

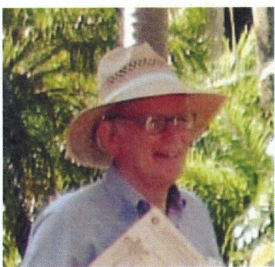
# The *Palmateer*

Fall, 2009



## The Palms of Cuba - *How Many Remain?* page 14

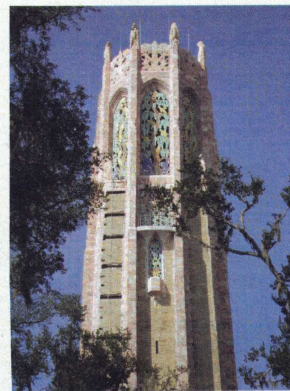
### Thank You, John Kennedy!



I remember on one of my earliest visits to the CFPACS web site finding an archive of some of the older *Palmateers* posted as PDF files. I downloaded all that were available, read through them and quickly

learned much about the many palms and cycads that can be grown in central Florida and the wonderful people that (continued page 12)

### CFPACS Fall Schedule



The Society's fall schedule got off to a great start with our September 12 tour of Scott Ward's garden in Indialantic and Steve and Cindy Rael's garden in Merritt Island. We enter October with our busiest fall sale schedule ever - the USF Sale (continued page 5)





Cuban palms growing in great numbers on the calcerous mogotes. *Gaussia princeps* (above), *Leucothrinax* [Thrinax] *morrisii* (right and below). Photos by Renee Coativy. See article on page 14.



Front cover photo: *Copernicia baileyana*, Holguin, Cuba.  
Photo by Rene Coativy



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*Thank you to those that contributed articles and editing help for this issue of The Palmateer: Rene Coativy, Mike Dahme, Chuck Grieneisen and Eric Schmidt. Also, thank you, photographers! Photos are credited in the captions. Layout, additional articles and photos by Bob Johnson.*

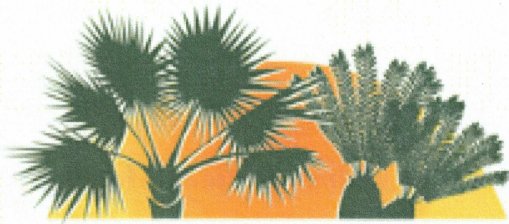
## ***Your Talents Needed for The Palmateer !!!***

We are all very grateful for John Kennedy's extraordinary work on *The Palmateer* over the past 11 years. With John's retirement, we are in need of several members to step in to carry *The Palmateer* forward. If you are interested in being on *The Palmateer* team, please speak to any board member, or e-mail [palmateer@cfpacs.org](mailto:palmateer@cfpacs.org). We need help writing and editing articles, soliciting articles, helping with design, layout and more. **This is your publication.** What can you offer to help?



*CFPACS and SFPS members planting palms at Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami during a joint SFPS/CFPACS meeting in April. Photo by Lek Wallace*





## Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

[www.cfpacs.org](http://www.cfpacs.org)

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The **Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society** is an affiliate of the **International Palm Society** and **The Cycad Society**. CFPACS is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to scientific and educational projects related to the study of palms and cycads, their propagation, culture, conservation, care, and development. We assist in the preservation of palms and cycads for future generations as well as promote and maintain public interest in palms and cycads.

CFPACS serves 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 and Volusia*. We also welcome palm and cycad enthusiasts from beyond Central Florida to become members.

### CFPACS Membership Dues for 2009:

US Members (1-year): \$15

US Members (3-years): \$40

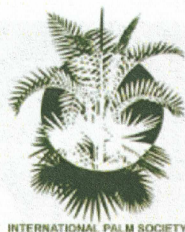
Foreign Members (1-year): \$20

#### Please send dues to:

Karen Barrese  
CFPACS Membership Chair  
5942 Ehren Cutoff  
Land O Lakes, FL 34639

You may also pay by credit card at [www.PayPal.com](http://www.PayPal.com) (please indicate "[payments@cfpacs.org](mailto:payments@cfpacs.org)" in the "to" field).

**Advertising:** Please contact CFPACS treasurer, Catherine Johnson (e-mail [treasurer@cfpacs.org](mailto:treasurer@cfpacs.org)) for advertising rates.



#### About the International Palm Society:

IPS membership dues are \$45 a year. Membership includes a subscription to *Palms*, the quarterly journal of the IPS. For further information on the IPS, please visit their web site: [www.palms.org](http://www.palms.org)



#### About The Cycad Society: TCS

membership dues are \$25 a year. Membership includes a subscription to *The Cycad Newsletter*, the quarterly journal of TCS, and access to The Cycad Society seed bank. For further information on the TCS, please visit their

web site: [www.cycad.org](http://www.cycad.org)

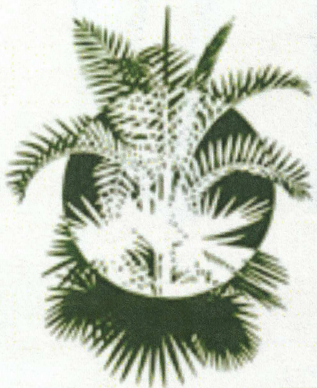
© 2009 Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society, Inc.



# CFPACS News

## Mrs. Dent Smith, 1927-2009

CFPACS notes with sadness the passing of Mrs. Doris Smith, the widow of International Palm Society founder Dent Smith. Doris passed away on May 10th and her memorial service was held on June 30 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Daytona Beach. Doris



INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

regularly opened her garden to visitors and hosted CFPACS on several occasions. She loved the Palm Society and worked to maintain Dent's legacy and what is left of his palm collection. She recently donated Dent's papers to the

special collection of the library at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Miami.

## Special Thanks to Eric Schmidt and Leu Gardens

CFPACS extends thanks to Eric Schmidt for his work on *"Palms for Central Florida,"* which gives growth rate, size, cold and drought tolerance and other useful information on over 200 species of palms suitable for central Florida. Thanks also to Leu Gardens where much of Eric's research on palms has been done. *"Palms for Central Florida"* is included as a supplement to this edition of *The Palmateer*.

## CFPACS Fall Schedule

(Continued from page 1)

in Tampa on October 10-11, Boktoberfest, October 17 at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, and the CFPACS Festival of Palms at FIT in Melbourne on

October 24. CFPACS will have a strong presence at all three of these sales. We are happy to be able to participate in sales in all three of our regions this fall. After all of the sales we will transition into winter with our annual holiday social, meeting, this year at Faith Bishock's in Old Myakka.

## The USF Fall Plant Festival

October 10-11

USF Botanical Garden, Tampa

Chuck Grieneisen, USF web site

It's time again for the USF fall sale! The University of South Florida in Tampa is hosting the Fall Plant Festival on Saturday, October 10, and Sunday, October 11. The hours will be 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday, and 10 am to 3 pm on Sunday. Members of the USF Botanical Garden get in early at 9:30 am. Admission is \$5.00 for the general public and free for USF Botanical Garden members.



### Botanical Gardens

presents  
**2009**

## Fall Plant Festival

**October 10 & 11**  
Saturday 10am-4pm  
Sunday 10am-3pm

**\$5.00 General Admission**  
Children under 12 and  
USF Botanical Garden members  
admitted free.

Still the Bay Area's Largest Fall Plant Sale

There will be a wide assortment of plants available such as crotons, aroids, gingers, orchids, begonias, bamboo, bonsai, fruit trees, cactus, palms, native plants, plumeria, African violets, bromeliads, herbs, succulents, and carnivorous plants.  
Sunday workshops by local experts  
Call 813-974-2329 or website: [www.cas.usf.edu/garden](http://www.cas.usf.edu/garden) for more information.

Over 60 Vendors!

HUGE SCARECROW Contest



We appreciate your continued support of CFPACS at these sales. Most of the other plant societies are there as well as other growers making a total of 60 vendors. If you enjoy growing plants such as bromeliads, orchids, ferns, or anything else unusual, you can find it at this sale.

In addition to the sale, you will want to take time to explore the Gardens' natural areas and collections that include: orchids, begonias, mallows, bromeliads, ginger, ferns, aroids, fruit trees, palms, cycads, carnivorous plants, butterfly garden, herb and scent gardens, and much more. The Gardens maintain a living collection of over 3,000 taxa of plants and natural habitats that emphasize the rich botanical diversity of central Florida.

Set up times for vendors are 8:00 am-6:00 pm. Friday and 7:00 am till 9:00 am on Saturday. You must be a member of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society and have a vendor number to be a vendor (You can get a vendor number from the treasurer). Also, you must have a pass from USF. to set up on Saturday - that you will get from CFPACS secretary Chuck Grieneisen. (please see page 4 for the treasurer and secretary's contact info).

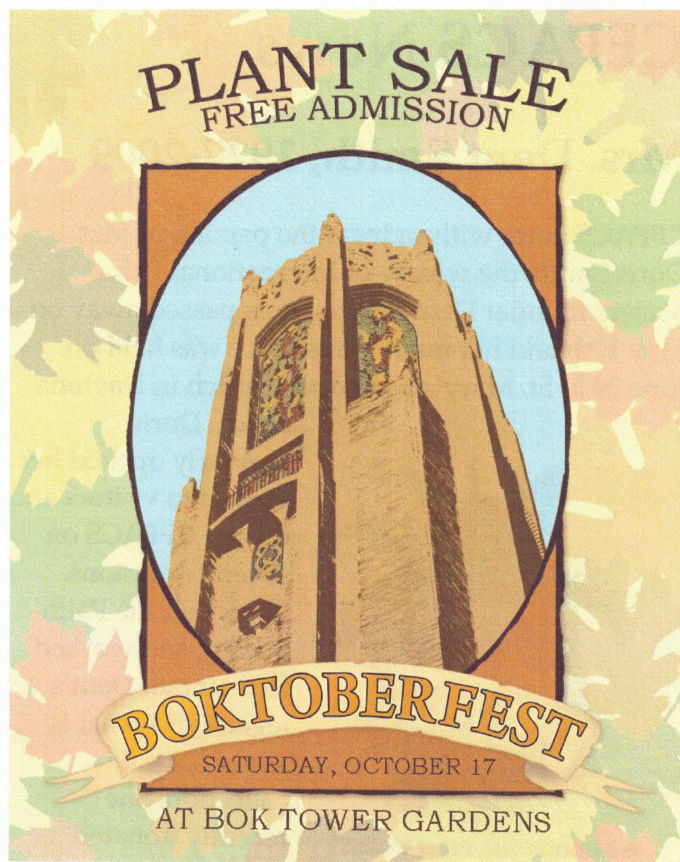
If there is someone new who does not know how to get to the garden, it is near the southwest corner of the USF campus, in Tampa (detailed directions below). For vendors, there will be people there to show you where to unload your plants.

**USF Botanical Gardens web site:** <http://www.cas.usf.edu/garden/index.htm>

#### **Directions:**

**From I-275:** Exit Fowler Avenue. Head east to Bruce B. Downs Blvd. / 30th Street and turn left. Go north one block to Pine Drive (1st light) and turn right. Go east one block to the first traffic light and turn left. Go north one block to the Garden entrance on left at the intersection with Alumni Drive.

**From I-75:** Exit Fowler Avenue. Head west to Bruce B. Downs Blvd. / 30th Street and turn right. Go one block north to Pine Drive (1st light) and turn right. Follow Pine to left and Garden entrance is on left at the intersection with Alumni Drive.



## **Boktoberfest**

**October 17**

### **Bok Tower Gardens, Lake Wales**

*Bok Tower Gardens press release*

**Bok Tower Gardens** will host the first annual **Boktoberfest Plant Sale** with **free admission** on **October 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** The inaugural event will feature live music, German food, craft beers and fun for the whole family including tree climbing, face painting, butterfly house tours and more.

"Boktoberfest celebrates the start of Florida's gardening season," explains David Price, Gardens' president. "We're excited about providing this opportunity for plant lovers and gardeners to find a wide variety of Florida garden plants – the rare, the unusual and the beautiful."

Gardens' members will have first choice to purchase plants from 8 to 9 a.m. Some of the plants for sale will include orchids, palms, trees, tropical fruits, Florida natives, ferns, bamboo, roses, heliconias,



bromeliads, tillandsia air plants and water lilies. Education will be provided by Master Gardeners, plant societies, garden clubs and the UF-IFAS Extension Service including Dr. David Shibles, Polk County's residential horticulture agent and extension agent emeritus Tom MacCubbin. Florida's foremost expert on lawn and garden issues, MacCubbin is a popular radio host who has authored numerous gardening books.

Live music and entertainment will be provided by Alpine Express, Good Times Jazz Band, Southbound Band and the 60-bell Singing Tower carillon. A four-member, lederhosen ensemble, Alpine Express plays instruments from Germany, Austria and Switzerland including the button accordion, cowbells, a wooden Alpine xylophone ("wooden laughter"), shoes (for shoe-slapping rhythms), "Singing Saw" and long Swiss alphorns the size of trees.

**Web Site:** <http://www.boktowergardens.org/>

**Address:** Bok Tower Gardens, 1151 Tower Boulevard, Lake Wales, FL 33853

#### Directions

##### From I-4, East or West:

Take Exit 55 and proceed south on U.S. Highway 27 for approximately 23 miles. Proceed two traffic lights past Eagle Ridge Mall. Turn left on Mountain Lake Cut Off Road. At the caution light, turn right (south) onto County Road 17 (also known as Scenic Highway). Proceed on CR 17 for 3/4 miles. Turn left (east) onto Burns Avenue (also known as County Road 17-A). Proceed on Burns Avenue for 1.3 miles. On your left you'll see a main entrance sign to Bok Tower Gardens. Turn left and proceed to the entrance.

##### From Highway 60 East or West:

Go to Lake Wales and proceed north on U.S. Highway 27. Turn right on Mountain Lake Cutoff Road. At the caution light, turn right (south) onto County Road 17 (also known as Scenic Highway). Proceed on CR 17 for 3/4 miles. Turn left (east) onto Burns Avenue (also known as County Road 17-A). Proceed on Burns Avenue for 1.3 miles. On your left you'll see a main entrance sign to Bok Tower Gardens. Turn left and proceed to the entrance gate.

## Festival of Palms

October 24

FIT Garden, Melbourne

The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society invites you to attend the 2nd Annual **Festival of Palms** at the **Florida Institute of Technology Botanical Garden** in Melbourne on **Saturday, October 24th.**

Free palm seedlings and palm seeds will be available to each attendee. A palm and cycad sale will run during the entire event. A wide variety of palms and cycads will be available for sale. Throughout the day there will be talks on various aspects of palm gardening and guided tours of the



*Pictures from last year's Festival of Palms at FIT. Top: Palms and cycads sale.. Bottom: Christian Faulkner giving a talk to a group gathered in the "Jungle."*



FIT Botanical Garden. Speakers include Tom Broome, John Kennedy and Justin McSweeney. Talks will cover the proper care of palms and cycads in the landscape and selecting the best palms and cycads for Florida's central east coast.

The FIT Botanical Garden was started by FIT founding president Jerome Keuper with the assistance of Dent Smith, founding president of The Palm Society. The garden is a "botanical jewel" of Florida's Space Coast, a place of beauty and tranquility.

The **Festival of Palms** will run from **10 am to 3 pm**. Please park and enter through the South Babcock Street parking lot.

**FIT Address:** 150 W. University Blvd, Melbourne, Florida 32901.

**FIT Web Site:** <http://www.fit.edu/>

#### Directions

##### From the North or South

Take 1 95 to Melbourne. Take exit 180 for US-192 toward W Melbourne/Melbourne. Turn onto W New Haven Ave/US-192 east toward Melbourne. Turn right at S Babcock St/SR-507. Parking lot and entrance to the FIT Botanical Garden is on the West side of S. Babcock St. between Southgate Blvd. and University Blvd.

##### From the West

Take US-192 east to Melbourne. Turn right at S Babcock St/SR-507. Parking lot and entrance to the FIT Botanical Garden is on the West side of S. Babcock St. between Southgate Blvd. and University Blvd.



## CFPACS Holiday Meeting

Faith Bishock's, Old Myakka

Saturday, December 12

This year's CFPACS Holiday Meeting will take place at Faith Bishock's in Old Myakka (outside of Sarasota) on Saturday, December 12. Faith and her late husband John moved to Sarasota from Miami in 1991. Their garden is a testament to their passion for growing palms and features many mature specimens. Although the garden is in southwest Florida, it is in a cold pocket, so the palms have withstood several freezes over the past 18 years.

**Please bring a side dish to share.** CFPACS will provide the main course, drinks and dessert. **Please also consider bringing a plant for the auction.** Our holiday meeting is always a great day spent with other palm enthusiasts. **Mark your calendar now** for our annual palm party!

#### Schedule

**10 am** - Board Meeting

**10:30 am** - Garden tour

**Noon** - Lunch

**After lunch** - Auction, plant sale

#### Address

Faith Bishock  
4631 Hidden River Rd.  
Sarasota FL 34240  
941-322-2233  
e-mail: [FaithBishock@yahoo.com](mailto:FaithBishock@yahoo.com)

#### Directions

Take I-75 to exit 210, Fruitville Rd, SR 780 - Go east approx. 13 miles. 780 ends - turn right on Myakka Rd. (south) for 2 miles - head straight into Hidden River Subdivision past the stone sign with the propeller on it. Take the first left approx. 100 yd from the sign. Road curves around to the right. Faith's house is the 5th on the right, 4631 Hidden River Rd.

*Cuban belly palm - Acrocomia [Gastrococos] crispa*  
- growing at Faith Bishock's garden in Old Myakka.



# New Members

We extend a **warm welcome** to our newest members.  
We are **glad** that you are a part of CFPACS!

## Florida

Cathy Caine, Mount Dora  
John Coley, Eagle Lake  
Laura Cordell, Ft. Myers  
Debra Gabriel, Dunedin  
Randal Knight, Winter Park  
Steve Lee, Maitland  
Sherry Marion, Big Pine Key  
Jeff Newman, Melbourne  
Gary Nichols, N. Ft. Myers  
Thomas Riley, Palm Bay  
Bruce Shephard, Tampa  
John Sievers, Spring Hill  
Taylor Smith, Melbourne Beach  
Jesse Suarezs, Lutz

Greg Tsark, West Melbourne  
Paul Velasco, St. Cloud  
Bill Vaughan, Melbourne  
Brad Young, Tampa

## Alabama

James Vickers, Wilmer

## Hawaii

Dean Ouer, Kailua-Kona

## Canada

Mike Jelley, Toronto, Ontario

## Your E-mail address, please!

Because of space limitations and scheduling there are some events that do not make it into the newsletter.

**We regularly update our members of our activities via e-mail** so that you have the opportunity to participate in our schedule as much as you would like. The **CFPACS seed lists** are also **sent via e-mail**. We have been able to send out several seed offerings over the past several weeks, including several seeds not commonly available.

If you would like to receive the seed list and other e-mail correspondence from the Society, please be sure that we have your **current e-mail address**. If you have more than one e-mail address, please give us the address that you check most frequently. E-mail address updates may be sent to CFPACS membership chair **Karen Barrese**, [membership@cfpacs.org](mailto:membership@cfpacs.org).



Faith Bishock tells the history of this Borrassus to a group gathered at her place last December. (L-R) Faith, Tom Broome, Rosita Stoik, Ron Hart, Maryann Krysovitch and Cindy Broome.



# 2009 CFPACS HomeTown Grant Winner

We extend our congratulations to **Dave Floyd**, winner of the CFPACS 2009 HomeTown Grant. Dave will use the \$500 award to add Bismarck, bottle, spindle, royal palms and a few other species to the grounds of the DeLaura Middle School in Satellite Beach. DeLaura is home to about 700 students and is ranked as the number 5 middle school in the state of Florida. There are a few varieties of palms (most notably a double-header *Sabal palmetto*) and a few medium sized canopy trees on the grounds, but much of the street frontage and grounds were relatively barren.

The DeLaura administration and parents are very enthusiastic about improving the school grounds. The school recently was awarded the Keep Brevard Beautiful Xeriscape Grant, which provided some plantings of native species to jump start re-landscaping. The overarching goal of the DeLaura Middle School landscape plan is



*Palms planted at DeLaura Middle School through the CFPACS HomeTown Grant. Photos by Dave Floyd.*



*Double-headed Sabal Palmetto at DeLaura Middle School. Photo by Dave Floyd.*

to beautify the external campus exposed to the students, staff, visitors and neighbors.

Thank you Dave for taking the initiative to apply for the CFPACS HomeTown Grant and for all of your hard work with the site prep and plantings. We look forward to seeing those palms grow and bring enjoyment to all who see them.

## 2010 CFPACS HomeTown Grant

### 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. (If you are not a member of CFPACS, you can join when you submit your application)

**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.

**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 30, 2009. Once approval of the preliminary proposal is granted, the applicant must complete and submit the following no later than January 31, 2010:

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 ([president@cfpacs.org](mailto:president@cfpacs.org)) 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 December 31, 2009. Final proposals are due by February 15, 2010. The winner will be announced March 1, 2010

**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, 2010. Any unused 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. CFPACS Board members and immediate family members are not eligible to receive the HomeTown Grant.

## CFPACS HomeTown Grant Checklist

- \_\_Are you a member of CFPACS?
- \_\_Will the palms/cycads be planted in the CFPACS service area? (please see page 4 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 December 31, 2009)
- \_\_Have you received approval of your preliminary proposal before proceeding with your final plans?
- \_\_Have you submitted your final proposal by the deadline of February 15, 2010?



# Thank You, John Kennedy!

(Continued from front page)



grow them. Reading these informative newsletters convinced me to join CFPACS. The treasure trove of information in *The Palmateer* was thanks to the efforts of John Kennedy, editor of our chapter's newsletter since 1998. Much more than just editor (a huge job in itself), John has done the work of several persons during his time as editor of *The Palmateer*. John solicited articles, wrote and edited articles and did the layout and design for our newsletter - not an easy task considering the challenges of learning and keeping up with updates in desktop publishing software. Every aspect of producing *The Palmateer* (except for printing) was handled by John. I am sorry to see John retire as editor, but I am thankful for his 11 years of service, a long and illustrious tenure. Thank you, John! As a small token of our appreciation for John's work, the CFPACS board voted to give John the computer equipment that the chapter purchased for his use as editor. Thank you, John for all that you have done for CFPACS!

Bob Johnson

CFPACS president

Several CFPACS presidents have worked with John over the past decade. I have asked them to share their appreciation for John's work, their comments follow.

The first two years of the reconstruction of the Central Florida Palm Society to the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society were very difficult. We were putting together all new incorporation documents, making new bylaws, and attaining our nonprofit status with the federal government. New people took on jobs and some people didn't get along while doing all this. When the dust lifted, we were left without a newsletter editor.

Without a way for us to get information to our members, we had to do something quick. It was a great day when John Kennedy agreed to put together our newsletter! John was a college English professor at the time, but he had also been a professional editor in the past. We were so lucky to get him on board to help us with the society. He told me at the time that he would do it for "two years" to help out but we would have to look for someone else when the time came. Well, that time came and went, and he stayed on for eleven years.

The CFPACS has accomplished many things during this time. The board got along well and we put together a society that has given thousands of dollars to palm and cycad research projects. With projects like the seed bank, we were able to get ourselves in a much better financial situation, having five times the assets compared to when we first started. We also have had a consistent newsletter all these years that has been the best in the state, over the long run. We can thank John for this. He has always had a way to get people to send him enough information to put together good-sized newsletters, which always seem to be a problem for any society.

I am sad to see John go, but I have thought that after the first two years, we were on borrowed time anyway. John has been a good person to work with and a good friend to us personally. John, thanks for everything!

Tom Broome

CFPACS president 1997-99



Thanks for all the effort you put forth over the last decade or so in the continual development and publication of the *Palmateer*. Your dedication to this has been remarkable, given that the elected officers are off the hook in just a few years – you’ve been doing the job for much longer. I remember joining CFPS (Central Florida Palm Society) in the mid 90s and at that time, our journal was a typewritten newsletter. Around that time, we had a significant improvement to one created electronically with lots of contributions from the membership, as well as a name change to CFPACS (including cycads in the name). You have carried on the thankless task of maintaining the publication of the society, essentially the “glue” that makes this organization so well-run. I will always remember the numerous road trips to chapter meetings with you along for the ride. Your ability to provide so much interesting fodder for our lengthy conversations made the many miles just disappear.

Neil Yorio

CFPACS president 1999-2001

After a long and highly successful run as CFPACS editor, John Kennedy has announced his retirement. Unfortunately and in bittersweet form, this brings about the end of an era. In many ways, John’s presence was the one constant as board members came and went. He provided the stabilizing effect and common sense when it was most needed. Without John near the pulse of the society, I can safely say that CFPACS will never be the same again.

I suppose John’s retirement will change CFPACS as much as he did when first becoming editor extraordinaire last decade. I’ve seen and read many of the older bulletins predating John’s tenure. It’s not my intention to offend past editors but those older publications pale by comparison. After a few early struggles, John got his stride and more than aptly published one of the world’s best palm publications. There were times when the publication deadline approached and there wasn’t enough material for a full issue. John would then politely ask many of us to put pen to paper and write something...anything. He published my

defense of the genus *Washingtonia* but thought it had little or no merit. Somehow, just about every issue was as thick and informative as the last. In later years, the publication got even better. Then, there was color and John was able to further perfect his craft.

After a few years as editor, John became synonymous with CFPACS. At IPS Biennials, *The Palmateer* occasionally gets praised as a top-notch publication but the person responsible goes unnoticed. You are worldwide John. Other local palm chapter publications are often comparatively laughable! These chapters occasionally mail small pamphlets that lack any real substance or fail to publish anything at all. Again, this is not to knock others but merely to point out how above-and-beyond John’s work was when compared to others who do the acceptable minimum. I hope the new editor is aware of what lies ahead (i.e. inevitable comparisons to how “it used to be”). We’re all pulling for the individual who succeeds John. He or she has mighty big shoes to fill. It’s no easy task being editor but John embraced this year after year, often without a pat on the back. As president I tried many times in e-mail messages to thank John. To be honest, I’m surprised he didn’t retire sooner. Continuously raising the bar and (continued page 26)



John and then CFPACS prez Dina Wehrell-Grabowski share a jovial moment at the December 2007 CFPACS meeting at Rick Nale's.





Article and photos by Rene Coativy  
 Edited by Mike Dahme

Following our trip to the Seychelles, we thought that a trip to Cuba would shorten a tough European winter. So January 11th found Dominique and me on Air France's daily 747 flight to La Habana for three weeks of not only palm-hunting but also to witness the celebratory anniversary of the 'admirable disaster' that is the Cuban revolution 50 years on.

Our visit began, like most, in Havana, a city in ruins with little in the way of landscaping, except around the capitol building where there is a nice grouping of *Roystonea regia*. We were soon on our way West, passing the embassy area where we met the first group of planted *Acrocomia* [*Gastrococos*] *crispa*.

The northwestern region is devoid of palms and it wasn't until Candelaria that we saw the first *Sabal maritima* ('guana') stand, a species present in great

numbers throughout Cuba, a status it shares with *Roystonea regia* and *Coccothrinax miraguana* not to mention the ubiquitous *Cocos nucifera*. *Roystonea regia* appeared on the hills of San Diego de los Banos where the crowns had been decimated by a hurricane on August 31, 2008.

Next on to the famous Valle de Vinales, home of the mogotes, the calcareous peaks that host palms in

great numbers: *Gaussia princeps* (page 2, top) and mostly on top of the cliffs, *Leucothrinax* [*Thrinax*] *morrisii* (page 2, bottom), unusual for the species in this location because the fronds are green, not glaucous, on the undersurface. On the Sendero Mogote I spotted a different palm with a sturdier stem and glaucous leaves.



For those who were on the 2006 palm tour and have photos of the Vinales Palmar, treasure them because the palms (Figure 1) were largely destroyed by the hurricane and remain but in paintings or memories.

In the rain we drove South along the Guyaguaje River in search of elusive *Calyptronoma plumeriana*.



Though *Roystoneas* were everywhere, at last, past Sumitero, I spotted a nice specimen near a bridge (**Figure 2**) and soon after in swamps among *Roystoneas* at the foot of a vertical cliff covered with *Leucothrinax morrisii* (**page 2, center**) Beyond Guane the *Sabal* were back in view, and on the flatlands cleared for pastures we saw sparse groups of *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii* and the clumping *Copernicia glabrescens* (**Figure 4**).



Fig. 2

**Day six:** we left Pinar del Rio Province back to transit Havana and proceeded East and South to Cienfuegos. After passing Consolacion thousands of *Colpothrinax wrightii* appeared, mostly along the river courses (**Figure 5**). For some reason they disappeared suddenly, at Los Palacios, giving way to forests of *Roystoneas* - again!

We reached the National Botanical Garden on the southern outskirts of Havana around noon. Our

guide didn't know too much about the palms, and we weren't able to identify many of the species present. Among those that we did recognize, the first tall *Coccothrinax crinita*, various *Copernicias*, a few *Borassus flabellifer* and a *Sabal yapa* (**Figure 3**) surviving from a prior hurricane. Our day ended in Rancho Luna, a beach resort east of Cienfuegos, after a long day's drive and vistas of uncountable *Sabals* and *Royals* along the route,

**Day seven:** Following lunch we drove to the near-by Cienfuegos Botanical Garden, founded more than a century ago by Harvard University. No guide being available, we wandered around this very pleasant garden to meet the tall *Microcycas calocoma* (**see page 16**) of which there are two more stands, including one with six individuals at the garden entrance, which provides hope for future seed production. We took quite a lot of pictures of the various *Copernicias*, and left through the glorious *Roystonea* alley (**Figure 6**).

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**Day seven:** Following lunch we drove to the near-by Cienfuegos Botanical Garden, founded more



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

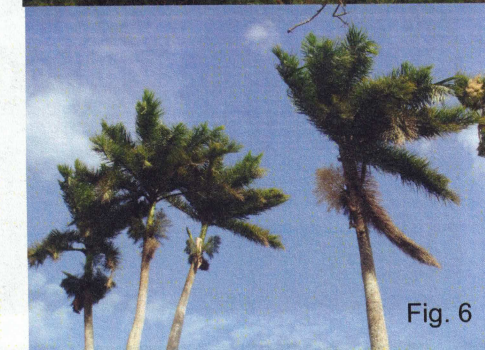


Fig. 6



Fig. 3





*Dominique Coativy standing next to a very tall *Microcycas calacoma* at Cienfuegos Botanical Garden (above). *Roystonea regia* near Santiago (below left). *Acrocomia crispera* at Cupaynicu Botanical Garden in Guisa (below right).*







*Copernicia baileyana* (top left).

Rene and Dominique in a grove of *Coccothrinax crinita* (top right), Dominique with *Copernicia rigida* (left) at Cupaynicu Botanical Gardenin.



We then headed towards Topes de Collantes, a thermal resort at 3000 ft., well off the beaten track. In pastures along the way we noticed a few palms, but at the coast there were literally thousands of *Coccothrinax miraguana* subsp. *miraguana* (Figure 8), which ascend to 2000' on the way to Topes. Topes is an experience in itself, the vegetation is rather unique with stunning tree ferns and magnificent old *Livistona chinensis* and *Cycas circinalis* present. Past the city of Trinidad, where palms are limited to the cathedral square. *C. miraguana* reappears in rocky, dry coastal hills. Soon afterwards the first of thousands of *Acrocomia crispera* suddenly appear, in all stage of growth (Figure 7). As we get closer to Sancti Spiritu, *Sabal maritima* again fills the scenery.



Fig. 7

to the property's gate, we met the farmer and gained access. The *Copernicia textilis* had 25' trunks (page 31) and *C. hospita* (page 31) were 19 and 16 years old respectively. In habitat they have grown fairly quickly, contrasting with their reputation for being slow in cultivation. That afternoon we drove north, through Remedios, all the way to the Atlantic Ocean, but saw no palms.

On our tenth day we decided to follow part of the post 2006 biennial tour, the route from Sancti Spiritu to Camaguey, and drove through the sugar cane fields where harvesting was underway (and we shared some rum with the local workers]. We turned west at Moron to Falla but missed seeing the *Copernicia fallae* palms. Then we doubled

**Day nine:** After a good night's sleep at the El Rijo hotel in the city center we proceeded to La Sierpe and El Jibaro, because of information in the Gentes Herbarium issue of October 196 [a revision of the genus *Copernicia* by B.E.Dalhlgre and S.F.Glassman]: this copy was bought at a CFPACS auction in November 1996! After the 30 miles to El Jibaro [where the paved road ends], however, we had yet to see any palms but we decided to risk the dirt road to Jatibonico. At Las Nuevas, a nowhere place, we finally found three *Copernicias* on a private property and quite a distance from the track. Making a 90° turn



Fig. 8

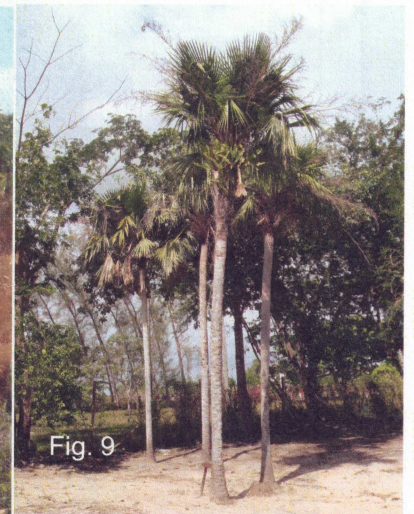


Fig. 9



Fig. 10

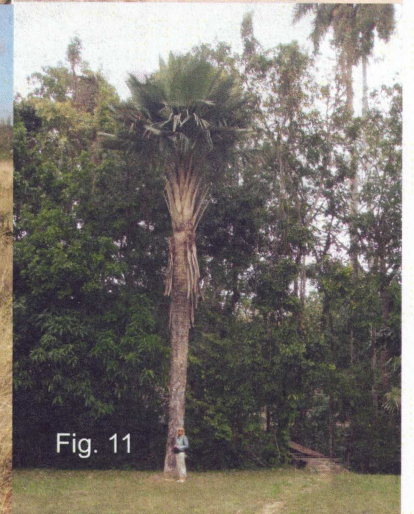


Fig. 11



back east to Minas on the longest stretch of straight road I have ever been on. Between two immense sugar cane fields there were thousands of *Acrocomia crispera*, Royals and *Sabal maritima* in the swamps, as well as the most spectacular fields of coconut palms we saw on the trip. Close to Minas, which we passed through en route to Camaguey, sugarcane was replaced by citrus as the dominant crop, and it wasn't until the latter that we saw *Coccothrinax* sp. again, and then, finally, *Copernicia hospita* along with *Coccothrinax pseudorigida* (**Figure 9**), but on reaching the city for the night we were quite disappointed at the lack of *Copernicias* seen during the day.

We left for Bayamo on the eleventh day, via Las Tunas and Holguin to again follow the 2006 palm group's itinerary. A few miles from Las Tunas I spotted what looked like tall *Copernicias*. Jumping a gate I happily took pictures of the group of unknown species (**Figure 10**). Nothing more of interest appeared until we passed Holguin, where hundreds of *Copernicia baileyana* (**front cover**) were growing: I was in palm heaven and could have stayed in this field for hours.



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

Day twelve started with a visit to the well-hidden Cupaynicu Botanical Garden at Guisa, where we met Juan Ariel Guesada, the new palm curator. There were 72 palm species then in the garden, of which 16 are Cuban. Among the best were *Coccothrinax crinita* (**page 17**), *Copernicia baileyana* or *textilis* (**Figure 21**), *Copernicia rigida* (**page 17**), and *Coccothrinax victorini* (**Figure 12**). After collecting a few seeds [and enjoying the flavor of *Acrocomia crispera* (**Page 16**) endocarps, which taste like nuts], we passed through Manzanillo, where palms are limited to the central square, before ending the day at Marea del Portillo, a 'lost' but wonderful small beach resort on the coast of the Caribbean. This is the warmest place in Cuba in winter, and we were to stay there, under the coconuts, for four nights, with *Roystoneas* as sentinels on the skyline.

In the early afternoon of our departure day we were warned not to take the direct coastal road to Santiago de Cuba because bridges were down and





Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20

we left the coast for the Sierra del Purtil and the famed Farola Mountain road, the most spectacular of Cuba. The panoramas are stunning with *Roystoneas* shining through the tropical forest canopy. Close to the summit a few *Prestoea acuminata* grow, as does *Bactris cubensis* (**Figure 15**) And, on the very top, a lone *Coccothrinax* sp. (**Figure 16**) at 3000' above sea level! While we neared Baracoa, the wettest area of Cuba (up to 5 meters - 200 inches), the truly tropical scenery is composed of *Cocos nucifera* and *Roystonea regia*.

in places the road washed out onto the beach. But onwards to Santiago, at the eastern end of the island! Thousands of *Coccothrinax gunlachii* overlook the road (**Figure 13**), thriving in desert-like conditions. Likewise, *Roystonea regia* grow lushly in coastal 'oases', among a sea of papyrus (**Page 16**). At Chirivico we experienced a torrent of tropical deluge that made driving quite interesting. At Caletón Blanco, 13 miles from Santiago, there were hundreds of *Copernicia yarey* (**Figure 14**), the durable leaves of which are used for roof thatching. Good news on arrival, our hotel in Santiago was built amid a tropical forest, and our 17th day began with a visit to the Helechos garden, which specializes in ferns and orchids. The day following we departed Santiago to the northeast, the views featuring spectacular hills and tropical scenes full of luxuriant Royal palms.

On the road to Guantanamo we stopped at a strange palm growing on a very dry bank. Once we reached the arid coastline *Coccothrinax hiorami* (**Figure 17**) were all along the road and cliffs, along with succulents. The undisturbed villages were nestled in lush oases filled with Royals, Coconuts and incredibly tall *Sabal domingensis*, which, for most part, thrive in dry river beds (**Page 31**). At Cajobabo

**Day 19**, Baracoa seemed a ghost town. That day we wanted to reach Maisi but after the Yumuri river we were blocked by a military gate. The panoramas are magnificent with El Yunque on the horizon (**back cover, bottom**). The following morning we left the Porto Santo hotel for Moa, the paved road disappears for good, which made for our toughest day of driving. At Navas, however, we were pleased to find a field of *Copernicia rigida* (**Figure 18**). Around Nibujón, tall, graceful *Coccothrinax alexandri* (**back cover, middle**) beautify the horizon; next, nearby were an unknown dwarf silver leaf palms (**Figure 19**), maybe young *Sabals* but with puzzling blue leaves.

At Yamanigüey thousands of what looks like *Thrinax rivularis* grow on a terribly dry soil (**Figure 20**). The palms fronds are used for roof thatching and are very durable. We passed Moa, polluted by nickel extraction and processing, the palms fronds being blackened by the acidic rainfalls. It was terrible, and we were told that many people in the area are sick from the pollution. We continued our driving towards Holguín and soon spied stands of a silver form of *Copernicia rigida*. Past Levisa, some 30 miles east of Holguín, we saw a fantastic stand of





Fig. 21

hundreds of *Copernicia bailayana* (see page 17). Two Cuban farmers in an ox carriage had just cut some of the leaves for thatch. They told us that they use 1000 leaves per roof and cut 20 leaves per palm tree, and that the thatch lasts at least 20 years.

**Day 21:** Nothing to report along the road from Camaguey to Santa Clara except a Marxist star made of 'guana': *Sabal maritima* palms. We ended that day at the palmar of the Hotel Carrusel (**Figure 21**), where I collected some seeds from very tall *Roystonea regia*. The next day found us on the road to Matanzas, finally a road that is up to our standards, but no palm in sight but the ubiquitous *Sabal maritima*. Evening found us at the Varadero beach resort, a common destination for foreigners, which was filled with Canadian tourists in flight from their icy winter. The hotel's garden is nicely planted with various local and endemic palms - *Latania lontaroides*, *Dypsis madagascarensis*, etc. To avoid the 'all-included' Varadero tourist trap, I wandered along the back beach where I spotted nice stands of *Coccothrinax litoralis* (**back cover, top**) thriving in pure sand, along with *Sabal palmetto* [*maritima*?].

**Day 24:** after lunch, we were on our way back to Havana when we saw a spectacular panorama of *Coccothrinax miraguana var havanensis*. Then it was Havana again, the desperate city devoid of traffic, and time to summarize. We drove over 2500 miles, experienced six police stops, and gave rides to over 100 hitchhikers. And we have 'adopted' a poor family in Sagua de Tanamo, east of Moa, that we will help in the future. In some ways the palm

search was a bit disappointing, especially with regard to *Copernicia spp.*, which appear to have been mostly eradicated for sugar cane cultivation in the central flatlands of the island. On the other hand, meeting the Cuban people was wonderful and rewarding. We feel deeply sorry for the 11 millions human beings kept in slavery and poverty by the Castro regime.

Among the thousands of stupid and shameful slogans displayed throughout Cuba, one in a Baracoa slum (**Figure 22**)

got my attention for its irony: "A better life is possible. [signed] Fidel" Yes indeed, but...without Castro!!!



Fig. 22

## CFPACS Seed Bank Transitions

Thanks to Christian Faulkner for his work with the CFPACS seed bank during the first part of 2008. Because of health issues, Christian had to step down as seed bank coordinator in July. We wish him all the best, especially improved health!

Since Christian's departure we have transitioned to a team to operate the seed bank. The goal is to spread the work load among several persons, and to make it easier for members to donate seeds, considering the far ranging area that CFPACS covers.

Mike Dahme will handle seed orders and donations from the east coast. When Mike is in Puerto Rico, John Green will handle things here. When he is in Puerto Rico, Mike will have seeds to offer for CFPACS from time to time. Lucinda McCartney will handle west coast seed donations and orders. Mike, John and Lucinda are all doing a fantastic job with the seed bank. We have seen an increase in seed donations, and thus an increase in seed offerings over the past few months. Thank you Lucinda, John and Mike for your work with the CFPACS seed bank!



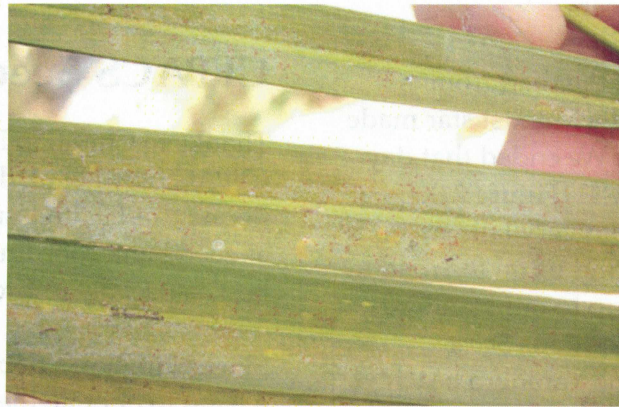
# Red Palm Mite Update

*Effectively managing red palm mites  
in nursery environments*

Red palm mite, *Raoiella indica* (RPM) is a pest of coconut, areca and date palms in the Middle East and is probably widespread in tropical and subtropical regions throughout the Eastern Hemisphere.

After years of surveillance by the Florida Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program (a joint effort of the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture), and attempts to keep the red palm mite from reaching Florida, it was detected in December 2007 on a coconut palm in Palm Beach County. This was the first confirmed report of this serious plant pest in the US.

A concentrated survey around the first find was initiated, and to date, infestations have been found in Broward, Miami-Dade, Martin, Monroe and Palm Beach counties. Survey efforts are now concentrated on palm nurseries and their surrounding areas. Although the insect is spreading, populations of RPM to date have been lower than first anticipated.



*Red palm mite damage. Source: Wikimedia Commons*

Complete control in the nursery environment has proven to be impractical due to pressures of RPM-infested palms in the surrounding landscape, and the inability of miticides to provide 100% control. At this time, long-term control of this new pest will be in the form of suppression with chemical treatments and the use of biological control agents that will help keep RPM in check.

RPM will no longer be considered a mandatory quarantine due to the reasons stated, but will be regulated like other cosmopolitan pests, and quarantined when detected at high levels in the nursery environment. Following are the key

elements of the adjustments that have been made to state regulations related to RPM:

- When detected any time at a nursery or stock dealer, a compliance agreement will be required to be signed and followed.
- Quarantine action will be placed on a nursery when RPM is detected at high levels.
- The Texas RPM Compliance Agreement must still be followed for host plant shipment to Texas from positive counties.
- Contact your local plant inspection office (link) for more information.

While chemical control may be necessary to control high populations of red palm mites, outside the nursery environment it is hoped this pest will be kept in check by natural enemies and Florida's temperate climate.

Information on the control of RPM can be found on the University of Florida's Institute of Food & Agriculture Sciences website <http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/lso/RPM/RPM.htm>

There is nothing that represents Florida better than a healthy palm swaying in the breeze, and the department is committed to protecting

Florida's important palm industry. Current statistics of the palm industry include approximately 4,300 Florida nurseries with palms in their inventory; 26,712,326 palms in those nurseries; and \$200 million in annual sales, representing 7% of total Florida nursery sales.

Palms are restricted from entering Florida from countries with red palm mite infestations without phytosanitary certificates. To further prevent the introduction of additional pests and diseases of palms, palm handicrafts are prohibited from entry into Florida.

*Source: Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Nursery Industry Update*



# New Soil-less Cycad Potting Mix

by Chuck Grieneisen

Have you ever have blue *Encephalartos* cycads die in a container from over watering? That was my most common way of losing cycads. It seems like sometimes, over watering just one time may kill a prized cycad, especially the "blue" *Encephalartos* species. In my experience and talking with other cycad experts, you want to have as much inorganic mix as possible, such as pine or other bark, pumice, perlite and such. You want to have as little organic matter, such as peat and muck (black soil), loam as possible for the blue *Encephalartos*. Some of the *Zamia* like the organics, but we will be sticking with the blue *Encephalartos* for this soil mix.

This started when I got some seeds of *Encephalartos trispinosus* and *E. horridus*. I germinate them in pure sand. It is a grade they call septic sand. Outside you can have a hose on full blast and not get any puddling, which shows that the sand is well draining. Once in a container however, it can be over-watered. My *Encephalartos* seeds were sprouting well in the above mix, but I had a problem with a *Zamia* in the same sand. I had some *Zamia standeyi* seedlings in the pure sand mix that I had sprouted there. I was intending to grow them in the sand for a year or two before planting them in a more suitable mix, but then I had a leak in the roof of my greenhouse that they were in. They got soaked. The sand got waterlogged, and they looked good for about a week. After a week the container was still waterlogged and I decided to check the roots on them. There was rot on all of the roots. I transplanted them, but they all died. I didn't want that to happen with my *Encephalartos*. So, I came up with the following mix, transplanted some 1 leaf seedlings of *Encephalartos trispinosus* and recently some *E. horridus*. The *trispinosus* have been in the mix outside for 3 months or more. We have had rainstorms that have produced one and a half inches of rain in 1 day. They are all O.K. The one I got labeled *E. trispinosus* "robusta" is growing like crazy. This mix should work well for any cycad that is touchy with over watering.

FINALLY, here is the mix and where to get ingredients for it.

1/3 regular sized perlite

2/3 fine charcoal

The charcoal isn't what you buy to have a bar-b-q, but is sometimes called "horticultural charcoal." I have seen it at either Home Depot or Lowe's, but not lately. The source that I got it from is:

Tropical Plant Products

1715 Silver Star Rd.

Orlando, FL

407-293-2451

[www.tropicalplantproducts.com](http://www.tropicalplantproducts.com)

They have other grades of the charcoal there. The fine is the smallest. It seemed that as you got to the bottom of the bag that they got smaller than the pieces that were on the top. This mix needs regular watering. You could probably go a day or two without watering a 1 gallon *Encephalartos* (and I have) so it's not a ridiculously dry mix. I have watered my small blue *Encephalartos* seedlings in this every day and haven't lost any yet, so I hope it is somewhat of a breakthrough.



*Encephalartos trispinosus* at Dr. Young's in Tampa, site of our June 13 meeting. If you want to give your blue *Encephalartos* seedlings a good start, give Chuck's soil-less cycad mix a try.



# *Arenga engleri* split into 2 species

Eric Schmidt, Leu Gardens, Orlando Florida

*Arenga engleri*, the Clustering Sugar Palm, is an underutilized species for Central Florida. It is originally native to the Ryukyu Islands at the southern tip of Japan and Taiwan. For years it seems there were two forms of this in cultivation. Dave Besst had informed me years ago of this information as I had noticed 2 different types in the collection at Leu Gardens. The first form is smaller growing, the clumps only growing 5 to 7 feet tall. The leaves seemed to be a duller green and less silvery on the undersides. It is also the more cold hardy form, usually tolerating 18-19 deg.F. before serious damage occurs. This form was native to the Ryukyu Islands.

The other form grows larger, forming thick clumps 10 to 12 feet tall and easily as wide. The leaves are dark green on the upper surface and very silvery on the undersides. It is less cold hardy than the

previous form tolerating 22-24 deg. F before being seriously damaged. This form is native to Taiwan.

Recently a new book titled "Palms of Southern Asia" by Andrew Henderson has been published and released. In it he has separated the form of *Arenga engleri* native to the Ryukyu Islands and named it *Arenga ryukyuensis*. Besides the size differences some other differences is that *Arenga ryukyuensis* has leaflets that are ribbed on the upper surfaces, has inflorescences with more flowering branches (up to 30 compared to 15 on *Arenga engleri*) and slightly larger fruit (to 1.8 cm in diameter while those of *Arenga engleri* are up to 1.5 cm).



*Arenga ryukyuensis*, native to the Ryukyu Islands

Since both forms of this palm have been in cultivation I wonder how easily they can cross and form intermediate hybrids. Also, at Leu Gardens we are growing a couple of *Arenga engleri* specimens that were grown from seed collected on Okinawa and appear to be different than either previously mentioned palm. They have not reached mature size but they seem to be a larger growing form. But their main difference that has become apparent is that the leaves are held stiffly upward giving it a more unique appearance.



*Arenga engleri*, the clustering sugar palm, growing at Leu Gardens in Orlando, Florida.



*Arenga engleri* at Leu Gardens grown from seed collected on Okinawa. Photos by Eric Schmidt.



# Fruiting *Normanbya* *normanbyi* in Orlando !!!

*Eric Schmidt, Leu Gardens, Orlando Florida*

In early July I harvested almost 100 fruits off one of our *Normanbya normanbyi* specimens here at Leu Gardens (pictured below). These were donated to the CFPACS seedbank. This was the first time the palm had flowered. This particular specimen was planted in April 1999 and is currently almost 20 feet tall. It is probably the first time this palm has fruited in Central Florida. We have another specimen about 15 feet tall that was planted in June 1999 (right). It has flowered several times in the past 2 years but never held seed. Currently (July 2009) it has 2 inflorescences, so hopefully it will begin producing fruit and seed in the near future.

*Normanbya normanbyi* is known as the Black Palm. It is native to the wet rainforest of northeastern Queensland, Australia. When mature, this palm somewhat resembles the Foxtail Palm, *Wodyetia bifurcata*. It usually has a more slender trunk and is a



pickier grower. Since it is a rainforest species, young palms desire shade but can tolerate sun as they get older. They also like a more fertile and moist soil and aren't as neglect tolerant as *Wodyetia*. Despite being from a tropical region they are able to tolerate some cold but are sensitive to frost. So in Central Florida, this would be an ideal palm to grow under a tree canopy.



Left and above: fruiting *Normanbya normanbyi*. Top: Another *Normanbya* at Leu that has flowered but has not yet produced fruit. Photos by Eric Schmidt.



## Thank You, John Kennedy

(continued from page 13)

getting a member's taste buds accustomed to a good and informative read is quite an achievement and can be exhausting. We are all probably guilty of not expressing enough gratitude for the thankless work he did. The gifts of appreciation I moved to purchase for John (*Palms of New Caledonia* and *Palms of Thailand*) were a nice gesture but so little recompense.

For over a decade, John Kennedy embodied all the good in CFPACS. On a personal level, his objective viewpoint was always helpful and informative. In board meetings, his wisdom was instrumental with decisions that ultimately affected the Society as a whole. His years of teaching experience must serve him well in everyday life. His concise yet effective way of delivering a message or conveying an idea was often enlightening. John Kennedy was a very welcoming figure. When I joined CFPACS in 1998, John made me feel part of a larger family. In 2001, he and Dave Witt urged me to take the reins and lead the Society for a couple of years. Two years sure seem like a drop in the bucket when compared to his 10+ years of service. Many, many thanks John. Until I see you at the next meeting, Godspeed and remember that *Washingtonia* are OK.

Ray Hernandez

CFPACS president 2003-4

The exact date and year are somewhat vague but I do know that it was a very hot summer afternoon and John and I were in my office trying to print off a trial copy of the *Palmateer* on the now extinct Xerox Phaser Printer. I believe the issue took about 20 minutes to print! John and I looked at each other, knowing it would take at least a month to print off 350 copies of the *Palmateer* at this speed. With some conferencing with my brother-in-law George the Phaser was brought up to speed. Three to four years later CFPACS made a much needed upgrade and we purchased the Gestener Printer. Again, John and I had to go through a learning curve to figure out the differences between the archaic Phaser and the modern and massive Gestener.

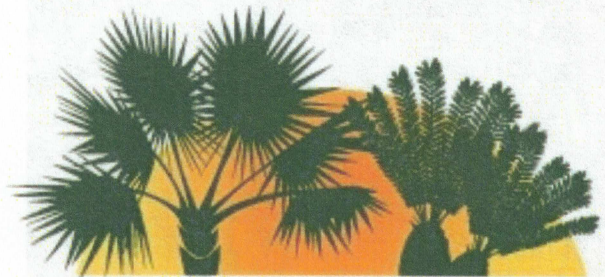
For six plus years John and I worked as a team to get the *Palmateer* printed, me being the operator of the printer and John being the Editor of the *Palmateer*. We would correspond with each other and setup a meeting time and place to hand over the disk containing the quarterly issue of the *Palmateer* that John had diligently worked on for months. We would either meet at a gas station close to I-95 in the Vero area when I had work down south. Sometimes the timing was not right for a hand-off of the disk in the Vero area, and John would make the trip north up to the Brevard area in his trusty and well-driven Honda. The hand-off of the disk gave us some time to chat and catch up on the latest.

My job as the operator of the printer was a cinch compared to what John had to tackle and successfully accomplish four times a year over all the years as the Editor of the *Palmateer*. All of us on the Board would get his regular quarterly e-mails stating he only had 6-8 pages of submitted material for the *Palmateer* and if some more material was not submitted like yesterday we would have a very thin issue. In all the years of working with John that 8 page *Palmateer* never happened. Why? Because, John would do whatever it took to get together enough quality material for the next issue of the *Palmateer*, and that was not an easy task and one that was repeated on a quarterly basis. Quality material on palms and cycads did not magically appear on John's desk or computer I can tell you that. It took a lot of time and effort on John's part to put together a quality *Palmateer* worth reading.

John's efforts as the Editor of the CFPACS *Palmateer* will be greatly missed by all. As for myself, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to really get to know John, and I truly appreciate all his time and efforts over the years as the Editor of the *Palmateer*.

Diana Wehrell-Grabowski

CFPACS president 2005-7





# CFPACS 2009 Spring Meetings

2009 began on a less than pleasant note with a freeze and heavy frost throughout much of central Florida. In addition to the damage that the freeze caused in many of our gardens, the freeze also dashed our meeting plans because of extensive damage to gardens that we had planned to visit. We postponed visits to freeze damaged gardens and put together a new spring schedule - which turned out to be full, varied and enjoyable.

## Montgomery Botanical Center

About 20 CFPACS members made the trip down to Miami on April 4 to join with about 30 South Florida Palm Society members for a joint meeting at Montgomery Botanical Center and St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

The day began at MBC with members planting a population of *Roystonea oleracea* grown from seed collected during MBC fieldwork in Trinidad and Tobago in 2007. After planting the palms, members took a tour of the MBC palm collection led by MBC executive director Dr. Patrick Griffith. The time at MBC concluded with a tasty barbecue prepared by SFPS members.



*Roystonea regia* at MBC. Someday the palms planted by our members will look like this! Photo by Lek Wallace

After lunch, several members continued on to St. Thomas the Apostle Church. The 22-acre church campus has is a unique place. There are several acres of gardens landscaped with ponds, waterfalls and tropical plants, and populated with rare and exotic birds. Members of both societies enjoyed meeting together for. Special thanks to SFPS president Tim McKernon, Dr. Patrick Griffith and the staff of MBC, and Fr. Daniel Kubala, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church for their hospitality.

## Ron Eward and Fiona Pierce's, Valkaria

CFPACS first visited "Ron's Palm Sanctuary" on a hot June day in 2007. Despite the heat, it was a fantastic meeting. Visitor's were "wowed" by the tropical jungle that Ron had created on Goat Creek. It was great to return on April 25 to see what new species Ron has planted and to see how things have grown. There were about 45 CFPACS members and guests throughout the day,



*How many palm society members does it take to plant a palm? SFPS and CFPACS members planted a population of *Roystonea oleracea* at MBC during a joint meeting there this past April. Photo by Lek Wallace*



## Epcot Flower and Garden Festival

Since 1994 the Epcot Flower and Garden Festival has enchanted guests with a colorful array of flowers, gardens, topiaries, live music and educational events. As a new addition for this year, Disney invited local garden clubs to set up displays in the golden domed "Garden Town" exhibit hall. As Disney's way of saying thanks (and enticing volunteers) each person who staffed a club exhibit received a complimentary pass for one day at any Disney park. CFPACS was able to schedule enough volunteers to staff a booth for two weekends in May during the festival.



*Visitors took a lot of literature from the CFPACS display at Epcot.*

The CFPACS display featured pictures of palm and cycad plantings throughout central Florida, literature on growing palms and cycads, CFPACS membership brochures and several live plants. We distributed several hundred pieces of literature throughout the weekend. The most valuable aspect of our display was our volunteers, who spoke with visitors and answered their palm and cycad questions. John Green said that "most questions were about Asian Scale on Sagos (about 50% of our visitors), nutritional issues (both palms and



*Dypsis species growing by Goat Creek at Ron's Palm Sanctuary. Photo by John Green.*

although not all were present at one time. There was a distinct morning and afternoon shift to this meeting. One visitor even arrived by kayak! We enjoyed a pot luck lunch together and concluded the day with an auction and plant sale. One notable deal at the auction was a Red Sealing Wax Palm, *Cyrtostachys renda* (donated by our host Ron Eward) that sold for only \$35. Such deals to be had at CFPACS auctions! We are grateful to Ron and Fiona for their hospitality to all who visited that day.

*Note: reports on our June and September meetings will appear in the next Palmateer.*



*Ron Eward (red shirt) gives a brief history of his garden to members gathered for the April CFPACS meeting. Behind the group is a newly acquired vacant lot - room for more palms? Photo by John Green.*



cycads) and a few about transplanted palms and fertilization. "

Tom Broome relayed an interesting conversation that he had at the CFPACS booth. "We had a couple come over who lived in New York. We asked them if they had any questions about palms, and the wife said they didn't have any questions because they couldn't grow any palms in her area anyway. (as she was standing right next to a needle palm) She told us that she lived in a special area in New York on a small peninsula that was surrounded by water and that they never had temperatures lower than 10F and her usual lows were more like 15F to 20F. We told her she could grow needle palms, windmill palms and *Sabal minors* outside. We did mention she might have to cover them if they were going to be smothered by snow, but otherwise, she could grow palms in New York! She looked like she was around 70 years old plus and for the first time, she was going to go out and try some palms.



Tom Broome making a point to one of the many visitors to the CFPACS display at this year's Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival. Photo by Brian Warner

A special thanks to the CFPACS members who volunteered during Epcot: Tom Broome, John Green, Heath Jorgensen, David Martin, David and Geri Prall and Brian Warner.

## Save Our Sagos

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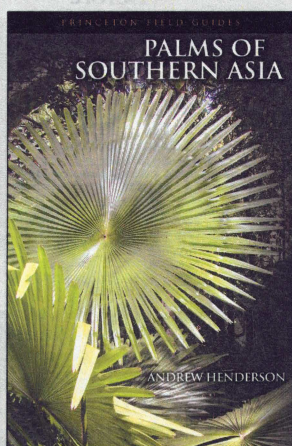




# Treasurer's Report *Catherine Johnson, treasurer*

Fiscal Year End 12/31	2008	2007	2006
<b>Income</b>			
Donations	\$110.00	\$343.90	\$0.00
Membership Dues	\$3,166.52	\$3,099.26	\$2,625.00
Private Sales (CFPACS meetings)	\$3,630.00	\$3,660.00	\$2,359.00
Public Sales (FIT, USF, etc.)	\$11,914.41	\$11,242.08	\$5,984.23
Seed Sales	\$2,599.10	\$3,847.26	\$5,548.13
T-Shirt Sales	\$451.79	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$21,871.82</b>	<b>\$22,192.50</b>	<b>\$16,516.36</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Bank Charges	\$7.00	\$21.00	\$94.25
CFPACS Meeting Expenses	\$551.83	\$433.60	\$158.40
Corporate Report Fee	\$61.25	\$61.25	\$61.25
Events (speakers)	\$338.44	\$0.00	\$682.79
Gifts Given	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Grants	\$986.00	\$1,000.00	\$760.77
Membership Expenses	\$67.67	\$56.12	\$28.15
Office Supplies	\$98.68	\$348.93	\$102.29
Publications ( <i>Palmateer</i> )	\$6,069.14	\$5,297.18	\$6,317.73
Public Relations	\$263.75	\$182.69	\$0.00
Sales Tax	\$329.53	\$576.98	\$620.14
Seed Bank Supplies	\$376.03	\$685.88	\$358.85
T-Shirts	\$815.85	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vendor Fees	\$1,697.31	\$1,039.51	\$818.41
Vendor Proceeds	\$10,709.40	\$10,312.80	\$6,116.80
Web Site	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$22,371.88</b>	<b>\$20,145.94</b>	<b>\$16,249.83</b>
Bank Balance on January 1	<b>\$19,095.70</b>	<b>\$21,740.87</b>	<b>\$20,362.78</b>
Bank Balance on December 31	\$15,181.09	\$19,095.70	\$21,740.87
<b>Net Increase/Decrease</b>	<b>(\$3,914.61)</b>	<b>(\$2,645.17)</b>	<b>\$1,378.09</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Endowment (Mutual Fund)	\$5,514.27	\$8,242.81	\$7,928.07
Sale of Putnam Shares	\$2,958.81	\$2,958.81	\$2,958.81
Certificate of Deposit	\$6,550.00	\$3,494.10	\$0.00
Printer	\$1,975.00	\$2,975.00	\$3,825.00
Office Equipment, Computer, Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$16,998.08</b>	<b>\$17,670.72</b>	<b>\$14,711.88</b>
<b>Net Worth</b>	<b>\$32,179.17</b>	<b>\$36,766.42</b>	<b>\$36,452.75</b>

The society's finances are sound, we continue to nearly break even with income and expenses. A new expense for 2008 was the purchase of more CFPACS t-shirts in November, and signs for our meetings and the Festival of Palms (public relations). The t-shirts have sold well for us, but there were not enough sales during 2008 to entirely recoup our investment. The decrease in the bank account balance reflects \$6000 that has been put into CDs over the past two years. Although interest rates are not high, we are at last getting some return on those funds. Finally, we have suffered a loss in our mutual fund. The decrease there is consistent with what most other funds have lost due to the present economy. Thanks to all who contribute financially to CFPACS through membership, gifts, seed donations and vendor sales. Your contributions enable the society to continue its mission in central Florida.



## Palms of Southern Asia *Andrew Henderson*

*Palms of Southern Asia* is the only complete field guide to the 43 genera and 352 species of palms and rattans that occur in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. This attractive guide's handsome illustrations and succinct, authoritative, and jargon-free text make identification easy. Each species account includes the correct scientific and common names, and fully describes morphology, habitat, and uses. Featuring a distribution map for most species and 256 full-color photographs, this is also the only field guide to cover the extremely diverse palm flora of Vietnam, and the first to offer a taxonomic overview of the rattan species of Southern Asia.

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*Copernicia textilis* (above left) and *Copernicia hospita* (above right) at Las Nuevas, Cuba. Large stand of *Sabal domingensis* growing in a dry river bed near Guantanamo (below). Photos by Rene Coativy







## ***Palms of Cuba***

**Top:** *Coccothrinax litoralis* at Vandro Beach Resort.

**Middle:** *Coccothrinax alexandri* at Nibujon.

**Bottom:** Magnificent view over the water, El Yunque is on the horizon.

*Photos by Rene Coativy*

