JANUARY 1972

The Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL

Edgemont, Albemarle County, Virginia. Both sempervirens and suffruticosa box are used with taste and skill to frame the approach to the fine old house from the sunken garden. Edgemont is one of the places open in 1972 for Historic Garden Week.

Photograph by Flournoy, from the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

Boyce, Va. **Vol. XI No. 3**

Edited Under The Direction Of

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

President ..... Rear Admiral Neill Phillips
1st V. P. ..... Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr.
2nd V. P. ..... Mr. Alden Eaton
Secretary-Treasurer ..... Mrs. Andrew C. Kirby

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- Dr. W. R. Singleton
- Prof. A. S. Beecher
- Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting

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The Boxwood Bulletin

JANUARY 1972 Vol. XI No. 3

EDITOR — MRS. EDGAR M. WHITING

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Orland E. White

(April 25, 1885 - January 10, 1972)

Orland E. White, born in a sod house in Iowa, grew to young manhood in South Dakota. He studied at South Dakota State College where many things happened that shaped his future: he was an assistant to Professor Niels E. Hansen who was introducing and breeding hardy fruits and crops for the northwest plains; he took botanical courses with, among others, Professor E. W. Olive who was to be a lasting force in the life of White; he with several associates read Mendel's paper, and he met Loto R. Underwood who was to become his loyal and understanding wife.

Next, Harvard, where he worked on the genetics of tobacco with Professor E. M. East (D.Sc. degree, 1913), and then to the new Brooklyn Botanical Garden, where he was fourteen years in charge of plant breeding and economic plants. There he established himself as a geneticist of the old school. He was on leave twice: to work on a castor-bean production program for the United States Government during World War I, whereby he met the late Bruce D. Reynolds, Professor of Biology, University of Virginia; to go on a scientific expedition (1921-1922) across South America via the Amazon Basin, and from this trip his romantic self never recovered.

In 1927 Professor Reynolds, Chairman of a Committee on The Blandy Experimental Farm, persuaded Doctor White to accept appointment as Director of the Farm and Professor of Agricultural Biology in the University of Virginia; Doctor White retired in 1955 as Distinguished Professor Emeritus.

Doctor White's accomplishments during this phase of his life were phenomenal. He created at Blandy a unique institution of international reputation. He evolved his own way of teaching — of training students "to know beans when the bag is open," and he attracted graduate students who have made reputations for themselves, in horticulture and agriculture and in the academic world. He was truly one of the great teachers of botany that this country has produced. And he expressed his deep love and appreciation of plants by building at Blandy an extensive collection of woody speciments that will long be a memorial to him. I have known no other individual with such an intimate knowledge of so many kinds of plants.

When the Farm is in its full glory in the Spring, Doctor White's ashes will be commingled with those of Mrs. White, which are already there, to enhance the lush growth of the blue grass of that beautiful place.

J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

The American Boxwood Society

Autumn Meeting of Officers and Directors

The meeting convened at Heronwood, Upperville, Va., at 11 A.M., November 4, 1971.

The President presided.

Other officers and directors present: Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., Mr. Alden Eaton, Dr. W. R. Singleton, Professor A. S. Beecher, Mr. Alan Caspar, Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting. The President announced that a quorum was present, in accordance with the terms of the by-laws.

Also present as guests and participants were: Mrs. W. R. Singleton, Dr. R. C. Lambe of V.P.I., and Mr. B. F. D. Runk of the University of Virginia.

In the absence of the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Kirby, and of the recorder, Mrs. Dove, the chairman kept the transcript of the proceedings.

The minutes of the May 1971, Annual Meeting of the Society as published in the July BULLETIN were approved.

The Chairman presented the Secretary-Treasurer's report (appended herewith); which was accepted and approved with thanks to Mrs. Kirby.

The Editor's report was made by Mrs. Whiting, who gave an interesting account of the diverse sources from which she draws the invaluable items published in the Bulletin. Mrs. Whiting was congratulated on the number of outstandingly valuable contributions she had obtained for the October BULLETIN, just off the press.

The Chairman made a report on the present status of the Boxwood Society- University of Maryland joint project being carried on at College Park for the study of nutritional aspects of boxwood culture. He read a letter dated October 7 from Dr. Henry T. Skinner (unable to be present due to a bad cold), our director who heads the project committee for the Society. This letter (which brings us up to date as to the status of the project) is appended herewith. The Chairman emphasized the fact that it is desirable for officers, directors, and members of the Society to visit the University of Maryland at College Park to observe the work in progress. Telephone ahead to Dr. Francis Stark, Head of Department of Horticulture, 301-454-3614, for an appointment with Mr. Wayne Hefley, the graduate student in charge of the project.

Dr. R. C. Lambe of Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg gave an excellent, skillfully presented, and very disturbing account (illustrated with first-rate colored slides) of fungus and bacteria infections of boxwood. In addition to our old familiar bacteria enemies the nematodes, there now have arisen two very serious fungus threats: *PHYTOPHTHORA* (root rot) and *VERTICILLIUM* (stem blight). This is a very alarming state of affairs; with no solution as yet in sight. Our only comfort and hope lie in the fact that a scientist of Dr. Lambe's stature and drive has been assigned the problem by an outstanding institution such as V.P.I. Dr. Lambe is most cooperative and will work closely with the Society. He hopes to give us more detailed information by the time of the May 1972 Annual Meeting. Please read carefully his interim report appended herewith.

Mr. B.F.D. Runk, former Dean of the University of Virginia, who recently has been appointed by the University to have direct supervision of Blandy Experimental Farm, was introduced by the Chairman, and warmly welcomed by the meeting. Mr. Runk drew attention to Mrs. Kirby's excellent article on Blandy (p. 28 of the October BULLETIN, just published) and stated that at present he has little to add to the information contained therein. He emphasized that he hopes to work in close cooperation with our Society and will welcome our interest in Blandy. We were most grateful for the cooperation of Mr. Runk and Mr. Casper in permitting (under the new Blandy regime) Mrs. Kirby to maintain the Society's voluminous files and activities at Blandy.

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that at the February or March director's meeting we shall decide on the place for the 1972 Annual Meeting and on personnel vacancies to be filled.

After luncheon an inspection was made at Heronwood of the Grace Hendrick Phillips Memorial Boxwood Collection (a gift of Mr. Henry Hohman.) This is a duplicate of the collection (also given by Mr. Hohman) that the Society maintains at Blandy. Plants are generally in flourishing condition. The matter of correct nomenclature continues to trouble us, especially in the case of some of the rare cultivars.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Neill Phillips

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

The Board of Directors Meeting, Heronwood, Upperville, Va.

November 4, 1971

Treasurer's Report:

Balance in checking account May 1, 1971			$2,509.84
Receipts:			
Memberships: new, renewal and non-member (subscriber)	2,775.00		
Extra Bulletins and Wagenknecht Lists sold	80.08		
Interest on C D #1025	50.00		
Deposits 5/1 to 11/1/71			2,905.08
			5,414.92
Disbursements:			
The Boxwood Bulletin			
Printing (April & July issues)	560.00		
Copyrights (2 issues)	12.00		
Mailing: plates, postage, manila envelopes, etc	85.35		
Other costs: cuts, photo, etc.	149.20	806.55	
Secretarial Services:			
R. Dove	42.35		
L. Devers	30.00	72.35	
Office Expenses			
Stamps, postage			
#10 Envelopes			
1971 Directory of Amer. Horticulture		40.01	
Contribution for calendar year 1971, Service Memorandum of Understanding University of Maryland		700.00	
Total disbursements May 1 to Nov. 1, 1971			1,618.91
Checking account balance 11/1/71			3,796.01
Savings, C. D. #1025			2,000.00
Savings Account (Interest from April 1 to Nov. 1, 1971 is not included in this report.)			907.05
Total Cash Assets, Nov. 1, 1971			6,703.06

All accounts are in the Bank of Clarke County, Berryville, Va.

AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

Boyce, Virginia

22620

Secretary's Report

November 4, 1971

As of November 1, 1971, 53 new members have been enrolled during the 1971-72 year. One of these, Mrs. James Wiley of Gordonsdale Farm, The Plains, Va., became the 14th LIFE Member.

Currently on the ABS Mailing List there are:

484	Regular Members
52	Contributing
8	Sustaining
14	Life
5	Honorary Life
32	Non-Members (Subscribers)
15	Foreign Institutions (Free)
11	U.S. & Canada, editors, institutions and individuals (Free)
3	Editors (U.S.), on an exchange basis.
624	

Thus, of the 750 printed, approximately 125 copies of the current issue of the *Boxwood Bulletin* will be put in storage.

I am pleased to report that Mr. B. F. D. Runk, who has overall responsibility for the Blandy Farm and its operation, has very kindly approved keeping the office of the Secretary-Treasurer at the Blandy Farm — where it has been since 1967. I am very appreciative of this since keeping the records and files elsewhere would be inconvenient and make the work of this office almost impossible for me. Incidentally, Mr. Runk is one of our new members.

Since May 1, forty-six separate packages containing some 135 Bulletins have been mailed. These were back issues sold, copies to new members, the Editor's copies to contributors, and the complete set of Bulletins to Mr. Hefley at the University of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna C. Kirby,
Secretary-Treasurer

The American Boxwood Society

(continued)

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

Presented by R. C. Lambe

Although the Phytophthora root rot disease is the principal cause of decline and death of both English and American boxwood, other fungi and nematodes cause disease.

Recently a planting of American boxwood showing stem blight was found by laboratory culturing at Blacksburg to have Verticillium disease. This disease has not been considered a serious problem in Virginia but numerous articles have been published over the years by various investigators. Cuttings collected from apparently healthy plants when propagated under mist developed a stem rot preventing the development of roots. The fungus Verticillium has been isolated from rotten stem tissue. Possibly this disease has been responsible for the poor success in obtaining rooted cuttings experienced by some propagators. Investigations are in progress to uncover effective fungicides that can be used to prevent stem rot of cuttings. At present there are no fungicides recommended for Phytophthora root rot by V.P.I. Results of testing fungicides at V.P.I. indicate that at least two fungicides are safe to use on boxwood and effective in the greenhouse. These are Decon and Truban (terrazale.) However, before a fungicide can be recommended for use it must have received approval by the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.). Results of fungicide research trials at V.P.I. are reported to industry which in turn (data) are submitted to E.P.A. for approval and addition to the pesticide label.

ANNUAL MEETING

BOXWOOD SOCIETY

SECOND WEDNESDAY

IN MAY 1972

THE MAIL BOX

BRANDY ROCK FARM

Brandy Station

Virginia 22714

27 October 1971

Dear Neill:

This is to thank you for your note and to say that I will be looking forward to your gift of "Heronwood" organic fertilizer. It was very generous of you to send it. Since you are not going to enter the fertilizer business, perhaps you will share the formula with me.

With this letter I am sending some photographs, one or more of which might be of interest for The Boxwood Bulletin. The story concerning them is that when I left the Atomic Energy Commission, the people of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, wanted to give me a testimonial. There is an extraordinarily large piece of boxwood in Oak Ridge which I had often admired, the origin of which no one knows. The whole locality was a wilderness before it was selected in 1942 by General Groves to be the site of the Clinton Laboratory. Some farmer may have had a homestead there but no traces of it, with the exception of this piece of boxwood, remain. The townsfolk suggested that it should be dug, loaded, and sent to my farm in Virginia as a living memento. While the idea delighted me, I did not want to have the community incur the expense or to see the specimen risked since I feared that removal at its great age would doubtless endanger and kill it. So I said that I would accept it 'in situ', and there is now a marker in front of it identifying it as the "Lewis L. Strauss Boxwood." As can be seen, it is above the second story of the building next to which it now stands. The last time I saw it, it was healthy and vigorous and has apparently never known a shears.

I envy you your holiday in Spain and hope to hear from you soon after your return. As ever,

Faithfully yours,

Lewis

Lewis L. Strauss

Rear Admiral Neill Phillips

"Heronwood"
Upperville, Virginia
encl.

The fertilizer has arrived
Many thanks.

above:

A giant boxwood given by the people of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to Admiral Lewis L. Strauss as a testimonial of appreciation and friendship, when he left the Atomic Energy Commission. As the Admiral notes in his letter (opposite page), its remarkable growth now rises above the second story level of the neighboring building.

Enlarged detail of the picture above. The tablet, difficult to read in this photograph, identifies the fine large plant as the "Admiral Lewis L. Strauss Boxwood."

A Boxwood on the Great Plains

Mary A. Gamble

Buxus sempervirens 'Abilene' has been growing in the historic Kansas cow town, Abilene, since the last century. Although the exact date of the arrival of this *Buxus* — one of six plants obtained from a now-forgotten Pennsylvania nursery — is unknown, it is believed to have been about 1891, the same year the Eisenhower family moved from Texas to the east central Kansas town. Today, Abilene is the state's number one tourist attraction, due both to continued interest in the birthplace of America's Wild West and to the magnificent Eisenhower Center, comprising the 34th president's childhood home, museum, library and chapel. And today the 80-year-old parent plant 'Abilene' continues to thrive, having survived an additional move about 40 years ago from its first Kansas setting to its present downtown location on the grounds of the Trinity Lutheran Church.

The presence of a classically beautiful *Buxus* on the northeastern edge of the Great Plains comes as a surprise, especially to St. Louisans who have learned to regard the south-west wind, originating in the plains, as their boxwoods' greatest enemy. We first heard of *B. semp.* 'Abilene' from Dr. Ray A. Keen, professor of ornamental horticulture at Kansas State University in Manhattan, when he was visiting the Missouri Botanical (Shaw's) Garden in St. Louis. Dr. Keen, by happy concidence, came to the Garden on a day when members of the boxwood study group ofthe St. Louis Herb Society were working on cuttings of *Buxus* sent us by J. T. Baldwin, Jr., of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

After admiring the Virginia *Buxus,* Dr. Keen told us there was a fine boxwood growing in Kansas and referred us to Mr. W. A. Flynn, proprietor of the long-established Garden Place Nursery at Abilene. In turn, Mr. Flynn invited us to stop by on our next trip to Kansas (this writer's husband is a native of that state); he promised us a visit to the original 'Abilene', to some of its descendants, and said he would give us a nursery-grown 'Abilene' for the Edgar Anderson Memorial Boxwood Garden now getting underway at Shaw's Garden. This May we made the trip, saw and photographed *B. semp.* 'Abilene' and learned more of this hardy and interesting boxwood.

The town Abilene lies in the undulating hills of the Great Plains that sweep for eye-stretching miles. In May, the distances are a changing expanse of green, moving before the winds which can blow fiercely or as gently as a zephyr. Cloud shadows and brown plowed fields break the green; but it is not hard to picture what the country was like when covered with buffalo grass, unbroken by the plow, unfenced by barbed wire.

Abilene was named in 1858 by the wife of its first settler. She turned to the New Testament, Luke 3:1, for reference to the Biblical Judean province of Abilene, meaning "meadow." In 1867 the Union Pacific railroad reached Abilene and from then until 1871 the town's character changed. It was the end of the Texas Cattle Trail; the first longhorns to be driven from Texas were loaded here for shipment east. Abilene became the "wickedest town of the West," run according to the editor of a rival town's paper, "by vagabonds, ruffians, Fancy Women, Rot Gut Whiskey and Gamblers." With the end of its cattle drives, Abilene returned to its original status as a settlement in a "fertile valley," as its founder envisioned. But the aura of its cow town past remains.

The story of the plant 'Abilene', as told us by Mr. Flynn, dates from the town's more sedate era. Mrs. Emma Wolff purchased six *Buxus* plants as a gift for her mother, Mrs. Katrina Hassbagen, a native of Germany. Six plants were ordered; only one survived, to become the parent of the 'Abilene' clone. It now stands (as shown in photo) against the harsh brick facade of the church. It is one of a well-matched pair. The leaves of the plants are a dark green with a distinctly olive cast; they are uniformly elliptical with a rather sharp point; a typical mature leaf measures 1 in. The foliage is dense and shows virtually no wind or weather damage.

Two cultivars, propagated by Mrs. Wolff, mark her mother's grave in the Abilene Cemetery. Tom Smith, the town's fearless first marshal who restored order by forcing the cowboys to check their guns when they rode into town, is also buried here. The larger of the two plants by Mrs. Hassbagen's grave is an estimated 40 years old and has never been

This 'Abilene' cultivar in the town's cemetery is an estimated 40 years old. It measures 4 ft. 6 in., suggesting a rather slow rate of growth. However, Mr. Flynn told us the normal annual growth of 'Abilene' is about 6 in., and that in his nursery, the plants, none field grown, in some years add 9 to 10 inches.

pruned or clipped; the photo of a nearby comparable plant shows the natural shape. These plants, like the original, enjoy partial shade. Mr. Flynn told us that when placing 'Abilene', he generally seeks this protection, but adds that there are several plants about town that are "in full sun and doing fine." He notes that "once in a while one will be killed back, apparently by blight." We saw and photographed one such plant where sizeable sprigs in two places had turned straw-yellow and appeared dead.

Mr. Flynn does not ship plants. But today, with the great Eisenhower Center, as well as the replica of historic Abilene in its Wild West days, serving as magnets, the many visitors to this Kansas town will find it easy to select *Buxus sempervirens* 'Abilene' in person. (One of the plants grows at the entrance of the Eisenhower Library but unfortunately is placed where it cannot be photographed.)

To us, this handsome. sturdy *Buxus* is a prime example of the hardiness and adapability of "man's oldest living garden ornamental."

The parent plant of the 'Abilene' clone was moved to its present location about 40 years ago. It faces east and has slight shade from an elm that appears dying. It has been trimmed over the years; in May 1971 is measured 5½ ft. tall by 5 ft. wide. When we asked nurseryman Flynn how high he thought the plant would grow and what its shape would be if left untouched he hazarded 8 ft., and "almost egg-shaped, with point turned up."

LIVING WITH BOXWOOD IN VIRGINIA

By Charlotte Taylor Massie

(*Written expressly for the Boxwood Bulletin*)

When Historic Garden Week opens in Virginia in April, visitors to the more than 200 private homes and gardens will find handsome boxwood ranging from the small English boxwood bordering brick walks and terraces to boxwood trees varying between 30 and 45 feet high and from 14 to 18 feet in width.

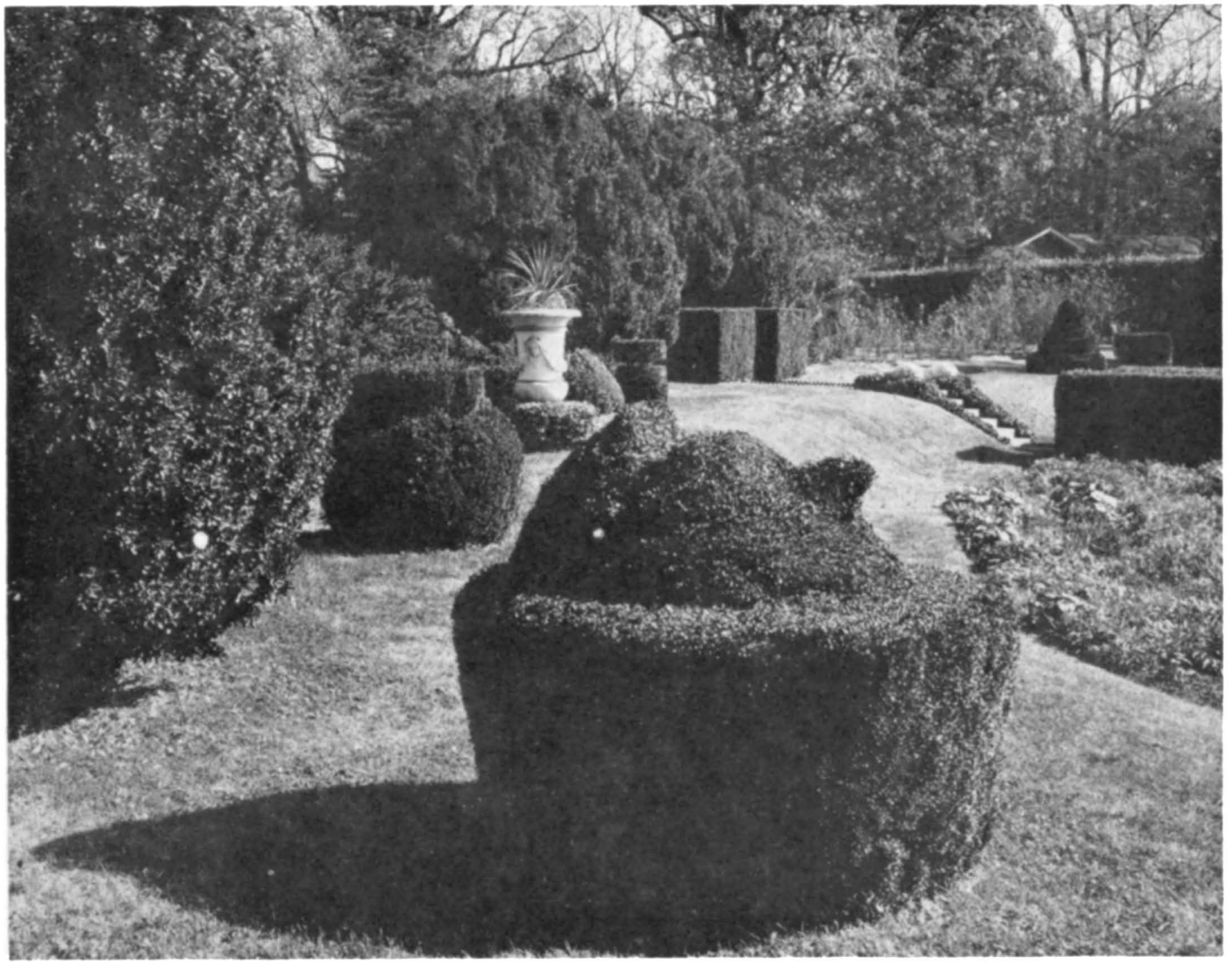
The James River Plantations with sweeping lawns and small gardens of boxwood and colorful flowers are a delight in the early springtime.

Virginia abounds in historic shrines. Well known among these is Gunston Hall whose beautiful gardens were restored by The Garden Club of Virginia with proceeds from Historic Garden Week. It features one of the most famous hedges of English dwarf boxwood in America. Mt. Vernon on the Potomac is noted for its boxwood parterres. Montpelier in Orange County, home of President Madison, built in 1741 by his father, is situated in a superb setting of large shade trees, evergreens and magnificent boxwood. The garden with its striking topiary work on the different varieties of boxwood was planned by L'Enfant, who laid out the city of Washington.

Virginia House and Agecroft Hall, handsome manor houses of the Tudor period, hug the rolling Virginia hillside as snugly as if they had never been transported from their original sites. The formal gardens and shaded lawns with plantings of shrubs, flowers and boxwood are a compliment to the original Elizabethan ones the houses left behind in England when they crossed over to this side.

Gardens were created to harmonize with the surprising architectural variety of Virginia, ranging from the Jacobean influence to handsome residences of the Queen Anne and Georgian periods, the Classic Greek Doric and Gothic as well as the contemporary ones. In the more recent ones will be found, also, plantings of boxwood which still reigns as Queen in Virginia gardens.

Guide books, containing 120 pages of detailed information, may be obtained free of charge from the Historic Garden Week Headquarters, Hotel Jefferson, Box 1397, Richmond, Virginia, around March 10. Brief descriptions of all the places which may be seen and instructions on how to reach the homes and gardens which are open only this one week, April 22 through April 29, are included in the guide.



On the cover:

Edgemont — "Jefferson's Jewel" — designed by him for Colonel James Cocke about 1796, is in Albemarle County, Virginia, between Keene and North Garden. Four pillared porticos mark the four entrances to the high-ceilinged house. The grounds have a sunken garden with dry stone wall and handsome old boxwood. Mr. and Mrs. Parker Snead are the owners.

Photograph by Flournoy from the Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Above:

Montpelier, home of President James Madison — built by his father in 1741 — is situated four miles west of Madison, Virginia, in a superb setting of large shade trees, evergreens and magnificent boxwood. The garden, reputedly planned by L'Enfant (who laid out the city of Washington), was restored by the late Mr. and Mrs. William duPont. Striking topiary work on the different varieties of boxwood. Huge cedars of Lebanon are another unusual feature. Mrs. Marion duPont Scott is the owner.

Virginia Chamber of Commerce photograph.

Leaf Miner Poses Threat To Boxwood Unless Controlled

RUTH RUSH

Staff Reporter, Daily Press, Newport News, Va.

Williamsburg, May 2, 1971 — Boxwood, that prolific ornamental shrub, which abounds in Tidewater gardens, may be in for a bad year unless steps are taken to control a pest that plays havoc with the plant.

The culprit is the boxwood leaf miner and if the insect goes unchecked, "It can eventually destroy an entire boxwood plant in two to three years," according to Richard Mahone, Colonial Williamsburg's assistant director of landscape construction and maintenance.

Although Mahone's experience in caring for vast quantities of boxwoods, which are almost a staple in Colonial Williamsburg's gardens, make it a simple matter for him to spot the leaf miner, the home gardener may have a little difficulty in recognizing the first signs of the pest.

Plant Damage

When the leaf miner progresses in its mutilation of boxwood leaves, however, the evidence of its presence becomes abundantly clear as the leaves turn yellow, then brown, and finally drop off the plant. At this point, "Your boxweed is really in trouble," warned Mahone, so the best measure of control is one of prevention.

The American boxwood is the variety most susceptible to the leaf miner. For the most part, the insect seems to bypass the English and dwarf boxwood in favor of the American variety.

The English and dwarf boxwoods have rounded leaves while the American boxwood leaves are pointed.

Time To Check

"And if your boxwoods have these pointed leaves, now is the time to start checking them for evidence of the leaf miner," advised Mahone.

He explained, there is only one generation of leaf miners a year. The adult is a small orange or orange-yellow gnat-like fly that "emerges just about this time of the year in this area to lay its eggs in the new growth of boxwood," Mahone continued.

In about a two-week period, generally from the last week in April through the first week in May, the fly lays its eggs in the boxwood under the epidermis, the top surface, of the new foliage.

Richard Mahone Checks Boxwood For Traces Of Leaf Miner Infestation

Photograph by Mary Goetz

Newport News Daily Press

Injury Described

At this point, the injury to the boxwood can be recognized "when small pin-point blotchy areas, light gray in color, appear on the new leaves, and are especially noticeable on the underside of the leaves."

In controlling the insect, Mahone pointed out, "we prefer the methods of good sanitation, cleanly conditions and pruning at the proper time — it's a year-round maintenance job that brings the best results."

Although pruning is the preferred method, the time already has passed for severe pruning which should have come in early March. Pruning now may help, but cannot assure control of the leaf miner.

Spray Control

One spray which has been effective and quite safe, Mahone said, is Malathion. He suggested spraying the infested plant with Malathion around the first of May and then following up with an additional spraying about a week later.

Another possibility is treatment with Cygon, but he urged "extreme caution" in aplying the spray and emphasized the importance of using the spray "only on ornamentals, not on fruits or vegetables."

What happens if the gardener lets his chance at control slip by? The life cycle of the creature continues: The larvae or maggots which are hatched in about three weeks, start eating the tissue of the leaves. They continue eating away at the inside of the leaf throughout the summer and into the fall. Then in late fall and winter, they become dormant. With the arrival of spring, the pest goes into action again and resumes feeding on the leaves.

Proper Pruning

With proper pruning in early spring, just before the new growth starts, the pest can be controlled at this stage, thus eliminating the necessity of using any type of spray later in the season.

If the insect's life cycle is allowed to continue, however, the maggots grow into orange-colored pupae which develop within small, paper-thin, light gray or white caps in the underside of the leaves.

It's through these little "caps" that the adult leaf miner emerges and starts the whole thing all over again.

Sick Leaf

When the adults emerge, they leave the white pupae cases protruding through the exit holes— and even a novice could recognize the results as a sick leaf.

The prevalence of the boxwood leaf miner seems to go in cycles, Mahone pointed out; and as cycles go, "This looks like a bad year for boxwood."

But being aware of the problem is half the battle. "There are too many boxwoods around Williamsburg to ignore a pest that could cause so much damage," he said.

Reprinted with permission from The Daily Press, Newport News, Va. and from Mr. Richard Mahone.

The American Boxwood Society

Twelfth Annual Meeting, May 10th, 1972

PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED **PLEASE PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR**

Mineral Nutrition Study on Boxwood

M. W. Hefley and Dr. Francis C. Stark

Department of Horticulture, University of Maryland

This study is divided into several phases. Phase I is to study and determine the optimum levels of Ca, K, Mg and nitrogen, and to establish the foliar symptoms associated with excess and deficiency of these nutrients. Phase II has the same objectives as Phase I except that NO3, S and P are the variables to be studied. Phase III is to determine if air pollutants are detrimental to boxwood and, if so, to study the interrelationships between mineral nutrition and the degree of injury.

The first step in this study was to review the literature reporting past mineral nutrition research in an attempt to uncover previous research on boxwood which would, ideally, provide some guidelines to optimum pH, relative levels of nutrients, and minimum and maximum levels of all nutrients, and possible eccentricities inherent to boxwood.

Unfortunately, an extensive search at the National Agriculture Library and at the University of Maryland provided none of the needed information. Under such circumstances, the only reasonable course was to use the information obtained from mineral nutrition studies on plants similar in growth characteristics and habitat. But even here, far removed from the ideal situation, the information available on the requirements of any woody tree or shrub was less than overwhelming. Thus, in common with most pioneer research, the basic assumptions on which this study was built were gained from previous research on plants such as hollies, azaleas, muscadine grapes, apples, peaches and blueberries which are, in general, far removed in growth characteristics and habitat from *Buxus*.

Considering the absence of critical, basic information, it was decided to use a factorial design which would require the least expenditure of time to obtain the needed information. A 3 x 3 x 3 x 3 factorial experiment utilizing variables in Ca, K, Mg and nitrogen was initiated on February 7, 1971. This involved varying these elements at three levels and in all possible combinations which required the preparation and application of eighty-one different nutrient solutions. Four cultivars, Angustifolia, Arborescens, Vardar Valley and an unnamed "English" type, were studied under each treatment to determine if variability in foliar symptoms and nutrient uptake occurred between cultivars.

The "slop culture" technique which combines the versatility and accuracy of hydroponics with the desirable root aeration of a porous support media was chosen for this study. Two-and-one-half gallon glazed ceramic containers with 1½ inch diameter drain holes (which were covered with a porous fiberglass sheet) were filled with inert washed silica sand. The sand was washed repeatedly to remove small particles of silt and soil, after which it was treated with dilute acid to dissolve any carbonates and metal oxides which might have been present. The sand was then washed with distilled water to remove the acid with its dissolved components.

One plant of each of the selected cultivars was planted in the eighty-one prepared containers. A modified Hoagland's nutrient solution was applied at the rate of 500 ml. per day for a period of four weeks to insure that all plants began the treatments in as nearly identical condition as possible. Distilled water was applied at the same rate for the next seven days to remove any accumulated nutrients and the application of 500 ml. per day of the different eighty-one solutions began immediately thereafter.

In preparation of each solution, varying amounts of thirteen different chemicals were used. Four-liter jugs were partially filled with distilled water and the appropriate amount of chemicals was added. Sufficient distilled water was then added to bring the final volume to four liters. The pH of the resultant nutrient solution was corrected to 5.5-6.0 with dilute hydrochloric acid.

Several types of data are being collected from this study. One type is plant growth. Of interest here is not only total growth but also the characteristics of the growth. Another set of data being taken is the foliar symptoms and their degree of severity. Photographs are being taken of characteristic foliar symptoms. The final set of data to be taken is the chemical analysis of the foliage. If a relationship can be established between plant growth, nutrient level and foliage analysis, the variability in foliar symptoms can be recognized.

The greenhouse portion of Phase I is nearing completion. Final photographs and foliar symptom data will be completed during early December at which time chemical analysis of the foliage and statistical analysis of the accumulated data will begin.

As a result of primary observations on Phase I, three complementary studies have been planned. The first is to determine if the unwarranted death and stunting of plants during the early stages was caused by pathogenic organisms. This study is scheduled to begin as soon as the dead plants are made available at the termination of the greenhouse phase. The second study, which began on October 19, 1971,

is designed to clarify a calcium-nitrogen interaction observed in Phase I, and the third study is to determine the optimum pH as well as to observe the effects of less than optimum pH on boxwood growth.

At this time a large amount of data has been obtained on the foliar symptoms of Ca, K, Mg and nitrogen deficiency, excess and imbalance. At the conclusion of the supplementary studies, chemical analysis of plant tissue and statistical evaluation, a major step will have been taken toward our final goal of determining the mineral nutrient requirements of boxwood.

THE MAIL BOX

October 7, 1971

Rear Admiral Neill Phillips (USN Ret.)

"Heronwood"

Upperville, Virginia 22176

Have been unsuccessful in reaching you by telephone but chiefly wanted to tell you that should you or our committee members be in this part of Washington during the next week or two am sure that Dr. Francis Stark (454-3609, 07 or 08) or Mr. Hefley would be glad to show you their boxwood cultures at University of Maryland, which are quite interesting. This particular set will be discarded in about 3 weeks. Perhaps the most intriguing point to date is concerned with the unfavorable effect of high nitrogen in its possible antagonism to calcium absorption or utilization—but other points have developed. However the nitrogen was supplied as a nitrate-ammonium mixture, so the more useful or more antagonistic form has not yet been pegged down. A new set-up is being readied to check on this. The new series will be under lights to encourage continuation of vegetative growth. Mr. Hefley may be feeling a little discouraged by boxwood's rather slow growth responses but, all in all, I feel sure that he will come up with some very useful information during the next year or so. Have been glad to note that he has also been on his toes in visiting problem plantings of the Eastern Shore in effort to tie in his work and interpretations with field conditions.

Am leaving for England on Monday for most of the rest of the month but hope, and expect, to be with you on November 4th.

My best regards,

Sincerely,

Henry T. Skinner

Director, National Arboretum

ADDENDA TO THE REGISTRATION LISTS OF CULTIVAR NAMES IN *BUXUS* L.

The following cultivar names are to be added to the cultivar names cited in the Registration Lists published in this journal. (The Boxwood Bulletin 4 (3): 35-41, 1965; 7 (1): 1, 1967; 11 (1): 1, 1971 and 11 (2): 21, 1971).

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* (Muell. Arg.) Rehd. and Wils. 'Morris Dwarf'

A miniature, slow-growing version of the Japanese boxwood which shows prospect of attaining a height of 3-4 feet in 20 years. Compared with the companion seedling, 'Morris Midget', the leaves of this clone, averaging ½ inch long by 3/16 inch wide, are slightly narrower and are possessed of a less pronounced terminal notch. Clustering of the 2-3-inch shoots results in an irregular or "tufted" bush outline. One in a hundred or so plants will show an occasional bad reversion to normally vigorous *B. microphylla japonica*. Serves as an interesting substitute for English dwarf box.

This clone was selected by Henry T. Skinner at Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1950, from open pollinated seedlings of *B. microphylla japonica*. It was named at the National Arboretum. Rated as hardy in USDA Zone 6.

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* (Muell. Arg.) Rehd. and Wils. 'Morris Midget'

A miniature form of the Japanese boxwood which is somewhat slower growing and more smoothly regular in outline than *B. microphylla japonica* 'Morris Dwarf'. Annual growth averages 1-1-½ inches and the leaves are slightly wider (to 1/4 inch wide) and more rounded in appearance. They tend to be more conspicuously notched at the apex. Expected height is 2-3 feet in 20 years. This clone displayed no tendency to bud reversion. 'Morris Midget' takes on a yellowish cast a little earlier in winter than 'Morris Dwarf'. Both forms revert toa good green with warmer weather.

This is a sister seedling of 'Morris Dwarf', which was also selected by Henry T. Skinner at the Morris Arboretum in 1950, and the subsequent history of the two clones is essentially the same. Rated as hardy in USDA Zone 6.

Burdette L. Wagenknecht

Registrar of Cultivated Boxwoods

The American Boxwood Society

January 1972

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SCENT OF BOX REPELS FLIES

"During the summer the monks were allowed to come to the refectory to quench their thirst after Nones, or on fast-days after Vespers. Each cup was set out in the summer covered with a little sprig of box to keep off the flies, and a twig of vine dipped in glue was set beside each place as a fly-trap, and renewed every other day."

P. 91, *Monastic Life at Cluny,* 910-1157,

by Joan Evans. Archon Books, 1968.

Much of Miss Evans' information (writes Mrs. Scott Lytle, who furnished this quotation) comes from contemporary *"Consuetudines"* of various Cluniac monasteries that are so detailed that they, for example, enumerate kitchen utensils and give exact instructions for their use.

A REMINDER

To keep memberships in the American Boxwood Society in good standing, dues should be paid during the month of May. Irrespective of the month of enrollment in the Society, membership dues are retroactive to May 1. Active memberships more than three months in arrears will be dropped, and The Boxwood Bulletin will be discontinued.

Some Like It Formal, Some Like It Normal

17th and 18th Century Likings

From the Diary of John Evelyn (1620 - 1706), *contemporary and friend of Pepys, and like him, writing from the viewpoint of a government official. He had none of Pepys' love of gossip and frankness of self-revelation, but his diary, crowded with remarkable events, covers more than half-a-century of English history, as compared with the two or three years of Pepys' account. Evelyn's favorite occupation was gardening, as may be seen in the following excerpts from the Diary:*

1 April 1644: (*Paris*) " I went more exactly to see the roomes of that incomparable Palace of Luxemburge in the Fauxbourgs St. Germaine, built by Mary de Medicis and I thinke one of the most noble, entire and finished Piles that is standing in any Citty of the Worlde, taking it with the Garden and all its accomplishments: . . . . . The Gardens containe neere an English mile in Compasse, enclos'd with a stately wall, and in good ayre, which renders it certainely one of the sweetest places imaginable; the Parterre is indeede of box; but so rarely designed, and accurately kept cut, that the embrodery" (pattern) "makes a stupendious effect, to the Lodgings which front it; 'tis divided into Squares, & as many circular knots; having in its Center a noble Basin of Marble neere 30 foot diameter (as I remember) in which a Triton of brasse holds a Dolphin that casts a girandola of water neere 30 foote high which plays perpetualy . . . . ." *And, to contrast English naturalism with French formality:*

26 August 1655: " I went to *Horsley* to visite Mr. Hyldiard, return'd — 27 to *Boxhill* to see those rare natural bowers, cabinets & shady walkes in the boxcoppses;" . . . . . "Hence we walked to *Micklame*, & saw sir Fr. Stidolphs seate invirond with *Elm Trees*, & Wallnut innumerable, & here are such goodly walkes & hils shaded with yew & *Box*, as render the places extreamly agreeable, it seeming to be summer all the winter for many miles prospect."

Oxford University Press, 1959. Edited by E. S. deBeer.

On the GARDENING of the ANCIENTS

(From Anecdotes of Painting in England, published by the Hon. Horace Walpole; Vol. IV and last.). The Universal Magazine, October 1780)

. . . "When a Frenchman reads of the garden of Eden, I do not doubt but he concludes it was something approaching to that of Versailles, wi hedges, berceaus, and trellis-work. If his devotion humbles him so far as to allow that, considering who designed it, there might be a labyrinth full of Aesop's fables, yet he does not conceive that four of the largest rivers in the world were half so magnificent as an hundred fountains full of statues by Girardon. It is thus that the word Garden has at all times passed for whatever was understood by the term in different countries. But that it meant no more than a kitchen garden or orchard, for several centuries, is evident from those few descriptions that are preserved of the most famous gardens of antiquity . . . .

. . . Pliny has left us descriptions of two of his villas. As he used his Laurentine villa for his winter-retreat, it is not surprising that the garden makes no considerable part of the account. All he says is that the gestatio, or place of exercise, which surrounded the garden (the latter consequently not being very large) was bounded by a hedge of box, and, where that was perished, with rosemary; that there was a walk of vines, and that most of the trees were fig and mulberry.

On his Tuscan villa he is more diffuse, the garden makes a considerable part of the description — and what was the principal beauty of that pleasure-ground? Exactly what was the admiration of this country about sixty years ago; box-trees cut into monsters, animals, letters, and the names of the master and the artificer. In an age when architecture displayed all its grandeur, all its purity, and all its taste; when arose Vespasian's amphitheatre, the Temple of Peace, Trajan's forum, Domitian's baths, and Adrian's villa, the ruins and vestiges of which still excite our astonishment and curiosity; a Roman Consul, a polished Emperor's friend, and a man of elegant literature and taste, delighted in what the mob now scarce admire in a College-garden.

All the ingredients of Pliny's corresponded exactly with those laid out by London and Wise on Dutch principles. He talks of slopes, terraces, a wilderness, shrubs methodically trimmed, a marble bason, pipes spouting water, a cascade falling into the bason, bay-trees, alternately planted with planes, and a strait walk, from whence issued others parted off by hedges of box, and apple-trees, with obelisks placed between every two. There wants nothing but the embroidery of a parterre, to make a garden in the reign of Trajan serve for a description of one in that of King William."

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

INFORMATION

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Regular membership dues of The American Boxwood Society are now $5.00. This includes a subscription to *The Boxwood Bulletin,* to the publication of which the Society allots about 2/3 of the money received from dues.

Non-member subscriptions are for groups and institutions such as botanic gardens, libraries, etc. These are $5.00 a year, and run by the calendar year.

The Boxwood Society year runs from one Annual Meeting to the next; from May of one year to May of the next year. Those joining the Society at other times are sent all the *Boxwood Bulletin* issues for the current Society year, beginning with the July number. Their dues are then again due and payable in the following May. This was voted by the Society in order to lighten as far as possible the heavy work load of our busy Secretary-Treasurer; who, like all other officers of the Society, is an unpaid volunteer.

Price per single copy $1.25 plus 5¢ postage to members: $1.50 plus 5¢ postage to non-members. Orders of five or more copies are sent postpaid. At the present time any or all *Bulletins* are available, back to Vol. 1, No. 1 (Vol. 1 consists of three issues only, there was no Vol. 1, No. 4.)

Besides regular membership dues at $5.00 per year, there are other classes of membership available: Contributing, $10.00; Sustaining, $25.00; Life, $100.00; and Patron, $500.00.

Gift memberships are announced to the recipients by boxwood-decorated cards which carry the information that *The Boxwood Bulletin* will come as your gift four times a year.

Members of The American Boxwood Society are reminded of the 1968 IRS decision that contributions to and for the use of the Society, are deductible by donors as provided in Section 170 of the Code.

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The American Boxwood Society
Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620

If you have something of real importance — a question of policy, a new project for the Society, a matter which needs top-level consideration, write to

Rear Adm. Neill Phillips, USN Ret'd., President,
Heronwood,
Upperville, Virginia 22176

If you have contributions for the Boxwood Bulletin — articles, news notes, photographs, suggestions of anything of probable interest to boxwood people, it saves time to direct them to

Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting, Editor,
The Boxwood Bulletin,
415 West Clifford St.,
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This applies to criticisms and corrections, too — "We regret errors; we welcome corrections."

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A privilege for Today

A bequest for Tomorrow