



# Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

*Affiliate of the International Palm Society*

Monthly Update

June 2010

## FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Burretiokentia hapala*



*Burretiokentia hapala* at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens  
(Photo by Charlie Beck)

**FRONT COVER:** *Burretiokentia hapala* inflorescence on specimen at  
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens

(Photo by Charlie Beck)

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Kitty Philips & Susan Cioci, Activities & Events Coordinators

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**FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Burretiokentia hapala***

*by Charlie Beck*

*Burretiokentia hapala* is endemic to New Caledonia. It grows in moist wet forests at elevations of 150 to 1,500 feet. This solitary palm grows under forest canopy but can be emergent with an ultimate height of 45 feet. It has glossy pinnate leaves up to seven feet long displayed on short petioles. It has a green stem with prominent white indented rings. The bulging crownshaft is very distinctive as is the wooly inflorescence.

We have three specimens of various ages growing in our garden under different light conditions. The oldest is 17 years old with an overall height of 11 feet with a 3.5 inch diameter stem. The leaves measure five feet long. This palm was originally planted in partial shade but is now growing in full sun due to hurricane damage in 2004. It showed no ill effects due to our record cold winter. Our other specimens are two and five years old – one in full sun and the other is full shade. The one in full shade is more robust and has reached an overall height of 6.5 feet after two years in the ground.

In our garden, *B. hapala* has had a high success rate. We lost two specimens due to hurricane activity but even those grew well up to that point.

We have also tried other *Burretiokentia* species. *B. veillardii* grew well in pots but all died

*(Continued on page 7)*



**Two *Burretiokentia hapala* specimens growing in the Beck garden.**  
*(Photos by Charlie Beck)*



## South Florida Palm Society 2010 Garden Tour

by Charlie Beck

On March 27, 2010, South Florida Palm Society sponsored a tour of four private gardens. The first garden was a one acre lot owned by Dr. Jeff Block. This garden is truly a “world class” collection of palms and cycads. It was perfectly manicured with many interesting features including a 100+ foot long coral rock wall with begonias and ferns planted in crevices. It also had a large screened area which included not only a swimming pool but other natural looking fish ponds and waterfalls. The collection of orchids, bromeliads, ferns, begonias, palms, and other tropicals were perfectly maintained and seemed unaffected by our record cold winter.

The second and third gardens are owned by John Greenleaf and Tim Blake. Both gardens displayed large collections of mature palms and cycads.

The fourth garden was owned by Jeff Chait who is a long-time grower of palms and cycads. It is always a treat touring his garden because of the variety of many rare palms. His *Pigafetta* may be the only surviving specimen in South Florida after our record cold. Jeff also has the most impressive rose garden I have seen in Florida. There are hundreds of perfectly maintained roses. Jeff participates as a trial garden for testing new roses for the American Rose Society. I have included some photographs of the garden tour and if we have room in the Monthly Update next month, we will feature more photographs.

(See more photos on pages 6 & 11)

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All photographs for this article were provided by Charlie Beck.

### Specimens in Jeff Block's garden



*Cattleya skinneri*



*Lepidozamia hopei*

### Specimens in Dr. Jeff Block's garden



*Cyrtostachys renda*



*Johannesteijsmannia magnifica*



*Licuala ramsayi*



*Pelagodoxa henryana*

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(Continued from page 4)

quickly when planted in the ground. I have recently acquired *B. dumasii* and *B. koghiensis* but they are years away from planting in the ground.

*B. hapala* is well adapted to growing in Palm Beach County. Plant in the shade with ample irrigation for best growth. Plant it for the glossy leaves, bulging crownshaft and fuzzy inflorescence. It is a distinctive small palm which every palm enthusiast should try to grow.

\*\*\*

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### GENERAL MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, June 2, 2010  
**Time** 7:30 p.m.  
**Location** Mounts Botanical Garden  
**Subject:** Introduction to Palms  
**Speaker:** John D. Kennedy

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2010  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Ruth Sallenbach's Home  
6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth  
(561) 965-5430



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## Potting Demonstration Provided at May 5, 2010 Meeting

by Brenda Beck

Dale Holton was the Palm Society's guest speaker at the May 5 meeting. Dale shared the do's and don'ts of potting up palms and cycads.

Dale stressed the importance of using the right soil mixture for each plant. The "Holton Mix" which he uses for most plants consists of 20 percent perlite, 25 percent pine bark, 30 percent Canadian peat, and 25 percent coarse sand. He also stated that cycads and Caribbean palms will appreciate 50 percent black lava rock in the mix.



In addition to the right soil mix, Dale suggested that a slow release fertilizer also be placed in the pot when repotting a plant. He reported that he always places a dose of Nutriccoat in each pot when potting up plants. He stated his belief that, although Nutriccoat is expensive, it is worth the cost because you will see increased

growth.

At the conclusion of his presentation, everyone present was given an opportunity to pot up four *Chamaedorea seifrizii* to take home.

\*\*\*

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# This Month's "Thank You"

## General Membership Meeting Refreshments

Ingrid Dewey	Tom Ramiccio
Nicole Dougherty	Ruth Sallenbach
Ruth Lynch	

## Plant Donations

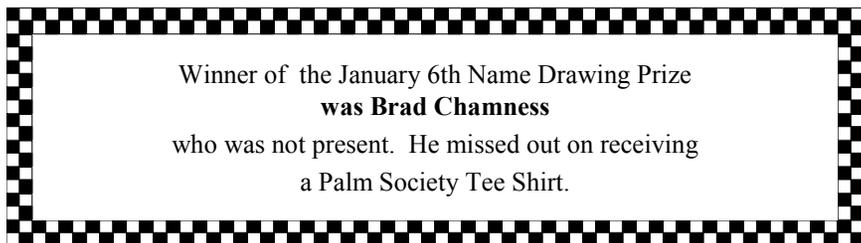
Betty Ahlborn	John Irvine
Dale Holton	

## Special Thanks

to

**Shawna Price**

for arriving at 5:00 p.m. to keep the Mounts building open for us.





Phone  
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BETTY AHLBORN

Exotic Palms  
&  
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*Please share your garden experiences.  
Submit your stories and photos to [beck4212@aol.com](mailto:beck4212@aol.com)*

## Federal Import Quarantine Order Issued on Some Palms *by Brenda Beck*

According to a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) order, effective February 10, 2010, the following palms can no longer be imported into the United States: *Acrocomia*, *Astrocaryum*, *Attalea*, *Bactris*, *Brahea*, *Butia*, *Calamus*, *Chamerops*, *Desmoncus*, *Euterpe*, *Manicaria*, *Mauritia*, *Metroxylon*, *Oncoseperma Roystonea*, *Sabal*, and *Washingtonia*. This order is to protect palm trees growing in the United States from damage and death caused by *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Red Palm Weevil), *R. palmarum* (Giant Palm Weevil), and *Bursaphelenchus cocophilus* (Red Ring Nematode). This quarantine, which does not include the seeds of these palms, will remain in effect until a pest risk analysis is completed to determine whether effective risk mitigation measures exist. According to the USDA Order, "The difficulty of detection through port of entry inspection for all three of these palm pests constitutes a serious problem in the fight

against these pests and in any attempt to guarantee pest-free status of imported trees." While the two palm weevils are relatively large insects, their larval stages as concealed stem borers make early infestation difficult to detect. The damage caused by larvae only becomes visible long after infestation and generally result in the death of the tree.

The Red Palm Weevil originates in Southeast Asia where it has caused major crop loss in coconut plantations. This pest was first sighted in the United Arab Emirates in the 1980s where it quickly became a pest of date palms. It then spread throughout the Persian Gulf states. It has also been found in the European Union and the Caribbean.

The Red Ring Nematode is ingested by Giant Palm Weevil larvae which then transmits the nematode as an adult weevil while laying eggs on its next palm host. This nematode is the cause of red ring and little leaf disease in palms. The current distribution of the Giant Palm Weevil and Red Ring Nematode currently only affect both palm plantations and ornamental palms throughout Central and South America.

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"By appointment only"

Specimens in John Greenleaf's garden

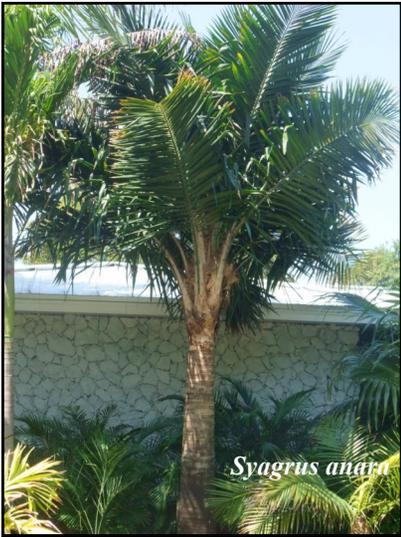


*Coccothrinax argenteata*



*Corypha utan*

Specimens in Tim Blake's garden



*Syagrus anana*



*Copernicia ekmanii*



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*Kerriodoxa elegans* inflorescence growing in Tim Blake's garden