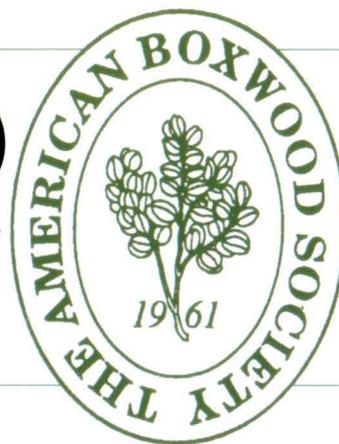


THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN



A quarterly of the American Boxwood Society
devoted to our oldest garden ornamental

Vol. 46 No. 1

July 2006



The British Memorial Garden

The American Boxwood Society

The **American Boxwood Society** is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1961 and devoted to the appreciation, scientific understanding and propagation of *Buxus*. Visit our website at:

www.boxwoodsociety.org.

OFFICERS:

President:

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

Vice-President:

Mr. W. Edward Goode, Jr. Sabot, VA

Second Vice President:

Mr. Kenneth Lee Hahn Califon, NJ

Secretary/Treasurer:

Mrs. Laurie Jamerson Madison Heights, VA

Registrar:

Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf Washington, DC

Directors:

Mr. John W. Boyd III (2007) Roanoke, VA

Mrs. Joan Butler (Life) Winchester, VA

Mr. Walter S. Carell, Jr. (2007) Millington, NJ

Ms. Andrea Filipone (2008) Pottersville, NJ

Mr. Charles Fooks (2007) Salisbury, MD

Mr. Clifford L. Hoffman (2009) Flemington, NJ

Mr. Ross A. Hotchkiss (2008) Richmond, VA

Mr. Dean Norton (2009) Mt. Vernon, VA

Mrs. Karen Rexrode (2008) Aldie, VA

Mr. J. Bennett Saunders (2009) Piney River, VA

PUBLICATIONS:

Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia US\$125

Boxwood Handbook (3rd Edition) \$ 25

Boxwood Buyer's Guide (5th Edition) \$ 10

Int'l Registration List of Cultivated *Buxus* \$ 5

Back issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin* (each) \$ 5

The Boxwood Bulletin Index 1961-1986 \$ 10

The Boxwood Bulletin Index 1986-1991 \$ 5

The Boxwood Bulletin Index 1991-1996 \$ 5

Handling, first class postage and applicable taxes are included in the price for domestic orders. Postage for international orders is actual cost (www.ups.com) plus US\$3.00.

The Boxwood Bulletin (ISSN 0006 8535) is published quarterly by the American Boxwood Society P.O. Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the American Boxwood Society, P.O. Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620.

MEMBERSHIP:

Annual membership from May through April includes four issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*:

Individual	\$35	Sustaining	\$100
Family	\$50	Life	\$500
Contributing	\$75		

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Monetary gifts to the Society are tax-deductible and may be applied to:

General Operations	Publications Fund
Memorial Garden	Research Programs

HOW TO CONTACT US:

For ordering publications, membership, address change, contributions, questions, or submitting an article, please write to:

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

1 Boxwood in Classical Times: Part One	3
2 Maymont Flower and Garden Show	6
3 British Memorial Garden at Hanover Square	9
4 The Question Box Answer	13
5 Managing Boxwoods: The Dos and Don'ts	15
6 Fall Board Meeting September 22, 2005	18
7 Winter Board Meeting January 30, 2006	19

COLUMNS:

Boxwood Artifact	8
Boxwood Bookshelf	17

Be part of *The Boxwood Bulletin*! Submit an article, photograph, question, idea or report of your own experience!

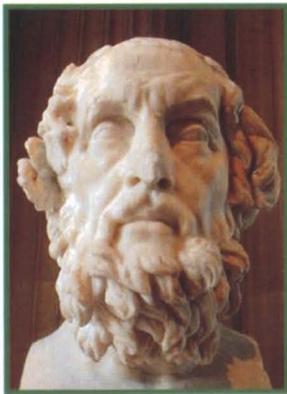
BOXWOOD in CLASSICAL TIMES

By Dr. Mark V. Braimbridge

PART ONE : THE GREEKS

Boxwood was a familiar wood in the Classical era of Greece and Rome and is not infrequently mentioned in the literature. It might be of interest to boxwood enthusiasts, as it was to the author, to explore more fully the contexts in which these quotations lie. Greek authors quoted by modern writers as mentioning the word boxwood are Homer and Theophrastus.

John Claudius Loudon (1783 – 1843) was a landscape artist and encyclopedist, writing an 'Encyclopaedia of Gardening' and starting a vogue for 'Gardenesque', a style of formal garden design that had been out of fashion for a century. Many of the references in more recent boxwood literature are repetitions of Loudon's important chapter in 1838 on boxwood but neither he nor subsequent boxwood authors have given precise references for their quotations and it has therefore not been easy to check their validity or their contexts¹.



Homer in the eighth century BCE wrote the *Iliad*, the epic poem of the siege of Troy by the Greeks, avenging the stealing of the beautiful Helen of Sparta by Paris. King Priam of Troy's son, Hector, was the most prominent of the Trojan heroes and he killed in battle Patroclus, the close friend of Greek Achilles. In his anger Achilles stopped sulking in his tent, came out and killed Hector dragging his body round the

camp, face down, dishonouring him and denying him the funerary rituals so important to both Trojans and Greeks. Priam² then went to Achilles with a mule-wagon laden with gifts in order to ransom Hector's body and give it the proper burial rites:

"They (*his sons*) brought a strong mule-wagon, newly made, and set the body of the wagon fast on its bed. They took the mule-yoke from the peg on which it hung, a yoke of boxwood (**ζυγὸν πύξινον**) with a knob on the top of it and rungs for the reins to go through. This done, they brought from the store chamber the rich ransom which was to purchase the body of Hector."

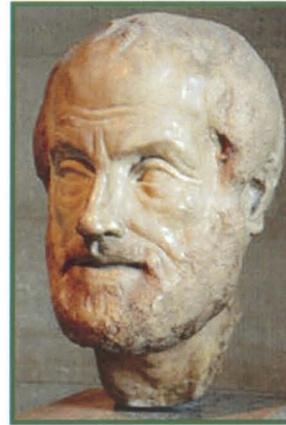


Silver cup showing Priam imploring Achilles to return the body of Hector. (Courtesy, National Museum, Copenhagen).

It was not all that rich a ransom but clearly the best that Priam could do after ten years of siege and it did contain useful clothing for the possibly ragged besieger, Achilles:

"Twelve cloaks of single fold, twelve rugs, twelve fair mantles and an equal number of shirts, ten talents of gold, two burnished tripods, four cauldrons and a very beautiful cup that the Thracians had given him."

πύξος, translated into English script as 'pyxos', and into Latin as '*buxus*', is of course the origin of our 'boxwood' (in America) and 'box' (in Britain).



Aristotle (384 – 322 BCE), the Athenian philosopher and tutor of Alexander the Great (fig. 2), reported, in 'On Marvellous Things Heard'³:

"At Trapezus in Pontus honey from boxwood (**πύξου μέλι**) has a heavy scent; they say that healthy men go mad, but that epileptics are cured by it immediately."

A marvellous thing indeed! The medicinal uses of boxwood are surprisingly often, considering its poisonous propensities, mentioned in classical literature.

In 'On the Universe'⁴, his God, whose 'motionless and harmonious rule' guided the orderly arrangement of heaven and earth, created a selection of trees:

"For vines and date-palms and peach trees, and trees that bear no fruit but serve some other purpose, planes and pines and box trees (**πύξοι**)."

It is interesting to note how similar in concept in the fourth century BCE Aristotle's God was to the Christian God. Also in his description of the legal system of Athens in his *Athenian Constitution*⁵:

"Each juryman has one boxwood ticket (**πινάκιον πύξινον**) with his own name and that of his father on it"

to identify him. Important wooden articles were often of the hard, valuable boxwood at that time. Aristotle was, surprisingly, not mentioned by Loudon.



Theophrastus is quoted by Loudon¹:

"The box tree appears to have been first mentioned by Theophrastus, who ranks the wood with that of ebony on account of the closeness of its grain."

Homer and Aristotle (above) had in fact previously mentioned boxwood and it has not proved possible to locate the Theophrastus ebony parallel – Loudon may have been confusing it with a similar quote by Pliny the Elder – so there is a case for amending this particular Loudon reference. Theophrastus (371–

289 BC) was a philosopher of the Athenian Peripatetic school and was a favourite of Aristotle, becoming his successor at the Lyceum and inheriting Aristotle's garden. His real name was Tyrtamus but Aristotle nicknamed him Theophrastus - 'divine spoken' - because of the grace of his conversation. He is called the 'Father of Botany', because, after the rediscovery of his works in 1483, he was the indispensable authority on the subject in the Middle Ages by virtue of his books on the history of plants, *De Historia Plantarum*, on the causes of plant growth, *De Causis Plantarum*, and his *Calendar of Plants*, in which he places boxwood on October 29th. In the *Historia Plantarum*⁶ he describes its growth characteristics:

"The box (ἡ πύξος) is not a large tree, and it has a leaf like that of myrtle. It grows in cold, rough places; for of this character is Cytora, where it is most abundant. It is largest and fairest in Corsica where the tree grows taller and stouter than anywhere else, wherefore the honey there is not sweet, as it smells of the box (ὄζον τῆς πύξος)."

It would be interesting to know if it still does today! But the depletion of native *Buxus sempervirens* in Europe makes it unlikely. Πύξος (pyxos), somewhat surprisingly with its masculine -os ending, was feminine, e.g. ἡ πύξος, as *Buxus* is today.

Cytorus (Κύτωρα) was a town in Paphlagonia in Turkey on the Black Sea coast. Cytorus is often mentioned as synonymous with boxwood as the mountains behind it, between it and Amastris to the west were covered with the trees, clearly *B. sempervirens* from that particular area, as Turkish boxwood was the main source of European boxwood for centuries. Other Greek authors mention Cytorus. Eustathius⁷ (300 - 377 CE), the Archbishop of Thessalonika in Northern Greece, quoted the Greek equivalent of 'carry coals to Newcastle' as 'carry boxwood to Cytorus' (πύξων εἰς Κύτωρον ἡγάγετε). Strabo mentions Cytorus when describing his travels in Greek and Roman countries⁸:

"The most and the best boxwood (ἀρίστη πύξος) grows in the territory of Amastris, and particularly around Cytorus."

Nicander of Colophon (197 - 130 BCE) was a Greek physician, pharmacologist, botanist and agriculturist. The colour of boxwood was frequently used in ancient times to describe pallor and yellowness. Describing herbal remedies, and in particular the Birthwort (*Aristolochia*



Val d'Orcia in the background of the La Foce garden (www.lafoce.com). Photo courtesy: Morna Livingstone and Benedetta Origo.

clematitis), believed to be helpful in childbirth to induce labour, he said⁹:

"The root of the male in colour resembles the boxwood of Oricus (πύξου Ὀρικίου)."

Val d'Orcia is thought by some to be the Val d'Oricia in Tuscany, but is more likely to be port of Oricus in Illyria (modern Albania). In this quote, Birthwort was recommended as an antidote for viper bites.

And in describing the poison of toads¹⁰:

"Whereas the voiceless one that frequents the reeds sometimes diffuses the yellowness of boxwood (πύξιο χλόον) over the limbs, and sometimes bedews the mouth with a flow of bile."



Strabo (63BCE - 24CE) (a name given to people who squinted) - was a Greek historian and geographer. Apart from Cytorus mentioned above, he quoted the philosopher, Megasthenes, as saying that¹¹:

"The ivy, laurel, myrtle, box-tree (πύξιο), and other evergreens, no one of which is found on the far side of the Euphrates except a few in parks, which can be kept alive only with great care."

It is still not easy today to grow boxwood in that part of the Middle East. The paradises of the Persian satraps had nothing to do with gardens: they were enclosed parks for the preservation of game¹⁵.



Lucian (125-180CE) was a rhetorician, pleading cases in court. He wrote solely, he said, 'to amuse' and he has been called the 'Father of Science Fiction', because he wrote about extraterrestrial travel.

Pyxion (πύξιον) was a tablet of boxwood covered in wax and was a common writing material before the advent of paper, which was not invented in China until 105 CE and did not reach Europe until the 8th century. In his 'Ignorant Bookkeeper'¹² Lucian wrote of Dionysios producing poor tragedies in the annual Athenian drama competitions, which made him procure the wax tablets that Aeschylus used (Αἰσχύλου πύξιον) to improve his results. With no success! Pyxion later became synonymous with a waxed tablet made of any wood.

Pyxis (πύξις) was a small box or casket, which was usually made of boxwood because of the wood's suitability for carving small articles. Some believe that this resulted in the giving of the name pyxos (πύξος) - and in Latin

Buxus – to the wood from which it was made. Lucian¹³ persuaded a maid to let him watch through a crack in the door her mistress stripping naked, opening a large box containing numerous small ones (πολλὰς πυξίδας) and anointing herself with the contents in order to turn herself into a bird! A voyeur's excuse perhaps?

Pausanias (115 – 180 CE) was a doctor from Greek Asia Minor who travelled all over Greece for 20–30 years in around 160 CE describing the country. He was particularly interested in religious art and architecture. At one of the treasuries in Olympia, the site of the first Olympic Games which started as a small local festival there in 776 BCE, he noted the statues and ceremonial shields¹⁴:

“There stands a boxwood image of Apollo with its head plated in gold.
(ἄγαλμα πύξινον Ἀπόλλωνος)”

The image was sculpted by Patrocles. Boxwood was considered suitable for carving important and valuable objects then as later.

In conclusion, boxwood (πύξος) appeared in Greek literature as wood for fashioning hard, tough and long lasting articles by Homer, Aristotle and Pausanias. Its pale colour made it used as a metaphor for pallor by Nicander. Theophrastus and Strabo mention its geographical distribution and its cultivation problems in dry climates. Its characteristic smell, liked by some, disliked by others, is noted by Aristotle and Theophrastus, with small boxwood caskets and waxed boxwood writing tablets quoted by Lucian.

There is little in the literature describing Greek gardens. The Greeks evidently had little taste for landscape beauty, with plants mentioned primarily for their practical or commercial properties¹⁵. Still it is easy to exaggerate their utilitarian tendencies: if the supply of plants was regulated by commercial principles, the demand itself testified to the love of them for their own sake.

The Greeks then were familiar with boxwood wood but almost certainly not with its horticultural possibilities.

Dr. Mark Viney Braimbridge spent his childhood in Nairobi, Kenya, where his father was a surgeon and he was educated in Kenya, England and South Africa. After serving in the East African Artillery during World War II, he qualified as a doctor in London and in 1956–7 worked as a Research Fellow with Dr. Frank Gerbode at Stanford University Hospital, which was then in San Francisco, helping to establish the first open heart surgical unit there. He became consultant cardiothoracic surgeon at St. Thomas' Hospital in London, starting their open heart unit, and in the laboratory developed the “St. Thomas' cardioplegic solution” which became widely used throughout the world to maintain the heart still, bloodless and safe, while lesions were corrected.

On retirement, he worked as a farm laborer, bookkeeper and truck driver for his wife Elizabeth, who had set up, with the help of the ABS, Langley Boxwood Nursery, the first specialist boxwood nursery in Europe. With Countess Véronique Goblet d'Alviella of Brussels, he founded the European Boxwood and Topiary Society, which celebrates its decennial Annual General Meeting this year. He has four children and lives in North London.

References

1. Loudon J.C. *Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum* 1838: 99; 1334
2. Homer *Iliad* 24: 268
3. Aristotle *De Mirabilia* 18
4. *ibid. De Mundo* 6
5. *ibid. Athenian Constitution* 63: 4
6. Theophrastus *De Historia Plantarum* 3: 15; 5
7. Eustathius *Commentary on the Iliad & Odyssey* 88:33
8. Strabo *Geographia* 15: 1; 58
9. Nicander: *The Poems and Poetical Fragments* ed. Gow ASF, Scholfield AF. Cambridge University Press 1953: *Theriaka* 516
10. *ibid. Alexipharmaka* 579
11. Strabo *Geographia* 12: 3; 10
12. Lucian *Adversus Indoctum* 15
13. *ibid. Asinus* 12.
14. Pausanias *Description of Greece: Elis II.* 6:19; 6
15. *A Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities* eds. Smith W., Wayte W., Marindin G.E. John Murray, London 1890

Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to the staff of the British Library, the British Museum and the Institute of Classical Studies Library of London University. Particularly grateful thanks are due to my classmate, Christine Rennie, without whose skilled scanning of classical literature this article could not have been written.

All illustrations (except as noted) are courtesy of Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia.



Cultivar List – Maymont

February 2006

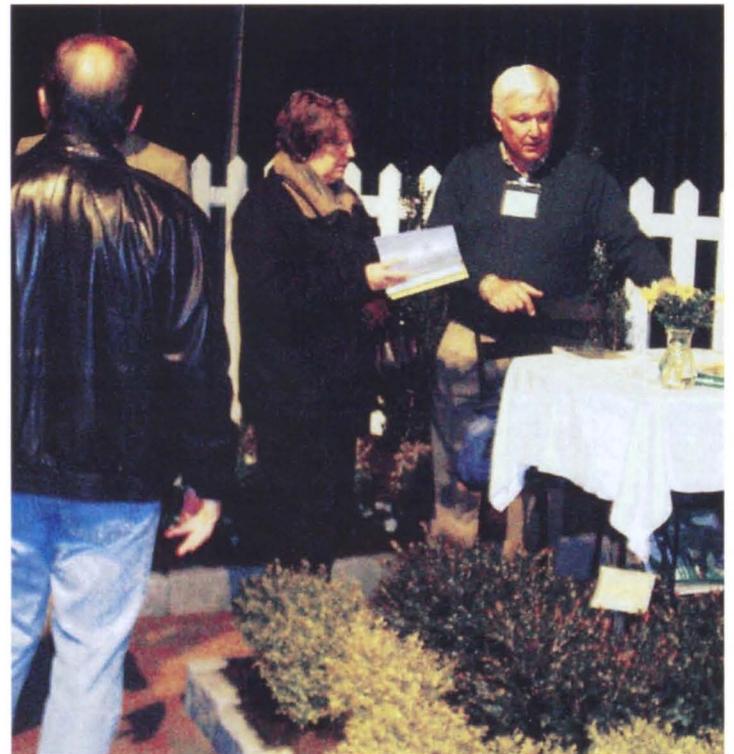
- 1 *Buxus* 'Green Mountain'
Green Mountain Boxwood
- 2 *Buxus sempervirens* 'Elegantissima'
Elegantissima Boxwood
- 3 *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Justin Brouwers'
Justin Brouwers Boxwood
- 4 *Buxus microphylla* 'Grace Hendrick Phillips'
Grace Hendrick Phillips Boxwood
- 5 *Buxus sempervirens* 'Dee Runk'
Dee Runk Boxwood
- 6 *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Green Beauty'
Green Beauty Boxwood
- 7 *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Morris Dwarf'
Morris Dwarf Boxwood
- 8 *Pyrus calleryana* 'Cleveland Select'
Cleveland Select Flowering Pear
- 9 Urn with *Buxus* 'Green Mountain'
Green Mountain Boxwood
- 10 *Buxus sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley'
Vardar Valley Boxwood
- 11 *Buxus sempervirens*
American Boxwood
- 12 *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'
English Boxwood
- 13 *Buxus sempervirens* 'Jensen'
Jensen Boxwood
- 14 *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Jim Stauffer'
Jim Stauffer Boxwood
- 15 *Buxus* 'Glencoe'
Chicagoland Green Boxwood
- 16 *Buxus sempervirens* 'Fastigiata'
Fastigiata Boxwood
- 17 *Buxus sempervirens* 'Rotundifolia'
Rotundifolia Boxwood

The ABS at the Maymont Flower & Garden Show

by Ross Hotchkiss

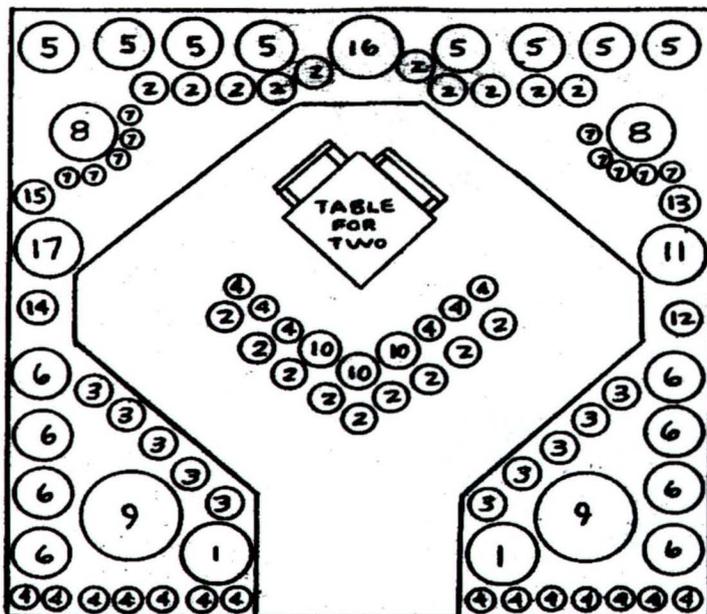
The American Boxwood Society (ABS) was invited to participate in the 2006 Maymont Flower and Garden Show with a Landscape Design exhibit. This show, held in the Richmond Convention Center in Richmond, Virginia, has been held annually since 1990 to benefit Maymont, a 19th century estate in Richmond.

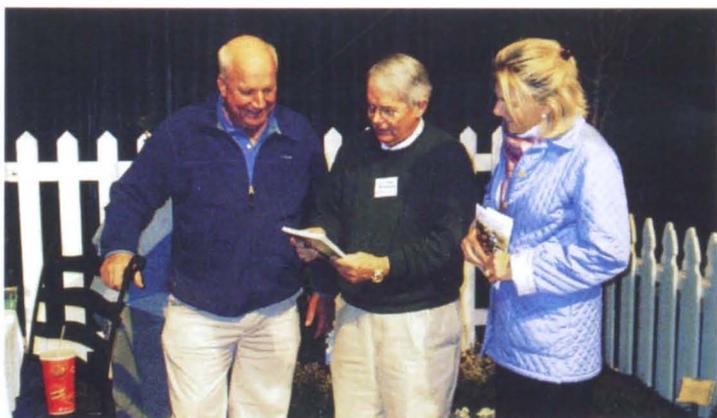
Planning began with Saunders Brothers Nursery, which generously provided both plants and design for the ABS display. This support proved to be so



successful that the exhibit won a 2nd Place Red Ribbon in the Landscape Design competition. The Ribbon was prominently displayed during the preview party and the four day show.

The installation of the 20' by 20' exhibit began on Saturday, February 4th with granite block curbing and a triangular brick walkway. The theme for the show, "Table for Two", was creatively incorporated into the design prepared by Laurie Jamerson of Saunders Brothers Nursery, who also serves as the ABS Secretary. Her design included a very clever numbering system which identified each of the fifteen boxwood cultivars on display. This display was unique in the Show by featuring a visual aid, enabling visitors to identify each cultivar by its correct botanical name, which included





an accurate description of its mature size.

Saunders Brothers staff arrived Monday, February 6th with all the plant material including 100 pansies with flowers which were solid red, white or blue in color, and a beautiful wrought iron table with two chairs. A linen table cloth, two china plates and two wine glasses, with folded linen napkins on each plate were added. One plate had a pink carnation and an imitation diamond engagement ring in an opened velvet box. During the judging of the exhibit, the officials appreciated the beautiful boxwood plants. However, in the post-judging report, several were very impressed with the ring and velvet box. This feature was incorporated at the suggestion of Laurie Jamerson.

The booth was well staffed through its four days, February 9th to 12th, by seven Officers or Board Members: John Boyd Jr., Walter Carell, Jr., Dr. Henry Frierson, Jr., W. Edward Goode, Kenneth Lee Hahn, Ross Hotchkiss and Laurie Jamerson.

Snow began falling late on Saturday afternoon over most of Virginia, with only 2" to 3" on Sunday morning. However, Northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C. suburbs recorded 8" to 10" of snowfall, preventing Lynn Batdorf from joining us on Saturday and Sunday. Fortunately, the weather improved when the show opened at 9am on Sunday with a steady crowd until closing.



As a non-profit exhibitor in Landscape Design Competition, no sales of *The Boxwood Handbook* and *The Boxwood Encyclopedia* were

permitted. Therefore, a copy of each book was placed on display with full color order forms provided for interested individuals. Additionally, over 2,000 copies of the descriptive design of our exhibit, which also contained a membership application for the ABS, and 100 copies of the January issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, were distributed. Visitors were encouraged to join the ABS. Those indicating their desire to join were given a copy of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. Our goal was to recruit 50 new ABS members.

The experience was enhanced by a number of special friends who stopped to visit the exhibit. They included: Dean Norton, Horticulturist of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, who was participating as a Chief Exhibition Judge; Paul and Tatum Saunders, of Saunders Brothers Nursery in Piney River, Virginia; Carter Frackelton, daughter of the late, and past ABS President, Mrs. Robert Frackelton; and Peter Larson, the son of the late Swede Larson. The daughter of the late Helen Whiting, editor of *The Boxwood Bulletin* from 1963 to 1977, also stopped by the exhibit. The Honorable Tayloe Murphy, Virginia's recently retired Secretary of Natural Resources, and Mrs. Murphy also visited the ABS exhibit. The ABS webmaster, Jeff Miller, came by and took several photos for possible inclusion in the society website, www.boxwoodsociety.org. Laurie Jamerson brought her husband, Clay, Sunday afternoon. The president of the Maymont Foundation, Jim Starkey, and his wife, Sandy, visited the exhibit along with two new ABS members, Herb and Liz Carden.

The show closed at 4pm Sunday, almost one week to the hour, when the Saunders Brothers Nursery truck arrived to unload all of the plant material they provided, including a table and chairs. The Maymont Show was an exciting opportunity to promote both "Man's oldest ornamental" and our 45-year-old society to the estimated 14,000 attendees. A brief description of the ABS exhibit and the Maymont Show was presented at the ABS Annual Meeting in Memphis, May 2006.

The ABS, with great appreciation, acknowledges the following individuals for their efforts in producing such a successful exhibit: Mr. W. Edward Goode for managing all of the logistics with the Maymont staff; Laurie Jamerson and Saunders Brothers Nursery for their assistance in designing and stocking the exhibit. Board members staffed the exhibit for a combined total of over 150 hours, including the set-up and take-down period.

www.boxwoodsociety.org
 American Boxwood Society Maymont Display Key
 Plants and Design Courtesy of:
 Saunders Brothers, Inc. / Piney River, Virginia
 Stonework and Paving Courtesy of:
 Homescapes, Ltd. / Richmond, Virginia

Boxwood Artifact

This Compass and Sundial was manufactured using solid boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) by FA Pizzala Optician. It was manufactured at 19 Hatton Garden, London in the 19th century. It measures 60 by 80 mm. Instructions for its use are in the lid, and read, "Slip the notch in the brass arm over the stud in the lid and put the compass on a level place in such a position that the North point of the needle corresponds with the mark inside the compass box the shadow of the cord will show the time." "The Sun Dial shows solar or apparent time but a Clock should be set to equal or mean time. In the equation table (seen in the lid) the difference is stated in minutes. F means that the clock should be faster than the Dial, S slower."

Unfortunately the silk gnomon (fixed into position with pegs) for using the sundial is missing. The compass locks down when lid is closed.

While many were made in the 19th century, this antique compass and sundial is quite rare today. Using boxwood wood to construct measuring instruments was frequent, as it was highly prized due to its hard, dependable, and long lasting qualities.



British Memorial Garden at Hanover Square, New York

“The British Memorial Garden is established close to ground zero and in an area of the city with significant historical associations with the United Kingdom. Its creation is intended to demonstrate the continued commitment of the British Community to the city we all love and contribute in a small but meaningful way to the revitalization of Downtown Manhattan.” – Sir Philip Thomas, British Consulate-General, New York.

On May 10th 2005 work began on the three quarters of an acre site which will contain the British Memorial Garden at Hanover Square, New York. The garden was conceived as a positive response to the dark days surrounding September 11, 2001. It is helping to revitalize one of Lower Manhattan’s most historic areas, celebrating the long-standing ties between the United Kingdom and the United States, whilst honoring the 67 British victims of the World Trade Center attacks.

The British Memorial Garden is intended both as a living memorial and as a place of solitude, comfort and reflection; a truly British garden drawing from the many wonderful elements of the historic gardens of Britain. The Garden, under the royal patronage of HRH Prince of Wales, will be a gift to the people of New York; a place for the community to enjoy and experience the tradition of friendship that links the two nations.

The Landscape Architects

In April 2003, the renowned British landscape architectural team of Julian and Isabel Bannerman were selected to design the British Memorial Garden at Hanover Square in Lower Manhattan. In an invitational competition, the Bannermans were chosen for the project because of the originality, fluidity and aesthetics of their submitted design.

The British Memorial Garden is the Bannermans’ first major American commission, and their design is reminiscent of the classic British flower garden, featuring yew hedges, topiaries and formal flowerbeds. The garden, a gift from the British Community in New York to the people of New York City, represents their continuing commitment to New York, will contribute to the revitalization of the Wall Street area and act as a place of remembrance and contemplation.

This husband and wife team has worked together on garden and building restoration and design for over twenty years. They have twice been gold medal winners at the Royal Horticultural Society

Chelsea Garden Show (1993 and 1994) and designed grounds and outbuildings for such noted locations as Syndmorton Court, Waddensdon Manor, Leeds Castle, Houghton Hall and Knepp Castle. Their work is known and highly esteemed throughout the United Kingdom and abroad.

In 2003, Isabel and Julian Bannerman were awarded a Royal Warrant by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales for their outstanding work for the British Royal Family over the past several years, most notably for their ongoing work at Highgrove in Gloucestershire.

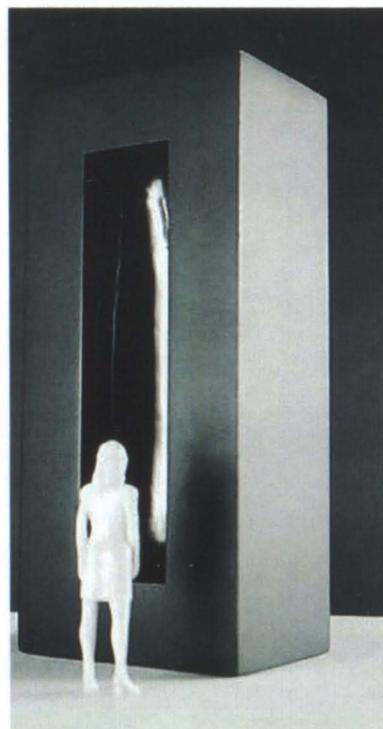
Working together with New York landscape architects Mathews Neilsen, construction is underway with a target date for completion in summer 2006.

Sculpture

In April 2004 the Trust announced that Anish Kapoor had won a juried competition for the British Memorial Garden Unity sculpture. The work will anchor the Park at the south end offering the British community a place to hold annual Remembrance Day observances.

The judging panel includes such art experts as the Earl of Albemarle, John Elderfield (Museum of Modern Art, NYC), Patrick McCaughney, Amy Meyers (Yale Center for British Art) and Teresa O’Malley (National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

The sculpture is an object measuring approximately 20 feet high by 8 feet wide and 5 feet deep. It is a block of black granite into which a vertical chamber is carved of approximately 8 feet tall by 3 feet wide and 2 1/2 feet in depth. The inner



A model of Anish Kapoor's monumental sculpture to unity for the British Memorial Garden at Hanover Square.

The massive block of black granite will stand nearly 20 feet high.

chamber is polished to give a mirrored surface. The chamber reflects light so as to form a column, which hovers, ghost-like, in the void of the stone. This very physically-monolithic object then appears to create within itself an ephemeral reflection akin to an eternal flame.

Groundbreaking Ceremonies

On Tuesday, May, 10, 2005 ground was broken for the new British Memorial Garden being built in Hanover Square in Lower Manhattan. The groundbreaking ceremony symbolizes the start of site construction for the new New York City garden.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held in the presence of Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne, the Princess Royal. She presented the City of New York with a collection of heirloom seeds from Hampton Court Palace in Great Britain, including marigolds featured in Henry VIII's garden in the 16th century as well as William III's Privy Garden during the 17th century.

On hand for the groundbreaking were speakers Commissioner Adrian Benepe, New York Department of Parks & Recreation, British Consul-General Sir Philip Thomas KCVO, CMG, and British Memorial Garden Trust president Camilla G. Hellman.

Also helping in the groundbreaking were Manhattan Borough Commissioner William T. Castro, project manager John Kinnear, the Earl of Albemarle, British Consul Patrick E. Owens, OBE, and British Memorial Garden Trust vice president Rodney N.M. Johnson, MBE. A group of some sixty supporters of the British Memorial Garden project were on hand to celebrate the historic occasion and to raise a glass to the future of the project. Among those offering toasts were Commissioner Benepe, Sir Philip Thomas and Charles Wolfe, whose British wife died in the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

Landscape Architects Design Objectives

The Hanover Square designs will be reviewed by the NYC Parks Dept., NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, the local Community Board, and other agencies and organizations deemed necessary. The design reflects all the best elements of British gardens and landscape design. A truly British garden, drawing from the many wonderful elements of the historic gardens and stately homes of Britain, with perhaps the integration of planters, benches, and native plants and flowers, that could thrive in New York, to add to the British flavor and authenticity. Iron railings are being considered in the design to separate the planting from the traffic, and to provide a British ambience.



The square will be able to accommodate large groups on various occasions, such as Remembrance Day. The movement and circulation of pedestrians throughout the square was considered. The comfort of the people using the square is provided by including approximately 30 benches, lighting, a drinking fountain, and telephones. A water feature will be a component of the design. The entire square will be repaved, the selection of material and pattern should be part of the scheme presented, including the curbing. Flagpoles to display UK & USA flags are being considered in the design.

One of the most prominent features of the British Memorial Garden will be the unique use of Scottish stone throughout the garden. Stone quarried in two councils will be used; the dark luminous gray of Caithness stone and the creamy white limestone of Morayshire.

The elements of the garden will be representative of all parts of Great Britain, including:

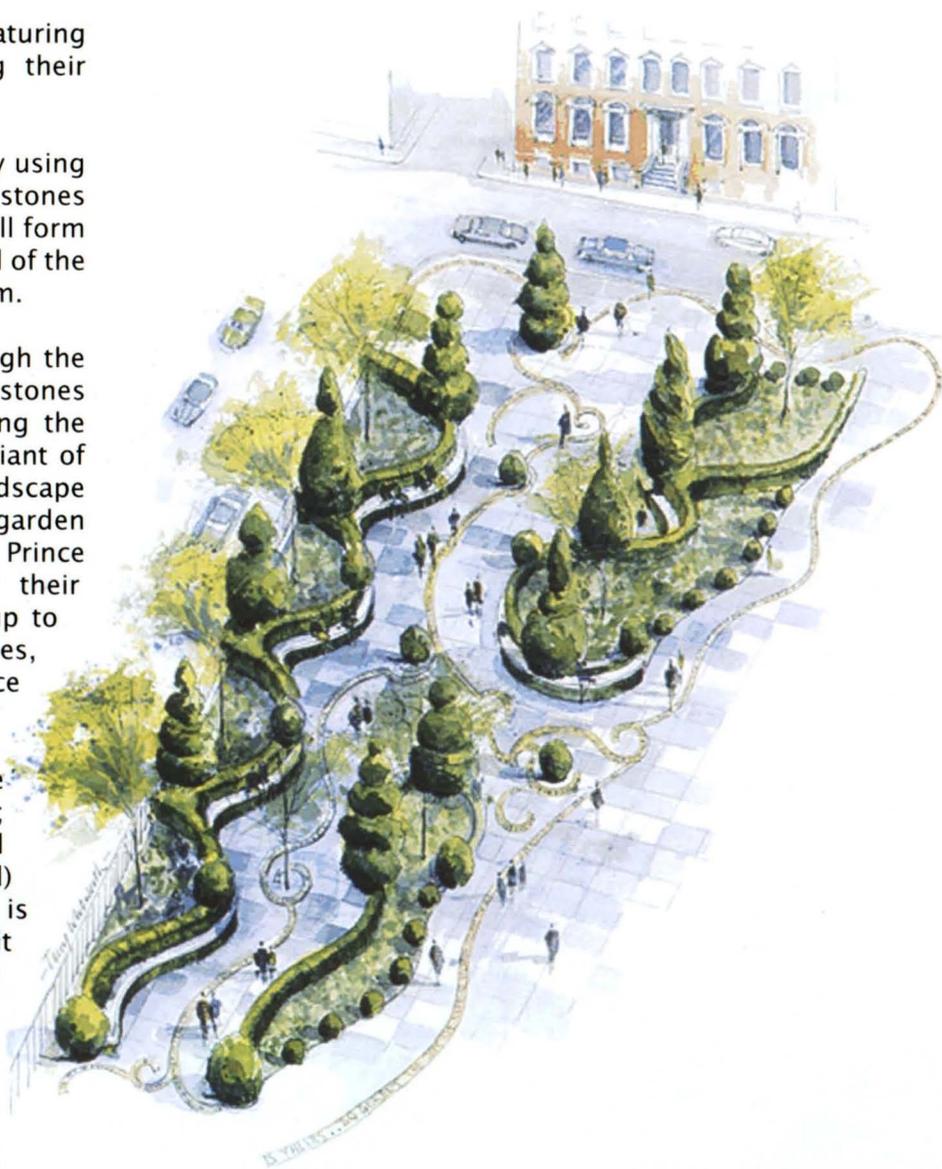
- Iron bollards at the end of the garden featuring the shields of the Societies, symbolizing their support of the Garden project.
- An outline map of Great Britain created by using 240 interlocking light-colored Morayshire stones brought from the wilds of Scotland. They will form a carved ribbon imprinted with the names all of the counties and councils of the United Kingdom.
- A winding snake of water will flow through the center of the Garden, splashing over the stones down the natural slope of the site, echoing the overall design treatment. It's a modern variant of a curving Welsh stream called a rill. The landscape architects who were chosen to lay out the garden have just completed a formal design for Prince Charles' estate. But here they have let their imagination run wild. Topiary sculptures up to sixteen feet high will have whimsical shapes, like ice cream cones and chess figures, Alice in Wonderland style.
- The British victims of the WTC attack will be commemorated in the finials of the railings; gilded obelisks representing England (rose), Scotland (thistle), Wales (daffodil) and Northern Ireland (flax). Although this is a memorial garden, there'll be no explicit reference to the World trade bombing but Simon Verity has carved 67 different finials – decorative fence tops – as a tribute to the 67 Britons who died. One supporter of the garden is Charles Wolfe. His wife, a native of Wales, worked on the 97th floor of Tower One. From his own perspective, Wolfe said,

"It should have had names, but delicately done, not in your face – names and what county they came from but in a situation like this, I leave it to the designers because they have done such a good job. But it's very personal to me. I have no grave for my wife."

- The Caithness stone will be used for the main paving of the garden walkways. When light strikes this stone, it sends off an interplay of colors. It is also the stone used to pave the Royal Mall in Edinburgh.

And, of Course, Boxwood

The inventiveness of the British Memorial Garden can be seen in fiber optic lights coming out from boxwood hedges and curving benches and plantings of simple as well as formal flowers. The color scheme is cool white, pink, blue, and lavender colors which will remain the same throughout the seasons.



In Conclusion

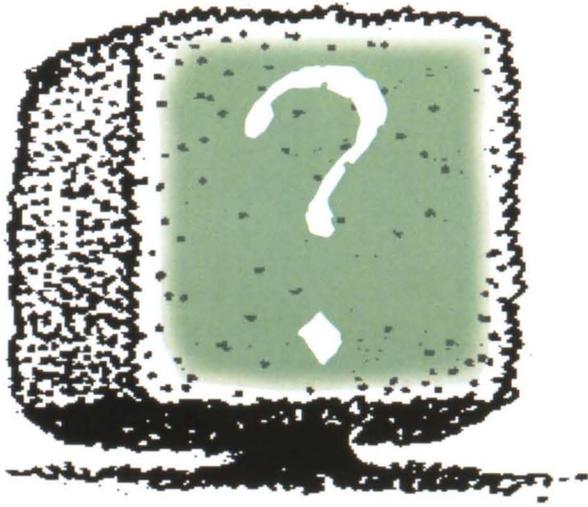
The total project budget consists of approximately \$6 million, based on \$3.5 million for design and construction, \$1.0 million for the Unity sculpture design and construction, and a further \$1.5 million for a maintenance endowment. The British Memorial Garden is tucked away in an area with British roots – aptly called Hanover Square in 1714 after King George 1. Walk down Wall Street, take a right on Water Street and you'll come upon it. This oasis in the canyons of financial high-rise buildings will officially open next summer. The garden is expected to be completed in summer 2006 and officially opened in early 2007.

For more information, visit the British Memorial Garden website at:

www.britishmemorialgarden.org

Taken on October 24, 2005, from India House Club, this photograph shows the construction progress with most of the concrete sub-slab being poured, and most of the underground infrastructure installed. Work on laying the Caithness and Morayshire paving stones continues and will eventually cover all concreted areas.





The Question Box

Q: Boxwood labels and information promise that boxwood will grow slowly, but approximately how much growth should I expect? Will I even see it reach the promised 7 feet tall? When I was a child, in Virginia, it seems that four years made no difference to the boxwood bordering our yard.

I just planted three shrubs in the semi-arid desert (Idaho) and I'm wondering if they will grow here and if so how much. The plant label states it is, "Dwarf English Boxwood", *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'.

A: English is the most popular of all boxwood. They do grow slowly, having an annual growth rate averaging between 3/4" and 1 1/4" per year under good growing conditions. The key phrase here is "good growing conditions" which implies a variety of circumstances. For you, this includes adequate precipitation. On average, they require nearly one inch of precipitation each week, or about 40 inches per year. Without regular watering any boxwood, and many other plants, would have a challenging task of surviving in such an arid climate.

Q: I am told that my soil is alkaline. How will this affect the plant if I do nothing to change the soil condition? If the plant is toxic to deer, what about my cats – any danger? What should I expect for a growth rate?

A: The optimal soil pH for boxwood is between 6.5 and 7.2. Boxwood in its native habit are commonly found growing in calcareous soils with a soil pH as high as 8.3 to 8.6. By definition an alkaline soil is defined as a soil with a pH value of 7.1 or higher. While you don't indicate the degree of alkalinity, there

is no need to "change the soil condition" unless your soil is above 7.8, in which case sulfur applications may be appropriate. There are other factors such as soil type which directly influence recommendations to adjust soil pH up or down.

Yes, the leaves of boxwood produce an alkaloid that is toxic, even fatal to deer. Unless your cat regularly eats boxwood foliage, there is no reason why both couldn't peacefully coexist.

The typical annual growth rate for boxwood varies tremendously from one-quarter of an inch to nearly one foot per year. This all depends on which boxwood you have as well as a variety of site and cultural conditions.

Q: I would appreciate information on proper pruning of boxwood and feeding of them. Also, information on treating diseases of boxwood. I am a Master Rosarian of the American Rose Society with a 200 shrub rose garden, Although I teach rose culture on the internet, I know little about boxwood. I have about 20 of them planted in my yard. Please provide me with information on these attractive landscape plants.

A: These important and frequently asked questions required detailed explanations. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide a complete explanation here. Very briefly, proper pruning depends on the type of boxwood as well as the desired results. The best pruning is a thinning.

Regarding "feeding" we prefer the word "fertilizing". It is perhaps a little-known fact that true plant food is carbohydrates, while natural or chemical fertilizers contain nutrients. Regardless, it is inappropriate to make any fertilizer recommendation without first knowing a few characteristics about the soil which include: existing nutrient level, the type of soil and the soil pH. There is not, nor should there be, a regular or annual fertilizing schedule for boxwood or indeed for any plant.

Finally, diseases are best treated by properly growing a plant to avoid the initial infestation and thus the need to treat a diseased plant. Very simply stated, English boxwood can avoid disease by proper annual thinning. All boxwood can avoid root diseases if planted in well-drained soils and where water can not collect.

These brief guidelines and are not intended to be complete – they require additional explanations before they can be relied upon. Also more information regarding your site specific condition would prove invaluable. For additional guidance, please consider reading the *Boxwood Handbook* available from the

American Boxwood Society at www.boxwoodsociety.org.

Q: Something seems to be eating the leaves on some of my American boxwood. It cuts the leaves about a third up from the base of the leaf. New growth does come back. Do you have any idea on the cause and cure for the problem? Thank you in advance.

A: While an interesting, if unusual condition, there is not enough information to provide reliable recommendations. Please send a small branch with leaf exhibiting the condition you describe in a sealed plastic bag. Upon examination, appropriate recommendations can be made.

Q: I built an architecturally beautiful house with a dream of a formal garden of English boxwood. I planted over 300 boxwood at a cost of over 20K, and lots of labor. Unfortunately they are dying in large number and no one has given me the right advice. I have read many of the articles on the web, have reduced water, increased water, applied anti-fungus, but my dream is being shattered. Can you help me rescue the remaining and hopefully rebuild all?

A: Unfortunately the plight of your boxwood is all too common, but the scenario is easily avoided. There are many site-specific conditions which may be at work. However, there are some important but overlooked conditions that are frequently responsible. In no particular order they are: over-fertilization, improper pruning or lack of thinning (a type of pruning), over-watering, particularly if an irrigation system wets the boxwood foliage; the plants are planted too deep, the mulch is too thick or there is no mulch at all, the soil pH is too low. In new construction the soil has poor structure (drainage). Evaluate your site for each of these conditions. For additional guidance, please consider reading the *Boxwood Handbook* available from the American Boxwood Society at www.boxwoodsociety.org.

Q: I would like to purchase some boxwood plants. Can you tell me the prices? Thank you.

A: The American Boxwood Society (ABS) is a non-profit organization devoted to education, preservation and promotion of boxwood. The ABS does not regularly engage in selling boxwood. The only exception to this is the boxwood auction which is conducted as a part of the ABS Annual Symposium.

The ABS has produced several editions of a *Boxwood Buyer's Guide*. The most recent edition,

updated in 2000, has nearly 100 different types of boxwood available from over 300 commercial sources.

Q: I moved into my house about three years ago and there are about 30 miniature boxwood around the edge of my yard. I would like to remove these plants, but I would rather donate them. Do you have any suggestions about who would be able to take them?

A: There are a variety of charitable organizations which may accept such a gift. Consider contacting your local park system, church, or Habitat for Humanity. Arrangements regarding digging and transporting may vary and should be discussed in full prior to a final agreement.

Q: My wife and I are planning to do some landscaping with boxwood. Realizing that there are many varieties we have not decided which ones we will choose. Our criteria is that they must be suitable for the Detroit area climate and available in a three to four foot height, if that is possible. We realize that a taller boxwood would be more expensive than smaller plantings but we are using them for a fence with an iron gate for a courtyard.

Can you direct us to a supplier in the Detroit area? If not, somewhere in close proximity to our area? We are not against driving, but would like to limit our travel to Michigan, Ohio, or Indiana.

A: There are many different cultivars of boxwood which would easily satisfy your requirements. Most boxwood candidates which would act as a fence, tend to grow quickly and upwards. Locating plants three to four feet tall should be quite easy. The hard part is determining which of the hundreds of different types of boxwood you prefer and will work best for your requirements.

For authoritative guidance in selecting the best type of boxwood, consider reading the *Boxwood Handbook* available from the American Boxwood Society at www.boxwoodsociety.org.

Additionally, once you've made a selection, consider the *ABS Boxwood Buyer's Guide*. The most recent edition, updated in 2000, has nearly 100 different types of boxwood available from over 300 commercial sources to aid you in locating the best firm to provide your boxwood.

Managing Boxwood: The Dos and Don'ts

Kathy van Mullekom

Boxwood is a beautiful shrub – until one shears it, and shears it some more. Over time, all that shearing transforms boxwood into a geometric shape of green veneer with a dead center.

“This was sheared, because you can see the repeated action inside the plant,” says Virginia extension agent Jim Orband. To show what he’s talking about, he pulls back branches among American boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens*, in the sunken garden at the historic Nelson House in Yorktown, Va.

Mr. Orband recently used those boxwood to show volunteers at the Nelson House how to prune the plants selectively so new foliage will fill in. Pruned properly, those fatigued boxwood will return to their glory.

Here’s what he taught the volunteers:

Get to know your plant. It’s easy to confuse yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria*, with common boxwood because the two look so much alike. Each has nice small evergreen leaves. But, there is a distinguishing difference – look at the leaves and how they grow. Holly has an alternate leaf pattern, meaning they appear singly on alternate sides of the stem, not in pairs.

Boxwood, on the other hand, grows with an opposite leaf pattern, meaning leaves are arranged in pairs along a stem.

Use the proper tool. Bypass pruners make clean, sharp cuts on many kinds of wood, including boxwood stems. Slant your pruning cut so water sheds off the stem, away from the remaining leaf bud. Disinfect your pruning tools between plants, using rubbing alcohol, Listerine or Lysol. Place the alcohol in a plastic container with cotton balls; retrieve a cotton ball periodically to clean the pruning tool and then simply return it to the container with the alcohol when done. Virginia Polytech Institute and State University does not recommend household bleach to disinfect any pruning tools because it’s corrosive and potentially harmful to the user.

Create “windows.” Identify browning or yellowing foliage and selectively remove it; prune back about six to eight inches so side buds (lateral) can emerge and develop. This type of pruning removes the tip-end bud (terminal), causing growth hormones in the plant to push out the side buds. Do this throughout the plant to create “windows”, where light and air can penetrate the plant.

Take it to the ground. In some instances, it’s best to use a pruning saw to remove old, thick branches that are diseased, dying or dead. Use the thumbnail test to determine if plant wood is healthy; scratch the bark with your nail, going down the stem until you find green wood.

Here, Mr. Orband takes dying trunks back to the base of the plant. One can use this method of pruning to allow a “bay window” of light to enter the plant. Eventually new foliage will emerge at the base of the plant and along the sides of nearby stems.

When removing an entire trunk cut at the collar, or the swelling, where a branch joins the main trunk. One does not need to use any wound dressing paint, glue or tar on freshly cut limbs or branches, according to Virginia Cooperative Extension; research shows wound dressings trap harmful fungi and bacteria. Woody plants naturally seal wounds within 12 hours to prevent pathogens from doing damage.

Creating these big windows of light may seem drastic, but it’s a cultural practice that improves the plant’s overall health and good looks, Mr. Orband said.

Once you get boxwood rejuvenated, avoid snipping only the outer edges.

Helpful hints

What is boxwood? *Buxus*, an evergreen shrub, has both fast- and slow-growing cultivars. Some can be fussy, but the new Asian hybrids are tougher, says Les Parks at Smithfield Gardens in Suffolk, Va.

What does boxwood need? Semi-shade, well-drained soil.

How can you use boxwood? Once considered a formal, colonial-type shrub, boxwood is now being used in traditional and contemporary landscapes. It can be used in foundation plantings, alone or grouped with other plants. It can be used to define or separate areas, to outline a patio, in planters or as a sculpted topiary piece.

What is shearing? It's the uniform removal of all or part of the latest flush of plant growth. During the first few years after planting, boxwood do okay with shearing because it forces additional branch development. Beware, though, continuous shearing produces a thick outer shell of foliage that creates dense shade on the interior branches, causing the plant's interior to die.

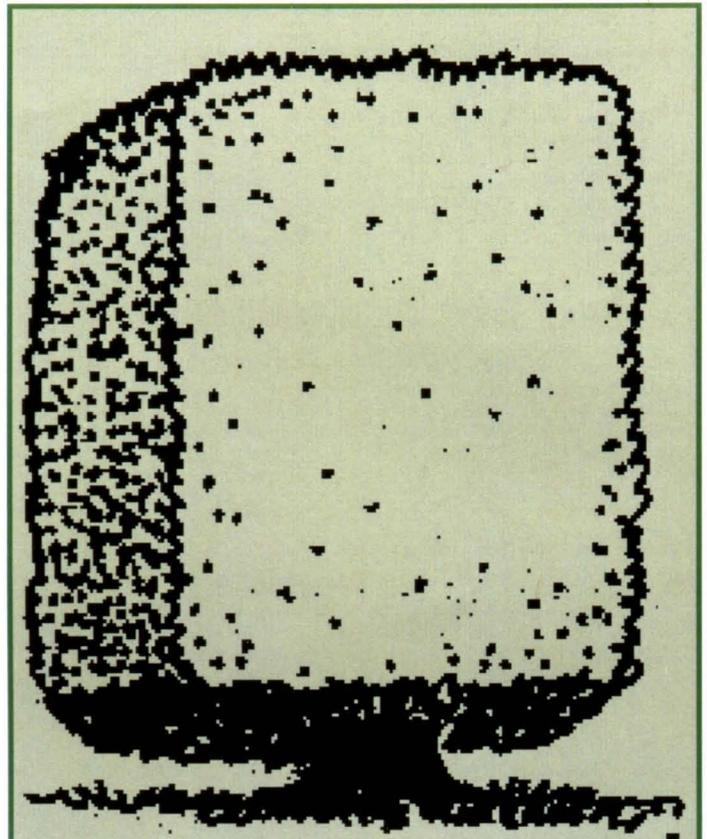
What is pruning? It's a highly recommended cultural practice that directs and controls plant growth, so maximum air and light reach inside the plant. Prune to remove diseased, injured, dying or dead branches; also prune to remove unwanted branches, especially if creating a special shape, such as a topiary or espalier. Boxwood are best pruned, rather than sheared, to maintain a natural shape and to keep the plants at a preferred size.

When to prune? February to mid-March to remove any branches killed during winter and to eliminate older branches that prevent light from getting to inner stems where new growth can emerge and fill in the plant.

Why is the boxwood foliage discolored? Winter damage shows up as foliage that is reddish-brown, yellowish, grayish-green or no color. Water loss and winds also cause these symptoms. Selectively prune any severe damage to allow the plant to recover.

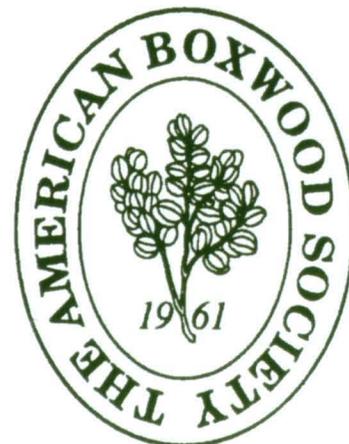
Kathy Van Mullekom gardens about one acre in York County, Va., where most of her plants are meant to attract bees, butterflies and birds. She often picks plants for their multi-season interest. Kathy is a master gardener and ongoing horticultural student. Her gardening philosophy: There is no right or wrong way to garden. Garden to enjoy it, creating a place of beauty and relaxation in your little corner of the world.

Reprinted courtesy of *Daily Press*
www.dailypress.com/features/home/garden/



"This plant was once used extensively in China and Korea to make sturdy crates & boxes for storing jewelry & precious gems of the Mandarin empress. European explorers, hearing the English translation of the Chinese for Boxwood, assumed it meant that the plant grew in the shape of a box, and their subsequent effort at making this plant conform to this description led to the formal gardens and low hedges of the 18th and 19th century Europe."

Forrest Bauernhof



❖❖❖ The Boxwood Bookshelf ❖❖❖

The Boxwood at Stratford Hall was written by A. G. Smith, Jr., in 1966. It was published by The Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation in Stratford, Virginia. This 6" by 9" hard-bound book has 64 pages, six black and white photographs and ten line drawings.

In December 1960 Mr. Smith, a consultant on landscape problems, was asked to identify the maladies of the boxwood at the birthplace and boyhood home of Robert E. Lee, Stratford Hall. In 1933, a beautiful formal boxwood garden was completed using "...only the very best plants..." However, between 1933 and 1960 "hundreds of them died. The losses continued until all of the large dwarf box in the oval and a similar number along the central walk of the East Garden were gone. This represented a loss of about 60 large dwarf plants and a great many others of various sizes."

During the 1930's, the boxwood were cleaned, watered, weeded, sprayed, transplanted, mulched, inspected, fed, had snow removed, irrigated, all of which was repeated several times. In the late 1940's, the boxwood were once again replaced, watered, mulched, etc. In 1948, the boxwood were believed to be infected with nematodes and an intensive and comprehensive treatment was undertaken. This effort continued until 1954 when 14 beds were prepared for planting thousands of bulbs and pansies. First the sod was removed, then the soil was removed "...to a depth of 12 inches..." which was amended with compost, garden loam, bone meal and fertilizer and placed back in the beds and planted. By 1956, a report indicated, "the condition of our boxwood is most serious." In 1959 it was recommended, "we should commence the mulching as soon as possible. This heavy four to six inch mulch should go on everything...Place it on deep and neatly...A heavy deep mulch is the answer." The boxwood entered a tragic period of decline.

When Smith first visited in 1961, he found, "...the boxwood in the East Garden looked bad. Most of the plants were marred by a brown or reddish color...it became obvious that all of the

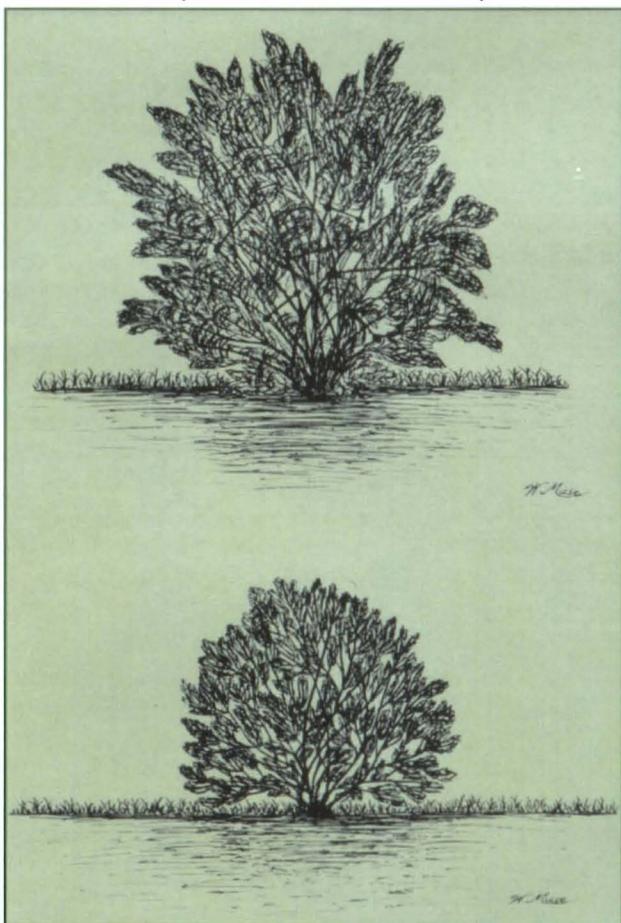
boxwood was very weak and a number of the plants were practically dead." By 1965, "...the new box was growing normally and even the old, much-abused plants appear to be recovering."

Smith understood the simple, yet significant, principles of horticulture and knew how to apply them correctly to boxwood. His astute and correct identification and analysis of past and current boxwood problems makes for interesting, even exciting, reading. The readable book is a comprehensive and progressive report on the 35-year history of boxwood care at Stratford Hall.

The amusing quotations and chapter headings are fun and provoke additional and reflective thought. One states, "Advice from the Experts (It is better to know nothing than to know what ain't so)". Another states, "The Nematode Scare (An error is the more dangerous in proportion to the degree of truth which it contains)".

Printed in only one edition, this 40-year old guide is difficult to obtain. It only occasionally appears on the shelves of rare book dealers. This is most unfortunate - it is one of my favorite books.

Lynn R. Batdorf



Top--Weak tree box held together with wires, which ultimately kill the branches.

Bottom--Same plant after thinning and shortning the weak branches.



Fall Board Meeting Minutes,

September 22, 2005

The fall meeting of the Governing Board of the American Boxwood Society was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by President Clyde Weber on Thursday, September 22, 2005, at the Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce, Virginia. In attendance were: Clyde Weber, President; Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Jr., First Vice-President; Edward Goode, Jr., Second Vice-President; Laurie Jamerson, Secretary; McHenry Stiff III, Treasurer; Lynn R. Batdorf, Registrar; Donna Williamson, Editor and the following directors: John Boyd III, Joan Butler, Walter S. Carell Jr., Andrea Filippone, Charlie Fooks, Lee Hahn, Clifford L. Hoffman, and Ross A. Hotchkiss. Absent was director Dr. Gary Richardson.

Secretary Report: Laurie Jamerson distributed the minutes from both the March 2005 Board Meeting and the May 2005 Annual Business Meeting. A vacancy on the Governing Board, created by Decca Frackelton's death, for a term expiring in 2006, had been filled first by Joan Butler, and then by Karen Rexrode, after Joan's election as Honorary Life Board Member. Eddie Goode motioned to accept the minutes as corrected, it was seconded by Andrea Filippone, and approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report: McHenry Stiff presented an accounting report which listed a summary of transactions from May 1, 2005 to September 20, 2005. The total assets were listed as \$68,552.11, while the total liabilities were \$25,900.00, providing a net worth of \$42,652.11.

A letter of appreciation from the Board was sent to Mr. Paul Saunders for his support and financial contribution toward the expenses of the 2005 annual meeting. As a result of this support, no costs for the 2005 annual meeting were incurred by the ABS.

There remain 64 copies of the collectors' edition of *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. The Publications Fund will cover the printing costs associated with the third edition of the *Boxwood Handbook*.

Memorial Garden Funds: It was suggested that a plaque be purchased for the bench in the Memorial Garden using proceeds received in honor of Decca Frackelton. The plaque would include both her and her husband, Robert's, names. Joan Butler inquired about the availability of funds to hire a seasonal worker for maintenance tasks in Memorial Garden. Donna Williamson offered to bring her students to the Garden to weed boxwood seedlings.

Edward Goode requested that separate account balances be maintained in order to improve accountability within the various funds. It was noted

that the majority of income is received in the form of checks, yet the resulting deposits weren't clearly established in the reports. MOTION: Edward Goode moved that the Treasurer maintain an accounting of the funds when they are transferred between the various accounts. The second was made by Lynn Batdorf and the motion was approved.

Clyde Weber discussed the need to improve the membership envelopes prior to the May 2006 renewal period. Methods to attract younger individuals to join the ABS by creating a membership drive were discussed.

John Boyd inquired about the last Bulletin non-paying members would receive. Donna Williamson noted the high printing costs and suggested that the ABS continue the practice of not sending the Bulletin to non-paying members. Walter Carell suggested that an invitation letter to re-join the society be sent prior to removing their name from the mailing list for non-payment.

MOTION: Edward Goode moved that letters be written and sent to those with recently expired, and those with one and two year expired, memberships. Additionally, the practice of sending a Bulletin to those with an expired membership should be discontinued immediately. The motion was seconded by Charlie Fooks. Discussion followed. Henry Frierson moved to amend the motion by stating that a final copy of the Bulletin, the October 2005 issue, be sent. It was noted that there are up to 200 members in this category. President Weber requested the motion be tabled until membership committee could review this topic in depth. The motion was withdrawn.

Registrar/Publication Report: Lynn Batdorf circulated a galley proof of the third edition of the *Boxwood Handbook*. It was noted that this updated edition is significantly improved and includes additional chapters and photographs. The retail price of \$25 will include domestic first class postage. *The Boxwood Handbook* is expected to be available by November 1. Donna Williamson will put notice in October issue of the *Boxwood Bulletin* regarding the availability of the *Boxwood Handbook*. Clyde will ensure that appropriate information regarding its availability and purchase is added to ABS website. Dr. Schumann's translation, of Dr. Mathou's Ph.D. thesis on *Buxus* written in French, is progressing well and Lynn Batdorf expects the \$6,000 contract to cover the entire thesis as well as some additional translations of Latin. Also, he is participating in a European consortium to exchange *Buxus* cultivars; in this regard he will be sending 41 boxwood cultivars to Europe.

Laurie Jamerson asked the Board to consider the sale and distribution of Mr. Paul Saunders latest book, *Boxwood: Choosing the Best* - National Boxwood Trials Report 2006. Mr. Saunders proposed that the ABS retain all profits after publication costs,

approximately \$7.00 each, are recovered. The suggested retail price of \$25 is post paid. MOTION: Laurie Jamerson motioned that the ABS distribute *Boxwood: Choosing the Best* and retain any profit from sales once publication costs are recovered. The second was made by McHenry Stiff and the motion was passed.

Boxwood Bulletin: Donna Williamson presented some suggestions to improve the *Boxwood Bulletin*. She proposed that the *Boxwood Bulletin* have more useful, hands on information, offer a "For Sale" section, seed exchange and insert postage-paid postcards asking readership if they would like an E-mail edition which would be password-protected to access. Lee Hahn requested a survey about demographics for readers and advertisers. Lynn noted that the September *Boxwood Bulletin* was superior to all past issues. Discussion ensued regarding potential cost savings by changing the printer and using different paper for the *Boxwood Bulletin*. MOTION: Edward Goode moved that the ABS use a new printer for the *Boxwood Bulletin*, and that the final product be compared with recent issues in an effort to obtain a periodical with acceptable paper quality while investigating methods to reduce publication costs. The second was made by Lynn Batdorf and the motion was passed.

Clyde Weber reported that the *Boxwood Bulletin* is reaching new audiences and generating renewed interest in boxwood and the society. Donna Williamson asked if it would benefit the Board to receive a priority copy of the *Boxwood Bulletin* prior to its distribution to the general membership. Edward Goode noted that distributing advance copies to the officers and board members was an excellent idea.

Policy Manual: Edward Goode distributed both a printed copy and a CD containing a draft of the ABS Policy Manual for review. He requested input and plans to finalize the policy by spring 2006. Joan Butler noted that the summary of the By-Laws had been prepared by Decca Frackelton years ago and needed to be revised. Discussion ensued on a variety of other topics such as a tri-fold information sheet which could be distributed to garden centers as a low cost promotion regarding the benefits of both the ABS and boxwood. Joan Butler was unanimously voted to be an Honorary Life Board Member. Discussion followed for the recruitment of Karen Rexrode to serve out the remaining period in the vacant director position. MOTION: Clyde Weber made a motion to accept the nomination by Joan Butler for Karen Rexrode as ABS director. The second was made by John Boyd. Discussion followed. It was determined that Karen Rexrode was not an active ABS member. Donna Williamson offered a gift membership to Karen Rexrode to remedy her status. Clyde Weber asked for a vote on the nomination and the motion passed.

Research Committee: Henry Frierson reported that Professor McKade had submitted one draft article regarding two boxwood collection expeditions in Russia translated into English, detailing *Buxus* from the perspective of a forester. Henry Frierson, Charlie Fooks and Tomasz Anisko spent three weeks in Greece and made 90 collections. They observed a large diversity in plant habit and size relative to altitudinal changes. Five botanists participated in order to assist the expedition. In the planning stages every forest district in Greece was contacted to determine if any populations of *Buxus* were present. No leaf miners were ever observed on any *Buxus* at any location throughout the entire expedition. The Greek cooperators had not thought of boxwood as a garden ornamental. Through their association with the US explorers they gained an appreciation of their native flora and the collections were divided among all the participants so that the foresters could begin to cultivate their *Buxus*.

There are no proposed research initiatives. The Greek foresters presented one proposal which is pending consideration until more details can be provided. It was noted that some DNA sequence analysis is being conducted with boxwood and Charlie Fooks would like to submit cultivars for evaluation. The primary investigator is located in Maine and has conducted DNA sequence analysis for Dr. Tomasz Anisko from Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. Henry Frierson noted that a budget proposal would need to be reviewed prior to considering the DNA sequencing. It was suggested that Charlie Fooks contact Tomasz Anisko to obtain more information. Henry Frierson had received a inquiry from Tomasz Anisko who is seeking possible repositories for the *Buxus* germplasm collected from the 2002 expedition to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia and the Ukraine. This germplasm is currently being maintained at Longwood Gardens. Joan Butler noted that Blandy Experimental Farm had, in the past, given approval to add planting space, and this approach should be considered.

Communication Committee: Lee Hahn is considering new initiatives for the *Boxwood Bulletin*, the ABS website and distributing a flyer as methods to promote both the Society and boxwood. Details will be provided at a later time.

Membership Committee: Ross Hotchkiss reported on both business card and stationery printing costs, suggesting that the board order small quantities allowing for changes without having a large surplus of outdated stock. A membership recruitment letter is being prepared. Ross Hotchkiss offered to donate the first order of stationery and envelopes to ABS. He also asked each board member to submit the names of two potential members so that he could contact them directly. MOTION: Clyde Weber moved to add McHenry Stiff and Edward Goode to the membership

committee to assist Ross. The second was made by John Boyd and the motion passed.

New Business

2006 Annual Symposium: Edna Hoffman has been planning the 2006 Memphis meeting. Clyde Weber has received a draft of program itinerary. Registration of participants and promotional items such as a brochure and informational packets were discussed. A separate insert for the *Boxwood Bulletin* along with a membership renewal card was discussed. It was noted, with general consent, that an insert into the *Boxwood Bulletin* has not been an effective promotional technique in the past. The October issue of the *Boxwood Bulletin* will feature the Memphis program.

2007 Annual Symposium: Lynn Batdorf is coordinating international participation; it will be held in the Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. area. It will feature programs of interest to the members of the French chapter of the European Boxwood and Topiary Society. Lynn Batdorf reported that the program will be a five-day event. He plans to present a tentative itinerary and schedule at the next board meeting.

Board Meeting: Clyde Weber proposed the next board meeting be held in March 2006.

MOTION: Edward Goode move to adjourn the meeting. The second was made by John Boyd and the motion passed. The meeting concluded at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Jamerson
ABS Secretary

Winter Board Meeting Minutes, January 30, 2006

The winter meeting of the Governing Board of the American Boxwood Society was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by Dr. Henry Frierson, Jr., on Monday, January 30, 2006, at the Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce, Virginia. In attendance were: Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Jr., First Vice-President; Edward Goode, Jr., Second Vice-President, Laurie Jamerson, Secretary, Lynn R. Batdorf, Registrar; and the following directors: John Boyd III, Joan Butler, Walter S. Carell, Jr., Kenneth Lee Hahn, Clifford L. Hoffman, and Ross A. Hotchkiss. Karen Rexrode attended the afternoon session. Those absent were: Dr. Gary Richardson, Andrea Filippone, McHenry Stiff III, Clyde Weber, Donna Williamson and Charlie Fooks.

The First Vice-President, Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Jr., conducted the meeting. He began by acknowledging the many contributions of the ABS President Clyde Weber, Treasurer Mac Stiff, and the *Boxwood Bulletin*

Editor Donna Williamson. He gave his personal thanks and the appreciation of the ABS to these individuals who had submitted their resignations.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Butler stated that she was the only person on the signature card at bank and proposed that the First Vice President, Second Vice President and Secretary be added. She also requested that the same three signatures be added for entry to the safety deposit box. MOTION: Ross Hotchkiss moved to accept proposal as stated by Joan Butler. The second was made by John Boyd and discussion followed. Walter Carrell preferred that the current President, Secretary and Treasurer (when appointed) have signature rights. The motion was passed as originally stated.

Ross Hotchkiss explained that Joan Butler had been diligently organizing all the treasurer's recording method and accounting. She has been keeping the Finance Committee fully informed of all her various actions. Regarding the keys for the safety deposit box, one will be held by Joan Butler and another by Henry Frierson. All certificates of deposit will be placed in this box. Appropriate signatures were obtained for authorization to access the safety deposit box.

2006 Annual Symposium: Laurie Jamerson mailed out brochures on January 1, prior to the postal rate increase (donated postage). Those attending the 2005 Annual Symposium would receive notification of the 2006 event. Discussion followed on various details. They were: Laurie Jamerson suggested a daily rate fee of \$50. Edna Hoffman believed that local members in Memphis would be interested in the garden tours, but not the riverboat and banquet. Henry Frierson inquired if the speakers would receive an honorarium. Edna Hoffman inquired if the honorarium would be pecuniary or a courtesy copy of the *Encyclopedia* or *Handbook*. Lee Hahn suggested a plaque for each speaker, while a copy of the *Handbook* might be preferred by the homeowners who were opening their gardens for the tours. Henry Frierson inquired about arrangements to have a Board meeting during the symposium, preferring not to have a separate meeting in April. There was a consensus not to meet in April but on Wednesday evening, May 10, prior to the beginning of the symposium.

John Boyd observed that auction items should be small as many participants would be flying. Les Hoffman asked for clarification regarding the maximum size of objects for auction. Ross Hotchkiss commented that items should be less than four feet in length. It was noted that Betty Weber had created an afghan for the auction, and that Brent Heath offered gift certificates which could be redeemed for flowering bulbs. Additionally, Laurie Jamerson will donate a quilt and Les Hoffman offered boxwood bolos to auction or for sale. Lee Hahn suggested that the auction could be promoted by placing an inventory of auction items in

the April issue of the *Boxwood Bulletin*.

2006 Maymont Flower and Garden Show: Eddie Goode and Ross Hotchkiss are hard at work on various items which include: program handouts (at no cost to the ABS), 100 extra copies of the *Boxwood Bulletin* to distribute with a membership brochure, a diagram of plants in the exhibit, a condensed boxwood cultivar information sheet supplied by Saunders Brothers.

The goal of participating in this show is to recruit 50 new members. Discussion followed. Walter Carell inquired if assistance was needed for setting up the exhibit and about the height of materials being used in the design. Laurie Jamerson presented a design plat and explained its various features. The question was raised if there were to be posters or large photographs of boxwood included in the exhibit.

Eddie Goode advised the Board that the exhibit had, or lacked, certain features in order to adhere to various rules established by the Maymont organizers. Worker passes will be mailed to anyone volunteering to staff the exhibit during the four day event. Henry Frierson thanked Ross Hotchkiss and Eddie Goode for all their hard work in putting together this superior exhibit.

Research Report: Henry Frierson wrote a report describing his boxwood collection expedition experience in Greece which will appear in the April issue of the *Boxwood Bulletin*. Longwood Gardens had excess *Buxus* germplasm from the 2002 expedition which were given to Blandy Experimental Farm and are currently maintained in the greenhouses. Bob Arnold, of the Blandy staff, transported these rare boxwood plants from Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania to the Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce, Virginia.

Discussion began with Joan Butler indicating the ABS had permission to expand the Memorial Boxwood Garden in the past; however this policy may be reviewed with the new Director at Blandy. Walter Carell volunteered to create a design for the Russian boxwood collection to present it to Blandy staff later this year. Henry Frierson noted that the expedition has collected 300 plants thus far!

Lynn Batdorf indicated that Dr. Schumann's translation of Dr. Mathou's French PhD thesis on *Buxus* species is continuing for two more years.

Boxwood Bulletin: Donna Williamson has resigned as Editor, but will finish her year commitment and complete the April issue. Discussion ensued. It was decided to create a Publication Committee to produce future issues of the *Boxwood Bulletin*.

Registrar/Publication Report: Lynn Batdorf

outlined the publishing history of the *Boxwood Handbook*. That is, in 1995 4,000 copies were printed at a unit price of about \$3.20. In 1997, 4,000 copies of a second edition were printed with a unit cost of about \$3.50. In 2005, 4,000 copies of the third edition had a unit cost of \$7.87. He detailed the technical improvements in the third edition. The retail price was assigned to consider the 40% discount required for book store sales. All proceeds from the sale of the *Handbook* and *Encyclopedia*, belong entirely to the ABS. They are deposited into the Publications Fund and will be used to support reprinting expenses and support for the boxwood species book. The limited edition embossed *Handbooks* have a unit price of US\$45, the regular edition US\$25 postpaid.

Communication Committee: Lee Hahn is the chair with Eddie Goode, Lynn Batdorf, Andrea Filippone and Walter Carell serving on the committee. The February 1, 2006 issue of *American Nurseryman* will have an advertisement featuring the *Handbook*, *Encyclopedia* and *Boxwood Bulletin*. This national trade journal has a circulation of 15,000. By omitting "The" from The American Boxwood Society, the ABS will be listed at the top of advertisers' list. This ad was funded entirely by Lee Hahn.

Lee Hahn asked for suggestions to consider other venues for effective advertising to increase the visibility of the Society. Discussion ensued, noting the need to reach other demographics and consider advertising in different publications. Providing information is essential in obtaining national visibility. Ads should appeal to all prospective boxwood enthusiasts both amateur and professional.

Henry Frierson reflected how he first learned of the ABS, by reading an article on Blandy and the ABS which appeared in *Southern Living*.

Lee Hahn is planning a press release for the 2007 Annual Symposium in Washington, D.C. area. In addition to printed material, Lee is considering radio, for example WOL in New York. Ralph Snodsmith broadcasts a weekend gardening program. He is working on an interview broadcast in June 2006. Joan Butler and Lynn Batdorf were asked to participate in the broadcast.

There was general discussion concerning various scenarios for advertising in the *Garden Week* publications sponsored by other states; having advertisements appear in different publications at the same time, perhaps April or May; promote homes with boxwood landscaping for "free" advertising or demonstrating how a modest home can be upgraded with proper landscaping that would include boxwood.

Treasurer's Report: Henry Frierson began with a note of thanks to the Financial Committee (Eddie

Goode, Joan Butler and Ross Hotchkiss) for taking on the responsibility of financial record keeping.

Joan Butler provided a status of funds for all accounts. The duties of Treasurer will be managed by Ross Hotchkiss (Membership Chairman), John Boyd (mailing and distributing publications), Joan Butler (collect mail, deposit checks and forward information to Eddie Goode).

MOTION: Henry Frierson moved to accept the recommendation of Joan Butler that the outstanding debt owed by Borders Books be written off. Motion seconded by Eddie Goode. The motion passed.

Henry Frierson requested that the minutes include the appreciation and thanks from himself and the board for McHenry Stiff for his contributions to the ABS during the years he served as Treasurer. MOTION: Ross Hotchkiss moved to nominate Goode as Treasurer. Seconded by Walter Carell. In the discussion, Henry Frierson indicated that Eddie Goode can maintain his position as Vice President while serving as Treasurer. The motion passed.

Ross Hotchkiss discussed the advantages of having the ability to accept donations of stock certificates. MOTION: Ross Hotchkiss moved that a stock account be opened at Scott & Stringfellow in Richmond, Virginia. The motion was seconded by Eddie Goode. Motion passed.

Membership: Ross Hotchkiss distributed new membership envelopes which would be used at the Maymont Flower and Garden Show. He then discussed the Giving Letter campaign results which had a 25% response rate donating an amount equal to \$10 per member. Eddie Goode paid all mailing costs associated with this initiative. Discussion focused on potential allocation of the funds without a final determination. Henry Frierson offered his congratulations for conducting such a successful campaign.

Other discussion addressed the significant discrepancies that exist between the membership list maintained by the previous Treasurer and the mailing list maintained by the previous Editor.

Nominating Committee: Henry Frierson thanked Les Hoffman for his past years of service in which he chaired this committee. Lee Hahn was asked to fill this chair position until the May elections. Current staffing of this committee requires one board member and two non-board members. Only by a majority vote of the membership to modify the by-laws can the staffing of this committee be changed to three board members.

Henry Frierson proposed an amendment to the by-laws whereby any could be amended by majority vote of the Board of Directors. Henry will submit

proposal to the Editor for the April issue to satisfy the 30 day prior notice requirement to the membership to vote on the proposal at the Annual Symposium in May.

New Business:

Eddie Goode is progressing with the ABS Manual. He needs input from the entire board to make this document as accurate and complete as possible.

Joan Butler indicated the need for a new file cabinet to store excess copies of the Boxwood Bulletin. It was recommended that a maximum of 100 copies of each issue be kept in the archives. John Boyd indicated he will be responsible for proper storage, as he will currently be responsible for mailing publications.

Future Annual Symposium sites were discussed. Henry Frierson suggested the Carolinas, with Eddie Goode suggesting either Raleigh or Winston-Salem areas. Joan Butler suggested that Todd Lasseigne at the North Carolina State Arboretum could be contacted as a potential host. Discussion focused on scheduling North Carolina for 2008 and South Carolina for 2009. Eddie Goode stated he would contact members in the Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill area as well as Greensboro, North Carolina.

MOTION: Eddie Goode made a motion to 1) add the International Registration Authority to serve on the Executive Board.

Lee Hahn indicated that he will investigate the feasibility of scanning the past issues of the *Boxwood Bulletin* onto CD's as an efficient method to archive this historical and technically important information concerning boxwood and the ABS.

MOTION: Eddie Goode moved that the board adjourn. Walter Carell provided the second. The motion passed and the meeting closed at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Jamerson
Secretary

If you have not sent in your ABS dues for 2006-2007, this will be your final issue. Please renew your membership now so that you do not miss any future issues.

Publications:

Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia
\$110/\$99 member discount on one copy

Boxwood Handbook (3rd Edition) \$25.00

Single issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*—\$5.00

Indexes:

<i>The Boxwood Bulletin</i> —1961-1986	\$10
<i>The Boxwood Bulletin</i> —1986-1991	\$5
<i>The Boxwood Bulletin</i> —1991-1996	\$5

Virginia residents add 5% sales tax.

Shipping and handling is \$10 for *Encyclopedia*.

Publications may be ordered from:

ABS Treasurer
PO Box 85
Boyce, VA 22620-0085

Boxwood

An Illustrated Encyclopedia

Lynn R. Batdorf

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

BOXWOOD HANDBOOK

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO KNOWING AND GROWING BOXWOOD

THIRD EDITION

LYNN R. BATDORF

Officers:

President:

Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Jr.
602 Lyons Court
Charlottesville, VA 22902-4312
(434) 971.2033

First Vice-President:

W. Edward Goode, Jr.
1307 Old Logan Road
Sabot, VA 23103-2724
(804) 784.2234
egoode@chchomes.com

Second Vice-President

Kenneth Lee Hahn
203 Old Turnpike Road
Califon, NJ 07830-3308
(908) 832.2204
khahn@corus.jnj.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Laurie Jamerson
430 ~~424~~ Winesap Road
Madison Heights, VA 24572-6137
(434) 929.1165
laurie@saundersbros.com

Registrar:

Lynn R. Batdorf
U.S. National Arboretum
3501 New York Avenue NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-1958
(202) 245.5965
batdorfL@ars.usda.gov

Directors:

John Boyd III

2612 Churchill Drive
Roanoke, VA 24012-2621
(540) 362.0064
Boxwood11@verizon.net

Joan Butler

107 Cottage Drive
Winchester, VA 22603-4273
(540) 665.5879

Walter S. Carell, Jr.

47 Old Mill Road
Millington, NJ 07946-1420
(908) 647.5499 *(908) 337-4350*
wscarellinc@aol.com *(cell)*

Andrea Filipone

P.O. Box 292
Pottersville, NJ 07979-0292
(908) 879.4066
fliptend@aol.com

Charles T. Fooks

31106 Johnson Road
Salisbury, MD 21804-1631
(410) 749.5075
c_fooks@hotmail.com

Clifford L. Hoffman

56 Bonnell Street
Flemington, NJ 08822-1306
(908) 782.8866

Ross A. Hotchkiss

8916 Alendale Road
Richmond, VA 23229-7702 *Cell:*
(804) 740.3408 *(804) 310-6412*
Hotchkss@aol.com

Dean Norton

Mount Vernon Ladies Association
P.O. Box 110
Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0110

Karen Rexrode

40413 John Mosby Highway
Aldie, VA 20105-2827
(703) 327.6413
Karen@windyhill.net

J. Bennett Saunders

Saunders Brothers, Inc.
2717 Tyebrook Highway
Piney River, VA 22964-2301
(434) 277.5455 ext. 15

