



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

June 2015

UPCOMING MEETING

June 3, 2015

7:30 p.m. at

Mounts Botanical Garden

Speaker: Dr. Larry Noblick

Subject: Getting to Know Butia's

June Featured Auction Plant:

Cyrtostachys renda X elegans

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MAY "THANK YOU"

Door: Angie Peacock
Food: Janice DiPaola, Dale Holton, Ruth & Terry Lynch, Ed Napoli, Tom & Carol Ramiccio, Chris & Corey Spencer, Gerard Valentini, Tom & Mary Whisler
Plants: Dale Holton, Chip Jones

VISIT US AT

www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

All photographs in this issue were provided by Charlie Beck unless otherwise specified.

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Paul Humann with 10 year old
Attalea butyracea



Paul's massive lily pond

FEATURED THIS MONTH: Paul Humann's Garden (Part II)

by Charlie Beck

On March 7th the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society sponsored a tour of Paul Humann's garden located in Davie, FL. Paul's garden a full 2 acres in size and is located 7.2 miles inland. This garden is kept in a manicured state and is tastefully designed. Paul is responsible for locating and grouping all of the plant material.

We will continue the photographic tour of Paul's garden this month. If you missed Part 1 of this garden tour see our April 2015 Newsletter which is available on our website at:

http://www.palmbeachpalmycadsociety.com/newsletter/News_2015_04.pdf

Paul Humann lends scale to *Attalea butyracea*. Paul's *A. butyracea* is 10 years old and is only a fraction of its ultimate size. This will be a huge palm when it matures. Stems can measure 3 feet in diameter and fronds can measure over 30 feet long. If you have room for this giant, you will certainly have the largest palm on your block. In our garden, frond length of this palm exceeds even those of *Raphia farinifera*. *A. butyracea* loves growing in our sandy soil in Palm Beach County. The palms at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (FTBG) survived Hurricane Andrew and also survived the record 1989 freeze when the temperature dropped to 27 degrees. Years

ago there was a 40' tall *Attalea sp.*, which might have been *A. butyracea*, growing on Haverhill Rd. around 45th Street in West Palm Beach. I admired this palm every day while driving home from work. Unfortunately this palm was sacrificed due to development.

I did not record the age of Paul's *Copernicia rigida* but it might be one of his oldest palms. It is one of the largest specimens that I've seen in South Florida. This is a palm that grows well in Palm Beach County but you will need a lot of patience to grow one this size.

Copernicia macroglossa should be planted in every Palm Beach County garden. It's so distinctive it looks extra-terrestrial. This palm forms an attractive petticoat of fronds on its stem which may remain intact for more than 20 years. If you plant one of these and it doesn't grow readily, replace it, because many seedlings of this species are runts which will never grow. Non-runt specimens grow faster than *C. rigida* so it is well worth growing.

Attalea dubia was a first sighting for me. FTBG does not list this species as present in their collection, so it must be quite rare in South Florida. This species is reported to be the most southerly

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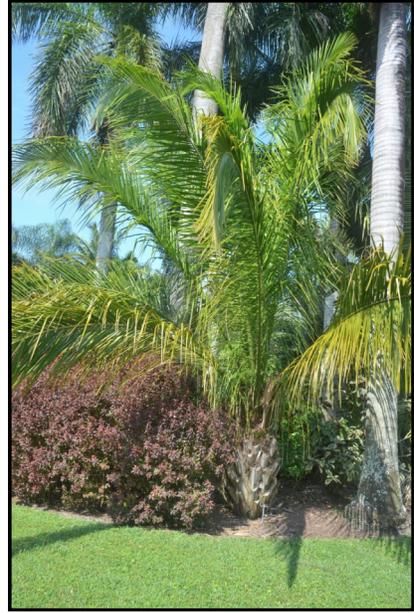
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Copernicia rigida



Copernicia macroglossa



Attalea dubia - 13 years old



Licuala paludosa inflorescence



Licuala paludosa - 16 years old



Borassodendron machadonis
16 years old

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growing *Attalea*, so it must be cold hardy. Obviously it's happy growing in Paul's garden.

Licuala paludosa was absolutely beautiful. This palm was 16 years old and was perfectly healthy. It had large pinwheel fronds and attractive orange fruit. *L. paludosa* is on my list of "must get" palms.

Borassodendron machadonis is a fabulous palm which excels in alkaline soil. It's a slow grower

in sandy soil in Palm Beach County. I'm not sure what the soil type Paul's *B. machadonis* was growing in, but that much growth in 16 years was impressive. This palm has razor sharp petioles and deeply divided palmate leaves.

Licuala grandis grew to perfection in Paul's garden. His specimen palms survived the record cold winters of 2009 and 2010. I saw many of these palms killed by the cold in those years, even as far south as

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Licuala grandis



Tom Whisler with 15 year old
Licuala peltata var. *sumawongii*



Licuala peltata var. *sumawongii*
inflorescence



4 year old *Licuala peekelii*

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Coconut Grove. I guess this observation supports the data from USDA which indicates that this area around Fort Lauderdale is a warm pocket- less likely to experience freezes. I know that many of us lost *L. grandis* in Palm Beach County due to the low temperatures, but they are rapid growers and are well worth growing. I have found that they grow better in alkaline soil, so plant them near your home in a protected area. The lime leaching from your foundation will raise the soil PH.

Tom Whisler lends scale to an impressive *Licuala peltata* var. *sumawongii*. Huge undivided

leaves are the main attraction of this palm. It grows well in Palm Beach County and is more cold hardy than *L. grandis* but is slower growing. Paul's specimen was graced with a showy, pendulous inflorescence.

Licuala peekelii held many healthy pinwheel fronds. It must be a rapid grower because it was only 4 years old. I planted one in our garden a couple years ago and it seems well adapted to growing in sandy soil.

Licuala ramsayi var. *tuckeri* was a variety that I was unfamiliar with. It had unarmed petioles

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Licuala ramsayi var *tuckeri*



Licuala ramsayi standard form
18 years old



Arenga undulatifolia



Phytelephas aequatorialis
10 years old

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and stiff fronds which were larger than the standard form. This palm was twice the size of the standard variety *L. ramsayi* (similar age) which grew nearby. I suspect soil type and warmer winters are the reason that this palm outgrows ones planted in sandy Palm Beach County.

Arenga undulatifolia had a stem several feet tall. This was an impressive specimen with undulating leaflets. This palm grows equally well in Palm Beach County even though its tropical look might lead you to believe that it's cold sensitive.

Phytelephas aequatorialis in Paul's garden was 10 years old. This palm grows equally well in moist, sandy soil in Palm Beach County.

Licuala peltata has deeply divided leaves unlike *L. peltata* var. *sumawongii*. It grows well in Palm Beach County. *L. peltata* is less cold sensitive than *L. grandis* and is much faster growing than *L. peltata* var. *sumawongii*.

Zamia roezlii is one of the *Zamia* sp. with corrugated leaflets. This cycad naturally grows in wet areas. I have had variable success growing this cycad in our garden. We have one which holds a full

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Licuala peltata
13 years old



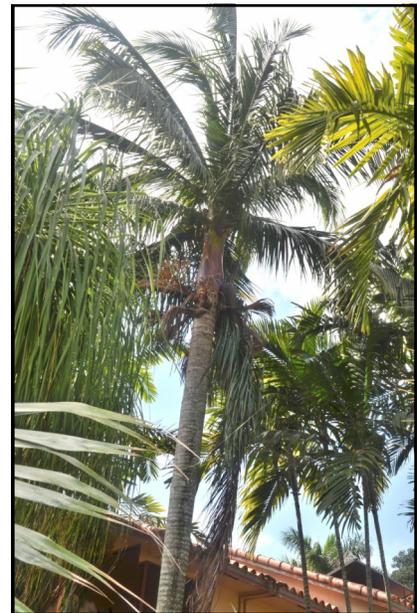
Zamia roezlii
15 years old



Licuala glabra - 8 years old



Encephalartos gratus
15 years old



Satakentia liukuensis

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complement of leaves. We have another which tends to die back to the ground for long periods.

Licuala glabra looked very healthy in Paul's garden. I have been unsuccessful growing this species in our garden. I'm certainly motivated to try it again after seeing Paul's specimen.

Encephalartos gratus is one of the best *Encephalartos* to grow in Palm Beach County. It's a large, fast growing cycad. Its dark green leaves do not

have the sharp spines which are typical in this cycad genus.

Satakentia liukuensis grows equally well in Palm Beach County. This palm has many positive attributes. It is a fast grower and is a medium size that will not dominate the landscape. It is cold hardy in most of Palm Beach County. Its fronds are self-cleaning. It has a colorful purple crownshaft and it is very hurricane resistant. Sizeable specimens in our

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Copernicia baileyana -18 years old



Bambusa vulgaris - var wamin

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garden looked unaffected by the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes.

Copernicia baileyana was dark green and didn't show signs of magnesium deficiency which is so common in this palm when grown in Palm Beach County.

Bambusa vulgaris var wamin was a bamboo with a very distinctive culm coloration and shape. Paul told us that his yard maintenance crew actually pressure washes the culms to bring out underlying color.

Many of these palms and cycads have been profiled in past Newsletters. You can access full accounts of growing these palms and cycads in Palm Beach County on our website at the addresses listed below.

<http://www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com/palms/index.html>

<http://www.palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com/cycads/index.html>

YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS GARDEN TOUR!

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society Garden Ramble and Pot Luck Lunch
Saturday, June 13 - 10:00 a.m.
Lunch at noon

Jeff Searle's private 2 acre garden in Southwest Ranches, FL.
Jeff is owner of Searle Brothers Nursery & Rainforest Collection.

Palm Society members will receive an email with all the details.

A Curious Case of Boron Deficiency
by Charlie Beck

Palm nutritional deficiencies can sometimes occur for no apparent reason. General wisdom is that boron deficiency is caused by boron leaching from the soil due to heavy rainfall or repeated excessive applied irrigation. Minor nutritional deficiencies can also be caused by applying fertilizers with a high nitrogen percentage which pushes growth at the expense of minor nutrients.

There is a Queen Palm growing in our daughter's front yard in Jupiter. It was a mature palm approximately 15' tall when our daughter moved in 13 years ago. This palm looked quite healthy over the years even though it has never received any supplemental irrigation or fertilization. I kept an eye on this palm expecting to eventually see frizzle top, manganese deficiency, which is so common in this species. This palm might be over 30 years old and probably hasn't grown vertically more than 5' in that time. This palm is a survivor!

This past winter the growing point started to bend sideways which is a symptom of boron deficiency in *Syagrus*. We had a relatively dry winter this year and this palm has never been irrigated since its original planting, so boron deficiency could not have been caused by too much water. This palm hasn't been fertilized with a high nitrogen fertilizer either. It probably has never been fertilized since the original planting.

I guess the lesson learned here is that boron deficiency can develop from leaching over long periods of time and is not always caused by heavy rainfall or irrigation.

We applied a quarter cup of borax mixed in a bucket of water to the entire root zone. We'll repeat it again in 4 months. It will probably take 1-2 years for this palm to recover. Hopefully it will take another 30 years for boron deficiency to reoccur.



Syagrus romanzoffiana with boron deficiency
 Queen Palm

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