



# Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

December 2011

**FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Coccothrinax borhidiana***



*Actinokentia divaricata*



*Lytocaryum weddellianum*

## Some Holiday Party Give-away Palms



*Calyptrocalyx hollrungii*



*Chambeyronia macrocarpa*  
(hookeri form)

**FRONT COVER: *Coccothrinax borhidiana* (left and top right) growing in habitat and (bottom right) growing in the Holton garden.**

(Photos by Dale Holton)

**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, Membership Chairman (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](http://palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com)**

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*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.*

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**Featured this Month: *Coccothrinax borhidiana***

*by Dale Holton*

I first saw *Coccothrinax borhidiana* on one of my early trips to Cuba. I must say that I was truly amazed. They looked like miniature Petticoat Palms (*Copernecia Macrogolsa*).

The palms grew on a very remote coastal shelf on the North coast that consisted of what is referred to as "Dog Tooth" limestone. This is limestone that is very rough and full of fissures. It is somewhat difficult to walk on. This area was about 50-60 feet above the ocean. The palms were scattered at the bottom of a hill and across the shelf. There may have been as many as 100 plants, with most of them being small plants. The largest plants were about 12 feet tall. On later visits to the same area, I was distressed to see a large number of large trailers parked near the area. This area contains oil, and the trailers were for workers that were going to drill wells. I have heard that the area is now dotted with oil wells and I do not know the fate of those very rare palms. Hopefully they are being protected, as this is the only colony on the entire island.

All of the plants that I have (except for new seedlings) are from those wild plants. I have found them to be painfully slow growing. I have grown them in my regular potting soil and also in pea rock. The ones in pea rock seem to grow slower, but have less nutritional problems. Over the years, I have noticed another

problem which I call SPD (sudden plant death). So far I have not seen this in the plants which are in the pea rock. Also the original seeds germinated over a period of 3 years. This is very unusual for *Coccothrinax* as usually the seeds rot after the first year.

My plants in the ground are 18 inches to 6 feet tall. They have been in the ground 10-12 years, except for one or two replacements. This area of my yard was not irrigated until this year. The area these palms come from experiences 5-6 months with very little rainfall every year. I also put a large amount of limestone rock into the planting area before planting. I do not cut off the old leaves, so they look like they would in habitat. The two largest plants have been flowering for the last three years. They get fertilized about twice a year. These are stunning plants and do very well in South Florida. As I raise more plants, the price should come down. The big problem is to be sure that there are no other *Coccothrinax* flowering at the same time. They will readily hybridize.





**DON'T MISS IT!**

**2011 ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY  
AND SPECTACULAR PLANT GIVE-AWAY**

**December 7, 2011  
At Mounts Botanical Garden**

**6:00 p.m.—The Feast Begins  
7:00 p.m.—Plant Give-Away Begins  
(for members only)**

**Please bring a covered dish,  
dessert, or non-alcoholic beverage**

**Donated plants of all kinds for  
the give-away are most welcome.  
So please be sure to donate one or  
more of your favorite plants.**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### GENERAL MEETING

- Date:** Wednesday, January 4, 2012
- Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- Location:** Mounts Botanical Garden
- Speaker:** Scott Zona
- Subject:** An Introduction to Palms (and a Peek into the Future)

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

- Date:** To Be Determined

**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 for an individual membership and \$35 for a dual membership (two people living at the same address) 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](mailto:whisler.tom@synthes.com)

## PAUL CRAFT GUEST SPEAKER AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Paul Craft, noted co-author of *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms* and Founder of the Palm Beach County Palm & Cycad Society was the guest speaker at our November general membership meeting.

Paul's presentation, *The Amazing World of Palms*, shared information regarding those palms that grow well in Palm Beach County. He noted that palms that are native to areas that have similar conditions to those in Palm Beach County, such as



temperature and soil conditions, will generally grow well here. The presentation included photographs of grown specimens of many of these palms.

Paul also stated that there are some extraordinary palms that may die if we have severe cold winters that are fun growing just the same. He encouraged palm lovers to try growing any palm they find attractive.

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## MEMBERSHIP ELECTS 2012 PALM SOCIETY OFFICERS

At the November meeting, Palm Society members voted to approve the following individuals as the 2012 Palm Society officers:

President—Tom Ramiccio  
Vice President Sales—Jeff Hutchinson  
Vice President Planting—Don Biddle  
Vice President Programs—Dale Holton  
Secretary—Ruth Lynch  
Treasurer—Ingrid Dewey  
Membership Chair—Tom Whisler  
Editor—Charlie Beck

The new board of directors looks forward to working with all members to educate our members and the general public and promote the use of palms and cycads in our landscapes.

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## THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

### PLANT DONATIONS

Steve Garland  
Dale Holton  
Tom Whisler

### MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Ingrid Dewey  
Jim Gallagher & Maryann Marinaro  
Steve Garland  
Ed Napoli  
Tom Ramiccio  
Ron Wiringer

### SEPTEMBER DOOR PRIZE WINNER

Kathy Silverio won *Diseases of Ornamental Palms* published by IFAS.

### SPECIAL THANKS

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

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ruth Eberly  
Gerard Valentini



# Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

*Affiliate of the International Palm Society*

## 2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25—Individual Membership  
 \$35—Dual Membership (two individuals living at the same address)

Please send the annual Individual Membership Fee OR Dual Membership Fee to:

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

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Membership includes one monthly newsletter and receipt of free palms, cycads, and other plants at the annual plant give-away in December.

FOR PALM SOCIETY USE ONLY				
\$		Check No.		Year



A very special THANK YOU to  
**BETH AHLBORN**  
 for nurturing all our  
 Holiday Party Give-Away Plants



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

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

"By appointment only"

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E-mail your ad or any photograph or information you would like included to  
[beck4212@aol.com](mailto: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.)



*Satakentia liakuiensis*



*Kentiopsis oliviformis*

## Some Holiday Party Give-away Palms



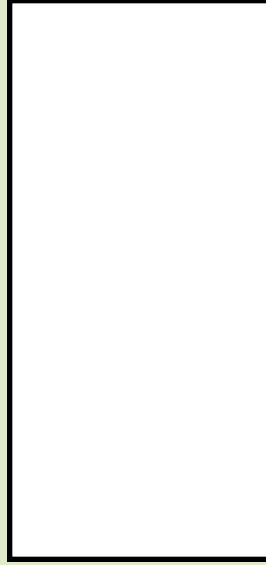
*Pinanga coronata*



*Dypsis sp.*  
(*Neophloga* pink crownshaft)



*Cattleya trianae* growing on a *Veitchia* sp. In the Beck garden.



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