

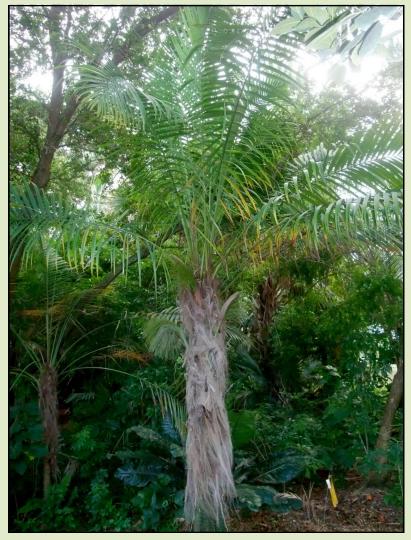
## Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

June 2011

## FEATURED THIS MONTH: Dypsis utilis





*Syagrus kellyana*, recently described by Larry Noblick (standing in foreground)



John Irvine lending scale to *Attalea guacuyule* 



Ingrid Dewey lending scale to Arenga pinnata



Cathy Burger lending scale to Corypha utan

#### Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society 2011 Officers

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VISIT US AT palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

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#### Featured this Month: Dypsis utilis by Charlie Beck

Dypsis utilis is an upland pinnate palm endemic to Madagascar. It occurs at elevations of 3,000 to 3,300 feet growing streamside in moist or swamp forest. Its conservation status is vulnerable. It was formally named Vonitra utilis. It is the largest of all of the Vonitra group. The stem can be solitary or clumping and is covered in long strands of fiber much like Coccothrinax crinita. The stems typically branch dichotomously 30 to 35 feet above the ground. The branching is upright and closely parallel. The stems can grow 50 feet in habitat.

Our *Dypsis utilis* is 12 years old and was planted in a moist area which is prone to flooding during heavy rain. Its stem is 9 feet tall and 7 inches in diameter. The leaves measure 11 feet long. The most distinguishing feature is the long fibers which cover the stem. Back in 1999, *Dypsiscrinita*, *Dypsis utilis*, and *Dypsis fibrosa* all were readily available for sale. All have long stem fibers and are closely related. There must have been much misidentification of seeds. Our specimens were mistakenly labeled *Dypsis crinita*. Using the key in the book "Palms of Madagascar," I concluded our palms are *Dypsis utilis*. The infrafoliar inflorescences which were branched to three orders clearly identified these palms.

Plant *Dypsis utilis* for its graceful pinnate fronds, interesting stem fiber, and unusual stem branches. This palm will grow in low lying moist areas. Our specimens are planted in the shade, but with an ultimate height of 50 feet, I believe it would also grow well in a sunny location. (See photo on front cover.)

GROWING CONDITIONS IN OUR GARDEN FOR <i>Dypsis utilis</i>	
Location	4 miles from ocean in suburban Lantana
Soil	Sandy soil
Irrigation	<sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> inch applied twice a week
Fertilization	4 times a year with Palm special analysis
Light	Shade or (possibly) full sun
Micronutrient Deficiencies	Minor potassium deficiency during cold weather
Insect Damage	None observed
Cold Hardiness	No damage observed (2009 through 2011)
Hurricane Resistance	Good

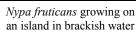
#### Successful Trip to Montgomery Botanical Center by Charlie Beck

A grand time was had by 41 participants on our bus trip to the Montgomery Botanical Center. The Center rolled out the red carpet for our Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society tour. The executive director, Patrick Griffith, led the tour with noted palm biologist Larry Noblick and cycad expert Michael Calonje.

Much thanks to Tom Whisler and Dale Holton for organizing such a wonderful and informative trip. Photographs of this trip can be seen on pages 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12.



*Cycas panzhihuaensis* with licorice scented cone



# **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

### **GENERAL MEETING**

Date:	Wednesday, June 1, 2011
Time	7:30 p.m.
Location	Mounts Botanical Garden
Speaker:	Kitty Philips
Subject:	Anza-Borrego Desert Park

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

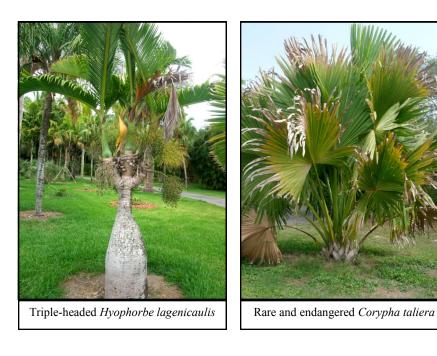
- Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2011
- **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
- Location: Ruth Sallenbach's Home 6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth (561) 965-5430

#### Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society Membership

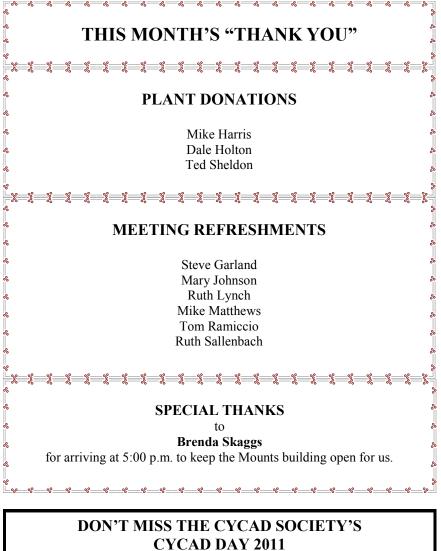
Be sure to keep your membership up to date. It will insure that you receive all Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society communications. Annual membership is \$25 per person per year and membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Membership can be renewed by sending payments to the Society at P.O. Box 21-2228, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421.

Thank you for your support of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society. We hope to see you at all of our general meetings which take place on the first Wednesday of every month at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. Be sure to watch for information regarding our field trips, special activities, and palm and cycad shows and sales.

If you have questions about membership, you can contact Tom Whisler, our Membership Chairman, at whisler.tom@synthes.com







Saturday, June 25 For more information on this event, please visit http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=06-2011&eventID=591

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

Cycas conferta

The interesting leaf base pattern of *Syagrus coronata* 

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Ceratozamia decumbens

Village Marina

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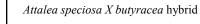




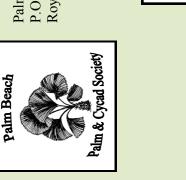




Ruth Lynch lending scale to the rare *Hemithrinax ekmaniana* 







Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society P.O. Box 21-2228 Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421 June 2011 Monthly Update

