

The **Boxwood** *Bulletin*

A quarterly devoted to Man's oldest garden ornamental



Volunteers pause for lunch in the ABS Memorial Garden at the Virginia State Arboretum near Boyce, Va. Workers are Joan Butler (l.), ABS Secretary, and Sigrid Harriman, member of the Board. See notice on page 53. (Photo: Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton)

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The American Boxwood Society

The American Boxwood Society is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1961 and devoted to the appreciation, scientific understanding and propagation of the genus *Buxus* L.

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Non-member subscriptions for groups and institutions, such as botanic gardens and libraries, are \$15 by the calendar year.

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Back issues of <i>The Boxwood Bulletin</i>	(each) \$ 4
<i>Boxwood Buyer's Guide (3rd Edition)</i>	\$ 8
<i>International Registration List of Cultivated Buxus L.</i>	\$ 3
Index to <i>The Boxwood Bulletin</i> 1961-1986	\$10
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Gifts to the Society are tax-deductible and may be undesignated or applied to:

Boxwood Handbook Fund
Boxwood Memorial Garden Fund
Boxwood Monograph Fund
Boxwood Research Fund
ABS Blandy Capital Fund

Correspondence:

For address changes, memberships, dues, contributions, or to order back issues or publications, write:

Treasurer, The American Boxwood Society
P.O. Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620

For general information about the Society, advice concerning boxwood problems or cultivar selection, write to The American Boxwood Society at the same address. You are also welcome to write directly to the President:

Mr. Dale T. Taylor
105 S. Princeton Avenue
Wenonah, N. J. 08090

Call for Papers:

Technical articles, news, history, lore, notes, and photographs concerning boxwood specimens, gardens or plantings are solicited for possible publication in *The Boxwood Bulletin*. Photographs should be suitable for reproduction and fully captioned. Suggestions regarding format and content are welcome. Material should be submitted to:

Chairman, Bulletin Committee
1714 Greenway Drive
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

Material to be returned to the sender must be submitted with a self-addressed envelope carrying suitable postage. Every effort will be made to protect submissions, but the Society cannot be responsible for loss or injury.

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The Baldwin Legacy

Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton

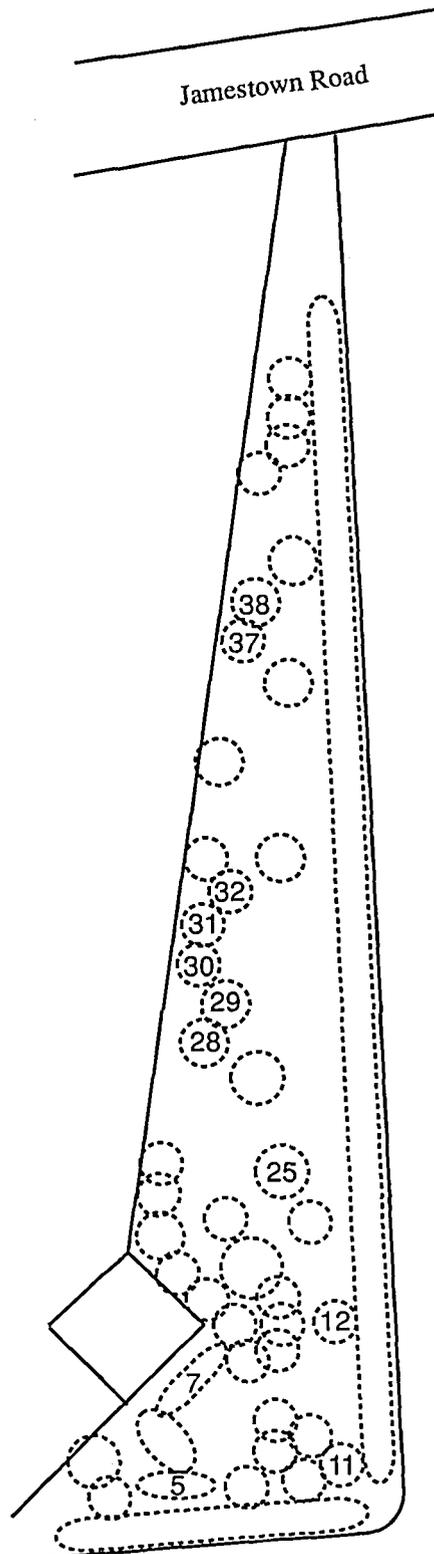
The late Dr. John T. Baldwin, Jr., left the College of William and Mary with a remarkable collection of boxwood emanating from his interest in the genus *Buxus*. Unfortunately, his notes, correspondence and herbarium specimens don't seem to have been preserved as a permanent collection anywhere.

Many of the boxwood he planted, however, can still be seen at the College of William and Mary. Some are perhaps the largest and oldest specimen of a particular cultivar in existence. Let us hope the college is aware of its legacy, and feels a responsibility to preserve what is there.

Following the ABS Annual Meeting in 1993, Mr. Richard D. Mahone, former Director of the Landscape and Maintenance Department of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, fifth President of The American Boxwood Society (1981-1986) and still an active member of the ABS Board, took a representative group of the Board to the triangle on the campus of the College of William and Mary to view that part of the collection and to offer advice on the preservation of these plants. Those present concurred with him that the first priority should be in caring for the rarest and most valuable of these boxwood.

Map Key

- #5 *B. microphylla compacta* [sic]
- #7 *B. microphylla compacta* [sic]
- #11 *B. sempervirens pendula* [sic]
- #12 *B. harlandi* [sic]
- #25 *B. microphylla*
- #28 *B. microphylla* "curly locks" [sic]
- #29 *B. nepalense*
- #30 *B. sempervirens hardwickensis* [sic]
- #31 *B. sempervirens hardwickensis* [sic]
- #32 *B. nepalense*
- #37 *B. microphylla* "green pillow" [sic]
- #38 *B. microphylla* "green pillow" [sic]



Map and key for triangle near Ewell Hall, College of William and Mary

ABS Annual Meeting May 20-21, 1994

As the location of last year's Annual Meeting in Williamsburg was so popular, it was decided to repeat it. Mark your calendar and make your plans to attend. Accommodations will be at the Lord Paget Quality Inn, (804) 229-4444. You will be responsible for making your own reservations. A block of rooms is being held until April 20, 1994, at special rates of \$36.00 for a single and \$45.00 for a double or more in a room.

Friday, May 20

- 12:00-1:00 p.m. Early registration for ABS Annual Meeting in Room 157 of the Lord Paget.
- 1:30-5:00 p.m. Workshop; The Cascades (Colonial Williamsburg). Tom Saunders, Moderator, Lynn Batdorf, Joan Butler, Sigrid Harriman, and Steve Southall, speakers.
- 5:00-7:30 p.m. Free time for dinner on your own.
- 8:00 p.m. Evening Program; Coffee Shop at the Lord Paget. Featured speaker: Ian Robertson. Reception in Room 157.

Saturday, May 21

- 8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration; Danish/juice/coffee, Room 157, Lord Paget Quality Inn
- 9:15 a.m. Business Meeting; The Cascades.
- 10:00 a.m. Educational Program; Ian Robertson, "Garden Design Using Boxwood," followed by questions.
- 12:00 N Luncheon.
- 1:00 p.m. Bus leaves The Cascades for Garden Tour in Charles City County.
- 4:00 p.m. Boxwood Auction; Room 157, the Lord Paget.

[A meeting registration form will be enclosed in the April Bulletin.]



Fig. 1. *B. harlandii*, from a cutting from Hong Kong. 1970 photo. (All photos: Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton)

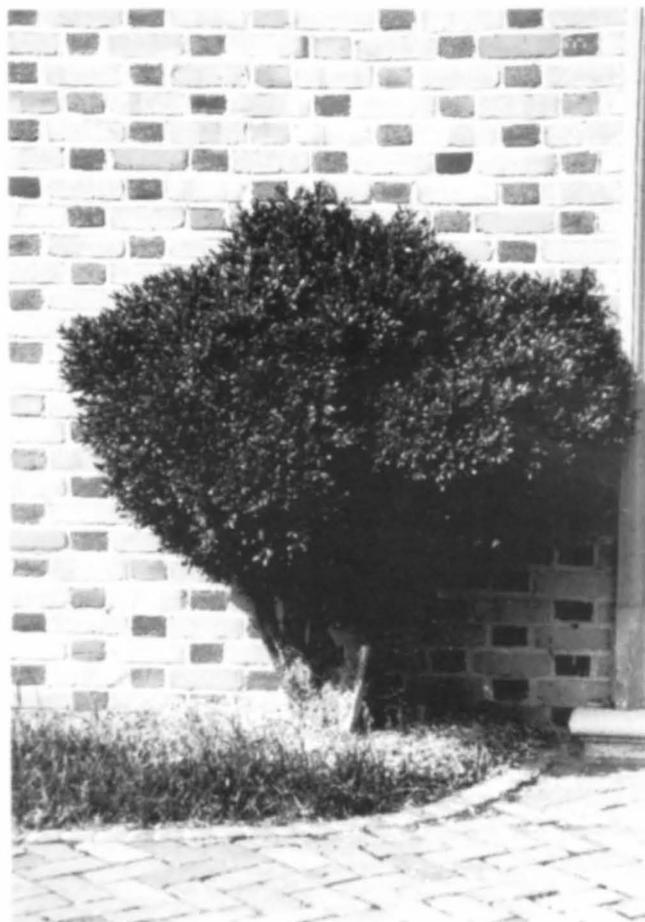


Fig. 2. The Hong Kong *B. harlandii* in 1993.

There exists a map with key for that triangle area where planting had begun in the 1950s. It is marked as p. 86 and 87, but the source is unknown. It was perhaps prepared by Dr. Speese.

The area is now protected by a hedge of *Buxus sempervirens*, planted sometime after 1970.

Two forms of *Buxus harlandii* are represented by #12 (the vase-shaped) and #29, 32 (the flat top). Another vase-shaped specimen which Dr. Baldwin called the "real harlandii" was a cutting from Hong Kong and still exists elsewhere on the campus. (See photos.)

(Note: There were mature examples of these two forms in the Quarters Courtyard at Blandy Experimental Farm's Orland E. White Arboretum. At the request of the ABS, they were to be moved into the new ABS Memorial Garden area to preserve them.)



Figure 3. *B. harlandii*, the "flat top" form in 1970.



Fig. 4. *B. harlandii* in 1982, which Dr. Speese and Dr. Baldwin dubbed "Hohman's Flat Top"

The key identifies #29 and #32 as *B. nepalense*, although Dr. Baldwin's notations in *The Boxwood Bulletin* indicate these would be the *B. harlandii* from Henry J. Hohman's Kingsville Nurseries which Baldwin dubbed "flat top." The flat top is a result of frost damage to the tips following an early flush of new growth. Specimen #12 in the key is more likely the plant from

Kew which Baldwin received as *B. nepalense*, but identified as *B. harlandii* (*The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 6, No. 3, p. 40-42). I am not aware of a plant of *B. harlandii* 'Richard' being on campus. It is a tender plant. For further information on *B. harlandii* see the *Bulletin*, Vol. 28, No. 1, p. 3-8.

B. microphylla, the species, (key #25) has a rather open habit. Its chief



Fig. 5. *B. harlandii* in 1993; 6 feet tall by 8 feet wide. (Key #29 reads *B. nepalense* in error.)

asset is the fragrant bloom. During a tour guided by Dr. Baldwin, February 25, 1970, it was in full bloom and the fragrance was noted long before we reached it. (Fig. 9)

B. microphylla 'Compacta', #5 and #7 of the key, often called "Kingsville Dwarf," was one for which Dr. Baldwin especially noted its tendency to sport. He sacrificed the parent of one plant to the sport which he propagated and named 'Helen Whiting' in honor of Mrs. Whiting, a longtime editor of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. The 'Compacta' clone was a seedling from Mr. Appleby in 1912, which Mr. Hohman introduced in 1937. Dr. Baldwin attributed the sporting to a chimera, a mixture of tissues. (Figs. 10, 11)

B. microphylla 'Curly Locks' (Key #28), a sport of *B. microphylla* 'Compacta', was introduced by Mr. Hohman. This is the largest known specimen of 'Curly Locks'. In 1993 it measured 10 feet tall by 12 feet wide. Dr. Baldwin wrote that 'Curly Locks' was the most striking of the 'Compacta' sports now in the trade. Unlike 'Compacta' it flowers, and he had grown a seedling that he considered of merit which he named 'Locket'. Exact location and identification of 'Locket' needs to be determined. It was misidentified in the *Bulletin*, which has caused some confusion. Mr. Hohman remarked in a 1964 letter to Admiral Phillips that Perry Wheeler, a well-known landscape architect in the D. C.



Fig. 6. In 1993, the flat top *B. harlandii* is 5 feet tall by 6 feet wide. (Key #32)



Fig. 7. The vase-shaped *B. harlandii* in 1970. (Key #12)



Fig. 8. In 1993 the vase-shaped *B. harlandii* was 7 feet tall, 4 feet wide.



Fig. 9. *B. microphylla* in 1993 is 7 1/2 feet tall by 8 1/2 feet wide and has a fragrant bloom.

area, used 'Curly Locks' in many of his garden designs, often training them as espaliers. He noted the rangy twisting growth when they are not clipped back. (Fig. 12)

Two plants of *B. microphylla* 'Green Pillow' were pointed out by Dr. Baldwin during the Feb. 25, 1970 tour. They are shown in 1970 and in 1993. In 1993, the one for Key #37 was 5 feet tall and 5 feet wide and that of Key #38 was 3 1/2 feet tall and 4 1/2 feet wide. (Figs. 13, 14)

(Of note: 384 plants of 'Green Pillow' were planted in the White House Rose Garden.)

Within the vertex of the triangle can be found a specimen of *B. sempervirens* 'Pendula' (Key #11), but better examples are to be found across the way near Ewell Hall.

A pair of *B. sempervirens* pyramidalis 'Hardwickensis' [sic] (this



Fig. 10. A group of *B. microphylla* 'Compacta', the center one showing a sport, in 1970 photo.



Fig. 11. 1993 photo of *B. microphylla* 'Compacta', center plant (Key #5).

name from the article in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 4, No. 4, photo p. 64, text p. 65-66), designated #30 and #31 on the map, are a handsome dark green. They were 3 or 5 feet tall (depending upon the quoted citation) when purchased from Henry J. Hohman in 1952. In 1964-5 they were estimated at 15 feet tall by 3 feet wide. In 1993, they are an estimated 18-20 feet tall by 7 feet wide, having increased more in girth than in height (Figs. 17, 18). Mr. Hohman obtained his clone from Mr. Ernest Hemming of the Eastern Shore (Maryland) in 1930. About 1953, Dr. Baldwin received an upright boxwood from Mr. Gresham of Midlothian, Va., which he planted on the grounds of Brown Hall and which had reached 10 feet tall and 2 feet wide by 1964-5. The source was traced to a Birmingham (Ala.) nurseryman who had taken



Fig. 12. *B. microphylla* 'Curly Locks' in 1993 is 10 feet tall, 12 feet wide (Key #28).



Fig. 13. A pair of B. microphylla 'Green Pillow' as seen in 1970 (Key #37, #38).

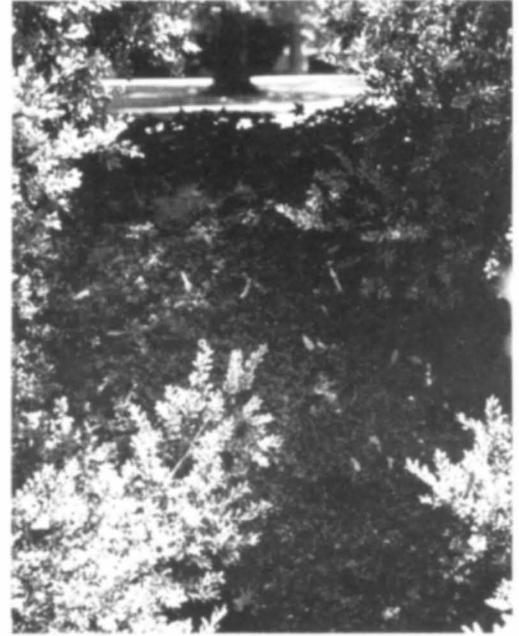


Fig. 14. B. microphylla 'Green Pillow' in 1993, almost hidden (Key #37, #38).



Fig. 15. B. sempervirens 'Pendula' in vertex of triangle (Key #11).



Fig. 16. One of the plants of B. sempervirens 'Pendula' near Ewell Hall.



Fig. 17. One of the pair of B. sempervirens pyramidalis 'Hardwickensis' [sic] as seen in 1970.



Fig. 18. A pair of Buxus sempervirens pyramidalis 'Hardwickensis' [sic] as seen in 1993 (Key #30, 31).



Fig. 19. B. sempervirens 'Vardar Valley' as seen in 1970. Plant in 1993 had grown to 6 1/2 feet tall and 6 1/2 feet wide (Key #42).



Fig. 20. B. sempervirens 'Bullata', 12 feet tall by 10 feet wide (Key #33).

cuttings from an old home in the North Carolina mountains. Although it was six-stemmed, Dr. Baldwin felt it was another *B. sempervirens pyramidalis* 'Hardwickensis' [sic]. A footnote by Dr. Baldwin (*The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 4, No. 4, p. 64) that a photograph sent to Kew could not be positively identified, concluded that perhaps it should be referred to as var. *fastigiata*. Dr. Baldwin's full appellation is used, though perhaps the "pyramidalis" is a descriptive part rather than a valid part of the name.

Among other specimens are *B. sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley', photographed in 1970 (Fig. 19) and now measuring 6 1/2 feet tall by 6 1/2 feet wide and *B. sempervirens* 'Bullata', now 12 feet tall by 10 feet wide (Fig. 20). I haven't come across a date when these two were planted.

On the Feb. 25, 1970, tour, Dr. Baldwin showed us another area where he had planted, in 1955, seedlings of *B. pyramidalis* [sic] (Fig. 21). He pointed out one that he felt had special merit which he dubbed "pyramidalis junior" (Fig. 22). I do not know the fate of these plants.

Not far away is the Sunken Garden which is bordered with *B. sempervirens*. Eight hundred plants, 4 feet tall, were planted around the area of 730 feet by 158 feet. The boxwood came from the birthplace of General Zachary Taylor in Orange County. The plants were regularly pruned, and in February 1967 yielded four truckloads of clippings. (*The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 7, No. 1, p.16)

Beyond the Sunken Garden may be found the handsome *B. microphylla* 'John Baldwin' which originated as an open pollinated seedling in the 1950s and was named for Dr. Baldwin by Dr. Bernice Speese who worked with him on boxwood and maintained his records after his death. It was submitted for registration by P. D. Larson and accepted as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 27-28. (Fig. 23)

A small park to honor Dr. Baldwin



Fig. 21. A 1970 view of *B. pyramidalis* [sic] seedlings planted in 1955



Fig. 22. This seedling dubbed "pyramidalis junior" Baldwin thought had merit. 1970 photo of a 1955 plant.



Fig. 23. *B. microphylla* 'John Baldwin' taken in 1989.

was dedicated by the Williamsburg Area Council of Garden Clubs, on land contributed for use by the College, with structural assistance from the city. It contains plants of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Hardwickensis Pyramidalis' [sic], *B. sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley' and *B. microphylla* 'Compacta', all favorites

of Baldwin. The park is located on a busy corner near the Duke of Gloucester Street for all to admire—a small part of his legacy.

Dr. Baldwin is often quoted, but perhaps the most relevant is, "Books are for pleasure and teaching, and so is a collection of plants."

Photos Tell A Story:

John Boyd's Long Branch Farm

Let's take a peek at Long Branch Farm, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boyd, Jr., who planned and executed the ABS Spring Tour, May 7-8, 1993. A few of us made an unscheduled stop at the Boyd home, where not unexpectedly, we found an abundance of boxwood (Fig. 1). Boxwood is their economic crop which furnishes "clippings" for Christmas greens. Rows of *B. sempervirens* are planted 16 feet apart and the plants 10 feet apart in the row. Plants are "broken" every three or four years. (See *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 20, No. 2, p. 38.) The row of boxwoods which screens a barn is a form of *B. sempervirens*, rooted in 1938, from leftover clippings that had been cut in North Carolina (Fig. 2). This form is a favorite source for Christmas greens because of its color and growth rate. Locust trees (Fig. 3) contribute to the good color as does the use of 10-10-10 at the rate of 800 pounds per acre.



Fig. 1. Not on the 1993 ABS Tour, the John Boyd farm was as full of boxwood as other Southside Virginia places. (Photos: Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton)

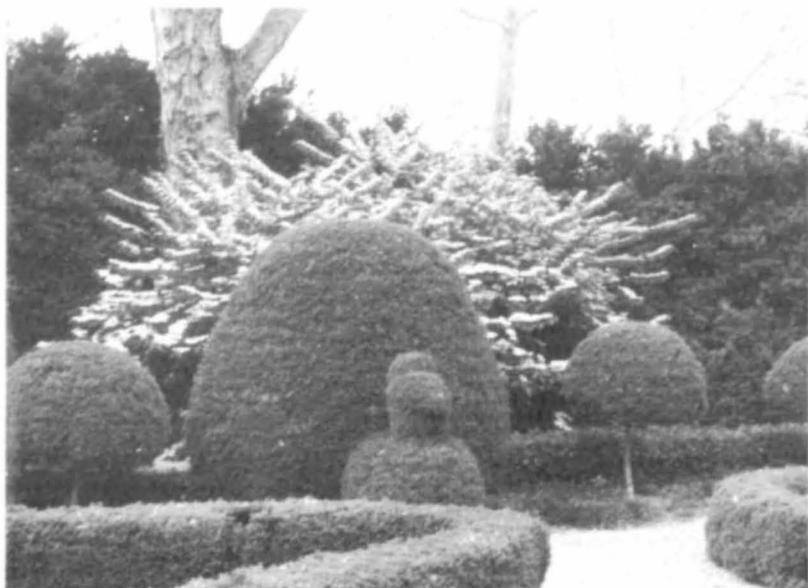


Fig. 2. A Buxus sempervirens form dubbed "John Boyd" is one of Mr. Boyd's favorites for clipping.



Fig. 3. Buxus sempervirens 'Bullata' at the Boyd farm with locust trees behind.

Lest We Forget: Heronwood Topiary



Heronwood, where boxwood "trees" and animals line the paths. (Photos: Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton)



At Heronwood, an entrance into a room of topiary forms.

The October 1993 issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* with Langley Boxwood Nursery's many and interesting topiary forms brought to mind those at Heronwood when it was the home of the late Rear Admiral Neil Phillips, the third president of the ABS.

Unfortunately, this collection no

longer exists as such. Several years after Heronwood had changed ownership a query was made about the possibility of visiting during the ABS Annual Meeting, but the report was that most of the prized boxwood had been dispersed.

Herewith are some photographs of

the topiary taken May 8, 1974, when Admiral Phillips, as was his custom, graciously invited the membership to visit Heronwood. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of any of the topiary forms from Heronwood, please notify Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, 1714 Greenway Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22401.



A pair of peacocks beside the pool at Heronwood.



*A boxwood chair sheltered by an alcove of the *B. sempervirens* hedge at Heronwood.*

NOTICES AND CALENDAR

ABS Auction May 21, 1994

Anyone with named cultivars to offer for the boxwood auction at the annual meeting, please contact Dr. Stephen Southall, 3828 Faculty Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24501-3108.

Work Days

Joan Butler was joined by Sigrid Harriman and Decca Frackelton for work days on Nov. 5 and 16 to re-label boxwood in containers behind the greenhouses and in the field that had been donated or collected by the late Cdr. P. D. Larson when he was Chairman of the ABS Memorial Garden Committee. These for the most part had penciled labels and were in danger of losing their identity. It was rewarding time spent. Anyone who would like to join in works days this spring may write Mrs. Scot Butler, Chairman of the ABS Memorial Garden Committee, 107 Cottage Drive, Winchester, VA 22603, with information as to when you might be available and what services you could offer.

Boxwood Buyer's Guide Listing (4th Ed.)

Anyone interested in being listed in the next *Buyer's Guide*, please fill out the form enclosed. If you do not have a use for the form, but know of a nurseryman who sells boxwood and would be interested in the listing, please pass the form on. There is no charge for listing.

Garden Week in Virginia April 23-30

The Garden Club of Virginia announces the dates for Historic Garden Week. More than 250 beautiful private homes, gardens and historic landmarks will be showcased as Virginia hosts "America's Largest Open House."

Among the attractions are America's longest frame house, the 44-room 1730s residence of two U.S. presidents, covering the length of a football field; and the nation's oldest garden at Bacon's Castle. For a 200-page guidebook (available in early March) mail a \$2.00 donation to Historic Garden Week, 12 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219. A free brochure outlining tour dates and locations may be obtained now at the same address. Tickets are sold at each private house on the tour and block tickets in various localities. For additional information, call (804) 644-7776.

Maymont; 17-21 Feb.

At the Maymont Flower and Garden Show, Richmond, Virginia, The American Boxwood Society will share an educational booth with the Holly Society of America.

Maryland Pilgrimage April-May

Dates and locations for the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage 1994 tours are as follows:

- Sat. Apr. 30, Annapolis and Anne Arundel County
- Sun. May 1, St. Mary's County
- Sat. May 7, Talbot County (Eastern Shore)
- Sun. May 8, Queen Anne County (Eastern Shore)
- Sat. May 14, Washington County
- Sun. May 15, Mt. Vernon Area of Baltimore City

This is an annual event to raise funds for preservation, restoration and maintenance of historically important sites in the state. For further information, contact Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, 1105-A Providence Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21286, (410) 821-6933.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Fall Board Meeting Minutes

Time/Place: September, 10, 1993; Sheraton Inn, Charlottesville, Va.

Attendees: Joan Butler (chair), Lynn Batdorf, Edward Connor, Sigrid Harriman, Malcolm Jamieson, Richard Mahone, Thomas Saunders, Stephen Southall.

Joan Butler chaired the meeting because neither Dale Taylor nor Decca Frackelton was able to attend.

After a pleasant lunch at the Treetop Restaurant at the Sheraton, the meeting was called at 1:30 p.m. Joan followed the agenda for the meeting as proposed by Dale Taylor. Each of the two discussion points and two additional topics were debated with spirited attention and resulted in a generally successful meeting.

1. Memorial Garden. Nancy Takahasi distributed the revised plan for the Memorial Garden. It reflects the revisions of the companion plantings list as well as deletions to the list of boxwood cultivars suggested by ABS board members during the working session August 6 at Blandy, the State Arboretum of Virginia. Ed Connor reported on the preparatory work to be done on the Memorial Garden. Joan Butler mentioned that ABS had authorized \$8,000 to grade, lay irrigation lines, and purchase co-plantings for the garden. Ed agreed to send the proposals for the irrigation work to Joan for ABS' approval before sending them out for bids. Tom Saunders mentioned Lou Gilliam from Farmville, Va., as a good small company to be considered for bidding on the proposal. Some board members suggested laying

electric cables at the same time as the PVC water pipes to allow for electricity in the Memorial Garden. Ed suggested that weather permitting, the companion plantings should be put in this fall. Several plants were suggested for screening: Foster or Nellie Stevens Hollies, Green Arborvitae, English Yew. Joan asked all to send suggestions and comments to her concerning companion and screening plantings.

2. 1994 ABS Annual Meeting. Suggested meeting times to be decided to avoid conflict with graduation at William and Mary College.

Preferred dates: April 29-May 1;
May 13-15; May 20-22

Suggested Places: Williamsburg, Va.; Fredericksburg, Va.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Roanoke, Va.; Leesburg, Va.

All agreed that Williamsburg would be the best place to meet again, because of favorable response from the participants.

Lively discussions centered around form and agenda for the annual meeting.

An agenda was agreed to:

Friday PM:

- Registration
- Workshop (or panel discussion) on growing, care, and design aspects of boxwood. Panel should have at least four experts on the subject and one moderator (Tom Saunders). Each panel member to give a brief (5-7 minute) statement concerning his expertise in growing, care, and design aspect of boxwood. Attendees are encouraged to prepare questions in advance to be answered by panel members.

- Dinner
- Evening program (Ian Robertson, the landscape architect, who designed the gardens at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, was recommended as the featured speaker after dinner as well as serving on the panel.

Saturday AM: Some proposed that Ian Robertson address the meeting on Saturday morning instead. His presentation to be followed by a question and answer period from the audience.

- ABS business meeting
- Lunch

Saturday PM:

- Scheduled tour (suggested place: Carter's Grove)
- ABS boxwood auction

The suggestion was made that an auction committee be formed, tapping the ABS general membership in an attempt to get a greater variety of boxwood cultivars for the auction. Volunteers could be recruited via an announcement in the next *ABS Bulletin*.

3. *Boxwood Handbook*: Lynn Batdorf gave a brief update on the fate of the manuscript through its path toward publication. Approval of several USDA administrators is needed before the manuscript can be sent to a publisher.

4. Maymont: Dick Mahone offered to share the Holly Society of America exhibition booth with ABS at the forthcoming Maymont Flower and Garden Show (February 1994) in Richmond.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Sigrid Harriman
Secretary Pro-Tem

In Memoriam: Albert S. Beecher; Charter Member; 4th ABS President

With the passing of Albert S. Beecher, the boxwood community has lost one of its most ardent boosters. Working in his quiet, mannerly way, Professor Beecher contributed much more than many realized. He was also a great champion of his wife, Millie, and her Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs activities, where he was named an Honorary Life Member. Additionally, he was honored by the National Council of State Garden Clubs where his extension work included being a national instructor.

In promoting communication between the Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI & SU) community and The American Boxwood Society, he sent a gift membership to the Carol Newman Library of VPI & SU long

after he had retired as Ornamentals Horticulturist and Extension Specialist.

He involved the VPI Extension in many of our workshops and brought "on board" Professor James A. Faiszt, who conducted several of the workshops.

A charter member of the ABS, he served on the Advisory Board under Dr. Walter S. Flory to feed *The Boxwood Bulletin* with "ideas, suggestions and material." He spoke often on "Boxwood in the Landscape," "Planting and Care of Boxwood" and was a longtime contributor to "The Seasonal Gardener." He also edited the first *Boxwood Buyer's Guide*, a sourcebook for boxwood, now in its third printing.

Professor Beecher became an ABS director in 1970. He was appointed by

President Phillips to serve on a committee with Thomas E. Ewert, then Director of Blandy Experimental Farm, to present a plan to the Board for a Boxwood Garden of the Society's collection as a living memorial to Henry J. Hohman and John T. Baldwin. This plan was approved, Mr. Richard Mahone and Mr. William Gray were added to the Committee and the ABS Memorial Boxwood Garden was under way.

In May 1976, Professor Beecher was elected First Vice-President of the ABS and became the fourth President in November 1976, when Admiral Phillips resigned because of ill health. Beecher retired as President in 1981, but continued to serve on the Board until 1988. The Society has lost a cherished friend.

The Seasonal Gardener

Practical tips for boxwood enthusiasts from Society members



Tips on Winter/Spring Care of Boxwoods

Besides the dryness of summer, winter is one of the harshest times of the year on boxwoods. The most severe stress comes from the combination of cold winter winds and the ground being frozen, thus not allowing water to move up into the plant. Either one of these stresses alone is not as dangerous as the two in combination. Winds cause plant desiccation (drying) and the moisture must be replaced. If the roots and surrounding soil are frozen, this replacement is not possible. The plant can tolerate frozen roots if there are no winds to cause excessive desiccation. On the other hand, wind can be tolerated if the roots are capable of supplying moisture to the top of the plant. The importance of monitoring winter moisture levels is sometimes not realized until the spring when the effects of winter dryness is seen in a damaged plant.

Early spring is a good time to assess any damage of the previous winter and take corrective measures when necessary. The alternate freezing and thawing of the ground will possibly leave exposed roots which need to be covered with a fresh layer of mulch. This mulch also provides the all important organic matter necessary for good plant growth.

A reddish-brown rust color is often seen on plants during the winter before spring growth. Commonly referred to as "winter burn," its seriousness may be evaluated in two ways. First, feel the plant to determine if the leaves are soft to the touch or whether they have a crispy, paper feel to them. The latter indicates a level of dryness which may be terminal, at least for that part of the plant. The second test is to look at the color of the leaves within the plant. If these deeper leaves are the proper shade of dark green and are soft to the touch, then the outside leaves are probably showing the result of maximum exposure to wind and cold. Spring growth should re-establish the plant to its normal color.

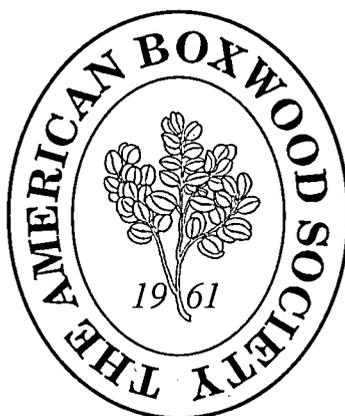
Late winter/early spring is a great time to pluck and shape misshapen plants since the new growth will quickly provide a uniform appearance and cover any cosmetic work. This is an ideal time to break out any dead wood and if plants contain winter debris such as dead leaves, a strong hosing out and cleaning is advised. If plucking results in healthy cuttings which may be used for rooting, late winter/very early spring is an excellent time to do this rooting.

Late winter is also an ideal time to move plants which need to be transplanted. Only early fall is a better transplanting time. As soon as major freezes are over, usually around March 1 for the middle Atlantic states, transplanting can begin. Beginning this operation early provides more time for roots to develop before the dryness of summer stresses the plant.

Even though top growth may not come out until May, root growth will take place any time the ground temperature is significantly above freezing.

One of the surest signs of a healthy plant is a timely overall flush of new growth. This is normal and should occur. If it does not then a soil analysis may be in order to determine if nutrient deficiency exists. When grown in well-drained and aerated soil with good organic matter, the fertilization needs of boxwoods are minimal. The fertilizer normally applied to a lawn is often sufficient to provide the needs of boxwoods. If application of fertilizer is called for after a proper soil analysis, a slow-release type is preferable since it will supply nutrients to the plant over a longer period of time. Apply around the base of the plant in very early spring before new growth, being careful not to touch leaves with the fertilizer.

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