

Pritchardia

December 2019 Newsletter

Issue #26



HAWAII ISLAND PALM SOCIETY

WWW.HAWAIIISLANDPALMSOCIETY.COM

President's Message



I would like to thank all of our members for supporting HIPS in 2019. All of our garden tours filled to overflowing. Our potluck and plant sale at the Ferazzi's was a big hit. We had a big crowd at UHH to hear Jason

Deweese advice on incorporating palms into the tropical landscape. And of course all of you made the 2019 February auction a huge success with your generous bids that funded all of our other activities. I'd also like to thank the zoo crew volunteers who help maintain the palm and cycad collections and those who helped make the recent Arbor Day public outreach event such a success. Special thanks goes out to the members who opened their gardens to individual new members this past year. The newcomers who attended all agreed that it was a great way to learn tips to create a magical palm garden. All HIPS events depend on the efforts of our great volunteers on the HIPS board who work behind the scenes year round to provide the fun and informative activities that you enjoy. Please consider serving on the board so you can guide how HIPS grows in the future.

On that note I would like to introduce Chris Friesen as our nominee to serve as our new treasurer. Chris is a new arrival to the Big Island and has volunteered to take over the demanding job of keeping our finances in order. Stephen Kling is stepping down as treasurer after several years of great service. This is an especially labor-intensive job, so a big mahalo goes out to both Stephen and Chris.

Finally, I'd like to remind everyone that HIPS does not take a break over the 'winter'. We are flying in another speaker for a January 17 UHH lecture on discovering new palms in Colombia, including the recent discovery of the magnificent

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Sabinaria. Also, our annual banquet, business meeting, and rare palm auction is coming up on Friday, February 7, so mark your calendars. This is our primary fundraiser of the year where close to 100 rare and beautiful palms are offered up to the highest bidder. You will soon receive an electronic registration form or paper invite with menu options and pricing.

We have a wonderful slate of gardens to tour in 2020, but are still in the process of nailing down dates. Looks like we will have a mixture of new gardens plus a couple of favorite mature gardens. We plan on having a potluck lunch at one tour and another member plant sale in conjunction with a second garden tour. Now is the time to pot up those new seedlings so they will be ready for sale later in the summer. Look for the 2020 calendar of events in the March newsletter. Everyone should be regularly checking our frequently updated website for information on upcoming events and photos of recent events.

Rick Kelley

Upcoming HIPS Events

January 17, 2019 HIPS Lecture, UHH Wentworth Hall, Room 1
Extreme Botany: Discovering New Palm Species In Remote Areas of Colombia
Doors open and silent auction 6:30pm, lecture starts 7:00pm

Saúl Ernesto Hoyos is a young researcher from Colombia who is part of the Rodrigo Bernal team that discovered the new palm genus *Sabinaria* hidden in the infamous Darien Gap. The team's latest publication, *A Revision of the Aiphanes parvifolia complex (Arecaceae)*, distinguishes 7 species, introducing two species previously uncollected. His passion for conservation has taken him to some of the wildest places in his native Colombia, in an attempt to document the rich diversity of plants, specifically palms, so that governments can make informed decisions about designating areas for development. Saúl has been visiting famous US herbariums and studying with his advisor in Athens, Ohio. He is finishing his grand tour here in Hawaii. He has given talks along the way while visiting our nation's best botanical resources - Missouri Botanical Garden, the Field Museum, the Smithsonian Institute, and New York Botanical Garden. Join us for an evening of adventure and botanical sleuthing.



FIGURE 5. Leaf antheridia of *Sabinaria rugifolia*.

SABINARIA, A NEW GENUS OF PALMS

Phytologia 144 (2): © 2013 Magnolia Press • 33

Friday, February 7, 2020
HIPS Annual Dinner and Palm Auction

Don't miss our biggest event of the season. Silent and Live Auction proceeds help support HIPS activities throughout the year. This is your chance to bring home rare and beautiful palms and cycads. Look for an email announcing the opening of online registrations, an invitation will be mailed via US post to those without email accounts.

The following slate of officers will be up for election



President: Rick Kelley (Incumbent)

Rick arrived at his new Orchidland Estates home in 2012 after retiring from a career in genetics research in Houston. Rick was completely new to palms, but has begun to learn about the many species through the HIPS garden tours. He has been busy filling in low spots in his lava field with cinder so baby palms can be planted. Rick has been on the HIPS board for six year, helps out at with the Zoo Crew, and has served as president starting in 2019.



Vice President: Rick Jones (Incumbent)

Rick Jones is a fairly recent arrival to Hawaii having moved here permanently in 2016 after a career that included operating a landscaping business. Rick has created new palm gardens in each of the homes he has lived in over his life. He and his wife Faith are currently planting a new 2.5 acre garden in Pepekeo. This will be his second year as vice president.



Treasurer: Chris Friesen

Chris Friesen and his wife Amy bought an abandoned ornamental plant nursery in Pahoia shortly after the 2018 eruption stopped. A semi-retired mathematician from Canada by way of Ohio, Chris and Amy are beginning a grand project to reclaim a beautiful tropical forest from the weedy overgrowth. They are both active in the orchid society and other gardening groups.



Secretary: Mike Arends (Incumbent)

Mike arrived in Puna in 2012 after retiring from San Diego. Mike is a lucky guy. He is fortunate to live in beautiful Hawaii, but more significantly, the river of lava from the 2018 eruption stopped at the back of his Leilani Estates property after covering his neighbors' homes. His four-acre garden is again flourishing after bouncing back from the VOG damage associated with the 2018 eruption. New palms are always being planted. Mike has served on the HIPS board for many years and also helps organize the Zoo Crew. Mike is currently serving as secretary.

Jeff Marcus at the Mountain View Library!

HA WAI STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM



www.librarieshawaii.org

Bringing New Palms to Local Cultivation



Tuesday,
January 14, 2020
4:30pm

**Mt. View
Public Library**
1235 Volcano Hwy
Tel. 968-2322

Jeff Marcus, owner of Floribunda Palms in Kurtistown, has one of the largest private palm collections in the world with over 850+ species in the ground. His collection is for use in seed collection for both his business and conservation. His talk focuses on different species of palms that should and could be introduced to the private grower. Discover how you, the homeowner, can play a role saving palms from extinction. There are more than just coconuts in the palm world!

Please attend and learn about new, rare palms species that need custodians to save them and help them thrive for future generations to enjoy.

Palm Highlight: *Aiphanes parvifolia* complex

Aiphanes is a spiny genus of palm with more than two dozen species. Some of us know the genus from the beautiful *Aiphanes horrida* or by its synonym *A. caryotifolia*, available in the nursery trade here on Hawaii. The name *A. horrida* celebrates the palm's dangerous spines found on the trunk, on the leaves, and thickly covering the flower spathe. The spines on the trunk are so big that they look like porcupine quills. The synonym *A. caryotifolia* graciously prefers to focus on the beautiful leaf that looks like a caryota palm with its fish tail shaped leaflets. While we can add *A. horrida* to our gardens if we dare, we won't be able to find the species in the *A. parvifolia* complex in cultivation. On January 17th we will be introduced to 7 species of closely related palms, 2 of which were never collected before.

According to Wikipedia, a **species complex** is a group of closely related organisms that are very similar in appearance to the point that the boundaries between them are often unclear. The palm species pictured in the table below, from Saúl's paper published this year in *Phytotaxa*, belong to the *Aiphanes parvifolia* complex. The original specimen of *A. parvifolia* was collected in 1880, we will hear the circuitous path taken to come to this current understanding about the species that make up this complex. Hope to see you there.

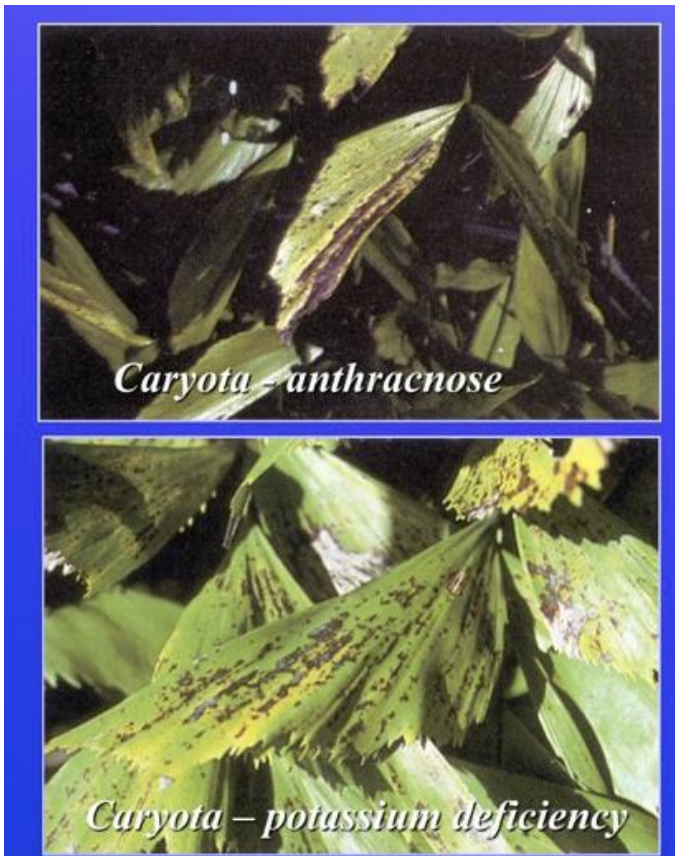


FIGURE 9. Leaves of species in the *Aiphanes parvifolia* complex. A. *Aiphanes sargos*. B. *Aiphanes bis*. C. *Aiphanes cogollo*. D. *Aiphanes decipiens*. E. *Aiphanes gloria*. F. *Aiphanes parvifolia*. G. *Aiphanes tatama* (A, D, E, Rodrigo Bernal; B, Camilo Flórez Valencia; C, Álvaro Cogollo; F, G, Saúl E. Hoyos-Gómez).

Take a Closer Look

The following photos, from a HIPS lecture by Dr. Scott Nelson and used at the Palms 101 Arbor Day event, illustrate just how confusing diagnosing problems with your palms can be at first glance.

Potassium deficiency looks a lot like the bacterial infection Anthracnose, or an infestation of Red Palm Mites. And from far away, potassium deficiency can be mistaken for Lethal Yellowing Disease. Luckily, chances are you have a nutrient deficiency as both Anthracnose and Lethal Yellowing are not common in Hawaii.



Red Palm Mite Raiiella indica



Figure 1 Potassium Deficiency



*Figure 8. Foliar yellowing symptoms of Lethal Yellowing on *Hyophorbe verschaffeltii*.*

Boron deficiency can make leaves look like they have been eaten by boring insects or rats.



Boron deficiency



Boring insect

What should you do? Do what's easy first!

PH affects nutrient uptake, in Hawaii's acid soil that means that Magnesium, Potassium, and Boron will be problematic. Check that your fertilizer includes these. Most of us have small enough gardens to use palm specific products widely available, I like slow release fertilizer spikes.

Dr. Nelson's tips:

If you are treating for nutrient deficiency, remove inflorescence of an affected plant before you fertilize because flowers are nutrient magnets and removing them would direct nutrients to other places more important to the individual plant's survival.

Palm fertilizers rarely contain Borax. So you may have to drench the soil under the palm canopy with a boron solution (4oz of borax to 5 gallons of water). Borax is toxic to plants, so be careful to dilute it and not repeat it again for another 5 months.

Learn more, including how to deal with boring insects and fungal infestations by watching Dr. Nelson's entire lecture on line, [here](#) (you might have to click to enable Adobe Flashplayer in your browser).

Member Profile: Norm Bezona



He returned to Hawaii with his family and began working for C Brewer Company Ltd. in Ka'u. Once back in Hawaii, Norm has had remarkable accomplishments. It was Norm's idea to start our Hawaii Island chapter of the International Palm Society after he found enthusiastic response, possibly due to the palms he gave away, in his landscape class at Hawaii Community College in 1974. Next time you enjoy the towering canopy of tropical trees and mature palms in Foster Garden or Ho'omaluhio Garden on Oahu, you might want to thank Norm Bezona. The Honolulu Advisor ran an article in 1977 about Norm as University of Hawaii, Horticulturalist and member of the Board of Trustees, Foster Garden returning on a collecting trip to South America with Paul Weissich, Director of the Honolulu Botanic Garden to bring back seeds of large forest trees for the new 400 acre Ho'omaluhio project.

Visiting Norm at his Kona Cloud Forest Sanctuary last November with Jason Dewees, we found ourselves scrambling to keep up with Norm to get ahead of a visiting educational tour group. Every turn of our heads showed us an unbelievable assembly of exuberant greenery - palms, tropical trees and plants from around the world, temperate plants like hydrangeas, all mixing within a native forest of Ohia and Koa. Many of the plants were from seeds collected over 50 years, the culmination of a lifetime of exploration, discovery, and sharing.

A passion for tropical horticulture blossomed while Norm was 14 and attending Kubasaki American high school in tropical Okinawa Japan. He started studying at the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture in 1956. While doing graduate work at the University of Florida, he joined the International Palm Society in 1961.



County extension agent Norman Bezona, left, with Waianae nurserymen Jerry Booth, Pat Takahashi and Ken Kadahiro.

Norm began acquiring forest land in 1982, which became the 70-acre Kona Cloud Forest Sanctuary. In 2017 Norm put 10 acres into a conservation easement with the Hawaii Islands Land Trust protecting native forest and birds. Norm is a retired Professor Emeritus of the University of Hawaii and writes a popular gardening column for the Hawaii Tribune Herald. Norm is an active HIPS supporter, recruiting our January 17th speaker during an International Palm Society Biennial to Colombia. Norm will be hosting our speaker, Saúl Hoyos and his family while they are on Hawaii – Thank you Norm!

Check out our latest online video



Did you miss our last lecture?

Now you can watch it anytime. Thanks to HIPS member Dean Ouer for creating a special online version of Jason's November 8th, 2019 lecture. Jason's talk and other HIPS lectures are available on Dean's website Tropiscape, a fantastic resource for anyone who is growing palms or other tropical plants.

Note from the editor:

This newsletter goes out quarterly, the next newsletter will go out March 30th. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to contribute to the production of the newsletter, contact Mary Lock at marylock@sbcglobal.net.