



Southeast Chapter of the American Bamboo Society

Please enjoy our seasonal newsletter to
keep you all informed about the
chapter's activities.

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Anderson Grove History
- Upcoming Events
- Tips for Soil Health
- Featured Members



Newsletter Editor: Jess Brym
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Southeast Chapter of the American Bamboo Society

Mission Statement

"The Southeast Chapter shall promote knowledge of and interest in Bamboo: to present educational programs about bamboo, including meetings, classes and publications; to encourage the growth and propagation of bamboo by botanical gardens; to aid in the importation and quarantine of bamboo according to USDA guidelines; to provide support facilities where records, books, publications and other pertinent information will be made accessible to the Chapter's members and to the general public; to engage in and encourage such projects and research as may further the best interests of the community and the objectives of the Chapter; to cooperate with other organizations, foundations and institutions in the furtherance of its objectives and interest in the knowledge of bamboo."

Spring Edition

NEW CHAPTER POSITION INTRODUCTIONS



Name: Jess Brym
Position:
Communications
Location: Kathleen, GA

My name is Jess Brym and I am a licensed Speech Language Pathologist working in the California Bay Area and right here in middle Georgia. I was introduced to the bamboo world by my partner Ryane and have fallen in love with not only the plant but the community as well. I am pleased to put my skills in communication to work by keeping the chapter website up to date, connecting with chapter members to create informative and fun quarterly newsletters, as well as lending my assistance in any other ways that may be helpful!

Name: Ryane Holmes
Position: SEC Vice President
Location: Kathleen, GA

My name is Ryane Holmes and I do building automation for Stanford University as well as bamboo farming in Unadilla, GA. My interest in bamboo started in 2011 when my dad began planting Moso bamboo on our family land. I'm working towards creating an annual fall bamboo festival called "BOOFEST", at our family farm. This event will feature bamboo vendors, a haunted maze, and more! I am excited to be your new vice president and I hope to spark interest in the next generation of bamboo farmers.

Past Events

COASTAL GEORGIA
BOTANICAL GARDENS
Savannah, GA

GROVE CLEAN-UP
FEB. 5TH 2022



The chapter worked in the timber grove to clear dead poles and make room for new shoots. The chapter volunteers worked so diligently they were asked to halt their efforts as the piles of dead poles accumulated quickly. They then moved on to the smaller clusters in the bamboo collections and set to work removing small trees, thorny vines, and many dead poles.



The day ended with snacks and conversations with the Botanical Garden host. Members provide recommendations for best practices in processing the dead poles and discussed goals of care for the bamboo collections in the coming years.

Upcoming Events



EVENTS FOR 2022

SEPT 24th (tentative)

Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden
Bamboo Grove Clean-Up
@ Historic Bamboo Farm in
Savannah, GA

OCT 1st to the 30th

BooFest - Annual Bamboo Festival
@ the Holmes Grove in Unadilla, GA

EVENTS FOR 2022

OCT 21st to the 23rd

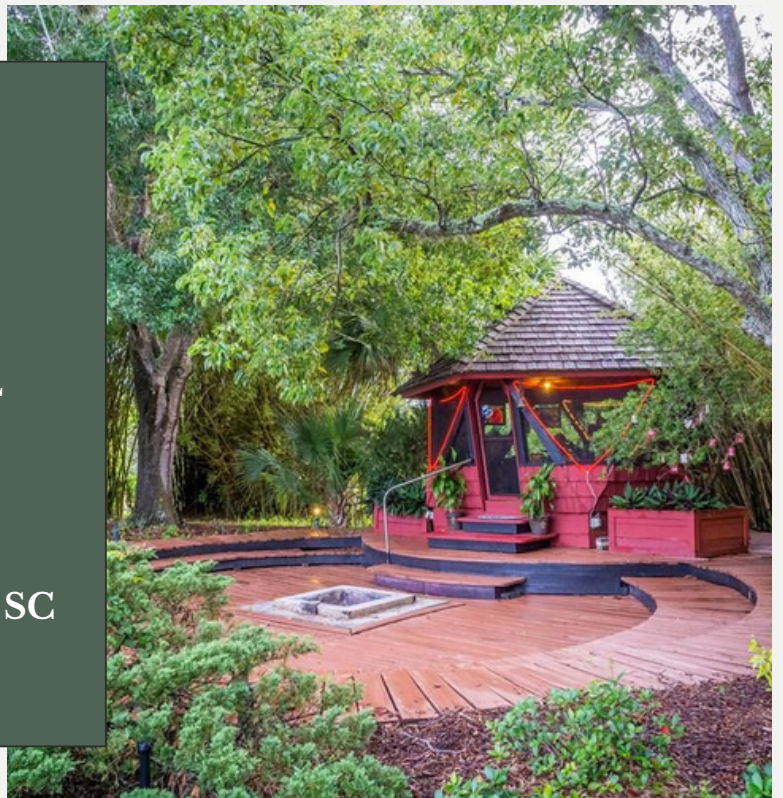
2022 ABS Conference

@ Kashi Ashram in Sebastian, FL

NOV 5th

Anderson Grove Clean-Up

@ Anderson Grove in Anderson, SC



Upcoming Events



EVENTS FOR 2023

JAN 21st (tentative)

Coastal Georgia Botanical Garden
Bamboo Grove Clean-Up
@ Historic Bamboo Farm in
Savannah, GA

FEB 18th

Holmes Grove Clean-Up
@ Holmes Grove in Unadilla, GA

EVENTS FOR 2023

FEB 12th (tentative)
Chapter Zoom Meeting

Feb 25th, 26th, and 27th
Avery Island Moso Weekend
@ Avery Island, LA



Stay tuned for more information regarding a collaboration with artists
Donna Dodson & Andy Moerlein at the Coastal Botanical Gardens in 2023!

October Spotlights



For More Information

bamboo.org/upcomingevents

October Spotlights



AMERICAN BAMBOO SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OCT 21-23 2022 SEBASTIAN FL

~Featuring world renown
presenters
~Verde: An evening of
bamboo art
~Sunday Funday: an entire
day devoted to hands on
demonstrations and talks on
how to bamboo

TICKETS ON SALE JUNE 2022

www.flcarabs.org

For More Information

bamboo.org/upcomingevents

October Spotlights



Join us for BooFest this October in Unadilla, GA!

Featuring a one-mile haunted bamboo maze, local bamboo vendors and artisans, food trucks, face painting, and more! BooFest strives to create opportunities for local high schoolers to volunteer, gain work experience, fundraise for school programs, and connect with the bamboo community. BooFest strives to promote a themed, scary, sinister, creepy atmosphere that is designed for a wide audience that is centered on community engagement and spooky fun!

Calling all bamboo vendors!

Kick-off weekend

Oct. 1st and 2nd

Halloween weekend

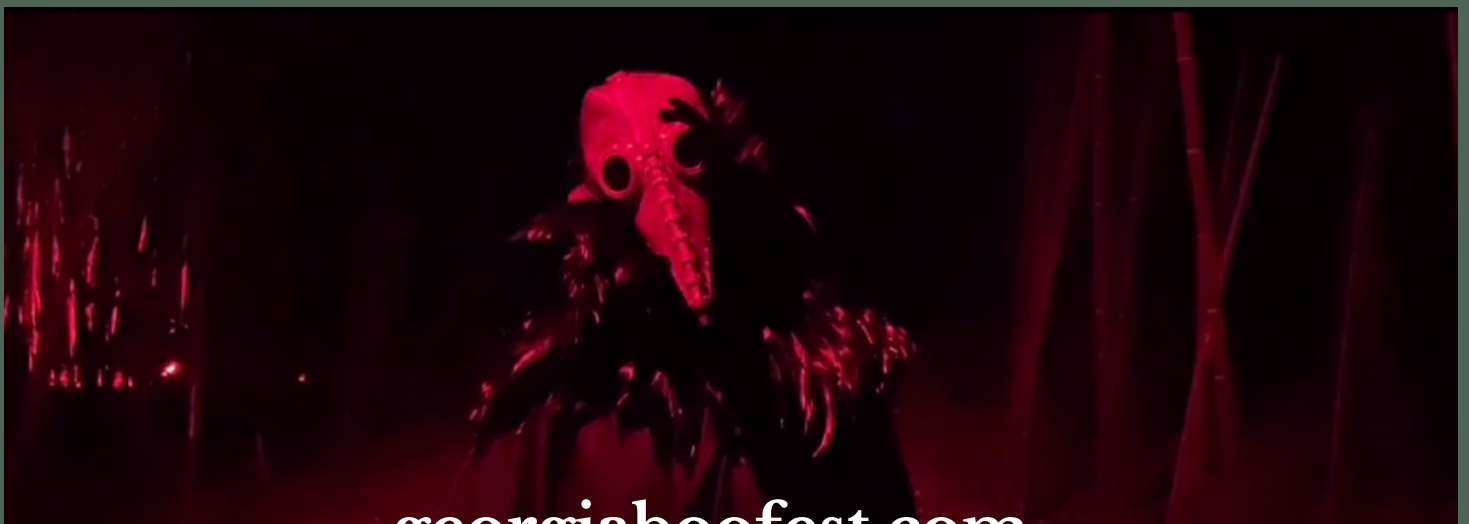
Oct. 28th, 29th, and 30th

We are looking for bamboo vendors, artists, and demonstrators to join us for the first and last weekends in October.

Free vendor spaces for ABS members.



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georgiaboofest.com

Growers' Tips



MYCELIUM LOGS & SHOOTS IN 2022

Written by
Ryane Holmes

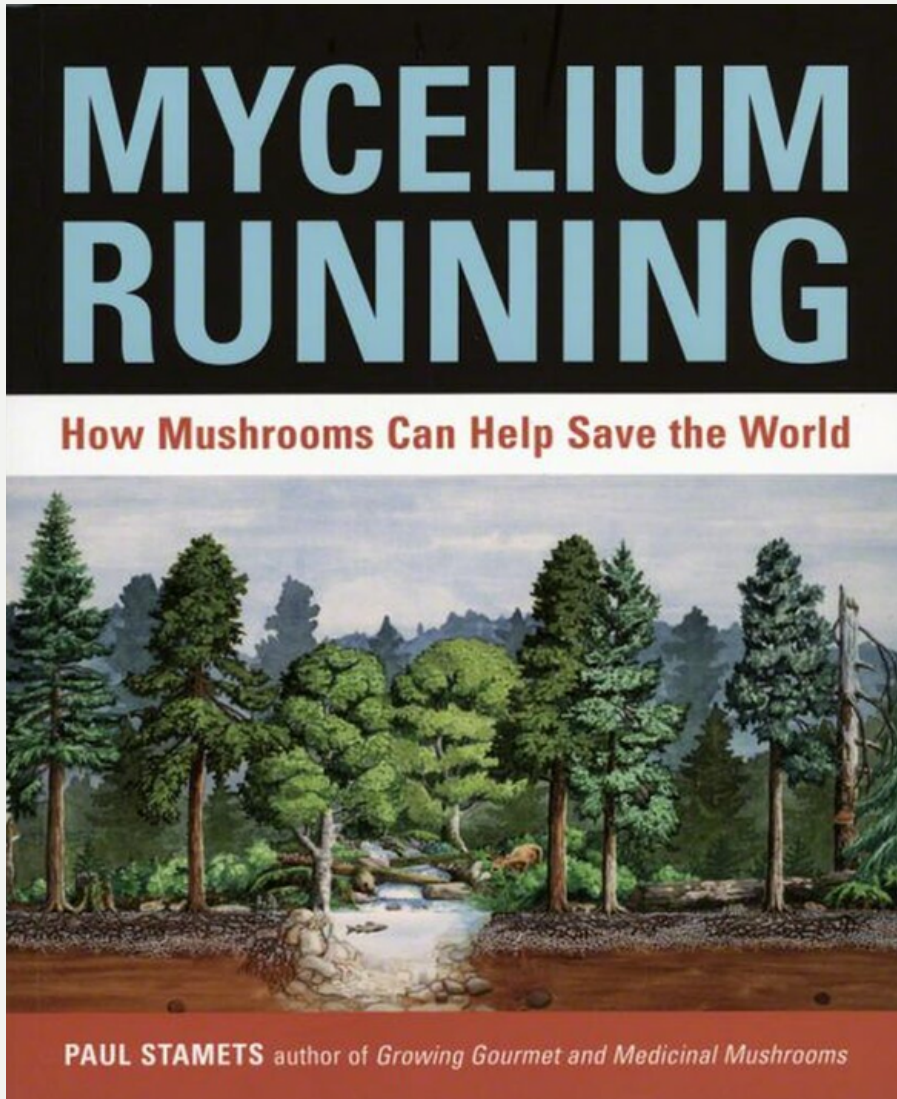
We are pleased to find that wherever we have spaces conducive for mushroom growth we find mycelium and subsequently a much larger Moso shoot in the spring. We have lined some of our inner pathways of our grove with mushroom dense logs that we gathered from the woods of the property. This spring our efforts paid off as we found many of our larger shoots would come up right alongside those fungus riddled logs. The phenomenon at work here is called Mycorrhiza. Within mutualistic mycorrhiza, the plant gives carbohydrates to the fungus, while the fungus helps the plant better absorb water and minerals in exchange. On our farm any mycorrhizal activity is highly encouraged not only for the symbiotic relationship it provides but also for robust soil health it helps create.

Mycorrhiza Relationships at Work

This picture is an example of the mycorrhizal relationship that is formed between the mushrooms and fungi of dead logs and the bamboo plants. Following this log down through the grove, you can see many new and substantial shoots coming up as if they are tracing the path of the log and the mycorrhizal connections.



Growers' Tips



Ryane's book recommendation for learning more about promoting soil health:

Mycelium Running
by Paul Stamets

A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

“I believe that mycelium is the neurological network of nature. Interlacing mosaics of mycelium infuse habitats with information-sharing membranes. These membranes are aware, react to change, and collectively have the long-term health of the host environment in mind. The mycelium stays in constant molecular communication with its environment, devising diverse enzymatic and chemical responses to complex challenges.”

— Paul Stamets, *Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World*

Featured Members



THE MYTH MAKERS

Donna Dodson &
Andy Moerlein

Andy and Donna are a collaborative team of sculptors who build monumental temporary sculptures with bamboo across the US and abroad.

They recently completed a residency at Gardenship, an artist-run collider space that fosters an ecosystem of creative discourse, exchange, discovery, equity, skill and support in Kearny, NJ. Together, the artists created six new sculptures for a May installation at the Dawes Arboretum in Columbus, Ohio.



Featured Members

"The Myth Makers have completed over 50 projects in the past 11 years. They have worked in 16 states, as well as Peru, Switzerland, China and Taiwan. Their work has won national awards and state recognitions. The collaboration between Dodson and Moerlein is born from a mutual love of the wild."
-- Gardenship Press Release



GARDENSHIP -- KEARNY, NJ

The Gardenship utilizes an adaptively reused WWII ship building facility.

Featured Members

"The Dawes Arboretum will welcome six monumental sculptures from artists The Myth Makers, with the exhibit scheduled to open to the public on May 27. The bamboo birds—some standing more than 20 feet tall—are currently being built by The Myth Makers, Donna Dodson and Andy Moerlein, in New Jersey at an industrial scale artist residency, Gardenship. These will be the tallest art pieces ever shown at The Dawes Arboretum. "

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: themythmakersblog@gmail.com

Website: www.themythmakers.org



"Built with bamboo and mixed media, the sculptures, coined "Avian Avatars" by Dodson and Moerlein, will be placed throughout The Arboretum and remain until Spring 2023. Made from natural materials, the sculptures are site-specific and are meant to slowly disappear into nature over the course of their life. Each sculpture coming to The Dawes Arboretum will represent an iconic local bird, and each will have its own historical backstory: "Love Long Last" is a pair of Northern Cardinals representing The Arboretum's founders; "Bertie's Peacock" is a peacock representing Bertie Dawes' passion for the magnificent bird; "The Gentleman" is an Eastern Bluebird in honor of Beman's Great-Grandfather, Manasseh Cutler and his love of trees; "Towering" is a Sandhill Crane representing the iconic Columbus artist Ann Hamilton; and "The Great Owl" is a Great Horned Owl that acknowledges the original inhabitants of this landscape and the significance of the panoramic views surrounding the Arboretum."

- Audrey Adair, Irvin PR, The Dawes Arboretum

Featured Members



DAIN SANSOME AND HIS FAMILY SPLITTING MACHINES

Visiting other bamboo operations is one worthy aspect of the American Bamboo Society's annual convention. Sometimes you get ideas by seeing what others are doing. That was one outcome of the 2021 Convention. Part of the Saturday was spent at the Koppedrayner bamboo farm in Odum. There Dain Sansome, a member of the Pacific Northwest Chapter, had a look at a bamboo splitting machine they brought in from Taiwan. As Dain put it, seeing the machine in operation mobilized him. He had "been looking at them for many years and seeing [one] up and running Stateside was the impetus" he needed. Now there are at least two such machines in America, one on the East Coast, the other in Oregon.



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Bamboo History

WHY THE ANNUAL GROVE CLEANING AT THE SILVERBROOK CEMETERY IN ANDERSON, SC?

Written by Kay Koppedrayner

For many years, members of the Southeast Chapter of the American Bamboo Society have made a trek to Anderson, SC, to take part in the annual grove cleaning. But has anyone ever wondered why the grove of Moso is significant? While impressive in its own right, standing adjacent to a small stream, it is not a large stand of bamboo. So why there? And why is the chapter dedicated to its preservation?

The answer to those questions can be found in a 1919 government circular, Plant Immigrants, no. 158, written by none other than Dr. David Fairchild. And who is Fairchild, you might ask. He was the intrepid plant explorer and the brainchild behind much of the history of bamboo (and so much more) in America. His life story is fascinating. If you're interested learning about him, I recommend Daniel Stone's 2018 *The Plant Explorer: The True Adventures of the Globe-Trotting Botanist Who Transformed What America Eats*. More about him is for another piece. Our concern here is the Moso grove in Anderson, SC.



Six years ago Rufus Fant planted a bamboo shoot on his property at Anderson, South Carolina. Here you see him standing in the grove that grew from that original plant

Its history goes back to the first years after turn of the 20th century. According to Dr. Fairchild (pp.1447-48), a man by the name of Rufus Fant happened to see an advertisement in a florists' paper for Giant Japanese Timber Bamoo. An importer, H. H. Berger out of San Francisco, was selling bamboo by mail order. Intrigued, Fant sent off his money and received a plant, or rather a piece of rhizome some time later. It died. Undeterred, he again sent money and this time the received a pot-grown plant.

Bamboo History

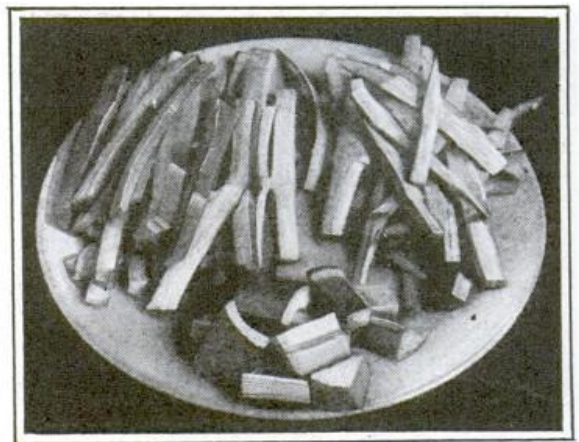
Afraid that it was not cold hardy he kept it potted for about five years. As you can imagine, it outgrew the pot, prompting Fant to plant it outside. Not only did it survive, it did well enough to give him the idea of starting a grove along a little stream that ran through the nearby Silverbrook Cemetery. That was 1912. In February of that year, Fant took up a clump and planted it there.

When Fairchild visited Fant in 1918, the original planting was doing well, as was the bamboo in the cemetery. On each side of Fant's two-story house Moso was growing. On the right, the bamboo had been cut back to render it low and bushy. On the left the culms was tall, almost to the roof on the second story. Fant explained that the clump on the right had been affected by a hard freeze on Feb. 18, 1918.

The temperature had dropped to 2° Fahrenheit. It appeared that the entire section had died. Fant cut the bamboo to the ground as soon as new growth appeared. That was around April 15, so the dead culms were an eyesore for only a couple of months. By May 10, the bushy new growth had attained the height Fairchild observed when he was there in June.

He felt it was important to note how quickly the bamboo recovered from the frost injury. He observed that it was of little consequence "that once in a while [a bamboo] grove will be killed down" (p. 1448). On the left side, the house sheltered the bamboo, hence its robust appearance.

In his report, Fairchild noted that he and Fant together counted 266 good-sized culms about 30 feet tall. These were presumably in the grove at the cemetery, though he is not specific as to exactly where they were while doing the counting. One of the culms was 12½ inches in circumference, measured one inch above the ground. That was the largest. Others ranged from 5 to 12 inches.



Here are the shoots, ready to be cooked. They are cut into small pieces, boiled for an hour, and then served with a butter sauce

Bamboo History

These were specimens, leading Fairchild to buy rhizomes for the newly-opened plant introduction station, now known as the historic bamboo farm in Savannah. Fairchild sought to make that species of bamboo, and others, available to those who requested it, so long as the applicants could explain how they were prepared to care for it.

In the years since Fairchild's visit to the Silverbrook Cemetery, the Moso has survived, for over 110 years in fact. Over that time there have been ups and downs in its care. People have helped themselves to poles without much consideration to what they were doing. Certain unfriendly creepers, poison ivy for one, have made their way into the grove.

Dead culms have not always been cut out, but in spite of this, the bamboo continues to grow. In recent years, Michelle and John Tkach from our chapter have been diligent in coming at least once a year, if not more, to care for this grove. The history of this grove is too valuable to let it fall into neglect. That's why the Southeast Chapter organizes an annual work session there. This year's date is November 5.

Making Money Out of the Bamboo Shoot

It rivals American sweet corn in flavor and grows at the rate of a foot a day

By Captain H. P. Sheldon

A GIANT grass four inches thick that grows a foot a day until it is fifty feet high—such is bamboo. Its sprouts rival our sweet corn in succulency and flavor; its towering stem will furnish timber to make furniture, fans, and fishrods, tent-poles, trellises, and toothpicks; its graceful outlines and green and golden beauty rival that of the white birch.

Is it any wonder that the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture encourages the cultivation of this fast-growing Oriental immigrant?

You first encounter bamboo as an edible in that Chinese dish known as chop suey. It is a morsel of firm, wholesome texture and delicate flavor, but from the tender sprout. Hitherto America has relied upon imported preserved bamboo sprouts, but now we may have the fresh home-grown article direct from our own plantations.

For the bamboo is already flourishing in several American groves, the oldest of which is near Savannah. Another profitable grove is located at Avery Island, Louisiana. The plants were introduced first by a Cuban rice-planter some thirty years ago, and later, in 1902, David Fairchild, a plant explorer for the United States Department of Agriculture, succeeded in introducing other sprouts. The bamboo finds our Southern climate and moist soil friendly, and there now remains no question as to the adaptability of the giant grass in the Southern Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific states.

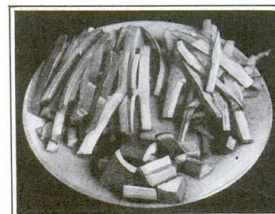
One plant will form a grove, for it grows and spreads much in the manner of its smaller cousin, asparagus. It needs no cultivation whatever, once it is established. An acre of bamboo will produce one thousand sprouts each year for forty or fifty years.

A few days ago, Secretary of Agriculture Meredith received a package of edible shoots from a Louisiana plantation that Mr. Fairchild started. Mr. Fairchild, sponsor of the new industry, and perhaps better informed on bamboo than any one else in America, says this about bamboo culture: "The high food value of the bamboo shoots—about equal to that of the onion—their earliness as a spring vegetable, the fact that permanent plantations can be established and that the timber from the uncut shoots has an increasing market value, makes me confident of its successful introduction into American horticulture."

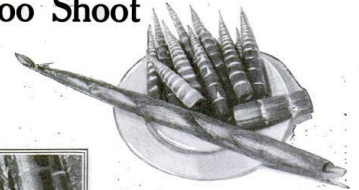
In preparing the shoots for the table the brown outer husk is stripped off, the tender sprout sliced lengthwise, and boiled for an hour in salted water. It



Six years ago Rufus Fant planted a bamboo shoot on his property at Anderson, South Carolina. Here you see him standing in the grove that grew from that original plant



Here are the shoots, ready to be cooked. They are cut into small pieces, boiled for an hour, and then served with a butter sauce

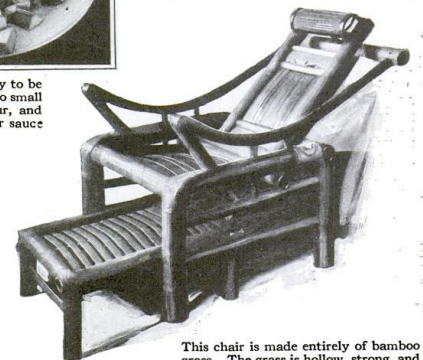


The small shoots have a delicious taste and are very healthful. Here you see a plateful of shoots that have had their husks removed. One of the shoots, however, is still in the husk

is served with drawn butter.

A description of its industrial value would run into as many paragraphs as a treatise on the value of our native pine—but there is this difference: generations of man must come and go while a pine sapling reaches maturity, but the bamboo achieves the same result in a space of months! Its hollow construction and impervious surface make it useful for drainage and water pipes and for any framework requiring extreme strength combined with lightness and resiliency. The long fibers are extremely tough and pliable and are well suited for basket-weaving and barrel-hoop making, etc.

The plant-loving people of the Far East have long recognized the peculiar, graceful beauty of the bamboo as a feature in their landscape grouping; its slender height, delicate coloring, and feathery foliage are unusual even in a tropical landscape abounding in variegated plant life, and as a place in which children can play, no other spot can rival the deep green shade of a bamboo grove.



This chair is made entirely of bamboo grass. The grass is hollow, strong, and yet flexible: hence it is excellent material from which to make furniture

Mark your calendars, that's Nov. 5, 2022.



Current Officers

President - Kay Koppedraye

Vice-President - Ryane Holmes

Treasurer - Robby Russell

Secretary - Tracy Cato

Chapter Rep. - Daphne Lewis

Communications - Jess Brym



THANK YOU FOR READING!