

Montgomery Botanical NEWS

*Advancing Research, Conservation, and Education
through Scientific Plant Collections*

Fall/Winter 2013

Volume 21, Number 2

Loyd G. Kelly
Conservation
Nursery



Montgomery Botanical Center
Established 1959

Board of Directors

Nicholas D. Kelly, *President*
Charles P. Sacher, Esq., *Vice President*
Karl Smiley, M.D., *Vice President*
Walter D. Haynes, Esq., *Sec./Treasurer*
Charles S. Sacher, Esq., *Asst. Treasurer*
David Manz, Esq.
Peter A. Manz
Juanita Popenoe, Ph.D.
Mark Smiley

Executive Director

M. Patrick Griffith, Ph.D., M.B.A.

Research Fellows

Angélica Cibrián Jaramillo, Ph.D.
John Dowe, Ph.D.
William Hahn, Ph.D.
Damon P. Little, Ph.D.
Cristina Lopez-Gallego, Ph.D.
Mónica Moraes R., Ph.D.
Fred Stauffer, Ph.D.
Alberto S. Taylor B., Ph.D.
Irene Terry, Ph.D.
Barry Tomlinson, Ph.D.

To advance science, education & conservation of tropical plants, emphasizing palms and cycads, Montgomery Botanical Center grows living plants from around the world in a population-based, documented, scientific collections in a 120-acre botanical garden exemplifying excellent landscape design.

Montgomery Botanical Center is a tax-exempt, nonprofit institution established by Eleanor "Nell" Montgomery Jennings in memory of her husband, Colonel Robert H. Montgomery, and his love of palms and cycads.

Montgomery Botanical News is published twice a year by Montgomery Botanical Center.

11901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, Florida 33156

Phone 305.667.3800
Fax 305.661.5984

mbc@montgomerybotanical.org
www.montgomerybotanical.org

Edited by Tracy Magellan

Printed on recycled paper



F r o m t h e
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This issue highlights Loyd Kelly's contributions to Montgomery. The facing page offers highlights of what Loyd accomplished in his leadership roles here.

I am glad to have had the opportunity to know Loyd since starting work here some years ago. I always enjoyed his enthusiasm, straightforwardness and wisdom. Many of my colleagues here were brought onto the team by Loyd, and I am thankful for his vision. Loyd knew great work comes from great people; Loyd was an expert at finding them!

I was honored to have the privilege of dedicating our nursery to Loyd. It was wonderful to bring together colleagues, friends and family to visit with Loyd and celebrate his work. This facility is a very serious step forward for Montgomery, and already allows for better plant health and conservation of more plant diversity. I am very grateful for the generous supporters who made this improvement a reality (pages 4-5). New experiments and innovations are already underway!

I am also delighted to announce another important step forward—Walter Haynes has endowed a fundamental area of our work (page 6). Walter's gift ensures that our landscape will continue to be developed with vision and careful planning. Walter's leadership in providing this vital endowment not only sets a very important precedent, but also demonstrates how long-term thinking is truly part of Montgomery's culture. Please join me in thanking Walter!

There are lots of other wonderful things going on this year—awards, advancements and accomplishments—please see page 7 for just a few of these, and please call, write or visit. I look forward to seeing you here again soon.

Pictured: Dr. Griffith at the Loyd G. Kelly Conservation Nursery Dedication (see page 4).

Loyd Kelly

A Life of Leadership and Service

Loyd G. Kelly, 95, passed away peacefully in his home on June 27, 2013, after a life of leadership and service. Loyd served as a US Navy Commanding Officer in World War II, at Guadalcanal, Okinawa and throughout the Pacific. Upon his return, Loyd was employed in businesses which sold and repaired agricultural and heavy equipment, becoming President of Clewiston Motor Company, and later owner and President of Kelly Tractor Company, in Miami.

Loyd was very active in public service. He served as a long time Trustee and President of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, board member of the United States-Honduras Development Council, and in many other organizations. Loyd was President of Kelly Foundation, Inc., which has helped hundreds of students gain access to higher education, by providing direct student grants and endowments at several Colleges and Universities as well as funding the Kelly Botanical Research Fellows at MBC.

Like Nell Montgomery Jennings, MBC's founder, Loyd had a passion for palms and cycads. Loyd became a Member of MBC in 1979, providing his advice and skill on management. When Nell died in 1990, Loyd was elected to lead MBC as President. The six years under Loyd's presidency were critical: the transition from a founder is a very important time. Loyd's leadership and talent—and his experience as a ship's captain—set Montgomery on a course for excellence in horticulture and landscape design. Walter Haynes, speaking at the nursery dedication (see page 4), highlighted many ways Loyd moved Montgomery forward in those vital early years:

“Loyd set up the Montgomery office and hired a staff so that we would operate in a business-like manner. He hired our first business manager and our first executive director. He renovated Nell's 58 year-old house for our offices. He oversaw the recovery from Hurricane Andrew. He hired our landscape architect to create our first master plan. He published our first newsletter. Loyd established our plant record keeping system that is recognized as one of the best in the world. Other botanical gardens come here to see what we do.”

Loyd led and served Montgomery through 2010, when he wished to retire from the Board—which was accepted with great reluctance. He was elected Director Emeritus that year. Upon accepting this honor, he summarized his vision for leadership:

“In leading this organization, I always believed in a good, rigorous selection process for the people that we bring in. I believe that we should bring in good people, set parameters on what we want to see, and then stand back and let the people do good work. Our successes here come from that philosophy, and I am glad to see all the good work being continued by our group here at MBC.”

Montgomery is where it is now because of Loyd's good work early on. Speaking to Loyd and the reception guests this past spring, Walter's concluding remarks perhaps express this best:

“Do we miss you Loyd? Well—Yes and no. Yes, we miss you—because every day we miss your wise counsel. No, we do not miss you—because every day as we look around, we see what you made possible to achieve here. We will never forget what you have done here.”



Board President, Loyd G. Kelly, and the Board of Directors: Jeanne Bellamy, Pete Manz, Arthur Montgomery and Walter Haynes at Montgomery in 1996.

Lloyd G. Kelly Conserva

A Vital Advancement in

Growing our Capacity and Cultivating New Discoveries

On March 16, 2013, Montgomery dedicated its newly upgraded nursery complex for Lloyd Kelly, MBC Director Emeritus. The dedication welcomed a large group of supporters, friends and family, who came to celebrate and honor Lloyd for his decades of leadership and generosity.

The new and upgraded facility, the **LOYD G. KELLY CONSERVATION NURSERY**, enables the Montgomery Team to do much more for plants. The importance here cannot be overstated—each plant at Montgomery begins its life in the nursery. Modern advances in greenhouse design and plant propagation technology can give young seedlings the best care available. This upgrade to the original 1932 facilities not only provides much more space, but also will enhance the diversity and

health of Montgomery's collection. This fundamental work—growing healthy seedlings—is the first step in conserving imperiled plants.

Already, young plants are showing robust, thriving growth in the new greenhouse, and the larger space provides room for careful experimentation and rigorous research on propagation technique. A formal experiment is already underway on palm conservation, using seed collected on Isla Saona in the Dominican Republic.

The project was generously funded by foundation, donor and grant support, and in-kind contributions of labor and equipment. Montgomery is deeply grateful to the Kelly Foundation, The Batchelor Foundation, National Science Foundation, Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, Helen C. Frick Foundation, and Boy Scout Troop 457.

Patrick Griffith, Chad Husby and Walter Haynes were delighted to address Lloyd and the audience, thanking the supporters and funders, highlighting the wonderful advancements made possible by the new facility, and highlighting Lloyd's legacy of leadership, giving and vision.

Nick Kelly, MBC President, also thanked everyone for their generosity, support and collegue-ship. To demonstrate the importance of the new facility, Nick held up several small seeds and said, "Everyone can appreciate the beauty of a giant palm, but getting from a seed to a big tree takes a lot of effort and care. And that's what this facility is all about."



Above: Xavier Gratacos, Chad Husby & Vickie Muphy with a seed germination experiment.



tion Nursery

Support of Our Mission



**Loyd G. Kelly
Conservation Nursery**

The Kelly Foundation
The Batchelor Foundation
National Science Foundation
Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust
Helen Clay Frick Foundation
Boy Scouts of America Troop 457

2013

Montgomery Botanical Center



Walter's Vision: The Landscape Design Fund

Walter D. Haynes, past President, Treasurer and a member of the Montgomery Botanical Center Board of Directors, donated generous funding to endow a new Landscape Design Fund at Montgomery.

Montgomery has achieved its wonderful landscape design historically by utilizing professional and expert landscape architects like Winton H. Reinsmith and William Lyman Philips and its current landscape architect Joe Hibbard of Sasaki and Associates. As with the professionalism and expertise of its scientists and horticulturalists, Montgomery employs the same professionalism and expertise for its landscape design function. Joe Hibbard developed Montgomery's current landscape design plan in 1992 and has been guiding its implementation for the last 21 years.

Walter Haynes has a long history at Montgomery. He knew Robert and Nell Montgomery and understands their vision for the garden. Walter's fund supports the founder's wish to implement an aestically pleasing botanic garden

design for the scientific collections. The bending curves in the landscape and the beauty of tree architecture in the garden play a large role in what makes Montgomery unique among research organizations. Creating a visually splendid garden adds to Montgomery's appeal. The quality and rarity of the scientific collections are deeply revered when appreciated in a beautiful setting.

Montgomery is committed to adding new plants to the collection annually. The curators and biologists meet to discuss which plants are ready for planting at the beginning of each year and then the landscape architect develops a planting plan based on what the plants will look like when full grown, and how the additions will look in the garden.

Walter has supported many projects that have added to Montgomery's beauty, helping to establish the roads that curve around and through the plant collections and developing the Marion and Tex Haynes Patio with the help of his friends and family. Walter

is a visionary leader and generous philanthropist.

"I hope that the Landscape Design Fund will serve as a model for others to create similar funds," says Walter. "For example, a donor working with the Executive Director could create a fund to support a particular activity at Montgomery that appeals to and interests the donor. Examples could be a fund to support a particular plant collection, to support the work of a scientist, to support plant recordkeeping and mapping, to support the seedbank, or to support the propagation of plants in the nursery."

Dr. Patrick Griffith, MBC Executive Director, adds: "Walter's vision and leadership truly inspires; his Landscape Design Fund ensures that Montgomery will further inspire future generations with its unique vistas, layouts, variety and beauty."

Please join us in thanking Walter D. Haynes for his generous support of Montgomery's mission!

Notes and Updates



Photo Credit: Miami-Dade School Board

RECENT ACCLAIM

Montgomery was recognized at many levels this year!

Local: The Miami-Dade County School Board issued a PROCLAMATION on March 13, highlighting MBC's commitment to botany and science education. **Chad Husby** received the proclamation (top left) on behalf of MBC, stating, "Montgomery has a long history of introducing students to the wonders of the plant world."

National: In May, Executive Director **Patrick Griffith** received the PROFESSIONAL CITATION AWARD from the American Public Gardens Association (top center), recognizing "significant achievements of an individual who has excelled in botany, horticulture, conservation, research, education, development, or administration." Accepting the award, Patrick stated, "there are three reasons why I am here: *Coaches, Colleagues* and *Coworkers*—no one does anything alone!"

International: Esri gave Montgomery a SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN GIS AWARD (SAG) in July (top right). Esri President Jack Dangermond presented the award, declaring, "The SAG Awards identify the organizations and people that are using the power of geography to improve our world and drive change." **Ericka Witcher**, MBC Collections Supervisor, accepted the award on behalf of Montgomery. Ericka's creative use of LIDAR data to locate Champion Trees was highlighted at the awards reception.



Photo Credit: Haute Photography

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Larry Noblick and colleagues authored a long-term study on *Syagrus*, *Attalea* and related palms, appearing in BRITTONIA. Larry's project began in the 1980s, and his extensive fieldwork in South America and the Caribbean developed a leading palm collection at Montgomery, as well as extensive herbarium specimens. These living and preserved collections provided a rich source of information—the very structure of the plants—which was used to consider how these palms have evolved.

Michael Calonje, along with colleagues from the **Bahamas National Trust, FIU/Fairchild and USDA Chapman Field**, published a detailed genetic study of *Zamia lucayana*, a critically endangered cycad native to only one island. The project, appearing in ORYX, was generously supported by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, the National Science Foundation, and a Christiane Tyson Research Fellowship.

Michael, working with **Dennis Stevenson** of NYBG and **Leonie Stanberg** of RBG Sydney, has developed an online database of cycad species, the World List of Cycads. The online cycad list was conceived at the recent CYCAD SPECIALIST GROUP meeting in Shenzhen, China.

Tracy Magellan and colleagues at MBC published a rigorous study on Cycad Aulacaspis Scale control using coffee grounds. Tracy's results show that although there may be benefits from this recycled resource, the effect on cycad scale is not significant. The study was featured on the cover of HORTTECHNOLOGY (right).



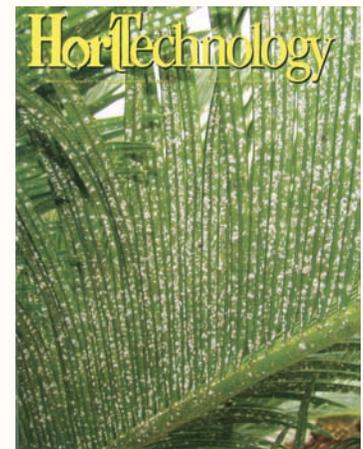
Photo Credit: Esri Users Conference 2013

TEAM NEWS

Xavier Gratacos, Assistant Curator, and **Michael Tsairis**, Conservation Horticulture Fellow, each graduated from Miami Dade College in May. Xavier received his A.S. in Landscape and Horticulture Technology. Michael now holds an A.A. in Landscape Architecture with a Horticulture Specialist Certificate. Congratulations to our newest colleagues in horticulture! Michael's Fellowship at MBC is funded by the Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation, which also funded Xavier's initial work here in 2012.

Boglarka Erdei, Paleobotanist at the Hungarian Natural History Museum, began a yearlong fellowship at MBC in July. Dr. Erdei is an expert on fossil cycads, and is here to study living cycads in order to make detailed comparisons with fossils. Her Fellowship is funded by the Hungarian American Enterprise Scholarship Fund.

For research citations, links and other news, please see: www.montgomerybotanical.org



FROM THE MONTGOMERY ARCHIVE



LOYD KELLY AT MONTGOMERY IN 1998

Loyd Kelly's skillful leadership left an important legacy (see page 3). In addition, Loyd was always a very generous supporter of our work, through financial contributions, grants from Kelly Foundation, Inc. and through important donations and loans of heavy equipment from Kelly Tractor Company.

In this photo, Loyd stands with a skid loader and auger he donated to Montgomery. This equipment is essential for planting palms, cycads and trees, especially on our limestone landsite. Loyd and Kelly Tractor have provided other vital machinery to Montgomery, including a front-end loader, two backhoes, and a tractor and mowing deck (see Fall 2012 newsletter). Over the years these machines allowed the Montgomery Team to vastly expand and develop the plant collection, and also to develop the landscape according to the master plan (see page 6). Kelly Tractor also loaned Montgomery the equipment necessary for the nursery upgrade project (pages 4-5).

The machines, gifts, grants and guidance from Loyd continue to move Montgomery forward—we remain ever grateful.

