

The **Boxwood** *Bulletin*

A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental



Three Frackeltons in front of the 1766 boxwood and holly display at The Homestead resort. See page 59 for Decca Frackelton's Memoriam. (Photo: Timmye Ross)

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Boxwood Exploration in the Republic of Georgia: The Mapping of Boxwood in Georgia

Marina Mosulishvili, PhD

Boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens* L. (*B. colchica* Pojark.) is a very common evergreen tree or shrub in the forests of western Georgia. In these “Colchic” (Kolkhik) forests, it grows as an understory plant from sea level up to a height of about 1300 meters. The name of this plant in the Georgian language is *bza*. Names for boxwood in different languages of nearby regions include: *bion*, *puksos* (Greek); *bosso*, *buxo*, *busso* (Italian); *chemchur* (Turkish); *shimshat* (Persian, Azeri, Armenian); *samshit* (Russian); *ashits* (Apsua¹), and *khassai* (Cherkesien¹).

Figure 1 shows the location of nature reserves in Georgia, while the map in Figure 2 depicts the current location of native stands of boxwood according to the results of our recent mapping study

funded by the American Boxwood Society. Although my colleagues and I attempted as complete a mapping investigation as possible, it is likely that some extremely isolated populations of *Buxus* were missed. Indeed, we are aware of a couple of sites where boxwood probably resides, but because of extreme environmental hazards we were unable to explore these areas. In addition, the mapping of sites in Abkhazia was based on our past explorations, as it remains difficult to enter this region because of political uncertainties. We believe, however, that this is the most thorough investigation of the natural distribution of *Buxus* ever undertaken in Georgia.

It is true that boxwood was more extensive in Georgia (Southwest Caucasus) in the prehistoric and early

historic periods. Ancient Greek and Roman writers described the Caucasus as very rich with forests that included boxwood. Harvesting boxwood timber began in the ancient period. Strabon (66 BC - 24 AD) described the richness of the Caucasian forests and wrote that King Mithridat VI Eupatorius harvested timber for his fleet, and added that Caucasian timber included that of different trees, among them boxwood. Boxwood timber was harvested in the Middle Ages; De la Primaudaia in his book on the history of commerce in the Middle Ages (*De la Primaudaia, Historie du Commerce au Moyen-age*) mentioned that the bay of Cavo de Bussi (Cavo de Buxio) between Pitunthi and Sukhumi (Abkhazia) was named because of its trade in boxwood (A.



Figure 1 depicts labeled nature reserves located in the Republic of Georgia.

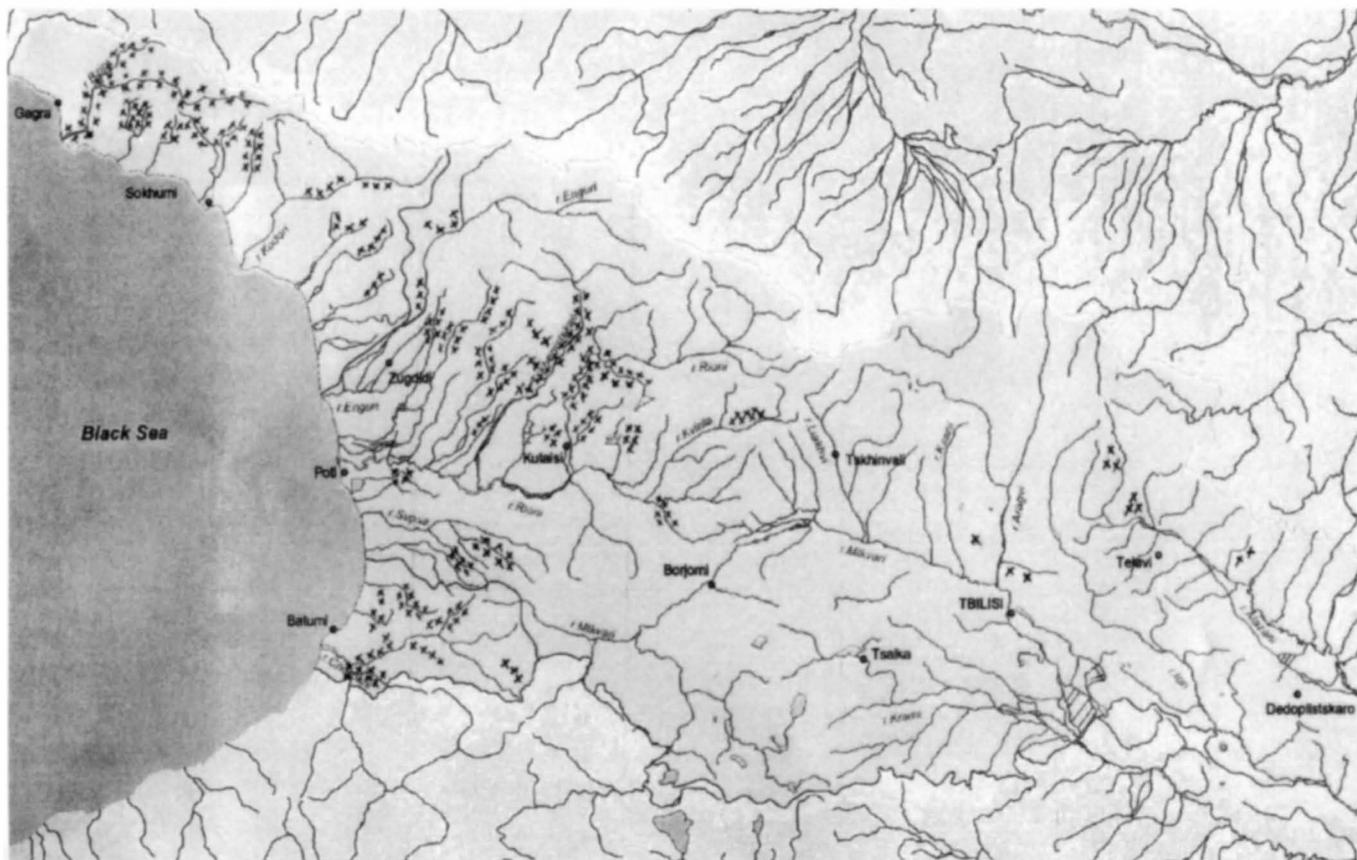


Figure 2 marks results of the recent mapping study by showing the current known locations of native populations of *B. sempervirens* in the Republic of Georgia.

Gamrekeli 1891). Boxwood was harvested in huge quantities in the 19th Century and the first four decades of the 20th Century for export mainly to Italy, Germany, Great Britain, and Russia.

Boxwood is a holy plant for Georgians. For centuries, beginning from the period of the 4th Century² when Christianity was declared the state religion, boxwood gained religious importance. In the Georgian Orthodox Church boxwood is used as “palm branches” on Easter Sunday, and other plants are not allowed to be used on this day. After becoming Christian, Georgians began planting boxwood near churches. Today, there are some locations in Georgia where churches have been demolished or ruined, but boxwood still remains.

Distribution of Boxwood in Georgia

East Georgia. There are several important boxwood stands in East Georgia in the provinces of Kakheti and Kartli.

Native stands of *Buxus sempervirens* generally are associated with West Georgia, while boxwood does grow near almost all churches in East Georgia, but there are several sites both in Kakheti and Kartli where I believe that the boxwood stands are natural.

One of the largest boxwood populations in Kakheti is located near the town of Kvareli on Bzatagora (“Boxwood Hill”) on the left side of the Bursa River. The boxwood stand here is quite large and covers an entire hillside. To the west of Bzatagora between the towns of Kvareli and Akhmeta, exists another population of boxwood in the gorge of the Stori River. Although some might hold the opinion that boxwood here was planted (although no churches currently exist), others believe that these populations are natural. I believe that boxwood is likely natural here, as the Alazani River and its connections to the Bursa and Stori Rivers, as well as the Chelti, Batsara, and Ilto Rivers, are rich with

the relict flora of the tertiary Colchic (Kolkhik) Period. In the Chelti River Gorge there is *Pterocarya pterocarpa* and in the Stori River Gorge there is a *Zelkova carpinifolia* forest. Two famous Nature Reserves of Georgia are present in the Akhmeta District: Babaneuri Nature Reserve in the Stori River Gorge (for protecting the forest of *Zelkova carpinifolia*) and Batsara Nature Reserve in the Batsara River Gorge (for protecting the virgin stands of the yew tree, *Taxus baccata*, one of the largest in Europe; several yew trees here are more than 1500 years old). Other representatives of the Colchic flora include: chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), bladdernut (*Staphylea colchica*), and holly (*Ilex colchica*). The fact that the average annual precipitation in the Bursa and Chelti River Gorges is 900-1200 mm and in the Stori and Batsara River Gorges, 1200-1400 mm, should be taken into consideration as supporting the proper environment for

boxwood growth. Approximately 1200 mm of annual rainfall occurs in the Northwest (Sochumi area in Abkhazia), where boxwood is found in large populations.

There are two sizable stands of boxwood in the province of Kartli, northwest of Tbilisi, in the Mtsketha District on the left side of the Argvi River near Saguramo. One site is near the village of Shankevani and another near the village of Choporta. Boxwood in each of these sites covers an entire hillside. Both of these sites are adjacent to the Saguramo Nature Reserve, which was established in 1946 to protect the relict plants of the Colchic tertiary period: yew (*Taxus baccata*), nut tree (*Corylus colurna*), cherry laurel (*Laurocerasus officinalis*), rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*), holly (*Ilex colchica*), and ivy (*Hedera colchica*). Northwest of Saguramo, on the right side of the Aragvi River, to the west of the village Misaktsieli, lies another boxwood population that also covers an entire hillside. Again, it is possible that all of the above-mentioned boxwood stands of East Georgia were planted by man near ancient churches, and subsequently boxwood has grown and spread to cover entire hillsides. However, it is my opinion that all of the above-mentioned boxwood stands of East Georgia are natural, and represent small fragments of the tertiary period Colchic flora, and remain only because they have been saved in forest refuges.

West Georgia. Boxwood is widely distributed in the "Colchic" forests (having an evergreen understory) in West Georgia. It mainly grows as an understory plant in chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) forests, but also in beech (*Fagus orientalis*) and in some other broadleaf (*Tilia*, *Acer*, *Quercus*, *Carpinus* etc.) and in coniferous (*Abies*, *Picea*) forests. Other evergreen understory plants that grow together with boxwood include *Rhododendron ponticum*, *Laurocerasus officinalis*, and *Ilex colchica*. In some areas boxwood is present as a pure stand as an understory evergreen. Sometimes these plants are 5-7 m tall or more and

have trunks that measure at least 20-30 cm in diameter. Small boxwood stands, groups, or even solitary plants have also been observed in many places in West Georgia.

More important boxwood populations occur in the province of Imereti in the gorges of the Chkherimela, Kvirila, Tskaltsitela, and Rioni Rivers, near the towns of Kharagauli, Sachkhere, Tkibuli, and Kutaisi. In the province of Racha-Lechkhumi, boxwood grows on the Nakerala Range, approximately 1300 m above sea level. It is likely that this boxwood does not grow tall (only about 1m high), as during the cold winter from November up to March the plants are covered with snow. In the province of Racha, boxwood occurs in the Sharaula and Rioni River Gorges, including tall old boxwood near the villages of Gogoleti and Cherbalo. In the province of Lechkhumi, large populations grow in the Tskhenis-tskali River Gorge and its connections, the Jonoula River Gorge from the village of Tsiperchi to Kulbaki and Chkhumi, and in the Zubis-tskali River Gorge from the village of Zubi to the Askhi Mountain. Boxwood in the province of Svaneti grows only along the Enguri River near the village of Haishi and, also, in the Chuberi River Gorge. In lower Svaneti, boxwood is present in the Tskhenis-tskali River Gorge on the way from Rtskmeluri to Lentekhi. In the province of Samegrelo, boxwood grows mainly along the beginning of the Nogela, Tsachkhura, Tekhuir, and Khobi Rivers. In the province of Guria, important boxwood stands are located in the Bzuzha and Achis-tskali River Gorges. Boxwood populations along the Pichora River Gorge have been destroyed. Small groups of boxwood can be found in Guria near Ozurgeti and Natanebi and elsewhere. It should be noted that boxwood stands in Guria and Samegrelo are the most damaged. These provinces are adjacent to Poti, the largest Black Sea port in Georgia, where boxwood timber was harvested very extensively, especially in the 19th Century and shipped in vast quantities. For this reason, in the provinces of Guria and Samegrelo,

boxwood grows only in several river gorges mainly in the mountainous sites at the origin of rivers.

Two other provinces of West Georgia, Ajara and Abkhazia, are areas where boxwood is preserved better than in any other location in Georgia. In Ajara, the most important boxwood populations appear in gorges of the Kintrishi, Chakvistskali, Bzonitsa, Chorokhi, and Ajaris-tskali Rivers and their connections to the Skhaltha, Chanis-tskali, Machakhlis-tskali, Bzubzu, Dologani, and Jocho Rivers. Although boxwood in Ajara is better preserved compared with other areas in West Georgia, the best boxwood stands occur in the politically-disputed territory of Abkhazia. Boxwood grows here along almost all river gorges: Chkhortoli, Galidzga, Mokvi, Kodori (and its connection with the Sakeni River), Kelasuri, Gumista, Bzibi, Gega, and Psou. The Bzibi (from Georgian *bzebi*: plural of *bza*, boxwood) river gorge is very spectacular, as boxwood covers the entire river basin, and also includes the Gega and Jupshara River Gorges, where boxwood trees are 7-10 m tall and have trunks more than 30 cm in diameter. The Bzibi River Gorge, with its connections to the gorges of the Gega and Jupshara Rivers, with the beautiful Ritza and Blue Lakes, contains magnificent tall boxwood trees, which impart the impression that this is the Eden of the boxwood -- the perfect place in climate and soil condition for growth of the common boxwood of the Caucasus, *Buxus sempervirens*.

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1) Apsua, Cherkessien - Languages of the people who live now at the northern and southern slopes of the western Great Caucasian Mountains in Adigeia and Karachaevo-Cherkesia (Russia) and in Abkhazia (Georgia).

2) Georgia was the fifth country in the world (after Antioch, Jerusalem, Greece, Roman Empire), where Christianity was confirmed in 326 as the state religion, soon after the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea in 325.

The Search for the Real *Buxus harlandii* Hance

Maurice J. Murray

There are two distinctly different boxwood plants in cultivation in the United States that for years have been called *Buxus harlandii*. In 1963, J. T. Baldwin briefly described two clones identified as this species at the College of William and Mary. One clone had a rounded leaf apex; the other had a notched apex. To avoid confusion, these will not be referred to here as *B. harlandii*, but as the rounded leaf form and the notched leaf form. The original specimen of *B. harlandii* Hance was found in a subtropical area that rarely, if ever, experiences freezing temperatures. Since the two forms in cultivation survive Midwest winters, there is reason to speculate if either are actually this species.

An extensive study of the literature, herbarium specimens, and living plants was undertaken to determine if the plants in cultivation are actually *B. harlandii*. Because of the taxonomic importance of flower morphology, special emphasis was placed on this aspect. Leaf morphology is not a good criterion for species identification. This study included nineteen plants said to be this species from different locations in the U.S. ranging from Virginia to Washington state. Plantings included nurseries, private gardens and arboreta, including the U.S. National Arboretum, the ABS Memorial Garden, and the Baldwin collection at William and Mary. Specimens of *B. harlandii* growing in the wild in Hong Kong were studied for comparison and to verify the literature description of this species. Herbarium specimens were studied from the Harvard University Herbaria and Kew Royal Botanic Garden. All plant measurements reported in the literature have been converted to metric measurement to simplify comparisons. Minor spelling differences in specific epithets have been ignored as being inconsequential.

Literature Review

In 1858, H.F. Hance and W.A. Harland discovered the boxwood that was later named *Buxus harlandii* (specimen number Hance 322) in a rocky stream bed above the bridge at Tai Tam Tuk village on Hong Kong Island. In 1873, Hance published the description of this species and claimed it was not known to occur off the island. The leaves were described as being narrowly obovate with an emarginate apex and length of 21-32 mm. The width of the leaves was not given, but examination of the type specimen revealed the width to be 5-9 mm. The rudimentary ovary of the male flower was described as being a little shorter than the calyx with the apex four-lobed and dilated. The styles of the female flower were stated to be a little longer than the ovary.

Following Hance and Harland's discovery, several plants with foliage similar to Hance's species were collected by other explorers in China far from Hong Kong and identified as *B. harlandii*. However, later studies of these plants have excluded them from this species. Most notable among these is the plant E.H. "Chinese" Wilson, collected in 1908 near Yichang in western Hubei that he identified as *B. harlandii* (Wilson 3399). It is a shrub of only 0.15-0.3 m in height with leaves 12-20 mm long and 4-6 mm wide. For many years it was assumed to be the same as Hance's species. However, Hatusima (1942) reported that the flower of this plant does not match that of *B. harlandii* and assigned it the new name of *B. ichangensis*.

Mathou (1940) is the only one to publish the claim that the rudimentary pistil (a term used interchangeably with rudimentary ovary) of *B. harlandii* is longer than the sepals. However, the material she studied was obtained from cultivated plants of unknown origin. It is obvious from the drawing of the flower that it is not *B. harlandii* but *B. bodinieri* H.Lév.

The publication did not even include *B. bodinieri*, which is one of the most common species of *Buxus* in China.

Hatusima (1942) published a description of *B. harlandii* very similar to that given by Hance. He described the male flower as having a rudimentary ovary shorter than the sepals and the female flower as having styles longer than the ovary. He confirmed that the distribution is restricted to areas near Hong Kong. However, he claimed Hance's type specimen includes two different taxa, *B. harlandii* and *B. bodinieri*. Careful study of this specimen did not verify this conclusion, as there is no evidence to indicate the presence of more than one taxon. Furthermore, Luo (1995) reported that the range of *B. bodinieri* does not extend as far south as Hong Kong, where Hance's specimen was obtained.

The description of *B. harlandii* given by Cheng and Ming (1980) was also similar to Hance's. The flowers were described as having the rudimentary pistil shorter than the sepals and the styles longer than the ovary. They stated the species is found on Hainan Island and the offshore islands of Guangdong Province. The Chinese Pinyin name for this species was given as "chi ye huang yang" (spoon leaf boxwood).

Other publications from China have also reported that this species does not occur except in the southernmost part of China. Wei and Zhang (1993) reported that *B. bodinieri* is confused with *B. harlandii*, with the latter species not found in Zhejiang Province. Luo (1995) gave a description of *B. harlandii* very similar to Hance's. He reported the range as being only coastal areas of Guangdong Province and Hainan Island. *Flora Yunnanica* (1977) and *The Plants of Shanghai* (1999) did not include this species as growing in Yunnan or Shanghai.

Batdorf (1995) stated both of the

plants in cultivation are *B. harlandii*. However, in 2004, he declared only the notched leaf form is this species, while the rounded leaf form is *B. cephalantha* H.Lév & Vaniot. His conclusions, however, were not based on flower morphology.



Figure 1 shows *Buxus harlandii* Hance.

(Photo: Maurice J. Murray)

Study of Hong Kong Plants

Flowering plants identified as *B. harlandii* growing in the wild on a river bank in Hong Kong were studied by the author. These plants are shrubs of up to one meter in height. The leaves range up to 38 mm long and 8 mm wide and are oblanceolate with an emarginate apex (Fig. 1). The plants are very free-flowering. Examination of the pedicelled male flower shows the rudimentary pistil to be well developed but significantly shorter than the sepals (Fig. 2 & 3). The female flower exhibits styles that are longer than the ovary and curve sharply downward at the apex. This plant matches the description of *B. harlandii* given by Hance (1873), Hatusima (1942), Cheng and Ming (1980), and Luo (1995). This plant is not common even in Hong Kong.

Study of Plants in Cultivation

All of the plants found in the U.S. that were identified as *B. harlandii* matched either of the two forms described by Baldwin. Ten were the rounded leaf form; nine were the notched leaf form.

The rounded leaf form (Fig. 4 & 5) is a shrub of up to 2 or more meters in height. The oblanceolate leaves are up to 45 mm long and 16 mm wide. It is characteristic of this form to have the leaf folded upward at the midrib so the halves make an angle of about 140 degrees with each other. The apex is acute, obtuse or sometimes emarginate. This is one of the earliest of all boxwood plants to break dormancy in the spring and is thus subject to frost pruning of the upper branches. This can lead to the plant acquiring a spreading shape. One plant of this form was traced to a collection made in 1907 by plant explorer Frank Meyer at Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province. This plant had the Chinese Pinyin common name of "gua zi huang yang" (melon seed boxwood). Originally identified as *B. sempervirens* L., it was sent to the U.S. Plant Introduction Center and distributed as *B. harlandii*, FPI 23012. It should be noted that this collection was made 500 miles north of the area that later reported to be the range of *B. harlandii*.

The notched leaf form (Fig. 6 & 7) is a vase-shaped shrub of up to 2 meters in height. The leaves range to 40 mm long and 16 mm wide and are narrowly obovate. The apex is usually emarginate. This is one of the easiest boxwood plants to propagate from cuttings. It is excellent for Southern gardens, as it tolerates heat and sun. One plant of this form was collected in Xian in Shaanxi Province and claimed to be *B. harlandii*. However, this location is 800 miles north of the range of this species.

The fact that specimens of both forms in cultivation in the U.S. trace to collections made hundreds of miles north of the range of *B. harlandii* provided evidence that neither is this species. However, definite proof and positive identification required careful study of



Figure 2 displays inflorescence of *B. harlandii* showing pedicellate male flowers.

(Photo: Maurice J. Murray)

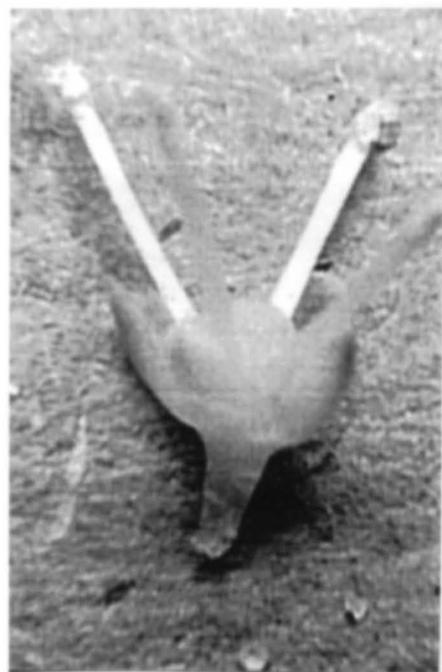
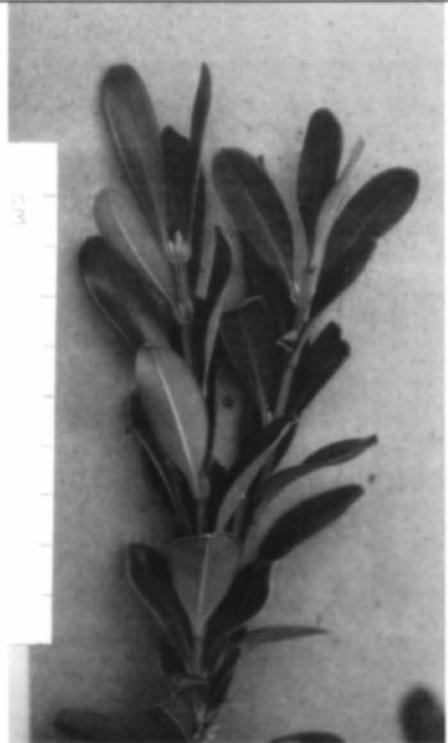


Figure 3 is a male flower of *B. harlandii* showing rudimentary pistil shorter than sepals.

(Photo: Maurice J. Murray)



*Figure 4 is a shrub of rounded leaf form in cultivation.
(Photo: Maurice J. Murray)*



*Figure 5 displays the rounded leaf form.
(Photo: Maurice J. Murray)*



*Figure 6 is a shrub of the notched leaf form in cultivation.
(Photo: Maurice J. Murray)*



*Figure 7 is also the notched leaf form.
(Photo: Maurice J. Murray)*



*Figure 8 shows the male flower of plant in cultivation showing rudimentary pistil longer than sepals (one stamen removed)
(Photo: Maurice J. Murray)*

flower morphology. Examination of the flowers of the two forms revealed they are very similar to each other but very different from those of *B. harlandii*. While both male and female flowers of these forms exhibit these differences, the male flower shows the most easily detected difference (Fig. 8). The flowers of these two forms also do not match the flower of *B. cephalantha* as described by Hatusima (1942) and Cheng and Ming (1980). The rudimentary pistil of the male flower of both forms in cultivation is approximately 1 mm longer than the sepals, making it much longer than that of either of these species. The flowers of these two forms match the description of *B. bodinieri* given by Hatusima (1942), Cheng and Ming (1980) and Luo (1995). This species is found over a large area of China, from Gansu Province south to northern Guangdong Province. This area includes locations where specimens of the two forms in cultivation were collected.

Conclusions

The Hong Kong plants examined by the author are indeed *B. harlandii* Hance. In spite of extensive searching, no specimen of this species was found in cultivation in the United States. Careful study of flower morphology showed that the two different plants in cultivation long identified as this species, including the one recently claimed to be *B. cephalantha*, are actually *B. bodinieri* H.Lév. It is amazing that these plants have been incorrectly identified for nearly a century.

The search for the real *B. harlandii* was successful; however, it was found only near the location where Hance first discovered it over 140 years ago.

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Research Grants

The American Boxwood Society Board of Directors has issued the following guidelines in an effort to assure that investigators receiving research funds from the ABS use the funds as stated in their request and that they send a timely account of that research to the ABS. An investigator applying for grant support from the American Boxwood Society will be required to supply a letter to the Society with the following information:

1. The title of the research project
2. The goals of the project
3. A brief description of the research: techniques, equipment, personnel
4. A biographical sketch of the principal investigator, with emphasis on training or experience relevant to the present request
5. A list of the principal investigator's pertinent publications
6. A statement from the investigator's institution confirming the availability of space and equipment, if relevant
7. The anticipated time to achieve the project's goals

The application will then be sent to each director prior to the board meeting at which the application will be considered.

An Enumeration of Boxwood Offered by the Nursery Industry

Lynn R. Batdorf¹

There are nearly 150 different boxwood cultivars available in the domestic and foreign retail and wholesale nursery industry which demonstrates an exciting and diverse inventory. The boxwood cultivars are enumerated according to the number of nurseries offering them - which suggests its success and popularity. The number of plants sold, a true indication of their success and popularity, is not known. However, the nursery industry, in its competitive and discriminating marketplace, is most likely to offer dependable and distinctive boxwood to maximize the profit from their efforts. Thus the offerings enumerated below may be the best indication of the popularity and success of a particular boxwood.

It is significant to note that *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', English boxwood, which has always epitomized boxwood, barely secured fourth place. Two hybrids, 'Green Velvet' and 'Green Mountain', were number one and five respectively, illustrating the strong demand for cold-hardy selections. Indeed, eight of the top eleven boxwood are well known for their exceptional cold-hardiness. There is a clear interest in variegated boxwood, with three cultivars ranking very competitively between #13 and #16. The boxwood with two or less entries, ranked #83 or lower, should not be quickly dismissed as being less desirable or a poor performer in the garden. Rather, many are very promising plants that have recently entered the marketplace and are available only from a few speciality nurseries.

This list was created by surveying five of the most comprehensive and contemporary boxwood inventory resources. They are: Anderson Horticultural Library October 2004; *Boxwood Buyers*

Guide 5th edition; *RHS Plant Finder 2004-2005*; www.nurseryguide.com October 2004; and www.plantsearchonline.com October 2004. While not appearing very inclusive, to conduct a comprehensive or accurate survey, the five references provide a statistically significant 5,480 entries citing 147 different boxwood. Nurseries, and their offerings, that appeared in more than one reference were not included. Boxwood with identical number of entries were placed in alphabetical order:

- B.* 'Green Velvet' 594
- B. sinica* var. *insularis* 'Wintergreen' 511
- B. sempervirens* 466
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B. sempervirens 'Memorial' 3
B. sempervirens 'Meyers' 3
B. sempervirens 'Nela Park' 3
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B. sinica var. *insularis* 'Pincushion' 3
B. 'Antzam' Antarctica™ 3
B. 'Wilson' 3
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B. microphylla 'Northern Emerald' 2
B. microphylla var. *japonica* 'Trompenburg' 2
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B. sempervirens 'Arborescens' 2
B. sempervirens 'Argentea' 2
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B. sempervirens 'Rosmarinifolia' 2
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B. henryi 1
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B. microphylla 'Helen Whiting' 1
B. microphylla 'Golden Triumph' 1
B. microphylla 'Rococco' 1
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B. sempervirens 'Appalachian Pyramid' 1
B. sempervirens 'Arabesque' 1
B. sempervirens 'Bentley Blue' 1
B. sempervirens 'Bullata' 1
B. sempervirens 'Clembrook' 1
B. sempervirens 'Fiesta' 1
B. sempervirens 'Fleur de Lys' 1
B. sempervirens 'Glaucu' 1
B. sempervirens 'Grand Rapids' 1
B. sempervirens 'Haller' 1
B. sempervirens 'Harry Logan' 1
B. sempervirens 'Hollandia' 1
B. sempervirens 'Joy' 1
B. sempervirens 'Lace' 1
B. sempervirens 'Langley Beauty' 1
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B. sempervirens 'Lawson's Golden' 1
B. sempervirens 'Liberty' 1
B. sempervirens 'Maryland' 1
B. sempervirens 'Meyers' 1
B. sempervirens 'Nish' 1
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B. sempervirens 'Parasol' 1
B. sempervirens 'Ponteyi' 1
B. sempervirens 'Pyramidalis Hardwickensis' 1
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B. sempervirens 'Rungeana' 1
B. sempervirens 'Sentinelle' 1
B. sempervirens 'Verdant Hills' 1
B. sinica 1
B. sinica var. *insularis* 'Sunburst' 1
B. 'Bailey' 1
B. 'Garrisoni' 1
B. 'Goddard College' 1
B. North Star™ 1
B. 'Willowwood' 1

Boxwood Encyclopedia

It is not too late to get your copy of the long-awaited *Boxwood Encyclopedia!*

Books may be ordered from:

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

The cover price is \$110.

American Boxwood Society members may order one copy for \$99.

Anyone may buy 10-19 copies at a 20% discount, or 20 or more copies at a 40% discount.

For all orders, shipping and handling is \$10 per book.

U.S. currency only.

NOTE: Virginia residents must also pay a sales tax of 5% based on the discounted price of the books.

¹Lynn R. Batdorf is the International Cultivar Registration Authority for *Buxus*, who has written three books and over 50 articles on a variety of boxwood topics.

2005 American Boxwood Society Annual Meeting

Package Deal Only \$175!

Lynchburg, VA

May 5 - 7, 2005

Reservations Deadline March 31, 2005

Schedule of Events

Thursday, May 5

- 7:00-8:30 Registration (breakfast on your own)
 8:30-8:45 Welcome to Lynchburg by Jane White, Curator of the Old City Cemetery, Lynchburg
 9:15 Bus Tour Departs Holiday Inn
 9:45-11:00 Ivy Hill Estate tour
 11:15-12:15 Jefferson's Poplar Forest house and grounds tour
 12:15 Box Lunch at Poplar Forest
 1:15 Choice of visiting either D-Day Memorial and one private Lynchburg garden
 -or-
 Two Lynchburg private gardens and Old City Cemetery
 4:30 Return to Holiday Inn
 5:30-7:00 Coctails and Boxwood Auction
 7:00 Banquet and speaker, Dr. James "Bud" Robertson, Jr., "How the Civil War Still Lives"

Saturday, May 7

- 7:15-12:00 Breakfast and Speakers
 7:45-8:15 Dr. Robert Wright, "Deer Damage to Boxwood"
 8:15-9:15 Don Shadow, "Unique Plants and Unique Animals"
 9:15-9:30 Break
 9:30-10:15 White House horticulturists "Goings On at the White House"
 10:15-11:00 Dr. Henry Fierson, trip to Crimea
 11:00 Lynn Batdorf, "The Latest on Boxwood" and signing of new Boxwood Encyclopedia
 12:00 Dismissal; checkout extended until 1PM

Friday, May 6

- 7:00-8:30 Registration
 7:00-9:00 Breakfast
 ABS Annual Meeting
 National Boxwood Trials Panel
 Depart Holiday Inn
 9:15 Tour Harewood at Saunders Brothers, Inc., field plantings of boxwood
 10:00-11:15 Catered lunch at Tye Brook Farms
 See plantings of boxwood cultivars
 11:30-1:00 View Indian artifact collection
 1:15-2:45 Tour Container Nursery at Saunders Brothers, Inc., including propagation areas
 2:45-5:15 Tour of Oak Ridge Estate

You are responsible for your own hotel reservations.

Host hotel is the Holiday Inn Select, downtown Lynchburg. Special room rate for conference is \$72 per night plus taxes. Be sure to mention American Boxwood Society. Holiday Inn Select 434-528-2500

ABS 2-1/2 Day All Inclusive Meeting Package \$175
 By the Day:

Registration (One Time Fee)	\$20
Thursday Morning & Tour Only	\$40
Thursday Evening Events Only	\$35
Friday Morning & Tour Only	\$40
Friday Full Day Dawn to Dusk	\$75
Saturday Only	\$20

Make Payments out to: ABS c/o SBI
 Mail to: ABS c/o SBI, P.O. Box 597, Piney River, VA 22964
 Questions? Call Adrienne Phillips @ 434-277-5455

www.lynchburgonline.com

Poplar Forest is the home that Thomas Jefferson designed and used as his personal retreat. Here he enjoyed “the solitude of a hermit” away from the busyness of Monticello. In 1806, while President, Jefferson began laying the foundation for what is considered one of his most creative and original architectural designs.

www.poplarforest.org

The house that originally stood at **Ivy Hill** burned; the family who built the existing home lived in the log six bedroom, six bathroom “cottage” during the construction phase. Allen Harvey, the current owner, is a real estate entrepreneur who has developed the Ivy Hill estate into one of the premier golf courses and residential sites in central Virginia.

www.ivyhillgc.com

The 26 acre **Old City Cemetery** is a 19th Century arboretum of roses, trees, shrubs and boxwood, and is the oldest public cemetery in Virginia still in use today. Lynchburg was the second largest hospital center during the Civil War, and a portion of the cemetery is known as “The Confederate Section.”

www.gravegarden.org

In nearby Bedford, VA, whose community suffered the severest proportional D-Day losses, the National **D-Day Memorial** is located. The memorial seeks to teach about the scope of the invasion; and the critical importance and significance of D-Day through many mediums. One may also visit the Memorial Store.

www.dday.org

The manor home at the 4,800 acre **Oak Ridge Estate** was built in 1802 and was later acquired by Thomas Fortune Ryan, a Nelson County native who had become one of the ten wealthiest men in the nation. Included in the estate, which at one time employed up to 300 workers, are a formal Italian garden, a rose garden, a rotunda greenhouse, and a railroad station, some of which are under restoration.

www.oakridgeestate.com

The original section of the estate house known as **Winton** was home at one time to Patrick Henry’s mother, Sarah. A copy of her will hangs on a wall inside the **Winton Country Club**. The family cemetery lies in a grove of trees on the adjacent golf course.

Scheduled Speakers

- Dr. James I. “Bud” Robertson, Jr.** - Dr. Robertson, a native Virginian, is one of the foremost authorities on the Civil War. He is the recipient of every major award given in the field of Civil War History. His latest book, *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend*, was a main selection of two major book clubs, and has won eight national awards.
- Don Shadow** - Mr. Shadow is a renowned plantsman and animal collector. He has one of the largest private collections of exotic animals in the United States.
- Robert Sales** - Bob Sales was a member of the 116th Infantry, and was the only survivor from his landing craft at Omaha Beach on D-Day, 1944.

Other Distinguished Speakers

- Dr. Henry Frierson, Jr.** - 2nd VP, American Boxwood Society
Lynn Batdorf - Curator, U.S. National Arboretum
Panel of National Boxwood Trials Participants:
Joan Butler, VA, Mid-Atlantic
Peter Scarff, OH, Midwest
Clyde Weber, PA, Northeast
Charlie Fooks, MD, Mid-Atlantic, Coastal
Todd Lasseigne, NC, Southern
Dale Haney & Wayne Amos - The White House, Washington, DC
Dr. Robert Wright - Professor, Virginia Tech

Most information provided by Paul Saunders

The American Boxwood Society

Lynn R. Batdorf

For nearly 45 years, the American Boxwood Society (ABS) has worked to promote the appreciation and scientific understanding of boxwood. It is appropriate, at this time, to examine how this non-profit organization has worked to achieve its educational objectives and to chart its future plans.

The Beginning

In 1957 the Arboretum Advisory Committee of the Blandy Experimental Farm, a part of the University of Virginia, met in Boyce, Virginia. They discussed the possibility of establishing an organization devoted to the study and promotion of boxwood. After a few years of planning this initiative, an organizational meeting was held on May 2, 1961, with nearly 100 people in attendance. The group voted to establish an organization "devoted to the appreciation, scientific understanding and propagation of the genus *Buxus* L." A constitution was created, the organization was named, and officers were elected, drawing heavily from the Blandy Arboretum Advisory Committee.

The ABS

While the name, American Boxwood Society, might suggest it is a society for American Boxwood (one of the many common names for *Buxus sempervirens*), it is interested in all temperate and tropical *Buxus* species and cultivars. The name of the ABS might also suggest that it is a boxwood society for Americans. While many members live in the United States, anyone living anywhere may join. The international membership of the ABS has become a large and important segment of the Society.

Publications

The Boxwood Bulletin, published

every three months for nearly 45 years, has produced 176 information-packed, advertisement-free journals in an 8½ by 11 inch format. A complete set, consisting of 3,150 pages, consumes nine inches of shelf space on the book case. With well over 1,000 articles, they comprise a myriad of topics that are of interest to boxwood enthusiasts. Topics have included: private and public gardens in domestic and international locations, culture, topiary, pests, diseases, propagation, landscape and design, history, species, cultivars, registrations, taxonomy, research, and plant exploration. The voluminous information within the journals is easily accessed through the use of three indexes, covering a 35-year period from 1961 to 1996.

The Boxwood Handbook: A Practical Guide to Knowing and Growing Boxwood was the first book published by the ABS. After its completion in 1995, the demand for the information in this book was so great it had to be reprinted two years later. It provides accurate and detailed cultural information concerning boxwood to horticultural professionals and gardeners. While this popular, first-of-its-kind book has sold 8,000 copies a comprehensive revision of the book which addresses international boxwood concerns is near completion.

Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia, published in 2004, has been a significant achievement for the ABS. A large work with 343 pages in an 8½" x 11" format, its primary purpose is to identify and discuss 1,047 *Buxus* taxa.

The ABS has also produced several pamphlets. The popular *Boxwood Buyer's Guide*, listing 150 different boxwood in more than 300 nurseries, is in its fifth edition. The *International Registration List of Cultivated Buxus L.*

tallies boxwood registered up through 1986. An updated registration list is planned for 2005.

International Cultivar Registration Authority

In 1968 the Secretary of the Commission for Horticultural Nomenclature and Registration of the International Society for Horticultural Science invited the ABS to accept the responsibility as the International Cultivar Registration Authority for *Buxus*. The ABS accepted and Dr. Burdette Wagenknecht, taxonomist at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, Massachusetts, served as the first registrar. In 1965, he wrote *Registration Lists of Cultivar Names in Buxus L.* documenting 179 cultivars. By 1978, he had registered a total of 194 cultivars. Dr. Bernice Speese, a Professor of Biology at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, served from 1978 to 1985, registering six cultivars. Mr. Lynn Batdorf, Curator of the National Boxwood Collection at the US National Arboretum in Washington, DC, has served since 1985, registering 79 cultivars.

Website

To improve and expand boxwood information to a worldwide audience, the ABS began its website at www.boxwoodsociety.org in 2001. Its information is updated regularly and includes: the Annual Meetings, publications, frequently asked questions, links to related sites, membership information, and officers. This website has received and answered a large quantity of domestic and international inquiries regarding a wide variety of boxwood topics, free of charge.

ABS Memorial Garden

Since 1977 the ABS has maintained a comprehensive exhibition boxwood garden at the State Arboretum of Virginia in Boyce, Clarke County, Virginia. There are at least 120 different, well-labeled *Buxus* species and cultivars. A variety of different companion plants add seasonal interest. The collection serves as a repository for living *Buxus* germplasm. New cultivars are planted as they become available, to keep the collection current.

Research

The ABS has provided funding for a variety of research projects. Recent initiatives include: determining boxwood cultivars that are resistant to leafminer; explorations for and collections of Cuban *Buxus*; preliminary work on Cuban *Buxus* DNA; evaluating conditions to enhance growth on *Buxus* in containers, and mapping the locations of *Buxus* in the republic of Georgia. Completed investigations have included: boxwood decline; growth habits; mineral nutrition; *Mycorrhizal* fungi; propagating and growing disease-free boxwood, as well as root rot and decline. The information obtained from the various research projects has been published in the *Boxwood Bulletin*.

Lynn R. Batdorf is the International Cultivar Registration Authority for *Buxus*. He is also curator of the National Boxwood Collection at the US National Arboretum in Washington, DC. He has written three books, numerous articles, and lectured widely on a variety of boxwood topics. He is an Honorary Life Member of both the European Boxwood and Topiary Society and the American Boxwood Society.

Decca Gilmer Frackelton 1921-2004

With Decca Frackelton's death on December 18, 2004, the American Boxwood Society has suffered an enormous loss. Ever since she joined the Society in 1971, Decca contributed selflessly to every facet of the Society's operations. Starting in 1981, after having joined the Board of Directors in October of 1980, she oversaw arrangements and registrations for a succession of wonderful garden tours. Adding responsibility for Annual Meeting registrations as well, she continued these tasks until 2004. She had also been membership chairman throughout all these years.

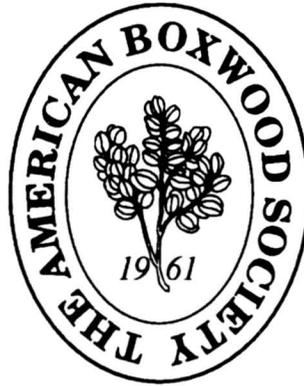
Decca was elected Vice President in 1981 and then guided the Society's development as President from 1986 until 1991. She spearheaded revision of the By-Laws and was always an accurate advisor on all parliamentary matters. In addition to assuming the Presidency in 1986, Decca took on the supervision of the *Boxwood Bulletin*, the signature publication that serves to keep the Society in the public eye and contains reports of all Society scientific accomplishments. She continued to fulfil this vital assignment until the time of her death -- for more than 18 years!

Decca graduated with a degree in Chemistry from Sweet Briar College in Amherst, Virginia and lived in Fredericksburg after her marriage to Robert L. Frackelton. Bob vigorously supported all her efforts, including those on the Society's behalf, acting as photographer, driver and aide until his death in 1989. Decca was foremost a gardener, with a primary interest in azaleas and boxwood. Her many memberships included The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club, the Garden Club of Virginia, the Pennsylvania and American Horticultural Societies, Historic Fredericksburg Foundation and the Virginia Historical Society. She was a long-time Regent of the Kenmore Association (now George Washington Fredericksburg Foundation). She is survived by a daughter, three sons, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

It will be impossible to find anyone to replace this wonderful gardener, editor and gracious Virginia lady. Boxwood was always at the forefront of Decca's life. The Boxwood Society will deeply miss her presence.



Decca G. Frackelton with son, Nick.



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