

# The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental



On a 2001 boxwood expedition to the Republic of Georgia in search of *Buxus sempervirens* forms were (seated) Paul Saunders, Saunders Nursery; Brad Spicer, Frelinghuysen and Willowwood Arboreta; Todd Lasseigne, J. C. Raulston Arboretum; and (standing) Tatum Saunders; Charles Fooks, ABS Vice-President; Tomasz Anisko, Longwood Gardens; and Robert Wright, VPI & State University. (See article p. 60.)

## IN THIS ISSUE

42nd ABS Annual Meeting, May 16-18, 2002 .....	59
Boxwood Expedition to the Republic of Georgia, <i>Charles T. Fooks</i> .....	60
Historic Garden Week in Virginia, <i>Suzanne Munson</i> .....	60
2002 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage .....	68
<i>News of the Society</i> .....	73

---

# The American Boxwood Society

---

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

For information about boxwood and the Society, refer to [www.boxwoodsociety.org](http://www.boxwoodsociety.org).

## Officers:

### PRESIDENT:

Mr. Thomas Saunders Piney River, Va.

### VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Mr. Charles Fooks Salisbury, Md.

Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Jr. Charlottesville, Va.

### SECRETARY:

Mrs. Sigrid Harriman Fredericksburg, Va.

### EXECUTIVE TREASURER:

Mrs. Katherine D. Ward Winchester, Va.

### REGISTRAR:

Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf Washington, D.C.

### DIRECTORS:

Mr. John W. Boyd III (2004) Roanoke Va.

Mr. Walter S. Carell, Jr. (2004) Millington, N.J.

Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton (2003) Fredericksburg, Va.

Dr. Maury Hanson (2004) Madison, Va.

Mr. Clifford Hoffman (2003) Flemington, N.J.

Dr. Gary Richardson (2003) Annapolis, Md.

Mr. Jim W. Saunders (2002) Piney River, Va.

Mr. Clyde Weber (2002) Bentleyville, Pa.

### EX-OFFICIO:

Dr. Michael Bowers Boyce, Va.

### BULLETIN EDITOR:

John S. McCarthy St. Louis, Mo.

## Memberships:

Memberships for the year May 2002 through April 2003 include \$16 for four quarterly issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*:

Individual	\$35	Contributing	\$75
Family	\$50	Life	\$100

Non-member subscriptions for groups and institutions, such as botanic gardens and libraries, are \$35 by the calendar year if established or current year for new subscriptions.

## Available Publications:

Back issues of <i>The Bulletin</i> (through Vol. 40) (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 Encyclopedia 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

---

*The Boxwood Bulletin* (ISSN 0006 8535) is published quarterly for \$16.00 per year by The American Boxwood Society, Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Va. 22620. Periodicals postage paid at Boyce, Va. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Boxwood Bulletin*, P.O. Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620. The *Bulletin* is printed by M-J Printers, Fredericksburg, Va.

# 42nd ABS Annual Meeting May 16-18, 2002

## Activities Center in New Jersey-Philadelphia Area

Notice of the 42nd Annual Meeting, with detailed notes, was in the January 2002 issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, along with a Registration Form. Deadline for submittal is April 30, 2002.

For extra Registration Forms, contact Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, 1714 Greenway Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5209, (540)373-7975. Registration fee is \$155 per person, plus \$15 supplement for nonmembers.

Attendees are responsible for their own hotel reservations. Rooms are being held until April 30 at the Holiday Inn Select at Bridgeport, N.J., at the rate of \$87, single or double, plus tax. Phone (856)467-3322 or fax (856)467-3031.

Directions from I-295 near Philadelphia; southbound, turn left on Center Square Road at Exit 10; northbound, turn right at Exit 10.

One of the speakers will be Charles Fooks, ABS First Vice-President, who will report on an expedition to the Republic of Georgia in search of *Buxus sempervirens* forms. (See p. 60.)

### NOTICE Boxwood Auction

Those having named plants to donate to the Auction, please contact John W. Boyd III, 2612 Churchill Drive, Roanoke, VA 24012, (540)362-0064. He needs to know well in advance in order to have the listings available for the registration packets. Those who have attended in the past know the excitement generated by this event.

### Schedule of Events

#### Thursday, May 16, 2002

- 1:00-6:00 p.m. Arrival, check-in and registration  
Holiday Inn Select, Bridgeport, NJ
- 6:00-7:30 Dinner at will
- 7:30-9:00 Dessert reception and program. A Viennese Dessert Buffet Reception followed by a presentation by the world-renowned glass paperweight artist, Paul J. Stankard: "Nature in Glass."

#### Friday, May 17, 2002

- 8:00-8:45 a.m. Buffet breakfast
- 8:45-9:00 Welcome, Thomas Saunders, President
- 9:00-9:45 Program #1
- 9:45-10:30 Program #2
- 10:30 Board buses for Longwood Gardens
- 11:30 Arrive Longwood Gardens
- 11:30-1:00 p.m. Luncheon buffet at The Terrace Restaurant
- 1:00-1:45 Program # 3
- 1:45-2:30 Business Meeting
- 2:30-4:00 Guided garden tour—Longwood Gardens
- 4:00 Board buses for Holiday Inn
- 5:00 Arrive back at Holiday Inn
- 5:00-5:30 Break
- 5:30-6:30 Boxwood Auction
- 6:35 Buses depart for dinner
- 7:00-8:30 Dinner at Riverview Inn
- 8:30 Board buses for Holiday Inn
- 9:00 Arrive at Holiday Inn

#### Saturday, May 18, 2002

- 8:00-9:00 a.m. Breakfast at will
- 9:15 Board buses for Morris Arboretum, Phila., PA
- 10:00 Arrive at Morris Arboretum
- 10:00-11:30 Garden Tour
- 11:30 Board buses for Holiday Inn
- 12:15 p.m. Arrive back at Holiday Inn
- 12:15-1:15 Lunch at will and check-out

---

# Boxwood Expedition to the Republic of Georgia

Charles T. Fooks

In early 2001, Dr. Tomasz Anisko, Curator of Plants at Longwood Gardens, began putting together an expedition to collect plants in the Republic of Georgia. He described the mission of the expedition as follows:

“Georgia has been designated as one of the ‘hot spots’ of plant biodiversity around the globe. Boxwood selections commonly cultivated in the United States are of predominantly western European provenance representing the western part of *Buxus sempervirens* distribution. Edgar Anderson’s introductions from the Balkans in the 1930s were a notable exception to this. Introducing boxwood germplasm from its eastern part of the range in the Black Sea and the Cau-

casus regions would create new possibilities for breeding and selection.”

I consider it extremely fortunate to be among those asked to participate in this expedition. I joined Tomasz, and Todd Lasseigne, of the J. C. Raulston Arboretum, in Tblisi, Georgia on July 7, for one of the most exciting and rewarding thirty days of my life. We were later joined by Fred Spicer, of Frelinghuysen and Willowwood Arboreta, N.J., and then by Paul and Tatum Saunders of Saunders Bros. Nursery and Dr. Robert Wright of VPI & State University.

During the 30 days we were there, the group traversed the entire country, from its eastern border with Azerbaijan to the northern border at Mt. Kazbegi near Russia, west to the

Black Sea, and took pictures of the customs buildings at the Turkish border on the south. The northwestern most province, Abkhazia, a disputed region occupied by Russia and currently off limits, is the only part of Georgia we did not cover. Eighty two accessions of *Buxus* were collected and successfully returned to the United States. The majority of these were collected from wild populations, with a few selections from public gardens and arboreta.

I will attempt to share the excitement and thrill of collecting cuttings and seed from wild boxwood growing on steep hillsides in thickets as far as one could see, as well as the natural beauty and history of this ancient and intriguing country.

## Historic Garden Week in Virginia

### One Highlight is a Maze of 5,000 English Boxwood

Suzanne Munson, Garden Week Executive Director

Among many gardens with exceptional boxwood plantings open for Historic Garden Week in Virginia this year (April 20-27) are the scenic gardens at Chelsea, an 18th-century manor house overlooking the Mattaponi River. Chelsea is among six outstanding properties featured on the April 26 tour in King William County sponsored by The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula. The tour celebrates the county’s tricentennial anniversary and also opens the nation’s oldest courthouse in continuous operation.

Originally a plantation of 8,600 acres, Chelsea’s grounds currently encompass nearly five acres of lawn and gardens. According to Richard L. Dunn, the estate’s historical assistant,

the earliest of the two main gardens dates to the 18th-century and is often referred to as the “Ladies Garden.” Enclosed brick walls protected the garden and the people who strolled there, overlooking the deep Chelsea Harbor (75 feet at low tide). The ladies would sit and walk through the gardens, watching for the arrival of merchant ships from Europe and other continents.

“The ladies could oversee the merchandise being unloaded without mingling with the ‘riffraff’ sailors and dock workers. The garden is planted with English and American boxwood, azaleas and assorted trees in the form of a soft maze and walking garden,” Mr. Dunn adds.

The “new” gardens adjoining the

house on the south dining room side were originally the working gardens with vegetables, spices, and places for the washing of linens and general outside chores for the main house. The work could be overseen by the mistress of the house. These gardens were replanted in 1933 by P. O. Reed for his wife, who became blind in 1934. Watkins Nursery in the Richmond area planted more than 5,000 English boxwood approximately 25 years old and over 1,500 American boxwood. English boxwood form the maze and shape of the garden, with American boxwood planted along the brick walls enclosing the garden. Also in the garden is the greenhouse built in 1922 and the original 18th-century Georgian school house. The



*A brick carriage trail with hedges of old English boxwood on either side.*



*A view of the parterres with statue and flowering trees on the portico side of the house.*



*A view of the parterre gardens seen from the house. Pink Crape Myrtle trees on the left are in full bloom.*



*A view of the covered dock and harbor with more English boxwood in the foreground.*



*Some of the oldest B. sempervirens 'Suffruticosa' (English boxwood) near the portico at Chelsea, King William County, Virginia*



*A gate into the brick wall-enclosed garden with B. sempervirens towering over the wall.*

mall, carriage trails and sides of the house are planted with English boxwood over 300 years old from Mt. Prospect in New Kent County. Visitors to Chelsea on Garden Day April 26 will enjoy a display of antique carriages, along with visits to the gardens and manor house.

Colonel Augustine Moore, descendant of Sir Thomas More, Chancellor to King Henry VIII, built the transitional Queen Anne-Georgian manor in the 1700s. The current owner, William W. Richardson, a direct descendant of the Moore family, has collected art and antiques

from around the world for the house.

More information about Chelsea and other properties with boxwood plantings of interest is contained in the *Historic Garden Week in Virginia Guidebook*, available with a \$5 donation mailed to Garden Week headquarters, 12 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. The Web address is [www.VAGardenweek.org](http://www.VAGardenweek.org).

#### **Other Points of Interest**

From the earliest days the land between the Mattaponi and the Pamunkey Rivers was called Pamunkey Neck. "It was the strong-

hold of the Powhatan Confederacy and remained a refuge for the tribes during their decimation and decline."

In 1692, the inhabitants of King and Queen County (of which this land was a part) petitioned the General Assembly for permission to take up land in Pamunkey Neck and to have their titles to land acquired from the Indians made legal. On May 4, 1695, the first legislation was introduced to divide King and Queen County and set up a new county. It passed the House, but was defeated by the Council. A second bill was introduced Sept. 5, 1701. This bill passed

and was approved by Governor Francis Nicholson with the effective date April 11, 1702. The county was named in honor of the reigning monarch, King William III.

**King William County Courthouse** (c. 1725) may be approached from the Information Center and a picnic area by crossing over a 19th-century stile onto the courthouse green. This courthouse has the distinction of being the oldest courthouse in continuous use in English North America.

According to the Virginia Landmarks Register, King William County Courthouse is the best preserved of Virginia's Colonial era court buildings. At the apex of the courthouse complex is a simple brick building with hipped roof, denticulated cornice and tall chimneys. An arcade of five arches supports the roof of the open gallery along the front of the building. "A brick wall

built in 1858 to keep out livestock and poultry, encloses the courthouse, the clerk's office (old jail), the new jail (c. 1890) and a confederate monument." The King William Historical Society is restoring the brick wall.

In 1983-4 the courthouse underwent restoration and 32 portraits of judges, commonwealth's attorneys, clerks of the court and other county leaders are now housed there.

**Whar Dat Farm** has a new Tudor Manor house, less than two years old, but with the architectural features of the traditional. Overlooking an eight-acre pond and a swimming pool are landscaped gardens with perennials, David Austin roses and a walled parterre with a monastery garden to the side.

**Cherikoke** has been the property of the Braxton family and their descendants since the mid-18th century. George Braxton (d. 1757)

left it to his son, Carter, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Charles Hill Carter Braxton, a doctor in the Civil War, built the present Federal style brick plantation house in 1828. Open vistas, past dependencies, lead to the Pamunkey River where a new two-story boathouse is located. The name Cherikoke means "Happy Water."

**Elsing Green**, where visitors are greeted by peacocks, is a stately Queen Anne manor house. "The U-shaped plantation house with its Flemish bond and splayed flat window arches is one of the country's finest examples of colonial architecture." This has been a working plantation for more than 300 years. Before 1690, Colonel John West built a fine, small acobebean lodge, which is now the east dependency of the manor house. A terraced lawn leads to the Pamunkey River. The Lafferty family designed and planted the



*A 1995 photo of the King William County Courthouse complex shows the Courthouse (center) with the five arches that support that side of the hipped roof. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)*

gardens and grounds where many stately boxwood are found.

**St. John's Church** was completed around 1734 and remains much the same today, thanks to an interdenominational effort to preserve it. The brick is laid in English bond below the water table and in Flemish bond above. During the Garden Tour the church will be decorated in the manner of an English "Flower Festival" and there will be a harp concert between two and four that afternoon.

### **Collections Abound on Tours**

One of the homeowners on the Staunton tour is the president of the Kentucky Rifle Association, who will be displaying his unparalleled collection of rare Kentucky rifles and accouterments, collected over a period of 40 years. Among other tours with intriguing collections is the April 27 Gloucester event opening Weston Hall, a 19th-century house filled with Victorian memorabilia and delightful dolls created on-site by the homeowner. One of the old houses on the April 27 tour in Brunswick County has a "sampler room," with samplers done by the owner as well as early ones completed by young ladies from the North and South, yet bearing the same verse.

Antique car restoration enthusiasts will be especially interested in a contemporary waterside house with a collection of antique cars and a gleaming restoration garage, featured on the Newport News and Hampton Clubs' April 24 tour in Poquoson. A homeowner on the April 27 Warren County tour is among many craftsmen this year who have filled their houses with fine collections of furnishings made in their own workshops.

### **Flowers By the Thousands Planted for Garden Week**



*The U-shaped manor house at Elsing Green, taken from the "land" side.*



*The "river" facade at Elsing Green, with the older dependency beyond.*

In the Middleburg-Atoka area, deep in Virginia's renowned hunt country, the owner of one of the impressive properties has planted 17,000 bulbs for this year alone.

A hillside garden on the Harrisonburg tour April 24 is planted with 20,305 daffodils and narcissus, 21,000 Virginia bluebells, 1,000 trillium, 250 dogwoods, 500 tree peonies, and more than 260 different rhododendron hybrids. The spectacular three-acre garden is informal, totally natural and uses no pesticides or herbicides. The 1680s Adam Thoroughgood house, one of Virginia's oldest houses, open for the April 23 Virginia Beach event, is surrounded by a charming 17th-century English pleasure garden with 5,000 bulbs and other plantings provided by The Garden Club of Virginia with funding from Historic Garden Week in Virginia tours.



*The dependency on the other side of the Manor House at Elsing Green.*



*Elsing Green: A vista showing the tree-lined lane leading into the property. The edges on both sides of the lane are planted with a multitude of *B. sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'.*



*At Elsing Green, a view of the plantation bell among boxwood plantings.*



*Beyond sundial and its formal pedestal on the lawn, the terrace drops down to the Pamunkey River.*



*Paired with the sundial is an elegant well cover. The river is about 250 yards beyond.*

---

# 2002 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage

## Offers History and Spring Beauty, April 27-May 19

Now in its 65th year, the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage will once again offer visitors the chance to tour some of Maryland's finest houses, gardens, and historic landmarks. Six separate tours, held from April 27 through May 19, 2002, will reveal unique and lovely sights in all corners of the state, including Kent, Talbot, and Calvert Counties, Baltimore City's harborfront community of Canton, the South Mountain area of Frederick County, and Montgomery County, in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

Visitors interested in architecture will find properties representing nearly every period of American history, from elegant 18th-century Federal townhouses in Chestertown to handsome stone farmhouses that oversaw the Civil War Battle of Old South Mountain to stunning contemporary condominiums in renovated factories overlooking Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Visitors will take special interest in the number of award-winning additions and renovations to older houses.

Visitors interested in horticulture will find gardens of all sizes and designs, including meadows of decorative grasses, formal walled gardens and parterres, boxwood terraces, landscaped pools and lily ponds, kitchen gardens, and a children's garden whose central feature is the "Oyster Maze," a path, paved with tracks and images of crabs, cattails, and other native plants and animals, leading to a fountain with a giant pearl.

Proceeds from Pilgrimage tours benefit the restoration of important buildings and gardens throughout Maryland. Each tour offers a fascinating variety of nine to fourteen local

houses and gardens, many open to the public for the first time.

Visitors can obtain a flier outlining the tour dates by calling the Pilgrimage office at (410)821-7627 or by accessing the Pilgrimage web site at [www.mhgp.org](http://www.mhgp.org) for further details. A comprehensive guidebook, providing descriptions of houses and gardens open, directions, sites for lunch, and the names and telephone numbers of local tour organizers, will be available the first week of March for \$4 from Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage, 1105A Providence Road, Towson, MD 21286-1790. Properties will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets for each day's tour cost \$25 and may be purchased in advance from Pilgrimage Headquarters or at any house on the day of the tour. Gift certificates good for any day's tour are available from Pilgrimage Headquarters or from tour chairmen. Visitors wanting information about overnight accommodations in any tour location can call the MD Office of Tourism at (800)543-1036 or the Pilgrimage.

### Tour Highlights

The first tour, to be held Saturday, April 27, will take visitors to Kent County and the Chestertown area, on the Eastern Shore. Sixteen properties will be on tour, ranging in style from the elegant Hynson-Ringgold House, dating from the pre-Revolutionary War period and covering an entire waterfront block, to Riverplace, the contemporary weekend home of an architect who designed a dramatic two-story space with glass doors and windows facing the Sassafra River.

The following day, Sunday, April 28, nearby Talbot County will open

its doors to Pilgrimage visitors, who may want to spend the whole weekend enjoying the special houses and gardens of Kent and Talbot Counties. Several of the Talbot County houses, including Halcyon, Wheatlands, and Hunting Hall, reflect remarkable style and taste in the way in which additions and renovations have been made to blend harmoniously with original buildings. All three houses command sweeping river views and make harmonious use of native perennials and grasses.

The following Saturday, May 4, Pilgrimage visitors will be offered an insider's view of Canton, a much sought-after redeveloped neighborhood on the east side of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. In addition to enjoying the waterfront and appealing parks and squares, visitors will appreciate the wide variety of housing, from a two-level penthouse with solarium, French doors, and huge balcony overlooking the harbor to row houses that have been renovated to create bright, open spaces, many of them by the use of exposed beams and bricks, skylights and rooftop decks, and bright, witty furnishings. Visitors arriving before noon can tour The Black-Eyed Susan, an authentic turn-of-the-century paddlewheel-driven river boat docked on the Canton waterfront.

Calvert County, on Maryland's Western Shore, will welcome the Pilgrimage on Saturday, May 11. This tour will focus on charming homes along the Patuxent River and its many creeks and coves. Styles range from the contemporary flavor of Ice House Landing, a weekend home with a view of the next county from its third-level belvedere, to the formal elegance of the traditional Southern

---

Maryland architecture seen at "Brigerton Cove," with its three bays, raised paneling and custom moldings. Off the library, a brick-floored porch offers year-round living space and views of ospreys, blue heron, deer and other creatures who share the cove. Second-floor windows offer stunning views across the Patuxent.

The following Saturday, May 18, offers visitors a unique glimpse of what tour organizers are calling "The Hidden Houses of South Mountain" in Frederick County, near Middletown. South Mountain is rich in architecture, Civil War history, panoramic views, and special houses and gardens hidden from view on

country lanes. Connemara is a dramatic passive-solar contemporary built of green stone and cedar siding in the shape of three triangles that follow the curve of the mountain. Surreybrooke Farm, featured in such magazines as *Southern Living*, is an 1860s farmhouse filled with collections of country furniture, folk art and primitives. The acres of gardens are traditional and pleasing as well, with koi-stocked pond, a rustic arbor that opens into a cutting garden bordered with old roses, a knot garden with herbs, and a lily pond edged with bulbs. A swimming pool surrounded by peonies, roses, and clematis, add to the visitor's pleasure.

This year's Pilgrimage will come to a close with a tour of the Potomac area of lower Montgomery County, northwest of Washington, D.C. The houses on this tour represent the history of the region beginning in 1824 with the building of the Great Falls Tavern on the C&O Canal. Visitors will enjoy seeing how many of these homes have undergone changes over the past 200 years but retain the integrity of the original structures. Orchard Farm, for example, once home to the blacksmith who trimmed the feet of the canal mules, is today a comfortable, rambling house filled with bold colors and surrounded by a variety of



*Another home, featuring boxwood, which will be open May 11, 2002, on the Calvert County tour of the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage.*

gardens, with roses everywhere. A grander piece of history is Montevideo, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and similar to Tudor Place in Georgetown, the winter home of the

Project: *Linden*, the historic property being restored by the Calvert County Historical Society to be its headquarters, is the last known remaining in-town farmstead on Maryland's western shore. Ten 19th- and 20th-century outbuildings, all log structures, are included in this property. The monies realized from the tour will go toward funding the restoration of outbuilding number four, which appears to have been a dwelling for former slaves, servants, or farm laborers, based on the findings of a recent archaeological study.

Calvert County was part of Charles County in 1650 when Robert Brooke arrived as a representative of Lord Baltimore to form a new county in the colony. The name Calvert was given to the new county in 1654. Under the Cromwellian rule it was changed to Patuxent County, but by 1658 the name of Calvert was restored. By 1695, after the Protestant Revolution, Calvert County was partitioned and lost a large portion of its land on the north to Prince George's County. Calvert now forms a peninsula about forty miles long and ten miles wide, with the Chesapeake Bay on the east and the Patuxent River on the west. Calvert's waterways provided the principal travel routes in early days. These rivers and streams are still picturesque and have attracted many to live along their shores. Fossil formations at Calvert Cliffs provide a glimpse of early marine life in the Bay. The main occupation of the first settlers, who came from England, Wales and

Peter family, descendants of Martha Washington and the builders of Montevideo. Majestically sited on 410 acres, the house has a clear view of Sugarloaf Mountain and has been completely restored by its present owners. Visitors may also want to set

### Tour Features

Scotland, was farming and tobacco was the major crop. By 1980 only about one-third of Calvert County was still being farmed and soybeans and corn had replaced tobacco as the principal crop. In 1782, six districts (or hundreds as they were called) were in existence with a population of about 6,600, but by 1999, there were three districts with a population of about 75,000. Today's tour focuses on the charming homes along the Patuxent River and its many adjacent creeks and coves and ends just north of Solomon's Island, where there are seafood restaurants, charming shops, gardens, and a scenic bay walk.

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH** was established in 1692 as one of two original parishes of the Church of England in Calvert County. As early as 1672, records show that there was a church, probably of log, on land donated by Francis Mauldin from his tract known as Prevent Danger. That building burned in 1731. The present church was completed in 1772, with major changes made in 1838, 1906, and 1968. This last renovation brought the church interior back in keeping with its original design. Adjoining the Parish Hall is an attractive walled garden of biblical plants.

**BROOKE PLACE MANOR**, set on a high hill overlooking the Patuxent River, dates back 350 years. Robert Brooke, an Englishman, arrived in Maryland in 1650 with his wife Mary Mainwaring Brooke, ten children, twenty-eight servants and a pack of foxhounds. In 1652, after

aside the time for the one-hour canal boat ride offered from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Great Falls Tavern, originally an overnight stop for canal travelers. Details are provided in the tour guidebook.

being granted 2100 acres on the eastern shore of the Patuxent River, he built Brooke Place Manor. The house was built of brick laid in the Flemish bond pattern with glazed headers. The original 1 1/2 story roof line was enlarged in the 19th century by the addition of a full second story, and other additions have been made over the years, including a pool and guest house. All that remains of the 1652 house is the exterior brick.

**ICE HOUSE LANDING**, a contemporary weekend home, was named for the original ice house, which was located adjacent to the property at the turn of the century. Featured over the fireplace of the main house is a 1900s boat model. A circular iron staircase leads to the third level "belvedere" that provides a view across the Patuxent River to St. Mary's County. You are invited to walk through the gardens, the dell down to the dock and Sally's Graduation Gazebo at the Cove.

**BRIGERTON COVE** was a part of the historic land grant, Cage Farm, until 1910. Built in the 1980s, Brigerton Cove incorporates the best of traditional Southern Maryland architecture.

Featured in the house is a very special watercolor dated 30 October 1818, depicting ancestor, Captain William Oliver, Jr., and his ship, *The Augustus of Philadelphia*, leaving Genoa harbor bound for Philadelphia. There are stunning views from the second floor windows across the Patuxent. Boxwood and perennial beds surround the house and gazebo.

**3785 LLOYD BOWEN ROAD**, built in 1990, is situated on property originally owned by the Briscoe family, an old Southern Maryland farming family. Styled after a Victorian farmhouse, the three-story white frame house looking over beautiful Island Creek, was designed to reflect the charm of Maryland's past. Landscaping includes a small rose arbor, brick and stone patios nestled among honeysuckle and fifty-year-old pin oak trees.

**PINOAK FARM**, named for the great oak at the farm's entrance off Mackall Road, stretches down a long slope to the Patuxent River. Technically, the tree is a Willow Oak, however they were known as Pin Oaks by earlier generations. The house sits on a knoll overlooking a pasture and the river. The original portion of the main house, sitting on 12-inch cypress beams, dates to the 1860s. It is thought to have been a tenant house for The Cage.

The current owners have begun to turn the farm operation from rotational crops to organically-raised cattle and sheep, forest restoration and upland game habitats. The guest house is a 100-year-old log cabin previously located in Hallowing Point Park on the Patuxent. Destined for demolition, it was rescued by previous owner, Sally McGrath. The parterre garden, flanked by the main house and guest house, features roses, peonies, irises, lilies and hydrangea. Throughout the grounds are magnolias, dogwood, azaleas and a variety of shrubs and grasses.

**JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK & LUNCHEON.** A box lunch will be served at the Pavilion from 11:30 A.M. to 2 P.M. for \$9.50. Rest rooms are available at the Park. In 1983, Mrs. Jefferson Patterson donated 512 acres to the Maryland Historic Trust, retaining a life interest in the house, Point Farm, and sur-

rounding acres. The Park and Museum contain exhibits showing the life of the early Indian tribes occupying the shores of the Patuxent River more than 9,000 years ago. The Visitors Center is located in what was once the brick show barn for cattle.

**SAW PIT COVE** (All parking at entrance gate) is a magnificent location for this hilltop residence overlooking St. Leonard's Creek. Although the present house was constructed in the 1940s, the site was popular during prohibition days when distilled spirits were available here. Terracing, stairways, and brickwork have turned a wide expanse of lawn into the perfect backdrop for gardens of boxwood, rhododendron, azaleas, crepe myrtle, holly, and spring flowers. Blooming dogwood trees and daffodils frame a stunning view of the terraced hillside from the brick patio by the reflecting pool. Numerous mature boxwoods define the area.

**SPOUT FARM**, situated on beautiful St. Leonard Creek, Spout Farm boasts a long and rich history. Beginning in 1649, when Secretary Thomas Hattan received a grant from the English king, the 600-acre tract changed hands three times over the next 50 years until it passed to the Parran family in 1699. According to a map belonging to Commodore Joshua Barney, the famed Commander of the Flotilla and hero of the Battle of St. Leonard's Creek, the property was still owned by a John Parran in 1814. In 1828, shortly after their marriage, Elizabeth and Nathaniel Dare Sollers purchased Spout Farm. From that date until it passed to the current owners, it served as a tobacco farm, a store, and in 1928 as a hunting retreat, during which time the west wing was added.

In 1982, the present owners purchased Spout Farm and began extensive renovations of the house and gardens adding a swimming pool

## DUES REMINDER

Last year the ABS Governing Board voted to increase the dues because of increased costs and expanding services, including our new Web site. This first increase in many years takes effect for the year May 1, 2002, through April 30, 2003. The new dues will be \$35 for individuals and institutions, \$50 for family memberships, \$75 for contributing, and \$100 for sustaining. Our year runs May 1 through April 30. Those joining later in the year will receive any back issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin* for that current year.

and pavilion. The original house, dating to the late 17th or early 18th century, was a small 1 1/2-story log structure with one room dominated by a massive fireplace and a sleeping loft above. The house was enlarged in the 1700s and the double parlor added later in 1780.

The dominant feature of the exterior is the double chimneys separated from the house above the second story level with the windowless double-story pent between them. This feature, according to the Historic American Buildings Survey, is unusual and the only one in Calvert County. Spout Farm earned its name from the large spring that flows out of its cliff side into St. Leonard's Creek. Sailing vessels, filled with tobacco and bound for England, filled their casks with water for the voyage. Today, it remains the water source for the property.

**THE CUSTOM HOUSE (OR COLLECTORS OFFICE)** originally built as the office for the Rousby Hall plantation in 1730, this early Georgian structure, with complimentary Flemish

bond brickwork, was the office of His Majesty's Collector (customs agent) for the Patuxent area. All custom collections passed through this office with records being kept and the work being done in one large room, the current living room. The clerks slept in a loft above the work area. Interestingly, the British failed to destroy the Custom House on two occasions—during the Revolutionary War and during the War of 1812. Either the original building was left untouched by accident or, perhaps the marauding British seamen thought the property was owned by the King of England and left it alone.

The building, one of the many dependencies on the Plantation, survived through the centuries. In

early photographs, it appears to be a tobacco shed surrounded on four sides by a low roofed structure in the style of the low country of South Carolina.

**ROUSBY HALL** was patented as Great Eltonhead Manor in 1652. This property originally contained 5,000 acres at the mouth of the Patuxent River. John Rousby II (1680-1744) purchased 2,500 acres from the Bourne family in 1706 and renamed it Rousby Hall. John Rousby, an attorney, was His Majesty's Collector (Customs) for the Patuxent area (1717-1744). John Rousby, son of the builder died in 1750 at the age of 23 and is buried on the property. Colonel William Fitzhugh of Virginia,

one of America's wealthiest men, married Anne Rousby, the widow of John Rousby III, and lived at the plantation until the original Georgian residence was destroyed during the revolutionary War by the British on November 7, 1780. The brick manor house was replaced in 1783 by a white wooden-framed, single-room home built on the rubble of the bombardment. Anne's daughter, Elizabeth Rousby, married the third governor of Maryland and lived at Sotterly on the Patuxent in St. Mary's County. The last Royal Governor of Maryland, Robert Eden, spent the Christmas of 1770 at Rousby Hall, among other well-known visitors of the time. Its architectural style is referred to as a Maritime Cape with a "cat-slide" roof.



*Spout Farm, with a history dating to 1649 and an abundance of boxwood, is one of the places open on the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage May 11, 2002. (Photos: Maryland H & G Pilgrimage)*

## Minutes of the Winter Meeting of the ABS Governing Board

The winter meeting of the Governing Board of The American Boxwood Society was held on Thursday, February 14, 2002 at the home of Decca Frackelton in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Mrs. Frackelton had graciously invited board members and their wives to attend a lovely luncheon, prepared and served by her. We all were honored to be her guests and thanked her for her generous hospitality.

In attendance were: Thomas Saunders, President; Charles Fooks, Vice President; Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Jr., Second Vice President; Katherine Ward, Executive Treasurer; Sigrid Harriman, Secretary; Lynn R. Batdorf, Registrar; and the following Directors: John Boyd III, Walter S. Carell, Jr., Decca Frackelton, Dr. Maury Hanson, Clifford L. Hoffman, Dr. Gary Richardson, Jim Saunders, Clyde Weber, and Joan Butler, Chairman of the ABS Memorial Garden Committee. Absent were: Michael Bowers, Director ex-officio.

President Tom Saunders welcomed all in attendance at 1 p.m. after a perfect luncheon. The minutes of the fall meeting of the Governing Board, held at the Western Sizzler in Waynesboro, Virginia, were approved as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol.41, No. 2, pp.41-42.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mrs. Ward reported a balance of \$5,766.78 as of February 12, 2002 in the checking account. This reflects a total income of \$3,069.68 and expenses of \$7,291.53 since the October Board meeting. Two CDs with a combined total of \$22,655.40 are held in two banks. Mrs. Ward did not specifically report on the ABS Memorial Garden Fund, the Research Fund, or the *Encyclopedia* Fund. She reminded all that ABS membership dues will go up as of May

1, 2002 to regular membership \$35; family \$50; contributing member \$75; and sustaining member \$100. The Treasurer's report was approved.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Mr. Weber, Chairman, reported on the status of the membership of the Board of Directors of ABS. One replacement was needed for Ian Robertson. Mr. McHenry (Mac) Stiff, a longtime volunteer at Blandy and member of ABS, will fill the unexpired term of Mr. Robertson and will attend the May 2002 ABS Annual and Board meetings. The terms of Clyde Weber and Jim Saunders will expire in May 2002.

**Registrar's Report:** Mr. Batdorf's first report covered the progress on the *Encyclopedia of Boxwood*. The finished book will have about 431 textual pages and about 300 illustrations. During the last months, some editorial rearrangements were undertaken during the process of peer review required for any publication produced at USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). This will be followed by a 4-6 month period of "mark-ups." It will bring the date of publication toward the end of the year. He reported that so far he had received many responses from all over the world, i.e., Australia, Belgium, England. The price will be about \$50.00 per copy.

Mr. Batdorf's second report was on the success of the *Handbook*. More than 8,000 soft cover copies have sold and of the 40 hard cover copies printed in 1995 only four remain available. At the time of publication, each Board Member received a copy. One remaining copy will be offered at the 2002 ABS Annual Meeting's auction.

Mr. Batdorf mentioned several publications concerning boxwood and circulated copies for the attendees to review:

*Garden Design*, February/March 2002, America's Great Gardens issue features a garden in North Carolina, created in the spirit of 1790, featuring among others, boxwood: "...they [the owners] consider the boxwood plant sacred. Boxwoods create the bones of the landscape, forming hedges and dividers, keeping order, and directing the eye. The designer's bible is *The Boxwood Handbook*, published by the American Boxwood Society—in 1995, not 1790."

*Growing Boxwood in the Midwest*, a 54-page publication published by the Boxwood Society of the Midwest is a small narrative on the species.

*Boxwood Expedition to Georgia*, the expedition conducted in 2001 and attended by Charles Fooks. Each page contains several photographs of indigenous boxwoods along with members of the expedition. All Board Members were interested in obtaining a copy of the report.

**The Boxwood Bulletin and Membership:** Mrs. Frackelton reported that ABS membership is around 500 at the moment. She made a plea for articles for *The Bulletin* and information about the speakers at the forthcoming ABS Annual Meeting. Deadline for the next issue of *The Bulletin* is March 1, 2002. She distributed a preliminary schedule of events of the Annual Meeting (May 16-18, 2002). The meeting will be held in Bridgeport, New Jersey and former ABS President Dale Taylor will chair the event. Guided tours to Longwood Gardens and the Morris Arboretum are planned. One of the proposed presentations will be a history of ABS -to be given by Gary Richardson.

**Boxwood Memorial Garden:** Mrs. Butler asked for money for two projects in the garden. 1) \$500.00 for

the removal of the dead pine at the entrance to the garden. 2) About \$200-300 is needed for additional labels for unlabeled plants, wrongly identified plants and recently planted K-series plants. She asked Mr. Batdorf in his capacity as registrar if he would select from a list of geographic and place names from the area of the former Yugoslavia which she has been collecting. Not all of the K-series plants will qualify to be named and registered. Follow-up review of the K-series plants will be done in spring.

**Research Committee Report:** Dr. Frierson reported briefly on the existing ABS web page. Requests come in from all over the world. His next report was on the boxwood-related study conducted at Virginia

Polytechnic Institute and State University under Dr. Wright's guidance. It is still ongoing, no new results at this time. Dr. Egon Köhler's study on DNA patterns in the genus *Buxus* is nearing completion. A final report can be expected shortly.

**New Business: Annual Auction:** Mr. Boyd reported that Mr. Weber has agreed to donate 'Green Mountain' as a gift plant to all attendees at the Annual 2002 meeting. He also asked for items other than plants to be donated to the auction. Non-boxwood type articles are acceptable as long as they relate to boxwood or gardening.

**Annual 2002 Meeting:** All agreed that the board meeting could be held from 3-5 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2002 at the Holiday Inn Select. The

meetings will be held at that location, reservations should be made before April 30. When calling (856)467-3322, Ext. 570 let them know you are with the ABS group.

**Annual 2003 Meeting:** It will be held in Maryland, either in the Easton or the Chestertown area. Details have not been developed.

**New Business:** Jim Saunders reported that he had obtained a copy of the information distributed to future master gardeners. Joan Butler and Lynn Batdorf volunteered to review the portions concerning boxwood as well as providing references to the *Boxwood Handbook*.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

*Sigrid Georgii Harriman, Secretary*



*Present at the meeting of the ABS Governing Board February 14, 2002: Front row: Joan Butler, Chairman of the ABS Memorial Garden; Sigrid Harriman, ABS Secretary; John W. Boyd, Jr., Director and Chairman of the annual ABS Auction; Dr. Henry Frierson, 2nd Vice-President and Chairman of the Research Committee; Dr. Gary Richardson, Director. Back row: Lynn R. Batdorf, ABS Registrar; Tom Saunders, President; Clyde Weber, Director and Chairman of the Nominating Committee; Dr. Maury Hanson, Director; Charles Fooks, 1st Vice-President and Chairman of the 2003 Annual Meeting; Katherine Ward, Treasurer; Walter Carell, Director; Jim Saunders, Director; and Clifford Hoffman, Director. (Photo: Decca Frackelton, Director)*

---

## Work in Progress at ABS Memorial Garden



*The ABS is funding the removal of a dead pine (see minutes). The tree has been taken down and the stump will be removed. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)*



*In place is the pedestal for a sundial and plaque, the entire structure presented by Harry and Joan Symmes as a memorial to "Swede" Larson, and placed by request in the ABS Memorial Garden, to which "Swede" devoted much time and effort as long-time Chairman of the Garden committee.*

