

**Minutes of the American Bamboo Society
Board of Directors Meeting
2 and 3 November 2023**

The Meeting was called to order by President Luc Boeraeve on 2 Nov 2023 at 0930h at the Hampton Inn, New Iberia, Louisiana

Directors and Officers Present:

Luc Boeraeve	President, International Director
Ian Connor	Vice President, PNWC Director
David King	Secretary
Carole Meckes	Co-Treasurer
Shanti Pierce	FCC Director
Judge Edwards	LGCC Director
Dan Fox	MSC Director
Landy Banks	SCC Director
Daphne Lewis	SEC Director
Harry Simmons	TBSC Director
James Clever	At-Large #1 Director
Robert Saporito	At-Large #3 Director
Kristen Comstock	At-Large #4 Director
Jenni Li	At-Large #5 Director

Directors Absent:

Bill Hollenback	Co-Treasurer, At-Large #2 Director
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Others Present:

Nancy Oberschmidt	Guest (Ned Jaquith Foundation)
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Quorum: A quorum (>7) of ABS Directors was determined to be present. Count = 13.

Approval of the 2022 Board meeting minutes: Unanimously approved.

Agenda: One additions: Updating the ABS Mission Statement (under "New Business").

Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the Consent Agenda: Species/Source List Report; Bambooweb.info Report. These are **attached to these minutes**.
The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously on a **motion** by King, second by Boeraeve.
Chapter and International Reports (as available) are **attached**.

President's Comments: (Luc Boeraeve) – **full report attached**.

Treasurer's Report: (Carole Meckes) -

The YTD income/expense report through 30 September 2023 and the proposed budget for 2024 were presented. YTD Income \$18,397.75; Expenses \$18,263.06.

Cash balances in checking and PayPal total \$15,149.20. With \$85,621.15 in the Charles Schwab brokerage account, making the ABS net worth \$97,776.25.

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

\$5000 for grants had been allocated for 2023 and forwarded to the Ned Jaquith Foundation.

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

The final 2024 budget and discussion appear under New Business below, following the internal funding requests.

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

Management of Funds in Brokerage Account: (David King) Cash was moved into a money market fund from the ABS checking accounts. The remainder of the invested funds is divided among 1 mutual fund and 4 exchange-traded funds. YTD, the brokerage income is \$1079.59. The investment value has increased \$930.36 in the 4 months since this account was transferred to Schwab. King rebalances the investments from time to time to maintain diversification and a moderate risk allocation. Volunteers to help manage the account would be welcome.

Membership Report – Membership Report (Carole Meckes): There are currently **360** voting ABS members, and Carole presented the breakdown among chapters. Thus the quorum for the Annual General Meeting will be 36 or more ABS members. The “aMember” program has worked out well, enabling reports to be generated easily. All members have access to view the ABS membership list on the system.

Secretary’s Report (David King)

A summary of Board actions (via Zoom meetings) since the last Annual Meeting is **attached**.

At-Large #3 and At-Large #4 Directors for 2023-2026 term: Election results to be announced at the upcoming Annual General Membership Meeting.

Currently Recognized US Chapters (8 total):

Qualifying for a Director – FCC, LGCC, MSC, PNWC, SCC, SEC, TBSC

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

Chapter Dissolved in 2019: NEC

Chapter Dissolved in 2022: NCC

Directors Selected by their Chapters for 2023-2026 term:

MSC: Dan Fox

Substitution of Director:

SEC: Lawton Rogers, filling Daphne Lewis’ term ending in 2025.

Ned Jaquith Foundation (NJF) Grants: (Nancy Oberschmidt) Grant application deadline was 1 October and 5 grants have been awarded for 2023 totaling \$15,442. Any applications received by the ABS are forwarded to the Ned Jaquith Foundation, which is the body which reviews and approves grant applications received by either organization. A summary of all NJF grants given to date is **attached**. Donations are solicited, as always.

Arts & Crafts Report: (Shanti Pierce) 2023 Arts Competition results will be displayed at the upcoming General Membership Meeting location. Kids were encouraged to participate, and most submissions were from outside the US. Social media played a part in the publicity for the competition.

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 20. Twenty ABS members are needed to form a chapter. Chapters which are not large enough to have their own Director are represented by the five At-Large members or may share a Director with one or more other Chapters.

A **motion** (King) to keep the electoral number at 20, **carried**.

PUBLICATIONS, WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA -

Advertising: (James Clever)

See the attached advertising report.

James would like to step down as advertising chair and Jenni Li has accepted the position.

BAMBOO Magazine: (Mark Sanders)

Because of decreased printing costs, a **motion** (King, second: Edwards) to print future issues in full color **carried**.

Website Issues: (Carole Meckes)

The ABS server needs an upgrade to increase its capacity to send emails. The current limit is 60 emails/hour, which can be increased greatly by switching to a non-shared server. Payment for the upgrade will be allocated in the upcoming budget discussion.

ABS Mission Statement Modification: (Shanti Pierce)

Proposed new language to include more uses of bamboo such as in art and construction.

ABS 2024 Annual Meeting Update: *ABS Meeting Planning Committee* (James Clever, Ian Connor, Carole Meckes, Nancy Oberschmidt, Daphne Lewis, Susanne Lucas, Robert Saporito)

Location: St. Louis, MO focused on the Missouri Botanical Garden (MoBot). The venue has been reserved.

Dates: Mid-October 2024.

Proposed host: The Pacific Northwest Chapter (PNWC), with the cooperation of the Ned Jaquith Foundation (NJF). A **motion** to set the PNWC as host (Boeraeve, second by King) **carried**.

Hawaii was eliminated as a 2024 location because of having few members and the recent Maui fires.

A Mid-States Chapter survey (pending) is designed to assess member interest in assisting with the 2024 conference.

ABS 2025 Annual Meeting: *ABS Meeting Planning Committee*

Various options discussed included Texas, Southern CA and Hawaii.

Bamboo of the Americas (BOTA): Eduardo Ruiz-Sanchez, Executive Director (by email)

Because there have been no projects, activity or grants given since 2021, and with the consensus among the BOTA Board that BOTA's mission has been accomplished, a **motion** (King, second: Lewis) to wind down BOTA and transfer its funds to the Ned Jaquith Foundation for use in funding grants **carried**.

Communication Strategy (formerly "Social Media Management"): Kristen Comstock

Comstock volunteered to set up a new group to set goals and coordinate content and messaging across all ABS delivery channels. Need to know what and with whom ABS wants/needs to communicate.

Connor suggested adding bamboo to discussions of climate change. Comstock wishes to focus on online communications. She will report any progress at a future online Board meeting.

Bamboo Help Line: (Luc Boeraeve)

Volunteers are sought to assist Carole Meckes, who now receives all requests. Daphne Lewis offered to help.

A "Bamboo FAQ" page on bamboo.org could answer most common bamboo questions. Meckes can create a new web page for the FAQs, but needs help with submissions of FAQs from all Directors.

Travel Reimbursement to Attend Annual Meeting: (All)

The intent is to assist Directors not representing an ABS Chapter to attend Board meetings. Chapter Directors are expected to solicit support by their chapters for attendance if needed.

There is a set budget of \$2000 annually, which was not altered. There is an understood maximum per individual of \$500 per request. The application deadline is one month prior to the annual Board meeting date.

Priorities for eligibility are outlined in the ABS Policy/Procedure Manual maintained by the Secretary. Copies are available on request.

In the case where requests exceed the budgeted funds, the consensus was to have the Board decide on a case by case basis, which is feasible since online Board meetings throughout the year have become the norm.

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

Websites – Upgrading the web server has a one-time cost of \$131, plus \$16 monthly.

New Computer for use by Treasurer/Membership - maximum \$3500, but will be paid from 2023 funds.

Communication Strategy - \$500

BAMBOO Magazine – no change; color included.

APPROVAL of the 2024 ABS BUDGET (All Directors and Officers): After a **motion** (Simmons, second: Connor) and extensive discussion, the 2024 budget was **approved** unanimously.

Announcement of International Events: *Luc Boeraeve*

2024 – The next World Bamboo Congress will be held in Taiwan 18-22.April in two cities, with all attendees moving en masse between the two locations. Registration will be free thanks to government sponsorship.

2024 - The European Bamboo Expo takes place in Dortmund, Germany, on 16-18.May 2024.

Future ABS Annual Meeting Planning:

2024 – St. Louis, MO at the Missouri Botanical Garden

2025 – (Options being discussed.)

2026 – (Options being discussed.)

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

Approval of the 3 November Annual ABS General Meeting Agenda was by consensus.

Item continued until the Board reconvenes:

The election of officers of the ABS.

Recess: At 1530h, a **motion** (King, second: Comstock) to **recess** the meeting of the Board until 3 November 2023 at 1730h (after the Annual General Meeting) gained unanimous approval.

Board Meeting Reconvened

at the Hampton Inn
3 November 2023
1730h

Election of Officers of the ABS: A quorum was present. Guests present included Carole Meckes and Daphne Lewis. The following slate of officers was nominated and unanimously elected by the Board to serve until the conclusion of the ABS Annual Meeting in 2024:

President	Luc Boeraeve (International)
Vice President	Ian Connor (PNWC)
Secretary	David King (NCC)
Co-Treasurers	Bill Hollenback (PNWC) & Carole Meckes (TBSC)

Recognition of 2023-2024 Directors:

Mark Sanders and David King – new At-Large Directors.
Lawton Rogers – new SEC Director.

Other Business:

Shanti Pierce moved (with second by Connor) to grant Vinc Math \$500 reimbursement for travel costs directly from the ABS in appreciation of his contribution to this meeting. Carried unanimously.

For ABS2023 registrant Joe Alex Gyamfi-Bioh, who could not get a US travel visa in time, it was agreed to retain his 2023 registration fee and credit it toward his 2024 ABS Conference registration.

Adjournment: A **motion** to adjourn the 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Bamboo Society **carried** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



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

2023 ABS Species Source List Report

October 20 2023

I am still finishing up the Species Source List for printing. I had a number of problems with it. The current one that I am working with is the macros that I were used in 2010 to pull the information from Access and format it into a word document are not working with the updated programs so I am manually entering data. I hope to be done soon and be able to move on to using the new procedures for future issues.

Sources are encouraged to join anytime during the year at <http://ssl.bambooweb.info/> and they will show up online as soon as they notify me and I verify their membership. Sources should also check their listings every year and add any new species or products that they sell.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hollenback

2023 Bambooweb.info Website Report

October 10, 2023

This is the 19th year for the site. We are still upgrading the website to support the newer components that are more secure.

The forum has been a challenge with all of the scammers out there trying to take advantage of the site. Sometimes there is a big delay in getting new people and posts approved. A big thanks to Brad Salmon for being in charge of the forum for a number of years while I have not had time.

This next year I hope to add to the site and get more integration with bamboo.org. I hope to automate the Species Source List layout and printing for ABS members and be able to log into the forums with a member and have a bamboo.org look for the site.

The website does not take any money from the ABS but we do ask for donations on the home page.

Thank you,
Bill Hollenback
bamboo@bambooweb.info



(3 ft wide chipper in action at Bamboo Valley moso grove clean up)

PNW Chapter report

We started the year with the desire to reprint the PNW handbook, but the alterations for adverts and new text made it prohibitively expensive. Instead, we used all of our past year versions with added sheets to keep it current.

Northwest Flower and Garden Festival

15th through 19th February

The chapter dug deep to set up a booth and staff it for 5 days.

It received a lot of positive attention and many enquiries.



(Revamped booth in Seattle)

Hardy Plant Society

7th and 8th April

A repeat of Seattle' garden show. It proves great for outreach to the active garden community.



(Another successful booth at Hortlandia)

This summer, we sadly lost a long term chapter member - Vladimir Shakov. He will be sorely missed.

Ned's Bash - (this is an NJF event, but overwhelmingly attended and assisted by PNW members)

29th July

Workshop, tours of the groves and auction.

We had enormous fun making didgeridoos in a class given by James Clever. Ever seen grown adults competing to make the worst noise possible? That was us. We even created a video, (we were so proud of our results).

We tried a different approach with the auction - minimum bid, slide show of the plants and limited to 15 for auction. Along with the silent auction, it proved very successful.

Bamboo Valley moso grove cleanup and potluck.

30th September

Dain's expansive grove of moso is really getting impressive. One culm was over 5 inches at basal calliper. We thinned the groves with sawzalls, then chipped enthusiastically with the new caterpillar 3-foot wide compact chipper mulching the beds. This was interrupted with a pot luck lunch in the grove clearing.

The tour of the other groves revealed impressive *Phyllostachys atrovaginata*, a huge stand of *P. nigra boryana* and massive *P. vivax* in which was sited a full-sized tree house.

The *Phyllostachys pubescens* 'Bicolor' is now also impressive in stature and presence, as is the *P. viridis* 'Robert Young'.

It takes a lot to animate me and make my head spin. Dain and Suya Sansome's many groves did just that.

After the annual ABS conference, we shall return to the handbook to revamp it before printing after Christmas.

Members of the PNW Board are voting on tackling the 2024 conference remotely in St. Louis, Missouri at the prestigious botanic gardens - we like a challenge!

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Connor



(We were the first to set up a booth in Seattle)

503 734 5735

Connor-Bamboo.com

PNW rep for ABS board of directors

Chapter president for PNW

AmericanBamboo.org

SEC Chapter Report 2023
Daphne Lewis

On February 24, 2023, chapter president Kay Koppedrayer, her house guest and I cut out dead canes from a Vivax grove at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens. We made a big pile of driftwood colored leafless canes. The grove looked much healthier after these dead poles were removed.

After the work, we walked to the Historic Japanese Timber grove that we had thinned of dead poles with a hired tree company in September 2022. Most of it was driftwood grey. Looks like it will be totally dead in 2024. Grass grew thick all through the remaining canes.

In April, Walter Campbell - historian, Mike Hotchkiss - retired Tree Nut Pathologist and bamboo curator, and Kay Koppedrayer SE Chapter President presented about bamboo at the Georgia Archives event outside Atlanta.

In middle Georgia, I have been battling my bamboo fungus disease with repeated thinning of infected canes. I irrigate on hot days. I chip the diseased poles and do not spread the chips on the groves. Is it safe to spread the bamboo mulch into the groves after it sits a year? I use it elsewhere under trees, shrubs, annuals. The Dulcis is the most affected variety. Next most affected is the Praecox. Hot dry days bring on the symptoms: curling leaves that show a discolored underside.

Texas Bamboo Society Chapter Report 2023 ABS Annual Meeting

The Texas Bamboo Society continues its relationship with Zilker Botanical gardens. The Taniguchi Japanese garden contains many species of bamboo that have been planted and are on display. The Texas Bamboo Society meets every third Saturday in the morning at the gardens to groom the various groves and provide a hands-on workshop in growing, cultivating, and controlling many different types of bamboo.

The third 29th annual Texas Bamboo festival occurred October 21 and 22nd at the Zilker botanical gardens. The festival included various vendors providing paintings that incorporated, Bamboo, jewelry and crafts with Bamboo, bamboo fencing and other garden structures, bamboo poles and stakes, Native American bamboo flutes, and tool sharpening. The society held a silent auction with many items donated from members. The society also sold almost 2 dozen different varieties of bamboo that do well in Texas.

The guest speaker was James Wolf. Mr. Wolf spoke on bamboo design and construction. He emphasized this sustainability of bamboo architecture and its beauty when used in both outdoor and indoor structures.

The society is already planning its 30th annual festival. Everyone is invited and we look forward to having you visit us in Austin next year!

American Bamboo Society
International Director's report 2022-23
From: Luc Boeraeve
To be presented at the ABS Board Meeting
Louisiana, November 2023

- ✓ 2022- 2023 was my second year of my 4th 3 year term as International Director of the ABS.
- ✓ Maintained close contact with the German, Dutch, French and Iberian bamboo societies and with, being the secretary and activity organizer, the Belgian Bamboo Society and its members.
- ✓ Participated in the half yearly bamboo garden and nurseries visits organised by AEB France (French bamboo organization). This 2 day event took place in the Lorient, Brittany during the weekend of 30 September and 1 October.
- ✓ Attended the annual meeting of EBS-D, the German bamboo society. This was combined with a visit to a bamboo garden and a botanic garden in Baden-Württemberg.
- ✓ Participated in a botanic garden visit organised by the EBS-NI, the Dutch bamboo society..
- ✓ Attended the first European Bamboo Expo, held in Dortmund, Germany on June 2 and 3, 2023. Many commercial companies and NGO's presented their products and projects in this exposition combined with lectures during this 2 day event.
- ✓ The number of ABS International members remains stable although an increase would be very welcome.

Luc Boeraeve
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ABS President's report for the year 2022 - 2023

The online regular board meetings of the American Bamboo Society keeps the society in good shape as well as the once a year in person board meeting prior to the AGM and annual conference. 7 board meetings via Zoom were held since last year's AGM. In addition there were Tech Committee meetings and a new committee was created to look at the feasibility of organizing the annual conference without a chapter hosting it. The first such conference, with possible NJF support, is planned to take place in 2024 at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis.

The regular Zoom meetings help to maintain close links between the chapters and the board and to ensure that any issue popping up can be dealt with in a timely matter. It is also helpful for the organization of the annual conference as the organizing chapter can draw on the experience and support from other chapters and from board members.

The administrative management of the society went smoothly in 2023. The website continued with a few changes although it is the intention to include more 'bamboo' information from the previous websites. An archive, accessible through the website bamboo.org, makes the ABS Journals from 1980 to 1991 available to the general public. It is planned to make all, old and new, bamboo magazines available on the website although issues from recent years would only be accessible for ABS members.

Bamboo, the ABS magazine, has a new editor. After many years of doing a great job, Don Shor has passed the baton to Mark Sanders who started with the Fall 2023 magazine. This is also the first full color issue.

The previous edition of the Bamboo Species Source List N° 36 (2017- 2018) is being updated and should become available in the coming months.

Following previous years' successful competitions, the arts and crafts committee launched another competition in 2023. The winners will be announced at the Louisiana ABS Conference in November.

As in previous years, the Ned Jaquith Foundation is launching and managing the annual research grant scheme co-financed by the ABS. The winners were announced in October 2023.

The Louisiana Gulf Coast Chapter (LGCC) has been working hard to prepare the Annual ABS Conference taking place in New Iberia, Southern Louisiana, from 2 to 5 November 2023. Several board members provided advice and actively supported the LGCC in the preparation of the 2023 annual conference.

The above is a short summary and much more work has been and is being done by many ABS members, such as overlooking the printing and distribution of 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, ABS and board members, job holders and anyone growing and working with bamboo, the ABS is growing stronger.

Respectfully submitted. October 2023

Luc Boeraeve