



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

June 2011

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Dypsis utilis*



Syagrus kellyana, recently described by Larry Noblick (standing in foreground)



Ingrid Dewey lending scale to *Arenga pinnata*



John Irvine lending scale to *Attalea guacuyule*



Cathy Burger lending scale to *Corypha utan*

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Featured this Month: *Dypsis utilis*
 by Charlie Beck

Dypsis utilis is an upland pinnate palm endemic to Madagascar. It occurs at elevations of 3,000 to 3,300 feet growing streamside in moist or swamp forest. Its conservation status is vulnerable. It was formally named *Vonitra utilis*. It is the largest of all of the *Vonitra* group. The stem can be solitary or clumping and is covered in long strands of fiber much like *Coccothrinax crinita*. The stems typically branch dichotomously 30 to 35 feet above the ground. The branching is upright and closely parallel. The stems can grow 50 feet in habitat.

Our *Dypsis utilis* is 12 years old and was planted in a moist area which is prone to flooding during heavy rain. Its stem is 9 feet tall and 7 inches in diameter. The leaves measure 11 feet long. The most distinguishing feature is the long fibers which cover the stem.

Back in 1999, *Dypsis crinita*, *Dypsis utilis*, and *Dypsis fibrosa* all were readily available for sale. All have long stem fibers and are closely related. There must have been much misidentification of seeds. Our specimens were mistakenly labeled *Dypsis crinita*. Using the key in the book "Palms of Madagascar," I concluded our palms are *Dypsis utilis*. The infrafoliar inflorescences which were branched to three orders clearly identified these palms.

Plant *Dypsis utilis* for its graceful pinnate fronds, interesting stem fiber, and unusual stem branches. This palm will grow in low lying moist areas. Our specimens are planted in the shade, but with an ultimate height of 50 feet, I believe it would also grow well in a sunny location. (See photo on front cover.)

**GROWING CONDITIONS IN OUR GARDEN
 FOR *Dypsis utilis***

Location	4 miles from ocean in suburban Lantana
Soil	Sandy soil
Irrigation	¾ inch applied twice a week
Fertilization	4 times a year with Palm special analysis
Light	Shade or (possibly) full sun
Micronutrient Deficiencies	Minor potassium deficiency during cold weather
Insect Damage	None observed
Cold Hardiness	No damage observed (2009 through 2011)
Hurricane Resistance	Good

Successful Trip to Montgomery Botanical Center

by Charlie Beck

A grand time was had by 41 participants on our bus trip to the Montgomery Botanical Center. The Center rolled out the red carpet for our Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society tour. The executive director, Patrick Griffith, led the tour with noted palm biologist Larry Noblick and cycad expert Michael Calonje.

Much thanks to Tom Whisler and Dale Holton for organizing such a wonderful and informative trip. Photographs of this trip can be seen on pages 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

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Cycas panzhihuaensis
with licorice scented cone



Nypa fruticans growing on an island in brackish water

UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Time 7:30 p.m.

Location Mounts Botanical Garden

Speaker: Kitty Philips

Subject: Anza-Borrego Desert Park

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Ruth Sallenbach's Home
 6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth
 (561) 965-5430

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 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 whisler.tom@synthes.com



Triple-headed *Hyophorbe lagenicaulis*



Rare and endangered *Corypha taliera*



Clumping *Syagrus stenopetala*



Pseudophoenix vinifera

THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

PLANT DONATIONS

Mike Harris
Dale Holton
Ted Sheldon

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Steve Garland
Mary Johnson
Ruth Lynch
Mike Matthews
Tom Ramiccio
Ruth Sallenbach

SPECIAL THANKS

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

DON'T MISS THE CYCAD SOCIETY'S CYCAD DAY 2011

Saturday, June 25
For more information on this event, please visit
<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/Events/?date=06-2011&eventID=591>

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



Ravenea xerophila



Attalea cohune



Ceratozamia decumbens



Cycas conferta



The interesting leaf base pattern
of *Syagrus coronata*

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Ruth Lynch lending scale to the rare *Hemithrinax ekmaniana*



Attalea speciosa X butyracea hybrid



Cycas cairnsiana



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Montgomery Botanical Center Tour Participants