

Minutes of the American Bamboo Society Board of Directors Meeting 29 and 30 September 2021

The Meeting was called to order by Vice President Ian Connor on 29 September 2021 at 1130h at the Lewis Farm in Hawkinsville, GA, as well as a Zoom connection.

Directors and Officers Present by End of Meeting:

Luc Boeraeve	President, International Director (via Zoom)
Ian Connor	Vice President, PNWC Director
David King	Secretary, NCC Director
Bill Hollenback	Co-Treasurer (via Zoom)
Carole Meckes	Co-Treasurer, At-Large #1 Director
Shanti Pierce	FCC Director
Judge Edwards	LGCC Director
Landy Banks	SCC Director
Daphne Lewis	SEC Director
Robert Saporito	At-Large #3 Director
Kristen Comstock	At-Large #4 Director (via Zoom, later in person)

Directors Absent:

Harry Simmons	TBSC Director
James McCormick	At-Large #2 Director

Others Present:

Nancy Oberschmidt	Ned Jaquith Foundation Secretary
Jenni Li	Guest (FCC)
Stephen Szabo	Guest
George Palis	Guest (NCC)
Maurice Nichols	Guest (SEC)
Nico Vara	Guest

Quorum: A quorum (>7) of ABS Directors was determined to be present. Count = 11.

Approval of the 2020 Board meeting minutes: Unanimously approved.

Agenda: One addition (Judge Edwards): Membership Retention (see "Membership Issues")

Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the Consent Agenda: Digital Publications and Email Report; Species/Source List Report; Nominations Committee Report; Bamboo of the Americas Report. These are **attached to these minutes**.

The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously on a **motion** by King, second by Edwards. Chapter and International Reports (as available) are **attached**.

President's Report: (Luc Boeraeve) – **attached**.

Treasurer's Report: (Carole Meckes) -

The YTD income/expense report through 31 August and the proposed budget for 2022 were presented, and the latter is **attached** to these minutes. YTD: Income \$17,366.38; Expenses \$14,393.90.

The bank balance is \$23,914.19, plus \$9,227.12 in PayPal and \$62,806.19 in the TDAmeritrade brokerage account, making the ABS net worth \$95,947.50.

BOTA is a "special project" of the ABS; its accounts are figured internally and are not included here.

\$5000 for grants was allocated for 2021 and forwarded to the Ned Jaquith Foundation.

The annual audit of ABS accounts by the Secretary was accomplished by comparing recent bank statements to the amounts in the Treasurer's reports. No discrepancies were found.

The final 2022 budget and discussion appear under New Business below.

A **motion** (King, second by Edwards) to approve the Treasurer's Report **carried** unanimously.

Management of Funds in Brokerage Account: (David King) The funds currently are in 1 mutual fund, several exchange-traded funds and cash, and are doing well since inception in the spring of 2013. David King rebalances the investments from time to time to maintain diversification and a moderate risk allocation. Volunteers to help with the account would be welcome.

Membership Report – Membership Report (Carole Meckes): There are currently **299** voting ABS members, and Carole presented the breakdown among chapters. Thus the quorum for the Annual General Meeting will be 30 or more ABS members.

Secretary's Report (David King)

A summary of Board actions YTD is **attached**. These meetings were conducted on Zoom, to which the ABS has a subscription.

At-Large #2 Director for 2021-2024 term: Election results to be announced at the upcoming Annual General Membership Meeting.

International Director for 2021-2024 term: Election results to be announced at the upcoming Annual General Membership Meeting.

Currently Recognized US Chapters (9 total):

Qualifying for a Director – FCC, LGCC, MSC (New, no Director yet), NCC, PNWC, SCC, SEC, TBSC

Not Qualifying for a Director (based on membership count) – HC

Directors Selected by their Chapters for 2021-2024 term:

LGCC: Judge Edwards

PNWC: Ian Connor

TBSC: Harry Simmons

Ned Jaquith Foundation (NJF) Grants: (Nancy Oberschmidt) Grant application deadline is 1 October and decisions should be made by 15 October. Any applications received by the ABS are forwarded to the Ned Jaquith Foundation, which is now the body which reviews and approves grant applications received by either organization. There is a need for a volunteer to follow through on grants given, since sometimes no report or presentation is returned by the grantee. Donations are solicited, as always, especially with the inability to hold an in-person fundraiser during 2020-21.

Arts/Crafts: (Shanti Pierce) As the new A&C Coordinator, she has formed a committee which has run a 2021 competition. There were about 20 adults and 10 children submitting their work. Winners will be announced at the General Membership Meeting, and the top winner will be asked to be an "Art Ambassador" for the ABS. An article for BAMBOO Magazine is pending.

NEW BUSINESS —

Annual Review of Electoral Number (David King): The number of primary ABS members which a chapter must have to be represented by an ABS Director is currently 25. Twenty ABS members are needed to form a chapter. Chapters which are not large enough to have their own Director are represented by the four At-Large members or may share a Director with one or more other Chapters.

A **motion** (King, second: Edwards) to maintain the electoral number at 25, **carried**.

Membership Issues:

ABS-only membership for US residents: Officially not allowed but with chapter dissolution, happens in a *de facto* fashion. Comstock pointed out that there are often too few volunteers willing to be meeting organizers at the hosting chapter level, increasing the need for participation by the national ABS in the organization of annual meetings. Discussion only, no action taken.

A **motion** (Connor, second by Saporito) to require all who join ABS under a business name to join at the \$300 Commercial level **failed** on a unanimous vote.

A **motion** (Connor, second by Meckes) to include a chapter membership in the \$300 Commercial level **failed** on a unanimous vote.

A **motion** (King, second by Pierce) to make the payment of dues a recurring auto-charge, with the option for the member to opt-out at any time, **carried**. Shanti Pierce volunteered to compose an email to be sent to members regarding these recurring charges.

Judge Edwards led a discussion of member retention by chapters: retaining the ABS chapter system, having a presence at garden club functions to recruit new members, a personal first contact with new members, and increasing the "fun factor" at events.

Advertising: (Carole Meckes for James Clever)

James Clever has called all past advertisers and is making use of the sources in the ABS Species Source List to obtain new or renewing advertisements for the website and printed publications.

Website Issues: (Meckes, Comstock)

The "aMember" membership management system is now the ABS membership software and database. It is adequately modifiable and automatic renewal notices and acknowledgments can be sent to members. Carole Meckes has worked long hours to convert member records from the previous database. The Board previously approved \$80/year for aMember tech support.

Portions of the previous ABS Statement on Bamboo Invasiveness appearing on bamboo.org require updating; Ian Connor and James Clever produced an update. With minor changes in wording and the suggested inclusion of images, a **motion** (King, seconded by Pierce) to accept the update **carried**.

Social Media Management:

Facebook – The "ABS Members" Facebook group is available to paid ABS members only. After discussion, the Board agreed that the group should remain open to current members only. If a group member's ABS membership expires that member should be removed. Saporito suggested that a yearly review would probably be enough.

Instagram – Started by a volunteer, there is some activity seen.

Shanti Pierce suggested looking into outside management of social media for the ABS, as is done in many other organizations.

ABS Internal Funding Requests: (For final figures, see line entries in **attached** budget.)

Websites - \$80 for aMember, Zoom \$150, possibly \$\$ for event software. \$500-\$1000 suggested.

BAMBOO Magazine – no change.

Species Source List printing – Approximately \$2000.

Arts/Crafts - \$100 admin costs, \$2000 prizes.

Advertising – none.

APPROVAL of the 2022 ABS BUDGET (All Directors and Officers): A budget (**attached**) was **approved** on a **motion** by King, seconded by Connor.

Announcement of International Events: *Luc Boeraeve*

2022 – The 4th World Bamboo Workshop will be held in Vietnam 16-20.Sep 2022.

2023 – The location of the next World Bamboo Congress has yet to be announced officially.

Future ABS Annual Meeting Planning:

2022 – Florida Caribbean Chapter, Probably Sebastian, FL in early-mid October.

2023 – Louisiana Gulf Coast Chapter, Location to be announced.

2024 – (Need hosting chapter.)

Future ABS Board Meetings: Will be continued virtually as needed throughout the year. This has worked out well during the pandemic.

Approval of the 30 September Annual ABS General Meeting Agenda was by consensus.

Item continued until the Board reconvenes:

The election of officers of the ABS.

Recess: A **motion** to **recess** the meeting of the Board until 30 September 2021 gained unanimous approval.

Board Meeting Reconvened

at the Lewis Farm
30 September 2021
1345h

Election of Officers of the ABS: A quorum was present. The following slate of officers was nominated and unanimously elected by the Board to serve until the conclusion of the ABS Annual Meeting in 2022:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Co-Treasurers

Luc Boeraeve (International)
Ian Connor (PNWC)
David King (NCC)
Bill Hollenback (PNWC) & Carole Meckes (TBSC)

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Bamboo Society carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



David King
Secretary, American Bamboo Society
secretary@bamboo.org

ABS BOARD OF DIRECTORS - ATTENDANCE SIGNUP SHEET

Meeting Date: 29 September 2021

Pierce (FCC)

-- SS

(HC)

-- (Liaison)

Edwards (LGCC)

-- N.P. Edwards

(MSC)

-- (Liaison)

King (NCC)

-- DK

Connor (PNWC)

-- Connor

Banks (SCC)

-- Ben Banks

Lewis (SEC)

-- Daphne Lewis

Simmons (TBSC)

-- (Absent)

Boeraeve (INT'L)

-- zoom

Meckes (A/L #1)

-- meckes

Hollenback (A/L #2)

-- zoom

Saporito (A/L #3)

-- [Signature]

Comstock (A/L #4)

-- zoom

Guest

-- NANCY GERSCHMIDT, MED JACQUIN FOUNDATION

Guest

-- Jenni Li

Guest

-- Stephen Szabo

Guest

-- DAVID KING MAURICE NICHOLS
NICO VARA -

Additional GUESTS:

Please print name and sign on other side of page →

Secretary's Report: Summary of Board Activity YTD September 2021

The Florida Caribbean Chapter has been reorganized and has an ABS Board Director -- Shanti Pierce.

The Mid-States chapter now has enough primary members to qualify for a Chapter Director on the ABS Board, and may select someone to serve in that position anytime.

The 2021 Arts & Crafts Competition is well underway under the aegis of Shanti Pierce (Florida Caribbean Chapter).

Bamboo.org, the ABS website, has in part been converted to WordPress, making it editable by ABS talent. A consultant introduced to the Board by Robert Saporito has assisted in the conversion. The converted site went live in late July.

The "aMember" membership program has been integrated into bamboo.org, making it easier to join ABS or renew, and track members by chapter. Automatic emails are sent greeting new members and reminding existing members when it comes time to renew.

Carole Meckes has assumed the position of Membership Chair and Co-Treasurer (with Bill Hollenback), and has been instrumental in adopting aMember for use with the ABS membership database.

An online map of bamboo groves in the US is in the works for the ABS website.

For the 2021 Annual Meeting, Kristen Comstock has integrated a meeting registration program into bamboo.org. Access to this software will be available to organizers of future meetings. "Stripe" has been substituted for "PayPal" for registration payment because of better customer service and lesser fees.

Advertising in ABS publications including bamboo.org has been vigorously pursued by James Clever, who has made personal contact with past and present advertisers to encourage ad renewals and payment.

ABS is receiving some income from Amazon Smile, and members are encouraged to use "smile.amazon.com" instead of "amazon.com" for purchases, designating ABS as their charity.

The ABS Director and Officer's liability insurance policy was renewed.

Respectfully submitted.

David King, Secretary, ABS

ABS 2021 YTD Financial Report Jan 1 - Aug 31

Expenses:	2021 Approved	2021 Actual YTD
Administrative Expenses	\$650.00	\$416.84
Advance to Host Chapter	\$1,000.00	
Arts & Crafts Awards	\$2,000.00	
Auction Expenses	\$500.00	
Credit card/bank/Paypal expenses	\$450.00	\$327.47
Grants	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Importation -- plants	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance for the Board	\$1,585.00	\$1,494.00
Journal Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00
Magazine	\$5,300.00	\$2,650.63
Misc.	\$150.00	
Source List	\$2,000.00	
Taxes/fees	\$20.00	
Travel expense reimbursement	\$2,000.00	
Dues dispersed to chapters	\$4,000.00	\$2,475.00
Website	\$2,000.00	\$2,029.96
Totals	\$26,655.00	\$14,393.90
Income:	2021 Approved	2021 Actual YTD
Advertising	\$2,200.00	\$1,460.00
Auction income – Fall	\$3,000.00	
Bank Interest	\$0.00	
Investment Gain	\$0.00	\$7,863.18
CD Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memberships	\$18,320.00	\$7,770.00
Book Sales	\$100.00	
Amazon Smile	\$45.00	\$157.01
Magazine	\$0.00	\$0.00
Source List	\$100.00	
Miscellaneous income Ebsco R	\$0.00	\$116.19
Donations	\$350.00	
Totals	\$24,115.00	\$17,366.38

Net Worth

1/1/2021	
Checking Acct	\$34,185.21
PayPal	\$2,533.34
Brokerage Acct	\$54,943.01
	\$91,661.56

8/31/2021	
Checking Acct	\$23,914.19
PayPal	\$9,227.12
Brokerage Acct	\$62,806.19
	\$95,947.50

Change	\$4,285.94
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Summary 2021 YTD:

Income	\$17,366.38
Expenses	\$14,393.90
Difference	\$2,972.48

ABS 2022 Approved Budget

Expenses:	2022 Approved
Administrative Expenses	\$650.00
Advance to Host Chapter	\$1,000.00
Arts & Crafts Program	\$2,100.00
Auction Expenses	\$500.00
Credit card/bank/Paypal expenses	\$450.00
Grants (to NJF)	\$5,000.00
Importation -- plants	\$0.00
Insurance for the Board	\$1,600.00
Journal Expenses	\$0.00
Magazine	\$5,500.00
Misc.	\$150.00
Source List	\$2,000.00
Taxes/fees	\$20.00
Travel expense reimbursement	\$2,000.00
Dues dispersed to chapters	\$4,000.00
Website	\$1,000.00
Totals	\$25,970.00

Income:	2022 Approved
Advertising	\$2,200.00
Auction income – Fall	\$3,000.00
Bank Interest	\$0.00
Investment Gain	n/a
CD Interest	\$0.00
Memberships (incl Chapter dues)	\$18,320.00
Book Sales	\$100.00
Amazon Smile	\$100.00
Magazine	\$0.00
Source List	\$100.00
Miscellaneous income	\$100.00
Donations	\$100.00
Totals	\$24,020.00
	\$24,020.00

NOTES:

Incl in Net Worth Stmt.

Summary:

Projected 2022 income	\$24,020.00
Projected 2022 expenses	\$25,970.00
Difference	-\$1,950.00

ABS President's report for the year 2020 - 2021

As during the previous year, the covid-19 pandemic continued to have a big impact on all aspects of our day-to-day life and hence as well on our bamboo activities. In 2020 the ABS board and officers started to meet on a regular basis via Zoom and this was continued in 2021. In total 8 virtual board meetings were held since the AGM of last year. In addition the Tech Committee held a number of virtual meetings to work on the website and a membership management system. As a result the board and officers worked closely together throughout the year and maintaining good contacts with the chapters.

In addition to the day to day running of the organization, a big effort went towards revising and updating the website, introducing an efficient membership management system and also supporting the SEC in their preparations of the annual conference.

The revamped technical committee came up with an affordable and efficient membership management system and proposed and introduced major changes to the bamboo.org website. The aMember subscription membership software was selected and integrated with our website. A lot of work went into transferring all membership data to aMember and moving the membership and magazines to the new bamboo.org under aMember. The current system greatly simplifies and facilitates following up membership, sending out emails, etc.

The arts and crafts committee prepared and launched the arts and craft competition with the deadline set in September. The winners are expected to be announced shortly.

In 2020 the South East Chapter (SEC) made an enormous effort in preparing the annual Conference which was then cancelled following the covid-19 pandemic. Lucky enough, after a long break, the SEC found the energy to start again preparing the annual conference taking place end of September in Georgia. The board followed up the preparations during the year and is now looking forward to a successful conference.

The above is a limited overview and much more work has been and is done by many ABS volunteers, such as producing and distributing the Bamboo magazine, the ABS Journal, Website content, Source and Species List, Grants (with NJF), Help line, BOTA, advertising, social media communication etc.

The strength of Bamboo permeates the ABS and thanks to all of you, board members, job holders and ABS members, Bamboo and the ABS is growing stronger.

Respectfully submitted.

Luc Boeraeve

September 2021

2021 ABS Advertising Report

Submitted by: James Clever

September 19, 2021

For 2021 a total 4 ads ran for the whole year in the ABS magazine "BAMBOO" as Business-card sized ads.
For the Bamboo Species Source list 1 business card size ad and three half page ads were purchased.

Totals for source list ads: \$1,250.00

Totals for magazine ads: \$850.00

Totals from both publications = \$2,100.00

I used the on line species source list on the ABS web site as a guide on who to contact members for ads starting in November 2020. E-mailing everyone on the list. Offering to those that had businesses Commercial membership and all on the list the other ads in the magazine and SSL. Those that returned e-mails as not wishing to buy, I made note of this and moved on. Those that did not respond, I called via telephone. Those that responded "No" I moved on. I made note of all that had bad e-mail addresses and non working phone numbers. I also made copies of their e-mail responses or a brief description of the phone call response for future reference. The ones listed here are the ones that actually sent in their ad applications (Also Commercial membership applications) with payment.

I passed this information, including list of bad e-mails / telephone numbers to Bill Hollenback (SSL editors) so he had a current list of those members with non working contact information.

The goals for 2022 are:

To use this modified list in an attempt to get more ads from those that declined last year and continue with those that did purchase for 2021 starting again in November 2021.

Source List:

Bamboo Garden = \$375 (half page)
Bamboo Gardener LLC (James Clever) = \$100.00 (Business Card)
Bamboo Sourcing (Jennifer York) = \$375.00 (half page)
Tropical Bamboo (Robert Saporito) = \$400.00 (half page)

For a total for source list ads: \$1,250.00

Magazine: 4 issues as a Business card size ad if not otherwise listed.

Bamboo Garden = \$150.00 (w/25% Discount)
Bamboo Gardener LLC (James Clever) = \$200.00
Bamboo Sourcing (Jennifer York) = \$150.00 (w/25% Discount)
Bamboo Valley = \$200.00
Tropical Bamboo (Robert Saporito) = \$150.00 (w/25% Discount)

Totals for magazine ads: \$850.00

Although Commercial membership is not a \$ that is considered Ad income, this was one of the income resources I spent time on trying to gain for the ABS.

Commercial Memberships:

Bamboo Garden = \$300.00
Bamboo Sourcing (Jennifer York) = \$300.00
Brightside Bamboo = \$310.00
Cape May Bamboo = \$300.00
Charlotte Bamboo = \$300.00
Oceanview Bamboo (Devon Dibble) = \$310.00
Timber Bamboo Nursery = \$310.00
Tropical Bamboo (Robert Saporito) = \$300.00
Endless Forest Farms (Adam Schroeder) (No logo submitted) = \$300.00
Alex Fell (No logo submitted) = \$300.00

Totals for Commercial Memberships collected = \$3,030.00

Revised version section September 2021

Responsible planting and control

If you plant bamboo, you are responsible for its care. Choose your growing site carefully, keeping in mind the intended function of the bamboo (e.g., screen, specimen plant), and type of bamboo and its future growth potential. Select bamboo that grows well in your site and familiarize yourself with the growth characteristics of that species.

The ABS recommends that running bamboos should be planted with an area around the desired footprint of the bamboo that has room for the gardener to do future underground lateral rhizome pruning (curbing) of its spread. Man-made barriers are a tool that can be appropriate in certain installations to assist keeping the bamboo where you want it. Responsible bamboo growers and sellers could assist on installing a physical barrier at the time of planting. The 80 mil. thick HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) is the best barrier material available at this time, although concrete barriers can be effective as well (if reinforced with rebar and is 30 inches below soil grade). Other thinner plastics are too weak, or not stable enough to hold up to the pressures of rhizome expansion. Avoid metal which will rust, wood (including pressure treated) rots. Finally, a dry moat filled with sand in many cases is effective access to the rhizomes for maintenance. Sand is not a barrier. It is a loose material that is easy to drag a tool through to find the loose rhizomes.

Rhizome pruning needs to be considered as essential maintenance that will keep rhizomes from jumping, or breaking through barriers. The optimum is three times throughout the growing season, (every other month starting mid spring). To facilitate removing rhizomes running along the inner face of the barrier, add sand to 6-12 inches in width to a depth based on your native soil, cultivation and your location. It is found to be much easier than pulling out rhizome roots holding onto dry heavy soil in August heat.

If you must remove unwanted bamboo entirely, the only truly effective way to get rid of it is to dig it out. The ABS does not recommend using chemicals to kill bamboo because of the potential for environmental damage from ground and water contamination and the potential for contact with humans and animals. If you inherit a “problem” bamboo, the fastest and most cost-effective means of removing it or managing it is to hire someone with expertise to assist you.

Growing bamboo responsibly means educating yourself about the plant first, taking the time to plant the bamboo correctly, and most importantly, doing regular maintenance as required. Bamboo, if mistreated and ignored, can grow to be an unruly mess. However, a properly managed bamboo clump or grove is a beautiful sight to behold.

Please contact a representative of the ABS from your region for further informed advice.

2021 Bambooweb.info Website Report

September 17, 2021

It has been a rough year for bambooweb.info. I wanted to move bamboo.org over to the same web account so the sites can share the species/source list (SSL) database but in order to do this I had to update the underlying programming language from version 3 to 7. This caused me to have to update the program that bamboo web relied on for users, photos and SSL. The Style that I used is not compatible any more so I had to recreate a lot of it.

It is about 80% back and I am still working on location/map data, Flowering records and individual plant list entry and editing. Along with updated forms for the ABS Source List entry and print version formatting.

The good thing is this should not happen again because the new changes are more isolated from the underlying forum code and the technology is now 17 years newer. I also have the amember add in so ABS members will only need one login between both sites.

Thank you,
Bill Hollenback
bamboo@bambooweb.info

2021 Digital Publications, Email Report

September 17, 2021

This year we migrated the membership and magazines to the new bamboo.org under amember. This greatly simplified everything and members are tracked thru amember, the publications are easily stored on amember so we can send emails thru the website and even attach the magazine to those that requested it as an attachment.

The journals are entered thru WordPress on the website.

I would like to thank Carole on all her work on the website to make this work.

Thank you,
Bill Hollenback

2021 ABS Species Source List Report

September 17, 2021

Unfortunately I have not finished the Species Source List, mostly due to the website issues on bambooweb.info. Now that it is back up I still hope to finish in the next couple of months.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hollenback

September 18, 2021

Harry Simmons
ABS Nominations Committee
2021 Report

In 2021 two ABS Director positions were up for an election, the International Director and one Member-at-Large Director. The international Director's position was held by Luc Boeraeve. The Member-at-Large Director was held by James McCormick. On July 20, 2021 an email was sent to the general membership requesting nominations for both positions. The nomination period, as per our bylaws, lasted until 50 days before our annual meeting (Aug. 12). On Aug. 13th, we had received only one nomination for the International Director. Luc Boeraeve was again nominated for the position. He has accepted the nomination. Bill Hollenback was nominated for the position of Member-at-Large Director. He was the only nomination received for the position during the nomination period.

Because both were the only nominations for their prospective positions, a general membership vote was not required. Thank you to both members and all directors for your continued commitment and service.

Sincerely,

Harry Simmons

Bamboo of the Americas (B.O.T.A.)

Activities Report

January 1, 2021 – September 1, 2021

1. BOTA Student Assistance Program

The BOTA – Student Assistance Program has one applicant this year. Miguel Ángel García Martínez. Miguel is a Ph.D. student at the University of Guadalajara under my supervision. The proposal title is “Species delimitation of *Otatea acuminata* complex”. Miguel will use the new sequence technology, specifically RADseq method to delimit the species in the *Otatea acuminata* complex. Drs. Lynn Clark, Peggy Stern, and Teresa Mejía reviewed the proposal; they approved it with \$1,500.00.



Eduardo Ruiz Sanchez

BOTA Executive Director

Universidad de Guadalajara

e-mail: ruizsanchez.eduardo@gmail.com

Bamboo of the Americas (B.O.T.A.)

Financial Report

January 1, 2021 – September 1, 2021

**Acct. # 79 40955 – First Farmers and Merchants National Bank
Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474**

Balance as of 1/1/21 **\$ 10,320.95**

Grants/Donations/income: **-0-**

Interest on Account (8 months) **.71**

Total: **\$.71**

Total in **\$.71**

Expenses:

BOTA SAP Student Grant **\$ 1,500.00**

Wire Transfer fee **50.00**

Membership renewal – AZH **200.00**

Total out: **\$ 1,750.00**

Total in Account as of 9/1/21 **\$ 8,571.59**

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Turtle, Treasurer

**Susanne Turtle
BOTA Treasurer**

**30 Myers Road
Summertown, TN 38483-7323**

Phone: 1-931-964-4151; cell: 931-446-2567

e-mail: BOTATreasurer1@aol.com, botatreasurer@bamboo.org

American Bamboo Society
International Director's report 2020-21
From: Luc Boeraeve
To be presented at the ABS Board Meeting
Georgia, September 2021

- ✓ 2020 - 2021 was my third year of my 3rd 3 year term as International Director of the ABS.
- ✓ As in the previous year, international contacts were limited due to the travel restrictions, particular international travel, in place to fight the covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, international contacts took place through on-line conferences, webinars and other on-line tools.
- ✓ Participated throughout the year in a number of webinars, in particular the webinars organised by INBAR.int (see <https://www.inbar.int/inbar-webinars/>).
- ✓ Maintained close contacts with the German, Dutch and French bamboo societies and, as well with the Belgian Bamboo Society members.
- ✓ The AsIB (Asociación Ibérica del Bambú or Iberian Bamboo Society) was founded this year. A group of participants to the Bamboo Symposium held in Madrid (October 2019) decided to set up a bamboo society and covering both Spain and Portugal. The official start took place earlier in the year. Website: <https://asibambu.org> .
- ✓ Attended the annual meeting of EBS-D, the German bamboo society. Visits to several gardens with bamboo and a botanic garden took place before and after the AGM.
- ✓ The Bamboo Society of Australia (BSA) has problems to find enough volunteers for their board and a special resolution to close the bamboo society is on the agenda of the coming AGM (October 3rd).
- ✓ Almost all international events/workshops took place on-line but this might and will hopefully change in 2022. At least one 'live' workshop has been announced: the 4th World Bamboo Workshop in Vietnam (September 2022).
- ✓ The number of ABS International members remains stable although an increase would be very welcome.

Annual report of the LGCC to the ABS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the 2021 general meeting of the LGCC was canceled in that we gather for fellowship and work, and our meeting place was closed to the public, and many of the members are in high-risk categories. In lieu of this meeting the officers and board met on September 20, 2021 via teleconference. It was decided that all officers and board members would continue in their positions for another year until the membership was able to meet as a whole once again, either in November or February. The board nominated and elected William P Edwards III “Judge “to act as their representative to the ABS board of directors. It was likewise agreed that the Louisiana Gulf Coast chapter would host the 2023 annual conference. The time and location of the conference is yet to be determined.

Northern CA Chapter Report to the ABS Board

29 Sep 2021

The NCC has been inactive for three years and is considering dissolution. Members and past members have been sent an email soliciting volunteers for leadership (not just helping) positions. Only two or three responses have been received. "Fresh blood" is needed to rejuvenate and/or remake the Chapter into the vibrant organization we once were.

Thus far the NCC tax status is still that of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. This is nontransferable and will be canceled if we disband.

There is money in the NCC bank account, which would have to be sent to another nonprofit according to IRS and California Nonprofit Corporation rules.

With respect to NCC members (we have 20+ now), they all have been informed of the possible coming changes, and know that they will have the option to transfer to another chapter of their choice. On the West Coast, that means the Pacific Northwest Chapter, the Southern CA Chapter, or perhaps Hawaii, assuming they wish to choose a chapter with a similar climate.

As much as I would like the NCC to survive, I must accept the reality of our predicament with the minor comfort of realizing the same thing is happening to many horticulturally-oriented nonprofits, and we are not alone. There is just too much information on the Internet to compete with, all freely available but without validation as to accuracy or authenticity.

Those who remain active members of the ABS will need to focus on the national organization. I believe the future of the ABS may be to exist as as more than a "mother" club whose chapters are responsible for membership gains and regional activities, but as the primary organizer of such activities as well as the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully,
David King

The Texas Bamboo Society Annual Report: 2021

This was an interesting year for the Texas Bamboo Society. February 15 – 17 we saw some of the coldest temperatures ever recorded in central Texas. We were in the single digits (5-9 degrees) for more than 36 hours. Many of the less cold hardy bamboos received significant damage. Clumping *bambusa* varieties, which usually do well in the Texas winters, died to the ground. Plants came back from the roots in the spring.

The Texas Bamboo Society continues to postpone most activities and our annual festival due to covid restrictions implemented by our home base at Zilker Botanical Gardens. All garden clubs are restricted from having meetings and conferences in the club house. However, there continues to be a small group of volunteers that meet every 3rd Saturday to groom the groves, harvest poles, and care for the bamboo plantings. Carole Meckes continues as President. Bill Cornelius serves as Vice President. and Wes Maconi continues to serve as treasurer. Harry Simmons has agreed to serve another term as ABS Rep. for the TBS.

Dates of 2021 meetings:

August 21: Zilker

July 17: Zilker

June 19: Zilker

May 15: Zilker

April 17: Zilker

March 20: Zilker

February 20 (cancelled)

January 16: Zilker