



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

December 2015

UPCOMING MEETING

December 2, 2015

Annual Holiday Party
and Great Plant Give-away!!
at

Mounts Botanical Garden

(Sorry - for members only)

See page 2 for details.

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Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society 2015 Officers & Executive Committee

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Betty Ahlborn, Immediate Past President
(561) 798-4562

Appointees

Charlie Beck, Librarian

Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman

Brenda Beck, Historian

Brenda LaPlatte, Webmaster

NOVEMBER "THANK YOU"

Door: Richard Murray

Food: Don Bittel, Robin Crawford, Janice DiPaola,
Duane Heiser, Janet James, Joe Libertucci,
Richard Murray, Ed Napoli, Angie Peacock,
Tom Ramiccio

Plants: Michael Colonje, Dale Holton

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.

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
AND PLANT GIVE-AWAY**

December 2, 2015

6:00 p.m. - Pot luck dinner

7:00 - Plant Give-Away Begins

Please bring a main or side dish for the pot
luck dinner.

Plant donations (of any kind) for the give-
away would be appreciated.

**YOU'RE INVITED!!!
Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society's
Holiday Meeting**

Saturday, December 12, 2015

10:00am – 3:00pm

Private Tour of Bok Tower Gardens

&

Tour of Private Member Garden in Winter Haven

For more information, please visit their website at
www.cfpacs.com

2016 OFFICERS ELECTED

At our November meeting, the following slate of
officers and appointees were approved:

Tom Ramiccio, President and Sales Chair
Don Bittel, Vice President
Ruth Lynch, Secretary and Refreshment Chair
Ingrid Dewey, Treasurer
Charlie Beck, Director and Newsletter Editor
Janice Dipaola, Director and Membership Chair
Terry Lynch, Director and Events Chair
Richard Murray, Director
Gerry Valentini, Director
Tom Whisler, Director

Appointees:
Webmaster: Brenda La Platte
Historian: Brenda Beck
Librarian: Charlie Beck

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2015 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.

Iron deficiency treatment depends on the soil PH. Acidic soils, including potting soil, require an application of iron sulfate or chelated Fe DTPA. Chelated Fe DTPA should only be applied to the soil. It is phytotoxic when applied to the foliage of palms. Iron deficiency in alkaline soil is best corrected by the water soluble, chelated Fe EDDHA, such as Sequestrene 138. When using chelated forms of iron, follow label directions. Do not over apply because excessive amounts can be toxic to your palms.

* If a palm name has an asterisk next to it, that indicates that we published an article regarding this palm in one of our newsletters. You can access the full article regarding this plant if you go to our website at www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com and click on the Palms link. Then click on the name of the palm, and the full article will open.

Note: All give away palms were grown under shade cloth.

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



*Allagoptera caudescens**

This palm is rarely seen in Palm Beach County. It was previously named *Polyandrococos caudescens*. This palm looks nothing like other species of *Allagoptera* with which you might be familiar. This is a solitary palm which excels in a shady moist situation. It is a medium sized palm with fronds which are dark green on the upper surface and silver on the underside. *A. caudescens* grows slowly but surely and should never outgrow its space. An interesting feature of this palm is that its fronds are angled in a way that funnels leaf litter toward its stem. The palms in our garden showed no negative effects of the record cold winters of 2009 and 2010. With recommended fertilization the only nutritional deficiency that I've noticed is an occasional boron deficiency which is easily corrected.



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 22 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.

Calypstrocalyx 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 *Calypstrocalyx* species, it best grows in the shade with constantly moist soil. We have grown this species for the last 8 years and have never noted any deficiencies or setbacks. Years ago, *Calypstrocalyx* species were very hard to find for sale. We are fortunate to have this genus of palms now available for our gardens.



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.



Calyptrocalyx sp. Sanumb

This palm is native to the tropical rainforest of New Guinea. It's a clumping palm with attractive simple, bifid leaves. Our single specimen has grown rapidly in a moist, shady situation. Only being two years old in our garden, its cold sensitivity has not been tested. This palm will add a truly tropical look to your garden. No nutritional deficiencies have been observed.



Chamaedorea cataractarum

This palm is widely planted in Palm Beach County. You can find it in commercial plantings, parking lots and gas stations. Many times I've seen this palm planted in containers which never get watered and sometimes under covered gas station bays. This is one tough palm. Even though these neglected palms do not look their best, don't let that stop you from growing this palm, because it's a beauty when grown in a moist shaded situation.

C. cataractarum is a short clumping palm which rarely grows taller than 5'. It's native to Mexico. It forms a beautiful clump of dark green fronds, which are a great background for smaller colorful plants. If properly maintained it can grow well in a sunnier situation.



Chamaedorea ernesti-augusti

This is a small, solitary palm, native to Central America. It has simple, bifid green leaves which are much larger than *C. metallica*. These palms grow well in a moist shady situation. As with all palms with slender stems, they should not be planted under palms which drop heavy fronds. They are best situated under woody trees or palms with light fronds.



Chamaedorea metallica

This palm is a solitary palm native to Mexico. It's a small palm with quarter inch stems which might grow to a height of 6'. The attraction of this palm is its simple, bifid leaves that have a metallic sheen. They look best when planted in clusters. *C. metallica* should be planted in a moist shady situation, but they can tolerate higher levels of sunlight.



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 3 years ago. In two years it has rapidly grown to an overall height of 16 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 onilahensis

This is a medium sized clumping palm from Madagascar. It appears to have a scale similar to *D. lutescens*, the common Areca Palm.

Our first two plantings of this palm were unsuccessful. The first specimen grew at a medium rate of speed and looked quite healthy, but suddenly declined and died. The second planting just dwindled and died. Boron deficiency might have been a contributing factor to the demise of these palms or it might have been caused by excessive soil moisture.

You may ask, why do you keep planting this palm? Well, this palm has the most striking powder white crownshaft of any palm that I have ever seen, which includes some of the beauties that I saw in New Caledonia. My first two plantings were in moist areas. My third planting is at the fringe of irrigation range, so it is a drier situation. It’s planted in full sun and seems to be growing slowly but surely.

Mike Harris has a nice specimen growing in the ground at his Loxahatchee nursery, Caribbean Palms, so cold sensitivity should not be an issue. *D. onilahensis* is also reported to grow well in Southern California.



Dypsis pembana*



This is a sparse clumping (sometimes solitary), medium sized growing *Dypsis* species in Palm Beach County. Ten years after planting our specimen has 2 stems over 25' tall. The stems are green with contrasting leaf scar rings. It came through our record cold winters of 2009 and 2010 without any setback. It will grow in sun or shade and has never developed any nutritional deficiencies with recommended fertilization. It develops clusters of red, showy fruit.



Dypsis robusta

This palm was described from a specimen growing at Floribunda Palms & Exotics Nursery in Hawaii. It is reported to be a large palm when grown in Hawaii but to my knowledge it has not been tested in Palm Beach County. The immature leaves are very attractive. The leaflets are wide and recurved similar to *D. prestoniana*, but mature fronds look quite different. The specimen in our garden has shown evidence of boron deficiency, so keep an eye out for that. We planted ours in full sun but I think it would look better in the shade. From descriptions, *D. robusta* is a canopy palm which will eventually grow to a full sun exposure.



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 five years ago. They have grown slowly but steadily. 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.



***Hyophorbe verschaffeltii* ***

This is a medium size palm from the Mascarene Islands. This is a tough palm that is planted all over Palm Beach County. I've seen many of these palms surviving in inhospitable locations such as gas stations and shopping center parking lots. Once established, this palm can survive without any fertilizer or supplemental irrigation. Of course it looks its best with recommended maintenance. Without fertilization Potassium deficiency becomes apparent. With regular fertilizer applications nutritional deficiencies do not develop.

Its common name is Spindle Palm and it's related to the more cold sensitive Bottle Palm, *H. lagenicaulis*. It grows a stout cylindrical stem and displays an attractive bluish crownshaft. It's perfectly suited for growing on a standard size lot with a one story house, because it will never take up too much space or grow taller than 25'.



***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.



***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.

Pritchardia maideniana

This palm was previously known as *P. affinis*. It's native to Hawaii and is considered critically endangered. It's a medium size palm and is a steady grower in Palm Beach County when fertilized at the recommended rates. Sometimes a slight potassium deficiency is evident but not to a noticeable degree. Our 12 year old specimen has a stem which is 8' tall, so it should not outgrow our typical one story landscape. Our specimen is planted in full sun.

