

**Minutes of the American Bamboo Society
Board of Directors Meeting
29 Oct – 1 Nov 2025**

The Meeting was called to order by President Luc Boeraeve on 29 Oct 2025 at 0910h at the Embassy Suites, Greenville, SC

Directors and Officers Present:

Luc Boeraeve	President, International Director
Ian Connor	Vice President, PNWC Director
David King	Secretary, At-Large #3 Director
Carole Meckes	Co-Treasurer, TBSC Director
Judge Edwards	LGCC Director
Landy Banks	SCC Director
Lawton Rogers	SEC Director
James Clever	At-Large #1 Director
Autumn Ramsay	At-Large #5 Director

Directors Absent:

Shanti Pierce	FCC Director
Dan Fox	MSC Director
John Kohler	At-Large #2 Director
Mark Sanders	At-Large #4 Director

Others Present:

Nancy Oberschmidt	Ned Jaquith Foundation
Dain Sansome	At-Large #1 Director-Elect
Danila Sheveiko	Rivercane Initiative Liaison
JuanPablo Martinez	Guest (Guatemala)
Laura Hiatt	Guest

Quorum: A quorum (>7) of ABS Directors was determined to be present. Count = 9.

Approval of the 2024 Board meeting minutes: Unanimously approved.

Agenda: Additions: Chapter Activities, Sheveiko re: RRA Status, Magazine Report

Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the Consent Agenda:
Sheveiko Rivercane report; ABS Journal Report (Stapleton).

The Consent Agenda was approved unanimously on a **motion** by King, second by Edwards.
Chapter and International Reports (information only, as available) are **attached**.

President's Comments: (Luc Boeraeve) – **full report attached**.

Treasurer's Report: (Carole Meckes) –

The YTD income/expense report through 4 October 2025 and the proposed budget for 2026 were presented.

YTD Income \$36,642.22; Expenses \$27,696.21.

Cash balances in checking and PayPal total \$28,016.13. With \$107,813.92 in the Charles Schwab brokerage account, less liabilities of \$1,785.00, makes the ABS net worth \$134,045.05.

\$5000 for grants had been allocated for 2025 and was forwarded to the Ned Jaquith Foundation at the start of the year..

The annual audit of ABS accounts by the Secretary was accomplished by comparing recent bank and brokerage statements to the amounts in the Treasurer's reports. No discrepancies were found.

The final 2026 budget and discussion appear under New Business below, following the internal funding requests.

A **motion** (Edwards, second by Rogers) to approve the Treasurer's Report **carried** unanimously.

Management of Funds in Brokerage Account: (David King) The invested funds are diversified with about 25% in 1 government money market fund and the remainder in 7 exchange-traded products and a minimal amount of cash. YTD, the brokerage income is \$2,104.88. King rebalances the investments from time to time to maintain diversification and a moderate risk allocation. Volunteers to help manage the account would be welcome.

Membership Report – (Carole Meckes):

There are currently **393** voting ABS members, and Carole presented the breakdown among chapters. Thus the quorum for the Annual General Meeting will be **40** or more ABS members. Retention of previous members through outreach nationally is automated through the aMember system, but Chapter Directors and/or members need to provide the human interaction and followup.

Secretary’s Report (David King)

Refer to the **President’s Report** for a good summary of the Board activity in 2025.

At-Large #1 and At-Large #5 Directors for 2025-2028 term: Election results to be announced at the upcoming Annual General Membership Meeting.

Currently Recognized US Chapters (8 total):

Qualifying for a Director – FCC, LGCC, MSC, PNWC, SCC, SEC, TBSC

Not Qualifying for a Director (based on membership count) – HC

Chapter Dissolved in 2019: NEC

Chapter Dissolved in 2022: NCC

Directors Selected by their Chapters for 2025-2028 term:

FCC: No information provided as of the date of this meeting.

SCC: Incumbent Landy Banks.

SEC: Incumbent Lawton Rogers.

Ned Jaquith Foundation (NJF) Grants: (Nancy Oberschmidt) Grant application deadline was 30 September and 7 grants have been awarded for 2026, totaling \$26,100. For details, visit nedjaquithfoundation.org/who-we-have-helped.

Arts & Crafts Report: A current Arts & Crafts competition is not actively being pursued. Autumn Ramsay volunteered to step in as chair.

NEW BUSINESS —

Annual Review of Electoral Number (David King): The number of primary ABS members which a chapter must have to be represented by an ABS Director is currently 20. Twenty ABS members are needed to form a chapter. Chapters which are not large enough to have their own Director are represented by the five At-Large members or may share a Director with one or more other Chapters.

A **motion** (King, second: Edwards) to keep the electoral number at 20, carried.

ABS 2026 Annual Meeting Update: *ABS Meeting Planning Committee*

Location: Hockley, Texas; a bamboo nursery is close to the facility chosen.

Date: October 2026

Host: ABS to finance and keep the records of the event.

Meeting hotel: Locations are being researched.

Program: TBA

ABS 2027 Annual Meeting: *ABS Meeting Planning Committee*

Various options discussed including Hawaii, Guatemala and Pacific Northwest.

ABS Involvement in Future Annual Meeting Planning:

A **motion** by Ian Connor, seconded by James Clever, carried unanimously: “The ABS commits to financially back, and offer a committee to assist, any group or Chapter to host future ABS conferences/workshops with regular accounting and reports to the ABS Board.”

The Planning Committee members are: Carole Meckes (Chair for 2026), Dain Sansome, Autumn Ramsay, JuanPablo Martinez, Laura Hiatt, with James Clever and Luc Boeraeve as consultants.

ABS Director Job Description: *Luc Boeraeve*

The previously discussed Job Description drafted by Boeraeve was **approved** unanimously on a **motion** (Ramsay, second: Meckes).

A Director attendance requirement addendum was offered to improve the efficient functioning of the Board, as follows: “ABS At-Large Directors who, without notice, fail to attend three successive Board meetings will be asked by the President how they are doing. If no response is received to two such outreaches, replacement of that Director will be considered by the ABS Board. In the case of a Chapter Director, that Chapter would consider replacing its Director.” A **motion** (Connor, second: Clever) to accept this policy **carried**.

The Job Description and its amendment are effective immediately.

Advertising:

Chair position vacant. Recruitment is planned through BAMBOO Magazine and membership emailing.

Carole Meckes maintains a spreadsheet of advertisers.

A working group (Autumn Ramsay, Judge Edwards) will provide recommendations for advertising and marketing for a future Board decision. Input from Mark Sanders, editor of BAMBOO Magazine, will be sought before a final plan is approved since the Magazine is one of the media involved.

Website: *Carole Meckes*

Bamboo.org is continuously being improved and regular backups are saved.

Fate of Larger Donations to ABS: *Ian Connor*

Prompted by a recent \$1000 donation, a **motion** (King, second: Connor) to add this to the amount the ABS transfers to the Ned Jaquith Foundation for grants **carried**. A defined policy for future such donations was considered but no motion was offered.

Increased Funding for Grants: *David King*

A **motion** (King, second: Ramsay) to increase the budgeted ABS annual fund transfer to the NJF to \$7500 (from the current \$5000) **carried** without dissent.

World Bamboo Organization Website Integration: *Luc Boeraeve*

To fully utilize the ABS area of the WBO website, a brief promotional video is planned. The advertising workgroup will explore options and consider contacting Daphne Lewis, who has made many online videos in the past. In addition, Danila Sheveiko (guest) volunteered to assist in its production.

Importation of New Temperate Bamboos from Europe: *Ian Connor*

A proposal to import plants new to the US from France, Belgium and other European states for auction by the ABS was accepted by consensus in concept. Luc Boeraeve volunteered to investigate possibilities from Belgium and neighboring countries.

BAMBOO Magazine: *Mark Sanders by email*

Mark recommended an update of the bambooweb.info to include more current images of the bamboos listed.

He also recommended establishing a system to distribute BAMBOO Magazine outside the ABS membership, both for increased publicity for the Society as well as a means to generate some income from magazine sales.

APPROVAL of the 2026 ABS BUDGET (*All Directors and Officers*): After a **motion** (Edwards, second: Banks) and extensive discussion, the 2026 budget was **approved** unanimously and is **attached** to these minutes.

Announcement of International Events: *Luc Boeraeve*

The location of the next World Bamboo Congress is still to be determined, since the Brazil location could not be organized.

2026 – A European Bamboo Expo is planned for late May.

Future ABS Annual Meeting Planning:

2026 – Hockley, TX (near Houston) – hosted by the ABS.

2027 – (Pending location. Options discussed: Guatemala, Hawaii, Pacific Northwest)

2028 – (Need location.)

Future ABS Board Meetings: Will be continued online as needed throughout the year.

Approval of the 1 November 2025 ABS General Meeting Agenda was by consensus.

Item continued until the Board reconvenes:
The election of officers of the ABS.

Recess: At 1600h, a **motion** (Boeraeve, second: King) to **recess** the meeting of the Board until 1 November 2025 at a time after the Annual General Meeting gained unanimous approval.

Board Meeting Reconvened
at Missouri Botanical Garden
1 November 2025
1500h

Election of Officers of the ABS: A quorum was deemed to be present. The following slate of officers was nominated and unanimously elected by the Board to serve until the conclusion of the ABS Annual Meeting in 2025:

President	Ian Connor (PNWC)
Co-Vice Presidents	Dain Sansome & Autumn Ramsay
Secretary	David King (NCC)
Co-Treasurers	Bill Hollenback (PNWC) & Carole Meckes (TBSC)

Recognition of Newly Elected/Re-elected Directors:

Dain Sansome - At-Large #1 Director for 2025-2028
Autumn Ramsay - At-Large #5 Director for 2025-2028
Landy Banks - Southern CA Chapter for 2025-2028
Lawton Rogers - Southeast Chapter for 2025-2028

Other Business:

None.

Adjournment: A **motion** to adjourn the 2025 meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Bamboo Society **carried** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



David King
Secretary, American Bamboo Society
secretary@bamboo.org

ABS President's report for the year 2024 - 2025

The online regular board meetings of the American Bamboo Society combined with the once a year in-person board meeting prior to the AGM and annual Conference keeps the society in good shape. 6 Zoom board meetings were held since last year's AGM (01/19, 03/09, 04/27, 06/08, 07/27 and 09/07). In addition there were side meetings on cooperatives and by the committee organizing the annual conference without chapter involvement.

The 2025 Greenville ABS Conference is the first one organized by the ABS Board and could set the foot print for future ABS Conferences, at least in case there is no chapter taking on the annual conference. This year the conference committee was reinforced by several members of the South East Chapter (SEC) whose knowledge and connections were very valuable.

The regular Zoom meetings are essential to maintain close links between the chapters and the board and to ensure that any issue popping up can be dealt with in a timely matter. It is also helpful for the organization of the annual conference as the organizing chapter can draw on the experience and support from other chapters and from board members.

Several chapters have become inactive (Hawaii and the Midwest chapter), other chapters have difficulties finding enough volunteers to keep the chapter in good shape. More attention and support from the board to struggling chapters should be considered and this might be combined with the organization of a hybrid chapter/ABS board annual conference. The future of the ABS depends very much on strong and active chapters.

The administrative management of the society went smoothly in 2025. The website continued with a few changes although it is the intention to include more 'bamboo' information from the previous websites. An archive, accessible through the website bamboo.org, makes the ABS Journals from 1980 to 1991 available to the general public. It is planned to make all, old and new, bamboo magazines available on the website although issues from recent years would only be accessible for ABS members.

Bamboo, the ABS magazine, continues to be in full color and this is much appreciated by the members. The latest magazine issue can also be viewed through Issue, which makes it more agreeable to read online.

The previous edition of the Bamboo Species Source List N° 36 (2017- 2018) is still being updated and, although much delayed, is now expected to be ready in the coming months and if all goes as planned.

The interest in American native bamboo species (*Arundinaria* sp.), and its historical use, is growing with links, through a liaison officer, to the RRA and other interested persons and groups.

Unfortunately the arts and crafts team, lacking time, did not succeed in launching the annual arts & craft competition in 2025. A review of the process and scope of the competition should be carried out and new volunteers recruited. This competition is an ideal way to get more interest in bamboo and our organization.

Luc Boeraeve
Krombeekseweg 44
8970 Poperinge
Belgium

As in previous years, the Ned Jaquith Foundation is launching and managing the annual research grant scheme co-financed by the ABS. The winners of the current year will be announced in November 2025.

The World Bamboo Organization is now supported by the ABS through an annual grant of 1,000 USD.

After increasing during the previous years, the ABS membership remained stable at just below 400 (392 – 398 range). There is usually a small uptick in members at the time of the annual Conference.

The above is a short summary of what happened and was done this year but much more work has been and is being done by many, both members of the board as well as volunteers, such as overlooking the printing and distribution of the Bamboo magazine, editing the ABS Journal, Website content and maintenance, updating the Species Source List, Grants (with NJF), Help line, advertising, social media communication etc. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everybody contributing to keeping bamboo strong and working with and supporting the 47 years old American Bamboo Society.

Respectfully submitted. October 2025

Luc Boeraeve

ABS Financial Report thru 2024-12-31								
Expenses:	2024 Budget	2024 Actual Expenses	2025 Budget	2025 Actual Expenses	2026 budget	Net worth YTD as of 2025-10-04		
Administrative Expenses	\$800.00	\$787.70	\$1,000.00	\$793.50	\$1,000.00	Assets		
Advance to Host Chapter	\$1,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	Capital One	\$0.00	
Annual Meeting Conference Expenses		\$421.76	\$18,000.00	\$17,263.74	\$18,000.00	Chase Checking	\$26,296.12	
Advertising (sponsorship to WBO)		\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	PayPal	\$1,720.01	
Arts & Crafts Awards & Advertising	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	Brokerage Need year end total	\$107,813.92	
Auction Expenses (square fees)	\$500.00	\$6.91	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	Total Assets:	\$135,830.05	
Credit card/bank/Paypal expenses	\$700.00	\$861.83	\$800.00	\$636.32	\$800.00			
Dues paid to chapters				\$3,930.00	\$6,000.00			
Grants (Transfer to NJF)	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$7,500.00			
Insurance (Director/Officer)	\$1,500.00	\$1,498.00	\$1,500.00	\$765.00	\$800.00	Liabilities		
	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	Chapter Dues Owed (78*15)	\$1,170.00	
Magazine Expenses (4 issues) printing	\$7,000.00	\$3,493.92	\$5,000.00	\$4,981.39	\$6,000.00	check outstanding	\$615.00	
Magazine Expenses (4 issues 2024) postage		\$3,047.20	\$3,000.00	\$2,365.76	\$3,200.00	Capital One credit card	\$2,063.09	
Miscellaneous (reimburse to PNWC)				\$580.05	\$200.00	Total Liabilities:	\$1,785.00	
Social Media	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00			
Source List Expenses	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	Current Net Worth:		
Taxes/fees	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$0.00			
Travel expense reimbursement	\$2,500.00	\$1,200.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00			
Website	\$1,000.00	\$1,205.46	\$1,000.00	\$131.54	\$1,000.00			
Total Expenses:	\$24,520.00	\$18,522.78	\$42,020.00	\$37,467.30	\$52,200.00			
Income:	2024 Budget	2024 Income	2025 Budget					
All Memberships including chapter dues	\$15,000.00	\$14,530.00	16,000.00	11,170.00	\$16,000.00			
Commercial Memberships	\$6,000.00	\$4,305.00	5,000.00	4,690.00	\$5,000.00			
Advertising in Bamboo Magazine		\$450.00		300.00	\$300.00			
Annual Meeting Conference Income		\$0.00	18,000.00	19,501.17	\$18,000.00			
Auction income	\$5,000.00	\$1,088.68	5,000.00	0.00	\$4,000.00			
Brokerage Income (Div, Int)	\$2,000.00	\$4,680.14	3,000.00	2,104.88	\$2,500.00			
Chapter Advance to Host <u>AGM</u>	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Interest: Bank, CD		\$0.00		0.00	\$0.00			
Brokerage W/D	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,800.00			
Sales: Magazine	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Sales: Species Source Lists	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Donations	\$650.00	\$160.21	\$250.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00			
Royalties (Publications)		\$58.31	\$50.00		\$0.00			
Misc. Income Credit Card Rewards		\$58.10		100.96	\$100.00			
Total Income:	\$29,650.00	\$26,330.44	\$47,300.00	\$38,867.01	\$52,200.00			
Income minus Expenses:	\$5,130.00	\$7,807.66	\$5,280.00	\$1,399.71	\$0.00			

ABS CANE REPORT

Oct. 28th, 2025

Rivercane Restoration Alliance

Hosted by University of Alabama, the RRA is designed primarily to convene large land managers, industry, government, private sector, and academics. The RRA is an exclusive group. Earlier this year, the RRA completed sequencing the *Arundinaria gigantea* genome, so the next step is building a tissue database of local *Arundinaria* ecotypes from across the country. Dr. Michael McKain is attending the ABS conference and will speak about RRA activities in more detail.

Rivercane Initiative & Rivercane Gathering

These Oklahoma-based initiatives are indigenous-led. Late last year they received a \$3.8 million grant for *Arundinaria gigantea* research and restoration from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Under the leadership of Roger Cain, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, they are mapping remnant cane stands, maintaining existing canebrakes, and scaling up restoration activities.

Cane Working Group

In contrast to the other organizations, the CWG is an inclusive *ad hoc* group open to all, including enthusiasts and entrepreneurs. Based in Maryland, the scope of CWG covers all *Arundinaria spp.* native to North America.

West Virginia: This year we are completing cane survey of the state under the auspices of our data sharing agreement with WV DNR. Working with Dr. Donna Ford-Werntz, WVU Service Professor, Director of WVU Herbarium, and co-author of the WV Atlas of Flora; Christopher Gatens, author of book *Wildflowers and Trees of West Virginia*; and Doug Wood, a Cherokee descendant researching *A. gigantea* in the state for over 30 years.

Virginia: Combing through archives to find historical records of *A. gigantea* flowering in the state to help Julian Campbell of Kentucky with his nationwide flowering study. Completing study of historical extent and prevalence of *A. gigantea* and *A. tecta* in the state. Working with landowners in Scott County to maintain, preserve, and study the largest *A. gigantea* canebrake in the state.

Maryland: Collaborating with local native plant experts to map switch cane (*A. tecta*) prevalence in the state. Communicating with Department of Agriculture and other stakeholders in the state to explore restoration and commercial opportunities.

North Carolina: Meeting with Adam Griffith from Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to discuss research and support of indigenous-led *Arundinaria* restoration efforts in the Mid-Atlantic.

Journal of the American Bamboo Society

Report October 2025

Background

The Bamboo Society's Journal was established in 1980, to complement the less formal articles published in the magazine, and the Species Source List, together to satisfy the remit of the ABS to store and disseminate information on bamboos.

Publication frequency has depended on rate of submission of papers, volumes sometimes being annual, at other times being produced only when sufficient material warranted the printing of another volume. After 45 years, Volume #34 is currently in production.

After Volume 28 in 2015 the number of submissions reduced substantially. Reasons for this can only be speculated, but other journals were progressively publishing more articles concerning bamboo, as the bamboos received progressively greater recognition and acceptance. Moreover, changes in performance evaluation in academic institutions required staff to publish in more prestigious journals with higher impact factors whenever possible.

The need for publication of the Journal at all was called into question. Fewer articles meant longer publication delays, and waiting for enough material to publish a complete journal volume. More importantly the layout, printing and distribution costs were becoming a burden for the ABS (Budget \$4000), with dwindling society subscriptions. However, the Journal was recognised as an important component of the ABS, satisfying part of the stated objectives and purposes in its bylaws.

To address this a new, cheaper format of publication was adopted, with online access and no hard copy production at all. Much faster and publication of individual articles also became possible. A non-subscription model for readership also fitted better with growing demand for open access publication.

Initially it was hoped that a modest Article Processing Charge (APC) for authors could even change the Journal from a financial liability to a financial asset, but that has not materialised, as competing journals have slashed or eliminated their own charges. On the bright side, there have been no costs at all since 2016 for either production or distribution, and no time has been spent physically mailing paper to members and subscribers.

In addition to competition from other journals in fields of agriculture, development or more specialist scientific fields, direct competition from new bamboo-specific journals has also developed and grown.

The Journal of Bamboo and Rattan was established and published by INBAR in 2001, then taken over by Kerala Forestry Research Institute in 2006, after which only a low number of papers were published until 2022, when it expanded, now being free of costs for authors.

Advances in Bamboo Science was established by Elsevier in 2022, and was also free of costs for authors until 2025, but now has an opaque but apparently low charging structure. This is the principal competitor with the old style ABS Journal.

The International Journal of Bamboo and Rattan was established in 2023 by the Sahelian Institute for Bamboo Research and Entrepreneurship Development (SIBRED), Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria, targeting research relevant to African tropical areas, and several journals in China cater to researchers there.

Current status

The journal now publishes papers as required, which may be somewhat sporadic, but the standard of papers is kept high, in order to maintain the reputation of both journal and society. Several papers report findings from investigations undertaken with financial assistance from the Ned Jaquith Foundation, but they are only accepted if they are of sufficient quality and are appropriate in style, and accepted by a peer review process.

Expectations of those submitting articles for publication are high, in terms of speed, layout quality, review comments, as well as access, cost and impact, making it a competitive market at the current time. The ABS Journal has the benefit of the words 'Journal' and 'American' in the title, and a reputation of producing papers of high or at least reasonable standard. It has always been difficult to find and coax reviewers for any journal, but with increasing work pressures, and introductions of complex systems of rewards or recognitions for reviews undertaken this is not getting any easier.

Quality of papers submitted to journals varies substantially, with some needing very little input and obviously deserving publication, through grey areas, to some that are evidently not of sufficient quality. The rising use of AI to assist in production of text and even generate fake articles for publication, and a growing prevalence and even societal acceptability of misinformation, deception, fraud and even murder in the US requires us all to adopt some new attitudes, approaches and skills not previously required. Many journals now regularly have to completely retract previously published papers. Recognition of plagiarised and AI-generated text and images gets harder all the time, but should be part of everyone's skill set, not just journal editors.

On the positive side, more research is currently being undertaken on bamboos in a broader range of disciplines, electronic handling and publication of papers has become much easier and cheaper, and other procedures such as registration of new taxonomic names have become simplified.

Future direction

The Journal continues to play an important role in the fulfilment of the remit of the Society, complementing other channels such as meetings, the Magazine, the SSL, and also online groups such as those on Facebook. Its area of contribution and the manner in which it is effected has changed substantially since 1980 and will no doubt continue to evolve over time, but having an academic publication (and its ISSN) are undoubtedly important assets for the Society that should be maintained.

The existence of several other journals for bamboo articles can help by allowing specialisation in the Society's journal into areas more relevant to the membership, to bamboos of the Americas, or to bamboo horticulture in general. The flexibility of the new online format allows changes in publication style and rate to accommodate changes in activity in different spheres, including future activities/abilities of Society officers themselves, but it is hoped that the professional standard of the Journal and the research that it covers can be maintained.



October 27, 2025

WBO Report to the American Bamboo Society, 2025 Annual Conference

Dear ABS Board of Directors,

First, we would like to thank you for your continued status of *Supporting Partner* to the WBO. Our collaboration and mission overlap are very important as both organizations strive to advocate and educate on all things bamboo. We appreciate your support!

2025 has been a very busy year for WBO, albeit quiet on the public front. Behind the scenes we have developed “Working Groups” to better focus our efforts, with our key priority being the establishment of what will be known as The Global Bamboo Hub, led by renown scientist Johan Gielis of Belgium. We aim to collect and curate the most relevant and vetted research on various topics, and with the help of a very competent team, create a new website to serve as an open-access global repository. We received a grant from the Asian Development Bank to compensate the team members; this is the first time WBO has received significant funds to pay for our efforts! Stay tuned!

Unfortunately, the plans for the 13th WBC in 2026 to be hosted by Brazil were scrapped. Our colleagues there tried but could not secure funds from either federal, state or municipal governments. Despite a lot of “talk”, the bamboo “networks” in Brazil are fragmented and not well organized. For late 2026 or early 2027, we have two possible hosts who have expressed interest to host a WBC, and we hope to have news soon. One is Colombia and the other is the Netherlands.

We continue to build a strong following on social media. We have over 21K followers on Facebook, 6K on LinkedIn, over 3,500 on Instagram. I think ABS could really benefit from more public exposure, especially on LinkedIn, where there is a great bamboo-related posts. ABS has a “group page” on LI; please find a volunteer to take it on. The ABS magazine should be promoted – it is truly worth the membership fee.

Respectfully submitted,
Susanne Lucas

World Bamboo Organization
9 Bloody Pond Road, Plymouth, MA 02360 USA
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American Bamboo Society
International Director's report 2024-25
From: Luc Boeraeve
To be presented at the ABS Board Meeting
Greenville, SC, 29 October 2025

- ✓ 2024- 2025 was the first year of my 5th 3 year term as International Representative and Director of the ABS.
- ✓ Maintained close contact with the German, Dutch, French and Iberian bamboo societies and with, being the secretary and activity organizer, the Belgian Bamboo Society and its members.
- ✓ Travelled to Japan in April and, in addition to general sightseeing and visiting Japanese gardens, visited the Takayama Bamboo Garden and Museum, the Beppu Craft museum and the central area of Kyushu (Takeda county) to check on the current state of bamboo crafts.
- ✓ Attended the 2025 first half-yearly bamboo garden and nursery visit organised by the French bamboo society AEB France, in and around Paris. The 2 day event took place during the weekend of 21 -22 June 2025.
- ✓ Attended the annual general meeting of EBS-D, the German bamboo society, during the Sommerfest (Summer festival) in Ginsheim from 27 to 29 June 2025. Visits were organised to the Mainz University Botanical Garden, Hermannshof, the exotic tree forest of Weinheim and the Willumeit bamboo nursery in Darmstadt.
- ✓ Attended the annual general meeting of the EBS-The Netherlands in Valkenswaard at the Kimmei nursery of Jos van der Palen.
- ✓ Attended the third European Bamboo Expo, held in Dortmund, Germany from 23 to 25 May 2025. Commercial companies and NGO's presented their products and projects in this exposition and there were presentation on different bamboo subjects during 2 days.
- ✓ Participated in the UK Bamboo Summit in Stone-on-Trent and organised by Brilliant Bamboo. Talked with Helen Chen, the new president of EBS Great Britain. She is interested in information exchange with the ABS although I think that her focus will now be on reviving EBS GB.
- ✓ The number of ABS International members increased slightly with new members from Guatemala and France. There are currently many International and regional events taking place and there is so much information on bamboo available online which makes it harder to attract new international members.
- ✓ To attract more international participants to the ABS Conference, the website should indicate the possibility to request an invitation letter in order to facilitate obtaining a visa for the USA.

Southeast Chapter of the American Bamboo Society Highlights from Fall 2024- Fall 2025

Fall 2024

Sept: The radio program, Louisiana Eats, featured an interview with Mark Sanders (Louisiana Chapter) & Kay Koppedrayer (SE Chapter) on eating bamboo shoots: <https://www.wwno.org/show/louisiana-eats/2024-08-31/louisiana-eats>

Oct: Kay Koppedrayer was awarded a Ned Jaquith grant for research at the David Fairchild Archives in Miami, FL.

Oct.: Daphne Lewis, Lawton Rogers, and other members represented the SE Chapter at the 2024 Annual ABS Conference in St. Louis.

Nov. 2: Annual Work Session & Grove Maintenance at the Moso Grove in the Silverbrook Cemetery, Anderson SC.

Dec. 1: Southeast Chapter Meeting via Zoom.

Dec. 13-14, 20-21: Christmas in the Moso Grove event at the Holmes Bamboo Farm in Unadilla, GA.

2025

Jan.: Chapter members contacted by Dr. Peer Doering-Arjes, Berlin, about the status of *Pseudosasa amabilis* (Tonkin) growing outside of China. Lengthy correspondence ensued.

Feb. 21: Semi-annual work session by Chapter members at the Historic Bamboo Farm at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens.

Feb: Lawton Rogers put up signage at the Moso Grove in the Silverbrook Cemetery, Anderson SC, telling people to keep out. The wording advised people that their over-harvesting of bamboo shoots was causing great damage to the grove.

March 1: Email notice from Jamie LeLiever at National Bamboo, NC, about the facility's expansion of its bamboo biochar operations in 2025 at our Shelby, NC Bamboo Mill, looking to source bamboo & to partner with SE Chapter members for referrals of bamboo supply.

March 3: 2025 SE Chapter Annual General Meeting via Zoom.

March 8: Grove cleaning at Robert and Sue Sutton's Henon Grove in Sunset SC, coordinated by Michelle Tkach. The work was in preparation for the showcasing of the grove at the 2025 Annual ABS Conference.

July 19: Kay Koppedrayer gave a talk at the Annual Ned Jaquith Bash, North Plains, OR, on the USDA's vision of developing a bamboo industry in North America.

Aug. 29: At the 2025 USA Flight Archery Championships, Kay Koppedrayer set a new distance record in the 15 kilogram class of the Yumi (Japanese bow) division using a bow made with Georgia bamboo.

Sept. 11: Daphne Lewis & Kay Koppedrayer will be meeting with Elise Zador, the new director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm in Savannah.

Sept. 20-21: Grove cleaning at Robert and Sue Sutton's Henon Grove in Sunset SC, coordinated by Michelle Tkach. The work is in preparation for the showcasing of the grove at the 2025 Annual ABS Conference

On-going:

Michelle & John Tkach have been working steadily with the other organizers of the 2025 ABC Conference in planning and organizing the gathering in Greenville, SC.

Research into the disease(s) affecting various species of bamboo in the southeast, spearheaded by Daphne Lewis in consultation with Dr. Bishwo Adhikari, lead Plant Pathologist & Program Manager of the Poaceae Quarantine Program of the USDA.

Kay Koppedrayer continues to represent the ABS through the SE Chapter at the Board meetings of the non-profit group, Friends of the Coastal Gardens, supporting the work preserving the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm in Savannah.

Lawton Rogers continues to work with neuro-divergent, neuro-developmentally impaired people on bamboo building, cutting bamboo, tying knots and helping carry bamboo.

From an old friend, living outside of Greenville

Morris Bryan here Kay. I live in Greer, SC just outside of Greenville, SC. I've been involved with hydroponic growing and have invented several systems over 25 years. 14 patents total. Tower Garden, Lettuce Grow, Solar Salad are some of the brand names in the market. I retired a few years ago from the hydro arena but continued to work on growing systems that use bamboo and are microplastic free

Texas Bamboo Society Report 2025

The Texas Bamboo Society has a unique relationship with Zilker Botanical Garden. We are one of the 23 different garden clubs that make up the "Austin Area Garden Council". Because of this we pay dues to Zilker which now amounts to \$15 per member. We do get the honor of meeting monthly inside the garden center if we want to and we also get the honor of being able to hold a two day plant sale (bamboo festival) at no extra charge. One frustrating thing is about scheduling our festival date. We cannot get the date set a year in advance which makes planning difficult and usually don't get our date set until July.

Instead of meeting inside the building, the Texas Bamboo Society offers a monthly bamboo grove grooming at Zilker Botanical Garden in Austin, TX. The grove grooming is on the 2nd Saturday of each month (except October when the garden is closed for the Austin City Limits Music Festival) and the time of the grove grooming set for 9:30am – 11:30am.

We have had a few members participate but not a large amount. The garden center also uses a program that brings in other volunteers and because of that we had additional help.

Of course meeting once a month for 2 hours of grove grooming means we will never really get the grove groomed properly but at least we are making an effort and that is appreciated.

In October 2024 we held the 30th Texas Bamboo Festival also at Zilker Botanical Garden. It was not as profitable as we hoped it would be. We had a great selection of large Phyllostachys plants that were donated by Richard Maconi, one of our members. There did not seem to be a great interest in purchasing the plants and we had a lot left at the end of the event. Micheal Schaefer conducted a Bamboo Basics workshop and we had flutes, paintings, jewelry, bamboo walking sticks & poles, & a tool sharpening service. James Wolf attended showing his furniture. We also had clumping bamboos for sale. We had a short presentation about bamboo biochar. There was another event at the garden center on Saturday and it was a family focused event outside in the garden and I don't think that helped us because it was harder to get folks inside the building on Saturday due to the crowds outside.

On November 22-23, 2025 we will be holding the 31st Texas Bamboo Festival also at Zilker. We are planning to have smaller bamboo plants for sale, a native American flute maker, a presentation by Aloha Tropical Productions, [Sound Healing Therapy](#), a workshop on Bamboo Basics, paintings & t shirts for sale and bamboo walking sticks and poles.

The big news is that the Texas Bamboo Society is planning the 2026 American Bamboo Society Conference that will be held mid October 2026. The location of Hockley, Texas has been selected and the conference will be centered around bambootexas.com and the next door event center where we will have meals and speakers. We are also planning a field trip to David Cater's nursery and I am open to suggestions for speakers!

Submitted by Carole Meckes

Pacific northwest chapter report, 2025:

Northwest Flower and Garden Festival:

We started the year with a booth at the Northwest Flower and Garden Festival, Seattle, WA, 19th through 23rd February.

We constructed an arbor to demonstrate the potential of bamboo canes harvested from bamboo grown in the garden, along with hosting exotic species and bamboo panels as a backdrop.

The level of commitment from the chapter was considerable, but is unsustainable. So, we are pursuing options to simplify the design and focus on Seattle sourced volunteers and materials.

Hortlandia:

Back down in Portland, Oregon, we had another booth for the regions largest plant sale - Hortlandia, (Hardy Plant Society of Oregon Plant Sale), 4th and 5th April. This attracts a group of zealous plant lovers, so bamboo has to be present.

Work Party - eats, shoots and leaves:

Getting back to grass roots, we went to Dain and Suya Sansome's Bamboo Valley display garden in Albany, Oregon, 18th May. We seasonally thinned the culms to show off the best culms of "moso" in all their glory. Not done, we then visited the neighbour with huge "Chinese Timber Bamboo" and thinned out snapped, weak, and leaning culms. Dain's chipper made literally dust of the bamboo for fine mulching of both groves.

Ned's Bamboo Bash:

This is a Ned Jacquith Foundation fund raiser, assisted by the PNW Chapter.

For a change of pace, we spent a day at The Bamboo Garden to host Ned's Birthday Bash, 19th July. This is a great day for chapter members to meet and chat with novices, plus as a fund raiser.

There were 2 classes - Day of the Dead Skeletons (2 people paid \$25 each for this) and Mason Bee Houses (2 people paid \$20 each for this). So, income from classes was \$90.00.

Silent and live plant auctions:

There were 62 silent auction items donated and 41 sold, (2/3 of the items). Total income from the silent auction was \$399.00.

There were 16 items in the live auction - 13 sold for a total of \$905.00.

We also received \$340 in cash donations from known donors and \$64 in anonymous cash donations, (a combination of raffle tickets sold and cash dropped into a donation jar.)

Total income was \$1,734.00.

Lecture:

The day culminated in a lecture by Kay Koppedraye, "Early Bamboo Industry in America", which was extremely well received. Kay received a NJF grant for \$1,130 to conduct her research.

Work Party - "Chinese Walking Stick Bamboo":â...

Swedish Bamboo Nursery hosts what has to be the biggest "Chinese Walking Stick Bamboo" in cultivation. Ideally grown in deep fertile soil by a stream near the coast it actually needed a path cut through for access. Being around 30 feet tall, the canopy actually closed in overhead like a tall Phyllostachys species. Phenomenal.

Annual Chapter Board Meeting

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Work Party/PNW Chapter Meeting

All members are very welcome!

10:30: Work Party

12 noon: Pot Luck Lunch

1pm: Board Meeting

PNW Cultivation Guide

We published a bamboo care guide two years ago, funded 50% by advertising. This will be reviewed for a reprint or a new version this winter.

Chapter membership:

59 members from the following States:

BC - 2

CA - 10

ID - 1

MA - 1

MT - 1

NJ - 1

NV - 1

OR - 18

UT - 1

WA - 22

WI - 1

Ian Connor