

The Palmateer

Volume 39, Number 1

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

March 2017



*Spring meeting:
left, Botanical Fest
in Melbourne.
Right, on the tour
at Earring Point.
Anne Michael (in
the golf cart) is
the guide.
(Photos by
Janice Broda)*



Two Stops at the March 11th Meeting: Melbourne and Orchid Island

The Spring meeting on March 11th brought members to the East Coast for an afternoon visit to the Michael home-place on the barrier island (Orchid Island) north of Vero

Beach. In the morning, everyone was free to visit Melbourne Botanical Fest in Melbourne.

Florida Tech has sponsored this popular on-campus

event for 11 years but announced last September that it would not continue to do so. This year's Botanical Fest, now sponsored by Melbourne Main Street, was held

in a parking lot just west of U. S. #1, between Strawbridge Ave. and New Haven Ave. Not as picturesque, perhaps, as the university campus but

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At Botanical Fest, well-known CFPACS dynamic duo, Maryann Krisovitch (left, Asst. Treasurer & Membership Chair) and Ron Hart (Past President & chronicler of "What's in an Apopka Garden?")
(Photo by A Passing Friend)



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N.B.: Some comments in this issue about the mild winter were written before the cold snap that hit Central Florida during the week of March 13th.

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. The views expressed are not the official positions of the society nor of its Board. No material may be re-printed or reproduced without permission.

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

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Spring Meeting

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its advantage was in compactness. It was possible to tour all the vendors easily.

Did any visitor escape without buying something?

Palms and cycads, yes, but also native plants, and every kind of exotic Florida gardeners love. Also garden art. The new venue was crowded with shoppers.

After lunch on their own, it was down to Earring Point, in the Town of Orchid, in Indian River County. At 1:30, Anne Michael (in her golf cart) took everyone around the property on an hour-long tour to point out the significant palms and cycads. The historic marker there recounts the settlement on this site by the Michael family in 1887.

What more could we wish than a beautiful day, a beau-

tiful place, a gracious and hospitable hostess? Actually, how about something significant to palm lovers? A great feature was a female and a male *Borassus flabellifer*, meaning (of course) the production of fertile seed.

However, the male—more than 50 years old—had died with seemingly no male replacement. A younger *Borassus* had just opened its first inflorescence: Jason Baker noted that this is a male inflorescence, so fertile seed will continue on Earring Point.

Bringing the day to a close was the usual auction and sale of plants. Sated for the moment, we all can look forward to the Summer meeting (stay tuned for details).

--John Kennedy

Right, Jerry Luedeke gives scale to Corypha umbraculifera at the Michael house.
(Photo by Chuck Grieneisen)



Left, another view of Melbourne's Botanical Fest. (Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)

March Meeting on Earring Point



*Left, the skyline at the Michael homeplace.
Right, president Dave Hall and, far right, treasurer Keith Santner.
(Photos by Janice Broda)*



*Left, editor John Kennedy talks with former IPS president, Paul Craft and his wife Patty.
Right, double row (20?) of same size Lantania lontaroides. The hand is Dave Hall's.*



Encephalartos of the Gisela Kopsick Palm Arboretum



Encephalartos altensteinii—*Eastern Cape Province, South Africa—named after Baron Altenstein, a German statesman of the late 18th & early 19th century. Kew Gardens has one of the world's oldest pot plants, having received it in 1775.*



E. arenarius—*Discovered in 1953, Eastern Cape Province, suffers from habitat loss and illegal collection from the wild by the truckload.*

By Maryann Krisovitch
The Gisela Kopsick Palm Arboretum in St. Petersburg, Florida was dedicated on May 16, 1977, Mrs. Kopsick's 100th birthday. The garden was expanded in 2004 and again in 2014 with the pur-



Right, E. bubalinus—Kenya & Tanzania on quartzite hills. Uncommon in cultivation.

chase of a collection of cycads from the estate of Dr. U.A. Young. The Arboretum now contains over 800 specimens representing over 235 species of palms and 100 species of cycads.

Recently, CFPACS Past President Ron Hart and I had the opportunity for an im-

promptu visit to Kopsick. We were very interested to see how the cycads transplanted from Dr. Young's were faring. Things were looking great! As we wandered through the pathways, I began to take note of the large groups of *Encephalartos* and my camera snapped wildly along the paths.

The genus *Encephalartos* contains approximately 63 described species plus many

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U. A. Young's *Encephalartos* at Kopsick

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others on the waiting- to-be-named list. It is the largest genus in the *Zamiaceae* family. The genus hails from the African continent with over half from South Africa. They are frequently found growing among rocks in mountainous regions. Soils are well-drained, sandy or gravelly and often poor in nutrients. **A few** species from arid regions are deciduous for a short time each year before new leaves appear. Some of these deciduous species are *E. poggei*, *E. schaijesii* and *E. turneri*. Ironically, these are also some of the most difficult to cultivate.

Most *Encephalartos* species are propagated from seed. The seed should be sown soon after it is released from the cone. Germination can

take 12-18 months. Seedlings should be kept in pots until they are sufficiently established. Basal suckers can be transplanted after careful removal from the parent plant.

Most species of *Encephalartos* prefer bright light to full sun. Soil drainage is important to discourage fungal root rots. *E. gratus*, *E. hildebrandtii* and *E. sclavoi* can tolerate wet soils as long as the water is not stagnant. **Species from** tropical and subtropical regions are cold sensitive but those from high altitudes can tolerate colder temperatures.

Some of the *Encephalartos* in residence at Kopsick are *E. arenarius*, *E. bubalinus*, *E. concinnus*, *E. gratus*, *E. ituriensis*, *E. lebomboensis*, *E. sclavoi*, *E. altensteinii*, *E. trispinosus* and a cross of these last two.



Above, *E. concinnus*—Zimbabwe—is able to produce numerous offsets along the trunks. Right, *E. gratus*—Malawi and Mozambique—plants collected from Mulanje Mtn.(Malawi) were growing at Kew in 1900. Can be grown in full sun, but best in partial shade.



More *Encephalartos* at Kopsick



Encephalartos ituriensis—Ituri Forest, Congo—grows on huge granite domes. Described in 1900



E. lebomboensis—South Africa—suited to subtropical and warm temperature regions. Easy to grow in full sun. May be damaged by heavy frosts.

All cycad photos and captions by Maryann Krisovitch.



E. sclavoi—Tanzania—readily recognized by its leaves which give the impression of a half open venetian blind.

Two More *Encephalartos* at Kopsick



Above, *E. trispinosus*—*first described as a variety of E. horridus in 1861,*



E. altensteinii x *E. trispinosus*—*natural hybrids are common in the Kowie and Bushman's River Valley. Plants are greener than E. trispinosus.*

Going to the Candy Store

Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale

By Libby Luedeke

Jerry and I had a great day at the annual plant sale at Leu Gardens (March 11-12). Always a great time, but with our current weather it's even better. There were over 50 vendors and most were around 65% sold out by 1 p.m. There was hardly a person there that hadn't purchased something.

Jerry was pleased to find a cycad on his list from Mike at M.B. Palms. We came home with a lovely *Ceratozamia miqueliana*. Mike had many other desirable species and looked to be having a great day.

We spied an *Encephalartos arenarius* (blue), Mule palms, *Macrozamia communis*, flame throwers, and a *Draecena draco* (dragon tree).

There were many orchid and bromeliad vendors that had



Jerry Luedeke with his prize, Ceratozamia miqueliana, purchased at the Leu Gardens sale. Below, a view of the sale.



plants disappearing almost as fast as you could look at them. One *Vanda* orchid grower was almost out of plants before one o'clock.

I have recently become enchanted by succulents and cactus and there is a wonderful vendor who sells small cuttings for \$1 each which makes me not so scared to try new items. It also helped parents of future gardeners get excited about growing and enjoying plants without breaking the bank.

For parents and grandparents there is a dinosaur display that will be there till April 30th. I kept hearing squeals of delight as children found dino's scattered throughout the park. A very

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Going to the Candy Store

Leu Gardens Annual Plant Sale

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good reason to visit all on its own. As we explored the palm and cycad area there were other visitors gathered checking out an unusual sight.

An owl was sleeping in the branches of a sausage tree. It was very exciting. Also, their vegetable garden is going off as you see in the pictures.

We also had a visit at the Leu Gardens display and Eric Schmidt, the resident palm and cycad guru, took a few minutes to have a chat with us and Dave Hall, our President.

Maryann K. had already contacted him earlier because we have some ideas for our

summer meeting that were discussed with him and sounds like he's looking forward to working with us, details coming soon.

I have to throw a little shout out to our local nursery in New Smyrna Beach, Lindley's Nursery. They had a fantastic display of flowers, vegetables and succulents, etc. It was a great representation of what our area has to offer.

So, if you haven't been to a Leu sale before, you should make it a priority next year. It doesn't hurt that there's free entry for those who are not members. Maybe we'll see you there next year!



Lots of palms here but where are all the people, Libby?



A witness to the Leu sale, a bit sleepy in a tree.



Leu Gardens' vegetable garden.

What's in an Apopka Garden?

This winter was fantastic. We only had one cold snap where temperatures dropped into the high 30's. Even more important was that we had no visible signs of frost in our yard. All 150 species of palms and cycads breezed through winter like a happy St. Bernard puppy with a full barrel of brandy around his neck. Yes, there was some minor damage. For example, our 6-year old *Pritchardia alymer-robinsonii* has some light spotting on the older leaves. This is also the first year where we provided no cold protection. All three clothes baskets of blankets and sheets stayed in the attic. I have not seen the weather statistics, but it was the warmest winter I can remember in my 45 years here in Central Florida. **Now let's** talk palms. The first palm we will discuss is *Acrocomia aculeata*. This palm is native from southern Mexico to northern Argentina. The photo we have included shows the author standing next to the spiny leaves (figure 1). I keep the fronds trimmed well

above the ground to prevent being stabbed by a hundred needles while mowing the front yard. This *Acrocomia* is also a second try. The first one was planted in March of 2010 and died for no good reason except to be mean. Hence the second-chance rule. The new plant was installed in the front yard in December of 2011 and seems to have taken a shine to its location and has grown to about 10 feet. This palm has only shown minor leaf spotting during the cooler winter since being planted. I would definitely recommend this palm for the property line next to the problem neighbor. The less they like palms and cycads, the better the site for this palm. I think it grows better with regular doses of spite. **Our second** palm is *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*. It is a native of Australia and grows in the wet subtropics on the sides of Mt Warning Volcano in New South Wales and along ravines in Queensland's Lamington National Park. We first planted this species in



Fig. 1, *Acrocomia aculeata*, with Ron (not standing too close).
Fig. 2, right, *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*.

(Photos by Maryann Krisovitch)

An Apopka Garden

(Continued from page 11)

2007, but not next to a volcano. However, the freeze in 2009 killed this specimen, maybe due to the lack of a volcano. A second was planted in July 2007 and has shown no signs of damage (figure 2). The palm is currently approximately 8 feet high and has about 2 feet of trunk.

Palm number 3 is a *Dypsis cabadae*. It is native to Comoro Islands northwest of Madagascar.

The palm was recently rediscovered in the wild and is a clumping palm like *Dypsis lutescens*. Mine, at approximately 6 feet tall, has no clear trunk and still remains solitary (figure 3). It is one of my favorites due to its dark green glossy fronds with wide leaflets. The petioles appear to have a darker bronze color that further enhances the leaflet color.

Our last palm is a *Syagrus botryophora*. They are found naturally only in Brazil and are known to be

fast growers. In Brazil, they are commonly reseeded in reforestation projects due to their ability to survive in poor soils. They are also valued by wildlife for their understory canopy and for their edible fruits. We have planted two of this species in Apopka. The first was planted in 2008 and was killed by the 2009 freeze. This second was planted in March 2010 and re-

ceived 20% leaf burn in 2013. Since then, the palm has rapidly recovered and has remained unblemished ever since (figure 4).

Well, that is all I have to say to-night. I am sure there is a dessert waiting for me in the fridge and I must get to it before Maryann finds it.

Your past President, **Ron Hart**

Fig. 3, *Dypsis cabadae*.
(Photo by
Maryann Krisovitch)



Fig. 4, *Syagrus botryophora*, Maryann for scale.
(Photo by
Ron Hart)



The South Florida Palm Society Fall Garden Tour: 3 Stops in the Miami Area

From the March Palm Beach Monthly Update. Reprinted by permission.

By Charlie Beck

The 2016 South Florida Palm Society Fall Garden Tour included three stops in Homestead, FL: Botanics Wholesale Nursery, Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC), and the private garden of Kevin McLeod. South Florida Palm Society's garden tours are always worth attending. Even though Miami-Dade County soil and climate vary from Palm Beach County, many palm growing parallels can be made.

The first stop was Botanics Wholesale Nursery which



Macrozamia moorei, at Botanics Wholesale Nursery

was founded in 1980. This nursery grows plants in ground and containers. Palms and cycads were the main focus but natives, fruit trees and ornamentals were also offered for sale. Mike Tevelo-



Encephalartos villosus at Botanics Wholesale.

nis, general manager, led the tour of the growing areas.

The landscape around the entrance of the nursery was planted with interesting groupings of palms and cycads. *Ceratozamia*, *Encephalartos*, *Coccothrinax*, *Copernicia*, *Satakentia* and *Cryosophila* were some of the genera. This area also contained large cycads which were dug, wrapped and



Licuala grandis, also at Botanics Wholesale.

stored on pallets for easy transport. Wholesale prices of these large cycads were \$2500 for the *Macrozamia moorei*, and \$5000 for the *Encephalartos villosus*. Local, guaranteed installation of these large plants typically doubles the wholesale price. These cycads were probably decades old so they could add instant drama to your garden. We did not tour the

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Left, *Licuala peltata* var. *sumawongii*. Right, *Licuala ramsayi* both at *Botanics Wholesale Nursery*.

South Florida Palm Society Fall Garden Tour

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acres of field grown palms but you could see unexpected genera such as *Attalea* and *Beccariophoenix*.

We toured tall shade houses filled with an amazing collection of *L. grandis*, *L. ramsayi*, *L. peltata* var. *sumawongii* and *Cyrtostachys renda*. It was overwhelming to see so many perfectly grown speci-

mens. Containers ranged in size from 3 to 25 gallons. Each pot was set in a water filled saucer. Mike explained that these palms grow best with this constant supply of moisture. Aside from normal fertilization, he top-dressed the containers with Milorganite every 4-6 weeks. Milorganite was used as an iron source. Mike also uses Milorganite on field grown palms.

Milorganite is a granular, organic fertilizer made from

Milwaukee sewage sludge. Its analysis is 5-2-0. Of the 5% nitrogen, 3% is slow release. It also contains 4% iron and 1.2% calcium and other minor elements. I've recently begun testing Milorganite on iron deficient palms in our garden. I apply it every other month. It will probably take a full year to judge the effect of this supplemental feeding. If it works, it would be a low cost, readily available (box stores), iron source for those difficult to grow palms that need extra iron.

Mike recounted an experience during the record cold winters of 2009 and 2010 when we experienced many nighttime low temperatures below 40°F. He had a large area of his shade-house filled with over one thousand *Cyrtostachys renda* (Sealing Wax Palm). Most of those palms died due to exposure to the repeated cold temperatures,

but a couple of specimens survived. Mike has been dividing and propagating those cold hardy specimens. Mike said that sale of those palms are years away.

The second stop was the Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC) which is part of University of Florida's Extension Service. This center was established in 1929 to study the production of tropical and subtropical crops. **They have** a large collection of palms and some cycads along with acres of fruit trees and other crops. Most of the palm and cycad collection was planted decades ago. Palm production might have been studied many years ago but is no longer a current focus of research. Our tour guide said that the palm collection is rarely fertilized so the plants are left to grow on their own. I have toured this

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South Florida Palm Society Fall Garden Tour

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facility several times in the past three decades and can attest that most palms have grown very slowly.

One of the tour highlights was a beautiful grove of *Attalea crassipatha*. Another was one of the largest *Copernicia fallaensis* that I have seen in South Florida. Due to construction of a new building at the Research Center, a grove of *Copernicia baileyana* had to be relocated. The survival rate was high and most of the palms recovered and looked great. A baobab tree was toppled by Hurricane Andrew in 1992. This tree had a huge trunk and was too large to lift from its horizontal position. The tree apparently has rooted into the ground from its trunk and seems quite healthy.



Copernicia baileyana at the Tropical Research & Education Center of the University of Florida in Homestead.

The third stop was to the private garden of Kevin McLeod. Kevin is a board member of the South Florida Palm Society. His one acre garden is located in Ridgewood Estates. This area of Homestead has the highest elevation in all of Dade County. The substrate is solid oolitic

limestone. Every planting hole must be augured or hand dug with a digging bar. Planting holes were drilled up to 3' in diameter. Holes for large palms like *Tahina spectabilis* were dug 8-9' deep.

Kevin excavated a large area 24' deep with the intention of creating a sunken garden. I was amazed that water didn't fill the deep pit. Kevin told me that during the wet season occasionally water would rise to fill the bottom with 3' of water. That equates to a water table 21' below grade in the rainy season. Since we toured his garden, Kevin changed his mind on the depth of the sunken garden. He filled it half way with an organic soil mix.

Kevin's garden was only six years old. I was blown away by how fast his palms grew in that time. The garden contained over 150 different species of palms as well as

many other trees including several species of Baobab trees. Kevin must be doing something right to achieve such rapid growth in six years. Kevin attributes all of his knowledge of palms to his father, Mark Katz and Ellis Brown.

Kevin installed an irrigation system only 2-1/2 years ago. Prior to that, all plants were on drip irrigation. He usually irrigates twice a week, but during dry spells he occasionally increases it to three times. He has been fertilizing once a year, but he hopes to increase that amount.

One memorable palm was the rare and colorful *Livistona carinensis*, which is very slow growing in Palm Beach County. Kevin has the largest *Tahina spectabilis* that I have seen in South Florida. There were many species of *Coper-*

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South Florida Palm Society Fall Garden Tour

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nicia planted and he had a dozen 25 gallon *C. baileyana* palms ready for planting.

Some of my observations made from this South Florida Palm Society Tour are as follows:

- **Some containerized** *Licuala* sp. grow faster if set in a saucer of water.
- **Milorganite might** be a low cost iron source for deficient palms.
- **Many neglected** palms at TREC could survive with minimal maintenance. Some palms even looked quite healthy.

□ **High elevation** allows cold air to drain away on cold winter nights.

□ **Dade County** palms grow faster than in Palm Beach County due to significantly warmer winters: in 2017 between February 3rd & 14th, ten nighttime low temperatures averaged 5.4°F lower in West Palm Beach than in Miami; in 2010 on the ten nights below 40°F, West Palm Beach low temperatures averaged 3.4°F lower than in Miami.



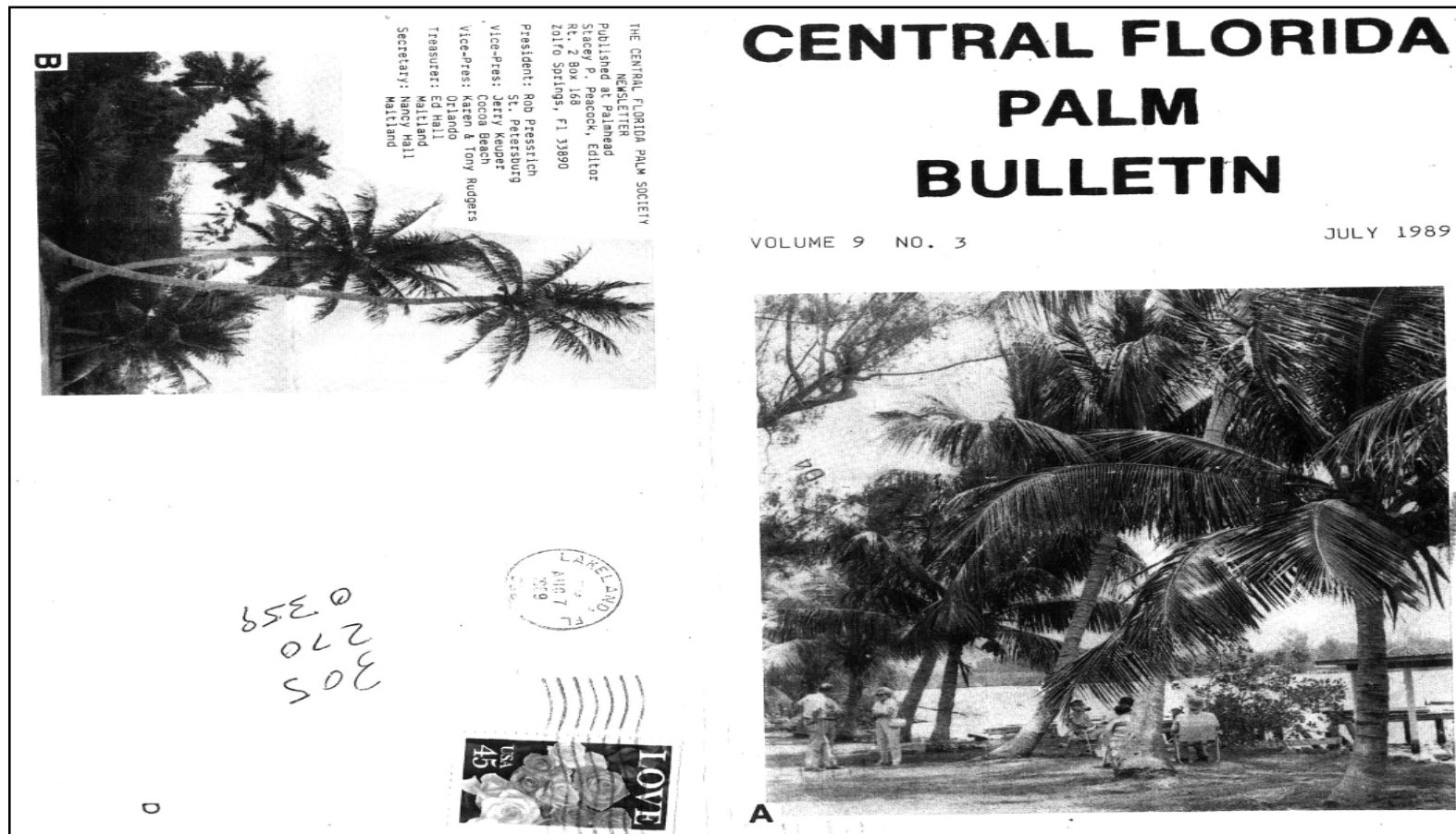
*Above, Archontophoenix purpurea seen in Kevin McLeod's garden.
Right, a close up of the palm's colorful crownshaft.*



A Visit to the Michaels, 1989

As reported in the black-and-white newsletter at that time. Notice that the text was typewritten. This memento of the past belongs to our president, Dave Hall, who copied it for use here.

The chapter had not yet added "Cycad" to the society's name.



How many of these palms were still visible on our visit a few weeks ago, almost 27 years later? See the next page to identify the palms (by number).

PHOTOS FROM
THE JOE MICHAEL'S COLLECTION

FRONT COVER: Members enjoy lunch under the coconuts on May 13th at Joe Michael's

BACK COVER: What may be some of the older surviving Jamaican tall coconuts in the state growing at the Michael's estate.

PHOTO 1: Carol Graff admires a good sized *Pseudophoenix sargentii*

PHOTO 2: *Corypha* sp.

PHOTO 3: *Bismarkia nobilis*

PHOTO 4: This member's excitement is apparent over finding a particularly handsome specimen of *Syagrus schizophylla* (formerly *Arikuryroba*) growing at Joe Michael's

ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE: A nice specimen of *Borassus* is featured from this collection in the photo dedicated to Gertrude.

These photos by S. Peacock



FIRST TWO DAY MEETING BY CFPS BOTH SUCCESSFUL & FUN

By S. Peacock & Ed Hall

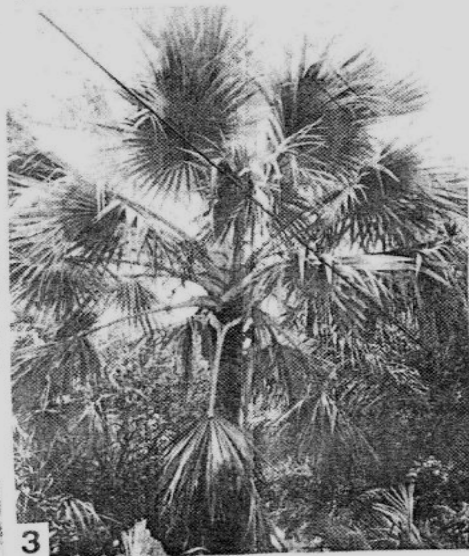
For a society that recently established several firsts, it is exciting to be able to report another first: CFPS held a two day meeting on May 13-14th. Based on the attendance figures it is apparent that our members are dedicated and supportive of such activities.

Things got started about noon on May 13th when members converged on Joe Michael's home. The history of the estate goes back to 1887 where the story is told on a beautifully inscribed marble monument stone placed by the family in the heart of the tropical garden. It reads as follows:

"On September 17, 1887, we left Titusville, FL aboard the sailboat Etta, with Captain Peter Bartleson as skipper of the 35' sloop. It was an overnight trip, I remember sitting on the deck and seeing the full moon shining on the Indian River. It was a beautiful sight. I was a boy of 10 at the time.

We pulled into Little Creek (now called Michael Creek) in a smaller boat on the morning of Sept 18th, 1887. Native mangroves crowded over the water on both sides of the creek. Just east of the Big Live Oak (the one beside the present footbridge), we poled ashore and got off the boat, where, in a swarm of mosquitos, our father, S.K. Michael, welcomed us to our new home.

Told to Anne Denby Michael by Alfred Benjamin Michael, 1963."



On the second day, Sunday, the group went to the FIT campus in Melbourne and were guided by Florida Tech's founding

President, Jerry Keuper, who also started the palm collection. At one time only Fairchild's was bigger in Florida.

Cold is mentioned. More recent residents may not realize that in the 1980s there were usually around four freezes every winter. Stacy Peacock is pleased at how warm it had been recently. Fortunately, he could not foresee the great Christmas freeze of 1989 in the winter ahead. It was 19 at the Michaels', 18 in my yard in Vero Beach.

The Michael's family can be counted among central Florida's earliest palm collectors. This accounts for the maturity of the collection which included many species of towering proportions. Even more enviable was the fact that you really can't get any warmer than this and still consider yourself to be in central Fla. This garden is an example of that almost absolute limit. We saw beautiful mature specimens of *Borassus* (see photo to Gertrude), *Copernicia macroglossa* (torreana), some old Jamaican tall coconuts (survivors of the lethal yellows epidemic and reckoned by Ed Hall to probably be the oldest yet surviving in the state), *Arenga pinnata* and *englerii*, several *Corypha* sp., an abundance of Royal palms at every turn, a flowering and apparently setting seed *Wallichia disticha*, *Bismarkia nobilis*, *Syagrus schizophylla*, *Hyophorbe verschaffeltii*, *Pritchardia* sp., *Pseudophoenix sargentii*, *Copernicia alba*, *Coccothrinax argentata*, *Elaeis guineensis*, *Dictyosperma aureum*, and various *Sabal*s just to name a few. It is a beautiful setting for a picnic lunch as our cover photo testifies. Many thanks to Joe Michael and family for allowing us to tour the grounds. GREAT HOSPITALITY!!!



From there it was north from Wabaso to Melbourne Beach where the ribs were on the grill and beer keg was charged up at the home of Jerry Keuper, located on the Atlantic Ocean. Here the occasion was social and informal. After dinner, we all took a walk to some of Jerry's neighbors in the neighborhood across the street. Lynn Perry's house had lush manicured grounds and sported some beautiful palms. Attention to detail have made his yard the envy of the neighborhood. From there it was on to Mrs. Wightenbury's (forgive spelling) where she proudly showed us her coconut palms laden with fruit. Years past have been discouraging for coconut lovers but with undaunted spirits they continue to plant replacements for the future. Next it was the Clendon's home (once again forgive spelling) where we saw a monster *Washingtonia filifera*, large *Arenga englerii* in full sun, and a beautiful *Neodypsis decaryi*. There was also a mature sized *Hyophorbe verschaffeltii* in an unspecified yard. Afterward we were treated to a palm sale at Jerry's which netted the chapter \$98.00. Thanks to the contributors !!!!!!!!!!!

Ed Hall reports that there was about 50-60 people at Joe Michael's and 46 folks participated in the Bar-B-Que at Jerry Keuper's on May 13th.



TWO DAY MEETING PHOTOS

PHOTO 5: Our host Joe Michaels exchanges info about the palms in his collection with Carol

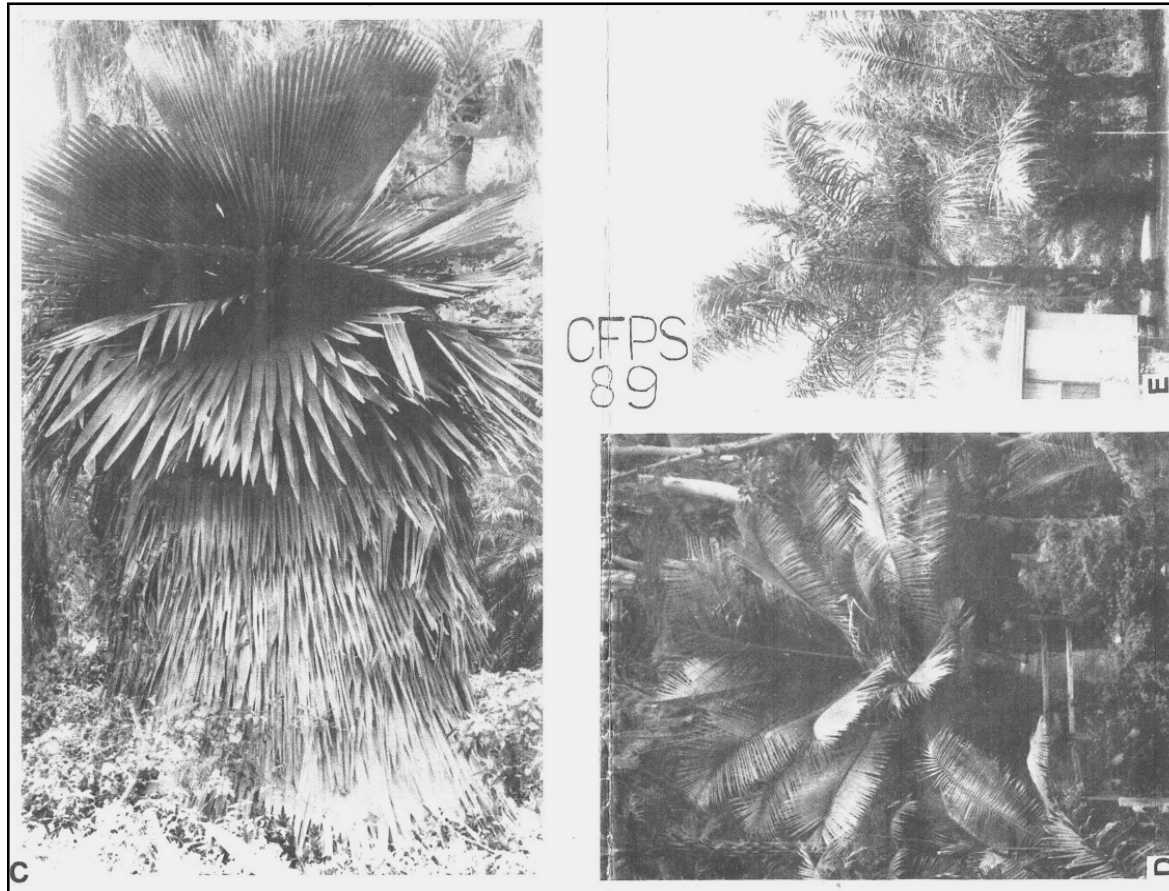
Graff of the South Fl Chapter and the Schusters of Orlando. PHOTO 6: A nice specimen of *Hyophorbe verschaffeltii* showing about 8 ft of trunk in the Michaels collection.

PHOTO 7: Dwarfed by this awesome specimen of *Phoenix canariensis*, members follow Jerry Keuper on a tour of the palm collection at the Florida Institute of Technology. Is it any wonder why we love these princes of the plant kingdom!!!!

PHOTO 8: Jerry Keuper points the way at FIT as "The Palm Family Fowler" and Janice Broda gaze at another worthy specimen. We were thankful to have a personalized tour by the man who started it all.

Sunday morning May 14 saw us gathering on the campus of Fl Institute of Technology in Melbourne where Jerry Keuper had agreed to give a personalized tour of the palm collection he established there years ago. About 32 people cooed and aahed as Jerry led us first through the main campus collection and then to the lush environs of the Dent Smith Trail. This was my first visit to FIT and I was so struck by the absolute abundance of palms and of species. Joe Alf promises to write us an article about the palms of FIT for the next issue of the newsletter, so I'll save those photos for inclusion with it.

It is here that I'd like to thank Jerry Keuper for hosting both the bar-b-que, trip to China, and palm tour. GREAT JOB!



Pictures A & B (cover and back page) are Jamaica Tall coconut palms.

Picture C is *Copernicia macroglossa*.

Picture D is *Ravenea rivularis*, Majesty Palm (no longer there).

Picture E is *Arenga pinnata*, not the individual seen there on March 11th.

Picture #8 shows in the left bottom quarter our East VP, Janice Broda.

From the Editor's Desk

Many folks were really upset when FIT announced in September that it would no longer sponsor Botanical Fest, fearing the end of a highly enjoyable event. But Melbourne wasn't willing to call it quits and the Melbourne Main Street organization came through beautifully.

The parking lot wasn't exactly pretty but it was compact and easy of access from U.S#1. Maybe next year, a prettier place with good parking could be found. My impression was that there were not quite as many vendors as on the university's campus.

* * * *

Saw some beautiful palms at the sale of a size that persons

well into Social Security might like. You know, in huge pots, definitely landscape size, though not fully grown, carrying handsome (if not piratical) prices. More preferable than smaller palms of reasonable price that will form a trunk in 15 years—for whoever is available to enjoy them then.

I settled for a native deciduous azalea, Florida Flame azalea, reasonably priced, yellow-orange flowers that are aromatic butterfly and hummingbird attractors. Nice 1-gallon plant that should grow enough to flower (maybe next year?). I inquired of our Central VP, Terrence Williams, about how to care for my new azalea. He told me—very sternly—and, I believe, is

holding me responsible for its continued good health. There may be a plant inspection next year. What have I done?

Lucita Wait, who was Secretary of The Palm Society (before its evolution into the IPS) and years before that David Fairchild's secretary, told me long ago that palms were most enjoyable when at eye level. She seemed to mean no more than about 20 feet high. I do see her point, now that my older palms require binoculars to observe their crowns, 40-50 feet high. Maybe it would be possible to have a fly-over? Unlike some botanical gardens where individuals stand apart for viewing (however tall), my half-acre is crowded with palms, precluding a good look or a good picture. And I see in my neighborhood

houses with nothing but lawn around them. All that grass taking up empty space that might otherwise be put to good use!

* * * *

Paul Craft tells me that he is almost finished his book on Cuban palms. Spoke to him at our meeting, and he seems still to have retained his sanity. He was the expert I asked when none of my *Burretiokentia hapala* seed germinated last year. After all, I had bought the palm from him when he was running his nursery in Loxahatchee. He told me many (most?) New Caledonia palms don't set viable seed every year. Ugh. Haven't found out yet whether last season's seeds will germinate. Hot weather will tell for those of us without bottom heat.

* * * *

(Continued on page 22)

From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 21)

Steve Swinscoe, the American who is editor of the French palm society magazine, **Le Palmier**, visited Vero Beach recently. I enjoy receiving the magazine and was happy to see him again at McKee Botanical Garden.

Apparently, palm fertilizer is not available in southern France. Steve is interested in learning if there are any do-it-yourself recipes. If you know of any, please contact me. Nothing that might attract the attention of Homeland Security.

* * * *

We are very appreciative of Anne Michael's hospitality on Earring Point for our March meeting.



Steve Swinscoe, left, editor of Le Palmier, and John Kennedy, right, at McKee Botanical Garden, Vero Beach.

Such a lovely place with some awesome palms. I couldn't find anyone had taken a picture of the *Borassus flabellifer* with its first inflorescence—**MALE**--guaranteeing that the old female *Borassus* will continue to yield fertile seed. Jason Baker spotted this.

John Kennedy



Saribus rotundifolius, formerly known to many of us as Livistona rotundifolia, seen at Fairchild during our visit on December 4th.

(Photo by John Kennedy)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, what a wonderful time we had at Anne Michael's Earring Point in Indian River County. I would like to thank Mrs. Michael for graciously hosting CFPACS with a very informative tour of the palms and history of her property.

Though CFPACS has visited the property many times over the decades, we had a lot of members for whom this was the first visit. The weather was very cooperative and absolutely fantastic, making the day exceptional.

We have been blessed this winter with mild warm days and no freezes unlike the winters of the 1980s where severe cold killed most tropical plants in Central Florida.

During the 80s Earring Point was an exception where, even during the most severe winters, the climate is more

like Miami than the neighboring areas. With this in mind, I found my old copy of the *Central Florida Palm Bulletin*, predecessor of *The Palmateer*, chronicling a visit of CFPACS to the Michael's property in 1989. I thought it would be of interest to ask John Kennedy to reprint the article and pictures from 1989 for all to compare what was growing then to what is growing now. What I would especially like to point out is the picture of the Jamaican Tall Coconuts that growing along the river in 1989. These were probably some of the last Jamaican Tall Coconuts left in the state at that point. Most in South Florida perished due to the Lethal Yellowing of the 70s and 80s with any left in the North succumbing to the severe

cold of the 80s. Today there a few if any left in the state (**If you** know of one, please share with us and send a photo). Instead they have been replaced by varieties such as Maypan, Dwarf Yellow and Green Malaysian which are resistant to the Lethal Yellowing. Anne gave a great explanation as to why these are there today along her riverfront. I want to thank her as well for demonstrating the proper way to germinate coconuts for faster

growth (see what you miss when you do not join us). **Several of** us attended the plant sale at Leu Gardens on March 11 and firmed up some of the plans for our next meeting. We will definitely be there as a group this summer and look forward to seeing all of you there. More information regarding the date and time will follow when finalized. Till then, continue to grow!

Dave Hall



*Dave Hall
with Anne
Michael on
Earring
Point.
(Photo by
Janice
Broda)*

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>

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Austin, TX 78758
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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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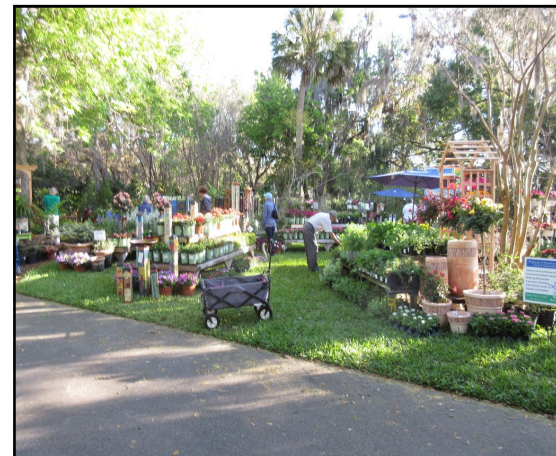
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The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society service area includes the following counties:

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.



Lindley's Nursery, New Smyrna Beach, at the Leu sale, a local favorite of Libby Luedeke's.