The Palmateer

Volume 35, Number 3

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

September 2015

OCTOBER 3rd MEETING, WEST MELBOURNE

Save Saturday, October 3rd for the CFPACS fall meeting in West Melbourne. We will be visiting two long-established collections of palms and cycads—those of Jerry and Mary Anne Hooper, then those of Richard and Linda Lundstedt.

For new and recent members whose plantings are young, it's an opportunity to see what small young palms and cycads will look like in maturity. For those whose membership goes back much farther, this is a chance to see what the two collections have grown into since our last visit (15 years ago?).

First stop is the Hooper homeplace, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The Hooper garden—more than 30 years old-- has an impressive array of *Rhapis* varieties, many cycads and a number of bamboos. The second stop is the Lundstedt garden, where lunch and drinks will be provided at noon. Attendees are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert.

Jerry Hooper has many cycads. What turned him on in the 1980s was the cycad collection at Fairchild, along with those in gardens CFPACS visited. "The reason it may seem that I have more cycads than palms is that the cycads have survived the winters and many palms I've experimented with have not." He adds that he "has become more interested in the design of gardens

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Top, scene at Jerry Hooper's. Bottom, scene at Richard Lundstedt's. Jungly, yes. Palm lovers seem to like it that way.. (Photos by Owners)





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Volunteer a friend to write about cycads for this illustrious publication. Tom Broome did so for some years, then was followed for a time by Chuck Grieneisen. Now, nobody knowledgable writes about cycads. You can volunteer a name privately to the Editor, who will not reveal your self-less act.

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

Right, an Encephalartos in Hooperville. (Photo by Jerry)

October 3rd Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

and [has] realized how important cycads are for design." Jerry regrets that the place of cycads in garden design has been much diminished since Aulacapsis scale killed so many handsome cycads. However, he is interested in other plant families, "anything wild and woolly."

Richard Lundstedt says: "My wife and I have been at our current residence for 23 years and we have been growing and collecting palms or about 30 years." It's mostly palms with some cycads. "We usually have a few nights of frost at our place every winter, so it has become a good testing ground for some of the marginal cold-tolerant palms." Among those species that have survived the occasional frost and the winter of 2010-11 are "Corypha sp., Howea forsteriana, Licuala ram-



sayi, and Dypsis pembana."

After a half hour for lunch, poking around the Lundstedt garden will run from 12:30 to 1:30. A Membership Meeting is scheduled for 1:30-1:45.

The prime event of the day that some members have been waiting for comes next: the auction and the plant sale, from 1:45 to 3:00. Current membership is required to bid or to buy.

Remember, all vendors must have a number from Treasurer Maryann Krisovitch. Attendees who wish to sit down at some point during the day are urged to bring their own chairs.

Directions at right on this page.

—John Kennedy

Directions

To the Hoopers': 2360 Vermont St. W. Melbourne I-95 exit 180 (US 192)

US 192 east 0.8 mi. to Circle Dr.

Right onto Circle Dr. then south 0.2 mi. to Miami Ave.

Left onto Miami Ave. then east 0.1 mi. to Vermont St.

Right onto Vermont St. then south 0.3 miles

Park along Vermont St.

To the Lundstedts': 3370 Hield Rd. W. Melbourne From the Hoopers':

Vermont St. south 0.2 mi. to Milwaukee Ave.

Left onto Milwaukee Ave. then east 1.4 mi. to Minton Rd.

Right onto Minton Rd. the south 2.0 mi. to Hield Rd.

Right onto Hield Rd. then west 0.4 mi. to Lois Ln.

Right onto Lois Ln. Please park along Lois Ln.

From I-95:

I-95 exit 176 (Palm Bay Rd.)

Palm Bay Rd. west 1.2 mi. to Minton Rd.

Right onto Minton Rd. then north 0.3 mi. to Hield Rd.

Left onto Hield Rd. then west 0.4 miles to Lois Ln.

Right onto Lois Ln. Please park along Lois Ln.



Palms at the Lundstedts'
Left, above, two *Dypsis lepto-cheilos* flank *Howea forsteriana* and *Syagrus schizophylla*.
Left, below, *Dypsis pembana*.
Bottom, *Licuala ramsayi*..







Palms at the Lundstedts'
Above, at the left of the two *Dypsis leptocheilos* is *Caryota gigas*.



Above, a Ceratozamia that originated many years ago in Bernie Peterson's garden. Below, Allagoptera caudescens, (once Polyandrococos). Both at Hoopers'



June Meeting Report

June 20th, Sarasota. The threat of rain did not deter the brave palm-lovers from their favorite avocation—visiting palm gardens. As usual, two on the schedule for the day. The first was one we've gone to several times over the vears: to Rob Branch and Susie Dow's. The marvel there is how Rob manages to cram everything anyone can think of onto his property. Not only palms and cycads but also lots of bromeliads, fruit trees, and other plants. Our second stop was the newish garden of Scott and Darlene Williams. Beautiful. Was Rob envious of all that space yet to be filled? And, finally, it did rain a bit without dampening our good spirits. Thanks to our hosts, Rob and Susie, Scott and Darlene, we departed for home, fronds from newly acquired palms visible in SUVs, trucks, and ordinary cars. An enjoyable and successful day.

—John Kennedy



Rob Branch, far left, explains his garden. Below, Maryann Krisovitch presens him with the CFPACS gift: Gaussia attenuate.(Photos, Mike Evans)





The group at Rob Branch's in June. At right are the Gompfs, Teresa and Ray. Could that be the back of Terence Williams at left? Yes. (Photo by Mike Evans)





Scott Williams gathers the gang for The Tour of his place, second stop in June (Photo by Mike Evans). At left, following our host through his col-

lection..

(Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)

June in Sarasota



Touring the Williams garden on June 20th. (Photo by Maryann Krisovitch) Right, Chuck Grieneisen presents Scott Williams with the CFPACS gift, Beccariophoenix alfredii. (Photo by Mike Evans)



The Editor, right, talks with Bob Blenker at the entrance to Rob Branch's. Past president Lucinda McCartney approaches at left.

(Photo by Bob Montanaro)



Left, Phil Stager plays his usual role as auctioneer.
(Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)



Scrub Palmetto—Sabal etonia, Florida's only endemic palm

By Janice Broda

Scrub Palmetto (Sabal etonia)

flourishes in the frequently burned scrub at Archbold Biological Station on the Lake Wales ridge in the center of Florida near Venus along with Rusty Staggerbush (Lyonia ferruginea).

This slow-growing palm can be distinguished from the far more common Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) by its costapalmate fronds, its unarmed petioles and the swirls of fibers between its segments.

A Florida endemic, this palm grows in the sandy, well drained soils throughout the state except for the panhandle and southwest Florida.

(Janice Broda, East vp, is a past president of the Florida Native Plant Society)



Two pictures of
Sabal etonia
growing in the
scrub at
Archbold Biological Station, Lake
Wales.
(Photos by Janice
Broda)



Filaments among the leaf segments of Sabal etonia.

Jeff & Andrea Searle Garden

[This article appeared in the July 2015 Monthly Update of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society, edited by Charlie Beck and is reprinted here by permission. The flyer for Jeff Searle's 17th Annual Plant Extravaganza, complete with free barbecue, has recently arrived. Many Central Florida folks have made the journey down to Southwest Ranches in Broward County.—Editor]

By Charlie Beck

Our Palm and Cycad Society toured Jeff and Andrea Searle's garden on June 13th. We had a good turnout of local Society members. If you missed the tour or if you want to revisit some of the fabulous palms and cycads that we saw, I'll share some of my photos in this and next month's newsletters.

Jeff and Andrea were gracious hosts. As Jeff and his right hand

man, Ryan Gallivan, led the garden tour, Andrea served cold drinks to the partici-pants. After the tour we had a nice lunch which featured many specialty dishes shared by the attendees. As you probably know, Jeff has a large wholesale nursery in Southwest Ranches, Fl. Searle Brothers Nursery & the Rainforest Collection offers the largest variety of rare palms and cycads for sale in South Florida. If you are a palm enthusiast you should attend one of his twice a year sales at the nursery or see some of his offerings at our Chapter's Palm and Cycad Sales at the Mounts Garden. Jeff has returned as a vendor at our sales.

Jeff and Andrea's garden is 2 acres in size and is located 16.5 miles inland just south of Griffin

(Continued on page 10)



Adonidia merrillii (gold form)



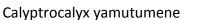
Beccariophoenix fenestralis

Burretiokentia koghiensis.

(All photos by Charlie Beck)









Copernicia baileyana

Itaya amicorum



Jeff & Andrea Searle Garden

(Continued from page 9)

Road. Jeff started with a blank slate on a cleared lot 15 years ago. He had 30 truckloads of quality soil delivered and spread prior to planting. I'm not sure what the underlying soil type is, but I'd bet it isn't sugar sand. I've seen a lot of marl type soil that far west and marl holds moisture and nutrients much better than typical Palm Beach County sugar sand. The health and vigor of the plants in Jeff's garden reflected expert maintenance and improved soil.

The Garden design featured many paths lined with rare and unusual plants. None of the beds were too wide, so plants were clearly visible. Many mature trees and palms formed a canopy which protected the under plantings.

The garden was much more than just palms and cycads. Gingers, heliconias, bamboos and other

tropical plants were abundant. Jeff's collection of crotons was vast. I have never seen a more beautiful crotons anywhere! If you ever question Jeff about one of his plants that he sells, you should know he probably speaks from firsthand experience actually growing that plant.

Many of the photos feature palms which are new to South Florida. Because Jeff obtains a diverse group of rare palms for sale at his nursery, he's probably the first to grow many of the species. The photos provide proof that many of these palms can be grown successfully in South Florida. There are many new and exciting palms which we should try in Palm Beach County.

Thank you Jeff and Andrea for inviting us to your garden. **[These]** pages contain photographs of many of the specimens planted in the Searle garden.



Lepidozamia hopei in the Searle garden.



Palm Beach member David Colonna gives scale to Tahina spectabilis in the Searle garden

A First and Second Visit To Naples Botanical Garden

By Maryann Krisovitch, CFPACS Treasurer

Back in June, your illustrious President, Ron Hart, and I had the opportunity to spend a few hours at the beautiful Naples Botanical Garden. Ron had toured the gardens just after they had opened in 2002. At that time, there was not much more than a small welcome building and a few groupings of plants. When I mentioned that I'd like to go see for myself, he cringed a little and said I might be disappointed. Well, was he surprised! What a difference thirteen years makes in a garden! In addition to a lovely visitor center and gift shop, the staff and volunteers have created six different gardens: Florida, Asian,

Caribbean, Brazilian, Water and Children's Gardens. Numerous varieties of palms abound throughout the entire garden. Currently in progress is the expansion of *The Preserve* which is a 90 acre sanctuary containing habitats from a brackish marsh to dry upland scrub. Over 300 species of native plants occur on this site in addition to animals such as gopher tortoises, otters and eagles.

The Florida Garden showcases the best that southwest Florida has to offer including an Enabling Garden This garden is designed for accessibility and to demonstrate gardening methods for

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Naples Botanical Garden

(Continued from page 11)

people of all abilities and ages. Container, tabletop, raised and vertical wall gardens contain plantings selected to appeal to the senses in many ways. The central feature of the Florida garden is the Great Circle, reminiscent of the many pot lakes visible from the air over Southwest Florida. The Great Circle is formed by a circular planting of Sabal palms, underplanted with natives such as Needle Palms, Dwarf Palmetto and silver Saw Palmetto, Within the Great Circle are swathes of Florida's most beautiful grasses and wild flowers.

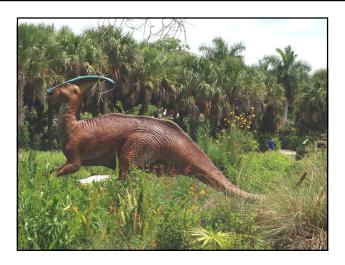
The Asian Garden is divided into various botanical zones: commercial crops, ornamentals, bamboos, and water plants. There is a Northern Thailand riverside scene, an ancient Javanese terraced sanctuary, and a Balinese

temple water garden. There are horticultural sections for the main ornamental plants from Asia: ixora, gardenia, gingers, palms, ferns, hibiscus, water plants, and ornamental bamboos. There is also a section featuring the main 'plants of commerce' such as screw pine, bamboo, jute and spices. In this garden we found the *Borassus flabellifer* or Palmyra Palm and the *Areca catechu* or Betel Nut Palm.

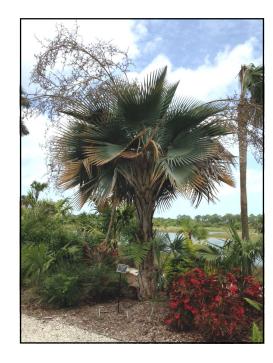
The Water Garden is in the heart of Naples Botanical Garden. Filled with beautiful water lilies, lotuses and papyrus, this garden also features a small island in the pool. A boardwalk transects the Water Garden with a space in the middle that widens enough to become a stage.

The Brazilian Garden celebrates the rich biodiversity of Brazil's flora. The seven terrestrial eco-

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Above, one of the dinosaurs at Naples Botanical Garden.
Right, Copernicia hospita.



Naples Botanical Garden

(Continued from page 12)

systems found in Brazil each have their place in the garden, allowing guests to see plants in an ecological context so that they can better understand these environments. In this garden is where we found the Syagrus picrophaylla, a Brazilian native. The garden is bold and distinctively Brazilian, a tribute to Roberto Burle Marx, known as the "father of modern landscape architecture." Its centerpiece is the only original Burle Marx ceramic mural in the United States.

The Caribbean Garden features
Pre-Columbian gardens with
plants native to the region before
the arrival of Europeans including
tobacco and chocolate. The PostColumbian period is represented
by the Explorers' Garden, the
Plantation Garden, the Citrus
Garden, and the Coconut Grove.

This garden contains the main Palm Garden, a palm photographer's dream! Along the water's edge, we found a cluster of palms, including the *Copernicia baileyana* (Bailey Palm) and *Copernicia hospita*, the Cuban Wax palm, both from Cuba.

Make your way through a Saw Palmetto tunnel to enter the Children's Garden containing a world full of flowers, vegetables, butterflies, tree houses and babbling streams. You can't miss the Butterfly House, but make sure you discover the Hidden Garden! Other features include an Herb Garden and a Florida Cracker House Garden. On the lower level of the Children's Garden, you can take a journey from tree to sea through Florida's ecosystems. Even the adults will enjoy the view from the two-story tree house in the middle of a massive

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Above, Betel Nut Palm, Areca catechu.

Right, Palmyra Palm, Borassus flabellifer.



(Continued from page 13)

strangler-fig full of all sorts of bromeliads and air plants.

There is something for everyone at the Naples Botanical Garden including life-sized dinosaurs (with movement and sound!) throughout the gardens. Ron and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit and look forward to returning next time we are down in Naples. We encourage you to do the same!

[Naples Botanical Garden has 170 acres, was founded in 1993.
—Editor]





'Illustrious president' Ron Hart gazes at Corozo Palm, Syagrus stenopetala, at Naples Botanical Garden. Left, Copernicia baileyana.

Below, Syagrus picrophaylla.





Note to all members: please keep us 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.

Thanks to donations from Chris Mink, Venice, FL Caryota cummingii and Coccothrinax crinitavar. brevicrinus; Carol and Lyle Niswander, Indialantic Veitchia arecina, Veitchia joannis, and Adonidia merrillii; Anne Michael, Orchid Island/Earring Point, Syagrus schizophylla, Bismarckia nobilis and Borassus aethiopum; Frank Radosta, New Smyrna Beach, Archontophoenix cunninghamiana, and Okie & Neil @ GTC

of Brevard Co., Encephalartos ferox. We've had a pretty successful 3rd quarter. A big thanks to Richard Lundstedt for meeting Libby to pick up the Borassus seeds from Orchid Island. We've had sales to date totaling \$231.64

Thanks so much to all our donators and purchasers. We look forward to seeing you at our October 3rd meeting in West Melbourne. If you have any donations that you don't want to ship we would be very happy to accept them then.

—Jerry and Libby Luedeke theseedbank@yahoo.com



To be seen at Jerry Hooper's on October 3rd. . .



From the Editor's Desk

I was pleased to note at the Sarasota meeting that the attendees were not all antiques like myself. A pretty fair number of younger folks, not just younger than me (hey, you can be 65 or more and still be younger than me).

By "younger" I mean folks in their 30s, some even less. I wonder if those in their 20s may have accompanied parents to the meeting, either as indulgence or as driver. Which brings me to another question (of course). . .

Americans are supposed to move house lebenty-seven times in their lives, think I saw once that they move every five years. So, in seeing thirtyish people at the meeting, are we noting a new demographic? That folks aren't moving as frequently as in the past? It would be difficult to nourish a palm and cycad collection if you intend to move some-

where else in the foreseeable fu-

ture. How many plants could you take with you to the next place? To a third place? This assumes, of course, a move to a warm-climate locale where palms can be grown outside. Or, perhaps, not dug up but growing permanently in large tubs that can limit size while making possible taking palms in the drive-it-yourself rental trunk in the move.

* * * *

I'm not even factoring in global warming. Maybe Scott Walker will be able to grow palms and cycads outside the governor's mansion in Madison, Wisconsin! But this opens another, tangential thought worth pondering: how many additional tropical species will we Central Floridians be able to grow here in the years ahead? We will ignore the naysayers who predict the disappearance of Florida below the waves, not likely to happen in our grand-



Looks like they'll need a new one: terminal flowering of a Corypha utan at Fairchild. (Caught by Charlie Beck)

children's lives.

The logical thought that next comes into focus: will the next President coming into office in 2017 be able to plant palms and cycads on the White House grounds before the end of his/her second term? And I can envi-

sion, in this scenario, schoolchildren voting for a National Palm. Hmmm... Probably the vote would go for *Washingtonia*—not my choice—but as someone who once lived in New England—I would be willing to consider Needle Palm as a candidate. Can't think that coconut palms, otherwise the undoubted first choice of all voters, could be planted anywhere north of the Grand Banks of North Carolina, whatever the climate change.

Maybe palm scientists might quit their busywork of re-naming palms and hustle in developing more cold-hardy variants of existing species.

A truly cold-hardy *Trachycarpus* sounds good. But, alas, too many ill-informed people think the only worthwhile palms are pinnate. An unexpected outcome could well be a Queen Palm cold-hardy to zero (or below) sweeping the nation, available at Home Depot in Massachusetts and Michigan.

(Continued on page 17)

From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 16)

* * * *

I did notice, some years back, at events at Heathcote Botanical Gardens (Fort Pierce) that I was asked questions about palms often by youngish men who appeared to be together. In those days, we didn't mention gay couples but I could see that these guys had money to spend—I was happy to encourage them—having no children freed up money to drop on palms and cycads.

Gay marriage, followed by children, could be a threat to specialty palm nurseries!

* * * *

Did you see the picture of the beautiful mature *Copernicia hospita* at Naples Botanical Garden in the article by Maryann Krisovitch? Makes me feel wistful.

Many years back, before I knew any better—this must be over 30

years ago—I planted tiny palms I had bought at sales directly into the ground. I didn't grow them bigger in pots before planting. Almost invariably these hapless little palms went to glory until I wised up.

A notable example was an itsybitsy Copernicia hospita not more than maybe 6 inches high. I watched it carefully, pulled back weeds, etc. It rewarded me by growing a quarter inch a year. After 10 years, I gave up in disgust and let the wedelia cover it. But hey! Governor Scott lives in Naples and maybe (?) he gave the big money so that Naples Botanical Garden could plant a fullygrown individual of this speedy species. . .

John Kennedy



Dypsis carlsmithii in the garden of Jeff and Andrea Searle in Southwest Ranches, Broward County. (Photo by Charlie Beck)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have the pleasure to announce to our great members that our society is going strong. Over the past two years, our members have accomplished some wonderful things. Not only are they growing palms and cycads in their yards, they have been instrumental in assisting local communities with establishing renowned collections. A perfect example was the work of Phil Stager and Tom St. Pete who worked tirelessly to save and transport the Dr. Young collection in Tampa to the Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum and to Sunken Gardens in St. Pete. As a society, we are planning on visiting Kopsick very soon. We were also fortunate to visit the double coconut that was transplanted from Young's to the Gaylord Palms Hotel and Convention Center. Wow! What a beautiful climate controlled setting. We will make sure to get occasional updates on that incredible species

as well as a future field trip for our members.

Our latest request for help came from the Central Florida Zoo in Sanford. The Zoo has recently changed their name to the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Garden. Throughout their park, they would like to incorporate many species of palms and cycads. They asked for our assistance in designing two or three prominent locations. One of the sites is at the reptile house. Think about what would be a good setting for animal groups that have been around for millions of years. That is where our society comes to the rescue with plant selections that are appropriate for each site. The Zoo has offered to place signage for the plant species as well as signage recognizing the society in each garden. Seed Bank Coordinators Jerry and Libby Luedeke have volunteered to take the lead on the project

when it begins and I am sure would appreciate any assistance or even donated plant material for the collection.

To keep our society performing these and future vital community projects, we also need the help of our members. Probably the most important volunteer function is serving on the board. At the end of this year, we will have several board positions opening. The board provides many functions from selecting future meeting sites and garden tours to deciding how your money gets spent. We are always in need of fresh energetic faces with new ideas. No experience is necessary, you can learn as you go. The only requirement we have is that you must enjoy palms and cycads but even that is not in the bylaws. If you haven't picked up your CFPACS vehicle decal already, be sure to see our Treasurer, Maryann, at the next meeting.

I look forward to seeing many of you at one of our upcoming meetings for the remainder of the year either in West Melbourne in October or Lake Wales in December.

-Ron Hart

Licuala merguensis in the Searle garden. (Photo by Charlie Beck)



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Treasurer's Report 8/31/15

Our net worth as of 8/31/15 was \$36,306.41. The Society had an increase in net worth of \$164.72 since 4/15/15. Thank you to all of our members! ~ Maryann



Palm sale, Sarasota, June 20th. Is that Terence Williams talking to Ray Gompf? (Photo by Mike Evans)

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
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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:
<u>www.cfpacs.com</u>
Those joining before October 1 have access
to all four issues of <i>The Palmateer</i> for the

current year.



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MEETING COORDINATORS

Susan Dow & Rob Branch 1314 38th St. Sarasota, FL 34234 meetings@cfpacs.com 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.



Astrocaryum mexicanum from the March 2003 issue of The Palmateer. Photo taken by Charlene Palm. Where?