

## OBITUARY

U.A. YOUNG

Ulysses Alexander Young IV (81 years old), one of the founding members of the International Palm Society and a past president, died on Thursday April 10, 2003. He was a native of Lubbock County, Texas, who moved to Tampa in 1954 and started gardening right away. His garden was full of more typical common landscape plants in the beginning, but on completion of his garden, the Youngs visited Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami. He was so inspired that when he came home he made plans for the removal of his common landscape plants to make room for the rare palms that he had seen at Fairchild Tropical Garden. While he did buy a few palms for his collection, he grew most from seed. The Youngs travelled the world and collected many of the treasures in their garden. All have a story behind them. Many people from all over would come to see their garden of palms and cycads. Their garden was a home owner's version of Fairchild Tropical Garden in miniature, but the Youngs were lucky to have four city lots. In fact when they moved into their home there were dirt roads and few of the houses that now exist in the up-scale neighborhood.

Another hobby of Dr. U.A. Young was wood-turning. He would create some of the most exotic pieces from rare woods collected around the world. He would often enter his pieces in the Florida State Fair.

U.A. Young was one of the kindest, most generous people that one could meet. Several years back

before his health started to decline he would give tours to anyone who wanted one or anyone who showed up on his doorstep. He would give most people some of his surplus plants and spread his enthusiasm to countless other people. Many doctors around town collect palms and cycads because of his influence. One thing that always amazed me was that Dr. Young never spoke a bad word about anyone. He chose to talk only about the good – a most admirable trait.

I can remember the first time that I really had a chance to look at all of the plants more closely in his garden was after the 1983 freeze. His garden was devastated by this and the following freeze the next winter, but I saw what had survived and was greatly impressed. His garden was a good learning tool for me and many others in Central Florida. I began working for Dr. U.A. Young around 1986 and continued for more than 14 years. I never lost the respect and admiration that I had for him from the start.

He had to be careful with his hands since he was an orthopaedic surgeon. But he retired about this time and began to relax and enjoy his well earned retirement and garden. Within a couple of months of working with him I had his garden in good shape and was grateful that Dr. Young would come out and work with me on occasion. He really enjoyed his palms; they were his first love. He will be missed by many.

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