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## **The North Carolina Arboretum Hosts Bamboo Festival**

**ASHEVILLE, NC** – The North Carolina Arboretum will host the annual Bamboo Festival of the American Bamboo Society’s Southeastern Chapter Saturday, July 9 and Sunday, July 10. The festival will be held in the Arboretum’s Education Center from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Visitors will learn about bamboo’s artistic value and functionality throughout the festival, which features hands-on workshops, lectures, and demonstrations. Bamboo plants, crafts, and products will also be for sale by festival vendors.

Workshops and lectures at this year’s festival include:

Bamboo branch miniature wind chime and bamboo bead making workshops by Carole Meckes of Bamboo Branch, Austin, Texas

Bamboo crafting demonstrations by Keiji Oshima of Haiku Bamboo Nursery, Hendersonville, NC

*Bamboo 101* lecture by David Benfield of Brightside Bamboo, Durham, NC

*The Economic Potential of Bamboo in the Southern United States* lecture by Mike Hotchkiss of Georgia Bamboo, Perry, GA

Sumi-Style Bamboo Ink Painting workshop by Giana Eden of Giana Eden Pottery, Jessup, GA

*No Fear! Landscaping with Popular Running Bamboos* lecture by Richard Argo of Argo Bamboo Farm, Douglas County, GA

*Farming Bamboo for Edible Shoots* lecture and demonstration by Daphne Lewis of Perry, GA

*Harvest of Plenty – Bamboo Leaf Tea* lecture by Emanuel Johnson of Tennessee Bamboo, Greeneville, TN

The Bamboo Festival is one of many popular events hosted by The North Carolina Arboretum. Each year more than 376,000 visitors experience the Arboretum’s gardens, trails, exhibits, shows and expos, educational programs, demonstrations and lectures. The Arboretum’s ability to meet its mission and enrich the visitor experience is made possible by a community of supporters—from members, volunteers and staff to state and local funds, tribute gifts, grants, and community partners.

This event is free for Arboretum Society members or with the standard parking fee (\$8 per personal motor vehicle). For more information, visit [www.ncarboretum.org](http://www.ncarboretum.org) or call (828) 665-2492. The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institution of the 17-campus University of North Carolina system, is to cultivate connections between people and plants.

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*The NC Arboretum is located next to the Blue Ridge Parkway entrance at Milepost 393. From I-26, take Exit 33 and follow Blue Ridge Parkway signs for two miles to the entrance ramp. Visit [www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit](http://www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit) for parking fees, property hours and building hours. For general information call (828) 665-2492 or visit [www.ncarboretum.org](http://www.ncarboretum.org).*