

PALM BEACH PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

Monthly Update

May 2009

FEATURED THIS MONTH

Calyptrocalyx



Calyptrocalyx leptostachys



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UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING


Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2009
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Mounts Botanical Garden
Speaker: Eric Schmidt of Leu Gardens
Subject: To be announced

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2009
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Ruth Sallenbach's Home
6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth
(561) 965-5430

Don Richards, Deceased
We only recently were informed that long-time Palm Society member Don Richards passed away in January 2007. Don was an avid palm enthusiast, an engineer at Pratt Whitney, and a West Palm Beach Resident.

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FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Calyptrocalyx*

By Charlie Beck

Calyptrocalyx is a genus of solitary or clustering, pinnate, undergrowth palms of the rainforest. Approximately 27 named species exist – all from New Guinea except *C. spicatus* which is native to the Moluccas. Many *Calyptrocalyx* specimens are identified only with a common name and are not yet officially described species. There is a scientific effort to describe all of the palms of New Guinea so many of the unnamed palms will soon be described in a forthcoming book.

We have been growing *Calyptrocalyx* for many years. Most species and varieties grow well in our garden with two exceptions. *C. pachystachys* appears to be cold sensitive. *C. polyphyllus* grows well during the warm months but suffers in the winter exhibiting extreme minor nutritional deficiency. All appear to thrive in moist soil in a shady location.

Many *Calyptrocalyx* have pink, salmon, or red emergent leaves and many have bifid leaves which are much desired. Two of our standout species are *C. doxanthus* and *C. leptostachys*. *C. doxanthus* has brightly colored pink new growth. The pinnate fronds are divided into leaflets with 3 inch long drip tips. *C. leptostachys* grows either solitary or clustering and bifid or divided leaves. The new leaves are spectacular as shown on the front cover.

The winter of 2009 was the coldest in Palm Beach County since 1989. I decided to take a photo inventory of our *Calyptrocalyx* to document any effects from the 35 degree low temperatures which occurred on several nights. As you can see, *Calyptrocalyx* are not as cold sensitive as described in other publications.

Note: Photos on inside front and back covers included a 12 inch ruler or a yard stick for scale.

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"By appointment only"

NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES AFFECTING PALMS IN FLORIDA			
DEFICIENCY	SYMPTOMS	LANDSCAPE PALMS (in sandy, alkaline soils)	CONTAINER PLANTS (in peat, acid soils)
Boron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In <i>Chamaedorea elegans</i>, <i>Caryota mitis</i>, and <i>Phoenix roebelenii</i>, emergent leaves may be reduced in size, pleated or malformed, and fail to expand. Leaf margins or entire leaflets can be necrotic. Eventually, only a necrotic petiole stub emerges. In <i>Chamaedorea</i> and <i>Phoenix</i>, there may be premature fruit drop and blackening of the inflorescence. In <i>Cocos nucifera</i> and <i>Elaeis guineensis</i>, leaf tips of emerging leaves are often necrotic and hang down in a hooklike fashion. 	Common	
Iron	Intervenal or uniform chlorosis on newest leaves. Green spots may appear on the leaf for some species. Severe deficiency can result in reduced new leaf size and leaf tip necrosis.	Occasional	Common
Magnesium	Yellow bands appear along the outer margins of older leaves. The center of the leaf remains green with gradual color transition of the leaf to bronze or orange. Severe deficiency results in necrosis of leaf tips.	Common	Common (if dolomite is not added or replenished in the substrate)
Manganese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New leaves emerge small and chlorotic with interveinal necrotic streaking. Severe deficiency results in withered and necrotic new leaves. In severe deficiency, growth stops and emerging leaves may consist only of necrotic petiole stubs. In some species, the withered leaflets curl and can appear frizzled. On <i>Cocos nucifera</i>, necrotic leaf tips drop off. 	Common	
Nitrogen	Oldest leaves become entirely light green, then yellow, then white as severity increases and then progresses to entire canopy. Growth rate declines quickly and then growth stops.	Uncommon	Common
Potassium	First appear on oldest leaves and as deficiency worsens it affects younger leaves.	Widespread	Rare

Sulfur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In some species, leaves may show yellow or orange mottling and necrotic spotting. Older leaves can appear orange or bronze. As deficiency worsens, leaf margin and then most of the leaf may become withered, necrotic, or frizzled. When all potassium has been depleted from older leaves, the palm will go into a state of decline and trunk diameter becomes reduced. In some species (e.g., <i>Arenga</i> and <i>Roystonea</i>), frizzled older leaves may be the primary symptom or necrosis appears along the leaf margin or tip and can expand to most of the leaf with little or no spotting. In <i>Bismarckia nobilis</i> and <i>Livistona chinensis</i>, necrosis is confined to the centers and tips of leaflets. In <i>Phoenix roebelenii</i>, necrosis originates at the leaf tip. The distal part of oldest leaves can be orange with tip necrosis. The rachis remains green. In <i>Caryota mitis</i>, necrotic streaks appear within the leaflets. 	Occasional	Occasional
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Compiled by Brenda Beck for the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Note: Treating a palm for one deficiency can cause other deficiencies. Therefore, fertilization is recommended.

¹ Limestone or dolomite should be incorporated and replenished in the substrate of container palms to reduce micronutrient deficiencies.

References:

Broschat, Timothy K. Meerow, Alan W. 2000. Ornamental Palm Horticulture. University Press of Florida, Gainesville Chase, A.R., Broschat, T.K., 1991. Diseases and Disorders of Ornamental Palms.

This Month's "Thank You"

Membership Meeting Refreshments

Charlie & Brenda Beck
Marty Dougherty
Ruth Lynch

Elise Molonay
Kitty Philips
Wes Taylor

Plant Donations

Marty Dougherty
Dale Holton


Elise Molonay

Welcome New Members

Charlotte Green

Edwin Carlson

Winner of the April 1st Name Drawing Prize
was Susan & Ralph Randall
who were not present. They missed out on receiving a Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society Hat and a Virtual Palm Encyclopedia CD



Village Marina

464-4391

Wes Taylor

Please share stories regarding your garden experiences. Submit your stories and photos to beck4212@aol.com

EXPLOITS IN MEXICO

At the April 1, 2009, general meeting, Marshall Dewey and Dale Holton gave a slide show presentation on their 1,294 mile trek through Mexico in search of palms and cycads. Their presentation was extremely interesting and showed parts of Mexico that few foreigners see.

It was a delight to see photographs of palm trees and cycads in the wild, some of them growing with their roots wrapped around rocks. Some of the photographs included in the presentation were beautiful specimens of *Astrocaryum*, *Brahea dulcis*, *Chamaedorea angustisecta*, *Chamaedorea tenella*, *Chamaedorea tuerckheimii*, and *Cryosophila*. A few of the cycads included in the presentation included *Ceratozamia* and *Dioon*.



Dale Holton and Marshall Dewey

Dale Holton reported on how he climbed down the steep rocky terrain of sink holes for a peak at that beloved plant.

(Continued on page 10)



Gaussia gomez-pompaе with roots wrapped around rocks



Cryosophila sp.



Marshall Dewey with a *Chamaedorea tenella*



Dioon spinulosum

(Continued from page 9)

He noted an observation that as the depth of the sink hole increased, the species of plants growing in the sink hole changed.

In addition to photographs of palms and cycads, we were treated to photos of some magnificent ancient Mexican multi-story ruins constructed of rock and

heard stories of some of their experiences along the trek. One of those stories was about how they came across some Howler Monkeys in the wild. Marshall and Dale decided to howl to imitate the Howler Monkeys only to create a ruckus with the monkeys who seemed to think they were trying to invade their territory.

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BETTY AHLBORN

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Exotic Palms
&
Tropicals



Calypstrocalyx hollrungii
planted 12 years ago



Calypstrocalyx leptostachys
Solitary form with bifid leaf



Calypstrocalyx ovobontsira
planted one year ago



Calypstrocalyx elegans planted one year ago



Calypstrocalyx forbesii
planted 6 years ago



Calypstrocalyx doxanthus
planted 3 years ago



Calypstrocalyx caudatus
in 3 gallon pot



Calypstrocalyx spicatus
with 7 feet of clear wood
planted 15 years ago

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Calypstrocalyx doxanthus
leaflet drip tip