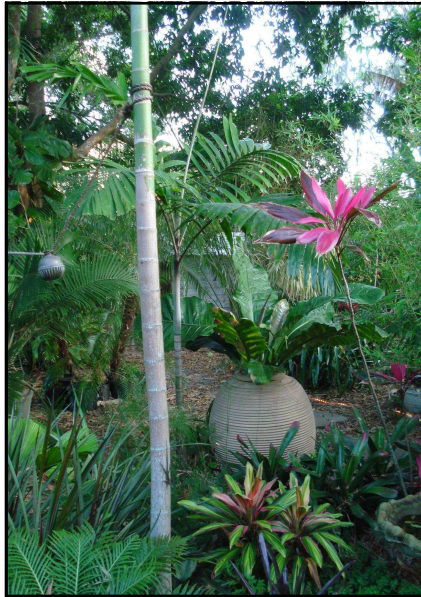


The Palmateer

Volume 33, Number 4

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

December 2013



Gina Valentino's garden, first stop on December meeting in Sarasota.



Caryota obtusa at Rob Branch's, second stop on the December meeting.

CFPACS Winter Fiesta in Sarasota on December 7th!

COME to Sarasota on December 7th for the annual gala, also known as the December sociable, meeting, and party. Early in December, it's possible to have a CFPACS gathering without getting entangled with everything that follows later in the month.

Tours of two gardens, plus food, plus a palm bonsai demonstration, plus plant auction and plant sale. Haven't heard yet whether President Lucinda has arranged for a balloon ascension or a Blue Angels flyover, but will keep members updated as further events may unfold. But do bring your own chair.

The first garden belongs to Gina Valentino and Nicholas Georgiades, **2508 19th Street in Sarasota**. We've not been here before. Gina promises, in addition to palms, lots of bamboos, bromeliads, aroids, tropicals that remind her of Hawaii. Peering at a picture she sent, I can spot a *Veitchia* of some kind dimly visible amid a profusion of plants. She didn't specify machetes, but maybe in the car, if required? Sounds promising, yes? Arrive at 10:30, depart at noon.

The second stop is well-known to long-time members and must-see for those more recently aboard: Rob Branch's acre and a half, 20 years in the making. Susie Dow says there are 260 species of palms and 20 species of cycads. That's just for starters, lots of

(Continued on page 3)



Membership Dues
Membership for 2014
goes up to \$20 domestic
for one year, \$55 for three
years. Foreign member-
ship: \$20 (USD) for one
year.

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PALM GARDEN TOURS!
PIG ROAST!
BONSAI PALM DEMONSTRATION!
PLANT AUCTION & SALE!

Tour #1—2508 19th St., Sarasota, FL. Garden of Gina Valentino and Nicholas Georgiades, 10:30-Noon.

Tour #2—1315 38th St., Sarasota, FL. Garden of Rob Branch and Susan Dow, Noon to 1:30.

Bonsai Palm demonstration, Ken Johnson, 1:30-2:15, Branch/Dow garden.

Lunch: Cuban Pig Roast, rice & beans. Bring side dish, salad, vegetable, dessert. Water and soft drinks provided. CFPACS members free, \$6 for visitors. 1:00-2:00.

Plant auction: 2:15-2:45
Plant sale: 2:45-3:15
The public is invited to these garden tours.

Board meeting at Gina's: 9:30.



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

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Gina Valentino & Nicholas Georgiades
2508 19th St., Sarasota, FL

From I-75: Take Exit 210 (FL780), Fruitville Rd. Go west on Fruitville Rd. about 3 miles. Turn right (north) on N. Tuttle Ave. for about a mile to 17th St. Left (west) on 17th St. The second right is N. Euclid Ave. Turn right (north) on N. Euclid Ave. The first left is 19th St. The property on the south side of that block.

From U.S.#41 (Tamiami Trail): Turn east on 10th St. to U. S. #301, N. Washington Blvd. Turn left (north) on 301 to 17th St. Turn right (east) on 17th St. to N. Lime Ave. Left (north) on N. Lime Ave. to 19th St. Right (east) on 19th St.

December 7th Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

other plants, including fruit trees. The address: **1315 38th Street in Sarasota**, 10 minutes from the first stop. Arrive at noon, depart around 3:15.

Lunch will be served here, from 1:00-2:00. It's Cuban Pig Roast, cooked by the masters of the craft, accompanied (of course) by rice and beans. Attendees should bring a side dish to help out with the eating: salad, vegetable, dessert, bread—your pick. Water and soft drinks will be provided. Lunch is free to CFPACS members, for visitors—who are welcome—the cost is \$6.

Between 1:30 and 2:15, Ken Johnson will demonstrate how to create a palm bonsai. Bonsai is an ancient art but using palms is a fairly new adaptation.

Then, at 2:15, the real business of the day

Rob Branch & Susan Dow
1315 38th St., Sarasota, FL

From I-75: Take Exit 40 (University Pkwy.) Go east about 2½ miles to Bradenton Rd., which is the first traffic light after the Sarasota Kennel Club. Turn left (south) on Bradenton Rd. for about a mile to 38th St. Turn left (east) on 38th St. for one block to Coconut. Turn left on Coconut. The property is on the right, taking up the full block between 38th and 39th Sts.

From U. S.#41: East on Myrtle St. to Coconut St. Left on Coconut, the property is in the second block on the right.

First Stop to Second Stop
2508 19th St. to 1315 38th St., Sarasota

West on 19th St. to Seeds Ave. Left (south) on Seeds Ave. to 17th St. Right (west) on 17th St. about half a mile to U. S. #301. Turn right (north) on 301 for about ¼ of a mile to Myrtle St. Left (west) on Myrtle St. about a mile to Central Ave. Right (north) on Central Ave. The first left is 38th St.



begins: the auction followed by the plant sale.

The schedule is on page 2, the directions are above on this page.

—John Kennedy

September Meeting Report

By John Kennedy

OLD HOME WEEK! On a hot, sunny day (the usual for our meetings) when we all arrived at Hidden River subdivision 20 miles or so east of Sarasota to be greeted by Faith Bishock. How many times have we been here? Can't recall, but most recently in December 2009. Nothing like returning to where you are more than welcome.

On one past visit, I came home clutching a bottle of palm wine, my booty from the auction plus a small gift palm from Ray Hernández. (Who bottled the wine made from *Butia capitata* fruit? Someone from Orlando, must ask Faith. First taste a shock, not like wine from grapes, then, not bad. Even as we speak, a genius-member is perfecting a knockout palm liqueur. But I di-



Outside Faith's shade house. Clearly this is a serious palm person—as if we didn't know.

(Photo by Lek Wallace)



OK, what is Faith pointing at? Nobody seems to be looking. (Photo by Lek Wallace)

gress. . .)

However, some of the 55 members present had not been to *chez* Bishock before. To them, all new and lovely. To the old-timers (creak, creak) a chance to see how well Faith's palms have grown and to see what she has planted in the interval since last time. And, of course, what's in the shade house, what's in the nursery stock is always worth looking at.

Our second stop was 10 minutes away at the new garden of Catherine and Joe Presley, where we ate barbeque sandwiches, the meat home-roasted by our hosts. It's a mostly wide-open 5 acres. Serious palmo-philos looked around enviously. People who are all planted out can regard all that space wistfully, well able—of course—to fill it with palm and cycad goodies.

Our speaker, after lunch, was Laurie Schiller of Florida Native Plants nursery, a mile or so



The Tour—off into the shade, following Faith (center), more palms ahead.

(Photo by Lek Wallace)

Guarding the entrance to Faith's shade house are these sturdy Copernicia macroglossa.

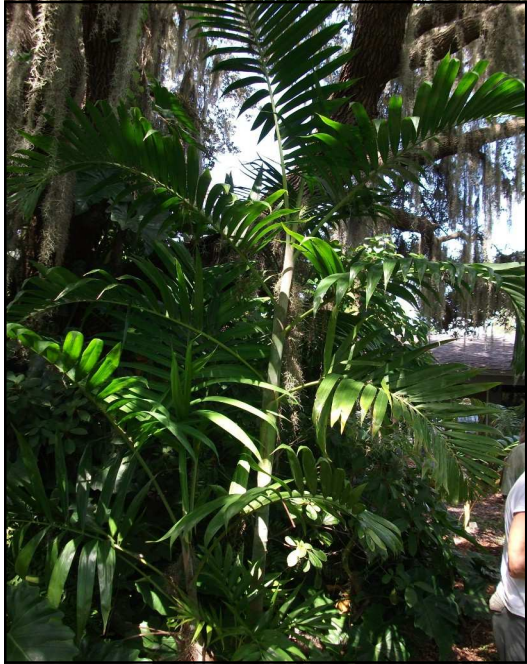
(Photo by Lek Wallace)



away. Her talk was illustrated with Florida native plants that would be good companions for palms.

Our gift was the same for both hosts: a beautiful largish *Kerriodoxa elegans*. We didn't quite say that we would be back at a future date to check on how well each palm has been cherished. But, as both Faith and Catherine know, that's an implicit promise.

**Season's
Greetings**



Left, a Chamaedorea in the shade at the Presleys'. Below, Laurie Schiller of nearby Florida Native Plants nursery talks about companion native plants. The palm next to her is Kerriodoxa elegans, gift of CFPACS to our hosts. Bottom left, the Rhapis house there.
(Photos by Lek Wallace)



Is That a Palm Bonsai?

By Ken Johnson

Bonsai is a huge subject which I know very little about. I do follow lots of Bonsai “Pages” on Facebook but I never –well, once, keep reading-- have seen palms as subjects. I **have** seen an incredible display of bonsai palms at one of the palm sales in South Florida but I forget whose they were.

I **also** know that some of the palms I have grown have found themselves dwarfed out by gross mistreatment, near death, only to recover when cared for. Recently, on Facebook, I saw some bonsai coconuts (that is the only bonsai shown). They were true works of art. I did read an article in *Principes* about a bonsai coconut from many years ago and all those things put the idea in my head to try bonsai some palms myself. Here are some notes.

For sure, palms CAN be bonsai subjects. As most of us know palms will get skinny and have small heads when under cared for. If they are in the ground and you add food and water they will perk up and in many cases there is a chance to bring them to near full glory. If they are in a tiny little pot and you add fertilizer they too will green up but their growth is restricted because they don't have as much root mass as if they were in the ground.

What I am describing is “how to make a bonsai”. Sounds simple right? Just restrict the roots from soil but water and fertilize. There are several ways to get started. I have started with seedlings and I have used palms that were in the ground that had been damaged by hurricanes or just ones that never grew well for whatever reason. The best size

(Continued on page 8)



*Ken Johnson working on a palm bonsai.
(Photo by Victor Owen Johnson)
Below, a finished palm bonsai.*



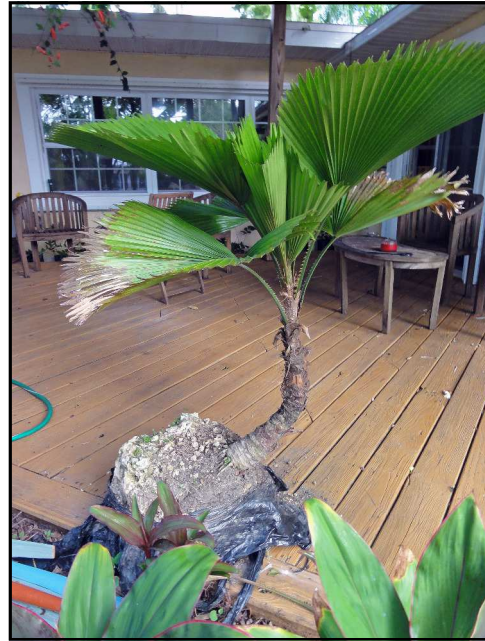
That *Is* a Palm Bonsai. . .

(Continued from page 7)

for making this easy and efficient for mass production would be palms that are in “3 Gallon” pots and at an age where the roots are NOT full in the pot. This way the roots can be teased out so the trunk lands on the rock or in the bonsai pot with its trunk close to the rock or pot’s surface. That is it! Well, that is the basics but I thought... now what? **I took** some older (still in small pots like 10” but way overdue for stepping up) *Dypsis cabadae* as well as some other genera like *Licuala*, *Satakentia*, *Heterospathe* (any palm is fine) and attached them and some fresh soil I packed around them, to some oolitic lime stone rocks that were small enough that I could lift them easily. I tied them on with hemp rope so it would rot away. I also wrapped the entire rock with stretch plastic covering the roots and all of the rock. Then I put a dripper in a hole on top and waited. This can be done using a bonsai pot too. **A year** or so later I unwrapped the plastic over a few months’ time and the erosion sort of kept the roots from going too wild. A sort of natural root pruning that mimics what you would find using dicots as bonsai subjects. I do grow them sitting on bare earth. The starter subjects eventually find a path for the roots to grow into the ground. Turning them is also a way to “prune” the roots. It is also important to rotate the palms ever month or so not only to avoid rooting into the ground but also to show them different angles of the sun. The palms need fertilizer over this time so mix up some liquid with minors and drench them every month or so.

Bent palms are often used in landscape and

(Continued on page 9)



Licuala grandis as a Ken Johnso bonsai on Lucinda McCartney’s deck.
Below a close-up of the rock.
(Photos by Herself)



That *Is* a Palm Bonsai! . . .

(Continued from page 8)

in bonsai it is easy to “bend” a palm. Just turn the pot (or rock) on its side! It does take years to grow bonsai so this is not for the “instant gratification” crowd. A bend with the head fully erect again takes about two years. In addition to the palm itself there are some other parts to the art.

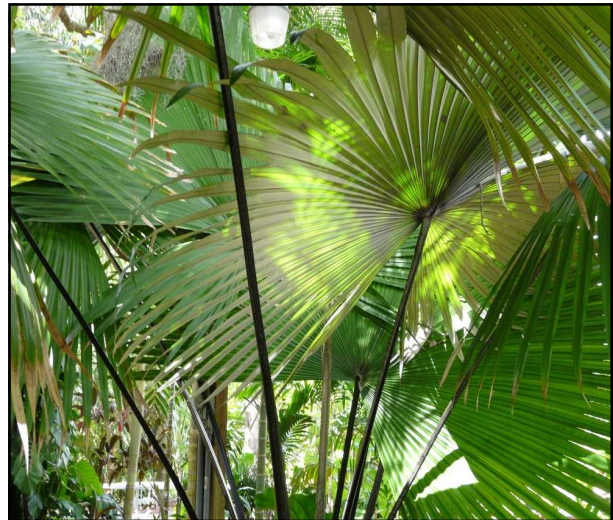
Bonsai pots kind of make the whole thing come together. Ceramic pots with intricate glazes are often used but other pots are used, too. Once the palm is rooted in its special pot it can then be displayed on a pedestal at eye level for the best effect. The palm can also be grown on a rock or any other substrate you can get it to “hold” on to. The rock can then be placed in the bonsai pot so it adds another dimension to the subject. Once in the final pot I am not sure how long you will have before the next major maintenance visit. Sun is OK if the subject can stay wet enough and the species can take sun in first place.

I suspect that after a year or so it would be good to remove the subject from the final pot and “wash” it. This involves a lot of water running through the root and soil mix and washes out “salts”. It also washes out soil and damages roots. This is fine and another way to root prune the palm to keep it small but the soil needs to be “replaced”. So after the bath put it back in the pot and add a soil mix to the top and over the next week or so wash it in and add more, over time, into the root mass. This should hold you over for another year or two and not make your palm look poor. By this time you have about 6 years into the project!

One key to bonsai palm health is keeping

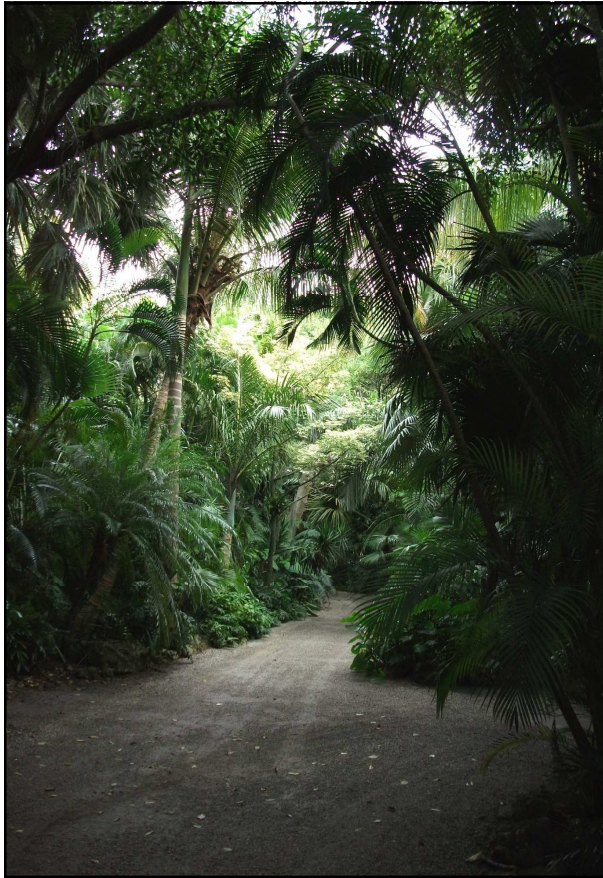
them wet. Bonsai palms cannot be left on their own. If you go on vacation they can die while you are gone. They are dependent on you to keep them wet. When starting out they can be manipulated by stressing them through withholding water but when they are in a finished pot, you don’t want a bunch of brown leaves that will take 2 years to replace.

The best way to keep them wet for long periods is to place them on drip irrigation that is automatic. A simple system can be put in place in a special spot of the garden where the bonsai will spend most of their time. When ready to be displayed in the house for parties and special occasions just set up the pedestal, clean up the pot *and palm* with soap and water and you will have a plant that your guests will talk about forever!



Leaves of a full size Kerriodoxa elegans at Rob Branch's. (Photo by Susan Dow)

A Stroll through Eden on Palm Beach



By John Kennedy

Fifteen members of the French palm society, *Fous de Palmiers*, toured Casa Phippsberger, the beautiful estate on Palm Beach, along with five or six Floridians, on November 15th. The guide on the two-hour rambling walk was a son of the house, Inigo Eigelsberger. **And what** a place! Six acres with 120 species of palms, lots of crotons, quite a few cycads, plus many tropical plants. In addition, one of the largest bromeliad collections in the U. S. Orchids, of course, some bamboo, and Florida native plants. The visitors looked at

Delighted French visitors walked into this landscape at Casa Phippsberger on Palm Beach.

laminated maps of the overall scheme.

Except right around the house, it's a 'jungle.' Don't picture this as weedy or overgrown, for the garden is cleverly maintained in mint condition not immediately obvious. Grass is at a slowly decreasing minimum as our tour-guide told us. A bit on the east side of the house (to reassure conventional taste?), but otherwise scarce. So good is the 'jungle' that houses around the estate are completely invisible from within. An interesting point: the fallen palm debris is not cleared out and carted away but left to decay in place to enrich the sandy soil.

An amusing conceit is the placement all round the garden of sculptures that are the work of the lady of the house, Susie Phipps Eigelsberger. Some are clearly jokes, including a metallic version of Mr. Eigelsberger's old garden jeans. Several pools and a variety of fountains add sound and a touch of coolness to the tropical landscape. Hurricane Wilma in 2005 devastated the cover, much of which appeared to be *Ficus* trees.

Because there are few, if any, straight lines, the visitors' sight seems to carry no more than about 20 feet inside an enclosure of green. A pathway to one side and there's another space, with an array of plants with texture, hue, and shape slightly different from the previous place.

According to New York Social Diary



OK, group shot.
Below, one of the whimsical sculptures on the estate: a 7-foot ant.

(<http://www.newyorksocialdiary.com/node/241877>), the present lush garden dates back to 1993 when 14 acres of the original 20 were sold off for development, the big old house on-site razed, and the remainder began to be planted as it is now. **For someone** like this writer, an overload, too much to absorb so quickly. The tour was arranged by Charlie Beck, editor of the Palm Beach chapter's *Monthly Update*. After the tour, the visitors went to lunch at Testa's, the old Palm Beach restaurant, where they sat at tables out front. Then off to Dale Holton's home to the cycad and palm nursery/garden and to Richard Moyroud's Mesozoic Nursery of Florida native plants, remarkable for its grove of mature *Mauritia flexuosa* growing in wetland.



Coccothrinax barbadensis at Casa Phippsberger.



On the terrace at Casa Phippsberger. Note the Bottle Palms in large pots that carry through the themes of palms and whimsy.

One of several pools as focal points on the Eigelsberger estate. Look at all those bromeliads. Agaves and yuccas are also abundant. And that's a Ficus hedge on the right, a common landscape feature on Palm Beach.



A Kenyan Cycad

By Charlie Beck

[This article is reprinted, with permission, from the September 2013 issue of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society's Monthly Update. Charlie Beck is its editor.]

Encephalartos kisambo is a large cycad native to Kenya. It was discovered in 1970, was named in 1977, and was officially described in 1989. Its native habitat is restricted to an area estimated to be only 400 acres. It occurs at elevations of 2,600-3,400' in partial shade on dry bushland. In 2003 it was estimated that only 5,200 individual plants remained in habitat. *E. kisambo* is considered endangered due to land clearing for subsistence farming and charcoal production.

E. kisambo is a large cycad with stems which can reach 7' tall and grow 2' in diameter. Leaves can measure up to 12' long. This cycad rarely suckers from the base so it has a neat appearance. Cones are yellow to orange and are very attractive. The base of the rachis is swollen and leaf scars are diamond shaped. This cycad is most closely related to *E. hildebrandtii*.

We have a single specimen of *E. kisambo* planted in our garden [in Lake Worth]. It was planted 18 years ago and has grown a stem which measures 28" in diameter and 2' tall. The leaves measure 9' long and the cones are 2' long. Our specimen is planted in full sun in an area which floods after repeated heavy rainfall. Even though its native habitat is dry and lightly shaded, our plant seems to thrive in moist soil and full sun.

Back in 1995, I was not familiar with this cycad. It was only scientifically described 6 years prior to its planting in our garden. Dale Holton was probably the first nurseryman in the area to sell this cycad. Dale still offers



Top, *Encephalartos kisambo* in the Beck garden. Below, full size, Norm Moody's in 2011.

this plant for sale at our sponsor, Holton Nursery. I gave it a try and I've been rewarded with a stand-out plant. Dale told me that *E. kisambo* is one of the top three *Encephalartos* species which can be grown in Palm Beach County. The other two species that rival *E. kisambo* in vigor are *E. gratus*

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Kenyan Cycad

(Continued from page 13)

and *E. hildebrandtii*. I would add *E. ferox* to that list. Norm Moody had a beautiful specimen of *E. kisambo* growing in full shade. This cycad reportedly grows much faster in full sun. It flushes new leaves more often and cones quicker in full sun but Norm's plant in full shade was sure impressive.

We are lucky that *E. kisambo* is still available for sale in our area. This is a cycad that can be a focal point in your garden. It is a strong grower in our sandy soils. It looks good at

any size but is really impressive when mature. It grows well in sun or shade, and both dry or moist soil. It has never displayed micro-nutritional deficiency in our garden when fertilized at the recommended rate. I'm sure that Norm Moody's specimen was rarely fertilized with more than composted horse manure, and his plant looked great. The colorful cones draw attention and minimal suckering from the base translates to easy maintenance. If you have the room for this large cycad, I recommend that you buy yours before the supply is exhausted.

Amazing, but Some People Just Don't Like Palms!

By John Kennedy

Here we are, in beautiful La Florida, where many species of palms may be grown. OK, maybe most of the visible palms are the usual 6-8 species that snob palm collectors look down on. And folks in Miami smile at how few worthwhile palms us pore relations in Central Florida can plant. **What is** always puzzling, however, is how many houses have no palms whatsoever. And I don't just mean the all-grass-all-over-lawn-with-two-shrubs frequently seen next to a CFPACS member's house which is dimly visible through all the greenery. Not even a rickety, sick-looking Queen Palm that the builder put in years back, slowly inching toward the grave.

On my long walks from my house—largely suspended during the height of the summer—I am always struck by the number of properties (I'd say 1 in 5 or 6) that has no palms whatever. Not even five small *Wash-*

ingtonias planted out front, so cute and small, or the line of 3-gallon Triangle Palms, 12 inches back on either side of the driveway.

And there is a house a few blocks away that is remarkable for the lushness of its lawn and no tree, no bush at all. Maybe one or two builder's shrubs pruned nearly to extinction. Well, true, no tree limb or tree will fall on that house in hurricane, the roof thus is entirely safe. Possibly another interpretation—more sinister—is that the inhabitants regard the world of plants much as the Puritans in Nathaniel Hawthorne's stories, as a place of unbridled sensuality, the haunt of Satan. Let the greenery get too close and you're damned! (Hey, the couple of little bushes each have about 10 leaves, can't let the devil in by the back door.)

A family connection moved in retirement to Stuart 20 years ago from Oak Park, Illinois—though I knew his formative gardening years were in North Jersey—to whom I gave a 3-

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Don't Like Palms!

(Continued from page 14)

foot Queen Palm, playing it safe. New house, almost two acres, completely bare. He thanked me with a grimace, then planted it in the rear of the lot out of sight once he had put in 20 citrus trees. Told me palms did nothing, just sticks with some leaves coming out at the top. His idea of what his property should look like was suburban Morris County, New Jersey. OK, citrus doesn't grow there but what he had planted reminded me of peach trees in the past. (Oh, he would pay when the trees fruited at the same time with enough to feed his whole development. I said nothing. His wife, my 'aunt' made a face at me. She had learned long ago to say nothing.)

Someone I know is a marvelous gardener for whom just about everything grows lushly, quickly, overwhelmingly. Her revulsion about palms is beyond articulation or—maybe—she just doesn't want to hurt my feelings. However, I did spot a couple of small palms (Queens), self-seeded from the neighbors and asked how come. She won't pull them up if they arrived on their own. I was tempted to drive by some dark night and throw *Livistona saribus* seeds (of which I always have plenty in the fall) onto her property. Or, better yet, *Allagoptera arenaria* seeds that take forever to germinate but would likely do so for her in a month. But she'd know, and would call me to book.

I wonder sometimes whether negative feeling about palms is a consequence of seeing so many palms in such bad shape: unfed, unwatered, unloved. And, certainly, at least half the palms I see look terrible. Folks have told me how much trouble palms are, drop debris constantly, particularly thousands of

Below, *Thrinax radiata* at Mounts Botanical Garden, West Palm. What's not to love?

(Photo by John Kennedy)



seeds that have to be picked up before mowing (Queen Palms), and then the dead leaves don't fall off, requiring much trouble to remove those eyesores. I don't really have an answer to that one but have figured a response, anyway, a counter-attack.

Do you have a tree, I ask. Often—though not always—I inquire whether it drops any debris. Hesitation, then (grudgingly), a bit. Need to be picked up before mowing? Um, yes. Then I talk—diversion—about my big Southern Magnolia. Gorgeous big flowers for a few weeks, dead leaves the size and consistency of plastic dinnerplates year-

(Continued on page 16)

Don't Like Palms!

(Continued from page 15)

round. Plus seed pods, flowers, twigs, etc. Whole branches, even. And the damned thing keeps getting bigger, wider, needs pruning back off the roof at the beginning of hurricane season.

I also point out that the size of palms is predetermined and if planted prudently, there are few surprises. But this doesn't sway those whose idea of how a house landscape should look has been formed Up North. And, occasionally, the criticism is that palms provide no shade.

But then I ask what the person is growing, if not palms. If it's nothing much aside from whatever cheapie stuff the builder put in, I have my unspoken answer: not really interested in gardening anyway. Or if crotons and hibiscus, at least it's something.

Then there are those like my city-boy brother-in-law who objected to a street dept. planting a line of maples across the street from his house in an inner-city Philadelphia neighborhood: "Trees belong in parks," he told me. Yet, when the local kids destroyed most of them, he protected the one directly in front of his house and even learned about tree fertilizer spikes which he hammered in annually.

Oh, yes, my 'uncle' in Stuart inadvertently fertilized his unloved hidden Queen Palm when he fed his citrus trees and eventually it was obvious that he really thought it lush and beautiful. He was even presenting volunteer seedlings to his neighbors.

What do YOU say when someone tells you he/she doesn't like palms?

What about cycads? *Who?*



Now, what about cycads? This gorgeous female Encephalartos ferox grew to this size from a pup in 5 years and sold for \$700 at the fall sale of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach on October 12th.

(Photo by John Kennedy)

U. A. Young Cycad Collection

Phil Stager made a well-received presentation on purchasing the U. A. Young cycad collection to the St. Petersburg City Council on September 19th that the CFPACS Board had seen at Faith Bishock's house before the September meeting. A written request to spend \$300,000 in Weeki Wachi funds was approved by Council and sent to the next step, the Committee on the Whole (COW). But nothing more, no eventual decision would be made until after the mayoral election on November 4th in which the incumbent was turned out of office.

GIZELLA KOPSICK PALM ARBORETUM AWARDED NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

St. Petersburg, FL (Sept. 17, 2013)

Today, at the city's 47th Annual City Beautiful Awards, it was formally announced that the city's historic and renowned Gizella Kopsick Palm arboretum has been awarded a Level II Accreditation through the ArbNet program, Morton Register of Arboreta. By achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens, the arboretum is now recognized amongst other professional public gardens.

The Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum allows visitors to study and enjoy many exotic and native Florida palms and cycads in one convenient setting. Currently there are more than 500 palms and cycads representing some 150 species from around the world. The arboretum is supervised by the City Beautiful Commission in cooperation with the St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department. The arboretum is located at 901 North Shore Drive along the city's famed waterfront and is open year round, 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

The two-acre park was once a city miniature golf course that was closed due to escalating maintenance costs. A concerned resident and park volunteer, Mrs. Elva Rouse, proposed the area as ideal for a palm arboretum. The proposal was adopted by City Council and subsequently the palm arboretum was created through a generous gift of stock from Miss Gizella Kopsick, a long-time palm admirer. Initially, 60 palms representing 10 species were planted in the park. Drinking fountains, a gazebo, conversation corners with wooden benches and red brick paving were installed. All facilities were de-

signed to meet the needs of the handicapped, which included Miss Kopsick, who was confined to a wheelchair. The arboretum was dedicated on May 16, 1977, Miss Kopsick's 100th birthday. Since then, many additional gifts have been received from interested individuals and organizations and through the efforts of the City Beautiful Commission and the collection continues to grow.

The Morton Register of Arboreta is a comprehensive list and database of arboreta and other public gardens that have a substantial focus on woody plants. The purpose of the Morton Register is to identify all of the organizations that collect and display trees, shrubs, and other woody plants for the benefit of the public, science, and conservation. The Morton Register is sponsored and coordinated by The Morton Arboretum. Arboreta are accredited at different levels depending on degrees of development, capacity, and professionalism. There are four levels of accreditation.

The Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum meets the enhanced level of accreditation by maintaining a formal arboretum plan, having more than 100 kinds of trees or woody plants, and by maintaining a collections policy that describes the development and professional management of the plants in the collection, enhanced educational and public programming beyond the base level required in Level I Accreditation and more. For more information, see www.stpeteparksrec.org/gizella-kopsick-arboretum.html or call 727-893-7441 for more information or to arrange a public tour.

Poison Plants and Palm Seeds

By Lyle Niswander

Some time ago my neighbor asked me if any of my palm seeds were poisonous to his dog?

This is what I found on the web. There are many poisonous plants and palm plants in Florida. There are thousands of different types of plants and 2,500 species of palms. Many plants are poisonous to domestic pets, states "Earth Clinic", a natural remedy web site.

PLANTS

Earth Clinic states the ten most poisonous plants are:

1. Marijuana
2. Sago Palm
3. Lilies
4. Tulips
5. Azalea
6. Oleander
7. Castor Bean
8. Cyclamen
9. Kalanchoe
10. Yew

PALMS

With most palm trees, the biggest problems are razor-sharp leaves and equally sharp thorns. Most species of palms are not toxic. A few palms are toxic and can cause serious medical problems and even death if ingested.

When most people think of poisonous palms, they usually mention Sago Palms. But as we know, these are cycads, not palms. However, try telling that to someone!

Sago Palm--*Cycas revoluta*, known also as the King Sago and *Cycas circinalis/C. rumphii*, known as the Queen Sago. The large orange seeds contain neurotoxins that can paralyze or kill. (Most toxic of all seeds) Dogs who ingest the seeds of a Sago will suffer serious adverse effects that often have long term consequences, with a possible fatality rate of 50% to 75%.

Cardboard Palm --*Zamia furfuracea* is really another cycad. The bright red seed is toxic to animals, causing bruising, liver failure, vomiting and potential death. Some birds do eat my Cardboard seeds.

Formosa Palm (*Arenga engleri*) Dwarf Sugar Palm fruit is toxic if swallowed and can cause severe allergic skin reaction if handled with bare hands.

Fishtail Palm (*Caryota mitis*) contains oxalic acid which is toxic and can cause severe chemical burns when it comes in contact with the skin.

Betel Nut Palm (*Areca catechu*) has nuts that are chewed like tobacco as tradition, custom or ritual in the Far East. It is a drug that is carcinogenic and can cause other problems. This palm is considered by some to be toxic to humans and animals.

PREVENTION/SOLUTION

Humans or animals that are thought to have ingested cycad seeds or palm seeds of the species mentioned should be evaluated by a doctor or veterinarian, even if

(Continued on page 19)

Battling Whiteflies in Central Florida

By Robert Blenker

(Snead Island, Florida) - White flies are here to stay, according to the Manatee County Agricultural Extension Office. In short, this immigrant from Central America has become as endemic as black beans and rice at a Florida barbeque. Whitefly nymphs and adults suck sugars from ornamental and fruit plants, dropping sticky "honeydew" and leaving behind a black, sooty mold. Most likely transported from Central America to the US on agricultural imports, they arrived in Manatee County on infected horticultural specimens from the Miami-Dade area. And, while they currently do not materially damage the plants on which they feed, there exists the possibility that they will become a vector for disease (viral and bacterial) according to the extension agent.

The whiteflies on Snead Island seem to pre-

fer heliconias, *Adonidias*, coconuts, and Gumbo Limbo. However, they have been observed on *Bismarckias*, and even a few spots on mangos. Given that the whitefly feeds regularly on wild populations of native species, it is unlikely that it will be eliminated. Manatee County sees three species of whitefly – the Rugose spiraling whitefly, the ficus whitefly and the Bondar's whitefly. The Rubose spiraling whitefly is the species which seems to have infested Snead Island. **In response** to the infestation, the residents of Snead Island have been using a broad range of methods to battle the whitefly including soapy sprays, chemical drenching, injectibles and biological controls.

While not terribly scientific, an anecdotal analysis of the results these approaches includes:

Strategies:

Do Nothing: Many of the island's residents are oblivious to the effects of the whitefly. Their plants remain relatively healthy with black, sooty leaves being the only sign of infestation. The plants remain robust, and therefore merit little attention from their owners. However, these untreated gardens serve as a reservoir for re-infestation for the rest of the island. Given that whiteflies are well established, and commonly thrive on wild, native vegetative populations such as Gumbo Limbo (*Busera simaruba*), it is unlikely that they will ever be eradicated.

Beneficial Insects: Some residents have had success with the release of beneficial insects. In particular, the larvae of the green lacewing (*Chrysopidae*) as a treatment for spiraling whitefly has proven very effective. Lace-

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Poison Plants and Palm Seeds

(Continued from page 18)

symptoms are not yet present. Very small amounts of seed or leaves are required to produce severe symptoms, which may lead to permanent organ damage or death. Take a leaf or fruit of the palm or cycad to the doctor or veterinarian for proper identification.

[An interesting source of information about dermatitis from palms may be found at <http://www.botanical-dermatology-database.info/BotDermFolder/PALM.html> This is a website of Cardiff University, Wales, in the U. K.—Editor]

Battling Whiteflies in Central Florida

(Continued from page 19)

wings may be purchased as eggs or larvae. The application of eggs is uncomplicated. Eggs are placed on or around affected plants. The larvae will hatch in four to six days, depending upon ambient temperature. Upon hatching, the larvae, sometimes called aphid lions, will travel up to 100 ft. in search of a meal of whitefly eggs or larvae. They are voracious, and will cannibalize each other if there is insufficient prey.

For particularly serious infestations, multiple applications of lacewing eggs or larvae may be necessary. Also, lacewings seem to be susceptible to neighborhood fogging for mosquitoes.

The Extension Office also mentioned the use of parasitic wasps or ladybugs. However, it seems that the wasps are most effective of the two.

Lacewings and other beneficial insects have become well-established in a healthy garden. Re-release of additional eggs or larvae seem to be necessary only when there is a severe infestation of new white flies. Many organic gardening supply houses such as Ar-bico Organics (www.arbico.com) distribute lacewing eggs and larvae.

“Aphid lion” eggs cost about \$39 for 10,000 eggs. This was enough for a heavily infested ½ acre garden. Larvae (hatched) are about \$40 for 2,000. There are various ways to apply – eggs come in hanging cages, packed in rice hulls or packed in trays like egg trays, depending upon the problem or level of infestation to be treated.

Mechanical Wash: A mechanical wash has been used by several Snead Island gardeners, with very limited results. A dilute detergent solution is applied using a pressure

washer. While this has an immediate effect, and also removes the black, sooty appearance of the affected plant, re-infestations often occur in as little as a week. This is a time-consuming and short-lived solution.

Chemical Control - Drench: This is the most aggressive strategy promoted as an option by the Extension Office. An insecticidal drench is applied to the roots of the affected tree. Montana, or a similar chemical insecticide with the active ingredients of *Imidacloprid* or *Dinotefuran*, is the recommended treatment applied via two applications, ten days apart. Treatments early in the spring with *Imidacloprid* seem to yield year-long results and are relatively inexpensive at approximately \$20 per tree per application. *Dinotefuran* seems to require re-application three to four times per year. However, there is a significant downside to the use of drenches. Firstly, the fruit of any plant treated with the drench becomes TOXIC and poisonous to humans, animals and insects. This is a very significant threat in an area like Snead Island where it is common for neighbors to share fruit – and where fruit is eaten by yard crews, landscapers and others who routinely harvest fruit from yards (with or without the permission of the homeowners). An additional concern is that the drench will leach through Snead Island’s highly-permeable sandy soil into the surrounding bays and groundwater. Finally, the drench produces a toxicity that is not specific and may pose a threat to beneficial insects which feed on flowers as well as vital pollinators (although this risk is much less than in the case of sprays).

Chemical Control – Horticultural Oil (Neem): Agricultural oil is applied to the underside of

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Battling Whiteflies in Central Florida

(Continued from page 20)

the leaves of affected plants. This treatment has proven moderately effective, but requires several applications to demonstrate effect. Unfortunately, given the prevalence of whitefly, the battle must be ongoing, with applications every several weeks. Other biodegradable, organic oils have also proven effective, including SMC and Sparrow Oil (popular with cultivators of combustible “non-traditional cash crops” in Florida).

Chemical Control - Injection: Injection of insecticide into infected trees is another option. This approach involves drilling injection ports into the tree. One injection site is required for palms, while one injection site per 2 inches of trunk caliber is required for woody species. The injection hole is plugged with a septum (one-way valve). Chemical, usually *Dinotefuran*, is then injected into this septum by a contractor three to four times per year. While effective, this treatment can cost as much as \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year for a typical ¼ acre garden/yard. During the first treatment, palms are often severely trimmed, and all infected vegetation is removed (and theoretically incinerated). The radical trimming practiced by some horticultural contractors may have a negative effect on already stressed plants.

Chemical Control – Pyrethrin Spray: While sometimes thought of as a “last resort”, this contact insecticide is only moderately effective. While its effects are very short-lived, it has the negative characteristic of being highly toxic to fish and other aquatic life. Application of pyrethrin is not recommended near canals or other bodies of water.

On Snead Island, anecdotal information suggests that the two most cost-effective ap-

proaches to whitefly control offering the greatest results are biological control using beneficial insects and chemical control using a chemical drench.

The Internet abounds with resource information on whitefly control. The University of Florida’s Extension office as well as County Extension Offices are particularly helpful for identifying strategies appropriate to a specific area.

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7401.html>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg254>

<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsAZ/Rugose.pdf>

New Palm Genus/Species

A new palm has recently been identified in a rough mountainous area of Colombia close to the Panamanian border. This is an entirely new genus, *Sabinaria magnifica*, and is related to *Cryosophila* and *Schippia*. A smallish monocious palm, it has distinctive large, round palmate leaves that are split in the middle almost entirely in half.

Description and pictures: <http://www.mapress.com/phytotaxa/content/2013/f/pt00144p044.pdf>

By the look of it, this might be the next palm that Everyone Must Have. Thanks to Charlie Beck, editor of the *Palm Beach Monthly Update*, for the tip.



*Here is a really big old Pindo Palm, *Butia capitata*, growing at Barefoot Bay, a manufactured home community of 9800 residents on the Indian River lagoon in far South Brevard. With a 10-foot trunk and the usual molasses rate of species growth, this is one aged palm. Barefoot Bay originated in the 1970s but the particular area in which it's growing was developed in the 1980s. Owner Nancy Soucy believes it was planted already with some trunk, maybe brought from a previous home by an early resident. Those living in the development are mostly retirees and snowbirds.*

(Photo by John Kennedy)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HOLIDAY KICKOFF

If you've never been to a genuine live whole pig roast – complete with apple in mouth – you're in for a real treat when CFPACS members gather once again at Rob Branch's fantastic garden on December 7th for our annual holiday season kickoff.

As if that isn't enough to start your stomach growling, how about satisfying your palm – and other tropical appetites – by spending time looking at them to your heart's content.

GARDEN TOURS

We'll begin our day touring the Gina Valentino and Nicholas Georgiades tropical jungle (lots of bamboo, too), then on to Rob Branch's place for food, fun and PLANT AUC-

TION. See elsewhere on the website for times and directions.

The December meeting, our fourth this year, tops off a round of really great places for palm fanciers to see how other folks do it, collect ideas for their own gardens and enjoy breaking bread with interesting people who share our enthusiasm for the Prince of Plants

HOW TO BONSAI PALMS AND CYCADS

That's not all: Who among us hasn't wanted to try a hand at bonsai-ing a palm or two. Ken Johnson, famous for his ability to find – and transplant big palms – is coming up from Miami to show us how successful he is at the small stuff, too. He'll demonstrate the steps needed to produce a miniature version of what normally towers 10 to 60 feet in your yard. Feel free to bring a three gallon plant – palm or cycad -- with you for personal suggestions from Ken on how to get started.

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WHAT'S UP FOR 2014?

This coming year promises more of the same – however, we plan to fan out, see how the folks “up north” in more challenging climates such as Orlando manage. We also hope to wander on down south to some fancy places in the Palm Beach area. Where would you like to go? What gardens would you like to see? Email your suggestions to me at palm.president7@gmail.com. Don't be bashful if you have a garden you're proud of. We'd like to see it and I promise your hard work – and money – will be treated with respect.

WE'RE GROWING AGAIN!

A happy note: Our formerly nose-diving membership is now heading the other way. Approximately 150 of you now fill the membership rolls and we're rapidly regaining our dynamic aura in the palm and cycad world just like days of yore.

A PLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE

You may be interested to learn that CFPACS has pledged \$5,000 toward the project of moving the world-famous, but private, U.A. Young Collection of Tampa to Gisela Kopsick Palm Arboretum and Sunken Gardens in St Petersburg. About \$300,000 is needed to keep the collection from going under the bulldozers. It's good to know that our society is getting the ball rolling – and that we're more than just palm and cycad gazers. Phil Stager, our intrepid auctioneer, is spearheading the effort. Contact him if you'd like to make a personal pledge toward this outstanding project – as a number of our members have done – pstager@tampabay.rr.com

THANKS!

Endless thanks are due to your hard-working, unpaid board of directors and advisory committee for their dedication and willing to spend the time necessary to produce an interesting, lively organization. Stop and say “thanks” at the next meeting to the following:

Treasurer: Maryan Krisovitch

Membership: Karen Barrese

Editor, *The Palmateer*: John Kennedy

Seed Bank Coordinator: Dottie Kellogg

Vice Presidents (Central, East, West): Ron Hart, Janice Broda and Mike Evans

Meeting Coordinators: Susan Dow, Rob Branch

Advisory Committee: Ray Hernandez, Bob Blenker and Bob Johnson

And thanks to all of you members, both new and re-upping – particularly those who showed lots of faith by taking two and three year memberships. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President for a most worthwhile organization. Thank you so much for a personally rewarding experience.

See you December 7th.

—**Lucinda McCartney**

For Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society



From the Editor's Desk

Haven't quite figured how a Cuban Pig Roast differs from, say, a Romanian Pig Roast. I recall as a teenager back before World War I that a friend of my Italian uncle planned a Sicilian Pig Roast which (I gathered) was different and superior to a mere Italian Pig Roast. But I'm not sure it ever happened.

A mariachi band would be a great accompaniment. But that's Mexican. Hmm, maybe for Mexican Pig Roasts? Hey, not all the Hispanics in Florida are Cuban in origin, maybe now outnumbered by those of Mexican descent. But President Lucinda, even if she could be brought to agree, would likely torpedo the expense. And, besides, the City of Sarasota would probably require a parade permit or something.

* * * *

You will be pleased to learn that the Coconut Palm has been added to FLIPPC's list of pest plants! Yes, who knew? Don't believe me, go to www.fleppc.org Gee, think of the all folks in Central Florida who have unsuccessfully tried to grow this pest plant. I think this makes 12 palms on their list, maybe 13, have to go back and count. Does the NSA know?

* * * *

Faith Bishock walked me into an open armed mutual big hug on my first sight of her on September 14th. A sweetheart, not seen in far too long. Someone to be very comfortable with. Later in the day, at least two more spontaneous, welcome hugs from her. We go back a long way, fond and funny occasions when John was present to liven up the festivities. (No, I'm not going tell you

how. He did keep his clothes on, thank goodness. I did know a famous author teaching at UF who tended strip off when drunk at parties.)

* * * *

The Eigelsberger estate on Palm Beach was, in that overused term, "awesome." All of us on our suburban house lots, and even those with an acre or so, can barely envision having a personal botanical garden. For 120 species of palms, figure maybe 10 (at least) of each species. Perhaps a thousand palms? Should have asked. For myself, I do better poking around on my own pace (very slowly) than in a walked tour, absorb much more by myself. This I have learned previously.

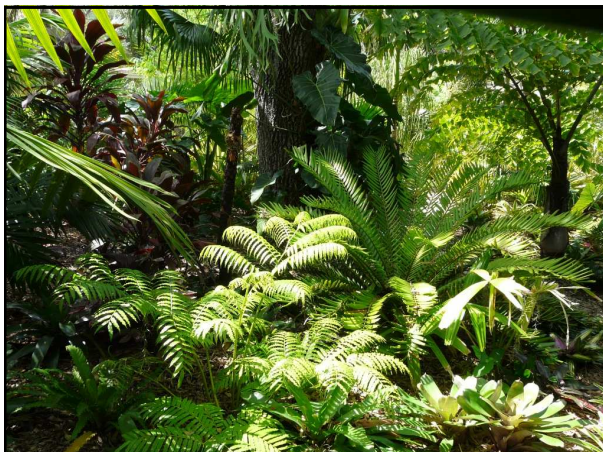
* * * *

Reassurance on Palm Beach. . . In Vero, Mercedes-Benz cars are rarely seen and we can assume that Beamers have taken over that ecological niche here. I was relieved to realize that the company has not gone under, is everywhere in the seasonal traffic on Palm Beach. Beamers were nowhere in sight. Oh, maybe one or two.





*Above, first stop: Gina Valentino & Nick Georgiades, lot of stuff there. (Hurray!)
Below, more tropicals at the estancia of Rob Branch & Susie Dow.*



Third Quarter Board minutes 2013

The third quarter board meeting was called to order at the residence of Faith Bishock on Sept 14, 2013. Board members in attendance were Lucinda McCartney, Mike Evans, Maryann Krysovitch, Ron Hart, Chuck Grieneisen and editor John Kennedy.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer's financial report.

A presentation was given on the Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum trying to acquire the vast palm and cycad collection of the late Dr.

U.A. Young, of whose property we have visited several times. The Young estate is for sale and time is of the essence in acquiring and moving the collection. If a developer would develop it the collection could be lost. It would take \$300,000 for the entire project, with \$125,000 just for the purchase of the plants alone. The rest of the cost is for moving, maintenance etc. It could also be scaled back depending on funding.

A motion was made and passed un-
ananimously to fund the project \$5000 as is needed in the project. It would immediately go for the moving of plants. It was also agreed upon to give our members a password to receive their issues of the "Palmateer" for the year.

Lunch reimbursement for hosts of palm meetings was also discussed. A motion was made and passed unanimously to reimburse our hosts up to \$200 for lunch. Any amount over that would require approval from the board. The cost of the lunch at the meeting would be free for members and \$6 for non members. Kids under 10 would be free. Gifts to the host of the palm meetings was also discussed. Giving the host a gift certificate worth \$50 redeemable to all society palm and cycad sales, or some other gift was discussed. It was generally agreed on.

Participation in public plants sales was discussed. Our society will still do the fall U.S.F. sale, because it is paid for already. The spring one is still up for discussion. Our society will still do the F.I.T. sale in the spring as well.

We also discussed participation in a 2-day all affiliate palm society meeting prior to the IPS biennial in May of 2014. The meeting would be held in Miami.

—Chuck Grieneisen, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Seed Bank | 195.60 |
| Taxes | 361.69 |
| Vendor Fees | 201.56 |
| Vendor Proceeds | 3,923.94 |
| Website | 495.00 |
| Total Expenses Year to Date | \$6,381.64 |
| Assets | |
| Endowment Fund Balance | \$10,275.71 |
| CD #1 1-31-14 maturity | \$3,265.41 |
| CD #2 9-25-13 maturity | \$3,151.28 |
| Sales Cash Box | \$300.11 |
| Total Assets | \$16,992.51 |
| Liabilities | |
| Young Collection Relocation Commitment | \$5,000.00 |
| Total Liabilities | \$5,000.00 |
| Net Worth as of 10/31/13 | \$24,256.51 |
| Opening Checking Balance 1/1/12 | \$9,235.19 |
| Income | \$7,784.32 |
| Expenses | \$6,587.77 |
| Ending Checking Balance 12/31/12 | \$10,431.74 |
| Assets | |
| Endowment (Mutual Fund) | \$7,960.63 |
| Certificate of Deposit | \$6,397.77 |
| Total Assets | \$14,358.40 |
| Net Worth as of 12/31/12 | \$24,790.14 |

—Maryann Krisovitch, Treasurer

Seed Bank Report

Sept. 16 – Nov. 15

Sales in September were brisk, but later offerings were not responded to as well. Total billed was \$313.64 less postage of \$96.50 for a net of \$217.14.

—Dottie Kellogg



Faith Bishock guides the group around her property on Sept. 14th. (Photo by Lek Wallace)

OK, what IS this? Photographer Rick Nale didn't know, maybe a Sabal? Looks to me like a variegated Livistona. Is that possible?



Meanwhile, back in Lake Placid, scene of the June revels of CFPACS, life goes on. Here the Highlands County Master Gardener Sale. Lots of palms for lakeshores. . . (Photo by Walt Darnall)

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 or t-shirts in the message field.

The Cycad Society

11701 Barchetta Drive
Austin, TX 78758
Regular membership, \$35, quarterly
newsletter
<http://cycad.org>

The International Palm Society (IPS)

9300 Sandstone Street
Austin, TX 78737-1135
Regular membership, \$45, quarterly journal
<http://palms.org>

Join CFPACS

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: \$20 one year; \$55 three years;
foreign: US\$20 one year) to:

Maryann Krisovitch
CFPACS Treasurer
1008 Little Fawn Court
Apopka, FL 32712
treasurer@cfpacs.org

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.

Give a friend the
gift of a CFPACS
membership!





John Kennedy's rarest palm, Oraniopsis appendiculata. Only about 25 years in the ground, leaves reach 5 feet high. Maybe a trunk somewhere around 2050?

Palm Oil Again

Palm oil is bad for you, though not on the label. It's found in peanut butter, crackers, cookies, margarine, toothpaste, ice cream, candy, lipstick, soap—even soy milk. Demand continues to increase for palm oil. Right now, according to the online environmental magazine *Ensia* (ensia.com), 25 million acres in Indonesia are planted in oil palms, by 2020 the acreage is predicted to be 50 million acres.

This entails the massive continuing deforestation of the big island of Borneo. Of concern to wildlife conservation groups, this means the potential extinction of the orangutan, man's closest simian relative. What these groups are trying to do now is to buy up as much of the remaining forest as possible. For more details about all this, take a look at the website: <http://www.ensia.com>. *Ensia* is published at the University of Minnesota. —John Kennedy



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