

The Palmateer

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December 2016

CFPACS Visited Montgomery & Fairchild in Early December



*The CFPACS crew at Montgomery, ready to explore. December 3rd.
(Photo by Tracy Magellan)*

The CFPACS adventure in early December took 40 members to Miami for a two-day event. Folks arrived in Miami on Friday afternoon and evening, staying mostly at the Country Inn off Kendall Drive, ready to be up early on Saturday (December 3rd) to go to Montgomery.

Most of the visitors had never been to Montgomery before. It's not open to the public. Montgomery is a research facility—120 acres--studying palms and cycads from its own plants grown from habitat-collected seed.

To all of us, this was a visit to the candy store. Patrick Griffith, the

director, personally conducted the day-long tour. For the lame, the halt, and the just plain weary, golf carts manned by employees, mostly university students, took us to the far-flung corners of the property. We were the only people there. A pleasant meeting room was the starting point as

Patrick gave an overview of Montgomery's history, starting as a private estate of Col. Robert Montgomery, and his wife Nell, and turning into a botanical research center. Montgomery was a personal friend of David Fairchild.

Palm-lovers tend to have one palm of a particular exotic species, maybe one of every species they could locate and/or afford. (Home lots are usually fairly small.)

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Twilight , Veitchias in the median on Hill Drive in front of the hotel where the CFPACS delegation stayed in Miami. We're not in Central Florida any more! (Photo by John Kennedy)

This is the December issue of *The Palmateer* which should have been posted around Thanksgiving, a week before the December Miami trip. It has been delayed in the mail.

—The Editor



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The Palmateer

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

The Palmateer

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Montgomery & Fairchild

(Continued from page 1)

At Montgomery, however, there are groves of the same species, aiding seed collection—which partially supports the center—and also aiding observation of particular species.

Back to the meeting room to rest a bit and eat lunch—most had brought packed coolers from home—then back out to see

MORE.

Saturday evening was highly social, with many members enjoying a convivial dinner and good beverages at adjacent tables on a terrace overlooking the lake behind the hotel. Much to talk over, to assimilate the day's experience.

Sunday was to Fairchild. In yesterday, the entrance to Fairchild was not through the gift shop. Wise heads at Fairchild likely

came to realize that not all visitors actually made it to the gift shop, then located in a separate building. With the change, however, no one escapes the gift shop. It must be said that few people would wish to. With such a vast array of botanical books and small gifts with botanical themes/decoration, it would be nearly impossible to resist temptation.

Many members have been to

Fairchild before. The collection of palms and cycads was as dazzling as ever. In addition, there was an exhibit of Chihuly glass and an exhibit of landscape photography.

—John Kennedy



Above, the lake at Montgomery. Right, Coryphantha there. Note the figure at the palm's base.
(Photos by Mike Ricigliano)



Below, the scenic vista of the distant Montgomery house. (Photo by Mike Evans)





Cycas chamaoensis



Cycas pectinata



Cycas macrocarpa

A Sampler

Some Cycads at Montgomery

Photos by Libby Luedeke

Cycas petracea





Where Saturday began: the meeting room ,
Montgomery Botanical Center. Below,
Director Patrick Griffith on tour with the
group .

(Photo by Mike Evans)

Below, *Attalea cohune* and *Roystonea oleracea* at
Montgomery.
(Photo by Mike Ricigliano)



Above, *Coccothrinax camagueyana* in center. Tall palm unidenti-
fied, another *Coccothrinax*?
Left, foreground, two *Braheea*
sarukhanii also at Montgomery.
(Photos by Libby Luedeke)





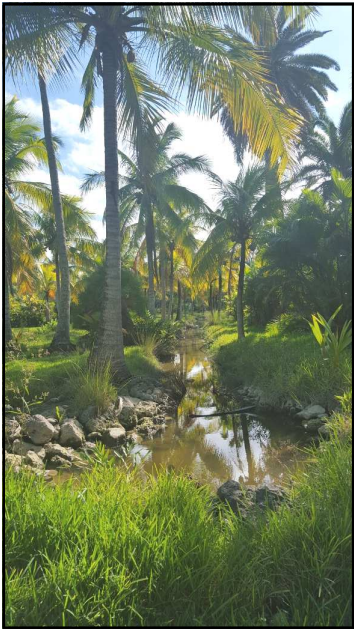
Patrick Griffith points out how the natural ridge was blasted out by Col. Montgomery so that his wife Nell would have a better view from the house. This would not be allowed in the present day. (Photo by Mike Evans)



Coccothrinax barbadensis happy at Montgomery. (Photo by Libby Luedeke)



Typical at Montgomery, a grove of a single species, here Roystonea oleracea. (Photo by Mike Evans)



*Patrick Griffith before the map of Montgomery Botanical Center in the meeting room.
(Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)*



Above, a small vista at Montgomery. Right, man-sized Hemithrinax ekmanii. Palms. The photographer at left is Keith Santner, CFPACS treasurer.

(Photos by Mike Ricigliano)



What everyone should have in his/her backyard: Corypha umbraculifera at Montgomery.

(Photo by Mike Ricigliano)

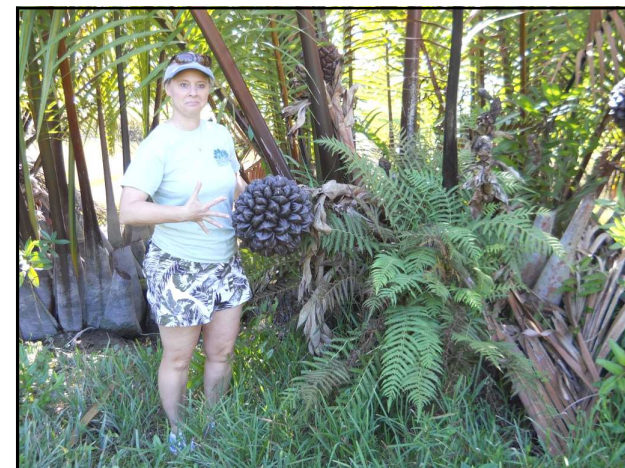


Attalea cohune forest at Montgomery.

(Photo by Mike Evans)



Left, Montgomery's *Nypa fruticans* closely observed by Keith Santner and Jerry Luedeke. Right, no, Maryann, its fruit is not edible. (Photos by Mike Evans)



Chamaerops humilis, var. *argentea* at Montgomery. (Photo by Libby Luedeke)



*The way to see just about everything around Fairchild while comfortably seated is the tram tour. See anyone you recognize on the tram?
(Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)*



*One of Fairchild's well-armed denizens, Salacca magnifica, left. A bove, a close-up..
(Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)*



Chihuly Glass at Fairchild

By Maryann Krisovitch

When I wander around a garden, public or private, the artwork the owner has chosen to include always catches my eye. Nature herself is the ultimate artist and we can only hope to add to her masterpieces.

One of my favorite artists is Dale Chihuly. The first time one of his pieces made me stop and stare was in a casino in the Bahamas. The amazing colors and movement are always breathtaking. I am happily surprised when I come across another one of his works.

Well, as it turns out, during our recent CFPACS trip to Fairchild Botanical Garden, I was treated to not, one, not two, but three pieces. My favorite, and the most colorful, was hanging in a conservatory above a pond of

orange koi and blue cichlids and amidst palms and tropical foliage. I could have stayed there all day!

Understanding that Chihuly has had a lifelong fascination for glasshouses which had grown into a series of exhibitions within botanical settings just made sense.

His Garden Cycle began in 2001 at the Garfield Park Conservatory in Chicago. Chihuly exhibited at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, near London, in 2005. Fairchild couldn't be in better company.

Chihuly has been exhibiting at Fairchild since 2006 with the pieces changing every so often. What a beautiful way to cap off a gorgeous day in the garden!

BILTMORE HOUSE, A NORTH CAROLINA ATTRACTION



Biltmore House was once a Vanderbilt's chateau. Right, its summertime terrace.



By Libby Luedeke

I'm a native of North Carolina. I grew up near Asheville and as a child I was fortunate enough to visit Biltmore House several times and this past summer after many years, I took a day to visit with my son.

For anyone who hasn't had a chance to explore this part of the United States, it is highly recommended. The home alone is stun-

ning with its French Renaissance Era design and décor, but the grounds are stunning as well. In 1889 George Vanderbilt having visited the area decided to build his home. It's a 250 room chateau with 35 bedrooms, 43 bathrooms and 65 fireplaces. It took six years to build.

I'm sure by now you're thinking what does this have to do with palms and cycads, but lo and be-

hold! Their love of gardening extended beyond native plants to include a lovely atrium and greenhouse. You could think of it as a tiny piece of Kew Gardens brought to America.

The atrium is filled with several lush tropical varieties. Unfortunately the palms aren't labeled. But you can see from the pictures they are wide and varied. Everything from lily ponds, formal gar-

dens and hiking trails lead you to the beautiful greenhouse. It is filled much as it had been in the 1890's with palms, cycads, tropicals, succulents and orchids. I am quite the novice when it comes to recognizing species, but I could identify a few Triangles, Bismarcks and *Veitchias*.

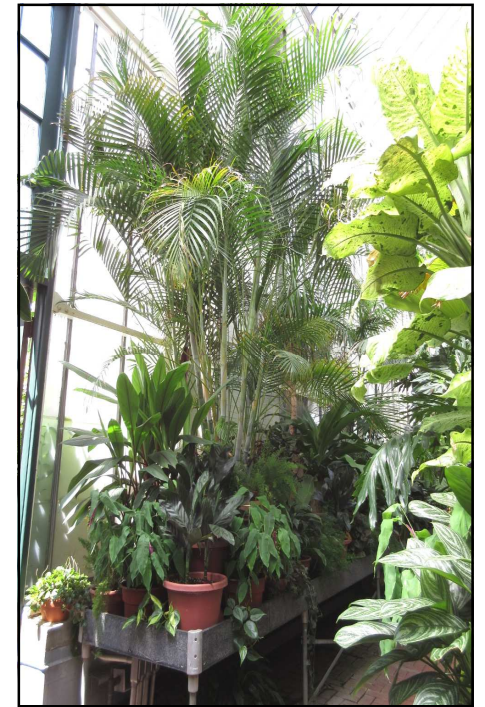
If you ever venture into the area, it's worth the trip.



Two views of the atrium in Biltmore House, near Asheville, N. C.



The exterior of the greenhouse at Biltmore (above) and inside (left and right).



By Mike Merritt

After leaving the October 2015 IPS interim board meeting on Isle de St. Marie, Madagascar, I traveled to the Indian Ocean island of Reunion for additional palm adventures.

History, Geology, and Palm Genera

Reunion, Mauritius, and Rodrigues comprise the Mascarene Islands, located in the western Indian Ocean off the coast of Madagascar. Discovered by the Portuguese several hundred years ago, Reunion was settled by the French under the name Ile Bourbon (after the ruling French monarchy) and Mauritius was settled by the Dutch, deriving its name from a Dutch nobleman. After the Dutch left Mauritius, the French settled the island and renamed it Isle de France. Reunion became Ile de la Reunion after the French Revolution, the name derived from a key event in the revolutionary effort. It became Ile Bonaparte (for a short

Searching for Palms on Reunion Is-



Photo 1: Acanthophoenix rubra, without spines, in Hoarau garden.

time), Ile Bourbon again (after the Bourbon restoration), then Ile de la Reunion (for good) after the restoration of the French Republic. Reunion is now an overseas department of France, and is

well-developed with a thriving, mainly French, tourist industry. The local currency is the Euro. Mauritius was occupied by the British early in the 19th century, and the original name was restored. The Republic of Mauritius is now an independent nation, and Rodrigues (named after its Portuguese discoverer), is a province of Mauritius.

Geologically, the three islands were formed as a volcanic hot-spot track by eastward movement of the African tectonic plate over a vent in the earth's crust. Reunion is the youngest island, and has an active volcano, Piton de la Fournaise (Peak of the Furnace). Like Mauna Loa and Kilauea on Hawaii Island, Piton de la Fournaise is a shield volcano, one that produces abundant lava flows rather

than having violent eruptions. Joint agreements for scientific exchanges have been made between the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory and the volcano observatory at Piton de la Fournaise. Hawaiian Volcanoes National Park and the La Reunion national park have signed an agreement recognizing each other as "sister parks".

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Photo 2: Dictyosperma album, var. conjugatum, in Parc des Palmiers. (Photo by Mike Merritt)



Palms on Reunion

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I had several interests in journeying to Reunion. First, I wanted to observe a wild population of *Latania lontaroides* (the “red latan”) to settle my questions about the morphological characteristics of the natural, unhybridized members of the species. As *Latania* species (the others being *L. verschaffeltii*, the “yellow latan”, from Rodrigues Island and *L. loddigesii*, the “blue latan”, from Mauritius) are dioecious (it takes two palms, one with male flowers and another with female flowers, to produce viable seeds), and as the different species are often grown together in gardens, many, if not most, seed collections from cultivated settings produce plants that have genes from more than one species.

I was also interested in seeing natural populations of other endemic Mascarene Island palm



genera, such as *Acanthophoenix*, *Dictyosperma*, and *Hyophorbe* species. Many of these species, and the *Latania* species, have become rare in habitat because of urban and agricultural development and because the palm hearts of some of these species are edible and tasty. Relict wild populations only exist today in relatively inaccessible locations. One exception is *Hyophorbe indica*, native to Reunion Island.

Left, Photo 3: *Acanthophoenix rousselii* in Parc des Palmiers.

Right, Photo 4: Group discussion at Parc des Palmiers. Yannick Gibraltar (red shirt), Alain Hoarau (white hair & camera), Lazaro Priegues (behind Alain), Jean-Francois Padre (black shirt). (Mike Merritt photos)



The heart of this species is considered to be bitter and undesirable for human consumption. The heart of *Latania lontaroides* has been similarly described.

The Palm Gardens

Another opportunity that beckoned from Reunion was a chance to visit several remarkable palm gardens. Like Hawaii Island, Reunion Island is tropical, and tropical palms can be grown where

rainfall is sufficient. The western and southwestern parts of the island where much of the population, and the two palm gardens we visited on the first day, is somewhat dry, like the western side of Hawaii Island.

Several months in advance, I contacted Jean-Francois Padre (“Hery” on the IPS Palm Talk forum) to ask for advice. Jean-Francois is a member of Palmeraie-Union, the local IPS chapter. On his suggestion, I offered other members of the IPS

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Palms on Reunion

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board the possibility of joining a group that would receive help and support from Reunion palm enthusiasts. Several members considered the suggestion, but when I arrived in Reunion, I was accompanied only by Lazaro Priegues (Lazz), an IPS member from Miami. I was met at the airport by Jean-Francois, who took

me to the house of another Palmeraie-Union member, where we joined Lazz and other chapter members, including Alain Hoarau ("Palmito"), for a Reunion-style lunch. Jean-Francois and Alain, a palm seed and plant seller, spoke relatively good English, and Lazz spoke fluent French, so communication was easy, with Lazz doing me the big favor of pausing frequently to translate the conversation for my benefit.

After lunch, we went to the first garden. Located near the southwestern coast a short distance from St. Pierre, it is owned by Serge Hoarau (not related to Alain). Among the many palms from around the world was a beautiful young specimen of the species *Acanthophoenix rubra* (photo 1). This specimen was without spines. A detailed discussion of various differences among

the *Acanthophoenix* species is included in an article prepared for the Palms Journal by Nicole Ludwig (2006a), a resident of La Reunion. Ludwig describes *A. rubra* as losing spines as the height of the palm increases.

Acanthophoenix rubra is found on both Reunion and Mauritius, and there is speculation about the possible existence of "Reunion" and "Mauritius" forms. Wild populations are found on Mauritius, but, on Reunion, all populations appear to be associated with human settlements. Meyer et al (2008) suggests the possibility that *A. rubra* may not be endemic to Reunion, but may have been introduced from Mauritius by early settlers to be farmed for its cabbage. Jean-Francois does not agree, pointing out that the first description of *A. rubra* in 1800 by Bory de St. Vincent was based on trees found on Reunion long before there was a palm heart industry. Nevertheless, *Acanthophoenix*



Photo 5: Juvenile specimen of the "coastal form" of *Latania lontaroides*.
(Photo by Alain Hoarau)

Photo 6: Trail over rocky riverbed, part of the Mafate Crater trek. (Photo by Mike Merritt)





Photo 7: Ad-axial side of leaf from a juvenile, 1 m ot trunk, of *Latania lontaroides* “wild form,” collected from the lower Mafate Crater population. (Photo by Mike Merritt)

Photo 8: Flowering male *Latania lontaroides* in the upper Mafate Crater population. (Photo by Alain Hoarau)



Palms on Reunion

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rubra is presently grown commercially and harvested for palm heart (Ludwig, 2006a).

The second garden that we visited, Parc des Palmiers, covers 20 hectares (50 acres) near the southwestern town of Le Tampon and contains a worldwide selection of palms. This park is well-known and distinctive enough to be on the attraction lists of some professional tour groups. Reunion species in the park include a young *Dictyosperma album*, var. *conjugatum* (photo 2), and a young *Acanthophoenix rousselii* (photo 3). My hosts described the *conjugatum* variety as smaller than *D. album*, var. *album*, the variety familiar to landscapers in Hawaii and the rest of the tropical world, and as having thicker leaflets that are joined at their tips. *A. rousselii* is generally similar to *A. rubra* except that the undersides of *A. rubra* leaflets have a white indumentum,

whereas the undersides of *A. rousselii* leaves are green. The fruits and seeds of *A. rousselii* are distinctly larger than those of *A. rubra*. A formal description of *Acanthophoenix rousselii* was provided by Ludwig (2006a).

Nowhere did I see *Acanthophoenix crinita*. Upon inquiring, I learned that *A. crinita* was a montane species that required the abundant moisture that they received in the mountains of Reunion. In the somewhat dry coastal lowlands of western and southwestern Reunion, they do not thrive. I was advised by Jean-Francois, however, that they might do quite well in the wet windward part of Hawaii Island where I reside. Before leaving Parc des Palmiers, I obtained a picture of our little group (photo 4).

The Mafate Crater Trek

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Palms on Reunion

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Some Reunion palmophiles divide *Latania lontaroides* into two groups, the “coastal form” and the “wild (Mafate) form”. The common examples of this species that are widely planted for landscaping on the island and used for the harvesting of seeds for export are the “coastal form”. Ludwig (2006b) describes a population of *L. lontaroides* near the southern coast that may have originated before human settlement but whose survival could partly owe to anthropogenic assistance. Jean-Francois regards these palms as examples of the “coastal form”.

Cultivated palms of *L. lontaroides* “coastal form” on Reunion have the same aspect as *Latania* palms in the rest of the world in that the three species have been planted together for many years, and *L. lontaroides* “coastal form” trees and their seeds may have

genes from more than one species. Jean-Francois believes that the possible hybridization of “coastal form” palms can be assessed by observing the number of years to reproductive maturity. He estimates that an unhybridized *L. lontaroides* normally takes over 30 years to reach maturity, while *L. verschaffeltii* takes only 15 years and *L. loddigesii* takes a mere 6 to 8 years.

A visit to the location of the “wild form” seemed to be most consistent with my purpose of viewing unhybridized individuals of this species. Alain has told me that there are plans to prepare a detailed comparison chart of the characteristics of the “coastal form” and the “wild form”. Such a comparison of the forms is beyond the scope of this article (in fact, I did not get a good look at individuals of the “coastal form”), but the comparison would partly involve morphological characteristics of adult and juvenile speci-

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Left, close up of male flowers of a male *Latania lontaroides* in the upper Mafate Crater population.



Right, close up of crown of female *Latania lontaroides*, Mafate Crater population, showing unripe fruit.
(Both photos by Alain Hoarau)



Far left, Photo 11: pair of juvenile Latania lontaroides, Mafate Crater population. Near left, Photo 12: Indumentum on petiole bases of male Latania lontaroides in Mafate Crater population. (Photos by Alain Hoarau)

Palms on Reunion

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mens. Some Reunion palmo-
philes, including Nicole Ludwig
according to Jean-Francois, do
not recognize two forms of *L. lon-*
taroides. The botanical status of
the proposed forms is beyond the
scope of this article, which, in re-
lation to the *Latania* genus, has
the sole purposes of describing
the trip to visit a “wild form”
population and providing some

photographic documentation of
“wild form” specimens.

Subject to these reservations, I
was told that juveniles of the
“coastal form” had larger and
more reddish leaves that are not
as stiff as those of the “wild
form.” Alain has provided a pho-
tograph of a juvenile of the
“coastal form” (photo 5).

To see the “wild form” popula-
tion required a rigorous hike to

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*Photo 13: Dictyosperma album (left) and Acantho-
phoenix rousselii (right) in pasture near Le Tampon.
These trees may be about 200 years old.*

(Photo by Mike Merritt)

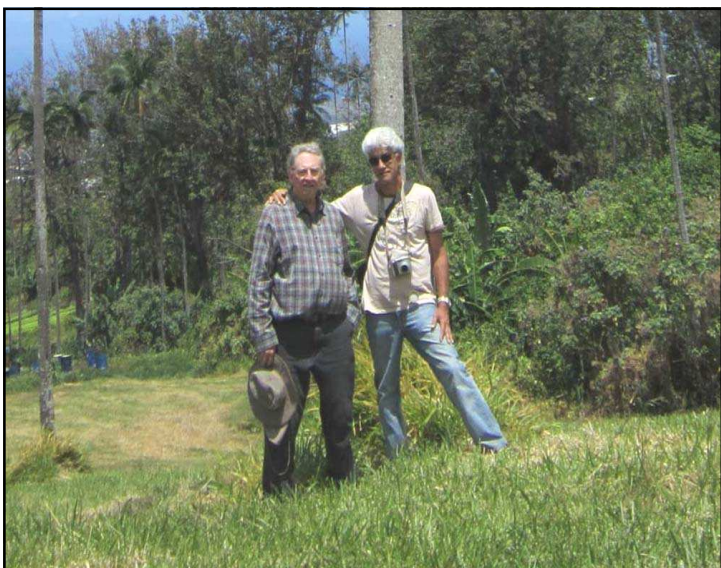


Photo 14: Mike Merritt & Alain Hoarau standing at base of Acanthophoenix rousselii in pasture near Le Tampon. (Photo by Jean-Francois Padre)

Palms on Reunion

(Continued from page 18)

one of the areas where they remain, in the Cirque de Mafate (Mafate Crater), an extinct volcano in the west-central part of the island. However, I needed to consider my physical condition. My knees and feet were painful, which I attributed to the long last day's hike in the Satranala Reserve in Madagascar, and I was concerned about what I would be able to do the next day. (I now know that a medical condition, not the hiking, was responsible for the condition of my lower extremities.)

I was taken to the house of Serge and Christine Hoarau, who had agreed to board me for the three nights. Serge is a medical doctor, and his house is an intriguing maze of sections going in various directions and having various purposes (office, music room, guest room, etc.). At times, the wind howled violently outside,

but there was not a hint of it inside. Their grown son and daughter joined us for one or more meals. Lazz boarded with Nicole Ludwig.

My feet had somewhat improved after a good night's sleep, so I put on my running shoes and was driven to the first staging point for the Mafate Crater trek. Here we transferred to four-wheeled drive vehicles for the rough drive up a river bed to the second staging point, fording the river six or seven times. From this point, the trek was by foot, mostly along a riverbed filled with rocks (photo 6). After a while, it was clear that I was holding the group back, so most of the group went ahead while Jean-Francois remained behind with me.

After an hour or two, Jean-Francois and I reached the location of the first of the wild *Latantias*. From a river crossing, I had seen a group of palms nearly

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Photo 15: Close up of leaf of Latania lontaroides “wild form” in garden of Max Félicité. Seeds collected from the Mafate Crater population.

(Photo by Mike Merritt)

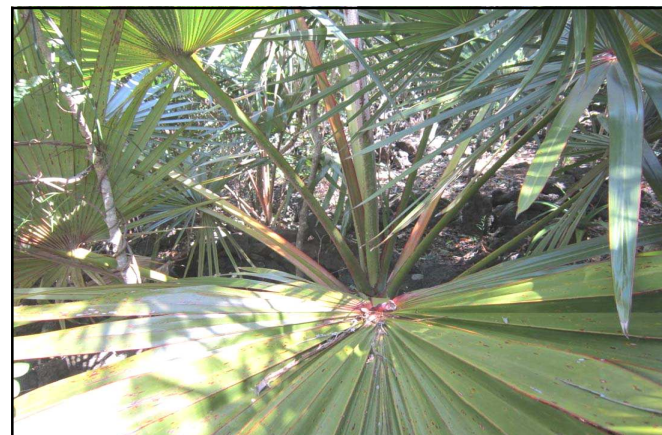


Photo 16: Close up of juvenile Latania lontaroides “wild form” in garden of Max Félicité, showing lack of indumentums on leaf bases. The other, more mature, specimen did have indumentums. Seeds collected from Mafate Crater population. (Photo by Mike Merritt)

Palms on Reunion

(Continued from page 19)

concealed in a patch of forest. From a shady spot above the river where we took a break, I could see a *Latania lontaroides* high on the side of a cliff, but the grove in the forest was not visible. Jean-Francois went ahead

alone to reconnoiter. When he returned, he reported that the way ahead was difficult, and that the climb to the palm grove was especially difficult. But he brought back a frond from one of the *Latania lontaroides* in the hillside grove (photo 7). Jean-Francois reported that the palm providing the frond had about 1

m (3.3 ft) of trunk. This group of palms did not have any mature, flowering trees.

At this point, I decided that I had done more than enough, and Jean-Francois and I began the difficult return trip. The remainder of the group had continued fur-

ther up the canyon to the location of a larger grove of the “wild form”, which contained mature male and female palms, the latter bearing fruit, unfortunately not mature. The final part of the trek required a difficult climb. Alain, at the age of 61, was unfazed and

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Palms on Reunion

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took a series of photos from the grove.

A male tree with two large inflorescences is shown in photo 8. A close up of the male flowers is shown as photo 9. A closer view of a female tree in fruit is shown as photo 10. A pair of juveniles is shown in photo 11 and a close up of the petioles of a flowering male tree is shown (photo 12) to illustrate the tomentum at the base of the petioles. Not every mature tree showed this much tomentum.

In the evening, Serge and Christine prepared a feast. They were joined by their two grown children, Lazz and myself, Jean-Francois, and Alain. The salad, made from palm heart of *Dictyosperma album*, was especially appreciated by the assembled group.

The *Acanthophoenix rousseii* Grove

On the morning of my last day, Alain and Jean-Francois took me to a pasture near Le Tampon in the interior of the semi-dry southwest to see a group of two-hundred-year-old *Dictyosperma album* and *Acanthophoenix rousseii*. This is the only known location where the latter species is found (Ludwig, 2006a). Ludwig speculates that *A. rousseii* is the only *Acanthophoenix* species adapted to this climatic region, as *A. rubra* is adapted to the wet lowlands of the east coast and *A. crinita* is adapted to a wet montane environment. She also speculates that the rarity of *A. rousseii* could be due to the extinction of some larger bird species that may have distributed the seeds, distinctly larger than those of the other two species.

The pasture is used for growing hay, and fortunately had just been mowed. The landowner,

Gaston Roussel, has a policy of allowing the rare endemics on the property to survive undisturbed. Photo 13 shows the crowns of a *Dictyosperma album* and an *Acanthophoenix rousseii* near one another. There are some rare endemic non-palm trees behind the *A. rousseii*. Differences in the species are evident in the photo. *A. rousseii* has a light gray trunk, a shorter and thicker crownshaft, and longer, more pendulous leaflets that extend from the rachis at a less acute angle than the leaflets of *D. album*. Photo 14 shows the author and Alain Hoarau standing near the base of one of the *A. rousseii*.

Cultivated *Latania lontaroides* “wild form”

After we left the pasture of rare palms, we traveled to the home and garden of Max Félicité, the discoverer of the grove of the “wild form” of *Latania lontaroides* in the Mafate Crater. Ac-

cording to Jean-Francois, Max was searching for specimens of a rare endemic Reunion tree species about 15 years ago when he spotted the fronds of the palms. He returned later for a closer look. At some point, he collected and germinated seeds from this grove.

Lunch was the first order of business, and we dined on octopus stew with a typical Reunion side dish, lentils on rice. Afterward, we went up a hill on the property to view very old male and female *Latania lontaroides* of indeterminate form. Nearby were two juveniles of the “wild form” that Max had planted. Photography was difficult because we were in dense vegetation. Photo 15 shows a leaf from one of these that had a short length of trunk, probably less than 1 foot (0.3 m). Photo 16 shows the base of the other, less developed, plant showing petioles that lacked the

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Palms on Reunion

(Continued from page 21)

tomentum that was present on the more developed plant.

But now it was time for me to rush to the airport in St. Denis, as I was in danger of missing the first of five flights (total flight time of 31 hours) that would take me halfway around the world to my home on the Big Island. Together with the Madagascar tour, it had been a very memorable journey.

Acknowledgements

I am greatly in debt to Jean-Francois Padre and his Palmeraie-Union colleagues for transportation around La Reunion, and to Jean-Francois for getting me to and from the airport and for his help during the Mafate Crater trek. Jean-Francois also arranged for me to be boarded for three nights at the home of Serge and Christine Hoarau. Jean-Francois

and Alain Hoarau were the sources of much information about palm species of the Mascarene Islands.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a wonderful time everyone had in Miami. Montgomery was just awesome along with the pleasure of Fairchild the next day. Well, I don't know about anyone else but, I was on a palm high. I would like to offer my thanks. First, shout out to Mike Evans and his connections for making the Montgomery trip happen. Thanks also to Dr. Patrick Griffith and his excellent staff for hosting us. The compliment Dr. Griffith paid CFPACS is one I wish to share. He said that we were one of the best organizations he has hosted in a long time. It was great to hear such positive feedback about our group.

I would like to close by wishing all of you a Happy New Year! I wish you warmth for your tropics and your families. Grow stronger in what I hope is a mild winter with decent rainfall.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at Anne Michael's home in March.

Dave Hall

Seed Bank

3rd Quarter Report

The third quarter has been interesting. Jerry's Facebook friends continue to participate in our offerings. We've had sales of about \$270.00. Considering how few seeds we have at the moment, that's not too bad. We had hoped to get over to Rob Branch's to collect more, but we haven't managed to retrieve them as of yet. Thanks so much to all who donate and support our seed-bank. For anyone who would like to donate seeds the address is:

Jerry Luedeke
117 E Connecticut Ave.
Edgewater, FL 32132

4th Quarter Report

Thanks to our trip to Montgomery Botanical Center, and to John Kennedy, Tommy Armour and Tom Broome we had some seeds to offer. So our numbers came up just in time for the end of the year. We had sales of \$183.00 this quarter. Next quarter we hope to get seeds from Anne Michael so that should boost us up for next year. Thanks to all who have donated and bought seeds. It all goes to continuing our cause and providing food at meetings. Have a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Libby and Jerry Luedeke
Seed Bank Coordinators

From the Editor's Desk

A good bit of this issue has been devoted to the CFPACS 2-day trip to Miami. Montgomery was literally stupefying. I mean, I have one individual of about 82 species of palm—just like other members. At Montgomery, how about groves of the same species? I must admit to being really creeped out by 12 or 14 *Acrocomia aculeata* growing together. My single most regretted palm, mine with only about 8 feet of trunk (grown from seed that took three years to germinate). Spines 3 inches long everywhere—no squirrel or lizard runs up this palm trunk. Montgomery's were half again as big as mine. If these palms had legs, Miami would be endangered.

* * * *

We all know how much trash palms create. Amazing that so little was evident the day of our

visit to Montgomery. The few downed fronds visible probably fell that morning. My clean up on a half acre isn't nearly as good. Maybe I should inquire, for all of us, how this is done. (Probably an army of cleaner uppers.)

* * * *

I have to admit, also, that I got over-stimulated at Montgomery. Parents know that their 5-year-old can only take so much before he/she blanks out. I'm not 5 (true) but after a while can't absorb any more. For me to truly 'get' Montgomery (minimally) would require my coming for about an hour every other day for at least a week. A total dip, in one shot, as we did, wipes me out. Good thing there are pictures.

* * * *

(Continued on page 24)

From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 23)

I rode to and from Miami in president Dave Hall's truck with his longtime girlfriend, Tracy Hines, and her friend, Cassie. Tracy packed a sumptuous lunch for Saturday (hey, *shrimp!*) and for Sunday (shrimpless). Way above my touch and, therefore, much enjoyed. OK, Dave, where do we go next? Kew? Had a great time, I did, with these friendly, chatty people.

* * * *

There are many more pictures of Montgomery than of Fairchild. Most of us have been to Fairchild at one time or another, so it has a sort of familiarity. But Montgomery was a new experience for just about all of us, very different. It still carries with it the feel of an estate rather than of an attraction. The spaciousness of Montgomery is what impressed this small homeowner. The idea of intelligent placement—in numbers—is mind-boggling to folks

who buy and plant one small palm at a time. And Montgomery was quiet but for our voices.

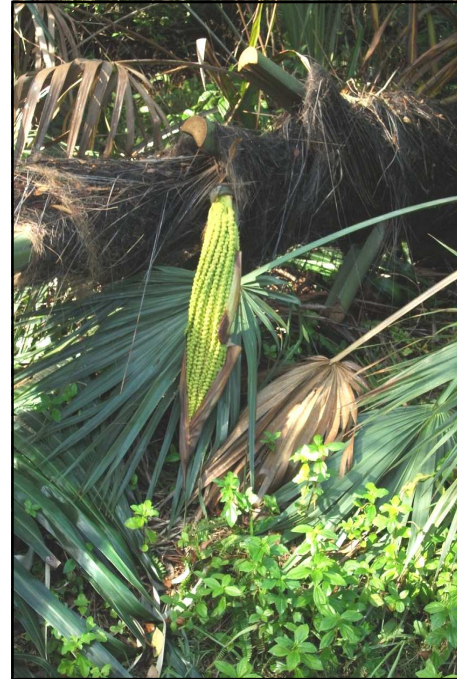
* * * *

I asked a couple of questions of a Fairchild volunteer waiting to drive one of the trams. She said to me, "You're from Philadelphia." "How do you know?" I asked. "It's in your voice." When I listened, I heard it in her voice, too. Just a bit nasal, accent sometimes mocked by Noo-Yawkuhs.

* * * *

Meant to ask Patrick Griffith, Montgomery's director, what was the latest NEW palm that everyone should have. But I forgot. Also, as a senior geezer, I find myself less than interested in palms that will develop a trunk in 20 years. For those of you aged 50 or below, you need not hesitate to acquire such a palm

John Kennedy



That's not an ear of corn in the picture at left. It's my 40-foot *Arenga pinnata* downed by Hurricane Matthew in early October. The palm had never flowered but has now, in its last moments put out the unopened inflorescence. In addition, two smaller inflorescences have appeared, not yet so far along. About a foot of the huge rootball is still in the ground.

—John Kennedy

A March meeting is in the planning stages.—probably for the east coast. Details of the date and place(s) have not been finalized at this time. Members will be notified as soon as everything is worked out.

— The Editor

John Kennedy took pictures at Fairchild palms of the same species that he has. His whine: "Theirs are bigger than mine."



Astrocaryum mexicanum



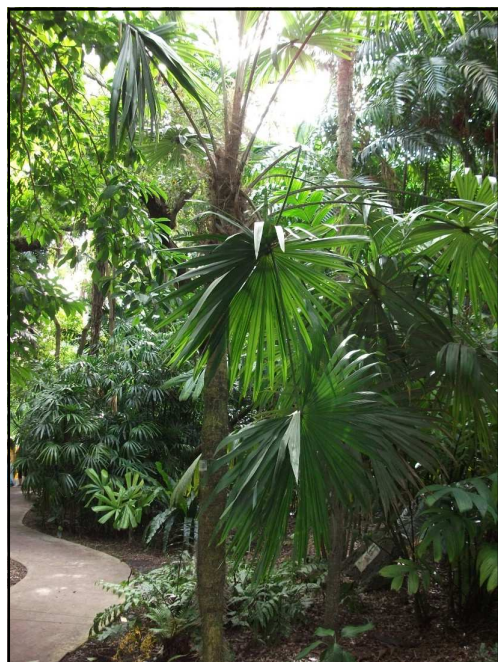
Carpoxydon macrocarpum



Cryosophila stauracantha
This is bigger than mine, too.

Every December publication should have a Merry Hanukkah wreath. So, here it is (below).





Cryosophila williamsii at Fairchild.
(Photo by John Kennedy)



Corypha utan flowering at Fairchild.
(Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)



Euphorbia punicea at Fairchild.
Pretty red flowers similar to those
on its relative, Crown-of-Thorns.
(Photo by John Kennedy)

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, \$55,
quarterly journal
<http://palms.org>

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.



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



Marjorie Evans gives scale to Pseudophoenix ekmanii at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden on Dec. 4th.

(Photo by husband Mike)