

# The Palmateer

## December Meeting: Bok & Winter Haven

By Keith Santner

**Bok Tower Gardens** is in the midst of a 12 million dollar expansion project on schedule for completion summer 2016. Many projects have already been completed meaning if you haven't been there in a little while, some things will be new while more changes are underway. CFPACS will pay the \$15 admission fee for current members.

**Pinewood Estate**, on the grounds of Bok Tower Gardens, will be open for holiday tours giving visitors a glimpse of the most majestic home of Mediterranean architecture in Florida circa 1930. There is an extra admission charged to the house, which the visitor pays. It takes 30-60 minutes to walk through the

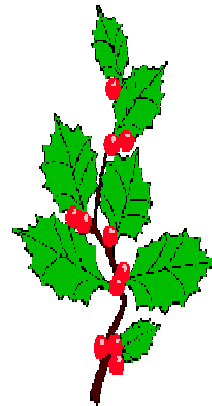
home, so we will begin the Garden tour at Keith and David's at 1:30 giving those that would like to visit Pinewood some time to do so.

**At 12:00** noon, lunch will begin at Keith and David's home located at 8 Cherry Blossom LN in Winter Haven, FL 33884. We will be serving grilled burgers and hot-dogs along with cold liquids from coolers. Please bring side dishes, and decadent dessert items at will.

**Keith and David** began building their garden in fall of 2012. It looked much like this in July 2012, the month they moved in: A lush carpet of central Florida grass and broadleaf weeds surrounded the house, most of which remain to this day.

**They have** a particularly nice col-

*(Continued on page 3)*



**CFPACS needs a new president and a new treasurer. We're looking for volunteers. For details, see page 4.**



*A glimpse of the young palm garden in Winter Haven to be visited by CFPACS on December 12th.*



Left, an ornament in the Hooper garden seen during the October meeting.

(Photo by Bob Montanaro)

**October meeting report on page 14.**

Directions

Private Garden of Keith Santner and David Banfill

Location:

K & D's Place

8 Cherry Blossom Lane

Winter Haven FL 33884

Keith Cell: 904-755-2028

David Cell: 321-848-2370

Lunch will be served from 12:00 to 1:00 (Grilled Burgers & Hotdogs + liquids). If you prefer to eat at Bok Tower, they have a nice café. If not, bring a side dish or decadent dessert. RSVP if possible so we know how many burgers and dogs to buy.

To get from Bok Tower to K&D's, go to Hwy 27 and head north to Thompson Nursery Road and turn left (West). (Thompson Nursery Road is the first stop light north of the Hampton Inn).

Follow Thompson Nursery Rd to the second light, which is CR653 and turn left (South... & you can't turn right anyway). Follow CR653 to the first right turn AFTER the school (about ½ mile) and turn right (this is Cunningham road). Cunningham becomes a gravel road shortly after you make the turn. Cunningham makes a 90 degree turn to the left where it becomes Cherry Blossom LN (and this section isn't for Corvettes or Ferrari's, but all other vehicles, like Miata's and Mustangs, are fine). Follow Cherry Blossom to the 4th mailbox on the right. Sundance Dr intersects from the right after the 2nd mailbox but keep going straight. Our house is on the right with all the palm trees.

**BRING A CHAIR FOR YOURSELF!**



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**The Palmateer**

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## December: Bok & Winter Haven

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lection of sand spurs farmed by fire ants, so bring closed toe-shoes!

**Despite rumors** of this neighborhood being in a frost hole, David and Keith have planted palms, cycads, and bamboo hardy from zone 7 to zone 10 expecting to provide a bit of protection for the tender plants since this garden is located in zone 9. Winter 2014-2015 was mild with the lowest temperature remaining in the "Coconut zone" since two Dwarf Golden Malay specimens survived unprotected.

**Coconuts aside**, Keith and David have planted many large, mature, albeit common, palms, like the *Livistona decora* on this page, to give the landscape some instant maturity.

Two of the centerpiece specimen *Phoenix reclinata* are rescues from a construction site where

they were days from being ground into mulch (and that's just the beginning of the story). As these specimens have grown, they've planted less common species under the protective canopies and the garden has developed some depth.

**Many challenges** remain the biggest being the south lot (where the vegetable garden is located) having severely hydrophobic sand instead of soil.

**Nov 2015** we built a fire pit to create a warm environment for visiting with friends. Not bad compared to 2012 when almost nothing grew here! Yes, the *Clusia rosea* is on borrowed time here in zone 9 so come see it December 12th before mother nature takes it out!

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
FOR 2017. SEE INFO ON  
PAGE 25.**

Bok's famous landmark "Singing Tower" with carillon overlooks the Lake Wales garden.



Looks inviting. Come in and sit down at Keith and David's place in Winter Haven.

## New President Needed

**Ron Hart's** term as President ends on December 31st. So-o-o, who will volunteer to be President?

What's involved?

**The President** is the front man/woman for our chapter. He/she is the first contact many outsiders have with CFPACS.

**Basically, the** President oversees the Board, is alert to everything functioning as it should—which is very usually the case. The President also coordinates the quarterly meeting arrangements.

**It would** seem that someone who has been a longtime member and knows how the group functions would be ideal for the job. The President's term is two years.

**For more** details and insights, contact Ron Hart or talk to him at the December meeting.

—John Kennedy

## New Treasurer Needed

**Yes,** a new Treasurer is needed since Maryann is departing this job. She outlines on this page the duties of the Treasurer. And she has said she will train a volunteer, will not disappear as of January 1.

**If you** are interested, contact her at treasurer@cfpacs.com or talk with her at the December meeting.

—John Kennedy

## The Outgoing Treasurer Explains the Job→

**By Maryann Krisovitch**

**Just a** mere 3 years ago, our Society was in danger of going by the wayside due to lack of new leadership. The members who had been on the Board had served diligently for many years with few replacements and needed a break.

**Having been** to several CPFACS meetings and tours, I had a little inkling of what was involved. I thought long and hard about this. Yes, I had (and still have) many other responsibilities, but then again, so did everyone else. I had greatly enjoyed all the tours and camaraderie, and I knew I did not want to see the Society end. **So I** took the plunge and agreed to become the next Treasurer. Thankfully, Bob & Catherine Johnson who had been the past President and Treasurer were there all along the way to help make sure I had everything I needed as they passed the torch. Now it's my turn to do the same. **It's always** easier to volunteer if

you know what's involved, so let me fill you in.

### Treasurer's Duties

**Beginning of the year:** Complete annual corporate report & send membership renewal notices

**Quarterly:** Pay sales tax & prepare Treasurer's Report for newsletter

**As needed:** Pay invoices & process payments for membership & seed bank, make deposits, & reconcile bank statements

**CFPACS meeting/tour:** Check cash box for change, Obtain updated membership list, handle payments from auction/plant sale, send vendors sale proceeds, Deposit sale funds, Track sale amounts for sales tax form.

Now I know you get more emails from me than what's included above because I have also been handling many membership duties. That's not a requirement; it was just easier at the time.

Won't you consider fulfilling this important (but not super-difficult) position and help keep our Society moving forward?

## A Visit to Madagascar

**By Lucinda McCartney**  
**CFPACSPast President**

**A visit** to Madagascar's rainforests is not for sissies. Twenty three hours, including two flights of 10 interminable hours each, plus a third of three hours are just for openers. All that time in the air gets you to the country's capital city of Antananarivo ("Tana" for short). Then, to reach the storied palm forests and pristine shorelines of this beautiful tropical land one must still hop two more flights and bounce through a 2 ½ hour boat ride.

**And that** was just our first stop. Still to come were more boat rides, four more flights to other destinations along the north eastern edge of this Indian Ocean country plus many miles of hiking over rugged rainforest terrain.

**Getting home** again to Florida, meant doing it all over again. In reverse.

**But, ahhh**, the destination was worth every grueling mile.

**We were** among the lucky few who joined the International Palm Society directors' October meeting on Ile Sainte Marie, a tiny bit of real estate off the east coast of Madagascar. It was a long way to travel for just a week, so we spent an additional 15 days visiting other parts of the larger island nation.

**Timing of** our visit was fortuitous as the eastern rainforests are disappearing rapidly thanks to enormous swaths of valuable timber – mostly ebony and rosewood – being cut down and shipped to Chinese furniture factories. Palms are being chopped down or

*(Continued on page 6)*



**MALARIA!!** Long sleeves, long pants, lots of bug spray and anti malaria prophylaxis are axiomatic for any visit to Madagascar. There are two types: one you take every day for the duration; the other consumed once a week beginning the week before leaving and continuing for a couple of weeks after returning home. We chose the latter with no ill effects. Mosquito netting enclosed the beds of our in-country bungalows for added protection. Just before twilight everyday, lodge staff would prepare the beds by untying the netting and spraying the interior with bug spray. Strangely enough, we saw more mosquitoes in our Florida backyards than anywhere in Madagascar.

*(All photos by Lucinda McCartney)*

**GUIDES** -- Madagascar requires visitors to national parks to be accompanied by a licensed guide. Guides train in school for one year and apprentice for a second and the training shows. Not only do these professionals know their parks, but they are also knowledgeable about peoples of the area. Patrick, who guided us tirelessly through Masaola park and adjacent villages, showed us things we'd never have found on our own. Surprisingly, he did not own binoculars ... so we left mine with him.

At right is Patrick, the assigned Guide.



## *A Visit to Madagascar*

(Continued from page 5)

burned to clear areas for crops and some are severely endangered in habitat. What's left now is barely one fourth of that of just a few years ago, we've been told. There will be little for future visitors to see unless stepped up efforts to halt the devastation are successful.

**The magic** of Madagascar lies in its extraordinary ecosystems that evolved after the land split from southeast Africa some 160 million years ago. Approximately 95 percent of its reptiles, 89 percent of its plant life and 92 percent of its mammals exist nowhere else on earth. Palms are particularly important because hundreds of species originated here. Our Florida gardens now contain *Bismarckias*, *Beccariophoenixes*, dozens of different *Dyopsis*, *Raphias*, *Tahina spectabilis*, different pandanus and even the popular traveler's (non) palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*), thanks to seeds we enthusiasts are able to germinate and grow thousands of miles from their origin.

**While there** are still plenty of palms in Madagascar – an estimated 169 species of *Dyopsis* alone – it is also one of the finest bird watching areas in the world. CFPACS member Bob Blenker spent a day in the rainforest successfully tracking down species

he'd never seen before and probably won't again – unless he returns someday to that island nation.

**Despite what** it may seem, palm trips are not all about looking at our favorite family of plants. The agenda also includes close-up views of life in the land we're visiting, how the people there conduct their lives, sampling the local food and checking out other animals and plants that inhabit the area. The following pictures show just a small part of what Madagascar is about.

**We traveled** by plane, boat, cargo vessel, tuk tuk, ox cart, jeep, pickup truck, dugout ... and, of course, feet. Madagascar has some of the most beautiful beaches in the world for people who like to relax. But we spent only one evening on the sand – during cocktail hour on Sainte Marie.

**We Floridians** are definitely NOT sissies.



**LEMURS** -- No one goes to Madagascar without seeing lemurs. In fact, many people go just for that sole experience. Although they are primates, these weird animals look more like a cat and hop through the trees like a squirrel. They come in many colors but the black and white nocturnal aye aye is the rarest and hardest to see. We were fortunate to catch a picture of one.



**DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME --**

We've been told that cutting into the trunk of a palm is sure death for the tree. Not so: Malagasy people routinely hack steps into their coconuts to make harvesting the crop faster and easier.

**MYTH BUSTED** -- Traveler's palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*) always turns east/west (or north/south depending on who you're talking to) as it grows. I have three in my own garden, two in full sun, one in dense shade and all oriented themselves east/west. However, in Madagascar Traveler's palms grew everywhere one looked. And they grew every which way, ot even when side by side.





**NOT ALL FROGS ARE GREEN** -- Madagascar has over 300 and still counting species of frogs. (Florida has only 27). One we saw on the Masoala Peninsula was bright red and aptly called "tomato frog."



**SCHOOL IS IN SESSION** -- Schooling is provided for village youngsters, at least for the early years, and the English language is part of the curriculum. We visited the delightful one room school a boat ride away from our lodge. Grisel McCain, one of our fellow travelers, had packed her baggage with pencils, crayons, paper, stickers and other school supplies which she gave to the teacher. Each child brings two sticks of wood every Monday to pay the teacher while nearby lodges provide the rest of her salary.



**NO LABOR SAVING MACHINERY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD** -- Need sand to patch a trail? Send young boys out with buckets to dredge sand from the bottom of the river, dump it in a dugout and float it to shore. Malagasy people here even break rocks into gravel by hand and pull their cart loads of goods to market without benefit of tractors or even oxen.





*Left, cloves drying outside house. Center, cloves on the tree, Bob Blenker looking on. Right, top, guide Patrick with vanilla orchid plant and, beneath, vanilla pods.*

**FARMING IN MADAGASCAR** -- Vanilla beans and cloves are two of the most important crops in northeastern Madagascar and are grown just about everywhere outside of the rain forests. I have two vanilla beans plants in my Florida garden but they are far from producing fruit. The closest I've ever come to the produce is hauling a bottle of extract out of the cupboard when making cookies. And I had no idea that the extract was 41% alcohol. I brought a package of the beans home and dropped them in a bottle of vodka. In a couple of years I may have homemade vanilla extract.





**MADAGASCAR'S OWN INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY** -- Running north/south just inside the east coast for about 425 navigable kilometers is the Pangalanes Canal. We sailed south in a small motorboat for about 50 miles starting with derelict industrial buildings and stopped at a storybook tropical resort. The canal carries freight to and from the little fishing villages lining its bank and threads through hundreds of little fishtraps. Life revolves around the shoreline where people fish, play, even do their laundry. The waterway definitely does NOT look like the one down Florida's east coast. That's freight on the boat.

 Seasons  
Greetings

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
**MERRY HANUKKAH!**  
**MERRY KWANZAA!**  
**MERRY** whatever way you celebrate the holidays!

**STRANDED!!** We spent an afternoon at a little fishing village across a lake from our lodge and got a bit of insight on how these people live their lives. Unfortunately, when it was time to leave, our pickup boat was nowhere to be seen. No way to get home unless we wanted to swim 10 or 15 miles. After an anxious hour in which we eyed some of the palm huts as a refuge for the night, a cargo boat showed up. Son Bob Blenker haggled a bit with the owner and we had our ride (about \$5 USD). No pictures of the actual boat because it was pitch black but shown is a similar one we saw on the canal.



**FISHING VESSELS** -- The homemade dugout is the water workhorse for peoples of northeast Madagascar. They are used for fishing and hauling freight. We were told that it takes about two weeks for one person to construct a dugout and the flimsy looking vessel lasts for about two years.



**RN2** -- Our guide at the wheel, we drove west from Andasibe National Park to Tana over RN2. The road is narrow and filled with blind curves with container trucks, fuel tankers and four wheel drive cars whizzing along. In a 2012 documentary, BBC named it one of the world's most dangerous highways. (Fortunately, we didn't learn that little tidbit until after arriving in Tana). Along the shoulders were stacks of goods waiting for pickup to market: Bundles of thatch, bags of charcoal and poles.

**BRIDGES** -- There were many to cross in the bush ... and few would pass inspection by Florida highway engineers.

We traveled back country in four wheel drive vehicles but had to leave the vehicles before crossing many of the little bridges so the drivers could make repairs. We passengers walked across. I unfortunately fell through a rotten board on one; no damage to me ... but my new camera took a hit.



**PALMS AS BUILDING MATERIALS** -- Without a Home Depot around the corner, Malagasy people must use materials close at hand. Traveler's palm fronds make superb thatching. *Bismarckia nobilis* and *Raphia farinifera* (both natives) are trimmed, peeled and cut into ribs and planks for walls.



*Left, thatch waiting for pickup.*

## Cindy Goes for a Hike on Ile Ste. Marie, Madagascar. . .

**Cindy Adair**, IPS Board Member: "My plan when traveling is 'if in doubt say yes' to any hikes."



*Below: "Many huge Raphia fariniferas lined the road."*



*Left and above: "I loved the Ravenea sambiranensis. I was especially interested since I had planted three on my farm a few months earlier."*

"We went off the trail to see the elusive *Satranala decussilvae*."



*"I almost forgot this beautiful *Dypsis* species." (Probably *Dypsis sanctamariae*.)*

**For more of Cindy's beautiful pictures, go to [Palmtalk.org](http://Palmtalk.org)**

## October Meeting Report

### **Palms, Cycads, Food—Who Could Ask for Anything More?**

**Saturday morning**, October 3<sup>rd</sup>: sunny, warm but not hot. Perfect weather for the CFPACS fall quarterly meeting in West Melbourne. About 40 members arrived at the home of Jerry and Mary Anne Hooper. Most obvious were the mature cycads, well beyond the usual number found in many members' gardens. Jerry explained that the cycads had survived cold spells over the past years when many palms did not. The Hooper garden contained at least 20 varieties of *Rhapis* (more survivors?).

**Visitors noted** the whimsical garden ornaments placed at strategic spots. Perhaps to be expected from an artist—which Jerry is. Among the notable palms on his property are a rare, slow-growing *Ravenea robustior* and *Sabal mauritiformis*, its leaves reaching for the light under the oak canopy.



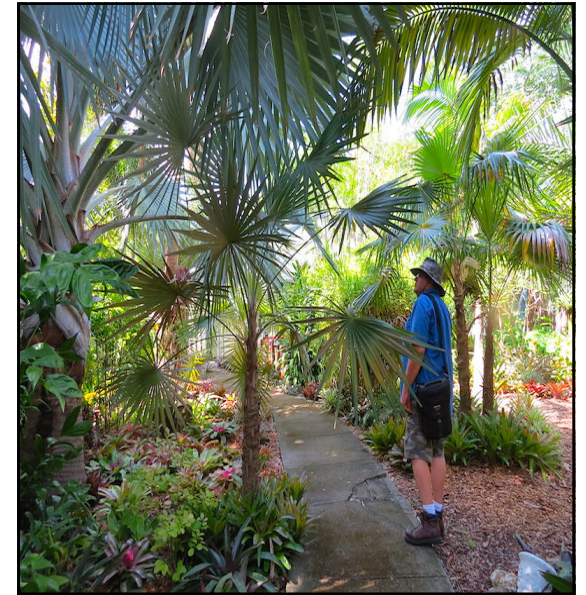
**At noon** everyone was off to lunch at the homeplace of Richard and Linda Lundstedt. Oh, lots of palms to look at.

***Howea forsteriana*** in the ground 20 years. And the story of *Arenga hookeriana*, a long leaf version of *Arenga caudata*, raised from seed, currently Richard's favorite palm. Visitors will remember the pond with the strategically located *Licuala ramsayi* for a lovely vista.

*The tour at the Hoopers'.*  
(Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)

**After lunch**, after the tour, time to get down to business, otherwise noted as the plant auction and plant sale. Per usual, waving fronds were visible in the windows of departing SUVs, cars, and in the backs of pick-ups.. A happy day with our compadres.

—John Kennedy



*Above, Bob Montanaro with Coccolrinax argentata and Bismarckia nobilis in the Hooper garden.*

(Photo by Janice Broda)



Tom Broome at the Hoopers'. He thinks the cycad is *Encephalartos manikensis*.  
(Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)



Cycad cones seen in the Hooper garden.

(Photos by Janice Broda)



More pictures of the October meeting on page 18.





**Don't forget to renew your membership for 2017.**

**An idea: give a membership to a gardening friend for Christmas. Form and details on the next-to-last page.**



*Bob Blenker inspects a village's water supply in Madagascar. (Photo by Ma, Lucinda McCartney)*



*Hey, that looks like what's for dinner in a Malagasy village.*

*(Photo by Lucinda McCartney)*





## Creating a Young Winter Haven Garden

**By Keith Santner, West VP**

**Bought in** 2012, 3 acres of old citrus groves with nice house built in 2007, though only the first story was habitable, now both are.

**Soil is** highly variable, ranging from hydrophobic sand to soggy. But the ration of dry to wet is at least 10:1. And some of the dry is the worst “soil” I’ve ever dealt with. It doesn’t even support sand spurs!

**Climate is** USDA zone 9 (B?) meaning average winter low is between 25 and 29F. Locals call it a frost hole, and I think they are right, based on Decembers in 2013 and 2014. Last winter was nothing.

**Essentially, no** landscaping upon move-in. What was here is mostly gone because it was so poorly executed. Had only two palms (foundation planting *Phoenix roebelenii*, no cycads, and essentially no shade or trees of any

kind. Had to remove one of the only trees due to its proximity to the septic drain field!

**Today has** about 50 palm species and a couple hundred individual specimens. Palm hardiness ranges from zone 10 (Coconuts) to zone 6B (Needle Palms). The zone 10 palms are temporary, if unprotected.

**Today we** have around 20 species of cycads and 40-50 individuals. Today we have about 10 species of bamboo, and 20-30 individuals.

**We’ve planted** at least 16 palms that required cranes to build some canopy. (Two were rescues from a construction site and have a great story we’ll tell to attendees. Also contributing to rapid canopy development: large bamboo (11 clumps requiring heavy equipment), and fast-growing eucalypts.

I’m sure we have dug ove 1000 holes on this property!



*Hey, the home-  
stead looks pretty  
nice now but was  
mostly bare dirt  
when the duo  
moved in. Left,  
some palm plant-  
ing.*



*Not visible—at the front of the group—Richard Lundstedt leads the tour of his 4 acres on October 3. Below, the Editor listens, standing by his favorite palm, *Allagoptera arenaria*. (Photos by Bob Montanaro)*



*An important stop at every meeting: lunch, strength for more palm looking. At left (beard) is none other than new Central Florida resident, Paul Craft with wife Patty. A couple more tables are out of the picture, at left. (Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)*



# Peace

*The potting bench at the Lundstedt homestead. (Photo by Janice Broda)*



## What's in an Apopka Garden?

**By Ron Hart, President & Maryann Krisovitch, Treasurer**

**It's been** nearly a year since you have visited our Apopka Garden (via newsletter). At least that is what Maryann says. I think it has just been 6 months and because I am slightly older, I must be wiser. **Since we** had a fairly mild winter this past year, things are doing well. We did take a picture of our yard with blankets over the sensitive palms, but now we can't find it, so we will leave that for a later issue. It seemed for a moment that the cold weather has forgotten us, but this morning we awoke to 47 degrees. Fall has finally arrived, if only for a moment.

**This month** we will check on the status of four palms: an *Archontophoenix*, a *Lytocaryum*, a *Livistona* and an *Acrocomia*.

**Let's start** with *Archontophoenix alexandrae*. We first wrote about this in December of last year.



Against the fence in this Apopka garden is *Archontophoenix alexandrae*.

Our first Alexander was planted in 2007, but did not survive the 2009 winter even though we tried to give it some warmth by planting it by the pool. Since we have a two-attempt rule, our second Alexander was planted in May of 2010. We changed the location to a fairly protected garden alongside the garage, although it is still the north side of the house. It experienced some leaf spot from cold damage in March of 2013 and 2015, but has been doing well since then. Currently, it has its largest new spear to date and is about 15 feet tall. At last writing it was a mere 10 feet tall! We will keep our fingers crossed for this winter!

**Way down** in the southern jungle of our yard is the *Lytocaryum wedellianum*. The palm is native to southeastern Brazil near Rio de Janeiro. It has been a great surprise in its size and look. We planted this little guy in as a one gallon September of 2008 and it also suffered minor damage from the January 2009 cold. Today it is

happy and healthy at about five feet tall.

**A little** mystery in our yard at the moment is whether the *Livistona decipiens* we bought is actually a *chinensis*. Take a look at the photo and you make the call. This palm was planted in November of 2008. Either way, most *Livistonas* are super hardy and thrive in our yard. They are also good for self-defense (if you have ever had to trim them). We use the old fronds in our garden paths to help keep down weeds, a trick we first learned from Mr. Dent Smith over in Maitland.

**Finally, a** palm we bought just for the sheer meanness of it: *Acrocomia aculeata*. This palm is native from southern Mexico to northern Argentina. The photo we have included shows only the stem and with good reason. This *Acrocomia* is also a second try. The first one was planted in March of 2010 and died for no good reason except to be mean. Hence the second chance rule.

(Continued on page 20)

## What's in an Apopka Garden?

*(Continued from page 19)*

The new plant was installed in the front yard in December of 2011 and seems to have taken a shine to its location and has grown to about 10 feet.

**We have** found it very useful to keep a record of each palm's location and when it was planted and recommend this practice for all budding palm enthusiasts. As our collection grows, we better understand the habitats and needs of each, sometimes through trial and error. It also prevents us from buying multiples of the same palm at the Society's plant sales and auctions. In our half acre, we barely have room for the 150 palms we have now

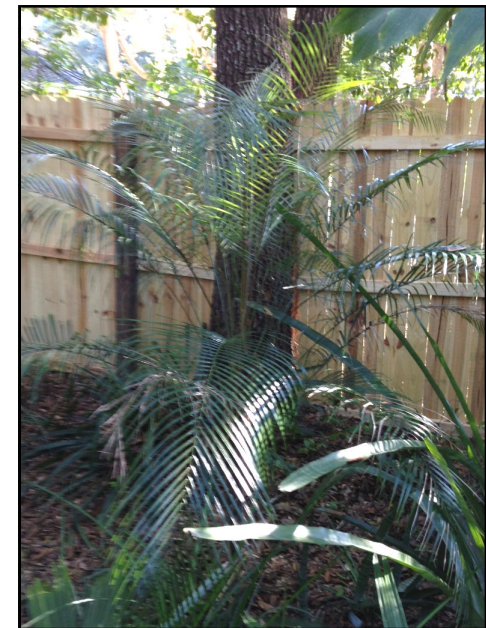
**We have** tried to keep up with planting as we get them, but Maryann likes to let the palm tell her where it should be planted and sometimes that takes a while. A long, long, long while.



*Some really, really serious spines on the leaf of *Acrocomia aculeata*. When this palm has a trunk, there will be more spines, closer together—not just on the leaf.*

**We have** also been very slack in the past year and no palms have received any fertilizer. Another good test perhaps? Anyway, despite our fertilizer slacking, all palms seem to be doing great. Stay tuned for a post winter update!

*Top right is *Livistona decipiens*. Or is really a *chinensis*? Below is *Lytocaryum weddellianum*.*



## From the Editor's Desk

**Hey, we** really need a president and a treasurer. Time for all good men and women to rally round the society—or at least two of them. If you've enjoyed being a member, how about pitching in to help out? What the president does is pretty straightforward. The treasurer has a more complicated job but not all that difficult when the various parts are kept up-to-date in a routine that becomes familiar. And Maryann will hang around long enough to train her successor. We may be able to limp along for a bit without a president, but we **must** have a treasurer to watch over the society's money.

\* \* \* \*

**In the** realm of speculation, I have been wondering when the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (always abbreviated by me to the acronym FLIPPC) will come to the

conclusion that all exotic palms should be on its pest list. Looking around my yard, I realize that there are volunteers under some of my 'exotic' palms. And all it takes, apparently, is for one member of this super-vigilant group to spot an outlander palm somewhere where it wasn't planted. Oy.

**Honestly, madam,** I'm pulling up seedlings of *Livistona saribus* as fast I can. Surely the lawnmower got the ones in the neighbors' lawns? And, yes, it's true, there a couple of foxtails not planted by me.

And I have been picking up the seeds of my tall (35-foot) *Veitchia arecina* that bloomed for the first time last summer. You mean I'm responsible if a squirrel carried some off across the street?

**Sir, those** are *Archontophoenix myolensis* seedlings, perfectly harmless, I assure you. The single

volunteer at the base of my *Bur-retiokentia hapala* was taken out by the neighbor's straying weed-wacker, no danger there. I have no objection to Queen Palms and Washingtonias being on the list and, truly, *Phoenix reclinata* is likely advancing into Georgia by now. But *Livistona rotundifolia* is a threat in Dade County, as is *Chamaedorea seifrizii*? Then

there are other palm species discovered as naturalized in spotty places around the state by the folks at the Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (USF), not yet reported—an oversight?—to the plant vigilantes.

\* \* \* \*

(Continued on page 22)



*Bismarckia nobilis* on Ile Sainte Marie, Madagascar. The Bismarcks at Lowe's just don't match the color of this one growing in the native place.

(Photo by Cindy Adair)

# From the Editor's Desk

*(Continued from page 21)*

**Lucinda Does Madagascar.** You needn't bother to go, she's done the eyewitness reporting for you, beginning on page 5. Hoo boy, is it 20 hours of air travel to get there before it's days in 4-wheel drive?

**Lucinda has** assured me that the beer is good there, a comfort to those of you contemplating the trip before all the palms are gone. Remember her buddy Cindy Adair? They Did Florida with a trailer 'just in case they saw something'? Cindy has contributed several palm pictures with comments, backing up Lucinda's piece.

**You can** find more of Cindy's pictures on Palm Talk.

\* \* \* \*

**If you're** thinking about sending in a contribution for the next newsletter—as, indeed, I hope you are—it would be helpful if you sent the text to me as a pdf and the pictures separately as JPEGs. Don't worry about the size, I can deal with that. If you're shaky about spelling, particularly of Latin names, I'm used to that, too.

**The deadline** for prospective contributors is about mid-February. I won't know for sure the exact date until the date for the March meeting is set. Any questions about a more specific deadline, I will surely know by the beginning of February.

*John Kennedy*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Seed Bank Report 2015

**The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter** has not been as exciting as past quarters, but we rally on. We had some wonderful donations from Anne Michael/Orchid Island, Neal Yorio/Satellite Beach, Donald Hodel/Environmental Horticulture CA., Lou Thomas/Belize and John Kennedy/Vero. Our total sales come to about \$150.00. We had buyers from Croatia, Ohio, Canada and Arizona.

**If you** are not receiving the Seed Bank offerings and you wish to be added to the email list contact us at **theseedbank@yahoo.com** and we will make sure to add you. Our transition to the new email address was not the smoothest, but we are getting there.

For anyone who would like to donate seeds the address is:  
**Jerry Luedeke**  
117 E Connecticut Ave.  
Edgewater, FL 32132

Thanks so much for your continued support in donations and purchases. We wish you and yours health and happiness in the coming year.



*Carpoxydon macrocarpum* in a Vero Beach garden, a little taller than 6 feet overall. It is a highly endangered species in its native habitat, Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides Islands). Botanical gardens and collectors are growing the palm, assuring its survival as a species.

(Photo by John Kennedy)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**After having** the pleasure of serving as President and Vice President for many years, I am regretfully preparing for my retirement from the Board. Like many, the rigors of working two jobs and volunteering for two organizations takes more time than there is in a week.

**Even though** my heart is with the Palm and Cycad Society, my work requires that I head the Florida Lake Management Society. It would be a disservice to all my friends here if I continue to serve without having the time necessary to provide you with the quality of management that you deserve.

**This is** not to be construed as a goodbye. I enjoy the society and all its members way too much not to continue attending meetings. For some strange reason, a scientist like me seems to fit in

perfectly with the type of individuals we have in our society. The incredible palms and cycads we purchase are valuable, however, the friends we made are priceless.

**I am** committed to helping our new Board members until they get their legs under them. I am also willing to share all my crazy ideas for improving the society. Many of which I have been unable to get implemented due to my time constraints.

**In five** years, I shall be retired and will request to be back on the Board. Then I will have too much time on my hands and will probably make a nuisance of myself. However, in the meantime, please keep the seat warm for a year until the next president takes over.

**Thanks to** each and every one of you, the Society is financially

healthy and member-strong and I have no doubt that it will continue in that same direction for years to come.

**If you** have taken the time to read this message, then you are exactly the person we need to take over the presidency. At some point, we all have to give a little time to support the programs we enjoy so much. This is your opportunity to do something for your friends here at the society. Consider it a Christmas present.

**Merry Christmas!**

Your Outgoing President,  
**Ron Hart**

<b>Checking Balance 8/31/15</b>	<b>\$16,572.14</b>
Sept-Oct Deposits	1,379.46
Sept-Oct Checks	671.44
<b>Ending Checking Balance (10/31/15)</b>	<b>\$17,280.16</b>
<b>Gain/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$708.02</b>
<b>Income Year to Date</b>	
Membership	\$1,147.68
Merchandise	0.00
Private Sales	2,738.29
Public Sales	1,750.27
Seed Bank	1,062.16
<b>Total Income Year to Date</b>	<b>\$6,698.40</b>
<b>Expenses Year to Date</b>	
Meeting Expense	\$499.58
IPS Dues	120.00
Bank Fees	6.00
Office Supplies	18.62
Public Relations	350.77
Seed Bank	45.16
Taxes	275.42
Vendor Fees	225.00
Vendor Proceeds	2,219.20
Website	345.00
<b>Total Expenses Year to Date</b>	<b>\$4,104.75</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>	
Endowment Fund Balance 9/30/15	\$12,223.95
CD #1 11-28-15 maturity	\$3,269.90
CD #2 9-25-15 maturity	\$3,157.59
Sales Cash Box	\$305.30
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$18,956.74</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
None	0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Net Worth as of 8/31/15</b>	<b>\$36,236.90</b>

## Treasurer's Report 10/31/15

*Our net worth as of 10/31/15 was \$36,236.90. The Society's net worth decreased \$69.51 since 8/31/15. The Public Relations expense was for the CFPACS decals.*

**—Maryann Krisovitch**



*Deplaning on Ile Sainte Marie, Madagascar. Ahead: long rides in the 4-wheel drive vehicle. (Photo by Lucinda McCartney)*



## 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](mailto:treasurer@cfpacs.com)

Membership also available at website:

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

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



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.**

### **CFPACS Board**

#### **PRESIDENT**

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[meetings@cfpacs.com](mailto:meetings@cfpacs.com)

*A Nikau Palm, *Rhopalostylis sapida*, glimpsed at Pukeiti Botanical Garden on the lower slopes of Mount Tranaki/Egmont on New Zealand's North Island. Dr. Penelope Carroll, the photographer's friend, provides scale.*

*(Photo by John Prince)*

