, *in habitat. Right,* Livistona humilis, *a small palm, also in habitat. Both pictures from the PACSOA website, which reports that seed of* H. ramsayi *has a 1% germination rate.*

Livistonas in the Top End

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formerly found, probably via seed dispersal from ornamental plantings.

Gronophyllum [Hydriastele ramsayi] **is** an unusual palm, being restricted to deep sandsheets of the coastal lowlands around the shores of Van Diemen Gulf. While larger trunked plants are resistant to fire, juveniles appear to be susceptible to hot fires, and some stands show little successful regeneration under current fire regimes. It is difficult to find small trunked individuals except where patches of bare sand have provided a firebreak, perhaps on a scale of decades. *Gronophyllum* like company, and often appear in groups of individuals of similar sizes, perhaps reflecting relatively rare intervals when a batch of seedlings has had all of the breaks.

Four species of *Livistona* complete the list (except for a few stands of *Nypa*, and small groups of *Corypha*, perhaps introduced, scattered across coastal Arnhem Land). These fan palms are all moderately to strongly fire-hardy. *Livistona rigida*, best-known along the Roper River eastward from Mataranka, also occurs along the middle reaches of the South Alligator River in Kakadu NP. *Livistona benthamii* is more widespread, and occupies paperbark swamps and floodplain margins along most of the north-flowing rivers of the Top End. Both species seem to require permanently-saturated soils, and *L. benthamii* often stand in water for months at a time. Fruits of both species ripen toward the end of the wet season, and seem to be dispersed both by water and by birds; fruits of *L. rigida* detach readily, whereas those of *L. benthamii* remain very firmly attached long after ripening and may not fall until the following wet season. Both species appear to be quite hardy to fires, but in fire-protected sites each may carry a skirt of dead leaves nearly to ground level.

The true palm champions of the NT are the small species *Livistona humilis* and *L. inermis*, which have taken the concept of fire-hardiness to an art form. *Livistona humilis* in particular is spectacularly successful at present; anywhere in the woodland areas of the Top End, it is the rare view that does not include some sand palms. In many places it is a dominant understorey plant, being absent only from areas of heavy or seasonally saturated soils. Careful examination will show an abundance of tiny, grass-like eophylls and juvenile plants in almost any woodland sit, as well as trunked plants of a full range of heights, indicating essentially continuous recruitment.

Livistona inermis is slightly more particular in its requirements, but in no way conforms to the often-repeated statement that it occupies only rocky areas. It does thrive there in the absence of *L. humilis*, but it is also widespread through drier eucalypt woodlands, where its bushy cream inflorescences stand out among the elongated, bright yellow flower stalks of *L. humilis*. In these situations *L. inermis* is usually very much in the minority, amounting to a fraction of 1%, though it may approach codominant status locally. There is in fact a bit of a problem here, as there are areas in Kakadu NP [National Park] where the two species have introgressed so completely that the majority of plants cannot be called one or the other. Leaflet widths, petiole colours and armament, and inflorescence features are virtually randomized among individual plants, yet only a few hundred metres away one finds substantial stands of both species, with very few intermediate individuals. These hybrid patches are widespread but very localized, and it is not at all clear why.

Both of these small woodland palms are burned to bare stems annually almost everywhere they occur. By the middle of the dry season, trunked plants have usually accumulated skirts of 15-25 dead leaves. These burn intensely, killing the living leaves which then droop to form the skirt for next year. Few if any leaves appear to die a 'natural' death, and the plants thus have no opportunity to resorb any of the nutrients from

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This wispy specimen is Livistona inermis *('unarmed', no spines). It died in the pot for the Editor probably due to over watering.*

Livistona in the Top End

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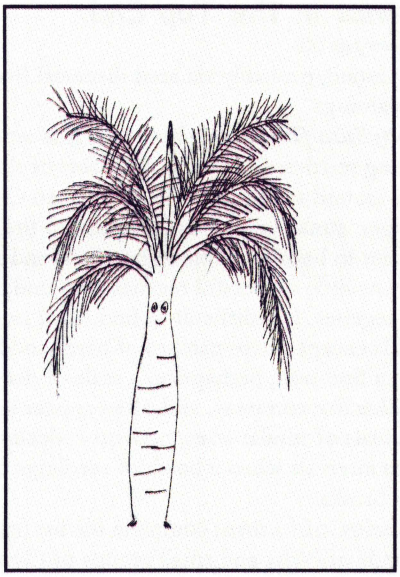
their leaves, yet they soldier along in their millions. Some hint of how this is done may lie in the observations that both species are virtually impossible to transplant without taking a ridiculously large rootball, and that fresh roadcuts often seem to result in the decline or death of most mature palms within a band extending 5-8 m into the bordering woodlands. The palms will re-establish readily along road verges, but do not appear to be able to sustain any appreciable damage to their root systems.

Lastly among the natives might be said to be the "palm that doesn't seem to be there". All across eastern and northern Australia there are species or distinctive populations of *Livistona* living where cloud traps, or reliable groundwater supplies, create local mesic pockets. The conspicuous exception is the vast Arnhem Land Plateau, where there are thousands of deep, wet ravines and cliffline soaks, but nary a hint of a plant like *L. victoriae, L. nitida* or *L. fulva.* While a great deal of botanical exploration remains to be done on the plateau, it is hard to see how something so prominent might exist without having been noted. However, this has been said many times before. The biogeographical case is quite strong, so much so that an endemic *Livistona* may be harder to dismiss than to keep looking for.

The picture that emerges is thus predominantly one of a collection of distributional relicts. Most of the native palms display no special tricks for living under Top End conditions, and they persist where the challenges of soil, rainfall regime and fire are minimized. Only *Gronophyllum [Hydriastele ramsayi],* to a degree, and the sand palms *Livistona humilis* and *L. inermis* confront these conditions head-on and make a go of it. The latter pair are true specialists in a most unforgiving environment.

(Sam Sweet is an Associate Professor of Evolutionary Biology at the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is a herpetologist by focus and presently spending a year in Australia studying the spatial ecology of monitor lizards. (Pursuing small goannas!) A frequent visitor to this country, he is a self confessed palm nut with a keen interest in Livistona and its relatives.)



Above, this is 'Palma Teer' as created by artist Elizabeth Kennedy. Note the tiny delicate feet.

Plant Sales, March-April

Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Fort Pierce: March 17-18, (772) 464-4672

Leu Gardens, Orlando: March 24-25, (407) 246-2620

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society, Caloosa Park, Boynton Beach, April 14-15

USF Botanical Garden, Tampa: April 14-15, (813) 974-2329

Mounts Botanical Gardens, West Palm Beach: April 28-29, (561) 233-1757

Peace Out, John Bishock

[This tribute to John Bishock was posted on January 21 on the CFPACS website, shortly after word of his death. John was 67.]

By Dave Witt

Every once in a while the phrase "larger than life" is used to describe someone. I believe that particular idiom was invented for John. My virginal encounter with him was selling palms at a chapter meeting side by side. At the time I likened myself as some sort of a "know it all" for palm cultivation. But the little fish (me) had entered the big pond for the 1st time. During the weekend I would be asked about this or that rare palm, most often I wouldn't have much to say. John would sometimes hear these exchanges, and pronounce (politely) in his matter of fact way "I've got several of those growing at my place". I would quickly exit stage left, leaving John to finish the story. After a while I just pointed at John whenever anyone approached with slightest bit of query to their face.

At meetings I would be standing just out of earshot from him. As soon as I heard that voice it was as if I was pulled to his colloquial discourse like some sort of magnetic beam. Like every great storyteller it wasn't so much what he said but the way he said it. Fast & loose, details flying in from every direction, all wrapped in a boundless enthusiasm. The old "it couldn't grow here" excuse was an exercise in futility with him. Glass half full indeed, I truly believe he could have talked Dick Cheney into voting Democrat. Unsure of my audience I'll spare this group some of his un-politically incorrect (tho good natured) stories, someone really could write a book ... or two. Sometimes I serve as auctioneer for our central Fla. meetings. I will never ever forget the day that John (no doubt influenced by liquid refreshment), wound up bidding against himself for some palm (that Faith later informed him) he possessed maybe a dozen of, back home. She learned quickly not to leave him alone at these events. These cool weathered nights remind me I'll miss the overnight chats our small internet group had during the coldest nights when a freeze was about to approach. Once the damage was underway it was almost like some sort of subversive contest to see who would suffer the worst.

I owe author extraordinaire Bob Riffle this life lesson. I never met Bob in person, tho we often emailed during his last book writing, about getting together nearly every month. Foolishly I always thought there would be enough time, when the cold truth is, no such thing exists. So three weeks ago to this day I drove out to John & Faith's with my friend Mike Dahme. We didn't go to see their vast eclectic collection, but to just to see them. Despite the all medicine John had that full head of shaggy hair, and a cigarette in one hand and a beer (non-alcoholic) in the other. Physically he seemed a bit sapped of energy while talking about his condition. Once the conversation turned to palms he became alert and as feisty as ever, even commandeered a golf cart around the property, peppering us with various comments and anecdotes. By the end of the day I swore he was coming back to us.

The number of palms and seeds he gave to me, the chapter & others by far outnumbers the palms he sold. His generous spirit far outweighed any capitalistic inclinations he possessed. I didn't converse with him nearly as much as I would have liked to, or should have. I'll sit in this stupid chair tonight, slam back a few and get drunk off my ass, thinking of John, and Faith (no way to think of one without the other). Most likely of small solace to her but my life is better for knowing them. Did you ever wonder if your life would make a great movie? John's life would.

The Dynamic Duo of Faith & John Bishock. Note the curly locks. He's about to make some smart remark. Shouldn't there be a beer in one hand, a cigarette in the other? Once upon a time, a noisy arrival at meetings in a smoky old Cadillac. . .
(Photo forwarded by Mike Dahme)

CFPACS SEED BANK REPORT
4th Quarter 2006

Hi Members!
This will be my last Seed Bank Report, as I am passing the baton to Mark Peters who will serve as the CFPACS Seed Bank Coordinator. Please welcome Mark onboard.
The Seed Bank contributed to a couple of worthy causes during the quarter. Numerous species of seeds were provided to the Southeastern Palm Society for their first ever seed offering in November. CFPACS made second contribution to the SPS in December, when the SPS's seed bank coordinator Frank Glavin visited me in Oviedo. CFPACS also contributed seeds to Socrum Elementary School in Lake County for a palm growing project at the school, sponsored by two teachers of elementary school students. They promised to keep us posted on their project.

During October, the seed bank received *Dypsis cabadae*, *Dictyosperma album*, *Adonidia merrillii*, and several species of *Ptychosperma* from member Rick Leitner. Member Dean VanderBleek donated a good quantity of *Serenoa repens* "silver form"; and member Rick Nale contributed *Acrocomia aculeata*, compliments of the Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum in St. Petersburg. Joe and Anne Michaels contributed additional *Latania lontaroides* (collected by Jason Baker, and delivered by Neil Yorio); and Neil Yorio contributed *Thrinax radiata*, *Coccothrinax argentata* and *Coccothrinax barbadensis*. The seed bank also received *Gaussia princeps* and another *Gaussia* species of seeds, *Colpothrinax wrightii* and *Arenga tremula* seeds.

November's donations included *Wodyetia bifurcata* from member Dean VanderBleek; and *Sabal minor* from member Rick Nale, again compliments of the Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum. Member Don Bittel contributed *Wallichia disticha*, *Chamaedorea cataractarum*, and *Ptychosperma lauterbachii*.

In December member Joseph Prabakhar of Ortanique.com contributed *Bismarckia nobilis* "silver form", *Cycas rumphii*, *Copernicia alba*, *Ceroxylon ventricosum*, *Bactris setulosa*, *Salacca wallichiana*, *Marojejya darianii*, *Hyophorbe lagenicaulis*, *Phoenix pusilla*, *Phoenix dactylifera*, and *Phoenix reclinata*. Member Michael Dahme donated *Thrinax morrisii*, *Sabal maritima*, *Sabal rosei*, *Sabal bermudana*, and Dominican *Sabal* seeds. Neil Yorio donated *Zamia amblyphyllidia* and *Zamia pumila* (and thanks to member Chuck Grieneisen for delivering them to Oviedo). Germinating *Reinhardtia simplex* were donated by member Kathy Deman; member P. J. Klinger, Lake Brantley Plant Corporation, contributed a large quantity of *Arenga engleri*; and member Hershell Womble donated *Zamia floridana* (narrow-leaf), *Zamia floridana* (wide-leaf), *Zamia* 'Palatka Giant', and *Livistona saribus*.**What an** outstanding selection of palm and cycad seeds the members had to choose from this quarter!

—Claudia Walworth

PALM GAS: THE NEXT FUEL?

Phil Stager sent an item from a website called Green Car Congress (http://greencarcongress.com), which is devoted to 'Energy, Technologies, Issues and Policies for Sustainable Mobility.' The small news article notes that a Malaysian company is to build the first plant in a large "Nipah Palm Ethanol Project." Eventual output is predicted to be 1.2 **billion** gallons a year. The company will invest (US) $399 million in the project.
The ethanol is produced by fermentation of the "sap," from the palm inflorescence before bloom, according to the story.
A subsequent visit to the website shows yet another announcement that a Japanese diesel engine manufacturer (Yanmar Co.) is to build a research facility (US $4 million) towards the development of palm oil biodiesel.
Now that citrus is on its way out, might this be Florida's next cash crop?
(Only if it doesn't get cold anymore.)

—John Kennedy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that all of your gardens and nurseries survived the winter, actually a mild winter comparatively speaking and you are gearing up for the spring and summer transfer of seedlings to the ground.

In January we lost one of our CFPACS members, John Bishock, to cancer. I know that many of you had the pleasure of meeting both John and Faith during our quarterly meetings or at other palm-related gathering statewide and world-wide. I have very fond memories of John. He was extremely knowledgeable and helpful to anyone who sought out his advice, and just an all around "fun guy" to be around. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet John and Faith over nine years ago, I do remember even then you could hear their voices and laughter before seeing the two of them. The society in its entirety sends outs its blessings to Faith. Rest in peace John.....

Continuing with my "palms in the news" tid-bits I found an interesting palm-related article close to home....

On January 27th, 2007 a flatbed truck loaded with 10 date palms was stolen from a south Florida tree farm, Groundworks Nursery in Boynton Beach, Florida. The trees were each 14-feet in length and valued at about $50,000 total. The flatbed truck was found two days later in Pembroke Pines, a town located about thirty-minutes south of Boynton Beach. Of course the trees were gone, the cargo was replaced with a pile of dirt. If any of our south Florida members are into solving crimes, this could be an interesting case. Call Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS if you think you may have spotted the 10 14-foot recently planted date palms.

Board Vacancies

About nine and half years ago I attended my first CFPACS meet. Little did I know at that time just how involved I would get with this organization. Approximately four years ago I was elected to take on the East Coast Vice President position. Can you believe at one time we actually had a "somewhat official election process". With nominations, ballots, etc... Two years ago I was elected or should I say "volunteered" to take on the almighty position of President of the CFPACS.

During the past six months or so board members including myself whose positions were to expire in January of 2007 began soliciting potential candidates for Board vacancies. Up until a few weeks ago there were three vacancies: President, Central Vice President, and West Coast Vice President. I'm grateful to say that the West Coast position has been filled by Christian Faulkner who replaces Tom Barrese. Additionally, Mark Peters will replace Claudia Walworth as Seedbank Coordinator. You can read both Christian's and Mark's bio's in this issue of *The Palmateer.*

I would like to take this time to thank both Tom and Claudia for their time and efforts they have given to their positions and the society during their tenure. I am grateful as well to all of our members for your commitment to the society.

We are still in need of a replacement for Tom Broome, Central Vice President whose position expired in January 2007. Tom has given a great deal of his time and shared his extensive knowledge of cycads for over a decade with CFPACS members. Thank you Tom for all that you have done for the society. If there is any member out there who feels like they would like to become "more" involved with the society by taking on a leadership role I welcome your inquiry.

Lastly, the President position expired in January of 2007. Umh..... who's running this society??? I know there must be some palm and/or cycad fanatic out there wanting to lead this organization. If you have about 30 minutes to an hour per week, and have some organizational and people skills you can do the job! If this job description sounds like something you are willing to try please do contact me ASAP. Neil Yorio mentioned to me at the December 2006 meet in Micco "*hey Diana pretty soon you will be able to just attend the meet and have a good time, like me*". I'm waiting.....

In closing, I look forward to seeing all of you at our spring meet which will be held on March 17th on the west coast of Florida. Christian Faulkner our new West Coast VP has organized the meet. Details can be found in this issue.

Diana Wehrell Grabowski

From the Editor's Desk

We are very pleased to welcome Christian Faulkner to the Board as the new West VP and Mark Peters as the new Seed Bank Coordinator. However, we still need a President.

Diana is champing at the bit and is hanging in for the time being. She is an entrepreneur, an educational consultant who travels around the Southeast giving rigorous workshops for public (and private) school science teachers, showing how to present science and hands-on projects to and for students. She spends a lot of time traveling, still prints *The Palmateer* in her office in Cocoa Beach, and performs all that's necessary as President.

Never once have I heard her complain or whine. OK, I'll have to qualify that: only about the printer and its idiosyncrasies and those complaints were about the very limited, inadequate printer that was replaced with the new super model about a year ago. As editor, I have learned to inquire about Diana's travel schedule, with which I am quite familiar. (Hand-offs of the CD with the issue on it—or boxes of copies to be mailed—have taken place at service stations 100 yards from I-95 exits, usually in Vero Beach or Viera, not forgetting the occasional flying stop at my Indian River Community College office in Fort Pierce.

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Christian Faulkner, as our new Central VP, reduces the median age of the CFPACS Board by at least 15 years, maybe more. We would certainly like to see more members who are younger than middle age. It's getting a house and wondering what to do about the yard that brings people to our chapter. I am **very** well-acquainted with 18- and 19-year-olds who are dimly aware that there are such things as plants, but MySpace and YouTube don't leave much time for inessentials.

****

The coldest morning thus far came on February 17th. At my house, on the south side of mainland Vero Beach, the temperature registered at 37.5 at 6:30 a.m. Frost covered the roof and the cars in the driveway but, mercifully, nothing on the ground. I guess a breeze had been blowing up to the time I came out of the house. I always check the wedelia first, for it turns black immediately with frost. Ah, still green and still a Category I pest on FLIPPC's list! To think that I planted it myself, many years ago (before I knew better). Frost doesn't kill it and freezes don't. When the temp dropped to 18 in the '89 Great Christmas Freeze, the wedelia paused for at least a week before resuming its relentless creep.

****

After every 'Cold Event' there is an e-mail round-robin of woe about low temperatures. Missing this time was the distinctive voice of John Bishock, always clearly himself even in the impersonality of the Internet, expounding on his Brooksville Doctrine: that whatever low temps befell that town 40 miles north of his location in the easternmost, non-coastal portion of Sarasota County would also be his fate.

As Editor, there is an upbeat side to Cold Events. I can count on early-summer reports from correspondents in Gainesville, Mims, and Orlando setting forth inspiring accounts of damage and recovery. Not more than two weeks to go before this winter is behind us. And it has so far been (cross my palms) quite mild. However, I do note that the round-robin did not include sad sagas from the northernmost areas, meaning—perhaps—temps too briefly low to matter much or damage not yet visible to moan about. Hopefully, the former.

****

Mark Peters is the new Seed Bank Coordinator. Be kind to Mark and send him rare and unusual seed. Remember, seed sales help to support your friendly local *Palmateer.* It might be worth remembering that if the palm is common in Central Florida, few folks (except maybe those in the Southeastern Palm Society) will be interested in buying it. If unsure, ask Mark first before sending.

Claudia, what will you do with all that time now? Accumulate more orchids to bring in during cold snaps? Get more involved than you already are with your garden club? Whatever, God bless and thanks!

John Kennedy

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

INCOME:
Membership Dues 2,596.85
Plant Sales 1,269.04
Seed Sales 4,927.99
Total 8,793.88

EXPENSES
Bank Charges 94.25
CFPACS Meeting Expenses 158.40
Events (Dowe Lectures) 682.79
Grants (Bok Sanctuary) 618.57
Gifts Given 100.00
Office Supplies 102.29
Publications *(Palmateer)* 6,317.73
Taxes 420.10
Web Site 30.00
Total 8,524.13

INCOME-EXPENSES
Bank Balance 1/1/06 20,362.78
Bank Balance 12/31/06 21,740.87
Net Increase 1,378.09

(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)
10,886.88 (current value, close of market on 12/29/06: 7,928.07 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

— submitted by Bob Johnson, CFPACS Treasurer

[Note: the Treasurer's Report will now appear annually rather than quarterly in order to give a more clear overall view of the chapter's finances. The Board agreed to this change at the December meeting in Micco. —Editor]

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.

CLOSING DATE FOR JUNE ISSUE:
MAY 11

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

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

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

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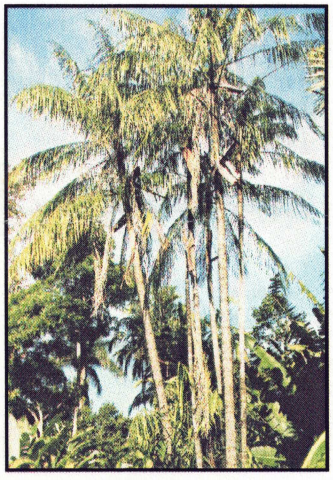
What are these people doing? Why does this picture look familiar? They're gawking at palms, of course, as they do during every CFPACS meeting, here on December 9th in Micco. The pointing hand is host Jason Baker, who seems to be singling out Treasurer Bob Johnson (in hat). In the background is the Bismarckia *glade.*

(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

More Pix from *The Magical Honeymoon Tour of Australia (featuring Ramón Hernández)*

Left, Ramón peeking through Socratea *roots. (Photo by Miriam Hernández*



Right, Onco-sperma tigillarium *at Flecker Botanic Gardens. Below,* Metroxylon sp.

Below, the entrance to Flecker, which is funded by the City of Cairns. Open gates have wrought iron (?) leaves seemingly of Licuala ramsayi.