

The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental



Boxwood hunters in Russia. Dr. Alexey Romashin, Charles Fooks, Dr. Tomasz Anisko, Rima Pridnya, and Dr. Mikhail Pridnya pose below a statue of Prometheus, a Titan who stole fire from Olympus and delivered it to man. See article, page 27. (Photo: Dr. Henry Frierson)

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Return to the Greater Caucasus, 2004

Collecting Boxwood in Russia

Henry F. Frierson, Jr., MD

A successful 3-day collecting expedition in 2002 to the southwestern part of Russia along the Black Sea prompted a return trip to Sochi, Russia from July 4-18, 2004. The participants included Dr. Tomasz Anisko from Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA, Charles Fooks of Woodland Nursery of Salisbury, MD, and Dr. Henry Frierson, Jr. of Charlottesville, VA. The expedition had been planned by Dr. Anisko and organized by our host, Dr. Mikhail Pridnya, Academician of the Russian Ecological Academy and Honourable Forester of Russia. Prof. Pridnya, whose office was located at the Research Institute of Mountain Forestry and Forest Ecology in Sochi (fig. 1), selected Dr. Alexey Romashin, a zoologist at the Institute, to assist in the expedition.

The Institute was located on the grounds of the Dendrium, a well-known park and arboretum that had been founded in 1892 by Sergey Khudenko, a publisher from St. Petersburg. A popular destination for Russian tourists, the Dendrium was a showcase for semitropical plants that thrive in the environment along the Black Sea.

While at the Dendrium we collected cuttings from five boxwood plants of interest, including an unusual variegated form that we had collected two years previously. The other plants collected were growing in hedges that contained mixed types of boxwood. The Dendrium had catalogued the named boxwood growing on site, which included *B. balearica* and 14 cultivars of *B. sempervirens* (Table 1.) (fig. 2).

After touring the Dendrium on the first day, we traveled south toward Abkhazia and collected cuttings and

seeds from boxwood growing along the old road from Adler to Krasnaya Polyana. We then headed to the Sochi National Park, where we saw boxwood draped along the limestone walls of the Psakho Canyon of the river Kudepsta. Our finding of boxwood thriving along a river in a moist, rocky environment would be repeated many times. We also observed moss-strewn boxwood in deep shade growing over moss-carpeted limestone in the National Park (figs. 3 and 4).

On July 6 we explored along the river Shahke (fig. 5). The day was remembered for our stranding (fortunately for only several hours) two former Soviet military vehicles; the first, a large and heavy Gorki truck, developed a clogged fuel line as we attempted climbing a steep incline in the mountains, while the second, our passenger van, stalled in the middle of the river Shahke. In hiking to a hunting lodge for assistance, we observed boxwood approximately 30 feet tall and 300 years old. The boxwood provided the understory below hornbeam, ash, maple, and elder trees. Prof. Pridnya explained that although it is known where the tallest boxwood trees grow in Russia, no one has attempted to explore all of the mountain habitats to find and claim the tallest "champion" tree. After our vehicles were once again functional, we ended the day by visiting the oldest (and most northerly in the world) tea plantation in Russia, Verhnyi Soloh-Aul, which had been founded by Iuda Koshman in 1901.

The following day we hiked along the Sochi River in the Sochi National Park between the villages Nizhnoye Orekhovo and Azhek. Once again, boxwood populated sites along the

river. We sometimes observed that their leaves were covered with scale and fungus, and wondered about their effects on the plants. We also saw a small black butterfly (fig. 6), said to be *Polymorpha epialtes* by Dr. Romashin, on boxwood leaves. Dr. Romashin stated that the butterfly might be important in boxwood pollination. We learned later that oral history claimed that boxwood honey was produced in the 19th century prior to the extensive timbering of boxwood.

On July 8 we explored along the river Dagomys-Zapadnyi, north of the village Tretia Rota. Here, for the first time, we found more shrubby boxwood growing on exposed and dry, steep slopes along a road cut (fig. 7). We collected cuttings from several small, mounded plants appearing to grow straight from limestone rocks. We noted that boxwood seed capsules seemed to be present predominantly on plants exposed to the most sunlight; this observation was made on numerous occasions during our travels.

On July 11 we traveled approximately 300 km from Sochi to explore areas along the north side of the Greater Caucasus. Prior to our destination at Mezmay, we stopped at the Forestry Service Office in Apsheonsk, where we collected cuttings from three different plants contained within hedges in front of the building; one of these plants had leaves with a particularly bluish cast. We finally arrived at Mezmay (fig. 8), a remote and quaint village of 1,000 inhabitants, many of whom were involved with the lumber mill there. The village was centered along the river Kurdzhips and had wonderful scenic views of the mountains. In our explorations here, we saw beautiful wildflowers in bloom,

including *Lavatera*, *Campanula*, *Gentiana*, *Erigeron*, *Echium*, *Inula*, *Prunella*, *Lysimachia*, and *Aruncus*. In a single meadow, we saw a profusion of blooming plants including *Stachys*, *Delphinium*, *Filipendula*, *Ranunculus*, *Geranium*, *Silene*, and *Verbascum* (fig. 9).

On one excursion from Mezmay, we hiked along abandoned railroad tracks (fig. 10), built in the 1930s; these tracks overlooked the spectacular narrow canyon of the river Kurdzhips, whose water raced against the limestone walls (fig. 11). Here we made numerous collections of boxwood cuttings (fig. 12), including several with quite small leaves and one whose new growth appeared especially golden (figs. 13 and 14). Later that day, after our 15 km hike in the morning, and as the rain began, we made additional collections of shrubby boxwood present in thickets along the river closer to the village. Many of these plants had a mounded habit, while others were more prostrate. On this day, more than 15 collections of boxwood were made. We speculated

that these were particularly hardy plants, as Mezmay is 2,255 feet above sea level, typically has a low temperature of -10°C in winter (and may even get to -25°C), and gets 3 to 4 meters of snow annually.

On July 13 we collected boxwood cuttings on Mezmay Rock, west of the village. We found boxwood growing at the highest elevations (3,255 feet) of any location that we would visit on the entire trip. We made several collections of plants growing on the dry, exposed face of Mezmay Rock (fig. 15). Here, the plants were typically dwarf with small leaves which were bleached yellow due to direct exposure to the sun. One plant, however, was of particular interest, as its leaves were greener, thicker, and had a waxy texture (figs. 16 and 17). It was apparent that these boxwood growing out of the rocks had come from seeds produced by plants higher above, which were present as the usual forest understory.

At all times during our explorations, we examined boxwood for evidence of pests. We saw virtually no leaf miner

with the exception of its presence on a few plants growing at the Dendrarium. Psyllid was noted very infrequently, while we commonly saw mite damage. Scale and rust were often seen on leaves of boxwood growing in warm, moist areas.

At the end of the trip, we had collected samples from 40 different plants of *B. sempervirens*, including a few seedlings. Seeds from boxwood at 4 different locations were also obtained (Table 2, compiled by Dr. Anisko) (fig. 18). The cuttings are now being propagated at Longwood Gardens, Woodland Nursery, and Saunders Brothers Nursery (Piney River, VA). Hopefully, these plants will produce excellent cultivars for the garden. Dr. Anisko, Mr. Fooks, and I are greatly appreciative to our hosts, Dr. Pridnya and Dr. Romashin, for their guidance, scientific expertise, and, especially, their personal warmth and hospitality! (See cover photo.)

Dr. Freirson is ABS Second Vice-President and Chairman of the ABS Research Web Site.



Fig. 1. The Research Institute of Mountain Forestry and Forest Ecology is on the grounds of the Dendrarium in Sochi, Russia. (Photos: Dr. Henry Frierson)

Table 1

Catalog of *B. sempervirens* cultivars at the Dendrarium in Sochi, Russia.

- 'Angustifolia'
- 'Arborescens Variegata'
- 'Argenteo-variegata'
- 'Aureo-marginata'
- 'Aureo-variegata'
- 'Bullata'
- 'Handsworthiensis'
- 'Latifolia Bullata'
- 'Lyteralis'
- 'Marginata'
- 'Myrtifolia'
- 'Rosmarinifolia'
- 'Rotundifolia'
- 'Suffruticosa'

Table 2

Collections in western Caucasus, Sochi region, Krasnodarskiy Kray, Russia.

RS-01, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings
07-05-2004. Sochi Dendrarium.

Leaves very narrow. Plant growing in a hedge.

RS-02, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings
07-05-2004. Sochi Dendrarium.

Leaves small, myrtle-like, bluish, with pointed tip. Plant growing in a hedge.

RS-03, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings
07-05-2004. Sochi Dendrarium.

Plant low-growing. Leaves small, narrow, bluish, with rounded tip.

RS-04, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings
07-05-2004. Sochi Dendrarium.

Leaves flat, broad, thin, medium green, in a herringbone arrangement on stems. Plant in a hedge.

RS-05, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings
07-05-2004. Sochi Dendrarium.

Leaves yellow-variegated, broad yellow zoning turning to lime green, glaucous overtone. Plant tree-like in a group.

RS-06, *Buxus sempervirens*, seed

07-05-2004. From a population growing along the old road from Adler to Krasnaya Polyana, just north of the village Kazachiy Brod.

RS-07, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-05-2004. Along the old road from Adler to Krasnaya Polyana, just north of the village Kazachiy Brod. Leaves convex, shiny, dark green, flat arrangement on stems. Typical growth habit.

RS-08, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-05-2004. Along the old road from Adler to Krasnaya Polana, just north of the village Kazachiy Brod. Leaves elongated, prominent side veins, medium size and color. Plant 5 m tall, single stem, branched 1 m above the ground.

RS-09, *Buxus sempervirens*, seeds

07-05-2004. From a population

growing in Psakho Canyon of the river Kudepsta in Sochi National Park.

RS-10, *Ilex colchica*, cuttings

07-06-2004. Along river Shahke, near village Solokh-Aul, Sochi National Park.

RS-11, *Buxus sempervirens*, seeds

07-07-2004. From a population growing along river Sochi between villages Nizhnoye Orekhovo and Azhek. Sochi National Park.

RS-12, *Ilex colchica*, cuttings

07-07-2004. Along river Sochi between villages Nizhnoye Orekhovo and Azhek. Sochi National Park. Female plant. Spreading growth habit. Leaves dark green, spines different than typical.

RS-13, *Buxus sempervirens*, seeds

07-08-2004. From a population along river Dagomys-Zapadny, north of village Tretia Rota, Sochi National Park.

RS-14, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-08-2004. Along river Dagomys-Zapadny, north of village Tretia Rota, Sochi National Park. Leaves bluish. Plant tall, single trunk, branches long, strongly weeping.

RS-15, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-08-2004. Along river Dagomys-Zapadny, north of village Tretia Rota, Sochi National Park. Leaves small, slightly bluish. Plant small, dense, well branched, growing on an open, limestone cliff.

RS-16, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-08-2004. Along river Dagomys-Zapadny, north of village Tretia Rota, Sochi National Park. Leaves larger than RS-15, but even more compact. Growing on the same open, limestone cliff as RS-15.

RS-17, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-08-2004. Along river Dagomys-Zapadny, north of village Tretia Rota, Sochi National Park. Leaves medium size, dark, green. Plant very dense, conical, very small.

RS-18, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-08-2004. Along river Dagomys-Zapadny, north of village Tretia Rota, Sochi National Park. Plant taller than RS-17, not as dense. Habit rounded, mounded, very handsome.

RS-19, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-11-2004. Park in front of the local Leskhos (Forestry Service) office in Apsheronk. Leaves bluish. Plant in a hedge.

RS-20, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-11-2004. Park in front of the local Leskhos (Forestry Service) office in Apsheronk. Leaves convex, pointing forward. Branches drooping. Plant in a hedge.

RS-21, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-11-2004. Park in front of the local Leskhos (Forestry Service) office in Apsheronk. Leaves large, broad, rounded, dark green. Plant with stiff branches, in a hedge.

RS-22, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips northwest of Mezmay. Plant low-growing, prostrate, on an exposed cliff.

RS-23, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips northwest of Mezmay. Leaves small, dark green, plant upright, handsome.

RS-24, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips northwest of Mezmay. Leaves small, narrow, dark green. Plant with upright branching.

RS-25, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips northwest of Mezmay. Leaves of the new growth golden yellow. Growth habit typical.

RS-26, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips northwest of Mezmay. Leaves small, medium green. Plant low-growing, dense, mounded. Branches with flaky bark.

RS-27, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings

07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips northwest of

- Mezmay. Leaves very dark green, lustrous, oval, with notched tip. Branching loose.
- RS-28, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips northwest of Mezmay. Leaves small, glossy. Growth habit upright, branching loose, stems long.
- RS-29, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips northwest of Mezmay. Leaves medium size and color. Growth habit full, branching dense, spreading.
- RS-30, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips southeast of Mezmay. Leaves very small, soft. Plant low-growing, branching loose.
- RS-31, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips southeast of Mezmay. Leaves small, soft, medium green. Plant prostrate with dense branching.
- RS-32, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips southeast of Mezmay. Leaves small, suffruticosa-like. Plant small, 50 cm tall, spreading, not as prostrate as RS-31, more rounded, with dense branching.
- RS-33, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips southwest of Mezmay. Leaves small, soft, medium green. Plant very prostrate, almost horizontal, flat, growing out of a steep slope.
- RS-34, *Buxus sempervirens*, seeds**
07-12-2004. From a population growing in the canyon of the river Kurdzhips southwest of Mezmay. Fruits did not open, seeds discarded.
- RS-35, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips southeast of Mezmay. Leaves narrow, dark green, with pointed tips. Growth habit spreading. Branches soft.
- RS-36, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips southeast of Mezmay. Leaves large, medium green, typical shape. Plant prostrate, spreading.
- RS-37, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips southeast of Mezmay. Leaves small, narrow. Plant small, prostrate. Branches pendulous.
- RS-38, *Buxus sempervirens*, seedling**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips southeast of Mezmay. Leaves golden yellow.
- RS-39, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips southeast of Mezmay. Leaves small, rounded, cupped. Plant low-growing, 25 cm tall, prostrate, growing on the edge of the population in the *Fagus orientalis* forest.
- RS-40, *Ilex colchica*, cuttings**
07-12-2004. In the canyon of the river Kurdzhips southeast of Mezmay. Leaves very narrow, dark green, spines protruding slightly upward from the surface of the leaf.
- RS-41, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-13-2004. Mezmay Rock west of the village Mezmay. Large exposed steep slope covered with dolomite rocks and boulders, treeless. Plant very small.
- RS-42, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-13-2004. Mezmay Rock west of the village Mezmay. Large exposed steep slope covered with dolomite rocks and boulders, treeless. Leaves medium size, slightly glaucous, upright in stems. Good color despite that other boxwood around it chlorotic.
- RS-43, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-13-2004. Mezmay Rock west of the village Mezmay. Large exposed steep slope covered with dolomite rocks and boulders, treeless. Leaves small, yellowish, probably because of the exposed location. Plant small, 25 cm tall.
- RS-44, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-13-2004. Mezmay Rock west of the village Mezmay. Large exposed steep slope covered with dolomite rocks and boulders, treeless. Leaves narrow, medium green, not glossy. small, 40 cm tall.
- RS-45, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-13-2004. Mezmay Rock west of the village Mezmay. Large exposed steep slope covered with dolomite rocks and boulders, treeless. Leaves small, narrow, light green. Growth habit narrow, upright.
- RS-46, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-13-2004. Mezmay Rock west of the village Mezmay. Large exposed steep slope covered with dolomite rocks and boulders, treeless. Leaves broad, narrowing toward tip, slightly cupped, light green, especially young ones. Plant dwarf.
- RS-47, *Buxus sempervirens*, cuttings**
07-13-2004. Mezmay Rock west of the village Mezmay. Large exposed steep slope covered with dolomite rocks and boulders, treeless. Leaves very glaucous, medium size, rounded tip. Plant tall, upright. Branching sparse, upright.
- RS-48, *Buxus sempervirens*, seedling**
07-13-2004. Mezmay Rock west of the village Mezmay. Large exposed steep slope covered with dolomite rocks and boulders, treeless. Leaves exceptionally small, the smallest seen.
- RS-49, *Buxus sempervirens*, seeds**
07-13-2004. From a population growing on Mezmay Rock west of the village Mezmay. Large exposed steep slope covered with dolomite rocks and boulders, treeless.
- RS-50, *Ilex colchica*, cuttings**
07-13-2004. Mezmay Rock west of the village Mezmay. Large exposed steep slope covered with dolomite rocks and boulders, treeless. Female plant. Leaves small, dark green.



Fig. 2. Boxwood hedges were only occasionally seen at other sites in Sochi besides the Dendrarium. In front of the art museum a clipped boxwood hedge surrounded a statue of Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924).



*Fig. 4. A grove of *B. sempervirens* grew from moss-covered limestone rocks in Sochi National Park.*



Fig. 3. In heavily shaded and moist areas in the wilderness of the Greater Caucasus, moss sometimes draped boxwood.



Fig. 5. Like many rivers in the Greater Caucasus, the river Shahke provided a beautiful panoramic view.



Fig. 6. Our zoologist guide, Dr. Alexey Romashin, believed that this black butterfly was responsible for pollinating boxwood.



*Fig. 7. Dr. Anisko collected shrubby *B. sempervirens* on a steep slope north of the village Tretia Rota.*



Fig. 8. This was a typical cottage located in the remote village Mezmay, located about 300 km from Sochi.



Fig. 9. Prof. Pridnya collected Lady's Mantle for his wife, who used the plants for medicinal purposes.



Fig. 10. After a long hike above the river Kurdzhips, we returned to Mezmay where we found that goats had claimed the abandoned railroad station.



Fig. 11. The limestone walls of the canyon of the river Kurdzhips contained drooping boxwood.



Fig. 12. One of many cuttings that we took from attractive boxwood plants growing along the river Kurdzhips.



Fig. 13. One interesting boxwood had golden new growth. This upright plant was about six feet tall.



Fig. 14. The golden new growth on the plant in Fig. 13 was not seen on any other boxwood during our expedition.



Fig. 15. Boxwood (in foreground) was found growing on the exposed face of Mezmay Rock at an altitude of over 3,000 feet.



Fig. 16. Dr. Anisko studied a particularly interesting boxwood, that retained its green color unlike its neighbors whose leaves were yellowed from exposure to the sun.



Fig. 17. This cutting from the plant seen in Fig. 16 shows its dense, relatively thick leaves.



Fig. 18. Seeds were collected from boxwood growing in four different locations.

CORRESPONDENCE

U.S. National Arboretum News Report

In the Fall 2004 *U.S. National Arboretum News and Notes*, under "Pardon My Dust," projects underway are listed. Among them is a major expansion effort for the National Boxwood Collection at the Arboretum.

A photo shows the layout of new beds which will be home to specimen boxwood now held in greenhouses or lath houses because of lack of space.

The new plantings will include newly registered cultivars and plants collected during the 2003 collection trip to the countries of Georgia and Azerbaijan, sponsored by Longwood Gardens and headed by Dr. Tomasz Anisko. Lynn R. Batdorf is Curator of the National Boxwood Collection, ABS Registrar for the International

Cultivar Registration Authority for *Buxus* L., and author of the newly published *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*.

Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia is available from:

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Boyce, VA 22620-0085.

Cost is \$110. (Members may buy one copy for \$99.)

Shipping cost is \$10 for priority mail; \$5 for standard mail. (Virginia residents must add sales tax of 5% of the book price.)

NOTICE

45th Annual Meeting

The 2005 ABS Annual Meeting will be held May 5-7 next year in the Lynchburg, VA, area. Paul Saunders has been making plans with his usual enthusiasm and exuberance. He also has elected to handle the registration this year.

In Memoriam

Mrs. E. E. (Frances) Colbert

Charter Member

Mr. Donald Gore

Member since 1984

Walking with Phoebe

How Boxwood is Used in an Urban Setting Where Space is at a Premium

Sigrid G. Harriman

Early morning streets are empty in Old Town Alexandria when Phoebe, our English Labrador Retriever, and I explore the neighborhood and its many old and not so old townhouses with small gardens. We have discovered to my delight the varied ways boxwood has been used to enhance the small front yards so typical of Alexandria. Phoebe enjoys walking close to a boxwood to feel the smooth, cool leaves. (She does not like needlelike shrubs. Along the way she has discovered a large 'Vardar Valley' (1), three perfect plants of 'Graham Blandy' thriving in an impossibly small space (2), 'Elegantissima' trimmed as a hedge (3) and in planters (4), as well as a very big *Buxus sempervirens* (5) about 12 by 8 feet. She also found 'Suffruticosa' used to disguise electrical instruments (6), form a fluffy hedge in a front yard (7) and grace foundation and window boxes of a very affluent residence (8). We both have also discovered severely clipped 'Suffruticosa' at a front walk (9) and a massive hedge of 'Suffruticosa' on either side of the neighbor's walk (10). Various parterres (11, 12, 13) amazed us for their imaginative use of limited space. Lastly, in our backyard thrives a 'Green Mountain' (14) in an old planter.

Alexandria was founded by English and Scottish businessmen on a designated site along the Potomac River in 1730. This location at the river had been used for commerce by Dogue and Algonquin-speaking Indians for centuries but was by 1730 virtually abandoned. The early village of Alexandria was established not far from the trading post where ships arrived and left with goods from other continents, mostly Europe. George

Washington established his beloved Mount Vernon plantation not more than six miles down river and created one of the most frequently visited gardens, using boxwood in great quantities. This fact may have influenced the widespread use of boxwood in Alexandria.

Phoebe and I plan to explore

Mount Vernon and other places and report on their use of boxwood in the future.

Before moving to Ohio in 2002, Mrs. Harriman was ABS Secretary and a member of the ABS Memorial Garden Committee. She and her husband now live in Alexandria, VA.



Fig. 1. Phoebe completed her inspection of 'Vardar Valley' and is ready to enter the garden. (Photos: Sigrid Harriman)



Fig. 2. Three 'Graham Blandy' seem to like the closeness of a brick wall.



Fig. 3. 'Elegantissima' hedge between two Alberta spruces.

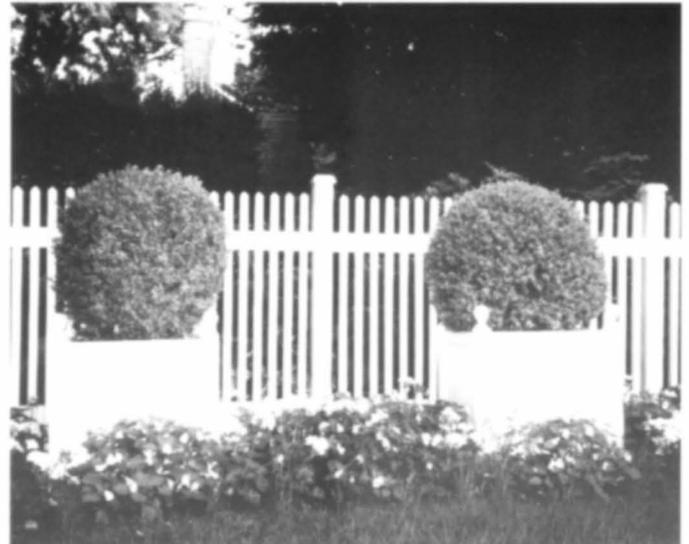


Fig. 4. 'Elegantissima' in white planters and a white match-stick fence.



Fig. 5. Rugged-looking large Buxus sempervirens survived construction of a new driveway.



Fig. 6. Several 'Suffruticosa' hiding compressor.



Fig. 7. Healthy English Boxwood or 'Suffruticosa'.



Fig. 8. Three 'Suffruticosa' and smaller versions in window boxes.



Fig. 9. How long will these 'Suffruticosa' survive such severe treatment?



Fig. 11. Simple parterre about 10' x 12', a wrought iron fence and candytuft.

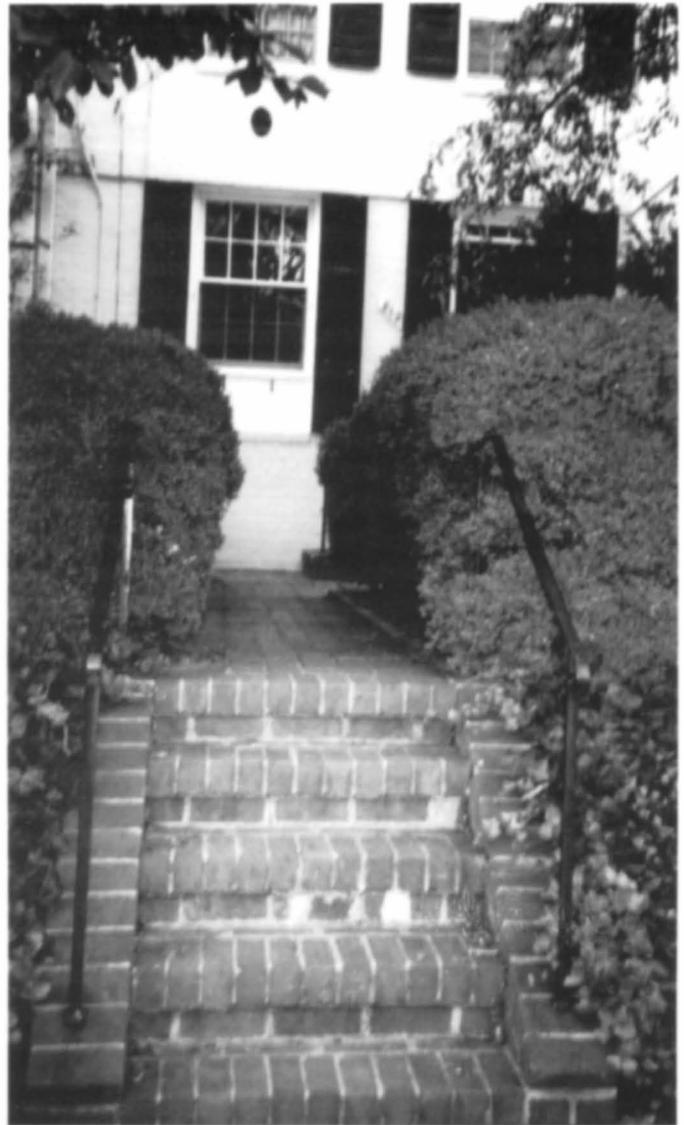


Fig. 10. Luscious hedge could use some trimming.



Fig. 12. Back yard circular parterre with 'Justin Brouwers' and candytuft.



Fig. 13. B. sempervirens topiary and four healthy 'Suffruticosa'.



Fig. 14 'Green Mountain' surrounded by white impatiens.

Fall Board Meeting Minutes, September 23, 2004

The fall meeting of the Governing Board of The American Boxwood Society was held on Thursday, September 23, 2004 at the Blandy Farm, Boyce, Virginia. In attendance were: Charles T. Fooks, President; Clyde Weber, First Vice President; Henry F. Frierson, Jr., MD, Second Vice President; Laurie Jamerson, Secretary; McHenry L. Stiff, III, Executive Treasurer; Lynn R. Batdorf, Registrar and the following Directors: John W. Boyd, III, Decca G. Frackelton, W. Edward Goode, Jr., Kenneth Lee Hahn, Maury Hanson, MD., Clifford Hoffman, and Gary Richardson, MD. Absent directors were Walter S. Carell, Jr. and Chris Willemsen. Guests attending later were Dave Carr, Curator, Blandy Farm; Katherine D. Ward, former ABS Executive Treasurer; Paul and Tatum Saunders. (Mr. Saunders is coordinating all the details of the 2005 ABS Annual Meeting.) President Fooks called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. Mrs. Frackelton made a motion that the minutes of the Governing Board spring meeting, held May 6, 2004, at Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia and printed in the July 2004 issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* be accepted as published. Dr. Frierson seconded and the motion was carried by the Board.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Stiff distributed a detailed accounting report covering the period since the one for fiscal year May 1, 2003 through April 30, 2004, given May 6, 2004. The Treasurer's report was accepted as issued. Discussion followed about reporting restricted funds and keeping all restricted funds in a separate bank account as the Encyclopedia Fund/Publication Fund was set up (July 2003) when publica-

tion of the encyclopedia came closer to fruition. A motion was made by Dr. Frierson to allocate some of the 2004 Auction money to clear the "negative balance" in the restricted Research Fund. Motion passed.

The object is to report so the Board can see what we can allocate: dues income is to cover \$16 per member for *The Boxwood Bulletin*, the Treasurer's services, the web site fees and any miscellaneous items in the normal course of the Society's business. Restricted Funds (Special Funds): ABS Memorial Garden Fund is funded by donations and memorials; Publication Fund is funded by donations and net from sales of the Handbook and now net sales from the Encyclopedia; Research Fund is funded by donations and net from sales of the 5th Edition of the *Buyer's Guide*.

Mr. Stiff, Treasurer, asked to renew the CD (in Bank of Clarke County) into three CDs, maturing 1, 2 and 3 years to allow funds to be more

readily available and not lose interest or pay penalties for early withdrawal. Granted. CD contains only Restricted Funds. President Fooks commended Mr. Stiff on undertaking the Treasurer's position and doing such a fine job.

ABS Bulletin: Mrs. Frackelton announced it's either feast or famine when it comes to articles for the *Bulletin*. Dr. Frierson's timely article on the Russian collecting trip July 2004, delivered today, is a great boost with Mr. Hahn's bio as a new Director.

Nominating Committee: Clifford Hoffman, Chairman, had no report.

Registrar/Publication Report: Lynn Batdorf reported that *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* was completed one week after the Annual Meeting, but it's *done!* The American Nurseryman's Association has an ad for the encyclopedia in their list of books for sale.

Mr. Batdorf is busy updating and revising the Handbook and estimates



Paul Saunders outlined plans for the 2005 ABS Annual Meeting and treated those present to his delicious apples. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)

x Proceeds from Auction (split 1/2 Mem Garden 1/2 Research 41)

he may have it ready next fall/ December. Funding would come from the Publications Fund when sufficient funds are available. Mr. Hahn and Mr. Carell are looking into printing costs. (Mr. Batdorf noted one source claims the Handbook is out of print and charges \$100 for the book. There are still some available from the ABS Treasurer at the regular price.) Mr. Batdorf doesn't find a 5-year Index very useful and suggests a 10-year or longer Index as we have passed the 5-year date.

Research/Web Site Committee: Accompanying Dr. Tomasz Anisko, Curator of Plants at Longwood Gardens, President Charles T. Fooks and Second Vice President Henry Frierson traveled to Russia in July for a two-week collecting trip. They had two excellent local guides. *Ilex* as well as *Buxus* were gathered, both seed and cutting collections. Full report will be in the Bulletin. Dr. Frierson has just received Dr. Mosulishvili's report, mapping boxwood in the country of Georgia. She is to be congratulated for her promptness in completing and reporting on her Research Grant project.

They have not pursued the overdue DNA analysis report because Dr. Frierson was made aware of an illness in Dr. Köhler's family. As per motion May 6, 2004, Dr. Maury Hanson presented a proposal for research requests: Application to the American Boxwood Society for Grant Support. Discussion followed to add to Item 5, a list of the principal investigator's pertinent publications and to delete, from paragraph three in the body of the letter, a financial record of expenditures. Mr. Stiff made a motion to accept the proposal as amended, it was seconded and carried by the Board.

U.S. National Arboretum Stake Holders Meeting: Dr. Gary Richardson reported that Dr.

Townsend was honored for his work in plant breeding and the introduction of two new American Elms.

ABS Annual Meeting - 2005: Paul Saunders presented a tentative schedule for the upcoming 2005 ABS Annual meeting to be held in Lynchburg, Virginia. Dates will be May 5-7, 2005. Tours of Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, Bedford National D-Day Memorial, Ivy Hill, Oak Ridge and Saunders Brothers, Inc. are planned. Dr. James Robertson and several other outstanding speakers are on the agenda. Mr. Saunders also elected to do the registration including the form and enlarging the mailing from his list. ABS members will be sent the details and Registration Form, either in the January 2005 *Bulletin* as usual or in a special mailing. Because of the extra day included in the 2005 Annual Meeting, it was suggested that the spring meeting of the ABS Board, usually held at the Annual Meeting prior to the opening events and the January board meeting, where attendance is always uncertain because of the weather, be combined into a March meeting. Lee Hahn made a motion to move the combined Governing Board meetings to March, seconded by Clyde Weber, carried by the Board. President Fooks set the March meeting for March 24, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. at Blandy Farm.

Old Business: Discussion of how to shorten Board meetings instead of just adding more meetings. Suggestion that matters being discussed be available prior to the meeting and that the committees do their assigned work and submit to the Board for vote instead of repeating every detail. The Secretary asked that she be able to notify by e-mail to address this change and President Fooks said he will need agenda items at least two weeks prior to meetings.

President Fooks read the Resolu-

tion signed by the Board acknowledging the contributions of Katherine D. Ward to ABS and presented her with an autographed copy of *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*.

New Business: Mr. Stiff suggested the Board donate a copy of the Encyclopedia to Mary Olien, Curator of Education for the Arboretum for her efforts with the Boxwood Symposium, April 3, 2004 which generated \$3,000.00 for the Encyclopedia Fund. The Board agreed. The Board also requested he send flowers from the Society to Joan Butler who is recovering from hip surgery.

Lynn R. Batdorf spoke at the European Boxwood and Topiary Society meeting in June 2004 in England. He shared a copy of their *Topiarius* with the Board. He requested we exchange articles on ABS beginnings and such, and EBTS with us, for publication in each other's journals to reach beyond our boundaries. Mr. Batdorf also noted there are Dutch and French EBTS Chapters, and said they are a very energetic group.

A two-page memorandum, addressing increasing ABS membership, restyling *The Boxwood Bulletin*, expanding the web site and publishing the ABS membership list was circulated and discussed. President Fooks appointed a committee consisting of Kenneth Lee Hahn, Chairman, Lynn R. Batdorf, W. Edward Goode, Jr. and Clyde Weber to address the comments in the memorandum, study the options and report recommendations to the Board at its next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Jamerson
ABS Secretary

Kenneth Lee Hahn, New ABS Director

My interest in boxwood began when, as a young teen, I worked as a gardener at our family parish church in Fair Haven, New Jersey. The church was landscaped with some beautiful plants which I would later learn were boxwood. It was at this point that I developed an appreciation for the “eye appeal” (Thank you, Paul Saunders) of English boxwood.

Attending college in the Washington, DC, area I had an opportunity to visit historic homes and gardens where my interest in boxwood continued.

In later years, during a family summer vacation on Block Island, Rhode Island, while enjoying a small gardening shop, I was leafing through a book and came across a reference to The American Boxwood Society. The contact name was Joan Butler of Virginia. Subsequently, I met Joan at the Blandy Farm. My encounter with this petite, enthusiastic and knowledgeable woman resulted in learning that there were many more types than just English boxwood. Joan’s passion for boxwood is contagious. I give her credit for my continuing interest and involvement in the Society.

Through participation in this group, I’ve developed a deeper understanding about the world of boxwood. I look forward to the Annual meetings where I have the opportunity to share boxwood stories with other enthusiasts and outstanding experts in the field. The meetings provide time where members, comprised of a diverse group representing many different professions and cultures, can come together to share their common thread of interest—the boxwood.

Being a member of the Society has afforded me an opportunity to gain ongoing knowledge about boxwood cultivars and incorporate these green plants into our home gardens. Espe-



Kenneth Lee Hahn

cially in winter, as I enjoy the view from my windows, I relish the green I see in an otherwise gray landscape.

As a board member I will work with the directors and the membership to advance the objectives of the Boxwood Society and to oversee the sponsored initiatives.

It is my expectation that our web site will play an increasing role in

sharing boxwood information and expanding the membership on a global basis.

Personal background: member, Centenary College Board of Trustees; past member, Tewksbury Township Committee and Planning Board; residence: Califon, New Jersey (Hunterdon County) with wife Millie; employed by Johnson & Johnson.

