

# The Palmateer

Volume 11, Number 4

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

December 2019



## December Meeting, Heathcote and Anne Michael's

### Morning: Heathcote

By John Kennedy

Our December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting began at 10 a.m. at Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce. Most of those wandering around could see how many tropical plants could be grown in a small area (5 acres). The Garden itself is beautifully maintained. An advantage of the small size is that visitors are unlikely to miss anything there. **CFPACS member** Dave Martin, a volunteer at Heathcote, guided the tour.

**The Heathcote** name originated as a nursery on Heathcote Street in Scarsdale, NY, owned by Jim and Mollie Crimmins, who moved to

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Heathcote above, Anne Michael's below.*

*(Photos, Matthew Kennedy)*



### Afternoon: At Anne Michael's

By Libby Luedeke

Once again we were blessed with the ability to visit the home of Joe and Anne Michael. One of the founders of our Palm Society as we know it today. Although Joe is no longer with us, his wife and dear supporter of our society allowed us entry into one of the most beautiful private gardens in the state. The property was originally established by Stephen K. Michael in 1887 as the family traveled from West Virginia by wood burning train to Enterprise Junction, FL then by wagon to Titusville, FL and sailboat to

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*Chamaedorea geonomiformis* at  
Heathcote.

(Photo by Jeremy Evancheskey)



# Peace



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**Renew  
your  
CFPACS  
member-  
ship for  
2020. See  
page 16 for  
details.**

**The Palmateer** is published four times a year: March, June, September, 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 closing date for submission of material for the next issue is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

**The Palmateer**

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## Heathcote

Fort Pierce and, in 1960, brought their local Heathcote Nursery from elsewhere in Fort Pierce to the present location at 210 Savannah Road, just east of U. S. #1. They lived in a house on the property that is now the offices for the Garden. When they retired, the property was put up for sale. A group of local women started a drive to preserve it as a botanical garden, incorporating the name in 1985; the property was purchased in 1986 with grants from the city, the county, and the state.

**A significant** feature is the James J. Smith Bonsai Gallery. Mr. Smith, a leading expert on bonsai, donated his major collection of more than 100 tropical and sub-tropical bonsai to Heathcote in 2009.

**A special** event currently is the seasonal Festival of Lights,



weekend evenings of holiday illuminations of the Garden. An attractive website shows Heathcote: <https://heathcotebotanicalgardens.org>

*Upper left, Heathcote entrance. Lower left, entrance to the Bonsai Gallery there. Above, Satakentia liukiensis wrapped in holiday lights for the seasonal Festival of Lights.*

*(Photos by Jeremy Evancheskey)*

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## At Anne Michael's

Wabasso, FL so that his wife could get into better warmer weather for her health. At that time Earring Point was nothing but mangroves. But the potential could be seen.

In 1947, the Intracoastal Waterway in that area needed to be dredged and Joe said hey, you need a place to dump that dirt, put it right here. And that, folks, is how Earring Point began its life. Three buildings are on the site; one is where Anne lives. A second, currently on stilts that at the beginning of its life was on the ground and served as the Post Office and the Blue house was the original schoolhouse that Joe grew up in with approximately 15 students. It was originally designed as a chickee hut. They had two out houses for girls and one for the boys that were a little distance away.

Jason Baker took us on the tour of the grounds accompanied by Anne. We started out at the river's edge where many coconut palms are. A freeze in 1989 took about half of those out, but there is still a nice collection remaining. Many Royals were planted around the lake around 1986. Then to the north is a substantial row of *Latania lontaroides* (Red Latan Palm). They were planted by Anne. There is a female tree on one end and a male on the other to assure fertilization of seeds. Beyond there is *Bismarckia nobilis* and a good sized *Kigelia africana* (Sausage Tree). Around the side to the north is *Borassus aethiopum* planted by Richard Lundstedt. In 2006 an *Elaeis guineensis* (African Oil Palm) was added that was donated by the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society. Just in time for Christmas the *Adonidia merrillii* (Christmas Palm) was



Above, sign on the Michael property. Below, a view of the Indian River to the west.  
(Photos by Karen Schuster)



showing off its bright red seeds, unfortunately not real cold hardy for us more northerly dwellers as this is one of my personal fa-

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## At Anne Michael's

avorites. As we move on we encounter the *Copernicia macroglossa* (Petticoat Palm) that has strangely lost its skirt prematurely due to a weather situation. As we turn another corner there is an unusual sight. Some *Copernicias* that are in a clump which is unusual, but a community pot was involved and we know what that means.

**Beyond that** are some beautiful *Pandanus utilis* (Screw Pine) and *Leucothrinax morrisii* (Key Thatch Palm) that were dug up from the Keys and successfully relocated plus a *Coccothrinax argentata* from the same region. Next is a *Copernicia alba* which is a South American palm that loves water in case you are thinking about planting any. Then one of the finest examples of *Butyagrus nabonnandii* (Mule Palm) I've seen. **On from there** is a *Carpentaria acuminata* alongside one of originally four and now down to two *Corypha umbraculifera* (Talipot Palm). Nearby is a *Borassus aethiopum* full of fruit, so be looking for seed to be offered in the near future. In order to not bore you to death I am going to a rundown of the remaining palms on the grounds just to summarize and still give you an idea of the variety of palms available for such a small area.

*Zombia antillarum* (zombie)

*Sabal mexicana*

*Sabal causiaram*

*Sabal mauritiiformis*

*Livistona benthamii*

*Hyphaene coriacea*

*Livistona drudei*

*Copernicia macroglossa*

*Syagrus schizophylla*

*Coccothrinax crinita*

*Copernicia fallaeensis*

*Attalea speciosa*

*Phoenix reclinata*

*Chamaedorea elegans*

*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*

*Veitchia arecina*

*Livistona chinensis*

Quite an impressive collection to say the least. Many of our members have grown their own palms from Joe and Anne's seeds over the years. And hopefully more in the future. We hope to see you at our Spring meeting on March 7th, 2020 at Marie Selby Gardens and then Rob Branch's home, another of our awesome members who have been so supportive of the society. Until then have a great Christmas and a wonderful New Year!



Anne Michael with the bromeliads  
CFPACS gave her.  
(Photo by Tracy Hines)



Left, *Corypha umbraculifera*, filled with fruit at the Michael  
homeplace. (Photo by Karen Schuster)



Left, *Butyagrus nabonnandii* (Mule Palm). Above, *Elaeis guineensis*. Both at Earring Point .

(Photos by Libby Luedeke)



## Landscaping Shifts



*Archontophoenix alexandrae*  
(*Alexandra Palm*) in Lakeland.



*Dypsis leptocheilos* (Teddy Bear Palm)



*Pseudophoenix sargentii* (*Buccaneer Palm*) in Lakeland.

### By Jeremy Evancheskey

A calamity can force changes to the landscape choices of businesses and municipalities. Here in Lakeland, tough choices are made between planting reliable palms dying from lethal bronzing, replacing everything with a *Livistona* species or rolling the dice with palms that can survive everything but a 1980s-style freeze. In some

cases, the landscape has taken the safe out and planted *Livistona*, usually *Livistona decora* or *Livistona chinensis*.

In others, *Archontophoenix alexandrae*, *Dypsis leptocheilos*, *Pseudophoenix sargentii*, *Satakentia liukuensis* and even *Ptychosperma elegans* can be found in long-term plantings. Good site selection, palms outperforming our

previous expectations and a string of milder than normal winters have contributed to the success of the marginal plantings.

As examples of good siting, the *Archontophoenix alexandrae* at City Hall are on the south side of a concrete wall. That said, there are approximately two dozen specimens at Hollis Gardens that are planted completely in the

open with no canopy or shielding to protect them.

In some cases, some palms previously only planted in the southern third of the state or near the coast have successfully recovered from inland winters. *Bismarckia nobilis* was regarded as a “zone 10a palm that would never make it above West Palm Beach” and planting a

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### Landscaping Shifts

*Roystonea regia* would have been considered a fool’s errand not long ago. There are now specimens of both performing well in Jacksonville. A similar trend has followed for other tender species as they continue to impress in the warmer parts of interior central Florida.

In my opinion, the largest difference has been the string of milder winters. Even the bad freezes, such as 2010 and 2018, aren’t as bad as the terrible freezes in the 1980s. The data shows that, according to a hardiness zone definition, Lakeland is a zone 10a over the last 15 years and 30 years. Over a 40-year period, the data would put it at the very top end of zone 9b. You can view the data in the photos for reference.

**Other cities** in interior central Florida, most notably Orlando, have seen similar temperature

trends and are seeing an uptick in the planting of more tender and unique palms. Perhaps the most infamous of these is the “I-Drive Coconut” located at Charley’s Steak House on International Drive in Orlando. This palm survived the January 2010 freeze and continues to grow and set fruit.

For anyone interested in seeing some of the more notable plantings along the I-4 Corridor, you can check these URLs for great photos and information:

**Tampa Bay Area:**

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/61172-remarkable-palms-of-tampa-bay/>

**Orlando Area:**

<https://www.palmtalk.org/forum/index.php?/topic/59360-zone-10-palms-in-the-orlando-area-mega-thread/>

YEAR	ANNUAL LOW	YEAR	ANNUAL LOW	YEAR	ANNUAL LOW
2005	30	1990	37	1980	22
2006	30	1991	31	1981	23
2007	32	1992	34	1982	21
2008	26	1993	32	1983	24
2009	26	1994	37	1984	37
2010	26	1995	27	1985	20
2011	32	1996	25	1986	29
2012	30	1997	30	1987	34
2013	32	1998	35	1988	35
2014	32	1999	28	1989	21
2015	26	2000	26	1990	37
2016	33	2001	28	1991	31
2017	33	2002	26	1992	34
2018	28	2003	24	1993	32
2019	36	2004	32	1994	37
		2005	30	1995	27
<b>AVG</b>	30.13	2006	30	1996	25
<b>MEDIAN</b>	30	2007	32	1997	30
<b>MODE</b>	32	2008	26	1998	35
<b>MIN</b>	26	2009	26	1999	28
<b>MAX</b>	36	2010	26	2000	26
		2011	32	2001	28
		2012	30	2002	26
		2013	32	2003	24
		2014	32	2004	32
		2015	26	2005	30
		2016	33	2006	30
		2017	33	2007	32
		2018	28	2008	26
		2019	36	2009	26
				2010	26
				2011	32
				2012	30
				2013	32
				2014	32
				2015	26
				2016	33
				2017	33
				2018	28
				2019	36
				<b>AVG</b>	29.25
				<b>MEDIAN</b>	30
				<b>MODE</b>	32
				<b>MIN</b>	20
				<b>MAX</b>	37

The recent climate data for the KLAL weather station at Lakeland Linder International Airport. The data was collected from a combination of WUnderground.com, Weather.com and Weather.gov.





*Left, Satakentia liuekuensis (Satake Palm). Right, Ptychosperma elegans (Solitaire Palm). Both are recent additions to landscaping in Lakeland.*

## Mauritiella macroclada



OK, how many CFPACS members are growing this palm species? A couple dozen of you? Charlie Beck has this individual in his Lantana garden, which he bought under a former name, *M. peruviana*. Look at those spines. No squirrels running up these trunk.s. The species name is apt:: “big clad” with spines. —John Kennedy

**Renew your  
CFPACS  
member-  
ship for  
2020. See  
page 16 for  
details.**

# Pick your own Season's Greetings



### 3-Headed *Sabal palmetto*



**That 3-headed** Sabal palmetto at Heathcote is definitely an oddity, though 2-headed specimens are occasionally seen. According to the sign before it, the cause is recovery from lightning or a freeze or from something falling on the palm, which is more than 140 years old.

**The well-traveled** palm was moved by ox-cart from Okeecho-bee to Fort Pierce in the early 1900s, then moved in 1938 to the Crimmins' original nursery

(Photo by Tracy Hines)

on SR70 in town. In 1980 the palm was purchased by Tom Rood and moved to his nursery north of Jupiter. In 2005, Mr. Rood returned the palm to Heathcote as a memorial to the Crimmins. (Remember, the second location of the Crimmins nursery is the present site of Heathcote Botanical Gardens.) **The four** moves are certainly a tribute to the durability of the species.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**What** a great turnout we had for our December meeting at Anne Michael's. I believe we had almost 50 people in attendance, parking almost became a problem. Not really, we got everyone in. I loved to see the *Latania* grove that Anne planted. The only *Latania* grove that I know of in Central Florida. Oh, how they have grown, almost tripling in size since I last saw them a few years back. Everyone had a great time at Heathcote earlier in the day. If I am correct, I believe that John Kennedy had something to do with planting a few palms there. (Right, John?)

**Our next** meeting, on March 7<sup>th</sup>, will be over on our west coast in the Sarasota area. We will start at Selby Gardens, please bring your reciprocal garden passes. From Selby, we move on to one of our favorite places, Rob Branch's home and garden. More details will follow as our west coast team—Rob, Mike Evans, and Keith Santner—finalize plans. **Trace and I** leave for Chile later this month. We hope to report on the palms there. We will feature our visit to Compana National Park, home to the native *Jubaea chilensis* or Chilean Wine Palm. Happy Holidays to everyone. Wishing you a wonderful 2020 with no cold freezing temperatures here in Central Florida.

—Dave Hall

[See page 15 for more on the re-planting at the Michael homestead.]

## From the Editor's Desk

The CFPACS meeting on *the* first Sunday in December was an agreeable get-together of palm-lovers and others, beginning at 10 a.m. The usual number on such occasions is maybe 25-30 people, which is about the number of those at Heathcote; most were not local. The Bonsai Gallery was something of a surprise to them. I was reminded of an episode some years back when a bonsai practitioner was to give a practical lesson in how to create the miniature plants. I asked if there were any bonsai palms. He looked at me blankly. Didn't know whether he was marveling at my nerve or amazed at my ignorance in asking the question. I received no answer, though I thought perhaps (?) clumping palms might be adaptable to bonsai. But I was glad that I hadn't mentioned cycads as possibilities. Maybe I should ask the current Bonsai Curator. I was asked about Heathcote's funding. It receives no funding from the city or county but subsists on memberships, admissions, and occasional donations.

\* \* \* \*

The second stop, at 1:30, on Orchid Island (north of Vero) attracted perhaps twice as many people because word that the Michael property would be open for public view (which hadn't happened for several years) had been broadcast to plant societies, Garden clubs, Master Gardeners, and others in the area. Thus, folks not especially interested in palms came to see the beautiful place.

\* \* \* \*

(Continued on page 14)



*Anne Michael is 92 years old and travels her 5-acre property in a golf cart. Smiling at left is Dave Hall, CFPACS president. In sunglasses at center is Jerry Luedeke east coast vp and Seed Bank co-coordinator. Shirt and hat belong to Matthew Kennedy, tech consultant and sometime photographer for The Palmateer.*

*(Photo by Janice Broda)*

### *From the Editor's Desk*

So, our March meeting will be on the West Coast, to Sarasota. Marie Selby Gardens, here we come! And to Rob Branch's personal botanical garden, always a marvel. So packed full of just about every kind of plant that I wonder if/how Rob has managed to cram in anything new since our last visit two years ago.

\* \* \* \*

Maybe CFPACS should have a refrigerator magnet with a catchy motto. I like one in my house brought from Austin, Texas: "Keep Austin Weird," doubtless a worthy objective. For myself I wish that CFPACS had a long-sleeved tee-shirt, not for warmth, but for extended time out in the sun. Some of us have had 'stuff' burned off our arms

\* \* \*

Years ago I heard Lucita Wait say that a palm was best viewed at eye level. Most enjoyable, that is, with the palm entirely visible to the human eye. I do see her point now. When I go out back at my house I am surrounded by tall, bare trunks. The crowns are up there, just let me get my binoculars to get a good look. And, unlike botanical gardens, the palms are too crowded to be seen in perspective at a distance. Maybe there's a niche market for short palms that grow fairly quickly (if there are any) to maturity? Lucita Wait was David Fairchild's secretary and, for years, secretary of The Palm Society before it became the IPS.

*John Kennedy*



*Howea forsteriana* at Heathcote.

(Photo by Jeremy Evancheskey)

## Re-planting Palms on Earring Point

By John Kennedy

**Dave Hall**, in his President's Message (page 12), asks if I was involved in the replanting of palms on the Michael property in 2005-06. The answer is No. The original 1950s collection was dying off; Joe and Anne had asked for donations to plant anew.

**My only** recollection of that period was that most of those donating and planting palms were members from Brevard County. I asked Sue Reilly and Jason Baker for further details. They were part of the group engaged at the Michaels'. Others included Richard Lundstedt and Mike Dahme. Also Mike Merritt, the long-time CFPACS treasurer, then resident in Seminole County before taking off for Hawaii.

**Among the** species recalled by Jason and Sue were a Mule Palm,

half a dozen *Carpentaria acuminata*, *Beccariophoenix fenestrata*, 3 *Copernicia alba*, 5 *Borassus aethiopum*, 3 *Livistona drudei*, and a *Pritchardia hillebrandii*.

**The much-admired** *Latania lontaroides* grove was an unintentional good outcome. Anne germinated seed from palms already in the ground, and planted the young palms in rows, planning to move these when a bit bigger. Fortunately, however, she never did so with the result that they grew in place to the beauty we saw on our visit.

Seen on tour: the *Latania* grove.

(Photos by Matthew Kennedy)



### PayPal Tutorial

Here is how to make a payment to CFPACS using PayPal

- 1) Log on to <http://www.paypal.com>
- 2) If you have a PayPal account, log into your account. If you do not have a PayPal account, click on the 'Personal' tab. Once on the 'Personal' page go to 'Send Money' and then 'Send Money Online.'
- 3) Once on the 'Send Money' page, type 'payments@cfpacs.com' in the 'To' field. Type in your email address in the 'From' field and the amount you wish to pay in the 'Amount' field.
- 4) From there you will be taken to a secure page where you can enter your name, address and credit card information.
- 5) When you are ready to finish up the payment process, please indicate whether your payment is for membership or seeds or t-shirts in the message field.

#### The International Palm Society (IPS)

9300 Sandstone Street  
 Austin, TX 78737-1135  
 Regular membership, \$55,  
 quarterly journal

#### The Cycad Society

11701 Barchetta Drive  
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 quarterly newsletter



#### Join CFPACS Please print

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

Membership also available at website:

[www.cfpacs.com](http://www.cfpacs.com)

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





*Cryosophila stauracantha* in the famed  
*Palmz'n'Weedz* garden in Vero Beach.

## Treasurer's report December 2019

### December Meeting

Auction Sales	\$455.00
Plant Sales 20%	\$58.20
Gift To Anne	(\$50.00)
Payment to Heathcote	(180.00)
Net Gain	\$283.20

### Current Balances (Assets)

Checking 1	\$8,970.77
Checking 2	\$4,789.53
CD	\$3,281.51
American Funds	\$20,251.87* (*fluctuates with Market)
Deposit to be made	\$815.62
Total	\$38,109.30

### Outstanding to be paid:

Quarterly Sales Tax	\$18.59
Grant to Flamingo Gardens	\$2,500.00
Position of group at year end	\$35,590.71

Dave proposes a grant to Sugar Mill Gardens to celebrate the accomplishments of Dent Smith (founder of the International Palm Society). This will be discussed at March 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting. We will be going to Selby Gardens followed by lunch/tour/auction at Rob Branch's place.

– Tracy Hines, Treasurer



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

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*Distinctive coloration of Borassus aethiopum seen at Earring Point on December 1. (Photo by Janice Broda)*