Origins of the International Palm Society
from Dr. John Dransfield

In January 1956 shortly after the establishment of the Palm Society in 1955, our founder, Dent Smith, prepared the first part of a Bulletin that was circulated to all subscribing and prospective members. The Bulletin was mimeographed on 8½ by 11 in. paper, simply stapled in one corner. The first part ran to 12 pages of text, written and edited entirely by Dent Smith himself, and deals partly with Society matters and partly with palm information. From this modest beginning, the Bulletin went on to be published in February, March, April, May and July—six parts in all, the parts increasing in page length and including short articles by members other than Dent Smith himself. In the final Bulletin No 6, the editor mentions the idea of a proper printed quarterly journal. This new quarterly journal, Principes, was first published in October 1956. Principes Volume 1 ran to five numbers (October 1956, January, April, July and October 1957); thereafter Principes (and later Palms) has been published four times a year.

Photo top right: First paragraphs of the original Palm Society Bulletin. Bottom right: Excerpt from PRINCIPES, 1957 Vol 1. No. 4, viewable in the Members section of www.palms.org under “Palms online”

From time to time the IPS Newsletter will feature historical photos and notes from the IPS archives. Contributions are most welcome.

To view a full biography of Dent Smith, visit Our Community of Palm People on PalmTalk here: Dent Smith
Pedro Hernandez, member of both the IPS and Asociación Botánico Española Palmeras y Cycas (ABEPYC) spent three weeks in January in Saudi Arabia with his company LUCAPLANT S.A. His project is an integrated control of the Rhynchophorus Ferrugineus, or Red Palm Weevil. With their superior olfactory senses, dogs have the most important role, smelling and checking the big palms affected in an area of 6.0 hectares with more than one million palms.

From its origins in Southeast Asia, this destructive pest has established itself in Australia, across India and Middle Eastern Countries into Southern Europe, and Red Palm Weevil was most recently detected in the Southern California area of the United States in 2010.

Treatment is possible, but often by the time the infestation is apparent, the palms are beyond recovery, the entire crown collapsing. Detection using trained dogs can pinpoint affected palms early enough to allow treatment and improve the odds of survival.
Pedro with the Saudi owner, whose workers are being trained in the process.

Thanks to Paco Martí for this fascinating contribution to our Newsletter.

Pedro with Gira checking a *Phoenix* for infestation.

**Affiliate News**

**collected by Mike Merritt**

The IPS is pleased to announce Affiliate News will now appear in the Newsletter (with links to complete stories) instead of the former location in the printed Supplement to PALMS. This allows for more frequent notices in any language, as well as the inclusion of interesting photos or video. Look for this section to expand in the future.

Contributions may be sent to either Mike Merritt: merritt4154@gmail.com, or your Newsletter editor, Kim Cyr: kimberley.b.cyr@gmail.com.

**Tropical Garden Society of Sydney**

Fred Moody our President for the last decade, has retired, leaving a greatly invigorated Society, with attendances at meetings of 30-50 people, often with outstanding speakers and featuring a plant auction of fifty or more items. This year we have had two extra meetings in the warmer months. Other recent innovations include a digital projector, a loudspeaker system and an expanded library with many recent books.

Our new President is Dr Dale Dixon, who has spent many years in Queensland and the Northern Territory, developing a passion for tropical plants. Recently he was Director of the Northern Territory Herbarium, but for the last three years has been Collection Manager of the National Herbarium of NSW. He will be the speaker at our next meeting. Read more...

**Palm Society of Southern California Meeting**

**March 22, 2014**

The PSSC March 22, 2014 meeting will be held in the heart of Orange County at two gardens: (a) the home and garden of Ralph Velez, in Westminster; and (b) Palm Island in Mile Square Park, in nearby Fountain Valley. There will be a potluck lunch and plant auction at Palm Island.