



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

December 2013

DON'T MISS IT!

PALM BEACH PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY'S 2013 ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AND SPECTACULAR PLANT GIVEAWAY (Members Only)

Wednesday, December 4, 2013
At Mounts Botanical Garden

Door opens at 5:00 p.m.
Pot Luck Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.
Plant Giveaway begins at 7:00 p.m.

Please bring a covered dish,
vegetable or fruit dish, or dessert
and a plant (of any kind)
for the plant giveaway

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society 2013 Officers & Executive Committee

Tom Ramiccio, President (561) 386-7812
Don Bittel, Vice President (772) 521-4601
Ruth Lynch, Secretary (561) 312-5046
Ingrid Dewey, Treasurer (561) 3300
Charlie Beck, Director & Editor (561) 963-5511
Steve Garland, Director (561) 478-0120
Terry Lynch, Director (561) 582-7378
Tom Whisler, Director (561) 627-8328
Betty Ahlborn, Immediate Past President
(561) 798-4562

Appointees

Charlie Beck, Librarian
Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman
Brenda Beck, Web Master and Historian

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DECEMBER FEATURED AUCTION PLANTS

Copernicia alba
Cyrtostachys hybrid (cold hardy)

NOVEMBER THANK YOU

Food: Gerard Valentini, Jim Gallagher,
Janice DiPaola, Shannon Skoulkas, Tom and
Mary Whisler, Steve Garland, Pat Morris

Plant Donations: Charlie Beck, Steve Garland, Mike Harris, Dale
Holton, Janice DiPaola

Door: Charlie Beck

**SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER PREPARATION**
Brenda A. La Platte in Brenda Beck's absence

VISIT US ONLINE AT: <http://www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com>

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Licuala spinosa*
by Charlie Beck

Licuala spinosa is a clumping fan palm which is widely distributed in southern Asia. It is native to Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and other island nations. In habitat it is found in low, wet areas which may be close to the coast or near river banks. It may occur in sandy or swampy organic soils. Its common name is the Mangrove Fan Palm. This palm can survive in disturbed deforested areas with full sun exposure. Even though it's native to tropical areas, it is cold hardy to zone 9b and is suitable for growing in all of Palm Beach County.

L. spinosa is not a new palm for our area. It was commonly available for sale 30 years ago when I moved to South Florida. It grows well in sandy, organic and alkaline soils. It grows well in deep shade or full sun. I've seen it surviving in full sun with no irrigation or fertilization. Of course it looks best in wet soil with light to full shade. We have two specimens planted in our garden. One is located in a low, moist sandy area and the other is located beside the house in shell rock right below where roof planes converge and concentrated rain runoff floods the planting bed. The one close to the house is situated in front of our living room window where we can appreciate its beauty from inside the house. Our specimens have grown at a medium rate. Our 19 year old plant in sand is 12' tall in overall height with 6 stems.

The 9 year old specimen in shell rock has grown 8' tall in overall height with 6 stems. The only criticism of this palm that I could imagine is that the clump could become too dense with great age. It is easy to thin the clump of stems to any manageable number to create the desired artistic effect. This palm is not so vigorous to require more than a light thinning every 5-10 years.

The most beautiful specimens of *L. spinosa* that I have seen are growing in marl soil in Loxahatchee. Mike Harris has a fine specimen that he uses as a seed source for the plants he grows. We are lucky to have plants available that are grown from this superior specimen. Dale Holton also has an attractive specimen of *L. spinosa* growing in his swamp. Clearly this palm is at its best in marl soil.

Grow this palm for its showy pinwheel leaves and bright red fruit. It grows well in a variety of situations and is completely cold hardy in our area. With recommended fertilizer our plants have never shown any micro-nutrient deficiencies. It is easy to maintain at any height and stem density. This is a proven performer here in Palm Beach County.

Newly Described Palm Discovered
by Charlie Beck

The International Palm Society recently announced that a new genus, *Sabinaria*, has been described. *Sabinaria magnifica* is a fabulous palm discovered in a mountainous region at the Panama-Columbia border. This palmate palm has 4-6' diameter leaves which are entire except for a single split down the middle. It looks a lot like a *Licuala* without the teeth on the petioles. Check out the link listed below to find all of the details of this exciting find.

<http://www.mapress.com/phytotaxa/content/2013/f/pt00144p044.pdf>

2013 HOLIDAY PARTY GIVEAWAY PLANTS

Allagoptera (Polyandrococos) caudescens

Burretiokentia hapala

Burretiokentia vieillardii

Calyptrocalyx elegans (boalak)

Calyptrocalyx holhrungii

Calyptrocalyx sp. sunumb

Calyptrogyne gheisbreghtiana

Calyptronoma plumeriana

Chamaedorea ernesti-augustii

Chamaedorea neurochlamys

Chamaedorea oblongata

Chambeyronia macrocarpa

Dypsis decaryi

Dypsis lanceolata

Dypsis mirabilis

Dypsis pembana

Dypsis prestoniana

Heterospathe barfodii

Hyophorbe lagenicaulis

Licuala peltata var. *peltata*

Licuala peltata var. *sumawongii*

Pinanga coronata (blunt leaf)

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Licuala spinosa* continued



Licuala spinosa
at Caribbean Palms Nursery



Licuala spinosa
at the Beck Garden



Licuala spinosa
at Holton Nursery

FRENCH TOUR AT EIGELBERGER ESTATE



French Tour Group with
Inigo Eigelberger (far left)



Susan Cioci & Ruth Sallenbach with
Copernicia ekmanii



Encephalartos ferox
French Tour at Eigelberger Estate



Poolside
French Tour at Eigelberger Estate

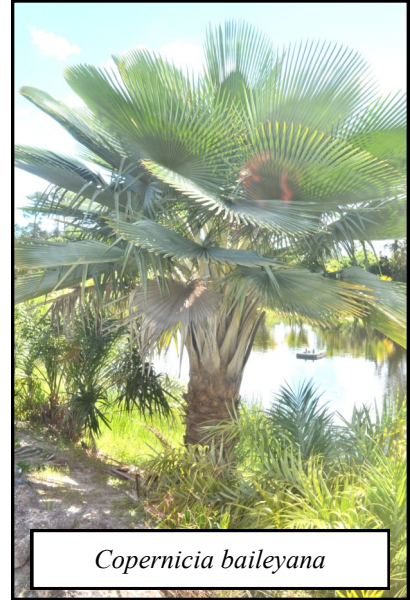
HOLTON NURSERY TOUR IN LOXAHATCHEE



Copernicia curtissii



Copernicia fallaensis



Copernicia baileyana



Dale Holton lending scale to
Raphia farinifera



Livistona nitida



Dale Holton lending scale to
Accrocomia crispa



Colpothrinax wrightii



Licuala ramsayi



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Membership Application

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| | Internal Use Only |
| # | |
| \$ | |
| Y | |

Please select one of the following options:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year - Individual | \$20.00 per person (Foreign Addresses Please Add \$20.00) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year - Dual Membership | \$30.00 for two individuals living at the same address (Foreign Addresses Please Add \$20.00) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years - Individual | \$40.00 per person (Foreign Addresses Please Add \$20.00) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Years - Individual | \$60.00 per person (Foreign Addresses Please Add \$20.00) | |

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| Address #2: | | | |
| City: | State: | Zip: | Country: |
| Email Address: | | Website (optional): | |

Include me in the Membership Roster: Yes No (Unless checked, you will be included in the roster)

I am interested in learning more about advertising with Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society, Yes No

Please make your check or money order payable in US dollars to: **Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society**

Please print this form and send it along with your payment (please, no cash) to:

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
P.O. Box 212228
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421-2228

RECENT GARDEN TOURS

by Charlie Beck

I recently participated in three garden tours in November and will share some of the photos that I took of some exceptional palms.

The first tour was of Dale Holton's Nursery in Loxahatchee. He had some pretty amazing plants growing there. Some of his palms are probably the largest specimens in Palm Beach County if not all of South Florida. Dale's nursery has swampy areas with marl soil. Marl soil does wonders for growing water loving palms. Two of his champion palms are *Raphia farinifera* and *Colpothrinax wrightii*. He also had a well grown *Licuala ramsayi*. Enjoy some of the photos on pg. 4.

The second tour was of Gary and Bonnie Wilburn's garden. The garden was 3/4 acre in size and was densely planted with a whole assortment of plants. I could only squeeze in photos of *Caryota zebrina* this month (see pg. 8) but there were many other well grown palms including a tall *Pritchardia pacifica*. Both were great finds for a garden west of the Turnpike. I am inspired to give *C. zebrina* another try. My original planting didn't survive. Gary told me that he only occasionally irrigates this palm. Maybe that's the key to growing a healthy specimen. This garden tour benefited the Lake Worth Art League. Beside the tour of the garden there was an Art Show in the Wilburn home. The artwork and the garden were fabulous.

The third tour was organized for a group from the French Palm Society. Our French Society visitors were very friendly and appreciative. There were members from France, Switzerland, and French Guiana. I must say that they were the most stylish group of palm enthusiasts that I've ever met. We toured the Palm Beach Eigelberger Estate. This is a 6 acre manicured garden which was beautiful. Inigo Eigelberger led the tour. He manages garden maintenance and had knowledge of all plantings and garden history. It took two full hours to tour the garden. See photos on page 3.

After lunch at Testa's we proceeded to Dale Holton's home garden. The group was wowed by the many rare palms and cycads which were in the garden. After Dale's garden we then visited Richard Moyroud's Mezoic Landscape Nursery and home gardens. This is where you can buy 8' tall *Coccothrinax argentata* and *Leucothrinax morrisii*. Here you will find the tallest *Mauritia* palms in all of South Florida. Actually his tallest specimen flowered for the first time last year. Richard also has the only ground planting of *Socratea exorrhiza* that I know of in South Florida. Richard built a four story observation deck overlooking his swamp where you can get a close up view of Royal Palm crownshafts. Enjoy the photos of these rare finds and others on pages 7-8.

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(561) 586-2332



LAKE OSBORNE ANIMAL CLINIC

JOHN T. LYNCH, D.V.M.

1502 Lake Osborne Dr.
Lake Worth, FL 33461

HOLTON NURSERY
PALMS and CYCADS

5221 3rd Road

Lake Worth, FL 33467

Phone (561) 965-6792

Email cycadnut@gate.net



"By appointment only"

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

All photographs in this issue were provided by Charlie Beck.

FRENCH TOUR AT MEZOIC LANDSCAPES



FRENCH TOUR AT MEZOIC LANDSCAPES CONTINUED & WILBURN GARDEN



Itaya amicorum at Mezoic Landscapes



Gary Wilburn lending scale to
Caryota zebrena
in the Wilburn Garden



Caryota zebrena petiole
in the Wilburn Garden



Calptronoma rivalis
at Mezoic Landscapes

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.