



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

October 2018

UPCOMING MEETING

Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 7:30 p.m.
at the Mount's Botanical Garden building

Speaker: Scott Zona Ph.D.

Subject: "Litter-trapping plants & palms: filter-feeders of the plant kingdom"

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Appointees

Brenda Beck, Historian
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SEPTEMBER "THANK YOU"

Speaker: Scott Zona Ph.D.

Subject: "From Sugar to Strong Drinks" and all that Palms Provide

Door: Cathy Burger

Refreshments: Patrick Morris, Richard Murray, Cathy & Lew Burger, Ed Hand, Chris Spencer, Janice & Mike DiPaola, Ruth Lynch

Plants: Robert Miller, Dale Holton, Janice & Mike DiPaola, Richard Murray, Patrick Morris

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.

All photographs in this issue were provided by Ernesto Rodriguez unless otherwise specified.

FEATURED THIS MONTH:

Copernicia rigida

by Charlie Beck

Copernicia rigida is a palm native to central and eastern Cuba. It grows on savannas, open pinelands, and serpentine scrub. In habitat its stem can reach 45' in height and can measure 10-14" in diameter. It is similar in appearance to *C. macroglossa* but instead of semicircular leaves it grows narrow leaves which resemble slender cuts of pie. The leaves are so tightly whirled, the crown resembles a shuttlecock. The leaves remain in the upright position and become a litter trap. The Australian Palm Society states, "Some botanists are raising the possibility that *C. rigida* is carnivorous. Its leaves form a very effective trap for small animals, which die and rot there, providing nutrients for the plant."



Copernicia rigida growing at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden. Photo by Charlie Beck (2012)

This palm is reported to be less cold hardy than *C. macroglossa* but I have not noticed any difference in our garden. You need a lot of patience growing this palm. We have three 12 year old specimens which range from 1' to 7' tall. The footprint of this palm is only 6' in diameter, so it's a good palm for a small garden. This palm is quite rare in cultivation but it is occasionally available at palm sales

C. rigida does hybridize in nature. There are two named, natural hybrids which occur in Cuba. *Copernicia X sueroana* is *C. rigida* crossed with *C. hospita*. *Copernicia X vespertilionium* is *C. rigida* crossed with *C. gigas*. Both of these hybrids are very attractive and they grow much faster than *C. rigida*. Both hybrids are large palms which rival *C. baileyana* in size. See the photos on page 6 of 12 year old hybrids growing in our garden.



Copernicia rigida leaf detail (See yardstick on left)

Photo by: Charlie Beck



Twelve year old *Copernicia rigida* in the Beck Garden.

Photo by: Charlie Beck



Copernicia rigida litter trap

Photo by: Charlie Beck

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Editor Introduction

by *Ernesto Rodriguez*

As the new editor for the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society newsletter, I would like to formally introduce myself and give a little background about how I fell in love with palms.

I was born and raised in Miami, FL and I attended South Miami Senior High School. I took chemistry my sophomore year and our class project was to grow palm trees using different fertilizers and recording the differences in growth. The teacher showed us several palms from which we could choose from, at first I was overwhelmed and unaware of how many species of palms existed. That was only the beginning. Being of Cuban decent, I was quickly drawn towards Cuban palms and when I saw my first *Copernicia baileyana*, I knew I had been bitten by the "palm bug".

Soon after, I became a member of the South Florida Palm Society and starting attending meetings and volunteering at the sale events. Within a matter of months I had col-

lected and purchased over 200 palms and became a vendor at the events. The events were also the easiest way I could find the palms I wanted to put in my yard and boy did I do that. In a 100' x 100' lot property in Westchester Miami Dade, I have about 25 palms in the ground.

During the course of growing up, my affinity to palms died out a bit. I stopped attending meetings and events, and sold off my collection. But earlier this year, I found my passion for palms and began growing once again, re-established old friendships in the community, and became a member of the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society, South Florida Palm Society, and International Palm Society.

I am very glad to be back in the community and doing something I love. Thank you to the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society for this opportunity!



Copernicia fallaensis in the Rodriguez Garden
Miami, Florida

Photo by *E.Rodriguez* (2018)



Coccothrinax borhidiana in the Rodriguez Garden
Miami, Florida

Photo by *E.Rodriguez* (2018)



Acrocomia crispera flowering in the Rodriguez Garden
 Miami, Florida
 Photo by E.Rodriguez (2018)



Coccothrinax crinita in the Rodriguez Garden
 Miami, Florida
 Photo by E.Rodriguez (2018)

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Palm and Cycad Sale and Festival
presents its Annual Fall
Show & Sale

Saturday, October 6th, 9am to 4pm
ONE DAY ONLY!

Over 500 species of Palms & Cycads
BOOKS, FERTILIZER, T-SHIRTS and
FREE knowledgeable advice
Suggested Donation \$5.00

For more information call Tom Ramiccio
561-386-7812

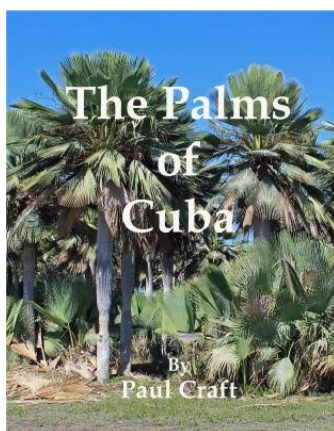
Mounts Botanical Garden
 531 N. Military Trail
 West Palm Beach, FL 33415




We need volunteers to help with the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society booth from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 All help will be greatly appreciated!

This will be the first Fall Sale since 2015, the last two sales have been cancelled due to inclement weather.

This will be the first time the society is holding a ONE DAY SALE and we look forward to seeing you there! **DON'T MISS IT!**



“The Palms of Cuba” will be available for sale at the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society booth.

Author and founder of the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society, Paul Craft will be present. If you already have a copy and want it signed, stop by and say hi!

Don't miss this unique opportunity to buy a copy for yourself or as a gift for that special palm nut you know.

**MARK YOUR CALENDERS
UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Annual Palm Beach Palm and Cycad
Society Picnic and Auction**

Saturday, October 20, 2018
at Ruth Sallenbach's Garden
6285 S Military Trail
Lake Worth, FL 33463

**October Ramble
Block Botanical Gardens Tour**

Saturday, October 27, 2018
at Block Botanical Gardens
7299 SW 79th Ct
Miami, Florida 33143

**2019 Annual Spring
Palm and Cycad Sale**

Saturday, April 13, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 14, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.
(PALM SUNDAY)
at Mount's Botanical Garden
531 N. Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415
DON'T MISS IT!

RIGHT: Twelve year old *Copernicia X sueroana* with an overall height of 18' growing in the Beck garden.

BELOW: Twelve year old *Copernicia X vespertilionium* with an overall height of 22' growing in the Beck garden.

Photos by:
Charlie Beck



LEFT:
Copernicia rigida growing at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden.

Photo by:
E.Rodriguez
(2018)



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