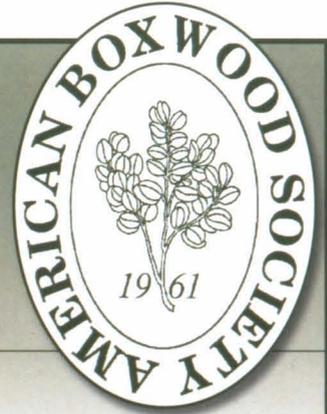


THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN



The journal of the American Boxwood Society
devoted to our oldest garden ornamental

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Symposium Issue 2015

The American Boxwood Society

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Historic Garden Week in Virginia 2015

By: Karen Cauthen Miller, Director of Historic Garden Week and Editor of the Guidebook

Open together for the first time in more than a decade, three historic properties and a church that dates back to the 1630s celebrate Historic Garden Week on three consecutive days this April. "A special combo ticket allows access to the extensive grounds and numerous outbuildings of all sites, the interior of Westover, as well as afternoon teas at Berkeley and Shirley", explains Alice Martin, State Chairman for Historic Garden Week. "We have people that travel to Virginia from all over the world. The James River Plantations are iconic and in many ways, really showcase the best that our beautiful state has to offer", she continues.

Located along scenic Route 5 in Charles City, the plantations are open between the tour dates in both Richmond and Williamsburg, offering 5 full days of spectacular touring and a convenient itinerary for the garden enthusiast. Considered one of the most beautiful drives on the East Coast, restaurant options are scarce. For this reason and for its beauty and history, lunch is offered at Westover Episcopal Church (c. 1730), which is also open for touring.

"We are proud to open the Plantations again and together for Historic Garden Week", notes Lynn McCashin, the Executive Director of the Garden Club of Virginia. "Berkeley, Shirley and Westover Plantations are Virginia and National Historic Landmarks, working plantations, private family homes and living links to our country's past."

Berkeley Plantation

During the Civil War, Berkeley was occupied by Major General George B. McClellan's Union troops. In 1907 the house and 1,400 acres were purchased by John Jamieson, who was a drummer boy in McClellan's forces. John Jamieson's son, Malcolm inherited the property in 1927. He and his wife Grace restored the house and gardens to the showplace it is today. A true labor of love, the 18 acres of restored gardens at Berkeley are currently maintained by "Jamie" Jamieson, Malcolm and Grace's only son. "We have 513 English and American boxwood on the property", Mr. Jamieson notes.

Responsible stewards of the land, he describes root feeding with a fish-based fertilizer as their method for taking care of these significant plants. Walking the extensive property, its hard not to be in awe of both the setting and the history. Site of the first official Thanksgiving in 1619, Berkeley is also the birthplace of Benjamin Harrison V, signer of the Declaration of Independence and three-time governor of Virginia. The estate is the birthplace of William Henry Harrison, ninth president of the United States, and ancestral home of his grandson, Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd president. *Taps* was composed here when General McClellan headquartered Union troops on the property in 1862.

The original Georgian mansion, built in 1726 of brick fired on the plantation, occupies a landscaped hilltop site overlooking the historic James River. The mansion is said to be the oldest three-story brick house in Virginia that can prove its date and the first with a pediment roof. "Five terraced gardens leading from the house to the river were dug by hand before the Revolutionary War", shares Tammy Radcliff, Berkeley's manager. "We lost a lot of trees in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel", relates Mr. Jamieson. "But many hundred-year-old trees still remain offering breathtaking vistas of the James River."



Photo courtesy of Berkeley Plantation

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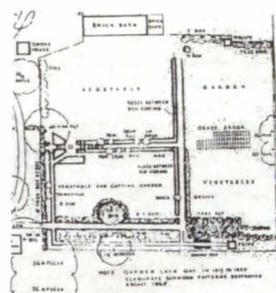
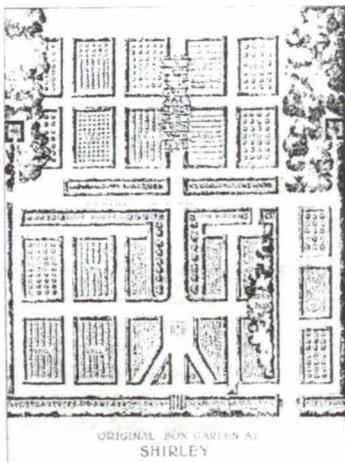
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Shirley Plantation

Lauren and Charles Carter wander the grounds of the over 700 acre estate with their white toy poodle, Muffin. Shirley is home to eleven generations of one family who continue to own, operate and work Virginia's first plantation. Established only six years after John Smith's settlement at Jamestown in 1607, Shirley Plantation is the oldest family-owned business in North America, dating to 1638. The present mansion was begun in 1723 as a wedding present for Elizabeth Hill and John Carter, eldest son of Robert "King" Carter.

The mother of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, Anne Hill Carter, was born at Shirley and married Revolutionary War hero, "Light Horse Harry" Lee in the Great House parlor. Considered by many to be the most intact colonial estate in America, the Great House is largely in its original state and features a three floor square rigged or "flying" staircase in the main hall.

On a recent visit, Charles described a time near the turn of the century when two aunts divided the garden into equal quadrants. He chuckled, describing what he called the "Garden Wars". Each woman had secrets for success in her section. "Some of the boxwood at Shirley are over 300-years old", shares Lauren. "Amazingly, we have the original drawings of the gardens as they were in the 1820s. It must have been a tremendous amount of boxwood to execute that plan," she exclaims. "This year we planted 2,200 late-blooming bulbs to coincide especially with Historic Garden Week," she further explains. Formal gardens, eight original colonial out buildings and commanding views of the James River complete this majestic setting.



Landscape drawings and B & W photos of Shirley Plantation
"Shirley with Irises"
Shirley Plantation
Photos courtesy of Shirley Plantation

Westover Plantation

Long considered a premier example of Georgian architecture in America, Westover was built by William Byrd II, author, diarist, colonial leader and founder of the cities of Petersburg and Richmond around 1730. Both Williams Byrd I and Williams Byrd II are buried on the property and William Byrd II's tombstone is located in the center of the breathtaking garden.

Shaded by 150-year-old tulip poplars and situated alongside ancient boxwood, Westover's lawn offers a commanding view of the James River and majestic eagles soaring overhead. The grounds are still protected by wrought-iron gates hung by William Byrd in 1709 and known to be the finest set of 18th-century gates in the country. The interior, normally closed to the public, but open especially for Historic Garden Week, is noted for the ornately carved ceilings, the detail of the cornice and stairway, and an unusual black mantelpiece.

After the death of William Byrd III's widow in 1814, Westover was sold out of the Byrd family. In 1921 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crane acquired Westover. Today, their great-granddaughter and her family care for this historic landmark. In its 4th generation of stewardship, the family takes very seriously its responsibility of caring for this historic landmark. Westover has always been first and foremost a family home, and Andrea Erda, who lives at Westover with her young family, laughingly warms visitors to keep an eye out for children peeping out of the boxwood hedges or playing hide and seek in the garden.

The Westover lawn is bordered on the north by an ancient English box hedge 8 feet tall. Mrs. Clarise Sears Ramsay, who owned Westover from 1898-1921, lined the paths of the extensive walled garden with English box; the Cranes added another layer in the 1930s. "Sadly, much of the English box in the garden is now gone, victim to English boxwood decline which struck in the 1950s", explains Andrea's father, Fred Fisher. He adds, "When you visit, make sure to look for some ancient specimens of American boxwood at the entrance of the garden and along the inside of the east garden wall. Their trunks are immense." There are very few properties in Virginia that have been affiliated with Historic Garden Week since its inception. Westover was featured on the first Historic Garden Week in 1929 and has opened almost continuously for HGW since then.

Westover Episcopal Church

Between 1611 and 1613, as colonists moved west from Jamestown, several small parishes were formed and eventually merged to become Westover. The original Westover Church was constructed between 1630 and 1637 on nearby Westover Plantation. In 1730 construction of the current church was completed at its site on Herring Creek, 1.5 miles north of the plantation.

The ending of support for the Episcopal Church by public taxation at the start of the Revolutionary War in 1776, followed by the War of 1812, the prejudice against the Church as an English loyalist institution, and a declining interest in religion culminated in a period of desecration at Westover. For 30 years after 1803, Westover

Church was misused as a barn and services of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia lapsed completely in Charles City County.

In 1833, however, religious services were revived by the Reverend Parke Farley Berkeley, a missionary sent to Charles City County. At this time the church structure was repaired and restored, principally through the efforts of the Harrisons and Carters, owners of Berkeley and Shirley plantations. Badly damaged by Federal troops during the Civil War, Westover Church was once more restored to service in 1867 and has been used faithfully ever since. Worshipers at Westover have included Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Harrison, Tyler and Theodore Roosevelt as well as farmers, plantation owners and their slaves. "We think our Historic Garden Week visitors will love this unique setting for lunch during the James River Plantation tour," beams Alice Martin.

"Proceeds from Historic Garden Week tours fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia's important public gardens," explains Lynn McCashin. "Starting this year, we have added the state park system as a beneficiary. This Partnership for Parks will extend to 2020, the centennial of the Garden Club of Virginia," she notes. Since 1996, Historic Garden Week funds have also made possible important research in landscape architecture, documenting 25 sites thus far.



Photo courtesy of Don Williamson

Fellowships enable the continuing effort of the Garden Club of Virginia to build a comprehensive record of historic gardens in our state. "We are thrilled that both Westover and Berkeley Plantations are the 2015 recipients of the William D. Rieley Fellowship and the Rudy J. Favretti Fellowship, respectively," shares Alice Miller. Work will begin this summer and is shared with the public at www.gcvirginia.org. For more information about Historic Garden Week, visit www.vagardenweek.org.



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Winterthur

Editor's Note: Winterthur is the former home of Henry Frances duPont. The estate contains nine hundred and seventy nine rolling acres. Mr. duPont and his father expressed the character of site development in the vein of the 18th & 19th century European country style. The property operated as a working dairy farm. Mr. duPont had deep horticultural interests and consequently the maturation of sixty acres of naturalistic gardens. Winterthur is well worth a stroll along small brooks, through its woodlands, glens and meadows during any season of the year. Azalea will be at their flowering peak in late May.



Azaleas

Spring is one of the most anticipated times of year at Winterthur. As a Garden Club of Philadelphia member wrote of her visit 101 years ago, "Spread under the trees were sheets of daffodils, wild hyacinth and every lovely thing... high carnival of spring out of doors." We are especially excited this year because our blockbuster exhibition *Costumes of Downton Abbey* introduced Winterthur to hundreds of thousands of new visitors and with **Spring at Winterthur** we hope to welcome them back.

Spring visits to Winterthur have a long tradition, starting with du Pont family visits at the turn of the 19th century. These annual visits grew in popularity until, in 1952, local residents were invited to enjoy the house and garden for an event called "Spring Tour." Within a decade Spring Tour had grown in popularity, and at its peak Winterthur welcomed 42,000 visitors to take special tours through the house and enjoy the garden in full bloom. This year we are returning to this tradition with highlighted tours through the garden and special displays in the house. Enjoy the jewel-like flowers of snowdrop and winter aconite at **Bank**

to Bend, walk through drifts of hundreds of thousands of pale yellow and white daffodils on **Daffodil Day**, take your Mother's Day photos surrounded by a constellation of vibrant pink and white azalea flowers during **Azaleas and Bluebells**, and learn about the hidden treasures of the garden such as the Quarry primroses and Saunders peonies during **Peonies and Primroses**.

Of course, you can make your visits to the garden as spontaneous as H. F. du Pont did. His chauffeur said that Mr. du Pont would ask to be let out in Azalea Woods or near the Sundial, and he would wander through the garden enjoying the flowers. As Members, the garden is yours to enjoy, dawn to dusk, throughout the spring. We hope you will be both inspired and delighted by what we have planned for you this season at Winterthur.

Looking forward to seeing you in the garden,

Chris Strand
Director, Garden and Estate
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library



In May



Reflection Pool



Scroll Garden

Nemours Gardens: *A Landscape Architect's Perspective*

By: *Walter Carell, Jr. RLA*



Temple and Flowers



Cannas and Vista

As a child growing up around Wilmington, I always wondered what was hidden beyond the nine foot high stone wall topped with shards of broken bottle glass and shrouded by Norway spruce. My thought was that it must have necessitated a great deal of wine and champagne drinking by someone. To provide a measure of scale, the perimeter wall is close to a mile long. Well behind a set of limestone columns and wrought iron gates of this sturdy enclosure, reaching skyward, is a tall, slender Carillon Tower. Thirty one cast bronze bells hang in its belfry. Their melodic and mellow notes, striking every quarter hour, can be heard for miles around. This 210' pink and white marble structure is a local landmark and serves as the final resting place of Alfred I. & Jessie B. duPont. The wall, the carillon tower and the assorted wrought iron gates, one with a charming little gate house, are all which stand out for the passerby. Little did I know, growing up, that this was only the tip of the iceberg.

This land was the estate of Alfred I. duPont, a grandson of the founder of the duPont gunpowder dynasty. At one time the holdings included three thousand acres. Presently, the property is around three hundred acres stretching toward the Brandywine Creek. A two hundred and twenty two acre tract comprises the mansion, gardens and woodlands. The remaining acreage was donated for The Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children. With the duPont French heritage and a wife who appreciated French life, the five story mansion and gardens were designed in a modified Louis XVI French chateau style. The architectural firm of Carrere and Hastings of New York City received the commission to design the edifice and comparable 18th century French landscape design. The seventy-seven room dwelling was constructed between 1909 and 1910 by the local firm of Smyth and Son.

The wrought iron items on this property are exquisite. Robinson Iron, of Alexander City, Alabama, was the specialized conservator retained to restore the English & Russian gates and other metal sculpture works. The 18th century English Gate had been made for Wimbledon Manor, the Russian Gate stood outside of Petersburg at a palace built by Catherine the Great. Some gate elements were highlighted with 23.75 carat gold leaf.

Most of the formal gardens, ponds, architectural elements & water features were developed over the next twenty plus years. The firm of Rodney Robinson, Landscape Architects, Wilmington, Delaware is responsible for the ongoing restoration of the grounds and gardens. All of the original garden designs and assorted iterations had been safely stored in the mansion's flat files. This greatly simplified the task of restoration to the original Carrere and Hastings designs.

There is an intricate boxwood parterre on the west side of the mansion. On axis with the mansion's entry fore court extends a series of formal French gardens. This grand allee with a vista of easily one quarter of a mile contains grass terraces, massed annuals, a quarter-acre swimming/reflecting pool, many marble sculptures, numerous fountains, a white marble colonnade, two gold leafed figures entitled "Achievement", and a maze garden. The Temple of Love, containing a bronze statue of Diana, is at the terminus.

Buxus sempervirens 'Fastigiata', and 'Suffruticosa' and *B. Hybrids* 'Chicagoland' ('Glencoe') and 'Green Velvet' will be found in these gardens.

This is merely a snippet of what awaits to be discovered and enjoyed at Nemours!



Boxwood Parterre circa 1930



Boxwood Parterre bedding out



Boxwood Parterre after restoration 2009



Lower Gum Allee



Dogwood Path



South Terrace

A Docent's Reflections on Mt. Cuba Center

By: Sandy Dennison-James

To step under the high, arching boughs of the trees in the Mt. Cuba Center gardens is to enter into a wonderland.

Paths meander past rare native orchids, dozens of types of native trilliums, and seldom-seen species of magnolias. Hidden around a bend a wanderer finds a trickling stream, a meadow of gracefully arching grasses spangled with wildflowers, or an intimate vignette of small species under the boughs of a flowering dogwood. A clearing reveals a Colonial Revival mansion surrounded by formal gardens that artfully integrate native plants with more traditional plantings such as boxwood (*Buxus* sp.) and weeping Higan cherry trees (*Prunus subhirtella* 'Pendula').

These 50 acres of Mt. Cuba Center gardens, along with nearly 550 acres of natural lands, are the legacy of the late Mr. and Mrs. Lamont du Pont Copeland. The gardens celebrate Eastern native plants, especially those of the Appalachian foothills known as the Piedmont.

The Copelands' home has been transformed into elegant classrooms and offices, because Mt. Cuba Center is far more than gorgeous gardens. Following the Copelands' wishes, it is a place where visitors can be inspired by the beauty and ecological value of Eastern native plants. It is a locus of research on propagating hard-to-find plants and on evaluating and even introducing native cultivars and species for homeowners' use. Through classes and research reports, visitors can then learn how to use native plants in their own landscapes.

Gazing up at the towering tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), it seems incredible that when the Copelands bought the property near Hockessin, Del., in 1935, the land was what Mrs. Copeland described as "an eroded cornfield."¹ Yet it had a lovely view of the rolling hills of northern Delaware, the only slice of the state that isn't in the flat Coastal Plain. The Copelands hired some of the top landscape architects of the era to design the allées and terraces that stretch from their home. Later, as the trees formed tall columns

just past a hedgerow, Mrs. Copeland was inspired to plant a layered understory of ferns, wildflowers and shrubs to create a place for woodland strolls like those she took with her mother as a child.² In contrast with the geometric formal gardens near the house, the naturalistic garden is planted and carefully tended to mimic nature – though these are walks that will spoil a visitor for any hike in the woods except perhaps in the best preserved of national parks.

Following Mt. Cuba's paths is like taking a trip from northern New Jersey to Alabama. Plants that might be found in local woodlands nestle next to a rarity from deep in the South. Side paths resemble cove trails in the Great Smoky Mountains, with soft mosses, unusual lilies, and seldom-seen beauties like gaywings (*Polygala paucifolia*) and Oconee bells (*Shortia galacifolia*). Native clematis, some of them quite rare, adorn shrubs with their deeply-colored bell flowers and feather-boas of gold seedheads. In April, the orchid-like pinkshell azalea (*Rhododendron vaseyi*) begins blooming in what is perhaps the largest grouping in the world, as they are uncommon in their native habitat. The show of native azaleas continues with heady scents and colors from white to yellow to orange, finally closing in August and September with plumleaf azalea (*R. prunifolium*) and a very late-blooming strain of swamp azalea (*R. viscosum*).

At the ponds, dragonflies in colors from obsidian to rust to powdery blue dart over the exotic-looking tubes and flowers of pitcher plants (*Sarracenia* spp.), including some native to mountains and others to the faraway Gulf Coast. Butterflies bejewel flowers from the formal Round Garden to the open Meadow. A flash of orange and black above reveals a northern Oriole flitting among the high trees, and a wood thrush flutes its melody from a hidden spot among the leaves. Hummingbirds appear with the blooms of red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) in spring and continue to dart among favorites from Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*) to red lobelia (*Lobelia cardinalis*). They are among the approximately 175³ species of birds that have been counted on the property.

1. Quotation from a presentation Jeanne Frett made to my docent class.

2. Mrs. Copeland, writing in "The American Woman's Garden."

3. Derek Stoner of DNS in a presentation to docents; he and others had done a bird survey at MCC.

Truly “wild life” is thriving throughout Mt. Cuba Center. Trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers provide habitat for birds and “baby food” for caterpillars that turn into delightful butterflies.

The Copelands were at the forefront of the native plant and land preservation movements. As their woodland gardens developed, Mrs. Copeland became concerned that native plants were often dug from the wild for resale.⁴ She established a research program that advanced techniques for propagating trilliums and many other woodland plants. Today Mt. Cuba hosts the national collection of trilliums through its membership in the North American Plant Collections Consortium. Mt. Cuba also holds the national collection of evergreen gingers (*Hexastylis* spp.) Through staff members’ botany trips, unusual plants such as silky camellia (*Stewartia malocodendron*) have been propagated and introduced to the gardens.

The Copelands’ former cutting garden just off the formal gardens has been designated for three-year studies of native-plant cultivars to distinguish those best suited for Mid-Atlantic gardens. Visitors can browse through the rows of plants to take note of which they prefer. Trials of asters, Echinaceas, annual *Coreopsis* and *Heucheras* have been completed, and currently the staff is studying *Baptisias*,

Monardas and *Phlox*. In addition, Mt. Cuba Center has identified and introduced 16 new cultivars of asters and other species to the nursery trade.

Through cooperative arrangement with the University of Delaware, research is under way to identify the nutritional quality of native plants’ pollen and nectar for the benefit of bees and other pollinators. Author and University of Delaware professor Doug Tallamy, meanwhile, is studying whether cultivars of native plants support the food web as well as straight species do.

As the gardens and research continues to evolve, the protection of lands remains a high priority. In addition to preserving lands that are part of Mt. Cuba Center itself, in 2012 Mt. Cuba contributed \$20 million for the purchase of 1,100 acres of open space that have become part of Delaware’s first National Historic Park.

All of this is in keeping with the Copelands’ vision. As Mrs. Copeland said, “Wildflowers are fast disappearing from our earth. I want this to be a place where people will learn to appreciate our native plants and see how these plants can enrich their lives so that they, in turn, will become conservators of our natural habitats.”⁵

4. Mrs. Copeland in “*The American Woman’s Garden*.”

5. (Alternate and similar quotation, if you would like to use something that does not appear in the video (this is from “*The American Woman’s Garden*”): “I hope to foster an appreciation of the beauty and diversity of wildflowers through display and education here at Mount Cuba, and to encourage people to become their conservators, guarding against the plundering of our few remaining wild lands.”)



Woods Path



Woods Path Parking Lot

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“The Presidential Tour”
Touring Boxwood in Virginia
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Goodstay



House and Perennial border

Goodstay, built in 1732, was originally a working farm named Green Hill. The gardens are among the oldest in the state and many original features remain today just as they were described by Howard Pyle who lived at Green Hill Farm as a boy in the 1850's.

After a number of distinguished owners, Margaretta Lamont duPont bought the property in 1868 and renamed it "Goodstay" after the very first duPont home in Bergen Point, New Jersey which was named "Bon Sejour." Upon her death, the property was sold to her nephew, T. Coleman duPont in 1911. His Daughter, Ellen duPont Meeds (later Wheelwright), who received the house on her wed-

ding day, modified the house to what we see today. She and her husband, landscape architect Robert Wheelwright, restored and enhanced the Tudor style gardens, adding the magnificent magnolia walk and reflecting pool in 1938.

Upon Ellen Wheelwright's death in 1968, the house and gardens were donated to the University of Delaware. Goodstay Center is used exclusively as a conference center hosting a variety of events from business meeting to wedding receptions. The Friends of Goodstay Gardens, a volunteer organization, helps maintain the gardens, which provide a lovely backdrop for wedding ceremonies and other events.



Garden Pictures

A Look at Longwood's Boxwood Collection

Adapted from an article that originally appeared in the Longwood Chimes, Issue 290.

By: Barrett Wilson & Dr. Matt Taylor



B. sempervirens 'Vardar Valley'



Boxwood Blight Damage

Boxwood has been a staple in formal gardens worldwide for centuries. At Longwood, boxwood was first planted by the Peirce family in the 18th century. Today, many of those shrubs still grow between many of the specimen trees in Peirce's allée. Pierre S. du Pont continued the extensive use of boxwood when he acquired the property in 1906, perhaps inspired by his travels to Europe where boxwood were used in many of the gardens he visited. Mr. du Pont's most prolific use of boxwood was in the Main Fountain Garden. That tradition will continue as more than 2,600 boxwood are slated to be included in the revitalized Main Fountain Garden.

Longwood's interest in boxwood extends beyond the plantings in the Garden. Boxwood is one of Longwood's 17 core collections of plants. The core collection is not simply a representation of all of the boxwood in the Gardens, but rather consists of 156 accessions of wild collected material from an extensive geographical range. *Buxus sempervirens* is a genetically diverse species, although this diversity has been poorly represented in cultivation since its initial appearance in the U.S. in the 17th century.

Longwood has participated in four expeditions to collect wild boxwood. The first exploration trip was in 2001 to the Republic of Georgia and the most recent expedition was in 2007 to areas south of Skopje, Macedonia. Plants in the core collection have also been collected from Albania, Azerbaijan, Russian Federation, Romania, and Ukraine.

Longwood's boxwood collection represents the diversity of *Buxus sempervirens* growing naturally within its native range. These plants have distinct morphological characteristics and come from a range of growing environments and could potentially hold the genetics for future cultivars with improved landscape performance and increased resistance to diseases such as boxwood blight. Boxwood blight has devastated boxwood collections of many European gardens. In order to prevent this from happening to Longwood's collection we have an integrated management plan that includes regular scouting for the disease and specific cultural protocols for planting and maintenance. The morphology of the our core collection varies greatly with respect to leaf size, shape, and color, as well as the overall form and growth rates of the plants. The plants also provide opportunities for research on genetic relationships.

The vision for the collection is to support research and plant development through collaboration with other organizations. We are currently working with the US National Arboretum, which is developing molecular markers that will be used to determine the genetic diversity of our collection. The collection will also be submitted to the NAPCC (North American Plant Collection Consortium) for accreditation in 2015.



ARGU-80 is a dwarf, variegated collection from Yalta, Ukraine



Longwood Gardens Boxwood Under the snow



Cuttings of MK-18 collected 30 feet from Mala Piner in Macedonia 9/16/07



Andalusia from the Delaware River



Andalusia garden

Andalusia

By: Connie S. Griffith Houchins

In 1795, two years after his father had died in the 1793 yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia, John Craig purchased 99.5 acres of land along the Delaware River at the southern tip of Bucks County. The country house that would be built two years later was, therefore, in part to move his family, consisting of wife Margaret, son James and daughter, Jane, away from Philadelphia's summer heat and disease, but also to enjoy the life of a country gentlemen when time allowed. John Craig was a successful merchant and ship owner and wanted to indulge in cultivating a garden as well as to create a haven for his family. Craig's book, *Every Man His Own Gardener*, evidence of his interest in gardening, is in the Andalusia archives.

A recently completed Historic Structures Report indicates that the footprint of John Craig's original house is firmly in place as well as evidence of architect Benjamin Latrobe's work. Latrobe was hired by John Craig in 1806, but unfortunately Craig did not live to see the changes made. Margaret Craig supervised the work after her husband died, but happily turned over management of the estate to daughter Jane's husband, Nicholas Biddle, when they married in 1811. When Margaret died three years later, Biddle acquired the property and the majority of land has remained in the Biddle family since that time.

Nicholas Biddle is well-known to American history as the first editor of the *Lewis and Clark Journals* published in 1814, but most importantly, Biddle served as President of the Second United States Bank during the 1820s and 1830s. Numerous books have been written analyzing Biddle's presidency and difficult relationship with President Andrew

Jackson which resulted in the loss of the Bank's charter. For Andalusia, Biddle's influence is recognized in the additions made to the Craig house in the 1830s when Thomas Ustick Walter was hired to greatly increase the size of the building and change it into the image of a Greek temple. It is remarkable that two famous architects have been associated with a building which has undergone so little change.

Walter also created for Nicholas Biddle, the "Graperies" which were stone and brick walls lined with greenhouses. Today, visitors to Andalusia can see the historic walls and a recreated greenhouse like the one Biddle used for growing grapes. The Walled Garden now contains various plants and a rose garden. Letitia Glenn Biddle, who helped establish the Garden Club of America in 1913 (the By-Laws of the GCA were written in the Billiards House), insisted that roses and other flowers be added to the vegetables that were grown in the Walled Garden when she arrived as a bride in 1888. Over time, other gardens and lovely walks were established to create an oasis in an otherwise busy world.

In 1980, after the death of his parents, Nicholas and Jane Biddle's great-great grandson, Jimmy Biddle, and other family members created the Andalusia Foundation to care for the Big House, the Walled Garden, and selected other buildings on the property. Biddle family members continue to support the Foundation which welcomes visitors to the property to appreciate historic architecture and beautiful gardens.

For additional information, see Andalusia's web page: www.andalusiapa.org



Garden View



Boxwood Hedge

Highlands

By: Margaret Bleecker Blades, Executive Director, The Highlands Mansion & Gardens

Lawyer, politician, and entrepreneur Anthony Morris (1766-1860) commissioned Timothy Matlack to design and build his country estate in 1794 on 300 acres in Whitmarsh, approximately 17 miles north of Philadelphia, Pa. His late-Georgian country seat, The Highlands, with additions and changes made by subsequent owners--two generations of the Sheaff family, and two of Sinkler and Roosevelt family members--today is a remarkable document of how a country gentleman's estate has changed to meet the changing times from the 1790's to the 1970's.

The Highlands at present includes the two-acre formal Sinkler Garden, the mansion house, nine outbuildings, three small areas of forest, and 20+ acres of open land. This historic site is managed by The Highlands Historical Society under the terms of an agreement with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and is open to the public. The Highlands is a site that retains "enough of the original estate that it can still be viewed in more or less the same setting as when it was built." (Landscape Master Plan, Andropogon Associates 1995) 19th-century landscape designer and architect Andrew Jackson Downing in his volume *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (1849 edition) called The Highlands "...a striking example of science, skill, and taste, applied to a country seat..."

Development of the formal garden began during the Sheaff family ownership, 1813-1915. The two-acre area immediately adjacent to the East of the mansion was designed as a garden for the Sheaff ladies to stroll and enjoy the trees, flowers, greenhouses and walls. When subsequent owner, Caroline Sinkler (1860-1949) began her renovation programs after she purchased the property in 1917, she hired architect Wilson Eyre (1858-1944) to re-design the formal garden. Most well-known for his shingle-style residences, Eyre also designed a number of landscapes. He served as president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects from 1897 until 1902, and was the founder and was the first editor of *House and Garden* magazine. At The Highlands, Eyre elected to build on the remaining structural elements of the Morris era and the geometry of the "pleasure garden" established by the Sheaff family in the early years of the 19th century. He created a spectacular showplace for Miss Sinkler, and her garden was awarded the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Gold Medal for Excellence in 1932.

Caroline Sinkler's garden design emphasized carefully framed views and focal points, architectural elements, well-placed statuary, perennial borders, sculpture, and pathways. Eyre retained the essential plan of four garden quadrants united by a center alley and pierced with a cross axis. Eyre, Sinkler, Scottish gardener Archie Coutts, and others who contributed to the design and its execution "softened" the edges of the squares and rectangles by including distant focal points and allees beyond the original wall-enclosed two-acre space, suggesting to visitors that the garden blended into distant vistas. Photographs taken from the 1920's through the 1960's show that the majority of the pathways were bordered by boxwood hedges.



Each period of private ownership began with large infusions of capital and new designs and plantings. After the death of each owner, though, the estate and especially the garden fell into a period of neglect. By the time the Commonwealth and The Highlands Historical Society began working together in 1975, the photographic record shows the garden to have masses of overgrown and diseased trees and shrubs, vines strangling other plants and entire stone walls, and remnants of perennial borders gone completely wild. The March 1976 issue of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's magazine, *The Green Scene*, included an article titled "The Highlands: A 20th Century Wuthering Heights or a Potential Showplace," by Phyllis L. Herring. Clearly, here was a project in waiting.

The Highlands Historical Society (HHS) began by commissioning a Landscape Master Plan. Completed by Andropogon Associates in 1995, one finding of this plan was a strong recommendation that HHS focus on the restoration of the Sinkler Garden. The firm of Doell & Doell was commissioned to prepare the Sinkler Garden Restoration Plan, which was completed in 2000. Incorporating a 1918 Lord & Burnham greenhouse, two late 18th-early 19th-century octagonal outbuildings, the remnants of a curved "exedra," a stone "Gothic Wall" designed by Henry Davis Sleeper (1878-1934), one surviving fountain, and a 19th-century crenellated wall, potting shed and gardener's cottage, the garden is truly wonderful survivor.



When HHS commissioned the production of The Sinkler Garden Restoration Plan, The Highlands committed itself to a course of action: not just to have a beautiful garden, but to have a beautiful garden reflective of the one here during the ownership of the eclectic, possibly a bit eccentric, charming and very forceful Miss Caroline Sinkler.

The goal of the current garden restoration work of The Highlands Historical Society is to restore the walled garden core and the ravine garden to the period of significance for The Highlands and for the Sinkler Garden, 1925-1935. Using historic photos, plans in garden books published in the 1930's which featured Miss Sinkler's garden, letters, records, documents and physical evidence in the garden itself, the Sinkler Garden Restoration Plan outlined a series of multi-year projects.

The first phase of the restoration included the restoration of the 1918 Lord & Burnham Greenhouse, which was accomplished with very generous funding from granting agencies including the Heritage Investment Program of the Pew Trust; The McLean Contributionship, The Arcadia Foundation, and the Claniel Foundation.



Sinkler Garden & Armillary Sphere

Additional support from The McLean Contributionship and The Arcadia Foundation funded re-planting of elements of the garden design including boxwood borders along the Wilson-Eyre designed allees, and as the frame for perennial beds. Boxwood provided much of the structure of Miss Sinkler's garden.

The Sinkler Garden was originally planted with common box, often called English boxwood. Due to the lack of pruning and spraying during the first years after the last private owner, Mrs. Emily Roosevelt, died it fell victim to a wide variety of diseases and die-back, and was removed in a series of clean-up projects in the 1980's. Following the design of the Restoration Plan, HHS' horticulturist selected a variety of different cultivars, and used plants with growth habits appropriate to each location in the garden. Hardiness and disease resistance of the modern cultivars was also a large consideration.

With the exception of 'Green Beauty' planted in May 2004, all other cultivars were planted in September through November, some as early as 2002, other as recently as 2007. 'Green Mountain', 'Justin Brouwers', 'Green Velvet', 'Fastigiata' (used as a replacement for privet), 'Wintergreen', and *B. sempervirens* (used as a replacement for arborvitae) have all thrived, though several do require regular spraying. Since 2002, 914 boxwood were planted; to date we have only had one plant die.

The restoration of The Sinkler Garden is a work in progress. Although much has been accomplished, much more remains to be done. While restoration projects in the mansion, in the garden, and on the grounds at The Highlands have long since made the allusion to Wuthering Heights unnecessary, HHS looks forward to continuing to work on The Highlands and making it a showplace.

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Bartram's Garden On The Schuylkill: *Transformations Underway*

By: *Kim Massare*

Work has begun on the restoration the Carr Garden, the first major garden renovation at Bartram's Garden in nearly a century. Located to the west of the historic house, the Carr Garden was originally established in the early 19th century as an exhibition garden by John Bartram's granddaughter, Ann Bartram Carr, and her husband, Colonel Robert Carr. It was the first public green space at Bartram's Garden, showcasing fashionable exotics from Asia and Ann Bartram Carr's own hybrid dahlias and camellias.

The restoration will reconnect us to the Bartrams' spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation. Work will continue in 2015 as we make critical updates to the National Historic Landmark Bartram House, including a new roof, new energy-efficient climate control systems, and improved conditions for our historic collections. The Bartram House will not be open to the public in 2015, however new guided tours will highlight this conservation work and the transformations that are underway.

Bartram Mile

In partnership with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) and the Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC), Bartram's Garden has embarked on an exciting project to reimagine what is being called "Bartram's Mile"—one mile of currently vacant river frontage along the western banks of the Schuylkill River between Grays Ferry Avenue and 58th Street.

The Green2015 plan, released by PPR in December 2010, highlights Bartram's Mile as a major opportunity to convert publicly owned vacant land to public green space before 2015. This new open space has the potential to provide riverfront access and recreation opportunities to an underserved neighborhood as well as help restore an important watershed in our urban environment.

Once completed, Bartram's Mile will connect Bartram's Garden to the Schuylkill River Trail and a rapidly expanding network of pedestrian and bicycle roadways, making the National Historic Landmark more accessible to the public than ever before.

Notes from the River

This year, Bartram's Garden became a place where people of all ages could connect with one of Philly's greatest natural resources, the Schuylkill River. Our boat dock was buzzing with activity this spring, summer, and fall with free canoe and kayak rides, chartered cruises with Patriot Harbor Lines, a floating ice cream parlor festooned with a brass band, and the colorful Tidal Schuylkill Boat parade. Plans are in the works to expand our public access hours and develop even more fun, new programs on our branch of Philly's "hidden river" in 2015.

Following a major restoration and replanting in fall of 2013, the tidal wetlands located on the southern end of Bartram's Garden is now flourishing with native species and expanded habitat for wildlife. The only one of its kind on the Lower Schuylkill, the wetlands serve several important functions and improve the health of our ecosystem by protecting water quality, storing floodwaters, and providing breeding grounds for a variety of species. Look for herons, terns, and other shore birds standing amongst the reeds, willow, water lily the next time you visit!

Native plants, once again in the 21st century, are gaining popularity in American yards and gardens. One should know that the movement actually began centuries ago by an inquisitive Philadelphia farmer who became a naturalist and botanist by the name of John Bartram.



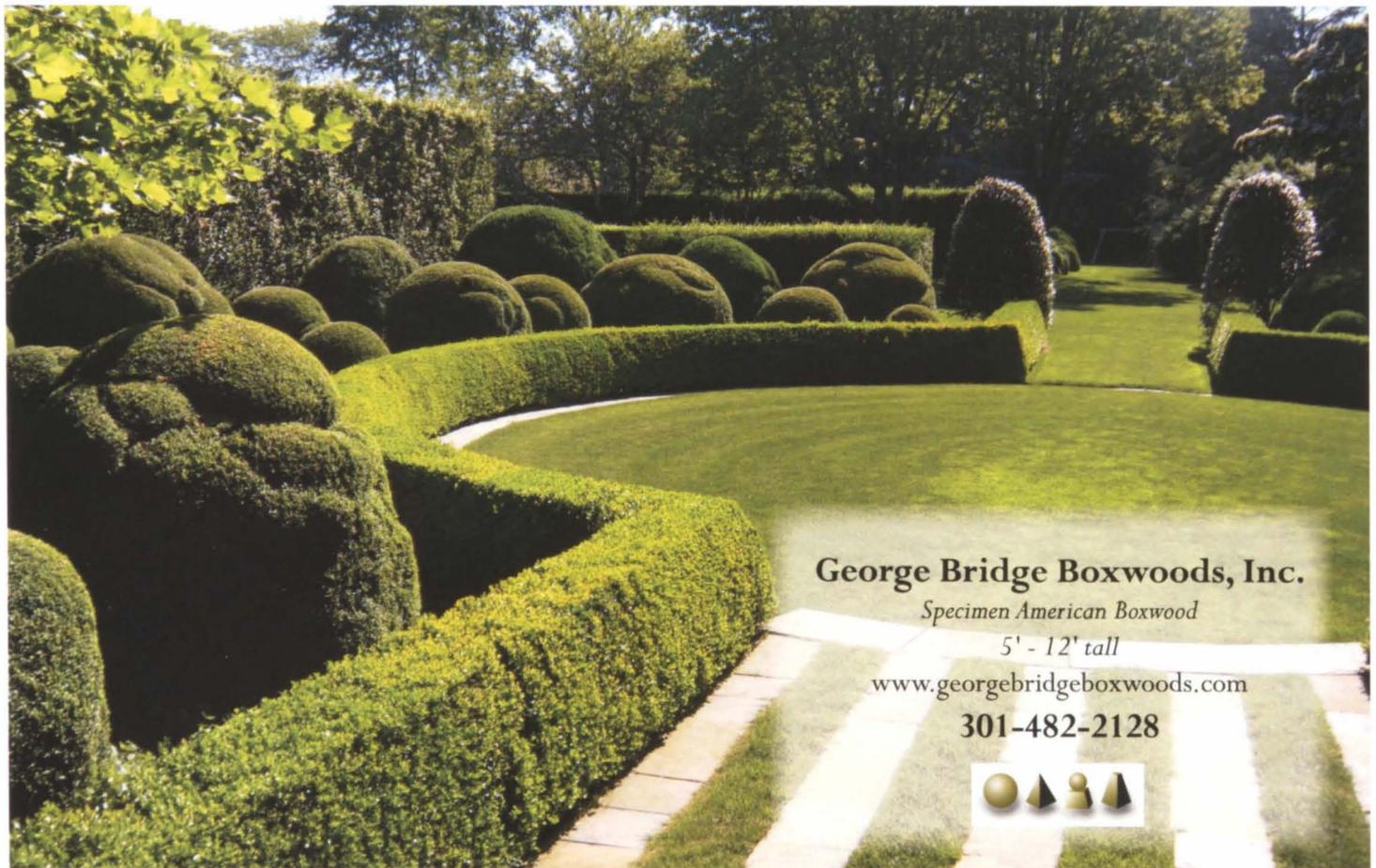
A quiet twenty nine year old Quaker, John and wife Ann made a successful bid on property for sale do to delinquent taxes. The parcel of land was marshy and stretched out along the rich, fertile, alluvial land of the lower Schuylkill River. It was about three miles southeast of Philadelphia. Bartram's land is recognized as the oldest arboretum and nursery in North America. This 46 acre property (originally 102 acres) is situated on the western bank of the river. Today, the property contains an eight acre arboretum and includes an historic botanic garden established in 1728. The original gray stone dwelling is made of local ledge stone begun in the same year and completed in 1731.

The classic "English Garden" came into prominence in the 18th Century mainly due the introduction of colorful perennials and shrubs available from the New World. For more than forty years, seeds and plants were supplied, boxed and shipped across the Atlantic and exchanged with distinguished botanists and enthusiastic plant growers in Europe.

John Bartram traveled extensively from Florida to Ontario, Canada, collecting herbaceous and native species of

woody plants. John, and his son William, were dedicated to the study, collection and classification of North American plants. The Bartrams are credited with identifying and introducing into cultivation more than two hundred plants. Horse-chestnut, Ohio Buckeye, Red Buckeye, Silverbell, White Fringetree, Rhododendron and specimen Boxwood from Smyrna in eastern Turkey were in his arboretum. Their reputation as a plant and seed supplier was well known to botanist and horticultural enthusiasts on both sides of the Atlantic. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams all purchased plants and seeds from Bartram.

Three significant plants are featured on the property, 1) A *Ginkgo biloba*/Ginkgo or Maidenhair Tree, a Japanese introduction into the colonies in 1785, 2) A *Cladrastis kentukea* (*C. lutea*)/American Yellowwood found in Tennessee and sent to Bartram in the 1790s. and 3) The *Franklinia alatamaha*/Franklinia or Franklin Tree which was named after Bartram's friend Benjamin Franklin. The plant was discovered by Bartram & his son while exploring the banks of the Altamaha River in Georgia. The Franklin Tree bares fragrant, 3" flowers in late July into August and weekly into September.



Boxwood in Virginia

By: A. G. Smith, Jr.

Editor's Note: This boxwood article appeared in the first issue of The Boxwood Bulletin, published in October 1961. While the past 45 years has given us a clearer and more detailed understanding of the principles and practices that are presented here, nearly all of the information is as pertinent today as it was then.

Boxwood in its various forms is a valuable ornamental plant in Virginia. Many specimens known to be more than 100 years old are growing in the State. Contrary to general belief, boxwood is a vigorous plant. In good soil it requires but little care. Its development varies with the species or variety and with the conditions under which it is growing.

No diseases of importance affect boxwood in Virginia; however, numerous fungi may be found on leaves and stems after these parts have been weakened or killed by other causes. In a Blacksburg [Ed. Virginia] yard there is a hedge of tree boxwood, and a number of good dwarf plants, all of which were grown from twigs thought to be diseased. These twigs, from various sections of Virginia, were sent to V.P.I. [Ed. Now known as, VPI & SU, or Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University] for help in identifying and controlling the diseases.

A study of many thousands of boxwood plants in Virginia shows that, with rare exception, all the boxwood troubles in the State result from one or more of the following causes:

Damage to the roots by:

1. Digging in the root area by man or animals.
2. Planting too deeply or settling later.
3. Applying excessive amounts of fertilizer or manure.
4. Making a cone of soil or mulch around the plant.
5. Setting plants in holes in tight soil with no drainage provided from bottom or side.
6. Soil washing away from roots, thus exposing them to the elements.
7. Mulching too heavily.
8. Too much peat or manure in fill-in soil.
9. Heavy soil which does not allow water to move away from roots.
10. Poor preparation.

11. Excessive watering.
12. Matting of ivy in and under plant.

Damage to leaves and branches by:

1. Leaf miners.
2. Accumulation of soot and dust on foliage; effect of smoke and gases.
3. Crowding by other plants or buildings.
4. Chemical sprays.
5. Dead leaves accumulating in dwarf plants.
6. Clipping alone to maintain formal effects instead of cutting out weak top branches to admit light and air.
7. Winter-killing.
8. Sunscald and browning on weak plants.
9. Injury from sleet or snow, bending or breaking the branches. (Frost killing tender tips does more good than harm.)

Damage to entire plant by:

1. Total lack of water.
2. Too much shade.
3. Wet feet.
4. Salt from coastal storms or from well water.

Most boxwood troubles are man-made. In a fairly good environment this grand old plant can take care of itself, as long as it is not attacked by leaf miners.

Many yards have been filled with soil from basements. The grading is often done when the soil is muddy. The soil bakes in dry weather and stays wet and soggy in wet seasons. Boxwood is not likely to thrive under these conditions or in a pipe-clay soil, unless care is taken to prepare ample space for the plant and provide drainage from the side or bottom of the hole. Boxwood cannot stand wet feet.

Boxwood will tolerate shade but will make a stronger growth where it has sunlight, for at least part of the day. Morning sun in winter may cause damage by rapid thawing of the leaves and branches. Winter sun may also turn exposed leaves reddish brown or yellow on plants which have been checked in growth. This condition is not caused by a disease.

It is not necessary to fertilize boxwood every year. Its requirements vary widely depending on the type of boxwood used, the soil, and growing conditions. Over-feeding may injure the plants or lead to excessive pruning to keep the plants within bounds. It may also keep the boxwood tender until winter (See Wilt). Then, too, fertilizer can kill the plants when too much is used.

A very light application of poultry manure and bonemeal may be scattered over the root area in February or March, if the condition of the plant indicates that plant food is really needed. Where the above materials are not available, a fertilizer such as 6-8-2 or 10-6-4 might be used at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ cupful on a square yard of root area.

Applications of fertilizer cannot correct a bad physical condition in the soil. Often it is best not to fertilize the boxwood at all. Boxwood grows well in many different soils with varying pH levels. When sufficient humus is present and the soil is in good mechanical condition, boxwood will thrive at a pH range of 5.5 to 7.4. Small applications of ground limestone may be used on the more acid soils, once in three or four years.

The pruning of boxwood may be an important operation for the following reasons:

1. To keep the plants at the desired size.
2. To improve the appearance and condition of a plant which is thin at the top.
3. To develop a strong framework against damage from snow and wind.

Start by removing weak and crowded branches from the top center of the plant. Where necessary shorten the larger branches. Continue this thinning over the en-

tire upper half of the plant. Very heavy cutting should be done in the spring. Ordinary pruning may be done whenever it is most convenient.

If clipping must be done to get a formal effect, thin as suggested above to encourage growth on the inside branches. When boxwood is growing where its size and form do not matter, it may go indefinitely without pruning. There are many fine specimens in Virginia which have never been pruned.

Boxwood may be moved at any time of the year, but it is best not to transplant it when it is making tender growth. It is sometimes best to shade large boxwood after it is transplanted. Strips placed well above the foliage will protect the plants from direct sun and snow.

Prepare the place for the new plant with care. Provide ample drainage at the roots. In very low places set the plant slightly above the level on the ground. In very low places set the plant slightly above the level of the ground. Otherwise plant as near the original depth as possible. Never put manure, compost, or other organic material under the boxwood. If used, the plant will settle as the organic matter rots; finally it will be too deep for normal growth. Set the plant on firm ground. Then fill in around the side and tamp gently. Fill the last six inches with good garden soil or with a mixture such as:

$\frac{1}{4}$ part old rotted manure or compost

$\frac{1}{2}$ part loamy top soil

$\frac{1}{4}$ part coarse sand and peat

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup of garden fertilizer such as 10-6-4 to each bushel

Turn these materials over until they are uniformly mixed. Water by letting the hose run very slowly as the base of the boxwood itself – not in the hole around it. Tap-water syringes, two or three times a week in warm weather, will take care of later needs for water. Leave the ground level over the root system and beyond. A mulch of peat, sawdust, or peanut hulls, not more than one inch deep, helps to save moisture and control soil temperatures.

*Over-feeding
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within bounds.*

Some symptoms of weakness in boxwood are:

1. Reddish foliage in winter.
2. A heavy crop of flowers and/or seed.
3. Dull appearance of leaves on part or all of the plant.
4. Dead twigs.
5. Thin growth.
6. Puckered spots or blisters on the under side of the leaves. If caused by leaf miners, the tiny lemon colored grubs will be found in the blisters.

If no leaf miners are present, the cause of the trouble will be found, in practically all cases, at the ground under and near the plants. (See paragraph 4 for list of causes.)

Don't worry about diseases. Locate the cause of the trouble and correct it, if it is not too late. Then wait patiently until the boxwood has time to recover.

Boxwood may not show the effects of injury until six months or longer after the injury occurs. It may take much longer for large branches to die after the roots are cut. A spell of bad weather such as drought or blizzard usually shortens this period.

Boxwood can complete successfully with wiregrass [Ed. Bermuda grass, or *Cynodon dactylon*] and other grasses and weeds, if these plants are mowed. Any attempt to dig these grasses out will injure the boxwood roots. Only a part of a boxwood plant may be weakened or killed when a part of its root system is damaged. Injury of this nature may be seen in almost any cultivated flower border which is edged with dwarf boxwood.

The leaf miner is the only serious pest of boxwood. This insect is found on many types of tree boxwood, while the full dwarf forms appear to be immune. Leaf miners may be killed by spraying the leaves, inside and outside the plant, about one week before the miners emerge as tiny, adult flies. Use one ounce of 50% wettable DDT powder [Ed. All forms and uses of DDT in the U.S. were banned in 1972.] in three gallons of water. Repeat the treatment after two weeks, and again later if flies are seen. Malathion might be used as directed by the manufacturer instead of DDT. However, this material would have to

be applied more frequently than DDT [Ed. Follow all labeled instructions for Malathion which differ from the guidelines provided here.]

DDT kills the insects which normally eat mites (red spider) but does not harm the mites. It is best, therefore, to take special steps to control mite on boxwood, after the last application of DDT has had the desired effect on the leaf miners. Mites may be controlled by syringing the boxwood with tap-water several times during the spring and summer. Apply the water with the hose in late afternoon. Wash the leaves on the inside and outside of the plant. Let the foliage stay wet overnight. Mites cannot multiply under such conditions.

The washing will remove soot and dust and will not only improve the appearance of the boxwood but will also let the leaves breathe more normally. In severe cases, where tap water cannot be used, the mites could be killed with a miticide such as aramite [Ed. All forms and uses of aramite were banned by 1984.], if used as directed by the manufacturer.

Psyllids are whitish sucking insects which feed on the tender growth and cause the leave to curl. They disfigure the plant but cause no real injury. They may be killed by spraying or dusting the plants with nicotine [Ed. Since 2002, the EPA has been evaluating nicotine pesticides, which currently have a very restricted use. The use of nicotine pesticides is not recommended.] or malathion about May 25 in eastern Virginia and around June 8 in western Virginia. Use the materials as directed on container.

Nematodes are found on or about the roots of boxwood, especially in sandy soil and in soils low in humus. In well-drained soil, containing a reasonable amount of humus, the nematodes will cause no serious injury to boxwood. The author has dug dwarf boxwood with yellowish foliage from sites reported to be infested with nematodes, and planted them, nematodes and all, in good soil. After three to eight months, depending on the size of the plant and season, these plants developed normal color and have made good specimens.

Mites may be controlled by syringing the boxwood with tap-water several times during the spring and summer.

Wilt or blue stem may follow winter injury on the tender terminal twigs. The injured or girdled part of the stem usually occurs about 6 to 8 inches from the tip on tree boxwood, and about 3 to 5 inches on dwarf types. For sake of appearance, these twigs with reddish, yellow, or dead leaves may be removed. If left on the plant no harm whatever would result.

Boxwood is native to East Asia, North Africa, and Southern Europe, and also occurs to a lesser extent in West India and in Central America. There is no American boxwood and none native to England which are used as ornamental plants. *Buxus sempervirens* is the common tree box, while *Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa* is the one commonly referred to as Dwarf Boxwood or English Boxwood. Among the thirty-odd other known species of *Buxus* are *japonica*, *microphylla*, *balearica*, *fortunei*, *harandii*, and *walachiana*. Variations in boxwood are without number. In Virginia there are many thousands of different strains or varieties of boxwood. It is probable that each of these came from an individual seed at sometime in the past. The author has grown more than 5,000 boxwood from seed at the Agricultural Experimental Station at Blacksburg. No two of them were exactly alike. Some were vigorous and upright, some were dwarf in habit, while most of them were "intermediates." Approximately 800 of these seedlings are now growing in the V.P.I. Arboretum.

Following the severe winter of 1935, a block containing about 1,200 three-foot boxwood was examined in a

Virginia nursery. Half of the plants had been propagated from cuttings taken from a plant purchased in one community. The rest was propagated from a different plant growing about 35 miles from the first community. The severe weather killed all the plants from one community while those from the other were green. Although the two parent plants looked alike, they varied in their resistance to cold.

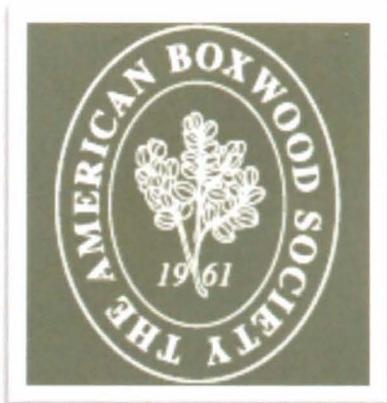
Boxwood may readily be propagated from cuttings. These will root at almost any time of the year. For outdoor rooting, place the cuttings in sand or in sandy soil from July 15 to September 15. Protect from direct sunshine and from wind. Keep the bed moist. If cutting wood is abundant, make cuttings 6 inches long for dwarf box and 8 to 10 inches for tree types. Small cuttings may be put in a greenhouse or in a cold frame as late as December.

*The author has
grown more than
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the Agricultural
Experimental
Station at
Blacksburg.*

*A. G. Smith, Jr., was Associate Horticulturist Emeritus at VPI & SU, as well as a founder and Director of the American Boxwood Society. He was recognized as an authority on boxwood culture and as a horticultural writer and lecturer. This article formed the basis of the information used to create the Virginia Cooperative Extension Publication #426-603 "Boxwood in the Landscape" which is still in print after numerous revisions. He also is remembered for writing *The Boxwood at Stratford Hall*, which details the proper*

cultural techniques to renovate mature boxwood in his 64 page hardcover book published in 1966 by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association.

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Wednesday May 20	Tour the gardens of Winterthur, Nemours, and Mt. Cuba Center. Café lunch at Winterthur, dinner at Goodstay House and Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	

Thursday May 21	<i>Timeless Gardens, Timeless Boxwood</i> Symposium. All-day symposium featuring speakers on boxwood history, usage, and design. Sandwich buffet lunch.	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	
Thursday May 21 Evening	Reception and banquet at Longwood Gardens with keynote speaker Lynn Batdorf	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	
Friday May 22	Tour Gardens at Highlands Mansion & Gardens, Andalusia House, and Bartram's Garden. Buffet lunch at Highlands	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	
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Host Hotel: **Mendenhall Inn (610) 388-1181 \$109/night (breakfast included). Mention American Boxwood Society to receive special rate. Make hotel Reservations by April 3 for special rate – there are a limited number of rooms blocked.**

Other rooms also available in Kennett Square:
Hilton Garden Inn – Kennett Square (610) 444-9100 \$169/night
Fairfield Inn & Suites – Kennett Square (610) 444-8995 \$159/night (complimentary breakfast)

The Question Box

Q: I am looking for an essential oil of the boxwood fragrance. Might you know where I can find one?

A: You may know that the leaves have been utilized for medicinal applications (not recommended). The alkaloids (nearly 50) give resulted in several medical applications. In one example, the Belgians are using an extract from the oil found in the wood as a cancer treatment. The extract contains the alkaloid cycloprotobuxine, which has been shown to promote anti-cancer activity.

Boxwood oils, to the best of my knowledge, have not been utilized simply for their fragrance. This includes the cinnamon-like fragrance of the flowers as well as the bittersweet aroma of the leaves.

Q: We planted nine boxwood in April of this year. One by they have gotten light green leaves almost neon with some brown on the ends. All have done this but two which have stayed a dark green. I called a nursery and was told they should not be changing color. Do you have any advice? We have not fertilized the shrubs. They cost a lot and we do not want them to die.

A: Spring is the least advantageous season to plant boxwood. However, I doubt that's what is causing your plants to die.

If the foliage is very dense (typical from nursery grown plants), look in the interior of the shrub. You're looking for small dark brown spots on the upper or lower surface of the brown interior

leaves. Also, you're checking for a thin film of pink fuzz on the underside of the leaves. It's likely you have one or the other, or even both.

Both of these diseases are caused by overly dense foliage. Planting these disease weakened shrubs in spring creates undue stress resulting in the death of entire branches as the disease advance from a leaf fungus to a twig fungus.

At this point, sanitation becomes a primary concern - you ought to remove the plants and any disease ridden leaves on the soil surface. Regarding the two healthy boxwood, they ought to be thinned as soon as possible, and also every fall. Please review this link for thinning instructions:

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/faqs/BoxwoodThinning.html>

Newly planted shrubs, including boxwood should not be fertilized. Additionally, boxwood should never be fertilized in the spring. Please have your soil tested first to determine if fertilizer is even necessary (many times it is not). The correct soil pH (6.8 to 7.5) is, generally, a far more critical concern for boxwood than is soil fertility.

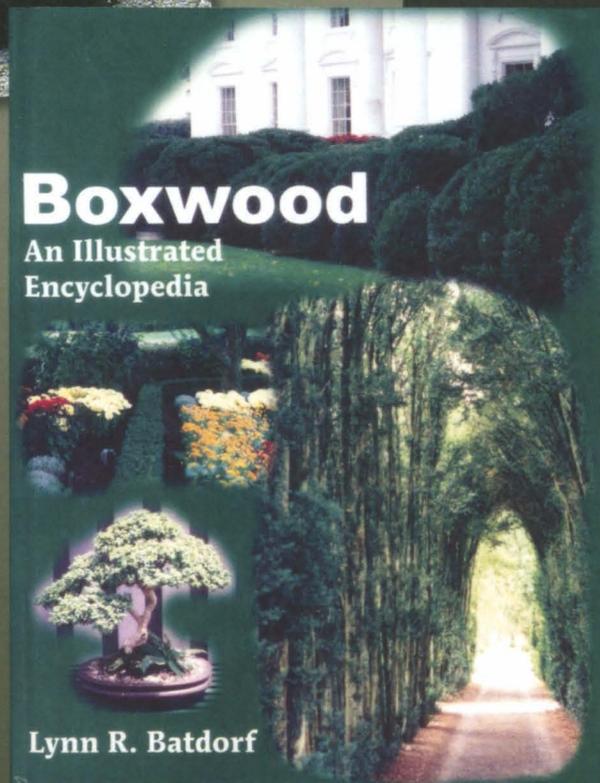
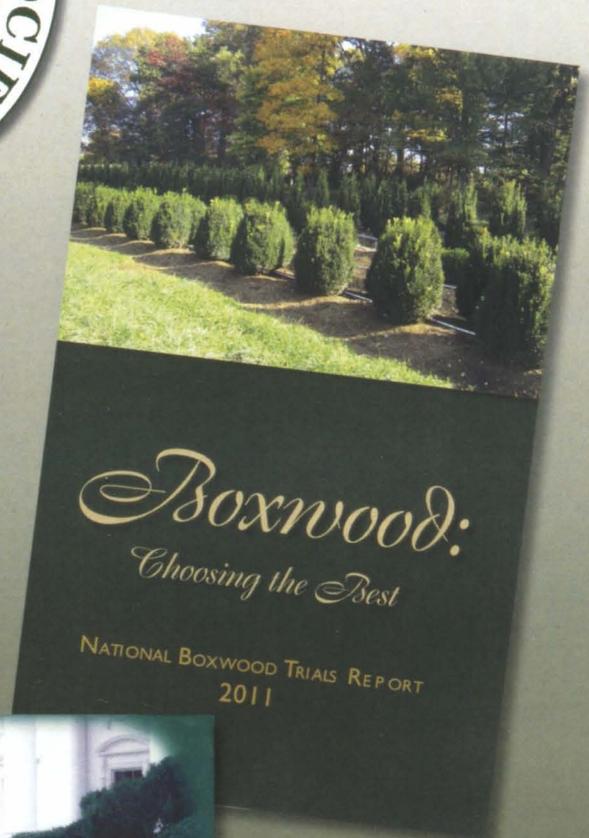
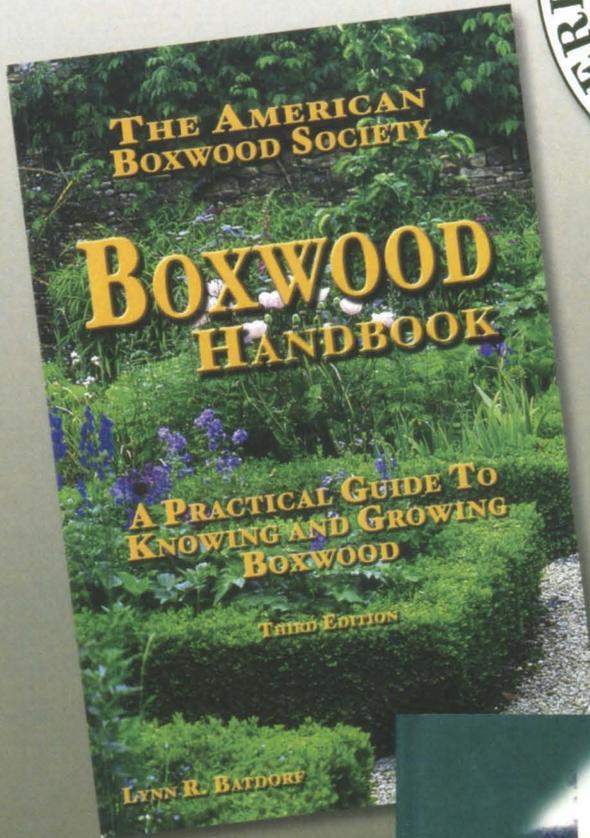
Have a question about the American Boxwood? Our experts are happy to help. Please email your question to amboxwoodsociety@gmail.com. We may use your question in the next "The Question Box" segment of the Boxwood Bulletin.




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