



# Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

*Affiliate of the International Palm Society*

Monthly Update

February 2012

## FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Copernicia curbeloi*



**ABOVE:** Twelve year old *Copernicia curbeloi* growing in the Beck garden that displays the distinctive upright growth pattern.

**BELOW:** Nineteen year old *Copernicia hospita* growing in the Beck garden.

*(Photos by Charlie Beck)*



**FRONT COVER:** Nine year old *Copernicia curbeloi* growing in the Beck garden.

*(Photo by Charlie Beck)*

**Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society  
2012 Officers & Executive Committee**

Tom Ramiccio, President (561) 582-5915  
 Jeff Hutchinson, First Vice President, Sales  
 Don Biddle, Second Vice President, Planting  
 Dale Holton, Third Vice President, Programs (561) 965-6792  
 Ruth Lynch, Secretary (561) 312-5046  
 Ingrid Dewey, Treasurer  
 Tom Whisler, Membership Chairman (561) 627-8328  
 Charlie Beck, Editor (561) 963-5511  
 Betty Ahlborn, Immediate Past President

**Appointees**

Charlie Beck, Librarian  
 Kitty Philips, Web Master  
 Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman  
 To Be Determined, Activities & Events Coordinators  
 Brenda Beck, Historian

**VISIT US AT [palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com](http://palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com)**

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**Featured this Month: *Copernicia curbeloi*  
by Charlie Beck**

*Copernicia curbeloi* is a solitary, monoecious, palmate palm with spiny petioles. It is native to central east Cuba and grows in low, moist savannas. In habitat, it can grow 45 feet tall. The stem typically bulges to 12 - 16 inches in diameter then tapers back to 8 - 9 inches in diameter above and below the bulge. It most closely resembles *C. yarey var. robusta* except it has a taller stem (with a bulge) and it has longer flowering and fruiting branchlets. *C. curbeloi* also resembles *C. baileyana* and *C. fallaensis* but is not as massive. The leaves are waxy and are reliably silver in color.

Andrew Henderson lumped *C. curbeloi* with *C. hospita* in his 1995 "Field Guide to the Palms of the Americas."

"Kew World Checklist of Palms," as well as other scientific plant lists still list *C. curbeloi* as a valid species. The *C. curbeloi* in our garden display silver fronds similar to *C. hospita* but the growth habit is different. *C. curbeloi* is more robust and it holds many more fronds than *C. hospita*. There is a great photo of a mature specimen in habitat at the [web address www.photomazza.com/?copernicia-](http://www.photomazza.com/?copernicia-)

[www.photomazza.com/?copernicia-curbeoli](http://www.photomazza.com/?copernicia-curbeoli). (Note that the web address misspells *curbeloi*.)

We have three *C. curbeloi* planted in our garden. Two specimens are 12 years old and one is 9 years old. Unlike many *Copernicia* which suffer from magnesium and potassium deficiencies, *C. curbeloi* grows well with recommended fertilization and twice a week irrigation. Our 9 year old palm is 15 feet tall (overall height) with a 4 foot stem. Our 12 year old specimens measure an overall height of 12 feet.

The fronds are 6 feet in diameter and the petioles are 5 ½ feet long. The jagged teeth on the petiole are black and contrast with the green petiole.

*C. curbeloi* is not an easy palm to find but occasionally you can find it of-

fered for sale. You won't find it described in modern palm reference books. The only book I found it described in was the October 1963 "Gentes Herbarum - Revision of the Genus *Copernicia* West Indian Species." Of the 14 different species of *Copernicia* growing in our garden I'd say that *C. curbeloi* is the best grower. It may not grow at the fastest rate but it probably has the high-

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*Copernicia curbeloi* petioles are green with contrasting black teeth.

## Outgoing Board Officers Recognized at January Meeting

by Brenda Beck

Newly elected president, Tom Ramiccio, presented two outgoing officers with plaques of appreciation for their service to the Palm Society.

Outgoing president, Betty Ahlborn, served as president from 2007 through 2011. In addition to fulfilling her duties as president, Betty has repotted, fertilized, nursed, and transported the plants ordered for our annual palm giveaway at her own expense. As immediate past president, Betty will remain active as a member of the Society's Executive Committee.

Outgoing secretary, Ruth Sallenbach, has been an active member for approximately 23 years. She served as secretary from 1997 through 2011 and holds the record for the longest serving officer for the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society. In addition to fulfilling her secretarial

duties, Ruth opened her home as the location for our monthly Palm Society board meetings. Every month at these board meetings, Ruth served board members a variety of home made cakes and drinks at her own expense. She has also allowed the Palm Society to hold its annual picnic in her beautiful garden since 1996. Unfortunately, Ruth was not present at the meeting.



Tom Ramiccio presents outgoing president Betty Ahlborn with a plaque of appreciation.

(Continued from page 4)

est frond count of any of our solitary *Copernicia* palms and it never shows any nutritional deficiencies. *C. curbeloi* is the right scale for most of our landscapes with one-story homes. Unlike many of the giant *Copernicia* species that could threaten your house if toppled in a

hurricane, *C. curbeloi* is a more manageable size. *C. curbeloi* is well adapted to growing in our sandy soils unlike many other *Copernicia* species which prefer limestone soil. Seek out *C. curbeloi* for your garden and you will be rewarded with a "showstopper palm."

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Date:** Wednesday, February 1, 2012  
**Location:** Mounts Botanical Garden  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.—Palm Society Board Meeting  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.—General Meeting  
**Speaker:** Chip Jones  
**Subject:** Lorán Whitlock's Garden and How to Identify Cycads

### THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

#### PLANT DONATIONS

Dale Holton  
Tom Whisler

#### MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Ruth Lynch  
Ed Napoli  
Tom Ramiccio  
Kathy & Rod Silverio  
Bonnie Wilburn

#### JANUARY DOOR PRIZE WINNER

Bonnie Wilburn won "Cycads of Thailand"

#### SPECIAL THANKS

to  
**Tom Ramiccio & Roland Grondin**  
for arriving at 5:00 p.m. to keep the Mounts building open for us.

## January Meeting Recap

by Charlie Beck

We were fortunate to have world renowned palm biologist, Scott Zona, speak at the January general meeting. His presentation was "An Introduction to Palms (and a Peek to the Future)." His review of palm biology was very interesting to all who attended the meeting.

One of the new subjects he covered was the resurrection of the genus *Saribus*. I will attempt to sum up these changes in nomenclature for the casual palm collector. Eight *Livistona* species were moved into the genus *Saribus*. They are

- *Saribus brevifolius*
- *Saribus chocolatinus*
- *Saribus merrillii*
- *Saribus papuanus*
- *Saribus rotundifolius*\*
- *Saribus surru*
- *Saribus tothur*
- *Saribus woodfordii*

\* Note that *Saribus rotundifolius* includes the former *Livistona rotundifolia* and *Livistona robinsoniana*.



Scott Zona

*Pritchardiopsis jeanneneyi* was also renamed *Saribus jeanneneyi*.

To sum up, there are presently nine named species of the genus *Saribus*. All other *Livistona* species remain *Livistona*, including *Livistona saribus*.

The palms now in the genus *Saribus* are more closely linked to *Pholidocarpus*, *Licuala*, and *Johannesteijsmannia* than to the remaining species of *Livistona*. The native ranges of *Saribus* and *Livistona* are geographically distinct with only minor overlap.

Aside from inflorescences and cellular differences, the most obvious difference between *Livistona* and *Saribus* is the color of mature fruit. *Saribus* fruit is orange, orange-brown, or red. *Livistona* fruit is green, blue, purple, brown, or black.

The palms which are commonly grown in Florida gardens which require a name change are listed below.

- *Saribus rotundifolius* was *Livistona rotundifolia* or *Livistona robinsoniana*
- *Saribus woodfordii* was *Livistona woodfordii*



## Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

### Spring Plant Sale

March 31 and April 1, 2012

at Mounts Botanical Garden

Look for additional details  
in your March newsletter.

#### 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 for an individual membership and \$35 for a dual membership (two people living at the same address) 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 (561) 627-8328 or at [whisler.tom@synthes.com](mailto:whisler.tom@synthes.com)



# Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

*Affiliate of the International Palm Society*

## 2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25—Individual Membership

\$35—Dual Membership (two individuals living at the same address)

Please send the annual Individual Membership Fee OR Dual Membership Fee to:

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

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Membership includes one monthly newsletter and receipt of free palms, cycads, and other plants at the annual plant give-away in December.

FOR PALM SOCIETY USE ONLY				
\$		Check No.		Year



## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Andrew Street

*Village Marina*  
396 Torpey Road  
Fort Pierce, Florida. 34946  
*Wes Taylor*  
Office 772-464-4391 Cell 772-519-1297

**HOLTON NURSERY**  
PALMS and CYCADS  
5221 3rd Road  
Lake Worth, FL 33467  
Phone (561) 965-6792  
Email [cycadnut@gate.net](mailto:cycadnut@gate.net)  
"By appointment only"

*Caribbean Palms Nursery*  
Mike Harris  
1584 F Road  
Loxahatchee, FL 33470  
Phone: (561) 792-0333  
E-mail: [palmz@gate.net](mailto:palmz@gate.net)

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**FULL PAGE—\$35 A MONTH**

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[beck4212@aol.com](mailto:beck4212@aol.com).

Send your check to:  
Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society  
c/o Brenda Beck  
P.O. Box 21-2228  
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421  
(Check must be received prior to print.)



*Saribus rotundifolius* (formerly *Livistona rotundifolia*  
or *Livistona robinsoniana*)



*Saribus woodfordii* (formerly *Livistona woodfordii*)



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



**IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP, THIS MAY  
BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER.**



Cattleya sp. growing  
among native resurrec-  
tion fern on stem of  
Hyophorbe verschaffeltii