

The

APRIL 1974

Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



Fantastic shapes and figures in box, at Earlshall, soften the severity of their architectural background. These trees were successfully moved as 6-ft. cones, 20 years before this picture was taken (in 1925).

From "Garden Craftsmanship In Yew and Box," by Nathaniel Lloyd.

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Edited Under The Direction Of
THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

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The Boxwood Bulletin

APRIL 1974

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EDITOR — MRS. EDGAR M. WHITING

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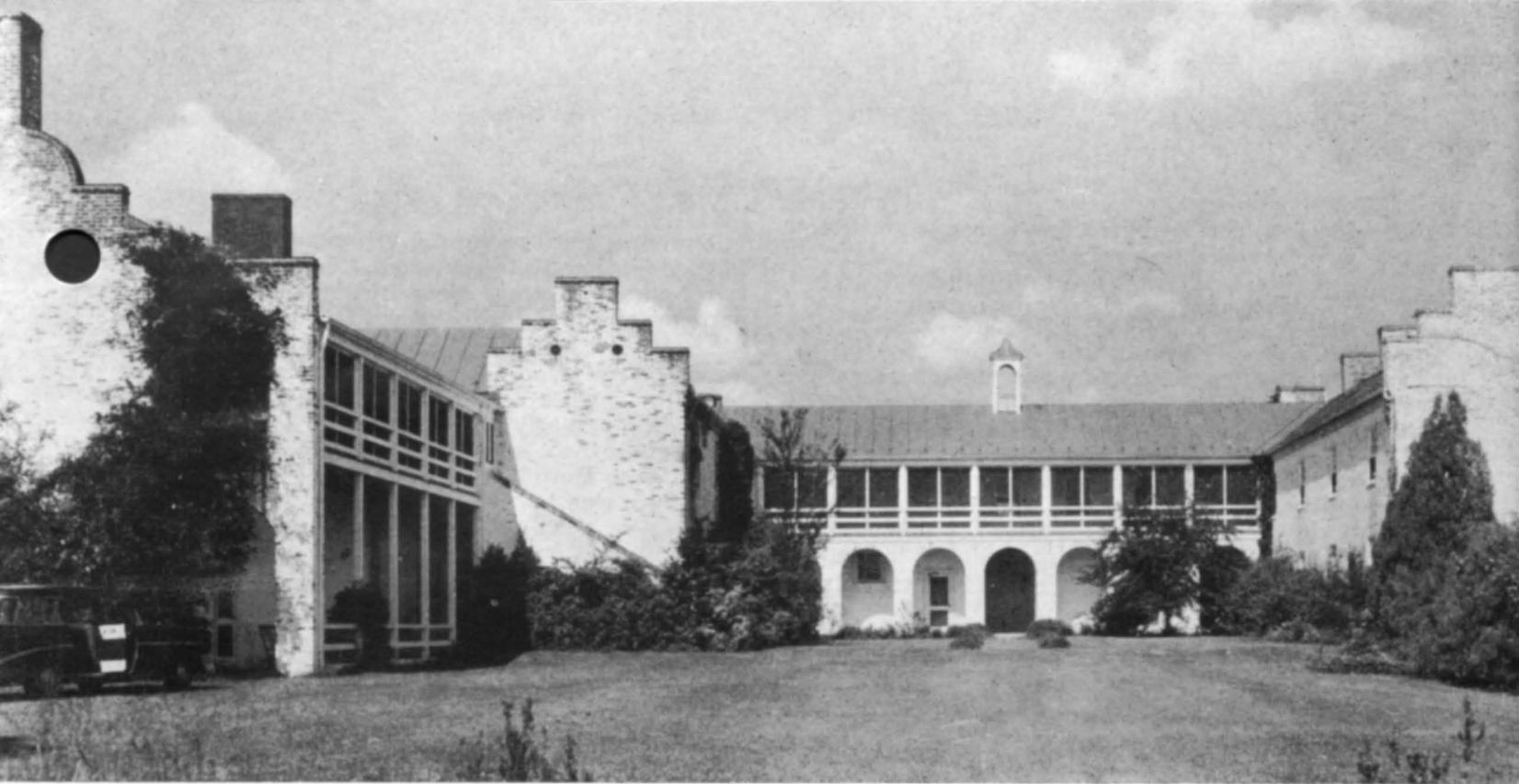
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The American Boxwood Society

Fourteenth Annual Meeting, May 8th, 1974

At Blandy Experimental Farm, near Boyce, Virginia

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

Date: May 8, 1974. *Please plan to come, and mark your calendar.*

Place: The Blandy Experimental Farm (U. of Va.) near Boyce, Va. About 10 miles east of Winchester on U.S. Route 50. After passing the traffic light at the intersection with Route 340, slow up somewhat; the entrance to the Blandy grounds is only 1 1/4 miles from the 340 intersection. (Do NOT go to the town of Boyce, it is only the mail address.) Hairpin turn into the entrance to Blandy, take it slowly.

If you come from the east, Blandy is 4 1/2 miles west of the Shenandoah River bridge, and you turn left into the Blandy entrance.

Time: 9:30 a.m. — Registration begins (for recording attendance only). Walking tour of the Blandy grounds and Tuleyries. Coffee.

10:30 a.m. — Business meeting convenes in the Library.

12:30 p.m. — Luncheon recess (Bring your own sandwiches, coffee will be available).

1:30 p.m. — Meeting reconvenes for unfinished business, followed by a program of distinguished speakers:

Dr. Henry T. Skinner, formerly Director of the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D. C. — "Boxwood Reminiscences."

Dr. Frederick Meyer, Research Taxonomist at the U.S. National Arboretum — Asiatic Boxwoods."

Mr. Richard Mahone, Director of Landscape Construction and Maintenance, Colonial Williamsburg — "Boxwood In Williamsburg."

3:00 p.m. — Adjournment.

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION (continued)

Dues will not be accepted at this meeting. Friends and non-members are welcome to attend, but do not have voting privileges.

TULEYRIES GARDENS OPEN

Mrs. Orme Wilson, a Life Member of ABS, has again kindly consented to open the extensive and handsome boxwood gardens of The Tuleyries for those who have time after registration or during the lunch hour. Blandy Farm was originally a part of the Tuleyries estate, and the gardens are only a short distance from the Farm buildings.

VISIT HERONWOOD AFTER THE MEETING

Admiral Phillips cordially invites members and friends to come to Heronwood after adjournment of the Annual Meeting, for refreshments, to see the gardens, and to renew boxwood friendships.

To reach Heronwood, go east on Route 50 through Upperville and past the Horse Show grounds, to county road 623, the first road to the right after the Show grounds; turn right and go 1.1 miles to Heronwood (on your right, stone gateposts with sign.)

Blandy News

Arboretum Lecture Series

Opens 1974 Season

A most successful "Spring Lecture Series" brought unexpectedly large attendance to the library of the Orland E. White Arboretum of Blandy Farm (U. of Va.) on three successive Saturdays, March 16, 23 and 30. Planned and arranged by Mr. Thomas Ewert, Director of Blandy Farm, the lecture series was designed to acquaint the public with the beautiful and extensive plant collections of the Arboretum and with the facilities for enjoyment and study it can afford to individuals and groups.

There were six speakers, two at each session; each an expert in some field of horticulture. Mrs. Aaron Zuckerman of Winchester, a nationally accredited Flower Show Judge, presented "Modern Trends in Flower Arranging."

Mr. James Buckler, Horticulturist for the Smithsonian Institution, took his audience on a photographic tour with superb color slides of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens with the theme "Gardens as an Art Form."

Miss Patricia Sonneborn of Philadelphia, Horticultural Chairman of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, spoke on "Serendipity in Flower Arranging," with stress on Japanese simplicity and restraint.

Mr. Gary L. Koller, curator of the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia, had many practical suggestions for the home owner in his well-illustrated talk "Plants for the Home Grounds."

Mrs. John Baden, formerly of Winchester and now living in Alexandria, offered many helpful hints for beginners as well as the more experienced, in "Making Plants Flourish Indoors." The final speaker was Mr. Harry L. Garnham, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia, and a consultant in landscape and environmental planning and design. He discussed a method by which laymen might share in the improvement of the visual quality of their towns.

Special Course —

"Principles of Flower Arrangement"

Monday Nights In April

Mrs. James Giles of Purcellville, Virginia, President of the Middleburg Garden Club and a nationally accredited Flower Show Judge, conducted a work-study group on flower arrangement at the Blandy Farm Library, four Monday nights in April, the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th, from 7 to 9 o'clock.

Mrs. Giles studied Ikebana under Mrs. Ellen Allen, founder of "Ikebana Incorporated." She is knowledgeable and experienced in other styles of flower arranging, and her presentation was enjoyable as well as informative.

This course, like the Lecture Series, was planned to acquaint the public with the facilities of Blandy Experimental Farm which may be used for their instruction and pleasure.

Anyone desiring further information about any aspect of the Farm may get in touch with Mr. Thomas E. Ewert, Director Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia 22620. Telephone (703) 837-1758.

Annual Meeting

It was unanimously voted to hold our 1974 Annual Meeting at 10:30 A.M. at Blandy on Wednesday, May 8. Dr. Runk and Mr. Ewert graciously welcomed the proposal and will handle logistics in their usual good style. It was felt that Blandy is a particularly suitable location for the 1974 Meeting because of its central location for most of our membership, and because of its long-time connection with ABS.

Details of the meeting will be included in a post-card mailing. But meanwhile it is hoped that all ABS members will reserve Wednesday, May 8.

Various ideas for the program were discussed and it appears that we shall be able to obtain some outstanding features through Dr. Skinner and Dr. Baldwin. Mr. Eaton will act as Program Chairman. Mr. Ewert has suggested several interesting places near Blandy for short visits after the Meeting, and then all hands will be welcomed at Heronwood for refreshments.

President's Report

The President stated that he had no formal report to make; but rather a series of odds-and-ends that had been brought to his attention and on which he requested the meeting to take action:

(1) Since ABS is a corporation, should our letter-head, mast-head (in *The Bulletin*), etc., be printed "AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY, INC.?"

This proposal voted down, as not being in accordance with customary usage by other educational societies. The abbreviation "Inc." in their titles is used principally by commercial firms.

(2) The following recommendations were approved:

(a) In the *Bulletin* and in correspondence, Mrs. Kirby's title to be listed as Executive Secretary and Treasurer. This practice is following by most organizations of our description where there is a paid, professional official.

(b) List in the Masthead page of *THE BULLETIN*:

"Incorporated under the laws of the State of Virginia, December 14, 1967."

"Exempt for Federal income tax. Contributions deductible by donors. Ref. IRS District Director, Richmond, Va. Letter 430/GBS dated Dec. 4, 1968."

The foregoing items made up our routine business program. Dr. Baldwin then made a most interesting brief talk concerning a *Buxus microphylla compacta* that he has propagated from a Henry Hohman dwarf boxwood sport. Dr. Baldwin announced that he will register the plant under the name 'Helen Whiting.' This announcement was applauded. Dr. Baldwin then gave out small potted specimens of this beautiful little plant.

Research Reports

University of Maryland (Boxwood Nutrition)

The Chairman read a letter dated February 21, 1974, from Dr. Francis C. Stark, Chairman, Dept. of Horticulture, University of Maryland. This letter is summarized as follows: Neither Dr. Stark nor Mr. Wayne Hefley is able to attend our March 15 meeting. The enrollments in horticulture courses and related subjects at U. of Md. have increased so tremendously that research personnel have had to take over heavy faculty teaching schedules. This upsurge in horticultural interest among students is most gratifying, but temporarily has slowed down basic research activities. Mr. Hefley expects in the autumn of 1974 and spring of 1975 to produce data on: (1) Production of boxwood in two different soil types and with different levels of nitrogen and pH. (2) A mineral nutrition study in sand culture.

Dr. Stark's report was received with interest. The Chairman was requested to send Dr. Stark a letter of thanks.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Boxwood Disease)

Dr. Wills, Dr. Lambe, and Mr. Montgomery gave a very valuable and interesting resume of the research program at VPI to date. It may be briefly summarized as follows:

Pathogens definitely isolated.

Controls and preventatives not yet established.

Indications are that there may be no controls established; only preventatives. This is an undesirable factor, because many growers will not go to the trouble and expense of using preventatives (on healthy, flourishing plants), but will wait until disease sets in and then search for cures. Prompt removal and destruction of diseased plants absolutely essential. Present work reports suggest that applications of lime or lime-water, fertilizers high in nitrogen, and certain fungicides may be of value; but probably as preventatives, not as cures. The value of commercial "brand" fungicides is not yet determined.

Mr. Montgomery is working closely with other boxwood specialists at the University of Maryland; with Mr. Otey, the Director of Morven Park at Leesburg; and with Mr. Philip Hilbert of Waterford, whose large commercial boxwood nursery has been decimated by boxwood disease in the last 2-3 years.

Mr. Montgomery will present a more detailed report, and a display of specimens at the ABS Annual Meeting.

Dr. Wills stressed the need at VPI for continuing financial support for the boxwood research program, a program that may be essential to boxwood survival in many areas. He reported on his efforts to obtain support from many potential sources. He was assured of continuing interest by ABS in the program and of our hope that ABS (after its present deficit is cleared up) may continue to contribute.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Neill Phillips

Garden Craftsmanship in Yew and Box

(Continued from the January issue)

Nathaniel Lloyd

Festina lente should be the motto of the topiarist. It is better to cut away less than is anticipated will be necessary, and to go over the area a second time, than to risk cutting too much and have to wait several seasons' growth to make good the error. Cones are easier to clip than pyramids, indeed all circular work is easier than flat surfaces, and it is well to practise in circular work first until a certain degree of proficiency with shears has been attained, remembering that the whole charm of such work depends upon the precision with which it is done.

TOPIARY SPECIMEN TREES. The practice of cutting trees into shapes of birds and animals, practised by the Romans and revived in the Middle Ages, was introduced into England with other architectural adjuncts. Like every art, it may be abused, but, treated with restraint, such clipped trees, introduced singly, in pairs or in groups, provide a certain at-

mosphere in a garden which is not to be obtained by any other means. The fantastic shapes and figures at Earlshall soften the severity of their architectural background, and the plump, odd shapes on the cottage-garden hedge at Frant, Plate 4, are exactly suited to a small garden, and worthy of better buildings behind them.

In specimen trees, as in yew hedges, there is virtue in great bulk.; hence the attenuated topiary plants grown in Holland and imported here require many years before they confer the right quality upon the gardens in which they are placed. Large trees of this sort are exceedingly costly, and better effects can be obtained by purchasing large, bushy, cone-shaped trees in England and starting to trim them into shape when established after removal. If such trees are planted in ground prepared as described for hedges, well supported for such time as



Topiary work in box at Earlshall. Chickens, ducks, baskets, balls, with finials and figures in relief; all in box.



Topiary treatment of a naturally grown Yew tree. Fresh growth 2 years after cutting back to the stem at the top, and lower branches 3 ft. long.

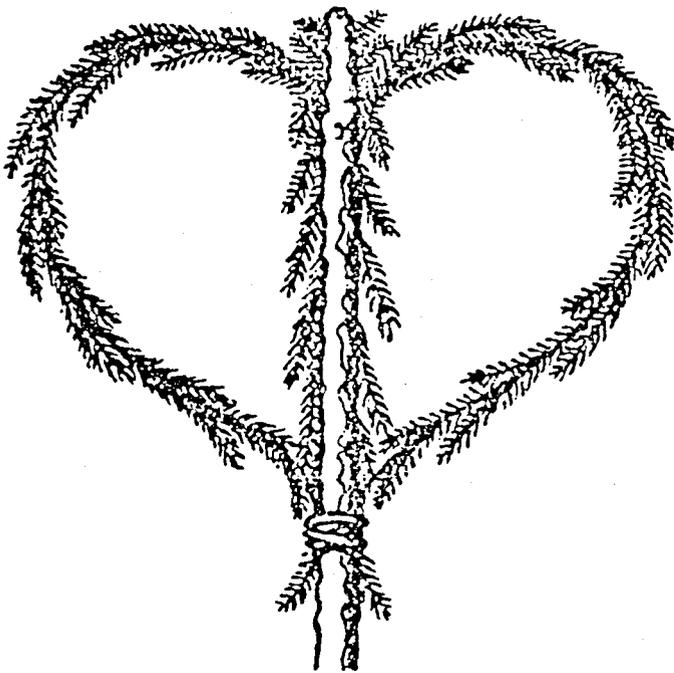
Right, same tree after 9 1/2 years, showing development of form.

is necessary (this will vary according to the sheltered or exposed nature of the site) by stakes concealed within their foliage, they will soon present a better appearance than the meagre imported trees and in very few years surpass these in every respect. Such shapes as the cone with button top can be formed from good plants of suitable size three years after moving. The cones at Brickwall, (3) are exceedingly effective in groups. They are of great age, but similar sizes might be obtained with good 6-ft. trees in twelve years, if properly planted and tended. After only three years they would look compact and shapely. The trees on each side of the pathway at Brickwall are over two hundred years old, but they also could be produced in a tenth part of that time. They are not pyramids but tetrahedrons, being triangular in plan.

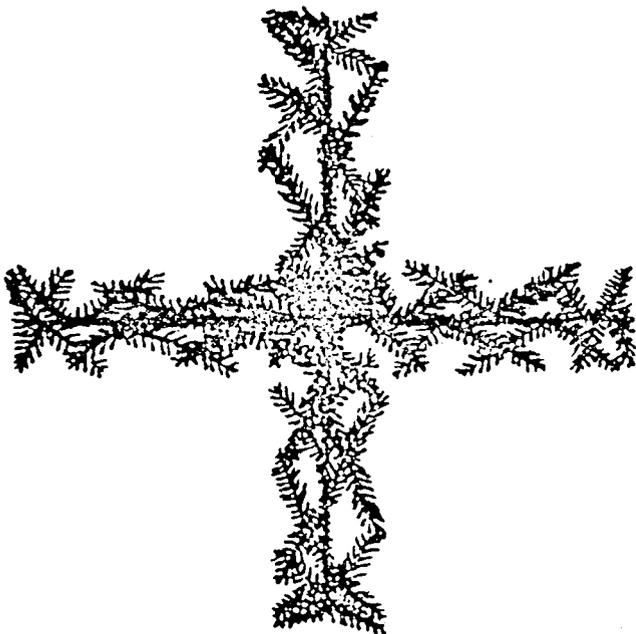
Natural developments of the cone and button are the coffee pots, the teapot at Sedlescombe, Plate and the sitting bird from the same village: indeed, no sooner is a design like the cone and button completed than it suggests its own development.

Peacocks and other birds with wide-spread tails are favourite subjects because they are extremely effective (the more wooden looking, the better they are) and are easy to form. It is only necessary to choose a plant suitable for the purpose in view. If the bird is to stand upon one stem, a tree must be chosen which has one main stem, with two wings branching at the point where the bird is to rest. These are bent, the smaller to the angle of the proposed bird's neck, the larger into a loop and both are secured in position by stout fencing wire. Other twigs and branches which can be utilized to form tail or body are tied into position and superfluous growths cut away. If it is not essential that the bird should stand on a single stem, the body may be formed by tying twigs together and leaving longer stems from which to grow head and tail. By this means large objects may be modelled in a short time, and this is how most of the cottage subjects have been started; indeed this treatment is possibly that best suited to a growing material.





Elevation of Crown with nearest twig cut away.



Plan of Crown from above.

FORMATION OF A TERMINAL CROWN

A crown is formed by bending over and downwards four twigs, which grow symmetrically from the stem; their points being tied with tarred string to the stem below. As the natural habit of twigs and branches is to grow upward, a better curve is obtained by tying down and obviates the necessity for using wire to form the curves. When, however, a ring is to be formed at the top of a tree, stout wire must be secured to the stem just below two branching twigs, and turned in a circle round which the twigs may be trained for the ring. Spirals may be formed by cutting back the foliage of a tree which has one central stem, or by choosing a young yew plant sufficiently pliable to train round a stout stake, driven into the ground *before* the yew is planted against it. Such a stem will grow upwards very quickly, and side growths should be cut away so as to preserve the gradually tapering and compactly grown spiral. A chestnut stake 3 ins. in diameter which has been barked and had the point creosoted up to a foot above the ground, will last for many years until the stem of the yew is well set in the required twist. There is no limit to the diameter of the stake used. If a very open spiral is required several stakes may be grouped in the centre.

It must be remembered that once a start is made to form a finial, the height of the tree is then approximately determined, consequently the formation of finials cannot be begun until the tree has attained the full height of base required. Forming birds and other shapes is so easily done that any intelligent person can undertake them. It is the first step that intimidates the beginner, but even the simplest beginning will suggest its own development so obviously that it becomes difficult to realize there was ever any problem. Simple, substantial-looking shapes are best. Fussy, finical forms are especially to be avoided.

Wire guides and string ties should be watched to prevent constriction of stems by delay in re-tying, or the plant will deteriorate rapidly.

MOVING LARGE TREES. It sometimes happens that old, naturally-grown yew trees are near a house or so placed in a garden that they would be better clipped to shape than if left in their natural state. To effect this change, the branches must be cut back as shown in illustration, Plate 6, when the tree will throw out a multitude of fresh shoots and, in a few years, may be cut to any suitable form that is desired. Plate 7.

Umbrella-shaped trees such as those at Hampton Court, can be formed in this way and most naturally-grown old trees lend themselves to this shape.

Large trees may be moved successfully, but the degree of such success will depend much upon how large a ball of earth is retained round the roots and upon how short a time elapses before replanting.



Moving a large Yew tree. Roots enclosed in canvas, tied with handles for lifting. Weight of tree and root ball, 400 lbs.

Trees which with their ball of earth weigh up to 8 cwt., may be raised and moved by half a dozen men. The ball of roots and earth should be about 4 ft. across and 2 1/2 ft. deep; by the time it is moved the latter measurement will have reduced to 2 ft. by crumbling away of earth. The soil must be damp throughout. If dry, it will not hold together; if too wet, it will be greasy and sticky, so as almost to be impossible to work. All roots for 2 ft. around the tree and more than 2 1/2 ft. under the surface of the ground should be cut away, including any tap root. The ground should be opened for several feet round, as necessitated by the situation, so that men engaged may work conveniently. Any long branches should be raised and tied up close to the trunk. A piece of strong canvas, such as is used by furniture removers, 15 ft. square, is inserted under the ball. This is done

by pulling the tree over on its side, folding and pushing the canvas as far under as possible (as a nurse puts a sheet under a patient who cannot leave bed) and then rocking the tree in the opposite direction, which will enable the canvas to be drawn still further under. This process is repeated (if necessary) until the ball of earth and roots stands in the middle of the canvas. The canvas is then drawn up to the trunk and tied securely so that the four corners form four large ears, which will afford good handles of which the men may take hold. The tree is then rocked on one side and earth thrown in under and rammed tightly. On this rammed earth the tree is rocked to the other side, further earth thrown in where it is lying and rammed hard. The process is repeated until the canvas ball has been raised nearly to the original ground level, when it can be

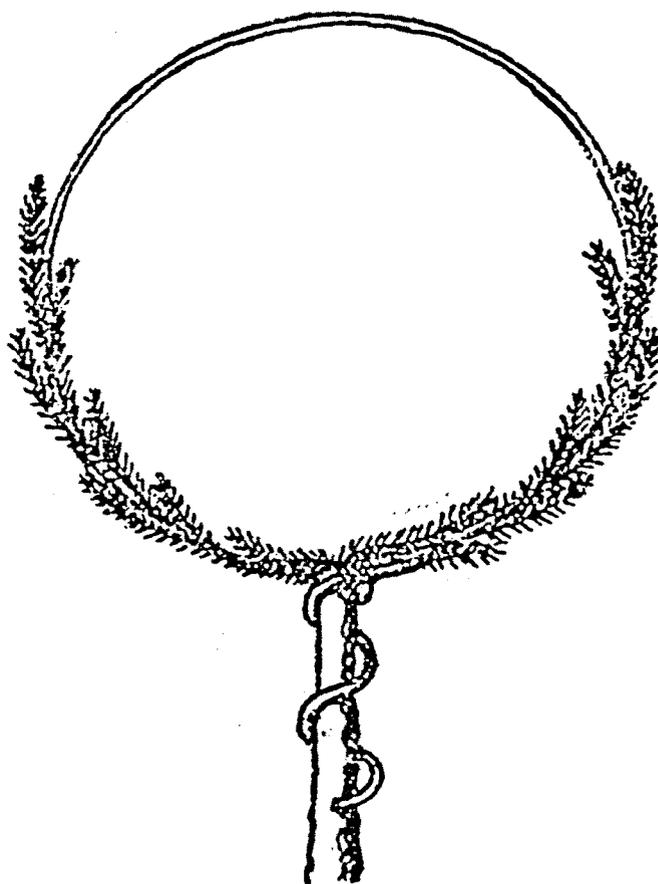
rocked, pushed and lifted on to planks, along which it can be pushed with levers and pulled by the canvas ears.

At the end of the planks, or under them, as may be most convenient, a trolley may be brought and the ball slid or dropped on to this, Plate 8. Then it can be wheeled on planks used as rails to its new position, where it may be slid into the hole prepared for it and, by rocking from side to side, the canvas be folded and withdrawn in the same way it was got under.

It will be found that six or seven men are as many as can work together round the ball, which limits the size of tree and ball which can be handled without special appliances. The new site for the tree should be drained and prepared as described for hedges. The tree should be firmly staked and secured for many years after removal, until it has made fresh, strong roots that will enable it to withstand a severe gale. Such root development may be encouraged by digging deeply and wide about the new site and ramming the earth firmly after planting. It must be remembered that (except, perhaps, standing in water) nothing is so trying to a moved tree as continual strain upon its unconsolidated roots. The bigger and taller the tree and the more exposed the situation, the greater such strain must be.

Very large, old trees require special apparatus for lifting and moving. If the tree to be moved is a fine and valuable one, this may be done with some certainty of survival if a trench is dug in a semi-circle several feet from the stem, by which trenching all roots are severed. The trench should then be filled with good soil, well rammed. The following year a similar trench should be dug on the other side of the tree, roots cut and soil replaced and rammed. Two years later (that is, three years from the first operation) the new fibrous roots which will have been formed will be tough and will stand handling, which they would not stand after one year's growth. Care should be taken to drain the opened ground, that water may not lie in the trenches.

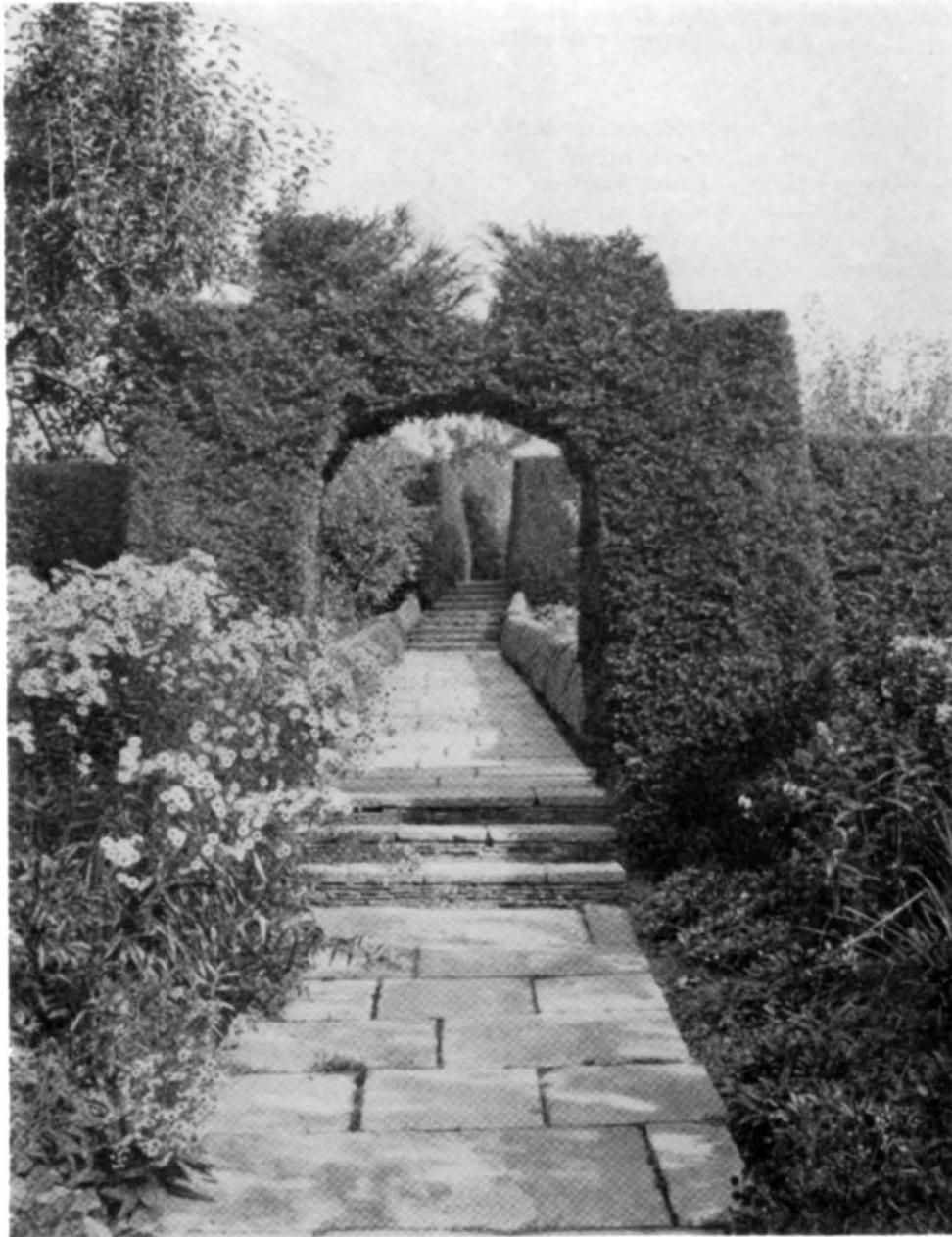
High specimen trees and hedges can generally be reached for clipping from a light ladder resting against them, for by the time the plants have reached such height they have been clipped many seasons and the branches are sufficiently stiff to bear a man's weight on the ladder. Exceptionally high trees and hedges which are very thick require the use of boards resting on painters' trestles. Others may be reached from step-ladders, and there is a form of three-legged ladder used in hop gardens which is very suitable, as one leg can be pushed in amongst the lower branches, so bringing the top close to the work. Generally, it will be found necessary that one person should hold a step-ladder while another clips.



FORMATION OF TERMINAL RING ON STOUT WIRE

ARCHES AND OPENINGS. There is no more attractive feature in a garden than a vista, and openings in yew hedges present particularly charming effects of this kind. Plate 9 shows a semi-circular arch surmounted by a half-grown crow-stepped pediment. The arch was formed by tying together long twigs and shaping with the shears. Where the span is wide or the arch slender, a light frame of 1 in. by 3/4 in. battens is often set up upon which to train the branches until they are sufficiently stout to support themselves and maintain the shape of the arch. Such an arch takes several years to form, and the wooden framework is very conspicuous; it also occupies too much space and tends to screen the foilage from light.

A better method is the use of stout stakes driven into the ground amongst the branches of the yews and to these thick fencing wire, 1/4 in. in diameter, securely fixed by winding round the stakes. The wires were then taken across the path and fixed to



Vista through archway, the pediment of which is to be crow-stepped. Notice the “batter” of the well-grown box edging seen through the arch.

(In Peter Coats’ beautiful books, GREAT GARDENS OF BRITAIN, p. 268, you may see this arch as it is today.)

similar stakes on the other side, forming single-strand wire arches. At short intervals these arches were connected by strong tarred string crossing them. The structure is shown as fixed (before the yew branches were tied up or clipped) and the same structure after each twig had been tied individually to wire or string. The tying was done with tarred string. The arch illustrated was 8 ft. above the path at its highest point, and would allow a fair amount of sunshine to penetrate and encourage growth of

verdure. The whole work occupied two men a day and a half, and has withstood heavy gusts of wind. The growth of the next two years should enable the curve of the arch to be computed accurately. The trees were well manured and the soil around their roots forked up; everything possible was done to encourage growth, especially on the right, where the branches from the arch were required to grow away from the sun. Those on the left, which grew towards the sun, threw out many more and much longer shoots.

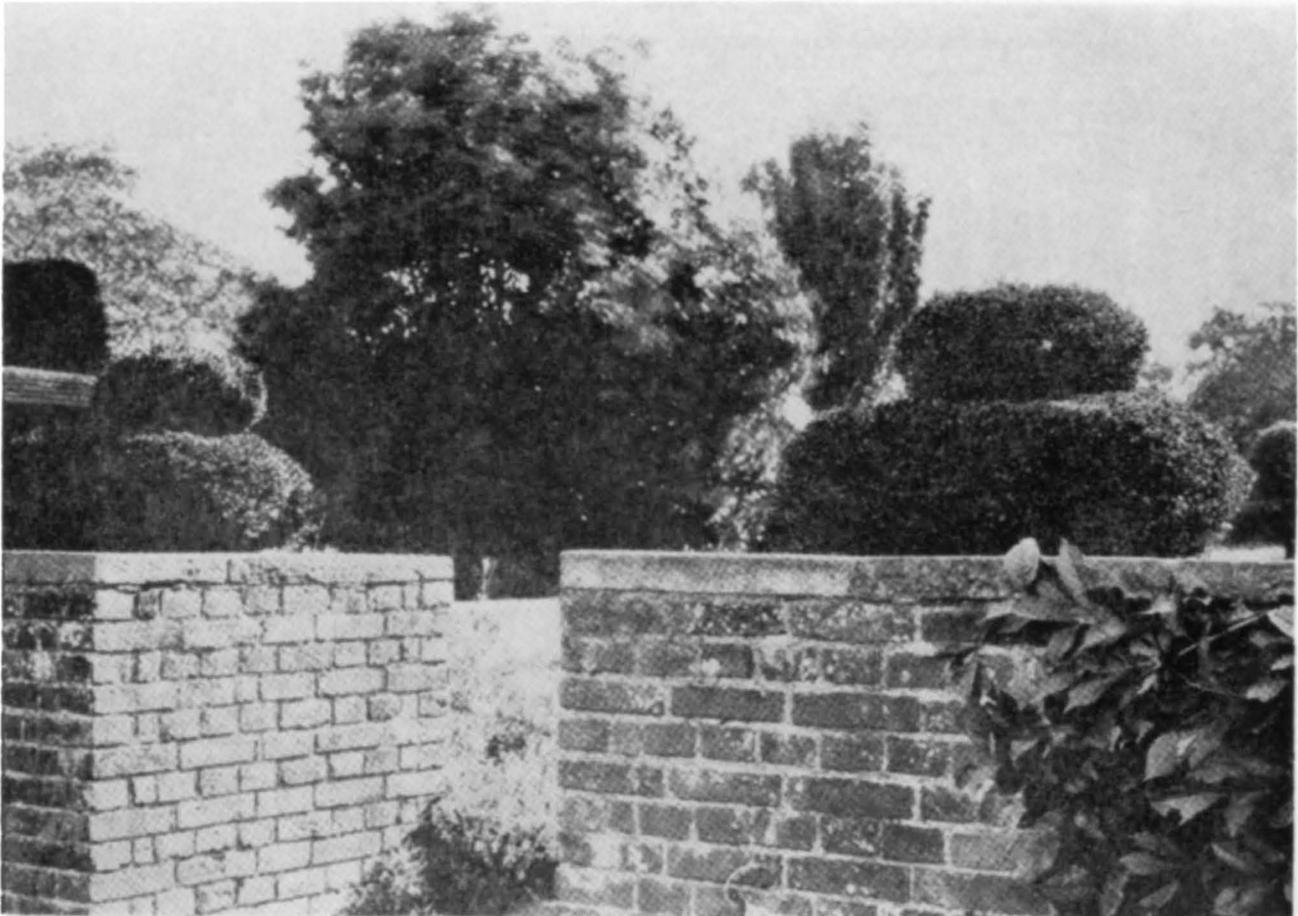
Yew porches and tunnels are also suited to the plant, but if these are deep, the light will not penetrate sufficiently within the arch to secure growth of foliage there. The further development of the treatment in the formation of summer houses is subject to the same limitation within, but the great mass of yew is extremely effective when viewed from without.

BOX. The experience gained with yew is also applicable to box, which is really slow growing, but for that reason is especially well suited for positions where miniature hedges or specimens are required. The practice of clipping with a batter is as important as with yew: even for a parterre like that at Penshurst, (*cover picture, January 1974 issue.*) a slight batter will make all the difference between compact, even growth and lanky, stalky plants. Often the good result derived from batter is marred by the growth of border plants which have been set too close to the box edging or hedge. Some parterres have no plants growing in the areas surrounded by box, but have the surface of the soil sprinkled with broken sea-shells, or small stones, often of different colours. Such formality, however, is at variance with true gardening, which may better be served by planting the beds with such delicate, slow-growing

roses as *Comtesse de Cayla*. These may be grown alone, without any carpet of violas, which are liable to grow rankly and smother the lower growths of the box. If a carpet is essential, common stone-crop is pleasing and less harmful. In the Box Garden at Earls Hall, Plate 10, fancy has run riot in a whole poultry yard of box and in many shaped plants, some of which have initials and other devices formed in relief on huge balls and cones. The whole is carried out in small compass, which should appeal to those who wish to achieve much in little space.

Often old roughly grown box plants may be obtained from old gardens. These will be leggy and all the growth will be on the top. If replanted as edgings and cut to a batter, as described for yew hedges, they will throw out fresh growths from the leggy stems and in three or four years form hedges of edgings 2 ft. high or more, as those seen through the archway, Plate 9, which were treated in this fashion.

By choosing the best plants from such rough stuff, many fancy shapes may be produced quickly. The large cottage loaves planted in the centre of brick piers, Plate 11, were formed in this way, the bunch of taller plants in the middle being tied with tarred string round the waist; shorter plants or



"Cottage Loaves," formed of bunches of old box plants planted closely (in holes in the brick piers) and tied with tarred string. Cut to good shapes in 2 years.

plants more deeply buried were set all round and hid the bare stems of the centre bunch. Thus, almost at once, large interesting objects were formed.

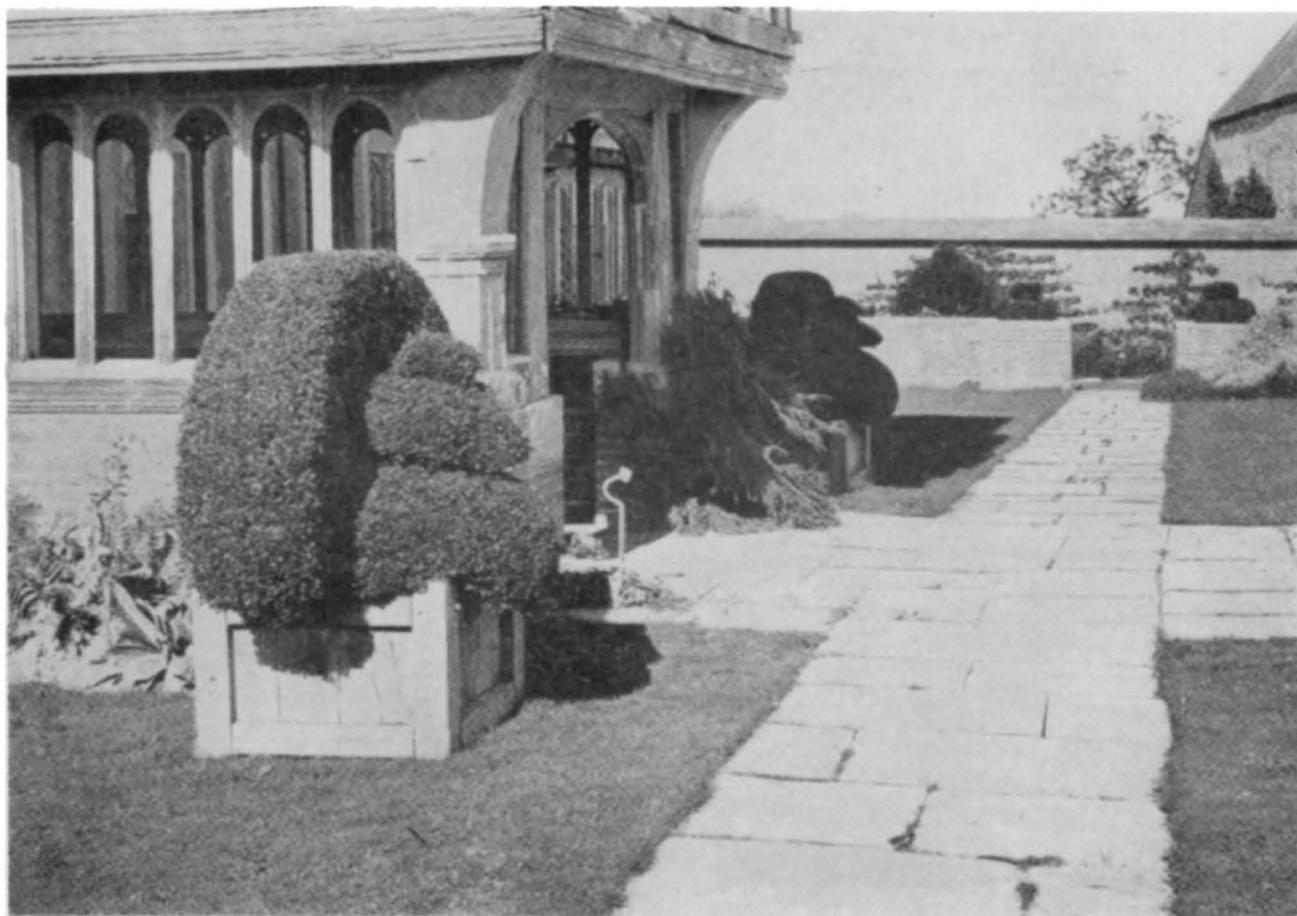
Very good box plants, shaped as peacocks, etc., are grown in large numbers in Holland for the English market. After a few months or years they begin to deteriorate and become sorry objects. This usually arises from insufficient room for root growth and from the quantity of soil being inadequate for plants of their sizes. Re-potting (or re-boxing) in larger receptacles, with good soil, will stimulate fresh growth. Where box birds have grown very large, as those in Plate 12, it may be inconvenient to have larger boxes or tubs. In such case the bottoms may be knocked out of the boxes, and the soil in them allowed to rest on the ground, which should be prepared by digging a couple of feet down and filling up with manure and good soil. The plants soon root into the earth in such a pit, and flourish wonderfully. Boxes as those in the illustration will last over twenty years if made of sound oak. At the end of that time it may be necessary to bore out the oak pins with which they are put together, and to build up new boxes of similar design round the cube of earth inside.

Box should be clipped in May or June, when it has made its fresh growth, and again in September, if exceptional growth renders this necessary.

The American Boxwood Society

NEW MEMBERS

-
- Charlesworth, Mrs. Stuart M., Box 31, Upperville, Va. 22176
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These box birds (*peacocks or turkeys?*) outgrew their boxes, from which the bottoms were taken and the plants' roots allowed to go down into well-prepared soil in the ground.



Great Dixter and the Lloyds

The house at Great Dixter, a fine example of fifteenth-century half-timbering, had suffered many changes for the worse when Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Lloyd acquired it early in this century. Worst of all was the insertion of two additional floors into the Great Hall. Mr. Lloyd was an architect, a colleague and friend of Sir Edwin Lutyens; and with his advice and help a masterly restoration of the fine old building was achieved. Another house of almost equal antiquity, which was being torn down in a neighboring village, was transported beam by beam to Great Dixter and rebuilt so skilfully that it is difficult to tell from the outside which is the original house. This addition is the present living quarters of the family.

Sir Edwin Lutyens designed the main framework of the garden, with its many separate sections — some enclosed with yew hedges and formal; others open and informal with a lavish variety of plantings. The glory of the garden is the Long Border, 70 yards long and 5 yards wide, planted with bulbs, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and dahlias to give an exceptionally long season. (Your editor can vouch for that, having visited Great Dixter at the end of September.)

Two features of the garden were designed by Mr. Lloyd himself; the sunken garden with its lily pond, and the Topiary Lawn (shown above), the specimens so large that it is hard to believe that they have all been planted there since 1910.

Mr. Lloyd published *Garden Craftsmanship* in Yew and Box in 1925. Miles Hadfield says of it, "The first consequential practical study of the subject . . . largely exemplified by his own work at Great

Dixter in Sussex. With its many illustrations, it is just as valuable today, when we are forced to operate on a minuscule scale, as when it was published." Mr. Hadfield himself wrote the next book on the subject, *Topiary and Ornamental Hedges*, published in 1971.

Mr. Christopher Lloyd, by whose kind permission we have reprinted such a large portion of *Garden Craftsmanship* in Yew and Box, has done more than simply keep up the garden. "The garden at Great Dixter" says Peter Coats in *Great Gardens of Britain*, "seems to be the most English of all the gardens in this book. It was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1910-12, so it is not, in fact, a very old garden. Yet so happily is it married to the ancient house it surrounds, that it seems far older than it is. It is, first and foremost, a plantsman's garden, for there is not a plant in the garden at Great Dixter that is not an interesting plant, a good plant; and not only that, but, having been planted by Mr. Christopher Lloyd, probably the best plant of its kind available. So the garden might legitimately be described as approaching the ideal — and architect-designed garden planted by a connoisseur among gardeners, which is a very rare combination indeed."

Mr. Christopher Lloyd has also followed his father as a writer of gardening books "packed," says the Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, "with the sort of information that keen gardeners crave." The latest one (that I know of) is *The Well-Tempered Garden* first published in 1970.

Great Dixter is near Northiam, Sussex, on the A28. Open daily except Mondays.

Performance Records Of Woody Plants In The Secret Arboretum

John E. Ford

(Continued from the January issue)

BUXACEAE. BOX FAMILY

Three different genera in the Box Family have been set out in the Arboretum or on the Campus of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center: *Buxus*, *Pachysandra*, and *Sarcococca*. None of the plants is native to the Wooster area.

The first box to be set out in the Arboretum was Asheville Common Box (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Asheville'). During 1923, six specimens of this cultivar were planted and have grown well ever since. Some 82 different kinds of boxwood have been set out since the initial plantings in 1923 and 54 of these are still alive. Seventeen of those remaining are not named and as they are not growing too well and are quite small they have not been included in the following listing.

Buxus 14412. B5. (1)1969.

Site wet 1972. Top winter killed but recovered. Grew well until winter 1971-72. Fluctuating temperatures. Status (+) 18"(1)1973.

Buxus 16475. B5. (1)1969.

Site wet. Winter kills, resprouts. Status (-) 6"(1)1973.

Buxus 17087. B5. (1)1969.

Site wet. Top winter killed 1972 but recovered. Grew well until winter 1971-72. Fluctuating temperatures. Status (+) 11"(1)1973.

Buxus 24424. B5. (1)1969.

Site wet. Top winter killed 1972. Grew well until winter 1971-72. Fluctuating temperatures. Status (1-) 2"(1)1973.

Buxus harlandi. A1. (2)1936, (1)1939. Status Fc 1940.

HARLANDS BOX. B.5. (1)1969. Temperatures to -12°F. Status Fc 1970.

Buxus microphylla 'Compacta Kingsville Dwarf'. B5. (1)1967. Status (++) 5"(1)1973.

KINGSVILLE DWARF LITTLELEAF BOX. B5. (1)1969. Winds, wet site. Status Fs 1971.

Buxus microphylla 'Green Pillow.' B5. (1)1967. Status (++) 6"(1)1973.

GREEN PILLOW LITTLELEAF BOX.
Buxus microphylla japonica. A2.(2)1958.

JAPANESE LITTLELEAF BOX.

Has survived temperatures to -20°F. Status (++) 4'(2)1973.

B5. (1)1969. Temperatures to -12°F. Plant 1' high. Not established. Status Fp Fs 1970.

Buxus microphylla japonica 'Morris Fastigiata'. B5. (1)1969.

MORRIS UPRIGHT LITTLELEAF BOX. Temperatures to -12°F Status Fc 1970.

Buxus microphylla 'Korean Garden'. B5. (1)1967
KOREAN GARDEN LITTLELEAF BOX. Status Fc 1968.

Buxus microphylla koreana.

KOREAN LITTLELEAF BOX.

A1. (3)1931, (1)1967. Re 2. Ts(1)1968 B8. Has survived temperatures to -20°F. Has not completely recovered from Ts. Status (+) 8'(1)1973.

B5. (1)1969. Wet site. Plant under 1' when set. Status Fs 1971.

Buxus microphylla koreana 'Wintergreen.'

WINTERGREEN KOREAN BOX.

B5. (20)1972. Status (+) 1'(20)1973.

Buxus microphylla (Largeleaf Asiatic Clone).

B5. (6)1967. Did exceptionally well. Green all winter, until winter 1972-73 leaves reddish. Status (+) 4'-5'(6)1973.

Buxus microphylla 'Morris medium Dwarf.

MORRIS MEDIUM DWARF LITTLELEAF BOX.

B5. (1)1969. Status (+) 6"(1)1973.

Buxus microphylla 'Morrison Garden.'

MORRISON GARDEN LITTLELEAF BOX.

B5. (1)1969. Status (+) 10"(1)1973.

Buxus microphylla sinica.

CHINESE LITTLELEAF BOX.

B5. (1)1967. Wet site. Windy. Status Fc 1971.

Buxus sempervirens. COMMON BOX.

O. (9)1956. (6)1970. Status (++) 4'-5'(6)1973.

O. (4)1964. Status NP 1972.

Buxus sempervirens 'Anderson 350-35.'

ANDERSON 350-35 COMMON BOX.

B5. (1)1967. Status Fc 1969.

- B5. (1)1969. Status Fc 1971.
Buxus sempervirens 'Anderson 351-35.'
 ANDERSON 351-35 COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1967. Status (++) 3'(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Anderson 789-34.'
 ANDERSON 789-34 COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1967. Status Fc 1968.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Angustifolia.'
 WILLOW COMMON BOX
 B5. (1)1967. Status Fc 1971.
 B5. (3)1969, (2)1971, (1)1972. Tops winter kill each winter. Status (+) 9'(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Arborescens.'
 TRUETREE COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1969. Status (+) 8'(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Argenteo Variegata.'
 SILVER COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1969. Washed out in flood. Status Fw 1969.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Asheville.'
 ASHEVILLE COMMON BOX.
 A2. (6)1923, (5)1930. Status (++) 6'-7'(5) 1973.
 O. (75)1950. Hedge. Exposed to wind. Status (++) 3'-4', 8' (75)1973.
 O. (2)1950. Status Re 1966.
 O. (2)1950. Re. Concrete walk. Status Re.
 O. (2)1950. Status Fm 1972.
 O. (2)1950. Status (++) 4'-5'(2)1973.
 O. (2)1956. Replaced with *Taxus*. Status Re 1960.
 This cultivar holds a good green color in the foliage throughout the winter. Tolerates wind. Has survived temperatures to -20°F.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Aurea.'
 GOLDEN COMMON BOX
 B5. (2)1969. Temperatures to -12°F. Status Fc 1970.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Bosley.'
 BOSLEY COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1967. Status (+) 14''(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Colprit No. 4.'
 COLPRIT No. 4 COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1969. (Top winter kill 1971-72) Status (+) 8''(1)1973.
- Buxus microphylla* 'Curly Locks.'
 CURLY LOCKS LITTLELEAF BOX.
 B5. (1)1967. Status (++) 2'(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Fastigiata.'
 COLUMNAR COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1967. Status (++) 3'(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Handsworth.'
 HANDSWORTH COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1969. Wet site Top winter kills and re-sprouts. Status (-) 6''(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Hardwick.'
 HARDWICK COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1969. Wet site. Top winter kill each year. Status (-) 2''(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Joe Gable.'
 JOE GABLE COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1967. Temperatures to -12°F. Status Fs Fc 1970.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Latifolia Macrophylla.'
 B5. (1)1969. Wet site. Status Fc 1971.
- Buxus sempervirens* (Mulsted selection).
 COMMON BOX, Mulsted selection.
 B5. (2)1967. Foliage remains green all winter, rapid growing. Has survived temperatures to -12°F. Status (++) 5'(2)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Myosotidifolia.'
 FORGETMENOTLEAF COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1967. Status Fc 1972.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Myrtifolia.'
 MYRTLELEAF COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1967. Status Fc 1970.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Nana.'
 DWARF COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1969. Temperatures to -12°F. Status Fc 1970.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Nish.'
 NISH COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1969. Temperatures to -12°F. Status Fc 1970.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Northern N.Y.'
 NORTHERN N. Y. COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1967. Status (+) 10''(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Novicularis.'
 NOVICULARIS COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1967. Status (++) 3'(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Pendula.'
 WEEPING COMMON BOX.
 B5. (1)1967. Status (++) 3'(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Pyramidata.'
 PYRAMID COMMON BOX
 B5. (3)1969, (1)1971. Wet site. Status (-) 3''(1)1973.
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Rotundifolia.'
 ROUNDELEAF COMMON BOX.
 A1. (1)1930. Has survived temperatures to -20°F. Status (++) 6'-7'(2)1973.

B5. (1)1967. Under 1' high. Status Fp Fc 1969.
Holds green color through most of winter.
Off color by early spring. Soon becomes
green with warm weather.

Buxus sempervirens 'Salicifolia.'
WILLOWLEAF COMMON BOX.

B5. (1)1967. Status (+) 1'(1)1973.

Buxus sempervirens 'Schmidt.'
SCHMIDT COMMON BOX.

B5. (2)1969. Status (++) 2'-3'(2)1973.

Buxus sempervirens 'Spreading.'
SPREADING COMMON BOX.

B5. (1)1969. Temperatures to -12°F. Status
Fc 1970.

Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa.'
TRUEDWARF COMMON BOX.

A1. (5)1927,(2)1968. Has survived tempera-
tures to -20°F. Holds green color all winter. Some
leaves off color at -12°F. Status (++) 7'-8'(2)
1973.

Buxus sempervirens 'Vardar Valley.'
VARDAR VALLEY COMMON BOX.

B5. (2)1967, (1)1972. Status (++) 2'(1)1973.
B5. (1)1969. Under 1' high. Plants failed or did
poorly on wet sites, excellent on good sites. Status
(-) 7'(1)1973.

Buxus sempervirens 'Varifolia.'

B5. (1)1967. Status (++) 3'(1)1973.

Buxus sempervirens 'Woodland.'
WOODLAND COMMON BOX.

B5. (1)1969. Wet site. Status Fs Fc 1971.

Buxus sempervirens 'Wooster.'
WOOSTER COMMON BOX.

O. (1)1956. Status Re 1961.
B5. (2)1967. Status (++) 1'(2)1973.

Pachysandra terminalis.
JAPANESE PACHYSANDRA.
JAPANESE SPURGE.

O. (100)1916. (North side of building) Status
(++) (100)1973.

O. (100)1950. (North side of building) Status
(++) (100)1973.

O. (800)1969. (North side of building) Status
(++) (800)1973.

O. (50)1971. (Under large Yews) Status (+)
(50)1973.

O. (50)1972. (North side of building) Status
(+) (50)1973.

Sarcococca hookeriana.
HIMALAYA SARCOCOCCA.

O. 1933. Status NP 1958.

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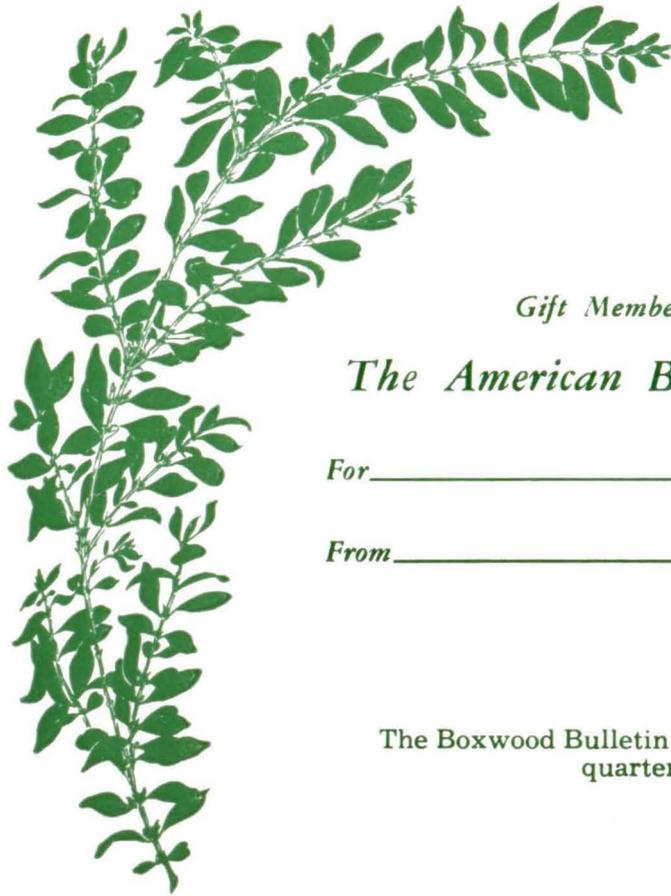
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