

# The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental



*Pink Pavilion at Glen Burnie Historic House and Gardens, Winchester, Virginia, with yew hedges topping the brick retaining wall and formal, clipped boxwood at the base. Open on Historic Garden Week tour, April 21 and 22. See story on page 63. (Photo: Ron Blunt)*

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# The American Boxwood Society

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

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Memberships for the year May through April include \$16 for four quarterly issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*:

Individual	\$25	Sustaining	\$75
Family	\$35	Life	\$500
Contributing	\$50		

Non-member subscriptions for groups and institutions, such as botanic gardens and libraries, are \$25 by the calendar year as established or current year for new subscriptions.

## Available Publications:

Back issues of <i>The Bulletin</i> (through Vol. 39) (each)	\$ 4
<i>Boxwood Handbook: A Practical Guide (Revised)**</i>	\$ 17
<i>Boxwood Buyer's Guide (5th Edition)</i>	\$ 8
<i>International Registration List of Cultivated Buxus L.</i>	\$ 3
<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1961-1986</i>	\$ 10
<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1986-1991</i>	\$ 4
<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1991-1996</i>	\$ 3

Publications may be ordered from Mrs. K. D. Ward, ABS Treasurer, Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620-0085.

\*\*Price includes tax, postage and handling.

## Contributions:

Gifts to the Society are tax-deductible and may be undesignated or applied to:

Boxwood Memorial Garden Fund  
Boxwood Manual Fund  
Boxwood Research Fund

## Correspondence:

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

Treasurer, The American Boxwood Society  
P.O. Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620-0085

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:

Mr. Thomas Saunders  
2498 Tye Brook Hwy.  
Piney River, Va. 22964

## Call for Papers:

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

Chairman, Bulletin Committee  
1714 Greenway Drive  
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401-5209

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# 41st ABS Annual Meeting Set for May 17-19, 2001

## Return to Blandy Experimental Farm for 40th Anniversary

This year, at its 41st Annual Meeting, the ABS is celebrating forty years of learning and dissemination of knowledge of the genus *Buxus*: its history, the taxon, the care and maintenance, the use in landscapes; and the development of the ABS Memorial Garden as a living museum.

Lectures will take place in the Library at The Quarters, at the Orland E. White Arboretum, the State Arboretum of Virginia, within the Blandy Experimental Farm property, in Clarke County, Virginia.

### Speakers

Ms. Sheri Musselwhite is a graduate of North Carolina State University and is working on her M.S. degree in Horticulture at Virginia Tech (VPI & SU). She's in charge of the boxwood research at VPI & SU under the supervision of Dr. Robert Wright.

Ms. Catherine Campbell currently manages annual and perennial production at Saunders Bros., Inc., a wholesale nursery in central Virginia. Ms. Campbell has a B.S. in Plant Pathology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and ten years of experience growing and marketing annuals and perennials. At Saunders Bros. she has added many new plants to meet customers' growing demands for color in the garden throughout the year.

**Notice: Anyone having named boxwood to donate to the Auction, please contact John W. Boyd, III, 2612 Churchill Drive, Roanoke, VA 24012-2126, (540) 362-0064. He needs to have the list well in advance.**

### Schedule of Events

#### Thursday, May 17

- 1:00-3:00 Workshop in the ABS Memorial Garden, demonstrations of pruning, propagation, gleaning (removal of seedlings and layered pieces to protect parent plant) and view of equipment at the greenhouse. Registrants are free to wander and stop at any area of interest. Refreshments will be served.
- 3:30 Meeting of the Governing Board in the Learning Center  
Dinner on your own
- 7:30 Wine and Cheese Reception in the Learning Center

#### Friday, May 15

- Lectures in the Library at The Quarters, Blandy Farm
- 8:00-9:00 Registration (pick up information packet, pre-registered)  
Coffee and sweet rolls will be served in the Dining Room
- 9:00 Welcome, Thomas Saunders, ABS President
- 9:10 Sheri Musselwhite, "Boxwood Research at Virginia Tech (VPI & SU)"
- 9:45 Catherine Campbell, "Color in your Garden"
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Paul Saunders, "National Boxwood Trials"
- 11:30 Business Meeting, followed by short meeting of the Governing Board to conduct two items of business
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:00 Dr. Egon Köhler, "Variety of New World *Buxus* and How They Are Linked to Old World Species"
- 2:00 Dr. Bonnie Appleton, "A New Silver Bullet? *Mycorrhizal fungi*"
- 2:45 Break
- 3:15 Auction, John W. Boyd, III
- 6:00 Belle Grove Plantation, Middletown, Virginia, for Wine Reception and tour of the house, followed by dinner. Belle Grove, built between 1794 and 1797, was the home of Major Isaac Hite, Jr. (1758-1836). His first wife, Nellie Conway Madison (1760-1802) was sister to James Madison. Major Hite was one of the first 100 Phi Beta Kappa members at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. He developed Belle Grove from a 483-acre tract to a thriving 7500-acre cattle and grain plantation.

#### Saturday, May 19

- 8:30 a.m. Bus leaves from Blandy Farm for tour of private gardens.



A recent photo of the Quarters at Blandy, which appeared on the first issue of The Boxwood Bulletin, October 1961. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)



The American Boxwood Society poster displayed at the Information Kiosk at Blandy Farm, designed by Tim Farmer and Joan Butler. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)



Parterre around the sign at the entrance to the ABS Memorial Garden. Daffodils are just beginning to come up in the center. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)

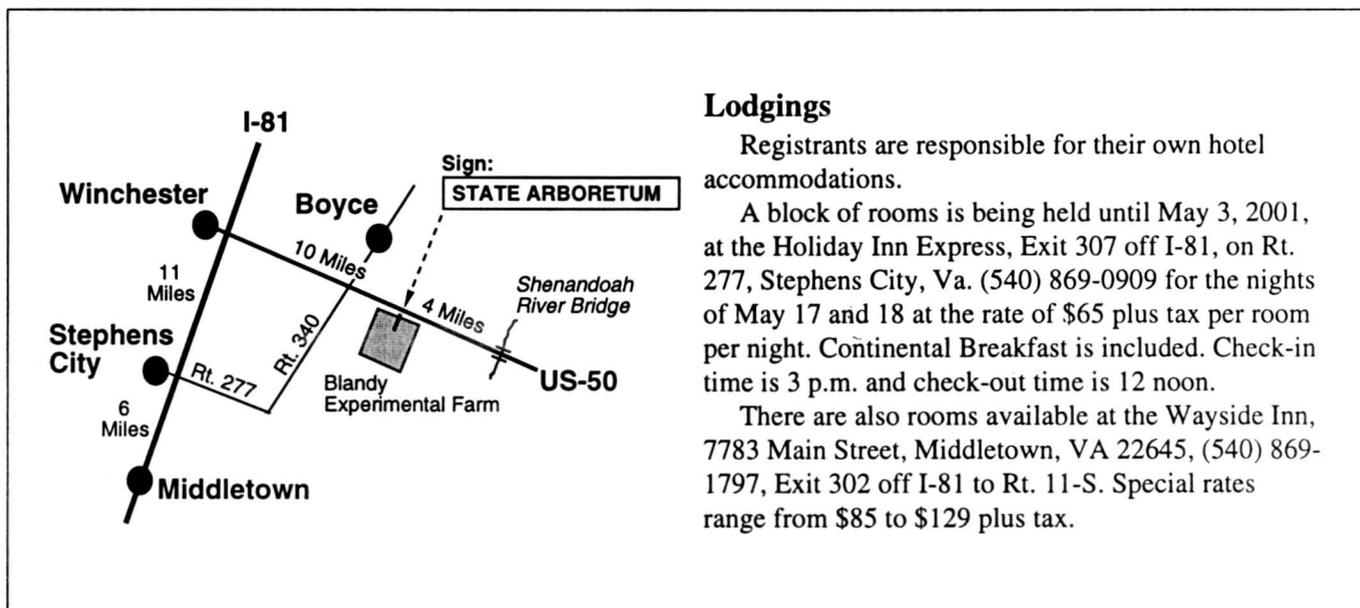
## Saturday Tour

The garden tour will first visit Heronwood. Long-time members will remember visiting the gardens after ABS Annual Meetings when Admiral Neill Phillips was ABS President. There have been several owners since Admiral Phillips died. It is fitting to return there for our 40th Anniversary.

This year's gift to attendees will be *Buxus microphylla* 'Grace Hendrick Phillips', a sport of *Buxus microphylla* 'Compacta', named by Henry J. Hohman in honor of Admiral Phillips' wife.

The bus will take us to other gardens in the area and return us to Blandy for lunch.

After lunch we are invited to visit the garden at Tuleyries, the estate adjoining Blandy, which belonged to Mrs. Orme Wilson, sister-in-law to Graham Blandy. It is now the property of Mrs. Orme Wilson, Jr.



## Lodgings

Registrants are responsible for their own hotel accommodations.

A block of rooms is being held until May 3, 2001, at the Holiday Inn Express, Exit 307 off I-81, on Rt. 277, Stephens City, Va. (540) 869-0909 for the nights of May 17 and 18 at the rate of \$65 plus tax per room per night. Continental Breakfast is included. Check-in time is 3 p.m. and check-out time is 12 noon.

There are also rooms available at the Wayside Inn, 7783 Main Street, Middletown, VA 22645, (540) 869-1797, Exit 302 off I-81 to Rt. 11-S. Special rates range from \$85 to \$129 plus tax.

## Registration

Registration fee for the entire event is \$135, including all programs, refreshments and Wine and Cheese Reception Thursday, coffee breaks, lunch and banquet dinner Friday, lunch Saturday at Blandy Farm and bus tour Saturday.

Make checks payable to American Boxwood Society and mail to : Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, 1714 Greenway Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5209. DEADLINE for registration is May 8, 2001.

Please fill out enclosed Registration Form and return promptly.

## 40 Years Ago

The organizational meeting of The American Boxwood Society took place at Blandy Farm on May 2, 1961. By noon 86 had registered and there were approximately 100 present for lunch and the meeting according to the first issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* October 1961 Vol.1, No.1. J. Churchill Newcomb was elected president.

**Five Honorary Life Members** were elected:

**Dr. Edgar Anderson**, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo. -

recognized for his establishment of more than 140 types of Balkan boxwood. (It is fitting that we have begun a study of his Balkan cultivars, known as the K-series, produced from a pound of seed sent to him from the Vardar Valley in southern Yugoslavia in 1936. There are also five Balkan introductions as a result of his expedition to the Balkans in August and September of 1934 under the auspices of the Arnold Arboretum. Four of these five have been registered: 'Treska Gorge' (789-34), 'Edgar Anderson' (351-35), 'Vardar Valley' (352-35), and 'Scupi' (353-35).

**Mrs. J. B. McCarty**, Waverley, Delaplane, Virginia - recognized for her large plantings of boxwood and for her charming book, *The Story of Boxwood*, on the history of boxwood from Phoenician times to the present (Dietz Press, 1950). The book was reprinted with permission in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, beginning April 1964, Vol.3, No.4.

**Mr. A. B. Price**, Arlington, Virginia - recognized for "organizing the trade in boxwood sprays, for Christmas wreaths, popularizing this use of boxwood among florists from Washington, D.C. to Boston and

Chicago, and meanwhile, for half a century, visiting and appreciating the beauty of scores of boxwood gardens, always protecting them against unwise commercial exploitation.

**Professor A. G. Smith**, Associate Professor of Horticulture, retired, Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI & SU), Blacksburg, Virginia "for his study of the types, care, and diseases of boxwood and the creation of an exceptionally large experimental planting in Blacksburg."

**Dr. Orland E. White**, Professor of Biology and Agriculture, Emeritus, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, "for his long interest in boxwood and inspiration in establishing an arboretum with a notable collection of specimens at Blandy." ["Blandy" is now the Orland E. White Arboretum, now designated the State Arboretum of Virginia by the Virginia State Legislature.]

Mrs. John W. Hanes, Jr. of Great Falls, Virginia was the first Life Member. There were 404 Charter Members, 283 from Virginia, 15 from D.C., 106 among 31 states in addition to Virginia. So began The American Boxwood Society.

# On the Track with Boxwood

Jim W. Saunders, Saunders Brothers, Inc.

Saunders Bros. has been producing boxwoods since my father started propagating boxwoods in 1947 as a 4-H member in rural Nelson County. After college and a short stint in the Army, he returned to the farm to grow peaches, survey, and grow a few boxwood. He found that there was a real demand for high quality boxwood at the stores in Lynchburg and Charlottesville. (In fact, I can still remember helping deliver around 100 one-gallon English boxwood to a store in Lynchburg on a short bed pickup as a seven- or eight-year-old.) It was during these years that my brothers and I propagated boxwood as 4-H projects and helped earn money for college.

After graduation from college as an animal science major and seven years as an Extension Agent in Madison County, Va., I decided to return to the farm in 1991 to help in the nursery and orchard, and to manage the herd of registered Angus cattle. By this time, our nursery had grown to a larger scale and we continued to see a large demand for boxwood. At this time we also decided to start growing boxwood in the field, a whole new adventure for Saunders Bros.

It was quite different from growing in the controlled environment of a greenhouse! We cleared wooded land and developed 20 "blocks" that were 125' by 40' with a row of sprinklers down the center of each block. We left a 20' buffer of trees between the blocks to provide shade and protection for the boxwood. In addition, we planted a row of loblolly pines around the perimeter of each block for protection. Over the next two years we would plant the blocks with the following cultivars: English, American, 'Justin Brouwers'; 'Green

Beauty', 'Fastigiata', 'Dee Runk', 'Vardar Valley', 'Graham Blandy', 'Wintergreen', and 'Winter Gem'.

In the fall of 1993, I took over the

reigns of boxwood field production at Saunders Bros. Needless to say, I needed a lot of help! I had no formal training in horticulture. In the spring



*Amy Saunders, holding Jacob, with Phillip, standing between a row of B. sinica var. insularis 'Justin Brouwers' and B. 'Green Mountain'. They are looking toward the west. Loblolly pines are around the perimeter of each block for protection.*



*Western view of the experimental block. Some plants are obviously doing better than others. (Photos: Jim Saunders)*

Cultivar	Total Planted	Number Alive	% Survival	Rating*
<i>B. sempervirens</i> (American)	64	20	31%	2.5
'Dee Runk'	65	63	97%	7.5
'Suffruticosa' (English)	65	34	52%	2.5
'Fastigiata'	65	47	72%	3.5
'Graham Blandy'	64	32	50%	4.5
'Green Beauty'	63	63	100%	7.5
'Green Mound'	64	64	100%	5
'Green Mountain'	65	62	95%	5.5
'Green Velvet'	64	58	91%	4
'Inglis'	65	47	72%	3
'Jim's Tru Spreader'	65	65	100%	8
'Justin Brouwers'	65	65	100%	4.5
'Newport Blue'	64	39	61%	2.5
'Vardar Valley'	65	59	91%	8
Rt. 50 (sport of <i>B. sempervirens</i> )	65	46	71%	2.5
'Wintergreen'	65	65	100%	7.5

\*Note~Rating is a subjective score by Jim Saunders on 2/27/01 based on the overall appearance of the plants, color, and uniformity.

1- Very poor overall appearance and no uniformity  
5- Average appearance and color  
10- Superb appearance, color and uniformity

of 1995, we added nine larger blocks of boxwood to the field planting.

By this time, I was beginning to see some problems in the boxwood. The plants would start dying one branch at a time and then the whole side would die and eventually the whole plant would die. Some of us thought that it was poor soil drainage, while others thought that it was a lack of protection for the plants. It was then that I decided to get some advice on diagnosing the problem. We sought help from soil scientists, university professors, industry chemical representatives, and other growers.

After much deliberation, I thought that my problem might be due to the heavy clay soils in the area where we located the boxwood farm. These heavy clay soils would hold water longer and reduce drainage away from the roots and the plants would die. In addition, we were used to a potting soil that drained very well in the container nursery, and I believe

that we probably over-watered the plants in the field where there was the heavy clay soil. (We did not reduce our water schedule enough when we moved from the pot to the field.) We saw heavier death losses in the English, American, and 'Graham Blandy' cultivars. In other cultivars, we saw fewer problems.

After seeing that some cultivars were performing better than others, I decided to plant a test block of plants. I wanted to see which cultivars would perform best under the conditions in Central Virginia if we subjected them to the same fertility, soil, water, protection, and pest control factors in the same block (125' by 40'). I believed that the problems we were seeing were due to poor soil drainage, and if some cultivars were less tolerant to wet soils then it would be advantageous for us as nurserymen to know this. Since all of the cultivars were planted in a well-protected block with a 20' wide row of trees beside them, I felt that I could

eliminate protection as one of the factors causing the losses.

On June 24, 1997, we planted the test block with an average of 65 plants of each cultivar. We divided the block into four quadrants or quarters and we planted 33 plants of each cultivar in one quadrant and planted 33 more of the same cultivar in the opposite quadrant (see table). We planted all of the plants on the same day and watered as needed for several weeks.

We are now seeing some results from the experiment. At left is a table of the plant survival after almost four years of growth.

What are some conclusions that we can draw from this small experiment? First of all, this is not a scientific experiment! There are probably some fallacies in the way the block was set up and there are some differences in the quadrants that we did not account for. In addition, we did not perform a statistical analysis of the results of the experiment. Also, it is not over and we plan to add another block of test plants this year. The intent was to subject all cultivars to the same growth factors in a heavy clay soil in central Virginia and see where they stacked up after several growing seasons.

Generally speaking, we can make several general conclusions from this experiment. Some cultivars perform better in the clay soils of central Virginia: 'Dee Runk', 'Green Beauty', 'Green Mound', 'Green Mountain', 'Green Velvet', 'Jim's Tru Spreader', 'Justin Brouwers', 'Vardar Valley', and 'Wintergreen'. While the survival of all of these cultivars was over 90%, I made a subjective rating of each of the cultivars based on overall appearance, color, and cultivar uniformity. I rated each cultivar on a 1-10 basis where 1 was a very poor appearance, poor color, and no uniformity and 10 was superb appearance, color, and

uniformity. When you consider this rating, only five cultivars rated above 90% survival and had a rating of 7.5 or higher. They are 'Dee Runk', 'Green Beauty', 'Jim's Tru Spreader', 'Vardar Valley', and 'Wintergreen'. These cultivars are consistently performing better in other field blocks as well.

While some of the cultivars did not perform as well as others, we are not ready to throw those cultivars away! Each of them has its place in the landscape. As I have emphasized, this experiment was performed in a heavy clay soil in central Virginia. The results may be totally different in another microclimate and soil in another area. While we may not plant the poorly-performing cultivars on the same farm where they are currently planted, we are still searching for better-drained soils where we think that they can grow and flourish. In fact, we have identified some more sandy soils that are only one mile away, where we plan to plant the poorly-performing cultivars and we believe that they may perform well at that location.

Another conclusion that we have gained from this experiment is that we may have to grow more boxwood in pots in the nursery and not take them to the field. We have found that

we may be able to grow a higher quality but smaller plant in the container and not pursue growing the larger cultivars. At least we are not able to grow some of the larger cultivars at the current location.

In addition, we found that we needed to reduce our irrigation drastically after plants were established in the field. We also reduced the amount of mulch that we were applying for erosion control. Not only was the mulch reducing erosion, but also it was reducing soil water evaporation and thus, we were holding more water in the soil than the boxwoods needed.

This has been an interesting experiment. We have learned a lot about field-growing boxwood. We plan to add another 125' x 40' experimental block this year and add a few new cultivars along with two or three of the current better performing cultivars as "benchmark cultivars." While we may not be answering all of the questions about field boxwood production, these blocks will continue to answer a few questions about our microclimate and boxwood field production. It will also give us a good way to compare boxwoods growing under the same field conditions in order to assess their potential for our area.

#### EXPERIMENTAL BOXWOOD BLOCK LAYOUT

Farm Road		
Row of Loblolly Pines		
'Suffruticosa' (English)	'Graham Blandy'	
'Jim's Tru Spreader'	'Green Mound'	
Rt. 50*	'Dee Runk'	
'Green Mountain'	<i>B. sempervirens</i>	
'Fastigiata'	'Inglis'	
'Wintergreen'	(Empty Row)	
'Justin Brouwers'	(Empty Row)	
(Empty Row)	'Green Beauty'	
(Empty Row)	'Vardar Valley'	
'Newport Blue'	'Green Velvet'	
East	Water Sprinklers	West
<i>B. sempervirens</i>		Rt. 50*
'Inglis'		'Suffruticosa' (English)
'Vardar Valley'		'Jim's Tru Spreader'
(Empty Row)		'Green Mountain'
(Empty Row)		'Justin Brouwers'
'Dee Runk'		'Newport Blue'
'Green Mound'		'Wintergreen'
'Graham Blandy'		'Suffruticosa' (English)
'Green Beauty'		(Empty Row)
'Green Velvet'		'Fastigiata'
Row of Loblolly Pines		
Farm Road		

\* Rt. 50 is a sport of *B. sempervirens* (American)

## Garden Week's 68th Season Opens Gardens Galore

Suzanne Munson, Executive Director, Historic Garden Week in Virginia

Some of Virginia's most beautiful newer gardens, as well as many perennial favorites, will be open for the 68th season of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, April 21-28. More than 250 of the Old Dominion's most outstanding houses, gardens and historic landmarks will be featured on three dozen tours across the state from the Atlantic Ocean to the Allegheny Mountains.

Organizers of the Gloucester-Mathews tour on April 28 have proclaimed this as the "Year of the Gardens." Open for this event will be formal gardens, walled gardens, cottage gardens, cutting gardens, rose gardens, annual gardens, herb gardens, a waterfall garden, and even a secret garden. Elmington Gardens is among the lovely locations highlighted on this Tidewater tour.

Charlottesville's popular Friendly Gardens tour on April 22 and 23 will take visitors to the Lewis Hills III neighborhood in the Ivy area. The garden of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Atkins contains six different types of boxwood, including 'Graham Blandy', adding height, dwarf English, providing a way to designate a formal path, a slow-growing boxwood taken from cuttings at



*On the Friendly Gardens Tour, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Atkins, in Lewis Hills III, has boxwood as foundation planting and a charming entrance area with seating among boxwood plantings. (Photos, this page: Decca Frackelton)*



*At the Atkins home boxwood from cuttings at Mount Vernon is accented with Magnolia stellata and B. sempervirens 'Graham Blandy'.*

Mount Vernon, and a weeping boxwood at the front. Built in 1983, the house has been enhanced in recent years by landscaping focusing on English and American boxwood plantings.

Another highlight of the tours in

the Albemarle-Charlottesville area will be the Country Homes and Gardens tour on April 23 and 24, featuring Mirador, the gracious childhood home of Viscountess Nancy Langhorne Astor, the first woman to become a member of the

British Parliament, and her sister Irene, who attained fame as the fashionable "Gibson Girl" at the turn of the 20th century. Also on tour in the pastoral community of Greenwood will be two other exceptional estates, Greenhills and Casa Maria,



*The Eades garden, open on the Friendly Gardens tour, features boxwood shrub plantings around the front lawn.*



*At the Eades garden, an arched trellis frames a view of the pond, with boxwood in the bed to the side.*



*Boxwood finds a place at the foot of a retaining wall in an interesting use of stone in the terraced Boninti garden. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)*

with magnificent hillside views and beautifully landscaped grounds.

The Leesburg Garden Club's tour on April 22 and 23 will wander along rural lanes in the scenic Waterford countryside. The gardens and grounds of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Linderman's extensive property cover 20 acres of well-established trees complemented by perennial gardens and shrubs and a 20-mile vista to the mountains. The property contains more than 1,700 different cultivars of conifers and Japanese maples, and 250 tons of imported Appalachian boulders.

Across the way in Fairfax Station, the Belvoir gardens will feature more than 1,000 types of daylilies and hundreds of types of *Hosta*. The gardens of Bob and Pat Bennett have been recognized and enjoyed for many years by horticulturists throughout Virginia. The property is a display garden for the American Hemerocallis (Daylily) Society and



*Boxwood garden at Ridgewood, 1900 South Clearing Road, Roanoke, features more than 200 boxwood plants. (Photo: Garden Club of Virginia)*



*At the Mirador garden, on the Albemarle-Charlottesville tour, boxwood delineates garden beds. (Mirador photos: Jan Stelfat)*



*A pergola offers a view of extensive boxwood at Mirador, the childhood home of Viscountess Nancy Langhorne Astor.*

was chosen as a national convention garden in 1995 by the American Hosta Society. This interesting five-acre property will be among gardens and houses open on the April 27 tour sponsored by The Garden Club of Fairfax.

The Roanoke Tour, "A Ride to the Country," will provide a continuous shuttle service to the homes on the tour as there is no parking at individual houses. Of the five places

featured, Ridgewood (1900 South Clearing Road) was the site of the first regular meeting of the Roanoke Valley Garden Club in 1925. A brick walkway, bordered with boxwood, dogwood trees, and flowering bulbs and perennials, provides a path from the house to the 1920s boxwood gardens of more than 200 boxwood plants.

The magical gardens of Glen Burnie will be a delightful stop on the

tour in Winchester on April 21 and 22. Twenty-five acres of formal gardens surround the handsome 1794 house built by Robert Wood, at the home site of James Wood, his father, founder of the Winchester settlement. Beginning in the late 1960s, Julian Wood Glass, Jr., and R. Lee Taylor created the many gardens that exist today which are reminiscent of those surrounding an English country house. Garden spaces range from



*At Glen Burnie Historical House and Gardens, a boxwood parterre garden leads to a Grand Allée of flowering crab apple trees. (Photo: Ron Blunt)*

intimate garden “rooms” to a Grand Allée of flowering crab apple trees. Among the numerous areas are a Chinese garden, water garden, herb garden, perennial cutting garden, formal vegetable garden, parterre garden and rose gardens. The grounds also contain antique material in the form of statuary and the 18th-century bricks that form the garden paths.

As always, Garden Week opens many wonderful 18th- and 19th-century properties with interesting and mature boxwood plantings. Be sure to check the Garden Week guidebook for details. The guidebook is available with a \$5 donation to Historic Garden Week, 12 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Tour dates and general information can be found on the Garden Week web site, [www.VAGardenweek.org](http://www.VAGardenweek.org). More detailed information will be available the week before Garden Week on the web site [www.timesdispatch.com/special/spring](http://www.timesdispatch.com/special/spring).

## Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, April 21-May 12 Offers Taste of Baltimore, Annapolis, Eastern Shore

Nell Stanley

Now in its 64th year, the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage will offer visitors the chance to tour some of Maryland’s finest houses, gardens, and historic landmarks. More than 55 exceptional properties will be open April 21 through May 12, 2001, on five separate tours covering the Eastern Shore counties of Somerset,

Wicomico, Worcester, and Charles, Anne Arundel County, and the Baltimore City neighborhood of Homeland.

The first tour, to be held Saturday, April 21, will take visitors to the Lower Eastern Shore county of Wicomico. A number of properties will be opened to the Pilgrimage for

the first time: Scott-Free, a 1901 farmhouse now the studio of a nationally recognized artist; the Whitehaven Hotel, an 1880 hostelry now undergoing extensive restoration for use as a bed-and-breakfast; and Woodside, a Craftsman-style home inspired by the architecture of the old Adirondack Great Camps and located



*A giant cast-iron urn is the focal point of this historical boxwood garden. An ivy "hedge" borders the center square and beyond are boxwood parterres. Open to visitors on the Somerset County Pilgrimage. (Photo: Carol Naarup, Metropolitan Magazine)*



*Boxwood at the rear of the Chase-Lloyd House, to be seen on the May 5 Pilgrimage tour.*

in a park-like setting. Also open will be Caleb's Discovery, an unusual incorporation of an early colonial house into a later structure, and Beauchamp Place, the home of a professional artist who has created the paint schemes in the spacious, high-ceilinged rooms.

The following day, Sunday, April 22, the two Lower Eastern Shore counties of Somerset and Worcester will open their doors to visitors, who may want to spend the whole weekend enjoying the special houses and gardens of the area. Open for the first time will be King's Necessity, one of the most distinctive Federal dwellings in Snow Hill, with its columned portico and lovely carved details;



*Boxwood marks the entrance to the Chase-Lloyd garden, which is on the May 5 Pilgrimage Tour.*

Nunn's Green, a 1770 plantation house filled with elegant period furnishings and surrounded by lovely gardens; and Setter's Point, completed last year and commanding a magnificent view of the Little Annessex River and Tangier Sound. Wine-lovers will also delight in a visit to the comfortable house and extensive fields of Cedar Cove Vineyard.

On the Somerset County pilgrimage, at the corner of Somerset Avenue and Washington Street in Princess Anne, one will come upon a most delightful surprise: an historic private

garden, maintained since the first half of the 19th century. Tradition credits General George Handy (1788-1856) with planning and planting the ornamental parterre design. An 1822 deed shows the house was sold with the covenant that the gardens be maintained.

The boxwood in various geometric shapes live contentedly among the Crape Myrtles and conifers. In spring, *Azalea* shrubs and bulbs provide spectacular color. The owners are sharing this treasure on April 22 during the Pilgrimage.

The following Saturday, April 28,

Charles County, in southern Maryland, will offer Pilgrimage visitors a tour of 12 special properties along the Port Tobacco River. Among the exceptional 18th- and 19th-century residences open that day will be Habre de Venture, the plantation home of one of Maryland's four signers of the Declaration of Independence, and La Grange, the recently restored residence of George Washington's Surgeon-General. Also included in the 12 properties on the tour are delightful examples of modern architecture that take full advantage of their river views.

Landseair, located on a point of land bordered by the river and Goose Bay, affords lovely vistas from its broad windows, while Safe Harbor, with its dramatic use of interior color and Oriental accents, offers a panoramic view across the pool and terrace to the dock house on the Port Tobacco River. Also featured on the tour is St. Ignatius Church, sited at the confluence of the Port Tobacco and Potomac Rivers and dating back to 1641. Considered one of the most beautiful examples of 18th-century architecture in the country, the manor house adjoining the church offers the delight of its formal gardens.

Anne Arundel County will welcome Pilgrimage visitors on Saturday, May 5, with a tour of 13 properties illustrating a broad diversity of historic and contemporary architectural styles. The county's rich colonial history is reflected in the elegant Palladian windows and formal boxwood gardens of the Chase-Lloyd House and the outstanding Georgian architecture of the Hammond-Harwood House, with its

excellent collection of 18th-century Maryland decorative arts. Other houses reflect modern-day lifestyles; one Acorn-designed contemporary house features soaring ceilings and large windows that allow for sweeping views of the Severn River, while an English country-style home boasts award-winning landscaping around the pool. The Hammond house, on Spa Creek in Annapolis, has been featured in numerous magazines for its unique plan offering water views from almost every room.

This year's Pilgrimage will close with a tour of Homeland, in Baltimore City, on Saturday, May 12, and will offer the unique service of a free shuttle throughout the day. Tour guides will be on board to share with visitors special aspects of this beautiful neighborhood, originally planned by the renowned Olmsted brothers, designers of New York's Central Park. Houses on the tour will include an updated 1790 farmhouse, a half-timbered Tudor revival house overlooking one of the ornamental man-made "lakes" of Homeland, and a

Palmer and Lamdin house in a mixture of Art Deco and Federalist styles and housing an important collection of modern art. Other delightful properties include the newest house in Homeland, completed in 1999, with a traditional Homeland exterior concealing a strikingly contemporary open floor plan with a two-story Great Room.

This year's tours feature a number of award-winning houses which have won recognition from the American Institute of Architects and have been featured in such publications as *House Beautiful*, *Southern Living*, and *Colonial Homes*.

Along with its interesting variety of houses, the Pilgrimage features gardens of all designs and sizes. These include formal 18th-century walled terraces, a wildflower meadow, a Japanese pond garden, woodland and wetland gardens, a kitchen garden, and well-planned "vest-pocket" urban gardens.

Proceeds from Pilgrimage tours benefit the restoration of important buildings and grounds in Maryland.



*On May 5, Pilgrimage visitors will be welcomed at the Hammond-Harwood house, shown here with some of the handsome boxwood surrounding the lawn.*



*On the Homeland tour May 12, a house where boxwood provides foundation planting. (Photo: Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage)*

## NOTICES

### Corrections to Identification of K-series Boxwood in January 2001 *Bulletin*

There was a mix-up in the numbers of the K-series identified in the

January 2001 *Boxwood Bulletin*. In order not to compound the error,

photos are reprinted herein with correct captions.



*The author recording data for K-24 in NW corner of Expansion Bed #7. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)  
[Identified as K-86 in January issue]*



*Expansion Bed #7 looking east (K-86 is the larger plant).  
(Photos, except as noted: Sigrid Harriman, October 2000)  
[Identified as K-24 in January issue]*



*Hedge of *B. sempervirens* 'Inglis' along northern border of the ABS Memorial Garden, planted fall 2000. Five plants of *Hydrangea quercifolia* are planted at the NW and NE corners. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)  
[Located at NW and SW corners in January issue]*



*K-28, measured 18" high by 9" across. Single trunk, open tree-like growth, well-shaped. Leaf shape: pointed.  
[Identified as K-102 in January issue]*



*K-52, measured 24" high by 11" across, has strong leader, open growth. Leaf shape: wide, rounded.  
[Identified as K-23 in January issue]*



*K-52, measured 18" high by 10" across, has strong lateral leader, open growth. Leaf shape: narrow, long, pointed.  
[Identified as K-25 in January issue]*

(The committee is aware that the two plants above are not identical. Their metal tags, both marked "K-52," will be retained until proper identification is made.)

**In Memoriam**

**Mrs. Harry deButts**

*Charter Member*

### The Cost of Progress: A Message from Thomas Saunders, ABS President

During the past year, the American Boxwood Society (ABS) has taken several steps in promoting the dissemination of information on *Buxus* and in fostering research efforts to facilitate boxwood cultivation.

The Board of the ABS has approved funding to support a website so that the Society will have a more global presence in encouraging the use of man's oldest ornamental. The website is still under construction, but is currently accessible at [www.boxwoodsociety.org](http://www.boxwoodsociety.org). We encourage our membership to visit the site and let the board members know of any suggestions for improvement. More information about the website will appear in a subsequent issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

The Board also recently voted to appropriate \$5,000 to support re-

search by plant scientists at Virginia Tech. The research efforts will examine the growth of *Buxus* cultivars in container production, seeking to promote quicker plant turnover. Because of boxwood's tendency to be shunned by deer, boxwood cultivars are in great demand by homeowners and landscapers. Improving the rate at which boxwoods can be made ready for the commercial market is the objective of this study. It is planned that preliminary results of the project will be presented at the ABS annual meeting in May by a graduate student at Virginia Tech, and additional information will be published in subsequent issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

In the near future, *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*, by Lynn Batdorf, will be completed and published. This book will be the most

definitive and authoritative work ever produced on boxwood cultivars.

Because of the above major steps forward, as well as other steps under discussion, the Board members of the ABS have agreed that the time has come to raise the membership dues. [See "Budget Committee," opposite page.]

An increase in dues has not taken place in more than 20 years. This "rate increase" will be used to help defray some of the expenses that relate to current and future projects so that additional progress can be made to ensure the growth and visibility of the ABS. This increase in dues will not take place immediately, but will become effective in 2002. The Board hopes that the membership will react favorably to this action in order to support the missions of the ABS, now an organization in its 40th year.

### Minutes of the Winter Board Meeting

The winter meeting of the Governing Board of The American Boxwood Society was held on Thursday, February 8, 2001, at the Western Sizzler in Waynesboro, Virginia. In attendance were: Thomas Saunders, President; Charles Fooks, Vice President; Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Jr., Vice-President; Katherine Ward, Executive Treasurer; Sigrid Harriman, Secretary; and the following Directors: John Boyd III, Decca Frackelton, Richard Mahone, Ian Robertson, Jim W. Saunders, and Clyde Weber.

Absent were Directors Lynn Batdorf, Dr. Gary Richardson, Steve Zapton, Director ex-officio Michael Bowers, and Joan Butler, Chairman

of the ABS Memorial Garden Committee.

President Tom Saunders welcomed all attendees at 1 p.m. after a buffet lunch at the Western Sizzler. The minutes of the fall meeting of the ABS Governing Board, held at Blandy Farm, were approved as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol.40, No.2, pp .34-35.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mrs. Ward reported a balance of \$3,396.67 as of February 7, 2001 in the checking account. This reflects the total income of \$3,946.78 and expenses of \$12,527.63 since the September Board meeting. Two CDs with a combined total of \$22,655.40 are held at two banks. The second report

concerned special funds: \$8,241.04 in the Memorial Garden Fund, \$6,520.36 in the Research Fund, and \$1,564.00 in the *Encyclopedia* Fund.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Mr. Weber, Chairman, reported on the status of the membership of the Board of Directors of ABS. Board members completing their term in 2001 are John Boyd III, Richard Mahone and Steve Zapton. John Boyd will accept another term, Richard Mahone and Steve Zapton have declined. Due to the sudden death of Aubrey Zaffuto, a replacement to complete her term will be needed. The Nominating Committee has a list of possible candidates.

**Special Recognition Committee:**

Mr. Weber, Chairman, said his Committee has several candidates in mind for future awards. He will welcome suggestions from members for someone they believe deserves recognition for contributions toward promoting boxwood.

**Registrar's Report:** Mr. Batdorf was unable to attend but prepared a written report which was distributed to the Board members. He will host Elizabeth Braimbridge and Dr. Egon Köhler in Washington D.C. prior to the Annual Meeting, and bring them to the Friday session of the meeting.

His second report was on the progress made on the manuscript of *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. The original working title was "Manual of Boxwood Plants." Joan Butler and Decca Frackelton assisted greatly in the complete proofing and fine tuning of the manuscript. The many editorial comments have resulted in significant improvements in presentation, format, and wording. Co-workers at the National Arboretum had also agreed to re-edit the manuscript. Joan Butler volunteered to proof the "camera-ready" copy that John McCarthy will produce. The proposed publishing date is summer 2001.

**The Boxwood Bulletin and Membership:** Mrs. Frackelton reported paid ABS membership of about 500 for fiscal year 2001 with some still needing additional reminding. At present, there are 19 complimentary memberships. The Society also has 17 active charter members, 59 life members, one patron, and four honorary life members. As always she appealed for submission of articles, with pictures, to be included in *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

**Boxwood Memorial Garden:** Mrs. Butler was unable to attend, but asked Mrs. Harriman to report on the ABS Memorial Garden. The brochure (designed under the guidance of Joan Butler) for the Memorial Garden is

available at the information kiosk, located between visitors' parking and the Memorial Garden.

The row of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Inglis' purchased from Charles Fooks were planted along the entrance drive at the edge of the Memorial Garden, toward the visitors parking area, and are doing very well. Each end of the row is accented by a grouping of five *Hydrangea quercifolia* 'Snow Queen', donated by Saunders Brothers.

This latest planting frames the memorial garden beautifully. Also, the 28 K-boxwood that were planted in the Center bed and one of the expansion beds have been photographed, measured, and described and will be re-evaluated after a year to note any outstanding characteristics.

**Research Committee Report:** Dr. Frierson reported that Dr. Egon Köhler, the German plant pathologist and author of an in-depth study on DNA frequencing of the species *Buxus*, will be a speaker at this year's annual meeting. ABS will pay for his travel expenses (round trip Berlin-Dulles). Some of Dr. Köhler's research was also funded by ABS. The subject of his main presentation will be "Variety of New World *Buxus* and how they are linked to Old World species."

Dr. Frierson also reported on the work done to establish an ABS web page. He distributed copies of the first draft of the ABS web page prepared by Jeff Miller who is setting it up. Dr. Frierson asked for comments from the Board as to the layout and content.

**Year 2001 Annual ABS Meeting:** Mrs. Ward reported on her work in planning this year's annual meeting. It will be the 41st Annual Meeting of ABS and celebrate 40 years of the Society. The meeting will therefore be held at Blandy Farm. The date has been set for May 17-19, 2001. Speakers are Dr. Köhler, Paul Saunders, and a graduate student who will

represent Dr. Wright and is conducting VPI's experiments. Thursday, May 17, will be a hands-on work day at the Memorial Garden with additional information about the species, its diseases, care, growing habit, etc. A reception is planned in the evening. Friday will be the day for lectures and the auction. Saturday is scheduled for several garden tours.

Two places are being designated for accommodations during the meeting; they are the Holiday Inn in Stevens City and the Wayside Inn in Middletown.

#### **New Business:**

**Year 2002 Annual ABS Meeting:** Plans for the 2002 Annual Meeting will have to be redrawn. There had been tentative plans for the New Jersey area. New plans will have to be developed.

**Budget Committee:** President Saunders expressed a need for an increase in membership fees because of our increased research and educational projects. The Board voted to increase individual dues from \$25 to \$35; family from \$35 to \$45; contributing \$75; sustaining \$100; and life membership to remain at \$500.

This will be announced at the Annual Meeting, but will not take effect until May 2002. He also proposed to offer speakers a standard honorarium rather than paying some expenses.

**Contingency Plan:** President Saunders asked for a job description of the tasks involved in preparing and mailing *The Boxwood Bulletin* so that Mrs. Frackelton could have some assistance and someone could be in place to continue the duties. There followed a discussion of possibilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

*Sigrid Georgii Harriman*  
Secretary

