

Have a Holly Palmy Christmas Edition

Our annual look back at favorite palm pictures from the past year.

Let's start with seasonal Christmas colors: red and green...

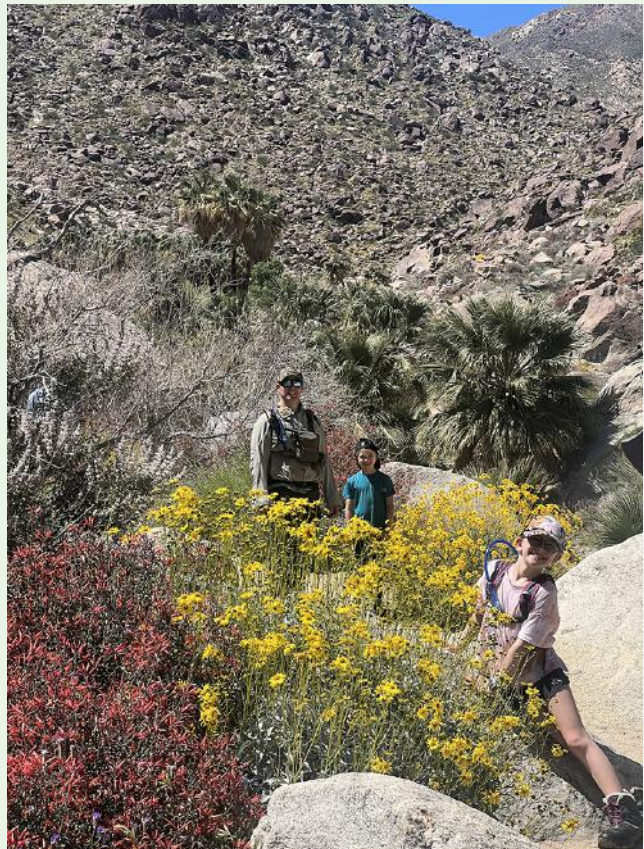
Heterospathes intermedia inflorescence (below center; inset close-up). From the Hilo garden of Bill Austin (seen during the incredible 2022 IPS Hawaiian Islands Biennial (Ed. note: sneaked into our 2023 "best of" collection).





And a photo from the 2023 London mid-term...“away from the tropics, in the calm, windless conditions of the great Palm House at Kew” (PALMS 48(4): 160. 2004). Photo by Andy Hurwitz.

While back in California, after the torrential spring rains, Palm Canyon was looking good. Photo by IPS Director Gregg Hamann, includes grandson Ransom and granddaughter Jubi.





Best palm discovery...*Truongsonia lecongkietii* (Truongsonieae), a new palm genus and **tribe** from Vietnam. From IPS Director Dr. Bill Baker: "This palm, which is most closely related to the African genus *Podococcus*, is one of the most astonishing discoveries in the palm family for decades." Photo by Ly Ngoc-Sâm.

Hyphaene compressa in Omo National Park, Ethiopia. Photos courtesy of IPS director and benefactor, Dr. Lazaro Priegues.





A memorable sunset from from an island rarely seen in these pages: Christmas Island, an Australian External Territory. Photo by William Cleary.

IPS Benefactor Elvis Cruz, standing understandably proud and providing scale for *Copernicia fallaensis*. This plant was grown at the Montgomery Botanical Center from seed collected by Elvis during an IPS post biennial tour in Cuba. Photo by Dr. Lazaro Priegues.



Pritchardia woodii, star of the IPS 2022 Save the Species campaign, in habitat (Waiho'i). Photo by Mike Opgenorth, principal investigator from the NTBG.



Chrysalidocarpus decipiens remnant south of Tana, photo by James Brumder.

Cocos nucifera flank the borders of Anse Lazio on the island of Praslin, Seychelles. Photo by Michael Lock.



Sabal causiarum, commonly known as the Puerto Rican hat palm, in habitat. Found at Playa Punta Borinquen, adjacent to the Aguadilla, PR Airport (formerly Ramey Air Force Base), home of the longest runway in the Caribbean. Photo by IPS director Cindy Adair.

The typical suitcase of an IPS member after visiting an out-of-state plant sale! Photo by anonymous!



Finally, my favorite photo of 2023. *PALMS* co-editors John Dransfield (holding the Dent Smith Memorial Award) and Scott Zona. Photo by IPS past president Horace Hobbs. Additionally Dr. Dransfield and Dr. Zona are benefactors of the IPS.

Conservation

Conservation is one of the three points of our mission trident (along with Research and Education), and we take it very seriously. True conservation successes have been achieved with *Tahina spectabilis* (2020), *Sabinaria magnifica* (2021) and *Pritchardia woodii* (2022). Additionally, many of our research grants are focused on conservation as well.



We are very excited to share the latest update to the **Save the Species 2021** campaign.

Received from, Sebastián Vieira, Executive Director, SalvaMontes:

“The Sabinaria nature reserve is now a REALITY!

It is with great joy and satisfaction that I tell you that the Sabinaria Reserve, in the Darién Gap, is now a reality. A few days ago we were there with our local collaborators, Norman Echavarría (UdeA Biologist) and Andrés Upegui. The acquisition of 50 hectares has already been completed, all of them covered with jungle and with many palms, not only *Sabinaria magnifica*, but also of many other species (the area is a hotspot of palm diversity). The reserve is also crossed with streams and a beautiful river with crystal clear waters, and a flat, open space close to the river of approx. 2500 square meters, very appropriate to develop some infrastructure for visitors in the future.

Thank you so much to the International Palm Society for the valuable support in this project!”

Your contributions to Save the Species 2021 made it happen. This is a huge win for conservation! Thanks to all who participated.



Save the Species 2023

Important update from Dr. Bill Baker:

"I'm just back from a two-week reconnaissance mission to the Comoro Islands with a team of colleagues from Kew and Comorian institutions. We've been hunting down populations of the Critically Endangered *Ravenea moorei*, a massive and spectacular canopy palm cultivated only in the Palm House at Kew and scarcely known in the wild. I am extremely excited to announce that we found it!

Ravenea moorei is clinging on in the wild in Grande Comore but faces great dangers as its habitat is transformed by farming, wood cutting and invasive weeds such as strawberry guava. We found just 12 adults in total. Further work is desperately needed to gain a clear picture of the situation and to put conservation actions in place.

We are deeply grateful that the International Palm Society has chosen *Ravenea moorei* as the focus of its 2023 Save The Species campaign."

Photo at right, *Ravenea moorei* in the Palm House at Kew, by Glenn Franklin, IPS Director, benefactor and Palm Hero awardee.

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin" —Shakespeare



[Donate to Save the Species](#)

Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

 THE INTERNATIONAL
PALM SOCIETY
Conserve. Learn. Grow.

Midterm Meetings, A Pictorial History

The midterm meeting, held on alternate years from the Biennial, is a business meeting for International Palm Society. This is coupled with palm tours for the board, benefactors and invited guests. Here is our history:

2023: London, May 21–25. Including RBC Kew, RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Wakehurst Place.



2021: Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota, Florida, Oct. 31 to Nov. 4. The participants of the 2021 midterm meeting at the entrance of the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota Florida.



Former Director Faith Bishock, beneath a well grown *Tahina spectabilis*, welcoming the IPS to her garden outside of Sarasota, Florida

Rob Branch at his garden with IPS Director Susan Hubbell, who organized the 2021 midterm.



2019: San Diego, Palm Springs and Los Angeles, California, October 19–25.

At right: Directors Gregg Hamann and Jeff Brusseau along with member Mike Street planting an IPS donated *Beccariophoenix alfredii* at the San Diego Botanical Gardens.

Below left: A serious palm huddle, left to right: Dr. John Dransfield (UK), Director Len Geiger (garden owner), Dr. Larry Noblick (Coral Gables, FL) and Director David Tanswell (Australia).

Below right: Director Jeffrey Brusseau welcoming guests to “Cuesta Linda” in Vista, California.





Past President Leland Lai welcoming the IPS to "Jardin Topagonia" in Topanga, California

Below: 2017: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, April 3-8. Group photo of Directors and guests.



2015: Île Sainte-Marie, Madagascar,
October 11–18.

Trekking on Île Sainte-Marie:
Past President Bo-Göran Lundkvist



Past President Horace Hobbs and
his wife, Marisé.



Director Haresh R.

2013: Puerto Maldonado, Peru, October 10–14.

Photos by Bo-Göran Lundkvist





2011: Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, October 13-17.

Photos by Bo-Göran Lundkvist



2009: Belize, March 11–14.
 2007: San Francisco, California, May 11–13.
 2005: Miami/Montgomery, Florida, April 22–24.
 2003: Houston & Galveston, Texas, October 11–13.
 2001: San Diego, California, August 10–12.
 1999: Miami/Montgomery, Florida, June 17–20.
 1997: London/Kew, May 16–18.
 1995: Sarasota and Tampa, Florida, October 26–29.
 1993: New Orleans, Louisiana, October 7–11.
 1989: Corpus Christi Texas, June 1–5.

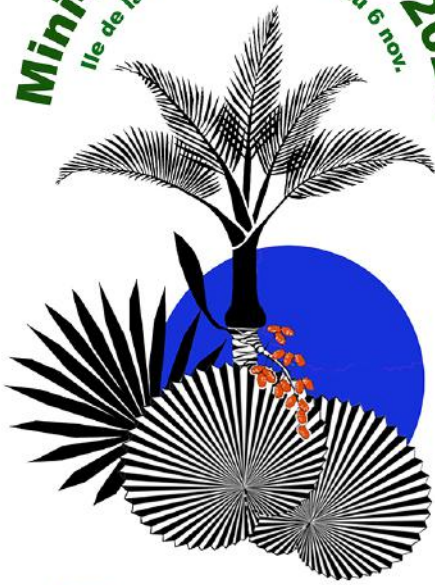


1. After the Corpus Christi meeting the directors of IPS who attended assembled in front of the Marriott Hotel. Left to right, upper row: Lennie Goldstein, Inge Hoffmann, David Sylvia, Jim Cain, Paul Mahalik, Don Evans, Bill Theobald; front row: Kyle Brown, Jerry Hunter, Walt Frey, Natalie Uhl, Pauleen Sullivan, Lynn McKamey, Ross Wagner, Jules Gervais.

1987 Ithaca, N. Y. (Cornell University), June 19–21, Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of The L.H. Bailey Hortorium, and the publication of the first edition of *Genera Palmarum*.

IPS MIDTERM MEETINGS INCLUDE DIRECTORS AND BENEFACTORS, SO PLEASE BECOME A BENEFACTOR TODAY! (NB: Benefactor rates rise from \$2500 to \$5000, effective January 2024).

Mini-Biennale IPS 2023
Ile de la Réunion - 29 oct. au 6 nov.



**THE INTERNATIONAL
PALM SOCIETY**
en partenariat avec
Palmeraie-Union

Your editor has just returned from the fabulous benefactor's mini-biennial in La Réunion (Indian Ocean). Please look for a photographic essay to appear in *PALMS*. Our peer-reviewed journal, *PALMS*, is available to all subscription members of the society, which includes online access to back issues beginning with volume 1 from 1956.

We were honored to have been joined by Drs. John and Jatmi Dransfield. Photo by Director Jeff Brusseau.



Upcoming Travel with the IPS

The International Palm Society's 33rd Biennial:
NEW CALEDONIA

September 22–30, 2024

Registration closes December 15, 2023. Only six spots remain.

Pre-Tour: Please consider joining the IPS for an unforgettable one day (optional) pre-tour on September 21, 2024. Access to a very important and ecologically sensitive botanical hotspot will be via helicopter. This is not to be missed! ONLY FIVE SPOTS REMAIN. Register at the link below:

[2024 Pre-Tour to New Caledonia - The International Palm Society](#)

Please visit the official New Caledonia travel site:
[Nouvelle-Calédonie Tourisme : Le site officiel du tourisme en Nouvelle-Calédonie](#)

And please visit this exciting link from the Northern Administration Tourism Board

[Le GIE Tourisme province Nord - Tourisme Province Nord](#)



Basselinia tomentosa, in habitat, Mount Dogny. Photo courtesy of Gilles Pierson

New Benefactor

We are pleased to welcome a new Benefactor, Susan Hubbell.

The IPS is in Wikipedia

The International Palm Society now has a Wikipedia page!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Palm_Society

Correction

We made an error with Dr. Laz Priegues' article in the November Newsletter about Giardini La Mortella, on the Isla d'Ischia, off the coast of Naples, Italy. The name of the garden was misspelled in the title. We regret the error.

Parting Shots

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Laz Priegues and *Coccothrinax borhidiana* beaming into 2024!



Parting Shots

Who needs champagne and caviar to celebrate New Year's Eve when we have these beverages?

Photo at right by Raymond New.
Photo below by Dr. Duane Kolterman.



...and these munchies!
Photo at right by Scott Zona.

Here's hoping that the year 2024 heralds important IPS-supported palm research, education, and meaningful habitat conservation. And more palm related travel among friends!

