

## Crafton Clift; The Difference between a Botanist and a Horticulturalist

Dr. Judd, Botanist at the University of Florida, 20-30 years ago, when his kids were still young, his oldest son was eight years old. And as an eight-year-old, he found a rare butterfly on a cycad. Once there was an article in the Fairchild Newsletter that said, "What Do You Do When a Rare Butterfly Eats a Rare Plant?" Anyway, Dr. Judd, a Botanist was very different from a horticulturalist, because a horticulturalist finds a rare plant, he plants a seed, he makes air layer, he grafts, he makes it common. A botanist finds a rare plant, he quickly slaps its only fruit on an herbarium sheet so that nobody will ever be able to find it in the wild again, so he will be famous. So, I was living at the Kampong for the summer I was staying in the Barbour Cottage and there was a phone call for Dr. Judd from one of his graduate students who was trying to find the Kampong. I told the student, "Call back in five minutes to this number; Dr. Judd is over at the main house, but if I give you that phone number, you will wake up Mrs. Sweeney and she has just come back from France and plopped into bed. So, don't call there, call here." So, I went to get Dr. Judd to come over to the Barbour Cottage to receive this phone call. And while we were waiting for the phone call, I asked him what interesting plants he came across with the expedition that went from University of Florida to the Mountains of Haiti where the native people don't touch anything because that's where the jumbies live. They came back with 35 new species of orchids, they also found a skeleton of a prehistoric sloth the size of a Volkswagen in a cave. He told me, he found an eggfruit relative that was red. I asked him, where are my scions? How come you didn't bring scions so we could grow it at the Kampong? And if it had a red fruit, then you must have had at least one fruit. What happened to the fruit? It's on an herbarium sheet at the University of Florida. We're still waiting for the phone call and he tells me about an herbarium specimen of a Jujube, that someone had brought to the University of Florida 40 years ago, and finally Dr. Judd said to his colleagues, "If this isn't named, we should name it." So, after it was named and described, they went out looking to see if in fact it still existed, because you know, that part of Florida has a habit of having tandem citrus groves and no native plants in between. But once it was named and described, other people went looking, where it had originally been found 40 years ago, and they found it. Undoubtedly the same clone that they had as an herbarium specimen, that had been maintaining itself, they thought, for centuries, by root suckers. So, after it was brought into cultivation, I asked him, "Has anyone ever found a fruit?" Yes, one. Where is it? On an herbarium sheet. Twice, in five minutes, two very rare plants, and the only proof known are on herbarium sheets, because the most important thing is to document that they once existed on the planet.

Bob: What will happen in the future if you're not careful with these plants?

Crafton: They will be extinct.