

News of the Society

Call for Nominations for IPS Board of Directors for 2016–2020 Term of Office

If you know anyone who can contribute to the goals of the International Palm Society and is willing to dedicate the time necessary to serve as a Director, please submit his/her name for nomination to Administrative Secretary Larry Noblick by the deadline of October 31, 2015.

Nominating requirements: A candidate must have been a Member of the Society for two years before being nominated as a Director. Any IPS Member may propose a candidate for nomination by writing an email or letter to the Administrative Secretary. A second nomination in writing from another Member is also required. The proposed candidate must submit to the Secretary a written consent of willingness to serve if elected.

Duties and expectations of the IPS Directors: The IPS Board of Directors has general charge of the affairs and business of the Society including the management of the Society's funds. Directors are expected to take an active role in Board activities by serving on appropriate committees. The Board meets once a year, at the Biennial meeting or at an Interim Meeting. An ability and willingness to travel to all (or most) of the annual Board Meetings at the Director's own expense is a strong consideration used by the Nominating Committee when selecting candidates.

The Nominating Committee for the upcoming election comprises Faith Bishock, Horace Hobbs, Julie Cleaver Malzoni, Kathryn Morgan and Lee Tracy. Questions concerning the nominating and election processes may be sent to Kathryn Morgan, IPS Nominating Committee Chair, at KathrynMorganIPS@yahoo.com, or Larry Noblick, IPS Administrative Secretary, at larryn@montgomerybotanical.org.

The 2016 IPS Biennial: Malaysia & Singapore

The itinerary for the 2016 IPS Biennial is now set, and the last arrangements are being made. We expect to have all of the details finalized and registration open by the end of 2015, so keep an eye on the IPS website! The Biennial will begin on Sunday, June 12 in Kuching, Malaysia, on the island of Borneo. We shall be based in Kuching for the first four nights of the Biennial, making day trips to visit habitat locations in Bako National Park and Kubah National Park, where approximately 40 different species of palms can be seen (including large numbers of *Johannesteijsmannia altifrons* and *Licuala orbicularis*). In addition, we shall visit the Semenggoh Nature Reserve, tour the spectacular collection of Bornean palms and see semi-wild orangutans. A free day will also be available with a range of tour options, including locations with an emphasis on palms, wildlife and/or cultural experiences. After four nights in Kuching, we shall make the short flight to Singapore, where we shall spend the next three nights at the world-class Marina Bay Sands hotel. While in Singapore, our focus will be two amazing gardens, the Singapore Botanic Gardens and Gardens by the Bay. In addition, we shall also have a chance to see roughly a dozen species of palms in habitat during a visit to the MacRitchie Reservoir. The tour will conclude on Sunday, June 19. This promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime palm event, with a dizzying array of natural habitats and world-famous botanical gardens.

In addition to the main Biennial, a pre-tour to Malaysian Borneo will also be offered starting on Sunday, May 29, in Miri. Over the course of 13 days, this tour will visit the best palm habitats on the island, all of which have been selected based on multiple reconnaissance trips conducted by IPS board members. There will be an opportunity to see a staggering 70 different species of palms in habitat. Specific destinations will include the National Parks of Mulu, Lambir Hills, and Similajau, along with several other areas of pristine tropical jungle. There will also be a six-day post-tour to view the palms of the Northern Territory in Australia. Darwin is a relatively short flight from Singapore and will serve as the jumping-off point for this tour. Highlights will include visits to the National Parks of Litchfield, Gregory, Eusey, Nitmiluk and Kakadu, along with other local parks and the well-established George Brown Botanical Garden in Darwin. This tour will provide access to a range of spectacular palms that are rarely found in cultivation, such as *Livistona inermis*, *L. victoriae* and *Hydriastele ramsayi*. The tour will conclude in Darwin on Saturday, June 25.