

# The Palmateer

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Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

June, 2008

## Chamaedorea Talk



### **Don Hodel at Leu July 20<sup>th</sup>**

Donald Hodel, author of the noted *Chamaedorea Palms* (1992), will give a presentation on “What’s New in *Chamaedorea*” at Leu

Gardens, Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. His appearance is co-sponsored by Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society and by Harry P. Leu Gardens. This will take place in the Orchid Room of the Garden House, at 1:30. Hodel’s talk is free and open to the public.

An extension agent in the University of California system, Hodel is co-author of *The Palms of New Caledonia* (1998) and co-editor of *The Palms & Cycads of Thailand* (1998). In addition, he is the author of almost numberless articles on palms.

Hodel’s accomplishments are listed on the website of the U. of California Los Angeles County Extension Service:

Donald R. Hodel is an environmental horticulturist for the University of California Cooperative Extension, Los Angeles County—a full-time position he has held for nearly 25 years. His research focuses on selection, planting and management of woody plants in the landscape with a special emphasis on plant water use, trees and palms. He is considered a

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**The March meeting report is  
on page 6.**

## Grant and Valkaria

### **June 14th Meeting in Brevard**

By John Kennedy

Borassic Park is the site of the first visit of the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Grant, southern Brevard County. For those new to the joke, the name is (of course) a play on the title of that good scary bestseller, then movie, *Jurassic Park*. There, all kinds of dreadful prehistoric predator dinosaurs had been brought to life.

Mike Dahme, proprietor of the 8.5 acre spread, concentrated for some years on obtaining and planting *Borassus*. Mike’s philosophy has always been more expansive than those of us who plant one or two individuals of a species on our little house lots. Instead, Mike planted large numbers whenever possible. So there are at least 40 *Borassus* (*aethiopum* and *flabellifer*) as well as an imposing hybrid. Apparently, *Borassus* really like their home; many have 5-foot trunks that you couldn’t put your arms around, topped (of course) by huge crowns—from seed to this size in 12 years. The

(Continued on page 3)

Come get  
your picture  
taken next  
to this hybrid

*Borassus*  
(*flabellifer*  
x *aethiopum*) in  
*Borassic*  
*Park* on  
June 14th.  
Smaller  
palms are



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. 21) of any changes in street address, phone number, area code, or e-mail address. The newslet-



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## The Palmateer

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## June 14th Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

hybrid has grown to double the size of the others within the same time span.

**All in all**, about 500 species of palms are planted in Borassic Park. While Mike has tagged quite a few palms, the untagged are a quiz: how many can you identify? Probably, realization will strike that that palm on the edge of a pond (there are six ponds on the property) **has** to be *Nypa fruticans*. Good for you! 10 points. Literally, thousands of palms to test the visitors' mettle. Mike joined The Palm Society (later IPS) in 1983, so his collection began more than 20 years ago.

**Warning!** The grounds crew at Mike's Botanical Garden is unaccountably missing. Don't expect paved walkways, well-trimmed palms, pretty lawns—in short, what is standard at, say, Fairchild. Visitors should come suitably shod; flip-flops might last the first 50 feet. Other sensible suggestions: long pants, hats, and insect repellent. June, boys and girls, when the palms and bugs are in full happiness.

**The board** will meet at 9:30 at Mike's. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome to do so. The actual meeting starts at 10:00. A while back, it was necessary to explain to someone that, no, we didn't have sit-down meetings indoors, with speakers.

CFPACS meetings are, essentially, visits to palm collections, whether private or public, concluding at the final stop with a plant sale.

**Mike Dahme** himself will not be present, except in spirit, being physically at his 12 acres in central Puerto Rico, where he can grow real tropical species (unlike Brevard).

**Lunch options** are limited. About two miles north on U. S. #1, west side, is an old building, Grant Grocery. Inside, while there are some canned goods, it's pretty much a deli, with good sandwiches and a few tables and chairs. Another mile north is a bar that serves sandwiches. Otherwise, the options are to drive north on U. S. #1 to Palm Bay Road, then west to the fast-food emporia around Palm Bay Road and Babcock Street. Or to go south on Hwy. 1 to Sebastian or north to the outskirts of Melbourne. Simpler: bring your own lunch and something to sit on.

**Mark Thoe's** is the second and final stop. This is more like ordinary folks' place filled with palms, a

## Directions

**To First Stop, 4625 Berry Road, Grant:**

**From the South:** I-95 to SR 512, Exit 156 [Sebastian/Fellsmere]; east to Hwy 1; north to Shell Pit Rd; west on Shell Pit (50 yards) across RR tracks to Old Dixie; north 300 ft to Berry Rd; 7/10 mile west to 4625 Berry, south side of road, past Indian River Blvd. [Note: Shell Pit Rd is approx 5 miles from the Hwy 1 bridge over the Sebastian River.]

**From the North:** I-95 to SR 514, Exit 173 [Malabar/Palm Bay]; east to Hwy 1, south to Shell Pit Rd; as above. [Note: Shell Pit Rd is approximately 8 M south of junction of SR 514 {Malabar Rd} and Hwy 1.]

**Directions from First Stop to Second Stop, 2850 Waring Road, Valkaria:**

East on Berry Rd to Old Dixie; north on Old Dixie [or Hwy 1] to Valkaria Rd; west on Valkaria Rd to Corey Rd; north on Corey Rd to Atz; west on Atz to Waring Rd; south on Waring to 2850 [end of road]. [Note: it is approximately a dozen miles between first and second stops.]

**Directions to the Second Stop only:**

From the north or south I-95 to SR 514

## Timeline

- 9:30, Board Meeting
  - 10:00-Noon, Borassic Park, Grant
  - 12:00-1:00, Lunch on your own
  - 1:00, Mark Thoe's, Valkaria
  - 2:00-3:00, Plant sale
- All times are approximate,

mere 2 acres. Follow the directions, which look more complicated than these actually are. At Mark's—whose last name is pronounced as if it has

## Anecdotal Observations

### *Ganoderma zonatum*

#### Fungal Disease of Palms

By Mike Dahme

Some of the conclusions of Elliott and Broschat [[edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp100-27k](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp100-27k)] are:

- ◆ the conditions conducive for disease development are unknown
- ◆ no cultivation or chemical controls for prevention or cure exist
- ◆ a diseased palm should be removed with as much of the rootball and soil as possible
- ◆ replanting of a palm at site of a removed palm is not recommended

I have had numerous occurrences of *Ganoderma* dating to at least 1991, the species most commonly infected being Queen, Pindo and Paurotis. Usually the palm has a short time from the first indications to death, less than a year.

But there have been a few notable exceptions: On one occasion a Paurotis [*Acoelorrhaphe*] cluster was noted in 1991 to be infected by the presence of the basidiocarps [conks] on the trunks, but was not completely killed. The disease passed slowly through the clump but at some point stopped, and the current trunks, are disease-free.

On another the clustering palm *Pinanga coronata* was observed on return from a trip to be badly infected, with almost all stems dead and the reproductive basidiocarps present. Only one, very small, sucker at the edge of the clump was alive. Today this is now the largest of the current healthy group of stems.

A third interesting experience was in a group of *Phoenix reclinata* stems. About a dozen individuals had been planted from 1 gallon pots in close proximity and years later one of them fell over, basidiocarps at base to confirm presence, though not necessarily a causal link, of the disease. Many years have passed and no other palm trunk in the thick cluster of stems has died.



*Mature basidiocarp (conk) on a palm trunk. By the time this appears, the palm is dead.*  
(Photo by Monica Elliott, UF Research & Education Center, Fort. Lauderdale)

Another event involving *P. reclinata* was of a single genetic individual, all of the trunks of this one died but new ones are presently forming and appear healthy.

At the Florida Institute of Technology campus in Melbourne years ago I observed a long row of infected Paurotis clumps, dead culms and the reproductive 'conks' present, but the clusters have survived. Finally, a friend planted a *Thrinax morrisii* in the spot where a Queen Palm had died [others in the yard had also died] of this fungus disease. Ten years later the palm has 2 feet of trunk and is doing well. No special precautions, soil removal or fumigation, were taken.

It is now believed [but likely not proven] that palms 'catch' this usually fatal disease by means of spores from the basidiocarps germinating on the soil and then entering through the palm's roots, which are not damaged, to the palm's woody trunk tissue, which is then decayed from within. Damage to external trunk tissue by such as string trimmers, or infection via loppers while cutting fronds, are no longer believed to be the means of transference.

However, there is a cultural practice that I suspect



*Palms near Charlotte, North Carolina in March of this year, not last year. According to car sensors: temperature 23, wind 5 mph from the west. It's Cocos electronica again, for palm-deprived folks Up North*

### Hodel *Chamaedorea* talk

*(Continued from page 1)*

world leader in palm taxonomy and horticulture. Mr. Hodel has authored/co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and more than 250 trade or popular articles about selection, planting and management of woody landscape plants. In addition, he has authored six books (four of them about palms and two about trees). He has conducted more than 250 presentations to industry groups, professional and honor societies, university and other governmental agencies, and consumers about various aspects of landscape plant selection and management. He is a member of the American Society for Horticultural Science, International Society of Arboriculture, International Palm Society, California Association of Nurserymen, California Landscape Contractors' Association, Southern California Horticulture Association and Alpha Xi (the collegiate honor society of horticulture). Mr. Hodel has been an invited presenter at numerous international and national meetings, conferences and symposia.

CFPACS members will be interested in learning of new species of *Chamaedorea* that can be grown here and also to ask the expert about various cul-

### Directions to Leu Gardens

1920 N. Forest Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32803

#### From the North:

- \_\_ Take I-4 West to Exit 85
- \_\_ Take exit 85 for Princeton St
- \_\_ Turn left at E Princeton St/SR-438 Continue to follow E Princeton St
- \_\_ Turn right at N Mills Ave/US-17-92
- \_\_ Turn left at Virginia Dr
- \_\_ Slight left at N Forest Ave
- \_\_ Turn left to stay on N Forest Ave
- \_\_ Leu Gardens is on the Left (1920 N. Forest Ave.)

#### From the East (TOLL ROADS)

- \_\_ SR-528-TOLL W toward Orlando
- \_\_ Merge onto SR-528 W
- \_\_ Take exit 16 for SR-417-TOLL N toward Orlando
- \_\_ Merge onto Central Florida Greeneway/SR-417 N
- \_\_ Take exit 33B for SR-408 Toll W toward Orlando
- \_\_ Merge onto East-West Expy/SR-408 W
- \_\_ Take exit 12B toward Crystal Lake Dr
- \_\_ Merge onto E South St
- \_\_ Turn right at S Crystal Lake Dr/SR-526 Continue to follow SR-526

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Directions to Leu Gardens

(Continued from page 5)

\_\_ Turn right at N Bumby Ave  
 \_\_ Turn left at Corrine Dr  
 \_\_ Turn right at N Forest Ave  
 \_\_ Leu Gardens is on the Left (1920 N. Forest Ave.)

### From the East (NO TOLL ROADS)

\_\_ SR 520 W toward Orlando  
 \_\_ SR 50 E toward Orlando  
 \_\_ Turn right at N Bumby Ave  
 \_\_ Turn left at Corrine Dr  
 \_\_ Turn right at N Forest Ave  
 \_\_ Leu Gardens is on the Left (1920 N. Forest Ave.)

### From the South and West

\_\_ Take I-4 East to Exit 85  
 \_\_ Take exit 85 for Princeton St  
 \_\_ Turn right at E Princeton St/SR-438 Continue to follow E Princeton St  
 \_\_ Turn right at N Mills Ave/US-17-92  
 \_\_ Turn left at Virginia Dr  
 \_\_ Slight left at N Forest Ave  
 \_\_ Turn left to stay on N Forest Ave  
 \_\_ Leu Gardens is on the Left (1920 N. Forest Ave.)

Approximate driving time from Daytona Beach - 1 hour

Approximate driving time from Gainesville - 2



## March Meeting at Leu

By John Kennedy

**The day**—March 8<sup>th</sup>-- was nearly made to order: bright and sunny (but the light hadn't yet changed to summer harshness). Temperature, low 70s, but with a brisk wind that made it feel cooler. A wedding in one of the hired rooms in Leu's Garden House brought a stream of high-heeled, lightly-clad female guests; and the bride's sleeveless attendants—all shivering to get inside quickly.

**CFPACS members**—about 60 present—are made of tougher stuff, windbreakers and walking shoes, with more than a few hats. Eric Schmidt, Leu's resident palm maven, took the group around for more than an hour. With 375 species of palms at Leu, there was plenty to see. About 125 species have been planted in the last five years.

**Leu's 52 acres** are nicely set on the south side of Lake Rowena, providing a favorable microclimate not only for palms but also for cycads and for the extensive rose and camellia collections. A small *Parajubea sunkha* amazed several people, though many others were struck by how attractive a Majesty Palm, *Ravenea rivularis*, can be in the right setting, shade, damp, happily fed. More often this palm can be remarkably ugly when stuck in the sun at subdivision entrances, and neither watered or fed.

**The bridal party**, en route to various sites in the Gardens for pictures, crossed paths several times with Eric's tour group, who offered congratulations to the very young newlyweds.

**After two hours** of gawking and asking questions of Eric, everyone realized that lunch needed to be found before the second stop, five miles north in Maitland.

**Pat and Gordon Smith**, familiar faces that haven't been seen in too long, were hosts at their peninsular property between two canals off Lake Maitland. There were many palms and cycads of species that

*Of course, you recognize a close-up of Encephalartos ferox, here at Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort*

## CFPACS Visits Leu and Maitland



*Left, Eric Schmidt at one stop on the tour. (Looking on: John Green, Hersb Womble, and Jason Teisinger. (Photo by Rick Nale)*

*Right, Licuala ramsayi at Leu. (Photo by Dave)*



*Left, the Majesty Palm at Leu that shows how beautiful it can be, but so often is not. (Photo*



*Zamia amblyphyllidia at Leu Gardens. (Photo by Claudia Wal-*



*A wedding took place at Leu on the same day as the CFPACS tour, which several times crossed paths with the wedding party en route to picture-taking.*



*Not 'just' another Foxtail, this must be Normanbya. Eric Schmidt explains its history to the Leu*

**New CFPACS Members**  
 We welcome 13 new member to Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society.

Jason Teisinger, Gainesville  
 Peter Balasky, Davie  
 Brian Warner, Orlando  
 Neil Ekengren, Apopka  
 Jeremy Baker, West Melbourne  
 William VinTroux, Palm Bay  
 Renee Buchanan, Lakeview  
 Thomas Walton, Sarasota  
 Joe Tyler, Vero Beach  
 Sherry Marion, Big Pine Key  
 Kathleen Hasling, Satellite Beach  
 Todd Garrett, Ona  
 Patrick Knowles, Tampa

*Palm Points is a series of spots composed by the Editor and broadcast over Indian River Community College's public radio station for about five years, until last summer. Each spot ran 1 minute:*

**Palm Points #61  
 Andean Wax Palms**

The tallest palms in the world grow at the highest altitudes. The wax palms of the Andes Mountains in South America can get as high as 180 feet, growing at an altitude, usually, of 4,000 feet. Their trunks are covered with a heavy white wax and their heads of pinnate leaves are in almost perpetual clouds. The habitat is cool, but never freezing. Wax palms in groves, on mountainsides, are as statuesque and magnificent as groves of redwoods. None of the 11 species of *Ceroxylon* can grow in the humid, semi-tropical flatlands of Florida.



Below, a 'swamp of *Livistona saribus*' at Mark Thoe's in Valkaria, second stop on the June 14th meeting.



If you look closely, there's a house behind this Vero Beach

## Palm Points #62

### Other American Native Palms

A relative of our own State Tree, similar in appearance, is native to Texas. This is *Sabal mexicana*. As the name indicates, it also grows in Mexico.

A species of *Washingtonia* not usually grown in Florida, the *Washingtonia filifera*, is native to California, Arizona, and Nevada. It has a thicker trunk and doesn't grow as high as the *Washingtonias* familiar to us here.

**Hawaii trumps** all other states with 23 native species in the same genus, *Pritchardia*. These are hand-

## Palm Points #63

### *Sabal minor*

A palm native to Florida that isn't seen very often on the Treasure Coast is Dwarf Palmetto—in Latin, *Sabal minor*. Yes, it's related to the Cabbage Palm, but with

several differences. Dwarf Palmetto is trunkless; very infrequently, there is a short trunk. Usually, there are just some large palmate leaves emerging from the ground. A casual observer would think that this was a young Cabbage Palm. A closer look would reveal stiff leaves, not drooping at the tips, and no extension of the stem into the leaf.

**Dwarf Palmetto** grows in 10 Southern states, ranging from Texas and Oklahoma, all the way to North Carolina. Its preferred habitat is shady and

## Palm Points #64

### Palm Habitats

**No one** knows how many palm species there are. The best guess is about 2800 species in the world. Of this number, perhaps two-thirds—or 2500—live in the remaining rain forests that are vanishing under the onslaught of growing population and slash-and-burn agriculture.

**Many palms** grow in open areas, such as woodlands or savannas, and these tend to be hardier species capable of withstanding fire and drought. Frequently, palms in these habitats are found in great numbers and dominate their environment.

**Examples in** Florida are the Cabbage Palm, *Sabal palmetto*, and the Saw Palmetto, *Serenoa repens*.

### The MBC/FNGLA Seedbank

<http://www.montgomerybotanical.org/Pages/SeedBank.htm>

MBC's Seedbank Program is sponsored and funded by the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) and is supported by a large group of MBC Volunteers. An article (with pictures added) on the history of the Program was published in January 2000 [*re-printed in column at right, without pictures—Editor*].

Approximately 60% of seeds collected from the plants growing on the property are given to the individuals who have joined the MBC/FNGLA Seedbank Committee and are members of FNGLA. Some seeds are also donated to research institutions, universities, botanical gardens, and plant societies worldwide. The remaining seeds are auctioned off in perhaps the first-ever online seed auction.

Membership in the MBC/FNGLA Seedbank Committee is open to any interested individuals in the winter of each year. The annual membership begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. To join the MBC/FNGLA Seedbank Committee, please contact:

**Attn: Seedbank**  
**Miami-Dade Chapter FNGLA**  
**18710 SW 288 Street, Room 38**  
**Homestead, Florida 33030-2309**

### MBC/FNGLA Seedbank Online Auction

[http://www.montgomerybotanical.org/Pages/SeedBank\\_Auction.htm](http://www.montgomerybotanical.org/Pages/SeedBank_Auction.htm)

Montgomery Botanical Center (MBC) and the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) are offering rare and valuable seeds from numerous species of cycads, palms, and fruit and flowering trees in the first-ever online seed auction, at [www.BotanicalAuctions.com](http://www.BotanicalAuctions.com). The auction is scheduled every two weeks and proceeds help support

### The MBC/FNGLA Seedbank

SEEDS, SEEDS, AND MORE SEEDS: THE HISTORY OF THE MBC/FNGLA SEEDBANK PROGRAM AT MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL CENTER

**Terrence Walters, Ph.D.**  
 Former Executive Director

January 2000 [*from MBC newsletter*]

In March of 1999, the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) and Montgomery Botanical Center (MBC) celebrated the one-year anniversary of their joint Seedbank Program. Under clear skies and a magnificent full moon, staff and members of both organizations held a poolside reception at MBC to acknowledge and thank all individuals involved with the first year of the program, to educate other FNGLA members about the program, and to invite new members to join.

The original concept for the Seedbank Program was first developed by John DeMott of Redland Nursery, a close friend and strong supporter of MBC. John would often visit the 120-acre MBC property, bringing with him a donation of a rare or unusual palm. During his mid-1990s visits, John and I typically took a golf cart tour through the palm and cycad collections. As we traveled around the property, John would comment on the extremely large number of seeds laying at the base of MBC's older palms. Being a typical horticulturist and nursery grower, John could not stand the sight of seeds going to waste because they were not being collected for propagation.

During our tours together, I would reiterate to John the purpose and goals of Mont-

*(Continued on page 11)*

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MBC's Seedbank Program--which also donates large numbers of seeds to other scientific institu-

## **The MBC/FNGLA Seedbank History**

(Continued from page 10)

gomery Botanical Center, as well as discussing the priorities of our limited resources. When Eleanor Foster Montgomery Jennings passed away in June of 1990, she left her estate and funds to support scientific activities at MBC. In Nell's 1989 will, she stated that she wanted to encourage the scientific and educational study of the plants growing on the property. Since 1991, MBC Directors have focused available funding towards the development of an international scientific collection of tropical plants, with an emphasis on palms and cycads. (Colonel Robert Montgomery who developed the original estate with Nell, planted primarily palms and cycads in their collection.) With a Master Site Plan developed for the 120-acre property in 1992, the Directors initiated the use of available funds for developing a collection that would attract educators and students and would encourage and support scientific research projects on the plants.

**When I** became the Executive Director of MBC in November of 1994, I worked to ensure that the collections were being developed as Nell had wished. The staff at MBC began mounting expeditions throughout the world to collect scientifically-valuable material for future studies. Hundreds of seeds were obtained and germinated in MBC's Nursery Complex. In 1996, MBC's horticulturists began planting according to a detailed landscape design and the Master Site Plan. However, with limited resources, the majority of funds were directed to obtaining seeds from wild populations, germinating them in the nursery, and planting the young plants on the 120-acre property.

**I informed** John that because of our primary goal to develop a scientifically-based collection, I could not make seed collecting from our mature plants a priority item when it came to allocation of available resources. Although he understood, John con-

tinued to be frustrated by all of those seeds decomposing on the ground.

**In 1996**, with support from an outstanding group of volunteers, MBC began hand-pollinating some of our rare and unusual palms and cycads on the property, such as *Microcycas calocoma*, *Zombia antillarum*, and *Nypa fruticans*. The resulting seeds were distributed to botanical gardens, plant societies, and institutions worldwide. From 1995 through 1998, we distributed annually between 5,000 and 9,000 seeds produced from our controlled pollinations. However, MBC staff were only able to allocate minimal time to overseeing this seed production and distribution.

**In 1997**, after months of listening to my reasons about why all those seeds on the ground were not being harvested, John suggested that FNGLA and MBC could possibly develop a cooperative program to support the collection and distribution of those seeds. Each time John visited, he again suggested this possibility more clearly; defining what such a program might entail as time went on. In July, he asked if I would submit a proposal to the Miami-Dade Chapter of the FNGLA to support a seedbank program. In August, a proposal was submitted to the Chapter's Directors stating the following objectives:

- 1 Promote the conservation of rare and endangered palms and cycads by supporting seed production and seed distribution from Montgomery's collections.
- 2 Create the opportunity in South Florida for growing and testing species not yet known in the horticultural industry.
- 3 Create opportunities for identifying successful plants for the future South Florida landscaping industry.

(Continued on page 12)



*So, you have problems growing palms in Gainesville? Above, a 10-foot Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) growing unscathed outside an apartment house at 3335 C Street, SE, in Washington, DC, on December 4, 2007. The temperature was about 37°F, with*

### **The MBC/FNGLA Seedbank History**

*(Continued from page 11)*

- 4 Promote scientific and educational opportunities on the plants produced from the distribution of the seed.

**An essential** part of the MBC proposal was the hiring of a part-time seedbank coordinator to oversee the collecting, cleaning, and distribution of seed to FNGLA and to other botanically-oriented societies, gardens, and institutions.

**John discussed** the proposal with Murray Corman of Garden of Delights to see if he might be interested in supporting such a

program. Since the mid 1970s Murray had been trying to figure out ways to increase the diversity of species available to the South Florida Nursery Industry. The MBC proposal was exactly what Murray had hoped for. Murray immediately signed on with John as a strong supporter of the program and became one of the first members of the new FNGLA Seed Bank Committee.

**Many months** were spent developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FNGLA and MBC. Since so many individuals were involved in one or more aspects of the agreement, many drafts were generated. Members of FNGLA were canvassed to see if they would be interested in purchasing shares in the program; the higher dollar amount a share-holder gave to the program, the larger number of seeds they would obtain.

**On March 25, 1998**, the MOU between MBC and FNGLA was officially signed. The main purpose of the agreement was that the two organizations would create and administer a seedbank program with the objectives stated above. The program began on April 1, 1998. Thirteen individuals purchased shares in the program to fund the first year. These individuals ultimately became the MBC/FNGLA Seedbank Committee. The MOU stated that FNGLA would receive 60% of the seeds generated through the program. Twenty percent of the FNGLA seeds would be sold to FNGLA members during the monthly meetings; the funds from the sale would be split equally between FNGLA and MBC. Eighty percent of FNGLA's seeds would be distributed to the Seed Bank Share Holders based on the number of shares they held in the program.

**In April 1998**, Judy Kay, a volunteer at MBC already involved with controlled pollinations and seed distributions, was hired as the part-time Seed Bank Coordinator

*(Continued on page 13)*

### The MBC/FNGLA Seedbank History

(Continued from page 12)

through the MBC/FNGLA Seedbank Program. MBC renovated a small building to house the office of the Coordinator and to provide a site for processing, storing, and distributing seeds. Murray Corman agreed to support the Program by working with Judy Kay once very two weeks. With a priority listing of species wanted by FNGLA, Judy and Murray spent every other Friday harvesting seed from Montgomery's collections. Later in the year, Murray was kind enough to accept a seed cleaning/consultant position through MBC. His responsibilities were to support Judy with identifying which seeds to collect, when to collect the seeds, and how to collect them. He also cleaned the seeds at his nursery, returning them to Judy on a timely basis for processing and distribution. These days, one can often see Judy and Murray out together in Murray's truck harvesting seeds for future distribution. Murray's commitment to the program has supported the success of the program.

**Throughout the** remainder of 1998, the Seedbank Committee met on a regular basis at MBC to discuss issues that arose as the program continued to evolve. The issues were not surprising, since anyone involved with seed distribution knows that there are always logistical problems associated with harvesting, processing, storing, and distributing seeds. By the end of 1998, John DeMott accepted the volunteer position as the liaison between MBC and FNGLA.

**With the** financial support of FNGLA, MBC was able to harvest over 176,000 seeds from the collection during 1998. Over 145,000 of these seeds, which represented more than 75 taxa (species, varieties, and cultivars), were distributed to FNGLA from April 1 through December 31, 1998. It is important to note that by the end of 1997, MBC had only distributed around 9,000 seeds with its own available resources. Al-



### Fertilizer at \$20 a Bag!

**Palm fertilizer** is now running about \$20 a bag. This increase is the result of spiked oil prices, the rise because of content and transportation costs. **A long-time** member with an extensive collection has given up fertilizing at this price which, of course, can only increase. And, it's possible to spot his palms that really need a bit of food.

**How are YOU,** the palm lover, coping with this? Have you also just stopped feeding the palms? Or have you just moaned and then bought as much as usual? Drop me a line to let me know how you're handling this.

**ProSource One** is an agricultural supplier with warehouses around the state. While really a wholesaler, it will sell retail. But you must know what you want, which will be brought out to the loading dock. Not fancy, like Home Depot or Lowe's.

**In April,** I bought at the warehouse in Fort Pierce 50-lb bags of the company's own palm fertilizer (13-3-13, with minors) for \$15 a bag. It was \$11 last summer. ProSource One does not deliver and, likely, the wholesale price is lower.

**Maybe one** possibility would be to form a cooperative to buy at wholesale prices, re-sell

ready, during the first two months of 1999, more than 75,000 seeds were distributed to FNGLA from MBC's collections thanks mainly to Judy's, Murray's, and John's efforts.

**Because of** the development and success of

(Continued on page 17)

## From the Editor's Desk

Well, we got through the winter with a few sub-freezing nights in the northern end of our service area, but no real damage reported. Next challenge, of course, is to get through hurricane season despite the dire predictions of Dr. William Gray of Colorado (15 named storms, of which 8 will become hurricanes, 4 at least Category 3 [111-130 mph].) Of course, Dr. Gray did predict a very busy and dangerous hurricane season in 2007. Let us hope he is wrong again this year

\* \* \* \*

**What I** would like is assurance of the prompt beginning of the rainy season no later than the second week in June, hopefully before. None of this waiting until July for a stingy third of the rainfall we should get. The palms and the mosquitoes are waiting, so too is FPL for the air-conditioning bill



Above, flowering *Veitchia* at Mark Thoe's in Val-karia. Right, old bracts on *Cryosophila stauracantha* to be seen at Borassic Park on June 14th.

(Photos by Mike Dahme)

to raise earnings. Maybe as prices continue to 'advance,' we'll start seeing more Olde Florida homes: you know, windows open, fans going, so that the inhabitants can experience the real Florida, not the Florida created by Carrier and Trane.

\* \* \* \*

**If you** have never been to Mike Dahme's place in Grant, don't miss it on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Palm nuts and palm freaks of the world, I guarantee you will love it. But it's not for the faint of heart. Flip-flops will last only a few minutes, and the wise will wear not only solid shoes but also long pants and long sleeves: many scratchy palms will prove the folly of those not so well prepared. Perhaps the equivalent of Borassic Park would be a reduced size Fairchild left to Indiana Jones and his machete? Hey, maybe not a bad analogy. . .

\* \* \* \*

**Something** to look forward to in July: Don Hodel's talk, "What's New in *Chamaedorea*" at Leu on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Since the publication of his landmark book, it seems as if a dozen (at least) new species have been discovered. Not all *Chamaedoreas* are happy to grow here; some prefer California. But we're all interested in new *small* palms, especially those of us who are almost all planted out. Since our speaker also co-authored a book on New Caledonia palms, I can ask him why the flowers on my *Burretio kentia vieillardii* drop off instead of hanging on to form fruit.

\* \* \* \*

**For the Compleat Palm Person**, how about laminated palm flooring or palm paneling or palm plywood? According to the website of the company, Smith & Fong—[www.durapalm.com](http://www.durapalm.com)—the material,



## CFPACS SEED BANK REPORT 1st Quarter 2008

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

The CFPACS Seed Bank has been very active over the past 3 months, despite the cool weather. There were 32 seed orders filled from January 2008 through March 2008, which resulted in a sales total of \$662. As usual we have many customers from Florida. But also had orders sent to Arizona, California, Kansas, Iowa, Tennessee, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. We even had some international orders that went to Thailand, Poland, and England.

**Significant seed** donations were received from CFPACS members, making for several very attractive and successful seed offers. During this period Mike Dahme donated the largest number of species, which included *Aiphanes minima*, *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*, *Carpentaria acuminata*, *Chamaedorea arenbergiana*, *Chamaedorea cataractarum*, *Geonoma interrupta*, *Hyphaene dichotoma*, *Licuala spinosa*, *Livistona decora*, *Livistona benthamii*, *Livistona saribus*, *Manicaria saccifera*, *Pinanga coronata* 'kublii' form, and *Roystonea borinquena*.

Neil Yorio donated *Hyphaene coriacea*, *Zamia inermis* (hand pollinated), *Zamia lodigesii*, *Zamia* sp. "Alvarado", *Zamia* sp. "Cayman Islands" (hand pollinated), *Zamia spartea* hybrid, and *Arenga bookeriana*, which resulted in the largest single species sales return (for the *Zamia inermis*).

**Christian Faulkner** provided seeds for *Arenga australasica*, *Pritchardia remota*, and *Pseudophoenix sargentii* ssp *sargentii* with all three being very popular with our members. Dean Van DerBleek donated *Butia capitata*, *Dypsis decaryi*, and *Phoenix sylvestris* seeds.

**Anne Michael** donated seeds for *Adonidia merrilli*, *Attalea speciosa*, and *Roystonea regia*.

**John Green** provided *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*, *Arenga caudata*, *Arenga engleri*, *Caryota mitis*, *Phoenix reclinata*, *Sabal causiarum*, and *Sabal*



*Upright Serenoa trunks that visitors will see at Mark Thoe's, the second stop in the June 14th Brevard meeting.*

*palmetto* with most of these collected at the Florida Institute of Technology campus and botanical garden.

**John Kennedy** provided a nice batch of *Coccothrinax argentata*. And our friends at Ortanique donated three very popular species: *Dypsis pembana*, *Dypsis rivularis*, and *Salacca wallichiana*.

**Members Phil Stager and Eddie Williams** provided *Wodyetia bifurcata*, the last of a large donation of these popular palm seeds.

**Other popular** donations include *Livistona australis* from Richard Lundstedt and *Archontophoenix alexandrae*, *Dictyosperma album*, and *Dypsis leptocheilos* from Rick Nale.

We also received some *Phoenix theophrasti* from Sergio Quercellini (from Italy) and *Zamia floridana* (thin leaf form) from Tom and Karen Barrese.

**Special thanks** go out to our Seed Bank customers for their continued support of the CFPACS, especially Mike Ricigliano who ordered a whopping \$268.75 of seeds during this period.

Your seed donations are greatly appreciated by the CFPACS, without which we would have no Seed



## First Coast Chapter April 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Gainesville

By David & Geri Prall

We had attended a CFPACS meeting at Merrill Wilcox's place in Gainesville several years ago. It was interesting to see the growth on many of the hybrids. But even more spectacular was his hybrid collection at his Alachua residence. Having more space to plant, the palms had plenty of room to grow. There were rows of  $[(Jubaea \times Butia) \times Butia] \times Butia$  F2 hybrids, as well as an exception specimen of the tri-generic "*x Jubtyagrus everettii*" (See photos)

The 1<sup>st</sup> Coast chapter meeting was well attended. We thought that maybe our four hour drive from Cape Coral, was the longest, but were surprised that there were palm enthusiasts who traveled further, coming from Atlanta, GA & Raleigh, NC to view Merrill's hybrid palm collection. Many hybrid palms were "hot items" at the auction. After touring Merrill's gardens, some members also toured Kanapaha Gardens, Ring Park, Devil's Millhopper as well as Palm Point Park on Newnan's Lake. Gainesville has some very interesting natural places and gardens worth

*Above left, Merrill Wilcox (center) points out a detail at his Gainesville house to First Coast chapter visitors during the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Above right, a row of  $[(Jubaea \times Butia) \times Butia] \times Butia$  F2 hybrids at Merrill's place in Alachua.*





## President's Message

**Thank you** to everyone that made our March meeting a success, especially Eric Schmidt and Leu Gardens for the excellent tour and generous donation of plants, and to Gordon and Pat Smith for hosting the afternoon portion of the meeting. It was great to see 60 CFPACS members at the meeting. It was a great time of looking at many palms and cycads, sale and auction, and most of all getting to converse with others with a common interest in these wonderful plants.

Do you have a **suggestion** for our society? I would like to hear any suggestion that you might have on how CFPACS can do more to serve its membership and the community. We are especially looking for suggestions for future meeting locations.

**Our board meetings are always open to any member**, you might want to come to the next meeting a bit earlier to hear what we are discussing and add your voice to the conversation. If you are unable to attend a board meeting, please contact me (or any board member) - contact information for all of your board members is listed on page 21 of this issue, and on the web site.

Do you have a talent or ability that might benefit the society? **Let us know** what you have to offer. Do you have a plant or two that you could donate to CFPACS for an auction or sale? Do you have a knack for publicity? Do you like interacting with people? Do you have some observations on palms and cycads from your experience or travels that you would like to share? Would you be willing to open up your garden for a stop on one of our meetings? Could you spare a few hours on a weekend to staff a table for an exhibit? Could you help with mailing? These are just a few options - there are



*Everybody should have a Petticoat Palm, Coppernicia macroglossa. Here's one in Borassic Park. See how many others you can spot.*

### **The MBC/FNGLA Seedbank History**

*(Continued from page 13)*

the Seedbank Program, MBC is now able to support and distribute large numbers of seeds to other institutions, botanical gardens, and plant societies throughout the world. FNGLA is to be commended for supporting an activity with important global impact.

**As the** first year of the Seed Bank Cooperative Program comes to a close, FNGLA and MBC are now poised to begin year two. In December of 1998, a funding proposal from MBC was submitted to FNGLA; it was accepted, providing the necessary funds to support the 1999/2000 Seedbank Program. Judy Kay will continue in her capacity as Seed Bank Coordinator and Murray Corman will continue as MBC's Seedbank Consultant for seed collecting and cleaning.

**As the** young, recently planted collections mature at MBC, more and more seeds will be produced for harvesting and propagation. We hope that by the year 2000, Seedbank

**Riffle, R. L.** (2008) *Timber press pocket guide to palms*. Portland, OR: Timber Press  
ISBN 13:978-088192-776-4, 5¾" x 8¼", 237 pp., \$19.95.

**Bob Riffle** was working in White City (just below Fort Pierce) on a cutdown version of his *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms* when he died suddenly in August, 2006. This is the abbreviated version of that earlier book, shepherded through final published form by Scott Zona, Larry Noblick, Paul Craft (co-author of previous book), Don Hodel, and Diane Laird.

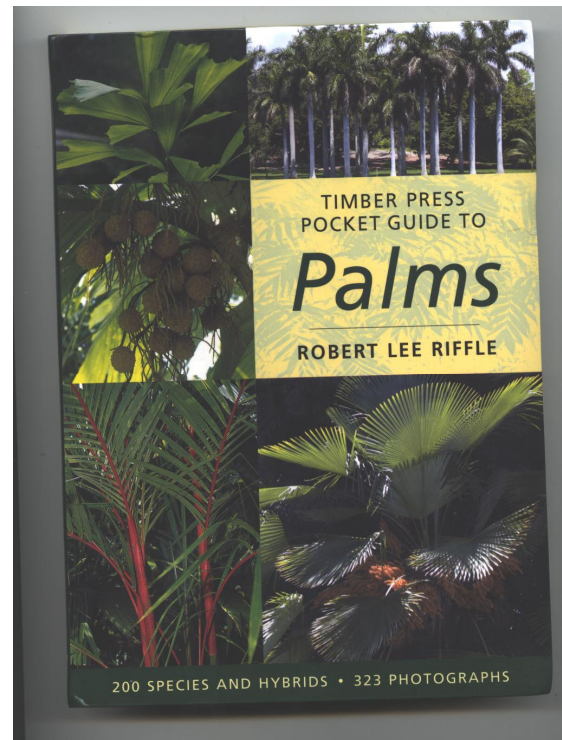
**First, always** to remember that no palm book is ever completely accurate, correct, or all-inclusive. (Maybe the palm book Bobby Lee has presently in preparation beyond the Pearly Gates.) This is a guidebook, a paperback (Flexibind, plastic cover), small in size and eminently portable. So, folks, it can't have every species that the bigger book has. **With** a total of 200 species—including a few hybrids—both basic and more rare, the book has a respectable number represented. For novices, the old standard palms are here, for the more advanced and slightly cynical, an array of more exotic and difficult palms are listed. "Listing" is exactly accurate. Specs are provided for each species: how big (height, trunk width, leaves flowers, fruit), something about its native habitat, growth rate, whether salt tolerant, and seed germination. No more than a sentence or two of comment follows, usually enough so that author is able to assure the reader that this is, indeed, a beautiful palm. The picture quality is exceptionally good.

**Most useful** to beginners is an introduction that sets forth basic palm botany and structure, as well as information about landscape uses. This is followed by list of species by particular category: drought-tolerant palms, salt-tolerant palms, small palms, fast-growing palms, etc.

**Possibly the** chief weakness of the book is its reliance on the old USDA zones. Those of you in Orlando and Tampa may read here that many of those old palms in your garden only grow in Zones 10 and 11. And, if you are alert, you may spot an error of fact here or there.

**Overall, this** is a very useful little book. Its price will make it more widely available than the big coffee table book, *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated*

## BOOK REVIEW



**LaRochefoucauld, Maxim #496**

Quarrels would not last long were the wrong all on one side.



*March board meeting on the porch of the Garden House at Leu Gardens. The Editor, center, makes a brilliant and incisive point. From left, John Green, Seed Bank Coordinator; Chuck Grieneisen, Secretary; John Kennedy, and Bob Johnson, President, back to camera. The knee at bottom left may belong to Web-*

## *Treasurer's Notes*

### PayPal

CFPACS has collected \$964.86 in credit card payments for seeds, memberships and donations since opening our PayPal account in September of 2007. This represents about 18 percent of our total income from memberships, seed sales and donations. To make a payment for seeds or membership dues, log onto PayPal ([www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)) and use the following email address to direct your payment to CFPACS: [payments@cfpacs.org](mailto:payments@cfpacs.org)

### 2008 Spring Sales

CFPACS vendors sold 415 palms and cycads and raised \$1052.70 for the society through our 2008 spring sales. At the FIT Botanical Fest in Melbourne, 3 vendors sold 151 plants for total sales of \$2246 (up \$161 from last year), \$258.80 going to CFPACS. Our March meeting in Maitland

## **First Quarter Board Meeting March 2008**

The **second** quarter board meeting was called to order at Leu gardens March 8 '08. Board members present were president Bob Johnson, editor John Kennedy, seed bank chair John Green, webmaster Frankie Ramos, and secretary Chuck Grieneisen. Absent were past president Diana Wehrell-Grabowski, treasurer Catherine Johnson, west coast vice president Christian Faulkner, and membership chair Karen Barrese.

The **upcoming** June 14 meeting was discussed. The September meeting for west coast was also discussed briefly.

A **motion** was made and passed that Bob and Catherine Johnson and John Kennedy's signatures are required on the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society bank account. A FedEx/UPS account is being looked into for the seed bank.

A **motion** was made and passed that any member that makes the society through seed sales or plant sales over \$100 over the course of a year, will have the option of having a one year free membership to our society.

A **motion** was also made and passed for approving the last meeting minutes. A donation for Florida Institute of Technology was also discussed. It will be for a statue in the memory of former IPS presi-

saw 4 vendors sell 49 plants, total sales of \$719 with \$172.60 going to CFPACS. The auction at the March meeting brought in an additional \$229, all of which benefits the society. At the USF Botanical Garden Sale in Tampa, 7 vendors sold 215 plants for a gross of \$3923 (down \$478 from last year) with \$392.30 going to CFPACS.

**Thanks to our vendors** who sold plants with CFPACS at these spring sales: Faith Bishock, Steve Farnsworth, Chuck Grieneisen, Marc Gringas, Bob Johnson, Dorothy Kellogg, Richard Lundstedt, Frank Tintera and Dave Witt. Thanks also go to Leu Gardens, which donated a majority of the plants for our March meeting auction.

**GIVE A *GIFT* MEMBERSHIP TO A FRIEND! A letter will be sent to the recipient that announces the gift and its giver. Contact the Membership Chair (see right) for details. Check or PayPal accepted.**



### 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.

### 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 web-

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](mailto:cfpacsmembership@msn.com)

Membership also available at website:  
[www.cfpacs.org](http://www.cfpacs.org)

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

Deadline for September issue:

**AUGUST 1**



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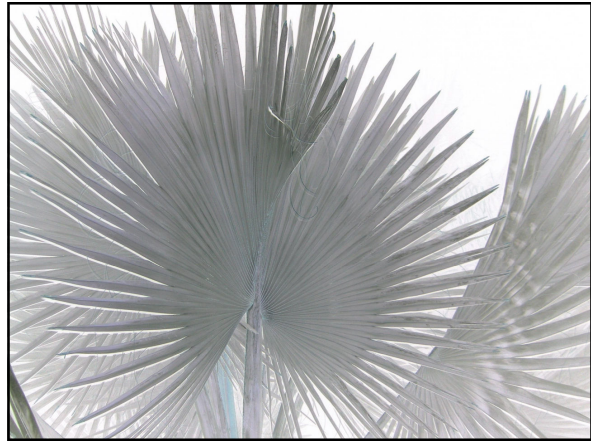
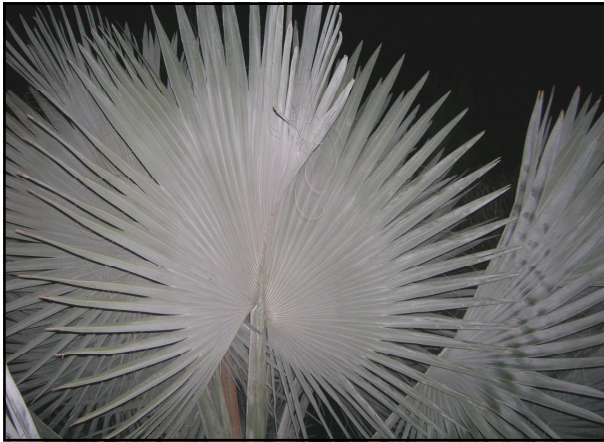
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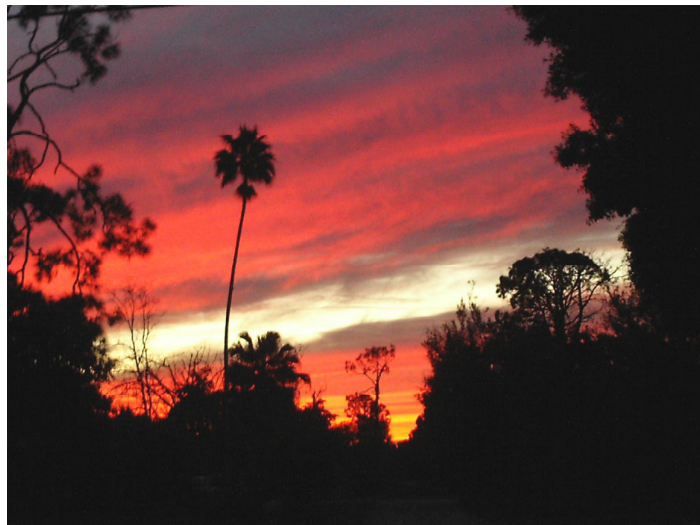
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*Two pictures of a Bismarckia at night, taken by Dave Reid.*



*Below, an April sunset in Vero Beach.  
(Photo by Elizabeth Ken-*



*Left, a red inflorescence on a Foxtail  
in  
Cocoa Beach. A noted palm authority  
says that flower color is variable in  
Australia, not always the white flow-  
ers we are familiar with. Riffle's new*