

# The Palmateer

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Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

March 2020

## A Cuban Palm Adventure 2019



**By Paul Craft**

An intrepid group of palm nuts gathered in Ft Lauderdale, Florida, on Halloween 2019 in readiness for a 7:00am flight the following morning to Camagüey, Cuba. It was a diverse group of 19 people bound together by their wanting to see the Cuban palms growing in habitat. Fourteen of the group had never

*The group listening to guide before city tour of Camagüey.*

been to Cuba before. Four people came from Hawaii, two from Australia and the rest were Floridians from the southern half of the state. Some were nursery people while others were backyard palm hobbyists.

*(Continued on page 4)*



*CFPACS visited Selby in the morning.  
(Photo by Libby Luedeke)*

## March 7th Sarasota Meeting

**Spring 2020: Another Great Event**

**By Libby Luedeke**

**We were** blessed in many ways this weekend. Beautiful weather and beautiful gardens. Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is our first stop. Selby was originally the

home of William and Marie Selby, high school sweethearts who married in 1908 in Ohio. In their first year of marriage, as trans-continental race enthusiasts, they decided to travel to Sarasota, a place William had visited before

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*Concealed behind the greenery on this modest Sarasota unpaved street is the Branch Botanical Garden.  
(Photo by Matthew Kennedy)*



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**The Palmateer**

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**The Palmateer**

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## Sarasota Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

and Marie became the first woman to cross the country by automobile. They became enamored with the area and started coming every winter. In 1921 they decided purchase land on Sarasota Bay. Bill was an oil man as was John Ringling and Calvin Payne. They ultimately shaped the character of Sarasota. In the late 1920's Marie became the founder of the Sarasota Garden Club.

**William and Marie** never had children but hoped to help future generations. They developed the William G Selby and Marie Selby Foundation which helped lots of local students and after William's death Marie prepared a special trust that would create and maintain a botanical garden on their property. It has become a respected world leader in study and conservation of

plants. They receive around 230,000 visitors annually.

**Rob Branch**, who not only hosted our second stop at his home, also gave us the tour of Selby. Currently the gardens are hosting an event called "Salvador Dali, Adventures of the Mind." There were a number of art-inspired installations throughout the garden. It was very well thought out and challenged the eye as well as the mind. There is a beautiful collection of palms as well as cycads that are very well established and wonderfully maintained. There are also tons of epiphytes—plants adapted to live in the tree canopy, including orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads and ferns.

**The first** time I saw this garden was in 1995. I was pretty much still a newlywed. We had another couple that we traveled with from time to time that raved about this wonderful place. We took a long weekend and headed over. I still recall being overwhelmed by the diversity and tropical atmosphere and I feel like



*Zamia portoricensis* seen at Selby. (Photo by Libby Luedeke)

that trip truly cemented mine and my husband's journey into botany that ultimately brought us to the palm society. I look forward to every meeting and the palm family we have become.

### Spring 2020: Another Great Event Part 2

**Stop number two** is at Rob Branch's home. Rob has owned this property for over 20 years. There have been many changes over the years with hurricanes, freezes that no one would have

imagined, and weed pulling that would challenge the most ardent of gardeners.

**Rob has** been a long time member and supporter of the CFPACS. He allows us to take over his home every few years to see the successes and the failures of keeping up the thickly-planted property. We are never disappointed at the beauty and fully understand how much work it takes to make it all hap-

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## Cuban Palm Adventure

*(Continued from page 1)*

It was a 10 day tour that I laid out with the details of food, lodging, and transport arranged by Tree Institute International in Key West, Florida. Renier Rodriguez was our very capable tour guide who regaled us with the history of Cuba and fun facts during the bus trips to various habitats. Raúl Verdecia, the top palm botanist in Cuba, was also with us during the entire trip sharing his wealth of knowledge about the palms and other native flora. The group banded together quite well and enjoyed each other's company while seeing the habitats or enjoying rum in the evening during tales both real and make believe.

Our itinerary had us begin our adventure in the central Cuban city of Camagüey, where we

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*Left, the bicycle taxis used in our city tour of Camagüey. Right, Sujin Marcus giving some scale to Coccoloba pseudorigida on the left and Copernicia cowellii on the right.*



*Copernicia fallaensis in habitat.*

# Sarasota Meeting

*(Continued from page 3)*

pen. The collection continues to grow with the gift from the chapter of a *Dioon rzedowskii* supplied by Jerry Luedeke. It will fit in nicely. Rob just got through painting the house in true tropical spirit that I appreciate greatly. I felt it truly captured the essence of joy that the gardens also emit. We thank you much, Rob, for continuing to be a part of this organization.



*The Dali Swirl at Selby: clear blue "rocks" that look like ice.  
(Photo by Libby Luedeke)*



*Dave Hall and Keith Santner at rest in the conservatory at Selby.  
(Photo by Matthew Kennedy)*



*Auction and sale plants at Rob Branch's. (Photo by Matthew Kennedy)*

## Cuban Palm Adventure

(Continued from page 4)

spent 2 nights. From there, we headed northwest to Cayo Coco off the central north coast of the main island, spending 2 nights there, and then southwest to Trinidad for a night and further on to Cienfuegos on the south coast for a night. Our zigzag journey continued back to the northwest coast and finally ended up in Havana for 3 nights. We did a day trip further west exploring the scenic Vinales area.

**There are** 98 taxa of palms native to Cuba and we visited a third of them in habitat. They include:

*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*

*Acrocomia aculeata*

*Acrocomia crispa*

*Coccothrinax borhidiana*

*Coccothrinax litoralis*

*Coccothrinax miraguama* subsp. *havanensis* from afar\*

*Coccothrinax miraguama* subsp. *miraguama*

*Coccothrinax miraguama* subsp. *roseocarpa*

*Coccothrinax montana*

*Coccothrinax muricata*

*Coccothrinax pseudorigida*

*Coccothrinax montana* x *Coccothrinax pseudorigida*

*Colpothrinax wrightii*

*Copernicia baileyana*

*Copernicia brittonorum*

*Copernicia cowellii*

*Copernicia fallaensis*

*Copernicia glabrescens* var. *glabrescens*

*Copernicia glabrescens* var. *glabrescens*

*Copernicia glabrescens* var. *ramosissima*

*Copernicia hospita*

*Copernicia macroglossa*

*Copernicia x sueroana*

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*This mature Copernicia cowellii has a very full petticoat.*

*Below, Copernicia hospita growing in serpentine soil.*



## Underappreciated Understory Palm: *Cryosophila warscewiczii*

By Jeremy Evanchesky

**Growing palms** in Central Florida is an adventure. Some years bring frost-free winters, others bring weather typical of southern Georgia. Palm growers typically keep their more tender plantings in protected microclimates, shielded from wind and under some form of canopy for protection against frost. Unfortunately, some tender palms prefer or require full sun exposure. For those looking for a palm that grows extremely well as an understory palm, tolerates some frost and will not outgrow a reasonably high canopy, consider *Cryosophila warscewiczii*.

**This palm** typically tops out around 30-40 feet, stands up to our infrequent freezes well and grows exceptionally well even in deep shade. While the nickname



“Root Spine palm” will steer some growers away, keep in mind that the root spines typically point downward toward the ground. For more information and photos, please visit: [https://www.palmpedia.net/wiki/Cryosophila warscewiczii](https://www.palmpedia.net/wiki/Cryosophila_warscewiczii)

## Cold Hardiness Observations Update

By Jeremy Evanchesky

**For those** interested in the progress of the Cold Hardiness Master Data, the compilation spreadsheet now has over 2,000 observations and is being regularly updated. Some of the updates include observations from the January 2010 and January 2018 freezes at Leu Gardens and in Gainesville, Tampa, and Cape Coral. A spreadsheet has been

started to track cycad observations separately. You can follow the progress and download the spreadsheets at:

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

*A group of Cryosophila warscewiczii growing in Lakeland under dense shade.*

## Cuban Palm Adventure

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*Copernicia oxycalyx*

*Copernicia yarey*

*Copernicia x dahlgreniana*

*Copernicia x shaferi*

*Copernicia x sueroana*

*Gaussia princeps*

*Leucothrinax morrisii*

*Roystonea regia*

*Sabal maritima*

*Sabal palmetto*

*Thrinax radiata*

\*from afar: not close up, seen from bus and through binoculars at a rest stop.

Several other native species were seen in botanical gardens and public landscapes.

**Our adventure** began immediately after arriving and clearing

customs in Camagüey. Our very first stop was to visit Juanita's farm close to the airport. Large *Copernicia cowellii* were in abundance as were *Copernicia hospita*, *Coccothrinax macroglossa* and one plant of *Coccothrinax pseudorigida*. Juanita is always enthusiastic about showing off the palms growing on her property as well as the goats and cows she raises. There is not much worry about the area being used for any other agricultural endeavor as the soil is made is the remains of ultramafic rock and is called serpentine soil. This soil is not like 'normal' soil as it is low in Calcium and high in Magnesium, Iron and often toxic minerals such as Nickel and Cobalt. While toxic to most plants, certain species have adapted and grow well in these soils. The plants that grow in the serpentine areas of Cuba are some of the most diverse species to be found anywhere. Upon

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Above, Juanita posing with a *Coccothrinax macroglossa* on her farm. Below, the unique shape of *Copernicia fallaensis* leaves.







A particularly silver form of a very stout *Copernicia baileyana*. Below, *Copernicia rigidas* reaching the age where they begin to look from a distance like lollipops.



## Cuban Palm Adventure

(Continued from page 8)

thoroughly checking out the palms and baby goats, we bid adieu to Juanita and headed off to the other side of Camagüey.

**Our second** stop was to a *Copernicia baileyana* habitat. There were also *Sabal maritima* growing there, but the main focus was to see the *Copernicias*. The habitat is typical of most *Copernicia* habitats, being a savannah made up of red clay and sand that is at times somewhat flooded during the rainy season. This particular *C. baileyana* area is one of the few habitats of where both green and silver specimens grow together. It is a delight to see so many of these majestic palms growing together. The leaves of this species are often harvested for roofing thatch, but on this visit, most of the individuals had a full crown of leaves. After a great deal of admiring palms and

photo taking, we headed off to the city of Camagüey and had a guided tour of the downtown area in bicycle taxis. This was followed by our checking into the hotel and enjoying an evening of good food, tasty rum and the good company of our fellow travelers.

**Our trip** itinerary had us staying in Camagüey 2 nights and then head northwest to Cayo Coco, a small resort island off the north coast of the main island of Cuba where 5 palm species reside. It is an island that is part of a string of islands similar to the Florida Keys and has several all-inclusive resort hotels. We stayed at the Iberostar Mojito, where spouses that were not into palm exploring could enjoy the hotel amenities. Hikes through the coastal alkaline sands and calcareous rock revealed the habitats of *Coccothrinax litoralis* and *Copernicia yarey*. After 2 nights there, we headed south-

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## Cuban Palm Adventure

(Continued from page 9)

west and visited the *Copernicia fallaensis* habitat along the way as well as a large *Coccothrinax miraguama* area. The habitat of *Copernicia fallaensis* is an old favorite of mine and is a highlight of every trip to Cuba. There is a convenient rest stop on the route to Trinidad that happens to be in the midst of thousands of *Coccothrinax miraguama* and overlooks a picturesque valley. This trip saw a new amenity, a zip-line, added to the rest stop. As we were having an easy day of travel, several of our group decided on trying it out. It was the first and only zip-line I have ever seen in Cuba. You just don't know what new experiences await on your travels to Cuba! Our night was spent in the old Spanish colonial city of Trinidad with its cobblestones and Old World feel.

**The following** day took us to the city of Cienfuegos on the south

coast. The Cienfuegos Botanical Garden was a stop on the way. This Garden was begun by Edwin F. Atkins in 1901 on 240 acres and was initially deeply involved in the research of developing the best sugarcane varieties. During World War II, attention was turned to finding the best plants for the production of rubber. The Harvard University's Tropical Research Institute was founded at the Garden in 1919 and worked on these and other botanical questions. Collaboration was also made with the Coconut Grove Palmetum, which later became Montgomery Botanical Center in Miami. Many seeds from David Fairchild collection trips found their way to Cienfuegos and eventually made the Garden an important palm collection. We also visited a habitat of *Copernicia brittonorum*, which is a rather rare species with seed just recently introduced outside of Cuba.

**On the** seventh day of our trip, we began the journey to Havana.



An ancient *Acrocomia crispa* specimen seen on the way to Cayo Coco.

Along the way we visited the serpentine habitat of *Coccothrinax miraguama* subsp. *roseocarpa* and *Copernicia glabrescens* var. *ramosissima*. We then traveled on to see *Coccothrinax borhidiana*. This charming palm grows in a small, shrinking habitat on the north coast of Cuba just west of

the city of Matanzas. It grows in scrub forest on limestone rock overlooking the ocean. It is a rather inhospitable habitat but is prone to human activity and goat growing. Each time I have been to this habitat over the last 25 years, I have seen it shrink little by little so that now the palm population has shrunk incredibly. This is a species that occurs nowhere else in the world and is thus endangered.

**We finished** our day by checking into our hotel in Havana and experiencing yet another evening of good food, excellent rum and exceptional camaraderie. Havana was gearing up for its 500<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and many visitors from all over the world made for a bustling scene everywhere. We would be heading home just before the big anniversary day, but celebrations were already taking place.

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## Cuban Palm Adventure

(Continued from page 10)

**Our eighth** day saw some of our group stay in Havana to explore all that the city has to offer while the diehard palm aficionados took a day trip to Vinales in the western end of the country. The Vinales area is a photographer's dream filled with a landscape of mogotes (limestone hills) and ornamental palms. There is a very popular roadside stop near there in the midst of a *Colpothrinax wrightii* habitat. Barrigonas is the Cuban name for these belly palms, which are actually related to the genus *Pritchardia*. It is an extremely useful palm with the stems used in construction and the making of various products such as chairs, tables, water tanks and even ashtrays. The leaves are used as a durable roofing thatch. From here we headed up into the mountains and then

the mogotes, where there is an abundance of *Gaussia princeps* and *Leucothrinax morrisii*. This area is a popular tourist destination so finding that perfect Cuban souvenir is a simple task at various roadside stops. The savannah around the mogotes is the prime tobacco growing area of Cuba. We naturally had to stop at a farm and learn about growing tobacco and see how Cuban cigars are made. Of course some of us had to try one or take one to smoke later. We headed back to Havana after a fun filled exploration of western Cuba.

**As it** so happened this day was also my birthday, so we had a birthday celebration that evening at the San Cristobal Restaurant, which some of you may know as the place where Obama ate while in Cuba. It was quite an event down to the rum and cigar after dessert!

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Above, a grouping of *Coccothrinax litoralis* that look very similar to our native *C. argentata*.

Below, *Pseudophoenix sargentii* transplanted from habitat to hotel landscaping on Cayo Coco.



## Cuban Palm Adventure

(Continued from page 11)

On our last full day in Cuba, we visited the National Botanical Garden. This is a massive 1500-acre botanical garden that was begun in 1968. It is primarily designed with a palm collection in its center with the various continents represented as pie slices surrounding it. We toured the Garden by riding our bus and stopping to see some things up close. Most of the palms in the palmetum area are planted in colonies that would be similar to how you would find them in their native habitats. During our visit I presented a copy of my book, *The Palms of Cuba*, as a donation to the Garden. Dr. Angela Leiva Sánchez, who passed in 2014, was the long-term director and was very supportive of my work on the book, helping me immensely in my study of the palms and habitats of Cuba.

After our Garden visit, the group was able to do whatever they

*Sujin Marcus, Rob Branch, and Elizabeth Sperry admiring a group of Coccolthrinax miraguama. Eric Katz trying out the zip line in C. miraguama habitat.*

pleased with their remaining time in Cuba. It had been a busy and exciting trip with new friends made and old friendships renewed. Our flight back to Florida was mid-morning the next day. Our final excitement was nearly missing it as we became stalled in traffic on the way to the airport by a large marathon being run through Havana. We made it just in time though and after an uneventful flight, we all headed our separate ways home. It was a trip that will not be easily forgotten!





*Left, the group gathered in front of an ancient Ficus tree before a tour of Cienfuegos Botanical Garden. Right, an old Hyphaene coriacea in the Garden.*



*Rob Branch admiring an old car, Coccothrinax miraguama in background. Jack Miller posing next to a Copernicia macroglossa in habitat.*





*A view of part of Vinales, Cuba, with its mogotes and rich red savannah area.*



*Right, *Coccothrinax borhidiana* in habitat.  
Left, Elizabeth Sperry takes a ride on a local inhabitant near Vinales.*



## Cuban Palm Adventure. . .more pictures



*Left, without its 'belly' this Colpothrinax wrightii might look similar to a Pritchardia. Right, the shapely stems of this palm are often used as building supports.*



*Music is a big part of Cuban life. This group was performing on the street in Trinidad.*



*Gaussia princeps and Leucothrinax morisii growing on a mogote in Vinales.*



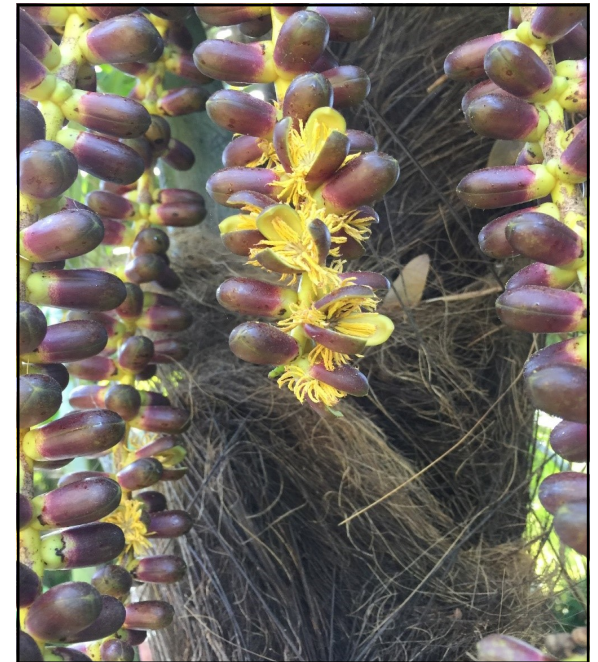
*Paul Craft presents a copy of his book, The Palms of Cuba , to the National Botanical Garden in Havana.*



*Microcycas calocoma in the National Botanical Garden.*



## Arenga pinnata



*The attached files show pictures of one of the Arenga pinnatas currently blooming at the property of Frank Radosta in New Smyrna Beach. It should bloom for another 4 to 6 years and then die. All foliage growth has stopped. It took 38 years from seed germination to blooming. It survived all of the freezes of the 80s.*

*—Frank Radosta*

# Mementos of the Past



## CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM BULLETIN

### PALM GROWING IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

by  
Hersh Womble

Palms are generally easy to grow in central Florida. Only a few specific guidelines must be considered in the propagation and cultivation of palms. As you may have observed, there are several palms which are hardy here. First of all, don't overlook the natives, as they are excellent for several reasons.

Propagation of palms is generally from seed, however, the clustering types may sometimes be amenable to division. In order to be more assured of success, the collected seed must first be cleaned of pulp (fruity tissue), then a few days of drying if the seed were wet from the pulp. Sometimes the collected seed are relatively dry, therefore, only

the cleaning process is required. Palm seed generally are not viable for long periods so it is advisable to plant them within a week or two of collecting. Seeds are readily available if you are willing to look around. They can be found in parks, along streets, in private yards, in the woods and you can purchase them. Mature seeds are usually available from July until Nov. here in central Florida. If you spot seeds on a palm which interest you and it is on private property, just ask the owner, they are usually very helpful. Purchasing of palm seed is another matter, as most seed supply houses specialize in quantity. Of course, as a member of the Palm Society, you have access to the whole world by way

(con't on pg.3)

### PALM EATING

by  
Butia capitata

It is not always easy to find enough ripe fruit at one time. If you want a large number, pick the whole stalk just as it is turning golden in color. Store it in a relatively cool place protected from insects. You will discover that the fruit turns ripe all at one time, and within a very few days. If this same

fruit were left on the tree, it would ripen and drop off a few at a time. Fully ripened fruit should be used as soon as possible although it will keep in the refrigerator for a short time.

The following recipes could prove to be an interesting venture in the world of palms

(con't on pg.2)



### Butia Palm Fruit Puree

(con't from 1)

Wash palm fruit and remove seeds. Fill blender about half full with palm fruit pieces. Chop until very fine puree. If puree has tough fibers in it, press it through a strainer. Not all palm fruits have tough fibers. Grind fruit in a food chopper if you do not have a blender. Strain if necessary. Use Butia Palm Fruit Puree these ways: 1) Sweetened and mixed with mayonnaise for a fruit salad dressing. 2) As a base for palm fruit jam. 3) Sweetened and mixed with mayonnaise as a topping.

Prepare as directed. Pour into freezer containers, leaving ½ inch head-space. Seal, label and freeze at 0° F. Storage time 9-12 months.

### Palm-Glo Congealed Salad

1 tablespoon unflavored gelatin  
3/4 cup Butia Palm Fruit Puree  
1/2 cup boiling water  
3 medium bananas, sliced  
1 cup creamed cottage cheese  
1/4 cup pecans

Combine gelatin, palm fruit puree, and sugar. Mix well and allow to stand while heating water. Add 1 cup boiling water and stir until gelatin is dissolved.

Add remaining puree and sliced bananas. Chill until firm in ring mold. Serve on a bed of leaf lettuce or curly endive. Combine chopped pecans with cottage cheese and pile in center. Reserve several pecan halves for garnishing.

### Pear-Palm Fruit Upside-down Cake

2 cups fresh pear slices  
1 cup Butia Palm Fruit Puree  
1 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons quick cooking tapioca  
1 small package white cake mix  
1 egg  
Water (as directed on cake mix package)

Combine pear slices, palm fruit puree, sugar and tapioca. Generously butter a 10x14 inch loaf pan. Spread pear-palm fruit mixture over bottom. Mix white cake according to directions on package and spread evenly in baking pan. Bake at 350° F. about 40 minutes. Serve hot with whipped cream or topping if desired.

### Central Florida Palm Society

Thank you for the confidence you have given me to serve on the Central Florida Chapter of the Palm Society. I hope that I will be able to help guide our group in any way beneficial.

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend our February meeting here in my own city, but I was not able to arrange the day off from my job on rather short notice. Despite the rain, hopefully those who attended were able to see some of what St. Petersburg has to offer fellow palm enthusiasts. Although not every home is quite as completely "palm enshrouded" as Randy Mason's yard is (those who stopped by after the meeting can attest to this), my city and this west coast area do have much to interest both the casual as well as the ardent palm observer.

We here in lower Pinellas County as well as in much of Central Florida are giving thanks for the warmest Winter in recent years. Of course we deserved a break after the destructive freezes of the past several years. Some of us will probably be tempted to try some of the less hardy species once again. Between Randy Mason's location, and my yard several miles away, we recorded no lower than 36°. Even Tampa officially registered no lower than 33° at the airport.

Much of my collection and knowledge on palms was furthered by my friendship with Randy. I'm sure we will miss his contribution to our group and hope that he will return to Fla. after completing his studies in Texas.

Looking forward to future meetings and correspondence.

Rob Pressprich  
Vice-President

(con't from pg.1)

of the seed bank.

Once the seeds are ready to plant, a well drained soil mix should be obtained. Composition of the mix isn't extremely important as long as it has the following characteristics; must be porous, well drained, should contain at least 60% organic material and free of pests. Place the soil in a container with good drainage, gently firm the soil (do not pack) so that it is within one inch of the top of the container, scatter the seed on top and cover with soil which is about one half the seed diameter in depth of top of the seed. Wet the soil thoroughly and set aside to drain. Germination of palm seed requires from a few weeks to several months, depending upon type. The seed must be kept moist, not soggy until they germinate. When the seed temperature is kept at 80° to 85° F, they will germinate much faster. Now, that does not mean that they will germinate in a few days, it means they will germinate in a few months instead of several. One way to maintain a uniform moisture level is to place the container of soil and seed into a plastic bag and seal it. Keep in a warm shady area.

After germination of the seed, you can separate the seedlings and transplant them as desired into individual containers. Most landscape type palms should be transplanted singly, whereas, those used for interior purposes are generally planted as multiples to obtain a bushy appearance. Newly transplanted seedlings should be kept in a shady area until they have become acclimated (at least a month), then moved into direct sun.

Palms are heavy feeders, however, the exact fertilizer analysis is not critical. Some palms require a substantial amount of manganese and magnesium, such as the Phoenix family. Any food garden supply store will carry a special palm fertilizer with a substantial amount of these elements. Feed your palms several times each year, during the growing season and you will be rewarded with lovely foliage and good growth.

Most palms are easily transplanted. When the specimen is being transplanted from a container, the roots should be separated so that they are no longer in a tight ball in the shape of a pot. Don't be afraid of breaking a few, there is plenty when the plant is healthy. When

repotting or transplanting a palm, the general rule of maintaining the same plant depth in the soil, applies. If the soil has left small feeder roots bare, then, a little extra soil on top may be helpful but in most cases the plant should not have any soil added on top of the existing root ball. Transplanting from one inground location to another should be preceded by a root pruning process. This is accomplished by inserting a shovel vertically (blade part of shovel) about 12 inches into the soil and about 12 inches from the trunk, all the way around the plant. Wait about 2 weeks, then move the palm to its new home. Here in central Florida, it is always advisable to add peat generously into the hole under and around the plant, as this encourages roots to grow away from the original root ball.

As your palm grows, the lower leaves are discarded by the plant. To encourage optimum growth, the lower leaves should be trimmed off as they turn yellow. This also improves the appearance of the plant.

Indoor palms usually don't require much attention, however, a periodic soap and water cleaning of the foliage and regular fertilization will maintain a healthy plant. The most common problem experienced with indoor palms is spider mites which the soap and water treatment will control. Indoor palms will withstand relatively low light conditions for short periods but don't expect them to survive for months under those conditions. Consider rotation of indoor plants into good light (near a window or onto a porch) at weekly intervals and you can maintain healthy plants.

Minutes . . .

The February meeting of the Central Florida Palm Society was held at the Gizella Kopsick Palm Arboretum in St. Petersburg. Approximately 30 members showed under rainy conditions to tour the 200 plus varieties of palms and cycads.

Jerry Shrewsbury led the educational tour answering any questions and reminiscing many of the plantings. The meeting was held after the tour and a new vice-president was voted in. Randy Mason moved a motion

(con't pg.4)

(from pg.3)

to nominate Robert Pressprich as new vice-president and Pam Vest second the motion. It was passed unanimously by the members.

After the meeting everyone was invited to Randy's house to observe his fine palm collection of six years. The collection was quite extensive and the invitation was greatly appreciated. We also want to wish Randy the best in his move to Texas.

The plant sale raised 45.00 for the chapter and we would like to thank everyone for their contributions.

REMINDER '87

This copy of the newsletter is being sent to all members of the Central Florida Palm Society as a reminder of the fee assessed at a meeting last year.

The charge of 3.00 per year goes into the treasury to cover the cost of producing the newsletter and postage. As well as palm news the newsletter can pass along items for sale, update us on past and future meetings and keep us informed of chapter happenings. The fee is 3.00 per year and should

be sent to: Ed Hall, treasurer  
1111 Glen Garry Cr.  
Maitland, FL 32751

October 18

The next meeting of the Central Fla. Palm Society will be held at 2 palm lovers' homes. The meeting starts at 11:00 at the home of Frank and Rosemary Radosta in New Smyrna Beach. Their collection is young, but Frank's knowledge and cold weather records should help us all make it through the winter a little better

The second part of the tour will be hosted by Mrs. Dent Smith in Daytona Beach. This tour will be somewhat self-guided with help from some local members who have visited the grounds before. Mrs. Smith will be happy to answer any questions we might have.

The meeting will continue to Daytona Beach about 2:00 from Frank and Rosemary's. See enclosed map for directions.

Bring some cold drinks and a bag lunch to make the day last longer and be prepared to have a great day.

Central Florida Palm Bulletin  
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Sanford, Florida 32771  
(305) 321-4621



M/u Hershell Wamble  
Rt. 1 Box 162  
Groveland FL 32736

ODE TO THE PALM

DID YOU EVER SEE;  
 SUCH A PRETTY TREE;  
 SOME WITH FANS;  
 LIKE FILMY HANDS;  
 SOME WITH FEATHER LEAVES;  
 IN SHEAVES AND SHEAVES;  
 TALL AND LEAN;  
 THORNY AND MEAN;  
 STOCKY AND STRONG;  
 WITH FLOWER STALKS SO LONG;  
 SOME WITH SEEDS SO SMALL;  
 NO SCARCITY AT ALL;  
 SOME WITH SEEDS SO LARGE;  
 THEY CAN SERVE AS A MONKEY BARGE;  
 SUCH A SILHOUETTE, GRACEFUL YET FRAGILE;  
 AWKWARD TO CLIMB FOR THE NOT SO AGILE;  
 FOODSTUFF AND TIMBERS ARE DERIVED FROM THIS SOURCE;  
 IT'S USEFULNESS IS RECOGNIZED, OF COURSE;  
 THIS MIGHTY FOREST TREE;  
 THIS TINY TREE SO WEE;  
 DID YOU EVER SEE;  
 SUCH A PRETTY TREE;

*Hershell L. Womble*

**Hersh Womble** gave the early newsletter and the poem to Maryann Kristovich, who was kind enough to scan and send to me.

**The Central** Florida Palm Society was dormant until autumn 1978 or 1979 when revived by a group of enthusiasts.

**They were** Hersh and Jackie Womble, Ed and Nancy Hall,

Dave and Marian Besst, Gordon and Pat Smith.

**We are** grateful to the energy of those pioneers of our society 40 years ago.



*Behind the unassuming greenery on this unpaved Sarasota street is Rob Branch's Botanical Garden.*

*(Photo by Matthew Kennedy)*

## 4th Quarter Seedbank

### Report 2019

By Libby Luedeke

**We did** have some seed sales this last quarter of about \$93 dollars. We had a gentleman from Hong Kong buy seeds. Seeds that were once considered rare are not so rare anymore and not as popular as they once were. Therefore sales have been more challenging. Anne Michael should have some interesting seeds dropping soon and continues to support the cause.

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**



*Near the Salvador Dali exhibit at Selby.*

*(Photo by Matthew Kennedy)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Hope everyone** had a good time at Selby Botanical Gardens. The gardens were lovely and the Dali exhibits were quite interesting. For instance, I really enjoyed the fried eggs.

**We had** a fairly good turnout considering the Coronavirus scare. I believe we had about 30 or so attendees. I would like to thank Rob and Eve for hosting us. Rob's place is always awesome. It should be considered as a National Botanical Garden in its own right. By the way, Rob, loved the way you painted your house. I felt like I was in the Bahamas.

**Our next** meeting is in June at Leu Gardens. We are currently looking at the 13th and will send details as soon as we have confirmation. The first weekend of October we will return to Montgomery in Miami. Those of you with reciprocal passes will want to head to Fairchild that Sunday. The South Florida trip is always a fantastic time.

**I hope** everyone enjoyed the weather this winter. I know most of our palms are having a great spring. See you in June.

**Dave**

## From the Editor's Desk

**Hey, fun** in Sarasota on March 7<sup>th</sup>. About the same number of usual attendees, 35-40. Fortunately, no dire health warnings until the following week. So, we could enjoy, as we always do, Rob Branch's personal botanical garden. More plants there than in all of Selby. And a familiar place where we don't expect to look for every single species growing there. We can just poke around. Rob is good at answering questions and giving a good tour of the premises. Our thanks to Rob and Eve for their great hospitality.

\* \* \* \*

**To get** rid of yard waste where I live (Indian River County), I must pick up the palm debris from my half-acre, with over 100 palms of 80 species, cut the dead fronds into 6-foot lengths and stick into a can. If just laid in a pile out by the street, it isn't picked up. So, I wondered about debris at Rob's. He has about 10 times as many plants as I do, dropping stuff every day. How much actually accumulates there on a weekly basis? With so much growing on the ground maybe all the junk from higher up can just be picked off the tops of the smaller stuff lower down? I could well imagine that a tractor-trailer stops once a week in hot weather to cart it all away. Or could there be an aerial vacuum service offered in Sarasota that takes away from above? There is certainly no room for a compost heap at the Branch Botanical Garden, and (for sure) if Rob had one, the heap that would have to be about 6 stories high. Hey, if Rob were composting, it would be visible from outer space! Someone suggested another possibility: that Rob doesn't clean up at all except when people are coming. . .

\* \* \* \*

**Lunch was** good, the chapter providing lasagna and some vegetarian choices, together with soft drinks and water. Folks brought sides. My favorite was a dessert, Chocolate Chip Cookie Bars, which I baked myself.

**My son** and I left Rob's a bit before the end. I am a fan of native plants. We wished to visit a nursery specializing in native plants in rural Sarasota County that closed at 4 p.m. on Saturday. The nursery turned out to have quite a few varieties of Florida natives in excellent condition.

\* \* \* \*

**I found** amid accumulated junk a letter from the city manager of Brownsville, Texas, dated March 2011 that invites me to participate in a conference on urban forestry (registration fee, \$50). This is to take place in Brownsville in April. It's not clear how/why I received this but suspected it might have been because I had recently written a piece for the magazine of the South Texas Palm Society on *Allagoptera arenaria*, not exactly a palm for the urban skyline. But I checked on the article, which had been published back in 1999. So, the invitation is a complete mystery.

\* \* \* \*

**People Not Seen in a Long Time Dept.:** Cindy Broome. Tom, please bring Cindy to our next meeting.



The Editor thought he would remember the identity of this palm at Selby. But he didn't. OK, what is it?

(Matthew Kennedy photo)

### 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

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Regular membership, \$55,  
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Willing to be listed publicly in roster?  
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Lakeland, FL 33813

[membership@cfpacs.com](mailto:membership@cfpacs.com)

Membership also available at website:

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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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*Seen at Selby: Lantania lontaroides.  
(Photo by Matthew Kennedy)*