The Palmateer

Volume 14 Number 1 *Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society* *March 2022*

March 26th Meeting in Vero Beach

Left, folks admiring row of Coccothrinax at *Justin's.*

Right, more palm-gazing at March meeting. *(Photos by Libby Luedeke)*

By Libby Luedeke

Beautiful weather was on the menu for our meeting on March 26th in Vero. Sunny and cool, but not cold that lifted the spirits and cleared the mind. Thanks to Justin McSweeney, we not only got to tour his section but his neighbors as well. I believe the Mannings were the neighbor in the middle and on the other side we visited Andreas Daehnick's space as well. Andreas is a Director of Horticulture at McKee Botanical Garden which is an 18-acre tropical hammock.

Justin started his garden in 1990. For a small space, he has it abundantly filled. He started by going to Scottie's and picking up whatever he could from there. Mostly Arecas and Sabals. Then he had the fortune to meet Rick Kern who helped solidify his love of palms. From there he discovered Floribunda, some Fairchild gatherings with permission and various seedbanks to expand his collection. We were

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COLD PALMS, WARM HEARTS:

COLD DAMAGE REPORT FROM ST. JOHNS BOTANICAL GARDEN

By Dr. John Rossi

With predictions as low as 23°F for the evening of January 29th, 2022, the **St. Johns Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve (SJBGNP)** in Hastings put out a call for help for volunteers to protect some of its more tropical palms. While the majority of our 350 species have been selected for some degree of cold tolerance (never below 10a), there were some rated at 10b (gifts), and 11 (accidents). At a temperature of 23°F, all bets would be off for 10a species, and even some rated as 9b (25°F).

A hardy group of individuals answered the call! They included: ***Cassy Adams, Keith Ferguson, Tracy Hines, Libby Luedeke, Mike Monlezun, Brandon Terrell, Scott Wallace*** and ***Richard Wells.*** Working in small teams, or individually at times, they covered palms deemed at risk based upon previous experience, or the reported zone rating for the plants. We started with borderline plants that were out in the open, and moved towards those that were more protected by overhead canopy.

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The Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society's Spring Sale is tomorrow, April 9th at Mounts Botanical Garden on Military Trail in West Palm Beach,9-4.

The Palmateer

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Renew your CFPACS membership for 2022. See page 14 for details.

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.

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The Palmateer

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

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March Meeting

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warned that there was a disconnect that occurred in the beginning because he added irrigation later so some of the first plantings can be quite stunted compared to other later plantings. There have also been assorted hurricanes come through that had them sweating it out with property damage but not so much palm damage.

There is an assorted row of *Coccothrinax* across the front followed by *Gaussia* and *Ptychosperma* plus other varieties as well. I will let the pictures speak for the varieties. Plus, there were many orchids to brighten and awe with spectacular color. Great palm companions. As our host Justin was gifted with a *Ceratozamia subroseophylla*. Maybe we can get him to become a fan of cycads.

From there we strolled through the Mannings' property with a beautiful *Macrozamia moorei* right out *front and also a nice Kerriodoxa elegans that is about 25 years old that is sitting behind a beautiful Encephalartos madagascariensis*. It was in beautiful shape.

Then we headed over to the Daehnick property which was quite lovely. There will be pictured a great example of a Buddha Belly bamboo. There was also a fabulous multi-trunked *Dypsis cabadae x decaryi* that caught the fascination of all and a lovely *Satakentia liukiuensis* with its purple colored crown shaft that I just loved and is endemic to forests of the Ryukyu Islands in Japan. We very much enjoyed looking at these beautiful spaces.

Photos of palms seen at meeting by Jeremy Evanchesky.

Left, Syagrus coronate. *Right,* Hydriastele wendlandiana.

Neoveitchia storckii.

COLD DAMAGE

(Continued from page 1)

The *Copernicias* were covered first. Because most of them are still fairly small, this was accomplished with large plastic flower pots inverted over the plants. Some of the reportedly more sensitive members of the genus, like *C. berteroana* and *C. curtissii,* and a few others also had 40-watt incandescent bulbs placed under the pot to create additional heat. All of the *C. alba, C. prunifera,* and *C. glabrescens* were left uncovered. Most *Coccothrinax* were covered, and many had similar wattage lightbulbs housed in plastic work lights placed near them, as well. **With *Syagrus*** species that reportedly are very sensitive, we used a different approach. While larger specimens just had an incandescent bulb (~40 W) hung near the bud, the smaller specimens like *S. botryophora, kellyana, ruschiana,* and *vermicularis* were dug up and moved to a protected area. Middle sized specimens were covered as previously described for other palms. Other specimens moved inside were *Ptychococcus lepidotus* and *Sabinaria magnifica.*

***Hyphaene* (4 species)** including *coriacea, compressa, petersiana* and *thebaica* had 40-watt light bulbs placed near bud height, and were covered with frost cloths.

Borassus aethiopium and *B. flabellifer,* as well as *Corypha umbraculifera* and *C. utan,* were also covered, and had propane heaters placed near them. *C. lecomptei* was left totally unprotected (because we missed it).

Many, but not all members of the genera *Chamaedorea, Dypsis, Cyphophoenix, Kentiopsis, Burretiokentia, Ptychosperma* and *Pritchardia* were covered with frost cloths even though under heavy oak canopy, and surrounded by cold resistant tropical plants.

Carpoxylon macrospermum and *Crysophila warscewiczii* were not covered, but had propane heaters placed near their bases such that the warm air currents could be seen to visibly move their leaflets.

TEMPERATURES MEASURED AND DURATION OF COLD

The coldest temperature measured was 25°F. This was out in the open at ground level with heavy frost. The highest temperature measured at the same time under canopy with no frost was 30°F. Temperatures in the open dropped below freezing at midnight, and reached a low of 27°F in many areas. Temperatures rose above freezing around 9am.

COLD DAMAGE REPORT

There are over 350 species of palms at the **St. Johns Botanical Garden,** and to maintain brevity, we will not discuss the well-known hardy species. We understand that the value of this report is limited due to the varying treatment of these species and differing placement under heavy oak canopy (or not). The value of such observations is relative rather than absolute (i.e., “this species fared worse than that one”, not, “this temperature caused this much damage on this species”). In the future, we plan to be measuring actual leaf temperatures and recording the damage observed.

Acanthophoenix crinita 75% Leaf Damage (LD). *A. rubra* 75% LD.

Actinokentia divaricata No damage.

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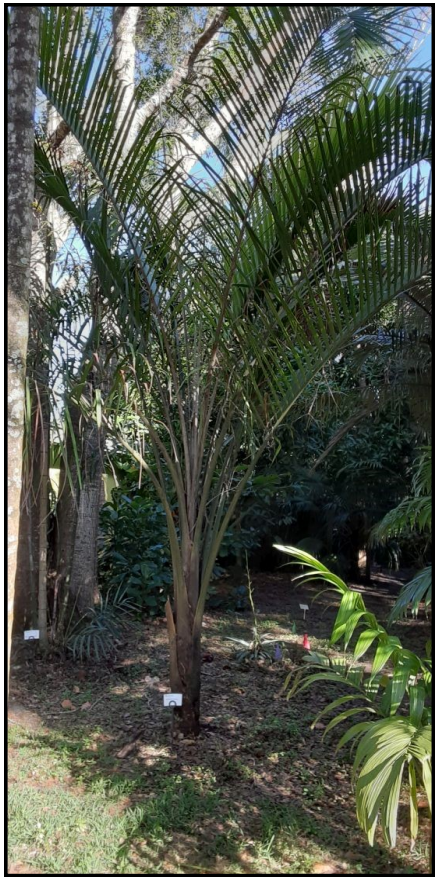
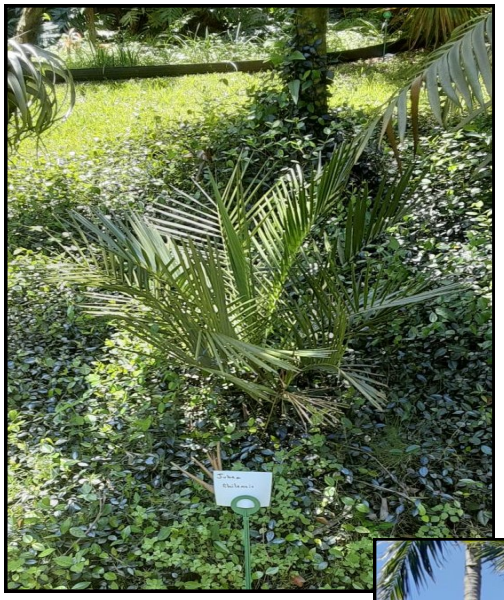
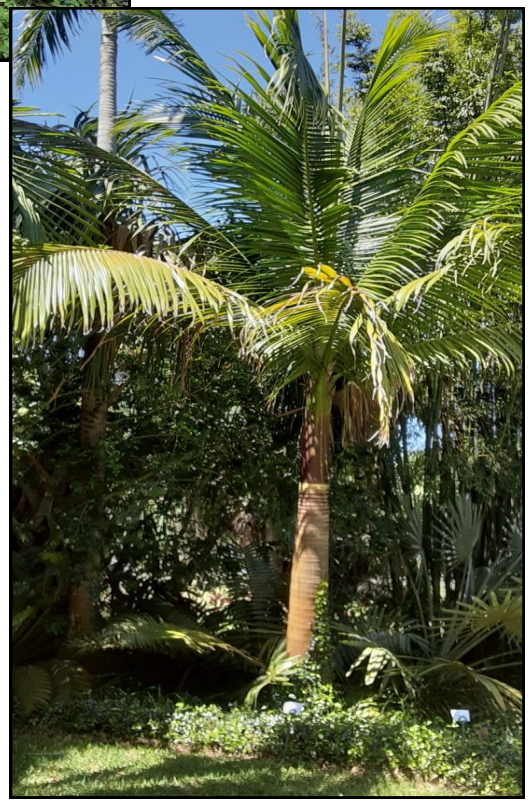


Ravenea sambiranensis.

Chambeyronia oliviformis, *until 10 minutes ago,* "Kentiopsis."



Jubaea chilensis.



More palms seen at meeting. Photos by Jeremy Evanchesky Here: Satakentia liukiensis.

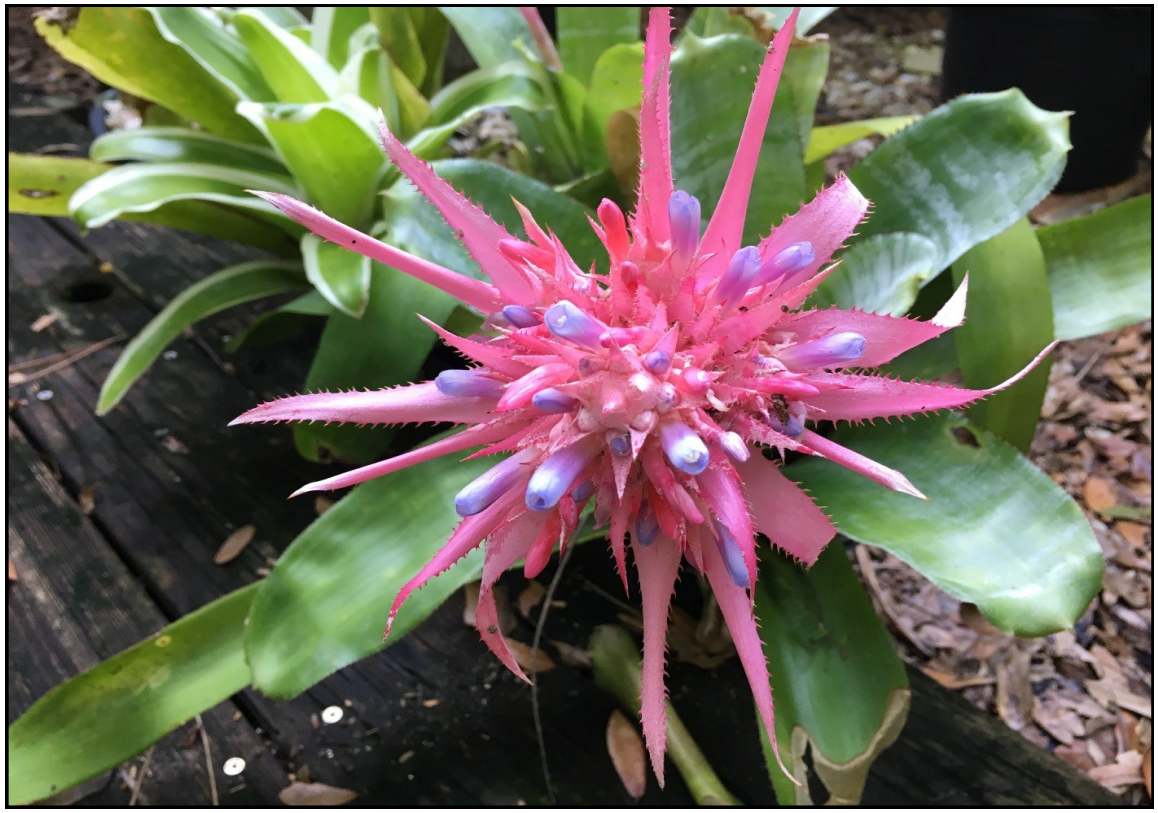
Palm Companions-

Aechmea fasciata

By Libby Luedeke

Another favorite palm companion in our garden is the *Aechmea fasciata*. A species of flowering plant in the Bromeliaceae family commonly called the silver vase or urn plant from Brazil. It is a tender perennial boasting a striking rosette of broad, strap shaped, cross stripped leaves and has a very showy pink bloom with smaller purple blooms inside. It will only bloom once, but once it does the new pups are on their way. You can divide the pups off the mother plant in spring or autumn. The good news is the blooms stay on a long time.

So far since it has been in our yard it has seen temps as low as 29 degrees. It likes bright light but not direct sun although a few hours of morning sun is okay. Great for Florida as it likes humidity, unlike my hair. It likes to always have water in its urn, but the soil should not be soggy. It's also non-toxic to your pets. Some people even keep it as an indoor plant because it requires little care but if you want it to bloom inside it needs as bright an area as possible. It doesn't mind being in a pot or even arranged in a tree. The plant has a very small root system and rarely needs repotting. Bromeliads aren't super picky about their soil if it's well draining, but indoors a 50/50 mix of orchid bark and standard potting soil work well.



COLD DAMAGE

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Allagoptera (4 species) Only *caudescens* showed damage, 40% LD.

Archontophoenix alexandrae 0% LD. *A. cunninghamiana* 0% LD, except a young specimen of *"Illewara"* 20% LD. *A. maxima* 20 - 30% LD. *A. myolensis* 0% LD. *A. purpurea* 0% LD (4), one had 30% LD. *A. tuckeri* 10% LD, on lower leaves.

Acrocromia aculeata 70% LD.

Aiphanes horrida 20% LD.

Areca triandra 30% LD.

Arenga (8 species) Only *brevipes, tremula* and *microcarpa* showed damage 40%, 30% and 10% LD, respectively. Surprisingly, *pinnata* didn't show any damage.

Attalea (4 species) All young and in the open, but covered. All showed significant damage 50 - 90% LD.

Beccariophoenix alfredii Only a few specimens out in the open showed minor damage, 10% - 20% LD. *B. madagascarensis* Out in the open 30 to 40% LD, under oak cover 0% LD. *B. fenestralis,* under canopy and covered, 0% LD.

Bismarckia 20 - 30% LD, but all specimens appear robust, and will rapidly recover with many leaves not damaged at all.

Borassus (2 species) 100% LD. Stems and trunk appear undamaged, and rapidly growing new leaves.

Burretiokentia (4 species) Only *vieillardii* showed minor damage 5 - 10% LD. (But *dumasii* had been dug up and placed inside.)

Butia (6 species) No damage.

Carpentaria acuminata 50% LD.

Carpoxylon macrospermum 30% LD (had a propane heater nearby).

Caryota cumingii 0% LD. *C. maxima* 0% LD. *C. mitis* 50 - 60% LD. *C. monostachya* 10% LD. *C. obtusa (gigas)* 0% LD. *C. ophiopellis* 10% LD Uncovered, but under heavy canopy. *C. urens* 90% LD.

Chamaedorea (~20 species). Most were covered. The most severely damaged, **and probably killed,** was *deckeriana. Ernesti-augustii* and *metallica* also had severe leaf damage 80 - 90%, but probably will recover. Surprisingly undamaged species were *adscendens, klotzschiana,* and *stolonifera,* 0% LD. The rest showed varying degrees of damage 30 - 50% LD. Of course, *microspadix* and *radicalis* were untouched, 0% LD. *Plumosa* (6 specimens) were also undamaged, 0% LD.

Chambeyronia hookeri and *macrocarpa,* 40 - 50% LD.

Coccothrinax (~25 species) 10 - 40% LD. The stiff leaved species such as *acuminata, miraguama* and *scoparia* seemed far more cold tolerant than those with wispier leaves, except for *argentata,* the Florida native.

Copernicia (15 species & 3 hybrids) No damage on any covered plant. No damage to any *C. alba* (all uncovered), one uncovered *baileyana,* one uncovered *glabrescens.* Major leaf damage to *C. prunifera* 60 t0 70% LD (uncovered), but they appear to be quickly recovering. Very minor damage to *C. tectorum 10% LD,* a very rapidly growing *Copernicia.* One uncovered *baileyana* in a low spot with no canopy and no wind protection from the north showed major damage, 90% LD. This was adjacent to a *Leucothrinax morrisii* that was also severely damaged, 80% LD, while many others in the area showed no damage at all.

Corypha (3 species) 100% LD. Stems and trunk appear undamaged, and rapidly

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COLD DAMAGE

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growing new leaves. i.e., like *Borassus,* these species appear stem and trunk hardy, but not leaf hardy. *C. lecomptei* 100% LD, but petioles still green.

Crysophila (2 species) 5% LD.

Cyphophoenix alba and *C. elegans* 0% LD. *C. nucele* 20% LD.

Cyphosperma balansae 20% LD

Dictyosperma album 100% LD. Still alive, may recover.

Dypsis (~20 species) Most covered, but not all. As a group, fairly minor damage. *D. decaryi*, 3 large specimens, uncovered but under canopy, 0 - 20% LD. Notably, *D. decipiens,* out in the open and uncovered, 0% LD. *D. lastelliana* 30% LD*. D. leptocheilos,* including a 20-year-old mature specimen that survived 19° in 2010, 20 - 30% LD. *D. lutescens* 60% LD. *D. onilahensis* 40% LD. *D. pembana* 50 - 60% LD. *D. psammophila* 40% LD. The following showed 0% LD: *ambositrae, arenarum, baronii, carlsmithi, fibrosa, heteromorpha, nauseosa, pilulifera, plumosa, pusilla* and *saintelucei.*

Elaeis guineensis 40% LD.

Euterpe edulis 0 - 80% LD, depending upon location and coverage.

Gaussia gomez-pompae 40% LD. *G. maya* 60 - 80% LD. *G. princeps* 100% LD (has recovered from this before).

Geonoma schottiana 0% LD. (This species appears to have potential in North Florida, but it is a small, shade loving palm.)

Guihaia argyrata and *grossifibrosa,* No damage.

Howea belmoreana and *H. forsteriana,* 20% LD.

Hyophorbe indica 0% LD. *H. verschaffeltii* 20% LD. *H. lagenicaulis* 80% LD.

Hyphaene (4 species) Even covered and with light bulbs, ~20 to 30% LD out in the open. *Thebaica* showed the least damage under these conditions. However, 2 *petersiana* specimens under canopy showed no damage at all.

Joey altifrons 0% LD. Uncovered, but under canopy.

Kentiopsis oliviformis 0 - 40% LD, depending upon canopy cover. *K. pyriformis* 0% LD, (one specimen, covered).

Kerriodoxa elegans 10% LD.

Laccospadix australasicus No damage.

Lanonia acaulis, L. calciphila, L. centralis, and *L. dasyantha* No damage.

Latania loddigesii 10% LD. *L. lontaroides* 0% LD. *L. verschaffeltii* 20% LD.

Leucothrinax morrisii (15 specimens) 0% LD (one specimen 80% LD).

Licuala fordiana 0% LD. *L. lauterbachii* 40% LD. *L. peltata peltata* 0% LD. *L. ramsayi* 0% LD. *L. spinosa* 0% LD. *L.p. sumawongii* 0% LD.

Livistona (14 species) Most specimens had 0% LD. However, one large *L. chinensis* near a home HVAC unit, but otherwise out in the open, suffered 25% LD, especially on the leaf tips. Perhaps the fan in the unit increased air flow near the tree, causing damage that no other specimen demonstrated. It should also be noted that in previous years, *L. benthamii* out in the open were severely damaged or killed, but this year, one specimen planted under canopy showed no damage.

Lytocarium (Syagrus) hoehnei 0% LD. *L. weddellianum* 0% - 20% LD, depending on overhead canopy.

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COLD DAMAGE

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Normanbya normanbyi 50 % LD. Unc *(Continued from page 7)*

overed, with little overhead protection.

Parajubea torallyii 0% LD. Uncovered, but under canopy.

Phoenix (11 species) *P. acaulis, canariensis, dactylifera, loureiroi, rupicola, sylvestris* and *theophrasti* showed 0% LD. *P. pusilla* 20% LD, *reclinata* 50% LD, *roebellenii* 0 - 50%, depending upon overhead protection.

Pritchardia (8 species) All under varying oak canopy. *P. beccariana* 10% LD. *P. martii* 10% LD. *P. remota* 40% LD. *P. hardyi, hillebrandii, lowreyana, minor,* and *perlmanii,* had 0% LD.

Pseudophoenix sargentii 0 - 50 % LD, depending upon amount of overhead canopy.

Ptychococcus lepidotus 100% LD, **killed.**

Ptychosperma elegans 20 – 40% LD. *P. macarthurii* 30% LD. *P. propinquum* 5% LD. *P. schefferi* 10% LD. *P. waitianum* 0% LD (moved inside).

Ravenea glauca (3 specimens) 0% LD. *R. hildebrandtii* 30% LD. *R. rivularis* 20 - 30% LD. *R. sambiranensis* 0% LD.

Reinhardtia latisecta 20 - 40% LD.

Rhapis excelsa 0% LD. *R. humilis* 0% LD. *R. laosensis* 0% LD. *R. multifida* 0% LD. *R. robusta* 0% LD. *R. subtilis* 20% LD.

Roystonea oleracea 70 - 80% LD. *R. regia* 20 - 70% LD, depending upon overhead protection. The larger specimens only had damage on lower leaves.

Sabal (19 species) All except *S. mauritiformis* had 0% LD. This included *S. antillensis, S. gretheriae, S. pumos, S. rosei,* among others. *S. mauritiformis,* 5 - 10% LD.

Saribus rotundifolia 0% LD, under heavy canopy.

Satakentia liukensis 20 - 50 % LD, depending upon overhead protection.

Schippia concolor No damage.

Syagrus (14 species) *S. amara* 20 - 30% LD. *S. botryophora* 0% LD, under extremely heavy canopy (others moved inside). *S. campylospatha* 0% LD. *S. cearensis* 20 - 30% LD. *S. coronata* 10 % LD. *S. kellyana* 0% LD (moved inside). *S. lorenzionorum* 0% LD. *S. picrophylla* 0% LD. *S. ruschiana* 10% LD. *S. sancona* 30% LD. *S. schizophylla* 0% - 60% LD, depending upon overhead canopy, *S. vermicularis* 100% LD, **killed.** *S. yungasensis* 0% LD.

Thrinax excelsa 10% LD. *T. parviflora* 0% LD. *T. radiata* (numerous specimens under canopy), most had 0 - 10% LD. (Interestingly, one specimen had leaf damage on one half. The side facing towards the east which had canopy, but not protection from the wind, at ground level was damaged. This lack of protection from a northerly wind flow and associated damage was also observed with *Leucothrinax morrisii* and *Copernicia baileyana* that also had overhead protection, but no protection from the wind at ground level.)

Trachycarpus (6 species) No damage.

Trithrinax acanthocoma, T. brasiliensis, and *T. campestris* No damage.

Wallichia caryotoides 20% LD. *W. disticha* 0% LD. *W. oblongifolia* 20% LD.

Wodyetia bifurcata 0% LD, under heavy canopy.

Zombia antillarum 40% LD. **SUMMARY Overall, damage** to the collection at **SJBGNP** was minor considering that this was the second coldest temperature that we

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COLD DAMAGE

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have observed here in nearly 20 years! The coldest was in 2010, when it dipped to 19°F, and many choice palms were unfortunately lost.

Since that freeze, we radically altered our approach to planting in our area, including taking advantage of our microclimate i.e., the very dense high oak canopy. As a result of experimentation with cold hardy companion plants, defensive planting, and luck, this time, only three species were lost. These included *Chamaedorea deckeriana, Ptychococcus lepidotus,* and *Syagrus vermicularis* the majority of species received minimal damage, and appear to be rapidly growing out of it.

Many of those listed as zone 10a palms survived due to their placement under overhead canopy, and in fortunate cases due to the efforts of a wonderful group of volunteers who helped cover many of them with frost cloths. As others have observed, protection from frost and wind appear to be major factors in palms living at the edge of their zones, or in another zone. The overhead oak canopy in this area, even under the onslaught of a radiational freeze, provided 2 to 5 degrees worth of protection, and frost protection, while cold hardy plants at the ground level provided wind protection.

As mentioned, these observations are relative, and future observations will hopefully include actual leaf temperatures. It is hoped that the **SJBGNP** will serve as the "tip of the spear" when it comes to cold hardiness research in new species of palms, or those that have not been observed at these temperature extremes.

Of note, pleasant surprises included the relative cold hardiness of many members of the genera *Burretiokentia, Cyphophoenix, Dypsis, Lanonia,* and *Pritchardia.* Three species stood out as very delightful surprises: *Copernicia tectorum, Geonoma schottiana* and *Hyophorbe indica.*

Finally, our heartfelt thanks go out to our friends who braved the cold on that fateful day in January to help protect plants at the garden... **We couldn't have done it without you!**

Rob Branch gives scale to Dictyosperma album, seen by Jeremy Evanchesky at Vero meeting.

Dypsis utilis , *caught by Jeremy on March 26th.*

Ferox Follies

By Libby Luedeke Way back in September of 2017, Florida was in the unfortunate position of being in the path of Hurricane Irma. Following that event my husband Jerry got a call from Charlene Palm asking if we wanted an *Encephalartos ferox* that had been uprooted by the storm that had been taking up a large portion of her garden close to the pool. As you can imagine it also was a source of some pain when getting too close.

It was decided that we would come and get it along with a stop at Okie's GTC Palm and Cycad Nursery to see Neil Yorio and pick up some other items. Enlisting the assistance of Michael Olivera we headed down. Michael had no idea what he was really getting into and we couldn't have done it without him. It was a monster which took four of us to get it to the truck. This specimen has been sitting in a 30 gallon pot ever since.

Recently Jerry decided it was time to put it in the ground to be a prime example of the species. Jerry dug and prepared the spot which would accept it and we enlisted our son Jim to assist in getting it placed. I hope you enjoy the pictures of them getting it planted and now it resides as a beautiful addition to our jungle.

(Photos by Libby)

From the Editor's Desk

I expect to attend the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society spring sale at Mounts in West Palm Beach on Saturday. Nice people and I've enjoyed attending in the past. But what do I do if I am tempted by one (or more) of the palms on offer? I don't know if there is room behind the house for any more palms. I have more than 100 palms of 80 species, at last count, on our half-acre. And there are three pots sitting there, waiting for the shovel. Can I squeeze them in? A *Ravenea hildebrandtii* that first attracted me at Leu, then again seen at John Rossi's botanical garden in the making. Hard to find but discovered at last at an orchid nursery in Ft. Myers. Three-gallon size now and—doubtless—can be sneaked in. And it doesn't get all that big when it does grow. And then there's a 2-foot *Bentinckia nicobarica* in its one-gallon pot that was surprisingly offered by a palm vendor at Vero's Gardenfest in February. Gets 40 feet high, apparently. Ummm. How can I *slip* that in?

If I go to the sale, I'll only *look*, right?

John Kennedy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I would like to thank Justin McSweeney and Andreas Daehnick for opening up their gardens for our spring meeting. It's awesome to see so many different species that you don't usually see in Central Florida. For example, the *Ravenea* species other than a Majesty Palm from Madagascar and a *Heterospathe elata* in Justin's yard. Also in Andreas' yard there is a cross between a Triangle and Cabadae which was very spectacular. The weather was perfect for the outing and we had at least 40 in attendance.

Our next meeting in June is still in the planning stages. We are considering a visit to Chip Jones' new nursery in LaBelle, FL and if not there then perhaps a return to Mead Gardens in Orlando. Hope everyone has a nice spring. We will keep you posted via Jeremy Evanchesky who is so thorough and will keep us scheduled.

Dave Hall

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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The Hills, TX 78738

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Small Leaf Clusia (Clusia guttifera) *is a good privacy screen now being seen in Vero and elsewhere. It grows to 25 feet—here about 8 feet. Notably, it keeps its leaves at the bottom, doesn't go bare. May be trimmed lower, has some salt tolerance.*