

BAMBOO GARDENS

of Washington

summer • 2007

NEWSLETTER FOR

BAMBOO FRIENDS

INTRODUCING THE Husband Family

What a joy it is for Andrew, Jim and me to become the new owners of Bamboo Gardens! We are thrilled to begin this new adventure. For me, walking through the bamboo groves is an ethereal experience. The unusual delicacy of these tall, elegant plants takes my mind to a peaceful place.

I can verify that **Andrew**, as a young boy, loved to spend his time outdoors. As he grew, he became interested in plants. He worked at a nursery in high school; this led to his decision to study Environmental Resource Management as part of his Geography degree at Central Washington University. He obtained a second degree in Plant Ecology as part of a Biology degree. His practical experience during college included working for the USDA with the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service as a Plant Protection and Quarantine aid.

Andrew brings to Bamboo Gardens sixteen years of comprehensive work experience in the agricultural, horticultural and landscape industry. He is the owner of Tranquility Landscapes Company. In addition to his maintenance accounts, the company has designed and installed water features, rockeries, plantings, and irrigation systems.



Jim is currently completing his 37th year as an engineer at the Boeing Company. He designs automatic flight control systems for the commercial airplane division. His focus for the nursery until his retirement is to maintain a viable business and financial plan. He will also do hands-on projects to support Andrew when he is there on some Saturdays. My background is in home economics education. My role is to promote the nursery via newsletters, educational materials, and reaching out to the public media. My hands-on projects involve using my love for good design to create a welcoming and inspiring environment. —**Rainy Husband**



We're Full Speed Ahead

Last fall, many of you were saddened to hear the nursery might close. Now, many customers are remarking on the nursery's dramatic spring rebirth under the new ownership. Every week there is something new. We're improving the grounds, restocking hard goods, and propagating plants like mad (please check website for availability).

For example, we have some amazing bamboo specimens at the nursery. In the foreground right, you see one of our mature *Phyllostachys aurea* tree boxes with large diameter culms. The nodes are so striking that few people walk by without commenting "cool!" or "wow, do they grow that way?" In the distance, to the left of the entrance gate, we also have a variety of potted bamboos up to 20 feet tall. *Pseudosasa japonica*, *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* 'Alata' and *Chusquea gigantea* are a few of our beautiful specimens. Most of these were potted up last year and are ready for sale now.

And, don't miss seeing the three stunning black granite water features which are enhancing one of our display gardens.

Nursery Owner Semi-retires

REALITY STEPS IN. While shopping at the Arboretum plant sale I heard, “Hello Bamboo Lady.” Wow, I felt like a celebrity! Then reality hit. I won’t be at the nursery day after day. I won’t be chatting it up with customers, or helping them select bamboo or cooing over their cute babies. I’ll miss the beauty of the waving bamboo in the glow of sunset. AND, I will definitely miss my staff. They have been so dedicated!

When asked, ‘how can you leave?’ There’s not one answer. In brief, it is because after 19 years of owning the nursery it is time to simplify my life—more time with family and friends, less time commuting and more time for my own garden. I’ll spend some time as a consultant and coach to small business owners and not-for-profit organizations.



I’m so delighted that the Husband family is taking over my business. They feel like part of my family. I so appreciate their enthusiasm.

To the founder of Bamboo Gardens, Daphne Lewis, I applaud your vision and creative launching of the business. To the many staff that helped over the years assisting customers, creating wonderful displays, and caring for plants, a hearty thank you!!! To our suppliers, I’ll miss our conversations and mutual support. Thanks for your trust and your great products and services.

And, a bamboozle of thanks to you loyal customers who have watched us grow, purchased our products, planted bamboo thoughtfully, and told friends about our nursery.—**Jeannine Florance** ■

“Panda Paradise” Wins a Silver Award

After years of lobbying, Julian Gray-Florance (pictured bottom right) convinced his mom, former owner Jeannine Florance, to let him do a display garden for the 2007 Northwest Flower and Garden Show. After his panda bear habitat drawing was accepted, he had to squeeze in time to plan the details, select plants, rocks, and more.

According to Jeannine, the project was totally Julian’s. Her contributions were finding plushy pandas at the Zoo gift shop and then working under Julian’s direction to create the display. She was busy shoveling sawdust, placing plants, clipping dead leaves and buying lots and lots of food for Julian’s volunteer helpers—17 and 18 year old males.

Julian’s ah ha came when he realized he had to supervise and delegate, not just be creating. Imagine teens up at 7 am and working hard for 4 1/2 days (58 hours). Andrew Husband (pictured right) joined the crew and also dug the mature timber bamboo used in the display. The display brought praise from many seasoned landscape designers and other show visitors. As a senior in high school, Julian was the youngest designer in the show’s 18-year history. Julian is standing in the garden that he created, proudly holding a rose. ■



Classes Offered This Summer

▣ HOW TO THIN AND PRUNE YOUR BAMBOO

Saturday, August 4, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

- *No registration required*
- *Free*
- *Please meet at the deck outside the sales office*

Bamboo is loveliest when it receives above ground pruning as well as root pruning. We will demonstrate how much to remove in an established stand of bamboo and where it is best to make the cuts. We will also recommend tips for topping bamboo to control height.



T*his beautiful Rubro is one of our latest to shoot. Now is a fun time to see the dramatic growth of bamboo. It's also a great time to prune. We'll be happy to introduce you to some pruning basics at our outdoor classes this summer and fall.*

▣ BAMBOO RHIZOME MAINTENANCE FOR HEALTH AND CONTROL

Saturday, August 18, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

- *No registration required*
- *Free*
- *Please meet at the deck outside the sales office*

Many of the bamboo hardy to the Pacific Northwest put out rhizomes that love to travel. This session will demonstrate how to identify a rhizome, the installation of a barrier and how to root prune for a sustainable planting. We will also demonstrate use of our favorite maintenance tools. ▣

Container Garden

We are sincerely thankful to Lynda Robertson, Perennial Lead, at Molbaks Nursery in Woodinville for creating several container gardens at the nursery. Lynda has helped Rainy with her home gardening projects for several years. When Rainy asked Lynda for some suggestions on how to combine colorful perennials and annuals with our bamboo, Lynda volunteered to spend some time on her day off at Bamboo Gardens working with her and Bamboo Gardens staff. ▣

