



THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

Mar. 2023

NEWSLETTER

Aloha Edition – Public Gardens, pt. 2

Aloha from Hawaii and the 32nd International Palm Society Biennial. This is the second installment of the public gardens visited on Oahu and the Big Island.

Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden

While the Foster Garden is the oldest of the Honolulu Botanical Gardens (HBG), Ho'omaluhia is by far the largest, with over 400 acres. Ho'omaluhia, "a peaceful refuge" on the windward side of Oahu, was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers–Pacific Ocean Division (to provide flood protection for Kāne'ōhe). However, this colossal undertaking was "conceived and championed by a (single) visionary landscape architect, prolific author, and passionate civic leader," Paul R. Weissich (for whom the visitors center is named). HBG Director Joshlyn Sand further opined, "It is hard to imagine this garden would have come to fruition without his vision." In 2022 (at the time of our visit) Ho'omaluhia celebrated its 40th anniversary.

Our fabulous guides, Talia Portner, HBG curator/ horticulturist and botanist Naomi Hoffman, returned for day two! HBG Director Joshlyn Sand and Jeff Marcus graciously welcoming the IPS to Ho'omaluhia. Please note *Pritchardia glabrata* flanking the structure



to their left. The tall Loulu, behind is *Pritchardia hillebrandii*. The Ko'olau mountains in the background are home to *Pritchardia martii*, which could be glimpsed with magnification. At left, *P. glabrata* fruits.



Aloha Edition – Public Gardens, pt. 2



From the rainforest of New Caledonia, *Burretio kentia vieillardii* is adored for its intricately marked and colorful bulging crownshaft. I am very excited to see this species growing in habitat during the 2024 New Caledonia biennial!

It doesn't get much more colorful in the palm world than this, *Areca vestiaria*, fruiting.



Cindy and Jerry Andersen under an awesome canopy of *Licuala ramsayi*. Jerry, looking up, is obviously impressed by these behemoths.

Several handsome *Neoveitchia storckii*, with *Chambeyronia oliviformis* to the right.



Aloha Edition – Public Gardens, pt. 2



Male double coconut (picnic bench in background for scale), inset inflorescence.



Jeff and Christine Brusseu, along with our guide, horticulturalist Talia Portner, beneath *Nephrosperma vanhoutteanum*.

Deckenia nobilis, attracting a mob of palmophiles...



... with its eye-catching inflorescences.



Aloha Edition – Public Gardens, pt. 2



An allée of *Acanthophoenix rubra*, ...



... and a close-up of its spiny crownshaft.

A trio of *Chrysalidocarpus decipiens*.



Bentinckia nicobarica with an iconic Hawaiian background.



Aloha Edition – Public Gardens, pt. 2



A small group shot at the Loko Waimaluha reservoir. Photo by Elvis Cruz.

And now off to Hilo, on the Big Island!

At 13,083 ft., Mauna Kea (a dormant volcano), is the second highest peak of any island in the world.

Fresh poke, anyone?



Aloha Edition – Public Gardens, pt. 2



Royalty meets royalty: past IPS president Horace Hobbs paying homage to King Kameameha.



Rainbow Falls, look closely (hint).

Hawaii Tropical Bioreserve & Garden (HTBG)

The Hilo portion of the biennial began with a superb visit to the HTBG, located in a scenic valley opening out to Onomea Bay. Included in this 40-acre garden are about 200 species of palms (along with 750 genera of tropical plants).



Aloha Edition – Public Gardens, pt. 2



Debby Hamann, Arlene Hurwitz & Christine Brusseau (L to R) admire *Licuala peltata* and *Pelagodoxa henryana*.

Dypsis procera, a clustering understory palm.



Normanbya normanbyi, with the invasive *Archontophoenix alexandrae* in the background. Interestingly, *Archontophoenix* has naturalized throughout the islands.

Rhapis multifida.



Aloha Edition – Public Gardens, pt. 2



The attractive shiny leaf of *Arenga hookeriana* (Hooker's sugar palm).

Looking up into the crown of *Pritchardia pacifica*.



Pritchardia napaliensis with Jason Dewees, author of the acclaimed book *Designing With Palms*, providing scale.

Chamaedorea tuerckheimii (the Potato Chip Palm), a very desirable palm grown to perfection.



Aloha Edition – Public Gardens, pt. 2



Cocos nucifera at Twin Rocks (the lovers of Kahali'i). Local legend is that these two rocks are lovers, voluntarily turned to stone, thereby preventing war canoes from entering Onomea Bay.



This *Neoveitchia storckii* stands behind a sign that contains two of our very favorite words, “palm” and “jungle.”

Upcoming Travel with the IPS

2023 IPS mid-term Board of Directors meeting, London:

Sunday, May 21 through Thursday, May 25

Including RBG Kew, RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Wakehurst Place

SOLD OUT. Waiting list: info@palms.org

2023 IPS Premium Travel: Reunion Island (West Indian Ocean)

Hosted by the Palmeraie-Union

Sunday, October 29 through Monday, November 6

Capacity 25.

SOLD OUT. Waiting list: info@palms.org

2024 The International Palm Society's 33rd Biennial: New Caledonia

(Southwestern Pacific Ocean)

Sunday, September 22 through Monday, September 30.

Capacity 150. Expected to sell out. Registration opens August 2023.

2025 IPS mid-term Board of Directors meeting: Peru.

2026 The International Palm Society's 34th Biennial: Thailand. Capacity 300.

IPS Grants Update – Committee Chairperson Dr. Cindy Adair

In 2020, the IPS awarded \$4974 towards upgrading the Belize Botanical Garden's palm displays, creating a teacher's guide for lessons on palms (please see excerpts below and cartoon at right), including hundreds of palm seedlings to be given to children to plant at home. Additionally, the funds will help support their annual Coconut Festival when more than 200 children visit and learn about palms.

This is the second grant rewarded to the Belize Botanical Garden. The first in 2011 was directed toward "Educating Belizean Schoolchildren on Indigenous Palms."

Here are excerpts from the **Belize Botanic Gardens' Primary School Teachers' Guide:**

Audience: Primary School Learning Community of Belize

Focus: Palm education and Conservation in Belize and Beyond

There are several advantages of palm trees. One advantage is that their leaves and branches are used to thatch roofs and other materials for home use. Moreover, their fruits are used for eating.

- *Where do you see people using palm trees in your community?*
- *People use coconut palms here in Belize to make a variety of products: coconut oil, coconut milk, coconut water, coconut sweets, roofing, crafts, bread, mulch, and more.*
- *Thatching Palm - *Sabal mauritiformis*, common name Bay Leaf Palm*
- *Palms are a part of a larger, complicated ecosystem. Many different insects, birds, and mammals depend on a variety of palms for their survival. Did you know that the orangutan, a type of hairy, orange ape, is now endangered in Southeast Asia because of the Palm Oil Industry? In turn, palms depend on animals in order to survive.*

Their Guide also recognizes the IPS: "We would like to thank the International Palm Society for their support of our Palm Project." The International Palm Society is proud to have partnered with the Belize Botanical Garden on this worthy project!

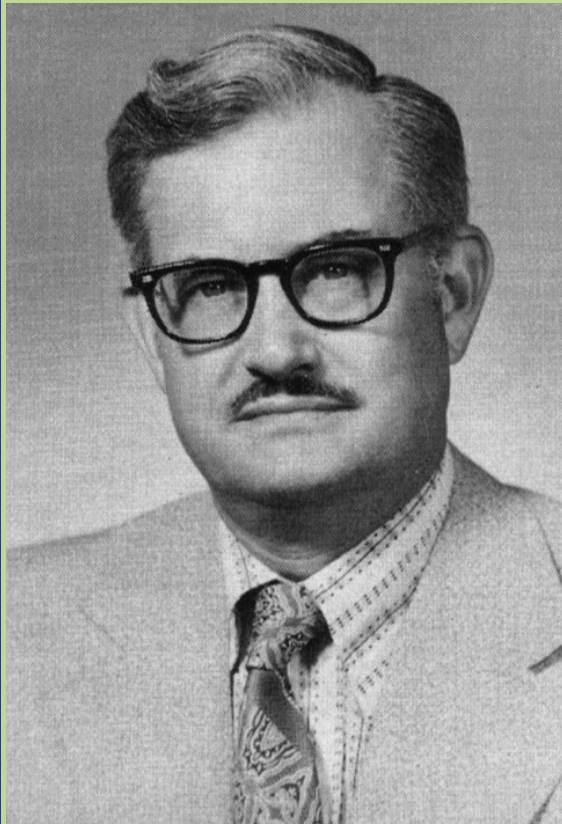
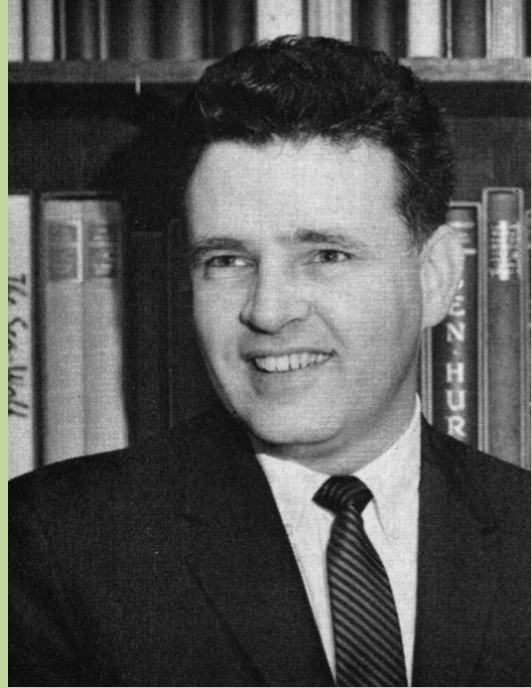


Past Presidents of the IPS: 1972–1980

This is the third of a six-part series recognizing the 24 former presidents of the International Palm Society. Each entry will include a portrait with an accompanying vignette. These will be compiled on our webpage at palms.org for future reference.

1972–1974 Ken Foster, California

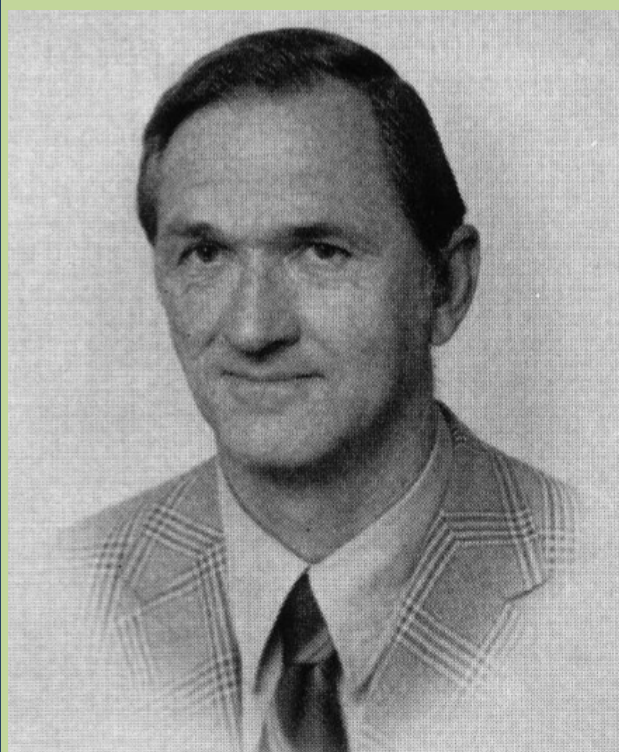
Renowned as both a palm grower and seed germinator, Kenneth C. Foster typically had the “rarest, choicest, and greatest number of species.” During his presidency he slipped on a wet jungle trail and fractured his leg (in Costa Rica, following the Mexico City biennial). Conveniently his fellow explorer, Dr. U. A. Young, an orthopedic surgeon (and future society president), provided aid and the seed collecting continued unabated. Mr. Foster graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music majoring in French horn. Additionally, he trained in photography, frequently contributing photos to Palm Society publications.



1974–1976 U. A. Young, M. D., Florida

Ulysses Alexander Young, IV regularly traveled with his family to the tropics, legally collecting rare palms and cycads. He and his wife, Ben, inspired many local palm hobbyists by graciously hosting visitors who wished to tour their unique garden (including a double coconut) in Tampa. He kindly bequeathed much of his plant collection to the Gizella Kopsick garden in St. Petersburg. Dr. Young received his medical degree from Baylor University and practiced orthopedic surgery in Tampa, Florida.

Past Presidents of the IPS: 1964–1972



1976–1978 Myron Kimnach, California

Founder of the Huntington Botanical Herbarium, Myron William Kimnach served as the director of the Huntington Gardens from 1962 to 1986. He initiated the Huntington's international collecting expeditions, thereby introducing many new plants into cultivation. Eminent in the field of desert plants, the Cactus and Succulent Society of America featured his portrait on the cover of their journal (he complained that the artist "added wrinkles") and named an annual lifetime achievement award in his honor. Mr. Kimnach, an autodidact, began sending letters, as a child, to postmasters at exotic locales (e.g., Socotra) requesting plants and seeds. Known as a risk-taker, especially while collecting in the field, he "anonymously" published an article on the hallucinatory effects of peyote.

1978–1980 Donn Carlsmith, Hawaii

Born in Hilo, Donn Wendell Carlsmith, "knew everything about every piece of land on that island." Deservedly *Chrysalidocarpus carlsmithii* is named in his honor, given that the source of the type specimen grew in his legacy garden (visited by the IPS for the 1980 and 2022 biennials). His impressive collection of rare books and paintings focused on early Polynesian culture and Hawiiana. He served as the first president of the Hawaiian Islands Palm Society (1974), as well as chairman of the board for both the National Tropical Botanical Garden and the Lyman Museum. Mr. Carlsmith, a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School, practiced at Hawaii's oldest law office (established by his grandfather, Carl Carlsmith).



Parting Shot

Endemic *Pritchardia maideniana* fringing the black sands of Punalu'u beach (where green turtles were also sighted), on the Big Island. Photo by Dr. Boyd Marts.

