

Biennial  
registration  
now open.

See p. 7.

THE INTERNATIONAL  
**PALM SOCIETY**  
Conserve. Learn. Grow.

Sep. 2023

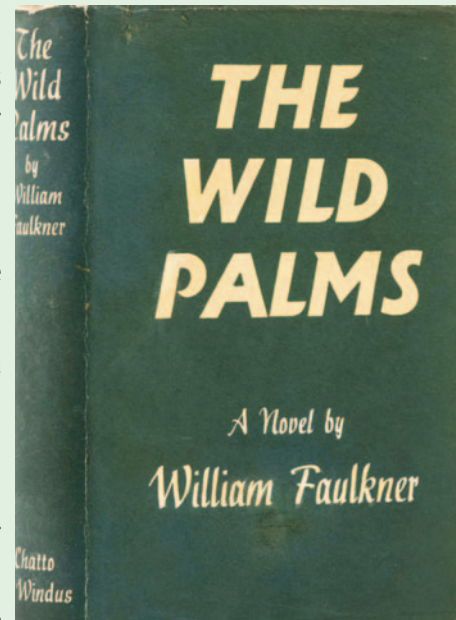
NEWSLETTER

## Back to School Edition

### Palm Quiz, by Andrew Street

It's back to school time at the newsletter desk, and here is your first quiz. This year's guest invigilator is IPS Director Andrew Street, Curator of Palms at the Montgomery Botanical Center (MBC).

1. Which palm is only found in Nubian desert oases? Hint: its seeds are dispersed by seasonal floods and germinate deep in the soil.
2. Which palm species is traditionally a spiny palm, has a spineless form, and is grown for both its fruit and edible palm hearts (which are commercially grown in Hawaii)?
3. Name the tubular part of some palm's anatomy, often green (but can be many colors), and is connected to the petiole?
4. What is the most orders of branching in a palm inflorescence?
5. Name the three-word term used to describe where the trunk meets the root?
6. Which part of *Arenga tremula* is particularly unpleasant smelling?
7. In what country can you find the tallest free-standing palm in the world?
8. Known for the medicinal properties of the palm's fruit, which species also provides food for the Atala butterfly?
9. Name the part of palm anatomy found on some species at the junction of the petiole and the blade of a leaf, on the upper and/or lower surface?
10. Name the Costa Rican palm that has flowers that smell like garlic?



William Faulkner: *The Wild Palms*, first English edition, 1939.

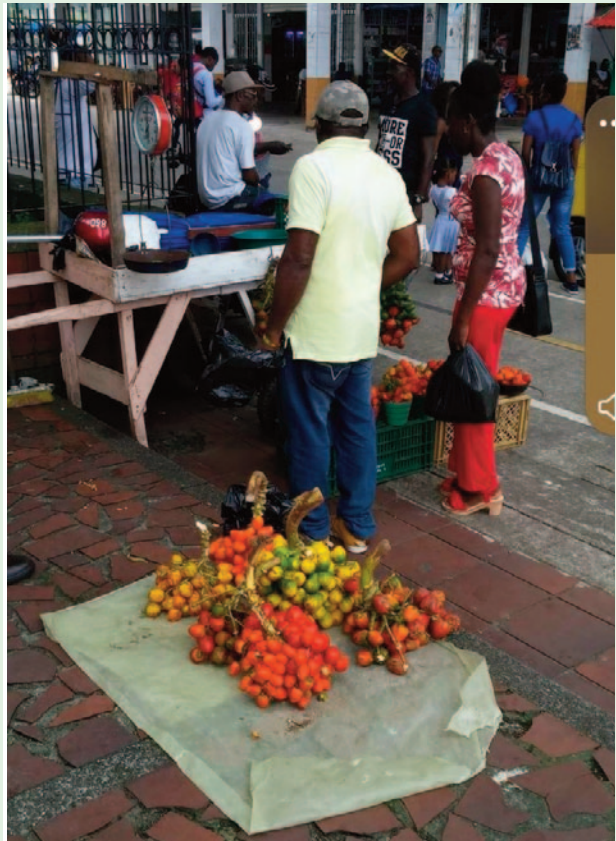
Answers on the following pages (all photos by Andrew Street of palms at MBC unless otherwise noted).



1 (at left). *Medemia argun*

2 (below, right). *Bactris gasipaes* at a market in Colombia

3 (below left). The **crownshaft** seen here on *Chrysalidocarpus hovomant-sina* in Hawaii at Floribunda.





4 (all photos on this page). Five orders of branching (*Coryph utan*).







5 (at left & below, right). The **Root Initiation Zone** (see red arrow)

6 (below left). The flower (photo by 曾云保, CC BY-NC 4.0, courtesy of iNaturalist.org).





7 (at right). *Ceroxylon quindiuense* in Colombia. This individual is actually the tallest palm (nearly 60m) in the world, reputedly named Carl, as seen on the IPS 2018 biennial.

8 (below, left & right). *Serenoa repens* (the Saw Palmetto) and *Eumaeus atala* (the Atala butterfly)







9 (at left & below, right). The **hastula** (as demonstrated by *Corypha umbraculifera*)

10 (below left). *Calyptrogyne ghiesbreghtiana*.



## More Academia

A lively discussion ensued concerning the identity of the unknown Colombian palm from the Andersen's garden featured in the July newsletter (page 7). IPS member (and author of articles for *Palms*) Mike Dahme, IPS Director Dr. Larry Noblick (Montgomery Botanical Center) and Dr. Rodrigo Bernal (co-author of the marvelous book of Colombian palms and field botanist for our 2018 Colombia biennial) all expressed their expert opinions. Ultimately Dr. Bernal favored *Socratea* over *Wettinia* but was not entirely convinced. So the mystery continues. Rodrigo advised: "let's keep an eye on it as it develops, and I'll be glad to look at any inflorescence, when it starts producing in a few years."

## Travel with the IPS: Register Now for New Caledonia

**Registration is now open for the International Palm Society's 33<sup>rd</sup> Biennial in New Caledonia in September, 2024**

Dates: Sunday, September 22 to Monday September 30, 2024 (8 days!).

Capacity: 150.

Expected to sell-out.

Registration is now open, and there is an early-registration discount. Go to the IPS website ([www.palms.org/2024-new-caledonia/](http://www.palms.org/2024-new-caledonia/)) or click below:

[2024 Biennial Registration](#)



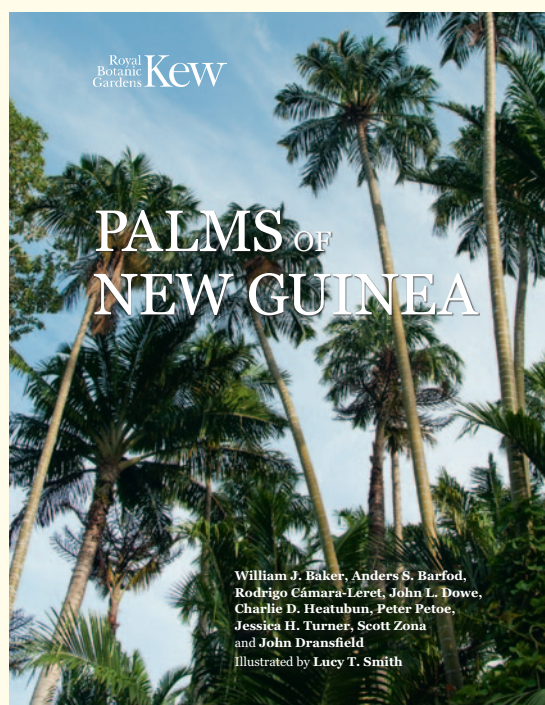


Returning to school means stocking up on new books. Dr. William Baker and colleagues have announced pre-publication details of their highly anticipated book: *Palms of New Guinea*. Included is an exclusive discount offer for the members of the International Palm Society. *Palms of New Guinea* will be printed in small quantities, so please consider ordering your copy soon.

## EXCLUSIVE OFFER

for members of The International Palm Society

Receive 20% discount when you pre-order *Palms of New Guinea*\*



### *Palms of New Guinea*

By William J. Baker  
Anders S. Barfod  
Rodrigo Cámara-Leret  
John L. Dowe  
Charlie D. Heatubun  
Peter Petoe  
Jessica H. Turner  
Scott Zona  
John Dransfield  
and Lucy T. Smith  
Kew Publishing, 2024  
est. 800 pp, 246 x 189 mm  
ISBN 978 1 84246 810 4  
eISBN 978 1 84246 811 1

*Palms of New Guinea* is the first comprehensive account of these immensely important plants on the world's largest tropical island, covering their taxonomy, identification, conservation status and much more.

Featuring over 650 photographs, 250 detailed maps and illustrations by botanical artist Lucy T. Smith.

Written by nine leading scientific experts, this is an essential companion for anyone studying or growing palms from the New Guinea region.

\*Pre-order *Palms of New Guinea* from the Kew online shop [shop.kew.org](http://shop.kew.org) for the special price of £64 (RRP £80) using code **PALM**.

Postage free on orders to the UK, charges apply for postage outside of the UK. Offer valid until 1 December 2023.

Royal  
Botanic  
Gardens **Kew**





## More Scholastics: The IPS Endowment Grants

Since its inception in 1985, the IPS endowment has actively funded palm research and education around the globe via the IPS Endowment Grants. The IPS is one of very few plant societies with a generous educational program annually awarding financial grants to researchers, educators, and institutions. The IPS grant program has donated more than \$500,000 to over 120 research & educational projects on six continents. In the last decade alone, the endowment fund has awarded a total sum exceeding \$225,000 to nearly 50 researchers worldwide. Our robust program of financial support has enabled projects such as herbarium studies, fieldwork, DNA analysis (to clarify taxonomy), pollination issues, conservation programs, and even floral scents.

Additionally the annual Sneed Award supports a project that best emulates the curious spirit of Phyllis and Melvin Sneed. The Sneeds traveled the world in search of palms and wrote about their adventures in the pages of *Principes*, the predecessor to our current journal, *Palms*.

## Benefactor Membership Rates Increase in 2024

If you love palms and wish to support the International Palm Society's mission of research, education and conservation, this would be an ideal time to become an IPS Benefactor. Benefactor benefits include a lifetime membership, our journal *Palms*, the webinar library and invitations to small group travel (led by noted botanists) to very desirable and exotic palm habitats. Furthermore, benefactors are often invited to attend the board of directors midterm meetings (e.g., Peru 2025) which occur in the years between biennials.

Click to become a Benefactor:

[IPS Membership Levels](#)

## New IPS Benefactor

We are happy to welcome the following new IPS Benefactor:

**John Batterham, Australia**





## Palms Around London

I'm still smiling over the wonderfully memorable 2023 London midterm, organized by Drs. John Dransfield and Bill Baker. Here are some of the palms seen on our rambles about the Mayfair district in London



*Trachycarpus fortunei* at St. James's Park, in the heart of the Mayfair—City of Westminster, London. The sculpture, honoring the year of the rabbit, is by artist Sophie Ryder.

*Phoenix canariensis* (hybrid?) at Mount Street Gardens, on the site of the former burial grounds of St. George's, Hanover Square.



## Palms Around London



*Howea forsteriana* distinguishing the opulent Palm Court at The Ritz.

## International Palm Day is April 17

In 1963 Dr. P.B. Tomlinson, a research scientist at the Fairchild Tropical (Botanical) Garden conceived of the International Palm Year. This included funding for palm seed collecting, an “intensification” of the distribution of palm seeds and the measurement of palm growth rates worldwide (Principes 7:4-7. 1963)

Later, a consortium of palm botanists and conservationists created International Palm Day which honors Carl Friedrich Philipp von Martius, Professor of Botany and director of the Royal Botanic Garden in Munich. The date chosen was Martius’ birthday, April 17 (1794).

Professor Martius was acclaimed for his landmark three volume reference: *Historia Naturalis Palmarum*, published between 1823 and 1853. In fact his renown was of such magnitude that he has been acknowledged as the Father of Palms (Principes 23: 158-170. 1979). Upon his death in 1868, his coffin was strewn with fresh palm fronds.

International Palm Day was organized to achieve global recognition for not only palm species in jeopardy but also the fragility of palm habitats worldwide.



## IPS Benefactor Travel

The IPS Benefactor tour to La Réunion is October 29 through November 6, 2023. The tour is **SOLD OUT**.



## Parting Shot

In keeping with the back to school theme, *Washingtonia robusta* fronting the art deco Hollywood High School, home of the Sheiks (a nod to Rudolph Valentino), and *alma mater* of Cher. In the background is the signage for the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, site of the inaugural Academy Awards ceremony in 1929.

