



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

November 2014

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 5, 2014
7:30 p.m.
at Mounts Botanical Garden

Speaker: Paul Craft

Subject: Palms of Cuba

November Featured Auction Plants:

Ptychosperma cuneatum
Verschaffeltia splendida

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page

- 1 Upcoming Meetings and featured auction plants
- 1 Palm Society Board Contact Numbers
- 1 October Thank You
- 2 FEATURED THIS MONTH: December Give Away Plants

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society 2014 Officers & Executive Committee

Tom Ramiccio, President (561) 386-7812
 Don Bittel, Vice President (772) 521-4601
 Ruth Lynch, Secretary (561) 312-5046
 Janice DiPaola, Director & Membership Chair
 (561) 748-1918
 Ingrid Dewey, Treasurer (561) 791-3300
 Charlie Beck, Director & Editor (561) 963-5511
 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, Historian
 Brenda LaPlatte, Webmaster

OCTOBER "THANK YOU"

Food: Don Bittel, Ed Napoli, Ruth & Terry Lynch,
Mick & Sue Pepler

Door: Charlie & Brenda Beck

VISIT US AT

www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

All photographs in this issue were provided
by Charlie Beck unless otherwise specified.

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.

2014 Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society (PBPCS) Giveaway Plants

Every year at our December meeting PBPCS sponsors a plant give away and exchange. As part of the plant give away our Society donates a number of potted palms and/or cycads to our members. In addition to these plants, attendees donate plants which considerably increases the quantity of giveaway plants. All type of plants are donated. It is not limited to palms and cycads.

Tickets are given to current PBPCS members and then ticket numbers are drawn randomly to determine the order of selection from the pool of plants. Each member has a chance to select the plant they most want in order of drawing until all plants are taken.

This year I want to share which plants were acquired by PBPCS for this event. All of this year's plants are palms. There are only a few of each species so you should consider alternate selections if your ticket is not chosen early in the drawing. The value of each plant exceeds the cost of membership. If you have a dual membership, each member present is given a ticket for plant selection.

Unless otherwise noted, the following palm descriptions and recommendations are based on growing in Palm Beach County sand with recommended fertilization and supplemental irrigation. I recommend growing these palms to three gallon size prior to planting in the ground unless individual monitoring of the newly planted palms can be provided. For recommended planting and fertilization guidelines see:

http://www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com/documents/Planting_and_Fertilization.pdf

Some of the descriptions mention possible development of boron deficiency which can be corrected by mixing a quarter cup of common laundry borax to a five gallon bucket of water and applying to the palm root zone. Large palms may need two buckets. Repeat in four months if full recovery is not apparent. I have also applied this product dry and had similar results if finely and uniformly dispersed.

Magnesium deficiency can be cured by applying any of the following products to the palm root zone: common Epsom salt, magnesium sulfate, or dolomite. Dolomite raises the soil ph and might be the best supplement for palms which are native to limestone type soil. I usually apply a fine dusting of any of these products to the entire palm root zone.

For iron deficiency several products should work. I have used Ironite in the past with good results. I currently use Trachelene 5 percent iron which seems effective when lightly applied to root zone.

The Palm Society has purchased the following palms for the December give-away:

Areca catechu

Areca catechu is a small pinnate palm of exceptional beauty. The deep green leaves have a distinctive tropical look. There is a lot of variability in leaf characteristics of this palm. Some specimens have thin leaflets which are somewhat ordinary. Other specimens have wide leaflets which in my opinion are infinitely more attractive. This year's giveaway *A. catechu* palms are of the wide leaf variety. This palm also has an attractive dark green crownshaft. I've been growing a new population of this palm in our garden and I can attest that these palms have great genes. They are some of the most attractive *A. catechu* that I have ever seen. The only drawback is their cold sensitivity. I lost a few of these palms after the record cold winters of 2009 and 2010. I did have survivors though. With regular irrigation and fertilization expect a moderate growth rate. Frond length is in the 4-5' range. I've seen these palms grown in both the sun and shade. I would recommend planting this palm in a shady, protected location in the warmer areas of Palm Beach County. *A. catechu* is widely cultivated in the tropics for the seeds (Betel Nuts) because of their mild narcotic effect when chewed with other ingredients.





Beccariophoenix fenestralis

This palm was originally identified as *Beccariophoenix sp. window* or *B. madagascariensis*. It was recently renamed *B. fenestralis*. This is a large pinnate palm about the same scale as a coconut palm. It's a moderate to fast grower with regular irrigation and fertilizer applications. It likes growing in our sandy soil. My specimen palms were not affected by the record cold 2009-2010 winter temperatures. The only nutritional deficiency noted in our garden was of boron which is easily corrected. Boron deficiency symptoms are frizzled, distorted or prematurely dried fronds. If you like the look of a coconut palm but don't want the danger of falling coconuts, give this palm a try.



Burretiokentia hapala

This is a small pinnate palm from New Caledonia. It grows in sun or shade but I feel is more attractive when shade grown. I have not noticed any nutritional deficiency or cold sensitivity over the past 21 years in our garden. The fronds grow about 4-5' long and the stems measure 3-4" in diameter. This palm also has an attractive green crownshaft. *B. hapala* has a very interesting inflorescence. They look like a cluster of cattails.

Calyptrocalyx elegans var. boalak

This is a clumping palm with either simple or widely divided leaves. It is native to New Guinea which would lead you to believe that it is cold sensitive but our specimen plant was unaffected by the record cold 2009-2010 winter temperatures. This is a small clumper which should never outgrow its allotted space in the garden. Like other *Calyptrocalyx* species, it best grows in the shade with constantly moist soil. We have grown this species for the last 7 years and have never noted any deficiencies or setbacks. Years ago, *Calyptrocalyx* species were very hard to find for sale. We are fortunate to have this genus of palms now available for our gardens.





Calyptrocalyx hollrungii

All of the comments on *C. elegans* var. *boalak* also apply to *C. hollrungii* except *C. hollrungii* has leaves that are not quite as wide. This was the first *Calyptrocalyx* species available locally for sale. Our specimen is 14 years old and measures about 8' tall. It's a great palm with red emergent leaves. Every garden should have a space allotted for this little beauty.



Calyptronoma plumeriana

This is a pinnate palm native to Cuba and Hispaniola. It grows in wet forests and along watercourses. This is a graceful, pinnate palm of medium size and growth rate. It enjoys growing in moist soil in sun or shade. With regular fertilization this palm rarely develops nutritional deficiencies. Occasionally boron deficiency might appear. Distorted emergent fronds are the indicator of boron deficiency. This rarely planted palm always attracts a lot of attention when first seen.



Cryosophila warscewiczii

C. warscewiczii is a small palmate palm from Central America. It was previously known as *C. albida*. The fronds are deeply divided and the leaf underside is an attractive white coloration. It grows well in our sandy soil. A unique feature is that it grows abbreviated



roots all along the stem. This is why its common name is the Rootspine Palm. My oldest specimens were grown from seed brought back from Costa Rica in 1992. Since then they have grown well and multiply from seed. I've never noticed any nutritional deficiencies on these palms. They will grow in sun but are at their best in the shade.

Dypsis lanceolata

D. lanceolata is one of the BEST palms from Madagascar. It is a clumping, pinnate palm that loves growing in our sandy soil. They grow nice tight clumps with stems which occasionally branch. Expect the fronds to grow about 4-5' long. The rich dark green color of the leaves is not the only attraction. Some specimens have wide leaflets which curl under. Crownshafts have a white waxy coating. I've never noticed any nutritional deficiencies appear when fertilized at recommended rates. This palm will grow in sun or shade equally well.





Dypsis madagascariensis var. mahajanga

D. madagascariensis var. mahajanga has been listed on Floribunda Palms price list for many years as a “landscape beauty.” I wasn’t familiar with this palm so I decided to plant it 2 years ago. In two years it has rapidly grown to an overall height of 14 feet. This variety is reported to be more cold hardy than the basic species. Its leaves also appear to be more plumose and the crownshaft is developing a waxy coating. It is a rapid grower which seems to appreciate our sandy soil. I have never noticed any nutritional deficiencies in this palm’s short life. I grow mine in full sun. I expect this palm to grow to a medium size similar to a *Veitchia* or *Archontophoenix*.

Dypsis saintelucei

D. saintelucei is a critically endangered palm from Madagascar. It is a small pinnate palm which is a medium-slow grower. Expect mature leaves to grow 4-5’ long. Its leaflets are stiff and the rachis is recurved. Its crownshaft is waxy white which really makes this palm stand out in the garden. It has a very formal appearance.

We planted two specimens in our garden four years ago. They have grown slow but steady. Their native soil in Madagascar is white sand so they should be a good selection for Palm Beach planting. The most beautiful specimen that I have seen in South Florida is planted in Dale Holton’s garden.



Euterpe oleracea ‘black crownshaft’



E. oleracea is a short lived palm in Palm Beach County. Even though I have recently planted a cluster 5 of these ‘black crownshaft’ palms, I don’t expect them to survive an extremely cold winter. Prior to 2009 we had several *E. oleracea*

thriving in our garden. They enjoyed growing in moist sandy soil as long as the winters were mild. They were quite beautiful and were worth growing, but eventually the 2009-2010 winters knocked them out. This is a medium sized pinnate palm with a very exotic tropical appearance. Mature specimens have lax leaflets which droop. It can be solitary or clustering. The ‘black crownshaft’ palms appear to be solitary. We have seen the standard variety of this palm growing in habitat, so I guess that was my motivation for growing it. They bring back some pleasant memories of our tropical travels. This variety with a black crownshaft sounds very tempting. Combining the beauty of *E. oleracea* with a black crownshaft should overwhelm any palm enthusiast. I planted a cluster of *Euterpe* sp ‘orange crownshaft’ years ago which survived our 2009-2010 record cold winters, so maybe these black crownshaft palms will be just as hardy. Be the first in your neighborhood to try this palm. My plants are planted in light shade with some direct sun. They seem very happy in our sandy soil.

Heterospathe barfodii

Most species of *Heterospathe* grow well in Palm Beach County. This one is untested as far as I know. I recently planted out our 3 gallon specimen, so I cannot report on its growth habit under local conditions. The main attraction of *H. barfodii* is the white crownshaft. It is certainly worth a try in your garden.





Kentiopsis oliviformis

K. oliviformis is a canopy palm from New Caledonia. This is a medium size pinnate palm with a crown of upright, ‘feather duster’ leaves. They can be grown in sun or shade. Being a canopy palm, it will outgrow any shade tree that you plant it under. *K. oliviformis* is absolutely one of the best palms for Palm Beach County. We have nine specimen palms in our garden dating back to 1997. They were unaffected by three hurricanes and were also not fazed by the record cold winters of 2009 and 2010. I could not give them a higher recommendation. An occasional application of magnesium sulfate is helpful..



Kerriodoxa elegans

K. elegans is a stunningly beautiful palm endemic to Thailand. It has large palmate leaves displayed on purple to black petioles. The leaf underside is white. When well grown their beauty is unrivaled. Their footprint is large and vertical growth is slow. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden has some mature fruiting specimens which you have probably admired. Those palms survived Hurricane Andrew. Growing *Kerriodoxa* is like growing *Copernicia* species. Some palms grow well and some palms seem to never grow. Runts are common in both of these genera. I have applied both boron and magnesium to correct deficiencies yet still the runts won’t grow. We have six *K. elegans* planted in our garden. None of our plants were affected by the 2009-2010 winter temperatures.

Licuala ramsayi

L. ramsayi is a tropical palm native to Australia. It is reported to be hardy to zone 10a, so cold sensitivity should not be an issue in Palm Beach County. This palm enjoys growing in a moist shady situation. Its growth rate is slow to medium. It displays large pinwheel fronds which are very attractive. Being my personal favorite *Licuala* species, we have several planted in our garden. Occasionally boron and iron deficiencies occur. Both are simple to fix. Stunted or shrinking emergent fronds indicate boron deficiency. Iron supplements will bring back that dark green color if the fronds start to yellow. These supplements are usually not necessary when fertilized at the recommended rates.





Licuala grandis

This is a small palm with undivided palmate leaves. It is not as cold hardy as *L. peltata* but it is a more manageable size. We lost most of our *L. grandis*, planted in sand, after the 2009-2010 winter seasons. Some did survive but all seven palms planted in shell rock were unaffected by the record cold. This is a tip when growing *L. grandis* - plant in alkaline soil. Even planting next to your home foundation seems to improve growth of this species. I've never noticed any micro nutritional deficiencies in our garden



Licuala peltata* var. *peltata

L. peltata var. *peltata* is a palmate palm with deeply divided leaves. The leaves look like giant pinwheels. This is a palm native to Thailand and other tropical areas. Even though this palm is native to the tropics it is reported to be quite hardy in Palm Beach County. I know of palms planted in Loxahatchee that survived 2009 and 2010 winters with no damage. We have a single, four year old specimen planted in our garden which is growing at a medium pace. This is a palm for a shady moist area.

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
 "By appointment only"



***Pinanga coronata* (blunt leaf form)**

P. coronata is a proven winner in Palm Beach County. It is a small to medium sized, clumping, pinnate palm. It has widely spaced leaflets which emerge a pink or salmon color. Its salmon inflorescence is also quite attractive as well as its yellow crownshaft. The fruit change from red to black upon maturity. *P. kuhlii* has been lumped in with this species. If any stunted emerging fronds occurs an application of laundry borax will bring it back to health. This is not a chronic problem of this palm so recommended palm fertilizer is usually all that is required. I've never grown "blunt leaf" form in our garden. A few years back I saw one growing on Palm Beach Island and was impressed with its form.

(561) 586-2332



LAKE OSBORNE ANIMAL CLINIC

JOHN T. LYNCH, D.V.M.

1502 Lake Osborne Dr.
Lake Worth, FL 33461

**For permission to reproduce any article that appears in this publication,
contact the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society editor at beck4212@aol.com**