American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 1 | P.O. Box 215, Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215 | February 1992

From The President

One of the greatest opportunities and pleasures of belonging to the ABS is the possibility of celebrating one's love of bamboo with others. We are a society in more than name. To many of us in the ABS, meeting and making new friends among the bamboo community is a major reason for participation.

We are an open Society. At all levels of our community, avenues exist for people to become involved. If you see a way to contribute, don't hesitate to jump in. In so far as Bamboo is such an enormously attractive and useful plant, promoting its cause contributes to humanity and the planet in general and in so far as you get to work with like minded people, you reap interpersonal rewards as well.

Would you like to write something about bamboo, or make a video? Have you noticed something about your plants which piques your curiosity and makes you want to know more? Check the literature, do some tests, compare results, and write it up. Does the confusion of bamboo names drive your nuts? Study taxonomy and do something about it. Does the lack of available resources frustrate you? Check it out and tell us about it.

We seem to be at a critical crossroad as an organization, a nation, and a planet. If you are concerned about the way things are going, be an activist. Don't expect others to do it for you.

Opportunities abound for involvement. Whether your contribution is small or large is beside the point. It is important.

Gerald Bol, President, ABS

From The Editors

As noted in the last newsletter you will see that the mailing address for the newsletter has changed. Richard Haubrich is wanting more opportunity to enjoy his farm and allow more time to grow his bamboos and his fruit and nut trees. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard for his many years producing the ABS Newsletter. In addition to his mentor position with ABS, Richard will still be very active in ABS as treasurer and membership chairman, as well as producing source lists, and membership lists.

Yes, bamboo does grow in New York! We have both been members of ABS and have been actively growing bamboo for many years. We are founding board members for the Northeast Chapter of ABS and have produced its newsletter since its inception.

We hope you, as readers, will help us to maintain the fine tradition of the ABS Newsletter which Richard has so masterfully established for us. To accomplish this we need to receive your newsletters, meeting notices, bamboo items of interest, suggestions for articles, letters, comments and constructive criticism.

Please forward all correspondence and newsworthy items to your new editors for the newsletter, Michael Bartholomew and Jim Filkins. The newsletter address for the American Bamboo Society and our phone and fax numbers are posted in the masthead to be found on the inside cover of this newsletter.

Michael Bartholomew, Editor
Jim Filkins, Editor

American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 1 February 1992

American Bamboo Society Officers

President:	Gerald Bol
Vice President:	David King
Treasurer:	Richard Haubrich
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Secretary:	Elizabeth Haverfield
Newsletter Editors:	Michael A. Bartholomew
	James H. Filkins
Journal Editor:	Ken Brennecke

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All correspondence concerning American Bamboo Society Membership, address changes or the Bamboo Source List should be sent to:

Richard Haubrich
P.O. Box 640
Springville, CA 93265
Home (209) 539-2145
FAX (209) 539-2145

All correspondence concerning the American Bamboo Society Newsletter, comments, letters, proposed articles, announcements and Chapter reports should be sent to the attention of Michael Bartholomew or Jim Filkins at:

American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215

You may also reach the editors by telephone:

Michael Bartholomew	Jim Filkins
Home (518) 765-2347	Home (518) 872-2472
Work (518) 765-3500	FAX (518) 872-2702
FAX (518) 765-2490	

Membership in the American Bamboo Society for individuals is $15 for the calendar year and includes a subscription to the Newsletter and Journal. The Newsletter is issued bimonthly. Subscriptions for organizations and institutions are $20 per year.

Dues for 1992

Membership renewal for the 1992 calendar year is due now. For your convenience a Dues Statement Card and return envelope are enclosed. Individual membership is $15 for the calendar year. If your card is stamped "PAID", your dues for 1992 have already been paid. Note that the Dues Statement Card has two boxes which can be checked by those who wish to receive a Membership List and/or a Bamboo Source List.

Bamboo Source List

The Bamboo Species Source List No. 12 is due to be published in March. If you were listed as a Source last year you will automatically receive a form to fill out for this year. If you sell bamboo plants on a regular basis and wish to be included as a new Source on this year's list, please notify Richard Haubrich within the next two weeks.

The Source List contains a brief description of more than 100 bamboo species, the cold tolerance of each, and sources where plants can be purchased. It also lists suppliers of bamboo poles and books on bamboo. To receive a copy of the Source List, check the appropriate box on your Dues Statement Card and return it to Richard with your renewal.

Richard Haubrich
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Replacement Copies

If your copy of the Newsletter should be received in damaged or defective condition, please write us at the address below and we will replace it at no cost to you.

American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215

ABS Bylaws

By Gerald Bol

A committee of three has begun the task of revising the bylaws of the ABS. The original ABS charter did not structure any hierarchy beyond itself. We have grown to a sizable organization with Chapters and a large international component. The very role and functions of elements within this hierarchy may profitably be examined, and perhaps modified. We may collectively wish to change what and how we do things. Toward this end the committee needs and welcomes input from the membership. Some questions which may be worth consideration are:

1. How multi-leveled do we want to be? It has been suggested we should perhaps envision coordinated local or city chapters, regional chapters, a national organization, and an international one.

2. What can best be accomplished at each level? What should the focus be of each? Global issues such as conservation may well be best addressed at an international level. So, too, might be support and funding for research. The national organization may be the best vehicle for publication of bamboo information and research results. Chapter newsletters frequently publish information of value to a much wider audience. It would also seem that the national organization has a role in fostering communication between chapters and geographically separate groups and coordinating inter chapter events and projects. The concept of special interest groups deserves encouragement and expansion. Local chapters would seem well suited to plant introductions and informative and educational meetings.

3. Currently, officers are chosen annually by the Board of Directors. Nine Directors are elected by the membership on a staggered schedule. Perhaps we would be better served with some salaried officers and a regionally nominated and elected board. How could such be financed?

4. Could mandatory joint membership at both local and national levels best serve our goals? How about publishing a national newsletter with an insert page for each chapter. With the money saved, joint membership could cost less than it now does. The local insert could consist of local announcements and be easier to prepare.

Please communicate your ideas to any or all of us. We may wish to publish in the Newsletter particularly thoughtful and succinct comments.

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Japanese Fence and Gate Building Workshop

Bamboo Gardens of Washington will be holding its fifth and sixth Japanese Fence and Gate Building Workshops on the weekends of March 14 & 15 and March 21 & 22, 1992. The workshop of March 14 & 15 will be held at Bamboo Gardens of Washington in Redmond. Bamboo Gardens is a retail and wholesale nursery specializing in bamboo plants and products. The workshop of March 21 & 22 will be held at Tsugawa Nursery in Woodland Washington, 1/2 hour North of Portland, Oregon. Tsugawa Nursery specializes in plants and products for Japanese and Northwest Japanese gardens. For more information contact:

Bamboo Gardens of Washington
5016 192nd Place NE
Redmond, WA 98053-4602
Office (206) 868-5166
Home (206) 868-8581

Thank You ABS

The Pacific Northwest Chapter would like to thank the American Bamboo Society for the opportunity to host the 1991 Bamboo Conference. A thorough description of the planning phase, all the way through the event itself, including a summary of feedback from attendees, has been submitted to Gerald Bol (President ABS). A special thanks to those who made this conference possible. We would also like to thank Gerald Bol for his personal donation of $500.00 and the Northeast Chapter for their donation of $150.00 to help cover costs incurred.

Sincerely,

James Clever
President PNWCABS

Bamboo In Print

The following is an excerpt from a recent letter to Richard Haubrich:

I thought you might like to know that there is a bamboo book by Katherine M. Ball, called *Bamboo, Its Cult and Culture*, that was printed by The Gillick Press in 1945 in a limited edition of 500 copies. It contains 10 black-and-white reproductions of paintings done by the Imperial Prince Painter in China between 1701 and 1703, poetry, and the Six Canons of Painting by a fifth century poet named H'sieh Ho. I would describe it as a handsome 'coffee-table-art book' about 12 1/2" by 12 1/2" with a black cover. Acorn Books, 740 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, phone (415) 563-1736, has 2 copies in stock at $125.00 each and has stated that they could put their hands on between 5 and 10 more copies if anyone wants to buy them.

Robert Johannessen
Librarian-NCCABS
4726 Hilltop Drive
El Sobrante, CA 94803-1646

ABS Chapter Notes

Pacific Northwest

January 1992
GROWTH. In the past year the Pacific Northwest Chapter added significantly to it's membership. We now have 230 members, and expect to be over 300 by the end of this year.

ABS CONFERENCE. The Pacific Northwest Chapter feels extremely proud to have been the first to "break ground" in hosting an ABS Conference away from California. We've learned how do to it, and hope to share that knowledge with other chapters. We voted to put aside our losses and look to the future.

LECTURES. Whitney Adams PhD, a world class expert in Fargesia bamboo, has consented to lecture on Fargesia at the Eugene, Oregon meeting on July 11, 1992. The meeting is open to all ABS members. Other activities are scheduled. Should you wish to attend call (503) 747-0421.

QUARANTINE GREENHOUSE. A USDA permit application has been submitted by Tim McBride of Marysville, Washington. He will operate our new Quarantine Greenhouse. A PhD in plant pathology, Everett Nichols, will be on the team to advise and assist with plants. Many of our members go plant hunting, and we wish the best of luck to Larry Reuter and Hector Glaxiola in their current expedition to Mexico.

Tom Marten, PNWCABS

Southern California

What's New in the Quail Botanical Gardens Bamboo Quarantine House.

SCCABS installed a 6' x 16' bottom heating pad system on one of the benches and potted up four shipments from Thailand, with a lot of running around to airports and numerous phone calls by members. Everything that can happen to these

shipments did. Three shipments, three problems. Plus shipping around the holidays didn't help either.

We will have two sales (March 21 & September 19) this year. There should be some of the stuff that came out of the Fiji Gardens quarantine this year including many hardy runners. Due to the hard work of George Shor we have gotten our US Federal Tax Exempt status and we should hear from the State by the end of January.

SCCABS is putting more shade area in at Quail, as well as fencing quarantine houses, propagation houses, and holding area for better security. We seem to have a better working relationship with Quail now that a new board has taken over. We have also started planting bamboos in the grounds again. We have a member in China now that will try to bring in some bamboo from that country. We will also bring in some bamboo from Africa this year.

Of the four shipments from Thailand we have approximately 500 pieces, most of which are clumpers. They went through a freeze with no apparent damage this year. Most of the bamboo looks good and hopefully, most will take. Very few one of a kind type; most are five or more pieces. There are *Bambusas, Cephalostachyum, Dendrocalamus, Gigantochloa, Melocanna, Schizostacheyum, Thyrsostachys,* plus 7 unknowns, one being a fully striped mid size cane.

As of now SCCABS has 85 15 gallon pots and 24" boxes in our reference collection plus another 50+ committed.

Gary Stinson
Vice President, SCCABS

Northeast Chapter

The next Chapter board meeting is set for March 25th at 6:00 pm, Sturbridge, MA at the Publick House Restaurant. Board meetings are open informal meetings, always accompanied by good food. Please drop in, we could always use your input and, of course, help for upcoming events.

The Northeast Chapter will hold their Spring Meeting and Sale at the Arnold Arboretum, Boston, Massachusetts on April 11, 1992.

For more information on either meeting, please contact Christopher DeRosa at the Northeast Chapter, P.O. Box 816, Rockport, MA 01966 (508) 546-3581.

Jim Filkins, NECABS

Texas Chapter

The Texas Chapter (name pending) is in the early stages of formation. They have an inaugural meeting scheduled for February 29, 1-5 pm, Austin Botanical Gardens in Zilker Park. They would appreciate any support that Chapters and Members can provide in the form of auction plants or helpful suggestions. For more information, call Herb Hillery at 1909 Richcreek Road, Austin, TX 78757 (512) 452-7146.

Herb Hillery

Bamboo-Guadua World Congress

There will be a Symposium/Congress on bamboo in Colombia, August 13-15, 1992. The following is excerpted from a cover letter concerning this congress to Ned Jaquith:

Colombia has been favored with the existence of 440 species of bamboo, and 41 genders of *guadua* which grow from sea level to 4,000 feet. More than 9,000,000 Colombians live in rural areas where this material is widely used for house construction, crafts, and other purposes.

PURPOSE

To invite well-known scientific researchers to direct, assist and evaluate our programs in different areas, such as:

PRODUCTION

- Distribution and Morphological Studies.
- Ecological and Physiological Studies.
- Cultivation.
- Entomological and Pathological Studies.
- Transportation and Harvesting.

USES

- Anatomy (Physical and Chemical Properties).
- Biochemical and Biophysical Aspects.
- Seasoning and Preservation.
- Industrial Plant Mechanization for Food, Handicrafts, Furniture, Structures and Building Panels, Industries.

ASSISTANCE

Some Colombian government and private institutions are deeply interested in the event.

National and regional universities are planning to participate with the studies they have made on different subjects.

THE HOSTESS

Pereira is the largest city of the coffee growing region. Together with Manizales and Armenia, they form a well developed area in beautiful country scenery, where most of the coffee production is grown.

OTHER FACTS

1. Visitors are expected to hold a very close relationship with the Colombian scientific and technical group, in order to exchange views about the level of the studies in advance.

2. Visitors are expected to stay in the country for at least 15 days, in order to visit universities, research centers and other projects.

3. Scientific works are expected from Asia, Europe and North America, as well as from most of the Latin American countries which are favored by bamboo and *guadua* growth.

4. Only 10-15 experts can be invited with the expenses paid, but the committee will guarantee special rates for persons traveling on their own.

5. In the year of 1992, America is celebrating its 500th Anniversary and different events are being prepared. The planning committee is expecting to participate in this celebration with the congress which will be held August 13th to 15th.

6. Answers are expected by February 15th.

Cordially Yours,

DORA LUCIA P. DE BOTERO
Executive Manager
I BAMBU-GUADUA WORLD CONGRESS

International Bamboo Conference III and Japan Tour

Plans are under way for a tour of Japanese Bamboo highlights in conjunction with the International Bamboo Conference to be held in Japan later this year. The Japanese landscape is especially beautiful in November and people going on the tour are in for a great treat. Space will be limited to 20 people with the first deposit installment due in April. Some likely details follow.

Basic Itinerary:

Nov. 3	Arrive in Japan.
Nov. 4	Visit Garden of 100 Bamboos, travel to Hakone National Park, stay at old style, elegant, Japanese Inn.
Nov. 5	Tour Park and see several bamboos in their native habitat, visit with bamboo basket maker.
Nov. 6	Visit Fuji Bamboo Gardens, bullet train to Kyoto.

Nov. 7-9	Experience outstanding cultural and scenic locations in Kyoto in small groups.
Nov. 10	Bullet train to Kumamoto, Conference receptions.
Nov. 11-12	Conference.
Nov. 13	Excursion of Kumamoto.
Nov. 14-15	Dispersal - some to further travel in Asia, some directly back to USA, some back by way of Fuji to pack up and prepare plants prior to return.

Tour leaders: Karl & Ginger Bareis and Gerald Bol.

Cost: $2800 including Airfare to and from Los Angeles, all travel in Japan, hotels, the Conference, and about 1/2 of the meals.

If you wish to participate or require more details, contact either Gerald Bol, 666 Wagnon Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472. Telephone (707) 823-5866, FAX (707) 829-8106 or Karl Bareis, 2900 Smith Grade Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Telephone (408) 427-1034, FAX (408) 427-0443.

Bamboo Symposium - China

There will be an International Symposium on Industrial Use of Bamboo in Beijing, China on December 7-11, 1992. Sponsored by the International Tropical Timber Organization and organized by the Chinese Academy of Forestry this symposium will include such topics as:

- Bamboo Culm Production
- Structure and Properties of Bamboo
- Bamboo Utilization
- Social and Environmental Aspects of Bamboo

Also included in the symposium package will be a one day excursion with three options allowing you to choose from the (1)Great Wall, Ming Tombs, (2)Forbidden City, and (3) Summer Palace. The cost of this Symposium will be $100.00 US.

A Post-Symposium Study Tour is also being organized to the bamboo area of Nanjing-Shanghai-Hangzhou to visit bamboo gardens, processing industries and research institutions. All accommodations will be covered by the approximate fee of $700.00 US.

Participants are encouraged to deliver papers.

Contact address:

Prof. Zhu Shilin
Bamboo Information Center
Chinese Academy of Forestry
Wan Shou Shan 100091
Beijing, China

Telephone: (01) 258 2211 ext. 702
Cable: 0161 BEIJING
FAX: 00861 2582317

Letters To The ABS

Guadua angustifolia in Costa Rica

In a letter to the ABS of May 1991 (Newsletter Vol. XII, No. 3), Brian Erickson gave us information on the use of *Bambusa guadua* for furniture making. I am happy for this initiative, since there is need to give more stress to the use of bamboo in Latin America. But, I would like to make clear that the correct name for this bamboo is *Guadua angustifolia*. The same National Bamboo Project (PNB) of Costa Rica which gave him the job to set up the experimental bamboo furniture shop, had engaged me (while I was in Cost Rica) to characterize botanically the bamboos they were mainly using for house construction. After collecting information from field work, revising literature and consulting specialists, the report was finally presented to the PNB in August 1990. It contained the characterization of the two types (variations) of *Guadua angustifolia* used as building material in Costa Rica. Both of them are not indigenous, but were introduced by mankind in the past. I am rather surprised for this misunderstanding.

The genus *Guadua* has been defined on the taxonomical genus level by Soderstrom & Ellis (1987). The genus *Guadua* differs from *Bambusa* in its distribution, the first is in the New World, and the second in the Old World. On the other hand, the chromosome number of *Guadua* is 2n=46 whereas *Bambusa* has 2n=70-72; besides, the floral features show that *Guadua* has a winged palea and *Bambusa* has no winged palea. There are even more morphological and anatomical differences, described by the named authors.

I hope, that this will clarify the confusion on the taxonomic terms. For further taxonomical questions, I would suggest contacting the specialists in *Guadua*, such as Ximena Londoño (Apartado Aéreo 11574, Cali, Colombia). Thank you very much for considering this matter.

Yvonne Widmer
Geobotanisches Institut ETHZ
Zürichbergstr. 38
CH-8044 Zürich
SWITZERLAND

Bibliography:
Soderstrom T.R., Ellis R. 1987, The position of bamboo genera and allies in a system of grass classification. P. 225-238, in: T.R. Soderstrom et al.: Grass Systematics and Evolution. Proc. of the International Symposium on Grass Systematics and Evolution. Washington, DC, USA, 27-31 July 1986.

Letter From Ned

I was just in California on vacation and the *Fargesia murielae* is in full bloom at the Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco. There were three large clumps each at least 2 meters across. Two of the clumps were mostly in flower and one just had a few culms flowering. The one that was most fully in flower was the same clump that Richard Haubrich and I observed with a few flowers about 5 or 6 years ago. Dr. Haubrich may have collected a few seeds at that time. I don't remember. I collected about 80 seeds which look good. I've given some to Karl Bareis in Santa Cruz (Northern California President and Newsletter Editor) and will give a few to others, but will grow most myself. I have about 150 seedlings of *F. dracocephala* grown from seed sent by Max Riedelsheimer and I am seeing quite a lot of variation in these seedlings. I am hoping to find some variation in the *F. murielae* seedlings as well. I expect that most or perhaps all of the *F. murielae* in the United States may flower since most or all plants in the US are of the same clone. This may be a great opportunity to start some new clones.

Ned Jaquith
1507 Southeast Alder
Portland, OR 97214

Message From Wolfgang

As announced previously, Richard Haubrich, the founder of ABS has retired as the editor or our "Bamboo Newsletter". At this point it is appropriate to look back in ABS history and to thank Richard for what he has done. Doing this from a distance probably is an advantage; things boil down to the essential facts.

To me, over many years Richard has been the motor of ABS. I personally owe a lot to him. In my early bamboo days, when I was still weak on my legs, Richard was like a father to me. He gave me good advice. Never spoke too much nor did he write endless letters. In fact his letters quite often consisted of 5 lines. But what he said or what he wrote never missed the impact on me.

I will never forget when Richard and his wife Dorothy came to visit here in Baden-Baden about 7 years ago. We found out that they had never been to Prafrance, but they had their flight back to the US booked for the next day. I said; "You cannot leave without having seen Prafrance". How could it be done? Just a few hours later we were airborne in a light twin engine which I had chartered at our airfield. The same day, on our flight back, when we were almost home, we were caught by bad weather. The last 10 miles Richard and Dorothy could see quite a few church towers just by looking

out of the little round windows while the guys in the cockpit, an experienced pilot, plus myself as co-pilot, were sweating. As you see, we made it.

EBS, the European Bamboo Society, is a child of Richard's. It was his idea, nobody else's. I remember when we had met in Paris in order to discuss the 2nd International Bamboo Conference, IBC 88, Richard saying: "Why don't you guys form a European Bamboo Society?". I looked around, and, as nobody said anything, I hit my fist on the table and said: "Richard, it's done. We have just founded the EBS.". Only, we could not discuss details as Richard and I both had to leave the table about ten minutes later. We had had lunch in a Japanese restaurant next door and picked up a terrible case of food poisoning. Thus Richard and I spent the rest of the afternoon at a place where normally one goes unescorted! Remember Richard?

Richard had helped us to organize IBC 88 in a marvelous way and the Conference turned out to be a success.

Richard, if I could be a bamboo, let's say a *Phyllostachys pubescens* or a *P. edulis* as we now say, I would bow in front of you, I would say to you, "Thank you, Richard, on behalf of the whole bamboo world!". If all goes well I will do this laudation when we all meet in Japan later this year, not in the big meeting hall, but rather in the open with a nice grove of *Phyllostachys edulis* at my back.

Since I know Michael and Jim from the Northeast Chapter meeting in Washington, DC last April, I am sure that you are turning over the newsletter into good hands. Michael and Jim are both very enthusiastic "bamboomen". I am sure they will bring in new ideas. They had better! I also hope that they will leave the beaten path. Thank you Richard and good luck to the new team!

Wolfgang Eberts
Saarstrasse 3-5
7570 Baden-Baden
Germany

The Super Sonic *Phyllostachys*

Phyllostachys aureosulcata 'Harbin'

It was in Spring 1991 that an idea started to form. I had been shown photographs of a new form of *P. aureosulcata* which Chris DeRosa of Rockport, Massachusetts, had discovered growing at the experimental garden of the USDA at Beltsville, Maryland, Northeast of Washington, DC. Chris is the President of the Northeast Chapter of ABS and owner of the New England Bamboo Company.

The grove of *P. aureosulcata* is thought to have been introduced from China, possibly as *P. bambusoides castillonis*. It has yellow culms with random green stripes and wrinkles similar to *P. b. marliacea* (or *P. b. katashibo*). The name is derived from a label attached to one of the culms. This label had the word Harbin on it, probably referring to the origin of the plant in China, where there is a town of that name.

Wolfgang Eberts took the photographs when he visited Beltsville in April 1991 as guest speaker at the Northeast Chapter Spring Meeting. Wolfgang brought back to Europe a rhizome with single culm which is doing well at his *Bambu Centrum Italia*, Carasco near Genoa. When I saw it in August last year the new culms were too small to show its striped and wrinkled characteristics. Perhaps this year's culms will oblige! Wolfgang also gave a small piece to Peter Addington, President of the British section of the EBS. This is alive and well, but still very small. Peter's garden is home to the National Collection of *Phyllostachys*.

I had been thinking for several years that I would like to fly on the Concorde. I have a friend, Chris McMahon, with whom I ski, who is a Concorde Captain, and I knew that he would make the necessary arrangements for me, a Boeing 737 Captain with British Airways, to go with him as "extra crew".

Wolfgang was able to arrange for me to collect pot-grown plants from Chris DeRosa of Rockport, MA. My Concorde Friend often flies into New

York and it would be easy to fly up to Boston for the day. All I had to do was compare rosters to coordinate my days off with Chris McMahon's trips to New York and to obtain the proper plant permits.

Chris DeRosa was unable to meet me because of urgent landscaping work with heavy machinery. This was a disappointment as I still haven't made his acquaintance. However, his charming wife Janet and a young friend drove to Logan Airport with the 'Harbin' plants and we had a very enjoyable lunch together after getting the Phytosanitary Certificate. Then I had to return to New York. The autumn colors seen en route from the small commuter plane, flying at low altitudes, were stunning. We had blue skies and bright sunshine.

I brought back 'Harbin' safely and gave the larger plant to Peter Addington, who has been so generous to me with plants from his wonderful garden at Fittleworth in West Sussex. Its supersonic journey across the Atlantic in 3 hours 15 minutes must contrast dramatically with its probable journey by boat across the Pacific and then overland from the West Coast across North America. I wonder how many days that journey took? Surely it couldn't have traveled bare-root as mine had done.

I am indebted to Wolfgang Eberts for "smoothing my way" to obtaining this highly sought after plant, to Chris DeRosa for his generosity in giving them to me, and to Chris McMahon for taking me as extra-crew. I was able to combine the thrill of obtaining this rare and unusual bamboo with the thrill of Concorde flight from the cockpit. Super Sonic Phyllostachys, indeed!

Captain Tony Pike, EBS

Newsletter Dateline

All submissions for the next issue of the American Bamboo Society Newsletter should be received on or before March 31, 1992. Please mail to the address posted in the masthead to be found on the inside cover of this newsletter.

Calendar Of Events

1992

Feb. 29	Texas Chapter Inaugural Meeting, 1-5 pm, Austin Botanical Gardens in Zilker Park. For more information, call Herb Hillery at (512) 452-7146.
March 21	Southern California Chapter Semiannual Show And Sale, Quail Botanical Gardens. For more information, call George Shor at (619) 453-0334.
March 28-29	Southeastern Highlands Chapter meeting at the Memphis, TN, Zoo. For more information, call (901) 422-5952.
April 24	Northern California Chapter Annual Bamboo Auction, Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park. For more information, call Karl Bareis at (408) 427-1034
April 11	Northeast Chapter Spring Meeting at Arnold Arboretum, Boston, MA. For more information, call Chris DeRosa at (508) 546-3581.
May 31	Caribbean Chapter Annual Show And Sale, 9:30 AM at Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, FL. For more information, call Elizabeth Haverfield at (305) 662-2315.
June 13	Pacific Northwest Chapter Annual Sale And Auction, Graham Visitor Center, UW Arboretum, Seattle, WA. For more information, call James Clever at (206) 782-3490.
Sept. 19	Southern California Chapter Semiannual Show And Sale, Quail Botanical Gardens. For more information, call George Shor at (619) 453-0334.
Oct. 23-25	ABS Annual Meeting, Sale And Auction, Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, FL. For more information, call Elizabeth Haverfield at (305) 662-2315.
Nov. 11-13	Third International Bamboo Congress, Minamata City, Kumamoto, Japan. Copies of the First Circular are still available from many Chapters or ABS.

American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 2 | P.O. Box 215, Slingerlands, NY 12159 | April 1992

From The President

Spring is the time for new growth, new ideas, new inspirations. At the same time bamboo is about to shoot up from the ground, and preparations are fast underway to prepare for the busy growing and selling season ahead, new inspirations and ideas are in demand. Since flower and garden shows are the premier display of information to the general public, and although they require a tremendous amount of time and effort, they are well rewarded by the interest they generate.

To this end, even as this newsletter goes to press, I have set up and am staffing an exhibit at the San Francisco Landscape Garden Show, Golden Gate Park, from April 8 to April 12. I have also just given a slide lecture at the Strybing Arboretum Society of Golden Gate Park, having recently returned from a lecture at the inaugural meeting of the Texas Chapter of ABS.

Hard work, this rhizomatous spreading of the bamboo word. Hard work, but rewarding and enjoyable.

Gerald Bol
President, ABS



Editorial

One of the most exciting things happening within the American Bamboo Society today is the revision of the Constitution and Bylaws to better reflect the national, and indeed, international scope of the growing Society of Bamboo. While we have received several suggestions for revisions at the Newsletter address, we have chosen not to print them at present, but rather to forward them to the proper committee for consideration. Once the committee has formulated suggestions, we will publish them in the Newsletter and then proceed to act as a forum for the discussion of them.

Observations that I have noticed in both the discussion held at the ABS meeting last September in Seattle, as well as in the printed material received by us, is that there are presented either (1) idealistic generalizations and demands or (2) anger at failed performances of the ABS.

If we want specific changes to be made by ABS we should offer specific methods or plans by which these changes can be implemented. For instance, if we are to place demands for performance on the officers of the organization, then we must assume that they are **most** dedicated to this plant we call "bamboo" or perhaps that they need to be compensated for the time involved in performing these demands, or both. It then follows that we need to formulate a plan for raising the funds necessary for compensation.

An example of time involved in making this organization run is our own example of the Newsletter. Michael and I have set aside one day a week, which averages a minimum of 10 actual working hours, to put out this newsletter. This is time I could be spending, like everyone else volunteering for this organization, in pursuit of gainful employment.

American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 2 April 1992

American Bamboo Society Officers

President:	Gerald Bol
Vice President:	David King
Treasurer:	Richard Haubrich
Membership:	Richard Haubrich
Secretary:	Elizabeth Haverfield
Newsletter Editors:	Michael A. Bartholomew
	James H. Filkins
Journal Editor:	Ken Brennecke

The President of the American Bamboo Society may be reached at:

Gerald Bol
666 Wagnon Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Home (707) 823-5866
FAX (707) 829-8106

All correspondence concerning American Bamboo Society Membership, address changes or the Bamboo Source List should be sent to:

Richard Haubrich
P.O. Box 640
Springville, CA 93265
Home (209) 539-2145
FAX (209) 539-2145

All correspondence concerning the American Bamboo Society Newsletter, comments, letters, proposed articles, announcements and Chapter reports should be sent to the attention of Michael Bartholomew or Jim Filkins at:

American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215

You may also reach the editors by telephone:

Michael Bartholomew	Jim Filkins
Home (518) 765-2347	Home (518) 872-2472
Work (518) 765-3507	FAX (518) 872-2702
FAX (518) 765-2490	

Membership in the American Bamboo Society for individuals is $15 for the calendar year and includes a subscription to the Newsletter and Journal. The Newsletter is issued bimonthly. Subscriptions for organizations and institutions are $20 per year.

I am able to justify this time spent by the fact that I am committed to performing volunteer services and thus: since "Bamboo is one of the single most useful plants to the largest number of people in the world. If as Newsletter Editor, I am able to influence the utilization and propagation of this plant, I may be able to touch millions of lives". Not everyone in the organization is as committed to altruistic motives, and that is o.k. They still make it run.

Enquire about our current organization and contribute towards its progressive reform. Offer well thought out, specific reforms. Be kind to those who have performed in the past to bring us to this juncture. Be patient if those volunteers currently performing are not always able to comply with expected demands and deadlines; they have other demands and deadlines to meet as well. Volunteer to be of assistance. We will then have a well run organization of which we will all be proud, and which others will want to participate in.

Jim Filkins
Editor

Bylaws Reminder

The Bylaw Committee needs to hear directly from the membership and/or Chapters. Please communicate your ideas to any or all of them. The Committee may wish to publish in the Newsletter particularly thoughtful and succinct comments.

Gerald Bol	Richard Haubrich
666 Wagnon Road	P. O. Box 690
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David King
480 West "I" Street
Benicia, CA 94510
Tel. (707) 745-4091
FAX (707) 746-1051

1992 ABS Annual Meeting and Conference

Dear Bamboo Friend,

The 1992 ABS Annual Meeting and Conference, including plant sale and auction, will be hosted by the Caribbean Chapter. The Conference is slated for October 23-25, and will take place at Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami, FL. For further information contact the 1992 ABS Conference Chairperson, Elizabeth Haverfield.

An ABS Chapter Poster Session will be held during the Friday afternoon segment of the ABS Conference. Each Chapter of ABS is encouraged to participate. Each poster must be accompanied by a Chapter representative.

Gerald "Stinger" Guala has agreed to be one of the two lecturers at the conference. We are thrilled that he will be able to fit us into his busy schedule. We are presently negotiating with Peter Bindon of Australia to be our second speaker. He has expressed great enthusiasm in coming, and we will keep our fingers crossed.

1992 ABS Annual Meeting Auction

The American Bamboo Society's Annual Bamboo Auction, as part of the ABS Annual Conference, is sponsored this year by the Caribbean Chapter. This auction is well known for supplying rare and unusual bamboos to its membership, and the Caribbean Chapter is striving to continue that tradition for 1992. As the primary fundraiser for ABS, the auction helps support various bamboo research and preservation projects around the World. Prior to the afternoon rare bamboo auction, there will be a morning plant sale consisting of both unusual and more common bamboos.

In order to assure an adequate selection of specimens for the auction, we are requesting donations of rare bamboos from growers and collectors. If you wish to donate any bamboos for either the auction or the sale, please contact us concerning your donation.

Jesse Durko (a board member of the Caribbean Chapter and local nurseryman) is chairing the ABS Auction Committee, and will be prepared to receive shipments starting April 1. Plants should be shipped no later than 6 weeks before the auction, but should not be shipped during August. Shipping by 2-day UPS (Blue Label) seems to be the best compromise for both the health of the plant and the pocketbook. Plants should be shipped to:

1992 ABS Auction
c/o Jesse Durko
5390 S.W. 61 Avenue
Davie, FL 33314

If you have any questions regarding shipping, packing techniques, effects of Miami weather on your plant, etc., please call Jesse at (305) 792-2297 or me.

To those who contributed plants for past auctions, we sincerely thank you and appreciate your continued support. To new contributors, we look forward to seeing you (and your bamboo) in October...so "CULM" on down!!

Best regards,

Elizabeth Ann Haverfield
755 Tiziano Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33143-6263
(305) 662-2315 (EST)

Secretary, American Bamboo Society
Chairperson, 1992 ABS Conference

The ABS Bookstore

The ABS Bookstore has purchased 25 copies of the beautiful bamboo catalog from Wolfgang Eberts Nursery in Baden-Baden, Germany. The text is in German, but the excellent colored photographs of numerous species of hardy bamboos and the superb typography make the book highly useful even for persons who cannot read German. The Catalogs are $7.00 each, postpaid in the US. Make checks payable to Herbert V. Hillery, ABS.

The Bookstore is in the process of reprinting for the ABS out-of-print older books as well as scientific papers on bamboo. As each title becomes available, it will be reported in the Newsletter. Any persons who would like to be on a list to be notified individually can do so by sending a request to:

ABS Bookstore
1909 Richcreek Road
Austin, TX 78757

Bamboo Handi-Crafts

I want to give a little 'How to' information to bamboophiles that might be interested in simple bamboo craft projects. I have made these items from *Phyllostachys aurea* (Golden bamboo) and *Phyllostachys nigra* 'Henonis' (Henon bamboo). The projects follow:

1) Bamboo Drawer & Door Handle

Materials: Short lengths of 1" diameter or smaller cured (dried) culm sections, 10x32 2 1/2" pan head bolts (or counter sunk, brass and whatever size needed for your taste), washers and nuts.

Tools: Hacksaw, coping saw, electric drill and bit, #80 or #120 sandpaper, screwdriver and pliers.

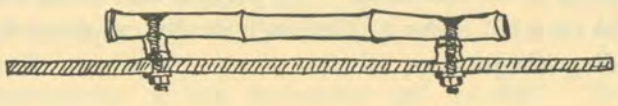
Steps: Measure the handle length and add up to 1" past each bolt hole on the door or drawer. It is important to size the bamboo piece to be cut so that the nodes are near the end of each cut. After marking and sizing the pieces cut them with the hacksaw. These pieces can be either Henon or Golden bamboo.

The spacer pieces are made from 1" sections of Golden bamboo basal culm. This part of the culm is usually very strong due to the convoluted nodes and internodes. One end of each piece must be flat. The other end must be cut in a semicircle to fit the handle piece snugly.

Measure and mark the handle piece to match the holes on the drawer or door. Carefully place the piece on a padded vice and drill the holes with the proper size bit. Then center mark the spacers and drill them out. Sand all the cut edges being careful not to pull fibers out of the piece by stroking away from the cut.

Assemble the parts by sliding the bolt through the handle, each spacer and drawer, then place the washer and tighten the nut down to firmly attach the handle.

Figure 1:



2) Pot Lid Handle

Materials: Short 1" to 2" pieces of Golden bamboo basal culm and Epoxy resin.

Tools: Hacksaw, #80 or #120 sandpaper.

Steps: Many times the plastic handle will break off a pot like 'Revere Ware' and wouldn't it look nice with a bamboo handle?

To do this project cut the bamboo sections with the top solid and hollow out the bottom if necessary. Sand the pieces. For best results, the lid to be repaired must have the bolt still attached. Mix the resin according to instructions, fill the piece with just enough resin to not overflow. Place the lid, upside down on the piece, quickly tape down the piece to the lid and balance upside down where it will not be disturbed for the set time.

After set up, coat the piece with a finish of resin for a water seal.

Figure 2:



3) Bamboo Culm Smoking Pipe

Materials: Golden bamboo basal culm pieces and branch stems.

Tools: Hacksaw, electric drill and bit, #80 or #120 sandpaper and pocket knife.

Steps: Cut the basal culm into about a 1 1/2" piece, being careful to cut above and below the nodes of a burly looking section. The bottom node must be solid. With the pocket knife, carefully cut out the inside of the top node or nodes. Drill a hole with 1/4" or 5/16" bit making sure it is near the bottom of the pipe but not piercing the bottom node. This may be angled slightly to preference.

Taking the branch make a tube by cutting to the outside of two nodes and drilling two small holes through the node wall at each end. The biggest end is then hand sanded to a taper to fit snugly into the pipe bowl. Break it in and it beats a corn cob pipe!

Figure 3:



Gib Cooper
Tradewinds Sailboards and Bamboo Nursery
P.O. Box 70
Calpella, CA 95418
Tel. & FAX (707) 485-0835

International Bamboo News Exchange

Karl Bareis has proposed establishment of an international bamboo news exchange, for access to important bamboo news worldwide. He is looking for several people who can interpret field research and laboratory experiments for regional issues to a wide general audience, analyze key bamboo issues, and provide information back to the societies worldwide for publication. This would include editing or actually interpreting detailed information for a general readership. If you wish to participate as an editor, or have material that needs editing for publication, contact Karl Bareis, 2900 Smith Grade, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

ABS Chapter Notes

Caribbean Chapter

Sixth Annual Show

The Caribbean Chapter's Sixth Annual Show and Sale will be held at Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami on Sunday, May 31, 1992, from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. The silent auction will end at 3:00 pm. For further information please contact Peter Dodge at (305) 361-4424 days or (305) 285-8864 evenings.

T-Shirt Design Contest

The Caribbean Chapter will hold a T-Shirt Design Contest at the Show and Sale on May 31, where the public will judge the winner. The winning T-Shirt will make its debut at the ABS Conference in October. The theme is "Tropical Bamboo", so all aspiring artists, nationwide, are encouraged to participate. Design entry deadline is May 21. For further information contact Elizabeth Haverfield, 755 Tiziano Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33143-6263, or (305) 662-2315 (EST).

"Stinger" in Brazil

Gerald "Stinger" Guala is currently in Brazil doing research and collecting for *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation of potentially endangered species of bamboo.

Stinger has already spoken at our January Meeting. In addition to teaching us a great deal about Brazilian Bamboos he spoke about several ways groups like ours could help research scientists:

1) When traveling in other countries, we should bring back herbarium specimens of plants seen in the wild, with pertinent data.

2) As a nonprofit society, the ABS can solicit grants for research and collecting. Stinger feels that the Society needs a Scientific Director who could act as a liaison between the society and the scientific community, benefitting all concerned.

3) The main areas of knowledge which our members can share with the scientists are cultivation and propagation. With the ever increasing need for preservation and conservation comes the awareness that to know a plant from an herbarium sheet and text is just part of the picture.

Elizabeth Haverfield

Northeast Chapter

On Saturday, April 11th, at the Arnold Arboretum (Boston, MA) our Spring Meeting featured speakers on the topics such as "Bamboos for the Northeast", "Hardy Clumping Bamboos of China", "Bamboo as

Houseplants", and "Propagation of Bamboo". The attendance again reflected the growing interest of Bamboo in the Northeast, and this makes us smile.

Also, three of our Northeast members were in print recently. Nurseryman, Robert Lester (Easton, PA) was profiled in a wonderful article regarding specialty growers in the *Mid-Atlantic Country* magazine March issue, which included some interesting background on Robert and a photographic hint of his bamboo growing at his Springhill estate. Our Chapter president, Chris DeRosa (Rockport, MA), wrote a great article extolling the virtues of bamboo as ornamentals, which appeared in the March 15 issue of *American Nurseryman.* A sidebar highlighting Fargesia was included, contributed by nurseryman, Kurt Bluemel (Baldwin, MD).

A sampling of David Flanagan's bamboo fencing (The Bamboo Fencer, Jamaica Plain, MA) was on display at both the New York Flower Show and the New England Flower Show, March 15-22. Impressive and effective, as always. For the chance to see the fencing and the fencer, we will be having our summer meeting in Jamaica Plain at David's workshop sometime in August or September. This will be an opportunity for a hands on workshop, in addition to visiting the Brewery and Mexican food shops in the same building! Stay tuned for the date.

Jim Filkins, our dedicated newsletter editor, gave a wonderful talk on Japanese Gardens, of course, mentioning bamboo a time or two, at the Capital District Garden and Flower Show, in Albany, NY, in March. His enthusiasm is addicting!

Our next Board Meeting will be at the Publick House in Sturbridge, MA on June 22. Please join us for fine food as well as fine talk.

Susanne Lucas

Southeastern Highlands Chapter

Educational Field Days on Bamboo Identification at 'The Bamboo Farm', Savannah, GA, April 18-19, 1992.

Sponsored by the Southeastern Highlands Chapter of the American Bamboo Society.

During the interval between USDA management of the old Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Garden and its current incarnation as the Coastal Area Research Center under the University of Georgia... some of the bamboos ran together (as bamboos will!) and some got lost in the brush, some labels got lost, records too -- now, although many of the species are labeled and the groves groomed (Hoo ray!), there are also orphans (Boo!).

Lots of bambuseros we've talked with have said they wanted to know more about "how to ID bamboo."

So let's get together and share what we know, learn more and try to locate and identify some of the lost species.

As with **all** Southeastern Highlands Chapter events, everyone is welcome and there will be **no charge**; however, we will ask a donation **this time** to help with the cost of handouts and travel expenses for speakers.

To get there: South on I-95, take exit #16, turn left back under I-95 on J.O. Bacon Hwy. At light turn right, go 1/2 block and turn left onto Canebrake Road. Go 3/4 mile on Canebrake, enter first gate on left after you see bamboo. There is a Super 8 Motel (912) 927-8550 as well as a Travel-Lodge at exit #16.

There will be a 5% discount on airfare (Delta) if booked through The Travel Agency.

There will also be a Ribeye Barbecue on Saturday night.

For more information contact: Frank Linton at (912) 921-5461

Susanne & Adam Turtle

Pacific Northwest Chapter

April 18 Portland Meeting... at the Hoyt Arboretum at the Tree House. Starting at 9:00 am we will plant some bamboo. At our last work party we rechanneled Johnson Creek. This slowed the water and raised it's level, and created places to plant bamboo that will be contained by the stream, and the path.

12:00: The Arboretum will provide lunch for bamboo society members in appreciation for the work we have done there. If you intend to attend this lunch you **must** make reservations. Call Ned Jaquith at (503) 231-7322 or Jim Clever at (206) 782-3490.

1:00 pm: We will have a short meeting, followed by a demonstration on flute making and a bamboo auction and custody plant awards.

Custody Plants: There will be several very rare bamboos made available as custody plants at this meeting, including at least two very rare *Fargesias* (hardy clumpers).

Canada Meeting

On May 2 we will have our annual Canada meeting at VanDusen Garden in Vancouver British Columbia:
9:00 am: We will meet at the VanDusen parking lot for a tour of Vancouver area bamboos.
1:00 pm: Mike Curtis will report on the Thailand conference. Graem Bain will do a presentation on nite lighting of bamboo in the landscape.

There will be a nice selection of bamboos for this auction. Be sure to travel with a friend, and try some of the special restaurants. We've had some great *dim sum* and seafood on earlier trips.

June Plant Sale & Rare Bamboo Auction

Now is the time to dig, divide and prepare your plants for our 1992 fund raising sale in June. Donations of plants are gladly accepted. The need for plants and help at the sale may be greater then ever this year due to the fact that over 2,000 notices of our sale were handed out during the Flower & Garden Shows in February. For more information on the event, and to volunteer your help, contact Edie Baer by calling 503-644-3651.

The Quarantine greenhouse project got off to a good start a few Saturdays ago, when an enthusiastic work party prepared the site for the foundation. Since then the foundation has been poured, drain and drywell in place, and flooring should be poured soon.

Ned Jaquith

Southern California Chapter

ABS-SoCal Spring Sale

The Southern California Chapter held its spring bamboo sale March 21 handicapped by this year's "March miracle" rains. It rained on and off all week. It rained Friday afternoon while we were setting out the plants. The phone rang steadily with people asking "will the sale be cancelled." It rained Friday night, and even rained a little bit on Saturday morning. In the end, the day was beautiful, but the attendance was reduced, and sales were down about 1/3 from last year.

This time we tried having an auction but the results were somewhat disappointing (some rare plants didn't sell at all, and others went for very low prices). We had the promised 90+ varieties of bamboos, and sold approximately 375 plants, for a gross of $7000. As in the past, 100% of the money from plants raised at Quail Gardens goes to support the bamboo collection at the gardens, and 70% of the price (after tax) of plants provided by individuals goes to the growers, so that in the end about 20% of the gross goes to the Chapter..

SoCal Chapter Makes Grants for Research and Collections

The Southern California Chapter is now officially a non-profit charitable corporation for support of research, collection, and importation of bamboos. (If you are trying to attain the same status, just write to our Secretary, George Shor, at 2655 Ellentown Road, La Jolla, CA 92037, for copies of the various forms successfully submitted.)

While a large proportion of the money that we raise at sales goes for support of the quarantine and propagation greenhouses and the bamboo display collection at Quail, and the off-site reference collection, we also make grants. During the past year and this year to date, we have provided funds to the following: $300 to the Caribbean Chapter in support of "Stinger" Guala's studies of Brazilian bamboos, $500 to Richard Neufeld for collecting in Thailand, $500 to Ray Briggs to investigate setting up a holding facility in Thailand, and $500 to Iowa State University in support of Richard Pohl's researches in Costa Rica. We are currently considering other requests. We are also happy to exchange specimen plants with other groups.

We will entertain proposals for support of research and collection of bamboos, as well as for exchange of plants. Proponents should realize that our grants will total only a few thousand dollars each year. In view of federal requirements about record-keeping, we have decided that we will **not** make any grants, or engage in any major plant-exchange programs, in response to phone calls. Phone if you want, but before any action can be taken, requests must be sent in writing to the Southern California Chapter, and must state the purpose for which the grant is requested and include a budget.

New Import Permit

The Southern California Chapter requested from the US Department of Agriculture, a new importation permit in the name of George Shor, to replace the one (which expired February 28) that was previously held by Gilbert Voss; Gil says he can no longer spend the time. We received our new importation permit March 30; the USDA official said it was delayed because of the large backlog of requests. After a short delay, we are again able to arrange for any shipments to Quail Gardens.

George Shor

Texas Chapter

On Saturday afternoon, 29 February, 1992, seventeen people met at the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Botanical Gardens, Austin, TX, to organize the Texas Bamboo Society Chapter of the American Bamboo Society. Gerald Bol, President of the ABS, who make a special trip from Sebastapol, CA, and Tony Poncik, Horticulturist of the San Antonio Zoo, were the main speakers. Gerald spoke of his field trips and showed excellent slides of many bamboos. Tony described his work with over 35 species of bamboo at the Zoo.

Herb Hillery, who had called the meeting to order and introduced the speakers, spoke on reasons why Texas needed to have a Chapter and showed a few slides of bamboos growing in Central Texas.

Literature from the ABS including copies of the latest newsletter, the Book List, and the Source List were distributed, and books from the ABS Bookstore were sold.

During the business session, it was agreed that the Chapter should be founded. Dues were set at $10 per year. Herb Hillery was chosen President and Poncik was made Treasurer. Pat and Herb Hillery volunteered to publish the newsletters. Thirteen persons became members of the new Chapter.

To conclude the meeting, Gerald auctioned 32 bamboo plants, several of which had been donated by nurseries and individuals from other chapters. The other plants were brought to Austin by Gerald and sold to help pay for his trip which was partially funded by the ABS.

Herb Hillery

Letters To The ABS

Thank You Richard

...The purpose of this brief note, from one of your farthest flung members, is that the retirement of Richard Haubrich should not go without recording my thanks and gratitude for all his work in making the ABS what it is today. It takes a visionary to found a society such as the ABS. To perceive a need, to see its long term potential and benefits, the friendship that they create, the camaraderie that results from grouping the lonely pursuits of individuals who otherwise might never meet, the fellowship that has developed beyond the initial common interest in bamboos and all the joys of travel, seeking and sharing.

Whilst it is relatively easy to enumerate the benefit, it is much more difficult and indeed discouraging to turn that vision into a reality, to enthuse others to find other bamboo lovers, communicate and share the vision with them, to enlist help and to attend to the endless correspondence and all the other work that is entailed in establishing a new society. It is only a real enthusiast who can achieve this level of commitment. Each thankless task when conquered is turned into another milestone in the climb to achieving success.

It is impossible to adequately thank or appreciate this level of commitment to a cause. It behooves each and every one of us not to let this moment pass without recording our depth of gratitude for accomplishing so much so well in such a short time.

Yours sincerely,

John Joe Costin
Costin's Nurseries
Portgloriam Kilcock
County Kildare
Dublin, Ireland

Phyllostachys flexuosa in Bloom

I thought it timely to advise the members of the ABS of my first observation of the blooming of *Phyllostachys flexuosa*.

The plants are beginning a full bloom on all culms. The first observation was on 3/29/92. Please announce this

occurrence in the ABS Newsletter and ask others to look over their plants of *P. flexuosa* carefully for signs of blooming.

Sincerely,
Gib Cooper
Tradewinds Sailboards and Bamboo Nursery
PO Box 70
Calpella, CA 95418
Tel. & FAX (707) 485-0835

From Hawaii

Just a note to inform ABS members who may be intending to go to Europe this summer, that my bamboo craft work will be displayed and sold at Expo '92 in Seville, Spain at the Discover Craft America pavilion.

I have also recently completed an architectural installation at the new Grand Hyatt here on Maui.

Jim Green
P.O. Box 930
Makawao, HI 96768
(808) 572-8163

Bamboo Song

A while ago I heard a French song on the radio and all of a sudden I realized: Bingo, that's it! This song will be our **Bamboo Song**, the hymn that unites all bamboo folks around the globe. Come together! At least our French members of ABS, readers of this Newsletter will agree when they hear the title. It is *La Ballade Des Gens Heureux*. Translated in English: *The Song of the Happy Folks*.

Once before I had tried to dig up someone who not only has a love for bamboo, but who also has a talent for music. Imagine, for the first time an International Bamboo Hymn. The author of the song would become immortal! We would sing it at many occasions: We would sing it on the mountain, we would sing it in the grove, we would sing it in the bathtub, we would sing it...

Where did the tape of the original French song go that I had sent over to California? Unfortunately, I haven't heard any echo since then. Of course I am impatient!

What can we do? I don't give up easily. First I need the support of a few French bamboo friends: *allons les amis du bambou, ou etes vous?* Robert (Hebrard, architect of the unique "Musical Village"), *donnes un coup de main!* Then we need David Farelly. Hello David, where are you these days? David, you have proved before with your bamboo song. Remember in Prafrance? Can we take the old verses? Would the text fit with the tune? Does it need a little bit of updating?

EBS Germany, who has welcomed its 400th member last week, would like to donate a prize for the winner of the contest. Sorry, no prepaid Lufthansa ticket to the Old World, but something you will definitely make your friends jealous with, it is the brand new *BAMBUSCENTRUM DEUTSCHLAND* T-shirt.

Wolfgang Eberts
757 Baden-Baden
Germany

Proposed Newsletter Schedule

We hope to adhere to a schedule for printing the newsletter along with deadline dates so that information can be sent to us and printed on a timely basis.

We plan to publish the 1992 ABS Newsletter with the following datelines for submission of material:

1992 Newsletter Issue	Dateline
June	May 18
August	July 20
October	September 21
December	November 23

Although we have given proposed datelines, please remember that this is the **latest** date for submission, there is no such thing as too early!

Our job as Newsletter Editors is the timely exchange of information. Your assistance in performing that function is immensely appreciated.

Michael Bartholomew
Jim Filkins, Editors

Calendar Of Events

1992

April 18	Pacific Northwest Chapter meeting at the Hoyt Arboretum. For more information, call James Clever at (206) 782-3490.
April 18-19	Educational Field Days on Bamboo Identification at "The Bamboo Farm", Savannah, GA. Sponsored by the Southeastern Highlands Chapter, ABS. For more information contact: Frank Linton at (912) 921-5461
May 31	Caribbean Chapter Annual Show And Sale, 9:30 AM at Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, FL. For more information, call Elizabeth Haverfield at (305) 662-2315.
June 13	Pacific Northwest Chapter Annual Sale And Auction, Graham Visitor Center, UW Arboretum, Seattle, WA. For more information, call James Clever at (206) 782-3490.
Sept. 19	Southern California Chapter Semiannual Show And Sale, Quail Botanical Gardens. For more information, call George Shor at (619) 453-0334.
Oct. 23-25	ABS Annual Meeting, Sale And Auction, Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, FL. For more information, call Elizabeth Haverfield at (305) 662-2315.
Nov. 11-13	Third International Bamboo Congress, Minamata City, Kumamoto, Japan. Copies of the First Circular are still available from many Chapters or ABS.

1993

September	ABS Annual Meeting, Sale And Auction, Arnold Arboretum, Boston, MA. For more information, call Chris DeRosa at (508) 546-3581.

First Class Mail

American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215
USA

American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 3 | P.O. Box 215, Slingerlands, NY 12159 | June 1992

From The President

Dr. Lynn Clark has evidence strongly suggesting **rice** is a herbaceous bamboo! This startling discovery resulted from molecular DNA research conducted with colleague, **Dr. Jonathan Wendel** in preparation for a much more extensive study and NSF grant proposal. This potential of DNA research combined with morphology is staggering. In our lifetime we may actually understand the basic **family tree** of bamboo.

On June 3 members of the ABS and Japan Bamboo Society of Saratoga (JBSS) will meet with organizers of IBC III visiting from Japan. Final arrangements for the rapidly approaching Conference this Fall will be discussed. For information about attending the event or the tour preceding the event, please contact either me or Ginger Bareis, 2900 Smith Grade Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. FAX (408) 427-0443.

The first Worldwide Guadua Congress will be held in Pereira, Colombia on August 12 to 15 (See ABS Newsletter Vol. 13, No.1). The fee for participation and lodging is $450.00. For details and registration form, contact me or your Chapter President.

The Bylaws Committee consisting of myself, Richard Haubrich, and David King, while admittedly and apologetically behind schedule, will meet face to face early in June to reconcile our individual efforts. We appreciate the input we have been given, even the cantankerous stuff. My personal bent is towards having the fewest possible rules and restrictions while maintaining a viable structure. It seems to me, the primary function of bylaws is to keep other organizations such as State and Federal Government off our backs. Rules stifle creativity.

Many potentially valuable things don't get done because people either are unaware of them, or they distrust their own ability. I see huge gaps, huge potentialities begging to be filled, waiting for someone to say "I'll do that". Most of us who do volunteer our time, would happily turn our task over to someone else if that someone demonstrated the will and aptitude. This short life is a great deal more exhilarating if we take some chances and stretch a bit. Volunteers reap rewards of the spirit, the knowledge that we serve something larger than ourselves.

Gerald Bol
President, ABS

III International Bamboo Congress and Japan Tour

III I B C
JAPAN

Final "adjustments" in the program for the III IBC have been negotiated in Kumamoto Japan this past spring. Changes will provide time during the two-day Congress for International Bamboo Societies to meet and informally discuss issues.

Representatives of Japan Bamboo Society, Indonesia Bamboo Society, Bamboo Society of India, several representatives of the European Bamboo Society and hopefully twenty-five members of the American Bamboo Society will be present. International Conferences are times for significant decision-making possibilities; this is a good opportunity for individual members to meet and exchange information with Society members from around the world. In addition to the speakers representing research carried out in eleven countries the free time offers the only possibility of compiling first hand knowledge and relationships with international experts in areas where ABS members may be most interested.

American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 2 April 1992

American Bamboo Society Officers

President:	Gerald Bol
Vice President:	David King
Treasurer:	Richard Haubrich
Membership:	Richard Haubrich
Secretary:	Elizabeth Haverfield
Newsletter Editors:	Michael A. Bartholomew
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All correspondence concerning American Bamboo Society Membership, address changes or the Bamboo Source List should be sent to:

Richard Haubrich
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All correspondence concerning the American Bamboo Society Newsletter, comments, letters, proposed articles, announcements and Chapter reports should be sent to the attention of Michael Bartholomew or Jim Filkins at:

American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215

You may also reach the editors by telephone:

Michael Bartholomew	Jim Filkins
Home (518) 765-2347	Home (518) 872-2472
Work (518) 765-3507	FAX (518) 872-2702
FAX (518) 765-2490	

Membership in the American Bamboo Society for individuals is $15 for the calendar year and includes a subscription to the Newsletter and Journal. The Newsletter is issued bimonthly. Subscriptions for organizations and institutions are $20 per year.

Minamata itself lies astride a major geothermal belt which covers the most of Kyushu Island. The hot springs just outside of town where we will be staying offer ABS travelers a chance to experience a very relaxing stay in Minamata. The Hot Springs Hotel faces the Anago Bay and is actually a small village separated by a range of hills from Minamata.

Plans were set for a post-Congress tour to be led by bamboo expert Harutsugu Kashiwagi, a bamboo man who has spent twenty years working with the collection at Fuji Bamboo Gardens, and who will share his special relationship with the plant community of these volcanic islands during an excursion planned for November 13th. He also plans to be with us on most of the ABS travels throughout the twelve days in Japan.

Members of the ABS sponsored travel to Japan will be receiving the final itinerary in early June which will give the specifics about travel throughout Japan and offer reading suggestions connected to the landscape gardens, crafts, and culture of Japan.

ABS/Japan Travel

There are only nine places remaining for the Japan trip this fall. The American Bamboo Society will travel for twelve days from Hakone National Park near Tokyo to Southern Kyushu Island. As members of the Bamboo Society we will be met by Japan Bamboo Society members and tour several private gardens around historic Kyoto.

The complete tour itinerary is available from Karl and Ginger Bareis, 2900 Smith Grade Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (408) 427-1034, FAX (408) 427-0443. The cost is $2800. Places must be secured with a $500.00 deposit by June 30th 1992.

European Bamboo Society (France), intends to travel to Minamata, with as many as thirty members, including organizers of the last International Bamboo Congress held at *Prafrance Bamboo Park* in Anduse, France during the Summer of 1988.

Newsletter Dateline

All submissions for the next issue of the American Bamboo Society Newsletter should be received on or before July 20, 1992. Please mail to the Newsletter address posted in the masthead.

1992 ABS Annual Meeting and Conference Update

Saturday Morning Sale...Vendors' Notice:

Vendors planning to sell their bamboo at the Saturday morning sale must reserve their spot in the sale area of the Fairchild Tropical Gardens (FTG) Garden House by July 31. Space is limited, so make your reservation early. Contact:

Debbie Gideon
15445 S.W. 232 Street
Miami, Florida 33170
(305) 662-1800

or

Elizabeth Haverfield
(305) 662-2315

Lectures:

Peter Bindon of the Australian Bamboo Network has graciously agreed to be one of two speakers at the Saturday evening banquet. More will be printed about Peter in the next newsletter. Gerald "Stinger" Guala, a botanist who recently returned from Brazil, will be the other lecturer.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Meetings:

Friday afternoon, October 23, 2:00 pm, SIG round-table discussions are scheduled; SIGs wishing to be presented at the ABS Conference must reserve a time slot by contacting the:

SIG Committee
c/o Edgar "Wink" Winkleman
12501 S.W. 236 Street
Homestead, FL 33032

Newsletter Editors/Writers Meeting:

During the SIG meetings, a special round-table discussion for both local and national newsletter editors and contributing writers will be scheduled. The discussion will be focused on "Networking Local Chapters with the National Newsletter...An Evolution in Progress".

Early Registration:

Bamboophiles wishing to register early for the conference can send a check for $90.00 to:

Ck. sent #489
21 June 92

CC-ABS
c/o Mike Kellum
2618 Flamingo Lane
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

The registration fee includes access to FTG for 2 days and 1 night, dinner Friday night, lunch Saturday and Sunday, Saturday evening banquet, and lectures.
(305) 258-4580

Designated Motel for the ABS Conference:

Riviera Court Motel
5100 Riviera Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146
(305) 665-3528

Rooms are $53.00, effiencies are $64.00 a day plus 10.5% tax. Members of AAA, AARP, or a group are entitled to a 10% discount. There is an additional $5.00 charge for adding a third person to a room.

Elizabeth Ann Haverfield
755 Tiziano Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33143-6263

Phone (305) 662-2315 EST
FAX (305) 662-2315 on 1:00-2:00 pm & 7:00-8:00

"Working with Bamboo" Workshop

The Japan Bamboo Society of Saratoga, Northern California Chapter of the American Bamboo Society, and the Japan Society of Northern CA will be co-sponsoring a one-day introduction and demonstration of Working with Bamboo with Doug Lingen, instructor, on Saturday, July 18th. The workshop will be held at Hakone Gardens in Saratoga, CA from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Hakone is the site of an authentic Japanese hill and strolling pond garden as well as a recent Bamboo Park addition containing many rare bamboo specimens. Participation is limited. For more information contact:

Japan Bamboo Society of Saratoga
c/o Janice Morgan
20120 Williamsburg Lane
Saratoga, CA 95070
Phone: (408) 867-2661

Victory Garden Visits Steve Ray

The *Victory Garden*, a nationally syndicated Public Broadcasting System (PBS) television program, visited Steve Ray's bamboo groves in Birmingham, AL. The program aired in mid-May and featured Steve showing off some of his fabulous groves of *Phyllostachys elegans, P. nigra, P. n.* 'Henon', and *P. pubescens* (Moso) bamboo. Steve has been promoting and selling bamboo for many years and enthusiastically represented Bambuseros with his fine presentation.

International Conference - France

The **All IUFRO Division 5 Conference** will be held in Nancy, France during 23-28 August 1992. The theme for this conference is "Better Wood Products Through Science". It is expected that a number of bamboo scientists and bamboo lovers will attend this conference.

For the IUFRO Project Group P 5.04 (Production and Utilization of Bamboo and Related Species), 4 hours has been allocated for presentation of invited paper and voluntary papers, and space for poster presentation will be provided. Some papers have been listed for the meeting of P 5.04 in Nancy.

Invited paper

Walter Liese:	Production and utilization of bamboo and related species in the year 2000

Voluntary papers

S. Thammincha:	Bamboo and rattan marketing
P.M. Ganapathy:	Bamboo mat boards
S. Siripattandilok:	Anatomical aspects of rattan utilization
K.M. Bhat:	Rattan research for better furniture products of the future

For more information and/or application forms please write to:

The Secretary
IUFRO Division 5
Conference Office
14, rue Girardet
F - 54042 NANCY CEDEX
FRANCE

SIG News

Your Curator needs Data! In order to provide information to those interested in locating and conserving certain bamboos, I must obtain input from individuals and institutions involved in the importation, quarantine, and/or propagation of bamboo plants. Thus far, data acquisition has been rather piecemeal, resulting in a database which, although informative in the case of some recently imported species, could stand a bit of "filling out" and diversification. Important information can (and must) come from those holding plants in quarantine, for instance. Members frequently suggest that data about new plants are not easily obtainable. Some even question whether the bamboos themselves are being made available as rapidly as they could be. A centrally maintained quarantine database, perhaps electronically made available to all members, could satisfy both the cynics and the curious. I am willing to continue assembling information on the bamboo holdings of institutions and individuals; these data must be shared in order to be useful to all.

Please submit relevant information on bamboos using the form included at the back of the newsletter. If th information is in an IBM-compatible database such as dBase or Paradox, or in a spreadsheet like Lotus or Quattro, I can read it directly from a diskette. Environmental data are important on newly-introduced plants, and source information helps to establish a "pedigree" of the bamboo.

The data submitted by quarantine greenhouse managers, bamboo importers and individual collectors/growers will necessarily differ in format and content. I suspect each of us maintains records of his/her plants in a unique manner. Part of my responsibility is to promote a common mode of communication; I have chosen to use a standard called the International Transfer Format (for botanic plant records) for that purpose. In addition, the establishment of a means of electronic exchange of this material should be pursued, probably through the use of an international bulletin board like Compuserve; access can then be obtained with a local telephone call.

David King
480 West "I" Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Phone: (707) 745-4091
(Compuserve ID# 74405,1375)

Stinger Guala Returns from Brazil

The Caribbean Chapter of ABS helped to sponsor a recent trip to Brazil by "Stinger" Guala. The following is a reprint of a report which was submitted to the CCABS and printed in their newsletter.

A Report on My Recent Trip to Brazil

by Stinger Guala

This is a report on my recent 3-week trip to Brazil to put bamboos into cultivation for *ex situ* preservation. The trip was a great success and I thank those of you who helped to fund it. I must also thank Dr. Tarisco Filgueiras and Sr. Dimitri Sucre who were both integral to the success of the trip. I must also thank Mr. Gilberto de Freitas who allowed us to collect on his beautiful farm near Rio. In addition to putting several species of native Brazilian bamboos into cultivation there, I was also able to bring back a few species for cultivation here in the US (listed below).

Actinocladum verticillatum$_1$[S]
Apoclada cannavieira$_1$[S]
Aulonemia aristulatus$_1$[S]
Aulonemia sp.$_1$
Bambusa vulgaris var *vittata*[S]
Chusquea sp. A$_1$
Chusquea sp. B$_1$
Diandolyra pygmaea$_1$
Eremites parviflora$_1$
Guadua angustifolia$_2$[#]
Lithacne pauciflora$_3$[#]
Merostachys sp. A$_1$
Merostachys sp. B$_1$
Nerostachys "Filgueirasii" (formally included in *M. multiramea*)$_1$
Olyra latifolia$_3$
Pharus lappulaceus$_3$
Raddia distichophylla$_1$[S]
Raddia n. sp. (related to *R. brasilensis*)$_1$[S]
Raddia purpurescens$_1$
Streptocheata angustifolia$_3$
Sucrea monophylla$_3$
Sucrea maculata$_1$

$_1$Rhizomes. $_2$Culm cutting. $_3$Seeds. [#]Originally from Panama. [S]Originally from Asia but used as a control species because of its extreme ease of propagation.

Because only two of the species (*Guadua angustifolia* and *Bambusa vulgaris*) were previously cultivated in this country, I feel that I should describe the rest in a little more detail. The following are not meant to be all encompassing but only tidbits that I have observed about them and feel might be useful if they survive.

Actinocladum verticillatum
There are two ecotypes of this species; one grows in deep shade in the gallery forests and the other grows in full sun in open savannas (cerrado). This is the savanna ecotype. It can endure annual fires and generally grows to about 2 m tall although I suspect that in partial shade and with sufficient water it might get to look like the forest type which has much longer culms (to 15 m) that arch into the canopy.

Apoclada cannavieira
A species very close to my heart (My M.S. thesis was "All About *Apoclada*..."). This and the preceding species grow in a really peculiar habitat for a bamboo. They grow in full sun and there are frequent, nearly annual, fires. There is a distinct dry season with almost no rain for 1/2 of the year. The soils are of pH 3.8-5.0 and often very high in Aluminum.

Aulonemia aristulatus
This is from the southernmost population of the species which is also the only one in the Distrito Federal. The population is on a military training ground that is cited to become the new industrial sector of Brasilia.

It grows in shade. It is vining and forms a beautiful cascade along the river there. It bloomed this year but no seeds were produced.

Aulonemia sp.
This is an enormous vine that trails through the Atlantic Rainforest near Rio de Janeiro. It has huge leaf complements of ca. 7 leaves that are each ca. 30-40 cm long and have very long reddish oral setae.

2 *Chusquea spp.*
Two species from the Atlantic Rainforest. One is a vine found making curtains along a river, and the other is erect with culms to 3 cm in dia. and ca. 10 m tall.

Diandolyra pygmaea
Eremites parviflora
Raddia distichophylla
Raddia n. sp. (related to *R. brasilensis*)
Raddia purpurescens
Streptocheata angustifolia
Sucrea monophylla
Sucrea maculata

These are all herbaceous bamboos from the rainforests of eastern Brazil. They are from the living collections of Sr. Dimitri Sucre, for whom the genus *Sucrea* is named. The plants were originally collected by Sr. Sucre, Thomas Soderstrom and Timothy Plowman. They all grow in deep shade and I refer the reader to Dr. Soderstrom's article in the Fairchild Tropical Garden Bulletin 39(3):6-15, for further information.

Lithacne pauciflora
The previous paragraph applies but this one is originally from Panama.

2 *Merostachys spp.*
Two clumping bamboos from the Atlantic Rainforest. Both have culms to ca. 2 cm in dia. and get to be ca. 10-12 m tall in partial shade. One has pretty red oral setae, the other doesn't.

2 *Merostachys "Filgueirasii"* (formally included in *M. multriamea*)
A clumping bamboo now known only from the Reserva Ecologica do IBGE where Dr. Filgueiras is employed. It grows in full to partial shade. The culms can get to ca. 3 cm in diameter and 12 m long being erect for the first 3 m and then cascading back to the ground. Pot grown plants have stayed under 5 m tall.

Olyra latifolia
This is an herbaceous bamboo that is quite variable in size, being happy at 1 m high in some areas and reaching 3 m high in others. It has big leaves and grows in deep or partial shade. It was also once reported from Florida but this report was based on a specimen from Cuba.

Pharus lappulaceus
Another herbaceous bamboo. This one is from the Distrito Federal but the species has been reported from Florida several times. Unfortunately, recent searches by several taxonomists for it here have been unsuccessful and it is probably extinct in Florida.

EBS On Tour

Every year, around the 1st of May, the German Bamboo Society goes on a tour. Last year we visited Peter Addington's Garden, in the south of England which is certainly the finest bamboo display in Europe. The highlight this year was the visit to Sir Peter Smithers garden in Vico-Morcothe, on the lake near Lugano, in the south of Switzerland.

We started out early in Friday morning in Baden-Baden and went to "Insel Mainau", the island in the lake of Konstanz which is well known for its botanical rarities and for its flowers. They welcome over one million visitors a year. The owner is Graf Lennard Bernadotte from Sweden.

Insel Mainau has a long bamboo history. At the beginning of the century the chief gardener Vicor Nohl had planted many bamboos. Quite a number of Phyllostachys, Sasa, and other. In 1922 he wrote an article in *Gartenwelt*, a widespread gardening magazine in those days. He put his emphasis on hardiness. If we read this article we are surprised that most of what he wrote is still good today. We can also note that there must have been quite an interest in bamboo in those days. Indeed there was already a European Bamboo Society which brought out a newsletter. I once had discovered a copy of the year 1906 at Muriel's and Yve's bookshelf. It was edited in Belgium. Therefore I am particularly glad to learn that finally Belgium is creating its own branch within the European Bamboo Society. Bamboo had once played an important rol with a certain group of European garden owners. For many years bamboo had more or less disappeared. It became very quiet in the bamboo grove. Now it has a great revival.

Back to the island and to our noble owners. This time our group was welcome in the castle. Whilst receiving a briefing on the history of the island by the managing director in the beautiful "white ballroom" we were sipping champagne. Mr. Worm, who arranged the program, gave us a good tour through the gardens. Later in the afternoon Countess Sonja, the wife of Count Lennard joined us and we planted a bamboo that should do well in the "Mainau". It was a two meter high specimen of *Phyllostachys aureosulcata spectabilis*, grown in a 12 gallon pot. All the onlookers saw that countess Sonja knows how to work with a spade. She was offered a bamboo T-shirt which she proudly showed and, for the first time, she was named honorary member of the German Bamboo Society.

During the evening in the hotel we had our annual meeting. The next morning the bus left to go south to Lugano. We crossed "San Bernadino Pass", where ther was still lots of snow, the lake up there still frozen. But only half an hour later we saw all kinds of flowering trees and shrubs around us. The magnolias were over

already. Some beautiful *Cornus florida rubra* came at sight. Wisterias of course too, with the white ones just beginning to bloom. We arrived at Sir Peter Smithers garden as planned, the weather could not have been better. What a garden! What a man! It is a privilege to see his garden. Lady Dojean, his lovely wife, is a wonderful host. She gave us such a hearty welcome. She even opened the door to their living room. The house itself is built on a slope, a small river running right through the middle of it. Around this atrium some rare Japanese maples are planted, one can imagine that they love it there. The many terraces were once used as vineyards. Sir Peter is famous for his collection of camellias which had bloomed one month before our visit, also his famous collection of Magnolias (*Magnolia campelli* and others) was through with flowering. But we arrived just at the right time to see another group of his beloved plants in full bloom: the tree peonies. Marvelous, one would never think of so many different colors, different sizes, different flowers. Outstanding. No wonder that Sir Peter Smithers is fascinated by these plants. He has taken hundreds of photos over the years. Everything he does is perfect. His peonie pictures, slides enlarged in a special process, go with exhibits through the whole world.

Sir Peter has a special garden philosophy which he has put down as "rules". The most important rule I recall is: "The older the garden gets, the older its owner gets. Therefore, with growing age of both, the amount of work involved should diminish." Sir Peter has lived to these principles. You can note a canopy of trees as upper level, Magnolia campelli as an example, allowing enough light through but still protecting from the strong sunlight in summer. Under those trees the middle level is mostly formed by rhododendrons, camellias, dogwoods and others. It gives them a certain microclimate. On the ground you note all kinds of lovely little perennials and bulbs. They enjoy it there and help to keep the weeding to a minimum.

The Wisterias that you can see on the terrace are a dream. So many different species that you never get in the nurseries. They mostly come from Japan. Many of Sir Peters introductions he took to his nursery friend Eisenhut (Aconitum) on the other side of the lake, who is propagating these plants and cannot cope with the demand. Eisenhut used to be a secret address for plant collectors; it is not so secret any more.

Oh, Yes, of course the Smithers own some bamboo. What Sir Peter bought fifteen years ago at Hilliers in Great Britain as a *Phyllostachys sulfurea*, a tiny little plant which should, according to what they told him, grow to a height of about 9 feet turned out to be a *Phyllostachys edulis* and stands below the house. It has grown to sixty feet. Its culms almost the size of a telephone pole. We came at the right time. Together with other refreshments and in order to prove that this bamboo has really merited its name, the group was offered fresh bamboo shoots with a special sauce on the terrace overlooking the lake. Before we left we offered Sir Peter a bamboo. He brought his famous book, leather bound, which he bought when he was 16 years old. Since that time every plant he bought or he was given was entered in this book. Our bamboo was number 30 154. It was a great honor for me to write in this book. There are still about twenty pages left. No doubt about it, the Smithers own one of the finest private gardens in Europe. It was a privilege for the members of the German Bamboo Society to find the sign at the main gate which said: "Garden is open."

International Bamboo News From The Desk Of Karl Bareis

Notes from Karl:

During the Chiangmai Bamboo Workshop 1991 Punya Poudyal of Nepal approached members of the EBS and ABS to explain that local Nepal funding for a much needed project was in immanent jeopardy. Since that time I have been working with him to create an international support group.

Sponsorship by international organizations is very useful in obtaining local support. Our societies' support should be useful in getting the government to put into practice the bamboo research which has so carefully been compiled over forty years in Nepal and elsewhere in Asia. Additionally the appropriate scale of the project makes it perfect for world bamboo Societies to jointly offer their symbolic support.

Punya Poudyal will be speaking on "Bamboo Used as Fodder (Substitute) in Kathmandu River Valley" at the III International Bamboo Congress in Japan. Following is a letter from Punya Poudyal:

From Kathmandu, Nepal

Kathmandu valley, located in central Nepal has three major rivers which provide drainage for the surrounding mountains. While the valley floor is only 4400 feet in elevation the mountain peaks range to 22,600 feet. As the Valley population has grown surrounding forest reserves have been rapidly defoliated as the major source of animal fodder and wood gathering for use in cooking fires. As a result of these practices, area runoff has increased along the Kathmandu River system. Rapidly increasing erosion to riverbanks and river bed scouring has left the 145 km system of structured riverbanks in increasing threat to failure.

My proposal is in 1992 to investigate the areas along the Bagmati and Bishnumati Rivers which have suffered from recent severe erosion, to use established criteria in utilizing local bamboo species which would be most appropriate for erosion control. Once the study area has been chosen; negotiations will be carried out with government officials for the use of public lands to function as bamboo propagation nurseries and river bank plantations.

Methodology

1.) Survey erosion sites to determine number of plantlets required.
   a. Specific location will determine type of bamboo plant density.
2.) Establishment of Nursery
   a. gathering plant material for the nursery
   b. utilizing recent technical knowledge to produce high nursery survival percentages.
   c. Nursery care will be approximately ten months.

Desired results must include a permanent program to identify future erosion sites and more importantly to involve the local farming community in the use of bamboo species as a fodder substitute while also functioning to increase local cooking fire stocks or as a sellable resource - utilizing bamboo's unique ability to quickly establish itself, and provide a yearly agricultural crop. Thus bamboo will function, as a river bank erosion control in the short term, while remaining as a long term resource to the local community.

Since looking after the transplanted propagules will not be an easy task, it will be better to involve the farmer who owns the land adjacent to the eroded area in the planting and care of the plantations. After planting the bamboo it will belong to the farmer with responsibility to look after it and utilize it. Assistance in managing the clump will include periodic supervision to increase bamboo output and monitor erosion abatement. These proposals will also result in the lowest erosion management expenses to combat this severe situation in the Kathmandu Valley.

Yours sincerely,
Punya Poudyal
G.P.O. Box 4487
Kathmandu
Nepal

China Forms Bamboo Society

Dr. Fu Maoyi director of the Subtropical Forestry Institute has recently announced the formation of the Chinese Bamboo Society which will be located at The Chinese Academy of Forestry in Fuyang city, Zhejiang province.

The First Chinese Bamboo Congress will be held at the end of September or the beginning of October at the Institute and official representatives of American Bamboo Society have been invited to attend. Dr. Maoyi will be delivering a presentation at the III International Bamboo Conference in Japan. He is the acknowledged world expert on Agro-Forestry (methods of inter-planting of crops to improve production and soil tilth).

The Chinese Bamboo Society will provide bamboophiles with access to the Chinese Bamboo Network which has been gathering research data for five years. It will also provide Societies with a coordinating influence for (1) questions dealing with bamboo exportation, (2) travels within China, (3) joint research, etc.

Official delegations are important formalities in China. ABS should consider having something to present to the Chinese Congress as a symbol of our support.

Karl Bareis
2900 Smith Grade Road
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Phone (408) 427-1034
FAX (408) 427-0443

ABS Chapter Notes

Northeast Chapter

The next Board of Directors Business Meeting is Monday, June 22nd at the Publick House Restaurant in Sturbridge, MA. All are welcome and encouraged to attend, discuss details of upcoming meetings, chapter business, bamboo news, etc. Time: 6:00 pm.

On Saturday, August 29th there will ba an informal meeting of NECABS at the workshop of David Flanagan, The Bamboo Fencer, Jamaica Plain, MA. David's workshop is in the same building as the Sam Adams Brewery and the Tortilla Factory. Bamboo, beer, and tortillas... Should be fun **and** informative!

For more information on either of these meetings please call me at (508) 224-7982.

Susanne Lucas

Southern California Chapter

Ray Briggs presented a written report on Bamboo and New Technology in Thailand and talked at the May 15th meeting about bamboo and the bamboo industry in Thailand.

Shirley Yarnell has returned to Southern California, and immediately volunteered to become Chapter Librarian, which offer was gratefully accepted.

We have revised our meeting schedule as follows:

Our meeting at Huntington Library in San Marino is postponed to July 18th, at which time we will have a talk by Dave Sivertsen and a tour of the bamboo collection at Huntington. Our June 20th meeting will be at Nufeld Nursery, in Oceanside, CA.

We had a very successful work party on April 11th when at short notice a group of us worked to salvage cuttings of *Bambusa tuldoides, B. oldhamii* and *B. beecheyana*, from a friend who wanted them out of his avocado grove.

Gary Stinson has continued major construction at Quail Gardens, this time creating a shade-house area in front of the propagation greenhouse.

Ken Brennecke made a presentation to the Trustees of the Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation, about our long-range plans for a scientific research center at Quail.

George Shor

Letters to the ABS

Flowering Bamboo

Gib Cooper up in Calpella wrote about his *Phyllostachys flexuosa* in bloom; my plant (possibly the same clone as Gib's is from the Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco) has been in full flower for about 1 1/2 years and is producing some viable seed. In addition, two other bamboos of mine are flowering: *Fargesia murielae* (3 months) and *Pleioblastus chino murakamianus* (just observed in May).

David King
480 West "I" Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Phone: (707) 745-4091
(Compuserve ID# 74405,1375)

Smithsonian Specimens

I have sent a flowering branch of *Phyllostachys flexuosa* to the Smithsonian Institution and the National Arboretum. I thought the letter from Mary Sangrey might be interesting to the ABS membership. It appears that the flowering is going to result in a good quantity of viable seed.

Gib Cooper

Dear Mr. Cooper,

Collecting bamboo like yours is quite simple: clip off the representative material (try to limit your pieces to a length of 16"), press it between sheets of newspaper, and allow the material to dry. The reprint, "A guide to collecting bamboo", should answer most if not all of your questions about what parts to collect and what information to provide about your collection so we will be able to prepare a nice, mounted, museum specimen from your collection. Please include the Plant Introduction Number - "PI" if you know it.

Our records show this taxa introduced to the US as PI # 52686, # 75156, and # 116965, however the latter seems to be slightly different and may be a different species. As I'm sure you are aware, although minor morphological differences distinguish *P. flexuosa* from *P. viridi-glaucescens*, the two taxa are quite similar and the major evidence for the distinction of the two as different species is their flowering cycle.

If you have any questions about collecting your bamboo, please contact me. I look forward to receiving your flowering bamboo specimen. It will be a valuable addition to our collection as we currently have only one small, fragmented collection of a flowering specimen from this taxa. This specimen represents the 1924 flowering of *Phyllostachys flexuosa*, our collection holds no material to document the 1876 flowering. Although the 1876 flowering of *P. flexuosa* is well documented in the literature, a museum collection would be very important to confirm to future generations the exact identity of the taxa flowering on that date because sometimes identification are confused and/or taxonomic opinions of what species is what changes.

Also, please encourage other Bamboo Society members to document the flowering of bamboo taxa through museum collections similar to the one you're sending us. It's really not that difficult and it is only through documented specimens housed in museums like the Smithsonian that scientists in the future will be able to confirm the identification of different flowering bamboo and hopefully understand more about the flowering phenomena and bamboo taxa.

Thank-you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Mary Sangrey
166 NHB
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC 20560

Phone (202) 357-4548

Editor's Note: We will contact Mary Sangrey about reprinting "A Guide to Collecting Bamboos" by Thomas R. Soderstrom and Stephen M. Young.

Many thanks

Many thanks to Yvonne Widmer for her correction (ABS Newsletter Vol. 13 No. 1) of my terminology regarding Guadua in an earlier letter. I didn't mean to offend. My use of *Bambusa Guadua* was only too casual, perhaps a reflection of a recent reading of *Tropical Bamboos* by Marcelo Villegas (Rizzoli, 1990, p. 20) wherein that name is given primacy and *Guadua angustifolia* is given as the synonym.

Taxonomy aside, as before, my more pressing interest is in the uses of Guadua, especially for furniture (ABS Newsletter Vol. 12, No. 3). I am still interested in those of you who may also be working or experimenting with bamboo, any bamboo, in that line. I know you're out there. I am especially interested in low-technology improvements in use-methodology that will make bamboo products really compete with wood products. Here in the Americas bamboo must become more than either a novelty accent or a poor substitute for wood as we begin to address the serious problem of deforestation. As it is now bamboo furniture in particular is either too expensive on the one hand or too rustic on the other to be truly popular or in demand. New ideas are needed to close that gap. On thing is certain, that *Guadua spp.* have the physico-mechanical characteristics that make them more than adequate for many of the purposes for which wood is used. This fact combined with the high sustainable yield of a Guadua plantation makes this bamboo a very attractive alternative to trees. The trick is learning how to use it best.

Anyone involved in the utilization of bamboos knows that there can be a serious problem after harvest, specifically the attack of the powder-post beetle *Dinoderus minutus*. For construction purposes the National Bamboo Project of Costa Rica has solved the problem by pumping a boron solution via the Boucherie process into newly-felled culms.

We are still looking for a cure for exposed bamboo because boron can be leached by water and, more importantly for me, because the insect has to actually ingest some of the treated material (that is, it has to make a hole) before the boron can kill it through its digestive system. Furniture with insect pinholes (even if not attractive) will never be popular.

There are important ongoing investigations in this area here at the NBP, but I am interested in hearing from any of you who have tried tackling the problem yourselves. We have the studies done by Plank in Puerto Rico in the 1940's (DDT!) and the more recent work published by the IDRC. I am wondering if there are any homegrown

solutions to this problem out there, solutions that avoid dangerous and/or expensive chemicals.

The extreme temperatures of freezing or fire will work but are energy intensive. A small craft item that is infested can be saved by putting it in the freezer overnight, but not a chair or a bed.

Campesinos say that cutting during the waning moon is best to avoid infestation in both bamboo and wood. Currently I am taking delivery on Guadua cut during the waning moon and left to dry for a month standing in the grove with branches intact, (see ABS Journal Vol. 6, No. 1-4, p. 49). If that works it will be a very clean and inexpensive solution.

I encourage you to write me about your experiences.

Brian Erickson
Apdo. 295-7210
Guapiles-Limon
Costa Rica

Late Note From Al Adelman

The US Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) is engaged in a two year study examining the risks, benefits, and polices related to non-native species in the US. The spring 1992 quarterly newsletter *Perennial Plants* of the Perennial Plant Society reports more fully on this issue. A potential outcome of this study might be a congressional ban on the introduction, sale, and use of non-native species, unless they are reviewed and proven not to be invasive. **This issue is of interest only to those of us who grow, buy or sell bamboo!**

Editor's note: This topic will be perused in more detail in subsequent issues of the newsletter. The non profit status of the ABS and some chapters may preclude political activity by the societies although not by members acting as individuals.

Albert Adelman
3 Landmark Road
Westford, MA 01886

Bamboo Inventory

Bamboo Name:

Genus: _____
Species: _____
Subspecies: _____
Cultivar or variety: _____
Form: _____

Your ID/Accession Number (if any): _____
Date acquired: _____
Source: Acquired from: Name _____
Country _____ Elev (m.) _____
Location _____
Acquired as: Division _____ Seed _____ Wild Collected _____

Current Status of Plant:

In quarantine _____ Released _____ (date _____)
Planted in: Ground _____ Container _____
Condition: _____
Sent, sold, or given to: _____

Notes (e.g., Reference to name, Hardiness, Last flowering):

American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215
USA



First Class Mail

Calendar Of Events

1992

June 13	Pacific Northwest Chapter Annual Sale And Auction, Graham Visitor Center, UW Arboretum, Seattle, WA. For more information, call James Clever at (206) 782-3490.
Aug. 12-15	I Congreso Mundial Bambu-Guadua, Pereira, Columbia. For more information, contact your chapter or write: Corporation Casa de Risaralda, Carrera 4A No. 25C-49, Santafé de Bogotá - Colombia, SOUTH AMERICA. Phone: 243 14 31 - 341 64 96
Aug. 23-28	All IUFRO Division 5 Conference, Nancy, France. For more information, write to: The Secretary, IUFRO Division 5, Conference Office, 14 rue Girardet, F - 54042 NANCY CEDEX, FRANCE
Sept. 19	Southern California Chapter Semiannual Show And Sale, Quail Botanical Gardens. For more information, call George Shor at (619) 453-0334.
Oct. 23-25	ABS Annual Meeting, Sale And Auction, Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, FL. For more information, call Elizabeth Haverfield at (305) 662-2315.
Nov. 11-13	Third International Bamboo Congress, Minamata City, Kumamoto, Japan. Copies of the First Circular are still available from many Chapters. For more information, contact Karl and Ginger Bareis, 2900 Smith Grade Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (408) 427-1034, FAX (408) 427-0443.

1993

Sept. 25-26	ABS Annual Meeting, Sale And Auction, Arnold Arboretum, Boston, MA. For more information, call Chris DeRosa at (508) 546-3581.

American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 4 | P.O. Box 215, Slingerlands, NY 12159 | August 1992

From The President

October 23-25, the date for the ABS Annual Meeting, Auction and Conference in Miami, is rapidly approaching. The hosting **Caribbean Chapter** has been hard at work to make this an interesting and worthwhile event. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet and share information with other bamboo enthusiasts from around the country. It is also a great opportunity to see giant specimens of several species which reach their optimum dimensions in this unique bamboo growing climate.

Gerald Bol,
President, ABS

Bylaws Committee Proposals

The **Bylaws Committee** proposes to increase the number of directors from the current nine to at least eleven, but not more than fifteen. Initially we would like to begin with eleven, of which eight would be regional and three at-large. The directors-at-large would be nominated by the board or two percent of the membership (about 20 people) and be voted upon by the mail ballot of the entire membership. Regional directors would be nominated by the board or by ten or more people living within a given region and voted upon by mail ballot of the people within the region. The regions would be as follows:

1. **South West**. Composed of Arizona, California south of the Tehachapi Mountains, Hawaii, and New Mexico.

2. **West Central**. Composed of California north of the Tehachapis, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah.

3. **North West**. Composed of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming.

4. **Central**. Composed of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.

5. **South East**. Composed of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

6. **East Central**. Composed of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

7. **North East**. Composed of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

8. **International**. Composed of all countries outside the USA.

The three year terms of office would be staggered as equally as possible so there would be a director-at-large elected every year and at least two regional directors. Current directors would serve out their full terms.

We feel limiting the number of directors to regions rather than chapters is the best way to avoid acquiring an unwieldy number of directors in the future based on "one per chapter". We also feel mail ballots allow the widest range of voter participation in elections.

Presuming a favorable vote on increasing the number of directors, regional directors will be nominated and elected from the Central (a one year term), South East, East Central, and International regions this year along with one director-at-large. Nominations by the membership are to be sent to the secretary, Elizabeth Haverfield and received by September 1. Please return your enclosed ballot promptly!

Gerald Bol,
Richard Haubrich,
David King,
ABS Bylaws Committee

American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 4 August 1992

American Bamboo Society Officers

President:	Gerald Bol
Vice President:	David King
Treasurer:	Richard Haubrich
Membership:	Richard Haubrich
Secretary:	Elizabeth Haverfield
Newsletter Editors:	Michael A. Bartholomew
	James H. Filkins
Journal Editor:	Kenneth Brennecke

The President of the American Bamboo Society may be reached at:

Gerald Bol
666 Wagnon Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Home (707) 823-5866
FAX (707) 829-8106

All correspondence concerning American Bamboo Society Membership, address changes or the Bamboo Source List should be sent to:

Richard Haubrich
P.O. Box 640
Springville, CA 93265
Home (209) 539-2145
FAX (209) 539-2145

All correspondence concerning the American Bamboo Society Newsletter, comments, letters, proposed articles, announcements and Chapter reports should be sent to the attention of Michael Bartholomew or Jim Filkins at:

American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215

You may also reach the editors by telephone:

Michael Bartholomew	Jim Filkins
Home (518) 765-2347	Home (518) 872-2472
Work (518) 765-3507	FAX (518) 872-2702
FAX (518) 765-2490	

Membership in the American Bamboo Society for individuals is $15 for the calendar year and includes a subscription to the Newsletter and Journal. The Newsletter is issued bimonthly. Subscriptions for organizations and institutions are $20 per year.

Bamboo at the Fairchild Tropical Garden

The **Fairchild Tropical Garden** has long been known for its outstanding collections of Palms and Cycads, but the Bamboos, an equally important group of plants, have had meager representation in the Garden. The Garden's designer, **William Lyman Phillips**, was enthralled by country roads arched with bamboo on islands in the Caribbean, and envisioned similar scenes in the lowlands at Fairchild Tropical Garden. However, most attempts at growing bamboo there had failed because of the heavy, saturated soil.

Members of the **Caribbean Chapter** of the American Bamboo Society have persistently urged the Garden's staff to find space in the Garden for a representative collection of Bamboos. An undeveloped plot in the lowlands was available, but the land was too low to be suitable for Bamboo. The Garden's Board of Trustees approved funds in the 1992 budget to buy fill for the site, and in the spring of this year the area was filled with good topsoil and was graded and seeded with grass seed.

Raymond Jungles, a prominent Miami landscape architect, volunteered his services and produced a beautiful **Bamboo Garden** design. The plan calls for nineteen tropical bamboo species attractively arranged with free-form areas of lawn, mulch, and ground covers. Benches and boulders are to be placed throughout to provide seating for those who come to enjoy the serenity of the Bamboo Garden. On June 14 members of the Caribbean Chapter, with the Jungles Plan in hand, met at the Garden to plant the bamboos which they had donated. Eleven of the nineteen bamboos designated for the area were planted. Some of those were large specimens. Eight others will be added when additional filling is completed.

We welcome you to enjoy our brand new Bamboo Garden now, and in years to come as the plants attain their ultimate size and beauty.

Don Evans,
Chief Horticulturist, FTG



1992 ABS Annual Meeting, Auction, and Conference

"Fairchild Tropical Garden is the largest tropical botanical garden in the continental United States with four main purposes - display, education, scientific research, and conservation. The Garden is best known as a magnificently landscaped display garden where residents and tourists come to see the graceful subtropical and tropical plants and to retreat from the rush of Miami. Through its educational program, a wide range of horticultural classes, lectures, and guided tours are offered year round to the public. At the research center, scientist and students work in tropical botany with the Garden's living collection of plants as one of their principle resources."

... And this is the site for the **1992 American Bamboo Society Annual Meeting, Auction, and Conference!**

Conference Itinerary:

Friday

9:00am- 9:45am	Registration
9:45am-10:30am	Introduction
10:30am-12:15pm	Tour of Fairchild Tropical Garden
12:15pm- 1:30pm	Lunch at Parrot Jungle Cafeteria
1:30pm- 4:30pm	ABS Chapter Poster Sessions, Special Interest Groups, Newsletter Editors Meeting, and Round Table Discussions
4:30pm- 6:30pm	Free time/Board of Directors Meeting
6:30pm- ?:??pm	Dinner at a restaurant in Little Havana

Saturday

9:30am-11:15am	Caribbean Chapter Bamboo Sale
12:00pm- 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm- 1:30pm	ABS Annual Meeting
1:30pm- 4:30pm	ABS Rare Bamboo Auction
4:30pm- 6:30pm	Free Time
6:30pm- 8:00pm	Banquet Dinner
8:00pm- 8:45pm	Peter Bindon of the Australian Bamboo Network will lecture on native and imported bamboos of Australia, and bamboos of Southeast Asia
9:00pm- 9:45pm	Stinger Guala, Botanist, will lecture on Bamboos of Brazil and more

Sunday

8:30am- 8:45am	Assemble at Riviera Court Motel
9:00am-12:00pm	Tours of USDA-Chapman Field Park and private bamboo collections
12:00pm- 1:00pm	Brunch at the Harvest House in the Redlands (a historical site)
1:30pm- 4:30pm	Tours of Florida Cooperative Extension Office and private bamboo collections

About the Speakers

Peter Bindon is currently Head of the Department of Anthropology at the Western Australian Museum in Perth. His research includes the early human transition of *Homo erectus* to *Homo sapiens*, Australian Aboriginal languages, and Aboriginal lifeways in the Australian arid zone. Introduced to Bamboos as an important horticultural species by his late son Robert, Peter began to study the ethnographic uses of bamboo in the Western Hemisphere. After experimenting with bamboo propagation and cultivation, he completed a handbook on growing Moso shoots as a vegetable (for the Western Australian Department of Agriculture), and has lectured on landscaping, native plant gardens, and xeriscaping. He continues his research on bamboo growth habits and propagation with his collection of ornamental and useful bamboos. He is editor of the *Australian Bamboo Network*.

Gerald "Stinger" Guala studied tropical bamboos as a Grinter Research Fellow from the University of Florida, and was supported by the Smithsonian Institute's Bamboo Research Grant (in memory of Dr. Thomas Soderstrom). He recently returned from a bamboo expedition to Brazil, where he put several species of native Brazilian bamboos into cultivation for ex-situ preservation. Stinger's master's thesis in Botany was on the bamboo genus *Apoclada*, and he was able to bring back rhizomes of that, as well as numerous other specimens in either seed form, rhizomes, or culm cuttings. His expedition was jointly sponsored by the ABS, the Caribbean Chapter and the Southern California Chapter of the ABS, as well as several private sponsors.

Designated Motel for the ABS Conference:

Riviera Court Motel
5100 Riviera Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146
(305) 665-3528

Rooms are $53.00, efficiencies are $64.00 a day plus 10.5% tax. Members of AA, AARP, or a group are entitled to a 10% discount. There is an additional $5.00 charge for adding a third person to a room.

Registration fee: $90.00 payable to : ABS-Caribbean Chapter. Mail to:

ABS-CC
c/o Mike Kellum
2618 Flamingo Lane
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
(305) 891-0880 Days EST
(305) 584-7153 Evenings EST

Meeting registration form located on the back page

Registration fee includes access to Fairchild Tropical Garden for 2 days and 1 evening; Friday dinner, lunch and brunch Saturday and Sunday, Saturday evening banquet and lectures, and Sunday tours.

Committee Contact People

Special Interest Groups: Edgar "Wink" Winkleman 12501 SW 236 Street Homestead, FL 33032 Phone: (305) 258-4580	Rare Plant Auction: Jesse Durko 5390 SW 61 Avenue Davie, FL 33314 Phone: (305) 792-2297
Chapter Poster Session: David G. Anderson 12501 SW 236 Street Homestead, FL 33032 Phone: (305) 258-4580	Saturday Morning Sale: Debbie Gideon 15445 SW 232 Street Miami, FL 33170 Phone: (305) 248-1800

For any additional information:

Elizabeth Ann Haverfield
Chairperson, 1992 ABS Conference
755 Tiziano Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33143-6263
Phone: (305) 662-2315 EST - wait for the tone & leave message
FAX: (305) 662-2315 EST - 1:00pm-2:00pm or 7:00pm-8:00pm

Dr. Pohl Returns from Costa Rica

Editors' note: The following is from a letter to Elizabeth Haverfield, in response to her request for information on Dr. Pohl's trip to Costa Rica.

Dear Elizabeth,

...I am deeply embedded in reading the Spanish proof for the grass volume of *Flora Mesoamericana*, which is being published by the Missouri Botanical Garden this year. This volume will be available soon and should be beneficial to bamboo enthusiasts for the native Central American species.

As you suggested, I am appending a short resume of our January trip to Costa Rica. Unfortunately, I had an accident and ended up in the hospital, which cut our expedition short.

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Pohl
Distinguished Professor Emeritus

1992 Costa Rican Bamboo Expedition

Richard W. Pohl
Department of Botany, Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011

We went to Costa Rica in January to try to establish a garden for the native montane bamboos, with support from the American Bamboo Society. I had obtained permission from the national government to use a site at about 3000 m elevation along the Interamerican Highway (Carretera Interamericana). This site is located at the Casa Refugio, a reconstructed refuge used during the 19th century to shelter mountain travelers. There is a site behind the Casa where some of the native species can be planted, and one *Chusquea subtilis*, a new species, was currently blooming on the site. I shall have to try to obtain further funds to aid in transplanting other species to this site.

Another new species, *Chusquea tomentosa*, was in bloom at Km. 62 and various other sites along the Highway. I obtained seeds of these and other species and have seedlings in the greenhouse. For many years we have been watching a mixed population of *Chusquea subtessellata* and an apparent hybrid growing in a small

marsh at Km. 72. This hybrid bloomed in 1990 and in 1992 had died.

There are a number of stands of *Chusquea* on the great volcano Irazu. These have rarely bloomed, but in 1992, we found a colony of *C. foliosa* blooming at the entrance of the national park. This had not previously bloomed since 1966, although other stands on the Cordillera de Talamanca had bloomed a number of times. Behind the peak of Irazu, there is a small stand of *Chusquea vulcanalis*. This species has not bloomed since 1968, and now continues in vegetative condition.

I revisited the only known stand of an apparently unknown species of *Merostachys* along the new road to Guapiles, and there had the accident which apparently put me in the hospital. The site was a very wet and slippery rocky cloud forest. Despite my difficulties, I succeeded in getting a rooted cane and some cuttings, which I sent to the Wilson Botanical Garden at San Vido de Java.

Several cultivated bamboos were also observed in bloom. A species of *Bambusa* was blooming at the Fabio Baudrit Experiment Station near Alajuela, and another on the campus of the Centro Agronomico at Burrialba. These are both Asiatic introductions.

If I can, I plan to return to Costa Rica in the coming year and begin to transplant the high elevation bamboos to the Casa de Refugio Site. I much appreciate the help that the American Bamboo Society has been able to give me.

I am sending a copy of my new paper on the Blooming History of the Costa Rican Bamboos, and more copies are available by writing to me.

ABS Bookstore

The ABS Bookstore has purchased 25 copies of the catalog of Yves Crouzet's Nurseries of the Bambouseraie of Prafrance, France. They are available now for $7.00 postpaid each ($12.00 overseas) from Herb Hillery, ABS Bookstore, 1909 Richcreek Road, Austin, TX 78757. Since it is very difficult for individuals to import bamboo to the USA, the ABS is selling these and Wolfgang Eberts' catalog as excellent reference materials. Wolfgang Eberts' catalog is also still available for $7.00 postpaid each ($12.00 overseas).

Whitney Adams' Lecture Tour

Whitney Adams, Jr. has delivered a lecture on *The Hardy Clumping Bamboos of China and the Himalayas* on both Coasts; first, in April, at the Spring Meeting of the Northeast Chapter then, in July, at the Summer Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Chapter. Whitney has prepared an extensive manuscript to go along with his talk which should be an excellent resource for anyone interested in the Fargesias.

Whitney is currently revising his manuscript for publication in the *ABS Newsletter* or the *ABS Journal* in the near future. This is a paper to look forward to!

ABS Chapter Notes

Northeast Chapter

1992 Board of Directors Election Results:

Seven members were elected by mail-in ballot to serve on the Board of Directors for the Northeast Chapter: Whitney Adams, Albert Adelman, Michael Bartholomew, Chris DeRosa, Jim Filkins, David Flanagan, and Susanne Lucas.

In recognition of his contributions to the Northeast Chapter and his lifelong commitment to bamboo, the Board of Directors has named **Robert Lester** as an **Honorary Lifetime Board Member**. His efforts and dedication have not gone unnoticed and, with this gesture, the NEC thanks Robert and looks forward to a lasting relationship.

Business Meeting Held June 30 in Sturbridge, MA

The Northeast Chapter Board of Directors held an election of officers at this summer's business meeting. The term served will be until July 1, 1993 and the positions are as follows:

President:	Chris DeRosa
First Vice President:	Al Adelman
Second Vice President:	Dolores Holland
Secretary:	Susanne Lucas
Treasurer:	Fran Ertel

Summer Meeting: August 29 at **The Bamboo Fencer, Jamaica Plain, MA.** For more information, call Susanne Lucas at (508) 224-7982.

Susanne Lucas

Southern California Chapter

Our June meeting was held at Richard Neufeld's nursery in Oceanside. All of us were astounded at how many plants (bamboos and ornamental grasses) of how many different kinds he has assembled in the short 2 years that his nursery has been "in production." Gil Voss informed us that he does not have the time to get to Chapter meetings regularly; we therefore elected him to the newly created position of "Honorary Director", and elected Tom Taylor to take his place on the Board of ABS-SoCal.

Planning for the September "Bamboo Festival" continued. The Usual Suspects (G. Stinson, K. Yoshida, G. Shor, B. Shor, T. Taylor, S. Taylor, D. Hwang, N. Hwang, M. Stinger, P. Gantzes, J. Malinowski, R. Neufeld, B. Leondis, D. Morse) were rounded up to serve as stevedores, guards, cashiers, bag-boys, tellers, and information sources. The following schedule was established:

10am Annual Business Meeting and Elections (ballots may be cast by mail or up to opening of the meeting).

11am Public Lecture by Richard Haubrich on "Bamboo".

12 noon Bamboo Show. Bamboos will be arranged by genus, species, and variety. Members will be on hand to answer questions from the public.

1-4pm Bamboo Sale. There will be no auction, but unusual bamboos (including all varieties that are not listed in the ABS Source List) will be set aside for "signup" in a separate section at fixed prices, with a drawing if demand exceeds supply for any variety.

Gary Stinson has shipped duplicate plants from the ABS-SoCal reference collection to Robert Lester in PA for exchange for varieties we do not hold, and 10 ABS-SoCal plants to Elizabeth Haverfield for the ABS National meeting auction. The plants for ABS are all of varieties that are not in the Source List.

Our July 18 meeting was held at Huntington Gardens, in San Marino. In thanks to the Huntington for hosting the meeting, we provided them with the following plants for their collection: *Phyllostachys aurea holochrysa, P. aureosulcata spectabilis, P. humilis, P. mannii, P. platyglossa, Pleioblastus akibensis, P. hindsii, P. gramineus, P. linearis, Pseudosasa japonica akibono, Semiarundinaria yashadake* 'Kimmel'. Note: all of these, plus others not on the Source List, are among the 102 varieties that will be available at the SoCal September sale.

The meeting adjourned for a tour of Huntington Gardens. Huntington contains large old plantings of bamboo, which have been well maintained for decades. It gave an impressive demonstration of the size to which well-treated bamboos can grow.

Tom Taylor reports progress in the re-landscaping of Quail Botanical Gardens, which presents some challenges:

Challenge #1 is that we need to find a landscape architect who is knowledgeable about bamboo; QBGF says that he/she will be paid for drawing up a landscape plan for the new South Asia plantings, which are to include bamboos plus other plants from the region.

Challenge #2 is that some existing plantings must be moved or removed. We will therefore have work parties in October and November to remove the exuberant grove of Moso and re-start it elsewhere. Those who participate will be able to take home large quantities of plant starts. We will also make another concerted attack on the *Phyllostachys vivax* grove, to bring it back to size. Again, plants will be available for the digging.

George Shor

Texas Chapter

The Texas Chapter of the ABS met again at Zilker Botanical Garden in Austin on May 23, 1992. Seventeen persons attended to discuss "Getting Started with Bamboo". Herb Hillery showed slides of several bamboo species growing in Austin and in an unshaded open blackland field near Jarrell, 40 miles north. Some plants were beginning their second year after planting, and others their third. Most were prospering.

Of 27 sections of rhizome of *Phyllostachys rubromarginata* obtained in February 1991 from Frank Linton of the University of Georgia Coastal Research Station in Savannah, 22 produced plants healthy in May 1992. These and other first year plants were watered whenever they looked distressed during 1991 dry periods. Specimens of *P. aurea, P. bambusoides, P. makinoi, P. nigra* Henon, *P. rubromarginata,* and *P. vivax*, planted February 1990, were given no water in 1991 in order to test their resistance to the heat, strong winds, and dryness of Central Texas summer. These plants often showed severe stress and grew slowly, but didn't die.

Tony Poncik talked on his work at the San Antonio Zoo with the approximately 40 species of bamboo now in the Zoo's collection. He reported that his research on propagating bamboos from cuttings had produced favorable results for several species but inconclusive results for Phyllostachys species.

The next Texas Chapter meeting will be at 1:00 pm, August 1, 1992 at the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Botanical Gardens in Zilker Park.

Herb Hillery

Editorial Comment

Editors' note: The following open letters from Richard Waters and David Andrews have been circulating to the Chapters and some members over the past few months. When they arrived at the ABS Newsletter Office we felt that they contained information that the Bylaws Committee should consider and referred them on to that committee rather than publishing them. We were hoping to have a response from the committee in time to publish their suggestions and act as a forum for their debate prior to the Annual Meeting in October, but time has run short...

Since that time we have received a response from George Shor, Secretary of ABS-SoCal, that clarifies many of the issues raised, and yet raises a few new ones, i.e. ***"What is the future role of ABS for importation and distribution of Bamboos?"*** *We are publishing all of these pertinent letters since printing any one would be taking things out of context.*

Letter from Richard Waters

To the membership of the ABS,

I am writing to you concerning the presidency of the ABS.

When Richard Haubrich stepped down there was no effort to define or otherwise delineate what type of person should be president. That is to say that the Board of Directors of the ABS saw no potential problems arising in nominating a president who also had commercial bamboo interest. Our current president, Gerald Bol, is well known for his international collecting trips and also owns and runs what is probably the largest bamboo nursery in the US. I am one of those who applauded Gerald for his collecting efforts and I even made a small investment in one of his collecting trips to Chile. However, since his election to the top slot of the ABS I have come to realize that the office of president is a communications center and that a commercially oriented person should not hold this office as it puts all other commercial bamboo nurseries at a definite disadvantage.

Consider this: We now have a president who travels world wide in behalf of the ABS lecturing and socializing at garden clubs, plant sales, ABS chapters, and world bamboo conferences. In addition this president collects and sells rare bamboo plants that many of the source list nurseries do not have access to (or if we do have access to them they are sold at very high prices.) In my opinion this borders on being an unfair monopoly and may be unethical for a president of the ABS.

Having talked to some of the other nursery owners, the view is that rare bamboos coming into the US are traded and sold among some of the select few of the ABS hierarchy which generally gives these select few early access to these rare bamboos while the rest of us wait several years so that we can afford such bamboos if at all. This is also true of imported bamboo seed as there has been no seed distribution via the ABS in recent years even though several species bore viable seeds. This is not to say that collectors should not realize a profit from rare plants/seeds that they go to the effort to collect. It is however a problem for all of us when a collector/nursery owner becomes the President of the ABS and controls access to information about referrals, requests, and location of groves and the availability of seeds and free bamboo for the digging etc., etc..

Reading this you may think that I am attacking Gerald Bol. Not so, I am requesting a debate at the regional and national level to define what is ethical and right for the office of president of the ABS. If we agree that the majority wants a commercially oriented person to be the head of the ABS then so be it. If on the other hand we feel there is a conflict of interest that may be affecting the other source-list nurseries connected with the ABS then I think we need to re-think what type of person we all want as a president and re-define the office.

Most organizations do not allow a situation such as this to exist. They either elect or hire someone who has no conflict of interest or the person in question must put their holdings in a trust while serving the general interest. This is especially true for non-profit organizations which the ABS is and I question whether this conflict of interest might potentially affect our non-profit status?

Having started out as a collector, served two terms on the board of directors for the Northern California Chapter of the ABS, and having operated a bamboo nursery for many years I have had several different views of the ABS and how it is run. And I know Gerald Bol well and would consider him an excellent choice for President as he knows bamboo and is a champion of it, but the conflict of interest between the presidency and ownership of a bamboo nursery is too obvious to ignore.

I personally would like an ABS president who has no commercial bamboo interest outside of the ABS itself. (Richard Haubrich was great in this respect as he was retired and did not have conflicting interest.) I also think that this non-commercial president should have a small salary to compensate for his/her effort. To expect someone to do all of this work for nothing is asking a bit much plus we (The ABS) will again run the risk of conflict of interest in the presidency which is the **key** position in the ABS.

The ABS is our organization. In the end this is a matter for all of you to decide for yourselves. I urge you to debate this problem within your own chapter and voice your thoughts to those who represent you in the ABS. If you are not associated with a chapter and would like me to pass your opinions on to the ABS board write me at the address below stating your views.

Sincerely,

Richard Waters

A Bamboo Shoot Nursery
1462 Darby Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472

We the undersigned have read and do agree with the above.

Hastings Schmidt, Board of Directors (NCCABS)
Gib Cooper, Tradewinds Nursery

Letters from David Andrews

Dear Jim and Michael,

I recently received Richard Waters' letter with regard to the Presidency of the ABS and would like to make a few related comments that may be applicable to the ABS Bylaws.

1) **It would be hard to find a president that did not sell bamboo.** Just take a look at the Chapter Presidents, five of the seven are listed as sources for bamboo. If selling were to be considered "conflict of interest" with holding the office of ABS President, then it seems to me that the rule would justly apply to the Chapter Presidents as well. I think we may have a hard time replacing six presidents who are currently selling bamboo with people who are not selling bamboo.

2) Enclosed is a copy of a letter I wrote to Richard Haubrich in 1985 suggesting a yearly info sheet on ABS Bamboo in Quarantine. At the bottom of the copy of his reply is a copy of my reply to his reply. I also mentioned this letter to Gerald Bol last April at the Northeast Chapter meeting held at the National Zoo. He also thought it was a good idea and left me with the impression that such an Info Sheet would be in the works soon, but it has been over a year now and still no word of info on imports in quarantine.

I'm more concerned about a Bamboos in Quarantine News Letter than if the President of the ABS sells bamboo. Our dues pay a lot of the expense for collecting, quarantine, and distribution to who? I think it is time to talk-up the BQNL.

Sincerely,
David C. Andrews

Copy to:

The Caribbean Chapter, Kim Higbie - Source
The Interior SE Highlands Chapter, Adam Turtle - Source
The Northeast Chapter, Chris DeRosa - Source
The ABS & N California Chapter, Gerald Bol - Source

The Pacific NW Chapter, James Clever - Source
The S California Chapter, Ken Brennecke
The Texas Chapter, Herbert Hillery
Jim Filkins & Michael Bartholomew
Richard Haubrich
David King
Dr. James Waddick
Richard Waters

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21 Nov 85

Richard Haubrich
American Bamboo Society
1101 San Leon Court
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Dear Richard,

I was very impressed with the quarantine greenhouses and the many different kinds of bamboo that were waiting to get out into circulation. I only wish that there was a way I could be kept informed as to what might be coming into quarantine, what is currently in quarantine, and what has come out of quarantine. Therefore, I would like to suggest that a quarantine newsletter be created for those willing to send in a self addressed envelope. The newsletter would be produced once a year six months after the "bamboo source list", and contain:

1) bamboos expected to come into quarantine soon
2) bamboos currently in quarantine
   a) when they came into quarantine
   b) their present condition - dead, poor, fair, good, excellent, etc.
   c) when they are expected to be released
3) bamboos that have been released since the last news letter
   a) their release date
   b) their release condition
   c) how they were distributed, etc.
4) related subjects
   a) bamboos received that are not in quarantine
   b) an up-to-date list of all the bamboos in the ABS collection.

Please let me know how you feel about the above suggestion and if there is any way that I may assist in the creation and/or maintenance of an ABS quarantine newsletter.

When I read in the ABS Newsletter of the plant sales and auctions and that plants will not be shipped, I wonder of the possibilities of ever having bamboo distributed by way of plant sales and auctions on the East Coast as they are on the West Coast. What are the possibilities, how can such an East Coast distribution program be brought about? What can you suggest I do to help bring about such a program?

David C. Andrews

December 4, 1985

David C. Andrews
PO Box 10358
Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Dear David,

I think that an information sheet on imports is a good idea. I will try to work one up.

It is difficult to ship plants for sales and auctions because of the labor involved. The best solution is that you form an ABS Chapter in your area. Like the other Chapters you can hold your own auctions and sales. I ship plants to Chapters. You might also participate in plant introductions. You can, for example, import to the USDA quarantine greenhouse in Beltsville - if you trust them.

Sincerely,
Richard A. Haubrich

---

17 Feb 86

Richard Haubrich
American Bamboo Society
1101 San Leon Court
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Dear Richard,

I am pleased to hear that you will be working up an information sheet on imports, I can't wait to see it.

The idea for me to form an ABS Chapter in my area is certainly a very tantalizing one, but I'm not sure how I'd go about doing this or what would be involved or how much of my time would be required or what my

obligations to ABS would be, perhaps you could enlighten me on a few of these points. Would there be a possible conflict of interest between forming an ABS Chapter and being a source of bamboo for sale? The idea of doing both is also of interest to me.

I do sell bamboo, as you know, and would like to be on the Bamboo Source List this year if possible, so please send me a form to fill out. I'm including with this letter a list of the bamboos that I'd be offering for sale just in case it is too late to process a form for this year.

David C. Andrews

Letter from George Shor

To the Editors:

Two letters "to the members of ABS" that have received fairly wide circulation, and were reprinted in the Southeastern Highlands Chapter newsletter, contain some serious misinformation about our import program, quarantine operation, and sales. They imply that these programs are controlled by the ABS national officers and supported by ABS dues, and that members of "the ABS hierarchy" obtain early access to rare bamboos imported with ABS funds. None of the above is true about our program, nor to the best of my knowledge about the import/quarantine program of the Caribbean Chapter. There was also a concern that mail orders for plants are not accepted, and that Gerald Bol has not sent out a newsletter about "recent releases from quarantine" as someone requested; he couldn't, since he is not involved. The facts are as follows:

1. **ABS currently has no importation or quarantine program** despite what it says in the Source List. The national organization has not supported or controlled importation, quarantine, propagation, or sales of bamboos at Quail Gardens since 1989, when they "walked away" from the program. The Southern California Chapter was formed when some of us realized that the operation had been abandoned. Under ABS-SoCal, Gary Stinson manages the greenhouses, assisted by Chapter members. Funds for operation come via the Quail Gardens Foundation out of the proceeds of sales of plants raised in the greenhouses. The USDA importation permit was recently reissued to me "on behalf of The Southern California Chapter of the American Bamboo Society, Inc." not to ABS. **No money from the ABS national organization is involved.**

2. Bamboos released from Quarantine are shared between Quail Gardens and the person who imported them, as was true under Richard Haubrich. Recent importers have included Gerald Bol, Karl Bareis, and Richard Neufeld. Neufeld's expenses were partially supported by SoCal; the rest was his own money. I don't know whether either of the others received support from the ABS national organization, but I doubt it.

3. The "Quail Gardens" share of imported plants is used for propagation, for planting in the Gardens, for sale at the ABS-SoCal semiannual sales, at the Quail Gardens Sales, and at the sales booth at the Gardens. Proceeds from sale of the Quail share (and plants propagated at Quail) go to maintain the Quail bamboo collection and greenhouses. At least one propagule goes to the Southern California Chapter's reference collection off-site.

4. We notify ABS, and all other Chapters, well in advance of the dates of our sales; these are frequently listed in newsletters. A list of plants that will be on sale is mailed 3 weeks in advance to ABS-SoCal members, the ABS Board, all newsletter editors, all ABS members in Southern California, **and anyone else who asks to be on the mailing list.** If you want a list, write me.

5. Plants in short supply are segregated at the sales, so that would-be buyers can sign up and, if there are more customers than plants, draw lots. Sale prices are deliberately low. Nobody is allowed to purchase any plants until the sale is opened to the public.

6. We do not take mail-orders for sales because with everything else to do, we don't have the energy to pack and ship. On the other hand, we have shipped plants from our Chapter collection to the ABS National Meeting auction, and to other Chapters for their auctions, as gifts.

Sincerely yours,

George Shor
Secretary/Treasurer/Editor/Permit-holder,
ABS-SoCal
2655 Ellentown Road
La Jolla, CA 92037-1147

Letters to the ABS

Size vs. Area

Dear Editor:

Reading the recent ABS Journal, a practical horticultural question came to mind:

What is the smallest landscape area to devote to the establishment of a hardy Giant Timber bamboo?

My assumptions are that one is working with a smaller division and that one wants to achieve a presence of soaring height as soon as possible.

The Paper by Valade and Dahlan states that years of proliferation of rhizome axes are required before maximum heights and diameters occur. So, for best results, what is the optimum area to offer for this proliferation?

Most of us have but small landscapes in which to work whether in our personal real estate or in allocated areas of public gardens. I surely would appreciate hearing from the members either directly or through this section of our newsletter.

Michael Curtis
14050 60th Avenue
Surrey, BC
CANADA V3X 2N3

Newsletter Dateline

All submissions for the next issue of the American Bamboo Society Newsletter should be received on or before September 18, 1992. Please mail to the Newsletter address posted in the masthead.

Corrections and Amplifications

Stinger Guala Returns from Brazil

Dear Mr. Bartholomew and Mr. Filkins

I was surprised to see the recent article about my trip to Brazil in the ABS Newsletter. I suspect that either Elizabeth or Kim sent it out to you, thank you for including it. I think that you are doing an excellent job with the newsletter and that it looks better than ever. Unfortunately, and undoubtedly due to my obscure coding procedure, there is a minor mistake that apparently occurred in the retyping. *Bambusa vulgaris var. vittata* is the only one of the species in the list that is originally from Asia. The others designated with "S" were brought back in sequentially sized sets to test the minimum rhizome size needed for survival. I hope that you won't mind including a short note to this effect in the next newsletter. Thanks very much for your help.

Sincerely,
Gerald F. Guala II
University of Florida
Department of Botany
Gainsville, FL 32611

EBS On Tour

Oops! In the last newsletter we forgot to state that the **"EBS On Tour"** article was written by none other than **Wolfgang Eberts** from Germany.

It certainly was nice to hear of some of the European gardens with their historical grandeur. Thank you, Wolfgang, for your article.

American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215
USA



First Class Mail

Calendar Of Events

1992

Aug. 12-15	I Congreso Mundial Bambu-Guadua, Pereira, Columbia. For more information, contact your chapter or write: Corporation Casa de Risaralda, Carrera 4A No. 25C-49, Santafé de Bogotá - Colombia, SOUTH AMERICA. Phone: 243 14 31 - 341 64 96
Aug. 23-28	All IUFRO Division 5 Conference, Nancy, France. For more information, write to: The Secretary, IUFRO Division 5, Conference Office, 14 rue Girardet, F - 54042 NANCY CEDEX, FRANCE
Sept. 19	Southern California Chapter Semiannual Show And Sale, Quail Botanical Gardens. For more information, call George Shor at (619) 453-0334.
Oct. 23-25	ABS Annual Meeting, Sale And Auction, Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, FL. For more information, call Elizabeth Haverfield at (305) 662-2315.
Nov. 11-13	Third International Bamboo Congress, Minamata City, Kumamoto, Japan. Copies of the First Circular are still available from many Chapters. For more information, contact Karl and Ginger Bareis, 2900 Smith Grade Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (408) 427-1034, FAX (408) 427-0443.

1993

Sept. 25-26	ABS Annual Meeting, Sale And Auction, Arnold Arboretum, Boston, MA. For more information, call Chris DeRosa at (508) 546-3581.

1992 ABS Annual Meeting, Auction, and Conference Registration Form:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, & Zip: _____
Phone Number: Days ( ) _____ Evenings ( ) _____
Do you have any special dietary needs? _____
Do you have any other special needs? _____
Which Special Interest Groups do you wish to participate in? _____
_____
Will you be bringing any bamboo to the conference? _____
Saturday Morning sale: _____ Afternoon ABS Auction: _____
How many of which species? _____

Registration fee: $90.00 payable to; ABS-Caribbean Chapter. Mail to: ABS-CC, c/o Mike Kellum, 2618 Flamingo Lane, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 5 | P.O. Box 215, Slingerlands, NY 12159 | October 1992

From the President

Several individuals have expressed concern, if not bitter reservations, over the delineation of the proposed boundaries of the regions to elect ABS directors. Behind this was probably either a sense of absence or loss of empowerment. **Such was certainly not the intent.** The Board of Directors never intended to permanently freeze or permanently fix these boundaries. To answer this concern we propose the following amendment to the proposed bylaws:

> **ABS members qualified to vote in ABS elections and living within a state may petition the secretary to move their state to another region of their choice. If fifteen percent or ten qualified members within a state so petition, ballots will be distributed within sixty days to all qualified voting members within the state to determine its region.**

We believe the total number of directors has to be fixed. The coordination of directors becomes increasingly difficult with increased numbers. Within the last couple of years several individuals have expressed interest in starting new chapters. The more directors we have, the more difficult it becomes to gain agreement to do anything.

Several factors were considered in the process of determining regional boundaries. The majority of ABS members do not even belong to chapters just as the majority of chapter members do not belong to the ABS — in both cases there is only about a 30% overlap. It would seem to be in the best interest of the non chapter member for the regional areas to be equal in membership population so that votes count equally. On the other hand, members who belong to both chapters and the ABS, tend to be the most dynamic, interested, and organized. We sought to equalize geographical area, population, and to balance the interests of chapter and non chapter members.

Some individuals felt Chapters were loosing representation by the creation of regions. In fact the way we proposed the boundaries, we intended each region to coincide with the core area of an existing chapter. States without core chapters were distributed by rough geographical proximity to core chapter areas. We anticipate the formation of additional chapters which will share regional directors.

On Increasing the Number of Directors

As of this writing 24% of the ballots have been returned. This leaves us short of the 33 1/3% required so we have extended the deadline for return until **October 20, 1992**. Members eligible to vote who have not yet done so have been sent another ballot. **Please vote!** We have also added another measure which we hope you will affirm. We need to lower the quorum required for votes to pass. 33 1/3% is too difficult to attain. Ballots have been sent separately in the mail. We strongly urge you to vote.

Nominations for Directors

Because of hurricane Andrew, no nominations were received by secretary Elizabeth Haverfield by September 1. The board will, however, accept late nominations until **October 20, 1992**. Directorships are available for three regional slots - Central, South East, and East Central (By twenty or more dues paying ABS members). Ballots will be mailed out soon after but results will not be known, unfortunately, until after the annual meeting. If only one qualified nominee is received for a given region, that nominee will automatically become director.

The strength of an organization rests with those who serve it, with those individuals who truly wish to contribute their time, energy, and skill. The organization is ill served by those lacking the resources to contribute but still hold office.

Gerald Bol
President, ABS

American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 5 October 1992

American Bamboo Society Officers

President:	Gerald Bol
Vice President:	David King
Treasurer:	Richard Haubrich
Membership:	Richard Haubrich
Secretary:	Elizabeth Haverfield
Newsletter Editors:	Michael A. Bartholomew
	James H. Filkins
Journal Editor:	Kenneth Brennecke

The President of the American Bamboo Society may be reached at:

Gerald Bol
666 Wagnon Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Home (707) 823-5866
FAX (707) 829-8106

All correspondence concerning American Bamboo Society Membership, address changes or the Bamboo Source List should be sent to:

Richard Haubrich
P.O. Box 640
Springville, CA 93265
Home (209) 539-2145
FAX (209) 539-2145

All correspondence concerning the American Bamboo Society Newsletter, comments, letters, proposed articles, announcements and Chapter reports should be sent to the attention of Michael Bartholomew or Jim Filkins at:

American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215

You may also reach the editors by telephone:

Michael Bartholomew	Jim Filkins
Home (518) 765-2347	Home (518) 872-2472
Work (518) 765-3507	FAX (518) 872-2702
FAX (518) 765-2490	

Membership in the American Bamboo Society for individuals is $15 for the calendar year and includes a subscription to the Newsletter and Journal. The Newsletter is issued bimonthly. Subscriptions for organizations and institutions are $20 per year.

1992 ABS Annual Meeting, Conference, and Auction Update

The 1992 ABS Annual Meeting, Conference, and Auction **will be held, as scheduled,** in Miami on October 23-25. Although severely damaged by the storm, Fairchild Tropical Garden is making a special effort to rebuild and is allowing us to hold the conference there, as planned. It is incredible how quickly the plants that survived have already begun to show new green foliage, and the garden should be well on the road to recovery by conference time.

Bamboos generally fared well from the storm, although the long-term effects (such as salt-water immersion) are yet to be seen. It will be a unique opportunity to see how different bamboo species recover from such a naturally-occurring disaster. Research has already been started, and we invite the ABS membership to come and see the progress during the ABS conference.

Please bear in mind that several chapter members lost their homes as well as their nurseries doe to Hurricane Andrew, and almost no one in the Miami area escaped without some property damage. In spite of this devastation, the Caribbean Chapter is working very hard to pull things together for the event. If we are sometimes hard to contact, or are slow to respond to messages, **please be patient.**

Program Changes: Due to extensive damage to several of the south Dade County gardens originally scheduled for the Sunday afternoon tour, the tour will now include Jesse Durko's tropical nursery in Broward County (where relatively less damage occurred). The tour will conclude with a visit to the home and garden of Kim Higbie and Paul Smith, where an informal open house reception will bring the conference to a close.

Also, since many hotels are booked indefinitely as a result of the storm, a list of additional accommodations which **may** have vacancies for the conference dates has been compiled (see below).

Annual Plant Sale and Auction

The Annual ABS Plant Sale will begin at 9:30 am on Saturday, October 24th. Plants from this Sale will not be shipped. The Auction of rare specimen plants will begin at 1:30 pm of the same day. The descriptions of the Auction plants are to be found on pages 13-15 of this

newsletter. Bids will be accepted from the floor or by mail. **Plants from the Auction can be shipped.**

Sealed bids by mail should include a deposit of 20% of the bid price. The deposit will be applied to the purchase price of successful bids or refunded if the bid is unsuccessful. Your sealed bid will not be revealed to other bidders, but will be executed at the auction by a designated ABS member as if you yourself were there. Your purchase price will be a few dollars above the second highest bid, but not more than **your** bid.

Those who bid by mail and purchase a plant may arrange to pick it up after the sale. If you can not pick up the plant, we will ship it to you provided that you pay for the cost of shipping and packaging. Shipping will be by first class mail unless other arrangements are made. Mail bids should be sent to Elizabeth Haverfield, 755 Tiziano Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33143-6263 so that they are received no later than October 20, 1992.

Registration fee: $90.00 payable to: ABS-Caribbean Chapter. Mail to:

ABS-CC
c/o Mike Kellum
2618 Flamingo Lane
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
(305) 891-0880 Days
(305) 584-7153 Evenings

Meeting registration form located on the back page

Registration fee includes access to Fairchild Tropical Garden for 2 days and 1 evening; Friday dinner, lunch and brunch Saturday and Sunday, Saturday evening banquet and lectures, and Sunday tours.

Committee Contact People

Saturday Morning Sale:

Peter Dodge
2700 SW 5th Avenue
Miami, FL 33129
(305) 361-4424 days
(305) 285-8864 evenings

Rare Plant Auction:

Jesse Durko
5390 SW 61 Avenue
Davie, FL 33314
(305) 792-2297

Accommodations

(It is advisable to make reservations as early as possible since there is a real shortage of rooms currently available in the Miami area).

Designated Motel for the ABS Conference:

Riviera Court Motel
5100 Riviera Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146
(305) 665-3528

Rooms are $53.00, efficiencies are $64.00 a day plus 10.5% tax. Members of AA, AARP, or a group are entitled to a 10% discount. There is an additional $5.00 charge for adding a third person to a room.

Additional hotel accommodations:

Hotel Ponce de Leon
1721 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Coral Gables, FL
(305) 444-9934
Room rates from $40.00

Quality Inn Airport Miami
2373 NW Le Jeune Road
Miami, FL
(305) 871-3230
Room rates from $55.00

Hotel Chateaubleau
1111 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Coral Gables, FL
(305) 448-2634
Room rates from $68.00

Miami River Inn
118 SW South River Drive
Miami, FL
(305) 325-0045
Room rates from $75.00

Saint Michael Hotel
162 Alcazar Avenue
Coral Gables, FL
(305) 444-1666
Room rates from $99.00

Doubletree Hotel
2649 South Bayshore Drive
Coconut Grove, FL
(305) 858-2500
Room rates from $109.00

Dadeland Marriott Hotel
9090 So. Dadeland Blvd.
Miami, FL
(305) 663-1035
Room rates from $125.00

Colonnade Hotel
180 Aragon Avenue
Coral Gables, FL
(305) 441-2600
Room Rates from $169.00

Mayfair House Hotel
3000 Florida Avenue
Coconut Grove, FL
(305) 441-0000
(305) 446-6779
Room rates from $180.00

Grand Bay Hotel
2669 So. Bayshore Drive
Coconut Grove, FL
(305) 858-9500
(305) 858-9600
Room Rates from $195.00

For any additional information:

Elizabeth Ann Haverfield
Chairperson, 1992 ABS Conference
755 Tiziano Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33143-6263
(305) 662-2315 EST - leave message at the tone
FAX (305) 662-2315 EST - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Commentary on the Evolution of the American Bamboo Society

The **American Bamboo Society** began in Southern California in the late seventies as a small group of individual collectors and has grown quickly into a national organization with about one thousand members. Creation of that national society in a relatively short time has relied heavily on information gathered by bamboo experts in the US over the past ninety years. Much work has been accomplished in codifying the existing bamboo collections and other work has expanded towards cooperation in international projects.

During the past fifteen years more than one hundred fifteen new bamboo species have been introduced into the US from both New World and Asian sources. Propagation and care of these newly introduced species follows a pattern which can be best described as **"paternal conservation"**. In a process, with very few ABS members involved in the first stages, species of newly introduced bamboos are observed for disease and pest infestations in the often hostile environment of a tightly sealed USDA licensed quarantine greenhouse. Of the plants which survive and are obtained by the American Bamboo Society few have found their way into the "nursery trade". This situation is the basis for extreme frustration among private nursery propagators who project large profits from these **"new"** bamboos. Recent controversy aired within the ABS Newsletter has focused on individuals and their ethical responsibility to the Society. Perhaps it is time for each chapter to format their own bamboo collections and focus on increasing availability of rare species within an organized process.

Taking the long view of bamboo cultivation within the ABS, these first years we have continued to view bamboo as a novelty plant. A plant which we enjoy in garden settings, but have yet to explore in its full future potential. Still, in a relatively short time we have done a tremendous amount of "bamboo collecting". Eventually these bamboo collections will begin to spawn other more utilitarian uses for bamboo. To speed up this first stage collections must be accessible to the widest number of our membership through regular chapter auctions.

Although bamboo grows vigorously, we discover that propagation frequently must follow at an extremely conservative pace. Many times it appears that newly introduced bamboos disappear within the society as they are bought at ABS auctions and then grown by collectors or frequently take years to re-emerge from private nursery propagation into the marketplace.

For theses reasons each newly imported species should be traced from its introduction as a single plant and a format developed to carefully follow its propagation. Initially new species should be divided and grown in various regions of the country. Regional propagation should be taken up collectively by the society with newly introduced plants placed in a **special conservation** category. This class would include plants that have been released by the USDA Quarantine, but are not yet listed on the ABS Species Source List. Within this special conservation category plants would be monitored and propagated by teams of individuals within each Chapter. The special conservation category would also provide for species currently in flower; with seed distributed to chapters, and seedlings listed in the special conservation category until species survival, with characteristics and variety within new seedlings are evaluated for their potential.

Regional Chapters have unique climatic restraints which will eventually dictate which species of bamboo are appropriate in each region. However, in order to maintain equity in this "first stage" species collections should be developed within each chapter and custodianship must be organized as a collective undertaking. Using propagation skills learned during the past decade, bamboo species can be introduced and carefully followed for the first ten or fifteen years. We should yearly list the surviving **conservation plants** within each chapter. This approach would in effect create an **interactive biography** on the plants at the chapter level, and could ease the feelings of frustration felt by a general lack of communication about current plant status after it has been released from the regional quarantine greenhouses.

The Northern California Chapter has begun the process of setting up a conservation propagation team to monitor important species within our region. To begin, chapter members were asked to file species inventory lists of their own private collections with ABS Species Librarian David King and the inventory lists could be examined to determine a focus for selections we will place under the chapter **special conservation** category. This process has already been taken up by the Southern California Chapter, and with a few adjustments each chapter could expand and improve on the ideas expressed here.

Karl Bareis
2900 Smith Grade Road
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

A Mountain Bamboo for the South

By Robert Lester Ph.D.

Of all the *Fargesia nitida* clones being grown today, only one stands out for use in **Southern gardens**, that being *F. n.* 'Anceps'.

It has been said that this clone greatly resembles *F. n.* 'Nymphenburg' and that the two are almost identical in appearance; I now have proven them to be quite different in **hardiness and heat tolerance**.

Plants of this *Fargesia* found their way into this country from Germany in the early 1970's, but probably originated at the Goteborg Botanic Gardens in Goteborg, Sweden. No P.I. (plant introduction) numbers are known at this time.

A few years ago I provided a fellow bamboo aficionado, Alan Brunner of Benson, North Carolina with a good husky plant to try in his beautiful garden. It has not only succeeded where all other clones have failed, but has proven to be one of his most vigorous bamboos. So much so, that he has divided it with good success.

Later, I provided Steve Ray of Birmingham, Alabama with a plant of the same clone. He has reported to me that his plant is doing just fine in his garden. It, like the one given Alan Brunner, was also planted in shade.

I had been sending Fargesia species and cultivars to Steve for years, only to hear that they died in the hot Alabama summers. Not so with *F. n.* 'Anceps', which seems to tolerate heat better than any of the others.

What first prompted me to try this *Fargesia* in the South was that although it is hardy in Zone 6, I noticed some damage from our winters here in Pennsylvania. Though the damage was minimal, I decided that it might tolerate the heat better than other *Fargesias*.

I since have provided plants to Gerald Bol of Northern California and Michael Bartholomew of Upstate New York. As of this writing, I have not received enough information concerning the hardiness from either source. I know Michael's has survived one winter fine and I imagine that Gerald's plant is also doing well.

Gerald was very taken with the specimen plants of *F. n.* 'Anceps' at my farm when he visited with us in 1991. Since that time many divisions of this most beautiful clone of *nitida* have been shared with other bamboo enthusiasts.

For us, here in Pennsylvania, this hardy clumping bamboo reaches six feet in height by six feet wide, and is very tight at the base (about two feet). Its whip like culms are very upright at first and weep outward in the second year from the sheer weight of the narrow delicate blue-green foliage.

Though it is not widely distributed in the USA, it is sure to become a favorite among collectors and growers alike. Especially since it is fast growing, quite easily divided and so very beautiful.

I would like to add that *F.n.* 'Anceps' makes the best potted specimen of all the *Fargesias*. It is a true "Classic Bamboo".

Robert Lester Associates
180 Sunnyside Road
Easton, PA 18042

Giant Black Incognita

Editor's note: The following is from a letter to Elizabeth Haverfield, in response to her request for information.

August 17, 1992

Dear Elizabeth,

I have enclosed an amended article on the two giant black bamboos. A small section has been added dealing with the stripes you have observed on your *Gigantochloa atroviolacea*. The part about pendant tips has also been modified. I've enclosed the best copy I have of Widjaja's illustration.

The striping is a complex issue and I have kept it separate from Dr. Widjaja's description which doesn't mention them. This may have been intentional on her part. In my collecting work in Indonesia I have found this species to be widely variable. Actually I have "homed in" on this bamboo. It is the most interesting I have ever encountered, and a study of its variability is one of my sub-projects; that's why I don't like nurseries tangling it up with the "ex-Timor" giant black.

At Mount Mirinjo Farm, I now have both a black and a green form of *G. atroviolacea*. This is only the

beginning. Two more forms are now being propagated in Indonesia for me, and I'll try for others in October when I go over again. It's too complicated if I write much about the variability of *G. atroviolacea* in an article about the two giant black bamboos. As well as that, I'm still less than half-way through this particular investigation. In about two years I could have an article dealing specifically with this bamboo if you want it.

Dr. Widjaja wrote in her article on *Gigantochloa*; "It seems that *G. atroviolacea* likes to grow in dry areas on soil rich in limestone. The preferred purplish colour of the culm is more prominent when it grows in dry areas." The variability I'm talking about goes beyond soil pH or climate, but I have noted this remark of hers.

Sincerely,

Lennox Muller
Queensland, Australia

Two Giant Black Clumping Bamboos

By: Len Muller
Queensland, Australia

An unidentified giant black clumping bamboo widely grown in North Queensland, and also in collections in America and elsewhere, has been confused with *Gigantochloa atroviolacea*. The two bamboos are readily distinguished by examination of their culm sheaths, and collectors who have a giant black clumping bamboo are advised to check its identity, using the material provided in this article. The unidentified giant black seems still to be awaiting description, and is unknown in botanical literature. I call it *Giant Black Incognita*, until it is adequately described and named.

Origin of *Giant Black Incognita*

About 20 years ago, a small propagule of a giant black clumping bamboo was brought to Cairns by an Australian visitor holidaying in East Timor, then a Portuguese colony. The bamboo appeared to be growing wild in Baucau, a town set among rugged limestone hills and springs, near the northern coastline.

At that time, most travellers spent a few days at Baucau, and explored the surrounding area by four-wheel-drive before going on to Dili, the capital. The weekly prop-jet plane from Darwin landed at Baucau because Dili's airstrip could take only light planes. From Dili, it was possible to go overland by truck to Kupang, Indonesia, at the western end of the island. This route was a popular one in the "island hopping" days, when hippies enjoyed the long trip - with many stopovers - between Darwin and Katmandu. Now the hippies are no longer to be seen, and East Timor is a province of Indonesia, but the black bamboo is a reminder of those days, and is one of the worlds's loveliest bamboos. It appears to be unknown in other parts of Asia, and it is not mentioned in popular publications on bamboo. Neither, apparently, does it grow anywhere on the island of Java. Its identity is not known. Figure 1 shows young shoot, culm sheaths, and leaves of *Giant Black Incognita*:

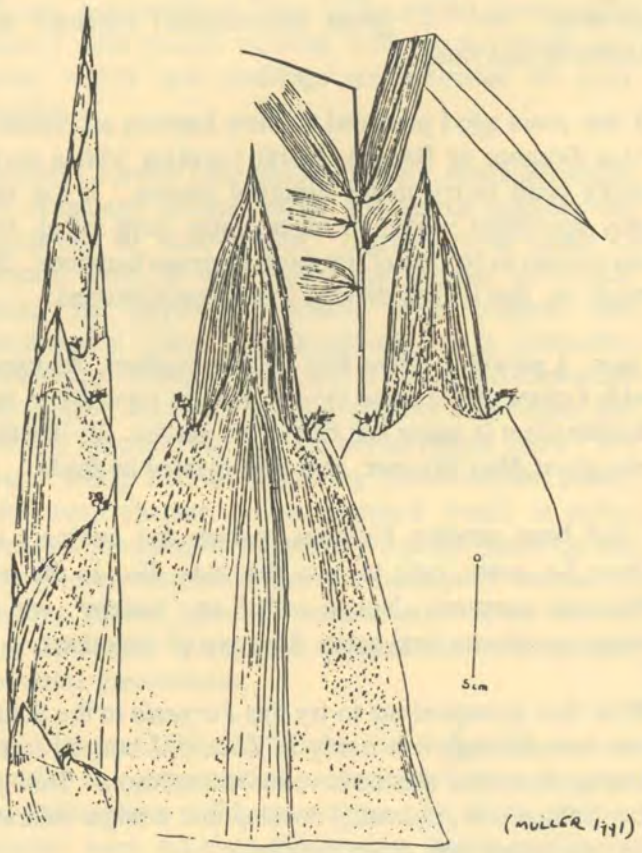


Figure 1: Giant Black Incognita
Young shoot, culm sheath, and leaves

Gigantochloa Atroviolacea

In 1987, Dr. Elizabeth WidJaja of Bongor, Java, described a black bamboo from Java. Previous authors had taken it to be a variety of either *Gigantochloa atter*

or *Gigantochloa verticillata*. Dr Widjaja found that it was sufficiently different from either of these to be given a name of its own, and classified as a separate species. She called it *Gigantochloa atroviolacea*.

Superficially, *G. atroviolacea* looks very much like a black form of *G. atter*, but apart from the visible morphological differences between the two, the wood of *G. atroviolacea* makes better musical instruments, apparently on account of its resonance. Pak Hujo of Bandung uses it to make angklung and calung, the bamboo instruments of West Java. Its vernacular name in Java is *Bambu wulung*, which means black. Figure 2 shows young shoot, culm sheaths, and leaf sheaths of *Gigantochloa atroviolacea*.

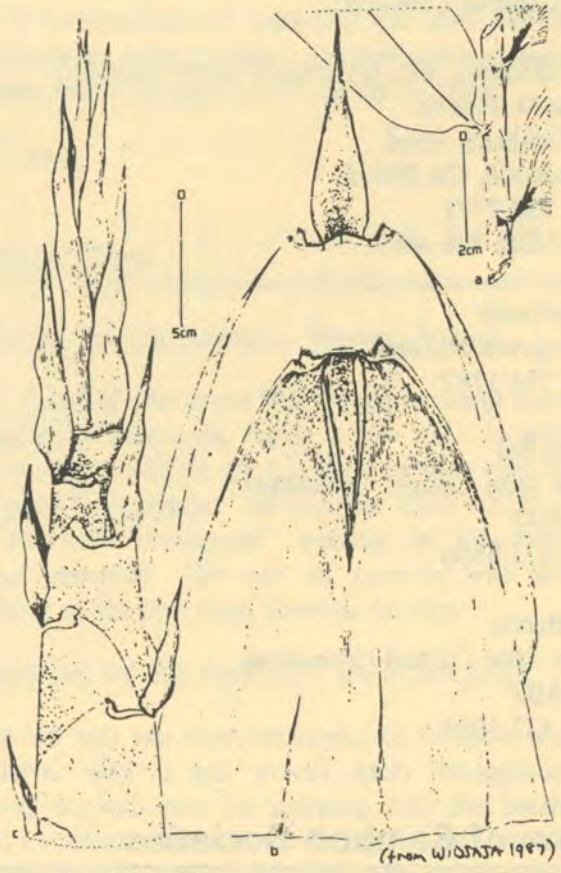


Figure 2: *Gigantochloa atroviolacea*
Young shoot, culm sheath, and leaf sheaths

Many bamboo enthusiasts have confused the "ex-Timor" giant black with *Gigantochloa atroviolacea*. It is the purpose of this article to point out the differences between the two. I have written to Dr. S. Dransfield of Kew Herbarium to ask her to assist us in identifying *"Giant Black Incognita"*, sending copies of information to Dr. Widjaja in Bogor, and to Mr. Wong Khoon Meng, a forest botanist in Brunei, who is a specialist in South East Asian bamboos. Both Dr. Dransfield and Dr. Widjaja have confirmed that it is not *G. atroviolacea*, but were unable to identify it. Mr. Wong has not yet replied.

A comparison of the culm sheaths and growing shoots shown in figures 1 and 2 is evidence enough that the two giant black clumping bamboos are different. In addition, the culms of *Incognita* are a darker more intense colour (purplish/brownish/black) and bear occasional stripes which may be dark green, light green, yellow, yellowish orange, or creamy white. These may range in width from 1 mm to 1 cm or more. Though infrequent, these stripes are a noticeable feature of the total clump, and contribute to *Incognita's* dark beauty. Foliage leaves of *Incognita* are more commonly 18 cm x 2 cm - in general smaller than those of *G. atroviolacea* - although they often do reach the same dimensions (27 cm x 3 cm). However the leaves of *Gigantochloa atroviolacea* may be as wide as 5 cm, a size never reached by the leaves of *Incognita*. Leaves of *G. atroviolacea* have copious fine hairs on the under surface, while leaves of *Giant Black Incognita* are glabrous on both surfaces.

There are additional features of *G. atroviolacea* not mentioned in Widjaja's original description that are worth noting. One is that the culm sheaths frequently develop black stripes. Another is that the culms themselves develop green stripes during the colour change from green to black. There are several distinct forms of *G. atroviolacea*, including green ones which have unstriped culm sheaths, and variation within this species is now under study at Mount Mirinjo Farm. The black striping which develops in some forms on the culm sheath may be evident on some leaf sheaths also, but does not always manifest itself. In addition, the blades of the culm sheaths of *G. atroviolacea* frequently abscise from the sheath proper. In *Giant Black Incognita*, the blade stays firmly in place, long after the sheath has fallen from its culm.

The culm tips of *Incognita* are very pendant and nodding, much more so than any of the *Gigantochloa* species.

The most compelling evidence of all is to compare mature clumps of the two bamboos. They both have black culms and are about the same size. There the resemblance ends.

Awaiting a Name

Until *Incognita* is positively identified, owners of this plant are asked to avoid calling it *Gigantochloa atroviolacea*, which it obviously is not. As genus and species are still unknown to us, we could call it *Giant Black Incognita* until its true identity is revealed. Is *Incognita* a Timorese native, or was it taken there from somewhere else?

Reference:

Widjaja, Elizabeth A. *A revision of Lelancesian Gigantochloa (Poaceae - Bambusoideae),* In *Reinwardtia* Vol 10, part 3, pp 291-380, 1987.

Bamboo Pests

Spider mites — (*Tetranychus uriticae*)

From the August Northern California Chapter Newsletter

Our June 1992 newsletter covered the problems of spider mite infestations in Northern California and explained how the two spotted mite is now endemic in California bamboo groves, and has been expanding quickly into most ornamental bamboo plantings in California. The mites have proven they prefer bamboo to all other hosts and the problem could result in all bamboos being restricted from transport outside infested areas. The mites have been in Northern California since early 1980 infesting several bamboo groves and spreading with transplanted nursery stock.

Spider mites while visible can easily go undetected; they live on leaf undersides and create tiny web structures as they mine the soft under-cells of bamboo leaves. Eventually, as the cell structures are eaten away and the leaves begin to show visible beige streaking, mites can actually be seen with the naked eye on the back side of bamboo leaves. Within the tiny webs are rows of clear egg sacks and by early June the leaf will usually harbor several mature eight legged creatures as well. The two spotted spider mite has a reproductive cycle of five to seven days. While the predatory mite reproduces nearly twice as fast!

An early July application of live predator mites on an infestation of the two spotted spider mite has been completed in Santa Cruz County. The preliminary testing of natural insect pest control seems to have been extremely successful in areas of early mite infestations. The preliminary results are that mite populations were reduced to only immature eggsacks observed on less than 0.1 percent of the leaf mass.

The Northern California Chapter has proposed organized tests of predatory mites. To be most useful these eradication tests should follow a consistent format.

Our collective observations and information gathered this summer should cover a full spectrum; from un-inoculated mite populations, to detailed information as to the difference in cost effectiveness between natural predatory mites and chemical sprays.

Mite Control Contacts:

Plant Sciences, Inc. (Predatory insect breeders)
Steven D. Nelson
514 Calabasas Road
Watsonville, CA 95076
(408) 728-7771
FAX (408) 728-4967

Nevin Smith
Wintergreen Nursery
(408) 724-1787

Gerald Bol
Spider Mite Control Committee
NCCABS
(707) 823-5866

Karl Bareis
Spider Mite Control Committee
NCCABS
(408) 427-1034

Union of Bamboo Societies

There has been a recent proposal to expand the board of directors to include a slot for someone who would focus on international bamboo issues. This particular change is critical in keeping **The American Bamboo Society** in tune with fellow bamboo societies across the globe.

An **International Union of Bamboo Societies** has been proposed and will be discussed at the **International Bamboo Congress** in Minamata Japan. The formation of a closer union of societies would include working on

improved methods for information transfers and to facilitate global exchange of information on bamboo cultivation, research, utilization and conservation.

The structure would be very flexible with representatives of each society forming an organizing committee that would begin with information exchanges and publishing these news items in their respective newsletters.

Dr. Adkali, President of the Bamboo Society of India has responded by noting that within ABS and EBS there are already computer "networks" of individuals. These networks need to continue and expand by supplying information we have gained about networking to other societies and to help other world societies with basic computer equipment.

Once a communications apparatus has been set up the local societies could facilitate an **international bamboo information exchange** benefiting **all** involved!

Karl Bareis

Japan Tour

Sponsored by: The American Bamboo Society

The November tour to the **Third International Bamboo Congress** in Minamata, Japan is now full! In addition several ABS members are traveling on their own to the Minamata Conference. All together there will be over one hundred "foreigners" meeting in Minamata to discuss **bamboo!** We will be traveling with several members of the European Bamboo Society.

Preparations for this experience are in full gear.

While we will see many examples of bamboo and the wonderful way it has woven itself throughout the culture, we will also be stepping into the depths of Japan's ancient social culture during our two week stay. This trip is also being used as a springboard for other travel...

South China Travel in Mid-November

This November trip has been planned to utilize Tom Woods' long time relationship with the South China Institute of Botany, under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Institute maintains the largest collection of tropical plants and is situated in the Central Pearl River basin. Those traveling with Tom will benefit from his knowledge of the area's plants and plantsmen.

This travel to Southeastern China, by using Gangzhou (Canton) as its base and traveling out into the countryside, will be able to draw on the relative comfort of the Institute's facilities and use the excellent translation services of Dr. Sha as the group's tour guide. Travel will be by 6 passenger light van. Driver will be provided by South China Institute of Botany. The primary purpose of this travel is to exchange research information and plant materials - spending time in the field and important bamboo collections which include many new variegated cultivars recently hybridized and propagated in South China.

Accommodations and meals will be at the Institute of Botany. This is primarily a botanical travel, and focus will be on the plant resources of the area with support and sponsorship of the Chinese government. Cost in China is $780.00. Contact Karl Bareis for more information at: (408) 427-1034.

ABS Bookstore

The ABS Bookstore is a little behind in getting books shipped to purchasers. Reorganization of procedures has remedied the difficulties and books will be shipped more promptly from now on.

No new books have been added to our stock, but some good news has been received! Timber Press will shortly announce November publication of a new book on bamboo! The book is *Bamboos* by Christine Recht and Max Wetterwald. It is a 7 1/2 by 10 inch hardbound book of 160 pages having 60 colored plates, 7 black and white plates, and 25 line drawings. Advance information from Timber Press suggests that it will be a very handsome addition to our personal libraries. It will retail for $32.95 in bookstores. Because ABS buys in quantity, we will be able, when we receive them, to sell the book for $30.00 postpaid in the USA, and overseas for $10.00 more. A reminder: Please make checks payable to "Herbert Hillery, ABS Bookstore" to help me avoid check cashing hassles. Also, Texans please include 8% sales tax.

Herb Hillery
ABS Bookstore
1909 Richcreek Road
Austin, TX 78757

News from Quail

A long-expected shipment of plants from Iringa Tanzania (via Dar es Salaam) arrived by air parcel on July 29. It contained 3 divisions each of *Arundinaria alpina* and *Oxytenanthera braunii* (the Wine Bamboo) plus seeds. The plants were in good condition.

T. N. Lipangile, who sent them, is an engineer who has spent many years developing and installing water systems in the villages of Tanzania, and developed "appropriate technology" which includes use of *A. alpina* for water pipes.

He also sent writeups about both plants, instructions for making bamboo wine, and copies of his book, *Bamboo and Woodstave Technology*. One copy of the book is for our Chapter library and one for ABS.

George Shor
2655 Ellentown Road
La Jolla, CA 92037-1147

Oxytenanthera braunii

by T.N. Lipangile
(Edited by G. Shor)

The Wine Bamboo

Historically, the Wine Bamboo, *Oxytenanthera braunii*, grows abundantly in Southern Tanzania (southwest of Dar es Salaam, northeast of Lake Nyasa) at elevations between 1450-1700 meters. Near Iringa Township (airport elevation 1426 meters above sea level) there are several areas of bamboo clumps, which have provided drinking wine for the local people for centuries. Rhizomes were gathered here, in a location not affected by the flowering which is taking place in some parts of Tanzania. Flower materials were gathered from a flowering area of Wine Bamboo about 40 km away.

For many years Africans of these areas have used these bamboos as a source of bamboo wine or a light alcohol. The bamboos are farmed by local people for drinking. A typical clump consists of about 25-50 culms, which grow to a height of 3-4 meters. A family (one man, one woman, 4 children) can maintain and harvest 60 to 70 clumps.

New groves are established by rhizome transplanting. The best season for offshoots to come out is from September (just as the rainy season is about to start) and continues growing in October, November, December and until the end of the rainy season about March to April. Offshoots come out from the main clumps annually.

In the first and second year after starting a new grove, shoots are allowed to grow to full height. In the third year, some of the shoots are allowed to grow to expand the clump, but others are tapped for wine when they reach a height of about 2 feet. From the 3rd year on, tapping of wine will be done continuously; some new shoots are tapped and others left to produce more shoots. All leaves are collected and placed around the new shoots as fertilizer. To expand the clumps, some new shoots one year old from older bamboo stands are transplanted along with main rhizomes. Shoots are tapped daily up to about a year and then abandoned.

When shoots reach a height of 2 ft., about 2.5 inches is cut from the top of the shoot using a sharp knife or razor blade. Each day for the next 6 days, another 1/2 inch is cut from the apex of the shoot.

On the 8th day, a plastic jar is tied with a string to the shoot. The wine fills the jar about 0.5 litre in the morning for bigger shoots, and about 0.25 litre for smaller shoots. In the evening another harvesting is made of about the same amount. At mid-day a thin cut (1-2 mm thick) is taken from the apex of the shoot to allow new liquid to flow. The jar is kept tied against the shoot. After collecting, the bamboo wine is poured into plastic containers (60-70 litre) which are kept in the houses.

The best liquor is obtained after the wine is stored for about 12-14 hours. During these hours the wine will strongly ferment and possesses the capability of causing one to become drunk when taken in reasonable quantities. This type of overstored liquid bamboo wine is preferred by men since it has a less sweet taste. The women and children prefer to consume the freshly tapped liquid because it is sweeter. Bamboo wine is slightly acidic, and causes diarrhea in some people the first time they drink it. This is normally harmless, and does not recur when wine is taken again. One can become drunk very rapidly.

For many years, the whole business of selling bamboo wine was done under traditional procedures, and the wine sold for about US 10¢ to 30¢ per litre. Presently, it has been reported that bamboo wine is being produced in Iringa Town at a fruit and vegetable canning factory, and is being sold in 0.5 litre tin cans. Some local

women have devised a technique of distilling this bamboo wine and producing a distilled spirit with very strong alcoholic content.

Arundinaria alpina

by T.N.Lipangile
(Edited by G. Shor)

I had to travel about 800 km roundtrip to obtain plants of *Arundinaria alpina*, as I could not obtain these plants near Iringa. In the area where we gathered the plants, we encountered a problem of bamboo flowering in the forest. Therefore we had to pick the plants which were actually growing despite the flowering event.

The *Arundinaria alpina* bamboos of Tanzania are classified as high mountainous bamboos. They grow well between 1500-3000 meters; the samples sent were from a location near the Mbeya Range weather station, altitude 2438 meters (8000 feet).

We have no experience of planting these bamboos; most of the forests in Tanzania are natural.

New shoots start coming up just as the rainy season is about to come, starting in September and continuing to grow fast during the rains up to about April/May each year. Bamboos of this species can grow to heights of 10-20 meters, and external diameter of 8-10 cm (3-4 inches). The wall is thin. Maturity is achieved after 3-4 years. The number of growing culms is about 5000/acre.

Tanzanian rural people have used these plantations for centuries in rural housing construction, domestic household furniture, and, very recently, for rural water supply piping. [Note: Mr. Lipangile is the developer of water systems using bamboo pipe!] Being organic matter which contains sugar and starch as other bamboo species, they easily become attacked by rot fungus, and beetles, and termites after they are cut. In high mountain areas, fungus and termites are not active, and the service life without treatment after harvest is 4-7 years above ground and 2-3 years in ground contact. At lower elevations their life drops to 1-2 years in ground contact and 3-4 years above ground. If treated, the service life is increased to 10-30 years. Treatment can be effected by impregnating chemical preservatives in the culm and by natural methods of bamboo protection.

ABS Chapter Notes

Northeast Chapter

Our Summer Meeting at the Bamboo Fencer's Workshop and Studio

On Saturday, August 29th the Northeast Chapter held an informal meeting in Jamaica Plain, MA at the workshop and studio of David Flanagan, the Bamboo Fencer. Approximately fifteen people attended, getting a first hand look at David's various bamboo materials and crafts. It was fascinating to see the variety of bamboo poles David has to work with, and photos were on hand depicting his wonderful finished products.

Several people also went across the parking lot to enjoy the **Samuel Adams Brewery tour**, and we all feasted on fresh tortillas and barbecue chicken. This was a great "hang out and talk bamboo" day, and everyone seemed to have a good time. Roseanne and Bill Newton ventured all the way from Fairfax, VA for their first NEC meeting... It was great to see new faces!

Arnold Arboretum Annual Plant Sale and Auction

The Northeast Chapter participated in the annual plant sale and auction held by the Arnold Arboretum at the Case Estates in Weston, MA on September 20. The affair is attended by about 3,000 avid gardeners looking for the unique plants the event is well known for. Chapter members were pleased by the bamboo interest and level of sophistication of the group, which was requesting specific bamboo plants. The sale was a marvelous emotional and economic success with new members for the Chapter and many bamboo plants purchased.

Susanne Lucas

Southeastern Highlands Chapter

The fall meeting of the Southeastern Highlands Chapter of the ABS was held in Montgomery, AL, September 26-27. The newly renovated Montgomery Zoo was the site of the meeting on Saturday. There were lectures on landscaping with bamboo, including a talk by a local landscape architect, Janie Wall, who has used bamboo in a commercial project. Steve Ray showed a videotape of his appearance on the nationally syndicated Public Broadcasting System television program "The Victory

Garden". A bamboo auction and plant sale was conducted by Adam Turtle.

At the business meeting officers for the 1992-93 year were elected.

President: R. Rhys Harris, Jr., Montgomery, Alabama.

Secretary/Treasurer: Linda Knievel, Jackson, Tennessee.

On Sunday the group made a short drive to Prattville, Alabama, to tour a large grove of *Phyllostachys nigra* 'Henon', *P. viridis* 'Robert Young', and *P. aureosulcata*.

R. Rhys Harris, Jr.

Southern California Chapter

The August meeting of the Southern California Chapter at Quail Gardens was devoted to planning for the September Bamboo Festival. We all admired the *Oxytenanthera braunii* (wine bamboo) which is growing luxuriantly in the quarantine greenhouse; the *Arundinaria alpina* unfortunately shows no signs of life.

September 19 was the big day. At our annual business meeting there were the usual reports (President, Secretary, Landscape committee, Reference Collection). Tom Taylor was elected to the one vacant position on the Board, and Dean Hwang and Peter Gantzel will continue to serve as alternates. Continuing officers are: Ken Brennecke, president; Gary Stinson, Vice-President and keeper of the reference collection and propagation facility; George Shor, secretary/treasurer/editor and holder of the import permit; Tom Taylor, representative to QBGF; Kiyoshi Yoshida, board member. We passed a resolution to be taken to the Annual ABS meeting: "We favor a form of governance of ABS that has representation of the ABS members by Chapters rather than Regions," and designated George Shor to carry the message on behalf of ABS/SoCal.

Richard Haubrich gave a talk on "Growing Bamboo" to a packed house, discussing everything from propagation to gophers.

The "bamboo show" scheduled to start at 12:00 actually was well underway by 10:00 am, with quite a crowd looking at the plants and trying to carry them away. The actual sale started at 1:00, and did a thriving business. We thank Kim Higbie for bringing out some giant black bamboo as a contribution to the sale. We had some out-of town visitors also from Northern California and Arizona. The financial return from the sale was better than last March (when it rained) but not as good as last September (before the depression set in).

George Shor

Texas Chapter

Membership in the chapter continues to grow slowly and is now about 30. However, during the several summer weeks just passed we have had little group activity (I think we are all busy tending our own bamboo plants, diligently studying bamboo-ology, and getting great ideas for the chapter's autumn and winter). We will be getting things underway again in the next few days. Also, the first newsletter will be mailed shortly.

Herb Hillery

For Sale

Wholesale Stock Reduction Sale

I am offering a large quantity of bamboo - 13 genera - approximately 125 plants. One person takes all. No shipping. Send business size SASE for terms of sale. This is an excellent opportunity for someone to get into the bamboo nursery business or to expand your stock. Write:

Richard Waters
c/o A Bamboo Shoot Nursery
1462 Darby Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Newsletter Dateline

All submissions for the next issue of the American Bamboo Society Newsletter should be received on or before November 20, 1992. Please mail or FAX to the Newsletter address posted in the masthead.

Bamboo Auction 1992 / 24-OA.

Clumping Tropicals

Name	max height feet	max diam inches	min temp °F.	shade sun	Comments The three numbers at the end of the comments give the number of culms, the height in feet and the pot size in gallons of the specimen plants.	
1. Bambusa beecheyana	50	5	15	5	Culms with short internodes generally arch strongly and are covered with white powder when young. One or more seedlings. 1, 10, 5	35
2. Bambusa dissemulator	50	3	18	5	Its many, thick walled, arching or erect culms bear long branches from every node.	40
3. Bambusa dolichoclada 'Stripe'	65	4	~~20~~ 12°	5	The culms are a waxy yellow with dark green stripes.	160
4. Bambusa dolichomerithalia 'Green stripe-stem'	35	2	20?	5	The culms are yellow-green with deep green vertical stripes. 6, 7, 5 larger leaves than BADOCSTR	40
5. Bambusa dolichomerithalia 'Silverstripe'	35	2	20?	5	The culms are green with light green vertical stripes. 1, 7, 5	45
6. Bambusa edulis	65	3	20	5	A native of Taiwan with large, dark green leaves. 3, 9, 10	35
7. Bambusa forbesii	13	1¼	30?	5	Native to New Guinea and northern Queensland. Leaves up to 20 inches long by 3½ inches wide. 5, 2½, 3	60
8. Bambusa longispiculata	50	4	28	5	Introduced in 1932 from India to Puerto Rico. 1, 6, 5	40
9. Bambusa malingensis	35	2½	20	4	An attractive tropical, it produces a large number of culms each year. 3, 7, 5 and 2, 3, 4	40
10. Bambusa mutabilis	20	1½	22	5	Moderate in size, suitable for a small yard. Two plants.	110
11. Bambusa multiplex 'Goldstripe'	35	1½	12	5	The green culms, when mature have a gold stripe that bleeds into the green. 7, 6, 5	25
12. Bambusa pachinensis	33	2½	20	5	Medium size with yellowish culms, it resembles *B. textilis*. 7, 7, 5	30
13. Bambusa vulgaris 'Wamin'	16	3	27	5	A dwarf form with short, swollen lower internodes. 2, 4, 7	110
14. Bambusa sp. (H. Waddick)					Variegated bamboo from Taiwan. 4, 3, 3	25
15. Chusquea coronalis (seed 5/73)	23	¾	25	4	Most mature plants are now in flower. One or more seedlings.	40 04
16. Chusquea liebmannii	33	1	32	4	Culms strongly arching to clambering. 6, 4½, 3	40
X **17. Chusquea pittieri**	50	2	22	5	The culms grow up then arch over and hang down or climb on trees.	~~40~~
18. Chusquea simpliciflora	80	⅜	32	3	Viny bamboo with long thin running rhizomes. 2, 7, 1	35
19. Dendrocalamus brandesii	~~120~~ 60-90'	8	28?	5	Large Burmese bamboo similar to *D. ~~giganteus~~*. Three seedlings: 5, 3, 3; 6, 2½, 2 and 3, 3, 1 dasper	40, 20, 10, 15
20. Dendrocalamus giganteus	100	12	25	5	A native of Burma, it is one of the largest bamboos in the world. Leaves can be up to 20 inches long and 4 inches wide.	100
21. Dendrocalamus giganteus variegatus	100	12	25	5	Same as the above except some of the leaves are variegated with white stripes.	80
22. Dendrocalamus latiflorus 'Mei-nung'	65	8	25	5	Burmese bamboo with large dark green leaves, 10 to 16 inches long and 3 to 4 inches wide. The culms are light green striped with dark green. 7, 2½, 7	135
23. Dendrocalamus membranaceus	70	4	28	5	A strong growing bamboo with straight culms forming loose clumps. Two seedlings 5, 3, 3 and 4, 5, 1	35, 35, 30
24. Drepanostachyum falcatum	20	¾	15	2	An attractive bamboo with dark green leaves and bluish culms. Seedling 5, 5, 5	100
25. Drepanostachyum khasianum	12	½	15	3	The new culms are dark green covered with white powder giving them a bluish look. It recently flowered and died. Two plants from seed. 8, 5, 3	25, 40
26. Dinochloa scandens	100	1	32	3	A climbing bamboo from tropical Southeast Asia. 4, 1, 2	35
27. Gigantochloa apus	65	4	27	5	Native of Java with large leaves up to 15 inches long and 2½ inches wide. The culms are densely hairy when young.	65
28. Gigantochloa atroviolacea	40	3	28	5	A striking bamboo whose culms turn black after a few months. Two plants 2, 9, 5 and 2, 3½, 3	310, 250
29. Guadua angustifolia	100	8	30	5	The largest of the American bamboos, native to Colombia and Peru where it is used for house construction and furniture. Two plants. 3, 5, 7 and 2, 2, 3	65 22
30. Guadua angustifolia variegata	100	8	30	5	This unusual variety has culms striped in green and yellow. Two plants.	65
X **31. Himalayacalamus falconeri**	30	1¼	10	3	The bright green culms arch under the load of abundant, small, papery thin leaves.	~~40~~
32. Neohouzeaua mekongensis	30	2	28	5	Native to Thailand and Laos, it grows in a tight clump. 3, 10, 10	40
33. Otatea acuminata acuminata	15	¾	28	5	Smaller and more delicate looking then subspecies *aztecorum*, it comes from the hot, humid lowlands of eastern Mexico. 7, 1½, 2 and 4, 2, 1½	50, 35

Name	max height feet	max diam inches	min temp ° F.	shade sun	Comments The three numbers at the end of the comments give the number of culms, the height in feet and the pot size in gallons of the specimen plants.	
34. Otatea acuminata aztecorum	20	1½	22	4	The abundant long narrow leaves almost completely obscure the culms. Open clumps with culms 1 or 2 feet apart. Seedling.	55
35. Otatea fimbriata	14	¾	24	4	Differs from the above by larger leaves, up to a foot long and ¾ inch wide. 2, 2, 3	60
36. Oxytenanthera abysinnica	30	2	28	5	Native to North Africa. 2, 9, 5	65
37. Rhipidocladum pittieri	33	½	28?	5	Viny bamboo from Costa Rica.	50
38. Rhipidocladum racemiflorum	45	½	25	3	The slender culms grow up into trees, the tips hanging down as long, slender vines carrying tufts of small, light green leaves. 5, 2½, 3	105
39. Thyrsostachys siamensis	40	3	25	5	Said to be one of the most graceful bamboos known. Culms used for umbrella handles. 3, 7, 5	55
Temperate Clumping Bamboos						
40. Chusquea culeou	20	1¼	0	4	Native to Southern Chile, it has been cultivated for many years in Europe. 8, 5, 5	60
41. Chusquea sp. "breviglumis"	15	½	0	3	Native to southern Chile. 5, 2, 1	35
42. Chusquea sp. "nigricans"	15	½	0	3	From Southern Chile where it grows near and even in sphagnum peat bogs. 15, 4, 5	65
43. Fargesia nitida	12	½	–20	2	The dark purplish culms are covered with a bluish-white powder when young. Tolerates more heat than most other mountain bamboos. 4, 4, 2	30
44. Fargesia nitida 'Nymphenburg'	12	½	–20	2	Differs from the type by narrow leaves, strongly arching culms and young branches ascending. 5, 1½, 1	60
45. Fargesia utilis TUNGCHUAN NO. 3	13	½	0	4	A beautiful mountain bamboo with small delicate looking leaves, it is native to Yunnan Province in Central China between 9,000 and 12,000 feet. 3, 3, 1	60
46. Neomicrocalamus microphyllus	20	½	0 (Ref. @ 13°F)	3	A mountain bamboo from the Himalayas with small leaves. 6, 4, 2	25
47. Thamnocalamus aristatus	25	¾	0	3	Mountain bamboo from the eastern Himalayas mostly in cool temperate to subalpine areas up to 12,000 feet. 2, 2, 1	X
48. Thamnocalamus spathiflorus	30	1	0	3	Similar to the above. 4, 2½, 1	70
49. Thamnocalamus tessellatus	16	1	0	4	The only bamboo native to South Africa where it is called Bergbamboes. It grows in an open clump. 6, 4, 1	30
Temperate Running Bamboos						
50. Arundinaria funghomii	30	1¼	0	3	New culms are covered with a grey bloom for most of the first year.	X
51. Brachystachyum densiflorum	7+	½	~~0~~ –10	3	It has large foliage leaves and deciduous culm leaves. 4, 3, 1	20
52. Gelidocalamus fanglanum	4	¼	0	3	From the mountains of central China; it ranges up to 12,000 feet. 4, 4, 1	55
53. Hibanobambusa tranquillans 'Shiroshima'	16	1¼	10	3	The large leaves are beautifully variegated in green and cream. 2, 2, 1	50
54. Phyllostachys aurea holochrysa	27	1¾	0	4	Unlike the typical form whose culms stay green till old, these soon turn yellow and then a golden orange. Two plants 3, 4, 3 and 1, 4, 5	75
55. Phyllostachys aureosulcata 'Harbin'	26	1½	–10	5	This form has culms striped in yellow and green with longitudinal grooves much like Marliac Bamboo. 6, 5, 3	50, 30, 30
56. Phyllostachys aureosulcata spectabilis	26	1½	–10	5	The culms soon turn yellow while the groove remains green. Two plants. 1, 1½, 1 and 2, 1, 2	50
57. Phyllostachys bambusoides 'Castillon'	35	2	5	5	It has golden yellow culms with green grooves. An occasional leaf is striped in yellow. 8, 6, 7	35
58. Phyllostachys manii	20	1	0	5	This rare species may well be the only one of the genus native to India and Burma. 1, 1, 1½	25
59. Pleioblastus hindsii	15	1	0	4	Similar to *P. gramineus*, but with wider, more erect leaves. 2, 1½, 1	30
60. Pleioblastus kongosanensis akibensis	6	5/16 (?? J D)	0	3	Differs from the typical form by culm nodes that are not so hairy. 6, 3, 2	40
61. Pleioblastus chino murakamianus	10	¾	10	3	The leaves are highly variegated with white stripes and some are totally white; on average only about 25% of the leaf is green. 10, 1½, 5	15
62. Pseudosasa japonica akebonosuji	18	¾	0	3	The leaves have longitudinal green stripes on a background that blends gradually from green at the base to white at the tip. 3, 2½, 3	300
63. Pseudosasa usawai	16	¾	10	3	Native to Taiwan where it grows at elevations up to 4,000 feet. 7, 7, 5	40
64. Sasa senanensis	7	½	~~5~~ –10	2	Similar to *S. palmata*, but with leaves hairy below. 4, 3½, 3	40

Name	max height feet	max diam inches	min temp °F.	shade sun	Comments The three numbers at the end of the comments give the number of culms, the height in feet and the pot size in gallons of the specimen plants.	
65. Sasa shimidzuana	6	¼	0	3	The leaves with dense soft hairs beneath are up to a foot long by 2 inches wide. 8, 1, 3	35
66. Sasaella masamuneana	6	¼	0	3	A species with many names, this is the nondescript typical form of an attractive variegated bamboo. 3, 2, 2	15
67. Sasaella sasakiana	10	½	0	3	The culms have three branches at a node. Shoots are edible. 5, 1½, 1½	40
68. Sasaella shiobarensis	6	¼	0	3	Leaves with sparse long hairs above and dense soft hairs beneath.	60
69. Semiarundinaria yashadake kimmei	26	1½	0	5	The leaves are striped yellow on green, while the culms are striped green on yellow. 5, 1, 1	90
70. Sinobambusa intermedia	16	1	10	4	Culm internodes are up to 2 feet long and rough to the touch. 4, 3, 2	15
71. Sinobambusa tootsik variegata	30	1½	10	3	Culms are straight and erect; leaves are highly variegated in white and green. 3, 3, 1	45

72. Indo. "solidus" $10
73. Semi. okuboi $20
74. Phyll. aurea "albovar." $25
75. Phyll. nigra "meyerchiku" $25
76. Tham. spathiflorus "weihen" $55
77. B. mult. "willowy" $25
78. Guadua (chocoensis?) $55

1992 ABS Annual Meeting, Auction, and Conference Registration Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, & Zip: _____

Phone Number: Days ( ) _____ Evenings ( ) _____

Do you have any special dietary needs? _____

Do you have any other special needs? _____

Which Special Interest Groups do you wish to participate in? _____

_____

Will you be bringing any bamboo to the conference? _____

Saturday Morning sale: _____ Afternoon ABS Auction: _____

How many of which species? _____

Registration fee: $90.00 payable to; ABS-Caribbean Chapter. Mail to: ABS-CC, c/o Mike Kellum, 2618 Flamingo Lane, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215
USA

First Class Mail



Calendar Of Events

1992

Oct. 23-25 ABS Annual Meeting, Conference, and Auction, Fairchild Tropical Garden, Miami, FL. For more information, contact Elizabeth Haverfield, 755 Tiziano Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33143-6263, Tel. (305) 662-2315.

Nov. 11-13 Third International Bamboo Congress, Minamata City, Kumamoto, Japan. Copies of the First Circular are still available from many Chapters. For more information, contact Karl and Ginger Bareis, 2900 Smith Grade Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, Tel. (408) 427-1034, FAX (408) 427-0443.

1993

July 22-25 International Bamboo Festival, Bandung, Indonesia. For more information contact ABS, your ABS Chapter or write to: Drs. Anang Sumarna, Indonesian Bamboo Society, Jl. Cibeureum 16, Bandung 40184, Indonesia.

Sept. 25-26 ABS Annual Meeting, Sale And Auction, Arnold Arboretum, Boston, MA. For more information, contact Chris DeRosa, P.O. Box 816, Rockport, MA 01966, Tel. (508) 546-3581.

American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 6 | P.O. Box 215, Slingerlands, NY 12159 | December 1992

From the Editors

This issue completes our first year as newsletter editors for the **American Bamboo Society.** It has been a momentous year, indeed, with meetings, lectures, trips, tours, societal changes, "new" bamboos, etc. It has been an interesting and challenging task for us to keep abreast of all of this information, participate in events, document them, and pass all of it on to you, the ABS member.

We, as editors, hope that by printing all of the pertinent information available to us in a timely manner have demonstrated that bamboo is "alive and well" throughout the world and that the ABS is growing and changing to meet the demands placed on it by those of you interested in this unique plant. We feel that by publishing an informative newsletter with a wide range of interest we will encourage active participation in the ABS and all of its chapters, in addition to creating dialogue on this subject from all over the world.

Your many supportive comments throughout this past year have been very encouraging. We hope to continue to improve this newsletter in the future by drawing on our many contacts and friends made during this landmark year.

We wish you all a **Happy Holiday Season** and look forward to an eventful **1993!**

Michael Bartholomew,
Jim Filkins, Editors



New Officers and Directors

At the 1992 ABS Annual Meeting held at Fairchild Tropical Garden, Coral Gables, FL, the following positions were elected upon and accepted as one-year terms:

President:	Gerald Bol
Vice President:	George Shor
Treasurer:	David King
Secretary:	Susanne Lucas
Membership:	Michael Bartholomew

The following standing positions continue:

Newsletter Editors:	Michael Bartholomew Jim Filkins
Journal Editor:	Ken Brennecke
Source List Editor:	Richard Haubrich
ABS Bookstore:	Herbert Hillery

The current ABS Board of Directors is as follows:

Michael Bartholomew — P.O. Box 215, Slingerlands, NY 12159, (518) 765-2347; term ends in 1993.

Gerald Bol — 666 Wagnon Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472, (707) 823-5866; term ends in 1994.

Ken Brennecke - 912 Bonita Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024, (619) 753-0806; term ends in 1994.

Kim Higbie - 2020 SW 12 Avenue, Miami, FL 33129, (305) 854-7819; term ends in 1995.

David King - 480 West "I" Street, Benicia, CA 94510, (707) 745-4091; term ends in 1993.

Susanne Lucas - 9 Bloody Pond Road, Plymouth, MA 02360, (508) 224-7982; term ends in 1995.

George Shor - 2655 Ellentown Road, La Jolla, CA 92037, (619) 453-0334; term ends in 1993.

Rick Valley - 5629 SE Harney Drive, Portland, OR 97206, (503) 774-6353; term ends in 1994.

American Bamboo Society
Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 6 December 1992

American Bamboo Society Officers

President:	Gerald Bol
Vice President:	George Shor
Treasurer:	David King
Membership:	Michael Bartholomew
Secretary:	Susanne Lucas
Newsletter Editors:	Michael A. Bartholomew
	James H. Filkins
Journal Editor:	Kenneth Brennecke

The President of the American Bamboo Society may be reached at:

Gerald Bol
666 Wagnon Road
Sebastopol, CA 95472
Home (707) 823-5866
FAX (707) 829-8106

All correspondence concerning the American Bamboo Society Bamboo Source List should be sent to:

Richard Haubrich
P.O. Box 640
Springville, CA 93265
Home (209) 539-2145
FAX (209) 539-2145

All correspondence concerning the American Bamboo Society Newsletter, proposed articles, letters, ABS Chapter reports, announcements, comments, membership information, and address changes should be sent to:

American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215

You may also reach the editors at:

Michael Bartholomew
Home (518) 765-2347
Work (518) 765-3507
FAX (518) 765-2490

Jim Filkins
Home (518) 872-2472
FAX (518) 872-2702

Internet: michael_bartholomew@cce.cornell.edu
CompuServe: 70712,3570

Membership in the American Bamboo Society for individuals is $15 for the calendar year and includes a subscription to the Newsletter and Journal. The Newsletter is issued bimonthly. Subscriptions for organizations and institutions are $20 per year.

Ballot Results

The mail ballots for voting on ABS Directorship and ABS Quorum changes were received from about 530 ABS members. (A few cards were returned blank or incomplete, resulting in uneven totals.) The results of the voting are as follows:

Regarding increasing the number of ABS directors to eleven, but not more than fifteen:

Yes - 503
No - 24

Regarding changing the required quorum:

5% - 10
15% - 111
20% - 346
33.33% - 59

- The proposal of increasing the number of ABS directors to eleven, but not more than fifteen, was APPROVED.
- The proposal of changing the required quorum resulted in a lowering to 20%. Future initiatives will require a quorum of 20% to pass.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Directors of ABS who were present in Miami for the Annual Meeting, October 23-25, 1992 held multiple board meetings of short duration to discuss ABS business. Gilbert Voss has resigned from the Board, and **George Shor** was appointed to replace Voss for the remainder of his term, which expires in 1993. Nominating petitions were received for **Susanne Lucas** and **Kim Higbie** for at-large seats, who are now considered elected to fill two of the open seats remaining from the expired terms of Elizabeth Haverfield, Richard Haubrich, and Bill Teague.

Gerald Bol initiated discussions concerning the goals of ABS, ABS/Chapter interactions, fiscal problems, and the proposed re-writing of the Bylaws. The most extensive discussions focused on the ABS/Chapter relationship and representation. There is a problem in that membership in ABS has not grown, but costs have increased. We therefore need either more members or higher dues. The overlap between Chapter and National membership

is less than 50%, i.e. less than half of ABS members are in Chapters, and fewer than half of the Chapter members are members of ABS. George Shor has suggested a possible solution: "joint membership", by which all members of a Chapter would join ABS and ABS members would join a Chapter, thereby increasing the total number of members in ABS and concurrently increasing the membership of Chapters. This proposal is being considered and comments are encouraged.

The regional definition of Chapters and the question of which states comprise which Chapter or region was addressed. The proposed re-writing of the Bylaws hinges on the defined relationship of how Chapters relate to ABS, and this was discussed at length.

Ballot results, the appointment of new directors and the election of officers were announced, and the results are reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

ABS financial statements for the year ending 10/31/91 and 10/31/92 were provided by FAX from Richard Haubrich and discussed. A budget draft was prepared for the year to end 10/31/93.

Other topics discussed included that of the Source List and its format, the redistribution of existing FAX machines amongst past and current directors, the need for information fact sheets on bamboo culture, etc., and an endeavor for conservation and rare species tracking.

Directors Present: Gerald Bol, Michael Bartholomew, Kim Higbie, David King, Susanne Lucas, George Shor.

Thanks to George Shor for his notes.

Susanne Lucas,
Secretary/ABS

Proposed Changes for ABS

To ABS Newsletter Editors:

At the ABS Meeting in Miami I suggested a plan to solve both the financial problems facing ABS and the problem of Chapter representation. [*Editors' Note: Please see "Summary of Board of Directors Meeting" in the preceding article.*] A rough draft has produced comments from ABS members, and has been discussed by several Chapters. While the response was generally favorable, two aspects were rejected. There was a desire (1) to retain a low-cost Chapter-only membership option, and, (2) to make no change in Chapter newsletters. I have therefore prepared the following revised draft for discussion.

Financial: Solve the ABS financial problem by increasing national membership. Those persons who are members of Chapters but not of ABS (about half of the Chapter members) are the best source of new ABS members.

Organizational: Urge ABS members who are not in any Chapter (about half of the ABS members in the US) to join a Chapter of their choice (no geographical constraints). The Chapters are where one can get "hands-on" experience with bamboo. Modify the Bylaws to provide for election of one Board member to represent each Chapter that has a specified minimum number of ABS members. (The number will have to be adjusted from time to time to keep Board size within the limits recently voted). ABS members within the Chapter should elect this representative. {Note that many Chapters wish to retain a non-voting (?) "Chapter-only" or "associate member" category at the existing Chapter dues level.}

To implement the above, we need to take steps to strengthen (and publicize) the benefits of joint membership:

a) Publish an issue of the ABS Journal every year.

b) Publish initially, or reprint, in the ABS Newsletter articles of wide interest that currently appear only in Chapter newsletters.

c) Prepare pamphlets, reprints, and data sheets on bamboo, including ones done by individual Chapters, for national distribution.

d) Increase ABS dues to $20, then discount it to $15 for those who are members of, or join, a Chapter.

e) In sending renewal notices, emphasize that "joint dues" can be paid either to ABS or to a Chapter.

f) If the above are acceptable, finish modification of the Bylaws to recognize the Chapter roles. The roles of ABS and the Chapters are complementary: The primary role of chapters should be local and regional meetings and work parties, sales, getting bamboo information to the public, propagation, importation, and operation of quarantine stations. The primary role of ABS should be publications, support of research,

arrangements for national and international scientific meetings, and facilitating communications between Chapters and with foreign bamboo groups.

George Shor,
Vice-President

Editors' note: Other members of this committee are Adam Turtle, Susanne Lucas, Chris DeRosa, David Flanagan, Larry Nobles, Herb & Pat Hillery, Gerald Bol, and Jim Clever. Any feedback concerning the above proposals should be addressed to an ABS Director or one of your chapter officers promptly since action may be implemented on parts of the proposal for the 1993 calendar year. George Shor may be contacted by phone at (619) 453-0334.

III International Bamboo Congress

Dedication Ceremony

Editors note: The following is a quote from the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Bamboo Congress/33rd National Bamboo Conference with the Commemorative Bamboo Planting/dedication of the Chikurin-en Bamboo Garden. This momentous occasion was attended not only by the numerous dignitaries listed, but also by numerous members of the press corps, recording the ceremony for Japanese TV and newspapers. The list of government organizations, committees and cooperating organizations can only hint at the monumental preparations undergone to prepare for the approximately eleven hundred participants from all over Japan and around the world:

"Good morning ladies and gentleman. It is my pleasure to announce to you the starting of the Third International Bamboo Congress and the Thirty-third National Bamboo Conference Commemorative Bamboo Planting Ceremony here today.

"The Committee has selected to use *Beni-hou-ou-chiku* (*Bambusa glaucescens f. viridi-striata*) for this commemorative ceremony. This species originated in the southern part of China and in Japan it is grown in the east of Kanto district, where the climate is relatively warm. The name *Beni-hou-ou-chiku* derives from the name of a bird known as *hou-ou* in China. Although it is an imaginary bird, its shape is often used in happy occasions or during a ceremony. In this country, it is known as one of the best ornamental species of bamboo.

"On behalf of the hosts, the Governor of Kumamoto Prefecture, Mr. George Fukushima, the Mayor of Minamata City, Mr. Toshihisa Okada, the Chairman of Environmental Creation, Minamata Promotion Committee, Mr. Idoshi Shido, Japan Union of Developing Industries, Mr. Takashige Aoki, and the Chairman of the 33rd National Bamboo Convention, Minamata Executive Committee.

"Next, our collaborating organizations, Forestry Administration Agency, Mr. Toto Yamamoto, President, Japan Society of Bamboo Development and Protection, Mr. Kiyoshi Yasui, Head of Kumamoto Branch, Japan Society of Bamboo Development and Protection, Mr. Etsuzo Ushimura.

"Next, representatives, President of the American Bamboo Society, Mr. Gerald Bol, President of the Japan Bamboo Society of Saratoga, Mr. Bruce Parkinson, President of the European Bamboo Society, Mr. Dominique Verdel, Host of the Second International Bamboo Congress and previous President of the European Bamboo Society, Mr. Yves Crouzet"

And the Congress began...

International Bamboo Association (IBA)

As part of the III International Bamboo Congress a committee meeting was held for the purpose of forming an **international organization for bamboo.**

Attendees were:

Gerald Bol	American BS
George Shor	American BS
David King	American BS
Jim Filkins	American BS
Susanne Lucas	American BS
Tom Wood	American BS
Karl Bareis	American BS
Bruce Parkinson	Japan BS, Saratoga
Dominique Verdel	European BS
Anton Grieb	European BS
Michel Abadie	French BS
Yves Crouzet	French BS
Martine Bouret	French BS
Peter Addington	English BS
Wolfgang Eberts	German BS
Yolande Younge-Petersen	Dutch BS
Fu Maoyi	Chinese BS
Etsuzo Uchimura	Japanese BS
Kiyoshi Yasui	Japanese BS
Masatoshi Watanabe	Japanese BS

A summary of the results of this inaugural meeting are:

I.) Designation: International Bamboo Association

II.) Purpose:

1. To facilitate, coordinate and expand the activities among bamboo societies and encourage the formation of new societies.
2. To provide better global communication and coordination of all aspects related to bamboo.
3. To support the organization of International Bamboo Conferences.

III.) Structure:

A temporary steering committee of representatives was formed:

Fu Maoyi	China
Bruce Parkinson	North America
Wolfgang Eberts	Europe
Kiyoshi Yasui	Japan
Michel Abadie	Europe
Karl Bareis	All others not represented

IV.) Communication:

The above steering committee will work together to communicate among themselves and to all other societies for the purpose of establishing the **International Bamboo Association** [of Societies].

Jim Filkins wrapped up the meeting with the following summary: "We [IBA] intend to expand and incorporate all societies, but right now we are just developing a steering committee to get communication [going]. That's what this is all about...communication. We have to start something going back and forth. Just by sharing the information we already have [in the form of newsletters], it's a good start. That alone will help form an **international organization.**"

This group of twenty individuals from all over the world had just given birth to an idea which many think is long overdue: **Global collaboration and communication on the subject of Bamboo!** Let us all wish this fledgling organization - the **International Bamboo Association** - well in its future endeavors!

Susanne Lucas/Jim Filkins

ABS in Japan—A Personal Perspective

The ABS tour to Japan this November 3-14, 1992 was phenomenal! It is difficult to know where to start the story or how to express the experience, but I will attempt to summarize and share with you some of the moments.

The ABS/EBS Tour: From Day One the trip promised to live up to everyone's expectations, as we shared the bus with our travelling companions from the European Bamboo Society. Over twenty Americans (from California, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Washington, Puerto Rico and Bali) and thirty-something Europeans (from England, France, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Portugal, and Belgium) comprised our group...this was bound to be an adventure!! And we couldn't be in better hands than led by **Ginger and Karl Bareis**!

First we visited **Hyakuchiku and Henchiku Gardens** (with over 100 species and forms), which was started forty years ago by our welcoming host Takeo Hattori. Incredible Moso grows here, some as large as 53 cm in circumference!

Up into the hills to Hakone, then on the Shuzenji to visit the temple and experience a Zen moment with Monk Shiju. We had a most memorable visit with Shokin, a most remarkable woman, a Japanese Living National Treasure, who is known throughout Japan for her carvings on bamboo culms which are revered for their Zen inspiration and for their artistry. As the bus continued on, out the window there was a scene of literally whole hillsides of *Pleioblastus chino*.

We also visited a demonstration of Bamboo as Art and Function at Numanzi Gyotei Kinen Koen. Modern, innovative uses of bamboo as fence, sculpture and building material were on display throughout this park. It was fabulous. Since it was the season of the chrysanthemum, these flowers were on display in a myriad of forms, as single blossom, standards, bonsai, and cascades.

With Mt. Fuji stretching above the tallest bamboo, we eagerly toured the famous **Fuji Bamboo Gardens**, with manager **Harutsugu Kashiwagi** as our guide. Harutsugu was an invaluable addition to our tour, as he is a most thoughtful, generous, intelligent man, and friend. He showed us much bamboo, many his own collections. For example, the *Phyllostachys heterocycla*

f. 'Nabeshimana' and f. 'Bicolor' were outstanding! Fuji's collection boasts of more than 500 species and forms!!

Then on to Kyoto. This place is renowned for its wonderful gardens, temples, architecture and natural beauty. We saw it all, or so it seemed. The Japan Society of Bamboo hosted us as we visited **Rakusai Bamboo Park**, with a collection of over 120 kinds of bamboo. The design of this park enables the visitor to view the various uses of bamboo in the ornamental landscape, from pruning techniques, site selection, and texture to overall effect. We also went to two different bamboo processing companies which deal in an unbelievable selection of cut culms for construction and craft use.

While some members of the tour visited Arashiyama for the Maple Festival, myself and others joined Karl for a trip up Mt. Hiei (elevation approx. 850 m). It will be one of my fondest memories...out on a gorgeous November day, autumn color accented by the deep green of the Cryptomeria, hiking the trails looking at the indigenous flora. *Sasa nipponica* everywhere. **Akifumi Makita**, a bamboo expert from Kyoto University, was our botanical guide and extremely helpful. After the ten kilometer trek we arrived just in time for a delicious traditional Japanese dinner at Kisaki, hosted by our generous Japanese bamboo friends. **Dr. Masatoshi Watanabe** is a most gregarious man, very enjoyable, and he was very instrumental in making our visit to Japan a great success.

The primary purpose of this tour was to attend the Third International Bamboo Congress held in Minamata (Kumamoto Prefecture, Kyushu). This event was attended by over 1,000 people and encompassed two days of lectures, demonstrations and tours. The meeting site was highlighted by the **Chirun-en Bamboo Park**, a promising newly-developed public space, planted predominately of bamboo (approximately 150 species/forms) and accented by water features and "teahouses".

A commemorative bamboo planting ceremony at the Bamboo Park marked the beginning of the conference. Gerald Bol, President of ABS and Bruce Parkinson, President of the Japan Bamboo Society of Saratoga were the American representatives who participated alongside the hosts of the Third IBC, the Japan Bamboo Society of Development and Protection, and the European representatives, Dominique Verdes, President of the European Bamboo Society and Yves Crouzet, of Prafrance. Several large specimens of *Bambusa glaucescens f. viridi-striata* (*B. multiplex)* were planted in this symbolic ceremony.

Karl Bareis, President, Northern California Chapter, ABS, participated as a moderator in the conference lectures and Tom Wood, Caribbean Chapter, ABS presented a well-prepared lecture entitled "The Builders of Bamboo Bridges East and West". His presentation illustrated the historical background of the migration of bamboo from China, Japan and India to the Western World. Other lectures varied in topics ranging from bamboo utilization, environmental effects, and contemporary industrial uses to bamboo culture and garden uses.

The gardens, the temples and shrines, the architecture, the natural scenery, the tours, the meetings...all these things will remain treasured memories, but mostly I think I will hold tight to the warm feeling of new friendships. This was not only a tour of Japan; this was a connection to the many people around the world who love bamboo and want it "to work". Throughout history bamboo has woven itself intricately in the culture of societies around the world, and perhaps today it holds the promise of what future societies can achieve. Bamboo people across the globe are coming together to exchange their ideas and the common effort we shared in Japan.

A wonderful man from China joined our group along the way; his name is **Fu Maoyi**. He is of the Chinese Academy of Forestry and the Chinese Bamboo Society. To hear him express the need for more communication and his eagerness for progress was so encouraging. And the energy of Karl Bareis, a man who has done so much in the name of bamboo, for international relations, for all of us, is incredible.

Japan was a tapestry of experiences, but bamboo was the common thread that held it all together.

Susanne Lucas
Secretary/ABS

Clonal Diversity in Bamboos— Doom and Promise

The interest in bamboos has made some progress in past decades, no doubt about it. Individuals and Bamboo Societies untiringly have increased the amount of introduced species to such an extent, that every "expert" has to capitulate as some point, where he has reached his capability discerning "what's what." Of course, the great number of introduced species has widened the scope of bamboo-utilization, and not just blemished the "reputation" of those who think they know a bit about bamboo and its identification.

Bamboos, in their struggle to survive as a distinct group of plants, endlessly have to adapt themselves, like every living thing on this globe, unless they "prefer" being wiped out, no longer existent, except in the heredity of races, that will supersede them. So, in the struggle to survive as a unit, the way a species is, the genetic modifications of any group of plants, that has got the inherent willpower to survive, have to be very diverse.

Those interested in bamboos for various reasons, soon have realized, that within a good species there are distinct plants, that show properties in various degrees, that set them apart from the "true species", the way it had been described by a botanist for instance. If offsprings of these modifications are somehow stable in their progeny, we call that scientifically "***forma***" or "**form**" in English. A form may have quite different qualities in many respects, compared to the original unity. But within every species, within every form, the differences are far greater than we usually realize and discerning them - these **clones**, as we call them - can be of extraordinary importance.

Talking about things in general, usually is boring to the one, who is bound to listen or to read a certain thing. So let's go into practice, into that practice, that - from experience - has led to these reflections.

Sasa kurilensis had been in flower with me for about a decade. Thousands of viable seeds - few survivors. Lack of experience in growing bamboos from seed and lack of space had been the limiting factors. Quite a few of the seedlings did show modifications from the original clone they stemmed from. Leaf size, leaf texture, size of the plant as a whole, hardiness and vigor are just a few examples. One seedling that appeared *in situ*, after a few years of limited growth, succumbed to one winter, rhizome and all, although the mother plant hardly got damage to its leaves. Quite a showy individual, being both vigorous, producing culms twice the diameter of the original clone, huge leaves, that together with the large diameter culms have come closer to *Sasa palmata*; but on the other hand, lack of hardiness and another outstanding deficiency, a dislike of being transplanted (so even a three foot rhizome, furnished with plenty of roots and buds, stubbornly refuses to grow on in a new location) are very limiting.

Some seedlings in between, some of them with curled and twisted leaves, others with defects on leaves, that obviously are inherent, so judging from about two dozen seedlings that have been grown to a more mature state, the diversity is astounding. Some botanists, not knowing their history, might even be tempted to give them a separate status on the species level.

Arundinaria vagans, once considered as becoming "quite a serious pest", if getting out of control (Lawson), did us the favor to flower also, which in turn caused its being called *Sasaella ramosa* now, in Europe at least. Plenty of large and viable seeds, but due to the aforementioned factors - also just a few survivors. Quite some oddities among them, too. One seedling had got auricle and setae on leaf sheaths, the other had not. One enormously vigorous, quite a few other dimunitives, not reaching two inches in height and in the long run, not being able to compete with surrounding vegetation. In all: of the few survivors a lot of diversity, that might indicate what we could expect, if **thousands** of seedling had been grown to maturity.

Pseudosasa japonica, that most useful and versatile bamboo, also did flower in the period I had a chance to observe. Plenty of big seeds - not all of them viable and a lot of its offspring lacking in vigor, did produce in the end also clonal diversities. Under greenhouse conditions, a clone, called 'Alpha' had been superior in every respect (teste Ulrich Willumeit), but in the open, it proved under the harsh conditions of certain Middle Europe climates a failure, caused by diminished hardiness. Others did show differences in culm color, number of leaves per twig, and, I'm sure, in many locations where this species had been brought up by seed, even more modifications.

Yushania anceps was also so kind as to have flowered and set seed during the past years. With clonal diversity even before flowering, the scope of differences **now** to be sorted out, will take decades... One thing seems for sure, the striking clone 'Pitt White', that in its ultimate height and dimension was twice or even thrice as much

as the usual one, is not sure to have inherited this to its progeny. A seedling of a former, sporadic flowering, Lawson once sent me **never** will come true to type. This might be in accordance with Julian Campbell's assumption that there are shade-forms of *Yushania anceps*, that are a good deal more voluminous in its habit. Of course, the shade-form quality is not necessarily inheritable, but occurs probably just with a certain constancy.

As for ***Fargesia nitida***, it has taken us almost a century to find out what is what, concerning clonal diversity, and quite recently another clone has been distributed, called 'Anceps', that in the USA seems to have proved an adaptibilty to hot summers, as no clone so far has proved to possess (pers. comm. Robert Lester). Among *F. nitida*, we also have "shade-forms", like 'McClure' and 'Nymphenburg' and, although heat-resistant, 'Anceps' again. Those clones under cultural conditions will tolerate somewhat open conditions too, but essentially, when left alone, they need and prefer shade, as being provided as a part of the undergrowth under and among trees and shrubs.

The Number 1 bamboo for colder regions in Middle-Europe, Wilson's ***Fargesia murielae***, also does contribute something towards the theory that it largely depends on the clone, what we may expect from a certain bamboo in a given area. As is generally known, during 1976-79 the first plants of this bamboo had been in flower in Denmark. The progeny differed greatly, being a third diminutive and dwarf, a third medium-sized and the last third about as tall as the original clone (teste Olaf Olsen). About a dozen I had under my observation since then, bore out that there is quite some alteration indeed, may it be in height, general vigor, tendency to congestion, amount of leaves that will be shed in fall, or main growing season of new shoots. Another sowing in 1989, originating from material collected at Kew Gardens, consisted of 50 seeds. At the moment there are more than a dozen seedlings alive. Three of them diminutive, probably never reaching an adequate size and vigor, the large majority of the remainder similarly sized with differently shaped leaves and - probably - also variation in its culm color. Out of those one plant was dominant in every respect. Being pot-grown until spring '92, it was quite a stunner, compared to the others. Twice as much foliage remained during winter, texture of foliage superior and vigor also. When planted out in a half-way open location and faced with an unusually hot summer, the first experience it had with six fellow-seedlings in its location was that a hail-storm "bombed" it back close to non-existence. On recovering, the "star" fell back, compared to three slightly smaller-sized seedlings in the same spot. Moreover, it proved to cope with strong insolation far less than the others.

In fact, new emerging leaves had been killed before opening by heat and low air moisture, whereas its compatriots did fare a good deal better. Removed into a shady location in the fall '92, I feel sure, its superior qualities will show once again next spring. A shade-form, if there ever was one and most probably a stunner in decades to come, provided it will be given the environment it is in need of.

Another sowing in 1992 provided about 100 seedlings so far. It would be fascinating, to find out, how far the scope of variation will be in this second sowing of mine.

Among the seedlings of *Fargesia murielae* chosen for propagation in the first sowing in Denmark, there is a clone called 'Simba'; selected, obviously due to its compact and low stature, that sets it off from the "normal" clone, we are used to. The canes grow quite congested, producing that "compact" stature. I feel pretty sure, this type in its natural setting will have advantages in open sites, where the multiple canes of limited size, sufficiently will crowd out any other vegetation. Among shrubs and trees such a type probably soon will be overrun by other the vegetation that, shade-loving, grows much taller and in turn will smother such small, congested types. The shade-loving forms however, that have got widely separated culms, that grow up two or three times as much, have got a far greater chance to compete among the underbrush than those small, compact ones would.

Summary: If bamboo will continue its increasing role as an economic plant for diverse utility, as a plant for landscape-utilization or as a space filler, in case increasing air pollution will kill other vegetation on a large scale that up to now still is holding on to its accustomed places, it would be of utmost importance to use selected clones of any bamboo for such purposes. So, in case, we are lucky enough, living to see a large scale generative reproduction of bamboo-species, measures should be taken to save as much seed as possible, growing it to maturity and as soon as the advantages of any clone becomes apparent, propagating those clones on a large scale would be most important.

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Interim Bamboo Names

The enclosed article "Notes on Pring Tutul and Pring Legi" is submitted for publication in the American Bamboo Society Newsletter. I will be sending a copy to Dr. Elizabeth Widjaja and Dr. S. Dransfield for comment, as well as to Elizabeth Haverfield for information.

I have recently made an extensive collecting trip in Indonesia and found many apparently undescribed bamboos, most of them probably Gigantochloa or Schizostachyum species. All of them grow in accessible places and it is surprising that descriptions of them have not been published. In addition, the work of early botanists is often very confused and misleading, as Dr. Widjaja pointed out in her writings on Gigantochloa.

I have in many cases had to assign colourful and descriptive names to the propagules collected, which are being propagated in Jakarta prior to import to Australia. Wherever possible I used local vernacular names, but this was not possible in areas recently opened to transmigrants, original inhabitants shunning contact and remaining deep in the forest fastness; for instance the Kubu people in Southern Sumatra. No doubt there are Kubu names for every bamboo, but the new arrivals don't know them. The names I assigned are based on assumed genus and an epithet, such as "Schizostachyum sp. 'GREEN JAMBI'".

The present article is an attempt to assign to **Pring Tutul** and **Pring Legi** some interim names which will identify them until a formal and more accurate description is published. It seems silly to keep calling Pring Tutul "*Bambusa vulgaris*" when it isn't.

As a collector of bamboos I am forced to devise a practical way to deal with the backlog of botanical work which one would assume already to have been done but simply hasn't. Unfortunately, bamboos can't be formally described until they flower. Interim measures have to be taken, and interim names will have to be assigned by amateur collectors because botanists don't commit themselves without full information; naturally. That is the basis of their training and the foundation of botanical science.

Out of the 212 propagules made up of 36 species that I collected in October 1992 in Bali, Java, and Sumatra, only 20 species could be identified from published material. The remaining 16 are assigned genus and epithet. My trip was only of three weeks duration and followed sealed roads. How many more bamboos are out there beyond the places where I yelled "Stop!" to the driver?

Perhaps this letter puts my article in context. What am I to do about the undescribed wild bamboos, except to assign genus and epithet? A sweet little Ph.D. project awaits some young botanist here at Mount Mirinjo after I get these bamboos home and established. At present, I am hopeful that the majority of them will take root and make good plants in Jakarta prior to importation to Australia in 1993. I will need to take two trips or more to pick them all up. Airfreighting can't be trusted.

Yours sincerely,

Len Muller

Notes on Pring Tutul and Pring Legi

Several bamboos are grown extensively in Java and Bali for furniture making and for sale as dry culms to overseas markets. These include **Bambu Betung** (*Dendrocalamus asper*), both the plain and black form; **Awi Gombong** (*Gigantochloa pseudoarundinacea*); **Pring Wulung** (*G. atroviolacea*), a medium-sized black bamboo; **Pring Jawa** and **Pring Legi**, both of them forms of *G. atter*; **Pring Tutul** (identity uncertain), a light bamboo spotted with brown; and **Pring Tali** (*G. apus*), a multipurpose plain bamboo used both in furniture construction and weaving. All of these bamboos are grown as plantation crops and are carefully tended and harvested. After cutting, the culms are cleaned of all dirt and fungus in the river, and then soaked for three days in a fungicide/insecticide solution — the most practical way to prevent borer attack in the finished furniture.

At a furniture maker's workshop at the Village of Sendari in the Kabupaten of Sleman, Yogyakarta, Central Java, I saw for the first time living plants of the furniture bamboos Pring Tutul and Pring Legi. Pring Tutul is pale with brown spots when dry, while Pring Legi is pale with whitish streaks. [*See Fig. 1*] "Pring" in Central Java means "bamboo", "Tutul" means "spotted", and "Legi" means "sweet", a reference to the taste of the shoots. Pak Hadi Sutompo and Pak Tubin of the factory "SENTRA MEBEL BAMBU" sold me ten propagules of each. Pak Tubin owns the biggest plantation of bamboo in the Sendari area.

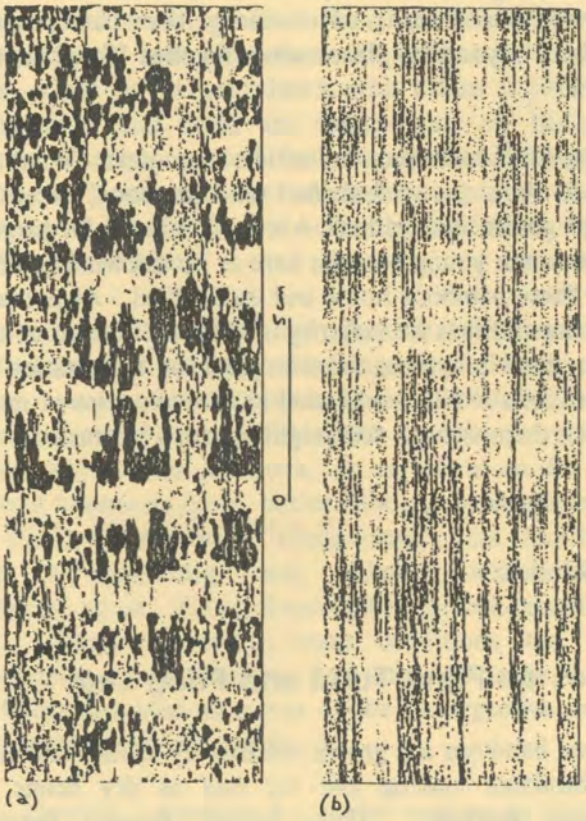


Figure 1: Montage of patterning on dry culm of (a) Pring Tutul and (b) Pring Legi.

In *The Bamboos - A Fresh Perspective*, McClure quoted Kurz 1876, who listed Bambu Tutul as a variety of *Bambusa vulgaris*: "blotched bamboo, with culms green at first, then becoming blotched with black on aging". Ochse and Bakhuizen van den Brink (1931) included both Pring Legi and Pring Tutul as names for varieties of *Bambusa vulgaris*.

Examination of the culm sheath of Pring Legi clearly indicates that it is not *Bambusa vulgaris*, and moreover closely resembles *Gigantochloa atter*. The culm sheath of Pring Tutul also does not correspond to that of *B. vulgaris*. Its identity is more obscure. A non-spotted form of Pring Tutul has not been located in Central Java, but may exist elsewhere.

In *A Revision of Malesian Gigantochloa* (1987), Dr. Elizabeth Widjaja gave Pring Legi as the Javanese name of *G. atter*. Bambu (or Pring) Tutul was not mentioned as a vernacular name for any Gigantochloa species discussed.

Pring Legi

Near Pak Tubin's house were several clumps of Pring Legi, of a height of about 20 meters. The diameter of the culms was about 8 cm, with walls relatively thin, averaging 6 mm in an 8 cm diameter culm. The culms were profusely striped with yellow. Culm sheaths abscised readily, leaving the culms clean and shiny. Culm sheath blades were long, ovate, reflexed, and closely similar to those of *Gigantochloa atter* and *G. atroviolacea*. Leaves were often very large, up to 30 cm long and 6 cm wide, but this could be a product of the moist, fertile situation. [*See Fig. 2*]

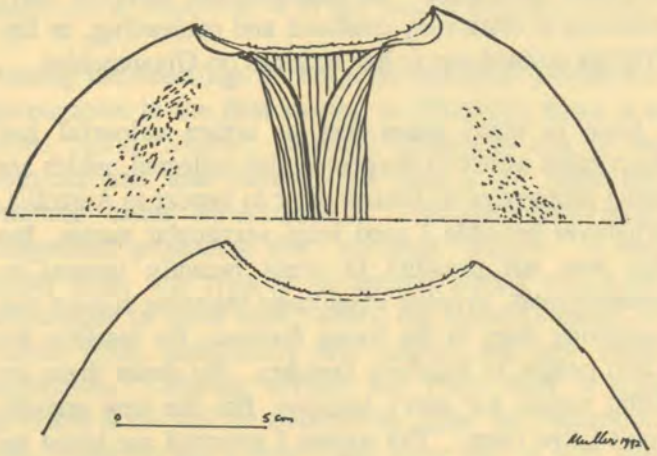


Figure 2: Pring Legi — top of culm sheath, blade reflexed

The Pring Legi in Sleman is not the common *G. atter*, which has plain green culms and timber which does not have the whitish streaks when dry. Although the culm sheath of the Sleman Pring Legi closely resembles that of *G. atter*, a more detailed examination could well reveal that it is a separate species. As an interim measure, I have included it in my collection as *Gigantochloa atter* var. 'Pring Legi'.

A strange belief exists in Central Java that Pring Legi can change to become Pring Wulung (*G. atroviolacea*). I was advised, indeed, not to plant these two bamboos close to each other in case reversions occurred, one plant catching the "taint" from the other through their roots. An unusual proposition concerning Pring Legi is given in a small publication "KERAJINAN BAMBU KREASI BARU" (New Creations in Bamboo Craft) by Rahmad Hidayat 1978. He writes (translated) "The origin of Bambu Legi is black bamboo which has changed its

colour and become white". It is strange that the link is said to exist between Pring Legi and *G. atroviolacea*, rather than between Pring Legi and *G. atter*. Whether it has any basis in fact has yet to be determined. If Pring Legi planted near Pring Wulung turns black, some botany will have to be rewritten, to say the least.

Pring Tutul

The beautiful furniture made from Pring Tutul is frequently encountered in Central Java and Bali. It is a relatively thin walled bamboo, with hard wood and fine fibres. When the living culm is young it is vividly striped with creamy yellow. These stripes fade over a couple of years, and the culm becomes dark green with occasional blackish purple blotches. When cut at three years and dried, the culms of Pring Tutul develop numerous brown irregularly-shaped spots, loosely concentrated in rings around the culm. Culms cut when young do not have this astounding feature. In Java it is called Pring Tutul (spotted), in Bali, Tiying Loring (striped).

A mature clump of Pring Tutul, many years old, stood behind the Sentra Mebel Bamboo Factory at Sendari village. The few branches which develop on lower nodes were trimmed off. These never bear thorns, said Pak Tubin in response to my questioning.

Pring Tutul is about 20 meters high, with a diameter of 8 cm; culm walls are 5 mm thick in an 8 cm diameter culm. Young culms are striped with creamy yellow, older culms dark green with blackish purple blotches. Culm sheaths persistent, blades triangular, with small auricles bearing profuse hairs. In cultivation, culm sheaths are removed manually to avoid staining or blemishes on the culm. Leaves are variable in size, ranging from 10 cm to 20 cm in length. [*See Fig. 3*]

An examination of the culm sheaths shows that Pring Tutul does not fit comfortably in the *Bambusa vulgaris* taxon. [*See Fig. 4*] From vegetative characteristics, it is difficult to perceive it as more affiliated with the genus *Bambusa* or more with the genus *Gigantochloa*. Pring Tutul does not appear to grow wild in Indonesia, and at present (1992) cultivated stands cannot meet the demand for this strikingly beautiful timber.

Until identified positively, Pring Tutul is held in my collection as Unknown bamboo species, 'Pring Tutul'.

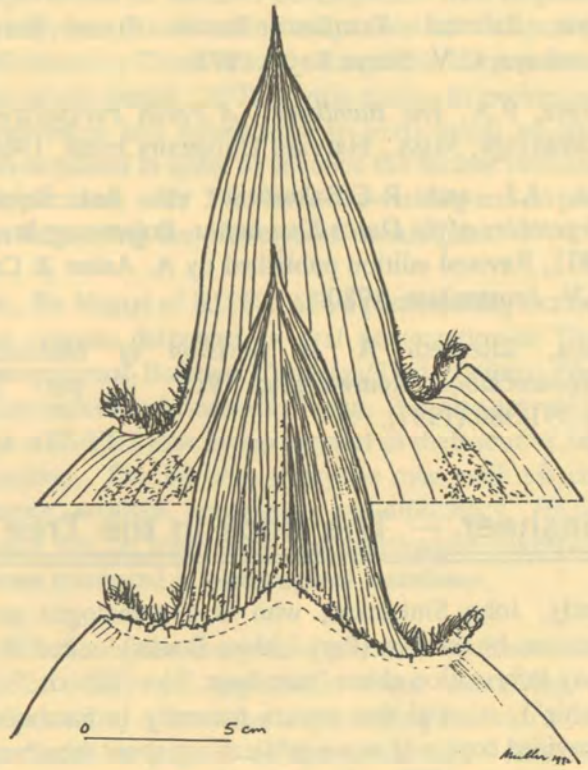


Figure 3: Pring Tutul — top of culm sheath

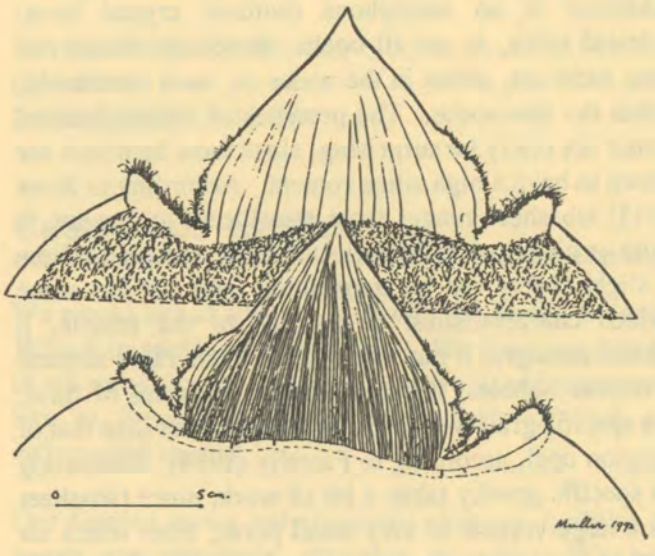


Figure 4: *Bambusa vulgaris* — top of culm sheath

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Tabasheer — The Rock in the Tree

Recently, John Sinkankas, who is a gemologist and antiquarian bookseller (Peri Lithon Books), asked if I had any information about "tabasheer," (or "tabixir," or "tabashir"), an opal that occurs naturally in bamboos. He provided copies of some publications about tabasheer dating back to 1809. I can't add much to what he provided, but the subject may be interesting to our members, and perhaps somebody else can add more information or observations.

Tabasheer is an amorphous (without crystal form) hydrated silica, as are all opals. It occurs naturally in some bamboos, either in the nodes or, most commonly, within the internodes. The presence of a silica mineral should not really be surprising, since most bamboos are known to have a high silica content. According to Kunz (1915) tabasheer ranges from translucent to opaque, is white or bluish white by reflected light, and pale yellow or slight cherry red by transmitted light. It has some curious characteristics: if touched to the tongue, it adheres strongly; if put into water it emits rapid streams of minute bubbles; it absorbs large quantities of fluid. The specific gravity is 1.93, appreciably less than that of common opal, according to Farrelly (1984). Measuring the specific gravity takes a bit of work, since tabasheer has a large volume of very small pores, from which air must be displaced to get a true reading. When the air is completely displaced, the material frequently becomes translucent.

In studies reported around 1800 in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, several investigators reported that they found tabasheer frequently as a thin friable shell-like solid coating on the inner surface of the internodes of bamboos, occasionally as a thick liquid that dries to a solid with the same properties as the coating, and sometimes as loose lumps inside the internodes. The method of "prospecting" was to shake cut culms, and listen for a rattle. Some authors claimed that it occurred primarily in culms that had been damaged, stunted or diseased; others that it occurred when due to "irregularity of conditions" the culm was "shorter or narrower than intended" which is presumably the same thing. "Good" tabasheer bought in the markets and tested in these experiments came in pieces up to a cubic inch in size. Cheap tabasheer purchased in the markets in India frequently was found to consist of burnt bones. In more recent reports, McClure (1966) noted that tabasheer is precipitated within the culm internodes of many tropical bamboos. Kunz said it is found in the joints of "certain species of bamboo" in India, Burma, and South America. Farrelly said that it is most abundant in *Melocanna baccifera* and *Bambusa arundinacea*. Patrick Russell, in an 1809 volume of Philosophical Transactions said that "The genuine Tabasheer is doubtless a production of the Arundo Bambos of Linnaeus, the Ily of the Hortus Malabaricus, and the Arundo Indica arborea maxima, cortice spinoso, of Herman." These sound like *Bambusa bambos*, the giant thorny bamboo! Other articles in Philosophical Transactions referred to it as coming from the "female bamboo" of India. The "male bamboo" is *Dendrocalamus strictus*.

Kunz noted that tabasheer was possibly used in Egypt in about 1600 BC as an ingredient in a cure for cataracts, and he believed that most of the "Hindu snake-stones" used to draw poison out of wounds were solid pieces of tabasheer. He gave considerable detail about tabasheer's use in medicine, and refers to an earlier paper by Huth (1887) who discussed the reputed virtues "with much fulness." It played an important part in medicine in Europe during the Middle Ages, being used for "affections of the eyes, the chest, the stomach, for coughs, fevers, and biliary complaints, and especially for melancholia arising from solitude, dread of the past, and fears for the future..." European use was derived from the works of Arab physicians; it was also widely used in Turkey, and in India (which was the source for most of the tabasheer used at the time). McClure noted that it has been shown to have excellent properties as a catalyst of some chemical reactions and has been patented as such. This catalytic action could well be due to the very large surface area created within its very small pores. Farrelly added that it is used for polishing and as an aphrodisiac. Nobody has suggested that it is a particularly beautiful gemstone.

Have any of our members found tabasheer in their bamboos?

Published in ABS-SoCal newsletter, August 1991.

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La Jolla, CA 92037

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Travel and Learn in China

Every year International Technical Training Courses of various subjects are conducted in China under the auspices of the State Science and Technology Commission of China (SSTCC) and the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) as part of their International Scientific and Technical Cooperation Programme.

This year a course is being offered entitled **"International Training Course on Bamboo Cultivation and Utilization"** to be held from **April 15-29, 1993**. The Host will be The Research Institute of Subtropical Forestry Chinese Academy of Forestry (RISF CAF), of Fuyang, Zhejiang, China.

With the technology of bamboo cultivation and comprehensive utilization, the optimum bamboo forest productivity and the highest bamboo utilization ratio will be achieved, which will help increase the local economic income and establish a system for rational and enduring use of bamboo resources. As a practical technology, it is especially suitable to areas where there are plenty of bamboo resources with low yield and low utilization ratio.

This 15 day course will be given in English.

The Course Objectives are: 1) To give practical experiences of bamboo development with emphasis on principles of cultivation and means of comprehensive utilization in China as well as available information from the whole world; 2) To give a chance to exchange their knowledge and information to participants on bamboo development in order to advance the further international cooperation, and; 3) to have site-visiting and do practice for improving the participants' techniques.

Dr. Fu Maoyi of RISF CAF, a participating lecturer for the course, delivered an oral presentation at The 3rd International Bamboo Congress/33rd National Bamboo Convention in Minamata, Japan. He also traveled with the ABS/EBS tour group for part of their tour of Japan's bamboo. Dr. Fu won everyone over with his charm, humor, wisdom, knowledge, and diplomacy. He should make this an interesting and worthwhile adventure for those interested in **Subtropical Bamboos**.

RISF should receive your application by December 31, 1992. For an application form containing more information, contact the editors using the address in the masthead on page 2 of the newsletter. Any further questions may be addressed to:

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Costa Rica Garden

We would like to acquaint you with the ***Jardin Botanico Wilson*** **in southern Costa Rica**. We have a collection of 43 native bamboo species, and we would very much like to increase plantings, particularly of rare and endangered species.

Our Garden in not only beautiful, but our facilities for guests are extremely attractive as well. We have bunkrooms (double occupancy for natural history visitors; four to a room for students if we are full) and new private cabins. The room and board rates are $55 per day for the bunk rooms per person; $75 per person for cabins.

Perhaps a group of your Society members would be interested in organizing a trip to visit Cost Rica and the Garden. If you have any questions about group visits, kindly contact our San José office, Ms Ana Carter, to make reservations and inquire about logistics for visits elsewhere. Or, of course, you can feel free to write to me for further information about the Garden or its facilities.

Sincerely,

Gail Hewson
Associate Director
Organization for Tropical Studies, Inc.

Ms Ana Carter
Oficina Centroamericana
Arpatado 676
2050 San Pedro de Montes de Oca
San José
Costa Rica

Phone: (506) 40-6696
FAX: (506) 40-6783

Unique Indoor Bamboo Garden

One of the world's most unique indoor bamboo gardens is located in the Federal Judiciary Building in Washington, DC. This unusual planting was conceived by the architectural firm Edward Larrabee Barnes/John M.Y. Lee & Partners of New York, with Landscape Architect Jack Curtis & Associates serving as the specifiers. Boston Properties developed the project. The garden was recently installed and will be maintained by Creative Plantings, Inc., Washington, DC's largest and most experienced interior landscape contractor. Creative Plantings was chosen as the winning contractor after a rigorous pre-qualification process. Bob Mangum of Creative Plantings states "this interior landscape has been one of the most interesting, challenging and innovative projects of our 30 years experience. Boston Properties' in-depth involvement and attention to detail at every stage insured the project's ultimate success".

...The garden consists of four major stands, featuring *Phyllostachys nigra* 'henon' ranging in height from 26 to 48 feet with a ground cover of *Pleioblastus viridi-striatus*, all from North Carolina. The Creative Plantings team **individually wrapped** each culm of bamboo for the final journey to Washington...A technologically advanced irrigation system, as well as a complete system of environmental controls is managed by Creative Plantings personnel...This most unique bamboo garden, now located in the atrium of the Federal Judiciary Building, will inspire visitors and employees alike, for years to come

Gary Mangum
Creative Plantings, Inc.
PO Box 119, 16000 Columbia Pike
Burtonsville, MD 20866
Phone: (301) 384-3800

Book Review

***Bamboos* by Christine Recht and Max F. Wetterwald. North American Edition, Timber press, Inc., 1992. German Edition, Eugen Ulmer GmbH & Co., Stuttgart, 1988. ISBN 0-88192-268-4.**

This is a very attractive book and a welcome addition to bamboo literature. Chapters on bamboos in Asiatic culture and on the uses of bamboo are pleasant propaganda almost guaranteed to convert the most benighted readers into bamboo enthusiasts and to rekindle the dedication of bamboo advocates. Max Wetterwald's excellent color photographs add much to the persuasion.

The chapter on morphology and structure is the best introduction I have seen. The text is easy to understand and the photos and drawings are very useful. The discussion and drawings of leaf and flower structures are especially good.

The two chapters that follow have fine photos and provide some useful information but are not completely satisfactory. Unfortunately, there are annoying proofreading errors, unsupportable generalizations, and questionable data.

One example of proofreading error is in the description of the genus *Sinarundinaria*, in which it is stated that the two species available are "very hardy and will tolerate -20° C." Later in the next chapter "Species and Cultivars for the Garden" data are given for *Sinarundinaria* as follows: "Hardiness: to -30° C, even root-balls withstand frost to -15° C." Such a contradiction might be happily overlooked if it were infrequent (it is not) or unrelated to information

important to persons trying to purchase bamboo plants resistant to their winters.

Consider next the descriptions of Phyllostachys "species and cultivars." First we are given the generalizations: (1) "All phyllostachys like the same conditions: in cold regions, at the limit of frost tolerance, they are best sited to get the full warmth of the sun throughout the summer, but so they are shaded in winter..." (2) "In all species the leaves average 10 cm (4 inches) long..." The first statement might even prove to be true, but cannot be supported until **all** Phyllostachys species have been tested. The second is false as anyone who has grown Phyllostachys can attest, and as the descriptions of individual species in the book itself also attest. Bamboo beginners are not helped by such misleading pronouncements.

Also, Recht's information on spreading may be more appropriate for Germany than elsewhere. For example, she describes *P. aurea* as having "thickly clumped culms with short rhizomes in cooler climates," and *P. rubromarginata* as "moderately spreading." Maybe in Germany. Here in Texas, both take off across the landscape like jack rabbits! They are both very vigorous species and should be planted only in containers, or where spreading is desired or is not objectionable. Of course, if the owner is a good bamboo-tamer, the plants will do well anywhere. That's the advantage of vigor!

The book ***Bamboos*** does have some flaws but nevertheless it is a very useful and beautiful book that belongs in the library of everyone who appreciates bamboos, botany, horticulture, or gardening. **It is highly recommended by me!**

Herb Hillery

ABS Bookstore

The bookstore is a mail order store operated by and for the ABS on a nonprofit basis out of corrugated cardboard cartons from our home and has none of the characteristics of a storefront bookstore. The sole purpose is to provide ABS members and others with a source for books and other literature on bamboo.

At this time we have the following for sale (The price is for postpaid delivery in the USA. Foreign purchasers please pay in US dollars and add $10 to cover the cost of shipping. Everyone please make checks payable to **Herbert Hillery, ABS**, so I can avoid check cashing problems. Texans, please add 8% sales tax.):

1. ***Bamboos* by Christine Recht and Max F. Wetterwald.** A handsome hardcover book from Timber Press, published in November 1992. This is selling very well. $30 postpaid.

2. **"Wolfgang Eberts Bamboo Nursery Catalog"** (in German). Beautiful typography and excellent colored photos. Paperbound. $7 postpaid.

3. **"Nurseries of the Bambouseraie, Prafrance, Catalog"** (in English). Another beautiful bamboo catalog with much useful information. Paperbound. $7 postpaid. We are presently back-ordered on this.

4. **"Bamboos of the Genus *Phyllostachys* Under Cultivation in the United States" USDA Handbook #114 by F.A. McClure.** The most useful guide for identifying the species of this hardy genus. We have just reprinted this classic booklet and find we can sell it at the reduced price of $4 postpaid.

5. **"Bamboo Growing in Alabama" by D.G. Sturkie, V.L. Brown, and W.J. Watson. Bulletin #387, Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn University.** Published 1968. This paperbound booklet of 30 pages reports the results of 30 years of experiments on the hardiness and productivity of bamboos grown at Auburn and Camden, Alabama. It is arguably the best book available on growing bamboos where freezing weather occurs. The ABS Bookstore has just reprinted this excellent booklet. It has become necessary to raise the price from $2 to $3 postpaid.

6. **"Bamboo Production Research at Savannah, Georgia, 1956-77" by W.C. Adamson, G.A. White, H.T. DeRigo, and W.O. Hawley. Agricultural Research Service, USDA ARS-S-176, March 1978.** Here also is an excellent paperbound booklet giving results from controlled bamboo growing experiments. Price $2 postpaid as long as the limited supply lasts. Reprinting will require a price increase.

Your ABS Bookstore is now reprinting Sir Ernest Satow's splendid book of 1899, ***Cultivation of Bamboo in Japan*** which is largely an English translation of a Japanese work ***Nihon Chiku-Fu (Manual of Japanese Bamboos)*** by Katayama Nawohito published in 1885, which was itself based on and earlier, more elaborate book, the ***Kei-yen Chiku-Fu*** by an anonymous writer.

Sir Ernest writes that he credits his dedicated involvement with bamboo science to the book ***Bamboo Garden*** **by A.B. Freeman-Mitford** which caused him to become "inoculated with the bamboo-growing mania", and thus forced him to undertake the labors of translation. The ABS reprint will be available in december. Paperbound. $8 postpaid.

Several other reprintings are underway. Titles and prices will be reported in the next newsletter.

Herbert Hillery
ABS Bookstore
1909 Richcreek Road
Austin, TX 78757

Recent Books on Bamboo Offered

Editors note: Following is a listing of recent bamboo books offered by Dieter Ohrnberger, Germany.

#7602 ***Bambus - Bamboo IL 31*** **/ K. Dunkelberg & al.**, 1985, reprint 1992. 432 pages, numerous b/w illustrations, 21x27 cm, text German and English. - Bamboo as a Building Material by Klaus Dunkelberg; Building with Gegetal Rods by the team of the Institute for Lightweight Structures (IL), University of Stuttgart, Germany. German retail price DM 60.00, offered to US residents for $52.00 including surface mail (or $70.00 airmail)

#8673 "General Catalogue: Nurseries of the Bambouseraie De Prafrance" [1992]. Bamboo species and variants cultivated at Prafrance (Southern France). German retail price DM 9.00, offered to US residents for $14.00 including surface mail (or $17.00 airmail).

#8305 ***Bamboo and Rattan: Traditional Uses and Beliefs*** **/ J. M. Piper**, 1992. 88 pages, 27 color illustrations, 33 b/w ill., 20x14 cm, test English. - Contents: Tree Grass and Scrambling Palm; Canes for Everyday Needs; Food, Medicine, and Magic; Handicrafts; Sailing Craft, Fishing, and Hunting; Folk Beliefs and Entertainment; Natural History of Bamboo and Rattan. German retail price DM 37.50, offered to US residents for $35.00 including surface mail (or $39.00 airmail).

#8420 ***Proceedings of the National Seminar on Bamboos, Bangalore, India, Dec. 1990*** **/ Bamboo Society of India (editor)**, [1992]. 213 pages, 8 color photographs, plus b/w illustrations, 28x23 cm, text English. - Includes 31 contributions on the bamboo species of India, their distribution, uses, propagation, planting and on many other subjects. German retail price $20.00 (excl. tax), offered to US residents for $32.50 including surface mail (or $39.00 airmail).

Prepayment: US $ banknotes accepted; $ checks drawn on a US bank accepted. Credit cards not accepted.

Bambus Buch - Bookstore
International mail order, Book distribution

Dieter Ohrnberger
Skalitzer Str. 43 - D-1000 Berlin 36
Germany

Tel: (030) 6188842
FAX: (030) 6189859

ABS Chapter Notes

Caribbean Chapter

The **Caribbean Chapter** is taking a small respite from the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew and the ABS meeting. The next **membership meeting** will be held February 20th. For more information contact Elizabeth Haverfield at (305) 662-2315.

Northeast Chapter

The Northeast Chapter has concentrated its efforts on the hosting and planning of the 1993 ABS Annual Meeting and Auction, to be held at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain (Boston), MA, October 1-3. Scheduling conflicts have forced us to change the date from the previously announced September dates to the current October dates.

As a highlight of this meeting, **Peter Addington** has accepted our invitation to come to America and talk about his experiences growing bamboo. Mr. Addington has perhaps the largest collection of bamboos in England and has travelled to China on various collection trips and exchanged plants with bamboo growers everywhere. We are very much looking forward to his presence at our '93 conference. More information regarding the conference will be available as the details unfold.

Susanne Lucas, Dolores Holland, Nancy Moore Bess, and Jim Filkins (with his brother, Bob, from Puerto Rico) from the Northeast Chapter travelled to Japan in November with the ABS to take part in the 3rd International Bamboo Congress. It was a most wonderful experience... Much was learned, new friends were made, and there was lots of bamboo to see!!!

Susanne Lucas

Southern California Chapter

Sixteen members attended the October meeting at Gary Stinson's farm at Menifee, Riverside County, CA, site of our reference collection. The morning was spent dividing some of the bamboos that have overgrown their 24 inch boxes, with divisions potted for future sales. Gary pointed out some of the problems of raising bamboo in his desert environment: some of the bamboos have suffered from summer heat, some from winter cold, and some from both. In general, however, the collection is doing well. Kiyoshi demonstrated his artistry with his new "bamboo spade," the same variety that has shown up at meetings of other chapters.

After lunch we held a Chapter meeting, with discussion of plans for enlargement of our library, future work parties, how to reconcile our membership year (12 months from date of joining) with the ABS year (January to December), plans for future imports, Quail Garden landscaping plans requiring moving of various bamboos, and the recent acquisition by Quail of an additional 20-acre tract which might release some more space for bamboo at the existing Quail Gardens site. Roy Wiersma recounted his experience with the USDA inspection system, which resulted in destruction of the shipment he brought in from Germany. He is currently arranging for shipment of some seeds from India, to grow plants for tissue-culture experiments at Cal Poly Pomona where he is a student.

Neufeld is currently collecting seeds at Quail Gardens from the *B. edulis* and *B. pachinensis*. Shirley Yarnell and Neufeld have found viable seed of *Chusquea coronalis*, and Neufeld has seedlings growing at his nursery.

Our November 21 meeting was held at Quail Gardens, with 13 members present. George Shor reported on actions at the National meeting in Miami, and at IBC3 in Minamata, Japan, and on the plan to encourage "joint membership" in both ABS and the Chapter by raising the ABS dues, giving a discount for joining both at once, and strengthening ABS by increasing the amount of useful papers that are published in the national newsletter rather than in Chapter newsletters. He distributed copies of the draft plan. Chapter members proposed that we should continue to have a $10 non-voting "Associate Member" category in the Chapter for those who only want to be on our mailing list for sales, and with this provision, approved the plan. Plans were made for future meetings:

Our January meeting will be held at George Shor's house in La Jolla. Other members were asked to host other future meetings, with a goal of having about half of our meetings at locations other than Quail Gardens.

Our March sale will be changed in format, as follows: The sale will be from 9:30 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, March 20, rain or shine. There will be no auction, and no drawing; first-come-first-served. The Chapter meeting will be held after the sale, at 2 PM.

We had problems with the shipment of bamboos from Japan by Gerald Bol, which was in 2 packages, one for us and one to Chris DeRosa in Massachusetts. Shor met Bol at LAX airport, and tried to take the shipment through customs and inspection. It was held up by customs for 4 days, for unstated reasons, before being released to the USDA inspector. The USDA inspection was very thorough. Samples of a rust and a leaf-spot fungus were found on several plants in each package, and were sent to the headquarters laboratory for identification; they were determined to be forms that are considered to be a hazard, and the entire shipment had to be destroyed.

George Shor

Texas Chapter

The Texas Chapter of the ABS met on Saturday afternoon, November 28, 1992 at the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Botanical Garden.

This is the season in Central Texas to begin planting, transplanting, and propagating bamboos. The low level of sunlight intensity at this time of year has reduced the level of photosynthesis so much that almost all of the energy that will be stored in rhizomes during 1992 for growing 1993 culms and new rhizomes is already stored.

Consequently, the rhizomes now have maximum potential for supporting new growth. Accordingly, the Chapter distributed over 30 pots of *Phyllostachys rubromarginata* and *P. vivax* rhizome pieces and plants to all in attendance at the meeting. The purpose was twofold: First, to get these species growing more in Central Texas, and second, to inaugurate a Chapter effort to propagate a large number of plants for the Chapter to sell to the public at bamboo plant sales in 1993.

The general discussion at the meeting was concerned with how to grow plants, how to make the Chapter more useful, and how to work with bamboo wood. In regard to the last, a "bamboo hatchet" and a culm splitter were passed around. These had been purchased by mail from Hida Hardware Company in Berkeley, CA. The "hatchet" is unlike an American hatchet. It is actually a knife with a thick blade made especially for working and splitting bamboo. The culm splitter is a cast iron ring with diametrical handles, and has six radial blades extending from the center out about 2 inches to the ring. When placed on the end of a culm piece and pushed down, the splitter splits the culm lengthwise into six strips.

At the conclusion of the meeting several books were sold, and several people joined the Texas Chapter and/or ABS.

Herb Hillery

Letters to ABS

Bamboo in Minnesota!

Dorothy Grier sent in a copy of an article from the *Minnesota Horticulturist* (Vol. 120, No.8, Oct./Nov., 1992) entitled "Bamboo in the Frigid North" by Melvin L. Schmidt. This beginning level article very nicely described growing bamboo in the Midwest. Ms Grier "had always heard one could not grow bamboo in Minnesota!". If bamboo grows in Canada, why not Minnesota?

From Sharon Eng

I will be delivering a 45-minute academic paper at the Fifth International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Feb. 22-26, 1993 in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Congress will be attended by 2,000 professionals and practitioners involved in developing country women's issues. Attendees are anthropologists, economists, psychologists, sociologists and scholars representing and/or studying "women-in-development" phenomena.

The title of my paper is:

"Bamboo development Projects as a Vehicle for Integrating women in the Development Process of Rural-Based Economies in Latin America and Southeast Asia"

In it, I will show that international donor projects focusing on small and microenterprise (SME) "women-in-development" projects in rural economies often continue to hinder rather than help women's progress to access productive resources. Alternative models for developing rural economies, such as the permaculture movement, will be summarized.

Bamboo will be the focus for discussing alternative project design models. Large-scale bamboo projects can integrate scientific research techniques for cultivating and harvesting for food, fodder, and raw material; production of industrial-grade products; utilization for local housing construction; and refuse recycled back into the community. I will explore how a well-planned bamboo project can integrate women in the decision-making process at the outset, and in meaningful ways so that they may actively access and control the critical economic resources needed to become more economically productive. **Bamboo will be promoted, not as a "poor people's wood" but as a golden resource for all of mankind in the 21st century.**

Sharon Eng, Unltd.
Management Consultant
1836 Metzerott Road, Suite 1619
Adelphi, MD 20783

Temperate Bamboo Quarterly

Adam & Sue Turtle, after 14 years of active experience with Bamboo as hobby, profession, and field of scholarly pursuit, and as an aspect of their Earth Advocates Research Facility announce the publication of the ***Temperate Bamboo Quarterly***. Issue #1 is due out in March 1993 and has intended topics of:

Bamboo Gardening & Farming
Siting & Confinement Techniques
Insects & Diseases
Management & Nutrition
Bamboo Identification & Classification
Relative Hardiness Performance
Research in Technical Uses
Craft Uses (Historical & Contemporary)
Literature Review and Bibliographies
Calendar of World Wide Events
Forum — letters, discussion, feedback, etc.

Information concerning subscription, advertising, submission of articles, etc. may be addressed to:

TBQ
30 Myers Rd.
Summertown, TN 38483-9768

Business Partner Wanted

Buy one third of the bamboo nursery whose gross sales increased by 300% in four years. 1988: $73,000; 1992: $250,000 (projected). **Bamboo Gardens of Washington** is a retail/wholesale nursery open 7 days a week selling bamboo plants and poles, and products made of bamboo. Incorporated 1/1/89; 3 equal owners; one wants out. Daphne Lewis (206) 868-5166.

1993 Newsletter Schedule

We plan to publish the 1993 ABS Newsletter with the following datelines for submission of material:

1993 Newsletter Issue	Dateline
February	January 15
April	March 19
June	May 14
August	July 16
October	September 17
December	November 19

Although we have given proposed datelines, please remember that this is the **latest** date for submission, there is no such thing as too early!

Our job as Newsletter Editors is the timely exchange of information. Your assistance in performing that function is immensely appreciated.

Please mail or FAX all items for the Newsletter to the address posted in the masthead on page 2.

Michael Bartholomew,
Jim Filkins, Editors



American Bamboo Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 215
Slingerlands, NY 12159-0215
USA



First Class Mail

Calendar Of Events

1993

Feb. 13-14	Southeastern Highlands Chapter Winter Meeting, at the Costal Area Extension Center, Savannah GA. For more information, contact Frank Linton at (912) 921-5461.
March 20	Southern California Chapter Spring Bamboo Sale and Chapter Meeting, Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas, CA. For more information, contact George Shor, 2655 Ellentown Road, La Jolla, CA 92037, (619) 453-0334
April 15-29	International Training Course on Bamboo Cultivation and Utilization. For more contact Dr. Fu Maoyi, The Research Institute of Subtropical Forestry CAF, Fuyang, Zhejiang, China, 311400.
June 12	Pacific Northwest Chapter Bamboo Festival, at the Donald Graham Visitor Center, Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle, WA. For more information, contact James Clever at (206) 782-3490.
July 22-25	International Bamboo Festival, Bandung, Indonesia. For more information contact ABS, your ABS Chapter or write to: Drs. Anang Sumarna, Indonesian Bamboo Society, Jl. Cibeureum 16, Bandung 40184, Indonesia.
Oct. 1-3	ABS Annual Meeting, Sale And Auction, Arnold Arboretum, Boston, MA. For more information, contact Chris DeRosa, P.O. Box 816, Rockport, MA 01966, (508) 546-3581. (Please note the new dates.)