

THE SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY

Winter Edition
January 2008

Quarterly Newsletter

Greetings Friends-

Happy New Year to each of you! It looks like 2008 will be a very busy and productive year for the SEC. It's wonderful to have several opportunities to gather as a chapter, seeing old friends and hopefully many new faces! The two festivals we have planned will allow us to share the many fascinating aspects of bamboo with the public and reach out to prospective members. Planning for the 2010 National Meeting will also begin this year and we will need much manpower (and womanpower) to prepare for the big event!

For us, 2008 began with a cold snap, followed by a stretch of 70-degree days. This erratic weather is typical in South Georgia, and our bamboos don't seem to mind too much! Recently, we have been blessed with a good bit of much needed rain as well. We wish the best for each of you and your bamboo this winter. Shooting season will be here before we know it! Hope to see everyone soon!

Katie Cato

Mark Your Calendar!!!

SEC Annual Meeting &
Bamboo Festival (Savannah)
February 15-17, 2008

Clean-Up at Anderson, SC Moso
Groves
March 1, 2008

Spring Clean-Up Day at Byron
March 22, 2008 at 9 am

Growing and Crafting Bamboo Workshop
at the FARM in Summertown, TN
April 25-27, 2008

2nd Annual Bamboo Festival
at NC Arboretum
July 12-13, 2008

SEC ANNUAL MEETING AND BAMBOO FESTIVAL February 15-17, 2008

Historic Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens in Savannah, GA

SEC BUSINESS MEETING (Friday, Feb. 15th at 5pm*)

* Please note the time for the meeting. Hopefully, this time will accommodate everyone's schedule. The meeting will begin at 5pm and continue through the evening. Dinner will be available on-site for a small fee in order to maximize the time available.

This is a very important meeting, as we will begin to discuss preparations for the 2010 ABS National Meeting to be hosted by the SEC at the Bamboo Farm. **Anyone who would like to serve on a committee for the 2010 National Meeting should make plans to attend the February meeting.** Other items to be discussed include the Memorandum of Understanding between the Bamboo Farm and the SEC, the Summer Bamboo Festival in Asheville, NC, and a proposal by chapter member Dick George for a Bamboo Labyrinth in Macon, GA. Anyone who would like to add an item to the meeting agenda should contact the chapter Vice-President, Tracy Cato (tcato@mail.com). Please include "SEC Meeting Agenda" in the subject of the email.

WINTER BAMBOO FESTIVAL (Saturday, Feb. 16th at 8:30am)

The SEC will host the First Annual Winter Bamboo Festival at the Bamboo Farm & Coastal Gardens in Savannah on Saturday, February 16, 2008. The festival is free and open to everyone. See the flyer included in this newsletter for details. Further details will be announced as they become available. **We could use everyone's help in getting the word out about the festival so please copy and distribute the flyer freely, especially those of you in the Savannah area!**

If anyone has a lecture or demonstration they would like to present, it is not too late to be included. Also, vending of bamboo plants/products is open to SEC members with 10% of sales going to the SEC and possibly split with the Bamboo Farm (still to be decided). Contact Tracy Cato (tcato@mail.com) for further information.

GROVE GROOMING (Sunday, Feb. 17th)

We will be gathering on Sunday morning (time TBA) at the Bamboo Farm to do some grove grooming in an effort to help maintain the groves. Everyone who can stick around on Sunday is encouraged to pitch in. We are looking forward to the weekend and hope that all of you will join us in Savannah!

ABS NATIONAL MEETING

Representative's Report Board of Directors Meeting Kennett Square, Pennsylvania November 1 & 3, 2007

The annual Board of Directors meeting convened in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania on November 1, 2007 and was attended by all directors or their proxy except for the Louisiana Gulf Coast Chapter. The meeting was chaired by Vice President Ned Jaquith due to the resignation of President JoAnne Wyman after the untimely death of her husband Bill Wyman in late summer. JoAnne also resigned as representative of the Southern California Chapter, and the replacement representative, Cliff Sussman, was introduced to the board. Also present were several members as observers as well as the Contracted Administrator, Kathy Small.

After confirming a quorum and approving the minutes of the meeting in 2006, the board reviewed actions during the past year. The Board did approve a grant proposal for the study of control of the Bamboo Mealy Bug in the amount of \$5,000. The study is to be conducted in Southern California and the grant is contingent upon a matching amount of \$5,000 being donated by other sources. The board also approved travel expense reimbursement for the Contracted Administrator and the BOTA director to the annual meeting.

Beginning the business of this session the Board heard the Treasurer's report. You can read the details in the minutes but the bottom line is that our expenses were not as high as budgeted and therefore the deficit was not as large as anticipated. The flash numbers are ABS had income of \$37K and expenses of \$52K or a loss of \$13K.. ABS spent more than it took in during the 2006-07 budget year. This is the third year in a row in which this has occurred and the Board spent considerable time discussing several ideas for reversing this trend. Unlike the Federal Government we cannot continue down this path. The good news was that the membership report indicated that with the hiring of the Contracted Administrator to handle the membership records, the number of members has reversed its trend downward. We all must take every opportunity to enlist new members if we want to continue the level of services that the Society provides us as members or we will have to consider increasing our dues to remain solvent.

As indicated the Contracted Administrator gave the membership report that indicated that membership was up and that the number of memberships that lapsed was cut by 50% during the year. She also agreed to continue for a second year at the original rate. Membership services have improved since Kathy came aboard. For questions about membership she may be contacted at the ABS permanent address of:

American Bamboo Society
315 South Coast Highway 101, Suite U
PM Box 212
Encinitas, CA 92024-3555

In previous years all memberships were on a Calendar Year basis with all memberships renewing on January 1 of each year. This has meant that members who joined in the second half of the year got the back issue of the magazine and their membership only ran to the end of the year. This has resulted in additional issues of the magazine being printed and stored in order to provide them to late year memberships. The Board

voted to eliminate this practice with all memberships renewing on their anniversary date with no back issues being provided. Back issues would be available for purchase only. All current memberships will continue to renew on January 1, but new memberships will be on an anniversary date basis.

At the time of the meeting there were 12 chapters with 10 chapters having sufficient membership to qualify for a representative on the Board. The board voted to reduce the number of members required for a representative to 50 primary members of the chapter. This results in the Midwest Chapter now having the ability to elect/appoint a representative to the Board of Directors.

The species list continues to be edited by Chris Stapleton. Bill Hollenback and his partner (whose name I do not have) agreed to edit and publish the source list for the next year. They are planning some improvements in format that should make the Source List easier to use and less expensive to print.

The magazine continued to be edited by Betty and Don Shor. I'm sure that you all have appreciated the timely delivery and the quality of the magazine this past year.

Gib Cooper presented the Bamboos of the Americas report of their activities. They are continuing to sponsor students studying bamboos with three pending fellowships and are supporting the development of a bamboo garden in Ecuador. They are a subsidiary of the ABS. They requested permission to seek support and become the subsidiary of another organization. Their objective is to find an organization that can provide them more financial support. Gib also indicated that Brazil had withdrawn their support of the World Bamboo Conference (WBC) for 2008. Current tentative plans are to hold the conference at Fairchild Gardens in Miami in 2008. Plans are in limbo and will be confirmed later. Gib also requested support in the amount of \$1000 for the WBC. The Board voted to support the conference in the amount of \$500 with an increase to \$1000 if the conference is scheduled for Fairchild Gardens.

The email ballots for the At-Large representative had been received and Brad Salmon of Indianapolis and Hawaii was elected as the At-Large Representative for the term 2007-2010.

Whether or not the ABS has a requirement for its Chapters to be qualified 501(c)(3) organizations was discussed. (A 501)(c)(3) organization is tax exempt per the IRS rules). Paul Booth, an attorney and member of the Hawaii Chapter agreed to research the law concerning this requirement and its effect on the ABS. Neither I nor Sue Turtle were certain of the status of the SEC in regards to our standing with the IRS. This is an issue which deserves some attention by our chapter.

Stephen Garton presented his request for a grant for signage at the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens in Savannah to the Board in the amount of \$7,800. SEC indicated our support of this grant request and relayed our own action to donate \$2,000 towards this proposal. Action on the motion was tabled until the Saturday session pending the amount of income from the annual auction of plants on Saturday.

The Northern California Chapter announced that they would be unable to host the annual conference in San Francisco as previously committed. The SEC indicated our desire to host the 2010 conference at the Bamboo Farm, and the board accepted the proposal. The Board decide to request the Midwest Chapter to host the 2008 conference as they have never hosted a conference and their central location would be conducive to a larger attendance.

Meeting recessed until Saturday. Upon resumption the Board adopted the recommended budget for 2007-08 and elected Brad Salmon as president pending his acceptance of the position. The Board also allotted funds for the signage at the Bamboo Garden.

The Board adjourned their annual meeting for 2007 but will continue to consider items by email throughout the year. Remember that if you have a question that you wish the ABS Board to consider, please contact me and I will forward your concerns to the ABS Board.

Respectfully submitted,
C William King
7423 County Road 247
Rutland, FL 33538-3043
352-330-0766

Submissions for the Spring
Newsletter due
March 1, 2008
Please send to Katie Cato
6273 Thigpen Trail Doerun, GA 31744
kcat0@colquitt.k12.ga.us

AUCTION AND GARDEN TOURS

Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA
Submitted by ABS Treasurer Sue Turtle

Inside the auditorium, all was abuzz awaiting the beginning of the annual ABS auction. An on-line auction had been going on for the previous two weeks so most of the plants already had a bid on them – over 50 plants – some of which were being offered for the first time in the U.S. via the ABS auction. Bill Hollenback, who had overseen the online auction, assisted Susanne Lucas as they put the pictures on the screen of the plants not on-site. These plants would be shipped directly to the successful bidder by the donor. Dave Flanagan and Ned Jaquith did the actual auctioning – There was also a silent auction with many things either made of bamboo or with bamboo motifs (books, clothing, placemats, etc.). The bottom line was just over \$5,800 total for ABS. And, of course, a fun time was had by all in attendance.

We all were able to go back to the hotel and rest for a bit before heading back to Longwood Gardens for the dinner and dance. The Northeast Chapter went all out to make it a wonderful evening. We ate in the Ballroom of the Conservatory and while we ate were delighted with stories of Thomas Alva Edison (remember him? He used bamboo filaments in his first successful light bulb) by Jack Stanley who is the Executive Director of the Thomas A. Edison Memorial Tower and Menlo Park Museum in Edison, NJ. Dinner was followed by traditional New England Barn Dancing with two fiddles and a keyboard player. Most of us who thought we would just watch ended up getting into the thick of it and having a really good time. How could you not enjoy contra dancing with all your bamboo family surrounded by bamboos, water and many beautiful tropical plants in a glowing conservatory.

Sunday saw us all loading up in 10 passenger vans to visit Chanticleer Gardens and the garden of Wirt Thompson at Upper Bank Nurseries, before returning for a tour of the bamboos of Longwood. We had perfect fall weather for the event and colors of fall were everywhere. Since it would be impossible for me to do justice by describing the bamboos, etc. in any of these gardens – I have included some photos to let you experience these special places. The special joy that is Chanticleer, a 26-acre formerly private

garden is not only in its plants, but includes the art work scattered throughout the garden. The mix of hardy and tropical plants makes this place confusing on some levels because you really don't know if you are in Costa Rica or Pennsylvania or the desert Southwest or Hawaii – all beautifully blended at once. The tropical plants, of course, are dug up in the fall and greenhoused until the following spring. The property was in the same family from the early 1900's until it became the Chanticleer Foundation and opened as a public garden in 1993. Enjoy the photos.



Clockwise from top: *Indocalamus tessellatus* and pygmy bamboos at Longwood; Water fountain –note that the excess water falls onto the concrete and drizzles down into the garden; Ceramic bamboo canes amidst the *Hibanobambusa tranquillans* 'Shiroshima'.

Upper Bank Nurseries is as old as Longwood Gardens – Wirt Thompson’s family were contemporaries of the DuPonts. The bamboos are amazing – from our native *Arundinaria gigantea* to *Sasa palmata*, *Phyllostachys nuda*, *P. glauca*, *P. flexuosa*, etc. etc. etc. – most have been there for more than 50 years.



Pictured at left: *Sasa palmata* by stream and fall colors at Wirt Thompson’s. **Above:** *Arundinaria gigantea* at Upper Banks Nursery.

Other Upcoming Events:

Moso grove cleanup at the Old Silverbrook Cemetery in Anderson March 1, 2008 9am

The annual Moso grove cleanup at the Old Silverbrook Cemetery in Anderson, SC is planned for 9 am on **Saturday March 1, 2008**. 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.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT BYRON **SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND 9AM**

There will be a cleanup day in the bamboo groves of the USDA temperate bamboo germplasm collection on Sat. March 22nd, 2008 at 9 am at the USDA Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Laboratory in Byron, GA. There are 90 accessions of over 70 species and cultivars of bamboo. Participants can dig plants and take home poles thinned from the groves. Gloves, loppers, saws and shovels are very helpful.

Contact Melanie Harrison Dunn, (770) 412-4097 for more information. People wanting more than a plant or two are encouraged to come on Friday, March 21st. Appointments to dig on Friday can be made with Melanie Harrison Dunn.

To get to the USDA Lab take I-75 to exit 149 and head east on GA49 (left turn if coming from the north and right if coming from the south). Approximately one block from the interstate, turn right on Dunbar Rd. (just past the Krystal) and go 1/4 mile. The entrance to the Lab is on the left.

Byron Area Motels

Best Western 101 Dunbar Rd. Hwy 49, Byron (478) 956-3056
Comfort Inn -115 Chapman Rd., Byron (478) 956-1600
Days Inn I-75 & Hwy 49, Byron (478) 956-5100
Holiday Inn Express 312 Highway 49 North - (478) 956-7829
Super 8 Motel, 305 Hwy 49 N, Byron, GA (478) 956-3311

Growing & Crafting Bamboo Workshop

April 25-27, 2008

The Farm's Ecovillage Training Center in Summertown, Tennessee will host a workshop devoted to Growing and Crafting Bamboo April 25-27, 2008. Bamboo artisan Matthew English will lead the workshop. Participants will receive a deeper understanding of multicultural techniques for utilizing and cultivating bamboo. Topics will include propagation, selection, harvesting, curing, and tools and techniques. For more information, refer to the EcoVillage Training Center website: thefarm.org/etc. You may also email them at ecovillage@thefarm.org or call (931)964-4474.

SEC Library Report

December 2007

New books added to the SEC Library since our last newsletter include:

Bamboos of China by Wang Dajun & Shen Shap-Jin

Bamboos and Grasses by Jon Ardle

In 2007 we added 9 books and 5 INBAR publications to the library.

A total of 21 books and videos were checked out of the library.

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

AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY SOUTHEAST CHAPTER CONTACTS

OFFICERS:

President: Michele von Bergen, PO Box 102, Mountain City, TN 37683 (423) 727-9342 colt_ar6920@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Tracy Cato, 6273 Thigpen Trail Doerun, GA 31744 (229) 782-7455 tcato@mail.com

Treasurer: Robbie Russell, 913 Evergreen St. Perry, GA 31069 (478) 808-5811

Secretary: John Tkach, 3200 Sam Wilson Rd. Charlotte, NC 28214 (980) 428-2458 jtkach@urbanxscapes.com

Founders: Adam and Sue Turtle, 30 Myers Rd. Summertown, TN 38483-7323 (931) 964-4151

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Paul Schneider, 3050 HWY 109 N Portland TN, 37148 (615) 323-0872 paulhschneider@comcast.net

Mike Hotchkiss, 311 Main Street Marshallville, GA 31057 (478) 987-1795 hotchkiss@alltel.net

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Newsletter editor: Katie Cato, 6273 Thigpen Trail, Doerun, GA 31744 (229) 782-7455 kcato@colquitt.k12.ga.us

Webmaster & Membership: John Tkach (See Secretary)

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

ABS Representative: Bill King, 7423 County Road 247 Rutland, FL 33538(352) 330-0766 kingfish7423@earthlink.net

*Visit our website: **www.sec-bamboo.org***

