

***The***

January 1978

# Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



Photo: National Historic Trust

*Sundial Parterre: Outlands, Leesburg, Va.*

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# The Boxwood Bulletin

January 1978

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# WINTER DAMAGE ON BOX

John E. Ford

Curator, Secrest Arboretum  
Ohio Agricultural Research  
and Development Center  
Wooster, Ohio

The winter of 1976-1977 was a real test of the hardiness of many plants including box (*Buxus*). Temperatures dropped to 20° F. (some reports to 24° F.) in mid January. Two weeks later there was a three-day blizzard with subzero temperatures and continuous winds of 25 to 35 miles per hour with gusts reaching 50 m.p.h. It was one of the most severe winters on record for the Wooster, Ohio area.

Cold weather in early fall 1976 froze some leaves on trees and shrubs before they had a chance to drop naturally. Unfavorable conditions for plants were aggravated by a seven-inch deficiency in normal rainfall. Plants went into the winter in a dry condition. Boxwood plantings were watered into mid October but with the ground being so dry it was difficult, if not impossible, to supply enough water to make up the deficiency on plantings of any size. With plants going into the winter in a dry condition and plant tissues being frozen for a month at a time high winds caused considerable desiccation of exposed evergreen leaves and twigs.

There are currently 33 different types of boxwood outplanted in the Secrest Arboretum totaling 205 individual plants. Only two box were completely killed. These were two Asheville Common Box (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Ashville') that had been outplanted in the summer of 1976. These plants were only sixteen inches in height and hadn't become re-established. They were also planted at the corners of a house in a foundation planting. Plantings at corners of buildings are exposed to more wind than those nearer the center of the building. No other boxwood were completely killed as a good snow cover during the coldest windiest weather undoubtedly protected the plants and prevented additional losses.

Until mid March little winter damage was apparent on boxwoods but as the warm spring weather came along damage on leaves and twigs became progressively more severe. After a warm period of three weeks in April temperatures dropped to 23° F. which caused additional damage to opening buds and new growth.

A good deal of damage appeared above the protection of snow cover especially on windy sites. Navicularis Common Box (*B. sempervirens* 'Navicularis') was the exception as this plant had leaves under the snow cover killed but remained green above the snow. In general, boxwoods exposed to winds and winter sun suffered more damage than those growing on more protected sites. Older established plantings fared better than new plantings. Larger plants were hardier than small plants. Winds caused the greatest amount of damage.

Five plants of Asheville Common Box (*B. sempervirens* 'Asheville') planted in 1923 are the oldest boxwoods in the Arboretum. They are planted in a group and have grown in together. There was considerable winter kill on one plant in this group that was exposed to winds and winter sun. About 75 percent of the foliage and branches have been killed. The interior of the crown is still alive. This plant helped to protect the remaining plants in the group which by the end of July show little signs of winter injury. These plants all came through another winter when the temperatures dropped to 20° F. in 1963.

A hedge planting of Asheville Box made in 1950 had winter kill up to 30 percent where exposed to winter winds. Portions of the hedge in the shade of and protected by large Japanese Yews (*Taxus cuspidata*) suffered only minor damage. No plant was completely killed and all will recover.

Roundleaf Common Box (*B. sempervirens* 'Roundifolia') planted in 1930 on a site exposed to winter sun and to winds from the east. Damage was scattered quite evenly throughout the entire crown. Leaves and twigs up to six inches in length were killed. By the end of July new leaves had been produced along the living portions of the stems. The plant will undoubtedly survive unless we have a second severe winter in 1977-1978. These plants had survived a previous winter with temperatures to 20° F. in 1963.

WINTER DAMAGE TO BOXWOODS

Name	No. Plants	Out-planted	Size 1976	Wind	Winter Sun	Shade	% Plant Under Snow	Condition Under Snow	Winter Kill	New Growth
P.I. 178048	1	1974	40"	Ex	Ex	East	50	++	Top 50%	++
P.I. 178048	1	1974	34"	Ex	Ex	East	50	++	Scattered 40%	++
B. microphylla 'Compacta Kingsville Dwarf'	1	1974	7"x8"s	Ex	Ex	None	100	-	Tips	++
B. microphylla 'Curleylocks'	1	1971	20"x30"s	Ex	Ex	East	80	-	Top 40%	+
B. microphylla 'Green Pillow'	1	1974	8"x16"s	Ex	Ex	None	100	-	2" tips	++
B. microphylla japonica	2	1958	62"	P	P	Complete	30	++	Lt. Scattered	++
B. microphylla koreana	1	1970	60"	P	P	Light	25	+	None	+
B. microphylla koreana 'Pincushion'	2	1975	8"x14"s	P	P	Partial	100	+	Slight	+
B. microphylla koreana 'Pincushion'	1	1975	10"x15"s	P	P	Partial	100	++	Slight	++
B. microphylla koreana 'Tall Boy'	3	1975	14"	P	P	Partial	90	+	3" top	+
B. microphylla koreana 'Winter Beauty'	3	1975	14"	P	P	Partial	90	+	6" top	+
B. microphylla koreana 'Winter Beauty'	1	1975	15"	P	P	Partial	60	+	5" top	+
B. microphylla koreana 'Wintergreen'	1	1974	13"x14"s	Ex	Ex	East	100	+	Slight tip	++
B. microphylla koreana 'Wintergreen'	18	1971	24"x24"s	P	P	Complete	75	++	None	++
B. microphylla koreana 'Wintergreen 58'	1	1974	14"	Ex	Ex	East	100	++	2" tip	++
B. microphylla koreana 'Wintergreen 58'	1	1974	15"	Ex	Ex	East	100	+	Slight tip	+
B. microphylla koreana 'Wintergreen 58'	2	1973	15"	P	P	Partial	100	+	4" top	+
B. microphylla koreana 'Wintergreen 58'	2	1973	20"	P	P	Partial	75	++	Top 50%	++
B. microphylla koreana 'Wintergreen HNS'	1	1974	7"	Ex	Ex	East	100	+	Occasional leaf	+
B. microphylla koreana 'Wintergreen HNS'	4	1973	14"	P	P	Partial	75	++	2" tips	++
B. microphylla koreana 'Wintergreen HNS'	1	1974	15"	Ex	Ex	East	60	++	6" tips	++
B. microphylla, Largeleaf Asiatic Clone	1	1974	60"	Ex	Ex	East	40	++	Top twigs 60%	+
B. microphylla, Largeleaf Asiatic Clone	1	1974	62"	Ex	Ex	East	40	++	Top twigs 30%	+
B. microphylla, Largeleaf Asiatic Clone	2	1967	60"	P	P	Light	40	++	None	+
B. microphylla, Largeleaf Asiatic Clone	13	1976	12"x18"s	P	Pa	Light	100	++	None	++
B. microphylla 'Morris Medium Dwarf'	1	1974	8"x10"s	Ex	Ex	None	100	-	2" tips	+
B. microphylla 'Morrison Garden'	1	1973	24"	P	P	Partial	75	+	None	+
B. sempervirens 72-663	1	1974	58"	Ex	Ex	East	30	+	60% top	+
B. sempervirens 72-663	1	1974	50"	Ex	Ex	East	30	++	Scattered 40%	+
B. sempervirens 'Arborescens'	1	1973	11"	P	P	Partial	100	+	None	+
B. sempervirens 'Asheville'	76	1950	48"	Ex	Ex	None	30	+	Scattered 30%	+
B. sempervirens 'Asheville'	22	1950	84"	P	P	Partial	30	+	Slight	+
B. sempervirens 'Asheville'	2	1976	16"	SEx	P	Partial	20	-	Dead	+
B. sempervirens 'Asheville'	4	1923	108"	P	P	Light	20	++	Slight	+
B. sempervirens 'Asheville'	1	1923	108"	Ex	Ex	Light	20	++	75%	+
B. sempervirens 'Asheville'	1	1974	20"	Ex	Ex	East	60	+	30% top	+
B. sempervirens 'Asheville'	1	1973	20"	P	P	Partial	60	+	40% top	+
B. sempervirens 'Asheville'	3	1973	20"	P	P	Partial	60	++	Tips	++
B. sempervirens 'Colprit No. 4'	1	1970	11"	P	P	Partial	100	++	None	+
B. sempervirens 'Edgar Anderson'	1	1974	38"	Ex	Ex	East	30	++	60%	++
B. sempervirens 'Fastigiata'	1	1974	35"	Ex	Ex	East	30	+	75%	+
B. sempervirens 'Handsworth'	1	1970	12"	P	P	Partial	100	+	None	+
B. sempervirens, Mulsted strain	1	1974	72"	Ex	Ex	East	50	++	50%	+
B. sempervirens, Mulsted strain	1	1974	78"	Ex	Ex	East	50	++	20%	+
B. sempervirens, Mulsted strain	2	1967	60"	P	P	Partial	50	++	Partial	++
B. sempervirens 'Northern New York'	1	1974	18"x24"s	Ex	Ex	East	50	++	50% top	+
B. sempervirens 'Navicularis'	1	1974	53"	Ex	Ex	East	50	-	40% base	+
B. sempervirens 'Pendula'	1	1974	59"	Ex	Ex	East	30	++	Scattered 40%	+

WINTER DAMAGE TO BOXWOODS

Name	No. Plants	Out-planted	Size 1976	Wind	Winter Sun	Shade	% Plant Under Snow	Condition Under Snow	Winter Kill	New Growth
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Rotundifolia'	2	1930	94"	Ex	Ex	Partial	30	+	Scattered 75%	+
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Salicifolia'	1	1974	19"	Ex	Ex	East	100	-	Top 15"	-
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Schmidt'	1	1974	57"	Ex	Ex	East	50	+	Twigs 60%	+
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Schmidt'	1	1974	44"	Ex	Ex	East	50	++	Twigs 30%	+
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Suffruticosa'	1	1930	108"	P	P	Partial	30	++	None	++
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Suffruticosa'	1	1930	120"	Ex	Ex	Partial	30	++	20%	++
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Vardar Valley'	1	1974	38"	Ex	Ex	East	50	++	Scattered 70%	++
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Vardar Valley'	1	1970	12"	P	P	Partial	100	++	None	+
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Vardar Valley'	1	1970	12"	P	P	Partial	100	++	Scattered 10%	+
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Varifolia'	1	1974	55"	Ex	Ex	East	50	-	90%	-
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Varifolia'	1	1970	33"	P	P	Partial	50	++	Slight	+
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Wooster No. 1'	1	1974	50"	Ex	Ex	East	50	-	60% top	+
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Woster No. 1'	1	1974	30"	Ex	Ex	East	70	-	60% top	+

Ex - Exposed

P - Protected

Pa - Partial

- - In poor growing condition

+ - In average growing condition

++ - In excellent growing condition

Truedwarf Common Box (*B. sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa') planted in 1930 on a well protected site on all sides except south where there is slight exposure to the winds. By the end of July no winter damage was apparent except on exposed south side where there are dead branches to one foot long. The boxwood will undoubtedly outgrow all signs of damage within a couple of years. The plant had also survived 20° F. in 1963.

Korean Littleleaf Box (*B. microphylla koreana*) was originally set in 1931. It was transplanted to a new location in 1970. It has never completely recovered from transplanting. Heavy soil and somewhat poor drainage undoubtedly are factors for the general poor growth of this plant. However, there was no sign of winter damage. The site is protected from direct winds.

Japanese Littleleaf Box (*B. microphylla japonica*) was planted in 1958 on a completely protected site. By the end of July there is very little evidence of winter damage and both plants are in excellent condition.

Wintergreen Littleleaf Box *B. microphylla koreana* 'Wintergreen'). Eighteen plants set in 1971 on a protected site came through the winter with no sign of damage but they were covered by snow dur-

ing the winter. Other Wintergreen Box set on more exposed sites had slight tip burn. By the end of July all plants were in excellent growing condition with no evidence of winter injury.

Largeleaf Asiatic Clone of Littleleaf Box (*B. microphylla*). On protected sites this plant came through the winter in good condition. On sites exposed to the wind there was considerable damage.

*B. sempervirens* 'Varifolia' suffered bark splitting. Roots are alive and resprouting. This box would have undoubtedly been completely killed if it hadn't been protected by snow cover.

Willowleaf Common Box (*B. sempervirens* 'Salicifolia') was killed back to the ground. The roots are alive and resprouting is occurring at base of original plant. This box would have undoubtedly been killed if it hadn't been protected by snow cover.

To grow the hardier strains of boxwood around Wooster, Ohio (Plant Hardiness Zone 5) they should be set on favorable sites well protected from the winds.

# BOXWOOD EXHIBIT

## AT

### METROPOLITAN HORTICULTURAL SHOW



ABS President, A. L. Beecher at Tyson's Corner exhibit.

At the Annual Metropolitan Horticultural Show held at Tyson's Corner Shopping Center at McLean, Virginia on August 4, 5, 6, the American Boxwood Society had an exhibit to help people in Northern Virginia to become better acquainted with the Society. The exhibit featured the *Boxwood Journal*, a collection of different varieties of named boxwood as well as examples of common boxwood problems such as leaf miners, psyllids and mites.

The exhibit was planned and set up by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ewert. Tom is a Director *Ex Officio* of the American Boxwood Society, and the Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm where the official headquarters of the Society are located at Boyce, Virginia. Kay Ewert is the Treasurer of the Society.

During the hours the exhibit was open to the public, various members of the American Boxwood Society were on hand to answer questions on boxwood and to give information about the American Boxwood Society. Membership brochures were passed out to interested visitors. Members of the American Boxwood Society that served in the booth were:

Mrs. John J. Haggerty  
Route 1, Box 132A  
Berryville, VA  
Mr. A. A. Greenwood  
6442 Overlook Dr.  
Alexandria, VA  
Mr. Scot Butter  
7525 Old Dominion Dr.  
McLean, VA

Mrs. D. P. Rabun  
214 W. Cork St.  
Winchester, VA  
Prof. Albert S. Beecher  
Dept. of Hort., VPI & SU  
Blacksburg, VA  
From the Blandy  
Experimental Farm:  
Bob Arnold, Tom Ewert,  
and Kay Ewert

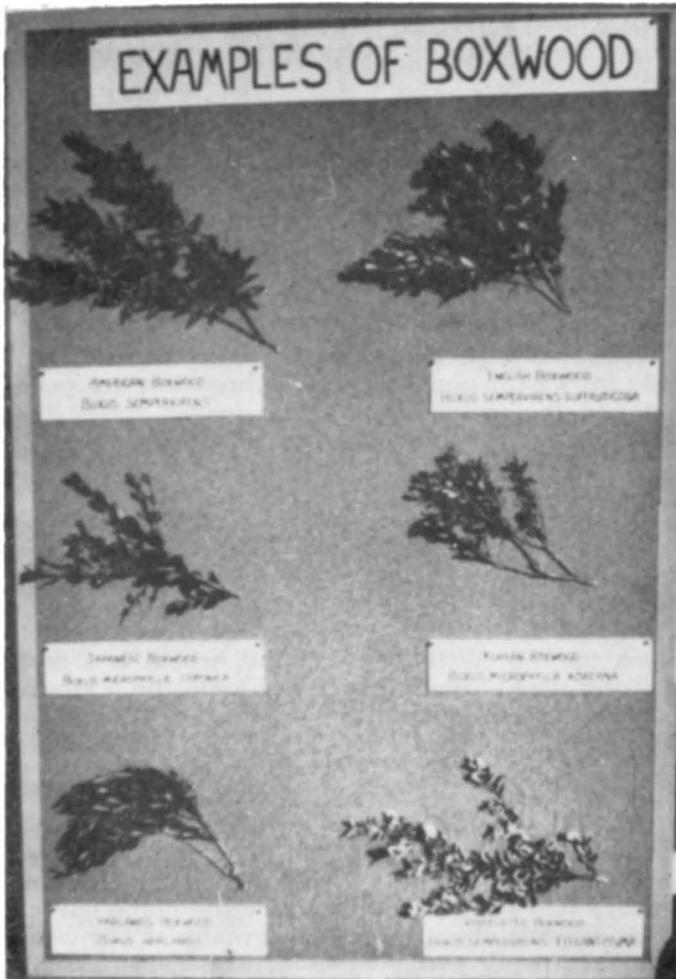
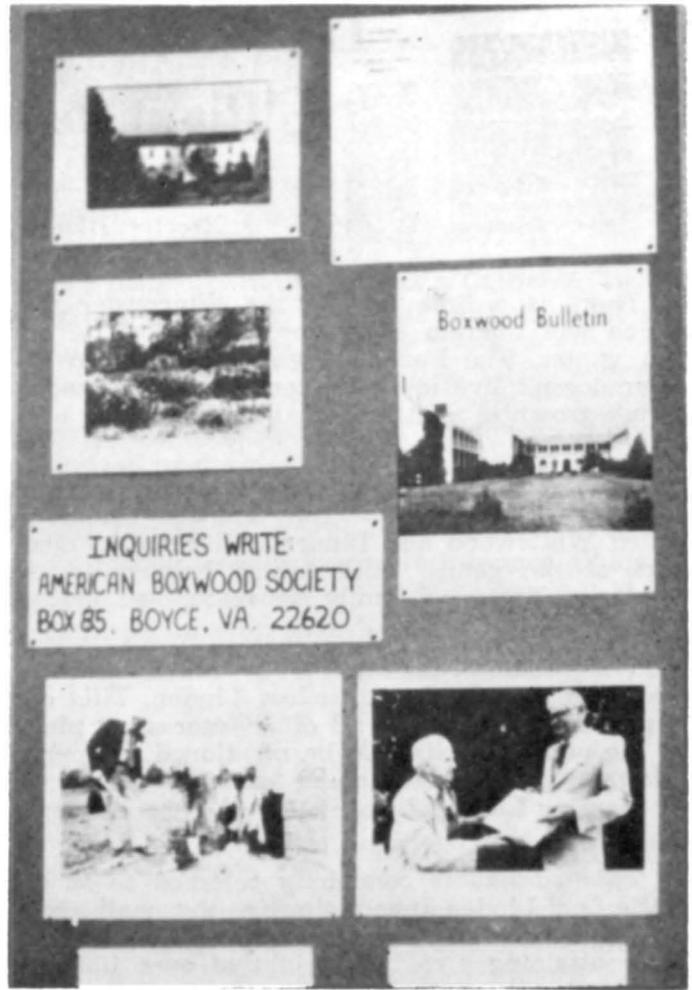


The Metropolitan Horticultural Show was sponsored by the Extension Service offices of the District of Columbia, Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Montgomery, Prince George and Prince William Counties, the D. C. Branch of the Professional Grounds Management Society, and the Green Scene of the National Capital Parks.

Other exhibits by plant societies included:  
 Old Dominion African Violet Society  
 Chrysanthemum Society  
 National Capital Dahlia Society  
 Potomac Rose Society/Arlington Rose Foundation  
 Potomac Lily Society  
 Bonsai Society

The show also included commercial exhibits as well as educational exhibits by VPI & SU, University of Maryland, The D. C. Cooperative Extension Service, U. S. Botanical Garden, U. S. National Arboretum, Green Scene, National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs, The Northern Virginia Beekeepers Association, and Brookside Gardens.

Another popular feature of the show was the Plant Clinic where the visitors had an opportunity to ask the experts questions on house plants, turf management, plant identification, care of ornamentals and the growing of fruits and vegetables.



**18th Annual Meeting  
 of  
 The American Boxwood Society  
 May 10, 1978  
 at  
 Blandy Experimental Farm  
 Boyce, Virginia**

Mark this date now in your date book.

MAILBOX

Boxwood Workshop Participants write:

November 10, 1977

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ewert,

We really had a most enjoyable time at Blandy Farm.

We have propagated, transplanted and trimmed boxwood for years and found Tuesday that we had just scratched the surface. The whole day, including the lunch was planned so well. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,  
 Eleanor and Joe Cochran  
 Rt. 2, Box 252  
 Staunton, Va. 24401

# Little-Leaf Linden Blandy's 'Plant of the Month'

By Thomas E. Ewert  
Director, Blandy Experimental Farm

There is a lime tree in the Winchester area which will tolerate even more cold than we had last winter. The Basswood growing down by the river doesn't live in the water, although it would rather grown in moist soil than in a very dry area.

Lime and Basswood are both common names for the same group of trees. They are also commonly called Whitewood and Linden. All refer to members of the genus, *Tilia*, which belongs to the Linden or Basswood family, Tiliaceae.

The "Plant-of-the-Month" at Blandy for the month of July is the Little-leaf Linden, *Tilia cordata*, but there are several other interesting plants in the genus which must be mentioned to appreciate the variations of size and texture you can have by planting Lindens.

*Tilia cordata* is commonly referred to as the Little Leaf Linden or sometimes as the small-leaved European Linden. It grows throughout Europe, often attaining a mature height of over 100 feet. In forests, it grows tall and thin with a good straight trunk. When growing in the open it has a densely pyramidal form. The Little Leaf Linden is hardy at -35 degrees F. and is tolerant of most soil conditions. It does not like very dry soil conditions.

The Little Leaf Linden is generally slow growing but its rich, green color and fine texture make it an excellent shade tree. It is very tolerant of city conditions. The leaves are small, from 1 to 2 inches long, and heart shaped.

**THE LINDENS FLOWER** in early to mid summer and while the flowers are not particularly showy, they are very fragrant. Lindens are an excellent source of nectar for bees although two species, *Tilia tomentosa* and *Tilia petiolaris*, are poisonous to bees. *Tilia cordata* blooms in June. The flowers are borne several together in stalked clusters. The clusters are attached to a thin leaf-like bract.

A cultivar "*Tilia cordata*", known as "Greenspire" (plant patent #2086), has been selected for its fine shape. A seedling lot of *Tilia cordata* will exhibit a great deal of variation in size and shape. By purchasing a named cultivar, such as 'Greenspire', you can be assured of a uniform planting. This is especially valuable when a number of plants are used in a formal setting. 'Greenspire' was selected from seeds collected from a cross between the finest Little Leaf Linden in the Boston Park System and a good plant found growing in

Germany. *Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire' tends to grow faster than the species.

It is always a good idea to buy named cultivar of plants when they are available. Cultivars have been selected for certain characteristics and generally will perform more reliably in the garden. If you are not able to obtain certain plants from your local nurseryman, ask if he could order them for you. As the nursery consumer learns of improved plant cultivars and begins to ask for them by name, the local nurseryman will begin to stock them.

LINDENS OFTEN appeared in 18th century landscape designs where they are meticulously pruned to form formal clipped allees. They respond well to the high maintenance, specialty forms of pruning known as pleaching and pollarding.

Some of the other noteworthy Lindens include "*Tilia americana*" (American Linden). This large growing tree, often well over 100 feet, has a coarser texture, with 4 to 8 inch long leaves. A tough, hardy plant, it was used for making inexpensive furniture.

*Tilia xeuropaea* is a hybrid of *Tilia cordata* and *Tilia platyphyllos*, with 4 inch long leaves and a good green color. This tall growing tree forms a beautiful specimen. It is of fairly erect habit with weeping branchlets.

The weeping white Linden, "*Tilia petiolaris*," only grows to about 75 feet. Its branches are pendant and the under sides of the leaves are sort of silvery green, making the tree particularly beautiful in a light breeze.

Three other good Lindens which are sometimes seen in gardens are *Tilia platyphyllos*, the Large-leaved Linden, with leaves to 5 inches and a height up to 130 feet. *Tilia tomentosa*, the Silver Linden, (look for the cultivar 'Princeton', which is a more uniform tree), and *Tilia xeuclora*, the Crimean Linden, which is more tolerant of heat and dry soil.

THE LINDENS ARE a relatively neglected group of trees. They provide excellent shade and can be grown very easily and have many characteristics which recommend them for the home garden. With concern about pollution in many of our cities, this may well become one of the more popular shade tree plantings in the near future.

# PROFESSOR'S TREE LEGACY

*Courtesy Richmond Times-Dispatch  
Times-Dispatch State Staff*

WILLIAMSBURG — It had the shape of a perfect Christmas tree — symmetrical branches and a nice cone shape.

No one will ever notice this pine is missing, several students thought, and on a chilly December evening, they cut down an evergreen tree on the campus of the College of William and Mary.

The revelers were ignorant of the fact that the tree, which they later decorated in a dorm, was one of three specimens of Atlas Mountain cedar that had been planted on campus. But they soon discovered how Christmas spirit can be set aside in certain circumstances.

Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., the biology professor who had planted and nurtured the tree, tracked them down and fined them \$100.

The incident occurred more than 10 years ago, and other minor tragedies — runaway lawnmowers, careless branch-swingers and abnormally harsh winters — have continued to take their toll on campus greenery.

Baldwin died in 1974, but his legacy of a worldwide variety of trees and shrubs decorating the campus continues to be expanded.

Williamsburg is located at a latitude that provides an ideal climate for hundreds of plant species. Most trees native to warm climates can grow here while trees that thrive in cold temperatures are equally adaptable.

College botanists have yet to identify all the species Baldwin planted through the years. They claim, with qualification, that the campus harbors one of the greatest varieties of trees and shrubs at any one place in the nation.

## *Was Alumnus*

Baldwin, an alumnus who taught biology from 1946 until his death, specialized in cytogenetics, the study of plant chromosomes. Botany was his avocation as well as his vocation, and the William and Mary campus proved to be an ideal laboratory for raising specimens from European cypresses to Himalayan pines.

It is a place where the roots of a California redwood grow, contentedly entwined with those of a windmill palm from Hawaii.

One of the most spectacular specimens is the metasequoia, or dawn redwood. Until 1946, it was known to exist only in fossil remains. However, that year a group of agricultural explorers located a grove of 1,000 trees in Szechwan Province, China. The local peasants were using the trees for the interior furnishings for their homes.

## *Tallest in America*

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University distributed seeds from the redwood forest to determine where the trees would survive. Baldwin obtained some of the seeds while traveling in Belgium. He had them shipped home and planted on campus. His dawn redwoods at William and Mary are now the tallest in America, towering more than 100 feet.

A tree that attracts the admiration of visitors — Christmas tree seekers or not, is the crytomeria, a stately evergreen originally from Japan, which was first planted at William and Mary in 1947. The evergreen thrives in the Virginia climate so well, in fact, that Baldwin liked to refer to the Williamsburg area as the crytomeria capital of the world.

Baldwin's work is being continued. Dr. Bernice M. Speese, who retired from the biology department in 1976, still works at supervising the care of the trees and shrubs and organizing Baldwin's records. She collaborated with Baldwin on much of his horticultural research.

She hopes to have an area of the campus set aside in which to grow duplicates of all the trees Baldwin discovered or hybridized.

"Books are for pleasure and teaching, and so is a collection of plants," Baldwin once said. He believed that an arboretum was as important to a university or college as a library and he planted trees at W&M for their instructive value as much as for their beauty.

# THE BALDWIN MEMORIAL

May 1, 1977

## OLD DOMINION GARDENER

The dedication of a small park in honor of the late Dr. John Thomas Baldwin by the Williamsburg Area Council of Garden Clubs fulfilled a long held hope of many residents.

A graduate of the College of William and Mary, Dr. Baldwin taught there for many years, serving as chairman of the Biology Department. He was an internationally recognized authority on botany, plant taxonomy and economic botany.

In the years before his death in 1974, he spent much time enlarging the college collection of plants. In 1971 he received the Williamsburg Council of Garden Clubs Award for his interest and promotion of beautification throughout the Williamsburg area.

The memorial garden was planted by the council on land contributed for use by the college, with structural assistance from the city and it reflects some of Dr. Baldwin's particular interests. The plants chosen are nursery-grown cultivars of specimens given by him for propagation.

A spokesman for the Council said "The memorial represents the deep and enduring appreciation of Dr. Baldwin's patient teaching of our members and of his lively interest and help in Council activities."

Mrs. Thomas Banford Jones  
*Chr. Publicity & Public Relations*  
*Tidewater District*



## GRACE PERIOD UP

For sometime the publishing of the *Boxwood Journal* has been behind schedule. We are back on schedule, and it will now be necessary to check our membership mailing list and delete any names that are delinquent in reference to their annual dues. During the period we were behind schedule no names were removed for non payment of dues because we wanted to make sure that each member received the four bulletins that a member is entitled to each year.

Why not act fast and renew your membership so your name will not have to be removed from the mailing list. Send your \$5.00 membership fee to the Treasurer, Mrs. Thomas Ewert.

# THE GARDEN AT OATLANDS

A National Trust Property near Leesburg  
in Loudoun County, Virginia

*Miriam G. Rabb*

The terraced formal garden at Oatlands was originally designed and planted by George Carter, who built Oatlands House in the early 1800's and lived here until his death in 1846. The garden is considered one of the finest examples of early Virginia landscape design, and is noted for its magnificent boxwood (both *Buxus Arborescens* or "Tree Box", and *Buxus Suffruticosa*, often called English or dwarf box). When Oatlands was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William Corcoran Eustis in 1903, remaining original features of the garden included brick and stone walls, the original terraces and massive staircases, and an English Oak and European Larch and some of the boxwood established by Mr. Carter. Also standing were the brick dependencies at the northwest corner. One of these was a smokehouse which the Eustis family converted to a studio by adding windows and a fireplace. The larger building served as laundry, tool rooms and servants' quarters during the Eustis ownership; its original usage is not known. Both buildings are of brick molded and fired on the property, and research indicates that they date to the 1830's.

To restore the garden, Mr. and Mrs. Eustis extended the terraces to the south, planted English box in formal patterns, and established the sundial garden with magnolia grandiflora at its corners. The sundial is supported by a pink marble and granite pedestal which was the work of a New York sculptor. The legend on the bronze sundial reads "Time passes, memories remain."

In 1923 Mrs. Eustis wrote of the Oatlands Garden:

"When the present owners bought it. . . the Oatlands garden was falling into ruins; bricks were crumbling, weeds crowding the flowers and yet the very moss-grown paths seemed to say, 'we are still what we were.' It was a thankful task to restore the old beauty, although the thoughts and conceptions were new, they fitted it, and every stone vase or bench, every box-hedge planted, seemed to fall into its rightful place and become a part

of the whole. Certain improvements were made - - improvements the old designer and builder would have approved; fruit trees, hiding huge box and yew, were cut down, and a rosary laid out as a counterpart to the box-grove. It was not always easy to get the right effect.

"More than one-half of the garden can be seen from several vantage points; from the upper balustrade, looking down, from the Oak Grove, looking up, and from each separate terrace. The things to be striven for - - mystery, variety, and the unexpected - - were difficult of attainment; but in certain places they have been attained. The tall north wall, with brick coping and its small beds above descending stone walls - - just the same as in Carter days; a shady almost neglected spot, where the grass grows too tall sometimes, is a thing apart from the rest. Then the rose garden with its background of tall box and pine, in an enclosure of dark-green fencing, cedar posts and chains overhung with Dorothy Perkins roses, cannot be seen until you turn a corner and are on it unawares. And the bowling green, a long stretch of greensward, bordered by euonymus, flowering shrubs and Oriental Biota, is nearly always shaded, giving that sense of stillness and remoteness which a hidden mass of green so often suggests. At one end of it, the tall north wall shields it from blustering winds; at the other a sunny, white-pillared tea-house overlooks a grove of great oaks which, more than house or garden, is the living glory of Oatlands. The rest of the garden - - the staircase, box-hedges and brick pilasters to one side, with a great ivy-clad wall to the other, a larch tree crowning the whole; and looking down and southward, and old pink Venetian well head, protecting a deep, cool well. Then the terraces, bearing some vases, a sundial, many low box-hedges, and innumerable flowers - - they finish the tale. But the brick walls and, in one place, a slender white fence, shut it all in and give it that sense of separateness, of a certain aloofness almost, be-

fitting the guardian of treasures, the storehouse of old secrets."

After the above was written in 1923, Mrs. Eustis built the reflecting pool at the north end of the "bowling green" which she converted into a boxwood allee with plants she grew from clippings of old boxwood. The euonymus hedge was killed by severe winter weather in the 1930's, but the Oriental Biotia (arborvitae) - - now gnarled with age - - has been carefully preserved. Prior to the Eustis ownership of Oatlands, a kitchen garden flourished where the bowling green-allee now is.

In the box-grove east of the reflecting pool Mrs. Eustis placed a statue, "la Vierge d'Autun" - - a copy of a 15th Century French Madonna - - as a memorial to her daughter, Edith, who died in 1936 at the age of 24. Below this box-grove and facing east toward the Oatlands farm lands is the Carter family vault. George Carter is interred here, as is his widow, who died in 1885. The vault is sealed and has not been opened for many years.

Across the brick wall below the eastern side of the garden is a cutting garden supplying most of the materials for the fresh flower arrangements which are now, as they were during Mrs. Eustis' lifetime, a specialty in Oatlands House. The brick building adjoining the cutting garden is called the "Carter Barn." It was formerly a granary, and was probably built in 1816, the year George Carter built his grist mill on Goose Creek.

Garden ornaments brought to Oatlands by Mr. and Mrs. Eustis include an iron dog formerly on the grounds of their first Washington residence, Corcoran House on Lafayette Square.

The Oatlands Garden is primarily a green garden with plantings architecture and ornaments interesting at any season. Flowers provided accents of color from spring through fall. Among them are tulips, peonies, daffodils, hyacinths, lilies, chysanthemums, spring and autumn crocus, iris, blue salvia phlox and ageratum. At any season, the garden abounds in many different kinds of birds, and in such small animals as rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks.

"The garden," wrote Mrs. Eustis, "recalls the English formal garden which derived some of its inspiration from Italian models - yet its atmosphere is typically Virginian."

## BIRDS

Over 35 different species of song and game birds have been identified at Oatlands. Those you are most likely to see are cardinals, bluebirds, chickadees, nuthatches, bluejays, barn swallows, house wrens, robins, catbirds, brown thrushes, chipping sparrows, mourning doves, titmice, and various wrablers. At least one pair of pileated

woodpeckers makes its home in the woodlands of the property, and there are often migratory flights of evening grosbeaks and cedar waxwings. Bobwhite quail frequent the fields, and occasionally a wild turkey is seen.

## TREES

Some 40 different kinds of evergreens and hardwoods — native and exotic — are found on Oatlands' 260 acres. Among those which are identified and marked on the grounds are white oak, red oak, wild cherry, blue atlas cedar, Norwegian spruce, dogwood, red cedar, yellow poplar, ginko, paulownia, (empress tree), sugar maple, Virginia pine, European larch, English Oak, beech, white ash, Osage orange ,hedgeapple), and Magnolia Grandiflora. The ginko, European larch and English Oak are the largest of their species in Virginia, while there is an unusually fine stand of American hornbeam near the picnic area and along the walk between the parking area and Oatlands House.

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## CHECK BOXWOOD FOR DEAD LEAVES

*Jerry Williams*  
*Times-Dispatch Garden Columnist*

From the American Boxwood Society comes this timely suggestion on care of your prize plants.

Boxwood plants need to be checked periodically to see if they have become so compact that very little light and air can reach the center of the crown. When plants are tightly grown the interior shoots may die and the overall plant is weakened.

Pruning some of the inner branches will help to open up the plant to admit light to the interior, and this will encourage a green center where there will be green leaves all the way up the stem.

While you are checking, see if there is a collection of dead leaves and other debris inside your plants. At least once each year leaves, twigs and other miscellaneous flotsam that have accumulated in the center of the plants, should be removed.

Without this annual cleaning, fungus growth on leaves and twigs is promoted, the development of interior shoots is suppressed and sometimes aerial root development along the branches is encouraged. Failure to thin boxwood plants and to keep the debris cleaned out may be a major factor in contributing to boxwood decline.

# BOXWOOD GARDEN TOUR OF 5 GARDENS IN THE PHILADELPHIA AREA

We are pleased to announce a new event which we know will greatly interest you.

The American Boxwood Society will sponsor a garden tour of Philadelphia area boxwood gardens.

One of the loveliest gardens you'll ever have the opportunity to visit is "Deerfield," home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hallowell.

Please mark May 14 and 15th, 1978, on your calendar. Plan to join us in Philadelphia and share its elegant culture and gardening excellence. The complete program will be announced in April 1978 issue of the Boxwood Bulletin, along with photographs and descriptions of the four gardens that we plan to visit.

The houses included in this private tour are seldom opened to the public.

*— Not registered*

## NEW PLANTS FOR THE BOXWOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN

Recently through the cooperation of Mr. Lynn Batdorf, Curator of the Boxwood Collection at the National Arboretum, Washington, DC, the American Boxwood Society was the recipient of cuttings from approximately fifty different varieties of boxwood. These cuttings will be grown by Tom Ewert in the greenhouses at the Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia and when they reach a suitable size will be planted in the Memorial Boxwood Garden.

Cuttings arrived 11/16/77 and were stuck in the mist bench at Blandy that day.

The list of cuttings received are as follows:

NA 29690	Buxus balearica	Cuttings
NA 33899	Buxus harlandii	"
NA 31714	Buxus harlandii 'Richard'	"
NA 26389	Buxus microphylla 'Curly Locks'	"
NA 29224	Buxus microphylla 'Grace Hendricks Phillips'	"
NA 29692	Buxus microphylla 'Kingsville'	"
NA 24918	Buxus microphylla var. Koreana	"
NA 29693	Buxus microphylla var. koreana 'Garden Variety'	"

—NA 33825	Buxus microphylla 'Miss Jones'	"
—NA 17077	Buxus microphylla 'Sinica'	"
NA 34738	Buxus microphylla 'Tide Hill'	"
NA 4224	Buxus sempervirens 'Angustifolia'	"
NA 31791	Buxus sempervirens 'Arborescens'	"
NA 17078	Buxus sempervirens 'Arborescens Decussata'	"
NA 4219	Buxus sempervirens 'Argenteo Variegata'	"
NA 34199	Buxus sempervirens 'Aristocrat'	"
NA 4214	Buxus sempervirens 'Aurea'	"
NA 17791	Buxus sempervirens 'Aurea Maculata'	"
NA	Buxus sempervirens 'Aurea Marginata'	"
NA 29695	Buxus sempervirens 'Aurea Pendula'	"
— NA 34201	Buxus sempervirens 'Berlin'	"
— NA 34196	Buxus sempervirens 'Denmark'	"
— NA 33827	Buxus sempervirens 'Ed Wyckoff'	"

NA 4220-c	Buxus sempervirens 'Elegantissima'	"
NA 26390	Buxus sempervirens 'Fastigiata'	"
— NA 34202	Buxus sempervirens 'Field Row'	"
— NA 6009	Buxus sempervirens 'Flora Place'	"
— NA (26967)	Buxus sempervirens	"
NA 24422	<sup>29697</sup> Buxus sempervirens 'Handsworthiensecandelabra'	"
NA 34203	Buxus sempervirens 'Inglis'	"
— NA 24919	Buxus sempervirens 'Ipek'	"
NA 4239-c	Buxus sempervirens 'Joe Gable'	"
— NA 29698	Buxus sempervirens 'Latifolia Japonica Aurea'	"
NA 17086	Buxus sempervirens 'Latifolia Macrophylla'	"
— NA 4207	Buxus sempervirens 'Macrophylla' ?	"
— NA 34204	Buxus sempervirens 'Mason'	"
NA 4215	Buxus sempervirens 'Myrtifolium' ? Myrtifolia?	"
NA 6010	Buxus sempervirens 'Nish'	"
NA 24920	Buxus sempervirens 'Ste. Geneviene'	"
— NA 12310	Buxus sempervirens 'Sport'	"
NA 33502	Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa'	"
NA 29706	Buxus sempervirens 'Varifolia'	"
— NA 33795	Buxus sempervirens 'Washington-Missouri'	"
NA 29704	Buxus sempervirens 'Welleri'	"
— NA 34736	Buxus sempervirens 'West Ridgeway'	"
— NA 19230	Buxus sempervirens 'Woodland'	"

BOOK REVIEW  
THE GREEN THUMB DIRECTORY

Marion Schroeder

Marion Schroeder has written a valuable guide for over 1000 sources for seeds, plants, supplies, plant societies, and garden magazines.

There is a wealth of information with addresses on where to find seeds, vegetables, trees, flowers, ground covers, garden aids and supplies, indoor and outdoor equipment, and much, much more.

Between two covers is a most convenient, handy, guide for all gardeners to find purchasing sources at their fingertips, as well as pertinent information on many plant sizes and habitat.

Doubleday & Company Dolphin Books 3.95  
Garden City, New York

New Members added to the membership roll up to 1978:

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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Arch Hall  
Lorton, Va. 22079  
Mrs. William J. Cox  
4 Cornwall Street  
Leesburg, Va. 22075  
Mr. Howard A. Wolf  
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Blacksburg, Va. 24060  
George B. Briggs  
141 Smith Hall, Dept. of Hort.  
Blacksburg, Va. 24061  
Garden Club of Buzzard's Bay  
Box P-7  
So. Dartmouth, Ma. 02748  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Conley  
209 South Glenwood  
Columbia, Mo. 65201  
Mr. Arch Dalrymple III  
P. O. Drawer 210  
Amory, Mississippi 38221  
Mrs. F. F. Flemming  
Rt. 2, Box 65-A  
Leesburg, Va. 22075  
Robert H. Frazier  
P. O. Box 97  
Greensboro, N.C. 27402  
Thomas Goodfellow  
Tunstall on Trippes Creek  
Easton, Md. 21601  
Mrs. Michael R. Jones  
Rt. 1, Box 141-K  
Berryville, Va. 22611  
Mrs. Martha M. Lynch  
54 North King Street  
Leesburg, Va. 22075  
Michael Mellone  
P. O. Box 206  
Stewartsville, N.J. 08886  
Mrs. Kenneth Moore  
Rt. 3, Box 147  
Orange, Va. 22960  
Mrs. Joseph M. Pettit  
292 Tenth Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30318

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THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

## INFORMATION

Address: Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620

### DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Regular membership dues of The American Boxwood Society are now \$5.00. This includes a subscription to *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

Non-member subscriptions are for groups and institutions such as botanic gardens, libraries, etc. These are \$6.00 a year, and run by the calendar year.

The Boxwood Society year runs from one Annual Meeting to the next; from May of one year to May of the next year. Those joining the Society at other times are sent all the *Boxwood Bulletin* issues for the current Society year, beginning with the July number. Their dues are then again due and payable in the following May. This was voted by the Society in order to lighten as far as possible the heavy work load of our busy Treasurer.

At the present time any or all *Bulletins* are available, back to Vol. 1, No. 1 (Vol. 1 consists of three issues only, there was no Vol. 1, No. 4.) Price per single copy is \$1.50.

Besides regular membership dues at \$5.00 per year, there are other classes of membership available: Contributing, \$10.00; Sustaining, \$25.00; Life, \$100.00; and Patron, \$500.00.

Gift memberships are announced to the recipients by boxwood-decorated cards which carry the information that *The Boxwood Bulletin* will come as your gift four times a year.

Members of The American Boxwood Society are reminded of the 1968 IRS decision that contributions to and for the use of the Society, are deductible by donors as provided in Section 170 of the Code.

### FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

If your letter is concerned with

- Membership, new or renewal
- Payment of dues
- Donations to research programs
- Change of address
- Gift Membership
- Ordering back issues of the Bulletin
- Ordering Dr. Wagenknecht's List

Write to:

Mrs. Thomas E. Ewert  
American Boxwood Society  
Box 85  
Boyce, Virginia 22620

If your letter is concerned with:

- General information about the Society
- Advice concerning boxwood problems or cultural information
- Boxwood selection

Write to:

Mrs. Linda G. Jones  
American Boxwood Society  
Box 85  
Boyce, Virginia 22620

In some cases depending upon the nature of your request, your letter may be forwarded to a member of the Board or another appropriate member who can provide the help you have requested.

You are also welcome to write direct to the President of the American Boxwood Society:

Professor Albert S. Beecher  
Department of Horticulture  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

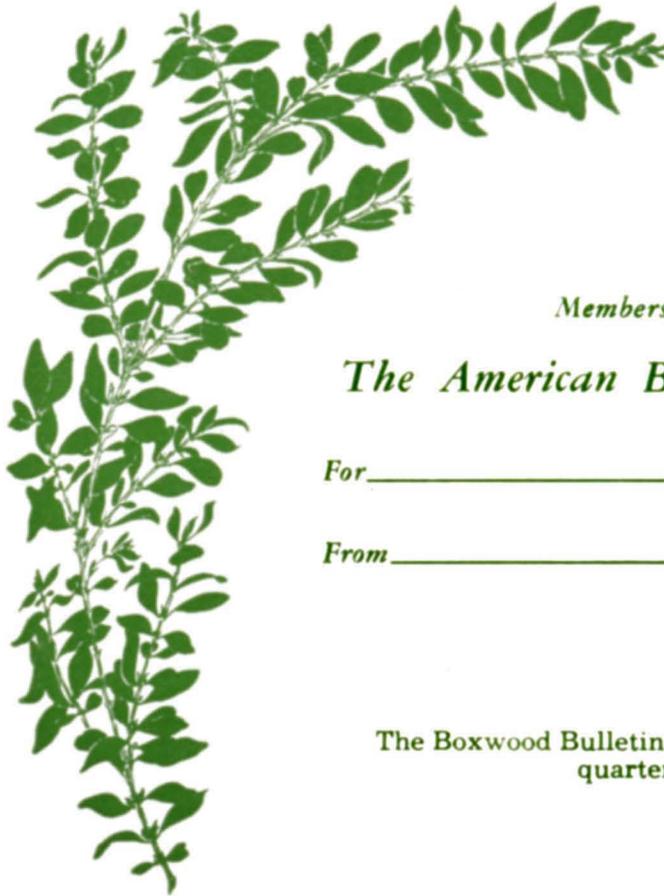
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If you have contributions for the *Boxwood Bulletin* - articles, news notes, photographs, suggestions of anything of probable interest to boxwood people, it saves time to direct them to the Editor:

Mrs. Charles H. Dick, Editor  
The Boxwood Bulletin  
514 Amherst Street  
Winchester, Virginia 22601

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*Membership in*

*The American Boxwood Society*

*For* \_\_\_\_\_

*From* \_\_\_\_\_

The Boxwood Bulletin will be sent to you  
quarterly.

MEMBERSHIP IN  
THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

Regular membership dues at \$5.00 per year, and includes a subscription to The Boxwood Bulletin. Other classes of membership available are: Contributing, \$10; Sustaining, \$25; Life, \$100; and Patron, \$500. The higher classes of membership provide income which permits the publication of more plates or of additional pages in the Boxwood Bulletin, as well as the expansion of other society activities. Names of those holding Contributing, Sustaining, Life, and Patron memberships will be published each year in the January issue of The Bulletin.