



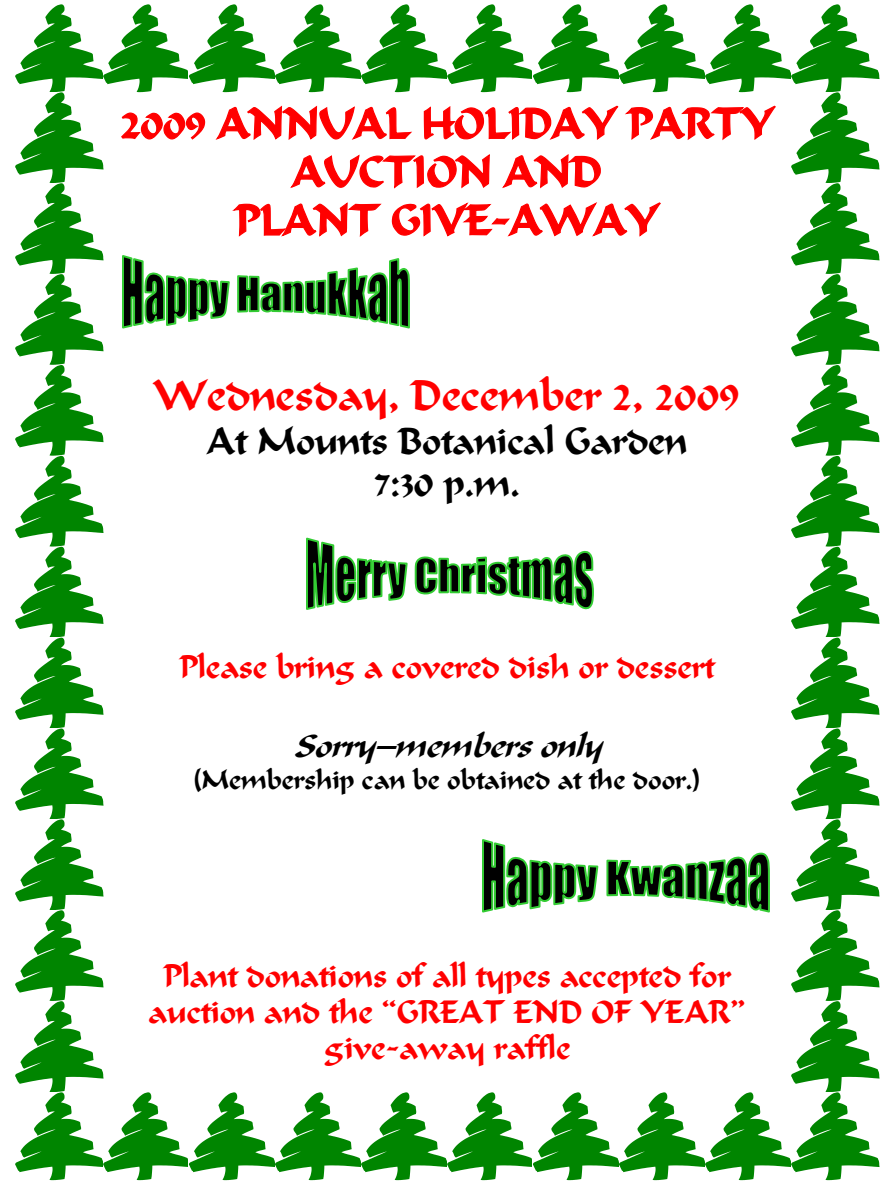
Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

Monthly Update

December 2009

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Kentiopsis oliviformis*



2009 ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AUCTION AND PLANT GIVE-AWAY

Happy Hanukkah

Wednesday, December 2, 2009
At Mounts Botanical Garden
7:30 p.m.

Merry Christmas

Please bring a covered dish or dessert

Sorry—members only
(Membership can be obtained at the door.)

Happy Kwanzaa

**Plant donations of all types accepted for
auction and the "GREAT END OF YEAR"
give-away raffle**

FRONT COVER: *Kentiopsis oliviformis* planted 9 years ago in the Beck garden.

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 (561) 312-5046
Kitty Philips, Activities & Events Coordinator

VISIT US AT palmbeachpalmcycadsociety.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Holiday Party, Auction & Plant Give-away
- 4 2010 Officer Election Results
- 5 Featured this Month: *Kentiopsis oliviformis*
- 6 South Florida Garden Tour Memories
- 12 Upcoming Meetings
- 12 This Month's "Thank You"
- 13 Tropical Conifers: Jurassic Plants in Nature and the Garden
- 14 Membership Application & Renewal

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RESULTS OF THE ELECTION FOR 2010 OFFICERS

On November 4th, members voted in the following officers for 2010:

Betty Ahlborn, President
Tom Ramiccio, First Vice President, Sales
Marshall Dewey, Second Vice President, Planting
Dale Holton, Third Vice President, Programs
Ruth Sallenbach, Secretary
Ingrid Dewey, Treasurer
Elise Moloney, Membership Chairman
Brenda Beck, Editor

Appointees

Charles Beck, Librarian
Anthony Dougherty and Marty Dougherty, Web Masters
Ruth Lynch, Refreshment Chairman
Kitty Philips and Susan Cioci, Activities & Events Coordinators
Brenda Beck, Historian




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

Exotic Palms
&
Tropicals

13823 Paddlefoot Lane
Loxahatchee, FL 33470

(561) 586-2332



LAKE OSBORNE ANIMAL CLINIC

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

FEATURED THIS MONTH: *Kentiopsis oliviformis*

by Charlie Beck

Kentiopsis oliviformis is one of the most distinctive pinnate palms. It is easy to identify due to its 10 foot long fronds that form an upright “feather duster” crown similar to many *Attalea sp.* which are much larger and *Rhopalostylis sp.* which grow so well in California but do not grow well here in Palm Beach County. Its green crownshaft can approach 3 feet long. From the lower leaf tips, 3 to 5 foot reins hang gracefully. Stems can exceed one foot in diameter.

Kentiopsis is endemic to New Caledonia. However, it is threatened due to agricultural expansion and unfortunately does not occur in protected reserves. In habitat, it grows from sea level up to an elevation of 1000 feet. It is often found growing along seasonal water courses but is

also found growing in dry situations. It is reported to grow 100 feet tall in habitat but I have never seen one taller than 35 feet in South Florida.

Back in 1997, *Kentiopsis oliviformis* was nearly impossible to obtain. At that time, I obtained my first seedling from Louis Hooper, a well-known palm enthusiast from California. The seed was collected from habitat in New Caledonia. This palm has grown 25 feet of wood on a 1 foot diameter trunk (waist level). The trunk flares considerably at ground level. Nine years ago I planted several more specimens which have grown 9 feet of wood and all have performed well in our garden. As with many palms in nature, it typically germi-

(Continued on page 6)

GROWING CONDITIONS IN OUR GARDEN FOR <i>Kentiopsis oliviformis</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	Full sun
Micronutrient Deficiencies	None observed
Insect Damage	None observed
Hurricane Resistance	Excellent

SOUTH FLORIDA GARDEN TOUR MEMORIES

by Charlie Beck

Recently I participated in a South Florida Palm Society tour. There were four stops on the tour – Action Theory Nursery, University of Florida Tropical Research and Education Center, Redland Nursery, and RF Orchids.

I was amazed to see Action Theory and Redland Nurseries were both propagating *Pigafetta filaris*. Both also had beautiful specimens growing in the ground. Another stunning palm at Action Theory Nursery was *Salacca wallichiana*. Stand out specimens of *Attalea crassipatha* were found at the re-

search center. Also rare finds in South Florida were *Jubaeopsis caffra* and a variegated *Veichia X Wod-yetia* hybrid growing at Redland Nursery. John DeMott grew potted *Pigafetta* and *Phoenix roebelenii* submerged in pans of water. John said that it improved growth rates in the warm months but he removed the water pans in the winter.

(See photographs on pages 7 through 10.)

(Continued from page 5)

nates in the shade and then emerges as a canopy palm, but I have had great success planting three gallon specimens directly in sun. This palm is well adapted to Palm Beach County and even outgrows specimens planted in tropical areas. Don Hodel reports in his book, *Palms of New Caledonia*, that after 18 years from seed, his palms have only 6 feet of wood in Tahiti and Venezuela.

Grow this beautiful, self-cleaning palm because of its unique form, rapid growth, and high degree of hurricane resistance.



The Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society Board of Directors and Executive Committee extend our sincerest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season to all of our members and their families.



Acrocomia crispa (formerly Gastrococos crispa)



Coccothrinax miraguama



Dypsis cabadae

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Archontophoenix alexandrae



Corypha umbraculifera



Nannorrhops ritchiana

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Pigafetta filaris



Pseudophoenix ledinana



Pseudophoenix ledinana



Salacca wallichiana



Latania lontaroides



Attalea crassispatha



Copernicia fallaensis



Livistona muelleri

RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER



Copernicia baileyana



Hyophorbé lagenicaulis



Zombia antillarum

RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER



Syagrus sancona



Jubaeopsis caffra



Variegated veitcha X Wodyetia hybrid




Burretio kentia hapala



Licuala spinosa



Licuala ramsayi



Village Marina

464-4391 **Wes Taylor**

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
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Palm Beach Palm
& Cycad Society
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P.O. Box 21-2228
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33421
(Check must be received prior to print.)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 2nd—Annual Holiday Party
(No general membership meeting or board meeting in December.)

THIS MONTH'S "THANK YOU"

General Membership Meeting Refreshments

Ingrid & Marshall Dewey

Angie Peacock

Ruth & Terry Lynch

Ruth Sallenbach

Plant Donations

Marshall Dewey

John Irvine

Dale Holton


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

Tropical Conifers: Jurassic Plants in Nature and in the Garden

by Brenda Beck

On November 4, 2009, Chad Husby, Collections Manager and Botanist at Montgomery Botanical Garden, broadened our horizons by sharing information regarding tropical conifers. Conifers, which appear naturally on all continents with the exception of Antarctica, are broken down into 70 genera, 8 families, and more than 627 species.

Conifers can vary in size from very small plants to very large plants and their cones come in many shapes and sizes. There is even a parasitic conifer, *Parasitaxus ustus*, found in New Caledonia.

Dr. Husby's presentation included photographs of these spectacular trees from all over the world. Many of the photographs included trees from New Caledonia, and island in the South Pacific, that has 45 endemic conifers.

These ancient trees, which have grown on our planet for the past 200 million years, also hold many records. The most massive tree in the world is a *Sequoiadendron*

giganteum, the oldest is *Pinus longaeva*, the tallest tree is *Sequoia sempervirens*, and the most symmetrical is *Araucaria spp.*

Montgomery Botanical Garden is taking efforts to ensure that these plants continue to survive. Conservation threats affecting this genera include climate change, deforestation, logging, fire, pathogens, insects, and water quality.

There are challenges that Montgomery Botanical Garden faces with protection efforts for this genera. Seeds need to be fresh to ensure germination. In addition, these plants are very sensitive to root rot. Propagating from cuttings also has its challenges – and that is plagioripism – cuttings from side branches remember that they were side branches and tend to grow in a horizontal position.

Dr. Husby brought some beautiful conifer specimens so we could appreciate the beauty of these magnificent plants.

(See photographs on page 15.)



Chad Husby

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

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY



Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

Affiliate of the International Palm Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name: _____
 Address: _____

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

New Member Renewal

Please send the annual membership fee of \$20 (includes two adults living in the same household) 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 Update, a chance to win a free prize every month at our monthly meeting, and receipt of free palms and cycads at the annual plant give-away in December.

FOR PALM SOCIETY USE ONLY

\$		Check No.		Y	
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(Membership fees will increase effective February 1, 2010.)

TROPICAL CONIFERS



Cupressus cashmeriana



Gymnostoma australianum



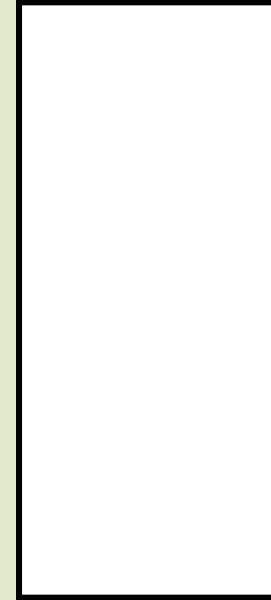
Nageia formogensis



Glyptostrobus pensilis



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Kentiopsis oliviformis
 inflorescence

