



Destination 2012: Panama and Colombia! 23 July – 7 August, 2012

By Carla Black, HSPR Member

The Board of Directors and your host, Carla Black, cordially invite you to Panama and Colombia for the XVII Conference and Tours of the Heliconia Society International, 23 July – 7 August, 2012.



Bright inflorescences of *Heliconia latispatha* look down on the Casco Viejo section of Panama City.

The venue for the meetings is a small, elegant hotel in a foothills town in the Continental Divide mountain range. El Valle is about a 2 hour drive from Panama City, and a favorite weekend destination for city-dwellers in need of cool air and greenery. It is the home of

many special heliconias, including favorites and curiosities such as *H. lennartiana*, *H. lindsayana*, and *H. necrobracteata*.

Those who join us for the pre-conference tour will enjoy 4 days on the flanks of Volcán Barú in Chiriquí province, western Panama. Highlights of the tour will be visits to Wilson Gardens just across the border in Costa Rica, my own garden in Volcán with over a hundred species of *Heliconia*, plus the world-famous species orchid farm Finca Dracula and na-



Heliconia nutans is a common sight in Panama.

Inside this issue:

Destination 2012: Panama and Colombia!	1
President's Corner	4

Dates to Remember

- HSPR Meeting, 10:00 am, Sunday, September 11, 2011. Conference room of the main building, Dr. Juan A. Rivero Zoo, Mayagüez, P.R.
- Heliconia Society International Conference, July 23 - August 7, 2012. Panama, Costa Rica & Colombia. Pre-Conference Tour to Chiriquí, Panama & Costa Rica. Post-Conference Tour to Colombia.

Destination 2012: Panama and Colombia! (continued)



Beautiful Hotel Los Mandarininos in El Valle, Panama, is the venue for the 2012 Heliconia Society International conference.

tive *H. lankesterii* at 2000 m. elevation in Cerro Punta.

An optional 2-day pre-tour, concurrent with the main pre-tour, will take you to the best places in Panama City, Central America's premier metropolis. Take in the Panama Canal, a pre-opening tour of the Frank Gehry Biodiversity Museum and Botanical Garden, a diverse and fascinating handcrafts market, and an evening in the beautiful and historic old city, called Casco Viejo. Maybe there'll be time before dinner to look for monkeys and *H.*



One of the highlights of the pre-conference tour is a visit to Carla and Angel's gorgeous highland gardens in Volcán, Panama.

platystachys in the primary forest just minutes from the city center, in the Parque Natural Metropolitano.



The impressive Volcán Barú, a dormant but potentially active volcano near Carla's farm, is the highest mountain in Panama, with a height of 11,398 feet (3,474 m). From the peak, both the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean can be seen.

The post-conference tour will take us to Colombia! This is the first opportunity for many to visit the incredibly *Heliconia*-rich South American country. Our travels will begin in Cali, Colombia's third-largest city and best portal to natural areas with high *Heli-*

Destination 2012: Panama and Colombia (continued)



The lush forests of Colombia are home to nearly 100 species of heliconias, including the endemic species *H. gigantea* and *H. titanum*, which are extremely rare in cultivation.

conia diversity. As well as seeing heliconias in the wild – including *H. gigantea*, *H. titanum*, *H. griggiana*, *H. burleana*, and *H. spiralis* - we'll get ac-



Beautiful handmade artwork, like this bamboo painted with heliconias and tropical flowers, can be found in the Parque Artesanal Loma de la Cruz, Cali, Colombia

quainted with the culture, visit botanical gardens, and have the opportunity to buy rhizomes from commercial growers. The trip will finish at the Fes-



A flower vendor at the Alameda Farmer's Market in Cali, Colombia, with a wide selection of heliconias.

tival de Flores in Medellín – the nation's flower show.

We look forward to seeing you in Panama in 2012!

Reprinted with permission from the Bulletin of the Heliconia Society International, Vol. 17, No. 1, May 2011. Carla Black lives and plays in Volcán, Panama. She can be reached at: carla@volcanbaru.com



One of the three locks that allows passage of ships through the Panama Canal, the Miraflores Locks has an interesting visitor's center near Panama City which allows visitors to learn about the canal's construction and to see ships go through the narrow passage.

**HELICONIA SOCIETY OF
PUERTO RICO, INC.**

www.heliconiasocietypr.org

President: Dr. José Abreu Deliz
Past President: Mr. Héctor Méndez Caratini
Vice President: Mr. Héctor Méndez Caratini
Treasurer: Mr. Reily Rodríguez
Secretary: Mrs. Yarisá Montes
Officer: Ms. Judy Nelson
Officer: Dr. Bryan Brunner
Editor: Vacant
Assistant Editor: Mr. Héctor Méndez Caratini
Assistant Editor/Webmaster: Dr. Bryan Brunner
Assistant Editor: Mr. Bob Castro

Juan J. Jimenez 554
Hato Rey, P.R. 00918
Phone: 787-792-5081
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.

President's Corner

Saludos Amigos,

At our last meeting, held in June 2011, our Vice President and Acting Secretary, Héctor Méndez Caratini, as well as our Treasurer Reiley Rodríguez were unable to attend the activity.

The meeting, although very informal, was acceptably successful thanks to the impromptu aid supplied by Yolanda Reyes, former Treasurer, and versatile "utility player" Gildreth González. For that I am very grateful.

Special gratitude is owed to Isabelita, who gracefully provided us with the use of her beautiful house-garden-orchard. As if that were not enough, she also supplied her exuberant attributes as hostess and friend. May the beauty of her flowers be surpassed only by the productivity of her fruit orchard.

Our next meeting, to be held on September 11, 2011, will take place at the Dr. Juan A. Rivero Zoo in Mayagüez. Specifically, in the conference room of the main building.

At this meeting, we would like to honor our founding members: Arnaldo Astacio, Angel Alayón, Kelly Brooks, Susan Brooks, Bessie Ceinos, Rafael Crespo, June del Castillo, Nelsie Flores, Endre Guttmann, Jeanette Harris, Robert Lankford, Marta Lankford, Juan Márquez, Judy Nelson, Juan A. Rivero, Eneida Rivero, Celeste Rodríguez, Canita Secola, Paul Yoshioka and Beverly Yoshioka.

We are still missing current addresses of some of those on the list, so would welcome this information to be able to properly invite them through the Newsletter.

At this meeting, one of those founding members, revered professor at our RUM, and whose name bears the institution where our meeting will be held, will be our guest speaker Dr. Juan A. Rivero.

Don't miss the opportunity to meet Dr. Rivero and listen to his enlightening speech.

José R. Abreu,
President, HSPR



Heliconia lankesteri var. rubra, one of the many heliconias you can expect to see on the 2012 HSI Conference pre-tour to Panama.