

The Palmateer

Volume 36, Number 1 Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

March 2016



An inviting pathway through the Evans garden to be explored at the second stop on March 26th. (Photo by Mike Evans)

March 26th Meeting in St. Petersburg

Just ahead: CFPACS's first look at the cycads and a few palms re-located from the U. A. Young garden in Tampa to Gizella Kopsick Palm & Cycad Arboretum in St. Petersburg. (That's now GKPCA?) First stop on March 26th is at Kopsick, North Shore Dr. & 11th Ave. N., from 10:00-11:30. A guided tour of the new collection will be provided, so

it's important to arrive on time. Free parking is available at the adjacent North Shore Pool.

The \$300K project has been completed. The result is a substantial enlargement of the Kopsick collection by the addition of 400 cycads and 20 mature palms. Kopsick now may well be the largest **free**

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December Meeting Report

Bok Tower Gardens & Winter Haven

By John Kennedy

First to Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales. About 30 or so members gathered in the entry for a tour guided by a volunteer. For those who had never been to Bok, its beauty was a sheer revelation. For others who had been a long time since visiting, a reminder of its quiet serenity. There aren't that many palms or cycads but those growing there seemed to be in perfect condition. The focal point—as always—is Bok Tower with its Singing Carillon (that didn't sing for our group). Beyond the Tower and the pool at its base is an overlook.

The Garden sits astride a high point on the Lake Wales Ridge. Below is a vista for miles of fields, woods, small towns. No cities, no huge developments. Peaceful.

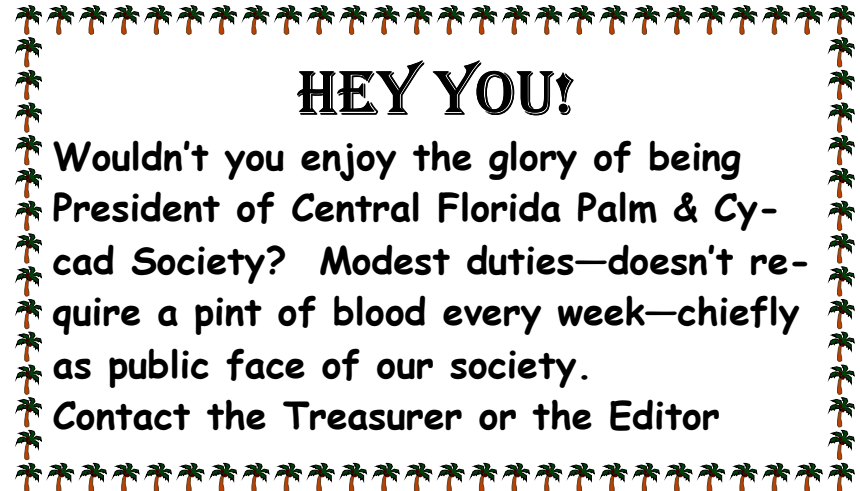
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Entrance to Bok. That's an orchid in the pot.
(Photo by Bob Montanaro)





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HEY YOU!

 Wouldn't you enjoy the glory of being President of Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society? Modest duties—doesn't require a pint of blood every week—chiefly as public face of our society.

 Contact the Treasurer or the Editor

The Palmateer

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The Palmateer
 Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society
 3225 13th Street
 Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3825
 (772) 567-9587

Editor: John D. Kennedy
palmateer@cfpacs.com

March 26th: St. Pete

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public cycad and palm garden in the U. S.

The second tour, from 12:00-3:30, is at the garden of Mike and Margie Evans, 6015 100th Way, North, in St. Pete. The acre and a half garden is heavily planted with palms, cycads, and bamboo under a canopy of century-old oaks. A good place to wander around, it is strongly urged that visitors wear closed-toe shoes: the walkways are rough, not botanical-garden manicured/paved. There is also an extensive nursery to explore.

Lunch is at the Evanses', from noon-1:00 p.m. Italian meatball sandwiches and sides will be served. Members are requested to bring a side dish of salad, fruit, or dessert. Drinks will be provided. CFPACS members eat for free; non-members pay



Dioons of various species, newly planted at Kopsick. (Photos by Phil Stager)

\$6.

Following lunch will be a tour of the garden. Just after that comes the Plant Auction and the Plant Sale for members only.

Suggestions: Bring a chair and a plant for the Auction.

--John Kennedy



Above, the blue Encephalartos collection at Kopsick.

Kopsick Preview

By Phil Stager

The relocation of approximately 400 cycads, 20 palms, and 25 landscape boulders from the Young Estate to the Gizella Kopsick Palm and Cycad Aboretum is completed. However, the rare cycads were relocated to Sunken Gardens to minimize loss from theft.

During our visit to Kopsick, we may encounter some construction in progress. Con-

crete curbing is being installed along all brick walkways, sections of some brick walkways are being raised, and new drainage is being installed in the southeast corner of the tennis courts. The entire arboretum will be mulched once all construction is finished.

Almost all cycads at Kopsick

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Kopsick Preview

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have flushed at least once, and several have flushed twice or more. The large area planted with *Ceratozamias* is the slowest to flush. The *Dioons* seem to be the quickest to flush.

One of the highlights of the cycad collection at Kopsick is the blue collection. This area has multiple specimens of *E. trispinosus*, *E. princeps*, *E. arenarius* and others. The largest specimen in the entire cycad collection, a double *E. whitelockii* is impressive with only one flush and two cones.

Palm nuts will appreciate the large *Borassus* sp., several unusual *Butia* hybrids, and numerous *Rhapis* sp. clumps. Other rare cycads are at SunkenGardens include a large *Bowenia spectabilis* and several *E. horridus*.



Far left, double Encephalartos whitelockii at Kopsick. Near left, Cycas scratchleyana at Sunken Gardens with Microcycas calocoma in the background.

(Photos by Phil Stager)

For those who might wish to make a stop at Sunken Gardens—1825 4th St. N—on the way home, the Gardens are open on Saturday until 4:30, with no tickets sold after 4:00. Adults: \$10; Seniors (62+) \$8; Children (2-11) \$4.

OUR THANKS

To: Tom Broome, for his expertise.

To: Tom St. Peter, Nate Bowden, Rick Nale, and Phil Stager for all their work during the move from the U. A. Young garden to the two sites in St. Petersburg.

—All of Us in CFPACS

December Meeting

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Even the packed gift shop near the entrance does not obtrude. Construction near the entry promises a children’s facility. Several visitors shuddered, perhaps envisioning a small-scale adaptation of Disney World.

On the grounds are several large winter residences built on the grounds before and after World War I and no longer lived in. An extra fee was charged for entry into a millionaire’s house decorated there for Christmas.

From Bok a short drive to Winter Haven brought us to

the refurbished homeplace of Keith Santner and David Banfill. Once an abandoned citrus grove, the two have expended an amazing amount of work and unmentionable amount of money in transforming the property. Nothing remains to show what it was. Visitors saw a luxuriant

lawn and some palms, not all that many yet, but this is a work in progress. Those of us with small house lots already packed with palms and cycads could look wistfully at the largely empty acreage. The attractive house was there before they moved in in 2012 but had been unfinished.

Lunch went on for a satisfactory length of time, David on the grill, Keith outside telling the munchers about the stages of bringing the property to the state they could now see. Of course, the Tour, some mention of future plans. Then, the business end of the meeting: the plant auction followed by the plant sale. As usual, waving fronds in departing SUVs, pickups, plain ole cars.

Speaking of future plans, we’ll need to return in a few years to see what these guys have done in the meantime.

*Left, Paul Craft examines a cycad—or vice versa—at Bok.
Below, a row of Rhapis: the ambiance of Bok.*

(Photos by Janice Broda)





*Above, the group listens to the Bok tourguide.
Below, a Lipstick Palm in the Bok entry. You can't see the pot but it can be taken inside in chilly weather.*



*Above, view from the ridge at Bok of the vista below.
Left, the signature symbol, Bok Tower with its carillon.
(Photos this page by Mike Evans)*

December Meeting—Palms, Eating, A Good Time



*Left, the front door is guarded by (maybe) *Thrinax parviflora*. Far right, Keith Santner. Near right, David Banfill. Below, left, past prez Lucinda McCartney with Terrence Williams. (Photos by Janice Broda)*



Listening to Keith's account of the new palm garden. (He is right, just outside the picture.) (Photo by Mike Evans)





Above, outgoing president Ron Hart (right) presents the chapter's gift to the owners, Beccario-phoenix alfredii, accepted by Keith. (Photo by Mike Evans)

Left, a Triangle Palm on the Santner-Banfill property. (Photo by Janice Broda)

Encephalartos horridus, above, and Bowenia spectabilis, below, both at Sunken Gardens, St. Pete. (Photos by Phil Stager)



Zika Virus and Gardener Safety

By Janice Broda

Zika virus emerged in the western hemisphere in 2015, and forty-four travel-related cases have been reported in Florida as of 3/7/2016. Chikungunya emerged in 2013, and Florida saw 12 locally acquired cases in 2014. Dengue, thought to be eradicated from Florida in 1934, re-emerged in Key West with 28 cases in 2009 and 65 cases in 2010.

These three diseases are transmitted to humans by mosquitoes and have similar symptoms: High fever, severe headache, body aches, joint

Janice Broda is the CFPACS East vp. She is also an Indian River County Mosquito Control Commissioner. By state law, every county is required to have a Mosquito Control Commission. —Editor



pain, rash, nausea and vomiting. Sound like the flu? Many cases are not severe and go undetected, but a small percentage of people suffer devastating neurological or autoimmune problems. Zika virus is believed to cause birth defects in some pregnant women.

Zika, chikungunya, and dengue fever are transmitted by the same two species of mosquitoes in Florida: the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) and the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*),

both day-biting, invasive species. These mosquitoes are “domestic”; They breed around your home in anything that holds even a small amount of water, even plant material. Phytotelmata are non-aquatic plant structures that hold water and include modified leaves, leaf axils, flowers, stem holes, open fruits, and fallen leaves.

At the 6/20/2015 CFPACS meeting in Sarasota, this downy woodpecker was photographed [see next page] enjoying larvae from the flo-

ral bracts of a white bird of paradise (*Strelitzia nicolai*). Fallen palm fronds and other palm parts can hold water and breed mosquitoes. Be sure to check palm parts for mosquito breeding, as well as the better-known places like plant trivets, bird baths, pet bowls, and clogged gutters. Do your part to minimize mosquito production in your yard.

Tank bromeliads are notorious phytotelmata. No, I did not stage this picture of a herbal insect repellent with native green wild pines (*Tillandsia utriculata*) in a beautiful bird bath of bromeliads taken at the 10-3-2015 CFPACS meeting in Melbourne.

Please protect yourself against mosquito biting with

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*Downy Woodpecker
enjoying
sip of mosquito
larvae.
(Photo by Janice Broda)*

*Chunk of petrified palm,
souvenir of the Danube
River cruise.
(Photo by Maryann
Krisovitch)*



Palm Geeks & Rock Hounds

Zika Virus

(Continued from page 9)

loose-fitting, light colored clothes and repellent. The Center for Disease Control recommends repellents that contain oil of lemon eucalyptus, a natural product with about an hour of efficacy, picardin, a recently developed chemical that lasts about three hours, and DEET, an older varnish-like product developed by the U.S. Army in 1947.

Take care of yourself & your yard!

By Maryann Krisovitch

You never know who you will meet in your travels. During the Christmas holiday, Ron and I had the good fortune to enjoy the Christmas markets on a Danube River cruise. The benefit of being on a small river ship is the number of passengers is substantially lower than that of usual ocean cruises. On our ship, there were about 180 passengers so it was very easy to get to know your fellow travelers. As the meals were open seating, Ron and I made an effort to sit with different people as

often as possible. As usual, the topic of conversation each meal turned to everyone's hobbies and interests. You all know ours! The people we met were very interested in the number and different types of palms and cycads we have in our collection. Of course, the Palm Geeks encouraged them to try some of their own.

One evening, we met a gentleman who described himself as a Rock Hound. Having spent romantic evenings at home organizing our own fossil and mineral collection,

Ron and I knew just what he meant. To prove his statement, he pulled a polished geode out of his pocket. He said that he never goes anywhere without having some gemstones to trade ~ just in case. Knowing that we enjoyed collecting palms and cycads, he mentioned that he had a piece of petrified palm. Better yet, he had it with him! I asked if he minded if I took a photo for our Society's newsletter. He did one better. He gave me the piece!

**Fas
t forward** to packing for the

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Palm Geeks & Rock Hounds

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trip home. I wrapped my palm and handmade ceramic snowmen, one for me and one for Mom, and tucked them away in a safe place for the long trip home. The day after we arrived home, I unpacked all of our bags and realized I couldn't find one of the snowmen. I looked through every nook and cranny of our luggage to no avail. It wasn't until a week later when I woke up in the middle of the night and realized that, not only was I missing Mom's snowman, but also the petrified palm. Suddenly I jumped out of bed, scared Ron, ran into the closet and looked in Ron's boots. I thought I put the delicate pieces in them. Nope! Darn! Back to bed. Two minutes later, I jumped up again with Ron



Another view of the petrified-palm fossil. (Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)

not so happy and ran back into the closet and pulled out MY boots. Eureka, there was the snowman AND the petrified palm! They are two of my favorite things from our trip!



Looks like the nursery adjacent to the Evans garden. Below, another aspect of the garden (Photos by Mike Evans)



How to Talk About Palms to a Group

By John Kennedy

I have been giving presentations on palms since 1993, mostly in my home area of the Treasure Coast, though once to Oviedo and to West Palm. Most recently, in January, to the Seagrape Circle of the Garden Club of Indian River County and to the Indian River County chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

I've never heard of anyone else doing this though I think it a useful way of getting folks interested in palms and to publicize our society. If anyone would be interested in setting up such a program, I would be more than willing to assist with details of what I have done and with suggestions.

First and foremost, the person giving the presentation

should be an old timer who has been growing palms for maybe 10 years at least. And this person should live in the general area and speak chiefly from his/her own experience and those of others in the same area.

Let me tell you how it came to pass—written up years ago for *Palms*, the IPS journal. I was an English instructor at Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce. The faculty was under some pressure to do “community service.” I had given a couple of presentations on novels/novelists to the local chapter of the AAUW (American Association of University Women) but this pretty much saturated the potential audience.

I had recently become involved with Heathcote Bo-

tanical Gardens in Fort Pierce. Lib Tobey, then the director, had put in some few nicely-labeled palms, not all that many, but unfamiliar at the time, and thought that I could give a presentation on palms, taking the attendees after the talk to look at the specimens. I agreed but was only too aware of how little I knew. I had been growing palms in Vero Beach since 1980 had (likely) 20 or 25 species which wasn't bad for the time. What to tell people?

How broad should the talk be, how limited? What species should I suggest? How much palm botany? (Not that I knew all that much.)

In January 1993, I gave my first talk at Heathcote. Lib Tobey had told me that

A byway to wander in the Evans garden in St. Pete on March 26th.

(Photo by Mike Evans)



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Palm Talk

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more than 30 people had signed up, mostly nurserymen. I nearly panicked.

What could I tell them? Don't worry, said Lib, they don't know all that much. To my very great surprise, she was right. They only sold palms they bought from wholesalers, beyond that, had no information. And they sold basically Queen Palms and Washingtonias, Manila Palms, Pygmy Date Palms, Canary Island Date Palms. Maybe a really good garden shop might have a couple more species.

My presentation included a short slide show and, if I'm recalling correctly, a two-page list of species and cultural tips. The presentation itself lasted not much longer than 40-45 minutes.

The attendees bombarded me non-stop with questions for more than an hour. Fortunately I was able to answer almost all, was able to come with probable answers for a few I was unsure of.

The session went on so long that the walk through the palms in the Garden took place as dusk was falling and was shorter than planned.

Over the years since then, my presentation has evolved into a PowerPoint show with 60+ slides and a 10-page handout that includes four pages by Tom Broome on cycads and their care. My list of suggested species grew larger as more species became available but I stuck to those that were relatively easy to obtain and to grow. I frequently had freebie seedlings to give away, usually *Chamaedorea seifrizii* and/or *Livistona saribus*.

The presentation now takes a bit over an hour. I never say I'm an expert but that I have learned a lot from my mistakes with palms. One continuing difficulty is getting good distinctive pictures of individual species. Usually best done where this is enough space for that particular palm to stand out from those around it.

I have given my spiel at Heathcote several times, twice at McKee Botanical Garden in Vero, to the Port St. Lucie Botanical Garden. Also to circles of the Garden Club in Indian River County, to property owners groups in Indian River and St. Lucie Counties, to Master Gardeners in Indian River County, and a couple of times to the Florida Native Plant Society (only on native palms, please no exotics), and to a faculty group at Indian River Community (now Indian River

State) College. I bring my slide show with me on a thumb drive to plug into a computer connected to a projector. The host organization prints the handouts.

I've not noticed very many shy folks among the CFPACS palm kindred, so there's nothing to be afraid of talking to a group about something you like and are enthusiastic about. The audience tends to be tentative and almost completely ignorant about the basics. The initial problem, really, is organization and not trying to tell them too much, more than they are able to absorb. I would be happy to send a copy of my handout to anyone who might consider putting together a program for their area. I also have put together another shorter program on palms for indoors and patios.

What's in an Apopka Garden?

Today, we will discuss 5 more of the fantastic palms that Maryann and I have growing in our Apopka yard. We have well over 150 species.

But first, what a great winter we had here. Our lowest temperature was about 36 degrees. It resulted in frost on most of the roofs in our neighborhood. However, our thick oak canopy seemed to keep the frost away from our yard. Only a few of our palms had any significant signs of cold damage. One was a *Pritchardia alymer-robinsonii* planted in March of 2011. We will show pictures of it in our next article. This year, we lived on the edge: we didn't cover any palms or cycads.

The first of our featured palms is *Calamus leptospadix*. We planted it along our



Above, *Calamus leptospadix*,
Below, its 18-inch whips.



Above, *Caryota maxima*
'Himalaya'.

southern boundary. It was our protection from the ruffian boys next door who have since moved! It is armed with numerous spines and tendrils with backward hooking scales that latch onto anything near or attempting to pass by. This palm is found in Northeast India and is a source of Saponin, an antibacterial and antifungal chemical. Because of these properties, the palm is considered medically important.

I believe it is far more important as a spiny neighbor deterrent. Our *Calamus* was planted in November 2008 and only suffered minor tip damage in January 2009.

A palm that is quickly becoming one of my favorites is *Caryota maxima*

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An Apopka Garden

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“Himalaya” .It is naturally found in China, Vietnam, Laos etc. I like it because of its quick growth. Every leaf seems to be a third larger than the last. Ours was planted in early 2015 and has taken off like a rocket. So far we have not seen any cold damage on this palm. However, we will report back as the palm continues to gets older and bigger. I am sure there will be cold test in the future.

A palm that we do not take any chances on the cold is our *Hyophorbe indica*. In the photo, you will notice it relaxing in a pot on the back porch. Of course, this is not its usual location. Typically, it enjoys reclining on the pool deck sharing a margarita with Maryann.

This is one of only three palms we brought onto the porch this season. I don’t believe it will fit inside next year so my plan on cold days is to tip it over and cover it while it lays on the ground.

However, I tried this method with the palm in 2013 and the palm suffered 57% cold damage. I don’t know how I was able to determine exactly 57% damage. It may have something to do with the margaritas. This palm is native to Reunion Island in the Mascarene Islands east of Madagascar. The palm is considered threatened due to habitat loss.

Another of my favorite palms is *Saribus rotundifolia*. We used to know it as *Livistona rotundifolia*. In 2011, it was renamed due to its DNA analysis. Maryann and I also had our DNA analyzed but no



one has tried to change our names as a result. But, I digress. The palm has perfectly round leaves and is a native of Southeast Asia (photo). Ours was planted in April 2010 and suffered cold damage to most of the leaves in March of 2012. It did take a long time for all the damage to show and was slow to recover. Now however, it looks great.

That’s Maryann’s hand in the photo and only a little bit of blood was drawn in the tak-

Left, *Saribus rotundifolia*.
Below, *Hyophorbe indica* on
the back porch.

(Photos by Ron Hart)



ing of this picture. The last of the palms we shall discuss today is our *Lytocaryum weddellianum*. It is a small graceful pinnate palm that is cold

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An Apopka Garden

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hardy. Ours was planted in September 2008 and only suffered minor damage in the cold winter of 2009. Since then, it has performed wonderfully without any signs of damage. This is definitely a palm that should be utilized more in Central Florida.

By the way, the seeds are edible and taste like tiny coconuts. When ours flowers, I plan to make miniature piña coladas.

Well, that is all I have to say tonight and I am sure you are all tired of my crazed ramblings.

I know our editor, John Kennedy, must be *[No comment]*. Just testing to see if he reads these submittals. Anyway, my warden is expecting me back in my cell so I must go or face her evil wrath. If they



Lytocaryum weddellianum
(All photos by author)

pardon me in time and trust me with a crayon, I will be back to write another article for the newsletter.

**Your past President,
Ron Hart**

What is that palm sticking up in the famed palmz 'n' weedz garden in Vero Beach? Pinnate. None other than a 40-foot high Veitchia arecina. Just behind, a little higher, is Livistona saribus.

(Photo by John Kennedy)



A Needle Palm Grows in Illinois



[This article, written for the Southeastern Palm Society, is reprinted here by permission of Jeff Stevens and the author.]

By Keith Santner

Though I, Keith, now live in central FL, I grew up in the 1970's and 1980's in an Illinois suburb of St Louis MO where summers are warm to hot, and winters were generally cool to cold.

Because of its continental climate, the central US is

prone to wide temperature fluctuations. When arctic air invades temperatures occasionally fall below -10F (-23C). Most winters feature several nights between 0 and -5F (-18 to -20C) and there are many days with subfreezing highs. Record lows for the area are between -15 and -20F (-25 to -28C).

Summers typically have many days above 90F (32C) and the all time record high for Illinois, 117F (47C), oc-

Left, Needle Palm under snow, January 2014, Smithton, IL. Temperature at the time of the picture, -10 (-23C). Right, the palm, with some damage, after warmup in Spring 2014.

curred in 1954 in nearby East St Louis, IL. The official USDA hardiness zone is 6B. Hot summers, cold winters, variable rainfall, and rapid temperature swings. That's the climate.

In March 2007 my parents and grandparents drove to my home in Jacksonville, FL. We stuffed a 5 gallon Needle Palm in the trunk of their car and Dad planted it along the eastern wall of the house in Smithton IL.

The planting site is shaded by a row of trees to the east and the house to the west but



this arrangement creates a wind tunnel effect when the wind comes from the north. Perfect! The volatile mid-western climate didn't hesitate to give it a challenge.

April 2007 brought a harsh freeze to the central US. Temperatures fell into the low teens and high single digits causing serious damage to temperate plants that had begun to awaken after months of winter cold. But the recently planted Needle

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Needle Palm in Illinois

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Palm fared well with little complaint.

Over the next few years this durable little plant has grown consistently and suffered only one serious leaf burn event. In January 2014, after a heavy snowfall, skies cleared and the ultimate radiational cooling event struck. Uncharacteristically, areas just to the south and southeast of St Louis recorded the coldest temperatures with widespread readings of -15F (+/- 3). We were concerned that it might not make it but it did. The photos at right show how it looked- December 30, 2015. I'm sure some of you are wondering, so: no, it has never been protected.

After 8.5 years of growth, its obvious that *Rhapidophyllum hystrix*, the North American native Needle Palm, is capa-

ble of withstanding climates that have an occasional, short duration sub zero freeze event, even to -10F. **But it's** still not clear whether a Needle Palm can endure the harshest winters in the St Louis area. Winters of the 1970's and 1980's featured long duration cold snaps and some zone 5A cold (between -15 & -19F) making them more challenging than any weather events since March 2007.

Today it's not uncommon to see very large Southern Magnolias and Crape Myrtles in the area whereas in the 1980's, even most hardy hollies froze.

Sooner or later, another truly wicked freeze will probably kill this durable palm but for now, we enjoy its winter beauty. But if you can grow the Chinese and Japanese hollies, Needle Palms have a good chance too.



December 2015, 18 months after -10 temperature. Below, author's dad, George Santner, with 1 meter measuring stick.

(All photos by Keith Santner)





This photo was taken early (May) in the growing season of 2009. Those of us in Florida remember winter of 2008-2009 as long and cold enough to kill marginal plants. But this palm looks pretty good up in zone 6. It's one of few plants that will grow in both Miami and St Louis. Tip: When purchasing, choose the largest specimen you can find or afford. The extra root mass and larger stems are more resistant to freeze damage.



Above, December 2012. As a professional horticulturist and an avid collector of palms, Keith is pleasantly surprised at the durability of this palm. As a college student in the 1980's, all palms he tried in in this climate perished, usually in the first winter.

Tip: Needle Palms are native from South Carolina to Mississippi and south into central Florida. They like moist, forested sites with deciduous &/or evergreen canopy.

Below, December 2013. In a good site, like a wooded setting with adequate moisture, Needle Palms make an attractive plant in climates traditionally considered too cold for palms.

Tip: Plant in spring in a partly shaded site to allow as much establishment time as possible before winter cold arrives. Install Needle Palms around a pool or water feature under small trees like Dogwood, or Redbud and among flowering evergreens like Rhododendron to add a tropical touch to the landscape.



From the Editor's Desk

What's the wonderful newest, latest palm discovered? What's the Palm of the Year? Have I missed it? Maybe I'm out of the loop (yeah, a real possibility). Maybe the next Wonder Palm will glow in the dark, have fragrant flowers (and foliage, too), and edible fruit. In addition, it will be fast growing, tolerate temperatures down to 20°, and be salt-tolerant. No spines on the petioles and moderate size: no more than 30 feet high.

Even as we speculate about the new palm, squads of botanists are scouring Madagascar in search of the 50 additional species of *Dypsis* not known to the world. On the other hand, perhaps it's just another species of *Syagrus* uncovered in Brazil. Maybe

50 mature individuals in a concealed valley or slope.

* * * *

One of the guilty joys of going to Bok, aside from admiring its beauty and tranquility is visiting the gift shop. I don't think I have ever been to any attraction where women didn't hit the gift shop, though men usually walked past. But Bok's gift shop is very different. OK, it's all *tchotchkes* (granted) but not cheesy, stupid stuff but cute, maybe neat stuff. And a real selling point, not overpriced for completely unnecessary small things. **Reasonably priced**, yes. A certain CFPACS officer announced, in my hearing, that Christmas shopping would be done right there in Bok's gift

shop.

The people running Bok aren't dumb, had to set up something to catch the husbands of the grazers in the gift shop. So-o-o-o, a door at the far end has a sign: Plant Shop. Outdoors a fenced area with 50 or so plants, including 12- or 15-gallon camellias in beautiful shape and not budget busters, either. **Can't recall** any palms but that kind of place wouldn't have anything for collectors, anyway. I did come away with a native Florida hibiscus that goes dormant in winter before leafing out and producing brilliant red flowers. It's a swamp plant, so will have to lead its life in Vero Beach in a pot in a water-filled tub. But, hey, the Zika virus likely means no water-filled tub, so that I must water it every day. Maybe I can put the pot on marbles in a saucer and put a half inch of

water in the saucer daily. American ingenuity—or laziness—will always find a way!

* * * *

How about the palms that you really wanted to have, purchased them, but they took a look at you and . . . died, for no apparent reason. I thought of this with the picture of the *Rhopalostylis sapida* at the entrance to Auckland Botanical Garden in New Zealand. Where I got mine years ago, I can't recall but it was just beyond the two-leaf seedling stage when it went to glory. Think I had it, in the pot, for no more than three weeks. At another time, I had a *Ceroxylon* (a lower-altitude species) from that guy in Jacksonville who kept caimans in his garage and, presumably in his spare time, germinated rare seed. Two weeks for that

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From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 20)

one. Is anybody growing *Rhopalostylis*, either species, in Florida? Or any species of *Ceroxylon*? I would really like to know. Would this make me feel better? No, ag-grieved.

* * * *

CFPACS needs a new presi-dent and a new treasurer. Ron Hart retired (January 1), with his Secret Service detail, to an undisclosed location in Apopka. Maryann is hanging on as treasurer but is looking for replacement. After all, they enjoyed a winter cruise down the Danube.

What's next? a cruise down the Volga? Or maybe the Vis-tula? (I would suggest a Rhine cruise, but all those castles after the first 30 got boring after a while on a slow

boat, with nothing else to do but drink beer.)

When looking for a new prez, we may have to put every member's name in a hat and pull out one. If you see a committee on your doorstep, looking both solemn and elated, **you** could be the next president.

* * * *

Seen at Lowe's in Vero Beach just a few days ago: big 5-gallon Needle Palm (\$25), small Old Man Palm and short landscape size (*Coccothrinax crinita*), good 3-gallon *Thrinax radiata*.

Can it be that more unfamiliar and interesting palms are making an appearance in the Big Box stores? Last time I recall the unusual was years back. The palm buyer for Walmart east coast had purchased a bunch of *Areca tri-andra* labeled "Chrysolidocarpus lutescens."

Folks promptly raided their local Walmarts to relieve management of the mistake.

* * * *

We learned at the second half of the December meet-ing how welcome we were at the transformed homeplace of Keith Santner and David Banfill, our energetic and

kind hosts. I enjoyed myself; I think everyone else did, too. Regretfully, I won't be able to make the St. Pete meeting. **In addition** to viewing all the palms and cycads, I would have been sure to stop at the iconic secondhand book-store, Haslam's on Central Avenue.

John Kennedy



Rhopalostylis sapida at the entrance of Auckland Botanical Garden. (Photo by John Prince)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

No President, so no message. *From the Editor's Desk* is longer, to fill the same amount of space.

A comment about the Needle Palm

Keith Santner points out in his article that while *Rhapido-phyllum hystrix* can tolerate very low temperatures, it does require hot summers. Some European palm magazines have mentioned that the Needle Palm can take winter weather in western Europe but doesn't flourish there. What's missing is the hot summer common to the U. S.

At right, a Needle Palm I recently purchased from Lowe's.

—John Kennedy



Needle Palm: \$24.98 from Lowe's, with 6 suckers. Wholesaler: Acosta Farms Nursery, Miami.

4th Quarter Seed Bank Report 2015

The 4th 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.

Checking Balance 1/1/15	\$15,043.91
Ending Checking Balance (12/31/15)	<u>\$18,175.24</u>
Gain for 2015	<u>\$3,131.33</u>
Income Year to Date	
Membership	\$1,963.92
Merchandise	24.00
Private Sales	3,359.33
Public Sales	1,750.27
Seed Bank	<u>1,245.42</u>
Total Income Year to Date	<u>\$8,342.94</u>
Expenses Year to Date	
Meeting Expense	\$1,213.64
IPS Dues (pd thru 7/18)	120.00
Bank Fees	6.00
Office Supplies	18.62
Public Relations	350.77
Seed Bank	45.16
Taxes	322.28
Vendor Fees	225.00
Vendor Proceeds	2,460.80
Website	<u>345.00</u>
Total Expenses Year to Date	<u>\$3,235.67</u>
Other Assets	
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	<u>\$305.30</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$18,956.74</u>
Liabilities	
None	<u>0.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$0.00</u>
Net Worth as of 12/31/15	<u>\$37,141.98</u>

Treasurer's Report 12/31/15

Our net worth as of 12/31/15 was \$37,141.98. The Society's net worth increased \$905.08 since 12/31/15. The Public Relations expense was for the CFPACS decals.

—Maryann Krisovitch



Rest your weary bones on the stone bench, enjoy the beauty of the Evans garden.

(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 _____
 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.



CFPACS

Board

PRESIDENT

Vacant

EAST VICE-PRESIDENT

Janice Broda
12396 Hwy. A1A
Vero Beach, FL 32963
eastvp@cfpacs.com

CENTRAL VICE-PRESIDENT

Keith Santner
8 Cherry Blossom Lane
Winter Haven, FL 33884
centralvp@cfpacs.com

WEST VICE-PRESIDENT

Mike Evans
6015 - 100th Way N.
St. Petersburg FL 33708
westvp@cfpacs.com

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

Ron Hart
1008 Little Fawn Ct.
Apopka, FL 32712
pastpresident@cfpacs.com

SECRETARY

Chuck Grieneisen
PO Box 621689
Oviedo FL 32762
secretary@cfpacs.com

TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Maryann Krisovitch
1008 Little Fawn Ct.
Apopka, FL 32712
treasurer@cfpacs.com

PALMATEER EDITOR

John Kennedy
3225 - 13th St.
Vero Beach FL 32960
palmateer@cfpacs.com

CFPACS SEED BANK

Jerry & Libby Luedeke
117 E. Connecticut Ave.
Edgewater, FL 32132
seedbank@cfpacs.com

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.**



*Little Licualas under what species of palm?
An Archontophoenix in the Evans garden?
(Photo by Mike Evans)*