

***The***

July 1981

# Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL

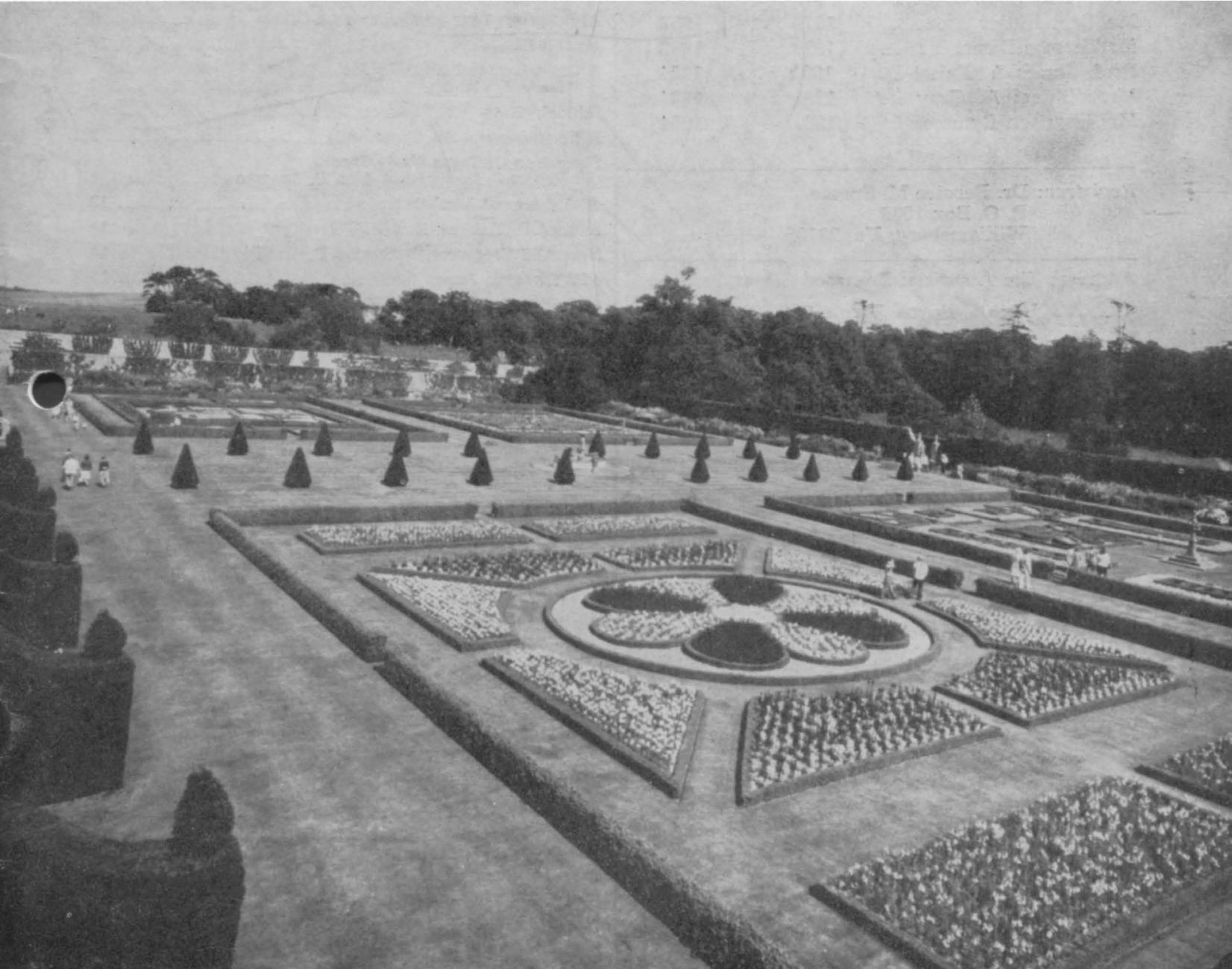


Photo Courtesy The National Trust For Scotland

*PITMEDDEN GARDEN - - Aberdeenshire, Scotland*

Boyce, Va.

Vol. 21 No. 1

Edited Under The Direction Of  
**THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY**

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# The Boxwood Bulletin

July, 1981

Vol. 21 No. 1

EDITOR — MRS. CHARLES H. DICK

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# ABS SPRING TOUR...

## A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

*Albert S. Beecher, Scot Butler  
and Decca Frackleton*

The Third Annual Boxwood Garden Tour, held April 25 and 26 in Fredericksburg and nearby Westmoreland County, was attended by forty-five members and guests. Most of the group was from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, but some came from as far away as Wisconsin, Connecticut and Mississippi. Arrangements for the tour were made by Vice President Richard Mahone and Director Decca Frackleton (our newly elected President and Vice President, respectively).

The tour committee arranged a get-together at the Ramada Inn, the tour headquarters, on the evening of April 24 in order to give registrants an opportunity to become better acquainted.

On Saturday the first stop was Brompton, an estate overlooking the city of Fredericksburg. Brompton was a confederate stronghold during the Civil War. Bullet holes are still visible in the outside walls of the house, which is now owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and serves as the home of the President of Mary Washington College, Dr. Prince B. Woodard, and Mrs. Woodard. An extensive restoration program was undertaken for the house and grounds in 1946 when the property was obtained by the Commonwealth. Full advantage was made of the many fine large trees and specimen boxwoods when landscaping the grounds. Among the beautiful old trees on the spacious lawn to the front and sides of Brompton is a magnificent horse chestnut tree that was in full bloom. To the rear of the house a boxwood path leads to a beautiful large formal garden that is designed to provide a succession of color. Elsewhere a double flowering dogwood was in full bloom and azaleas provided a fine display of color. The grounds and gardens were impeccably maintained, and the grounds manager was on hand to answer questions. After a tour of the tastefully designed and furnished house the members were entertained at a delightful coffee arranged and served by Mrs. Woodard.

The group then proceeded to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Frackleton for a tour of their garden and lunch on the patio surrounding the swimming pool. The Frackletons built their home and started developing their three-acre hilly woodland site into an exciting and colorful garden about twenty-two years ago. There is a series of paths that meander throughout the area. Three woodland pools serve as focal points of the garden. In addition to the native woodland flowers, shrubs and trees there are more than three hundred varieties

of azaleas massed in the garden along with a fine collection of dwarf conifers, unusual weeping trees and some of the boxwoods introduced by the late Henry J. Hohman. This garden is unique because Mrs. Frackleton has been very particular to label the plant material; this is very helpful in providing a learning experience for visitors. In addition she has kept extensive records as to blooming dates and has made a study of the chanced azaleas seedlings, over 225 of which have been catalogued. Following the tour of the grounds the group enjoyed a delicious catered lunch in the relaxed setting of the pool.

The first stop after lunch was the Rising Sun Tavern, built around 1761 by George Washington's brother, Charles. This eighteenth century architectural gem was a bustling stage-coach stop, post office and meeting place where patriots such as Washington, Jefferson and Patrick Henry gathered on the eve of the American Revolution. The tavern was a social center for the colonial town. Balls were held here and travelling entertainers performed. The Rising Sun Tavern is now owned by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA). The hostesses, dressed in costumes of the period, graphically described what life in the late eighteenth century was like at "a proper tavern." Behind the tavern there is a small garden containing boxwood.

The next visit was to the charming Mary Washington House, the home that George Washington bought and remodeled for his mother in 1772. She spent her later years until her death in this home. The home is a National and Virginia Historic Landmark; like the Rising Sun Tavern it is owned by the APVA and is open to the public. Its interesting garden was recreated by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1968-1969 and contains some of the original boxwood planted by Mary Ball Washington as well as her sundial. In addition to the formal garden it contains a kitchen garden.

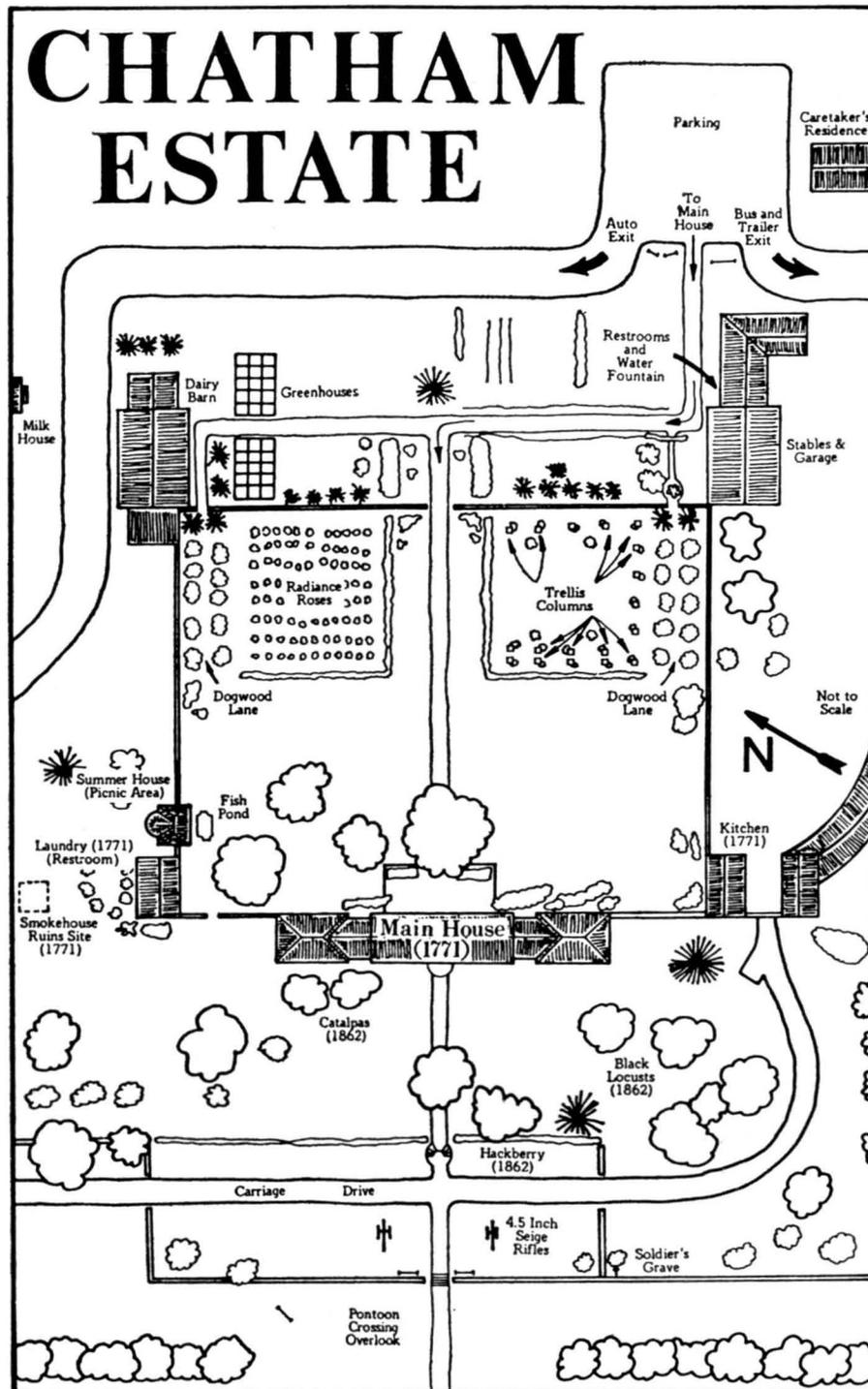
The final visit of the afternoon was to Chatham, located on a bluff across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg. Named in honor of William Pitt, the Earl of Chatham, the mansion was built by William Fitzhugh during the 1760s. Fitzhugh sold Chatham in 1806 and it prospered as a large working plantation until the Civil War. During the Civil War the owner was J. Horace Lacy; Chatham became famous as the "Lacy House," a battlefield landmark when Chatham heights served as the

# ABS SPRING TOUR



photo: Robert L. Frackelton

Members of ABS 1981 spring tour on the steps of Ingleside Plantation



front line for Union armies. Abraham Lincoln visited Chatham twice in 1861, and during the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg Chatham served as headquarters for Union General E. V. Sumner. Clara Barton and Walt Whitman were among those who nursed hundreds of wounded soldiers in the building.

Chatham suffered hard use during the war, and when the war was over the buildings were in ruins, the grounds denuded and the plantation destroyed. A series of absentee landowners held title to Chatham in the latter portion of the nineteenth century. Among the twentieth century owners were the noted journalist, Mark Sullivan, General Daniel B. Devore and John Lee Pratt (1879-1975). In the early 1920s extensive new gardens, planned as a reproduction of the stately gardens of Chatham,



photo: Robert L. Frackelton

Carl F. Flemer, Jr. and Richard D. Mahone

England were laid out on the north side of the house by General and Mrs. Devore. They also built walls and planted on the south side, an area in which Mrs. Pratt later planted more boxwood. Mr. Pratt carefully preserved the old trees, including two antebellum catalpas and an ancient ginkgo, and added many unusual specimen trees. The gardens at Chatham were opened in 1929 for the first Historic Garden Week in Virginia. Mr. Pratt left the house and grounds to the National Park Service upon his death in 1975; it was opened to the public in October 1977 (see plan of buildings and gardens, page 3.)

The tour committee arranged a gala evening program at Kenmore. Kenmore is one of the most architecturally perfect Georgian houses in America. In its restoration it captures all of the refined elegance of the eighteenth century Virginia mansion. Started in 1752, Kenmore was the home of Colonel Fielding Lewis and his wife, Betty Washington Lewis, the sister of George Washington. Before dining there was an opportunity to tour the grounds and visit the boxwood gardens. It is noteworthy that the Garden Club of Virginia used proceeds from the first Historic Garden Week in Virginia in 1929 to provide some of the plantings and to build the encircling wall. Tour members were served a delectable dinner in the Crowninshield Building during which Director Vernon

Edenfield of the Kenmore Association extended greetings and described major steps in the preservation and restoration of Kenmore. A candlelight tour of the mansion followed, and the full beauty of the interior was softly revealed, as it must have appeared two hundred years ago, by flickering flame.

The tour resumed on Sunday morning with a visit to Popes Creek Plantation (Wakefield), the birthplace and early boyhood home of George Washington. This historic property is administered by the National Park Service which has recreated the plantation to give visitors an opportunity to experience a way of life now vanished. Situated on a broad expanse of water, the fields and woods of the plantation blend to create a timeless serenity. The visit afforded insight into the simple and rugged early life that helped to form a great leader. The influence of this plantation on Washington's character, brief as it was, is amply conveyed in a documentary film shown at the reception center before guests tour the birthplace site, the memorial house, kitchen, herb and flower garden and living colonial farm.

The next visit was to Stratford Hall, the historic home of the Lee family. Stratford Hall is maintained as a working plantation by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association. The Great House, built by



photo: Robert L. Frackelton

Some members of ABS tour on the grounds of Wakefield, George Washington's birthplace



Part of the ABS tour members at Stratford Hall photo: Robert L. Frackelton

Thomas Lee in about 1725, is an unique example of early Georgian architecture with a Jacobean flavor.

After viewing a film at the reception center the group enjoyed a memorable plantation luncheon of ham, sweet potatoes, cole slaw, biscuits with strawberry jam, and pie. There followed a guided tour of the main house and its dependencies as well as the east and west gardens. The gardens were restored by the Garden Club of Virginia in 1930-32; since that time the story of the condition of the boxwoods at Stratford Hall is of special interest for boxwood lovers. During the war years and up to 1960 there was great concern on the part of Stratford Hall officials and the Garden Club of Virginia over the poor condition of the boxwood. In 1960 A. G. Smith, Honorary Life Member of the American Boxwood Society, was hired as a consultant to work with the newly appointed Head Gardener, Mr. Gerald F. Allard, and help restore the declining boxwood. The full story of the boxwood troubles at Stratford Hall and the steps that were taken to overcome these problems is fully outlined in the book, *The Boxwood at Stratford Hall* by A. G. Smith, Jr., which is available from the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association Plantation Store. It is a wonderful reference for boxwood growers who are experiencing problems. Today the boxwood gardens are one of the glories of Stratford Hall. They accent the formal arrangement of the Great House and its dependencies. In addition they reinforce the air of aristocratic dignity that is Stratford Hall.

The final stop of the tour was Ingleside, Oak Grove, the home of Carl F. Flemer, Jr., who owns the Ingleside Plantation Nurseries and Winery. Over 1,000 acres of the plantation are in nursery stock that is sold on a wholesale basis. Approximately 20,000 *Buxus sempervirens* (American boxwood) and 20,000 *Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa* (English boxwood) are propagated each year from softwood. After a brief tour of a portion of the nursery to see field grown nursery stock and then a visit to the container production area the tour party met the owner and his sons at the Ingleside mansion. They greeted the group with an invitation to tour the grounds of the mansion and visit the winery.

Ingleside, an imposing Greek Revival structure, is situated on one of the highest elevations of the Northern Neck, the point at which the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers are closest together. The house was originally a boarding school, the Washington Academy of Westmoreland, which was opened in 1835. In 1890 Ingleside was purchased by Charles Henry Flemer and is now occupied by his great-grandson. The house is of brick laid in Flemish bond and painted white with 30-foot solid brick and plastered columns. It is a very tall structure with five full floor levels. Wings, added in 1968 and 1970, completed the transformation of an old academy into a thoroughly lovely and livable home. The completed building today is 100 feet long and contains about 30 rooms. The grounds around the house are spacious and are uniformly landscaped with a wide variety of plant material.

One of the largest *Magnolia grandiflora* trees in Virginia is located in the front yard.

The winery at Ingleside is a new enterprise. Our group had the pleasure of a guided tour to see how the wine is made and bottled. The highlight of the tour was the opportunity to sample the various wines produced from the Ingleside Plantation Vineyard as well as some good Virginia cheese. The vineyard covers 20 acres growing approximately 25 varieties of vinifers and American-French hybrids. When it came time to return to Fredericksburg, tour chairman Dick Mahone had difficulty luring some of the members away from the wine, cheese and coffee.

Just after leaving Ingleside the bus suddenly became tired and stopped. Some of the passengers suggested putting wine in the tank. But Charlie, the bus driver, and Dick Mahone, being more practical, fiddled with some wires under the hood and soon the bus was on its way again. The return trip took about an hour but it gave everybody a welcome chance to reflect on the boxwoods observed on the tour, on what life in Virginia was like during the Revolutionary and Civil War periods, and on how beautiful Virginia is in the springtime.

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## AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY TOUR

APRIL 25 and 26, 1981

### List of Participants

Mr. James E. Baden, Route 2, Box 282, Bunker Hill, WV 25413  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert S. Beecher, 807 Sunrise Drive, S.E., Blacksburg, VA 24060  
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boyd, Jr., Route 1, Box 158, Alton, VA 24520  
Mr. and Mrs. Scot Butler, P.O. Box 184, Bluemont, VA 22012  
Mrs. Thomas J. Camp, Jr., 3545 Springland Lane N.W., Washington, DC 20008  
Mr. James T. Cook, Jr., P.O. Box 55, Waynesboro, VA 22980  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Earley, 1151 N. Chester Road, West Chester, PA 19380  
Mr. and Mrs. Davis Fair, Jr., Route 4, Box 318, Louisville, MS 39339  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, 1714 Greenway Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
Mr. Bryan J. Gore  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Gore, 712 W. Auburn Court, Mequon, WI 53092  
Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Haithcock, 5024 S. 25th Street, Arlington, VA 22206  
Mrs. Thomas B. Jones, 207 John Pickney Lane, Williamsburg, VA 23185  
Mr. and Mrs. Harley D. Kysor, 78 Olmstead Lane, Ridgefield, CT 06877  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Mahone, Box 751, Williamsburg, VA 23185  
Mr. and Mrs. Collin McKinne, 301 E. Noble Street, Louisburg, NC 27549  
Jacqueline B. Phillips  
Olivia Rodgers, 1810 Frederick Road, Baltimore, MD 21228

Mr. and Mrs. Winfield S. Preston, 1327 Ballantrae Lane, McLean, VA 22101

Mrs. B. Reath Riggs, 1909 23rd Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20008

Mrs. Peter T. Russell, 2141 Wyoming Ave., N.W., Washington, DC

Mr. W. H. Saufley, P.O. Box 1132, Wayneboro, VA 22980

Mr. and Mrs. E. Gurley Saunders, 104 Naglee Ave., Sandston, VA 23150

Capt. and Mrs. W. J. Sheehan, 104 Oak Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Miss Marion Sittler, The Towers, 4201 Cathedral Ave., N.W., Apt. 513E, Washington, DC 20016

Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Stock, Jr., Hanover Farm, Beallsville, MD 20704

Mrs. Charles W. Tegge, 3601 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20008

Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Walter, 3517 Granite Road, Woodstock, MD 21163

Mr. and Mrs. Wirt H. Wills, 907 Preston Ave., Blacksburg, VA 24060

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## MAIL BOX

Robert Land  
2008 Mandy Lane  
Milton, Florida 32570

Dear Sir:

I am interested in starting a commercial JOJOBA (Buxaceae) plantation and would like some information about the plant. We intend to market the oil from the Jojoba seeds; therefore a Jojoba plant well suited to the climate and soil of Northwest Florida is needed. We are attempting to identify a high oil production plant for this area. Any information about this plant or a source of this plant would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,  
Robert Land

Editor's Note:

Do we have any readers who can recommend a Jojoba plant suited to Mr. Land's requirements? With the growing interest in Jojoba oil as a substitute for whale sperm oil in the manufacture of a number of commercial products the *Boxwood Bulletin* would like to serve as a forum for the exchange of scientific information on the Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*). In 1972 the *Bulletin* printed several articles on the agronomy and utilization of the Jojoba plant.

# "A GREAT GARDEN I HOPE TO SEE..."

## PITMEDDEN GARDEN... ABERDEENSHIRE, SCOTLAND

Mary A. Gamble

Two years ago an Edinburgh friend sent me "The Gardener's Scotland" by Dawn McLeod. It is a charming small book on notable gardens in Scotland. As I paged through it I was reminded happily of a delightful day my husband and I spent in the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh where we appreciated the plant collection and took admiring note of the evident gardening skill and care. It was, we thought, the most charming and most finely kept large garden we had seen.

I was not far into "The Gardener's Scotland" when I came to Miss McLeod's account of the Great Garden at Pitmedden which is 14 miles north of Aberdeen in Aberdeenshire in northeastern Scotland. She describes Pitmedden as the "finest example of strictly formal gardening to be found in Scotland today." But the lines which caught my eye referred to the "six miles of box edging" outlining the four great parterres which are the core of the garden.

Six miles of boxwood edging! It seemed an incredible planting and I found myself wanting to know more about it. I asked a young English friend at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis to put me in touch with the National Trust from which I was referred to the National Trust for Scotland. I wrote, and Mr. J. E. Robson, their Gardens Adviser, answered my questions, sent me a small and charming booklet on "Pitmedden and its Great Garden," and supplied the accompanying photograph which suggests the magnificence of the great parterres as well as the splendid turf and the meticulous upkeep.

The booklet sent by Mr. Robson tells us that an inscription on the lintel of the doorway through which the Great Garden is entered reads: Fundat 2 May 1675. Its builder was Sir Alexander Seton, owner of Pitmedden. Its plan reflected the rectangular shape and geometric patterns that were the epitome of good garden design in the seventeenth century. The patterns in the four parterres were elaborate. Each was worked out in brilliant annual flowers and in colorful but muted stones and pebbles. Pathways and connecting areas were green and sturdy turf. Each parterre, as well as the designs within each, were outlined by box.

In 1894 the Pitmedden estate was sold to Alexander Keith, an experienced farmer who under-

stood how to improve the land in a time when a farmer worked a twelve-hour day. Major James Keith, the only son of Alexander Keith, ultimately took over the estate. He is described as "one of the great farmers of this century." Major Keith, the last laird of Pitmedden, transferred it to the National Trust for Scotland and the Great Garden has been in the Trust's care since 1952.

It was determined that the Great Garden should be restored to its seventeenth century splendor. Recreation of the four parterres began in 1956 with the work done by Mr. George Barron, head gardener, and the Pitmedden garden staff. It was Mr. Barron who told Miss McLeod of the six miles of box edging, adding that it was all trimmed with hand-shears, "making for a better job."

Today, Mr. Robson wrote, the six miles of box edging are clipped with electric clippers. The outside box edging is grown to 18 inches and that forming the patterns of the design is kept at 9 inches in height. Clipping is done once yearly over a period of weeks "as and when time allows." At a rough estimate, wrote Mr. Robson, "it must occupy three men for the best part of ten days." Today 30,000 annuals are grown at Pitmedden to supply the color for the parterre designs.

As to the boxwood, wrote Mr. Robson: "The small boxwood plants needed to complete the six miles were not available in sufficient quantities for our purpose. It was possible," he continued, "to get old edging plants and these were torn apart into pieces from 9 inches to 1 foot in length, and then inserted in the ground in a nursery area for approximately two-thirds of their length. As far as I know, the success described was very good indeed, though I am unable to quote percentages."

In further explanation he wrote: "The actual box was gathered from several sources, but it is all *Buxus sempervirens*, and as such is quite hardy and requires no winter protection. . . There is no programme of feeding as we feel none is required, but in all fairness I am sure that those making the earth beds benefit from the fertilizer applied for the sake of the annual flowers. As I am quite sure you must know, box was very commonly used as an edging for pathways in Victorian times, and also in the early part of this century, and it may still be seen in several gardens. It is a very easy, undemanding plant, and providing the clipping is

not too severe, it is very easy to maintain. . . So far there has been no need for replacement of any kind."

As I wrote in the beginning, this a truly great garden I hope to see. In the meantime, I shall try the Pitmedden method of rooting boxwood; and as I work with our own modest boxwood plantings, my pleasure in them will be enriched by the realization that boxwood links all of the gardens that it graces, whether they be large or small, historic or contemporary.

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### MAILBOX

WILLIAM B. FARRAR  
10 Baker Street  
Summerville, Georgia 30747

May 19, 1981

Mr. Scot Butler  
P.O. Box 184  
Bluemont, Virginia 22012

Dear Mr. Butler:

Can you give me the name of the specific plant used in the parterres around many public buildings in France? It looks like a boxwood but responds to severe pruning better than any "American" boxwood I know of.

These plant are always planted in alternating double rows. They are kept in squared-off hedges one to one-and-a-half foot high and wide. They never seem to have a leaf out of place.

Although *The Boxwood Bulletin* states that box can be pruned any amount, I know of no garden in this country that keeps box parterres so uniform. I have concluded that the French boxwood is a variety we do not have in this country.

I should very much appreciate it if you would clear this up for me.

Cordially yours,  
William B. Farrar

*Can any of our readers answer Mr. Farrar's question? If so, will he or she be good enough to reply to Mr. Farrar and send a copy to The Bulletin so that we may publish it.*



#### Editor's Note:

The article "Boxwood and Garden Week in Virginia" appearing on Page 83 of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 20, No. 4, April 1981, was erroneously attributed to Harrison Symmes. In fact it was written by Professor Albert S. Beecher. We regret this oversight.

Note: (See Cover)

The 17th century "Great Garden" originally laid out by Sir Alexander Seton, the first baronet of Pitmedden, with elaborate floral designs, pavilions, fountains and sundials re-created by the Trust. Three of the formal gardens, outlined in box hedging and decorated annually with bedding plants, are taken from designs recorded as having been used in the gardens of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Edinburgh in 1647. The fourth of the parterres is a heraldic design based on Six Alexander Seton's coat-of-arms. Seen from the lawn above the "Great Garden" these motifs, executed on a grand scale, make a dramatic and colorful spectacle.

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### A REMINDER AND AN OPPORTUNITY

Annual membership dues were due May 1, 1981. If you overlooked or misplaced the letter recently sent to all members with the dues announcement, this reminder is for you. Renew now so you will not miss the next issue of the *Boxwood Bulletin*.

The American Boxwood Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1961 and dedicated to the increase and diffusion of knowledge concerning boxwood.

There are the following classes of membership and all include the *Boxwood Bulletin*:

Annual (regular), per year	\$ 5.00
Contributing, per year	\$ 10.00
Sustaining, per year	\$ 25.00
Life (no further dues)	\$100.00
Patron (no further dues)	\$500.00
Honorary (conferred)	None

Contributions are also welcome for the Research Fund, the Boxwood Memorial Garden and the Boxwood Handbook.

At the Annual Meeting in May a *Memorial Membership* was established for members who would like to make a contribution in memory of a loved one, with the money to be used for the upkeep of the Boxwood Memorial Garden maintained by the American Boxwood Society at the Blandy Experimental Farm at Boyce, Virginia.

Note: Contributions are deductible in computing income taxes in accordance with the provisions of the Revenue Act.

Membership dues or gifts for special projects should be sent to the treasurer: Mrs. Katherine D. Ward, American Boxwood Society, Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620.

# EVALUATION OF TEXAS SHADE TREES

Robert S. Dewers and Alan D. Dreesen

*Editor's Note:* Many members of the American Boxwood Society in addition to lovely specimen boxwoods have large beautiful shade trees that enhance their overall landscape design. These trees are valuable. The following article is printed by permission of the authors: Robert S. Dewers, Professor of Urban Forestry, Department of Forest Science, Texas A & M University and Alan D. Dreesen, Area Forestry Specialist, Texas Agricultural Extension Service. The information in the article may be useful to boxwood members not only in Texas, but throughout the United States.

In recent years emphasis has been greater on the value and function of the shade tree in America. Because this valuable resource performs a number of environmental functions in our ecosystem, any damage to this resource means monetary loss. The first formula for determining a dollar value on shade trees was presented by the National Shade Tree Conference in 1947. Since then, several revisions have made the formula more acceptable to insurance companies, courts and the Internal Revenue Service.

Two approaches to determine the monetary value of shade and ornamental trees are the replacement value and the formula.

## The Replacement Value

The value of many shade trees in Texas can be determined by finding the fair market value (planted and guaranteed) from tree nurseries. Larger tree companies sell and plant several species of trees up to 8 inches in diameter. The value of trees larger than available sizes can be estimated by the formula. Some species may not be found in tree nurseries regardless of size. Because the formula usually underestimates the value of small trees, it may be valid to determine the fair market value of similar species of comparable size.

## The Formula

Four factors are considered in the formula: size, species, condition and location.

*Size.* The shade tree evaluation committee determined that the cross-section area of the trunk should express shade tree size. The American Association of Nurserymen's approach in measuring tree diameter is generally followed: for 4-inch trees

and smaller, the area is determined at a height of 6 inches. For trees with a diameter of 4 to 8 inches, the area is determined 12 inches above ground level. For trees of 8 inches and larger the area is determined at diameter breast height (4.5 feet). Exceptions to these rules would occur where low branches cause trunk swell. For multi-trunk trees, full diameter of the largest trunk plus half the diameter of the other trunk determine the correct diameter for computing the cross-section area. The cross-section area is determined by the formula  $0.7854D^2$  where D equals the diameter measured. The current value of a perfect specimen shade tree, in the committee's opinion, is \$15 per square inch of trunk cross-section. Thus a 10-inch Class 1 tree in perfect condition and location would be worth \$1178.00.

$$[0.7854D^2 = 0.7854(10)^2 = 7854 \text{ in.}^2 (\$15/\text{in.}^2) = \$1178.00]$$

*Species.* Not all species and varieties of trees are of equal value. Permanence, maintenance needs, landscape quality and site adaptability influence the relative value of a species. Grouping tree species into value classes, one job of tree specialists, is subject to judgment and may vary from one part of the state to another. The following list may serve as a guide: the appraiser, however, must use his own judgment based on experience with the species in changing classes.

## Class I — 100 Percent

*Carya* spp. — Hickories  
*Carya illinoensis* — Pecan  
*Cornus florida* — Flowering Dogwood  
*Diospyros texana* — Texas Persimmon  
*Fagus grandifolia* — American Beech  
*Ilex opaca* — American Holly  
*Ilex vomitoria* — Yaupon Holly  
*Juglans nigra* — Black Walnut  
*Liquidambar styraciflua* — Sweet Gum  
*Magnolia grandiflora* — Southern Magnolia  
*Magnolia virginiana* — Sweetbay  
*Nyssa sylvatica* — Tupelo  
*Picea pungens* — Colorado Blue Spruce  
*Pinus edulis* — Pinon Pine  
*Pinus ponderosa* — Ponderosa Pine  
*Pinus taeda* — Loblolly Pine  
*Pithecellobium flexicaule* — Texas Ebony  
*Quercus alba* — White Oak  
*Quercus falcata* — Southern Red Oak  
*Quercus macrocarpa* — Bur Oak  
*Quercus muehlenbergii* — Chinquapin Oak  
*Quercus nigra* — Water Oak  
*Quercus shumardi* — Shumard Oak  
*Quercus texana* — Spanish Oak

*Quercus virginiana* — Live Oak  
*Sophora secundiflora* — Mescal Bean Sophora  
*Taxodium distichum* — Bald Cypress  
*Ulmus crassifolia* — Cedar Elm

Class II — 80 Percent

*Acer grandidentatum sinosum* — Bigtooth Maple  
*Arbutus texana* — Texas Madrone  
*Ehretia anacua* — Anaqua  
*Fraxinus velutina* (Select Male) — Velvet Ash  
*Fraxinus velutina glabra* — Modesto Ash  
*Ginkgo biloba* — Ginkgo  
*Gymnocladus dioicus* — Kentucky Coffeetree  
*Koelreuteria bipinnata* — Southern Golden Rain-tree  
*Koelreuteria paniculata* — Panicked Golden Rain-tree  
*Lagerstroemia indica* — Crepe Myrtle  
*Liriodendron tulipifera* — Tulip Poplar  
*Olea manzanilla* — Manzanilla Olive  
*Pinus elliotii* — Slash Pine  
*Pinus halepensis* — Aleppo Pine  
*Pinus nigra* — Austrian Pine  
*Pinus thunbergii* — Japanese Black Pine  
*Pistacia chinensis* — Chinese Pistachio  
*Quercus phellos* — Willow Oak  
*Quercus stellata* — Post Oak  
*Quercus velutina* — Black Oak  
*Sophora japonica* — Japanese Pagoda Tree  
*Ulmus americana* — American Elm

Class III — 60 Percent

*Acaria farnesiana* — Huisache  
*Acer rubrum* — Red Maple  
*Betula nigra* — River Birch  
*Broussonetia papyrifera* — Paper Mulberry  
*Bumellia januginosa* — Gum Elastic  
*Cedrus deodara* — Deodar Cedar  
*Celtis occidentalis* — Common Hackberry  
*Cercis spp.* — Redbud  
*Chilopsis linearis* — Desert Willow  
*Cupressus arizonica* — Arizona Cypress  
*Eriobotrya japonica* — Loquat  
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica lanceolata* — Green Ash  
*Fraxinus velutina* (seedling) — Arizona Ash  
*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis* — Thornless Honey-locust

*Juniperus spp.* — Junipers, Cedar  
*Leucaena pulverulenta* — Great Lead-tree  
*Malus species and varieties* Flowering Crab  
*Morus alba* (fruitless) — Fruitless Mulberry  
*Persea americana* — Avocada  
*Persea borbonia* — Redbay  
*Pinus echinata* — Shortleaf Pine  
*Pinus pinea* — Italian Stone Pine  
*Platanus occidentalis* — American Planetree, Sycamore  
*Prosopis glandulosa* — Honey Mesquite  
*Prunus mexicana* — Mexican Plum  
*Pyrus calleryana* — Callery Pear  
*Sabium sebiferum* — Chinese Tallow  
*Sapindus drummondii* — Western Soapberry  
*Ulmus parvifolia* — Chinese Elm  
*Ulmus parvifolia sempervirens* — Evergreen Elm

Class IV — 40 Percent

*Acer negundo* — Boxelder  
*Acer saccharinum* — Silver Maple  
*Ailanthus altissima* — Tree of Heaven  
*Albizia julibrissin* — Silktree  
*Catalpa spp.* — Catalpa  
*Celtis laevigata* — Sugarberry  
*Crataegus spp.* — Hawthorns

*Elaeagnus angustifolia* — Russian Olive  
*Firmiana simplex* — Chinese Parasol Tree  
*Maclura pomifera* — Bois d'Arc  
*Melia azedarach* — Chinaberry  
*Morus rubra* — Red Mulberry  
*Parkinsonia aculeata* — Palo Verde  
*Populus spp.* — Cottonwood and Poplars  
*Prunus blireiana* — Ornamental Plum  
*Robinia pseudoacacia* — Black Locust  
*Salix spp.* — Willows  
*Tamarix spp.* — Tamerisk  
*Thuja spp.* — Arbor Vitae  
*Ulmus pumila* — Siberian Elm  
*Zizyphus jujube* — Jujube

The current International Shade Tree formula recognizes five tree classes. Because many of the lower rated species perform well in drier sites of western Texas, it is more difficult to rate them at 20 percent of a top-quality species. For these reasons, all species listed here are grouped into four classes.

**Condition.** Very few shade trees are perfect specimens. As trees become large and old they often become defective through decay, broken limbs, man-caused damage or poorly proportioned growth. The specialist making the appraisal must consider the tree condition and judge it on a percentage basis. For example, a 10-inch tree in Class I might be a poorly proportioned tree or display symptoms of heart rot. Instead of being worth \$1178.00 it would be appraised at 60 percent or \$807.00. Obviously a knowledge of tree pathology, entomology and physiology is important to professional evaluation in this category. A diagnostician should, in many situations, be considered before deciding a tree's condition percentage.

As a guide, the following condition ratings based on life expectancy are offered:

Excellent (over 30 years)	75-100 percent
Good	50-75 percent
Fair	25-50 percent
Declining	0-25 percent

**Location.** Location is based on benefits from the tree. This factor fortifies the formula by recognizing the position of the tree relative to its function in the landscape. An understanding of the specific tree's role is helpful in applying this factor. The following conditions are outlined for guidance:

Memorial or historical trees	95-100 percent
Residential landscape trees	85-95 percent
Commercial and public area trees	70-85 percent
Windbreak and screening trees	60-70 percent
General park and highway trees	40-50 percent
Native wooded specimen trees contributing to aesthetics	20-40 percent

For example, a 15-inch American elm of good form, without signs of disease, has been growing in a city park in Central Texas. It has shaded a picnic area. This tree was vandalized by girdling the tree with an axe. What was the monetary damage to the tree assuming it has no chance of survival?

The formula:

(Size)	(15 dollars)	(Class)	(Condition)
[0.7854.(15 <sup>2</sup> )	(15)	(80%)	(100%)
(Location)	= Value		
(50%)	= \$1060.00		

For insurance companies and the courts, shade tree evaluation should be attempted only by a professional tree specialist. The Internal Revenue Service has a different approach to tree appraisal.

Any casualty loss claimed must show that the value of the property must have been reduced by the amount of the claim. However, if the outlined procedures are followed, using qualified appraisers, these principles of shade tree evaluation can well apply in tax losses. For example, the cost of repairing damage to property may serve as evidence of the property loss. Thus, replacement costs are acceptable as evidence of reduction of property value. To back up tree casualty loss, claims with IRS rulings by reviewing officers of tree and shrub losses of a similar nature may be used. In addition, the attitude of regional reviewing officials

toward shade trees and their legal standing or value may determine the extent of the casualty loss.

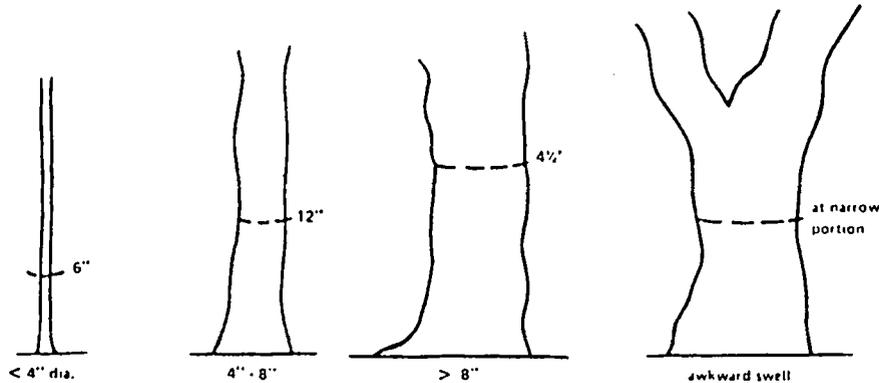
The formula description of shade tree evaluation is not intended to help determine the value of fruit and nut bearing trees when their value might be more appropriately determined by crop yield. Neither is it intended as a basis for evaluation of palm trees, since palms do not expand in diameter as do the species listed here. Fair market value or a dollar value per foot of height growth are the valid means of determining the worth of palm trees.

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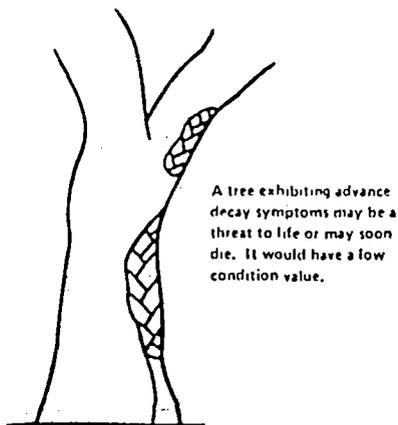
## Diagram for Tree Appraisal

### SIZE

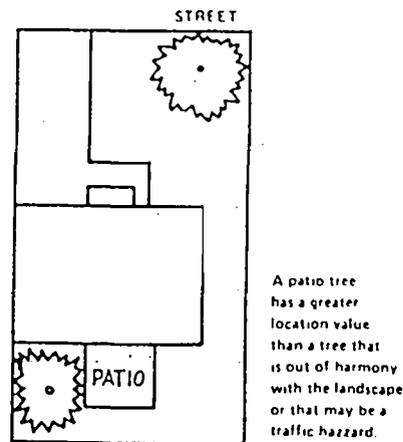
To determine the diameter of a tree, measure a small tree (less than 4" in diameter) at 6" above the ground, a medium sized tree (4" - 12" in diameter) at 12" above the ground and large tree (8" and greater) at 4 1/2 feet above the ground. Use sound judgment on measuring odd shaped trees. In measuring multi trunk trees, measure the diameter of the larger trunk and add 1/2 the diameter of the other trunks.



### CONDITION



### LOCATION



## **ABS BOXWOOD WORKSHOP**

**October 2, 1981**

**Old Salem,**

**Winston-Salem, North Carolina**

*All Members Welcome*

**For more information contact:**

**Prof. James A. Faiszt  
Extension Specialist  
Department of Horticulture  
Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
(703) 961-5801**

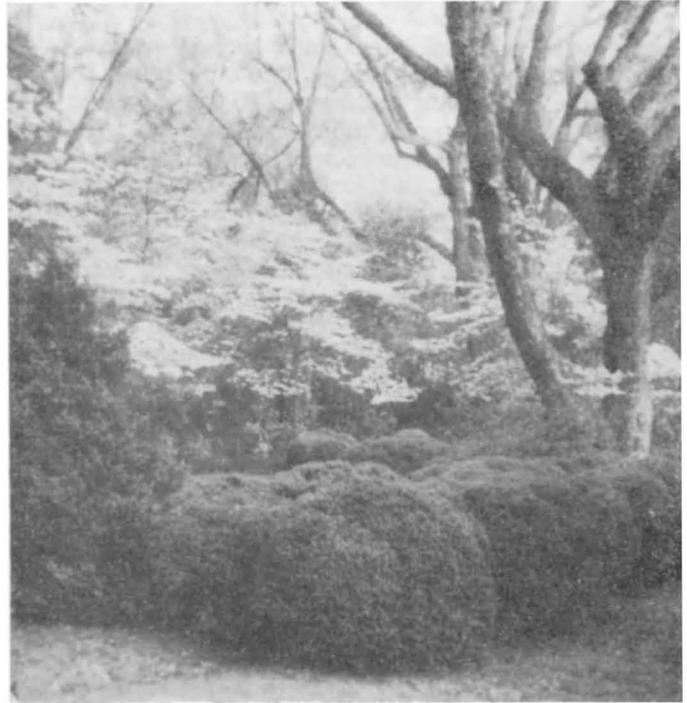


photo: Frances G. Welsh

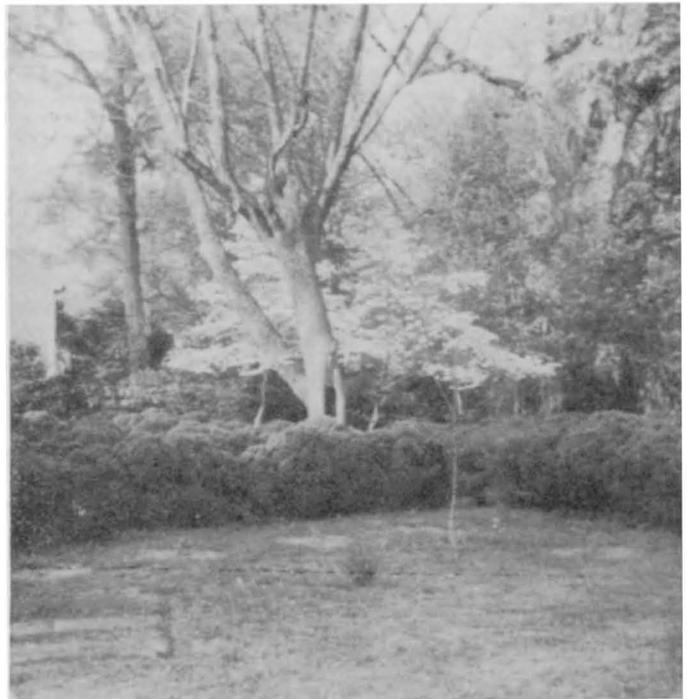


photo: Frances G. Welsh

### **MAILBOX**

#### **An Invitation**

Miss Frances G. Welsh  
95 Whitlock Avenue, S.W.  
Marietta, Georgia 30064

May 7, 1981

Mrs. Thomas E. Ewert  
The American Boxwood Society  
Box 85  
Boyce, Virginia 22620

Dear Mrs. Ewert:

I wish I could be with you at the May 13 meeting, but I live too far away. If any members come through Marietta, Georgia, would love to have them come see my boxwood (*suffruticosa*) planted by my mother 50 to 60 years ago from cuttings from original plants brought to Georgia from North Carolina by my grandmother. There are 420 of them.

Enclosed are some snapshots which you need not return. You may give them to Mrs. Dick if she is still the editor and if you think she'd be interested for the Boxwood Bulletin.

Sincerely,  
Frances Welsh

*Mark this date on your calendar  
and plan to attend*

**22ND ANNUAL MEETING  
THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY**

**MAY 12, 1982**

at

**BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM  
BOYCE, VIRGINIA**

## NEW ABS PRESIDENT



*Mr. Richard D. Mahone*

Mr. Richard D. Mahone became the fifth President of the American Boxwood Society upon election at the 21st Annual Meeting of the ABS on May 13, 1981. Before becoming President, Mr. Mahone had served as Vice President for more than three years. He has discharged a number of assignments with distinction and been supportive of new programs to improve the operation of the ABS and extend its influence. His even disposition, devotion to duty and cheerful humor are personal traits that auger well for the Society during his term of office. With characteristic humility, however, he asks the membership to assist him in his new job in all ways possible in view of the heavy responsibilities that he carries for administering the landscape operations at Colonial Williamsburg.

Our new President is a native Virginian who attended schools in Williamsburg during the early years of his life and graduated from Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg. He was attending North Carolina State College when World War II

broke out. He thereupon enlisted in the Corps of Engineers of the U. S. Army. The Army sent him to Washington and Jefferson College to study civil engineering. Later he was transferred to the 84th Infantry Division and spent the remainder of his military service in the European Theater of Operations.

Mr. Mahone is married to the former Helen Jordan McDaniel; they have 3 sons and 5 grandchildren. Mr. Mahone is a trustee of Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg. He summarizes his professional career below.

"In 1946 I earned a B. S. degree in Forestry from North Carolina State. After working for the Virginia State Forest Service and a civil engineering firm I returned to college to study ornamental horticulture and worked for the Turner Landscape Company. I received a B. S. degree in Horticulture from North Carolina State University in 1949.

"Upon graduation I started the Williamsburg Nursery, specializing in residential landscaping and raising boxwood. Later I joined the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation as a member of its Landscape Construction and Maintenance Department. I became Director of this Department in 1971. In this position I administer the landscape operation for the Foundation which encompasses 90 eighteen-

th century gardens, nursery and greenhouse operations, Carter's Grove plantation, the grounds of the Foundation's hotels and restaurants and the forest management program of over 2,000 acres of woodlands.

"In addition to the American Boxwood Society I am a member of several other plant societies and a number of horticulturally related organizations."

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## NEW ABS TREASURER



*Katherine D. Ward*

Katherine D. Ward was elected Treasurer of the American Boxwood Society at the 1981 Annual Meeting. She is presently employed as Superintendent of the Blandy Experimental Farm which serves as the headquarters of the ABS. In the following statement Mrs. Ward traces the development of her interest in boxwood and her association with the American Boxwood Society.

"I was born and raised in Potomac, Maryland on a farm that has been in my mother's family since the early 1800s. The original home place, built in 1830, contains many American boxwoods and formal boxwood gardens. Consequently my association with boxwood is of long standing.

"I developed an interest in plant materials at an early age as a result of living on a farm and having a father who was interested in landscaping

architecture. My other interests have varied over the years. In junior college I took courses in medical secretarial training and accounting. In college I studied foreign affairs.

In 1971 my family moved to Front Royal, Virginia to open a lawn and garden business. I soon found my self dealing in plants, shrubs, machinery, bookkeeping and public relations. At that time I took some additional courses: accounting, salesmanship, marketing and care of house plants. Subsequently I entered employment with Weber's Nursery in Winchester. I am now working happily at the Blandy Experimental Farm.

"I feel honored to have been elected Treasurer of the American Boxwood Society and will endeavor to serve you well in that capacity."

# AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY DIRECTOR



*Professor James A. Faiszt*

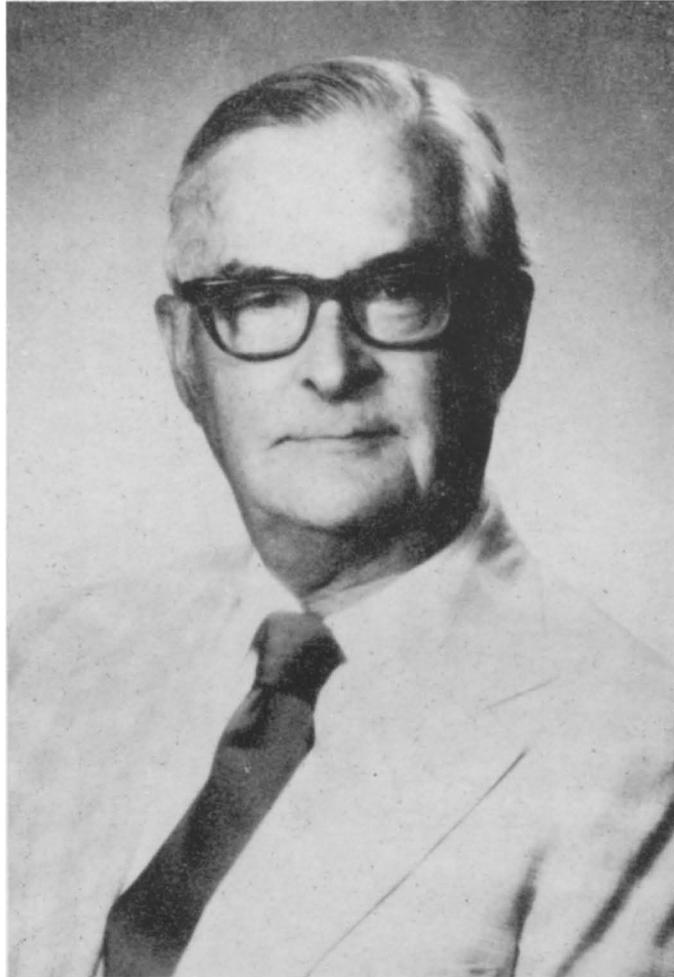
Professor James A. Faiszt is a familiar figure at our Annual Meetings as he leads members on tours of the Memorial Garden and the Orland E. White Arboretum or, together with his wife Norma, hosts the social hour, or presents slide programs on the uses of boxwood in landscape design. He has planned and arranged a number of boxwood workshops through the VPI & SU extension service. At present he is the extension specialist for landscape design of the Department of Horticulture, VPI & SU. Professor Faiszt describes his professional background and activities below.

"After receiving a B.S. degree in Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University in 1954 I worked for several years for Lambert Landscape Company in Shreveport, Louisiana and Dallas, Texas. In 1957 I moved to Memphis, Tennessee where I was employed as landscape architect by the Jefferson Davis Green Nurseries. I returned to LSU as an assistant professor in 1959 and taught landscape architecture. From 1961 to 1963

I served as a planning consultant to city and industrial planners in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Upon earning my M.L.A. degree from LSU in 1963 I joined the faculty at VPI (now VPI & SU) where I have remained until now. I spend approximately 75 percent of my time teaching and 25 percent in extension work.

"My area of expertise is ornamentals, turfgrass and home horticulture. As extension specialist in landscape design I assist the extension staff, commercial landscape horticulturists and homeowners in keeping abreast of new concepts and techniques related to landscape design and development. It is a satisfaction to me to feel that I am helping residents of Virginia become more knowledgeable about all aspects of landscaping, home grounds planning, planting and maintenance. I look forward to an even closer tie with the American Boxwood Society now that I am one of your directors and I thank you for the honor."

# AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY DIRECTOR



*Mr. William A. Gray*

Mr. William A. Gray, a longtime member of the ABS and frequent contributor to the pages of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, was elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting held May 13, 1981. He describes his professional background and his experience with boxwood in the following statement.

"Born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1912, I lived there or on Cape Cod until I completed my studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from which I hold a B. S. and M. S. degrees in Electrical Engineering. My professional career has been mainly in the field of electronics and related engineering sciences. Until 1950 I was employed by electronics companies in engineering and management roles, with a five-year interlude on active duty with the U. S. Army Signal Corps during World War II. For the next twenty years I served as an economics, scientific and technical analyst with the U. S. Government.

"Since my retirement from the Government in 1969 I have been active as a nurseryman, gardener

and consultant in the field of electron device technology. At present I am a trustee/director of the Palisades Institute for Research Services in New York.

"I became a nurseryman by accident in 1968 when my wife and I purchased a home on Mason Neck, Fairfax County, Virginia and inherited along with it some 6,500 *suffruticosa* plants. When we moved to Mr. Jefferson's country in 1974 we took with us a dozen truckloads of our *suffruticosa*, all of which happily accepted the soils and climate of the Piedmont. I am now a small-scale grower of woody ornamentals - - including several boxwood cultivars - - at our Brecknock Nursery west of Charlottesville, Virginia.

"I am honored to have been elected an ABS Director and will give my whole-hearted support to continuing and expanding the work of the Society in its promotion of the genus *Buxus*."

## IN APPRECIATION



*Al Beecher*

As Albert S. Beecher retires from the Presidency of the American Boxwood Society the Officers and Directors take this opportunity to express their appreciation of his many contributions to the Society. The period of his leadership, from November 1976 to May 1981, has been one of the most fruitful in the annals of the Society. His sure sense of direction and his determined efforts have led to a broadening and strengthening of the Society's programs.

Professor Beecher drew up the design of the Memorial Boxwood Garden at Blandy and, as President has pushed its development until today headquarters at Blandy Experimental Farm. The Memorial Garden provides an opportunity to study the growth habits of each of the plants located in it as well as to honor with living memorials individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of boxwood or the work of the Society. A new class of membership, to be known as a Memorial Membership, was created at this year's Annual Meeting for anyone wishing to remember a loved one through a donation to this Garden.

One of the most successful programs that Pro-

fessor Beecher has promoted has been the series of boxwood workshops that enable persons with an interest in the propagation, culture and taxonomy of boxwood to meet in different localities with experts in these fields. In most years beginning with 1976 two or three workshops have been held annually, many of them at Blandy or the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., but some have been held at the site of historic boxwood gardens (Gunston Hall, Stratford Hall, Oatlands, Scotchtown) or other facilities. These workshops have been well received, have advanced the educational aims of the Society and have served additionally as a means of attracting new members. Professor Beecher has also sponsored displays, exhibits and advertising to increase the visibility of the ABS. He has vigorously encouraged research in the study of boxwood and arranged for publication in the *Boxwood Bulletin* of the results.

The first ABS garden tour was held under Professor Beecher's aegis in May 1978. This tour of private gardens in the Philadelphia area proved so worthwhile that another tour was conducted in September 1979, this time to the greater Washington, D.C. area. In April of this year a highly successful third tour was held; it is described elsewhere in this issue of *The Bulletin*. The tours have

attracted members from near and far, and have helped to strengthen the bonds of membership.

Professor Albert S. Beecher, retired from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, became the fourth President of the American Boxwood Society on November 10, 1976, when Rear Admiral Neil Phillips submitted his resignation to the Board of Directors because of ill health.

In 1964 Mr. Beecher was appointed a member of the Boxwood Bulletin Advisory Board Committee. In 1970 he became a Director, and in 1976 was elected Vice President. Several articles by Mr. Beecher on boxwood care and designing with boxwood will be found in *The Boxwood Bulletin*. He has been a guest lecturer on several occasions during the educational portion of the Annual Meeting.

Mr. Beecher is a native of Massachusetts, but spent most of his early years living in New Haven, Connecticut. He received a B. S. degree in Entomology from the University of Connecticut in 1937. After service in World War II in the U. S. Army Medical Corp he attended the University of Massachusetts, and received the BLA degree in Landscape Architecture in 1948. Later he returned to the University of Massachusetts to complete the requirements for the Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture in 1954. In the fall of 1948 he was employed as a Horticulturist at Virginia Tech and was assigned teaching and extension duties.

Coming from cold New England, Beecher's interest in boxwood did not really develop until after coming to Virginia. At Virginia Tech, he had the honor and privilege of working under Professor A. G. Smith, Jr. and it was this association with Mr. Smith that created his interest in boxwood. Prior to Mr. Beecher's arrival at Blacksburg, Professor Smith had already established himself as a recognized boxwood authority, and was sought out by Virginians.

Professor Beecher has been a frequent contributor to the *Bulletin* of both signed and unsigned articles, a speaker at ABS educational programs and the firm but genial chairman of Board and Annual Meetings. Such are but a few of the ways in which he has left his mark. He declined to run again for Presidency before seeing the fruition of one of his most ardent projects - - publication of a *Boxwood Handbook*. But we hope the shedding of his responsibilities as President will allow him more time to pursue those projects which are of greatest interest to him. Of one thing we can be sure - - Professor Beecher's influence will continue to be felt in the work of the Society. For that we can all be grateful. We salute you, Al, for your past accomplishments and wish you well in your future tasks.



photo: Al Beecher

ABS members gather in Library for 21st annual meeting



photo: Al Beecher

Prof. Faiszt leads tour of Memorial Garden



photo: Al Beecher

ABS members Faiszt and Stock examine plants for distribution and sale following the meeting

# AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

## 21st Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 1981

### *Early Arrival Activities*

On the evening preceding the Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society there was an informal social gathering for early arrivals in the library of the Blandy Experimental Farm. President Albert S. Beecher and Professor James A. Faiszt gave a slide presentation entitled "Beautiful Gardens Begin with Boxwood." Following the slide presentation the early arrivals gathered around the punch bowl to renew old acquaintanceships and make new friends. President and Mrs. Beecher were the hosts for this evening of fun.

### *Business Session*

Wednesday, May 13th, dawned clear and sunny with temperatures ranging into the low 70s during the day. Following registration, a tour of the Memorial Garden and a coffee hour in the dining room the courtyard bell was sounded to call ABS members into the Blandy library for the annual business meeting.

President Beecher rapped the meeting to order at 11 A.M. using the boxwood gavel and block presented to the Society by Professor A. G. Smith, Jr., at the Annual Meeting in 1962. Officers and Directors present were: Professor Albert S. Beecher, President; Mrs. Thomas E. Ewert, Treasurer; and Directors Scot Butler, Thomas E. Ewert, Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton and Harrison Symmes.

After welcoming ABS members and guests to the meeting, the President asked that any charter members stand and be recognized. These members were greeted with a round of applause. He then asked who had traveled the longest distance to attend the meeting, and found that there were people present from Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

President Beecher introduced Mr. Thomas E. Ewert, Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm. Mr. Ewert said that he considers the activities of the American Boxwood Society to be an important part of the operation of the Farm. He explained that the Farm was a gift from Mr. Graham Blandy to the University of Virginia - - hence the name "Blandy Experimental Farm." The Orland E. White Arboretum was named for Dr. White, Blandy's first director, who established the Arboretum during the time that he was teaching at the University from 1927 to 1955. Upon Dr. White's retirement in 1955, Dr. W. Ralph Singleton was appointed director and continued in that capacity until 1965. It was during Dr. Singleton's tenure at Blandy that the American Boxwood Society was organized in 1961. Mr. Ewert said that he had come to Blandy as director in 1972. He described some of the programs that have been initiated in the intervening

years. He pointed out that the paintings hanging outside on the porch were by artists participating in the Blandy painting classes. He invited anyone interested in joining a painting class, for example, to get further information. He called the attention of the meeting to the boxwood correspondence posted on the bulletin board and to the plaques lying nearby that serve as examples of the labeling to be used on plants in the Memorial Garden.

President Beecher expressed to Mr. Ewert the Society's gratitude for providing office space and a place to store issues of the *Boxwood Bulletin* at the Blandy Farm. He thanked the officers and directors for their help during the year; Mrs. Faiszt and Mrs. Beecher for helping with the reception the evening before; Miss Patricia Sonneborn for coming from Pennsylvania and Mr. Larry Steward for coming from Charlottesville to take part in the educational program; Mr. Ewert, Program Chairman, for putting together the educational program; Mrs. Ewert and Mrs. Ward for taking care of the registration; and Mrs. Kirby and Mrs. Ward for recording the minutes of the meeting.

The President stated that the minutes of the 20th Annual Meeting had been published in the July 1980 issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* and that he would like, therefore, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as printed.

The President then commented briefly on several noteworthy boxwood events that occurred during the previous year. Two boxwood workshops were held, one at Scotchtown and the other at the National Arboretum. These workshops featured a series of speakers on boxwood culture, propagation and registration. A boxwood tour of Fredericksburg and nearby Westmoreland County was the highlight of the 1981 spring activities of the ABS. He credited much of the success of this tour to Mr. Richard Mahone and Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton who made the arrangements for the tour. Work continued apace on a proposed Buyer's Guide which will provide boxwood fanciers with information on sources of purchase. President Beecher encouraged growers of boxwood to send him information that they would like to have published in the Guide. In concluding these remarks the President asked members to pass along word of the American Boxwood Society, to distribute brochures to prospective members or friends and to check their local libraries to make sure that they receive our *Bulletin*.

The next order of business was the committee reports:

Mrs. Thomas E. Ewert presented the Treasurer's Report for the Society's fiscal year ending April 30, 1981.

Membership Chairman Harrison Symmes urged all members to work hard to increase the membership roll. To this end, he said, the Board had approved advertising in the *American Horticulturist* as a pilot test. If successful, the Society may extend its advertising efforts. He encouraged \$5-per-year members to consider raising the category of their membership to Contributing, Sustaining, Life or Patron. Mr. Ewert added that increases in mail rates and in the cost of printing *The Bulletin* may necessitate hiking the \$5 regular membership to a more appropriate amount.

Reporting for the Handbook Committee, President Beecher announced that preliminary work had been completed and that one of the major projects for the coming year is to get the Handbook under way. He added that contributions for the printing of the Handbook are more than welcome.

Mr. Ewert reported on the Memorial Garden: seven new cultivars have been added and the steps leading into the garden have been completed since the last Annual Meeting; the first two labels have been received and the others have been ordered for the 59 plants in the Memorial Garden; tulips and daffodils were planted in the garden and some began blooming about May 1. Mr. Ewert noted that the first plants were moved into the garden about five years ago from nursery plantings at Blandy. Additional species and cultivars are being sought and will be planted in the Garden as they are acquired.

Bulletin Editor Mrs. Charles Dick reported that publication of *The Bulletin* was on schedule, the search for material goes on, and the cost of publishing and mailing continues to increase.

Scot Butler, Chairman of the Bulletin Committee, remarked that the Committee is endeavoring to build up and maintain a backlog of material for publication. Suggested subjects for future issues include a photo essay of interesting uses of boxwood as landscape material, the updating of the membership list and a new index of *The Bulletin*. He invited anyone interested in helping with these projects to let him know.

Concerning boxwood workshops President Beecher announced that plans for this year have not yet been firmed up, but that two are envisaged. He encouraged persons living in states adjacent to Virginia, as well as in other areas, to participate in the planning of future workshops by submitting suggested locations appropriate for workshops.

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Chairman Scot Butler, Mrs. Dayton Frost and Mrs. Robert Gottfried, presented the following slate of officers and directors.

*Officers to serve a term of one year:*

President	Mr. Richard D. Mahone
First Vice-President	Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton
Second Vice-President	Mr. H. Thomas Hallowell, Jr.
Secretary	Mr. Dayton Mak
Treasurer	Mrs. Katherine Ward

*Directors to serve a term of three years:*

Professor James A. Faiszt  
 Mr. William A. Gray  
 Mr. Harrison Symmes

There were no nominations from the floor, and the motion was made that the slate be accepted

as presented. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

President Beecher welcomed the new officers and directors. He then announced that the Board of Directors at its March meeting had recommended making the ABS Registrar an *ex-officio* member of the Board as well as adding two more directors to the Board to provide greater regional and functional representation. This recommendation will be brought up and voted on at the 22nd Annual Meeting in 1982 in order to meet the waiting period required by the Constitution for such changes. It was also recommended that a committee be appointed to review the Constitution.

The President announced that the Board had recently voted to award life membership certificate to Life Members. He read the names of all Life Members and passed out certificates to those present.

Mr. Harrison Symmes, speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors, rose to pay tribute to Professor Beecher upon his retirement from the Presidency after four fruitful years of service. He moved that the membership authorize the Board to present Professor Beecher with a token of appreciation for the very great contributions he had made as President of the American Boxwood Society. This motion was seconded and approved with a resounding round of applause for Professor Beecher.

Charter member Colonel Thomas McCracken then rose to move that another category of membership be added to the current list. This category, to be known as a memorial membership, would be conferred for gifts to the Society that are made as a memorial to loved ones, said gifts to be used for improvement and upkeep of the Memorial Garden. The question was posed as to whether a change in the ABS Constitution would be required to add another type of membership. It was the President's judgment that no change was necessary. The motion was duly made, seconded and carried that the category of memorial membership be created.

In connection with the oft expressed concern that the regular dues of \$5 are no longer adequate in view of inflation to cover membership benefits, the President instructed the new Board to take this problem under consideration and to raise dues if necessary. A motion was then made from the floor by ABS member Charles Harris that regular dues be increased to cover costs. The motion was seconded and passed.

The need to publicize boxwood events was discussed, and the view was expressed that someone should be appointed to send boxwood news items to newspapers (garden editors) and radio stations. President Beecher said that he would welcome information from members concerning local newspapers to be contacted.

There being no further business, the President announced a break for lunch at 12 Noon.

*Lunch*

For many years it has been the custom for members attending the Annual Meeting to bring a picnic lunch and to enjoy a leisurely hour on the grounds basking in the sun and chatting with friends. This custom continues but in recent years there has also been available a catered lunch for

those who make advance reservations. This year a delicious buffet luncheon was prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ewert with the help of Mr. Ewert's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Ewert of Rock Island, Illinois, and Mrs. Susie Gaunt. The meeting expressed their appreciation for the time and work that went into this special treat with a round of applause during the afternoon session.

#### *Educational Program*

Mr. Ewert, Program Chairman, opened the educational session at 1:15 P.M. by introducing the speakers for the afternoon: Mr. Larry Steward of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, and Miss Patricia Sonneborn of Ambler, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Steward approached his subject, "An Overview of the Gardens and Grounds of the University of Virginia," through a slide presentation, taking the audience on an imaginary plane trip from Blandy to Charlottesville and landing on the University's campus there. He emphasized the fact that he has much the same maintenance problems as do members of the ABS but on a much larger scale and probably in a more aggravated form.

The speaker stated that low-maintenance plants are used as much as possible on the University grounds - - 850 acres in campus and 2,000 acres in the Charlottesville area. Low-maintenance plants are plants that fend for themselves; they don't require extensive raking of leaves and they don't need much pruning and watering. He placed the magnificent boxwood plants on the campus in the category of low-maintenance plants. Some of the newer plantings were shown in the slides as integral parts of campus buildings, being placed under roofs or inside walls where they are protected.

Mr. Steward's slides graphically portrayed the many and varied problems of maintaining this large area with limited resources. The grounds include parking areas, playing fields, cemeteries, walls, roads, bridges, courtyard plantings and the like. Some of the problems that require his vigilance are oil spills, new construction injury to large trees, keeping contractors from parking large equipment in wooded and other areas, protection of plants in front of dormitories, bank erosion, plants placed in adverse conditions, student vandalism and the like. In the face of all of these obstacles it is Mr. Steward's job to keep the campus looking well for all occasions.

Mr. Steward said that there is a complete map system of the trees and plants at the University. The University has two arboreta - - Seward (the one on the Charlottesville campus) and Blandy. The speaker concluded his presentation with the thought that although his work is sometimes discouraging it is also rewarding - - even after the worst winter there is always the spring. When a student occasionally expresses admiration of the campus Mr. Steward has his reward.

A question-and-answer period entitled "What Would You Like to Know About Boxwood?" was next on the program. Mr. Ewert acted as moderator while Mr. Steward and a panel of ABS officers and directors fielded questions from the audience.

Following the question-and-answer period Mr. Ewert introduced Miss Sonneborn who has given

flower demonstrations at Blandy on three previous occasions. Her talk was called "Beachcomber's Delight' - - Combining the Treasures of the Plant World with Treasures from the Sea." Miss Sonneborn said that her arrangements for the day would make use of materials found on beaches - shells, driftwood and the like - - and various kinds of flowers and boxwood. She stressed the fact that the materials used must complement one another and that by choosing the right accessories one could create a lovely and unique arrangement.

Miss Sonneborn created about a dozen masterpieces before the astonished eyes - - and to the "ohs and ahs" - - of the audience using what seemed to be the most improbable combinations of materials and containers. Among her creations was a wreath made from scallop shells and flowers; an arrangement featuring driftwood, a fan decorated with shells and a crab claw; a cinderslag of abstract shape combined with shells that repeated the color and texture of the slag, and a single Siberian Iris held by a crab's claw, all mechanisms being concealed by reindeer lichen; an arrangement employing black coral from the Philippines, dried secopia leaves from Florida and tree peonies with small green leaves. A slab of walnut combined with a large horseshoe crab shell, dried allium heads, red gladiolus and boxwood made an interesting and attractive arrangement.

Another arrangement began with a large chunk of marble (upright column) set with a large palm spate. Through a hole in the spate a piece of Blandy bamboo mounted with seed pods known as "rams horns" was inserted, together with a fingers palm branch. By adding a "spider shell" and an anthurium blossom and a few pieces of boxwood this became an imposingly structured arrangement. A dramatic modern design incorporated a tall, black square container filled with soft styrofoam and bleached (Japanese) metsamata, pearl shells, wooly banksia and protea.

The concluding arrangement was of Oriental design employing Juniper as the obvious central line. To eliminate the obvious and make the plant more interesting Miss Sonneborn combined golden ninebark, azaleas, iris leaves and pine to complete a very unusual design representing the world - - the sky, mountains, waterfalls and foothills. Miss Sonneborn invited the audience to come up for a closer look at the arrangements and to ask questions.

Mr. Ewert thanked Mr. Steward and Miss Sonneborn for their interesting presentations. He announced that punch and doughnuts were being served in the dining room, that a free boxwood plant (BEF-35) was available for each member at a table on the lawn and that there were some herb plants and other plants for sale at the same location. In conclusion he invited anyone who wished to tour the Arboretum to do so with or without the benefit of a guide.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Kirby, Recorder  
Katherine D. Ward,  
Recorder

# AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

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photo: Al Beecher

Larry Steward addresses the meeting



photo: Al Beecher

Patricia Sonneborn puts finishing touch on arrangement

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THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

# INFORMATION

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## DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Regular membership dues of The American Boxwood Society are now \$5.00. This includes a subscription to *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

Non-member subscriptions are for groups and institutions such as botanic gardens, libraries, etc. These are \$6.00 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 Treasurer.

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.) Price per single copy is \$1.50.

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.

Contributions are welcome for the Research Fund, the Boxwood Memorial Garden, and the Boxwood Handbook.

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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Boxwood selection

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Write to:

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In some cases depending upon the nature of your request, your letter may be forwarded to a member of the Board or another appropriate member who can provide the help you have requested.

You are also welcome to write direct to the President of the American Boxwood Society:

Mr. Richard D. Mahone

P. O. Box 751

Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

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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 the Editor:

Mrs. Charles H. Dick, Editor

The *Boxwood Bulletin*

514 Amherst Street

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or

Mr. Scot Butler

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**BOXWOOD—**

*A heritage from Yesterday*

*A privilege for Today*

*A bequest for Tomorrow*

