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Recycled soda tab handbags. Assorted colors and styles. $40-$265. Photo by Gaby Orihuela/FTBG.
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CONTRIBUTORS

JOYCE MASCHINSKI, PH.D.
Since 2002, Joyce has led the South Florida Plant Conservation team at Fairchild as the Conservation Ecologist. She holds a Ph.D. in botany from Northern Arizona University. Prior to her arrival in South Florida, she worked as Director of Research at The Arboretum at Flagstaff leading Colorado Plateau plant conservation efforts. Her research interests focus on factors threatening endangered plant populations and management solutions for their conservation.

JANET MOSLEY-LATHAM
Janet is a volunteer at Fairchild who lends a hand in many areas. She is a member of The Fairchild Challenge Advisory Council and is an enthusiastic supporter of the Fairchild Tropical Fruit Program and the Williams Grove. Janet is also a regular volunteer in the Bertram Zuckerman Garden Archive.

SCOTT LEWIS, PH.D.
Scott joined the Center for Tropical Plant Conservation in December to work on the Pine Rockland Corridor Project. Scott has experience as an educator and researcher in both science education and environmental education, and he believes that building public understanding of the importance of endangered plants is critical for their survival.

ON THE COVER
Pseudophoenix sargentii
Photo by Gaby Orihuela/FTBG.

Bring the Gardens home
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305-857-0466
Spring in South Florida is a great time to enjoy the garden. The cardinals are marking territory and the warmer weather is encouraging a spectacular flush of growth and flowering. The palm and cycad collections are looking particularly magnificent this spring, the result of meticulous care by our palm team—a dedicated crew of staff and volunteers. These two very different groups, palms, the graceful symbols of the tropical world, and cycads, the cone-bearing and gnarled survivors of the ancient world, are key collections for Fairchild and a focal point for our research and conservation work. Both groups are in serious decline. Palms are primarily threatened by massive levels of habitat destruction in the tropics and cycads largely by the illegal poaching of wild specimens by lunatic collectors.

If you take a walk through the Palmetum at Fairchild, you will see a number of highly endangered plants. These include the Round Island Bottle Palm from Mauritius, where it survives as a few hundred wild trees, or the majestic Carossier from Haiti, which our Palmetum holds more trees than survive in the wild. It is very likely hundreds of palm and cycad species will become extinct in the near future. It will be a tragedy if all that remains of these glorious plants is a sample of DNA in our lab freezers, a brown and flattened herbarium specimen, an old photograph and a tree in the Palmetum. This fear of extinction and the desire to pass onto the next generation the natural resources we have inherited drives our Fairchild scientists in their work to document and conserve the world of tropical plants.

This year is proving to be a dramatic year for exploration and conservation. Fairchild’s African Field Officer Quentin Luke has already been exploring the remote calderas of Bioko (Equatorial Guinea), and, as I write, is undertaking botanical survey work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Quentin has just published a new species of cycad from Tanzania. Dr. Carl Lewis has just discovered a new genus of palm in the Caribbean. Drs. Jack Fisher and Jay Horn were part of the team that described Tahina, the new giant palm from Madagascar. Carl is planning fieldwork to the Pacific to chase a mysterious and lost genus of palm, while joint FIU/Fairchild professor Dr. Javier Francisco-Ortega is describing several new species of tree and shrub from the Caribbean. The world still has much to discover and conserve.

Fairchild is an incredible place of synergy. Our collections come alive as visitors experience the beauty of the tropical world. Our garden is a theater where our scientists, educators and horticulturists work with visitors and students to instill a love and understanding for the planet. Our new International Palm and Cycad Festival was a great success in introducing folks to the wonders of the palm and cycad world. A week later, the garden was full of hope as electric cars cruised the landscape as part of a Fairchild Challenge event.

As we move from spring into summer, the garden will fill with flowers, bringing something new each day. I look forward to seeing you in the garden and at the many great events we have this season.
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INVOLVED IN FIVE-YEAR NSF GRANT

Educators from Fairchild will be participating in a five year National Science Foundation grant entitled “Tropical Forests in a Changing World.” The goal of the project is to bring together researchers and educators from field sites throughout the world’s tropical forested areas to study long term trends and the potential drivers of change, including climate change, forest fragmentation and land use. Findings will be used to develop innovative teaching and assessment methods aimed at educating K-12 students, as well as informing the general public and the world’s policy makers. Main partners in this project include La Selva Biological Station (Costa Rica), Barro Colorado Island (Panama), Cocha Cashu Biological Station (Peru) and the Forest Fragments Project (Brazil).

SEEDS FROM THE TAHINA PALM ARRIVE AT FAIRCHILD

Seeds of the newly discovered *Tahina spectabilis* palm have arrived at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Scientists at Fairchild and at Kew Gardens announced the discovery of *Tahina spectabilis*, made in Madagascar, in January this year.

Grape-sized seeds arrived at the Center for Tropical Plant Conservation at Fairchild in April from Kew Gardens in England. Entirely new to science, the *Tahina* appears to be a lone survivor in Madagascar with no close relatives growing in the area. Known from a single population of just 92 trees, it is of very great conservation concern and must be protected to save the species from extinction.

The *Tahina* is thought to grow for up to 50 years, flower once in its lifetime and then die. Fairchild plans to germinate the seed under controlled conditions in their nursery. The young plants will be added to Fairchild’s internationally famous palm collection. Fairchild anticipates they will grow well under the care of its expert palm curators. In time, perhaps 60 years or so, Fairchild looks forward to some Fairchild-produced seedlings!

“*Tahina* is a botanical marvel: a newly discovered giant from the threatened forests of Madagascar,” said Fairchild’s Executive Director Dr. Mike Maunder. “We are delighted to be receiving seeds of this giant palm.” The seeds and their germination are part of Fairchild’s commitment to conserving tropical plants. The palms will join Fairchild’s living collection of endangered species. Fairchild grows one of the largest collections of endangered species in the U.S. More importantly, these palms will be a flagship for our work in Madagascar where, with local partners, we are working to save Madagascar’s unique biological heritage.

MAKING GREENER MIDDLE SCHOOLS

The Fairchild Challenge, Fairchild’s environmental outreach program, turned to middle school students for answers to two important environmental issues this year: how to make schools more energy efficient and environmentally respectful and how to protect and establish native pine rockland habitats for pollinators.

Twenty-two middle schools rose to the challenge, coming up with scientifically sound, creative and often hilarious responses. Their results were presented to judges at Fairchild for evaluation on March 13, 2008.

In the “My Green School” category, first place was a tie between Glades Middle School, which recommended an elaborate plan of action to green the exterior and interior school environment, including energy, water use, recycling and carbon offsets; and Shenandoah Middle School, which implemented a school-wide bilingual “Energy Hog” campaign, complete with stern-looking “energy hog” patrols who roamed school corridors swatting off unused lights and computers, inspirational rap (“Come on, get your family and friends. Put in effort: the world won’t end”) and recommendations for home (“You’re in the shower, it’s taking an hour; Energy Hog is wasting hydropower”). Honorable Mentions were awarded to Centennial, G.W. Carver, Key Biscayne Community School, José de Diego, Redland and West Miami.

In the “Pollinator Corridors” category, two schools tied for first place: Shenandoah Middle School, which researched and designed a plan to create a pine rockland area in their local park, an important stepping stone in establishing viable corridors for local pollinators; and West Miami Middle School, whose “Project Pride” included replanting pine rockland species in their school yard, and sending over 60 students to pine rockland workdays. Fairchild organized these workdays to rehabilitate pine rockland areas and work with conservation scientists from both Fairchild and Florida International University to promote awareness and preservation of pine rockland species. Students also set up volunteer programs to continue rehabilitation work in their school. Honorable Mentions were awarded to José de Diego, Norland and South Miami.
FAIRCHILD’S CONSERVATION STAFF CLEANS UP KEY BISCAYNE NATURAL AREAS

Fairchild’s conservation staff recently made a visit to Crandon Park on Key Biscayne to facilitate the reduction of coinvine (*Dalbergia ecastaphyllum*) a native Florida shrub that grows along the coast and acts as the host plant for the Statira Sulphur butterfly (*Phoebis statira*). Florida’s coastal strand is recognized as the most diverse plant habitat within the coastal dune ecosystem. Open sunny areas of this habitat were historically maintained by fire, hurricanes and freezes. Now that these natural events occur less frequently, some native vines, shrubs and trees, such as the coinvine, have become as aggressive as non-native plants, thereby producing the same effect of low plant diversity.

Fairchild’s conservation staff conducts many rare native plant research projects on Key Biscayne. Over the last few years, they have observed coinvine becoming more and more dominant, shading out sun loving plant species at Crandon Park, including the federally endangered *Jacquemontia reclinata* (beach clustervine). After Miami-Dade County’s Natural Area Management personnel cut down coinvine from a 300-square meter area of the strand in January 2008, Fairchild staff, volunteers and Biscayne Nature Center naturalists were able to remove piles of the shrub in February and March. The conservation staff has already started to see positive results in test plots installed. Seedlings of rare species of interest that have been observed include *Jacquemontia reclinata*, *Zanthoxylum coriaceum* (Biscayne prickly ash) and *Zamia integrifolia* (coontie). Stay tuned!

FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE O’CONNOR AND ADRIENNE ARSHT VISIT FAIRCHILD

On March 15, Fairchild received former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and Ms. Adrienne Arsht for a private tour of Fairchild’s art exhibit and plant collections. A highlight of the tour was when Justice O’Connor gave a little botany lesson on the differences between the Cactaceae and Euphorbiaceae families. Also discussed during the tour were the differences between palms and cycads and the importance of Fairchild’s art program in supporting our mission of exploring, explaining and conserving the world of tropical plants.

EARTH DAY

Fairchild offered free admission to all visitors on Earth Day, April 22, and almost 1,300 people came to the garden. In support of earth-friendly products, The Shop at Fairchild also had a display of sustainable and recycled products for purchase at a 10% discount. This was the perfect opportunity to walk Fairchild’s grounds, have a family picnic, admire the monumental sculptures of Fernando Botero, Roy Lichtenstein and Dale Chihuly or simply sit on a bench and read a favorite book while overlooking 83 acres of lush tropical paradise.

Earth Day, originated by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1970 and now observed throughout the world, is intended to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the earth’s environment. Fairchild serves its mission as an advocate for saving tropical plant diversity by exploring, explaining and conserving the world of tropical plants and inspiring a greater knowledge and love for plants and gardening so that all can enjoy the beauty and bounty of the tropical world.
Explaining Tumblewords
Three recent writing options of The Fairchild Challenge generated works that amaze, amuse and inspire
By Fairchild Educators

Imaginary plants
Middle schools students were challenged to take a flight of fancy by designing their own original plants and describing them in 500-word illustrated essays, giving scientific and common names and taking care to describe habitat, reproduction and adaptations. Representing 38 schools, 4,547 students in grades 6 to 8 participated. The imaginative students created plants that bear lovely caramels prized by Parisian pastry chefs, cure cancer and every other form of human ailment, provide reservoirs of thirst-quenching drink in the desert, eliminate wrinkles and substitute effectively for modern militias.

“The Lotesia developed a mind of its own, but all the plant could think was about reproducing.”
Ben Kaminsky, Ponce de Leon M.S.

“When it is time for the Reaphid to die—which is after 4 years—it accumulates the goo into a big ball and it blows up, spreading pieces of goo everywhere. Each piece of goo regenerates into a new Reaphid.”
Adi Shetty, Archimedeian Academy

“The Sahara Scavenger Fern is a strange-looking plant; it stands out in the desert like a camel at a penguin convention.”
Daniel Zatarain, Key Biscayne K-8

“Well, Verto plants have a scanner-like device in them, and when an eagle, a bear or a human walks by, the plant will scan the subject and take its shape.”
Alan Aguayo, Kinloch Park M.S.

Considered opinions
High school students were invited to articulate their opinions and back them up with research in 1,500-word essays, with citations, on the subjects of contributing factors to saltwater intrusion, the effects of the loss of Arctic Sea ice, botanical classifications of the coconut palm and whether they would recommend to their peers the documentary film, “Who Killed the Electric Car?”. Twenty-seven high schools submitted entries.

On saltwater intrusion: “I believe that one of the biggest threats to the quality and safety of the world’s underground resources is saltwater intrusion and that the primary perpetrators of this crime are the human beings who disregard their roles as environmental protectors.”
Zara Castany, Miami Palmetto H.S.

On Arctic Sea ice: “Life as we know it now on Florida’s coastline is going to change unimaginably. …The melting Arctic ice caps are surely on their way to creating a modern Atlantis out of the Sunshine State.”
Ryan Davis, Pembroke Pines Charter H.S.

On coconut palms: “Each tree achieves ‘freedom’ in its own way and in its own definition. The Cocos nucifera exemplifies different meanings to people of different cultures. Noted as ‘man’s most useful tree’ and “king of tropical flora,” the Cocos nucifera should be classified as a true tree.”
Tiffany Fan, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy

On “Who Killed the Electric Car?”: “[The film] is a wake-up call; it is the alarm clock that gets you up when you are running late, it’s the dog that jumps on your bed and licks you on the face and it’s possibly a turning point in what will be one of the largest economic and political reforms on the brink of coming about: weaning the world off petroleum.”
Alejandro Gonzalez, Christopher Columbus H.S.

Growth spurts
Fertile imaginations were unleashed when students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade were asked to imagine being a seed. As participants in this year’s Fairchild Challenge pilot program at 10 elementary schools, the children described what they, as seeds, would look like and where their journey as a plant might take them. Their creative stories and drawings presented glimpses into imaginative and wondrous experiences.

“I am but a tiny Speck—one among two hundred brothers and sisters. Speck III is my name, but just call me Speck. Unlike other seeds that grow inside of the fruit, I’m a Fragaria seed, better known as a strawberry, and I grow on the fruit’s outside. All little specks like me need to germinate in order for the strawberry to grow.”
Dylan Reilly, David Fairchild Elementary

“I got very wet and I got a lot of sunlight. Then one day my embryo hurt so much. I felt a little root coming out.”
Adriana Baumann, Sunset E.S.

“It was morning and I began to get hungry so I ate my endosperm.”
Lucia Golletti, Fienberg-Fisher E.S.

“I feel excited being a daisy seed. I will grow as tall as a ruler. I cannot wait to be a flower!”
Milagros Uzquiano, Winston Park K-8

Dylan Reilly, David Fairchild Elementary
Spring is a great time to visit the more outlying areas of the garden. If you have never been to the Keys Coastal Habitat, it is worth the walk to see native plants of South Florida. Look for the bridge overlooking mangrove roots that form a tangle in shallow water. The Pineland area (Plot 176) is a relatively new exhibit with developing native pines and some of the understory plants that grow naturally in this dwindling South Florida habitat.

Meanwhile in the Arboretum, our extensive collection of flowering trees, vines and shrubs puts on its usual spectacular show of diverse forms and colors. Listed below are three plants that are particularly noteworthy at this time of year.

Fairchild plot maps and flowering lists are available at the Visitor Center and at the South Gate booth, as well as our Web site at www.fairchildgarden.org.

**Guaiacum sanctum**  
Chosen as Plant of the Year in 2005, this native tree flows throughout the spring and often produces fruit at the same time. The intense blue flowers contrast with the yellow and red fruit against the deep green of the foliage. Lignum vitae timber has been used for centuries when extremely hard and dense wood was needed. You’ll find several outstanding specimens at Fairchild: near the South Gate booth (Plot 137), near the Overlook (Plot 37) and at the Corbin building entrance (Plot 138).

**Uncarina grandidiieri**  
The mouse trap tree from Madagascar produces brilliant magenta-throated yellow flowers throughout the year. It thrives in our Lin Lougheed Spiny Forest of Madagascar, Plot 31. Its common name derives from the seed pod which is armed with long, barbed spines. These spines catch on the fur of passing animals. It is in the same family, Pedaliaceae, as sesame.

**Pachira aquatica**  
Guiana-chestnut or money tree is a native of the wetlands of Central America and northern South America. The flower bud peels open to reveal many magenta and cream stamens. Dramatic buttress roots support one of our oldest specimens in Plot 58 near Pandanus Lake. Another smaller tree is at the bottom of the Bailey Palm Glade on the Rainforest side in Plot 151.

### What else is blooming at Fairchild?

A list of the currently flowering plants with a plot map is available at the Visitor Center. Our Web site, [www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org), is an excellent source for images and information about plants in the garden.
Spring at Fairchild

JUNE 2008
MEMBERS’ LECTURE
Wednesday, June 11, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Visitor Center Ballroom, West Indian Avocados in South Florida, by Noris Ledesma, Curator of Tropical Fruit. Wine and cheese will be served.

BAMBOO SHOW AND SALE
Saturday & Sunday, June 14 - 15, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Presented by the American Bamboo Society Caribbean Chapter.

FATHER’S DAY BRUNCH
Sunday, June 15, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Veranda Restaurant. For reservations, please call Creative Tastes at 305.256.8399.

JULY 2008
FROM THE CAPE TO CAIRO COSTUME PARTY
Friday, July 11, 7:00 p.m. Visitor Center Ballroom. For ticket information, please visit www.fairchildgarden.org.

16TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MANGO FESTIVAL
Saturday & Sunday, July 12 - 13, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 a.m.

This schedule of events is subject to change.

Butterfly Days
Saturday & Sunday, July 26 - 27, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

September 2008
AROID SHOW AND SALE
Saturday & Sunday, September 20 - 21, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Presented by the International Aroid Society.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER
Sunday, September 14, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. This is the ONLY day of the year that you can bring your pooch to Fairchild. All dogs must be pre-registered to attend. Please call 305.663.8091 to register.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION DAYS
Thursday & Friday, September 4 - 5, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. OR Saturday, September 13, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. To register, please call 305.667.1651, ext. 3324.

For the latest schedule and to purchase tickets, visit www.fairchildgarden.org.

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For the latest schedule and to purchase tickets, visit www.fairchildgarden.org.
LEAVING A LEGACY
Dr. Lynn Leverett and Ms. Lane Park
By Jeremy Davit, Development Associate

Lynn and Lane are long time supporters of Fairchild and collectively have given over 4,000 hours of their time volunteering for Fairchild in numerous capacities. They are both excellent gardeners and help take care of Fairchild’s landscape heritage and famous palm collection.

Lynn began her volunteer work at Fairchild when she retired from South Miami Hospital’s Department of Pathology in 1997. She was inspired by a course on subtropical nature in South Florida where she studied the natural history of South Florida, Biscayne Bay and the Everglades. Lynn says this course was a life changing event for a “people person” like herself who refused to take botany in college in favor of organic and physical chemistry. Lynn’s volunteer work at Fairchild includes co-chairing Fairchild’s Signs and Decorating Committee, driving the Visitor Services shuttle, serving as hostess for the Chihuly at Fairchild exhibition, serving as a Chihuly fundraising committee member and now serving as co-chairperson of the Garden-to-Garden Committee which is helping Fairchild’s partner garden in Madagascar.

Lane retired from South Miami Hospital in 1992 just before Hurricane Andrew hit Miami. After spending nine months as a general contractor for her home and yard repairs, she reached out to Fairchild which was still in need of major help. Under the guidance of Fairchild’s then landscape and horticulture superintendent, Don Evans, she blossomed into a Fairchild regular. One of Lane’s first contributions to Fairchild was restoring the famous “Sunken Garden.” Lane’s work eventually extended to Fairchild’s palm collections. She has been Co-Chairperson of the Signs and Decorating Committee which now serves the Fairchild Ramble, as well as the Chocolate, Orchid, Palm and Mango Festivals. She has always liked the great outdoors and nature, especially palms.

Recently, Lynn and Lane donated to Fairchild’s palm conservation program from their IRA accounts. This gift enables Fairchild to expand the reach of our palm conservation program through the funding of collecting expeditions to remote regions of the world and other conservation activities. Fairchild is also a beneficiary of Lynn’s IRA at BNY Mellon Private Wealth Management. This provision will help Fairchild continue a stable trajectory in conservation well into the future. Lynn and Lane both take a great deal of pleasure in knowing that their time and treasure will be put to good use by Fairchild.

Lynn and Lane are both members of Fairchild’s Legacy Society, a group established to honor individuals like these two amazing women who make future financial provisions for Fairchild.

L-R: Dr. Lynn Leverett and Ms. Lane Park
Lane and Lynn take a great deal of pleasure in knowing that their time and treasure will be put to good use by Fairchild.

For more information on gift planning at Fairchild or on the Fairchild Legacy Society, please contact Development Associate Jeremy Davit at 305.667.1651, ext. 3377 or jdavit@fairchildgarden.org.
The Fruit Market

AT THE WHITMAN PLAZA

Open every weekend through May 20.

Fruit tasting from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Be sure to stop by and try a delicious fruit smoothie and buy some fresh tropical fruit from our fruit collection to take home.

TROPICAL CUISINE

The Breadfruit, *Artocarpus altillis*

By Noris Ledesma, Curator of Tropical Fruit

Breadfruit is native to New Guinea, the Philippines and possibly the Moluccas (part of Indonesia) and is now cultivated in tropical lowlands around the world. Hundreds of varieties have been cultivated in the western Pacific, and they have spread throughout the Caribbean to Central and South America, Africa, India, Southeast Asia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and South Florida.

For years there have been breadfruit trees in South Florida. Due to their sensitivity to cold, they only fruit during stretches of warm years. However, a number of seedless breadfruit trees fruit consistently in Key West. Back on the mainland, the tree can be maintained outdoors during years of mild winters, but unless protected with a plastic cover to prevent dehydration and cold damage, it will suffer during cold snaps. A few trees have been kept without damage in greenhouses, conservatories and shadehouses, such as the breadfruit selection growing at Fairchild’s Williams Grove Genetic Facility.

There are many varieties, both with and without seeds. When mature, the fruit is creamy white to yellow depending on the variety. Breadfruit is a versatile crop, and the fruit can be cooked and eaten at all stages of maturity. Immature fruits can be baked, boiled, fried, steamed or roasted, much like potatoes. Mature fruits become soft and sweet, and are used in breads, cakes, cookies and flan. Breadfruit may also be preserved by canning, drying or fermentation. It can even be made into a candy by boiling ripe fruit and then dehydrating it after coating with sugar and grated coconut. The seeds are also edible and can be boiled, roasted or ground into meal. Dr. David Fairchild wrote, “I was in Sanna, where the delicious breadfruits were served as they were from their bake ovens in the ashes, left little to be desired and compared favorably with the best baked potatoes or, if sliced, with potato chips. I have always maintained they should be called potato-fruits.”

Caribbean Sweet Breadfruit

1 breadfruit
2 lbs. butter
¼ cup brown sugar
¾ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper

Choose a ripe breadfruit which is soft. Wash and bake whole for one hour in an oven pre-heated to 350ºF. Remove from oven, let cool, and then pull out the core and stem. Cut fruit in half and season with butter, salt, pepper and sugar. Place in a pan and roast in a 350ºF oven for 10 minutes. Serve with any main dish.

CORRECTION: Please note that the Winter 2008 issue of *The Tropical Garden* listed an incorrect volume and number. The correct volume and number are: Volume 63, Number 1.
Flutter over to Fairchild and learn all about butterflies. There will be lots of kids’ activities, walking tours, butterfly plants for purchase and wonderful lectures.

Be sure to attend the keynote lecture by Dr. Naomi E. Pierce, professor of biology and curator of lepidoptera at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.
**ASK MARTHA**

What was old is new again

By Martha Kent, Staff Horticulturist

---

**Adenium obesum**, known also as desert rose, is a flowering succulent that some of us remember from our grandmother’s garden that is now getting noticed again.

A native to sub-Saharan Africa, this plant is shrubby and can reach up to six feet in height with leaves clustered toward the tips of the branches. If the plant is kept warm and watered, it will grow and often flower through the winter. Otherwise, it has two bloom periods: late summer and spring. To provide good drainage, porous soil is essential to the good health of the plant. Mulch is not needed. Remember, you want to promote drainage and a drying out period. I suggest a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) at 1/4 to 1/2 strength.

Another Adenium, *A. multiflorum* or impala lily, can grow up to 10 feet tall. It flowers profusely during the winter after it drops its leaves in the fall. While this plant is also a good candidate, you might find that *A. obesum* is more commonly available for sale. Both species make great container plants as well as going directly into the ground. For the best looking plant, full sun is needed. Its flowers are usually pink, orange or red and often have white throats. With blooms this beautiful, it is no wonder Adeniums are gaining well-deserved attention.

The next time you are strolling through the garden, be sure to stop by and see the container specimens outside the Gallery and in the ground at Plot 135.

Martha Kent is a staff horticulturist at Fairchild. Ask Martha your gardening questions by calling her at 305.667.1651, ext. 3317 or email mkent@fairchildgarden.org.

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**Reminder: New Watering Rules**

**Odd Addresses:** Wednesday and Saturday, either between midnight and 9:00 a.m. or 5:00 and 11:59 p.m.

**Even Addresses:** Thursday and Sunday, either between midnight and 9:00 a.m. or 5:00 and 11:59 p.m.

These rules are effective as of April 18 for Miami-Dade County. The Water Management District said that it intends to make these twice weekly restrictions permanent.

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Palms and sunny South Florida are synonymous. Every visitor takes home memories of our majestic rows of palm-lined streets. Most residents don’t feel like their house is a home until the yard has palms planted in it. From its beginnings over 30 years ago, the South Florida Palm Society (SFPS) has worked to disseminate information about palms and encourage interest in palms and the use of these plants. 1980 marked a milestone in SFPS history – the first time in which there were surplus funds in our treasury. We promptly created a Community Service Committee to evaluate funding requests and to guide the directors in allocating support for palm-related projects. Over the past 27 years, we have assisted a number of organizations, including the following:

Florida Division of Forestry, Bonnet House, Harry P. Leu Gardens City of Miami, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, City of Miami Committee on Beautification and the Environment, International Palm Society, City of Miami Springs, Miami Metrozoo, Dade County Public Schools, Montgomery Botanical Center, TREEmendous Miami, Flamingo Gardens, USDA Subtropical Horticultural Research Station and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Fairchild is by far the leading recipient of funding from the SFPS.

The Society has field trips several times a year to spectacular local gardens and nurseries where you will be able to see well-grown palms in the landscape and for sale. SFPS meets the first Monday of every other month at 7:30 p.m. at Fairchild starting in February. Our next meeting will be June 2. Meetings usually include a speaker, refreshments and plant auctions. At the meetings, you have the opportunity to ask any palm-related questions to a group of growers and enthusiasts whose collective knowledge and experience are vast. The Fall Palm and Cycad Show and Sale of the SFPS will occur November 1-2, 2008, at Fairchild.

Become a volunteer at Fairchild and be part of a wonderful community. Gain knowledge and be part of a global conservation effort right here in South Florida.

Volunteers are needed now to serve as guides for children and adult tours, gardening assistants, garden hosts and in a variety of other areas. If you are dedicated to Fairchild’s mission and can give 4 hours once a week, we can find a volunteer job for you!

For more information come to Volunteer Information Days on
Thursday, September 4 and Friday, September 5, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
OR Saturday, September 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
OR Saturday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Sandy at 305.667.1651, ext. 3324.
What do oriental chicken wings, Romanian lettuce wraps and English sherry trifle have in common? They were all served in honor of Fairchild’s fabulous volunteers at the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch on March 12. Fairchild staff may have “dished out” the praise, but the volunteers returned the compliments emphatically.

“The Brunch is the best buffet in Florida…There’s something for everyone!” exclaimed Volunteer Yonna Levine. Over 100 recipes filled the plates of more than 300 volunteers and staff. To match the colorful fare, the horticulture staff brought the garden inside for the day. Beautiful blossoms from the Vine Pergola, gigantic green leaves from the Rainforest and tremendous torch ginger blooms graced the tables.

Among the 54 volunteers who were honored with pins to recognize their years of service, two extraordinary volunteers earned the title of Volunteer of the Year. Roselle Foster has been a volunteer for eight years and has given 3,000 tireless hours of work to Fairchild. She provides invaluable assistance at the admission desk, in the membership office and with The Fairchild Challenge. Challenge Team Staff Member Nancy Famulari said, “We all look forward to her weekly visits; she shows concern for each of us. She’s kind of like the Challenge Mom. We’re all amazed by her many activities and are inspired by her Energizer bunny-like spirit…We love having her around!” Roselle uses her impeccable organizational skills to help with various jobs in special events and uses her extensive knowledge of Fairchild to be an extraordinary ambassador in our garden and community.

Lynda LaRocca has been a volunteer for nine years and has given nearly 3,000 hours of time to Fairchild. She has shared her photography talents in the virtual herbarium and film expertise during Fairchild’s preparation and exhibition at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2000. Lynda is Co-Chair of the Signs and Decorating Committee and an invaluable asset to the Afternoon Teas, the special events department and various fundraising committees. Marnie Valenti, a special events staff member, said, “Lynda will not only do anything asked of her to help with our many events, but she will exceed at the task. She wears many hats in the garden from her tea hat to her sun cap for putting up signs and banners. I cannot imagine an Afternoon Tea without her!” What these two volunteers do on a weekly and sometimes even daily basis is beyond measure. We are so proud to have them as a part of the Fairchild family and as our 2008 Volunteers of the Year!

The following volunteers are celebrating their anniversaries in 2008. Congratulations and thank you!

**35 YEARS:** Susanne Kayyali, Larry Schokman.

**30 YEARS:** Sue Steinberg.

**20 YEARS:** Polly Herr, Betty McQuale.

**15 YEARS:** Harriet Frillarte, Joe Garrigo, Joe Lawrence, Carole Merten, Joyce Pridgen, Rhya Swiryn, Vivian Waddell, Bar Werner.

**10 YEARS:** Linda Arabian, Dave Blumberg, Libby Blumberg, Judy Griffis, Chris Kilroy, Joanna Lombard, Kathleen Magrath, Aleksandra Nozewnik, Marie O’Domski, Gretchen Schmidt, Freda Tschumy, Martha Voytek, Ken Wilder.

**5 YEARS:** Carlos Baptista, Carol Barrus, Hy Berger, Jan Brown, Lowry Camp, Toni Cook, Kathryn Davila, Margaret Dunn, Nancy Fehr, Evelyn Finley, Louise Gross, Ingrid Halaby, Mitch Haness, Lynn Kowal, Marigrace McCabe, Sigrid McNeil, Leone Modestino, Manuel Nunes, Carol Onstad, Celia Piccini, Ed Preston, Bud Read, Malotte Read, Sima Siegel, Joan Spector, Sam Steiner, Pat Tarkanish, Victor Zion.
“If nature ever showed her playfulness in the formation of plants, this is visible in the most striking way among the orchids. They take on the form of little birds, of lizards, of insects. They look like a man, a woman, sometimes like a clown who excites our laughter. They represent the image of a lazy tortoise, a melancholy toad, an agile ever-chattering monkey. Nature has formed orchid flowers in such a way that, unless they make us laugh, they surely excite our greatest admiration.”

Jacob Breynius, 17th Century Botanist
May 2008

Dear Fairchild Friend:

You may have heard it by now: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is the #1 Florida Wonder as voted by the readers of The Miami Herald. This important designation was not only recognition of our beautiful tropical botanic garden, but also because of our important conservation and education programs in South Florida and throughout the tropical world.

Exploring: This year, the American Public Garden Association recognized Fairchild as the holder of both the National Palm and Cycad Collections. This prestigious honor was a result of Fairchild’s leading efforts in conservation and horticultural display. Fairchild’s conservation scientists have discovered species new to science and are helping plan their conservation. With our partner, Florida International University, we are using DNA research as a tool for conservation, and we are training the next generation of plant conservationists in our laboratories and field projects. But, there is still more that we need to do.

Explaining: Fairchild’s cutting edge education programs, Explorer, Discovery and Challenge, will reach more than 45,000 students in 2008. Thousands of students will be introduced to the bounty of the tropical world, learn about the importance of science and environmental stewardship and will experience Fairchild, one of the few remaining green spaces in Miami. With your help, we could reach even more students. We want every student to develop a passion for the tropical world.

Conserving: Right here in South Florida, Fairchild is saving native plants. Our scientists are working to protect and replant endangered Florida plant species. On an international scale, Fairchild is working closely with over 20 partners worldwide on conservation studies and wildlife management plans. Fairchild is working to conserve some of the most endangered species and habitats in places such as East Africa, Madagascar, the Caribbean and South America. Our conservation initiatives not only save species and habitats, they also stimulate local economies, create jobs and encourage fair trade.

Cultural Impact: Fairchild has brought art to hundreds of thousands of people since 2002 through our exhibitions. This season, Fairchild is hosting the beautiful sculptures of Fernando Botero, Dale Chihuly and Roy Lichtenstein. These exhibitions are unique events that will introduce Fairchild to a quarter of a million people who will learn about our garden and important conservation programs.

We need your help! In order to continue conserving South Florida’s rich plant heritage, addressing conservation needs internationally and providing a wonderful resource for environmental education and world-class art exhibitions, we need your continued support and commitment.

Please make a financial gift to us now to support our Annual Fund drive. While your membership dues help Fairchild continue our wonderful programming, your additional Annual Fund gift will allow us to make the kind of impact that helps protect and save some of the most threatened plants and habitats in the world, introduce visitors and students to a wide open green space and develop and grow one of the world’s most beautiful tropical botanic gardens.

Please take a moment and think about what Fairchild means to you, your family, our community and the future of the tropical world. We thank you for your support and continued commitment to Fairchild.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Greer
President, Board of Trustees

Mike Maunder, Ph.D.
Executive Director

P.S. Please continue your support of Fairchild by sending us your Annual Fund gift today.
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Architectural Jewel by Paist
This “road show” was actually a four-week-long intensive horticulture training workshop. Our first stop, the pilot workshop titled “Primer Seminario de Principios de Jardinería,” was held at Summit Nature Park just outside Panama City, Panama.

For years, South Floridians have enjoyed easy access to Fairchild’s curators and horticulture experts through our continuing education programs, volunteer training courses, horticulture helpline and community lectures. But let’s look past Fairchild. There are several universities in our area that offer course work and degrees in ornamental horticulture and garden design. There is a wealth of publications readily available to anyone who steps foot in a bookshop or library. The Internet is teeming with information about general horticulture and horticulture specific to our area. These are all wonderful information sources – resources that we take for granted.

Now imagine for just a moment that none of these resources exist or are at best spotty and unreliable. Imagine there is no botanic garden with experts to call, no university curriculum and the only real quantity of books or Internet sites about horticulture written in your language are for a totally different part of the world. Frustrating as it may seem, this scenario is a fact of life in Panama, Central America, and, I dare say, many other countries around the world.
The beauty of this workshop is that students can take the information they learn and pass it on to their colleagues, family and friends.

What Fairchild has done to address the problem is create an intensive horticulture workshop to bring much needed information to the people who need it. This course was co-designed by Fairchild and the Summit Nature Park following an initial meeting between Dr. Mike Maunder and Summit’s Director Adrian Benedetti. The course weaves together a mix of classroom lectures and outdoor practice. We cover a wide variety of topics: botany for gardeners, garden design, propagation, nursery management, grafting, pruning, soils and fertilization, planting, pesticides, mulching, composting and more.

With funding from USAID, we presented the pilot workshop, split into two, two-week sessions in October and January. Our 25 students were a mixed lot at varying levels of education, including Summit employees, members of local nursery associations and affiliates of local non-profit organizations. They were all eager to learn and soaked in every word we had to say. A few of our more educated students even gave us a hand when we didn’t quite have the words in Spanish to explain ourselves satisfactorily (thus leading to an amusing display of charades – which our pupils quickly learned to decipher).

For our students, the highlight of the workshop was the field trips. In October, we visited two local nurseries, el Tigre Verde and PRORENA, to find out how each is successfully managed. We encouraged students to think critically about what they saw and heard and to decide for themselves which practices they can implement at their own nurseries. In January, as part of the landscape design module, we visited the home of landscape designer Denise Bennett. There, students practiced identifying the elements of design, line, color, form, and texture, which they had previously learned in class.

Another small victory for this workshop was educating participants on how to safely use pesticides. Ignorance and abuse of pesticides is a worldwide epidemic. In Panama, for example, the deadly herbicide paraquat is favored over safer chemicals simply because it is cheaper and has a longer history of use. Once our students realized the danger of using this chemical without protection (as some of them do), they were eager to learn all they could about pesticides to protect themselves and others.

The beauty of this workshop is that students can take the information they learn and pass it on to their colleagues, family and friends. This way, the number of people we reach (indirectly) can grow exponentially.

We have seen great outcomes benefiting everyone involved in this pilot workshop. The grounds crew at Summit is better prepared to perform their daily tasks. Members of the local nursery association will hopefully see increased income as a result of healthier plants. In addition, we have built a lasting relationship between Summit and Fairchild, and we have successfully test-run a program with the potential for grand success.

Special thanks to USAID for providing financial support for this workshop and to my co-instructors Jason Lopez, April Dominguez and Mike Cavanagh. I would also like to thank Ms. Denise Bennett, el Tigre Verde, and PRORENA for graciously hosting us on our workshop fieldtrips.
The landscape company that cares about you and your environment. We love what we do and we offer competitive pricing, unique landscape design and a private nursery specializing in rare palms, cycads, natives and mature lignum vitae. We also provide design and installation of carved coral rock waterfalls, fish ponds and walkways. With over 30 years of experience in South Florida, let us enrich your property and your world. Remember trees absorb harmful carbon dioxide gases and help prevent global warming! Call us today.

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Good news for the ENDANGERED SARGENT’S CHERRY PALM in the Florida Keys

Dr. Joyce Maschinski, Conservation Ecologist/Team Leader
Known from the Florida Keys and the Caribbean, Sargent’s cherry palm was endangered due to habitat destruction, grazing, over-harvesting and hurricanes. At the time of its discovery in the U.S. in 1886, the palm was known from three islands in the Florida Keys with small populations of a few to 200 plants. By 1925, it was believed to be extirpated from the Florida Keys, but in 1950, 28 adult palms were rediscovered on Elliott Key, and eight years later three adult plants were discovered on Long Key.

Occasionally, it is important to check whether our honest intentions to help conserve rare plant species really are helping to prevent extinction. Recently Janice Duquesnel, Biological Scientist with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and I reviewed the success of Fairchild’s first reintroduction of Sargent’s cherry palm (*Pseudophoenix sargentii*), which was a large multi-year collaborative effort with FDEP and the National Park Service (NPS). Accomplished 17 years ago, this reintroduction to federal and state parks required careful documentation of the species’ historic distribution and was a landmark, because it was the first plant reintroduction to occur in a Florida state park and helped opened avenues for more plant conservation efforts and public interpretation.

Known from the Florida Keys and the Caribbean, Sargent’s cherry palm was endangered due to habitat destruction, grazing, over-harvesting and hurricanes. At the time of its discovery in the U.S. in 1886, the palm was known from three islands in the Florida Keys with small populations of a few to 200 plants. By 1925, it was believed to be extirpated from the Florida Keys, but in 1950, 28 adult palms were rediscovered on Elliott Key, and eight years later three adult plants were discovered on Long Key. Fairchild’s former Conservation Ecologist Carol Lippincott led surveys of the historic U.S. locations in 1991 and found that the palm had been extirpated from Sands and Long Key, but 47 plants remained on Elliott Key. The species was listed as Florida endangered in 2000. Because Caribbean populations also have been extirpated or are declining, the species’ IUCN status is considered to be regionally endangered and globally vulnerable.

Native to the Caribbean Basin, Sargent’s cherry palm is a slow-growing, long-lived perennial palm. Several beautiful specimens are on display in the Fairchild Palmetum. As is true of many palms, the shape of its leaves change as they mature, therefore it is possible to categorize plants into different life stages. Seedlings have lance-shaped leaves called eophylls, juvenile plants have lance-shaped and feathery compound fronds, while adults achieving heights of 8 m (24 feet) have alternate, spirally arranged feathery fronds. Although Sargent’s cherry palm can begin flowering in cultivation within 14 years, wild individuals that are not supplemented with water or fertilizer may take 30-100 years to reproduce.
To secure the U.S. population, in 1991–1993, Fairchild scientists and collaborators reintroduced plants propagated from seed in Fairchild’s nursery into 13 locations on NPS and FDEP lands. Thanks to the very good horticultural techniques of Rob Campbell, plus the good plant records and maps kept by former Fairchild conservation staff, we were able to revisit each transplanted individual in 2000, 2004 and 2008. We compared the survival, growth and reproduction of the natural wild population to those transplanted back to the wild. We also categorized plants into five growth categories based on their leaf shapes and height. Since we want to know whether our reintroduced plants live long enough to flower and produce new seedlings, the long maturation period of Sargent’s cherry palm presents somewhat of a challenge for us to measure the success of our reintroductions. As I probably won’t be the conservation ecologist here in 2091, I had to use a mathematical technique called population viability analysis (PVA) to project how the population would likely grow in the future.

Our findings are very encouraging. Since 1991, the wild population has increased 6.4-fold. We attribute the recent growth of the wild population to good seedling establishment and to removing the greatest threats within the protected park lands. Our models indicate that after 17 years, our reintroductions have helped reduce the extinction risk of the Sargent’s cherry palm in several ways. First, the transplanted plants contribute to the total number of plants alive in
the wild. In general, the larger a population is, the lower its extinction risk. Second, the transplanted plants expand the total locations where the species grows. The more populations growing in different places, the less chance that the whole species will be wiped out by a catastrophic event. As you can imagine, these populations have gotten their share of hurricane impacts! Third, the reintroduced plants are maturing faster than wild plants, probably because of the care they received early in the nursery and because of the good growing conditions they were given at the time they were transplanted.

From the perspective of the PVA, these qualities make a big difference. Faster growth leads to more plants becoming capable of reproducing in a shorter amount of time, which in turn enhances the total likelihood of positive population growth and decreased extinction risk. Happily, our reintroductions did help the species. Such demonstrations of effective conservation activities bolster the spirits of all those working in plant conservation throughout the world, so we have shared this news with our international colleagues in a recent publication in *Biological Conservation*. It is important to note that this research was only possible because of Fairchild’s long-term commitment to conservation in South Florida, our wonderful agency collaborators, who continue to give us permission to work on their land and share data with us, the professional manner in which records were kept within all participating institutions and the hard work of generations of employees and volunteers who have helped to implement and monitor this reintroduction. Fairchild’s work with the palm continues and is ongoing. Dr. Carl Lewis and Sandra Namoff, with funding support from Biscayne National Park, are currently studying the genetic contribution of the reintroductions to the population. On behalf of all Sargent’s cherry palms, I thank you all.
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Did you know that the materials for many everyday items come from palms? If you look closely, you’ll find that certain types of hats are made from sustainable palm fiber. Our Tula Hats, woven by hand from durable palm fiber, are great for gardening, hiking or just enjoying the outdoors. They are also rated UPF 50+ for sun protection.

Another unique material from palms is tagua, which is commonly called “vegetable ivory.” Tagua nuts are actually seeds from palm trees that can be carved or used whole to make items such as key chains, animal figurines and jewelry. Tagua is a renewable resource that helps stop deforestation and is a beautiful alternative to traditional ivory.

What’s in store

By Erin Fitts, Director of Retail and Visitor Services

Fairchild has recently been featured in some widely-acclaimed publications. Stop by The Shop at Fairchild and be sure to check out these beautiful botanic books.

Botanic Gardens: A Living History
Editor: Nadine Monem. $59.95

Botanic Gardens: A Living History is an interesting collection of essays on the history, context and future of botanic gardens, with a primary theme of the changing role of the botanic garden. Several of the essays highlight how botanic gardens have changed throughout the years from places to grow and study medicinal plants to areas of leisure in the age of urbanization, to modern institutions that focus on biodiversity conservation and education outreach.

Dr. Mike Maunder, Fairchild’s Executive Director, contributes a featured essay to this book, illustrating how Fairchild has adapted to this changing nature of the botanic garden. Maunder explains that while Fairchild will always be a place for visitors to enjoy tropical plants, Fairchild now has an important responsibility to “engage in issues related to the loss of global biodiversity as many species near extinction and environments undergo profound ecological collapse.” To this end, he describes how Fairchild is working with partners in South America, the Caribbean, East Africa and Madagascar, conducts community outreach in Miami and focuses on research that take on important conservation issues in the areas of species and habitat protection.

Also included in this book is a listing of 80 of the most important botanic gardens in the world. Fairchild is included in this prestigious group, with a full-page summary of the garden and beautiful color photographs.

The Garden at Night: Private Views of Public Edens
Photographer: Linda Rutenberg. $40.00

Linda Rutenberg’s photographic essay illuminates the unique world of botanic gardens at night. The book consists of striking photographs of both garden landscapes and individual plants displayed in fantastic night-time interpretations. Fairchild is one of the featured gardens, with a collection of nine gorgeous, full-color photographs. Fairchild was selected by Rutenberg because of the importance of its historical, architectural and cultural context, as well its extensive plant collections.

The book includes an introduction by poet Christopher Dewdney and comments from actor William Shatner. Signed copies are available at The Shop at Fairchild while supplies last.

Great Botanic Gardens of the World
Author: Sara Oldfield. $39.95

Oldfield explores the architecture, history and horticulture of more than 60 of the best botanic gardens of the world. Case studies highlight noteworthy and appealing plants and there is a special focus on the role gardens can play in sustainable development and ecotourism. Fairchild is included as one of the featured gardens. This book will be available for purchase in the spring of 2008. To reserve a copy now, or to receive more information as it becomes available, please email us at shop@fairchildgarden.org, and we will contact you as soon as the book is in stock.
Plants give us our sense of place in the world. Endemic plants, or those that occur only in a specific place or region, are the treasures that help make our community unique.

Among South Florida’s precious gems that distinguish it as a special place in the world are its pine rocklands and the rare plants that inhabit them. Pine rocklands are a globally endangered ecosystem, occurring only in South Florida, the Bahamas and Cuba. They are known by their tall South Florida slash pines (*Pinus elliottii* var. *densa*) and saw palmettos (*Serenoa repens*), and they support 374 kinds of native plants, of which 31 are endemic, five are listed as federally endangered and five are candidates for listing.

Rapid development in South Florida has endangered pine rocklands and their rare species. Once found extensively on limestone uplands from North Miami Beach to Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park, today less than 2% of pine rocklands remain as small fragments. Many of these remnants are protected by the Miami-Dade Natural Areas Management and Environmentally Endangered Lands programs, but some remain on unprotected public and private land.

At Fairchild, we are concerned about the persistence of the rare and common plants of pine rocklands. Their high biodiversity provides us with ecosystem services, such as fresh air, clean water and productive soils; food, medicines and natural products that keep us healthy; economic benefits that maintain a vigorous economy; and natural beauty for a better quality of life.

Scientists know that when habitats are fragmented, there are negative consequences for rare species. In the case of pine rocklands, plant populations become isolated and shrink in size. This reduces the opportunities for pollinators to find flowers, which in turn may decrease seed production and the genetic health of these populations. Thus, the rare plants that live in pine rocklands become more vulnerable to catastrophic events such as hurricanes, from which recovery becomes increasingly less likely.

To aid pine rockland plants, Fairchild launched a new project with funding support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Our goal is to create corridors or stepping stones between existing pine rocklands to improve their health. Creating connections among pine rockland fragments will shorten the distance that bees, butterflies and birds must travel to move seeds and pollen across developed areas. The interchange of seeds and pollen improve gene flow, the genetic health of native plant species and the likelihood that these species will persist over the long term.

Federally endangered crenulate lead plant (*Amorpha herbacea* var. *crenulata*) blooming in Fairchild’s nursery.
Meeting this goal will require planting many native pine rockland species. In preparation, we have collected seeds of pine rockland plants to learn about their germination, storage and cultivation requirements. We have collaborated with The Fairchild Challenge to engage students in helping to restore pine rockland habitats and plant pine rockland native gardens on their school grounds. For example, in the 2007 Fairchild Challenge contest, Miami Palmetto High School student Yunxin Jiao designed the winning logo and suggested the slogan, “Connect to Protect” for our initiative. Students have also submitted posters describing the role that corridors can play to help pollinators move among pine rockland natural areas.

To realize this dream fully, it will require the participation of many volunteers as well as public and private landowners.

Why should you join the Connect to Protect Network (CTPN)? Not only can you help preserve biodiversity and save some of the rarest plant species in South Florida, but joining the CTPN can benefit you and our community in other ways. In these times of water restrictions and efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, planting or maintaining native plants in your landscape reduces water use, installation and maintenance costs and fuel use. Studies by University of Florida researchers indicate that using native plants in landscapes can significantly lower expenses; installation costs were reduced by one-third and maintenance costs by over three-quarters in a study that compared landscaping with native wildflowers versus using St. Augustine turf grass. Generally, native plants do not require as many pesticides, fertilizers, mowing or trimming as other plants. After establishment, native plants may not require additional water. Reducing the use of pesticide, fertilizer and gas-powered equipment will improve water quality, cut air pollution and shrink our carbon footprint.

Help us protect pine rocklands for future generations. You can participate in the CTPN if you have existing pine rockland habitat on your property or wish to restore pine rockland plants in a garden on your property within pine rockland boundaries in Miami-Dade County. In 2008, as our funding allows, Fairchild is committed to helping interested participants in the following ways:

1) Give presentations to your organization on the purpose of the CTPN.
2) Assist with organizing and training volunteers to help clean up your pine rockland site and plant pine rockland species.
3) Provide you with a number of pine rockland plants grown in our nursery.
4) Advise you on ways to maintain your pine rockland plants.
5) Put you in contact with other CTPN members for support in your efforts.

For information about joining the Connect to Protect Network, please contact Dr. Scott Lewis at 305.667.1651, ext. 3411 or slewis@fairchildgarden.org.
**BOOK REVIEW**

**Pocket Guide to Palms**

By Robert Lee Riffle


By Christie Jones, Curator of Palms and Cycads

I love it! Two thumbs up! Just what we needed! What else need be said of the newest book from the late Robert Lee Riffle? With the help of a few friends and colleagues, Riffle’s book, *Timber Press Pocket Guide to Palms*, made it to press for all of us to enjoy. Although he is no longer with us, Riffle certainly made a lasting mark on the world of palms with this book, as well as his award-winning book, *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms*, which he co-authored with Paul Craft.

*Timber Press Pocket Guide to Palms* is a perfectly distilled version of the bigger and bulkier *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms*. Where the latter is a good investment for the avid palm collector, the former is more useful to the average home gardener. It is sleek and small (but not quite pocket-size in my opinion) and filled from front to back with wonderful glossy photos illustrating the palm species it describes.

The book has a brief introduction, quickly touching on the botany of palm trees and a bit about maintenance and care. A reader who does not already know about planting and caring for palms would need to consult another publication for detailed information, such as Broschat and Meerow’s *Ornamental Palm Horticulture*. The intent of Riffle’s book is not to give a thorough treatment to the subject; however, with just a few more pages, he could have better prepared the reader and done away with the need to refer to another book.

My favorite part of Riffle’s book comes just after the introduction. It is a collection of lists of palms for specific purposes and locations. For example, there is a list of drought tolerant palm species, water loving palm species, fast growing palms, slow growing palms and so on. Each palm that appears is described in detail later in the book. This section is handy to anyone with a place to plant a palm, but with little idea which would be best suited to the site.

The body of the book is composed of detailed descriptions of 200 palms which are either “likely to be found in cultivation” or “deserving of wider cultivation.” Each description has succinct information on the palm’s native distribution; height and width; trunk, leaf, crownshaft, flower and fruit details; growth rate; preferred climate, exposure, soil and water needs; salt tolerance; whether it is happy indoors; how to germinate seed; and any other notes worthy of mention. There are also excellent photos illustrating each palm.

It must have been difficult to pick just 200 of the many hundreds of palms in cultivation. The temptation of any palm lover is to include them all. However, Riffle did a great job of selecting those species worthy to appear in his book. And although they are from varied habitats all over the world, the majority of the palms listed grow well in South Florida and are available at local nurseries.

All in all, *Timber Press Pocket Guide to Palms* is a well-written piece nicely suited to the needs of home gardeners in South Florida. In my opinion, it fills a void which previously existed. It is a book written for gardeners of all levels of experience, and it achieves a good balance between photos and written descriptions – most books that preceded it were either too heavy in one or the other. I highly recommend this book to anyone who grows or wants to grow palms.

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**Donate your change to Fairchild’s conservation programs**

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FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN
t was a strange environment – miles and miles of palms and nothing else. I was 15 years old, and in northeastern Brazil with my family, heading up the coastline through small towns toward a white-sanded beach, our destination for a week of rest and relaxation. In this endless sea of palms were coconut, carnauba and oil palm plantations. Palms supported the whole community in this area. Houses were made of palm trunks with roofs of palm thatching. Bowls, buttons and fiber were made from coconuts. Local people sold the wax from the young leaves of the carnauba palm to manufacturers to be converted into polish, lipstick and even the outer coats of jellybeans. The oil palms we saw had huge bunches of fruit which were harvested to be pressed into cooking oil, locally called dende. It was the first time I felt I truly understood the relevance and importance of plants to our societies.

Palm oil has been used by many civilizations for thousands of years. Archaeological evidence shows palm oil usage in ancient Egypt, and it is likely palm oil was used before recorded history. Written accounts in the 1400s by European explorers in Western Africa detail the use of palm oil. During the British Industrial Revolution, palm oil was in high demand for machinery oil, candles and even soap. Oil palms were an important cash crop for Europe, and the early 1900s saw increased development of European oil palm plantations in Central Africa and Southeast Asia. Over time, Southeast Asian palm oil production stagnated for many years until the Malaysian government began an aggressive agricultural diversification program. As a result, many of the rubber plantations of Malaysia and other Southeast Asian countries were converted to oil palm plantations.

There are numerous oil producing palm species around the world (Attalea crassispatha, endemic to Haiti, to name one), but none are more productive than the African oil palm; Elaeis guineensis (elaios in Greek means oil). Elaeis guineensis can grow to more than 20 meters high and produce tightly clustered groups of flowers and large bunches of fruit. The palm oil is extracted from the fleshy part of the fruit, but the kernel inside also yields what is called palm kernel oil. The oil palm is generally farmed for up to 22-25 years and reaches a peak production period at about 8-15 years of age. Usually at 25 years of age, the palm trees are so tall (25 feet) that they become out of reach of the industrial harvesting machines.

Of all the vegetable oil crops in the world, palm oil is the most productive. Oil produced from one hectare of oil palm plantation produces almost four times that of one hectare of rapeseed and four times that of soy. While oil palm plantations are more labor intensive than other oil crop plantations, labor in the countries where palm oil is produced is less expensive.

The demand for this oil has increased dramatically the last few years. It is a relatively inexpensive oil to produce for cooking and is quite tasty, therefore making an increasingly popular cooking item. Also, the recent concern about trans-fats issues in the United States has prompted food manufacturers to seek “safer” alternatives. Palm oil does not contain trans-fats, but it is not without its own negative health implications. In fact, many scientific studies have linked the acids in palm oil to heart disease. Palm oil is also popular since it remains in a solid state at room temperature, making it ideal for cooking and baking. The push for sustainable energy and “green” bio-fuels has also caused the increase in demand for palm oil.
The oil palm

By Jeremy Davit, Development Associate

The European Union has invested a lot of money into palm oil production in an effort to increase the research on and production of bio-fuels. As a leading researcher and consumer in the bio-fuel industry, the European Union is currently the world’s largest importer of palm oil. The increase demand for edible oils (from countries such as United States, India and China) and bio-fuels is actually causing the rapid conversion of rainforests (and draining of peat swamps) into new palm oil plantations.

*Elaeis guineensis* palm oil comes from many parts of the world with most production occurring in Southeast Asia. Indonesia recently became the world leader in palm oil production and is responsible for 44% of the world’s supply. Just in the last year, Indonesia increased their palm oil production by 10% and is well poised to continue their ranking as top producer well into the future. Malaysia ranks in at number two with 43% of palm oil production. Thailand, Nigeria and Colombia each produce about 2% of the world’s palm oil.

Palm oil production in Indonesia began in the early 1900s with the establishment of the first large plantations. Sumatra has been and will continue to be the largest producer of palm oil in the Indonesian islands holding about 70-80% of Indonesian production. This presents a conservation problem for our friend *Amorphophalus titanum*, the charismatic and foul smelling titan arum native to Sumatra. As oil palm plantations continue to take over rainforest on Sumatra, the titan arum’s habitat is increasingly threatened.

According to Dr. Carl Lewis, Fairchild’s Head of Palm Research, “Oil palms have a wide range of variation in the quality and amount of oil they produce. Most of the oil palms grown on plantations today are a high oil-producing variety called Tenera. Commercial growers are now able to clone Tenera palms using tissue culture, producing massive, plantation-scale quantities of palms more quickly than classical breeding would allow.”

Lewis also added that there is great commercial interest in developing new varieties of oil palms that may be able to produce oil more efficiently. He said, “Teams of researchers are working to understand the genetic factors that make oil palms grow, flower, and produce fruit. Oil palms have joined the ranks of other thoroughly studied, economically important palms including the coconut and date palms. These species serve as model organisms that advance our understanding of palms in general. At Fairchild, we have used some of the emerging genetic data from coconut, date and oil palm research to develop our own conservation genetic studies of endangered palms throughout the tropics.”

The oil palm seems like the ultimate cash crop (low cost of production, long life, high oil yield), but its cultivation takes a huge toll on our environment. As oil palm plantations proliferate, massive amounts of rainforest and peat bogs are overtaken. Peat bogs store massive amounts of carbon, accumulated over thousands of years. Construction of oil palm plantations on these peat bogs releases carbon into our atmosphere, greatly impacting climate change. We have seen rainforest clearings in the Amazon for cattle ranches and soy plantations. Now, huge tracts of rainforest in Southeast Asia are converted into oil palm plantations. This has generated a major concern from governments, individuals and organizations world wide. Not only are many rare and endemic plants lost with rainforest depletion, rainforest fauna including orangutans, rainforest rhino and tigers, all of which are endangered species are also succumbing to the pressures of deforestation and fragmentation.

Certainly palm oil producing nations are now working to create sustainable standards through an international organization of producers, stakeholders, conservationists and distributors known as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). Hopefully, RSPO can help stop the rapid rate at which rainforests are being converted into oil palm plantations.

Fairchild was recently named the National Palm Collection by the American Public Gardens Association. Not only does Fairchild harbor over 500 of the world’s roughly 2,500 species of palms, but our collection contains some of the most scientifically important palms in the world. You can find *Elaeis guineensis* at Fairchild in numerous locations, but most notably behind the amphitheatre. This species grows very well in South Florida and actually, if left unattended, will proliferate quite rapidly.
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Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden held its 15th annual Gala in the Garden on Saturday, February 2, 2008. The co-chairs for this year’s black-tie fundraiser were Bunny Bastian and Teresa Buoniconti. Jean duPont Shehan served as Honorary Chairman, with Anna May Conese, Frances Aldrich Sevilla-Sacasa, Brenda Nestor Castellano and Swanee DiMare as Philanthropic Chairmen and Barbara Tria as Silent Auction Chairman.

This year’s Gala in the Garden for 450 guests began with cocktails and a highlight of the evening, a silent auction, in the Northern Trust Ballroom of the Jean duPont Shehan Visitor Center. Guests proceeded to a large lakeside pavilion for dining and dancing to the music of The Peter Duchin Orchestra, one of the most currently sought after bands, who returned after last year’s much talked about performance.

Along with catering the event, Le Basque Catering in association with Karla Productions, created the modern, innovative décor with orange, purple, hot pink and emerald green fabrics draped throughout the pavilion, creating a contemporary-themed atmosphere. Brightly colored gerbera daisies were used for table centerpieces. The centerpieces were later donated to a local hospital. Gala guests enjoyed a spectacular evening in the stunning tropical landscape while they also supported Fairchild’s vital work. The Gala netted more than $600,000; all proceeds support the advancement of Fairchild’s programs in education, research and conservation.

Please save the date for Gala in the Garden 2009 scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009. We are pleased to announce Brenda Nestor Castellano and Swanee DiMare as Chairmen of the 2009 event. For further information, please contact Suzanne Kores at 305.667.1651, ext. 3323 or skores@fairchildgarden.org.
1- Mike Maunder, Jean Ellen Shehan, Bruce Greer
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3- Darlene and Jorge Perez, Adrienne Asht, Eugenio and Frances Sevilla-Sacasa
4- Teresa Buoniconti and Richard Lancaster
5- Robert Castellano and Brenda Nestor Castellano
6- Swanee and Paul DiMare
7- Vinne and Barbara Tria
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FAIRCHILD’S 6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ORCHID FESTIVAL

Visitors basked in the glory of thousands of orchids in every shape and color during Fairchild’s International Orchid Festival this year, February 29 through March 2. The festival featured nearly 30 orchid growers from around the world who exhibited the plant’s magnificent diversity—a sure delight for the orchid enthusiast and those new to the spectacular world of orchids. The Orchid Society of Coral Gables once again graced the Garden House with an American Orchid Society juried show displaying orchids for visitors to marvel at throughout the weekend. Hundreds of orchids, plants and a melodious waterfall created a sensory overload for visitors in the Garden House while outside it was a veritable orchid market, with thousands of vivid orchids for sale. The Orchid Society of Coral Gables stepped up to provide advice and tips on growing orchids at the Get Growing booth on the Garden House Lawn. In addition, guests enjoyed educational lectures, walking tours and live music including Polynesian music and hula dancers.

14TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY MUSIC AT FAIRCHILD

The Holiday Music Concert at Fairchild has always been one of the most delightful ways to start the holiday season. This past December, the concert was once again presented by Ocean Bank and chaired by Diane Davis and Susannah Shubin. Before the concert, everyone enjoyed a light supper on the beautifully decorated Garden House Lawn. Under the artist direction of Robert Heath, the Fairchild Chamber Soloists performed a delightful selection of seasonal music. Afterward, guests feasted on a delicious dessert table, complete with a special bananas foster flambe. Save the date for this year’s concert on Sunday, December 7, celebrating the 15th year of Holiday Music with guest artist Jeffrey Kaye. The 2008 event is chaired by Susannah Shubin and Susan McGrath, and presented by White and Case, LLC.

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Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden needs the support of donors and members like you. Please consider making a donation to the garden to support our ever-growing operational and programmatic needs. Every gift helps ensure our continued growth.

For information on making a donation, please call 305.667.1651, ext. 3323, or send contributions to:

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Development Office
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FOR THE FAIRCHILD TRIBUTE PROGRAM
• Digital SLR camera with memory card, spare battery pack: $1,500

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
• Notebook computer, new, small, lightweight and wireless: $2,000
• Portable LCD projector: $3,000

To fully fund a wish, donate a portion of the cost or donate the actual item, please contact Suzanne Kores at 305.667.1651, ext. 3323 or skores@fairchildgarden.org.

FAIRCHILD’S INTERNATIONAL PALM AND CYCAD FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday, April 5 - 6, marked Fairchild’s very first International Palm and Cycad Festival. Over 3,000 visitors came to the garden to join in on the festivities and admire Fairchild’s world-class collection of palms and cycads. As guests took in the beauty of the garden and the sculptures of Botero, Lichtenstein and Chihuly, many attended lectures from world’s experts and horticulturists and set out on organized tours of Fairchild’s palm and cycad collections. Other visitors perused the amazing array of plants for sale presented by the South Florida Palm Society, sat in on a cooking demonstrations, brought their children to decorate coconuts in the kids’ area or enjoyed a pina colada from everyone’s favorite booth, The Coconut Man.

VALENTINE’S DAY CONCERT

It was an enchanted evening at Fairchild on February 14. Under the direction of Dr. Sam Lussier, the FIU Big Bang along with special guest vocalist Nicole Henry and pianist Mike Orta, played a romantic array of love songs, including, “The Look of Love,” “I Thought About You,” “At Last” and “Straighten Up and Fly Right.” Over 1,500 people enjoyed the concert sponsored by Bank of America and Jeanne and Rudy Aragon under a starlit sky. Guests also feasted on gourmet picnic basket dinners provided by Creative Tastes.
TOOLS FOR MADAGASCAR
The Friends of Fairchild committee raised $5,700 for the “Tools for Madagascar” project with the support of Fairchild volunteers, staff and members of the community. The raffle drawing was held at the Friends of Fairchild Spring Social which was attended by 116 volunteers, where family and friends enjoyed a beautiful, fun-filled evening at Fairchild.

(Left-right) George Gates, Yonna Levine, Stacy De Meo, Pauline Goldsmith and Cornelia Hurst (Lynn Leverett - not shown)

TROPICAL BOTANY AND ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAM
Students from McGill University and staff from Fairchild wade through Big Cypress National Preserve guided by Everglades National Park botanist Jimi Sadle and Big Cypress botanist Jim Burch. The outing was part of an eight day tropical botany and ecosystems program developed by Fairchild’s Education Department and the Department of Plant Science of McGill University.

RAMBLE NOTES
The Fairchild Ramble will be held November 8-9, 2008. Mark your calendars now for Fairchild’s most beloved festival! Your donations are needed now to insure the financial success of this important friend-and-fundraiser.

To donate to the Ramble’s famous Antiques & Collectibles Sale, call Dorothy at 305.666.3010. Items of age, distinction and beauty, including art, jewelry, linens, silver, china, ceramics and other collectibles will be greatly appreciated. To donate good quality used and rare books and other media for the Old & Rare Books booth, call Stuart at 305.665.8572. Pick-ups of all items can be arranged.

APRIL MOVIE NIGHTS
Fairchild celebrated outdoor living on Thursday nights during the month of April with al fresco movie nights. Families and couples spread out on blankets and chairs on the Garden House Lawn while enjoying the cinematic experiences of “Grease,” “Bee Movie,” “Juno” and “Madagascar.” Keep an eye out for next year’s movie schedule.
ELECTRIC CARS TAKE A SPIN AROUND FAIRCHILD

On Saturday, April 12, hundreds of local students, teachers, administrators and community members descended upon the garden for the 2008 Fairchild Challenge Research Projects Showcase. The ensuing event was an inspiring celebration of solar inventions, green cuisine, model skyway bridges, school energy audits and native seed germination experiments, with participating students working to earn their school points towards the annual Fairchild Challenge award.

Part of the day’s festivities included a display of electric vehicles presented by the Florida Electric Auto Association (FEAA) and a discussion panel with Chelsea Sexton, Executive Director of Plug In America and star of the movie “Who Killed the Electric Car?” Chelsea and members of the FEAA spoke to a standing-room only audience at Fairchild, answering questions and inspiring action on the subject of electric vehicles. This topic is no stranger to hundreds of Fairchild Challenge high school students who had the option this year of watching the movie “Who Killed the Electric Car?” and writing a 1,500 word opinion paper on it. More than 40 local schools received a copy of the movie, free of charge, through The Fairchild Challenge.

Chelsea and Charles Whalen (FEAA) also joined Education staff at Miami City Hall the evening before the Research Projects Showcase to present a special showing of “Who Killed the Electric Car?” The event was free and open to the public and was a collaboration between Fairchild’s Education Department and City of Miami Commissioner Marc Sarnoff’s office.

For more information on electric vehicles, please visit the Florida Electric Auto Association’s Web site at www.floridaeaa.org or www.pluginamerica.com.

STAFF NEWS

Photos by Gaby Orihuela/FTBG

JON-MARIO BAUTISTA
Jon-Mario joined Fairchild as Manager of the Whitman Tropical Fruit Pavilion in January 2008. He brings a wealth of knowledge about tropical fruits and plants through his years of experience at the Fruit & Spice Park, and as a past volunteer and Horticultural Technician at Fairchild’s Williams Grove. He holds an A.A. in Business Administration from Miami-Dade College, and he is currently pursuing a degree in Environmental Horticulture.

ERIN HEALY
Erin graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2000, where she studied anthropology. She later received a Master’s in public health from Tulane in 2003. Before moving to Miami, Erin has worked in the U.S. and West Africa on community health projects, and also with children and young people in after-school and summer programs, including the Brooklyn Botanic Children’s Garden.

SUREY RIOS
Surey joined the Education Department in June 2007, as part of The Fairchild Challenge team. Her background is in secondary science education, and she worked both as a science teacher and curriculum specialist before establishing roots at Fairchild. You may have spotted her at our festivals as an orchid fairy, a pirate and a Hershey’s Kiss!

KEN NEUGENT
Ken started as a volunteer in Fairchild’s nursery in May 1994. Shortly thereafter, Ken was offered a position in the nursery and eventually became Nursery Manager. He served as the Nursery Manager for the past 14 years, and he recently took over as Fairchild’s Conservatory Manager. Ken said that he is the luckiest guy at the garden!
The Langlois’ Legacy in Palms
By Janet Mosely-Latham

Arthur and Margaret Langlois of Nassau, Bahamas, began collecting palms as a hobby in the late 1920s after purchasing The Retreat, an 11-acre estate in New Providence, Nassau. What began as a hobby developed into a well-respected life’s work of studying, photographing, collecting and growing often very rare palms. They continued on despite hurricanes and droughts, World War II and the lure of selling off the property to developers. The Retreat, now a part of the Bahamas National Trust, is considered one of the best known private palm collections in the world.

Dr. David Fairchild held the Langlois in high esteem as is evidenced by his inscription in their copy of Garden Islands of the Great East:

“To the Langlois – both of them. The most passionate lovers of palms it has ever been my lot to meet. May some of those from this cruise which are growing in their “Retreat” furnish seeds for other gardens on this side of the world. Sincerely, David Fairchild, October 16, 1943.”

They were the only private collectors to whom Dr. Fairchild entrusted seeds and plantings from the Cheng Ho expedition.

Arthur and Margaret took several expeditions of their own to study and photograph palms – British Honduras (now Belize), Costa Rica, Trinidad, Panama, Jamaica, Madagascar and the South Pacific. At the time, likenesses of palms were hard to come by. So they set about collecting photographs themselves as well as from an impressive array of friends and acquaintances, among them David Fairchild, palm botanist Harold E. Moore and Dent Smith, founder of the International Palm Society. The Langlois were also charter members of the Palm Society and Margaret sat on the Board.

Some of the photos collected by the Langlois were used by James McCurrach in his 1959, Palms of the World. Others went into Langlois’ own volume, well-known among palm enthusiasts, Supplement to the Palms of the World, which was published at the time of his death in 1977.

Langlois’ photographs are housed in the Fairchild archives along with drawings and the working notes that he kept on all known palm genera. They represent decades of study and the pursuit of images of little known palms. Margaret donated them to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in a letter dated May 22, 1980:

“As a palm lover he considered you as one of his best friends and wanted you to have – if you considered it of any value – the results of a part of his life’s work – the accumulation of information and photographs of his much loved plant – the palm....Now the thousands of pictures, not used in his book, will be available for reference.”

Fairchild Archives. Arthur C. Langlois Collection
Recently Langlois’ wish has been fulfilled. One of the genera he kept notes on is *Ponapea* which is endemic to Micronesia. The genus *Ponapea* was transferred to *Ptychosperma* by Moore in 1956. In 1961, Langlois wrote that he believed them to be distinct due to his observations on differences in habitat preferences and fruit size. However, there was not enough known at the time to make a definite decision. “As far as I can ascertain these palms have never been photographed,” (Fairchild Archives. Arthur C. Langlois Collection). The only known diagnostic herbarium specimens were destroyed at the Berlin Herbarium during World War II.

Soon there will be photographs collected on the *Ponapea* palms, and Langlois’ own notes will have helped increase the extant body of knowledge we have on them at this time. (See sidebar – Palm Conservation at Work.)

After reading the Langlois’ papers, one is left with the sense of a talented, resourceful couple who wholeheartedly threw themselves into a life-long fascination with the palm. At times, they questioned this devotion and the sacrifices it entailed. Yet, with a wonderful sense of humor, they kept on and lead long and fulfilling lives among their beloved palms. And they have left a valuable double legacy – the collection at The Retreat and a body of work that is still relevant today.

A list of the palm genera in the Arthur C. Langlois Collection can soon be found at [www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org) on the Archive Page.

**Palm Conservation at Work**

Recently, Dr. Carl Lewis, Fairchild’s Head of Palm Research, was able to obtain rare DNA samples from all three species of the genus of *Ponapea* and verify Langlois’ opinion that *Ponapea* is a separate genus from *Ptychosperma*. Subsequently, a collecting expedition to Micronesia, specifically the islands of Palau and Pohnpei (Ponape), is planned for later this summer. This area has been identified as part of the Polynesia-Micronesia Hotspot by Conservation International. Funded by the Latham Expedition Fund, Fairchild trustee Faith Bishock, Dr. F. Lynn Leverett and Ms. Lane Park, it will be led by Lewis and Christie Jones, Curator of Palms and Cycads, in collaboration with the National Tropical Botanic Garden and The Nature Conservancy. Their main goal is to assess *Ponapea’s* conservation status which may be under severe threat. A second goal is to find and collect seeds, herbarium specimens and DNA samples from the three species in question to support future horticultural and botanical research. The information will be shared on Fairchild’s Web site at [www.fairchildgarden.org/palmguide](http://www.fairchildgarden.org/palmguide), as well as with school children through daily Web blogs.
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Asclepias curassiva. Photo by Gaby Orihuela/FTBG.
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FROM THE CAPE TO CAIRO COSTUME PARTY

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For sponsorship information contact Mari Novo at 305.667.1651, ext. 3357 or mnovo@fairchildgarden.org.