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BACK COVER

Pseudophoenix vinifera is one of the many palms that left a lasting impression on the attendees of the 2006 IPS Biennial in the Dominican Republic. Photo by Ryan Gallivan.

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Can the attendees of the 2006 IPS Biennial in the Dominican Republic identify this palm? Photo by Ryan D. Gallivan. For the answer, see page 50.



NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF PALMS

The IPS Board of Directors thanks Dial Dunkin, Allan Crockett and Tad Dyer for volunteering to store and distribute our 20,000+ back issues of *Principes* and PALMS. Storage costs at the Allen Press warehouse in Kansas have been an on-going expense for the IPS. The Board could no longer justify spending the society's funds to keep these issues in storage when all the volumes have been digitized. The Board, however, did not wish to have them destroyed. Dial, Allan and Tad generously offered to store the back issues and make them available in bulk to our affiliates, members and associates in the near future. Stay tuned for announcements on how to obtain these back issues. Again, to Dial, Allan and Tad, on behalf of the IPS, THANK YOU! At some point in the near future the entire run of *Principes*/PALMS will be available on-line to IPS members via the website. The run will be accompanied by an index to articles that will allow easy search and retrieval of any of the articles published in *Principes*/PALMS.

Christine Bacon, a Ph.D. student at Colorado State University's Molecular Plant Biology program, has been awarded the first of a newly established McBryde Graduate Student Fellowship at the National Tropical Botanic Garden for her research on the genus *Pritchardia*. Her research will answer some of the long-standing questions in *Pritchardia* phylogeny and taxonomy, as well as address the new challenges of conservation genetics. During the two years of her project, she will also collaborate with researchers at the Smithsonian Institution and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

In international news, we learned that ministers from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia have signed an important declaration to protect the forested Heart of

Borneo. The agreement records the intent to conserve one of the most important centers of palm diversity in the world and will end plans to create the world's largest palm oil plantation. Since 1996, deforestation across Indonesia has averaged two million hectares (7722 square miles) per year and, today, only half of Borneo's original forest cover remains. The world's largest oil palm plantation, supported by Chinese investments, was planned to cover an area of 1.8 million hectares (6949 square miles) and would have had damaging consequences to the Heart of Borneo. A pledge of US\$100,000 from the US government will be disbursed through the World Wildlife Fund and the International Tropical Timber Organization. The Heart of Borneo Declaration is a tremendous victory for Borneo's rainforest palms.

It is more than little ironic that one of the greatest threats to the palms of Borneo is another palm, the African oil palm. Conservation organizations have raised concerns that the demand for bio-diesel and other bio-fuels would lead to an increase in African oil palm plantations and result in the destruction of forests throughout the tropics. Beyond the problem of deforestation is the issue of waste and pollution. The conservation advocacy group Mongabay.com reported that in 2001 Malaysia's production of 7 million tons of crude palm oil generated 9.9 million tons of solid oil wastes, palm fiber and shells, and 10 million tons of palm oil mill effluent, a mix of crushed shells, water and oil residues that has been shown to have a negative impact on aquatic ecosystems. While no one is arguing for a cessation of palm oil production, the economic growth of a region needs to be balanced by its conservation needs.

THE EDITORS