

Alms for the Palms Edition



Basselinia vestita in habitat, New Caledonia (photo by Nicolas Rinck).

Conservation: Save the Species, 2024

Conservation is one of the pillars of our mission trifecta (along with research and education), and we take it very seriously. True conservation successes have been achieved with *Tahina spectabilis* (2020), *Sabinaria magnifica* (2021), *Pritchardia woodii* (2022) and *Ravenea moorei* (2023). Many of our research grants are focused on conservation as well. I sincerely hope that you will be energized by this year's conservation campaign.



Palms belong in habitat and not just under glass - artwork by Paul Pfeiffer, "Perspective Study (After Jeremy Bentham)."

Overview of Save the Species program

The IPS is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization founded in 1956 with a defined purpose of promoting palm conservation, research, and education. Many of the articles in our quarterly journal, PALMS, are the result of research supported by annual grants from our private donations to our endowment fund, membership fees, and concentrated social media campaigns. The IPS Save the Species program is an annual call to action, initiated in 2020, to support the conservation of imperiled palms and their natural habitats.

The IPS invites proposals for specific, quantifiable conservation actions targeting endangered palms and their habitat. Such action plans should describe operational support for a conservation program developed by local forestry management in conjunction with local botanical representatives. The action plan may also include elements of ex-situ preservation or repopulation.

Additionally, the IPS invites one or more separate proposals to the IPS Endowment Fund from qualified researchers for field data collection, genetic diversity studies, and/or action plans that assure the survival and palm habitat preservation. This may be an opportunity for post-graduate students or research staff at a local university. All applications are peer-reviewed for merit, operational validity, and budgetary considerations. Generally, at the conclusion of the project, the recipient will write an article to be published in our journal, PALMS.



Save the Species 2024

Introducing the 2024 Campaign!

Chaired by Leland Lai and Andy Hurwitz

This year's Save the Species (STS) target, *Basselinia vestita*, comes with a substantial background formed in the planning of the 2024 Biennial in New Caledonia (NC).

About a year ago, discussions with Dr. John Dransfield led us to the Institut Agronomique neo-Caledonien which had formed a non-profit agency specialized in species conservation: Conservatoire Botanique (CB). Conservatoire Botanique de Nouvelle Calédonie – Accueil du Conservatoire Botanique de Nouvelle Calédonie This agency was funded by France (€6 million) to study and conserve all endemic species in NC. Its Mission Officer is Nicolas Rinck.

In December 2023, Mr. Rinck informed the IPS that *Basselinia vestita* was the species identified by the competent public authority (Province Sud) as a potential target for conservation. He also explained that there is significant cultural value associated with the habitat site (Mont Me Ori). This site holds sacred significance for the indigenous populations living nearby. The possibility of a conservation program was discussed with the tribal chief, who was receptive to the project and agreed to participate in such a program.

Historically (early 1990's), site visitations in New Caledonia were permitted and seed was legally procured from habitat. Jeff Marcus (Floribunda Nursery) made three collecting voyages to the island (he was also gifted a plant from Raymond Lavoix* in 1995). The seeds from these trips were successfully germinated by Mr. Marcus in Hawaii, and with tremendous foresight, he planted the new seedlings in a very isolated portion of his garden (the Conservatoire Botanique will conduct genetic analysis to clarify any unexpected genetic composition).

Finally, Mr. Marcus repatriated 170 seeds to enhance and strengthen the natural populations at Mont Me-Ori. The Conservatoire will work with the indigenous "guardians of the palm," who are very grateful for this consideration and the return of these seeds to their homeland.

* The Lavoix family's huge collection of New Caledonian endemic palms is the product of Lucien Lavoix and his son Raymond's thorough collecting. Jeff Marcus writes: "in my opinion Lucien Lavoix was the first real collector of New Caledonia palm species and led scientists to know localities to see palms in habitat. Americans call him the Godfather of New Caledonia Palms."

[Click here to go to the Save the Species donation page](#)

Ripening seed, ex-situ cultivation in Hilo, Hawaii. Photographs by Jeff Marcus.





"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."

— Franklin D. Roosevelt

The photo at left of Dr. John Dransfield in Madagascar in 2003 is emblematic of the need for habitat conservation. The grasslands that stretch to the horizon had once been habitat for native and endemic palms. Habitat conservation is an urgent need in many palm-rich parts of the world

and is the driving motivation for the Society's annual Save the Species campaign. Together, we can help prevent this kind of habitat destruction from pushing species to extinction.

One of the great pleasures of writing the International Palm Society newsletter is receiving regular updates about the tremendous successes achieved from past Save the Species campaigns. I recently received more follow-up from the 2022 campaign, shared by David Bryant the Director of Communications for the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG). This is an excerpt:

"Conservation work of *Pritchardia woodii* is being conducted as part of the Save the Species campaign with generous funding from the International Palm Society and NTBG supporters."

Please read the entire article here: [Photo Gallery: Into the World of One of Hawai'i's Rarest Palms - National Tropical Botanical Garden](#)

More success! This quick teaser is a pallet of true *Ravenea moorei*, the fruits (pun intended) of our 2023 STS campaign lead by Dr. Bill Baker. Much more to come.



Education and the IPS

Palm Talk

For over twenty years the IPS has funded Palm Talk, an online community resource for members and the public to get answers to their palm questions and connect with thousands of palm enthusiasts from around the world. Palm Talk has 80K topics and over a million posts. Chances are, you will find what you are looking for and more.

Leaderboard

The screenshot shows the PalmTalk.org leaderboard interface. At the top, there are three tabs: "Leaderboard" (selected), "Past Leaders", and "Top Members". Below the tabs, there are filters for "IN ALL AREAS" and "MONTH". The main content area displays four member profiles, each with a profile picture, name, "IPS MEMBER" status, points, and posts count. Each profile also has a "Find Content" button and a "Follow member" button.

Member	Points	Posts
happypalms	501	4,358
Brad52	202	536
realarch	167	6,561
Hilo Jason	154	2,968

Popular Content

Showing content with the highest reputation since 10/15/2024 in all areas

The screenshot shows a popular post titled "Anyone interested in thousands of Ceroyxlons?". The post is by Justin and has 26 reactions. The text of the post reads: "I visited La Carbonera (aka Tochechito) earlier today, and it more than lived up to its billing. These are quick and dirty edits from my laptop, so when I get home in a couple weeks and have my main computer, I'll make sure to update this post with more photos." Below the text are four small images showing palm trees and a landscape. The post is dated "Sunday at 02:41 AM".

The screenshot shows a popular post titled "Did somebody say something about FALL?". The post is by Dartolution and has 20 reactions. The text of the post reads: "HAHA - Oh I tease. October has been kind to the garden this year (with the exception of rain). With temps this month staying in the 80s/50s for the most part aside from a quick 2 day cool snap mid-month it's been quite wonderful. Our 10 day shows highs in the 80s and lows around 60 which I will take as long as mother nature wants to provide it! Nabbed a few image from the gardens: Hopefully the rack of namwahs has some time to mature. (doubtful) but one can wish." Below the text are six small images showing various palm plants and a person. The post is dated "October 29".

Join the conversation on PalmTalk.org

Donations to the IPS

The International Palm Society relies on donations to meet its mission.

How important is the sustainability of the International Palm Society to you? There are various ways to benefit yourself, your family, and future generations by optimizing your giving. Strategic philanthropy includes identifying your personal goals for a specific organization, as well as the goals for you and your family. There are three primary outcomes: 1) amplifying the amount given to the causes you care about, 2) lowering your current tax bill, and 3) eliminating estate tax. Please contact IPS director Anthony Glomski, Director of Philanthropy and Estate Planning, for more information aglomski@agassetadvisory.com

LEGACY GIVING CATEGORIES

Sustaining members: an annual gift of \$5000 per year

Cumulative (lifetime) levels of giving:

Foundation bronze: \$25,000
Foundation silver: \$50,000
Foundation gold: \$100,000
Foundation platinum: \$250,000
Phyllis and Melvin Sneed: \$500,000
Dent Smith: \$1 million

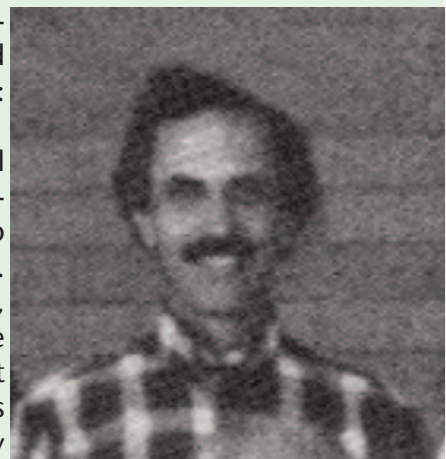
All members of the International Palm Society LEGACY giving club receive BENEFACTOR status and benefits (clickable) including early registration for all IPS-sponsored travel.

Retirement news from the South Florida Palm Society (SFPS)

Long time SFPS leader and former IPS director Lenny Goldstein has announced his retirement. Recently Lenny served (again) as president of the SFPS. This is his farewell statement:

“Since 1979 I've been on the board of this organization for all but one year. The growth of the Society has been fun to witness. We've come a long way from the loosely-organized club that once held a sale in the parking lot of a movie theater. With the early leadership of Jim McLeod and Ed McGehee, and the contributions by Dan Keys a few years later, we were transformed into a solid organization. I've worked with a lot of good folks on the board, and, of course, made many friends among the members of the club. Thanks for letting me enjoy my hobby with you. I'll miss you more than you can imagine.”

Thank you, Lenny, for your decades of service!



Lenny at the IPS interim board meeting, June 1-5, 1989, Corpus Christi, Texas

Jackson-Grant Palm Hero 2024 — Update

The newsletter desk received this heartwarming note (and photos) from Jeff Marcus upon learning of receiving the award:

“We are in New Zealand having a great time. I am a sporadic sleeper and read the IPS monthly bulletin at 3AM. I was so excited for the recognition that the IPS had for us with the Hero Award! Su was equally excited when I showed her upon waking. I am over the moon. Mahalo plenty to the IPS and its Board.”

Jeff and Su, Christchurch Botanical Garden, with *Trachycarpus fortunei*.





Rhopalostylis baueri in downtown Auckland.

Upon their return home, Suchin and Jeff shared this photo. Congratulations again to two palm heroes.



New Benefactor!

The IPS Board of Directors extends its appreciations for our newest IPS Benefactor, **Jim Glock**. Thank you, Jim, for your support!

Parting Shots

What a greeting! Upon arrival at the airport in Nadi, Fiji, IPS member Bruce Madewell shot this colorful triptych.

