



## Values in Action

Letter from the Executive Director  
Terrence Walters, Ph.D.

*Most organizations are clearly in touch with their mission, their raison d'être. MBC's purpose is to develop scientifically valuable collections of tropical plants, particularly palms and cycads, in a way that promotes conservation, scientific investigation, educational opportunities, exemplary landscape practices, and recognition of the "Montgomery" name. Ultimately, we aim to enhance the field of tropical botany through our activities.*

*The practice of achieving one's purpose requires working principles. At MBC, we are clear about our values, which include scientific excellence and integrity, as well as communication and teamwork. Teamwork applies not only to the staff, volunteers, directors, and members of MBC, but to our interactions with the botanical community at large. Two recent events help to illustrate this point.*

*In 2001, MBC was the initiator and facilitator of an expedition to collect the endangered cycads of Mexico. With the objective of creating scientifically valuable ex situ collections that would relieve pressure on native populations, we collaborated with two other cycad botanical gardens with similar goals—Xalapa Botanical Garden in Veracruz, Mexico and California's Lotusland. Botanists from each institution worked as a team during the two-week collecting trip. Duplicate collections for the three organizations were obtained to allow easy access to these rare cycads by researchers and students in both countries, and to ensure the future of these species.*

*One of our more recent attempts at a synergistic endeavor was the international workshop held at MBC on Cycad Classification Concepts on April 7–9. MBC acted as conduit for the exchange of ideas among 14 cycad systematists from 7 countries. We provided the venue, the logistics, and the support for a three-day workshop designed to foster understanding and consensus among a diverse group of scientists. We bridged barriers of language, backgrounds, and divergent training to create a working atmosphere of trust, respect, and enthusiasm. The participants of the CCC Workshop left MBC for their respective countries with a revitalized and more unified sense of destiny. Their consensus of ideas concerning cycad classification will be published by MBC next year.*

*The CCC Workshop and the 2001 trip to Mexico are examples of MBC's values in action. We plan to continue elevating the process of science by supporting collaboration and communication at all levels of our operation.*

# OUTREACH, TOURS & EDUCATION

So many visitors, so little time! Students, scientists, and other professionals have been beating a path to MBC. For a peek into the activities of the researchers, see p. 3. For an overview of educational and outreach activities this year, read on.

The Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Miami, which has accessed MBC's limestone outcrop on many occasions, sponsored a field day at MBC for select senior high school students from throughout the U.S.A. On March 1, breakfast for the students on the Walter Haynes Overlook was followed by a lecture given by Terrence Walters.

Terrence also gave a three-hour lecture and tour to students of a Botanical Garden Management Class from the University of Florida (UF) on April 4 (see photo). This was the sixth year that the class had visited MBC. For the fifth straight year, UF's Tropical Botany course students accessed MBC's collections in July for their biological and systematics studies on tropical plant families.



Over 25 individuals attended a breakfast, lecture, and tour at MBC sponsored by MBC and the Dade Chapter of the Florida & Nurserymen Growers Association (FNGA) Seedbank Program on January 20. The event was linked to the Tropical Plant Industries Exhibition held in Miami. The FNGA Seedbank Committee joined us again in July, along with past and present directors of FNGA, for a morning meeting, brunch, and tour of MBC's collections by Terrence.

The Miami-Dade County Commercial Urban Horticulture Advisory Committee to the Cooperative Extension Service held their tri-annual meeting in MBC's Nixon Smiley Meeting Room and a luncheon on the Haynes Overlook on July 25. The committee includes environmental, horticultural, and landscape representatives from Miami-Dade's colleges, universities, airport, and governmental agencies.

Over 60 palm enthusiasts from throughout Florida enjoyed lunch by the pool and then toured MBC on May 18 during Palm Fest 2002. MBC's Larry Noblick, Judy Kay, and Sue Katz led the tours for the day.

Recent visitors from other botanical institutions included staff from the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, who toured MBC with Collections Manager Larry Noblick on March 2. In April, Terrence hosted Anajulia Heringer Salles, Director of the Botanical Garden of Brasilia, and Joaquim do Marco Neto, Director of the Jureia Ecological Reservation in Sao Paulo. Ms. Salles, in particular, is interested in establishing a long-term relationship between her institution in Brazil and MBC.

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We can be reached by telephone (305-667-3800), by fax (305-661-5984), and by email ([montgome@fiu.edu](mailto:montgome@fiu.edu)). Our website address is [www.MontgomeryBotanical.org](http://www.MontgomeryBotanical.org).

Our normal operating hours are 7:00-3:30 Monday-Friday.

# RESEARCH ON THE COLLECTIONS

As usual, MBC's cycads have been subjected to much picking, poking, and prodding over the past six months. A major "offender" has been Dr. Dennis Stevenson of the New York Botanical Garden. He has been collecting leaf, stem apex, and cone samples from our cycad collection for his long-term study of phylogenetic relationships among species of *Cycas*. In April, Dennis and Drs. Paolo Caputo, Aldo Moretti, Paolo DeLuca, and Salvatore Cozzolino from the Università Di Napoli and the Botanic Gardens of Naples, Italy, obtained over 150 leaf samples from MBC's cycad collection for their phylogenetic studies. And, in collaboration with MBC's Dr. Terrence Walters, Dr. Stevenson's graduate student, Sabra Turnbull, is studying the phenology, pollination, and molecular diversity of West Indies cycads. In June, she accessed MBC's extensive database for coning information so that she could best plan her field expeditions to the islands.

Another evolutionary investigation of cycads, this one tied to plant development, is being conducted by Dr. Eric Brenner of New York University (NYU) and his graduate student Todd Twigg. During their stay at MBC, these researchers collected seed and cone tissue samples, which were immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and then transported back to the laboratory in New York for analysis.

Paleobotanist Dr. Sharon Klavins of the University of Kansas visited MBC in May to collect leaf tissue of the cycad *Bowenia spectabilis*. She will be comparing the extant

tissue to prehistoric cycad remains in hopes of more specifically identifying the ancient material.

In June, ethnobotanist Dr. Paul Cox of the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) came to MBC to obtain seed and leaf samples from our Guam cycads. In collaboration with Oliver Saks, Dr. Cox is studying human poisoning by cycad neurotoxins. In Guam, the toxins accumulate in flying foxes, which eat cycad seeds, and then are passed on to local peoples who eat the contaminated animals.

USDA Research Associate Dr. Divina Amalin began a biological control study for white Asian scale at MBC in April. Every two weeks, Dr. Amalin releases parasitoid wasps onto our cycad collection and monitors the ability of the wasps to control the scale.

Not to worry: MBC's palms are not being neglected. Jean Christopher Pintaud, of the Institute of Research for Development in Montpellier, France, collected over 60 leaf samples from our palm collection in April. He will be performing a DNA-based molecular study to further understand palm diversity and relationships.



Left to right: NYU's Todd Twigg and Dr. Eric Brenner examining cycad tissue with MBC's Stella Cuestas and Barbara Bohnsack.

biogeography of a group of palms for which Larry is the recognized expert.

Research on groups other than cycads and palms is also taking place in collaboration with MBC. Florida International University and Fairchild Tropical Garden (FTG) graduate student Susan Carrara has been accessing our *Pouteria* (mamey sapote) collection for a study of the morphological and genetic variation among cultivars of this tropical fruit tree. In June, MBC's Sue Katz sent resin samples from two of our species of *Araucaria* for chemical analysis by Dr. Jorge Santiago-Blay at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Sue is also an author on a recently published paper entitled "Carbocyclic fatty acids in plants: biochemical and molecular genetic characterization of cyclopropane fatty acid synthesis of *Sterculia foetida*." The plant material for this study was collected at MBC in 1998.

MBC's Dr. Larry Noblick will be studying our palms in even greater detail this year. In June, he and Columbia University's Dr. William Hahn received funding for a grant submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) entitled "Phylogenetic studies of subtribe Butiinae (Cocoeae, Palmae)." The NSF funding will allow the scientists to investigate the ancient

Finally, MBC's Drs. Terrence and Deena Walters have been participating in some off-site research. Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), these scientists are assessing the health of populations of the federally endangered Okeechobee Gourd (*Cucurbita okeechobeensis*). Their research at FTG in 1991 led to recognition of this Lake Okeechobee resident as an endangered taxon. On March 6 and 7, 2002, Terrence and Deena, with help from USFWS, SFWMD, Army Corps of Engineers, and City of Belle Glade, used a helicopter, airboat, and several swamp buggies to survey gourd populations. What these researchers found is that the species is doing well.



NTBG's Director Dr. Paul Cox (left) and MBC's Executive Director Dr. Terrence Walters examining an MBC cycad.

# Paving the Way

by Lee Anderson, Property Manager

Although roads, paths, and parking lots may seem prosaic, this infrastructure is vital if researchers, educators, and students are to be able to access the plants within a botanical garden collection. Accessibility is also vital for the management of the collection. Staff need to be able to reach plants for labeling, surveying, and horticultural care.

During the past ten years, MBC has worked closely with our Master Site Planning firm, Sasaki Associates, to ensure efficient, functional, and appropriately designed access to our plant collections. Our latest upgrade has been the paving of the loop roads and the Royal Palm Colonnade, which leads from MBC's main entrance to Nell's House (i.e., the administration building). This project, which was in the planning and permitting stages for more than a year, was not without its share of controversies involving aesthetics, design, engineering, and construction methods.

One of the greatest controversies was in regard to the material that would be used for the pavement of the Royal Palm Colonnade, which had had a traditional Chattahoochee gravel surface over an irregular substrate. This construction was fine for the many years when the road was used as a residential drive. It started deteriorating though as MBC

evolved into a more enterprising operation with increased traffic from delivery trucks, visitors, volunteers, and staff.

Many paving alternatives were considered—paving blocks, antique brick, embossed concrete, etc. However, asphalt was finally chosen because of its economy, relative ease of application, and, once aged, acceptably unobtrusive appearance. Despite popular perception, asphalt is indeed a natural, organic substance. The combina-



*Above: Excavating the Royal Palm Colonnade. Left: Adjusting pipes under the road.*

tion of bitumen (which are naturally occurring hydrocarbons) and any of a variety of aggregates ranging from milled granite to recycled glass is applied over a bed of crushed and compacted limestone.

Naturally, problems arose once the construction project was underway. During a survey of the Royal Palm Colonnade, Norma

Armstrong and Barbara Bohnsack discovered that the existing roadway was not centered precisely between the flanks of the Royal Palms, meaning that the entire roadbed had to be shifted anywhere from a couple inches to a couple feet

to the west. This, then, meant that Ansel Thomas and Pierre Valcourt had to shift the irrigation system an equivalent distance to the west. This shift caused quite a bit of trepidation on the part of Facilities Supervisor Jack Bauer because of the encroachment on the buried telecommunication and fiber optic lines. In the end, though, the shifting was accomplished without incident.

The assumption had been that, once the Chattahoochee gravel was scraped off, the indigenous solid rock would be an adequate road base. Bad assumption! Although the underlying oolitic limestone at first seemed a solid mass, centuries of slightly acidic rainwater had caused deep voids, which were filled with sands and organic materials that were totally unsuitable for a road base. The only solution was to excavate the top eight inches of the soil profile and then backfill with crushed rock compacted to a minimum 98% compaction density to comply with the local construction code. Only then could the base be covered with 1.5 inches of asphalt.

Today, as one glides sibilantly along the smooth, gracefully curved Colonnade, the months of design controversies, permitting glitches, and engineering challenges are but a rapidly fading memory.

*At last, the asphalt is being put down! Here, the paving operation is taking place at the Maintenance Complex.*



## LAY OF THE LAND

# TEAMWORK

**T**eam training continues unabated. Early in the year, Barbara Bohnsack and Norma Armstrong completed two AutoCad classes at Miami-Dade Community College (MDCC). In April, Orlando Coy, Juan Serrano, and Scott Massey attended an “Invasive Species” course. Abbie Dasher and Scott learned about “Pruning for Hurricanes” in a workshop given by the Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension Service on May 30. Scott also participated in the International Society for Arboriculture Conference held in Orlando on June 22–24. It has been a busy summer, with Orlando attending a Bermuda Grass Management Course, Sue Katz taking a six-week course at MDCC on photography, and Larry Noblick cross-training with Orlando to learn the finer points of mowing the 50+ acres of grass on our property.

As Volunteer Coordinator for MBC, Evelyn Young has been attending the monthly Miami-Dade Chapter meetings for DOVIA (Directors of Volunteers in Agencies). These meetings bring together volunteer coordinators from throughout the county to discuss the development, expansion, and success of volunteer programs.

Staff also learned from lectures and training sessions given by various consultants here at MBC. Mike O’Neal and Phillip Skou of BG-BASE, Inc., provided on-site training to the Collections Development and Horticulture Departments from April 28 to May 3. On June 18, in the Nixon Smiley Meeting Room, Mark Glicksman gave a talk that was open to the botanical community at large on BG-Map, which is a botanical garden mapping system. Russell Adams’ lecture on MBC’s 2001 Panama Expedition was enjoyed by MBC members, staff, directors, and volunteers on March 23. Cycad experts Drs. Piet Vorster of South Africa, and Paul Forster and Ken Hill of Australia spent two days in April with the Horticulture and Collections Development Departments verifying the identification of over 1,000 of MBC’s cycads.

We’ve been adding to the MBC Team again. New employee Arantza Aristimuno Strader, who hails from Venezuela, began work as Database Assistant on April 22. At the annual Members Meeting held on March 22, we elected our newest MBC Members—Randal Moore and Tom Smiley. Randy is an entrepreneur and Director of the International Palm Society. Tom is an engineer and a long-time friend of MBC.



*Above: Russell Adams (left) was MBC’s Members Day 2002 Guest Lecturer. Shown next to him enjoying the catered lunch that followed the members’ meeting and lecture on March 23 is MBC Member Tim Gregory. The annual meeting of MBC’s directors was held the previous day.*



*Left: After lunch, Members Day attendees loaded up four golf carts for a tour of MBC’s palm and cycad collections.*



*Right: New employee Arantza Strader. She holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from the College of Notre Dame.*

*Below: Consultant Mike O’Neal (center) of BG-BASE, Inc., attended one of the staff appreciation luncheons held near the pool this spring at MBC.*



# COLLECTIONS

On January 9, 2001, Virginia Hayes and Jeff Chemnick, representing California's Ganna Walska Lotusland, Dr. Andrew Vovides, representing Mexico's Instituto de Ecología in Xalapa, Veracruz, and Dr. Tim Gregory and I, representing Montgomery Botanical Center, met for a late dinner at a restaurant in downtown Xalapa. This meeting had been a long time in the making. In fact, it took three years of planning to arrange this rendezvous.

In the summer of 1997, Dr. Vovides, the Director of the El Jardín Botánico Clavijero, which maintains the National Cycad Collection of Mexico, Dr. Steven Timbrook, the Director of Lotusland, and I began discussions on a cooperative expedition to Mexico to document, study, and when appropriate, obtain population-based samples of native cycads. Our purpose was to enhance the research potential of our existing *ex situ* cycad collections and, in so doing, ensure the conservation of these rare species. MBC and Lotusland agreed to fund the expedition. All data, herbarium specimens, and seeds would be divided equally among the three cycad gardens. Between the numerous difficulties associated with obtaining the required permits through Mexico and the U.S.A., and the logis-

tics involved in finding a time frame when all three gardens would have representatives available for the expedition, it was truly amazing that the dinner on January 9, 2001 ever happened. As we sat together on that late night, over chips and salsa and bottles of Corona, I reflected back over all of the problems we had overcome during the past three years. Tomorrow, I thought, the MBC-Lotusland-Clavijero 2001 Expedition would finally begin; the expedition team had arrived and we were ready to search for the amazingly diverse and often elusive cycads of eastern and central Mexico.

On January 10, the expedition team packed up our rented SUV, finished our plates of huevos rancheros and tortillas and our last cup of rich Xalapa coffee, and pulled out of town. This day was the first of ten very long field days through three states in search of wild populations of *Ceratozamia*, *Dioon*, and *Zamia*. The first leg of the expedition included the support team of Antonio Vazquez Blanco and Victor Luna Monterrojo from the

Clavijero Garden. The second leg of the trip included Carlos Iglesias Delfin from Clavijero and two graduate students associated with the Instituto de Ecología. Sergio Avendano Reyes, who is undertaking a morphological systematic study on *Ceratozamia* for his graduate studies, took advantage of the trip and its focus on *Ceratozamia* to collect leaf material for his research. With financial support from MBC, Miguel Angel Pérez-Farrera is undertaking a systematic study on two *Ceratozamia* species complexes in southern Mexico for his dissertation research.

Virginia and I felt extremely fortunate to be traveling with Andrew, Jeff, and Tim, who are recognized as three of the foremost systematists on the cycads of Mexico. Jeff and Tim, with tremendous support from MBC



*Left: Virginia Hayes with an unidentified species of Ceratozamia. This picture was taken near the village of Ahucatlan in San Luis Potosí.*

*Above: Victor Monterrojo (left) and Jeff Chemnick (front right) in the village of Tampemoche, San Luis Potosí, asking the locals for directions to sites of Ceratozamia hildae.*

*Above right: In our search for cycads, we came across Edward James' unusual sculpture garden near the mountain village of Xilitla, San Luis Potosí. James, a surrealist architect, called his 40 hectare estate "Las Posas" after the name of the waterfall and pool adjacent to the property. Shown here is one of a large number of cast concrete sculptures in the garden.*

## Mex Rende

by Terren  
Executive

# DEVELOPMENT

Member Loran Whitelock, spent a year prior to the expedition developing the arduous, intensive, and sometimes unrealistic 10-day itinerary. Much to my surprise, the expedition team remained committed to the itinerary, which meant that each field day typically lasted 12 hours. Jeff and Tim worked diligently day-in and day-out ensuring that the team completed each day's objectives. They shared driving and navigational responsibilities, while Jeff was the translator for the expedition. To ensure efficiency and productivity at

the cycad locality sites, each member of the team was assigned a suite of duties. Virginia oversaw herbarium specimen collecting and general photography. I was in charge of documenting, via images, the individual plants and cones at each site. I also recorded field data and helped Virginia with collecting herbarium specimens.

When we arrived at a cycad site, Jeff and Tim would scout the area for plants, male cones, female cones, and seeds. When they located any of these, they informed Virginia and me via hand-held radio. The four radios we carried allowed each of us to work independently on our assigned tasks, and yet keep in close contact. Once the site was canvassed, herbarium specimens collected, and field notes taken, the team, when appropriate, obtained propagation material for each of the three institutions.

It was a thrill to see and enjoy the native cycad species of Mexico in the wild with individuals who also appreciated these unique moments. And, everyday we were blessed with fantastic scenery. When I reflect back on the MBC-Lotusland-Clavijero 2001 Expedition, though, I have to admit that the high point of the trip was locating a wild population of the beautiful and unique *Ceratozamia hildae*. Plants of this species are distinguished from other ceratozamia by papery leaflets that are arranged in spiral clusters along the rachis. Prior to our expedition, many scientists believed that this was a high elevation species and that no plants still existed in the wild. Our expedition proved that both of these



*Jeff taking notes on the extremely rare cycad *Ceratozamia zaragosae*, which is on the rock below (see arrow). This species is the only ceratozamia known from an arid habitat.*

assumptions were false. The species occurs at rather low elevations, and the population we located was healthy and reproducing well. What wonderful news for the cycad world!

On January 22, the expedition team reminisced as we enjoyed our last dinner together before flying home. We had succeeded with the intensive itinerary of fieldwork, we had survived some nerve-wrenching and rather disheartening events, and we had obtained data and specimens that would be invaluable for future studies on Mexican cycads. And, we had become close friends—of course, expeditions will do that. I knew that we had succeeded as a team when, during dinner over enchiladas, rice, and beans, the discussion turned to planning the next MBC-Lotusland-Clavijero expedition.



*Above: Tim Gregory and Jeff with *Ceratozamia hildae*. Tim (left) is holding a unique leaf type from the *C. hildae* population, while Jeff is holding a typical leaf form. About 10% of the plants in the population had the atypical leaf form.*

*Right: Part of the expedition team (from left to right)—Virginia, Andrew, Carlos, Tim, and Jeff.*



American  
Expeditions

Director

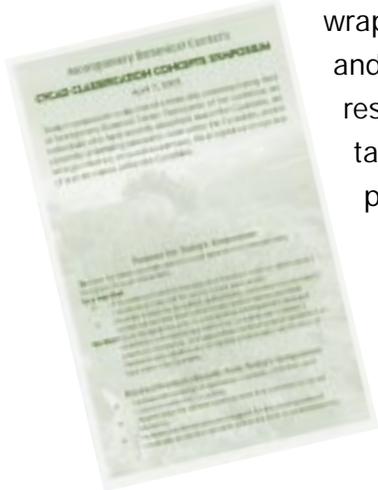


MBC's CYCAD CLASSIFICATION CONCEPTS WORKSHOP

# The Workshop's Purpose & Structure

On April 7, 2002, the Cycad Classification Concepts (CCC) Workshop convened at Montgomery Botanical Center. Fourteen of the world's leading authorities on cycad systematics attended the three-day event. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a suite of classification guidelines in support of the advancement of an internationally-accepted and stable evolutionary classification system for species of the Cycadales. The first day of the CCC Workshop was devoted to a CCC Symposium, in which the workshop participants presented their views on problems in cycad taxonomy to a wide audience of invited scientists. During Days 2 & 3, the fourteen experts participated in four work sessions designed to reach a consensus concerning the problems and possible solutions in cycad taxonomy. As a basis for comparison to standard taxonomic and nomenclatural practice, guest lecturer Dr. Katherine Kron gave a presentation on Phylocode. The CCC Workshop

wrapped up with a cycad book-signing event and farewell party in Nell's House at MBC. The results of the CCC Workshop, including the talks presented at the Symposium, will be published next year.



**Left:** The brochure for the CCC Symposium. **Right:** MBC staff Barbara Bohnsack (right), Claudine Bachman (center), and Claudine's husband Scott manned the registration table for the CCC Symposium.

# The Participants

*In the photograph to the left are the participants of the CCC Workshop.*

*Seated from left to right:*

**Dr. Andrew Vovides**

Instituto de Ecología, Vegetación y Flora  
MEXICO

**Dr. Ken Hill**

National Herbarium of New South Wales  
AUSTRALIA

**Prof. Chen Jia-Rui**

Herbarium, Academia Sinica  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**Dr. Roy Osborne**

Burpengary, Queensland  
AUSTRALIA

**Dr. Paolo Caputo**

Univesità di Napoli Federico II  
ITALY

**Dr. John Donaldson**

National Botanical Institute  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Mr. Loran Whitelock**

Cycad Gardens  
USA

**Dr. Paul Forster**

Queensland Herbarium  
AUSTRALIA

**Dr. Dennis Stevenson, Director**

New York Botanical Garden  
USA

**Mr. Jeff Chemnick**

Santa Barbara, California  
USA

**Dr. Piet Vorster**

University of Stellenbosch  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

*On the floor in front:*

**Mr. Anders Lindstrom**

Nong Nooch Tropical Gardens  
THAILAND

**Dr. Bart Schutzman**

University of Florida  
USA

**Dr. Tim Gregory**

Montgomery Botanical Center  
USA

The background photograph is of MBC's Cycad Walk.

## The Support Team



Making the CCC Workshop possible were (left to right): MBC Executive Director Dr. Terrence Walters, Jean Stark (CCC Workshop Coordinator), Donald Decker (CCC Workshop Management Consultant), and guest lecturer Dr. Kathy Kron.

## The Donors

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Alan Meerow  
Michael Perry  
Linda & Mark Smith  
Jean Stark (Stark Connections)  
Deena & Terrence Walters  
Eva & Loran Whitelock



# The Work Sessions

Over a two-day period, the CCC Workshop participants spent countless hours in four work sessions designed to deal with the confusion that exists in cycad taxonomy and nomenclature (i.e., how cycads are identified, named, and classified). The sessions, which took place in the Nixon Smiley Meeting Room at MBC, were led by management consultant Don Decker. The format included group discussions (upper left photo, with Don Decker standing) as well as subgroup breakouts (the other three photos above), where the participants were divided into three smaller subgroups in order to work independently on certain concepts. Subgroups reconvened and the ideas developed during the breakouts were then discussed by the group as a whole. MBC staffers Sue Katz, Barbara Judd, and Eric Shroyer assisted the subgroups by acting as scribes. As you can see above, a lot of chart paper was used during the event!

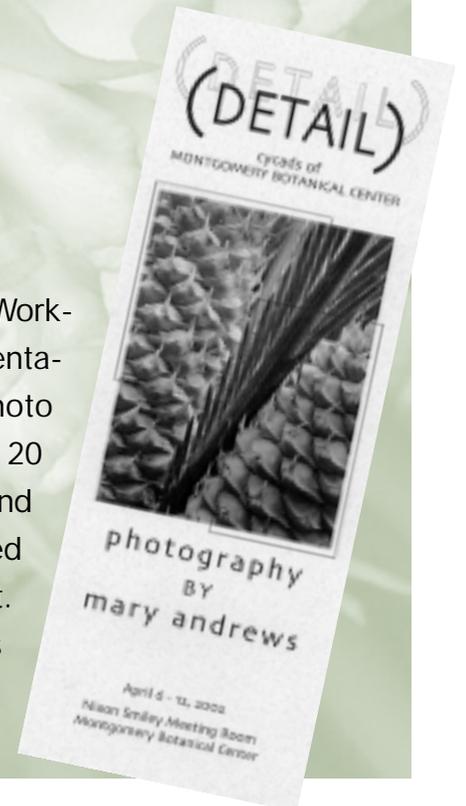
# The Book Signing & Farewell Party

Three of the CCC Workshop participants are authors of recent tomes on cycads. A book-signing event at Nell's House on the last evening of the workshop allowed the other participants to obtain signed copies of Loran Whitelock's *The Cycads* (below, left) and Ken Hill (sitting on right) and Roy Osborne's *Cycads of Australia*. Once the supply of books was exhausted by an eager audience, the workshop participants relaxed at the farewell party, sealing their new bonds and making plans for future encounters.



## The Cycad Art Exhibit

Artist Mary Andrews (shown below) contributed her talents to the CCC Workshop by photographing the participants and by sharing with all a presentation of her cycad photographs. Her photo exhibition, entitled *Detail*, included over 20 up-close studies of cycad leaves, cones, and seeds. The smallest features were captured in vibrant color and crystal-clear contrast. Her vision of the world of cycads was much appreciated.



## Who We Are

Terrence Walters, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

Lee Anderson  
Property Manager

Norma Armstrong  
Field Assistant

Claudine Bachman  
Administration Assistant

Jack Bauer  
Facilities Supervisor

Barbara Bohnsack  
Field Supervisor

Mario Borroto  
Landscape

Juan Corona  
Equipment Specialist

Orlando Coy  
Grounds Supervisor

Stella Cuestas  
Assistant Cycad Horticulturist

Laurie Danielson  
Palm Horticulturist

Abbie Dasher  
Landscape

Willy Dye  
Landscape

Barbara Judd  
Nursery Horticulturist

Sue Katz  
Database Supervisor

Judith Kay  
Seedbank Coordinator

Marta Lagos  
Housekeeper

Scott Massey  
Dicot Horticulturist

Vickie Murphy  
Assistant Palm Horticulturist

Larry Noblick, Ph.D.  
Collections Manager

Willie Payne  
Landscape

Jessie Pender  
Landscape

Randy Russ  
Landscape

Juan Serrano  
Spray Technician

Eric Shroyer  
Cycad Horticulturist

Arantza Strader  
Database Assistant

Ansel Thomas  
Irrigation Specialist

Hostilio Torres  
Equipment Operator

Marino Valcourt  
Maintenance Assistant

Evelyn Young  
Administration Manager/  
Volunteer Coordinator

### *The Montgomery News*

Deena Decker-Walters, Ph.D.  
Publications Coordinator, Editor

## MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL CENTER

11901 Old Cutler Road

Miami, Florida 33156



*From the  
Montgomery  
Archive comes  
this 1956  
photo of Nell  
Montgomery  
Jennings and  
Al Jennings on  
the stairway in  
the foyer of  
their home,  
now called  
Nell's House.*

