

Pritchardia

March 2024 Newsletter

Issue #41



President's Message



Aloha palm lovers,

As those of you that had the opportunity to attend the annual auction can attest, it was a great success. The event was very lively, so much so that I'd say the live auction was as much fun to watch as it was to participate in.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our donors, Bob Davis, Jeff & Suchin Marcus, Jerry & Cindy Andersen, Tony Armstrong, Tim Brian, Mike Merrit, Karl Mendoca, Rick Kelly, Christian Freisen, Don Hemmes, Rob Talbert, Bob Carrere, and Ken Beilstien. Their support is what allows HIPS to provide the membership with the tours, lectures, and other events we enjoy so much.

I'd also like to extend my gratitude to all the volunteers that assisted with the set-up and break down at the event. You created warm, welcoming, and festive atmosphere. I'm sure everyone in attendance appreciated your efforts.

A special thanks is also going out to Jeff Marcus and Rick Kelly. You were fantastic and thoroughly entertaining. I can't help but smile when remembering the live auction.

In other news, we are planning on hosting tours on both the leeward and windward side this year. Plans are still in the works, but you will want to block off May 10th in particular. Not only will HIPS be hosting photographer, author, and landscape designer Cédric Pollet that evening at UH Hilo, we are invited into the UH Hilo botanical garden for a brief tour and tree planting ceremony in honor of National Public Garden Day.

The botanical garden has invited the school's chancellor to install an endemic Hawaii Island *Pritchardia* in the palm walk section of their garden. I'd like to encourage everybody that can to make an appearance at the tree planting. Your attendance will help to ensure that this volunteer maintained and supported garden receives the protection and recognition it deserves.

-Miles

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Upcoming Events

We have two double header events kicking off the 2024 garden tour season. Late in the season we go to the west side to tour Dean Ouer's fantastic garden. We are hoping to add a second garden to pair with Dean's on the west side. We will keep you posted in upcoming email announcements. You can get up to date information on the events on our website.

UH Double Header: Garden Rally and Lecture Friday, May 10th

UH Hilo Rally for the Garden at 2:30 pm



HIPS Tour of BGUH 2018

May 10th is National Public Garden Day and the lead in to National Public Garden Week. In honor of public gardens everywhere the Botanical Garden at University of Hawaii, Hilo (BGUH) has invited the school's chancellor, Bonnie D. Irwin, to install an endemic *Pritchardia beccariana* in the palm walk section of their garden.

HIPS has enjoyed many visits to the Botanical Garden at UH Hilo (BGUH), and our society makes an annual gift to support this gem of a public garden. By attending this tree planting ceremony, we have an opportunity to show the chancellor how much the gardens are loved and how important it is to protect them for future generations



Left: Cycad garden in the late 1980s Right: HIPS Tour June 2018

BGUH was started by past HIPS president Don Hemmes over 30 years ago. The garden contains palm trees from around the world: gigantic species from the South Pacific like *Pigfetta* and *Clinostigma*, as well as more diminutive genera *Licuala* from SE Asia and the *Chamaedorea* of South & Central America. But the garden is celebrated as one of Hawai'i's most complete cycad collections. There are over 120 species from 10 genera and several species that are yet to be named. 45 species of *Zamia* from Mexico, Central America, and South America can be found nestled within an extensive collection of bromeliads, many of which were developed by world renown grower and hybridizer David Shiigi of Hilo.

The tour schedule:

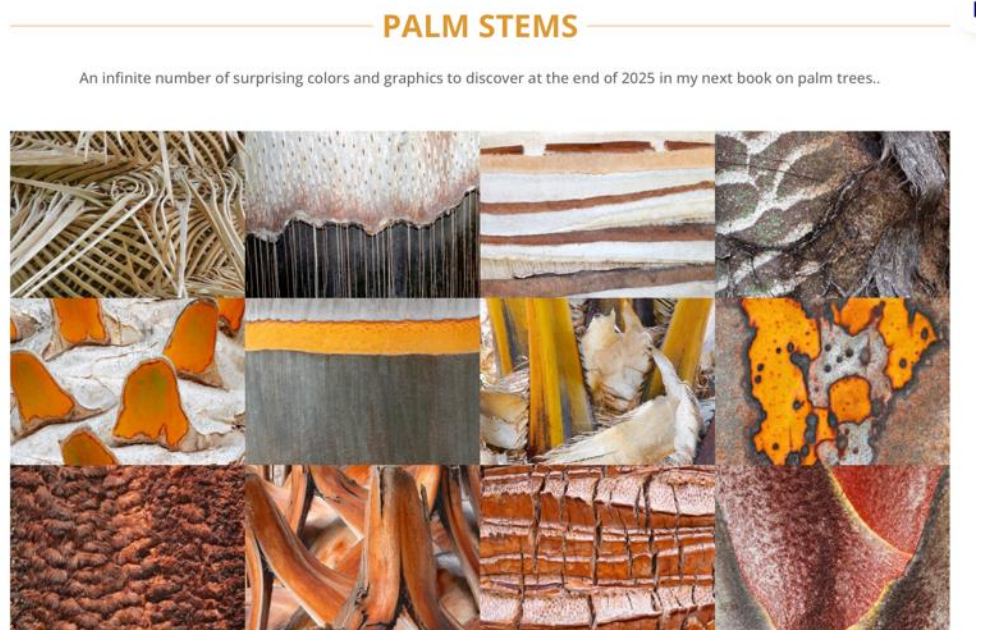
- 2:30 pm Registration opens in the cafeteria breezeway. (Restrooms are available here.)
- 2:45 pm Tour begins, we will be dividing into two groups with one group starting at the palm garden while the other explores the cycad garden
- 3:30 pm Regroup at the breezeway and switch guides
- 3:40 pm Second half of tour begins
- 4:30 pm We meet up again and join the Chancellor for the loulou planting event near the palm walk.

Grab some dinner and come back to UH Hilo to treat your soul to the awesome beauty of the natural world in a photographic slide show by botanist photographer Cedric Pollet at 6:30pm.

An Evening with Botanist and Photographer Cedric Pollet at 6:30 pm



HIPS will be hosting a photographic presentation by French photographer, author, and landscape designer Cédric Pollet. His work combines his scientific and botanical background and often focuses on the fine details of plants and trees. Cédric will be staying with some HIPS members and photographing palms in some of their gardens for an upcoming book.



Double Garden Day in Hilo, Saturday June 29th

See two gardens never before seen on a HIPS tour. A great opportunity to visit two gardens in Hilo town without the hassle of parking. HIPS is arranging convenient parking and shuttles between the gardens. These gardens will set your heart racing and fill you with inspiration for your next garden project. Invitations will go out two weeks prior to the event, but save the date as you won't want to miss it!

Karl and Sandi Mendonca's Paradise on the Wailuku River



Part of a late 1800s plantation garden located along the Wailuku River, the setting of this garden is spectacular. HIPS Vice President Karl Mendonca and his wife Sandi put their first palms in the ground 15 years ago and though they have about 150 species of palms, their 1.3 acre garden reflects their broader interests in orchids, spices, anthurium, water gardens, koi, and bonsai. There is so much to see and the garden vibe so welcoming and relaxing, you might never want to leave.



Jason Dunn's Unbelievably Species Rich Garden

If you wondered where all Bill Austin's palms went a few years back, they are planted here. It's not possible to use all the superlatives that this ½ acre garden deserves in this brief description. Jason's photographic account on Palm Talk illustrating the nearly 7 year journey from overgrown town lot to the garden today will make you cheer at the audacity of the venture, and gasp at the beauty of some of the best looking big boy palms in any garden. (They are at the perfect height for admiring). We can't wait to see it in person. Treat yourself to a great garden creation story by reading Jason's [Palm Talk post](#).



West Side Garden Tour – November (date TBD)

We are firming up the dates. We will send out an announcement via email when we know more.

Mana Mauka (the Ouer Garden)

Located at a cooler elevation near the northern end of the Kona Coffee Belt is one of HIPS favorite gardens. This elevation on the "dry" side of the island is often graced with afternoon showers and allows for an extensive natural forest. And it is here that long time IPS Member (and 15 year IPS PalmTalk Forum Admin/Moderator) Dean Ouer has worked on enhancing his 3 acre forested property with palms, aroids, and other tropical fauna for 14 years.



*Dean Ouer answering questions about *Dypsis marojejya* – mad fox.*



2022 International Palm Society Tour



2022 International Palm Society Tour



Last HIPS Tour 2016

Other happenings you might be interested in:

UPCOMING PLANT SALES

Big Island Association of Nurserymen Sale 2024
Friday April 19: 5pm-9pm
Saturday April 20: 9am-2pm.
Edith Kanakaole Multipurpose Stadium
Waiakea High School will once again help you take purchases to your car.
Dept of AG will clear plants for inter-island travel.
Nurseries from around the Big Island will have a wide variety of plants.

Panaewa Zoo Plant Sale
Saturday April 27, 2024
8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Head toward the zoo, it will be on the right at the entrance to the Equestrian Center

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Botanical Garden at University of Hawaii – Hilo host volunteers every Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 AM. Much of the time is spent pulling weeds and cleaning debris though there are opportunities for planting pruning and beatification on occasion.
A special one day event will be held on Saturday, May 4, in preparation for the garden tour event. Pizza and refreshments will be provided.
Please bring gloves and your favorite weeding tools. Sturdy footwear and gloves are highly recommended. Seed collection from the palm garden will also be permitted.

Contact Bob Talbert if you are interested: robtalbert23@gmail.com

Palm Auction Results



As usual, our annual dinner and palm auction did not disappoint, and it was thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, growers, and auctioneers. But ultimately, our financial success came down to our very generous and playfully competitive members who opened their wallets. 113 people attended the event.

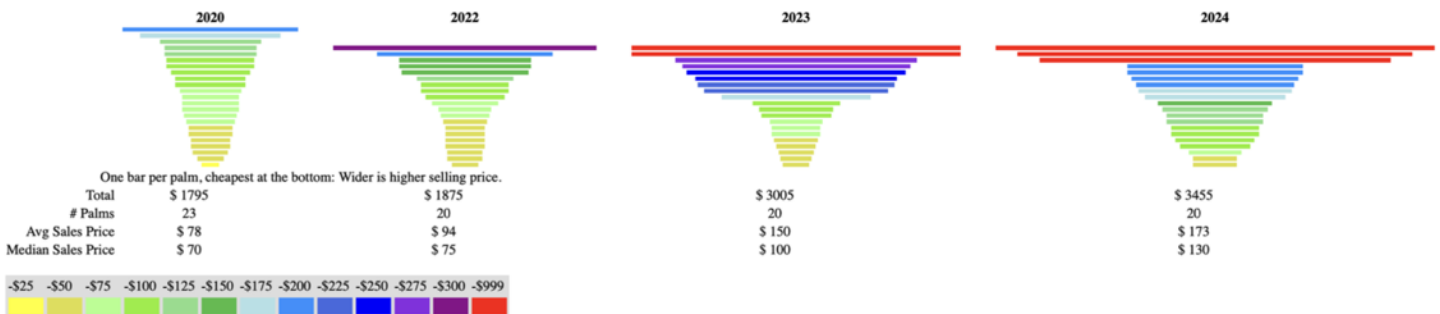
HIPS is very grateful to our auction item donors:

Bob Davis, Jeff & Suchin Marcus, Jerry & Cindy Andersen, Tony Armstrong, Tim Brian, Mike Merrit, Karl Mendoca, Rick Kelly, Christian Freisen, Don Hemmes, Rob Talbert, Bob Carrere, and Ken Beilstien.

Outgoing Treasurer Chris Friesen and incoming Treasurer Larry Kuekes made an impressive team. The check-in and auctions ran incredibly smooth. Chris provided the following analysis for perspective:

There were 20 palms in the live auction and 94 in the silent auction. The palms sold for a record \$7610, about \$900 more than last year and even exceeding, by a bit, the terrific results from 2 years ago. This amount is almost twice the amount from the last time we were at Aunt Sally's back in 2020.

Live Auction Results 2020 to 2024

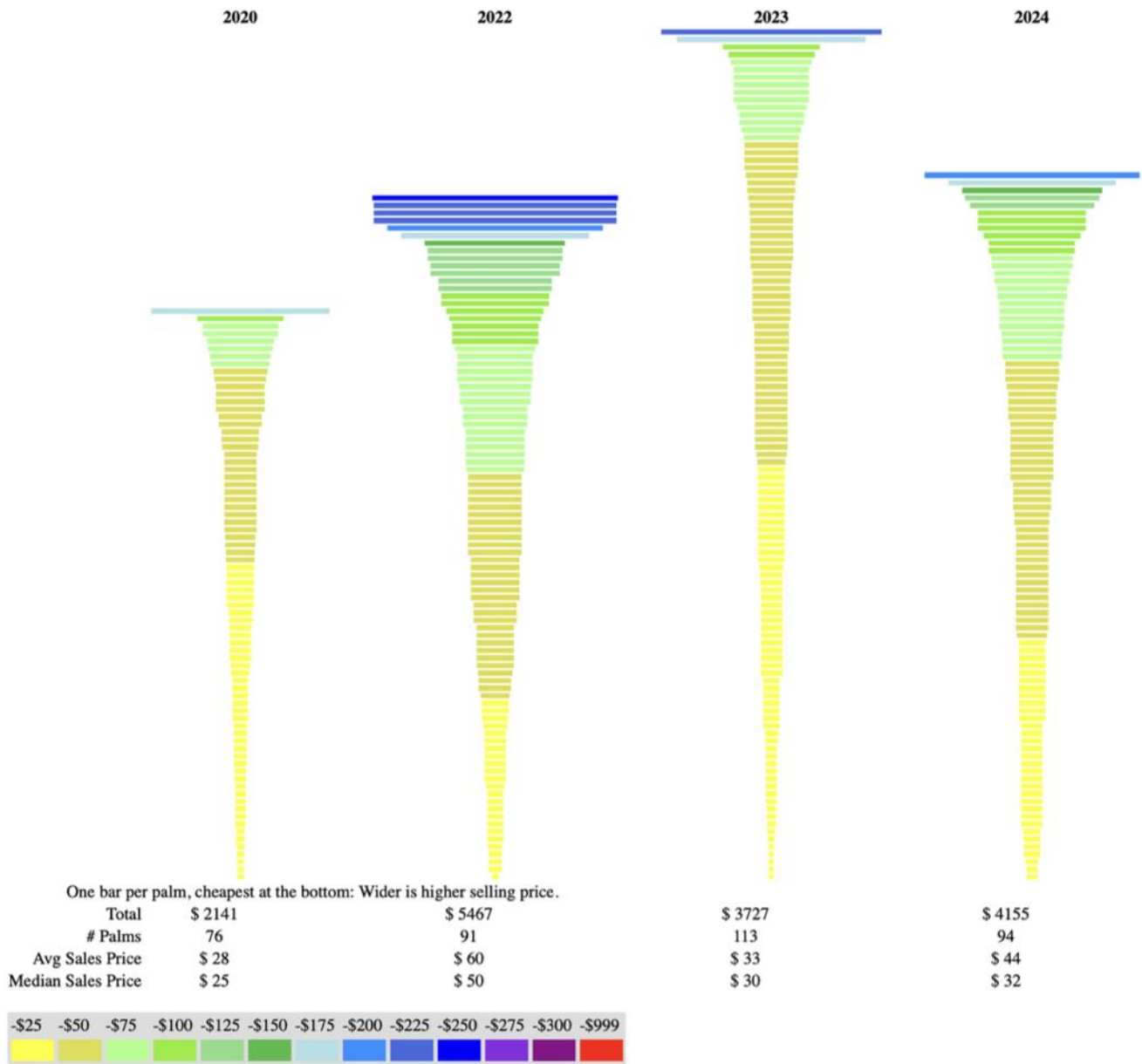


2024 Live Auction Sales:

SELLER	NET GAIN	#	AVG/Palm
Jeff Marcus	\$1,795	7	\$256 Live Auction
Jerry Andersen	\$950	7	\$136 Live Auction
Bob Davis	\$450	3	\$150 Live Auction
Tim Brian	\$120	1	\$120 Live Auction
Rick Kelley	\$90	1	\$90 Live Auction
Bob Carrere	\$50	1	\$50 Live Auction
TOTAL	\$3455	20	\$173 Live Auction

Silent Auction Results 2020 to 2024:

The silent auction brought in a healthy \$3955, a bit better than last year in spite of having a more manageable (smaller) number of silent auction palms, but did not approach the record results of the post-covid auction.



2024 Silent Auction Sales:

Bob Davis	\$1374	29	\$47
Tony Armstrong	\$562	20	\$28 \$762 gross sum
Don Hemmes	\$475	4	\$119
Mike Merritt	\$432	19	\$23
Rob Talbert	\$280	5	\$56
Ken Beilstein	\$200	1	\$200
Tim Brian	\$182	5	\$36
Karl Mendonca	\$175	3	\$58
Bob Carrere	\$150	4	\$38
Rick Kelley	\$75	3	\$25
Chris Friesen	\$50	1	\$50
TOTAL	\$3955	94	\$43 Silent Auction

Hosts Needed for CRB Traps and CRB Training Opportunity

HIPS will be partnering with Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC). To help with their Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) monitoring efforts. We are looking for volunteers from around the island to host monitoring stations. Traps and lure will be provided to hosts at no charge, but if you'd like to contribute financially we'll be able to accommodate purchases as well. Contact Miles at miles@kapoho-palms.com

Once we have a list of potential hosts we will schedule a CRB educational meeting at the UH Hilo campus. You don't have to host a trap to attend, and you won't need to attend the meeting to receive a trap. They're fairly simple to assemble, and reporting your findings is easily completed online.

Free Download of Palms of New Guinea Book



BY DR WILLIAM J BAKER



Our friends at Kew are committed to sharing their knowledge to benefit science, conservation and education worldwide.

Decades of field research and a collaboration of nine botanical experts from around the world went into producing this 726 page book. 250 species beautifully illustrated by the talented botanical artist Lucy Smith. And anyone can [download a digital version FOR FREE!](#)

Who does this?