

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.)

Date:	Time:	Activity / Event:
Sat. June 19, 2004	10:00 am	Bamboo cultivation day at Quail B. Gardens. Get hands-on experience caring for the chapter's reference collection. This is a fun experience when the "new shoots" can easily and productively associate with the "old culms" of our ABS Chapter.. Board meeting.
Sat. July 17, 2004	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Bamboo Appreciation Day and pot luck lunch
Sat. Aug. 21, 2004	10:00 am	Bamboo cultivation day at Quail B. Gardens. Get hands-on experience caring for the chapter's reference collection.
Sat. Sep. 11, 2004		Annual Fall Bamboo Sale, Quail B. Gardens, Encinitas, CA and Annual Business Meeting with selection of new Directors and Alternates.
Oct. 13-16, 2004		ABS 2004 Annual Convention, The Huntington, Pasadena, CA
Sat. Nov. 20, 2004		TBA
Sat. Dec. 18, 2004		TBA
Sat. Jan. 15, 2005		

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 Adam Derrickson for guidance: 619-200-1444. Bring your own lunch, drinks (non alcoholic, that is!) and have a great 'hands-on' time.

Future meetings:

Sat. June 19, 10:00 am.

Bamboo Cultivation day at Quail B. Gardens.

With this day, we will complete the "rejuvenation" of the Reference Collection. The new irrigation system is in, and the timer is watering every day. We may do some dividing to make plants available for our future sales. Weeds need clearing plus some minor house cleaning in preparation for our July membership meeting and open house at the Reference Collection.

Quail has requested that we make a few changes in how we conduct our work parties. First, QBGF gets credit from their major donors for work performed by volunteers. QBG keeps track of the volunteer hours by having all volunteers sign in at the kiosk in the parking lot upon arrival. So when you arrive at the kiosk for this and all future work parties, ask to sign in on the "volunteer sign in sheet". Estimate the number of hours you expect to contribute that day. We will not be signing out, since we will be exiting out the back gate onto Saxony Road.

QBG also requests that we park in the overflow lot while we're working at the reference collection. We are not to park at the reference collection. So after unloading any heavy items, please park your vehicles below in the overflow parking lot. When leaving, exit via the rear gate, not through the gardens.

A short board meeting will be held after lunch.

Please RSVP to Pat Dunphy at 760-727-9272 so he can make sure we have enough food for lunch.

Sat. July 17, 10:00 am.

Bamboo Appreciation Day and Pot Luck

How long has it been since you've walked through the bamboo display garden? Or seen our Reference Collection? Come on out to Quail to enjoy a day enjoying OUR bamboo. The reference collection has just undergone a major cleanup; we have lots of new growth, new shoots, and new energy in the membership.

Tour the bamboo from 10:00 am to noon, followed by a potluck lunch in the Ecke Building and a general membership meeting. Beverages provided by ABS. Present you membership card to enter. Park in the main lot.

Plans for ABS 2004 Annual Convention Available

Visit our Chapter website: www.abssocal.org, then click on **Projects/Events** and from that page click on **ABS 2004 Annual Convention**. You guessed it! What you find is the opportunity to get more information about and to sign up for and seek accommodations for attending the ABS 2004 Annual Convention. This bamboo event is being vigorously planned by Ann Richardson (and her staff at The Huntington), and our ABS SoCal Chapter team of Bob and Vikki Dimattia, Roy Wiersma, JoAnne Wyman, and Ralph Evans. The event promises to be every bit as magnificent as the plant - bamboo - we celebrate. Make your reservations and arrangements to attend. NOW. Just do it. You'll be glad you did.

I understand similar information will be forthcoming in the next ABS magazine "**BAMBOO**" scheduled for mailing in middle of June 2004. That's why I direct your attention to the website and don't attempt to replicate it's information here - yet. - Theo S.

Southern California Bamboo

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Tools Theo Smith uses to cultivate bamboos

(See picture on next page)

Tools are here divided into three groups: "a" for above ground, "ab" for both above and below ground, and "b" for below ground. They are presented in no particular order. Well, yes they are. The order is when they came to mind and were written down, but not in order of "can't live without." By tools is meant objects which are moved around and used many different times, so doesn't include pots, and earth.

a-1. Twine: to bundle waste branches and culms for trash; to tie up and thus constrain culms to get them to grow more vertically instead of arching toward the light - often used with plastic pipe, discussed below; to tie arching culms or branches back as desired, say, out of walkway path.

a-2. Plastic pipe cut in half (2, 3, or 4 inches in diameter): to constrain new culm so it will grow vertically first before leaning out to seek the light. Used especially with *B. Beecheyana* to constrain culms for first ten feet so culms start out vertically. Also used with *Ph. Phyllostachys* to guide new culms up vertically so they will 'catch' on my side of a lower phone cable (parallel to and just above the property-line wall) and thus not lean into neighbor's yard. Also used to keep *Ph. Bambusoides* culm at edge of grove growing straight up before leaning out to more light. One of my uniquely favorite devices.

a-3. Coping saw: to cut culms especially when chore is only one or two. Mount blade so cut is done on 'pull' instead of 'push.'

a-4. Rope and bungi cords:

Rope: to constrain tall culms; to hold tall culms to let them "down easily" when cut from clump, to tie around clump and waist to drag clump along ground to new location. *B. Beecheyana* can be especially heavy and unwieldily when green.

Bungi cords: to hold protective wrap on bamboos when moving, to bind several culms together to keep them upright.

a-5. Hose: to water plants, to hose leaves off lawn, debris off walkways.

a-6. Sheet of cardboard: to put clump on to enable easier dragging across yard for relocation of clump.

a-7. Step ladder (different heights): to stand on to tie culms or branches in positions other than they would grow naturally. Some culms are held vertical by tying to others at some height. Some tall ones are held in place so they will not bend into power lines when wind blows.

a-8. Plastic buckets and barrels:

Trash barrels: to carry leaves from raked piles to destination - usually to compost or to groves; to carry branch cuttings from yard to household city yard waste recycle bin; to carry loose potting soil from truck bed to yard storage area.

Recycled 5 gal. paint buckets: to haul water, potting soil, cut debris, etc., to hold water in which to soak rhizomes in before potting.

a-9. Blue tarp: to cover bamboo parts that hang out of truck while being moved in order to keep them from wind burn. Held in place with rope and bungi cords.

a-10. Pole with v crotch: to push high-up branches and culms into place - especially to get them on desired side of lower phone cables.

a-Not shown:

Wagon and wheelbarrow: to move dirt, buckets, cuttings, stuff.

Pickup truck: to carry plants great distances; to carry potting soil (by bag or by scoops full) home from purchase point.

Power washer: to blast scale off bamboo culms, especially *B. Oldhamii* and *B. Beecheyana*.

ab-1. Loppers: to cut culms, branches and some rhizomes.

Goosneck, by Fiskars: allows the two handles to swivel in such a way that the cutting plane can be either parallel or perpendicular to the plane in which the handles are closed and opened.

Extendable (short and long), by Fiskars: to reach into a grove of culms (up to inch in diameter), cut at base and then grab culm and pull it out; can also be used to trim upper part of culms to remove branches or dead upper parts of culms. They operate by pulling the handle or by pulling the knob at the bottom end of the pole.

Rope pull: Comprised of cutting head (with pulleys and cutting jaws) from old wooden handled tree trimming lopper installed at end of very long dry bamboo pole; to top off giant runners before they get into power lines. Often done when standing high up on a step ladder.

Compound action, anvil: to cut branches off culm when cut down - especially clumpers which have many branches at a node; to cut rhizomes.

Bypass, large and small: to cut branches off harvested phyllostachys culms which have few branches at a node.

ab-2. Leaf rake: to gather up yard litter to compost. There's lots of it especially after the Santa Anna winds - which Theo hates because the winds also break new culms in the fall of the year.

ab-3. Sawsall and extension cord and blades: to cut culms; to cut aborted - yet viable - clumper rhizomes; to cut earth and rhizome in a circle (blade perpendicular to and in ground) around a culm of a runner to free culm(s) from network of rhizomes so plant can be dug up with some root mass.

ab-4. "The ugly" blades for sawsall: to cut (see above) Buy these in bulk 5, 10 or more in a package. They cut easily yet dull quickly when cutting bamboos, especially when "cutting dirt" around rhizomes. I frequently put them in the sawsall backwards to get full use of all the teeth before discarding them.

ab-5. Gloves: to protect hands. Can easily forget these. Sometimes don't use them at start thinking task is just a few "strokes" of shovel, saw, digging bar, etc. but soon the effort becomes larger and before long hand blisters are an unpleasant reminder that gloves should have been worn.

ab-Not shown:

Pitch fork: to turn compost about every two weeks.

Compost bin: to compost leaf litter.

b-1. Ax: to chop rhizomes, or to chop through rhizome mass, especially when digging out a clumper by cutting it in several pieces.

b-2. Digging bar: to break off, "terminate," new shoots of large clumpers, to cut roots of plants to be dug from ground, to pry plant from ground.

b-3. Pick ax: to chop rhizomes - clumpers and runners; to lift rhizomes of runners out of ground so they can be cut and removed.

b-4. Balling spade: to dig up plants. This is a narrow-bladed spade - very useful when digging up plant in confined area.

b-5. Garden shovels: to move dirt, sand, potting mix, compost.

b-6. Blocks of wood: to provide fulcrum for leveraging clump from ground.



Assortment of tools Theo S. uses to cultivate his bamboos. See page 2 for descriptions of tools.

Bamboo In My Life

by Martin Lauw (Translated from Dutch by Roy Wiersma)

For me bamboo is not just a nice plant, but especially an emotional plant.

Surviving

That [bamboo] concerns my whole life; as a small child I lived in the former Dutch East Indies. There bamboo was used especially for furniture, children's toys, and recreation-ground plantings; that what you find very nice as a child. Also during the second World War and after that bamboo had a lot to do with me. For example, in a youth camp on Java, I was locked up behind bamboo walls and watched over with bamboo weapons. And directly after the war, we (I with my mother and little brothers) had to hide a few nights in the bamboo forest behind our house to not become murdered by the rebels. So bamboo became my ally as an emotional youth memory.

Exhibition

In 1998 I attended the meeting and exhibition of the World Bamboo Society in Costa Rica as a member of the EBS. Then there were also many bamboo possibilities shown for the western world. In the nations of South America (and Central America) people would like as much as possible to save the hardwood trees in context with the earthquakes and, if necessary, to replace the timber cutting with fast growing bamboo.

Bamboo in the garden

One day as an adult to my great joy I ran into bamboo plants again in the Netherlands. For that reason, I planted it in my gardens when I lived and worked here. But I really did not become a gardener. In the Netherlands, I had worked 25 years as a physician and after that [I worked] another 10 years in tropical countries where I, namely in Costa Rica, felt real happy because I had a lot of bamboo around me. In Costa Rica, bamboo was also used for furniture and household tools, but it was especially used to prevent earthquake damage.

Medicinal remedies

It, of course, personally interests me the most that it's more and more known that health remedies are derived from distinct bamboo plants. Already, thousands of years ago, people in China found that eating of bamboo shoots generally improved health. But from a medical point of view it also shows that a substance such as silica occurs in bamboo with which in many ways people with bone defects are cured faster.

Home sweet home

But now that I live in the Netherlands again permanently, I enjoy very much my new garden that now contains many bamboo species and ornamental grasses.

Bamboe- Tijdschrift van de European Bamboo Society, afdeling Nederland Jaargang 13- Nummer 3- Winter 2003- p.24

Plant Sale and Board Meeting of April 17, 2004.

I'll start with the last part first - the minutes of the board meeting held after the sale on the rainy day of April are available on our Chapter web site (www.abssocal.org), click on calendar/meetings, then on ABS soCal Minutes. OK, back to the sale.

The big deal was, IT RAINED. Good for bamboos, not so good for buyers and sellers and cashiers trying to collect money and keep records of what kinds of plants were being sold and for what prices. Yes, this year we tried something different. Rather than stand in line and wait for a cashier to total up your purchase, we preprinted a bunch of record sheets so each purchase could be documented in the hope that sometime we might use the data to tell more about our sales. Theo, whose idea this was, hasn't yet created the database from which the sale statistics might be garnered.

We brought in \$15,572. which netted \$2,965.38 for the Chapter. There were 11 vendors. BHQ (Bamboo Headquarters aka Ralph Evans) sold most plants (172) and brought in most dollars (\$8,100). Thanks Ralph for your vigorous production of bamboos for sale. QBG also benefited by about \$1,562. Thanks, QBG, for use of your facilities this day!!

Some of the vendors are professional plant growers, like Ralph. Others grow bamboos as a hobby and propagate a few for the fun of it and bring such to the sales. Theo asked several of the "big dollar" growers to tell a little about themselves and their experience of the sale and of how bamboos got into their lives. Not all growers responded, but some did, and their words are shared with us below.

First off is Roy Wiersma, not a grower, but one who plays a crucial role in the sale. He's treasurer. You don't leave the sale with a plant without contact with him or one of his helpers! Roy says: Getting up early was the hardest part of the day. The bamboo sale went smoothly considering the additional factor of rain. My thanks to the patient customers who endured the rain unprotected in order to buy bamboo. My thanks also to Susanne Lucas (ABS past president- visiting from Massachusetts) and Vikki Dimattia who were the cashiers, thanks to Bob Dimattia, Ralph Evans, and Adam Derrickson who ran the auction, Theo Smith for helping to start the sale with starter cash, and thanks to those other individuals whom I do not know who also kept our sale going.

After the majority of buyers had purchased their plants, I along with Theo and Susanne counted the monies received. Later on, I tallied the chits (sales slips) and figured out who had sold what. Using the chit format this sale seemed to work fairly well, at least it facilitated the final counting. On future sales we may try a double label technique to speed up the checkout process. We also want to explore the possibility of hooking up a terminal to accept plastic payments. With the experience of this my first bamboo sale as Treasurer, I am looking forward to the fall bamboo sale to try out some new strategies at improving the sale.

Next is **Christian Lydick**, who says:

Bamboo sale day at QBG has become for me "country fair day". After many months of debate (with ourselves) and preparation, we gather to discuss the past growing seasons nuances. Lamenting our failures as we pepper our peers with questions that are generally unanswerable. We spend months caring for our potential ribbon winners in the hopes that someone will deign one of our "babies" worthy to grace their garden. Most of all we delight in the awe apparent on the faces of the new enthusiast as they are overwhelmed by the beauty, the peace, the energy, the variety and the possibilities of "this good thing" that we hope to share.

Bamboo Bob Dimattia shares as follows:

I've been immersed in this plant for over 30 years, beginning with the time I spent in Thailand in the 70's during the Viet Nam war. I now live in Vista, CA surrounded by bamboo and spending the majority of my days propagating and caring for it. I have turned a love affair into a profession and am now growing and selling bamboo on a full time basis under the name Pura Vida Tropicals. My love of bamboo has also led me to enjoy all tropical plants, including palms, guavas, gingers and many others. The ABS SoCal Bamboo Sale offers me a chance to sell some of my carefully grown bamboos, and it also gives me the opportunity to do the other thing I love best -- promote bamboo to newcomers and to share my expertise with whoever asks.

I find bamboo fascinating in every way. I admire its architectural beauty, the unique sound it makes in wind or rain, the variety of colors and textures, its flexibility and hardiness, and the rich history that surrounds bamboo. I respect its capability to feed, house and give comfort to man and animal alike. I am striving to expand my knowledge and expertise to the next level by becoming adept at bamboo joinery and construction.

I am particularly fond of giant timber bamboos -- especially the black variety. The giants make such a large statement that it helps put in perspective man's place in the scheme of life.

The ABS SoCal Bamboo Sale is a win-win situation. All members of ABS SoCal have the opportunity to sell plants without being an official "business", since the Chapter handles the taxes. This, alone, is a great opportunity for Chapter members. It's also an event that can be a huge learning opportunity for the members and the public. I have personally been a seller at ABS SoCal bamboo sales for the last 20 years and it is through contacts at the sales and at other Chapter events, along with a lot of reading and hands on trial and error, that I feel I've earned the right to say that I have some expertise in "bamboo-ology".

As far as a "good show-bad show" analysis of the last bamboo sale, I feel that the good show aspect would be the set up of the plants, the availability of the growers to buyers for questions and help, the auction, the wide variety and quantity of bamboos offered for sale, the friendly Chapter members and the good energy from the excitement generated by the public at the prospect of being able to choose from so many bamboos at such fair prices. The bad show aspect would include our method of checking out and collecting money, marking pots, lack of equipment for the check out stand (shade or rain protection, decent cash box, place to put receipts). I suggest the pots be marked with a two label system, eliminating some of the risk of human error. I'll demonstrate what I mean at the next board meeting. The best news is the good show far outweighs the bad show, and the bad show items can be easily fixed.

JoAnne and Bill Wyman of Bamboo 4 U state:

Bamboo 4 U is a family operated Bamboo farm. We grow our plants mainly in the ground and harvest them yearly. Ground grown plants regenerate themselves each year. In addition, as the plants mature we get larger and better divisions which we sell.

Our location at 3625 Gopher Canyon Road in Vista, California is in a micro climate that is very conducive to our nursery.

JoAnne has been an active member in ABS SoCal for over ten years and has been an exotic bird breeder for 30 years. She raises African Greys, Mynah birds and Toucans. With a few Australian grasskeets. Her favorite bamboo is *Otatea acuminata aztecorum*. When we found the 15 acres in Vista, we thought it would be perfect for both loves, birds and bamboo. We are developing the farm and utilizing bamboo as our main landscape material.

My favorite bamboo is *Bambusa Dolichomerithalla* 'Green striped'. It is one of the more versatile plants, good coloration and medium in size.

One of the ideas to improve the sale, I feel, would be to allow each vendor to have their own space to display their plants. If a vendor did not want their own space an area could be allotted for those vendors to group their plants similar to what is now practiced. This would provide a more orderly and safe sale. Check out could still be at a cashiers table. JoAnne and I went to a sale in Northern Ca. and enjoyed the experience.

Theo Smith says: I just can't throw away any piece of bamboo that I dig up or cut down, so I try to propagate from the cutting or dug up parts. If it survives and looks pretty good, then I bring it to the sale to share with others and maybe pick up a few dollars. I even have a big pile of dry culms leaning against my garage which I can't seem to part with thinking someday I will build something from them. My favorites are *B. dolochoclada* because of its yellow-green culms when new turning to a yellow gold as they age; *otatea acuminata acuminata* for its fine leaves; *Ph. vivax* because of its size and rapid growth - I'm waiting for my *vivax aureocaulis* to reach its full size!; *B. oldhamii* because it is so straight and true. However, I have some more rare bamboos yet to reach mature size, and they may become winners with me, too.

Meeting Sat. May 15, 2004

10:00 am at the L A Arboretum, 301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA. So. Where was everyone? Only three members (Roy Wiersma, Don Binnix and Theo Smith) showed up to seek out and explore the bamboos at the LA Arboretum. The three were joined by Vince Ivory who had learned of the Chapter when he had visited the Arboretum's 2004 Festival of Plants.

What did you miss? You missed the bamboo camaraderie and conversation. However, I am hoping that you will choose to visit the gardens on your own - preferably soon.

Why? Because the giant runners are shooting now. There are magnificent groves of *Phyllostachys Nigra* Bory and *Hemion*, and of *Phyllostachys Vivax*. I liked the Bory best because some of the culms are up to three inches in diameter, really big by my garden standards. Picture below shows some of the *Nigra* Bory with new culms shooting. - Theo S.



Phyllostachys Nigra Bory at L A Arboretum.

For 2004 "paid up" ABS SoCal Members only.

Turn this page over and cut out the card showing you to be a member of ABS SoCal. ABS SoCal members will need this card for admission to work parties, meetings and sales at Quail.

About the "logo" or design on the newsletter and on mail label to be used as a membership card: It is something Theo Smith put together and likes. It has a picture of bamboo - seems reasonable! - and the fonts are of variable size in order to emphasize first "BAMBOO" - the word in largest font and all caps - then "Society" to emphasize type of organization, then "Southern California" to denote location of the society, and lastly in the smallest font, "Chapter of the American" to state our relationship to the larger organization. The font size in descending order sort of tells the order of the words' importance, yet the word order is the formal name of the organization. The words are offset from center for interest sake.

What do you think of it? Tell Theo: trsmith@pe.net

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 2004 is (check one)

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

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

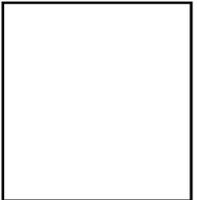
Make check to ABS-SoCal: Mail to: ABS SoCal Membership, P. O. Box 230181, Encinitas, CA 92023-0181
 Check here only if you do NOT want your phone number and e-mail address listed in directories.

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

Note: Two: Parking at QBG is "scarce and tight" at best. Therefore, QBG asks that we ABS SoCal members park in the over-flow parking area below the reference collection as often as we can thus providing accommodations for more guests.

Note: Three: QBG desires to keep better records of the hours volunteers "perform garden supporting labor" which we do when we come to work in the reference collection and at select other times. When entering Quail for such efforts, stop at the parking lot kiosk and ask to sign in on the "Volunteer sign-in sheet."

The Southern California Chapter of the
 American Bamboo Society, Inc.
 P. O. Box 230181
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Southern California
 Chapter of the American
BAMBOO
 Society

