



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

September 2011

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Raphia farinifera*



Close up of cover photo showing 6 to 7 foot long inflorescences.

FRONT COVER: *Raphia farinifera* growing at Dale Holton's nursery in Loxahatchee.

(Photos by Dale Holton)

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
 Position Vacant, Web Master
 Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman (561) 312-5046
 Jeff Hutchinson, Activities & Events Coordinators

VISIT US AT palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page	
4	FEATURED THIS MONTH: <i>Raphia farinifera</i>
5	Annual Member Picnic Scheduled for September 17th
6	Upcoming meetings
7	Fall 2011 Palm & Cycad Sale
8	This Month's "Thank You"
8	Welcome New Members
9	Membership Sale for New Members

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

Featured this Month: *Raphia farinifera*

by Charlie Beck

Raphia farinifera is a monoecious palm native to Africa and Madagascar. It is not threatened in the wild. In habitat, it typically is found in swamps or rainforests at elevations up to 2,600 feet. Its stems may be solitary or clumping. The leaves are erect and form an upright shuttlecock appearance. In the tropics, the leaves can grow to 70 feet long including a 20 foot long orange petiole. Even the leaflets can grow eight feet long. The stems max out at 30 feet tall and two feet in diameter. These measurements are of palms growing in habitat. In South Florida, this palm's size is much more manageable. Being monocarpic, the stem dies after flowering. The inflorescence can grow 10 feet long and produce large, brown fruit covered with overlapping scales. Flowering in habitat occurs in 20 to 25 years.

Fruit can take five to six years to mature.

The palm pictured on the cover is at Dale Holton's nursery in Loxahatchee. It is planted in a non-irrigated area close to a large pond. As the pond level rises in the rainy season, this palm can be submerged in water. It receives no fertilizer. This palm was purchased in a 25 gallon pot. The palm rooted into the ground through the container and required a bobcat loader to move. This was a large palm when planted. It only took six years for it to start blooming. The 2009 record cold winter damaged the leaves and most likely shocked it into bloom. Another specimen was planted in Dale's cyprus swamp and it survived the record cold 2009-2010 winters. The palm planted by the pond has a 12 to 15 foot tall stem with leaves 15

(Continued on page 7)

**GROWING CONDITIONS IN THE BECK GARDEN
FOR *Raphia farinifera***

Location	4 miles from ocean in suburban Lantana
Soil	Sand over a layer of hardpan (pineland flatwood habitat)
Irrigation	¼ inch applied twice a week - prefers wet conditions
Fertilization	4 times a year with Palm special analysis
Light	Full sun or partial shade
Micronutrient Deficiencies	None
Insect Damage	None observed
Cold Hardiness	No damage observed
Hurricane Resistance	Excellent

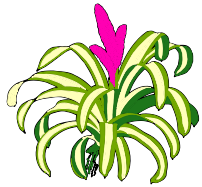
ANNUAL MEMBER PICNIC AND MOST SPECTACULAR AUCTION OF THE YEAR SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 9:00 A.M. TO ??

Ruth Sallenbach's fabulous garden

6285 South Military Trail
Lake Worth

(On the west side of Military Trail
between Lantana and Hypoluxo Roads)

**Please bring a covered dish or dessert!
AND
your own chair**



**Donated plants
(of any kind) for
the auction
are most
welcome.**



Come join us for the fun!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Mounts Botanical Garden

Speaker: Tom Broome

Subject: Culture of Cycads

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Ruth Sallenbach's Home
6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth
(561) 965-5430

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.

If you have questions about membership, you can contact Tom Whisler, our Membership Chairman, at whisler.tom@synthes.com

FALL 2011 PALM & CYCAD SALE

The Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society will hold its annual Fall Sale on October 8th & 9th at Mounts Botanical Garden. Additional details will be posted to our website and will be included in the October newsletter.

**Mark your calendars now
so you don't miss this event.**

(Continued from page 4)

feet long. The infructescence measures six to seven feet long.

We have a single 17 year old *Raphia farinifera* planted in our garden. It has clumped two stems which measure three and five feet tall and two feet in diameter. The fronds measure 30 feet long. This palm is on the fringe of our irrigation system so it receives less supplemental irrigation than the rest of the garden. Our specimen came through the record cold 2009-2010 winters without any damage. It also was not damaged by the 2004-2005 hurricanes.

This palm has impressive fronds. Our specimen would probably have longer fronds if planted in a wet area. Just imagine a palm with stems which will likely never grow more than 15 feet tall but grow 30 to 40 foot leaves with orange petioles. And this palm does not take up much space due to its upright growth pattern. Even if a hurricane top-

ples this palm, it wouldn't cause much damage due to its short stem. Other palms with fronds this long are *Arenga pinnata* and *Attalea* species. *Arenga pinnata* grows 60 feet tall and is the first palm to topple in a hurricane. Most *Attalea* species will also grow 60 feet tall and could cause quite a bit of damage if fallen due to a hurricane. Another advantage of *R. farinifera* is that old fronds are easy to reach for removal. This palm can attract a lot of attention due to its unique appearance and its rarity in home site plantings. Let's hope Dale's seeds mature so there will be a ready supply of this beautiful palm.



THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

PLANT DONATIONS

Dale Holton

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Debbie Anderson
Patt Lindsey
Ed Napoli
Tom Ramiccio
Mary & Tom Whisler

AUGUST DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

Linda Wiringer - won Virtual Palm Encyclopedia
Tom Whisler - won a M. Ensinoso numbered print of a *Pseudophoenix ekmanii*.

SPECIAL THANKS

to
Betty Ahlborn
for arriving at 5:00 p.m. to keep the Mounts building open for us.



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

MEMBERSHIP SALE FOR NEW MEMBERS

As Membership Chair, it is my pleasure to announce a **MEMBERSHIP SALE** for the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society. New members can join now and receive a membership for the remainder of 2011 and 2012 – all for the price of one year’s membership of \$25.00. That’s right, \$25 for the remainder of 2011 and all of 2012! The sale includes 2 summer picnics, 2 end-of-year holiday parties where we have fantastic palm give-aways, the monthly newsletter, monthly palm and cycad auctions and all the great information you receive at our monthly meetings. Don’t delay ... tell all your friends to join now or give them the membership form included in this newsletter.

Tom Whisler



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Home Telephone: _____
 Cell Phone: _____
 E-mail address: _____

New Member Renewal

Please send the annual individual membership fee of \$25 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 newsletter and receipt of free palms and cycads at the annual plant give-away in December.

FOR PALM SOCIETY USE ONLY				
\$	Check No.		Year	

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MEMBERS ONLY HOLIDAY PARTY AND ANNUAL PLANT GIVE-AWAY

Wednesday, December 7, 2011
 7:00 P.M.

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

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

"By appointment only"

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

**PLACE YOUR
 Business Card, FOR SALE,
 Discount Coupon Ad**
in this newsletter and on our website:

**\$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.)

RIGHT: *Raphia farinifera* with 30 foot long leaves in the Beck garden.

(Photo by Charlie Beck)

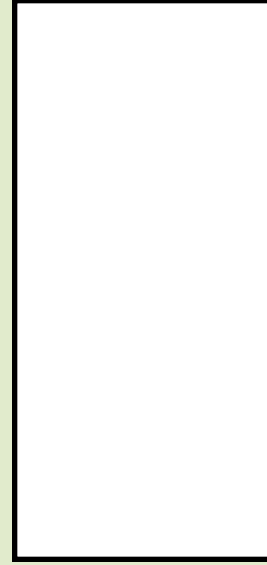


LEFT: Double stem of *Raphia farinifera* growing in the Beck garden.

(Photo by Charlie Beck)



Raphia farinifera fruit at Dale Holton's nursery. *(Photo by Dale Holton)*



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

