

PALM BEACH PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

Monthly Update

April 2009

FEATURED THIS MONTH

Corypha umbraculifera



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VISIT US AT palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

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FRONT COVER: Charlie Beck next to *Corypha umbraculifera* leaf
BACK COVER: Brenda Beck next to base of *Corypha umbraculifera*

FEATURED THIS MONTH: CORYPHA UMBRACULIFERA

By Charlie Beck

Corypha umbraculifera is a spectacular palm. It produces the largest palmate leaves of any plant – reported up to 25 feet in diameter with impressive 10 foot long petioles armed with jagged black teeth. Trunks have been measured up to 3 feet in diameter and 90 feet tall. Its common name is the talipot palm and it is native to India and Sri Lanka.

Corypha umbraculifera is monocarpic, which means it flowers once and then dies. It produces the largest inflorescence among all flowering plants. The inflorescence resembles a 30 foot tall and 40 foot wide Christmas tree which extends straight up from the top of the trunk.

I have three *Corypha umbraculifera* in my Palm Beach County garden. I have found that they are well-adapted to our area but have noticed quite a variation in growth rate. One specimen was planted 16 years ago and the leaves top out at 10 feet. Two other specimens were planted 10 years ago and are 15 and 24 feet tall. The younger plants are planted on a 3 foot high berm with unimpeded drainage and the largest plant is approximately 30 feet from a septic drain field. This must account for the very rapid growth. The oldest



Variable growth rate of two specimens planted 10 years ago

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2009
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Mounts Botanical Garden
Speaker: Marshall Dewey & Dale Holton
Subject: Exploits in Southeast Mexico

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2009
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Ruth Sallenbach's Home
6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth
(561) 965-5430



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

April 19,20, 21
Anne Norton Sculpture Garden
2nd Annual Earth Day at the Gardens

School groups are invited to visit the garden and begin their Earth Day experience by applying for an Earth Day Passport. Students will travel throughout the garden to various hands-on exploration stations hosted by cultural and environmental organizations in Palm Beach County. The stations offer hands-on exploration in environmental science, preservation, conservation and environmental art. Visitors will have fun as they learn ways to conserve, preserve, recycle, and go green. Palm Society volunteers can provide attendees with information about palms or work with school children to plant palms in the garden. Please contact Marshall Dewey at (561) 843-4993 if you can spare a few hours.

CULTIVATED PALMS IN HAWAII

By Brenda Beck

At the March 4, 2009, general meeting, Paul Craft was our guest speaker. As you may be aware, Mr. Craft is a noted author, the founder of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society, past-president of the International Palm Society, and our most knowledgeable palm expert in Palm Beach County.

Mr. Craft made palm lovers in the audience long to live in Hawaii. There, you can grow beautiful specimens of approximately 1,500 species of

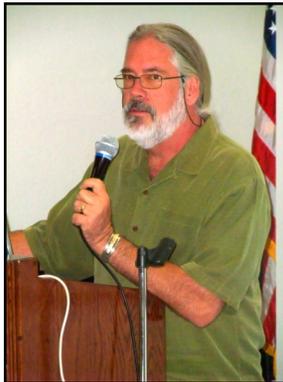
palms due to Hawaii's perfect growing conditions such as rainfall, temperature, and volcanic soil.

Mr. Craft's slideshow presentation included photographs of many exquisite palms. Included were

some spectacular palms that Palm Beach County palm lovers attempt to grow due to their beauty only to succeed in killing them. However, we just keep on trying.

We were treated to photographs of the beautiful *Areca macrocalyx* with its red crownshaft and red and yellow fruit, *Areca vestiaria* with its bright red seeds and orange crownshaft, an 8 foot *Welfia regia* with its brilliant new red leaf, *Geonoma epetiolata* with its mottled new red

leaf, and *Archontophoenix purpurea* with its purple crownshaft, and the bamboo-like *Dypsis scottiana*, just to name a few.



Paul Craft



Village Marina

464-4391

Wes Taylor

NEWS OF NOTE:



To see how Texas Phoenix Palm Decline (TPPD) is impacting Highlands County, Florida go to:

<http://www2.highlandstoday.com/content/2009/feb/21/la-deadly-palm-disease-reaches-highlands-county>

Would you like to see six important steps in date palm pollination? Go to

<http://xpress4me.com/news/uae/dubai/20012226.html>

Our thanks to Dennis McKee for submitting these links. Also, our thanks to Kitty Philips for submitting the link regarding bio-char that appeared in the March newsletter.

UPCOMING GARDEN TOUR

April 4, 2009—South Florida Palm Society Garden Tour—cost \$10
Meet 10:00 a.m. at Montgomery Foundation to plant some palms, tour the garden, and then attend a barbeque luncheon. Following the luncheon, attendees will tour Saint Thomas the Apostle Church Rectory garden located at 7377 SW 64th Street in Miami. For more information, call Tim McKernin at (302) 951-2151 or e-mail him at palmtim@bellsouth.net.

Please share stories regarding your garden experiences. Submit your stories and photos to beck4212@aol.com

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specimen is planted at a low elevation which is prone to flooding during heavy rainfall. This palm always looks healthy but has grown much slower. The largest specimen has leaves of 12 feet in diameter displayed on 9 foot long petioles.

I have noticed that once this palm develops a trunk of considerable height, the leaves and petioles become greatly reduced in size, so this palm is at its best while the crown is still close to the ground. This is good because at this young stage it is not hurricane resistant. If you were to lose this palm in a hurricane, it is best to lose a specimen with a short trunk. Fairchild Tropical Gardens had a 50 foot tall specimen survive Hurricane Andrew but this palm had a much smaller crown of leaves at that height.

I believe this palm should be more widely planted in Palm Beach



Jagged black teeth along petiole

County. No palm is a more impressive sight. Even immature specimens have a distinct appearance which will draw attention. The 30 foot footprint of this palm is no larger than many of the commonly planted woody trees so the size of this palm should not deter the palm enthusiast from planting it. You can even sit out in light rains and stay dry while protected by the massive leaves.

PADDLEFOOT FARMS



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LAKE OSBORNE ANIMAL CLINIC

JOHN T. LYNCH, D.V.M.

1502 Lake Osborne Dr.
Lake Worth, FL 33461

Spring Sale
April 4th - 5th
9am - 4pm

Caloosa Park

Located in Boynton Beach -
north of Atlantic Ave.,
and south of Woolbright Rd -
on the east side of Congress Ave.

**Over 500 Species
OF PALMS & CYCADS
- ALL SHAPES AND SIZES!**

**ALSO - Books, T-Shirts
& Free Knowledgeable Advice.**

**Sponsored by: The Palm Beach
Palm & Cycad Society**

For More Info Call
561-386-7812

FREE ADMISSION

This Month's "Thank You"

Membership Meeting Refreshments

Gwen Burge

Susan Cioci

Jeff Hutchinson

Ruth Lynch

Patrick & Lauren Morris

Plant Auction Donations

Marshall Dewey

Dale Holton

Juan & Terrie Illa



**Win a
prize!**

We're having a Logo Contest

The Palm Society needs a logo. If your design is chosen, you will win a prize. All entries must be received by May 15, 2009. You can e-mail your entry to beck4212@aol.com or mail to:

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
Attn: Brenda Beck
P.O. Box 21-2228
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421

Winner of the March 4th Name Drawing Prize
was **Patrick Urrutia**

who was present. He received a copy of
Betrock's Cold Hardy Palms by Alan W. Meerow.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD AD

\$5 PER MONTH OR \$60 PER YEAR

Send your business card and check payable to the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society to:

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
c/o Brenda Beck
P.O. Box 21-2228
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421

CLASSIFIED ADS

Are you having a yard sale?

Would you like to sell some used equipment, plants, seeds, or homemade craft items?

Are you a vendor at an upcoming flea market or sale?

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE—up to 3 lines or 195 characters (including spaces) for only \$5 per month. The deadline for the upcoming month is the 15th of the month.

Send your ad and check payable to the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society to:

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
c/o Brenda Beck
P.O. Box 21-2228
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421

HOLTON NURSERY PALMS and CYCADS

5221 3rd Road
Lake Worth, FL 33467

Phone (561) 965-6792

Email cycadnut@gate.net



"By appointment only"

SECOND FATAL PALM DISEASE IMPACTS FLORIDA

By Brenda Beck

A new systemic fatal disease that kills palm trees is making its way across Florida and infecting more than one species of palm. So far, this disease has attacked palm trees in Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Polk, Hardee, Desoto, and Highlands Counties. As of February 2009, the University of Florida IFAS Extension has reported that *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island date palm), *Phoenix dactylifera* (edible date palm), *Phoenix sylvestris* (wild date palm) and *Sabal palmetto* (cabbage palm) have become infected. Two *Syagrus romanzoffiana* (juvenile queen palms) have also become infected.

Texas Phoenix palm decline (TPPD) is caused by an unculturable bacterium and it is believed to be spread to palms by sap-feeding insects, such as planthoppers, treehoppers, or psyllids.

TPPD kills palms quickly. According to the IFAS, the symptoms of this new disease are similar to lethal yellowing but root decay has

also been observed with TPPD. If the palm is mature enough to produce fruit and if it is the season for fruiting, the first symptom is a premature drop of most or all fruit at one time followed by inflorescence necrosis. The next symptom is discoloration of foliage beginning with the oldest leaves with discoloration starting at the leaf tip. Eventually, the spear leaf dies which indicates bud or heart death.

To manage this disease, IFAS recommends immediate removal of the infected palm if the spear leaf has died. If the spear leaf has not died, the palm can be treated with an application of an antibiotic liquid injection into the trunk every four months for the life of the palm.

To see how this disease has impacted Highlands County, please see the link in our News of Note on page 6.

For more information on this disease, please go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP163>.

Phone: 582-4401 Fax (561) 547-8300

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PRESIDENT/CEO

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