

The Palmateer

Volume 35, Number 3

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

June 2015

Sarasota Meeting: Two Gardens, June 20th

Two gardens are on the schedule for the June 20th meeting in Sarasota. The first garden is that of Rob Branch and Susie Dow. The chapter has visited there a number of times in the past but as we all know, gardens are not static, do not stay the same. Palms grow and other palms may die. In addition, there are more than palms there. It might be possible by now—maybe probable—that visitors will be unable to see the house beyond the greenery.

The second garden belongs to Scott and Darlene Williams. CFPACS has never been there. To quote from elsewhere (the e-mailed notice), “ Scott has been collecting palms for over twenty

years and living on this property for over thirteen years. **“Between neighbors** who don’t appreciate [his collection.]” Well, we all know that one, belief that the highest form of property care requires lawns tended almost on the level of religious belief. Scott also has a greenhouse planted as an atrium with a koi waterfall pond. John and Faith Bishock got Scott to join CFPACS when they first moved to Sarasota, more than 20 years ago. **The Williamses** live in a gated community. Drive up to the gate and it will open for you. Once inside, you will spot the jungle property with the *Borassus*

aethiopum out front that Scott grew from seed.

Here is how the day will go:

10:00 a.m.-11:30 Tour of Rob and Susie’s garden.

Noon Lunch at Scott and Darlene’s garden. Lunch and drinks provided by them.

Bring a side dish or dessert.

12:30 p.m.-1:30 Tour of Scott and Darlene’s garden.

1:30 p.m.-1:45 Membership Meeting

1:45 p.m.-3:00 Plant auction and sale.

Do bring a chair for yourself.

Directions, links to maps on page 3.



Petticoat Palm (Copernicia macroglossa) at RF Orchids Paradise in Homestead.

Palm Visiting in Miami, Orchids & Peacocks

By Libby Luedeke

In April, Jerry and I took a long weekend for a combination Anniversary/pleasure trip. Jerry had been to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden earlier in the year and insisted I must visit as well, especially since they had a Chihuly Glass Exhibit through May. We also had another member of CFPACS tell us about R.F. Orchids

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The Palmateer

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

The Palmateer

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Editor: John D. Kennedy
palmateer@cfpacs.com

Directions

First garden: 10am to 11:30am

Rob Branch & Susie Dow

1315 38th St, Sarasota, FL 34234

Click here for link to map of Branch/Dow area:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/1315+38th+St,+Sarasota,+FL+34234/@27.368326,-82.544591,17z/data=!3m1!1e3!3m1!1s0x88c33feb42dd2e9:0xcba9a41fc4d126d?hl=en>

Click here for the link to the map between Rob & Scott's houses, it's about a 30 min drive:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/1315+38th+St,+Sarasota,+FL+34234/@27.368326,-82.544591,17z/data=!3m1!1e3!3m1!1s0x88c33feb42dd2e9:0xcba9a41fc4d126d?hl=en>

Second garden & lunch: Noon to 3pm

Scott & Darlene Williams

7520 Weeping Willow Dr., Sarasota, FL, 34214

Click here for a map of the Williamses' area:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/7520+Weeping+Willow+Dr,+Sarasota,+FL+34214/@27.2861011,-82.4215929,13z/data=!3m1!1e3!3m1!1s0x88c346431db4fdd5:0x68a07a4133187335?hl=en>

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> **Scott Williams, Palm Collector**

"I have been collecting palms for over twenty five years. I have probably over eighty varieties planted or in containers on 3/4's of an acre. I also collect bromeliads which are planted in the ground, on trees and mounted on driftwood throughout the property. I have been at this residence for over thirteen years and some palms were moved with the help of Rob Branch from my previous property. I have a few varieties not observed on any of the palm tours I have attended elsewhere. Most of my palms have come from our meetings or ordered as seedlings from Kapoho Palms or Floribunda Palms and Exotics as far back as 2001. John and Faith Bishock got me to join the society over twenty years ago after meeting them. I look forward to hosting the event and will have mounted bromeliads on driftwood for sale as well as a extremely variegated seven gallon *Rhapis excelsa*."

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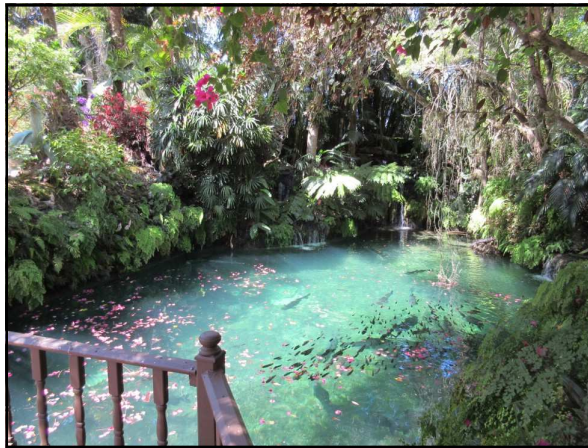
Palm Visiting

(Continued from page 1)

in Homestead that was a must see. So off we went.

We started out early on a Saturday morning so that we could arrive for the 11AM tour at R.F. Orchids. They also have a 3PM tour. We were blown away by all the varieties of orchids in the retail center. Promptly at 11 the tour of the grounds began. There were many varieties of palms and cycads and of course many orchids. They have a huge pony tail, petti-coat palm and lots of zombies. The property has been in the family since the late 1800's so there is lots of old growth. The backyard is paradise. A gorgeous pool with an orchid mosaic in the bottom, a natural fresh water spring teeming with fish and lots of exotic statues and trimmings from the Far East abound.

Definitely a must see when in the area. Then we discov-



Above, natural spring at RF Orchids, Homestead.

Below, Bonsai Garden, Bougainvillea admired by author Libby Luedeke.



ered that the location was part of the Historic Redland Tropical Trail. There were several other venues in that corridor that were very close to one another so we decided to stop at The Bonsai Garden as well. Although it's not a formal garden we were blown away by the age and size of many of the bonsais. Also a great stop for an enthusiast. **Sunday, Jerry** and I headed to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. I love that they open at 7:30 AM as we are early birds. We practically had the place to ourselves till almost 11. There is a fantastic cycad garden plus many others scattered throughout the gardens. The must see is the *Encephalartos woodii*, extremely rare and almost hidden. We discovered it along the north fence line paralleling the road. The sunken garden in that same area is filled with amazing cycads and

a beautiful water feature. Fairchild boasts the largest extensive collection of rare tropical palms in Florida.

While there we had the good fortune to speak with a docent in the rainforest exhibit that told us of a Talipot Palm (*Corypha umbraculifera*) in full bloom in a neighboring garden. He also gave us the history of the most beautiful Lipstick Palm which I shared a picture of. We didn't get directions, but after wandering a few streets happened upon Pinecrest Gardens. It was right smack in the middle of a residential neighborhood and although small we thoroughly enjoyed it. Only \$5 a person for entry with a splash park and great playground, it was very family friendly. After winding through several trails and over bridge covered streams we finally happened across the Talipot Palm. It was in an impossible place to get a picture so I got what I could from underneath

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Talipot Palm (Corypha umbraculifera) blooms once, sets fruit, and dies. Here at Pinecrest Gardens.

Palm Visiting

(Continued from page 4)

and then we set out to see if we could find a better spot. We headed for an open area that had great views of a large pond and the children's area to no avail.

There was even a tall tower that we climbed that you would think surely would grant us an unobstructed view to no avail. We went back to our starting point and after making sure the coast was clear, we took off on a hike through the off limits woods and made a break for it on an employee-only path to be rewarded by a spectacular display of blooms to make your heart burst. We thought the gig was up when a patrol car passed us, but he ignored us completely and went his merry way.

Monday, yes, you would think that was enough gardens but no; we stopped at Flamingo Gardens in Davie on our way home. It was your typical, tacky Florida venue, but with the bonus of trees from around the world and some great cycads and palms. Peacocks were plentiful and in full feather displays for spring to impress those females. Our bonus came when we chanced upon a young lady who was collecting seeds. Jerry

Dioon edule,
the oldest cycad at Fairchild.



attempted to stop her to have a conversation with her, where as she promptly told him she was too busy and was headed on her way. But Jerry was not to be denied. He continued to approach her and explain that he was the seedbank coordinator for our group and expressed his passion for learning more. With this information she stopped and it turned into a 15 minute conversation that was both informative and rewarding. The young lady was a graduate of Horticulture from Trinity International University

and the University of Miami. She also has Asperger's, which is why she was initially reserved, but once she knew we were also students of palm and cycad care, she opened right up. If you go ask for Dawn.

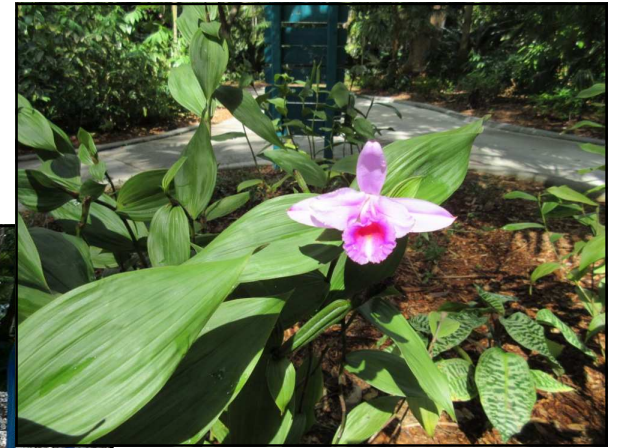
All in all a wonderful trip and highly recommended for anyone wanting to get away but not too far. I only wish I could share all the pictures.



*Below, Chihuly Glass at Fairchild.
Right, ground orchid, Flamingo
Gardens.*



Lipstick Palm at Fairchild: Cytostachys renda 'Theodora Buhler'. Named for Teddy Buhler, longtime secretary of The Palm Society (not yet the IPS).





A peacock at Flamingo Gardens, Davie, visited by Libby and Jerry Luedeke.

A Palm I Wish I Hadn't Planted

By John Kennedy

Somewhere in the distant past (meaning more than 15 years ago, thus almost out of human recollection), I planted a very small *Acrocomia aculeata*. It was a gift from a 'well wisher' (I think). The convincing point was the species' cold hardiness down, if I recall correctly to 12°F, gets right chilly in its native northern Argentina. I was uneasily aware of Paul Drummond telling my wife and me how his hands were bloody after cutting dead *Acrocomia* fronds during a previous visit years before to his place on Old Cutler Road. C'mon, a foot high overall and the spines don't look so bad.

Fast forward maybe 36 years to May 2015, I go out to cut dead leaves off the *Acrocomia*. I am wearing leather garden gloves, carrying loppers. Now, due to my medical problems, these haven't

been cut in a year. I have had no difficulty with *Livistona* leaves or *Copernicia*, just be a little careful and cutting can be done bare-handed.

Ah, but just look at the rachis, not spines, **needles!** Some three inches long, on all sides of the rachis, all angles, from the bottom to the tip. And that's an 8-foot leaf, with virtually no petiole. Hey, needles on the leaflets, too? No, but the needles extend beyond the leaflets. Will I be able to deal with the leaves without being taken to the ER for my wounds? Cutting is the easy part. Then I have to pick it up and carry to a pile of palm trash at the back of our half acre.

How do I pick the leaf up without getting punctures? I finally figure that I can drag it off by holding on to the dried leaflets at the tip, not a very secure way, but better

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The dangerous *Acrocomia*. The camera (and cameraman) not good enough to picture the horrifying needles closeup.



A Palm I Wish I Hadn't Planted

(Continued from page 7)

than grasping the rachis. Leather gloves no barrier to needles. Maybe metal gloves like those on a suit of armor? Which I don't have. OK, two hands on the dead leaflets, but have to drag it through two gates and the leaf catches, of course, on various plants along the way. Ouch. A pin prick, not bad, no bleeding. I

*At center (slight angle in camera-man's shaking hands), the terrible *Acrocomia aculeata* above the harmless natives, Wild Coffee (*Psychotria nervosa*) and Fiddlewood (*Citharexylum spinosum*), which isn't spiny.*

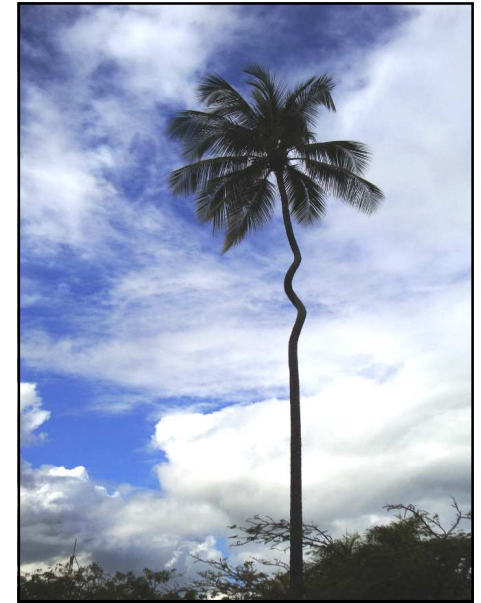
get the leaf to the pile, manage to hoist it on. Ouch. I go back to cut the second leaf. Are there any of these things on the ground? Would the needles go right through a shoe? Sure looks that way. Don't see anything and, besides, the dead leaves seem to stay on forever, have to be cut off. Probably safe. **Second**, third, and fourth leaves same method with a few more pricks. Two more leaves to cut, but harder to get at, perhaps I shouldn't push my luck. So, two left to deal with in the future, you coward.

Is there anything positive about my *Acrocomia*? Well, it is beautiful. Eight feet of trunk, not clear trunk but with green leaves down

to a few inches above the ground. Still in juvenile mode, for I have seen older *Acrocomia* in Fort Pierce, with clear trunks, looking much like plumier Queen Palms. Only a close-up view shows the awful difference.

I do wonder, though, the reason (s) for the heavy armature. Dinosaurs wandering up from Patagonia?

*[Shortly after cutting, my hands and forearms started to itch, felt like ivy poison but no poison ivy here (first plant ID at age 8). The itching stopped about two hours later. A few days afterward, a couple more dead leaves to cut and the same reaction. But I was wearing work gloves though I took these off and held in my bare hands and held the lopper later in my bare hands. Some allergic property in *Acrocomia aculeata*? Or is it just my own personal allergy? Live leaves did brush my bare hands. . . But what might still be on the lopper handles?]*



A corkscrew Coconut Palm outside the Bacardi Rum Factory in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Photo by Maryann Krisovitch) Did she go inside?

The latest on the U. A. Young Lodoicea in its New Home at Gaylord

[An e-mail message from Bethany Lahey at Gaylord Palms.]

Good afternoon everyone!

As some or all of you may remember, almost a year ago I received a call asking if The Gaylord Palms would be interested in adopting a palm tree.

Several days and many emails/ phone calls later a wonderful group arrived at our property with a 'tiny' and 'young' Lodoicea maldivica. After many hours of blood, sweat and tears; a crane, forklift and several men with some serious muscle, we were able to maneuver the palm into place.

Since then we have been diligently caring for our new palm. It was touch and go for a while, but as we approach our 1 year anniversary I figured I should send a shout out update to as many email addresses as I could find in my archives.

So... bad news first. The 2 open leaves the palm had when it ar-



The new leaf on the Lodoicea.

rived have finally bitten the dust. The first one came down just before Christmas, with the second succumbing just a few weeks ago. We have left the last brown leaf on the plant, as a show to our guests and because the last few inches above the soil line are still green.

And now the good news!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! A few days after we lost the last open leaf, the spear that had been holding closed for so long began to open! It was yellow for the first week as it began to expand and is now

almost 6" open and green as can be!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Once it opens fully I think (and the palm community can correct me if I am wrong) that we can call this a successful transplant! At its current rate we may get lucky and have it open fully on its 1 year anniversary, June 27th. I have posted some pictures below for all to see.

Again a HUGE thank you to everyone involved in the massive effort to save this beautiful plant. So many helped in so many ways that I know that I could never thank you all. Please let everyone that you know where involved know how thankful I am and the good news from here in Kissimmee.

Still no sign if it's a boy or a girl... yet.



A good Washingtonia is a dead Washingtonia, says East VP Janice Broda, who took this picture. But see the next page.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am proud to inform our members that the society is going strong. We currently have 115 paid members this year with numbers increasing.

Veteran Board Members continue to be the reliable work horses that necessary in continuing the daily operations while

Would there be more positive feelings about *Washingtonias* if they held their skirts of dead leaves, as in California? These two individuals—the taller maybe 35 feet overall— are on 36th Court in Vero Beach. (Actually, there is a third, very young *Washingtonia* between the two taller ones.)

new members have provided invigorating ideas and enthusiasm that has brought new life to our society.

Our new Seed Bank Coordinators have hit the ground running with orders and payments rolling in regularly. When we sent out a blast email to the membership requesting ideas for meetings, the response was incredible.

Members helped set up locations and tours for several future meetings. It worked so well that we will continue to solicit ideas and assistance from members as a framework for establishing meeting locations and tours in the future.

Our newsletter continues to be a valuable source of information. It is also extremely entertaining. As always, we need you to submit your articles and pictures. If you have a favorite palm in your yard

or in your neighborhood, take a picture and send it to us along with a note about the palm.

Don't know what it is? Send in a couple of quality photos and we can see if we can stump the experts. Think you know or have a species that is growing in the furthest northern location. Snap a photo and let us know where it is.

Traveling on vacation. Take your picture with a palm and send it in to us. The Palmateer is a great technical source and it can also be fun.

As always, I look forward to seeing friends at the next meeting. Where else in Central Florida can you enjoy good company, tour remarkable gardens, eat good food, and buy rare palms? Nowhere.

Ron Hart

CFPACS SEED BANK REPORT

2nd Quarter 2015

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

For those of you who don't know we are the new seed bank coordinators. Our names are Jerry and Libby Luedeke. We took possession of the dilapidated cooler with 4 or 5 species of seeds from Dottie by way of Phil Stager in December at Gaylord Palms. We spent the next four to six weeks learning the intricacies of the CFPACS seed bank. G-mail was a challenge for us in the beginning, but Dottie got us squared away.

One of our first surprises was an invitation to visit Anne Michael at Earring Point on Orchid Island. We brought along Dave Hall, Trace Hines and Mike Ricigliano. She gave us an amazing tour of her family's collection of palms second only to Fairchild Botanical Garden. Anne allowed us to collect seed and take some seedlings. We thanked Anne with a Wild Orange Pie which she found pretty tasty.

Thanks to generous seed donations from Anne Michael, Carol and Lyle Niswander, Eric Anderson, Steve and Sue Farnsworth, Christopher Mink, Jerry Luedeke and Frank Radosta we have had fruitful sales. We have had 23 sales and sold approximately \$800 in seeds, not including shipping mostly thanks to the *Cycas panzihuaensis* seeds. Along with sales we have also cultivated friendships that we hope last a lifetime and made contacts like the Environmental Horticulture Adviser for the University of Cali-

fornia to a nursery owner in California whose grandfather was good friends with Loren White-lock. We have shipped lots of seeds in Florida, but also California, Arizona, South Carolina, Tokyo and the Netherlands.

We will be visiting Earring Point on Orchid Island again June 13th to collect more seeds. We hope to collect *Bismarckia nobilis*, *Hyphaene coriacea*, and *Attalea speciosa*. Later in the summer there will be *Borassus aethiopum* and *Corypha umbraculifera* seeds, so keep your eyes peeled for future offerings, some of which we will bring to the meeting on the 20th.

And thanks again to all those who donated (if I didn't put your name down please forgive me). Without you we wouldn't have a seed bank. Thank you to all whom have purchased seeds, we in the CFPACS appreciate your support.

--Jerry and Libby Luedeke
seedbank.cfpcs@gmail.com

Checking Balance 12/31/14	\$15,043.91
Jan— Apr Deposits	3,099.87
Jan — Apr Checks	2,879.78
Ending Checking Balance (4/30/15)	\$15,264.00
Gain/(Loss)	\$220.09
Income Year to Date	
Membership	\$597.68
Merchandise	0.00
Private Sales	755.00
Public Sales	1,750.27
Seed Bank	36.41
Total Income Year to Date	\$3,139.36
Expenses Year to Date	
Meeting Expense	\$0.00
IPS Dues	0.00
Bank Fees	6.00
Office Supplies	8.82
Public Relations	350.77
Seed Bank	0.00
Taxes	232.39
Vendor Fees	225.00
Vendor Proceeds	1,354.40
Website	345.00
Total Expenses Year to Date	2,522.38
Other Assets	
Endowment Fund Balance 3/31/15	\$13,167.34
CD #1 11-28-15 maturity	\$3,266.90
CD #2 9-25-15 maturity	\$3,151.28
Sales Cash Box	\$292.17
Total Assets	19,877.69
Liabilities	
none	0.00
Total Liabilities	\$0.00
Net Worth as of 4/30/15	\$35,141.69

TREASURER'S REPORT, 4/30/15
Maryann Krisovitch, Treasurer

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.com' 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 International Palm Society (IPS)

9300 Sandstone Street
Austin, TX 78737-1135
Regular membership, \$45,
quarterly journal

The Cycad Society

11701 Barchetta Drive
Austin, TX 78758
Regular membership, \$35,
quarterly newsletter

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.com

Membership also available at website:

www.cfpacs.com

Those joining before October 1 have access to all four issues of *The Palmateer* for the current year.



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The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society service area includes the following counties:
Alachua, Brevard, Citrus, DeSoto, Flagler, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, and Volusia.