



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

MARCH 2017

NEWSLETTER

Introduction

We really appreciate contributions from fellow members! This month we have two stories submitted by fellow palm enthusiasts and cover the removal of palms from a famous palm-lined avenue in Rio! We hope you enjoy this issue. Feedback is always welcome.

Arbor Day in Hawaii

The following note was received from Tim Brian, a Hawaii resident who served a term as an IPS Director and for several years as the President of the Hawaii Island Palm Society (HIPS). He is still very active, produces the HIPS newsletter, and kindly shares his articles now and then.

“In an effort to promote more native Hawaiian palms in the landscape, the



Hawaii Island Palm Society gave away 100 native Pritchardia palms, (also known as the Loulu Palm), at the entrance to the Hilo Zoo on Saturday, November 19, 2016 to celebrate Arbor Day in Hawaii.

These super healthy 4" seedlings, purchased from local grower Floribunda Palms and Exotics, were ready for planting or repotting. In addition to the healthy seedlings, HIPS members gave away care sheets, *Pritchardia* booklets, and conducted a tour of the Zoo's famous palm collection. Mahalo to all of the members who volunteered for this public event!” – Photos and Text by Tim Brian

Cuba Trip with Duanny Suarez, text and photos by Gareth Mann

“A palm viewing trip in Cuba was organized by local palm expert Duanny Suarez of the Cienfuegos Botanical Gardens. Mr. Suárez showed us around the island and was a wealth of knowledge on the local palms. Some of the populations we saw were originally discovered by him. We were a very small group and we all fitted in a rental car. The whole trip was both East and Central Cuba, though I participated for only the 4 days in Central Cuba, which included the provinces of Camaguey, Ciego de Avila, Sancti Spiritus, Cienfuegos, and Santa Clara.”



Copernicia macroglossa in Cienfuegos, Cuba, by Gareth Mann

“We saw many species of *Coccothrinax* and *Copernicia* in a very wide variety of habitats including coastal dunes, serpentine savannas, pastures, and forests. Duanny was also a great help in finding great accommodations and restaurants.”

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)





Copernicia fallaensis in Ciego de Avila, Cuba, by Gareth Mann

Removing Dead Imperial Palms from Iconic Brazil Avenue in Rio de Janeiro

A group of dead Imperial Palms—also known as South American Royal Palms—(*Roystonea oleracea*) are being removed from the iconic “Avenida Brasil” in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. As a result of the falling of one dead palm, which caused no damage but highlighted the risk to public safety, eleven other dead Imperial Palms trunks were targeted for removal. Some living palms were also under study.

Damage caused by bees to the bases of the trunks was cited as a cause of structural weakening. The problem was even more acute in cases in which the palm was already dead!

Original Article [Liberal Newspaper Article: City starts removal of palm trees in Avenida Brasil \(“Prefeitura inicia retirada de palmeiras na Avenida Brasil” in Portuguese\)](#)

Video of the operation in [Youtube.com](#)



Dead Imperial Palm (*Roystonea oleracea*) taken down, picture from [Liberal Newspaper Article](#)

ENJOYING THE PERKS OF IPS MEMBERSHIP

One of the benefits of being a member of the International Palm Society is the connection it offers to the wide range of palm experts, experienced growers, and other enthusiasts worldwide. You can connect with fellow palm growers both through the PalmTalk website, which offers a variety of chat categories, or via the IPS Facebook page.

Why is this such an advantage? It has probably happened to you at least once in your journey of education about palms when you've seen a lovely specimen but maybe weren't quite sure of the palm's name or perhaps specific variety. Now, just whip your phone out, click a photo, post to it the IPS Facebook Page, and summon the expertise of a global community! Great. Within a day you've probably gathered a consensus vote on your palm's identity.

So now what? Maybe you're wondering if this palm will grow where you live and garden and, if so, where do you find one or seeds for one—especially if it is a variety not common in cultivation? Log on to your PalmTalk forum. Run a search on the palm's name and see what information is posted about it. There's a treasure trove of information in these fora that can help you decide if this is, in fact, the best next palm for your obsessively growing collection. You may see information about cold-hardiness or photos demonstrating the palm's growth rate. You'll read about questions other people have had about the plant and how various people answered those questions. Plus, PalmTalk rates its contributors, which helps you have confidence in identifying more accurate advice.

You've decided to get your hands on one of these palms either by potted plant or seed. Good news—you can stay in PalmTalk a bit longer and check to see if anyone is offering them for sale or trade. Also check in the forum for seed availability.

And now you have that great palm you couldn't identify at first and its growing in your yard, home, greenhouse, or wherever. It's your opportunity to post in PalmTalk or the IPS Facebook Page about your experiences, lessons learned, and information about cultivation, and—of course—post those pictures!!

Let's keep this alive!

Visit the discussion board to ask questions about palms: www.palmtalk.org

Visit the new INTERACTIVE FaceBook Group: International Palm Society

Follow us on Twitter: @IPS_PalmSociety; on Instagram: @thepalmsociety; or

Email address for contact: info@palms.org



A well-armed Macaw Palm (*Acrocomia aculeata*) native to Central and South America with *Tillandsia* perched on its spines. Photograph courtesy Robert Branch.