

# PALM BEACH PALM & CYCAD SOCIETY

LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

Monthly Update

June 2009

## WHAT IS THIS MYSTERY PALM?



Figure A

These photographs are of *Licuala ramsayi* growing in habitat at Mission Bay in Australia. These photographs were taken in 2000.



---

**FRONT COVER:** Marshall Dewey stumbled across this beautiful specimen while touring in Singapore. Consensus of our local palm experts is that this is a mutant form of *Elaeis guineensis* (African Oil Palm).

---

**Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society 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  
Dennis McKee, Membership Chairman (561) 642-3015  
Brenda Beck, Editor & Historian (561) 963-5511

**Appointees**

Charles Beck, Librarian  
Marty Dougherty, Web Master  
Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman  
Kitty Philips, Activities & Events Coordinator

VISIT US AT [palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com](http://palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com)

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- 4 Upcoming Meetings
- 5 Featured this Month: *Licuala ramsayi*
- 6 IFAS Fertilization Recommendations
- 10 The Wonders of Leu Gardens
- 11 Three Palm Society Members Awarded Begonia Society Awards
- 12 May 6th Name Drawing Prize Winner
- 12 This Month's "Thank You" and Welcome New Members
- 13 A Snowbird *Phoenix Roebelenii*?
- 14 Let the Contest Begin

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

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 3, 2009  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Mounts Botanical Garden  
**Speaker:** Craig Morell, Director of Pinecrest Gardens  
**Subject:** Palm Nutrition

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**Date:** Wednesday, June 24, 2009  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Ruth Sallenbach's Home  
6285 S. Military Trail, Lake Worth  
(561) 965-5430

*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.*

## FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Licuala ramsayi*

by Charlie Beck


Of all the *Licualas* I have grown, I believe *Licuala ramsayi* is the most impressive of those which grow well in Palm Beach County. *Licuala grandis* is a beautiful palm that is easy to grow but is much smaller. *Licuala peltata* is larger but is finicky here in Palm Beach County. I have lost five of the six I have planted. However, I have had a 100 percent success rate growing the grand *Licuala ramsayi*. I have two specimens growing on high ground and four others growing in low-lying wet areas. They are all growing well and have never shown any cold damage or minor element deficiencies. The two largest specimens (Fig. C on page 15) have

been in the ground for 15 years and are five to six feet tall with 40 inch diameter leaves on 36 inch long petioles. The fact that these are slow growing is a positive trait because the beautiful crown is best appreciated up close.

*Licuala ramsayi* is endemic to northeast Queensland, Australia. They grow in low swampy rain forest. Most of their life they are in deep shade but with great age become emergent. They have been reported to grow up to 60 feet tall. In habitat, leaves can measure up to six feet in diameter on six foot long petioles. Leaves are divided into wedge-shaped segments.

(Continued on page 9)

(561) 586-2332



**LAKE OSBORNE ANIMAL CLINIC**

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

## IFAS FERTILIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

by Charlie Beck

Fertilizer as recommended by IFAS for landscape palm fertilization is difficult to find in garden centers and big box stores. Most commonly sold palm fertilizers do not contain large amounts of slow release nitrogen and potassium. The percentage of nitrogen is also commonly higher than recommended. Too much nitrogen relative to other macro and micronutrients may cause nutritional deficiencies due to rapid growth caused by excessive nitrogen.

The palm fertilizer I have been using is close to IFAS recommendations except as noted on the fertilizer analysis label (Chart A). Note that of the 8% nitrogen, 7.42% is slow release, and of the 12% potassium, 10.8% is slow release, and of the 4% magnesium, 1.4% is slow release. Manganese, and iron are

low according to IFAS recommendations and zinc is missing altogether. On Chart A on page 7, I marked by hand the IFAS recommendations. You can use this marked up label as a guide when trying to locate a quality fertilizer.

The fertilizer I used this year cost \$26 per bag when purchased by the ton. When buying by the bag, expect to pay \$30+ for 50 pounds.

Refer to Table B on page 8 to determine the amount of fertilizer to broadcast evenly below and beyond the palm canopy. You might be surprised by the amounts recommended by IFAS, i.e., a mature Coconut requires 6.8 pounds or 9 cups every 2 to 3 months throughout the growing season.

\*\*\*

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD AD**  
**\$5 PER MONTH OR \$60 PER YEAR**

Send your business card and check payable to the Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society to:

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society  
c/o Brenda Beck  
P.O. Box 3662  
Lantana, FL 33465-3662



**CHART A  
TYPICAL RECOMMENDED FERTILIZER LABEL  
FOR LANDSCAPE PALM FERTILIZATION**

NEW IMPROVED PALM #9836 50 LBS

8- 2- 12

**Guaranteed Analysis**

**Total Nitrogen** 8.00 %

8.00 % Urea Nitrogen

**Available Phosphate (P2O5)** 2.00 %

**Soluble Potassium as (K2O)** 12.00 %

**Chlorine, Not more than** 2.00 %

**Derived From:**

TRIPLE SUPERPHOSPHATE

POLYMER COATED UREA

COATED SULFATE OF POTASH

This product contains 7.42 % slow or controlled release nitrogen.

This product contains 10.80 % slow or controlled release potash.

**Secondary and Micro Plant Foods:**

**Magnesium** 4.00 %

2.60 % Water Soluble Magnesium

1.40 % Water Insoluble Magnesium

**Total Sulfur as (S)** 0.56 %

0.56 % Free Sulfur (S)

**Manganese** 1.01 %

1.01 % Water Soluble Manganese

**Copper** 0.05 %

0.05 % Water Soluble Copper

**Iron** 0.18 %

0.15 % Water Soluble Iron

0.03 % CHELATED IRON

**Boron** 0.05 %

**Derived From:**

POLYMER COATED UREA

MAGNESIUM SULFATE

MANGANESE SULFATE

COPPER SULFATE

IRON EDTA, IRON DTPA

IRON SULFATE

BORAX

**ZINC** .06-.15%

SHOULD APPROACH 4%

2-4%

2-4%

#9836

**TABLE B  
RECOMMENDED LANDSCAPE PALM FERTILIZATION  
ON SANDY SOILS**

CANOPY RADIUS (FEET)	MATURE PALM	FERTILIZER (POUNDS)	FERTILIZER* (VOLUME)
3	Chamaerops humilis	.4	.6 cups
5	Adonidia merrillii, Coccothrinax miraguama, Phoenix roebelenii, Ptychosperma elegans	1.2	1.6 cups
8	Dictyosperma album, Ptychosperma macarthurii	3.0	4.0 cups
9	Carpentaria acuminata, Wodyetia bifurcata	3.8	5.1 cups
10	Bismarckia nobilis, Butia capitata, Livistona chinensis, Syagrus romanzoffiana, Veitchia joannis	4.7	6.3 cups
11	Caryota rumphiana	5.7	7.6 cups
12	Acoelorrhaphe wrightii, Archontophoenix alexandrae, Cocos nucifera	6.8	9.0 cups
16	Phoenix reclinata	12.0	1 gallon
21	Elaeis guineensis	20.8	1.7 gallons

**Recommended for landscape palms in Florida:** 2:1:3:1 ratio of (N; P; K; Mg) in controlled release form that contains 2 to 4 percent Iron (Fe) and manganese (Mn); .06 to .15 percent zinc (Zn); .04 to .08 percent Copper (Cu); and .05 percent boron (B). **Fertilizer should be applied every two to three months during growing season.**

\* Fertilizer amounts based on 1 cup volume = 1.33 pounds weight.

**References:**

Broschat, Timothy K., Meerow, Alan W. 2000. Ornamental Palm Horticulture. University Press of Florida, Gainesville


Broschat, Timothy K., 2008. Fertilization of Field-grown and Landscape Palms in Florida, University of Florida IFAS Extension. Publication #ENH1009

(Continued from page 5)

Brenda and I were lucky to participate in the 2000 IPS Post-Biennial trip to Queensland, Australia and observed these palms growing in habitat. At Mission Bay we saw a dense stand of 30+ foot *Licuala ramsayi* (Figure A on page 2). We were told that these palms were several hundred years old. The effect was that of standing in a cathedral of palms. We also saw well-grown specimens in Flecker Garden (Figure B on page 15) also located in Queensland.

\*\*\*

GROWING CONDITIONS FOR <i>LICUALA RAMSAYI</i>	
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	Deep shade
Micronutrient Deficiencies	None observed
Insect Damage	None observed
Hurricane Resistance	Good



## Village Marina

---

464-4391

Wes Taylor

## THE WONDERS OF LEU GARDENS

by Brenda Beck

Eric Schmidt of Harry P. Leu Gardens was the guest speaker at the May 6, 2009, general membership meeting. Leu Gardens is a 50-acre garden donated to the City of Orlando by Mary Jane and Harry Leu.

Mr. Schmidt provided us with an overview of the awesome scope of plants and garden features at Leu Gardens. The garden includes one of America's largest *Camellia* collections which includes *Camellia japonica* which is sometimes called the rose of the Far East. Its large formal rose garden is the largest rose garden southeast of Atlanta. Its two-acre Tropical Stream Garden has a natural stream and plantings include aroids, bananas, heliconias, gingers, and other tropical plants. Its Home Demonstration Garden includes a fragrance garden, ornamental grasses and a patio garden. Leu Gardens also has a vegetable and herb garden, citrus grove, flower-

ing tree garden, conifer collection, butterfly garden, and a palm, bamboo and cycad garden.

The palm garden includes approximately 400 species of palms and Mr. Schmidt reported that they are attempting to grow palms not typically grown in central Florida.

Noted species currently planted include *Coperneicia baileyana*, *Coperneicia hospita*, *Livistona jenkinsiana*, *Rhopalostylis baueri*, *Ceroxylon parvum*, *Hedyscepe canterburyana*, *Parajubaea sunkha*, *Aiphanes minima X horrida*, *Areca triandra*, *Arenga pinnata*, *Caryota gigas*, *Dypsis decipiens*, *Orania palindan*, *Salacca magnifica*, and *Salacca wallichiana*.

This extraordinary garden is located at 1920 N. Forest Avenue in Orlando. For further information, you can call (407) 246-2620 or visit their website at <http://www.leugardens.org>.

\*\*\*



Eric Schmidt

**AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY GIVES  
TOP AWARDS TO THREE PALM SOCIETY MEMBERS**

The 2009 American Begonia Society Convention was held at the Palm Beach Airport Hilton from April 28 through May 3, 2009. Many begonia growers from throughout the United States submitted entries in various divisions and classes. Three of our own were among top award winners.

Our congratulations go out to:

**Cathy Burger**

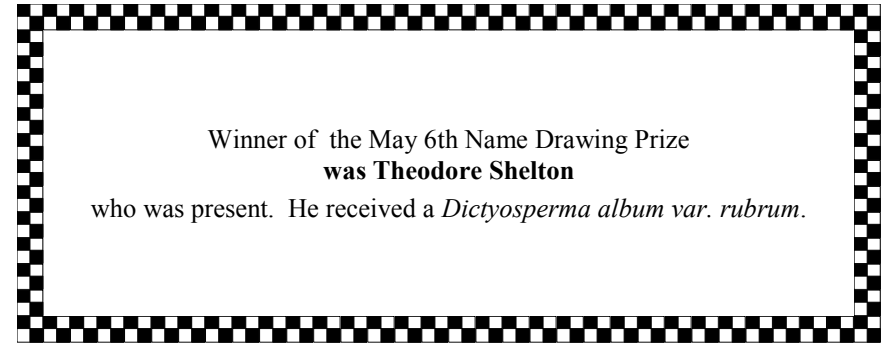
1<sup>st</sup> place in Division EE (Crested and/or Spiral) for *Texas Red Star*  
3<sup>rd</sup> place in Division J (Species) for *Scott Hoover 367*

**Patt Lindsey**

1<sup>st</sup> place in Division E (Rhizomatous Medium Leaved) for *Worley's Wonder*  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Division P (Seedlings) for *Big Joe*  
2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division EEE (Rhizomatous Distinctive Foliage) for *Hemsleyana*  
2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division E (Rhizomatous Small Leaved) for *Royal Luster*  
Honorable Mention: Strawberry Pot  
Also won four 1<sup>st</sup> place and one 2<sup>nd</sup> place award in Division X (Companion Plants)

**Brenda Skaggs**

Court of Honor, Best in Division, and 1<sup>st</sup> place in Division M (Novice) with her *Dale Senna*  
1<sup>st</sup> place (Division not available) for *Manaus*  
1<sup>st</sup> place (Division not available) for *Stained Glass*  
2<sup>nd</sup> place (Division not available) for *Escargo*



**This Month's "Thank You"**

**Membership Meeting Refreshments**

Ingrid Dewey  
Ruth Lynch  
Tom Ramiccio

**Plant Donations**

Marshal Dewey  
Dale Holton

**Welcome New Members**

Greg Kurty  
Gail Nelson  
Mick Peppler

Phone  
(561) 722-8106  
(561)798-4562  
BETTY AHLBORN

13823 Paddlefoot Lane  
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Exotic Palms  
&  
Tropicals

## A SNOWBIRD PHOENIX ROEBELII?

by Brenda Beck

Are there any limits to the lengths that palm lovers will take for their palm trees? Evidently not. On April 19, 2009, the New York Times ran an article on a *Phoenix Roebelenii* (pygmy date palm) that lives in New York and winters in Homestead, Florida.

The palm, which was purchased in 2006, is owned by Steven A. Greenberg, a financier and night life investor who owns 230 Fifth, a restaurant and lounge with a rooftop garden on the 21<sup>st</sup> floor of the building located on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New York.

During the winter months, evergreens grace the roof. But in April, this *Phoenix roebelenii* and approximately 60 other trees that decorate the restaurant and rooftop garden make a 3-day, 1,315 trip from Florida back to New York to adorn the lounge and rooftop garden from April through September.

So next time you are in New York, stop by 230 Fifth located at 230 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and buy Mr. Greenberg a drink.

For photos and more information on this story, you can go to [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/20/nyregion/20palm.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/20/nyregion/20palm.html?_r=1) or to view the rooftop garden, go to <http://www.230-fifth.com/vt/>

\*\*\*

Phone: 582-4401 Fax (561) 547-8300

**Thomas M. Ramiccio**  
PRESIDENT/CEO

GREATER LAKE WORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
501 Lake Ave • Lake Worth, Florida 33460  
e-mail: tramiccio@aol.com • www.lwchamber.com

## LET THE CONTEST BEGIN!



At the May 6, 2009, general meeting, attendees were given a *Dictyosperma album var. rubrum* seedling. On January 6, 2010, an award of a *Carpoxyton macrospermum* will be presented to the grower of the largest and most healthy palm. So, the race is on – who will become the next master grower and win this prestigious award?

Sorry – commercial growers are not eligible.

**HOLTON NURSERY**  
PALMS and CYCADS

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

"By appointment only"

Please share stories regarding your garden experiences. Submit your stories and photos to [beck4212@aol.com](mailto:beck4212@aol.com)





**Figure B:** *Licuala ramsayi* at Flecker Botanic Gardens in Australia.



*Licuala ramsayi* leaf on specimen growing in Palm Beach County.



**Figure C:** *Licuala ramsayi* specimen growing in Palm Beach County. (yardstick in foreground)

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society  
 P.O. Box 3662  
 Lantana, FL 33465-3662



*Licuala ramsayi*  
 at Mission Bay in Australia