



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

April 2011

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Livistona decora*



Kerriodoxa elegans

**Specimens growing in the Moody garden.
(Photos by Charlie Beck)**



Ceratozamia norstogii



Thrinax radiata

**FRONT COVER: *Livistona decora* growing in the Beck garden.
(Photo by Charlie Beck)**

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society 2011 Officers

Betty Ahlborn, President (561) 722-8106
 Tom Ramiccio, First Vice President, Sales (561) 582-5915
 Marshall Dewey, Second Vice President, Planting
 Dale Holton, Third Vice President, Programs (561) 965-6792
 Ruth Sallenbach, Secretary (561) 965-5430
 Ingrid Dewey, Treasurer
 Tom Whisler (561) 627-8328
 Brenda Beck, Editor & Historian (561) 963-5511
Appointees
 Charles Beck, Librarian
 Position Vacant, Web Master
 Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman (561) 312-5046
 Jeff Hutchinson, Activities & Events Coordinators

VISIT US AT palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|------|--|
| Page | |
| 4 | FEATURED THIS MONTH: <i>Livistona decora</i> |
| 5 | May 14, 2011 Trip to Montgomery Botanical Center |
| 6 | Upcoming meetings |
| 6 | Welcome New Members |
| 7 | Tour of the Moody Garden |
| 8 | This Month's "Thank You" and Door Prize Winner |
| 10 | Spring Sale Announcement |

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.

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

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Livistona decora*

by Charlie Beck

Livistona decora was previously known as *Livistona decipiens*. *Livistona decora* is native to Australia's tropical east coast. It grows on moist river banks and sandy coastal areas of central Queensland.

Livistona decora is a medium sized solitary palm with palmate leaves. The leaves are finely divided and the leaf tips are pendulous. This is the most distinguishing feature of this palm. The drooping leaf tips shimmer with the slightest of breeze. It reminds me of rippling water.

In habitat, the stems grow 45 feet tall and measure 8 to 10 inches in diameter. The fronds are self cleaning and measure 10 to 12 feet long including the petiole length.

We planted our *Livistona decora* 17 years ago. The stem measures 28 feet tall and 10.5 inches in diameter. This palm is planted in full sun. Even though the overall canopy is 24 feet in diameter, it does not cast deep shade due to its thin

leaflets. It is a steady grower and has never displayed any nutritional deficiencies when regularly fertilized and irrigated. It showed no effects from the hurricanes we experienced in the mid 1990s and has never shown any cold damage. *Livistona decora* is reported to be cold hardy in zone 8B so it should grow well in any Palm Beach County location.

Make sure to plant this palm in an area where the full crown is visible. The graceful shimmering leaf tips should be in full view. Many palms planted by enthusiasts are short lived or not well adapted to Palm Beach County. These "hard to grow" species make collecting palms fun, but a garden should also include a framework of tough palms that are long-lived and easy to grow. *Livistona decora* is one of those palms. With its distinctive form, rapid growth, cold and hurricane resistance, *Livistona decora* is a must have for any palm gardener.

GROWING CONDITIONS IN OUR GARDEN FOR *Livistona decora*

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Location | 4 miles from ocean in suburban Lantana |
| Soil | Sand over a layer of hardpan (pineland flatwood habitat) |
| Irrigation | ¾ inch applied twice a week |
| Fertilization | 4 times a year with Palm special analysis |
| Light | Full sun |
| Micronutrient Deficiencies | None observed |
| Insect Damage | None observed |
| Hurricane Resistance | Excellent |

**BUS TRIP TO MONTGOMERY BOTANICAL GARDEN
ON MAY 14, 2011: SAVE THE DATE!!**

Join us for a trip to the beautiful Montgomery Botanical Center in Coral Gables, FL. This center is not open to the public but with our connections (thanks Dale!), we are able to enjoy a private tour. Here are the details:



Saturday, May 14, we will meet at Mounds Botanical Gardens at 8 a.m. and take a chartered bus to Montgomery.

Sandwiches for lunch, snacks and drinks will be provided all for a low cost of \$30 per person.

We will be given a 4 hour private tour before returning to Mounds at approximately 4 p.m.

We need at least 25 people to sign up to keep the cost low, so be sure to attend our next PBPCS meeting on April 6. A sign-up sheet will be at the membership table (see Mary or Tom Whisler) and a deposit of \$15 will be required to guarantee your spot. The remaining \$15 will be due on May 4.

Don't wait - Mark your calendar for this fantastic opportunity!!

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

"By appointment only"



Montgomery Botanical Center

UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Mounds Botanical Garden
Subject: Marcus Garden Tour - Parts II & III (64 minutes)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2011
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Ruth Sallenbach's Home
6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth
(561) 965-5430

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Brad Geer

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 per person 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 Mounds 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.

Tour of the Moody Garden
by Brenda Beck

On February 26, Palm Society members were given the wonderful opportunity to tour Norm and Ann Moody's garden. Norm has named his garden "The Jungle" reminiscent of jungles he visited while living in India.

Norm began planting this fantastic five-acre garden in 1972. Many of the plants were started from seed he collected worldwide on International Palm Society biennial trips and from Fairchild Tropical Gardens, and plants he purchased at palm sales. The garden contains approximately 400 species of palms and many of them are 30 to 40 feet tall. He estimates that he has lost approximately another 100 species due to hurricanes and cold weather. He also has approximately 30 species of cycad, many types of hardwood trees. In addition, more than 60 kinds of edible fruit grow in the garden.

We were awed by the variety of wonderful palms and cycads in Norm's garden. We saw exceptional specimens of *Caryota maxima*, *Livistona muelleri*, *Kerriodoxa elegans*, *Arenga australasica*, *En-*



Norm & Ann Moody

cephalartos kisambo, and *Ceratozamia norstogii*.

In addition to all the wonderful plants in the Moody garden, the garden includes many fantastic sculptures that were created by Ann. Among my favorites were two large egg sculptures bedded in hay strategically placed on the top of a dead tree trunk, a monkey sitting on a wall, and the sculpture of a man sitting there enjoying the garden.

Some of Norm's favorite palms and cycads include *Cocos nucifera*, *Carpoxyton macrorpermum*, *Roystonea princeps*, *Thrinax radiata*, *Kentiopsis oliviformis*, *Bowenia serrulata*, *Ceratozamia norstogii*, *Encephalartos ferox*, *Dioon mejiae*, and *Dioon spinulosum*. Norm stated his belief that gardeners should be daring and try to grow less hardy palms for the challenge.

(Continued on page 9)

Geer's Equipment Repair, Inc.
Licensed & Insured
Caterpillar • Komatsu • John Deere • Cummins • Volvo • Bobcats
New Holland • Gehl • Welding • Cylinder Repair • Engine Repair
Boat Engines • Hydraulics • Electrical
All work guaranteed
10 Years of Quality Service
Honest • Reliable
Brad Geer
(561) 502-3537
geerequipment@yahoo.com

THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

PLANT DONATIONS

Marshall Dewey
Dale Holton

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Ingrid Dewey
Patt Lindsey
Ruth Lynch
Tom Ramiccio

SPECIAL THANKS

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

Winner of the March 2nd Door Prize was
Brenda Skaggs
who received a M. Espinosa numbered print
of a *Pseudophoenix ekmanii*.

*Please share your garden experiences.
Submit your stories and photos to beck4212@aol.com*

(Continued from page 7)

I asked Norm what maintenance is required for his garden. He stated that he irrigates every three days or when conditions are dry. He also fertilizes the garden with slow release fertilizer twice a year. He said the most time consuming aspects of maintaining the garden are clearing around palms and pathways, keeping up on weeds, and picking up fronds.

When asked to share some words of wisdom, Norm stated that you should plant four or five of one species since you are bound to lose some. In addition, he recommended protecting palms from cold weather by wrapping the trunks and crown with frost protecting fabric during cold snaps. He also recommended placing more cold sensitive palms in



A screech owl that nests on the property checking out all the noisy Palm Society tourists.



Norm Moody addressing the group

a heated greenhouse during the winter.

Norm and Ann will move to Arkansas in late April or May. He said it is gut wrenching to leave this wonderful botanic paradise but as age creeps up on them, they made the decision to move while they are still able.

Norm plans to place his property on the market within the next two or three years. It is his hope that someone that loves palms and cycads as much as he does will purchase the property. So if you, or someone you know, is interested in talking to Norm about the possibility of purchasing this Garden of Eden, you can contact Norm by email at palmjungle@yahoo.com.

Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society
presents its Annual Spring
Show & Sale
Saturday, April 9, 9am to 4pm
Sunday, April 10, 9am to 3pm
Over 500 species of Palms & Cycads
All shapes and sizes. Also **BOOKS, FERTILIZER, T-SHIRTS**
and **FREE** knowledgeable advice
NO ADMISSION CHARGE
For more information call Tom Ramiccio
561-386-7812

NEW LOCATION:
Mounts Botanical Garden

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

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

PLACE YOUR
Business Card, FOR SALE,
Discount Coupon Ad
in this newsletter and on our website:
\$6 A MONTH OR \$66 A YEAR
HALF PAGE—\$20 A MONTH
FULL PAGE—\$35 A MONTH
E-mail your ad or any photograph or
information you would like
included to
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.)

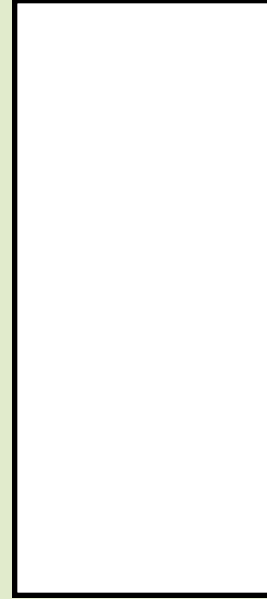


Encephalartos kisambo (above) and *Roscheria melanochaetes* (below) growing in the Moody garden.

(Photos by Charlie Beck)



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



Howea forsteriana growing in the Moody garden.