

The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental



At historic Gay Mont in Caroline County, Virginia, boxwood thrives on the hilltop around the house. See article on page 38. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)

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Boxwood in Nature and Gardens

Travels to Southern Russia and Ukraine

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

The latter part of our boxwood expedition to the Caucasus 2002 was spent along the Black Sea in southern Russia and Ukraine (Crimea). After 19 days in Azerbaijan and Georgia, on June 25 we travelled on the Black Sea from Batumi, Georgia, to Sochi, Russia. Our party for this portion of the trip consisted of Dr. Tomasz Anisko, curator of plants at Longwood Gardens (Kennett Square, Pa.), Dave Williams, manager at Woodland Nursery (Salisbury, Maryland), Dr. Marina Mosulishvili, senior botanist at the Institute of Botany of the Georgian Academy of Sciences (Tbilisi, Georgia), and myself. The expedition had been coordinated by Dr. Mosulishvili in consultation with Dr. Anisko. In Sochi, we were met by Dr. Mikhail Pridnya, a forest researcher at the Research Institute of Mountain Forestry and Forest Ecology, based at the Dendrarium in Sochi. We were later joined by Dr. Pridnya's wife, Rima, who was a gracious hostess and guide.

Our first excursion in Russia was south of Sochi in the Greater Caucasus, where we observed *Buxus sempervirens* (classified by Russian botanists as *B. colchica*) in several populations. We found *Buxus* growing on limestone along and above the river Mzymta, 10 miles north of Adler district (Fig. 1). The finding of boxwood along rivers, within gorges, and on limestone slopes was a typical observation in western Georgia and the Russian territory along the Black Sea and Greater Caucasus mountains. Upon returning to Sochi, we toured the spectacular *Buxus* and *Taxus* Reserve, a protected environment of about 750 acres, located almost 2

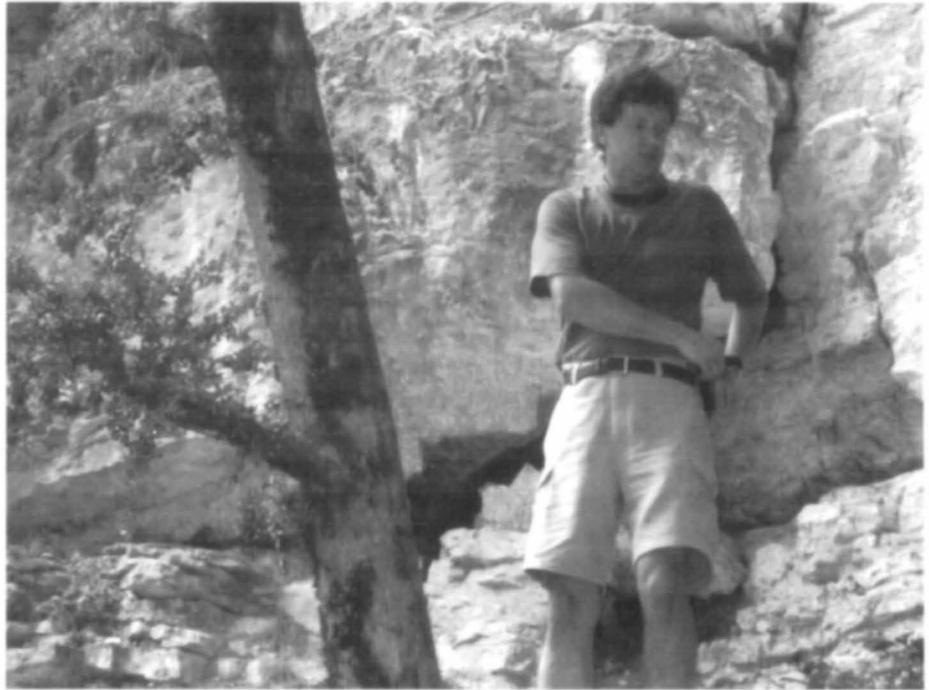


Fig. 1. Dr. Tomasz Anisko collects boxwood on a limestone slope in southern Russia south of Sochi.

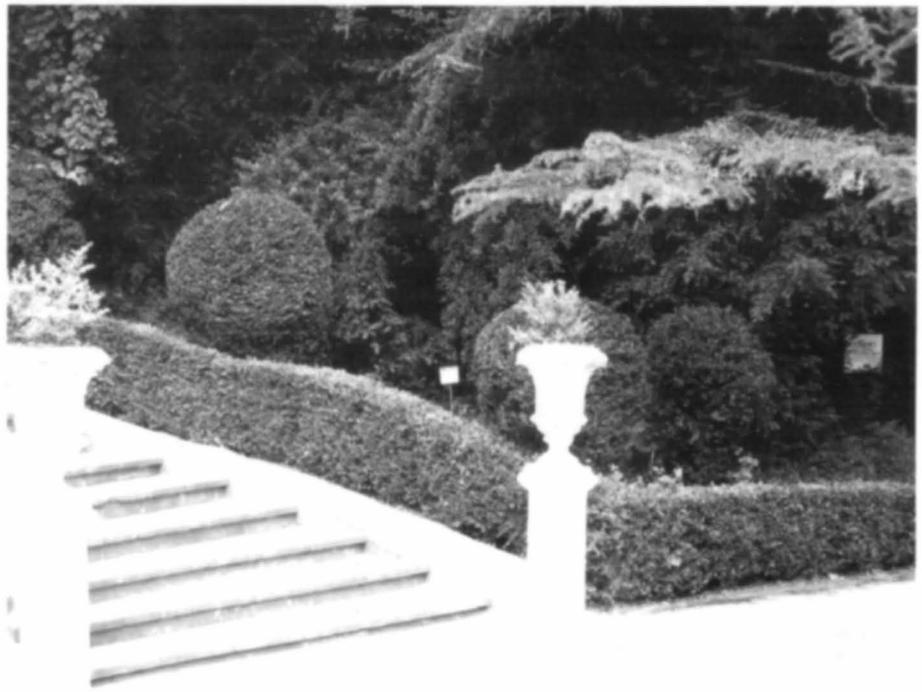


Fig. 2. A boxwood border outlines a bed along the steps to the entrance of the Buxus and Taxus Reserve located in Sochi, Russia.

miles from the coast on the southeastern slope of Ahun's mountains (Fig. 2). The reserve was created about 1930 but was used before then as a retreat by Czar Nicholas. This extremely beautiful boxwood and yew forest was traversed by paved paths that allowed the natural environment to be admired. Here we saw the tallest *Buxus* specimens, with some over 50 feet in height (Fig.3). We calculated that some of the boxwood trees were at least 200 years old. Dr. Pridnya indicated that he was aware of *Buxus* elsewhere in Russian protected forests that were approximately 75 feet tall. The *Buxus* canopy in the reserve was quite dense, and there was little growth of other plants below in the warm and moist environment. The boxwood trees grew straight with relatively few branches; it was readily conceived how simple the harvest of such plants would have been in the 19th century. Enormous ancient *Taxus* trees were also evident, and one specimen was over 1,000 years of age. We collected *Buxus* seeds from plants along a steep cliff at a remarkable lookout above a



Fig. 3. Within the darkness of the Buxus canopy, Dave Williams leans against a boxwood tree in the Buxus and Taxus Reserve.

gorge containing the river Khosta (Fig. 4).

On June 27, we toured the Dendrarium, a 110-year-old park and arboretum that showcased the plants that thrive in the semitropical climate of Sochi. We took cuttings from two

interesting boxwood plants, one of which was a variegated form that I had never seen before, having occasional, slightly irregular leaf margins and distinct lime green variegation of the new shoots (Fig. 5). The following day was spent at another reserve,



Fig. 4. Dr. Marina Mosulishvili, Rima Pridnya, Dave Williams, Dr. Mikhail Pridnya, and Dr. Tomasz Anisko relax on an overlook above the river Khosta in the Buxus and Taxus Reserve.



Fig. 5. Cuttings were taken from an unusual variegated form of B. sempervirens found in the Dendrarium in Sochi.

north of Sochi, where we collected seeds along the Dagomys river, 2-3 miles above the village of Baranovka (Fig. 6).

During our stay in Russia, Dr. Pridnya gave us a thorough history of *Buxus* harvest and subsequent protection of the species in the 20th century. There had been great harvest of boxwood until the time of the Russian revolution, after which its cutting had been severely curtailed by the Russian government. For about 20 years until 1971, some limited harvest was allowed for factories that used the wood for the manufacture of carved souvenirs. These factories are no longer in existence, and *Buxus* carvings are only available in limited quantity from woodworking craftsmen. In Krasnaia Polyana, about 55 miles south of Sochi, I purchased two small boxwood carvings (a vase and a bear) made by a skilled woodworker, hoping that the wood had not been taken illegally. Today, the cutting of *Buxus* is largely prohibited. The wood can be cut only from trees that have been knocked down by natural forces, and usually therefore is taken along rivers and when it is washed up from the Black Sea. It is likely, however, that there is some illegal harvesting in national parks, and there have been numerous episodes of apprehending people for the illegal cutting of boxwood with the imposition of fines. Indeed, in one boxwood forest that we visited, we saw a group of *Buxus* logs along the road, which we interpreted as possible poaching.

Dr. Pridnya also related that there are old *Buxus* growing in some of the protected sites of the Greater Caucasus. He speculated that there might be *Buxus* trees as old as 1,000 years but admitted that he had not seen them and that a dendrochronological study of purported ancient trees would be of interest. He gave us a map detailing the specific locations of *Buxus* forests within the Russian



Fig. 6. In a protected forest north of Sochi, native *B. sempervirens* grew along the river Dagomys.

portion of the Greater Caucasus. Indeed, seeing this precise map of locations of boxwood in nature stimulated the thought for the need of a detailed survey and mapping of existing natural sites of *Buxus* in Georgia.

Despite the presence of boxwood in nature in southern Russia, there is not extensive cultivation of it for use as a horticultural ornamental. When it is grown in the nursery trade, it is not propagated from cuttings but is grown from seed. In the Russian Orthodox Church, *Buxus* is not used as a symbolic plant during Easter (as it is in the Georgian Orthodox Church), and it has no particular religious significance.

We spent from June 29-July 4 in Ukraine, largely in Crimea, staying in the dry Mediterranean-like climate of Yalta. There our botanist guide was Dr. V. V. Korzhenevsky, who edited *The Structure of Flora and Vegetation of the Crimea*, Vol. 117, 1997. Dr. Korzhenevsky was professor at the Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian

Sciences at the State Nikitsky Botanical Garden. As boxwood is not native to Crimea, we studied and collected plants growing in botanical gardens, palaces, and a cemetery. Yalta has long been a Crimean and Russian holiday getaway, following its development after the annexation of Crimea by Catherine the Great in the 18th century. We first toured the Italian Renaissance-style palace at Livadia, constructed as a summer residence for Czar Nicholas II and Queen Alexandra, and the 1945 site of the Crimean Conference attended by Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Josef Stalin (Fig. 7). This impressive palace was built in 1911 by the Yalta architect N.P. Krasnov, while the surrounding park had been laid out in the 1830s. There we saw nice clipped hedges of *B. balearica* as well as neatly-trimmed specimen plants along the front of the palace (Figs. 8, 9). These plants were thriving in the dry Yalta climate.

We also observed gigantic specimens of *B. balearica* growing in



Fig. 7. The Livadia Palace in Yalta was the site of the Crimean Conference in 1945.

Vorontsov park (Figs. 10, 11) surrounding Alupka Palace, built 1828-1846 to the design of the English architect Edward Blore. In addition to the hedges at Livadia and Alupka Palaces, we saw modest plantings of *B. sempervirens* elsewhere in Crimea including at Massandra Palace of Emperor Alexander III; an 18th-century Tatar palace in Bakhchisarai; and in an abandoned 19th-20th-century cemetery completely covered by forest. The most notable *Buxus* plantings in Crimea were those seen in the State Nikitsky Botanical Garden, founded by botanist Christian Von Steven in 1812 (Fig. 12). The garden contained about 15,000 plants from all continents including native species such as a 500-year old oak and a 1,000-year-old juniper. We made 12 collections of seeds and cuttings of *B.*



*Fig. 8. Dr. Tomasz Anisko and Dave Williams (largely hidden from view) inspect a neatly-shaped *B. balearica* in front of the Livadia Palace, while a perplexed visitor looks on.*

sempervirens that included several variegated and pendulous forms (Figs. 13-15). The garden was quite expansive, and more than one day would be required to carefully enjoy its contents. Like Dr. Pridnya, Dr. Korzhenevsky was a very informative and personable host.

After leaving Yalta we travelled to Odessa where we departed on July 5. In limiting this report to matters of *Buxus*, I am omitting tales of adventures involving hydrofoil boat, ferry, and van, and encounters with customs officials, mosquitos, and cognac. It is sufficient to state that travels in this part of the former Soviet empire were filled with unanticipated adventures, accompanied by uniformly kind and generous hosts.



Fig. 9. Our group relaxes on a bench shaded by B. balearica at the Livadia Palace. Dr. V.V. Korzhenevsky is on the left.



Fig. 10. A group of very large B. balearica was observed in the Vorontsov park in Yalta.



Fig. 11. Dave Williams inspects tall B. sempervirens along a path in the Vorontsov park.



Fig. 12. The State Nikitsky Botanical Garden in Yalta was begun in 1812, and is a very popular destination for tourists.



Fig. 13. A low border of B. sempervirens was a common sight in the Nikitsky Botanical Garden.



Fig. 14. Many different forms of B. sempervirens including this unusual pendulous specimen were seen in Nikitsky Botanical Garden.



Fig.15. These two nice specimens of B. sempervirens (the taller was variegated) in the Nikitsky Botanical Garden had been neatly shaped.

Georgian Boxwood - 2001 Expedition

Tomasz Anisko

This article is intended to serve as an addendum to previously published articles describing the 2001 Boxwood Expedition to the Republic of Georgia. Frederick Spicer wrote an article "Georgia teaches," which appeared in the September 15, 2001, issue of *American Nurseryman* magazine. Todd Lasseigne published "Journey to the Nation of Georgia" in *Friends of the JC Raulston Arboretum*, vol. 6, issue 1, 2002. Charles Fooks described our experiences in an article "Boxwood Expedition to the Republic of Georgia" which appeared in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 42, No. 1, 2002. In addition there is a detailed, unpublished report entitled "Boxwood Expedition to Georgia" prepared by the author of this article, which is available from Longwood Gardens Library as a photocopy through the interlibrary loan.

Cuttings and seeds collected during this expedition were distributed to the following organizations: Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania; Woodland Nursery in Salisbury, Maryland; Saunders Brothers Nursery in Piney River, Virginia; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia, and J. C. Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Collaborators agreed that if any new cultivars result from this expedition, they will be jointly named and introduced by all organizations involved. We agreed that none of these plants will be patented or trademarked in the future, and that names chosen for possible cultivars will reflect their Georgian origin.

Full credit should be given to our collaborators in the Republic of Georgia, without whom this expedition would not have been possible

and who made every effort to provide us with best available accommodations and allow us to reach remote sites where boxwood could be found. Our deep appreciation goes to the staff of the Institute of Botany in Tbilisi, in particular to Prof. Giorgi Nakhutsrishvili, Dr. Maia Akhalkatsi, Dr. Otar Abdaladze and Dr. Marina Mosulishvili. While collecting in Adjara, we were immensely helped by Dr. Zura Manvelidze of the Batumi Botanical Garden.

It is expected that within the next several years many of the Georgian boxwood will be distributed around the country under their collector's numbers. It is of paramount importance that if any of these plants are propagated and shared in the future that their "GB" numbers are retained. These collector's numbers will assure accuracy of information on each of the collections and their origin.

All collections brought back as cuttings successfully rooted at either Longwood Gardens or Woodland Nursery.

It is unknown at the time of writing this article how many plants may be raised from seeds collected. Cuttings were collected from individual plants which were identified from larger populations as being distinct and having desirable characteristics as garden plants, namely unusual leaf shape or size, attractive leaf color, defined growth habit, potential stress tolerance, etc. All collections, except for GB-82, belong to *Buxus sempervirens*, although many of them, particularly those collected from native stands, could be classified as *Buxus colchica*, if one adopts this designation for boxwood found in the Colchic region. GB-82 was collected from a cultivated plant of *Buxus balearica*.

- GB-1. Cuttings collected on June 9 at the Church of St. George near Navdaraant Kari. Plant with narrow, light green leaves.
- GB-2. Cuttings collected on June 9 at the Church of St. George near Navdaraant Kari. Plant with round, slightly glaucous leaves.
- GB-3. Seeds collected on June 9 at the Church of St. George near Navdaraant Kari. Fruits failed to open and were discarded on July 6.
- GB-4. Cuttings collected on June 9 on a slope leading to the ruins of an old church near Choporta. Upright plant with stiff branches, short internodes and very small leaves.
- GB-5. Cuttings collected on June 9 at the ruins of an old church near Choporta. Plant with large, round, very glaucous leaves.
- GB-6. Cuttings collected on June 9 on a slope leading to the ruins of an old church near Choporta. Small plant with open, lax habit and small, very narrow leaves.
- GB-7. Cuttings collected on June 10 at the Zedazeni Monastery in Saguramo Nature Reserve. Plant with upright growth habit and typical leaves.
- GB-8. Cuttings collected on June 10 at the Zedazeni Monastery in Saguramo Nature Reserve. Plant with mounded growth habit and large, round leaves.
- GB-9. Seeds collected on June 10 at Shiomgvime Monastery near Mtskheta. Plants growing as a screen between the lower and upper levels of the monastery and one large, tree-like specimen at the entrance to the lower church in that monastery. Only 9 seeds retrieved by July 6.
- GB-10. Cuttings collected on June 10 at Shiomgvime Monastery near

- Mtskheta. Upright plant with large, dark green leaves, growing in a screen separating the lower and upper level of the monastery. Plants in this screen varied and were most likely grown from seed.
- GB-11. Cuttings collected on June 10 at Shiomgvime Monastery near Mtskheta. Distinctly fastigiate plant with typical leaves, growing in a screen separating the lower and upper level of the monastery.
- GB-12. Cuttings collected on June 11 in Tbilisi Botanical Garden. Low growing plant with spreading growth habit.
- GB-13. Seedlings collected on June 9 on a slope leading to the ruins of an old church near Choporta. Plants with very small leaves.
- GB-14. Seeds collected on June 13 at the Kvatakhevi Monastery near Tsinarekhi village. Large, upright, wide-pyramidal, tree-like specimen with typical leaves. Only 3 mature seeds retrieved by July 6.
- GB-15. Cuttings collected on June 13 at the Kvatakhevi Monastery near Tsinarekhi village. Large, upright, wide-pyramidal, tree-like specimen with typical leaves.
- GB-16. Seeds collected on June 14 at the research station of the Vashlovani Nature Reserve. Plants with mounded, spreading growth habit and very large leaves, brought from Tbilisi 40 years ago and planted at the station. Fruits failed to open and were discarded on July 6.
- GB-17. Cuttings collected on June 14 at the research station of the Vashlovani Nature Reserve. Plant with mounded, spreading growth habit and very large leaves, growing in an exposed, sunny location. One of four plants growing at the station.
- GB-18. Seeds collected on June 14 in the village of Kasristskali near the Vashlovani Nature Reserve. From one plant with large, glaucous leaves growing in a neglected hedge of seed-grown plants.
- GB-19. Cuttings collected on June 14 in the village of Kasristskali near the Vashlovani Nature Reserve. Plant with large, glaucous leaves growing in a neglected hedge of seed grown plants. The same plant from which GB-18 was collected.
- GB-20. Cuttings collected on June 14 in the village of Kasristskali near the Vashlovani Nature Reserve. Plant with small, glaucous leaves growing in a neglected hedge of seed grown plants.
- GB-21. Seeds collected on June 14 in the village of Kasristskali near the Vashlovani Nature Reserve. From one very fruitful plant with typical leaves growing in a neglected hedge of seed grown plants.
- GB-22. Seeds collected on June 15 in the Arboretum of the Lagodekhi Nature Reserve. From one tree-like specimen, about 100 years old.
- GB-23. Cuttings collected on June 15 in the Arboretum of the Lagodekhi Nature Reserve. A tree-like specimen, about 100 years old. The same plant from which GB-22 was collected.
- GB-24. Cuttings collected on June 15 on the grounds of the Lagodekhi Nature Reserve headquarters. Low growing plant with typical leaves found near the entrance to the guesthouse.
- GB-25. Cuttings collected on June 15 on the grounds of the Abano Health Resort near Shilda. Plant about 4'x4', with a nice, mounded growth habit, with large, long, slender leaves. One plant in a group of 4 and different from others growing in this location.
- GB-26. Cuttings collected on June 15 on the grounds of the Abano Health Resort near Shilda. Plant with mounded, dense habit and typical leaves.
- GB-27. Cuttings collected on June 15 on the grounds of the Abano Health Resort near Shilda. Plant dwarf, very dense, under 2' tall, resembling 'Suffruticosa'.
- GB-28. Cuttings collected on June 15 on the grounds of the Abano Health Resort near Shilda. Plant very dense, with small leaves. Found in a hedge but different from the remaining plants.
- GB-29. Seeds collected on June 16 on Bzatagora (Boxwood Hill) near Kvareli. Mixed seed from many plants in a self-reproducing population at the site of an ancient, non-existing temple or church.
- GB-30. Cuttings collected on June 16 on Bzatagora (Boxwood Hill) near Kvareli. Plant tall, with pendulous branches and large leaves.
- GB-31. Cuttings collected on June 16 on Bzatagora (Boxwood Hill) near Kvareli. Young plant with distinctly pendulous habit and small leaves.
- GB-32. Cuttings collected on June 16 on Bzatagora (Boxwood Hill) near Kvareli. Plant with prostrate, spreading habit and typical leaves.
- GB-33. Cuttings collected on June 16 on Bzatagora (Boxwood Hill) near Kvareli. Small, young plant with variegated leaves on some branches.
- GB-34. Cuttings collected on June 16 on Bzatagora (Boxwood Hill) near Kvareli. Small, young plant with narrow and glaucous leaves.
- GB-35. Cuttings collected on June 16 on Bzatagora (Boxwood Hill) near Kvareli. Small, young plant with very attractive, dark green, glossy, narrow leaves.
- GB-36. Cuttings collected on June 18 on the grounds of Tsinandali Park and Museum of Alexander Chavchavadze east of Telavi. Plant with pendulous branches and large, glaucous leaves. Some branches variegated (see GB-44).
- GB-37. Seedlings collected on June 16 on Bzatagora (Boxwood Hill)

- near Kvareli.
- GB-38. Cuttings collected at the house of Khatuna Tsiklauri in Manglisi. About 10-year-old plant, about 5' tall, with narrow upright growth habit and with typical leaves.
- GB-39. Seeds collected at the house of Khatuna Tsiklauri in Manglisi. From the same plant as GB-38. Fruits failed to open by July 6 and were discarded.
- GB-40. Cuttings collected from a plant purchased on June 21 from a roadside vendor just outside Tbilisi for 10 lari. Plant with single trunk, vertical branches, and fairly large, pointed leaves. Original plant donated to the living plant collection at the Institute of Botany in Tbilisi.
- GB-41. Cuttings collected on June 22 at the Vake Cemetery in Tbilisi. Plant slightly pendulous, with large, round, convex and glaucous leaves.
- GB-42. Cuttings collected on June 22 at the Vake Cemetery in Tbilisi. Plant with large, elongated, keeled and dark green leaves.
- GB-43. Cuttings collected on June 22 at the Vake Cemetery in Tbilisi. Small plant with open habit, horizontal branches, and small leaves.
- GB-44. Cuttings collected on June 18 on the grounds of Tsinandali Park and Museum of Alexander Chavchavadze east of Telavi. Plant with pendulous habit and some branches with variegated leaves. The same plant from which normal, green-leaved cuttings were collected as GB-36.
- GB-45. Cuttings collected on June 30 on the grounds of the Borjomi National Park headquarters. Small, dense plant with small dark green leaves. Found planted at the entrance to the main building.
- GB-46. Cuttings collected on June 30 in Borjomi-Likani health resort.
- Large weeping plant, 15-20' tall, with 6 trunks up to 6" caliper, and slightly glaucous leaves. Found near a path leading to the summer house of Mikhail Romanov, brother of Russian Tsar Nikolay II. Planted probably around the end of 19th century.
- GB-47. Seeds collected on June 30 in Borjomi-Likani health resort. Large weeping plant, 15'-20' tall, with 6 trunks up to 6" caliper, and slightly glaucous leaves. The same plant from which GB-46 was collected. Found near a path leading to the summer house of Mikhail Romanov, brother of Russian Tsar Nikolay II. Planted probably around the end of 19th century.
- GB-48. Cuttings collected on June 30 in the Bakuriani Ecological Station. Plant about 4' tall with excellent, rich green, slightly recurving leaves. Found inside a vegetable garden, heavily shaded by a lilac bush.
- GB-49. Cuttings collected on June 30 in Borjomi-Likani health resort. One plant with striking bluish cast, standing out of a boxwood parterre composed of possibly three different clones, and planted some 40 years ago. Procured with the help of Levan Likhovtschenko, horticulturist in charge of the grounds at the Borjomi-Likani health resort.
- GB-50. Cuttings collected on June 30 in Borjomi-Likani health resort. Plant with variegated leaves. Leaf margin yellow, irregular but offering strong contrast between the margin and the green center. Plant found originally in western Georgia and brought to Borjomi about 40 years ago by Levan Likhovtschenko, horticulturist in charge of the grounds at the Borjomi-Likani health resort.
- GB-51. Cuttings collected on June 30 in the old botanical garden in Bakuriani, which served as a summer residence of Lavrenti Beria, Stalin's chief of secret police. Small plant, about 2' tall and 3' wide, with open habit, and very glossy, dark green, small leaves. Found growing in moderate shade near the step leading to Beria's house.
- GB-52. Cuttings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant 10' tall, compact, bushy, with medium green leaves similar to 'Rotundifolia'. Found growing on steep slope of eastern exposure, in full sun.
- GB-53. Cuttings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant with low, bushy, spreading growth habit and small, narrow, elongated, dark green, shiny leaves. Found growing on steep slope of eastern exposure, in full sun.
- GB-54. Cuttings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant 10' tall, dense, bushy, fully branched, wider than tall, with medium green, medium size, elongated leaves. Found growing on steep slope of eastern exposure, in shade.
- GB-55. Cuttings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant with rather upright growth habit, and stubby, closely overlapped, medium green leaves. Found growing on steep slope of eastern exposure, in full sun.
- GB-56. Seedlings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Randomly selected from this population.
- GB-57. Cuttings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of

- Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant 12" tall by 15" wide, very dense, with lime green, elongated leaves. Even in its natural state suitable as a landscape plant. Found growing on steep slope of eastern exposure, in full sun.
- GB-58. Cuttings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant with low, spreading growth habit and very narrow, elongated, lime green leaves. Found growing on steep slope of eastern exposure, in full sun.
- GB-59. Cuttings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant 10' tall, with a single leader, fastigiate growth habit, and medium green, medium size leaves. Found growing in a group of similar plants on steep slope of eastern exposure, in full sun.
- GB-60. Cuttings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant 2' tall, with single leader, upright growth habit, and medium size, dark green leaves. Found growing on steep slope of eastern exposure, in full sun.
- GB-61. Cuttings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant 4' tall, with rounded, dense growth habit and dark dull green, thick, narrow leaves. Found growing on steep slope of eastern exposure, in full sun.
- GB-62. Cuttings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant with upright growth habit and large, wide, rounded leaves. Older leaves very dark, glossy green while younger leaves glaucous. Found growing on steep slope of eastern exposure, in full sun.
- GB-63. Seeds collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Randomly collected from many plants in this population, including the fastigiate forms.
- GB-64. Cuttings collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant 3' tall with low, dense, rounded habit, very regular and defined shape, and very large, wide, dull dark green leaves. Slight bluish cast on the youngest leaves. Overall outstanding leaf color. Found growing on steep slope of eastern exposure, in shade.
- GB-65. Cuttings collected on July 2 in the Kintrishi Gorge Nature Reserve. A large, old plant, 25' tall, with multiple, 4" caliper trunks, with pendulous branches and elongated, dark green leaves. Found growing very heavy shade, on the bank of Kintrishi river, near a 12th-century stone bridge.
- GB-66. Cuttings collected on July 2 in the Kintrishi Gorge Nature Reserve. A tree-like plant 25' tall, with 6" caliper single trunk, growing straight, with horizontal branches, and somewhat pyramidal habit. Suitable for specimen planting.
- GB-67. Cuttings collected on July 2 in the Kintrishi Gorge Nature Reserve. Plant 5' tall, upright, with large, rounded, rich green leaves. Foliage excellent for Christmas decorations.
- GB-68. Cuttings collected on July 2 in the Kintrishi Gorge Nature Reserve. Plant 10' tall, 12' wide, with bushy growth habit and fine green leaves. Overall excellent appearance, somewhat resembling 'Green Luster' holly.
- GB-69. Cuttings collected on July 2 in the Kintrishi Gorge Nature Reserve. Plant with very dark, glossy, diamond shape leaves, pointed on both ends. Leaves very distinctive and handsome. Growth habit impossible to interpret because of overcrowding by other plants.
- GB-70. Cuttings collected on July 2 in the Kintrishi Gorge Nature Reserve. Plant 12"-18" tall, with large, round, medium to dark green, glossy leaves.
- GB-71. Seeds collected on July 2 in the Kintrishi Gorge Nature Reserve. Mixed seeds randomly collected from many plants growing in this gorge.
- GB-72. Cuttings collected on July 3 in the Matschachela River valley, south of Batumi, near Turkish border. Upright, open plant with huge, round leaves, larger than any other found on this trip.
- GB-73. Cuttings collected on July 3 in the Matschachela River valley, south of Batumi, near Turkish border. Plant 15" tall, 20" wide, compact, dense, with medium size, glossy, lime green leaves. Overall handsome appearance.
- GB-74. Cuttings collected on July 3 in the Matschachela River valley, south of Batumi, near Turkish border. Plant 8'-10' tall, broadly conical, very dense and regular in outline, with upright branches and bright green leaves. Growing in full sun.
- GB-75. Cuttings collected on July 3 in the Matschachela River valley, south of Batumi, near Turkish border. Plant 6' tall, 6' wide, mounded, dense, but open enough to be healthy. Its overall appearance made it stand out in a group of other plants.
- GB-76. Cuttings collected on July 3 in the Adzaristskali River valley, east of Batumi. Plant 5' tall, bushy, rounded, with flat, rich green

leaves. Overall showy appearance.
GB-77. Cuttings collected on July 3 in the Adzaristskali River valley, east of Batumi. Plant with large leaves. Plant size and habit unknown because it has been cut back.
GB-78. Cuttings collected on July 3 in the Adzaristskali River valley, east of Batumi. Plant compact, dense, with round, mounding growth habit and large, dark green, waxy leaves, heavy in texture.

GB-79. Seeds collected on July 3 in the Adzaristskali and Matschachela River valleys, east and south of Batumi. Randomly collected from many plants in these locations.

GB-80. Cuttings collected on July 4 in the Batumi Botanical Garden. Plant dwarf, dense, resembling 'Suffruticosa' but leaves are smaller. Planted throughout the garden and in the nursery.

GB-81. Seeds collected on July 4 in

the Batumi Botanical Garden. An upright plant with somewhat open habit, thick, heavy, round leaves and exceptionally large seed capsules.

GB-82. Cuttings collected on July 6 in Tbilisi Botanical Garden. A tree-like plant of *Buxus balearica*.

GB-83. Seedling collected on July 1 from a hill near a village of Kharagauli, south of the road from Khashuri to Zestaponi. Plant with weakly mottled variegated foliage.

Boxwood at Gay Mont

Decca Frackelton

First known as Rose Hill, the 18th-century property was renamed Gay Mont in the 19th century in honor of the bride of a grandson of

the first owner. The house burned in 1959, but was rebuilt on the original foundation by a descendant and her husband who donated it to the

Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, reserving life estate. The masses of ancient boxwood are a joy to behold.



At the back of Gay Mont two massive boxwood plants frame the entrance.



*One of the outbuildings at Gay Mont, with tall boxwood in the foreground and more mature *B. sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' off to the side.*



At Gay Mont boxwood en masse surrounds one wing of the house. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)



Sigrid Harriman

Motion

A motion is made that this board recognize and express appreciation to our departing Secretary, Sigrid Harriman, for her many years of service to the ABS. Sigrid was elected to the ABS Board in May 1993 and has faithfully and effectively served since that time. She has served as Secretary for the Society since May 1998. She will be missed not only for the contributions she has made to the Society but also for the friendly and helpful ways she has often helped those new to the board.

In addition Sigrid has done much volunteer work at Blandy that most of us are not aware of. She has been responsible for much of the work with the K-series.

The Board commends her for those many years of excellent service and wishes her well in her new home.

Mrs. Harriman is moving to Ohio. Motion adopted by ABS Governing Board on September 19, 2002.

Richard D. Mahone



Richard D. Mahone pruning boxwood in the triangle on the campus of the College of William and Mary. (1995 photo: Decca Frackelton)

IN RECOGNITION

Whereas: Richard D. Mahone has served The American Boxwood Society in many capacities since 1972, sharing his broad, limitless knowledge of boxwood, trees and other plants with members at meetings and on garden tours;

Whereas: Mr. Mahone became a member of the Governing Board in May 1975, continuing until 2001; he has planned and directed several fine garden tours for the Society; he served as First Vice President 1977-1981;

Whereas: Mr. Mahone led the Society as President from 1981 to 1986; during that tenure he organized a boxwood exchange for the Annual Meeting in 1984, which led to the first boxwood auction in 1985;

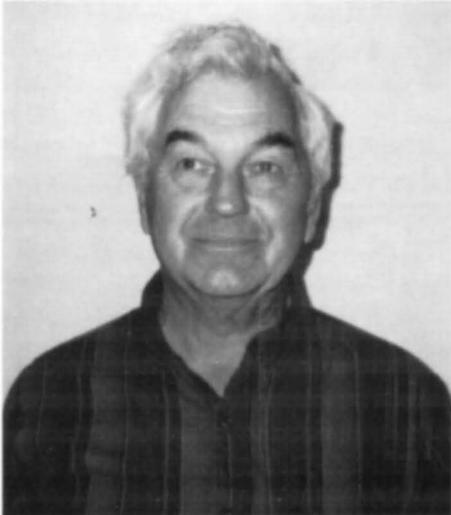
Resolved: That the Officers and Directors of the Governing Board of The American Boxwood Society hereby express to Richard D. Mahone their profound gratitude and appreciation for his countless contributions to the Society during his thirty years of dedicated service to its growth and success and name him Director Emeritus of the Society.

Adopted by the Governing Board and presented at the Annual Meeting in New Jersey on this the 17th day of May 2002.

New ABS Officers

President

Charles T. Fooks



"I would like to express my appreciation to the membership of the ABS for the confidence that was shown by electing me as President. As I have expressed before I view this as an opportunity to make maybe a

small contribution to the society and to horticulture.

"Listed below are what I consider to be some of the more important goals of the society. As president my desire is to work with the board and the membership toward accomplishing these objectives.

(1) Continue and improve its place as a plant society in which those interested in the genus *Buxus* gain and contribute knowledge on the subject.

(2) Begin at once to explore the possibility of obtaining a professional Executive Secretary to perform at least a portion of the work now being done on a volunteer basis.

(3) Expand the use of, and continue the improvement of, the ABS website.

(4) Attract and encourage the

participation of younger members.

(5) Do whatever we need to secure the future of the ABS Memorial Garden at Blandy and the National Boxwood Collection at the National Arboretum.

(6) Maintain a strong relationship with the European Boxwood and Topiary Society and any other international interest.

(7) Encourage and involve membership and activity from a larger geographical area and truly become a national society, *not* just a mid-Atlantic Society.

(8) Involve the ABS in the work of introducing new germplasm of the genus *Buxus* into the U.S. from around the world that was started by Dr. Tomasz Anisko in 2001 and the maintaining, evaluation and selection from the material obtained."

First Vice-President

Clyde Weber



Clyde Weber was elected ABS Director at the Annual Meeting in May 1996 (*The Boxwood Bulletin*, October 1996, Vol. 36, No. 2, p. 38). He served as a Director 1996-2002, when he was elected First Vice-President. He served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee 1999-2002. He also donated the gift plant for Annual Meetings 1999-2002.

New ABS Directors

Edward Goode, Jr.



Wm. Edward Goode, Jr. (Eddie) was born in 1966. He received an B.S. in Management from the

University of South Carolina and an M.B.A. from the University of Richmond. He is a homebuilder/developer and Vice-President of Colonial Homecrafters, Ltd., in Richmond, Virginia.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Homebuilding Association of Richmond and the National Association of Homebuilders.

He says, "I have always been interested in plants, but boxwood was my favorite. My mother planted nothing but boxwood around our home when I was a boy. My interest in boxwood was further piqued by my career in homebuilding. Visiting many of the old homes in Virginia I

was amazed not only by the homes, but by the magnificent gardens of boxwood. At the time I knew of only two varieties: English and American, which I would later learn were not even the correct names.

"My interest was further enhanced when I visited a neighbor's house and saw an unusual looking boxwood, *B. harlandii*. I was hooked when I found out that there were more than two types. I attended my first ABS annual meeting in 1991.

"My goal is to improve upon the hard work and dedication that the current and past Directors have given to the ABS."

Laurie Jamerson



My husband Clay, teenage daughter Valerie, and I share farm chores and gardening here in Madison Heights, Va. Ancient walnut trees, pines and sycamores cast shade on mature boxwood. We raise donkeys and have a wide assortment of other two- and four-legged critters.

Life on the farm concentrates on deer resistant plants since my daylily business has been gobbled up. Deer graze with my livestock and fear no one! I don't claim to be an expert, but we all know boxwood plantings are pretty safe around deer! Companion planting that will survive deer attacks are some of my gardening joys through trial and error.

I'm a Grower at Saunders Brothers Nursery in the color section that includes annuals and perennials. We recently added trees to our production line, and I'm involved with that also. I'm lucky to have Mr. Saunders as a mentor in my own propagation experiments.

As a child, my family's gardens were not large or elaborate. An apple tree and a rose bush have graced every yard in every home, and still do. Deer were never a problem back then or I'm sure a boxwood would have been on that short list too.

I first met *Buxus sempervirens* 'Sufruticosa' and *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Wintergreen' in 1988, when I spontaneously moved my family to the foothills of central Virginia to the farm where we now live.

The previous owner had created a horticultural oasis in old tobacco and corn fields. Unusual shrubs and trees fill the landscape in mini-micro climate "garden rooms" from the 40s. Exotic planting I wasn't familiar with challenged me. I joined the Lynchburg Master Gardeners for help identifying plants and have been adding to my horticultural inventory ever since.

I have learned that the value of boxwood for any homeowner is tremendous, from the dwarf to the tree forms. They can be found in mini container gardens and gracing estates. I look forward to meeting all my new friends at the next boxwood meeting.

McHenry Lewis Stiff III



McHenry Lewis Stiff III was appointed ABS Director to fill the unexpired term of Ian Robertson, and

then was elected on May 17, 2002, for a three-year term (2002-2005).

He was born in Roanoke, Virginia, October 27, 1924, and attended William Byrd High School 1936-1941, where he later taught. He attended Bridgewater College and received his BA in Premed Sciences from Emory University. He received his Ph.D. in biology from the University of Virginia, having studied in the Blandy Program under Dr. Walter S. Flory.

He was an Associate and then Professor of Biology at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, a Visiting Lecturer of Biology at Drake University (two summers), and Research Geneticist at the Agricultural Research Service, USDA (1972-

74). He taught at the Northern Virginia Community College (Manassas), served as a part-time Test Evaluation Coordinator at Sterling Institute and taught Sciences at Manassas Park High School. Since retiring in 1981, he has operated Round Hill Garden, specializing in conifers.

He belongs to the Society of Sigma Xi; is a charter member of the Rotary Club of Purcellville, where he has served in several capacities; has served as President of the Southeastern Region of the American Conifer Society; is Treasurer and board member of the Foundation for the State Arboretum of Virginia; and has been a member of The American Boxwood Society since 1987.

CORRESPONDENCE

Aug. 5, 2002

Mr. Charles T. Fooks, President
American Boxwood Society
31106 Johnson Rd.
Salisbury, MD 21804-1631

Dear Mr. Fooks:

I am a miniature sculptor and creator of ships' models. Enclosed is a copy of my brochure, which should show what I do. One of the prime materials for my carvings is that most excellent of woods, boxwood.

I am seeking large diameter pieces of boxwood for carving. Is it possible for me to connect with individuals in your society who may have large section pieces of old boxwood that they may have cut? Hopefully, all these shrubs will enjoy a long life, giving us much pleasure. But in the event of storm, wrack, and ruin, there may be some logs available that can have new life in art.

Is it possible to put a notice to this effect in your publication? Let me know if there are advertising requirements.

Minimum size would need to be 2" diameter, and the larger the better. I have shipped large logs via UPS with no problems.

Thanks for considering this matter. Please keep the enclosed if you like.

Sincerely,

Lloyd McCaffery
970 Bowmaker Trail
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Note: The ABS does not accept advertising, but anyone knowing of a source of boxwood timber may contact Mr. McCaffery.



In Memoriam

Mrs. Herbert A. Solenberger

*CharterMember
Life Member since 1981*



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