

The Palmateer

Volume 10, Number 2

Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

June 2018



Flowers at Mead—Passionflower

June 9th Meeting at Mead Botanical Garden

By Libby Luedeke

Our President Dave Hall and Treasurer Tracy Hines organized a wonderful catered affair by The Olive Garden at Mead Botanical Garden. We started the meeting by announcing a brief synopsis of upcoming meetings, dates TBD.

We are planning on having a dual meeting with our North Florida Palm Society members in the fall and in December we are looking forward to visiting Faith Bishock's. Then we expect to visit Montgomery Botanical Center again in the spring. When we get firm dates we will update you.

We dedicated this meeting to our dear friend and past President, Lucinda McCartney, who passed in April from complications of surgery. John Kennedy spoke of her diligence and energy when it came to saving the Palm Society from faltering when no one was willing to be president. Thank goodness for that because I believe we are close to being as strong as we have ever been now. Her son, Bob Blenker, spoke of how much

the Society meant to her as well.

He also gave us a rundown of the biennial IPS meeting in Colombia.

We then handed over the meeting to Sally Power who is a faithful volunteer and board member of Mead. Sally presented a history of Theodore Mead's joy of plants that began with caladiums, then expanded to amaryllis when he developed the very first all-white bloom, then orchids and on to palms and cycads. Mead was also involved with Fairchild and Montgomery around that same time. Sally went on to announce the addition of a Cycad Garden thanks to the help and expertise of Tom Broome. The plan is to create an evolution of plants from non-vascular plant life, to the first vascular plant life ferns

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The June 9th meeting at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park took place indoors there with a series of speakers. Note the large palm in the back: Pritchardia maideniana donated by David Banfill for auction.

(Photos this page by Libby Luedeke)



CFPACS president Dave Hall (right) presents \$1,000 check to Susan League of Mead Botanical Garden.

Emily Smith is at left. (Photo by Libby Luedeke)



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The Palmateer

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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June 9th Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

and then on to cycads during the Jurassic Period that fed dinosaurs. We look forward to seeing the progress in future events there.

Sally also asked those with a good knowledge of palms to help identify plantings from Mead's early days that they have been unable to figure out. So you may see emails or Facebook postings to help them with this identification.

Better yet, visit the garden and send us your input. It is an enjoyable place and has free entry. The Society also donated \$1000 to Mead Botanical Garden in Lucinda's honor to help fund the Cycads of the World Garden.

After viewing the location of the Cycad Garden, Keith Santner introduced renowned author and researcher, Paul Craft. Paul recently published a book called *The Palms of Cuba*, currently on sale through Amazon. There are 98 palms na-

tive to Cuba which is amazing considering Florida only has 11 and given the size of the island. Paul had a slide show and talk about the regions and conditions that the palms survive in.

There are several palms that thrive in rocky conditions and many are very salt tolerant and drought tolerant. Definitely a good book for the future of palms to be introduced to the States.

Later we had a raffle of some specimen palms and cycads followed by an auction. Bob Johnson donated his raffle winner to the garden. Nice job, Bob!

We hope that you will be able to join us this fall. We'll be updating you on dates ASAP.

Happy Planting!



The Editor has no pictures of outdoors at Mead Botanical Garden. Given the gully-washing downpour during the indoor meeting, maybe a good idea. We offer here a picture from nearby Oviedo: Livistona decora at the home of Claudia and Wayne Walworth. (Photo by Claudia)

LUCINDA McCARTNEY

A Memorial

Lucinda Lee McCartney, age 84, died on April 25, 2018 of complications following surgery at Manatee Memorial Hospital in Bradenton, Florida. Born Lucinda Lee Thomson on June 1, 1933 in Chicago, IL, daughter of the late Harry L. and Lillian Thomson (London). She married Robert M. Blenker of Neenah, WI on August 25, 1961.

Lucinda graduated Oshkosh High School and attended the University of Wisconsin.

Journalist, real estate professional, public relations Specialist, international traveler and outdoorswoman all describe her. While her great, great grandfather is buried in Tallahassee, Lucinda



There she is—Lucinda, ready with another good idea.

made Florida her home in the early '80s. She founded Freedom Properties, a real estate brokerage

firm and Bay South Management, which she operated with her son, Harry for nearly thirty years.

She was an active member of the American Society of Journalists and Authors and the Florida Outdoor Writers Association. She was a founding member of the Florida chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association. She led the first female angler team at the Crossthaite Memorial Fishing Tournament. She is past president of the Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society and member of the International Palm Society. Most recently she was active in the Tampa Bay Beekeepers' Association.

Lucinda is survived by her two sisters, Susan Vette and Joan Jay; her

three sons, Robert L., John E. and Harry L. Blenker; her grandchildren Stephen, Lee, Lauren, Jacob, Anne, Hunter, Patrick, Paige, Alec and Dwight; and great grandchildren Emery, Luke, Beau, William and Lily.

A pioneer in many things, Lucinda was known as a self-starter and ignored limitations imposed by others.

A celebration of her life was held at 3 pm on Saturday, May 12 at Blenker Boatworks and Marina, 2504 88th St. Ct. NW, Bradenton, FL 34209. Her remains were scattered in the waters she so dearly loved and fought to protect.

[Below, Lucinda's first President's Message in the March 2013 issue of The Palmateer.]

My life with the prince of plants began with a spray of pretty red seeds clustered on a palm tree in a son's Florida yard. The gardener in me wanted to sow the fat orbs and watch them grow. That was in 2007.

Little did I know then that a simple observation and subsequent efforts to germinate palm seeds would grow into an obsession that expanded to 75 or 80 different species. Soil, up-potting, rats, squirrels, birds, unkempt fingernails that wouldn't come clean, hurricanes, record-breaking cold, water, fertilizer, proper shade and, worst of all, botanical names, became challenges to overcome.

All this on a 1/3 acre subdivision lot overlooking Terra Ceia Bay, west of Palmetto (10a microclimate) where I have lived since 1985. I was born in Chicago, grew up in Wisconsin, studied at the U of Wisconsin-Madison and subsequently was transferred (via cor-

porate moves) to Iowa, California, Washington state, Kentucky/Ohio, Alaska and am probably the only person you know with driver's licenses and library cards in eight states.

My genes are Floridian, though, thanks a great/great grandfather who owned a plantation in Tallahassee, died of malaria and is buried in the Old City Cemetery. His home is now in the historic museum on the outskirts of Tallahassee.

Outside of palms, I also love to fish and used to do a lot of outdoor writing. Unfortunately, palms demand attention and interfere with the angling so my skiff sits forlornly on the lift far too often. Over time, the teeny baby palms sprouting like hayfields in plastic containers became strapping teenagers. And that's where I am today: Looking at a jungle of palms outgrowing their potted confinement, seeking independence and a piece of ground to call their own.

Along with the joy of landing a fat snook, I revel in discovering new Best Palm Favorites



(*Chamaedoreas*, *Chambeyronias*, *Archontophoenixes*, *Veitchias*, *Dypsis*). Ask me tomorrow, though and the list may be different.

I have also discovered a whole world of other people like me: here in Florida, Australia, Brazil, California, Uruguay... more recently in Thailand and Vietnam. My son, Bob (also a CFPACS/IPS member) is among them. Each of these fascinating, interesting folks has his/her own palm stories to share and I hope over time to hear them all.

All this because of a few bright red seeds hanging on a palm tree five years ago.

There's a story in the picture above, which came labeled "Lucinda's bamboo convertible."

She went on several trips to see gardens in South Florida, along with a friend (Cindy Adair? Susan Hubbell?). Invariably she wrote a nice account of the visit for the newsletter, accompanied always by a picture of her vehicle. They went to "look" at the garden but there was always something green sticking out somewhere, headed for a new home on Sned Island, Palmetto.

Lucinda, in her own words. . .

[Lucinda's farewell President's Message in the December 2014 issue of The Palmateer.]

IT'S BEEN A GREAT EXPERIENCE

Two years ago I was dragged kicking and screaming into our Society's President's chair. Nobody else wanted the job and CFPACS was facing a quiet demise after over 30 years (?) of providing a brilliant venue for palmophiles in our part of Florida to share their collective enthusiasm and knowledge for these ancient, yet most glorious members of the botanical world.

I have always appreciated the majesty of palms – and even superficially recognized a few (coconuts, royals, queens, washingtonias) sprouting in my neighborhood -- but came rather late in life to propagating, collecting, identifying and caring for them.

As anyone sharing the adventure

knows, there's a lot more to palms than digging a hole in the ground and dropping in the latest Big Box purchase.

Society members from around the state generously, willingly shared their knowledge with the total ignoramus I was at the start. How does one transplant a borassus (answer: carefully) I asked. In fact, what IS a borassus? Why do we fuss with Latin names when words like Flame Thrower, Mini Fishtail, Triangle are so much easier for a non-scientific brain to assimilate? Should I plant this Bottle in the sun or shade? Fortunately, there was always a society member to guide me.

The prospect then of no CFPACS was unthinkable!

So, it was Payback Time. Take the reins ... or lose a most valuable resource. Someone had to do it.

Fortunately, there were others like me who valued the treasure that is CFPACS and were willing to put forth the energy and talent required to keep the organization going: Directors, generous members who opened their glorious gardens for the rest of us to see, advisory committee members. And growers –both amateur and professional -- who donated plants from their own collections for our popular auctions. As well those who collected seeds from their own trees for sale via the Seed Bank. And our own inimitable editor of The Palmateer who kept words and pictures flowing issue after issue.

But this visionary group did even more: Collectively, they also voted money where the mouth is to help fund worthwhile community projects. Never have I enjoyed a prouder moment than when the board without debate voted \$5,000 out of the CFPACS treasury toward saving the U.A. Young palm and cycad collection from the bulldozer. True, the sum was only a small part of the total needed, but it got the ball rolling.

Now it's time for new energy, talent and thinking. To that end, Ron Hart, formerly Central Vice President, will pick up the gavel as CFPACS president this coming year and he's already lined up a wonderful schedule of garden tours and lectures to keep the membership happily criss-crossing the state every three months in 2015. We also have a new Seed Bank coordinator and you'll be hearing from him later. We're looking for a vice president to represent the eastern part of the state and a central vp to fill Ron's now vacant seat. Hopefully, one of you out there who appreciates the value of CFPACS will step up. Guaranteed: You will find it an enjoyable, worthwhile experience.

Elsewhere is a list of people who made Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society membership so valuable to the rest of us. I urge you to stop them at the next garden tour, shake their hands, chat a bit and thank them for their contributions.

(Continued on page 7)

Farewell, Lucinda: A Celebration of Her Life, May 12, 2018

[Lucinda's last President's Message]

(Continued from page 6)

If I learned anything the past two years it's that a lot of people value our Society every bit as much as I do ... and want it to continue. With all that enthusiasm on tap it will ... for another 30(?) years. My membership check for \$20 going out today will put me on the roster for 2015. I hope you'll do the same. Today.

Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing all of you at Gaylord Palms on December 13th ... and at every tour this coming year.

Happy palm growing and a joyous holiday season to you all.



John Blenker, one of Lucinda's three sons, speaks at the Celebration of her life.



From Lucinda's account of her 6-day Grand Tour of Florida with Cindy Adair that appeared in the March 2015 Palmateer. They attached a trailer to the car, "just in case" they found something to buy. Above, a gift carved fish and Andrew (otherwise unidentified) with Coccothrinax? (Photo by Cindy)

What's in an Apopka Garden?

BECOMES

What's in a Clermont Garden?

By Ron Hart & Maryann
Krisovitch

2018 has turned out to be a rather harsh year for our palm and cycad collection. As some of you know, in mid-January, Maryann's younger brother passed away unexpectedly and we spent two weeks in Pennsylvania. This was also when our garden experienced freezing temperatures. Sadly, we were not there to cover anything and many plants suffered a substantial amount of damage. It was during this same time that we found out our offer on a house in Clermont we had been wanting for a long time had been accepted. A bitter-

sweet time for us. Little did we know the amount of work were in for!

In the past ten years, our collection of palms has grown to about 145 and our cycads to about 23. (Why so many palms and so few cycads? One reason – we are cheap and cycads are expensive! You all know our \$10 rule!) Thus, in early May, the palm and cycad relocation began. Looking through the database of our collection, we determined that we should be able to easily take at least 80 of the 168 plants. Maryann set a goal of digging up 8 plants a day thereby being finished in ten days.

Sounded reasonable. Maryann

contacted her friends at Spring Hill Nursery in Apopka and borrowed several pot sizes from 3 gallons on up to what she could fit in her vehicle. The first day we reached our quota of 8 and felt pretty good about our progress. The second day we got distracted by a visit from the neighbors and only got 6. That meant on the third day we had to transplant ten. No problem, except it started raining and was getting too dark to see. We also took time to grab many of our favorite bromeliads – a great palm companion plant. We were falling behind.

As I recall, we missed a few days for one reason or another but kept at it as best we could. Ron had dug up most of the smaller palms and cycads and now we were getting into the larger ones. Maryann sliced the *Zamia vazquezii* in half. Ron was getting attacked by the *Acrocomia aculeata*. We stuffed palms into our



Ron Hart plants Coccothrinax crinita in the new Clermont garden. (Photo by Maryann)

vehicles so they didn't suffer wind burn. We tucked them under the small amount of shade at the new house until we could get them transplanted. And all the while, we continued to update our database – what day was it dug out and what date and where did it go in the new garden.

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What's in a (New) Clermont Garden?

(Continued from page 8)

As of the date of this writing, June 13, 2018, we have officially moved 60 palms and 17 of the 23 cycads to Clermont. Replanting is a slow process as we research the light requirements of each palm. If you recall, our Apopka garden was very shady. The Clermont yard is about 80% sunny so trying to find spots for shade to light shade lovers is tough. Also Maryann likes to have the palms tell *her* where they want to go and not the other way around. We are also experiencing burn on those palms which have been grown in a lighter sun area but can take full sun. We expect them to grow out of this as they adapt to their new surroundings. As each plant was put in the ground, we took a picture for our file and will provide a “then and now” photo

as we continue to write our *Palmateer* articles.

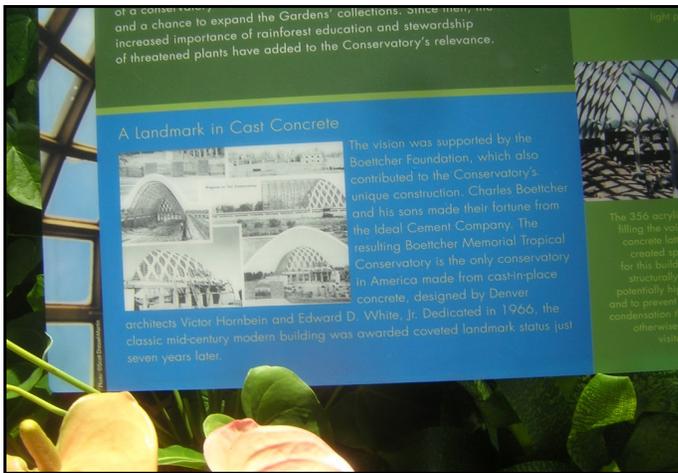
One of the benefits of the new location is that we are situated on the eastern shore of a 350- acre lake and hope to benefit from its warming effects in the winter. We also don't want to block our view of the lake and after hearing Paul Craft's talk on *Coccothrinax's* less than speedy growth, we felt comfortable in placing *C. argentea* and *C. crinita* in the left center of the back yard as opposed to the perimeter where most have been placed so far. Another benefit is that Ron used to live at this house and a handful of those palms and cycads he put in between ten and fifteen years ago are still there, including a thriving *Bismarckia nobilis* and a “sorta thriving” *Roystonea regia* by the front door. In our next edition, we will summarize the existing plants.

We have replanted 25 palms and cycads so far. The bromeliads are



No, **not** the new garden in Clermont, but *Encephalartos ferox* in Claudia Walworth's garden in Oviedo. We expect to see more pictures from Clermont in the next issue of the newsletter.

(Photo by Claudia)

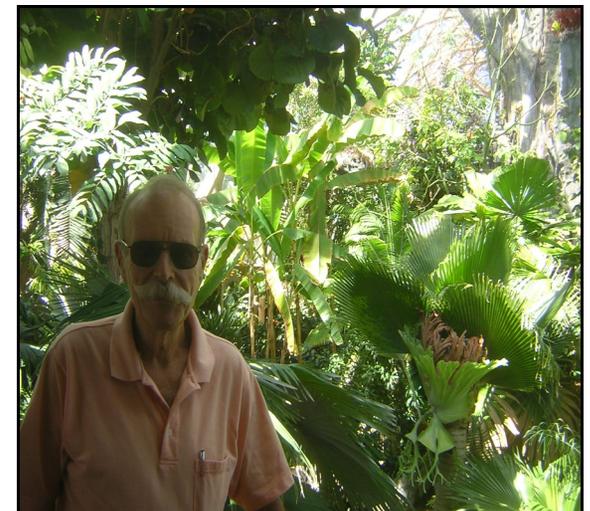


Denver Botanical Garden

Phil Stager (there he is, bottom right) recently visited here. Admission was \$11 with possible free second-day entry. At left, an explanation of the tropical plant house's unusual concrete structure. Right, *Salacca magnifica* in the tropical plant house.



Above, looking down at the interior of the Denver Botanical Garden's tropical plant house. Right, a prickly palm there. (Zombia?)





This striking picture is the trunk of Leopoldinia pulchra in the Amazon, taken on the visit there by the Fous de Palmiers, the French palm society. Does anyone in Florida grow this species?

(Photo by Pierre-Olivier Albano)



“Here’s a new ‘family portrait’ of the Queen Sago towering over a new flush of 35 leaves of Zamia picta (that browned out from freeze damage this winter - despite being covered over by Queen Sago leaves and a lawn umbrella), large Needle Palm in the middle and, barely visible on the right, Ceratozamia hildae; with a row of 4 or 5 large Coonties in the front. All packed in there like sardines, but I remember when most of them were in one-gallon pots ... it’s like landscaping with 2-inch plants from gardening catalogs.” (Claudia Walworth’s comments on her-pictured plants)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Encephalartos ferox, Cycas robusta, and C. wailailak at chez Walworth. Neighbor's house in back. (Photo by Claudia)

Thanks everyone for attending the June Meeting at Mead Garden. We had a great turnout and a please event. We were indoors, out of the June heat and safe when the thunderstorms made their regular appearance.

First, I would like to thank Sally Power for her informative talk about Dr. Mead and the Mead Botanical Garden. I believe this was the first time that Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society attended Mead Garden as a group. The Society donated \$1000.00 for their planned Cycad Garden in memory of Lucinda McCartney Blenker. Hopefully, we can return in the near future and admire the pro-

gress of the new garden.

Second, I would like to thank Paul Craft for his excellent talk on his new book *The Palms of Cuba*. Also, the society thanks him for donating an autographed copy of his book to our raffle and for bringing our editor, John Kennedy, to the meeting. Maybe one day we can all do a trip to Cuba and hire Paul as our guide. That would be quite the trip.

Our next meeting will be in October. We will be combining forces with the First Coast Chapter. The meeting will be in Hastings, located in St Johns County, at the home of John Rossi, DMV. Stay tuned for the date!

Hope everyone has a great summer.

—Dave Hall

From the Editor's Desk

From the Editor's Desk

I counted 45 people at the June 9th meeting at Mead Botanical Garden, and probably missed a few more who were out of the meeting room. And, speaking of room, was I glad that this was an unusual indoor meeting because, in early afternoon, there was the kind of Florida downpour that we know and love, so solid that nothing was visible more than a foot or two away. It continued for about 20 minutes, probably providing 2 inches of rain to Mead in that time.

* * * *

Sally Power of Mead gave a presentation—complete with slide show—of Theodore Mead for whom the garden is named. He was a horticulturalist of amazing talent and versatility with or-

chids, bromeliads, caladiums, and palms. I recalled having heard of Mead but not in such detail. I discovered that a biography of Mead was published in 2016 by a professor at Rollins College in Winter Park, which holds Mead's papers. When I looked to find a library in Florida from which this might be borrowed (not available in my county library), it was not listed as held anywhere in the state. In my faraway young days I much enjoyed David Fairchild's accounts of plant exploration, travelogues for the home-bound.

* * * *

The first account of "What's in a Clermont Garden" appears in this issue on page 8. We shall be finding out in the future how Ron Hart and Maryann Krisovitch

have transformed the new site, how much the nearby lake affects winter temperatures and (maybe) permits the planting of somewhat more tender species. Jason Rees' *Designing with Palms* is beautiful and impressive but leaves me with the feeling that all the wonderfully coordinated species were trucked in—specimen size—at the same time. Not the way most of us amateur hobbyists do it, even if we exceed the \$10 Hart-Krisovitch limit on palm and cycad purchases. Ron's account of placement of the species brought from the former Apopka home is more basic than elements of design: little shade in the new locale and many of the palms have grown in shade. Maybe some will do better in more sun? We hope so.

* * * *

Paul and Patty Craft brought me to Mead with them. Since I had delved deeply into *The Palms of*

Cuba I asked Paul some questions that had occurred to me. He expresses doubt in the book about whether some species may be truly separate from others (e.g., in *Coccothrinax*) and notes that quite a bit of scientific work needs to be done in the future. Not much has been studied since Brother Léon in the 1940s. Paul said that this is now beginning. A second question: Some of the species explained are very attractive. When can we expect seed so these can be tried out in Florida? But the answer is a bit less clear, for the seed has yet to be collected for many species in the book. Most, apparently, are very slow growers, so our members in their 20s (you, Adam Smith) will have plenty of time to see how they work out. Others of us will not have the same opportunity (at least not in this life).

* * * *

(Continued on page 14)

From the Editor's Desk

(Continued from page 13)

Ray Hernandez and I attended the Celebration of Life for Lucinda McCartney.

* * * *

Haven't yet seen what is the New Palm of the Year that competitive palm-collectors Simply Must Have. Maybe the species will make its debut in the next issue of *Palms*, at present known only to Zona and Dransfield. Maybe the Bien-nial visitors saw this in a remote valley in Colombia in May but word has not yet leaked out?

John Kennedy

His "biggest Jubaea" at his home in Gascony, in southwest France. (Not seen in Central Florida.)

(Photo by Steve Swinscoe)



1st Quarter Seedbank Report 2018

The 1st Quarter has been less than stellar with only about \$46.00 in sales. We haven't had many donations and I hate to admit we haven't done any collecting ourselves. We do depend on our members and friends for viable donations from rare or unusual palms, so please contact us if you have something coming up and would be willing to help us.

Thanks so much to past and present donators and purchasers for your support. You can email us at theseedbank@yahoo.com or mail seeds to.....

Jerry Luedeke

117 E Connecticut Ave.

Edgewater, FL 32132

[To be fair, January to March is not optimum palm fruiting season. —Editor]

Treasurer's Report

December balance	\$ 17,947.56
Jan-March Deposits	\$ 897.98
March-June Deposits	\$ 1,385.06
Ending Checking Balance	\$ 13,019.63
Gain/Loss	\$ (4,927.93)

Income Year to date	
Membership	\$ 160.00
Merchandise	\$ 156.00
Raffle Tickets	\$ 378.00
Lunch Ticket	\$ 8.00
Private Sales	\$ 619.00
Public sales	\$ 937.00
Seed Bank	\$ 20.00
Total Income year to date	\$ 2,278.00

Expenses year to date	
Meeting Expense	\$ (1,298.32)
IPS Dues pd-7/18	\$ -
Bank Fees	\$ (48.00)
Donations	\$ (1,000.00)
insurance	\$ (104.44)
Rental Fees	\$ (600.00)
Office Supplies	\$ (15.01)
Public Relations	\$ (73.25)
Seed Bank	\$ (545.81)
State Cert of Registration	\$ (61.25)
Taxes 12/17 & 3/18	\$ (62.77)
Vendor Fees	\$ -

Vendor Proceeds Includes December as checks were not received till 1/18
 \$ (1,152.80)
 Website \$ (345.00)
 Total Expenses Year-Date \$ (5,306.65)

Other Assets
 Endowment Fund Balance \$ 16,453.43

CD #1	\$ 3,163.91
CD #2	\$ 3,276.58
Sales Cash Box	\$ 338.16
Total Assets	\$ 23,232.08

Liabilities	
None	\$ -
Total Liabilities	

Net Worth 6/30/18 \$ 36,251.71

—Tracy Hines, Treasurer



Center, Phoenix dactylifera, the true date palm, in Oviedo.

(Photo by Claudia Walworth)

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
Austin, TX 78758
Regular membership, \$35,
quarterly newsletter

Join CFPACS Please print

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
State, _____
County _____
Zip _____
Email _____
Phone (area) _____

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:

Maryann Krisovitch
Membership Chair
1008 Little Fawn Court
Apopka, FL 32712
membership@cfpacs.com

Membership also available at website:
www.cfpacs.com

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



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Jubaea chilensis on the Basque Coast of southwest France., close to the Spanish border.

(Photo by Steve Swinscoe)

