FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Hyophorbe indica*

Closely related *Hyophorbe* Cousins

*Hyophorbe indica* (bottle palm)

*Hyophorbe verschaffeltii* (spindle palm)
Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society Officers

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Marshall Dewey, Second Vice President, Planting
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Brenda Beck, Editor & Historian (561) 963-5511

Appointees
Charles Beck, Librarian
Marty Dougherty, Web Master
Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman
Kitty Philips, Activities & Events Coordinator

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Opinions expressed and products or recommendations published in this newsletter may not be the opinions or recommendations of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society or its board of directors.
**FEATURED THIS MONTH:** *Hyophorbe indica*

by Charlie Beck

*Hyophorbe indica* is endemic to Réunion Island and grows in moist, low elevation forests. They are reported to be near extinction in the wild. Surprisingly, *Hyophorbe indica* DNA is closely related to *Wendlandiellia* which is native to the western Amazon. Other genera related to *Hyophorbe* are *Gaussia*, *Synechanthus*, and *Chamaedorea* – all new world palms.

*Hyophorbe indica* are self cleaning, pinnate, and monoecious (male and female flowers on the same plant). The leaves are arching and the inflorescence bud is hornlike. They reportedly grow to 30 feet in height. The crownshaft is an attractive deep green displayed on a gray ringed trunk.

Ten years ago I bought *Betrock’s Guide to Landscape Palms* from Uncle Bim’s in an effort to identify the palm *Livistona chinensis* growing in the front yard of my newly purchased West Palm Beach home. For the last ten years, I have removed undesirable plants, purchased desirable plants, dug, relocated some plants, watered, and fertilized all. I have nurtured my garden and transformed it into a tropical paradise, not to mention, cultivated a lot of friendships along the way!

Probably appearing to be a perpetual novice, I have received some valuable advice through the years. Someone said “if you want to learn more about a particular palm---BUY IT”. So here I am 19 Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society sales later. It’s absolutely true, buying does indeed widen and expand the horizon of knowledge!

I can never remember all the Latin names, however, I do remember WHO I acquired most of my palms from. Let’s see, there’s the:

- *Areca catechu* & *Pritchardia pacifica* from Jack Dewey
- *Butia capitata* & *Syagrus coronata* from Betty Ahlborn
- *Carpopodium macrospерmum* from Ron Croci
- *Chamaerops humilis* var. cerifera & *Encephalartos ferox* from Rick Kern
- *Coccothrinax crinita* & *Dypsis crinita* from Dale Holton
- *Copernicia ekmanni* from Mike Harris
- *Dypsis cabadae* from Gale Carter
- *Hyophorbe indica* from Chris Covington
- *Pseudophoenix sargentii* from Veronica “Bos”
- *Satakentia liukiuensis* from Kurt Decker
- *Syagrus schizophylla* from Larry Dietrich

You could say “it takes a village” to create a palm garden! My main objective was to emulate several environmental conditions that would allow me to have a variety of plants in my postage stamp-sized plot - full sun, dappled sun, under story/shade; the entire time cognizant of what areas were wet and dry.

The first step to make room for desirable plants was to eliminate the undesirable ones. It was a giant step and no doubt the most expensive one. I got rid of all Queens, Ficus, Black Olives and Mallaleuca. Two totems were carved out of Mahogany adding to tropical taste.

I have always been drawn to before and after photos. It is the printed evidence of the impact that plants or green space has on a house. They make a house a home.

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by softening angles, adding depth, interest, and curb appeal. Our eye abruptly stops at hardscape yet is lured into green space. I did an extensive paper in college on the effects plants have on the human psyche. The benefits are endless! Plants are therapeutic and have healing powers - just ask your garden variety horticulture therapist. Plants in offices increase the creative potential and concentration of workers. Furthermore, there was a study in Chicago showing that on tree-lined streets there was more neighbor interaction with less crime and domestic violence. Our magnetism to plants is evolutionary; so is human socialization.

Plant a Palm and Have a Frond for Life!

Elise Moloney
West Palm Beach, Florida

See before and after photographs of Elise’s garden on page 15

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Scott Zona’s Top 20 Palms for South Florida

Scott Zona

At the August 5, 2009, general meeting, Scott Zona, Ph.D., a noted palm biologist from the Department of Biology at Florida International University in Miami, was our guest speaker (sorry I misstated his former place of employment in our August newsletter).

Dr. Zona has had many years experience with growing palms, and presented a list of his top 20 palms for South Florida. He stated his belief that these palms are underutilized in Florida landscape. His list was as follows:

- **Carpentaria acuminata** – tolerates full sun, does not require any irrigation once established, and has bright red fruit
- **Carpoxylon macrospermum** – needs protection when young but eventually will take full sun and has graceful arching pinnate leaves
- **Chamaedorea metallica** – small palm that requires shade and has blue-green metallic leaves
- **Chambeyronia macrocarpa** – requires light shade and steady moisture and has a bright red new leaf
- **Coccothrinax alexandri** – grows in full sun and is drought tolerant once established
- **Copernicia baileyana** (His favorite) – grows in full sun, is drought tolerant once established, has a massive white solitary trunk but requires a large open space
- **Copernicia macroglossa** – grows in full sun, is drought tolerant once established, and has a massive presence in the garden with its skirt of dead leaves
- **Cryosophila stauracantha** – requires a moist location and is tolerant of alkaline soils, has

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(Continued from page 6)
interesting root spines, and the underside of leaves is gray

- **Dypsis cabadae** – This tall clustering palm appreciates light shade and steady moisture, and has ornamental green stems that look like bamboo
- **Dypsis lanceolata** – similar to *D. cabadae* but likes a little shade
- **Guihaia argyrata** – small to medium-sized clustering palm that has a bronze-colored underleaf
- **Hyphaene coriacea** – drought tolerant, has palmate leaves that are often silvery, and a branching trunk
- **Kentiopsis oliviformis** – requires full sun and steady moisture, has silvery green crownshaft
- **Kerriodoxa elegans** – has enormous leaves and needs a moist protected area
- **Leucothrinax morrisii** – requires full sun, the underside of leaves has a whitish appearance, and is native to the lower Keys
- **Manicaria saccifera** – this dichotomously branching palm requires a moist protected location (swampy areas)
- **Pseudophoenix vinifera** – this large palm has a solitary stem with a conspicuous belly, requires full sun, and is drought tolerant once established
- **Sabal causiarum** – the massive solitary stem has large costapalmate leaves, requires full sun, is drought tolerant, and tolerates alkaline soil
- **Satakentia liukiuensis** – requires full sun and has a dark green crownshaft
- **Serenoa repens** – this clustering, shrubby Florida native palm is tolerant of all soils, is drought tolerant, and best grown in full sun

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**MEMBER ANNUAL PICNIC & MOST SPECTACULAR PLANT AUCTION OF THE YEAR!!!**

September 5, 2009
9:00 a.m. to ??

**PICNIC LOCATION**

Home of Ruth Sallenbach
6285 South Military Trail
Lake Worth
(On the west side of Military Trail between Lantana and Hypoluxo Roads)

Please bring a covered dish or dessert!

Donated plants (of any kind) for the auction are most welcome.
**GENERAL MEETING**

**Date:** Wednesday, September 2, 2009  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Mounts Botanical Garden  
**Subject:** Video Presentation: Madagascar Palms  
**Speaker:** Jeff Marcus, Owner of Floribunda Palms & Exotics

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2009  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Ruth Sallenbach’s Home  
6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth  
(561) 965-5430

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October 10, 2009**  
**South Florida Palm Society Garden Tour**  
The tour includes visits to Action Theory Nursery, the Tropical Education Research Center, John DeMott’s garden, and a tour of RF Orchids. There is no cost to members but non-members must pay $10. A box lunch will be served. For more information or to make your reservation, call Jeff Chait at (305) 934-2839.

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(Continued from page 5)

or cold damage. I grow these in light shade, but I’ll bet these palms would grow equally well in full sun.

Plant this palm for its medium size, self cleaning arching fronds, and striking deep green crownshaft. I don’t believe many are growing in Palm Beach County.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROWING CONDITIONS IN OUR GARDEN</th>
<th>FOR <em>Hyophorbe indica</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>4 miles from ocean in suburban Lantana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil</td>
<td>Sand over a layer of hardpan (pineland flatwood habitat)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigation</td>
<td>½ inch applied twice a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flooding</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilization</td>
<td>3 times a year with Palm special analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light</td>
<td>Light shade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micronutrient Deficiencies</td>
<td>None observed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insect Damage</td>
<td>None observed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Resistance</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lethal Yellowing</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Village Marina**

464-4391  
Wes Taylor
This Month's "Thank You"

General Membership Meeting Refreshments

Lew & Cathy Burger        Tom Ramiccio
Jim Gallagher & Maryann Marino Brenda Skaggs
Patt Lindsey

Plant Donations

Betty Ahlborn        Mike Harris
Keith Butry         Dale Holton
Larry Davis

Winner of the August 5th Name Drawing Prize
was Thomas Mueller
who was not present. He missed out on receiving a M. Espinosa signed and numbered Pseudophoenix ekmanii print.

AND

The second winner of the August 5th Name Drawing Prize
was Nicole Dougherty
who was present. She received a Coccothrinax Crinita.

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

A TWO-HEADED SABAL PALMETTO: Maryann Marino and Jim Gallagher forwarded this picture of a palm spotted on Tybee Island in Georgia by their neighbor.
Elise Moloney’s Garden—Before and After

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

Hyophorbe indica inflorescence