



BAMBOO

Magazine of the American Bamboo Society September 2019 Vol. 40 Issue 3 \$6.00 US

American Bamboo Society Annual Conference highlights!

October 16 – 20 2019

Garden tours of Portland
Bamboo Farming Field Trip

Lectures

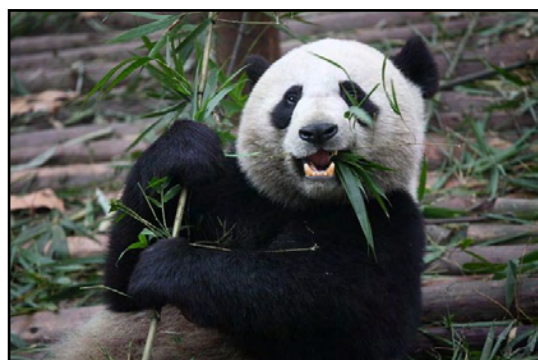
Fence-building workshop

Bamboo craft workshop with Charissa Brock

Scavenger hunt

tours of private gardens

Register now!



On the Covers:

Front: Tortoise shell bamboo at Rakusai Bamboo Park and Garden. Photo by Luc Boerave.

Back: Moso bamboo grove at Hokuji Temple. Photo by Crilly Butler

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BAMBOO
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American Bamboo Society Annual Conference 2019

Bamboo: More Than Just Panda Fodder

Where: Portland, Oregon

When: October 16 – 20, 2019

Conference style: This is a hands-on conference, where you can see and touch bamboo in the garden, as a farm crop, being used as cane, in the pursuit of art, and as a tool to combat climate change.

Wednesday, 16th October, 2019: 09:00 to 14:00: **ABS Board Meeting**, Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center.

Thursday, 17th October, 2019: Garden tour

08:15: Gather at Mark Spencer Hotel, for public garden tours around Portland including the recently renovated Japanese Garden and The World Bamboo Collection at the Hoyt Arboretum.

We will then visit the Bamboo Revolution and the Bamboo Craftsman.

16:00: Tour ends at the Chinese Garden or at the hotel. Admission to Chinese Garden not included.

17:00 – 20:00: (optional) Charissa Brock - open studio.

Friday, 18th October, 2019: Bamboo Farming field trip

08:15: Gather at Mark Spencer Hotel for a field trip down the Willamette Valley to witness bamboo farming and the largest grove in Oregon of *Phyllostachys vivax* ("Chinese Timber Bamboo").

18:00: Return at Mark Spencer Hotel.

Saturday, 19th October, 2019: Bamboo lectures & bamboo fence workshop

08:15: Gather at Mark Spencer Hotel to travel to the Bamboo Garden Nursery.

Morning lectures:

Jos van Der Palen, internationally renowned nurseryman from the Netherlands, followed with waste treatment using bamboo including a discussion of bio emissions, concluding with Daphne Lewis, author of *Bamboo Farming*.

Afternoon:

Either: Bamboo fence workshop with Mark Meenan, **Or:** take a guided tour of the Bamboo Garden.

Dinner and the ABS General Meeting.

17:30: ABS Auctions, (silent and live plants).

18:45: Gather for return to Mark Spencer Hotel.

Sunday, 20th October, 2019:

Either: "Introduction to the fine craft of bamboo" workshop with Charissa Brock.

Or: Scavenger hunt of private gardens in inner Portland, (with hidden prizes).

Accommodation:

Mark Spencer Hotel

We have group discount rates. For details, please call: (503) 224-3293. Mention the ABS for discount.

Getting there:

Public transport: Exit airport arrival lounge. Turn right and walk to end of terminal for light rail.

Purchase ticket at machine on platform (\$2.50 for two hours, or \$5 for day pass).

Take MAX Red Line to Galleria / SW 10th Avenue in downtown Portland. - Estimate 45 mins on MAX train.

Walk west on Morrison Street to 11th Avenue (one block). Turn right on 11th Avenue & walk to hotel on west side of street, (three blocks). Walking time = 5 mins.

Updates: Go to the ABS website americanbamboo.org **Contact:** (503) 647-2700

American Bamboo Society

Magazine of the American Bamboo Society September 2019 Vol. 40 Issue 3

Annual Conference 2019

October 16-20, 2019, Portland, Oregon

Meeting Registration Form

Name _____ Food Restrictions _____
 Your ABS Chapter _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Registration for:

Wednesday 10-16-19 ABS Board Meeting _____ x Free = _____
 Thursday 10-17-19 Garden Tour (includes Lunch) _____ x \$60 = _____
 Thursday Night 10-17-19 – Open Studio Charissa Brock _____ x Free = _____
 Friday 10-18-19 Bamboo Farm Tour (includes Lunch) _____ x \$60 = _____
 Saturday 10-19-19 Speakers, lunch, tours, BBQ,
 Auctions at Bamboo Garden _____ x \$100 = _____

Special Three-Day Package (excluding workshops)

If postmarked by 8-31-19 _____ x \$200 = _____
 Saturday Afternoon – Mark Meenan's half-day Bamboo
 Fence Building Workshop – 10 to 30 people _____ x \$90 = _____
 Sunday – Full Day Charissa Brock's "Introduction to
 The Fine Craft of Bamboo Workshop"
 4 to 10 people _____ x \$180 = _____
 Sunday – Scavenger Hunt in Portland's Private Gardens _____ x Free = _____
 T-Shirt ____ S, ____ M, ____ L, ____ XL, ____ XXL, ____ XXXL _____ x \$20 = _____
 Extra Saturday BBQ Tickets food restrictions? _____ x \$20 = _____

TOTAL _____

Please Mail Checks and Registration to: PNWCABS
 18900 NW Collins Road
 North Plains, OR 97133
 503-647-2700 - **Mention the ABS Conference**

Hotel Registration: Mark Spencer Hotel
 409 SW 11th Avenue
 Portland, OR 97205
 503-224-3293

Tell them you are with the American Bamboo Society

It is inexpensive and very convenient to take MAX light rail from the Portland Airport to the Mark Spencer Hotel, but if you plan on having a car at the meeting, please let us know.

_____ **Yes**, I'll have a car. _____ **No**, I'll rely on the tour bus and public transportation.

Updates: Go to the ABS website: www.bamboo.org Contact: (503) 647-2700

A Visit to Kyoto Rakusai Chikurin Koen

(Rakusai Bamboo Park and Garden)

Article and photos by Luc Boerave

After clearing a 260 ha area covered mainly with bamboo on the South-Western edge of Kyoto for building Rakusai New Town, and following many complaints by bamboo lovers, a bamboo park and garden was established by Kyoto City in July 1981. The late Dr. Koichiro Ueda (also called Dr. Bamboo) created the park and garden.

The bamboo garden covers 3.5 ha out of the 9 ha Rakusai bamboo park which functions as a green belt for Rakusai New Town. The garden has a collection of approximately 110 different bamboo species. The entrance of the garden is through a small but interesting museum with a traditional Japanese tea room and a small bamboo souvenir shop. The museum highlights elements of the Kyoto bamboo culture and traditional bamboo handicrafts.

The following bamboos in particular are worth mentioning: tortoise shell bamboo or *Phyllostachys pubescent* cv *Heterocyclus*, *Phyllostachys pubescent* var. *Nabeshimana* or *Kimmei-Moso*, *Phyllostachys bambusoides* cv *Castellonis-inversa*, *Sinobambusa tootsik* and *Sinobambusa tootsik* f. *albo-striata*. Good use of small and dwarf bamboos is made by covering large parts of the sloping terrain: *Sasa nipponica*, *Sasa veitchii*, *Pleioblastus viridistriatus* and *Pleioblastus fortunei*.

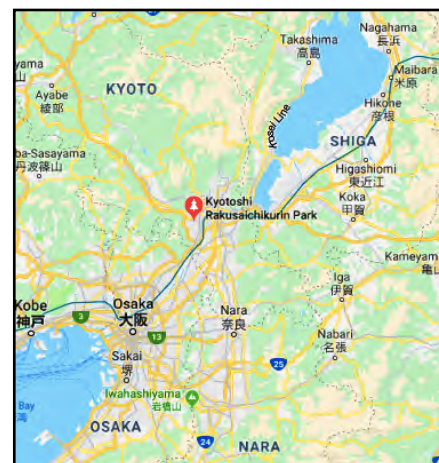
A small stream runs through the garden and under a stone bridge with a history. The Dodo stone bridge separated the East and West forces during the Onin war from 1467 to 1477 and was moved here together with stone Buddha images which were dug up during the construction of the Kyoto City subway.

The garden is well laid out and maintained and all the bamboos are labeled (in Japanese but the scientific and Japanese name are in our alphabet). The garden is open from 9 am to 5 pm but closed on Wednesday whilst the park is always accessible. It is a very nice bamboo garden to spend a bit of time in and, unlike the Higashiyama bamboo grove, it is not crowded as it is not on the tourist track.

Address: 300-3, 3-chome, Kitafukunisho-cho, Ooe, Nishikyo-Ku, Kyoto 610-1112. Tel. +81 75 331-3821. It is a 10 minute walk from the closest bus stop.

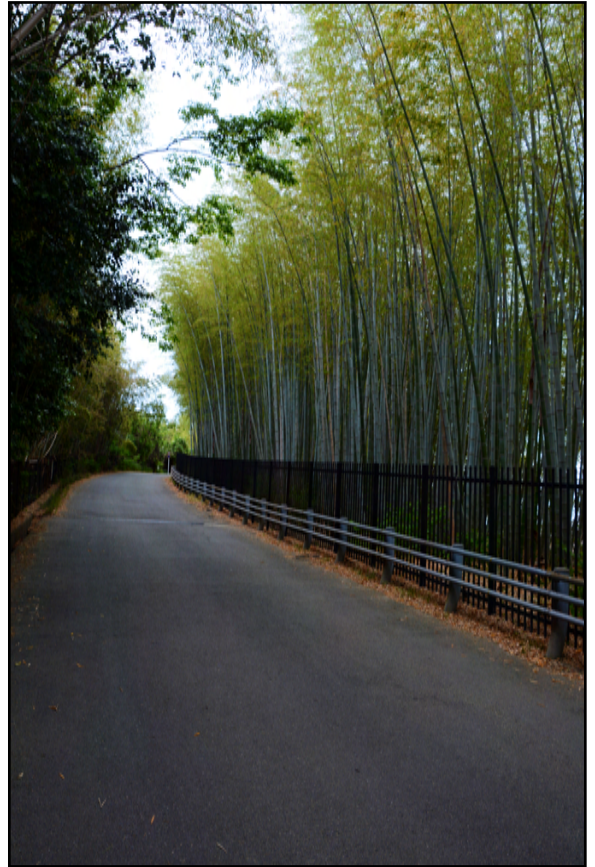
Photos on next three pages:

1. Bamboo rhizome
2. *Bambusa multiplex* f. *variegata*/ new growth
3. Buddha statues with Moso in the background
4. Dodo stone bridge
5. Garden view with Dodo stone bridge
6. *Phyllostachys pubescens* cv *Nabeshimana* in front of the tea room
7. *Phyllostachys pubescens* cv *Nabeshimana* in front of the tea room
8. Rakusai Bamboo park
9. *Sinobambusa tootsik* f. *albo-striata*
10. Tortoise shell bamboo
11. Traditional Kyoto processed bamboo culms









Tanabe Chikuunsai at the Asian Art Museum

by Barbara Shapiro

When Japanese basket maker Tanabe Chikuunsai IV visited the Asian Art Museum to create a huge and dramatic installation in May, I attended his opening evening lecture and a half-day workshop. Both events were very well attended. The installation called *Connection* (May 31-Aug 25, 2019) took Chikuunsai and his three apprentice assistants two weeks to create using 8000 pieces of Tiger Bamboo. It took Chikuunsai two years to prepare all this bamboo, and after each installation is disassembled there is about 10% that is damaged and must be replaced. After San Francisco, he will have an exhibit in Tokyo, and will install site specific exhibits Turkey and Hong Kong.



Two views of Connections, 2019.

Detail of tiger bamboo

Three years after his father passed away in 2014, Tanabe Shōchiku took the family artist name becoming Chikuunsai IV. His lecture related the story of his four-generation lineage as a basket maker which collectively comprises 120 years of experience. Tanabe's great grandfather presented his work to the Taisho Emperor in Osaka in 1914 and was the first bamboo artist to have a solo exhibition. His style came from the traditional ornate Chinese style. He liked to use old arrow bamboo, bamboo roots for handles and sometimes random weave as well as complex formal plaiting. Grandfather Chikuunsai II started making baskets at 5 years old. He favored open hexagonal weave and was among the first to be known for "Japanese style" baskets. Tanabe's father emphasized bamboo's straight quality sometimes in contrast to circular elements. He often worked with strong thin pieces of old arrow bamboo. Tanabe Chikuunsai IV emulates elements of all three of his ancestors in his work: The random weave of his great grandfather, the open work of his grandfather, and the straight lines of his father. With all this legacy, he creates something new in his own style. His work has evolved through the years in several styles. He has also collaborated with others including recently with a technology scholar from Harvard. He now uses computer graphics and modeling with mathematical algorithms to capture in bamboo the essence of rotation in motion. Tanabe says, "The family tradition is to challenge. The tradition will die off if not challenged." His amazing installation work and art baskets carry on this tradition. His art baskets take about two months, working every day. We own one of these from 2013 purchased at the Tai Contemporary Gallery. He says he used to take a year to complete an art basket, but now he has three children to feed!



Various types of bamboo.

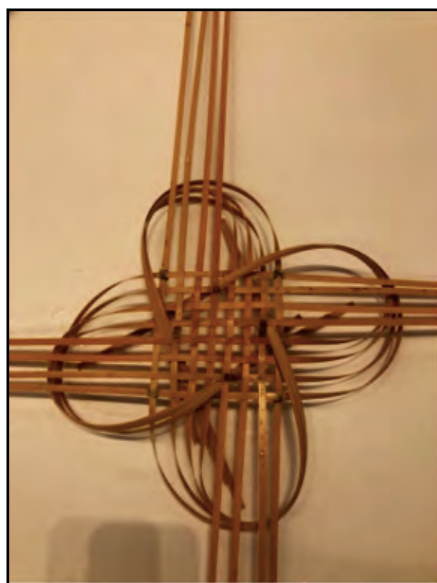
Chikuunsai IV 2012.

Tanabe related that there are 1200 types of bamboo worldwide and 600 to 800 varieties in Japan, of which only 20 are used by bamboo artists. These include: Madake or Timber bamboo which is cultivated; Tiger bamboo whose prized mottled pattern is only found in Kochi; Black bamboo that is naturally dark; highly prized Sudake, also called Hōbichiku, or smoked bamboo which gets its color by being exposed for many decades as rafters in the ceilings of traditional Japanese homes with a central fire stove for heat and cooking; Tortoise bamboo which grows in short bulbous culms and cannot be split; and Sesame seed bamboo which gets its pattern of tiny dots from fungus caused by drops of water that fall on the bamboo when other bamboo is cut. There are forests of some types of bamboo that flower every 80 to 100 years and then the whole forest dies. One such event is due to happen soon in Japan. The oldest extant Japanese basket is 2500 years old. It was found in Korekawa, a Jomon-period archeological site.



Tanabe Chikuunsai IV and Koichi-ro Okada from the Tai Modern Gallery with 6 student baskets, Barbara's on the right.

In the workshop we each got 8 pieces of outer bamboo and 8 inner pieces (without the shiny surface.) We plaited a simple over under square with these 16. We tied the 4 corners using tiger bamboo patterned paper twist ties from Japan! Next we tucked in half of the elements on each side creating a flat 4 lobed flower shape. Then we were shown some examples and encouraged to come up with a theme and create an individual finished basket. All 30 participants including two young girls made lovely creations. We each received a small cut culm of bamboo for water, a kenzan (frog) and a nice selection of flowers to complete the work with ikebana. What a great afternoon



Left: Base.
Right: Rear view of Barbara's basket

See the Tai Modern Gallery and the Met websites for examples:

<https://taimodern.com/artist-landing/?artistId=131307>

<https://blog.sculpture.org/2017/08/02/tanabe-chikuunsai-iv-at-the-metropolitan-museum-of-art/>

and Charissa Brocks travel blog on her trip to meet Chikuunsai:

<https://www.charissabrock.com/studio-visit-tanabe-chikuunsai-iv/>

Previously published in Twinings Newsletter of Bay Area Basket Makers, September 2019.

Summer leaf texture with bamboo.

Clockwise from upper left:

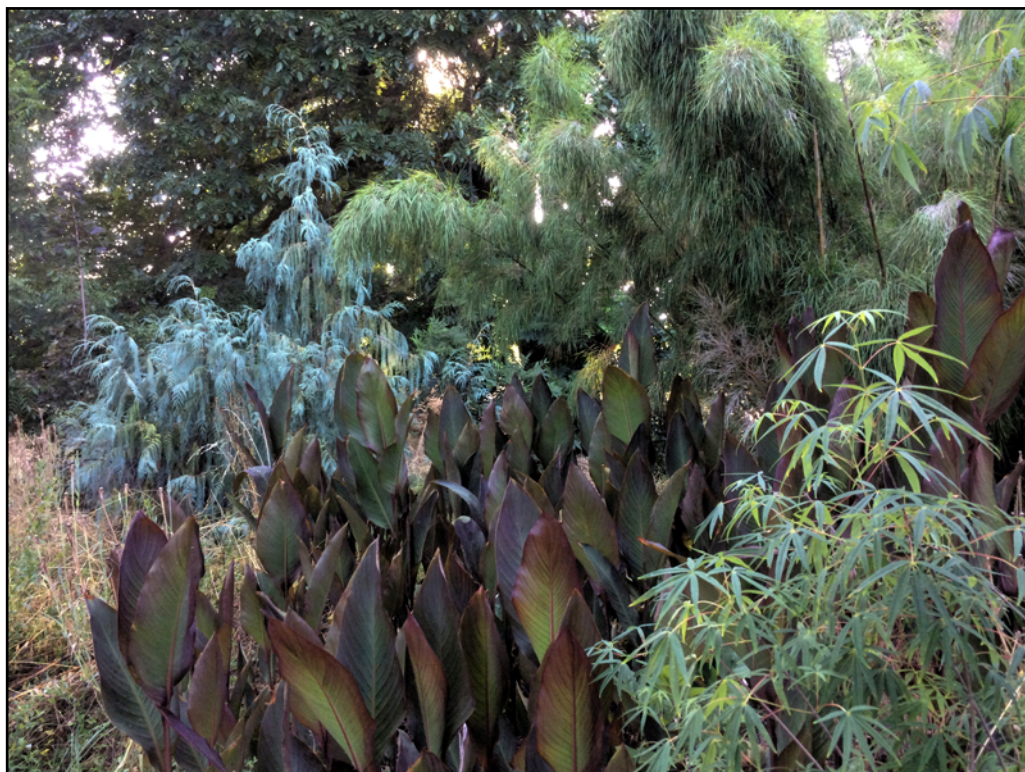
Cupressus darjeelingensis

Otatea acuminata ssp aztecorum

Acer pentaphyllum

Canna hybrids

Dixon, CA
USDA Zone 9,
Sunset Zone 14



It's Time to Nominate This Year's ABS Directors

We must fill expiring director positions on the Board at the Portland, Oregon ABS Conference in mid-October.

The only director to be nominated and elected by the ABS itself this year is for the At-Large position being vacated by Andrew Linn. An At-Large director is elected by the entire ABS membership and represents all members on the Board.

Nominations for an ABS At-Large director are open -- if you know of any ABS member who would be willing to serve a three-year term with the ABS Board of Directors, please let David King (secretary@bamboo.org) or Ian Connor (bambooian@yahoo.com) know. There are no specific requirements other than a valid ABS membership and willingness to help guide the Society in its journey. It's an important (but not difficult) job!

The other vacancies are chapter directors, which are chosen by the chapters themselves. If/when that happens, would the chapters please let David or Ian know the results and we'll make sure they're announced in Portland. Following are the chapter directors needed this year:

FLORIDA CARIBBEAN CHAPTER (FCC): Too few ABS members listed to have a Director, BUT you can choose a chapter liaison to the Board meeting who won't have a vote but can take part in discussions and bringing information back to the chapter.

HAWAII CHAPTER and MID-STATES CHAPTER: The same applies as for the FCC above.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER: Adam Graves' term is ending (he was filling out an unexpired term) -- please select a Director for a new 3-year term to start at the October meeting.

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER: Kristen Comstock's term is ending (she was filling out an unexpired term) -- please select a Director for a new 3-year term to start at the October meeting.

Texas Bamboo Festival

The 26th Annual Texas Bamboo Festival, held on September 20-21 at Zilker Botanical Gardens in Austin, TX, brings bamboo enthusiasts together to share their passion and love of living and working with bamboo. Talk to bamboo experts about bamboo maintenance, and learn about growing different kinds of bamboo. Hear tips on how to groom and care for your plants, and get ideas about ways to craft with bamboo. For sale: Non-invasive clumping bamboo plants, spreading "running" bamboo plants, bamboo poles, walking sticks, jewelry, artwork, clothing and bamboo crafts. Bring your special tools for sharpening. Make sure to join the silent auction for some rare and interesting bamboo related items will be offered. Please come join us!

Upcoming Grove Groomings at Zilker Botanical Garden:

all on Saturdays, starting at 9:30 a.m.

September 21 2019

October 19, 2019

November 16, 2019

December 21, 2019

A Visit to Hokokuji Temple

Ed. Note: Crilly Butler, a resident of Davis, visits his family's home in Japan every year. I sent him a link about this temple with its renowned bamboo grove, and he obliged us with a visit to provide some excellent photos.

The following description is from japan-guide.com:

“Secluded in the hills of eastern Kamakura, Hokokuji (報国寺, Hōkokuji) is a small temple of the Rinzaï Sect of Zen Buddhism.

Appearing rather unassuming as you arrive, the path to the temple leads past a relatively modest gate and through a small garden to the main hall, which was rebuilt in the 1920s after the original building had been lost in the Great Kanto Earthquake. The hall houses a statue of the historic Buddha (Shaka Nyorai), the temple's main object of worship. To the left of the main hall stands a unique looking bell tower with a simple, thatched straw roof, which was also a feature of the original main hall before it had burnt down. Hokokuji Temple, however, is best known for the beautiful, small bamboo grove found behind the temple's main hall, which lies thick with over 2000 dark green bamboo stalks. A few narrow pathways lead through the bamboo to a tea house where, for a small fee, you can sit and enjoy a cup of matcha tea while enjoying views into the bamboo grove. Also located behind the temple are a series of shallow caves carved into the hillsides, which are believed to hold the ashes of some of the later Ashikaga lords.”

<https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3120.html>



History of Hōkoku-ji

From Wikipedia

The family temple of both the Ashikaga and Uesugi clans, Hōkoku-ji was established by founding priest Tengan Eko in 1334 (the first year of the Kenmu era) to commemorate Ashikaga Ietoki, grandfather of Ashikaga Takauji the first shōgun of the Ashikaga shogunate.

Known posthumously by his Buddhist name Butsu-jo Zenji, Eko was a member of the Five Mountains Zen literary school. Copies that he made of Buddhist teachings and carved wooden seals of his names "Tengan" and "Eko" are Important Cultural Properties and are in the Kamakura Museum on the grounds of the Shinto shrine Tsurugaoka Hachiman-gū. Other treasures owned by the temple include a painting on silk of Zaichū Kōen dating to 1388, a Muromachi-period painting of Arhats, and a pair of paintings of flowers and birds from Ming China, all Prefectural Cultural Properties kept in the same museum; a number of further works have been designated for protection at a municipal level. Ashes of the Ashikaga family including Ietoki and Yoshihisa who both died by seppuku (Yoshihisa was only age 13), are reportedly buried in the large caves at the temple's west side.

The 1923 Great Kantō earthquake destroyed most of the temple structures including the original straw roof on the main hall. A similar roof is maintained on the bell tower today. Most of the temple structures were rebuilt.

Near the bell tower, five-tier memorial towers called gorintō commemorate the thousands of warriors who were killed in the 1333 battle in Kamakura that marked the end of rule by the Hōjō clan.

Bamboo grove

A former annex behind the main hall was a training area where Butsujo Zenji also wrote poetry. Today a grove or forest of about 2000 mōsō bamboo sits in place of the annex. The site has a small tea house or chashitsu that is popular with tourists.





Notes about Kamakura, the location of Hokokuji temple:

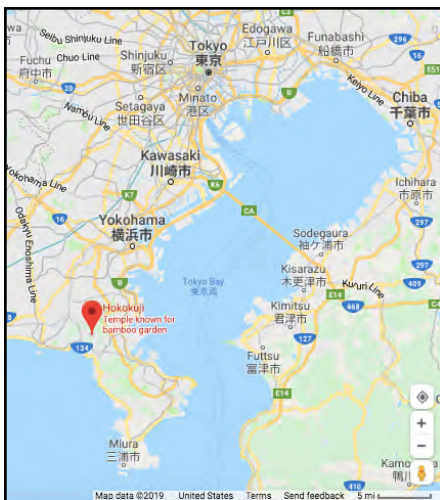
Per the Köppen climate classification, Kamakura is Cfa: humid subtropical.

"The climate is warm and temperate in Kamakura. There is a great deal of rainfall, even in the driest month. The average temperature is 15.4 °C [60F]. The rainfall here averages 1617 mm [64 inches]."

The driest month is January, with 57 mm [2.25 inches] of rainfall. The greatest amount of precipitation occurs in June, with an average of 216 mm [8.5 inches].

The warmest month of the year is August, with an average temperature of 26.5 °C [80F]. The lowest average temperatures in the year occur in January, when it is around 5.4 °C [42F].

<https://en.climate-data.org/asia/japan/kanagawa/kamakura-764657/>





Bamboo Straws

by Harry Simmons

I am very excited about the upcoming American Bamboo Society Conference that will be held in Portland, Oregon October 16th through the 20th. I have had the privilege of attending several of these conferences held in very diverse parts of the world such as San Francisco, Hawaii, Texas, Tacoma, Washington D.C., and even Jalapa, Mexico. My favorite part of these conferences are the presentations. I still remember one presentation by a young brother and sister team at the Washington D.C. conference three years ago. They were trying to get people to stop using plastic straws. Their presentation was both passionate and persuasive.

It dawned on me at that conference, as I'm sure it did on many others, that bamboo would be the perfect replacement for plastic straws. Indeed, bamboo (or some other grass internode) was the original straw. Straws have been around for thousands of years. Gold-wrapped, grass straws have been discovered as far back as 3850 BC when Sumerian royalty used them, most likely to drink beer. They've also been discovered in ancient Asia and Argentina. Traditionally, straws were made of bamboo, reeds or grass stems. In the United States, rye grass stems became very popular during the 1800s. Unfortunately, according to Wikipedia, they tended to disintegrate quickly. They were replaced in the late 1800s by wax paper straws which did not have the grassy taste and did not disintegrate nearly as easily. After World War II, plastic straws quickly replaced wax paper straws because they were more durable and much cheaper to make. However, plastic straws quickly began to contribute to the non-biodegradable plastics that have accumulated exponentially in recent years. Advocacy groups have estimated the total amount of plastic straws used nation-wide to be somewhere between 350 and 500 million pieces (the plastics industry estimates 16 million). Although straws account for less than 1% of the total plastic pollution worldwide, they are noticeable, frequently used, and an easily remedied problem.

Based on activism and awareness, there has been a swell in the call for banning plastic straws (K. Harris mentioned this just today while campaigning for president) and an increase in use of biodegradable straws. Bamboo straws have led this movement and can now be found from dozens of manufacturers worldwide, mostly from China, India or Southeast Asia. Bamboo straws can be found in a variety of lengths, sizes, and shapes. The most popular bamboo straws are those that are of uniform length and have been machined in some process to provide smooth uniformity. Bamboo straws come in sets from 6 to 20 units and usually cost between \$7 and \$15 for a set. Each set usually comes with a wire brush to clean the inside of the straw after each use so that straws can be used multiple times.

If you are looking for the perfect bamboo straw, there are several reviews that make recommendations (<https://urbanvegan.net/bamboo-straws/>). I was very curious and so recently purchased a set of natural bamboo straws from a company called Bambaw, on Amazon. They arrived quickly and I was pleasantly surprised. They came with a wire brush and were certified not to contain any harmful chemicals in the processing of the straws. Because they are not chemically treated, they must be hand washed (not dishwasher safe). Their length was uniform, but the diameter varied considerably. They worked well and were especially good for thick juices and shakes; drinks that most flimsy plastic straws cannot handle. However, the hardness was unfamiliar and I found that the straws lacked the color and character that I enjoy so much in my own, personal groves of bamboo.

I decided to make my own. I found myself skirting the periphery of my groves trying to find small, appropriately sized pieces of bamboo that would work as a straw. Most of my bamboos have been collected for their interesting shapes and colors and I tried to select specimens that displayed the best of both. In about 30 minutes I had over two dozen pieces from eleven species and varieties that looked really promising. I quickly learned that using hand clippers was not the best way to cut the bamboo as they sometimes crush the nodes or cause the ends to fray. A very fine-toothed saw or sharp pocketknife seemed to work best. I then cut off any branches that were still on the nodes and smoothed out the ends with the pocketknife to prevent any splinters or sharp edges. I then broke through any nodes that remained with a metal rod. I used a drill and bit to clean the inside and break the more stubborn nodes. The bit diameter differed from piece to piece. I scrubbed the inside with a brush, washed with hot soapy water, rinsed, and let them dry.

Making my own straws will, however minutely, decrease pollution in the world. I know that using plastic straws will not. I also know that harvesting, packaging and shipping bamboo straws from halfway around the world to my front door also must have an impact on the environment. Ultimately, though, I make my straws because I find beauty and pleasure in them. My craftsmanship is crude but I enjoy my personal straws. Each one is as unique, beautiful and much more interesting than anything available for sale. Sadly, after some time, some of the colors begin to fade and ends begin to splinter. Eventually I throw these in the compost and pull out a new one. I know that soon, like people from civilizations thousands of years before me, I'll need to harvest another batch from my bamboo groves. I can hardly wait.



Above: Bamboo straws purchased online.

Above right: A few rough-cut pieces to be used for straws. From left to right: *Bambusa multiplex* 'Green Hedge', *Semiarundinaria yashadake*, *Phyllostachys viridis* 'Robert Young', *Bambusa textilis* var. *gracilis*, *Phyllostachys nigra* (2), *Phyllostachys aurea* 'Koi' (2), *Phyllostachys viridis* 'Houzeau' (2).





Final batch of straws. From left to right (2 straws each):
Bambusa textilis var. *gracilis*, *Semiarundinaria yashadake*, *Bambusa multiplex* 'Alphonse Karr', *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* 'Spectabilis', *Phyllostachys nigra*, *Bambusa ventricosa* 'Kimmei'.

Brief Progress Report on the Update of the ABS Website

Keep an eye on the official ABS website Bamboo.org. The site might be up and running by the time you read this in September! If not, it will be up shortly. It is simpler and more friendly in appearance with clearer options for those wishing to join and support the goals of the ABS. The improvements are not entirely cosmetic, however.

One important functional change is that articles for the research-oriented Journal of the ABS will be published on the site one by one immediately after peer review and acceptance. Articles will be freely accessible by the public, thus getting the information out there much more quickly than the previous method of accumulating articles over a year's time and printing them all in one Journal issue. Past Journal issues will still be available online.

The display of advertising by bamboo-related businesses will be better integrated into the site, relatively unobtrusive to the site visitor but more effective at publicity for the business. As before, the advertiser must be an active member of the ABS.

Bamboo Soapbox Cars

IV Descenso Internacional de Goitiberas: participation of 3 Bamboo Goitiberas (soapbox vehicles) in the Vitoria-Gasteiz (Basque province of Alava, Spain) races.

Text and photos by Luc Boerave

On May 23rd I visited Taketora, the artisanal bamboo workshop of Yoshihiro Yamagishi, in the small hamlet of Awa, Kochi district, Shikoku, Japan. Yoshihiro was then finalizing his bamboo soapbox vehicle (picture 1) with tiger bamboo (see insert). “Will you come and support me in Vitoria-Gasteiz on August 6 when I will participate in the Descenso de Goitiberas?” asked Yoshihiro. “Yes” I said, “I will be there” and so I went to Spain on 5 and 6 August to see him and 2 other participants with bamboo vehicles racing down the streets of Vitoria-Gasteiz.

It all started (The idea started) last year during the World Bamboo Congress when Ivan Plazas, from Vitoria-Gasteiz (V-G) and who previously participated with a bamboo Goitibera, challenged Yoshihiro Yamagishi and Michel Abadie (President of the World Bamboo Organization) in racing against each other with a bamboo vehicle. They took up the challenge and 3 bamboo Goitiberas were present for the IVth International soapbox races during the Blanca Virgen of V-G festivities. Yoshiro named his bamboo vehicle REIWA 125 in honor of the new Imperial era (REIWA means “Beautiful Harmony”) and to his family company Taketora celebrating 125 years. The World Bamboo Organisation recognized the event as a World Bamboo Landmark.

The race took place in the winding streets of the old town over a distance of 250 meter. During 2.5 hours all 30 participants raced 3 times with the average time taken for the classification. A specific classification was created for the bamboo vehicles with Michel Abadie ending in the first place followed by Ivan Plaza and Yoshihiro Yamagishi. However Yoshihiro, named the “bamboo samourai” from Japan by the local press, was by far the most popular of all participants with his picture adorning the front page of the August 7 editions of the local newspapers El Correo and Noticias de Alava, featured on the Bask television channel ETV, etc ...

And one thing is sure, the bamboo Goitiberas have made the word “bamboo” synonymous with creativity and fun in Vitoria-Gasteiz and created a huge support base for anything related to bamboo in this Basque town!





1. Yoshihiro Yamagishi in his almost finished bamboo car in his workshop. (previous page, left)
2. Yoshihiro Yamagishi with REIWA 125 and 3 Basque admirers (previous page, right)
3. Ivan Plaza starting the descent (above left)
4. Michel Abadie starting the descent (above center)
5. Michel Abadie passing the first bend (below right)
6. Yoshihiro starting the descent (above right)
7. The Bamboo Team (left)



About Tiger bamboo:

Taketora, the 125 year old Yamagishi family company, is harvesting and processing bamboo (*Phyllostachys* sp.) which grows on the hills surrounding the hamlet Awa (Kochi district, Shikoku, Japan) and which has a very specific coloring, hence its name. This coloring appears after the poles have been subjected to fire. Y. Yamagishi claims that only the bamboo growing in this area has this trait. Taketora makes a wide range of bamboo products.

Pictures:

- 1 The Taketora bamboo forest
- 2 The Taketora workshop, upper right
- 3 The Taketora showroom, below right



Candidate for At-Large Director

Carole Meckes would like to serve as At-Large Director of the American Bamboo Society. Carole has been living and working with bamboo since 1991 and is co-founder of the Bamboo Arts and Craft Network (www.bamboocraft.net). She has been active in the Texas Bamboo Society Chapter and is current President and Bamboo Festival Coordinator. She has previously served on the American Bamboo Society Board and assists with keeping the ABS website up to date. Carole takes great pride in grooming her bamboo grove and mostly uses a hand saw, loppers and a trusty knee pad.



Grants available

The Ned Jaquith Foundation offers grants to promote bamboo research not to be limited to the following areas: Art research * Botanical identification * Collection * Education * Environment issues * Genetic preservation * Habitat restoration * Propagation techniques * Utilization

Grants can range from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars. If a request exceeds the available funds, partial funding may be available; document other funding in the application. The Foundation will utilize applications, images and reports on its website, displays and presentations. Grant dollar amounts will be reduced by the cost of changing currency or wiring funds.

The Ned Jaquith Foundation is now working with the American Bamboo Society (ABS) to administer their grant funding. The foundation will review, evaluate and approve all grants for bamboo research projects. Applications submitted to the ABS will be forwarded to the NJF. All monies approved by the ABS Board will be transferred to the NJF at the beginning of the calendar year.

Information about the Ned Jaquith Foundation Grants can be found online at:

<http://www.bamboo.org/pdf/GrantGuidelines20181115.pdf>

The application schedule is:

October 1 – Deadline for submission of Grant Applications

October 7 – Grant Application receipt acknowledged

October - Evaluation

November 1 – Each applicant notified of the Foundation's decision

American Bamboo Society

2016 Membership & Directory Information Form

We strongly encourage everyone to join or renew your membership online via PayPal. It is faster, easier and more secure. To get started, please complete the online application on our website:

bamboo.org/bamboo-membership.php

If you are unable to register online, please fill out the following form with your credit card information or check and mail it to your primary chapter.

- ☐ New Membership
☐ Renewal
☐ Gift Membership (we will notify the recipient)
☐ Digital (no printed publications)

(All members can download the publications from the internet)

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Company _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____

Work/Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Website _____

☐ Check if you DO NOT want your name & contact information made available to other members

Membership Levels (circle one below):

Additional tax-deductible donation \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

| | Digital | Print | Includes |
|--|---------|-------|---|
| Annual | \$40 | \$50 | 1-year Primary Chapter membership |
| 3 year | \$110 | \$140 | 3-year Primary Chapter membership |
| Patron | \$120 | \$130 | 1-year Primary Chapter membership \$80 is tax-deductible |
| International | \$40 | \$55 | Outside USA No Chapter included |
| Lifetime | \$600 | \$800 | ABS membership only No Chapter included |
| Student of Bamboo (college/grad school) | free | n/a | ABS only; No Chapter Certification required from professor/princ. investigator |
| Youth (18 & under) | free | n/a | ABS only No Chapter included |
| Additional Chapters: | | | \$15/year each or \$40 for 3-yr period |

Discover/Mastercard/Visa Authorization:

Account # _____

Expiration Date _____/_____/_____

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Signature _____

Each year's membership includes:

- 4 issues of BAMBOO: The Magazine of the American Bamboo Society
- Annual edition of the ABS Journal
- The ABS Species Source List
- Internet access to all of the publications
- Annual ABS Membership Directory
- Opportunity to be listed in the Annual American Bamboo Society Source List

Choose your Primary Chapter membership + and any Additional Chapter memberships:

| Primary | Additional | Chapter |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Texas Bamboo Society |



ABS Officers, Directors and Job Holders

As of 09/2018

ABS OFFICERS – Serve for One Year

President: president@bamboo.org

Adam Graves

Vice President: vicepresident@bamboo.org

Ian Connor

Secretary: secretary@bamboo.org

David King

Treasurer: treasurer@bamboo.org

Bill and Jenn Hollenback

ABS CHAPTERS and DIRECTORS
(Terms End at ABS Mtg)

fc-chapter@bamboo.org

(no Director)

hi-chapter@bamboo.org

(no Director)

lgc-chapter@bamboo.org

W. P. 'Judge' Edwards III 2018

mid-chapter@bamboo.org

(no Director)

ne-chapter@bamboo.org

Anthony Poveromo 2020

ncal-chapter@bamboo.org

David King 2020

pnw-chapter@bamboo.org

Ian Connor 2021

se-chapter@bamboo.org

Kristen Comstock 2019

scal-chapter@bamboo.org

Adam Graves 2019

tbs-chapter@bamboo.org

Harry Simmons 2018

international@bamboo.org

Luc Boeraeve 2021

at-large1@bamboo.org

Andrew Linn 2019

at-large2@bamboo.org

James McCormick. 2021

at-large3@bamboo.org

Hunter Vickers 2020

Messages sent to absboard@bamboo.org go to all ABS Directors and Officers.

ABS COMMITTEES and JOBS

Advertising: advertising@bamboo.org

Ian Connor

Arts & Crafts Coordinator: artsand-crafts@bamboo.org

Paulina Hermansen

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Use this address to volunteer to help, especially if the ABS meets in your area.

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OPEN POSITION, Seeking volunteer

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Messages sent to absorg@bamboo.org go to everyone listed on this page.



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