



An Expression of Gratitude

To walk the grounds of Floribunda is an experience to overwhelm even the most jaded palm expert. The towering mass of mature rare and endangered palms collected by Jeff Marcus on his world travels is a palm vortex, a living palm seed bank for the earth. At the 2013 IPS Board Meeting, a special award was made to Jeff and Suchin Marcus of Floribunda Palms out of the general fund to properly document the collection.

“I received help from the Forestry Department of the Hawaii Community College,” wrote Jeff, “with a professor for advice, and a student using a Garmin Portable Geographic Information System (GIS) unit.” The garden and all pertinent data are now digitally mapped and cross-referenced in a way that will be viewable on Google Earth, and the garden has complete signage throughout. The detailed records of species, origin, and accession numbers is required to document the extensive collection properly for use in critical examination and scientific study. A paper map is also planned. “I express my humble thanks to the IPS Board for making my dream come true.”



*Jeff and Suchin Marcus accept a plaque from the IPS for display at Floribunda. Presenter: Kim Cyr Palm: *Dypsis coursii* Photo: Bo-Goran Lundkvist*



Left, Suchin and Jeff with *Lemurophoenix halleuxii*; right, the type specimen for *Dypsis leucomalla* found at Floribunda.

Jeff and Suchin have welcomed botanists from around the world specializing in palms, including Dr. John Dransfield and Dr. Scott Zona. Jeff cares about what will happen with his garden in the future, and is convinced that documenting the collection correctly is crucial to any future developments. Ideally, he would like to see students of botany coming to Floribunda to study palms. Wouldn't those students be fortunate! □□□



Marojejya darianii and *Areca catechu* 'dwarf' in the Floribunda collection. Photos this page from Bo-Goran Lundkvist; *D. leucomalla* Kim Cyr

Adaptation: a Palm Garden is Transformed



Logo artwork: Sig Zane

Once upon a time, there was a Palm Queen from California. She collected palms from far and wide, and created a unique display garden of lush palm trees in a sea of black lava cinders on a volcanic island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Many years later, a man and his wife living in England were seeking a warmer climate where they could reunite with the wife's mother and begin a new way of life. Stars crossed. The man and his wife found the Palm Queen's former garden on the island in the Pacific Ocean, now neglected, and they had a vision to bring it back to life. Even in the most wonderful fairy tales, there are the darkest of moments. They began their work, but suddenly the wife became sick and died. The man turned his grief to their vision and continued the work. And the garden was transformed, and so was born: KIPUKA.



Top photos from Mark Frost; bottom photos of the halau, Kim Cyr. The vermilion decorative spokes are made from a noxious weed, strawberry guava.

You who have a longer history with the IPS will immediately recognize the Palm Queen as Pauleen Sullivan. Though Pauleen was restricted to a wheelchair after having been stricken with polio, she never allowed it to limit her interests or travels. She is well known in the palm community for her palm collections on several properties in Ventura, California, as well as the garden in Kapoho, her crowning achievement on the island of Hawaii. There, over a period spanning twenty years, with the help of her son Terry, she planted at least 5,000 palms of more than 350 species in a unique manner, bringing in many truck-loads of black cinder to afford the palms perfect drainage and a stark black canvas to show them off. Many of the palms were sourced from Jeff Marcus of Floribunda Palms and Exotics (see previous article). "She would buy three, and I would throw in two as a gift, because I knew her garden was going to be something special," said Jeff.

Beginning in 2013, Mark Frost conceived of an off-the-grid sustainable eco-retreat for the six-acre parcel of Pauleen's original and most unusual 11-acre garden. He imported four bamboo kit houses, built a saltwater pool, and a large *halau* or longhouse, for special events, such as weddings. To his credit, Mark moved only eight palms to make room for the buildings; even rooflines were altered to avoid disturbing the palms. He has built Puna beds, an old Hawaiian method of gardening in raised lava beds using composted materials to create soil, where he will grow vegetables and herbs for use by those vacationing in the bamboo houses.

Amazingly energy efficient -- one house operating off only 15 watts of energy -- this is a place of retreat very different from the classic Hawaiian tourist vacation, a place to experience Hawaii on an entirely different level while surrounded by a unique collection of exotic palms. Water is collected from rain and purified; energy comes from the sun and saltwater batteries.

On a recent warm afternoon, the light breeze teased the *Clinostigma* fronds in a powerful, peaceful quiet. Cosmo, Mark's constant canine companion, led us around the property, each house just out of sight of the others. A short distance away, one can slip into the warm waters of the Kapoho tide pools to observe colorful fish and corals. Buy some fresh-caught fish for the barbecue grill, or pick up some *lulau* from a food truck along the road. Life is simple, life is sweet, among the palms at Kipuka.

For more information and reservations, visit the website at: <http://kipuka.co>





Above, a towering *Bismarckia Nobilis*, Bo-Goran Lundkvist and Mark Frost for scale. Above right, Pauleen Sullivan, the Palm Queen, cruising the Amazon River in Brazil in search of palm adventures. Photo: [Ventura County Star](#), (link to obituary) Below, one of the four bamboo eco-retreat houses. Bottom, Cosmo the resident whippet; right, Mark shows the off-grid power source.



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*Beccariophoenix
madagascariensis,
Kipuka Garden
Photo Kim Cyr*