



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

Oct. 2021

NEWSLETTER

PIMBY – The Los Angeles County Museum of Art by Andy Hurwitz

Palms In My Backyard (PIMBY) is a recurring series initiated during the pandemic. Travel restrictions merit an opportunity for us to enjoy palms where we live, perhaps plants that have been previously overlooked, or considered “common.”

Los Angeles County Museum of Art established a “primal palm garden” under the direction of the legendary visual artist (and Los Angeles native), Robert Irwin. The artist chose “iconic” (though mostly non-endemic) plants and explained:

“The site itself is very unique—the La Brea Tar Pits, this primordial ooze that is coughing up bones of saber-toothed cats and mammoths. So you take that as a place to begin, and marry that with this primordial kind of tree. Certain types of palm, cycads, like the ones in front of the Broad Contemporary building, are actually the first plants on earth, as far as anybody knows.”

I think all of us palm-nuts would agree that Mr. Irwin chose well. Although not actually the first plants on earth, palms are still the princes of the plant world!



PIMBY – The Los Angeles County Museum of Art



A triumvirate of *Rhopalostylis sapida* with bulging crownshafts.



A lovely grouping of *Dypsis decaryi* in full sun.

PIMBY – The Los Angeles County Museum of Art



Looking through a scrim from within the Resnick Pavilion one sees a row of *Washingtonian robusta*. In the foreground is Michael Heizer's sculpture "Levitated Mass" (2012). Although this 340-ton megalith was quarried only 60 miles from museum, transportation required building a special vehicle with 72 wheels, and took 11 days. The maximum speed was 7 mph.

Below: *Furcraea foetida* (false agave) abutting the Resnick Pavilion.



PIMBY – The Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Various palms viewed through Fred Eversley's sculpture "Lens" (1972).



Below: An oasis of palms surrounds Chris Burden's "Urban Lights" (2008). The sculpture is comprised of 202 1920s cast iron streetlamps, all from Los Angeles (endemic). This civic artwork, open 24 hours a day, provides a frequent backdrop for wedding photography.



PIMBY – The Los Angeles County Museum of Art



A perfectly grown *Bismarckia nobilis* in a hand-some COR-TEN steel planter. The COR-TEN steel weathers in a way that mimics the material used by Richard Serra for his monumental sculpture “Band” (2006) just inside the museum. Note the *Brahea armata*, bordering the Resnick Pavilion in the background.

A *Jubaea chilensis* peeking out from the parking garage where it was planted two levels below.



Celebrate 65! The Dent Smith Fundraising Campaign

In honor of the founder of the International Palm Society and in recognition of our 65th anniversary, a successful fundraising campaign was established in January of this year. It's no secret that our mission of education, research, and conservation requires monetary support. The IPS gratefully acknowledges the many individuals who participated, especially in these unprecedented times.

The following Founder's Society contributors donated \$1000 or more:

Jeff Brusseau
Anthony Glomski
Andy Hurwitz
Tom Jackson
Leland Lai
Gill Menzel
Haresh R.
Colin Wilson

The International Palm Society's 65th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign

Your participation will ensure many more years of palm related research, education and conservation. Please help the IPS by donating today!



DENT SMITH FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Raising Funds to Support the Mission of the IPS:
Palm Research, Education & Conservation

We extend a huge "Thank you" to our contributors. It is the support of our members that keeps the IPS an active, vibrant society that is achieving its mission.



Save the date!

The 2022 International Palm Society biennial will take place in Hawaii from Sunday, October 9, through Saturday, October 15, 2022.

Photo courtesy of Dean Ouer ("from my back lanai"), Kona, Hawaii. This palm-rich garden is emblematic of what we will see in Hawaii next year!



Parting Shot (& Biennial Memories)

Our Parting Shot this month is also our Biennial Memory. Biennials are all about a group of palm aficionados gathering to appreciate and learn about palms and tropical horticulture. However, many of us take advantage of the free day to explore and participate in other hobbies as well. This photograph, from the golf club Campestre Farallones taken during the 2018 Colombia Biennial, is illustrative of combining two pleasures. Please note the ball in the fairway (barely) and more importantly, the allée of majestic *Syagrus sancona*!

