



## *Palm Island Nursery Hosts the International Palm Society Spring 2011 Meeting*

Attention all members of the Palm Society. Mark your calendars for the late spring meeting 2011 that will be hosted by Dale and Caroline Motiska at their Vacaville home. More than a meeting this will be a two day event for those interested members and their guests. June 11 and 12, 2011 the Motiskas will host their version of Palmstock II (without the live music unless you bring your instruments). What's it all about?

Situated on 28 acres in the English Hills of Vacaville minutes off the 80 and 505 freeways is the home of the Motiskas. Many of you have known Dale as a member of our society and chapter for 34 years. You may also have known him as the owner of the Neon Palm Nursery in Santa Rosa. Currently Dale and Caroline own and operate the Palm Island Nursery in Vacaville. At their home the Motiskas have amassed an extensive collection of exotic plants. They purchased this property in 2000 and have relocated collections of plants that Dale began acquiring 34 years ago. This work in progress will continue for many years to come as for the size of its plan. You will see scores of rare mature palm and cycad species spread all over the hills as well as collections of bamboo, rare trees, succulents, cacti, bromeliads and all that other good stuff. The climate is benign as indicated by the 25 foot *Caryota urens* and large *Bismarkia* palms. The property has rolling hills and valleys at the 500 to 800 foot elevations. There are interconnected gardens and wild areas as well as new orchard plantings of Avocados (12 varieties), Citrus (17 varieties) and other exotic fruit plantings.

The informal part of the meeting will begin at 10 am Saturday. This will be more of a social event where members can wander the grounds, chat, swim in the pool (it's big), lounge in the spa (holds 8), barbeque or just hang out in the hammock garden under stately queen palms. Camping sites will be made available by reservation, as overnights and RVs will be welcome. Water and toilets facilities will be provided at or near each site. Most of the sites are view sites looking out across the Sacramento Valley to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Hikers are welcome to walk to the top of the property where the view (on a clear day) encompasses vistas across 26 counties of California. Sutter's Buttes and Marsyille to the north, Sacramento to Yosemite to the east, Mount Diablo and the Santa Cruz Mountains to the south and San Mateo and the tip of Mount Tam to the west can be seen. The moon will be approaching fullness Saturday night and many of the palms will share their silvery beauty in the night to those willing to stay up late. Vacaville nights are warm with temperatures not usually dropping below 63 degrees. The pool garden will be lit with Tiki torches to add to the atmosphere. Campers will have to bring their own food and drink as limited refreshments will only be provided for the Sunday meeting crowd. Campers need to make reservations no later than June 1, 2011. The choice campsites will be given out on a first come first serve basis. There will be a nominal \$10 donation fee required for each camping vehicle to offset the cost of the services provided.

Arrive early. The Sunday meeting will begin at 11 am with a guided tour of the grounds by Dale. The gardens are extensive and the tour takes approximately 2 hours. Bring your comfortable walking shoes. At 1 pm the regular meeting will begin with the usual pot luck, fan fair and auction. It is intended that the meeting will end at 4 pm but you know how that goes. There is plenty of parking on site.

This is the meeting not to miss! You will see mature *Jubaeas* in grove plantings and century old *Washingtonia* and *Phoenix* species. There are grottos of *Livistonas*, *Braheas*, *Sabals*, *Trachycarpus* and *Syagrus* with avenues of *Phoenix sylvestris*. There are variegated *Chamaerops*, *Rhapis* and *Syagrus*. There is a formal garden with an alle of *Brahea armata* and roses. The pool garden begins at the spa with several pools and waterfalls that cascade toward the main swimming pool surrounded with lush plantings of palms and cycads.

There is a lotus pond. There are hundreds of bromeliads and succulents. There are Protea plantings. You will see subtropical flowering trees like Banksia, Bauhinia, Tabebuia, Chorisia and Jacaranda. There are hundreds of species and varieties of plants. Inspire someone and invite a friend. Bring a plant donation for the auction. Let's raise some revenue for the society and have a great time to remember.

For more information call Dale or Caroline at 707-449-6366. Email [neonpalmnursery@yahoo.com](mailto:neonpalmnursery@yahoo.com)