

July 1985

The

Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



Photo: Lynn R. Batdorf

Specimen plants of the newly-registered cultivar Buxus sempervirens 'Graham Blandy'. (See Page 8.)

Edited under the Direction of

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

President Mr. Richard D. Mahone
1st Vice President Mrs. Robert L. Frackleton
2nd Vice President Mrs. Malcolm Holekamp
Secretary Mrs. Phillip D. Larson
Executive Treasurer Mrs. Katherine D. Ward

The Boxwood Bulletin

July 1985

Vol. 25, No. 1

DIRECTORS

Table with 3 columns: Name, Term Began, Term Ends. Includes Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, Prof. Albert S. Beecher, Prof. James A. Faiszt, Dr. Walter S. Flory, Mr. William A. Gray, Cdr. Phillip D. Larson, Mr. William N. Mays, Mrs. James M. Sykes.

Registrar: Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf
1409 Elm Grove Circle
Silver Spring, MD 20904

The Editor solicits and will welcome contributions of articles; news; notes; photographs, suitable for reproduction, of boxwood specimens, gardens, and plantings; and other items of probable interest to readers.

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Photo: Scot Butler

Southeast entrance to the ABS Boxwood Memorial Garden accessible from The Quarters. Note topiary boxwood on left at foot of steps.

Report on the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society

May 7-8, 1985

Following hard on the heels of the Sixth ABS Garden Tour, May 3-5, 1985 (see Page 23) this year's Annual Meeting caught many of the tour group before they had a chance to rest up. The Meeting also enjoyed the same stretch of beautiful weather as the tour, but there the similarities ended. The Annual Meeting is always a time for giving serious attention to the Society's business matters, examining the Blandy boxwood collection and gleaning bits of knowledge about boxwood from our guest speakers. This year's Meeting had two bonuses that added to the variety and enjoyment of the program: a boxwood auction and a post-meeting tour to a fine private boxwood garden.

Opening the program for some 30 early-comers on Tuesday was a walk through a Japanese garden containing boxwood. The walk involved no effort on the part of the audience since it was a screen projection. Guiding us through the garden was Mary Holekamp,

our ABS Second Vice President, who came from St. Louis to make the presentation. The beauty of the garden (which occupies 14 acres of the Missouri Botanical Garden) and the color slides as well as the excellent narration combined to make the walk an unforgettable venture into another world. Even without the visual and aural dimensions of the presentation and even with the text condensed, the unique quality of the walk can be experienced by reading "A Japanese Garden with Boxwood" in our next issue. Following Mrs. Holekamp's lecture, President Mahone read a letter he had received from Dr. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, inviting the ABS to meet in St. Louis in 1986 or 1987. (See Page 5). Refreshments were then served in the Blandy dining room.

The registration tables were manned by 9 a.m. on the sunny Wednesday morning of the meeting to check off those who had sent in

their registrations and to register those who had not. There was a bustle of activity as some members started bringing in containerized boxwood plants for the auction. Old members greeted one another and engaged in easy conversation on the verandah or in the courtyard of the Quarters. New members and guests were welcomed and given name tags.

At 9:30 Joan Butler led all who wanted to go on a tour through the ABS Boxwood Memorial Garden, which contains over 80 different cultivars of boxwood plants. She pointed out the characteristics that differentiate the *sempervirens* species from the *microphylla* species and one cultivar from another within the species. Tour members expressed delight with what they had seen and learned.



Photo: Scot Butler

Buxus microphylla 'John Baldwin' in the ABS Boxwood Memorial Garden.

Meanwhile some members elected to take a newly-designed self-guided tour of the Orland E. White Arboretum at Blandy Farm, which involves a bit more walking than does the Memorial Garden. They also were enthusiastic about their tour.

At 10:00 a.m. coffee, tea and pastries were offered in the dining room to an appreciative



Photo: Scot Butler

This Korean dogwood (Cornus kousa), adjacent to The Quarters, marks the start of a new self-guided tour of Blandy Farm.



Photo: Scot Butler

Mary Gamble photographs some of the Edgar Anderson Balkan boxwoods growing at Blandy Farm's "Pea Hill".

membership. Promptly at 11 a.m. the business session of the Annual Meeting was called to order by ABS President Richard D. Mahone. The proceedings of this session are covered in the minutes on Page 9. A brief meeting of the newly-constituted Board (see minutes on Page 11) was called at the conclusion of the business session, which adjourned at noon.



*Photo: Robert L. Frackleton
Members confer on lawn during lunch recess.*

Following the luncheon hour, which featured the best box lunch it has ever been our pleasure to taste, the educational portion of the program began at 1:15 p.m. The first speaker was Mr. Proctor S. Harvey, a landscape architect with operations centered in Lynchburg.

Mr. Harvey, who earned a Bachelor's degree from Roanoke College and a Master's degree from the University of Virginia and is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, spoke on "The Use and Design of Gardens in Virginia," with reference to residential design. From his experiences as a landscape architect he offered the following advice:

1. The designing of a garden requires long-term thought.

2. Have a plan in mind; do not buy the plants first.

3. Be sure to place plants in the right location for good culture.

4. Learn about the eventual size that plants will attain.

5. Take account of the "architecture" (shape, form) of plants. English box, a low maintenance plant, can be used in informal groupings of large and small plants.

6. Consider the texture of the foliage in relationship to the overall size of the plant (e.g., boxwood leaf is fine, azalea leaf is medium, magnolia leaf is coarse).

7. Make sure that the color of the plants harmonizes and flows with other plants and with structures.

8. Consider the appearance of a plant when it is not in bloom.

Mr. Harvey sketched on a blackboard his ideas for landscaping a residential lot. These included the grouping of plantings to complement the house, with canopy trees at the corners. He compared the effect of weeping trees with upright trees. He showed how to create "outdoor rooms" for different uses in the yard: formal, play, garden and utility areas. He advised creating natural areas around trees by edging, mulching and then planting ornamentals. He suggested ways of removing grass and weeds from these areas and described a new "landscape fabric" under development that lets in water, air and nutrients but keeps down grass and weeds. Mr. Harvey recommended mulching to a depth of 2 to 3 inches and waiting until after it rains to weed. Don't, he said, buy fresh pulp for mulch. Use of curvilinear borders aids formal design. When creating plant beds, organize your space. When planting a screen, stagger the plants and place them in groups.

ABS Director Will Mays, manager of Sunnyside Boxwood Farm in Amherst, Virginia, concluded the educational program with "Tips on Transplanting Boxwood."

He introduced his subject by presenting some background material on the operation of the boxwood plantation at Sunnyside Farm beginning in 1928. When he took over the management of the Farm in 1973 he moved more than 900 boxwood plants ranging in height from 30 to 36 inches, so that he could get equipment between the rows. Just recently he moved 50 large dwarf boxwoods, about 3 feet in size, from Alexandria to Amherst. To dig a boxwood one should have on hand burlap, nails, a metal-handled shovel, a regular shovel, a crowbar and woven wire. Wrap burlap around the foliage. Dig a circle around the box bush at the drip line, going down about 15 inches. Place and tighten the wire around the ball. Pry up the edges of the ball with the crowbar. Move the plant in November for best results.

Boxwoods need protection against some unexpected sources of damage. Fleas on dogs often cause the dogs to rub against boxwood plants. Prevent this, if possible. When painters or roofers work near boxwoods, the plants should be covered, but not with plastic, which can cause severe scorching of foliage. Keep the

exhaust fumes of motors away from boxwood plants. Keep ground covers, such as ivy, back from the foliage line of boxwoods. Provide good drainage and do not overmulch. In winter boxwood plants sometimes split apart. Place dirt in the split to keep out air, wrap the bush with wire cloth and pull the plant together. Dwarf box when planted in full sun needs to have many branches broken out. To clean out the interior of the plant, break out a small section near the base, reach in and remove debris.

The educational program completed, the Meeting moved outside for a truly rousing event, the auctioning off of some 50 named boxwood plants to benefit the American Boxwood Society. A separate report by President Mahone on this innovative method of broadening members' interest in the range of boxwoods available for their gardens and at the same time raising funds for boxwood research or publications is printed on Page 6.

To conclude the Annual Meeting Mrs. Becky McCoy had arranged for members of the Society to visit the boxwood garden of Mr. and Mrs. Conroy Wilson, whose home overlooks the Shenandoah River and the Blue Ridge Mountains. In this spectacular setting it was not surprising to find spectacular plantings of boxwood. Mr. Wilson said that some of the plants had been moved years before from a nearby property after fire had destroyed the residence. All have now reached a mature size and look as though they had been there since time immemorial. The accompanying photographs show the beautiful condition of the boxwood and the artful arrangement in which they are planted. The formal garden is a peaceful spot with just the right amount of sun filtering through the trees. On behalf of the



Photos: Scot Butler

Boxwood plantings at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Conroy Wilson. Above: Formal boxwood garden laid out in parterres. Below: Curvilinear border combining common box and dwarf box.

American Boxwood Society we thank the Wilsons most sincerely for opening their beautiful grounds for our enjoyment.

We also take this opportunity to thank all who participated in making our Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting such a memorable one.

List of Registrants Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting

Mrs. Jeanne F. Baden
Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf
Mr. and Mrs. Albert S. Beecher
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boyd, Jr.
Mrs. M. V. Braimbridge
Mrs. Timothy Bryan
Mrs. George W. Burton
Mr. and Mrs. Scot Butler
Dr. and Mrs. W. Dommick Buxton

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Cepregy
Mrs. Edward Chamberlin
Mrs. Ruby P. Chism
Mr. William J. Chism

Mr. and Mrs. J. Blackwell Davis
Mrs. Graham Dougherty, Jr.

Mr. Thomas E. Ewert

Dr. Walter S. Flory
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton

Mr. James Gallagher
Mr. and Mrs. D. Goodrich Gamble
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gossom
Mr. Wilburn B. Graves
Mr. William A. Gray

Mrs. John J. Haggerty
Mrs. George Harnsberger
Dr. Charles U. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hart
Mr. and Mrs. Proctor S. Harvey
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hathaway, III
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Holekamp

Mr. Thomas F. Knox

Mr. and Mrs. David Lanser
Cdr. and Mrs. P. D. Larson

Mr. Richard D. Mahone
Mr. William N. Mays
Mrs. T. Haliburton McCoy
Dr. Graham Morrison

Mrs. B. C. Pearce
Mr. Robert A. Penney
Miss Jacqueline Phillips

Capt. and Mrs. Carl R. Quanstrom

Mrs. Antone Rodgers

Mrs. William C. Seipp
Capt. W. J. Sheehan
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Showalter
Mr. and Mrs. Howard C. Smith
Mrs. Frederick Sturm
Dr. and Mrs. George S. Switzer
Mr. Harrison Symmes
Mr. Eugene C. Sytsma

Mr. Dale T. Taylor

Mrs. Katherine Ward
Dr. and Mrs. John Washington

Mr. Steve Zapton



In Memory

Alice (Mrs. Clay B.) Carr,
Charter Member
ABS Secretary, 1961-62
ABS Secretary-Treasurer, 1963-67

E. Sam Hemming

Correspondence:

An Invitation to the ABS

Missouri Botanical Garden

April 25, 1985

Mr. Richard D. Mahone
President
The American Boxwood Society
P. O. Box 751
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Dear Mr. Mahone:

We at the Missouri Botanical Garden would like to invite you and the members of the American Boxwood Society to hold your next meeting in St. Louis at the Missouri Botanical Garden in 1986. Should that not prove to be possible, I hope you will consider the possibility for 1987.

As you are aware, we have a very active and enthusiastic Boxwood Society here in St. Louis, and I know that you all would enjoy being here with us and seeing the results of our efforts. I hope that you will find it possible to accept this invitation, and I look forward to hearing from you about it in due course.

With good wishes to you, I am

Yours sincerely,

Peter H. Raven
Director

Boxwood Auction Earns ABS Over \$560



Boxwood auction commands rapt attention.

Photo: Scot Butler

Richard D. Mahone

A highlight of the 25th Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society was the boxwood auction held in the courtyard of the Quarters at Blandy Experimental Farm. Thanks to the generous donation of some 50 plants by 7 members of the Society and a Nursery in Canada, a large selection of 36 different cultivars was available for auctioning. (See below.) The bidding was extremely brisk, all plants were auctioned off, and the Society benefitted by \$564.50. I would like to recognize and thank the donors (see names below), the bidders, and our able auctioneering team of John Boyd and Harrison Symmes, who kindly "volunteered" their talents to make this first auction a success. Thank you for a job well done, John and Harry.

In all, about 50 persons participated in the bidding and about half of those were successful buyers. Because of the interest it generated in different varieties and cultivars of boxwood I would hope that auctions could become annual events, perhaps with greater emphasis on larger-sized plants and those that are more cold tolerant so that members could have broader *Buxus* collections to enjoy and share.

Now for some interesting statistics. I had hoped at most for 25 different cultivars to coincide with our 25th Annual Meeting. Actually we ended up with 25 cultivars of *B. sempervirens* alone. Plant sizes ranged from rooted cuttings in 3-inch pots to a pair of 24-inch balled and burlapped *Buxus* s. 'Memorial' donated by Bill Gray, and successful bids ranged from \$3 to \$40 with an average of \$10.20 per plant. A few of the *sempervirens* plants that brought some of the higher bids were: 'Aristocrat', 'Vardar Valley', 'Yorktown', 'Columnaris' and 'Memorial'. Among the *Buxus microphylla* plants that were sought after were 'Tide Hill', 'Helen Whiting' and 'John Baldwin'. The three donations from the Sheridan Nurseries in Ontario, Canada—'Green Gem', 'Green Velvet' and 'Green Mountain'—also proved popular, probably in part because of their cold tolerance. The largest buyers were the Joseph W. Showalters of Port Republic, Maryland; we thank them for their generosity.

The idea of a boxwood auction was first suggested, as I recall, two years ago by the late John and Juanita Dorsey. In addition to being enthusiastic members of the ABS—and we will

long remember their many contributions to our North Carolina tour in April 1984—they also belonged to several other horticultural societies, some of which held successful plant auctions. So we would like to honor the memory of the Dorseys here by acknowledging their seminal role in this and future ABS box-wood auctions.

Cultivars Donated to ABS Auction

Donors: Lynn R. Batdorf, John W. Boyd, Joan Butler, William A. Gray, Richard D. Mahone, George S. Switzer, Sheridan Nurseries.

Buxus Harlandii

Buxus microphylla:

- var. *compacta* 'Curly Locks'
- compacta* 'Helen Whiting'
- var. *japonica*
'John Baldwin'
- var. *koreana*
 koreana 'Tall Boy'
- koreana* 'Tide Hill'
- 'Sinica'

Buxus sempervirens:

- 'Aristocrat'
- 'Aurea'
- 'Aurea-Marginata'
- 'Belleville'
- 'Bullata'
- 'Cliffside'
- 'Columnaris'
- 'Denmark'
- 'Elegantissima'
- 'Handsworthii'
- 'Herman von Schrenk'
- 'Inglis'
- 'Joy'
- 'Maculata'
- 'Memorial'
- 'Myrtifolia'
- 'Prostrata'
- 'Pyramidalis'
- 'Pullman'
- 'Salicifolia'
- 'Salicifolia Elata'
- var. *suffruticosa*
'Vardar Valley'
- 'Varifolia'
- 'Yorktown'

Buxus hybrids

- 'Green Gem'
- 'Green Mountain'
- 'Green Velvet'



*Photo: Estellita Hart
Auctioneers John Boyd and Harrison Symmes tally the results.*

New Boxwood Cultivar Registered

Buxus sempervirens 'Graham Blandy'.
Registered by Mr. Thomas Ewert, Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm of the University of Virginia, Boyce, Virginia.

Description: Leaves medium green, elliptic-ovate with obtuse tips, measuring 2.3 cm. in length and 1.4 cm. in width. Leaves are decussate and semi-appressed. Branches are erect, long and straight. There is a single, straight, strong vertical main stem. Habit is strictly columnar having parallel sides up the entire height of the plant. The mature height on 35-year-old specimens is 3 m., the width is seldom over .3m.

Herbarium specimens have been made and deposited at the U.S. National Arboretum and Cornell University herbariums.

NOTE: *Buxus sempervirens* 'Graham Blandy', previously known as B.E.F. no. 35, was "with hesitation" assigned to "variety *fastigiata* of *B. Sempervirens*" by Dr. J. T. Baldwin in 1969 (see *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 8, No. 4, April 1969, pages 63-64). Because this varietal designation has never been confirmed nor registered and because it is easily confused with the registered cultivar name *B.s.* 'Fastigiata', the varietal designation is hereby declared invalid.

Lynn Batdorf, Registrar



Photo: Lynn R. Batdorf
Branchlet of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Graham Blandy'.



Photo: Lynn R. Batdorf
Leaves of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Graham Blandy'.

Front cover: The row of five plants, *B.s.* 'Graham Blandy', pictured on the front cover are growing at the U.S. National Arboretum. They are 14 years old and measure approximately 6 feet in height and 10 inches in diameter. The vertical habit of growth of this cultivar makes it a distinctive ornamental. These five plants were grown from cuttings taken from a B.E.F. 35 that had been acquired from the Blandy Experimental Farm. The registered name honors Graham Furber Blandy who in 1926 bequeathed to the University of Virginia over 700 acres of his property to create an experimental farm for teaching boys farming.

Minutes of the Business Session of the ABS Annual Meeting

May 8, 1985

President Richard D. Mahone called the business session of the 25th Annual Meeting to order at 11 a.m. in the Blandy Library. All Officers and Directors were present with the exception of Professor James A. Faiszt. In all there were 74 registrants for the Meeting, of whom 66 attended. Among those present were six charter members. The President welcomed members and guests, especially those who had come from London, Lisbon and distant points in the United States. He thanked all who had a hand in preparing for the meeting.

A motion was passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting, which were published in the July 1984 issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

Executive Treasurer Mrs. Katherine D. Ward presented her report for the period from May 7, 1984 to May 7, 1985, showing receipts of \$11,455.39, disbursements of \$11,336.89 and assets totaling \$16,343.77 (The itemized report follows these minutes.) Of the receipts, \$1,937.50 were gifts and donations designated as follows: Handbook \$1,247.50; Memorial Garden \$210.00; Research \$480.00.

The President then called for committee reports.

Mr. Ewert reported that the boxwood in the Memorial Garden survived the winter well in spite of the damaging weather. The plants are being mulched and sprayed, and weeding is being performed. Some of the plants are getting too large for the space in which they are growing. A number of additional labels are being ordered for new plants and a few to replace incorrect labels. All labels need to be fastened more securely to their stakes. There are now 84 cultivars in the Memorial Garden.

The appended Research Committee Report was read by Chairman William Gray. He explained the financial grants for the three external research projects described in the report and also in various articles that have appeared in recent issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. The newest project, a VPI & SU study aimed at developing biological controls to combat *Phytophthora* root rot, represents a new control approach.

Mrs. Robert Frackelton presented an oral report on the Society's membership. There are now 705 members, of whom 67 are life members and 41 are charter members. There are 25 complimentary memberships. Mrs. Frackelton reported that the Society has gained 77 new members since the last Annual Meeting. She surmised that an article in the October 1984 issue of *Country* magazine stimulated a number of people to join.

President Mahone, reporting for Professor Faiszt, said that boxwood workshops at Stratford Hall and in Tidewater Virginia are still being planned. Information should be available soon.

Bulletin Editor Scot Butler thanked members Beecher, Gamble and Gray for their recent contributions and called on other members to write articles reporting their boxwood experience based on records. He said that by next year the 25-year index of *The Boxwood Bulletin* should be in print. Volunteer efforts by several ABS members had been passed on to Mr. Batdorf who has undertaken to incorporate the indexes for the first 12 years of the *Bulletin* with the indexes now in preparation. Thus, the 25-year index will be a composite one that should be extremely useful to everyone interested in boxwood. President Mahone underscored the Editor's request for members to prepare articles for the *Bulletin*.

President Mahone announced the appointment of ABS Director Lynn Batdorf to be the Society's Registrar, replacing Dr. Bernice Speese who recently submitted her resignation after many years of valuable service in that capacity. Several members rose to speak on the contributions Dr. Speese had made to the achievement of the Society's purposes over the years. Mr. Symmes offered a resolution expressing the Society's appreciation of Dr. Speese's services and the resolution was unanimously adopted. Mr. Batdorf announced that there are now 127 boxwood cultivars in the boxwood collection at the U.S. National Arboretum and announced his plans to prepare a monograph on the genus *Buxus*.

President Mahone reported that the Society has been in correspondence with foreign institutions and individuals receiving complimentary copies of the *Bulletin*. They were requested to respond to a questionnaire asking them to tell how they use the *Bulletin*. They were also asked to prepare articles for publication in the *Bulletin* about boxwood in their countries.

Professor Beecher was asked to report on *The Buyer's Guide for Boxwood* which he has prepared to provide information on sources of boxwood plants. He displayed a copy of the *Guide* and said that it will be sold for \$3. He requested members to report any additional sources he had not included in the *Guide*, which contains a list of 257 nurseries. Some states are not represented at all in the *Guide* and the availability of plants at the nurseries listed is not always certain. Professor Beecher said that *The Boxwood Handbook* has made considerable progress toward publication. He hopes to have it in the hands of the printer by early autumn. President Mahone praised Professor Beecher's efforts in producing these two important publications for the Society.

Mrs. Frackelton spoke about the ABS tours, which have proven so popular. On the most recent tour of the Eastern Shore of Maryland there were 45 people (the capacity of the bus was 41) and some people had to be turned away. Members have asked that tours be organized for the Charlottesville and Richmond areas. She noted that the Society has had an invitation to make a tour to St. Louis, and even to hold an annual meeting in St. Louis as guests of the Boxwood Society of the Midwest. The Board has the invitation under consideration. In response to the President's question, members at the meeting were almost unanimous in expressing interest in going to a meeting in St. Louis.

The President thanked the Officers and Directors for their help during the past year. He also thanked Sarah Burton and Becky McCoy for their help in arranging the luncheon for the Annual Meeting, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Frackelton for providing computer help for the Society's membership records.

Under new business, President Mahone commented on previous suggestions for a plant exchange or plant auction. This year some 50 plants had been contributed by members for a plant auction to be held in the afternoon follow-

ing the educational program (see Page 6 for a report on this auction).

Mr. William N. Mays, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of nominees to serve in the coming year:

Officers elected for a term of one year:

President — Mr. Richard D. Mahone

First Vice President — Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton

Second Vice President — Mrs. Malcolm L. Holekamp

Secretary — Mrs. P. D. Larson

Executive Treasurer — Mrs. Katherine D. Ward

Directors elected for a term of three years:

Professor Albert S. Beecher

Commander P. D. Larson

Mrs. James M. Sykes

Following a motion from the floor the Nominating Committee's slate was unanimously elected. The President asked the new Board to meet with him for a few minutes before lunch to elect an Executive Committee.

The business session was adjourned promptly at noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Harrison Symmes, Secretary

Treasurer's Report, Annual Meeting
May 8, 1985

Checking account balance, May 7, 1984	\$ 4,237.53
Receipts:	
Membership dues	7,850.00
Gifts and donations	1,937.50
Sale of <i>Boxwood Bulletins</i>	336.50
Interest income, checking	232.33
Registration, Annual Meeting	362.00
Secretary's Fund	31.03
Workshop, May 24, 1984	589.00
Spring Tour — Raleigh, NC	117.03
Total Receipts	\$ 11,455.39
Disbursements:	
Annual Meeting, May 9, 1984	450.19
James W. Hendrix (Speaker)	212.20
Research	2,000.00
Printing	6,714.72
Safe deposit box rent	15.00
Telephone	48.03
Postage	557.60
Treasurer's salary	1,049.00
Board meetings	153.84
Richard D. Mahone expenses	93.53
Lynn Batdorf (pictures)	42.78
Total Disbursements	\$ 11,336.89

Checking Account balance, May 7, 1985	\$ 4,356.03
Certificate of deposit	8,283.44
Savings account balance	3,704.30
Total assets	\$ 16,343.77

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine D. Ward,
Executive Treasurer

Research Committee Report
Annual Meeting, May 8, 1985

1. The Society now provides financial grants at \$500 per year each to three external research projects. In all cases, this funding is, of course, only a small part of the total research cost, but does result in very effective leverage.

2. The field research project at the Virginia Beach Truck and Ornamentals Research Station, initiated in July 1982, has included studies of chemical controls for leaf-miners, *Phytophthora* root rot, and plant growth, as well as propagation techniques. A staff soil scientist plans to work extensively with boxwood, and is starting research on fertilization methods. Two scientific papers by Dr. Tom Banko are in preparation; these will be edited for use as *Bulletin* material.

3. A study on mycorrhizal fungi in boxwood, under the direction of Dr. James Hendrix at the University of Kentucky, has been reported in detail in *The Bulletin*. This program, initiated in May 1984, has reached the stage of experiments with inoculated clean young *suffruticosa* plants, and is now going at full flow. A second phase will require the acquisition of problem plant and soil samples.

4. The newest ABS-sponsored research task, authorized by the Board of Directors at the March 1985 meeting, is underway at VPI & SU and is being carried on by Dr. W. H. Wills and Ms. Melinda Gates. This innovative project is aimed at developing potential biological control techniques against the *Phytophthora* pathogen on American boxwood. A number of soil microflora that inhibit growth of *Phytophthora* fungi have been isolated; greenhouse experiments on container plants are beginning, employing combinations of these micro-organisms in selected organic carriers. We wish to thank Paul Saunders, of Saunders Orchard and Nursery, who donated 100 container plants for this project.

5. Research grants by the Society are made possible by members' contributions. The Research Committee wishes to thank all contributors, and to suggest that future contributions will be most welcome.

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board
of Directors at the Annual
Meeting**

May 8, 1985

A brief meeting of the ABS Board was held during the luncheon recess of the Annual Meeting on May 8, 1985 at the Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia.

President Mahone asked for two nominations to the Executive Committee. Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton and Commander P. D. Larson were nominated. They accepted the nomination and were unanimously elected.

The Executive Committee, in keeping with the Constitution, was asked to name a nominating committee for the coming year. Mrs. George W. Burton, Mr. William N. Mays and Captain William J. Sheehan were appointed, with Mr. Mays designated to serve as chairman.

Eleven members were present at the meeting, which was adjourned in time for the Board to enjoy the delicious luncheon that was being served.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Larson, Secretary

**Please plan to attend
the 1986 Annual Meeting
when the American Boxwood
Society will mark its
25th Anniversary**

Colonization of Boxwood by Mycorrhizal Fungi

James W. Hendrix and Janet R. Finley
Department of Plant Pathology, University of Kentucky

(*Acknowledgment:* This research was supported by a grant from the American Boxwood Society. The authors wish to thank Mr. Richard D. Mahone, Director of Horticulture, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, for his assistance in obtaining the soil and root samples. This is Paper no. 85-11-40 of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station.)

It has not been established heretofore whether or not boxwood forms mycorrhizae (feeder roots) with one of several types of fungi. It has been assumed that if it does it would, because of the taxonomic position of *Buxus*, be colonized by endogonaceous mycorrhizal fungi (1). We can now report here the detection of endogonaceous colonization structures within feeder roots of *Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa* (dwarf or so-called English boxwood).

The planting sampled was a beautiful, healthy hedge located on the slope at the north end of the terrace above the canal near the Governor's Palace at Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia. The planting was over 100 years old, and was about ten feet high. In May 1984 soil samples containing fine roots were taken with a sampling tube under the plants to avoid roots of grass and other mycorrhizal plants. These fine roots were removed from the soil, cleared by a procedure developed for heavily-pigmented roots (2), and stained with trypan blue, which has affinity for fungal but not plant structures. The roots were squashed before photography, which caused some distortion of root structure.

Some root segments were heavily colonized with structures which appear to be endogonaceous vesicles (Fig. 1). The numerous dark structures are fungal, and the unstained structures, most noticeable across the bottom of the root, are root cells of about the same size. While an external hypha appears to be present on the top of the root, internal hyphae are not clearly visible in this root. However, much of the background staining is probably due to the presence of endogonaceous fungi (compare mycorrhizal and nonmycorrhizal roots in ref. 1). The presence of phycomycetous

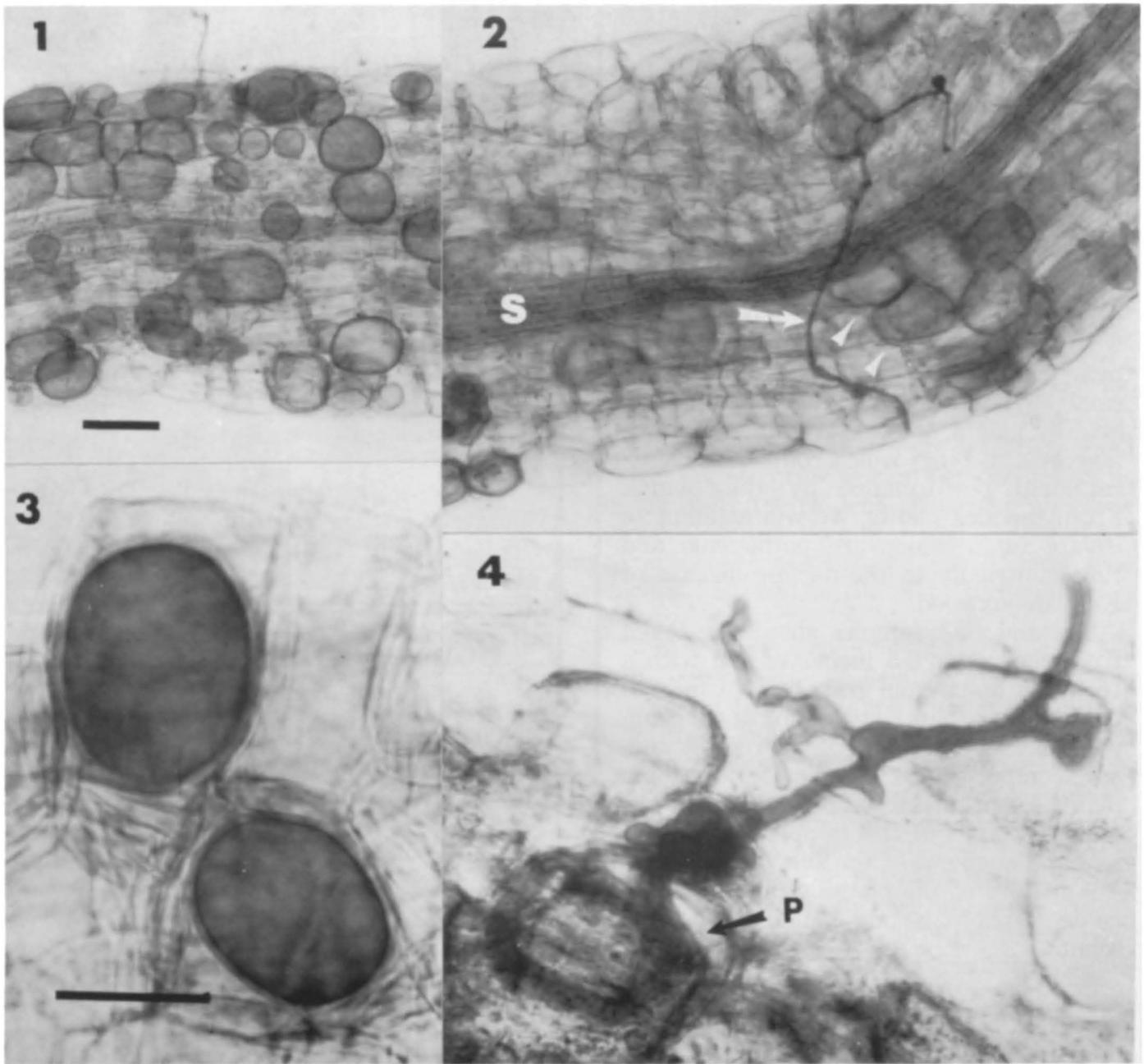
hyphae distinguishes endogonaceous vesicles from unicellular structures, notably sporangia of chytrids, of other fungi which commonly colonize plant roots. Internal hyphae of endogonaceous fungi often are difficult to observe because they do not stain well. However, internal hyphae (small arrows) were found associated with some vesicles, and an external hypha (large arrow) was present (Fig. 2).

Some endogonaceous fungi produce spores inside roots, and internal spores were present in these boxwood roots (Fig. 3). The two spores shown take up about 80 percent of the plant cells they occupy. Internal spores differ from vesicles in having thick walls. Occasionally, pelotons (intracellular coiled hyphae produced by some endogonaceous fungi) were observed (Fig. 4). The attached, thick-walled hypha, which is external to the root, is typical of endogonaceous hyphae.

The vesicles, internal spores, internal and external hyphae, and pelotons seen in the boxwood roots are similar to analogous structures found in plants inoculated with pure cultures of endogonaceous fungi (1, 3). Arbuscules were not seen; but these structures, which serve the same function as haustoria of certain pathogenic fungi, are transient. Examination of a more extensive root sample, or of root samples collected at other times of the year, might well reveal arbuscules in boxwood roots.

These observations indicate that boxwood, at least *suffruticosa*, is host to endogonaceous fungi. Proof, and evidence of the role of these fungi in the well-being of this variety of boxwood, await experiments involving inoculation of nonmycorrhizal plants with pure cultures of mycorrhizal fungi.

(Please see "A Call for Help" on Page 14.)



Photos: James W. Hendrix

Endogonaceous mycorrhizal structures seen in roots of Buxus sempervirens var. suffruticosa (English boxwood). Fig. 1. Vesicles (dark). Bar, which applies also to Fig. 2, = 50 μ m. Fig. 2. Vesicles, with connecting internal hypha (small arrows) and external hypha (large arrow). S = stele of the root. Fig. 3. Internal spores. Bar, which applies also to Fig. 4, = 25 μ m, Fig. 4. Peloton (intracellular coiled hypha, P), with attached external hypha. Fig. 3 and 4 are four times the magnification of Fig. 1 and 2.

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A Call for Help

For our research on the relationships of mycorrhizal fungi and *Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa* (English boxwood), we need soil and fine root samples from two kinds of plants: those that are robust, beautiful, old, healthy, and dignified; and those that were once proud but are now sickly and unthrifty with chlorosis and branches dying out, and near plants which have gone through the same symptoms and died. From the healthy plants, we will attempt to isolate mycorrhizal fungi which contribute to exceptional performance by the plants. From the sick plants, we will attempt to isolate fungi which are pathogenic and thus contribute to the decline disease of English boxwood.

Soil and root samples should be taken from the upper 2-3 inches of soil with a trowel or hoe. Avoid grass or proximity to plants other than English boxwood. Sample from several areas of the root system and composite the samples for a single plant. Avoid thick roots; we need only the feeder roots. Put the sample in a plastic bag and keep out of the sun.

A history of the planting is needed. Include a photo if possible and measurements.

Send to:

James W. Hendrix
Department of Plant Pathology
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40546

We now have rooted cuttings ready for our research. Details on our approach are given in *The Boxwood Bulletin* 24: 6-9 and 70-72.



Boxwood Workshop Scheduled for October 8 in Newport News

ABS Director Professor James Faiszt, Extension Specialist for Landscape Design of the Department of Horticulture, VPI & SU, has arranged for a boxwood workshop to be held in Newport News, Virginia on October 8, 1985. The workshop will be held in the Conference Room of the Cooperative Extension Office. Registration will commence at 9 a.m.

A flier announcing the program and other pertinent details of the workshop will be mailed to ABS members well in advance of the date.

Boxwood Buyer's Guide Now Available

The Buyer's Guide Committee, headed by Professor Albert S. Beecher, has prepared a 20-page publication, *The Buyer's Guide for Boxwood*, to assist ABS members, the general public and the nursery trade in locating sources of boxwood species and cultivars. It has been compiled from a variety of sources: the *American Nurserymen's Magazine*, nursery source manuals, individual nursery catalogs and information provided by members of the ABS.

The *Guide* contains first, an alphabetical listing of firms growing or selling boxwood, with an indication of their retail, wholesale and mail order status. Then follows a list of boxwood species and cultivars with a cross reference to the firms that carry them. Finally there is a cross-reference list to the firms by the state in which they are located. All in all, it is a very useful guide for which a need has long been felt.

Copies of the *Guide* may be ordered for \$3.00 postpaid from the American Boxwood Society, P. O. Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620.

New ABS Registrar



Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf was elected Registrar of the American Boxwood Society at the Board of Directors Spring Meeting in March. Mr. Batdorf has been a Director of the ABS since May 1982 and an ABS member since 1978. He was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania 30 years ago. He is married and the proud father of an eight-year-old daughter and a three-year-old son. He is a Horticulturist at the U. S. National Arboretum in Washington, D. C., where he has responsibility for the Boxwood, Daylily, Peony and Iris Collections. In the following biographical statement he comments on some professional and personal aspects of his life.

"I joined the staff of the U.S. National Arboretum in April 1977. Since then, the Boxwood Collection has been expanded to include 123 different cultivars and species, well over 400 plants all together. It is one of the most complete living collections of boxwood. In conjunction with this, many of the plants, as well as less common species of boxwood collected from around the world, are included in the herbarium at the Arboretum. Because it is a public institution with an international scope, it provides a good facility for the promotion, preservation and exhibition of boxwood to the general public, foreign visitors, government officials, plant-related professionals and the news media.

"The public and professional role that the National Arboretum plays makes it a logical location for the boxwood registration authority. When a boxwood plant comes into the Arboretum, it must go through several phases of documentation. First the plant is accessioned. Here information on its valid name, date received, quantity, size, photographs, source, references and comments are recorded. The plant is then grown in a lath house to observe its habit and insure that it is correctly named. It is allowed to grow to a proper size before being moved. Also a label with the accession number, correct botanical name, source and year received are printed on a metal label which is fastened to the plant to maintain its identity.

"When this is completed the boxwood is planted out in the Collection. Its location is entered on the plant collection maps and is keyed to include accession number, name and location. Also an herbarium specimen is made, authenticated, recorded and filed in the herbarium. This is a long process, but it helps insure the proper identification of plants. The same procedure is followed for all plant material that enters the Arboretum.

"On a more personal note, I graduated from the Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland in 1974 with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. In 1983, I received a B.S. degree in Business Administration and am currently working on my M.B.A. I am simultaneously taking Sign Language Interpreter studies at Gallaudet College. I am also a Lieutenant in the Maryland Army National Guard serving as the Battalion Medical Service Corps Officer.

"I feel honored to have been elected as the International Registration Authority for cultivars of *Buxus*. This is a real challenge. There are several boxwoods that are in need of documentation and registration. Indeed, the entire *Buxus* group is in need of some clarification and further documentation. In this regard, at the Spring Board Meeting, I presented the Board with a proposal to provide a monograph of the genus *Buxus*."

New ABS Secretary



At our Annual Meeting this spring the ABS membership elected Beverly (Mrs. Phillip D.) Larson Secretary of the Society for the coming year. Beverly, or Bev as she is better known, has manifested interest in the ABS by attending Annual Meetings, several of the Society's tours and the work day at Blandy last fall. We feel fortunate in obtaining her services as Secretary, a position for which she seems well qualified in view of her professional experience in Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, California, before her marriage. Her interests and commitments are broad in range, as indicated in the biographical statement that follows.

"I was born and grew up in The Dalles, Oregon. After a period of employment I was married and spent 20 years as a Navy wife living in many interesting places—Philadelphia, St. Augustine, Oakland, Long Beach, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and finally back in Washington, D.C. Along the way 3 children, and now 3 grandchildren, joined our family.

"My spare time is spent largely on the domestic arts of sewing, weaving, quilting and rug braiding. I have a deep concern for the criminal justice system and have performed a great deal of volunteer service in that field. In the last few years I have also spent two weeks each summer as a counselor at a camp for profoundly handicapped adults at Catoctin Mountain Park.

"My knowledge of gardening was slight until we moved to our "farm" in Maryland 10 years ago. My primary gardening interest lies with herbs, wildflowers and the usual perennials. However, I greatly admire boxwood and my interest in it is increasing. I have a penchant for wanting every new plant I see; as a result my gardens are rather a mish-mash."

New ABS Director



One of the two new Directors elected to the Board at the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting in May is Commander Phillip D. Larson who, because of his Scandinavian parentage, is known as "Swede." He and his wife Beverly, our new ABS Secretary (see this page), have shown strong interest in the gardening aspects of the Society, including work days at Blandy and participation in the ABS garden tours. A few years ago Swede contributed some of his azaleas to the Boxwood Memorial Garden at Blandy to add color and interest to the *Buxus* collection. In addition, his wide range of experience in the U.S. Navy and in business operations will serve well in managing the affairs of the Society. Swede has indicated that he takes very seriously any office which he holds and likes to be on top of his responsibilities. We thank him for preparing the following biographical statement.

"I was born in Portland, Oregon in 1923 and spent my formative years in The Dalles, Oregon. Later I attended Oregon State University and Idaho State University. From 1942 to 1963 I was on active duty in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps. During those 21 years I specialized in marine terminal operations and ocean transportation. After military retirement I entered the commercial field of ship chartering, brokerage and trucking, operating primarily from the Washington, D.C. area.

"I retired from the business world in 1975 and began building a home on 40 acres of rolling Maryland countryside not far from Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. It was then that a latent interest in horticulture emerged. My father was an avid hybridizer of iris and gladiolus for many years, and as a youngster I was exposed to the science of hybridizing. Although I haven't yet had a desire to hybridize

plant material I have been propagating a rather wide range of plants over the past 10 years. These include azaleas, boxwood, rhododendron, hollies, conifers and dogwood. In addition I maintain a fruit and nut orchard, berry patches and an annual vegetable garden. These gardening activities have nearly superseded my earlier avocation of woodworking and furniture restoration, but I still manage to work

on a few pieces each year.

"I am married to my hometown sweetheart. Two of our three children and their families live in Virginia and the other, in Oregon.

"In addition to recently becoming a Director of the American Boxwood Society I also am a Director of 'The Friends of Blandy' and of Catoclin Mountain Park Environmental Resources."

New ABS Director



Betsy (Mrs. James M) Sykes was elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting on May 8, 1985. A native North Carolinian, Betsy will add diversity to the geographic representation of the Board as well as bring many years of experience in the cultivation of boxwood. Participants in the Fifth ABS Garden Tour will long remember the artistry of the formal boxwood garden and the profusion of boxwood growing at her home in Raleigh, North Carolina (see *The Boxwood Bulletin*, July 1984). Who knows, perhaps she will impart to our membership some of the secrets of her success with boxwood as she helps to further the goals of the ABS over the next few years. Betsy also brings administrative experience and keen judgment to the Board along with her horticultural talents.

We look forward to hearing her ideas for making the ABS a more effective organization in educating the public to the virtues of *Buxus*. She has kindly provided the following biographical statement so that we may be familiar with her background and interests.

"I developed an interest in gardening at an early age, having been inspired by my mother and grandmother. I am a charter member and past president of a local garden club. My love of boxwood goes back more than 30 years; boxwood propagation and boxwood topiary are of special interest.

"My professional career has been divided between a life insurance company, where I was administrative aide to the president for 15 years, and the North Carolina General Assembly, where I have been employed for twelve sessions and am currently working for the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives.

"My cultural interests are diverse. I am a member of the Raleigh Fine Arts Society. At present I am serving as a docent and conducting tours of the Governor's Mansion. A recent tour of English gardens with the American Horticultural Society left me spellbound, and I came home with a renewed interest in gardens. I am eagerly anticipating another 30 years of gardening and working with boxwood. I also enjoy traveling, antiquing, collecting old books on horticulture and playing bridge. But I am most happy when on my hands and knees weeding, mulching, feeding, trimming—all the things avid gardeners consider 'relaxing.'

"I feel truly honored to have been elected an ABS Director and look forward with much enthusiasm to serving."

The Seasonal Gardener

Tips on Summer Care of Boxwood

Albert S. Beecher

During the winter of 1984-85 boxwoods in many areas suffered extreme winter damage. This damage was especially severe in plants that entered the winter in a weakened condition. Record-breaking cold temperatures were recorded. Prior to the sub-zero temperatures, extremely warm days were experienced and some growth activity was initiated. In addition there was a deficiency of soil moisture during the summer, fall and winter in areas where extreme damage was observed. The snow fall was minimal and did not provide a protective cover to help prevent freezing in the root area during the period of very low temperatures. The combination of these factors contributed to the excessive winter damage.

Restoring Injured Boxwood. The next year is a critical period in the recuperation of boxwoods that were severely damaged.

1. If the plant now has dead stems, remove by cutting back to live wood.

2. On plants where there is new growth but some old reddish-brown foliage, carefully prune out this old foliage.

3. During dry periods in the summer, fall and winter it is very important to water plants well.

4. Provide a mulch to help conserve soil moisture.

5. Check to see whether there is an accumulation of dead leaves inside the boxwood. If there is, be sure to clean out the debris.

6. Do not fertilize the boxwood this summer or fall but wait until early spring.

7. Check to make sure that you do not have an insect problem.

Care of Boxwoods Planted This Spring.

The summer can be a critical time for boxwoods planted during the spring. Check to see if they are suffering from transplanting shock. If there is evidence of some dieback or off-color in the upper foliage, it is important to do some thinning or plucking. Newly transplanted boxwoods need to be watered every 7 to 10 days, if

there is no natural rainfall. Mulching will help conserve moisture. If you have not mulched, do it now.

Weed Control. Avoid digging around boxwoods for weed control. Hand pull the weeds or use a mulch. Digging will injure the roots because they are close to the surface. Be careful about using herbicides for control of lawn weeds in areas where the lawn is close to boxwood plantings because the boxwood roots may extend out in the lawn area and damage to the plant can occur.

Propagation. July 15 to September 15 is an ideal time to root boxwoods outdoors. Plant the cuttings in sand and protect them from the sun and wind. Keep the rooting area moist. Select cuttings from plants that did not suffer winter damage.

Restoring the Landscape Design. By early September it may be evident that some of the boxwoods that you have been attempting to restore after last winter's damage are still looking bad and need to be replaced. You have a choice; discard the plants or move them to an isolated area of the yard for further recuperation. In time they may become thrifty plants again.

Early fall is a good time for setting out new plants or for transplanting existing plants in the yard to help fill voids caused by removing unsightly plants. Don't forget that these plants will need to be watered during the next year whenever the soil becomes dry. Shading and wind protection for newly set boxwoods can be beneficial, especially if the plants are moved from a shaded area to full sunlight. Temporary screens can be provided using burlap, pine or juniper boughs, or sections of snow fence.

In the transplanting operation you will probably injure some of the roots. Therefore it is important at the time of transplanting to cut back or thin some of the top foliage in order to maintain a balance between the top and root system.

Biological Control of Boxwood Root Rot

William A. Gray

The following letter formalized our Society's newest effort to support external research on boxwood.

Professor W. H. Wills
Dept. of Plant Pathology
VP & SU
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Professor Wills:

Thank you for your letter of March 5, 1985, enclosing Ms. Melinda Gates' research project outline of February 26, 1985 entitled "Biological Control of Boxwood Root Rot."

The American Boxwood Society wishes to state its strong interest in such applied research, as outlined, and proposes to provide some degree of financial support. Confirming prior discussions, enclosed please find our check in the amount of \$500, payable to the VPI Education Foundation.

This grant from the American Boxwood Society is to be used in support of the research project "Biological Control of Boxwood Root Rot," as carried out by Ms. Gates under the direction of Professor Wills.

Very truly yours,

Richard D. Mahone
President,
American Boxwood Society

The objectives of this project are best covered by the following extract from Professor Wills' letter of March 5:

Biological control techniques are being sought by many investigators of many and varied plant diseases with very limited success, but reason tells that biological balance, resulting in restraint of pathogenic organisms, is nature's way of preserving the diversity of living things. Our aim is to try to understand some of these interactions among plants, pathogens and other elements of the microflora, and to use the

information to protect plants and reduce the use of chemical protectants.

Ms. Gates' project is innovative and different in at least two ways. First, she is using combinations of two or more microorganisms which she has shown to be compatible with each other and antagonistic to the pathogen *Phytophthora*. Secondly, she is applying these antagonists to the root systems of the boxwood hosts in an organic carrier which protects the antagonists from some of the adverse environmental factors. We are hoping for some practical results and are assured of learning something basic from her studies. We think that your investment in our program will be worthwhile and we are grateful for your support.

Research objectives of this program are:

1. To select and manipulate a compatible group of antagonists to be applied as a root protectant against *Phytophthora parasitica* root rot of boxwood.

2. By using a mixture of organisms representing genera of fungi, bacteria and actinomycetes, protection may be achieved under a wide range of soil environmental conditions.

3. The application method should be inexpensive, be compatible with nursery cultural practices of growing boxwood and ultimately provide long-term protection in the landscape.

Laboratory work (largely completed) included:

1. Isolation of 120 potential antagonists from non-infected boxwood root systems.

2. All 120 isolates were tested on agar for growth inhibition of *Phytophthora* and then retested.

3. On the basis of growth inhibition in vitro, 14 organisms were selected: 7 bacteria, 3 actinomycetes and 4 fungi.

The greenhouse study phase will include:

1. Two polymers, carboxy methyl cellulose and methyl cellulose, will be tested as carriers to preserve the biological activity of the antagonists and to provide protection against environmental extremes.

2. Seven antagonist pairs in each of the carriers will be applied to small American boxwood container plants; for half of the sample, the growing medium will be infected with *Phytophthora*; the other half will be non-infected. A total of 96 plants will be used and another 96 larger plants in 1-gallon containers will be required for a repeat test. All plants are now on hand.

3. Additional plants may be necessary for further testing of successful combinations that provide control of root rot.

Professor Wills provided the following report on May 30:

The greenhouse research will be started after Ms. Gates perfects the method of growing the antagonistic bacteria synchronously so that all microorganisms may be in the same phase of growth at the time

of application. Critical differences in the growth rate curve are measured in hours, especially for bacteria, so the methods need to be rather precise. This phase of the research should be finished within the next two weeks and she will then proceed with the greenhouse testing as outlined.

Plants for the second greenhouse test have been supplied courtesy of Mr. Paul Saunders, Saunders Nursery, Piney River, Virginia, so we have at hand the necessary material to complete Ms. Gates' project.

Participation by the American Boxwood Society in such worthy research endeavors is of course made possible only through contributions from our members. We wish to thank all who have contributed in the past and urge your continued support.

Minutes of the Spring Board Meeting

March 14, 1985

The Officers and Directors of the American Boxwood Society met at the Greencroft Club near Charlottesville, Virginia on March 14, 1985. The Officers present were: President Richard D. Mahone, First Vice President Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Secretary Harrison Symmes and Executive Treasurer Mrs. Katherine Ward. The Directors present were: Lynn Batdorf, Professor Albert S. Beecher, Scot Butler, Thomas E. Ewert, Professor James A. Faiszt, William A. Gray and William N. Mays. Mrs. Scot Butler, Co-Editor of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, also was present. Second Vice President Mrs. Malcolm L. Holekamp, Director Dr. Walter S. Flory and Registrar Dr. Bernice M. Speese were unable to attend the meeting.

President Mahone called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. and thanked Mr. Gray for having arranged the meeting. It was moved and passed that the minutes of the Fall 1984 Meeting of the ABS Board, as printed in the January 1985 issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, be approved.

Mrs. Ward presented the Treasurer's Report which showed a balance of \$4,086.90 in the checking account and \$11,734.90 in invested

funds for total assets of \$15,821.80. Of this total, \$8,758.73 was designated for special funds (research, handbook, Memorial Garden). The Treasurer reported the addition of 61 new members to the Society, many of whom indicated that they were prompted to join by an article in *Country Magazine*. It was noted that Mrs. Dugdale's articles on boxwood in the *Richmond News Leader* have also attracted new members. Mrs. Frackelton placed the current ABS membership at 688. A motion was passed to approve the Treasurer's report.

The President commented on inquiries he has made concerning the condition of *Buxus* collections in various herbariums. He learned from Dr. Speese that she has a large *Buxus* herbarium collection containing several specimens of each cultivar. It is her intent to present herbarium specimens to the College of William and Mary, to the U. S. National Arboretum, and possibly to another collection. The President also sent queries about their herbarium collections of *Buxus* to the Arnold Arboretum and to the University of North Carolina. Mr. Batdorf said he will be speaking to Dr. Frederick G. Myer about the extent of the National Arboretum collection. Dr. Flory

and Mrs. Holekamp are also looking into other herbarium collections with *Buxus* specimens.

The President reported that because of poor health Dr. Speese had submitted her resignation as the ABS Registrar. Members of the Board joined the President in expressing their regret over this development and commented on the many valuable contributions she has made to the Society since its inception. After formally accepting Dr. Speese's resignation, the Board named Mr. Batdorf as Registrar, noting the benefits of having this function located at the National Arboretum.

President Mahone reported that letters with questionnaires enclosed were sent to 15 foreign institutions or individuals who receive complimentary copies of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. So far, the only response has been from the Ottawa Research Station in Canada. It was observed, however, that sending gratis copies to selected foreign botanical and horticultural institutions and individuals provides us with an opportunity for obtaining information about boxwood in other countries, one of the Society's educational purposes.

Committee Reports

Memorial Garden. Mr. Ewert reported that most boxwood plants in the Memorial Garden at Blandy Experimental Farm had come through the winter quite well and fresh mulch has now been applied. The use of epoxy glue to fasten plant labels to stakes is proving unsatisfactory. The Board agreed with Mr. Ewert that the use of rivets to fix labels more permanently is indicated.

Research. Mr. Gray recommended that the ABS continue support of two existing research projects—one at Virginia Beach and the other at the University of Kentucky. He also recommended support of a VPI & SU project directed at the use of biological agents to control *Phytophthora* root rot. It was moved and voted that the ABS should fund the new project for at least one year and continue to support the two existing research projects at an annual funding level of \$500 per project.

Boxwood Workshops. Professor Faiszt reported that plans for a boxwood workshop at Stratford Hall are still somewhat uncertain, but he hopes to arrange for one on May 23. He hopes also that an autumn workshop can be organized in James City County, Virginia. He

is looking into the possibility of future workshops in North Carolina and Maryland.

Spring Tour. Mrs. Frackelton reported that the spring tour to the Maryland Eastern Shore has been sold out with several persons on the waiting list in case of cancellations. The tour is scheduled for May 3-5, 1985.

Buyer's Guide. Professor Beecher passed out a draft of the *Buyer's Guide* and asked members how they thought the *Guide* should be printed, sold, and revised in the future. Board members praised Professor Beecher's enterprise and patience in preparing the *Guide*. Availability of the *Guide* will be announced in a forthcoming issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. An initial printing of 500 copies was authorized with a price by mail of \$3 per copy.

Boxwood Handbook. Professor Beecher reported that considerable progress has been made on the *Boxwood Handbook*. He asked for discussion by the Board of additional articles, use of illustrations, and printing arrangements. Professor Beecher hopes that the *Handbook* will be ready for printing within six months.

Publicity. President Mahone reported on publicity, including his correspondence with several nurseries. Board members made suggestions for possible publicity in various magazines, newspapers and institutional news service publications.

Annual Meeting (Education). Mr. Mays described the educational program he has arranged for the forthcoming annual meeting. Mrs. Holekamp will present an illustrated slide lecture on the Japanese Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden on Tuesday evening, May 7. On Wednesday afternoon, May 8, Mr. Proctor S. Harvey, a landscape architect in Lynchburg, Virginia, will speak on current use and landscape design of gardens in Virginia. Mr. Mays said that he will follow Mr. Harvey on the program with some tips on transplanting and maintaining boxwood.

The Board discussed the possibility of holding an annual meeting in St. Louis at some time in the future but no decisions were made.

The Boxwood Bulletin. Mr. Butler gave information on the cost of *The Bulletin* and solicited the Board's opinion on the number of pages and size of print in recent issues. The consensus was that the present format is fine.

Mr. Batdorf then reported on plans to revise and extend *The Boxwood Bulletin* index. He

said that significant progress has been made toward completion of a composite index for the first 25 years of the *Bulletin*, and he anticipates that publication will coincide with the Society's 25th anniversary in the spring of 1986. The Board authorized Mr. Batdorf to receive reimbursement for the cost of photographs and other prepublication expenses. Mr. Batdorf announced his intention of preparing a monograph on the genus *Buxus*, a project which may take as much as five or six years to complete. The Board commended Mr. Batdorf on his dedicated service in preparing the composite index and initiating work on a *Buxus* monograph.

New Business. Mr. Batdorf reported that the newly-named cultivar of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Graham Blandy' (previously known as 'BEF 35') is being officially registered and that 300 plants have been distributed for commercial propagation to 60 cooperating nurseries.

A nominating committee for the election of Officers and Directors at the Annual Meeting was appointed with Mr. William N. Mays as chairman. Mr. Symmes said that he would not be available to serve as a Director or as Secretary following the expiration of his current term. Mr. Ewert said that he would not seek reelection to the Board of Directors inasmuch as he automatically occupies an ex-officio seat as Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm. This, he added, will make room for an additional person to serve on the Board. Mr. Butler said that he would prefer not to be considered for reelection to the Board inasmuch as his hands are full as Editor of *The Bulletin* and he also attends the Board Meetings in that capacity. Consequently the Nominating Committee was charged with drawing up a slate of four Officers and two new Directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m., a recess having been taken earlier in the meeting to enjoy a delicious luncheon in the Club's dining room.

Respectfully submitted
Harrison Symmes, Secretary

Dr. Bernice M. Speese Resigns as ABS Registrar

At their spring meeting on March 14, 1985 the Officers and Directors accepted with deep

Volunteers Needed for Fall Work Day at Blandy

ABS members wishing to help care for the boxwood collection at Blandy Farm should mark Wednesday, September 25 (Wednesday, October 2 in case of rain) on their calendars. For the third consecutive year volunteers will gain practical experience in pruning, plucking and cleaning out boxwood plants that need attention. These work days have proven to be educational and sociable affairs for those who have attended. They afford a good opportunity for learning more about boxwood, including proper maintenance practices. At the same time they benefit your Society, at a time when Blandy is short of staff, by keeping the many outstanding boxwoods planted on the grounds in good condition for observation.

As before, the session will extend from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with time out for lunch; please provide your own bag lunch. Bring gloves as well as your favorite pruning tools, and wear work clothes. Please make your interest known by sending a card to the American Boxwood Society, P. O. Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620 or by calling (703) 837-1758. We hope we'll see you at Blandy on September 25.

regret the resignation, for reasons of health, of Dr. Bernice M. Speese, Registrar of the American Boxwood Society since 1977.

The Board takes this opportunity to express on behalf of the entire Society their sincere appreciation to Dr. Speese for her loyal service and to recognize her valuable contribution in redesigning the official boxwood registration form and in registering a number of new cultivars.

We hope that Dr. Speese will be able to continue her work with the Baldwin Collection of Boxwood, of which she has a unique knowledge, at the College of William and Mary.

Sixth ABS Tour Captivated by Maryland Homes and Gardens

Scot and Joan Butler

Tucked away on the Delmarva Peninsula, between the Chesapeake Bay on the west and the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean on the east, is flat, fertile farmland which, together with the adjacent fishing waters, has provided a livelihood for its inhabitants since English colonists first settled the area in the early 17th century. These pursuits still predominate in the life there and endow the Eastern Shore with a particular rustic charm, even as major new highways crossing the peninsula and the Chesapeake Bay significantly increase its commercial importance.

Dotting the shores, indented with miles of tidewater rivers, creeks and inlets, are many historic farms and plantations as well, of

course, as modern homes and marinas. Through several centuries of peaceful farming and fishing, largely undisturbed by the more dynamic mainstream of American industrial development, social life on the Eastern Shore has retained much of the gentility, hospitality and tranquility of the old established order. It was in this placid setting, enhanced by clear sunny skies and mild temperatures, that the ABS tour group enjoyed two memorable days of visits to places of architectural and horticultural interest. To judge from the size of some of the plantings, boxwood was introduced on the Eastern Shore at an early date and took firm hold. From its prevalence it has apparently enjoyed great favor.



Photo: Richard D. Mahone
The Reward, first stop on the Sixth ABS Tour, is an architectural and horticultural treat.

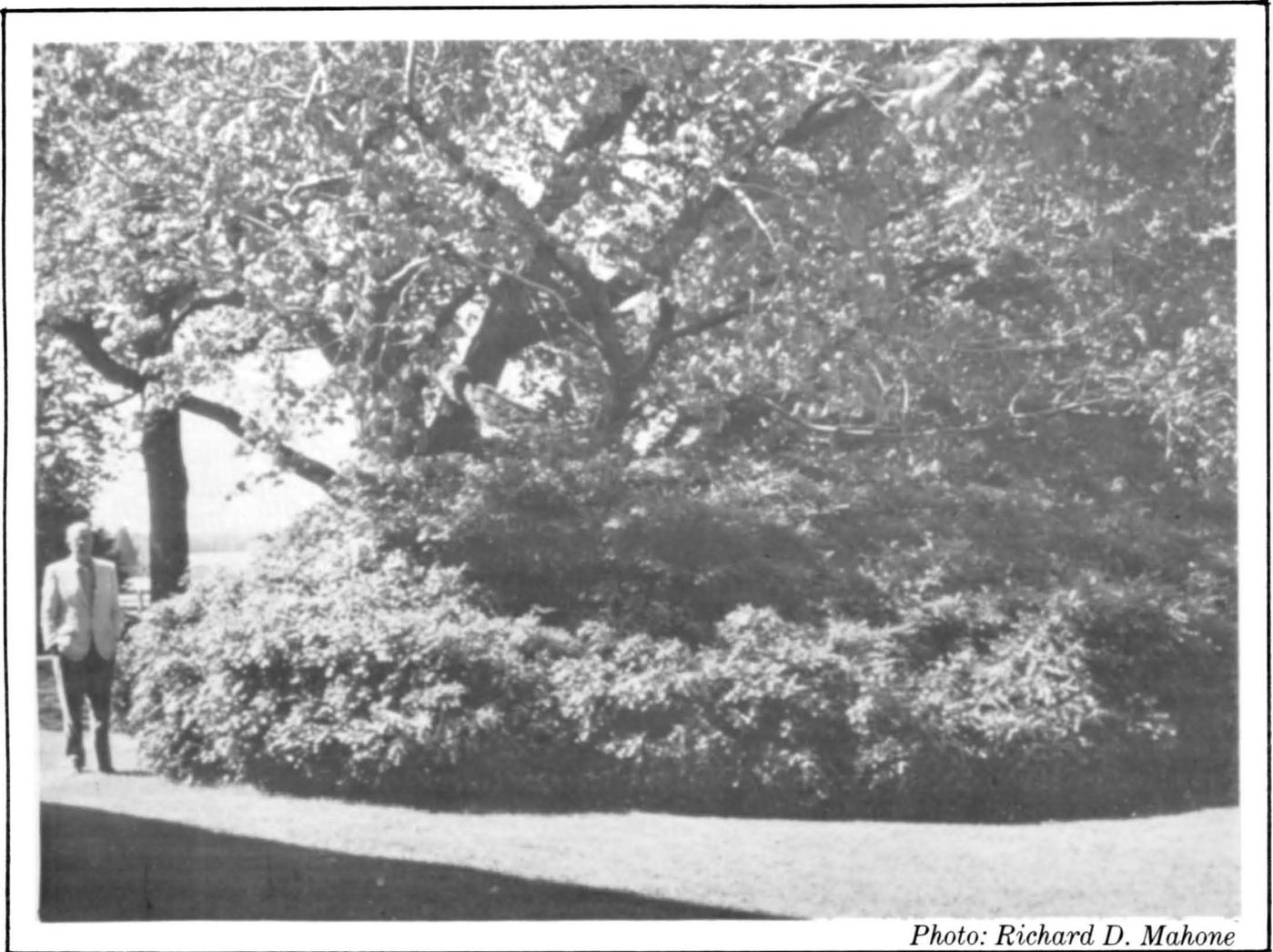


Photo: Richard D. Mahone

Of special note at **The Reward** is this single-stem Japanese boxwood, which measures 8 to 10 feet in height and almost 30 feet in diameter.

Most of the 45 participants checked in at the venerable Tidewater Inn, the tour headquarters in Easton, in time for an after-dinner social hour at 8:30 on Friday evening. There were a few newcomers, but most of the party had been on previous tours and enjoyed renewing former associations. Menu-coded identification tags and instructions relating to the itinerary were issued before members retired for the night. "Early to bed and early to rise" continues to be the rule observed on ABS tours. The accommodations at the Inn were most comfortable and the service was excellent.

A bright sunny morning greeted the tour party as they climbed on the chartered bus. The bus drivers on our tours have been unfailingly good-natured, and the young woman who chauffeured us along the highways and narrow back lanes of the Eastern Shore was no exception. Her first feat was to maneuver the bus through the narrow congested streets of

Centreville, seat of Queen Anne's County, so that we might glimpse the impressive statue of Queen Anne (reigned 1702-1714) set amid a planting of boxwoods and stately lindens and elms in the Courthouse Square.

The first stop was **The Reward** in Kent County. This paragon of an 18th-century Eastern Shore plantation won the admiration of all with its 1740 brick house laid in Flemish and English bond featuring glazed headers, its magnificent plantings of trees and boxwood, and its incomparable location overlooking Langford Creek. The grounds and gardens surrounding the house are impeccably maintained by the members of the Havemeyer Family who were on hand to greet us and tell us about their home. The boxwood, mostly *suffruticosa*, was of considerable size and in top condition. A spreading Japanese box bush (*Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*) was planted on either side of the house under the extending limbs of large shade trees. ABS President

Richard Mahone, who takes interest in specimen plants, found it difficult to believe the spread of these single-stem bushes—93 feet in circumference with a height of 8 to 10 feet. In an inviting ornamental garden adjacent to the house Mrs. Havemeyer has used a low-growing, compact form of *B. microphylla* var. *koreana* as an effective edging plant. She believes it came from France. We would like to believe that the high state of boxwood culture at **The Reward** is connected with the Havemeyer's membership in the American Boxwood Society.

The next three house and garden attractions were in the quaint colonial port city of Chestertown, seat of Kent County and site of Washington College. The tour party split into three groups of 15 each to facilitate passage through the properties. The three houses, all brick edifices of the 18th century, are located on or near the broad Chester River. All are of architectural significance and all have private gardens planted with boxwood in the rear.

The famed **Hynson-Ringgold House** on the corner of Water and High Streets is really two separate houses which were joined through the addition of a center hall section in 1767. It is this hall section that boasts the superb antler-type staircase attributed to William Buckland, architect-builder of Gunston Hall in Northern Virginia and the Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis, Maryland. The interior woodwork of this house is rich in design and execution. The house, deeded to Washington College in 1944, now serves as the residence of the College's President and family. The garden is an open rectangular expanse of lawn, with boxwoods of different sizes planted around the perimeter.

Present to tell us about the **Wickes House** and garden were owners Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hall Johnstone. The main house, built around 1767, has 15 original fireplaces and most of the original mantels, moldings and floors. The Johnstones pointed out many interesting details of the house and pieces of furniture, as well as telling some amusing anecdotes connected with the restoration, which is now nearing completion. The garden of the **Wickes House** is a veritable boxwood maze, so high and close together have the boxwoods grown. Though located in the heart of town this garden possesses the sense of intimate privacy

that only dense plantings of head-high boxwoods impart.



Photo: Robert L. Frackleton

*ABS member Mr. John W. Boyd stands engulfed in the boxwood maze of the **Wickes House** garden.*

The majestic **River House** rises four stories above the ground and its garden backs directly on the Chester River. Now a property of the Maryland Historical Trust, a number of knowledgeable guides, including its occupants, the Karl Millers, were present to interpret the architecture and furnishings. The house was constructed in Flemish bond around 1784 for a family of wealthy landowners and merchants. It contains a multitude of early American decorative furnishings, including a number of fine portraits. The garden boasts large specimens of *suffruticosa* along the side borders but *koreana* is used extensively along the most exposed area adjacent to the river.

Within short walking distance of the houses was the Old Wharf Inn, which faces directly on the Chester River. A delicious crabcake lunch was served to those who indicated a preference for seafood while those who did not enjoyed chicken salad.

Feeling rested and well fortified the tour party returned by bus to the Centreville area to visit the grounds of **Poplar Grove**, the home of Judge and Mrs. B. Hackett Turner, who also

are members of the American Boxwood Society. Here boxwoods dating back to the 18th century have been allowed to grow in a natural state along with many varieties of trees, including some beautiful English hollies and hybrids. ABS members wandered happily from one glade to another examining the many variations of common box that had apparently sprung up from seed. Enormous clumps of *sempervirens*, some with trunk diameters of 10 inches and more, towered overhead. It was of interest that one of the most vigorous clumps was growing at the base of a locust tree. There were also some specimens of *suffruticosa* that were judged to be 175 years old. The boxwoods were interspersed with many ancient conifers and deciduous trees, making a fascinating study in sizes, shapes and textures. In addition to our cordial hosts, two other gentlemen were on the scene to answer questions and point out sights of horticultural interest. Mr. David Almqvist, the Queen Anne County Extension Agent for Horticulture, and Mr. Emory Lloyd,

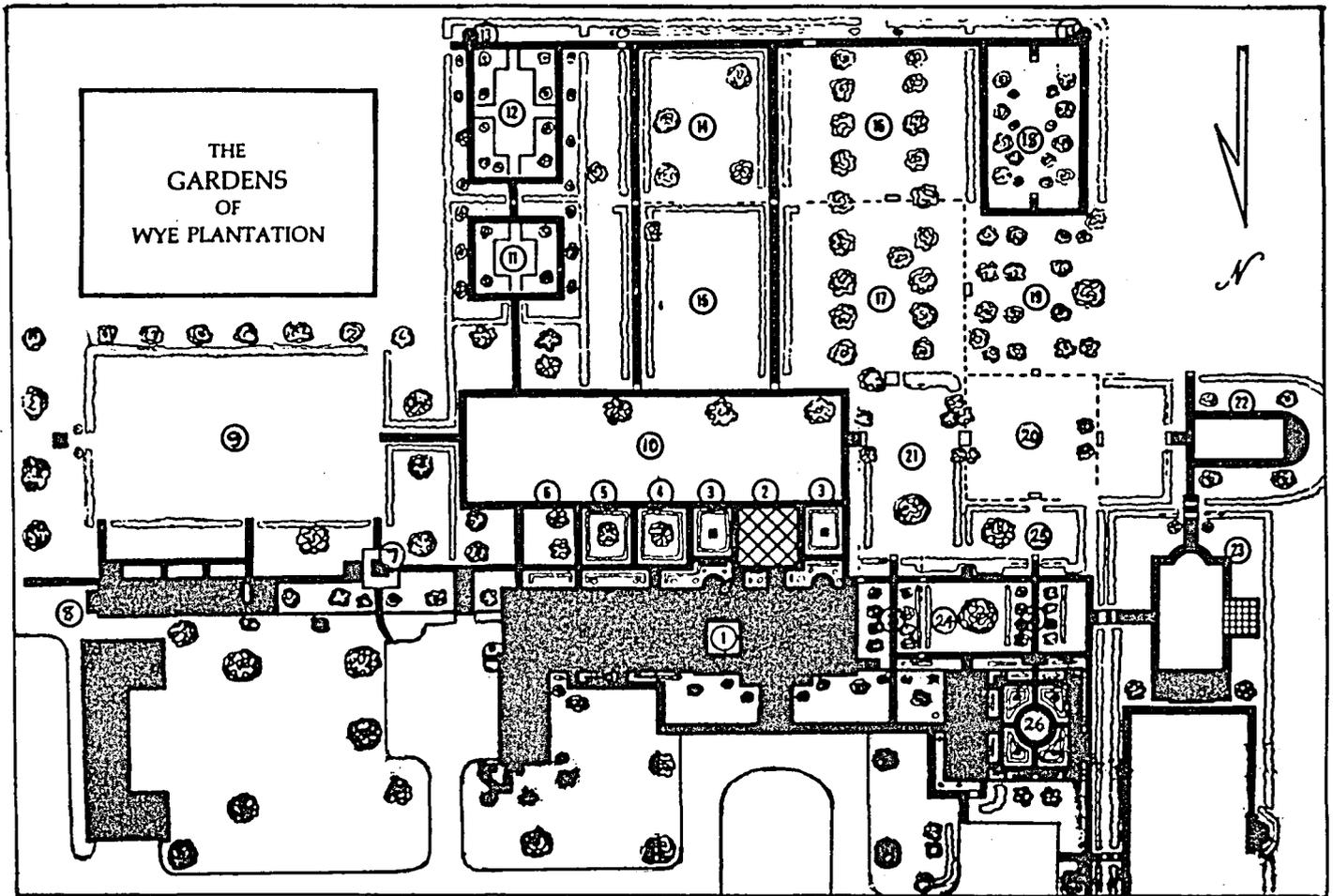
a nurseryman familiar with the botany at **Poplar Grove**, both provided information on the plants. The earliest part of the house at **Poplar Grove** was built in the 18th century in the Flemish bond pattern. Since then there have been many additions and modifications in different architectural styles. A family burial ground, which is surrounded by boxwoods, is located on the grounds. There is great natural beauty and a hint of mystery in the entire scene at **Poplar Grove**.

In striking contrast stands **Wye Plantation**, present home of the Aspen Institute (Wye Institute). Because of the number of activities connected with **Wye Plantation** and the extensive grounds (1,175 acres) that it encompasses, it was possible in the short time allotted to see only a small part—the reconstructed mansion and gardens of William Paca (1740-1799), Signer of the Declaration of Independence and twice Governor of Maryland. **Wye Plantation**, which passed into the possession of the Paca family through marriage, was the summer



Photo: Robert L. Frackleton

*Judge B. Hackett Turner (second from right in foreground) joins ABS members on a stroll through the grounds at **Poplar Grove**.*



1 RESIDENCE

2. RESIDENCE TERRACE Limestone terrace, with flowering crab apple trees in corner boxes.

3 STATUARY BEDS Box-edged flower and ivy beds. Italian stone statues in classical style.

4-5 BOXED-EDGED BEDS Ivy ground cover, with spring bulbs. Fall blooming camellias at the corners of each bed. The beds are centered with a willow oak (4), and an evergreen magnolia (5).

6 BOX TERRACE Specimen English box, with European lindens.

7 DAIRY 18th century milk house, restored.

8 GREENHOUSE

9 CROQUET GREEN Bermuda grass turf, bordered by gravel walk and English box.

10 LINDEN TERRACE Lawn with three large European linden trees, part of original gardens. Estimated age, 200 years.

11-12 UPPER AND LOWER IVY TERRACES Geometric beds of English Ivy, with star magnolias. Terraces bordered by flowering dogwood and hemlock hedges.

13 CHIPPENDALE TEA HOUSES

14-15 LOWER AND MIDDLE MAIN TERRACES Box bordered brick walks with kieffer pear trees in lower terrace (14). Brick walks extend from the southern edge of the gardens to the linden terrace above.

16-17 LOWER AND UPPER AMERICAN BOX TERRACES Lawn dividing parallel rows of specimen American box. Ten box are on the lower terrace (16) and eight box on the upper terrace (17), forming a

150 foot alley to terraces above. The upper terrace is dominated by a large black walnut tree.

18 LOWER CHERRY TERRACE Pink weeping cherry trees and autumn flowering camellias, bordered by clipped hemlock hedges. Large bald cypress tree to the east.

19 UPPER CHERRY TERRACE Parallel rows of top-grafted white weeping cherry trees, forming a long natural canopy.

20 YEW TERRACE Pair of ancient English yew trees dating from the 17th century.

21 DAWN REDWOOD TERRACE Large dawn redwood tree at the north end of terrace, which is enclosed by hemlock and yew hedges.

22 REFLECTING POOL Reflecting pool with submerged tubs of water lilies and a specimen box at each corner. A 19th century French "temple d' amour" with pair of European linden trees.

23 SWIMMING POOL Edged with limestone and brick walks, in box bordered terrace. Bath houses flanked by weeping willow trees.

24 HAWTHORNE TERRACE Brick walks between clipped white hawthorne trees. In open area, a large weeping willow tree. Spring blooming camelia shrubs against south wall of library.

25 MAGNOLIA TERRACE Evergreen magnolia, enclosed by box hedges.

26 LIBRARY GARDEN Brick walled private garden. Geometrically arranged brick paths with central pool. Corner tables and benches in Chippendale style. Crab apple trees in flower beds, edged with miniature box. Espalied fruit trees against garden wall.



home of William Paca, his winter residence being the former Carvel Hall in Annapolis, which also boasted a fine 18th century garden. In 1937 Mr. Arthur S. Houghton bought the property and built a library to house his collection of rare books. The present mansion was built in 1972 and overlooks extensive formal 18th-century gardens. Over 20 terraces have brick steps and paths, boxwood edgings and clipped hemlock hedges. There are many specimen English (dwarf) boxwoods and a long allée of American (common) boxwood. On the main terrace stand three 200-year-old European (little leaf) linden trees. Near the brick greenhouse is an 18th-century milk house, the only original building to survive. In the library garden, which is enclosed by a wall of molded brick, there are formal boxwood-edged parterres, flowering fruit trees, pear trees espaliered on the wall and a fountain pool. Our guide through the manicured grounds was Mr. Jack Covert who generously shared with us his knowledge of the history and horticulture of **Wye Plantation**. He said that the three linden trees leaf out and lose their leaves each year precisely together.

On the return to Easton the bus drove past the famous 400-year-old Wye Oak, Maryland's official state tree.

Arriving at the Talbot County Historical Society Museum at 4:30 p.m., the group was treated to a tour of their exhibit, "The Art of Gardening—Maryland Landscapes and the American Garden Aesthetic, 1720-1930." This exhibit, which lasts until October, contains a wealth of artifacts and memorabilia relating to the art and development of gardening in Maryland from colonial times almost to the present. Books on horticulture, paintings of flowers and flower arrangements, garden tools and implements, garden buildings, furniture and accessories, photographs and drawings of early houses and gardens, flower seed catalogs and many other items of historical interest are on display to recreate 200 years of gardening aesthetics in Maryland. A handsome guidebook containing detailed information about the

Opposite page

Photo: Robert L. Frackelton

Assembled on the steps at Myrtle Grove is the Sixth ABS Tour Party. Owner Mrs. John F. Donoho is standing third from right at the front and her friends, Mr. John Earle and Mrs. John Yost, are standing first and third from left.

items in the exhibit as well as treatises on "Maryland Gardens" and "American Horticulture" is provided to those who attend the exhibit.

A short walk from the Museum took the tour members back to the Tidewater Inn directly or via the Museum Shop, where many attractive items are sold. With an hour out to rest and freshen up, our members reassembled at 6:30 p.m. for cocktails and dinner. Let no one ever doubt the sociability of ABS members. A delicious chicken dinner was enlivened by good conversation and liting laughter. At the end, President Mahone made a few announcements and Mrs. William B. Wartman paid tribute on behalf of all present to the great contributions made by the Robert Frackeltons to the success of the tour.

Sunday dawned bright and clear, and the tour party was off at 9:15 for the second day of sightseeing. But not before we had the pleasure of encountering ABS member Mr. James C. Wilfong, his wife Annette and their guest at breakfast in the dining room of the Inn. Jim is an authority on early Maryland houses and has easily combined that interest with locating the oldest and largest stands of boxwood in the state. A number of his essays have appeared in *The Boxwood Bulletin* and we expect to publish some more.

Still another member of the American Boxwood Society, Mrs. John F. Donoho, graciously opened her home, **Myrtle Grove**, for our tour. **Myrtle Grove** is one of the most authentically preserved 18th-century houses on the Eastern Shore, having been lived in unchanged by descendants of the original builder, Judge William Goldsborough, 1709-1760. The original frame section dates from c. 1730 and the main brick section in the Federal style was built around 1790. The interior contains fine woodwork and noteworthy plaster moldings. Assisting Mrs. Donoho inside the house was Mrs. John Yost. A number of early dependencies complement the house and contribute to the plantation character.

Somewhat overgrown gardens invited investigation of what once was. Mr. John Earle was present in the gardens to provide horticultural information. A giant swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*) grew at the end of an allée near the bank of the Miles River until it was toppled by a storm two years ago. It was listed in the *National Register of Big Trees*,

1974, as being 22 feet, 7 inches in circumference, 122 feet tall and 123 feet in spread. The roots and lower trunk remain *in situ* because they are too large to move (see photo).



Photo: Estellita Hart
Mrs. Donald Gore stands beside base of giant uprooted swamp chestnut oak at Myrtle Grove.

Mr. Mahone mentally reconstructed an early garden on the basis of present evidence. As well as he could determine two parallel allées led from the house to the river. One was bordered by *magnolia grandiflora* trees and boxwoods; the other, by pear trees. He identified many nut trees growing in the garden area: pecans, filberts, Chinese chestnuts, black walnuts, shagbark hickories and what appeared to be a row of English walnuts. Shrubs planted in the gardens included lilacs, crape myrtle and several forms of boxwood, including a weeping 'aurea' of great age. There were fig trees, several kinds of magnolia and a pair of yellowwood trees on either side of a bench. Growing close to the house and partly obscuring a door and window is a 100-year-old *magnolia grandiflora*, one branch growing flat along the ground. Unfortunately, there was not time to complete the garden survey before the tour was again on its way.

The bus headed for Oxford on the Tred Avon River where Mr. and Mrs. Edmund A. Stanley, Jr., welcomed the tour group to their home, **Maplehurst**. The house was built in 1880 by

Edward John Stevens, one of whose daughters was named Nellie. It was for her that the now famous Nellie R. Stevens holly was named. The original tree, believed to be a cross between Chinese holly (*Ilex cornuta*) and English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), grows on the grounds of **Maplehurst**, probably as the result of Chinese holly seeds that Miss Stevens planted in around 1900. The tree was reported to the Holly Society of America around the middle of this century. Dr. H. Harold Hume, Dean Emeritus of the College of Agriculture, University of Florida, and Dr. Shiu-Ying Hu of the Arnold Arboretum were very much impressed with its leaf and berry configuration as well as its suitability for growing in the mid-Atlantic states. The holly is now a great favorite and is widely distributed.

In addition to the Nellie R. Stevens holly, the grounds of **Maplehurst** today contain a wide variety of interesting trees, flowers and shrubs. There are fine specimens of English and other hollies, dwarf boxwood, lilac, camellia and magnolia, chestnut, pear and pecan trees. There is a large spreading yellowwood that is very old. In addition, an attractive "mystery tree" was discovered. Although no one could positively identify it, Mr. Mahone provisionally assigned it to the **Salix** (willow) family.



Photo: Robert L. Frackleton

Mr. Edmund Stanley, ABS President Richard D. Mahone and ABS First Vice President Mrs. Robert L. Frackleton examine the "mystery tree" at **Maplehurst**.

Most of the tour group continued from Oxford by land but a few took a short-cut by ferry to reach the Inn at Perry Cabin in St. Michaels. All, however, arrived for lunch there at approximately the same time. Relaxing in the pleasant ambiance of the Inn, tour members enjoyed a final meal of seafood (or turkey divan, if preferred).

After lunch the Reverend Francis W. Hayes, Jr., met the tour party at Christ Episcopal Church in St. Michaels to give a sketch of the history of the church. The four churches on the site were built approximately in 1677, 1710, 1810 and 1878. Of note in the present building are the handsome stained glass windows and the fine timber ceiling. In keeping with its history, the church has a 1707 baptismal font and Queen Anne communion silver. The exterior is an interesting combination of stone and brick.

Mr. Mahone then led a short walking tour past the Cannonball House, St. Mary's Square and other points of interest in St. Michaels.

Our final stop before returning to the Tidewater Inn was **Conifer Point**, a charming spot that Mr. and Mrs. Hayes call home for part of the year. Peacefully away from all "hustle and bustle," there was a refreshing breeze on the lawn, which is surrounded on three sides by water and shaded by a canopy of trees. There were, of course, boxwoods to admire. We watched the pair of swans that reside in the cove each summer and partook of May wine and cake. The house was built during the second quarter of the nineteenth century in the architectural style of a Maryland house of that period. Mrs. Hayes inherited the property in 1983 from a cousin. All were reluctant to board the bus and leave such tranquility, but it was a necessary end to a glorious tour.

For the excellent selection of places to visit, comfortable accommodations and smooth running of the itinerary the tour members are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, who started planning the tour last fall with the same attention to detail that has marked each tour they have arranged. We acknowledge with gratitude their willingness to devote hours of their valuable time to making these tours so enjoyable for all who go on them.

Thanks are also due to ABS President and Mrs. Richard D. Mahone for their support and assistance. Mr. Mahone's expertise not only on boxwood but on all manner of trees and shrubs



Photo: Robert L. Frackelton

Crossing the Tred Avon by ferry are, from left: Mrs. Richard D. Mahone, Mrs. William B. Wartman, Mrs. Howard C. Smith and Mrs. Spotswood Robins.

contributes greatly to the learning pleasure of the tours. Everywhere the tour party was met with a warm welcome by the owners of the properties visited. We sincerely thank them for their generosity in opening their lovely homes and gardens to us.

List of Participants, ABS Tour

May 3-5, 1985

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Mr. & Mrs. George Warner
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Dr. & Mrs. William B. Wartman
920 Williston Ct.
Charlottesville, VA 22901



Photo: Robert L. Frackelton

ABS members sip May wine on the lawn at Conifer Point, the final stop on the tour.

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

INFORMATION

Address: Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Regular (individual) membership dues of The American Boxwood Society are now \$10.00. This includes \$8.00 for a subscription to *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

The Boxwood Society membership year runs from May of one year through April of the following year. Dues are payable in advance of each membership year. New members who join the Society at intervening times of the year are sent all four issues of *The Bulletin* for that membership year and then, like other members, pay dues in advance of the next membership year.

Non-member subscriptions are for groups and institutions such as botanic gardens, libraries, etc. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year, and run by the calendar year.

At the present time all back issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin* are available except Vol. 22, No. 1, July 1982 (photocopy can be supplied, however). Price per single copy of any and all issues is \$2.50.

The present classes of membership are:

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

Gift memberships are announced to the recipients by boxwood-decorated cards which state that four issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin* are included in membership.

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

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.

FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

If your letter is concerned with:

- Change of address
- Membership: new, renewal or gift
- Dues
- Donations to research programs or memorial gifts
- Ordering back issues of *The Bulletin*
- Ordering List of Registered Boxwoods

Write to:

Treasurer
American Boxwood Society
Box 85
Boyce, VA 22620

If your letter is concerned with:

- General information about the Society
- Advice concerning boxwood problems or cultural information
- Boxwood cultivar selection

Write to:

American Boxwood Society
Box 85
Boyce, VA 22620

Your request will 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, VA 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:

Mr. Scot Butler, Editor
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