



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

January/February 2020

NEWSLETTER

Notable Palm Gardens – the San Diego Botanic Garden by Andy Hurwitz

Dedication to the preservation of palms, interactions with legendary palm scientists, hobbyists and growers, as well as collegiality (read: fun) are the hallmarks of International Palm Society. A cohort of palm enthusiast recently met in San Diego California. One of the great benefits of membership is the opportunity to travel with like-minded individuals and tour special public and private gardens worldwide (and typically being treated as VIPs).



A magnificent *Beccariophoenix alfredii* donated by our society and planted by members Gregg Hamann, Mike Street and the inimitable Jeff Brusseau

Notable Palm Gardens – the San Diego Botanic Garden

The San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG), formally known as the Quail Botanical Gardens, is located in Encinitas, California. This 37-acre parcel with 5000 species was initially the private residence of the Larabee family. It borders the former Ecker ranch, an 800-acre nursery once responsible for over 90% of the world's production of potted poinsettias.



Characteristic orange-red crownshaft of *Areca vestiaria*

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In 1961 the land that eventually became the SDBG was a county park. The superintendent, who lived on site, was a “plant person” and established the core of plant collection. Today this noteworthy garden receives thousands of visitors annually. The garden is supported by earned revenue and benefactors. The collections include palms, bamboos, cacti and succulents, as well as California natives, including species grown as part of a conservation program.

Licuala ramsayi in
the Conservatory



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We were greeted by Dr. Ari Novy, President & CEO, who made opening remarks peeking our interests. Our gracious hosts afforded us an exceptional opportunity to visit the garden, including new Dickinson Family Education Conservatory. The conservatory broke ground in August 2016 and at the time of our visit was not yet open to the public. This structure was designed and engineered to grow a vast array of tropical plants but also transform into an event space. To do so there are a series of automated pulleys that allow large rafts of epiphytic plants (orchids, bromeliads, aroids, etc.) to be raised to the ceiling thus creating floor space for large

gatherings. It was an engineering triumph.

We are grateful for the tour of this exceptional garden. Everyone came away from the day in the garden with the hope of returning soon.



Chamaedorea woodsoniana
in the Conservatory

Notable Palm Gardens – the San Diego Botanic Garden



Hedyscepe canterburyana with Dr. Larry Noblick for scale



The notoriously spiny *Trithrinax campestris*

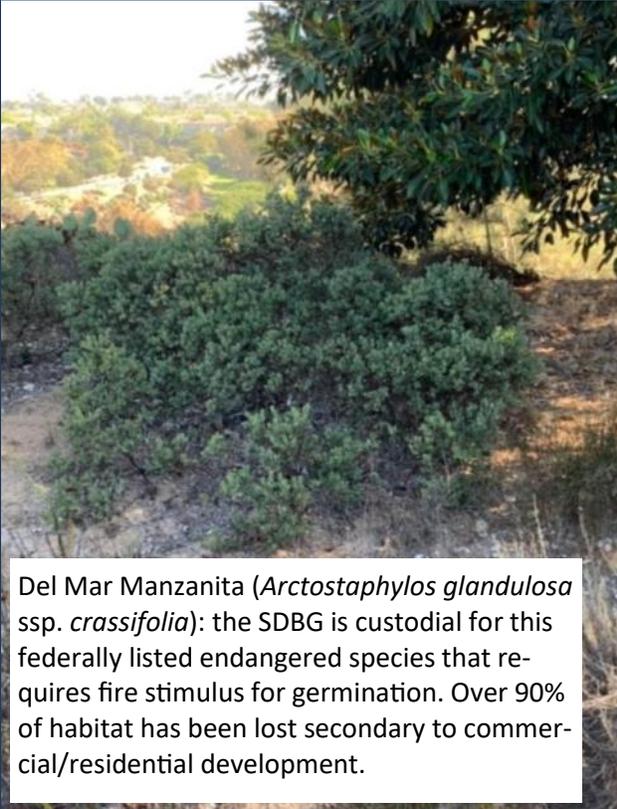


Cyphophoenix nucele



Howea belmoreana

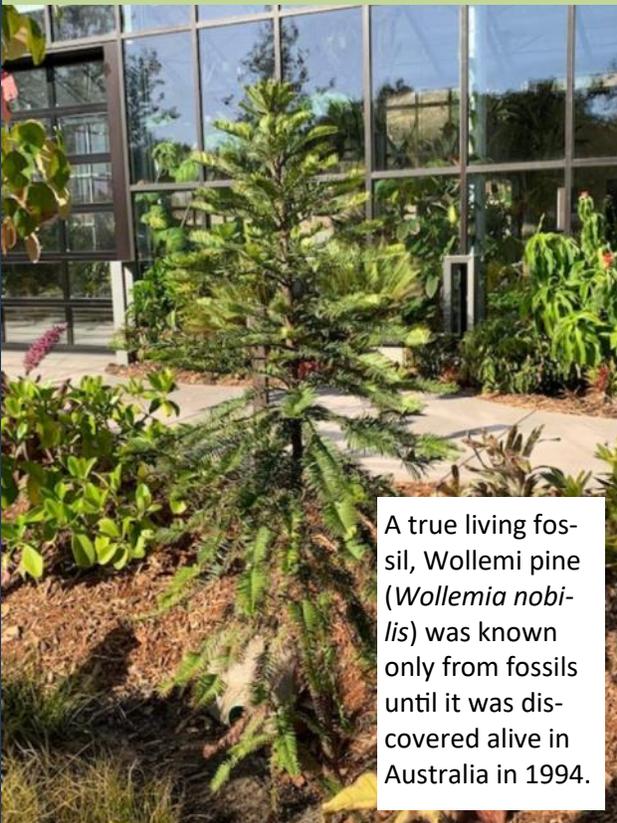
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Del Mar Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* ssp. *crassifolia*): the SDBG is custodial for this federally listed endangered species that requires fire stimulus for germination. Over 90% of habitat has been lost secondary to commercial/residential development.



Also nearly extinct, *Brighamia insignis* grows on cliffs in Kauai, Hawaii.



A true living fossil, Wollemi pine (*Wollemia nobilis*) was known only from fossils until it was discovered alive in Australia in 1994.



A movable raft of epiphytes in the Conservatory

DOES YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER/PALM SOCIETY HAVE AN EVENT? Let us know by advertising it here! Or share your experiences afterwards! Contact us and send us pictures!

Keep in mind that the IPS also offers merchandise online that can help you show off your membership, present your palm passion, and help spread the word about our community of palm enthusiasts!!

How do you get your own IPS items that include jewelry, shirts, caps, mugs, glasses, and many other practical items? Simply follow the “caps, t-shirt, totes, and more!” link from the IPS homepage [IPS Home](#), or go directly to this link: [IPS CafePress](#).



Remember to support our organization by participating with us! You can contribute by participating in our Palm Talk forum, our Facebook group, or by writing an article for either Palms journal or a note for IPS newsletter. You can also make an extra donation to the International Palm Society.



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