



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

May 2022

NEWSLETTER

International Palm Society's Hawaiian Islands Biennial

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The International Palm Society's 32nd biennial is now open for registration. This will be an unforgettable event, as Mary Lock (from the hosting Hawaiian Island Palm Society) explains:

"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 even 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. The IPS provides you access to places where only insiders can go. On Hawaii island, members of the Hawaii Island Palm Society (HIPS), the local affiliate of the IPS, will be waiting to share their aloha and welcome you into Hawaii island's legendary private gardens. It would take a lifetime, great luck, and a small fortune to see all the palms that you will see in just a couple of hours at Floribunda Palms. The collection contains some of the rarest palms ever placed in a garden. And like all IPS biennials, there is a large educational component, and we are pleased to have a great line up of evening speakers. Hawaii has only one genus of native palm yet there are 19 endemic species of the genus *Pritchardia*. Not only does each island have its own endemic species, but some species are found in only a single valley or mountain slope. Mike DeMotta from the National Tropical Botanic Garden will talk about Hawaiian *Pritchardia* and collecting *Pritchardia woodii* on the remote eastern slopes of Haleakala. He will talk about the NTBG initiative to propagate *P. woodii* at the Kahanu garden on Maui. Long time HIPS member and retired Biology professor at UH Hilo, Don Hemmes will give a talk about the history of HIPS, the palm collection it created at the Panaewa Zoo, and the history of the UHH cycad and palm collection, which is supported by HIPS members. The IPS biennial is also an opportunity to catch up with the latest discoveries and research in palm taxonomy. Andrew Henderson, whose research spans the globe has been working recently in the Dominican Republic and will tell us why *Coccothrinax* is now his favorite genus. Extra time has been built into the schedule so participants will also have plenty of time to relax and visit with old friends and make new ones. A free day is planned so that you can explore your personal interests with opportunities to join optional excursions. It's been so long since we've been together. We hope you will join us."

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The Maui pre-Biennial tour is now open as well for registration. Again, Mary Lock:

“Experience private and limited access gardens on the island of Maui prior to the start of the Biennial. The Merwin Conservancy invites you into the palm forest of poet W.S. Merwin, Jerry and Robin Welch welcome you to their private east Maui palm garden, and artist Tom Sewell opens his Enigma of the Machine installation at his Sewell Art Estate. There is plenty of time to relax on the world-famous beaches and play in the water on this three-night trip. Feel the aloha and enjoy the relaxed company of friends oceanside at the arrival banquet at Hawaii's most Hawaiian hotel, The Kaanapali Beach Hotel.”

Information and sign-up for the Maui Pre-Biennial tour is here:

[CLICK TO SIGN-UP](#)

***Pritchardia* in Hawaii by Donald R. Hodel**

Pritchardia* in Hawaii: *Pritchardia forbesiana

Pritchardia forbesiana occurs on Maui and Moloka'i, one of the few species to be found on multiple islands in Hawai'i, and it resides in wet to very wet, low scrubby forest and grasslands in eastern Moloka'i and on the Pu'u Kukui massif comprising West Maui, as illustrated here. Noteworthy are the copious amounts of web-like, hairy fibers on the petioles, the leaf blades green above and below, the short inflorescences not exceeding the petiole, and the large, black fruits. © 2006 D. R. Hodel.



***Pritchardia* in Hawaii**



Gizella Kopsick Arboretum & The Sunken Gardens

In November 2021, the IPS held a mid-term Board of Directors meeting in Sarasota and St. Petersburg, Florida. The following reportage is by Newsletter Editor and IPS Board member Andy Hurwitz.

The Gizella Kopsick Arboretum was founded in 1976 and now includes over 500 Palms and Cycads representing about 150 species. The pathways are all wide and paved, as Miss Kopsick used a wheelchair by the time of the garden's dedication. Many of the palms and cycads on this two-acre bayside property (as well as the Sunken Gardens) were donated by former International Palm Society President (1974–1976) Dr. U. A. Young. The Central Florida Palm and Cycad Society (CFPACS) played an instrumental role in procuring this donation.

U. A. Young practiced orthopedic surgery in Tampa. His garden was legendary for palms and cycads. Former IPS President Ray Hernandez recalls, that for him as a young tropical plant up-and-comer, it was a "shrine." Dr. Young's most famous palm was surely his double coconut, the seed of which was obtained in 1974 by Mel Sneed. Mr. Sneed was visiting the Seychelles and acquired four seeds. He kept two for his garden in Jamaica, sent one to the IPS seed bank (then under the auspices of Lucita Wait), and gifted one to U. A. Young (who at that time was the president of the IPS).

Please be sure to view this [touching video tribute](#) to Dr. U. A. Young, created by his son Benji. Fun fact, Dr. Young was a champion spring-board diver! It would be remiss not to mention Dr. Young's other passion; not only did he voraciously collect palms, but he also developed a taste for cycads. Cycad connoisseurs believed that his collection was unequalled in a private garden setting, especially as many plants were acquired before CITES (1975), making them quite rare in cultivation.



Our gang of palm-nuts (attendees of the IPS mid-term meeting, November, 2021), at the Arboretum's entrance.

Gizella Kopsick Arboretum & The Sunken Gardens



Above Left:

Copernicia alba prodigiously fruiting with especially large infructescences. This tree was incorrectly labeled as *C. prunifera*. One of the many advantages of traveling with the IPS is having experts at your disposal to answer any questions while viewing plants.

Above Right:

A lovely variegated *Sabal palmetto*

Right:

Dictyosperma album, beautifully illustrating the reins. The reins are the strips of “left-over” tissue on either side of the leaf which remain after the segments form during the embryonic stage.



Gizella Kopsick Arboretum & The Sunken Gardens



Above Left:

A bronze colored crownshaft glistening in the sun: *Sata-kentia liukuensis*

Above Right:

It's always fun, and quite didactic, when our group of botanical scientists and enthusiastic hobbyist gather around a palm to debate its identity. This time it's a *Corypha*.

Left:

Acrocomia crispa (formerly *Gastrococos crispa*), spiny with a swollen trunk. Recognizable as the Cuban Belly Palm. IPS director Laz Priegues for scale.

Gizella Kopsick Arboretum & The Sunken Gardens



Above Left:

Sabal palmetto 'Lisa,' a cultivar with an unusual leaf form, named in 2005 by Robert Reefer in honor of his wife, Lisa. Morphologically the 'Lisa' leaf is: "less divided, less filiferous, and more rigid than is typical for the species." Hence it makes a fine cultivar.

Above Right:

A very handsome yet strangely miniature cultivar of *Dypsis lutescens*. All agreed that this dwarf form was unusual. Background: *Copernicia macroglossa*.

Right:

A "baby" *Tahina spectabilis* looking good!



Gizella Kopsick Arboretum & The Sunken Gardens

Florida's oldest roadside attraction, the Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg, Florida, was the afternoon destination for the International Palm Society mid-term meeting attendees. Back in 1911, the owner (George Turner Jr, a plumber by trade) drained an ancient lake and planted in the "muck soil" of the lake bed fifteen feet below sea level. The rich soil has nourished what are now some of the oldest tropical plants in the region. As would be expected, our group thoroughly enjoyed wandering amongst the lush tropical plantings.

Below Left:

The IPS enjoying a VIP tour of the grounds. The palm in the background is *Hyophorbe verschaffeltii*.

Below Right:

Caryota mitis, a clustering member of the genus, producing fruits and seeds. IPS director Jeff Brusseau (also providing scale) admiringly refers to this as the "art deco palm."



Gizella Kopsick Arboretum & The Sunken Gardens

Right:

Versaffeltia splendida with its prominent stilt roots.

Below Left:

Coccothrinax crinita.

Below Right:

Arlene Hurwitz spooning with a *Licuala*.



Parting Shot

IPS member Boyd Marts, from Bismarck, North Dakota, sent this photo on April 16! Boyd and his wife Stacy are REALLY looking forward to the Hawaii Biennial.

