



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

December 2016

NOVEMBER "THANK YOU"

Door: Dave Colonna

Food: Ruth Lynch, Don Bittel, Janice DiPaola, Elise Moloney, Tom Ramiccio, Gerry Valentini

Plants: Steve Garland, Mike Harris, Dale Holten, Richard Moyroud

Auction: Don Bittel & Terry Lynch

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page	
2	Featured this Month: Holiday Party Giveaway Palms
7	Palm Society 2017 Officers Elected

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society 2016 Officers & Executive Committee

Tom Ramiccio, President & Sales Chair
(561) 386-7812

Don Bittel, Vice President (772) 521-4601

Ruth Lynch, Secretary & Refreshment Chair
(561) 312-5046

Janice DiPaola, Membership (561) 951-0734

Ingrid Dewey, Treasurer (561) 791-3300

Charlie Beck, Director, Editor & Librarian
(561) 963-5511

Terry Lynch, Director & Events Chair (561) 582-7378

Richard Murray, Director (561) 506-6315

Gerry Valentini, Director (561) 735-0978

Tom Whisler, Director (561) 627-8328

Betty Ahlborn, Immediate Past President
(561) 798-4562

Appointees

Brenda Beck, Historian
Brenda LaPlatte, Webmaster

DON'T MISS IT!

Our Annual Holiday Party And Plant Giveaway

(Sorry - members only)

Wednesday, December 7, 2016
At Mounts Botanical Garden

5:00 p.m. - Doors Open
6:00 p.m. - Pot Luck Dinner
7:00 p.m. - Giveaway Begins

Please bring a main dish,
side dish, or dessert
And a plant donation
(of any kind)
for the giveaway

Auction Plant:
Copernecea hospita



VISIT US AT

www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

All photographs in this issue were provided
by Charlie Beck unless otherwise specified.

Opinions expressed and products or recommendations published in this newsletter may not be the opinions or recommendations of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society or its board of directors.

Featured This Month: Holiday Giveaway Palms
by Charlie Beck

Archontophoenix purpurea

The main attraction of this palm is its purple crownshaft.

The photos shown below were taken at Kevin McLeod's garden in Homestead, FL. This palm was planted six years ago in full sun. A planting hole was augured in pure limestone. With minimal fertilization and irrigation, this palm has grown extremely fast. It's

the most attractive specimen that I have seen in South Florida.

Shade grown specimens in our garden have been less vigorous than Kevin's palm. It appears that this palm prefers full sun exposure and alkaline soil. You might consider planting it near a concrete foundation or walkway which would increase the soil PH.



Archontophoenix tuckeri

Marshal Dewey donated seedlings of *A. tuckeri* at one of our past Society meetings. I was unfamiliar with it, so I collected three of those donated plants. In 7 years those palms grew into magnificent mature specimens. The medium sized crown displays dark green fronds and has a long green crownshaft. The inflorescence is beautiful when in full flower and the seeds are bright red (see fruit on adjacent palm in the upper left corner of the photo). Our 3 specimens were unaffected by the record cold winters of 2009 and 2010. Our palms are planted in full sun. In our garden this has been the fastest growing *Archontophoenix* species. Hopefully this palm will become more widely planted in Palm Beach County.

**For permission to reproduce any article that appears in this publication,
contact the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society editor at beck4212@aol.com**

Areca catechu

Areca catechu is a small pinnate palm of exceptional beauty. The deep green leaves have a distinctive tropical look. There is a lot of variability in leaf characteristics of this palm. Some specimens have thin leaflets which are somewhat ordinary. Other specimens have wide leaflets which in my opinion are infinitely more attractive. This year's giveaway *A. catechu* palms are of the wide leaf variety. This palm also has an attractive dark green crownshaft. I've been growing a new population of this palm in our garden and I can attest that these palms have great genes. They are some of the most attractive *A. catechu* that I have ever seen. The only drawback is their cold sensitivity. I lost a few of these palms after the record cold winters of 2009 and 2010. I did have survivors though. With regular irrigation and fertilization expect a moderate growth rate. Frond length is in the 4-5' range. I've seen these palms grown in both the sun and shade. I would recommend planting this palm in a shady, protected location in the warmer areas of Palm Beach County. *A. catechu* is widely cultivated in the tropics for the seeds (Betel Nuts) because of their mild narcotic effect when chewed with other ingredients.



Beccariophoenix fenestralis

This palm was originally identified as *Beccariophoenix sp. window* or *B. madagascariensis*. It was recently renamed *B. fenestralis*. This is a large pinnate palm about the same scale as a coconut palm. It's a moderate to fast grower with regular irrigation and fertilizer applications. It likes growing in our sandy soil. My specimen palms were not affected by the record cold 2009-2010 winter temperatures. The only nutritional deficiency noted in our garden was of boron which is easily corrected. Boron deficiency symptoms are frizzled, distorted or prematurely dried fronds. If you like the look of a coconut palm but don't want the danger of falling coconuts, give this palm a try.

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

Calyptrocalyx elegans var. boalak

This is a clumping palm with either simple or widely divided leaves. It is native to New Guinea which would lead you to believe that it is cold sensitive but our specimen plant was unaffected by the record cold 2009-2010 winter temperatures. This is a small clumper which should never outgrow its allotted space in the garden. Like other *Calyptrocalyx* species, it best grows in the shade with constantly moist soil. We have grown this species for the last 8 years and have never noted any deficiencies or setbacks. Years ago, *Calyptrocalyx* species were very hard to find for sale. We are fortunate to have this genus of palms now available for our gardens.



Chamaedorea ernesti-augusti

This is a small, solitary palm, native to Central America. It has simple, bifid green leaves which are much larger than *C. metallica*. These palms grow well in a moist shady situation. As with all palms with slender stems, they should not be planted under palms which drop heavy fronds. They are best situated under woody trees or palms with light fronds.

HOLTON NURSERY
PALMS and CYCADS

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



"By appointment only"

Chamaedorea geonomiformis

This palm is rarely available in South Florida. It is a small, solitary palm with simple bifid leaves. It's pencil thin stems remain upright. It grows well in moist sandy soil in a shady situation. It showed no cold damage over the past 15 years in our garden. With recommended fertilization I've never noticed any nutritional deficiencies. Protect it from large falling fronds which might crush this little gem. It's definitely a collector's palm.





Chambeyronia macrocarpa

This palm is a great selection for your garden. It can be grown in full sun or heavy shade. Be aware that potted specimens are usually grown in shade, so slowly acclimate it to sunlight before planting in full exposure. It has dark green, wide, thick, leaflets. New fronds emerge with a bright red color. It's one of the best palms for Palm Beach County.



Chamaedorea metallica

This palm is a solitary palm native to Mexico. It's a small palm with quarter inch stems which might grow to a height of 6'. The attraction of this palm is its simple, bifid leaves that have a metallic sheen. They look best when planted in clusters. *C. metallica* should be planted in a moist shady situation, but they can tolerate higher levels of sunlight.



Chamaedorea oblongata

This is a great palm for Palm Beach County. It grows vigorously in moist sandy soil. It has wide puckered leaflets which terminate in a long drip tip. It's a midsize *Chamaedorea* but would be classified as a small palm. Expect it to top out at 6-8' of height. As with most *Chamaedorea sp.*, it grows best in the shade. It is a solitary palm, but they are usually potted as multiples. It showed no cold damage after the 2009-2010 record cold winters. It can add charm to any palm garden.



Dypsis ampasindavae

This palm has a lot of visual appeal. We planted one many years ago and it grew vigorously. It had a beautiful crown and an attractive green ringed stem. When it reached an overall height of 8' it mysteriously died. I'm sure it was boron deficiency, because I have noticed B deficiency on some of the potted plants at palm nurseries. Not all palms develop this deficiency, so don't hesitate planting it. It's easy to cure with an application of Borax. Palms with B deficiency have corrugations in emerging fronds. I know when you see this palm's beauty you'll want one for your garden.



Dypsis carlsmithii
10 years old in Beck Garden

Dypsis carlsmithii

This species has been a challenge for me. The first few plantings were unsuccessful. Ten years ago I planted one which is now growing vigorously. If you look at photos of this palm, taken in its native habitat, you will see a very interesting swollen crownshaft. I have not yet seen this feature develop on Florida grown palms. With time it should develop.



Dypsis carlsmithii in habitat
"Photo by Oliver Reilhes"
Courtesy of Palmpedia



Dypsis sp. “Mayotte Island”
(left and right)

This palm is a sparse clumper. Our 17 year old specimens have only produced one small offshoot, so this palm takes little space in the garden. It has upright pinnate fronds and an attractive waxy stem. After 17 years our tallest specimen has an overall height of 12’. It has never been affected by low temperatures and never developed any nutritional deficiencies. Our palms are shade grown, but it might acclimate to more sunlight.



Dypsis onilahensis

This is a medium sized clumping palm from Madagascar. It appears to have a scale similar to *D. lutescens*, the common Areca Palm.

Our first two plantings of this palm were unsuccessful. The first specimen grew at a medium rate of speed and looked quite healthy, but suddenly declined and died. The second planting just dwindled and died. Boron deficiency might have been a contributing factor to the demise of these palms or it might have been caused by excessive soil moisture.

You may ask, why do you keep planting this palm? Well, this palm has the most striking powder white crownshaft of any palm that I

have ever seen, which includes some of the beauties that I saw in New Caledonia. My first two plantings were in moist areas. My third planting is at the fringe of irrigation range, so it is a drier situation. It’s planted in full sun and seems to be growing slowly but surely.

Mike Harris has a nice specimen growing in the ground at his Loxahatchee nursery, Caribbean Palms, so cold sensitivity should not be an issue. *D. onilahensis* is also reported to grow well in Southern California.



PALM BEACH PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY 2017 OFFICERS AND APPOINTEES

At our November meeting, election of 2017 officers took place. The Palm Beach Palm & Cycad board of directors will remain the same for 2017, with one change. Elise Moloney was elected as secretary. Welcome, Elise.

Our thanks go out to Ruth Lynch for all the years she has served as secretary. Ruth will continue to coordinate refreshments for our meetings.



Dypsis pambana

This is a sparse clumping (sometimes solitary), medium sized palm. It might be the fastest growing *Dypsis* species in Palm Beach County. Ten years after planting, our specimen has 2 stems over 25' tall. The stems are green with contrasting leaf scar rings. It came through our record cold winters of 2009 and 2010 without any setback. It will grow in sun or shade and has never developed any nutritional deficiencies with recommended fertilization. It develops clusters of red, showy fruit.



Heterospathe barfodii (left)

Most species of *Heterospathe* grow well in Palm Beach County. This medium sized palm was recently discovered in Papua New Guinea. The palm, shown in the photo, was planted last year in our garden. It seems well adapted to growing in our sandy soil. Growth is steady but slow when planted in the shade. It should be tested in a sunnier situation.

This is the only *Heterospathe* species that develops a crownshaft. When the crownshaft forms, it's a waxy white color. It is certainly worth a try in your garden.

Kentiopsis oliviformis (right)

K. oliviformis is a canopy palm from New Caledonia. This is a medium size pinnate palm with a crown of upright, 'feather duster' leaves. They can be grown in sun or shade. Being a canopy palm, it will outgrow any shade tree that you plant it under. *K. oliviformis* is absolutely one of the best palms for Palm Beach County. We have nine specimen palms in our garden dating back to 1997. They were unaffected by three hurricanes and were also not fazed by the record cold winters of 2009 and 2010. I could not give them a higher recommendation. An occasional application of magnesium sulfate is helpful..



Licuala grandis (left)

This is a small palm with undivided palmate leaves. It is not as cold hardy as *L. peltata* but it is a more manageable size. We lost most of our *L. grandis*, planted in sand, after the 2009-2010 winter seasons. Some did survive but all seven palms planted in shell rock were unaffected by the record cold. This is a tip when growing *L. grandis* - plant in alkaline soil. Even planting next to your home foundation seems to improve growth of this species. I've never noticed any micro nutritional deficiencies in our garden

Licuala peltata var. *peltata* (right)

L. peltata var. *peltata* is a palmate palm with deeply divided leaves. The leaves look like giant pinwheels. This is a palm native to Thailand and other tropical areas. Even though this palm is native to the tropics it is reported to be quite hardy in Palm Beach County. I know of palms planted in Loxahatchee that survived 2009 and 2010 winters with no damage. We have a single, four year old specimen planted in our garden which is growing at a medium pace. This is a palm for a shady moist area.



Pinanga scortechinii

This is another palm rarely available in South Florida. It shouldn't be rare because it's one of the best selections for Palm Beach County. This palm is visually stunning. Some of the features are: salmon colored spear leaf, yellow crownshaft, ringed green stems, colorful inflorescences and infructescences. We planted several of these 17 years ago in a moist shady situation. All have grown vigorously. It is a clumping species but the stems stay tightly spaced, so it doesn't take up a lot of room in your garden.



Pritchardia remota



This *Pritchardia*, like many others, loves growing in our sandy soil. In our garden it has been one of the fastest growing *Pritchardia* species.

It also grows vigorously when planted on limestone. Fairchild Tropical Botanic

Garden has a healthy grouping of this species. This medium sized palm is rarely available in South Florida, so it might be one of the most desirable giveaway offerings.

Syagrus amara



S. amara is a large palm with very dark green fronds. The crown of leaves mostly remain upright. The leaf texture is quite distinctive, so it provides a degree of contrast in a palm garden. Unlike the Queen Palm, the fronds are self cleaning so you never have to remove dried fronds. In our garden it has

never suffered from cold winter temperatures or from nutritional deficiency. Prior to Hurricane Andrew, this was the palm that was dramatically planted on both sides of the lowland overlook at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.