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About the Covers

The stunning images on the covers and table of contents page come to us from IPS member Angela Blakely of Hawaii. Angela wrote, “Growing up in inland Southern California and seeing the same old landscape palms – *Phoenix canariensis*, *Syagrus romanzoffiana*, *Washingtonia robusta* – over and over again, I never paid much attention to the colors of palms. For me they were always green. When I later learned that *C. macrocarpa* has a red emergent leaf, my first response was disbelief! My second was, ‘Where can I get my hands on one?’ The red new leaf of *C. macrocarpa* was a revelation. From the moment I laid eyes on that red leaf I was transformed into an enthusiast.” She went on, “As an artist, I am drawn to the intense colors of tropical foliage... Many of the palms with red emergent leaves are so eye-catching that they have really inspired me to share their beauty through my photography.” Angela now lives in Hawaii, on the Big Island, where, as she said, “a whole new colorful world of palm options is open to me.”

Angela’s favorites include *Chambeyronia macrocarpa* (Front Cover) and *Welfia regia* (Back Cover). “I shall never forget the first time I saw a *Welfia regia* in habitat during the IPS Biennial in Costa Rica,” Angela wrote. “We were in an aerial tram traveling through the trees of the predominantly green rain forest. I looked down and saw a bright red new leaf of *W. regia*. It was spectacular, a bright red beacon in a sea of green.” Of *Chambeyronia*, Angela wrote, “I have three 6-m (20-ft.) tall *C. macrocarpa* that are five-years old and have been planted as a group. We are still waiting for a ‘trifecta’ of color, for all three to push out new leaves at the same time; so far, we have had no such luck.”

Actinokentia divaricata (Table of Contents, p. 107) is another of Angela’s favorites, along with the “Mad Fox,” *Dypsis marojejyi*. Of the latter, she wrote, “Its changing beauty reminds me of

a sunset. As the new frond just barely starts to open, some parts catch the light and almost glow a brilliant orange, especially on overcast days. At first, the leaf shifts from orange-red to red. After the leaf opens fully, it changes to a burgundy color. As it matures, it becomes increasingly purple. Eventually the sunset ends, and it finally fades to green.” Angela has posted a number of her beautiful images of red new leaves on PalmTalk, but we cannot resist one last image (below), that of the new leaf of *Calyptrocalyx lauterbachianus* with contrasting bright green stripes on the leaflets.

– THE EDITORS

