



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

October 2012

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*



FRONT COVER AND ABOVE: 19 year old *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* in the Beck garden.

**Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
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 Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman
 Brenda Beck, Web Master and Historian
 To Be Determined, Activities & Events Coordinators

VISIT US AT www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

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**Featured this Month: *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*
by Charlie Beck**

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana is a solitary, pinnate, medium sized palm. It is a monoecious palm that and can grow in sun or shade. *A. cunninghamiana* displays a prominent dark green crownshaft which can be streaked with red or purple. Common names are bangalow or piccabean palm. Bangalow is an Aboriginal term for "water carrying basket." The crownshaft can be folded into a watertight vessel with the petiole used as a handle. With time, stems can grow 80' tall but my experience with this palm is that the growth rate slows down considerably after reaching 20'. Stems can grow to 1 foot in diameter. Leaves can measure up to 12' long and usually do not droop below horizontal. Leaflets grow in a single plane and are sharply pointed. New leaves may emerge with pink or red tones. Inflorescences emerge below the crownshaft and are pendulous and highly branched. Mature fruit color is red and measure 0.4 - 0.6" in diameter.

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana is native to coastal regions of eastern Australia. Its native range

is between latitudes 21 and 35 degrees south which includes both tropical and sub-tropical areas. West Palm Beach's latitude is 26.7 degrees north which seems a perfect match for growing this palm. *A. cunninghamiana* grows in moist forests sometimes occurring beside or even in creek beds. Its native habitat ranges between sea level and 3000'.

The two most common *Archontophoenix* species grown in Florida are *A. cunninghamiana* and *A. alexandrae*. These palms have a similar appearance. *A. alexandrae* is a palm native to tropical Australia and is not as cold hardy as *A. cunninghamiana*. The most noticeable difference between these palms is that *A. cunninghamiana* has lavender flowers where all other *Archontophoenix* species have white/cream colored flowers. *A. cunninghamiana* also is the only *Archontophoenix* species without silver scales on the bottom side of the leaflets. Another difference is that *A. cunninghamiana* has ramenta (brown scales) on the underside of the leaflet midrib. *A. cunninghamiana* leaflets are more pendulous than *A. alexandrae*. The leaflets tend to roll about its midrib due to lack of secondary ribs. The leaves are self cleaning and they are dry when they drop, so they are light and do not damage underplantings

One of the first palms we planted in our Lantana garden

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



**PALM BEACH PALM &
CYCAD SOCIETY
ANNUAL FALL PLANT SALE**

Saturday, October 20th
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 21st
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

At the Mounts Botanical Garden

Come find that perfect palm or cycad for your garden and to purchase your palm fertilizer.

BOOK SIGNING

Paul Craft and Scott Zona will be available on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to sign their newly released book, *The Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms, Second Edition*.

THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

AUCTION/PLANT DONATIONS

Betty Ahlborn
Steve Garland
Dale Holton
Tom Whisler

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Ruth Eberly
Catherine Heiser
Juan Illa
Kitty Philips
Tom Ramiccio

SPECIAL THANKS

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

AND TO

Don Bittel
For his donation of a book for the Palm Society library.



Palms—Haiku Light
by Maurice Lorenz

Are palms more graceful
Than all other plants and trees?
It's quite obvious.

Which palms are fairest
Against the Florida sky?
I like the Spindles.

Spindle's arched fronds
Rise then fall, to left and right
The eye lingers there.

A petite lady
The Buccaneer dresses up
In silver-blue hues.

Pindo's slender limbs
Quick to stir with light breezes
Or dance in the rain.
Among all palm trees.

Bismark is most different
Size, shape, color too.
Huge fans on long poles
Pale green spreading wide and tall
Rustling in the wind.

Brazilian Seashore
This girl from Ipanema
"Swings ... sways so gently."

With three slender trunks
High winds bend Alexander
Ever so slightly.

The palm called Christmas
Has a look quite typical
It's red fruit names it.

The Coconut palm
Rises above most others
To produce its crop.

Cute big-bottom lass
Her top's wider than she's tall
She's a Bottle palm.

European Fan's
New trunks shoot fans to all sides
Young green mound rises.

Well-named Lady Palm
Her leaves smile bright and shining
She spreads out with age.

Sylvestris spills out
Dozens of leaf-loaded fronds
Wind, shake this pompom!

Zombie! Be careful!
Hairy trunk's voodoo needles
Best kept at arm's length.

Low, dark, spreading wide
Sago's not a palm, they say
But it fits right in.

Royals best complete
An imposing edifice
Or a stately drive.

The Pony Tail palm
Sports a funny bloated base
And a namesake top

Chinese Fan palm say
Florida more hot China
I grow big tall here.

Too small to know yet
Livistona saribus
Needs a better name.



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

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2013 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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

Date: October 3, 2012
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: John Kennedy
Subject: Palms That Haven't Loved Me and Other Sad Stories
Location: Mounts Botanical Garden

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Date: October 3, 2012
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Mounts Botanical Garden

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

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was *A. cunninghamiana*. This was in 1993 in a time where cold hardiness was a prime concern. In 1989 we experienced record cold temperatures. That year we had two nights at 26 degrees in Jupiter. Even Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden had temperatures in the mid to high 20's. Many cold sensitive palms all throughout Florida were killed outright by that hard freeze. We planted 12 small specimens and they grew 25-30' tall in 19 years. The leaves measure 12' long and the stems are 8'' in diameter. The only issues during that time were the three hurricanes we experienced in 2004 and 2005. Four of the 12 specimen palms were downed by the high winds. Our palms do not seem to mind occasional flooding during heavy summer downpours. They have never shown any signs of

HOLTON NURSERY

PALMS and CYCADS



disease or micro-nutritional deficiencies.

A. cunninghamiana is a very attractive palm for our landscape. They are commonly available at palm sales. They are strong growers with recommended fertilizer applications and twice weekly irrigation. This palm is smaller than many other crownshaft palms like *Sattakentia* and *Roystonea* species. *A. cunninghamiana* has a very tropical look and seems to have the right scale for many Florida homes.

Note: All photos for this issue were provided by Charlie Beck.



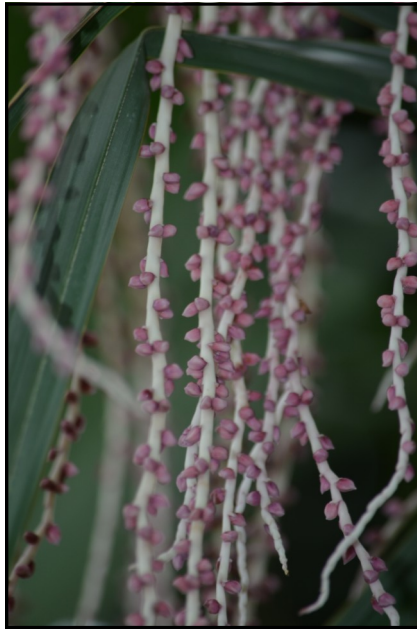
Borassus aethiopum
loaded with fruit.



Archontophoenix cumminghamiana ramenta (brown scales)
on underside of midrib and leaflet rolled about midrib



Archontophoenix cunninghamiana fruit



Archontophoenix cunninghamiana
lavender flowers



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



Cattleya hybrid growing in the
shade of a palm grove.