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BACK COVER

Chamaedorea adscendens, an unusual palm of wet habitats in southern Belize. See article by Bridgewater et al., p. 187.

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The delicate flowers of *Chamaedorea ernesti-augusti*, a species threatened in Belize by illegal leaf harvesting. See article by Bridgewater et al., page 187.



NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF PALMS

We are very pleased to learn that the historic palm collection and commemorative "Dent Smith Trail" at the Florida Institute of Technology Botanical Garden, in Melbourne, Florida, are being restored. Former Florida Tech President Jerome P. Keuper, who was also president of the Palm Society from 1970 to 1972, began the collection, which had over 150 palm taxa at its peak and was profiled in *Principes* by Nixon Smiley (19: 39-64. 1975). Scott Craig, who has been supervisor of the Botanical Garden since May, sent us this update from the campus:

"Florida Tech's Botanical Garden staff has been busy rejuvenating and reclaiming the garden in honor of the school's 50th anniversary. We are restoring many of the traditional trails that have become overgrown, while retaining the richness of our native vegetation. Control of invasive weeds has been a high priority. The rich soil and abundant water are a blessing for our palms but are also fertile ground for invaders. Invasive plant removal will improve access for our community and facilitate updating our species survey. Linda Seals, the Brevard County Extension Service commercial horticulture agent, is helping us fine tune our integrated pest management plan to the special environmental needs of the area. The Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society (CFPACS), along with many of our local master gardeners, will identify the palms. We have already received a gracious donation of seeds from John Green, CFPACS seed bank coordinator, and we were pleased to reciprocate with a donation to the seed bank. Although we are always seeking donations of

mature specimens, this exchange allows us to increase our future diversity. The Botanical Garden Committee, headed by Beverly Sanders, director of development at Florida Tech, is busy organizing the Third Annual Florida Tech Botanical Fest Plant and Garden Sale for 1 March 2008. Proceeds help to fund the Botanical Garden. With teamwork, we have been able to make great progress, and I see that we are on the brink of some very positive changes."

We are saddened by the news of the death of Paul Drummond on 15 Sep 2007. Although raised in New York City, Paul was enamored with palms at an early age, and in 1948, purchased land and built a home in southern Coral Gables, Florida, just a short stroll from what was then Fairchild Tropical Garden. Paul's palm collection grew as did his enthusiasm for palms, and he was a frequent visitor to Fairchild. He joined the Palm Society in its infancy and became one of its steadfast supporters, gaining the respect and friendship of palm "nuts" all over the world. Paul was a past president of the Palm Society from 1980 to 1982 and was a fixture at local palm sales and chapter events. Even after selling his home across from Fairchild and moving to a smaller, more manageable property in South Miami, Paul continued growing palms and being active in the Society. In fact, Paul allowed the IPS to borrow his set of *Principes* for scanning. A fine raconteur with a hilarious sense of humor, Paul will be greatly missed, especially in Miami, where his love of palms flourished for over 50 years.

THE EDITORS