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BACK COVER

Old *Ceroxylon echinulatum* trees and dead trunks left in a pasture. See article by J.-C. Pintaud and F. Anthelme, p. 96. Photo by J.-C. Pintaud.





NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF PALMS

As we reflect back on the Costa Rican Biennial, which ended less than two weeks ago, we call to mind many happy memories of the places we visited, the palms we saw and the friends we made. This Biennial was unusual in that it was not planned and hosted by a local chapter. Instead, IPS contracted with a local tour operator CRT to run the tours of parks and wilderness areas, provide transportation and guides and to keep track of 200-some palm-hungry IPS members. We think everyone of the attendees agrees, the Biennial was a huge success. The highlights were many and include gliding silently through the forest canopy in open gondolas, gazing down from a suspension bridge into the crown of an *Iriartea* and hiking through trails lined with *Bactris*, *Chamaedorea*, *Welfia* and *Calyptroglyne*. This was the first IPS Biennial held in Costa Rica, but many of us hope that it will not be the last.

The Biennial was preceded by the annual business meeting of the board of directors. The board discussed ways to improve the IPS website and the on-line shopping cart, the upcoming publication of the second edition of *Genera Palmarum* and the future of the IPS Bookstore, which is currently suspended. One of the pieces of business that the board decided

upon at the meeting was the location for the 2010 Biennial: the palm-rich environs of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The meeting also installed newly elected and re-elected board members and officers of the IPS, including the new president, Bo-Göran Lundqvist of Hawaii. The board also disbursed over \$22,000 in grants for research and education. Grant recipients will submit articles about their work for publication in the pages of this journal.

A taste of the Costa Rican adventure can be seen in the lively posts in the "IPS Biennial – Costa Rica 2008" forum on Palmtalk, the IPS' interactive website, where users can discuss palms and share photos with one another 24/7. We often hear the complaint that the printed journal does not adequately address horticultural questions from specific palm-growing areas, but Palmtalk can do what the journal can not: the Palmtalk community can and does respond to every palm question imaginable. No question is too obscure or too simplistic. Whether you are a "newbie" to growing palms or a veteran, the Palmtalk community welcomes you. There is a link to Palmtalk in the upper right corner of the IPS home page at www.palms.org.

THE EDITORS