

The Palmateer

Volume 27, Number 2

Central Florida Palm Society

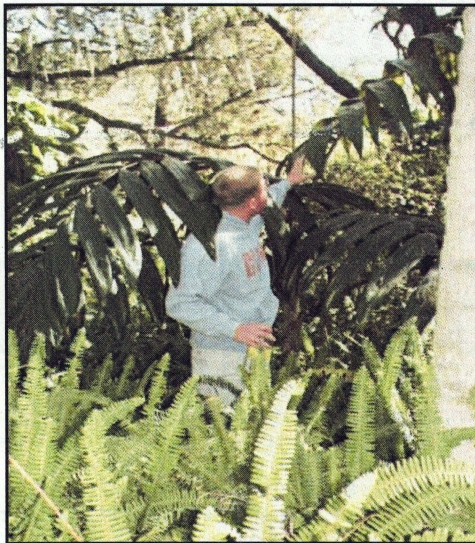
June, 2007

June 23rd CFPACS Meeting

Mark your calendars, Saturday, June 23rd is the next CFPACS meet!

The meet will take place in east Valkaria at Ron's Palm Sanctuary. This is a new garden on the east coast for CFPACS members to visit and we are truly grateful for Ron Eward and Fiona Pearce (hosts) for being gra-

(Continued on page 3)



Chambeyronia macrocarpa growing at The Hague, Venice, under a big live oak. For story of the March 17th meeting, see page 4.

(Photo by Karen Barrese)

WANTED: Seed Bank Coordinator

Someone needed to run the CFPACS Seed Bank. The position is now open. Requirements include time to spend on this vital function, along with dependability and computer skills. Details on page 4.

June 23rd Meeting Preview: Ron's Palm Sanctuary, Valkaria



Come explore this path at Ron's Palm Sanctuary, site of the June 23rd meeting in Valkaria, Brevard County.

Ron Eward acquired his property on Goat Creek in 1998 and starting planting seriously the following year. The property lies in a hollow alongside the winding creek and was then open grass with mature oaks and sabals but little else. The oaks supplemented by various Ficus trees and a Royal Poinciana combined with the natural warmth afforded by Goat Creek creates a microclimate that has made possible the wide diversity of palms.

Initially he was interested in native Florida plants and plants for wildlife. Along the way were fruit trees (rare and not so rare), bamboo (some 25 varieties), crotons, orchids, etc. But no Florida yard is complete without palms and the collection started by buying what was available locally. Being a researcher, Ron learned early on of the vast number of different species and took up the challenge to have as many different types as he could at "The Sanctuary". His buying trips have

(Continued on page 5)

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

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
AUGUST 10**



Contents

June 23rd meeting	1
June meeting preview	1
CFPACS service area	2
President needed	3
June 23rd directions	3
Seed Bank coordinator needed	4
March meeting report	4
Gray water notice	4
Dave Besst tribute	5
Scott Zona's favorite palms	6
Ron Eward's favorite palms	6
Ray Hernández's favorite palms	8
John Kennedy's favorite palms	8
Palm & cycad book reviewed	9
Ceroxylons in Colombia	11
Palm Points	15, 20
FSU cold, heat maps	16
<i>Aiphanes minima</i> research	17
Southeastern Palm Society book	18
Rain barrel notice	18
Cycad notice	20
From the Editor's Desk	22
President's Messag	23
No Seed Bank report	23
CFPACS membership form	24
IPS membership notice	24
CFPACS board list	25

The Palmateer

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The closing date for submission of material for the next issue is the 10th of the month preceding publication.

The Palmateer

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Back copies may be purchased for \$5 each, plus postage.

Are you presidential timbre?
CFPACS still needs a President.
Diana is now almost 6 months
beyond the expiration of her two-
year term (December 31). She's
gamely kept on but can't do this
indefinitely. The position takes
time, which is variable, and the
President should have long-term
familiarity with the society—its
members and its purposes— and
needs also to be reliable, and (of
course) the possessor of computer
skills.

If Diana leaves without a succes-
sor, how long can CFPACS con-
tinue as an organization?

Do we want to find out?

Contact Diana Grabowski
(ScinceLady@aol.com) for fur-
ther information.

—John Kennedy

Directions to June 23rd Meeting, Valkaria, Brevard County

For those taking I-95, exit at 173 (Malabar) go east to
US-1 then south 3 plus miles to Valkaria Road.

From US-1 take Valkaria Road west over the railroad
tracks then turn north on Tadlock. First left up Anne
Street; left again on Williams then right on Lynn
Street. 3625 is on your left with street parking there
and on around the corner into Duane Street.

The usual chain motels may be found in Melbourne.
A couple of non-chain accommodations are located
on the Indian River in nearby Sebastian at Captain
Hiram's Resort and Oyster Pointe & Bay Resort.

June 23rd Meeting

Continued from page 1)

cious enough to open their garden to our group.

Location: 3625 Lynn Street, Port Malabar, Florida
[mail address, actually it's in nearby Valkaria—Editor]

Times:

9:30 am - Board Meeting

10:30- 12:noon - Garden open for touring

Noonish- CFPACS will be providing deli chicken,
desserts, and beverages for **FREE!**

We invite and encourage guests to bring a covered
side dish to accompany the deli chicken and desserts.
Suggested dishes include: salads of all types, baked
beans, cole slaw, etc.... We will have coolers with ice
for your dishes that require refrigeration.

After Lunch 1:00ish- Auction- Members are asked
to consider donating a plant for the auction. The pro-
ceeds from the auction allow CFPACS to continue
providing a quality quarterly newsletter, grants, etc...

1:30ish- Vendor sale begins

***** Please note that no plants can be reserved,
moved, bought, etc.. prior to the official start of
the vendor sale which will be announced by a
CFPACS board member. Your cooperation in the
above policy is greatly appreciated!**

You may want to bring a chair.

--Diana Wehrell Grabowski

Seed Bank Coordinator Needed

Someone is needed to take over the Seed Bank. Mark Peters agreed to do this in late February, but resigned two months later. Mike Dahme is handling the Seed Bank temporarily but will head back to Puerto Rico next month.

The job is crucial for CFPACS, for most of our income comes from the sale of donated seed. Neither plant sales nor memberships bring in nearly as much. The Seed Bank makes possible the publication and mailing of *The Palmateer*, as well as underwriting operating expenses and incidental costs of quarterly meetings.

The ideal person is dependable at recordkeeping (computer literate) and has time to spend doing the job. Seed comes in episodically—at some times very little, other times heavily. Seed offerings usually are posted every four to six weeks; available seeds may be few or many.

Anyone who may be interested in helping out should contact President Diana Wehrell Grabowski (ScinceLady@aol.com).

—John Kennedy

GRAY WATER

Anybody with experience using gray water (recycled from bath and washing machine) on gardens should contact the Editor. A feature on this topic is tentatively planned for the September issue of *The Palmateer* (deadline, August 10th) but depends on obtaining information on the subject by that time.

Online searches have only revealed large scale re-use information, e. g., on golf courses.

—John Kennedy

jkennedy@ircc.edu

It's shady under the canopy in Ron's Palm Sanctuary, our June meeting place.

March Meeting Report

March 17th: Venice, Florida. Not a town previously visited by CFPACS, with two new gardens. And, although it's St. Patrick's Day, only a few exiled North-easterners are wearing green (ethnic in Florida means Hispanic; St. Patrick never got to Spain or Cuba). The day is a delight, low humidity, temperatures in the upper 70s, sunny, a few fleeting clouds.

First stop is The Hague, home of Robert Hague.

Along with handsome palms, there is a commercial orchid shade house. Along with palm-gawking, the 40 or so visitors spend time cruising the thousands of orchids which—it turns out—may be purchased.

The big live oaks are impressive. One image that lingers in the memory is of an exquisite 15-foot *Chambeyronia macrocarpa* growing under the vaulted arch of an immense live oak. Positively cathedral-like. Brownbag lunch at The Hague, as members munch in their cars and trucks. Then, it's off to the second stop, Christian Faulkner's house a few miles away.

Christian Faulkner is the new West vp, who organized the event. His house backs onto a golf course. His is a young collection of palms and cycads in a pretty setting. When treasurer Bob Johnson set up his table in the back yard and opened the cash box, the real business of the day came to the forefront. Five vendors had set out their wares for the inspection of prospective buyers, who bent to look at every looped white tag. Not much would be left at day's end.

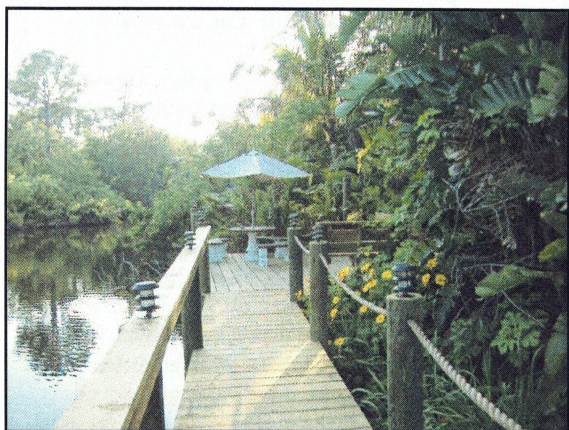
Departing SUVs, cars, and trucks were filled, as usual, with waving fronds—and occasionally—with bright orchid blooms. Will the Editor's not-exactly-prudent purchase of a small *Mauritia flexuosa* turn out to be as foolish as he fears? Readers of this publication are likely eventually to learn of the palm's fate.

--John Kennedy



Ron's Palm Sanctuary

(Continued from page 1)



An inviting prospect at Ron Eward's. Any Nypa, do you suppose? Come see.

extended to The Keys but more usually to Dade and Broward counties.

Of course, not all the palms have survived hurricanes, the occasional frost, lack of irrigation, etc. Currently there are about 90 genera represented, which is almost half the genera (192) in the Riffle/Craft book. The number of different kinds of palms and cycads approaches 300. "Kinds" is a broader term than species as it encompasses forms, cultivars and hybrids that aren't different species. For example, *Coccothrinax crinita* has a short hair form as well as the more common long hair form. Thus, it is one species but two "kinds". A hybrid *Wodyetia* x *Veitchia* is another kind but not a separate species. Some of the more interesting/unusual palms to be found in this Central Florida location are: *Brassiophoenix schumannii*; *Chuniophoenix hainanensis*; *Cahytronoma dulcis*; *Pelagodoxa henryana*; *Clinostigma ponapensis*, *samoense*, and *savoryanum*; *Licuala ramsayi*, *beccariana*, and *cabalionii*; *Hydriastele kasesa*; *Gronophyllum montanum*, *pinangoides*; *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis*; *Kerriodoxa elegans*; *Borassodendron machadonis* and *Kentiopsis oliviformis*. There are also between 6 and 12 species each of the following genera: *Archontophoenix*; *Areca*; *Arenga*; *Coccothrinax*; *Copernicia*; *Dypsis*; *Licuala*; *Livistona*; *Phoenix*; *Pinnanga*; *Ptychosperma*; *Sabal*; *Syagrus*.

The property also has areas exposed to the north winds with very dry soil conditions (ideal for bromeliads). The variety of conditions has allowed him to grow tender species of palms, wet-loving species, and more hardy kinds in relatively close proximity. Unlike

In Memoriam

Dave Besst

By Hershell Womble

We have lost another palm enthusiast. David R. Besst passed away on April 10, 2007. David was one of the four founders of our current Central Florida chapter of the Palm Society. David was a bonafide palm nut when I met him as he already had a collection. When I first saw his plant collection, I was hooked. He was a plant collector extraordinary, as he had many tropical plants as well as palms.

David made seed collection trips to southern Mexico both for commercial seed sources and personal collecting. David was unhappy with the goings on at work (David was an electronics engineer) and as we were eating lunch one day, I asked if he had considered growing palms for a living. He said yes but not seriously.

Well, within six months he was buying large quantities of *Chamaedorea seifrizii* seeds and planting trays of them at his house. He then found land in Sanford, constructed greenhouses and created David's nursery. Don Bernicker was considered the number one grower of Chams in the world and David's nursery became known as number 2. David did good. I am honored to be among David's friends and am greatly saddened by his passing. He was always generous with plants, seeds and information.

Plant a palm in honor of our dear friend.

many palm gardens, this has a riot of color provided by both flowering shrubs and trees and many different crotons (150 + types). Crotons especially are employed to separate and highlight the palms.

This 2 acres of tropical jungle created by the canopy of oaks and the creek is ideal for summer visits providing plenty of shade.

—Ron Eward

Scott Zona's Favorite Palms?

Or maybe palms he thinks more folks should plant? The Sunday, March 4th edition of the *Miami Herald* has an article written by Georgia Tasker. The headline reads "Fairchild Palm Expert Has a Top 10 List." There is a brief description after each name.

While the story says that he grows them in "his own South Miami garden," the subsequent phrasing makes it all a little fuzzier: "here is his list of 10 underutilized palms that should be planted more often in South Florida."

In alphabetical order, these are:

Carpentaria acuminata
Chambeyronia macrocarpa
Cryosophila stauracantha
Dypsis cabadae
Dypsis lanceolata
Hyphaene spp.
Kentiopsis oliviformis
Kerriodoxa elegans
Satakentia liukiensis
Serenoa repens

Well, how many of these do you have in the ground? I have the first four and the last one, with two *Satakentia* to be planted from pots if and when the rainy season ever starts. And I do have *Kerriodoxa* in a pot; retrieved from the ground as it began to go downhill, the palm seems to be recovering, eventually will be re-planted.

I'm not familiar with *Dypsis lanceolata* and I would love to try the *Kentiopsis*. I'm not a fan of *Hyphaene*—no particular species are mentioned—and remain content to admire them somewhere else with more room than I have and probably more years than I have left in which to grow a respectable size plant.

As usual, when I find an article in a newspaper—or a member alerts me to this—I contact the newspaper to request permission to reprint. For the most part, I never receive an answer, *The Palmateer* and CFPACS not being worthy of notice. So far this year, I can number the *Miami Herald*, the *New Zealand Herald* (Auckland), and the *Los Angeles Times* (this unfortunate publication is too embroiled in internecine warfare to notice) among those that have ignored my requests.

Instate, there has been more cooperation, if not in Miami: the *Tampa Tribune* and the *St. Petersburg Times* have both been very gracious in the past to permit reprinting. I don't reprint copyrighted material without permission. Not a good idea.

—John Kennedy

What Are Your Top 10 Palms?

Send your list to the Editor (jkennedy@ircc.edu). We'll compare lists of favorites for the September issue. (I've got to think...10? Can I narrow it to that few?)

—John Kennedy

Reflections on Favorite Palms

By Ron Eward

Asking a palm enthusiast for his or her ten favorite palms must be akin to asking a Mother to rank her children or a cat lover with five cats to prioritize them in the order that they could live without them. Indeed, palms are similar to cats in that they're all different and it's the variety that augments the value of them all. Kinda like the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. Say you have a nice palm grouping of five or six palms and wonder which one could be removed that would have minimal impact on the grouping. You see the difficulty? Well, I'm one of those that could never pick a favorite color or song or anything (it was a big game in the 1950's) and usually refuse requests to pick favorites. I'm rather eclectic and this trait will manifest itself in my garden.

Having said that, John Kennedy's request inspired some ponderings. Sauntering through my Sanctuary, I reflected on this. I realized I could easier select my ten most favored *features* or *aspects* about palms than pick the favorite palms, which I will confess at the outset that I could only reduce to twelve, not ten. (Told you I wasn't any good at this game!)

So I began by examining what are some of the favorite things I like about palms. Possibly, this exercise would help me narrow some favorites. Here are ten features I like in no particular order:

- **Tropical Look** – What better for that tropical feeling than palms? As a Ft. Lauderdale native, born and raised, I would have to have Coco-nuts and Royals high on my list.
- **Majestic Qualities** – Stately appearances, bold statements provided by large dominating palms in the canopy.
- **Color/Hue** – This can relate to trunk, crown-shaft, new fronds or seeds. Color can be used in a variety of ways to merge with other residents in your garden. For example, an *Areca catechu* ALBA with its yellow hue is located close to two large Tropical Black bamboos for an interesting effect.

(Continued on page 7)

Reflections on Favorite Palms

(Continued from page 6)

- **Trunk/Crownshaft** - Many palms curry favor due to say, attractive ring scars or colorful crownshafts. Most get prettier as they mature which will affect any temporal ordering. Combine this aspect with color/hue and you will be drawn to *Pinnanga adangensis* with its ivory crownshaft or *Dypsis cabadae* for a blue-green effect let alone the appeal of *Cyrtostachys renda* which I have lost due to cold.
- **Masculine Aspects**—Some palms just look masculine and some more delicate and feminine. A mix is nice. Here, we would choose the sturdy, mighty trunks with erect lamina and leaflets such as *Bismarckias*, some of the *Copernicias*, especially *baileyana*, and *Borassus*.
- **Feminine Aspects**—There are those palms that are more delicate and graceful, possibly frilly looking or just plain sexy. Here, *Dypsis onilahensis* or *ambositrae* come to mind. Compare a *D. onilahensis* to a *Bismarckia nobilis* to grasp the masculine vs. feminine looking aspects.
- **Weeping Willow Look**—These are some of my favorites as a third to a half of the lamina droops and creates a whispering, spidery effect. My favorite is *Livistona decipiens* but the effect can be enjoyed with *Liv. benthamii* or *Liv. chinensis*.
- **Fragrance**—I have researched and found twenty two palms with fragrant inflorescences. Notwithstanding, I have only experienced two but the garden has five. But once you have whiffed the lemon fragrance of *Areca triandra*, you will want to fill your garden with them. Alas, I only have two now and one blooming.
- **Unique Appearance/Feature**—We all know these standouts due to unique trunks (belly, bottle, flask, spindle, etc.) or the fronds are oriented to one plane or three (Triangle).
- **Personal Appeal/Sentiment/Bias** -- Well, this category recognizes we may favor certain palms for personal reasons that have nothing to do with the above. I like *Ptychosperma macarthurii* simply 'cause I fell in love with them in Singapore. I have several yet it didn't make my list of twelve, which shows the folly of picking favorites.

With these criteria in mind, I selected this list of twelve favorites based on those that exhibited at least three of the above criteria. This made it possible to exclude a palm that may be a personal favorite but for only one aspect. For example, *Livistona decipiens* wins

out over the other *Livs* cause it combines the weeping look with a beautiful ringed trunk (after the sheathes fall) and is tropical and majestic. Once again, in no particular order:

1. *Cocos nucifera* -- Hey, I'm from Ft. Lauderdale and I like coconut.
2. *Dypsis decaryi* -- The Triangle combines masculine and feminine features with a unique appearance.
3. *Livistona decipiens* -- for that weeping visual effect. To quote Riffle/Craft: "The leaf crown provides one of the most beautiful silhouettes and its canopy-scape is almost spellbinding."
4. *Borassodendron machadonis* -- Pin wheel-like, corrugated leaves gives a *Licuala* top to a large frame. Imagine a cross among *Borassus*, *Licuala* and *Chelyocarpus*. Very unique looking.
5. *Clinostigma samoense* -- Tropical and stately with one of the most beautiful leaf crowns.
6. *Pelagodoxa henryana* -- Large, undivided, linear obovate leaves in rounded crown creates special effect.
7. *Satakentia liukuensis* -- Tropical, majestic, bold statement.
8. *Dypsis lastelliana/leptocheilos* -- Teddy Bear palm but not sure which I've got. By the book, looks more like lepto. Beautiful crown with prominent white rings under crownshaft with unique teddy bear feel makes it a crowd pleaser and looks outstanding in the garden.
9. *Kerriodoxa elegans* -- AKA White Elephant or Elephant Ear palm. Possibly the most beautiful, large palmate leaves, white underneath with almost black petioles (actually dark green). Leaves will get 7-8 ft. in diameter. A real treat.
10. *Bismarckia nobilis* -- Beautiful in both silver and blue-green forms. Majestic, masculine, a force to be reckoned with.
11. *Archontophoenix alexandrae* -- The King palms are well named. Both majestic and graceful with straight trunks and prominent crownshafts. A smaller Royal, they look good intermixed.
12. *Areca triandra* -- Delightful, strong lemon fragrance makes it a favorite. I remember when I first smelled the fragrance and tried to figure where it was coming from. Nice surprise when source discovered. Have met many palm people who aren't aware of this aspect.

[Ron Eward is, of course, our host for the June 23rd meeting in Valkaria.—Editor]

More... FAVORITE PALMS

Tampa Top 10

By Ray Hernández

Rhopaloblaste ceramica
Cyphosperma balansae
Copernicia fallae
Copernicia rigida
Coccothrinax borbidiana
Borassus aethiopum
Corypha umbraculifera
Dictyosperma album
Pseudophoenix ekmanii
Roystonea oleracea

I saw *Cyphosperma* and *Rhopaloblaste* in Hawaii and Australia. I knew relatively nothing about either genus/species beforehand but fell in love at first sight. The *Pseudophoenix* looks like a work of art while the *Copernicia rigida* looks like a funnel. *Roystonea oleracea* for its sheer size and grace.

Borassus and *Corypha* for the massive canopies. *Dictyosperma* is a fav because it's one of the first palms I ever purchased. The *Coccothrinax* for its small stature and ruggedness.



Yet again, the Editor's favorite palm, *Allagoptera arenaria*, in the Palmz 'n' Weeds garden, Vero Beach; its leaves are about 8 feet high. The palm has at least 10 'growing points', difficult to count. Another, slightly bigger individual of the same species, is under a hurricane-fallen *Tabebuia umbellata*, and harder to get a picture of.

Editor's Choice:

Top 10 (only 10?): Vero Beach

What factors need to be considered here? Durability? Ease of cultivation? Beauty? Can I pass over the species that have been failures for me in nearly 30 years of palm growing? Durability or toughness is a major criterion. How beautiful is *Prestoea acuminata*! I've failed twice with it and have learned not to persist beyond twice. Everybody and his sister can grow *Bismarckia*, right? Gorgeous. My two elderly *Bismarckia*, more than 20 years old barely have trunks, because of too much shade from faster-growing laurel oaks on the neighbor's lot; the two middle-aged individuals (10+ years), better placed, are even smaller. I do like the palm. Too bad it doesn't return my regard. And, these aged *Bismarckia* have put on some growth after the tree canopy above fell—without damaging them. Maybe I can hope, after all.

My top 10 palms:

Allagoptera arenaria

Hands down, my real favorite, beautiful, takes drought and chill. Incredibly slow growing, but my two big ones are at least 25 years old, huge clumping bushes with small trunks—not trunkless.

Latania lontaroides

I could look out the kitchen window and see my beautiful *Latania* in the back yard, bigger and becoming even more beautiful over the course of 25 years. At Christmas time, a string of small white lights in the leaves gave a ghostly beauty. Immediately after the 2004 hurricanes, it was discovered to be full of palm weevils and their grubs: R. I. P. Small replacement individual, root-pruned and moved to the same location last summer, appears to be doing well.

Phoenix rupicola

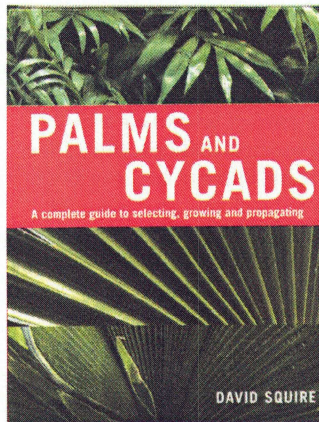
Palms in this genus are high-risk items just now. The larger of my two Cliff Date Palms, with a 10-foot trunk, was bought at an old Palm Beach sale at Mounts, c. 1978. There are a few bends in the trunk, souvenirs of past freezes. But for sheer grace, the beauty of the leaves can hardly be matched.

Livistona saribus

Tallest of my palms, well over 40 ft., has been through freezes and hurricanes. It has successfully defeated the laurel oak in the neighbor's yard by overtopping it when the tree got whacked in the 2004 hurricanes. Many volunteers (don't tell FLIPPC or they'll list it). Even more beautiful, and much the same size then,

(Continued on page 10)

Book Review



David Squire.
Palms and Cycads: A
complete guide to
selecting, growing
and propagating.
Batavia, Ill.: Ball
Publishing, 2007.
160 pp. \$29.95.

This is the latest palm/cycad book, by British garden writer David Squire. It's comparable to *Betrock's Landscape Palms*, which is the most recent and expanded version of the standard *Betrock's Guide to Landscape Palms*. The pictures are good and basic information is provided for 100 species of palms and 18 species of cycads. There are thumbnail descriptions of 84 additional palm species and 17 more cycad species. The layout is simpler and easier to comprehend than Betrock.

The basic botany of palms and cycads comes at the beginning of the book, along with cultural details on planting outdoors and on re-potting. Squire says that palms should be planted in holes containing soil amendments, thus running counter to current belief. A four-page chapter deals with "Increasing palms and cycads," to wit, by seed or suckers. Diseases and pests are also sketched.

Chapter 4 contains a series of lists of palm and cycad species for just about any situation: wet soil, dry soil, containers, salt tolerance, etc. Each species named is presented in the book. List-lovers will enjoy this section.

Despite its origins (the book has also been published in England), the language and the content seem directed to American readers. Among the more interesting features—in the back—is the familiar USDA zone hardiness map of the U. S., flanked by hardiness maps of Australia and of Europe.

From all the basic information in the first chapters, the intended audience appears to be beginners with palms and cycads, for experienced growers already know all this. The palm species individually featured, however, calls this assumption into question, for quite a few are difficult to find and not that easy to grow. These are not palms for beginners. In this specialized

category are *Cyrtostachys renda*, *Johannesteijsmannia altifrons*, *Jubaeopsis caffra*, *Parajubaea cocoides*, *Phoebopodium borsigianum*; most of the palm species, though, are either commonplace or just the next step up for the novice grower.

All palm books have flaws and small errors. Some palms are listed for Zone 10 or even 10B that grow in Orlando and Gainesville. Our own native *Paurotis* is reported in this book as having leaves to the base, a trait we have yet to see (Rufino Osorio's Florida native plant book mentions small leafy suckers that cover the bareness of the larger trunks: a source?).

Unfortunately, the format does not always state when a palm species has male and female plants, certainly important to know this, especially if details of seed and germination are provided in the same place. In addition, no distinction is placed between palms for Mediterranean climates and those for humid Florida climates: *Jubaea chilensis* and *Rhopalostylis sapida* are absent from Florida gardens.

The three *Cycas* species featured carry no mention of Asian cycad scale (not known in Britain?). The six South African *Encephalartos* species are not names that our chapter's cycad experts have floated past your editor: *E. altensteinii*, *E. engene-maraisii*, *E. friderici-guilielmii*, *E. beenanii*, *E. longifolius*, *E. transvenosus*. In the back of the book is a glossary of botanic terms.

As with many other such "complete guides"—that don't aspire to being encyclopedic—some obvious species of both palms and cycads are missing. *Allagoptera arenaria*, a standard Florida species and my favorite palm (sun-loving, tough, drought- and salt-tolerant) is absent, but I won't hold it against Squire.

Quibbles aside, this is a useful book for those starting out in the addiction to palms and cycads. Even those unusual, hard-to-find species perform a function: to ignite the imagination. A further advantage: the book is not written in academese, but in ordinary Standard English.

—John Kennedy

(A casual look in the comparable Betrock book: *Chamaedorea radicalis* is stated to be "clustering" rather than [correctly] single-trunked.)

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
 AUGUST 10**

Top 10, Vero Beach

(Continued from page 8)

was *Livistona drudei*, which died in the next yard to the neighbor's chainsaw after falling there in the hurricanes three years ago.

Arenga engleri

Again, these are "old", more than 25 years old. One, planted in the shade of a laurel oak and a bald cypress, has grown steadily and with minimal care. It was partially knocked over in 2004 (along with the bald cypress). The other, planted in full sun, has grown much more slowly but eventually became approximately the same size, with a slightly lighter leaf color.

Coccothrinax crinita

For novelty, what can beat an Old Man Palm? (Maybe *Cyrtostachys renda*, but that one I haven't [yet] attempted.) Now with about 4 feet of hairy trunk, it's most enjoyable. But, as it gets higher, attractiveness lessens. This was a seedling giveaway at a long-ago meeting at Rockledge Gardens.

Wodyetia bifurcata

Yes, I know. A palm fancier should not be enamored of so commonplace a species as the Foxtail. True, the palm is everywhere where once Queen Palms were planted. But I like my Foxtail, purchased at a Palm Beach sale maybe 15 years ago. Beautiful, undemanding, and came through the hurricanes with little more than a few twisted fronds. The shape, something like a Spindle Palm, was a surprise. It's been fruiting for three years now and I never water it, seldom fertilize it, and am rewarded for my benevolent neglect with a perfectly beautiful 30-foot specimen. Beside it is another Foxtail, bought small about 8 years ago. This one is skinny and sickly looking.

Thrinax morrisii

Native, tough, and another slow grower, my single individual has a head of healthy leaves on a 2½ foot trunk, and is maybe 7 feet high overall. If I live long enough, maybe another 6 inches or so in the decade ahead. A candidate for planting in new housing developments where the neighbor's house is 6 feet away.

Sabal palmetto

So common that it's barely noticed. Collectors always go for flashy exotics and largely ignore the local stuff. (As a Philadelphian, I was surprised at Penn's reputation away from the city, where it wasn't thought all that wonderful.) I've watched the whole life span of the Cabbage Palm and have been impressed by its toughness. And, remember, *Sabal palmetto* is somebody else's exotic.

Serenoa repens

Another toughie local species whose only enemy is the bulldozer clearing a lot to plant grass and hibiscus and *Schefflera*. Saw Palmetto takes virtually every Florida habitat and requires No Care, No Watering. Low water-demand plants are in garden futures all over the state. The silver form is distinctive and beautiful; I like the regular green because it fits into my landscape without drawing attention to itself as a specimen. My big saw palmetto, planted in front, screens the house from the street. There are two others originally on the lot that are smaller, and some scattered seedling volunteers.

ONLY 10? This leaves no room for a few others that I might otherwise have included. What about my *Burretioakentia vieillardii* or my *Allagoptera caudescens* (still in my mind *Polyandrococos*)? Oh, well, gotta quit before I start naming everything I have. Then, there are some others, mostly understory, that I'd like to get.

--John Kennedy



Bees visiting a staminate inflorescence of *Chamaedorea arenbergiana*.

(Photo by Mike Dahme)

A Brief Visit to the Ceroxylons of Cocora Valley, Colombia



By Michael Calonje
Cycad Biologist,
Montgomery Botanical Center

Palms belonging to the genus *Ceroxylon* are distinctive because their trunks are covered by a thick layer of wax which often gives them a brilliant white appearance. The wax in some species is so abundant that it was harvested to make candles before the advent of paraffin, often by felling the entire palm. Alexander von Humboldt and Aime Bonpland first encountered wax palms in the Quindio pass in the early 1800's and named the genus *Ceroxylon*, deriving from the greek words "Keros" meaning wax, and "xylon", meaning wood. *Ceroxylon* ranges in South America from Venezuela to Bolivia, usually in montane rain forests above 2000m elevation. At this altitude in the tropics, the weather is usually cool and foggy, and plants obtain their moisture as much from fog precipitation as from rainfall.

Fog precipitation occurs in cloudforests when water droplets form on vegetation as cloud moisture condenses. This then falls to the ground from the canopy. **The first time** I encountered wax palms was as a 10 year old boy on a visit to the Cocora Valley in Quindio, Colombia. These wax palms were *Ceroxylon quindiuense*, the world's tallest palm trees and Colombia's national tree since 1985. I was awed by their shiny white trunks, their height, and their sheer abundance in the landscape, yet it wasn't until I reached my mid-twenties that I had an opportunity to revisit the Cocora Valley, this time as an adult palm enthusiast.

Above: Cocora Valley, Colombia, where Ceroxylon alpinum grows in both favorable and unfavorable habitats. (fig. 8)
(Photos by the author)

In 2002, when Dolmetsch arboretum in Cali hosted an International Landscaping Symposium, several talks featured palms and their use in landscaping. My father, Alvaro Calonje, talked about the use of palms in the landscape and Cesar Diaz of Venezuela and Leonel Mera of the Dominican Republic both spoke about the native palms of their countries. I presented a slide show on notable palms from around the world. After the symposium, the four of us palmophiles decided to visit one of the most incredible palm landscapes in existence: the Cocora Valley. It was only a three-hour drive from Cali, and was considered safe to visit at this time, something you can never take for granted in many of Colombia's rural regions.

At the time, considerable areas of Colombia were controlled or occupied by leftist guerrillas or right-wing paramilitaries, rather than the Colombian government. These two factions fought for territorial control against each other and the Colombian army, and both mainly profited from the drug trade, extortion, and kidnappings. For this reason it is extremely important to know where you're going in Colombia, and whether it is presently considered a safe place to travel. We knew the Cocora Valley was free of insurgents at the time, so we made quick preparations and the next morning we hopped in a car and left the Cali heat for

(Continued on page 12)

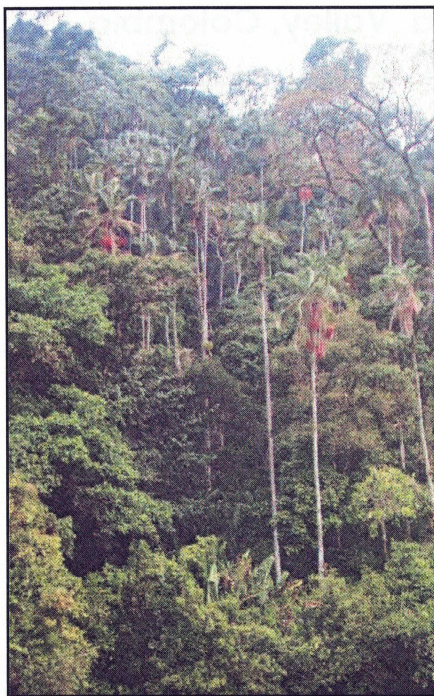
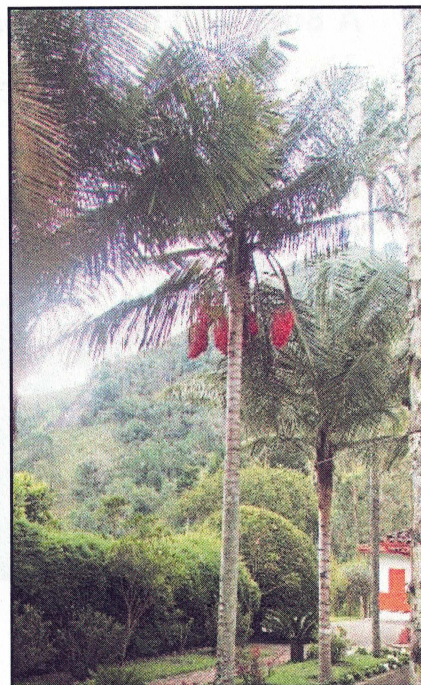


Fig. 1 (left), wild stand of *Ceroxylon alpinum*.
Fig. 2 (right) cultivated specimens of *Ceroxylon alpinum*.



Ceroxylons of Cocora Valley

(Continued from page 11)

the coolness of *Ceroxylon* country. Enthusiasm was high, but alas, time was short. One of our guests had obligatory travel arrangements for the next day, so the trip I had long anticipated could only be a day trip. As we drove through coffee plantations a few miles from the Cocora reserve, we saw our first stand of wax palms growing at 1800m in elevation. It was a dense stand of palms with waxy trunks, but at 20m. tall, they somehow seemed thinner and shorter than the wax palms I remembered from my youth. They were actually *Ceroxylon alpinum* (fig. 1), a smaller species that grows at slightly lower elevation than *C. quindiuense*. The female palms were each loaded with four to five bunches of ripe red fruits conspicuously hanging below the crown, contrasting nicely with their bright white trunks. We also saw a few shorter, cultivated palms in a house adjacent to this stand that were very ornamental (fig. 2). When Humboldt and Bonpland first visited the Quindio Valley in 1801, they saw both *C. alpinum* and *C. quindiuense* but thought them to be the same species.

Both have white waxy trunks and slightly overlapping altitudinal ranges, but differ considerably in their dimensions: *Ceroxylon alpinum* achieves about half the trunk width (20cm) and final height (8-20[-30]m) as

the gigantic *Ceroxylon quindiuense*, which reaches a trunk width of up to 40cm and a height rarely up to 60m.

After our brief interlude, we got back in the car and continued on the road until we arrived at the trailhead to the valley of the palms. We had been on the road for hours, but only had an hour to spend at the wax palm valley before we had to head back.

Time was short and there was much I wanted to see, so as the rest of the crowd placidly walked the trail leading into the Cocora Valley, I darted up the trail like Forrest Gump, which was no easy feat considering the low oxygen levels at 2000 meters.

After an intense five minute run, the palms that I longed to see finally surrounded me. Thousands of shiny white trunks reached for the sky as the fog began to creep in, alternately hiding and revealing the incredible landscape.

The palms grew in two very different environmental conditions: some grew in open cattle pasture (fig. 3), while others grew in the cloudforest, eventually overtaking the canopy by a considerable height and forming what Humboldt called "a forest over the forest." (fig. 4)

The wax palms in the pastureland were lucky to be the only trees spared the chainsaw when the clearing took place, but it was obvious they missed the nutrients and moisture that the forest supplied. These nutri-

(Continued on page 13)



Above, Humboldt's "forest over the forest" (fig. 4). Right, Ceroxylons in pasture (fig. 3). More pictures on next page.



Ceroylons of Cocora Valley

(Continued from page 12)

ent deprived palms probably produced fewer seeds than their cloudforest neighbors, and the seeds had little chance to grow on the hardened pasture below. No regeneration was occurring in the pastureland.

The cloudforest palms were 500m. straight up a steep hill from the trail. But by this time I only had 30 minutes left for the adventure, so I took a deep breath and darted up the hill, pausing intermittently to catch my breath and take a few snapshots. I spent half the time under the cloudforest canopy, and observed beautiful waxy trunks, accompanied by palms of all other sizes, and plentiful seedling regeneration taking place (fig. 7). As I exited the forest I noticed the breathtaking view I had missed while running up the hill. I was looking down on the valley surrounded by thousands of waxy trunks (fig. 8).

The view was briefly blocked by a cool waft of fog, and as it dissipated I noticed a man on horseback galloping up the hill towards me. It was my father who had rented a horse to retrieve me and get me back to the car on time. We took one last look at the valley and galloped down the mountain, awed by what we had seen and longing to return. The six hour drive was worth every minute for this unforgettable but short one hour experience.



Regeneration under cloudforest canopy. (fig. 7)



Left, the difference in crown of *Cerroxylon alpinum* in pasture and (right) in the forest. Below, the bare trunk of the remnant palm in pasture and the white waxy trunk, right, of the palm in the forest. (figs. 5, 6)

Trees/Palms

Hurricane Survival, Recovery

By John Kennedy

On March 15th, the Eugenia Chapter (Indian River County) of the Florida Native Plant Society listened to a presentation by Dr. Mary Duryea. She is a professor in the School of Forest Resources & Conservation at the University of Florida, Gainesville. The talk was devoted to dealing with the damage to trees and palms after a hurricane and how to assist recovery. When is the only solution to cut the tree or palm down? How long does recovery take?

As would be expected, the answers are not simple. Many trees that were completely or partially destroyed in 2004 and 2005 had more than one leader, which made them more vulnerable to wind damage. Palms, Dr. Duryea noted, had come through the hurricanes better than expected unless something (trees or limbs) fell on them.

Distributed at the meeting was an IFAS Extension publication (#ENH1036), "Assessing Damage and Restoring Trees After a Hurricane." The 13-page, 8½ x 11 brochure is filled with color pictures. Key topics covered include: "Safety," "Assessing Damage," "Restoration Pruning," "Palms and Pines," "Prevention" [plantings designed to survive hurricanes], and "Wind Resistant Species." The publication is available electronically at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP291> and from county extension agents. It was produced in July, 2006 by the Urban Forest Hurricane Recovery Program. IFAS is, of course, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at UF.

Bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, is on the list of



wind-resistant trees. I can look out the window and see my big (50-ft) bald cypress listing at a 50-degree angle, courtesy of Hurricane Jeanne. Ah, a disclaimer at the bottom of the page assures the reader that variable conditions (listed) make no tree completely wind proof. Another wind-resistant tree is the winged elm (*Ulmus alata*). Half of my 40-foot winged elm stands as an ugly souvenir of, I believe, Hurricane Frances. But, as Dr. Duryea pointed out, trees with more than one leader (there were three) get whacked.

Not many palms species appear on the chart of the wind resistant, only those encountered in large numbers in the aftermath of hurricanes from 1995-2005, the base of the study.

FLIPPC's sinister hand is apparent with a warning on *Livistona chinensis* that care must be taken that it does not escape cultivation. When will FLIPPC list housing subdivisions ("take care that these do not damage native ecology")?

If you ever wondered what Auckland, New Zealand looked like, now you know. Beautiful vista, with palms beyond the curve of the road and before the harbor.

(Photo by John Prince)



Hapaxanthy vis-à-vis Monocarpic

Entries in recent *Palmateers* concerning the applicability of these terms to palms that die on flowering spurred consultation with higher authority: John Dransfield.

'**Hapaxanthic**' is the umbrella term that covers the lot, those like *Corypha*, *Metroxylon* [except *pleonanthic amicarum*] and several genera in the Calamoideae as well as all *Caryota*, *Wallichia* and most *Arenga*. It does not matter whether the palm flowers on one occasion only - 'over the top', like *Corypha* and *Metroxylon* - or multiple times as w/the fishtail spp, in the dying process.

'**Monocarpic**' is where the definitional problem arises. 'Mono' being Phoenician or something for 'one', some botanists ascribe this to those plants that flower but once ere falling on the sword. I.e., the *Corypha*. But others - and the citation - also use 'monocarpic' to refer to a palm, such as *Arenga pinnata*, that flowers sequentially many times [from the leafbases] over an extended period in the dying process.

So in this application monocarpic palms are those hapaxanthic palms that are single-trunked, that do not sucker. Clumpers such as *Caryota mitis* and *Metroxylon sagu* are hapaxanthic but not monocarpic, their individual stems dying on flowering but not the plant. To call these palms 'monocarpic' would, however, be in contradiction w/the glossary entry in *Genera Palmarum* and the 1979 edition of *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*.

Considering the potential for confusion - 'monocarpic' having conflicting definitions - it was suggested by another taxonomist that use of this term be avoided, that 'hapaxanthy' be used exclusively w/ additional explanation as necessary.

--Mike Dahme

[From the seemingly endless spots taped by the Editor for broadcast over Indian River Community College public radio station, WQCS, Fort Pierce]

Palm Points #56

Where to Buy Palms

Uncommon palms are not usually found at chain garden centers. Often they are grown by small nurserymen who specialize in palms and cycads. Sometimes, individuals grow palms in their backyards and offer these for sale.

Regional palm societies regularly hold sales in which vendors sell plants that they have raised. The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society website (www.cfpacs.org) lists forthcoming sales around the state of Florida.

Anyone looking for palms might also consult a publication found in most public libraries called *Plant Finder* that lists by Latin names palms (and other plants) that are available from wholesale nurseries.

These palms can be ordered through retail nurseries.

Palm Points #58

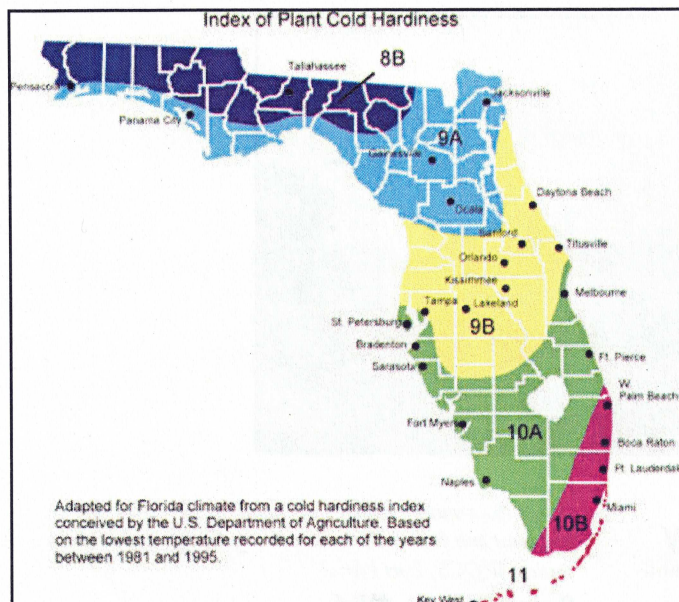
Florida Native Palms

Many of the palms grown in Florida—maybe most of the palms planted here—are exotics. That is, they are not native to Florida but were brought in at some time from elsewhere. Queen Palms, Coconut Palms, Date Palms are all imported species.

Florida has 11 species of native palms, more than any other state with the exception of Hawaii.

Only one of them is found exclusively in Florida, and nowhere else. This is the trunkless *Sabal etonia*.

The other Florida native species also grow in nearby states or in the Caribbean.

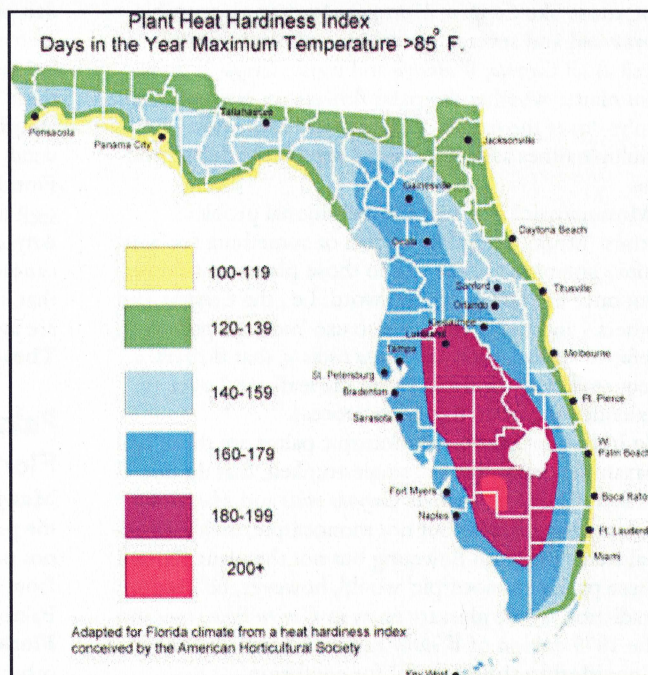


HOW HOT? HOW COLD?
(or, Take Your Pick!)

These two maps are from Florida State University. Put the two together and there seems to be a confirmation of warming. Sealing Wax Palm to be planted outdoors in Gainesville or Live Oak? Not in the immediate future, it would seem. But the cold hardiness map (above) shows Gainesville in Zone 9A when—not all that long ago—it was in 8B. In fact, there isn't much of Zone 8B left in Florida, only the uppermost portion of the Panhandle. The re-zoning is based on lowest temperatures from 1981-1995, the temps of the 90s offsetting the freezes of the 80s. If the researchers had figured in temperatures up through 2000, would the zones have been revised upward? Maybe Zone 9A now in South Georgia and South Alabama?

The heat map (right) certainly reveals the hottest spots in the state, not surprising, the southern interior. But those living in Lakeland or elsewhere in Polk County might dispute being placed in Zone 9B in the cold hardiness map. After all, it is freezes and cold that limit the growing of palms and cycads outdoors.

—John Kennedy



Adventures in Research on *Aiphanes minima*

By Karen Laubengayer

I am a graduate student at Florida International University working towards a degree in Tropical Plant Biology. My Master's thesis research entails *Aiphanes minima* and its taxonomy throughout the Lesser Antillean islands of Barbados, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

In the early 20th Century, a single species of *Aiphanes* was recognized in the West Indies (Urban 1920). In 1949, Bailey examined the distribution of *Aiphanes* species in the Lesser Antilles and recognized *Aiphanes minima* (from Martinique), *A. erosa* (Barbados), *A. luciana* (St. Lucia) and *A. vincentiana* (St. Vincent).

Aiphanes was monographed by Borchsenius & Bernal (1996). They concentrated their field work in northern South America, where *Aiphanes* is most species-rich, and made no field trips to the Caribbean. Using only available museum collections, Borchsenius and Bernal concluded that the variation in the Lesser Antilles populations of *Aiphanes* could be accommodated within a single species, *A. minima*.

In the past three years, Mr. Arlington James (pers. comm.), of the Forestry & Wildlife Division, Dominica, noticed considerable variation in populations of *Aiphanes minima*. He found a spiny, stocky form from the lowlands and a slender, less spiny form from higher elevations. Botanist Roger Graveson suggested that there are 3 taxa from St. Lucia, Dominica, Barbados, and Martinique as seen through his personal observations. The observations made by both Mr. James and Graveson raise the question: Is there more than a single species of *Aiphanes minima* in the Lesser Antilles, and if so, is St. Vincent home to a species other than *A. minima*?

Through my studies, I shall address the problem of the taxonomy of *Aiphanes* in the Lesser Antilles by collecting specimens, along with ecological, elevation, and gross morphological data. The field data such as stem diameter and height, number of leaves in the crown of the palm, number of leaflets per side of the leafy rachis of a leaf, colors of flowers and fruits, arrangement of morphological parts, etc., are not preserved in herbarium specimens but will be crucial in sorting out the taxonomic problem. In addition, I shall use anatomical data to discern differences and similarities among populations. In particular, I shall scrutinize pollen anatomy and morphology, as these were found by Borchsenius & Bernal (1996) to be taxonomically useful. I shall examine morphological characters of the stem, leaves, flowers and fruits and seek novel charac-

ters with taxonomic utility. In particular, I shall study the morphology of the seedlings, which has not been documented for the Lesser Antillean species.

Thesis research in the Lesser Antilles has already commenced, and field collections have been made in Barbados, Dominica and St. Vincent. Considerable anatomical, molecular, and seed materials have been collected for all three islands. Leaf material will be sectioned and scraped, and examined closely for anatomical variation among mature palms. Seeds are collected for morphological comparison as well as for seedling anatomy and morphology comparison among populations. Leaf material is collected for molecular studies of the plant's DNA,

(Continued on page 19)



(Fig. 1a) Slender, less spiny form of *Aiphanes minima* in Dominica. (Photo Dr. Scott Zona)

The Southeastern Palm Society announces the release of

Hardy Palms for the Southeast

A Guide to Growing Palms Outdoors North of Florida



Hardy Palms for the Southeast, by Tom McClendon, Will Roberts and Joe LeVert, can help you select from 45 palm varieties to find those that will grow in your locale, and are happy in soils ranging from red clay to sand. The authors also explain how to successfully add palms to many Southern-style garden designs, and how to place palms around a swimming pool for the best effect. Hardcover, 140 pages, 60 color photos, 1 map. All proceeds benefit the Southeastern Palm Society.

Order online with major credit cards or PayPal at www.sepalms.org

Contents
 Introduction
 Palms of Home in the Southeast
 Palms We Grow Here • Palms Are Native Here • What is a Native Plant? • Palm Botany • Palm Pests
 Understanding the Southeastern Climate
 USDA Hardiness Zones for the Southeast • Varies of the Southeastern Climate • Other General Climate Considerations • Southeastern Climate Facts
 How to Grow Palms
 What Do Palms Want? • Planting Your Palms • During the Growing Season • Weathering the Winter • A Word About Pests
 Some Palms You Can Grow
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State _____ Zip _____	5 copies at \$28.00 each (\$125.00) plus \$7.00 shipping. Books are priced at \$32.95. Wholesale to US addresses only.			

RAIN BARRELS

If you're interested in saving rain water to use in the garden—always assuming it's going to rain again—one way to do so is with rain barrels. How to do this has been the subject of workshops given by extension agents around the state. Basic information is provided in a pamphlet "Rain Barrels: A Homeowner's Guide," by Gerard Watson of the Water Conservation Staff of the Hillsborough County Water Department; the phone number there is (813) 272-5977. It's also possible to contact the Southwest Florida Water Management District (800-423-1476) or county extension agents for copies.

--Editor

Above, the flyer received from Southeastern Palm Society (SPS) on publication of its new book. This may be purchased for \$36.00 (including \$3.05 shipping). Send check made out to SPS to:

SPS Book Offer
 Will Taylor
 214 Oak Street
 Athens, TN 37303-2565

Right, CFPACS Treasurer Bob Johnson won the award for "Best Grown Palm" for this *Wallichia densiflora* at the South Florida Palm Society's Spring Show & Sale, March 11-12 at Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami. Also among the 25 exhibitors in Miami were CFPACS members Faith Bischock, Rob Branch and Chuck Grieneisen.

(Photo by Ryan Gallivan)



Research on *Aiphanes minima*

(Continued from page 17)

but will not be included in my thesis research due to time constraints.

Field collecting for my thesis research began in August 2006 with a trip to Dominica. The eastern side of Dominica provided three sites for palm collecting. A total of six palms were collected for herbarium specimens and prepared for future research back in the lab. A total of 31 seeds were collected and sown in the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's nursery. My preliminary findings confirmed that there are at least two different populations, in accordance to Mr. James' findings on the island of Dominica (see figure 1a & 1b).

On the same collection trip, I traveled to and studied *Aiphanes minima* on Barbados. Barbados yielded 11 herbarium specimens and 126 seeds.

Four sites were collected from across the central portion of Barbados. The terrain of Barbados was strik-

Below (fig. 1b), stocky spiny form of *Aiphanes minima* in Dominica. Grad student Karen Laubengayer takes morphological measurements of the palm under the guidance of forestry officer Arlington James. (Photo by Dr. Scott Zona)



Above (fig. 2), *Aiphanes minima* in Barbados similar to spiny, stocky form in Dominica.

ingly different than that of Dominica. Where Dominica was mountainous and in a predominantly natural setting, Barbados was flat and most areas of the island were industrialized, save for a few gulleys and cliffs where *Aiphanes* seemed to grow like a weed. Some *Aiphanes* appeared to be similar to the more stocky populations on Dominica (see figure 2), however, there also appeared to be some dramatic variation in the density and length of spines within Barbados, alone (see figure 3).

I sampled St. Vincent in March 2007. The more robust and spiny *Acrocomia* appeared to densely blanket St. Vincent; however, *Aiphanes* were few and hard to come by. After scouring the island, a total of three populations were discovered, all along the western side of the island. A total of seven specimens were collected (see figure 4), as well as 33 seeds for seedling studies. Morphologically, these *Aiphanes* appeared to be most similar to those growing on Barbados.

Understanding *Aiphanes* in the Lesser Antilles will provide a sound taxonomic foundation for foresters,

(Continued on page 21)

Palm Points #59 Palms in the Snow, Part One

Not all palms are tropical. Some can grow in snowy areas.

The Windmill Palm is from the foothills of the Himalayas in India and is often covered with snow in winter. It's a medium-sized fan palm that is planted out of doors in London, in Edinburgh, Scotland, and in much of western Europe.

In the United States, it's grown in the West as far north as Seattle, Washington and in the East up to Norfolk, Virginia. The Latin name is *Trachycarpus fortunei*; other species in the same genus are not widely known but most seem to have the same cold hardiness.

In Florida, the Windmill Palm grows best from about Orlando north. It does not do well on the Treasure Coast, though frequently available in nurseries.



Our Faith—Faith Bischock at the March 17th Venice meeting. Remember, folks, in *The Palmateer* you don't always get to see her face.

(Photo by Karen Barrese)

Palm Points #60

Palms in the Snow, Part Two

The Mazari Palm is native to Afghanistan, which hardly qualifies as a tropical place.

Even so, the Mazari Palm grows in the dry mountains of that country and also in Pakistan.

This is a low trunked, clumping species much like Florida's own Needle Palm and has handsome palmate silvery leaves. It is famous not only for its unlikely locale as for its speed of growth: snails are faster. If you plant a one-gallon size Mazari Palm right now, your great-grandchildren will marvel in years to come at the lovely small bushy palm.

Perhaps the most striking specimen of Mazari Palm in Central Florida is at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. In case you must have this palm in your yard, the Latin name is *Nannorhops ritchiana*.

CYCAD LOVERS!

Perhaps you noticed? There's no article on cycads in this issue. Tom Broome has made sure—for years—that there was at least one cycad article in each issue. More often than not, he wrote it himself. (Chuck Grieneisen wrote quite a few, as well.) We are grateful to Tom for all the time he devoted to this. Now, Tom will be contributing "sporadically." So, if you wish to see something in *The Palmateer* about cycads, the Editor will need to receive articles from you. No articles, no cycad info. Help to avert this omission.

—John Kennedy



Left (fig. 4), grad student Karen Laubengayer making vouchers of *Aiphanes minima* while in St. Vincent. (Photo by Fitzroy Springer, Forestry Officer of St. Vincent)

Below (fig. 3), variation in spine length and density among *Aiphanes minima* within Barbados.



Research on *Aiphanes minima*

(Continued from page 19)

natural resource managers, biologists, and conservationists. A well-defined taxonomy is necessary to address the region's conservation issues. For example, several endemic macaw species feed on fruits of *Aiphanes*, and in Barbados, the conservation of endemic species is an important environmental concern. By discerning the differences of *Aiphanes minima* populations within the Lesser Antilles, it will be easier to 1.) determine which species are in need of protection in regards to conservational concerns, and 2.) enrich the species diversity of flora on the island.

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[Ms. Laubengayer's research has been partially supported by a grant from Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society.—Editor]

From the Editor's Desk

By accident, I spotted an article in the *Miami Herald* online: Georgia Tasker interviewing Scott Zona on his 10 favorite palms. Imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, I then thought about what were my favorite palms, asked Ray Hernández for his 10 favorites. I put the same question to Ron Eward, our host on June 23rd. It wasn't entirely clear to me from the original newspaper story whether Scott had planted these species in his own garden or whether he thought (as palm maven) that they should be planted more often by everyone. Perhaps both are true: he grows them and so should a lot of other folks.

I came up with 10 favorite species based on the palms I have grown. Ray named some species (e.g., *Rhopaloblaste ceramica*) that he can never hope to grow anywhere around Tampa. In this case, he is thinking of beautiful palms he's seen in the tropics, not actually in Florida. Ron gave the most philosophic view, in considering form, grace, overall visual impact, among the factors for judgment.

For the September issue of *The Palmateer*, I am going to pick names out of the membership list to contact to name their favorite palms. Or, of course, you can send your own list to me.

We are now—mid-May—experiencing our biannual infestation of lovebugs (*Plecia neartica*). Joined end to end, the female larger, they hover in daytime in vast clouds at traffic lights since (apparently) they enjoy car exhausts. And, since they contain some compound—smells like ammonia—they can become permanent additions to the paint of fast-moving vehicles and extremely difficult to wash off windshields. Sitting on a pair of love bugs will take the color out of your slacks or out of the upholstery. May and September, they visit us in Florida for a week or two before (mercifully) disappearing. Imagine my horror in discovering something else lovebugs love: the inflorescences of our native *Serenoa repens*. The flowerstalks of my big saw palmetto next to the driveway are, literally, loaded with love bugs. Maybe it's the proximity of the driveway: they are prepared to move out when any of the three parked cars there starts up.

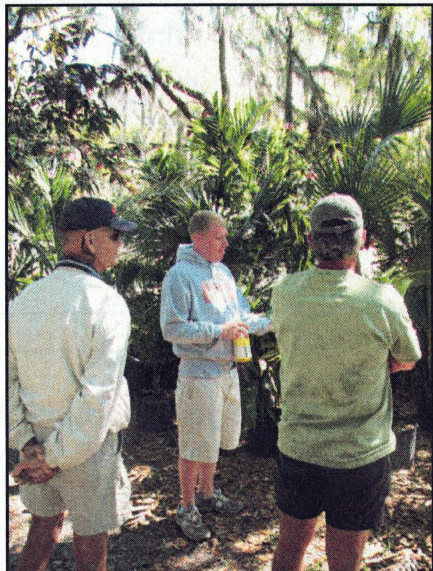
The rainy season hasn't begun yet: may it come soon. But there have been predictions that even if rainfall is 'normal,' which it wasn't last year, we will still be mired

in drought conditions. What are the long-term implications for growing palms and cycads? Right now watering is limited to once a week in much of South Florida. Most water in the state is applied to lawns. What about ornamentals? Florida has a water-based ecology; ordinarily water is not far below the surface. But, soon, if the drought continues we can expect not only more fires but also more sinkholes, and higher temperatures. Maybe *Brabea* and other desert palms will flourish here.

WE NEED A NEW PRESIDENT!! Diana's term expired at the end of last December. Nobody has volunteered to take her place. She has stayed on, out of a sense of duty, but will—in the not-too-distant future—ride off into the sunset. Then, what do we do? I don't know of an organization that survives very long without someone at the helm. Ideally, Diana's successor should be an active member for some years with an ability to plan and schedule. Reliability is a must. It is a two-year commitment; the board helps out, but the president is the point man/woman for the group, with whom outside organizations get in contact.

Adventures in ARC Land. . . Yes, the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) in New Zealand is still mulling whether to ban from planting or possession several species of palms. These notably include *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* and *Phoenix canariensis* as threats to native ecology. This is, apparently, a serious danger even (or especially?) in urban and suburban settings. At a recent hearing, at which both sides of the proposed ban were represented, any action was postponed. But a truly innovative proposal was heard, so wondrous that it stunned both proponents and opponents: to remove only female Canary Island Date Palms (no mommies, no kiddies). There is, alas, a catch: how to identify the *femmes fatales* before they bloom, into potential promiscuity? Technology, it seems, may be able to discover the culprits, but has not yet advanced sufficiently to accomplish the purpose. However, with substantial financial backing, learned botanists are prepared to research the method. No similar proposal for the ever-popular Bangalow Palms (usually called King Palms here). Maybe cutting off the inflorescences? Maybe just the female flower parts? John Prince will keep us informed

John Kennedy



*Above, Christian Faulkner (center), West up, was the tour guide at The Hague in Venice on March 17th. Below, CFPACS members look at everything.
(Photos by Karen Barrese)*



President's Message

Wishing all of you a relaxing summer and hope to see all of you at our June 23rd meeting @ Ron's Sanctuary in Valkaria. This is a new garden on our list with many unique and exotic palms to get you thinking about what you might be able to grow in your own backyard.

Lastly, we are still in need of a President! Six months beyond my term. I know there must be someone out there who is interested in "guiding" the operation of this fine organization. If you have any questions as to what's entailed with this prestigious.... position please feel free to call or email me.

Sincerely,

Diana Wehrell-Grabowski

No Seed Bank Report

No seed has been offered so far during the March-May quarter. Thus, no income has been reported from this source during that period. Mike Dahme, in temporary charge of the Seed Bank, was planning to make one offering in late May.

*Golf is OK, of course. That's why you came to Florida, after all. But playing every day for months, you can't be bored, right? Maybe do something else (occasionally)? People seem to grow stuff here, at least there are a lot of plants. Maybe something to do when you don't exactly feel like playing and nothing much on TV? Seem to be four or five different kinds of palms... and those smaller plants, oh, cycads. How to get a fix on just what these palms and cycads are? One way to find out is to join Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society, go to the quarterly meetings with friendly folks to see what people are growing and to find more information. Then, too, members receive this stellar quarterly newsletter, *The Palmateer*. Reasonable, only \$15 a year or three years for \$40. Fill out the form on this page, send your cheque, made out to CFPACS, to Membership Chair, Karen Barrese, whose address is listed in the next column. Come! Join the fun!*

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE:
AUGUST 10**

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.

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

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

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



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*Above, a solitary Ceroxylon quindiuense growing in the misty cloudforest, Cocora Valley, Colombia.
(Photo by Michael Calonje)*

Below, West VP Christian Faulkner (left) gives The Tour to visitors at The Hague, Venice, on March 17th. Rick Nale (center) listens, together with Phil Stager. The Editor is in the green shirt and funny hat.

(Photo by Tom Barrese)



Right, Central Florida Fair Horticultural Exhibit Superintendent Maryann Utegg admires a Licuala ramsayi at the CFPACS display at the fair. CFPACS was a part of the Horticultural Exhibit at the 2007 Central Florida Fair held April 19-29 at the Fairgrounds in Orlando. CFPACS membership brochures were distributed and several palms and cycads were part of the CFPACS display, including Arenga engleri, Chamaedorea cataractarum, Chamaedorea microspadix, Chamaedorea radicalis, Dioon merolae, Kerriodoxa elegans, Licuala ramsayi, Lytocaryum weddellianum, Rhaps excelsa, Sabal mauritiformis, Wallichia densiflora and Zamia floridana. In addition to increasing public awareness of CFPACS and palms and cycads in general, CFPACS received a \$150 donation from the Central Florida Fair in appreciation of our participation in this year's Horticulture Exhibit.

(Photo by Catherine Johnson)

