

Please vote for the candidates listed below. Then detach from newsletter, fold, add return address on reverse side, add stamp and mail in time to reach Riverside, CA by September 24. Thanks a bunch. Nominating committee.

Candidates:

	Yes	No
For Director: Cliff Sussman	_____	_____
For Alternate: Dani Ramos	_____	_____
For Alternate: Mike Mullert	_____	_____

If you choose to help reduce mailing costs by receiving news letter by email instead of regular mail, please clearly write your name and email address below. This would become a "digital membership" - in the future likely to be at a membership fee less than that for members desiring the printed and mailed newsletter.

Name: _____

email: _____

In a future newsletter, we are thinking of including a list of information we have for our Chapter members. The list would include Name, address, Phone number, and email address to make possible the communication of one member to another especially between members who live near each other. If you do not want to be included in the list mark sentence below.

I DO NOT want to be included in the member list, _____

Name and Return Address:

Place
Stamp
Here

ABS SoCal Newsletter Editor:

5325 Peacock Lane
Riverside, CA 92505-3135

Southern California Bamboo

The Newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the American Bamboo Society

A California 501(c)-3 non-profit educational corporation, incorporated July 22, 1991

Chapter website: www.ABSSoCal.org

ABS SoCal Activities / Events planned: (Monthly meetings are usually on the third Saturday of month.) (Changes will be noted below.)		
Date:	Time:	Activity / Event:
Sat. Sep. 25, 2010	10:00 am	Quail/ San Diego BG: Annual Meeting to determine, after vote counting, who new directors will be and what roles in the Chapter they will take. Work Party.
Sat. Oct. 16, 2010	10:00 am	Quail/ San Diego BG: Work Party. Possible sale of plants from Reference collection.
Sat. Nov. 20, 2010	10:00 am	Meet at home and garden of Theo Smith, 5325 Peacock Lane Riverside, CA Many pictures in this NL were taken in his garden. Come see the real thing!
Sat. Dec. 4, 2010	10:00 am	Quail/ San Diego BG: Work Party to help manage the bamboos of Q/SD-BG by thinning and removing dead culms from plants.
Sat. Jan. 2011		TBD

Message from President ABS SoCal

Please review the information provided on candidates for Chapter directors and alternate directors. Then vote for your choice by marking the ballot attached. Then detach, add return address and stamp, fold and tape or staple closed. Then mail to arrive in Riverside CA before September 24 so your vote will be counted.

Thanking you in advance. - Cliff Sussman, President

Or bring your ballot to the Sept. 2010 meeting at Quail/ San Diego BG!

To us directors, the most important item in this newsletter is the ballot for directors and alternate directors. It is important that the membership at large help decide who of us interested bambuseros (Re the name, I discovered this little description on a website in New Zealand: "Bambusero: In Spanish it means "one who works with bamboo". The -sero or -ero bit is like -smith in English. So, zapatero is one who works with shoes. Carpintero is a carpenter. So bambusero could be "bamboo smith". But I understand in the US bambusero is also applied to those who grow the stuff in commercial scale.") but I digress -- the most important issue is that you send in your votes so that the mix of energies - choice of directors - that direct the actions of this Chapter can be established.

ABS SoCal donates a "Chocolate Bamboo"

Don Reed, representing ABS SoCal, will present to the Quail / San Diego Botanic Garden a bamboo for their Gala auction.

The plant is "Chocolate Bamboo" *Borinda fungosa* (formerly *Fargesia fungosa*) grown in our reference collection. It is an ornamental weeping bamboo that can be used as a screen or centerpiece in a yard or garden. The shoots are sweet and the culms can be used for weaving. With wide clumper arches, *Borinda fungosa* likes a half-day of morning sun to half-day afternoon sun. The culms will turn chocolate-red and shiny with more sun. It has light green leaves, 1/2" x 3-5", which grow in small clusters at each node. This *Borinda* clumper reaches 14 to 20 feet tall, with a culm diameter of 1 inch, and is hardy as low as 20°F in USDA Zone 8 to USDA Zone 10.

Nominees for ABS SoCal Board

Mike Mullert: "The chapter has a reference collection at San Diego Botanic Garden that needs repair, plants propagated, division of mother plants, sale of others, and control of the mealy bug. I wish to help bring this around in 2011. I would encourage building the collection at the San Diego Botanic Garden with new and rare plants when possible. Membership and associations are necessary to promote bamboo to its rightful place amongst the wonder plants on this planet. There is a new medium for building interest in bamboo: the Internet. I will explore the use of Facebook & Twitter & Google to establish a presence in this area of communication. I wish to be considered as your alternate director for 2011."

Dani Ramos: "I am relatively new to bamboo & have been infected with bamboo fanaticism! Am currently member of the American Bamboo Society, SoCal and Texas chapters. Am a former member San Diego horticultural society and San Diego zoological society. Knowledge of, promotion of, I.D., and the utilization of Bamboo is my passion. I eventually want to use gained knowledge to start bamboo nurseries in our family ranches in south Texas and mainland Mexico, gulf coast. I was a San Diego resident for the past 26 years, where we raised our three daughters. I now reside in Mentone (Redlands), CA. Much of my time has been in studying, collecting, and propagating bamboo and helping in the improvement and maintenance of the San Diego Botanic reference collection which I still call "Quails". My background is in horticulture, landscape contracting and am currently employed as a Park Supervisor. Working with bamboo comes naturally to me. I am extremely enthusiastic in the propagation of bamboo and am currently growing and propagating bamboo on our acre home lot in Mentone, CA. I believe bamboos are the most fascinating of all plants. Their unusual life cycle, tremendous power of growth and diversity give them a special importance in the horticultural family. I very much appreciate the opportunity to serve as an Alternate Director."

Nominees for ABS SoCal Board: Continued

Cliff Sussman: "Conservation is foremost in our direction in this age of water shortage. The science of promoting this plant is important world wide. We will dialogue with leaders like Dr. Chris Stapleton from England who assist in our Source List. He has been associated with the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew, England, the foremost botanic garden in the world. I would like to continue communicating with Dr. Khoon Meng Wong with the Singapore Botanic Garden. Dr. Wong has contacts in Malaysia that need to be explored. Continued work with Dr. Elizabeth Widjaja from the Bogar Botanic Garden, Indonesia, would be great. Here locally we need to work with botanist in identifying plants. Relationships with organizations such as the San Diego Zoo with its wonderful botanic gardens are worth pursuing to enhance our mission statement to promote bamboo plants. This is where my energy will best serve the chapter. I think I can best contribute to the chapter by placing my name as a candidate for directorship. Thank you for your support."



Up close view through grove of *Phyllostachys bambusoides*. Some culms are three or more inches in diameters.



Culms of *Phyllostachys Bambusoides* growing up through decaying centers of railroad ties used as a retaining wall around grove of bamboo. Additional constraint such as plastic barrier would be desirable here.

Constraints for bamboos

This NL addresses in words and pictures, the issue of “constraints” for bamboos. For runners, a rhizome barrier; for clumpers or culms growing in unwanted directions, a physical constraint that forces the culm to grow straight up, not out.

The most frequent concern for constraint is for running bamboos: to keep the rhizomes from wandering away from where you want the bamboo to grow. Often an five gallon container of *Phyllostachys nigra* (a common running black bamboo) is innocently planted by someone who loves the dark culms and wants some in their own yard.

Within a couple of years the innocence disappears when a disturbed neighbor complains - especially here in Southern California - that my bamboo is now in their yard - all over in their yard! What to do? What to do is something that should have been done before the plant went into the ground. That something is the “planting” of a rhizome barrier to completely surround the area where the bamboo is desired to be. A rhizome barrier is simply an underground wall. (What to do about the bamboo already out of bounds: dig it out, or repeatedly break or cut off new culms as they sprout. However, this will leave a web of rhizomes that will continue to weaken if no culms are allowed to grow, but the rhizomes will remain.)



Grove of *Phyllostachys bambusoides*. The individual single culms in the center three pots were dug from an area of yard where the rhizome had “wandered” and sent up the culms. More about such wanderers and their relocation in a future newsletter.

Constraints for bamboos: continued

From here on I will speak from my experience. I being Theo Smith. I have been lucky re the runners in my yard. One neighbor is protected from my runners by the "rhizome barrier" provided by the foundation of a block wall.

A second neighbor was not so protected because the rhizomes from my yard found their way through the "weep holes" - those spaces between blocks in the bottom course of a block retaining wall which allow moisture from the upper level - my neighbor's yard is 3 ft above mine - to seep to my yard. However, this neighbor did nothing with his yard - no plants, so no water and the bamboos that grew were just cut off. The neighbor didn't care.

In another area, my *Phyllostachys bambusoides* would run into his yard in an area again not watered because he would park his vehicles there. The area is now covered with rocks. One can see the rhizomes enter the area and wither since there is no water present. See Figure 1. to right.

I wanted small grove of *Phyllostachys vivax 'Aureocaulis'* that I did not want to get out of bounds. For this plant I provided a barrier consisting of heavy plastic. See Figures 2 and 3. The plastic goes is about 12 inches below ground with 4 inches above ground so that the accumulating leaves will not cover the top of the barrier. I can keep watch for a wandering rhizome. Note the black barrier.

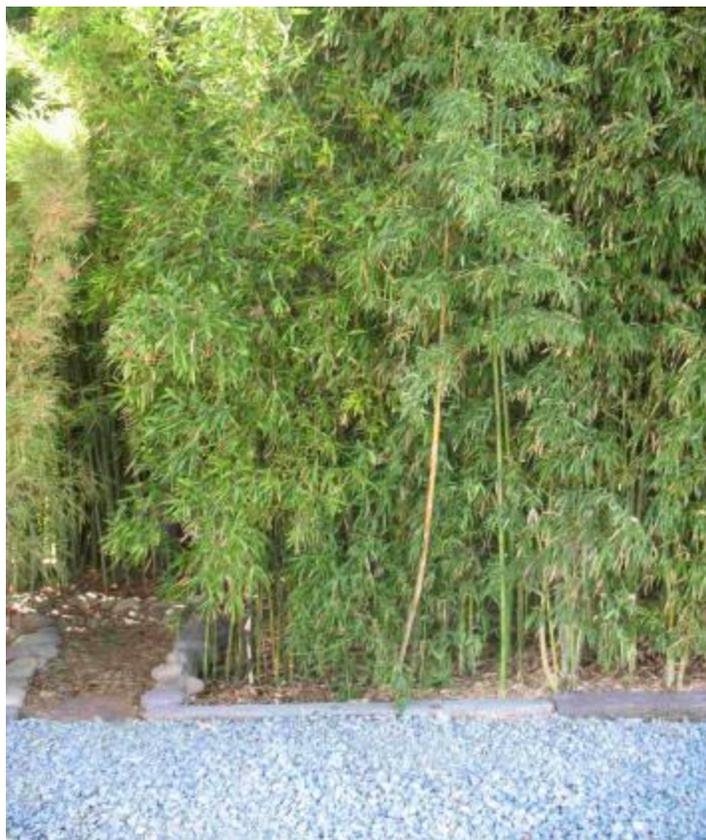


Figure 1. Theo's *Ph. bambusoides* grove as seen from neighbor's yard. the bottom of picture shows gravel areas where neighbor parks cars occasionally. The rhizomes have gone under the railroad ties but do not produce culms because area is dry except when wet by rains.



Figure 2. Black plastic rhizome barrier surrounding a small grove of *Phyllostachys vivax 'Aureocaulis'*



Figure 3. Closer look at black plastic rhizome barrier surrounding a small grove of *Phyllostachys vivax 'Aureocaulis'*

Constraints for bamboos: continued

A second kind of constraint for bamboos, especially in the fall when the clumpers start putting up culms, is to constrain the culms so that they grow more vertically than they usually do. Many clumpers will tend to arch out from the vertical in order to get more sunlight. I like them to grow vertically as much as possible, and if they are to arch out, then do so above about ten or more feet. To accomplish this, I constrain the new culms by a piece of half-pipe cut from an ABS or PVC irrigation pipe. Such pipes are usually available at Home Depot, Lowes or irrigation supply businesses. I have pipes of diameters one, two, four and six inches. The pipe is cut length wise straight along a diameter of the pipe. The purpose of the plastic half pipes is to train the new shoots to grow toward the light of my choosing. The half-pipes are taken off when the shoot hardens.

Pictures show such constraints on *Dendrocalamus latiflorus* 'Mei-Nung,' *Bambusa oldhamii*, and *Borinda fungosa*.

I use a third constraint to permanently hold upright my *Borinda fungosa* which would otherwise flop or drape itself to the ground. My clump is near the house and would obscure my entry sidewalk if not held up by a loop of rope circling the culm bunch at level of the house eaves. The rope is attached to the house eaves and is adjustable as needed to accommodate an ever widening clump.

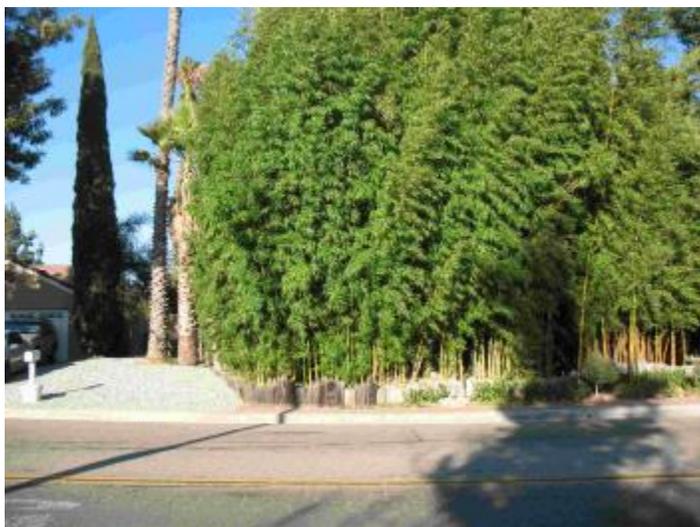


Figure 6. Grove of *Ph. bambusoides* in front of house. Area on left is neighbor's parking area covered with rock. Photo of Figure 1. was taken in neighbor's driveway on left side looking from left to right into the grove.

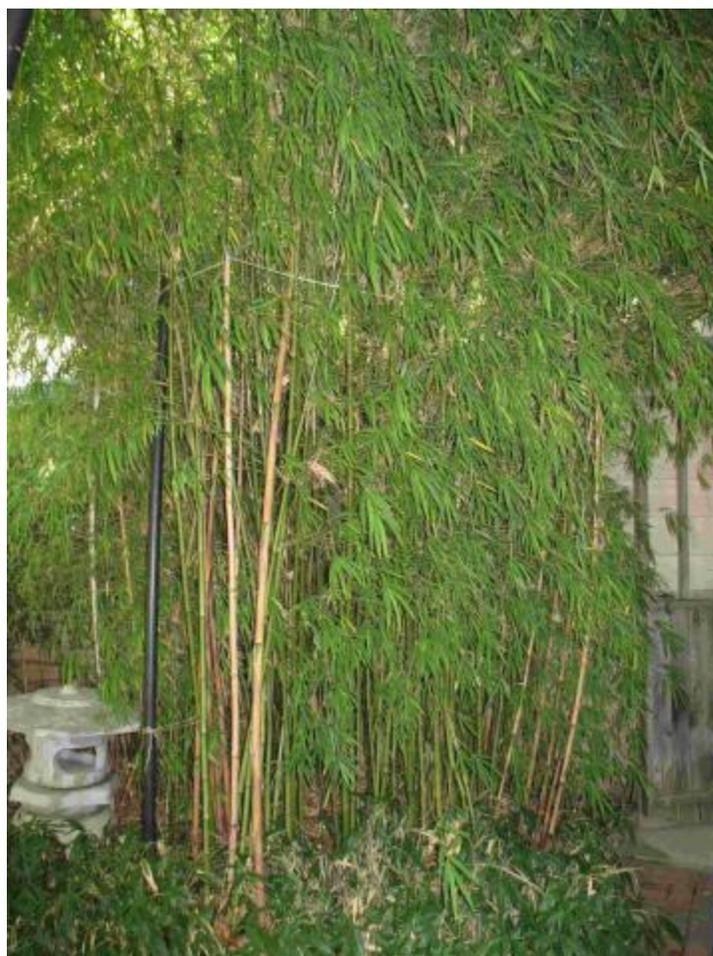


Figure 4. Full side view of clump of *Borinda fungosa*. Note the rope around the clump about a third from the top, and the vertical black half-pipe constraint just to the right of the pagoda on left.



Figure 5. View of clump of *Borinda fungosa* from rooftop showing how plant wants to arch with culms full of branches and leaves.



Figure 7. *Dendrocalamus latiflorus* 'Mei-Nung' showing half pipe of white PVC and twine pulling the constraint from left to right to encourage the culm to grow straight up. This year I have been watering this plant heavily causing it to produce many branches and leaves and more culms.

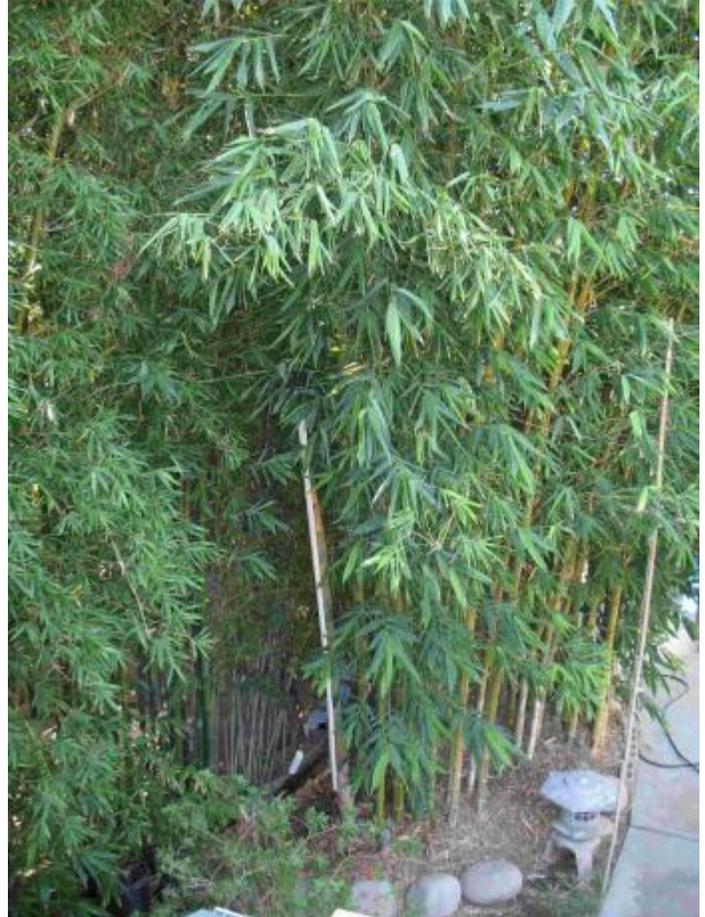


Figure 8. View of the 'Mei-Nung' from house rooftop showing constrained culm in center of the picture. Don't let the concrete pagoda in this picture confuse you with the pagoda with the *Borinda fungosa* in Figure 4. I have two nearly identical concrete pagodas!



Figure 9. I want the *Bambusa oldhamii* culm in center tending to left to grow more vertically. I add a half-pipe of black ABS and pull the culm from left to right to straighten its growth.



Figure 10. Center culm (from Figure 9) now has black ABS half-pipe constraining its growth to the left causing it to be more vertically inclined.

World Bamboo Day September 18, 2010

"World Bamboo Day is a day of celebration to increase the awareness of bamboo globally. Where bamboo grows naturally, bamboo has been a daily element, but its utilization has not always been sustainable due to exploitation. The World Bamboo Organization aims to bring the potential of bamboo to a more elevated exposure – to protect natural resources and the environment, to ensure sustainable utilization, to promote new cultivation of bamboo for new industries in regions around the world, as well as promote traditional uses locally for community economic development."

This year, the WBO promotes the celebration of this day around the world, with participation from bamboo enthusiasts, practitioners, researchers, students, children = everyone! A key event will be held in India at Kohima, Nagaland, endorsed by WBO and hosted by the Govt. of Nagaland, India, under the able guidance of Mr. Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Nagaland, and Honorary Council Member, WBO.

WBO President, Mr. Kamesh Salam, is busy planning all the details. The highlights of this celebration will take place from the 18th to 22nd September, including:

- Bamboo Planting
- Run for Bamboo (Marathon Run)
- Craft Competition
- Workshops
- Painting Competition for School Children
- Bamboo Music Festival
- Bamboo Food Festival
- Exhibitions on Bamboo Craft and Products

This celebration in Kohima anticipates over 500 participants from around the world, including members of the WBO, high-level policy-makers from the Govt. of India and North East India, Ambassadors of ASEAN countries and the Consulate of the US Kolkata office, etc.

Globally, the WBO encourages all people everywhere, including civic groups like Lions Club, Rotary International, international agencies, schools, institutions, community centers, and bamboo societies promoting bamboo in all its capacities to celebrate World Bamboo Day! Via education, discovery, music, food, parades and promoting the planting of bamboo, we will spread the message of this unique gift of nature = Bamboo.

The World Bamboo Organization will continue to expand and activate its network of partners, institutions, corporations, alliances and individuals to provide a unique, dynamic, progressive program for the advancement of bamboo promotion worldwide. To celebrate World Bamboo Day in a big way, the WBO will especially encourage and assist with bamboo planting to improve our planet's health. Stay tuned to learn more on how you can help us help the world through bamboo.

<http://worldbamboo.net/?p=360>

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Address correction requested



Note: Newsletter is available in .pdf format at the ABS SoCal website: www.abssocal.org - IN COLOR!

**Application for membership in: The American Bamboo Society
and The Southern California Chapter of the American Bamboo Society**

Renewal New

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

- Membership for 2010 is (check one) Annual: \$15 - ABS SoCal ONLY
 Annual: \$50 - ABS and ABS SoCal Chapter (\$40 digital) Supporting: \$60 - ABS and ABS SoCal Chapter (\$60 digital)
 Lifetime: \$800 - ABS Membership only (\$600 digital) Patron: \$130 - ABS and ABS SoCal Chapter (\$120 digital)
 Lifetime: \$300 - ABS SoCal Chapter only \$15/year for each additional Chapter checked below:
 Three years: \$140 ABS and ABS SoCal Chapter (\$110 digital) International: \$55 - ABS only (\$40 digital)

- Florida Caribbean; Hawaii; Louisiana-Gulf Coast; Mid-States; Northeast; Northern California;
 Pacific Northwest; Southeast; Texas Bamboo Society; Tierra Seca

Make check to ABS-SoCal: Mail to: ABS SoCal Membership, 5387 Topaz St., Alta Loma, CA 91701

Check here only if you do NOT want your phone number and e-mail address listed in directories.