

ABS Board Meeting: 23 August 2027

Called to Order @ 11:00am Pacific

Quorum (≥ 7 voting Directors minimum, out of 13 total):

Directors present (9): Pierce, Edwards, Connor, Banks, Rogers, Meckes, Boeraeve, Kohler, King

Directors absent (4): Barrett, Sansome, Sanders, Ramsay

Others Present: Cory Cantrell (At-Large nominee), Bill Hollenback (Co-treasurer), Juan Martinez (Guatemala)

Quick recap

The board meeting focused on three main agenda items: approving minutes from the July 26th meeting, planning the upcoming election for two at-large representative positions, and discussing the next conference location. The board approved the minutes from the previous meeting and decided to set a deadline for the at-large representative ballots to be received about a week before the October general meeting to avoid extra workload during the conference. Regarding the conference, they discussed challenges with the planned Hawaii location and agreed to pursue San Francisco Bay Area as a Plan B option, with David and Ian volunteering to lead the organization efforts. The board also addressed the need to enhance the ABS website with educational content about bamboo cultivation, particularly for tropical varieties, and discussed creating a YouTube channel to showcase member expertise and engage more members. Finally, they confirmed attendance plans for the Houston conference in October and reviewed the progress of conference registration and name tag production.

Next steps

Carole

- Receive and count both email and printed ballots for the at-large representative election, verifying ABS membership where possible.
- Send out an email later today promoting the upcoming conference, including the engraved bamboo name tag offer for registrations by September 1st, and Juan's poster graphics.
- Finalize the t-shirt order for the conference by September 23rd.

David

- Finalize and distribute the at-large representative election ballot after nominations close on 27 August to all ABS members via email, and arrange for emailed ballots to be returned to Carole.
- Contact Darrel DeBoer and Bruce Bagnoli to gauge their interest and support for a potential ABS conference in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Ian

- Attempt to contact Ariel Finstrom again, more assertively, regarding her potential nomination for at-large representative.
- Text Juan to request a one paragraph bio for his nomination as at-large representative.
- Contact Jesus Mora to discuss potential involvement and bamboo sites for a conference in the North Bay area.
- Arrange for a Zoom link to be available for the October General Meeting in Houston, for remote attendees like Bill and possibly others.
- At the October General Meeting, confirm the members of the Education Committee and set a plan for action over the winter.
- Follow up with Juan via WhatsApp to discuss content needs for tropical bamboo resources (articles/videos).
- Reach out to Master Gardener committees to explore potential partnership for bamboo education.
- At the October General Meeting, invite ABS members to contribute educational videos or articles for the ABS website and potentially a YouTube channel.
- Schedule the next board Zoom meeting for 20 September 2026.

Juan

- Prepare to contribute papers or videos on tropical bamboo cultivation and harvesting from his plantations in Guatemala.

Shanti

- Put together a resource/article on the cultivation and care of tropical bamboo for the ABS website.

Summary

Board Election Planning Meeting

The board meeting focused on approving minutes from the July 26th meeting and planning the upcoming election for two at-large representative positions. David explained that nominations close 50 days before the Annual General Meeting in mid-October, and the board decided to close voting approximately one week before the general meeting to reduce workload during the busy meeting period. Four candidates are now running: David (incumbent), Cory, and Mark, with Mark potentially stepping aside if another candidate emerges. Juan nominated himself during the meeting. The board also discussed logistics around ballot collection and verification of ABS member eligibility, with Carole volunteering to handle ballot processing and verification.

2027 Conference Planning and Location Discussion

The group discussed plans for the 2027 conference, with Ian expressing concerns about Plan A (Hawaii) not having enough local support. They explored a Plan B option of holding the conference in the San Francisco Bay Area, focusing on North Bay as a potential location due to its abundance of gardens and nurseries. David shared his experience organizing previous conferences in the Bay Area and noted the challenges of transportation and logistics, but expressed interest in considering the location further.

Northern California Meeting Locations

The group discussed potential locations for future meetings in Northern California, with David suggesting Santa Rosa as a suitable location being about an hour's drive north of San Francisco. They discussed transportation options including a SMART train that connects Santa Rosa to Marin County and linking to a ferry to San Francisco. The conversation also touched on local bamboo nurseries including Jesus Mora's Oasis Bamboo Nursery in Santa Rosa and Bamboo Sourcery in Sebastopol as potential meeting venues. David agreed to contact Darrel and Bruce for their input on the new plan.

2026 Conference Planning

The team also addressed the need to re-evaluate commercial membership and establish an education program, deciding to make this a major agenda item for the October meeting with plans to work on it through the winter. Several members confirmed their attendance at the Houston conference, including Judge who mentioned potentially bringing Marla and Andy Ringel, and Shanti who will attend with Hunter.

Carole presented new magnetic name tags made from recycled bamboo chopsticks, requiring that attendees register by September 1st to have their names engraved on the badges. The

group discussed conference attendance numbers, with 21 paid attendees and 14 complimentary registrations so far.

The discussion also covered plans to enhance the ABS website with more educational content about bamboo cultivation, including the possibility of creating videos and articles from members, with Shanti and Juan offering to contribute content about tropical bamboo cultivation.

Next Board Meeting

The Board agreed to schedule the next Zoom meeting for September 20th at the same hour.