

# CULMINATION

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS BAMBOO SOCIETY  
A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY  
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WWW.TEXASBAMBOOSOCIETY.NET



Carole Meckes is organizer for the Austin Bamboo Festival Saturday and Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> at Zilker Botanical Gardens

## TBS Austin Bamboo Festival Aug. 27&28

As August is quickly approaching, the Texas Bamboo Society is busy getting ready for its second festival this year. Carole Meckes graciously has taken on organizing yet another wonderful festival at Zilker Botanical Gardens for a weekend full of bamboo!

Please take the time to review the tentative schedule (following page) and make plans to attend. The festival is two days (Saturday and Sunday) so our event is chock-full of learning sessions about everything from making things with bamboo to growing bamboo.

In addition to attending, please make yourself available as a volunteer to help run our event. Our members make this event successful every year by donating a little of their time and sharing some bamboo knowledge to someone new!

Sometimes, even just a few minutes (or hours) of your time as a volunteer can help make our festival run smoothly! For festival info, becoming a vendor, or to volunteer, contact Carole at (512) 929-9565 or email her [bamboo@texas.net](mailto:bamboo@texas.net)



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

As many of you may not yet know, our President, Linda Gay resigned for personal reasons last month. As your elected Vice President, I have become your “acting President” and as such, felt that a few words about our members and membership would be in order.

At church this morning, the parable we studied involved the shepherd who had lost ‘one’ of his many sheep! The efforts he went to for finding the lost one: the rejoicing when it was found and returned to the fold. It has made me very sad for some time now, that for one reason and another, we have lost a number of our members in the past year!

I will be the one rejoicing, if we can get them to return to our “bamboo” fold. Please help me to return these lost ones’ to our fold. Let’s celebrate together the camaraderie and joy we find in our mutual love and enjoyment for bamboo.

You will see elsewhere in this newsletter, information regarding our Austin Area Bamboo Festival, to be held at Zilker Gardens August the 27/28th, 2005. We need contributions of bamboo plants to sell there, as this is our normal fundraiser for the year. And of course, it is a good place to find plants that you may not have, but would like to have. Not to mention the chance to meet and greet other bamboo lovers who can offer words of wisdom or advice.

*Continued....*

And last, but certainly not least, is the National American Bamboo Conference, to be held at Mercer Arboretum in Houston, Oct 20 thru 22, 2005. This is YOUR local chance to meet, greet and learn from the many folks of Bamboo from all over the USA and many parts of the world! These are Folks who established the Bamboo society originally! Folks who wrote many of the books you have read: ones who have written many of the articles in both local and national publications. There is a wealth of knowledge to be tapped there! All of those folks are more than willing to share their knowledge with all of us. There is nothing like receiving and reading emails or magazine articles when you can think "Boy, I met that person and they are GREAT!"

My standard Email sign off says "Take care-Keep in touch". I urge any and all of you to do just that! KEEP IN TOUCH, so that I can rejoice over the members of our 'flock' who have returned to the fold. If there are any past problems that need smoothing out, I will do my best to help in any way that I can. Best regards to all!

Kinder Chambers.

Email- TxBooGuru@AOL.COM

Saturday, August 27th	Events
10 am Festival Begins - Sale of bamboo plants and crafts, raffle tickets, auction plants on display	Vendors: Bamboo Branch, Bamboo Texas, Gingergarden.com, Good Medicine Flutes, Ann Johnson's Bamboo Ceramics, Utility Research Garden
Bamboo Arts and Craft Network	<i>Building A Future With Bamboo</i> Bamboo Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Presentations bambocraft.net
Bamboo Flute Music	Pat Partridge, Good Medicine Flutes
10 am - 2:30 pm- Connie Kelsoe Kendall Kelsoe Sensei	Demonstration of Spinning with Bamboo Fibers Display of Bamboo Artifacts Used in Martial Arts
Pentatonic Flute Workshop Times to be announced:	Martin Espino- Reservations Required (email Carole at bamboo@texas.net) <a href="http://www.martinespino.com">http://www.martinespino.com</a>
11 am - Docent Tour of the Taniguchi Japanese Garden	Taniguchi Japanese Garden
12 noon - Kinder Chambers-TxBooGuru- <i>speaker</i>	<i>Introduction to Bamboo</i> - Questions and Answers about Growing Bamboo
1 pm - John Nelson - <i>speaker</i>	<i>Successful Uses of Clumping Bamboos in the Landscape</i>
2 pm - Jim Phillips- <i>speaker</i>	<i>Updates on Austin Area Bamboo Activities</i>
3pm - Rare Bamboo Plant Auction	list of auction plant to be posted soon
6 pm - <b>Dinner Catered by the Bamboo Garden</b>	<b>Reservations Required</b> – email Carole at bamboo@texas.net

Sunday, August 28th	Events
10 am Festival Continues	Sale of bamboo plants and crafts
Bamboo Arts and Craft Network	<i>Building A Future With Bamboo</i> Bamboo Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Presentations bambocraft.net
10 am - 2:30 pm- Connie Kelsoe Kendall Kelsoe Sensei	Demonstration of Spinning with Bamboo Fibers Display of Bamboo Artifacts Used in Martial Arts
11 am - Docent Tour of the Taniguchi Japanese Garden	Taniguchi Japanese Garden
11:30 - Native American Flutes - Histories and Stories	Pat Partridge, Good Medicine Flutes
12 noon	to be announced
1 pm Carole Meckes - Bamboo Bead Making	Learn how to make bamboo beads and use them as decorative accessories
2 pm - Martial Arts Demonstration Coordinated by Kendall Kelsoe Sensei	Austin Bujinkan Tanemaki Dojo - The ancient martial arts of Japan known as ninjutsu and budo Taijutsu.
3 pm	Bamboo discussions, demonstrations, questions and answers
6 pm - Festival Closes	<b>Don't forget to register for the October ABS Event!</b>



Steve Carter presents a propagation session at the May bamboo festival to a full house. Photo by Steve Muzos

## **TEXAS BAMBOO SOCIETY** **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**August 27<sup>th</sup>-28th, 2005** Texas Bamboo Festival,  
Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin, TX

**Oct 20-22, 2005** Annual Meeting of the American Bamboo  
Society, Mercer Arboretum, Humble, TX

**November 19, 2005** Saturday 10 am  
Bamboo - Hands on Experience - Taniguchi Oriental  
Garden, Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin, TX

## ***SOCIETY OFFICERS***

### **PRESIDENT**

**KINDER CHAMBERS**

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

**MARY LEN CHAMBERS**

### **DIRECTORS:**

**ALLEN ALESHIRE**

**LINDA GAY**

**CAROL GOETZ**

**STEVE MUZOS**

**(POSITION VACANT)**

### **AUSTIN RECORDING SECRETARY**

**JIM PHILLIPS**

### **TBS CFO/TREASURER**

**ALLEN D. ALESHIRE**

### **TBS NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**JOHN NELSON**

### **TBS MEMBERSHIP**

**ALLEN D. ALESHIRE**

### **TBS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

### **COORDINATOR**

**STEVE MUZOS**

### **TBS WEBMASTER**

**BOB CLUNE**

### **AUSTIN REGIONAL COORDINATOR**

**JIM PHILLIPS**

### **RIO GRANDE VALLEY REGIONAL**

### **COORDINATOR**

**ALLEN D. ALESHIRE**

### **AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY BOOKSTORE**

**PAT HILLERY**



**Above:** The courtyard at Mercer Arboretum became a bamboo marketplace. **Right:** Zone 9 Tropicals provided "Texas-Tall" Bamboos for sale. Photos by Steve Muzos



# MAY MERCER FESTIVAL A SMASHING SUCCESS!

On Memorial Day weekend, the Texas Bamboo Society held its first annual meeting and festival at the Mercer Arboretum in Humble. Linda Gay, director of Mercer, served as organizer for the event.

The court yard at Mercer served as a bamboo market of plants, crafts, and socializing among members of the society inviting new members to sign up and spreading the good word about bamboo. A record-breaking 1400+ attended the festival during the entire day, many vendors sold out of bamboo plants and items by lunch time!

Many members donated bamboo plants for the society to sell to raise much-needed funds to host the national meeting in October. In addition to these member plant donations, the society was able to acquire some very rare varieties this year to offer for sale as well, the selection was exhausted in just a few hours! A special thank you is in order to the volunteers who staffed the plant sale, offering festival customers knowledge of bamboo. Many volunteers made the festival possible by helping set-up of plants, working the membership table, working as cashiers, renting wagons and many other day-long jobs in the heat that made our festival enjoyable for members and visitors alike. Many Mercer Society members and volunteers also assisted in set up and running of our festival, many becoming bamboo-lovers themselves!

Festival attendees enjoyed touring the absolutely beautiful front gardens of Mercer, featuring rare and newly introduced species of clumping bamboos such as Tropical Black (*G. atrovioleacea*) and Sunburst (*B. pervariabilis viridistriata*). Many also ventured into the trails in back featuring large groves of running bamboos such as Black Bamboo (*P. nigra*).

Traveling from Atlanta Georgia, our feature speaker, Dr. George Hotchkiss held an informational session on bamboo pests and pathogens, and our own Steve Carter gave a session on “Dividing and Propagating Bamboo”. After lunchtime, most bamboo plants in the courtyard were sold out, bringing bamboo shoppers inside to attend the rare plant auction!



Mercer Arboretum's prize stand of Punting Pole Bamboo (*B. tuldooides*). Photo by John Nelson

*May Festival continued.....*

Many thanks to Linda Gay for hosting a wonderful festival as well as her staff and volunteers at Mercer who helped facilitate such an incredible event!

Our festivals are dependant on our member volunteers to donate plants and time, this is why our events have always been successful! Please contact Carole Meckes ([bamboo@texas.net](mailto:bamboo@texas.net)) about helping with our Austin Festival on August 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> at Zilker.

With everyone's contributions to our May Festival, The Texas Bamboo Society met necessary fund-raising goals in order to host and accommodate the American Bamboo Society annual meeting and conference to be held at Mercer on October 20-22.

The TBS Board and Officers are very busy organizing a knock-out conference. Our chapter is responsible for staffing the event as well as coordinating most of the events involved.

The official registration form for the conference is now online on our chapter web site: [WWW.TEXASBAMBOOSOCIETY.NET](http://WWW.TEXASBAMBOOSOCIETY.NET)

See you there!

## “Discovering Bamboo” by Jim Phillips



For the last four years I've said the word “bamboo” out loud every single day. It's never gotten old, but it has changed somehow from what it was in the beginning. I'm still a newbie, but somehow not the same kind of newbie. Starting out, everything I heard, saw, and touched regarding bamboo was absolutely new and fresh. Like a dried sponge I soaked it up. The fresh excitement of discovery!

It's to be expected that some things change. I often feel less of a sense of newness. Encounters and conversations begin to take on the quality of *deja vu*. The prospect of discovery wanes. I've missed the intensity of that feeling of discovery. Let me take you back to one of my favorite subjects of late.

That is the bamboo grove on the Town Lake Hike and Bike Trail in downtown Austin. (The reader understands that this grove had been like so many others, neglected, more than a thicket, threatening, forbidding, dark, not at all inviting). Following one of our group grove groove groomings I'd returned to de-branch some of the usable culms we'd thinned out. We had hauled the felled culms away from the grove, out of the way, but sitting up there on the hill got kind of lonely after 3 or 4 minutes. So I decided to move my little de-branching operation back down the hill. I'd get a view of the passing public, and they'd get a view of me.

I had intended to sit quietly in the shade scoring and breaking branches. Instead it was like I was inundated with people stopping their walk, or their run, or their bike ride, to say how much they appreciated the hard work we had been doing, to admire the change in the appearance of the grove, to ask any number of different questions about how that was accomplished, to tell their stories, which usually began with, “I've always liked bamboo, but”

Four or five people asked if they could dig a plant for themselves. I showed them over to a place, gave them some pointers and let them have at it. More than a few stopped by to ask if they could have some poles. “No problem, here are some loppers, when you're ready I'll show you how I like to take off the branches”.

All this was nice. It was reaffirming, wonderful in fact. Then, it got really good. In addition to the people stopping to visit, there were those who flew by, not on the hike and bike trail, but up into the grove!

That's when “Discovery” found ME.

Each and every time a family came to the grove, the children RAN off the trail and up into the grove, especially toddlers. Fascinated! It was as though they were compelled to touch each and every culm they could get their hands on. Surprise, joy, even awe were only a few of the feelings I could see in their faces. I had the same feelings as I watched them. The discoveries they made prompted my own. Instead of cutting the grape vines that were still hanging down through the canopy, now I would have to leave them. Children quickly discovered the vines and HAD to swing on them. (Don't worry, the parents were right there).

There are more stories to tell, but I guess none of them can beat the picture of the children bouncing off the trail in an absolute rush to explore, to discover.

What a great day in the park, sitting in the shady grove, sharing the boo love, soaking up the appreciation for all the fine work so many have come together to enjoy. I feel new again. (photos by Jim Phillips)

