



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2017

NEWSLETTER

This month we have a note about a lover of palms, Mr. Sven Nehlin, who passed away last month. We highlight a story from the highlands of South America concerning the wax palms, *Ceroxylon* spp., and how they might be affected by possible changes to the landscape from open cow pasture to avocado groves.

We always look forward to hearing from you! Let us know about your palm adventures!

A Palm Fellow's Farewell

Plant research and conservation recently suffered a great loss in Venezuela, when Mr. Sven Nehlin, passed away in the city of Caracas on October 28th only three days before his 92nd birthday. Born in the southern Swedish city of Saffle, Sven undertook studies in administration and later spent some years in Stockholm. where he worked for several local banks. Probably his first contact with Venezuela was in 1954, when he undertook administrative duties in the Swedish enterprise Sentab, which at that time was deeply involved with major construction activities in the flourishing northern South America country. One may guess that the first contact with the luxuriant tropical vegetation of this country deeply marked this newly arrived European. Venezuela was his new home since then!

Those who met Sven will always remember the rich gardens in the backyard of his house and his great passion for rare or useful species. These collections, in particular rare fruit trees and exotic palms, were in most cases generously shared with other public and private collections

Below: Always up for supporting plant activities, Mr. Nehlin's participation during an event on May 28th, 2017, at Topotpuy Gardens in Caracas, Venezuela. [Photo](#) by SADARBOL ©.



A Palm Fellow's Farewell (continued)

throughout the country and often regarded by plant lovers as treasures of tropical botany.

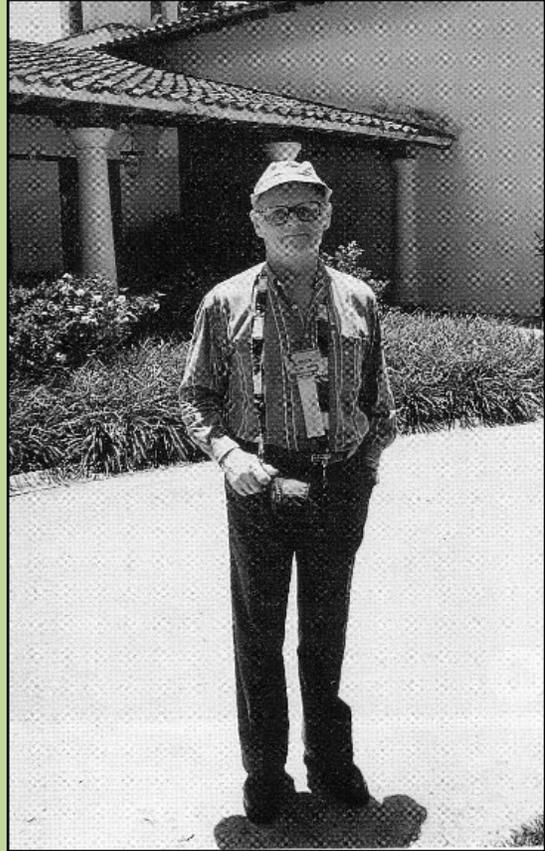
Communication was one of his many abilities, either represented by his active use of ham radio, his regular email-newsletters, or more so by the public activities associated to his restless participation in many non-government organizations towards the promotion and protection of the local flora. Among these we may highlight are his active membership in the Venezuelan Society of the Friends of the Trees (SADARBOL) and, in the last decades, as an active member and later director of the Venezuelan Palm Association (AVEPALMAS), the Venezuelan little sister of International Palm Society.

In 1994, International Palm Society Biennial was held in Caracas, Venezuela, and during that Sven did all he could to make this meeting a success.

Read the Article about that IPS meeting: [Principes 38\(4\), 1994, pp. 214-219](#).

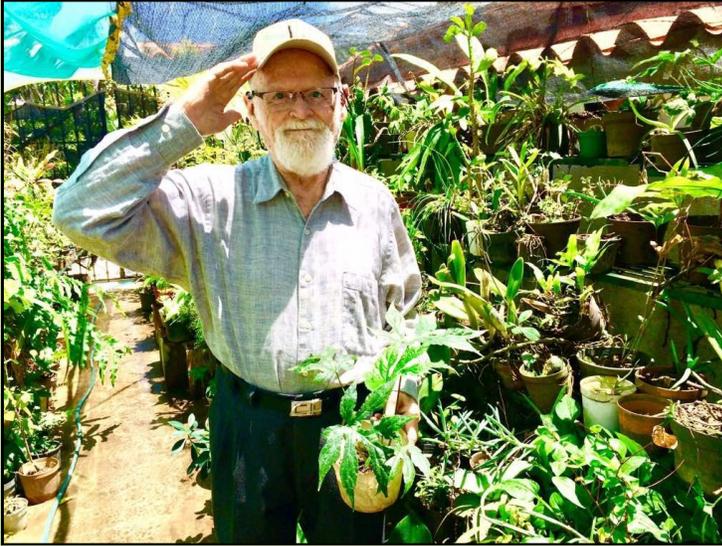
Together with fellow botanist Jesus Hoyos and the Swiss gardener August Braun, they promoted and played a major role in the study and protection of native palms of the country, this including his key participation as Venezuelan expert in the Dennis Johnson milestone book "Palms, their conservation and sustainable utilization," published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 1996. He was also a tireless promoter of "Plants Rights." His love and admiration for plants was usually exhibited through the magnificent adjectives he applied to them.

[Palms : their conservation and sustained utilization. Status survey and conservation action plan](#), IUCN Publication, 1996. ([Download](#))



Above: Back in 1994 as AVEPALMAS Vice President, Mr. Sven Nehlin's effort made the 1994 IPS Biennial "such a success." Photo taken from article Biennial Meeting of IPS in Caracas published in [Principes 38\(4\), 1994, pp. 214-219](#) by Rees J.

A Palm Fellow's Farewell (continued)



Left: Sven enjoyed showing visitors around his garden. This picture was taken at his home. "The moments spent [with Sven] are unforgettable" - Cury Bottome. [Photo](#): Topotepuy Ecological Gardens [website](#) ©.

Almost 260 years ago a fellow citizen Pehr Lofling, one the most celebrated disciples of Linnaeus passed away in the current Venezuelan state of Bolivar. We are pretty sure that they are now

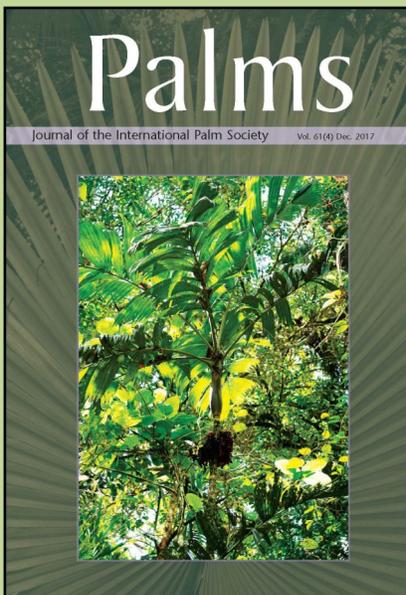
taking about Venezuelan plants.

On behalf of AVEPALMAS: Fred Stauffer, Mauricio Krivoy, Yaroslavi Espinoza

[Topotepuy Ecological Gardens's note about Sven.](#)

Read Sven's Article: "A Gem for Tissue Culture: *Asterogyne spicata* of Venezuela" [Principes 38\(4\), 1994, pp. 211-213.](#)

Coming Soon: The December issue of PALMS



The content of Palms 61 (4) is ready to go. Here are the articles we'll find in this issue:

⇒ Palms of Samar Island, Philippines

J.T. ADORADOR & E.S. FERNANDO

⇒ An Unusual Form of *Reinhardtia latisecta* in Cultivation

J. DRANSFIELD & J. MARCUS

Front Cover. The mottled-leaved *Pinanga copelandii* with its broadly-truncate leaflets that are glaucous underneath is one of the characteristic palms in forests over limestone on Samar Island, Philippines.

Cows? Avocados? and Palms?!



Palms of the genus *Ceroxylon* are among the most iconic: the wax palms are the tallest palms of all, and they inhabit in high altitudes in the Andes.

Their role in the landscape is as a natural part of a primary forest (photo above next page). However, since

Above: The Quindio wax palm is the national tree of Colombia. Valle del Cocora, Colombia. [Photo](#) above by [Jonas Schleske](#) (CC BY-SA 2.0). [Photo](#) below by [descubriendoelmundo](#) (CC BY-SA 2.0)

19th century, much of their habitat was cleared for cow pasture or paddocks. In many cases, and with help of landowners, palms remained stoic and resistant. Paradoxically, with the death of the forest, the palm became visible. Those that have traveled in South America and have gone to visit these palms in either Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, or Venezuela know pretty well this scene: no

words can explain it. There is at least one problem with this picture regarding the palms themselves: seedlings and baby palms have little chance the onslaught of hungry cattle, and new palm generations are not taking over.

At the moment in Colombia, in the Quindio Region, avocado groves are increasing in area, which might change the traditional picture of the wax palms landscape.



Cows? Avocados? and Palms?! (continued)

Some might think that avocado trees in this case are better than cattle, but it always depends what farming practices are adopted. It's like palm oil crop *Elaeis guineensis*: the crop isn't the problem *per se*, but the practices adopted.



Read the articles:

[Cows, Palms, and Avocados](#)

by Brigitte Baptiste (In Spanish)

[Quindio Region Will produce 8 thousand tons of Avocado](#)

by Carlos Lopez (In Spanish)

More info: [Research Institute of Biologic Resources Alexander Von Humboldt](#)

Palms are not as visible in natural landscape compared to cattle pastures, because they grow surrounded by other trees. Although it would be the best situation from an ecological point of view and would assure their chances to survive in a long term, tourists enjoy seeing the palms in pastures, unobstructed by other trees. Above: Wax palms, Cocola Valley, Colombia. [Photo](#) by [Kzoop](#) (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Below left and right: Community conservation area "Ocol Forest" for wax palm near Molinopampa, Peru. Read article [The Ceroxylon Trip in Northern Peru](#). *Palms Journal* Vol. 58(3) 2014.





THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

IPS 2018 Biennial
SAVE THE DATE!

May 26 – June 3*

IPS 2018 Bienal
¡GUARDE LA FECHA!

26 mayo al 3 junio*

IPS 2018 Biennial
GARDEZ LA DATE!

26 Mai jusqu'à 3 Juin*

IPS 2018 Bienal
RESERVA A DATA!

26 de Maio a 3 de Junho*

*Dates may adjust 1 day earlier or later



Sabinaria magnifica

Colombia

Armenia

Ladrilleros

Buenaventura

Cali



Art by Benjamin Cardenas Valderrama

IMPORTANT NOTICE!



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

2018 IPS ENDOWMENT FUND APPLICATIONS due by December 31st, 2017

Applications must be received by **midnight December 31st, 2017 U.S. Eastern Standard time** for consideration for 2017 IPS Endowment Fund grants. Any late applications will not be accepted.

For applications to be considered, they must be sent to Endowment Committee chair, Cindy Adair, by midnight December 31st, 2017 EST. Proposals should be sent in MS Word or Adobe PDF documents as e-mail attachments to ssainpr@gmail.com. E-mails totaling up to 16MB (including attachments) will be accepted at that address.

Proposals should include the following information, along with any other information that applicants think might increase their chances for favorable review of their proposals:

A Narrative Proposal Section, with a clear description of the project to be funded. This should include adequate detail for independent scientific reviewers to assess the feasibility and desirability of the project work. This should also address the desired project timetable in a general way, again to provide clarity to the reviewers.

A clear and readable budget for the full project, as well as how much of the funding is requested from the IPS and how much of the total project funding is expected to be obtained from other sources. Please also state whether or not “partial funding” of the IPS amount would be acceptable (and still allow the project to be undertaken)

To maximize the impact of these grants, the IPS asks that the grant proposers request funding only for direct project costs. The IPS grants may not be used to pay any indirect costs charged by the grant applicants’ institutions – that is, money to cover general G&A and/or any other “overhead” expenses are not to be included in the applicant’s Requests for Funding. The IPS will provide a letter to this effect to recipients’ institutions, upon request.

Current Curriculum Vitae of the applicant and other key researchers involved in the project. This information should also provide proper contact information for the application including postal and email address(es), telephone and fax numbers.

A separate statement as to who should receive the Grant payment, if the application is successful (i.e., the individual, the individual’s university or employer, etc.). If a check sent via regular mail is requested, the applicant should provide clear payment instructions including payee address. Checks sent to a University are frequently misplaced.

IMPORTANT NOTICE! (continued)

2018 IPS ENDOWMENT FUND APPLICATIONS due by December 31st, 2017 (continued)

If the funds are to go through a department or other grant or fund, we need the name and description of the grant or department.

International wire transfers by US law require the following:

- 1. Country:**
- 2. Bank name:**
- 3. Bank ID (IBAN and SWIFT code):**
- 4. Bank address (city):**
- 5. Account-holder's name:**
- 6. Account number:**
- 7. Address associated with account (where is the bank statement sent?): This is required!!! Without it the bank cannot send money!**

Your application will not be forwarded for review until we have the answers to the 7 points above for international funds.

The IPS has historically granted approximately US \$10,000 to \$25,000 of awards each year. Typically, individual awards of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are made, although larger grants can sometimes be awarded if merited. Applications must be accompanied by a statement on the acceptability of "partial funding." Without such a clear statement, the IPS may be forced to turn down such an application if the entire requested amount cannot be awarded.

A single one-year IPS membership, new or renewal, will be included in the award. The principal investigator will receive the membership unless he or she opts to designate a coapplicant as the recipient.

We shall contact successful applicants for a very short midterm and summary final report by grantees (half to no more than one page with a photo, ideally written for the non-scientist.) We plan to use such reports for IPS publicity to encourage memberships and to inspire further donations for the IPS Endowment fund. Grantees will also be expected to submit an article for possible publication in the IPS journal, *PALMS*.

Applicants will be informed of Award decisions via email on or before midnight EST April 15, 2018.

Please send your Grant Application by midnight EST December 31, 2017 to:

ssainpr@gmail.com

Cindy Adair

PO Box 493

Las Marías, PR 00670





Framing AlBader: “This is one of the courtyards of the AlBader House. Old Kuwaiti houses usually have more than one courtyard, each with its own function. Nowadays this courtyard is used to teach people about a special bedoin craft called Sadu.” The palm is *Phoenix dactylifera*. [Photo by AlRoumi](#) (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)