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OCTOBER 1979

Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



LONGUE VUE GARDENS
New Orleans, Louisiana

Edited Under The Direction Of
THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

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The Boxwood Bulletin

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EDITOR — MRS. CHARLES H. DICK

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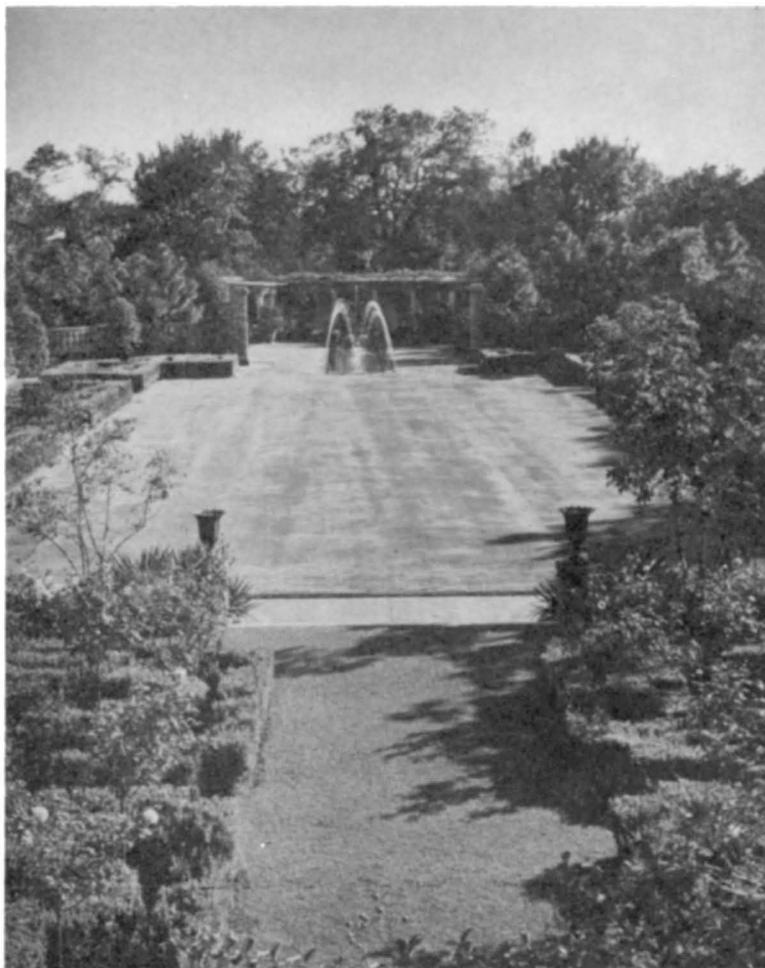
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LONGUE VUE GARDENS

New Orleans, Louisiana

Evelyn Scott Mitchell



*View from Portico Garden into
Spanish Court — Longue Vue Gardens*

Longue Vue Gardens is a private eight acre estate which was opened to the public in 1969. Formerly the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar B. Stern, the house and gardens, constructed over a three year period, were completed in 1942. The six separate gardens reflect the Spanish-English-French heritage of the New Orleans area and offer a tranquil haven in the center of a busy city.

The gardens were originally designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman. The Spanish Court, the largest garden, was redesigned in 1966 by William Platt, F. A. I. A., who had studied under Mrs. Shipman. Following a trip to the Generalife Gardens in Granada, Spain, Mr. Platt adapted the Moorish-Spanish influence in landscaping as seen in jet fountains, mosaic and tile walks, and container planting by joining it to the English theory of an

open greensward and geometrically clipped boxwood. He thus created a garden of unusual beauty and grandeur. The main boxwood planting is *Buxus microphylla*, var. 'Koreana', a very popular specimen in Southern gardens. It has a medium rate of growth so maintenance is not constant. It is suited to any well drained soil and thrives both in sun and partial shade, all of which make it an admirable choice for the semi-tropical New Orleans climate. Another variety of boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens*, var. 'angustifolia', or columnar box, is used in the brick planters which extend the length of the Spanish Court on either side. With a tree-like shape and dark green leaves, this variety offers a pleasing contrast to both the *microphylla* and to *Osmanthus fragrans* (sweet olive), *cleyra japonica* and several varieties of *euonymus* which are also in the planters. The *sempervirens* is not shaped, but allowed to grow naturally. It grows



Spanish Court Garden, Longue Vue Gardens

equally well in acid or alkaline soils, but is susceptible to die back, which is controlled at Longue Vue with Bordeaux Mixture.

The Portico Garden, a formal English rose garden, overlooks the Spanish Court and features two varieties of roses, the Peace rose in standards and the floribunda 'Summersnow', in addition to boxwood (*microphylla* again) which is clipped to enclose huge Pink Perfection camellia bushes. The boxwood here serves as a frame for the camellias and Peace roses and as an interesting contrast in texture and color to the profuse 'Summersnow'.

Two imposing lead eagles rendered in England at the Kenneth Lynch Foundry scan the entrance court at Longue Vue. A two-hundred-foot long oak alley leads to a Victorian fountain in the forecourt. While young, the live oaks were pruned into a cathedral arch to frame the front of the house. The ground cover under the trees is *vinca major* and Confederate jasmine. Approaching the main house the general plan, which was conceived in 1940 and redesigned in 1967, begins to unfold. In one majestic vista is seen the work of nearly three decades, Longue Vue Gardens.

The Wild Gardens is a block long area devoted to flowering trees and plants indigenous to the Gulf Coast region. The pigeoniere is a replica of an outbuilding at Uncle Sam Plantation, which is no longer in existence. The Camellia, Louisiana Swamp Iris, and Wildflower Walks meander through the garden and lead to the quiet pool, which is lined with Mississippi sandstone. Among

the shrubs and trees in this quiet natural area are dogwood; oak-leaf hydrangea; wild azaleas in pink, yellow, orange, and white; *Magnolia grandiflora*; *Magnolia glauca*; southern pine; cypress; live oak; black oak; holly; and mountain laurel.

The Yellow Garden, designed by Mrs. Stern features golden-hued blossoms and shrubs around a gently flowing fountain, created especially for this quiet secluded patio by Robert Engman of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Variiegated foliage and yellow flowering shrubs and vines, contrasted with solid greens, give this garden its name. Vines in this tiny patio include Carolina Yellow Jessamine, *Allamanda* and *Stigmaphyllon*. Flowering shrubs include *Lantana* and *Thryallis*. Yellow bulbs and annuals in pots augment the permanent planting.

An elfin statue of the mythological god of shepherds, trees and meadows presides over the Pan Garden, one of the quiet havens of beauty created by Ellen Biddle Shipman. Pan, crafted in bronze by Josephine Knoblock, an English sculptress, tops an Italian Renaissance fountain base. Permanent plant material in this tiny garden includes camellia 'Pink Perfection', polyantha roses 'Margot Koster', that bloom profusely most of the year, azalea 'King's White', *podocarpus*, and *Magnolia soulangeana*. The Pan Garden also features seasonal container plants such as *caladiums*, *chrysanthemums*, *cyclamen*, and Belgian azaleas. The stately tree rose is 'Helen Traubel', a well known favorite hybrid tea.

A plaque, dedicated to Mrs. Shipman in friendship and gratitude, is on the far wall of the Pan Garden.

The Walled Garden at Longue Vue blazes with tulips of early spring. Other seasonal shows in this small garden feature delphinium and chrysanthemums.

The Portico Garden, a formal English rose garden, fronts the southern facade of the house. Geometric boxwood designs, centered with camellia

'Pink Perfection', are contrasted with Peace rose standards and surrounded by a border of 'Summersnow', a white floribunda. On the terrace are pleached gardenias; large sweet olive trees, planted for their fragrance; and a delicate pink crepe myrtle.

The feeling of Longue Vue is one of serenity and peace with the interplay of fountains, manicured greenery, trees, flowers and lawns creating the complicated simplicity that is landscape architecture at its best.

BOXWOOD IN A GARDEN OF HARMONY AND PEACE

Mary A. Gamble



Photo courtesy of the Missouri Botanical Garden

Taikobashi (drum bridge) in Seiwa-en, the 14-acre Japanese garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden. It was designed by Koichi Kawana, a leading Japanese architect in the United States. Note two boxwood plants at left of bridge.

Seiwa-en, the Japanese garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Missouri, is a garden of harmony and peace. It covers some 14 acres and is the largest Japanese garden in North America. It was designed by Koichi Kawana, professor of art at the University of California in Los Angeles and president of Design Associates, Inc.,

of the same city. Koichi Kawana, recognized as one of the leading Japanese architects in this country, was selected by the St. Louis Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League in 1972 to design this landmark garden. Ground was broken in 1974; construction took three years; and the garden was dedicated in 1977.

The garden's name, Seiwa-en, was chosen by its designer. Each of the three syllables in the spoken word have significance: *Sei* means pure and clear; *wa* means harmony and peace; and *en* means garden or park. In the June 1977 issue of the Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin Professor Kawana wrote: "A real appreciation and understanding of the traditional Japanese garden is complex and difficult. The visual entities . . . are less important than the invisible, philosophical, religious and symbolic elements . . . Key elements include water, islands or stones, plants and garden accessories . . . The garden calls for the predominant utilization of monochromatic green and flowers should be used only to enhance the value of the green . . . All elements of the garden seek *Seijokau*, which is the attainment of stillness, quiet and tranquility.

Among the plant materials in the Japanese garden is boxwood. In the spring of 1977 when major planting was done, some 40 plants of *Buxus sempervirens* were set, according to design, throughout the garden. These plants (two of which can be seen at the left of the drum bridge in the large photo) belong to what we have come to call "the Ste. Genevieve strain". This boxwood comes from in or near Ste. Genevieve, Missouri's oldest settlement and home of the first boxwood plantings in the state. It is a refined boxwood with medium-sized elliptic leaves in a lively, deep green. The plants experienced a severe first winter and a number suffered considerable damage.

In the spring of 1979 when it became necessary to move the boxwood nursery which held the

plants propagated over a 10-year period by the Boxwood Society of the Midwest for the future Edgar Anderson Memorial Boxwood Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden, a cross-check of the Anderson garden plan and the nursery inventory revealed a surplus of the cultivar *Buxus microphylla japonica*. The Boxwood Society offered the surplus plants to the Japanese garden. They were accepted and Professor Kawana was consulted on their placing. In spring and early summer the move was accomplished. The japonicas in the Japanese garden look perfect, as if each had always grown exactly where it has been placed.

We asked Professor Kawana to explain both his interpretation of the meaning of the boxwood in Seiwa-en, and of his specific aesthetic reaction to the japonica cultivar. He wrote:

"The *Buxus microphylla japonica* is called *tauge* in Japanese and is used extensively in Japanese gardens in single or group planting along with garden stone arrangements. Due to its compact nature, slow growth and globular tree form, it is trimmed horizontally round shape and placed with a stone arrangement.

"The form of boxwood used in Seiwa-en will be trimmed gradually to emphasize the horizontal round shape mentioned above. In many cases larger plants are placed behind a stone to show off its beauty in both form and texture and smaller plants are placed to the stone's side and front to provide a feeling of depth or the quality of profundity to the stone arrangement. Boxwood is used also extensively for hedges.



Photo by Doug Haupeter. Courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden

"Boxwoods (in Japanese garden) are planted and trimmed to complement the feeling of the stones in the stone arrangements", Koichi Kawana, designer. The main body of each rock is set deep in the ground.



Photo by Doug Haupteter.
Courtesy Missouri Botanical Garden

"The form of boxwood used in *Seiwa-en* will be trimmed gradually to emphasize the horizontal round shape", Koichi Kawana. Note other stone and boxwood groupings in background.

"Unfortunately, boxwood does not have the symbolic meaning characteristic of the pine (pine expresses both longevity and happiness). Usually Japanese prefer to use evergreen trees and bushes as the basic structure of garden planting since it will impart the quality of timelessness." Professor Kawana added that boxwood is used extensively in the making of Japanese crafts such as combs and the famous *netsuke*, the small figures used as buttonlike fixtures on a man's sash.

On October 6, 1938, the Missouri Botanical Garden received a gift of 100 rooted cuttings of *Buxus microphylla japonica* from J. Horace McFarland, founder of the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania printing company which bore his name and which specialized in fine garden books. Dr. McFarland, who died in 1948, was a master printer whose avocation was gardening. His special love was the rose (a rose was named for him) and apparently he was also an appreciator of boxwood. He rooted the japonica cuttings in the greenhouse at his home "Breeze Hill". The plants were sent from the Missouri Botanical Garden to the Garden's arboretum at Gray Summit, Missouri. There addi-

tional plants were propagated and in time several hundred were returned to the city greenhouses for use in the beautiful and elaborate indoor flower shows which have long been a tradition at the Garden. Mr. Paul A. Kohl, then Garden floriculturist and designer of the shows, used the small boxwood plants for border and other design treatments.

He held the plants, some for 20 years, in four-inch clay pots. He sheared them annually, fed them liquid Rapid-gro, and wintered them in a cool greenhouse. They retained their vitality and color, although "they were a little pot-bound", Mr. Kohl told us with a smile. Their flower-show swan song was in spring 1970.

Mr. Kohl offered 250 of the plants to the Boxwood Study Group, parent body of the Boxwood Society of the Midwest. We accepted them for our study and for the Edgar Anderson Memorial Boxwood Garden. We then began a two-prong program: first, we set about 150 plants in the nursery area which the Garden had assigned us; second, we distributed plants widely among our members for home garden tests. We knew that *Buxus microphylla japonica* was a pretty little plant, but we had no idea what it would do in the field.

To make a long story short, it did splendidly. True, it seemed just to sit there for a time. It looked healthy but we could observe no growth. Suddenly, the little plants seemed to grasp that they were out of the strait jackets of their pots. They burgeoned! We had one scare when a treacherous early spring was followed by a return to severe cold which left every nursery plant browned-off by what appeared to be winter-kill. But closer examination revealed japonica's lively green below the damage. We cut each plant back to green, about five inches. Recovery was rapid and complete. Since then japonica has weathered additional severe winters and come through each superbly. The Boxwood Society of the Midwest considers it one of the finest cultivars in the Edgar Anderson collection.

Japonica's yellow-green leaf color, which bronzes in autumn, is characteristic of the species. Its leaves are medium to large in size; their form varies from the dominant rotund to obovate. It grows faster than most boxwoods. Left to nature, it matures into a medium-large, somewhat billowing plant. It has dignity, beauty and strength. In *Seiwa-en*, garden of harmony and peace, it appears to have found its natural and spiritual home.

EDITOR'S APOLOGY

A Winchester Saga by Beryl Smith is in Winchester, England, UK.

NEW CULTIVAR NAMES IN BUXUS L.

Accepted for Registration by Dr. Bernice M. Speese,
registrar, since the Dr. Burdette L. Wagenknecht list.

Buxus sempervirens L. 'Memorial' J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

Selected and registered by Merlin C. Larson.

Type plant growing in Cedar Grove Cemetery, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Baldwin, J. T., Jr. 1967. *Buxus sempervirens* 'MEMORIAL'. The Boxwood Bulletin. Vol. 6, No. 4: 60, Inside Back Cover.

Buxus sempervirens L. var. *arborescens* 'Clembrook' E. Bradford Clements.

Selected and registered by E. Bradford Clements. Type plant growing in the garden at Clembrook, 7074 Appleby Lane, R. R. 6, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2Y1. (Growing in this place for 50 years.)

"This variety of Boxwood has lustrous, dark-green foliage, maintaining this color throughout the year with the exception of the new growth in the spring, which is light green."

Clements, E. Bradford. 1968. The Story of Clembrook Boxwood. The Boxwood Bulletin. Vol. 8, No. 2: 20-22.

Buxus microphylla Sieb. & Zucc. var. *compacta* 'Curly Locks' Henry Hohman 'Locket' J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

Seedling selection by J. T. Baldwin, Jr. Registered by The American Boxwood Society.

Type plant on the campus of The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Baldwin, J. T., Jr. 1976. New Cultivars of the *Buxus Microphylla* Complex. The Boxwood Bulletin. Vol. 15, No. 3: 40-43. (Published as found in a first draft prepared by Doctor Baldwin in July of 1973. Footnotes and figure legends were added.)

Helen H. Whiting. 1976. A Correction. The Boxwood Bulletin. Vol. 16, No. 1:10, 11.

Buxus microphylla Seib & Zucc. var. *compacta* Henry Hohman 'Helen Whiting' J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

Sport selection by J. T. Baldwin, Jr. Registered by The American Boxwood Society.

Type plant growing on the campus of The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Baldwin, J. T., Jr. 1976. New Cultivars of the *Buxus Microphylla* Complex. The Boxwood Bulletin. Vol. 15, No. 3: 40-43. (Published as found in a first draft prepared by Doctor Baldwin in July of 1973. Footnotes and figure legends were added.)

Buxus microphylla Sieb. & Zucc. 'Green Pillow'

Henry Hohman 'Green Sofa' J. T. Baldwin, Jr. Sport selection by J. T. Baldwin, Jr. Registered by The American Boxwood Society.

Type plant, to be selected from the clone now established for this cultivar, will be planted on the campus of The College of William and Mary.

Baldwin, J. T., Jr. 1976. New Cultivars of the *Buxus Microphylla* Complex. The Boxwood Bulletin. Vol. 15, No. 3: 40-43. (Published as found in a first draft prepared by Doctor Baldwin in July of 1973. Footnotes and figure legends were added.)

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CULTIVAR NAMES IN BUXUS L.

Complied here are the cultivar names in *Buxus* L. accepted for registration by Dr. Burdette L. Wagenknecht after the publication of his Registration List of Cultivar Names in *Buxus* L. in *The Boxwood Bulletin* in 1965 Vol. 4. No. 3: 35-41).

Buxus microphylla Sieb. & Zucc. var. *compacta*
Henry Hohman.

'Grace Hendrick Phillips' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 7, No. 1: 1. 1967.)

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* (Muell. Arg.)
Rehd. and Wils.

'Morris Dwarf' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. XI, No. 3: 45. 1972.)

'Morris Midget' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. XI, No. 3: 45. 1972.)

'National' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 12, No. 4: 62. 1973.)

Buxus microphylla var. *koreana* Nakai ex Wilson.

'Cushion' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 7, No. 1: 1. 1967.)

'Winter Beauty' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 7, No. 1: 1. 1967.)

'Tall Boy' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 7, No. 1: 1. 1967.)

Buxus sempervirens L.

'Henrich Bruns' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 7, No. 1: 1. 1967.)

'Semperaurea' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 7, No. 1: 1. 1967.)

'Ste. Genevieve' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 11, No. 1: 1. 15-16. 1971.)

'Pullman' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 11, No. 2: 20-21. 1971.)

'Edgar Anderson' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 13, No. 2: 26-28. 1973.)

'Aristocrat' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 14, No. 1: 15. 1974.)

'Cliffside' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 14, No. 1: 14-16. 1974.)

'Herman von Schrenk' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 14, No. 2: 31-32, Inside Back Cover.)

Putative *Buxus sempervirens* L. var. *suffruticosa*

X *B. microphylla* var. *koreana* Nakai ex Wilson.

'Green Gem' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 7, No. 1: 1. 1967.)

'Green Velvet' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 7, No. 1: 1. 1967.)

'Green Mountain' (*The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 7, No. 1: 1. 1967.)

The American Boxwood Society is pleased to have registered these new cultivars of *Buxus* L.

CHRISTMAS

BOXWOOD IS BASIS FOR MANY FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Miriam G. Rabb
Administrator, Oatlands



(Photo by Miriam Rabb)

Mrs. Maxine Pearson, of the staff at Oatlands near Leesburg, Virginia, shows how a Christmas "kissing ball" is made of boxwood and Osage orange to decorate Oatlands House during "Christmas at Oatlands."

Maxine Pearson deftly inserted fresh flowers into a bowl of boxwood foliage as she talked to the "student body" of the first Oatlands Boxwood Workshop at Oatlands Plantation near Leesburg, Virginia, in June.

"You see," she said, "when you have plenty of healthy boxwood to start a flower arrangement with, it's like having a basic black dress or dark suit - - you can choose accessories as you please."

Mrs. Pearson's subject at the workshop was "Boxwood in Flower Arranging", and she knows it well. She arranges the flowers at Oatlands.

Oatlands House, built for George Carter in the early 1800's, is a museum property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is open to the public seven days a week, April 1 through October. And on every one of those visitor days, there are at least ten - - sometimes more - - bowls and vases

of cut flowers to complement the furnishings and artworks in the exhibit rooms. All are the work of Mrs. Pearson. There are tulips, daffodils and hyacinths in spring, roses and wildflowers in early summer, plus snapdragons, cosmos, gladioli, marigolds and zinnias when the cutting garden comes into bloom. Autumn adds chrysanthemums and goldenrod. Perennials such as dahlias, phlox and shasta daisies are a help, and so are the native Queen Anne's lace, bouncing Bet, sweetrocket and mint. Always there are clippings from the towering *Buxus arborescens* which flourish at Oatlands, along with *Buxus suffruticosa*, to make the formal garden and lawns of the estate famous for one of the largest plantings of these two species in the United States.

Even with the abundance of flowers at various seasons, Mrs. Pearson points out, it is boxwood

which provides the basis of many different flower arrangements and also makes it possible to provide a lot of color when flowers are scarce. If it happens that during a drought or a very cold spring there are not enough flowers for all of the places they're needed, a porcelain bowl of boxwood makes an acceptable substitute. Artificial flowers of silk, paper or plastic are not used in Oatlands House, and the dried arrangements so frequently seen in the rooms of other historic homes are not seen at all at Oatlands.

Mrs. Pearson, a native of Clarke County, Virginia, has been associated with Oatlands ever since it was given to the National Trust in 1965 as a memorial to its last owners, Mr. and Mrs. William Corcoran Eustis of Washington, D. C. Her chief responsibilities are the housekeeping at the mansion, and the preparations for such special property uses as receptions, luncheons and seminars. Visitors are impressed with the excellence of the housekeeping, but it is for the flower arrangements that Mrs. Pearson is best known. The flowers have been her special delight for the past dozen years, and a delight to the people who visit Oatlands. Staff members and volunteers who guide and greet visitors to Oatlands often take a preliminary tour of the museum rooms "to see what Maxine has done with the flowers" before the visitor day begins at 10 a.m. Garden clubs of the surrounding area have benefitted from flower arranging demonstrations by Mrs. Pearson, and more than a few Loudoun County hostesses have prevailed on her to "do the flowers" for a party or wedding reception.

Oatlands has a tradition of boxwood and flowers from the Carter family who lived there in the 19th century, and the Eustis family who made Oatlands their country home from 1903 until Mrs. Eustis' death in 1964. Carter diaries of the past century note supplies of flowers and greenery from the garden and greenhouse. Mrs. Eustis depended on Oatlands to supply plants and flowers for her Washington residence as well as Oatlands House. She liked flowers so well that she set aside the west stair hall as a place to arrange them. Included with her daughters' gift of Oatlands House to the National Trust were crystal, porcelain and bronze containers she used for her flower arrangements. Many of these are used today by Mrs. Pearson.

Mrs. Eustis Emmet, who with her late sister, Mrs. David E. Finley, gave Oatlands to the Trust, says that Mrs. Pearson's understanding of flower arrangements and their relationship to Oatlands' architecture and furnishings is unbelievably like that of Mrs. Eustis.

Several years ago, with the Eustis and Carter traditions of fresh floral beauty continuing successfully at the National Trust's Oatlands, a new challenge was presented to Mrs. Pearson. Descendants of George Carter had given the National Trust a charming account of "Christmas at Oatlands", as related by Mrs. Grayson Carter Beach, who was born at Oatlands in 1867. It described the

use of greenery, flowers and fruit as decorations in Oatlands House, and mentioned the handmade ornaments used on the Christmas tree, a native pine.



Allen Studio for National Trust

Boxwood "kissing ball" over one of the entrance hall doorways in Oatlands House during the annual presentation of "Christmas at Oatlands" at the National Trust property.

The Oatlands administrator, Mrs. Miriam Rabb, asked Mrs. Pearson if there would be any possibility of re-creating some of the Christmas decor of the Carters. Mrs. Pearson said she would like to attempt it. Because Oatlands closes at the end of October, it was decided to present a "Christmas at Oatlands" in mid-October as an interpretive program during the regular visitor season. The Trust, through its Preservation Press, published the account of Carter Christmas customs. Staff members made paper ornaments, tiny dolls, and popcorn strings for the Christmas tree. Greenery was abundant in the surrounding woodlands of the 261-acre farm and in the garden. A neighbor contributed crow's foot, or trailing cedar. There seemed to be no problem except one: the Carters used mistletoe over the doorways at Christmas, and there is no mistletoe at Oatlands today.

Boxwood was brought to the rescue, with green "kissing balls" substituting for the mistletoe. Mrs. Pearson makes the kissing balls by inserting sprigs of box into a green Osage orange (hedgeapple), very plentiful in autumn. They last for at least 10 days as fresh greenery, and if hung up and allowed to dry they can be sprayed with gold paint for use during the conventional Yuletide season. (If no Osage orange were available, the kissing balls could be made of boxwood and a styrofoam base.)

Initiated on a modest scale in 1971, "Christmas at Oatlands" quickly became such a popular occasion at Oatlands that it is now a special post-season event presented November 1 through 5 each year. Boxwood, of course, is featured in various green arrangements, and in combination with fruit and late-autumn flowers.

And even before the approach of December signals the closing of Oatlands for the winter, the Oatlands staff begins planning the cutting garden for the following spring. Even with the "basic black" you need flowers for accessories.

Note: Oatlands House and Garden are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays, and 1 to 5 p.m., Sundays, through November 5. October 31 is the final day of the regular visitor season; November 1 through 5 is for the presentation of "Christmas at Oatlands" with the mansion decorated according to the Carter family memoirs of the 1880's.



(Photo by Miriam Rabb)

Participants in the first annual Oatlands Boxwood Workshop, held June 15 at Plantation near Leesburg, Virginia, are shown in the formal terraced garden. They are inspecting an English box parterre as Charles Thomas, superintendent of grounds and buildings, explains how it has been benefitted by regular plucking.

20th Annual Meeting
The American Boxwood Society
May 7, 1980
at
Blandy Experimental Farm
Boyce, Virginia

Winter Care

*Timely articles on Winter Care reprinted from
previous Bulletins*

DO'S AND DON'TS FROM EXPERIENCE

*By Admiral Neill Phillips
Heronwood Nursery, Upperville, Va.*

Try not to let snow remain on your boxwood. The weight may break down the branches and the snow crystals act as a burning-glass through which the sun can give a severe scorch. After a snowfall, give your plant a good shake and then brush off the remaining snow clots with a broom.

Put up a plywood windbreak in the direction of the prevailing winter winds for boxwood in very exposed situations. For low growing boxwood use pine boughs as protection. Cut boughs about 4' long with ends sharpened so they will stick into the ground, and then place so that the boughs arch over the tops of the boxwood. This is excellent protection from snowburn.

Standardized boxwood, with exposed upright trunks, benefit by having the trunks wrapped in tar paper in late fall, and removed in the spring.

Do not prune or clip in autumn or winter, as the wounds are susceptible to damage from cold. If tendencies to a bad outline develop, wait until early spring to correct with the shears. Tying, of course, should be done any time of the year when needed. Also, at any time of the year they appear, dead parts should be cut off, and undesirable shoots appearing on the trunk or around the roots should be pinched off.

We find that tubbed boxwood does very well left in the open the year round in the Washington, D.C. area. We find that it helps to keep down evaporation in winter, with consequently less strain on the root system, if tubbed boxwood is sprayed with "Stop-Wilt" on a warm day (temp. at least 70 degrees) about mid-November. This may be done again in January if a warm (70 degree) day comes.

In the Washington area, boxwood may usually be safely transplanted up to the end of October. After the 1st of November there is a risk that an early prolonged freeze may set in before roots have had time to get established.

B. KOREANA SURVIVES CHICAGO WINTERS

by Mr. William A. P. Pullman

Many discouraged gardeners in the Chicago area believe that their severe winters forbid the use of this classic ornamental. However, Mr. W. A. P. Pullman, President of the Chicago Horticultural Society, reports a considerable degree of success with box in his garden at Lake Forest, north of Chicago.

I have been growing *Buxus microphylla* *Koreana* for at least twenty years without a loss. To be sure, they are in a perfect location protected from the sweep of winter winds both by the house and by the rather heavy planting of yews and shrubs. Drainage is excellent, and the roots can get down (below frost line) through a well-prepared soil mixture. The trouble with *Koreana* is that it bronzes on the sunny side in winter, and it is a back-breaking job all summer long to keep it trimmed.

Ten or twelve years ago I started experimenting with *Buxus sempervirens*. This came to me both in the narrow-leaved and round-leaved varieties. The round-leaved ones — those that could be said to lean toward the *suffruticosa* — are all winter killed. Some of the narrow-leaved plants have been damaged in varying degrees but are recovering slowly. Three of these came through the winter before last without so much as a brown leaf. Perhaps this is pure luck, or possibly they are slightly sturdier than the others. Anyhow we made 340 cuttings from those three plants, all of which are rooted and coming along nicely in cold frames. Next spring they will be lined out in the most protected spot of our vegetable garden and then we shall see how they survive.

Four small specimens of *B. sempervirens* "Vardar Valley" burned badly even though they had the protection of a cold frame.

This spring I received from Henry Hohman three handsome plants of *B. microphylla compacta*. If these turn out to be as hardy as the *Koreana* it will be the answer to the Boxwood problem in the Chicago area. I should add that our climate within a mile of Lake Michigan is quite different from that further west. I do not believe in using any plant material that requires special winter protection — other than good location — beyond the first year or two. We give our box no more than a light mulch of oak leaves.

The Winter Color Of Boxwood

By Dr. J. H. Tinga

*Department of Horticulture,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute*

We would like to report on some current observations of a long range experiment with Boxwood. The variables were quite simple. Fertilizer was applied in two quantities. Root pruning to stimulate moving of the plant was done at two times, August and December. Fertilizer was also applied at these two times or not at all. We had a limited number of 3- to 4-foot boxwood, and using all combinations of treatments, we arrived at ten boxwood in each treatment. We also operated on two soil types. One was a partly eroded clay soil. The other was a more moist bottom land.

In all cases but one, test plants in the bottom land were greener. There was a deeper soil with more moisture and fertility reserve. The one exception was due to the May 9, 1966 freeze of 25 degrees, when all the new foliage was turned black. Those plants with August and December fertilizer, which had not been root pruned, were severely damaged by the freeze, with 4 to 6 inches of new growth being destroyed. Immediately after this we had a 70-day drought which many of you experienced. Therefore the plants made essentially no growth for the season. In fact, if you consider the food reserves that went into the new growth which was destroyed, the plants were probably more depleted than a year ago.

The fall season was good, with adequate moisture and a good on-set of cooler weather. Therefore, at this time of mid-winter, there is a good difference in color from the normal olive green to the straw yellow color or actual orange red which some people think is quite attractive for winter color. At least in our plantings, an orange colored plant between two dark green plants had plenty of contrast. If you did not like it you could say it stuck out like a sore thumb.

What are some observations and recommendations that we could make regarding the winter color of boxwood?

1. Snow glare — that is, bright light on a freezing day, does result in a less green color. The extreme condition can cause much damage of dead leaves and dead twigs. Usually in a winter season, you may get a bright day without extreme cold, or extreme cold without a bright day. The decrease in green color due to the destruction of the chlorophyll can occur quite rapidly under the right combination of the wrong weather.

Snow glare produces less green leaves on plants that are low in fertilizer content, chiefly nitrogen. Also the less green leaves or more bronze leaves are found on plants that have been moved or root pruned.

2. Boxwood are slow to respond to moving or root pruning, and under poor water or fertility conditions may take as long as two years to become established in the new site.

3. Winter fertilizing is beneficial, as it is absorbed slowly into the plants so that it can benefit spring growth. This is assuming that the spring will be normal, rather than have a late spring frost.

4. Winter and summer shading are beneficial to newly planted boxwood.

5. Winter and summer irrigation are beneficial to newly planted boxwood.

6. Winter and summer application of fertilizer is probably the most beneficial treatment that can be given to boxwood in a normal season.

7. One of the problems is that we never have a normal season.

8. As a rule of thumb, it is better to fertilize lightly and often, rather than to fertilize with a large amount once a year.

9. The following scheme has worked well on large established and newly-planted boxwood as a guide to how much to fertilize. One may circle a plant with a string laid one foot outside the branch spread of the boxwood. Apply one cup of 10-10-10 fertilizer on the surface of the ground on each 6 feet of the length of the string. This is not 2 cups for a boxwood of 12 feet circumference, but 2 cups for a circumference one foot outside the branch spread. Therefore the fertilizer is placed over the feeder roots. The soil should not be disturbed. It is desirable to water the plant before and after fertilizer is applied.

10. Repeat this light application on June 1, July 1 and August 1. If it does not rain for 30 days or no irrigation has been applied, do not apply fertilizer for that month.

We have found that this application of fertilizer has definitely improved the winter color of boxwood. It is not the only factor, but it is the easiest one to improve the color. Soil, water and shade are important but probably lesser factors, in the problem situation usually encountered.

The Value of Winter Protection in Maryland

By J. B. Wilson

One of the limiting factors involved in the culture of boxwood in Maryland and areas to the north is winter injury. It can be either direct or indirect in nature.

Direct winter injury may result from scorching of the foliage (desiccation) of exposed plantings during periods when the soil is frozen, from mechanical breakage by a heavy burden of snow, or from the alternate freezing and thawing of snow accumulated beneath the foliage. This alternate freezing and thawing injures the cambium and causes a splitting of the bark. Splitting may result in a girdling or part girdling of the branches since there is a separation of the bark from the wood in the affected area.

Direct injury also may result from heavy snows that weigh down the branches thereby exposing interior branches to winter sunscald. When the interior branches are exposed to the sun during the day, cambial regions become active. However, as the sun sets in the evening, there is a sudden drop in temperature resulting in the death of these active regions.

Indirect Damage

The effects of winter injury are often delayed until late in the following season when there is a sudden wilting and dying of the terminal areas of the plant. This condition is very prevalent during hot, dry periods such as we experienced during the past summer. When the injury is not too severe or when the summer is not dry, these areas may callus over and the branches recover.

Even when plants are not killed and when they apparently recover from winter injury, they are weakened and are thereby more susceptible to other problems such as drought, nematodes, insects or fungi. Also plants may not die outright but be deformed by severe pruning of injured branches.

Winter Protection

Valuable boxwood plants must be protected from winter damage. There are various methods by which protection can be provided. Wind screens or antitranspirants may be used to protect exposed plants from drying winds. Such screens may be constructed of any material that will remain in place and will not disintegrate. Cornstalks that are held together with wire and fastened to a fence or stakes make a good screen. Straw mats, which can

be constructed or purchased, make very good screens. An advantage of this type screen is that it may be rolled up and stored when not in use. Burlap tacked to a frame makes a good screen when anchored with stakes. Sheet plastic or bamboo may also be used.

Frames should be constructed around valuable plants whenever snow damage is likely to occur. Lath or other materials may be used for framing. A single layer of burlap makes a good covering for such a frame. The top as well as the sides must be covered. The frame should be constructed large enough to provide several inches of air space between the burlap and the branches. Portable frames of this type were used at "Wye Plantation" on the Eastern Shore and saved many plants from injury during the severe winters of 1960 and 1967.

Upright varieties or compact plants are less likely to be forced open by snow than are the spreading types. Chicken wire pulled snugly around plants which have a tendency to spread open will prevent them from opening up and exposure of their center branches.

Wilt-Pruf, an anti-transpirant, has been used with success at "The Mill" in Harford County to prevent wind burning, but was unsuccessful in preventing snow damage.

Where it is impossible to protect plants with frames, snow accumulation and its resulting damage may be prevented or reduced by sweeping the snow from the plants with a broom. Care must be used however, so as not to injure the foliage. If the snow is not too heavy, it may be removed from the plants by placing the broom under the branches and shaking them gently.

Of course, the best remedy for this problem is to select or develop boxwood varieties which are winter hardy and which have the structure to withstand snow injury, but with our established plantings we must use other methods, such as those mentioned above, to prevent winter injury.

In addition to these protective measures, winter injury can be reduced by keeping the boxwood in a vigorous growing condition. Plants should be allowed to "harden-off" before cold weather arrives, that is, they should not be fertilized after midsummer and there should be a gradual reduction in watering as the end of the growing season approaches.

NETTING USED TO PROTECT BOXWOOD

In the Fall of 1967 the owner of a large estate in Short Hills, New Jersey purchased 16,000 square feet of TORON netting that is marketed for the protection of fruit from bird damage. Knowing their customer did not grow fruit, the netting producer, J. A. Cissel Co. Inc., was intrigued by what he was using it for. The customer said it was to cover boxwood. Formerly he had erected large platforms or used burlap over his shrubs, some of which are nine to ten feet in diameter. In the Spring of 1968 he said the netting was a great success and purchased an additional 10,000 square feet in the Fall of that year. By last Spring he had gone through two full winters using the netting, and he said it was the greatest thing he had ever used and had suffered no damage to his boxwood. In fact he said it was going to be the answer to his problem as he only had two gardeners now whereas he formerly had four, and because of the labor shortage, he could never have protected his boxwood without the easy to handle TORON Shrub Net. In addition he thought his plants were stronger and healthier because of the free circulation of air and no sudden exposure to the sun.

Last winter several other people living in New Jersey said they wanted to try the netting on their shrubs. At least three used it on their boxwood and yews and reported great success.

The features which all users like are the ease of handling, economy, durability and the absence of any mildew, sweating and sun burn. Most of the plants were completely enclosed in the netting in much the same way a hair net is used. This kept the branches from becoming heavy with snow and ice and breaking under the weight. A few shrubs were just wrapped in the netting for the same purpose, but this takes a little more time.

Another comment frequently heard was that from a few feet away it is almost impossible to see the netting surrounding the shrubs, and the winter landscape is not marred.



WINTER PROTECTION IN NEW JERSEY

David B. Reed

Our winter protection of *Buxus suffruticosa* consists of the following:

1. Four-foot snow fences, the same as used by the highway department, are used as a wind-break. Six-foot steel fence posts, spaced approximately ten feet apart, hold the fences. These are driven into the soil approximately eighteen inches. This year we plan to staple burlap to the fence, to see if we can get additional protection.

2. For protection against wind burn and sun scald we have tried Wilt Pruf, an anti-transpirant. This does not seem to be the answer to our problem. However, we will continue to use this until some other suitable material is made available. This will not protect if you have severe winds and temperatures near or below freezing for several days at a time, with little or no snow cover — which is often the case in our area.

3. Mulch for the winter. Salt hay is used; this is purchased from a local farm supply store. The hay is not removed in the spring, additional hay is added at that time, and during the summer months as needed. The boxwood we have is grown in open beds; for boxwood in foundation plantings I definitely would recommend some other type of mulch.

We have found that sugar cane is about our best mulch — some weeds do come through but for the most part are easy to pull. This material is becoming difficult to obtain in our area. At one time sugar cane was used by poultry farmers — of whom we now have very few.
Pheasant Hill, Allentown, N.J. 08501

In Memoriam

FREDERICK MASON HICKSON

Frederick Mason Hickson, 90, of Rt. 3, Nathalie, Va., died at his home.

Hickson was a boxwood nurseryman for 65 years, and a member of Millstone Baptist Church. He was the son of Samuel Murray and Emma McCraw Hickson.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Polly P. Hickson of Nathalie; one daughter, Mrs. Joseph J. Dunn of Mineral; one son, Frederick Mason Hickson, Jr. of Nathalie; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Millstone Baptist Church, with the Rev. Richard Lewis presiding.

Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Hardy Boxwood In Connecticut

By Brae Rafferty, M. D.

After an exchange of letters with Dr. Baldwin on the subject of planting box seed — which letters were printed in The Mail Box in our October 1966 issue — Dr. Brae Rafferty sent the following further information on the hardy box which he is propagating.

Shortly after World War I, a small home was built on Water Tower Hill, above the campus of what is now the University of Connecticut, at Storrs, which is in northeastern Connecticut. The usual conifers and shrubs were planted about the house and grounds. It is on a ridge of a large rolling hillside exposed to the prevailing northwest winds, as well as northeast storms.

From a nearby nurseryman, from whom they obtained their other plants, they got two small boxwood plants which were planted in a little hollow directly in back of the house. One of the plants was lost, cause unknown, but the other has persisted, is now six or seven feet tall, and is growing into a Spruce that was set out the same size and time as the Box plant.

Cuttings from this plant make garden edgings, out in the open, exposed to the northeast winds, the morning winter sun, and have never had any protection. They are approximately 24" to 30" tall, well-shaped, and for five or six years of my observation have been without any winter bronzing. The color is dark green, without any blue tint; the plants are upright and compact, the leaves being longer than broad and tending to point at the tip. These are good plants in this trying locality, where 10° below zero is not uncommon and an size and time as the box plant.

Interestingly the nurseryman is still alive and vigorous in his middle 90s. He denies having sold the pair of boxwood plants, stating that he never sold boxwood because "box is not hardy around here and I couldn't sell it profitably so never bothered with the stuff."

There is a second variety in this locality. I purchased one of two hedges, about 75' long, of 33" to 36" plants which we moved to my place in the country, where they have been for four or five years and are perfectly hardy. The planter, now dead, got his original specimen forty or more years ago, from a Danish gardener at a nearby home. The gardener told him it was "English", but it came from upper New York State.

Mr. Goldsboro planted his first hedge along the sidewalk, and for thirty-five or forty years of my observation, it has withstood the snows and the

cold, the children, the dogs, bicycle and automobile accidents. With no protection at all it is perfectly hardy. The people in Horticulture up at the University of Connecticut have propagated this variety off and on, for a number of years; and Dr. S. Waxman has it growing in an open field at Storrs, on the other side of Water Tower Hill.

Another strain used around here came originally from the Buchanan estate at Chambersburg, Pa. This has a tendency to "winter burn", if it doesn't get winter sun protection. Scarff's "Wintergreen", "Inglis", "Northernfind", all in small sizes — 12" to 18" — have also done well here, so far.

In answer to an editorial inquiry, Dr. Waxman wrote:

"The Jackson Street Boxwood was the second one that Dr. Rafferty referred to, the one planted by Mr. Goldsboro. I do not know if it has been registered.

I propagated several hundred cuttings of the Jackson Street variety and have observed their growth in an exposed field during the past five years.

The Jackson Street variety is indeed hardy in this area, but only after it becomes well established. The first two and perhaps three years from the time they are first rooted are the crucial ones. During these years they need some protection, otherwise they suffer winter injury, exhibited by yellowed and sometimes killed terminal shoots. However, the plants are not killed, but merely injured. Once these plants attain a height of approximately 12-14 inches after the third year, they exhibit very little winter damage.

Other than having propagated this variety and recommending its use to local nurserymen, I am not doing much with this boxwood. Because of your and Dr. Rafferty's interest, I will send a number of these plants to the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts, for them to disseminate as they wish to nurserymen in New England.

Sincerely yours,

Sidney Waxman
Associate Professor,
Ornamental Horticulture,
The College of Agriculture,
University of Connecticut"

Winter Care Explained

Arthur Dugdale

Now is the time to prepare plants for the winter season. Things may be done that can prevent serious damage to them in snow, sleet and ice storms. Do this work before the snow falls, for then it is too late.

Boxwood, the living antique of gardens, depends upon man for a little timely care and protection to survive winter weather with little or no damage, and to begin growth each April in healthy, vigorous condition.

Perhaps the most important winter protection for boxwood is to see that they enter the dormant season in healthy, vigorous condition, with good drainage (both surface and subsoil) and with adequate moisture in the ground. Another preventive measure is also important — light pruning of branch tips, if necessary, in late August or early September to reduce snow and ice holding capacity, to strengthen the branches and to induce lateral growth; also, to thicken and improve the plant's shape, if necessary.

Be sure that boxwood plants, especially *Buxus semp. suffruticosa* (dwarf) are clean inside the crown — free of dead leaves, twigs and other debris, and that a little sunlight and air circulation have access there, to keep the plants clean and healthy. Dead leaves inside the bushes help to hold snow, preventing it from falling to the ground.

In fact, the above cultural suggestion regarding sanitation applies during all four seasons, for insects and diseases breed, live and revel in these dark, unhealthy areas. This applies especially to Red Mites and Boxwood Webworm, a relatively new pest in Virginia, chiefly affecting *Buxus suffruticosa*. It may be controlled with a spray application of Malathion to destroy the larvae. Consult nurserymen for details.

Buxus sempervirens, 4 to 8 feet tall, may be wrapped with cord to help support the branches when laden with snow or sleet. Use a ball of soft, strong green cord if available. Tie one end to an outside branch, near the bottom of the bush, and press branches in and up, wrapping cord tightly in an upward spiral around the shrub, having a distance between cords of 8 to 10 inches.

Tie it off to a stout branch near top of bush. Leave the cords on until the end of March, when danger of heavy snow is past.

All evergreen shrubs, including boxwood, need moisture during winter months as in summer. Injury may result if they become too dry, for the leaves give off moisture through transpiration — their "breathing" process.

VERY BRITTLE

Boxwood twigs and branches are very brittle when frozen. If snow covers them in this condition, efforts to remove the snow may result in serious damage. So as soon after the snowfall as practicable, remove the white mantle by carefully shaking the bush with a broom or stick. If snow-laden branches break with movement, stop! Your care will do more harm than good. Return when warmer weather enables the snow to be removed with no breakage.

Sunshine through snow crystals can serve as a burning glass, giving boxwood and some other evergreens a severe case of sunscorch, marring their beauty until new foliage appears in April and May. Sunshine on frozen leaves often causes sunscald, a similar ailment which also discolors them.

Boxwood that have been moved recently, and those in cold, exposed locations, really need the winter protection of snow fencing or lattice frames, covered with new burlap if necessary. This applies particularly to *Buxus suffruticosa*.

EXPOSED LOCATIONS

In windy, exposed locations even established English boxwoods need this winter protection. Satisfactory frames consist of prefabricated sections of lath or lattice, on 2 x 2-inch cypress strips, making frames 4 x 4 ft. for easy handling. They may be bolted together, and anchored with stakes or iron fence posts. Put them up in November, remove them in late March, store them in the barn or tool house, and they will serve for many winters.

Other methods of providing winter protection for boxwoods include the use of pine and cedar (*Juniper virginiana*) branches, sharpened at butt and stuck into ground around the plants and between them, then tied in place with strong nylon cord. Mats to use around shrubs as a windshield, or for covering the coldframe, may be made of corn stalks or straw, hand-woven with nylon cord into square or rectangular shape, supported by 2 x 2-inch wooden frames and steel posts driven into the ground.

The recently planted boxwood hedge or row of plants may be protected by pine or cedar branches, or corn stalks stuck into the ground between and around the plants.

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.

If your letter is concerned with

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Write to:

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If your letter is concerned with:

General information about the Society

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Boxwood selection

Albert S. Beecher, President

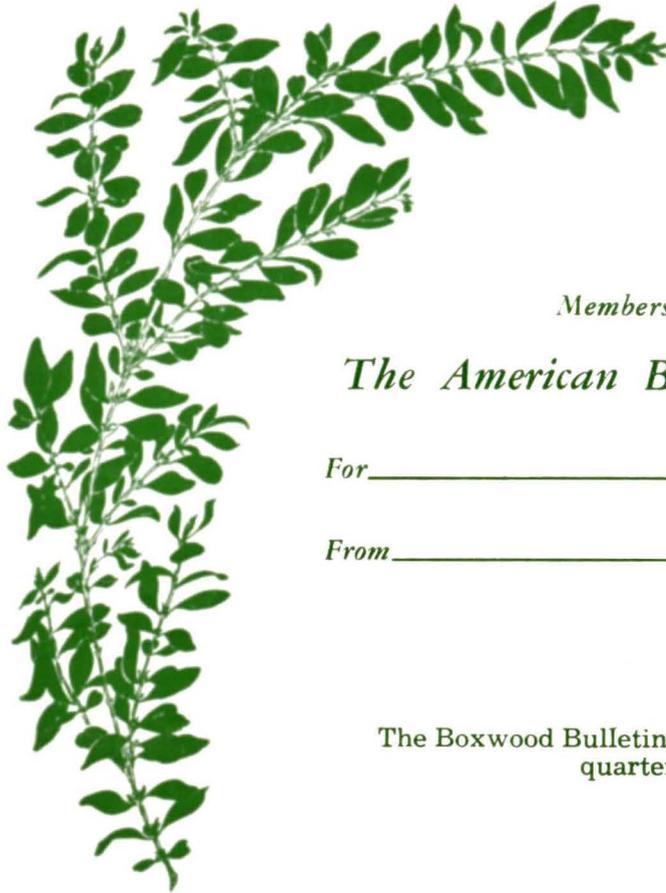
In some cases depending upon the nature of your request, your letter may be forwarded to a member of the Board or another appropriate member who can provide the help you have requested.

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

Professor Albert S. Beecher
807 Sunrise Drive, S.E.
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

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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