



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

April 2012

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Zamia dressleri*



ABOVE AND BELOW: *Zamia dressleri* growing in habitat.

(Photos by Dale Holton)



FRONT COVER: *Zamia dressleri*

(Photo contributed by Rolf Kyburz to the Palm and Cycad Societies of Australia website.)

**Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
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 Charlie Beck, Editor (561) 963-5511
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Charlie Beck, Librarian
 Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman
 Brenda Beck, Web Master and Historian
 To Be Determined, Activities & Events Coordinators

VISIT US AT www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page	
4	FEATURED THIS MONTH: <i>Zamia dressleri</i>
5	Upcoming meetings
5	This Months "Thank You" and Door Prize Winner
6	Palm and Cycad Planting and Fertilizing Guidelines
8	Spring 2012 Palm & Cycad Sale Details
9	March Meeting Recap

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Featured this Month: *Zamia dressleri*

by Dale Holton

In 1993, Dennis Stevenson named *Zamia dressleri* in honor of Robert Louis Dressler. This cycad is found only in Panama and is considered endangered. Its habitat is wooded areas around the city of Colon, which is located at the Caribbean mouth of the Panama Canal. Much of the habitats have been destroyed for cattle grazing and or urban development. I recently was able to go to this location to look for plants in habitat with Chip Jones and Tom Whistler. Someone who had been to this area told me we would be lucky to locate more than two plants. We were extremely lucky as we saw more than fifty plants in one location.

Zamia dressleri is a plicate (corrugated like a Ruffles potato chip) leaf plant that usually has no more than one or two leaves. Then new emergent leaves are somewhat reddish. In habitat they are very widely located and usually there is only one plant at any location. Most of the plants that we saw were growing near streams. These plants are very tropical and will defoliate in cold weather. They grow in red clay and the entire caudex of the plant is underground. I have been lucky to have acquired a few plants over the years and found out the hard way that they like to be underground. The plants that I planted with the caudex above ground, eventually died. *Zamia*



dressleri is an understory plant and does not like to be in bright light. As this *Zamia* is quite rare in cultivation, I consider it a collector plant. If you can find them for sale, they will be quite expensive. I believe that this plant will become extinct in habitat sometime in the future.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2012
Location: Mounts Botanical Garden
Time: 6:00 p.m.—Palm Society Board Meeting
Time: 7:30 p.m.—General Meeting
Speaker: *Speaker will be posted to our website at*
Subject: *www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com when confirmed*

THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

AUCTION/PLANT DONATIONS

Steve Aberbach
Nick Bethmann
Mike Harris
Dale Holton
Ted Sheldon

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Charlie & Brenda Beck
Ruth Eberly
Ruth Lynch
Tom Ramiccio
Bonnie Wilburn

JANUARY DOOR PRIZE WINNER

Kitty Philips won "Cycads of Thailand"

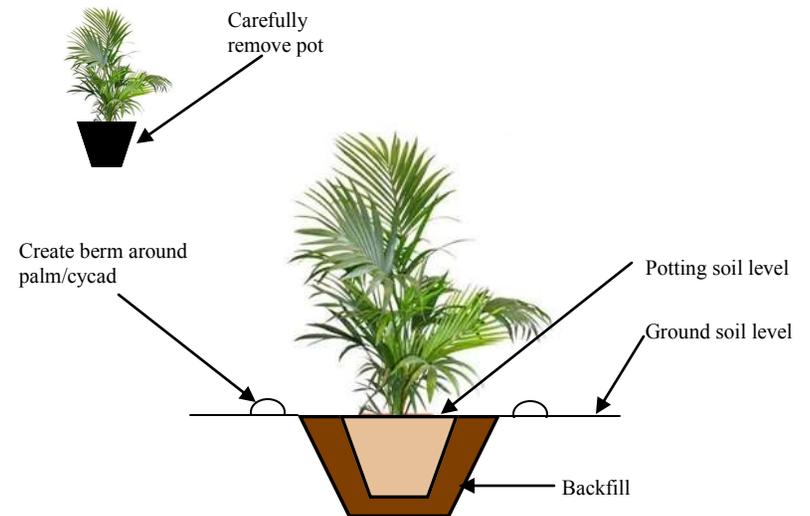
SPECIAL THANKS

to

Tom Ramiccio & Roland Grondin

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

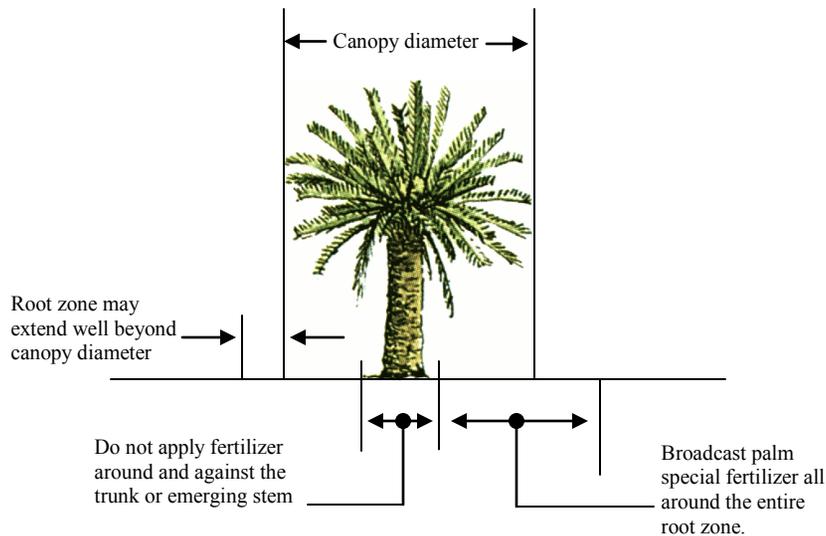
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PALM AND CYCAD PLANTING GUIDELINES

- When removing palm/cycad from pot, minimize disturbance of roots (if pot bound do not break roots apart). If roots are growing through the pot, cut the pot away so that roots are undisturbed.
- Plant at same level that palm/cycad was growing in the pot.
- Amending backfill is generally not recommended.
- Incorporation of slow release fertilizer (Nutricote, Dynamite or 100% organic granular fertilizer) in backfill is acceptable. One handful per 3 gallon pot is sufficient. Do not use palm special granular fertilizers at planting time.
- Eliminate any air pockets around the root ball when backfilling planting hole.
- Create a berm around the planting hole so that a dam concentrates applied water to the root zone.
- Mulch is acceptable outside of the berm. Do not pile mulch against the stem of the palm or cycad.
- Keep root ball and surrounding area evenly moist for 4 – 6 months after planting.
- Palm special fertilizer should be applied to soil surface 4 – 6 weeks after planting.

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FERTILIZING ESTABLISHED PALMS AND CYCADS

- Use slow release palm special fertilizer with a full complement of macro and micro nutrients. The fertilizer sold by the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society is an excellent choice. This fertilizer is also the best choice for fertilizing your entire yard, including lawn, ornamental plants and fruit trees.
- Apply fertilizer every three months year round.
- Recommended rate of fertilizer is 1.5 pounds of fertilizer per 100 square feet of root zone. This translates to amounts stated below:
 - 1 pound of fertilizer per application to small palms/cycads like *Phoenix roebelenii* (Pygmy Date Palm) or *Adonidia merrillii* (Christmas Palm) or *Cycas revoluta* (King Sago)
 - 4.5 pounds of fertilizer per application to medium palms/cycads like *Livistona chinensis* (Chinese Fan Palm) or *Syagrus romanzoffiana* (Queen Palm), or *Cycas rumphii* (Queen Sago)
 - 7 pounds of fertilizer per application to large palms like *Roystonea regia* (Royal Palm) or *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm)
- Buy only the best quality fertilizer. You get what you pay for. Bargain fertilizers are quick release and lack the minor elements required for optimum growth and health of your plants.

**Palm Beach Palm
& Cycad Society**

2012 Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, March 31—9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Sunday, April 1—9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

at Mounts Botanical Garden

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. Please go to www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com to obtain our membership application.

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

March Meeting Recap

by Charlie Beck

Larry Noblick was the speaker at our March meeting. Larry is a world renowned palm biologist employed at the Montgomery Botanical Center. His presentation was “Easy Ways to Identify *Sabal* Species.” This information is a very helpful tool to sort out which *Sabal* palms we have planted in our gardens. As you know, true identification of palm species do not always agree with the labels supplied with our purchased palms. Larry gave us many examples of *Sabal* palms misidentified even at the Montgomery Botanical Center. I compiled most of the information presented by Larry and also filled in some information based on the book “Field Guide to the Palms of the Americas.” Table I is a listing of all *Sabal* characteristics as grouped in Larry’s presentation at the meeting. Table II groups the same information based on simi-

lar characteristics. I hope you will find this compilation of information included as a separate document in this newsletter useful in identifying your *Sabal* palms. The most important distinguishing features for each species are printed in bold print.

Note:

- **Ligules** are flaps of fiber which spill out from the base of petioles. They remind me of brown or grey wrapping paper.
- **Transverse veins** are apparent when holding a leaf up to a light source. Transverse veins run at right angles to the main veins which run along the length of the leaflets.
- **Nerved flowers** have raised longitudinal ribs on the flower petals. The nerves are a contrasting darker color than the flower petals.

See additional photos on page 10.



RIGHT: Strongly costapalmate leaf of *S. etonia*

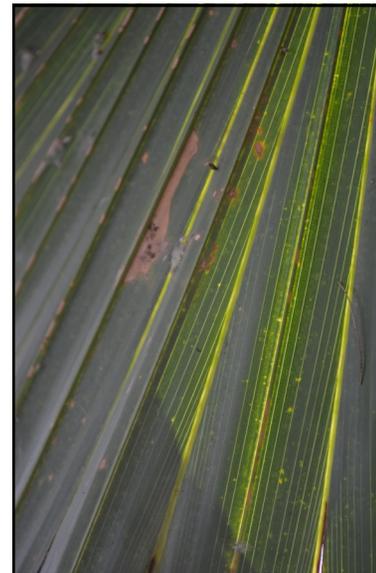
LEFT: Weakly costapalmate leaf of *S. uresana*



S. yapa leaf segments divided into twos and threes



S. mauritiformis leaf segments divided into fours



S. domingensis leaf detail with no transverse veins



S. domingensis with incomplete ligule at leaf base



ABOVE AND BOTTOM RIGHT: Photographs of *Zamia dressleri* growing in the Panamian rainforest.
 (Photos contributed by Rolf Kyburz to the Palm and Cycad Societies of Australia website.)



Chip Jones with *Zamia dressleri* found growing in habitat.
 (Photo by Dale Holton)



Dendrobium sp. Orchid growing on *Dyopsis leptocheilos* in the Beck garden.
 (Photo by Charlie Beck)



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

