The Palmateer

Volume 27, Number 4 *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* *December, 2007*

We have a new leader!

Bob Johnson New CFPACS Prez

By John Kennedy

Bob Johnson, chapter treasurer for the last two years, has agreed to take on the job of President. He will succeed Diana Wehrell-Grabowski in January, 2008. We are fortunate that Bob, who has demonstrated his financial acumen and commitment to CFPACS, will take on the position.

Diana's term as President ended December 31, 2006. She was gracious enough to continue on for an extra year. Appeals for a successor to come forward brought no measurable response. Bob is stepping into the breach. We know him and he knows us. He has this to say to members:

I look *forward to serving you as president of CFPACS. I am thankful for the leadership and untiring work of Diana and all of our current board members. I believe that we have a great board in place made up of both newer CFPACS members and veterans. This mix of people gives us the balance of both new perspectives and connection to our past. With the continued dedication of our board and the involvement of our entire membership I believe that we can take a good thing - CFPACS and all that it does and stands for - and make it even better.*

The continued *population growth in Central Florida presents us with an array of unfolding possibilities that are ours to engage. There are now more palm enthusiasts in our region that we can connect with and invite to become a part of CFPACS. There are even more folks that want to beautify their yard or business grounds with tropical plants but are perhaps uninformed about palms and cycads, or don't know where to begin. If each of us helped just one such person and invited them to become part of CFPACS we could double our membership!*

The landscape *of Central Florida is changing. What can we as a society continue to do to engage and educate the people in our neighborhoods about palms and cycads? What can we do to see more and more palms and cycads planted in our communities?*

Each of *us has something to contribute in this regard. What part will you play?*

Catherine Johnson, Bob's wife, will take over the job of Treasurer.

December 8th Meeting: St. Pete

On December 8th our holiday "sociable meeting" takes place in St. Petersburg. Two stops are planned. The first is at Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum, that beautiful open park on the bay that belongs to the City of St. Pertersburg. We haven't been to Kopsick since September, 2001, when CFPACS sponsored Palmfest. We did return to St. Pete in 2006 (June) and in 2003 (March), but to other destinations (Sunken Gardens, Florida Botanical Garden, Rick Nale's).

In the last year, more than 100 new palms and cycads have been added to the Kopsick collection—so there is much more there than previously. After a leisurely tour of the old and new plantings, we will head to lunch at Rick Nale's. After lunch, an auction and sale will take place at Rick's.

Members are invited to bring a plant/palm/cycad or two for

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RENEW Your membership for 2008.

The auction at the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society meeting, Sept. 8 in Lake Worth. (Photo by Dave Reid)

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.

CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

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DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE
FEBRUARY 4, 2008

The Palmateer

The Palmateer is published four times a year: March, June, September, and December by Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society, a chapter of International Palm Society and of The Cycad Society.

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December 8th Meeting, St. Pete

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donation to the auction. No seeds will be auctioned.

What to bring? Everyone should bring a covered dish, hopefully not just desserts. The chapter will provide beverages, paper plates, etc. Maybe water, sunscreen, a hat, perhaps something to sit on at Kopsick might be good ideas.

Anyone wishing to support Kopsick financially may purchase a brick to be laid in the arboretum. Details will be available there. Maybe Kopsick t-shirts will also be on sale? Mine is almost worn out and due for replacement.

If there's any time left over, perhaps a visit to Haslam's, the most famous used bookstore in Florida, may be squeezed in.

--John Kennedy

Time Frame in St. Pete

9:45 a.m. Board meeting (Kopsick)
10:30 a.m. Meeting begins (Kopsick)
12:30 p.m. Lunch at Rick Nale's
1:30/2:00 p.m. Auction, to be followed by sale.

RENEW
Your membership for 2008.

Directions

To Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum, St. Petersburg

From the South and West

1. Take I-75 north to EXIT 228 (I-275) and cross the Sunshine Skyway *(toll)*.
2. Take I-275 to I-375 (EXIT 23); continue on as it turns into 4th Ave N.
3. Continue to the end and turn left (north) onto Beach Drive.
4. Go to 8th Ave N and turn right (east).
5. Turn left onto North Shore Drive.

From the North and East

1. From I-4 or I-75, go to I-275 and go west over Howard Franklin bridge.
2. Turn left onto I-375 (EXIT 23); continue on as it turns into 4th Ave N.
3. Continue to the end and turn left (north) onto Beach Drive.
4. Go to 8th Ave N and turn right (east).
5. Turn left onto North Shore Drive. The pool is on the right.

From Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum to Rick Nale's, 535 51st St., S.

1. Go southwest on North Shore Dr., NE toward 9th Ave., NE (0.1 miles).
2. Turn right onto 9th Ave., NE. (0.1 miles).
3. Turn left onto Beach Dr, NE (0.2 miles).
4. Turn right onto 5th Ave., NE (0.6 miles).
5. Merge onto I-375 W via ramp on left (0.8 miles).
6. Merge onto I-275 S via exit on left (toward Bradenton) (1.5 miles).
7. Take the 28th St., S exit (EXIT 21) (0.2 miles).
8. Keep RIGHT at the fork to go on 28th St., S. (0.3 miles).
9. Turn LEFT ONTO 5th Ave., S. (1.9 miles).
10. Turn LEFT onto 51st St., S. (<0.1 miles).
11. Rick's house: 535 51st St., S.

Palm Bans, Hawaii (Not Yet)

[A year or so ago, message was received from Norman Bezona about a proposed ban of some palm species in Hawaii. Mike Merritt, our erstwhile treasurer now resident on the Big Island, was asked to discover any subsequent information. Below is a September e-mail from Norman Bezona, Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources—also board member of the IPS. —Editor]

Aloha,

There has been some discussion over the last several years to develop a hit list comprised of any palm that is capable of reseeding itself. Among those discussed were *Archontophoenix* species, *Ptychosperma* species, *Roystonea* sp., *Pinanga* sp, *Washingtonia* sp., *Sabal* sp. and numerous others that have naturalized in other parts of the world.

My experience with species such as these is that they usually do not "invade", rather they become established when the ecosystem is disrupted. As in the case of the Alexander palms on the Island of Hawaii. The areas where these stands exist, were cleared for sugar cane, herbicides applied and almost sterilized thus allowing pioneer species to become established. Palms are generally slow growing and are easily managed. To come up with a hit list that would bar nurseries from growing or selling these species and to remove existing palms makes little sense .

Recently, a campaign to stop the production and selling of *Cyathea*s and *Blechnum*s here has left the landscape industry with no treefern alternatives, thus causing folks to again cut (often illegally) and plant our native *Cibotium*s in landscapes where they are not adapted. Of course, the treeferns die within a short time. Since these ferns grow only an inch or two a year, we could soon lose much of them in the wild.

Any hit list needs to be thoroughly thought out in order not to create more economic and environmental problems.

RENEW
Your membership for 2008.

Hawaii Palm Meeting

Above and below, visitors touring the Leilani Estates garden of Jerry Anderson on the eastern tip of Hawaii Island on September 23rd. *(Photos by Dean Ouer)*

The Anderson garden was visited by 50-75 members of the Hawaii Island Palm Society. Parts of the garden were once the garden started by the late Ken Foster. It's heavily planted with tropicals, with vistas that seem to go on and on. Emphasis is on Madagascar species, but there are many *Astrocaryum*s and Seychelles species (including a coco-de-mer).

—Mike Merritt,
Hawaii Correspondent

Some Palms on Hawaii Island

Not commonly seen in Florida, this (above) is Cyphosperma balansae *in Jerry Anderson's Hawaiian garden. Yes, he has a California garden, as well. Below,* Pinanga elmeri.
(Photos on this page by Dean Ouer)

*A Joey blooming: flower bract is the white mass near the ground (*Johannesteijsmannia altifrons) *in Leilani Estates .*

Above, Calyptrocalyx sp. "Sanumb*," in the Anderson garden.*

Observations on:

Chamaedorea elatior

By Mike Dahme

The only in-ground plant of this species that I recall seeing in Florida was at Dale Holton's where it sprawled on the front lawn and eventually succumbed to something - Briggs and Stratton or road kill. However, with adjacent vegetation it readily ascends and can disappear from sight, the only *Chamaedorea* - and alone among the palms in the Americas other than those in the small genus *Desmoncus* - to climb. That it can is owing to the apical [terminal] pinnae being reflexed, or turned-back, against the leaf rachis: it lacks the cirri or flagella that most of the Old World climbers [*Calamus*, etc.*] and *Desmoncu*s have, so in this regard is unique in the palm family.

Plants of this species have been available for several years from vendors in the Palm Beach area, result of a seed-collecting trip to Central America. I've 10 of these in Puerto Rico, where it was quickly obvious that they'd been deceived into believing they were at home. Several matured inside of two years from planting and most are at the stage of initiating climbing. Unfortunately, they won't there attain the 60' in altitude that one of the vendors said she saw in habitat, a canopy all but impossible in an active hurricane zone, but they will soon be overhead in the guava and other vegetation present and the stems will perhaps reach the 20 meters of length mentioned by Hodel in the *Chamaedorea Palms* book.

It seems the form available in Florida is the common, thick-stemmed, single-trunked one. In an article in the California chapter's *Palm Journal*** subsequent to the 1992 book he added to the understanding of this "most diverse" species of the genus and, aside from what I'm growing, the forms are: a thinner-stemmed, caespitose one, usually found at higher elevations, which can branch aerially [dichotomously] as well as by suckering from the rootball; a solitary form with "grass-like leaflets"; and a fourth, which retains the simple, undivided fronds of the juvenile stage that resemble, he wrote, species of *Astrogyne*, *Calyptrogyne* and *Geonoma*.

* *Calospatha* and *Retispatha* likewise lack specialized climbing organs but, per the Riffle book, the former climbs only to a short heights via recurved spines on the petioles and rachises while the latter ascends, if it does at all, by attachment to forest neighbors with its spinuous stems and petioles - leaning more than climbing.

** Vol 121, March '95, "An Unusual Simple-Leaved Form of Chamaedorea Elatior"

Chamaedorea elatior *growing vigorously in Orocovis, Puerto Rico. There are nine other plants of the same species there.*

New Member

We welcome Cara Woods, of Sebastian, who joined CFPACS in September.

President's Message

This is my farewell message as the retiring CFPACS President. I can truly say that it has been a great experience working with all the existing and past Board Members, and having the opportunity to meet many of our members in person during our quarterly meetings.

It was about ten or so years ago when my husband brought me to what would be the first of many CFPACS meetings, as well as other regional palm events I would attend. The first meeting I attended as a first-time observer of the crazed palm fanatics was held at Mike Dahme's place in Grant, also known as *Borassic Park*. During the meet I roamed the garden observing the endless array of palm and cycad species, while sipping on cold and delicious Spaten beer, what a great first introduction to the world of palms and cycads. I must say I was hooked after that meet, thanks Mike.

Some years later, and many meets beyond my first meet, I volunteered to become East Coast Vice President. After that two-year stint I was elected President of CFPACS, not that there were any other willing individuals lined up to fill Ray Hernández's position.

I would like to thank all of the Board Members I have had the pleasure of working with over the years, you are all remarkable individuals and I am thankful for your dedication to our society. Secondly, I would like to thank all of the individuals over the years who have willingly shared their gardens during our quarterly meets. It's not easy opening up your beloved garden to a group of palm and cycad fanatics, not to mention the massive "whirl-wind" clean-up process that takes place the week prior to the onslaught of CFPACS members.

As you have read earlier in this issue, Bob Johnson the Treasurer for CFPACS has **willingly** volunteered to take on the position of President. Great, I can now sleep at night knowing that I did not abandon ship! Bob has done a superb job as the CFPACS Treasurer, which takes a great deal of time and organizational skills. His involvement in CFPACS is not limited to his role as Treasurer, he has given 110% of himself to help CFPACS grow in all capacities.

His wife, Catherine, has also willingly volunteered to take on the position of the Treasurer for CFPACS. She is definitely qualified and you can read her bio in this issue. Thanks so much, Catherine, for your willingness to share your time and expertise with CFPACS.

Thank you again, Bob, for volunteering your time, expertise, ideas, and motivation CFPACS will truly reap the benefits from your leadership.

I would also like to personally acknowledge my gratitude to John Kennedy, the Editor of *The Palmateer*. He gives 110% of himself as the Editor of *The Palmateer*, which is not an easy task! If you get a chance please send him a thank you note via email. Many of our neighboring and distant palm societies no longer have a newsletter. I will continue to print *The Palmateer* in my office in Cocoa Beach, and I look forward to working with John.

In closing, aside from all the fond memories I have of my involvement as a member of the Board I do have some "food for thought" I would like to share with our members and they are as follows:

CFPACS relies on volunteers to fill board positions. I would encourage all of you to please consider donating your time, knowledge and expertise and volunteer for a board position when it becomes available. At this time we are in need of a Central Vice President, and also someone to replace the East Coast Vice President, my husband Mark Grabowski, who is two years beyond his term as well.

Aside from board positions, CFPACS is always in need of individuals who have time to share their knowledge and expertise with public relations efforts, such as educating the general public on palms and cycads. Additionally, any individuals with expertise in marketing, CFPACS would welcome your ideas and "manpower" to spread the word about our society, thus increasing our membership which will result in adding to the crazed palm and cycad population!

Lastly, CFPACS holds quarterly meets. We strive to find new gardens to visit during these meets. I would ask each of you that has a garden that you are proud of, and one that we have not visited, to please contact one of the board members and share your interest in opening up your garden to our members. We will be looking for one-two gardens to visit for our Spring meet, and remaining 2008 quarterly meets. So please do consider sharing your garden with our members in the VERY NEAR future.

Thanks again for allowing me to serve as the President of CFPACS, I look forward to seeing all of you at future meets, this time I'm going to spend some time sitting down under a palm frond, with a "cold one".

Sincerely,

Diana Wehrell-Grabowski

Cold Hardiness Variability in Palms and Cycads

By Chuck Grieneisen

When I first joined the Palm and Cycad Society many years ago, one of the most useful things I learned was the cold hardiness of various palms and cycads. They had an article that had a chart on what temperatures different palms took. (Whether they died, were burned badly, or were O.K. at various temperatures) It was not complete in the species or the temperatures. The members of this society and others have done a whole lot to fill in the gaps since then. There are also Cold Hardy Reference databases on-line for various palms and cycads.

Then I also found out that the duration of the cold also had an effect (how many hours below freezing or 26 degrees seemed to be important). Also, if frost had formed on the leaves was another big factor. (cold hardy versus frost hardy) Where sometimes 30 degrees would kill a plant due to frost forming on the leaves, killing all the leaves, then the plant would die, versus some plants surviving at 26, but no frost having formed. Also, if plants were under some protection of trees. That would also affect the duration of cold and frost forming on them due to the canopy "cover". Also, if it was windy or not. Windless nights allow cold temperatures to "sink" (as cold air settles, like warm air rises) to the lowest spots. If you are in a low spot in a windless night you may be several degrees colder than someone just a few feet higher in elevation.

Confused? Not as much as some of the weather forecasters around here. I wrote this article on the freeze of two winters back (05'-06'); most of the observations that follow were made in the months following. We had a night that was forecast to get down to 32, maybe to 30 degrees. It got down to *25* in the coldest part of my yard in Oviedo. I have spoken to many people around central Florida, and most weren't as cold as that. I am not usually in a cold spot. I found out the hard way what was cold hardy and what wasn't so much. I didn't try to protect much, since most everything, even coconuts and royal palms can take 30 degrees (marginally).

It was a big surprise to me the following morning. I have several thermometers that record the lowest temperature of the night on my roughly 1 acre of plant collection. The lowest recorded temperature I got was 25. I had a few 26-degree temperatures as well. I don't know if frost formed. I didn't check every few hours like some exceptionally good cold hardiness articles of the past.(from Dave Witt) I don't know the duration of the cold either.

I tried to document as much as possible from the freeze, and I got some surprises.

First, my plants had varying degrees of natural protection. Below I will describe where they were growing as open, protected or very protected. The **open** is without any protection or canopy of any kind. **Some protection** is where they had tree canopy, other plants, or my house beside them, but open or very light canopy directly above the plant. **Very protected** means dense canopy protection all around the plant or even a fiberglass screen protection in a seedling pot (but not covered with frost blankets or anything else).

I will start with the plants that got no damage. I suspect some of the plants that got no damage were due to the protected areas they were in, and may have got some damage if grown in the open.

Undamaged Palms 0% damage

Archontophoenix maxima: I have 3 plants about 4 foot and all had some canopy protection

Arenga micrantha: Were right beside the *A. maxima*s. These were supposed to be cold hardy, I have probably 6 or 7 plants all 100% O.K.

Bactris gasipaes: My 1 plant was in a very protected area.

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Damaged Latania vershaffeltii *in Oviedo.*

Cold Hardiness Variability

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Borassodendron machadonis: Had some protection, had 3 plants in 3 gallon, no damage
Burretiokentia vieillardii: Had many seedling plants in a very well protected area. Some in community pots had a screen over them, still no damage.
Caryota no: Had a community pot in a very well protected area, no damage.
Ceroxylon amazonicum: Seedlings in a community pot in very well protected area
Copernicia cowellii: One small plant. Some protection, none directly overhead
Dypsis hovitendriana: Two small plants. Some protection, none directly overhead
Howea forsteriana: Four decent sized plants (3-6 foot). They were in the most densely protected area of my yard.
Licuala peltata v. summawong (elegans): Some to very protected areas. Several sizes of plants from different sources in different areas. No damage on any.
Licuala longipes: Some 1 gallon plants in very protected area
Lytocaryum weddellianum: Many plants of various sizes in protected to very protected areas. All had no damage
Parajubaea torallyi (v. microcarpa and V. torallyi): Only slight canopy protection
Syagrus botryophora: I have some in the open and some in slight protection. This was a surprise. I had from 1 gallon plants to 6 foot plants.

Damaged Bismarckia *in Oviedo.*

Syagrus yungasensis: Many 1-gallon plants from 1 source. In slight to dense protection
Wallichia siamensis: Several 1 gallon plants. Mostly in light protection

Slightly damaged Palms, 10-30%

Bentinckia condapanna: In a very well protected area with a screen over 1-gallon plants. Got 10% leaf burn
Coccothrinax borhidiana: Had some protection. None directly overhead. One 7-gallon plant. The 10% damage didn't show up for several weeks.
Coccothrinax montana: 20-30% burn. It was in the open (no protection)
Chambeyronia macrocarpa: Have several, some 1 gal, to 15 gal. From some to very much protection. The ones with more protection did better. My biggest plant with the least protection had the most damage, about 40% that showed up weeks later. The smaller plants with more protection only had about 10% burn.
Corypha umbraculifera: Only seedling plants in some protection to very protected areas. 10% damage

Greatly Damaged Palms, 50-100%

Arenga pinnata: Have many plants that had about 80% burn that showed up weeks later in moderate protection
Astrocaryum alatum: One plant, 90% burn that showed up weeks later in moderate protection **,** it made a full recovery.
Borassus aethiopum: Have 4 or 5 plants. 70% burn that showed up weeks later. It was in the open (no protection).
Dypsis rivularis: 2 plants. 70-80% burn that showed up weeks later. They were in the open, made a full recovery.
Hyophorbe lagenicaulis: Had 1 plant in the open that had 100% burn that showed up weeks later. This is not surprising. This plant would lose all its leaves in less cold temperatures. It did make a full recovery, like it always did, making 3 new leaves the rest of the year after the freeze, only to have them die off again each winter.
Hyophorbe vershaffeltii: Have 1 plant. It had only a little protection, a greenhouse beside it, with a little canopy above it. It got 80-90% burn that showed up weeks later. This was a surprise; this plant had never had any cold damage even at 26-27 before. It has made a full recovery
Latania vershaffeltii: All had 70-100% burn. All recovered though.
Livistona victoriae: Had several plants 50-70% burn that showed up weeks later. They were in the open

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Yes, it's an *Archontophoenix*. . .but which one?

OK, what is this palm? It's growing in the Palmz 'n' Weeds garden in Vero Beach, was bought maybe 20 years ago in 1-gallon size as 'Kuranda Palm' from Carol Graff in Miami. Later, for reasons not presently recalled (newly described species?), the owner labeled it *Archontophoenix myolensis*. Now about 25 feet high, the palm has recently bloomed for the first time.

Nearby are *A. cunninghamiana, A. maxima, A. purpurea.* 'Kuranda Palm' doesn't look like any of them; the two *A. tuckeri* in the vicinity are still too small for any comparison.

Dowe's key to *Archontophoenix* species is not entirely helpful. For *A. myolensis*, the leaf is supposedly long and twisted (yeah, maybe it is) and there are no ramenta—scales on the underside of the leaf. From ground level, looking Up, there don't seem to be any ramenta..

Again, from Dowe the red fruit has thin fibers, as opposed to "thick fibers." Um, we'll see, fruit is forming. But the flowers were white, true of five of the six species in the genus.

—John Kennedy

RENEW
Your membership for 2008.

Cold Hardiness Variability

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Raphia farinifera: Have many plants.50-90% burn that showed up immediately. They were in the open for the most part. They were slow to recover.
Roystonea species: Have several small seedlings. They only had 20-30% burn. They were in moderate protection. This was a surprise.

Dead Palms

Arenga westerhoutii and **Oenocarpus bataua** both died a few weeks later. Both were in the open. I only had one *A. westerhoutii*, but I had another *Oenocarpus* in a more protected area that made a full recovery.

The variable palms

Dypsis ambositrae: I had 1 large one in the open that got 70% burn that showed up a few weeks later. The small one gallon ones in moderate protection only got 0-20% burn.The protection may have made the difference here.
Bismarckia nobilis,silver variety: This was the biggest surprise. Plants from 2 different sources. Both in the open. One group had 0% burn and some from another source got 70% burn. The 2 plants I got from South Florida had the 70%. They all fully recovered.
Kerriodoxa elegans: Another big surprise. I had one in a 15 gallon in moderate protection that got 90% burn that showed up several weeks later. I have many smaller one gallon ones in moderate protection that got no burn. I had a few in 3 gallons in moderate protection that got 60-70% burn. Ironically, the small ones were from a Hawaiian source. They all recovered fully.

Undamaged Cycads

I will only mention the ones that were of note. Cycads like *Dioon edule* and *Cycas revoluta* are much more cold hardy than the temps that I got.
Bowenia: Moderate protection, no damage
Cycas hainensis: No protection, out in the open. No damage on any of my 5 plants, even on newly emerging leaves.
Lepidozamia hopeii and **perofskyana:** Only a few Hopii's in moderate protection, many perofskyanas from 1 gal to 25 gal. in moderate protection. No damage.
Encephalartos tegulaneus, whitelockii, and laurentianus: all had some moderate protection, but none had any damage.
Zamia inermis: Only 2 plants in moderate protection, no damage
Zamia vazquezii: I have many plants, they were all in heavy cover with lots of trees over them, still no damage. This was a surprise

Damaged cycads

Encephalartos hildebrandtii: 1 very large plant in the open. 90% burn.
Zamia lindenii: The photos of the ones in *The Palmateer* a few issues ago got 60% burned. They were in a very protected area. They aren't known to be cold hardy though. They have made a full recovery.
Zamia picta: I had 3 , three gallon size plants in a moderately protected area. They got 100% leaf burn. They all recovered though.

Variable Cycads

Dioon spinulosum: I have many 3-5 gallon plants from one source in moderate protection. None of them got any damage. I have some 1 gallon plants that I got from a Texas source that were right beside the others that got from 0-50% burn.
Zamia fairchildiana: I have 4 small ones in very good protection that didn't get any burn. I have a large, coning size plant in just slightly less protection that got 100% burn.
Zamia loddigesii: the ones in very good protection got 0% burn. The ones in the open got 100% burn. Protection under a tree canopy seemed to be the key.
Zamia neurophyllidia: I had 2 plants in very good protection that didn't get any damage and a few different plants in very good protection that got 50-100% burn. They all did recover.
Zamia furfuracea; The ones in the open got from 50-80% burn. The ones in very much protection got 0%. Again, protection seemed to be the key.
I did not lose a single cycad due to the 25 degree cold. The leaves burned on some but all were trunk (caudex) hardy. Meaning the caudex didn't freeze, killing the plant.

The conclusion is two fold: 1) Don't trust your weatherman's forecast. They CAN be off by 5 degrees or more, in the MINUS column. I had always thought that the forecast was the coldest it was expected to get, like snowfall predictions up north, the worst possible, so you could prepare. It is not always the case. 2) Is that all the plants don't follow all the cold hardiness charts. Just because you see a species of plant that made it through a certain temperature does not mean that all the plants of that species will do the same. Yours could be better, or worse even if only by a few degrees. Those few degrees could be critical though.
Some afterthoughts: I always thought all the plants of one species were uniform in cold tolerance, but it is not the case. With many species found over large

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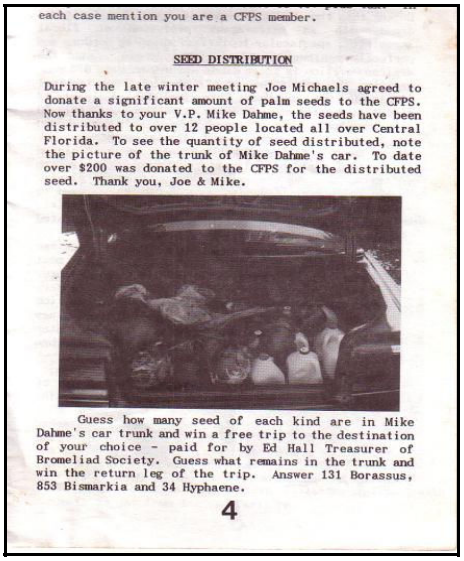
Joe Michael's Account of Christmas Freeze, 1989, Earring Point (transcribed)

12-23-89 7:30 a.m. 48º light rain
1.4"
2:00 p.m. 39º Cold front arrived—steam off river cut visibility to 100'. Wind N. W. 20-30mph. Making orange cranberry sauce
4:00 p.m. 35º Cloud cover overcast
6:00 p.m. 31º " " "
8:00 p.m. 28º " " "
12-24-89 12:45 a.m. 23º Clear
6:30 a.m. 19º " Wind 15-25 mph N. W.
12:00 32º " "
3:00 p.m. 36º " "
Burke Gordon Fruit shop frozen pipe [Pillegible]
8:00 p.m. 29º " Wind 5 mph N. N.W.
9:30 p.m. 28º " Light wind [no direction noted]
12-25-89 1:50 a.m. 25º " "
Hear ocean roaring. High level wind NE off ocean

Temp inversion
7:00 a.m. 23º " Light N. W. winds
11:30 a.m. 41º " "
" [no direction noted]
3:45 p.m. 47º " [no notation about wind for this or following two entries]
12-26-89 7:00 a.m. 32º "
12-27-89 7:00 a.m. 38º "

Document faxed to John Kennedy by Mike Dahme, November 13, 2000



each case mention you are a CFPS member.

SEED DISTRIBUTION

During the late winter meeting Joe Michaels agreed to donate a significant amount of palm seeds to the CFPS. Now thanks to your V.P. Mike Dahme, the seeds have been distributed to over 12 people located all over Central Florida. To see the quantity of seed distributed, note the picture of the trunk of Mike Dahme's car. To date over $200 was donated to the CFPS for the distributed seed. Thank you, Joe & Mike.

Guess how many seed of each kind are in Mike Dahme's car trunk and win a free trip to the destination of your choice - paid for by Ed Hall Treasurer of Bromeliad Society. Guess what remains in the trunk and win the return leg of the trip. Answer 131 Borassus, 853 Bismarkia and 34 Hyphaene.

4

Above, the results of the first distribution of palm seed from the Michael property on Earring Point, Wabasso. Page is from Central Florida Palm Bulletin, *14:2—September, 1994. (Courtesy, the Mike Dahme archives)*

'Right, 'Mrs. Bo': the female Borassus aethiopum *on the Michael property that has provided much seed for benefit of the CFPACS treasury.*

Joe Michael, 1918-2007

By Mike Dahme

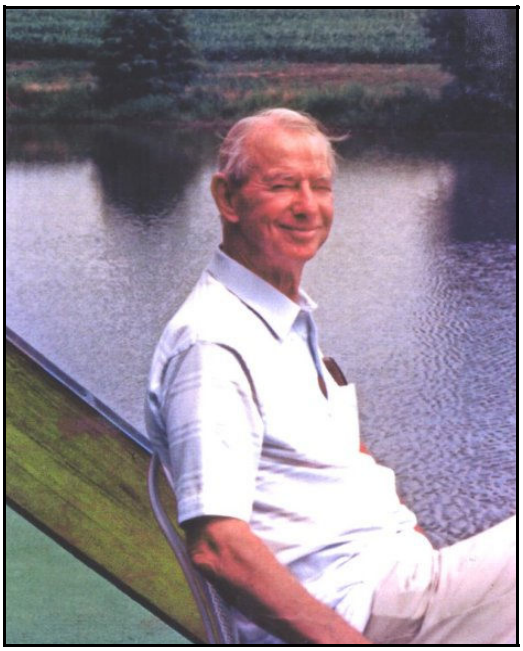
Joe Michael died in October. An original member of the Central Florida palm chapter and an early recruit to what is now the International Palm Society, his earliest palm plantings date to the late '50's [result of an epiphanic visit to Miami's Fairchild Garden] at the Indian River County home he shared with Anne and their children.

My entree to their idyllic location was the meeting in May 1989, part of a two day palm event arranged by FIT's Jerry Keuper. Likely I would have already seen such exotics as *Corypha* and *Borassus* at Fairchild, but to see them and much else succeeding in the tundra of central Florida was inspirational to all present.

At the time of this meeting only one of Joe's two *Borassus aethiopum* plants was mature. By the time of their next hosting in March '94 [again part of a two day palm extravaganza], however, the other had come on-line, and the heavily-shaded area at the base of the then perhaps 45 foot-tall female plant was replete with strap-leafed seedlings. I recall also that numerous old seeds were on the ground: though they were likely no good didn't stop many of us, with Joe's blessing, from collecting - "rear ends and elbows".

Not long afterwards the '94 crop of fruits came down, which Joe had arranged through Ed Hall to donate to chapter members. Though this distribution, along with seeds of *Bismarckia* and *Hyphaene*, was made without charge, it marked the beginning of the chapter's seed bank as several recipients made $ donations. Over the years Joe's seeds have added many thousands to the chapter treasury. Quite apart from the income aspect - Bo seeds then as now fetched $3 each - Joe's was, following 1992's Hurricane Andrew, likely the only domestic source of *Borassus* for years.

Another important service he provided us was the hour-by-hour compilation of weather conditions during 1989's record, three-day, Christmas freeze, the worst by far that he had experienced, and the subsequent damage report to his palm collection. Although the micro climate created by their extensive frontage on the Indian River Lagoon normally precludes serious cold injury to plants, this was then not the case, as he recorded 19 degrees F the first night, 23 the second. In other words it was likely no worse on the mainland side of the lagoon, and not materially worse elsewhere in central Florida, and thus there might be hope for all of us to try to grow the species that survived at his location. Joseph Wade Michael was 89.



Joe Michael at home on Earring Point, Wabasso.

Joe Michael 1918-2007

A True Conservation Hero

[Reprinted, by permission, from the November, 2007 issue of The Peligram, *newsletter of The Pelican Island Audubon Society, Vero Beach (www.pelicanislandaudubon.org) .]*

By Paul Tritaik and Richard Baker

We at Pelican Island Audubon are saddened to hear of the passing Joe Michael at his home the morning of 17 Oct. He was born in 1918 in a log cabin in the Community of Buttermilk, near Clayton, GA. His father had rented the cabin for the Michael family of 6 "to get out of the FL mosquitoes", for the summer.

We in particular are thankful for his protecting Pelican Island and birthing our Audubon chapter. Joe was instrumental in the early 1960's in protecting Pelican Island when the State tried to sell the wetlands around the island to Miami developers. In 1959, Joe learned of the expansion of bulkhead lines near Pelican Island. Joe convinced the State to lease 1600 acres south of Pelican Island (and adjacent to his properties) to the

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A True Conservation Hero

(Continued from page 13)

Florida Audubon for 10 years. In June of 1962, Joe and his sister, Jeanette Lier, learned of even more extensions of the bulkhead line into the Indian River lagoon near Pelican Island. Joe and Jeanette rallied local opposition and convinced the County [Indian River] to reject the proposal.

The very next month, Joe established the Indian River Area Preservation League with the main goal of protecting Pelican Island. Joe convinced the State to conduct an aquatic resource survey and a bird survey for the purpose of establishing the biological importance of the area, so it could allow for expanding the refuge. Joe requested the Fish and Wildlife Service to study the area and recommend boundaries for expansion. In 1963, the FWS recommended expanding the boundary to 4,740 acres. Joe worked closely with Tom Coxon of the Florida Audubon Society and Art Marshall of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to broaden the support across the state and nation. Joe and Robert Amos recruited hundreds of local citizens to the effort, receiving the support of 19 local civic organizations and four statewide environmental organizations. The State refused to lease the 4,740 acres because it included bottomlands they wanted to retain and about 300acres of wetlands they wanted to sell to developers. Those 300 acres are known today as Pete's and Bird's Impoundments.

Not only would those impoundments have been filled for a housing development, but the shallow lagoon bottoms surrounding Pelican Island would have likely been dredged to provide the fill. Joe spearheaded the opposition in Tallahassee and convinced the State to cancel the sale. This was a landmark decision, because for the first time in Florida, state-owned bottomlands were protected for conservation purposes. Joe later worked with the State to eventually lease those 4,740 acres to the refuge. That land is now protected and open to the public via Pete's and Bird's Impoundment trails and, of course, the Centennial Trail boardwalk and observation tower.

In 1965, Joe established the Town of Orchid, partly as another way of protecting Pelican Island. Because the town boundaries extended into the refuge, bulkhead line approvals and other local matters could be considered by a more conservation-minded town council. Upon successfully protecting Pelican Island, the Indian River Area Preservation League disbanded in 1966 and donated their remaining treasury to the newly formed Pelican Island Audubon Society to continue the work of protecting Pelican Island and the Indian River Lagoon.

Joe's conservation commitment extended into everything he did. As a member of the Indian River Mosquito Control Board, Joe convinced the District to leave one mangrove wetland, near his home, completely unaltered by ditching or impounding. Joe also convinced the District to breach two impoundments near his grove, so they would function more naturally. Those impoundments are called the Deerfield Impoundments, and are also part of the refuge. Joe also wanted to see the Pelican Island Refuge expand on the barrier island and sold his old grove along Jungle Trail to The Conservation Fund for eventual inclusion into the Refuge. He shared the vision we had of restoring those old groves to natural communities for the benefit of wildlife.

Both Joe and his wife Anne have made major contributions to our organizations and others in the county in ways most people do not know about. As a result of people like Anne and Joe, land is still being set aside to protect our wonderful Indian River County, a place we all love so much. It must have really been an exciting place to see when Anne and Joe first discovered it so many years ago. All new folks here also get to see a little bit of its ancient charm. We gain inspiration from pioneers like Joe and his legacy lives on in our activism.

The Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge was the first wildlife refuge established in the United States, by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903. It was initially set up to protect the nesting of non-game birds, particularly egrets killed for their plumes then popular in women's hats, and also for pelicans. The refuge has been declared a National Historic Landmark. (www.fws.gov/pelicanisland) —Editor

DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE
FEBRUARY 4, 2008

A chilly, rainy winter's day—June 10th—when members of the Palm & Cycad Society of New Zealand visited Landsendt Nursery near Auckland.

(Photo by John Prince)

How could Dave Reid miss taking such a striking shot of this Encephalartos ferox *seen at Ruth Sallenbach's on September 8th? (Rhetorical question.) All issues of* The Palmateer *should have some cycad pictures but, alas, don't.*

Introducing Our New Treasurer: Catherine Johnson

Catherine Johnson is one of the endangered species called the Florida native. Originally from Jacksonville, Catherine spent her summers catching frogs and minnows along the St. Johns River. This led to getting a degree in biology from Jacksonville University and soon after to a position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Catherine worked in aquatic plant control for 10 of her 13 years with the Corps of Engineers and then for the St. Johns River Water Management District as the Orange County Watershed Action Volunteer Coordinator for 3 ½ years. Also, during this time Catherine was active in several volunteer organizations including serving as treasurer of the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society and Council of Volunteer Management.

Currently Catherine is working for the Orange County Environmental Protection Division in the Ecological Assessment Team. When not at work, Catherine enjoys gardening with palms, cycads and other tropical plants.

--Upcoming President & Husband

It should be pointed out that all CFPACS checks must bear two signatures. One signature on checks originating in the Johnson household in Orlando will be signed by another Board member (the Editor). The Johnsons are in the grand tradition of our society. The current, outgoing President and the East VP are wife and husband; for a couple of years the Membership Chair and West VP were wife and husband—he now vanished from office. The society was kept alive for years, during its low point, by the husband-and-wife team of Ed Hall and Nancy Hall (God bless 'em in retirement in Macon, Georgia).

—Editor

Cold Hardiness Variability

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ranges the cold tolerance factor is a variable one. I have not found that seeds from the same tree were variable however. (At least in this instance) The plants that I got from different sources may have come from from very different parts of the plant's ranges. Even the sources I got the plants from may be getting them from a different area now and are not the same as they were. At least I found out what the most cold sensitive/cold hardy plants of that species could take. Or did I.....?

Just one more piece of the puzzle.

My Trip to Kauai

Above, the ocean view at the entrance to the Allerton and McBryde Gardens (Photo 1). Right, Robert Allerton's house (Photo 2).

By Mike Merritt

In late August, I traveled from my home on the Big Island of Hawaii northwest to the opposite end of the populated part of the Hawaiian chain of islands, the island of Kauai, to look at palm collections. On Kauai, most such collections are in venues managed by the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG), a federally-chartered, not-for-profit institution whose mission is tropical-plant research, conservation, and education.

Kauai (the "Garden Island") and Ni'ihau (the "Forbidden Island") are geologically the oldest of the major populated Hawaiian Islands, and are no longer tectonically active. Most of inland Kauai is mountainous and inaccessible by road. Even some of the coastal roads detour inland to avoid coastal mountain ranges. Almost all development on Kauai has occurred on a coastal arc ranging eastward from just short of the well-known Napali Coast on the northwest coast, down the east coast, and ranging across the southern coast. There is one road that heads inland from north of Lihue, the county seat, into an inland residential district. The coastal development is almost entirely dedicated to tourism, and shoreline hotels and beaches are found everywhere north, east, and south. Every time I caught sight of the surf at one of the beaches, I was stunned at the sight of the bluest-looking water I had ever seen. (No, I wasn't smoking anything.)

The island, in fact, is so dedicated to tourism that it seems that, if the tourists and their facilities were somehow removed, it would be virtually deserted, except for NTBG and the estates of a few billionaires. Property is pricey on Kauai, but roads are barely adequate. Long traffic jams occur around the Lihue area during what passes for "rush hour" on Kauai, and drivers on the northern end must cope with numerous one-lane bridges.

NTBG

The history of NTBG begins with that of the Lawa'i Valley on the southern coast. In the late 19th century, the valley was given by the Hawaiian monarchy to Queen Emma, the widow of King Kamehameha IV. Queen Emma, who especially loved bougainvillea, made numerous plantings, many of which survive today. Later in the 19th century, she leased the valley to the McBryde family, who eventually purchased it outright from her estate. Alexander McBryde was responsible for many more plantings, including palms. In 1938, McBryde sold the lower part of the valley to Robert Allerton, a wealthy art collector and patron and landscape designer from the Chicago area.

Robert Allerton had met and befriended a young art student, John Gregg, in the Chicago area, and they became partners in art collecting and various landscaping projects. Eventually, the never-married and childless Robert Allerton took the unusual step of adopting John Gregg. When Allerton died at the age of 93 in 1964, the estate passed to John Gregg Allerton. When the latter, also never-married and childless, died in

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The original and clever irrigation system at Allerton Garden (Photo 3).

A matched pair: Attalea butyracea *at the entrance of the McBryde Garden (Photo 4).*

My Trip to Kauai

(Continued from page 16)

1985 at the age of 89, the estate was place in trust. In the early 1990's, the NTBG assumed management of the lower Lawa'i Valley from the trust and named it the Allerton Garden. Earlier, before 1964, helped by a gift from Robert Allerton, the precursor to NTBG had purchased the upper part of the Lawa'i Valley, which was then named the McBryde Garden.

The NTBG also manages the Kampong in Miami, Florida, the former home of David Fairchild. On Kauai, a new venue, Limahuli Garden, was added on the north coast, close to the eastern end of the Napali Coast. NTBG was able to acquire the land thanks to gifts from conservation-minded landowners in 1976 and 1994. On the island of Maui, similar gifts of land in 1976 and 2002 helped the NTBG and its precursor to establish Kahanu Garden.

Allerton Garden

Admission to the Allerton Garden is by guided tour only, and several groups a day are admitted. Both the Allerton and McBryde Gardens share the same entrance that begins with a marvelous view of the ocean (photo 1). Garden plantings of palms were for landscaping purposes only, not to establish collections of species, so that palm fanciers should enjoy the innovative landscaping rather than search for rare species. Robert Allerton built a house with huge screened porches, and it is preserved today (photo 2) as part of the garden.

Allerton and Gregg designed what they called "outdoor rooms", consisting of plantings, sculptures, ornate structures, and innovative use of water movement. In fact, moving water is such a prominent feature of garden venues that an abundant supply is needed. As a former hydrologist, I was fascinated to learn that the water was obtained from storage tanks buried beneath the water table, with intakes that allowed inflow from the porous volcanic substrate. It was then pumped out of the tanks as needed by the garden venues. In one of the outdoor rooms (photo 3), water moves down a central channel in an undulating concrete structure. It moves smoothly over barriers in the upper part, but the flow is turbulent in the lower reach of the channel. I was informed that the slope of the water channel is constant, but the change in the state of flow was caused by the insertion and removal or change of the height of some of the wooden flow barriers along the channel.

McBryde Garden

Admission to the McBryde Garden was restricted to

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My Trip to Kauai

(Continued from page 17)

hourly groups each day, but tours were self-guided and one could return when desired. The McBryde Garden is a serious collection of worldwide palm species, and also contains a huge collection of Hawaiian native palm species (lo'ulus), members of the *Pritchardia* genus of weakly costapalmate palms that are mainly of large and imposing stature. Many of the Hawaiian native varieties are quite rare, some are breathtakingly beautiful, but others are an acquired taste. All are fascinating, in my opinion.

Many of the plantings are of considerable age and may have been planted by the McBrydes. A pair of large *Attalea butyraceas* (photo 4) was found at one end of the garden. A few hundred feet away were several *Lodoicea maldivicas*, the "coco-de-mer" of the Seychelles Islands. The "palm walk" offered *Pelagodoxa henryana* as well as many other varieties. In the center of one meadow were a trio (one pistillate, two staminate) of *Latania vershaffeltii* (photo 5). Examination of the seeds from a ripe fruit on the ground showed that they had the elongated "claw" appearance characteristic of the species. Though mature and mainly in open sun, the leaves did not have the gray appearance of mature *L. loddigesii*, seeming to be vegetatively different. A closeup of a leaf of the *L. vershaffeltii* (photo 6) illustrates this fact. About 250 ft away in a somewhat shaded location were a mature trio (also one pistillate, two staminate) of *Latania lontaroides*. Though fruiting, no ripe fruit were available for examination. The leaves were similar to those of the *L. vershaffeltii*, and were not the grey leaves associated with mature *Latania loddigesii*.

The garden includes a palmetum on a rather hot and dry hillside that includes various tropical genera (*Veitchia*, *Attalea*, *Brahea*, *Sabal*, *Coccothrinax*, *Copernicia*, etc.). At one end, I found a healthy, vigorous, and fruiting palm (photo 7) that was labeled *Copernicia cowellii*. Leonel Mera of the Dominican Republic, shown the picture, suggested that it was really *Copernicia hospita*. Nearby was a small specimen of *Pritchardia munroi* (photo 8). With its tightly folded leaves and lax leaflets, it was not a pre-possessing plant. However, I have taken photos of better-developed specimens of the species in other gardens that suggest that it can become more impressive in appearance.

The *lo'ulu* collection was the most impressive part of the garden. The garden staff has filled many acres with the various species, many of which like *P. napaliensis* (photo 9), native to the cliff region of the Napali Coast, are present in quite large groups. Other species with good numerical representation were *P. lanaiensis*, *P. hillebrandii*, and about nine others. The species groups were immediately adjacent to other species groups, which meant that cross-pollination was possi-

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Above, a trio of Latania vershaffeltii *(Photo 5). Below, a mature leaf that lacks the more usual gray appearance in this species (Photo 6).*

Above, a vigorously fruiting palm labeled Copernicia cowellii *that Leonel Mera believes may be* Copernicia hospita *(Photo 7). Below,* Pritchardia munroi *(Photo 8).*

My Visit to Kauai

(Continued from page 18)

ble and the plants could not serve as a reliable genetic bank for any of the species. However, the species proximity also meant that there were extraordinary opportunities to observe the vegetative similarities among members of species groups and to contrast those vegetative characteristics with those of other species. Curiously, some *Pritchardia* species were only represented by one or two plants, and some were completely absent from the public display. We were informed by garden staff that many new plant species were being grown in the garden greenhouse for future planting out, so perhaps this lack will be remedied in the foreseeable future.

Keahua Arboretum and the Powerline Trail

With time on my hands one morning, I decided to check out a place on the map designated Keahua Arboretum, about six miles inland of Wailua on the east coast. The arboretum is not associated with NTBG. The road inland passes through one of the only inland suburban developments on the island and then into forest. Near the end of the paved road is the arboretum. Evidently a work in progress, the only staff present were contractors mowing huge vast tracks of grass on the hilly site. The only infrastructure was a bathroom and picnic table. There were no signs or information for visitors. There were few plantings evident other than the striking Rainbow Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus deglupta*) with multicolored vertical streaks in its bark (photo 10). From the picnic table, I took a picture (photo 11) looking inland over a valley into the wild mountains of inland Kauai.

I actually missed the arboretum on the way inland because of the lack of signage, and continued along a rough and sometimes flooded unimproved road. Before turning around, I passed a locked gate with a sign indicating that it was the beginning of the Powerline Trail. Students of Hawaiian *Pritchardia*s are familiar with this trail as being the one along which many of the Kauai species have been discovered.

Limahuli Garden

To complete my trip, I visited the Limahuli Garden. The garden was established on steep slopes of the Limahuli Valley with incredible views of the ocean. One climbs up and down the slopes from station to station, each of which focuses on endemic or indigenous plant species used by the Hawaiians before European settlement or on "canoe plant" species, plants brought to

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My Visit to Kauai

(Continued from page 19)

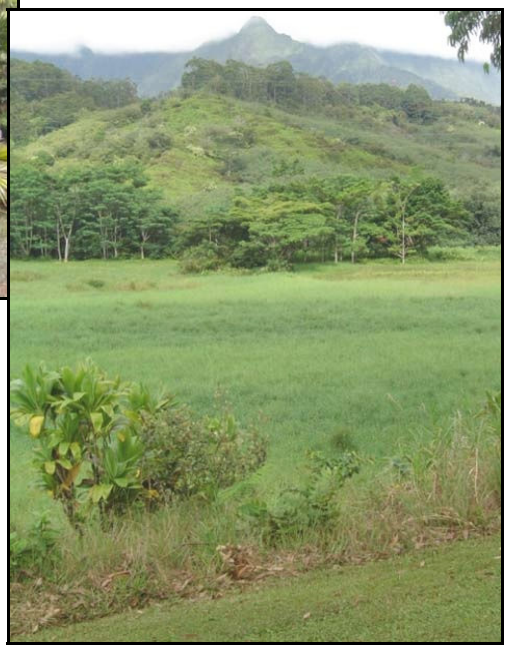
Hawaii by ancient settlers first from the Marquesas Islands, and later from Tahiti, that they needed for survival. One example of a "canoe plant" is *Cocos nucifera.* Others are breadfruit and sugar cane. The species that most interested me was a lo'ulu, *Pritchardia limahuliensis* (photo 12), discovered in Limahuli Valley in 1977 by staff of the NTBG. This lo'ulu somewhat resembles *P. martii* with its stiff leaves and bronze tomentum on the leaf undersides, but the fruits are considerably smaller. As the photo shows, it is an exquisitely beautiful species. I also found several specimens of *P. napaliensis* along the garden path, not surprisingly perhaps because its native habitat, the Napali Cliffs, was only a mile up the road.

Epilogue

After two nights and three days, it was time to fly home to the Big Island, through Honolulu of course, since in the Hawaiian Islands, all flyways lead to Honolulu. My prize was a suite of photos I had taken of the palms in McBryde and Limahuli Gardens. I look forward with pleasure to my next visit to Kauai.

Above, Rainbow Eucalyptus—*Eucalyptus deglupta—in the Keahua Arboretum (Photo 10). Below, view of a valley looking into the mountains of inland Kauai (Photo 11).*

A group of Pritchardia napaliensis *from the Napali Coast in the McBryde Garden (Photo 9).*



RENEW
Your membership
for 2008.

PALMFEST 2007—JACKSONVILLE

By Christian Faulkner

It was my first time north of Tampa since my move to Venice in 2004. I had forgotten that along the 300+ mile trip that north of I-4 many of the flora turns deciduous. Even the palmettos seemed to vanish from sight of the road once we were north of Gainesville. It caught my eye all the way until my partner in crime, fellow CFPACS member Eddie Stumpf and I pulled into the Ramada Inn in Mandarin, just south of downtown Jacksonville early Friday evening.

Despite the onslaught of heavy rain that night, the reception inside was warm on Friday night and people were anxious to meet one another and see each other from past events. Lou Thomas of Teakettle Enterprises made it from Belize as well as the President and VP of the Louisiana Palm Society. For myself, I met many new faces from the First Coast Palm Society, the host chapter for this year's event. Registration took place and there was an early retirement to bed as the tours started at 8:30 a.m. and many were anxious to see what could be grown in the 8b/9a climates of Northeast Florida.

The morning brought more heavy rain, but nonetheless we set out on the journey to Glen St. Mary to Kyle Brown's farm. Located about 35 miles west of Jacksonville and five miles from the border of Georgia, Kyle had no microclimate of which to speak. He had seen seven degrees in 1989, but had many species of *Sabal*, *Chamaerops*, *Butia*, and *Zamia*s to show what would grow in the area. One of the biggest eye catchers was the dwarf *Butia* species that was no taller than three feet yet looked fully mature with silvery leaves to show.

This is Pritchardia limahuliensis*, discovered in Limahuli Valley, Kauai, in 1977 by the staff of the National Tropical Botanic Garden (Photo 12).*

Below, West VP Christian Faulkner stands next to Kyle Brown's dwarf Butia *species in Glen St. Mary..*

The second garden brought us to FCPACS member Matt Encinosa's garden in Mandarin, right along the eastern bank of the St. Johns River and a nice microclimate for the Jacksonville area. The swampy lowlands bordering the river had high canopy, which allowed for some more tender species to be seen. *Licuala spinosa*, *Parajubaea*, and even *Archontophoenix tuckeri* with three feet of trunk looked at home amongst the pines in the garden. Rain once again dispersed the crowd and after a mad dash to the cars, attendees retired to their lodgings for the afternoon.

Saturday evening brought on the crux of events as a barbecue dinner and talk from botanist Chuck Hubbuch highlighted the night, preceded by the auction of plants brought from around the state. Amongst the plants for auction were *Syagrus x montgomeryana*, *Rhapis excelsa* var. "Koban Nishiki", *Verschaffeltia splendida*, and *Attalea cohune*. After the scheduled events a group convened on a few hotel rooms to discuss old times, new acquistions, and the upcoming Biennial in Costa Rica. I retired at 1:00 a.m. and after visiting a young garden in the East Jacksonville area, Eddie and I decided it was time to head out with our new palm loot for the trip home. All left eagerly awaiting the next Palmfest, the location of which is yet to be determined.

From the Editor's Desk

We have a president for CFPACS! (Deo gratias!) Bob Johnson, for two years our treasurer has taken on the job. As our webmaster joked, Bob emerged the winner from the hundreds of applications to fill the position. Actually, no one else volunteered. We are fortunate also in that Catherine Johnson, Bob's wife , has agreed—without his asking, he says—to take over as treasurer. Catherine has been familiar with that job ever since Bob assumed that post.

Diana Wehrell-Grabowski has been CFPACS president for THREE years. The term of office is TWO years. We are more than grateful to Diana for hanging in there for us for an extra year. While the job is not ordinarily arduous, it does require the expenditure of time, which a professional sometimes finds difficult to factor into an already filled engagement schedule. Diana handled everything beautifully (she will dispute this) while juggling her workshops for science teachers around the Southeast. The president consults with the board on all major matters but often make the decision when the board discussions–mostly by e-mail—are inconclusive. In addition, the president is the public face of our society and is frequently the prime contact for persons seeking information and/or money.

* * * * *

A surprise: on a Google search, I stumbled on a PDF file of the September, 2004 issue of *The Palmateer*, all 34 pages. Who put this on the Web? Not I and not, I think, anyone I know, who would undoubtedly ask permission to so publish copyrighted material. The quality of the reproduction is excellent. Perhaps some technically proficient member might wish to put all the *Palmateer*s into this format for retention/archival purposes. . .

* * * * *

The big news for me, personally, is that I become a retiree on December 20th. My last day of work is December 19th. It's a very funny feeling to turn into someone no longer productive; everyone's life centers around work, whether this is a valued job or something detested. Everything else in workers' lives is scheduled around the central purpose of Working. I'm not sure if this is the Protestant Ethic in operation: that God requires work as a means to salvation. Maybe this is why so many retirees feel useless. After all, how much golf and beach going is possible? To fill the time, I am told, retirees should volunteer in non-profit organizations.

Well, as a retiree in the Florida [state] Retirement System, I can assure you that there will not be any cushy pension. As a non-golfer, non-beachgoer, non-fisherman—in short, not interested in most of the activities that seem to absorb the time and attention of many Florida retirees—what do I do with myself? I'm already in Florida, so needn't move there. Maybe move to somewhere in the urban north, perhaps back to my homeplace, Philadelphia?

What I'll look for, after a short rest to clear my nasal passages of too many freshman themes (after 43 years of reading them), is a paid part-time job of some kind. My volunteer work remains this publication and the CFPACS board, as well as being on the board of Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce. Enough for the non-profits, how about some (slight) profit?

* * * * *

PayPal can now be used to pay for membership, for seeds, or for donations. See directions on page 26.

RENEW
Your membership for 2008.

* * * * *

The Southeastern Palm Society has an interesting incentive to increase public awareness of palms in its region, the warm temperate area outside of Florida, mostly the Southeastern states. Members in good standing can apply for the annual $500 grant to plant palms. The requirements include a public location, appropriate species, the budget and source of plants, and a landscape plan. Not part of the application but also vital is a good relationship with the public body that allows the project, some organizing ability, and the application of muscle for planting. Sound like anything adaptable to Florida? Maybe a planting that excludes Queen Palms, Washingtonias, Adonidias, and other commonplace species. And also excluding that cycad known as "Cardboard Palm."

* * * * *

You will be relieved (of course) to know that no additional Killer Palms have been added to FLiPPC's pest list. Still the same six feral palms are on the new Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council 2007 list. All are Category II, under surveillance as potential threats to native ecology, but none have been elevated to the level of Australian pines, Brazilian peppers, air potato, or others of that ilk in Category I, truly destructive of native ecology. We could have told the group to add Queens and Washingtonias (sorry, Ray) to the list long before the council's fanaticism became aware of the dangers

(Continued on page 23)

From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 22)

these present for bland landscapes. Maybe FLiPPC could get grants from the Department of Homeland Security to fight these foreign palms that just may possibly be in league with the terrorists? Perhaps, as a member of the Florida Native Plant Society, I shouldn't suggest ways for FLiPPC to extend its reach. . .Hey, the new disease affecting Queens and Washingtonias—could this not be an accident? Conspiracy theorists, what do you think?

* * * * *

Norman Bezona, tropical horticulturalist and IPS board member, makes an interesting point—elsewhere in this issue—that palms species considered for banning in Hawaii, chiefly *Archontophoenix*, have spread as pioneer plants in areas that have been virtually sterilized for agricultural use, then abandoned, that these are degraded places where native plants haven't grown for a long, long time. Perhaps this is a concept worthy of consideration in other places where bans are also being proposed.

* * * * *

"Edible Palms" was the topic of my talk in October to a rare fruit club in Fort Pierce. I relied heavily on a 13-page University of Florida extension document (2000) by Jody Haynes and John McLaughlin, entitled "Edible Palms and Their Uses." This is a very extensive trolling through the literature for exotic palms in faraway places. I stuck more closely to home with palms that might be grown in Florida, all pictured in a PowerPoint presentation. I admit that I fudged a bit to add *Mauritia flexuosa*, *Euterpe edulis* and *oleracea*.

In the IFAS document, I was especially struck by the comment under *Adonidia merrillii*: "Seeds sometimes used as substitute for betelnut." Ah, betelnut is chewed in Asia for its mildly narcotic qualities.

Do the Youth of Florida realize what's growing out there on the front lawn? Fortunately, their massive ignorance of palms protects their innocence.

John Kennedy

No, not a tree fern but Caryota gigas *in Santa Barbara, California. Actually, there are two palms, one smaller to the left. Below,* Oenocarpus bataua var. oligocarpa *glimpsed in Trinidad. Both pictures by Mike Dahme, taken in the same month(?). More Santa Barbara and Trinidad pictures will appear in the March issue of* The Palmateer.

Palm Beach Picnic and Auction

September 8th: Ruth Sallenbach's palm paradise in Lake Worth. The tourguide (pointing hand) seems to be Dale Holton. In the near foreground is Richard Lundstedt and wife Linda. Just in front, between them, is none other than the proprietress herself, Ruth Sallenbach. (Photos by Dave Reid)

Above on the right, Borassus flabellifer *flanked by* Carpentaria acuminata *and, beneath, an unidentified* Coccothrinax. *Left, twin* Satakentia liukiuensis.*Below,* Bentinckia nicobarica.

A good time was had by all—as usual—at the September picnic and auction of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society, which also stood in this year as the designated fall meeting of CFPACS. A smaller crowd attended than in the past, perhaps 75 in all. About 15 were from Central Florida. Those of our members who had never before seen Ruth Sallenbach's spectacular 5-acre collection were—what would be a good description?—awestruck.

The Editor scored a freebie. While looking for a seedling of one of Ruth's huge *Caryota mitis*, she offered him a 3-foot volunteer growing where she didn't want it and, to facilitate removal, provided a shovel and pot. This would replace a previous *Caryota* 'Sallenbach" destroyed in the 2004 hurricanes.

–John Kennedy

Seed Bank Report, Sept.-Nov. 2007

The CFPACS Seed Bank report covers the period from September through November 10th. During this period there were a total of 46 orders filled, for total sales of $1,170. That is an average of about $25 per order, with several people making multiple orders. Customers are from all over the United Sates, including California, Arizona, Kansas, and Alaska. We have also had several sales from other countries such as France, Germany, and India. We have had 11 seed donors, listed below, who have provided all of the stock for the Seed Bank.

Donations are an essential part of the Seed Bank, and an opportunity for us to share unusual seeds with others interested folks. Speaking of unusual, we had the pleasure of receiving several rare palms in the Seed-Bank. Some of the more unusual seeds include *Borassus aethiopum*, *Manicaria saccifera*, and *Livistona carinensis*.

Thanks to those donors who have helped to keep the Seed Bank rolling, and we heartily invite others with unusual or prolific seed producers to contact us at seedbank@cfpacs.org to provide any future donations. Thanks also to our customers, who have made the Seed Bank such a big part of the CFPACS funding.

We are moving into the winter season, so you can look forward to a number of additional seeds being added to the Seed Bank Offering.

Aiphanes minima	Mike Dahme
Arenga australasica	Christian Faulkner
Arenga engleri	John Green
Arenga porphyrocarpa	Jerry Hooper
Bismarckia nobilis	Joe and Anne Michael
Borassus aethiopum	Joe and Anne Michael
Butia capitata	Dean Van DerBleek
Chamaedorea radicalis	Dean Van DerBleek
Dypsis lutescens	John Green
Dypsis decaryi	Mike Dahme
Euterpe desacea x edulis	Mike Dahme
Gmelina hystrix	Shri Dhar
Licuala spinosa	Mike Dahme
Murraya koennigii	Shri Dhar
Phoenix roebelenii	John Green
Phoenix reclinata	John Green
Phoenix sylvestris	Dean Van DerBleek
Ptychosperma elegans	Mike Dahme
Ptychosperma microcarpum	Mike Dahme
Syagrus coronata	Jerry Hooper

—John Green, Seed Bank Coordinator

Treasurer's Notes

PayPal

CFPACS has recently signed up to accept credit card payments via PayPal. It is now possible to join or renew your membership, buy seeds, (or even make a donation to CFPACS) via PayPal, whether you have a PayPal account or not. To pay your membership dues or make a seed bank payment you can log onto PayPal (www.paypal.com) and use the following email address to direct your payment to CFPACS: payments @cfpacs.org. For a more detailed tutorial on PayPal, please see page 26 of this issue.

CD

In August the CFPACS board voted to take $3000 from our checking account to deposit in a short term, interest bearing CD. The plan is to put money in four short-term CDs over the next year. The benefit is that money deposited into the CDs will be bearing interest, with plenty of money still left in our checking account for operating expenses. With the CDs staggered every few months, there will always be additional funds available in the event we have an unforeseen expense in the future.

The 2007 Fall Sale of the USF Botanical Garden was held October 13-14 in Tampa. CFPACS was represented by five vendors who sold a combined total of 106 plants. Gross sales for the weekend were $2386.00, with $238.00 profit for the society.

A big Thank You to the following members who have contributed to CFPACS by selling plants at our meetings and public sales during 2007: Rob Branch, Bob Derleth, Steve Farnsworth, Christian Faulkner, Mark Grabowski, Chuck Grieneisen, Ray Hernández, Dorothy Kellog, Richard Lundstedt, Charlene Palm, Dave and Geri Prall, Jeff Searle, Frank Tintera and Dave Witt. 20 percent of sale proceeds goes to CFPACS - for our meetings that is all profit for the society, for public sales CFPACS pays a percentage (usually around 10 percent but sometimes more) to the sale sponsor.

The 2007 financials will be published in the March 2008 issue of *The Palmateer*.

--Bob Johnson, CFPACS Treasurer

RENEW

Your membership for 2008.

Check the address label on the envelope. If it says "12-07," this is the last issue of *The Palmateer* that you will receive. You won't get the exciting exposés in the next (March 2008) issue.

Send your check, made out to CFPACS, to
Karen Barrese
5942 Ehren Cutoff
Land O Lakes, FL 34639

Domestic membership: $15 for one year, $40 for three years. Payment may also made, using PayPal. See below.

Keep the home palms and cycads growing!

PayPal Tutorial

Here is how to make a payment to CFPACS using PayPal
1) Log on to http://www.paypal.com
2) If you have a PayPal account, log into your account. If you do not have a PayPal account, click on the 'Personal' tab. Once on the 'Personal' page go to 'Send Money' and then 'Send Money Online.'
3) Once on the 'Send Money' page, type 'payments@cfpacs,org' in the 'To' field. Type in your email address in the 'From' field and the amount you wish to pay in the 'Amount' field.
4) From there you will be taken to a secure page where you can enter your name, address and credit card information.
5) When you are ready to finish up the payment process, please indicate whether your payment is for membership or seeds in the message field.

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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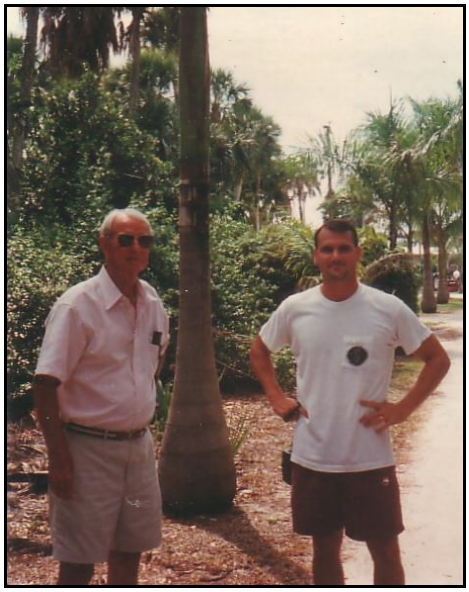
Note: this list is accurate as of January 1. Until December 31, the president is Diana Wehrell-Grabowski, the treasurer is Bob Johnson.

RENEW
Your membership for 2008.

An inflorescence of an Astrocaryum (alatum? mexicanum? standleyanum?) *at the Palm Beach meeting on September 8th.* *(Photo by Dave Reid)*

An unidentified Copernicia *in the Cuban National Botanic Garden.*
(Photo by Brenda Baker)

Below, yesteryear (May 30, 1996): Joe Michael, left, with young, svelte Neil Yorio at Earring Point, Wabasso.
(Photo by Mike Dahme)



The winter meeting of the Palm & Cycad Society of New Zealand took place at the Landsendt nursery outside of Auckland. Visitors passed through a grove of Nikau palms, Rhopalostylis sapida.
(Photo by John Prince)

RENEW
Your membership for 2008.