# The Palmateer

*Volume 12, Number 4* *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* *December 2020*

**Morning**

## Mark Thoe's Jungle

**By Jeremy Evanchesky**

**The morning** portion of our Holiday Meeting started at Jungle 9 in Malabar, FL. As you approach the property, you can immediately tell which property you are touring by the landscaping at the entrance and the fact that you can't go any further. **Both sides** of the street were parked full as far as the eye could see, with members patiently waiting to view this secluded slice of paradise. This residence is also the address of A to Z Contemporary Designs Inc., a construction and landscaping firm operated by Josh, Mark and Jenifer.

**Upon arriving** at the garden, Mark was quick to greet his fellow palm and cycad lovers, offering them their choice of drinks and snacks before the tour. **In particular**, the Yoohoo chocolate drinks were a big hit. With so many attendees, we were blessed that Josh and Jenifer were also available to provide interesting details about the garden as the group traversed the

*(Continued on page 3)*

Top, vista at Mark Thoe's. (Photo by Jeremy). **Below**, 3-headed Date Palm at Jason Baker's. (Photo by Libby)

**Afternoon**

## Jason Baker's

### East Coast Splendor

**By Libby Luedeke**

**Once again**, we had a stellar turnout for our December Palm Society Meeting. Last count was 60 and in these current conditions, that is impressive. We did our best to be socially distanced and masked.

**Our second** stop at Jason Baker's was wonderful. For those that don't know, Sue Baker passed this year, but we took a moment to recognize her and her efforts in creating the beautiful Garden that she and Jason put together. It was truly thanks to Sue that palms were planted at all! They started 19 years ago with a blank

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CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

## Happy New Year

***May the New Year bring us relief from that which has afflicted us.***


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**RENEW YOUR 2021 MEMBERSHIP**
**See p. 15**

# The Palmateer

**The Palmateer** is published four times a year: March, June, September/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

Editor: John D. Kennedy

palmateer@cfpacs.com

## Mark Thoe's

*(Continued from page 1)*

walking paths and hidden nooks and crannies of the garden. All of our hosts demonstrated a level of knowledge that could only come from years of hands-on work with the plants used, attention to detail and an expert eye for design.

**Jungle landscapes** tend to feature exceptionally dense planting of hundreds of palms and companion plants. More contemporary gardens use structured paths and planting beds to maintain adequate spacing for maintenance and relax the observer. Gardens created by landscaping professionals tend to stand out due to their unique use of water features, hardscaping and grade change to showcase multiple layers of earth and plants. This garden was a masterpiece in every way. Even with the number of palms, companion plants, water features and other eye-catching design elements, the tour did not feel cramped or crowded. It is immediately evident that the individuals who have put this garden together are not mere hobbyists, but skilled growers and landscape professionals who enjoy their craft.

**While waiting** for everyone to make their way to the meeting, the folks conversing in the driveway were treated to a microcosm of what the

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Mark Thoe's garden, right and below.

## Mark Thoe's

*(Continued from page 3)*

day would bring. The Koi pond and waterfall in front was contained in an elevated area cordoned off with retaining wall blocks. Near this area, a pallet full of *Veitchia arecina* exhibiting the explosive growth that make them an attractive buy for impatient growers. Large *Roystonea regia*, *Bismarckia nobilis*, and *Hyophorbe verschaffeltii* anchor key parts of the landscape. Various species of the *Ptychosperma* genus fill in the gaps with their slimmer stature. Bromeliads and cordylines made up a few of the companion plants. Pallets and tables full of young plants, including hundreds of *Dypsis leptocheilos* seedlings lined the paths. The edible portion of the landscape included plenty of bananas and papayas. **The spent** bamboo used to line some of the paths was grown on the property. Members debated whether the Kapoks available on the property were actually *Ceiba speciosa* or *Ceiba pentandra*. Several large *Delonix regia* provide a tropical canopy. *Livistona* species are used judiciously throughout the landscape for foliage.

**In addition** to the garden, Mark's generosity was also on full display. He invited everyone to take a look through his orchid area for plants to take as door prizes. Seeds laying on the ground were considered fair game and cuttings of some accent plants were made available to the guests as well. On occasion, A to Z Contemporary Design will host plant sales and announce them on their Facebook page. The Holiday Meeting was a great day to visit this amazing garden, shared with us by our wonderful hosts.

**Additional Links and Information:**

A to Z Contemporary Design Inc. Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/atozcontemporarydesign/

Above is a flat of *Veitchia arecina*s in Mark Thoe's Malabar garden. Below, the group's tour.

How could Libby resist taking this picture? Husband Jerry (top) poses in front a beautiful *Allagoptera arenaria* at Jason Baker's in Micco. Below, Jason's vigorous *Attalea speciosa.*

## Jason Baker's

*(Continued from page 1)*

slate and 2 ½ acres. There were only a few oak and mango trees.

**Sue was** inspired by F.I.T.'s gardens and enlisted Jason in the direction of date palms initially. Although I know Jason did a great article on this palm in the last issue, they have such a great story, I feel I must add it also. Their first date palm did well in the beginning and after about 10 years it looked as though it were declining. Then it kept growing and looked deformed.

**Jason enlisted** the knowledge of a friend who got a closer look and declared it was splitting into three different heads. So, a truly unique addition to a diverse collection.

**There were** quite a few *Copernicia baileyana* from assorted years. *Licuala spinosa* bought from Mike Dahme. And while there I discovered new terms that are new to me, monoecious and dioecious. Monoecious is having both male and female organs in the same individual. Dioecious having male and female in separate individuals.

**There is** a row of *Livistona muelleri* that are monoecious, but one *Livistona* has remained female while the others have been male even though they are supposed to shift. Another observation that caught my attention is fire ant invasions tended to artificially plant the palm too deep, therefore retarding its growth.

**Jason had** some interesting observations as well for the *baileyana*s. He had planted some that were already established and about 4 feet tall and planted seedlings which cost much less by comparison and the seedlings far surpassed the ones he had spent much more for. Fun fact, back in 2002 Jason bought a Banyan tree from Chuck Grieneisen that was just a seedling that was as big as your thumb. You'll see Chuck standing in front of that fig pictured at our meeting.

**There are** many other varieties, beautifully spaced and arranged in grouping that look amazing. Hopefully, my notes written hastily have made some sense and accuracy.

**Thanks, Jason**, so much for a memorable meeting, especially at a time that has been so difficult for you. We enjoyed it so much. Salute to Miss Sue!

# 10 Perfect Palms for Central Florida Reconsidered

**Dave Witt** put together a list of basic palms for Central Florida in 2003. This was published in *The Palmateer* the same year with the title "10 Perfect Palms for Central Florida" and has been reprinted several times since then as an aid to beginners in palms. Here is Dave's list.

*Acrocomia totai*

*Allagoptera arenaria*

*Arenga engleri*

*Bismarckia nobilis*

*Chamaedorea microspadix*

*Copernicia alba*

Mule Palm (*Syagrus x Butia*)

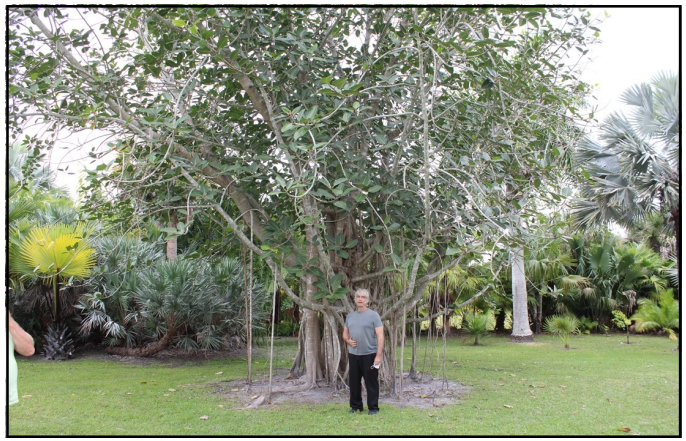
*Livistona decora*

*Phoenix sylvestris*

*Sabal causiarum* or *S. domingensis*

**Do these** still seem basic to collectors? Which species would you drop? Which species might you add? **Send your** comments to me by the end of February. For myself, I would remove *Acrocomia* after my experiences with *A. aculeata* and might be doubtful about any *Phoenix*. **Maybe add** some *Dypsis* and/or *Archontophoenix* species?

**—John Kennedy**



That's long-time member Chuck Grieneisen standing in front of Jason Baker's Banyan.
Right, the proprietor himself, Jason Baker, brags about his *Borassus aethiopum.*

*(Photos by Libby Luedeke)*

# Four Palm Species Tested for Northward Hardiness in Planned Botanical Garden

**By John Rossi**

**Fearsome foursome** face first frost!

**Arguably the** four largest and most impressive palms in the world are *Borassus aethiopum, Borassus flabellifer, Corypha umbraculifera* and *Corypha utan*. These Old World palmate leafed monsters tower over other palms and even the young palms are massive. And even though they inhabit purely tropical habitats in nature, they reportedly all have some degree of cold tolerance.

**Larger specimens** of these species have survived temperatures in the low twenties. So while attempting to create a botanical garden in Hastings, Florida , which is borderline between zone 9a and zone 9b, rarely getting below 25 degrees Fahrenheit, these four species were planted. All four species were purchased as 15 or 25 gallon size plants and planted in the spring of 2019.

**All but** the *Corypha umbraculifera* grew like rockets in our rainy moist, mostly hot climate. The young Talipot Palm seemed to trail behind the others even though it appeared healthy. They breezed through their first winter since it was very mild without a single freeze.

**But this** December, the moment of truth arrived!

*Above,* Borassus aethiopum, *40% leaf damage from frost. Below,* Borassus flabellifer *with 10% damage..*

In early December, temperatures dropped to 30 with a heavy frost. The *Borassus aethiopium* incurred about 40% leaf damage, while the *flabellifer* suffered about 10% leaf damage. The *Corypha utan* was about 40 percent damaged while the slower growing *Corypha umbraculifera* 20 yards away showed no damage at all!

**These observations** are not exactly in line with what others have reported for the *Borassus,* in that *B. aethiopium* received more damage than the *B. flabellifer*.

**However, the** *flabellifer* was closer to a nearby

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## Four Palm Species Tested Northward

*(Continued from page 7)*

Queen Palm which may have provided some slight frost protection. For the *Corypha*, our observations were definitely in line with the observations of others; *umbraculifera* (even a smaller one ) appeared much more tolerant of frost than *utan.*

**Keep in** mind that these are observations on young, rapidly growing 5 to 7 foot tall individuals out in the open. All plants appear vigorous and should rapidly grow out of this damage. If they survive their youth, they are expected to develop more cold tolerance.

**In our** moderately colder climate many of the more cold sensitive palms are placed under nurse trees to keep the frost off. Frost appears to be the most damaging aspect of cold exposure. Those that require more sun are placed on the eastern edge of the forest to provide morning sunlight and yet capture some of the protection provided by the canopy. However, those that require full sun must be planted out in the open where little frost protection is available. If these plants are placed under canopy , some may grow slowly and survive but not thrive.

**The Hastings, Florida** collection is heading into winter with over 300 species of palms and 60 species of cycads. It is hoped that this northern outpost in Florida will provide valuable information on the cold tolerance of many species. In order to continue to add to our knowledge , the author has applied for 501C 3 status and is attempting to establish a botanical garden called the St. John's Botanical Garden. Wish us luck.

Dr. John Rossi , curator,

St. John's Botanical Garden

Corypha umbraculifera *, left, was more frost tolerant than*

Corypha utan*, below.*

# Data for All

**By Jeremy Evanchesky**

**With the** first cold front of the season giving us a chilly welcome to December, climate takes front stage in the quest for the ultimate garden. CFPACS members have a special interest in weather as the palms that will survive from one end of Central Florida to the other are worlds apart. There are roughly 75 species of palms rated for the zone 8b cold found in some of the colder areas versus over 1,500 species that are rated for zone 10a in the milder areas on the coasts and further south. Our weather is not dominated by averages, but rather by extreme events that repeat in cycles.

**NOAA weather** records are available to download for free at https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/search. Out of the 1,700+ stations in Florida, 358 contain at least some temperature data. If one were to download all of these records, import them into a database, and use SQL queries to generate sheets for each of the impact freezes in our history, it would provide a really good side-by-side resource to compare the microclimates in each region of Florida.

*Fig. 1: Sample Data: January 1985 freeze comparison of the stations in the Northeast Florida (NEF) and North Inland Central (NIC) regions*

| Station | Desc | TAG | AIR | 1/19/1985 | 1/20/1985 | 1/21/1985 | 1/22/1985 | 1/23/1985 | 1/24/1985 | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GHCND:USC00081978 | CRESCENT CITY, FL US | NEF | | 69/40/0.0 | 51/15/0.05 | 36/17/0.0 | 50/17/0.0 | 55/25/0.0 | 69/39/0.08 | 15 |
| GHCND:USW00012834 | DAYTONA BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FL US | NEF | KDAB | 69/41/0.0 | 74/30/0.0 | 37/15/0.0 | 50/18/0.0 | 60/25/0.0 | 67/28/0.0 | 15 |
| GHCND:USC00082229 | DELAND 1 SSE, FL US | NEF | | 68/44/0.0 | 71/30/0.0 | 35/16/0.0 | 49/18/0.0 | 58/23/0.0 | 67/27/0.0 | 16 |
| GHCND:USC00082915 | FEDERAL POINT, FL US | NEF | | 62/43/0.0 | 64/38/0.05 | 43/11/0.0 | 47/19/0.0 | 54/31/0.0 | 62/29/0.03 | 11 |
| GHCND:USC00083874 | HASTINGS 4 NE, FL US | NEF | | 57/39/0.0 | 66/32/0.0 | 66/12/0.04 | 35/14/0.0 | 50/21/0.0 | 58/26/0.0 | 12 |
| GHCND:USC00086753 | PALATKA, FL US | NEF | | 56/40/0.0 | 65/39/0.01 | 64/11/0.02 | 33/12/0.0 | 48/19/0.0 | 56/27/0.0 | 11 |
| GHCND:USC00087826 | ST AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE, FL US | NEF | | 67/42/0.0 | 65/38/0.0 | 34/10/0.1 | 50/17/0.0 | 58/25/0.0 | 66/22/0.05 | 10 |
| GHCND:USC00081641 | CLERMONT 9 S, FL US | NIC | | 68/44/0.24 | 73/36/0.11 | 62/18/0.0 | 49/19/0.0 | 60/31/0.0 | 70/31/0.0 | 18 |
| GHCND:USC00084625 | KISSIMMEE 2, FL US | NIC | | 73/65/0.0 | 73/60/0.0 | 39/20/0.0 | 49/19/0.0 | 61/26/0.0 | 69/41/0.0 | 19 |
| GHCND:USC00084707 | LAKE ALFRED EXPERIMENTAL STATION, FL US | NIC | | 64/46/0.13 | 68/37/0.0 | 74/19/0.0 | 40/19/0.0 | 49/21/0.0 | 60/32/0.0 | 19 |
| GHCND:USC00085076 | LISBON, FL US | NIC | | 57/45/0.31 | 66/39/0.0 | 70/16/0.0 | 35/16/0.0 | 48/20/0.0 | 57/28/0.0 | 16 |
| GHCND:USW00012815 | ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FL US | NIC | KMCO | 67/45/0.0 | 73/36/0.02 | 36/19/0.0 | 48/20/0.0 | 58/28/0.0 | 68/34/0.0 | 19 |
| GHCND:USC00087982 | SANFORD, FL US | NIC | | 60/45/ | 66/35/ | 72/19/ | 38/19/0.0 | 49/21/0.0 | 59/30/0.01 | 19 |
| GHCND:USC00089707 | WINTER HAVEN, FL US | NIC | | 70/44/0.01 | 71/43/0.1 | 43/19/0.0 | 52/20/0.0 | 63/20/0.0 | 74/35/0.0 | 19 |

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**That is** exactly what has been done with the **0000_202011040720_F_SQL_v2.xlsx** spreadsheet. Each tab in the spreadsheet contains records for one of our unfortunate cold events, ranging from 1835 to 2018. The records come sorted first by the TAG column, which represents one region of the state defined by a set of latitude and longitude boundaries. A second sort is by the station name alphabetically. This gives you a region of weather stations sorted alphabetically, allowing you to see the temperatures in the region beside each other for each freeze event. The lists are able to be filtered or sorted in any way you choose. For easy viewing, the rows for each region alternate in shading. This is easy to remove or change if you wish. You'll also notice the AIR column which provides the airport identifier if the station matches coordinates with an airport on record.

*Fig. 2: A few tabs for our most recent cold events.*


There are two additional spreadsheets available in addition to the one above. The **202007121300_NOAA_WeatherStations_TemperatureOnly.xlsx** spreadsheet is great for those who would like to see the boundaries of a TAG region, a list of the NOAA weather stations used with a link to their corresponding Weather Underground station (when possible), and a listing of the freezes and some commentary lifted from Florida Citrus Mutual's website.

For anyone who likes to look at the various airport weather stations, **202004292350_AirportWeatherStations.xlsx** will give you as complete listing of these stations as could be assembled, with corresponding Weather Underground links.

All of the spreadsheets are available for download at: https:// www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/66320-florida-freeze-and-weather-station-data/

# From the Editor's Desk

**Well, we** did have fun at our December 5th meeting in Brevard County. Given how gloomy everything has been for much of this year, I think many folks—not just me—were surprised at the turnout and the enjoyment. So, maybe 60 people appeared at Jason Baker's in Micco. **Usually we** have about 30. Several factors contributed to the increase. Brevard is the home of quite a few members who don't always travel for more distant meetings. Another reason might be how weary everyone may be of virtual home confinement. And the enjoyment continued even though just about everyone (except for a few diehards) wore masks and maintained social distancing. Not many attendees from the West Coast, but that's usual when the meeting is on the East Coast. Though I did spot the proprietor of "Branch Botanical Garden" in Sarasota. The weather cooperated and the meal provided was good.

* * * *

**I've been** thinking about Dave Witt's "10 Perfect Palms for Inland Central Florida" that was published in *The Palmateer* back in 2003 and has been re-published several times since then as a guide to beginners in palms. I've inserted his list in this issue (see page 6). Can any of you add any more or different species? If so, send it to me (*johnd.kennedy@yahoo.com*) by mid-February and we'll have an article/ discussion in the next issue. Perhaps you feel that some of the 10 in the original article don't seem to be basic any more.

* * * *

**I was** curious to see if there had been any developments in controlling Lethal Bronzing, originally known as Texas Phoenix Palm Decline. Looking quickly through the palm publications on the website of the University of Florida Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, I didn't spot anything of note but finally saw a statement that the website was last updated in 2015. Has there been no publishable research in the last five years? So, I looked at publications from the Florida Extension Service, last updated in May 2019. The only recent information appears to be a larger list of species that goes beyond *Phoenix* and *Sabal* species. Included now are *Adonidia merrillii*, *Bismarckia nobilis*, *Butia capitata*, *Carpentaria acuminata*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Pritchardia pacifica*, *Pseudophoenix sargentii*, *Syagrus romanzoffiana*, and *Trachycarpus fortunei*. I wondered if one species in a genus is susceptible whether other species in the same genus could also be victims.

* * * *

**I wasn't** tempted by the little palms at the auction and sale at our second stop on December 5th. Now that I'm within a few months of being 15 years short of a century old, I admit to buying one 18-inch palm, a *Syagrus schizophylla*, as a boundary marker for my son, who wanted a single-trunk species that didn't get all that big. We can expect him to see the palm to maturity. One advantage that small palms have over large palms: their dead fronds don't tend to be cumbersome and 18 feet long. Ah, but don't get me started on ***that*** again. Has some enterprising entre-

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# From the Editor's Desk

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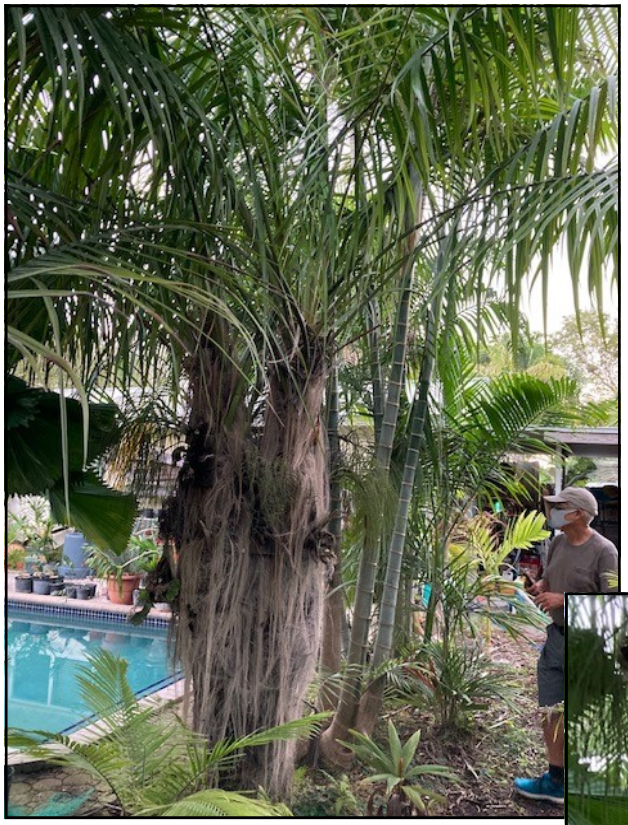
preneur come up with a way of vaporizing dead fronds without setting the state afire? Not yet, you say. But American enterprise shouldn't be counted out ahead of time. And, of course, I must admit that I haven't interrogated Rob Branch on how he makes it all disappear. Perhaps there's a pit on a property next to his in Sarasota where it all gets dumped? Ingenuity is what's needed, something I lack.

* * * *

**That picture** of the magnificent Seashore Palm at Jason's makes me envious. I have two individuals of

the species, more than 30 years old, that aren't as big. But, then, they have lots of stuff planted around them (including two Yellow Trumpet Trees that are spectacular in bloom) and not the kind of space Jason has.

When the Editor moaned to member Charlie Beck that he had not received a picture of the magnificent *Arenga undulatifolia* seen at the October meeting, Charlie sent a picture of the *A. undulatifolia* in his Palm Beach County garden.



*Dave Hall sent these pictures of*

Dypsis crinita i*n the Miami garden of Michael Street. These were taken during the October meeting. Dave says member Keith Santner joked that this is the Stevie Nicks Palm. (Remember Fleetwood Mac?)*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**I want to thank Jason Baker and Mark Thoe for hosting us for our December meeting. We had an excellent turnout of 50-60 people. Jason's garden has more palms than I have seen in most botanical gardens. The weather was great.**

**Our next** meeting will be March 6th at my Oak Hill nursery. We are inviting all vendors. We plan an oyster roast and bbq. If you would like to camp overnight, you are welcome to do so. This is a 28 acre nursery of citrus and palms so we have room to accommodate campers (limited plug-ins) and tents.

**Hope everyone** will have a mild winter and pray for no hard freezes. I wish everyone Happy Holidays and the best for 2021.

Dave Hall

*Copernicia fallaensis* growing in Charlie Beck's Lantana garden.

# 3rd Quarter Seedbank Report 2020

**By Libby Luedeke**

**We had** seed sales for this quarter of about $72.00. 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

## 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.

**RENEW**
**YOUR**
**2021**
**MEMBERSHIP**

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56 Autumn Oaks Drive

The Hills, TX 78738

Regular membership, $60, other levels of membership (including free), quarterly journal

http://palms.org

**The Cycad Society**

3355 Blanchette Tr.

Lake Worth, FL 33467

Regular membership, $35, other levels of membership, quarterly journal

http://cycad.org

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**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:**

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**4722 Hulse Lane**
**Lakeland, FL 33813**
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**Membership also available at website:**
**ww.cfpacs.com**

# CENTRAL FLORIDA PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

## BOARD LIST

**PRESIDENT**
David Hall
250 North Causeway
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169
president@cfpacs.com

**EAST VICE-PRESIDENT**
Jerry Luedeke
117 E. Connecticut Ave.
Edgewater FL 32132
eastvp@cfpacs.com

**CENTRAL VICE-PRESIDENT**
Terrence Williams
420 La Paz Dr.
Kissimmee, FL 34743
centralvp@cfpacs.com

**WEST VICE-PRESIDENT**
Keith Santner
4354 Broad Porch Run
Land O Lakes, FL 34638
westvp@cfpacs.com

**NORTH VICE-PRESIDENT**
John Rossi
2641 Park Street
Jacksonville, FL32204
northvp@cfpacs.com

**IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT**
Ron Hart
6701 Lake Kirkland Drive
Clermont, FL 34714
pastpresident@cfpacs.com

**SECRETARY**
Libby Luedeke
117 E. Connectiicut Ave.
Edgewater FL 32132
secretary@cfpacs.com

**TREASURER**
Tracy Hines
250 North Causeway
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169
treasurer@cfpacs.com

**MEMBERSHUP**
Jeremy Evanchesky
4722 Hulse Lane
Lakeland, FL 33813
membership@cfpacs.com

***PALMATEER* EDITOR**
John Kennedy
3225 - 13th St.
Vero Beach FL 32960
palmateer@cfpacs.com

**CFPACS SEED BANK**
Jerry & Libby Luedeke
117 E. Connecticut Ave.
Edgewater, FL 32132
seedbank@cfpacs.co

**The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society** service area includes the following counties:

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*Gift of Christmas tea towel in the Kennedy household.*

*(Photo by Elizabeth Kennedy)*