



**HAWAII ISLAND PALM SOCIETY**

[WWW.HAWAIIISLANDPALMSOCIETY.COM](http://WWW.HAWAIIISLANDPALMSOCIETY.COM)

## President's Message



The big news for fall is the International Palm Society arriving in Hilo on Tuesday afternoon, October 11 through Saturday, October 15. They will be touring Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, the Rutan garden (former Carlsmith estate), Casa de Las Palmas, Floribunda, Moani-Lundkvist, and Andersen gardens. Many visitors will take an all-day bus trip to Kona to visit Dean Ouer's and Norm Bezona's amazing

gardens. There is much more detailed information inside on how you can participate in the biennial. Hope to see you at some of the events. HIPS is sponsoring a lecture Friday, October 7 by Dr. Wolf Eiserhardt from Denmark in conjunction with the IPS biennial. The lecture is free and open to the public. Come hear about how the latest DNA sequence analysis has allowed scientists to understand the evolutionary history of the amazing variety of Madagascar palms. Bringing world renowned palm experts to Hawaii is one of the major public services HIPS provides the larger community. This is what a significant part of your dues and auction proceeds goes to support, so please come and find out what is new in the world of *Dypsis*. You might just win a rare Madagascar palm.

Speaking of the annual auction, the board recently voted to return to Auntie Sally's for our traditional banquet and rare palm auction next February. Mark your calendar for Friday, February 10, 2023. Of course, any plan for an indoor event is subject to change depending on covid conditions, but we are hoping the county allows us to resume this fun event.

A big mahalo goes out to Bob Carrere and Andy Pesce for hosting our recent ice cream social, garden tour, and member plant sale. What a perfect afternoon. More thanks to Tim Brian, Irene Francis, Lars

## Contents:

*President's Message*

*Free Lecture at UH Hilo on the Big Dypsis Reshuffle by Dr. Wolf Eiserhardt*

*Join the International Palm Society's Evening Lectures at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel*

*Nominations (Including Volunteers) for HIPS President Due October 30th*

*Annual Arbor Day Palm Give Away and Educational Talks at Panaewa Zoo and Botanical Gardens, November 5<sup>th</sup>*

*T-Shirt Design Contest*

*Annual Dinner and Palm Auctions Are Back at Auntie Sally's February 10, 2023*

*Gunnar Finds Pritchardia lanigera in Germany*

*Recap of Austin Garden Tour and Ice Cream Social and Plant Sale at Moani/Lundkvist*

Woodruffe, and Ruth Robison for staffing the HIPS outreach booth at the recent Hilo Orchid Show. These very friendly folks welcomed over a dozen new people to the society. And of course, we are grateful to Bill Austin for opening his wonderful garden once again for a HIPS tour. Always a treat to see how the garden is maturing over the years. And finally, I'd like to thank the many volunteers who have been helping bring back the former Carlsmith (Akina) garden after several pandemic years without care. Michelle and Ryan Rutan, the new owners, have done an incredible job revitalizing this botanical treasure. The IPS will tour the property in October. With any luck, HIPS will get an invitation in the next few years, once the Rutans finish building their new home.

I saved the most important announcement for last. We need YOU! In February HIPS will have a new president. It could be you. If you have some fresh ideas on how to make HIPS a more effective and fun organization, we need your ideas. Contact either Karl Mendonca or Chris Friesen on the nominating committee to find out what is involved. Nominations need to be in by October 30.

Rick Kelley

## Free Slideshow Lecture October 7th: Renaming Dypsis Species and Reconstructing a Phylogenetic Tree



HIPS is proud to host a free public slideshow lecture by Dr. Wolf Eiserhardt, Associate Professor at Aarhus University, and an Honorary Research Associate at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK). Dr. Eiserhardt will introduce a new phylogenetic tree for the palm sub tribe Dypsidinae. The work by Dr. Eiserhardt and his colleagues was just published in the journal *Taxon* on August 24, 2022. While garden owners may bemoan the changes to their plant labels, the effort behind this new classification represents a crucial step in understanding the spectacular diversity of palm species in Madagascar. Out of the 178 palm species in the large sub tribe, all but four of those are found nowhere else but on the island of Madagascar. How is this even possible?

Learn what is and is not a Dypsis - aligning genetics and morphology. Along the way you will have a chance to test your retention and win some Madagascar palms to take home with you.

For extra credit, check out the original paper, [\*Phylogenomics and generic limits of Dypsidinae \(Arecaceae\), the largest palm radiation in Madagascar.\*](#)

*HIPS would like to thank Jeff Marcus for providing accommodation for Dr. Eiserhardt during his stay on Hawaii Island.*

[Click Here](#) to Let Us Know You Are Coming.

## The International Palm Society Biennial Comes to Hawaii

The final week of preparation has begun, and soon we will be welcoming our palm friends from all over the world.

HIPS is grateful to members Lars Woodruffe and Irene Francis, Michelle and Ryan Rutan, Jeff and Suchin Marcus, Dean Ouer, Norm Bezona, Bob Carrerre and Andy Pesce, and Cindy and Jerry Andersen for all their work to host the almost 80 IPS attendees. Rick Kelley has been heading up ground logistics for east Hawaii working with the tour operator to finalize schedules and routes and organizing even more volunteer work crews. Mary Lock has been doing general coordination where ever needed as well as managing the Maui pre tour. Jeff Marcus travelled to Oahu to meet with the staff at the Lyon Arboretum and Honolulu Garden Systems. All in all, HIPS has really stepped up and worked as a team to ensure a warm aloha!



*Michelle Rutan, owner of the former Carlsmith garden with HIPS crewmembers Steve Forman, Lise Dowd, Chris and Amy Friesen, partially blocking the view of that massive Johannesteijsmannia altifrons*

### Where IPS is going:

Before arriving in Hilo, the International Palm Society will be starting their biennial with a small group visiting Maui for a pre tour on October 6th. They will visit The Merwin Conservancy, the wonderful garden of HIPS member Jerry Welch, and the Sewell Art Estate featuring outdoor sculptures made from discarded sheet metal tooling pieces from various defunct Maui sugar mills.

The pre tour attendees will meet the rest of the biennial folks October 9<sup>th</sup> on Oahu to kick off the Hawaii 2022 Biennial with visits to Lyon Arboretum, Foster Garden, and Ho'omaluhia Garden on the north shore. They will enjoy evening lectures from Wolf Eiserhardt (see previous article), and Mike DeMotta from NTBG talking about Hawaiian Pritchardia conservation.

On October 11<sup>th</sup> the group arrives in Hilo. Along with visiting some of Hawaii Islands most celebrated private gardens, attendees will also tour the Hawaii Tropical Bioreserve and Garden (formerly Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden) on Onomea Bay. A special tour on their free day will take them to cross the saddle to the Kona side and visit Norm Bezona's Kona Cloud Forest Sanctuary and Dean Ouer's incredible garden where they will have lunch. There will be evening lectures on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

**HIPS members can attend the evening lectures at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and help the IPS further its scientific and educational purpose. All proceeds go to the International Palm Society.**

Your \$20.00 admission includes 3 lectures over two nights:

## October 11th at 7:00pm Moku'Ola Ballroom at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel:

Don Hemmes, professor emeritus UH Hilo, welcomes biennial attendees to Hawaii Island and talks about the early days of HIPS and its legacy garden at the Panaewa Zoo, and the story behind the UH Hilo Botanical Garden with its extensive cycad collection and palmy river walk.

Jason Dewees, award winning author of the book *Designing With Palms*, will illustrate how palms are used to create stunning garden landscapes. Jason gave a very popular lecture to HIPS a few years back on this subject and it is sure to spark ideas for your own garden.

## October 12th at 7:00pm Moku'Ola Ballroom at the Hilo Hawaiian Hotel:

**Dr. Andrew Hendersen**, curator emeritus New York Botanical Garden Institute of Systematic Botany, has been doing field research since the late 1980s. He has described nearly 300 species of palm and written many popular reference guides about palms throughout the Americas and in Vietnam. He has recently been in the Dominican Republic doing research and becoming fascinated by the genus *Coccothrinax*. He found that understanding the relationships between species in this genus was complicated by its insular distribution pattern, propensity to hybridize, and ability to disperse long distances.

[Click Here](#) to register.

**Do Not Skip Over: Nominations For HIPS President – October 30<sup>th</sup>  
Deadline**

With strong membership numbers and solid financials the job of HIPS president has never been easier. A new president will be stepping into a position with an experienced board and an established cadence to annual events. With a tradition of the outgoing president staying on the board to help with the transition, an incoming

president can confidently preside over four meetings a year to set up the year’s garden tours and events, guide philanthropic and educational programs, and plan for the annual dinner and palm auction. The board is looking for someone to bring some positive energy and new ideas on how to improve HIPS to better serve our purpose and members. Please consider volunteering your time, you won’t regret the chance to connect with interesting plant people – society members, nursery owners, botanists, and staff of botanical gardens and conservation lands. Contact Karl Mendonca ([karlsandi@comcast.net](mailto:karlsandi@comcast.net)) or Chris Friesen ([christianfriesen@me.com](mailto:christianfriesen@me.com)) for more information.

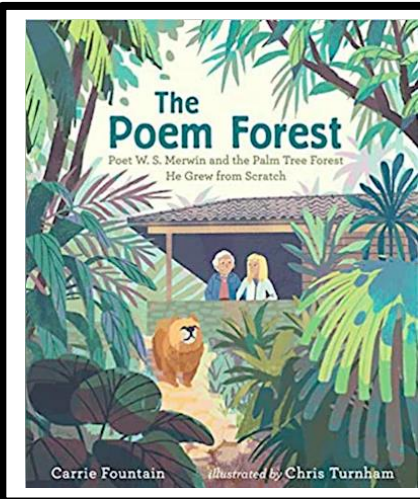
## Arbor Day at the Zoo!

Our popular arbor day event is our most effective community outreach program. We will host demonstrations and talks about propagating and caring for palms at the Zoo's main pavilion. We will distribute free seeds and literature, and of course give away palms – one per family.



*Don Hemmes giving one of the talks at Arbor Day in 2018*

To volunteer or supply seeds or palms, contact Rick Kelley at [rickkelley@att.net](mailto:rickkelley@att.net)



This wonderfully illustrated children’s book just published this year proves that it is never too early to spark a passion for palm conservation. This book is written in plain but beautiful words by poet and author Carrie Fountain. The exotic illustrations by Chris Turnham seem to float off the page as the story unfolds about the poet W.S. Merwin coming to Maui and creating a forest of palms from all over the world. It is an inspiring call to action aimed at a generation that will inherit a very different world than their grandparents grew up in. For younger children, reading this bedtime story will fill their heads with images of planting trees and growing a forest.

## T-shirt Design Contest

### Rules:

Designs to be front, back, or front and back  
No photo designs please

Designs can use up to 3 colors, remember that the t-shirt color can be used as part of the design  
Designs should include "Hawaii Island Palm Society" and "2023"

Submit a PDF or photo of your design to  
[HawaiiIslandPalmSociety@gmail.com](mailto:HawaiiIslandPalmSociety@gmail.com)

### Deadline:

Entries should be submitted no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>

Membership will vote via an online poll sent out on December 5<sup>th</sup>, polling closes on December 7<sup>th</sup>

**T-shirts will be available for sale at the Annual Palm Auction February 10th, 2023 at Aunty Sally's**

## 2023 Annual Dinner and Palm Auction Back at Aunty Sally's

Save the date and save your money for the HIPS 2023 Annual Dinner and Palm Auctions: February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We will be back at Aunty Sally's and kicking off the evening with our huge silent auction. Enjoy a sit down dinner with friends before returning to more friendly competitive bidding at the live auction. You'll be able to pick up the 2023 member chosen T-shirt design too. Announcements will be sent out via email. In the meantime, consider submitting a T-shirt design and your meal might be free!

## The Palmengarten: A Botanical Garden in Frankfurt, Germany

By Gunnar Hillert

My family and I spent the summer in Germany's oldest city Trier (founded in 16 BCE) which sits along the Moselle river, close to France & Luxembourg, and boasts many Roman architectural remains. On the way back to Hawai'i we also got a chance to visit nearby Frankfurt, Germany's financial center. A major highlight for me was a visit to the Palmengarten (Palm Garden), one of Germany's largest botanical gardens.



Trachycarpus fortunei

What a great place to see palms - 220 different species! In total the garden covers 22 hectares (54 acres) with 13,000<sup>1</sup> species and 20 glass houses:

- Palmenhaus (Palm House)
- Tropicarium (14 greenhouses)
- Flower and Butterfly House
- Subantarctic House
- Alpine Houses (2 greenhouses)
- Entrance Display House

The biggest one, the Palmenhaus (palm house) dates from the 19th century and is truly an impressive structure. It even comes with an artificial cave where several small aquariums are located.



*Pritchardia lanigera*

In the Palmenhaus, I also discovered a rare palm from the Big Island of Hawai'i: *Pritchardia lanigera*<sup>2</sup>. Assuming I read the label correctly, that palm is almost 30 years old (1993)



Tropicarium



Tropicarium

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.palmengarten.de/en/gardens/palmengarten.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.palmpedia.net/wiki/Pritchardia\\_lanigera](https://www.palmpedia.net/wiki/Pritchardia_lanigera)



*Aristolochia arborea*

At one of the garden houses of the Tropicarium a small tree from the neotropics caught my fascination that is not a palm. *Aristolochia arborea*<sup>3</sup> (Tree Pipevine) had some cool looking red fruits on the bottom of the trunk. the flowers actually mimic fungi.

You can easily spend a full day at the Palmengarten. We did not even see all greenhouses despite spending the better part of a day there. So if you get a chance, see a great collection of palms in Frankfurt!

## Garden Event Recap

A big mahalo to Bill Austin and Bob Carrere and Andy Pesce for once again opening their beautiful and astonishing gardens to our members. And thanks to David Davenport for capturing the moment in these photos.

**Ice Cream Social is a huge hit.**

Turns out people love ice cream as much as they do palms. Close to 100 people came to the Moani/Lundkvist Garden of Bob Carrere and Andy Pesce to eat nearly 20 cartons of ice cream, buy/sell/trade plants, and stroll the meandering paths in the lovely garden. People lingered in the shade reconnecting with friends.



*Left: Two groups of attendees were treated to tours of the garden led by either Bob Carrere or Bo Lundkvist using both our new sound systems. Below: Striking path lined with *Dypsis*.*



<sup>3</sup> <https://botanyphoto.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/2019/06/aristolochia-arborea/>



Many members were eager to welcome special guests Michelle and Ryan Rutan and their daughters, the celebrated new owners of a wonderful piece of the former Carlsmith estate. With perfect weather and perfect hosts we were spending time in a real life enchanted garden.

### Austin Garden and Nursery Tour

A HIPS tour at Bill Austin's garden is a sure cure for drought. Proving that point, on July 16<sup>th</sup> we donned our rain ponchos and followed Bill around his spectacular garden. We were treated to passing showers during the afternoon, but nothing too serious. The many huge, mature palms provided cover for many smaller understory palms and new plantings. And no, Bill has not got that school bus running yet. Bill gave the history of the garden which should inspire all new members to start planting. In addition to seeing all the fantastic, rare species (fruiting *Marojejya* and *Lemurophoenix*), everyone stocked up on new plants Bill had for sale. In addition to palms, Bill is now growing many types of 'garden jewelry' including rare aroids, heliconias, and anthuriums.





HIPS members were pampered this year getting access to three of the most incredible, mature palm gardens on the island, Jeff and Suchin Marcus, Bill Austin, and Bob Carrere and Andy Pesce's. What could possibly top that? The HIPS board has tentatively lined up a great slate of gardens for 2023 including several that we have never visited as a group. Stay tuned.

#### Note from the editor:

This newsletter goes out quarterly (more or less), the next newsletter will go out December 31st. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to contribute to the production of the newsletter, contact Mary Lock at [marylock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marylock@sbcglobal.net).