



HSI/HSPR Co-operative Heliconia Conservation Center of Puerto Rico

By Raymond Jerome, HSPR Member

Our Heliconia Society of Puerto Rico has been, and is presently, one of the largest and most active heliconia societies in the world. We have contributed heavily to the knowledge of the cultivation of heliconias and other Zingiberales plants, world wide.

Our deepest gratitude goes to Dr. Bryan Brunner for the extensive amount of time and effort he has contributed to making our “heliconiasocietypr.org” the largest, most accurate, informative, and beautiful presentations of heliconias to be found on the Internet, or anywhere else in the planet. Thank you, Bryan, for all of the hard work you have put into forming and updating our magnificent website of heliconia species and cultivars and for giving us the

most accurate and authoritative information on “naming” our extensive and ever-growing list of heliconia cultivars.

I was fortunate in being able to help Bryan develop our heliconia website by getting expert collectors of heliconias, worldwide, to contribute new photographs, to complete our extensive listing of heliconia species and cultivars. I also spent much time and effort in reducing each new photos and several old photos, to dimensions that could be posted in our Internet website.

While president of our society, I was able to establish two ongoing programs of which I am very proud. The first program was to set up a yearly lecture, to our society, by a world expert in heliconias. This program has been very successful in the past and hopefully will continue in the future. The second program that I set up was to form a Co-operative Heliconia Conservation Center of Puerto Rico under the auspices of the world wide conservation program of the Heliconia Society International. Our Co-operative Heliconia Conservation Center of Puerto Rico – consisting of nine member farms scattered throughout Puerto Rico – is presently the largest heliconia conservation center in the world. As coordinator of this project, every year I have each farm



Heliconia ramonensis var. lanuginosa

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Dates to Remember

- HSPR Meeting, 10:00 am, Sunday, March 11, 2012 Meet the Experts Conference, with Carla Black, at Hospital Auxilio Mutuo, San Juan, 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.

HSPR Heliconia Conservation Center (continued)



Heliconia rostrata 'Pink Peru'

(heliconiasocietypr.org). All they have to do is to bring up the website on their computers and find the correct cultivar name. This information is available, thanks again to the untiring efforts of Dr. Bryan Brunner, who is also responsible for compiling all of the official nomenclature for heliconias of the world for HSI.

The first part of this request is more complicated. Unfortunately, we have had some rather unscrupulous members of our society, who in the past have stooped to theft of some of the rarer heliconias from our farms. Therefore, it was decided to never reveal who has which heliconias on their farms — to prevent further thefts. Because of this rather unsavory situation existing, instead of listing who has what, I am including a complete listing of all of the heliconias listed on the Conservation Center farms in Puerto Rico, but not where they are located. This listing is NOT A COMPLETE LISTING of all heliconias being grown in Puerto Rico, but only a listing of those heliconias selected by the farm owners to be included in the Conservation Center Inventories. Even though this listing is incomplete, as you will see, it is quite extensive and impressive, and ever changing.

In reviewing the inventories of the Conservation Centers

member, belonging to our conservation group, submit to me an updated inventory of additions and losses to their collection. I tabulate all of this new information yearly and send my final report to HSI Conservation Center Headquarters in Hawaii.

At our last meeting, one of the members requested that each member submit a list of all the heliconias that they have in their collections, as well as publish an official list of accepted heliconia names. As for this second request, I pointed out that they already have an official heliconia species and cultivars nomenclature available on our website

members each year, I have noticed, with considerable concern, that there is an increasing loss of species and cultivars of heliconias here in Puerto Rico — including my own collection. In my case most of the losses are due to insufficient rainfall for the past few years, but I'm at a loss to know what is causing the losses on other farms that have maintained good rainfall for the past few years.

While writing this article, I want to share again (this information was published in a previous HSPR Newsletter) with our members what I believe to be an important action used to increase the number “*hijos*” produced by heliconia plants. Jan Hintz from Australia shared this



Heliconia wagneriana 'Lady Lydia'



Heliconia irrassa (Panama)

information with me. Jan owns one of the largest heliconia cut flower farms in Australia. She said that 3 to 4 times a year, she sprinkles each of her heliconia plants with “super phosphate.” She has found that this greatly increases the number of “*hijos*” of each plant — thereby, increasing the production of more than normal numbers of inflorescences.

HSPR Heliconia Conservation Center (continued)

BELOW IS A LISTING OF SOME OF THE HELICONIAS THAT ARE GROWING, OR HAVE BEEN GROWN, IN PUERTO RICO:

H. acuminata 'Ruby'
 H. acuminata 'Taruma'
 H. aemygdiana
 H. aemygdiana transandina
 H. angusta 'Orange Christmas'
 H. angusta 'Holiday'
 H. angusta 'Yellow Christmas'
 H. aristeguieta 'Yellow'
 H. atropurpurea
 H. atropurpurea 'Rojona'
 H. aurea
 H. aurea 'Chalko'
 H. aurea 'Sunrise'
 H. barryana
 H. beckneri-var. red
 H. beckneri-var. yellow
 H. bihai 'Abalo Brown'
 H. bihai 'Balisier'
 H. bihai 'Banana Split'
 H. bihai 'Caribbean Sunset #1'
 H. bihai 'Caribbean Sunset #2'
 H. bihai 'Caribbean Sunset #3'
 H. bihai 'Caribbean Sunset #4'
 H. bihai 'Chocolate'
 H. bihai 'Chocolate Dancer'
 H. bihai 'Cinnamon Orange'



Heliconia penduloides



Heliconia caribaea 'Porto Rico'

H. bihai 'Emerald Forest'
 H. bihai 'Giant Lobster Claw'
 H. bihai 'Grape'
 H. bihai 'German' (Lobster Claw #1 variant)
 H. bihai 'Grenada-A'
 H. bihai 'Grenada-B'
 H. bihai 'Grenada-C'
 H. bihai 'Grenada-D'
 H. bihai 'Grenada Orange'
 H. bihai 'Kamehameha'
 H. bihai 'Lemaii'
 H. bihai 'Light Halloween'
 H. bihai 'Lobster Claw #1'
 H. bihai 'Lobster Claw #2'
 H. bihai 'Puerto Rican Halloween Lantern'
 H. bihai 'Puerto Rican Halloween Pumpkin'
 H. bihai 'Puerto Rican Pink Base Halloween'
 H. bihai 'Puerto Rico Halloween'
 H. bihai 'Red Hot'
 H. bihai 'Tomato Cheek'
 H. bihai 'Tomato Red'
 H. bihai 'Tomato Red Twist'
 H. bihai 'Manoa Sunrise'
 H. bihai 'Maracay'
 H. bihai 'Mt. Hope'
 H. bihai 'Mt. Hope Yellow'
 H. bihai 'Nappi'
 H. bihai 'Napi Orange'
 H. bihai 'Napi Peach'
 H. bihai 'Napi Yellow'
 H. bihai 'Orange Glow'
 H. bihai 'Peachy Pink'
 H. bihai 'Purple Throat'
 H. bihai 'Red Giant Lobster Claw'
 H. bihai 'Yellow Dancer'
 H. bihai 'Surprise'
 H. bihai '5AM'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Big Red'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Cano' ('Bubble Gum' seedling)
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Cherry Red'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Criswick'

HSPR Heliconia Conservation Center (continued)

H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Eclipse'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Emerald Yellow'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Fluted'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Grand Etang'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Granny Smith'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Grape'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Guapa Burgundy'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Honey Bee'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Hot Rio Nites'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Inner Light'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Jacquini'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Jamaican Orange'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Jerome' ('Bubble Gum' seedling)
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Kawauchie'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Lemon Drop' ('Bub. Gum' seed)
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Manoa Midnight'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Mindy' ('Bubble Gum' seedling)
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Nancy' ('Bubble Gum' seedling)
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Olive'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Orange Delight'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Pyrotechnic'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Richmond Red'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'St. Lucia Hybrid'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'St. Rose'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Vermillion Lake'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Yamakawa Chocolate'
 H. bihai X H. caribaea 'Yellow Dolly'
 H. bihai X H. marginata 'Rauliniana'
 H. bihai X H. spathocircinata 'Orange Twist'
 H. caribaea 'Barbados Flat'
 H. caribaea 'Black Magic'
 H. caribaea 'Bonnie Kline'
 H. caribaea 'Bonnie Kline II'
 H. caribaea 'Canaries Giant'
 H. caribaea 'Chartreuse'
 H. caribaea 'Cream'
 H. caribaea 'Dennery'
 H. caribaea 'Dominica Burgundy'
 H. caribaea 'Dominica Green'
 H. caribaea 'Dominica Red'
 H. caribaea 'Dominica Yellow'
 H. caribaea 'Flash'
 H. caribaea 'Green Tips'
 H. caribaea 'Gold'
 H. caribaea 'Orange'
 H. caribaea 'Persian Eyes'
 H. caribaea 'Pink'
 H. caribaea 'Piton Point'
 H. caribaea 'Porto Rico' ('Prince of Darkness' seedling)
 H. caribaea 'Prince of Darkness'
 H. caribaea (Puerto Rico yellow form)
 H. caribaea 'Purpurea'
 H. caribaea 'Red Barbados'
 H. caribaea (Red)
 H. caribaea (Red/Yellow)
 H. caribaea 'Red Tips'
 H. caribaea 'St. Lucia'
 H. caribaea 'St. Lucia dwarf' 'Chiquita'
 H. caribaea 'Yellow'
 H. caribaea X H. latispatha cv 'Siberian Lemon'
 H. carmelae 'Carma'
 H. champneiana 'Maya Blood' (all red)
 H. champneiana 'Maya Gold'
 H. champneiana 'Maya Sunrise' (changing colors)
 H. champneiana 'Splash'
 H. chartacea 'Columbine' ('Sexy Pink' seed)
 H. chartacea 'Coral' Surprise'
 H. chartacea 'Giant Sexy Scarlet'

H. chartacea 'Ginnie G'
 H. chartacea 'Maria Pink' (white rachis)
 H. chartacea (pink-yellow)
 H. chartacea 'Sexy Pink'
 H. chartacea 'Sexy Pink III' ('Sexy Pink' seed)
 H. chartacea 'Sexy Scarlet'
 H. chartacea 'Siberia Lemon'
 H. chartacea 'Surniam Gold' ('Meana Yellow')
 H. chartacea 'Uvita' (var. of 'Sexy Scarlet'-no frost)
 H. chartacea cv 'Sexy Pink' (pink bracts, cream rachis)
 H. clinophila
 H. clinophilia (yellow form)
 H. colgantea
 H. collinsiana
 H. collinsiana 'Belize'
 H. cordata (pink & green form)
 H. curtispatha 'Red Twist'
 H. danielsiana
 H. dielsiana 'Orange'
 H. dielsiana 'Past Red'
 H. episcopalis 'Orange Spear'
 H. episcopalis 'Vellozo'



Heliconia necrobacteata

HSPR Heliconia Conservation Center (continued)

H. episcopalis 'Yellow Spear'
 H. episcopalis X H. standleyi 'Flabellata'
 H. excelsa 'Long Maroon'
 H. fernandezii
 H. fernandezii 'Peach Fuzz'
 H. giraldessi
 H. griggsiana 'Angry Moon'
 H. griggsiana 'Blue Moon'
 H. griggsiana 'Full Moon'
 H. griggsiana 'Harvest Moon'
 H. harlingii
 H. hirsuta cv 'Alicia'
 H. hirsuta 'Chumaniana'



***Heliconia bihai* 'Peachy Pink'**

H. hirsuta (Colombia)
 H. hirsuta 'Costa Flores'
 H. hirsuta 'Costa Rica Red'
 H. hirsuta 'Halloween'
 H. hirsuta 'Peru Fuchsia'
 H. imbricata 'Bicolor'
 H. imbricata X H. latispatha 'José Abalo'
 H. imbricata X H. sarapiquensis 'Harvey Bullis'
 H. indica (form) maroon

H. indica (form-red leaf)
 H. indica cv 'Rabul'
 H. indica cv 'Spectabilis'
 H. indica cv 'Striata'-74p173
 H. indica cv 'Rubricarpa'
 H. indica(form) 83p120
 H. indica cv 'Austrocaledonica' 83p116
 H. indica cv 'Miholitz'
 H. indica cv 'Austrocaledonica-83p119'
 H. indica-83p118
 H. indica 'Green'
 H. indica 'Spectabilis'
 H. intermedia
 H. irrasa
 H. irrasa 'Red and Yellow Peru '
 H. irrasa 'Red Lips'
 H. lankesteri (red form)
 H. lankesteri (yellow form)
 H. latispatha 'Bleeding Heart' ('Mex. Gold' seed)
 H. latispatha 'Coral Surprise' ('Mex. Gold' seed)
 H. latispatha 'Doña Aida' ('Mex. Gold' seed)
 H. latispatha 'Distans'
 H. latispatha 'German's Luck' (Mex. Gold seed)
 H. latispatha 'Mexican Gold'
 H. latispatha 'Orange Gyro'
 H. latispatha 'Red Gyro'
 H. latispatha 'Red-Yellow Gyro'
 H. latispatha 'Rosy Cheek'
 H. latispatha 'Sipi'
 H. latispatha 'Venezuela'
 H. latispatha X H. bihai 'Fat Lat'
 H. latispatha X H. bihai 'Jamaican Orange'
 H. latispatha X ? 'Orange and Yellow'
 H. laufao
 H. laxa
 H. lennartiana 'Orange Panama'
 H. lennartiana-var orange
 H. lennartiana-var red
 H. librata
 H. lindsayana
 H. lingulata 'Fan'
 H. lingulata 'Red-Tip Fan'
 H. longa
 H. longissima 'Red Wings'
 H. lophocarpa
 H. maculata
 H. magnifica
 H. magnifica 'Red Shogun'
 H. marginata lutea
 H. marginata (red and yellow form)
 H. rostrata X Lobster Claw #1 'Puero Rico Libre'
 H. mariae
 H. mariae X ?-'Crocodile'
 H. mariae X H. pogonantha cv 'Bushmaster'
 H. mathiasiae 'Mildred'
 H. mathiasiae 'Pascal'
 H. metalica (pink form)
 H. mutisana
 H. necrobracteata
 H. necrobracteata-ver. Black
 H. nigripaefixa
 H. nutans - 'Purple Twister'
 H. nutans (small spiral form)
 H. obscura
 H. obscura 'Maroon'
 H. obscuroides
 H. orthotricha 'Bengal'
 H. orthotricha 'Eden Pink'

HSPR Heliconia Conservation Center (continued)

H. orthotricha 'Edge of Nite"
 H. orthotricha 'Fuzzy Red Peru'
 H. orthotricha 'Garden of Eden'
 H. orthotricha 'Guacamayo'
 H. orthotricha 'Hot Pink'
 H. orthotricha 'Imperial'
 H. orthotricha 'Jungle Girl'
 H. orthotricha 'Kid Pink'
 H. orthotricha 'Lehua'
 H. orthotricha 'Limon'
 H. orthotricha 'Macas Pink'
 H. orthotricha 'Orange Crush'
 H. orthotricha 'Palest Pink'
 H. orthotricha 'Peru Orange'
 H. orthotricha 'Pink Base'
 H. orthotricha 'Raspberry Sherbert'
 H. orthotricha 'Razzberry'
 H. orthotricha 'Red Peru' -Mazan,Peru
 H. orthotricha 'Ruby Red'
 H. orthotricha 'She'
 H. orthotricha 'Tangerine'
 H. orthotricha 'Total Eclipse'
 H. orthotricha 'Tricolor'
 H. orthotricha 'Velvet'
 H. orthotricha 'Yellow Base'
 H. orthotricha 'Yellow Base Peru'
 H. orthotricha 'Yellow Throat'
 H. osaensis
 H. paka
 H. papuana
 H. pendula 'Bright Red'
 H. pendula 'Frosty'
 H. pendula 'Red Waxy'
 H. penduloides 'Perfect Darling'
 H. platystachys 'Sexy Orange'
 H. platystachys H. chartacea 'Tempress'
 H. plowmaniana
 H. pogonantha holerythra
 H. pogonantha pogonantha
 H. pogonantha veraguasensis
 H. pseudoaemygdiana
 H. psittacorum 'Andromeda'
 H. psittacorum 'Choconiana'
 H. psittacorum 'Flamingo'
 H. psittacorum 'Kathy'
 H. psittacorum 'Lady Di'
 H. psittacorum 'Lena'
 H. psittacorum 'Lisa'
 H. psittacorum 'Lissette'
 H. psittacorum 'Nadja'
 H. psittacorum 'Petra'
 H. psittacorum 'Pinky'
 H. psittacorum 'Sassy'
 H. psittacorum 'Strawberries and Cream'
 H. psittacorum X 'Surniam Sassy'
 H. psittacorum X H. marginata 'Nickeriensis'
 H. psittacorum X H. spathocircina 'Alan Carle'
 H. psittacorum X H. spathocircinata 'Golden Torch'
 H. psittacorum X H. spatho. 'Golden Torch Adrian'
 H. psittacorum X H. spathocircina 'Guyana'
 H. psittacorum X H. spathocircinata 'Lucille Gibson'
 H. psittacorum X H. spathocircina 'Keanae Red'
 H. psittacorum X H. spathocircina 'Yellow Parrot'
 H. psittacorum X H. spathocircina 'Pink Golden Torch'
 H. psittacorum X H. spathocircina 'Tropica'
 H. psittacorum X H. spathocircina 'Alan Carle'
 H. ramonensis glabra 'Kelly's Choice'
 H. ramonensis lanuginosa

H. ramonensis ramonensis
 H. ramonensis xanthotricha
 H. regalis 'Barnum and Bailey'
 H. regalis 'Regal Red'
 H. reptans 'Maroon Racer'
 H. reticulata
 H. revoluta
 H. richardiana 'Little Richard'
 H. riopalenquensis
 H. rivularis 'Brazilian Firebird'
 H. rivularis 'Brazilian Firefly'
 H. rodriguensis X H. bihai
 H. rostrata (species)
 H. rostrata (green tips)
 H. rostrata 'Long John'



Heliconia bourgaeana

H. rostrata 'Misahualli'
 H. rostrata 'Orange Bird'
 H. rostrata 'Orange Flame'
 H. rostrata 'Orange Marmalade'
 H. rostrata 'Peru'
 H. rostrata 'Pink Peru'
 H. rostrata 'Sun Kissed Orange'
 H. rostrata 'Ten Day'
 H. rostrata (yellow)
 H. rostrata X H. standleyii 'Lankford'
 H. sampoiana 'Good Sam'
 H. schumanniana 'San Lorenzo'
 H. sclerotricha
 H. secunda
 H. shiediana
 H. solomonensis

HSPR Heliconia Conservation Center (continued)

H. sp. 'Devon Graham'
H. spathocircinata
H. spathocircinata (yellow form)
H. standleyi 'Giant Rostrata'
H. stilesii
H. stricta 'Bucky'
H. stricta 'Burning Desire'
H. stricta 'Canary Yellow'
H. stricta 'Carli's Sharonii'
H. stricta 'Cooper's Sharonii'
H. stricta 'Dark Desire'
H. stricta 'Dimples'
H. stricta 'Dorado Gold'
H. stricta 'Dorado Red'
H. stricta 'Dwarf Jamaican'
H. stricta 'Fire Bird'
H. stricta 'Gustavo Red'
H. stricta 'Iris'
H. stricta 'Olivera's Sharonii'
H. stricta 'Oriole Orange'
H. stricta 'Pasquita'
H. stricta 'Peru #1'
H. stricta 'Quito Gold'
H. stricta 'Royale Tagami'
H. stricta 'Ruby Throat'
H. stricta 'Sharonii'
H. stricta 'Slash and Burn'
H. stricta 'Sunshine'
H. stricta 'Tagami'
H. stricta 'Valentine'
H. stricta 'Wrinkled Cheek'
H. stricta 'Yellow Queen'
H. stricta X ? 'Giant Valentine'
H. subulata 'Machu Picchu'
H. talamancana
H. tenebrosa
H. thomasina (from Panama)
H. thomasina 'Color Break'
H. tortuosa (red form)
H. trichocarpa
H. trichocarpa 'Hot Chili'
H. umbrophila
H. vaginalis
H. vellerigera 'King Kong' (red with brown hairs)
H. vellerigera 'Kelly's Red Velvet' (red with red hairs)
H. vellerigera 'Root Beer'
H. vellerigera 'She Kong' (red with white hairs)
H. vellerigera 'Zamora Giant'
H. velloziana
H. velutina 'Red Curaray'
H. venusta
H. villosa 'Yellow Sun'
H. wagneriana
H. wagneriana 'Lady Lydia'
H. wagneriana
H. wagneriana 'Pumpkin'
H. wagneriana 'Torbo'
H. wilsonii
H. xanthovillosa
H. xanthovillosa 'Shogun Gold'
H. xanthovillosa 'Shogun Jade'



Heliconia stricta 'Yellow Queen'

From Our Last Meeting

Approximately 80 HSPR members (and close relatives) came from all over the Island for our traditional Christmas Reunion, held at Dr. José Abreu-Deliz' enchanting home in Cidra – the land of "Eternal Spring". We are all indebted to his generosity and extraordinary work as past president of HSPR. He warmly welcomed us to the grounds of his impressive heliconia collection and thanked everyone who had helped him out during his two-year presidency.

Our treasurer, Reily Rodríguez, gave the official report of our finances. He reported that the last bank statement had a balance of \$2,321.00 and that on that day's meeting \$687.00 was collected from the sales of raffle tickets and membership dues.

For the December meeting we did not have an invited speaker, since this was a special event for members to fraternize among themselves. Also, board member elections were scheduled. The new members who were elected will serve a two-year term. The board members elected are:

President: Jorge Matta

Vice-President: José Abreu-Deliz

Treasurer: Reily Rodríguez

Secretary: Héctor Méndez Caratini

Officers: Isabelita Wadsworth, Efrain Vega, and Dairis Aaron

Our new president, as well as the other elected members, thanked everyone and accepted their respective nominations.

For the show and tell session, I brought several inflorescences from my private Zingiberales collection, to share among the enthusiasts. Among these, were colorful specimens of: *H. 'Fat Latispatha'* (a new red –not orange- variety originally from Venezuela); the spear shaped yellow and red/orange *H. episcopalis* (grown from the seeds I had gathered at the Rio Napo, in the Amazon river basin); the light green with golden spots on the leaves of *H. psittacorum x spathocircinata* 'Alan Carle'; the midrib maroon above and (purplish) maroon colored lower blade surface of *H. stricta* 'Oliveira's Sharoni' (from Panama), *H. rostrata* 'Orange'; and four different varieties of torch gingers recently introduced to PR.

It was announced that the March Meeting would be held at the Hospital Auxílio Mútuo, in San Juan. This year's Meet the Expert Conference Series invited guest will be untiring explorer Carla Black who will show us the many different varieties of heliconias found in the wild in Panama, Costa Rica and Colombia. She will also address the public on the upcoming Heliconia Society International 2012 Conference, to be held in Panama, with a Pre-Conference tour to Panama and Costa Rica, and a Post-Conference tour to Colombia, including a visit to the world-famous Festival de las Flores, in Medellín.

We thank the twelve HSPR members who donated very rare, expensive, collector's specimens for our customary raffle.

HELICONIA SOCIETY OF PUERTO RICO, INC.

www.heliconiasocietypr.org

President: Mr. Jorge L. Matta
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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.

From Our Last Meeting (continued)

Among the plants available were: *H. caribaea* 'Bonnie Kline', *H. colgantea*, *H. xanthovillosa* 'Shogun', *H. lawrenciana* 'Red Velvet', *H. chartacea* 'Meeana', *H. episcopalis*, *H. rostrata* 'Orange', *H. curtispatha*, *H. latispatha* 'Fat Lat', *H. 'Guyana'*, *H. platystachys* 'Sexy Orange', *H. bihai* 'Five A.M.', *Strelitzia regina* (Bird of Paradise), *Musa coccinea*, and many other exotic bromeliads, palms and fruit trees. With these acquisitions, our new members are rapidly establishing their own private collections, some of them winning over a dozen different species per raffle. Impressive when you multiply that by two years, and theoretically, some of them could have over 100 precious heliconias in their gardens, which are not available at local plant stores, within a short period of time.

Several persons expressed interest in writing educational articles for the HSPR Newsletter. They were invited to send their prospective articles to our assistant editor, Dr. Bryan Brunner. Dr. Raymond Jerome (administrator of the PR Conservation Center) said he would write for our next publication an article with the names of all the heliconias currently in cultivation in Puerto Rico.

Five new members came all the way from Adjuntas, Arecibo, San Sebastián, Naranjito and San Juan. We thank all the members who brought food and refreshments for this special occasion. A festive and joyful day was enjoyed by everyone who attended our traditional Christmas meeting. The party lasted until mid-day in the afternoon.

Héctor Méndez Caratini
HSPR Secretary and Assistant Editor

President's Corner

First of all, on behalf of all the members of The Heliconia Society of Puerto Rico, I wish to provide testimony of a profound appreciation to our past Board of Directors for an excellent job, as well as to all who collaborated and participated of the activities coordinated.

When Dr. Abreu and other members asked me to run for President of the HSPR, I could not say no because, as a part of this Society, I have gained new friends, learned about Zingiberales, and also acquired multiple rhizomes, all of which I may not have been able to achieve by other means. Being a member of the HSPR is truly worthwhile, and even more, the intention to continue helping the organization, just as many others have already done so.

For our next meeting, we will have the privilege of being visited, all the way from Panama, by Mrs. Carla Black, an expert on Zingiberales, who will provide an interesting conference and explain everything related to the XVIII International Conference of The Heliconia Society International to be held at Panama, including a Pre-Tour in Panama/Costa Rica and a Post-Tour in Colombia. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Abreu, Mr. Héctor Méndez Caratini and Dr. Raymond Jerome, for making Mrs. Black's visit to Puerto Rico possible.

Please remember that our meeting will be held on Sunday, March 11th, 2012 at the Main Conference Room of Auxilio Mutuo Hospital (Penthouse, 9th floor), located at Ponce de León Ave. in Hato Rey. Also, remember to bring rhizomes and plants for the raffle. Snacks and eatables are also welcome.

Jorge Matta
President, HSPR