Did you know...

…the screw pine (*Pandanus utilis*) despite its name, is a monocot and not a pine? Screw pines are relatives of grasses, orchids and palms rather than conifer trees such as pines.

**History**

*Pandanus utilis* was discovered by French naturalist Jean Baptiste Bory de Saint-Vincent (1778 – 1846).

**Characteristics**

*Pandanus utilis* is a palm-like evergreen tree that can grow as high as 66 ft. They are found in tropical areas and have an upright trunk that is smooth with many horizontal spreading branches with annular leaf scars. The name screw pine is derived from the spiral arrangement of their leaves around the branches.

The origin of *P. utilis* has traditionally been thought to be Madagascar, but more recently the Mascarene Islands have been suggested as a possible place of origin. A long history of cultivation and transport to many parts of the world makes the origin difficult to trace. However, it is known to be grown in Senegal, Benin, Tanzania, Madagascar, Réunion and Mauritius. *P. utilis* has been introduced to many tropical and subtropical regions, including Central America, the Caribbean, the United States (southern Florida, Puerto Rico), Brazil, India and Indonesia.

**Web Site (and E-Group)**

For more details about wildlife on the Bay Colony Club property (as well as Fern Forest and Anne Kolb Nature Centers), see:

http://southfloridawildlife.weebly.com