



(L-R) Jonathan Flickinger, Jason Lopez, Ray Morris, James Lange and Rafael Aberle.

Sargent's Cherry Palm Monitoring: A Team Effort

More than 25 years ago, the Garden worked with partners to augment the fragile wild population of the endangered Sargent's cherry palm (*Pseudophoenix sargentii*) on Elliott Key. Together, they introduced 63 trees of varying sizes in a group effort that included support from Biscayne National Park, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the International Palm Society, horticulturists, many strong volunteers and several Fairchild scientists and horticulturists.

This past February, a team ventured out once again to monitor the health of surviving introduced palms as well as naturally occurring ones. The team included Fairchild Field Biologists Jimmy Lange and Jennifer Possley, Fairchild Living Collections Manager Jason Lopez, Fairchild Grounds Technician Rafael Aberle, Florida International University graduate student Jonathan Flickinger (who is hosted at the Garden) and Fairchild volunteer extraordinaire Ray Morris. Despite the presence of an extremely vibrant mosquito population, the team managed to visit all known plants along the entire length of the 7-mile-long island. Although the team is still crunching the data, they have reported that the Sargent's cherry palm is still alive and well on the island, including some beautiful trees planted by Fairchild back in 1991-1992. Two of these trees were observed fruiting for the first time ever, which is great news for the future of this population.



(L-R) Brothers Leon and Marie Victorin, in Bahía Honda, Cuba, 1939.
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Caribbean Island Botanical History Research at the University of Montreal Archives

Dr. Javier Francisco-Ortega, a professor in Florida International University's Department of Biological Sciences and a Garden scientist, traveled to Montreal March 12-18 to conduct botanical history research in the archives of the University of Montreal. He was hosted by Luc Brouillet and Geoffrey Hall, both from the herbarium of the Montreal Botanical Garden; by Monique Voyer from the University of Montreal archives; and by Marie Timperley from the Kirouac Family Association.

Francisco-Ortega's research focused on documents and photos from the Caribbean and Florida expeditions of Brother Marie-Victorin, a member of the Catholic congregation of La Salle. These expeditions took place between 1931 and 1942. Brother Marie-Victorin was the founder of the Montreal Botanical Garden, and the father of modern botany in Canada. A main highlight of this research visit was the discovery of a travelogue produced by Brother Marie-Victorin during his 1941 trip to Trinidad, Jamaica, and Barranquilla (Colombia). The study of these documents and photos is part of projects involving colleagues from Canada, Florida and the Caribbean Islands.

This trip was sponsored by the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, the International Center for Tropical Botany of FIU and the College of Arts and Sciences of FIU.



Amy Padolf talks at TEDx Coconut Grove

On March 17, Fairchild's director of education, Amy Padolf, presented at TEDx Coconut Grove. Held at Ransom Everglades School, the conference's theme this year was "Escape." Through her presentation, "Learning from History, Preparing for the Future," Padolf shared the story of how and why Fairchild got involved in testing crop options for growth on the International Space Station. This research, conducted in partnership with NASA's Kennedy Space Center, has transformed how Fairchild approaches plant science education.

View the presentation at www.fairchildgarden.org/tedx