



# Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

*Affiliate of the International Palm Society*

Monthly Update

April 2015

## UPCOMING MEETING

April 1, 2015

7:30 p.m. at

Mounts Botanical Garden

**Speaker:** Chip Jones

**Subject:** Cycads of Mexico

**April Featured Auction Plant:**

*Dypsis saintelucei*

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## MARCH "THANK YOU"

**Door:** Richard Murray  
**Food:** Charlie Beck, Robin Crawford, Duane Heiser, Dale Holton, Ed Napoli, Sue Pepler, Tom Ramiccio,  
**Plants:** Dale Holton

## VISIT US AT

[www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com](http://www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com)

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

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## FEATURED THIS MONTH: Paul Humann's Garden

by Charlie Beck

On March 7<sup>th</sup> the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society sponsored a tour of Paul Humann's Garden. The two acre garden is located in Davie about 7 miles inland. Paul designed this manicured garden by himself. He located all of the plant groupings and water features. He has a huge collection of palms, cycads, crotons, bromeliads and other tropical plants. This garden is approximately 20 years old, but many of the plantings are more recent. Paul invested in quality signs which documented the plant name and date of planting. If you missed this opportunity to see Paul's garden I'll give you a photographic tour of what we saw.

I've toured many palm gardens in South Florida, the Keys and Southwest Florida. In 31 years of touring I cannot remember a garden as impressive as this one. First consideration is that this garden is located in the warmest area of mainland Florida. If you study the USDA hardiness zone map you will see that this area around Fort Lauderdale is actually warmer than Miami. I also know this is true from surveying South Florida areas after the 1989 record freeze. I actually took many trips to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (FTBG) to compare freeze damage relative to Palm Beach and Broward Counties. This area around Fort Lauderdale experienced much less cold damage than surrounding areas. The second consideration is that this area has a different soil than Palm Beach County's typical sugar sand. Paul's garden has a vari-

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**LAKE OSBORNE ANIMAL CLINIC**

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JOHN T. LYNCH, D.V.M.

ety of soil types. There are native muck, marl and sandy areas. His soil obviously has more nutrient holding capacity than most soils do in Palm Beach County.

A nine year old *Salacca waillichiana* is shown below and a *S. glabrescens* is shown on page 3. These are clumping palms which are heavily armed with wicked spines. *Salacca sp.* are rarely grown outdoors in South Florida. FTBG has only one specimen of *S. waillichiana* planted out in their garden. We had one planted in our garden which flourished for many years before mysteriously dying of an unknown cause. I do not believe it died from cold damage. The only problem with this palm was the spines made it difficult to remove spent fronds. This was the first time that I saw *S. glabrescens* in South Florida.



*Salacca waillichiana*



Paul Humann



*Salacca waillichiana*

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*Salacca glabrescens*



*Euterpe precatoria*



*Hydriastele beguinii*



*Pelagodoxa henryana*



*Dypsis bejofo*



*Howea belmoreana*

*Euterpe precatoria* is a tropical palm from Central and South America. After seeing this palm in habitat I immediately concluded that I MUST grow this palm in our garden. Mature specimens have thin drooping leaflets which only occur in highly cold sensitive, tropical palms. Some specimens have silver colored leaflets which are even more attractive. After many failed attempts to grow this palm in our garden, I concluded that it is too cold sensitive to grow in our area. Well, Paul has a healthy specimen growing in his garden. It's not old enough (5 years old) to display mature drooping leaflets but it will be a sight to behold when it matures. FTBG has one planted in their rare plant house.

*Hydriastele beguinii* was formally named *Siphokentia beguinii*. This is a 14 year old specimen which is a rare sight in South Florida. These palms grow well in pots but I have never had any luck growing it in the ground. It is grown to perfection in Paul's garden. It obviously survived our record cold winters of 2009 and 2010.

I did not record the age of Paul's *Pelagodoxa henryana* but its size indicated that it survived 2009 and 2010 winters. I have heard reports of successfully growing this palm in Loxahatchee but I've never seen one as beautiful as this one grown outdoors in South Florida.

*Dypsis bejofo* looks very healthy in Paul's garden and it's a good palm for Palm Beach County. It is rarely planted. We had a vigorous specimen growing in our garden until a hurricane dropped a mature *Roystonea oleracea* on it, back in 2004. I do have a replacement growing in a pot which will be planted this year.

The *Howea belmoreana* shown is 12 years old. This is a cold hardy palm which is rarely planted in South Florida. It was healthy and very attractive.



*Areca hutchinsoniana*



*Areca alicae*



*Chambeyronia macrocarpa*  
(Watermelon crownshaft)



*Neoveitchia storckii*



*Areca vestiaria*



*Areca vestiaria*  
(crownshaft)

Paul had three beautiful *Areca* species that we saw:

*Areca hutchinsoniana* was 8 years old it was quite tall for such a young palm. It had wide leaflets and an attractive green ringed stem.

*Areca alicae* was 5 years old with the same attractive features but this was a clumper.

Both *A. hutchinsoniana* and *A. alicae* grow well in Palm Beach County, so they are worth a try in your garden.

*Areca vestiaria* has tormented me over the years. I planted this palm in sand and in shell rock. I planted it in dry and wet areas. I planted both the red and the orange varieties. They all rapidly declined and died in our garden. Paul's specimen was gorgeous. This palm is rare to see thriving in South Florida when planted in the ground without a protective cover. What a treat to see.

*Chambeyronia macrocarpa* (watermelon crownshaft) had beautiful cream colored striations. I grow this variety but the crownshafts are not as colorful. Unfortunately my palms have green emergent fronds - not the typical red color.

Paul's *Neoveitchia storckii* was 20 years old and it was quite beautiful. It wowed the crowd. The black crownshaft made this tropical palm stand out. This is my favorite pinnate palm and it grows quite well in Palm Beach County.



*Pinanga copelandii*



*Pinanga javana*



*Pinanga javana*



*Pinanga densiflora*



*Pinanga densiflora*



*Beccariophoenix fenestralis*  
(Terry Lynch)

*Pinanga copelandii* is a gorgeous palm with wide leaflets and a colorful crownshaft. This palm is very cold sensitive and Paul's specimen is only one year old. It survived our past winter without any negative effect but it might be tested in the future. Paul's garden might be just the perfect spot for this palm.

*Pinanga javana* is rarely seen in South Florida. It's especially rare to see in bloom. We have grown this species in our garden for many years before it finally succumbed to most likely, boron deficiency.

*Pinanga densiflora* was a perfectly grown clumper with an attractively colored inflorescence. It was 19 years old. This was a first sighting of this species for me.

Terry Lynch lends scale to a 19 year old *Beccariophoenix fenestralis*. This palm was originally distributed as *B. madagascariensis* but has been renamed. This palm grows well in Palm Beach County but occasionally requires extra boron.



*Syagrus cearensis*



*Burretiokentia vieillardii*



*Burretiokentia vieillardii*



*Syagrus coronata*



*Syagrus coronata*



*Syagrus botryophora*

Paul grew a few interesting *Syagrus* species.

*Syagrus cearensis* was 10 years old. It's a clumping palm which was quite attractive and rarely planted in Palm Beach County. We have two specimen plants in our garden. I find them to be a slow growers and one tends to yellow without supplemental feeding.

*Syagrus coronata* is an old favorite palm in Palm Beach County. Paul's palm is 10 years old. It's a medium rate grower and the main attraction is its attractive stacked rows of old leafbases.

*Syagrus botryophora* was 14 years old and rapidly reaching for the sky.

*Burretiokentia vieillardii* is known for its brown striped crownshaft. Paul's specimen was 14 years old. This is the first mature, blooming *B. vieillardii* that I have seen outside of New Caledonia. This certainly must be a Florida Champion Tree. Hats off to Paul for growing such a beautiful specimen!



*Calypstrocalyx awa*  
15 years old



*Calypstrocalyx awa*  
15 years old



*Calypstrocalyx hollrungii*  
19 years old



*Calypstrocalyx sp "fuan"*  
11 years old



*Calypstrocalyx sp "faun"*  
11 years old



*Ravenea sambiranensis*  
19 years old

Paul grew several perfectly grown *Calypstrocalyx* species. All of which should be more commonly grown. Feast your eyes on these beauties with red emerging leaves.

*Ravenea sambiranensis* is relatively new to South Florida. FTBG does not list this palm in their collection. We have this palm growing vigorously in our garden so it might be a good addition to yours.



*Latania verschaffeltii*



*Cryosophila sp* (Rootspine palm)



*Cryosophila sp* (Rootspine palm)

Everyone marveled at Paul's 7 year old *Latania verschaffeltii*. The growth rate was amazing for such a young palm. The fronds were uncharacteristically large and were green - not silver. Brenda Beck and Don Bittel lend scale in the photo.

The plant label was missing from the *Cryosophila sp* so the species and age were uncertain. The characteristic rootspines were evident all along the stem and at ground level. We will auction *Cryosophila stauracantha* later in the year at one of our meetings.

**DON'T MISS IT!**

**Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society annual Spring Sale and Festival**

Saturday, March 28, 2015 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29, 2015 - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

At Mounts Botanical Garden

A lecture by Paul Craft will be presented on Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Specially tailored palm tours will be available on both days.

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*Drymophloeus sp. patipi*



*Drymophloeus sp. patipi*



*Astrocaryum mexicanum*



*Corypha utan*



*Chelyocarpus chuco*



*Chelyocarpus chuco*

*Drymophloeus sp. patipi* was a first time sighting for me. It was a 13 year old clumping specimen with attractive black stilt roots.

*Astrocaryum mexicanum* was the wide leaflet form with a spiny stem. This palm is an excellent grower in Palm Beach County.

*Corypha utan* was only 9 years old. Obviously it's very happy growing there because it has already formed a stem. If you haven't seen the *C. utan* at the Mounts Garden, check it out this weekend at the Palm Sale. I spotted it 30 years ago and it's still growing vertically. It's not the most attractive specimen but it is still there after 30 years. It survived the 1989 freeze!

*Chelyocarpus chuco* was 16 years old. This is a very distinctive palm with its palmate leaves split down the center. It's a good grower in Palm Beach County and it would certainly draw attention in your garden.



*Hydriastele longispatha*



*Dypsis carlsmithii*



*Dypsis utilis*



*Metroxylon vitiense*



*Metroxylon vitiense*



*Dypsis utilis*

*Hydriastele longispatha* was quite large considering it was just planted 3 years ago. This was a first sighting for me. FTBG doesn't list this palm in their collection.

Paul's *Dypsis carlsmithii* was the largest that I have seen. It's 13 years old and has several feet of stem. I have had several failures growing this palm but I finally found the right location in our garden three years ago. Our single specimen is growing quite well. When this palm matures and if it looks anything like the ones shown in the book "Palms of Madagascar," it should be a great looking palm.

*Dypsis utilis* grows quite well in Palm Beach County. It has a hairy stem and it has graceful pinnate fronds. The stem can divide as it matures to form a crown of multiple stems. Paul's specimen is only 7 years old so it's growing quite rapidly.

I saved the best for last. *Metroxylon vitiense* is a rare sight in South Florida. I have admired the specimen growing at FTBG, but Paul's palm blows it away. This is a huge palm when grown in the tropics. The striped patterns of spines on the leaf bases are the distinctive feature. Paul's *M. vitiense* is the best that I have seen outside the tropics. It was worth the trip to his garden just to see this palm.

Stay tuned for next month's newsletter. We will feature many interesting *Licuala* species in Paul's garden plus some other great palms.