

The

April 1980

Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



Photo: Tom Ewert

American Boxwood Society Memorial Garden
Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia

Edited Under The Direction Of
THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

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**STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP
 MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION**

1. Date of Filing: Sept. 2, 1979
2. Title of Publication: The Boxwood Bulletin.
3. Frequency of issue: Quarterly.
4. Location of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state, zip code): Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia, 22620.
5. Location of the Headquarters or General Business Office of the Publishers (Not printers): Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia 22620.
6. Names and Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher, The American Boxwood Society, Boyce, Virginia 22620; Editor, Mrs. Charles H. Dick, Winchester, Virginia 22601.
7. Owner: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other incorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual, must be given.) Name, The American Boxwood Society, Boyce, Virginia, 22620 (Incorporated; Non-stock, non-profit Organization.)
8. Known Bondholders, Mortgages, and other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 percent or more of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities (If there are none, so state): None.

(ISSN 0006 8534)

Entered as second-class mail matter at Post Office
 Boyce, Virginia
 American Boxwood Society

Printed in U. S. A. by
 Carr Publishing Co., Inc., Boyce, Va.

The Boxwood Bulletin

April, 1980

Vol. 19 No. 4

EDITOR — MRS. CHARLES H. DICK

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Container Culture of Boxwoods In The Nursery

Dr. Francis R. Gouin

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It is frequently assumed that all broadleaf evergreen plants prefer growing in acid soils. This erroneous information is commonly seen in bold print on many brands of fertilizers available to nurserymen and home gardeners. Boxwoods are only one of several species of broadleaf evergreens that prefer growing in soils that are only slightly acid to alkaline. In a study on the flora of the British Isles, Clapham, Tutin and Warburg (1) reported boxwoods growing in beech woods and scrubs on chalp and oolitic limestone soils. The pH of soils in the natural habitat of boxwood should provide us with an example of its calicum and pH requirements.

It is well recognized that boxwoods also grow best in well-drained aerated soils (8). The need for boxwoods to grow in such soils can best be appreciated by observing the root systems of plants in different growing media. In heavy, poorly drained media their roots will be very shallow frequently penetrating only the upper-half of the potting mix while the root systems of boxwoods growing in well drained media will penetrate to the bottom of containers. Dig boxwoods growing in heavy soils and you will note the majority of the roots will tend to be very fine and in the upper 2 to 3 inches of soil. However, when digging boxwoods growing in sandy, well drained, aerated soils you will find



American boxwoods at the end of the second growing season in 2 gallon rigid plastic container on the left and in 2 gallon plastic poly bag on the right, growing in a potting mix of equal parts composted digested sewage sludge, milled pine bark and sharp sand, and fertilized initially with 9 lbs. of Osmocote 18-6-12, and in the spring of the second year by top-dressing with 1 tbsp/can Osmocote 18-6-12. Both plants were overwintered under the micro-foam thermo-blanket.

fleshy white roots penetrating to a depth of 12 to 14 inches.

Potting Mixes

A good potting mix for growing boxwood should be well drained, retain sufficient moisture for normal growth, and with a pH between 6.5 and 7.2. The potting mixes should also contain micro elements such as: Fritted trace elements, Esmigran, chelates, or Micromax at levels recommended by the manufacturers and a non-ionic wetting agent such as: Aqua-Gro, Techwet, Hydro-wet or Ortho X-77.

An ideal potting mix for growing boxwoods should contain equal parts by volume of milled pine bark, peat moss, and expanded shale such as "Hadite" or "Solite". Coarse sharp sand can be used in place of expanded shale. To every cubic yard of potting mix incorporate 8 lbs. of dolomitic limestone, 4 oz. of Fritted trace elements or one of the other sources of micro nutrients and 1 pint of Aqua-Gro or one of the other listed materials. A non-ionic wetting agent will insure good water movement through the growing media and increase the availability of water to the roots. If soil is desired, simply substitute sandy loam soils for peat moss. Recent unpublished studies conducted at the University of Maryland indicate that composted sewage sludge, having a pH between 6.9 and 7.2, is a superior substitute for peat moss. When using composted sewage sludge, neither limestone or supplemental micro-nutrients are necessary. Since composted sewage sludges are rich in plant nutrients, there is no need to fertilize during the first 3 weeks of growth.

Fertilizing

When growing boxwoods in potting mixes without compost, it is important to either incorporate a fertilizer directly into the potting mix or water the plants using a liquid fertilizer immediately after potting. Whether or not compost is used in blending the potting mix, it is important to maintain a proper nutrient balance through the growing season. This can be achieved by adopting a constant feed fertilizer program of 150 ppm of N from 25-10-10 or bi-weekly applications of 25-10-10 at the rate of 1½ lbs to 2 lbs per 100 gallons of water. Other methods of fertilizing boxwoods growing in containers include: top-dressing monthly with a 50% organic fertilizer such as 10-6-4 at 1 rounded tsp/gal. of growing media or monthly applications of 1, 12 gram 14-4-6 container tablets per gallon of growing media. When using container tablets, the tablets must disintegrate during the first irrigation otherwise most of the nutrients will not become available.

In recent years new slow-release fertilizers have been developed that reduce fertilizer applications to one per year. Many nurserymen incorporate "Osmocote" 18-6-12 into their potting mixes at the rate of 9-10 lbs. per cubic yard just prior to potting (3). Long lasting slow-release fertilizers can also be used after the plants have been potted. Both sulfur coated 20-6-12 + Fe and "Osmocote" 18-6-12 can either be applied as a top-dress at the rate of

1 heaping tsp/gal. of growing media or drilled into holes 1½" deep uniformly spaced between the stem and the walls of the container at the rate of 1 tsp/hole per gal. of growing media. If "Osmocote" 18-6-12 is used as a top-dressing, it should be mulched lightly to prevent drying.

For maximum growth, boxwoods should either be potted during the winter and stored in shelters where the soil will not freeze or potted in early spring. Root growth of boxwood plants overwintered under thermo-blankets has been observed by the author. Early root establishment in a nutrient rich growing media is essential for good top growth in the spring.

Irrigation

A well prepared potting mix of equal parts expanded shale, milled pine bark and compost or peat moss is certain to drain well. Potting mixes that do not drain well are guaranteed to create problems especially during periods of high rainfall. As irrigation systems become more automated, the selection of a potting mix that drains well becomes more important. Keeping the growing media constantly wet discourages rapid downward root development. The growing media should be allowed to dry before it is irrigated. When irrigating any container grown plant, it is important to thoroughly soak the media until excess water can be seen draining from the bottom of containers.

Nurserymen who have grown ornamentals in containers know from experience that the outer row of cans always dry out faster than those in the middle of the block. This is especially true as the plants become larger and begin shading the media surface. Irrigating all of the plants based on the water need so those in the outer rows can result in over-watering plants in the middle of the block. Irrigating based on the needs of plants in the middle of the block can result in death or stunted growth of plants along the outer rows, especially in containers with southern and western exposures. Spot, hand watering is often practiced on moisture sensitive crops.

Many gadgets have been developed to assist nurserymen in determining when to irrigate. Tensiometer type moisture meters are the only ones not affected by soluble salt levels in the growing media. The electrically activated meters can easily be affected by nutrient levels. The finger test, pressing the finger into the upper 1" to 2" of growing media, is the simplest and most dependable method yet developed. Which ever method is used, it is important that the responsibility for irrigating be delegated to a person who appreciates and understands that responsibility. Crop failures in container culture of ornamentals have frequently been associated with poor watering techniques.

To conserve water many growers are using trickle-tube irrigation. Because the water is piped directly into each container, water is not wasted. Trickle-tube irrigation also enables the grower to make efficient use of liquid fertilizers by injecting them directly into the irrigation water.

Trickle-tube irrigation is not recommended when plants are to be fertilized by top-dressing only. Because water flows from the tubes, the surface of the growing media is seldom flooded. For top-dressing to be effective, flooding the surface of the media is essential so that plant nutrients will leach down into the root zone. In a well prepared potting mix, water from trickle-tubes will seldom moisten an area larger than a 50¢ piece. Trickle-tube irrigation should only be used when liquid fertilizers are injected into the irrigation water or when granulated or slow-release fertilizers are incorporated or drilled into the growing media.

Over-Wintering

Proper over-wintering of container grown boxwoods is just as important as growing. The primary roots of container grown boxwoods are killed at temperatures below 25°F. (6) However, secondary and mature roots can survive temperatures to 10°F.

Winter injury is often manifested the following spring by delayed growth, and die-back. To avoid these problems protect roots of container grown boxwoods by over-wintering them using: the structureless thermo-blanket system, the poly blanket system, by frequent irrigation in over-wintering shelters, or by using minimum heat. Regardless of which system is used, it is important that the growing media be kept *wet* at all times. Wet media freezes much more slowly than dry media because in the process of freezing, heat (from the latent heat of fusion) is released. The plants should be given winter protection as soon as minimum temperatures begin to approach minimum root killing temperatures in the fall.

Structureless Thermo-blanket System (4)

Select an area in the nursery where the ground is well drained. Within 24 hours of covering, irrigate the plants thoroughly and pack the containers tightly together to conserve space. Upright plants should be tipped on their sides so that foliage and branches lay on top of adjacent containers as in laying shingles. Either cover the plants with ¼" microfoam (E. I. duPont de Nemours) or ¼" "C" foam (Conwed Corp.) and a single layer of 4 mil white copolymer. All edges of the foam blanket should touch the ground while the copolymer should be stretched as tightly as possible and the edges buried or weighted down. A less expensive thermo-blanket can be made by covering the plants with a single layer of 4 mil white copolymer, 4 to 6 inches of straw and a single layer of 4 mil copolymer with the edges sealed to the ground. Thermo-blankets can be made as long and as wide as desired, but it is important that they be made as close to the ground as possible and the top layer of copolymer be stretched tight. When using wide blankets, it is recommended that automobile tires tied together with rope be scattered over the top to prevent lifting by strong winds.

The plants are uncovered in late winter or early spring as soon as temperatures begin to warm and before the plants initiate new growth. Placing a few container grown forsythia under the blanket is a good biological alarm clock for determining when to uncover. When the forsythia begins to flower, remove the thermo-blanket.

Poly Blanket System (2)

To use the poly blanket system in the fall simply pack the plants tightly in an over-wintering shelter covered with clear copolymer. Just prior to filling the house stretch a sheet of 2 mil or 4 mil copolymer along the inside walls the length of the house with one edge in firm contact with the ground. Next pack the plants tightly together in the house leaving a center aisle. Irrigate the plants weekly and ventilate the house on sunny days. As soon as minimum temperatures approach root killing temperatures, irrigate the plants one last time and pull the inside layer of copolymer from along the inside walls directly over the plants toward the center aisle making certain that all the edges of the copolymer rest on the ground. Do not ventilate the shelter even though ambient temperatures rise above freezing. Allow the poly blanket to remain on the plants until late winter when minimum temperatures rise above rooting killing temperatures. Remove the poly blanket and resume weekly irrigation and ventilating practices.

Frequent Irrigation (5)

Boxwoods can be over-wintered in unheated shelters by frequent irrigations all winter long. When using this method it is important that the plants be irrigated weekly and the irrigation system be thoroughly drained after each use. It is not uncommon to find plants covered with several inches of ice when using this system for over-wintering. Ice becomes a good insulator, but its weight on branches can also cause considerable damage.

Minimum Heat (7)

Minimum heat storage has been used extensively in northern states but in recent years, rising fuel costs have forced growers to use alternate methods. When using minimum heat storage, air-inflated over-wintering shelters are recommended. These shelters are equipped with small propane fired heaters with thermostats located near the ground in the north-west ends of the shelters. When temperatures drop to 3 to 5°F above the root killing temperatures, the thermostats activate the furnace. When using this system it is important that the plants be kept well watered and the shelters be checked regularly to make certain that heaters function properly.

Minimum heat storage in air inflated winter shelters in the lower mid-Atlantic states is possible by using 50 gallon drums filled with rocks and

water and spaced at 25 ft. intervals throughout the shelters. The barrels give off heat as temperatures drop and absorb heat as temperatures rise.

Rodent Control

Regardless of which method is used, rodent control is important. Rats and mice also prefer the warmer micro-climates of these over-wintering techniques and can cause considerable damage unless controlled. The over-wintering areas should be baited at the very beginning of the over-wintering period.

Post Over-Wintering Care

Plants that have been properly over-wintered require frequent watering in the spring. Because all of the roots are alive, the plants will initiate growth rapidly in the spring as soon as growing conditions are favorable; therefore, begin watering the plants weekly as soon as they are removed from storage.

The Second Growing Season

Most species of boxwoods, that are to be grown for only one year in containers, can be planted as rooted cuttings or liners in 3 quart or 1 gallon containers. Boxwoods that are to be grown for 2 to 3 years should be planted in 2 gallon or larger containers. Early in the second growing season, soon after the plants are uncovered, a slow-release fertilizer should be applied, if they are to be used. If the plants are to be liquid fed, fertilizing should begin soon after the plants have been uncovered and repeated applications should be made at 3 to 4 week intervals until active growth begins. Once new growth is initiated, the regular liquid fertilizer program should resume.

Boxwood Decline in the Nursery

Boxwood decline is not limited to old established plantings. The author has observed symptoms similar to boxwood decline in plants that were poorly rooted, growing in poorly drained potting mixes, in plants that were improperly over-winter-



American boxwoods at the end of the second growing season in 2 gallon containers with a potting mix of equal parts composted digested sewage sludge, milled pine bark, and sharp sand, and fertilized initially with 9 lbs. of Osmocote 18-6-12/yd³ and the spring of the second year by top-dressing with 1 tbsp./can Osmocote 18-6-12. Check- plants over-wintered by packing tightly in groups outside unprotected, microfoam-plants laid on their sides under a microfoam thermo-blanket, shelter water - packed tightly in an unheated white plastic covered shelter watered twice monthly, and shelter- in a shelter similar to the latter but watered only initially and when the plants were uncovered. Plants from the shelter treatments represent only the plants that survived in the middle of the shelters.

ed, growing in media with a pH below 5.5, and in nutritionally deficient growing media. Boxwood decline like symptoms have been observed in growing media containing toxic levels of soluble salts, manganese, and boron. The author believes that boxwood decline can be as often associated with cultural problems as with soil borne diseases or nematodes.

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MAILBOX

Mrs. Joy Mintz
Longue Vue Gardens
Number 7 Bamboo Road
New Orleans, Louisiana 70124
Dear Mrs. Mintz,

Your letter of Jan. 8, 1980 was forwarded to me here at Blandy, and arrived in yesterday's mail. Your problem is one faced by many fine, older gardens and I can appreciate your concern. Fortunately, Boxwood is one of the easiest plants to maintain and rejuvenate. You have a choice of pruning rather drastically which may make the plants look bad for a few years, or pruning a little each year in which case it will take a little longer to achieve the desired result.

What you'll want to keep in mind as you begin to diminish the size of your plants is that as you cut back the plants you'll most likely find very few leaves growing inside the plant. This is primarily caused by lack of light. As you open up the plant, air and light will get in, and you'll find that new foliage will begin to grow along the older stems. Therefore, remember that as you cut back your plants, you're going to have to open them up to encourage new foliage growth from within. Shearing the plants will only increase your problems. Pruning before the new growth comes out in the

spring will probably keep your plants looking best as the new growth will tend to hide the pruning wounds quickly.

Virginia Tech published a good booklet entitled "Boxwood in the Landscape", but I don't have a copy left here at Blandy. I believe it is being reprinted, and so I am sending a copy of this letter as well as your letter to Prof. Albert Beecher, our A.B.S. President. President Beecher is associated with Virginia Tech and if the booklet is currently available, I'm sure he will send one to you.

I am enclosing an application for membership in the American Boxwood Society as per your request.

I wish you luck with your boxwood. From the beautiful pictures in the October '79 issue of the *Boxwood Bulletin* it is obvious that boxwood plays an important role in your garden. I hope one day to be able to see it in person. I know it is the policy of our editor to send complimentary copies of the *Bulletin* to each contributor, but in case you haven't received yours yet, I am enclosing two copies.

Sincerely,
Thomas E. Ewert
Director, Blandy Exp. Farm

SPRING MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 12, 1980

The Board of Directors met at the Kenmore Conference Center, Fredericksburg, Virginia on Wednesday, March 12, 1980. The meeting place was arranged by Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Chairman of the Garden and Grounds Committee at Kenmore, and Mr. Richard Mahone of Colonial Williamsburg, both long-time members of the ABS. Present at the meeting were Professor Beecher, President; Mr. Mahone and Dr. Speese, First and Second Vice-Presidents respectively; Messrs. Symmes, Butler and Ewert, Directors; and Mrs. Dick, Editor of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. Mrs. Frackelton graciously took Mrs. Mahone, Mrs. Symmes and Mrs. Butler on a tour of Fredericksburg during the morning session of the Board Meeting.

President Beecher called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. and outlined the agenda. Mr. Ewert delivered the Treasurer's Report in Mrs. Ewert's absence (the Treasurer's Report is printed below). He noted that the Report includes expenses associated with publication of the October 1979 issue of the *Bulletin* but not the January 1980 issue. He also noted that receipts from memberships include 55 new members since the previous Board Meeting on October 29, 1979. In this connection the Board recommended that members attending the Annual Meeting on May 7 be allowed to pay their 1980 dues along with the \$2.50 registration fee at that time. Mr. Symmes moved, Mr. Mahone seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to convert the present certificate of deposit held by the ABS in the amount of \$4,535.95 into a \$5,000 U. S. Treasury Certificate at a higher rate of interest, making up the difference from our savings account. The timing of the conversion was left to the discretion of the President in order not to lose interest on the present certificate of deposit. The Treasurer's Report was duly accepted.

The President called for the report of the Membership Committee and Chairman Symmes responded with a set of recommendations for enrolling new members. He cited the authorization of \$100 voted at the previous Board Meeting to place notices in several horticultural journals, and he proposed placing one in *American Horticulturist*, the journal of the American Horticultural Society. Dr. Speese said that the magazine *Southern Living* would print announcements of our annual meeting *gratis*, but it was pointed out that the magazine requires the information four months in advance.

With regard to membership renewals and payment of dues it was decided that the mailing of individual letters, despite the additional cost, was preferable to simply printing a notice in the *Bulletin*. Mr. Ewert said that Mrs. Ewert was at present checking the membership list against the printer's mailing list, but the problems were two: to identify accurately each member's class of membership and to decide when members should be dropped for nonpayment of dues. President Beecher asked that a first dues notice be mailed out at the beginning of April this year and that a follow-up notice be sent about the first of June to members who had not paid, telling them that their names would be dropped from the membership list unless their dues were paid promptly. The classes of membership and the dues for each were reviewed, and the hope was expressed that dues could be kept at the present low level at least for the coming year.

Mr. Mahone reported on the arrangements that he and Dr. Speese had made for the educational program at the Annual Meeting: first, a brief review will be given by ABS members Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson of pertinent references in the *Bulletin* to cultural practices; then Mr. James Baden, formerly at Ladew Topiary Gardens in Maryland and now Grounds Superintendent at Old Westbury Estate in New York, will speak on the use of boxwood for topiary; finally Dr. Francis R. Gouin, Extension Horticulturist in Maryland, will discuss container culture of boxwood. The Board expressed pleasure at the fine program that Mr. Mahone and his committee had put together. Professor Beecher then outlined the schedule of events that had been arranged for the Annual Meeting beginning with the get-together, slide presentation and reception to be held the evening of May 6 and ending with the tour of a nearby private garden at 3:30 p.m. on May 7. He said that Mrs. Ewert was looking into different possible luncheon arrangements and he explained that the registration fee, first imposed at the 1979 Annual Meeting, was used to pay the travel costs of guest speakers. Good publicity is essential to the success of the Annual Meeting and Professor Beecher asked that in addition to the usual *Bulletin* notice a letter announcing the program be mailed out about April 1. It was the consensus of the Board that the mailing of this letter could be combined with the mailing of the dues notice, with the two enclosures in the same envelope.

Mrs. Dick then reported on the status of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. She said that she hoped to have the January issue out before the end of March, but warned the Board that this issue contains only 12 pages because she had to pull some material at the last minute because of extra editing. She noted the difficulties of finding material when voluntary contributions slacken. In the case of the material from The Buzzards Bay Garden Club she had decided against running it until she checked to see if it was copyrighted. The pictures that were submitted of the September 29-30 ABS tour were not good enough to use. Mrs. Dick described the process by which she puts out an issue of the *Bulletin* and the Board expressed amazement at the amount of work that she has been doing single-handedly and the amount of her own time that she has been giving. There was mention of paying the Editor a fee or at least of paying for professional secretarial and editorial assistance. Dr. Speese asked if authors of technical papers were given the privilege of seeing their contributions in proof copy; Mrs. Dick said, only if they request it.

At this point Mr. Butler asked to make the report of the *Boxwood Bulletin* committee since he thought it was relevant to many of the questions under discussion and contained some recommendations that might be helpful to the Editor and the Board alike. Mr. Butler's report summarized the work of the Committee since it was organized at the previous Board Meeting and addressed the question of the Committee's responsibilities in a number of areas. He noted that at a meeting of the Committee on March 1 he and fellow members Ewert and Symmes agreed that their responsibilities should include solicitation of material, preliminary review and editing of incoming material before it goes to the printer's, proofing of galleys and/or final copy. They also agreed to assist in efforts to publish a current membership list and an updated index of the *Bulletin*.

The *Bulletin* Committee recommended that a reserve of publishable material be created, that responsibility for selection of the material to be published be clarified, that balance be maintained in each issue, insofar as possible, so as to appeal to the range of interests of the readership. The Committee asked the Board to consider its recommendation to introduce a standard system of boxwood nomenclature for use in the *Bulletin* in all but highly scientific taxonomic articles; the Committee presented an example of such a system for the Board's consideration. After discussing the difficulties of arriving at a system that would meet all scientific requirements the Board, upon the motion of Mr. Mahone and the second of Mr. Symmes, voted to accept the recommendation to adopt a standard system in principle and, after all of the Board members will have had an opportunity to study the system proposed by the Committee, to take further action at the special Board Meeting to be held during the Annual Meeting in May 1980.

President Beecher noted the Society's continuing need for clerical and secretarial help to perform

a variety of jobs that Board members and others are now trying to do themselves or with volunteers. He asked for suggestions on how to deal with this problem. After the Board had considered a number of alternatives Mr. Butler moved that the Board authorize payment of secretarial and clerical help when needed, and also reimburse, when requested, expenses incurred by Board members for phone calls and postage required to carry out the business of the ABS.

As the last item of business before adjourning for luncheon, Professor Beecher, on behalf of the Handbook Committee, distributed an outline of suggested contents for the proposed *Boxwood Handbook*. He asked the Board members to study the outline and give him their suggestions, especially any additional items that should be included.

Following a convivial and delicious luncheon hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Frackelton in their beautiful home the Board reconvened for the afternoon session. (During this session Mrs. Frackelton showed the three wives the Kenmore mansion and gardens.) The first item to come before the Board was the Boxwood Memorial Garden. Mr. Ewert reported that he was finding the cost of labels for the plants prohibitively expensive and that there were still questions about the nomenclature of some of the plants in the garden. He held out hope that these problems could be resolved but possibly not in time to have all of the plants labeled for the Annual Meeting.

President Beecher called attention to our commitment to sponsor another boxwood workshop with the Extension Service, this time at Scotchtown in Hanover County, Virginia, possibly in May. Although some effort is required to prepare for these workshops the Board felt that they are worthwhile projects. It was noted that any profits, usually small, had traditionally been given to the ABS. Dr. Speese said that she would like to see more workshops at the National Arboretum because their plants are mature and well labelled. Mr. Symmes thought that the Arboretum was well-suited for a workshop on companion plantings. The Board expressed the hope that such a workshop could be arranged and plans announced at the Annual Meeting.

The President asked Mr. Symmes to chair the Nominating Committee and prepare a slate of officers to be presented at the Annual Meeting. He noted that no vacancies would occur on the Board this year unless Dr. Singleton chose to resign because of ill health. He also asked Mr. Symmes to obtain the services of a recording secretary for the meeting. It was suggested that perhaps Mrs. Dick could find a member in the Winchester area to record the minutes of the meeting and also subsequently serve as an interim corresponding secretary as well as an assistant to the Editor. It was

ALDEN EATON RETIRES

Colonial Williamsburg Staff



Photo courtesy: Colonial Williamsburg

Alden Eaton holding a miniature chest he made.

On most Sundays, Alden and Irene Eaton stroll through the Historic Area, chatting with visitors, greeting their neighbors, and enjoying the many gardens that have become like old friends through the years.

The Eatons moved to Williamsburg in 1945 from New England, and the Historic Area has been their home ever since. In fact, they've spent 27 of those years as residents of the Semple House on Francis Street.

On January 1, 1980, Mr. Eaton retired as Vice President-Director of Construction and Maintenance. Although he will no longer be an official member of the foundation's administrative staff, his influence will remain for many years to come. He has been instrumental in much of the landscape development here, and one could say that there's probably a little bit of Alden Eaton in every tree, shrub and flower growing in the Historic Area.

He is responsible for the excellent tree main-

tenance care program that is in evidence throughout Colonial Williamsburg properties. His efforts have preserved many of the old, historic trees throughout the town.

Mr. Eaton joined Colonial Williamsburg as Assistant Superintendent of Landscape in 1945 after four years in the U. S. Army, two of which he spent in the Pacific, as a Captain in field artillery. He previously worked for landscape consultants and architects in New York and New Hampshire. After five years with Colonial Williamsburg, he was promoted to Superintendent of Landscape. Two years later in 1952 he was appointed Director of Landscape, Construction and Maintenance. He held the position until 1971 when he was named Assistant Vice President, and a year later, Vice President-Director, Construction and Maintenance.

Although Mr. Eaton grew up near Boston, he has no desire to return to the northern weather. "I love the climate here. Where else can you grow spinach in winter?"

Mr. Eaton arrived during what he terms "the second spurt of the restoration" after World War II. The sense of pride and quality that was so prevalent here then is still found today, thinks Mr. Eaton.

"The craftsmen and tradesmen today still get pleasure from creating. The old timers have passed that sense of pride along to the young ones. That attitude of doing your best and striving for top quality is still here," he says.

Mr. Eaton is pleased to see the change coming about in recent years with broader interpretations of the Historic Area, particularly with the living history program.

"In the earlier days, the interpretations were very good, and the hostesses were an elite group. Many of them are gone now, but the young ones seem to have a renewed interest." Although the younger members of the staff cannot identify with the original restoration of the Historic Area, he feels they have gleaned a sense of what it means to be a part of such a creation.

To Mr. Eaton, Colonial Williamsburg is the smell of fresh bread baking early in the morning, the sunny yellow daffodils blooming in late January, and the early fall sunsets lighting the sky over the powder magazine in an array of pastel hues.

His favorite garden in Williamsburg is the Wythe House Garden, admits Mr. Eaton. And although he is hard pressed to name his favorite plant, he puts hollies at the top of the list, and boxwood second.

Alden Eaton served as Director of The American Boxwood Society from July 1966 until July 1979. He served the ABS faithfully, giving much sought after advice, and presenting interesting, worthwhile programs at a number of Annual Meetings. His most recent donation was a topiary boxwood for the Memorial Garden at Blandy.

The Eatons have found a place to live close by in Kings Point, Williamsburg, Va., where he can pursue his hobby of woodworking in a large separated garage. Besides making furniture he also plans to spend time gardening. An avid vegetable gardener, he is one of the first to have a variety of vegetables in the spring and summer.

He enjoys birdwatching, and makes many types of bird feeders of his own design. For many years he has been an avid camper to the coast, and is very fond of seafood.

The Eatons have four daughters and four grandchildren. One daughter teaches in a prison in Los Angeles. Another is enrolled in the Dartmouth graduate business program after spending several years abroad. A third recently returned from four years in Yeomen and is now completing a master's program at William and Mary College. The fourth is an artist.



BOXWOOD GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, September 29 —

Sunday, September 30, 1979

When tour members started gathering at Blandy Experimental Farm near Boyce, Virginia, happy, excited voices greeted friends, old and new. All were ready for a special two day experience. After coffee and doughnuts those meeting at Blandy were on the way to Old Colony Inn Alexandria, Virginia, to meet the rest of the members there.

From Old Colony Inn the tour proceeded to "Montpelier Mansion", Laurel, Maryland. The 18th century mansion, set in spacious, landscaped grounds, awaited visitors like a grand lady. It has been said that the mansion is one of the most beautiful Georgian houses in America.

"Montpelier Mansion" was the home of the Snowden family, Thomas Snowden and his son, Major Thomas Snowden, built "Montpelier" between 1740 and 1783. They were extensive land holders of over 20,000 acres. Thomas Snowden and his wife, Mary, are buried in the family plot behind the Carriage House.

The land where "Montpelier" stands was included in a land grant of 1976 acres to Richard Snowden. The date of the grant was February 26, 1686. Richard Snowden came from Wales around 1685 to establish one of the earliest iron works in Maryland near the head of South River.

By coincidence the Friends of Montpelier adopted its charter and by-laws February, 1976, three hundred years to the day from the grant date.

The interior of the mansion is formally planned, showing the craftsmanship of skilled hands. The early paneling, deep windows, distinctive fireplaces accent a gracious charm and peacefulness throughout the house.

"Montpelier" has had many owners and the last private owners were Ambassador and Mrs. Breckinridge Long. After their deaths in 1956, their daughter, Mrs. Christine Willcox, presented the house and grounds to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

"Montpelier" is famous for its beautiful boxwood gardens dating to the 1700's. The walk from the mansion garden door leads into formal box-

wood gardens, and the maze, some of it over nine feet high, is over 200 years old. Restoration of the boxwood gardens is currently being carried out.

A spectacular Osage orange tree commands a prestigious spot in the garden. It is said to be the largest specimen in Maryland.



Photo: Kay Ewert

Osage Orange Tree at Montpelier.

A delicious luncheon was served by Friends of Montpelier. Afterwards tour members made a quick visit to the Carriage House which has been converted into a gift shop, art studios, workshops, and meeting areas. All are part of future financial support plans for the renovation and improvements as well as being a cultural center.

The next stop was at the Smithsonian Institute Gardens. James Buckner met the tour to lead us through a learning, beauty soaked experience. Mr. Buckner came to the Smithsonian in 1972 after graduating from the University of Delaware Masters program in Horticulture.

The challenge of restoring the gardens was well met, and, though not finished, the gardens present one beautiful view after another. From the plant usage to the complimentary furniture, to the garden designs there are unique sights delighting the viewer.

The Victorian Garden recreates the horticultural extravaganza of the 1876 Centennial Horticultural Hall and surrounding grounds at Philadelphia. The elaborate parterre on axis with the South Tower of the Smithsonian Institution Building is adopted from the sunken parterre located at the West End of the Hall from 1876-1905.



Photo: Courtesy Smithsonian

James R. Buckner at Smithsonian

The interconnecting walks are like carriage trails of public gardens. Each section has a theme of its own. Trees, shrub, and flower beds complement each other, and call to mind the lush opulence of the Victorian Age. Boxwood provide diversions as well as starring in their own gardens. The urns, benches, wickets, lamp posts, and the fountain plantings are authentic Victorian pieces. Mr. Buckner told of finding the iron and stone pieces at country and estate sales.

Urn overflowing with geranium and impatiens were picturesquely placed throughout the grounds. Hanging baskets of ivies and summer flowers hung from lamp post brackets. Benches invited sitting down to enjoy the lush, bright bouquets of summer flowers held by trim formal beds. What a sight!

A huge basket made of lattice strips and planted with bedding plants in the open spaces was a most unusual handling of a Victorian theme.

Mr. Buckner directed the members through a speedy 20 minute walk through of the first floor of the Institute before the bus returned everyone to the Inn, where, after a brief rest, all were off to cocktails and dinner at the Robert E. Lee boyhood mansion in Alexandria, Virginia.

The Lee mansion is a formal house with a center entrance hall with a drawing room and a dining room opposite each other on either side of the hall. The stair out of the hall is handsome. The mantels and paneling are typical of the early woodwork of America's early homes. The bedrooms, filled with lovely antiques, as were the drawing room and dining room, also followed a similar floor plan of the first floor.

There were many comments on the antiquity of the mansion and the practical plan the Lee family had built. The house could easily be lived in today with comfort and enjoyment.

Through the center hall the ABS members walked out into a bricked area for cocktails and dinner at tables placed throughout the yard. With the candlelight it was as though time had reversed itself into another age, another time.

On Sunday, after a Continental breakfast and check out, the group were off to Gunston Hall, Lorton, Virginia, where a lovely brunch was served. After lunch members toured the indescribable boxwood gardens, and the mansion. The boxwood gardens are laid out in a formal design, mostly rectangular. The gardens lead down toward the Potomac River where early in our history transportation by boat and ship was often utilized. Much of the boxwood has been severely pruned but is growing lushly and happily at home.

The mansion is considered grand for its time in history. The carvings are unique up the stairway, around the windows and mantels, over and around the fireplaces. The dining room is said to be the first room decorated with facings and lentils in a Chinese pattern. In the tastefully furnished rooms upstairs and down it is as though the Masons had only gone out for a time and would soon return. Here again it would be truly possible to move in, and to live comfortably after the more than 200 hundred years that George Mason lived there, and wrote the Bill of Rights.

From Gunston Hall the tour proceeded to "Oxon Hill Manor", Oxon Hill, Maryland. Up the graveled drive the neo-Georgian brick home beckoned. "Oxon Hill" was built in 1928 by Count Jules Henri de Silbour for B. Sumner Wells, Under Secretary of State during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt who was a frequent visitor to the Manor as were many other famous people.

“Oxon Hill Manor” derives its name from the original home built in 1710 by Colonel Thomas Addison. The site of the original mansion is a short distance north of the present house, and was a portion of a 25,000 acre grant from King Charles II of England to Colonel John Addison, an uncle of the essayist, Joseph Addison.

In 1778 the widow of Thomas Addison, grandson of the builder and great grandson of the original grantee, married Thomas Hanson, whose uncle, John Hanson, was the first elected President of the United States in Congress assembled under Articles of Confederation, the document that united the Colonies prior to adoption of the Constitution. While visiting his nephew at Oxon Hill, President Hanson died, and is thought to be buried in the cemetery adjoining the site of the old mansion.

The original mansion was leased for a period to Nathaniel Washington, who cared for George Washington’s nephews, George S. and Lawrence A. Washington. The mansion was destroyed by fire in 1895.

B. Sumner Welles purchased 245 acres of the original site, including the site of the destroyed mansion, in 1920.

The Manor and 55 acres of land were acquired in 1952 by Fred N. Maloff, an art dealer and collector. He established a museum for fine art and John Hanson Memorabilia in the Manor and lived there until his death in 1972. In 1976 the Manor was purchased with the land by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which is working to restore the historic site.



Photo: Courtesy Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
*Oxon Hill Manor
Oxon Hill, Maryland*

The entrance hall is very large, square shaped and dominated by a black marble mantel facing the entrance. The woodwork is a fine example of Georgian design. Purple asters and foliage in a two foot high vase on the grand piano were most dramatic.

Each room had been decorated in a different decor and period from contemporary to very traditional. The decorations were done for the Washington Showcase Display House of the year. The Drawing Room, filled with deep contemporary sofas and chairs, said it all about entertaining and comfort. The Library was dark walnut and masculine. The Dining Room with its Chinese silk screen panels, a gift of President and Mrs. Roosevelt, was prepared for dinner with traditional china, silver, and baby ivy in clay pots everywhere. A child’s table and chairs were a part of the festive scene.

A porch out of the Dining Room was also brilliantly ready for lunch or dinner with large floral material. The small reception room said “come in”.

The kitchen was fantastic. Most hotels do not have the stoves, counters in natural wood, work areas, butler’s cupboards that “Oxon Hill Manor” has.

The decorated bedrooms were almost beyond description, with soft rose chintz, a bed raised on a one step carpeted stage in the center of the room, and a very male room with navy blue color scheme. The bathrooms were not of this built-in practical day but of the 1920-1930 extravagance.

The gardens are in the process of being restored and in a few years will be worth traveling to see. Some of the designs have been set to the side of the drawing room porch, but the boxwood is quite small. The older boxwood is being pruned and reshaped to its former beauty. With a little imagination, you can see a very formal garden as an outdoor living area, formally perfect.



Photo: Kay Ewert
Mr. and Mrs. Scot Butler’s garden, McLean, Va.

From there the tour was on its way to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Scot Butler in McLean, Virginia. Winding through the woods and up a curving drive members were greeted by the Butlers with umbrellas and a quick entry out of the rain. After wraps were stored the gracious Butlers served wine and delicious cheeses. (All wanted that curried recipe!)

The Butler's Williamsburg styled home was a special treat with its antiques and unique memorabilia. The warmth of the house and of the hosts quickly dispelled dampness from rain and chill.

Out the windows beautiful wooded views could be seen. A barn and corral for their daughter's horse presented a rustic quality. Boxwood plantings are wherever the eye looks. Along the tennis court are small new plantings. Joan and Scot are utilizing their spacious grounds with design, and practicality. In spite of the down pour many members, with umbrellas over their heads, walked around the grounds to see the attractive work of the Butlers.

After the brief, wet tour, a delicious buffet was served along with interesting conversation throughout the house which had been set with small tables and chairs in each room. Everyone was having such a good time that departure was delayed for longer than planned. Reluctantly all had to return to Blandy, or their homes in the other directions. The second American Boxwood Society Tour was history. Many memories will always remain.

We will always remember and be grateful for the bus driver, Mr E. L. Whorley, who made the tour days much pleasure.

Participants of the American Boxwood Society Garden Tour, Sept. 29, 30, 1979.

Albert S. Beecher
Millie P. Beecher
807 Sunrise Drive, S.E.
Blacksburg, Va. 24060

Scot Butler
Joan Butler
7525 Old Dominion Dr.
McLean, Va. 22102

Mrs. Charles Dick (Lu)
514 Amherst Street
Winchester, Va. 22601

Tom Ewert
Kay Ewert
P. O. Box 175
Blandy Exp. Farm
Boyce, Va. 22620

Robert Frackelton
Decca G. Frackelton
1714 Greenway Drive
Fredericksburg,
Va. 22401

Mrs. Julien N. Friant
(Bertha)
Berryville, Va. 22611

Bryan Gore
Donald Gore
Geraldine Gore
712 W. Auburn Ct.
9S North
Mequon, Wis. 53092

Mrs. Robert Gottfried
(Faye)
1900 Columbia Pike,
Apt. 313
Arlington, Va. 22204

H. T. Hallowell, Jr.
980 Meetinghouse Road
Rydal, Pa. 19046

Marion P. Lewis
1605 Handley Avenue
Winchester, Va. 22601

Richard Mahone
Helen Mahone
Colonial Williamsburg
Williamsburg, Va. 23185

Polly Hottinger
449 Leicester Street
Winchester, Va. 22601

E. Gurley Saunders
Mrs. Saunders
104 Naglee Avenue
Sandston, Va. 23150

Mrs. Frederick Sturm -
(Marian)
Berryville, Va. 22611

Betsy J. Sykes
and Carolyn
3036 Randolph Drive
Raleigh, N.C. 27609

John B. Veach
Mrs. Veach
390 Vandrebilt Rd. or
P. O. Box 5857
Biltmore Forest
Asheville, N.C. 28803

Walter Wisecarver, Jr.
Mary Lou Wisecarver
Berryville, Va. 22611

E. L. Whorley
(bus driver,
New Member)
1234 Mass. Ave., N.W.
#107
Washington, D.C. 20005

20th Annual Meeting
of the
American Boxwood Society

DATE: May 6 and May 7, 1980

PLACE: The Blandy Experimental Farm,
Boyce, Virginia

THE PROGRAM:

May 6, 1980

7:30 PM Early Arrival Get-Together in
the Library at the Quarters at
Blandy
Slide Presentation - 1979 Box-
wood Garden Tour by Thomas
E. Ewert
Reception

May 7, 1980

9:00 - 11:00 AM Registration

9:30 AM Tours (Select one)
1) The Orland E. White Arboretum
2) Memorial Boxwood Garden of the Ameri-
can Boxwood Society
Tour Guides - Thomas E. Ewert and Prof.
James A. Faiszt

10:30 AM Get-Together Coffee

11:00 AM Annual Business Meeting

12:00 Noon Lunch

1:15 PM Educational Program
Moderators - Mr. Richard Mahone and Dr.
Bernice Speese
*A Review of Pertinent Cultural References in
References in the Boxwood Bulletin* by Mr. &
Mrs. James O. Anderson
Use of Boxwood for Topiary by Mr. James
Baden
Container Culture of Boxwood by Dr. Francis
R. Gouin
3:30 PM Garden Tour: Rosemont, Berry-
ville, Va, R. 50 West to stoplight. Right on
340 to R. 7. Left, through Berryville to sign
at entrance of Byrd home.

DIRECTIONS

The Blandy Experimental Farm is in Boyce,
Virginia on Route 50.

If you are driving from Fairfax or Loudoun
Counties in Northern Virginia on Route 50, it is
about 4 miles beyond the Shenandoah River Bridge,
with the entrance to your left. It will be marked.

From Winchester going east, drive 8 miles on
Route 50 to the traffic light at intersection of Route
340 and 50 then 1.3 miles more to Blandy entrance
on your right. Entrance will be marked.

Speakers For The Educational Program

The moderators are Mr. Richard Mahone, who is Vice President of the American Boxwood Society and Landscape Supervisor for Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, Virginia and Dr. Bernice M. Speese, who is 2nd Vice President of the American Boxwood Society and ABS Registrar for International Boxwood Registration, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Mr. & Mrs. James O. Anderson are Life Members of the ABS and live in Baltimore, Maryland and have been making an extensive research of the pertinent cultural recommendations in the *Boxwood Bulletins* and will share their observations with us.

James Baden, Grounds Superintendent, Old Westbury Estate, Old Westbury, New York. He formally was the Superintendent of Grounds at Ladew Topiary Gardens, Monkton, Maryland. His formal training was in Horticulture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia. His topic for the program is *Use of Boxwood for Topiary*.

Dr. Francis R. Gouin is Extension Horticulturist for the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service. He is headquartered at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. He works extensively with the Maryland nurserymen, homeowners, and assists Maryland Cooperative Extension Agents in solving problems dealing with ornamental horticulture. He is the author of many Extension Publications, and is a frequent author of articles for horticultural trade journals. He will discuss *The Container Culture of Boxwood*.

Mr. Thomas E. Ewert, is a Director of the American Boxwood Society and is the Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm at Boyce, Virginia. He will present an illustrated report on the 1979 Boxwood Tour.

Prof. James A. Faiszt, Extension Horticulturist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia. He will conduct the tour of the Boxwood Memorial Garden.

BLANDY TOUR

Between 9:30 and 10:30 AM, there will be a conducted tour of the Arboretum by Mr. Thomas E. Ewert and the Boxwood Memorial Garden by Prof. James A. Faiszt. Visitors will have the opportunity of selecting one of these tours.

The Orland E. White Arboretum covers better than 100 acres and includes many outstanding examples of plant material. Many rare and unusual specimens of plants are within easy walking distance of the main headquarters of the Arboretum. The Arboretum is a part of the Blandy Experimental Farm which was a gift to the University of Virginia from Mr. Graham F. Blandy in 1926. Mr. Blandy left the 700+ acre property to the University.

In 1927, Dr. Orland E. White came to the University from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and assumed the position of Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm. Under his direction the arboretum was established and an abundance of plant material was brought to Blandy for observation and research. As the number of plants began to grow, Dr. White realized the necessity of systematically planting out the new arrivals. The resulting Arboretum, which covers better than 100 acres, was dedicated to him at the time of his retirement in 1955.

Mr. Thomas E. Ewert is the present Director of the Orland E. White Arboretum and the Blandy Experimental Farm and he will conduct the tour.

The American Boxwood Society Memorial Garden is located on the grounds of the Arboretum.

This garden was established in 1976 as a memorial planting honoring Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr. and Mr. Henry Hohman and to provide the membership of the American Boxwood Society, nurserymen, horticulturists, botanists, students and visitors to Blandy a labeled collection of the various boxwood plants available within the capability of the American Boxwood Society to purchase or obtain them and to adequately maintain them.

Since the establishment of the Memorial Boxwood Garden, two other tireless workers for the American Boxwood Society, Admiral Neill Phillips and Mrs. E. M. Whiting have passed away and their names have been added to the honor roll along with Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr. and Henry Hohman.

The overall design for the garden was prepared by Prof. Albert S. Beecher of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1975 and the actual planting and supervision of the garden has been under the guidance of Mr. Thomas E. Ewert, Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm.

The original plantings included plants from the Hohman collection that were scattered throughout the Arboretum and the plants developed or discovered by Dr. J. T. Baldwin. Additional plants are being added each year. At the present time there are approximately 47 different named varieties in the collection. Another 50 varieties are in nursery rows, and these will be moved into the permanent garden after they reach a larger size.

Prof. James A. Faiszt will conduct the tour of the Memorial Boxwood Garden.

LOOKING BACK — FORWARD

The 20th Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society will occur on May 7, 1980. At this time it is appropriate to look back and review how this organization was formed and to review some of the major accomplishments that have occurred during the last twenty years.

In the first issue of the *Boxwood Bulletin* (Vol. 1, No. 1, October 1961) there is a brief historical account of the organizational meeting of the American Boxwood Society. It is reprinted here for the benefit of members who are not charter members in the ABS and do not have a copy of the first *Boxwood Bulletin*.

Organizational Meeting of the American Boxwood Society

A letter of March 24, 1961, from J. Churchill Newcomb issued "the call" for an organizational meeting of our then incipient society, and pointed out the advantages of a cooperative attack on a group of plants widely grown in this area.

Prospective members started gathering at Blandy before 10 A.M. on May 2. Plant, book, and other boxwood exhibits were viewed in the library and laboratories. The remainder of the morning was spent in tours of the boxwood and other plantings, and of the radiation facility and laboratories.

By noon 86 members had signed the register, and altogether approximately 100 were present for lunch and the organizational meeting. They came from 35 Virginia communities, from Washington, D.C., from Maryland and a couple of other States.

A luncheon that featured our president's Planter's Punch, and the Kentucky fried chicken appeared to be enjoyed by all present.

The formal program, which began about 2 p.m., was presided over by Mr. Newcomb and was composed of the following several parts:

1. Remarks by the Chairman.
2. Welcome by Dr. W. Ralph Singleton, Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm.
3. Dr. Freeman Weiss (Curator American Type Culture Collection; formerly Plant Pathologist, U.S.D.A.). "Protection of Boxwood Against Known Pests."
4. Dr. B. L. Wagenknecht, Horticultural Taxonomist, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, "Cultivars of Box, and the Boxwood Registration Program."

5. Consideration of "Honorary Life Member" recommendations, at which time five were elected to such membership.
6. Mr. Sylvester Marsh, The National Arboretum, "Winter Injury of Box, and Its Correction."
7. Calling of attention to the fine collection of species and varieties of *Buxus* that were on display as gifts from the National Arboretum (these were formally presented to Mr. Flory by Mr. Marsh), from Mr. Henry Hohman of the Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland, and from the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.
8. Professor A. G. Smith, (Landscape Consultant; for many years Horticulturist with Virginia Polytechnic Institute), "Some Experiences with Boxwood."
9. Election of officers as follows:
President: J. Churchill Newcomb, Purcellville, Va.
1st V.P.: Ralph Singleton, Miller Professor of Biology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
2nd V.P.: Mrs. Thomas De Lashmutt, "Oak Hill", Aldie, Va.
Secretary: Mrs. Clay B. Carr, Boyce, Va.
Treasurer: Walter S. Flory, Curator, Orland E. White Research Arboretum, Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Va.
Directors: Mrs. Orme Wilson, ("The Tuletries", Boyce, Va.), Washington, D.C.
J. T. Baldwin, Head, Department of Biology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.
Henry T. Skinner, Director, The National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.
A. G. Smith, Associate Professor of Horticulture, Retired, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.
Christopher Stuart, M.D., Winchester, Va.
J. B. Wilson, Plant Pathologist, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.
10. Adoption of a temporary, working, constitution.
11. Appointment of committees.

Twenty years later, what are some of the accomplishments of this young organization?

1. One of the outstanding accomplishments has been the publishing of the *Boxwood Bulletin* which has provided the membership with outstanding information on boxwood. There has been a pleasing balance between technical information for the advanced student and popular information for the beginning boxwood enthusiast. The caliber of the articles and photographs has been outstanding. Credit for the fine work is due the volunteer editors who have served: Dr. Walter S. Flory, Mrs. Eugene B. Casey, Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting, Mrs. Chester L. Riley and Mrs. Charles H. Dick.

Since the material on boxwoods in the major libraries in America is very limited, the past issues of the *Boxwood Bulletin* will become very helpful as resource material in future years.

Many members of the Society have also been contributors to the *Boxwood Bulletin* and have willingly shared their knowledge with all of us. We are indeed grateful to these individuals.

2. Another major contribution has been the willing dissemination of information by the officers and directors of the ABS in answering the letters that have been received at the Society Office from members and non-members seeking information on various phases of boxwood culture or nomenclature.

3. The work of the American Boxwood Society has been recognized and the Society was appointed the registration authority for boxwood by the International Horticultural Society for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants. Dr. Burdette L. Wagenknecht and Dr. Bernice M. Speese are the two workers that have carried out the duties as Registrar for the ABS for New Cultivar Names in *Buxus* L.

4. The establishment of the *Boxwood Memorial Garden* at Blandy so there would be a living collection of boxwood for members and visitors to Blandy to observe and study was an important contribution.

5. The ABS has provided financial support for research work at the University of Maryland on *Growth of Buxus sempervirens* L. in solution culture with factorial combinations of potassium, calcium, magnesium and nitrogen and for growth and foliar accumulation of mineral nutrient elements by *Buxus sempervirens* L. as affected by hydroponic nutrient level, soil type, soil pH and source of nitrogen.

6. The ABS has provided support for research on *Boxwood Decline* at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

7. The Society, in carrying out its goal dedicated to the increase and diffusion of knowledge concerning boxwood, has provided the membership at its annual meetings with outstanding programs on boxwood. In addition the recent Boxwood Tours and Boxwood Workshops are helping to further carry out the original goal of the Society.

In a review of the accomplishments, it is also fitting to point out that the pleasant working partnership between the American Boxwood Society and the Blandy Experimental Farm of the University of Virginia has helped to make some of these accomplishments all possible. The ABS is indeed grateful to the various Directors of the Blandy Experimental Farm for providing the Society with a central headquarters.

Other accomplishments could be cited, but it is also important in reviewing the past to consider what has not been accomplished and project in what direction the Society should place its emphasis during the next ten years. The Officers and Board of Directors have given this some study.

Some of the present short range goals that the Board is currently working on are as follows:

1. Completion of a *Boxwood Handbook*.

2. Bringing the index of the *Boxwood Bulletin* up to date. The last index appeared in Vol. 12, No. 3, January 1973.

3. Increased emphasis on a promotional program to increase membership.

4. Further development of the *Boxwood Memorial Garden*.

5. Continued effort to ascertain how the ABS can assist in the promoting and support of boxwood research within the capabilities of the Society.

6. Assisting the Editor of the *Boxwood Bulletin* in finding suitable material for the *Boxwood Bulletin*.

The potential for the American Boxwood Society to have a significant list of accomplishments in the year 2000 is there. You as a member can help to bring this about by becoming involved and active in the Society. Write or contact the officers and directors and share your suggestions as to where the emphasis should be placed during the coming years.

Registration Fee

A \$2.50 registration fee will be charged to help defray cost of the coffee hour, garden tour, transportation for speakers and other incidental expenses of the annual meeting. Advance registrations by mail will be appreciated.

Lunch Arrangements

Three plans are in operation for lunch:

- 1) Bring your picnic basket and have a picnic lunch on the grounds of the arboretum
- 2) Reserve a catered lunch in advance (\$5.00)
- 3) Visit one of the restaurants about two miles from blandy Experimental Farm

If you would like ABS to order you a box lunch, send your check for \$7.50 per person (which covers registration fee and lunch) to the American Boxwood Society, Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620 by Friday, May 2, 1980 using the form that follows.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING:

Tuesday Evening Get-Together: Since some of the members will be arriving late Tuesday afternoon and will be spending the night in the Winchester area, the American Boxwood Society is planning this year a special informal program at 7:30 PM in the library at the Quarters of the Blandy Experimental Farm. There will be an opportunity to meet boxwood members and to chat with some of the officers and directors. An illustrated garden tour will be presented and light refreshments will be served. Boxwood members living in the vicinity of Boyce are also welcome.

Thomas E. Ewert, a Director of ABS will show slides of the 1979 Boxwood Tour which included a visit to:

Montpelier Mansion, Laurel, Maryland
 Smithsonian Gardens, Washington, D C.
 Robert E. Lee, Boyhood Mansion, Alexandria, Virginia
 Gunston Hall, Lorton, Virginia
 Oxon Hill Manor, Oxon Hill, Maryland
 Garden and Home of Mr. & Mrs. Scot Butler, McLean, Virginia

Arboretum and Memorial Garden Tour

Renewal Time

Annual membership dues are due May 1, 1980. If you overlooked or misplaced the letter recently sent to all members with the dues announcement, this reminder is for you. Renew now so you will not miss the next issue of the *Boxwood Bulletin*.

The American Boxwood Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1961 and dedicated to increase and diffusion of knowledge concerning boxwood.

These are the following classes of membership and all include the *Boxwood Bulletin*:

Annual (Regular), per year	\$ 5.00
Contributing, per year	\$ 10.00
Sustaining, per year	\$ 25.00
Life (no further dues)	\$100.00
Patron (no further dues)	\$500.00
Honorary (Conferred)	None

Contributions are also welcome for The Research Fund and The Boxwood Memorial Garden.

Note: Contributions are deductible in computing income taxes in accordance with the provisions of the Revenue Act.

Membership dues or gifts for special projects should be sent to the treasurer, Mrs. Thomas E. Ewert, P.O. Box 175, Boyce, Virginia 22620.

Advanced Registration for Annual Meeting and Lunch Reservations

(Detach or make a facsimile)

Complete and return to Mrs. Thomas E. Ewert, P.O. Box 175, Boyce, VA 22620 Society:

NAME -----

ADDRESS -----

NAME -----

ADDRESS -----

Enclosed is a \$_____ check for Registration & Lunch (\$7.50 per person)

Enclosed is a \$_____ check for Registration (\$2.50 person) will bring a picnic lunch

I also plan to attend the Early Arrival Get-Together Yes_____ No_____

Reservations for Lunch must be received by Mrs. Ewert by Friday, May 2nd.

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THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

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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

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



BOXWOOD—

A heritage from Yesterday

A privilege for Today

A bequest for Tomorrow

