



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

Dec. 2020

NEWSLETTER

PIMBY (Palms In My Backyard) by Andy Hurwitz

Thankfully, this is our final newsletter of the year, which indicates 2020 is nearly done. Needless to say, this has been a [insert pejorative adjective here] year for us all. I thought it might be enjoyable (and challenging!) to devote this edition to favorite palm photographs taken in 2020. I hoped that this might force palmophiles to recognize overlooked plants in their neighborhood, given our worldwide travel restrictions.

Leading off will be Dr. John Dransfield, who brilliantly summarized this conundrum from his home in Wales: I have taken no palm photographs this year. Were I to do so, all I have is a dusty ancient *Chamaedorea stolonifera* that looks really neglected, a small *Chamaerops* 'Volcano' and a juvenile *Trachycarpus fortunei* – none of which makes for good copy, and for the last two we would need for the rain and fog to go!

And now for the photographs:

Photo by Boyd Marts, October 21, Palmdale, Minnesota, USA: With limited international travel options and the corona virus epidemic raging, this “palmie” sought out palm species closer to home. Specifically, species that grow in northern latitudes. *Chamaerops humilis* grow as far north as 44°N in Europe and 33°N in America. *Trachycarpus fortunei* grow as far north as 58°N in Scotland. Our journey takes us to Palmdale, Minnesota (elevation 935 feet, latitude 45.455517 N, longitude -92.7335452 W). Here, a unique and rare subspecies of coconut palm is found. This particular subspecies only grows to a height of 20 feet, is cold hardy to temperatures of -30°F, and thrives in the sandy well drained soil when grown on southern exposures in the presence of moderate concentrations of ethanol. It is drought tolerant – important as Minnesota summers are often associated with prolonged periods of minimal rainfall, as well as salt tolerant – crucial given the use of road salt in the winter. I found this to be an interesting *Cocos* subspecies and scenic geographic location to explore.



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Photo (left) by Lazaro Priegues, Miami, Florida, USA: This is a 20-year-old (!) *Copernicia cowellii* in my back yard from last month. I was told that this may be the biggest one in the US (1.5 ft tall!).

Photo (right) by Andrew Street, November 20, at the Montgomery Botanical Center, Coral Gables, Florida, USA: It was during final break, just before we were getting set to close for the weekend. For some reason I was just drawn to take this picture. The bent *Copernicia baileyana* is an homage to the most infamous hurricane ever to hit Miami.



Photo (left) by Ray Hernandez, Fort Myers Florida: Palm photo from the Edison-Ford Winter Estates.

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Photo (left) by Gregg Hamann, New Years Day, El Cajon, California, USA. It is the flower of *Heterospathe glauca* in my yard.



Photo (right) by Michael Merritt, November 10, east side, Hawaii Island, Hawaii, USA. I took the one of the *Areca vestiaria* (orange crownshaft form) with a huge cluster of ripe red fruit in full sunlight.



Photo (left) by Horace Hobbs, Texas, USA: Sunrise and *Sabal palmetto* on Galveston Island September 2, 2020.

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Photo (right) by Toby Spanner, Parque Terra Nostra in Furnas, São Miguel Island, Azores, Portugal: *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* and *Rhopalostylis sapida* growing together in an old botanic garden. Parque Terra Nostra in Furnas has an interesting history and spectacular location in an ancient volcano caldera. The park abounds with tree ferns and cool-growing palms, which thrive in the very even, highly oceanic climate in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.



Photo (left) by Norman Bendoza, Hawaii, USA: *Clinostigma samoense* and *C. ponapense* seeding and naturalizing.

Photo (right) by David Tanswell, September 20, central Queensland, Australia: *Livistona nitida*. Carnarvon Gorge central Queensland Australia, close to midday. What could be more Australian than Livistonas, eucalypts and golden grasses?



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Photo (left) by Cindy Adair, November 15, western Puerto Rico: *Licuala mattanensis* 'Mapu' on the day I discovered its first inflorescence, barely visible in orange yellow below. Note the *Episcia* groundcover that works well for me.

Photo (right) by Andy Hurwitz, June 7 at 6:30 a.m., Santa Monica, California: Though the palms may be quotidian to many, I was awed by their serenity and grace on a day with raucous civil unrest only one block away.



Photo (left) by Glenn Franklin, December 5, Tennessee, USA: *Trachycarpus fortunei*. I've been an IPS member for 25 years, and my interest is still strong despite living in the Blue Ridge mountains, where palms are not supposed to grow!

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Photo (right) by Scott Zona, February, North Carolina, USA: Now that I'm living in the North, I see a more restricted palette of palms used in gardens. In early February, just before everything shut down, I was delighted to see this fine *Trachycarpus fortunei* 'Wagnerianus' growing at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina.



Photo (left) by Romeo Montalvo, November 27, Brownsville, Texas, USA: *Medemia argun*.

The Next IPS Webinar

This December webinar will feature Dr. Larry Noblick of the Montgomery Botanical Center:

"The Life of a Palm Biologist in NE Brazil and the Atlantic Forest"
Saturday, December 19, 4 PM ET.

Go to palms.org to learn how to register for this free webinar.

IPS Affiliate Showcase

The International Palm Society boasts over 30 affiliates. While the IPS focuses on its mission of research, education, and conservation; local clubs provide members with garden tours, growing tips and access to rare palms. Furthermore, many publish highly desirable periodicals, which are valued by many enthusiasts far afield. For this reason, it's common for IPS members to belong to more than one local chapter.

This month we will showcase the Palmeraie-Union Association, www.palmeraie-union.com, based on Reunion Island. This chapter was created in 1994 and publishes the twice-yearly magazine *Latania*. The association has collaborated with the Municipality of Tampon to create a landscaped park chock-full of endemic palms. We were scheduled to visit this site during the Biennial that was cancelled due to the pandemic. Recently, the members gathered to view a spectacular local garden that included bodacious rarities such as: *Masoala kona*, *Licuala mattanensis* 'Mapu,' *Dypsis baronii* "black stem," *Mauritiella armata*, *Kerriodoxa elegans*, *Lanonia dasyantha*, *Pinanga bicolana*, *Ptychosperma* sp "Wotoboho," *Marojejya darianii*, *Neoveitchia brunnea*.



I know of several IPS members who live thousands of miles away who subscribe to their incredible magazine. It's well worth it!

Parting Thoughts



In closing, a photograph of IPS member Laz Priegues, taken on Réunion Island, site of what would have been an extraordinary and memorable 2020 Biennial.

Here's hoping that the year 2021 heralds more IPS-supported palm research, education, and habitat conservation. And palm-related travel with friends!

Next month: Pop the champagne! It's time to celebrate!

