

July 1983

The

Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



The Old Chapel, Clarke County, Virginia (see Page 25).

Photo: William Kerfoot

The Boxwood Bulletin

July 1983

Vol. 23, No. 1

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Report on the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of The American Boxwood Society



Photo: Scot Butler

Among the first to arrive at Blandy Farm was this cheerful group from St. Louis, Missouri, representing the Boxwood Society of the Midwest. From left: Ray Jaudes, La Verne Jaudes, Ellen Chamberlain, Jane Penhale, Jane Coultas, Mary Holekamp, Malcolm Holekamp and George Penhale.

Tuesday, May 10

In a spring punctuated by frequent showers the American Boxwood Society was fortunate to have scheduled its Annual Meeting during a week of perfect weather. Sunny skies and warm dry days combined to form a climate ideally suited to the many outdoor portions of the Meeting. Blandy Farm was never more beautiful. Special thanks are due all those who contributed to making the scene so attractive, especially Kathy Ward and her crew of helpers and Mrs. T. Haliburton McCoy (Becky), who was responsible for the lovely flower arrangements.

Nearly 100 members and guests registered and/or attended what was by common agreement

one of the best Annual Meetings ever. About 40 of the attendees were early comers; they began arriving at Blandy around 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday to pick up maps and form car pools to the first event on the Program: a tour of the boxwood garden of Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Plater near Millwood, Virginia. At The Play Garden the charm of boxwood combined with the Platers' hospitality set everyone at ease and captured the special appeal of springtime in Virginia. Notes on the Platers' experiences in bringing their boxwood garden to the present state of cultivation will be found on Page 4.

Following a period for dinner on their own, members and guests assembled in the library at Blandy to hear ABS Director Harrison Symmes give an illustrated lecture on "Boxwood — the English Connection." This excellent report on the

status of boxwood in England today and Mr. Symmes' recommendations for improving contacts between boxwood groups in England and the United States were warmly received. An article prepared by Mr. Symmes from his notes starts on Page 6.

The evening concluded with refreshments in the dining room. While sipping punch and munching cookies and cake provided by Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton those attending the social hour enjoyed the opportunity to become better acquainted.

Wednesday, May 11

Early risers arrived at Blandy Farm even before registration desks were open, while others continued to stroll in throughout the morning. Manning the registration desks on the portico of the Quarters were Decca and Bob Frackelton, Sarah Burton and Joan Butler; Becky McCoy served coffee and doughnuts in the dining room. Suspended from the arches of the portico were hanging baskets of fuchsia, while in the courtyard bright azaleas bloomed among the boxwood. The dogwoods were in full flower on the grounds of the Orland E. White Arboretum to the delight of the visitors. Many took the occasion, while waiting for the morning tours to begin, to explore on their own the horticultural wealth of the Arboretum.

Tours were organized at about 9:30 to visit two attractions. Professor James A. Faiszt of VPI & SU led one group on the traditional walk through the ABS Memorial Garden where almost all of the 72 different boxwood species, varieties or cultivars are now identified by large permanent labels.



Photo: Robert L. Frackelton

Director Harrison Symmes and Life Member Mrs. George Cushing chat near the Registration Desk.



Photo: Robert L. Frackelton

Group gathered for tour of the Boxwood Memorial Garden with Professor James A. Faiszt.

Another group went with Tom Ewert, Director of Blandy Farm, and Dr. Bernice Speese of the College of William and Mary, to the rarely visited Box Hill, where there are boxwood plants 40 to 50 years old. On the way to this somewhat remote area of the Arboretum those who walked (some drove) enjoyed the display of crabapple trees and other flowering trees and shrubs. The plants on Box Hill were set out by Dr. White many years ago to be studied for genetic characteristics. Unfortunately only about 5 to 10 percent of the boxwood plants are labelled, but some of them such as the variegated 'Elegantissima', which have attained a height of 8 to 9 feet, are impressive indeed. The problem of winter damage to these unprotected plantings was noted.

Shortly before 11:00 a.m. the Blandy bell summoned members and guests to the business session of the meeting. The minutes of this meeting will be found on Pages 12-14.

Promptly at noon the business meeting was adjourned to attend to the business of lunch. A delicious meal — catered by Mary Brisco — of turkey salad, marinated carrots and peas, lemon tarts and iced tea was awaiting those who had made advance reservations; others brought their lunches or drove to nearby restaurants. As customary, this noonday meal was an al fresco affair, as each member selected a sunny or shady spot, a rock, a step or a chair to sit on, and positioned himself to enjoy a favored view.

Adhering to the schedule, the educational program began promptly at 1:15 p.m. It featured an inspiring presentation by a group from the Boxwood Society of the Midwest on "The Pain and Pleasure of Growing Boxwood in the Midwest." An edited

transcript of the presentation appears on Pages 15-24, but the accompanying 10 black and white photos inadequately convey the impact of some 130 color slides shown at the meeting, just as reading the article is a second-best substitute for hearing the beautifully-delivered oral presentation. The Midwest group concluded their part of the program with a gift to Blandy Farm of seven boxwood plants and the distribution to those present of seedlings of *Crataegus phaenopyrum* (Washington Hawthorn) which they had brought with them.

The finale of the Program was a visit to historic Old Chapel, Millwood, arranged through the good offices of Mr. Ben Harrison and the Reverend E. Guthrie Brown as well as ABS members Walter D. Wisecarver and Richard C. Plater. This well-preserved chapel of the 1790s is surrounded by a profusion of boxwood, both as foundation planting and graveside guardian. These plantings illustrate the sense of peace, serenity and eternity that boxwood can impart in such a setting. A brief sketch of The Old Chapel is printed on Page 25.

Following is a list of members and guests who registered or attended the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting. We hope your name will be on next year's list.

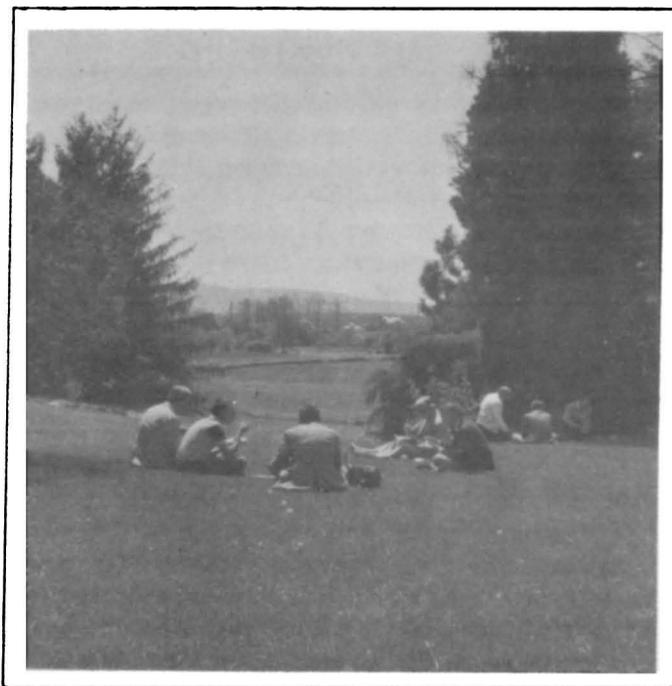


Photo: William Kerfoot

Members and guests bask in the sun and enjoy the vista as they lunch al fresco on the grounds of Blandy Farm.

Mrs. Gary N. Banks
Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf
Mr. Albert S. Beecher
Mr. Milton O. Benoit
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Boyd
Rev. & Mrs. E. Guthrie Brown
Mr. William A. Bryarly
Mrs. George W. Burton
Mr. & Mrs. Scot Butler

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Cepregly
Mrs. E. F. Chamberlain
Mrs. Stuart M. Charlesworth
Mrs. Dwight W. Coultas
Mrs. George Cushing

Capt. & Mrs. J. H. Demyttenaere
Mrs. Charles H. Dick
Mr. & Mrs. John N. Dorsey, Jr.

Mr. Thomas E. Ewert

Mr. James A. Faiszt
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton

Mr. James F. Gallagher
Mrs. Ruth Ghramm
Mr. Wilburn Graves
Mr. William A. Gray

Mrs. John J. Haggerty
Mr. & Mrs. Maynard Haithcock
Mrs. Paul Haldeman
Dr. James Hamner & Guest
Dr. Charles U. Harris
Mr. Ben Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. John Hart
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hersh
Mr. O. Halsey Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Holekamp

Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Jaudes
Mrs. Stuart Jones

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Kegley
Mr. William Kerfoot
Mr. Thomas F. Knox
Mrs. Gerry Kurapka

Mr. Richard D. Mahone
Mr. Dayton Mak
Mrs. Frank Matuszak
Mrs. T. Haliburton McCoy
Col. & Mrs. T. E. McCracken
Dr. Graham Morrison
Mrs. N. F. H. Morrison

Mrs. B. C. Pearce
Mr. & Mrs. George Penhale
Miss Jacqueline Phillips
Mr. John E. Pinkerton

Mr. & Mrs. J. G. Reutter
& 2 guests
Mrs. Chester Riley
Dr. & Mrs. Spotswood Robins
Mrs. Antone Rodgers

Mr. Wilmer Saufley
Mrs. E. Gurley Saunders
Mrs. William C. Seipp
Mr. Gordon D. Shingleton
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Showalter
Mrs. Ralph Singleton &
2 guests

Mrs. Dailey R. Slonaker
Ms. Edrie Snyder
Mrs. Herbert Solenberger
Dr. Bernice Speese
Mr. Richard F. Starr
Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Stock
Mrs. Frederick Sturm
Mr. Harrison W. Symmes

Mrs. Katherine Ward
Mrs. George Warner
Mrs. A. Garland Williams
Mr. Walter D. Wisecarver, Jr.

Mr. Steven Zapton

Boxwood Notes From The Play Garden

Pamela Plater

Editor's Note: The Richard C. Platers' invitation to visit their garden on May 10 afforded pre-Meeting arrivals an excellent opportunity to see what can be done, despite some serious setbacks, in creating an artfully arranged collection of various kinds of boxwood within a garden setting of informal design. At our request Mrs. Plater prepared the following notes on the development of the garden, boxwood in the present garden and observations on the response of their boxwood plants to cultural conditions and practices. We wish to thank the Platers for opening their garden and for entertaining with a delightful reception on the terrace from which we enjoyed a magnificent view of the Shenandoah River far below. This event was an auspicious prelude to the program that followed.



Photo: Robert L. Frackelton

Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton (left) and Mrs. Richard C. Plater in the Platers' boxwood and rose garden.



Photo: Robert L. Frackelton

Mrs. Lilburn Talley and Mr. Richard C. Plater on the terrace overlooking the Shenandoah River.

Development of the Garden

The Play Garden passed into our hands in 1953 from Mr. Plater's uncle, Edward Gay Butler. Mr. and Mrs. Butler came to Clarke County, Virginia from St. Louis in 1900. They first purchased the historic house, Annefield, which they restored and lived in until 1920. When they purchased the small farm house which is now The Play Garden, there were only three cedar trees on the barren farm property. But the Butlers were enthusiastic amateur horticulturists. They planned and constructed the layout of the present garden—built stone walls, filled the gully where the rose and boxwood garden is now located and so forth. Their interest in gardening even led to the establishment of a nursery where they propagated and sold boxwood.

When we acquired the property there were some very large *Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa* (so-called "English box") which the Butlers had planted in the late 1920s. They surrounded the entrance circle and bordered the front walk to the house. When you drove up all you could see was box. There were also literally hundreds of *suffruticosa* plants bordering every part of the garden. A number of *sempervirens* (common box) surrounded the house, and they must have been put in quite early. But the *sempervirens* bordering the road, only about four feet high in 1953, were presumably planted later.

Then the "disease" struck. We were having some problems with the *suffruticosa* at the top of the garden when the first alarm was sounded at the ABS Annual Meeting in May 1971. In 1972 the team from VPI came and took samples but could

not identify the *Phytophthora* root rot. The decline spread to the large box on the front walk and around the circle. Then, at least three years later, it spread down the hill to the swimming pool. We decided that the only thing to do was to dig up all the *suffruticosa* and start over. We found, though, that whenever we replaced with *suffruticosa* they died, but if we put in other varieties they prospered.

The Boxwood in the Present Garden

Although we had begun collecting other varieties of boxwood before the disease hit it was primarily because we lost all of the *suffruticosa* that we diversified. We were fortunate to have a background planting of *sempervirens* already in place and the garden plan laid out. In fact, the garden extended all around the house and over the entire hillside, but we have gradually had to let the boxwood there fend for itself as the rose garden, which is now also the boxwood garden, is all we can handle.

Some of the plants in the garden are from cuttings I "snatched," but at least half of them have grown from my own rooted cuttings. In addition, I ordered some other varieties. The tall 'Hardwickensis' I grew from cuttings I obtained in 1963 at a Williamsburg Garden Symposium. At that same time Dr. J. T. Baldwin took Mrs. Whiting and me to the Cemetery where I got clones of 'Memorial', now about two feet tall. I also have some fine plants which, unfortunately, I can't identify because my marking was haphazard. The list of boxwood in the garden, with source where known, is as follows:

Buxus 'Green Velvet' — from Wayside Gardens.

Buxus harlandii — two long-leaved plants purchased from John Richardson at Fairfield; several small-leaved plants brought from Louisiana.*

B. h. 'Richard' — brought from Louisiana.*

Buxus microphylla var. *compacta* 'Helen Whiting'.

B. m. var. *compacta* 'Kingsville Dwarf'.

B. m. 'Green Pillow' — from Kingsville Nurseries.

B. m. var. *japonica* — propagated from plants already here.

B. m. var. *koreana* 'Tall Boy' — from Wayside Garden.

B. m. var. *koreana* 'Garden Variety' — cuttings from Blandy Farm and Oak Hill (near Leesburg).

B. m. var. *koreana* 'Wintergreen' — from Wayside Gardens.

*This species flourishes in Louisiana where it is grown extensively, but is not hardy here in Virginia. The past two winters have almost finished off our plants.

B. m. 'Mrs. Baldwin' — taken from a plant given by Dr. Baldwin to Mrs. W. C. Seipp and named for his mother.

Buxus sempervirens 'Angustifolia'.

B. s. 'Aurea Maculata'.

B. s. 'Elegantissima'.

B. s. 'Hardwickensis Fastigiata'.

B. s. 'Memorial' — grown from cuttings and gift from Blandy.

B. s. 'Pendula'.

B. s. 'Vardar Valley' — four large plants from Hillenmeyer Nursery, Lexington, Ky.; smaller row from Tingle Nursery.



Photo: William Kerfoot

Guest admiring a large *sempervirens* in the Platers' garden.

Cultural Conditions and Practices

The only box that seems to do better here in shade or semi-shade is the *koreana*, which is thriving.

Two years ago we had a bad infestation of leaf miner, especially in the 'Angustifolia' and in some of the large *sempervirens* on the hillside. We had a professional sprayer in Winchester send a truck with a large spray tank and long hose. They sprayed with Cygon in mid-June and it worked like a miracle. We think the range and force of a professional sprayer is worth the cost.

In the fall of 1981 an outfit from North Carolina was in this neighborhood clipping box for Christmas greens and they clipped all our *sempervirens* for us. We have had a local nurseryman come in to prune some of our *sempervirens* that blocked the view. Otherwise we remove the dead twigs and clip when we feel like it.



Photo: Harrison Symmes

This cottage and this working farm building, encompassed by boxwood, are typical of the Cotswold country near Westington Corner, a few miles from Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire, England.

BOXWOOD — THE ENGLISH CONNECTION

Harrison Symmes

Introduction

Some of the earliest boxwood immigrants to North America were brought by the English colonists; it is fitting, therefore, that we should explore and maintain the "English Connection" in carrying out the purposes of the American Boxwood Society.

The Boxwood Bulletin in several articles over the years has traced the long history of boxwood and has explained why we call the *suffruticosa* variety "English Box," even though many of the colonists probably referred to the plant as "dwarf," "edging," or "Dutch" box. Although many of us have expanded our interest in boxwood to include other species and cultivars from Europe, Southwest Asia and the Far East, most of us began with "English Box." For me the boxwood passion was stimulated by visits to Colonial Williamsburg, Gunston Hall, and Stratford Hall. Visits to England have always included many hours in English gardens featuring boxwood. A family visit to England in the late summer of 1982 provided an opportunity to make personal contacts with English horticulturists interested in boxwood, to see again some of the most attractive boxwood plantings and to try to assess the status of boxwood in Britain today. This article is in the nature of a report to the Society on those contacts and visits.

Boxwood in England — Bad News and Good

My contacts were limited and my visits to gardens were all too brief, but I feel confident in stating that the boxwood situation in England today resembles in many respects our own situation in America. I would judge that the situation in England in early 1983 is very much the same as it was a decade and a half ago when Roy Lancaster described it in the following terms:*

"... today, if one cares to wander around any of the many beautiful gardens created since the last

*See *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 61-63, and Vol. 9, No. 1, pp. 7-8. I should mention that Roy Lancaster is regarded by others of my British horticultural contacts as probably the best informed person on boxwood in Britain. The Horticultural Taxonomist of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) wrote to me recently: "The only major literature reference to garden box of which I am aware, other than the account in Bean's *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isle*, is the summary written by Roy Lancaster for *The Gardeners' Chronicle* in 1968..." This is the article reprinted in the issues of the *Bulletin* cited above. Mr. Lancaster recently retired as Curator of Hillier Arboretum, an adjunct of the world-famous Hillier Nurseries near Winchester in Hampshire.

war, the box in any of its forms is seldom to be found ...

"Even the botanic gardens seem to have forgotten the box ...

"A glance through the catalogues of any of the leading nurserymen will confirm the alienation of the box from the public eye. At the height of its career, it boasted over one hundred named cultivars. Now, the demand for them hardly merits propagation.

"All this seems to suggest that the box, as a garden plant, is on the verge of extinction."

Mr. Lancaster's 1968 observations were depressing because at the time they seemed to apply also to our own country. The situation in Britain does not appear to have improved since 1968. In a letter to me last July Mr. Lancaster indicated that he knew of no significant new written material on boxwood in Britain published since his 1968 article, which was based on the box collections then maintained at Hilliers and at the Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew). He summarized the current situation as follows: "... the majority of gardeners don't even consider box as an ornamental element in the modern garden ... This means that box in variety are to be found in only one nursery I know and that inevitably is Hilliers of Winchester. Even they have drastically reduced the numbers grown."**

I would characterize the current boxwood situation in England, and America as well, as follows:

— It has become increasingly difficult to find sources of many boxwood cultivars in commercial nurseries, and few, if any, of the newer cultivars are being propagated at all.

— Modern landscapists are generally unfamiliar with the extensive variety of *Buxus* cultivars and their varied growth habits, leaf and color textures, and hardiness factors. They consider box costly, think all of it grows slowly, and have no experience in using it in other than traditional formal and semi-formal settings.

— A vicious circle has been established: landscapists do not call for box; with little call for it, nurserymen too do not grow it; since it is not widely grown it becomes hard to find and more and more expensive.

— Older plantings and large historic gardens using boxwood are not well maintained in many

cases; it is difficult and expensive to find gardeners who know how to care for boxwood; and the boxwood plants become progressively more unattractive and even displeasing to the average gardener who sees them.

In spite of this situation, there is some good news in both countries. Judging from the latest annual meeting at Blandy in May, the American Boxwood Society is alive and well and has much potential for improving the boxwood situation in the years ahead. The vigorous Boxwood Society of the Midwest is a fine example of what can be done by a group of enterprising gardeners, and it is inspiring to have them as associates in pursuing a common cause. But until quite recently there had been no similar organization in Britain devoted specifically to preserving, studying, and promoting the growing of boxwood cultivars. Fortunately, the formation of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) in conjunction with the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley and other British horticultural groupings has led to the creation of a network of what are called National Collections to conserve old varieties of garden plants otherwise in some danger of being lost to cultivation. The National Trust recently offered to work with the NCCPG in establishing a National *Buxus* collection at Ickworth Park in Suffolk.

John Sales, Gardens Adviser of the National Trust, and Jan Michalak, Gardener at Ickworth Park, spoke very enthusiastically to me about this proposed *Buxus* project when I was in England. They are working with Duncan Donald of the NCCPG to move the project ahead. Jan Michalak expressed the hope that in due course he might be able to obtain representative boxwood cultivars now lacking in the Ickworth collection from American sources such as the American Boxwood Society. If the Ickworth project materializes, it should be of great advantage to boxwood growers on both sides of the Atlantic to exchange cultural information and plant materials. Through reenforcing such an "English Connection" we might be able, for example, to learn whether boxwood decline (the root and vascular rots that have been of concern to the Society for some years) has affected boxwood in Britain and, if so, what they may have learned about causes and treatments.

National Trust Use of Boxwood

John Sales told me that most of the box used by the National Trust in plantings at the more than one hundred garden sites maintained by the Trust throughout Britain is propagated at Packwood House in Warwickshire — which incidentally also has outstanding yew topiary in the grounds of a Tudor residence. According to Sales, the National

**I was unable to meet with Mr. Lancaster in person during my visit last year. But I found his statements echoed by others such as John Sales, Gardens Adviser of the National Trust; Duncan Donald, Horticultural Taxonomist of the NCCPG; C. D. Brickell, the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley; and Jan Michalak, Gardener at the National Trust Gardens at Ickworth, near Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk.

Trust is "not slavish" about the taxonomy or historical chronology of the plant material it uses in the various Trust gardens. It recognizes that many of the estates and gardens were maintained over a period of generations and that the use of plants constantly changed as new plants were introduced and new designs tried. In many cases it would be next to impossible to fix a point in time that a certain cultivar occupied a certain definite location in a planting.

In constructing the Queen's Garden in the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, the National Trust has used a great deal of box. This new garden, occupying less than an acre of ground behind Kew Palace (the "Dutch House"), was begun in the late 1950s and was designed to show as many features of seventeenth century gardens as could be placed in such a relatively small area without overcrowding. Box is used in various parts of the garden both to outline parterres and beds and also in mass effects. In the latter case, box has been used to cover the "Mount" and to outline the spiral path to its summit from which a splendid view of the rest of the garden can be had. The brochure on the Queen's Garden points out that it was not easy to find the hundreds of box plants that were needed for the plantings. The National Trust for Scotland, which earlier had constructed a seventeenth century garden at Pitmedden, *** "... provided some 1,500 cuttings of box — a shrub surprisingly difficult to obtain in quantity in the 1960s in spite of its past popularity."

According to John Sales, the National Trust usually thinks of box in terms of "tree or ordinary", "intermediate", and "dwarf or edging." The latter is of course our "English" or *suffruticosa* while the other two include the native *sempervirens* growing on sites like Box Hill in Surrey. Mr. Sales told me that with the exception of a few experts like Roy Lancaster most horticulturists in Britain today know next to nothing about the various Asiatic species of boxwood and their cultivars. Now that Hilliers has drastically reduced the size of its nursery (and concomitantly the size and variety of its world-celebrated catalog), knowledge and availability of boxwood cultivars in Britain may decline further.

Other British Horticulturists Interested in Box

In addition to the names I have already mentioned, it was suggested to me that Brian Halliwell at the Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew) and John Main, Superintendent of the Royal Horticultural Gardens at Wisley, might be able to provide information

about box plantings and uses. Another name suggested was John Bond, Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Great Park and the Savill Garden. With respect to the box plantings in the Hillier Arboretum and Nursery, the person to address is Mr. Alan Coombes, the Hillier Botanist at Ampfield in Hampshire. I would caution readers of this article that I am including these names for the Society's official record of contacts and not to suggest that these persons have time to devote to every American visitor with an interest in box.

Where to Look at Box in England

Recommending someone else's horticultural sightseeing is not a responsibility to be taken lightly. These suggestions about where to look at box in England are offered on the basis of those sites that I found particularly impressive. In other cases, I have included notes of places suggested by my contacts in England even though I may not have seen them.

One of the best ways to plan a visit to horticultural sites in England is to get a current copy of *Visit an English Garden*, which is published by The English Tourist Board, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W0DU. This publication provides an index to and a brief description of Great Country Gardens, Botanic Gardens, Specialist Gardens, and Private Gardens, giving their opening and closing times as well.

According to the National Trust, "dwarf box" is used extensively in the following Trust gardens: Ham House, London; Ashdown House, Berkshire; Cliveden, Buckinghamshire; Felbrigg, Norfolk; Lyme Park, Cheshire; Little Moreton Hall and Mosely Old Hall, Staffordshire; Westbury Court and Hidcote Manor in Gloucestershire; and Sissinghurst Castle in Kent. In my opinion, Sissinghurst and Hidcote ought to be at the top of anyone's list, not only for their use of box but also for general horticultural excellence.

Box is used more as hedging, topiary and specimens at the following Trust properties: Packwood, Warwickshire; Ascott, Buckinghamshire; Powis Castle, Powys; Erddig, Clywd; Buscot Park, Oxfordshire; Hughenden, Buckinghamshire; Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire; and Ickworth Hall in Suffolk.

Famous natural stands of tree box can be seen at Leith Hall and Box Hill in Surrey, at Ickworth, and at Basildon Park in Oxfordshire.

The Cotswold Country near Chipping Campden — A Must

Leaving aside many of the large public gardens and great house gardens listed above, I would

***See *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 21, No. 1, cover and pp. 7-8.

recommend a two- to three-day visit to Gloucestershire as one of the most memorable ways to see box used in beautiful cottage gardens and the grounds of well-kept working farms. Chipping Campden is a good center for making garden visits in this area. The village lies in northern Gloucestershire not far from the Worcestershire border. It is easily accessible from Worcester and from attractive Cotswold villages like Cirencester, Bourton on the Hill, and Moreton in Marsh. The easiest route to Hidcote Manor, only a few miles away, passes through Chipping Campden, which has a number of shops and country pubs.

The main road in Chipping Campden is lined with a number of old cottage gardens and farm buildings enclosed with Cotswold stone walls and ancient hedges of box and yew. The matured Cotswold stone is a mellow gray and lends itself easily to wall building. Pike Cottage at Westington Corner stands out as a garden to see. I do not know if any of these private gardens are open to the public, but certainly it is possible to park one's car and to meander along the roadsides looking through garden gates and over the stone walls. The box hedges are artistically pruned and shaped, and harmonize beautifully with the Cotswold stone.

Hidcote Manor Garden

Hidcote Manor lies secluded and remote in the leafy country on the borders of Warwickshire and Gloucestershire, far from any town of size, but within a few miles of Chipping Campden and Broadway. It is reached along winding, hilly lanes that could be nowhere but in England. The buildings and walls are of the Cotswold field stone. Hidcote's creator and longtime owner, Major Lawrence Johnston, was a wealthy expatriate American whose mother gave him the old farm in the early years of this century.



Photo: Harrison Symmes

Hidcote Manor vista framed with holly, yew and boxwood hedges.

A glowing description of the Hidcote Manor Garden was written by Vita Sackville-West after she and Harold Nicolson had created Sissinghurst. She called it "a cottage garden on the most glorified scale." Hidcote is really a series of cottage gardens tied together by hedges and vistas rather than walls and gates to achieve homogeneity. Vita Sackville-West wrote of the hedges: "No description of Hidcote would be worth anything without mention of the hedges ... There is a great deal of Yew, but Major Johnston was not content with plain Yew, beautifully as he employed it. In one place there is a mixed hedge of Yew and Box, an attractive combination with its two shades of green ... Different textures of leaf have also been made to play their part in the 'flatness' of Yew contrasted with the inter-planted shine of Holly. Then there is one harlequin of a hedge, with five different things in it: Yew, Box, Holly, Beech, and Hornbeam. Like a green-and-black tartan."

Of the topiary she said: "There is just enough topiary to carry out the cottage-garden idea ... in the country tradition of smug broody hens, bumpy doves, and coy peacocks ... It resembles all that our cottagers have done ever since the Romans first came to Britain and cut our native Yew and Box with their sharp shears."



Photo: Harrison Symmes

"The Topiary at Hidcote is in the country tradition of smug broody hens; bumpy doves, and coy peacocks ... These need a feather clipping."

Sissinghurst Castle

This lovely house and garden now owned by the National Trust lies in the Weald of Kent about thirteen miles south of Maidstone. It is a pleasant drive from London. If one were cramped for time, it would be quite practicable to visit Canterbury Cathedral and Sissinghurst in one day, but it would be far more rewarding to have a whole day to spend in the Sissinghurst Gardens.



Photo: Harrison Symmes

The well-known tower at Sissinghurst Castle. Vita Sackville-West's sitting room on the second floor gave her a unique view of the garden.

The Sissinghurst brochure says: "The story of Sissinghurst can be summed up in a sentence: a great Tudor and Elizabethan mansion slowly fell to pieces because there was nobody left to care for it, until in 1930 it came into the hands of two gifted people, V. Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, who repaired the surviving buildings and created among them one of the loveliest gardens in England."

Actually there are several different gardens at Sissinghurst: a herb garden, a lime walk, a cottage garden, a rose garden, and a white garden. They are all connected by imaginative plantings that make a transition from one setting to another. The design of the gardens repays study and can be read about in various accounts by Vita Sackville-West and others. She wrote that she followed "the strictest formality of design, with the maximum informality in planting." She sought "Profusion, even extravagance and exuberance, within the confines of the utmost linear severity." Someone else once said that the Sissinghurst gardens represent "the perfect fusion between the classical and romantic temperaments."



Photo: Harrison Symmes

A view of the White Garden at Sissinghurst.

Box is used in various parts of the Sissinghurst gardens, but the brochure mentions it only incidentally. For example, in the White Garden, which has been described as "the most beautiful garden at Sissinghurst, and indeed of all England" there are neat low hedges of box mentioned in the descriptions.

The Queen's Garden at Kew

It is possible to find boxwood plantings at Kew, but I was unable to find any collections as such — certainly nothing to resemble the box collections at our National Arboretum or the Memorial Garden and the box hill site at Blandy. So for those who want to see box at Kew the place to go is the previously discussed Queen's Garden. It is behind Kew Palace and is named in honor of the present Queen who opened it in May 1969. It is laid out in the style of a seventeenth century garden and so contains appropriate features such as a parterre, sunken garden, gazebo, pleached alley and a mount topped by a rotunda. Only plants grown in the seventeenth century are represented. On many of the labels there are amusing quotations from early herbalists, explaining the uses to which the plants were put.

Box at Hampton Court

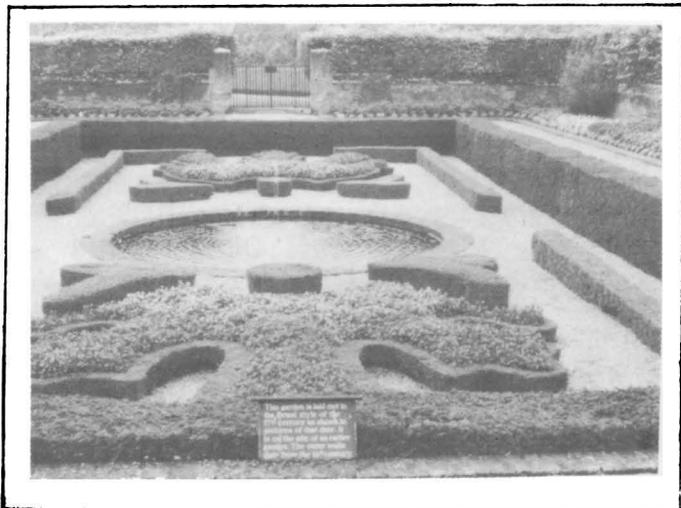


Photo: Harrison Symmes

A reconstructed 17th century formal garden at Hampton Court Palace in England.

At Hampton Court Palace several of the specialty gardens use box for both mass and edging effects. The re-creation of a knot garden and a formal Elizabethan garden are especially well done. Like Kew, Hampton Court is an easy train ride from London, and depending on the extent of one's horticultural interests, a full day ought to suffice for seeing the full extent of the gardens. Some of the perennial and annual flower borders at Hampton Court are magnificent and rival those at Wisley (home of the Royal Horticultural Society in Surrey).

Plans for the Future

Now that contact has been reestablished with British horticulturists interested in box, I hope that we will be able to develop a regular exchange of plant lists, plant material, cultural and hardiness data, and suggestions for visitors. I learned from Roy Lancaster through our correspondence that he had introduced from China in 1981 both *Buxus bodinieri* and "true" *Buxus harlandii*. He noted that both are used in gardens in China but that "neither are fully hardy outside with us." I learned also from Hillier Nurseries that they had a single young specimen of *B. bodinieri*, presumably obtained from Mr. Lancaster.

The list appended to this article shows named cultivars of box in stock at the National Trust's Ickworth Collection as of October 1982. It does not contain many of the cultivars represented in the Memorial Garden at Blandy or in the box collection at the National Arboretum in Washington. I believe the National Trust and the NCCPG will want to obtain named cultivars from our Society once the National Collection project for *Buxus* has been firmly established at Ickworth. Such exchanges could

assist our own efforts to improve knowledge of the taxonomy of *Buxus* and to clarify some of the existing confusion about scientific and common names.

After all, box is an immigrant to the North American continent. To the extent that we can learn more about its "roots" in Europe, Southwest Asia, and the Far East and preserve contact with its places of origin, we are improving our general knowledge of the genus. Perhaps we may be able to find horticulturists elsewhere in Europe or in the Far East who may, like our English friends mentioned in this article, be able to enrich our knowledge of boxwood.

THE NATIONAL TRUST ICKWORTH PARK

Named Varieties of Box in Stock, October 1982

- **Buxus microphylla* 'Green Pillow'
- **Buxus microphylla* 'Compacta'
- **Buxus microphylla* 'Curly Locks'
- Buxus microphylla* 'Koreana'
- Buxus microphylla* (Type)
- Buxus microphylla* 'Forma'
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Agram'
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Argentea'
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Aureovariegata'
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Elegantissima'
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Handsworthensis'
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Hardwickensis'
- **Buxus sempervirens* 'Gold Tip'
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Latifolia Bullata'
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Latifolia Maculata'
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Longifolia'
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Myosotifolia'
- **Buxus sempervirens* 'Pendula'
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Pyramidalis'?
- **Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' (Two forms - one much more vigorous than the other at this stage)
- Buxus sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley'
- Buxus hyrcanus* (as per label but no information on this plant).

*Plants large enough for propagation, though dwarf *microphyllas* will only yield small amounts.

In addition to these there are some still to be identified and a growing stock of our own varieties as yet un-named.

J. S. Michalak

Minutes of the Business Session of the ABS Annual Meeting

May 11, 1983

President Richard D. Mahone called the business session to order at 11:00 a.m. All Officers and Directors were present with the exception of Second Vice-President Mrs. D. Goodrich Gamble and Director Walter S. Flory, who were ill.

After welcoming those present — and especially the delegation from the Boxwood Society of the Midwest who had travelled from St. Louis to present the educational program — Mr. Mahone expressed pleasure at seeing such a large turnout. He asked Mrs. Charles H. Dick to come forward and thereupon presented her with a bound volume of the issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin* which she had edited; the volume contains the following dedication:

Presented this 11th day of May 1983 to
Mrs. Charles H. Dick
Editor of *The Boxwood Bulletin*
1977 — 1982

by the Officers and Directors
on behalf of the American Boxwood Society
in deep appreciation of her loyal service

A warm round of applause for Mrs. Dick followed the presentation.

The President then awarded boxwood plants as prizes to Mrs. Frederick Sturm, who has attended every Annual Meeting of the ABS since its founding, and to Mrs. George W. Cushing, who had travelled the farthest to attend the Meeting. A

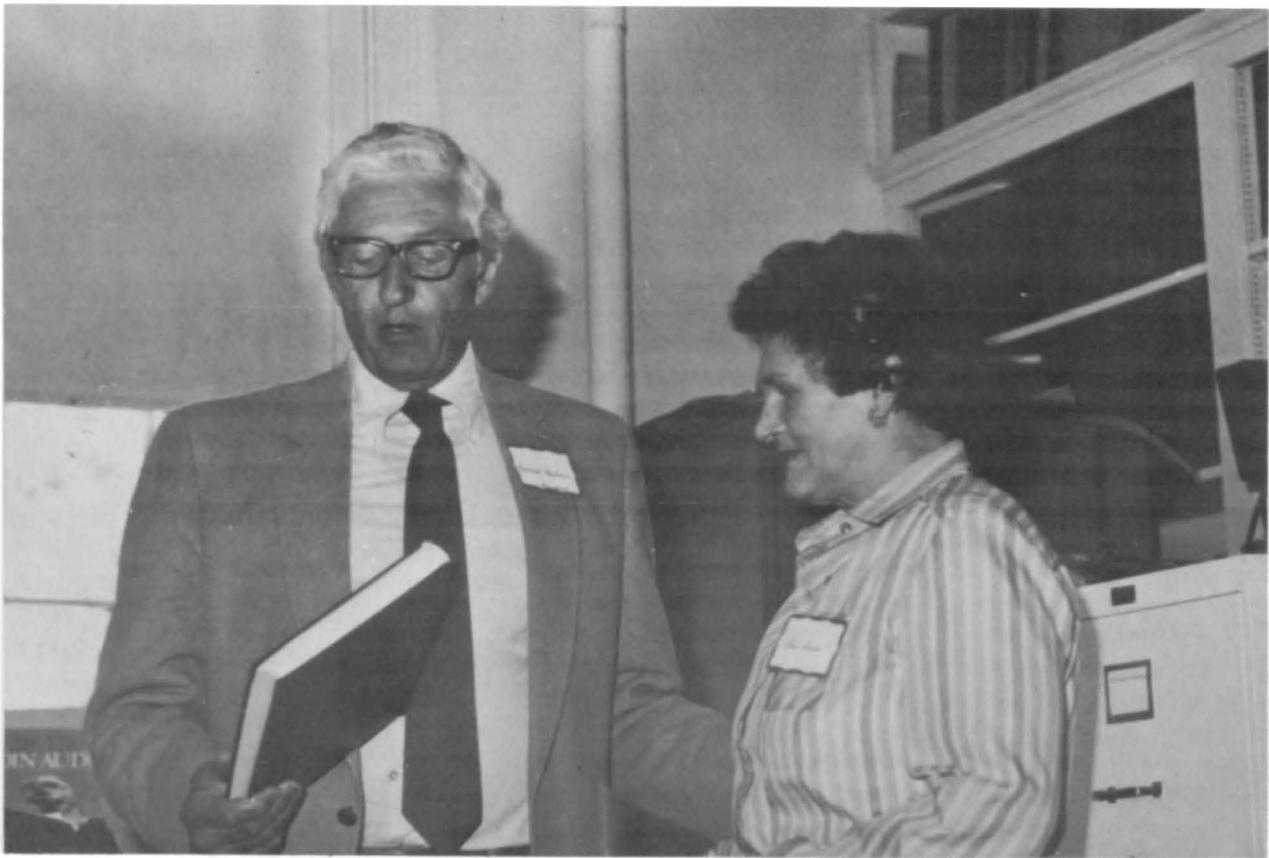


Photo: Robert L. Frackelton

President Mahone presents Mrs. Charles H. Dick with bound issues of The Boxwood Bulletin from the period of her editorship, 1977 through 1982.

show of hands indicated that a number of those present were charter members of the Society.

Mr. Thomas E. Ewert, Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm, was called on to give a brief history of the Farm. He described the roles played by the Tuley, Boyce and Blandy families in the development of the property, culminating in the gift, under Mr. Graham Blandy's will of 1926, of about 700 acres to the University of Virginia for an agricultural research farm. Mr. Ewert also traced the development of the Orland E. White Arboretum and the Boxwood Memorial Garden at Blandy.

The President called for the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting, but upon motion duly made from the floor the meeting voted to dispense with a reading and to adopt the minutes as printed in the July 1982 issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

The Treasurer, Mrs. Katherine Ward, presented her report for the year ending April 30, 1983, showing receipts of \$12,168.70, expenditures of \$9,221.18 and assets of the Society amounting to \$13,273.32. (The itemized report follows these minutes.)

As the first item of old business Mr. Ewert reported on the Boxwood Memorial Garden. He noted that identification labels had been ordered for the 12 recently planted bushes.

Professor James A. Faiszt announced that the next boxwood workshop would be held at Gunston Hall in June. He said that members would be notified of the exact date and other particulars by mail. He also mentioned that a local workshop was planned for July at Scotchtown, Hanover County.

The Chairman of the Research Committee, Mr. William A. Gray, reported that a total of \$1,000 had thus far been disbursed by the Society to the Virginia Truck and Ornamental Research Station for the boxwood research project in train at Virginia Beach. He announced that the Board of Directors had recently endorsed a recommendation by his Committee calling for a research project to study the symbiotic relationship between certain fungi and the root cells of boxwood.

Dr. Bernice M. Speese said that she had no new registrations of boxwood to report, but asked if some work days might be set and a task force of volunteers organized to clean up the Box Hill area of Blandy Farm. Mr. Ewert strongly supported this suggestion and thought that it might even be possible to provide simple overnight accommodations at Blandy for volunteers coming from a distance. He offered to organize workdays in the fall.

Professor Albert S. Beecher spoke briefly about the Boxwood Handbook project. He said that it was not too late to submit contributions and he invited members to provide editorial assistance.

Chairman Harrison Symmes of the Membership Committee asked that each ABS member bring in five new members in an effort to build up the Society. Various methods of increasing the visibility of the Society were discussed, including the placing of *The Boxwood Bulletin* in local libraries. Mrs. Cepreghy, a new member from New Jersey, recounted how she and her husband became members after learning about the ABS in their local library.

Mr. Scot Butler expressed appreciation for the support that he and Mrs. Butler had received since becoming Editors of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. He solicited assistance from members in indexing the last 11 years of the *Bulletin*. He also urged members to submit articles, letters, news items and photographs for possible publication. He said that a 1983 membership list would probably be ready by late summer.

Turning to new business the President, in response to a question from the floor, asked Mr. Gray to prepare a report giving the status of current research at VPI & SU on boxwood decline for publication in *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

Mr. Symmes then gave the report of the Nominating Committee. This Committee, headed by Mr. Symmes and including Mrs. Stuart Charlesworth of Upperville, Virginia and Mr. Stephen Davis of Alexandria, Virginia, proposed the following slate of Officers and Directors:

President	Mr. Richard D. Mahone
First Vice President	Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton
Second Vice President	Mrs. D. Goodrich Gamble
Secretary	Mr. Dayton Mak
Executive Treasurer	Mr. William A. Bryarly
Registrar	Dr. Bernice M. Speese
Directors (for terms ending 1986)	Dr. Walter S. Flory Mr. Lynn Batdorf

The only nominee not presently an incumbent was Mr. Bryarly; he was introduced to the members and stated that he was retired from the banking business and now operating his family farm near Blandy. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was unanimously elected. Mr. Symmes asked that a method be devised to aid future nominating committees in identifying a broader group of members with the qualifications, time and inclination to serve as officers and directors of the Society. (See notice on Page 32).

The President proposed that there be a boxwood exchange at the next Annual Meeting in 1984 and asked that members start rooting cuttings of their best specimens this summer in preparation. He requested that a notice to this effect be placed in the *Bulletin*. (See Page 31). Mr. Batdorf and Mr. Ewert were appointed to work out a boxwood cuttings exchange program for the Society.

President Mahone announced that plans for a boxwood tour in the Raleigh area of North Carolina

in the spring of 1984 had fallen through but that a tour in the vicinity of Asheville was now under consideration. He then closed the meeting with expressions of thanks to the Frackeltons for their work in putting the ABS membership list on computer, to Mr. Ewert for making available the facilities at Blandy, and to the entire group for their attendance and interest. The business session adjourned at 12:05 p.m. for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayton S. Mak
Secretary

Treasurer's Report, Annual Meeting
May 11, 1983

Checking Account Balance, May 12, 1982	\$ 215.92
Receipts:	
Membership	8,378.00
Gifts and Donations	1,045.00
Bulletin Sales	225.20
Eastern Shore Workshop	47.00
Christmas Workshop	1,550.00
Postage (Reimbursement)	100.00
Annual Meeting	823.50
Total Receipts	\$12,168.70
Disbursements	
Boxwood Bulletin	4,080.07
Thomas Printing	397.37
Annual Meeting	225.68
Mrs. Dick (Expenses)	49.37
Treasurer's Salary	501.30
Safe Deposit Fee	15.00
Telephone	30.08
Stationery	276.37
Postmaster	616.75
Typewriter	364.00
Christmas Workshop	1,550.00
Difference in Canadian Money	2.87
Virginia Truck & Ornamental Research Station	1,000.00
Boxwood Society of the Midwest (Dues)	8.00
Boxwood Garden (Mulch and Labor)	88.40
Shenandoah Valley Bindery	15.87
Total Expenditures	\$9,221.18
Balance in Checking Account	3,163.49
Balance in Savings Account #8 621578	3,304.59
Certificate of Deposit	6,805.24
Total Assets	\$13,273.32

All accounts are deposited in the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, Winchester, Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine D. Ward
Treasurer



**NEW CULTIVAR ADDED TO THE
MEMORIAL GARDEN**

Members at the Annual Meeting who visited the Memorial Garden may have noticed an unlabelled, compact, small-leaved boxwood plant about 18 x 18 inches in the new extension of the Memorial Garden in the Southwest. This plant has now been confirmed by the Society's Registrar, Dr. Bernice M. Speese, to be 'Brouwers' Seedling No. 1', a seedling of *Buxus microphylla* var. *koreana* grown and selected by Mr. J. B. Brouwers, former landscape gardener at Colonial Williamsburg, in his private nursery near Williamsburg. The plant in the Memorial Garden is one of several cuttings propagated by Harrison Symmes in August 1972 from cuttings given to him by the late J.T. Baldwin. Dr. Baldwin greatly admired the growth habit and leaf texture of the plant and strongly recommended it to Mr. Symmes as deserving of propagation and wider distribution. Mr. Symmes donated the plant to the Society in March of this year.

According to Dr. Speese, 'Brouwers' Seedling No. 1' is one of at least two *koreana* seedlings grown and selected by Mr. Brouwers. Interestingly enough, Mr. Brouwers liked the seedling so much that he placed it around the grave of a favorite cat, and some people have since called it the 'Cat's Grave Seedling.' Those who may wish to read more about *koreana* cultivars of *Buxus microphylla* are referred to the two excellent articles by Dr. Baldwin in earlier issues of the *Bulletin* (Vol. 5, No. 3, pp. 40-41, and Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 51-54).

'Brouwers' Seedling No. 1' has many fine qualities. In Mr. Symmes' nursery near Upperville, it has been among the most winter hardy, showing almost no wind or sun damage as compared to *suffruticosa* and other *sempervirens* and *microphylla* cultivars. Its growth habit resembles *suffruticosa*, but its leaves are smaller and more pointed, and the plant is generally more compact. It grows under the same conditions at least as fast, if not faster, than *suffruticosa*. It is not unlike 'Morris Midget' and 'Morris Dwarf' and can now be compared with those two *microphylla* cousins in the Memorial Garden. 'Brouwers' Seedling No. 1' would appear to be an excellent choice for edging and hedging as well as small specimen plants.

The Pain and Pleasure of Growing Boxwood in the Midwest

Editor's Note: The American Boxwood Society is indebted to the Boxwood Society of the Midwest for presenting the Educational Program at the Twenty-third Annual Meeting. It was an education indeed to learn firsthand of the struggle this dedicated group has waged for fifteen years against the odds of growing boxwood in the St. Louis area. Our great disappointment was that Mary Gamble, the program's producer, was unable to attend and receive recognition for undertaking this project. However the five ladies — all founding members of the Boxwood Society of the Midwest — who travelled with their husbands to Virginia especially for the occasion, carried off the program flawlessly and were greeted at the conclusion with acclaim such as we do not remember at any previous meeting. The presentation, which was built around an excellent collection of some 130 color slides, was divided into five parts as indicated in the edited transcript below. After an introduction by Malcolm Holekamp, the order of the speakers was as follows: Mary Holekamp, Jane Penhale, LaVerne Jaudes, Jane Coultas and Ellen Chamberlain.

Introduction: The Midwestern Point of View

We are delighted and honored to be here today. We are here to try to *show you* — and as you know ours is the “Show Me” state — the pain and pleasure of growing boxwood in the Midwest.

Our situation is totally different from yours. You are *born* with an appreciation of boxwood. You live surrounded by historic boxwood gardens. You plant a boxwood with the serene knowledge that — barring the onset of boxwood decline — it will live to become an heirloom in a family garden; and you can multiply safely that one boxwood to any number your space will accommodate.

We plant boxwood with trepidation and hope. For most of us, boxwood is an acquired taste. We must *learn* about boxwood. The question put to us most often is: *What is boxwood?*

We have two great handicaps: the weather, which is all they say about it, and the limited sources of those boxwoods which we can grow successfully. Our choice is limited, but adequate. Our focus is on the individual boxwood — almost a one-on-one approach. We can, and do, look upon a single boxwood in our garden with the pride and love one bestows on an only child.

To others we offer this precept: attempt to grow only those *Buxus* varieties or cultivars which have been proven hardy in the Midwest. To ourselves,

we add another. It is a heritage from the late Edgar Anderson who told us: “Look for the plant that made it.”

There is one more insidious worry: are we on the threshold of a climatic change? Were the winters of 1980-81 and 1981-82 precursors, of worse to come? This winter, of course, was mild, treacherous only in that it arrived on the first day of spring!

Let me quote a paragraph from a letter written by Chicago enthusiast Mr. William A. P. Pullman, who developed the handsome boxwood named for him. He wrote:

“When I started growing boxwood about 50 years ago, no one came up to me and said, ‘Be careful because somewhere 50 years hence we are going to begin to have a climatic change, and this may last for two or three years, and it might last for a couple of hundred.’ Some climatologists are now saying that in a few years Canada won’t be able to grow wheat for export, and that in a short time we will be unable to export grains except from the southern states. If these people are proven right, we are going to have to build a house around our boxwood and leave it there from October until May.”

Of course, we don’t know what will happen. We will—until snowed in or iced over—continue our Society’s purpose which is to promote the study and cultivation of boxwood. In doing so, we honor the boxwood garden *per se*; but we stress the beauty, charm and distinction of the individual boxwood *in a garden*. We believe that in a single plant the perceptive gardener can sense the mystery of the past and hope of the future, embodied in “Man’s oldest garden ornamental.”

We have divided our mainly pictorial presentation into what we believe to be reasonable and logical sequences. We will start with the **pain**, because if one cannot endure the pain, one cannot enjoy the **pleasure**.

The Pain

For those of you who did not know Edgar Anderson, he was a distinguished member of the Missouri Botanical Garden scientific staff. He served the Garden for 46 years, including a time as Director. He once said, “The only thing I ever wanted to be known as was botanist.”

One of his enthusiasms was boxwood. He was a founding member of the American Boxwood Society, and mentor of the Boxwood Study Group of the St. Louis Herb Society, forerunner of the Boxwood

Society of the Midwest. In January 1969 he went with a group of us to the Missouri Botanical Garden Arboretum at Gray Summit, Missouri, where he showed us 'Agram', the plant he considered the most beautiful of his Balkan boxwoods.* We saw it through a swirling snow storm; it was as beautiful as a Christmas tree. In June 1969 Edgar Anderson died suddenly. Later that year we took our first cuttings of 'Agram', resolved to make it the star of our boxwood collection which would honor Edgar Anderson. (See Photo 1.) But seven years later, after the "terrible winter" of 1976-77, 'Agram' showed a bitter decline. In its way, 'Agram' epitomizes the disappointments we have known in 14 years of testing boxwoods.



Photo: Mary Gamble

Photo 1. *Buxus sempervirens* 'Agram', the plant the late Edgar Anderson considered the most beautiful of his boxwoods; this plant has deteriorated, but the Boxwood Society of the Midwest has 12 plants in its nursery, and is determined to establish 'Agram', if possible.

We had a member—he died in 1978—who lived in Hermann, Missouri, an old German settlement on the Missouri River in the Missouri vineyard country. His name was William Harrison and he was a connoisseur of boxwood. His 19th century farmhouse and his garden were on the highest point overlooking the river; the wind blew strong. Each spring he would phone and say, "Come up to see my boxwood; and tell me what to do." We went; but we didn't tell him what to do. He knew more than we did.

*Anderson propagated 'Agram' from *Buxus* seeds shipped to him by the Forestry Service of Yugoslavia in 1936.

One spring what we saw looked discouraging; in fact, it looked *bad*. But we had seen the same injury in our nursery. We judged it superficial and suggested cautious pruning. When we returned at summer's end what we saw was the kind of damage you can live with: Painful to look at, but not fatal. Recovery followed pruning of winter-killed foliage. Easy, but think of the time it took!

Now let's look at an individual plant and consider the powerful regenerative qualities of *Buxus*, in this case a *Buxus microphylla japonica*, brought in from the Arboretum to the St. Louis Garden grounds. It showed some adverse reaction to the move but was adapting. A second move resulted in greater deterioration. The Garden's Chief Horticulturist advised severe pruning. What was left after he had finished can be seen in a related picture (Photo 2). Two years later, however, recovery was well under way.

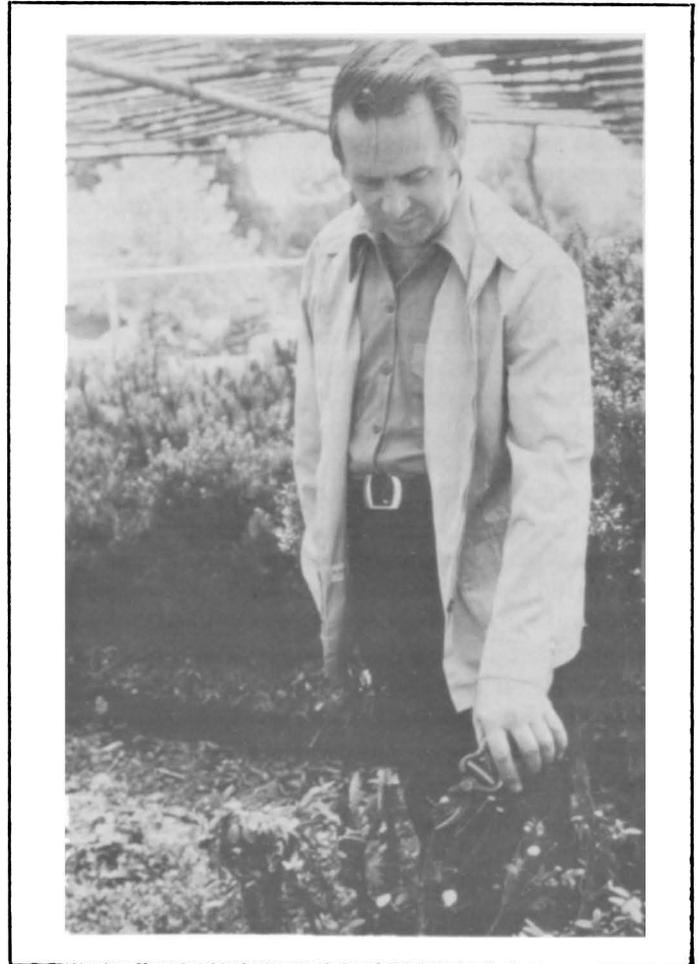


Photo: Jack Horner

Photo 2: Drastic pruning! This plant suffered through two transplants but recovered nicely.

Following the disastrous winter of 1981-82—the "worst in a century," to quote the newspapers—gardeners waited to judge the extent of damage and then pruned accordingly, and courageously. Damage generally resulted from an

early freeze while plant juices were still flowing and an early warm spell—which triggers growth—followed by a freeze. Both happen frequently in the same year in the Midwest.

For our first few years of testing we lived in a fool's paradise of relatively benign winters. We could grow any boxwood: We soon learned differently when disaster hit a group of Anderson Balkans—we called them "Field Row"—set out in a field.

We wanted topiary for the future Edgar Anderson Memorial Boxwood Garden. Why not do it in the field and move the topiary plants at the proper time? Our instructor, the Chief Horticulturist at the Garden, sheared a classic ball-on-ball and one of our more artistic members created what she called a Phoenix, clearly a mythical bird. Two years and two successive terrible winters later, we could not bear to go close to what we found when we made our spring trek to the Arboretum. In fairness to the weather, we must add that there is a deep drainage problem in that field. The planting site was high, but the clay subsoil retains water. It took painful experience to show us that.

A second weather problem in the Midwest is the prevailing wind from the Great Plains. Happily—if that is not too optimistic a word—we can do something about it. Boxwood cannot withstand long exposure to this Southwest wind. Our first advice to any one planting boxwood is to avoid or else shield the plant from this wind. Walls, berms, fences, plant or tree windbreaks will serve.

They grow boxwood even in Kansas, not casually or widely, but it can be done. For example there is a formal garden in the Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine, Kansas, some 30 miles south of Wichita. The Arboretum was started in 1910 by the late Dr. Walter E. Bartlett. It draws visitors from the southwestern states. Mrs. Bartlett told us they had great trouble until their windbreak of trees—principally conifers—was established. Then there is the "plant that made it"—the parent plant of the *Buxus sempervirens* 'Abilene' clone. It is one of six brought from Pennsylvania in 1881. It is named for the town of Abilene, the greatest tourist attraction in Kansas. It was the terminus of the great cattle drives from Texas when the West was wild and woolly; and it is the site of the Eisenhower Library and Memorial. A 40-year old plant of 'Abilene' in the town cemetery reminds us that over the centuries in Europe boxwood became a symbol of immortality, of life eternal. A *Buxus sempervirens* planted at a gravesite comforted the generations as they came in loving memory and respect. But enough of pain and problems: Let us turn to the *pleasure* of growing boxwood in the Midwest.

The Pleasure

One of boxwood's greatest pleasures is its longevity. It is, as the late Clara S. McCarty wrote, truly "A heritage from Yesterday, a privilege for Today, a bequest for Tomorrow." When we plant a boxwood we plant an heirloom.

One of Missouri's "heirloom" boxwoods is over a century old, and those who care for it think it may be the largest boxwood in our state. It grows by an old barn in the Saxon Lutheran Memorial at Frohna, Missouri. The Memorial honors 700 Lutherans who came from Saxony to America in 1839 in search of religious freedom.

Then there is the 50-year-old boxwood belonging to a clone propagated from a plant brought from Pennsylvania more than a century ago. Also, one can see boxwood crowding an old farmhouse on Highway 67 as it winds southward from St. Louis into the Ozark Mountain foothills which thwart the great southwest wind.

Nora Weber is a true boxwood lover. She and her late husband, John Ferdinand Weber built and for many years operated the finest boxwood nursery in Missouri. They grew only one kind: *Buxus sempervirens* of the strain we call 'Ste. Genevieve'. The parent of the Weber clone again is a century-old plant. Boxwood walls every walk around the Weber home.

Bill and Mary Harrison have a formal boxwood garden at their home "Harrison's Hill" in Hermann. So you see that beautiful boxwood grows in the Midwest, and under varying conditions. But there remains the underlying worry: what will winter bring? We know that only with proper selection and care can we enrich our gardens with historic *Buxus*.

Which brings us to the question we're often asked: What is *Buxus*, or boxwood? Boxwood is a broad-leaved evergreen, in contrast to a needle-leaved evergreen such as yew or pine. The leaves generally are glossy, with a patina rivaling that of Danish enamel. Of course *you* know that boxwood leaves are opposite. But does any one ever hand you a sprig of a broad-leaved evergreen and ask, "What kind of boxwood is this?" It happens to us frequently, and sometimes the motives are not kindly. It is a great help then to know that boxwood leaves are opposite, holly leaves are alternate. This saves one from the embarrassment of identifying a sprig of *Ilex crenata convexa*, otherwise known as the "holly box," as a true boxwood.

Boxwood leaves vary in size, and to a lesser degree in shape. The smallest belongs to *Buxus microphylla* 'Compacta', the largest to *Buxus balearica*, a species which will grow only in a

greenhouse in the Midwest. The two basic *Buxus* leaf shapes are: elliptic with an acute tip, and obovate with a rounded tip.

The color of boxwood foliage is green in shades ranging from yellow green, characteristic of the Asian *microphylla* species, to the deeper, greener green of the European *sempervirens*. (See related Photo 3.) The range is narrow and subtle. When we feel it necessary to be precise, we turn to the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart for the specific shade.



Photo: William A. P. Pullman

Photo 3: The curved front row of clipped boxwoods is *Buxus microphylla* var. *koreana*; the three large plants in rear planting are parents of the *Buxus sempervirens* 'Pullman' clone. These plants exhibit the range of *Buxus* greens from the yellow-green of the Asian (*microphylla*) species to the deeper green of the European (*sempervirens*) species.

In the Midwest the boxwoods we work with fall into two basic shapes: the mounded and the conical, or as some prefer, the pyramidal.

Many people new to boxwood ask us if it blooms. We say, "most do, in the spring." Boxwood blossoms attract bees. We have known times when especially floriferous cultivars were in full bloom that we could *hear* the bees in the boxwoods before we could smell the plants.

Which brings us to a distinctive boxwood characteristic: the odor. Our experience has to parallel yours. Some people like it, some don't; and some are allergic to it. Another attribute to which we think we should call attention is the presence of buxine, a slightly poisonous alkaloid, in the foliage of *Buxus*. Our position is that the taste of a boxwood leaf is sufficiently bitter to discourage any one from over-eating.

The wood of box is hard, fine-grained and heavy. A peeled stick placed in a basin of water will sink to the bottom. Theophrastus, the third century B. C. Greek known as the "father of botany," compared it to ebony in all but its color which is like ivory.

Boxwood will not split or warp, which made it ideal for many kinds of precision wood working. It owes its generic name to the exquisite small boxes the Greeks fashioned from it and called *pyxos*; and which the Romans copied and called *Buxus*. Plant scholars of the time used the latter name and Linnaeus made it official in his "Species Plantarum" published in 1753.

Another of the many uses of the wood of box was for wood engravings in contrast to the wood cuts which were made of softer woods such as apple, beech and sycamore. These were cut lengthwise in planks. A pen knife could do the job of cutting away the wood from letters or illustrations, leaving them raised.

The wood engraving, which came later in the 18th and 19th centuries, was made of hard wood, with the wood of box favored. These blocks were cut across the grain; a hard tool, similar to one used to engrave metal, was required. The lines of the drawing were incised, leaving the cut recessed. In the Orient, the carvers of ivory continue to apprentice on boxwood.

And now we come to the heart of the matter: Which are the best boxwoods for the Midwest?

Over the past 13 years we have entered more than 50 varieties and cultivars of boxwood in our Accession Book; and over the past 10 years we have reduced that number to 22. We think we should reduce it further. We must give the new boxwood gardener the greatest assurance possible; and we must try to increase availability by persuading local nurserymen that boxwood is not only a prestige item but also can be a profitable one. Today we've selected just seven to talk about.

We begin with *Buxus sempervirens* 'Ste. Genevieve', the first boxwood to reach Missouri. Whether it came with the French, or with later pioneers from Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee we don't know; nor do we consider it important. We do know that the parent plant of our 'Ste. Genevieve' clone was dug from the Calvary Cemetery in Ste. Genevieve about 1934 and brought to the Missouri Botanical Garden Arboretum. It is one of a pair set at the Arboretum Gate House (Photo 4). A handsome clump of 'Ste. Genevieve' graces the grounds of the Colonial Dames quarters in Missouri's oldest town. There are also 'Ste. Genevieves' in the backyard of the Bolduc House which dates from 1784. And one can find 'Ste. Genevieve' in a suburban St. Louis garden. We feel at home with 'Ste. Genevieve'.

Buxus microphylla var. *koreana* reached the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1926. It was a gift to the Garden from the late Dr. Ernest H. Wilson of Kew Gardens and the Arnold Arboretum. He found it growing near Seoul, Korea in 1919. At maturity this gift plant measures almost six feet tall by seven



Photo: Mary Gamble

Photo 4. The parent plant of the *Buxus sempervirens* 'Ste. Genevieve' clone, first to be registered by the Boxwood Study Group of the St. Louis Herb Society on behalf of the Missouri Botanical Garden. 'Ste. Genevieve' was the first boxwood to reach Missouri.

feet wide. It was the parent of the Garden's Korean clone. *Koreana* hedges the water lily pool in front of the Garden's Linnean House, a greenhouse which has been in continuous operation since 1882. One can also see a Korean hedge in North Chicago. There are those of us who feel that this first Korean has seen its day; that, like an old horse, it should be put out to pasture. But a new hedge growing in a mid-town St. Louis garden suggests there is life in the old plant yet! On balance, the Midwest needs *koreana*—old and new.

Edgar Anderson's exploratory trip to the Balkans in search of "hardy strains of holly, yew and box" took place in 1934. He chose the area because its weather duplicated that of the Midwest, including a strong wind which blows from the Russian steppes. Dr. Anderson's trip was sponsored by the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Among others, he brought back 44 cuttings of a boxwood, named 'Vardar Valley' by Dr. Donald Wyman of the Arnold Arboretum. 'Vardar Valley' alone would have made Edgar Anderson's trip worthwhile. It is described in the American Boxwood Society Registration List as "a wide-spreading, flat-topped plant of much merit in the North." We in the Midwest applaud that appraisal. The late Clarence Barbre, a retired chemist turned nurseryman, worked with Dr. Anderson in develop-

ing and evaluating his Balkans. We believe there is no better boxwood for the Midwest than *Buxus sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley'.

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* was the first Asian boxwood to reach our country, about 1860. It has been at the Missouri Botanical Garden since 1938 when the late Dr. J. Horace McFarland of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania sent the Garden a present of 100 rooted cuttings. When the cuttings reached the Garden Mr. Paul A. Kohl, then floriculturist, sent some to the Arboretum and kept some for the exquisite flower shows he mounted at the Garden four times yearly. He built his show stock to some 200 plants. He kept the plants in four-inch clay pots for 20 years. He root-pruned them and fed them liquid plant food and they thrived. When Mr. Kohl retired he gave the plants to us and we set them in our nursery. To some of us *japonica* is our favorite boxwood; to all of us, it is a secure boxwood for the Midwest.

We feel equally secure about *Buxus microphylla* 'Green Pillow'. You know its history: originated in 1912 by the late Mr. William Appleby of Baltimore, Maryland; released by the late Henry Hohman of the Kingsville Nursery; honored by its selection to enhance the White House Rose Garden. 'Green Pillow' borders the circular central portion of the herb garden of the Western Reserve Unit of the Herb Society of America in Cleveland, Ohio. 'Green Pillow' has elegance plus hardiness.

Buxus sempervirens 'Pullman' is a handsome dark green cultivar suited to the Midwest because it breaks dormancy quite late, thus is less vulnerable to our unseasonal, but frequent, late freezes. It is named for Mr. William A. P. Pullman of Lake Forest, Illinois. It grows in his garden there (Photo 3) as well as in the Anne Lehmann Rose Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden where its elegance and hardiness can be seen and appreciated.

A Special Boxwood

This brings us to the seventh of the varieties and cultivars we recommend for the Midwest. *Buxus sempervirens* 'Hermann von Schrenk' is, we believe, one of the greatest boxwoods for the Midwest. When we say that, it is the equivalent of saying one of the greatest boxwoods for any place. A boxwood that can survive in the Midwest certainly should thrive elsewhere.

It was the late Dr. von Schrenk who, in 1937, brought back 64 cuttings of an unnamed boxwood from Charlottesville, Virginia. He left them at the Arboretum at Gray Summit where the late Mr. Martin Bagby, staff propagator, rooted them. By 1973 one of those cuttings had progressed to the stunning size and symmetrical form shown in Photo 5.



Photo: Jack Horner

Photo 5. *Buxus sempervirens* 'Hermann von Schrenk' is the subject of a joint undertaking by the Boxwood Society of the Midwest and the Forrest Keeling Nursery of Elsberry, Missouri. It is hoped this boxwood—which the Society considers one of the finest for the Midwest—can be made commercially available by 1985.

Dr. von Schrenk was a remarkable scientist and gardener. In 1904 he brought back to this country the process of creosoting railroad ties, thus multiplying four-fold their useful lives. He was volunteer plant pathologist at the Missouri Botanical Garden for 40 years. In 1976 when our Society decided to name the plant, the inevitable choice was 'von Schrenk'.

On October 19, 1982, we took the first step in a long-range plan to make 'von Schrenk' commercially available. We started making cuttings from a wall of 'von Schrenks' which encloses a secret garden at the Arboretum. These we supplied to the Forrest Keeling Nursery of Elsberry, Missouri. This nursery was started as a backyard, side-line venture by its president, Mr. Hugh Steavenson. In 40 years it has grown until it now embraces some 720 acres of prime agricultural land in east central Missouri, an area on the hardiness line for many plants. Mr. Steavenson is a progressive and innovative nurseryman. Today the Forrest Keeling Nursery does business in 49 of our 50 states, Hawaii excluded and Virginia included.

Our cuttings spent the winter in what Mr. Steavenson calls a "passive solar greenhouse" during which time they calloused. In the spring they were moved to a propagating house. At the proper time they will be sold as potted plants. If this venture is mutually successful to our Society and to Forrest Keeling, we will expand it to other cultivars, including one or two we hope to name.

The seven Midwest-hardy boxwoods we have just seen include a good, workable collection of *Buxus* forms and sizes. An interesting garden could be

built around them. We will be glad to answer questions about others we would include in a more complete list.

Our Society nurseries and our own gardens have been the principal testing grounds to determine which boxwoods are Midwest-hardy. For several years we kept a nursery planting chart and did not label any plants. But this was too nerve-wracking; too many boxwoods resemble each other too closely, especially when plants are small. Beginning in 1976 we made permanent labels which we placed on the north side of each nursery plant. We now agree that happiness is a label on every plant!

In 1979 major building at the Garden made it necessary for our nursery to be moved. In the move we reduced the plant census to 799; a drainage problem and "the worst winter in 100 years" have reduced it further to about 700. Spring work begins with a close check for winter damage. Pruning is careful. This year it was limited to hand shears, and hands only. Occasionally, for a brief, shining moment, we achieve our goal which is a nursery we can show with pride to the many visitors who stop by as they stroll the Garden paths.

What we learn at the Garden we apply to our home work. We learn to take cuttings. We follow, whenever possible, the advice given us by Mr. Paul Kohl: "Make your cutting of a nice, bushy little sprig," said Mr. Kohl; "then you have a headstart on a nice little plant." Many of us do a fair amount of propagating at home; and we advise newcomers to boxwood gardening to do the same. It is the one sure method of multiplying favorite plants, and of insuring replacements. Besides, it is fun to start your own clone!

A flat of cuttings will be covered with a "breathing" weight plicofilm and placed in a sheltered spot out of direct sunlight. This same technique can be applied to a single pot. In an average of two months, we should have a well-rooted plant.

After we have potted the rooted cuttings we place them in a greenhouse, if we have one. If not, we consider these words of Edgar Anderson: "Something like a greenhouse ... can usually be managed." One way to manage is a basement under gro-lite, another is a sunny window.

Ideally, for the second winter we let the potted plants harden off in a cold frame, such as a home model which will accommodate 50 plants in four-inch pots. The next spring the plants are ready for outside planting.

We have reached a reluctant conclusion. Based on what we have learned jointly and experienced individually we have concluded that not every Midwest gardener should try to grow boxwood; and that we should say so. We are working now on a summary of minimum requirements for *Buxus* in'

the Midwest. If these needs cannot be met, we believe the gardener should avoid the disappointment and disillusionment which failure brings. We think we make no friends for boxwood by failing to be realistic. Let me tell you quickly where we stand.

We start with the premise that the gardener will select a Midwest-hardy boxwood. We agree that good drainage is essential. We agree that the southwest wind should be avoided; if this is impossible, the plant should be protected from it in one of the ways already mentioned.

We agree that adequate sunlight is needed. This may range from full to dappled sun. Boxwood sited in large planting beds which include deciduous trees, perennials and other shrubbery will receive dappled summer sun and partial winter shade and windbreak. Sites where winter sun may be reflected off snow or ice should be avoided.

We agree that in dry spells boxwood must be watered regularly and deep, including hosing out of plant interior. Frequency varies from weekly to every two weeks.

We agree that good soil preparation is worth the effort. We think a good rule of thumb is the old gardener's adage: dig a \$5 hole for a 50¢ plant. Of course, those are pre-inflation figures! We advise that a plant should be at least three years old before being set in its permanent garden site. We advise spring planting to give a plant maximum time to establish itself before winter.

We agree that an organic mulch—applied after the first freeze—is good protection, at least for the first several years.

We agree that a plant should be fed in its second year, with feedings continued at two to three-year intervals.

We clear the debris from the plant's interior every spring; and prune to remove dead and weak sprigs, and to shape gently.

Throughout the summer we watch for mites, scale, etc. If present, we apply the proper spray according to package directions.

This may seem a formidable list. Actually, it is just good Midwestern garden practice. Follow it, and chances of success are good; take short cuts, and chances of failure are high.

Another ongoing challenge is to try to find ways to make boxwoods available, especially those desirable cultivars seldom seen in nursery collections. We have told you about the Forrest Keeling plan. Now, let us tell you about another experiment underway.

We have a small walled garden called the Garth, from the ancient and Mediaeval term for such a garden space. The 20x40 foot garden is at the country home of Society member Elise Morton. Jane Penhale is in charge of developing this space. Our hope is to grow small quantities of selected box-

woods. The Garth, in effect, will be a source from which special orders can be filled for local gardeners. Preparation of the plot has been underway since fall of 1981. It has included rototilling, application of garden gypsum and tilling it in, sowing annual rye, rototilling the rye and the application of a 12-12-12 fertilizer. First plants were set out this spring. Rototilling revealed clay subsoil about eight inches below topsoil. This leaves a nagging worry about drainage. We should know by *next* spring. If the Garth succeeds, we hope to turn the plant stocks on a three-year schedule.

Photo 6 shows steps in the "cuttings day" operation we have mounted, under Jane Penhale's direction, for the past two years. Here cuttings are being taken in the boxwood nursery to fill orders from many states in response to the articles in the American Boxwood Society Bulletin. Orders are filled from bags of various cultivars in the concourse of the greenhouse complex at the Garden (Photo 7). Each order is checked for accuracy, for



Photo: Jack Horner

Photo 6. Two members of the Horticultural Committee work in the boxwood nursery at the Missouri Botanical Garden. They are taking cuttings which will be shipped to boxwood enthusiasts across the country.



Photo: Jack Horner

Photo 7: "Cuttings Day" orders are sorted in the concourse of the greenhouse complex at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

which we strive. In passing, the correspondence from boxwood gardeners who ordered the cuttings has been a wonderful and cheering bonus. Will we continue this project? Only time will tell.

The emblem of the Missouri Botanical Garden is a stylized representation of the union of the male and female botanical symbols. It symbolizes the creativity and energy of the plant life which surrounds us. It is appropriate to the Garden in every respect, as it fulfills its purposes of education, research and pure enjoyment. It is our Society's privilege to be a small part of this great botanical institution; and we welcome this opportunity to pay our respects to it and to its Director, Dr. Peter H. Raven. We could, with ease and delight, spend the afternoon discussing the Garden with you; but we have limited ourselves to those gardens within the Garden where *Buxus* is a presence. Jane Coultas spends her days as manager of the charming and historic Tower Grove House, which yesterday was the summer home of Henry Shaw. Today it is a distinguished museum of magnificent Victoriana.

A Celebration of Gardens

In St. Louis the Missouri Botanical Garden most often is called Shaw's Garden. It was established in 1858 by Mr. Henry Shaw, an Englishman who came to St. Louis as a young man. He made his fortune and his home in our city; and bequeathed his Garden to the city. Mr. Shaw died in 1889 and his tomb is in the Mausoleum Grove in his garden (Photo 8).



Photo: Jack Horner

*Photo 8. The tomb of Henry Shaw is in the Mausoleum Grove of the Missouri Botanical Garden, commonly called Shaw's Garden. A matched pair of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Nish'—an Edgar Anderson Balkan—flank the tomb.*

Shaw's Garden covers 79 acres. It is a fascinating place. Today we will mention only in passing the botanical library and herbarium, the unique Climatron greenhouse, the Mediterranean and Desert Houses; Tower Grove House and the new Ridgway Center. We will focus on a number of individual gardens which make *the* Garden a Celebration of Gardens.

The Linnean House honors Carolus Linnaeus; and over the entrance his portrait bust is joined by those of two other great naturalists: Thomas Nuttall and Asa Gray. Across the front of the Linnean House there is a brand new boxwood planting: a hedge of *Buxus microphylla* 'Winter Green'. Also, new *Buxus* plants flank each of two benches placed at the west end of the Linnean House. The benches stand on a formal bricked terrace bounded by a wall, and along the length of the wall there is another new *Buxus* planting. All of these plants are *Buxus sempervirens* 'Inglis'. At the east end of the Linnean House there is a trellis garden. Planted in the summer of 1982 the wisteria has not yet had time to climb over the gracefully curved trellises, nor have the four new boxwoods planted by the garden benches had time to rise above them. The boxwoods here are *Buxus sempervirens* 'Pyramidalis Hardwickensis' from our nursery.

Boxwoods—in this case 'Field Row'—also flank the Victorian wrought-iron gate to the Herb Garden maintained by the St. Louis Herb Society. Koichi Kawana, who designed the beautiful and tranquil Japanese Garden Seiwa-En ("garden of purity, harmony and peace"), at the Missouri Botanical Garden says that in Japanese gardens boxwood is used extensively for hedges or in single or group plantings with stone arrangements. "Boxwood may be placed behind a stone to show off its beauty ... or quality of profundity".

"Boxwood in a garden," said a noted St. Louis landscape architect, "is the sign of a discriminating gardener." There are many such gardeners in St. Louis and its suburbs, and many employ boxwood in various gradations of use: from the boxwood garden *per se*, to the garden where boxwood is an important presence, to the garden where boxwood is a design element, to the garden where boxwood spans the seasons.

It is surprising to learn that one boxwood garden *per se*, beautiful in the classic manner, was not meant to be a boxwood garden. In the beginning there were only two specimen plants at the entrance. Starting in 1943 the owner transformed it into the purely boxwood garden shown in Photo 9. "I thought of it as a five-year project," says owner Mrs. Stratford Lee Morton, "but it took much longer due to the difficulty of finding matched plants of the appropriate sizes."



Photo: Jack Horner

Photo 9. A classically beautiful boxwood garden in a St. Louis suburb. This garden was five years in the planting, due to the difficulty of finding matched boxwoods in appropriate sizes.

The garden is on two levels with the lower level an oval within an oval. This graceful design concept was developed by Peter Seltzer, a noted St. Louis landscape designer of the 1920s and 1930s. The curved lines which bound the garden area are repeated in the graceful curves in which Mrs. Morton shapes her boxwoods as she does her own pruning. This is a beautiful but hazardous garden. As Mrs. Morton noted, it was difficult to find the original plants in wanted sizes. It is equally difficult to find replacements for the inevitable losses. It takes a particular dedication to maintain such a garden. Mrs. Morton has it; and we bless her for it.

The garden of Mrs. John S. Lehmann and the late Mr. Lehmann is a garden where boxwood is a dominant presence.* It is in Ladue, a St. Louis suburb noted for its handsome homes and gardens. The Lehmanns were early settlers in Ladue and they built their own garden from a field. The axis of this seven-acre garden and the beds which parallel it were the work of the Virginia landscape architect William Gilette.

The Lehmann garden reflects an eclectic interest in plants and a thorough knowledge of gardening. Planned to display wide plant interests, the garden is united by its design and by the presence of boxwood. This union of boxwood and other plant materials is both fascinating and practical. It gives boxwood a place of importance, but it does not place all its eggs in one boxwood basket.

Then there is a large and impressive garden in which the emphasis is on design and handsome shrubbery, as is evidenced by the owner's choice of

*See *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 22, No. 2 (October 1982), p. 25, for an illustrated article on this garden.

boxwood for hedging. There are more than 300 boxwoods in the hedge which carries the linear design. A reflecting pool with figure and fountain forms a focal point. In the background the boxwood hedge encircles a major shrubbery planting. One year the garden's owner, a founding member of our Society, asked if we would consider pruning the boxwood hedge. We gave it our all! And it is evident from our crew at work, as you can see in Photo 10, that there is something of the West in many Midwesterners. We think boxwood hedges are risky in the Midwest; but this hedge simply underscores the owner's wish to have only the best in her garden. She and her husband decided to design it themselves because they knew exactly what they wanted.



Photo: Jack Horner

Photo 10. Boxwood Society members prune a 300-plant boxwood hedge in the garden of a founding member.

We know of another garden which for many years could have posed for a picture of the English "long walk", rich in colorful perennials. But the owner wanted to reduce maintenance. She tore out the iris and delphinium and columbine and foxglove, and planted boxwood, retaining only a few clumps of small perennials for seasonal color. When winter came, and she saw the magic of white snow on green *Buxus*, she reveled in her transformation: a green garden that spanned the seasons.

Boxwood, the Aristocrat

Boxwood is an aristocrat among plants. It is at home in any setting and any age, from a farm lot in the Missouri Ozark Mountain foothills to Versailles, the garden which Andre Le Notre designed for the Sun King.

Boxwood—as it spans the centuries—contributes to the feeling of continuity which gardeners share and treasure. Since there is no native American boxwood we, as gardeners, must begin our search in the sources of our earliest boxwood: *Buxus*

sempervirens, the native European boxwood which Linnaeus named. Our earliest forebears brought boxwood from England, France and Holland. Let's start in England.

The boxwood that grows in the front-yard garden of Anne Hathaway's cottage at Stratford-on-Avon is a simple planting to which we can relate. English boxwood—in tree and dwarf forms—was first to reach our shores. Even a casual planting is comforting. Realistically and practically, it shows that a yearning for boxwood can be satisfied simply.

Other strains of *Buxus sempervirens* came with the early settlers from France where some of the most extravagantly beautiful gardens since the Hanging Gardens of Babylon were being installed. The one at Villandry in the Loire valley exemplifies the "pleasure gardens" which were a glory of the Renaissance. Boxwood edges the parterre beds which depict the "Garden of Love." Boxwood also edges the beds in Villandry's kitchen garden.

We can view such a garden with awe, but no envy. It would be totally unreal in our Midwestern world. But we can share the boxwood, and glean an idea—boxwood edgings for our strawberry and cabbage patches!

There is a charming, small parterre garden in the restored 17th century village of Zaanse-Schoens some few miles from Amsterdam. The baroque curves are edged with boxwood. It is a reminder that "Dutch" box edged many of the early gardens in Colonial New Amsterdam.

Thus boxwood has linked the early gardens of America with the older gardens of Europe. In the early years during which our country was settled and homes were established, boxwood took root in the gardens which were a part of growth and manner of living. Some of these gardens surround you still. To us from the Midwest they are an inspiration. We have chosen just one to mention: Mt. Vernon, where the surviving hedges of English boxwood were planted as edgings in 1798.

We will close this presentation of pain and pleasure with a look, first, at some symbolic uses of boxwood, and second, with an appreciation.

There is a woodcut from the 17th century depicting the box tree, the cock and the toad as they combine their powers of good to put the devil to flight. It symbolizes our belief that the historic plant *Buxus* enriches any garden: and, just possibly, imbues it with a magical power.

Then there is the site of Jane and George Penhale's future boxwood garden. It will be a freeform design which will afford a casually elegant setting for a significant collection of Midwest-hardy boxwoods. It symbolizes our conviction that boxwood gardens are a part of the gardening future in the Midwest.

And finally, we saw a basket of boxwood sprigs

on a garden gate symbolizing the grace and generosity with which "boxwood people"—those "gentle people," as Edgar Anderson called them—customarily welcome guests and share their gardens. It symbolizes also the gracious hospitality with which we Missourians have been welcomed on this happy occasion to Virginia.

To us one small, stalwart plant symbolizes the importance we place on the individual boxwood. We believe that one boxwood can stand alone, or be multiplied to the number for which the gardener can care comfortably. We believe that just one boxwood can hold for us the richness of the past and the promise of the future. Of course, if Bill Pullman's climatologists are right and a new ice age looms, our symbols fail us; but if our weather remains its temperamental, idiosyncratic, ornery—and I must add, oftentimes beautiful—self, we can continue to cope; and to say that, on balance, the pleasure of growing boxwood in the Midwest outweighs the pain.

We began this presentation with recognition of one great botanist. We will end it with an appreciation of another, the late Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., of the College of William and Mary. He was second only to Dr. Anderson in setting our feet on the path we should follow to learn about boxwood. Edgar Anderson put us in touch with Dr. Baldwin. "He is," said Dr. Anderson, "the great American authority on boxwood." Dr. Baldwin could not have been more generous with his help. In expressing our appreciation of all he did for us, I would like to read excerpts from several of his letters.

From 1969: "I am glad that you have become acquainted with *The Boxwood Bulletin*, and I hope that you will encourage your associates to subscribe to it. And when possible for any of your group to attend, we would welcome you at the annual meeting in May, which is always an enjoyable occasion."

Again, from 1969: "I am delighted that you and your associates are investing yourselves in box; most likely you will change the horticultural pattern for this genus for your whole area."

From 1970: "I would be delighted for members of the Society to get in touch with me when they are in Williamsburg. It would be a privilege for me to take them on a botanical tour; I like doing this."

From 1972: "Please send me cuttings of the plants that are confusing you, and let me be confused with you."

From a letter dated July 8, 1974: "I invest my time where my interests are—and always have. I consider that I have never worked, because I have always done what I enjoyed doing."

In closing, let me say that this meeting has indeed been for us "an enjoyable occasion." We thank you for the opportunity to present a boxwood story from the Midwestern point of view.

The Old Chapel

Clarke County, Virginia

Editor's Note: The final feature on the Program of the 23rd Annual Meeting was a visit to The Old Chapel, located three miles south of Berryville at the intersection of U. S. Route 340 and Virginia Highway 255. This visit provided members an opportunity to see extensive and well-maintained plantings of boxwoods in a setting where they have traditional symbolic meaning and, at the same time, lend warmth and dignity to the stone Chapel and markers of the departed. The Chapel is normally closed except on the second Sunday in September, when a Morning Prayer service is held, and occasionally for a funeral service. We were fortunate, therefore, to have the Reverend E. Guthrie Brown and Mr. Richard C. Plater present to open the Chapel and answer questions. The Old Chapel and the grounds are maintained by the Trustees of the Burwell Cemetery, Inc., who deserve recognition for the excellent care they take of both. Parts of the following article are from notes written in 1972 by Stuart E. Brown, Jr., and kindly supplied to the Bulletin by the Reverend E. Guthrie Brown.

At the place where The Old Chapel now stands the Vestry of the frontier parish of Frederick, Church of England, built a log clap-board-covered chapel circa 1747 that came to be known as Cunningham Chapel. In 1773 plans were made to replace the log structure, but probably because of the outbreak of the Revolution a replacement—the present native limestone Chapel—was not erected until 1791. In the early 1800s the site of the Chapel was one of some importance, being at or near the juncture of seven roads. But times changed, and in 1834 an Episcopal church was built in the then thriving industrial village of Millwood. The limestone Chapel was thenceforth relegated to a secondary status. In its early years it was known simply as “The Chapel” but probably soon after the building of the church at Millwood, the adjective “Old” was added, and ever since it has been referred to as “The Old Chapel.”

Perhaps for the very reason that it was of secondary importance The Old Chapel today retains all, or almost all, of its original features and is in an excellent state of preservation. Old chamfered posts and beams, floor boards, benches and other original or early woodwork are in place throughout the Chapel. Somewhat rustic in style, the interior has great character and appeal. A gallery for the slaves was reached by a separate exterior entrance and

very steep stairs. The old doors and shutters are made of heavy timber and are weathered with age. Access to an elevated wooden canopied pulpit is by a steep staircase which requires considerable agility to ascend.

The exterior of the Chapel, although plain in design almost to the point of severity, shows the work of skilled masons in the laying of the native limestone walls. Large boulders placed near the front (north) door to serve as mounting aids for horseback riders are still there today.

The front entrance is flanked by two large bushes of *Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa* (commonly called edging, dwarf or “English” boxwood). Four large specimens of *Buxus sempervirens* (common box) are planted on two other sides of the Chapel where its elevation above ground is highest. These boxwoods comprise the only foundation planting around the Chapel. Except for some venerable trees, including a giant sycamore that is probably about the same age as the Chapel, the cemetery grounds are planted mainly with *suffruticosa*. Some are planted in geometric patterns, generally enclosing plots in the cemetery, or in solid masses, or sometimes singly as specimen plants scattered among the varied sizes and styles of gravestones, some of which are now nearly 200 years old.

Many persons, prominent in their day, had an association with The Old Chapel or are buried there. Bishop William Meade (1789-1862) who is known for his book, *Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia*, was Rector of the Chapel from about 1809 to 1834. The Reverend Mason Locke Weems, the book-writing, book-selling “Parson” who originated the fable of George Washington and the cherry tree, is known to have preached from the pulpit.

Among those buried in the graveyard is Captain Thomas Taylor Byrd (1752-1821), progenitor of the Shenandoah Valley Byrds. Born at “Westover,” he served in the British Army during the Revolution, and died at “The Cottage,” his home located some one and one-half miles upstream from The Old Chapel. Also buried here is Edmund Randolph (1753-1813), Revolutionary War Aide-de-Camp to General Washington, Governor of Virginia, and successor to Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State. Dozens of prominent families dating from colonial days and the early republic have plots in the cemetery; history is written on the tombstones and anyone with an interest in local history could easily spend a full day studying the records preserved in the tranquil surroundings.

DISEASES OF BOXWOOD

Robert Wick

Biographical note: Dr. Wick is the Clinic Manager and Diagnostician in the Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology at VPI and SU, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061. A native of Connecticut, he received the B.S. and M.S. degrees in Plant Pathology from VPI & SU. Dr. Wick's primary interest is in diseases of ornamentals and shade trees. He has been a resident of Virginia since 1976.

The boxwoods are starting to roll into the Plant Disease Clinic. Last year we received 180 boxwood specimens, most of them "English" (*Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa*). Of course, the most common inquiry was, why are my shrubs dying? Unfortunately many of the specimens submitted were inadequate to permit a positive diagnosis to be made.

Boxwood is an important ornamental both for aesthetic and historical reasons. Because of concern about boxwood diseases, this article addresses common diseases, selection of a proper specimen for disease diagnosis, and control measures.

There are many causes of poor health in boxwoods and typically more than one factor will be involved at any given time. One of the most common diseases ascribed to boxwood is decline. In general terms, decline is a symptom that refers to the general debilitation of a woody plant. It is manifested by slower growth than normal, small leaves, loss of green color and dead twigs and branches. Decline of the plant usually occurs when the root system is impaired by parasitic organisms or unfavorable soil environment. Nutrient deficiencies or toxicities can also cause decline. In some plant species, viruses and/or mycoplasma-like organisms cause decline.

For this discussion, decline of boxwood refers specifically to a disease of English boxwood incited by root and crown colonizing fungi (the crown is the basal portion of the stem). Because the symptoms are similar, decline is often confused with symptoms incited by parasites or environmental factors acting directly on twigs and foliage. And of course, a single plant may have both twig blight and root rot. The only way to determine if the roots are healthy is to wash them free of soil and inspect them for discoloration and decay or submit roots and soil samples to a diagnostic laboratory.

Decline. English boxwoods exhibiting decline symptoms have roots and/or crowns that are colonized by fungi such as *Paecilomyces buxi*, *Fusarium* spp. or *Phoma* sp. Root lesion (*Pratylenchus* sp.) and spiral nematodes (*Rotylenchus buxophilus*) can also debilitate roots and cause decline symptoms. The fungi and nematodes are not mutually exclusive, and so may occur together in various proportions. Symptoms of decline appear on individual stems or whole plants in the form of yellow to bronze coloration of foliage. Death of sections of the plant is common. Very often the basal area of the stem is discolored, but the bark must be removed to see this symptom.

Volutella leaf and stem blight. *Volutella buxi* is a fungus that attacks stems and leaves of both English and American boxwood. The disease results in defoliation and death of stems. It is commonly found on unthrifty boxwood but occasionally occurs on healthy specimens. *Volutella* can survive in the soil and may also cause root rot. The disease can be recognized by a cream-to-light pink, mealy-appearing growth on the bottom of the leaves (Fig. 1). On blighted stems, dome-like spore masses approximately 1/16" in diameter erupt through the epidermis (Fig. 2). Infestation by spider mites can also cause defoliation of boxwood, but mite injury is manifested as a stippled appearance on leaves (Fig. 3).

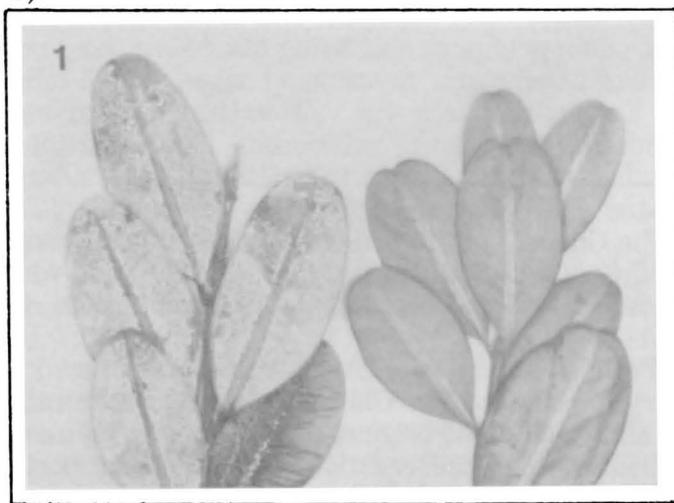


Photo: Robert Wick

Fig. 1. *Volutella* leaf blight of boxwood. Left diseased, right healthy. Both show bottom of foliage.

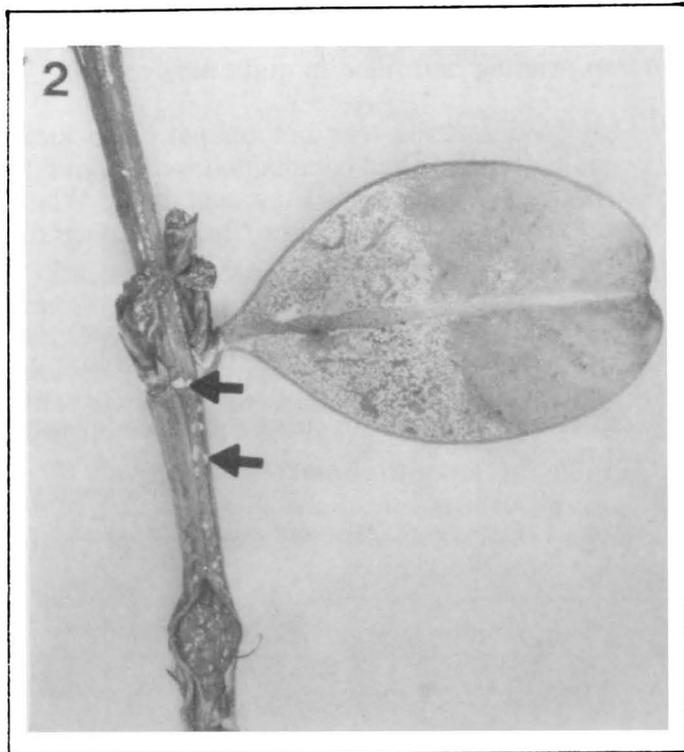


Photo: Robert Wick

Fig. 2. *Volutella* stem blight of boxwood. Arrow points to spore mass. Spores have also formed on bottom of leaf.

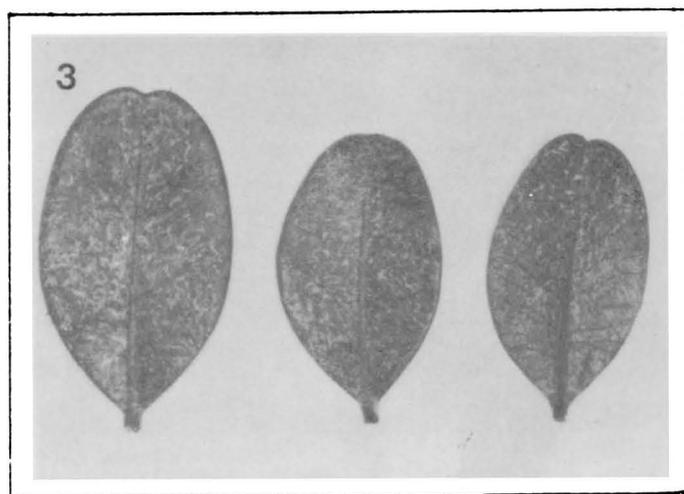


Photo: Robert Wick

Fig. 3. Mite injury on boxwood leaves.

Macrophoma leaf spot. *Macrophoma* leaf spot is common on boxwoods of low vigor. The fungus occasionally colonizes stem tissue. The disease has not been observed on healthy plants. The presence of the fungus is easy to recognize because of the conspicuous pycnidia (fruiting bodies) produced in the leaves. The pycnidia are hemispherical, dark brown to black and occur fairly uniformly throughout the leaf (Fig. 4).

Other Problems. Rapid death of boxwood may be caused by *Phytophthora* root rot, drought, over-fertilization or severe winter injury. Transplants

may decline and die because of poor cultural practices or poor site selection.

Disease diagnosis. Most states have plant disease clinics and soil testing laboratories whose services are available through agricultural extension offices. The procedures outlined below have been developed for the State of Virginia. In other states, contact the extension service to find out what tests are available and how specimens should be collected.

To confirm the presence of root diseases, culturing of roots and identification of soil-inhabiting nematodes is necessary. For an accurate diagnosis to be made, a freshly collected and representative sample must be submitted. Roots or stems that are dead are of no diagnostic value.

With a trowel, sample from 3 or 4 parts of the root system and mix together in a clean pail. Reserve approximately 1/2 pint of soil for nutrient and soluble salt analysis. For identification of plant parasitic nematodes, a pint of soil is necessary. Root samples should never be washed free of soil; the soil is necessary to prevent desiccation. The sample should also include stem and foliar specimens wrapped separately to keep them free of soil. Take the specimens to your nearest county extension office. Culturing for fungi and identification of nematodes may take 5 working days or longer.

Controlling diseases of boxwood. When our Clinic analyzes roots, stems and soil for root parasites, the recommendations tend to be some variation of the following.

1. Currently we do not recommend the use of fungicides or nematicides for controlling boxwood diseases in the landscape. The nematicide Vydate is registered for professional use only.

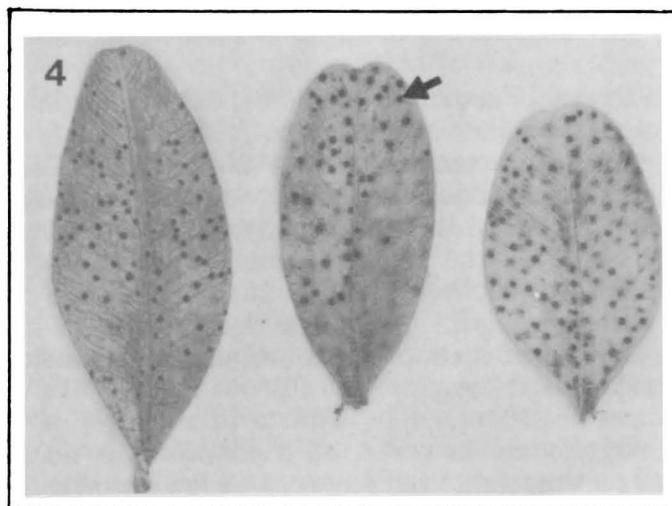


Photo: Robert Wick

Fig. 4. *Macrophoma* leaf spot of boxwood. Note pycnidia (spore producing bodies of the fungus).

2. To help prevent diseases, use recommended cultural practices. Provide water when necessary; avoid over-watering or excessive fertilizing, thin shrubs to allow better air circulation. To prevent winter injury, make sure sufficient soil moisture is available during the fall. To conserve moisture, mulch is also beneficial.
3. For plants that are declining or have blighted stems and foliage, pruning is in order. Prune dead stems back to healthy tissue. Disinfect pruning shears frequently in household bleach (diluted 1:9 with water). When the job is finished, bleach should be washed thoroughly from tools to prevent rusting. Have soil tested for nutrients and fertilize as recommended.
4. If boxwoods have died and boxwood decline disease is confirmed, do not plant English boxwood in the same site. American boxwood is resistant to decline. If *Phytophthora* root rot is confirmed, the site should be avoided for future boxwood plantings or modified to improve drainage. Fungicides are available to protect certain plants from *Phytophthora* root rot; however, they will not cure the disease.

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21 May 1983

Editor, *The Boxwood Bulletin*
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In early February of this year, central Virginia received 5 inches of wet snow, followed in a few days by an overly generous 20-inch snowfall. Although we made a small effort to brush the snow from the tops of the 3-foot *suffruticosa* bordering our entrance, the smaller plants in the nursery fields were strictly on their own. After a few days of path clearing and successive thawing and freezing, the lower sections of the larger plants looked like a disaster area.

By March, however, all *suffruticosa* seemed well on the road to full recovery. A few dozen randomly pruned twigs and branches were raked away. In mid-April, with new growth well underway, the *suffruticosa* border hedge was a thing of

beauty. As can be seen in the accompanying photograph, all of the gaps left by the big snow's random pruning had filled in quite nicely.

Our good fortune was not unique. Two local boxwood enthusiasts had complained somewhat bitterly of the snow damage they sustained. When seen in early May, however, the "badly damaged" plants could not be identified.

Comments from other Society members on their experience would be welcome. Possibly, our concern over snow and ice damage to *suffruticosa* is exaggerated, at least for properly located plants of normal vigor.

Sincerely,

William A. Gray



Photo: William A. Gray

Suffruticosa fully recovered from snow damage.

Why The ABS Meets But Once A Year

Jean Demyttenaere has not been a member of the American Boxwood Society long but she knows why we hold only one meeting each year, and she's indebted to her mother for the answer.

Each week Jean calls her 86-year old mother in Connecticut from Virginia and recounts her activities. The week after the Annual Meeting Jean told her mother all about the event and how much she had enjoyed it. "And mother," she added, "the Society holds only this one meeting each year." "Well dear," replied her mother dryly, "I suppose that's because boxwood grows so slowly."

THE SEASONAL GARDENER

Tips on Summer Care of Boxwood

Albert S. Beecher

During a hot summer our enthusiasm for gardening is often at a low ebb and it is a time when many are away from home on vacation. However, it is important during the summer months to make sure that boxwoods do not suffer from a lack of care, or from too much kindness.

Watering. Boxwoods during the summer need to be checked each week to make sure there is adequate moisture in the soil. Boxwoods require one inch of water every 7 to 10 days during the growing season from early spring until midsummer. From midsummer to freezing weather, they need this amount of water every two to three weeks. If there is no natural rainfall, water at these recommended rates.

Location of Plants in Relation to Water Needs. In addition to the weather factor the need for water will often be dictated by the location of the plants in relation to exposure and competition from nearby trees, shrubs, or ground covers. Plants in the full sun, especially if they are up against the house foundation where there is reflected heat, may need water sooner than plants less exposed to the sun. The amount of extra water required often depends on the nature of the soil as well. Sandy soils will retain soil moisture for shorter periods than clay soils.

How to Respond to Special Drought Problems. During summer droughts large boxwoods may suffer and begin to wilt and die back at the tips. Replacing the lost soil moisture will help, but this is often not possible because there may be a community restriction on the use of water or, if the water source is a well, there may not be an adequate supply for extensive irrigation. Pruning back some of the top growth to reduce the amount of foliage that the root system has to support can be beneficial and help lessen the shock plants undergo when an adequate soil moisture is not available. Also, a layer of mulch will help to preserve soil moisture during drought periods.

Thinning and Sanitation. If you were too busy during the spring to thin or pluck your boxwoods or to clean out the debris that often builds up in the center of your plants, there is still time. Do not delay much longer because early summer is better than late summer. Instructions were printed in the April 1983 issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* on page 79.

Propagation. Although boxwood can be propagated from cuttings at almost any time of the year, late summer is probably the best time. Not all

varieties will root with equal ease, however, and some definitely take longer than others. Following is a summary of steps for propagating boxwood cuttings in a container as demonstrated by Thomas Ewert at numerous boxwood workshops.

Take a "clear" plastic one-gallon milk jug for a container. Cut off the top at a height of about 6 inches, but leave the handle attached to the bottom to act as a support. With a nail puncture 3 or 4 small holes in the bottom to provide drainage. Place a one-inch layer of gravel in the container and a 3- to 4-inch layer of rooting medium on top of it. Various materials may be used for the rooting medium: sharp sand, a 50-50 mixture of sand and peat, vermiculite or perlite.

Cuttings should be 6 to 8 inches in length with leaves stripped from the bottom 2 inches of the stem. Dip the base of the cutting into a rooting hormone (optional) and insert it into the medium to a depth of 1½ to 2 inches. After all of the cuttings (about 9 per milk container is a good number) are in the medium, water well.

Fit a plastic bag upside down over the top of the container and secure it in place with a rubber band. The bag should be just large enough to provide adequate space for the cuttings, but small stakes or a form made from a coat hanger can be used to supply additional support. Set the container in a vessel to catch surplus water draining from the holes in the bottom of the container.

The covered container can then be set aside while the cuttings begin to root. Place the container in a bright location but never in the sun, for this will cause the temperature within to rise, creating an "oven" environment and killing the cuttings. Absence of moisture beads on the plastic may indicate a need for additional water. Remove the plastic cover every 3 to 4 weeks to check for adequate moisture. Water as necessary and replace the cover.

Test the cuttings for root formation by gently pulling them up from the media. Resistance indicates root development. When enough roots have formed (2 to 4 months in most cases) the new plants can be potted up and placed in a protected location to be "hardened off" for a few weeks before being planted out in a nursery. If young plants are ready at a time when the winter season is approaching, they should be given a little extra protection. Cover them with straw or leaves or keep them in a cold frame until spring.

IN MEMORY

It is with sadness that we report — very belatedly in some cases—the death of the following ABS members:

Doris Thain Frost, May 1, 1983
Isabella Tyson Gilpin, April 1, 1983
Clara S. McCarty, April 29, 1982
E. Gurley Saunders, May 7, 1982

We extend sympathy and condolences to their families and friends.

We wish to thank several members and friends for contributing to the profiles that appear on this page: Thomas Ewert (Doris Frost); John Gott (Clara McCarty); Lena Saunders (Gurley Saunders); and Nancy Talley (Isabella Gilpin). We ask our readers to send word of the death of members promptly so that we may publish a memorial notice without prolonged delay. There are some who would like to write to the family of the departed or make a memorial gift as soon as possible.

Doris Thain Frost

Doris Frost will be remembered by countless friends and admirers primarily as the “beloved Fairfax County Herb Lady.” As we all know, however, herb gardens and boxwood go hand in hand, and Doris had a deep appreciation of boxwood in all types of settings. She treasured the boxwoods that grew around her home in Great Falls, Virginia. After joining the ABS she regularly attended the Annual Meetings where her easy manner and immense horticultural knowledge attracted other members to her ever-growing circle of acquaintances.

Doris Thain was born in Waukomis, Oklahoma in 1903. She was the first child of pioneer parents who staked out a land claim in the famed Cherokee Strip rush of the late 1890s. She graduated from Oklahoma State University in the 1920s and took additional courses at the University of Chicago.

After many years as director of physical education in Birmingham, Alabama for the Tennessee Coal and Iron schools, she joined the Red Cross and served during World War II in Iceland, England, France and Germany.

Doris was a charter member of the Potomac Herb Society and for 7 years was editor of the *Potomac Herb Journal*. She was also an editor of *The Herbarist*, the publication of the Herb Society of America. She participated in the classification of plants in the 1942 edition of the *Fuchs Herbal De Historia Stirpium*. She assisted in the restoration of the herb garden at Sully Plantation, Fairfax County, Virginia and was instrumental in the creation of the National Herb Garden at the National

Arboretum (see *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 20, No. 1, July 1980, pp. 1-10).

Mrs. Frost was an official of the National Capital Area Federation of Gardens Clubs and helped to edit their *Bulletin*. She was a guide at the National Arboretum in Washington, D. C. and historian of the Great Falls Historical Society. She was also active in Ikebana International and the Nature Conservancy. We shall all miss Doris greatly.

Isabella Tyson Gilpin

Isabella Gilpin was a charter member of the America Boxwood Society and lived, so to speak, just across the road from Blandy Experimental Farm at Scaleby. She was a leader in the Winchester-Clarke Garden Club from its 1924 inception, serving as its second president and shepherding it into the Garden Club of America in 1928. She was a life member and a past vice-president of the Garden Club of Virginia. She maintained the widely admired gardens at Scaleby, graciously allowing their listing among the Garden Club of America's Visiting Gardens. She made Scaleby a social center, with benefits and parties for young and old until her final illness.

Born in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1894, Isabella Tyson was the daughter of General Lawrence B. Tyson, U. S. Senator from Tennessee, and Mrs. Tyson. She graduated from the Spence School in New York. After her marriage to Kenneth N. Gilpin, a prominent thoroughbred breeder who also served in the Virginia State Legislature, Mrs. Gilpin moved to Boyce, Virginia in 1918 where the force and magnetism of her personality left its mark on the community.

Mrs. Gilpin was a civic and philanthropic leader. She was the principal founder of the Powhatan Elementary School in Boyce and a long-time supporter of the Millwood Improvement Association. She donated the building for the Millwood Recreation Center. Millwood's only public water supply for many years was drawn from a well she gave to the village.

Well-read in the classics, Mrs. Gilpin was also widely-travelled, keen-minded, witty and tactful. Her flower arrangements—those at Scaleby and those sent to friends—were works of art. But perhaps she inspired most strongly through her reaction to the debilitating arthritis that struck in her early fifties; determined to lead a normal life, she built an indoor exercise pool, purchased a golf cart for the garden, and made steel crutches an adjunct of grace. Mrs. Gilpin will remain a legend and an inspiration to those who had the good fortune of knowing her during her long and useful life.

Clara McCarty of "Waverley," Delaplane, Virginia, will be remembered as long as there are boxwood lovers to read her classic, *The Story of Boxwood*, published first in book form in 1950 and then in serial form in *The Boxwood Bulletin* in 1964. Mrs. McCarty was a Charter Member and also an Honorary Life Member of the ABS. We can think of no higher tribute than to recommend to all of our members that they read her scholarly treatise on the history of boxwood: its origin, varieties, uses and propagation. It is at once entertaining, instructive and poetic.

Clara Stover was born in 1884 at Broad Run, Loudoun County, Virginia, the daughter of Robert and Ella Carrington Stover. She married James Benjamin McCarty and they moved to "Waverley" around 1915. After her husband died, Mrs. McCarty continued to live at "Waverley" where she wrote three books: *The Story of Boxwood*, *The McCartys of Virginia*, and, in 1974, *The Foothills of the Blue Ridge in Fauquier County, Virginia*.

Some measure of Clara McCarty's inquiring intellect and creativity can perhaps be best conveyed by quoting tributes that were paid to her:

"Modest and unassuming, Clara S. McCarty ... now lives alone at "Waverley," ... her home for nearly fifty years. During this time her days have been filled with diversified and absorbing interests. Most rewarding has been the outward and onward reach experienced by the propagation and growing of box from some old plants there, over one hundred years of age. This new generation, in the fullness of time, now adds to the beauty of her own landscape, while many have gone far and wide beyond the bounds of their rootage. Tangible evidence of this fulfillment of endeavor is treasured in the comment of a friend some years ago: 'You have written your name all over the place.'" (1964)

"Today the idea of a one-room school appears archaic and quaint. Those of her pupils attending the funeral service ... for Clara Stover McCarty were reminded of the enormous collective debt we owe her for the dedication to her profession ... Her enthusiasm for poetry, literature and history was always stimulating and infectious ... Her knowledge and skill in landscaping, botany and architecture transformed areas of her community enough to cause an admirer to declare "she has certainly put her stamp on this neighborhood." Mrs. McCarty, sometimes following little known byways, compiled anthologies on subjects as diverse as local history, boxwood, family genealogy and dueling, to the interest and delight of her readers. Recent years brought a dimming of the senses but her formidable intellect continued to light some sort of internal roadway almost to the end." (1982)

We met Gurley Saunders and his wife, Lena, on the first ABS tour to Philadelphia in 1978. And again we encountered them on the second tour of the Washington, D. C. Area in 1979. You could count on seeing Gurley at the Annual Meeting as well. His enthusiasm for boxwood and the American Boxwood Society seemed to know no bounds. We were won by his friendliness and generosity in presenting us and others with potted boxwoods that he had rooted from cuttings. We missed seeing him at the 1982 Annual Meeting and only learned at this Annual Meeting of his death a year earlier.

Mrs. Saunders writes that some years ago Gurley saw a notice of the ABS Annual Meeting in the *Richmond News Leader*. "Thereupon he joined, bringing the same enthusiasms he had for all his interests and hobbies. He enjoyed rooting and potting boxwoods, and to have room for more he was constantly giving them to friends and acquaintances." Well done, Gurley. We salute you for your dedication to the propagation and distribution of boxwood. And welcome, Mrs. Saunders, to membership in the American Boxwood Society.

Plant Exchange Planned at 24th Annual Meeting

A new activity will be inaugurated at the 24th Annual Meeting on May 9, 1984. Members are asked to bring rooted cuttings of their favorite, most unusual, most attractive or most vigorous boxwood for exchange with other participants. Plants should be labelled with the proper name, including cultivar name, if possible. This exchange may unveil new sources of some of the less available boxwoods. So while it is still summer, start a generous supply of cuttings to trade with other members next May. Instructions on a recommended method of rooting boxwood cuttings are given on Page 29.

Question and Answer

Q. How can I use herbicides to control weeds in the joints of a brick walk laid in sand without injuring boxwoods that are planted adjacent to the walk?

A. If possible, avoid using herbicides near boxwoods, but if you do apply one to a brick walk edged with box be careful to avoid any runoff or spray drift. Do not use a pressure sprayer, but rather a sprinkling can where the majority of the holes have been covered so that only a small amount of the liquid herbicide will reach the weed or grass foliage. If this procedure is followed there should be no spray drift or runoff to affect the boxwoods.

NOTICES

BOXWOOD WORKDAY AT BLANDY

Wednesday, September 21

In addition to the ABS Memorial Garden, which contains more than 70 specimen boxwood plants, there are several hundred boxwoods growing on the grounds of the Blandy Experimental Farm. Some of the older ones need badly to be pruned and cleared around. It was suggested at the Annual Meeting that a day be set when ABS members could come and contribute a helping hand. The day appointed is Wednesday, September 21, 1983 and the hours are 9:30 to 3:00.

We believe that this will be a great chance to learn, under Tom Ewert's supervision, more about caring for boxwood, to make new friends, and enjoy a day in the sun (rain date is September 28 just in case). Bring a picnic lunch; a beverage will be provided. Also be sure to bring along your gloves and pruning shears, and to wear something comfortable.

To help Tom prepare for the project please drop him a note if you plan to attend and send it to the American Boxwood Society, P. O. Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620. For more information, call (703) 837-1758.

Membership Drive

Membership Chairman Harrison Symmes reported to the Annual Meeting that advertising and direct mail methods used by larger organizations are not practicable—and are also too expensive—for the Society to use in trying to gain new members. Furthermore, the results of advertising in a national garden magazine were quite disappointing last year. He suggested that the best way for the Society to obtain new members would be for each present member to undertake to sign up five new persons among his or her gardening acquaintances.

President Mahone strongly endorsed this suggestion. He reminded those present that the Society had been established by a small group of persons each of whom had gone out and succeeded in interesting many more than five other persons to join the Society. We now need to do the same thing to build up the membership from its present low base.

An application envelope is not necessary for joining, although envelopes are available on request. All a new member need do is to send in a check with his complete home address. Information on the various categories of membership and the Society's mailing address are printed on the inside back cover of the *Bulletin*.

Candidates for Office Sought

The ABS elects five Officers and eight Directors to carry out its charter, as contained in the Constitution. A Directory of the present incumbents is printed on the back of this issue of the *Bulletin*. Officers serve for a term of one year and Directors, for a term of three years on a rotating schedule. Each year, positions are filled at the Annual Meeting by vote of the membership present. These members normally approve the slate recommended by a Nominating Committee of three members, but nominations may also be made from the floor.

The 1983 Nominating Chairman, Harrison Symmes, has recommended that a list of eligible and willing candidates for office be drawn up to facilitate the work of the Nominating Committee each year when they prepare a slate. Such a list would enable the Committee to select members who have indicated a willingness to serve and are qualified for office. Except for the Executive Treasurer, Officers and Directors serve without remuneration. They must be prepared to devote time, thought and effort to performing their duties. Also, they should be willing and able to attend such meetings as require their presence.

If you have an interest in serving the Society as an Officer or Director, we ask that you submit your name to President Richard D. Mahone so that he may compile a roster of candidates. Please include a brief resume of the qualifications—including time, interest and experience—that you think would be useful to the Nominating Committee in their selection process.

Status of Indexing Project

Indexing of the *Boxwood Bulletin* for the period of January 1973 through April 1983 got under way at the end of May as letters of instructions were sent to nine volunteers. Because of illness two of these have had to withdraw from the project, leaving us four indexers short of the required number.

We are now looking for volunteers to index the following volumes: Volume 12 (January and April 1973 only); Volume 15 (July 1975-April 1976); Volume 18 (July 1978-April 1979); and Volume 21 (July 1981-April 1982). We do not ask any one person to index more than one volume (4 issues) of the *Bulletin*; it is a job that can be done right in your own home if you have the necessary issues on hand. So please, if you have any interest in this work write at once to Mr. Scot Butler, Chairman, The Bulletin Committee, P. O. Box 190, Bluemont, Virginia 22012.

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

INFORMATION

Address: Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Regular membership dues of The American Boxwood Society are now \$10.00. This includes a subscription to *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

Non-member subscriptions are for groups and institutions such as botanic gardens, libraries, etc. They are \$10.00 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 \$2.50.

Besides regular membership dues at \$10.00 per year, there are other classes of membership available:

Category	Annual Dues
Individual	\$10
Family	15
Contributing	25
Sustaining	50
Life	250
Patron	500 or more
Institutional subscriber	10

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.

If your letter is concerned with

Membership, new or renewal

Payment of dues

Donations to research programs

Change of address

Gift Membership

Ordering back issues of the Bulletin

Ordering Dr. Wagenknecht's List

General information about the Society

Advice concerning boxwood problems or cultural information

Boxwood selection

Memorial Gifts

Write to:

American Boxwood Society

Box 85

Boyce, Virginia 22620

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 directly to the President of the American Boxwood Society:

Mr. Richard D. Mahone
P. O. Box 751
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

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

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