



Pacific Northwest Chapter of the American Bamboo Society

Winter 2011-2012 Newsletter

Pursuing the endless possibilities of bamboo

Our Website:

pnwbamboo.org

In this Issue:

- * Report From the Dry Side (pg 2)
- * Corner of Creativity (pg 3)
- * Board Directors / Chapter Positions (pg 4)
- * 2012 Schedule of Events (pg 4)
- * Books! (pg 5)
- * Zoo Bamboo (pg 6)
- * Growing Organic (pg 8)
- * Vole Patrol (pg 12)
- * Intro of New Board Member, Mark Meenan (pg 11)
- * Let's Go Surfing (pg 14)
- * ABS Rep Report (pg 14)
- * Got Bamboo? (pg 15)
- * Renew Your Membership (pg 16/17)



Letter from the President

Last year was a busy and productive year for both the Chapter and its Board of Directors. Two new board members were elected at last year's annual meeting; Noah Bell, and Mark Meenan. Noah is a long-time member of the ABS and our chapter, and has served in various capacities over the years. Currently, he is chairman of a new committee formed to investigate the cost and organization of an inter-chapter speaker tour. Along with committee members Ian Conner and Anna Foleen, Noah is working to bring a speaker or speakers to the West Coast Chapters of the ABS some time in 2012. Mark Meenan is a newcomer to both the Board and our Chapter. Having recently relocated to Seattle, Mark has jumped in to help organize/improve the Seattle Bamboo Festival, starting with the task of finding a long-term, low cost venue for the event.

The Board also created a Flower and Garden Show committee to improve our interaction with the public at that event. Committee Chair Adam Williams, members Anna Foleen and Ian Conner, along with long-time organizer, Jim Engan, are all working to improve signage, educational materials, visual aids and volunteer participation to share our bamboo message more effectively.

Since losing our traditional spot at the Washington Arboretum due to exorbitant rent, our biggest challenge for 2012 is securing a free or low cost venue for the Seattle Bamboo Festival. Last year we did not have an organizer for the event, so we didn't secure a location (Bamboo Hardwoods' parking lot) until the last minute, and did not advertise the event. Not surprisingly, the event was not well-attended, and plant sales were very slow. The Portland Festival, on the other hand, was very well organized, advertised, and attended; revenue from plant sales was the highest since its plummet at the onset of the recession. Based on the success of the Portland Festival in 2011, I am hopeful that with the right location and promotion, the Seattle Festival can become, once again, a very successful event.

Thanks to everyone for helping make 2011 a productive year in our chapter. Have a happy and successful new year!

Phil Comer, President, PNWCABS
360-432-8493

NEW OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

See page 4 for an updated list of PNWCABS officers and board members voted into office fall 2011 and meet our new chapter/board member, Mark Meenan, on page 12.

NEW PNWCABS LOGO!

The PNWCABS now has a new logo (pictured above)! Thanks to Galyne Carlile and Charissa Brock. Galyne provided the painting and Charissa the graphics.

Report From the Dry Side

by Bill Hollenback

This year has been an interesting one for bamboo in the Spokane area. In October of 2010 we had a cold snap with a low of -10 degrees Fahrenheit. A lot of the bamboos were damaged at that time, but the cold snap in February 2011 which also had a couple of days with lows at -10 degrees Fahrenheit damaged most of the plants that were still green. That was followed by a long cool spring which produced a lot of new shoots. Most of the tall species were shorter than the previous year, but with all of the new shoots I think the number of leaves on the bamboos is about the same as last year.

Even with the bad winter I had a number of bamboos that made it through with little damage. We did not have much snow cover but it was enough to protect the short plants like *Sasa veitchii* and *Sasaella ramose* which are not as hardy as the taller bamboos that had total top death. Of the tall bamboos, *Phyllostachys parvifolia* had some leaf damage but the branches did leaf out in the spring. *Phyllostachys atrovaginata* had culm damage, but unlike most of the *Phyllostachys* it came back will taller culms in the spring.

The *Fargesias* that I had planted last year on a hillside had some winter damage, but did recover later in the year with new shoots. In a couple of years, they should be established and I can compare hardiness.

One bonus of the cool spring was that I had plenty of time to move bamboo. I gave away most of my *Phyllostachys nigra* 'Bory' which was not doing well and planted what I kept in a small plot. That gave room to move my *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* 'Aureocaulis' to where the Bory was. The *Aureocaulis* was next to my *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* and now they both have room to grow larger.

This winter has been mild so far with a low temp of only 10 degrees Fahrenheit, so hopefully there will not be any hard freezes in the next two months and I can expect tall shoots in the spring.

You can see a list of the bamboos that I am growing, (and the ones I have killed) by viewing my profile (bambooweb) in the forum on www.bambooweb.info.

Bill Hollenback
Tyler, WA



2012 American Bamboo Society Arts & Crafts Competition

Deadline: August 12, 2012

The American Bamboo Society seeks applicants for cash awards.

Possible categories are "Celebrating bamboo's personality", "Bamboo as a design motif", or "New and innovative work using bamboo." Artists working in any of the fields may apply: Crafts, Fine art, Design, Literature, and Performing Arts. Award recipients and award amounts will be determined by a review panel based on artistic excellence, accomplishment to date, and the promise of future achievement in bamboo. Each applicant will receive a digital copy of "Bamboo", the ABS magazine for one year.

Please contact Charissa Brock, Arts and Crafts Coordinator at artsandcrafts@bamboo.org or go to <http://www.bamboo.org/wp/artsandcrafts/2011/07/01/hello-world/>



Kathy Bruce
"Water Goddess"
First Place winner
2010

Corner of Creativity



Kimberly Gildroy

Please send submissions of original bamboo related *poetry, drawings, paintings, photography, cartoons, jokes, etc.* to Kimberly Gildroy at: pruningandbeyond@comcast.net
All work must be original. No guarantees on publication. *Have fun!*

*SEE NEW PNWCABS LOGO ON THE FRONT PAGE!
PAINTING BY GALYN CARLILE, GRAPHICS BY CHARISSA BROCK*

2012 AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY ARTS & CRAFTS COMPETITION - SEE INFO ON PAGE 2!

Chapter Positions

Newsletter Editor
Kimberly Gildroy
 pruningandbeyond@comcast.net
 425-319-6667

Chapter Representative
Bill Hollenback
 bamboo2@hollenback.com
 509-981-0664

Source List Editor
Noah Bell
 503-647-2700



Board of Directors

President/Director
Phil Comer
 stikinmud@comcast.net
 360-432-8493

VP Oregon/Director
Ian Connor
 bambooian@yahoo.com
 503-734-5735

VP Washington/Director
Jim Engan
 jim.engan@gmail.com
 253-631-9702

Treasurer/Director
Anna Foleen
 camassiablue@gmail.com
 503-863-1104

Secretary/Director
Adam Williams
 bambooadam@gmail.com
 503-516-2395

Director
Bill Hollenback
 bamboo2@hollenback.com
 509-981-0664

Director
George Gearhart
 cascade_gardens
 @hotmail.com
 206-898-1954

Director
Mark Meenan
 mark@americanbambooco.com
 617-320-5433
 (see pg 11 for introduction)

Director
Ned Jaquith
 bamboo.ned@gmail.com
 503-647-2700

Director
Noah Bell
 nobell@hotmail.com
 503-647-2700

Director
James Clever
 james@
 bamboogardener.com
 206-371-1072

PNWCABS Events 2012

Northwest Flower & Garden Show

Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA
 Wed-Sun February 8-12
 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. (closes at 6 p.m. on Sunday)

Visit www.gardenshow.com for more details!

PNWCABS NOW REIMBURSING VOLUNTEERS FOR TRAVEL AND PARKING, AS WELL AS CONTINUING TO GIVE A FREE DAY PASS TO THE SHOW TO ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Sign up to volunteer at the Flower & Garden Show.

Shifts are 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 8 p.m. (6 p.m. Sunday)

Contact Adam Williams at
bambooadam@gmail.com
 to sign up today!

For reimbursement send your receipts to the treasurer:

Anna Foleen
 Treasurer c/o Bamboo Garden Nursery
 18900 NW Collins Road
 North Plains, OR 97133

Portland Bamboo Festival

Hoyt Arboretum Picnic Shelter

Sunday, July 29, 2012

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Contact Adam Williams at
bambooadam@gmail.com
 (503) 516-2395

For further upcoming events and additional events outside of the PNW chapter, visit the events page below.

<http://bamboo.org/bamboo-events.php>



Other Bamboo Events 2012

Bamboo Vessel Class

Oregon College of Arts and Crafts

Sat and Sun, June 16-17

9 a.m. - 4 -p.m.

Charissa Brock will be teaching the bamboo vessel class. Class description: Bamboo is a remarkably versatile art material. Its repetition of nodes, its hollow structure, and its flexibility create an inspirational challenge to the individual who wants to work with it. Because of its structure, it can be used an infinite number of ways. Students will be guided through the making of a bamboo and paper vessel, which can stand alone or be turned into a hanging lamp.

In class we will discuss bamboo anatomy and varieties, gathering, preparation and drying. Students will view technical samples during class. Several skills will be introduced to the group within the project, allowing students to create an object and learn the tools and skills to complete the project. No prerequisite.

Bamboo Art: Meditation & Transformation

Portland's Japanese Garden

November 2, 2012

Jiro Yonezawa, Anne Crumpacker, and Charissa Brock

Further details to be announced. Visit Portland's Japanese Garden website for further details as they become available.

<http://japanesegarden.com/events/>

2012 Annual Meeting and Conference of the American Bamboo Society

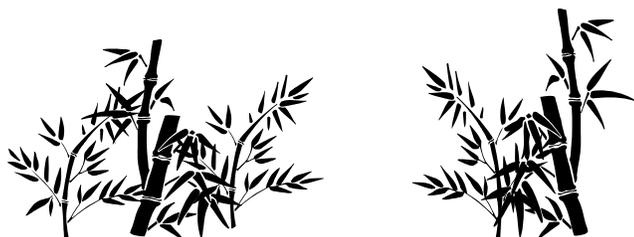
Wyndham Garden Woodward Conference Center

Austin, TX

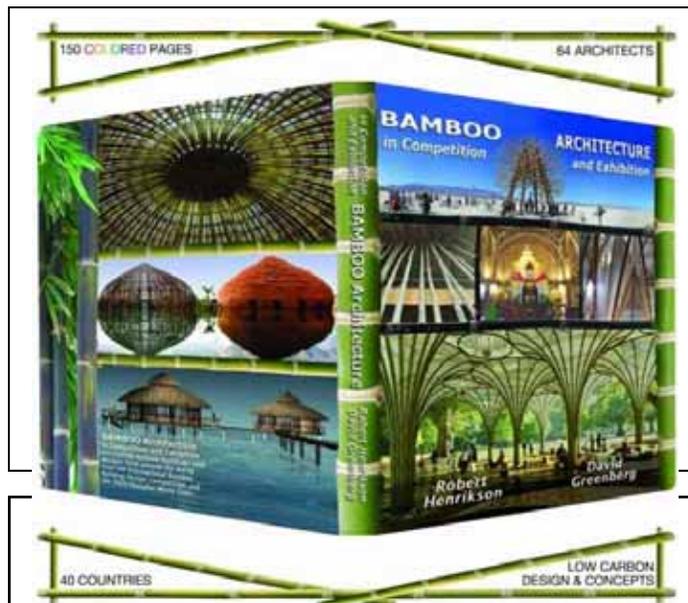
Thursday - Sunday September 27-30, 2012

See the ABS Events page for more details and to keep up-to-date on any potential changes in the schedule.

<http://www.bamboo.org/bamboo-events.php>



BOOKS!



<http://www.bambooarchitecturethebook.com/>

Available on Amazon.com

Publication
May 1, 2011

Fascinating bamboo buildings and architectural designs from around the world from the International Bamboo Building Design Competition, the 2010 Shanghai World Expo and several other competitions and exhibitions. Architects and designers from 64 countries submitted 250 designs in 12 building categories such as family houses, urban buildings, emergency shelters, commercial and public buildings, pavilions, and even tree houses. The buildings and designs use bamboo and other natural building materials, and range from modest to majestic, commercial to humanitarian, and practical to fanciful. The results are truly exciting and innovative, providing a fresh outlook for the possibilities for using bamboo to build a new green world. At the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, great architects showcased bamboo in eight remarkable pavilions, demonstrating the contribution bamboo can play in a better life.

Bamboos of the Tropical Rain Forest

Woodland Park Zoo

Zoo Bamboo, Part 3

Plants at the Zoo

by James Clever and Carole Rush, Docent

This month we complete our exploration of the zoo's bamboo collection. As previously, this article has been taken from "Zoo Bamboo" in Plant Guide: Woodland Park Zoological Gardens with only a few modifications. Once again we cover not only the bamboo species names but more importantly the locations, identifying characteristics, potential uses in general, and specific zoo uses in particular.

Bamboos of the Trail of Vines

Loop around the planting space as you leave the elephant house, and go back up the hill on your right toward the Trail of Vines. Look for the very prominent planting of *Phyllostachys dulcis* (40' tall, 2 3/4" diameter culms). This attractive plant is noted for arching canes and edible shoots that are particularly free of any acrid taste. *Phyllostachys dulcis* is planted on the right side of the macaque viewpoint. On the left side of this viewpoint is a planting of *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* 'Spectabilis', a very rare cousin to yellow groove, with all the same growth characteristics. This plant is vigorous, hardy, and upright, sometimes with a few zig-zagging culms that can grow up to 25' to 30'. The only difference that the 'Spectabilis' has is a yellow cane with a green vertical stripe on the internode—making it a very attractive plant.

Continue down the path and straight ahead to the siamang exhibit. On the island are plantings of *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* 'Alata' and arrow bamboo (*Pseudosasa japonica*), distributed to create a quick-growing and hopefully durable jungle for the siamangs. Because bamboo has an effective habit of binding the soil and stopping erosion, this should prove helpful on the small island. Arrow bamboo canes are thick and very erect, known to be used for the shafts of arrows because of their strength, straight form, and light-weight. The masses of dark green, large leaves that are up to 1' long and 1 1/2" wide form semi-erect branches at the upper nodes. The culm sheaths (parchment-colored, husk-like protective coverings) are often as long as the internodes and are quite persistent. It is very common in the US, good for hedges and wind breaks.

Continue up the path. On the right behind and below the rocks, are plantings of the golden bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*). The goal is to help mask the wire mesh enclosure when it is full-grown since the lower few feet of the culms have congested nodes, thus the branches are closely bunched together creating a very full screening effect with these bunched branches and leaves. Straight ahead, in a raised planting bed, is *Phyllostachys heteroclada* 'Solidstem,' which can reach 18' and have solid 3/4"-inch diameter culms.

In two separate raised planting island beds is the popular and common black bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*). The striking black canes reach 30' and are quite elegant in appearance. Cut canes are used in fine cabinet work. Both *Phyllostachys heteroclada*, with a solid stem, and *Phyllostachys nigra* are used in this area to screen off the exterior of the exhibit and cut down the sunlight that could reflect off the windows.

Opposite the indoor Orangutan exhibit is the Research Station. Note the walls covered by split (moso) bamboo poles. This wall shows that the cut canes can be useful and attractive as fencing or siding.

Walk past this area and move onto the outdoor orangutan walkway. On your left in the exhibit many plantings of *Pleioblastus simonii* are scattered throughout the forest floor. The wild, rough quality helps emulate a tropical forest, and with luck it will thrive under the attention of orangutan groups.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

In the background on the tops of the parapets (cliffs), see plantings of *Phyllostachys meyeri*, which are distributed here to create the effect of another level or plateau. The plantings help screen off the building's many skylights. As the plants attain greater height, they will visually make the cliffs look larger.

Continue down the path at the end of the raised wooden walkway, and on the right you will see *Phyllostachys rubromarginata*. Its dark-green canes have internodes as long as sixteen or more inches and smooth nodes. They are a favorite of musical instrument (particularly for flutes) and basket-makers. In its native China, the shoots are prized for their taste.

On the planting island just ahead is *Pleioblastus viridi-striatus*, which gets up to 3' tall. New leaves are golden with green stripes. As you exit, on your left is a young grove of moso (*Phyllostachys heterocyclus pubescens*). Moso is the largest of the hardy bamboos and can grow at maturity in a large grove setting to 75' with 7" diameter culms. In the Northwest, however, the largest moso reaches 30' in height.

We have now covered all the information in the Arboretum's plant guide about the zoo's bamboo collection. Now, 13 years after the articles were written, the bamboo collection has matured and changed somewhat. Once again the zoo's horticulture department is in contact with the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the American Bamboo Society. The zoo remains an important site for bamboo aficionados. Bamboo will continue to be an important anchor for many of the bioclimatic zones. Bamboo will continue to be an important source of browse for many of the animals at the zoo. And bamboo will continue to entrance zoo visitors and zoo volunteers.

Thank you again to the Washington Park Arboretum for allowing us to reprint the bamboo articles from their publication. And thank you very much, once more, to James Clever for his consultation during the process of producing these Ramblings articles.

Sources:

Plant Guide: Woodland Park Zoological Gardens, Washington Park Arboretum Bulletin Vol. 58:3

"Copyright by the Arboretum Foundation, Seattle Washington. Used by permission of the Arboretum Foundation."

*James Clever, an amateur botanist, has been a member of the ABS (American Bamboo Society) since 1986. He was president of the Pacific Northwest Chapter from 1990-1992 and is currently an active member of the national organization, serving as a director on the board of ABS holding the office of President of the American Bamboo Society. He owns Bamboo Gardener LLC, a small business specializing in hardy bamboo. For more information see www.bamboogardener.com.



Human monkey climbing the bamboo at the 2011 ABS Conference on Avery Island.

Photo courtesy of Bill Hollenback.

Growing Organic

by Adam Williams

Why grow bamboo organically?

"Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.." - *International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements*

Let me start by saying that this is not a soapbox. Doing anything in one's own garden is a deeply personal decision. Growing bamboo organically takes a commitment to learn a different gardening mindset, and make a conscience effort to "think" from an organic perspective when garden problems arise. Surprisingly, many of the typical garden techniques you are familiar with in terms of growing bamboo would be deemed an organically inclined method already. Most likely, it will cost a little more to grow your bamboo organically and during the transition you will need to find a way to get your pesticides, herbicides and nitrate fertilizers recycled and/or disposed of in a safe environmental method. It'll also take an effort to research different types of organic fertilizers on the market and find one you feel does the job. If you don't like the idea of not having any control over garden pests then add some time to research the plethora of natural organic pest control chemicals available today.

My Bamboo Garden

First a little background history. We live just outside the city limits of Portland, Oregon in zone 8. The Northwest and specifically the mild Willamette Valley is truly a gardener's paradise and we're lucky that dozens of species of bamboo grow very well here. Our property is shaded by several 100 foot tall Douglas Firs consequently I can only grow plants that thrive in shade and acidic soils as a result from our high annual rainfall. When the neighbor started building a three story home behind us in 1996 it quickly became apparent we were about to lose our privacy. That led us to do some research on fast growing screening plants and then on to a purchase of two containers of *Phyllostachys nigra* from a local nursery. I planted them six feet apart inside a rhizome barrier and watched in amazement as a 15 foot high wall of beautiful thick green leaves mixed with black and green culms mightily form itself in a three year period. The intoxicating effect of bamboo led me to collect about 35 species the majority is of the *Fargesia* genus. I joined the American Bamboo Society somewhere around 2002 where I've met many new friends.

Over the years I've landscaped the yard integrating bamboo into the garden theme bit by bit and quite frankly making several mistakes along the way. Failure is a wonderful learning tool. One of the fascinating aspects of intermingling different species of plants and bamboo is watching them grow over several seasons, and then making a decision about what is working and what is not. The essence of gardening that I enjoy the most is experimenting and trying new things. Unfortunately a few plants and bamboo divisions have expired along the way. At the time *Sunset's Western Garden* book was my landscape garden bible and asking questions of friends and family who had beautiful gardens helped tremendously. Like most gardeners I was aware that pesticides, herbicides and petroleum based nitrate fertilizers were probably not good for the environment. As time progressed my gardening attitude and social values evolved and during the winter of 2006 I made the decision to start growing the garden and consequently our bamboo all organically.

Nitrate Fertilizers versus Organic Fertilizers

Like any plant bamboo requires nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium as well as micro-nutrients and symbiotic relationships with fungi and other organisms to flourish. Nitrogen helps the plant foliage to grow strong. Phosphorus helps roots and flowers grow and develop. Potassium is important for overall plant health. Since bamboo is a giant grass it specifically requires large amounts of nitrogen applied at different times of the year to flourish at it's maximum potential. Synchronizing the application of organic fertilizers to when the plants need it most is the greatest challenge of the organic bamboo gardener. Organic fertilizers require a little more time to break down into the soil. I've discovered through trial and error that adding an additional two to three weeks of time to allow for this break down is essential.

Feeding the soil is the foundation of organic gardening. Conventional gardening practices dismiss the soil as merely a growing

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

medium. It focuses more intently on feeding the plant with nitrate fertilizers which can eventually poison the soil and diminish its capacity to support long term plant health. Organic gardening has an emphasis on continually strengthening the soil to create an environment that not only promotes healthy, vibrant plant growth but also allows the the plant to grow at its natural pace. The reality is that using petroleum based nitrate fertilizers cause excess nutrients to flow into lakes, rivers, and groundwater. It can cause harmful algal blooms, eutrophication (excessive unnatural plant growth) and subsequent dead zones. In addition, nitrates are harmful to aquatic organisms by themselves. Unlike nitrate fertilizers, organics are made from a huge variety of naturally occurring elements such as bat guano, blood meal, bone meal, feather meal, and fish meal. Even then it's a good idea to use any fertilizer sparingly especially if your soil is already rich in nutrients. Let nature takes it own course in your garden.

Like traditional fertilizers, organic fertilizers show their content with three bold numbers described with the letters N-P-K (nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.) The three numbers listed on fertilizer labels correspond to the percentage of these materials found in the fertilizer. To someone accustomed to higher NPK ratios of nitrate fertilizers, such as a typical grass fertilizer (25-5-5) the modest amounts shown on an organic label may appear inadequate. However nothing could be further from the truth. As I mentioned before organics break down at a slower rate and in the case of the organic lawn fertilizers that we use for bamboo they contain insoluble nitrogen which releases slowly with much greater effectiveness. Organics minimize the possibility of "burning" the plants. They improve the overall soil health and encourage microbial life to flourish, and reduce the necessity of reapplying fertilizers regularly to maintain excellent soil fertility. Since organic fertilizers last longer and release their nutrients slowly their overall NPK amounts will be greater over the long run and more beneficial than what is shown on the label. I've tried a few different organic fertilizers and have not seen much difference between them, only the cost. I don't think you can go wrong with an organic labeled "Organic Grass Fertilizer" specifically mixed for lawns. It is important though to check the label and verify that the ingredients are organic based before you purchase. If you can't pronounce the ingredients it may not be organic (greenwash.)

Compost/Mulch

As enthusiasts of bamboo we all realize how important mulch is to the success of a flourishing bamboo clump or grove. It is an essential element to growing bamboo organically. One of the best ways to improve the health of your plants is by adding organic compost to your soil. Compost can help reduce the amount of fertilizer treatments your plants actually need. If you're not composting organic garden waste and kitchen scraps now, you should start as soon as you can. The addition of compost to your garden soil will add nutrients, improve drainage, and help your bamboos' immune system. If home composting is not an option for you then you have several choices that work equally well. In my garden I use a combination of home compost, nursery purchased organic compost and composted steer manure. Any weed free compost will do the job. In addition to compost every Autumn I shred and distribute a two to four inch layer of shredded leaves in different areas of the garden on a rotational basis. In early spring to help break down the leaves it's easy to add nitrogen by broadcasting blood meal (12-0-0) and working it into the top few inches with a rake or spade. I also chip and shred culled bamboo culms throughout the season for use as mulch in the garden.

Pest Management

As you probably know bamboo has very few pests. The scourge of bamboo in the Northwest that we all despise is the dreaded bamboo mite. Inevitably the question arises about how to handle them in the organic garden. The number one thing to do is not allow them to enter the garden in the first place. That means if you purchase from a nursery or trade bamboo with fellow ABS members that you must thoroughly inspect the plant before you bring it home. If you can't do an on-site inspection, you can keep the plant isolated at home from your other bamboo for a period of two to four weeks depending on the time of year to allow for the life cycle of the mite you did not see to develop, and then inspect it daily until you're convinced it shows no active population. Nevertheless even if you're very careful mites can still get into your yard and invade your bamboo. At some point in the past when I wasn't as careful as I am today we brought them into our yard. Currently we have a very small active population that I manage through culling the effected leaves and branches including a regular schedule of culm thinning. In other words hand picking by close inspection. Over the years I've also dug up and removed a couple of bamboos that went into the city recycling bin that I failed to control using this technique. We do not spray anything in the garden period. I'm convinced that introducing any form of pesticide whether its organic or not will also potentially kill any beneficial insects that might one day learn to eat bamboo mites. It sounds extremely idealistic but yet I have high hopes that this "everything in nature will eventually correct itself" attitude will someday payoff. I tend to follow this credo in all aspects of the garden. For a true organic garden to function by the strictest definition it must depend on the natural environment of predator insects, diversity of plants, birds and animal life to help manage

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

any pests. With that said, there are several organic and, or natural pest control products available to the gardener on-line and in your local garden centers.

Confessions

To be perfectly honest organic fertilizers are applied in my garden rather sparingly. I believe the plant should find it's own way based on the local environmental conditions. I don't irrigate very much if at all after establishment. As you know bamboo is unbelievably adaptable. If left to it's own devices it is likely the plant will resist stress and pests much better than if it's coddled. As an enthusiast it's really hard not to pamper your bamboo, and if your garden is in one of the fringe zones of survivability you don't really have a choice in the matter. Even if you do everything right sometimes a prized specimen will need a little help from you to stay on a healthy path. Do it in a non-toxic organically inclined method if you so choose.

As you might have ascertained by now I'm a garden minimalist and not everyone will agree with my views. Ironically I've only briefly touched on the subject matter in terms of organic gardening. So now it's time for the bottom line. How does bamboo react to growing organically? Let's see, in over five growing seasons I can't tell any difference in performance from past years. The difference that matters to me more than anything is that my garden is now much more environmentally friendly then in the past. I know any human, animal, bird or insect who happens upon my little piece of the Earth can visit safely without any toxins. Although I can't control what my neighbors do in their garden it feels good to let them know what I'm doing. I hope they listen and do their part as well. The peace of mind and satisfaction knowing that I'm doing what I can only increases the enthusiasm and pure joy of growing this amazing plant.

Adam Williams

www.facebook.com/bambooadam

Email - bambooadam@gmail.com

ABS Treasurer's Report

by Anna Foleen

Account Balances Last Year - As of 12/31/2011

As of 12/31/2011

Account	12/31/2011 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Advantis Checking	17,447.42
Chase Checking	0.00
Money Market Savings	0.00
PayPal Savings	24.18
TOTAL Bank Accounts	17,471.60
Cash Accounts	
Cash Account	0.00
TOTAL Cash Accounts	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	17,471.60



Vivax in the 2011 Snow Storm, lake Stevens, WA

Introduction of New PNWCABS Board Member, Mark Meehan

Hello PNWCABS,

I am now back in Seattle after having traveled by car through Washington, Idaho, Montana, Georgia, South and North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. What a trip! I saw a good deal of our beautiful country including some bamboo in residential, commercial and rural settings. With my wedding completed with success, I am now eagerly looking forward to dedicating myself to some bamboo projects.

In response to James's request for a bit of info about me here is some information on my background. I am a fourth generation Bostonian from Red Sox Nation. I graduated from Boston University in 2002 with a Bachelors in Computer Science. After college I decided I needed to experiencing life in a different city, so I moved to my mom's hometown of New Orleans. As you can imagine, computer jobs were tough to find down there so I took a job as a house framer, as I have always loved carpentry.

After a year living there, my grandmother passed away, so I moved back to Boston to support my Mom. After working another year in construction I decided to try and get back into a job that would at least partially utilize my computer background.

I fell into bamboo in 2004 when I first met David Flanagan, the founder of Bamboo Fencer, Inc. of Jamaica Plane, Massachusetts. I was working as an office manager for a landscaping company that was starting a relationship with Bamboo Fencer. First, David asked me to update his website for him. Then he nonchalantly pointed out that I was a big guy and I had a pickup truck. He was wondering if I could deliver his fences for him. Next thing I know I am working 80 hours a week and loving every minute of it. Due to severe arthritis, David was no longer able to do all of the work himself. Starting in a garage workshop, I revitalized David's 20-year history of hand crafting custom bamboo fencing.

In the beginning I would build a crate on the back of my pickup. Then I would place the fences in, close it up, and drive to the trucking terminal for shipping. This was basically a one-man shop while David worked the phones. Eventually I ended up as Sales Manager and we had anywhere from 2 to 5 guys in the back of a large production warehouse. I was successful in increasing sales by 33% for 3 consecutive years. We enjoyed producing orders for customers as large as the National Zoo in Washington DC and retail stores like Aeropostale. We also had the pleasure of revitalizing some of David's 20-year-old fence installations, which is really, in my opinion, at the heart of what bamboo fencing is all about. My other experiences with Bamboo Fencer include designing, crafting, installing, and then utilizing trade show booths for the ASLA national event, attending ABS national meetings, and the terrible experience of learning about international shipping for full-sized containers.

Two years ago, my then girlfriend and I decided to move to her home town of Seattle. We both left our jobs and apartments and decided we had a unique opportunity to travel. This spawned a 3-1/2 month trip through Southeast Asia, Bali and New Zealand, which only fueled my love for bamboo.

Our landing point to start the trip was the World Bamboo Organization meeting in Bangkok where I got to catch up with fellow Bostonian Susanne Lucas and help her celebrate the inaugural World Bamboo Day. I also got a chance to catch up with Jorg Stamm, who I had previously picked up at the Philly airport for an ABS meeting in Pennsylvania. I managed to score an invite to an installation he was starting that week in the backwoods of Cambodia. My wife and I rearranged our travel schedule a bit and I got to spend a week helping him build bamboo trusses for a village community center.

At that same WBO meeting, I met John Hardy who is the founder of the Green School in Bali where Jorg had built his famous bridge. So we also added Bali to our travel list and spent a week staying at gorgeous Bambu Indah (<http://www.bambuindah.com>). I highly suggest a visit. We also got to tour the Green School where we saw the bridge and their other various structures including the massive main building which is approximately 5 stories high.

Now I am eager to get back to work crafting bamboo structures and fences for landscaping. I am living in the Greenlake area of Seattle with my wife Kendra and our 9-year-old English Springer Spaniel named Otis. Kendra is from Ballard and grew up in the area. Her parents have lived in the same house on Earl Avenue since the early 1970s.

Best,

Mark Meenan

Vole Patrol

Copied with permission from halfsidebamboo.info
article by Phil Comer

Think you have vole damage, but you're not sure what to look for? In this article, you will see pics of vole damage in container bamboo, and some other vole signs.

What Are Voles ?

Voles, are small, burrowing rodents that feed on the roots and crowns of grasses and other plants, including bamboo. Based on pics and descriptions the one we have here at the nursery is *Microtus townsendii*, commonly known as Townsends Meadow Vole. Voles feed on bamboo roots and new shoot buds (underground), and will "graze" the tops of small plants as well. Most of the damage to bamboo, especially container plants, occurs during winter, when food sources are scarce. If your bamboo is growing next to pasture, woods, or large grassy areas, it's probably growing in vole heaven.

Signs in the Grove

Voles access roots and shoot buds through underground runs. They are drawn to mulches and natural leaf litter produced in the grove, and create surface channels at the interface between the soil and mulch. Surface openings are about 2" in diameter (pictured right) and lack the mound of soil characteristic of mole activity. Root feeding causes the culms to lean, or fall over if feeding is severe.

Container Damage

Voles will excavate potting mix from container bamboos, eating roots and young shoot buds (pretty much everything below the potting mix) as they go. They can also munch down the culms of very small plants. Access holes are often visible on the surface of the potting mix (pictured right). Voles eat and leave, which are another, easy-to-spot vole sign.



meadow vole



vole access hole and sticky trap



vole hole in a container of *Fargesia robusta*

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Vole Damage in the Greenhouse

In December, we covered some of our tender bamboos in the greenhouse with tarps to protect them from an unusually prolonged cold spell. You can probably guess at this point, that the covered plants were the ones targeted and damaged by voles. When it snows, the little buggers come up to the soil surface. Under the cover of snow, they create a network of furrows in the grass left by their feeding. This activity also puts them on the same plane as the nursery fabric covering the floor of our greenhouse, and they are drawn to the cover and food provided by the tarped bamboo. So, if you are covering plants in or out of a greenhouse, and you live in vole country, you should be checking for damage every day. Once the little buggers get a taste for bamboo, the only way to stop them is to kill them.

Trapping a Vole

If you see signs of damage, you can trap and kill voles with plain ol' mouse traps and a bit of apple as bait. Surface traps (i.e. inside the greenhouse) should be under the tarp, and placed where voles are active. Or, if you happen to know a kitty with a big game hunter attitude, you're in luck. The vole activity in our greenhouse "stopped dead" after it warmed up enough for my Forest Kitty to return to hunting in the greenhouse.

To trap voles outdoors, find a vole hole, and dig down to clear an opening in the run. Set and bait a trap in the hole (pictured right). Be sure to clear the dirt from the run, so the vole doesn't trigger the trap by pushing dirt on it. Cover the hole with a piece of scrap wood to prevent the trap from being accidentally triggered.

If there is a vole to be had in a particular run, you should have it in a few minutes or a few hours. Reset the trap in the same run, because you may very well trap more than one vole in a run. Remember, covering your bamboos in winter will attract voles if they are in the vicinity. Cut your losses short by checking your bamboo daily, and set traps as needed.



forest kitty on patrol



setting a vole trap



vole caught in mousetrap

For these original articles, visit:

<http://halfsidebamboo.info/http://halfsidebamboo.info/wordpress/1013/winter-vole-damage/>

<http://halfsidebamboo.info/http://halfsidebamboo.info/wordpress/1193/vole-patrol/>

or for other bamboo-related articles, or to contact Phil Comer, visit halfsidebamboo.info



Let's Go Surfing!

A wealth of bamboo products and information at your fingertips

American Bamboo Society - Pacific NW Chapter "Open Group" on Facebook!

Visit this site to share bamboo information, videos, pictures, etc., ask questions, learn about bamboo, and communicate with other bamboo lovers like yourself!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/163459949317/>

Bamboo in Public Places Google Map

Visit this map to find public places where you can go see bamboo and/or add a place that you know where there is public bamboo available to enjoy.

"This is an open map that anyone can contribute to. The rules for posting are that the bamboo must be in a public place. No private property unless it is your own and is visible from a street. Please no ads for nurseries or any other advising. Have fun Bambuseros!"

<http://pdx.be/ec9e>

Bamboo Sculptures

<http://www.korakot.net/sculpture/sculpture.htm>

Busker Playing a Bamboo Saxophone!

Video, pictures and an article on a Busker who makes his instruments from bamboo. Check it out!

<http://www.vagabondjourney.com/travelogue/bamboo-saxophone-busker/>

ABS Representative Report

by Bill Hollenback

A lot has been happening with the National ABS in the past year with new faces in a number of positions. Our long-time treasurer, Sue Turtle, has retired and Dawn Weaver has taken on the position. The treasurer is a big job, so we wish Dawn well. Many of you have received emails from our new membership chair, Janet Matherly, when you joined or renewed. She started in December and is quickly coming up to speed. She should have the membership directory finished shortly. Tracy Calla is the new Advertising Chair and should be contacted if you would like to place an ad in the magazine or Source List. We will also be adding ads to the website and you should contact Tracy for pricing. Ariel Dubov is taking over the webmaster duties and is making some additions and changes.

The ABS website has also been completely redone. It still needs some work to get all of the old files visible, but it looks good.

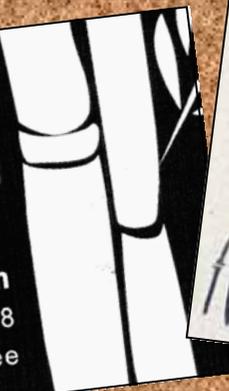
Cliff Sussman is heading up the bamboo importation committee with the goal to import new bamboos into the US. The committee members are Noah Bell, Ian Connor, Ned Jaquith, Brad Salmon, James Bonner and Advisor: Bill Hollenback. There are a number of other committees that I did not list, but one thing is for certain, the ABS is working to get a lot done this year.

The next ABS conference will be in Austin, TX September 27-29, 2010. I hope to see you there. The conferences are always fun and educational.

Bill Hollenback, Representative of the Pacific Northwest Chapter to the American Bamboo Society (ABS)

G
O
T
B
A
M
B
O
O
?

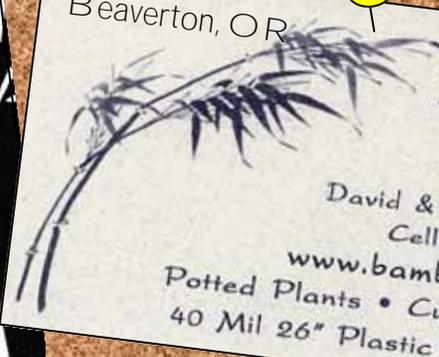
SHWEEASH BAMBOO
 nursery | removal | design
www.shweeashbamboo.com
 (503) 440-2998
 Dave Crabtree



Beaverton, OR

Bamboo Oasis

David & Janice Weitzer
 Cell: 503-703-1345
www.bamboooasis.com
 Potted Plants • Custom Hedges
 40 Mil 26" Plastic Root Barrier



Cascade Gardens
 Bamboo Sales & Landscaping

George Gearhart
 Bamboo Specialist

Serving Seattle
 and beyond
 Ish River, Cascadia
 206-898-1954

cascade_gardens@hotmail.com
www.cascadegardens.net




Jade Mountain Nursery

Asian Gardening
 and Bamboo

(253) 548 1129
 Fax (253) 548 9733
jademountainbamboo.com



BAMBOO GARDEN

Bamboo Nursery

Ned Jaquith

Please call for an appointment
 Phone: (503) 647-2700
ned@bamboogarden.com
www.bamboogarden.com

18900 NW Collins Rd.
 North Plains, OR 97133



Renew Your Membership!

Use the form on the last page to renew your membership.
Send the form **with check or credit card information**. No cash please. Checks should be made out to:

American Bamboo Society
315 S Coast Highway 101 Ste U PMB 212
Encinitas, CA 92024-3555

Or renew on line! (and pay through PayPal) at:

americanbamboo.org/GeneralInfoPages/ABSONlineMembership.html

See the next page for application and additional information regarding membership benefits and dues.



Phyllostachys nigra 'Bori'

picture by Kimberly Gildroy, Lake Stevens, WA

IMPORTANT NOTE: This newsletter is only available on line at pnwbamboo.org. To find the newsletters, go to pnwbamboo.org, click on DOWNLOADS under PNW Pages on the right side of the page,

You must have Adobe reader to view the file. If you do not have this, go to ADOBE.COM and click on the icon that says "get ADOBE reader." It is a free program.

www.pnwbamboo.org

**Advertise in our newsletters!
\$25 for the whole year**

Send a scanned business card to
Anna Foleen at:
camassiablue@gmail.com

**Contact Anna via e-mail for
her mailing address to send
payment.**

*Have questions about
whether you need to renew
your membership or not?*

**e-mail Bill Hollenback
bamboo2@hollenback.com**

American Bamboo Society
Membership & Directory Information Form

This Application is for a:

- New Membership
- Renewal
- Gift Membership (we will notify the recipient)
- Check this box if you DO NOT want to be included in the ABS Annual Membership listing
- Digital (Conserve resources and download the publications from the internet)

The Digital Publications are located at:

<http://www.americanbamboo.org/publications/>
where you can download a demo issue.

Date _____
 Name(s) _____
 Company _____
 Address 1 _____
 Address 2 _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Country _____
 Home Tel _____
 Work Tel _____
 Fax _____
 Other _____
 E-mail _____
 WWW _____

Annual: \$40 Digital, \$50 Print - Includes a 1-year Primary Chapter membership
 3-year: \$110 Digital, \$140 Print - Includes 3-year Primary Chapter for U.S. members; additional Chapters: \$40 each for the 3-year period
 Lifetime: \$600 Digital, \$800 Print - Includes ABS membership only
 Supporting: \$60 Digital, \$70 Print - Includes a 1-year Primary Chapter membership
 Patron: \$120 Digital, \$130 Print (tax-deductible) - Includes a 1-year Chapter membership
 International \$40 Digital, \$55 Print (outside U.S.; no Chapter included)
 Additional Chapters: \$15/year for each Chapter (Please check Chapter listing at right)

TOTAL \$ _____

Discover/Mastercard/Visa Authorization:

Account # _____
 Expiration Date _____
 Signature _____

Send this form with completed credit card authorization, or your check payable to:

American Bamboo Society
 315 South Coast Highway 101, Suite U
 PMB 212
 Encinitas, CA 92024-3555

Each year's membership includes:

- A subscription to the newsletter of your primary chapter (and those of any additional chapters you join)
- 6 issues of BAMBOO: The Magazine of the American Bamboo Society
- An annual edition of the ABS Journal: Bamboo Science and Culture
- The ABS Species Source List
- The Annual ABS Membership Directory

Choose your Primary Chapter membership, and any Additional Chapter memberships

- P A
- Florida Caribbean Chapter
 - Hawaii Chapter
 - Louisiana-Gulf Coast Chapter
 - Mid-States Chapter
 - Northeast Chapter
 - Northern California Chapter
 - Pacific Northwest Chapter
 - Southeast Chapter
 - Southern California Chapter
 - Texas Bamboo Society Chapter

You can also sign up on-line at: <http://www.bamboo.org/bamboo-membership.php>