

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

**ABSSoCal Activities / Events planned: (Monthly meetings are usually on the third Saturday of month.)
(Changes will be noted below.)**

| Date: | Time: | Activity / Event: |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Sat. Apr. 16, 2005 | 9:00 -10:30 am 10:30 -11:00 am 11:00 - 2:00 pm 3:00 - ? | Spring Bamboo Sale at Quail BG Sale Preview - look at plants available + set up plants for sale Auction of rare bamboos General sale of all bamboos Board Meeting. See agenda below |
| Sat. May 14, 2005 | 10:00 am | Note, this is the SECOND Sat. in May, 'cause we could only get this day to visit Pikake Gardens, 15515 Villa Sierra Rd. , Valley Center CA, 760-749-4819 http://members.cox.net/pikakegardens/ (for personalized driving directions, suggest you use maps.google.com) |
| Sat. Jun. 18, 2005 | TBA | TBA: Possible visit to Dr. low's restaurant which specializes in cooked bamboo shoots |
| Sat. Jul. 16, 2005 | 10:00 am | TBA: Possible "bamboo shoot cookout" at QBG |
| Sat. Aug. 20, 2005 | 10:00 am | TBA: Visit Bob Dimattia's |
| Sat. Sep. 17, 2005 | | Fall Bamboo Sale at Quail BG |

Unscheduled days of bamboo collection maintenance are often held at Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas, CA, on some Saturdays, 10:00 to 3:00. Workers generally meet in front of the Gift Shop and then move to the activity areas. If you meet no one by the Gift Shop, check in reference collection. Contact Bob Dimattia for guidance: 760-519-0397. Bring your own lunch, drinks (non alcoholic, that is!) and have a great 'hands-on' time.

Agenda for Board Mtg, Sat. April 16 following the plant sale.

1. Reports
 - a. Liaison with QBG: Bob D.
Reference collection
New Quarantine Greenhouse
Propagation Greenhouse
 - b. Treasurer: Roy W.
Use of credit cards at ABS SoCal sales
2. Old Business
 - a. Bamboo Sales Planning:
 - b. Event & activity planning:
 - c. Chapter Web Site:
3. New Business
 - a. Other
4. Adjourn

May 14, (SECOND Sat.) visit to Pikake Gardens.
Meet 10:00 am at park-and-ride where Gopher Canyon road meets or turns into Old Castle Road just east of the I15. We'll carpool from there to the gardens. Wear walking shoes and bring something for a pot luck lunch. Pikake's Rain Forest includes an amazing variety of tropical and subtropical fruits, plants and trees. They are constantly experimenting with new introductions in an effort to expand the biodiversity of Southern California's flora. Be prepared to identify some of their bamboos!!

In this newsletter.

This newsletter contains pages 4 through 6 of a little 'handout' (Bamboo 101 for So. CA) being prepared by ABS SoCal to be given to persons interested in bamboo. The first three pages were in the prior newsletter. We welcome any refining comments to improve this handout.

We are also including a list of bamboos likely for sale at our plant sales. The information is much like that found in the annual ABS bamboo source list. However, whereas the source list is alphabetical on plant genus, our list is alphabetical first on the categories into which they are placed for display, then alphabetical on plant genus making the list easier to use at sales. The display categories are: Tropical Bamboos from Asia, Mountain Bamboos, American Bamboos, Medium and Large Running Bamboos, and Small and Dwarf Running Bamboos.

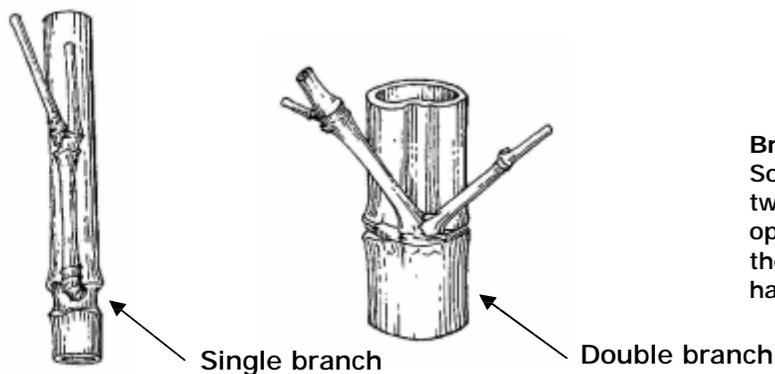
ABSSoCal.org is evolving.

Changes to the Chapter website are underway. The new version may be ready when you get this, but if not, keep checking back and suddenly all will look new and different. Ideas for continuing change of content and form are welcome. However, remember, since this is a chapter of diverse persons with diverse perspectives, not all ideas can be implemented.

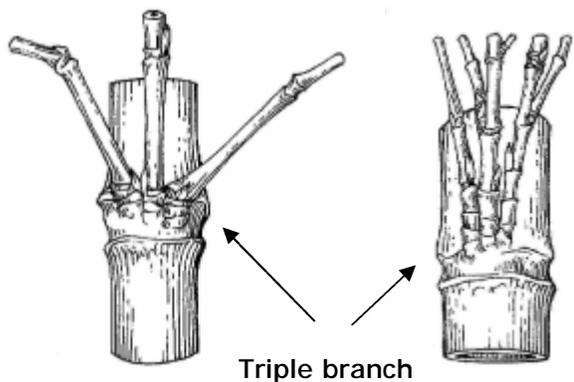
Southern California Bamboo

American Bamboo Society Southern California Chapter Officers:

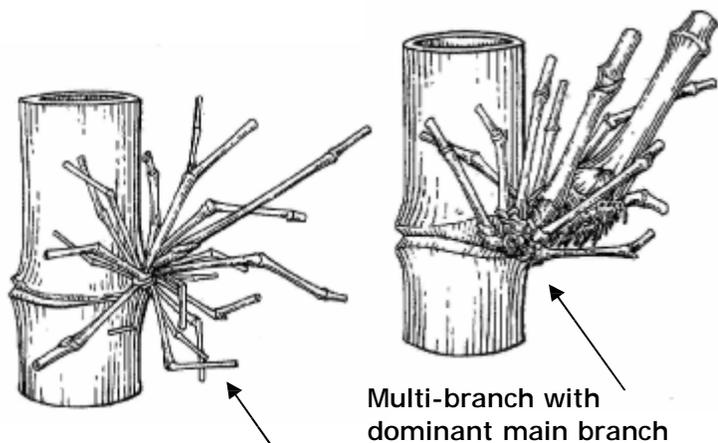
| | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|--|
| Director, President, Newsletter Editor | Theo Smith to '06 | 951-359-1706 | Trsmith00@sbcglobal.net |
| Director, Vice-President | Bob Dimattia to '06 | 760-519-0397 | Bamboobob@cox.net |
| Director, Treasurer | Roy Wiersma to '05 | 909-980-1740 | Rhwiwersma@aol.com |
| Director, Secretary | Don Binnix to '07 | 714-531-2710 | Dbinnix@msn.com |
| Director | Christian Lydick to '07 | 760-352-7095 | CLydick@ivnet.org |
| Alternate Director | Michael A. Mullert to '05 | 619-465-4690 | Mamullert@yahoo.com |
| Alternate Director | Adam Derrickson to '05 | 619-200-1444 | Exoticbamboo@aol.com |
| Chapter rep. to ABS National | JoAnne Wyman to '07 | 760-749-5716 | Wymanrsf@incom.net |



Branching: Different branch patterns from a node. Some species have one branch per node, some have two (the *Phyllostachys* genus which make for an openness), and some have many branches, such as the *Bambusa multiplex* genus. Many large clumpers have one main branch and many smaller ones.



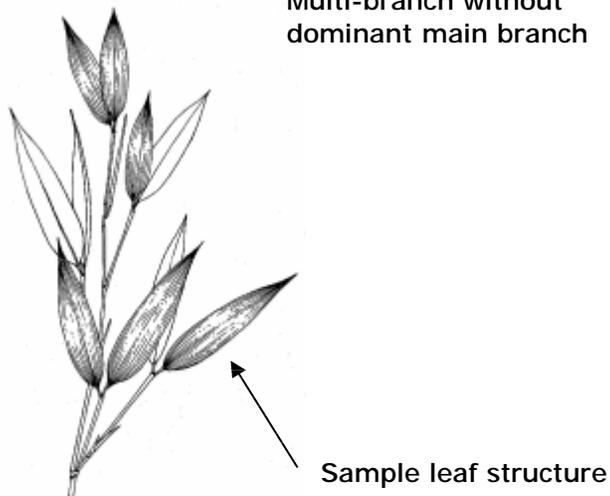
Flowers and seeds: Happens infrequently. Since bamboo is a grass, its flowers look much like those of grasses - not like orchids or geraniums. Most often, when flowering takes place, the whole plant goes into flowers and few leaves for several years. This takes up most of the plant's nourishment and the plant dies as the new seeds begin a new generation. All plants deriving from the same clone - those plants propagated by cuttings originating from the same initial plant - will flower at the same time no matter where in the world they are.



Naming: Frustrating. There's the Genus and species name (Botanical name). And common name, both English and sometimes in language of country of origin. Nurseries frequently misname plants so you don't really know what you are getting unless you have some knowledge. A Bamboo Species Source List is maintained by and published yearly - usually in April - by the American Bamboo Society (ABS). The list is available on the ABS website: www.AmericanBamboo.org.

The list briefly describes each bamboo which has been for sale in the US in the prior year, and vendors who purport to currently sell it.

Also check out the website for the Southern California Chapter of ABS. www.AbsSoCal.org.



Best known temperate bamboo genera: Arundinaria, Bambusa, Chimonobambusa, Chusquea, Dendrocalamus, Drepanostachyum, Guadua, Hibnobambusa, Indocalamus, Otatea, Phyllostachys, Pleioblastus, Pseudosasa, Sasa, Sasaella, Sasamorpha, Semiarundinaria, Shibataea, Sinarundinaria, Sinobambusa, Thamnocalamus

Leaves: Range in size and shape and coloration and hairiness. Usually green, sometimes with small yellow, or white or cream stripes - one to many stripes depending on species. Some have 1/4 wide and 5 in long leaves. Some have 4 in wide and 16 in long leaves. In spring many leaves yellow and fall to be replaced by new ones. Leaves curling (sides fold into center line) often indicates moisture running low. Time to water.

Propagation: both C and R: Seeds, when and if available and viable. Rhizome cuttings with upper part of culm(s) cut off. Prevents imbalance between root uptake of water and evaporation of same from leaves. Lose more moisture than can be replenished; lose the plant. A plant grown from a seed is genetically unique and may form a peculiarly unique and desirable plant which is then propagated by cuttings.

C: culm cuttings containing a node or two from which roots and new culm grow.

R: rhizome cutting containing no culms.

Where to get. Some local So. Cal. nurseries, ABS SoCal bamboo sale at Quail Botanic Garden in Encinitas, CA on the third Sat of April and Sept. Great variety. Knowledgeable people to talk to. Also, do web search on Bamboo. See what you find. Good education. Vendor's websites give varied perspectives on the plants, prices, etc. However a 1 gal plant by mail order can be pretty pricy and may not do well in So CA.

How to grow. In pots. In ground. Most species like full sun. However, in So CA this can be pretty intense, especially for smaller clumpers in "mountain bamboo group" - those from Himalayas. In decorative pot, leave in nursery container so that if it starts to burst container, you've lost only plastic container and not expensive pot. Grow in loamy soil with good drainage. Give frequent and liberal water when newly planted, say twice a week, maybe daily during hot winds. Fertilize with lawn food as bamboo is a grass like a lawn. Trim lower branches to reveal verticalness of culms. Top of a culm can be cut off if too tall. It will not grow taller as does a tree.

Uses: Living: Specimen plant in pot, in ground, as visual barrier, as ground cover, as grove for beauty, as groves for bioremediation of contaminated waters or replenishment of atmospheric oxygen, as plant to prevent soil erosion.

Green: As food for people and animals - think Chinese food, think Giant Pandas, think fodder for domestic animals. As pulp source for paper.

Dried: As construction material left as culms and branches: as poles.

Dried: As cut poles for fire wood.

Dried: As material for crafts, as carved or split and woven.

Dried and reformed: as material for particle board, laminated boards.

As material for fabric, as in clothes.

Public Gardens displaying Bamboo:

Quail Botanical Gardens,
www.qbgardens.com
230 Quail Gardens Drive 760-436-3036
Encinitas, CA

The Huntington Library, Art collections, and Botanical Gardens,
www.huntington.org
1151 Oxford Rd 626-405-2100
San Marino, CA

Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens,
www.arboretum.org
301 North Baldwin Ave. 626-821-4623
Arcadia, CA

Some Bamboo Books:

Bamboo for Gardens - by Ted Jordan Meredith. An excellent treatment of bamboos, covering origins, history, structure, cultivation, propagation, landscaping, and insights into plant selection. Half the book is an encyclopedia of over 300 bamboos with detailed descriptions and color photos. Hardbound, 8" x 11", 406 pages.

Bamboo in Japan - by Nancy Moore Bess. A beautiful collection of photos and essays presenting a complete tour of bamboo in Japan, illustrating its uses in art and architecture, textile designs, furniture, crafts, foods, gardening and the home. Nowhere is bamboo used more elegantly and distinctively than in Japan, where its presence touches every part of daily life, even reaching into language, literature and ritual. Over 250 photographs and illustrations. Hardcover, 9" x 11," 220 pages.

Bamboos - by Christine Recht & Max Wetterwald. Chapter headings are: Bamboos in Asian Culture, Uses of Bamboo, Morphology and Structure, Characteristics of Bamboo Genera, Species and Cultivars for the Garden, Planting and Cultivation, Garden Design, Growing Bamboos in Containers, Bamboo as a Raw Material, Problems with Bamboo Cultivation, and Bamboo as a Vegetable. Emphasis is on temperate climate bamboos. Hardbound, 8 ½ x 10 ½", 128 pages, 30 b/w illustrations, 68 color.

Bamboo related websites:

www.AmericanBamboo.org
www.AbsSoCal.org
www.WorldBamboo.org
www.BambooCentral.org

Problems with bamboo:

Unwanted spreading: Break off new rhizomes or curb with properly installed barriers of concrete or HDPE (high density polyethylene) 40 mil thick and depth to 30 in. Probably can get by with less depth if soil is hard.

Getting too tall: When grown as a visual barrier along a property line wall, often power lines are above. Cut the culm tops off before they reach the power lines.

Leaf burn: High salt content of some irrigation water causes leaf tips to burn; especially members of the *Phyllostachys nigra* genus (black bamboos).

Getting old or ugly: Thin out dead culms, especially in center of clumpers. Cut off side branches to reveal nodes.

Pests: Some clumpers (*B. multiplex* forms) are susceptible to mealy bugs. Use Orthonex. Some get mites (evidenced by bleached looking spots on underside of leaves) and aphids. Use an insecticide spray. Dried culms can be susceptible to powder post beetles. Culms need to be harvested at optimum time or treated when drying.

Leaf litter: Can get in pools, litter walks, porches and lawns, blow into base of nearby shrubs, etc. However, the leaf litter is bamboo's natural mulch.

Breaking in winds: Fall and winter Santa Ana winds in So CA often break tops of newly grown culms of large clumpers. Protect or tie up if possible.

Plants don't grow as expected. Wow. Don't we all have this one! Often soil conditions - too hard, too dry, not acidic enough, irregular water cycle, fertilizers, etc. Maybe we expect too much too soon since bamboos are known as fast growing. But one of the big difficulties is climate. In So CA we think we can grow everything. Yes. It grows, but perhaps not to the optimum in the climate where the plant is native. There are tropical, sub tropical, temperate, and mountain bamboos. Tropical and sub tropical prefer a lot of humidity. Temperate and mountain species prefer less high temperatures than Riverside, CA typically has - hot dry Santa Ana conditions.

Bamboos commonly found in So CA:

| Genus | Common Name | C / R | Height in So. CA (ft) |
|--|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Bambusa | | | |
| <i>Bambusa beechyana</i> | Beechy Bamboo | C | 50 |
| <i>Bambusa multiplex</i> | Hedge Bamboo | C | 20 |
| <i>Bambusa m. 'Alphonse Karr'</i> | Alphonse Karr | C | 15 |
| <i>Bambusa m. 'Golden Goddess'</i> | Golden Goddess | C | 10-12 |
| <i>Bambusa oldhamii</i> | Timber Bamboo | C | 40 |
| <i>Bambusa textilis</i> | Weaver's Bamboo | C | 30+ |
| <i>Bambusa tuldooides</i> | Punting Pole Bamboo | C | 30-40 |
| <i>Bambusa tuldooides 'Ventricosa'</i> | Buddha's Belly Bamboo | C | 30-40 |
| <i>Bambusa vulgaris 'Vittata'</i> | Painted Bamboo | C | 25-30 |
| Phyllostachys | | | |
| <i>Phyllostachys aurea</i> | Golden Bamboo | R | 15-20 |
| <i>Phyllostachys nigra</i> | Black Bamboo | R | 12-15 |
| <i>Phyllostachys vivax</i> | No common name | R | 40 |
| Pleioblastus | | | |
| <i>Pleioblastus distichus</i> | Dwarf Fernleaf | R | 1-2 |
| <i>Pleioblastus fortunei</i> | Dwarf Whitestripe | R | 2-4 |
| <i>Pleioblastus viridistriatus</i> | Dwarf Greenstripe | R | 2-3 |

Southern California Chapter of the American Bamboo Society
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trsmith00@sbcglobal.net



Sat. Feb 19, Bamboo propagation day at Quail

The faithful gathered to divide bamboos, Sat. Feb. 19, 2005. What a day, a rainy day - the day a small tornado hit Temecula - that was the big wind Theo, from Riverside, had to steer his truck through to get to Encinitas!

We had some great volunteers in bodies of Roy Wiersma, Bob Dimattia, Christian Lydick, Don Binnix, Theo Smith, Candy Vanderhoff, Robert Harling, JoAnne Wyman, Pierre Domercq, and Mike Mullert whose birthday it was. The overcast skies did not keep this dedicated group from dividing (propagating) the following species from the reference collection for our Chapter plant sales. We hope the plants remain viable and are ready - if not for April sale, we hope by September sale. Most of these have not been seen in Chapter sales for a long time: *Oligostachyum glabrescens*, *Chusquea* (sp. ?) 'Las Vigas', *Gigantochloa luteostriata*, *Schizostachyum parvifolium*, *Shibataea chinensis*, *Chusquea mimosa australis*, *Pleoblastus kongosanensis*, *Phyllostachys mannii*, and *Phyllostachys bissetti*. There is also a *chimonocalamus delicatus* division we intend to place in auction at the April sale. It is quite beautiful and rare.

Don Binnix cleaned weeds, containers and junk out the propagation greenhouse as a first step toward refurbishing and making the greenhouse useable again. Bob Dimattia will be installing new benches, mending walls, setting up watering systems, etc. If you want to learn first-hand about greenhouse maintenance, give Bob a call at 760-519-0397 and volunteer to work with him in this effort. The greenhouse is to be made useable again to allow Chapter members who do not have greenhouses the opportunity to propagate some of their bamboos in it.

After dividing the bamboos and before departing, though the rain was getting pretty intense, the directors present gathered in a leaky shed to continue making birth plans.

BAMBOO CHARCOAL

by George Wu, Chula Vista, California, ABSOCAL member

IT STOOD PATIENTLY FOR OVER FIVE THOUSAND YEARS, YAOMINISH IN STATURE NOTICED BY ALL BUT IGNORED BY SOME, ITS ARMS FOLDED TO CONTAIN THE TEMPTATION OF SELF-POPPING THE CAP TO LET THE GENIE OUT OF THE HAN VASE, BRANCHLETS IN DISARRAY, NODES GROTESQUELY PROTRUSIVE, CULMS FIRM AND STRAIGHT -- WHISPERING, "HEY, I'M ALPHA AND OMEGA..."

Well, bamboo may not qualify as THE panacea, but it certainly could rank as one of Nature's most bountiful and least explored protean gifts to mankind. This article singles out one of them, namely, the bamboo charcoal. In the East, this 21st century cutting edge technology has catapulted as the talk-of-the-town in every nooks and crannies of our energy-hungry planet. Why bamboo charcoal?

To put it into proper perspective, let's picture a couple of burly wildcatters, huffing and puffing alongside a bamboo grove. The twosome glare at the benign blue searching for an answer. The taller one pleads in uncreative despair, Oh God Almighty, where on earth can we find affordable, ready-to-use, abundant, high efficiency energy?"

Other than a high efficiency fuel, bamboo charcoal serves as an excellent environment protector. How? Every single gram of it affords an adsorption area of a swimming pool. In layman terms, bamboo charcoal offers so many micro cavities that its total area can take up and hold air or liquid films on the surface of its cavities to the tune of 2,000 to 3000 square feet of space. It is any wonder that in the East, bamboo charcoal is eagerly sought after as an polluted air and polluted water savior? A kilogram of bamboo charcoal in a one cubic meter space, about the volume of an office desk, can reduce obnoxious chemical from 0.16 PPM (parts per million) to 0.039 PPM, a whopping 75% drop. In terms of roasting food, bamboo with its inherent extra high heating value, also cleanses the air while we enjoy our BBQ. In short, bamboo charcoal in the East has already become the protean contributor in industrial, chemical, environmental, medical, and even in high-tech electronics fields.

Moreover, Bamboo charcoal is widely utilized by municipal water and wastewater treatment plants in the Far East. The list goes on and on. In terms of economics, a bamboo crop matures in 3 to 5 years as opposed to 7 to 10 years in the case of tree plants. When it comes to environmental contribution certain species bamboo are known to segregate carbon dioxide from the heavily polluted air we breathe daily. As a gourmet delight, bamboo shoots succulently seasoned with a soupcon of imperial condiments in an elite Chinese restaurant -- makes your mouth water. As a traditional herbal medicine, its curative values have been proven for thousands of years. Bamboo powder in the cosmetic field, has also made its mark. Last but not least, bamboo's artistic values are world acclaimed. In the Orient, bamboo as a culture ranks as ancient as the Chinese civilization.

Metaphorically, bamboo charcoal poses as the next 100-miles-per-gallon SUV that sells for under ten grand.

Readers with specific questions please direct your inquiry to gkwu8888@yahoo.com Author's disclaimer: All data contained herein are based on best available information, the author shall not assume responsibility for errors or misinformation from various sources.

Sat. Mar. 19, Chapter activities:

Bamboo enthusiasts met at Quail and talked with George Wu, a new chapter member, who can play role of China Marketing Consultant. Apparently he has contacts in China for a number of items (bamboo charcoal, medicinal bamboo, bamboo wood products, etc.) If you are seeking contacts in China, George may be able to find some doors to knock on.

Carl Rowland spoke of his intentions for transformations of absocal.org, our chapter website, which he is commissioning to do. New looks, new thrust, new web presence.

Bambuseros present were Roy Wiersma, Bob Dimattia, Don Binnix, JoAnne Wyman, Theo Smith, and new enthusiastic member Pierre Domercq. Several of us later went to the reference collection to locate and select out propagated plants for our April Sale.

Reminders for vendors at the Chapter Sales:

Our plant sale is a means for "backyard growers" to share their bamboos with others and realize a few dollars in the process. Understandably, "backyard" may also mean a few acres as some of us have made a business of growing, buying and selling bamboo plants. The Chapter board voted to limit each vendor to at most 200 plants in order to maintain a balance in the sale venue.

If possible, bring your plants to QBG on Friday, Apr. 15 from about 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. and place them in the parking lot by the Ecke building; place them according to the signs grouping plants by growing habit, species, etc. Plants can also be brought Sat. Apr. 16 from 9:00 to 10:15 am before the auction starts at 10:30. Please park your truck in the "Overflow Parking Lot" west of the Quail bamboo collection soon after unloading.

If you plan on selling bamboo related items, such as fences, books, furniture, etc. please maintain a "low profile" so that the Chapter sale effort receives primary emphasis. Set up your booth or display area for your goods at the west end of the main parking lot, the end closest to the ocean.

Speaking of Sales: Help, Help, Help.

Next up: Our annual spring bamboo sale Sat. April 16 we need continued chapter member support especially that day.

We need volunteers:

---to help as cashiers,

---to help buyers list their purchases prior to paying a cashier,

---to help prepare a brief lunch for chapter workers,

---to answer bamboo related questions from general public.

Give Bob Dimattia (760-519-0397) a call to let him know what roles you will help perform. Thanks. PS. Helpers will receive a T-shirt from those left over from last year's October event at The Huntington.

We are looking forward to a great day of helping others learn about and obtain bamboo plants for their personal enjoyment and further propagation.

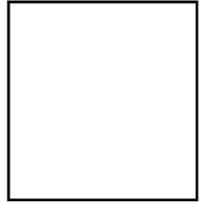
ABS SoCal at Del Mar Home & Garden Show

The early March Del Mar Home and Garden Show was supported by the following Chapter representatives: Fred & Patricia Elledge, Ron Bales & Ginny Marsh, James Lombard, Bud Gresham, Ila Bowman, JoAnne Wyman, Jessica Wyman, Laura Swan, and Bob & Vikki Dimattia. A BIG THANK YOU to each of you for supporting the Chapter booth designed to help the public get a better appreciation for bamboo, and to promote our April bamboo sale.

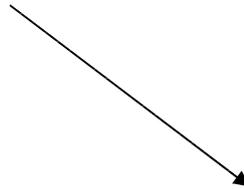
Art and Craft from Bamboo

Celebrating the Arts and Crafts Award from the American Bamboo Society, there is an exhibition of new work by Polly Jacobs Giacchina at the La Jolla Fiber Arts Gallery (7644 Girard Ave. La Jolla, CA) Feb. 28 to April 9, 2005. Some items may also be viewed online at www.pollyjgfiberart.com. Interesting-looking things of bamboo. Check them out!!

The Southern California Chapter of the
American Bamboo Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 230181
Encinitas, CA 92023-0181



If the year above your name is less than 2005, time to renew membership in ABS and / or in the Southern CA Chapter. !!



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 2005 is (check one)
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual: \$40 - ABS and ABS SoCal Chapter | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual: \$15 - ABS SoCal ONLY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime: \$600 - ABS Membership only | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting: \$60 - ABS and ABS SoCal Chapter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime: \$300 - ABS SoCal Chapter only | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$120 - ABS and ABS SoCal Chapter |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15/year for each additional Chapter checked below: |

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

Make check to ABS-SoCal: Mail to: ABS SoCal Membership, P. O. Box 230181, Encinitas, CA 92023-0181

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

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