

MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL CENTER

*Advancing research, conservation, and education
through scientific plant collections.*

The Villagers 2009 Holiday House Tour “Down Old Cutler Way” December 4, 2009

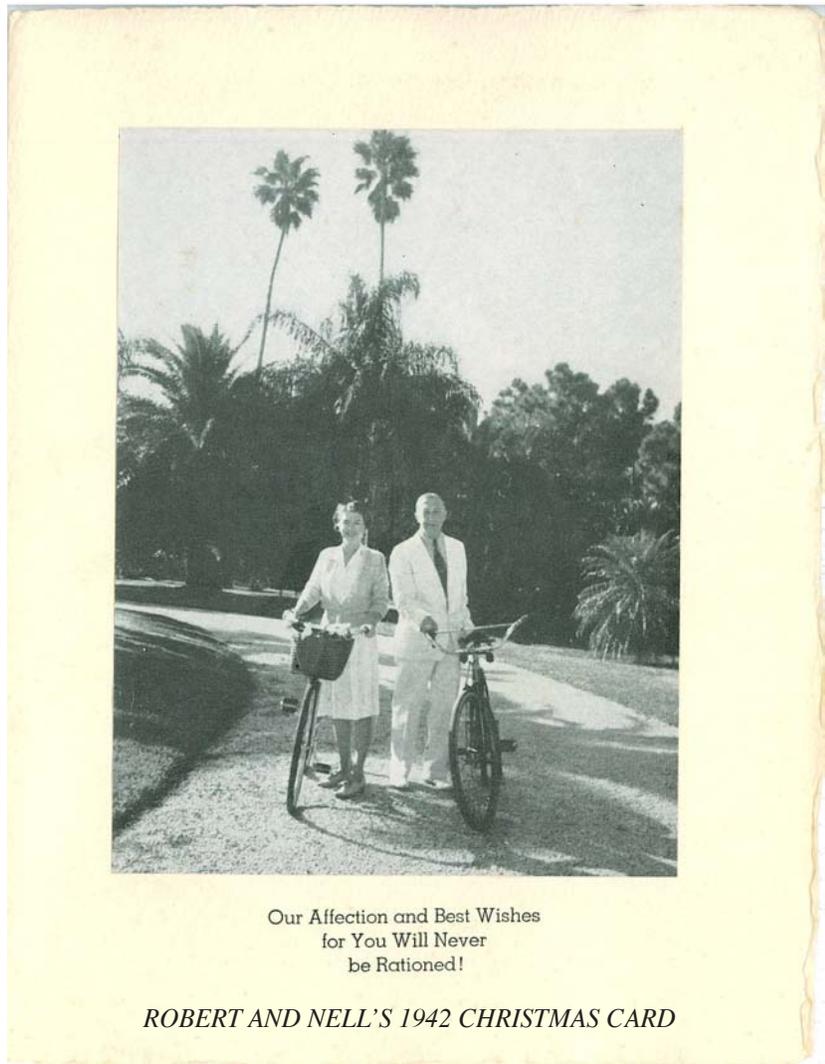
Montgomery Botanical Center (MBC) was established by Nell Montgomery in memory of her husband, Colonel Robert H. Montgomery, and his love of palms and cycads. Housed on their 120-acre Coral Gables estate, MBC includes the largest and finest collections of palms and cycads in the world. As a living tribute to her late husband, in 1959 Nell created The Montgomery Foundation, Inc.—later renamed the Montgomery Botanical Center—as an independent, nonprofit institution devoted to advancing the science of tropical botany.

OUR MISSION: The mission of MBC is to advance science, education, conservation, and horticultural knowledge of tropical plants, emphasizing palms and cycads, and to exemplify excellent botanical garden design. Through this mission, Montgomery Botanical Center endeavors to make the Montgomery name known and respected throughout the world in the field of plant science.

THE COLONEL: In 1898, Colonel Robert H. Montgomery was a founding partner in the accounting firm, Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery—known today as PricewaterhouseCoopers. He wrote more than 40 books about accounting and tax law. Colonel Robert H. Montgomery believed that everyone should have a hobby entirely different from their profession. The Colonel’s life long hobby was collecting trees.

NELL MONTGOMERY JENNINGS: The founder of Montgomery Botanical Center, Nell lived in “Nell’s House” from 1934-1990. She doubled the size of the property from 60 acres to 120 acres in 1960.

ARTHUR MONTGOMERY: The man for whom the “Arthur Montgomery Guesthouse” was named, Arthur Montgomery was a famous minerologist known for creating the Montgomery Research Fellowship Program. The Villagers have provided ongoing funding to restore the Arthur Montgomery Guesthouse.



Our Affection and Best Wishes
for You Will Never
be Rationed!

ROBERT AND NELL'S 1942 CHRISTMAS CARD

IMPORTANT DATES AT MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL CENTER

- Colonel Robert Montgomery established the Coconut Grove Palmetum in 1932.
- The home was also built in 1932.
- An intense plant collecting effort also began in 1932, making the Coconut Grove Palmetum the most important palm collection of its era.
- Robert married Nell in 1934.
- The home was renamed *Elanar* in 1934.
- The guesthouse was built in 1934.
- Robert and Nell Montgomery established Fairchild Garden in 1938.
- Additions to *Elanar*, including an expanded dining room and the Florida Room, were made in 1950.
- Robert Montgomery passed away in 1953.
- Nell Montgomery created The Montgomery Foundation in 1959. The plant collection of the Coconut Grove Palmetum was transferred to the Montgomery Foundation. This is our 50th anniversary year.
- Nell Montgomery passed away in 1990, willing her estate to the Montgomery Foundation.
- Our name was changed to Montgomery Botanical Center in 1998.
- The guesthouse was dedicated the *Arthur Montgomery Guesthouse* in 1998, in honor of the lifelong support and service of Colonel Montgomery's son Arthur.
- In 2009, we are celebrating 50 years of advancing botanical science as an institution, continuing the even earlier legacy of Colonel Montgomery and Nell Montgomery.



Looking and Hoping for a Better World.

ROBERT AND NELL'S 1945 CHRISTMAS CARD

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL CENTER

- MBC has over 5,000 palms and over 2,500 cycads in its collection.
- The plant collection has been recognized as a Collection of National Significance by the American Public Garden Association.
- MBC sends its botanists around the world to collect and study tropical plants. We have worked in China, Jamaica, Guam, Brazil, Costa Rica, Belize, Martinique, Madagascar, Indonesia, and Colombia, among other places.
- MBC hosts research botanists and students from around the world in the Arthur Montgomery Guesthouse. In recent years, we have hosted experts from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Dominican Republic, England, France, Germany, Panama, Russia, Scotland, Switzerland, Venezuela, all over the United States, and a number of other nations.
- MBC's unique strength among gardens is found in our very high level of investment in plant collections for research, educational, and conservation purposes. This tradition of serving botanical science has its roots in the Colonel's careful record keeping, and Nell's vision for her plant collection.