

# 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](http://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. Apr. 15, 2006	8:00 - 10:30 am 10:30 - 11:00 am 11:00 - 2:00 pm 3:00 - ?	Annual ABS SoCal Spring Bamboo Sale Sale Preview - look at plants available + set up plants for sale Auction of rare bamboos General sale of all bamboos + Martin Espino ( <a href="http://www.martinespino.com">www.martinespino.com</a> ) bamboo flute playing Board Meeting
Sat. May 20, 2006	10:00 am	Field trip to home of Cliff Sussman in Laverne CA to see his large collection of tropical bamboos. (4769 Live Oak Canyon Rd, Laverne, Ca )
Sat. Jun. 17, 2006	10:00 am	Field trip to see bamboos at San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park near Escondido
Sat. July 15, 2006	10:00 am	Bamboo Crafts day.
Sat. Aug. 19, 2006	10:00 am	Work party in reference collection at QBG.
Sat. Sep. 16, 2006	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Annual ABS SoCal Fall Bamboo Sale and annual membership meeting.
Sat. Oct. 21, 2006		ABS Convention in Hawaii

*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.*

## Big April Sale, next up: Help, Help, Help.

Our annual Spring bamboo sale Sat. April 15 we need continued chapter member support especially that day. New-comers are most welcome. This is an excellent way to learn-by-doing, and if stymied, there are other's to help you! Perfection not required!

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 Carl Rowland (619-303-9802) a call to let him know what roles you will help perform. Thanks.

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

## Southern California Bamboo

### American Bamboo Society Southern California Chapter Officers:

Director, President	Michael A. Mullert to '06	619-465-4690	<a href="mailto:Mamullert@yahoo.com">Mamullert@yahoo.com</a>
Director, Vice President	Christian Lydick to '07	760-352-7095	<a href="mailto:CLydick@ivnet.org">CLydick@ivnet.org</a>
Director, Treasurer	Roy Wiersma to '08	909-980-1740	<a href="mailto:Rhwiersma@aol.com">Rhwiersma@aol.com</a>
Director, Secretary	Pierre A. Domercq to '06	760-525-2260 (c)	<a href="mailto:PierreLaw@gmail.com">PierreLaw@gmail.com</a>
Director	Bob Dimattia to '06	760-519-0397 (c)	<a href="mailto:Bamboobob@cox.net">Bamboobob@cox.net</a>
Alternate Director	Carl Rowland to '06	619-303-9802	<a href="mailto:CarlRowland1@cox.net">CarlRowland1@cox.net</a>
Chapter rep. to ABS National	JoAnne Wyman to '07	760-749-5716	<a href="mailto:Bamboo4u@netzero.net">Bamboo4u@netzero.net</a>
Alt. Dir. NL Ed, Membership	Theo Smith to '06	951-359-1706	<a href="mailto:Trsmith00@sbcglobal.net">Trsmith00@sbcglobal.net</a>

## Bamboo Observations in Peru

Ralph Evans, BambooHeadquarters.com

My wife, Sylvia and I spent two weeks in Peru, during February 2006. It was a vacation, but Sylvia knew I'd turn it into a bamboo expedition.

We began in the City of Cuzco, high in the Andes Mountains (11,000 ft). At our hotel we were greeted with a cup of Coca leaf tea to help with the altitude adjustment.

The next day we were on Peru Rail for the three and a half hour train ride to Machu Picchu. During the trip we descended to 8,169 ft. The flora along the way was spectacular. First on the slopes along the rail line were a wide array of cacti and succulents. Between high mountain passes there were huge alluvial valleys with a diversity of agricultural crops. Then very steep stone mountains, formed by volcanic action, millions of years ago, surrounded us. Then the vegetation changed, and we were in a rain forest. Orchids, begonias, and others too numerous to mention were seen from both sides of the train. Most of the way we followed the roaring Urumbama River which flowed so fast there was white water over boulders most of the way.



Groundskeepers of Machu Picchu & me.

At end of the line is Aguas Calientes, where a bus takes you to the entrance to Machu Picchu. I saw *Chusquea sp.*, with 20 foot culms cascading over the roaring river. Inside the preserve, I also found *Chusquea sp.*, and visited with the gardeners. They weren't aware of any bamboo in the area. I used all the words I knew. Otaté, caña, bamboo. They said what I was pointing to was a grass. I don't think so.

After enjoying the ancient Incan structures at of Machu Picchu, we were off to the beach in north-western Peru, near the border of Ecuador. Talk about a change in vegetation. The most predominant tree was Mesquite (*Prosopis chilensis*). The rest of the terrain was barren desert. All the rains coming south are blocked by the Andes and that is why the Amazon is so wet.



Bamboo in Machu Picchu

The homes in most cases were made of bamboo, mud, adobe, tree branches, and palm fronds. Dry *Guadua* poles are used in peasant home construction. In Peru it is called "Caña de Guayaquil," not bamboo. What a strong example of branding!

Running water and electricity are only available to the upper classes. However, you see bamboo television antenna's everywhere. The TV's are powered by car batteries.

Taxis with 3 wheels, made in China, are the main source of transport for those without cars or pickup trucks. Note the dilemma of how to load your purchases onto the taxi, below.



continued page 3

## Bamboo Observations in Peru (cont.)

One of the more interesting uses of "Caña de Guayaquil" is as masts and booms on the local fishing boats. The fishermen paint the culms various colors so they can tell who is who at sea. The pole doesn't even go to the keel. It is lashed to a rail and is held in place by 3 triangulated ropes. They say the masts last three to four years.



Fishing boat in Yacila, Peru with mast from the "Caña de Guayaquil".

I didn't see a lot of bamboo plants in Peru, but I did spot one grove of *Guadua sp.* The plant has such a beautiful plumage.



Guadua roadside, Buena Ventura, Piura

The poles are used in so many practical ways.



I plan to go to Ecuador next month. The Third Latin American Bamboo Symposium will be held April 26-29 in Guayaquil Ecuador, Home of "Caña de Guayaquil." Care to join me? Details at <http://www.inbar.int> Then choose upcoming events.

Picture on left shows what a home improvement store looks like in Sullana, Peru.

Notice how straight the poles are!! How do you suppose they get that straight?

# Meeting and Plant Sale Saturday April 15, 2006

8:00 - 10:30 Look at bamboos being set out for sale  
10:30 - 11:00 Auction of rare bamboos  
11:00 - 2:00 pm. General Sale.

## Buyer information:

1. Admission to Quail Gardens for the sale is free for members of ABS-SoCal and of QBGF. Others pay the regular admission / parking fee (\$8.00)
2. Plants for sale will be assembled for viewing beginning 9:00 am. Nobody is to try to buy or set aside a desired plant. If you have questions, look for someone with a badge.
3. At 10:30 we will be instructed to leave the area, and the auction of rare bamboos will begin. Each rare plant will be described then offered for bid. This is an exciting time as many new species are first bought at auction here and then propagated by the buyer for sales in later years.
4. At 11:00 am the general sale starts. Select plants you desire - hoping you can find the ones you had your heart set on from the earlier viewing. Take your selected plants to a line at a Cashier's table to pay for them. The Cashier will total the amount of your purchase and keep records so sellers can be appropriately credited for plants sold. We expect to be able to accept Visa and Mastercard. Cash and checks made out to ABS-SoCal are good. Sales tax is included in the marked prices. Do not give your money for plants or for Chapter dues to anyone other than a Cashier.

## Supplier / vendor information:

**Vendor:** 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 mean a few acres as some of us have made a business of growing, buying and selling bamboo plants. However, we strongly encourage each vendor to bring no more than 200 plants in order to maintain a balance of vendors in the sale venue. 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.

Any chapter member may bring plants for sale providing the plants are free of disease, particularly bamboo mites, and that the plants are well rooted. Don't bring divisions that have been potted less than three months.

Each plant container is to be marked with a Pot Code, a price, and bamboo variety ( species ) name.

**Pot Code:** The Pot Code uniquely identifies the seller. Pot Codes are frequently a seller's initials. If you have sold before, use your assigned pot code. If you don't have an assigned Pot Code, contact Theo Smith (951-359-1706, [trsmith00@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trsmith00@sbcglobal.net)) to get one.

**Price:** Try to keep prices a little below local normal retail. The marked price will include sales tax. Keep the prices multiples of five (5) to make it easier for Cashiers to add the dollars comprising one sale. Counting by fives is much easier than adding a 4 , a 3 , a 9 , a 6 , etc. Some of us are slowing down or never were good with mental arithmetic, so give us a break. Just bump your price up to next whole multiple of five. Yes, that 28 dollar pot will now sell for 30. If someone really wants it, 30 it is. You'll be glad you did.

**Delivery:** If possible, bring your plants to QBG on Friday, April 14 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. April 15 8:30 and **must be in place by 9:30**. Please park your truck in the "Overflow Parking Lot" west of the Quail bamboo collection soon after unloading.

**Sales:** All plants are sold through a Chapter cashier, not directly by the person who brought them. This is because selling plants to the public requires a Nursery Stock Permit and a Resale Permit. The Chapter has those documents. We went to this system to encourage amateur growers to participate.

The Cashiers keep a record of sales by Pot Code and price. When the sale is over, the Treasurer (and helpers) reconfigure the sale information to determine for each seller (Pot Code), first the sales tax, then the amounts due Quail Gardens Foundation (10%), the ABS-SoCal Chapter (20%), and the vendor (Pot Code holder: 70%) With this method, a vendor gets just about 65% of the price marked on a pot; because, remember, the sales tax is computed and subtracted first. Darn government!

**Unsold plants:** Vendors are encouraged to remove any unsold plants at the end of the sale (2:00 pm) or the following morning. Plants not so "returned to owner" on Monday morning will be given to the Quail Gift Shop to be sold by and the sale proceeds for Quail Gardens.



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## Bamboo in Northern California

by Roy Wiersma

One thing that is fun to think about while living in Southern California is your summer vacation time and where you would like to spend it. I have always liked visiting Northern California whenever possible for vacation time spent away from home. In my youth I was fortunate enough to spend several summers swimming in and floating on the American River and picking wild blackberries while visiting my cousins in Fair Oaks, CA. Later on I even lived in Northern California for two years while attending the University of California at Davis. Of course there is no need to wait until the summer months to visit but that time seems to be the best for most outdoor activities.

I realized while preparing for this article that I have visited a large number of excellent botanical gardens and other places of interest over the years in Northern California. Most of these places have at least one bamboo plant among many other fine plants in their collections. So, for your horticultural benefit, I have compiled a list of my favorite places for you to visit if you happen to be headed north in the next few months. I have included any relevant bamboo information along with brief additional information as to why in particular I find the place interesting to visit. All of the places listed have Web sites containing usually pictures and location.

I have organized these places generally in the order that I last visited them. In some cases it has been over 10 years since I last visited. Some of the information in this article is taken directly from the respective Web sites while most of the information is from memory.

1. Luther Burbank's Gold Ridge Experiment Farm in Sebastopol, CA. This place is easily missed if you are not careful to watch for the neighboring apartment complex. A stand of *Phyllostachys aurea* is on display but as far as I know it is not from the original grove that Burbank had growing around 1916. Also on display are over 40 types of Shasta daisies (*Chrysanthemum maximum*) among many other plants.

2. The Solar Living Institute in Hopland, CA. If you like alternative energy solutions especially solar energy then I highly recommend that you visit this place. It also has a living bamboo pyramid. Unfortunately, the area of the Solar Living Institute suffered the worst flooding on December 31, 2005 since the 1930s according to its Web site.

3. San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum. The last time I visited I was searching for and found the golden Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata* 'Aurea'). Additionally, some of the burl sprouts of some of the coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) are albino. I believe there is also bamboo growing here. A nearby (outside of Strybing Arboretum) Japanese garden definitely has bamboo.

4. Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg, CA. This place is directly next to the Pacific Ocean. I recall seeing one bamboo at the entrance which was probably *Himalayacalamus hookerianus*. It was a fine specimen. This place has an extensive heather collection, dahlia collection, and begonia collection among many other fantastic plants.

5. The University of California Berkeley Botanical Garden in Berkeley, CA. Some bamboos are planted here. I particularly like their vegetable garden and collection of Monkey Puzzle trees (*Araucaria araucana*).

6. Capitol Park in Sacramento, CA. If you go up north to see the capitol building be sure to take some time to stroll the grounds and view all the trees. The last time I visited there was also a stand or two of timber bamboo, probably *Phyllostachys bambusoides*. Some of the largest deodar cedars (*Cedrus deodara*) I have ever seen are growing very near the Capitol building.

7. The Arboretum of the University of California at Santa Cruz. I don't remember if there is any bamboo growing here. I know that they have a nice *Protea* collection. This is also the only place I have ever seen variegated St. Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum* "Variegata") for sale.

8. Bamboo Garden of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, CA. Over 70 varieties of bamboo are growing here.

9. The Gardens of Hakone Bamboo Garden in Saratoga, CA. Have you ever wanted to see tortoise shell Moso (*Phyllostachys edulis* 'Heterocyclus')? I have seen it growing here and it is remarkable.

10. Bamboo Sourcing in Sebastopol, CA. I last visited this private nursery when Gerald Bol (former president of ABS) was still alive. It was neat to see a large stand of *Phyllostachys violascens* among the many other bamboos growing here. This is also the first place I saw a golden 'Shiro' plum which for some mysterious reason is rarely planted in Southern California.

I know there are many more fine botanical places to visit in Northern California. If you know of any containing bamboo why not let me know about them? I'll make it a priority to visit them on my next trip up there.

**Bamboo related websites whose owners support the upcoming ABS annual meeting in Hawaii, Oct. 16 - 22, 2006:**

.bamboonursery.com  
.konacloudforest.com  
.bamboofinearts.com  
.whisperingwindsbamboo.com  
.bamboovillagehawaii.org  
.basicallybamboo.com  
.bambootechnologies.com  
.bambooliving.com

## Creating the Bamboo Display Garden at Quail Gardens

by Betty Shor

In his early days of bamboo enthusiasm in the 1980s, the founder of the American Bamboo Society Richard Haubrich decided that the west side of Quail Gardens would be a good place for bamboos, so he planted there: *Dendrocalamus giganteus*, *Bambusa bambos*, and *Phyllostachys vivax*. The last one turned into a fine grove, and the first two showed off what big bamboos can do. He planted other species elsewhere in the Gardens, with approval from the administration.

In 1993 Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation took over from San Diego County the responsibility for operating the gardens. Julian Duval became its director in January 1995, moving from Indiana. He said: "I first heard of QBG as a member of ABS [American Bamboo Society] while living in Indianapolis and reading about the gardens in the ABS Newsletter."

So he very soon began advocating a bamboo garden at Quail. He liked that relatively undeveloped western side for more bamboos: "Visitors to the Gardens have long been attracted to the area by the sentinel stand of *Phyllostachys vivax* only to feel uncertain about entering because there were no pathways, let alone a landscaped appearance." [So-Cal Newsletter, July 1996, p. 2] As Duval said later: "Visitors literally had to bushwhack through the mulch to see these plantings. Those that did often wondered if they were some place they shouldn't be." (pers. comm., Dec. 2005) Duval convinced the board of Quail to develop this garden, using plants from the chapter's collection. At its board meeting of May 20, 1995, the ABS SoCal board agreed to participate in this project, and to provide \$6400 from the bamboo fund at Quail. That fund had accumulated from the sale of plants derived from Quail bamboo plants at the semi-annual chapter sales and from plants sold at the Gift Shop, also derived from Quail plants. [ABS-SoCal Newsletter, Sept. 1995, p. 8]

Duval noted: "Having access to divisions from the reference collection of bamboo maintained at QBG by ABS-SoCal is a tremendous asset to the creation of this garden." [ABS SoCal Newsletter, July 1996, p. 2-3] Michael Richter, then Director of Horticulture at Quail, and Bill Teague, very knowledgeable on plants and landscaping and a member of ABS-SoCal, were chiefly responsible for the design of the one-half-acre bamboo garden, "with appropriate aesthetics and function." This included a pond and berms and roaming paths.

A sculpture by noted San Diego County artist James Hubbell was proposed at Quail. Duval said that "Edna Pulver, a good friend of Quail Botanical Gardens, graciously offered to sponsor" this artwork. Hubbell inspected the gardens and announced that he wanted to place his sculpture in the developing Bamboo Display Garden, near the pond. He helped find the stone for the hardscape. The result, "Asian Shadows," includes the bronze sculpture, the stones, the water-course, and the room effect created by the grove of *Bambusa textilis*.

Considerable construction went into the garden, some of it by volunteers. Members of ABS-SoCal installed barrier material for the energetic *P. vivax* and *P. makinoi*, removed rhizomes outside the barriers, and planted many of the new plants [ABS-SoCal Newsletter, Sept. 1996, p. 1]. A few commercial organizations donated materials. Quail Gardens installed the watering system. Everyone was aware of a deadline, because ABS-SoCal was scheduled to host the ABS national meeting in October 1996, and people wanted the Bamboo Display Garden completed by then. Enough was done to make a good show.

"On August 31, the watering system was nearly complete, the grading done, the pond lined, rocks in place, the site for the sculpture ready, etc., and a group of SoCal members started planting bamboo. On that first work day, the following dedicated members showed up for work: Bill Teague, Richard Neufeld, George Shor, Robert Dimattia, Scott Heid, Dean Hwang, Albert Hwang, Jon Updike, and Julian Duval. We dug holes, made 2'x2'x2' hardware cloth cages to protect rhizomes from gopher attack, moved plants, divided plants, planted and watered plants. Ten bamboos were installed and additional holes were prepared for later plantings. On subsequent Tuesdays and Saturdays more plants were put in (about 10 each time) with Bill Teague acting as coordinator, choosing which bamboo should go where. There are now [ABS Newsletter, Nov. 1996, p. 3] 48 different kinds of bamboos there, about 70 individual plants. The garden now looks fairly complete."

To help finish it, George Shor provided the definitive text for the interpretive signs throughout that area.

Such were the beginnings of the Bamboo Display Garden. In 2005 Quail curator Dave Ehrlinger said that it contains about 110 bamboo taxa. Julian Duval noted in 2005: "I know from hearing it from so many visitors over the years that the QBG Bamboo Display Garden clearly ranks amongst the favorite places in the Gardens."

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## Publicity for plant sale:

If nobody shows for the Plant Sale, it won't be for lack of spreading the word. Consider the following efforts by Jill Thorburn, our ABS SoCal publicity person:

I have placed an ad in the Asian Reader and Philippine News and World Report, also an ad in the Coast classified. An ad has been placed in the Community Calendar of that publication. It will also be printed in the Del Mar Village News, and the Valley News, and the Rancho Santa Fe News! Info. has been sent to the Features Editor of the North County Times, to go in their Community News, and also the Features Editor (Garden) of the San Diego Union-Tribune, to review and be put where she decides to put it. (hopefully a small article! She was familiar with the sale, and I told her about the "Live entertainment" with popular musician, Martin Espino, and food and refreshments also offered)

I am also placing ads in both of these newspapers, in addition to the Village News of Fallbrook, and the Reader, as the time gets closer. I also sent out a small stack of flyers to about 25 different garden clubs, libraries around the County, and Nurseries, asking that they "please display the flyer, and also distribute the info. on the sale for us, as we are a non-profit organization, and would appreciate any community support."

Sunset Magazine could not guarantee that we would be in the Calendar of Events, but I would be surprised if we did not, as I had several conversations with the Garden Editor, and let her know that we have not had a turn for several years now. Keep your fingers crossed, because that one is the "biggie" of them all! So that is where I am so far! - Jill

Great job, Jill!!!

# World's Greatest Bamboo Sale

Presented by the  
Southern California Chapter  
of the American Bamboo society

**Spring Sale**  
**Saturday April 15, 2006**

**Quail Botanical Gardens**  
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas

**Sale Preview: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

Over 100 species grown by collectors and local growers - look over the plants and talk to bamboo experts. No plants sold during this time period.

**Auction: Rare Bamboos 10:30 a.m.**

Special items propagated from the reference collection or by collectors. Most items not commercially available yet.

**Plant Sale: 11:00 a.m. Sharp! 'Til 2:00 p.m.**

Get there before 11:00 am for best selection. Martin Espino set to play bamboo flutes as a roving minstrel during sale.

*We now accept Visa and Mastercard*

For more information call:

Carl Rowland: 619-303-9802

Mike Mullert: 619-465-4690

Or visit our website: [www.ABSSoCal.org](http://www.ABSSoCal.org)

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



*Address correction requested*

**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 2006 is (check one)
- |                                                                   |                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual: \$40 - ABS and ABS SoCal Chapter | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual: \$15 - ABS SoCal ONLY                        |
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|                                                                   | <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](http://www.abssocal.org) - IN COLOR!**