

## Letter from IPS Grant Recipient Joanna Tucker Lima

*The society's support through the Endowment was very important to the success of my research and continuing love and investigation of palms. Here follows a brief description of my research associated with the IPS grant. Thank you!*

Biofuels represent a promising resource for isolated rural areas of Amazonia, where poor accessibility has slowed electrification, and high fuel prices limit transportation of people and goods. My study evaluated the potential of two native palm species in southwestern Amazonia as a source of biofuel and generates ecological knowledge to facilitate sustainable management of these species for oil extraction. I compared flowering and fruiting phenologies of *Attalea phalerata* and *Attalea speciosa* in pastures and old-growth forests of Acre and Rondônia, Brazil, and measured palm densities, fruit characteristics, and fruit oil content to assess biofuel potential. Findings showed that *Attalea* palms can produce sufficient oil to substitute petroleum-based fuels in remote Amazonian communities, reducing greenhouse gas emissions while increasing the conservation value of standing forest and the adoption of agroforestry systems.



Photo of researcher Joanna Tucker Lima with *Attalea speciosa*

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*Pigafetta* above, *Albizia* below, disrupt power lines in East Hawaii.

- Photos by B.G. Lundkvist



# Tropical Storm Iselle

## Hits Hawaii's Big Island August 7, 2014

East Hawaii Island IPS members recount the storm in their own words.

Charlie Maas: "Trees snapping everywhere, every time you heard one go you prayed it would miss you. After the storm, trees down everywhere, looked as if a bomb was dropped. ...if you look on the bright side, you always wanted that area cleared for planting." Below, a photo of Charlie with the rootball of a downed tree.



Tiffany Ripa: "We are currently without electricity and phone service. (Aug. 14) Our house, detached garage, and pavilion were unscathed by the storm. However, there were a few tree casualties, mostly ohias (*Metrosideros polymorpha*). We did have a *Bismarkia nobilis* tip over. I don't think we will be able to save it, as it bent over at the lower part of the trunk. This tree is about 5-6 years old. I stayed in our doorway till 10:10 pm to watch and witness the storm and it was amazing and with great force. I could hear the surging of the storm, cracking of the trees, thumps from their fall, and see glowing orbs of energy in the sky. There was also a somewhat storm sea smell in the humid air. What a force! I have toured our neighborhood, Leilani Estates. There are smattered utility poles and a spaghetti mess of power lines on a few streets. It looks like we might be 3 weeks out for power. One can only hope it may be sooner reinstatement. We are troopers and survivors. Things could be worse.

"As for prep, our trees required none. We stowed all lanai furniture in our garage. We did lose a *Licuala* after a root ball of an ohia was righted, causing it to be crushed. We did have to chainsaw about 4 ohia trees. One which fell across our driveway, and had to clear some and drive under it to get to work in the am. The truck just fit! We have taken measures over the years to remove trees too close to the house and remove so called junk trees from our property. Our *Pigafetta* really swirled in the storm. It was the palm I was most afraid of falling, and it being near to my neighbors house. We had several fronds on the ground and I think our *Chambeyronia* may have new frond damage from the ohia that fell very near it or maybe brushed it as it fell."



Michael Lock: "Many thousands of people in rural Hawaii rely on rainwater catchment for all of their household water - for cooking, bathing and drinking. The rainwater is typically moved from its storage tank into the house plumbing using an electric pump. That means that when power goes out, the household water dries up, too. We recently installed an inexpensive, solar-powered pump for our water tank and we're quite happy to keep the water flowing through the almost inevitable power outage (12 hours in our case) following such a big storm as Iselle."

Helena Brandfors: "It's really been challenging. Day 6, (Aug. 12) no power and no eta. Today's Helco statement is that it could be weeks. My experience, in summary, I can live without light, but not without running water! At least, not without getting grumpy!"

Don & Diane Thornton: "...we were lucky – we lost one big fern tree (snapped in two) and a good sized tree in a neighbor's yard crashed into our yard missing our catchment tank by inches. We have more than 500 palms on two acres and did not lose one of them, although quite a few are a bit shredded up. They got whipped around pretty good. I've been cleaning up fronds like crazy – more than 250 by my rough count. The most unusual aspect of the cleanup was the fact I could determine the biggest loser. We have 10 mature *Pritchardia pacifica* and every one of them lost several fronds – much more than any other species we have."

Jeff Marcus, Floribunda Palms: "Power just came on at our nursery (Aug. 18) and we were trying to keep hundreds of thousands of palms alive with a watering can. Power outages are a problem for nurseries on catchment as no power means no pumps operate to irrigate, and growing in a certified California approved media dries out quickly as we did not have much rain for the first week after storm. My biggest problem on my 6 acres was that about 12 huge Ohia trees were blown over. This tree, especially when palms are planted and fertilized around them, get more robust and have a heavy head. We had a *Syagrus botryophora* blow over, 40 ft. tall and I could have stood it back up but did not have the proper equipment and have other trees. I was very lucky as the damage from the downed Ohias just grazed other palms and knocked off a leaf, not many direct hits. The Albizia tree will have to be removed when close to structure or power poles as it is terrible in wind. Palms on the whole were tough to the 65-80-mph winds, and my 90-ft. *Pigafetta elata* looked unscathed as did many of the large *Dypsis*. If we ever have a larger storm in wind strength, much was learned and it will be up to the individual to remove Albizia and Ohia near structures and power lines and rare palms in ground as they obviously are not strong. We were lucky as the Palm Gods watched over our garden, as my greatest concern was how my diverse palm collection would fare as we might have lost 10 rare palms out of 2000. Any loss is sad but it could have been much more devastating."

Thanks to all who responded during a difficult period.

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# Affiliate News...

## Hawaii Island Palm Society

### Garden Tour of Hale Mohalu (Dalbok Garden)

July 13, 2014

Tim Brian, HIPS President

Over 70 HIPS members braved a potential rain storm and attended the garden tour at Hale Mohalu. The three hour window of dry weather provided by nature worked out perfectly. The garden was in such great condition, thanks to the efforts of garden director, Mike Stancliff. After introductory announcements and welcoming old and new members, the group split into two groups for the hour long tour of the garden. We saw stands of *Veitchia*, *Iriarte*, *Roystonea*, *Caryota*, *Attalea*, *Bismarckia*, *Clinostigma*, and smaller groupings of other outstanding palms. A highlight of the tour was the grouping of Bali structures used to house guest workers set high on the property with fantastic views toward the water. In addition to the many palms given to new members, the raffle palms, provided by Bill Austin, ended another successful HIPS event. Mahalo everyone for attending and for helping staff the tour.



# The Palm Society of Southern California

## Camarillo, Ventura County

July 19, 2014

David Bleistein, President

The July meeting was held at two gardens in Camarillo, Ventura County. One was at the home and garden of Robert and Pam Solakian, and the other was at the home and garden of PSSC Board Member John Rees and his wife, Clarissa Dong. Both gardens were in the hills north of the 101 Freeway.

The Solakian garden contains many large *Howea* and *Rhopalostylis* that now encircle the pool area, plus many new palm species rare to the Ventura/ Santa Barbara area. Tropical palms are also growing in Robert's new aluminum greenhouse. Robert is the owner of Santa Barbara Greenhouses in Oxnard, and was full of tips on greenhouse design, cost and maintenance. Pam is an artist, who had her work on display.

The Rees/Dong garden was recently upgraded by John; a number of paths and plants were added. The highlights included his magnificent *Hedyscepe*, plus mature *Howea belmoreana* and *forsteriana*, some with ropes of seeds forming. His spectacular *Hyophorbe indica* is as beautiful as ever.

Approximately 30 members appeared. John got some herbal chicken for the meat course, and it was devoured by all in attendance. There were some great deals at the auction. Thanks to all who came and all who donated!





July garden tour, photo courtesy of the PSSC editorial staff

## Attention all Affiliate Palm Societies!

The IPS wishes to support regional societies around the globe by distributing your news in this Newsletter. Coming soon, space will also be available for your affiliate palm society on the new IPS website. Please forward any news to be shared to IPS Director Michael Merritt: [merritt4154@gmail.com](mailto:merritt4154@gmail.com)



