



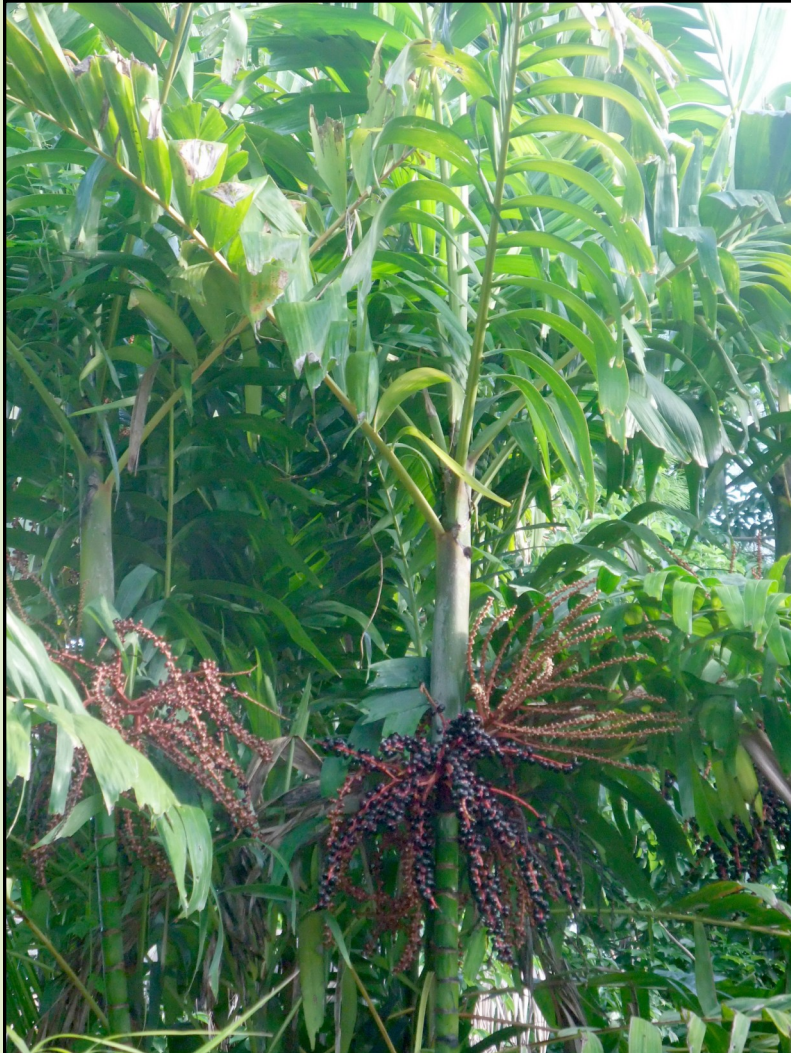
Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

January 2011

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Ptychosperma schefferi*



Ptychosperma schefferi leaf detail above and infructescence below
(Photos by Charlie Beck)



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society 2011 Officers

Betty Ahlborn, President (561) 722-8106
Tom Ramiccio, First Vice President, Sales (561) 582-5915
Marshall Dewey, Second Vice President, Planting
Dale Holton, Third Vice President, Programs (561) 965-6792
Ruth Sallenbach, Secretary (561) 965-5430
Ingrid Dewey, Treasurer
Tom Whisler (561) 627-8328
Brenda Beck, Editor & Historian (561) 963-5511

Appointees

Charles Beck, Librarian
Anthony Dougherty, Web Master
Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman (561) 312-5046
Jeff Hutchinson, Activities & Events Coordinators

VISIT US AT palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page	
4	2010 Holiday Party
5	FEATURED THIS MONTH: <i>Ptychosperma schefferi</i>
6	Upcoming meetings
6	This Month's "Thank You"
10	<i>Zamia inermis</i>

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.

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

2010 HOLIDAY PARTY MEMORIES

All Holiday Party photographs submitted by Mary Jarett Whisler



**Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
president, Betty Ahlborn**

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society Membership

Be sure to keep your membership up to date. It will insure that you receive all Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society communications. Annual membership is \$25 per person per year and membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Membership can be renewed by sending payments to the Society at P.O. Box 21-2228, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421.

Thank you for your support of the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society. We hope to see you at all of our general meetings which take place on the first Wednesday of every month at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. Be sure to watch for information regarding our field trips, special activities, and palm and cycad shows and sales.

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Ptychosperma schefferi*

by Charlie Beck

Ptychosperma schefferi is a monoecious palm with pinnate fronds. It is native to the lowland rainforest of the island of New Guinea. It is reported to be clustering or solitary, but I have never seen a solitary specimen. It has a bulging green crownshaft which grows 20 inches long. The fronds grow 5 feet long. The showy inflorescences are orange with contrasting maroon fruit which mature to black. The stems are tightly clustered and are 2 inches in diameter.

Ptychosperma schefferi has recently become readily available and has been a featured auction plant at our monthly meetings. Our oldest specimen is 15 years old. It measures 20 feet in overall height and the stem cluster is 2 ½ feet in diameter. This palm has a steady growth rate and has never shown any cold damage in our garden since planting in 1995. It does go slightly off color in cold winters but always recovers. I am going to try a winter application of fertilizer this year to see if this remedies the slight yellowing of



15 year old *Ptychosperma schefferi* in the Beck garden.
(Photo by Charlie Beck)

fronds in the coldest months. This palm grows equally well in our sandy soil as it does in Miami on limestone. Our specimens are planted in full sun but I think they would also grow well in the shade.

Of all of the dozen *Ptychosperma* species we grow in our garden, *Ptychosperma schefferi* is my favorite. Its leaflets are not as showy as *P. waitianum* or *P. burretianum* but its growth rate is much better. Unlike many clumping *Ptychosperma* species which have sparse clumps, *P. schefferi* has an attractive dense clump of stems. It can stand alone as a specimen plant. Its appearance is close to *P. macarthurii* but its ruffled leaflets are more attractive and it's a smaller scale that doesn't require as much space as *P. macarthurii*.

Plant this palm for many of its positive attributes, manageable size, showy leaflets and infructescence, symmetrical clumping habit, and steady growth rate. It will definitely draw the attention of your neighbors.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, January 5, 2011
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Mounts Botanical Garden
Speaker: Dale Holton
Subject: The Huntington Garden

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2011
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Ruth Sallenbach's Home
6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth
(561) 965-5430

THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS
to
Betty Ahlborn
For ordering, repotting, fertilizing, and maintaining the wonderful plants given away at the December Holiday Party!

SPECIAL THANKS
to
Charlie & Brenda Beck
for arriving at 5:00 p.m. to keep the Mounts building open for us.

2010 HOLIDAY PARTY MEMORIES



Holiday Party Giveaway Plants

2010 HOLIDAY PARTY MEMORIES



Lew & Cathy Burger




HOLTON NURSERY
 PALMS and CYCADS
 5221 3rd Road
 Lake Worth, FL 33467
 Phone (561) 965-6792
 Email cycadnut@gate.net



"By appointment only"

Caribbean Palms Nursery



Mike Harris
 1584 F Road
 Loxahatchee, FL 33470
 Phone: (561) 792-0333
 E-mail: palmz@gate.net

Geer's Equipment Repair, Inc.
 Licensed & Insured
 Caterpillar • Komatsu • John Deere • Cummings • Volvo • Bobcats
 New Holland • Gehl • Welding • Cylinder Repair • Engine Repair
 Boat Engines • Hydraulics • Electrical
 All work guaranteed
 10 Years of Quality Service
 Honest • Reliable
 Brad Geer
 (561) 502-3537
 geersequipment@yahoo.com




Past Presidents Dale Holton and Don Bittel

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

2010 HOLIDAY PARTY MEMORIES



Holiday Party Master auctioneer Dale Holton

PLACE YOUR
Business Card, FOR SALE,
Discount Coupon Ad -
\$6 A MONTH OR \$66 A YEAR
HALF PAGE—\$20 A MONTH
FULL PAGE—\$35 A MONTH
 E-mail your ad or any photograph or
 information you would like
 included to
 beck4212@aol.com.
 Send your check to:
 Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society
 c/o Brenda Beck
 P.O. Box 21-2228
 Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421
 (Check must be received prior to print.)

Village Marina
 396 Torpey Road
 Fort Pierce, Florida. 34946
Wes Taylor
 Office 772-464-4391 Cell 772-519-1297

(561) 586-2332

LAKE OSBORNE ANIMAL CLINIC

JOHN T. LYNCH, D.V.M. 1502 Lake Osborne Dr.
 Lake Worth, FL 33461

Zamia inermis by Dale Holton

Zamia inermis was named in 1983. It is from the Mexican State of Veracruz, District of Actopan. It is very endangered in habitat, due to land clearing for cattle grazing. It is now only found on rocky outcrops and cliffs. There is very little regeneration due to loss of natural pollinators.

The plants can have stems of 3' or more, but the stems usually lay over when they get too tall. The leaves can be 3' to 4' or more. In cultivation, they can reach 5'. Each leaf can have 25-35 leaflets. Leaves and leaf stems are free of any sharp prickles. The plants grow in dry very poor volcanic soil at 500' to 1000' elevation.

I obtained my first plants in the early 1990s. The only person that had any for sale was Loren White-lock which he sold for \$35 for one leaf seedlings. My plants are now large and have been coning for the last four years. These plants are very hardy and survive quite well without any irrigation. They are not affected by our winter cold spells and they don't seem to get mealy bug or scale problems. With each new leaf flush, the plants get a little taller. I think that if the old leaves were cut off every two years, the plants would stay shorter and be more attractive. I have found that hand pollination is very effective and produces



***Zamia inermis* male cone**
 (Photo by Dale Holton)

about 70% or more germination. The seeds are quite large and easily germinated. The seedlings start out somewhat slowly but speed up after a year or two. This is a great plant to use in any garden here in south Florida. These cycads are usually only available in specialty nurseries. (See additional photos on page 11.)



***Zamia inermis* female cone**
 (Photos by Dale Holton)



Zamia inermis leaf (Photo by Dale Holton)



Zamia inermis growing in the Holton Garden
(Photo by Dale Holton)



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



**THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST
NEWSLETTER: PLEASE RENEW YOUR
PALM SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP TODAY**



Psychosperma schefferi
immature fruit