

THE SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter Edition

January 2009

Happy New Year Everyone!

2009 promises to be an interesting year for Katie and me as we await the arrival of our first child, due in February. We look forward to the many challenges and joys that are sure to come our way this year!

We are also busy finalizing details for the upcoming SEC Annual Meeting and Winter Bamboo Festival in Savannah February 13-15. We hope many of you will join us for the weekend and are working to make the event interesting and informative. And as always, offers of help in coordinating the weekend's activities are welcome and needed!

In other SEC news, two of our members deserve recognition for their recent contributions to ABS. Bill King was elected National ABS President at the November ABS meeting in San Francisco. Bill has served as the SEC representative to the national organization for the last several years. He and wife Ellen are active SEC members and owners/operators of Dunroven Farm (www.kingsbamboo.com) in Rutland, FL.

And Georgia Rowsell was awarded an ABS Arts & Crafts Award for her mixed-media wall art utilizing bamboo. Georgia's work can be seen on her website, www.artfulhand.org. Georgia and husband David are active SEC members residing in Clarkston, GA.

Congratulations Bill and Georgia! We appreciate the time and energy you have invested and know the recognition is well-deserved.

Take care everyone! We hope to see each of you in 2009!

Tracy Cato

Upcoming Events:

ANNUAL SEC MEETING & BAMBOO FESTIVAL

February 13-15, 2009

At the Historic Bamboo Farm & Coastal Gardens, Savannah, GA.

It's time again for our annual gathering in Savannah! Once again, we'll have the board meeting (all members welcome) on Friday at 5pm. Anyone with items for the meeting agenda, please email them to secretary Deb Behrle (whitefeather@bellsouth.net).

Mark Your Calendar!!!

SEC Annual Meeting/Festival in Savannah
February 13-15, 2009

Spring Clean-Up at Anderson Moso Grove
March 7, 2009

EARF Bamboo ID Workshop
April 18-19, 2009

EARF Bamboo and Cement Intensive Workshop
June 8-12, 2009

3rd Annual Bamboo Festival at NC Arboretum
July 11-12, 2009

SEC Hosts ABS National Meeting
November 4-7 2010

Saturday we have several bamboo-related talks and crafting demos scheduled as well as tours of the groves at the Historic Bamboo Farm & Coastal Gardens. Vendors with bamboo plants and crafts will also be present on Saturday. And we'll have a short general membership meeting and our traditional live plant auction Saturday afternoon. Sunday morning we will work on grooming the groves at the Bamboo Farm. Participants may take home poles cut during the grooming process.

We hope to see many of you in Savannah for a fun weekend - if you've never visited the Bamboo Farm, now's the time! Besides the historic bamboo collection, the Bamboo Farm is home to collections and ongoing research into palms, bananas, dragonfruit, camellias, and other plants suitable to the coastal south.

Below is a tentative schedule for the weekend. Please check the website for updates and directions. There is room available for more bamboo plant/craft vendors. Vendors must be SEC members and agree to pay 10% of sales to the SEC - contact Tracy if you wish to vend. For specific questions not answered here or on the website, please email Tracy at info@thigpenrailbamboo.com.

Friday, February 13, 2009 - SEC Board Meeting 5pm at the Bamboo Farm Conference Center

Saturday, February 14, 2009

BAMBOO TALKS

9:00-9:40 Sue Turtle speaks and shares slides from the recent BOTA Eco-tour to Ecuador.

10:00-10:40 & 1:30-2:10 Bill King - *Clumping Bamboos in the Landscape*
(Continued on next page)

11:00-11:40 & 3:00-3:40 Richard Argo – Landscaping with running bamboos.

1:00-1:30 SEC General Membership Meeting

2:15 – Live Bamboo Auction (Proceeds to benefit the SEC)

DEMOS/WORKSHOPS

9:50 & 3:45 Matthew English – Propagation of running bamboos

11:00 & 1:30 Matthew English – Bamboo Crafting Demo

11:00 & 3:00 Bill King – Propagation of clumping bamboos

GROVE TOURS

10:00 – Adam Turtle & Mike Hotchkiss

3:00 – David Linvill & Mike Hotchkiss

Sunday, February 15, 2009 – 9am Grove Grooming at the Bamboo Farm

ANDERSON MOSO GROVE CLEAN-UP

March 7, 2009 at 9am

The annual Moso grove cleanup at the Old Silverbrook Cemetery in Anderson, SC is planned for 9 am on **Saturday March 7, 2009 at 9am**. Gloves, loppers, saws and shovels are very helpful. Poles and plants are available to participants.

To get there from I-85, get off at Exit 19 (Anderson-Clemson US 76-28), and head toward Anderson on Clemson Boulevard (changes to N. Main Street as you get into Anderson). About 7 miles after leaving the interstate, you'll pass through the town center and City Hall. Two blocks after passing City Hall, turn left onto E. River Street at a traffic light. At the fourth traffic light on E. River Street, turn right onto White Street. Old Silverbrook Cemetery will be on the left after two blocks.

The Moso grove is toward the back of the cemetery. If you want to see the Moso at the Fant House (private property), keep going straight on River Street, the Fant House is on the left 1/4 mile past the White Street intersection.

3rd ANNUAL BAMBOO FESTIVAL

At the NC Arboretum

July 11-12, 2009

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Editor's Note: The following article is a reprint from the last newsletter. The chapter needs your help, particularly if you live in the Asheville area!

It's time to get involved in The 2009 Bamboo Festival held at The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville, NC, July 11th & 12th. Set-up for the festival is July 10th.

Here is the list of committees we need help with:

Membership Recruitment Committee /Information Table: Katie Cato will oversee this committee. This includes volunteering to man the membership table at the festival and the possible creation of a brochure describing the plants that will be available at the plant auction.

Vendor Recruitment Committee: Tracy Cato has volunteered to head up this committee. This is a committee we can all participate in. Let's all keep our eyes and ears open for potential vendors to add to the festival. The guidelines are that any items sold at the festival need to be Bamboo oriented and all vendors must be ABS members.

Mop and Broom Committee: This is important to all of us. *Many hands make light the load!* This is "clean -up after set-up" at the end of the first day and at the close of the festival.

Program/Publicity Committee: Stephen Garton has volunteered to head up this committee. This includes lining up speakers, presentations, and demonstrations. If anyone has any suggestions or input in this area please let us know.

Food and Beverage/Catering Committee: For feeding the group during the festival. This includes dinner before Friday night's Annual Meeting, I'd like to see this committee filled with Asheville area members.

Signage/Publicity Committee: This committee needs to discuss placement and type of signage to be used for the festival.

Truck and Ladder Committee: Table movers, box carriers, plant transporters, arrangers, covering tables with table cloths, hanging signage, banners, etc. Volunteers need to be available for Friday afternoon set-up, as well as Sunday afternoon tear-down.

Plant Auction Committee: Tom Harlow has once again volunteered to head this committee. He will need your help with the Silent Auction and Plant Auction. We also need a Drop-Off Location for donors not coming to the Festival. Adam Turtle will be Auctioneer once again this year. Thank you Adam and Tom.

I'm looking forward to next year's festival and working with all of you. Each year we have continued to grow and expand and I know that with your help this will continue. Thank you all for your support.

Deb Behrle
Festival Chairperson
whitefeather@bellsouth.net or (828) 301-2112

SEC HOSTS 2010 ABS NATIONAL MEETING

At The Historic Bamboo Farm and Coastal Garden
Savannah, Georgia
November 4-7, 2010

We need lots of volunteers and hope that members will come out of the woodwork to help with this event! Even those who are far away can still participate – there are many jobs that can be done at home from your computer and telephone.

If you have not already signed up for a committee, please volunteer! The National Meeting Committees are: Public Relations Committee, Food Committee, Program Committee, Site Committee, Vendor Committee, Tour Committee, and Auction Committee.

Please contact our Chairperson, Sue Turtle (931-964-4151) or ABSTreasurer@aol.com to let her know what committee you would like to be a part of.

SEC Officer/Board Reports:

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Robbie Russell

Expenses:

- **T-Shirt Supplies-**
200 t-shirts @ \$7 per shirt **\$1400.00**
- **Member Meal** at February Meeting in Savannah **\$82.26**
- **BOTA Donations** **\$1500.00**
- **Asheville Festival Costs:**
General **\$470.69**
Dr. Yang **\$500.00**
- **Bill King** (Chapter Representative) to attend ABS National Meeting **\$500**
- **Fertilizer** (Anderson Moso Grove) **\$75.00**
- **SEC Library** **\$661.36**
- **Newsletter** **\$781.31**
- **Savannah Bamboo Farm** (Research trip to Fairchild Tropical Gardens) **\$500**

Total Expenses for 2008 **\$6470.62**

Revenue:

- **Savannah Festival Auction** **\$1166.00**
- **T-Shirt Sales** **\$505.00**
- **Source List Sales** **\$110.00**
- **Asheville Auctions:**
Silent **\$281.50**
Live **\$975.00**

Total Deposits for 2008 **\$3037.50**

SEC Current Balance: **\$ 8128.79**

SEC CURRENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Katie Cato

A complete SEC Membership list will be published in the Spring 2009 Newsletter. This list will only be available to members and will not be published on the website.

It's getting to be that time of year for many of us to renew our ABS memberships. Please remember that this can be done easily online. Folks will also have an opportunity to join or renew at our upcoming meeting and festival in Savannah.

I'm happy to report that our chapter membership has grown significantly in 2008. To those of you who have joined us in the last year, we appreciate your support and hope that you will join us for our upcoming projects.

Total Membership on December 31, 2008 145
New Members during 2008 41

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

ABS Board of Director's Meeting

November 6, 2008

By Bill King

The Board of Directors met at the San Francisco City Zoo Education Center on Thursday, November 6th in conjunction with the Annual Conference for 2008. A complete set of the minutes will be published shortly in *Bamboo Magazine* so I will only cover the more significant items discussed. You are welcome to read all of the committee reports in detail in *Bamboo*.

All of the Directors were represented with only two being represented by proxies. Dan Fox the Midstates Chapter Director carried the vote of Brad Salmon (At Large III) and Ned Jaquith (At Large II) carried the proxy for Michael Bartholomew (Northeast Chapter). The meeting was chaired by Ned Jaquith as the President Brad Salmon has recently changed employers and could not attend the meeting or conference.

The ABS Treasurer presented the Treasurers report with expenses for the year ending October 31st, 2008 of \$44,923 and income of \$32,339. While we spent nearly \$12,000 more than we took in during 2008 we spent almost \$5,000 less than the projected deficit that the Board has wrestled with for the last year. This is wholly due to the resignation of the contracted administrator last spring and the subsequent assumption of the membership duties by Brad Salmon. There were some unexpected expenses such as a new computer and software for the membership chair's use and printing and mailing expenses continued to increase during the year. Maybe the current economic recession will slow those increases.

Actions that the Board took by email during the last year consisted of: **1.** Recognizing the Midstates Chapter and their Representative Dan Fox **2.** Changing of the budget calendar to a calendar year instead of Nov 1 – Oct 31 (this was to help the board with the budget process so that closing of the books did not coincide with the adoption of the budget for the next year) **3.** Authorizing and conducting an “on-line only auction” of plants in the spring of 2008 (this will probably become an annual event) **4.** Adopting a budget for 2008, albeit a deficit budget **5.** Accepting Brad Salmon’s offer to become the membership chair and **6.** Bestowing an honorary life membership (correctly called a “Fellow of the Society”) to Nancy Bess Moore for her service as Arts and Crafts Chair for several years.

The By-Laws of the ABS call for the Board to have a minimum of 12 and maximum of 15 members with four seats being held by the one International Representative and three seats for the three At-Large Representatives. The By-Laws say that the Board is to regulate its size by determining how many members a chapter must have in order to be represented on the Board. While our chapter continues to have a strong membership (135 members as of Oct 31) some chapters have seen their membership shrink in the past few years. Accordingly the Board lowered the “Required Membership Number” from 50 to 40 to maintain its current size.

A member of the Northern California Chapter said that he is trying to form a new chapter to promote growing bamboo on cotton crop lands in the south end of California’s Central Valley. He was directed to make a formal application with the names of the required 10 members so that their status as current members of ABS could be verified and that once that was done the Board would consider his application for chapter status. He also had a booth at the Annual Conference to recruit members. Subsequent to the Conference it came to the Board’s attention that he is already displaying posters and business cards using the American Bamboo Society’s name and indicating that he is the “Project Manager” of a “Crop Substitution Project”. The Board is directing him to cease and desist from using the name of the ABS until such use is approved by the Board of Directors.

The question had arisen as to the impact a chapter who was not a registered IRS 501(c)(3) Non-Profit have on the non-profit status of ABS. The board heard a report that a chapter’s non-profit status has no effect on the non-profit status of ABS. It was noted that the By-Laws state that a chapter has to be organized in line with non-profit rules but does not require official IRS non-profit status. Also the ABS’s non-profit status does not extend to the chapters. Each chapter must make its own application with the IRS. The Southeast Chapter has non-profit status but not all chapters do.

At various times different people have made different statements about how the proceeds of the Plant Auctions of ABS are used. It has sometimes been said that this is how the ABS get its grant monies and at other times no indication has been made as to where the money goes. The Board had never officially made a statement as to the use of the money but over the ABS history not all proceeds from the auctions have gone to grants. Therefore the Board adopted the official policy that the

auction proceeds are to be used for “research, grants and educational per the objectives and purposes of the ABS.” Therefore, past use of auction proceeds to fund the publications falls within the policy and our annual dues more than cover the administrative expenses of the Society.

The Board had a long discussion of the goals and purposes of the Species Source List (SSL). The inclusion of a plant in the SSL or its omission has long been the source of many disputes and ill feelings among the Society’s members. The SSL serves two purposes. First it is a listing of bamboos in the US and second it is a reference to sources where someone can find the bamboo in which they may have an interest. The SSL committee has accepted the task of annually compiling and publishing the SSL and the Board does not think that a Board of 15 people could do a better job than a committee of three. However in order to set direction and policy the Board has requested that the committee list the scientific authority along with the genus and species of plant. Such as *Phyllostachys bissetii* Bisset. This would allow some to research the original publication of the plant when trying to verify a plant that they might have versus relying on the short description that is included in the SSL. Additionally the Board requested that the committee work toward including all bamboos know to be growing in the US in the list. Irrespective of whether or not anyone has them available for sale. This would include all newly imported plants that may still be growing in some quarantine greenhouse and new cultivars that are developed in the US.

All other issues having been put aside, the Board took up the most difficult issue, that being next year’s Budget and how to reconcile the deficit budgets of the past three years. Anyone who might review the Treasurer’s report as will be published might look at the cash on hand and in CD’s and think that ABS is in a comfortable financial position. What with nearly \$30,000 in the bank we could appear to be very well suited. The problem is that 5 years ago the Board established a lifetime membership at the rate of \$600. For anyone who expects to be a member of ABS for the next 15 years or more this is a bargain. The concept was that we would get \$600 dollars from someone and we could invest the money and easily make the \$40 per year in interest. Well in 2002 that might work but at current interest rates we aren’t getting enough from the \$29,400 endowment to pay the dues for the lifetime members. To add to our woes, the cost of printing and postage has risen several times. Thus the dilemma: Raise dues and risk losing members or reduce the frequency of publication and risk losing members. The Board had several conversations on the issue over the last year and a couple of suggestions had been floated in preparation for the meeting. One suggestion had been a two tiered membership having individual and commercial memberships.

Borrowing from the Australian Bamboo Society the Board ran several “what-if” studies and adopted a slightly different two tiered policy. The details are still being finalized but concept is as follows: If you are willing to accept your copies of Bamboo, Bamboo Science and Culture plus the Membership List and the Species and Source List in an electronic format your dues will remain as they are now, \$40 per year including one \$15 Chapter membership. There will probably be a page on the ABS website, www.americanbamboo.org, where you will be

able to login and download the current or some previous issues. You can then either print your own copy or use it on your computer. If however you want to have a printed copy mailed to you then your membership will increase. Based on this concept the Board was able to pass a budget for next year and is currently moving forward on establishing the website page and finalizing the dues amount for the paper copy membership. This may not seem like a big change but the cost of printing and postage is such that if even a third of our 1200 members accept the electronic copy we will be able to hold the increase to the \$10-15 dollar range for the paper copies.

The new Board, which by By-Laws takes office at the end of the annual membership meeting, met on Saturday evening and elected the following slate of officers for the year 2008:

President – C. William “Bill” King – Southeast Chapter
Vice President – Steve Stamper – Florida Chapter
Secretary – David King – Northern California Chapter
Treasurer – Sue Turtle – Southeast Chapter

With this slate our chapter will be well represented on the Board and the Vice President is also from the South and has supported our Chapter with attendance and plant donations in the past.

SEC LIBRARY REPORT ***JANUARY 2009***

Since our last report we have added the following books to the library:

Bamboos of Nepal by Chris Stapleton

Bamboos of Bhutan by Chris Stapleton

Hong Kong Bamboos by Paul Pui-Hay BUT, CHIA Liang-chi, FUNG-Hok- Iam and Shiu-Ying HU

The Friendly Bamboo Revolution by Lawrence Stanley

The Craft & Art of Bamboo, Revised & Updated
by Carol Stangler
(on order – should be received mid-January)

During 2008 a total of three books were borrowed from the library by two individuals.

A list of available books and videos can be seen on the SEC website or can be requested from the librarian.

Mary Ann Silverman
1458 Dusty Road
(434) 645-7662 Crewe, VA 23930
maryann@midatlanticbamboo.com

SEC Member Announcements:

NEWS FROM EARF **(Earth Advocates Research Farm)**

Here are the dates for our workshops coming up in 2009:

April 18-19, 2009

BAMBOO IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP
With Dr. Jimmy Triplett

June 8-12, 2009

BAMBOO & CEMENT INTENSIVE WORKSHOP
With Adam Turtle and others

These workshops will be held at Earth Advocates Research Farm near Summertown, TN. For more info contact Adam or Sue Turtle-- 931-964-4151 or email at bambooconsultant@aol.com.

NEWS FROM KEIJI & STEFANI OSHIMA

Oshima Bamboo School Opening Soon!

Classes Will Begin in Spring of 2009.

These are Examples:

Bamboo Crafts

Bamboo Poles

Bamboo Charcoal

Bamboo Nursery Business

Bamboo Shoots Business

To receive a catalog or for information please

email: stefanioshima@hotmail.com

(828) 685-3053

For Your Information:

Bamboo is Central to NOVA Broadcast
“RAT ATTACK”

Airing Tuesday, February 24, at 8 PM ET

Karen Laverty, NOVA Online Publicist, sent the ABS the following information about this program:

Once every 48 years in the remote Indian state of Mizoram, a strange phenomenon takes over the land, threatening famine and death. Hundreds of thousands of acres of bamboo begin to flower and fruit, sparking a plague of rats. Drawn by the nutrient-rich pear-sized

fruit, millions of hungry rats feast — their numbers growing exponentially as they descend into a reproductive frenzy. They devour crops, bringing hardship and even famine upon Mizoram's farmers. The locals call this biological anomaly the *Mautam*, and when it last struck in 1959, famine killed thousands and plunged the state into a 20-year guerilla insurgency.

But the rats aren't the only part of the story puzzling scientists. Bamboo itself is an enigmatic plant. Many bamboo species reproduce only once in their lifetime, then die. What's bizarre is how long they wait before reproducing—20, 50, even 100 or more years, depending on the species. Even stranger: Many species reproduce *synchronously*: Like clockwork, all plants in a given geographic region flower and seed at precisely the same moment, then die.

Weaving natural-history sleuthing with human attempts to grapple with the disaster, *Rats, Feast and Famine* tells a suspenseful story of man versus beast. As the bamboo flowers in spring, citizens and scientists race against a ticking clock, bracing for the late summer onslaught. As this ancient natural phenomenon again seizes hold of Mizoram, Ken and motivated government officials work to unlock the keys to the deadly problem of Mautam in 2008 with a frenzy nearly equal to the rats' bamboo frenzy. But are they too late?

We will also have some great features on our companion website. There is an interactive, exploring how the fruiting of a single plant—the oak tree—impacts its entire forest ecosystem. Daniel Janzen, one of the world's leading tropical ecologists, is interviewed and muses on the mysterious evolution of the *mautam*.

Simon Velez and Marcelo Villegas
Bamboo Construction Workshop
March 9-14, 2009

This workshop is hosted by Tropical Bamboo, Koolbamboo, and Florida Atlantic University and will take place at Tropical Bamboo Nursery and Gardens in Palm Beach County, FL. The course features the construction of a building with *Guadua* bamboo, literature, and guest lecturers who will share their expertise. For additional information, please contact Tropical Bamboo info@tropicalbamboo.com or Will Pierson: (305) 342-9426, will@koolbamboo.com.

**BACK IN PRINT & AVAILABLE IN
BOOKSTORES JANUARY 2009:**

THE CRAFT AND ART OF BAMBOO
By Carol Stangler

THIS BEST SELLER NOW CONTAINS UPDATED INFORMATION

**\$17.95 Softback, 160 pages, 203 color photos, 37 sets
of illustrations**

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For Carol Stangler Workshops and
Events: <http://www.craftandartofbamboo.com/events/events.html>

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