



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

March 2013

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Dypsis concinna*



Jesse Durko's Garden
(Photos by Charlie Beck)



Verschaffeltia splendida



Raphia hookeri



Licuala grandis



Macrozamia moorei

FRONT COVER: Seven year old *Dypsis concinna* growing in the Beck garden.

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Charlie Beck, Librarian
 Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman
 Brenda Beck, Web Master and Historian

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**Featured this Month: *Dypsis concinna*
by Charlie Beck**

Dypsis concinna is a small palm native to central Madagascar. The species name means neat or pretty in Latin. It occurs in submontane rain forests at 2,400-3,000' elevation. *D. concinna* was previously named *Neophloga concinna*. This is a variable palm which can be either solitary or clumping. The leaves are pinnate or entire. The pinnate form has irregular leaflet spacing which is very distinctive. The form with entire leaves displays long thin bifid leaves. The stems measure ¼" in diameter and can grow 6' tall. The stems are covered with red-brown scales which add to the beauty of this palm.

I have a single specimen of *Dypsis concinna* in our garden. In 7 years its tallest stem tops out at 3' measured to the leaf tip. It only has 2

stems but 2 more have initiated. The grouped leaflets and the dark red-brown stem make this palm very showy. Like most palms previously named *Neophloga* it grows well in our sandy, Palm Beach County soil. It has never shown any nutritional deficiency when regularly fertilized. The record cold winters of 2009-2010 did not damage this palm at all even though it was only 3 years since planting.

This palm is not readily available at our palm sales. I will try to obtain a few of these gems for our meeting, palm auctions. This palm does not take up much space so every palm enthusiast should include it in their shade garden. Every time I walk past our specimen, I can't help but admire it.

Jesse Durko's Garden
(Photos by Charlie Beck)



Great Find for the Gardener - Hinged Knee Pads

by Charlie Beck

I work in our garden practically every day. Most of the planting, weeding and mulching requires a great amount of time close to the ground. I have bought many garden implements including kneeling pads, portable stools, hinged seats which include knee rests and rolling seats. I've tried just about every item offered in gardening catalogues. Some of these products are fine for limited use. All of these require you to carry them along, which is problematic.

Standard knee pads strap to your knees and don't have the drawback of carry along products. They do have the problem of sliding down your leg or twisting sideways at times. They rely on straps to hold them in place. If you strap them tight enough, they tend to stay put but they can still slip sideways. Some of those products have Velcro attachments which I have found to lack long term durability.

One of the mail order catalogues I received featured hinged knee pads. One had hinged gel pads which were priced at \$45 and looked heavy. Another was \$22.95 and was constructed of molded hard plastic with a small grip strip insert. The

inner surface featured half inch thick foam pads. The molded plastic shell wrap around the knees to provide additional protection. The hinge feature reportedly prevented knee pads from slipping down toward your ankles. Both straps are elastic with speed clips which snap in place for easy on-off.



I gave these knee pads a try. They exceeded all of my expectations. They are light weight. They stay in place all day. The added protection from the wrap around design allows me to kneel in thorny pruning material without worrying about puncture wounds. The straps hold firm and are easy to attach. If the elastic wears out they are replaceable. The hinged design really does solve the problem of the pads sliding out of place. I even noticed that debris does not find a way between the pad and your knee like standard knee pads. I do not recommend using these if you wear short pants. Your knees would directly contact the foam pads if you did.

Here is the brand and model number of the hinged knee pads I tried: KP Industries Knee Pro Ultra Flex III. They are available from internet sources.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 6, 2013

6:30 p.m. - Board Meeting

7:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting

Speaker: Chad Husby of Montgomery Botanical Center

Subject: Current Research on *Zamia* Species

See you at Mounts Botanical Garden!

FEBRUARY THANK YOU

Food: Don Bittel, Susan Ciocci, Doyle Cochran, Gert Culvin, Ingrid Dewey, Steve Garland, Ruth Lynch, Patrick Morris, Tom Ramiccio, Ron & Kathy Silverado

Plant Donations: Charlie Beck, Steve Garland, Mike Harris, Dale Holton, Chip Jones

Door: Terry Lynch

ANNUAL SPRING PALM & CYCAD SALE AT MOUNTS BOTANICAL GARDEN

Saturday, March 23, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 24, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Caribbean Palms Nursery

Mike Harris
1584 F Road
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Phone: (561) 792-0333
Email: palmz@gate.net

HOLTON NURSERY
PALMS and CYCADS

5221 3rd Road
Lake Worth, FL 33467
Phone (561) 965-6792
Email cycadnut@gate.net

"By appointment only"

Village Marina

396 Torpey Road
Fort Pierce, Florida 34946

Wes Taylor

Office 772-464-4391 Cell 772-519-1297

(561) 586-2332

LAKE OSBORNE ANIMAL CLINIC

JOHN T. LYNCH, D.V.M.

1502 Lake Osborne Dr.
Lake Worth, FL 33461

Jesse Durko's Garden

by Charlie Beck

Several weeks ago the South Florida Palm Society toured Jesse Durko's garden in Davie, FL. His garden and residence is located beside his fantastic nursery. Jesse is a famed landscape architect and nurseryman. If you have never visited his nursery, you should go. He has a large selection of palms, bamboo & unique ornamental plants. Around his house he has an extensive collection of palms and cycads as well as many colorful ornamentals. He had a well grown (although short lived in our climate) *Verschaffeltia splendida*. His impressive *Raphia hookeri* is the largest that I've ever seen. The *Licuala grandis*

and *L. elegans* were grown to perfection. There was a *Coccothrinax* sp. which displayed extremely short petioles. The *Calyptrocalyx albertianus* had a showy emergent red leaf. The rare *Dypsis hildebrandtii* was very healthy. Jesse had beautiful specimens of *Macrozamia moorei* and *Dypsis rivularis* which I find hard to grow. The best find though was the mystery palm which no one could identify. It had an impressive pink inflorescence. One of the reasons Jesse bought his property was the presence of deep muck soil. That is probably why all of his plants were so lush. See photos in this issue.

Improved Fertilizer Available at Palm & Cycad Sale

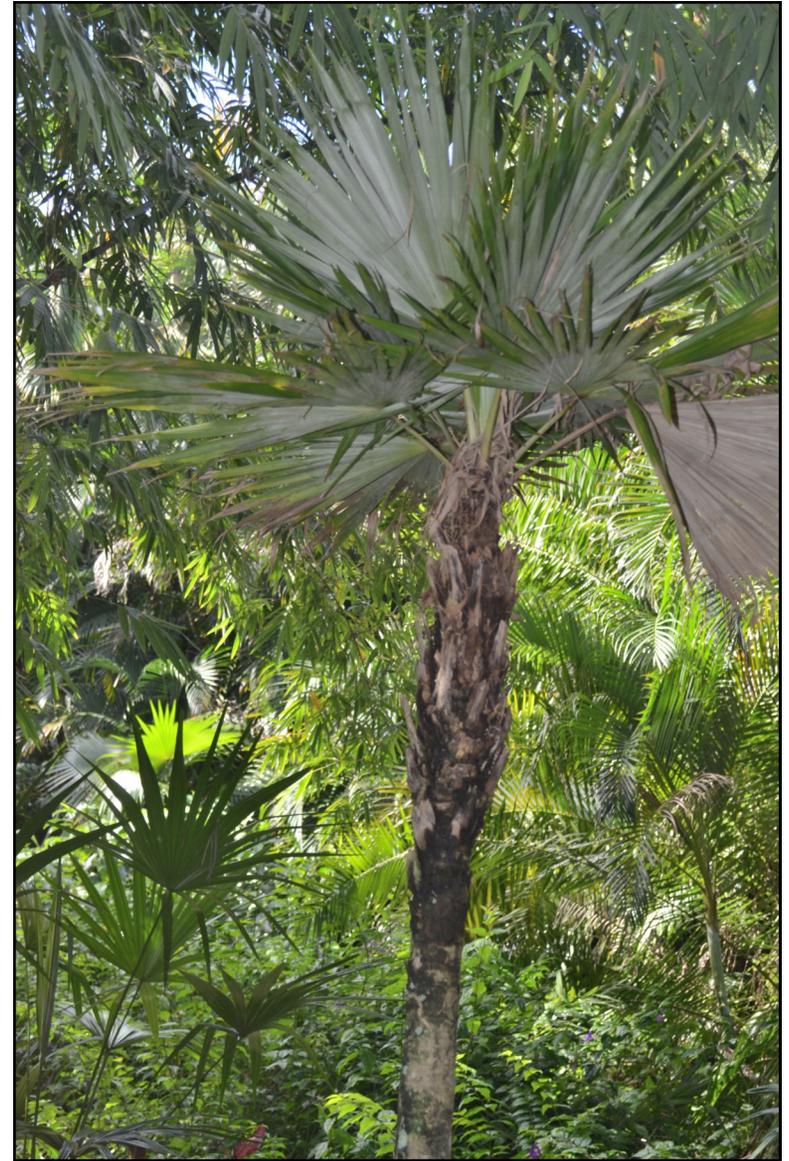
by Charlie Beck

At our last palm sale we upgraded the palm fertilizer that we sold. This palm fertilizer was the best mix sold by Diamond R Fertilizer (formerly Atlantic Fertilizer). This blend had a much higher percentage of slow release nitrogen and potassium than fertilizers offered at our previous sales. It also had a complete minor nutrient package. Our Palm and Cycad Society has found an even better palm fertilizer and will offer it at our next sale. In addition to the slow release macro elements, this blend contains 4 times the manganese, 3 times the boron, and 53 times the iron. Boron deficiency is a serious threat to many palm genera growing in our sandy

soils. Boron deficiency is difficult to determine because it looks quite different in many palm species. It is often confused with manganese deficiency but the symptoms can also take on many other forms. The extra iron in the new fertilizer should provide greener palms. An additional benefit to the new blend is it has a greatly reduced amount of dust which is unhealthy to breath. Its granular form is easier to spread and it's easier to clean your equipment after use. This fertilizer is rarely offered at retail outlets. Our Palm and Cycad Society is offering this fertilizer at bulk prices at our next sale. See page 9 for a complete analysis.

Jesse Durko's Garden

(Photos by Charlie Beck)



Short petiole *Coccothrinax* sp.

Sure-Gro's Latest Palm Fertilizer

8-2-12

Statement of Primary Nutrients:

Total Nitrogen*	8.00%
0.00	Nitrate Nitrogen
0.00	Ammoniacal Nitrogen
8.00	Urea Nitrogen
0.00	Water Insoluble Nitrogen
Available Phosphoric Acid	2.00%
Water Soluble Potash**	12.00%
Chlorine, Not More Than	2.00%

Derived from: Polymer Coated Sulfur Coated Urea, Polymer Coated Sulfate of Potash, Triple Super Phosphate

* Controlled Release Nitrogen	4.80%
** Controlled Release Potash	6.00%

Statement of Secondary Nutrients:

Soluble Magnesium as Mg	4.00%
Soluble Manganese as Mn	4.00%
Sulfur as S (Free)	4.12%
Sulfur as S (Combined)	6.32%
Soluble Copper as Cu	0.03%
Total Iron as Fe	1.60%
Soluble Iron as Fe	1.50%
Iron as Fe (Chelated)	0.10%
Soluble Zinc as Zn	0.04%
Boron as B	0.15%

Derived from: Iron EDTA, Iron DTPA, Manganese Sulfate, Copper Sulfate, Iron Sulfate, Magnesium Sulfate, Zinc Sulfate, Sodium Borate

HOW TO USE SURE-GRO 8-2-12

- Use 1 1/2 lbs. per 100 sq. feet of area under the dripline
- Avoid direct contact with palms; use on surrounding trees, shrubs, and turf
- Recommend applying 4 times per year: March, June, September, and December
- Water thoroughly after each application



Raphia hookeri

Jesse Durko's Garden
(Photos by Charlie Beck)



Mystery Palm



Dypsis rivularis



Calyptrocalyx albertianus



Dypsis hildebrandtii



Mystery palm inflorescence



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