The Palmateer

Volume 11, Number 2 *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* *June 2019*

Naturally Occurring Morphological Variations in *Sabal palmetto*

By Kyle Brown, PhD

North Glen,
Glen St. Mary, Florida

The study of all aspects of *Sabal palmetto* has been a passion of mine for a very long time. My doctoral thesis was an ecological life history study of *Sabal palmetto* which was published in a series of articles in 1976 (*Principes*: 20, vols. 1-4). Part of my study was to observe the palm in as many of its native habitats as possible and to note morphological variations throughout its natural range.

My field work took me from the Panama City area eastward and southward around the entire state of Florida, up the

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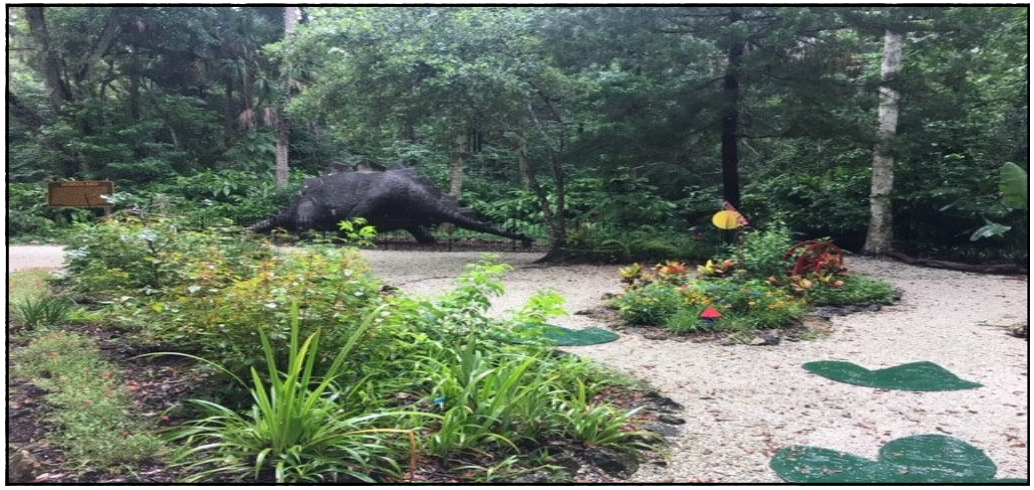
June 8th Meeting in Port Orange and New Smyrna Beach



Spot the concrete dinosaur at Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens, Port Orange. The property was a tourist attraction (Bongoland) in the 1950s. Other dinosaurs are also part of the scenery.

(Photo by Libby)

Fig. 1 Linear striations in Trachycarpus fortunei.

By Libby Luedeke

I am happy to say another great time was had by all. Our meeting at Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens on Saturday June 8th met with varied success. Throughout the day we added and lost members due to work schedules and distance. Weather was not on our side as we were rained on right away, but there was enough of a break for us to enjoy a stroll around the grounds and plant a Bismarck Palm donated by our President Dave Hall.

I have to admit that I had not been there since 2001. Even though it's only about 12 miles from my home. It has improved drastically since then thanks to dedicated volunteers. It's a bit off the beaten path in a small

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CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

The main entrance of Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens, Port Orange, first stop at the June 8th meeting. Treasurer Tracy Hines and the Editor departing for the lunch in New Smyrna Beach. (Photo by Matthew Kennedy)

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Have you renewed your membership for 2019?

Some 2018 members have not—as revealed on a recent membership roster.

The Palmateer

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

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

3225 13th Street

Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3825

(See Board List on page 21 for contact information.)

June 9th Meeting

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community.

There is a Palm Garden which has been somewhat neglected. Ginger and Lady Palms have taken over, but you can see that there are some noteworthy palms in the background and with a little hard work that can be remedied. Our society is planning on volunteering some time and palms to the area in hopes of bringing it back to life. The plan is to identify the existing palms with proper labeling and add some more exotic palms and cycads to hopefully bring new enthusiasts to the fold.

All that with a sign from the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society showing that we are joining up with the Gardens to care for that area. There are a few of us that live closer and can participate more readily than others. Once we get more established perhaps we can add some dates for future visits.

Afterward we gathered at the Clancey Street Cantina in New Smyrna Beach, a fajita bar that our treasurer Tracy Hines graciously arranged for us and then moved on to Dave and Trace's home for our auction and plant sale. The weather held out just long enough and some of our members that weren't able to be there earlier caught up with us there. The society did acquire a few of the auctioned plants to add to the collection at Sugar Mill Gardens. Thanks so much to our vendors who travel far and wide to attend and haul all that material for us. We are grateful.

Although not written in stone, it looks like our fall meeting in October will be in the Fort Myers/ Naples area, keep an eye out for updates. I for one feel very fortunate to be a part of an organization that has so much participation and comradery. It's always a fun time together and I look forward to every gathering. It feels like family.

Also, join me in sending prayers and well wishes to Maryann on her recovery from knee surgery. In so many ways we might not still have palm society if not for her and a few other dedicated members and I thank them all.

Till next time!

Above, the ruins of the sugar mill covered by a pavilion at the Garden. Below, planting the CFPACS -donated Bismarckia: John Delaney (left) , president of Botanical Gardens of Volusia, Inc.(organization operating the Garden) David Hall, our president.
(Photos by Matthew Kennedy)

The huge live oaks are part of the magic at Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens. This is the largest, named "The Confederate," the reach of which is certainly more than an acre.

(Photos by Matthew Kennedy)

Sabal palmetto variants

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Atlantic coast to Bald Head Island (Cape Fear), North Carolina.

In my travels I saw many specimens including the original national champion tree at Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring. That tree, nearly 100 feet tall in 1971, has since died and a new *Sabal palmetto* champion has been designated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). This tree is located in Lafayette County and has a crown spread of 17.5 feet, trunk circumference of 69 inches, and overall height of 64 feet for a point total of 137 (American Forests point system).

Plants in Dade County on the Miami Limestone rock-lands, were found blooming trunk-less and at a very small size. One wonders if they are "natural bonsai" plants growing as they are in solution pot holes in the limestone and thus perhaps older than their size would indicate.

Over the entire range there were individuals with very thin trunks, others with very thick trunks, some with curved or serpentine trunks, some with diminutive crowns of small leaves, others with large crowns of large leaves. The most interesting trunk variations I have seen are the branched individuals with more than one head. To view photographs of some of these amazing individuals one need only to "google" multi-headed *Sabal palmetto* on the internet. Unfortunately, these plants are prone to damage or destruction in high winds if not properly braced. The magnificent triple headed specimen that was growing at Kanapaha Gardens in Gainesville was a casualty of strong storm winds in 2004.

In three years of travels doing my doctoral field research I never saw what I now consider to be the most fascinating morphological variants of all in *Sabal palmetto*, the variegated forms (2), and what I call, for lack of a better term, the "juvenile-leaf" leaf form.

If one considers incomplete splitting of the leaves into distinct segments as a juvenile characteris-

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Fig. 2 (above) Variegation in Sabal palmetto *centered on the hastula. Fig. 3 (below) Variegated* Sabal palmetto *in Lutz.*

Fig. 4 (left) Sabal palmetto *'Lisa'.*

Fig. 5 (below) Ron Lambert with "juvenile-form" Sabal palmetto*, c. 1975.*

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tic, then the term fits. I have in the intervening years observed individuals with weeping leaf segments which will also be discussed below.

Variegated *Sabal palmetto*

I first ran across a variegated form in June, 1994. A former student of mine was superintendent of Riverwood Golf Club on the Myakka River. This site is near the mouth of the river where it empties into Charlotte Harbor.

All of my students, at what was then Lake City Community College, now Florida Gateway College, knew of my deep interest in palms. When he called to tell me that he had found variegated cabbage palms on his course, I was, to say the least, very excited.

To my surprise the first tree he showed me was right beside a golf cart path. This particular variegation in *Sabal palmetto* is completely different from variegation found in most other palms. Typical variegation in palms is linear (striated) along entire leaf segments (Figure 1). In *Sabal palmetto* the typical variegation is centered on the whole blade at the hastula (Figure 2). It is also usually evident in the leaf stalk or petiole. **Another distinct** difference of this variegation type is the absence of necrotic areas that typically develop in striated palm variegation (Figure 1). Once I had taken pictures we set off again in the golf cart to see another smaller variegated tree in the woods close to the river.

My next contact with variegated *Sabal palmetto* came by way of palm friend Ted Langley of Lutz. Ted had received some seed collected from a variegated tree in the Sarasota - Bradenton, area in the early 1990's. These seeds produced several variegated seedlings. Figure 3 shows a beautiful 4 1/2 year old specimen growing in Ted's yard in Lutz grown from that batch of seeds. A few years later I told Ted I had a variegated needle

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Fig. 6 Sabal palmetto *"Wakulla Weeper," Wakulla County, 2011.*

Sabal palmetto variants

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palm to trade. Ted had successfully grown more variegated seedlings so we traded plants.

My variegated *Sabal palmetto* has been in the ground at North Glen for a number of years now and is currently over 12 feet tall with 5 feet of trunk.

In May of 2000, another former student in Sarasota contacted me about yet another variegated *Sabal palmetto* sighting. In June of that year I scheduled a visit to Misty Creek Country Club where the superintendent had located three palms on the property. A vigorous young tree about eight feet tall was growing right off one of the fairways in the rough. Two younger juveniles were located in wooded areas behind the golf course.

While still in the Sarasota area I happened to be driving up Honore Avenue north of Fruitville Road when I spotted a mature variegated *Sabal palmetto* in an undeveloped wooded lot. This individual was located on the southeast side of Honore at the intersection with 17th Street.

That corner has since been developed into an apartment complex so that particular palm was lost in clearing of the land. However, a local tree surgeon collected seeds from the plant before its destruction and has since grown several nice specimens at his home on 17th Street in Sarasota.

Later that day while visiting plantexplorer and nurseryman friend Dennis Cathcart I mentioned seeing the several variegated *Sabal palmetto* in the area. Dennis surprised me by saying he knew of one just a couple of blocks north of his nursery on 36th Street East. It was in the fencerow of a cattle pasture where it still resides today.

In 2007 Dennis located another variegated tree near his nursery near the intersection of Tallevast Road and US Highway 301 and convinced the land developer to donate the tree to Selby Botanical Garden in Sarasota. That tree unfortunately did not survive the transplanting effort.

I find it quite interesting that all of the variegated palms growing in southwest Florida are located between Bradenton and the mouth of the Myakka River at Riverwood Golf Club.

It is encouraging that more young individuals have been found in the Sarasota area recently (Jono Miller, personal communication, 2016) indicating that reproduction is occurring naturally. Hopefully there are many more growing wild in southwest Florida.

In 2012 I ran across reports on the internet (mostly posts on IPS Palm Talk) of variegated *Sabal palmetto* on the east coast of Florida as far north as the Merritt Island vicinity and south to Miami.

These posts included pictures mostly of the striated type of variegation complete with necrotic areas. The few pictures of east coast individuals with the hastula centered variegation showed no signs of necrosis just like their west coast counterparts. I found only one picture of a striated *Sabal palmetto* on the west coast and that was in the Venice area.

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Sabal palmetto variants

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"Juvenile-leaf" *Sabal palmetto*

The "juvenile-leaf" variety of *Sabal palmetto* is another interesting variant with a somewhat different distribution, but apparently limited to south central and southwest Florida.

Most palm enthusiasts first heard of this unique variety in 2005 when an article appeared in Volume 49(1) of *Palms.* The article was entitled: A New Cultivar of *Sabal palmetto,* by Robert Riefer and Scott Zona. In this article Riefer states that in 1998 he found three "unusual" palms growing in southwest Florida. **Seeds were** collected then germinated by Riefer thus *Sabal palmetto* 'Lisa' was described and later entered the nursery trade.

In 2008 I learned of a 'Lisa' in Ft. Myers thanks to palm friends David and Geri Prall. What is amazing is the fact that I must have passed by this palm over a dozen times on trips to the Naples area from 1981 until I retired from the college in 2002 and never noticed it. The palm that I missed (Figure 4) was located in plain sight right beside Interstate Highway 75 at the intersection with Luckett Road. I photographed this plant in 2008 some 27 years after my first trip down I-75 to Naples!

I later learned from the Pralls that the Luckett Road palm along with another from across I-75 were moved in 2011 to downtown Ft. Myers. These palms were scheduled for destruction due to a retention pond construction project on I-75. Thanks to the efforts of Geri Prall the palms were saved and are now well established in their new home at Bennett-Hart Park in downtown Ft. Myers.

Long before S*abal palmetto* 'Lisa' was described, another plantsman had discovered the "juvenile -leaf" form of *Sabal palmetto* in south central Florida. My friend and pioneer Florida nurseryman, Ronald Lambert, Sr., shared the story with me while I was visiting him at his Hardee County home in Buckhorn Hammock in 1999.

On a fishing trip in the mid-1970's Ron came across a colony of an unusual looking *Sabal palmetto* along Arbuckle Creek in far southeast Polk County.

The plants were in a very remote area accessible only by boat. Ron observed numerous individuals including mature sized trees but found no seed to collect. Several photographs were taken and some leaf samples collected (Figure 5). Ron returned to the area two more times but never collected any seed, thus missing a chance to introduce the variety at a much earlier time. As of this writing I have not seen nor found any reports of *Sabal palmetto* 'Lisa' or the "juvenile-leaf" form being found growing in the wild east or south of the Arbuckle Creek site. My good friend, Ronald Lambert, Sr., a great plantsman and fellow palm enthusiast passed away late winter of 2017.

"Weeping " *Sabal palmetto*

I have seen *Sabal palmetto* with weeping leaf segments in southeast Florida which I believe may be the form which J. K. Small (1933) described and named *Sabal jamesiana.* Small described this Sabal as having "limber' leaf segments and occurring in the hammocks of the Everglades Keys and south peninsular Florida.

I have also recently spotted a weeping individual in Goethe State Forest in Levy County. None of the individuals I have observed have such extreme weeping foliage as the tree first described to me by Scott Zona (personal communication, 2017) as the "Wakulla Weeper". Individual leaves have leaf segments divided almost all the way to the hastula, leading to the extreme weeping seen in Figure 6.

The following details about "Wakulla Weeper" were conveyed to me by Scott Davis (personal communication, 2017). Scott is a Ranger at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge on the Gulf coast south of Tallahassee. Scott first noticed this tree in August of 2011.

He immediately recognized the foliage as being unique, which led him to take photographs and collected seeds. The tree, only

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Sabal palmetto variants

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a mile north of US Highway 98, was located on the edge of commercial forest land just off of Florida State Road 267. It was in a population of otherwise normal looking *Sabal palmetto.* Scott did not observe any juveniles or seedlings beneath or near this unique tree.

The area was subject to prescribed fire management for many years greatly diminishing any chance of seedling recruitment. After extensive searching in the area he has not found any other individual trees with weeping foliage.

Scott related that the land had been sold in 2016 and was clear-cut to be converted to cattle pasture. "Wakulla Weeper" survived the timbering operation and is still thriving as of this writing. Scott has successfully germinated seed from the 2011 collections and has juvenile plants which are exhibiting the unique weeping characteristics of the parent plant.

"Wakulla Weeper" has been likened by some as being similar in appearance to *Livistona australis* but to me it looks much more like *Livistona decora.* In my opinion this unique form of *Sabal palmetto* is worthy of cultivar status and would make a wonderful addition to any private palm collection or botanical garden featuring palms.

One wonders how many more colonies or isolated individuals of these fascinating variants of *Sabal palmetto* might be out there growing wild somewhere in Florida. Unless some young, energetic palm enthusiasts take up the cause of searching for them we may never know.

At any rate, I hope anyone who has access to any of these interesting variants of *Sabal palmetto* will continue to propagate them and make them available to palm lovers around the world.

*David Casella wields the shovel in the ceremonial planting of the Bis*marckia *at Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens on June 8th.*

(Photo by Libby Luedeke)

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Brown, K. 1976. Ecological Studies of the Cabbage Palm, Sabal palmetto II. Principes 20(2): 49-56

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Gardening in the Swan City

By Jeremy Evanchesky

Introduction

Palm gardening along the I-4 corridor is thought of by zone maps of all kinds as a monolithic practice where only the strong survive. Palms and their companions must be able to endure the extremes of heat and cold, grow in sometimes very infertile and hydrophobic soil and have a tolerance to the diseases currently cleaning the gene pool of susceptible palms. All of this is true in the Swan City, the same as other locations along the parking lot we lovingly call I-4.

Swan City is a nickname given to Lakeland, a small city of just over 100,000 people between Tampa and Orlando. The story about the gifting of our city's swans from Queen Elizabeth II, and hence the city's nickname, is available in the **Additional Links** section at the end. Like other inland locations, summer is hot and rainy, winter is a game of roulette and early spring and late fall are pleasant times to plant or perform landscape maintenance.

Palm gardening here is currently in flux due to the influence of diseases like Lethal Bronzing and Fusarium Wilt. Winters have been milder allowing a wider palette of planting materials to be used in public plantings. Commercial, public and residential palm plantings have slowly moved on from previous landscape staples to address a new reality in Central Florida. The general movement is away from susceptible *Phoenix*, *Syagrus*, *Washingtonia*, and *Sabal* species toward other hardy species like *Livistona decora* and more marginal and decorative palms such as *Pseudophoenix sargentii* and *Wodyetia bifurcata*.

Climate

Lakeland is not unlike other inland locations in Central Florida. We, too, get climate envy when we think about gardening on the coast. St. Petersburg tops the list with the ability to grow many palms otherwise relegated to South Florida. Coastal locales with cooler summer days and overnight winter lows that don't drop as low or as fast, make landscape maintenance slightly more bearable.

The graphic shows the climate of Lakeland as measured by Weather.com as of July 2018.

The record low for December was adjusted in 2019 to 19F. The record low numbers come from December 1962 and January 1985. The official zone here is 9b and our average yearly low is 28F, give or take 0.5 of a degree

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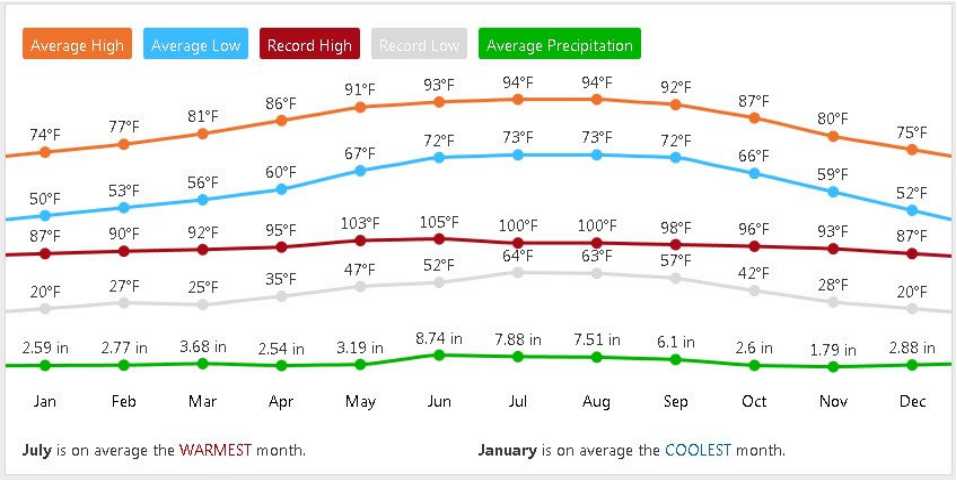

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depending on your location, according to the USDA Interactive Zone Map. We average over 50 inches of rainfall annually. Summer is miserably hot and humid everywhere in Central Florida. It's just more hot and miserable here with an average high of 94F in both July and August. Our record lows and average summer highs are surprisingly higher than Sebring, Orlando and Tampa.

Unfortunately, like all other areas of Florida, climate can be extremely different only a few miles away. In the January 2010 freeze, while the official temperature bottomed off at 26F, Jay Williams reported 16.7F on his weather station. That's literally a full zone difference!

Terrain

Lakeland has hills with appropriately named roads such as Mall Hill Drive, Lakeland Highlands Road, Sleepy Hill Road, and Lakeland Hills Boulevard. Living on one of these gently rolling slopes, especially within the urban areas, tends to give some advantage to those who wish to zone-push. Living near the bottom of the hill tends to mean you get to collect everyone else's unwanted cold air and stick to reliably cold hardy plantings. In my case, I have a gently sloped property that runs downhill from west to east; allowing the coldest air some movement away from the property.

Soil

Depending on where you are in the city, you are either sitting in very sandy soil or very rich soil. When I first moved from the urban north side of town to the suburban south side, I had no idea what kind of soil I might encounter. After putting the shovel in the ground for the first time, my fears of having terrible soil were changed to tears of joy when dark, loamy soil came up with the blade. You can see a comparison of the native soil vs. commercial potting soil (red box) in the graphic showing a newly planted *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii 'Azul'* below:

Successes and Failures

In 9 years of growing at my current location I've had only one fatality related to cold. A young *Archontophoenix alexandrae* perished from a secondary fungal infection after the advective freeze in 2018. Other losses include a *Phoenix theophrastii* overcome by leaf spotting and a Jamaican Tall coconut that died after root disturbance from a repair on a pool water line.

Loss due to cold has been mitigated by planting roughly 75% of my garden with palms and other plants that are bulletproof to 20F. Out of the remaining 25%, a few, like *Beccariophoenix alfredii* and *Thrinax radiata*, are hardy to the mid-20s. Others, such as the four varieties of coconuts and *Archontophoenix alexandrae* are hardy to the high 20s or low 30s. I've not planted anything that is automatically dead below 35F.

Currently, I grow 35 species of palms, with 22 of those species planted in the ground. Edibles include bananas, avocados, mangos, and papayas, with the avocados and mangos being 2010

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Gardening in the Swan City

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survivors that I inherited when I purchased the property. There are plenty of companion plants around, most of them tried and true for their purpose. Canopy is provided by live oak and windbreaks consist of sea grapes or podocarpus hedges. The property has a western exposure, dictating that the least hardy plants be planted in the back yard under canopy or on the south side of the house surrounded by windbreaks.

Success in gardening can be defined in an infinite number of ways. In my case, simply getting to enjoy some outside time and pushing the value of the property up is good enough. Some local successes include at right (above) a Coconut palm and

(below) a *Phoenix dactylifera*

Jamaican Tall coconuts planted at the author's house.

More Lakeland Palms (Photos by Jeremy Evanchensky)

Lakeland resident Danny Welling won a city award for home landscaping.

At far right, a closeup.

*Left, Royal Palms (*Roystonea regia*), 2010 freeze survivors at Harrison School of the Arts, Lakeland.*

Additional Links

Story of Lakeland's Swans: https://thelakelander.com/swan-city/

Harrison SOTA project: https://schooldesigns.com/Project-Details.aspx?Project_ID=3944

Companion Plants for Palms: Florida's Only Native Cycad—Coontie

Above, luxurious Coontie foliage. Right, Zamia integrifolia *flanking a silver* Serenoa repens.

By Janice Broda

Coontie (*Zamia integrifolia*) is the only cycad native to Florida (and North America). Also called Florida arrowroot, this sturdy, decorative plant was over-harvested for its starchy and substantial subterranean roots. Tons of arrowroot flour were produced daily and unsustainably from the 1850's through 1925.

Calusa and Timucua Indians are the first people that historical records show used this plant, soaking the cut root in water to remove toxins prior to making a flour. When the Seminole Indians moved into Florida, they, too, safely made flour from the roots of this plant, and the name coontie is said to be the Seminole word for "root flour". Some Spanish explorers reportedly perished when they, following the example of the Indians, made flour but ignorantly skipped the all-important soaking step that removed the poisonous toxins.

Recent and extensive use as an ornamental landscape plant has increased coontie populations dramatically, and the tropical atala butterfly (*Eumaceous atala*), believed to be extinct from 1951 until 1989, now ranges into Brevard County. This striking, smallish black and bluish butterfly with an obvious orange abdomen "advertises" its poisonous nature, the result of feeding on tender new foliage in which the toxin cycasin is most heavily concentrated. Atala butterfly larvae (caterpillars) prefer to feed on coontie over non-native cycads. Their eggs are easily removed with the flick of a fingernail and can be left in the substrate as a food source. In my yard, many eggs are consumed by ants and other insects, and lizards, squirrels, and

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Native Companion Plant— Coontie

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other critters have been spotted consuming the caterpillars. Few make it to adulthood, and the chewed coonties regrow soon enough.

Once upon a time, coontie flourished throughout peninsular Florida in sandhills to the north and pine rocklands to the south. Northern populations have thicker leaflets, while the leaflets of southern populations are narrower, giving rise to much confusion about the correct botanical name – or names -- for this plant, so *Zamia floridana* and *Zamia pumila* are also often-used names. The species name, *pumila*, means small or dwarfed, and, according to the University of South Florida Plant Atlas, should be reserved for small plants endemic to the West Indies. The genus name, *Zamia*, is Greek for pine cone, and refers to the reproductive structures.

Coonties are dioecious. Male plants have long thin cones (up to 6" tall), and female plants bear shorter and wider cones. Specialist beetles transport the pollen from the male cones to the female cones. Fertilized female cones produce brilliant orange seeds about ½" long. Squirrels and other wildlife consume the pulpy covering and "propagate" new plants elsewhere. The pulp of seeds that fall near the "mother" plant are removed by ants and other insects, so you sometimes will find a bunch of "baby" plants. This sticky and pulpy covering inhibits germination, so you will need to remove it prior to planting.

Coonties are slow-growing and, hence, not inexpensive. Some folks describe them as a luxurious plant. Ultimately, they grow to about 4 feet wide and tall. Most frequently coonties are used as an accent plant or a groundcover. Whatever scientific name you ascribe to them, coonties have succeeded as a landscape ornamental because they have attractive green "tropical" foliage, because healthy plants have few pests (except for atala and echo moth larvae), and because they are well-adapted to the sandy, nutrient-poor (and coastal alkalinity) of the soils of the Sunshine State.

And, they thrive in full sun or substantial shade. Relic individuals in central Florida grow naturally in what are now shady hammocks often near to streams or other water bodies, like the coontie, pictured growing in the Maritime Hammock Sanctuary in Brevard County.

*At right, a coontie at Bok Tower Gardens , with Muhly Grass and Beautyberry (*Callicarpa *americana*). *Below, a coontie at the Maritime Hammock Sanctuary, Brevard County.*

Coontie "plays well" with other plants including silver blue saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*, as we saw when the Society visited Bok Tower. Though now common in landscapes, this ancient survivor deserves a place in our landscapes along with palms and other cycads.

From the Editor's Desk

Our June 8th meeting was very enjoyable, as usual. We went somewhere we have never been before, Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens in Port Orange, a few miles south of Daytona Beach. This is a 10-acre parcel on which sugar cane was processed for sugar from the early 19th century, up until just before the Civil War.

Amazing to me is the fact that the parcel was not developed, beyond a time as a tourist attraction (Bongoland), given how close it is to the busy resort area of Daytona.

What has been preserved is the ambience of magnificent old live oaks in a woody, unspoiled area. There is a story to all this. The site was known for a time as Dunlawton Plantation. For more information, go to the website . The property was donated to Volusia County in 2007 as the site of a botanical garden. Its upkeep is done entirely by volunteers. As an initial start of CFPACS involvement in donating palms and cycads to the Garden, our first gift was a beautiful Bismarckia (via Dave Hall).

* * * *

The second stop on our jaunt was the Clancey Street Cantina, a Mexican restaurant in New Smyrna Beach, 10 miles south, where about 25 of us sat at a long table, munching and chatting. In all my travels up and down the state, I had never before been to New Smyrna Beach, an old town whose name reflects an 18th century project to bring Greeks to settle in Florida, at a time when Greece was occupied by the Turks. I was pleased to see that New Smyrna has a genuine small downtown, crowded with shops and restaurants that were very busy on our Saturday visit. Unlike newer Florida beach towns, it's not completely glossy and relatively bland but has real character. I would hope, somewhere in the near future, to return to explore New Smyrna, for I do enjoy poking about.

* * * *

Our next stop was what I would call the 'Palmarina', otherwise known as the home of our prez Dave Hall and treasurer Tracy Hines. This is also in New Smyrna Beach. The marina has been in Dave's family for more than 30 years and includes their house. Now, do understand: the property is only 50 feet wide and 550 feet deep. Not an unusual configuration when valuable waterfront (Indian River North) access is in great demand. The landward side of the property, narrow as it is, is crammed with palms and cycads. I had hoped that some of the CFPACS visitors would send me pictures of this. But no one has done so. I will (politely, of course) demand that Dave write a piece on how he has handled plantings in such a limited space. If I request this now, perhaps he might be able to oblige me in time for the October issue of this august publication.

* * * *

I was intrigued by the two-story house on the land side of the Channeltron Marina . Narrow is scarcely the word, the dwelling place of Dave and Tracy. But maybe my visuals are off on this. I will seek enlightenment.

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From the Editor's Desk

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As usual around this time of year, I begin imagine what will be the New Palm that everyone **must** have. In the past, I would think that the prospective candidate had recently been noticed in a remote mountain valley in South America. But now, due to the 'Chinese hoax' of global warming, perhaps the New Palm is from somewhere in Indonesia and can be planted here—should seed become available—to flourish before Florida disappears below the waves eventually and the tropicals all retreat to new homes around formerly inland Charlotte, North Carolina.

* * * *

We all wish a quick recovery to Maryann Krisovitch, CFPACS stalwart and longtime holder of several board offices. She had surgery a few weeks back for replacement of both knees. Maryann dear, we look forward to seeing the new knees at our fall meeting. Godspeed.

Found in the bottom of the Editor's dresser drawer: a palm t-shirt too beautiful for ordinary daily wear. The label says "Palm Print original edition." The artist's name is in cursive on the front: Hal Somebody (last name illegible). The shirt is also a memorial to my beautiful Latania lontaroides*, killed by palm weevils at the time of Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne in 2004. Don't know where I got the shirt. Anybody know?*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We were lucky the rain stopped just in time for our tour at Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens in Port Orange. I would like to thank the two ladies who are volunteers at the Gardens who gave us an impressive tour. I still can't get over seeing the dinosaurs at Bongoland,

I am glad everyone had a chance to see the condition of the palm garden as it is today, as it has been sort of neglected over the past few years .CFPACS is now going to help revamp the garden, We are going to identify and label the palms that are there now and donate and plant more specimens to upgrade the garden, **Remember this** garden is dedicated to our founder of all the palm societies, Dent Smith . We will soon be printing out a list of the palms that are planted there now .

As mentioned before CFPACS will be donating more palm and cycads for the garden at future meetings. At our last palm sale in New Smyrna we donated two new species: *Sabal causiarum* (Puerto Rican Hat Palm) and *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii* (Pauotis or Everglades Palm) and also two cycads: *Encephalartos whitelockii* and *Dion spinulosum* . Our next meeting in October will be at the Naples Botanical Gardens, of course in Naples , stay tuned we are still in the planning stages ! Hope everyone has a wonderful summer.

—Dave Hall

Dave Hall's Channeltron Marina in New Smyrna Beach, as seen from a second-floor porch on his house. More boats are moored at the right, out of the picture.

(Photo by Matthew Kennedy)

Cuba Trip is Still On!

I just wanted to let you know that the November Cuba trip is still on. Since it was set up prior to 6-5-2019 [the date at which the president prohibited all travel to Cuba], it is grandfathered in as a proper trip to Cuba. Deposits for 28 people have been paid and as of today, June 6th, we have 21 officially signed up, leaving 7 openings available. This will most likely be the last sanctioned trip to Cuba for quite awhile. If you know of anyone interested in going, let them know and have them contact me for more information. There will not be another chance for a trip like this!

—Paul Craft

Copernicia@outlook.com

Left, a coontie—at least 30 years old— growing in full sun at Florida Entomological Lab in Vero Beach. (Photo by Janice Broda)

Right, another entrance to Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens—free admission!

(Photo by Matthew 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-

Have you renewed your membership for 2019?

Some 2018 members have not—as revealed on a recent membership roster.

The International Palm Society (IPS)

9300 Sandstone Street

Austin, TX 78737-1135

Regular membership, $55, quarterly journal

The Cycad Society

11701 Barchetta Drive

Austin, TX 78758

Regular membership, $35, quarterly newsletter

Join CFPACS
Please print

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

Wish to be added to Seed Bank E-mail list? (Circle one) YES NO

Willing to be listed publicly in roster? (Circle one) YES NO

Mail check made out to CFPACS (domestic: $20 one year; $55 three years; foreign: US$20 one year) to:

Tracy Hines
250 N. Causeway
New Smyrna Beach , FL 32169
treasurer@cfpacs.com

Membership also available at website: www.cfpacs.com

Those joining before October 1 have access to all four issues of *The Palmateer* for the current year.

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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.

Palms in Hollis Gardens park, downtown Lakeland. (Photo by Jeremy Evanchesky)