

The Palmateer

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Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

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Pralls' Paradise— Succulents as Companion Plants

By Libby Luedeke

What a wonderful weekend we had in the Naples/Ft. Myers area. I understand why many of you might not want to drive that far for a meeting, but it was amazing. Naples Botanical is gorgeous in every way and is thriving in the palm and cycad gardens. Our guide Patrick did a great job of guiding us through the changes of the gardens over the years and how much effort it took to achieve it. Well worth the visit if you are in the area. Ft Myers is also lovely. The Edison Estate is very nice and our guide Debbie Hughes was phenomenal. She did many of the plantings there and was equally

glad to hear advice from our resident experts. It's always great to receive and give information that improves all our gardens. I know my husband and I gained lots of ideas to implement in our own garden.

I debated a lot on what to write about as I've noticed all of us tend to write about the same thing, so I'm branching out into the Pralls' arid gardens as it applies to companion plants. I became immediately enthralled to see the distinct colors and varieties included there. Massive ponytail palms anchored the areas. Also included were variegated ponies. I don't pretend to know



Guide Patrick (blue shirt, left) with CFPACS visitors at Naples Botanical Garden on October 19th.
(Photo by Tracy Hines)

all the names of these cactus, agaves and yuccas, but I hope the pictures included do them justice. **Personally** I have begun to enjoy the variety and intricate detail of these amazing plants and hope you find inspiration to include them in your own gardens. I think they add fascinating geometric

patterns that enhance the spaces and create variations in color as well. Plus they don't need lots of watering and they like those sunny spaces. Try a few yourself, I think you'll love them too.



Cold Hardiness Database – A Work in Progress

By Jeremy Evanchesky

A project is underway to consolidate hardiness observations from CFPACS, Larry Noblick's tables and observations on IPS's PalmTalk forums. The observations include international data, predominantly from Europe and Australia. There have been seven updates since the original release on September 19th, 2019. Every attempt is made to capture the important variables and nuances of each observation including the ultimate low temperature, duration of temperatures below freezing, conditions preceding the freeze, whether the freeze was advective or radiational, any protection methods used, if frost was present, and the size and overall health of the palm.

The spreadsheet version and a more detailed description of the sources used is available at:

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/61358-0000-cold-hardiness-observation-master-data/>

Minutes of the October Board Meeting will be submitted to current members for approval.

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The Palmateer

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

The Palmateer

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(See Board List on page 12 for contact information.)



Pralls' Paradise in Cape Coral



Left (top), a view of the Prall garden. Below, Dave Prall talks to the visitors., including Dave Casella.

(Photos by Libby Luedeke)



Above, Rob Branch gives scale to a big Ponytail 'Palm' (Beaucarnea recurvata).

Lauritzen Gardens—Omaha Botanical Center



Left, Lauritzen Gardens entrance.

Right, the 72,000 sq. ft. conservatory.

(Photos by Matthew Kennedy)



By John Kennedy

In the third week of August, I visited my cousin Loretta Donnelly who lives in Omaha. She was my childhood friend and when we were in college, she dated my college friends and I dated her college friends. But we hadn't seen each other in years since we always returned to our hometown, Philadelphia, at different times in the summer. I was at work at the be-

ginning of fall semester here in Florida whenever she came back.

Knowing my interest in palms and in plants generally, Loretta took me and my son (who accompanied me on the 5-day visit) to Lauritzen Gardens—Omaha Botanical Center. This is a stunningly beautiful place, with 100 acres containing various outdoor collections. There's a tram for a tour of the property; the driver stops for several minutes at each of the collections to allow the riders to get

out, take a look at what's there, and to point out its most notable features.

For palm lovers the attraction is, of course, the gorgeous conservatory (72,000 sq. ft.). We can check up on how well represented palms are in botanical gardens well away from Florida and other areas where palms can be grown. I can attest that Lauritzen does very well with palms.

Just about all the palm species that can be purchased by garden

lovers in Florida are grown in Lauritzen's conservatory: *Sabal*, *Rhapis*, several species of *Chamaedorea*, *Bismarckia*, *Dypsis decaryi* (every Garden needs a Triangle Palm!), *Rhapidophyllum*, *Thrinax*. I could think of several more species that are less well-known that might be grown there as well, but these may well be more difficult to obtain. In addition, the conservatory is literally packed to

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Lauritzen Gardens

the rafters with tropical plants, as the pictures show. A trio of cycads in wonderful good looks, bright flush—I think a species of *Encephelartos*—stood out as if spotlighted.

Lauritzen Gardens is well worth a visit should you come within a few hours distance from Omaha, which is an attractive city.

* * * *

My son spotted a tag that said “*Sabal minor*”. Behind it was a silver *Serenoa repens*, the only mistake I spotted. On return to Florida, I sent an e-mail to the horticultural director, pointing out the error and telling her that I had *Sabal minor* and *Serenoa repens* on my property in Vero Beach where I have been growing palms since 1980. I mentioned my long connection with the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society.



Left, interior of Lauritzen conservatory, three big rooms plentifully populated with palms.

Right, note familiar teeshirt and cap.

Cousin in striped shirt.

I also attached a copy of my handout for my palm presentations. I have received no reply to my message.



Lightning-struck Palms

We are used to seeing palms that have been struck by lightning here in Florida. Usually these are tall, skinny 4- or 5-story *Washingtonias* that are very dead. However, smaller palms are sometimes struck—and recover.

Sue Reilly has sent pictures of two palms at the Baker-Reilly homestead in Micco and at Golden Sands Park on the ocean, also in Brevard County.



The two palms on the homeplace are (left) Attalea cohune and (right) Livistona saribus.



The leaflets on the Cohune (left) are brown except for a few inches closest to the rachis. The 18-ft. palm was struck on August 30th, and is struggling to survive. The trunk of the 35-ft. L. saribus, right, shows the same strike. This palm seems almost completely recovered.

(Photos by Jason Baker and

Sue Reilly)





Above, the burn on the trunk of the Sabal palmetto struck by lightning two years ago at Golden Sands Park, photo dated 8-6-17. Right, same palm, 10-14-19.





King Palms—not known what species, likely Archontophoenix cunninghamiana—at the Edison Estate in Fort Myers. Right, palm art in a Fort Myers shop.

(Photos by Dave Hall)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alright! What a wonderful meeting everyone had in the Naples and Ft Myers area. Even the rain didn't put a damper on this event. I want to thank Patrick for giving a awesome tour at Naples Botanical Gardens I still can't believe that garden is only ten years old.

I would like next to thank to thank Debbie Hughes for her tour at the Edison House in Ft Myers . Hope to go back soon and see how the *Kerriodox elegans* is faring. I still can't believe how tall those king palms were unbelievable ! I didn't see king palms in their native Australia that tall.

And last, I would really like to thank Dave and Gerri for hosting us at their house in Cape Coral . Boy, Fairchild doesn't have anything up with them! Thanks Debbie Hughes again for finding the one plant on the planet as a host plant that's not already planted in their yard.

Stay tuned everyone, our next meeting is coming up quick hopefully down in Indian River County and just maybe we will have some fall weather by then.

—Dave Hall



Donations on October 20th



Left, Gary Nichols with *Gaussia maya* for Edison; right., the Schnabels, donors of *Kerriodoxa elegans*.

(Photos by Dave Hall)



The gift of two palms to Edison meant that no admission fees were charged to the CFPACS visitors. Gary and Sandra Nichols donated a *Gaussia maya* which they brought to Naples on Saturday though they were unable to make the Sunday tour in Fort Myers.

Roland Schnabel and wife donated a 6-foot *Kerriodoxa elegans* which was dug out of their Tampa property which they were leaving after living there for 50 years.

The chapter's thank-you gift for a visit to the garden of Geri and Dave Prall was a plant they had long wished to have—not a palm!—since they had seen this at Edison.

Enchanted Incense Tree (*Cerbera x manghas*), a hybrid, has red and white striped flowers with a powerful fragrance beyond that of gardenias. Leaves are mauve, growth habit is similar to *Plumeria*. (The plant was bought at Edison.)

—John Kennedy



Above, Debbie Hughes, Director of Horticulture at Edison with the newly planted *Kerriodoxa elegans*. Left, Dave and Geri Prall with Enchanted Incense Tree. Prez Dave Hall looks on.

(This photo by Tracy Hines)

From the Editor's Desk

I've spent some time in the past wondering whether there might be some effects on palm growing in Central Florida due to the "Chinese hoax of global warming." Was anyone growing palm species from much warmer habitats.?

That things are a bit warmer here in Vero Beach is evident in the fact that I have a big *Veitchia arecina* (50 feet high)--and a couple smaller *Veitchias* of other species--growing in my backyard. This would have been impossible in the 1980s when there were usually four or five brief marginal freezes (down to maybe 27F) every winter.

Folks grew *Veitchias* in coastal Palm Beach County, 70 miles or south. But, starting in the 1990s, freezes became infrequent and, in the last couple of

winters, didn't happen at all. I had asked several times in this publication for anyone growing a tender species to contact me. No one ever did contact me. Realized last week that I had a tender species here at home: *Mauritiella armata* which is widespread in the Amazon, though it grows also in higher, chillier places in South America. So, I went looking online for information about the species. It's a clumper that grows to be anywhere between 2 and 20 meters tall, which is quite a span, 12-120 feet.

Apparently it is a vigorous grower in full sun with lots of water. The leaves and stems are covered with a waxy blue coating. There are spines on the stems and on adventitious roots. My individual of this species has been in the ground for 15 or so years. It has grown very little, maybe from an

original 1-gallon size to 3-gallon.

There is no trunk, though there is a base and several stems. The leaflets--dark green above, silver below--have small spines on their edges that remind me of some holly leaves. No waxy blue covering. However, the palm grows in light shade rather than in full sun and does not have damp ground

Maybe I should ask Paul Craft on his return from his Cuba excursion early next month whether he is aware of folks growing more tender palms than previously. Anyone who has read his *Palms of Cuba* book is aware of quite a few species from there not familiar in cultivation in Florida but that look



Mauritiella armata in the famous Palmz'n'Weedz garden in Vero. Trunk in background is Chambeyronia macrocarpa.

as if they might do well here. Has seed from previously unknown Cuban species been imported into this country in recent years?

A commenter on a vendor website for the beautiful Enchanted Incense Tree points out that the fruit is toxic, should not be planted around children or animals.

John Kennedy

PayPal Tutorial

Here is how to make a payment to CFPACS using PayPal

1) Log on to <http://www.paypal.com>

2) If you have a PayPal account, log into your account. If you do not have a PayPal account, click on the 'Personal' tab. Once on the 'Personal' page go to 'Send Money' and then 'Send Money Online.'

3) Once on the 'Send Money' page, type 'payments@cfpacs.com' in the 'To' field.

Type in your email address in the 'From' field and the amount you wish to pay in the 'Amount' field.

4) From there you will be taken to a secure page where you can enter your name, address and credit card information.

5) When you are ready to finish up the payment process, please indicate whether your payment is for membership or seeds or t-shirts in the message field.

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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:

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Lauritzen Conservatory, with hill beyond. Omaha is hilly along the Missouri River.

(Photo by Matthew Kennedy)