

[hawaiiislandpalmsociety.com](http://hawaiiislandpalmsociety.com)

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Since 1974

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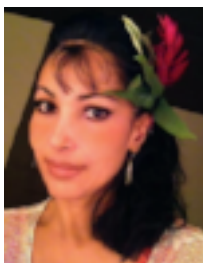
## President's Message.....



**A** record number of people packed Auntie Sally's Luau Hale and nimbly navigated bidding wars at the crowded auction tables, making this year's annual dinner and palm auction a huge success. Thanks to our generous and slightly competitive members, both the live and silent auctions raised more than \$4500.00. A live auction frenzy for Garret Webb's donated 3 gallon Lantania loddigesii ended with a price of \$305.00, the highest selling price of the night. A big thank you to those people who contributed their palms, their time, and their money.

The HIPS board has changed for the upcoming year. Thank you to Vice President Joseph Tucker and Membership Secretary David Hertzberg for their service last year. Rick Kelley is returning to the board this year as Vice President, and Bob Gibbens has stepped in as Membership Secretary.

We've also added two new board member whom I'd like to introduce and welcome.



**Sara Wagner**, moved to Hawaii Island from Oahu just last December. A published photographer and previous Creative Director for Hawaii Fashion Week, Sara is turning her artistic talents to designing her new garden and remodeling her new house in Leilani. Sara was instrumental to the design of the HIPS booth at last year's Hilo Orchid Show and is already planning out this year's installation.



**Lise Dowd**, comes to us from Florida where she was a long time volunteer at the famous Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. An oceanographer by training, you are likely to see her bravely weeding around spiny cycads at one of the HIPS zoo work days. Lise is feeding her passion for orchids and new found fascination with palms by combining the two in her new garden in upper Hilo.

Your board is busy working to organize this year's garden tours and events, so stay tuned!

Mary Lock  
HIPS President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Zoo Plant Sale**

**Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens, Hilo**

**Sunday, May 6th, 2018, 8am to 2pm**



Photo: Tim Brian

**T**his is a great opportunity to find palms of course, and other tropical plants all at BARGAIN prices!

HIPS always has a booth at this event, offering growing advice, giveaways, and public outreach. We will also be giving away free palm seed from the rare and unusual zoo palm collection that



your society maintains.

In addition to the sale, there will be a zoo palm tour At 11:00 am, highlighting the many rare species, their origin, uses, and habit. Can't make the tour? You can enjoy a stroll or a palm tour your own with the recent addition of new palm signage paid for by your dues and generous contributions. Just pick up a free map of the palm plantings at the zoo gift shop.

The plant sale is located at the Equestrian Center, just before the main zoo entrance. You can't miss it.

Rain or shine, we hope to see you there!

## RECENT EVENTS

### Annual HIPS BBQ & Rare Palm Auction



**T**he Annual HIPS BBQ and Rare Palm Auction on February 9, 2018, may have been the largest Society gathering yet. We offer a big MAHALO to the 140 members and guests who attended and continue to make this such a successful event.

Over 90 palms were offered in the 'Silent' auction and 21 'rare' specimens were subject to lively bidding during the 'Live' auction. If that wasn't enough, the freebies available made sure everyone who wanted a palm went home with one.

A good meal, a short presentation by the new director of the Hawaii Tropical Botanic Garden, and lots of socializing, made for another memorable evening.



**SOLD!**

This is a photo of the Latania, similar to the one described in Mary's President's Message above, that commanded the highest 'Live' auction price of the evening.

Want one? Garrett Webb, a generous HIPS vendor and who's donated Latania was the star of the show, still has a limited number available at his Kona side nursery. You can contact him via email if you are interested in one for your garden.

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**November Event: Dr. Bill Baker Lecture**





**P**apua New Guinea conjures up exotic images in our imagination for those lucky enough to attend the November 2017 lecture by Kew palm researcher, Dr. Bill Baker. Dr. Baker describes just how logistically difficult the effort is to locate and collect herbarium material for new palm species within the cultural and geographical constraints of PNG.

HIPS member, Dean Ouer, has recorded this presentation and has made it available to our membership. So, find some quiet time, a comfortable chair, and let yourself enjoy an interesting and informative lecture. The next time you acquire that 'rare palm' all potted up and pretty, you may want to stop and think a moment and appreciate the individual fortitude and effort required in it's discovery.

Here's the link: <https://tropiscape.com/project/hawaii-island-palm-society>



## Zoo Signage Update (2/13/18)

**"J**ust wanted to pass along the good news that after 18 months, all of the new name plates for the palms & cycads have been installed at the zoo. This morning Karen Piercy, Mike Arends, and I planted three new palms and installed their signs. We also remounted several previously installed signs that had been run over by zoo personnel. As long as the maintenance crews don't smash them, the first signs we installed seem to be holding up well. I think all the signs for the palms and cycads

significantly increase the educational value of the collection. Since today was a Tuesday, there were many visitors from the cruise ship. With any luck a few of these tourists are serious gardeners and will tell their friends back home about the wonderful plant collection in Hilo.

I hope everyone takes the time to check out the new *Raphia regalis* we planted just across the entrance road opposite the cycad garden. It may only be three feet tall now, but in the coming years should grow into a giant with the largest leaves in the plant kingdom (60+ ft).

I hope everyone sends along a big Mahalo to former HIPS board member Karen Piercy who was the motivating force behind the project. She researched the currently accepted names, inventoried the collection to check for any losses, researched the sign materials and durability by contacting other botanical gardens around the country, ordered all the materials, arranged for the holes to be drilled with a heavy-duty rock drill, and schlepped many bags of concrete over multiple work days. This has been one of the largest and costliest projects HIPS has ever undertaken, and Karen made sure the result is something all HIPS members can be proud of."

Rick Kelley

## FEATURED PALM

### Bactris gasipaes









## Sacrilege You Say!

**A**t HIP's recent BBQ, our traditional side dish offering of Hearts of Palm drew some interesting comments, particularly from our newer members. "You mean you had to kill palms for this meal", or, "how many palms did you slaughter for this dish? "

Just so you know, hearts of palm from this species, have been a dietary staple in Central and South America, for hundreds of years and is now becoming familiar fare for mainland and Hawaii cuisine.

In fact, the crunchy, slightly sweet, almost pure white delicacy served at the annual event, was grown and harvested right here on Hawai'i island. A short ride from Hilo to Mt. View is the Worley plantation, where acres of *Bactris gasipaes* are grown as a cash crop with the bulk of the harvest being shipped to mainland restaurants. Also known as the 'Peach palm', the form grown for harvest is a clumping variety which means selected canes can be removed as they mature without killing the plant.

Hearts of palm are available in Hawaii at speciality markets and make for tasty salads, stir-fry, or any dish calling for firm vegetables. Live a little, try something on the exotic side.

**H**ave an idea for an event or speaker that might be of interest to the Society?  
Call Mary Lock at (808) 430-0401. Or, you can email me [here](#).

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