

# The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental



*One of the numerous gardens at Glen Burnie is outlined with a scalloped hedge of boxwood, and four massive boxwood globes fill the corners. A form of golden Euonymus and red Barberry add color to the foreground of the inner boxwood hedge with a lead statue as a focal point. Behind the stone wall is a field of stone outcroppings with woods in the background. See story on page 7. (Photo: Scot Butler)*

## IN THIS ISSUE

37th Annual Meeting Educational Program, <i>Joan Butler</i> . . . . .	3
Plant List: 1997 Boxwood Auction . . . . .	5
Annual Meeting Garden Tour, May 17, 1997, <i>Joan Butler</i> . . . . .	6
Importation of Boxwood in the 18th and Early 19th Century in the American South, <i>Henry F. Frierson, Jr.</i> . . . . .	13
1997 Annual Meeting Registrants . . . . .	14
Correspondence . . . . .	15
Notices, News of the Society . . . . .	16

# The American Boxwood Society

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*Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1961-1986* \$ 10

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Boxwood Manual Fund

Boxwood Research Fund

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Treasurer, The American Boxwood Society

P.O. Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620-0085

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:

Dr. Stephen D. Southall

3912 Faculty Drive

Lynchburg, Va. 24501-3110

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Technical articles, news, history, lore, notes, and photographs concerning boxwood specimens, gardens or plantings are solicited for possible publication in *The Boxwood Bulletin*. Material should be submitted to:

Chairman, Bulletin Committee

1714 Greenway Drive

Fredericksburg, Va. 22401-5209

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# 37th ABS Annual Meeting Educational Program

Joan Butler, Chairman 1997 Annual Meeting

The first speaker on the afternoon program of the 37th Annual Meeting on May 16, 1997, was Gabe d'Eustachio, who as a University of Maryland graduate student in the Department of Entomology, had undertaken a study of boxwood leaf miner with support from the American Boxwood Society. (See *The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol.36, No.4, pp.62-64, for his outline of the project.) One of his objectives was to determine whether some cultivars might prove more susceptible to leaf miner damage than others.

After explaining certain terms not familiar to most laymen, such as "instar" (which refers to the stages of larval molt) Mr. d'Eustachio noted that the insects pupate from mid-March to early April, the emerging orange adults do not feed and they live only one or two days to deposit eggs for the next generation. The adults emerge over a period of about two weeks, and this is the critical period for good control.

Materials tested for control of leaf miner were Avid, Merit and Orthene, all systemic insecticides. The addition of a spreader/sticker is essential. In the period of first emergence of the adult, Avid was very effective.

Later, in July when control is aimed at the first instar larvae inside the leaf, Merit proved to be the most effective as a foliar application as well as during the period of adult flight. It was concluded that one to two years of good control with Avid would reduce the future need for treatment.

Observations indicated that cultivars *Buxus* 'Strassner' (a synonym of *B. sempervirens* 'Myrtifolia') and *B. microphylla* var.

*japonica* 'National' were most susceptible to damage, while the least susceptible appeared to be *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', 'Pyramidalis', 'Handsworthii' and 'Vardar Valley'. A full text of Mr. d'Eustachio's report will appear in a future *Boxwood Bulletin*.

The second speaker was Bonnie Appleton, a Cooperative Extension Agent from the Hampton Roads Agriculture Experiment Station in Virginia Beach, who is also active in the Master Gardener training program. She discussed many new production methods for container-grown plants. In the field, root-control bags have been developed, as well as holders which prevent large containers with tall plants from tipping over. It has been found that large unprotected containers can reach temperatures of up to 130 F on their southwest exposed sides,

which may kill or deform roots.

A new approach to controlling root growth and preventing girdling within containers is the development of an interior copper coating for pots. This lining stunts growth where the root tips touch it, and encourages root branching. One such commercial product is called Spin Out and uses a copper hydroxide film. It is now available from Lerio in pretreated containers and it is possible to purchase the material in spray form to be applied at the nursery. A fabric bag impregnated with copper is called Texcel; it can be used either in ground or inside large containers. This material has a time limitation and is effective only for one season. It appears that good growth is achieved from this copper treatment when plants are later set in the ground.

A new system of "pot-in-pot" works to stop "blow-over" of large plants. A socket pot is used with a second pot inside, placed several inches above the bottom of the outer pot. This allows good drainage when using soil-less mixes for containers. Ms. Appleton's slides also illustrated an in-ground bag impregnated with Treflan herbicide, which prevents roots from penetrating through the sides of the bag. A wire basket can be used inside such a bag to regulate root growth. She illustrated an in-ground small cell propagation system called Cellugro. The cell sections are set in a trench 8 inches deep and produce 581 plants per unit in a relatively small space.

After a short break, Keith Folsom of Springdale Aquatic Gardens in Greenville, Virginia, gave a slide presentation on water gardens. He stressed both the



Bonnie Appleton, guest speaker, and Joan Butler, ABS Secretary. (Photos: Steve Zapton, except as noted)



*Guest speaker Keith Folsom chats with new member Aubrey Zaffuto. (Photo: Steve Zapton)*



*After the auction some visitors sought out the original *B. sempervirens* 'Graham Blandy' (Photo: D. Frackelton)*



*John W. Boyd III conducts auction as Dale Taylor holds a plant and Katherine Ward, ABS Treasurer (seated) keeps tabs. (Photo: Steve Zapton)*



*Dale Taylor (center) former ABS President, assists with the auction as interested bidders check notes. (Photo: Mrs. John Hart)*

aesthetic appeal and practical benefits of water gardens. There are diverse ways to use water in home gardens—from small waterfalls to still ponds. Water quality is greatly improved through the use of rocks and plants. In ponds, surface cover by leaves keeps water temperatures cooler and lessens green algae growth. Under-

water plants serve as natural filters as they absorb nutrients from the water.

The annual boxwood plant auction followed at 3:30 with Dale Taylor and John Boyd III acting as auctioneers. Joan Butler provided commentary as needed. Lively bidding soon disposed of all the plants to eager new owners as plants came up for sale,

with proceeds to be added to the special fund for support of the ABS Memorial Boxwood Garden.

After dinner at the Wayside Inn in Middletown, Virginia, members enjoyed a slide journey through English gardens given by Mrs. Mary B. Gildersleeve of Winchester, Virginia. She tied the periods of the



*Mrs. Butler with Dr. and Mrs. Gildersleeve following dinner at the Wayside Inn. Mrs. Gildersleeve was the after-dinner speaker.*

## Plant List: 1997 Boxwood Auction

### 'Belleville' (*B. sempervirens*)

Selected in 1931, hardy in Illinois and Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania. Strong, but compact growth, very large mature size.

'Compacta' (*B. microphylla*) Very slow-growing hardy plant selected as a seedling in 1912 by William Appleby of Baltimore, Maryland. Registered in 1948 and marketed by Henry Hohman of Kingsville Nurseries, Maryland. Also called Kingsville Dwarf Box. Must be grown in shade to keep dark green color. It is prone to sporting, which has resulted in the introduction of sports 'Curly Locks', 'Grace Hendrick Phillips', 'Helen Whiting' and 'Sunlight'. It is a good bonsai subject. 25-year-old plants are about 10 inches tall

and 18 inches across. Hardy to Zone 5.

— Sport (From Charles Fooks)

'Curly Locks' (*B. microphylla*) A sport of 'Compacta' which originated in 1942 and was registered in 1948 by Henry Hohman of Kingsville Nurseries. Its branches have a curling, twisting habit of growth. Much more vigorous with larger ultimate size than its parent 'Compacta'.

### 'Decussata' (*B. sempervirens*)

Registered 1893. Somewhat ungainly shape, very large size.

'Dolan' (*B. microphylla*) An unregistered cultivar with small leaves and attractive color. Grows in a large mounded shape. Flowers profusely when mature, with a strong perfume.

manor houses and castles to the design and content of the gardens in a most delightful way, illustrating her explanations with beautiful photographs of countryside and colorful plants.

### 'Fortunei Rotundifolia' (*B.*

*microphylla* var. *japonica*) Registered 1908. Very large.

### 'Grace Hendrick Phillips' (*B.*

*microphylla*) A sport of 'Compacta' registered in 1967 and introduced by Henry Hohman who chose the name of the wife of the President of the American Boxwood Society. For best color, locate in shade. A superb dwarf.

### 'Graham Blandy' (*B. sempervirens*)

Has been growing at Blandy Farm, the State Arboretum of Virginia, since the 1930s; its origin is unknown. It was named for the donor of Blandy Farm to the University of Virginia. It has an unusual columnar form, tight and very narrow. New spring growth sometimes droops from its own weight. It is suggested that this growth be shortened about  $\frac{1}{3}$  by pinching out the tips, to maintain the very narrow upright shape. A 20-year-old plant is 9 feet tall and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet in width. Mature height 15 to 18 feet. Hardy to Zone 5.

### 'Henry Shaw' (*B. sempervirens*)

Collected in the Balkans by Dr. Edgar Anderson. It is perhaps one of the plants grown from seed after 1935. Registered by Mary Gamble in 1985. Named for the man who established the Missouri

Botanic Garden, which is often called "Shaw's Garden" in St. Louis. Breaks dormancy late and is therefore hardy in colder sections of the country. Broadly pyramidal in shape, ultimate large size.

***Buxus himalayensis*** Large pyramidal boxwood with dense foliage. A fine specimen plant.

**'Ipek'** (*B. sempervirens*) One of the plants which resulted from Dr. Edgar Anderson's trip to the Balkans in 1934; the name is an older equivalent of present-day Pec, in Yugoslavia. The name is also carried in some arboreta as 'Petch'. The plant is pyramidal, taller than broad, and the leaves maintain a pronounced bluish-green color.

**'Jim's Spreader'** (*B. microphylla* var. *japonica*) Distributed by Saunders Brothers Nursery. Broad, spreading habit, vigorous growth.

**'John Baldwin'** (*B. microphylla*) Outstanding bluish-green color, dense foliage, small leaves, upright grower taller than broad. Selected by Dr. John Baldwin in Williamsburg in 1950 and named for him after his death in 1974. Registered 1988.

**'Joy'** (*B. sempervirens*) Cuttings from an Ohio plant (originally from Michigan) were tested in St. Louis after 1970. It was registered by Mary Gamble in 1984, honoring Mrs. Rombauer, Editor of *The Joy of Cooking*. Conical in shape with narrow leaves; fast growth.

**'Krossi-Livonia'** (*B. sempervirens*) Not registered, but listed in the 1971 catalog of Henry Hohman's Kingsville Nursery, and part of a collection of boxwood plants given to the ABS at Blandy Farm in 1966 by Mr. Hohman. Pyramidal in shape with a loose and open habit of growth. This plant is possibly one of the Anderson seedlings raised in St. Louis during the 1930s.

**'Latifolia Macrophylla'** (*B. sempervirens*) Registered 1902. Broad leaves and very large mature size.

**'Latifolia Maculata'** (*B. sempervirens*) Registered 1896. Irregular gold variegation with blotches and stripes. Best gold color is obtained when grown in full sun. Very large mature size.

**'Latifolia Marginata'** (*B. sempervirens*) Registered 1925. Silver variegation along the margins of the leaves. A broad mound with somewhat loose and open habit. The leaves appear distorted in shape by the variegation.

**'Morris Midget'** (*B. microphylla* var. *japonica*) Registered in 1972. An open-pollinated seedling selected by Dr. Henry Skinner at the Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia in 1947. It is a dwarf box which forms a compact mound with dense and twiggy branches. Grows very slowly. Prefers dappled shade in order to avoid winter bronzing.

**'Nana'** (*B. sinica* var. *insularis*) Dwarf Korean box, a spreading plant of willow or cascading habit,

much broader than high, seldom more than 18 inches high, even at 60 years of age. When grown in shade has a beautiful dark color, but in full sun, it becomes yellowish and sickly looking.

**'National'** (*B. microphylla* var. *japonica*) A seedling selected by Dr. Henry Skinner at the Morris Arboretum and named when he became director of the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Large leaves and vigorous growth rate contribute to a strong plant of pyramidal habit with vertical branches. Registered in 1973.

**'Pendula'** (*B. sempervirens*). Known by 1869. A broad spreading weeping form.

**'Sunnyside'** (*B. microphylla*) Fast-growing mounded form with loose open growth. Named and distributed by Sunnyside Nurseries in Troy, Illinois. 1984 listing by Vermeulen & Son in New Jersey.

**'Tall Boy'** (*B. sinica* var. *insularis*) Registered 1967. A Korean boxwood selected and distributed by Sheridan Nurseries, Ontario, Canada. Conical growth with loose, open habit. Resistant to winter fluctuations of temperature.

**'Yorktown'** (*B. sempervirens*) Dr. John Baldwin selected this plant. It has a somewhat stiff upright habit of growth in a pyramidal form.

## Annual Meeting Garden Tour, May 17, 1997

Joan Butler, Chairman 1997 Annual Meeting

On Saturday morning a bus and car caravan began a day of visits to four beautiful gardens: Glen Burnie, the Cook garden, Tuleyries, and the Symmes garden. Photographs

appear on the following pages.

Every garden of the day evoked high praise and engendered resolve to return at leisure. Truly a photographer's paradise.

The day provided members with beautiful and interesting gardens to enjoy, a greater appreciation of the virtues of boxwood and pleasant memories to recall in the future.

**Glen Burnie:** The home of Winchester's founder, Colonel James Wood, is now owned by the Glass-Glen Burnie Foundation. The formal gardens surrounding the late 18th-century brick manor house were designed by Julian Wood Glass, Jr. and R. Lee Taylor. Mr. Taylor, who installed the gardens and oversees their maintenance and development, was present to tell about its creation and expansion. The beauty and perfection of the gardens surpassed all expectations.



*A sunken terrace is sheltered by tall boxwood hedges with pockets of low curved boxwood hedges to soften the appearance of the brick retaining walls. Potted geraniums enhance the fountain pool in the center.*



*A terrace beside the manor house has boxwood trimmed to match the curves of the pockets in which they are planted with large boxwood "balls" above. (Photos this page: Scot Butler)*

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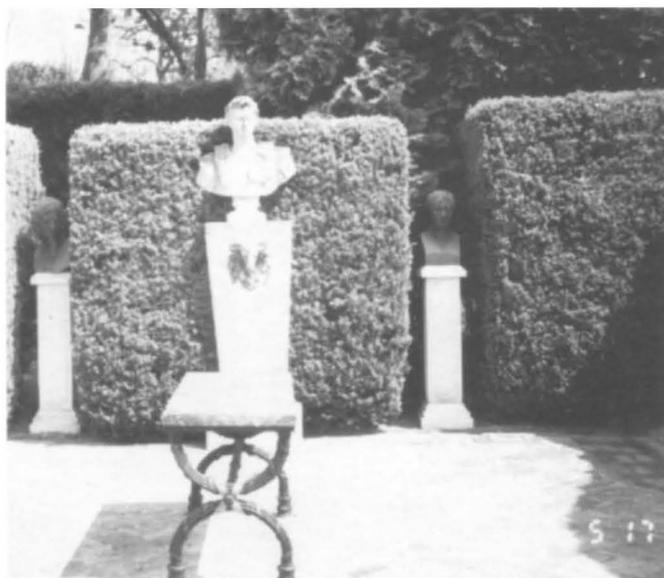
**Glen Burnie:** A stately Pink Pavilion rests serenely among carefully-shaped boxwood hedges. The formal vegetable garden sported young green lettuces arranged in a twining knot pattern. Other boxwood patterns, the rose garden and then a statue garden were encountered.



*Boxwood and a pair of cherubs are background for a pool featuring Neptune.*



*A decorated urn is the focal point of a semi-circular boxwood hedge.*



*A formally clipped hedge sets off an assortment of busts on pedestals. (Photos this page: D. Frackelton)*



*A boxwood hedge trimmed straight on the sides, but allowed to cloud naturally on top, provides background for potted topiary herbs and geraniums.*

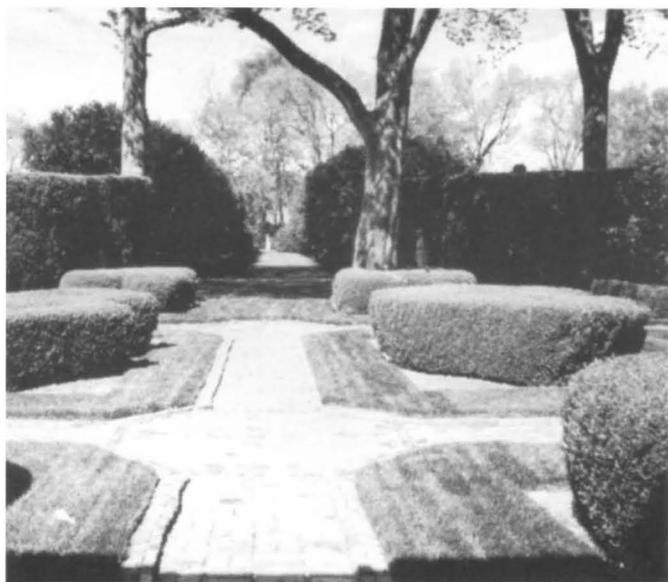
**Glen Burnie:** The path led through high boxwood hedges down to a broad expanse of lawn leading to the Chinese pagoda and over a bridge to the water garden below. This latter garden results from fresh water springs and the stone-lined Town Run which flows through the grounds.



*A step above the herb "room," a pair of massive boxwood flanks the door.*



*The Town Run meanders through the Chinese garden.*



*Boxwood parterres line the converging walks followed by tall hedges pointing to the vista beyond. (Photos this page: Scot Bulter, except as noted)*

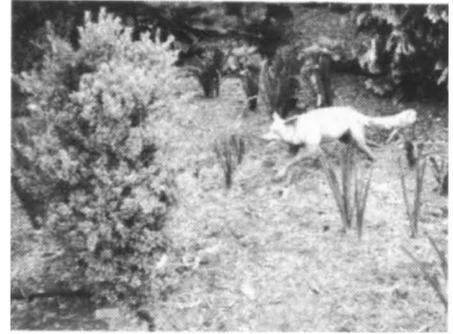


*The vegetable garden is laid out in geometrical beds interspersed with topiaries and weeping plants. (Photo: Steve Zapton)*

**Cook Garden:** The next stop provided a glorious view of the Blue Ridge Mountains from the extensive gardens of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Cook near Millwood in Clarke County, Virginia. The imposing large stone house viewed from the drive screened the full panoramic view but Mr. Cook was on hand to lead through the house to a terrace

surrounded on all sides by intricately-designed gardens filled with unusual specimens and lovely combinations of plants.

*A lifelike fox points toward a plant of Buxus sempervirens 'Elegantissima'.*



*The ABS tour group arrives at the entrance of the home of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Cook.*



*Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa' flank the path leading away from the gardens.*



*Sigrid Harriman, Lynn Batdorf and Steve Zapton admire the panoramic view. (Photos: Decca Frackelton, except as noted)*



*At the back of the home, large glass areas provide a view of the extensive gardens, the meadows, and the mountains beyond. (Photo: Scot Butler)*

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**Tuleyries:** After a box lunch at Blandy Farm, members had an opportunity to visit the “rooms” of the old boxwood garden at the adjoining Tuleyries through the generosity of owner Mrs. Orme Wilson, Jr.



*The arched entrance to the boxwood garden at Tuleyries has handsome iron gates.*



*A pair of columns and a curved seat are among the trees and boxwoods. (Photos at right: Steve Zapton)*



*Boxwood parterres and taller hedges lead to a sundial with the top of a cupola showing beyond. (Photos at left: Decca Frackelton)*



*Looking toward the arched entrance, the main walkway has recessed areas with curved seats for resting and admiring the landscape.*

**Symmes Garden:** Finally the cavalcade drove east to Upperville, Fauquier County, to the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Symmes. Mr. Symmes' long interest in boxwood was reflected in wonderful specimens of mature box of many types planted in his cross garden to display their differing characteristics.

Mr. Symmes, a former Director of the ABS and a Life Member, graciously accompanied members with commentary about such large specimens as *Buxus microphylla* 'Helen Whiting' and *Buxus sempervirens* 'Pyramidalis Hardwickensis'. and two superb specimens of *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Justin Brou-

wers' flanking the front door. Mr. Symmes conducted an informative tour through his woodland shade garden, identifying wild flowers and azaleas in luxurious bloom.



*A handsome pair of Buxus sempervirens 'Pyramidalis Hardwickensis'. (Upper photos: Decca Frackelton)*



*"Walls" of boxwoods shape the garden into "rooms." The center plant is on the axis where the paths meet.*



*Outlined by a stone wall, the garden is divided into four sections, each accented by a pair of Buxus sempervirens 'Graham Blandy'. (Lower photos: Steve Zapton)*



*Harrison Symmes greets the ABS group. At the entrance is a pair of large Buxus sinica var. insularis 'Justin Brouwers'. Buxus microphylla edges the walk.*

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# Importation of Boxwood in the 18th and Early 19th Century in the American South

Henry F. Frierson, Jr., M.D.

Boxwood was used in many fine colonial gardens as ornamental plantings, and its wood had value in the construction of such items as furniture inlay and musical instruments. As boxwood is not native to North America, boxwood plants and timber were imported into major American ports such as Charleston and Baltimore. Insight into the importation of boxwood plants, timber, and manufactured goods during the 18th and early 19th centuries can be gleaned from newspaper advertisements of recent cargoes for sale.

The following advertisements from Charleston and Baltimore sources were kindly provided by Brad Rauschenberg, Director, Department of Research at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA), which has extensive research files relating to early southern material culture. Some of this information appears in Mr. Rauschenberg's article, "Timber Available in Charleston: 1660-1820" published in *The Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts* (Volume XX, #2, Nov.94).

In 1741-42, Scott and Watson sold a "... variety of table hardware, small wares, etc." and "boxwood, ivory and horn combs..." (1) These items had been part of a cargo from the ship *Carolina Packet*. It can only be assumed that these items were manufactured in England, as the home port of the ship was not mentioned.

In 1766, John Howell on Elliott Street facing Bedon's Alley in Charleston had for sale "TEN TONS of Lignum-Vitae —500 feet of Mahogany Plank and Bed-Posts —

Four Tons of Box Wood." (2)

In this same advertisement, Howell also listed for sale "good old Jamaica rum..." Later that year Woodrop and Cathcart advertised the liquidation of "...a quantity of MAHOGANY PLANK and BED-POSTS, BRAZILETTO, LIGNUM-VITAE and BOXWOOD." (3)

Although no mention was made about the geographic source of the boxwood, other advertisements included mahogany and lignum vitae which had been unloaded from a ship that had sailed from New-Providence (now Nassau) in the Bahamas.

Boxwood plants were imported by Martha Logan in Charleston in 1768. She received them from a ship under the command of Captain Boyd which arrived in Charleston from London. Ms. Logan advertised "At her house in Meeting-street, three doors without the gate; A FRESH assortment of very good garden seeds and flower roots; also many other sorts, with flowering shrubs and box for edging beds, now growing in her garden." (4)

Another advertisement in a Charleston newspaper appeared in 1804 in which F. Weir and Company had at Geyer's Wharf "4,500 feet Cuba MAHOGANY.... 5 tons Ebony and Box WOOD, 37,000 SLATES, 25,000 BRICKS...." (5) These items were part of a cargo from the ship *Enterprize* commanded by Captain Graham which arrived in Charleston on May 4, 1804, from Nassau.

Adam and James Stewart advertised in Baltimore in 1813 that they had for sale "two tons best Turkey Box Wood." (6) The Stew-

arts were pianoforte makers at #8 North Charles Street in Baltimore.

In 1822 William Vance at #10 North Charles Street in Baltimore had "now on hand a large and elegant assortment of PLANES AND EDGE TOOLS, which he offers for sale at reduced prices. ALSO, TEN TONS TURKEY BOX WOOD, AND 6,000 WEIGHT BEST TURKEY OIL STONE, WARRANTED GOOD." (7)

It is, of course, not surprising that boxwood plants for the landscape and manufactured items made from boxwood were imported into the South from England, the South's main foreign trading partner in early America. It is also likely that the "Turkey box" (probably *Buxus balearica*) passed through English ports as great quantities of Mediterranean boxwood were used in the English textile industry in the 19th century. Importation of boxwood from the Caribbean Islands to Southern ports is also not unexpected, considering their close trading relationship, especially with Charleston, and the numerous species of tropical boxwood indigenous to Cuba, Jamaica, etc.

Rauschenberg has noted, however, that "boxwood" also referred to a tree called yellow wood (*Shaefferia frutescens*) which grew in Florida, the Caribbean Islands, and into Venezuela. This tree grows to a height of up to 40 feet and has a trunk diameter of up to 10 inches. Its wood is apparently very similar to that of *Buxus*. It is possible that some of the large quantities of West Indian "boxwood" imported into Charleston actually represented *Schaefferia*.

The above documentary evidence for boxwood imports leads to many questions for those interested in the importation of plants and the uses of timber in early America. For instance, how frequently was "English" boxwood imported for ornamental landscape usage and when did this importation diminish? Why was "Turkey box" timber so desirable for the making of pianofortes? Was timber from West Indian "boxwood" that was imported into Southern ports actually *Buxus* species?

Answers to these and many other questions concerning the importation of boxwood plants, timber, and manufactured goods in eighteenth and early nineteenth century America can be determined with additional historical research efforts. Perhaps some of these questions about boxwood plants have already been addressed in publications concerning landscape history. Such information would obviously be of interest to readers of the *Boxwood Bulletin*.

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1. *South-Carolina Gazette*, Charleston, 9 January 1741/2, 2-2.
2. *South-Carolina Gazette: and Country Journal*, Charleston, 19 August 1766, 3-1.
3. *South Carolina and American General Gazette*, Charleston, 31 October 1766, 4-4.
4. *South Carolina Gazette*, Charleston, 14 March 1768, 3-2.
5. *Charleston Courier*, 10 May 1804, 3-3.
6. *American & Commercial Daily Advertiser*, Baltimore, Maryland, 18 February 1813, 3-5.
7. C. Keenan, *Baltimore Directory*, 1822, page 282.

## 1997 Annual Meeting Registrants

Batdorf, Mr. Lynn R., Washington, DC  
 Boone, Mr./Mrs. William E. (Martha), Waldorf, MD  
 Boyd, Mr. John W III, Roanoke, VA  
 Bullock, Hal & Yvonne, Purcellville, VA  
 Burton, Mrs. Geo. (Sarah), Berryville, VA  
 Butler, Mr./Mrs. Scot (Joan), Winchester, VA  
 Carell, Mr./Mrs. Walter (Alexandra), Millington, NJ  
 Chamberlin, Mrs. E. (Kathryn), Purcellville, VA  
 Clark, Mrs. S.A. (Renee), Midlothian, VA  
 Conlon, Andy, Leesburg, VA  
 de Butts, Mrs. Harry A., Upperville, VA  
 di Zerega, Mrs. Thomas, Upperville, VA  
 Douts, Mr. John W., Fairfax, VA (cancelled)  
 Dykes, Mr. and, Mrs. Robert (Hazel), Delmar, MD  
 Fooks, Mr./Mrs. Charles T., Sr. (Lucille), Salisbury, MD  
 Frackelton, Mrs. R. L., Fredericksburg, VA  
 Frierson, Jr., Dr./Mrs. Henry F. (Melinda), Charlottesville, VA  
 Frierson, Miss Ellen, Charlottesville, VA  
 Gaskin, Lewis J., Laurel Springs, NC  
 Goode, William, Eleanor & Ed, Richmond, VA  
 Hahn, Mr. K. Lee, Califon, NJ  
 Hansen, Dr. Maury, Madison, VA  
 Harriman, Mrs. Sigrid, Fredericksburg, VA  
 Hart, Mr./Mrs. John (Lita), Falls Church, VA  
 Hoffman, Mr. Clifford, Flemington, NJ  
 Holekamp, Mr./Mrs. Malcolm (Mary), Port Huron, MI  
 Kelly, Dr./Mrs. Edward (Patricia), Westminster, MD  
 Mahone, Mr. Richard D., Williamsburg, VA  
 Murray, Maurice & Kay, Mt. Vernon, IN  
 Paul, Mr. Mark, Newport, KY  
 Plumb, Mr./Mrs. William (Mickey), Moorestown, NJ  
 Powell, Mrs. L.C., Alexandria, VA  
 Saunders, Mr./Mrs. Thomas (Lyn), Piney River, VA  
 Saunders, Mr./Mrs. James (Amy), Piney River, VA  
 Schumacher, Mr./Mrs. George (Dea Anna), Turlock, CA  
 Shafer, Cap & Mattie, Easton, MD  
 Southall, Dr. Stephen D., Lynchburg, VA  
 Taylor, Mr. Dale T., Wenonah, NJ  
 Walker, Mr./Mrs. J Ward (Betty), Del Rio, TN  
 Ward, Mrs. Katherine D., West Augusta, VA  
 Weber, Mr./Mrs. Clyde (Janet), Bentleyville, PA  
 Williams, J. Lanier, Lewisville, NC  
 Williams, Clarke C., Lewisville, NC  
 Zaffuto, Aubrey, Far Hills, NJ  
 Zapton, Steve, Port Republic, VA

Guest Speakers:

Gabe d'Eustachio	Keith Folsom
Bonnie Appleton	Mary B. Gildersleeve

## CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:

During a June 1996 alumni reunion at Swarthmore College, Joan and I were pleased to find on the campus--which serves as the Arthur Hoyt Scott Arboretum--the boxwoods pictured in the adjacent photos. One is an old *Buxus sempervirens* (common boxwood) measuring some 17 feet in height. The other is a hedge of *B. sempervirens* 'Newport Blue' planted some years ago but maintained at the present height by clipping.

Arboretum Director Claire Sawyers told us that, although she would like to display more varieties of boxwood, it is their policy to add only plants that can be recommended for use in home gardens in that general area. Joan has now provided her with a list of about ten varieties of boxwood suited to the Philadelphia area. We hope to see some of them growing in the Arboretum on our next visit. Other ABS members may also enjoy a



At Swarthmore College, a large *B. sempervirens* towers over Joan Butler.

visit to the Scott Arboretum when near Swarthmore.

Sincerely,  
Scot Butler, ABS Director



Hedge of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Newport Blue' at Swarthmore College.  
(Photo: Scot Butler)

*Cultivar Evaluation Project:*

To Joan Butler:

I am sorry to be so late in responding to your 19 April letter. We have not yet planted the boxwoods outdoors, and in fact, I've chosen to hold the plants one more year in production. Most of the plants are under six inches tall and I think some additional size will only increase their chances of survival. Our past winter was quite mild and would have been a great "first winter" for boxwood. Sadly it is an exception to our usual winter weather so I think it's best to get the plants as large as possible before transplanting outside.

I have made a note to prepare a propagation report later this season as things settle down. I will forward the report to you as soon as it is completed. I am glad that you have acquired 'Glencoe' - it is not an easy plant to find because of the high demand. We continue to be impressed with its habit and performance.

Best wishes for a pleasant spring and summer.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Hawke  
Plant Evaluation Coordinator  
Chicago Botanic Garden

## Appreciation

The Governing Board thanks Tom Saunders of Saunders Bros. for the donation of the gift plants of *B. sempervirens* 'Dee Runk' to those attending the May 1997 Annual Meeting.

## Mark Your Calendar

The 1998 ABS Annual Meeting will be held at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., on May 15-16.

## Check Your Name and Address

Please check the name and address on the envelope for this issue. Send any corrections to Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, 1714 Greenway Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5209. Also please send the extra four digits of your Zip code if you haven't already done so.

## Renewal Reminder

If you have not renewed your membership for 1997-1998, you will not receive the next issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. Renewal notices were mailed with the May issue. Mail checks to ABS Treasurer, Mrs. K. D. Ward, 134 Methodist Church Lane, West Augusta, VA 24485-2053.

### In Memoriam

Mr. James J. O. Anderson  
Life Member

Dr. & Mrs. Dommick Buxton  
Members since 1980.

Mr. Howard Hathaway, III  
Member since 1984

## Minutes of the May 15, 1997, Meeting of the ABS Governing Board

The spring meeting of the ABS Governing Board was held on Thursday, May 15, 1997, in Winchester, Virginia. Those attending were President Stephen D. Southall, First Vice President Tom Saunders, Second Vice President Mary Holekamp, Executive Treasurer Katherine D. Ward, Secretary Joan Butler, Registrar Lynn R. Batdorf, Directors John W. Boyd, III, Charles T. Fooks, Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Dr. Henry Frierson, Mrs. Sigrid Harriman, Richard D. Mahone, Clyde Weber and Steve Zapton. *Everyone* was present, a record!

The minutes of the Winter Meeting on January 29, 1997, were approved as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol.36, No.4, p.77.

Mrs. Ward presented the Treasurers report showing \$14,782.39 in the checking account and \$14,892.13 in the certificate of deposit.

Mrs. Butler gave a brief review of the plans for the Annual Meeting and Tour on Friday and Saturday.

Dr. Frierson discussed a very detailed report on possible ABS involvement in a World Wide Web site; he and his wife Melinda had prepared a fine presentation with detailed information for the Board's consideration. Many ideas were offered, such as charging boxwood nurseries for their listing on our web page, which might cover funding for the project. The subject will be discussed more fully at the next meeting. Mr. Batdorf referred to "Addictive Boxwood Syndrome," a fine description of the disease affecting *Buxus* aficionados.

### Registrar and Publications:

As Registrar and Publications producer, Mr. Batdorf reported on plans for the 1998 Annual Meeting at the US National Arboretum. One problem which still needs to be solved is to provide liability insurance for the homes which will be on the one-day tour. (It is possible that Dale Taylor can provide Katherine Ward with a solution.) The next edition of the *Handbook* will be printed in 4,000 copies at slightly less cost than the first, and will be ready soon. The plan for the *Boxwood Manual* is nearly complete. The next edition of the *Buyer's Guide* is also overdue and would benefit from another survey of the nursery industry.

**Annual Meeting:** Discussion is needed on the location of the 1999 Annual Meeting, perhaps Tennessee? Charles Fooks volunteered to provide gift plants for the 1998 Annual Meeting. The Board expressed thanks for this generous offer.

**Membership and *The Boxwood Bulletin*:** Mrs. Frackelton reported that there are 600 regular members, 70 Life Members and 23 Charter Members, of whom three will be present at this meeting. She also thanked Dr. Frierson and others who responded with material for the *Bulletin*.

**Nominating Committee:** Mr. Zapton reported that new Board members will be needed in the future; characteristics which make good members should be discussed. Mr. Batdorf noted that garden designers and landscape architects would be a desirable addition, in order to promote the use of new and unusual boxwoods.

**ABS Memorial Garden:** Comments were made about the most recent mulch applied to the Memorial Garden; it would have looked better if double-shredded. Also, when it is too fresh it draws nitrogen out of the soil.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Butler, Secretary

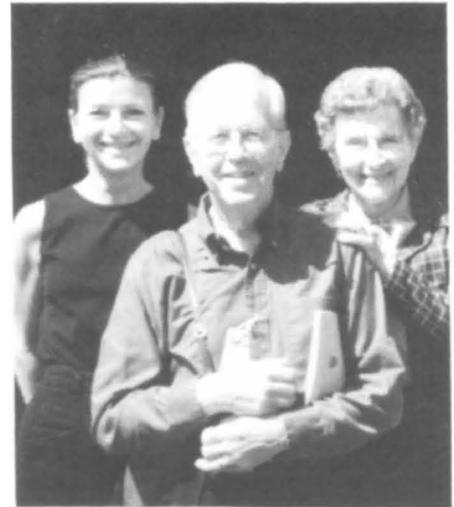


## Scot Butler New ABS Director

Scot Butler, newly elected Director of the Governing Board, is a life member of the ABS. His membership in the Society dates from 1971 but his interest in boxwood goes back to the 1950s. Scot previously served as a Board member from 1979 to 1982 at which time he became editor of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. He continued in that position until 1987.

Scot was born in Washington, D.C. in 1923. He received a B.A. degree from Swarthmore College in 1946 following a break of three years of Army service in World War II. He earned an M. A. from Columbia University where he attended the Russian Institute.

He served as an economic intelligence officer with the U. S. Government for 32 years. Since retiring in 1980 he has continued to work as a consultant.



New ABS Director Scot Butler with his daughter Susan (l.) and wife Joan. (Photo: Frances Frazier)

Scot and his wife Joan, secretary of the ABS, have made their home for the last five years at the Shenandoah Valley Westminster Canterbury, a life-care retirement community in Winchester, Virginia.

## Minutes of the 37th ABS Annual Meeting, May 16, 1997

The 37th Annual Meeting of the ABS was held on Friday, May 16, 1997 at Blandy Farm, the State Arboretum of Virginia, in Boyce, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by President Stephen Southall. Members who had traveled from some distance were recognized and thanks were expressed to Mr. Tom Saunders for the generous donation of plants of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Dee Runk' from Saunders Brothers nursery as a gift to each attendee.

Immediate past president Dale Taylor and former presidents Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton and Mr. Richard D. Mahone were all in attendance. Special recognition was given to Mrs. Frackelton and to Mr. Lynn Batdorf for their very great contributions to the work of the Society: the production of *The*



Honorary Life Members Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf with gift print of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Angustifolia' and Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton with gift print of *Buxus microphylla* 'Compacta'. (Photos: Steve Zapton)

*Boxwood Bulletin*, *The Boxwood Handbook*; and numerous other publications. Each was awarded an Honorary Life Membership and was presented with a framed nature print of a boxwood sprig.

The minutes of the 36th Annual Meeting on May 24-25, 1996 were approved as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol.36, No.1, pp.17-18. The Treasurer reported balances on hand of \$14,782.39 in the checking account and \$14,892.13 in a certificate of deposit.

### Committee Reports

**Membership:** Mrs. Frackelton reported 600 members in the Society, including 70 Life Members and 23 Charter Members, of whom three were present for this 37th meeting: Mrs. Burton, Mrs. de Butts and Mrs. di Zerega.

**Registrar, Handbook, Buyer's Guide, Manual:** Mr. Batdorf announced that the 1998 Annual Meeting will be held at the U.S. National Arboretum on Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16. The

first printing of 4,000 copies of the *Boxwood Handbook* is almost exhausted and a revised edition of an additional 4,000 copies will appear in the fall. A fifth edition of the *Buyer's Guide* was discussed; this publication quickly becomes outdated since nursery availability of specific cultivars changes rapidly.

The Registrar spent three days in Belgium and Holland where he visited many nurseries and saw plants to exemplify many unfamiliar boxwood names; registration of several new cultivars may be possible. For his *Manual* he has now accumulated 742 names of temperate boxwoods.

### Research and ABS Memorial

**Boxwood Garden:** Mrs. Butler noted that the Cultivar Evaluation project at the Chicago Botanic Garden is continuing with testing of plants believed to be hardy in northern climates. The cuttings sent by Mr. Batdorf from the National Arboretum rooted well but are still quite small. They will not be set outside until 1998. (See Correspondence, letter from Richard Hawke). Members had

toured the Boxwood Garden and seen the new arrangements of the collection, which facilitate study of relationships among the boxwood cultivars. Mrs. Butler noted three work days in the Garden scheduled for May 31, June 7 and 14, all Saturdays, at 9 a.m. She will be on hand all three days and everyone who can give some time to pruning and sprucing up plants will be most welcome.

**Nominations:** Mr. Steve Zapton, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of Officers and Directors of the Governing Board for 1997-1998:

Officers:

*President:*

Dr. Stephen Southall

*1st Vice President:*

Mr. Thomas Saunders

*2nd Vice President:*

Mrs. Malcolm Holekamp

*Executive Treasurer:*

Mrs. Katherine D. Ward

*Secretary:*

Mrs. Joan Butler



Joan Butler paused with a group along the Quarters entrance walk edged with *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Nana' before entering the ABS Memorial Garden.



ABS members examined the specimens in the South Bed of the redesigned ABS Memorial Garden.

Directors to serve a three-year term:

Mr. Scot Butler  
Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton  
Dr. Henry Frierson

The slate as presented was unanimously elected.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Special Meeting:** A Special Meeting of the Governing Board was held immediately after adjournment to elect one member to serve on the Executive Committee with the President, First Vice President, Secretary and Executive Treasurer. Mr. Richard D Mahone was named. The Executive Committee then named Mr. Steve Zapton as the Chairman of the Nominating Committee for 1998, as he expressed willingness to serve again. Two non-Board members will serve with him.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Butler, Secretary

## Blandy Garden Fair

Sponsored by the Friends organization, the Annual Garden Fair at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Blandy Farm, was held on May 9 and 10. As in earlier years, Joan Butler represented the American Boxwood Society with displays of publications and membership information. Although the first day was cloudy, cool, windy and ended in rain, the second day was sunny and beautiful. Large crowds attended both days, making it the most successful event so far in this series. Joan had many conversations and dispensed lots of boxwood information, as well as selling copies of *The Boxwood Handbook*.



At the ABS Annual Meeting, Malcolm Holekamp photographed a boxwood specimen as Joan Butler led a group through the ABS Memorial Garden.

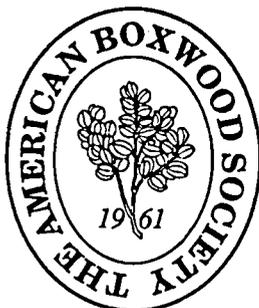
## Garden Forums at Blandy Farm

On Sunday, May 18, 1997, Joan Butler participated in a series of garden forums at Blandy Farm, the State Arboretum of Virginia. She was available for advice in "Boxwood Tips." A young couple hoping for information were given a demonstration on thinning and opening up boxwoods and then proceeded to put their instruction to use by cleaning out and pruning the interior of one of the three *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' plants beside the ABS Memorial Garden sign. This plant had not received previous attention and was thoroughly clogged with old leaves and dead twigs.

The afternoon's work produced a clean, healthy open plant ready to enhance the Garden for many more years.

## Blandy Farm Boxwood Work Days

The three work days announced at the Annual Meeting were held on Saturdays May 31, June 7 and June 14. Joan Butler worked on May 31 and was joined by Mrs. Thomas di Zerega, a charter member of the Society. June 7, was an unpleasant gray, raw day and no volunteers came to work. On June 14, Walter and Alexandra Carell drove all the way down from Millington, New Jersey, and did a wonderful job working all day until 5 p.m. They removed dead wood and thinned the plants in the north bed of the Memorial Garden. As a result of their hard, steady work the plants looked superb, with light penetrating the interiors, and the Garden was greatly improved. Many, many thanks for such dedicated, determined members!



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*(A list of Officers and Directors is published at the beginning of each fiscal year.)*