THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

Dec. 2021 NEWSLETTER

Photos of 2021

Traditionally this issue, the final issue of 2021, is devoted to favorite palm photographs, all from calendar year 2021.

We're leading off with a species that is enamored by this editor: *Neoveitchia storkii*. Photo by Mike Street.

Photos of 2021

"An approximate 35-yr old *Pseudophenix sargentii* planted on a southern exposure at Cuesta Linda, Vista, California." Photo by Jeffry Brusseau.

"The unmistakable trunk of Cyphosperma balansae. This beauty is growing in the Dennis Willoughby garden in San Diego." Photo by Len Geiger.

Chamaedorea frondosa in Puerto Rico, photo by Cindy Adair.

Photos of 2021

An anole successfully negotiating the super sharp and spiny leaflet of *Copernicia rigida* at the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, Miami Florida. Photo by Andy Hurwitz.

Copernicia baileyana, *C. fallaensis,* and *Coccothrinax borhidiana* (left to right). And a lovely tile fountain. Shenandoah neighborhood, Miami, Florida. Photo by Laz Priegues.

Skyline Palms, photo by Boyd Marts, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Photos of 2021

Dypsis glauca, Topanga, California. Photo by Leland Lai.

A sprouting double coconut! Photo by Manny Prieguez at Foster botanical garden Oahu, Hawaii.

New Research of Interest

New work published in the journal Scientific Reports by Peter Sterken looks at ways of assessing the risk of large palms breaking or uprooting in high winds. Sterken presents a summary of methods used to assess stem integrity and risk of failure, finding little evidence that the older methods can reliably predict palm stem failure. Drawing on the fields of engineering and materials science, Sterken models the palm stem as a viscoelastic, hollow cylinder that is prone to buckling, ovalization and kinking, as well as fatigue, shear, splitting, and cracking. The article is open access and can be downloaded from the link below.

Sterken, P. 2021. The quest for a unified theory on biomechanical palm risk assessment through theoretical analysis and observation. Scientific Reports 11: 22134. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-01679-4

Introducing the New President of the IPS

The International Palm Society has inaugurated Robert Blenker as our new president. Robert is the 25th president in the 65 years of our society. He represents a second-generation interest in the IPS, following his mother who was a revered member for many decades. Please be on the lookout for an interview with President Blenker in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

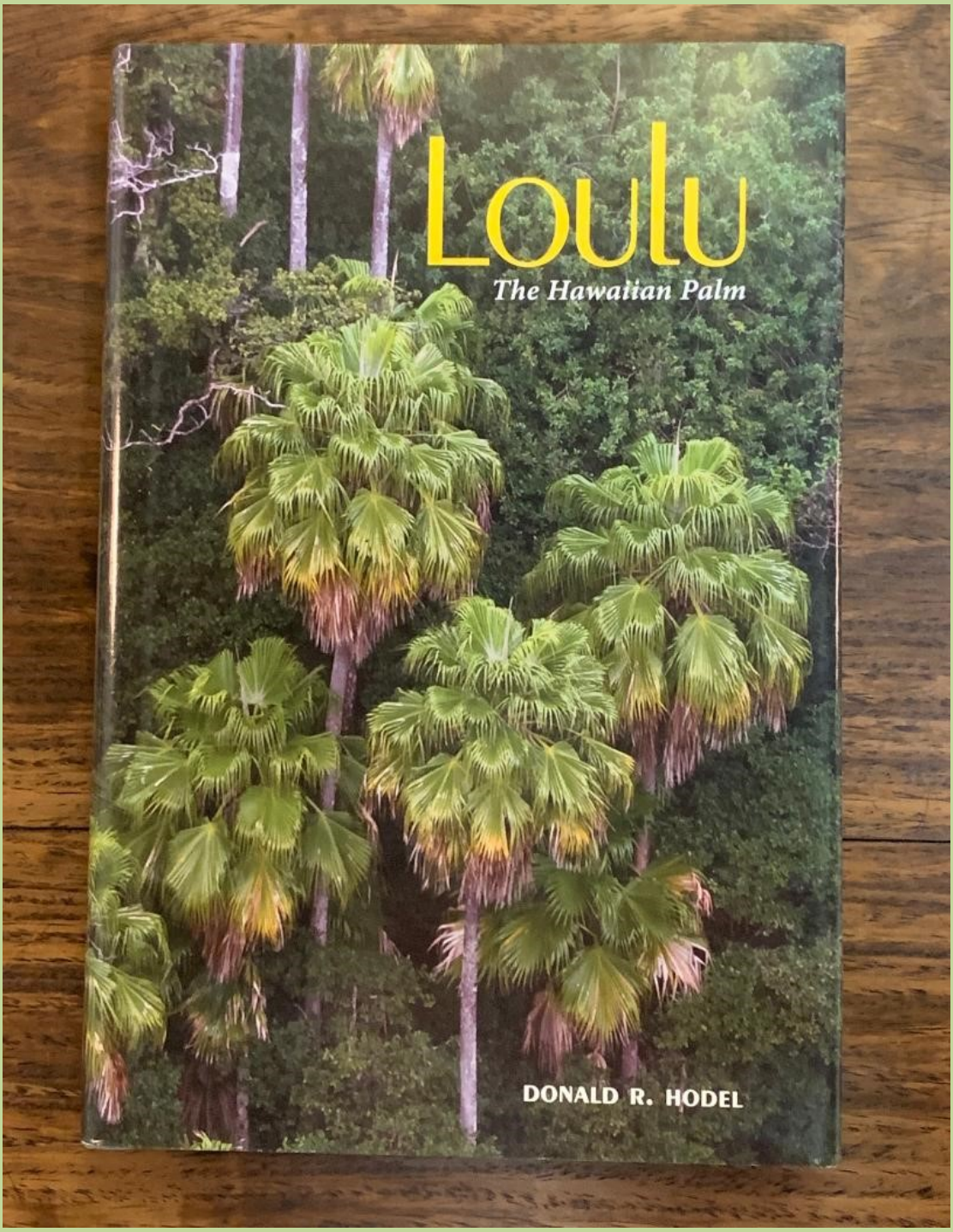
New president Robert Blenker (right) presenting an award to outgoing president Ray Hernandez acknowledging his contributions to the IPS.

Past Presidents of the IPS

1956–1957 Dent Smith, Florida
1957–1960 Dr. Walter Hodge, Florida
1960–1962 Eugene Kitzke, Florida
1962–1964 Nat J. DeLeon, Florida
1966–1968 Otto Martens, California
1968–1970 Dr. Jerome P. Keuper, Florida
1970–1972 Dr. John Popenoe, Florida
1972–1974 Kenneth (Ken) C. Foster, California
1974–1976 Dr. U. A. Young, Florida
1976–1978 Myron Kimnach, California
1978–1980 Don Carlsmith, Hawaii
1980–1982 Paul Drummond, Florida
1982–1984 Richard Douglas, California
1984–1986 Allan Bredeson, California
1986–1988 Edward McGehee, Florida
1988–1992 Jules Gervais, Hawaii
1992–1996 Jim Cain, Texas
1996–2000 Phil Bergman, California
2000–2004 Horace Hobbs, Texas
2004–2008 Paul Craft, Florida
2008–2012 Bo-Göran Lundkvist, Hawaii
2012–2016 Leland Lai, California
2016–2021 Ray Hernandez, Florida

Save the Date! IPS 2022 Biennial in Hawaii

In anticipation of the Hawaii Biennial, October 9–16, 2022, here is the definitive volume on Hawaii's native *Pritchardia* palms. The author, Don Hodel, is a longtime member of the IPS and Professor Emeritus at the University of California. This would be the perfect holiday gift for your favorite palm-nut and a must-read ahead of the Biennial. This book is available via Amazon Smile, and please designate the International Palm Society as your charity of choice!



Save the Species: *Sabinaria magnifica*

The IPS is partnering with Salvamontes to Save the Species, *Sabinaria magnifica*.

To preserve the Serranía, Salvamontes will acquire about 100 hectares of rainforest at La Paloma camp, with an additional 130 hectares to follow. Not only will this result in the successful conservation of *Sabinaria magnifica* in habitat, but at least another 30 species of palms, along with the jaguars, monkeys, and toucans.

Our Save the Species effort directly targets rainforest and habitat protection. To do so we will provide financial support to in-situ conservation, upkeep, and preservation. Acquisition of this patch of rainforest is the first step towards the successful conservation of this extraordinary palm genus. Additionally, we will continue to sponsor ex-situ conservation of *Sabinaria magnifica*. Furthermore, this fundraiser will enable researchers, such as Dr. Bernal, and others, to continue their scientific inquiries.

The *Sabinaria magnifica* fundraiser will contribute toward saving this magnificent palm in habitat, and the diverse rainforest within the critically threatened Darién Gap. This fundraising event was launched on Giving Tuesday, November 30 and concludes August 1, 2022. Please consider supporting our campaign by clicking through the link below, or going to https://palms.org/save-the-species/.

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CLICK TO GIVE

Photos courtesy of Dr. Rodrigo Bernal

Parting Shot

In closing, a photograph of IPS board member Laz Priegues celebrating another ex-situ victory: A happily growing *Sabinaria magnifica* at the Montgomery Botanical Center, Miami. Let's work together to ensure that our efforts to Save the Species and its precious habitat are successful. Here's hoping that the year 2022 heralds more IPS supported palm research, education, and meaningful habitat conservation. And palm related travel among friends! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!