



President's Message



Judging from the results of the palm auction in March, you guys are starved for palms. Many thanks to all of the folks who provided the wonderful palms and cycads [Jeff & Suchin Marcus, Bob Davis, Mike Merritt, Tony Armstrong, Karl Mendonca, Don Hemmes, Rob Talbert, Tim Brian, David Davenport & Robert Welsch, and Bob Carrere]. We could not possibly have brought in a record amount without everyone's generosity. With any luck we will back in Auntie Sally's next February with food and fellowship.

Since everyone seems to have suffered palm withdrawal syndrome the past two years, we plan on two more buying opportunities this summer. On July 16 we will return to Bill Austin's wonderful garden in conjunction with an always popular sale of Bill's plants. Bill has cut back on palms and shifted more to 'garden jewelry' smaller plants that can make all the difference in the final look of a garden. Then in August we are planning a members' plant sale in Leilani Estates. The exact date and location have not been nailed down, but you will be getting an email invitation several weeks before the event. This will NOT be a fundraiser for HIPS. 100% of the sales stay with the grower, so look around your shade house for extra potted plants that need a new home. All plants welcome, not just palms. All we ask is that you test and treat as necessary for fire ants.

Please take a look at the several notices about the upcoming International Palm Society Biennial Tour to Hawaii this October. These tours typically go to remote tropical forests to see rare palms in their native habitat. Coming to Hawaii (for the third time) will be a completely different experience. One of the most significant differences is that there is a large, active palm community on the Big Island. We hope to offer several different ways for HIPS members to interact with the visitors that should be fun for locals and make this biennial especially memorable for our guests. But to make this happen, we need you!

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One of the top destinations for the biennial will be Floribunda. We want to thank Jeff and Suchin for welcoming HIPS members in May for a very special master class in palm biology. See the large photo spread elsewhere in the newsletter. This was a great treat for all the attendees, and also served as a dry run to test the logistics of delivering large groups to the site over challenging roads and then managing groups as they moved through the paths listening to Jeff's inspiring stories. We are the luckiest palm society in the world to have access to this one-of-a-kind botanical treasure house.

The nominating committee will soon begin the search for a new president for HIPS. Please contact anyone on the board to see what the job involves. HIPS only works with everyone's efforts. Don't expect fun events to magically happen. Get involved.

Rick Kelley

Upcoming Austin Garden Tour and Plant Sale

**Sunday, July 16, 2022
at 1:00pm in Hawaiian Acres**

It is always a treat and adventure to visit Bill Austin in his garden filled with rare and beautiful palms, stunning tropical plants, and whimsical garden art. Here are photos from a few years back.

One of the best things is that the plants you fall in love with walking through his garden are often available to purchase in his nursery. So good is his garden that on one of the most memorable HIPS tours members tromped around in rubber boots, full rain gear, and umbrellas for a solid hour in a torrential downpour. I remember seeing the last person to leave with their car trunk open in a heavy downpour, the rain bouncing off a solid mass of leaves spilling out of the trunk. Inside the car you could barely see a face emerging from what looked like a jungle terrarium.



Bill Austin and Mary Lock examining a Dypsis basilonga a few years ago.



A beautiful Dypsis ambositrae



Marojejya darianii



The best tool shed/garden art is a school bus.

We expect to have much better weather this time, but be prepared for rain or sun and the inevitable buying frenzy. Bill is concentrating his retail business on smaller garden gems, though a few palms might still be around for purchase.

Look for the announcement in your email, there is no capacity limit but you will need to register to get directions.

Orchid Show Palm Society Display – Volunteers and Materials Needed

Wednesday, July 27th – Sunday, July 31st
Edith Kanaka'ole Stadium, Hilo

Whether you see orchids as necklaces for palm trees or palm trees as orchid houses, there is no denying that the two plant families look great together in gardens. Many of our members are also orchid society members and HIPS would like to encourage more crossovers with other plant societies. We've had fun at past orchid shows creating over the top exhibits that are part Rose Parade float, part information booth. It is a great way to introduce our vibrant society to other passionate plant people.



Orchid Show Booths in years past

Volunteers for booth construction needed Wednesday, July 27 at 12:00pm. We are lucky to have HIPS Vice President Sara Wagner, with her background in photo styling as our artistic director for the booth. Sara is hoping to get volunteers who love to be creative and are good with their hands to turn a 10X10 tent frame into a work of art. Catch a behind the scenes view of the Hilo Orchid Show before it opens with member only dinner on Thursday, general public Friday – Sunday. Volunteers need to bring their own clippers, scissors, and other tools they think useful.



Volunteers needed for booth bait during the show. Maybe you have some extra time and are going to the show already? Let Sara know what time you might be available. We will have some info about the society to hand out and the URL for online membership.

Material Donations Needed:

- **Blooming orchid plants or sprays** (plants on loan, will be returned)
- Cut palm stems, potted palms, palm leaves, palm fluorescence in fruit or flower
- Twine or other plant ties

Volunteers needed to break down the display Sunday, July 31st at 2:00pm. As an added bonus, it is always a good way to score some good deals on orchids while vendors are cleaning up and going home!

If you would like to volunteer, loan orchids or donate other materials, text or call Sara Wagner at 808 386-9882

Join the International Palm Society 2022 Biennial in Hawaii

The International Palm Society invites its members in Hawaii to join selected pieces of the full biennial itinerary at special rates.

Oahu Island Package October 9 –11, 2022



Foster Garden (left) and Lyon Arboretum (right)



Ho'omaluhia Garden North Shore

The IPS offers experiences not possible on package tours, or even what you can have on your own. These experiences are made even more enjoyable since you will be travelling with companions that share your

passion for palms, gardens, and conservation. Walking under mature trees in the Foster Botanical Garden is event better when you know that these trees were planted by Dr. William Hillebrand on land leased from the Hawaiian queen Kalama in 1853. IPS volunteers will lead you through the vast 400 acre Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden, so big it allows overnight camping. Explore one of the world's largest palm collections at the Lyon Arboretum with IPS experts that have been coming there for years.

Itinerary

October 9:

Welcome reception and banquet at Marriott Resort Waikiki

October 10:

Tour Foster Garden and Lyon Arboretum. Banquet at Marriott Resort Waikiki. Evening lecture with Mike DeMota, NTBG on Hawaiian Pritchardia and the collection and conservation of Pritchardia woodii from the slopes of Haleakala, Maui

October 11:

Tour Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden on Oahu's north shore.

Price: \$450.00 (Includes \$100.00 donation to IPS)

Includes: Welcome reception, 2 banquets, lecture, garden tours

Excludes: Airfare to/from Honolulu. Accommodation (stay with friends, family or contact Marriott Resort Waikiki for special [Kama'aina hotel rate](#)). Ground transportation to gardens subject to availability, every effort will be made to accommodate locals on the same buses as the biennial attendees depending on capacity limits. Locals may have to arrange independent transportation or pay fee for an extra shuttle hire.

A la Carte Banquet and Lecture Nights in Hilo

October 11th Welcome to Hilo Banquet, Hilo Hawaiian Hotel

Help welcome your friends in the IPS to Hawaii Island. Welcome speaker Don Hemmes will talk about the history of HIPS, the palm collection at Panaewa Zoo and Botanical Garden, and the UHH Palm and Cycad collection he founded. \$150

October 12th Banquet and Lecture, Hilo Hawaiian Hotel

Catch up with Andrew Henderson recently back from the Dominican Republic studying *Cocothrinax* which is now his favorite genus. That is really saying something since he has described nearly 300 species of palms new to science and has written 10 books on palms covering the world from *A Field Guide to the Palms of the Americas* (in collaboration with Rodrigo Bernal and Gloria Galeano) to *Palms of Vietnam*. Andrew is Curator Emeritus at the New York Botanical Garden \$150

October 15th Farewell Banquet, Hilo Hawaiian Hotel

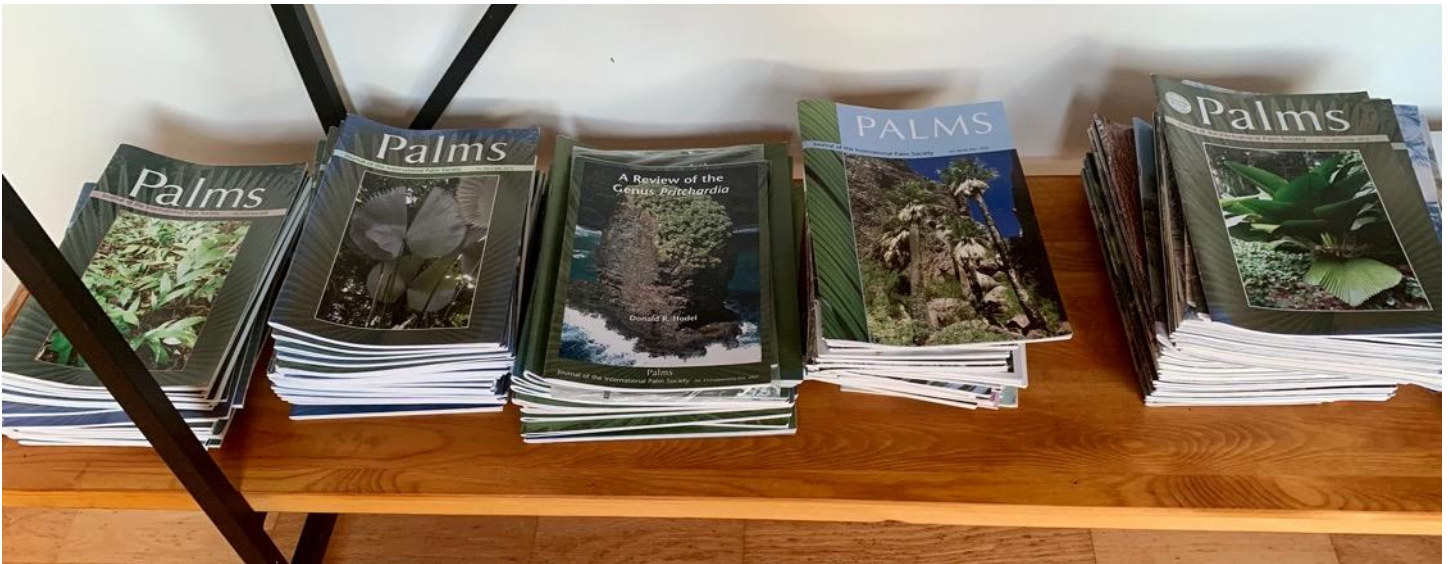
Say goodbye to your new friends and old ones at a festive night filled with Hawaiian music and hula.

\$170

The above offers are for IPS members at the paid membership level living in Hawaii. Already a member?

[Register Now](#)

Not an IPS member? You should be, [Join today!](#) Go for the full membership to get a physical copy of their quarterly *Palms* journal. A while back my husband and I ordered all the back issues – they're collectible.



Local HIPS members:

Depending on capacity, HIPS may offer a lecture only IPS fundraiser on the 11th and 12th available to all HIPS members. An email announcement will be made once biennial attendance is known at the end of registration.

Planning is in the works for an informal welcome mixer in Liliuokalani gardens in Hilo on October 11th before the scheduled evening dinner and lecture. This is a good opportunity to help welcome IPS friends as they first arrive on Hawaii Island. Bring pupu and nonalcoholic drinks to share. More information will be available via email as ideas for this event become fully formed.

Volunteer Opportunities

Meet new friends and get involved by participating in volunteer opportunities:

Mid August-Late September: Carlsmith Garden Work Crew



HIPS last visited the world famous Carlsmith Palm Garden adjacent to HTBG back in 2015. It was one of the first serious palm gardens planted on the islands and is truly amazing. Those of you growing *Dypsis carlsmithii* have a tiny bit of its palm history. The property was recently purchased by a couple from Austin, TX. They have generously offered to open the garden to the IPS biennial tour, but the new owners are still in Texas and cannot prepare the garden for a visit by such an illustrious group on their own. HIPS is putting out a call for volunteers to help get this botanical treasure ready for its closeup. We need everyone who can help clear weeds, reopen walking paths, haul fallen fronds to compost piles, pull vines from trees, etc. Be ready for fire ants and mosquitoes. As a thank-you, volunteer workers get to collect all the fallen seeds

they want. The garden is full of very large, mature palms dropping huge amounts of seeds. So not only do you get to spend quality time in this amazing garden, but it will also be a treasure hunt. Look for an email call for volunteers sometime around mid August to late September. None of the trees are currently labeled, so experts in palm taxonomy are needed to make IDs so name tags can be printed.

October 12-15 varies: Lunch Support at Casa de las Palmas or Moani Lundkvist Garden

Help set up and tear down tents, tables, and chairs at gardens serving lunches to IPS guests. It won't be all work all the time, so you will have a chance to mingle with the visitors.

Friday, October 14: Drivers for IPS Free Day Local Garden Tours

Volunteer to carry visitors around the East Side to visit private residential gardens. Visitors will be sent a list of about a dozen private gardens open to small groups (single carloads). We would match visitors with local folks willing to act as drivers. You would meet your passengers at the hotel on Banyan Drive at an agreed time, and then drive them to one or two preselected garden(s). Expect 60-90 minutes per garden plus drive time, so it would probably take a morning or afternoon. You get to tag along for the garden tours while making new friends. Look for an email announcement in September.

If you are interested, please email Rick Kelley at rickkelley@att.net

Free *Cycas maconochiei* ssp. *lanata* Courtesy of Montgomery Botanical Center seedbank program



Cycas maconochiei ssp. *lanata* photo from cycadlist.org

Member Ken Beilstein has once again received a shipment of cycad seeds from the Montgomery Botanical Center seedbank program and making them available to HIPS members. There will be 4 packages of 3 seeds each for distribution as well as copies of the accession data and the phytosanitary certificate. If you are interested, contact Rick Kelley at Rickkelley@att.net



Cycas maconochiei ssp. *lanata* photo from cycadlist.org

Cycas maconochiei ssp. *lanata* is endemic to the Wingate Mountains of Australia's Northern Territory. The Wingate Mountains are a remote region west and southwest of Darwin, difficult to access during the 'dry' season, and virtually impossible during the 'wet' season – except by air to isolated landing strips. The region is a protected

reserve. As a result, in habitat populations of *Cycas maconochiei* ssp. *lanata* are locally quite abundant. And are not under immediate threat. IUCN classifies the species as LC – Least Concern. IUCN Red List # 42027.

Despite healthy in habitat populations, *Cycas maconochiei* ssp. *lanata* is very seldom seen in cultivation. Especially outside of Australia.

At maturity the plants will grow to about 7 meters tall with a crown / canopy about 3 meters in diameter. Mature leaves are green blue.



Cycas maconochiei ssp. *lanata* photo from cycadlist.org

Propagation from seed is somewhat tricky. Seed germination is reliable. However, seedlings are susceptible to crown rot. Care should be taken with young seedlings to plant the crowns well above soil level and limit watering. And ensure good drainage. Once past the seedling stage, plants are robust growers. The Wingate Mountains receive about 60 inches annual rainfall which is highly seasonal. Thus – mature plants and even young seedlings can withstand extended dry periods. Do not over-water!

2022 Palm Auction Results!

Mahalo everyone for making this year's auction a huge hit! Thank you to our generous vendors: Tony Armstrong, Tim Brian, Bob Carrere, David Davenport, Bob Davis, Don Hemmes, Rick Kelley, Jeff Marcus, Karl Mendonca, Mike Merritt, and Robert Talbert. Thanks to the HIPS board who arranged and set up our outdoor venue at Leilani Community Center, including the delivery of our personal porta potty! Thanks for the bakers that delivered the treats and Sara Wagner on t-shirt sales. Thanks to Jeff and Rick our auctioneers. Thanks to Chris Friesen for all the work on bid sheets, money collection, bookkeeping, and statistics! And most importantly, thank you to our generous members who opened their wallets!



The palms sold for an outstanding total of \$7342 and our costs were about \$817, resulting in a net of \$6525.

Vendor Awards:

Mike Merritt: Highest grossing silent auction vendor at \$2240.00. Big stuff, small stuff, Mike brought a lot of stuff!

Bob Davis: Bringing in the big stuff! Bob's *Licuala elegans* (*L. peltata sumawongii*), pictured on the far left with Karl Mendonca and two big *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis*, was the top grossing palm at \$300.00. Bob brought in a total of \$1540.00

Jeff Marcus: Highest grossing vendor per vertical inch! Bringing the newest and rarest palms to the live auction, his 1 gallon beauty *Licuala orbicularis* fetched \$200.00. Jeff brought in \$1100.00 in the live auction, not to mention driving up bids as our passionate auctioneer.



Photos by Sara Wagner

So what are we going to do with all this money? We have increased our budget for events allowing us to provide shuttle services, food, headliner lectures, arbor day outreach, and door prizes. We've purchased audio equipment to improve garden tours. We've significantly increased our donations including \$1600 to help with signs and fertilizer for the palm and cycad garden at University of Hilo, \$500 to support the HIPS Zoo Crew help fertilize and maintain palms at the Panaewa Botanical Garden and Zoo, and a \$1000 palm conservation/research donation yet to be determined.

Learning at the Foot of the Floribunda Master



Afternoon tour group.

While welcoming HIPS members to his garden on May 21, Jeff Marcus described coming to Hawaii knowing little about palms and starting up Floribunda Palms and Exotics over 30 years ago. Jeff acknowledged mentors and growers in both the international and local palm societies for sharing their knowledge of palms and horticulture when he was starting out. He credits the existence of his incredible garden to Australian nursery friends who advised him early on to plant a garden around his nursery as a future source of seeds. After one of Jeff's lectures a while back, IPS and HIPS veteran Jules Gervais commented "yeah, the kid really has learned a lot."

And so the tradition of passing down hands on knowledge continued as two groups of about 30 HIPS members learned about palm morphology and horticulture by seeing and touching living examples.



Jeff hugging Madagascar while talking about *Masoala madagascariensis*

But before the technical details, Jeff preached some love. He talked about how travelling to collect seeds connected him with people from different parts of the world and changed his life - he met his wife in Thailand. Now when they travel together, Suchin and Jeff make friends all over the world, and the palms in the garden all have stories behind them.

“I’ve had my hands in all these palms. When I look at these palms I’m hugging Madagascar, I’m hugging Fiji, I’m hugging New Caledonia.”

It is often pointed out that in cultivation you can see growth and flowering behavior easily missed when only glimpsing snapshots taken on sporadic scientific field trips to wild populations. The tour through Floribunda showed us several examples of new species that were overlooked in the wild but brought to the attention of botanists because of observations of cultivated specimens at Floribunda.

Pelagadoxa

Pelagadoxa is only known in the South Pacific associated with human habitation and believed extinct in the wild. It had been considered a single species with variable sized fruit, however Jeff and others have traded two varieties for years. It wasn’t until 2019 that Don Hodel, Jeff, and several collaborators published a reassessment of the genus in *Palms* using morphology and genetics to describe and confirm the existence of two distinct species, the large-fruited *P. henryana* and the small-fruited *P. mesocarpa*.



Jeff demonstrating the distinctive large fruit of *P. henryana* with an inflorescence branching twice as opposed to *P. mesocarpa* with smaller fruits and inflorescence that branches three times.



Large fruits of *P. henryana*

Dypsis leucomalla



Jeff points out features of the type specimen John Dransfield used to describe the new species *Dypsis leucomalla*.

Dypsis leucomalla is another species of palm first described in cultivation in the IPS journal *Palms* in 2013 by John Dransfield and Jeff from a specimen at Floribunda. Jeff obtained seeds that were collected in the eastern escarpment forests of Madagascar in 1994 and sold the resulting seedlings as *Dypsis* sp. "white petiole".

As the article in *Palms* explains, "Independently Gunter Gottlieb, a commercial seed exporter in Toamasina, Madagascar, sent photographs of a mystery palm to Toby Spanner, and once circulated, JM was able to match these with his *Dypsis*" It was later determined that the species was not yet described to science and so the species *Dypsis leucomalla* was largely described by the specimen shown here in Jeff's garden.

Floribunda holds some of the rarest palms in cultivation, sometimes not because they are rare in the wild, but because they grow in places that few are brave enough to travel.

Sclerosperma mannii

Sclerosperma mannii, from Gabon on the west coast of Africa, is a clumping palm with beautiful leaves and no trunk. Despite its beauty it is a garden rarity because collecting and exporting seeds in Gabon is not easy.



Sclerosperma mannii from Gabon on the west coast of Africa



In the wild, its fruit is often hidden by debris at the base of the plant, but no debris here at Floribunda and Jeff cut away leaves exposing two fructescences at different development stages. The cone shaped inflorescence is made up of male flowers on top and female flowers on the bottom.

Along with helpful tips like not to remove your shoe and throw it into a palm to knock down seeds, we learned a little about hand pollination with a demonstration on *Borrassodendron machadonis*. The smell of the male and female flowers is strong and musky bordering on nasty. There was some talk about the presumption that it was only the male flowers that stunk.



Jeff passed out a list of 40 holy grail palms, but we only scratched the surface and so many more not on the list distracted us. There is just no way to see it all!



Crazy black flowers of *Hyophorbe vauhnii*



Unexplained beauty.



Geonoma atrovirens with a color like dinosaur kale.



Seeds and flowers on something very cool



Pritchardia viscosa from Kauai. There are only a handful of these palms - 4 known individuals maybe? in the wild. 15 at NTBG where they are growing them to be out planted.

We even got to go behind the greenhouse curtain and glimpse the beating heart of Floribunda nursery.

There was so much aloha from Jeff and Su. On each tour Su trailed us in the Polaris with coolers of waters, sodas, and beer. And bento boxed pupu waited for us after the tour. Thanks to Jeff and Su for being such gracious hosts and thanks to the HIPS volunteers welcoming people at the Hawaiian Acres Association and running the shuttle bus and van.



Note from the editor:

This newsletter goes out quarterly (more or less), the next newsletter will go out September 30th. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to contribute to the production of the newsletter, contact Mary Lock at marylock@sbcglobal.net.