



HSPR Heliconia Conservation Center

By Raymond Jerome, President HSPR

In order to keep the members of HSPR informed about our progress in becoming an affiliate HSI Heliconia Conservation Center, I am enclosing the following statements and letters. At my request, all nine of our members who had expressed an interest in being a part of our conservation coop group submitted to me a list of heliconias that had previously bloomed and been properly identified on their farms, that they wished to include on our census. After compiling the results of these reports, we ended up with 284 species, hybrids and cultivars that we wished to include in our initial census.

Along with this list, I indicated how many farms were growing each heliconia. I also included a map of Puerto Rico, showing the approximate location of each farm and its approximate elevation above sea level. I sent a letter containing all of this information to Dr. Anders Lindstrom, President of HSI, and several members of the HSI Board of Directors, including Dr. David Lorence, Scientific Director of the National Tropical Botanical Garden of Hawaii (contains the main Heliconia Conservation Center in the world), Dr. Ray Baker, of Lyon Arboretum in Hawaii, Alan Carle of Australia, and Mark Collins, owner of Eden Farms in Hawaii and The Plant Group in Thailand.

Below is the text of the letter that I wrote to Dr. Lindstrom and the HSI Board of Directors, and the response that I received in return from Dr. David Lorence.

I hope you are all pleased with our progress and we will certainly keep you informed of other future developments relating to this matter.

Dear Anders and HSI Board of Directors:

As the president of "The Heliconia Society of Puerto Rico" (HSPR), I would like to officially apply to the HSI board members to accept our application to be included as an official "HSI Heliconia Conservation Repository". Our society (HSPR) will be the group in charge of overseeing and keeping accurate records for nine Puerto Rican heliconia growers, from various parts of our island, acting collectively as a "Coop Conservation Group".

The farms of these nine growers are located in dif-

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Dates to Remember

- HSPR Meeting/Presentation of Dr. Abalo, 10:00 am, Saturday, June 11, 2005. Dr. Arturo Morales Carrión Theater, Metropolitan University, Avenida Anna G. Méndez, Carr. 176, Km 0.3, Cupey, PR.

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ferent geographical locations in Puerto Rico, are at different elevations above sea level, ranging from 164 to 3,800 feet, have different climatic conditions (rainfall, heat and humidity), and different soil and terrain conditions. We feel that these different growing conditions and different locations give an ideal combination for giving the best growing conditions for low, middle, and highland plants as well as those desiring different climatic and soil conditions. The fact that these farms are spread throughout the island is a wonderful "safety buffer" for damage to them from natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornados, floods, landslides, earthquakes, droughts, etc. If natural disasters damage plants on one part of the island, it is most likely that the same plants, in other locations on the island, would be spared. Those that were spared could then be shared with other coop member growers, who had lost them, and be replanted in the areas affected by the disaster.

HSPR would be in charge of keeping accurate updated records from all growers, inspecting member farms as required by HSI, and reporting information on all concerned farms to HSI, as HSI desires. All heliconias included in this project will be ones that have previously bloomed and are properly identified. They will all be labeled with weatherproof, permanent labels, and they will be kept separate from all other heliconias. We await HSI's further instructions for requirements and guidelines for Conservation Centers.

Included with this letter is a list of 284 heliconia species, hybrids and culti-

vars that we wish to include in the HSI Conservation Repository program at this time, and how many of our farms are growing that particular species or variety of heliconia. We have many more heliconia species, hybrids and cultivars growing on our farms that have not yet bloomed, particularly from Colombia and Panama. They will be added to our census in the future as they bloom.

Also included with this letter is a map of Puerto Rico showing the approximate location of the farms to be included in this group, along with their elevations above sea level. The higher altitude farms have more rainfall and lower temperatures than do the lower altitude farms.

We hope that the HSI Board will accept this application for HSPR to become a cooperative HSI Heliconia Conservation Repository, and if so, we will await any other HSI guidelines that you wish for us to follow in becoming a member of this group.

Your kindness in considering this application is deeply appreciated.

Most sincerely,

Raymond J. Jerome
President, HSPR

Dear Ray,

Thank you for your message presenting an update of the HSPR activities and the proposed inclusion of nine growers in Puerto Rico as part of the conservation

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center system. I believe it is a sound and practical idea to secure the collections in various localities so as not to "put all our eggs in one basket". This system has the potential of working well, provided the different accessions are tracked, tagged/labeled, and good records are kept. It may provide a good model for collection centers in other areas. In any case, the board will be reviewing and considering your request shortly.

Recently I obtained a copy of the HSPR Newsletter with your nice write-up of the 2004 conference, and was delighted to see a picture of us enjoying dinner at your and Migdalia's home that evening! We also have fond memories of our visit to Puerto Rico and making new friends.

With best wishes,

David Lorence

Heliconia Cultivar Registration *By Bryan Brunner, HSI Registrar*

The Heliconia Society International (HSI) was officially recognized as the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for Heliconia on August 1, 2003. ICRA status is awarded by the International Society for Horticultural Science Commission for Nomenclature and Cultivar Registration. An ICRA's purpose is to promote stability in cultivar nomenclature through the registration of cultivar names and to record and publish authoritative checklists and registers of all known cultivar names.

A new heliconia cultivar may be discovered in the wild, appear spontaneously as a seedling or mutation in the garden, be purposely cultivated from seed, or result from plant breeding efforts. The important thing about a new cultivar is that it

should have distinct characteristics that make it distinguishable from all other cultivars.

A new cultivar should not be a single plant, but should first be propagated to confirm that its unique characteristics are uniform and stable in all individuals. Cultivar names should be in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (2004). A summary of the ICNCP rules is available online at <http://www.ishs.org/icra> under "How to name a new cultivar".

Some basic points to remember in forming a cultivar name are: 1) The name should be in a modern language and not in Latin; 2) The name can be one or more words, but should have no more than 10 syllables and no more than 30 characters; 3) The scientific name or common name should not form part of the cultivar name (for example, "heliconia" or "bihai" are not permitted); and 4) The following words (or their plurals or equivalents in any language) are not permitted in cultivar names: "cultivar", "grec", "group", "hybrid", "maintenance", "mixture", "selection", "series", "sport", "strain", "variety", "improved", or "transformed".

A new heliconia cultivar name is not considered "established" or "fixed" until it appears with a description in a dated hard-copy (not electronic) publication. A cultivar name which is established and named in accordance with the ICNCP rules is said to be "accepted", and should not be used again as a name for a different heliconia cultivar. New cultivar names registered with the Heliconia ICRA will be established by publication in the HSI Bulletin and will be included in the Heliconia Cultivar Checklist and Register.

Instructions and forms for submitting a new heliconia cultivar to the Heliconia ICRA are found online at http://www.heliconiasocietypr.org/cultivar_registration.htm, or may be obtained by regular mail at the following address:

Bryan Brunner
HSI Registrar for Heliconia
Agricultural Experiment Station
HC-01 Box 11656
Lajas, Puerto Rico 00667

HELICONIA SOCIETY OF PUERTO RICO, INC.

President: Dr. Raymond Jerome
Past President: Mrs. Emilia (Sherry) Ballester
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Officer: Mr. Bob Castro
Officer: Dr. Sergio Tejedor
Editor/Webmaster: Dr. Bryan Brunner
Assistant Editor: Mrs. Emilia (Sherry) Ballester

P.O. Box 3295
Carolina, Puerto Rico 00984-3295
Phone: 787-886-3147
Fax: 1-240-238-7366
Email: brbrunner@yahoo.com



HSPR

*Promoting Zingiberales in
Puerto Rico since 1996.*



The Heliconia Society of Puerto Rico, Inc. was founded in 1996. The objectives of the society are to stimulate and promote the enjoyment and understanding of Heliconia and related plants of the order Zingiberales through education, research and communication, and to interact with the Heliconia Society International and other institutions which share similar interests, purposes or objectives.

Classified Ads

Please remember that HSPR members may publish one free classified ad per newsletter, to announce or sell goods and services related to heliconias or other Zingiberales, gardening, and similar areas. Ads should be 30 words or less. Additional ads for members or advertisements by non-members of HSPR are \$10 each. Please contact the Editor for more information. Ads must be submitted by email or fax to the Editor by the 15th of February, May, August or November to be included in the following issue of the HSPR Newsletter.

Ray Jerome — Magnificent documentary DVDs, approximately 1 hour each, \$10 plus \$5 S/H. "Heliconias #1: Pendant and Bihai Heliconias", and "Heliconias #2: Orthotricha and Stricta Heliconias". Call Ray at 787-886-3147.

Montoso Gardens — Large selection of heliconias, gingers, ornamental bananas and other Zingiberales. Visit our farm in Maricao (787-221-0614), or visit our website at www.montosogardens.com.

Heliconia Seeds For Sale. \$5 per packet. 50+ varieties. Contact Sherry Ballester at 787-827-3121. See list of available seeds at www.viveroanones.com.

President's Corner

Below is a picture of Dr. José Abalo and his wife, María Luisa, who will be guests of HSPR for Dr. Abalo's slide and lecture presentation for members of HSPR and the general public on SATURDAY, June 11, at 10:00 am. This lecture will take the place of our regular monthly meeting. Dr. Abalo will give his lecture in the Dr. Arturo Morales Carrión Theater at Metropolitan University. This is located on Ave. Anna G. Méndez, Carr. 176, Km 0.3, in Cupey. The theater is in the first building on the right, located on the first street to the left, after passing the traffic light at McDonald's on Ave. Anna G. Méndez. There is a public parking lot located on the next block behind the theater.

Following the lecture there will be a reception, for HSPR members only, to meet and visit with Dr. and Mrs. Abalo. The reception will be held at the Sala de Conferencias Amalia Marín, which is in a building across the street from the theater. Amelia Villanueva will be in charge of the reception. Any volunteers that can help her out should call her at 787-607-0362. Judy and Sergio will be selling rhizomes and plants in the lobby of the theater building. We will not hold a raffle at this meeting. Please put this date on your calendar, plan to attend the lecture, and give Dr. and Mrs. Abalo a really warm Puerto Rican reception from HSPR.

We will be sending press releases to the newspapers, radio and television stations. We're hoping for a really good turnout for this function, both from our members and from the general public. We'll see you at the meeting.

