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Fairfield, Richmond, Virginia

Photo by Wirt A. Christian Jr.

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INDEX

Boxwoods In Secret Arboretum -----	61
<i>John E. Ford</i>	
Welcome To Secret Arboretum -----	67
Update On Midwest Hardy Boxwood Cuttings Offer -----	69
<i>Mary A. Gamble</i>	
Spring Garden Tours Beckon To Boxwood Fanciers -----	71
<i>Scot Butler</i>	
Along The Boxwood Trail -----	75
<i>James C. Wilfong</i>	
Question And Answer -----	74
Notes On Eastern Shore Boxwood Workshop ---	77
ABS To Sponsor A New Research Task -----	78
<i>William A. Gray</i>	
Concerning Membership Dues -----	79
Membership List Correction -----	79
22nd Annual Meeting -----	80

ILLUSTRATIONS

Fairfield, Richmond, VA -----	Cover
Winterkill, Secret Arboretum -----	67, 68
Missouri Cuttings Procedures -----	70
<i>photos: Jack Horner</i>	
Mulberry Field, St. Mary's County, MD -----	73
<i>photo: courtesy Maryland House And Garden Tour</i>	
His Lordship's Kindness, Harford County, MD --	75
<i>photo: Wilfong</i>	
Mt. Pleasant, Harford County, MD -----	76
Ratcliffe Cross, Chestertown, MD -----	76
<i>photos: Wilfong</i>	

Boxwoods In Secrest Arboretum

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Wooster, Ohio

Outplantings of boxwood in the Secrest Arboretum date back to 1923 when several specimens of Asheville Common (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Asheville') were set in a group planting. Since this initial planting 97 different taxa of box were tried out - - 46 of which have survived, although many are in poor condition. Seventeen were unnamed selections from the collection of the late Ohio State University Professor of Horticulture, Victor Ries. Ten of these unnamed Ries plants are still surviving.

The Secrest Arboretum is a difficult place to grow boxwoods. The Arboretum is on high ground with exposure to high winds. In general, the soils are heavy with poor drainage. Frequently summer droughts of from 4 to 6 weeks in July and August can be expected. Hortus Third (1) lists both Common Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) and Littleleaf Box (*Buxus microphylla*) as being hardy in Plant Hardiness Zone 6. Wooster is in U.S.D.A. Plant Hardiness Zone 5 where low temperatures between -10°F and -20°F can be expected each winter.

Boxwoods at Wooster have not been able to withstand exposed locations where they are subject to severe winds and winter sunshine. No boxwood has survived for more than a very few years when used in foundation plantings on the south and west sides of buildings where winter sunshine could be a problem. The best growing sites have been areas well protected from severe winds by other vegetation under tall trees affording light overhead shade. Two collections of boxwood in the Arboretum that are somewhat exposed to wind and winter sunshine have been afforded extra protection from late fall until late spring by the erection of snowfence on the exposed side of the plot.

Many boxwoods grew well and survived an occasional winter when the temperature dropped to -20°F. Beginning with the winter of 1976-1977 we experienced three successive severe winters with low temperatures varying from -20°F to -17°F. Low temperatures were accompanied by high winds often up to 35 to 50 mph. Fortunately there was good snow cover during the severe weather or damage would certainly have been much greater. Damage was accumulative and few plants escaped some injury. Woody plants other than boxwood were damaged or completely killed by the series of severe winters. Japanese White Pine (*Pinus parviflora*) had survived -24°F in 1913 and -20°F four times since but was completely killed after the third winter through accumulative damage.

Boxwood at Wooster is so sensitive of site that the removal of two oaks on the south side of a boxwood plot resulted in a number of different boxwoods, fifty feet to the north, having their leaves bronzed on the south sides of the plants with the first freezing temperatures (24°F) on October 24.

A number of boxwoods had their growing tips, that hadn't hardened off, killed by the first freezes in October 1981. They had experienced a drought during July and August followed by a warm rainy period in September that induced some plants to start developing new leaves.

Buxus microphylla 'Compacta Kingsville Dwarf'. Kingsville Dwarf Littleleaf Box

Has survived for 14 years. Set in nursery as a 3 inch plant. Seven years later was 6 inches high when outplanted in a dwarf evergreen plot. Survived three severe winters in a row with temperatures of -17°F to -20°F in good condition but was protected by being completely buried under a heavy snow. Tips are often winter killed which, along with slow growth, keeps this plant dense, compact and ball shaped. Plant usually recovers quickly during spring growing season. Fourteen year old plant is 10 inches high with a 12 inch spread. Growing on protected site with snowfence erected for added protection during winter. Marginally hardy on protected sites. Plants on sites exposed to winds haven't survived more than two winters.

Buxus microphylla 'Curlylocks'. Curlylocks Littleleaf Box

Plantings made in three locations. Oldest plantings have survived 14 years on protected sites. Box on windy site failed the first winter. Set in nursery as six inch plants. Six years later were 24 inches tall when outplanted. Up to 40 percent of twigs and foliage was killed at -20°F. Recovered after three severe winters in a row with temperatures of -17°F to -20°F. By November 1981 plants were 25 inches tall with a 36 inch spread.

Leaves on tips of twigs on south side of bushes turn brown with first heavy frosts in October. Marginally hardy on protected sites.

Buxus microphylla 'Green Pillow'. Green Pillow Littleleaf Box

Has grown in the Arboretum for 14 years on protected site. Set in nursery as 4 inch rooted cutting. Seven years later was 8 inches high when outplanted in a dwarf evergreen plot. Tips of twigs

were killed each winter during three severe winters in a row with temperatures of -17°F to -20°F although the plant was under heavy snow cover during the periods of severe weather. Plant completely recovered each spring. It is well named as it is now (November 1981) a dense green mound resembling a circular green pillow in shape. The plant has grown to be 10 inches tall with a 18 inch spread. Growing tips were killed by early heavy frosts this October but the remainder of the foliage is a deep green color. Slow growth and growing tips occasionally killed back keep this a dwarf plant. Marginally hardy.

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica*. Japanese Littleleaf Box

Oldest plantings in the Arboretum are 23 years old. They have survived -20°F twice since being outplanted in 1963 and again during the winter of 1976-1977 which caused a light scattering leaf kill. After three severe winters in a row a boxwood exposed to the winter sun had accumulative damage of a 15 percent kill of twigs and foliage in the top of the plant and branches on the south side. A companion plant growing on the north side, protected by shrubbery on all sides and under the overhanging branches of a Japanese Yew (*Taxus cuspidata*), showed no signs of damage. The 23 year old undamaged plant is now 66 inches tall with a 96 inch spread. The plant that suffered some winter kill is now 50 inches tall with a 106 inch spread. Ten year old plants are currently 23 inches high with a 28 inch spread. All Japanese Boxwood are currently in excellent condition with dark green shiny foliage. Height growth has been slow averaging between two and three inches a year. Hardy on protected sites.

Buxus microphylla var. *koreana*. Korean Littleleaf Box

Oldest plant is 50 years old and was in excellent condition when transplanted after growing on original site for 36 years. Has never completely recovered from transplanting. Present site is at side of east-west road where it is exposed at times to prevailing west winds. Has survived temperatures to -20°F three different times during the past 50 years. Crown is open with thin foliage which bronzes in winter. More recent plantings also have bronze foliage after first heavy frosts in October. Fifty year old plant is presently (November 1981) 67 inches tall with an 80 inch spread. Korean Box is hardy on protected sites.

Buxus microphylla var. *koreana* 'Pincushion'. Pincushion Korean Littleleaf Box

Grown for six years. Plants were 7 inches high in 1975. Six years later they were 14 inches high with a 20 inch spread. Plant is well named as foliage is very compact with new growing tips sticking out like pins. Foliage turns light bronze after first heavy frosts in October. Slight killing of tips of twigs at -20°F when completely covered by snow. Foliage turns light bronze after first heavy frosts in October. Heavy set of flower buds November 1981. Pincushion Box is hardy on protected sites.

Buxus microphylla var. *koreana* 'Tall Boy'. Tall Boy Korean Littleleaf Box

Grown for six years. Outplanted as 15 inch plants. Six years later have developed a compact upright crown 25 inches tall with a 20 inch spread. Up to 20% of tops killed with temperature to -20°F, especially portions above snow cover. Some slight winter kill winter of 1979-1980 with little snow cover and extended periods of temperatures below freezing. Plants completely recovered during spring growth period. Light corrective pruning would develop excellent plants. Foliage turns light bronze after early October frosts. Tall Box Box is hardy on protected sites.

Buxus microphylla var. *koreana* 'Winter Beauty'. Winter Beauty Korean Box

Grown for six years. Outplanted as 15 inch plants. Six years later have developed into compact, upright oval plants 16 to 24 inches tall with 16 to 18 inch spreads. Up to one third of tops killed with temperatures to -20°F. All portions of shrub above snow cover were killed. Foliage and twigs damaged by three severe winters in a row with temperatures from -17°F to -20°F. Plants have completely recovered in three growing seasons after severe winters. Foliage is red bronze (November 1981) after early October freezes. Winter Beauty Box is marginally hardy on protected sites.

Buxus microphylla var. *koreana* 'Wintergreen'. Wintergreen Korean Littleleaf Box

There are several different Wintergreens available. Plants from three different sources are growing in the Arboretum.

Wintergreen Box from our oldest source has been grown for 10 years. Plants on a site on the north side of a building, completely protected from severe winds and sun, grew to be 40 inches tall in 9 years. No winter damage was evident with temperatures to -20°F with at least a third of the plants above snow cover. Plants were somewhat leggy from growing in the shade.

Plants on a site exposed to winds and winter sun had slight tip kill when temperatures dropped to -20°F even though the plot was protected by snowfence during the winter. After three severe winters in a row, with temperatures dropping to -17°F to -20°F, accumulative damage was up to 50 percent winter kill of all parts of twigs and leaves above snow cover. Tips of twigs were again winter killed the winter of 1980-1981 when long periods of below freezing weather, up to 20 days at a time, and temperatures to -14°F were experienced. These plants have finally been killed back to the height they were when outplanted - - 12 inches high with 18 inches spread.

Plants 40 inches tall were pruned back to 30 inches and transplanted into foundation plantings on the east and west side of a building. They suffered some tip kill during the first winter (1980-1981) when there were long periods, up to 20 days, with temperatures continually below freezing and coldest temperature to -14°F.

Plants have open crowns. The foliage has turned light bronze to reddish green with early October freezes. All plants have a heavy set of flower buds (November 1981).

Wintergreen Box has been reported to be hardy in Ohio. In the Arboretum it has only been hardy on well protected sites.

Buxus microphylla var. *koreana* 'Wintergreen 58'. 58 Wintergreen Korean Littleleaf Box

Two separate plantings have been growing for 8 years. They were outplanted as 14 inch container grown plants. Boxwoods set on site somewhat exposed to winds and winter sun were severely damaged with temperatures to -20°F. Up to 50 percent of crowns were killed with three quarters of the plants being under snow cover. After three severe winters in a row with temperatures dropping to -17°F to -20°F additional accumulative winter kill occurred. Plants are presently in very poor condition and are 11 to 13 inches tall with spreads of 16 to 17 inches. They are now shorter than they were when originally set out 8 years ago. Foliage is reddish-green from early October freezes. Plants have loose open crowns with a heavy set of flower buds (November 1981).

Wintergreen 58 Box set on a protected site suffered only slight leaf kill to 15 percent of leaves and twigs killed with winter temperatures of -20°F with plants completely protected under snow cover. Plants had accumulative winter kill after three severe winters in a row. Amount of damage varied from plant to plant from slight kill to 30 percent of top kill. Plants have largely recovered after three growing seasons and are presently in good condition throughout the summers. Eight years after being set out these boxwoods are from 18 to 30 inches high with spreads of from 20 to 32 inches reflecting the differences in winter kill. These plants also have open loose crowns. The foliage is currently a reddish-green color from early October freezes.

Wintergreen 58 Boxwood has been marginally hardy in the Arboretum on protected sites.

Buxus microphylla var. *koreana* 'Wintergreen HNS', HNS Wintergreen Korean Littleleaf Box

Two separate plantings have been growing for 8 years. They were outplanted as 12 inch container grown plants. Boxwoods set on a site somewhat exposed to winds and winter sun had a few leaves killed at temperatures dropping to -20°F even though they were completely covered by snow. Plants not completely covered by snow had all exposed wood killed up to 40 percent of the entire shrub. All plants suffered accumulative winter kill from three consecutive severe winters when temperatures were from -17°F to -20°F. They have recovered somewhat during the three growing seasons since the period of severe winters. Plants are from 12 to 18 inches high with spreads of 17 to 20 inches and overall are only in fair condition. Foliage is bronze from early October freezes.

Wintergreen HNS Boxwood set on a protected site only suffered twig kill up to 2 inches on exposed twigs above snow cover. There was accumulative damage following three severe winters in a row. Foliage greens up well during summers. Eight years after being set out these boxwoods are from 22 to 36 inches high with spreads of from 24 to 26 inches. Difference in height growth is largely the result of different degrees of winter kill. Crowns are open and irregular. Foliage is current-

ly bronze from early October freezes. All plants have a heavy set of flower buds (November 1981).

Wintergreen HNS Box has been marginally hardy in the Arboretum on protected sites.

Buxus microphylla, Largeleaf Asiatic Clone

Four separate plantings, the oldest being 14 years old. On protected sites with light shade, plants have been fast growing averaging five or six inches height increase a year. Fourteen year old plants are seven feet tall and are in excellent condition. Foliage remains glossy green all winter.

On sites somewhat exposed to winds and winter sunshine, tops were killed at temperatures to -20°F. Additional accumulative winter injury occurred during three successive severe winters with temperatures of -17°F to -20°F. Leaves usually turn bronze or reddish in color during winter but quickly turn green again in the spring. Plants have recovered from winter injury and are once again in excellent condition but have reduced heights because of winter kill.

Largeleaf Clone of Littleleaf Boxwood has proven to be the hardiest and fastest growing boxwood in the Arboretum. On protected sites with light shade no winter damage has occurred with temperatures dropping to -20°F. On sites exposed to winds and winter sun, leaves turn bronze or reddish in winter but quickly green up again in the spring. Foliage is dense. Plants are as wide as or slightly wider than they are tall. Thirteen plants outplanted for five years average 30 inches tall with 34 inch spreads. Hardy on protected sites.

Buxus microphylla 'Morris Medium Dwarf'. Morris Medium Dwarf Littleleaf Box

Grown for 12 years. Outplanted in dwarf evergreen garden as a five inch container plant. A quarter of plant winter killed by temperatures to -20°F. Additional winter kill during three successive severe winters with temperatures of from -17°F to -20°F although completely under snow cover. One third of plant killed. Recovers during spring growing season. Plant is presently (November 1981) nine inches high with a fourteen inch spread. It is a dense compact mound. Tips of twigs up to two inches long have been killed by early October 1981 freezes with temperatures to 24°F. Plant is presently in poor condition. Marginally hardy only on protected sites.

Buxus microphylla 'Morrison Garden'. Morrison Garden Littleleaf Box

Grown for 12 years on a very well protected site with light high shade. Plant holds green color through winter. No apparent damage with temperatures to -20°F. Plant is upright 39 inches tall with 28 inch spread. Plant is in excellent condition. Hardy on protected sites. Has increased its height by 4 inches a year.

Buxus microphylla, Ries selection

This plant is a good example of effect of site. It grew for 30 years in a foundation planting on the east side of a house located in a deep ravine where it was completely protected from wind. Direct sunshine only reached it for a couple of hours each morning. It went through -20°F temperatures three different winters with no damage. The plant was a miniature, being 10 inches tall with an 8 inch spread. In 1980 it was outplanted

in a dwarf evergreen garden where it was exposed to some wind and winter sunshine. Eighty percent of the plant was killed the first winter with the lowest temperature being -14°F. Not hardy except on exceptionally protected sites moist but well drained.

Buxus sempervirens. Common Box

Three separate landscape plantings. Foundation plantings on east and north sides of buildings survived for 24 years until removed during landscaping changes. Plants survived winters with temperatures to -20°F. Some were sheared and kept 24 inches high with spreads of 18 inches. Others were allowed to reach four and five feet. Boxwoods set in south and west foundation plantings were killed within two winters with temperatures to -14°F. Common Box set to frame a sign were exposed to winds and winter sun didn't survive the first winter with temperatures to -11°F. Common Box is marginally hardy on protected site.

Buxus sempervirens 72-663

Grown for eight years. A strain of Common Box that was doing well elsewhere in Ohio. Outplanted 34 inch container grown plants on site somewhat exposed to winds and winter sun. Plants grew rapidly averaging 6 inches of new growth a year until temperatures dropped to -20°F. Up to 60 percent of plants were killed above protective snow cover. Additional winter kill occurred two following winters with temperatures to -17°F. Plants are recovering and are rebuilding their crowns - - once again putting on 3 to 6 inches of new growth during growing seasons. They are presently in good condition and are 32 to 36 inches high with 23 to 28 inch spreads compared to 50 to 58 inches tall in 1976 before being killed by sub-zero temperatures. Plants are columnar with dense dark green foliage. Marginally hardy on protected sites.

Buxus sempervirens P. I. 178048

Grown for 14 years on a site somewhat exposed to wind and winter sun. Grew well until winter of 1976-1977 when they were severely winter damaged by temperatures to -20°F. The tops of the shrubs were completely killed above snow cover. These boxwoods have experienced some winter kill every winter - - even winters when the coldest temperature was -9°F. Some regrowth occurs each spring but the plants are now smaller than they were in 1976 before the advent of three severe winters. All are presently in poor condition. Foliage is bronze green (November 1981) from early October freezes of 24°F. This strain of Common Box is not hardy in the Arboretum.

Buxus sempervirens 'Arborescens'. Truetree Common Box

Grown for 13 years on site with light high shade and well protected from winds and winter sunshine. No apparent damage at -20°F with plant under protective snow cover. Tips have been killed at temperatures of -5°F when not covered by snow. Total height increase in 13 years was only 6 inches due in large part to frequent tip kill during winters. Not hardy in the Arboretum unless protected by snow cover.

Buxus sempervirens 'Asheville'. Asheville Common Box

Oldest plantings are now 58 years old. Had been considered the best boxwood in the Arboretum having survived temperatures to -20°F at least three times since they were outplanted. They had grown to be eight to nine feet tall growing on a fairly well protected site but exposed to winter sun on southeast side. Held green color all winter on all plants on both protected and exposed sites until we experienced three severe winters in a row. The 53 year old plants had a few leaves and twigs killed during the winter of 1976-1977 when temperatures dropped to -20°F. The following winters were also exceptionally severe with temperatures to -17°F. After three successive winters there was considerable damage. Set in a group of five the two southmost plants were completely killed. In the two years following, the bark came off the south side of two of the remaining plants — damage that at first wasn't apparent. The remaining plant on the north side of the group, completely protected by the other boxwoods, is currently in good condition. It is eight feet tall with an eight foot spread.

Asheville Box had performed so well in the past that at least 146 plants have been outplanted in ten different locations. Plants have failed when set in foundation plantings on the south and west sides of buildings. A thirty year old hedge, kept pruned to four feet, had grown well until the winter of 1976-1977 when plants exposed to winds and winter sun had up to 30% damage at -20°F. Others in the hedge that were under large tree-like Japanese Yews were only slightly damaged. Unfortunately the entire hedge was cut to the ground. Although there was vigorous sprouting, with new sprouts from 10 to 24 inches the following growing season, two succeeding severe winters killed a third of the plants growing in exposed areas. The larger plants had stems with basal diameters of 4 to 6 inches before they were cut back so it was doubtful if these plants would have developed into good plants. The entire hedge was then removed.

Smaller younger plants growing on protected sites and under snow cover during the severe winters had only slight winter kill. They have completely recovered and are presently (November 1981) in excellent growing condition.

Asheville Boxwood could not survive a series of especially severe winters with temperatures of -17°F to -20°F unless on sites protected from winds and winter sunshine. Has survived well during normal winters and through an occasional severe winter if followed by a series of mild winters so that plants had a chance to recover. Marginally hardy in the Arboretum unless on well protected sites.

Buxus sempervirens 'Cronii'

Grown for four years. Planted in three locations. Two plants killed during two successive severe winters with temperatures to -17°F. These two plants had also been planted too deep so mortality could have been a combination of poor planting and low temperatures. Other plantings have only experienced -14°F. Plants were 22 inches high with 15 to 20 inch spread. Half of tops killed back at -14°F. Plants recovered during following grow-

ing season and are presently (November 1981) upright growing plants with a good green color. Plants haven't been growing long enough to definitely evaluate, but it appears that they will at best be only marginally hardy on protected sites.

Buxus sempervirens 'Edgar Anderson'. Edgar Anderson Common Box

Grown for fourteen years. Oldest planting grew well through winters until winter of 1976-1977 when temperature to -20°F . Height of plants were reduced from 38 inches to 15 inches through winter kill of 60 percent of the top. The following two severe winters with temperatures of -17°F killed plants to the ground. Presently plants have resprouted and are 12 inches tall and in poor condition. The foliage has bronzed from early October freezes. The site on which these boxwoods are growing is somewhat exposed to winds and winter sun.

A four year old planting on a well protected site had some winter kill during two successive winters with low temperatures of -17°F . These plants have recovered and upright growing of a good green color having completely recovered from previous winter kill. Plants are currently in good growing condition. They are presently 19 inches tall with an 18 inch spread in four growing seasons having grown from 16 inches tall with a 12 inch spread.

Edgar Anderson Boxwood has been at best only semi-hardy in the Arboretum on well protected sites. Damage has occurred at temperatures of -17°F and below. Temperatures of -14°F have caused damage on newly planted boxwoods.

Buxus sempervirens 'Fastigiata'. Upright Common Box

Oldest planting is 14 years old. When planted on a well protected site with light overhead shade grew well and increased its height five inches a year. Transplanted to site somewhat less protected. Grew well until three successive severe winters with temperatures dropping to -17°F to -20°F . Plant reduced from 36 inches tall to six inches tall through severe progressive winter kill. Newly planted boxwoods on protected site were severely injured first winter with one plant being killed from 24 inches high to 2 inches tall. Foliage bronze from early October 1981 freezes.

Upright Common Box is only marginally hardy in the Arboretum on well protected sites with light high shade.

Buxus sempervirens 'Gray Summit'. Gray Summit Box

Has been outplanted for one year. Survived first winter with temperatures to -14°F with long periods of below zero in good condition. It is currently an upright growing plant 18 inches tall with a 10 inch spread and of a good green color to the foliage. Has not been grown long enough in Arboretum to determine hardiness but shows promise.

Buxus sempervirens 'Hermann von Schrenk'. Hermann von Schrenk Common Box

Has been outplanted for one year. Survived first winter with temperatures to -14°F with long periods of below zero in good condition. Increased height 4 inches first year's growing season. They

are currently upright growing plants 11 inches tall with a 7 inch spread and of a good green color to the foliage. They have not been grown in the Arboretum long enough to determine hardiness but show promise.

Buxus sempervirens, Mulsted selection

Grown for 14 years. Plants grew exceptionally well with average yearly growth of over six inches a year at temperatures to -12°F . During three successive winters when temperatures dropped to -20°F and -17°F considerable top killing on plants growing on site somewhat exposed to sun and wind. Plants were killed back from 65 inches tall to 30 inches tall. These boxwoods are currently in very poor condition. Bark killed on south side of main stems.

Mulsted selections on well protected site with light high shade suffered up to 20% kill at -20°F but have completely recovered and are presently 76 to 80 inches tall. They have a good green color and are in good condition.

Mulsted selection of Common Box have been marginally hardy in the Arboretum depending upon site. Have done well on very protected site. They have grown poorly on average protected sites with some exposure.

Buxus sempervirens 'Navicularis'

Has been grown for 14 years. Grew exceptionally well until three consecutive severe winters, with temperatures down to -20°F and -17°F , occurred. Fifty percent of the tops of plants were killed on boxwoods, growing on a site somewhat exposed to winds and winter sun, the first winter when temperatures dropped to -20°F . After three severe winters the main stems were killed to the ground. Basal branches that were protected by snow cover formed new plants. Boxwoods are presently in poor condition although they have grown to be 20 inches tall. Foliage is bronze from early October freezes.

Navicularis Boxwood has not been hardy in the Arboretum at temperatures below -12°F .

Buxus sempervirens 'Northern New York'. Northern New York Common Box

Grown for 14 years. Grew well until three successive severe winters with temperatures of -20°F and -17°F . Plants on site somewhat exposed to wind and winter sun were completely killed at -20°F . Boxwoods on a more protected site were killed to ground although they were completely covered with snow. Plant has resprouted and is presently 6 inches tall and in poor condition.

Northern New York Common Box has not been hardy in the Arboretum at temperatures below -12°F .

Buxus sempervirens 'Pendula'. Weeping Common Box

Grown for 14 years. Grew well on all but windy sites until severe winters of 1976-1977 through 1978-1979 when temperatures dropped to -17°F to -20°F . At -20°F 40 percent of foliage was killed scattered throughout the crown. After three severe winters basal branches and ends of lateral branches were killed. Plant has largely recovered and is once again 60 inches tall and is in fair condition. Foliage is light bronze color from early October freezes.

Weeping Common Box has been marginally hardy when grown on protected sites.

Buxus sempervirens 'Rotundifolia'. Roundleaf Common Box

Grown for 51 years. Has grown well and survived -20°F at least four times in the past until the advent of three successive severe winters beginning with -20°F winter of 1976-1977. Seventy-five percent of the leaves scattered throughout the crown were killed. After three severe winters with temperatures of -17°F to -20°F ninety percent of twigs and leaves were killed on south plant. Accumulative damage was not apparent immediately. By 1980 all the bark on the southeast exposed side of the south plant was killed. During the summer of 1981 the bark on the southeast side of the second plant came loose. Currently there is some life in both plants up to 92 and 110 inches tall. There is also sprouting along main stem. Plants in very poor condition.

Roundleaf Boxwood was unable to withstand three severe winters in a row even on a protected site.

Buxus sempervirens 'Salicifolia'. Willowleaf Common Box

Grown for 12 years. Did well until temperatures dropped below -12°F. Was killed to 4 inches of the ground under snow cover at -20°F. Was completely killed following winter with temperatures to -17°F. Replacement killed to ground with temperatures of -14°F.

Willowleaf Box not hardy at Wooster.

Buxus sempervirens 'Schmidt'. Schmidt Common Box

Grown for 12 years. Grew exceptionally well until winter with -20°F when 60 percent of twigs were winter killed. After two following severe winters additional damage occurred. Southwest exposed side of one plant killed and top of second plant. Plants have recovered and are currently 36 and 50 inches tall with dense green foliage. They have a spread of 30 inches.

Schmidt Boxwood has been marginally hardy in the Arboretum on protected sites.

Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa'. True Dwarf Common Box

Grown for 51 years. Although purchased and labeled as True Dwarf, since purchased as two year old stock in 1927 it is doubtful that these plants have been correctly named even though the leaves appear to be correct. These plants reached heights of 108 inches. Plants grew well and survived -20°F at least four times since being outplanted until three successive severe winters beginning with winter of 1976-1977. Plants were on well protected site under high shade. The first winter with -20°F caused very little damage. Accumulative damage occurred with three winters in a row. The plant exposed to southeast sun was completely killed except for four lower branches that had layered forming new plants. Remaining two plants had all branches under 6 feet tall killed. Bark on main stems has come loose. Some sprouting with sprouts up to 10 inches long. With the exception of the new plants from layered branches all these

boxwoods will soon die. Plants could not survive three successive severe winters and, except for layered branches, are in very poor condition.

Buxus sempervirens 'Vardar Valley'. Vardar Valley Common Box

Oldest plants have been grown for 14 years. Plants did well on all but poorly drained sites until winter of 1976-1977 with temperatures of -20°F. Boxwoods on all but the most protected sites experienced winter kill of from 10 to 70 percent. The more open the site the greater the damage. Plants on sites with some exposure to wind and winter sun have never completely recovered and are in poor condition being only a third the size they were before the severe winters. Plants on sites protected from the wind and winter sun have recovered and are presently in good condition and about the same size they were when originally outplanted. Boxwoods outplanted in 1970 on a well protected site with high overhead shade are in excellent growing condition.

Vardar Valley Boxwood has been marginally hardy in the Arboretum at temperatures below -12°F except on the most protected of sites.

Buxus sempervirens 'Varifolia'. Variable Leaf Common Box

Have grown this cultivar for 14 years. On well protected site with high shade they grew well until a series of severe winters. Only slight damage occurred the first severe winter of 1976-1977 with temperatures to -20°F. Damage was accumulative during the following two severe winters with temperatures to -17°F when plants were killed to the ground. Boxwood on this site resprouted and are currently in good condition. Boxwoods planted on a site somewhat exposed to winds and winter sunshine suffered 90 percent top kill during the winter of 1976-1977 with temperatures of -20°F. Plants died during the following summer. Replacements with 30 inch plants were severely damaged with winter temperatures of -14°F destroying 80 percent of the side branches. Plants are presently in very poor condition with foliage browned by early October 1981 freezes.

Variable Leaf Boxwood is not hardy in the Arboretum.

Buxus sempervirens, Wooster No. 1. Wooster No. 1 Common Box

Has been set out in six separate locations since original selection was made in 1948. Plants grew well until series of extra severe winters with temperatures from -17°F to -20°F began with winter of 1976-1977. First winter with temperatures of -20°F resulted in 60 percent top kill. After three successive severe winters, plants were killed to snow line. They were one third the height they had been before the advent of extremely severe winters.

Plants 30 inches high set in the fall of 1980 were killed to the snow line during the winter of 1980-1981 with temperatures to -14°F. Plants are currently in fair condition having recovered in a great degree from winter kill. Foliage is currently bronze from early October 1981 freezes.

Wooster No. 1 Boxwood is at best only marginally hardy in the Arboretum on well protected sites.

BOXWOODS WINTERKILLED IN NURSERY

The nursery was well protected by scattered trees and snowfences around perimeter. Most plants had their tops killed each winter until finally completely killed. Temperatures varied from winter lows of 12°F to -12°F. Plants had all been grown in greenhouse for two to three years.

<i>Buxus harlandii</i>	1	8"	- 8°F
<i>Buxus microphylla</i>	5	4"	-12°F
<i>B. m. japonica</i>			
'Morris Fastigiata'	1	8"	- 8°F
<i>B. m.</i> 'Kingsville'	2	1"	-12°F
<i>B. m.</i> var <i>sinica</i>	3	8"	-12°F
<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Agram'	1	8"	- 8°F
<i>B. s.</i> Anderson 350-35	3	12"	- 8°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Angustifolia'	2	6"	- 8°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Angustifolia'	3	10"	-12°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Aurea'	1	8"	- 8°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Handsworthiensis'	4	6"	-12°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Hardwickensis'	5	2"	-12°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Hohman'	1	8"	- 8°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Joe Gable'	3	12"	-12°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Latifolia Macrophylla'	2	5"	- 8°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Longifolia'	4	7"	- 8°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Myosotidifolia'	5	12"	-12°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Myrtifolia'	3	12"	-11°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Nana'	1	8"	- 8°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Nish'	1	8"	-12°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Pyramidalis'	4	3"	- 8°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Salicifolia'	1	8"	- 8°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Vardar Valley'	5	11"	-12°F
<i>B. s.</i> 'Woodland'	2	7"	- 8°F

- (a) Number of years grown in nursery. Does not include time in greenhouse.
- (b) Size when finally killed. Many plants had been progressively killed back each winter.
- (c) Lowest temperature during winter when plant was finally completely killed.
- (1) Bailey, Liberty Hyde and Ethel Zoe Bailey. Revised 1976. Hortus Third. Cornell University Macmillan Publishing Co., New York, N.Y.

Biographical Note: Mr. Ford has been at the Secrest Arboretum since the Fall of 1968. Prior to coming to Ohio he was in Kentucky, first with the Forestry and Wood Technican School of the University of Kentucky as Superintendent. Then he was with Roadside Development of the Kentucky Highway Department as a District Agronomist. Finally he was Campus Director at Lees College in Jackson, Kentucky. Prior to moving to Kentucky he spent a number of years at North Carolina State College in Forestry Extension. He was also with The Log Cabin Association at Sylva, North Carolina for a number of years as Superintendent. The Log Cabin Association had a demonstration forest, a trade school, and a nursery where boxwoods were grown commercially.

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Welcome To SECRET ARBORETUM

The Secrest Arboretum consists of approximately 85 acres of land set aside at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center to test and display trees and shrubs suitable for the climate in the Wooster area. At present there are more than 2,000 species, varieties, and cultivars of trees and shrubs growing in the Arboretum, including various plants from around the world as well as native Ohio species.

The oldest planting in the Arboretum area is a group of Tulippoplar set out in 1903. Three of these are still alive and growing. Several additional plantings of trees were made in 1904 and 1907. Starting in 1909, plantings of trees and shrubs have been made continuously up to the present time. Many of the early plantings were made by Edmund Secrest, first state forester in Ohio and former director of the Research Center (then known as the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station). In 1950 the Arboretum was dedicated to Mr. Secrest.

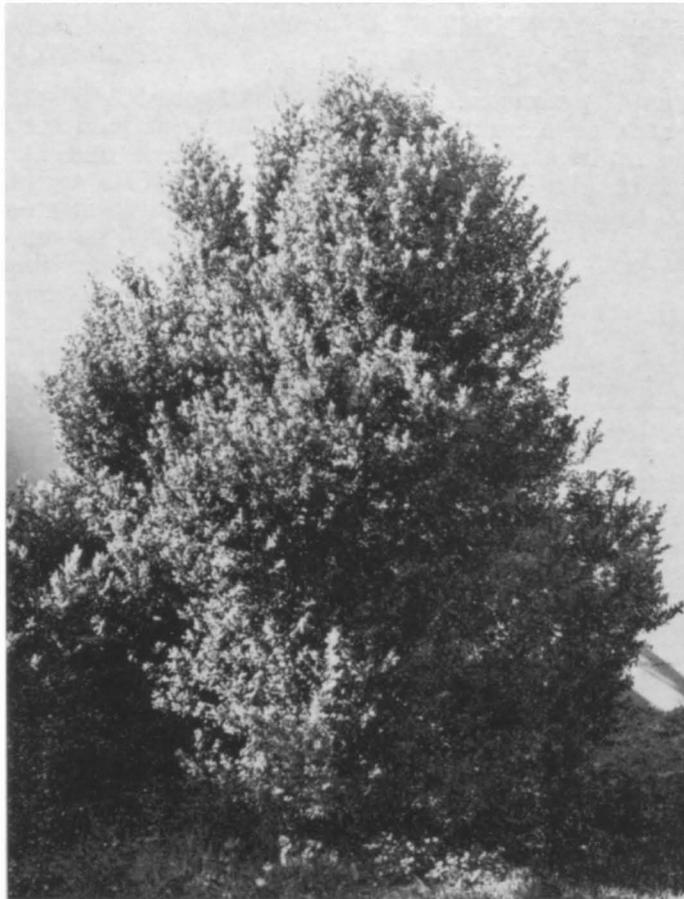
Some of the earliest planting stock set out in the Arboretum came from Europe — even typically American trees such as the Baldcypress plantings of 1909. During the 1912 to 1918 period, much of the fir and pine planting stock came from the Biltmore Estate nurseries near Asheville, N.C.

The Arboretum is open to the public during daylight hours throughout the year. The named, improved roads are open for driving. The service roads and trails are closed to driving but are open to the public as walking trails.

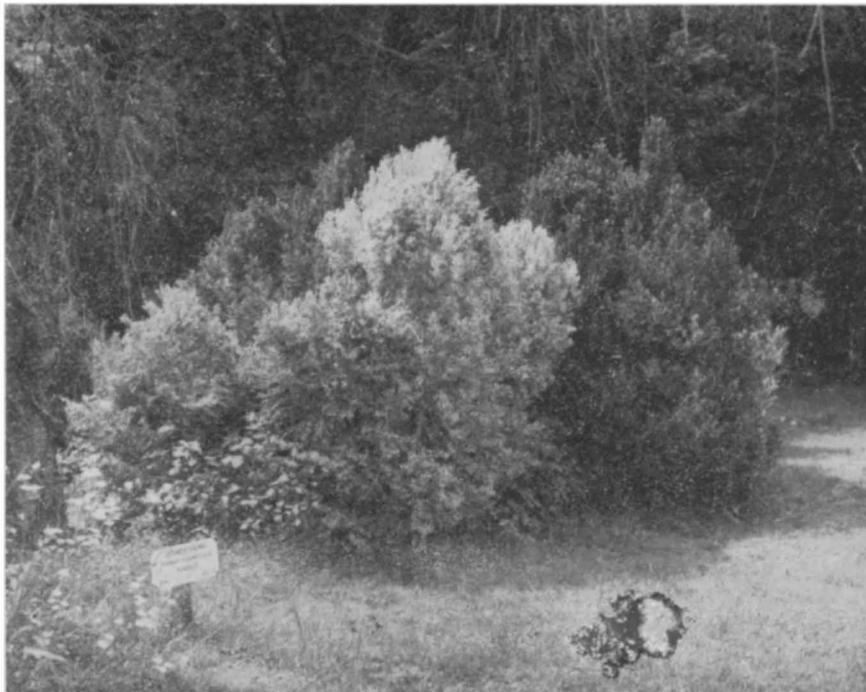
OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER Wooster, Ohio



Winter kill on southeast exposed side of Schmidt Common Box after three successive severe winters with temperatures of -20°F and -17°F accompanied with high winds.



Winter kill of Asheville Common Box on south side of group planting after three successive severe winters with temperatures of -20°F the first winter and -17°F the following two winters accompanied with high winds.



Winter injury on south side of Asheville Boxwood growing on exposed site after -20°F temperature with winds of 35 mph up to 50 mph. Plant had been growing on this location for 26 years.

UPDATE ON MIDWEST-HARDY BOXWOOD CUTTINGS OFFER

Mary A. Gamble

When, in the January 1981 issue of the American Boxwood Society Bulletin, the Boxwood Society of the Midwest described 22 Midwest-hardy boxwoods and offered to supply, at minimal cost, modest quantities of cuttings of these cultivars, we expected a modest response. We were excited when the first orders came in; and we grew a little appalled when requests continued and far exceeded our expectations. We were nonplussed when orders arrived from readers of *Avant-Gardener*. This was the first we knew that popular newsletter's editors had abridged the article and repeated our offer. However, when a careful survey of our nursery convinced us that we could fill all but a few of the earlier orders, we decided it was a marvelous opportunity to place some otherwise unavailable cultivars in the hands of boxwood enthusiasts throughout the country. The correspondence which accompanied the majority of orders was a wonderful bonus. It reminded this writer of a remark made by the late Dr. Edgar Anderson when our boxwood study project was first conceived. "Boxwood people," Edgar Anderson told me, "are gentle people." In the 13 subsequent years we have encountered no exceptions.

We filled more than 30 orders. They came from 14 states, ranging from Maine to California, Wisconsin to Arizona. The largest order for an individual cultivar was for *Buxus sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley,' as might have been expected. It came from a nursery in Kentucky. The second largest was for the unnamed cultivar *B. semp.* 752062 which originated in Lincoln, Massachusetts. These cuttings were sent back to Massachusetts where, if they thrive, they will in time be planted near a low stone wall which surrounds a rose garden close to a house built in 1674.

Most orders were placed by individuals; but four were from nurseries, one from a landscape architectural firm, and two from universities. We consider this distribution a real contribution to the expression of our Society's purpose which is "to promote the study and cultivation of boxwood." We particularly welcomed the interest of nurseries as they are the best hope of placing boxwood within regular reach of the greatest number of gardeners. Our purpose is educational, not commercial.

We called the day on which we filled the orders "Cuttings Day." It was organized and supervised by Jane (Mrs. George E.) Penhale, Society president. Jane's determined goal was to ship the best possible cuttings in the best possible shape in the least possible time, hopefully free of error. Wednesday, July 29, was "Cuttings Day."

Members of the Society's horticulture committee arrived at the Missouri Botanical Garden at 8:30 to beat the heat of a midsummer Midwestern day. While the cuttings crew headed for the boxwood nursery on the Garden grounds, the packing and shipping crew set up a production line in the concourse of the Garden's greenhouse complex. Order blanks and address labels had been filled in previously. Work went quickly. For example, all cuttings had been made by 10:30; most orders had been filled and packaged by noon. All packages then went to the Garden's mail room where each was weighed and the proper postage affixed. All were on their way by airmail priority shipment by mid-afternoon. Several recipients have written that their cuttings "arrived in fine shape."

Society member Jack Horner, one of whose hobbies is photography, made the photographs which show the basic steps taken by the 'Cuttings Day' crew.

Our Society hopes that the 1981 cuttings did well. We hope that many recipients will do what a Pennsylvania gardener promised: let us know how the cuttings rooted and how the plants are doing in his arboretum.

We have been asked if we would repeat this offer. After careful consideration we have decided that, barring a *terrible* winter which could bring losses, we will do so. That is, for the nominal sum of \$3.50 for each 10 cuttings, we will ship at the proper time cuttings of the following Midwest-hardy cultivars as described in the January 1981 American Boxwood Society Bulletin: *Buxus sempervirens* cultivars 'Vardar Valley', 'Hermann von Schrenk', 'Pullman', 'Inglis', 752056 (Becker), 'Ste. Genevieve', 752088 (Natchez), 752049 (Tennessee), *pyramidalis* 'Hardwickensis', 'Belleville', and 752062 (Lincoln, Mass.); and *Buxus microphylla* cultivars *japonica*, *compacta*, 'Morris Midget' and 'Curly Locks'.

Jane Penhale will direct the project again. Her address: Mrs. George E. Penhale, 304 Carson Road, Ferguson, Mo. 63135. She requests that orders be placed before July 1, 1982. She welcomes inquiries re limited special orders which we will fill, if possible. One of the orders received in 1981 closed with this admonition: "Keep up the good work!" We hope to do just that.



Photos by Jack Horner

Co-chairmen of the horticulture committee make the first cuttings in the boxwood nursery at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Goal was to make cuttings of vigorous, multi-branched sprigs with main stem of hardening new wood, the cut extending about one inch into previous year's wood. Length varied by cultivar. As made, cuttings were dropped into bag labeled with cultivar name and quantity of cuttings wanted.



Photo: Jack Horner

Cuttings were immersed in fungicide solution (Captan at rate of one mounded Tbsp. to one gal. water). This immersion step is a legacy from the late Clarence Barbré, a chemist who became a nurseryman upon retirement. Mr. Barbré pioneered the introduction of azaleas to St. Louis area gardens. His enthusiasm for boxwood led to an association with Edgar Anderson and the late Henry Hohman on the Anderson Balkan boxwoods.



Photo: Jack Horner

Every order was double-checked. At left is Jane Penhale who is consulting Stephen Wolff (production floriculturist at the Missouri Botanical Garden) and a Society order filler to make sure order is correct. Steve advised on proper packaging. All orders were mailed under the Garden's Certificate of Nursery Inspection, issued by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Jefferson City, office of State Entomologist.



Photos: Jack Horner

Tables in the concourse of the Garden greenhouse complex held labeled bags of cultivars. Previously filled-in order blanks with address and inspection labels attached guided order fillers who placed proper number of cuttings in plastic bags together with correct label. Filled orders were taken to central point for final check and packaging. Orders were filled for 24 cultivars.

Spring Garden Tours Beckon To Boxwood Fanciers

Scot Butler

As spring sends its welcome sunshine to warm the earth and call forth new plant life many localities mark this glorious awakening of nature with garden tours. In Virginia the tradition is 49 years old and in Maryland, 45 years old this year. These tours provide an unparalleled opportunity to see boxwood used as foundation planting, landscape accent, and in formal and informal garden design. Some of the plants are centuries-old specimens at historic sites while others are relative newcomers to the boxwood scene in America — species and cultivars of boxwood that fill a certain landscaping requirement in a certain location. Some of the most outstanding gardens on view have been created by, or with the help of, the garden clubs of the respective states, either as restorations of historic gardens that have long since disappeared or as projects to enhance landmarks of significance.

We are grateful to Charlotte Taylor Massie of the Garden Club of Virginia and Betty Lee Digges of the Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage for supplying information on the tours this year. We hope their information will help ABS members plan enjoyable outings to see for themselves inspiring examples of boxwood. Depended on the weather the boxwoods may or may not be showing their soft green new growth at the time of the tours. But that is not really an important consideration when, as our good ABS contributor Jim Wilfong makes clear in his paean to garden tours, one is journeying "along the boxwood trail."

One garden that will be open on the Fauquier-Loudoun County tour in Virginia on Sunday and Monday, April 25-26, is of special interest to members of the Society, both those who may have seen it and those who have not had that opportunity. This is the garden of the estate that was known as Heronwood when it was owned by former ABS President, Admiral Neill Phillips. It was Admiral Phillips' custom during his tenure of office to invite members attending the annual meeting at nearby Blandy Farm to cap off the day with a stroll through the renowned boxwood topiary at Heronwood. It has been four years since Admiral Phillips died. Consequently it was heartening to learn that after a lapse the fabulous garden under a new name and new ownership will be open to public view during tour week. We quote below from the description of the grounds contained in the 1982 Virginia Garden Week tour book:

FALLINGBROOK — GARDEN ONLY.
One and four-tenths miles south of Route 50 on Route 623. The original gardens adjoining this chateau-style home, circa 1900, were developed by a French owner, a renowned horticulturist. The formal European gardens are outstanding for the beauty and variety of the topiary beds, and have been carefully main-

tained and developed through the years. The zoo garden is filled with enchanting hens, chickens, flying dolphin and peacocks — all created from American boxwood.

. . . A series of terraced gardens leads to a private lily pool with weeping cherry trees in long rows behind it. In the card garden are a collection of flower beds outlined with boxwood in the shape of spades, hearts, clubs, and diamonds. . . . A monumental Japanese umbrella pine is a spectacular addition to the many varieties of specimen plants and trees. Encyclopedia of Gardening states that the topiary work at Fallingbrook is unexcelled throughout the beautiful grounds. Time-Life Encyclopedia of Gardening states that the topiary work at Fallingbrook is unexcelled in America. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kent Cooke, owners.

DAILY CALENDAR OF AREAS OPEN FOR HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IN VIRGINIA

APRIL 24 - MAY 2, 1982

SATURDAY, April 24

Albemarle - Morven
Alexandria
Franklin - Courtland
Hanover County
Harrisonburg - Bridgewater Area
James River Plantations
Roanoke
Warren County - Rockland Area
Winchester-Clarke

Sunday, April 25

Albemarle - Morven
Chatham
Fauquier-Loudoun - Rectortown
James River Plantations
Roanoke
Warren County - Rockland Area
Winchester-Clarke

MONDAY, April 26

Albemarle - Morven
Fauquier-Loudoun
James River Plantations

TUESDAY, April 27

Albemarle - Morven, Lanark, & Redlands
Charlottesville - U.Va. Pavilions & Lawn Rooms
Fredericksburg
James River Plantations
Lexington
Lynchburg
Petersburg
Richmond - West End
Virginia Beach Resort Area
Williamsburg

WEDNESDAY, April 28
Albemarle - Morven, Lanark, Redlands &
Curator's House
Charlottesville - Carr's Hill & Morea
Hampton-Newport News
James River Plantations
Martinsville
Norfolk
Northern Neck - Richmond County
Richmond - Church Hill

THURSDAY, April 29
Albemarle - Western County
Danville
James River Plantations
Richmond - Far West End
Suffolk
Virginia Beach - Princess Anne Area

FRIDAY, April 30
Albemarle - Western County
Eastern Shore
Fairfax - Burke Station Area
Gloucester
James River Plantations
Staunton

SATURDAY, May 1
Albemarle - Morven
Eastern Shore
Gloucester
James River Plantations
Orange
Staunton

SUNDAY, May 2
Mecklenburg - Prestwold Plantation
Orange

According to the late Arthur A. Shurcliff, noted landscape architect, "The landscapes surrounding the homes of the great plantation owners began to show English qualities of orderly beauty. Along with the native trees, shrubbery and flowers they imported boxwood from England." Boxwood are well adapted to Virginia gardens and today line walkways, edge allees, outline parterres and lend dignity to both ancient and contemporary gardens.

Charm is added to the Stratford Hall garden in Westmoreland County by its boxwood parterre and the central boxwood allee at Gunston Hall in Fairfax County is a wonder to behold. The boxwood circle at Woodlawn Plantation, also in Fairfax County, is an outstanding feature of the landscape.

The plantings of boxwood on the lawn at Fairfield, Circa 1750, in Richmond give the mansion such an "at home" look on its present site that it is hard to believe it was moved to this location from Hanover County in 1928. The colors of the spring bulbs and flowers are enhanced by the velvety green boxwood enclosing the borders in the manicured garden at the Governor's Mansion in Richmond. When visitors step through the triple-hung window at Richmond's Valentine Museum onto the mansion's rear curved and pillared portico they face terraces of fragrant boxwood and statuary which complement the elegance and simplicity of the 1812 period structure.

Berkeley, a rectangular brick mansion of Georgian design overlooking the James River, is flanked by two smaller buildings; on the wide expanse of lawn are lush green boxwood.

In Albemarle County the gardens at Morven, replete with boxwood, surround the manor house designed by Jefferson and are among the most beautiful in Virginia.

Guests to Historic Garden Week will be invited to stroll around these and the other landscaped grounds and gardens that surround the homes and landmarks open for this springtime event. Historic Garden Week promises again to provide visitors with a cultural experience that will refine their knowledge of history, architecture and art as well as gardening. Proof of the high quality of the tours is reflected in the number of visitors that return year after year to enjoy what Virginia has to offer - great houses of early colonists, some still lived in by descendants, handsome furniture and accessories, much of which was brought over from England for the homes of these early settlers. Sharing honors with these historic mansions will be restored town houses and contemporary homes built to fit the needs of modern living.

In Alexandria's Olde Towne, visitors will walk the streets of the old port city and see, standing with little or no alterations, homes reflecting the fashions of building from colonial times into the 19th century.

Richmond's offerings will accommodate the tastes of everyone, be it for the 17th century home of the Randolphs, Tuckahoe Plantation, on the outskirts of the city; 19th century town houses; or recent homes built to incorporate the latest in energy saving devices.

The historic plantations on the banks of the James River, fabled in story and song, give glimpses of the elegant life style of early patriots.

Featured among Albemarle County's rolling estates will be the home of Thomas Jefferson, his Monticello on a mountain top. On the same grounds is the curator's house which was built in direct contrast to the architecture of Monticello.

Throughout Virginia's hunt country where Thoroughbreds are raised and romp behind board fences, visitors will be delighted with the beautiful countryside and the handsome houses built for gracious living and entertaining.

Tours through the Tidewater area will take visitors to Gloucester, Norfolk, Newport News, Suffolk and through some of Virginia's most picturesque rural byways carpeted with wildflowers and colorful with dogwood and flaming redbud trees.

Sabine Hall and Mounty Airy in Richmond County are two of the Northern Neck's most spectacular show places. The Mount Airy estate has been in the Tayloe family since the middle of the 17th century. The mansion was begun in 1748 and completed ten years later. Sabine Hall was built in 1730 by Landon Carter, and his descendants still live in the Georgian brick manor house.

The Eastern Shore of Virginia, connected to the mainland by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, is a land of unique beauty. Along the creeks and bays that indent the peninsula are located gracious homes with panoramic views of the water. Its happy location may account for the old-fashioned



Mulberry Fields, St. Mary's County, Maryland

Courtesy Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage

hospitality that visitors find at every turn. Mount Pleasant stands on land granted to the present owner's ancestor in 1636. Eyre Hall was built in 1735 and this handsome home is owned by direct descendants of the builder.

The Garden Club of Virginia publishes a 152-page guidebook which gives detailed information on the 187 private homes and gardens and the 67 historic Virginia landmarks which will welcome visitors. The guidebook is available, free of charge, after March 1 at the Historic Garden Week Headquarters, 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, 23219. If requested by mail, the club would appreciate a donation of \$1 toward the cost of postage for mailing the large and informative book.

To assist in locating the homes and gardens open for Historic Garden Week, the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation prepares a special map, also available at the headquarters, and erects green directional arrows on the roads and highways.

When the 49th Historic Garden Week is over, the proceeds will be used to add another beautifully landscaped site to the other 32 that the Garden Club of Virginia has restored around Virginia's historic landmarks since 1929.

TOUR SCHEDULE FOR 1982 MARYLAND HOUSE AND GARDEN PILGRIMAGE

Saturday, April 24	Princ George's County
Sunday, April 25	St. Mary's County
Thursday, April 29	Roland Park, in Baltimore City
Saturday, May 1	Anne Arundel County
Sunday, May 2	Queen Anne's County
Thursday, May 6	Green Spring Valley
Saturday, May 8	Cecil County
Sunday, May 9	Talbot County
Saturday, May 15	Cruise from Baltimore to Oxford

ADMISSION

Tickets for each tour are \$10.00 or \$3.00 for a single house. Water cruise tickets, *by reservation only*, are \$30.00 each and include lunch and Oxford land tour. All tickets are available at Pilgrimage Headquarters or may be purchased at first house visited. When purchasing tickets in advance, please specify dates desired as separate tickets are printed for each day. All bus groups must contact Pilgrimage Headquarters in advance.

TOUR BOOKS

For a pre-tour copy of a tour book, send your name, address and \$2.00 to: Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, 1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD 21204.

Tour books may also be obtained with the purchase of a ticket at the first house visited.

Maryland's House and Garden Pilgrimage is an eagerly awaited annual event. Houses, gardens, public buildings, churches and magnificent scenery beckon those who like to wander through the past and enjoy the present. More than seventy-five sites, many of which have never before been open to the public, may be visited on the eight tours, in which architectural styles range from early 18th century to contemporary.

Three Eastern Shore counties are represented. included among their sites are two interesting old public buildings: Rogers Tavern in Cecil County and the Queenstown colonial courthouse in Queen Anne's County. Two southern Maryland counties may be visited and an unusual attraction in Prince George's is the Belair Stables Museum. The oldest house in Baltimore County will be among those open to pilgrims in the Green Spring Valley. Each tour offers a variety: houses large and small, old favorites and many which are new on the pilgrim-age.

Many of the tours include homes with outstanding gardens of great interest to horticulturists. In early formal plantings of colonial times boxwood was considered almost a must, but it is also widely used today in modern landscaping and in small city gardens. Among the 1982 tour sites that have noteworthy boxwood are the following:

Montpelier, Prince George's County, is an outstanding example of a five-part Georgian mansion. Constructed in the 18th century it has many fine architectural details and splendid boxwood gardens.

In St. Mary's County, on a magnificent site overlooking the Patuxent River, stands *Mattapany*, a 17th century manor surrounded by magnolias, boxwoods and azaleas. *Mulberry Fields*, built in 1767 and still operated as a farm, has a very old boxwood garden laid out in geometrical squares.

Tides End, Cecil County, is shaded by stately sycamores and bordered by three picket-fenced gardens — boxwood, herb and spring bulb. Walkways are set off by ancient English box.

In Queen Anne's County *Ashland Landing Farm*, *My Lord's Gift* and the Robert Thompson house all have beautiful and extensive boxwood plantings.

The tours conclude with a pleasant cruise across the Chesapeake Bay from Baltimore to Oxford where there will be ample time to visit several sites and enjoy the atmosphere of the old port.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Q. We would like to enhance our patio area with a few nice specimen plants in containers. Do you feel we could use English Boxwood in this manner here in the Philadelphia area?

A. In regard to container culture of English Boxwood, you should have little trouble. Remember, however, that the container is more likely to dry out in hot weather, and, unless drainage is provided, it could hold too much water in wet weather. A boxwood likes about one inch of water per week during the growing season, and will not tolerate standing in water. Also, depending on the size of the container, you may want to bring your plants into a protected area such as a cool sun porch or garage during the winter. The soil in the container can dry out easily and a small container of soil above ground can get a lot colder than the soil in the surrounding area. Root hardiness can be a problem for plants left outside in small containers during very cold weather.

ALONG THE BOXWOOD TRAIL

James C. Wilfong



Wilfong Photo

His Lordship's Kindness, Prince George's County, Maryland

The popularity of house and garden tours in both Virginia and Maryland has skyrocketed in recent years. One wonders if it might behoove some candidate for a doctorate in the humanities to inquire seriously as to the reasons. The architectural hobbyist has his purposes. The history-minded has his field day, too. A goodly number of participants must place gardens above any other answer to the question. More restrictively, how many of these are seeking one special feature amid the vast array of horticultural wonders sure to be encountered? Boxwood, perhaps?

Our own interest in this glorious greenery dates from 1948 when we visited one of the great homes of Maryland, His Lordship's Kindness. It stands grandly in Prince George's County, near Andrews Air Force Base and it has history, architecture, antiquity, its own private cemetery and

--- boxwood. We personally fell in love with all of its components, especially the boxwood.

We learned in due course that this object of our affection thrives in the Tidewater area where its billowing mass of small shiny green leaves impart to the surrounding air what Oliver Wendell Holmes called "the Fragrance of Eternity." It is to be seen in greatest profusion on garden tours, when many private grounds are opened to visitors for a brief visit. Our list of impressive stands of boxwood is too long to include here but the accompanying photographs give an idea of what the garden pilgrim may discover on a tour. So in the spring of the year when the meticulous planning of our tour people reaches fruition, we dust off the camera, pack a lunch and explain to those house pets that we're going to be away until supper time. Some of the back roads of both states are sure to make the day memorable.



(Wilfong Photo)

Mt. Pleasant, Prince George's County, Maryland



(Wilfong Photo)

Ratcliffe Cross, near Chestertown, Maryland

NOTES ON THE EASTERN SHORE BOXWOOD WORKSHOP

February 16, 1982

(Sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Services of Virginia Tech-Virginia State University, the Department of Horticulture in cooperation with the American Boxwood Society and the Eastern Shore Garden Club)

PROGRAM

MORNING SESSIONS: Registration and coffee
10:00 - 10:30 A.M.

MODERATOR: Richard Mahone, President, American Boxwood Society

DISEASES OF BOXWOOD: Dr. Robert E. Baldwin, Plant Pathologist, Virginia Research Station, Painter, VA.

INSECTS AND THEIR CONTROL: Dr. Peter B. Schultz, Entomology Specialist, Virginia Research Station, Virginia Beach, VA.

GROWING BOXWOOD ON THE EASTERN SHORE: Mr. J. Fred Diem, Extension Agent, Northampton County, Eastville, VA.

BOXWOOD IN THE LANDSCAPE: Mr. Donald H. Parker, Fasla Landscape Architect, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Williamsburg, VA.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
LUNCH

AFTERNOON: Tour of Eyre Hall Boxwood Garden, Mrs. Frank Lusk, Cheriton, VA.

MEETING PLACE: Northampton "Indiantown" Park and Recreation Building in Eastville, Virginia on February 16, 1982.

Dr. R. E. Baldwin spoke about the diseases that attack boxwood on the Eastern Shore. The most common is *Volutella* stem blight, which is often mistaken for foliar winter injury. Another disease is *Phytophthora* root rot which affects both English and American boxwood. It can often be attributed to poorly drained soil. The symptoms are poor growth and off-green color. English boxwood decline is a serious threat to older boxwood plantings. Proper cultivation practices, including sanitation measures, are extremely important in all disease prevention.

Dr. Peter Schultz discussed a number of insects that attack boxwood, their life cycles, how and when they attack, and some recommended control measures. The leaf miner is one of the most common and destructive insects so far as American boxwood is concerned. It is difficult to control because the female lays her eggs inside the leaf. Control is achieved by spraying with a contact insecticide when adults are flying, by pruning the new growth that is infested, and by following up with an approved systemic insecticide in June.

Mr. Fred Diem spoke on the culture and care of boxwood, emphasizing the following cautions:

Don't plant boxwood too deep - - it's a shallow-rooted plant;

Cut back some top growth when moving non-nursery grown plants that have not been root pruned;

Mulch, but not too heavily;

Vinca minor and ajuga are the only ground covers that should be used;

Excessive cultivation around base of plants is a bad practice;

Water sufficiently during first year, but keep water off foliage and do not overwater in heavy soils;

Do not let herbicides or high-analysis commercial fertilizers come in contact with shallow-root system;

Don't shear continuously - - thin and pluck;

Keep plants clean - - remove buildup of dead leaves in center of plants.

Mr. Donald Parker discussed the versatility of boxwood in landscape design, including its use as a topiary, as an edging plant, and in small parterre gardens. His slides showed how boxwood has been planted to good effect at numerous homes and famous gardens.

Mr. Richard Mahone invited questions from the audience. After a lengthy and lively discussion with all of the speakers participating the workshop adjourned for a delightful luncheon prepared by the ladies of the Eastern Shore Garden Club. Of the 66 persons who attended the workshop the following registered their names:

Mr. Almer Ames
Accomac, VA 23301
Mrs. B. D. Ayres
Accomac, VA 23301
Mrs. James M. Bowling, III
Rt. 2, Box 21-A
Onancock, VA 23417
Mrs. R. Wayne Browning
Davis Wharf, VA 23345
Mrs. Judith F. Burger
Box 366
Machpiongo, VA 23405
Mrs. John R. Chandler
3 Meadville Dr.
Onancock, VA 23417
Mrs. Charles W. Dickinson, III
P. O. Box 500
Machpiongo, VA 23405
Mrs. Charles W. Dickinson, IV
Cheriton, VA 23316
Mrs. T. Hume Dixon, Sr.
Townsend, VA 23443
Mrs. Daniel Dolch
Box 407
Onancock, VA 23417
Mrs. Rudolph Downes
Eastville, VA 23347
Mrs. Donald F. Fletcher, Jr.
P. O. Box 159
Atlantic, VA 23303

Mrs. C. D. deGavre
RFD
Onancock, VA 23417
Mrs. Daniel Hartnet
Accomac, VA 23301
Mrs. Larry Heffner
Accomac, VA 23301
Mrs. Harry S. Holcomb
Franktown, VA 23354
Mrs. E. Polk Kellane
Belle Haven, VA 23306
Mrs. Donald M. Killmon
Craddockville, VA 23341
Mrs. Charles Lankford
Franktown, VA 23354
Mrs. Julien McCarthy
Onancock, VA 23417
Mrs. F. M. McCraw
Box 33
Birdsnest, VA 23307
Maxine Manning
Mrs. E. E. Mihalylea
Cheriton, VA 23316
Mrs. E. V. Needels
"Walston Place"
Accomac, VA 23301
Anne Nock
Charlye K. Parsons
Capeville, VA 23313
Mary E. Peacock
5624 Sherier Pl., NW
Washington, DC 20016
Mrs. Alfred Pruitt
Onancock, VA 23417
Gina Goffgiau Renner
Box 471
Cheriton, VA 23316
Mrs. Henry J. Richardson
Greenbush, VA 23354
Cindy Sartain
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Mrs. George J. Savage
Cape Charles, VA 23310
Mrs. C. Parke Scarborough
Onancock, VA 23417
Mrs. Francis A. Shelton
Nassawadox, VA 23413
Mrs. James A. Stuart, Jr.
Box 38
Machipongo, VA 23405
Mrs. Baxley T. Tankard
Franktown, VA 23354
Mrs. John E. Tankard
Nassawadox, VA 23413
Myrtle Tankard
Franktown, VA 23354
Mrs. C. A. Turner, Jr.
Eastville, VA 23347
Penny Tusk
Box 8
Cheriton, VA 23316
Mrs. Giles Upshur, Jr.
Machipongo, VA 23405
Mrs. John Upshur
Accomac, VA 23301

Mrs. Nancy Whitlock
Route 2, Box 239
Berlin, MD 21811
Mrs. George Willis, III
Eastville, VA 23347
Mrs. Richard W. Yancey
Accomac, VA 23301



ABS TO SPONSOR A NEW
RESEARCH TASK

William A. Gray

In response to a preliminary Research Proposal submitted by the Virginia Truck and Ornamentals Research Station of Virginia Beach, the ABS Board of Directors on March 17, 1982 authorized financial support for the first phase of a field research project on Boxwood. The Society's funding will be \$500 for the first year - - a relatively small share of total cost. Subsequent support to the second phase, at \$500 per year, will be contingent on an evaluation of the program later in 1982.

The Research Station's effort, to be conducted over a five-year period, is intended to evaluate Boxwood for growth habit, adaptability, and susceptibility, and to determine the response to selected cultural practices. The stated objectives of the study are to:

"a) establish and maintain different species and varieties of boxwood in a research field planting; b) evaluate boxwood for disease and pest susceptibility; and c) conduct field experiments with herbicides, growth regulators, fertilizers, and pesticides."

The first phase, which will take one year, will consist of establishing the field planting and the study of weed control. Two hundred container plants, available at VPI & SU, will be used; two varieties of *Buxus sempervirens* and two of *Buxus microphylla* will be studied. The second phase will complete the evaluation of experimental data over the remaining four years.

The Society's Research Committee believe the stated objectives to be worthy and the proposed effort likely to provide practical results.

CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP DUES

As most members are aware, the membership year runs from May 1 of one year to April 30 of the following year. Accordingly, annual membership dues should be renewed no later than May 1 of each year. Enclosed with this issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* is your dues notice for the year May 1, 1982 through April 30, 1983. Please pay promptly so that the Treasurer will not have to drop your name from the membership list because of failure to pay on time.

You will note from the billing when it arrives that dues for all categories of membership remain at the same level as they have been for more than twenty years. This is in the face of ever rising costs of publishing our quarterly journal, *The Boxwood Bulletin*, the Society's principal endeavor and its vehicle for disseminating information and news to its members. The work of compiling and editing the *Bulletin* is performed by voluntary help to keep the cost as low as possible. Nevertheless, the costs of printing and mailing the *Bulletin* have now reached a limit where it is impossible for the Society to continue operating under the present dues structure. When this problem was aired at the last Annual Meeting the overwhelming sentiment of the members present was that dues must be raised to cover costs. A motion to that effect was made from the floor and passed.

Your Officers and Directors have duly examined the operating budget of the Society and at the Annual Meeting on May 12 will propose higher dues for all categories of membership effective August 1, 1982, the earliest possible date consistent with our present Constitutional provision on dues. But in order to keep the *Bulletin* arriving quarterly throughout the coming year members who are now paying their annual dues at the old rate - - and these dues will comprise most of the operating revenues for the coming year - - are urged to send voluntarily an additional tax-deductible contribution of at least several dollars. The Officers and Directors will be most grateful for such a display of support pending introduction of the new dues structure.

Over and above the payment of dues to cover current operating expenses, contributions of any size for the following designated purposes are most welcome:

Research Fund. In the past the Society has helped to support boxwood research at the University of Maryland and at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. When sufficient funds become available, your Society would like to renew this support.

Memorial Boxwood Garden. Funds are needed to maintain and further develop the Memorial Boxwood Garden located on the grounds of the Blandy Experimental Farm at Boyce, Virginia. This garden was developed as a memorial planting in honor of Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Mr. Henry Hohman, Admiral Neill Phillips and Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting. At present there are 59 named varieties of boxwood in the garden. Additional financial support is needed for the Blandy Experimental Farm which has heretofore borne the major costs for maintaining the garden. At the last Annual Meeting a *Memorial Membership* was established for members who would like to make a contribution in memory of a loved one, with the funds to be used for the upkeep of the Garden.

Boxwood Handbook. For many years the Society has been working toward the goal of publishing a *Boxwood Handbook*. Plans are beginning to crystallize and funds are needed to assist in the preparation of the manuscript, the procuring of colored photographs and the printing.

In addition to financial support you can help the American Boxwood Society grow by inviting others who are interested in boxwood to become members. Please contact the Headquarters office if you would like some membership brochures. The address is: American Boxwood Society, Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620.

**SEND PROXY FROM LAST ISSUE IF UNABLE
TO ATTEND ANNUAL MEETING ON MAY 12**

MEMBERSHIP LIST CORRECTION

The following names should have been included in the Membership List published in the October 1981 issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* (Vol. 21, No. 2, Page 39):

Miller, Mrs. Margaret S.

Rodgers, Mrs. Antone

We apologize for the oversight and ask that any other members whose names were not printed or were printed incorrectly please notify Scot Butler, Chairman, Bulletin Committee, The American Boxwood Society, Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620. It is our sincere desire to make this list as accurate as possible.

22nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

May 11 and 12, 1982 — Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia

May 11

7:30 PM Early Arrival Get Together in Library at Blandy. Slide presentation. Reception.

May 12

9-11 AM Registration *

9:30 AM Tour: Memorial Boxwood Garden with Thomas E. Ewert and Prof. James A. Faiszt
Pruning Demonstration — Prof. Albert S. Beecher

10:30 AM Coffee - Dining Room

11:00 AM Business Meeting

12:00 N Box Lunch **

1:15 PM Educational Program:
"Heritage, Taxonomy and Culture" — Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, Curator of Boxwood Plantings at the National Arboretum
and
"Herbarium Specimens and Cuttings from Sports and Open Pollinated Plants" — Dr. Bernice M. Speese, Registrar of Boxwood, American Boxwood Society

3 PM Tour

* Registration Fee \$2.50 to help defray costs.

** Box Lunch \$3.50, or bring your own lunch.

To make reservations, please fill in the following (or make a fascimile) or phone 1-703-837-1758. Complete and return to The American Boxwood Society, P.O. Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620. Reservations for lunch must be received by Wednesday, May 5. Please register the following for the Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed is a \$_____ check for Registration and lunch (\$6.00 per person).

Enclosed is a \$_____ check for Registration only (\$2.50 per person).

I (we) plan to attend the May 11 get together

* * * * *

Directions

The Blandy Experimental Farm is near 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 1.5 miles more to Blandy entrance on your right. Entrance will be marked.

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.

Contributions are welcome for the Research Fund, the Boxwood Memorial Garden, and the Boxwood Handbook.

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

General information about the Society

Advice concerning boxwood problems or cultural information

Boxwood selection

Memorial Gifts

Write to:

American Boxwood Society

Box 85

Boyce, Virginia 22620

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

You are also welcome to write directly to the president of the American Boxwood Society:

Mr. Richard D. Mahone

P. O. Box 751

Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

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

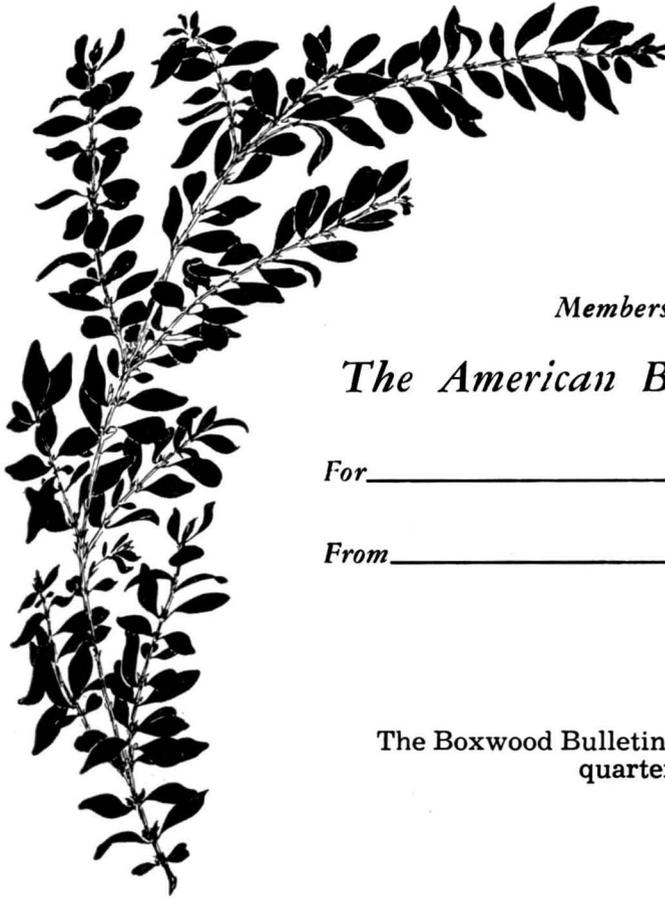
or

Mr. Scot Butler

Chairman of the *Bulletin* Committee

P. O. Box 184

Bluemont, Virginia 22012



Membership in

The American Boxwood Society

For _____

From _____

The Boxwood Bulletin will be sent to you
quarterly.

Gift Membership
in the
American Boxwood Society

If you are looking for a gift for a friend, why not give a membership in the American Boxwood Society. During the year, they will receive four issues of the *Boxwood Bulletin*.

Above you see a reproduction of our gift card just as it would go to one of your friends announcing your gift membership. The cost is \$5.00 for one year and \$10.00 for two years. Send your gift request to the Treasurer, Mrs. Katherine Ward, P.O. Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620.