The Palmateer

Volume 36, Number 2 *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* *October 2016*

David Hall is the new CFPACS president. See page 3.

Fall Tour to Miami

December 3-4, Montgomery & Fairchild

We are going to try something different this year for the garden tours. New gardens to visit in our normal area are getting harder to find. The CFPACS board has decided to make the trip down to Miami this Fall, so we can visit 2 world class botanical gardens. The first garden is Montgomery Botanical Center (MBC) and the second garden is Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (FTBC). MBC is a private scientific center that is generally not open to the public. The center's collections provide genetically diverse population samples of wild-collected palms and cycads, with thorough documentation of each plant. We will be greeted by Dr. Patrick Griffith, the executive director, and he will give us an overview of the botanical center and their mission. We will go on a golf cart overview tour of the gardens, then be allowed to roam the gardens on our own to see the specific areas that draw your interests.

CFPACS will be donating $2000 to MBC to help develop and conserve a scientifically valuable collection of palms and cycads for future generations. Click here for introduction to MBC.

The second garden, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is probably more well know by most people, because it is open to the public. FTBG is an 83-acre botanic garden, with extensive collections of rare tropical plants including palms, cycads, flowering trees and vines. The garden was established in 1936 by Robert Montgomery , an accountant, attorney, and businessman with a passion for plant-collecting. The

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Welcome to the Bachmann garden in Gainesville. For the June meeting report, go to page 25.

(Photo by Keith Santner)

CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

There was no June issue of *The Palmateer.* The Editor received only enough material for about two pages, so cancelled publication.

Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, has announced that it is discontinuing Botanical Fest, the popular March event on campus. The university will spend the money on academics. Botanical Fest had been much enjoyed for 10 years.

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The Palmateer

The Palmateer is published four times a year: March, June, September, and December by Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society, a chapter of the International Palm Society and of The Cycad Society.

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Dave Hall Is the Now CFPACS President

I am honored to be the next Co-President* of the CFPACS. As a palm grower in Volusia County for more than 30 years, I appreciate the opportunity this leadership position offers. Having been a member of the society for a number of years, I have enjoyed the benefits of our shared garden experiences, the newsletters and the fellowship of other palm and cycad enthusiasts.

I 'd like to share a little of my history for those who may not know me well. Life for me started in London, UK, as my father served in the military. However, through my family I am a 4th generation Floridian of Southern Volusia County. I graduated from the University of Miami in 1979 with a degree emphasis in biology and geography. I have been living on the North Causeway in New Smyrna Beach ever since. On this property, I started my marina and began collecting and growing palms (some successfully, some not). Today, I have 85 varieties of palms at the house which we featured in March of 2015. My family grew citrus in Oak Hill adjacent to the Mosquito Lagoon. I still own a portion of the original homestead. There I grow citrus and palms. A few years back, I teamed up with my future Co-President to start a nursery enterprise we named Nine B.

I look forward to renewing acquaintances and making new friends when we meet next. I wish for all of us a prosperous year for growth.

—Dave Hall

*[*By Co-President, Dave means that his business partner, Mike Ricigliano—named a CFPACS director—will assist with the duties at times when Dave himself may be deeply involved in the business.—Editor.]*

Dave Hall, new CFPACS prez, stands with his favorite palm, Kentiopsis oliviformis, *at home in New Smyrna Beach.*

December Tour to Montgomery & Fairchild

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garden opened to the public in 1938. It was named after his good friend David Fairchild, one of the great plant explorers. CFPACS will pay entrance fee for all CFPACS members unless the member currently has a reciprocal garden membership. Click here for video of FTBG.

The dates of the garden tours are Saturday, December 3rd for Montgomery, and Sunday, December 4th for Fairchild. Members can select either garden tour or attend both. We are looking into finding a nearby hotel with group discounts for Friday (Dec 2nd) and Saturday (Dec 3rd) nights. We need to find out how many members are interested in attending this garden tour and who is interested in hotel rooms. Please respond to the email survey so that the CFPACS board can get a head count on garden attendance.

—Mike Evans

CFPACS membership is required to attend this tour, please update your membership if needed.

CFPACS March meeting in St. Pete. *Above, left & right, at Kopsick. Below, lunch in the Evans garden.*

(Photos by Mike Evans)

Relocated Cycads & Palms at Sunken Gardens, Kopsick

By Phil Stager

This article will provide a brief update on the cycads and palms acquired from the Dr. U.A. Young estate and relocated to Sunken Gardens and to the Gizella Kopsick Palm and Cycad Arboretum in St. Petersburg. Tropical Storm Hermine has just dumped 10 inches of rain on the area with more to follow as I key-in this article.

Sunken Gardens: The crown jewels of the Young cycad collection were located here to minimize danger from theft or vandalism. They include the following cycads, all of which are doing well in their new location:

Bowenia spectabilis Photo 1
Cycas scratchleyana Photo 2
Microcycas calacoma – several Photo 3
Encephalartos latifrons

Photo 1 (above), Bowenia spectabilis. *Photo 2 (right),* Cycas scratchleyana.

Kopsick Arboretum: Let's examine these cycads by genus:

Ceratozamia These have been the big disappointment in that five have rotted out and many others have been slow to flush especially those in a large planting bed near Northshore Drive. *Cycas* - all five species are growing well. Photo 4

Dioon over 50 were relocated and all are growing well. Photo 5

Encephalartos 28 species and over 70 large individual cycads were relocated. Four large ones did not survive due to rot. All others are looking quite good since all have flushed twice. Photos 6, 7, 8. One *Encephalartos lehmanii* was looking good until the top of the caudex was blown over in T/S Hermine. The top part of the caudex was trying to re-root into the bottom rotten section. The top has been potted up in a well draining pumice mix and is in rehab until it sets new roots. Photos 9 and 10.

Lepidozamia two cycads were relocated and both survived.

Macrozamia five plants representing four species were relocated and have flushed at least once. A very large *M. johnsonii* was very slow to flush. Photo 11

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Relocated Cycads, Palms

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Stangeria four plants went to Sunken Gardens and four to Kopsick; all have survived and flushed.

Zamia Approximately 100 large plants and many small ones representing 17 species were relocated; survival rate was 99%.

Mulch washouts from heavy rains have been a continuing problem. One area (Linda Lane) along Northshore Drive was later mulched with pea gravel over ground cloth and has revisited erosion and looks great. Photo 12. A large planting bed on the south side of the tennis courts had routine washouts due to drainage from the hard surfaced tennis courts. A new storm water drain has been installed, and the area is scheduled for pea gravel mulch over ground cloth.

We continue to have Tom Broome fertilize all cycads quarterly except during the summer when a fertilizer ban is in effect in Pinellas County during hurricane season.

All of the palms from the Young collection that were relocated to Kopsick survived except for one scraggly *Copernicia* sp. and a *Jubeaopsis caffra*. The *Coperncia macroglossa* relocated to Sunken Gardens appeared to be almost lost when the emergent spear pulled out. Liberal applications of hydrogen peroxide arrested the rot. The palm is now recovering.

Identification signs at Kopsick continue to be an ongoing challenge due to infrequent random vandalism and the large number of ID signs. The palms continue to get the large grey signs on steel stanchions, and the cycads receive smaller green signs on aluminum stanchions.

I again wish to thank my coworkers in this project, Tom St. Peter and Nate Bowman; Tom Broome for his knowledge and advice; and CFPACS for your support. Come visit the largest free palm and cycad arboretum in the Western hemisphere.

Photo 3 (left, above) Microcycas calacoma. *Photo 4 (above) Planting bed of* Ceratozamias *at Kopsick.*

Cycads Relocated to Kopsick

Photo 5 (left) Dioon mejaie flushing. Photo 6 (left, below) and Photo 7 (right), Photo 8 (right , below): Various Encephalartos *species*

More Cycads at Kopsick

Photo 9 (left) Encephalartos lehmanii. *Note small roots from bottom of caudex.*
Photo 10 (below, left) E. lehmanii *potted in pumice mix.*

Photo 11 (right, above) Planting bed of Zamia*s and* Macrozamia*s*
Photo 12 (right, below) Dioon*s*

Copernicia macroglossa: An Underutilized Palm for Central Florida

Newly planted Copernicia macroglossa, *10 feet high.*
(Photo by Jason Baker)

Same Copernicia macroglossa— *was grown from seed. Jason is there for scale.*
(Photo by Sue Reilly)

By Jason Baker

My first sighting of *Copernicia macroglossa* was at Fairchild Gardens in 1999, when I was newly into the "palm hobby" and only knew of about one dozen palms by their common name. The palm I saw at Fairchild was about 10 feet tall and I was drawn to it because of its tight, compact, stemless crown and crinkly leaflets. Wondering what it was, I thought it might be some kind of screw pine. Obviously, I was wrong. Ironically, I have had several people visit my property and ask if the *Copernicia macroglossa* they see are screw pines. I've even had them referred to as screw palms by other plant enthusiasts who aren't specifically "palm people".

We purchased our property in 2002 and I planted my first two *C. macroglossa* from seedlings that summer. They were seedlings from Joe Michael, whose three *Copernicia macroglossa* had been planted in the 1950s and were HUGE and beautifully skirted (the twin hurricanes of '04 removed those skirts and now with their bare trunks exposed, they became beautiful in a different way). **Fourteen years** later, these seedlings have all the attributes I fell in love with and even at 10 years they were an attractive feature in the landscape. At fourteen years old they are beautiful chunky specimens of about 4 feet tall.

While waiting for those seedlings to grow in their first year, I became impatient and purchased one in a 7 gallon pot, at great expense, that planted out at 2 feet tall. That palm is now 10 feet tall and has some trunk which is hidden by the petticoat. I don't regret the expense.

As my palm garden matured, I found myself wanting to plant more and more of them to maintain different heights in the landscape, as they grow so slowly. Since then I have planted at least

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Copernicia macroglossa

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20 *Copernicia macroglossa*, mostly seedlings, or very young palms, and all but one have lived. I believe the one was killed by accidental over-spray of Round-Up, as there is no other apparent reason for its demise, and as others' spears pulled out after Round-Up spraying. I no longer spray Round-Up anywhere near them and weed-eat instead. The problem has disappeared and the palms whose spears pulled out, recovered. (While some species do not appear to be bothered by Round-Up, such as *Sabal palmetto*, others, like any *Coccothrinax*, and apparently, *Copernicia-macroglossa*, do not tolerate it.)

As beautiful and unique as they are, *Copernicia macroglossa* are still uncommon in the landscape, likely due to their slow growth rate.

However, they don't take up much space and so are easily incorporated into any size yard, they are fairly cold tolerant (foliage damage observed in the 20s, but no deaths), and they require virtually ZERO maintenance.

When you plant your *Copernicia macroglossa*, plant it in a mostly sunny to full sun location. Do not plant in shade or growth rate will be miniscule. They seem to tolerate wet or dry locations. A friend who saw them in habitat described them growing in tidal flats. Be patient and you will be rewarded.

More Greenery (Palms and Cycads!) Helps You Live Longer

By John Kennedy

You know when you're approaching a palm collector's house. The neighborhood is full of open lawns, a few trees, maybe even a couple of bushes. But at one property you can't see the house for all the greenery. It's not just palms and cycads, either, but also gardenias, crotons, native shrubs, and more. One thing the neighbors don't know--maybe while shaking their heads at the 'overgrown' property--the CFPACS members in the house just out of sight will probably live longer than the owners of the bare properties in the vicinity.

A new study in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, an online magazine published by the National Institutes of Health, has tantalizing figures supporting this in the June issue. The study, conducted by Harvard School of Public Health and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, followed more than 100,000 nurses over an 8-year period, 2000-2008, with questionnaires supplemented by visual overhead shots of the participants' home addresses to figure the degree of greenery—and its intensity—together with their mortality rate that was indexed to numerous other factors including individual health and the environment. Was the address urban, suburban, rural, or some modification of these? Measurement was also taken of the intensity/thickness of the greenery around individual residences. Seasonal and regional var-

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More Greenery Helps You Live Longer

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tions were taken into account.

The result: a 12% lower mortality among those living amid substantial greenery. This was particularly notable with respiratory problems and with cancer. Researchers theorized that greenery not only cut down on pollution but also encouraged outdoor exercise.

So, if any members have wives who kvetch about all those palms 'n' stuff, the results of this study can be cited as a vital reason for having a big collection. One quibble: the participants in the study were overwhelmingly female. Um. Re-adjust dial. All those palms and cycads are helping the wives' health, too. We are extrapolating here that it also assists the husbands' reduction in mortality, too (adjusted for smoking, drinking, and other unfortunate proclivities).

Ah, you ask, how close a density are we talking about? The study figured, first, within 250m of the participant's residence. OK, a meter is a little more than a yard, 39.3701 inches. So, maybe within 800 feet of the house. Now that would carry the calculations beyond most homeowners' lots—for my block in Vero Beach, four lots each fronting 150 feet on the street—would be 600 feet. Half a block more would do it. Would corner lots get an even bigger advantage? I don't know.

The researchers carried their figuring a bit farther, to greenery within 1,250m or 3,750 feet. This works out to be almost three-quarters of a mile from the house.

If we're all going to get healthier (including us males), a neighborhood campaign might be in order. Within two blocks of my house, I can spot properties where no tree dare to exist and where a few small shrubs—kept to no more than 3 feet—are allowed to live. The inhabitants are afraid, seemingly, that a tree might fall on the roof in a hurricane and large shrubs could do damage. The objective may be that while the owners might not live as long as hoped, they will pass on to their heirs an undamaged house. Somehow, I don't think that the study included 2-inch lawns as "greenery." I also recall that about a quarter of the roofs in Vero got partially or fully blown off during the 2004 hurricanes—even in locations lacking nearby trees.

Years ago, while living in Gainesville, I noted that the City of Gainesville sponsored a spring planting festival (very much big-time), particularly of flowering trees and shrubs, in conjunction with the state forestry dept. The prices, I recall, were reasonable. And, definitely, Gainesville was and is Tree City.

The study seems to imply a positive boost to public health in planting more greenery in cities. If you have a head for statistics and don't automatically distrust science and scientists, you can go look at the study. It's downloadable in PDF form (33 pages) in case you feel the need to bolster your argument.

[This article was published in the July 2016 issue of Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society's Monthly Update]

Castle Kennedy faintly visible in Vero Beach. A break in the foliage on the right opens to a walkway to the front door.

Right, Sabal palmetto, *New Bern, N. C. (Photo by Gary Hollar, nurseryman. Sent by Keith Santner)*

My Summer Vacation

By Phil Stager

In late May of this year I flew to New York City to attend an international stamp show, NY2016, at the Javits Center. My exhibit on Coconut Palms was entered into competition at the show and received large vermeil medal (a good award but not as good as expected) from an international jury that knew nothing about palms. I returned to St. Petersburgon June 6, just as a storm was passing through the area with 11 inches of rain. As I key-in this article, Tropical Storm Hermine has just dumped 10 inches of rain on us with more to follow.

Upon my arrival in mid-town Manhattan, I was pleasantly surprised by the plantings along 34 th Street from the Empire State Building down to the Javits Center. See Photo 1 .

I was staying at an AirBnB place on 34th Street within walking distance of the Javits. After several days of continuous 'stamping' I needed a botanical break and visited the New York Botanical Garden(NYBG). Getting there and back from Grand Central Station was quick and easy on the MetroNorth Line

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Photo 1. Crotons on 34th St., New York City.

Left, Photo 2—one of several Bismarckia*s at the entrance to the New York Botanical Garden. Below, Photo 3—the Haupt Conservatory.*

My Summer Vacation

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which has a stop across from the Botanical Garden.

At the main entrance to the NYBG, I was greeted by several *Bismarckia*s in raised planters. See Photo 2. My Sunken Gardens membership card only got me in the main gate under the usual botanical garden reciprocal agreements. Admission to the large glass house, the Haupt Conservatory, was extra but well worth it for anyone wanting a tropical plant fix in the middle of New York City. See Photo 3.

Most of us probably have more palms in our own collections than were on display in the Haupt Conservatory – but we do not have New York winters to deal with. The Conservatory had a nice col-

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Below, Photo 4—nice large Encephalartos trispinosus *in the Haupt Conservatpry.*

Left, Photo 5— Encephalartos arenarius.
Right, Photo 6— Encephalartos sp.
Below, Photo 6— Zamia pseudoparasitica.

My Summer Vacation

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lection of cycads, a few of which are shown in photos 4, 5, 6, 7. A bus tour and lunch completed my tour of the Gardens. The library is quite impressive for anyone considering serious botanical research. The NYBG is a welcome change from the madness in mid-town Manhattan.

Texas Phoenix Palm Decline (TPPD)

TPPD, a significant threat to some of the most common palms in the southeastern USA including *Sabal palmetto* and 3 large *Phoenix* palms.

By Keith Santner

All Palm growers in the southeast USA know the *Sabal palmetto*, the state tree of South Carolina where it earned its status because of its ability to absorb British cannonballs at Fort Moultrie; and Florida where it grows almost everywhere, even expansion joints on overpasses. And we all know of *Sabal palmetto*'s legendary wind resistance enduring hurricanes powerful enough to destroy nearly everything else nearby often leaving the cabbage palms with little more than "bad hair day", or maybe a bit of "jewelry" they snatched out of the wind stream.

Above, dead Canaries in Alice, Texas. (Photo provided by Richard Travis)

Left, dead and dying Sabal palmetto*s in park, Mulberry, Osceola County, on SR60.*

They also endure harsh winters (by southern standards) unfazed by temperatures in the low teens, occasionally even surviving lows below zero Fahrenheit in cities like Atlanta, Charlotte, Raleigh, and Augusta.

But today this rugged palm is facing a rigorous challenge from the tiniest of foes, a phytoplasma with the common name Texas Phoenix Palm Decline or TPPD.

The phytoplasma that causes TPPD is a very close relative of another old Palm foe, Lethal Yellowing. I first saw TPPD back in October of 1982 in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas (The Valley) where it

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Texas Phoenix Palm Decline

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was devastating the *Phoenix canariensis*. Eighty years earlier, citrus growers had planted in alternating, linear patterns, countless thousands of Canaries and *Washingtonia robusta* as "windbreaks" (yes, I know, odd choice). Over the decades they had grown into a grand palmscape of 70-100' trees from the mouth of the Rio Grande inland for approximately 80 miles. In fact, there were so many "Canaries" and "Washies", this budding horticulturist from USDA zone 6 in the Midwest was awestruck thinking the countless giant palms made it look like Southern California not Texas.

But the Canaries were obviously under assault by a "new" plague, which then, was only known to be a close relative of Lethal Yellowing.

Regardless, the effect on the Canaries was near complete devastation. As surely as if they were dominoes in a row, the disease leapt from the canopy of one 80' Canary to the next. There were essentially no Canary survivors behind the disease front, though the Washies remained untouched, at least until the Arctic cold fronts of the 80's later killed them eliminating "The Valley's" unique, symmetrical, palmy landscape forever.

Unfortunately this plague has landed on our Florida shores and, it turns out, our cannonball- resistant, hurricane-proof, snow-tolerant *Sabal palmetto* is also susceptible to Texas Phoenix Palm Decline. The disease was first detected in 2006 in West-Central Florida and has been spreading ever since. In 2008, it was confirmed on *Sabal palmetto*.

Dead Florida Sabal*s.*

In 2015, I noticed symptomatic *Sabal*s in Mulberry, Fl, which is just south of Lakeland. Since then it's moved east into Winter Haven and Lake Wales. Luckily it's not killing every *Sabal*, but it is killing many, and it seems indiscriminate in regards to the age or apparent vigor of the tree. In the most heavily infested areas, *S. palmetto* death is way more than 50% of the trees as you can see in the pictures. As disheartening as it is to watch our beautiful Cabbage Palms die, consider the impact on the native species which rely on its fruits for food; its canopy, leaf litter, and trunks for shelter, or its dense root structure to stabilize the sandy soil. The loss of a high percentage of the *Sabal palmettos* in situ in Florida will result in a major change to Florida's ecosystem. I write this brief

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Texas Phoenix Palm Decline

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article today to give personal witness to the threat to our wonderful Cabbage Palms and to raise your awareness so as you zoom along the highway past thousands of *Sabal palmetto* trees you can consider what it will look like if those trees disappear over the next 50 years. Will the next generation of Palm growers be able to take them for granted as we have?

But this article, with its dour tone, wouldn't be complete without mentioning that, just like in Texas, *Phoenix canariensis*, *Phoenix dactylifera*, and *Phoenix sylvestris* are also highly susceptible to the strain present in Florida. One cannot help but sense the potential loss of four of the most common, large, cold tolerant palms used in climates too cold for most other palm species. Imagine Disney, Florida's Turnpike, or most any other landscaped section of Florida's roadways without these four fantastic palm trees? It's a sad thought, but it's possible.

I would like to end this article on a positive note, so, bamboo really seems to grow well and with few serious pests…. But, seriously, one positive is that here in zone 9 we have species that are not susceptible. As I write this, my personal favorites are the *Livistonas* so I think CFPACS should undertake as a mission to spread the word with the slogan "Make Florida Palmy Again – grow *Livistonas*". (Just kidding). Another encouraging observation from Richard Travis of TX is that *Sabal mexicana* grows quite well amongst the dying *Phoenix*. So, in our garden, David and I have planted a couple of them as well as many other *Sabal* species hoping some will also prove resistant. I think a list of palms growing well in southern TX for 10 years+ would also illuminate other resistant species so I will follow up with a list for a future *Palmateer* article.

For an actual scientific look at this disease, here is a link to the University of Florida publication describing what they have observed and learned.

* * * *

Keith Santner and David Banfill established their garden in central Polk County FL in July 2012. It sits on 1.5 acres of hydrophobic, dirty beach sand and an adjoining 1.5 acres of upland swamp. Their garden contains a couple hundred palms (approximately 60 species), as well as 60+\-cycads (approximately 30 species) along with some bamboo (6-8 species) and a bunch of other stuff. In addition to his role as CFPACS Treasurer, Keith is a professional horticulturist that works for ICL Specialty Fertilizers, the company that makes Osmocote. David is a Respiratory Therapist specializing in neonatal intensive care and works at Winter Haven Women's Hospital.

Dying Sabal palmetto *canopy.*

Travels of a Palm Enthusiast—Kew

By Maryann Krisovitch

Travel is the best dispeller of misconceptions. It's always rainy in England, trains never run on time and those palms don't grow in that area.

Being palm enthusiasts, we are always on the lookout for and constantly amazed by the type and use of palms as we travel. Case in point, our trip this past July to England and Scotland. To dispel some of the myth: no, it is not always rainy and gloomy in England. We experienced frequent sunny and warm days in our three weeks through the island. The trains do run on time, and if they don't, you are entitled to some money back! And yes, palms do grow there.

A vacation can quickly become exhausting unless you take some time out. Our time out on this trip was a day at Kew Botanical Gardens just a short train ride west of London. With a good 20% off coupon from a cheesy visitor map, you can get in for about $15. Most of the attractions throughout Englan have a voluntary donation added to the price, so feel free to opt out. On the big touristy ones like the Tower of London, I opt out, but on the smaller sites that probably need all the funds they can get, I don't mind the small addition to my entrance fee.

Kew has a hop on, hop off tram for an extra fee, but it's just as easy to walk so you can literally stop and smell the roses! We chose to walk so I could take a picture every five feet. Since it was actually a little gray and rainy the morning we arrived, we chose to make our first stop in the iconic tropical house. Entering the house was like coming home to Florida.

The smell in the air after a rain, the sticky feel of humidity, the sound of rustling palm fronds, and lots of them.

There were many palms we here would consider common, but also some surprises. There was a very nice sized *Dioon rzedowskii* and *Encephalartos transvenosus*. Some of my favorites were *Dictyosperma album*, *Latania loddigesii*, and the very spiny *Trithrinax brasiliensis*.

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Above, Kew Gardens Tropical House.
Below, Dioon rzedowski.

Travels of a Palm Enthusiast—Kew

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I have learned on my travels to take pictures of the entrance sign so I can remember which cathedral that was when I arrive home. The same holds true for plants. You know as well as I do that, while you think you will remember the name of that palm when you get home, you won't. Snap a photo of the tag, but be consistent. Either take the photo of the palm first and then the tag, or vice versa. That way you'll be able to tell which tag-photo went with which palm photo. That's how I know what the palms are that are mentioned in this article.

Now get out there - travel and take photos of palms to share with us!

Left, a beautiful Encephalartos transvenosus.

This familiar looking visitor to Kew 's Tropical House seems to have missed his lunch, going by his facial expression.
Didn't you have an extra sandwich in your bag, Maryann?

Sabal minor: Native Florida Palm

By Janice Broda

What a pleasure to have *The Palmateer* newletter editor Dr. John Kennedy along on a nature walk at the Indrio Savannahs Preserve in northern St. Lucie County on May 8, 2016. Otherwise, the assemblage of substantially-sized dwarf palmettos (*Sabal minor*) likely would have been overlooked.

The Indrio Savannahs is a mosaic of wetlands, pine flatwoods, and scrub. The dwarf palmettos grow near a slough traversed by a wooden bridge, dominating the moist, shady area. Various-aged individuals of this reportedly slow-growing palm were present with a few in bloom or about to bloom.

Also known as bluestem palm, dwarf palmetto grows throughout the southeastern U.S. Florida is southern limit of its range. According to the University of South Florida Plant Atlas (http:// http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu), it ranges south to Charlotte County on the west coast (except for Pinellas County) and to St. Lucie County on the east coast, skipping Flagler, Brevard, and Indian River counties. Great to see this native palm thriving in a preserve at the southern end of its natural range.

Janice Broda (east vp) learned to love nature (especially plants) growing up near the Watchung Reservation in New Jersey. A past president of the Florida Native Plant Society (1996- 1998), Janice currently is the secretary of the Eugenia Chapter of the FNPS which serves Indian River County. She works at the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, University of Florida, as well as teaches Pilates. Since 1992, she has served as an elected commissioner of the Indian River Mosquito Control District.

Three Sabal minor*s in the Indrio Savannahs Preserve in northern St. Lucie County. The ID feature: inflorescence on trunkless* Sabal.

Bob Blenker on the job in sustainability, Clarendon Parish, Jamaica.

Sustainability: Palms as Indicator Species of Habitat Diversity

By Robert Blenker

Sustainability is a term often bandied about, but seldom well defined. To some, it evokes ideas of minimum-impact lifestyle: Living in a "tiny house", riding a bicycle to work or capturing rainwater. To others, it may simply signify utilizing renewable energy, or buying "farm to table" food, or recycling. However, a failure to develop, think, or live in a sustainable manner has a negative and sweeping impact on society.

True sustainability is composed of environmental, social, technological and economic elements. Sustainably harvesting a mono-specific patch of eucalyptus for timber may be achieved at a rate at which the timber regrows. However, is that sustainable management? Is it sustainable if populations of people and natural wildlife communities were displaced to plant the plantation? Driving a Tesla electric vehicle is seen as promoting sustainability. However, is it a truly sustainable act if the power that charges the batteries is derived from coal-fired generation resulting in strip mining, mercury and carbon emissions and siltation of not only the streams near the mine, but those along the railway corridors over which the coal is transported?

Historically, environmental or ecological feedback loops ensured a relative degree of sustainability. These feedback loops, reflective of the Malthusian principle of carrying capacity, let the mammoth hunter know that he had killed too many mammoth. When he pushed the mammoth population past a sustainable level of harvest, he either moved on, shifted to different prey or his family starved. The closed environmental system let the hunter know that his actions had consequences. Similarly, the dust bowl of the '30s sent a clear message to the Okies--in the form of catastrophic crop failures and mass dislocation of populations--that they were not sustainably managing their soils.

In his book *Collapse: How Complex Societies Choose to Fail or Survive*, Jared Diamond translates complex data sets and ecological theories into digestible examples of how human civilizations have either collapsed or succeeded depending upon their management of their environments--whether or not they heeded the message telegraphed by environ-

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Sustainability

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mental feedback loops.

How does sustainability link to interest in palms? The environmental and ecological value of a diverse, primordial forest like those seen on the Masoala Peninsula in Madagascar or Lambir Hills in Sarawak is far greater than monospecific expanses of African oil palms in the Aguan Valley of Honduras, for example.

The work of the palm society, its affiliates and palmophiles in general is critical in raising awareness. That awareness, and appreciation, contributes to preserving the diversity of habitats and the palms that populate them. Whether it is sharing a love for a single charismatic species such as the rare *Tahina spectabilis*, or working to generate enthusiasm for an entire habitat such as the Palmares de Rocha in Uruguay, our role is to promote sustainability. Or closer to home, it could include promoting the use and conservation of hardy native species over fragile exotics.

In his book, *The Social Conquest of Earth,* ecologist and entomologist E.O. Wilson describes how Homo sapiens has a more profound impact on the composition and shape of its environment than any other species on earth.

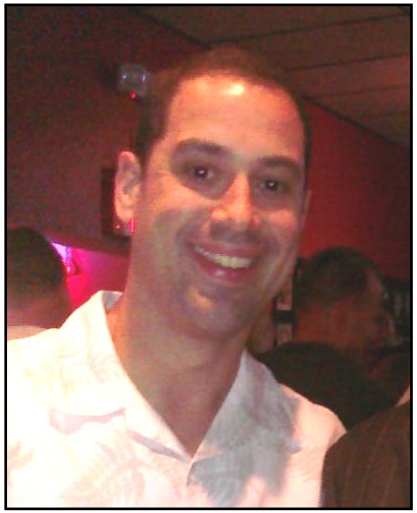
Both Diamond and Wilson express guarded optimism for the future. While the trend has been towards increasingly unsustainable practices, the ubiquitous nature of social media, environmental awareness, legislation and simple economics, suggests that environmental feedback loops are being re-established –societies are shifting back towards heeding those messages and moving towards restoring sustainable practices.

An aerial view of the Palmares de Rocha, Uruguayan preserve of native Butia capitata, *previously endangered by cattle grazing of seeds and seedlings.*

Bob Blenker is a biologist with a specialization in wildlife management/natural resources management. He has a master's in developmental economics and business. Bob brings considerable experience to this area, has worked in "development" for 12 years with the Peace Corps and more than 10 years with the Tennessee Valley Infrastructure Group (global renewables and energy development). He has been a Renewables Developer in the Caribbean for about 10 years. Bob's background includes 12 years with the Peace Corps; he was Country Director for Uruguay in 1991-1993, also director of environmental programming. He speaks Spanish and Portuguese. When back home in Florida, he lives in Manatee County. He reports a liking for bird and palms. He was elected a director of the IPS at the recent Biennial.

The Palmares de Rocha is a preserve in Uruguay devoted to conserving native Butia capitata in habitat, its establishment accomplished, says Bob, through the efforts of palmophiles and IPS members.

LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD



Ray Hernandez was named president of the International Palm Society at the Biennial meeting a few months back. He has been an IPS director since 2007.He will be president until 2020. Ray was CFPACS president from 2002-2004 and learned presidenting right here.
We wish him well. We have known him since he was an apple-cheeked young'un, just starting the San Juan Avenue Palmetum in Tampa.

A ground view of the "palmar" or palm forest of Butia capitata *in the Palmares de Rocha preserve in Uruguay.*

Material for the December issue of *The Palmateer* must be submitted by **NOVEMBER 12.**

*The palms are familiar, "*Veitchia merrillii*," but the locale is not: as summer annuals before a house on Fire Island, Long Island, New York.*

Rainfall and Climate Change

By Tracy Hines

Here on the East coast of Florida it was a hot and dry summer. In Daytona and Melbourne, it was one of the hottest and driest on record. Daytona received only 7 inches of rain during the 3 months of June, July and August. Usually, Daytona receives 7 inches in June alone. In Orlando, it was also hotter and dryer than normal. Most of the afternoon rains associated with the sea breezes were blown over to the West coast. I dislike hurricanes but Hermine's rains were a welcome relief. If you live in the Tampa Bay or Pasco County, it was probably a different story.

Being an El Niño year, I know the weather was impacted. However, I can't help but wonder if the effects were due to climate change. I'm reminded of the 1980's when you could not grow *Phoenix roebelenii* or Queen Palms without them freezing in Volusia County. Fast forward to 2016 and we are growing Royals, Foxtails and even some coconuts on the beach side. I believe here in Volusia, each year is progressively hotter and drier.

So, I am asking you your thoughts, what changes have you seen and what are you growing now that perhaps you could not grow then. Share your pictures and send a brief paragraph about what palms you are growing where they shouldn't be. Here is a prime example, while vacationing on Fire Island, NY this summer I noticed the most unusual annuals planted in a front yard. On our morning walk to the store in Fair Harbor, for a moment, I thought I was in Key West. A triple group of 8ft *Adonidia merrillii* (usually sold as *Veitchia merrillii*) planted as annuals.

June Meeting, Gainesville

By Libby Luedeke

In June we had a steamy but gorgeous day at the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens in Gainesville. They boast the largest herb garden in the Southeast and Florida's largest display of bamboos. There are many species of ginger and cast iron plants along with butterfly gardens and lily ponds. Having a visit in more northern territories gave us a wonderful insight into what thrives in frosty zones. The gardens are quite extensive and if you weren't able to join us for the June meeting, I hope you will get to visit in the future.

Although the palm collection is not large, one of the more interesting palms is a double Pindo. I wish I had captured a better picture, but angle of the sun and location were a bad combination. Of course you will see the usual *Washingtonia*, and *Sabal* palms. There is also *Sabal* Lisa, *Sabal causiarum*, (Puerto Rican Hat Palm) these were used to weave hats and baskets, and *Rhapidophyllum hystrix* (Needle Palm).

Encephalartos whitelockii *at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville.*
(Photo by Libby Luedeke)

There is a pretty extensive collection of cycads. We had the pleasure of viewing many *Ceratozamia*s. There are *C. kuesteriana*, *C. mexicana*, *C.robusta* and *C.norstogii*. Also there are *Encephalartos ferox* and *Dioon edule*. They all appear to be thriving.

By Maryann Krisovitch

Following our tour of Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, members grabbed lunch on the run and headed over to the garden of members Roger and Marilyn Bachmann. Roger provided everyone with a map of the property noting special palms and a complete list of palms on their property. Several University of Florida students assisted the Bachmanns with parking and prep and CFPACS greatly appreciates their help.

The Bachmanns started collecting palms in 1994 when they built their house on 5 acres of loblolly pines. When they hosted the palm society in 2001, their collection included most of the palms that were suited for north Florida and many more that were marginal. Since that time the palms have grown large and they have lost many of the marginal palms except for those in pots that go into the garage when frost is forecast. They have since added several cycads and

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Left, palms & cycads at the Bachmanns'.' Below, Ceratozamia kuesteriana at Kanapaha. (Photos by Keith Santner)

June Meeting, Gainesville

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created a new "palm hammock" on the property when pine beetles wiped out the trees on a large piece of their property.

In addition to the palms, members enjoyed the orchid greenhouse, including the mister which was much appreciated on such a hot June afternoon!

The Bachmanns' yard is a good example of just what can be done with palms and cycads even 'up north'. We all need to keep in mind that the loss of one type of tree

Above, Encephalartos longifolia . *Below,* Livistona decora also *in the Bachmann garden.*

Board of Directors Meeting August 6, 2016 1008 Little Fawn Court, Apopka, FL Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Hall at 12:30pm. In attendance were Dave Hall, Keith Santner, Terrence Williams, Chuck Grieneisen, Maryann Krisovitch, Ron Hart, Jerry & Libby Luedecke, and Mike Evans.

Officer Elections: At the March 26, 2016 member tour and meeting, the membership nominated and approved the following slate of officers and directors: President: Dave Hall; East Coast Vice President: Janice Broda; Central Vice President: Terrence Williams; West Vice President: Mike Evans; Secretary: Chuck Grieneisen; Treasurer: Keith Santner; Assistant Treasurer: Maryann Krisovitch; Past President: Ron Hart; Director at Large: Mike Ricigliano.

Society Business Address: The Society's official mailing address will be changed to the new Treasurer's address at 8 Cherry Blossom Lane, Winter Haven, FL 33884.

Upcoming Society Tours: The Board discussed the options for upcoming meetings. Mike has been in contact with Montgomery. They are able to host the Society for a Saturday visit in early December. Since many members have requested one, the Board is hoping to offer the membership an overnight trip. There may also be an option of visiting Fairchild on Sunday. There are currently four meetings each year. The options for new tours are becoming more limited. The Board will try moving to a three meeting a year rotation, possibly skipping the summer meeting in the future due to the heat or adding a road trip for #4. This will be done on a trial basis. We will skip the fall meeting in order to have more time to plan the December trip.

Donations: The Board unanimously passed the motion to donate $2,000 to Montgomery Botanical Center to assist them in the continuation of palm and cycad research.

Newsletter: The Board agreed that the newsletter is an integral part of the Society and will make a concerted effort to provide articles and regular features for the editor for the four issues each year.

Promotions: Each Board member will be provided with a T-shirt to wear at Society functions and for promotion of the Society. There are also still many decals left to be given to new members and those who have not yet received one.

Website, PayPal & Bank Accounts: Maryann reviewed the operation of the website and PayPal account. She also reviewed the annual calendar of the items the Society needs to address in order to continue to function as a non-profit. The SunTrust Bank accounts will be updated to add all new Board members. Each will need to provide identification and signatures to the bank.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

-**Chuck Grieneisen, Secretary**

From the Editor's Desk

Rain has been the problem—one way or the other—for Central Florida in our 'rainy' season. Too little on the east coast or too irregular. And maybe similar in the interior. The poor west coast, virtually inundated by Hurricane Hermine, what was rainfall before then?

Tracy Hines' observations on rainfall around Daytona (see page 24) made me look at the official NWS statistics for Vero Beach. In June, 4.85 inches though the norm is 6.67. In July, 0.61 inches for the month though the norm is 5.63 inches. August was rainier with 12.18 inches, normally only 5.15.

To show how erratic rainfall has been, May brought 17.98 inches, mostly in the last week; the norm for the month is 3.36. And at least 15 inches fell at my house in a single 24-hour period, with 5 more inches later in the week. Overall, Vero Beach's total rainfall is normal up to this point, down maybe an inch so far, for September. And what will the 'dry' season bring? Better not speculate.

* * * *

The throes of the presidential campaign are now upon us. And I have yet to see the proposal of either candidate for National Palm Tree. The need for this has been obscured in much of the clatter of the campaign. What does each candidate propose? The obvious species, it would seem is the Coconut Palm but there is also the technicality that the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (well known as FLIPPC) has listed the species as a potential danger to native ecology. And, we must concede that it **is** foreign, an immigrant. *Sabal palmetto* just doesn't have the same glamor. *Washingtonia robusta* is Mexican, a double whammy. True, *Washingtonia filifera* is a real American species, but how many people have ever seen it?

Maybe one of the many Hawaiian species of *Pritchardia*? But some folks might claim these originated in Kenya. Don't need another controversy.

Maybe we should settle for a national palm planting program. If any of you has the opportunity to quiz one of the candidates about this, please do so. We'll have to concede that to make this program palatable in upstate New York or Iowa, it will be necessary to settle for a trunkless species, probably the Needle Palm. But *Rhapidophyllum hystrix* is a start and further potential may become apparent when the health benefits are figured in as adjuncts to Obamacare, especially in less frigid climates. Hey, don't think small!

* * * *

You will have noticed in this issue of *The Palmateer* several tributes to members' favorite palms. And other members have kept their eye out for palms and cycads while traveling out-of-state. **This is** what we need for the newsletter. Do you have a favorite species? How long have you been collecting it? **What have** you observed about its growth and culture? Write a little something about it, send a couple of pic-

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From the Editor's Desk

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tures to the Editor. If you have seen *Serenoa repens* planted in downstate Illinois, we want to know.

* * * *

Some of us remember Ray Hernandez when he didn't know anything much about palms—hey! this is long ago . And now he has risen to be the new president of the International Palm Society. We're proud of our boy.

* * *

Many thanks to all you generous contributors who have made this a substantial issue of our quarterly newsletter.

John Kennedy

Deadline to submit material for the December issue is November 12.

Cycads at Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville (Photo by Keith Santner)

Seed Bank Report

By Libby Luedeke

1st Quarter Report

The 1st Quarter was very exciting. Spring gives everyone the itch to get planting. We had some wonderful donations from Anne Michael/ Orchid Island, gathered by Justin McSweeney, Tom Broome/Lakeland, Steve Farnswoth/Lecanto, Tommy Armour/ Ocala, Lyle Niswander/Indiatlantic and Jim Trevarthen/Arkansas. Our total sales come to about $398.00. We had buyers from Arkansas, Japan, Texas and California. Jerry has recently discovered Facebook and has made contacts in Sweden, Italy and South Africa. So our next quarter is looking even better. Thanks so much for your continued support in donations and purchases. If you are not receiving the Seed Bank offerings and you wish to be added to the email list contact us at the seedbank@yahoo.com and we will make sure to add you.

2nd Quarter Report

The second quarter has been a little slower, but almost as much in sales at $336 in sales. We haven't had much in donations and what we have most recently received is currently been dried to remove the fruit. Jerry's Facebook endeavors are lucrative. We've had sales to South Africa, England, and Amsterdam. We expect some seeds from Rob Branch before long and hope to revive some new life into our seedbank offering.

Thanks so much to all who donate and support our seedbank. For anyone who would like to donate seeds the address is:

Jerry Luedeke
117 E Connecticut Ave.
Edgewater, FL 32132

Treasurer's Report 6/30/16

Our net worth as of 6/30/16 was $40,296.32.
The Society's net worth increased $3,154.34 since 12/31/15.

—Maryann Krisovitch
Assistant Treasurer

Checking Balance 2/29/16	**$17,747.13**
Mar-Jun Deposits	4,456.08
Mar-Jun Checks	2,463.90
Ending Checking Balance (6/30/16)	**$19,739.31**
Gain/(Loss)	**$1,992.18**
Income Year to Date	
Membership	$730.78
Merchandise	30.00
Private Sales	1,442.00
Public Sales	1,819.84
Seed Bank	506.20
Total Income Year to Date	**$4,528.82**
Expenses Year to Date	
Meeting Expense	$344.94
IPS Dues (pd thru 7/18)	0.00
Bank Fees	0.00
Office Supplies	48.23
Public Relations	0.00
Seed Bank	57.29
Taxes	231.55
Vendor Fees	200.00
Vendor Proceeds	2,116.40
Website	345.00
Total Expenses Year to Date	**$1,185.31**
OtherAssets	
Endowment Fund Balance 6/30/16	$13,819.06
CD #1 10-28-16 maturity	$3,269.90
CD #2 9-25-16 maturity	$3,157.59
Sales Cash Box	$310.46
Total Assets	$20,557.01
Liabilities	
None	0.00
Total Liabilities	**$0.00**
Net Worth as of 6/30/16	**$40,296.32**

Two views inside the Tropical House at Kew.
(Photos by Maryann Krisovitch)

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
http://palms.org
Membership increases to $55 annually on Jan. 1.

The Cycad Society
11701 Barchetta Drive
Austin, TX 78758
Regular membership, $35, quarterly newsletter
http://cycad.org

Join CFPACS
Please print

Name_____
Street_____
City_____
State,
County_____
Zip_____
Email_____
Phone (area)_____

Wish to be added to Seed Bank E-mail list?
(Circle one) YES NO
Willing to be listed publicly in roster?
(Circle one) YES NO
Mail check made out to CFPACS
(domestic: $20 one year; $55 three years;
foreign: US$20 one year) to:

Maryann Krisovitch
Membership Chair
1008 Little Fawn Court
Apopka, FL 32712
membership@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.

CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

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.

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OK, what is this palm in a Vero Beach garden? Bought years ago, the tag is lost. Can it be a green *Bismarckia*? (It wasn't bought as this.)
The petioles have the same markings—little brown threads similar to those on the silver *Bismarckias*.
(What is the botanical name for the "little brown threads"?)