



# THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

July 2021

NEWSLETTER

## Dates to Save

As we emerge from the pandemic, the newsletter can now, thankfully, pivot to bona fide announcements for actual events. And finally, this includes travel!

## IPS Webinar

Join us for our next webinar The event will take place on July 31, 2021, 2 :00p.m. ET. The event is free, but you must register in advance. Register at our website, [www.palms.org](http://www.palms.org), or by clicking the button at the end of this article. Not an IPS member? No problem! You can join for free!

“Love, beauty, and struggle in  
the palm family”

Three short genetic tales  
recounted by Dr. Sidonie Bellot  
(RBG Kew)

Dr. Sidonie Bellot is a researcher at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in London, where she arrived in 2016, barely able to tell a palm from a cycad... except if presented with their DNA!

Indeed, it was not her knowledge of palms that convinced Dr. Bill Baker (palm specialist at RBG Kew) to hire Sidonie, but her ability to decipher the stories told by plant genomes.



Photo by Bill Baker

## IPS Webinar

Sidonie studied biology in France, her home country, and went on to earn a PhD in Munich (Germany) in 2010. There she learned how to study plant DNA, by spending four years looking into the genomes of weird, tiny plants that grow inside other plants: the parasitic Apodanthaceae. Google them; they are almost as fun as palms (but more difficult to grow...)!

As even the genomes of these parasitic plants are weird, Sidonie was then well prepared to take up the challenge waiting for her at Kew: studying the DNA of all palm genera and all ~600 species of Asian Areoid palms.

But why would Sidonie follow Dr Baker in such an adventure?

Join us in this webinar to find out, as we unfold the tales told by palm genomes. It will be question of family secrets, unrivalled beauty, and struggle for life.

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

## IPS Midterm Meeting in Tampa/Sarasota, Florida, USA

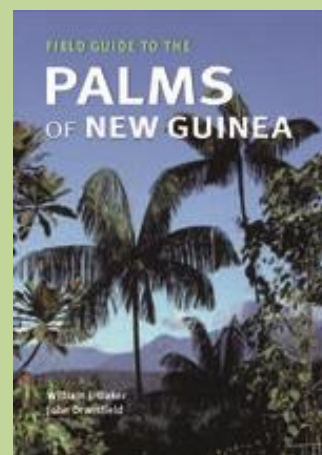
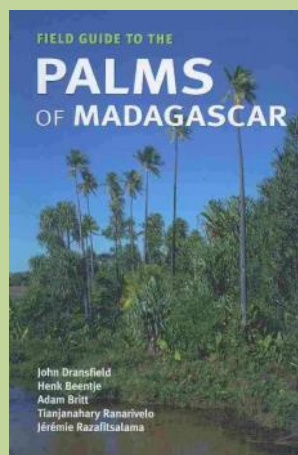
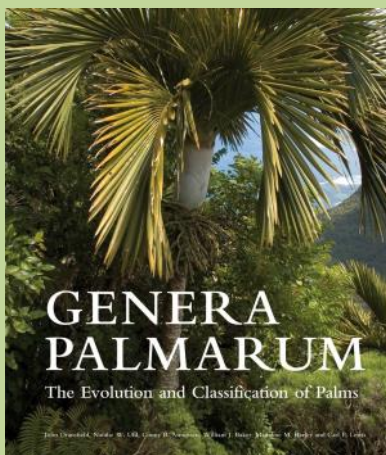
The International Palm Society will convene for a midterm meeting in the Tampa/Sarasota area beginning on October 31, 2021. The five-day event will include several public and private gardens. And obviously an opportunity to mingle with passionate “palmies.” Registration will open soon for those whose membership includes a journal (either by mail or electronic). More information to follow.

## Electronic Resources

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew has begun to make available digital editions of several palm books, including *Genera Palmarum Ed 2*, *Palms of Madagascar*, and field guides.

The PDFs can be accessed by clicking the button at below or at: <https://bit.ly/3hMWGHB>

[Kew Repository](#)



## PIMBY – Hilo (and another “save the date”!)

Palms In My Backyard (PIMBY) is a recurring series initiated during the pandemic. Travel restrictions merit an opportunity for us to enjoy palms where we live, perhaps plants that have been previously overlooked, or considered “common.”

Kimberly Cyr did just that. While strolling near her property in Hilo, Hawaii, Kim took these fabulous photographs, initially “not concentrating on palms at all.” I think that we would all agree, the coconuts are just majestic, essentially photo-bombing the composition.

This is also the perfect opening to announce the **2022 International Palm Society Biennial in Hawaii!** This will tentatively begin with an inaugural banquet on the evening of Sunday, October 9, 2022. We look forward to meeting in Hawaii, seeing old friends (both human and palm), and celebrating the palm-rich gardens and habitats of these islands.



King Kamehameha statue in Wailoa River Park, Hilo.

## PIMBY – Hilo

A profusion of *Coco nucifera* behind the outrigger canoe sheds, Hilo.



Coconut Island in Hilo Bay.

## PIMBY – Hilo



Blue Bananas at the Farmers Market (a “must visit” while in Hilo).



## Celebrate 65!

Your participation in the 65th anniversary campaign will allow the IPS many more years of research, education, and conservation. Fundraising for this endeavor will close on September 1, 2021. And then we can look forward to our 70th anniversary in 2026.

### The Dent Smith Founder's Society\*

Gold: \$10,000

Silver: \$5000

Bronze: \$1000

\*All Founder's Society level contributors will be recognized in the December, 2021 PALMS journal.

Other Donation levels: \$500, \$250, \$100, \$50, \$25 or \$10.

The International Palm Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Federal Tax I.D. 59-0829820 All or a portion of this gift may be tax deductible, less any goods or services received. Consult with your tax advisor regarding deductibility.

## The International Palm Society's 65th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign

Your participation will ensure many more years of palm related research, education and conservation. Please help the IPS by donating today!



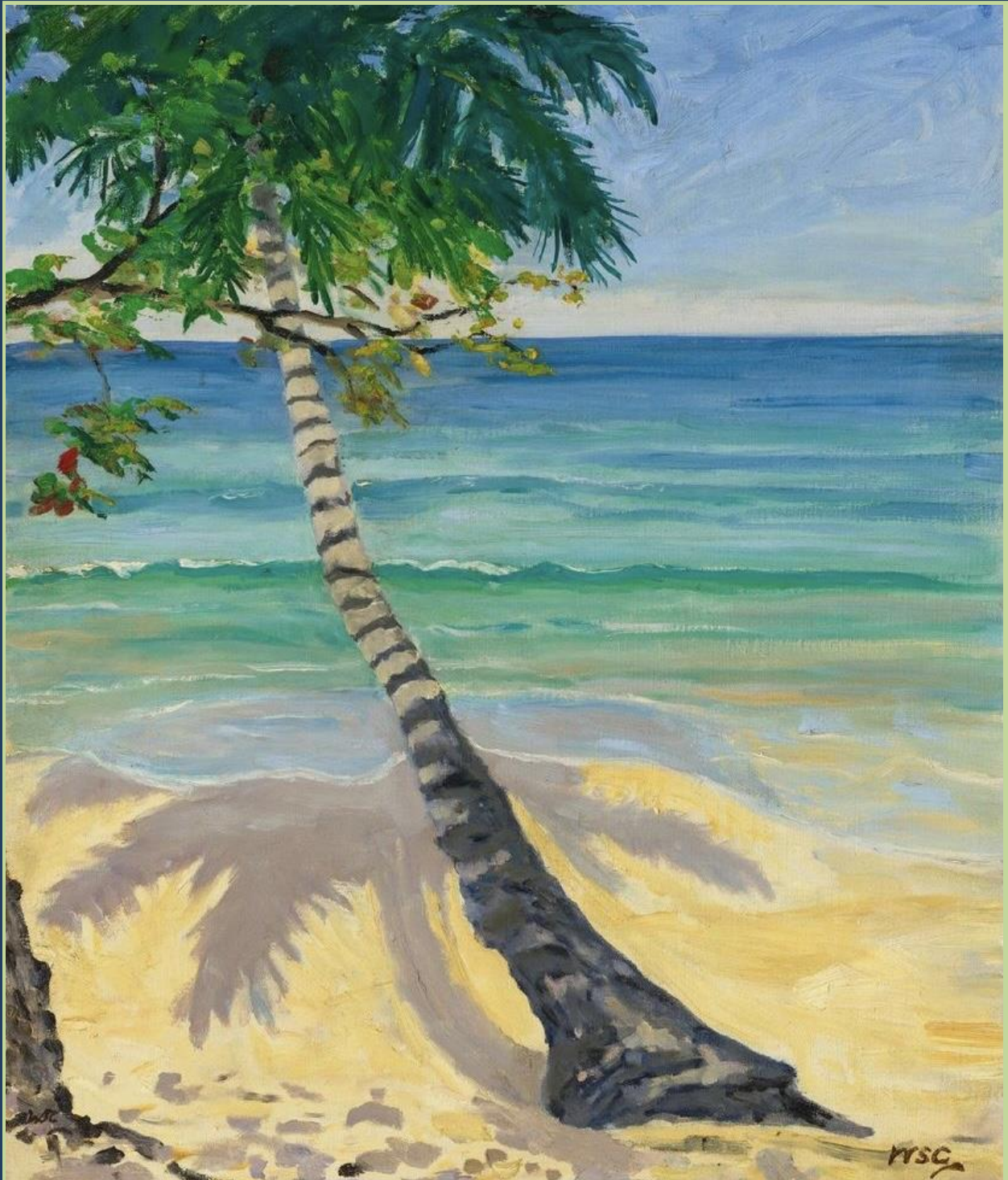
### DENT SMITH FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Raising Funds to Support the Mission of the IPS:  
Palm Research, Education & Conservation

[CLICK TO DONATE](#)



## Palms in Art



*Leaning Palm, Jamaica* (1953) by Winston Churchill