



Susanne Lucas, President

president@bamboo.org

December 18, 2015

Dear Friend of Bamboo,

At this time of year, many of us reflect on what's passed and on what's ahead. We share a bit of our humanity by giving thanks and sharing joy. I want to take this opportunity to say <thank you> to each of you, and let you know that you really are appreciated as members of the American Bamboo Society. Thank you for your continued support of the ABS. For me, being a part of the ABS is a real joy.

As we approach our 37th Anniversary in 2016, let's briefly reflect on our founders' ambitious goals: 1. To provide a source of information on the identification, propagation, utilization, culture and appreciation of bamboos, via the publication of an annual Journal and bimonthly Magazine; 2. To promote the utilization of desirable species by development of stocks of plants for distribution to botanical gardens and introduction to the general public (i.e. via the annual auction); 3. To preserve and increase the number of bamboo species in the United States (via various collection trips); 4. To plant and maintain bamboo gardens to display the characteristic beauty of mature plants and to provide plant material for research in the taxonomy, propagation and culture of as large a number of species as possible; and 5. To support bamboo research in the field and to establish whatever facilities are deemed necessary to carry out the research projects approved by the ABS Board of Directors.

This past year we ran into some trouble keeping our magazine on schedule (the August issue, in particular). I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. In response to this, the ABS Board of Directors has created a new Magazine Committee, which spreads out the workload among multiple volunteers. We have also adopted new mechanisms to insure that the committee members can access all the materials to complete each issue with the coordination of editor Don Shor. At the annual board meeting in October, we seriously discussed what has gone wrong and how we need to work together to see that our publications are delivered on time, as well as implementing changes to how the membership dues and renewals are processed, etc. We sincerely want the ABS to function the best it can for your benefit, and we are truly grateful for your support.

Bamboo is a plant unlike any other. It brings us beauty, food, shelter, fuel, environment, art, inspiration, music, friendship and more. Please consider renewing your membership in the American Bamboo Society, and if you can, please consider an extra donation this year to help us build our organization stronger to reach our goals. We are a tax-deductible non-profit non-governmental organization. We need every one of you. You really do matter to us.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

P.S. Please go to the website to renew your membership : <http://bamboo.org/bamboo-membership.php>, or send a donation to our mailbox: American Bamboo Society 315 South Coast Highway 101, Suite U PMB 212, Encinitas, CA 92024-3555