



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

July 2012

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Calyptronoma rivalis*



Chambeyronia macrocarpa 'hookeri'



Dypsis sp. 'pink crownshaft'



Calyptrogyne gheisbreghtiana

FRONT COVER: *Calyptronoma rivalis*

**Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
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**Featured this Month: *Calyptronoma rivalis*
by Charlie Beck**

Calyptronoma rivalis is a solitary, medium sized palm. Its fronds are pinnate and are very graceful with slightly lax leaflets. This palm is monoecious and does not form a crownshaft. *C. rivalis* is native to the islands of Puerto Rico and Hispaniola. In native habitat it grows in wet places near streams and is considered quite rare. In habitat it grows to 45 feet tall and the stems measure 12 inches in diameter.

There are two other species recognized as *Calyptronoma*. These are *C. occidentalis* (native to Jamaica) and *C. plumeriana* (native to Cuba and Hispaniola). These both are slightly smaller than *C. rivalis* topping out at 35 feet tall with an 8 inch diameter stems. Both of these palms also grow in wet areas and are quite similar to *C. rivalis* in appearance. The main difference between these palms is in the floral characteristics.

We have three *C. rivalis* and a single specimen of *C. plumeriana* growing in our garden. Both species grow at a medium rate. In 8 years our tallest *C. rivalis* is 13 feet tall overall with a 7.5 inch diameter stem. Frond length is 8 feet. Our *C. plumeriana* is 17 years in the ground and is an overall height of 14 feet and the stem measures 9 inches in diameter.

Frond length is 9 feet. The *C. rivalis* was affected by the record cold winters of 2009 and 2010. These palms were not badly damaged by the cold but they did grow a couple of stunted fronds which are still present on the palms. We grow our palms in low lying areas which are prone to flooding after repeated heavy rain falls.

Minor nutritional deficiencies have not surfaced except the *C. plumeriana* is currently recovering from a boron deficiency (see photo on page 10). The symptom of boron deficiency in this palm is a bending of the growing tip. This deficiency occurs rapidly so be vigilant if you grow this palm. Dr. Timothy Brochat has told us that boron is usually available in our soils but deficiency can occur after unusually heavy downpours. To cure boron deficiency the recommendation is mixing 2-4 oz. of Borax in 5 gallons of water and applying evenly to root zone. Repeat this at 5 month intervals.

Calyptronoma species are not commonly offered for sale. Our palm society has obtained two specimens of *Calyptronoma* for auction at one of our monthly meetings. We have one *C. rivalis* and one *C. plumeriana*.

Note: All photographs included in this issue were contributed by Charlie Beck and are of specimens growing in the Beck garden.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Due to the July 4th holiday,
no meetings will be held in July.**

THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

AUCTION/PLANT DONATIONS

Betty Ahlborn
Steve Garland
Mike Harris
Dale Holton

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Betty Ahlborn
Charlie Beck
Doyle Cochran
Ruth Eberly
Tom Hutchinson
Lauren Philmore
Tom Ramiccio
Angela Valero
Linda Wiringer
Bonnie Wilburn

SPECIAL THANKS

to

Tom Ramiccio

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

JUNE DOOR PRIZE WINNER

Tom Hutchinson won a five-pound bag of Nutricote.

Some Exciting Palms to be Offered at Future Monthly Auctions

by Charlie Beck

Editors Note: The following palms will be offered for auction at future general membership meetings. I hope you support the Palm Society by generously bidding on these palms at upcoming meetings.

Calyptrogyne geisbreghtiana is a miniature palm which looks very tropical. *Calyptrogyne* is most closely related to this month's featured palm *Calyptronoma* but there is no obvious similarity. *C. geisbreghtiana* more resembles *Geonoma* or *Asterogyne* species which are very hard to grow in Palm Beach County. The stems are short and subterranean. The leaves are either simple or irregularly divided. The newly emergent leaves are usually salmon in color. I have grown specimens of this palm successfully. Although not every palm is long lived, this palm does grow well in our sandy soil. It requires dense shade and ample irrigation. It is native to Mexico through Panama. It grows from sea level to a 4,500 foot elevation. I have seen large specimen plants offered for

sale locally costing hundreds of dollars. These palms look so tropical that most people avoid buying it but you should give it a try. One specimen is available for auction. (See photo on page 2.)

Chambeyronia macrocarpa 'hookeri' is similar to *C. macrocarpa* except the crownshaft is yellow and the scale is slightly smaller in all respects. It grows in partial shade or full sun. Its emergent leaf is reliably red. This palm is perfectly suited for growth in Palm Beach County. One specimen will be available for auction. (See photo on page 2.)

Dypsis (formally Neophloga) sp 'pink crownshaft' is a miniature palm with wide, grouped leaflets with long drip tips. Newly emergent fronds are deep red. This palm seems perfectly suited for growing in our sandy soil when given adequate irrigation and shade. See the gorgeous photos of this palm in the recently published Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms second edition (plates

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

"By appointment only"

All Purpose Bug Spray

by Charlie Beck

With all of the talk of the spiral white fly I thought I would share the home made insecticide that I use in my garden. It is very effective and is less expensive than Organocide. This formula was published many years ago in the Miami Herald by entomologist and Miami

Dade extension agent, Adrian Hunsberger.

I've used this spray on cycad and croton scale and also on mealy bugs and whitefly with great success. I've never noticed any leaf burn even though applied during the day.

All Purpose Bug Spray Recipe

In two gallons of water, mix in two tablespoons of each: vinegar, canola oil and Murphy's Oil Soap; along with three tablespoons of baking soda.

Combine these ingredients in a handheld sprayer and mist your plants until they are dripping wet. Spraying is best done in the early evening to avoid burning leaves.

(Continued from page 6)

422 and 423). The bright red inflorescence is strikingly beautiful. One plant will be available for auction. (See photo on page 2.)

Neoveitchia storckii is native to the island of Viti Levu in Fiji. In habitat it grows to 50 feet tall. This is my personal favorite pinnate palm. It has extremely attractive fronds which twist and look very tropical. It also has a black crownshaft and is self cleaning. Of our seven specimen plants only one was damaged by the 2009-2010 record cold winters. That plant has

since fully recovered. This palm is very popular in Hawaii. I wanted to purchase several of these to auction but I could only obtain one specimen. Grow this palm in shade when young and in full sun as it matures. It is a stunning palm! (See photo on page 11.)



Chamaedorea ernesti-augustii Threatened by Global Flower Trade

by Brenda Beck

On March 16, 2012, BBC News reported that the long term survival of *Chamaedorea ernesti-augustii*, also referred to as the Fishtail Palm, is threatened in Central and South America.

Florists like to use the leaf of this palm in floral arrangements because once cut, the leaf stays green for up to 40 days. It was reported that leaves used by the international flower trade are mostly harvested from wild trees in Central and South America. Once harvested, the leaves are transported to Cancun, Mexico and are then exported to other destinations, including Miami and Amsterdam. The estimated worth of this industry is \$4 million each year.

Previous studies of this palm indicate that it can be severely damaged if more than two leaves are removed. The palm generally has five leaves.

Sophie Williams, a researcher from Bangor University in Wales reported that in 2006, the UK Darwin Initiative Project and the Belize Botanic Garden set up training programs to give locals the knowledge to grow and harvest this palm rather than collecting leaves from the wild. Ms. Williams stated that, "just increasing knowledge and awareness doesn't always lead to positive action . . . often because there are barriers."

Access to seeds is quoted as another potential problem that can dilute the impact of the training program. Ms. Williams reported that if a supply of seeds is not available, it encourages locals to take seeds from the wild which can be more damaging to the palm population than harvesting its leaves

2012 Annual Picnic & Auction Scheduled

Our annual picnic and most spectacular auction of the year is scheduled for September 8th in Ruth Sallenbach's fabulous garden. The event will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish, drinks, or desert to this pot luck picnic.

Mark your calendar so you don't miss this exciting event.



THANK YOU

Tom Ramiccio
Susan & Dante Cioci
Ruth & Terry Lynch

For opening up their gardens and homes for our Ramble.

Those of us who attended saw wonderful gardens and ate great food at the pool party.



Have a happy 4th of July!

Caribbean Palms Nursery

Mike Harris
1584 F Road
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Phone: (561) 792-0333
E-mail: palmz@gate.net



Calyptrotonoma plumeriana recovering from boron deficiency

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. Please go to www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com to obtain our membership application.

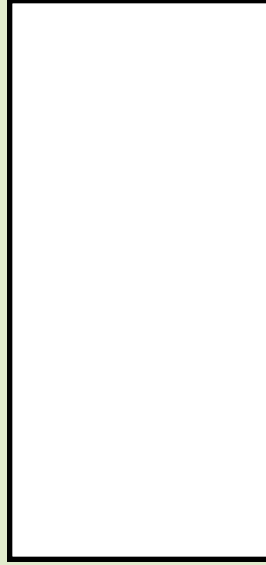
Thank you for your support of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society. We hope to see you at all of our general meetings which take place on the first Wednesday of every month at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. Be sure to watch for information regarding our field trips, special activities, and palm and cycad shows and sales. If you have questions about membership, you can contact Tom Whisler, our Membership Chairman, at (561) 627-8328 or at whisler.tom@synthes.com



Neoveitchia storckii



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



Cattleya orchid growing on
Psychosperma elegans