

“Man’s Many Uses of Florida’s Native Plants”

Dear Mr. Donaldson,

The topic for the May 1997 issue of the Palmetto, “Man’s Use of Florida’s Native Plants” is exclusive. Women are dedicated growers and users of Florida Native plants, members of the Florida Native Plant Society and readers of The Palmetto. Is it too late to change this topic to one less sexist and offensive to female members? The “man as a generic term” is no longer acceptable. Thank you for your attention.

Anna Johnston, Fort Lauderdale

Editor: Thank you, Ms. Johnston, for your attention. You are, of course, exactly right and as you see, the topic name has changed. I’m one of those dedicated women you mention and as a professional editor, I should have chosen better wording. I plead a momentary lapse of judgment, due to the appealing sound and rhythm of the words “man’s many uses...” “Human uses” is more correct – but it ain’t got that swing!

The Paper in The Palmetto

I enjoy the Palmetto articles especially the history related ones. I prefer the paper used in older issues — a much more pleasing, durable feel as opposed to the current slick, easily wrinkled format.

Mike Fite, Lutz

Editor: I don’t like the wrinkles either, but coated paper does a better job in reproducing black and white photos. And this is the least expensive coated recycled paper stock I can find. But I’ll keep looking. There are more options all the time.

Letters to the editor are most welcome and can be sent by post, electronic mail, or fax at the addresses provided near the bottom of page 3 of this magazine. The editor reserves the right to edit letters as necessary. Letters cannot be returned.

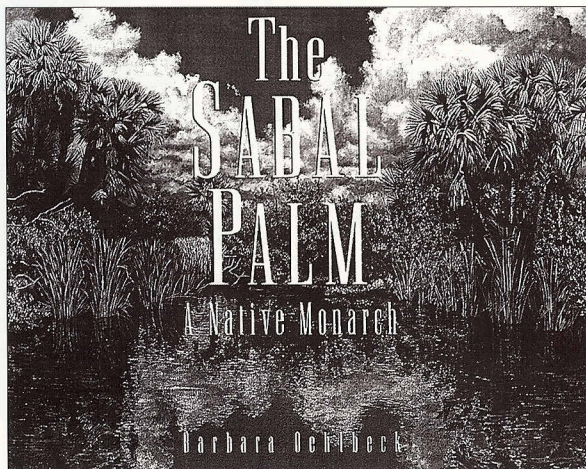
Errata

Chuck McCartney and Roger Hammer, two of my dearest and most important contributors, politely pointed out to me that on the back cover of the spring orchid issue, I managed to turn on end the two close-up orchid photos. Holding your spring issue in front of you, looking directly at the back cover, turn it to the right ninety degrees so that it is horizontal. You are now correctly viewing the mule-ear and cowhorn orchid blossoms. -Editor

The Sabal Palm, A Native Monarch

a must-have book by Barbara Oehlbeck
published by Gulfshore Press

reviewed by Cameron Donaldson



book cover illustration by painter John Briggs

On a recent trip through Charleston, South Carolina, I was happy to see that the finest old waterfront homes had proudly planted, right in the front yards, sabal palms of all sizes. And not one tree had been shamed with that severe trimming where all the shaggy old fronds and flower stalks — so valuable to wildlife — are removed. South Carolinians, residents of the “Palmetto State,” evidently do cherish and take pride in the sabal palm tree, as their Governor says in his introductory note to Barbara Oehlbeck’s book, *The Sabal Palm, A Native Monarch*.

Florida’s schoolchildren learn that the sabal palm is our state tree, but do they really understand its value? Do they know what a vital role it has played in the history of Florida? How important it is to our wild-

life? What threats it faces today?

Blending stories from Seminoles and old-timers with essays from botanists, ecologists, and landscape architects, Oehlbeck’s book is the definitive resource for explaining the many virtues of our “cabbage” tree. The book includes an epilogue by past FNPS President and noted native plantsman, Dick Workman, who eloquently and forcefully explains why we should all give a hoot.

Complete with color photos and illustrations, instructional line drawings, and the ever-awesome black & white photography of Clyde Butcher, this beautifully designed, 96-page hardback book is a great buy at \$19.95. Buy two: one as a gift for yourself and one for that newly arrived family from Ohio, Michigan, New York . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Barbara Oehlbeck, an award-winning horticultural writer, has spent over ten years compiling information on the *Sabal Palmetto*. Her significant accomplishment has been recognized by Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, conservationist extraordinaire, Bob Martinez, former Governor of Florida, Lawton Chiles, our current Governor, and William Hammond, a leading environmental educator.

Thank you, Barbara! For celebrating our tree and bringing it to the attention of so many with your beautiful book.



Barbara Oehlbeck