

The Palmateer

Volume 10, Number 4

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

December 2018



A Day Touring San Francisco Gardens



with Jason Dewees

By Keith Santner,
Horticulturist

Winter Haven FL, Zone 9b

So just a bit about me to set up this story. I was born in suburban St Louis and grew up loving plants and gardening, but I didn't even know a person could make a living in the horticulture industry. Then one day after college classes, and before going to work, I watched a soap opera where one of the characters was a "horticulturist" and got paid to work with plants.

That was the seminal moment that launched my career. Almost immediately I began applying to universities

that offered degrees in horticulture and Texas A&M said yes! I was off to the Lone Star state just a few months later. **Once there**, it was obvious to me that Horticulture was my calling, but plant I.D. was my forté. In all of my plant ID classes, I only missed one...*Condalia hookeri*, and when I missed it the Teacher threw it out saying it was a bad specimen...because I missed it! My classmates would get ticked at me when I'd identify a tree as we drove down the interstate, or the teacher would point to a plant hundreds of feet away and say "that's the next one on the quiz", and I'd write down the answer.

In short, if I had a gift back then, it was plant ID (I have no problem admitting those days are past, however). Even though it may sound otherwise, this isn't me bragging, it's setting the

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December 8th Meeting in Clermont



Maryann and Ron with the visitors, next-door house in background.
(Photo by Mike Evans)

By John Kennedy

An ideal day for a CFPACS meeting is sunny, warm but not hot, low humidity, in a beautiful setting. All these favored the December 8th meeting near Clermont, Lake County, at the home of Maryann Krisovitch

and Ron Hart. Our gracious and hospitable hosts welcomed 50 CFPACS members and guests to their beautiful house on the shore of Lake Kirkland.

The visitors got the tour (of course) of the largely empty one-acre property. Hey, lots of room

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 See page 17 for

 how to do this.



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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

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

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Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3825

(See Board List on page 18 for contact information.)



On the tour, above. Center, raffle: Phil Stager, prez Dave Hall, legs of treasurer Tracy Hines. Right, Ron and Maryann behind the house on the shore of Lake Kirkland.

(Photos by Libby Luedeke)

December 8th Clermont Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

for planting palms and cycads. Ron was in charge of digging up as many of these as he could from their former property in Apopka. Somewhere ahead—maybe in late summer—he has promised to write about how well the transplanted palms and cycads have done after a year in the ground. The setting, on the 350-acre lake, is charming and

very private.

When Ron took everyone around to look at what he had planted in the summer, he pointed out some older palms he had planted 15 years ago when the house was newly-built. He lived there for several years, returning earlier this year. On either side of the front door is a 30-foot *Livistona decora*, the Ribbon Palm **Good meetings** do seem to feature food. There was plenty enough for all, laid out on tables behind the house. The chapter

supplied basics; members brought side dishes and desserts. It should be noted that the visitors had good appetites, leaving behind little more than scraps. (Palm viewing is hungry work.) Liquid refreshments of various kinds were available to all. Again, the visitors proved quite thirsty and were able to consume most of what was on offer.

A part of every meeting that many attendees look forward to is the plant auction—Phil Stager,

auctioneer--and sale. Something new this time: a raffle of contributed items as a fundraiser preceded the auction. Many plants were offered, about 23 were contributed to the chapter by Leu Gardens. Can't recall who was the winner in the bidding for the *Lodoicea maldivica*, the Sea Coconut native to the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean. All members of our group would like to get updates on its progress as an inhabitant of Central Florida. Two vendors also brought sale palms and cycads. **Per usual**, the departing SUVs and cars all seemed to have waving fronds inside. Everyone would agree that a very good time was had by all.

San Francisco Palm Tour

(Continued from page 1)

tone for my visit to San Francisco where I had the pleasure of touring gardens with Jason Dewees, the author of the new book, *Designing with Palms*, and our speaker for the April 2019 meeting.

On November 11, 2018 Jason Dewees picked me up after an unintended redeye flight from Hawaii (and that'll be a different story...later). For a (kinda) old guy that was working only on airplane sleep, I was really pumped up about seeing some plants I'd hardly ever (or never) see in Florida.

Right off the bat Jason took me to this wonderful "pocket garden" tucked into a small space in the city. It featured beautiful, Canary Island Date Palms (can't see those in FL these days) with a graceful lean.

I'm not going to rage about CIDP, but for many years I would have ranked these as my favorite subtropical species and no place in the USA grows better ones than California. I wish I had a drone with me to take pics of the tops, instead of just a peek up their skirts.

Somewhat hidden away behind the CIDP, and nestled in among the European Fan (*Chamaerops humilis*) and Chinese Windmill (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) palms is this big *Jubaea chilensis*, (Chilean Wine Palm) and somehow Jason talked me into giving this ole girl a hug while he snapped a photo.

Clearly not my best pose, but the tree looks awesome. Will you look at that girth? Two or three of me (the horror) could completely hide behind it! This species seems perfectly adapted to California's climate...and man would I like to be able to grow these here in FL! Oh well! The

(Continued on page 5)



Figure 1 (above):
Gorgeous *Jubaea chilensis* tucked into this small garden in the city.

Figure 2 (right):
Jubaea chilensis can grow to more than 3' in diameter.

Yes, that's Keith.
(All photos by him except those taken of him by Jason Dewees.)





Figure 3 (above): Grevillea. Figure 4 (below): A couple of many plants Jason identified but I can't remember, a theme for the day!



San Francisco Palm Tour

(Continued from page 4)

best effort I've seen on the east coast was in Charlotte where one lived for at least 20 years surviving single digit lows and big snows only to succumb just as it began growing a trunk. Ugh.

As we walk up the hill, we begin encountering plants I've never seen before. Now I've been making my living in horticulture since 1985 and I don't feel like a numbskull too often, but, aside from the palms, and the ubiquitous plants like Bradford pears, maples and such, most of the plants growing in San Francisco are virtually brand new to me. Often, I can't even identify the family. Though humbling, it's also invigorating...there is just so much one can still learn.

And then, another palm! I think this is *Hedyscepe*, but I could be (probably am) wrong.

I know some of you personally knew UA Young. I didn't, but I did get to meet his son Benji in San Francisco where he runs Project Artaud art studio. The day Jason and I dropped by they were having a huge open house so Project Artaud had quite the buzz! Benji has very nice a collection of palms, even many we'd recognize! He asked about the Double Coconut at Gaylord Palms, leaving me no choice but to give him the bad news.

My final set of pictures of the day come from San Francisco Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park. I'd come here to see the *Ceroxylon quindiuense* since I didn't make it to Colombia on the last Biennial. But the garden is just a plethora of plants we can't grow here in FL, it's wonderful! But if you go, please leave yourself at least a day to explore here. Even with Jason's expertise, we raced through the

(Continued on page 6)



Left, unknown palm. Hedyscepe? Figure 5 (right): *Dypsis decaryi*, rare in San Francisco. Figure 6 (below right) *Sabal bermudana* with *Phoenix reclinata* (uncommon in the Bay area) in background.



San Francisco Palm Tour

(Continued from page 5)

garden at breakneck speed which is clearly reflected in my ability to recall details.

San Francisco Botanical Gardens has the best *Ceroxylon* collection I've ever seen, their cool, maritime climate seems to suit the members of the genus native to the Andes.

Peace



San Francisco Palm Tour



Figure 7 (left): Brahea edulis, Guadalupe Palm, perfectly adapted to California's coastal microclimates.

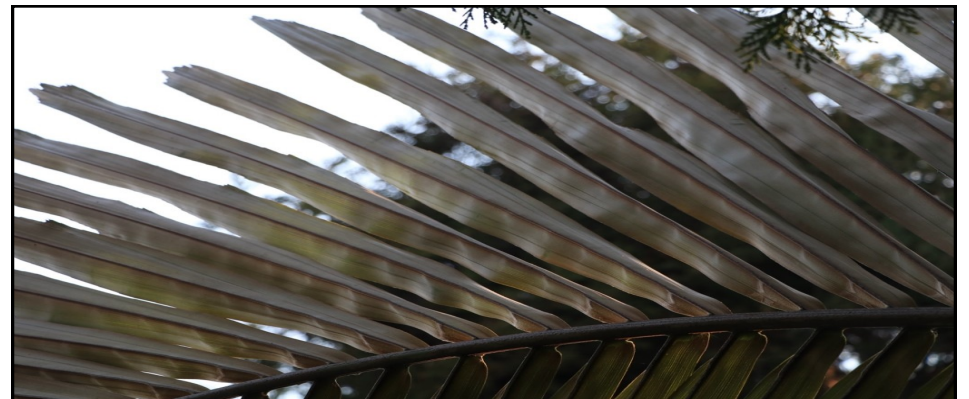
Figure 8 (above): Brahea armata, the Blue Hesper Palm from Mexico.

Season's
Greetings



Figure 9 (above): *Pritchardia* (maybe *hillebrandii*?) Figure 10 (above right): *Rhopalostylis sapida* in a truly stunning grouping. Figure 11 (below right): *Arenga micrantha* (?) with the glaucous adaxial leaf surfaces.

San Francisco Palm Tour

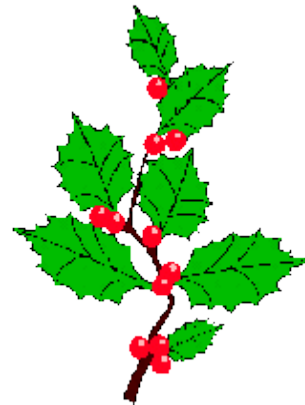


San Francisco Palm Tour



*Figure 12 (left):
Ceroxylon quindiuense towering over a grove of young Jubaea chilensis.*

*Figure 13 (right):
Ceroxylon quindiuense trunk detail of a young tree showing prominent leaf scars.*



Re-generating Palms

Paul Duchesneau, who lives in Lecanto, Citrus County, sent the following message at the end of November to Maryann Krisovitch, who forwarded it to me.

I'm wondering if anyone has viewed this phenomenon. I purchased two rather large Washingtonia robusta about 30 months ago. About 24 months ago, they started to decline. Despite my efforts, fronds were slowly dying and new fronds were not developing properly. In January this year, one of the palms was so pathetic, I cut it flush with the ground. The butt was solid but some rot was observed at the top and I removed all fronds and rot area. About 5 months ago I cut the remaining palm and decided to use the stumps as planters for bromeliads. I painted the stumps red to add interest and placed them in my yard on a stone bed over my septic tank. I called them my bromeliad palms. Today I noticed that the 5 month old stump has developed a new meristem. The stem can be seen passing through the bromeliad's rootball. See photos.

I did not know that a palm stump

that was cut at least 5 months ago could maintain enough stored energy to produce the new stem.

Wondering how/why/when this could happen, I contacted Scott Zona in Miami to ask. I had seen the same thing 6 years ago outside a drugstore in Vero Beach. Here is his reply.

Dear John,

Whether a palm survives cutting or not depends entirely on the position of the apical meristem. In most palms, it is well below the visible crown of leaves, so "decapitating" the palm may not remove the apical meristem. As long as the apical meristem is intact, the palm has a chance to regrow (not every palm will, even when the meristem is untouched; regrowth will also depend on the overall health and vigor of the palm). In the photos you sent, the palms were very young, with only a foot or two of trunk. In those cases, the apical buds were barely above ground level and thus unaffected by the brutal pruning.

(Continued on page 11)



Paul Duchesneau's Washingtonia (top) and closeup above (below the tangle of bromeliad roots).

Re-generating Palms

(Continued from page 10)

I know of no instance in which a mature, tall, solitary palm is cut to the ground and resprouts. That just can't happen, as there are no dormant axillary buds that could grow.

Hope that clarifies the phenomenon.

Note that re-generation is only possible if the palm is not cut to the ground but a stump remains. In the case of the *Washingtonia*, the stump isn't even in the ground. However, neither the *Washingtonia* nor the *Sabal* were very young palms, the former being "rather large" according to Paul Duchesneau and the latter being at least 12 feet high before being cut down. The re-sprouting stumps are the remains of somewhat older palms. And, of course, the words "young"/"older" are open to interpretation.

If anyone has seen similar re-generation, particularly in other species, do take pictures and send to me. —John Kennedy



Above and left, the Sabal palmetto in Vero Beach.

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Tropical Flair for All of Florida

By Libby Luedeke

Last year at Rob Branch's December meeting, I spotted an orange bloom. Upon closer inspection I realized it was a bromeliad that I was not familiar with. As luck would have it he had some for sale in the plant sale at the end. I grabbed the second to the last plant thankfully.

After doing some research, I learned that this wonderful companion plant is called *Pitcairnia smithiorum*. It appears grass-like initially but the leaves have spines at the base which will get you because they are not readily visible.

The flower is shaped and colored like a torch ranging from yellows to oranges in color. It doesn't have the cups of most bromeliads so it needs a little



Pitcairnia smithiorum bloom

more watering than some other varieties. It has also been reported to survive temperatures in the 20's, so all of Florida from zone 9A to 11 can grow it. The mature plant gets as tall as 18" to 24". It prefers partial to full shade and is in the same family as the edible pineapple. Just in the last month we have been blessed with many blooms. It's a great addition to anyone's garden. Be looking for the sales that Rob has throughout the year and the Tropiflora sales are another good source.

One Bad-Ass "Pine Cone"

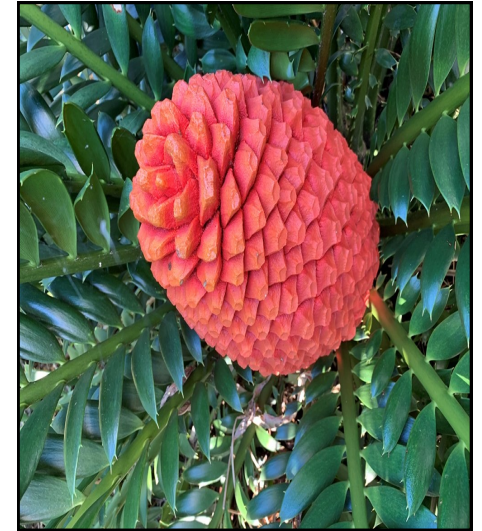
By Keith Santner, Horticulturist

Winter Haven FL, Zone 9b

Well, as some of you that follow me on Facebook know, I have my first *Encephalartos* cone, and it makes me a bit giddy.

My love of these plants dates back to 1983 when I was lucky enough to get an internship at what was then known as Fairchild Tropical Garden. What an adventure for a kid from zone 6! My coning *Encephalartos* is a female *Encephalartos ferox*, and what a show!

When I posted this photo along with a super abbreviated story about Cycads, many of my non-plant friends replied with an interest I hadn't expected, but nothing beat my Godson's text: "that is one bad-ass pine cone"! I couldn't help but laugh, so may your Cy-



Encephalartos ferox cone.

cads make some cones of their own! Merry Christmas and may all of the other Holidays this time of year be Merry too! See you in April.



A Thank-you from Mead Botanical Garden



Thank you for your gift to Mead Botanical Garden!

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www.MeadGarden.org

June 19, 2018

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Mr. David Hall
President
The Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society
1008 Little Fawn Court
Apopka, FL 32712

Dear Mr. Hall,

On behalf of the Mead Botanical Board of Trustees and staff, thank you for your generous **\$1,000 donation** in support of the new Cycad Garden being planned for the Garden. This impactful gift is such a meaningful way to honor your past president Lucinda McCartney. Please express our thanks to your members for their generosity.

Congratulations on a fantastic June meeting! Our MBG representatives -- Susan League, Sally Powers and Emily Smith -- reported the day was chock full of interesting information and wonderful new friendships. Susan and Sally are excited to be new members of the Society. Thank you for allowing Sally to share about the planned garden and about Mead's history during your meeting.

We also wish to express our thanks for the fantastic plants that were donated:

- **Encephalartos ferox**
Donated by **Bob Johnson**
We understand its estimated value to be approximately \$400
- **Pritchardia maideniana**
Donated by **Claudia Walworth**
We understand its estimated value to be approximately \$250

Please share our gratitude for these gifts with Mr. Johnson and Ms. Walworth. If you would kindly send me their contact information, I'd like to thank them personally, as well.

The progress and momentum at Mead Botanical Garden is truly a collaborative effort and is only possible through the generosity and on-going involvement by organizations like the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society. Please thank your members for their passion and willingness to share their expertise. It will be our pleasure to include the Society's information as a resource on our website.

Again, many thanks.

Best,

Cynthia Hasenau
Executive Director

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Above, CFPACS table at the plant sale of Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park on Nov. 14th. From left, Ron Hart., Chuck Grieneisen, and Dave Hall. (Photo by Maryann Krisovitch)

Left, thank-you from Mead—where CFPACS met in June—for funding the new cycad garden and to Bob Johnson and Claudia Walworth for donating plants. (Note: you can zoom in on this to read more easily.)

3rd Quarter 2018 Seed Bank Report

Well, once we all survived the long hot summer, things started looking up. With some great donations from Justin McSweeney we were able to have a little over \$200 in sales. We have had consistent sales through our Facebook page along with member participation. Be looking for an offering that includes seeds from Neil Yorrio. We had to wait for them to be dry enough to clean. Thanks so much to past and present donators and purchasers for your support. If you have interesting seeds to donate you can email us at theseedbank@yahoo.com or mail seeds to.....

Jerry Luedeke

117 E Connecticut Ave.

Edgewater, FL 32132

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 * **See page 17** *
 * **for how to do** *
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We couldn't have asked for any better weather for our December meeting at the lovely lake-front house of our gracious hosts, Ron and Maryann, who just recently got married. Once again, Congratulations! Ron and Maryann moved into this new home and also moved a lot of their palm collection from their old residence to the new one. A lot of their collection is still young and recovering from being transplanted. It was nice to see it now and I believe we all can't wait to come back in a few years to see how it's matured. Hopefully, they will still have a lake view. You know how we palm enthusiast are--every inch of our yards gets planted and also sometimes our neighbor's. Anyway, I am sure it will be fantastic.

I would like to mention our April meeting which will be at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach on April 13th and 14th. We

are planning a two-day event. The first day is the palm sale at Mounts which, according to Terrence (which he should know), is the best palm sale in the state. So, if you are looking for that rare palm for your collection, you just might find it there. The second day for those who wish to stay, we will go to Morikami Gardens in nearby Delray Beach.

—Dave Hall



From the Editor's Desk

The December meeting was delightful. Great hosts—Maryann and Ron—beautiful property, lovely house and setting, lots of room for planting. Also yummy food and drink, lots of conversation topped off with a raffle followed by plant auction and sale. What more could we ask for—except a pleasant sunny day—which it was. Leu Gardens generously donated many palms to the auction.

* * * * *

Your Editor scored a small Leu donation, a 1-gallon *Livistona speciosa*. While I have other *Livistonas*: *L. saribus* (50 ft. high), *L. decora*, *L. jenkinsiana*, *L. fulva*, and *L. mariae*, I don't have this species. And the genus has performed well in the Kennedy Palmz 'n' Weedz garden in Vero Beach.

I am hopeful to see the new palm form a trunk by the time I reach my senior years. There is some similarity between *L. speciosa* and *L. jenkinsiana*; some palm experts believe they are one and the same. Eric Schmidt, at Leu, assures me that they are different. However, my small *L. jenkinsiana* with no more than a foot or so of trunk (and leaves reaching 8 ft. high) matches most of the description in Dowe's monograph on the genus except in one puzzling detail. Supposedly, the underside of the leaf should be gray or bluish. My palm has light green on the underside. Ah, a problem to be thought about somewhere, sometime ahead. . .by researchers in palms.

* * * * *

I've always strongly believed in outreach for Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society so that folks who don't know about us will have the benefit of encouragement with palms and cycads. Think of all those people newly moved here from Michigan and upstate New York whose awareness of palms is limited to what's available at Walmart. Cycads don't figure in their consciousness at all. So, I was very much cheered to hear our prez, Dave Hall, talk at the meeting about making the society's presence evident wherever we can. To be represented, whenever possible, at botanical gardens' plant sales and at the events sponsored by other plant groups. To help this along, we now have colorful professionally created-membership brochures to offer on these occasions.

* * * * *

Everyone likely realizes that palms have fallen for the "hoax" of global warming. After all, I have 50-ft. Montgomery Palm, *Veitchia arecina*, that grew only in Palm Beach County and south in the 1980s and early 1990s. Indian River County then had four or five freezes every winter. I have a couple of other *Veitchia* species, a *Euterpe oleracea*, and several *Ptychospermas* that would have gone to glory in those distant-past freezing winters. Which leads me ask how many of you are growing species you never expected to see around (maybe) Orlando, Daytona, Gainesville? If you have some formerly more tender palms, let me know, and send me a picture. Also, if you go anywhere on vacation and spot some interesting palms, another opportunity for taking a picture for our newsletter. Contributions are always welcome. I correct small errors

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From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 15)

in punctuation and spelling, but the Real You comes through. (Oh, that's what you were afraid of?)

* * * *

In Paul Craft's book on Cuban palms which many of you likely own, there are quite a few species not known in Florida which look like good prospects for the future, if/when seed becomes available. This is especially true in what seems to be the almost numberless species of *Coccothrinax* which offer the added advantage of not being massive, thus suitable for planting in small lots where most of us live.



*Ron and Maryann—front view—explain to the visitors what they've done. Lake Kirkland behind them.
(All photos by Libby Luedeke)*

Below, a newly planted Corypha utan near the shores of Lake Kirkland. Will it achieve a trunk before Ron and Maryann qualify for Medicare?



An important segment of CFPACS meetings: Chowtime.

At the December 8th meeting, visitors gazed at a recently-planted palm.
 (Photo by Matthew Kennedy)



The International Palm Society (IPS)
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Wish to be added to Seed Bank E-mail list?
 (Circle one) YES NO

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 (Circle one) YES NO

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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.

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.



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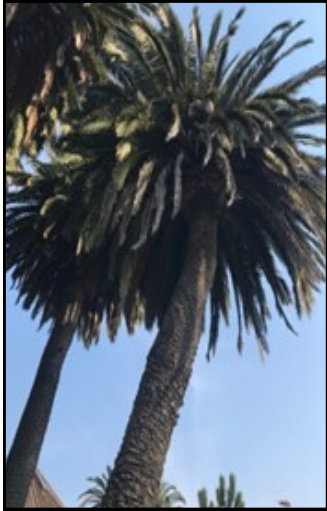
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Quiz time. Which Keith Santner SF palm is this?