

# BAMBOO GARDENS

of Washington

Summer • 2006

NEWSLETTER FOR

BAMBOO FRIENDS

## NEW CONTEST Stars of the Big Screen

Bamboo is a wonderful plant to use to screen out unwanted views as well as noise. We're looking for great examples of bamboo used this way. Send us a couple of high-resolution (300 dpi or higher) photos and a 100-word or less description to include such things as what problem you were trying to solve, how you solved it (design), and what kinds of bamboo (and other plants if applicable) you used to create a screen. Include a before photo if you have one. Submissions are due September 1, 2006.

The winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Bamboo Gardens, good for any product we offer. Two runners-up will receive \$25 gift certificates. Photos submitted by winners and runners-up will be posted on the website as well. Please send high resolution digital images and text by email, or mail photos (electronic on disk or prints) and text to:

**Stars of the Big Screen  
Garden Contest**  
Bamboo Gardens of Washington  
5035 196th Ave NE  
Redmond, WA 98074, or email  
bamboogardens@earthlink.net

## Bamboo Summer To-Do List

**✓ In the Ground BAMBOO.** The type of bamboo with running rhizomes is healthier and more beautiful when culms (canes) are thinned to about 4 to 6 inches apart. Remove culms that are dead, old and less colorful; very small; leaning; or too close to others.

A staff favorite tool for this pruning work is our Japanese bamboo pruning saw by Silky Fox. It's strong and just the right size. Cut canes as close to the ground as possible to avoid sharp stubs.

If culms pop up outside your desired boundary line or your barrier, dig down to trace the travel line. Cut and pull out such rhizomes back to your limit line—simply cutting canes won't stop these travelers. If you would like to hire a professional to take care of this task, please give us a call and we'll give you some names of bamboo maintenance specialists that would be happy to help you out.



**✓ BAMBOO IN POTS.** Thin out culms as noted above. In a 24-inch-wide pot, 6 to 8 culms will be plenty. Leaves will multiply with more room.

If you have a root-bound pot, (can't dig into the soil and needs daily water) then go ahead and remove one-third of the root mass off the sides and replace with new potting soil. A reciprocating saw is ideal for cutting out chunks. Do this on an overcast

day. Usually this is done in October, but if you didn't take care of this last year it is good to do it now. This gives new rhizomes some room to grow and allows buds to form for next year's canes.

See if water is needed after a rain. Typically rain barely wets the soil since bamboo leaves act like an umbrella.

*(continued on next page)*

(Bamboo Summer To-Do List, continued)

### ☑ **SHOOTS, SHOOTS, AND OOPS.**

If you get a number of new culms and then some die before they grow, not to worry. The mother plant expended her energy for the season with the first shoots and simply could give no more. Wait until next spring.



New culm



Mold from aphid residue



Spider mite web

☑ **SEEING YELLOW? STAY MELLOW!** It's perfectly normal to see lots of yellow leaves show up in early summer as bamboo begins shedding old leaves. Watch for the new leaf buds to unfurl.

On the other hand, lots of brown leaves are not good. If your bamboo was in a root-bound pot over winter it may be dead unless you have seen new shoots by now.

☑ **LEAF VIEWING PAYS OFF.** As the season turns hotter and more humid, keep an eye out for aphids since they will leave a sticky residue that turns to mold in winter. Blasting leaves with water from a hose is helpful.

If you see any fine spider webbing under leaves it's usually bamboo spider mites. Healthier plants are less susceptible, but these pests can travel on the wind from neighborhood bamboos. We like to use a product called SharpShooter since it will not harm plants, animals or people and is useful on aphids, ants and other plant pests. Spray on an overcast day. See us if you need some in ready-to-use or gallon-size concentrate form. For tall bamboo a certified tree sprayer is recommended. ■

## Staff Picks

### PHIL SEAGRAN, NURSERY SPECIALIST

**Grass:** "The workhorse of my garden is my favorite ornamental grass, *Calamagrostis acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'. This stately grass stands alone and adds texture, dimension and color most of the year. Late spring to summer, it provides a dense green backdrop along with its newly formed flowers that dance in the slightest breeze. Its glory is in the fall when the stems and flowers turn a beautiful tawny gold.

### JEFF GLICK, NURSERY SPECIALIST

**Bamboo:** "Hmm, favorite bamboo? That's like asking which child is one's favorite! I guess I'll have to say *Phyllostachys aurea* 'Koi' (a variety of Golden bamboo). Its graceful foliage bespeaks the glamorous, the mysterious and faraway, the cover artwork of kitschy "exotica" recordings from the Fifties and Sixties.


### TERRI BATES, ASSISTANT MANAGER

**Granite:** Looking to add traditional elements of stone and water to a small garden or along a woodland path? The simplicity of the *Tetsubachi* basin is my favorite way to add elegance amid a mass of foliage. You can dress it up with a bamboo ladle for a more Asian flair. ■



Tetsubachi basin and ladle

## The Sky's the Limit— Local Architect Creates Amazing Bamboo Sculpture

Created by Glenn Easley, architect by profession and Vashon Island resident, this tower sculpture is 50 feet tall and composed of 1" bamboo poles on the lower 20 feet and 3/4" poles on the upper 30 feet. Easley, who sent us these photos, has only recently begun experimenting with building things out of bamboo. We'll guess as a child he was great with TinkerToys! 




## Gild Your Garden With Gorgeous Grasses & Lavender

Starting July 15, all in-stock ornamental grasses and lavender are 20% off. There's still time to plant to enjoy fall colors and to root-in before winter.

Over 30 varieties of grasses including the very popular *Hakonechloa macra* 'All Gold'. This Japanese grass is a slow spreader with bamboo-like foliage that forms flowing gold mounds of long blades. Another striking grass is *Nasaella/Stipa tenuissima* (Mexican Feather Grass). The green fountain of very fine textured, dense foliage always draws comments.

Lavender, our newest product line, beautifully compliments the ornamental grasses. One of the



very aromatic traditional seen in large fields in France and Sequim is our *Lavendula intermedia* (Grosso/Fat Spike Lavender). It does well in borders, containers and rock gardens. Visit Bamboo Gardens to see our many favorites. 

# Summer Workshops and Events

## July

### How to Thin or Prune Your Bamboo

Sunday, July 16, 10:00–11:00 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 a three year or older stand of bamboo and where it is best to make the cuts. We will also talk about the best times to do this pruning.

### How to Grow Beautiful Bamboo Plants

Sunday, July 23, 10:00–11:00 a.m. • No registration required • Free  
• Please meet at the deck outside the sales office

This general introduction to bamboo will cover planting, fertilizing, pruning and ways to control the spread. We will talk about how to deal with the few bamboo pests and will explain specific care requirements for summer and fall. To provide a better understanding of the different bamboo species, we will tour the gardens and take a closer look.

### How to Build a Bamboo Trellis

Saturday, July 29, 10:00–11:00 a.m. • Pre-registration required • \$18 includes tool and supplies • Please call 425-868-5166 to register  
• Limited to 12 people • Ask at our sales counter for the location on our premises

A fun and informative introduction to the techniques of using bamboo poles, tie wires and a twist tool to construct an attractive trellis. This easy-to-master technique will encourage you to create your own elaborate structures such as fences, gates, and more!

## August

### Bamboo Rhizome Maintenance for Health and Control

Sunday, August 6, 10:00–11:00 a.m. • No registration required • Free  
• Ask at our sales counter for the location on our premises

Many of the bamboo hardy to the Pacific Northwest put out rhizomes that love to travel. This session will explain the installation of a barrier and how to root prune to sustain healthy plants. We will demonstrate use of our favorite maintenance tools which include the Bamboo Slammer.

### How to Thin or Prune Your Bamboo

Sunday, August 13, 10-11 a.m. • No registration required • Free  
• Ask at our sales counter for the location on our premises

Bamboo is loveliest when it receives above ground pruning as well as root pruning. We will demonstrate how much to remove in a three year or older stand of bamboo and where it is best to make the cuts. We will also talk about the best times to do this pruning.

### How to Build a Bamboo Trellis

Saturday, August 19, 3:00–4:00 p.m. • Pre-registration required  
• \$18 includes tool and supplies • Please call 425-868-5166 to register  
• Limited to 12 people • Ask at our sales counter for the location on our premises

A fun and informative introduction to the techniques of using bamboo poles, tie wires and a twist tool to construct an attractive trellis. This easy-to-master technique will encourage you to create your own elaborate structures such as fences, gates, and more!

## When You Visit ...

### Other Fun Things to Do in Redmond!

Combine a visit to Bamboo Gardens with a fun event this summer. Below are some great things happening in our fair city:

**Saturdays.** Redmond Saturday Market, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., NW Corner of Redmond Town Center; for more information, visit [www.redmondsaturdaymarket.homestead.com](http://www.redmondsaturdaymarket.homestead.com). Continues every Saturday May through October 28, 2006.

**Sunday, July 16.** Gansango Music and Dance (African), Anderson Park, 7802 168th Avenue NE, 7:00 p.m. For more information, call 425-556-2392.

**Wednesday, July 19.** Redmond Town Center Summer Concert Series: Center Street Plaza, 16445 NE 74th St., Hot Club Sandwich plays acoustic hot jazz at 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, July 23.** Wooden O Theatre: Hamlet (Classical Theatre for Families of All Ages), Anderson Park, 7802 168th Avenue NE, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, July 30.** Lois La Fond and the Rockadiles (World Music Meets Family Fun), Anderson Park, 7802 168th Avenue NE, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, August 6.** The Mark Whitman Band plays blues, rhythm & blues and jazz at Anderson Park, 7802 168th Avenue NE, 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, August 11.** Friday Night Bicycle Races, Group Health Velodrome, Marymoor Park. Registration begins at 6:30, race starts at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 206-457-4555.

**Sunday, August 13.** GreenStage: Seattle's veteran Shakespeare in the Park company presents Midsummer Night's Dream at Anderson Park, 7802 168th Avenue NE, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, August 20.** Balkan Cabaret, Balkan café music at Anderson Park, 7802 168th Avenue NE, 7:00 p.m.