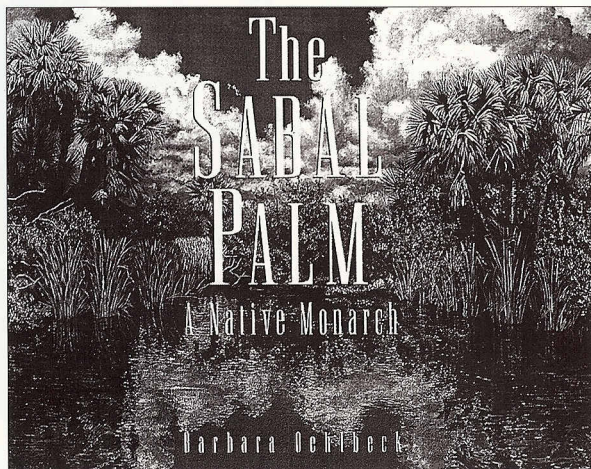


The Sabal Palm, A Native Monarch

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