

CULMINATION

The Official Publication of the Texas Bamboo Society,
a chapter of the American Bamboo Society
Vol. 12, Number 1, December 2006
<http://www.texasbamboosociety.org>



14th Annual Texas Bamboo Festival (2006) Recap

On Friday, August 25, 2006, Texas Bamboo Society members started to gather at Zilker Botanical Gardens to set up for the 14th Annual Texas Bamboo Festival. Jim and Judith Bussey arrived mid afternoon from East Texas, and Maurice and Nancy Holcomb, new members from Willis, Texas, also arrived early to help set up.

Setting up - Ed Pechacek from Rivers End Nursery in South Texas was the first bamboo plant vendor to arrive and pitch his tent. Soon Steve Muzos - Bamboo Bend, John and Darwin Nelson - Bamboo Texas, and Grady Magnum - Happy Sprout Farm arrived and set up a great selection of bamboo plants and the festival began to take shape.

Keith Wahrer of Daily Juice set up a vending booth outside offering refreshing & delicious fruit juices, lemonade and tea. Keith's Daily Juice Bar is hard to miss on Barton Springs Road. There is a large clumping bamboo just in front of his shop - it is on your right as you drive toward Lamar Blvd when you leave Zilker.

Will Harjo - Harjo Flutes, set up his booth outside with his collection of handmade Native American flutes and jewelry.

While everyone was busy setting up, Anne Muzos went to the airport & picked up our featured speaker, Darrel DeBoer, and they joined the set-up crew.

This year we rented six 10 x 10 pop up tents providing visitors and vendors with 600 extra square feet of shade as the August temperatures hovered near 100 degrees and shade was a "hot" commodity. The tents were good, but I think it would have been better to have one big tent instead of six 10 x 10 tents. I was stretching the bamboo festival budget and looking at the amount of square footage of how much shade we could buy for the buck - which is why I went with the six 10x10 tents. I had planned to stretch shade cloth among all the tents and brought along some 10-foot bamboo poles to attach the shade cloth to. Darrel, an architect, assisted me as I tried to attach a piece of shade cloth suspended on a bamboo pole between two tents. We only did one piece and abandoned that project.



Photo by Carole Meckes

Inside the auditorium, "Thangmaker" (Frank Meyer) was constructing a sign for his booth. Frank has worked in the building trades for more than 30 years and has hands on experience in just about every facet of residential construction. He also works with bamboo, straw bale, and his latest fascination of earthen floors, mixing clay and sand. Many of you may remember Frank, who is also a musician, as he entertained us all during the banquet dinner at the ABS meeting in Houston.

Mark Meckes, showed some of his bamboo sculptures and designated that funds generated would help support the Bamboo Arts and Craft Network, a nonprofit educational website, <http://www.bamboocraft.net>, for bamboo crafters and growers with three distinct photo galleries and a discussion forum. More than 2,000 people around the world have registered at the free site.

Fred Tate - Jewelry Designs showcased his unique black bamboo rhizome and silver bamboo jewelry designs. Aida Nino came from San Antonio with Latin American Handcrafts, Peruvian Bamboo Instruments and serenaded us with music of the Wayanay Inca. Anyone who remembers the 1997 ABS Conference in Austin will remember the Wayanay's live performance at the Zilker Club House on that very rainy night. Carole Meckes - Bamboo Branch, with her handcrafted bamboo beads, buttons, pendants, jewelry and assorted bamboo pieces and parts added to the bamboo karma. Kaylen Savoie showed his new bamboo watercolor paintings.

Jim and Judith Bussey took care of the registration table and Bev McGrath was the head cashier. Harry Simmons donated a unique collection of bamboo items he had collected in Thailand for the raffle. Additional thanks go to the many members who donated plants for sale.

News 8 Austin, a local TV news station arranged to do their morning show from the BAMBOO FESTIVAL! Someone had to be there at dawn on Saturday morning, so I was there! I used my drill press and Dremel, and demonstrated drilling a hole in bamboo. The news team interviewed several different bamboo people and it was great publicity.

At 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Darrel DeBoer, architect and furniture-maker, entertained us on the big screen. Grady Magnum supplied the projector. Darrel's topic was "Bamboo Architecture Around the World." In addition to the architecture, Darrel browsed through a lot of pictures on his computer (some related to architecture - others just related to bamboo). All in all, it was an enjoyable presentation and we had a full house on both Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., the Hiphuggers Rock Band played outside. Band members, Robin Kenney and Sam Murski are bamboo enthusiasts, live in a bamboo jungle in Brenham, Texas, and enjoy creating things out of bamboo, including their guitar stands and equipment stands for the band. Michael Holeman joined them on drums.

At 5:00 p.m. the Texas Bamboo Society Annual Meeting was held in the auditorium. Reverend Viet, from the Buu Mon Buddhist Temple in Port Arthur, Texas, invited TBS members to have a bamboo festival at their temple in November. The TBS graciously accepted the invitation. Kinder Chambers, Patricia Hillery and Carole Meckes were



recognized for their service to TBS and were awarded lifetime memberships in the American Bamboo Society. Steve Muzos was elected the new TBS Representative to the American Bamboo Society and would be going to Hawaii for the ABS Annual Meeting. Steve Muzos and Grady Magnum were elected to fill two TBS Director

John Nelson presenting ABS Life Memberships to (l to r) Carole Meckes, Mary Len and Kinder Chambers, Pat Hillary
Photos by Bob Clune

positions. After the TBS BOD meeting on Sunday afternoon, it was announced that Steve Muzos is the new President of the Texas Bamboo Society.

On Saturday evening 36 bamboo folks relaxed and enjoyed dinner catered by the Bamboo Garden restaurant.

Sunday:

- 11:00 a.m. - Bamboo Bead Making Workshop - only had a small group
- 1:00 p.m. Sunday, Darrel DeBoer presented "More Bamboo Architecture"
- 2:00 p.m. Jackie's Fundanzers Dance Troupe - performed "The Silver Thread" - choreographed by Mark Sharon

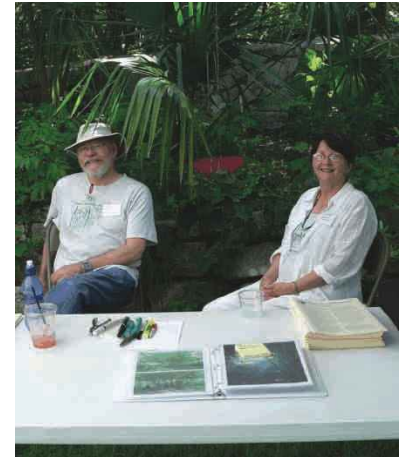
After Darrel's presentation, we needed to clear the center of the room for the dance, so everyone moved their chairs and formed a big circle. After the dance, we could have recaptured the crowd to try to draw them out and ask them questions like "how many people have bamboo growing, etc.," but we missed that opportunity. Maybe we can plan better for next year.

Children's Activities - Some of the advance bamboo festival publicity included the words "Children's Activities." It ended up that we did not really have a designated area for Children's Activities. Two families actually approached me on Saturday and asked where the children's activities were and I quickly put the kids on to making bamboo bead necklaces. This satisfied them - but what I really had in mind was an area with lots of different bamboo parts and pieces where people (kids young and old) could create things like wind chimes with the various parts and pieces. There was plenty of room up in the front side area of the big room to do this. What this project needs are some volunteers to both help supply some bamboo pieces and to be available to work with others in the creation of a "Children's Activity Area." Couldn't everyone bring a few pieces of bamboo to use for an exploratory project? We are all growing it and have bamboo that is ready to be harvested!



2006 TBS General Meeting Photo by Bob Clune

Thanks again to all the TBS members, vendors and bamboo crafters who provided bamboo plants and products for the public. Utility Research Garden had vehicle complications and could not attend as a vendor. Bamboo Ceramics - Ann Johnson was unable to attend - her husband was critically ill and passed away in September. We



Jim & Judith Bussey Photo by Bob Clune

send our condolences to Ann and look forward to seeing her at the 15th Annual Texas Bamboo Festival on Saturday and Sunday, August 25-26, 2007, at Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin, TX.

My Very Best Bamboo Regards to All, Carole Meckes

OFFICERS of THE TEXAS BAMBOO SOCIETY CHAPTER of THE AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY, INC.

Board Members

Jim Bussey, Rex Housour, Grady Mangum, Steve Muzos, John Nelson

Corporate Officers

President: Steve Muzos; CFO / Treasurer: Selby Clark; Secretary: **vacant**

Other Officers

Membership: Selby Clark; Newsletter Editor: **vacant**; Stewardship Program: Steve Muzos; Vice President: Kinder Chambers; Web Master: Bob Clune

Regional Coordinators

Austin Coordinator: Carole Meckes; Rio Grande Valley Coordinator: Allen Aleshire

Annual Texas Bamboo Festival Coordinator: Carole Meckes

For contact information, see the TBS website <http://www.texasbamboosociety.org>



Views From My Grove

Steve Muzos, TBS President, gardentex@hotmail.com

At the 14th Annual Texas Bamboo Festival held in Austin on August 26 & 27, 2006, I was elected president of TBS. I look forward to a great year of growing plants and learning more about bamboo. The past year has cycled between being very busy and being relatively quiet for TBS. As you read this newsletter issue you will have a chance to get caught up on things you missed and get ready for some great upcoming events.



Several good ways to stay in touch with what is going on in the world of Texas bamboo folks and beyond include the following.

- 1) Join the free Yahoo! group called **texasbamboo** - a good place to ask questions and learn by simply reading your email. There are 187 members on this list from around the country and they are ready to share their expertise and experience. I moderate that group, so just send an email to texasbamboo-subscribe@yahoo.com with a very short note (this is to keep out spammers) about your interest in bamboo.
- 2) Visit the TBS website <http://www.texasbamboosociety.org> . You can see what is planned, what has happened, and ask Kinder Chambers, our Bamboo Guru, questions and get expert advice.
- 3) Visit the ABS (American Bamboo Society) website <http://www.americanbamboo.org> which has species lists and good links to U.S.A. and worldwide bamboo happenings and information.
- 4) Visit the Bamboo Central website <http://www.bamboocentral.net> for a good look at bamboo activities.
- 5) Browse the Bamboo Arts and Craft Network <http://www.bamboocraft.net/> forums and photo galleries.

By way of introduction, here is a bit of my bamboo story. My wife and I live in suburbia in far southwest Austin, TX. I started planting bamboo in the spring of 2001 when two miles of woodland behind our house was turned into a neighborhood. Not that I don't like our neighbors, but we wanted our privacy back, and I chose bamboo to augment our native Texas plants. I started out with two so-so bamboo plants I bought in the Dallas area just to see what they would do. Now there are more than 20 bamboo varieties in the ground at our house, and it is hard to see out of our back yard! In total, I have more than 60 different varieties of bamboo in the ground and another 40-something varieties still in pots. These are growing at our house (in augmented fill over caliche), in Bastrop, Texas (very sandy loam and clay), and in Abita Springs, LA (heavy but rich soil). Sure, I have several favorite types, but the majority of what I grow are *Bambusa* and *Phyllostachys* varieties which do well in Central Texas. I hope it is not as dry where you live as it was in Austin this year. My water bill is a testament to how well bamboo will do if you keep them watered. Winter is here, and it is cool enough to do more hard work in the grove.

If you have been missing your TBS newsletter, I am sorry, but it just did not get published. This issue is huge and will get everyone up-to-date. We plan to get back on track with regular issues. Volunteers to help with the newsletter are needed and welcome. As in any volunteer organization there is always something to do if you would like to be more involved - and I encourage you to do so. You don't need to live near the officers, directors, or in any particular town to help. TBS has close to 100 members from around the state and around the country. It doesn't matter if you grow one plant or are in the bamboo business, we all just want to know more about how to grow and use bamboo.

Stay tuned, and stay in touch



Special Thanks!

Many of you contributed articles and photos for this issue, and your work is greatly appreciated. Rob Laurent helped edit photos, and I put it all together and acted as editor. - Steve

Schedule of Upcoming TBS Events

Bambusa oldhami at Zilker
Photo by Mark Meckes

December 2006 - No meeting

Enjoy the Holidays
Prune the rhizomes of your runners
Mulch your clumpers

Renew Your TBS/ABS memberships

2007 Austin Events

January 20 - Zilker Botanical Garden (<http://www.zilker garden.org/>)

10:00 a.m. - noon - Work in Bamboo Gardens & learn grove care
~ noon - Lunch (bring your own)
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Meeting

February 17 - Zilker Botanical Garden

10:00 a.m. - noon - Work in Bamboo Gardens & learn about grove care
~ noon - Lunch (bring your own)
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Meeting, bamboo program, bamboo door prize

March 17 - Zilker Botanical Garden

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Work in Bamboo Gardens & learn about grove care

March 31-April 1 - 50th Zilker Garden Festival 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

April 21 - Zilker Botanical Garden

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Work in Bamboo Gardens & learn about grove care

May 19 - Zilker Botanical Garden

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Work in Bamboo Gardens & learn about grove care

June 16 - Zilker Botanical Garden

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Work in Bamboo Gardens & learn about grove care

July 28 - Zilker Botanical Garden

10:00 a.m. - noon - Work in Bamboo Gardens & learn about grove care
~ noon - Lunch (bring your own)
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Meeting & Bamboo Festival preparations

August 24 - Bamboo Festival set-up at Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin, TX

August 25-26 - 15th Annual Texas Bamboo Festival

Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin, TX

October 20 - Zilker Botanical Garden

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Work in Bamboo Gardens & learn about grove care

November 17 - Zilker Botanical Garden

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Work in Bamboo Gardens & learn about grove care

Other Pending/Possible Events for 2007 - Stay Tuned!

TBA Grove cleaning and dig at Kinder and Mary Len Chambers' groves, Buckholts, TX

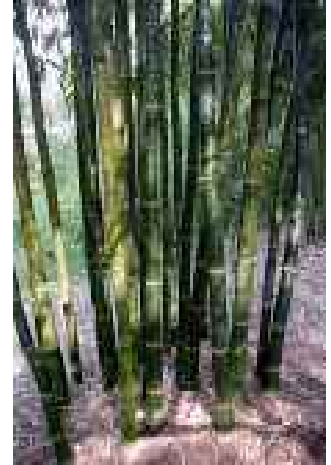
TBA Grove cleaning and dig at Porter, TX

October 27 & 28, 2007

2nd Annual Southeast Texas Bamboo Festival, Port Arthur, Texas

November 2-4, 2007

29th Annual ABS Conference



Mission of the Texas Bamboo Society

Provide information of the identification, propagation, use, culture and appreciation of bamboos.

Promote the utilization of a group of desirable species for distribution to public gardens and to the general public.

Provide plant material for research in the taxonomy, propagation, and culture of bamboo species.

Support bamboo research in the field.



Southeast Texas Bamboo Festival

Jim Bussey

The Texas Bamboo Society was invited to have a booth at the Lotus Festival in June 2006 by the Reverend Viet of the Buu Mon Buddhist Temple in Port Arthur. He had been acquiring and encouraging bamboo, had joined the Texas Bamboo Society, and donated plants for its events. Several newspaper articles mentioned the bamboo in connection with coverage of events at the temple and some of our members had visited and seen his collection. When he approached Kinder Chambers with the thought of having some kind of cooperative event, the idea was welcomed. The Lotus Festival has been an established happening for several years so Bob Clune, Carol Goetz, Judith and I were there to look, learn, and assess.

We found a beautiful collection starring *Bambusa beechyana*, *B. chungii*, *B. lako* (Timor Black), *B. oldhami*, *B. textilis*, *B. vulgaris* 'Vitatta', *B. vulgaris* 'Wamin,' *Dendrocalamus asper*, *D. minor amoenus*, and especially *Thyrsostachys siamensis* (Monastery Bamboo). This is by no means a complete listing, as the temple lists 28 different bamboo varieties growing on the grounds. The plants are vigorous and well cared for. Seeing them opened our eyes to the possibilities for bamboo uses in Southeast Texas. The temple grounds provide a wonderful window for the public.

Together, we recommended that the Society accept Rev. Viet's invitation and work together to have the First Annual Southeast Texas Bamboo Festival.

Invitations were sent to everybody we could think of to participate as vendors, speakers, helpers, or general

attendees. The temple placed newspaper ads in connection with its Kathina Ceremony, a yearly event, and on November 4 the show went on (http://www.panews.com/siteSearch/apstorysection/local_story_307183014.html).

Vendors were Grady Mangum of Happy Sprout Farms, the Richards' of Live Oak Nursery in Jefferson, New Iberia, Louisiana, Steve and Anne Muzos of Bamboo Bend and Carol and Mark Meckes, Bamboo Branch. Plants were virtually a sellout and the vendors well pleased. As always, the public was looking for black bamboo, non-invasive bamboo, and bamboo for privacy screening.

Speakers were Steve, Bob, Kinder, Mark, Judith, and I. Steve

welcomed the crowd to the event and spoke about basic bamboo growth, using dried root and rhizome

specimens to illustrate. Bob spoke about and showed pictures of varieties of bamboo, especially the beautiful

clumpers which appear to have such possibilities in Southeast Texas. Kinder addressed questions and concerns and he and Mary Len were available both days to guide. Mark discussed the qualities and diverse uses of bamboo and had a general question and answer session.

Judith presented a photographic collection of common (and not so common) bamboo which is successfully growing in this vicinity from tiny ground covers, *Pleiblastus pygmaeus*, and *fortunei*, and *Shibataea lancifolia*, to tall golden Robert Young and Tonkin Cane. My talk was to illustrate to the public some of the many uses of bamboo, its beauty, inspiration, and influence.



Bambusa vulgaris 'Wamin'
at Buu Mon Temple
Photo by Rev. Huyen Viet

Carol Goetz, Bev and Mike McGrath, and Nancy and Maurice Holcomb were available for registration and instruction.

We feel the First Southeast Texas Bamboo Festival was a successful beginning, and that the potential is great for this being a large annual event. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Bamboo Society to promote bamboo in Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana.

Thank you to Rev. Thich Huyen Viet and his staff and community for making the grounds available and providing so well for us. We appreciate Rev Viet's foresight in bringing the Festival into fruition. Begin now to make plans to attend next year!



Highlights from the ABS 2006 Hawaii Conference

Steve Muzos

In spite of the 6.7 magnitude earthquake, which rocked Kona, cut the electricity to all the islands, and shut down the Honolulu airport the Sunday before the conference began, several Texas Bamboo Society members attended the 28th Annual ABS Meeting and Conference in Hilo, Hawaii, October 19-22, 2006. Many Hawaii ABS members suffered damage to their homes, some field trips had to be cancelled or rescheduled, and much last minute chaos was added to those who planned the conference. However, the conference facilities had no damage and Hilo was quick to recover. Overall, the Big Island provided a beautiful and relaxing setting for field trips and sightseeing.

The conference hotel in Hilo faced the ocean and was the location for the meetings, displays, vendors, reception, and banquet. Everything was hosted by the Hawaii Chapter of the ABS in the true Aloha spirit. Conference speakers provided current and valuable information on reforestation, landscaping, commercial production, and plantation development with bamboo. Several speakers addressed using bamboo for sculptures, commercial buildings, houses, and as a general construction material. Talks on various bamboo preservation issues, joinery techniques and product marketing were also presented.

Field trips were available to private bamboo groves, nurseries, orchards, a bamboo village, and a house

made of bamboo. Attendees were able to see numerous tropical ornamental and fruit trees, unique birds, some huge bamboos, and wonderful scenery. There were numerous opportunities to meet new bamboo friends, visit with old ones, and pick the brains of numerous experts with a wide range of expertise.



Across the parking lot from the conference hotel was the Queen Liliuokalani Gardens, a 30-acre authentic Japanese garden with paths, ponds, banyan trees, and beautiful landscaping. Although there were not many bamboo plants there, one huge clump of *Bambusa vulgaris* 'Vittata.' See photo (by Anne Muzos)

with me standing in front of the clump. Watch for more details in your next issue of the ABS magazine *Bamboo*.



WANTED - Editor for TBS Newsletter

Great volunteer opportunity
Use your own favorite software
Work at home - relaxing by your bamboo
Position available NOW
Opportunity to do some writing
Publish about four issues per year
Looks great on your resume
You don't need to know a lot about bamboo

Contact: Steve Muzos - smuzos@gmail.com



ABS Happenings

Steve Muzos

The ABS Directors (BOD) held their annual meeting as part of the 27th Annual ABS Conference in Hilo, Hawaii on October 20 and 21, 2006. Kinder Chambers, the TBS representative on the ABS BOD attended. As the newly elected TBS representative, to begin serving after this meeting, I also attended. Following are some of the issues the Directors addressed.

A "Contracted Administrator" (Kathy Small) will now handle some of the ABS administrative chores, such as membership records and renewals, directing inquiries from the public, and other tasks yet to be determined.

ABS membership in INBAR (International Network for Bamboo and Rattan) was renewed. Their web site (<http://www.inbar.int/>) provides a wealth of information which is available to TBS members. If you are using that web site and find yourself needing a password to access specific information, contact me for the details.

ABS (and of course TBS) members will be able to pay membership and renewal fees using PayPal before the end of this year. It was approved, and is being set up.

The peer-reviewed ABS journal *Bamboo Science and Culture* has been edited by Stinger Guala. However, he is going to resign after the next issue is published. A new editor is being sought by the ABS Directors, so please let me know if you have any candidates to suggest, including yourself.

The web site BambooWeb has been supported by ABS, and will continue to be supported. Its use has increased greatly, and Bill Hollenback has done a phenomenal job with the site. If you haven't been there, enjoy it at <http://www.bambooweb.info/> .

ABS membership dues will not change for 2007. The membership category of "ABS Only" is being eliminated and all ABS members will become members of one of the 12 ABS chapters.

Daphne Lewis's new book, *Farming Bamboo*, should be available by the end of the year. ABS has contributed grant money to support publication of this book.

ABS will continue providing some funding for BOTA (Bamboos of the Americas). Visit BOTA at <http://www.bambooftheamericas.org/> .

ABS has scholarship money available for research on using bamboo for erosion control. If you are interested in applying, please contact me.



A Culm for a Bamboo Hunter

Carole Meckes

In November 2003, Kaylen and Lorie Savoie first appeared at a Texas Bamboo Society meeting at Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin, Texas. Kaylen and Lorie were newlyweds and Lorie decided to celebrate their first wedding anniversary by "knighting" Kaylen with a membership in the Texas Bamboo Society! Many of us have had the pleasure of meeting and working with Kaylen. Here are some interesting facts about *Kaylen, Bamboo Hunter...*

- Kaylen's bamboo interests started in India where he noticed how many uses it has.
- He concluded it is one of God's great gifts to man.
- Later while living in Texas, he didn't want to see his adjacent property and decided on bamboo.
- After seeing the price in nurseries he decided to find his own.
- Once he started looking for it something was activated within him.
- He couldn't stop scanning the landscapes, and always called out "bamboo" when he would see it and his family started calling him "Bamboo Hunter."
- His wife, Lorie surprised him with a membership in the bamboo society and he realized there were others who shared his passion.
- He has 65 different kinds of bamboo.
- Kaylen was born in San Diego, California in 1958.
- He spent the most part of 1975 - 1999 on the road.
- Kaylen is an artist, he paints watercolors, now he is painting and creating bamboo art.
- He is also a musician, and lived for ten years by playing a bamboo flute he made on the beach. The flute broke getting out of an 18-wheeler.



Kaylen at Avery Island
Photo by Mark Meckes

- He has seen more than 5,000 shooting stars.
- He loves his wife Lorie and she likes bamboo also (not as much as he) but she likes it. Lorie also likes horses.
- Kaylen has had a full life and is happy to now live in Pipe Creek, Texas surrounded by bamboo.
- Kaylen hopes to contribute much to the bamboo world. He has spent a lifetime following his intuition with no idea where it was leading but trusting it. It is still saying “Bamboo.....”



Bamboo 101 Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Margie Krebs-Jespersen

An all-day conference, Bamboo 101, was held Saturday, November 11, 2006, at the Albuquerque Biological Park’s Rio Grande Botanic Garden (the BioPark), Albuquerque, NM. The focus of the conference was growing hardy bamboos in northern New Mexico, Colorado, and the High Plains of Texas.

The event was well attended and included growers, landscapers, Master Gardeners, bamboo aficionados, scientists, backyard gardeners, students, and BioPark docents. With attendees, speakers, and volunteers, there were almost 40 people present. Sponsors included Albuquerque’s BioPark, the Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service (NMSU), Ponds, Plants, Patios....Place of Albuquerque, Colorado Gators of Alamosa, CO, and High Plains Bamboo & Koi of Lubbock, TX.

The main focus of the conference was providing information on bamboo species that have proven to do well in these areas and the basics of growing bamboo.

Topics included climate, the planting, care and culture of bamboo (including division, growth rates, control through barriers and selective irrigation), vegetative propagation, and the potential for culture as a source of food and fiber. In addition there was a tour of the Botanic Garden’s ornamental bamboo plantings and the BioPark’s experimental bamboo farm. At the end of the day there was a demonstration of how to dig bamboo. Speakers included three members of the Texas Bamboo Society. Kinder Chambers shared his extensive knowledge of bamboo and bamboo sources.

His presentation included lots of Q and A with discussion of how bamboo grows, its care and harvesting. Several culms and rhizomes were on display. Dr. Nick C. Parker, of High Plains Bamboo and Koi in Lubbock, TX, provided a background for understanding bamboo, its culture, and potential. He also presented information on tissue culture of bamboo, applications for use of bamboo to remove nutrients from waste water, and commercial production of bamboo for food and fiber. Margie Krebs-Jespersen shared her experiences with growing bamboo in NM (Albuquerque and in the higher-elevation mountains east of the city). She has been experimenting with several species of bamboo in a very dry environment with temperatures that range from the single digits in the winter to the high 90’s in the summer.



Photo by Margie Krebs-Jespersen

Other speakers included Erwin Young, founder of the Tilapia Farm and Colorado Gators in Alamosa, CO, who discussed the 60-plus species of bamboo he grows in southern Colorado; Stan Schug, Associate Curator of Horticulture at the Bio Park, discussed the 68 species he has been experimenting with at the Zoo and the Botanical Garden, and led a tour of the BioPark’s on-site collection. Joran Viers, Bernalillo County Horticultural Extension Agent, discussed growing conditions in New Mexico’s rugged climate. He provided information on soil chemistry, precipitation cycles, and general challenges with growing any crop in this area.

The conference was a great opportunity to share information on the potential of bamboo as a versatile crop and ornamental in the area. Future conferences may be held in the Denver area and in Lubbock.



Grove Grooming Project in Porter, TX

Steve Muzos

It was a cool and drizzly morning when at least 15 TBS members and friends gathered at a private grove in Porter, TX, last February 25th to clean up old and neglected stands of large and varied bamboo. Nobody can say that TBS folks aren't ready and willing to take on a new project even if it rains all day - just to get the chance to work in a grove of big plants. The volunteers came from all over the state, including Austin, Beorne, Bertram, Buckholts, Houston, Kingwood, Lubbock, Montgomery, and Newton. People helping included Jim Bussey, Kinder and Mary Len Chambers, Bob Clune, Rex Housour, Bill Kimbrough, Sam Laeke, Grady Mangum, Mark and Carole Meckes, Mike and Bev McGrath, Steve and Anne Muzos, and Kaylen Savoie. Many thanks to everyone for their hard work and good nature!

This grove had been planted by Dr. Yates, a bamboo collector, several decades ago, and eventually ownership passed from his family to the current owner who welcomed our help. He had been contacted several times by different TBS members about access to his property with offers to help him manage the area. We are grateful that he invited us. This grove was the source for many of the bamboo specimens that now grow in Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens in Humble, TX.

When we arrived, we found a large and terribly tangled mix of mostly *P. vivax* and *P. viridis* along the driveway. Most of the morning and past lunch time was spent clearing dead, downed, and leaning culms as well as debris on



Jim Bussey
Photo by Mark Meckes

the ground in that area. Chain saws, hand saws, pruners and clippers got a full workout. Several members dragged everything that was cleared out, and not able to be salvaged, and threw it on a large bamboo bonfire that burned all day - even in the rain. For a look at more good photos taken by Mark Meckes go to <http://www.bamboocraft.net/bamboo/showgallery.php?cat=698>.

A few folks made a run to the local hamburger place and brought back lunch for everyone, which we enjoyed on the covered patio of the property owners, who



Bill Kimbrough & Anne Muzos
Photo by Mark Meckes

also provided us with coffee and cookies. It was a good place to rest, relax, visit, and get dry. The planting notes and journal of Dr. Yates were available to read. He listed at least 32 different bamboo varieties that he had planted over the years. Unfortunately it was not clear what had been planted where, and by now many different types have spread into one another. We located at least 10 different bamboo varieties and did not conduct a thorough search.

After lunch, the grooming work was wrapped up and everyone explored the rest of the property. Many large poles were cut and taken home and a few plants were dug as well. In general everyone was too tired to do as much cutting and digging for themselves as they would have liked to do, but we did put out the fire! . TBS has an invitation to return and continue what we started, so look for another possible event there this coming winter. As Kaylen said, "It was wet and wonderful . . . we got a good start on a big job!"



Bamboo Mealybug - A Serious Pest in Texas

Steve Muzos

A new bamboo insect pest has been spreading in Texas for at least the last two years, possibly from Florida plants in which the pests were not noticed until they got to Texas and began to grow. It is a Bamboo Mealybug, *Palmicultor lumpurensis* (A.K.A. *Palmicultor bambusum* and *Trionymus lumpurensis*).

Texas infestations have been seen in several *Bambusa* species and varieties. A clear sign of infestation is the presence of a thick white waxy substance appearing around and under culm sheaths as well as on culms and at culm nodes. Culm shoots and branches may abort or bend over and break before they reach maturity.



Palmicultor lumpurensis on *Bambusa oldhami* shoot
Photo by Mark Meckes

Mark Meckes has many excellent photos posted at

<http://www.bamboocraft.net/bamboo/showgallery.php?cat=535> .

Much discussion has been centered on treatment of this pest, and no clear “best approach” has surfaced. Organic control with ladybugs has been said to show some good effects but not complete eradication. Spraying with horticultural oil has also been tried with mixed results.

Chemical control generally involves using a systemic insecticide (which travels in the vascular system inside the bamboo) as a spray, soil drench, or culm injection. The most popular chemicals suggested for treating bamboo are (in alphabetical order):

Dimethoate - Cygon and other available products.

Disulfoton - Di-Syston, Disyston, and other available products.

Imidacloprid - Discus, various Merit formulations, some Bayer formulations, and other available products.

Best results will be achieved if these are used when the insects are not dormant and when the bamboo is shooting. Following a regular recommended schedule of secondary treatments is generally necessary. Be sure to follow all label instructions and cautions!

Robert Saporito gave an excellent presentation on this pest at the 2005 ABS Annual Conference. His talk is available on a CD recording of the various talks given then. Contact Bob Clune, TBS Webmaster, if you would like a copy.

Everyone is strongly encouraged to inspect your plants and deal with these pests if you find them!

Here are more sources of information.

<http://www.americanbamboo.org/GeneralInfoPages/BambooMealybugs.html>

- **culm injection** of pesticide

<http://www.bioone.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&issn=0015-4040&volume=087&issue=03&page=396> - **An**

excellent short introductory online article on Bamboo Mealybugs by Greg Hodges and Amanda Hodges

<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/household/brands?tbl=chem&id=2153> - **about Disulfoton**

<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/household/brands?tbl=chem&id=3093&query=cygon&prodcat=all> - **about Dimethoate**

Williams, D.J. 2003. A mealybug (Hem., Pseudococcidae) increasing its range on bamboo. Entomologist's Monthly Magazine 139: 68. [Willia2003] - **a research article**



TBS Hosted the 27th American Bamboo Society Conference

Steve Muzos

From October 19-23, 2005, the Texas Bamboo Society hosted the 27th annual American Bamboo Society Conference in the Houston area. This event moves to different locations around the country each October. This was the best ABS conference since the last time the meeting was held in Texas. Remember, it ain't brag if it's true!

For five days, more than 80 bamboo folks from around the world gathered here, from world-renowned bamboo experts to large-and small-scale growers, to bamboo lovers who grow a few plants in their yard. Unfortunately, due to the terrible hurricanes last fall, members from East Texas to Georgia needed to stay home to take care of themselves and their families.

Meetings were held at the Sheraton North Houston hotel near the airport, and at Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens in Humble, TX. Mercer's director, Linda Gay, her staff, and the Mercer Society volunteers were wonderful hosts who made everyone welcome and comfortable. They took care of all the many details to ensure their facility was ready. The gardens were beautiful!

More TBS volunteers than I can remember were involved from the initial planning meetings to the final cleanup. Without them it would not have been possible for us to sponsor such an amazing event and have it go smoothly. A special thanks to Bob Clune and Carol Goetz for hosting a pre-conference reception at their home.



Tara Cotta soldier replicas
Photo by Selby Clark

A pre-conference tour included private bamboo and tropical gardens, and a visit to a scale model reconstruction of the Forbidden City of China as well as other exhibits of 3rd century BC China.

Program presentations were held at both the hotel and at Mercer. Kinder Chambers, who was president of TBS, acted as master of ceremonies and introduced the speakers:

A slide presentation of the *People of Bamboo* - James Clever

Landscaping With Bamboo - James Clever and Ian Connor

Transplanting Large Bamboo - Adam Turtle

Bamboo Architecture - Darrel DeBoer

Do Not Be Bamboozled by Bamboo: A Molecular Study of the USDA Temperate Bamboo Collection - Noelle Barkley

Identifying Bamboo: The Good the Bad and the Ugly - Mike Hotchkiss

Bamboo Furniture: Construction and Demonstration - Martín Coto

Building Bamboo Fences and Screens: Tools and Techniques - Carol Stangler

The New Bamboo Mealybugs - Robert Saporito

Bamboo Tree Houses - Jo Scheer.

Several vendors were present with bamboo plants, crafts, and information throughout the festival. Silent auction items such as bamboo books, paintings, crafts and other items were bid on until Saturday afternoon. The conference wound up with the annual ABS business meeting followed by the annual Rare Plant Auction at Mercer, with a large number of very attractive and hard-to-find plants.

Food at the conference included Texas barbecue, Chinese, breakfast tacos, continental breakfast, Oriental buffet, TexMex, catfish, many different side dishes, and of course, more Texas barbecue. It was capped by the annual banquet and dance with live music including Texas swing, country, and rock and roll provided by the Sons of Peaches band.

If you would like to order a CD with 350 pictures of the ABS Conference, contact Selby Clark, TBS Treasurer. An additional photo CD of Martín Coto's workshop is also available.

On Sunday, Martín Coto offered a well-attended post-conference all-day workshop titled *Bamboo Furniture Making and Working with Bamboo* at Mercer. He made a beautiful bamboo bench which he donated to Mercer. Additional photos can be accessed online from <http://www.bamboocraft.net/forums/showthread.php?t=2088>



Martín Coto making a bamboo bench
Photo by Selby Clark



Plan Now for the 2007 ABS Conference

Mark your calendar now for the next annual ABS meeting and conference in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, November 2-3, 2007. Events may well happen on the days before and after these dates. Details will appear later on the ABS web site. The conference location is home to the world famous Longwood Gardens.

http://www.longwoodgardens.org/GeneralInformation_1_2_2.html



Anyone up for a Samba?

The **VIII World Bamboo Congress** will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November 2007. It had been scheduled for May, but has been postponed. This meeting is sponsored by the World Bamboo Organization. <http://www.world-bamboo.org/>



Texas Bamboo Festival History

Carole Meckes

Herb Hillery, Texas Bamboo Society founder, introduced the concept of holding an Annual Texas Bamboo Festival. I remember when TBS was a new chapter of the American Bamboo Society, and at an early Zilker Botanical Garden meeting Herb proposed that we hold a bamboo festival. We all looked at each other and at him in disbelief - we were really a small group - could we pull this off? It is a little hazy if this was really 1993 or 1994. I can't seem to remember a festival before the 1994 festival when Tom Wood was the guest speaker, but there may have been one, so I've always referred to the 1994 festival as the 2nd Annual Texas Bamboo Festival. Tom Wood was a world bamboo traveler, and Herb invited him to be our "Star Attraction" at the festival. Herb set up some wall curtains (kind of like when you go to a home and garden show) and "curtained off" an area inside the auditorium, so that the speaker could be featured in this area. I thought this was very odd to do since the auditorium is a good-sized room, but he sectioned off about 1/12th of the room for the speaker. One problem was that someone needed to stay in the main part of the room and watch the stuff that was there while the speaker showed slides in the small cramped area. All I could remember was being really frustrated and bored during his talk because I ended up staying in the big room as the "security agent" and could not hear the talk. I made some noise entertaining myself by sawing bamboo during the presentation. There was a good supply of bamboo plants donated by members, not any individual vendors.

I wanted to represent "using bamboo" so I set up two bamboo tepees that were about 5 feet tall and I had a pole stretched across them and on the pole, I hung some bamboo hangers that I had made. The hangers were the first things I made from bamboo. I replaced the broken cardboard from dry cleaner's hangers with a piece of bamboo that was the same diameter of the cardboard. At the time, I thought it was brilliant! And since it was really the first and only thing I had made from bamboo at that time, I wanted to "show the world" and display them at the festival. I had smoothed the nodes by sanding them with sandpaper. I also had a table where I was sanding bamboo with sandpaper as a little demonstration. Outside, Kendall Kelsoe Sensei, Martial Arts Dojo demonstrated martial arts. Many people came and purchased the plants and the festival was a

great success. Tony Poncik also demonstrated working with bamboo outside in the front grassy area.

3rd Texas Bamboo Festival 1995 - featured speaker: Daphne Lewis, Bamboo on the Farm, Kendall Kelsoe Sensei, Martial Arts Dojo. In 1995 we invited Daphne Lewis to be our star attraction. Daphne had written the book *Bamboo on the Farm*, and we had a “full house” with a great turnout.

4th Texas Bamboo Festival 1996 - featured speaker: Doug and Martha Lingen, Bamboosmiths, Kendall Kelsoe Sensei, Martial Arts Dojo

5th Texas Bamboo Festival 1997 - featured speaker: Nancy Moore Bess, Japanese Bamboo Crafts, Kendall Kelsoe Sensei, Martial Arts Dojo (this was all held outdoors under a big tent, as the Garden Center building was under construction at the time.)

In October 1997 TBS hosted the ABS Annual Meeting at Zilker Botanical Garden.

6th Texas Bamboo Festival 1998 - featured speaker: Bob Gow, “Using Yucatan Bamboo”

7th Texas Bamboo Festival 1999 - featured speaker: Tony Poncik, “Bamboo Horticulture”

8th Texas Bamboo Festival 2000 - featured speaker: Adam Turtle, “Dispelling Myths and Exploring Possibilities (of Bamboo of course)”

9th Texas Bamboo Festival 2001 - featured speaker: Cal Hashimoto, bamboo artisan

10th Texas Bamboo Festival 2002 - “Let's Build a Star Cage Workshop” Akio Hizume; Gale Beth Goldberg, Author of *Bamboo Style*; “Bamboo Propagation and Care, How to get your Bamboo Off to a Good Start” Kinder Chambers; “Bamboo and Straw Bale” Slide Presentation by Frank Meyer, Thangmaker Construction; Bamboo as an Arts and Craft Material, “Living and Working with Bamboo,” Mark Meckes; “Bamboo Plant Evaluation Research Project” Steve Muzos; Bamboo Paper Making Demonstration, “Tear it Up” by Ann Heinrichs

11th Texas Bamboo Festival 2003 - Special Guests - Durnford Dart, Martin Espino

12th Texas Bamboo Festival 2004 - Special Guests - Gib Cooper, John Nelson, “New Texas Clumpers”

2005 Texas Bamboo Festival, Mercer Arboretum, Humble, Texas - Special Guest, Dr. Mike Hotchkiss - May 2005

2005 Austin Bamboo Festival, Zilker Botanical Garden - Kinder Chambers - “Introduction to Bamboo,” John Nelson - “Clumping Bamboo in the Landscape,” Margie Krebs-Jespersen - “Bamboo in New Mexico,” and bamboo plant auction to benefit the TBS Stewardship Program

October 2005, TBS hosted the ABS Annual Meeting at Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens.



Lauren's Trail construction (ADA-accessible), Taniguchi Oriental Garden, Zilker Botanical Garden Photo by Carole Meckes

14th Texas Bamboo Festival 2006, - Darrel DeBoer, “Bamboo Architecture Around the World”

The Texas Bamboo Festival was created to be the annual fund-raising event for the Texas Bamboo Society. We have always promoted the festival with these words: “a portion of the proceeds will be used to foster interest in bamboo, provide educational information, support bamboo arts and crafts and to introduce new varieties to the multi-state region represented by the Texas Bamboo Society.”

*One thing that we have never done is to have a **specific** purpose for raising funds at a festival. Let's think about having a “special cause” and use the cause in the*

promotional material for the next Annual Texas Bamboo Festival. That would give more meaning to raising funds. How would you like to see some of the TBS funds used?



Bamboo Festival Planning

Carole Meckes

Planning the Annual TBS Bamboo Festival is an ongoing process that evolves from one festival to another and continues for 362 days (three days of the year are for the actual festival, set up one day, and two days for the event). The other 362 days of the year are used to dream, plan, and think about ways to make the bamboo festival an educational, cultural, fun and successful event. Most important is to maintain flexibility, a supple characteristic of bamboo.

Having a festival theme and/or choosing the main speakers early gives direction and helps in promoting the event during the spring shows. To get listed in statewide publications - we have to start early. I hope that we can develop an advance publicity "team" to help write press releases and help assure that we do not miss the February 2007 deadline for TxDOT's (Texas Department of Transportation) quarterly statewide *Texas Events Calendar*. I usually end up missing this deadline because it has to be done in February - yes six months before the actual event and although the date for the event is set - we don't usually have much else planned yet. The deadline for the TxDot quarterly calendar is March 1 (for an August event.). The festival info can be emailed to: trv-tec@dot.state.tx.us. (Since I have documented this in writing - maybe I hope it will be easier to remember.) The *Texas Events Calendar* covers a lot of bases with advance publicity (printed calendar, media, web, TxDot Travel information centers, etc.) and the events calendar database automatically rolls over to the *Texas Highways* magazine for the "Fun Forecast" section. Info for the TxDot listing must include a telephone number (with area code) that the public can call for more information.

I also always send info to *Texas Gardener* magazine and *Neil Sperry's Gardens* magazine. This needs to be done by April to get into the July-August issues. You can see the importance of having a festival plan in place early! If any of you are aware of additional publications that reach prospective gardeners please share this info with the TBS Directors and Bamboo Festival Coordinator (me). Various postings on the web are also placed and have proved to bring inquiries and visitors to the festival.

As mentioned in the article about Bamboo Festival History, I would like to repeat that one thing that we have never done is to have a specific purpose for raising funds at a festival. Having a "specific cause" to use in the promotional material the Bamboo Festival would give more meaning to raising funds and would be helpful if we were to secure outside sponsors. Think about this and contact any of the TBS Directors to discuss your ideas.



Time to Renew Your Membership

Remember that annual ABS and TBS memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. Unless you are a life member or still have time left on a three-year membership, now is a good time to go ahead and renew for 2007.

This year there are two options for renewing your ABS and TBS memberships.

1) An online form can be printed and mailed in with a check made out to ABS. Go to <http://www.texasbamboosociety.org/pdf/TBSmembershifform.pdf>. You can still give it to a TBS officer or director if that is more convenient.

2) If you want to renew online and pay by PayPal, you will be able to do so at some point (but not as of the publication date of this newsletter) from the ABS web site. For details, keep looking on the ABS web site at <http://www.americanbamboo.org/>.

The Texas Bamboo Society has a great group of members, and I hope you will renew your membership for the coming year!

