The Palmateer

Volume 28, Number 3 *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* *September, 2008*

Jason Baker leads a tour group in admiration of Mike Dahme's hybrid Borassus *during the June 14th meeting at Borassic Park.*
(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

June Meeting Report

Borassic Park (June 14): Forty members of Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society (CFPACS) converge on this Brevard County pilgrimage site to view the 150 species palms of palms, most mature, planted on 8.5 acres. The proprietor, Mike Dahme, has graciously opened his property, clearing pathways through agreeably jungly areas for the visitors. Mike himself is presently at Casa Miguelito, his home in central Puerto Rico near Orocovis.

The palm sightseers are struck, as others before them, by the sheer number of palms, certainly at least a thousand, since Mike never planted a single individual of a species where he might plant a dozen. Not one or two *Bismarckia*s, but perhaps 25 or so. Since he has been 'doing' palms since the late 1980s, many of his early plantings are now mature.

Water features are always a major attractive element in any extensive garden, public or private. Here are four

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September 20th meeting: 2 Gardens in St. Petersburg

The fall meeting will take place on Sept. 20th in St. Pete. The chapter will visit the gardens of Phil Stager and of Mike and Marjorie Evans.

Phil Stager's Garden

Phil recollects: "I moved into this house (a repo that had been vacant for at least one year) in October, 1988. The yard was a mess. I knew nothing about tropical gardening and could recognize two types of palms - coconuts and all others.

"After nearly 20 years of sweat, fun, dumb mistakes, learning, freezes and tropical storms, the yard now contains approximately 55 palm species, 8 bamboo species, 6 cycad species, over 200 varieties of crotons and very little room left to plant anything else!

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This is Phil Stager's place in St. Pete, with Chambeyronia macrocarpa *raising its flaming new leaf.* *(Phil's photo)*

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

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CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

Deadline for December issue:

November 1

The Palmateer

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

The closing date for submission of material for the next issue is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

The Palmateer
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"Various palms' at Phil Stager's.

September 20th CFPACS Meeting Schedule
10 am Board Meeting
10:30 - noon - Phil Stager's Garden
Noon - lunch on your own
1:15 - Mike & Marjorie Evans Garden
2:00 auction & sale

Lunch options: Almost every conceivable fast food place is along US 19. If going Central Ave and right on Park St and then left at Tyron, there's another 20 or so places to eat at least on Central and a few on Tyrone Blvd. A local favorite is Caribbean Café, 4801 Central Ave (Phone: 727/327-7202).

Editorial suggestion for a stop between Phil's and the Evanses' garden: **Haslam's Book Store, 2025 Central Ave., St. Pete**. This is the most famous old used bookstore in Florida. If you're looking for an out-of-print book, worth trying here.

First Stop

Phil Stager
4184 51st Ave. S.
St. Petersburg FL 33711
(727) 864-1588

From Phil: "When visiting my place: Park on the street and not on the neighbors' lawns; it's illegal and most overwater so you may sink into your axles."

Directions to Phil's:

From north: I-275 to 54th Ave., S. exit (use this one and not the Pinellas bayway ramp); turn right at bottom of off ramp; go under I-275 and through light at US19; turn right on 41st St (look for white wall on right and Maximo Moorings sign); turn left onto 51st Ave.,S (if you use the Pinellas bayway ramp, you will have to make a three lane suicide turn at the bottom - not recommended)
If you come to any toll booths, you've gone too far.

From south: I-275 and left exit (old4) ; turn left at first light onto Pinellas Bayway; right onto 41st St.

Second Stop

Mike & Marjorie Evans
6015 - 100th Way N.
St. Petersburg FL 33708
(727) 393-8950

To the Evans garden from Phil's:
Head northwest on 51st Ave S toward 42nd St S -
Turn right at 42nd St S - 0.1 mi
Turn right at 50th Ave S - 0.2 mi
Turn right to stay on 50th Ave S - 0.3 mi
At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit and stay on 50th Ave S - 0.1 mi
Turn left at 34th St S/US-19 N - 3.8 mi
Turn left at 5th Ave N - 2.1 mi
Turn right at Tyrone Blvd N - 3.4 mi
Continue on Bay Pines Blvd - 1.6 mi
Turn right at 100th Way N - 0.8 mi
Turn right at Seminole Trail - 0.1 mi
Turn left at 59th Ave N - 364 ft
Turn right at 100th Way N - 56 ft

SEPT. 20TH MEETING, ST. PETE

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Mike & Marjorie Evans' Garden

Mike relates: "We started or garden in 1999, when we purchased 1.5 acres of old growth Florida in Pinellas County. The property was so thick with native and exotic undesirable vegetation that you could hardly walk through it. We cleared the entire property, except for century old Live Oaks. We brought in hundreds of yards of fill dirt to establish different levels in the garden. Then have been adding hundreds of yards of mulch & tons of rock. We have over 70 large *Roystonea* that produce a canopy along with the century old oaks. The largest palms we planted were 15 gallon containers. The garden is constantly evolving as palms are added added deleted. We invite everyone to the jungle to see what can be accomplished in 9 years from a patch of dirt. The garden includes some of over 70 species of palms, but there is much more in exotic cycads, bamboo, & ferns."

Palm species planted at the Evanses' include *Arenga: australasica, engleri; Astrocaryum mexicanum; Archontophoenix: alexandrae, cunninghamiana, purpurea; Bismarckia nobilis; Dypsis: cabadae, decaryi, leptocheilos, lutescens, mayote; Copernicia: alba, baileyana, macroglossa; Coccothrinax: alta, crinita, fragrans, miraguama, spissa; Chambeyronia macrocarpa; Chamaedorea: cataractarum, elegans, metallica, microspadix, stoloniferia; Caryota: gigis, mitis, urens; Corypha umbraculifera; Gastrococos crispa; Cryosophila warscewiczii; Cyrtostachys renda; Dictosperma album; Elaeis: guineensis, oleifera; Hyophorbe: lagenicaulis, indica, verschaffeltii; Hyphaene coriacea; Kentiopsis oliviformis; Kerriodoxa elegans; Latania lontaroides; Licuala: grandis, ramsayi, spinosa; Livistona: chinensis, decora, fulva, jenkinsiana, saribus; Neoveitchia storkii; Phoenix: reclinata, roebelenii; Pritchardia hillebrandii; Pseudophoenix sargentii; Ptychosperma macarthurii; Ravenea rivularis; Reinhardtia gracilis; Raphis: excelsa, multifida, subtilis; Roystonea elata; Sabal: mauritiiformis, palmetto; Satakentia liukiuensis; Syagrus: botryophora, coronata, montgomeryana, schizophylla; Thrinax radiata; Veitchia arecina; Wallichia: densiflora, disticha; Wodyetia bifurcata; Wodyetia bifurcata X Veitchia* (Variegated Foxy Lady) and *Zombia antillarum.*

The Evanses also have a large container nursery on site, which will greatly expand the offerings of the CFPACS sale - plants of every size for everyone's palm addiction. Members are encouraged to bring a palm or cycad for the auction.

In the Evans driveway, above: Dioon spinulosum , Chambeyronia, *some* Chamadoreas. *Below, an attractive, palmy path elsewhere in the garden. (Mike's photos)*

Before setting out for the September 20th meeting in St. Pete, check our website www.cfpacs.org for any changes in times or other details.

One of the four ponds at Borassic Park that are surrounded by palms. (Photo by Lek Wallace)
Below, Livistona humilis *inspected by—at right—Dave Witt, Jason Baker, and Ray Gompf.*
(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

June Meeting Report

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ponds, the smallest of which is about a half acre. While the present owner has not planted for the picturesque or for formal vistas, a landscape architect might ache to re-arrange the palms for greater dramatic impact. Here, the huge mass of palms is impressive.

The CFPACS board met in the atrium of the house just before members began to arrive. Thanks to Gary Dahme, Mike's son, who opened the house so that the needy could use the comfort station.

* * *

Malabar/Valkaria (June 14) Twenty minutes' drive northwest of Borassic Park is Mark Thoe's place, more on the scale of ordinary homeowners. Lovely palms are in stark contrast to the totally burned woodlands around Mark's house. A miracle saved home and garden from devastating spring fires that came up to, but not over onto his property. As Mark tells his visitors, he didn't sleep for three days and nights, fighting the fires.

The weather cooperates for the June Brevard meeting, sunny and hot, but not yet Amazonian.

--John Kennedy

Right, Livistona jenkinsiana *at Mark Thoe's—owner's back to camera.*
(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

Dr. John Dransfield Talks about Madagascar Palms in Hawaii

By Mike Merritt

On July 18, 2008, Dr. John Dransfield, of Kew Gardens in London, England, presented a Power Point presentation to a gathering of folks at a meeting of HIPS (Hawaii Island Palm Society) in Hilo. The talk was entitled "What's New in Madagascar?. . .Recent Palm Discoveries." The event had been well publicized in the local media, and more than 100 people were in attendance, including many who needed to make the 2 ½-hr trip back to the Kona side on the treacherous Saddle Road after 9 pm.

Dr. John Dransfield (JD) is arguably the most prestigious palm botanist working today, and his published products in the popular media include the well-known *Palms of Madagascar*, the principal document used by the large group of *Dypsis* fanciers in the palm hobby (more numerous in Hawaii, California, and Australia than in Florida). He is co-author of the first edition of *Genera Palmarum*(GP1), with Natalie Uhl, and is the senior author of the soon-to-be-released second edition of *Genera Palmarum* (GP2). GP1 and GP2 establish a classification systematics for all palms and describe each and every palm genus in the world.

In his opening remarks, JD acknowledged an understanding of why palm hobbyists move to Hawaii, based on his tours of local palm gardens. He also described the upcoming GP2, saying that it will be radically reorganized, will have color illustrations, and be substantially lengthier than GP1. JD was finished with the galleys of GP2 and ready to submit them to the printer when news of a new giant Malagasy palm, *Tahina spectabilis,* arrived. Determined to include this spectacular new species (and genus) in GP2, JD had to reorganize and renumber the entire text, a Herculean editorial effort. JD noted that, when GP2 is published this fall, IPS shall receive a large share of the initial printed copies, which will be available to IPS members at a substantial discount.

JD began his discussion with a review of problems affecting the identification of Malagasy palm species. Many hobbyists are acquainted with these problems: the poor infrastructure of the country which inhibits the ability to travel, the isolation of many species into small localities by mountainous geography that makes them vulnerable to habitat destruction and harvesting for palm heart consumption, and the dependence upon local and commercial seed collectors who are often clueless or careless with naming or identification. *Dypsis* specialists worldwide are frequently on the IPS palm forum PalmTalk exchanging images of species they purchased under some name, either a species name or an informal one, trying to understand whether they have the same or different species from the others. Often, the discussion doesn't get much further than identifying the dealer and time when their palms were acquired. Despite limits on the time he has available, JD, a PalmTalk forum member, occasionally joins in and tries to help sort things out. Although it has been his objective for some time, JD has not been able to analyze the DNA of members of the *Dypsis* genus because trained personnel and funds have not been available.

What does it feel like to have a palm named after yourself? That's John Dransfield above , in Hawaii, standing before a specimen of Dransfieldia micrantha.

Photo by Bo-Göran Lundqvist

JD referred also to the new *Ravenea* species recently described in PALMS. He told of finding a new species of *Beccariophoenix* a short distance off the road leading from Tana (the capital, Antananarivo) to the east coast. But JD did not clear up the current confusion (windows and non-windows, southern and highland forms, *madagascariensis*, *alfredii*, and unnamed species) that currently plagues *Beccariophoenix*.

Finally, Dr.Dransfield described in detail the events leading to the discovery and formal description of the spectacular new species *Tahina spectabilis*. His presentation conveyed the excitement he experienced from this discovery. The discovery process began when Bruno Leroy, a resident of Tana, posted a report on PalmTalk that a friend, Xavier Metz, had found and photographed a group of massive palms, one of which had a massive terminal inflorescence, in a remote location in Madagascar. The photos were downloaded to the PalmTalk site.

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A Lethal Phytoplasma Disease of *Sabal palmetto* On Florida's Central West Coast

By Nigel A. Harrison and Monica L. Elliott
University of Florida – IFAS, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center
July 2008

We have recently received reports of substantial numbers of *Sabal palmetto* (cabbage palm or sabal palm) dying in Manatee and Hillsborough Counties. Observations of symptomatic palms in Manatee County, followed by removal and analysis of trunk corings have confirmed that a phytoplasma is consistently present in these affected palms. The *preliminary* analysis indicates that the phytoplasma that causes Texas Phoenix palm decline is also causing the decline of thecabbage palms. See http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP163 for more details about this disease. Thepreviously known palm hosts for this particular phytoplasma are *Phoenix canariensis, Phoenix dactylifera, Phoenix sylvestris,*and *Syagrus romanzoffiana*. Unfortunately, we can now add *Sabal palmetto* to this list.

The newly identified cabbage palm disease was first confirmed in Manatee County byobservations and laboratory analysis. Photos received from Hillsborough County suggest that the disease is present in this county also. To date, Texas Phoenix palm decline has been confirmed from *Phoenix* species from southern Sarasota County to Pinellas and northern Hillsborough Counties and eastward to Polk County (confirmed in Lakeland).

Based on our limited observations so far, making a field diagnosis of this new disease of cabbage palms will be difficult, especially on over-trimmed palms in the landscape. We believe it will be much easier to detect in natural areas or on landscape palms that are not being trimmed and have a relatively large canopy. The first clue is the appearance of more dead lower leaves in the canopy than would be normal due solely to natural senescence or nutrient deficiencies. The second clue is death of the spear leaf, ***prior to*** death of all other leaves in the canopy. Eventually, the palm canopy will collapse around the trunk as the bud decays.

As cabbage palms die (for various reasons), the leaves typically appear to have a bronze or reddish-brown appearance. Later, these discolored leaves become more gray-brown in color.

Since palms infected with the phytoplasma have leaves that are often dying prematurely, the overall effect on a full, untrimmed cabbage palm canopy is as follows: The oldest leaves will appear to be a grayish-brown in color, then an unusually large number of leaves in the middle of the canopy will be a reddish-brown or bronze color with a few young, green leaves in the upper canopy, along with a dead or dying spear leaf (desiccated, off-color, etc.).

Another symptom on palms that is typical for diseases caused by phytoplasmas is death of the inflorescence (flowers) and fruits. If the fruits have already formed (even if not mature), a large amount or all of the fruit will suddenly drop from the palm. This is only speculation that this will occur for cabbage palms, which begin to flower in mid-summer, as we have not yet closely observed this disease on this palm species during the flowering and fruiting season. Please note that boron deficiency, also common in the state, will induce this same symptom.

Laboratory diagnosis to confirm this new disease will be the same as for other palm species infected with phytoplasmas and requires drilling into the trunk to obtain internal trunk tissue.

See http://flrec.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/LY-TPPD-Trunk-Sampling.pdf for instructions on sampling and for details of where to send samples and cost to test. We will be able to conduct a limited number of samples from affected counties at no cost, but do not have the resources to continue free analysis once the disease has been confirmed in a county. Phytoplasmas are not culturable, so only a molecular analysis can unequivocally confirm the phytoplasma is causing the symptoms observed.

Currently, the insect vector of the phytoplasma is unknown. It will require considerable work for potential vectors to be identified and then confirmed as the actual vector. Management options in landscapes will be the same as for other susceptible palms and as outlined in the Extension document listed previously. There will be few, if any, management options for natural areas at this time, especially without knowledge of the vector.

It is extremely important for the public to understand that cabbage palms die or appear unhealthy from a variety of problems – lightning, nutrient deficiencies, over-trimming, deep planting if they have been transplanted, insects, other diseases such as Ganoderma butt rot, herbicides (roadside vegetation management) and fires (natural or prescribed burns). Only those palms with the symptoms described above should be sampled for confirmation of infection by phytoplasma.

Palm Beach Picnic/Auction

Saturday, September 27

Members of Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society are invited to attend the annual Palm Beach chapter's picnic and auction on Saturday, September 27th. As usual, this will take place at Ruth Sallenbach's "spread" on South Military Trail in Lake Worth.

Soft drinks and water will be provided. Attendees should bring salads or other edibles, not just desserts.

Plants for auction are solicited. These can be not only palms and cycads, but also trees, ground covers, shrubs.

While the day begins at 9:00 a.m., the auction typically begins in the early afternoon. It's a good idea to bring a chair to sit on.

The mature palms in Ruth's 5-acre collection are well worth a visit. Her place is about 100 yards south of Lantana Road (CR 812) on the west side: 6825 S. Military Trail. Info: (561) 965-5430.

Mark Thoe on June 14th—burned out Serenoa *are just across his property line. (Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)*

A male Kerriodoxa elegans *at Norm Moody's place in West Palm. (Photo by Mike Dahme)*

A long-time member says while driving north on I-75 from Sarasota, that the diseased *Sabal*s in the wild are obvious from around Terra Ceia north, but not all individuals appear to be infected.

—John Kennedy

Plant Sales!!

Palm Beach Fall Palm & Cycad Sale

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society will hold its fall sale on Saturday October 11th and Sunday, October 12th, in the usual location: Caloosa Park in Boynton Beach. Saturday, 9-5, Sunday, 9-4. Admission is free. For information, contact Kitty Philips at (561) 427-3158 or Kittyphilips@fnis.com

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville
13th Annual Plant Sale, Oct. 18 (9-6) & 19 (9-5)
4700 S.W. 58th Drive
Gainesville, FL 32608
(352) 372-4981
www.kanapha.org

South Florida Palm Society, Miami
Nov. 1 & 2
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
(305) 667-1651
www.fairchildgarden.org

Mounts Botanical Garden, West Palm Beach
Fall Plant Sale, Nov. 1 (9-5) & 2 (9-4)
559 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415
(561) 233-1757
www.mounts.org

Heathcote Botanical Gardens, Fort Pierce
21st Annual Garden Festival, Nov. 22 & 23 (10-4)
[Members only preview, 9-10 ,Nov. 22]
210 Savannah Road
Fort Pierce, FL 34982
(772) 464-4672
www.heathcotebotanicalgardens.org

Admission is charged at Fairchild and to non-members of the three botanical gardens.

The USF Fall Plant Festival 2008

It's time again for the fall sale in Tampa. The University of South Florida, in Tampa, is hosting the Fall Plant festival on Saturday, Oct 11th, and Sunday, Oct 12th .The hours will be 10AM to 4 PM on Saturday, and 10AM to 3 PM on Sunday. Members of the USF Botanical Garden get in early at 9:30 AM.

We can really use your support in order for us to be able to continue making palms and cycads available at these sales. Set up times for vendors are 8:00 am.-6:00 pm. Friday . On Saturday morning it's from 7:00 till 9:00. You must be a member of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad society to be a vendor. You must also have a vendor number to be a vendor. You must get a vendor number from the treasurer .Also you must have a pass from U.S.F. to set up on Saturday. The treasurer's contact info is at the last page of *The Palmateer*.

If there is someone new who does not know how to get to the garden, it is near the southwest corner of the USF campus, in Tampa. You can get to the campus on the Fowler exits from either I-275 from the west, or I-75 from the east. From the east, you will drive a few miles before you see the campus. Turn right into the main entrance, and go to the first light. Turn left, the road will end at the entrance to the garden. From the west, get onto Fowler and drive about a mile, and then turn left into the main entrance, and follow the other instructions. There will be people to show you where to park.

Most of the other societies are there as well, so if you enjoy growing plants such as bromeliads, orchids, ferns, or anything else unusual, you can find it at this sale.

If you need more information on the sale, or would like to be one of our vendors, please contact Chuck Grieneisen at chuckfg@bellsouth.net or 407-359-6276.

—-Chuck Grieneisen

Suggestions for Beginners in Palms

By John Kennedy

OK, you're dazzled! Palms all around (you're not in Kansas anymore), but what are they? Must have names, seem to be at least five or six kinds. You've bought a couple of Queen Palms and a very small Washingtonia. Now what?

For starters, you've found CFPACS (good). . .but so much to know and to find out. Overwhelming.

Take a deep breath and remember The Little Engine That Could. Look around the neighborhood to see what folks are growing, maybe a couple more palm species than you thought. Mostly, the palms hereabouts are those found (as you bought yours) in Wal-mart, Loews, or Home Depot. After a short time, it's evident that these Big Box stores don't sell a real variety of palms, just the same few.

Visit the local botanical garden. It's likely to have a palm collection, nicely labeled. And the palms may well be sizeable, surely bigger than the little ones you bought. Next comes a visit to the public library. Palm books in the reference area will have pictures, names, cultural information. But check to see how recent the book is. Names change and experts occasionally announce newly discovered wisdom with regard to planting and fertilizing.

Two good palm books for beginners to buy or borrow are *The Timber Press Pocket Guide to Palms* (Riffle, 2008) and *Betrock's Landscape Palms* (Meerow, 2006). Both books are pretty much focused on Florida, with a few gestures to California and Texas. Don't go into cardiac arrest when you learn that no one knows the exact number of palms but there seem to be 2700 species—or is it 2800? Most don't grow in Florida, which is too chilly or too warm or too humid or too wet. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami should be on your list for must-see places, but Fairchild has 'only' about 500 species. One warning about palm books: none are complete, none give all information about all possible species.

Most palms grow slowly or moderately slowly or extremely slowly. The ideal age for starting with palms is about 25, though most of us come to it rather later. There are fast-growing palms ('for palms') and you will learn very quickly which these are. Buy palms that the grower has already germinated and taken care for a few years. (You don't want to know right now about how slowly palms germinate.)

Palms that grow well in Florida are usually not too fussy about what kind of soil, though there are some exceptions. Basic to having happy palms is discovering whether the species is sun-loving (put it in the sun) or shade-loving (put it in the shade). Look up. Are there wires or a house overhang above the planting hole? If so, that little palm will be up into the obstacle sooner than you may imagine. Ah, another good point: how big will the palm get? A cute 3-gallon palm planted three feet from the house can eventually turn into a jumbo 50-footer.

Salt tolerance is important if you live anywhere where salt spray may be a factor. Some palms will take a little, others none at all, while a third group can go right on top of the dunes in the blast of the wind.

The actual planting of palms is the same as for any shrub or tree. It's not necessary to fertilize at planting. Most palm hobbyists fertilize maybe three or four times a year, amounts in proportion to the size of the palm. Others give smaller amounts on a monthly basis. Always use special palm fertilizer—the bag will state that it is palm fertilizer. Regular 6-6-6 or 8-8-8 doesn't do the job. The fertilizer bag must say "with minors" or "minor elements." Palms need these mineral supplements not found in regular fertilizers for lawn and garden. It's not a bad idea to use less than what the bag instructions say you should.

An addiction? Yes, palm growing has been a full-time occupation for a few people in Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society. For most of us, however, it's an agreeable way of puttering around after job, after dinner, on the weekends. Sooner rather than later, you will have to learn the Latin names of palms. The common name may be in Swahili or Spanish, which is of questionable usefulness in the good ole U. S. of A.

A warning about long-time members of CFPACS: they tend to be snobs—collectors always are. Don't try to talk to them about your Queen Palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*, yes, long name but be brave) or your Christmas/ Manila Palm (*Adonidia merrillii*) or your 'Areca' Palm (*Dypsis lutescens*). Ask them about some palm you don't recognize from Wal-mart. They're quite kind and helpful, really, once you get beyond the most common palms. Uncommon palms are sold by specialty nurseries and—often---by member-vendors at CFPACS quarterly meetings.

Our website (www.cfpacs.org) has a forum in which questions can be asked; links are there to other sources of information. Contact any officer of the chapter if you need to find out anything. This person (e.g., president, editor, vice-president, etc.) can also put you in touch with a 'seasoned' member in your area. Of course,

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Dransfield on Madagascar Palms

(Continued from page 6)

Immediate speculation was that *Coryphas* from southeastern Asia had somehow become established at this location in Madagascar. But, if so, why at this location, which was far from any governmental or industrial centers, even far from population centers? JD's Malagasy research student arrived on the scene to make a collection of material to send to Kew.

When the material was unpacked, JD knew at once that this was not a *Corypha* but a member of a new genus of palms. Then began an effort, as hasty as is possible in the orderly world of botanical science, to describe the palm (summarized in *PALMS*, Vol. 52(1)) and to integrate the new genus into GP2. DNA analyses suggested that the new genus was closest to *Kerriodoxa*, then to *Chuniophoenix* and *Nannorhops*, all Asian species, leading to questions about how the distribution of an ancestral genus could have occurred. (Could it have something to do with India migrating from next to Madagascar in Gondwanaland to collide with Laurasia?)

Following the talk, forum member Bo-Göran Lundqvist (BGL) began a thread dealing with topics initiated with JD's talk. Several new issues originated when JD toured the major gardens of Jeff Marcus (JM) and BGL.

In JM's gardens, JD opined that *Dypsis hildebrandtii* was really *D. bossier*.

JD confirms that JM's "Madagascar foxtail" is Dypsis marojejyi.

JM's *D. mananjarensis* was possibly *D. malcomberi*;

JM's *D. sp. "Jurassic Park"* (a name he created) was possibly *D. tokoravina*. Further exchanges on the forum suggested that palms imported and sold as *D. sp. "Jurassic Park"* fell into two groups. The group with the bulging crownshafts may have been *D. tokoravina*, and the other group may have been *D. tsaravoasira*.

The palms BGL planted as *Dypsis ceracea*, and later identified as *D. nauseosa*, were probably *D. tsaravoasira*. The consensus of opinion was that neither *D. ceracea* nor the true *D. nauseosa* had ever been imported. However, the palms imported as *D. ceracea* had large seeds, while *D. tsaravoasira* has tiny seeds.

The palm once called *Neophloga "pink crownshaft"*, and more recently known as *Dypsis sp. "Hawaiian punch"*, is not a form of *D. pinnatafrons*. JD has a name for it, but for unspecified reasons, he could not reveal it at this time.

Dypsis sp. florencei is *D. paludosa*.

Dypsis sp. "orange crush" might be *D. pilulifera*, the latter being very poorly described, but JD thinks *D. sp. "orange crush"* might fall within the variation of the description. DNA analysis might be needed to resolve the issue.

Dypsis sp. "bef", a clustering variety, might be a northern form of *D. onilahensis*. Other opinions were that *D. sp. "bef"* was the same as *D. sp. "slick Willy"*, but not *D. onilahensis* because the two species have a different pattern of clustering and different seeds.

Dypsis sp. "Big Curly" might possibly be *D. prestoniana*.

And then there is the subject of *Dypsis bejofo*, *D. sp. "bejofa"*, *D. sp. "bejuf"*, and *D. sp. "bef"*. The non-*Dypsis* expert can begin to see where this is all going. But this is beautiful confusion to *Dypsis* fans, and the task of sorting it out is fascinating and absorbing. And worth years of planting, growing, and observing.

Dr. John Dransfield's talk was animated by an almost boyish enthusiasm, and his enjoyment of Malagasy palms, and palms in general, was infectious. The way that the long Malagasy names flowed effortlessly from his tongue was evidence of his intimate familiarity with the island of Madagascar. The talk was one of the most informative and enjoyable that I have attended.

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visits to members' gardens is a feature of chapter meetings.

Now, can I interest you in cycads?

2009 CFPACS HomeTown Grant

After a non-start with the 2008 CFPACS HomeTown Grant, we have fine-tuned the rules and believe that we are ready to go for 2009. CFPACS members are encouraged to look around their communities and notice some public places that are in dire need of palms and cycads. The wide area covered by CFPACS has extremely diverse growing conditions. The Northern and inland areas are more impoverished palm-wise than the coastal and more Southerly areas, however, all areas throughout Central Florida can use more palms! There are plenty of out-of the -ordinary palms and cycad species that can grow in both the cooler and warmer areas of Central Florida. CFPACS would like to award a HomeTown Grant in 2009 and in every year following. In 10 years there can be 10 new mini palm gardens throughout Central Florida. That is the vision for the CFPACS HomeTown Grant. We hope that many members will apply - you can apply as either an individual or a team. Let's make Central Florida even more palmy!

CFPACS HomeTown Grant Rules

1. Who can apply for the grant?
Applications are open to active, dues-paying CFPACS members. Applicant can be an individual or a team, but all on the team must be CFPACS members.

2. How may the funds be spent?
The amount of the grant is $500 and must be used to purchase palms and/or cycads only. Funds may be used to cover shipping costs as well, and if the recipient picks up plants, he or she may use the funds to reimburse fuel costs. However, no funds may be used for meals, lodging or other personal expenses.

3. What palms and cycads can I use?
The palms and/or cycads planted should be appropriate and hardy for the planting location (cold tolerance, salt tolerance, moisture needs, sun/shade, etc.) and should include at least a few species of palms/ cycads not commonly seen in your part of Central Florida.

4. Where should the palms and/or cycads be planted?
Palms and cycads must be planted in a public place (no private gardens, HOA entrances, etc.) within the CFPACS service area with proper maintenance and, preferably, some type of irrigation system.

The CFPACS HomeTown Grant at a Glance

$500 to plant palms/cycads in the CFPACS area
Recipient must be a CFPACS member
Planting is to be in a public area
Deadline for Preliminary Proposal: November 14, 2008
Deadline for Final Proposal: January 16, 2009
Grant announced in the March 2009 *Palmateer*
Funds available for planting in Spring, 2009

5. How do I apply for the grant?
Applicants must first submit a preliminary proposal that summarizes the rationale and concept of the project along with a proposed species list. Applicants are encouraged to submit their preliminary proposal as soon as possible, but no later than **November 14, 2008.** Once approval of the preliminary proposal is granted, the applicant must complete and submit the following no later than January 16, 2009:
Final Proposal should include:

- a one-page (maximum) rationale
- a site map showing the proposed location, species and size of palms and cycads
- letter granting permission to do the planting from the appropriate authority
- nursery sources the applicant intends to use
- a timeline
- a cost estimate.

Grant proposals should be sent via email to Bob Johnson (tropicalbob@earthlink.net). Proposals will be forwarded to the CFPACS Board, who will select a recipient.

6. What's the deadline to submit an application?
Preliminary proposals are due by **November 14, 2008**. Final proposals are due by **January 16, 2009**. The winner will be announced in the CFPACS March 2009 newsletter.

7. If I am awarded the grant, how will I be reimbursed for purchases?
Receipts for purchases must be turned in to the treasurer no later than **November 30, 2009**. Any unused

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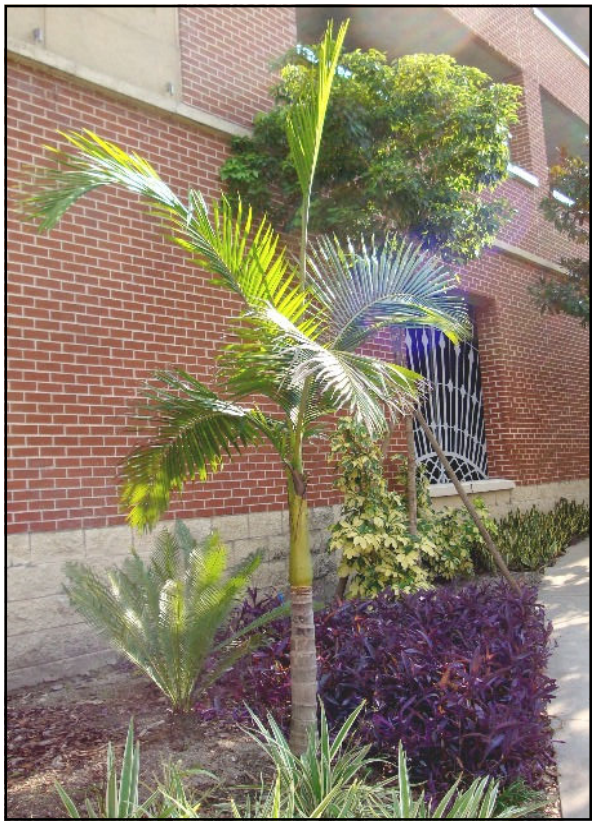
The CFPACS HomeTown Grant Checklist

__**Are you** a member of CFPACS?
__**Will the** palms/cycads be planted in the CFPACS service area? (please see page 2 for a list of the counties that we cover)
__**Will the** planting be in a public area? (not a private residence, HOA entrance, etc.)
__**Do you** have written permission from the property owner to do the planting?
__**Are the** plants chosen appropriate and hardy for the planting location (cold tolerance, salt tolerance, moisture needs, sun/shade, etc.)?
__**Have you** chosen at least a few species of palms/cycads not commonly seen in your part of Central Florida?
__**Have you** located the best plants at the best price for your project? (CFPACS is available to assist you with plant sources if needed)
__**Is future** maintenance (irrigation, proper pruning, etc.) for the plants available?
__**Have you** submitted your preliminary proposal as soon as possible? (No later than **November 14**, **2008**)
__**Have you** received approval of your preliminary proposal before proceeding with your final plans?
__**Have you** submitted your final proposal by the deadline of **January 16, 2009**?



Random palm planting - *Some unknown "Johnny Palmseed" has planted this* Archontophoenix cunninghamiana *and several* Dioon edule *(as well as many other palms and tropicals) on the south side of a parking garage in downtown Orlando, on busy South Street - traveled by untold number of motorists and pedestrians each day. This is the type of planting that CFPACS would like to see more of throughout Central Florida - and we will award a "HomeTown Grant" of $500 to someone to design and plant something like this in 2009.*
(Photo & caption by Bob Johnson)

CFPACS HomeTown Grant Rules

(Continued from page 12)

funds must be deposited back into the general fund of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society

8. The "fine print"

The HomeTown Grant is intended to encourage new palm plantings throughout Central Florida. In some instances (for example, plantings at existing Botanical Gardens) it may be determined that a regular grant is more appropriate for the project than the HomeTown Grant, and the applicant will be asked to apply for a regular grant. The CFPACS board reserves the right to direct applicants to pursue either a HomeTown Grant or a regular grant. The CFPACS Board reserves the right to not award a HomeTown Grant in the event that no application is deemed suitable.

Unexpected palm diversity - *Just another* Sabal *and some Sagos? That's probably what most motorists think as they drive along Orlando's "South Street Tropical Corridor." Look again - a* Thrinax *and a few* Dioon*s, more anonymous palm plantings. CFPACS is encouraging our members to plant out-of-the ordinary palms and cycads throughout Central Florida by offering the HomeTown Grant.*

Orlando Royals - *Just a few feet down South Street, a few more tropical palms. This time the perpetrator has admitted to their random act of palminess. These* Roystonea oleracea *were planted at the Southeast corner of the First Methodist Church by Eric Schmidt, botanical records manager at Leu Gardens. There originally were three palms, but one fell victim to an errant motorist - no doubt confused and wondering if they were in Miami as they swerved onto the sidewalk and into the palm. CFPACS probably won't fund a HomeTown Grant to plant more Royals in Orlando, but would like to help members on the East or West coast plant some.*

(Photos & captions by Bob Johnson)

Claudia Walworth has agreed to become Central Vice President. The Central area extends down the interior of the state from Live Oak south to Okeechobee and Polk Counties.
She was Seed Bank Coordinator from Spring, 2005 until February, 2007. We're happy that you can help out, Claudia!

CFPACS Helps Palm & Cycad Planting throughout Central Florida With Grants, Placement

University of Florida Palm Garden
Several CFPACS members donated palms to begin a new palm garden at the University of Florida in Gainesville, a project spearheaded by UF student Kyle Wicomb. Thanks to Kyle for getting the vision for this project and to Christian Faulkner, Marc Gringas, Bob Johnson and Frank Tintera for palm donations. Watch for details on this project in the December *Palmateer*.
Florida Institute of Technology Botanical Garden, Melbourne and
Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum, St. Petersburg
There were three applicants for the CFPACS 2008 Hometown Grant. Special thanks are extended to the Florida Institute for Technology, Jim Parkhurst, and Phil Stager (on behalf of the Gizelle Kopsick Palm Arboretum) for their applications. It was decided to not award a Hometown Grant for 2008 and further refine the grant process for 2009. For information on the 2009 Hometown Grant, please see page 12.
The grant requests from FIT and Kopsick were deemed more suitable for a regular grant. CFPACS is happy to announce that a grant of $500 has been awarded to the Kopsick Palm Arboretum and a $250 grant has been awarded to the FIT Botanical Garden for expanded palm plantings at both institutions. An additional grant of $250 was awarded to FIT towards a statue of FIT founding president and IPS former president Jerome Keuper.
Pine View School, Osprey
CFPACS is currently working with Chris Mink, a teacher at Pine View School in Osprey, to expand a student-maintained cycad garden. Bids are now being accepted for cycads that CFPACS will purchase and donate to Pine View School (see the notice on this page for further information). This is another exciting project that will expose students to cycads and cycad cultivation.

Money well spent! These and other worthy projects are supported by your CFPACS membership dues. It is especially exciting to see projects involving schools and universities. It is hoped that CFPACS will be able to do even more projects like this to help instill a passion for palms and cycads in children, teens and young adults. If you wonder if it is worth renewing your CFPACS membership year after year, think of these projects and the good that they do. Thanks to all CFPACS members who make such projects possible because of your membership, and to those who have given additional assistance through the donation of their time and plants.

—Bob Johnson

Request for Bids:

Cycad Garden at Pine View School

Pine View School, established in 1969, is Sarasota County's public school for intellectually gifted students. As a public school, Pine View is open to students throughout Sarasota County. Pine View offers classes in grades 2 through 12 and is a "Gold Medal School," rated 6th in the nation by *US News and World Report*. It is located in Osprey, between Sarasota and Venice.
The CFPACS Board has agreed to assist with the expansion of a student-maintained cycad garden at the school, under the supervision of new CFPACS member and Pine View teacher Chris Mink. CFPACS will purchase cycads from our member growers and donate them to Pine View School. We are looking for cycads with a 3-inch caudex (or greater) of the following species:
Dioon merolae
Any other *Dioon* species (except *D. edule* and *D. spinulosum*)
Ceratozamia hildae
Any other *Ceratozamia* species
Any *Zamia* species (except *Z. floridana* and *Z. furfuracea*)
If you would like to offer any of your plants to be purchased for the Pine View project, please submit your bid to Bob Johnson (email: tropicalbob@earthlink.net). Please include details on the plants you are offering (species, caudex size, leaf length, price). If your bid is accepted you will be notified by September 12th. You will need to make arrangements to have your plants delivered to the September 20th CFPACS meeting, where they will be picked up by the school. In addition to bids, donations are welcome!

Raphia farinifera *on a pond at Borassic Park, June 14th. (Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)*

President's Message

There is so much going on with CFPACS and so much in this issue of *The Palmateer* that I will keep my words especially brief in this column. Please take time to read about the work that your society is doing through grants and plant placement in 2008 (page 15). This is your membership dues at work - a good reason to keep your membership current.

I also encourage you to carefully review the information on HomeTown Grants (page 12). I would like to see many applications for this grant in 2009 and in the years to come. This is one way that you can play a part in transforming the landscape of Central Florida into one that is much more 'palmy."

I do want to voice my special thanks and appreciation for all that Diana and Mark Grabowski have done for CFPACS over the years - Mark as East Vice President and Diana as President and Chair of the Printing Committee (which consisted of her doing everything to do with printing T*the Palmateer*). Both Diana and Mark served CFPACS for many years, beyond their terms as officers and beyond the call of duty. Thank you, Diana and Mark for the time and energy that you have put into the society!

We welcome back Claudia Walworth as a member of the CFPACS board. Claudia ably ran the seed bank in the past, and is now serving us as Central VP. She brings a lot of energy and great ideas to the table.

As society president, I am privileged to work with a lot of wonderful people on the board and in the membership. Thanks to all of our board members who work so hard, and to all of our members who make CFPACS the great organization that it is.

Bob Johnson

Left, Chuniophoenix hainanensis, *a few years back, at Leu Gardens, Orlando. (Photo by Eric Schmidt)*

PALMS AS WEEDS

[This article is reprinted from Palms & Cycads*, journal of the Palm & Cycad Societies of Australia, April-June 2008 issue, with the permission of the author and of the editor.]*

By Will Kraa

Although PACSOA promotes the cultivation of Palms and Cycads, we need to recognize that some of the plants we like do have the potential to be weeds. Fortunately this is not likely to be the case with any cycads, since they usually need very specific insects to pollinate them, and once removed from their native habitat there will be no reproduction without human intervention.

It might be interesting to speculate that there are many plants which have evolved characteristics to make them attractive or useful to humans; and this has given them a survival advantage. From the conservation perspective it would seem to be good to give some endangered species the advantage of allowing controlled trade in seeds so local inhabitants find it economically advantageous to protect them; thereby conferring on them a survival advantage.

But let's go back to the weed potential of some palms. In the area of South East Queensland, Australia, the "Cocos" or "Queen" palm *Syagrus romanzoffiana* has actually been declared a weed species. It finds the local climate very much to its liking and the seeds are spread by native animals (especially flying foxes, large native fruit eating bats which are very common here) so it has become established in the native bushland. Some books I have seen even speak of it as a naturalized part of the local flora.

Some time ago I went to a tourist attraction in the border ranges of south coastal Queensland which was covered with extensive areas of almost unspoiled native rainforest. I was greatly dismayed to find in the midst of it a "display" garden featuring exotic plants as a tourist attraction. Nothing could be more out of place; in it I saw a large *S. romanzoffiana* palm bearing fruit. There is no doubt at all that the seeds would be dispersed into the surrounding rainforest and the seedlings would flourish there.

To prevent further environmental damage, restrictions are now being placed on the importation of plants and seeds into Australia. For plants to be given clearance it needs to be demonstrated that they do not have weed potential or that they are already in the country. It seems the same is being done even more strictly in New Zealand and other countries but to a large extent it may be too late.

In our own garden we have noticed that *Archontophoenix alexandrae* specimens are reproducing freely and in fact have become a weed. There are large numbers of seedlings blanketing the ground under the plants, and if allowed to grow they would become a serious pest. Accordingly we sprayed them repeatedly with Roundup, a glyphosate herbicide which is very effective at controlling weeds on our acreage property.

*Look familiar? Alexandra Palm (*Archontophoenix alexandrae*) seedlings in the author's Brisbane garden.*

To our amazement they suffered no ill effects at all and continued to flourish. In fact the only way to control them was by removing them by hand. This is quite a job seeing there are numbers of mature fruit-bearing palms of this species in our garden and each one produces hundreds of seedlings on a continual basis. From time to time native birds eat the seeds and drop them; we have had plants come up in different places. This is not too much of a problem for us but for those living in areas where there is native rainforest it can to my mind be a very serious problem.

A. cunninghamiana is the native species in rainforest areas to the north and south of Brisbane. In cultivation *A. alexandrae* and *A. cunninghamiana* will hybridise and it is not always easy to get seed that is not hybrid when collected from cultivated plants. Hybrid plants show a mixture of the characteristics of both parent species and are quite easy to recognise. My fear is that where one of the various species of *Archontophoenix* is grown in an area where another species is *native* that there will be hybridisation - leading to irreversible contamination of the local gene pool.

As urban development spreads into areas where native palms grow, the worst thing that can happen is for peo-

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PALMS AS WEEDS

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ple to start growing related species that can hybridise and so contaminate the native species. Many people think that because a plant grows in their country or continent it is a native and therefore has no weed potential. Nothing could be further from the truth, since the plants growing in any particular locality will be different to ones that have been imported from another locality even if they are the same species.

It is therefore a fact that a "native species" can do more damage than a completely unrelated exotic species. It is very likely that an exotic species may not be as serious a weed as a "native" species growing away from its natural habitat and near (or in) the habitat of a related species, or even of the same species.

As many of us like to grow a variety of exotic and native species of palms it is important to be aware of the weed potential of the plants we cultivate. For those who live in the middle of a city or a good distance from the habitats of palms native to the area, the weed potential of some palms is no more than a nuisance, like the *A. alexandrae* in my garden. There are no native palms anywhere near where I live.

There are many introduced plants in Australia that have become serious pests. Almost always these have been introduced as ornamental plants or as food for livestock. Some of these plants have destroyed large areas of native vegetation or have had a serious economic impact as weeds in cultivated crops or pasture land. It is unlikely that there are palms which could have this effect and I am not aware that there are any palms that have become serious weeds so far.

Many palms are very tropical and will never have the potential to become weeds away from the tropics. Others need more water than can be supplied by natural rainfall, or require conditions that are not likely to be met away from their natural habitat. So there are many species that will never be weeds. But those of us who are interested in the cultivation of palms need to take into consideration the potential of some species to become weeds. This is especially important for those who live in areas where conditions are suitable for the plants we cultivate to establish themselves as weeds.

Even if the exotic palms are not vigorous enough to become serious pests or cause economic damage there is still the danger that exotic palms will invade the natural habitat of other plants to compete with native vegetation. Native animals will eat exotic fruits if they find them edible and distribute the seeds and so help in contaminating native forest. Palms can be prolific seed producers so the potential for them to be introduced into places where they should not be is always a possibility.

If you live in an area where there is the potential for the palms you cultivate to get into native forest the responsible thing to do is to ensure that the plants you cultivate do not get the opportunity to become weeds. It may be that there are species that should not be cultivated in some places. Removing seeds is another possible way of dealing with the problem, but once palms become too tall, as some of them do, and possibly quite quickly, this will become too hard to do.

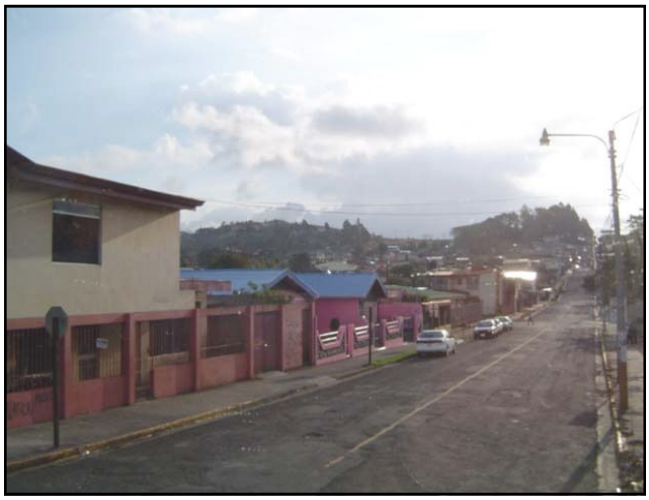
On the other hand if you live in a place where there is little possibility for the palms in your garden to reach places where they might become weeds, you need to realise that some palms are capable of producing so many offspring that you will have quite a job to keep them under control. They may simply become a nuisance. Herbicide may not help at all, and the roots quickly become strong enough to make it hard to pull them out. Fortunately a sharp spade will usually sever the roots quite easily since the roots do not become thick and woody like tree roots.

So enjoy your hobby of growing palms but be aware of the weed potential.

Look up! The infructescences that drop the seeds that grow the volunteers that emerge under Will Kraa's Archontophoenix alexandrae. *(Note: this is an Australian native palm, though not native in Brisbane.)*

The 2008 IPS Biennial in Costa Rica

Left (photo 1) , the Costa Rican countryside. Below (photo 2), a village street.



By Mike Merritt

On May 3, 2008, 182 palm fanciers from 21 countries gathered in San Jose, Costa Rica, for the biennial meeting of the International Palm Society. Over one-third (66) were from outside the USA, emphasizing the international reach of IPS. Most of May 3 was given to arrival, registration, settling in, and the evening banquet and announcements of IPS changes. Members of the IPS Board of Directors had met the day before to select new members and to elect a new president, one of Hawaii Island's leading palm collectors, Bo-Göran Lundqvist. Introduced by Leland Lai of California, who organized this year's biennial meeting, Bo-Göran replaces Paul Craft of Broward and Monroe Counties. Departing directors included Libby Besse of Sarasota, Rolf Kyburz of Australia, and Leonel Mera of the Dominican Republic and organizer of the 2006 biennial meeting.

Central Florida was not well represented at this biennial, with only west coast members Ray and Miriam Hernandez and Dorothy Kellogg and her daughter being present. From southwest Florida were Faith Bishock (the life of the party as always), the ever-energetic Rob Branch, and David and Geri Prall. Other Floridians included Paul and Patricia Craft, Larry Davis, Judy Kay, Larry Noblick, Scott Zona, and the nefarious "Bus 4" gang, including Jeff and Andrea Searle and Jim and Judy Glock, whose exploits were well-photographed by Ryan Gallivan. More about this later on.

On May 4, biennial participants were taken in the four buses to the adjacent 50-acre farms of brothers Marco and Gerardo Herrero, who have planted thousands of exotic palms from stock of Wilson Gardens in southeastern Costa Rica. We were treated to forests of *Veitchias* and a large number of the more common tropical species from around the world. Standing out in my mind is a group of tall, well-grown *Coccothrinax crinita*, with full skirts. Also especially vivid are a group of *Geonoma interrupta* heavily laden with fruits (the seeds have had a surprisingly good germination rate).

Leaving the Herrero farms, we went to IMBioparque, an organization that combines teaching about the Costa Rican environment with the maintenance of gardens of specimen plants. We were treated to a Power Point lecture, and then led on a guided garden tour in which we walked through areas that represented the various ecological systems that exist in parts of Costa Rica. The high point was a room with a circular catwalk surrounding a map of Costa Rica. As points on the map, representing

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Above, Arenal Volcano (photo 3 and, right, photo 4), Geonoma cuniatum.

2008 Biennial in Costa Rica

(Continued from page 19)

national parks, were illuminated, other lighting illuminated sections of the outer wall of the room on which the function and resources of that particular park were described. In the evening, we were treated to two talks. The first was a technical discussion of light exposure on palms. The second, and highly interesting, talk was by Carlo Morici of Spain's Canary Islands describing the development of the Arboretum of Tenerife on land that had once been a landfill.

On the four succeeding days, May 5-8, the biennial attendees were divided into two groups (group 1 - buses 1 and 2, group 2 – buses 3 and 4). Each group visited the tour sites in a different order during these days. For me (bus 1), the 4-day schedule was: May 5 – Arenal Volcano and hanging bridges, May 6 – Boas Volcano and La Paz Waterfall, May 7 – Braulio Carrillo National Park and Rainforest aerial tram, and May 8 – Carara National Park.

It was a three-hour drive to the Arenal Volcano. However, the biennial organizers had provided sufficient bus space so that individuals traveling without "mates," such as myself, could have a seat to themselves, so that on long trips, one did not feel cramped and could enjoy the view of Costa Rica from the country's roads. The rolling green countryside was especially pleasant (photo 1). The country villages were picturesque and showed the Ticos' love of painting their buildings in tropical colors (photo 2). None of the road trips ever seemed "long". But driving, or riding in a driven vehicle, in Costa Rica can be unnerving. The roads are narrow, though well maintained with mowed grass on either side. Drivers pass each other at high speeds only inches apart. We always congratulated the drivers at the end of each day's trip.

Below (photo 5), Bactris hondurensis.

We had rare luck at the Arenal Volcano (photo 3), as it was almost cloudless, and the few high-level clouds parted as we ate lunch. (Group 2 was not as fortunate.)

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(2008 Biennial in Costa Rica

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The main event was a hike through a rainforest path at around 1,000 m elevation that traversed canyons by hanging bridges. The bridges were safe, but had an unnerving way of shimmying sideways in response to the weight of each foot descending on the metal mesh surface.

I was fortunate to be with a small group that included Dr. Andrew Henderson, author of *Field Guide to the Palms of the Americas*. Dr. Henderson identified various native palms along the forest walk as I rushed to take photographs and notes. Results can be seen in my thread on the IPS forum Palm Talk. Other threads by Ryan Gallivan, Robert Wilson (from Trinidad), and Jeff Anderson (now of Costa Rica) provide more vivid visualization of the Costa Rican experience than could ever possibly be provided by this article. One small understory palm imaged during the Arenal trip was *Geonoma cuniatum* (photo 4). Another was of *Bactris hondurensis* (photo 5). This small, spiny palm has hairs on the abaxial leaf surfaces that give them a furry feel to the touch.

May 6 was our day to forget about palms and just be tourists. We visited the Boas Volcano and then toured the La Paz Waterfall Gardens, the latter having exhibits of live Costa Rican native fauna (birds, butterflies, fish, etc.). Once again, group 1 was quite fortunate in the weather, as the smoking crater, as seen from the overlook, was perfectly clear and not obscured by any haze (group 2 was unlucky in this as well). The highest elevations of the tour were at this location. I hiked to a higher water-filled crater at an elevation of 2,620 m.

La Paz had aviaries of many brilliantly colored bird species. One special aviary contained five or so different

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Above, Welfia regia *(photo 7) in Braulio Carrillo National Park—note the new red leaf. Mike Merritt thought that this cycad (photo 8), below , might be* Zamia neurophyllidia, *but the experts on the trip said No, that much work remained to be done in identifying Costa Rican* Zamias

Below (photo 6), a beautiful hummingbird at La Paz Waterfall Gardens

Above, Bactris coloradensis *(photo 9 by Bo-Göran Lundqvist). Right (photo 10),* Neonicholsonia watsonii.*in Carara National Park.*

2008 Biennial in Costa Rica

(Continued from page 21)

species of toucans, all looking generally the same, but differing in the markings on the head and bills. My attempts to photograph them all ended in failure, I think because the low light level forced my automatic camera to a slower lens speed. I had better luck with the hummingbirds (photo 6). There was an iridescent purple analog to the bird pictured, but it wouldn't stay still long enough for me to get its picture. Another exhibit featured butterflies, including iridescent blue morphos. The park raises them, and numerous butterflies were flying about, while dead ones were mounted for display. In the evening, Dr. Andrew Henderson gave a talk about the palms of Vietnam. One of the palms discussed was *Livistona halongensis*, featured in a past *Palmateer* article.

On May 7, we had another palm hike through the forest at Braulio Carrillo National Park, and once again I was fortunate to be in the group with Andrew Henderson. The elevation was probably between 1,500 and 2,000 m, and the palm flora was very different from that of May 5. The canopy was dominated by *Welfia regia*, *Euterpe precatoria*, *Iriartea deltoidea*, and *Socratea exorrhiza*. We saw seedling *Welfias* (15-ft leaves but no trunk) that had dark red new leaves (photo 7). Larger *Welfias* were tall canopy palms looking like *Archontophoenix alexandrae* on steroids.

Smaller palms not present at Arenal but abundant here were *Asterogyne martiana* and *Calyptrogyne gheisbreghtiana*. *Pholidostachys pulchra* was everywhere with its brownish maroon petiole color. Also common was a *Bactris* that looked somewhat like *B. major*, but which Andrew thought was *B. coloradonis*. Another fascinating item was a small pleated cycad (photo 8) that I thought might be *Zamia neurophyllidia*, but the experts I consulted wouldn't commit to that, saying only that "much work still needs to be done with Costa Rican pleated *Zamias*".

The aerial tram ride near the park was a unique experience. The ride goes through the forest at a fairly low altitude, and then returns at a much higher altitude. It was wondrous to pass close by the crowns of giants like *Iriartea*, *Socratea*, *Welfia*, and *Euterpe*. And smaller palms below, such as *Bactris coloradonis*, relatively unimpressive from the ground, were striking as they reached for the sun above (photo 9, courtesy of Bo-Göran Lundqvist). Riding on the tram was a vivid experience for one who hates climbing more than three rungs on a ladder. The

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2008 Biennial in Costa Rica

(Continued from page 22)

experience was especially profound when the tram car came to one of its periodic halts, one such occurring on the high altitude return over a broad basin a thousand feet below between two stands of forest thousands of feet apart.

On May 8, we traveled to Carara National Park, near the Pacific Coast. The elevation was near sea level and the temperatures warmer than at locations of the previous field hikes. Without the presence of Andrew Henderson on this occasion, a few things were missed, but a unique small palm related to the *Chameadoreas*, *Neonicholsonia watsonii*, was not missed (photo 10). This palm is acaulescent, with regularly arranged thick and glossy leaflets, and an elongated purplish brown spicate inflorescence with both male and female flowers. In the evening, we were treated to talks on the *Phoenix* genus and on the palms of Amazonian Peru, the latter by Peru's Fernando Roca ("Pacho"). The talks were in Spanish, but English translation was provided over special earphones.

It was on the eve of May 8 that the story of bus 4 became a minor legend. Apparently, the driver broke his outside rear view mirror passing someone. Then, a while later, a tire ruptured. However, the bus limped on for a few miles, whereupon the driver finally parked in front of a bar. Inhabitants of bus 4 then took advantage of the resources of the bar, and the beer and mixed drinks flowed. The tire being changed, bus 4 took off, but spirits and beer continued to flow in the bus. It is reported that inhibitions departed, and that normally stolid palm folks were dancing in the aisle, abetted by some of the tour personnel. The party was ON! Much fun was had by all.

Bus 1, which included all the central Florida members and myself, was quieter. Attempts were made by Phil Edwards of Barbados to liven things up with six-packs of El Presidente (Costa Rica's preeminent beer), and Voltaire Moise, traveling with Hawaii Island's Norm Bezona, tried to liven things up. However, given the laid back personalities of most of the bus 1 passengers, this wasn't enough to stimulate a party atmosphere.

May 9 was an open day, with attendees being invited to sign up for a variety of commercial tours. I elected to take a city tour, and found myself the only biennial member of a group of ten that included Dutch and Indian tourists. The guide was very knowledgeable about his country. Costa Rica was once the poorest of the Spanish Central American colonies, having little to offer in agricultural potential. It was settled by small coffee plantation farmers, and never was the site of large sugar plantations. The people are ethnically a mixture of Spanish and Indian backgrounds. Settlement did not extend much beyond the greater San Jose area. As a result, much of Costa Rica was not looted for pre-Columbian gold like the rest of Central America. Many of the gold artifacts later found are on exhibit in the Gold Museum, one of the stops on our tour. Other stops were the National Cathedral and the Opera House. Photo 11 is of a public square in front of the cathedral.

Above (photo 11), the cathedral square in San José.

Modern Costa Rica features free universal health care and unemployment insurance. Only two percent of electricity generation is from carbon sources. The principal sources are hydroelectric, geothermal, solar, and wind. Parks and public places are safe, unlike those in other Central American countries. Immigrants arrive en masse from those other countries looking for jobs. It was clear from Day One that Ticos are proud of their country.

May 10 was departure day. The hotel (Doubletree Cariari) had provided transportation from the airport and now provided it to the airport. The hotel and its personnel were efficient in every way, helping to make the biennial a great success. The next one is expected to be in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2010. Everyone who attended this biennial will be looking forward to it.

New Members

Who have joined CFPACS since May:

Welcome!

Lawrence Fisher, Apopka
Bill & Lek Wallace, Merritt Island
Jim Carcano, Lake Wales
Ken & Kaci Beckett, Grant
William Schuman, Jacksonville
Joseph LeVert, Augusta, GA
Christopher Mink, South Venice
Heath Jorgenson, Bradenton
Brian Indiveri, Oviedo
George Taylor, DeLand
David Rosa, Cape Coral
Scott Mochnal, North Fort Myers
Dan Barnett, Indialantic

Calyptrogyne ghiesbreghtiana *seen at the IPS Costa Rican Biennial. Wonder what its common name is?*
(Photo by Mike Merritt)

Left, Geonoma ferruginea, *glimpsed during Mike Merritt's pilgrimage to Costa Rica.*

THANK YOU, DIANA & MARK!

It's been a long run and now the curtain has come down on the performance of Diana Wehrell-Grabowski, printer and president. Her two-year term as president ended on December 31, 2006. When no one stepped forward to succeed her, she voluntarily stayed on for an extra year. This was despite her very busy schedule that takes her on business all over Florida as well as into other Southeastern states.

While serving an additional year was above and beyond the call of duty, few members knew that she continued to print *The Palmateer* both before and after her service as president, for a total of 6 years. But now that, too, has ended. This current issue is the last that she will be printing in her business office in Cocoa Beach.

Although the heavy-duty printer belongs to our society, the computer was one of her two computers. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Just slip in the CD sent or brought by the editor into the computer and. . . you're done! No, not that easy at all.

Regularly, parts need to be replaced after a certain number of pages are printed. A typical issue of the newsletter has been 32 pages; now multiply that by 300 copies for 9600 pages each printing. Dealing with the printer, Diana became an *artiste*: sometimes a bell or a warning signal would sound that a particular part was nearing its end and had to be replaced. At other times, the sound of the printer, maybe not quite right, alerted Diana. If she didn't have the spare or the ink cartridges, as she often did, then it was necessary to order these—which didn't always arrive an hour later. Sometimes service calls were required, again at a delay of several days.

The printer collates the pages, but does not staple them together. Diana usually stapled the copies, often with the help of her husband, Mark. But she was the printer's devil who unloaded the printed copies and loaded fresh paper into the printer's feed.

As editor, I can personally attest that Diana deserves the Palm Medal of Honor for the amount of time, energy, and (yes) devotion she put into printing *The Palmateer*. And, ordinarily, she proofread and caught some of my dumber mistakes you'll never see. But always and ever to me both helpful and kind. I had her cell phone number, could always get her wherever in Alabama or Tennessee she might be. We are all very grateful, Diana, for all you've done.

We must also be grateful to George Grabowski, brother-in-law and computer whiz, who was patiently available to answer Diana's questions whenever the printing ran into not so easily diagnosable problems and who also built the society's computer on which I compose the newsletter.

Under that stylish sun hat is former president and former printer-in-chief Diana Wehrell-Grabowsski. White shirt in back is worn by husband and departing East VP, Mark Grabowski. Legs crossed in center: Secretary Chuck Grieneisen.

(Photo by Bob Johnson)

Finally, thanks to Mark Grabowski who has served as East Vice President (succeeding Diana) also beyond his original term, and is now retiring from that position.

--John Kennedy

Late Flash: the CFPACS Board has honored Diana with a Lifetime Membership in recognition of all her work on our behalf.

Growing Cycads in Central Florida-
Zamia loddigesii

By Tom Broome

Zamia loddigesii is a very good plant to grow in central Florida. The look of this plant can very considerably. This species can have leaflets and thin as ¼ inch, and they can also be as wide as 2 ½ inches. *Zamia loddigesii* is thought by some to be an ancient natural hybrid between *Zamia furfuracea*, which has wide leaflets, and *Zamia spartea*, that has very thin leaflets. I have seen plants of *Zamia loddigesii* that had very wide leaflets, very thin leaflets, and everything in-between.

Care for this species is pretty similar to the care of *Zamia furfuracea.* It prefers full sun and the leaves are less hardy than some of the other cycads. Like many cycads they are more cold hardy than frost hardy. I have seen plants out in the open get their leaves burned at 28F, but plants under trees were not burned at all at 20F. I have found that they react fairly well to fertilizer applications and can push new leaves as much as three times a year. I also grow these in north Lakeland. They do very well here and are really pretty difficult to kill, making them an excellent species to grow for the novice cycad collector.

Easy to see how cycads are confused with palms by the general public: above, the thin-leaf form of Zamia loddigesii. *But the male cones (below, right) are definitely not palm-like. Left, below, female cones—some receptive—on the wide-leaf form.*

With CFPACS Assistance Cycad Collection Moves to New Home

Jack Caudry (founding member of The Cycad Society) of Lake Mary passed away in May, and CFPACS received a call from his family requesting our help with fulfilling Jack's wish that his cycad collection be passed on to be enjoyed by future generations. Jack began growing cycads when he lived in Virginia, and was thrilled to be able to grow his plants in the ground once he moved to Florida. Over the years he acquired an impressive cycad collection.

After contacting several institutions, it was decided that the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Garden in Sanford would make an ideal home for Jack's cycads. CFZ&BG horticultural director Steve Decresie already had plans for a "prehistoric garden" and was thrilled to have this wonderful cycad collection to serve as the core of the garden. In early June, Steve and the CFZ&BG horticultural staff worked with CFPACS past president Tom Broome to properly remove over 40 cycads from the Caudry property. **The cycads** are now at the CFZ&BG greenhouses, being reestablished in pots and awaiting their planting in the new prehistoric garden. Cycad genera represented in the collection include *Bowenia, Ceratozamia, Dioon, Encephelartos, Lepidozamia* and *Zamia*. Some of the more unusual species are *Bowenia serrulata, Ceratozamia norstogii, Dioon purpusii, Encephalartos altensteinii, Encephalartos msinganus* and *Encephalartos paucidentatus*.

The CFZ&BG would like to work with CFPACS to pollinate the cycads and produce seed, and the cycads will be viewed by thousands of visitors - including many school children. This venture between the Caudry family, CFPACS and the CFZ&BG will carry on Jack's legacy to future generations well beyond Central Florida.

—Bob Johnson

Above, big cycads in Jack Caudry's collection in Lake Mary. Below, Tom Broome is handy with the shovel in digging out an Encephalartos *for removal to Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Garden.*

(Photos by Bob Johnson)

From the Editor's Desk

With this issue, I mark my 10th anniversary as editor. I can barely remember when I wasn't editor. I've enjoyed much of the experience, though certainly not all. There have been times when I wondered whether there would be an issue: my cupboard was bare and not much had been sent to me. At other times (not as frequently as I could wish), there was more than I could handle. I think there was one issue with 38 pages; more usually it's been 32 pages, and as low as 22 pages. Most IPS chapters don't have a journal or newsletter; if they do, often it may appear erratically—not four times a year, on the nose, as with *The Palmateer*. I have to say that my editorship has been a learning experience. The first few issues were pretty bad, for I hadn't gotten the hang of it and didn't have a home computer. The chapter provided a computer, scanner, and printer. The scanner gets little use now but, previously, contributors mailed me glossy photos that required scanning. For about the last five years, I usually receive jpeg photo attachments.

Looking back at some issues as recently as four years ago, I shudder to spot gross mistakes that I missed in the layout. I now print out the entire issue before putting it on CD for printing. It's too easy for me to miss mistakes on screen, maybe since I am a fossil of the pre-computer era, but I seldom miss (English teacher, after all) on the printed page.

And, of course, it's only me doing this—heroic, unpaid volunteer always working against a deadline for a meeting. I'm not really surprised to note that editors for chapter publications don't seem to last much more than about two years or so.

Diana Wehrell-Grabowski is bowing out of printing the newsletter after doing this for six years. It has been a pleasure and a relief to work with her, who has always been to me both considerate and kind. I won't embarrass Diana by saying that she has all the Boy Scout virtues (you know the list).

The June issue of ***PALMS***, the IPS journal, has an article entitled "Time Bombs in Gardens: Invasive Palms in Tropical Islands, with Emphasis on French Polynesia (Pacific) and the Mascarenes (Indian Ocean)." By the time I finished reading it, I thought that the true title should have been "The Attack of the Killer Palms from Outer Space" (Chicken Little Productions), an SF/horror flick. Your palm collections are dangers to the Florida ecology and, following the reasoning of the article, all exotics should be destroyed immediately. I am a longtime member of the Florida Native Plant Society, so I am fully aware that there are serious plant pests. But the journal article attacks the topic with a shovel and a scream. More reasonable and responsible, I think, is "Palms as Weeds" on page 17 in this present issue.

FLIPPC (Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council) lists six species of palms as 'potential' threats to native ecology in its Category II. On this list are *Ptychosperma elegans* (Solitaire Palm), *Chamaedorea seifrizii* ('Bamboo' Palm), *Washingtonia robusta*, *Syagrus romanzoffiana* (Queen Palm), *Phoenix reclinata* (Senegal Date Palm), *Livistona chinensis* (Chinese Fan Palm). Interestingly enough, FLIPPC doesn't say where it found the offending species, nor tell in what numbers or different environments; perhaps it is a matter of Homeland Security. The jihad against 'killer palms' probably requires deepest secrecy.

A different view is provided by the Institute for Systemic Botany at the University of South Florida, Tampa. The institute has a website, the Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (www.plantatlas.usf.edu), which lists species of plants, exotic and native, that have been collected somewhere in the state. Frequently pictures are provided and maps indicate in which counties the institute's vouchered specimens have been collected.

Solitaire Palm has been collected in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. *Chamaedorea seifrizii* has been verified in Miami-Dade (Matheson Hammock?), Broward, and Monroe. Washingtonia has been collected not only in Miami-Dade and Broward, but also in Hillsborough and Pinellas. Queen Palm has been collected in Palm Beach, Martin, Hillsborough, and Charlotte Counties.

Senegal Date Palm—by this evidence—might seem more of a threat, having been collected in Brevard, Indian River, Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, Collier, Sarasota, Hillsborough, and Pinellas Counties.

Chinese Fan Palm has been collected in a couple of far distant, non-contiguous counties: Putnam, Sarasota, Broward, and Miami-Dade. Of course, other exotic palm species might well be growing in the wild in other counties but have not yet been collected and verified by the Institute for Systemic Botany (ISB).

However, ISB has a few palm species that FLIPPC doesn't yet know about. *Elaeis guineensis* (African Oil Palm) has been collected in Miami-Dade and *Acrocomia totai* (Gru-gru Palm) in Brevard. Then, there's *Ptychosperma macarthurii* (Macarthur Palm) and *Livistona rotundifolia* (Footstool Palm) also in Miami-Dade. How could FLIPPC have missed on *Dypsis lutescens* ('Areca' Palm) ubiquitous from Orlando south and collected by ISB in Martin, Broward, and Miami-Dade?

Which palm species will ISB next discover in the wild? Maybe *Wodyetia?*

John Kennedy

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1 to May 31, 2008

INCOME

Donations (CF Fair, misc.).....	110.00
Membership Dues.....	2,139.14 *(144.14 via PayPal)*
Private Sales (March meeting)....	948.00
Public Sales (FIT, USF).....	6,489.83
Seed Sales.....	1,569.09 *(390.63 via PayPal)*
Total Income	**11,256.06**

(534.77 viaPayPal)

EXPENSES

Bank Charges.....	7.00
CFPACS Meeting Expenses....	250.00
Membership Expenses....	16.83
Office Supplies....	16.80
Publications *(Palmateer)*.....	1,922.71
Public Relations *(Brochures)*.....	28.12
Returned check.....	15.00
Sales Tax.....	134.76
Seed Bank Expenses....	172.54
State Tax (Annual Report).....	61. 25
Vendor Fees.....	917.80
Vendor Proceeds....	5 ,393.19
Total Expenses	**8,936.00**

INCOME-EXPENSES

Bank Balance 1/1/08.....	22,589.80
Bank Balance 5/31/08.....	24,854.06
Net Increase....	**2,264.26**

(Note: Society budget and bank reporting periods do not exactly coincide)

—Catherine Johnson, CFPACS Treasurer

CHANGE YOUR LABELS *¡IMEDIAMENTE!*

You thought it was ***Thrinax morrisii,*** but recent DNA analysis has disproved relationship with the *Thrinax* genus. The new name is:

LEUCOTHRINAX MORRISII

CFPACS SEED BANK REPORT 2nd 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 a bit slow over the past 3 months, partly due to a somewhat limited number of new seeds offered. There were 15 seed orders filled from April 2008 through June 2008, which resulted in a sales total of $474. As usual we have many customers from Florida. But also had orders sent to California, Kansas, Texas, and Hawaii. We had one international order that went to Germany.

Significant seed donations were received during this period from CFPACS members, making for several very attractive and successful seed offers. During this period Judy Kay from Montgomery Botanical Garden donated the largest number of species, which included ***Bactris brongniartii, Bismarckia nobilis, Coccothrinax argentata, Coccothrinax argentea, Coccothrinax barbadensis, Dypsis lanceolata, Elaeis guineensis, Ptychosperma lineare, Sabal maritima, Wodyetia bifurcata, Encephalartos ferox, and Encephalartos hildebrandtii.*** Mike Dahme donated ***Archontophoenix alexandrae, Bismarckia nobilis (Silver), Ptychosperma macarthurii, and Ptychosperma sanderianum***. Neil Yorio donated ***Bismarckia nobilis (Silver Select), Hyphaene coriacea , and Syagrus botryophora***.

Other member donations include ***Coccothrinax argentata*** from John Kennedy and ***Veitchia arecina*** and ***Wodyetia bifurcata*** from Lyle Niswander. Eric Schmidt's generous donation from Leu arrived in July and will be detailed in the December Seed Bank Report

Special thanks go out to our Seed Bank customers for their continued support of the CFPACS, especially Mike Ricigliano who the largest order for $68.58 for seeds during this period.

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

—John Green, Seed Bank Coordinator
Seedbank@cfpacs.org

Hodel at Montgomery: *Pritchardia*

By Faith Bishock

On April 18, Don Hodel gave a program at Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami on his recent work on the palm genus *Pritchardia*.

Don works for the University of California Davis campus as an agricultural extension agent. He is responsible for research for commercial landscape growers and maintenance companies. He did graduate and post graduate work in Hawaii. In his plant studies there he discovered that not much comprehensive work had been done on *Pritchardia*s since Beccari and Dr. Joseph Rock studied them in the 1920's.

After raising the funds to do so, he made two trips to the Hawaiian Islands in 2006 and in 2007 , went to *Pritchardia* habitats in the south Pacific and again to Hawaii. He determined that there are 26 Pritchardia species with a breakdown as follows:

South Pacific species (3)
Pritchardia thurstonii, P. pacifica, P. mitiaroana

Pritchardia thurstonii is found in the Lau group of Eastern Fiji and on Eva Island in Tonga. *Pritchardia pacifica*, which has yet to be collected in a truly wild state, is presumed to be from Fiji or elsewhere in the South Pacific. *Pritchardia mitiaroana* is found on Mitiaro Island in the Cook Islands and on Makatea and Niau Islands in French Polynesia.

The remaining 23 species are distributed throughout the Hawaiian Islands as follows:

On the Island of Hawaii (5):
Pritchardia beccariana, P. gordonii, P. lanigera, P. maideniana, P. schattaueri

On Lanai (1):
Pritchardia glabrata

On Kauai (7):
Pritchardia flynnii, P. hardyi, P. minor, P. napaliensis, P. perlmanii,P. viscosa, P. waialealean

On Nihoa (1):
Pritchardia remota

On Niihau (1):
Pritchardia remota

On Maui (5):
Pritchardia arecina,P. forbesiana, P. glabrata, P. munroii, P. woodii

On Molokai (4):
Pritchardia forbesiana, P. hillebrandii, P. lowreyana, P. munroii

On Oahu (3):
Pritchardia kaalae, P. kahukuensis, P. martii

Identification of the various species is sometimes difficult because identifying characteristics are extremely variable. Some of these characteristics are: Hairlike fibers at the petiole base, leaf blade- wavy or flat, stiff or droopy tips, *lepida* - (scale –like hairs in leaves). Others include: length of inflorescence, fruit size, and panicle branching and hairs.

It is a combination of these identifying characteristics which determine a species.

This information and much more, including great photos are in the "Review of the Genus Pritchardia" which was published by the International Palm Society and included as a supplement to the December 2007 *PALMS* publication sent out to IPS members. You may be able to purchase a copy by checking www.palms.org and go to the bookstore.

Clearly, not a Pritchardia, *but a closeup of Mike Dahme's hybrid* Borassus *pictured on the front page of this issue.*
(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)

2008 Second Quarter Board-Meeting Minutes

The second quarter meeting was called to order at the residence of Mike Dahme on June 14, 2008. Members present were President Bob Johnson, Secretary Chuck Grieneisen, Treasurer Catherine Johnson, Editor John Kennedy, and CFPACS Seed Bank Coordinator John Green. Absent were former President Diana Wehrell-Grabowski, Membership Chair Karen Barrese and Webmaster Frankie Ramos. There were no changes or revisions from previous meeting minutes.

Donations to the Universiey of Florida were discussed. The Gizella Kopsick Arboretum got a $500 donation for the planting of palms and cycads. Florida Institute of Technology got a $250 donation for a statue in remembrance of former IPS president Jerome Keuper to be placed in the palm and cycad garden that he created on the campus of F.I.T.

Florida Institute of Technology also got a $250 gift certificate for the purchace of more palms and cycads. The society also coordinated the moving of the cycad collection of Jack Caudry to the Sanford zoo. Jack Caudry, CFPACS member, upon his death wanted his collection to be given to a public institution and CFPACS was instrumental in doing that. Special thanks to Bob Johnson and Tom Broome for finding a suitable place for his collection and actually helping to dig them out. It was also further discussed how other CFPACS members may remember the CFPACS in their estate planning regarding their plant collections.

The two vice president vacancies were also discussed,. the Central V.P and East Coast V.P. The West Coast will soon be vacant. Mileage expenses for board members for society work was also discussed.

Having CFPACS meetings with guest speakers or plant workshops were discussed. Available speakers on which subjects would have to be worked out.

Having advertisements for CFPACS in gardening magazines or local newspapers was discussed.

A publicity chair position was discussed. The publicity chair would try and get as much free publicity for the society.

It was discussed whether to get more memory in the society computer/printer that prints *The Palmateer*, get a new printer, or go back to taking it to a printer.

The September meeting was also discussed.

— Chuck Grieneisen, Secretary

Iriartea deltoidea *seen in Costa Rica during the 2008 Biennial.* *(Photo by Mike Merritt)*

Congratulations, Christian!

Christian Faulkner, CFPACS West VP, has accepted an exciting new position in the world of palm horticulture. Christian moved to Miami at the end of May to become Greenhouse Manager for Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. The Fairchild greenhouses are on the grounds of Montgomery Botanical Center, just down the street from Fairchild on Old Cutler Road. In addition to continuing his expert palm growing, Christian will be growing a wide variety of other plants for Fairchild. Christian, you are now working in palm paradise—we wish you the best!

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.

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.

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

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

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

Please print

Name_____
Street_____
City_____
State,
County_____
Zip_____
Email_____
Phone (area)_____

Wish to be added to Seed Bank E-mail list? (Circle one) YES NO

Willing to be listed publicly in roster? (Circle one) YES NO

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

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

Membership also available at website:
www.cfpacs.org

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

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

Deadline for December issue:

November 1

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Come to the St. Pete meeting to experience this scene at the garden of Mike and Marjorie Evans. (Photo by Mike E)

Below, that's Don Hodel at the front of the room on Saturday, July 20th at Leu Gardens, Orlando.. His topic was "What's New in Chamaedorea*?" An account of his presentation will appear in the December issue of* The Palmateer.
(Photo by Bob Johnson)

Above, Dick Endt at Lands Endt Nursery in New Zealand with Oraniopsis appendiculata. *The Editor thinks of his 15-year-old specimen that is a tenth the size and feels resentful and ill-used.*
(Photo by John Prince)