



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

Sep. 2021

NEWSLETTER

The IPS is traveling again... and you are invited!

The International Palm Society midterm meeting will convene in Tampa/Sarasota, Florida beginning with a banquet on the evening of October 31, 2021. The itinerary will furnish plenty of oohs and aahs as we tour public and private gardens, happily mingle, eat, and drink merrily. Of course, palms will be at the forefront, however this will be a marvelous opportunity to view a broad collection of tropical plants. I am especially excited to see one of the finest private aroid collections in the United States. (See p. 2 for itinerary and registration link.)



Photo courtesy of Rob Branch

IPS Midterm Meeting in Tampa/Sarasota, Florida, USA

The IPS Midterm Meeting is, at its heart, a business meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 3, but there are garden tours & events before and after the meeting. IPS members are welcome to attend. Register today!

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY 2021 MID YEAR MEETING ITINERARY *TENTATIVE*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31:

- Arrival in Tampa (TPA). Night at Hyatt Place in St. Petersburg.
- 5:00 Departure for The Hangar Restaurant for our Welcome Dinner.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1:

- Breakfast buffet at Hyatt Place
- 9:00 Departure for the Gizella Kopsick Arboretum.
- 11:00 Departure for the Sunken Gardens for tours and boxed lunch in the garden.
- Departure for Hyatt Place.
- Free time to visit the St Pete Pier and other local sites.
- 6:00 Departure for Red Mesa Cantina Restaurant.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2:

- Breakfast buffet at Hyatt Place.
- 8:00 Check out of Hyatt Place and depart for Sarasota
- Arrival at Selby Gardens for tours and box lunch in the gardens.
- 1:00 Depart for Libby Besse's garden.
- 3:00 Depart for Zota Beach Hotel.
- 6:00 Zota Sand Garden Beach BBQ.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3:

- 6:30 to 8:00 Zota breakfast buffet.
- 8:00 Depart for Crosley Estate for Board Meeting.
- 5:00 Depart for Zota Beach Resort.
- Shopping and Restaurants are available nearby at St. Armand's Circle.
- Dinner on our own.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4:

- 6:30 to 8:00 Zota breakfast buffet.
- 9:00 Departure for Faith Bishock's garden tour and box lunch in her garden.
- 12:30 Departure for Rob Branch's garden.
- 3:00 Depart for Zota Beach Hotel.
- 6:00 Farewell cocktail and dinner on Zota's Viento Terrace.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5:

- 6:30 to 8:00 Zota breakfast buffet.
- 8:00 Check out from Zota Beach Hotel.
- Bus transportation for the attendees to TPA.
- 10:00 Estimated arrival time at TPA.

Save the date!

The 2022 International Palm Society biennial will take place in Hawaii from Sunday, October 9 through Saturday October 15, 2022.

Pritchardia beccariana planted by IPS. There are now over 100 planted in Palm Meadow section of the Kona Cloud Forest Sanctuary. Photo by Norm Bezona.



Biennial Memories

IPS Farewell banquet, Singapore, June 2016.



Palms in the News

In an effort to control the devastating spread of the red palm weevil, Saudi Arabia has banned the cultivation of date palms in gardens and roadsides. The Saudi Ministry of Municipal Affairs issued an order that such plantings threaten Saudi Arabia's date crop – some 31 million palms – and that other trees, especially native, drought-tolerant trees, should be substituted. The ban on ornamental trees seeks to remove sources of infestation, as ornamental palms may not receive the same level of monitoring as date palms in agricultural settings.

Source: <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-bans-palm-tree-planting-in-gardens-to-control-pests-1.82302535>



Brian Garrett

The eruption of Cumbre Vieja, the volcano on the island of La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain, has threatened lives and livelihoods of 5,000 of the island's human residents, but what about La Palma's name-sake palms, the endemic *Phoenix canariensis*? Some images of the eruption have shown palms in the vicinity of the volcano, but in fact, La Palma is home to less than 6% of the population of *P. canariensis*. Although La Palma may lose some *P. canariensis*, the species occurs across many islands in the Canarian archipelago. More than three-quarters of the population occurs on the islands of La Gomera, Tenerife, and Gran Canaria, which are not threatened by the volcanic eruption. Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-58620555> & [Sosa et al. 2021 Biodiversity and conservation of *Phoenix canariensis*: a review.](#)

Continuing the *Phoenix* theme... The *Jerusalem Post* reported that a second crop of dates has been harvested from palms grown from 2000-year-old seeds that had been found at an archaeological site. Growers were able to coax a few of these seeds to germinate, and the seedlings have been the subject of considerable attention from the press and from researchers. The first seedling to mature and flower turned out to be male (date palms are either male or female, and only the female bears fruits). Other seedlings have since matured and flowered, including female trees. The report does say if the ancient females were pollinated with pollen from ancient male palms. The fruits from the ancient palms have the appearance and sweetness of modern cultivars. <https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/kibbutz-harvests-previously-extinct-dates-eaten-in-judea-2000-years-ago-677583>

Methuselah was the name given to the first seedling grown from ancient seed. This is Methuselah from 2012. It has since matured and flowered. (Wikimedia Commons)



Parting Shot

Cindy Adair provided this beautiful photo of *Hydriastele dransfieldii* pushing out a new leaf in sunset colors.

