



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

February 2010

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Chambeyronia macrocarpa*



Chambeyronia macrocarpa (Photos by Charlie Beck)



Crownshaft—"watermelon" form



15 year old "hookeri" form



Typical leaf detail



"houailou" form

FRONT COVER: Dean Ouer sees this specimen when he looks out his kitchen window in Hawaii. (See more images at www.palmpedia.net)

(Photo by Dean Ouer)

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VISIT US AT palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

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FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Chambeyronia macrocarpa*

by Charlie Beck

Chambeyronia macrocarpa is a solitary palm native to New Caledonia. It has widespread distribution throughout the island growing in many soil types. It grows in moist forests from sea level to an elevation of 3,000 feet. Stems are emergent and grow to 60 feet tall in habitat.

In Florida, *C. macrocarpa* is a medium size palm. Stems measure 5 to 7 inches in diameter at waist level and fronds grow 7 to 9 feet long.

The leaflets are very distinctive. They typically are flat, leathery and measure 4 inches wide and up to 3 feet long. This palm usually holds only 7 to 9 fronds so it does not cast dense shade.

C. macrocarpa is best known for its bright red emergent fronds. I know of no other emergent frond which rivals *C. macrocarpa* in beauty. Beware, there is a variety which pushes green emergent fronds. Be sure to verify frond color before purchasing this palm.

There are several varieties of this palm which have different crown shaft colors. The standard color is a deep emerald green. The "hooker" form has a yellow crown shaft. The

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LAKE OSBORNE ANIMAL CLINIC

JOHN T. LYNCH, D.V.M.

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**GROWING CONDITIONS IN OUR GARDEN
 FOR *Chambeyronia macrocarpa***

Location	4 miles from ocean in suburban Lantana
Soil	Sand over a layer of hardpan (pineland flatwood habitat)
Irrigation	¾ inch applied twice a week
Flooding	Periodic inundation in sandy soil acceptable
Fertilization	3 times a year with Palm special analysis
Light	Sun or shade
Micronutrient Deficiencies	None observed
Insect Damage	None observed
Hurricane Resistance	Excellent

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“watermelon” form has a deep green color with yellow streaks or dots but new fronds typically emerge green, not red. The *houailou* (way-loo) variety has a yellow crownshaft, red emergent leaves and a distinctive leaf shape. The fronds are recurved like a *Carpenteria* and the leaflets are rolled – not flat. This variety is a collector’s item and has been hard to find. Juvenile specimens resemble coconuts. I have found this variety grows slower than the others.

All of our *Chambeyronias* weathered the 2004-2005 hurricanes unscathed. They have never shown cold sensitivities or minor nutritional deficiencies. I have planted specimens in sun and shade with equally good results. The crown of fronds with its wide leathery leaflets look distinctively tropical and the red emergent fronds will stop you in your tracks. I encourage all Palm Beach enthusiasts to consider planting this well-adapted palm.

PALMS OF NEW GUINEA—THE LONG-AWAITED BOOK

by Brenda Beck

All palm enthusiasts anxiously await the arrival of “Palms of New Guinea.” The release of this new book is expected sometime in 2011.

The research program for the “Palms of New Guinea” project is being led by RBG Kew. Bill Baker and John Dransfield are the team leaders for this project. According to information released by Kew to date:

- New Guinea is the largest tropical island in the world. It still has large areas of primary

forest that are being threatened by logging and mining. Therefore, the timing of this project is critical.

- A recent expedition to the remote Foja Mountains by an international team attracted worldwide media attention due to the astounding discoveries of new species of frogs, birds, and palms.
- One new palm was rediscovered during a project expedition to the Wondiwoi Mountains. This palm was first discovered in 1872 and was originally classified as a *Ptychosperma*. It was not recorded again until members of the team for this book stumbled across it. Molecular phylogenetic research demonstrated a new genus was required to

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BETTY AHLBORN

Exotic Palms
&
Tropicals

13823 Paddlefoot Lane
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Growing Contest Award Announced

by Brenda Beck

Congratuatiions to Ted Sheldon

for winning the *Dictosperma album* var. *rubrum* growing contest.

At the January 6, 2010, general meeting, a panel of impartial judges that included Jack Dewey, Mike Harris, and Dr. M. Patrick Griffith from Montgomery Botanical Center voted to award the growing contest award to Ted Sheldon.

I asked Ted to share his secrets to growing the award-winning palm. Ted responded that he used information he has obtained from other Palm Society growers over the years and drew from his experience working at the Rutgers University Agricultural Station in New Jersey. He immediately planted the palm in a 3 gallon pot and used a growers mix that consisted of 1/3 Perlite, 1/3 sand, and 1/3 organic matter. He placed Osmocote fertilizer in the soil near the roots of the plant. He placed the palm in partial shade under some large palm trees where it remained until the day of the contest. The palm was watered by his sprinkler system on a regular basis.

Ted asked me to share his belief that this growing contest was a great idea – and not only because he won the grand prize. He thought this was a great way to get members involved and expressed his hope

that the Palm Society will have a growing contest once a year.

Ted also asked me to share that he does not have room to plant the *Carpoxyylon macrospermum* in his yard and it is too valuable a palm to leave growing in a pot. If you are interested in trading with him, you can call him at (561) 732-1456.



Some contest entries
(Photo by Betty Ahlborn)

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

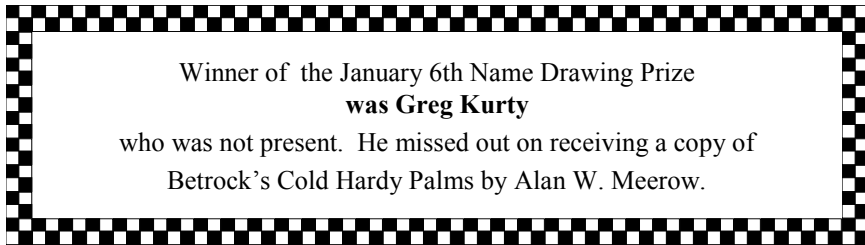
This Month's "Thank You"

General Membership Meeting Refreshments

Patt Lindsey Brenda Skaggs
Ruthie Lynch Lauren & Pat Urrutia
Patrick Morris Mary Jaret Whisler
Tom Ramiccio

Plant Donations

Jack Dewey Dale Holton
Mike Harris



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classify this palm. This new discovery has been named *Dransfieldia micranta*.

- More than 20 new species of palm have been described from New Guinea in the past five years by a team of experts from Kew, Fairchild, Indonesia, New Guinea, Australia, and Denmark. Many more species new to science have been discovered, but are yet to be officially described.

This new book will be a collaboration of 14 authors. Project partners include James Cook University in Australia, University of Aarhus in Denmark, University of Reading in the United Kingdom, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens in the United States, the Herbarium Bogoriense and Universitas Negeri Papua in Indonesia, and Forest Research Institute and University of Papua New Guinea in Papua New Guinea.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Mounts Botanical Garden
Subject: Virtual Tour of the Holton Garden
Speaker: Dale Holton

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Ruth Sallenbach's Home
6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth
(561) 965-5430

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Dr. Griffith addresses Palm Society

by Brenda Beck

Our sincerest thanks to Dr. M. Patrick Griffith, Executive Director of the Montgomery Botanical Center for his interesting presentation at the January 6, 2010, general meeting.

Dr. Griffith shared information regarding the palm and cycad collection at the botanical garden and shared photos and stories regarding a trip to Belize in search of *Zamias*.

Dr. M. Patrick Griffith
(Photo by Betty Ahlborn)



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PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

New Member Renewal

Please send the annual membership fee of \$20 (includes two adults living in the same household) payable to the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society, to:

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
P.O. Box 21-2228
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421
Attn: Membership Chairman

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31. Membership includes the Monthly Update, a chance to win a free prize every month at our monthly meeting, and receipt of free palms and cycads at the annual plant give-away in December.

FOR PALM SOCIETY USE ONLY				
\$		Check No.		Y

Chambeyronia macrocarpa growing in Beck garden



15 year old "watermelon" form specimens measuring 12 feet to bottom of crownshaft

(Photos by Charlie Beck)



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 P.O. Box 21-2228
 Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421



Pinanga caesia survives
 cold-snap

