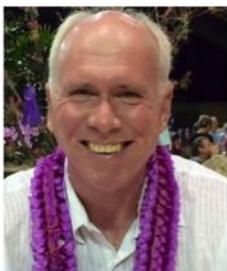




HAWAII ISLAND PALM SOCIETY

WWW.HAWAIIISLANDPALMSOCIETY.COM

President's Message



I hope everyone has used the last three months of lockdown as an opportunity to spend more time in the garden. You end up with fewer weeds and better mental health. The physical distancing measures implemented to slow the spread of coronavirus have thrown our planned activity calendar into disarray. As of this writing the HIPS Board has given tentative approval for our first garden tour in late July. The rest of the year's calendar is up in the air.

I understand that some of our members will not want to be around any type of gathering until a coronavirus vaccine is available. For those who are willing to give outdoor groups a try, please appreciate that this upcoming garden tour will be significantly different from our traditional format. Greeting old friends and meeting new people are big attractions of HIPS garden tours, but this social component of the upcoming tour will necessarily be reduced. There will be no hugs or handshakes. There will be no snacks, drinks, or plant giveaways. We will be offering guided tours to those interested, but most people will be encouraged to enjoy a self-guided tour as the plants are well labelled. Bummer, but with businesses opening up and cases rising on the other islands, it is very likely that more cases will appear on the Big Island through July. We need to be vigilant. There is even a chance that local cases will increase so much that outdoor gatherings are again prohibited in which case we will be forced to cancel. Watch your email and the HIPS website as we get closer to the date.

The pandemic has complicated the logistics of our later two garden tours. There is little or no parking at either location. We had planned on using satellite parking and shuttling visitors to the gardens with a van or small bus. That may not be a good idea in times of a pandemic. For right now, the July tour is the only garden tour looking promising. We encourage everyone wanting to attend a garden tour in 2020 to try to make this one.

On a more personal note, being a news junkie has been hard the past few months. The pandemic has killed hundreds of thousands of people around the world, destroyed businesses, and disrupted the educations of millions of young people. I feel a little guilty being 'locked down' in paradise with a tropical garden calling to me each day. Folks in New York City have been trapped in tiny apartments while we lucky gardeners from the Big Island have it so much better. No one knows what the next year will bring, but I'm confident our community will get through this by relying on one another when faced with new challenges.

Rick Kelley

Contents:

President's Message

First Garden Tour July 25th

Upcoming Events

T-Shirt Contest Winner

Cycas edentata Seeds Available Now!

Scurf: Dandruff in Humans, Elegant Scales in Palms

Show Us Your Quarantine Projects – A New Forum On Our Website

First Garden Tour July 25th

Kelley Palm Garden Tour Saturday, July 25, 2020

Our first tour of 2020 will be a new three acre garden located in Orchidland Estates about 17 miles south of Hilo. This may be of special interest to those just beginning your landscaping. The garden was started in 2013 on a property without soil. Construction is ongoing, so you will see fairly large palms on the first sections completed, others just settling in after three or four years, areas with recently planted baby palms, and some raw land awaiting attention. The property has not been ripped, so while it is mostly level, there are mounds and depressions left by the pahoehoe lava formations. **Parts of the property have lots of steps without handrails, so everyone must wear sturdy shoes or boots. Please, no sandals or flip-flops.** The total distance around the loop is about half a mile. If you feel you might have trouble with the steps on the trails, an alternative is to see the garden from the very long driveway that runs down the center of the entire property.

Nearly 2000 cubic yards of cinder have been trucked in and mixed with an equal amount of green waste mulch to provide a growing medium for the palms. This mix seems to agree with palms. *Clinostigma* put on 2-3 feet of new trunk a year while *Pigafetta* put on closer to 6 feet of new trunk a year. Click [here](#) to view a partial list of palms you will see.

In addition to palms, the garden is filled with several hundred orchids mounted on ohia trees. With luck, a few may be in bloom for the tour. To reduce mowing over very rough terrain, several dozen varieties of colorful coleus are used as ground cover. There are also many tall growing exotic tree fern species and other tropical hardwood trees that will grow into giants.

All the palms will be labeled so visitors who prefer to preserve a social bubble may do a self guided tour of the garden. We will also offer guided tours to small groups who want to hear a bit more about the different palms or other plants

As part of our pandemic modifications, we will not offer snacks or cold water, so bring your own. We will also not have name tags, but encourage everyone to bring their own. If you are very sensitive to mosquitos, you might want to bring a can of bug spray. To accommodate as many members as possible while maintaining physical distance, we offer both morning (10:30 to noon) or afternoon (1:00 to 2:30) tours. We will send an email with RSVP 10 days before the event so you can choose which session you want to join. It always rains at the Kelley garden, so bring an umbrella. Walking sticks sprayed with disinfectant will be available.



Left to right: *Marojejya darianii*, *Anthurium cupulispalum*, *Licuala peltata* var *sumawongii* planted in 2016



May 2017



March 2020

Check out more then and now photos [here](#).

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday July 25th: Kelley Orchidland Garden Tour Two Sessions 10:30 am OR 1:00 pm
- Saturday August 15th: Potluck and Plant Sale at Ferrazzi Farm – **Cancelled**
- Saturday September 12th: Master Class at Floribunda Palms – Tentative
- Saturday October 3rd: Casa De Las Palmas Garden Tour - Tentative

T-Shirt Design Winner – Bill Atkins



HIPS members weighed in via our first ever membership poll. Congratulations to Bill Atkins for submitting the award winning design. Bill will be awarded 2 free dinners at the annual meeting in February 2021 and 2 t-shirts sporting his design. Thank you to the other contributors Jonathon Monto and Mary Lock for participating in the contest. We are working with the printers now and will send out an email when the t-shirts will be available and details about how you can purchase them.

Cycas edentata Seeds Available Now!

In the March newsletter we announced that HIPS became an affiliate of the Montgomery Botanical Center and started participating in their seed bank program. Although we are not able to get access to their vast collection of palm seeds due to agricultural restrictions in Hawaii, we are able to get cycad seeds. We are happy to let you know that our first shipment – 20 *Cycas edentata* seeds has arrived. We have 4 packets of 5 seeds each available to our members on a first come first serve basis. We anticipate around 40% of the seeds are viable and will eventually germinate. If you are interested, contact Rick Kelley at rcklkelley@att.net.

The embryos take 6-12 months to mature after coming off the mother, but this period is nearly complete. Germination may take another 18 months or more in a moist cinder-based mix. You might want to experiment by first soaking some seeds in a bucket of sea water for a few weeks to determine if that stimulates germination compared to control seeds not getting salt water treatment.

A few years down the road, like the witch in Sleeping Beauty, we will contact the recipient to see if they have had any success. The grower gets to keep a baby cycad for their

garden. We ask that if a second plant is produced, that it be donated back to HIPS for our February auction. Down the road when the plants begin coning so that the sex can be determined, people may want to trade plants so both a male and female are growing in proximity.



Cycas edentata is a medium-sized cycad endemic primarily to islands in the Philippines. An IUCN assessed Near Threatened (NT) species, the population was estimated in 2009 to be about 10,000 mature plants. However, the population is decreasing as coastal areas of Southeast Asia are developed for tourism, and especially for aquaculture.

Scurf: Dandruff in Humans, Elegant Scales in Palms

Scurf: scaly dry skin that has been exfoliated, a.k.a. dandruff, an embarrassment to humankind. But in palms, scurf often produces attractive rough and dark markings like those prominent on the stems of the Foxy Lady hybrid, a cross between *Wodyetia* and *Veitchia*, each of which has pronounced scurf below its leaf petioles.



Veitchia spp

The interesting pink coloration on the spear and petioles of *Lantania lontaroides* is also scurf.



Lantania lontaroides

There are a few theories about the purpose of this scale-like structure in plants, which is not specific just to palms. Some theorize that scurf helps control evaporation and can shield the plant from too much sun. Others think it might provide protection from pests.

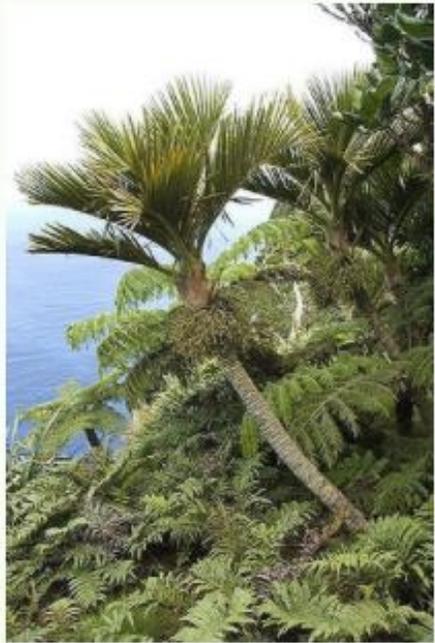
Gardeners can sometimes get fooled by scurf since it can look a lot like sooty mold. In pygmy date palms it looks a lot like a scale infestation.



Phoenix robelenii

[Normal "Abnormalities" in Palms](#) by Timothy Broschat and Monica Elliott at the University of Florida IFAS Extension is a fun article that discusses many natural features of palms including scurf that are often confused with deficiencies or diseases.

The monotypic genus *Lepidorrhachis* is even named for its scurf features, coming from the Greek lepidor meaning “scale”. The Little Mountain Palm from Lord Howe Island, *Lepidorrhachis mooreana*, is the only palm in the genus.



Mt Grower, Lord Howe Island. Photo by Dr. William J. Baker, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew/Palmweb.

According to Bill Baker and Ian Hutton in a 2006 issue of *Palms*, *Lepidorrhachis mooreana* “must surely rate as one of the most narrowly distributed of all palms”. Lord Howe Island off the coast of eastern Australia is only a little over five and a half square miles. At the time, Baker and Hutton found the palm restricted to the summits of the island’s two mountains an area of less than .3 square miles. The government of New South Wales in 2011-2012 announced the final determination of the species on the critical endangered list, finding palms only on the broad summit of Mt. Gower and no observations on the steep northern eroding slopes of Mt. Lidgbird.



For some time now the government has been baiting rats with some success. The rats having come over on a shipwreck in 1918 have profoundly affected the numbers of *Lepidorrhachis mooreana* by preying on seeds as well as juvenile palms. Seeds have been in circulation in the garden community prior to the critical endangered status and are available. The palms live in a cool cloud forest environment and recent [posts on Palm Talk](#) show folks having success growing the palms in California.

Show Us Your Quarantine Projects

Are you taking on long ignored garden projects or spending unexpected free time tending your garden? Why not share your progress with an appreciative, though virtual crowd? We’ve set up a forum on our website for members to upload photos of their quarantine projects. Whether you are still in progress or finished, we would love to see what our members are doing. [Click here](#) to see what your friends have been doing and to post your own photos. If you want to post a message and photos, log in by clicking the person icon on the upper right of the website page and using your email address as your user name. If you forgot your password or haven’t set one up, use the forgot password link to reset. If you need help, just send me email: hawaiiislandpalmsociety@gmail.com.

Note from the editor:

This newsletter goes out quarterly, the next newsletter will go out September 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.