

The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental



Boxwood used in decorative street barriers in Munich, Germany. See story on page 17. (Photo: Sigrid Harriman)

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ABS Annual Meeting Rings the Bell in Richmond, Va.

May 20-22, 1999

Scot Butler

Marked by a stimulating educational program and zestful entertainment, the 39th annual meeting of the American Boxwood Society will be remembered as one of the best in a long series of outstanding meetings. The meeting was held at Comfort Suites, Innsbrook, in Richmond, Virginia. Participants enjoyed perfect weather: sunny skies with daytime temperatures in the 60-80 degree range.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

On Thursday morning, May 20, nearly 30 registrants enjoyed a specially arranged tour of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Founded in 1984 in memory of Richmond businessman Lewis Ginter, the garden has already achieved world-class status with its 15 developed acres, and there is still more to come. Our knowledgeable guides interpreted each of about 12 sites, some completed projects and some still in progress.

Departing the new visitors' center our group entered the Asian Valley Garden which is planted mainly in trees selected for the texture of their bark, their leaves and their "personality." A scenic waterfall contributes to the peaceful and contemplative oriental character of this garden. Moving on through the Moss Garden our guide noted a handsome Fringe Tree, native to this area but not too common. Interest in the West Island Garden centered on the water plants: sedges, rushes (including a "zebra" variety) and the pitcher plant, an insectivorous plant that devours insects that fall into its water-filled leaf pocket. Next in this suite of



The new Robins Visitors' Center at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.



Gardens below the Robins Tea House. (Photos: Scot Butler)



A window strategically placed to view the sculpture in the background.



A luxurious red Japanese maple in the Ginter Garden.

own home. She willed the property to the City of Richmond. Today it serves as a house museum containing furnishings and artifacts, mostly from its early period. The elegant Victorian Garden in front of the house was restored in 1990 by the Garden Club of Virginia. The garden changes seasonally and is notable for its *Rosa rugosa* roses. Adjacent to this garden is a cottage garden with herbs for cooking, and a knot garden. Nearby, still under development, are a Children's Garden and an Egyptian Garden. The latter, on the bank of a large pond, will feature lotus and papyrus trees as well as plants sacred to ancient Egyptian deities.

The scenery kept changing as we passed through the Rhododendron



A whimsical figure in the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden



Some of the conifers in the Margaret Streb Conifer Garden, overlooking the lake. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)

artfully arranged gardens was the Flagler Garden, three acres of more than 770 species and varieties of plants. Created with a \$3 million grant it is one of the most diverse perennial gardens on the East Coast, with displays of hostas and cacti among others. Placed in this garden is "Slow Dance," a remarkable sculpture made of North Carolina granite; it affords a changing prospect of a

couple dancing as ones viewing angle changes. The White Garden features peonies and different forms of grasses.

Next came Bloemendaal House, which has had various uses since it was built in 1884 by Major Ginter as a clubhouse for bicyclists from the city. It was later bought by Grace Arents, Ginter's niece, for a children's hospital and finally for her

Garden and into the dwarf and exotic conifer collection. The latter displayed a number of Stout Medal day lily winners, and the 'Ben Franklin' dwarf *Cryptomeria*. The last of the gardens we visited was devoted to bulbs: tulips, crocuses, daffodils, iris, etc. On the way back to the visitors' center for lunch we passed the Anderson Wildflower Meadow. Although there were several



Bloemendaal House with the Victorian Garden, which was restored in 1990 by the Garden Club of Virginia, based on the original design. (Photo: Scot Butler)

impressive plantings of boxwood in the gardens, there was no boxwood collection as such. Still, for anyone with an interest in botanical species and garden design, the Ginter Garden is a must.

Charles Thornton, Soil Consultant

At the Thursday afternoon session, ABS Director Ian Robertson introduced Mr. Charles Thornton who has a soil consulting firm, Tellus, in Virginia. Because of the great importance of soil conditions to the health of boxwoods, Mr. Thornton was asked to give a detailed analysis of what constitutes healthy soil, including mineral composition. With a nutrient structure of 25% air, 25% water, 45% soil (minerals) and 5% humus, it is the soil microorganisms that break down and exchange from one form to another the nutrients that plants require. Stressing soil exchange capacity as the key to healthy plants, Mr. Thornton discussed the role of positive and negative ions (cations and anions). The goal is to achieve proper soil balance between

chemical nutrients such as calcium, hydrogen, potassium, sodium, magnesium, etc. Boxwoods like 4-7% potassium and about 10% hydrogen. Their root health is related to the level of phosphorous.

Exchange of nutrients, he said, takes place in the top 6-10 inches of soil. Therefore it is important to avoid soil compaction, and too much water can leach the soil. The carbon/nitrogen ratio is also important. In reply to questions, Mr. Thornton said that dolomitic lime has a high magnesium content and that gypsum is a good source of calcium and sulfur. When he is asked to test soil samples, Mr. Thornton sends the cores to Brookside Laboratories at New Knoxville, Ohio, for chemical analysis but makes his own holistic analysis of specific growing conditions at the site in question.

Spring Meeting of the ABS Governing Board

Following Mr. Thornton's stimulating talk, the ABS Governing Board met for their spring meeting. (See



Gazebo from Church Hill moved to the Ginter Garden opposite Bloemendaal House, surrounded by pink azaleas and shrubs. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)

minutes of the meeting on p. 21 of this issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.)

Dinner Cruise Aboard the "Annabel Lee"

Thursday evening was given over to relaxation and entertainment as ABS members and guests boarded the "Annabel Lee" for a dinner cruise on the James River. This paddle-wheel river boat has three decks, the lower two being enclosed dining saloons and the top one being an observation deck. The site of a Civil War engagement and the homes of several public figures were pointed out as the boat plied its way among jumping fish. A lavish southern-style meal was served to the passengers as singers provided entertainment during the cruise.

Paul M. Saunders, Nurseryman

An early morning breakfast session with Mr. Paul M. Saunders of Saunders Brothers Orchard and Nursery and currently coordinator of a series of privately initiated national boxwood trials, opened the second

day of the annual meeting. Mr. Saunders began his illustrated talk with slides sent to him by Mr. Jim Stauffer in Leola, Pennsylvania. Mr. Saunders found them of interest as an illustration of a unique method of rejuvenating and shaping unthrifty specimens.

The process consisted of pruning and shaping these plants with electric shears, watering them well, and then covering them with a double lap of burlap. Keeping the soil and burlap thoroughly wet for 5-6 weeks, Mr. Stauffer then removed the burlap in late March at the first flush of new growth and used hedge or hand clippers to give the plants a neat finish. As unorthodox as this treatment seems the results shown in the slides were impressive.

Mr. Saunders then gave a comprehensive report on the background and present status of the boxwood trials. Citing Dr. Robert Armstrong of Longwood Gardens who said that "in horticulture correct variety is everything—almost," Mr. Saunders narrowed down the field of boxwood cultivars to be evaluated for hardiness from about 200 two years ago to some 60 in 1998.

Specifically, the mission of the national boxwood trials is, with the help of cooperators (arboretums, botanical gardens, nurseries, private estates and individuals), to evaluate different boxwood cultivars in various microenvironments to find the most "grower friendly" plants. Grower friendly is determined on the basis of hardiness, favorable growth habits, ease of care, relative resistance to insect damage and minimal winter discoloration. A related criterion is most appealing "impulse cosmetics," or how does the cultivar impress the viewer in the first microsecond that he sees it?

In the 1998 trials there were cooperators in Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina Virginia, Maryland,

Pennsylvania, New Jersey and the District of Columbia. They provided over 180 evaluations of over 60 cultivars; 12 of the same cultivars were rated by at least 7 different cooperators. In 1999 Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia are being added to the list of states with cooperators.

Plants being tested in any given period are designated as "bench mark" plants. The list of bench mark plants may vary from period to period depending on how a cultivar compares with other cultivars added to the evaluation process. Saunders Brothers has supplied to cooperators over 700 plants, most in 3-gallon pots, for testing. Mr. Saunders feels that this distribution of plants from a single source provides the most comparable basis for evaluation of a given cultivar. He also recommends planting a number of the same cultivars in a row for purposes of comparison. The 19 cultivars presently under evaluation are grouped as follows: 3 uprights; 5 very dwarf; 4 slightly dwarf to medium bush; 5 medium bush; and 2 large bush.

Mr. Saunders was hesitant to proclaim the "best cultivars" at this stage of testing but did not hide his enthusiasm for 'Dee Runk', 'Morris Dwarf', 'Justin Brouwers', and 'Vardar Valley'. He sees his continuing tasks as: selecting additional plants for testing; recruiting additional cooperators; collecting evaluation data; disseminating surveys of trial results to cooperators; and learning about other cultivars that might be worthy of testing. Mr. Saunders' enthusiasm is boundless and he is an avid learner. He enjoys his contacts with the cooperators and his travels to various places.

John Wise, Horticulturist

The meeting continued with a talk by Mr. John Wise, Horticulturist at

the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, who gave insight into the aesthetics of the gardens we visited on Thursday. For his talk on "Seasonal Bedding Plants," Mr. Wise brought with him many bedding plants in containers not only to illustrate his remarks but also to be auctioned off later in the day for the benefit of the ABS.

Mr. Wise pointed out that fashions in bedding gardens have changed greatly since the last century when the style was to plant summer annuals, such as zinnias, marigolds and the like, in a mass. The Victorian Age was known for "carpet bedding." Now the trend is toward seasonal bedding where the plants change according to season or time of season. New plants in the form of tropicals and vines have been introduced. Different color combinations are used to induce moods.

Mr. Wise showed many slides of such bedding gardens noting, for example, that whereas red and white combinations create a harsh contrast red and gray tend to soften the contrast. He spoke also of the wide range of colors available in bedding plants today and the effect of using complementary colors. He recommended the use of coleus as a bedding plant because of its tolerance to sun and shade as well as the different heights to which it grows. Fall mums are in disfavor at the Lewis Ginter Garden, he said, because of their short blooming season.

Alex X. Niemiera, Horticulturist

Dr. Alex Niemiera of the Department of Horticulture at Virginia Tech substituted for the scheduled speaker who was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Niemiera brought with him a wealth of information on "Plant Nutrition Fundamentals," most of which was outlined in a useful

handout suitable for future reference. The outline was also projected on a screen.

The speaker began by describing the foliar symptoms on woody plants, such as boxwood, resulting from deficiencies of 12 chemical elements (nitrogen, phosphorous, etc.). These symptoms take the form of chlorosis (yellowing or blanching of normally green foliage) and necrosis (localized dying of foliage).

Dr. Niemiera went on to discuss the influence of media pH on the availability of 11 essential nutrients (chemical elements) both in a mineral soil and in soilless media. He noted that nitrogen is the element having the greatest effect on plant growth and in mineral soils is usually in the shortest supply compared to phosphorous and potassium. Nitrogen can be absorbed by roots in two forms: ammonium, which decreases the soil pH, and nitrate, which increases the soil pH.

Thus, ammonium fertilizers have an acidifying effect on soil. Dr. Niemiera recommended applying nitrogen in split doses: 1/3 in the fall (say October), 1/3 before bud break and 1/3 in June at a rate of 1 to 2 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft., or 0.5 to 1.0 oz. per plant per year. He observed that plants stop absorbing nutrients when the soil temperature drops below 10° F.

ABS Annual Business Meeting

The last event on the morning program was the Society's 39th annual business meeting. The minutes of the meeting are printed on p. 22 of this issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

Robert E. Lyons, Horticulturist

Following a lunch break, Mr. Robert (Bob) E. Lyons addressed the meeting on "Plants in Tandem." After 17 years at Virginia Tech, Mr. Lyons

recently joined the Department of Horticultural Science at North Carolina State University, Raleigh. At the same time he was appointed to head the J. C. Raulston Arboretum at the University. Mr. Lyons spoke glowingly of this famous arboretum which the late Dr. Raulston transformed into "the only public facility in the world fully dedicated to collecting, propagating and distributing worthy plants."

Mr. Lyons gave a thumbnail description of the arboretum's eight acres of over 6,000 different plant varieties from 55 countries. He described his efforts to adapt to managing this collection and working with the University as well as the North Carolina Nurseryman's Association. It is through this latter organization that the arboretum distributes to the general public those new plants considered of greatest merit.

Drawing on his professional expertise, Mr. Lyons showed slides of various plants being grown "in tandem." Most examples were in combinations of two. Among the annuals that were paired in one combination or another were various cultivars of *Zinnia angustifolia*, *Gaillardia pulchella*, *Pennisetum* and *Rudbeckia hirta*. Perennials used in combination included, among others: *Asclepias tuberosa*/*Liatris spicata* 'Kobold'; *Iris ensata*/*Coreopsis lanceolata* and *Angelica gigas*/*Echinacea purpurea*. Striking combinations of annuals and perennials together were also pictured, e. g., *Tradescantia virginiana* 'Isis'/*Cleome hasslerana* and *Dahlia* 'Bishop of Llandaff'/*Bidens ferulifolia* 'Golden Goddess'. For best performance in shade the following, among others, were shown in various twosomes: *Hosta*, *Dicentra*, *Galium odoratum* and *Astilbe*. In conclusion, twofold combinations of different grasses were shown.

Panel Discussion

A lively panel discussion took place as some dozen questions submitted in writing by the audience were given to three knowledgeable ABS members: Mr. Lynn Batdorf, Mrs. Joan Butler and Mr. Charles Fooks. Questions ranged from simple to complicated: how should one go about having soil tested; what is the best way of labeling boxwoods around homes (fasten metal tags using insulation wire, but also map location); 'Memorial' boxwood is not reliably hardy in this area; do not fertilize boxwoods if they are growing normally; alkaloid substance in leaves of English boxwood is toxic to leaf miners; mycorrhizal fungi are useful for stimulating root growth; to control leaf miner apply granular form of a systemic in spring (Merit in April or Maverick in June) and look for 95-97 percent control in one year; some propagators prefer January-March, others prefer July to early fall for rooting boxwood cuttings; sand or metromix may be used as a rooting medium.

Plant Auction

A very successful plant auction was held following the panel discussion, all receipts going to support ABS educational activities. The event opened with the auctioning of four flats of seasonal bedding plants contributed by John Wise, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Then 14 different named Japanese Maples were offered through the generosity of Elizabeth Gardner with the understanding that they would not be removed until Mrs. Gardner had given her after-dinner lecture. The desirability of these small trees in containers can be judged from the fact that one of them brought \$130. (For more information about Japanese Maples, see p. 8.) Finally, a very

large number of boxwood plants of various species, variety and cultivar were offered for sale. These plants were contributed to the auction by members of the Society. As a bonus every registrant received from ABS Director Clyde Weber a gift of a 'Winter Gem' boxwood grown at his home nursery. (For a list of plants sold at the auction, see p. 14 of this issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.)

Elizabeth Gardner, Plant Grower

Following our dinner banquet, the last speaker on the program was Elizabeth Gardner, prominent in the Virginia Nurseryman's Association and the Southern Plant Conference, whose goal is to bring new plants to the 16 member states.

Mrs. Gardner and her husband have a small nursery, Twin Ponds, at Beaverdam, Virginia. Since 1988 they have specialized in growing cultivars of Japanese Maples. Of the 14 she brought with her to display, 12 were *Acer palmatum*, one was *Acer japonicum* and one was *Acer shirasawanum*. On handout sheets she provided not only the provenance of these trees but descriptions relating to their height, shape, leaf structure and coloration, and sensitivity to location.

Tracing briefly the history of the Japanese Maple from the 1600s Mrs. Gardner described the Japanese practice of collecting specimen maples, planting them in gardens and holding "maple viewing parties." Some of these trees were cross-pollinated, and in 1726 a book about them was published. A catalog of Japanese Maples shipped around the world was published in the 19th century, and some shipped to Europe and the United States survived after many in Japan were destroyed. There is now considerable interest among the American public in the wide variety of these trees that are available.



Agecroft Hall, the first stop on the ABS Saturday tour on May 22, was rescued from certain destruction in Lancashire, England and moved to Richmond, Va. (Photo: Scot Butler)



A group of topiary and potted plants in a courtyard at Agecroft Hall. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)

Some Japanese Maples are little more than shrubs, especially the dwarf varieties that attain a height of only 2-4 feet, but others grow to be 25 feet or more. Mrs. Gardner distributed a sheet of practical "do's" and "don'ts" in caring for Japanese

Maples.

She noted that these trees can be used successfully in plantings with boxwoods because their respective root systems are not competitive.



One of the gardens at Agecroft Hall leading to the three lower gardens. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)



One of the squares at Agecroft Hall features boxwood in the herb garden.

Annual Meeting Tour

Saturday was given over to a tour by bus of three outstanding properties in the Greater Richmond area, all overlooking or adjacent to the James River. We set out under a clear, sunny sky with a forecast for temperatures in the lower 80s.

Agecroft Hall

Our first stop was at Agecroft Hall in the Windsor Farms suburb of Richmond. This remarkable estate consists of a Tudor manor house dating from the late 15th century and a series of gardens and walks, all on 23 landscaped acres overlooking the James River. The timbered and stucco-over-brick house with sandstone foundation and roof was purchased at auction in 1926 by Mr. Thomas C. Williams, Jr., of Richmond for a private residence. It was dismantled, crated and shipped to Richmond from its original site in Lancashire, England where it had fallen into disrepair and faced destruction. The transfer and reconstruction of this multifaceted building was captured in pictures and documents that add to an appreciation of

Mr. Williams' undertaking. Today, Agecroft Hall stands in Virginia as a largely authentic monument to the Tudor-Stuart period of English architecture and furnishings. A sense of the life style of the Langley and Dauntsey families pervades their modernized dwelling although most of the furnishings, though authentic to the period, are not known to be theirs. Reconstruction was completed in the spring of 1928 and Agecroft Hall was opened to the public in 1969.

The grounds at Agecroft were of particular interest to our group. The framework for today's garden was created by Charles Gillette, a noted Virginia landscape architect, during the period of the reconstruction of the manor house. His design contained traditional English elements such as brick walls, stone walkways, allées and boxwood hedges. From the front of the property a great lawn sweeps from the entrance gates on Sulgrave Road to the courtyards of the house. Visitors are greeted by enormous elm, holly, magnolia, oak and walnut trees in a park-like setting.

Gillette designed some of the gardens as pleasure gardens, in the style of the 20s and 30s, for the enjoyment of Mr. and Mrs. Williams.

Others were designed to complement the period of the house. One such is the circular Fragrance Garden adjacent to the east wing of the house. Scented plants were an integral part of everyday life in the Tudor-Stuart period to cover up unpleasant odors. Mr. Gillette based the design for his well-known Sunken Garden on the Pond Garden at Hampton Court Palace in England. Interpreted today as a 1920s garden it is noteworthy for a perimeter planting of boxwood, a sunken pond with water lilies and irises, and double beds of spring bulbs and summer annuals. Adjacent to the Sunken Garden on one side is a Crape Myrtle Walk underplanted with shade-loving plants, and on the other side, an allée of little-leaf linden trees.

Down an incline from the Sunken Garden are three small period gardens reflecting 17th-century England. The Knot Garden has two open knot designs planted with germander, lavender and santolina. Then there is a formal garden with a symmetrically balanced 4-plot design surrounding a global sundial and with pear trees espaliered against brick walls. This garden honors John Tradescant who, on a visit to Virginia in 1637, first

gathered botanical specimens to take back to England. It boasts numerous rare and unusual plants collected by Tradescant, including *Tradescantia virginiana* or spiderwort. Finally, there is an Herb Garden planted with traditional 17th-century medicinal, flavoring, dyeing and strewing herbs. Boxwood is a featured plant in both the Romance Garden and the Rose Arbor.

Redesdale

A particular treat on the tour was a visit to Redesdale, the private estate of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reed. Redesdale might be described as “boxwood personified” except that it exhibits so many other great features as well.

Mr. Reed was on hand to greet us and conduct us through the magnificent house designed by Lawrence Bottomley, the architect par excellence of 20th-century Georgian Revival houses. The brickwork in English bond pattern (alternating rows of headers and stretchers), the belt courses, massive chimneys, hipped roof with dormers, broken arch pediments over the front and back entrance doors, modillion cornice and brick quoins all earmark this 1925 house as the work of Bottomley. As Mr. Reed led us through the house he pointed out an 18th-century “deceit” in the breakfast room: a corner cupboard which swings open as a door leading to the kitchen beyond. Bottomley copied the large formal dining room from one in the Powell House, the living room from the one at Brandon Plantation and the library from a room at Marmion that was removed in the 1920s and placed in the Metropolitan Museum. Mr. Reed said that the house was built on family property with money realized from growing tobacco. Among the giant trees in the park-like setting are some 80 elm trees still growing.



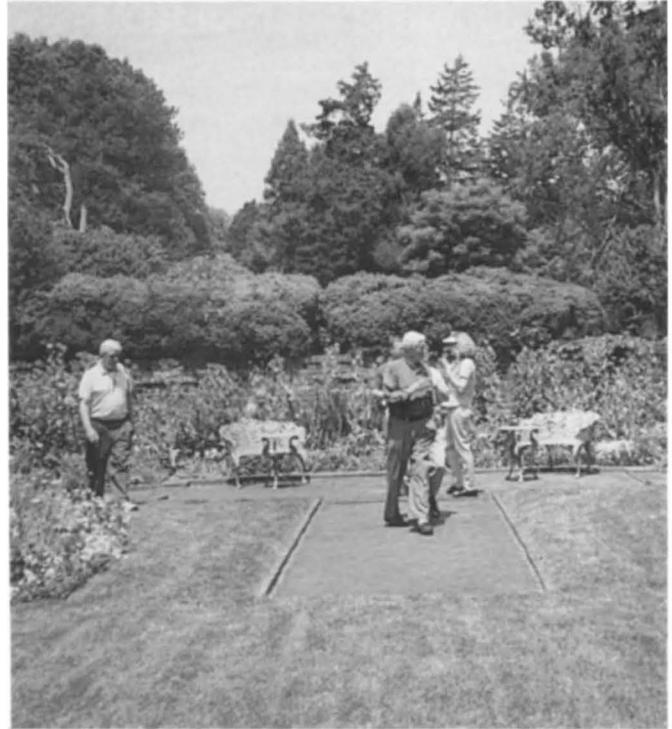
Redesdale, with its abundance of handsome boxwoods, was the second stop on the ABS Saturday tour. (Photo: Scot Butler)



A pool on one of the terraces at Redesdale in back of the house with a backdrop of boxwood. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)



Inside the Redesdale walled garden, beds of pansies with borders of different colors.



Another part of the terrace, planted with perennials and boxwood atop the retaining wall on the upper level.



Paths are bordered with perennials, an accent of potted urns at the top of the steps, and boxwood as a backdrop. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)

At both the front and rear entrances of the house there are massive plantings of boxwood. The boxwood is cut once a year every other year to keep it trim and healthy. Trichogramma wasps have been imported to control leaf miner. A substantial amount of large boxwood was removed to make room for flower beds in a patio garden immediately behind the house.

Some distance from the house is a large formal garden enclosed by a serpentine brick wall. The garden is composed of parterres with a wide allée down the middle.

The allée is flanked in part by large Virginia red cedars, attesting to its age. In addition to ubiquitous boxwood there are other plants of horticultural interest and flower beds with roses, azaleas, columbine, pansies, petunias, sweet peas, etc. growing in profusion. The James River was not visible from the house but it borders the property.

Tuckahoe Plantation

Continuing down River Road we arrived at historic Tuckahoe Plantation in time for a box lunch served in

air-conditioned comfort. This James River plantation is seven miles west of Richmond city limits, making it somewhat remote from the other privately-owned James River planta-

tions that are open to the public. At the time the first part of the house, the north wing, was built (c. 1712-14) by Thomas Randolph, the area was, in fact, a wilderness that had served as Indian hunting grounds.

Although Tuckahoe, an Indian name, will soon be 300 years old and has had a checkered history, its early buildings are well preserved, including the one-room schoolhouse which Peter Jefferson is thought to have built for the education of his young son Thomas and the other children living at Tuckahoe when the Jeffersons began their seven-year tenure.

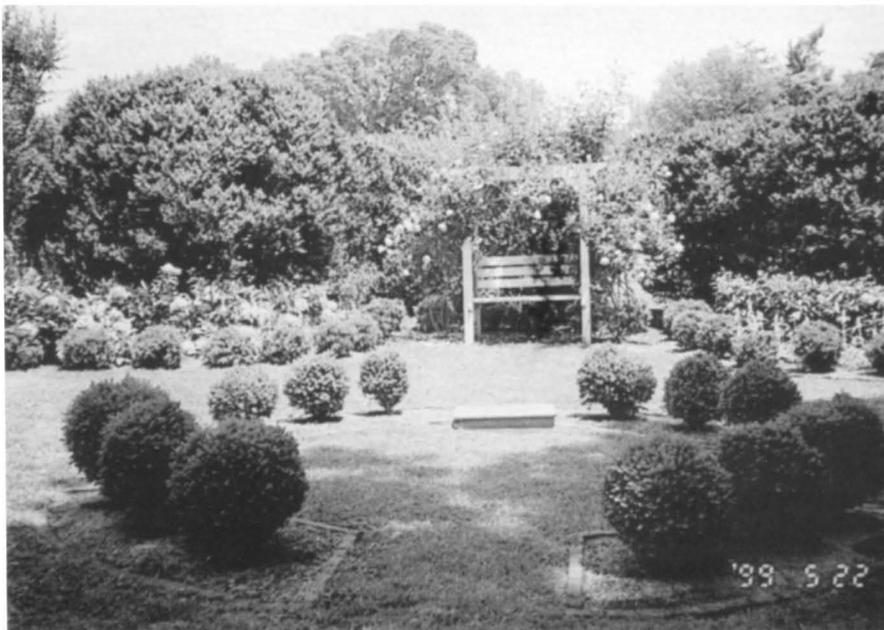
Unfortunately, extensive plantings of early English boxwood, including a maze that once graced the grounds, were wiped out by disease. The present boxwood is all American. Nevertheless, the ingenuous charm of Tuckahoe, with its simple white clapboard exterior in the form of an H, its handsome brick chimneys with glazed headers, and its elegant paneled interior leaves a lasting impression.

Of all the early Virginia plantations, and Tuckahoe is earlier than most, the complement of outbuildings and their arrangement in a quadrangle composed of kitchen, plantation office, barn, a few slave cabins, smokehouse and storehouse, has the power to transport a visitor back to a way of life that has now disappeared forever.

Thanks to the vision and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Addington Baker Thompson, present occupants of Tuckahoe, and their mother, the late Jessie Baker Thompson, Tuckahoe itself will not disappear. In 1986 the aforementioned persons guaranteed the legal protection of Tuckahoe by donating a permanent preservation easement on the house, its outbuildings, and its land to the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Tuckahoe Plantation: The facade of the north wing, built in 1712-14, is the original part of the house. To the left is the schoolhouse where Thomas Jefferson learned to read and write. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)



Roses and peonies are complemented with boxwood borders and backdrop.

Acknowledgment

Without the untiring efforts of ABS Executive Treasurer Katherine Ward in planning, organizing and supervising all of the many activities of the 39th Annual ABS Meeting, those attending could never have experienced three days of such interesting and enjoyable events.

As always, behind-the-scene support was generously offered in advance of and during the meeting by various ABS officers and directors who deserve our thanks as well. To all who generously donated boxwoods for the auction, and especially to Director Clyde Weber who saw to it that each registrant received a gift 'Winter Gem' boxwood, we acknowledge our gratitude.

Scot Butler is a Director of the ABS and former Editor of The Boxwood Bulletin.



The Old Kitchen at Tuckahoe, with a modern conveyance. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)

Registrants - 39th Annual Meeting of The American Boxwood Society

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| Mr. John W. Boyd III, Roanoke, Va. | Dr. & Mrs. Edward Kelly,
Baltimore, Md. | Mr. Patrick Walker,
New London, Conn. |
| Mr. Marshall Bullock, Amelia, Va. | Mr. Richard D. Mahone,
Williamsburg, Va. | Mrs. Katherine D. Ward,
West Augusta, Va. |
| Mr. & Mrs. Scot Butler,
Winchester, Va. | Mrs. Charles M. Noone,
Williamsburg, Va. | Miss Roxanne Ward,
West Augusta, Va. |
| Mrs. Stephen A. Clark,
Midlothian, Va. | Mrs. L. C. Powell, Alexandria, Va. | Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Weber,
Bentleyville, Penn. |
| Dr. & Mrs. R. Reese Corey,
Chestertown, Md. | Dr. & Mrs. Gary Richardson,
Annapolis, Md. | Mr. Charles N. Whelan,
Potomac, Md. |
| Mr. & Mrs. Charles T. Fooks, Jr.,
Salisbury, Md. | Mr. Ian Robertson,
Charlottesville, Va. | Mr. Chance D. Whitaker,
Newnan, Ga. |
| Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton,
Fredericksburg, Va. | Mr. Jim W. Saunders,
Piney River, Va. | Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Willis,
Crozet, Va. |
| Miss Carter Frackelton,
Fredericksburg, Va. | Mr. & Mrs. Paul Saunders,
Piney River, Va. | Mr. & Mrs. George Wislar,
Princeton, N.J. |
| Ms. Jane Griffith, Williamsburg, Va. | Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Saunders,
Piney River, Va. | Ms. Jean Yuille, New Jersey |
| Mr. & Mrs. K. Lee Hahn,
Califon, N.J. | Mr. & Mrs. George Schumacher,
Turlock, Calif. | Ms. Aubrey Zaffuto, Far Hills, N.J. |
| Dr. Maury Hanson, Madison, Va. | | |

Plant List for 1999 Boxwood Auction

- 'Aurea Pendula' (*B. sempervirens*)
 Variegated cascading or weeping large boxwood with leaves marked by unusual crescents of yellow dividing the leaf surface lengthwise, as well as splashes and blotches of yellow.
- 'Beckett' (*B. sempervirens*)
- 'Compacta' (*B. microphylla*)
 Very slow-growing hardy plant selected as a seedling in 1912 by William Appleby of Baltimore Md. Also called Kingsville Dwarf Box. Grow in shade for best color. 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 10" tall and 18" across. Hardy to Zone 5.
 Sport of 'Compacta' - provided by Charles Fooks
- 'Curly Locks' (*B. microphylla*)
 A sport of 'Compacta', which originated in 1942 and was registered 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'.
- 'Dee Runk' (*B. sempervirens*)
 This is a columnar box growing to a height of 12' in 25 years with a width of 2 to 2 1/2'.
- 'Elegantissima' (*B. sempervirens*)
 One of the best variegated boxwoods with creamy white edges on leaves. Slow grower, may be cold sensitive
- 'Fortunei Rotundifolia' (*B. sempervirens*)
 Large plants with yellow-green color known to bronze in winter, growing to 7' in height and 8' in width. It makes an interesting contrasting specimen plant.
- 'Glencoe' (hybrid) Chicagoland Green TM
 Developed at Chicago Botanical Garden, very cold hardy.
- 'Graham Blandy' (*B. sempervirens*)
 Has been growing at Blandy Farm, the State Arboretum of Virginia, since the 1930s, its origin 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. Pinching back 1/3 of new growth helps to maintain shape. A 20-year-old plant is 9' tall and 1 1/2' wide. Mature height 15-18'.
- 'Green Beauty' (*B. microphylla* var. *japonica*) compact with excellent dark winter color, good for edging, foundation or specimen, initial pruning at volleyball size to get spherical shape, annual pruning to maintain shape
- 'Green Ice' (?)
- 'Green Pillow' (*B. microphylla*)
 Low mounding dwarf plant, good for edging.
- 'Handsworthensis' (*B. sempervirens*)
B. harlandii - species
- 'Inglis' (*B. sempervirens*)
 A very open growing upright pyramid
- 'Jim's Tru Spreader' (*B. microphylla*?)
 Excellent winter hardy boxwood, similar to 'Green Beauty', but more vigorous growth and more spreading.
- 'John Boyd' (*B. sempervirens*)
 This is a dark green plant found by John Boyd, Jr., former Director of the ABS. He prizes this most of all the plants he has. The plant grows to 10' in height and 8' in width and is very hardy.
- 'Justin Brouwers' (*B. sinica* var. *insularis*) [Korean] A seedling selected by J. B. Brouwers, a nurseryman in Williamsburg, Va. It keeps a dark green color.
- 'Latifolia Maculata' (*B. sempervirens*)
 Registered in 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 in 1925. Silver variegation along the leaves. A broad mound with somewhat loose and open habit. The leaves appear distorted in shape by the variegation.
- 'Maculata' (*B. sempervirens*)
 Dark green with occasional blotches of gold that decrease with age. Pyramidal growth with a loose habit. Grows to 7-9'.
- 'Morris Dwarf' (*B. microphylla* var. *japonica*)
 An open-pollinated Japanese box seedling selected by Dr. Henry Skinner at the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia in 1947. It is a small boxwood with dense and twiggy branches. a 40-year-old plant is 3' high by 4 1/2' wide. Registered in 1972.
- 'Morris Midget' (*B. microphylla* var. *japonica*)
 Another of Dr. Skinner's seedlings which grows very slowly to form a compact mound. Prefers dappled shade in order to avoid winter bronzing.
- 'Nana' (*B. sinica* var. *insularis*)
 Short, broad-spreading, dwarf Korean boxwood. Shaded sites produce better color.
- 'Newport Blue' (*B. sempervirens*)
- 'Northern Find' (*B. sempervirens*)
 Dark green with occasional silver variegations. Grows 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches per year, reaching heights of 5-6' and widths of 8-9'. Grows well in zones 5 to 8.
- 'Salicifolia Elata' (*B. sempervirens*)
 Dark yellow-green color. Billowy with spreading branches that tend to droop. Grows to heights of 6-7' and widths of 7-9'.
- 'Ste. Genevieve' (*B. sempervirens*)
 A cold-tolerant sturdy plant tested and approved by the Boxwood Society of the Midwest in St. Louis, Mo.
- 'Vardar Valley' (*B. sempervirens*)
 Dark green foliage with bluish cast, very hardy (one of Edgar Anderson's Balkans).
- 'Winter Gem' (*B. sinica* var. *insularis*)
 Gift plant this year.
- 'Wintergreen' (*B. sinica* var. *insularis*)
 One of the hardiest boxwood cultivars,

needs shearing to maintain tight shape

Japanese Maples (from Elizabeth Gardner)

Acer sherasawanum 'Aureum' (1988, Germany)
(Golden Moon maple) Dense, small tree to 20' known for its yellow leaves. Prone to sunburn, so careful placement is necessary.

A. palmatum 'Aha shigitatsu sawa' (1800s, Japan)
Tri-colored form of *A. palmatum* 'Shigitatsu sawa'. Shrub to 9'. Suitable for a container garden. Must be protected from hot sun.

A. palmatum 'Asahi zuru' (the rising sun maple) (1938, Japan)
Upright tree with rounded canopy maturing at about 12'. Pink and white variegation differs on each leaf. Protect from afternoon sun.

A. palmatum 'Hogyoku' (1882, Japan)
Nice green upright maturing at 16'; desirable for its pumpkin orange fall color.

A. palmatum 'Sharp's Pygmy' (1985, Sharp's Nursery, OR)
Dwarf never exceeding 3' globe at maturity. Orange fall tones.

A. palmatum 'Skeeter's Broom,' (Raraflora Nursery, NJ)
Witch's broom with excellent spring red tones and fastigate habit. Small tree form, maturing under 10'.

A. palmatum 'Red Feather' (Vermuller, 1995, NJ)
Very finely dissected red leaf, rivaling 'Red Filigree' but more vigorous whorling growth.

A. japonicum 'Aconitifolium' (1888, Great Britain)
Large growing tree, to 25' or more, with striking fall color. Conspicuous red flowers in spring.

A. palmatum 'Bloodgood' (probably originated in Holland, exported and named by Bloodgood Nursery, NJ)
Red upright stand-by in U.S. and Europe. Matures 20' or more. Good summer color retention.

A. palmatum 'Baby Lace' (c. 1895, Raraflora Nursery, NJ)

Unusual multi-toned dissectum.

A. palmatum 'Beni Komachi' (1975, Vertrees Nursery, OR)
Dwarf maple to about 5' with striking red colors in spring. Excellent bonsai.

A. palmatum 'Scolopendrefolium' (1867, France)
Linearlobum maturing at 12-15'. Seedlings never produce linear leaves, always palmate.

A. palmatum 'Tamukeyama' (1710, Japan)
Excellent red *palmatum* 9' high, 15' wide.

A. palmatum 'Spring Delight' (1898 Buccholz & Buccholz, OR)
Vigorous green dissectum selected for pink tones in spring. Matures 6' high, 10' wide.

Other donations:

Azalea 'Christi Lyn'
Bedding plants

The Braimbridges and the Cuban Boxwood Project

Scot Butler

Elizabeth Braimbridge has contributed a number of unique articles to *The Boxwood Bulletin* over the years and has spoken recently at two ABS Annual Meetings (1996 and 1998). Her interest in the species *Buxus* knows no bounds, and she was joined in this interest by her husband, Dr. Mark Braimbridge, upon his retirement from medical practice. Together, they have been instrumental in promoting the so-called Cuban Boxwood Project, the establishment of a collection of native Cuban boxwood species at the National Botanical Garden (Jardín Botánico Nacional) in Havana. But this effort is only the latest in a long-run goal

involving boxwood on a global scale.

Speaking at the Friday Evening Program of the 36th ABS Annual Meeting, Mrs. Braimbridge stressed that she and her husband have a scientific interest in boxwood on a global basis and a commitment to furthering the educational aims of the ABS. She added that they hope to be instrumental in increasing an awareness and appreciation of the genus as well as protecting it wherever it is threatened. To illustrate their global interest she showed slides of unusual plants they had encountered on trips to remote areas of the world in search of new species. Among these were *Buxus macowani* in South Africa,

Buxus riparia in Japan and *Buxus wallichiana* in the Himalayas. Mrs. Braimbridge also showed a slide of *Buxus glomerata* in Cuba and addressed the plight of more than 30 species of boxwood there, none of which were in cultivation but continued to hang on tenaciously, as they have for millenia, under stressful geological conditions.

Mrs. Braimbridge's concern for boxwood goes back at least to 1984 when she conceived, as a project, the goal of creating one of the recognized national collections of *Buxus* on two acres of land that a friend in Hampshire had loaned her. The labors, including commuting from her home

in London, that went into this project are legend. Her efforts to collect as many species and varieties as possible in her Langley Boxwood Nursery were rewarded in 1993, when the nursery was awarded the status of a National Collection of *Buxus*. As she explains, "the National Collections scheme has considerably raised public awareness of the need to conserve old cultivars from becoming extinct." This is precisely one of the Braimbridges' aims with respect to boxwood species growing wild in remote places of the world, often under difficult geological conditions. They hope that study of them may reveal missing links in piecing together the evolution of the species.

When the Braimbridges discovered that Professor Egon Köhler of the Humboldt University in Berlin had been involved in collecting Cuban boxwood herbarium specimens for many years they became immediately interested, especially after learning of the condition under which these more than 30 species had survived. Most, if not all, were growing in rare serpentine soils that run the length of Cuba.

These soils, formed from rocks containing dark ferromagnesian minerals, are generally unfavorable for plant life and harbor only plants which have been able to adapt over a long period of evolution to the high content of iron, nickel, cobalt and the like. At the same time, serpentine soil is low in the nutrients and microbes that are beneficial to plant life. The Cuban serpentine flora is regarded as a direct descendant of the ancient tertiary flora, the ancestor of all temperate Mediterranean floras, and thus a living fossil tertiary flora worthy of preserving and studying.

The efforts of Dr. Köhler and a handful of Cuban botanists headed by Dr. Angela Leiva Sanchez, Director of the National Botanical Garden, to collect and study these unique

boxwoods convinced the Braimbridges of the worthiness and desirability of establishing a national collection of native Cuban species under cultivation at the Garden, and they made a contribution toward the funding of such a project. Additional support from the ABS Research Fund was voted by the Board of Directors at their meeting in January 1996. Thus the Cuban boxwood project was able to move ahead. So far there are 21 identified Cuban species in the National Botanic Garden's living *Buxus* collection.

However, the Braimbridges do not minimize the difficulties inherent in this project even as they take pride in the results achieved to date. They hope that further collection trips can be organized to continue the search for additional species to add to the collection. Because of the primitive environment these trips are difficult and expensive to stage.

Furthermore, there is no assurance of success in finding these often miniature specimens given the rough terrain and their obscure location in it. One immediate challenge is the

propagation and growing of these native plants in an environment suited to their habits. This may involve transporting a sufficient quantity of the soil or rock in which they are growing, along with other natural features, to new sites for propagating and growing. As Mrs. Braimbridge noted in her report to the 1998 ABS Annual Meeting, "The plants have been very difficult to propagate; cuttings will callus, but will not develop roots." But the Braimbridges feel that these difficulties will be overcome and the national collection of Cuban living boxwoods will greatly facilitate their study as well as the study of evolutionary trends in *Buxus*.

In furtherance of this latter goal the ABS recently contributed \$2,500 from its Research Fund to a boxwood genetics research project which will compare the DNA characteristics of 10 to 15 of the Cuban species and a number of boxwood species in U.S. commercial trade. (See *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol.38, No.3, January 1999, p.47.)



Buxus sempervirens 'Vardar Valley'

Designing with Boxwood

Munich's Premier Shops Bring Boxwood into the Streets

Sigrid Harriman

Munich, capital of Bavaria and my home town, has a long history of using *Buxus* in designing formal gardens around the city. These gardens can be found at small hunting chalets, at monasteries, in cemeteries, and around larger castles in the Lower Alps of Bavaria. Areas once considered "out in the country" are today part of Munich and numerous hunting chalets of the 16th and 17th centuries still show remnants of boxwood plantings within their walled gardens. Most of the monasteries (built like castles on hillsides) of that time are surrounded by solid boxwood hedges and graced by parterres.

Large specimens of *Buxus sempervirens* create intimate spaces in old cemeteries and surround baroque country churches. The castles, many of them built by King



Boxwood serves as a street divider at Opera Square



Boxwood at Dallmayr, a famous delicatessen in Munich. (All photos: Sigrid Harriman)

Ludwig II in the 19th century, also have boxwood parterres as part of their design.

For centuries, instead of palm fronds, boxwood cuttings have been distributed in Catholic churches in Bavaria on Palm Sunday. People take those branches home and combine them with pussy willows or daffodils to grace their houses until Easter. Boxwood cuttings which root during that time are carefully nurtured and added to country gardens. This is done "for good luck." Boxwood symbolizes longevity and steadfastness and has been used for centuries in a number of ways. Although there is no proof that the genus is indigenous to northern and central Bavaria, remnants of ancient growth have been found at the western edges of Bavaria and in Switzerland, as well as in some southern alpine valleys of Northern Italy.

Certain theories stipulate that the Romans brought boxwood along with other plant material to areas north of Rome during their period of colonization (first to third centuries AD).

I have noticed increased uses of boxwood during my annual visits to Munich in the past ten years. Like a green ribbon, boxwood decorates many of Munich's finest stores and restaurants, serves as traffic barriers in large concrete planters and defines outdoor seating areas to enjoy everything from coffee and beer to full "al fresco" dinners.

"Alois Dallmayr" the most famous delicatessen in Munich, founded in the early 19th century and sole delivery agent to the royal House of Wittelsbach, has perfectly grown 5' *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' between windows and at entrance doors (see photos). Carefully shaped boxwoods flank shop windows and entrances to other specialty stores. One of my favorite displays was 'Suffruticosa' surrounded by forget-me-nots (see photos). A row of



Boxwood and tulips at the entrance of an exclusive shop.



Boxwood at Farmer's Market.

'Suffruticosa' in antique clay planters creates the outdoor space to sit and enjoy the traffic at the opera square (see photo).

Large concrete planters filled with



Boxwood and forget-me-nots.

severely pruned boxwoods (I believe a Japanese or Korean variety) serve as traffic barriers, directing traffic away from the Odeons square at the south end of Ludwig street (see cover

photo). As I entered "Bogner's," the famous sporting boutique, the inner entrance was flanked by a mannequin and two boxwoods in planters. However, the most astonishing display was in Bogner's window, a large "B" made from Boxwood clippings and flanked by two rather fetching outfits (see photos).

In the oldest part of the city is the permanent farmers market. It is only a short walk away from the upscale specialty shops and restaurants. There I found a plant labeled *Buxus sempervirens* (see photo). This plant looked different. However there was no one to give me a satisfactory answer.

The plant looked much like a seedling one finds under old growth boxwood. I also saw many small arrangements with boxwood sprigs and daffodils and pussy willows (see photo).

It was surprising to watch the green ribbon of boxwood soften the stately buildings in the inner city of Munich and create a cheerful, spring-like atmosphere.

Sigrid Georgii Harriman is Secretary of the ABS.



Boxwood "B" at Bogner, a famous sporting boutique in Munich.



Boxwood at Bogner interior display.



Boxwood in an Easter arrangement.

No Known Native California Boxwood

In response to Mrs. Frackelton's query to George Schumacher of Turlock, California, as to whether there were any possible native California boxwood in the serpentine soils there, he replied:

"I took a look in Jepson's, which is the bible of flora for California. There is nothing for *Buxus*. It appears to me that none exist here.

"I asked a friend who is a partner of a plant pathology-physiology laboratory and consulting service.

There are a lot of serpentine soils in California. He cited textbook examples and they have it on their home ranch a little north of San Francisco. It typically is of a grey green adobe nature. Things which are associated with commercial or domestic cultivation just do not grow in serpentine soils.

He went on to say what grows is usually of a brush-shrub nature. He then equated it to where manzanita grows.

This is a large group of western natives that grow in the inner coastal ranges and the Sierra Nevada foothills. Manzanita, like boxwood, is exceedingly hard wood. It is rather twisted and contorted in growth habit and hence does not lend itself to woodworking (as does boxwood).

"It made me think that maybe California is stuck with Manzanita and not blessed with boxwood. I like you would be thrilled at finding boxwood in California."

Stalking Around

Steve Zapton reports from Port Republic, Va.:

How many gardeners would allow the intrusion of a cornstalk in their formal garden of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'? James T. Gallagher did and the stalk had an opportunity to reach a record height of 9.2'. Don't you think they make good companions?

Steve adds that Mr. Gallagher has been a member of the ABS since 1975 and at age 94 still maintains his boxwood garden.

*A 9.2' corn in the "Stalking Report" from Steve Zapton.
(Photo: Steve Zapton)*



Minutes of Spring Board Meeting

The spring meeting of the Governing Board of the American Boxwood Society was held on Thursday, May 20, 1999, at the Comfort Suites Hotel in Richmond, Virginia.

In attendance were President Thomas Saunders, First Vice President Charles Fooks, Executive Treasurer Mrs. Katherine Ward, Secretary pro tem Joan Butler, Registrar Lynn Batdorf and Board Members John Boyd III, Scot Butler, Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Ian Robertson, James Saunders and Clyde Weber. Mr. Weber had brought gift plants of *Buxus* 'Winter Gem' for all.

The minutes of the Winter Board Meeting on January 22, 1999 were accepted as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol.38, No.4, p.85.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Ward reported a balance in the checking account of \$8,985.31 and of \$11,513.07 in the certificate of deposit, which was rolled over in November, 1998, and is now earning 5 1/2 %.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee: The President appointed a Budget Committee for 1999-2000 consisting of Charles Fooks, Chairman, and Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Butler, President Saunders and 2nd Vice President-Elect Dr. Henry Frierson.

Nominating Committee: Mr. Weber presented thoughts on the Nominating Committee's report for 1999-2000. It was agreed to propose Dr. Henry Frierson as Second Vice-President and Dr. Gary Richardson to fill out the remaining one year of Dr. Frierson's term, expiring May, 2000.

The slate of officers will remain the same for another year. Members

Mark Paul and George Schumacher had served as members of the Nominating Committee.

Registrar: Registrar Lynn Batdorf noted that four new cultivars had been registered in January 1999 and two more would soon appear. He had at last been able to return to the *Boxwood Manual* on which he had been working for several years. He is preparing a new edition of the *Boxwood Buyer's Guide*. The Board authorized funds to print 750 copies at an estimated cost of about \$1,200. Mr. Batdorf also reported that although the American Boxwood Society had donated \$1,935 on September 19, 1996 to the Friends of the National Arboretum for the placing of a sign identifying the National *Buxus* Collection, the sign has never been installed. He suggested that a letter be written to the President of FONA inquiring about this delay.

Boxwood Bulletin and Membership: Mrs. Frackelton issued a plea for additional material to be used in the *Bulletin*. Mr. Paul Saunders' summary of the new National Boxwood Trials will soon appear. There are now some 600 members of the Society.

Memorial Garden: Mrs. Butler reported that there seemed to have been extensive cold damage to the foliage of many plants, but that all were now sending forth healthy new growth and no permanent ill effects were to be expected. Patience in awaiting seasonal development is often a good way to deal with possible problems. New display panels for the information kiosk and the new sign for the Memorial Garden are expected to be completed this summer.

Research: In Dr. Frierson's absence, Mrs. Butler read his letter

reporting that funds had been transferred to Professor Köhler's bank in Berlin and that Maria Landgraf, the student who will be doing the *Buxus* genetics project of DNA sequencing, while trying to extract DNA from 130 specimens of 39 species or cultivars, had found that the six *Buxus* species which Dr. Frierson had sent her had yielded very high quality DNA. Dr. Frierson had also contacted Mr. Richard Hawke, plant evaluation coordinator at the Chicago Botanic Garden, who will send information on their boxwood trials during the summer. Apparently little winter damage was found during preliminary inspection.

Annual Meeting, Year 2000: The meeting will be held in Annapolis, Maryland on June 1-3, 2000. Dr. and Mrs. Gary Richardson have been working on the organization of this event and various Board members will assist with the selection of sites and gardens to visit. Charles Fooks has offered to provide gift boxwood plants for each member who attends. No chairman has been appointed for the 2001 Annual Meeting to be held at Blandy Farm, Boyce, Virginia, but Ian Robertson has offered to arrange contacts for gardens to be visited in Clarke County.

The Banquet speaker for Friday evening, May 21, will be Elizabeth Gardner of Twin Ponds Nursery, 1998 Virginia Nurseryman of the Year, who raises Japanese maples and has brought many beautiful specimens to illustrate her talk and to be auctioned on Friday afternoon.

The Board expressed their extreme gratitude to Katherine Ward for the splendid program she has planned for this 1999 Annual Meeting.

Joan Butler, Acting Secretary

Minutes of the 39th Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society

The 39th Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society was held on Friday, May 21, 1999, in Richmond, Virginia.

After talks by John Wise of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and by Dr. Alex Niemiera, Director of the Horticulture Gardens at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Thomas Saunders at 11 a.m. Members who had traveled some distance were recognized—from California, Georgia, Tennessee, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Gratitude was expressed to Director Clyde Weber for generously providing plants of *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Winter Gem' so that each participant might return home with a memento of the meeting.

The minutes of the 38th Annual Meeting at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC, in May 1998, were approved as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol.38, No.1, pp.17-18.

Two special resolutions of appreciation were read by President Saunders:

"By order of the Executive Committee of the American Boxwood Society, we wish to recognize individuals who have unselfishly given of their time and talents to further the cause of the Society:

"Decca Frackelton — Since the inception of the ABS, Decca has donated uncounted hours to make it thrive. In 1986 she began producing the current *Boxwood Bulletin*, our quarterly newsletter. She now aids in writing and proofreading, and then works with the editor until the *Bulletin* is printed. Unknown to most members, she also stuffs the maga-



Tom Saunders, ABS President, announced citations for Mrs. Scot Butler, left, and Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton. (Photo: Carter Frackelton)

zine in the envelopes, affixes labels, sorts by Zip code, drives to Boyce to deposit the mail sacks at the post office and then fills out postal reports for the mailings.

"She has organized and kept track of paperwork for countless Annual Meetings and Garden Tours. She has managed the Society's membership records and provides the experience to make sure meetings are conducted correctly and according to the Society's by-laws.

"Decca, because of your contributions to the American Boxwood Society, a grafted 'Hoopsi' blue spruce will be planted on the entrance roadway into the Orland E. White Arboretum, Blandy Farm, Boyce, Virginia, in your honor."

"Joan Butler — In the mid 1970s Joan joined the ABS and hasn't stopped working since. Joan and her husband Scot have served as co-editors of *The Boxwood Bulletin* from 1981-1986. A necessary link between

the Blandy/State Arboretum Administration and the ABS, Joan has been instrumental in the progress at the Boxwood Memorial Garden over the past many years.

"Joan has written a number of articles to advance *Buxus* both in the *Bulletin* and as an unselfish Society volunteer in contacts with other organizations. With her knowledge of *Buxus* she has authored a number of papers, given many talks and conducted workshops to bolster our Society. In recent years she and Decca have assisted in proofreading the *Boxwood Handbook*.

"Joan, because of the time and energy you have given to the Society, we would like to honor you by planting a *Styrax japonica* (Japanese snowball) on the entrance roadway into the Orland E. White Arboretum, Blandy Farm, Boyce, Virginia, in your name."

Treasurer's Report: Mrs. Ward reported a balance of \$8,985.31 in the

checking account and \$11,513.07 in a certificate of deposit.
Committee reports

The Boxwood Bulletin and Membership: Mrs. Frackelton remarked on the constant need for articles for the *Bulletin*. A new method of printing photographs will be tested, in hopes of improving clarity. The Society has some 600 members, including 3 Honorary, 13 Charter and 60 Life members.

Registrar, Buyer's Guide, Boxwood Manual: In July 1998 Mr. Batdorf attended an 8-day symposium sponsored by the International Society of Horticultural Sciences (ISHS) about nomenclature and registration. Many registrars of genera other than *Buxus* attended and papers which were delivered offered valuable information. Early in 1999 four new cultivars were registered in *The Bulletin* and two more will soon be published. Work on a new edition of the *Buyer's Guide* is continuing; as a result of application forms sent out to many growers, the Registrar has noted the appearance of some new plant names. He has also returned to work on the *Manual of Buxus* which will contain descriptions of 217 cultivars, including 742 individual names.

Boxwood Memorial Garden and Research: Mrs. Butler remarked that although there had been early evidence of winter damage to many cultivars in the Memorial Garden, most had subsequently produced healthy new growth. Drought is now a greater concern. She reported for Dr. Henry Frierson, Research Chairman, that the German *Buxus* genetics project to attempt to extract DNA from boxwood samples which he had supplied, was under way. The specific target gene will be amplified before sequencing. Mrs. Butler also referred to the National Boxwood Trials now being undertaken by Mr. Paul

Saunders, as outlined by Mr. Saunders at a breakfast meeting early the morning of this Annual Meeting.
Nominating Committee: Mr. Clyde Weber presented the slate of officers and directors proposed by the Nominating Committee which was unanimously elected:

President: Mr. Thomas Saunders
1st V.P.: Mr. Charles Fooks
2nd V.P.: Dr. Henry Frierson
Secretary: Mrs. ~~Katherine Ward~~

Directors for 3-year term ending 2002:

Mr. Ian Robertson
Mr. James Saunders
Mr. Clyde Weber

Director to fill the term of Dr. Henry Frierson (ending 2000):
Dr. Gary Richardson

Currently serving as Directors (see back cover):

Term ending 2000:

Scot Butler
Mrs. Robert Frackelton

Term ending 2001:

Mr. John Boyd
Mr. Richard Mahone
Mr. Steve Zaptan

It was announced that the 40th Annual Meeting would be held in Annapolis, Maryland, on June 1-3, 2000. Arrangements for the meeting will be under the joint chairmanship of Dr. Gary and Mary Richardson.

A possible garden tour in the Atlanta, Georgia, area is being considered for fall 1999 or April 2000, at the suggestion of Mr. Chance Whitaker.

Members of the Governing Board were reminded of a special meeting to take place immediately following the close of the Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon. Respectfully submitted,

Joan Butler, Acting Secretary

Minutes of Special Meeting of ABS Governing Board, May 21, 1999

A special meeting of the Governing Board was held immediately after the close of the Annual Meeting to name one Director to serve on the Executive Committee with the President, 1st Vice President, Secretary and Executive Treasurer. Dr. Frierson was named to serve.

The newly-constituted Executive Committee then named Mr. Clyde Weber as the Chairman of the Nominating Committee for May 2000.

The meeting was promptly adjourned.

Joan Butler, Acting Secretary

In Memoriam

Mrs. Fuller B. Callaway, Jr.
Life Member

Mr. Gerald W. Ferguson
Member since 1965

Mrs. Thomas B. Jones
Member since 1982

Mrs. Gordon D. Shingleton
Member since 1984

Mr. Ralph B. Smith
Member since 1982

Mr. Harold W. Merritt
Member since 1991

Mr. Edward Weber
Member since 1992



OFFICERS

President:

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First Vice-President:

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Home: (540) 372-6991

Executive Treasurer:

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134 Methodist Church Lane
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Mr. Steve Zapton

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