

IPS Endowment Fund Grants

At their recent board meeting, the International Palm Society Board of Directors approved the following grants from the IPS Endowment Fund:

- Bee Gunn, Herbarium, University of Missouri - St. Louis "*A taxonomic study of Antillean Prestoea*", \$3,570.
- David Cole, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida, "*The conservation of crop genetic resources in situ: Genetic Diversity and Population Structure of Peach Palm (Bactris gasipaes Kunth) in Agroforestry Systems of the Peruvian Amazon*", \$1,405.25
- Christine Bacon and Donovan Bailey, Department of Biology, New Mexico State University, "*Phylogeographical analysis of the Chamaedorea tepejilote Liebm. species complex (Arecaceae) using AFLP markers*", \$1,000
- Chris Stührk and supervised by Jens Gunter Rohwer and Barbara Rudolph, Biozentrum Klein Flottbek und Botanischer Garten, University of Hamburg, Germany, "*Molecular systematics of the subtribe Thrinacinae Becc. (1907), with emphasis on the genus Trachycarpus H. Wendl. (1861)*", \$5,000
- Wiske Rotinsulu, School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, "*Predicting the Native Palm of Sulawesi Distributions Using a Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS): Management and Conservation Implications*", \$4,000
- Larry Noblick, Montgomery Botanic Center, was authorized to use leftover funds from last year's *Syagrus* Endowment Fund grant for new equipment.

Total new grants agreed for 2004: \$14,975.25. There were additional applications that were not funded.

Jim Cain
Endowment Fund Committee

The article in the next column lays out new Endowment Application and Evaluation Policies in effect for future grants.

New Endowment Fund Procedures

The IPS Endowment Committee has developed an improved method for evaluating proposals submitted for funding. The IPS gives out significant amounts of money annually to grantees. A more professional approach to evaluating and feeding back information to the applicants is being adopted.

1. Timing

January 1st of each year is the new deadline for submission of proposals. This will give improved time for evaluations by the board.

2. Evaluation

Evaluation of the wide range of different proposals requires different experience and skill sets. A system of refereeing proposals is being set up to allow proposal review by people with most appropriate experience. This will also allow timely feedback to applicants.

3. Procedure

Call for proposals will be issued, with proposals to be submitted by January 1st. [This is a "first call" for submissions due by January 1st, 2005.] Proposals should be submitted electronically to the Endowment Committee Chair (currently Jim Cain, palm_dude@pobox.com), who will circulate the proposals to an IPS Endowment Evaluation committee for initial comment. The current committee is comprised of directors Zona, Rees, Hobbs, Cain & Dransfield. Where appropriate, proposals will then go out to at least one independent reviewer. Resulting evaluations will be collated and the proposals ranked according to marking. The Endowment Committee will then make recommendations on which proposals should receive funding. The full IPS board will then vote by email on the recommendations of the above referenced endowment committee.

IPS Officers, 2004-2006 Term

- President, Paul Craft, (FL, US), <licuala@bellsouth.net>
- VP, Leland Lai, (CA, US), <lelandlai@aquafauna.com>
- VP, Bo-Göran Lundkvist (HI, US), <bglpalms@earthlink.net>
- Corresponding Sec. Sue Rowlands (CA, US), <palmyview@earthlink.net>

- Administrative Secretary Libby Besse (FL, US), < palmyview@earthlink.net >
- Treasurer, Randy Moore (CA, US), < randal.moore@cox.net >

These are your IPS officers. Contact any of them as needed concerning questions you have about any business of the International Palm Society. Email addresses for each are given above; regular mailing addresses are in the Roster each member received last October (or upon joining if later than October.)

IPS Board of Directors Newly Elected IPS Directors, Term 2004-2008

The following Directors have been elected to serve on the board of the International Palm Society for the term beginning at the 2004 Biennial and ending at the 2008 IPS Biennial meeting.

- Rolf Kyburz (Qld, Australia), < kpalsms@optushome.com.au >
- Haresh (India), < hareshr@vsnl.com >
- Bill Baker (TX, US), < palmas@flash.net >
- Jim Cain (TX, US), < palm_dude@pobox.com >
- Lyle Arnold (CA, US), < ljarnold@cox.net >
- Jeffry Brusseau (CA, US), < thedeveloper1@cox.net >
- Leland Lai (CA, US), < lelandlai@aquafauna.com >
- John Rees (CA, US), < Jdrees1932@aol.com >
- Sue Rowlands (CA, US), < palmyview@earthlink.net >
- Garrin Fullington (HI, US), < kauhane@webtv.net >
- Libby Besse (FL, US), < libbesse@aol.com >
- Paul Craft (FL, US), < licuala@bellsouth.net >
- John De Mott (FL, US), < licuala@bellsouth.net >
- Larry Noblick (FL, US), < noblick@fiu.edu >
- Howard Waddell (FL, US), < hwaddell@prodigy.net >
- Leonel Mera (Dominican Republic), < palmera@codetel.net.do >

The above directors join the following IPS directors elected for 2002-2006, continuing in their existing terms:

- Phil Bergman (CA, US), < PalmNCycad@aol.com >
- Norman Bezona (HI, US), < bezona@hawaii.edu >
- Faith Bishock (FL, US), < budrot@earthlink.net >
- José Canizo (Spain), < jacanizo@jacanizo.com >
- Tim Cooke (CA, USA), < rcooke@earthlink.net >
- John Dransfield (England, UK), < j.dransfield@rbgkew.org.uk >
- Fred Feige (BC, Canada), < Fred_Feige@hotmail.com >
- Horace Hobbs (TX, US), < horacehobbs@pobox.com >
- Bo-Göran Lundkvist (HI, US), < bglpalms@earthlink.net >
- Randy Moore (CA, US), < randal.moore@cox.net >
- Jeanne Price (QLD, Australia), < Pacsoap@spiderweb.com.au >
- Toby Spanner (Germany), < toby@palmsociety.org >
- Kampon Tansacha (Thailand)
- Natalie Uhl (NY, US), < nwul@cornell.edu >
- Scott Zona (FL, US), < szona@fairchildgarden.org >

Email addresses for each of the directors are given above; regular mailing addresses are in the Roster each member received last October (or upon joining if later than October.)

IPS Board of Directors Committee Assignments

The following are the active Committees of the International Palm Society, along with the committee responsibilities, their members and chairs, as of the May 2004 IPS board meeting:

Executive Committee

- Serve at the call of the President
- Provide advice on organizational strategy and development
- Support continued development of business/operational practices consistent with current state of society and planned growth and extension

Chair: Craft

Members: Lai, Lundkvist, Besse, Rowlands, Moore, Hobbs, Cain, Dransfield, Zona

Biennial Committee

- Maintain Guidelines and update as needed
- Provide event planning and guidance to Biennial organizers

Chair: Arnold

Members: Lai, Craft, Mera, Bergman, Lundkvist, Piercy, Bezona

Affiliate Relations Committee

- Continue expansion of affiliate dialogue and support
- Support establishment of new affiliates
- Work closely with Membership Committee to come up with new strategies to increase membership

Chair: Lai

Members: Price, Bishock, Rowlands, Cain, and Lundkvist

Finance Committee:

- Recommend changes in current financial practices

Chair: Moore

Members: Besse, Waddell, Hobbs, Bishock

IPS Bookstore Management

- Support banking, management, and other interfaces

Chair: Cooke Members: Besse, Craft

GP II Publication Committee:

- Continue negotiation and planning with co-publishers Kew and Cornell

Co-Chairs: Hobbs, Dransfield

Members: Uhl, Zona, Besse

Website Committee

- Review existing website strategies and recommend appropriate changes consistent with IPS mission, commercial objectives, and peer societies web capabilities
- Manage and implement changes as approved

Chair: Spanner

Members: Cain, Haresh, Zona, Dransfield, DeMott

Membership Committee

- Come up with new strategies to increase membership
- Work closely with Affiliate Relations Committee to come up with strategies to increase IPS membership within Affiliate membership

Chair: Lundkvist Members: Rees, Lai, DeMott, Fullington

Nominations Committee

- Develop succession plan and election plan and execute in conjunction with 2006 meeting in Dominican Republic

Chair: Bishock Members: Besse, Price, Moore, Rowlands, Hobbs

Risk Management Committee

- Review existing insurance of board, officers, event, and all other insurance needs of the IPS and recommend appropriate solutions
- Review possible currency exchange problems in conjunction with out-of-country biennials and recommend guidelines
- Review and recommend solutions to any other possible risks the IPS may encounter

Chair: Brusseau Members: Noblick, Haresh

Bylaws and Policies Committee

- Review current Bylaws and recommend appropriate changes
- Review all past meeting minutes to find policies and guidelines that have been approved, review them, and recommend any changes to them
- Once found, place all policies and guidelines into a location that can be accessed via the internet by any director wanting information on such matters

Chair: Noblick Members: Cain, Besse, Brusseau, Waddell

Endowment Committee

- Advertise and promote endowment funding opportunities to ensure applications equivalent with available funds
- Secure articles for Palms from grant recipients

Chair: Cain

Members: Dransfield, Zona, Rees, Hobbs

2005 Interim Meeting Development

- Plan and execute 2005 meeting in Miami
- Developers: Walters, Craft, DeMott, and Noblick*

NEWS FROM AFFILIATES AND MEMBERS

Asociacion de Palmeras y Cicas de El Salvador

Welcome to Asociacion de Palmeras y Cicas de El Salvador, the newest Affiliate of the International Palm Society.

The IPS board approved the IPS affiliation of the El Salvador local society at the recent IPS Board of Directors meeting in Hawaii. For more on Asociacion de Palmeras y Cicas de El Salvador contact their President, Rodrigo Avila <rodrigo@bismarckia.com>.

Palm and Cycad Societies of Australia (PACSOA)

Information from individual branches of PACSOA is given under separate headings below, when such information on local branch activities has been provided to the *Supplement* editor. PACSOA has the following branches:

- Within Queensland:
 - Brisbane Palm & Cycad Society
 - Sunshine Coast Branch
 - North Queensland Group
 - Palm & Cycad Society of Mackay
 - Rockhampton Palm & Cycad Society
- Other Australian States:
 - Northern Territory Palm & Cycad Society
 - Palm & Cycad Society of South Australia
 - Palm & Cycad Society of Western Australia, Inc.

For information on *Palms and Cycads Magazine* write to Palm & Cycad Societies of Australia, P.O. Box 1134, Milton, QLD 4064 or email <enquiries@pacsoa.org.au>. Also be sure to visit the PACSOA website, www.pacsoa.org.au.

Brisbane Palm and Cycad Society, Branch of PACSOA,

For information on the Brisbane Palm and Cycad Society branch of PACSOA, write Secretary, PACSOA - BPACS, P. O. Box 376, Ashgrove, 4060, Australia, or email Secretary Mervyn Ballans <aiph@ecn.net.au> or President Hugh Kunze <hugh.kunze@uq.net.au>.

Sunshine Coast Branch, PACSOA

For information on the Sunshine Coast Branch, write the Secretary, Palm & Cycad Society - Sunshine Coast Group, P. O. Box 1007, Nambour, QLD 4560, Australia or email Jeanne Price <pacsoap@spiderweb.com.au>.

Far North Queensland Palm & Cycad Society

For information about the Far North Queensland Palm and Cycad Society (FNQ-PACA) or the society journal, *Wodyetia*, send an email to <gardens@cairns.qld.gov.au> being sure to mark your email to the attention of David Warmington. You may also get membership rates, an application and additional information from the FNQPACA website www.geocities.com/fnqpaca/.

News from the Tropical Garden Society of Sydney (IPS Chapter)

The IPS board recently affirmed IPS affiliation for the newly named **Tropical Garden Society of Sydney (Incorporating the Palm and Cycad Society)**. The Society continues as an Affiliate of the International Palm Society under the new name.

Helen Curran gave a most informative talk on *Cordyline* on March 23rd. The society also thanks Helen for her kindness in offering to construct a Web Site for our new Society. Helen is also on the Council of the Australian Institute of Horticulture.

New Officers for 2004 for the Tropical Garden Society of Sydney are as follows:

- President, Fred Moody,
Phone (061)+(0) 98 722 725
- Vice-President, Steve Tornquist
- Secretary, Paul Anderson, (061)+ (0) 43 691 422,
- Treasurer: Noreen Byrne
Phone (061)+ (0) 99 582 580
- Editor: Ian Edwards, Phone (061)+(0) 95 236 696, <ianse@ozemail.com.au>

John Cameron gave a presentation on Begonias at the May 25th meeting, bringing a large number of plants to illustrate his talk and then for sale. John is a past President of the Begonia Society. He has retired from the Commonwealth Public Service and now concentrates on growing Begonias.

The next color magazine issue will be published in July. This is the second issue of our new magazine "*Tropica*," with three main themes:

- *Chamaedorea* for Sydney gardens (the clustering species)
- *Bowenia*: how do these cycads fare in Sydney gardens?
- *Calathea*: Grow in the garden or as houseplants.

We have never looked at *Chamaedorea* palms as a theme for our magazine, even though they are one of the most suitable palms for our climate. Perhaps this has been because there are so many species. For the next magazine we will start with those clustering species that are reasonably easy to obtain: *Chamaedorea brachypoda*, *C. cataractarum*, *C. costaricana*, *C. hooperiana*, *C. microspadix*, *C. pochutlensis*, *C. seifrizii*, and *C. stolonifera*. It will be of interest to know how any of these species have thrived or suffered in the various Sydney area gardens.

Ian Edwards
< ianse@ozemail.com.au >

For additional information contact Paul Anderson (Secretary), Tropical Garden Society of Sydney, P. O. Box 2, Empire Bay, NSW 2257. Ph. (02) 4369-1422 after hours, or email Ian Edwards at < ianse@ozemail.com.au >

Rockhampton Palm & Cycad Society, PACSOA Branch

For information, write to the Rockhampton Palm & Cycad Society, P. O. Box 6394, Central Queensland Mail Centre, QLD 4702, Australia, or call 61+(07) 49-26-1283 [do not dial the leading '0' from USA] or email to < licorice@cqnet.com.au >.

The Palm & Cycad Society of Mackay, PACSOA Branch

On Sunday 26th October, our Club met at the residence of Jacquie Bennet, in Andergrove. The meeting was held in the outdoor Courtyard overlooking the back yard, and since it was a hot morning this proved to be a pleasant setting. After the meeting and morning tea, we adjourned to the garden for a leisurely stroll to see how Jacquie had arranged her collection of fairly new palms, many of them won in Club raffles. Both the front and back gardens are nicely arranged with brick edging and shady areas for the understory palms like *Licuala* and *Pinanga* and a few exotics from New Guinea. A small shade-house holds a few treasures of palm and cycad seedlings. Jacquie also has a stunning large *Cycas seemanii*, at the back of the house near a *Pachypodium* about two and a half meters (8 feet) tall. The garden also had huge Avocado trees, which had very unusual shape. This was a very pleasant suburban Vista. Thanks to Jacquie, Steve and family for hosting.

The first half of the year was busy preparing for the May Fete, held the 3rd Sunday in May. Working Bees were organized for the first few meetings. The April working bee was held on the 18th, as the normal meeting day fell on Anzac Day.

The May 23rd PACSOM meeting was devoted to final planning for the upcoming Palm Fete and Palm Tour to follow in one week. The Palm Tours of the Farleigh Mill Gardens were held on May 30th. Results of the Society's hard work in preparing the gardens was visible.

New officers were installed in the Palm & Cycad Society of Mackay (PACSOM), Queensland, in April 2004, as follows:

- President, Jim Bazley,
Phone (061)+ (0)49 598 719
- Vice-President, Michael Butt,
Phone: (061)+ (0)49 598 519
- Vic-President: G. Schonfeld
Phone: (061)+ (0)49 541 424
- Treasurer/Librarian: Margaret Brown
Phone: (061)+ (0)49 522 562
- Secretary: Michael Butt
Phone No: (061)+ (0)49 598 519
- Vice-President, Raffle Coordinator: Percy Simonsen, Phone: (061)+(0)49 564 531
- Publicity Officer: Keith Boyden
Phone No: (061)+ (0)49 598 145
- Newsletter Editor: Margaret Bazley
Phone No: (061)+(0)49 598 719
E-mail: bazleym@dodo.com.au

PACSOM's next scheduled meeting is set for June 27th, with a garden visit to the residence of: Len & Tracee Cunningham in West Mackay

PACSOM's third big event this year is the Garden Expo in August, with members displaying their palms at the PACSOM site on the day

For more information, write to The Palm & Cycad Society of Mackay, P. O. Box 6639, Mackay Mail Centre, West Mackay, 4741, Queensland, Australia, or send an email to Margaret Bazley < bazleym@dodo.com.au >.

Northern Territory Palm & Cycad Society, PACSOA

For more information, write the Secretary, Northern Territory Palm & Cycad Society, P. O. Box 37979, Winnellie, N. T., 0821, Australia. You can also contact the President, Peter Thomas by telephone at 61+(08)-8927-

5344, or send an email to Dr. H. Ottley at <HARVEY@octa4.net.au>.

Palm & Cycad Society of Western Australia News

At the March meeting, the main speaker was unable to make it, so Barry Shelton stepped into the breach and gave a lively, impromptu talk on the various species of *Trachycarpus* palms. Gary Pike gave a short talk on *Landscaping with Palms*. This included some basic dos and don'ts when planning your garden and some useful tips on how to create the tropical effect with your plants.

The next general meeting was May 25th. Because of the annual May auction taking up so much time, there were no formal talks in May.

A bus trip has been planned for May 30th. The day's activities are were to include tours of Queen's Gardens and University of WA palm gardens, as well as visits to the fantastic gardens of Ken Adcock and Peter Skinner, two of our founding members. This was a rare opportunity for members to see these long established gardens. As a bonus, both Peter and Ken had palms and cycads for sale.

A busy bee was held on March 21st, 2004, with the temperature hovering around the 40°C (104°F) mark. Seven members (Ken and Joy Lee, Ian Judge, George Sevastos and Linda Therkelsen) and Tony Bowyer's daughter Pauline attended. Frank Bancroft was also a surprise inclusion! Due to the high temperatures activities were confined mainly to pruning, weeding and spraying.

The Busy Bee on April 18th was brought forward on week because of ANZAC Day. The main tasks performed were pruning and planting. Again, the focus was on pruning. Palms pruned included: *Chamaerops humilis*, *Phoenix reclinata*, *P. dactylifera* and *Livistona chinensis*. After lunch, twenty-one palms and two cycads were planted. For security reasons, the location and species will not be published.

Additional busy bees scheduled are for:

- May – Sunday 23
- June – Sunday 20
- July – Sunday 25

For more information on The Palm & Cycad Society of Western Australia (PACSOWA) or on their *PalmsWest*, visit <http://www.waweb site.com.au/palmswest> or if you wish you may send an email to Ann Pike <sales@peptransport.com.au>.

North Queensland Palm Society, PACSOA Branch News

For information on the North Queensland Palm Society, write the Secretary, North Queensland Palm Society, P. O. Box 1731, Aitkenvale, Queensland 4814, Australia.

Pacific Northwest Palm & Exotic Plant Society News

The Pacific Northwest Palm & Exotic Plant Society (PNWP&EPS) met on May 31st at Van Dusen Gardens in Vancouver. This meeting will featured a slideshow by Roy Jonsson, local garden-writer and Society member, on his recent trip to the Philippines. A raffle and general discussion on summer events were also held.

A tour of Seattle Exotic Gardens will be held on August 7th. The Society has rented a bus to carry Canadians down to Seattle for the day to join Puget Sound members. Three or four gardens will be visited, to be followed with a 'culinary surprise' meal. In Vancouver contact Nick Parker at (604)-597-6719 and in Seattle contact Alain Lucier at 206-789-5808.

Our next upcoming meeting for 2004 will be a General Meeting on September 27th, 7:30 p.m. at Van Dusen Gardens in Vancouver. Jay Akerley, our web master, now living in the BC interior, is scheduled to present a talk and slideshow of cactus, agave and other hardy, xerophytic plants.

Nick Parker
parkern@douglas.bc.ca

For additional information on the Pacific Northwest Palm & Exotic Plant Society or its journal, *Hardy Palm International*, see <http://www.hardypalm.com/> or email Nick Parker, <parkern@douglas.bc.ca>.

Association Chambeyronia New Caledonia

Chambeyronia doesn't have much news because activity is currently at a low level. The Association now has a new digital projector and is organizing photo projection collections from the members.

A program of visits to the main gardens of Nouméa and field trips into the forests are planned before the end of the year.

Jean PIERSON has been President of the *Association Chambeyronia* since the August 2003 AGM.

Association Chambeyronia meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month. For any information on the society, please contact Jean Pierson, < pierson@socatrans.nc >, current President of the association.

***Fous de Palmiers* The French Palm Society First Semester 2004**

We wrapped up December 2003 with publication of *Le Palmier* N° 37 with articles by Jean-Michel Dupuyoo about the ecology and uses of the species *Caryota ophiopellis* in Vanuatu, winter protection of palms illustrated with drawings by one of our vice presidents, Patrice Fauchier, as well as native populations of *Chamaerops humilis* in the south of Spain by Robert Leroy. Serge Dassain, correspondent for the Midi-Pyrenees region and our seed-banker, warned about the dangers and damage wrought by the insect *Paysandisia archon*. Finally, Ghislain Nicaise gave advice about composting and its advantages when growing palms. With this issue of our magazine we sent a copy of the little book, *Lexicon Palmarum*, as a gift to each of our members.

We began 2004 with a visit on January 3rd, to the Chevreloup greenhouses, near Versailles, organized by our Parisian correspondent, François Woelffel. On February 1st, members in the area met in the home of Pierre and Chantal Bianchi, enjoying a beautiful afternoon in their garden, aptly named L'Oasis, outside of Saleilles, a suburb of Perpignan, the southernmost city in France, near the Spanish border in the Mediterranean. It's a special place where one can admire the palms with a backdrop of the snow-capped Pyrenees Mountains. The palms appreciated the mild winter, the mimosa trees were in full bloom and the citrus were covered with ripe fruit. Following the visit there was a slide show of gardens of the Italian Riviera.

In March, we published *Le Palmier* N°38, filled with beautiful color photos of two major trips taken by members last fall, first to the island of Réunion in the Indian Ocean and second, to Spain. Edith Caleau from Paris wrote a day-by-day travelogue of the 12-day trip, where 16 of our members were welcomed by the local association, Palmeraie-Union. Thierry Hubert, president of that association, organized the local events with the help of Nicole Ludwig and others on this beautiful tropical island of volcanic origin, south of the Equator. Réunion

is an overseas French department, 10,000 kilometers from metropolitan France and anticipated destination of a future IPS Biennial. Next in the list of articles, our vice president Alexandra Boyle wrote a glowing tribute to the fine specimens of *Rhopalostylis sapida* growing in the Mediterranean garden of Le Rayol. The *Rhopalostylis* is a souvenir of her native land of New Zealand, flourishing here in her adopted country. And finally Gérard Dorin, our president, wrote about the trip to southern Spain, where over 20 members were welcomed by La Asociacion Espanola de Amigos de las Palmas. First stop on that trip was Elche, palm grove of almost 200,000 date palms, just in time for the harvest. After that the group headed south, visiting gardens and nurseries along the way down to Grenada, Malaga, Marbella and the seaside town of Almunecar. Almunecar was filled with tropical vegetation and palms that we are not used to seeing in Europe, such as *Roystonea* and different species of *Dypsis*.

Back to our activities, Robert Leroy, from the Loire River valley and one of our most active correspondents, was busy throughout the spring, first during the weekend of April 24-25 in Magne at the plant fair in the Parc Floral de la Belle, assisted by Suzanne Guerin. He was joined by Nicolas Friboulet and François Woelffel for the biggest plant fair in France, organized on the splendid grounds of the Château de Courson, in the countryside outside of Paris.

Once every five years, a major horticultural show is organized on the upper Atlantic coast, gateway to Brittany: Les Floralties de Nantes. This year it lasted 10 days and welcomed several hundred thousand visitors. The Fous de Palmiers were represented, thanks to Philippe and Marie Courtoison, who set up a remarkable exhibit of almost 200 square meters, creating a garden with palms from their new nursery, Les Pépinières de la Palmeraie Zen.

In May, the association was also represented at the plant fair in southwestern France at the Château de Gaujacq, located in the rolling hills of Chalosse with a beautiful view of the Pyrenees Mountains to the south. Despite rainy weather the first day of the weekend, most of the active members of this corner of France dropped by the stand for a visit.

The major springtime event was our General Assembly meeting, organized by Patrick Bouraine and centered in the coastal

city of La Rochelle. On May 20th, over 60 participants from all over France were welcomed to the Hotel Residence La Fayette. The group visited the municipal nursery and after that were welcomed to the home and garden of Pascal and Christine Regnier. Pascal is a baseball fan and player, unusual in France but he has made many trips to the USA, thanks to his interest in baseball, and picked up ideas here and there that he has used in his garden, which reminded many visitors of images of gardens of Florida or California. After this private garden visit we returned to the meeting headquarters. This year we celebrated the fifteenth birthday of our association and commemorated the event with the planting of a *Washingtonia filifera* in the gardens of the hotel; there was also a plant exchange and a new Fous de Palmiers T-shirt was unveiled for sale (see our Website to check it out!) We finished the day with a meal together at the hotel but had more to come. The following day was spent visiting the island of Ré, reached by a spectacular sweep of bridge from the mainland, off of La Rochelle. In the morning, the group visited the garden of Marie-France Lion and then strolled through the markets of the quaint town of Ars en Ré before having lunch at a campground planted with many palms. Patrick and Hélène Bouraine then invited members for a visit and refreshments in their lovely garden located on a golf course at the northern tip of the island at Les Portes en Ré. May 22 opened with a visit to the Jardin des Plantes of the city of La Rochelle, guided by Dominique Mathis, head of the city's Parks Department. That was followed by our formal meeting in the impressive Salle de l'Oratoire, made available to the Fous by the city; the meeting was followed by a delicious catered lunch there. The afternoon was spent on a guided tour of the highlights of the city, home of the plant explorer Bonpland who traveled with Humboldt to South America from La Rochelle and brought back so many plants to Europe during the nineteenth century. The Fous de Palmiers were then welcomed in a beautiful chamber of the City Hall by one of the Vice Mayors and enjoyed cocktails, among them the local Pineau des Charentes and another one known as Le Surfeur, tonic water on the rocks topped off with Cognac, also a local specialty. All good things must come to an end and the final events of the weekend took place on Sunday morning with a visit to the garden of Yann Eric and

Nathalie Fleurant in the suburbs of La Rochelle, followed by a tour of the nurseries of Arnaud Gillardeau. After that it was time to say goodbye with plans for next year's get together either in Hyères les Palmiers or perhaps in Belgium. There will be more about these plans as they develop.

Steve Swinscoe
<manatte@libertysurf.fr>

For more information about **Fous de Palmiers**, contact Steve Swinscoe at <manatte@libertysurf.fr> or check out the **new** Fous website at www.fousdepalmiers.fr.st.

News from *Manureva*

For information on *Manureva*, please contact René Coativy via fax 33 (0) 4 94 64 74 71 or email to <manurevah@aol.com>.

European Palm Society

Chamaerops is published (both as a printed journal and on-line) with many full color pictures. Visitors can download selected articles from *Chamaerops* without cost to check out the online journal. Membership and online upgrades from are available on the EPS website
www.palmsociety.org/join/english1.shtml.

Tobias Spanner (Germany) is editor of *Chamaerops*. Tony King (United Kingdom) continues as Membership Organizer. Yann Corbel (France) is the French translator; Jörg Witticke (Germany) is the German translator. Lauri Coulombe (USA) is Language Editor.

"Palmenfreunde" in Germany

The group plans an excursion on July 10th to the Botanical Garden Erlangen.

Palmenfreunde publishes a journal entitled *Palmen und Mehr* (in German, of course.) It runs about 20 pages (A5) with many photographs of palms in color. For more about this group, contact Jörg Witticke <Palmenfreunde@aol.com>

Palmeraie-Union, La Réunion Chapter

For more information, email Chairman Thierry Hubert: palmeraie.union@wanadoo.fr or to the Corresponding Secretary Philippe De Vos <de-vos.denis@wanadoo.fr>

La Asociación Española de Amigos de las Palmas [Spain]

Anyone with contact information on Tomás Font or others in the Spanish Palm Society, La Asociación Española de Amigos de las Palmas, please email information to Jim Cain, <Palm_dude@pobox.com>.

New Zealand Palm & Cycad Society

The New Zealand Palm & Cycad Society held a Palm Sale on April 3-4 at the ASB Stadium in Kohimarama. It was a great sale with many bargains and a selection of rare plants.

The March 5th meeting was not well attended due to the weekend's sale and a cold, wet night. *Chamaedorea* was the topic. *Dypsis lutescens* (Golden cane palm) was also discussed although this palm is only suitable for inside in New Zealand. There are a few grown outside in Auckland, but with thousands of dead ones from failed attempts. The other palm discussed was *Dypsis baronii*.

The early May meeting featured Alan Booth speaking on some of his travels to Hawaii and Malaysia. One of his strong interests is *Pritchardia*. Alan donated three nice palms (*Ceroxylon parvum*, *Geonoma scottiana* and a *Wallichia* species) that were auctioned.

The June 1st AGM meeting was attended by some forty people. John Lok was elected as new President. Philip Miller was elected Vice President. Membership was raised another \$5 to help finance the quarterly *NZ Palm and Cycad Magazine* that features palm and cycad articles. The main event for many was the auction where leftover plants were available from the April sale (donated by the sellers.)

For more on the New Zealand Palm and Cycad Society, email IPS Affiliate Correspondent Colin Ferguson at <colferg@xtra.co.nz>

NZPACS maintains a Society listserver. To subscribe to this group, send an email to: <nzpalmcycad-subscribe@yahoogroups.com> Most of the information in this write-up was taken from nzpalmcycad listserver messages.

South African Palm Society

For information on the South African Palm Society, visit <http://www.sapalm.co.za> or contact the Secretary, Louise van Rensen, telephone +27 12 3762733 business, +27 12 3762413 home, or send an email to Louisa at <vrensen@lantic.net>.

The Palm Society of Maui

For further information on the *Maui Palm Society*, contact Sunya Echternach, P.O. Box 790893, Paia, Maui, HI 96779 (or telephone messages to 808-280-0788).

Hawaii Island Palm Society

The Hawaii Island Palm Society recently hosted the Biennial Meeting of the International Palm Society. A separate write-up about that meeting will be available in a subsequent issue.

For more information on the Hawaii Island Palm Society, contact HIPS President Alan Young <alyguy@hotmail.com> or HIPS Sec. Jenny Johnson <johnsons@hawaii.rr.com>.

Gulf Coast Chapter, IPS, News

The Gulf Coast Chapter held their spring meeting at the home of Tom and Ellen Mignerey in the Pensacola area, followed by "pot-luck" luncheon and a palm auction.

Vice President Dudley McCune reported on the US FEMA money being used to plant *Sabal palmetto* and *Phoenix canariensis* in public areas on Dauphin Island. Dudley reported a general increased "palming" of the island and suggested a future meeting on Dauphine Island.

For information about the Gulf Coast Chapter, contact chapter President, Thomas G. Mignerey, 3947 Hwy 297 A, Cantonment, FL 32533. Dues for the local chapter should be sent to Maxwell Stewart, 2557 West Road, Mobile, AL 36693.

Northern California Chapter, IPS

The Northern California Chapter of the Palm Society current officers are:

- President: Dan Sekella,
<sekella@pacbell.net>
- V. Pres./Treas.: Darold Petty,
<nikau@aol.com>
- Sec.: Dennis Valdez,
<VergeFusee@aol.com>
- Palmetum Director: Robert Fowler

The Chapter also now has a website, at www.fremontica.com/palms. Member Hugh Danaher has donated the web server space, with web construction by Hugh and Dennis Valdez

In mid-January 2004, Dan Sekella made a palm presentation to the parent organization of the Lakeside Palmetum in Oakland, California, hoping to get more people interested in growing palms in Northern California. There are over 80 varieties of palms planted in the Palmetum, primarily cool-weather Mediterranean and high altitude tropical species and hybrids. This is the largest collection of its kind in the United States, and is a wonderful place to visit.

The Society is also proposing to adopt the Mediterranean Garden area adjacent to our palmetum in order to grow palms and other plant species that do well in a Mediterranean climate. The Society's Mediterranean Garden Project is in its infancy and, as more information arrives, will be discussed in detail in our web pages and newsletter.

Chapter meeting is scheduled for June 13th at the Golden Gate Palms Nursery in Richmond, CA, hosted by owner Gary Gragg. The world's foremost expert on *Brahea* and now retired former Palm Curator of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, Myron Kimmach, will give a lecture and presentation on his botanical expeditions including Palms and Succulents with emphasis on *Brahea* Palms. Garden updates, new business, potluck auction are also on the program.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 8th at the private garden of Jim Denz, 1085 Highlands Circle Los Altos 94024, with a 1:00 p.m. start. Check the Society website for further details on the meeting.

The Northern California Chapter will hold a regularly scheduled work party at the Oakland Garden Center Arboretum on June 19th. Regular work parties are scheduled for the third Saturday of each month.

For information about the Northern California Chapter, contact Dan Sekella, <sekella@pacbell.net> or Chapter Secretary, Dennis Valdez, <VergeFusee@aol.com>.

Palm Society of Southern California

Southern California Officers

- President: Jerry Andersen, <jdapalms@cox.net>
- V. P.: Randal J. Moore, <Randal.Moore@cox.net>

- Past President: David W. Minks
- Secretary: Heather Gongora, <BlueMoonPalms@aol.com>
- Treasurer: Randal J. Moore, (see above)
- Editor: Mike Maxson, <maxson@charter.net>
- Bookstore: Tim Cooke, <books@palms.org>
- Membership: Vince Gongora, <BlueMoonPalms@aol.com>
- Back Issues: Alaric Prince, 828 S. Western Ave., Anaheim 92804

Area Representatives:

- Los Angeles/San Bernardino Rep: Leland Lai, <lelandlai@aquafauna.com>
- Orange County/ Riverside Rep: Tom Simpson, <tomspalms@cox.net>
- San Diego/Imperial Rep: Phil Bergman, <PalmNCycad@aol.com>
- Ventura/Santa Barbara: John Rees, <Jdrees1932@aol.com>

Membership dues for 2004 are US\$40 for United States members, US\$55 for Mexico and Canada members and US\$65 for members resident outside of North America.

On May 22nd, the Palm Society of Southern California (PSSC) visited three beautiful gardens in the city of Dana Point, CA. The meeting began at the garden of Chris Lutz. Chris purchased the home last year from Karel Havlicek, and has done a great job updating the home and landscaping, while maintaining Karel's original design. Following lunch, the group visited the garden of Lynn Muir, a long time PSSC/IPS member and has many mature specimens. After Lynn's garden, the group traveled to Jeff White's garden for the meeting, including rare palm auction and raffle.

On May 29th, Quail Botanical Gardens in Encinitas, CA, held their 8th annual Palm and Cycad Sale. See their website at www.qbgardens.com for more on Quail Gardens

Southern California Palm Society meetings are generally held on the third Saturday, every other month. The schedule for 2004 includes:

January 17, 2004	July 17, 2004
March 20, 2004	September 25, 2004
May 22, 2004	November 20, 2004

As stated on the PSSC website, each meeting consists of two or three private gardens, sometimes a slide presentation and always a palm raffle and auction. The meetings are the best way to meet others interested in palms and exchange growing experiences.

For more information on the Southern California Palm Society, visit the new PSSC website www.palmsocietyca.com/index.html.

South Florida Palm Society News

The South Florida Palm Society held their Spring Sale on March 27–28, featuring palms of Australia. The South Florida society has created an endowment fund, planning to put 50% of palm sale proceeds into the fund. The fund has US\$18,000 in it at this time.

Mark your calendar now for the Fall Palm & Cycad Show and Sale to be held at Fairchild Tropical Garden on November 6–7, 2004

The Society met on April 5th to hear Dr. Alan Meerow discuss "*Building a better Coconut*." He was also available for a book signing of his recent "*Guide to Landscape Palms*."

A General Meeting is scheduled for June 7th at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Auditorium. Dr. Larry Noblick, Palm Biologist at Montgomery Botanical Center, is scheduled to speak on his recent palm trip to Paraguay. The meeting will also feature a Summer Special Auction with some special palms available.

The South Florida Palm Society "*Palm Report*" will be online to view at <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/southfloridapalmsociety/>.

For more on the South Florida Palm Society, write Corresponding and Recording Secretary Adrienne Gricius by email to <palmgod@earthlink.net>.

Palm Beach Palm & Cycad Society

The Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society held a Get Together on May 22nd at Mount's Garden.

The general meeting scheduled for June 2nd featured David McLean speaking on Palm and Cycad Culture. Another general meeting is set for August 4th at the Mount's Pavilion (just inside the garden). The October 6th general meeting is also set for Mount's Pavilion.

On September 11th, the PBP&CS will again hold their Great Annual Picnic and Plant Auction at Ruth Sallenbach's Fabulous Tropical Palm Jungle.

The PBPACS Annual Fall Palm & Cycad Sale will be held at Caloosa Park, Boynton Beach, Florida.

This year, the PBP&CS will be meeting the first Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October and December, keeping the

annual picnic in September. The *Palm & Cycad Times* has also gone to a quarterly this year, with issues planned for February, May, August and November.

For information on the Palm Beach Palm and Cycad Society, contact President Mike Harris <palmz@gate.net>, Membership Chair Susan Cioci <d.cioci@att.net>, or Secretary Ruth Salenbach <diznee920@aol.com>.

Palm & Cycad Society of Southwest Florida News (March Field Trip Review)

March 20th was a beautiful day on Pine Island. The sun was shining brightly on the "turn here" sign left by David Lester. As we drove down the dirt road, each subsequent turn was well marked until we arrived at David Lester's property for the day's first tour. We were all warmly welcomed by David.

As a fairly new member, I spent the time before 9:30 introducing myself and my guest to others I had not met before. Everyone was friendly. At 9:30, Geri Prall had 18 people signed in and David Lester started the tour of his property.

Several palms were oddly encircled with fence. Was it protection from cats or perhaps the Pine Island peacocks? No, we were told it was to keep his horse from munching. Next, it was noticed that palm after palm seemed to have a large, very high mound of mulch around it. Was this a new planting technique? No....the palms were actually planted high on dirt mounds created for flood protection. The road to the south of his property is called "Ridge Road" and it is literally a high ridge creating lowland flooding on his property. We enjoyed seeing several large mature specimens including an *Elaeis guineensis* (African Oil Palm,) *Livistona* and *Pseudophoenix* along with some interesting cycads:

Our second stop was the private residence of Dr. Russell Weintraub, owner of TREECO. Before parking, we drove by rows and rows of foxtail palms being commercially grown. Parking just inside his acreage, we began our adventure by walking along a perimeter road adjacent to a wetlands area complete with bald cypress. As we moved further into the property, we walked along a large excavated lake surrounded by boulders as big as cars. The rocks were cut from a layer of cap rock to create the immense lake. We were told the

project covered several years. I felt like I was in "Bedrock" and started looking for Fred and Wilma. As we circled the lake, we could view the Weintraub's home high up on a ridge; stacks of boulders stair casing to the water below. A waterfall flowed into the lake. We waited here to gather together before touring the rest of the property. While we waited, we enjoyed seeing the lakeside plantings including lotus, the "coop" containing show roosters, peacocks and turkeys as well as many fine palms specimens.

The walk through the acreage took us between large stands of gingers, areas of *Heliconia* and under canopies created by palms including Coconuts (*Cocos nucifera*), *Howea forsteriana*, and *Copernicia* species. This was a real treat as we saw a piece of old Pine Island landscape. Thank you Russell Weintraub for sharing your paradise and thank you David for the great tour.

Our final adventure of the day took us to the home of Ray Esling with a garden of succulents and cactus. Approaching the front yard, you are surprised by an imaginary river flowing through a rock garden of succulents, including large blooming *Euphorbia*. A large *Ficus* tree is the focal point of the only shaded garden complete with a variety of orchids and bromeliads. Several other gardens were developed on raised beds perfect for fast drainage. Some unique specimens included a beautifully grown *Coccothrinax crinita*, *Hyphaene*, *Phoenix sylvestris*, bamboo clumps as well as cotton plants that Ray had grown from seed. Finally, the Silver *Bismarckia nobilis* that line the street prove how quickly these exceptional palms can grow with proper care.

After the tour, we all enjoyed a terrific lunch expertly put together by Sue Eslinger. Thanks to the Eslingers for hosting the lunch.

We ended our long but wonderful day on Pine Island with a small plant sale. We want to thank our Pine Island members, Steve Marud, David Lester & Ray Eslinger for setting the event. This writer thanks everyone for making membership in the Palm and Cycad Society of SW Florida such a great experience.

[Excerpted from
full write-up submitted by
Donna Johnson, for the
Palm & Cycad Society of SW Florida]

For more information on the Southwest Florida Palm & Cycad Society, email Geri Prall at <SW_FL_PalmCycad@hotmail.com>.

News from the Central Florida Palm & Cycad Society

On Saturday, March 13th, CFPACS had a one-day meeting in the southernmost locale in its service area: Fort Pierce and Vero Beach. First stop was Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce, a small and pretty place with some interesting cycads and palms. After this, lunch was necessary. On the way to the next stop, Ed & Joyce Carlson's in Vero Beach, several members paid a quick visit to McKee Botanical Garden in Vero but even more descended on the backyard nursery of Jules Horwitz in Lakewood Park. The lure here was "small palms at modest prices." The tour of the Carlson collection was followed by a sale (a few plants were left at the end). Final stop was the impressive, mature collection at Earring Point, the barrier island home place of Joe & Anne Michael in Wabash. Where else in "Central Florida" can you see fully-grown *Corypha umbraculifera*? As usual, everyone had fun in a strenuous day.

The University of South Florida in Tampa hosted its spring plant festival on April 10-11 (Easter weekend.) The CFPACS had palms and cycads available at the sale.

The CFPACS next meeting is planned for June 12th in the Tampa Area. Details of this meeting will follow in the next *Supplement to Palms*, since this issue has gone to press before the CFPACS meeting occurred.

News extracted from *Palmeteer*
CFPACS, recent issue

CFPACS continues to make seeds available over the Internet, relying strictly on donations. All net sales proceeds go the CFPACS Treasury and all distributed seeds are from cultivated plants. If you are not receiving palm seed availability notices and wish to do so, please contact CFPACS Seedbank Director Charlene Palm by email at <seedbank@cfpacs.org> or <BeachPalms@cfl.rr.com>.

For more on CFPACS, check out the website at www.cfpacs.com/, or contact Membership Chair Karen Barresse <cfpacsmbmrship@aol.com> or Secretary Chuck Grieneisen <chuckfg@mpinet.net>.

News from the Southeastern USA (non-Florida) Chapter

The Southeastern Palm and Exotic Plant Society (SPEPS) winter meeting returned to Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens, Savannah, GA on February 28th. Carl Shoenfeld, horticultural explorer and owner of YuccaDo Nursery in Hempstead, TX, spoke on "Palms and Palm-Like Plants of Northeastern Mexico." The talk was followed by the regular SPEPS annual auction and the members' plant sale.

The spring meeting was held on April 24th at Aquinas High School in Augusta, GA. Over the years Joe LeVert, who teaches at the school, has turned the grounds into an "experimental tropical garden that features an amazing number of palms, citrus, eucalypts and other subtropicals that flourish in Augusta's Zone 8 climate. The meeting also featured a major plant sale.

The Summer 2004 meeting is tentatively planned for July 2004 in Jacksonville, FL, with the fall meeting to be on October 9th in Charleston, SC.

Rhapidophyllum, the quarterly journal of Southeastern Palm and Exotic Plant Society (SPEPS) is included with membership. Publication dates are September, December, March and June.

For more information, visit the SPEPS web site at www.speps.net or contact Kathy Denton, <palmlady@gte.net>, Secretary.

Florida First Coast Chapter

On December 8th, 2003, the chapter had its 16th Annual Christmas party at Walter and Janet Rogers' garden. Twenty members showed up for a sunny December afternoon in Florida. The garden, only 5-years old, boasts of raging specimens of *Copernicia prunifera*, *C. alba*, *Dypsis decaryi*, *Livistona drudei*, *L. saribus*, as well as many unique plants. After the tour, we enjoyed a pot luck dinner and a lot of beer. Chuck Hubbuch made a presentation of his botanical adventures in France.

Elections were held and Jim Menge was unanimously elected president. Mat Encinosa was similarly elected Secretary Treasurer.

The chapter supports the Palm and Cycad garden at Florida Community College at Jacksonville. The garden was inaugurated in 1988 and comprises 5-acres and over 1,000 plants. Included are 50 species of palm and 10 of cycad. Among the residents are specimens of *Phoenix theophrastii* and *Cycas panzauhensis*.

Jim Menge and Mat Encinosa coordinated a major upgrading of the garden including fertilization, improved irrigation system, informative signage, and a significant amount of ground cover. Thanks to Jim and Mat for their efforts on this. New additions to the garden include *Chamaerops humilis* "Cerifera Blue," *Copernicia alba*, and *C. prunifera*.

A reception was held on April 27th to present the garden subsequent to its renewal. Kyle Brown and Chuck Hubbuch conducted palm care workshops, with over fifty attendees. The First Coast Chapter grew by ten members.

The chapter will further explore discussions with the FCCJ administration for developing the cycad collection of the college.

Jim Menge (President) plans a fall 2004 meeting at his house.

Best wishes,
Ed Brown

For information regarding the Florida First Coast Chapter, please contact Ed Brown by email at <edbrown_3@hotmail.com>

Louisiana Palm and Cycad Society

The 2004 year is off to a great start with elections of new officers. In March our quarterly meeting was held at Mark Schneider and Michelle Charvet's home where we toured their wonderful garden. Members were given *Livistona chinensis* seeds to cultivate for the upcoming growing contest. On April 4th, some members attended the "Celebration of the Louisiana Iris" tour in Lafitte along with a personal invitation and visit to Joe Baucum's yard, which was on the tour. Joe and Cindy Baucum have 35 species of palms in the ground, another fifteen palm species in pots, and a number of cycads. On May 1 & 2, the Louisiana society took a road trip to the Gulf Coast Chapter Meeting in Pensacola, Florida. We also visited Maxwell Stewart's 10-acre garden in Mobile. Max has a great palm garden and was a very gracious host. We then drove on to Dauphin Island for a personal island tour by Dudley McCune, followed by a warm welcome at Dudley's home and garden. We were impressed at the lushness and design of his garden. The second day was the meeting at Tom Mignerey's house in Pensacola. After the meeting, dozens of palms and cycads were auctioned or sold. Quickly purchased by attendees were very nice specimens of the "Silver Queen" palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*),

each about 6 feet tall. The "Silver Queen" is reputed to tolerate an additional -5°F. lower temperature than the normal *S. romanzoffiana*.

The Society participated in the Spring Garden Show in New Orleans City Park on May 8-9, with many palms and cycads exhibited and sold (at bargain prices.) This was also a fabulous opportunity to educate the public and increase awareness of palms and cycads.

The Louisiana Palm and Cycad Society had a booth at San Francisco Plantation's garden show on May 15 & 16, with more plants exhibited and sold.

The next meeting will be at Mal and Mitch Mele's country estate in Covington, on Sunday, June 13 at 12:00 p.m. More about this in the next Supplement as it is time to go to press.

We are planning the Society's web site and hope to soon have this operational, providing value to our members.

For information regarding the Louisiana Palm and Cycad Society, please contact Joe Baucum by email at theanchorage@worldnet.att.net or by telephone at (504) 689-4243, or any of the officers listed below:

- Kathryn Ostadal, President, (985)-725-0501, kathryn_o@bellsouth.net
- Laurel Von Syda, Vice President, (504)-891-8861, vonsyda2@aol.com
- Ron LaBorde, Secretary/Treasurer, (504)-837-0672, pivoron@yahoo.com

Houston (Texas) Area Chapter News

Gordon Hintz spoke on "Palms for Houston" at Mercer Arboretum on April 4th.

The Chapter will meet at Jerry's Jungle in North Houston in June, hosted by owner Jerry Seymore. In addition, the Houston Chapter will join the Palm Society of South Texas for their July 17th meeting at Grant Stephenson's Horticultural Consultants in south Houston.

Mark Chambers has invited the group to visit his nursery in Alvin, so hopefully we will be able to visit him in the fall when it cools off.. Other possibilities for later this year include the Lufkin Zoo and the Brazoria Palm Habitat.

For more on the Houston Chapter, visit the website at www.palms.org/houston/index.htm, where Mike Burnett has done a good job of posting Chapter information and photographs of prior meetings.

Paul Norris, President,
< poollovers@pdq.net >

News from the Palm Society of South Texas

In the past couple of months, our society has managed to visit a number of members and local gardens. In February, we met at Gordon Ranch (privately owned) on the outskirts of Victoria Texas. This ranch has a naturalized population of *Sabal minor* that live along the creek beds. In March, we visited the Corpus Christi Botanical Garden and viewed the renewed grounds and master plan for the gardens. PSST members and the garden facility agreed upon the pursuit of a palm garden depicting the vast variety of palms that can be grown on the Gulf Coast.

The society visited Glyn Whiddon's newly established garden in Harlingen in April. Glyn, being a nurseryman, managed to take a nearly bare yard and turn it into a palm and flowering oasis in a number of months.

In May, we went to Thad Magyar's tropical jungle. Thad is known for his cabana huts and garden paths that lead through a jungle-like setting. At this meeting, we had to say goodbye to a longtime friend and PSST founder, Lloyd "Van" Epps, who is moving back to California to be near family. He will be missed. Van vacates the Rio Grande Valley Chair position of our society and, with his departure, Mary Barkkari will be our new Valley Chairperson. The society thanks Van for all of his efforts and welcomes Mary to her society position.

Pictures of all of our meetings can be seen on our website at this address:

<http://www.raingardens.com/psst/>

John Volk PSST, Chairman

Upcoming PSST meetings this summer are:

- June 12, 2004. Romeo and Linda Montalvo in Brownsville
- July 17, 2004. Grant Stephenson in Houston

Asociación Venezolana de Palmas (Venezuelan Palm Society)

The natural disaster in the National Park of Avila on 16th December 1999 caused many thousands of victims on both sides of the mountain that divides the capital city of Caracas and the sea. It also damaged important places along the coast like the Simon Bolivar University at Camuri Grande, which had a fine nursery with interesting palms and a small palmetum. It was completely flooded and covered by earth brought down by the Camuri

River and had to be closed. In our excursion of Nov 15th, 2003, we had the university as a meeting place for members of AVEPALMAS participating in this last event of the year. The damages have been so severe that the university had to be excavated and still, four years after the deluge, has not been able to renew activities. The worst damages affecting lives and property occurred in all rivers in the central littoral region. Large areas of the city of La Guaira and villages along the coast had to be reconstructed. In this reconstruction, the old sites near the rivers have been excluded for dwellings because of the risks of future flooding and landslides.

In spite of this drawback, life is returning and tourists are coming back. The coastal road between La Guaira and Caruao has been rebuilt. Thus we were able to take our AVEPALMAS excursion to Osma where architect Francisco Monaldi (our treasurer) has a house with a palmetum and two palm nurseries. Due to the difficulties of communication until now, some palms were lost, but Francisco Monaldi has a new ambitious project of development called Costa Verde for the area, including of course many palm plantings. This excursion included an assembly led by president Sven Nehlin. It featured a tour around the palm nursery in which many palms have rooted and are producing seeds. Osma is located between the resort of Los Caracas and Chuspa - Caruao, where other of AVEPALMAS members have important collections of palms. We have therefore called this coastal road "la Ruta de las Palmas"[the Route of the Palms.] It is an ideal route for all palm enthusiasts and ecotourists,

I have made the extensive comments above because they illustrate somewhat the present situation in Venezuela with economic difficulties, which started with a natural disaster and have continued since with political instability and turmoil. Nevertheless, we have continued with our activities. After a successful exploration to Yaracuy, we formed our first chapter in this important "palm state," with La Fundación Ecológica Guáquira, led by a well-known ecologist Dr. Carlos Rivero Blanco.

At our last meeting, Julian Steyermark, the late eminent botanist from Missouri, was elected an honorary member of AVEPALMAS. Julian Steyermark wanted important rain forest areas to be protected, and AVEPALMAS has taken up this conservation issue. This year, we

will grant a conservation prize called "LA PALMA DORADA" (the golden palm, inspired by the marvelous flowering of *Corypha umbraculifera* last year) to persons who have shown great interest and commitment to caring for nature. This year it will be given to two well-known naturalists, Harry Gibson and Bruno Manara. The Award has been set to be in connection with the World Environmental Day on June 4th.

To our great regret Harry Gibson, also an honorary member of AVEPALMAS, passed away on May 18th. He will now receive this posthumous recognition for his important work as a conservationist and palm enthusiast who helped many to get started with the cultivation of palms. At the same time a rare palm will be planted in the Botanical Garden in Caracas in his memory.

We are making a database of the inventories of our members' collection lists and trying to stimulate exchange of palms. A web site development is also underway.

There have been many activities in recent weeks to celebrate the foundation of the Botanical Garden of Caracas. In an important meeting on May 20–21, eighteen botanical gardens of Venezuela presented summaries of their activities in a series of lectures. This proved to be an excellent occasion not only to exchange ideas but also to obtain botanical material. A new meeting will be held in another city in the month of September. In almost every project the concept of a palmetum is being taken into account.

We have much in common with the botanical gardens because seven or eight directors of AVEPALMAS have private gardens that can be called "botanical gardens," including Cañaote, an arboretum of 300 species of fruit trees and 150 different palms!

The publication of the extraordinary book on palms, *Palmas en Venezuela*, by Jesus Hoyos and August Braun and the flowering of a *Corypha umbraculifera* in 2003 have stimulated many more palm enthusiasts today, especially with Venezuela landscape architects.

Sven Nehlin
President, AVEPALMAS
nehlin@cantv.net
May 21, 2004

For more information on AVEPALMAS, Asociación Venezolana de Palmas, contact: Sven Nehlin at the above email address.

International Palm Society Bookstore Update — Summer 2004

NEW TITLES NOW AVAILABLE

- AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CULTIVATED PALMS** (Riffe and Craft, 2003, 528pp., 929 color photos, hardcover) Definitive account of 890 species of palms. Excellent! \$40.00
- A FIELD GUIDE TO TROPICAL PLANTS OF ASIA** (Engel and Phummai, 2000, 280pp., 390 color photos, soft cover). \$20.00
- THE CYCADS** (Whitelock, 2002, 532pp., 505 color photos, hardcover). \$45.00
- PALMERAS** (del Canizo, 2002, 709pp., 600+ color photos and over 80 illus. – in Spanish, hardcover) Reviewed in the journal *Palms*, 3/03. A must-have for any serious collector! \$95.00
- PALMS WON'T GROW HERE and other myths** (Francko, 2003, 308pp. 78 color photos, hardcover). \$25.00
- THE TROPICAL LOOK** (Riffe, 1998, 524 pp., 409 color photos, hardcover). Award-winning book covering a wide variety of palms and tropical and subtropical companion plants. \$40.00
- TROPICAL ORNAMENTALS** (Whistler, 2000, 542 pp., 458 color photos, soft cover). Covers 400+ cultivated ornamental tropical plants. \$30.00

- PALMS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE** (3rd Ed., Osborne, Reynoso & Stein, 2000, 44 pp., soft cover) Valuable cultural information on 350+ palm species. \$10.00
- BETROCK'S GUIDE TO LANDSCAPE PALMS** (Meerow, 1992, 153pp., color photos, hardcover). \$30.00
- CHAMAEDOREA PALMS** (Hodel, 1992, 350pp., color photos, hardcover) Excellent! \$30.00
- COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MANADO** (Davis, Sudasrip & Darwis, 1985, 165pp., many color photos, soft cover). \$30.00
- CULTIVATED PALMS OF VENEZUELA** (Braun, 1970, 94pp. and 95 photos). NEW SALE PRICE! \$3.00
- CYCADS OF AFRICA, Volume I** (Goode, 2001, 351pp., over 500 color photos, hardcover) Spectacular photography! \$95.00
- FLORA NEOTROPICA 70-73** (Monographs of *Aiphanes*, *Roystonea*, *Euterpe*, *Prestoea* and *Allagoptera*) (Borchsenius, Bernal, Zona, Henderson, Galeano and Moraes, 1996, 249pp., few b/w photos, hardcover). \$45.00
- FLORES DES MASCAREIGNES** (La Reunion & Rodrigues, 1984, 31pp., in French) \$8.00
- FLORIDA TREES AND SHRUBS** (Rose, Will and Mack, 1984; 120pp., soft cover) 30 palm species. \$10.00
- GROWING PALMS (THE DIAMOND LANE GUIDE)** (Tollefson, 1997 (2nd Edition), 151pp., 8 color photos, spiral-bound with plastic cover) Practical horticultural information. \$30.00
- IDENTIFYING PALMS** (Gibbons, 1993, 80pp., 126 color photos, hardbound) A basic, compact and practical introduction to palms. \$10.00
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