



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

December 2011

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Coccothrinax borhidiana*



Actinokentia divaricata



Lytocaryum weddellianum

Some Holiday Party Give-away Palms



Calyptrocalyx hollrungii



Chambeyronia macrocarpa
(hookeri form)

FRONT COVER: *Coccothrinax borhidiana* (left and top right) growing in habitat and (bottom right) growing in the Holton garden.

(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, Membership Chairman (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

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Featured this Month: *Coccothrinax borhidiana*

by Dale Holton

I first saw *Coccothrinax borhidiana* on one of my early trips to Cuba. I must say that I was truly amazed. They looked like miniature Petticoat Palms (*Copernecia Macrogolsa*).

The palms grew on a very remote coastal shelf on the North coast that consisted of what is referred to as "Dog Tooth" limestone. This is limestone that is very rough and full of fissures. It is somewhat difficult to walk on. This area was about 50-60 feet above the ocean. The palms were scattered at the bottom of a hill and across the shelf. There may have been as many as 100 plants, with most of them being small plants. The largest plants were about 12 feet tall. On later visits to the same area, I was distressed to see a large number of large trailers parked near the area. This area contains oil, and the trailers were for workers that were going to drill wells. I have heard that the area is now dotted with oil wells and I do not know the fate of those very rare palms. Hopefully they are being protected, as this is the only colony on the entire island.

All of the plants that I have (except for new seedlings) are from those wild plants. I have found them to be painfully slow growing. I have grown them in my regular potting soil and also in pea rock. The ones in pea rock seem to grow slower, but have less nutritional problems. Over the years, I have noticed another

problem which I call SPD (sudden plant death). So far I have not seen this in the plants which are in the pea rock. Also the original seeds germinated over a period of 3 years. This is very unusual for *Coccothrinax* as usually the seeds rot after the first year.

My plants in the ground are 18 inches to 6 feet tall. They have been in the ground 10-12 years, except for one or two replacements. This area of my yard was not irrigated until this year. The area these palms come from experiences 5-6 months with very little rainfall every year. I also put a large amount of limestone rock into the planting area before planting. I do not cut off the old leaves, so they look like they would in habitat. The two largest plants have been flowering for the last three years. They get fertilized about twice a year. These are stunning plants and do very well in South Florida. As I raise more plants, the price should come down. The big problem is to be sure that there are no other *Coccothrinax* flowering at the same time. They will readily hybridize.





DON'T MISS IT!

**2011 ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
AND SPECTACULAR PLANT GIVE-AWAY**

**December 7, 2011
At Mounts Botanical Garden**

**6:00 p.m.—The Feast Begins
7:00 p.m.—Plant Give-Away Begins
(for members only)**

**Please bring a covered dish,
dessert, or non-alcoholic beverage**

**Donated plants of all kinds for
the give-away are most welcome.
So please be sure to donate one or
more of your favorite plants.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

GENERAL MEETING

- Date:** Wednesday, January 4, 2012
- Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- Location:** Mounts Botanical Garden
- Speaker:** Scott Zona
- Subject:** An Introduction to Palms (and a Peek into the Future)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

- Date:** To Be Determined

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 for an individual membership and \$35 for a dual membership (two people living at the same address) 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

PAUL CRAFT GUEST SPEAKER AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Paul Craft, noted co-author of *An Encyclopedia of Cultivated Palms* and Founder of the Palm Beach County Palm & Cycad Society was the guest speaker at our November general membership meeting.

Paul's presentation, *The Amazing World of Palms*, shared information regarding those palms that grow well in Palm Beach County. He noted that palms that are native to areas that have similar conditions to those in Palm Beach County, such as



temperature and soil conditions, will generally grow well here. The presentation included photographs of grown specimens of many of these palms.

Paul also stated that there are some extraordinary palms that may die if we have severe cold winters that are fun growing just the same. He encouraged palm lovers to try growing any palm they find attractive.

MEMBERSHIP ELECTS 2012 PALM SOCIETY OFFICERS

At the November meeting, Palm Society members voted to approve the following individuals as the 2012 Palm Society officers:

President—Tom Ramiccio
Vice President Sales—Jeff Hutchinson
Vice President Planting—Don Biddle
Vice President Programs—Dale Holton
Secretary—Ruth Lynch
Treasurer—Ingrid Dewey
Membership Chair—Tom Whisler
Editor—Charlie Beck

The new board of directors looks forward to working with all members to educate our members and the general public and promote the use of palms and cycads in our landscapes.

THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

PLANT DONATIONS

Steve Garland
Dale Holton
Tom Whisler

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Ingrid Dewey
Jim Gallagher & Maryann Marinaro
Steve Garland
Ed Napoli
Tom Ramiccio
Ron Wiringer

SEPTEMBER DOOR PRIZE WINNER

Kathy Silverio won Diseases of Ornamental Palms published by IFAS.

SPECIAL THANKS

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



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ruth Eberly
Gerard Valentini



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

2012 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____

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

\$25—Individual Membership

\$35—Dual Membership (two individuals living at the same address)

Please send the annual Individual Membership Fee OR Dual Membership Fee 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 one monthly newsletter and receipt of free palms, cycads, and other plants at the annual plant give-away in December.

| FOR PALM SOCIETY USE ONLY | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|--|------|
| \$ | | Check No. | | Year |



A very special THANK YOU to
BETH AHLBORN
 for nurturing all our
 Holiday Party Give-Away Plants



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 Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421
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Some Holiday Party Give-away Palms



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