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The

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A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



Photo: Scot Butler

Gunston Hall, Fairfax County, Virginia, viewed from formal boxwood garden.

Boyce, Va.

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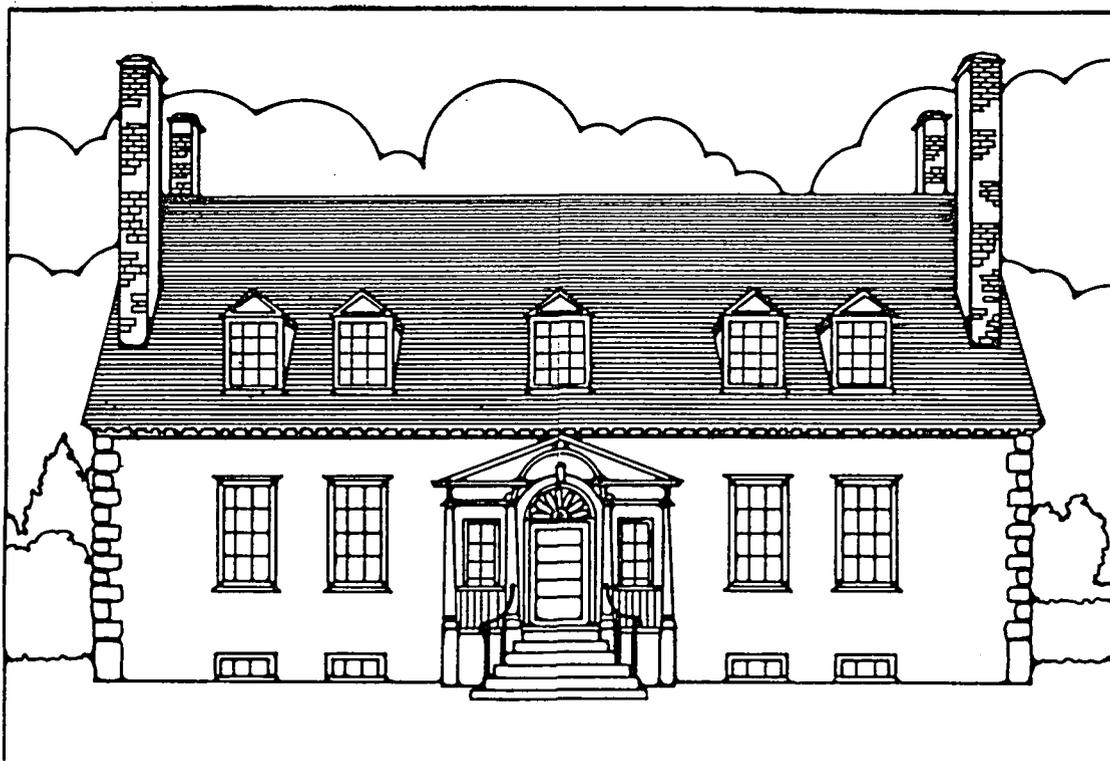
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Courtesy Gunston Hall Plantation

GUNSTON HALL — The Colonial Home of George Mason.

BOXWOOD WORKSHOP AT GUNSTON HALL

A well-attended boxwood workshop was held at Gunston Hall, Lorton, Virginia, on June 14, 1983. It was sponsored jointly by the American Boxwood Society and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service in Fairfax County. The program was arranged and chaired by ABS Director James A. Faiszt, Extension Horticulturist at Virginia Tech (VPI & SU).

Mr. Stewart Bunn, Extension Agent of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service in Fairfax County, welcomed the participants and introduced the new Director of Gunston Hall, Mr. Donald R. Taylor. Mr. Taylor brings with him some years of experience at Tryon Palace, New Bern, North Carolina. Mr. Taylor expressed pleasure at hosting the workshop and spoke briefly on the condition of the boxwood at Gunston Hall, noting that some had suffered damage in recent years. He observed that an effort is made to replace damaged plants from Gunston Hall's own nursery stock whenever possible.

The Landscaping Qualities of Boxwood

The first speaker, Professor Faiszt, extended a welcome on behalf of the American Box-

wood Society, described the work of the Society and greeted a number of students from Virginia Tech who were serving as summer interns at various historic properties in the Northern Virginia area. His talk, "Landscape Uses of Boxwood," was generously illustrated with color slides. The desirable design characteristics of boxwood—form, texture, and color—make it an outstanding shrub for landscape use. Sometimes the pleasing natural form is destroyed by pruning plants to artificial shapes. The texture, ranging from fine to medium, depends on the plant, and is frequently modified under the influence of light and shadow. In color, boxwood varieties range from dark green to light green with various hues of blue or yellow. Because there are so many different varieties of boxwood, suitable plants can always be found to meet the growth requirements of a particular landscape. An additional advantage of boxwood is that it does not require any unique cultural care.

Boxwood is effective as a *foundation planting* because its growth, which is reasonably slow, can be easily controlled by proper pruning. It is effective as an *enclosure planting*

(screen) because boxwoods can be placed close together to form a solid evergreen hedge that will grow to eye level, their branches grow close to the ground, and they are tolerant of sun or shade. Boxwood is effective for *specimen planting* because each bush can stand alone on its merits. It is effective as an *accent planting* because its design characteristics provide contrast when interspersed with other plants. And finally it is effective as a *facer planting* when low growing plants are needed to mask the base of leggy plants. Among his examples, Professor Faiszt projected a slide of a tree box (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Arborescens') in Gloucester County, Virginia which boasts a bark of unusual color and texture, making it a specimen planting of more than passing interest. He demonstrated how trees and boxwood can be planted in a contrasting but compatible relationship, the rigid geometric form of a boxwood garden against a natural woodland setting. He also showed an example of the lost art of topiary. Although boxwood can tolerate many extremes, including cutting to topiary forms, the difficulty of maintaining formal gardens of this type has contributed to their virtual disappearance. Pictures of boxwood growing in combination with ground covers were also shown and discussed.

Propagation of Boxwood

Mr. Thomas E. Ewert, Director of Blandy Experimental Farm and a Director of the ABS, spoke next on "Propagation of Boxwood." The methods he recommends for propagating plants from cuttings have been printed previously in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, most recently in Volume 23, No. 1 (July 1983), Page 29. Mr. Ewert said that the best time to root cuttings is around the first of August, give or take a month either way. (Before July the new growth is too soft and succulent for propagation.) The next best time is mid February. The easiest of the boxwoods to root are English (*Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa*) and Korean (*Buxus microphylla* var. *koreana*). A recommended potting mix for the rooted plants is peat moss (2 parts), vermiculite (1 part) and perlite (1 part). Add fertilizer (lime and superphosphate). Mr. Ewert recommended the keeping of good notes as an aid to building a useful data bank for future reference. He advised that newly-rooted plants

be protected against the sun and wind for several years after they are set out. A member of the audience—Dean Norton, Horticulturist at Mt. Vernon—described the success he has achieved with forced growth of rooted cuttings through heavy fertilization.

Mr. Ewert briefly treated the subject of growing boxwoods from seeds, pointing out the all-important matter of timing in collecting the seeds and providing the proper period of dormancy. The pleasure of this method, he said, is in seeing the great variety of results in the seedlings.

Recommended Cultural Measures

Mr. Harrison Symmes, also an ABS Director, concluded the morning session with a talk provocatively entitled "The Most Often Asked Questions About Boxwood Culture." Mr. Symmes appeared to challenge some of Professor Faiszt's comments about the adaptability and tolerance of boxwood to a wide variety of conditions but in fact he was recommending that for maximum vigor boxwood be planted under conditions similar to those where it grows naturally. In one of its natural habitats, the famous Box Hill site in England, for example, boxwood flourishes on sloping ground in a chalky soil without benefit of cover. Mr. Symmes noted that boxwood will also grow in clay and sandy soils but may require adaptive drainage or irrigation. He said that the problem of boxwood decline seems to have abated somewhat as a result of a shift in climatic conditions. He warned of damage from winter kill and advised planting boxwood in areas protected from prevailing winds.

Mr. Symmes offered the following advice on planting and transplanting: Prepare the soil and test for nutrients (a pH in the range of 6 to 7 is best). Be sure to cut free the earth ball of root-bound potted plants when planting them. Take care not to plant too deep: keep the crown of the root ball above ground level. Avoid areas where there is serious plant competition, especially from surface feeders such as oaks and maples and ground covers. Transplant at any time of year except during the period of new growth (late March to mid May). Once planting is completed, avoid disturbing soil that might affect the root system of a boxwood.

Mr. Symmes recommended that boxwoods be watered well—drenching the entire plant when feasible—every week to 10 days in dry periods. Winter kill, he said, is frequently the result of insufficient moisture in the soil and plant system. But antitranspirants are not the solution to the moisture problem because they interfere with photosynthesis. Antitranspirants should be used only “when large boxwoods must be moved at the wrong time of year.” Mulch with a suitable material such as wood chips (lawn clippings may spread disease and interfere with watering). Take care to keep mulch away from the trunk of the plant to prevent adventitious rooting. Mulch may at some time cause a certain loss of nitrogen in the soil. Fertilize in late winter with 10-6-4, using about half the prescribed amount; water fertilizer well into the ground. Mr. Symmes said that liming is essential to the assimilation of nutrients and he recommended using dolomitic granular limestone. Liming can be done any time, but autumn or late winter is best. Lime also should be watered in well. As for pruning, the prescribed method is to “pluck” branches so that the interior of the plant will be opened to sun and air. The shearing of boxwood only stimulates superficial growth on the outside. Mr. Symmes concluded his presentation by answering questions from the audience.

* * *

The workshop recessed at noon for a delicious catered luncheon which was served in the air-conditioned comfort of the Gunston Hall Meeting Room. The Gunston Hall Staff takes understandable pride in their culinary offerings and service.

* * *

Diseases of Boxwood

The program resumed after luncheon with a talk on “Common Diseases of Boxwood” prepared by Dr. Robert Wick, Plant Pathologist, Virginia Tech (see *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 23, No. 1, July 1983, Pages 26-28). Unfortunately Dr. Wick could not be present. Professor Faiszt delivered the lecture for him.

Boxwood is not subject to a great number of diseases. The two most common *major* diseases are *Phytophthora* Root Rot and so-

called English Boxwood Decline. *Phytophthora* Root Rot is marked by deterioration in the root system of boxwoods and is frequently brought on or exacerbated by poor drainage conditions. The foliage turns brown as the roots die. Professor Faiszt noted that there is some difference of opinion between pathologists and culturists concerning the degree to which the initial cause of this disease is an attack by an organism (pathogen) on the root system or a debilitation of the root system brought on by cultural stress which opens the door for the pathogen.

When suffering from English Boxwood Decline, plants turn brown and dry and branches drop out; the bark becomes discolored. So far no effective treatment has been found for this blight which hit Virginia and Maryland in the 1960s following several years of drought. Boxwood decline has not been as severe a problem in recent years.

Professor Faiszt named *Volutella* Twig Blight, *Macrophoma* Leaf Spot and Nematode Damage as the most common *minor* diseases of boxwood. The die-back resulting from *Volutella* Twig Blight resembles that of English Boxwood Decline, but can be distinguished by the spores on the leaves and discoloration of the leaf bases. When this blight strikes, prune out and destroy all diseased portions of a plant. *Macrophoma* Leaf Spot is caused by a developing fungus. It is similar in appearance to mite damage. Mite damage can be controlled but there is no known control for *Macrophoma* Leaf Spot. The only measure that may help limit the damage is to clean out all diseased leaves under the plant to prevent the spread of organisms through the ground.

In view of the lack of methods to combat boxwood diseases once they break out efforts should be made to prevent them from occurring: plant only healthy boxwoods; plant only in well-drained soil; maintain soil moisture in the summer and in dry periods. At the first sign of disease remove and destroy all dead twigs and leaves.

Insect Pests of Boxwood

The final speaker was Dr. John A. Weidhaas, Extension Entomologist, Virginia Tech. His talk, “Common Insects of Boxwood,” was accompanied by slides of the insects he described, some of them photographed through the

microscope. In addition he distributed copies of his article, "Boxwood Insect and Mite Pests," which appeared in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 17, No. 4, April 1978, Pages 59-61.

Dr. Weidhaas said that his 1978 article needed a slight updating. His statement that there are four major pests which are common on boxwood still stands, as do three of the four that he identified: the boxwood leaf miner, the boxwood psyllid and the boxwood mite. However as the fourth major pest he would now substitute the Japanese wax scale for the boxwood webworm. Unlike the major diseases of boxwood the major pests can be controlled by spraying with chemical agents (a table of those recommended and a schedule of when to spray was included in his 1978 article). He stated that there was a divergence of opinion about the effects of some chemical agents and referred

members of the workshop to the periodical *Organic Gardening* for lively reading on this subject.

Leaf miner damage is caused by larvae mining in the leaves of boxwood. Except for English boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa*) most varieties of *Buxus sempervirens* are highly susceptible to the leaf miner. The leaf miner produces one generation per year. The adult fly, less than 1/8 of an inch long, emerges at the end of April and lays eggs inside the new growth. The eggs hatch into microscopic larvae in early or mid June. They feed on the leaves until fall when the damage becomes conspicuous in the form of blisters, primarily on the under side of leaves, and premature leaf-drop. Control measures should be applied in early June when larvae have just hatched but they will be effective if applied as



Boxwood parterres at Gunston Hall, looking from the mansion toward the Potomac River.
Photo: Scot Butler

late as mid August, although some feeding damage will have occurred by then. Dr. Weidhaas recommended that systemic insecticides such as Cygon (Dimethoate) be used. He also mentioned Isotox (MSR) and a new systemic called Orthene. In answer to a question from the audience he said that Disyston, a granular systemic insecticide designed for soil application, is expensive and difficult to apply, and also poses the danger of phytotoxicity.

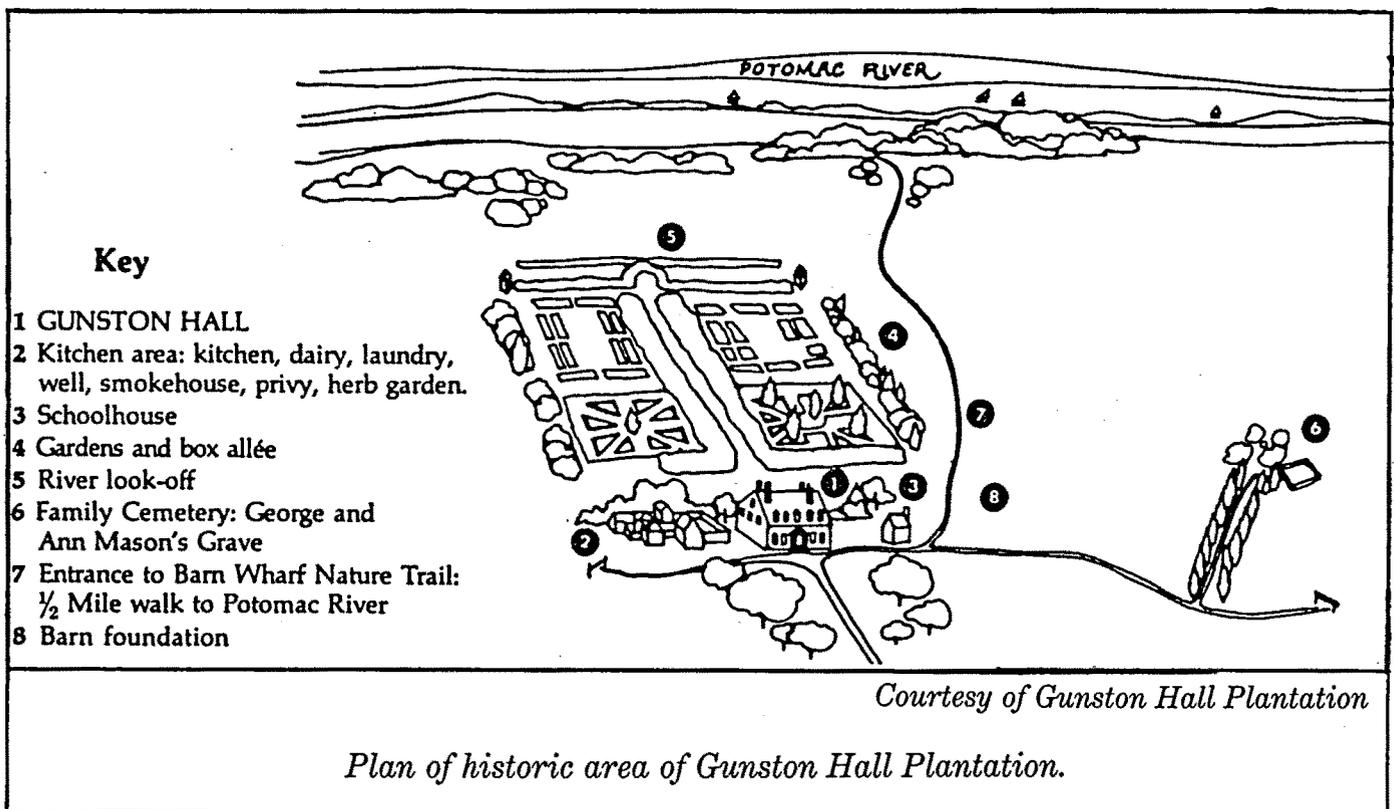
The psyllid is a sucking insect with a piercing mouthpiece which leaves the foliage of boxwood cupped in shape. Although the psyllid damages the appearance of a plant it allegedly does not seriously impair the plant's health. This insect is subject to a high degree of control by spraying with Sevin or Cygon mixed with a wetting agent or spreader-sticker as soon as new growth begins in the spring. Later applications will kill the insects but will not eliminate the cupping which has already occurred during the nymph feeding period in April and early May. There is one generation of psyllids each year.

The mite, referred to as red spider in common terminology, overwinters as an egg on the underside of the boxwood leaf. The eggs hatch in May and complete a generation in 2 to 3

weeks. There are several generations each year, leading to a rapid build-up of populations and extensive damage if not checked. The damage, appearing as needle-mark spittle, is permanent for the life of the leaf. For best control, spray with Kelthane or Cygon in early to mid May.

The mature female Japanese wax scale lays between 3,000 and 5,000 eggs even though there is but one generation per year. Eggs are laid in April and hatch in June. During the cameo stage the crawlers molt and start producing wax which continues to stick on twigs even after the scale has been brought under control. Dr. Weidhaas recommended spraying with Sevin the first week in June for most effective control.

Following a question-and-answer period, members of the workshop were invited to view a film on Gunston Hall and its colonial owner, George Mason, an important behind-the-scenes figure in the American Revolution. The final event of the Workshop was a tour of the house and gardens which are among the most impressive in this country. The accompanying plan of the historic area shows the design and extent of the formal boxwood garden; boxwood planted by George Mason in the eighteenth century dominates the scene.



Cultivar Names

Burdette L. Wagenknecht

Biographical Note. Dr. Wagenknecht is Professor of Biology and Head of the Biology Department at William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri. A charter member of the American Boxwood Society, Dr. Wagenknecht compiled and in 1965 published in The Boxwood Bulletin (Volume 4, No. 3) "Registration Lists of Cultivar Names in Buxus L." Much of the work on these registration lists was performed earlier when he was Horticultural Taxonomist for Harvard's Arnold Arboretum. Dr. Wagenknecht served as ABS Registrar of Cultivated Boxwoods, with international registration authority, until 1978.

Some years ago the author had the pleasure of discussing cultivars in the genus *Buxus* at an annual meeting of the American Boxwood Society. At that time several people expressed an interest in knowing more about what was included in a definition of the word "cultivar." This article is an attempt to demonstrate the need for names, to discuss the kinds of plants being considered when the word "cultivar" is used, to explain the need for a code of nomenclature and to list and comment briefly on a few of the rules concerning the application of cultivar names.

The humor of Mark Twain demonstrates very clearly how unclear an explanation can be if a basic vocabulary describing a function is not included in the description:

Every country has its own ways. It may interest the reader to know how they "put horses to" on the continent. The man stands up the horses on each side of the thing that projects from the front end of the wagon, and then throws the tangled mess of gear on top of the horses, and passes the thing that goes forward through a ring and hauls it aft, and passes the other thing through the

other ring and hauls it aft on the other side of the horse, opposite to first one, after crossing them and bringing the loose end back, and then buckles the other thing underneath the horse, and takes another thing and wraps it around the thing I spoke of before, and puts another thing over the horse's head, with broad flappers to it to keep the dust out of his eyes and puts the iron thing in his mouth for him to grit his teeth on up hill, and brings the ends of these things aft over his back, after buckling another one around under his neck to hold his head up and hitching another thing on a thing that goes over his shoulder to keep his head up when he is climbing a hill, and then takes the slack of the thing I mentioned a while ago, and fetches it aft and makes it fast to the thing that pulls the wagon, and hands up the other things to the driver to steer with. I have never buckled up a horse myself, but I do not think we do it that way.*

If you can ignore the humor of this excerpt you will observe that the imprecise naming and vague descriptions provide little information that would be of value in harnessing a team of horses. It might be noted that Twain had to use some names in order to give the description enough substance to be humorous. It should be clear that the purpose of a name is to act as an easy means of communication. It is, in other words, an aid to communication. Occasionally someone will try to describe some plant to me without any greater precision than that used by Twain in the excerpt cited above. As you might guess, I have a difficult time trying to decide what it is he is describing.

**A Tramp Abroad*, Harper and Brothers, New York. Reprinted 1907. Pages 22-23.

"Cultivar" is the word used to distinguish the kinds of plants usually called "varieties" in nursery and seed catalogs or when a grower discusses and sells his crop. As a category in the hierarchy of botanical classification cultivar stands apart from the infra-specific categories of subspecies, variety, forma, etc. The word "cultivar" is a port-manteau word formed from the words "cultivated" and "variety." The word was created in response to the dilemma faced by traditional plant taxonomists who were trying to fit these cultivated biological entities into the formal classification system they were using.

Few, if any, cultivars appeared to be of importance in determining the taxonomic relationships with which the systematists were concerned. Most cultivars were not variants that would be expected to survive out of cultivation and many had been developed as selections from hybridizations carried on in seed producers' laboratories and gardens. In a very real way cultivars are like breeds of dogs. Collies and poodles are clearly distinct breeds of dogs. The characters that distinguish the two breeds would quickly disappear if they were allowed to interbreed in a random pattern with other breeds of dogs. The two breeds of dogs are maintained through carefully controlled breeding and thus represent the effect of artificial selection rather than continuing evolutionary development.

There are many kinds of cultivars offered for sale by nurserymen, seed catalogs, and developers of strains of crop plants for agricultural use. The cultivars produced are of several different types. Some cultivars are the result of somatic mutations, that is, changes in the chromosomes of cells other than cells giving rise to gametes. This type of cultivar does not pass its desirable trait to its offspring since the reproductive cells or gametes are not affected by the change. Some shrubs that produce variegated foliage originated in this manner. Cultivars of this type must be reproduced by rooting or grafting if the trait is to be propagated for distribution.

Selections from hybridizations are a major source of cultivars in many species of plants. Cultivars of hybrid origin in perennial plants are usually propagated by grafts or by the rooting of cuttings. Cultivated roses are typically produced by grafting and boxwoods are usually dispersed as rooted cuttings.

Cultivars of annual plants, whether for ornamental or agricultural use, are developed through closely supervised breeding programs. In this instance one cannot gather seed from the cultivar and by germinating the seed reproduce the cultivar. The offspring produced by the cultivar's seed will rarely show the desirable traits of its parent and will usually be a vastly inferior plant as far as its horticultural merit is concerned.

The increase in numbers of cultivars produced each year created a concern about the accuracy with which cultivar names were applied. This problem was similar to one faced by classical plant taxonomists when the great explorations introduced large numbers of new plants into their system. The taxonomic botanists developed, over a period of two hundred years, a formal code of nomenclature for plants. This code, termed The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, gave stability to the application of scientific names. In the same manner, persons concerned with the stability of cultivar names developed The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. Through the use of this code it is hoped that cultivar names will be regulated in a way that will cause the use of the names to be more effective in communication between horticulturists. It should be recognized that while compliance with the provisions of The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants is purely voluntary, by agreement among those who use cultivar names there exist also certain statutory regulations, such as plant patents, concerning the names of cultivars of those groups of plants in which plant breeders' rights have been recognized.

Because some members of The American Boxwood Society may have the opportunity to apply a cultivar name to a new selection, a few comments on some of the more general rules regulating the application of cultivar names may be helpful. As far as is possible examples will relate to boxwoods. A more thorough study of the complete code is recommended for these persons, however.

In the genus *Buxus* there are many cultivars bearing Latin names such as 'Suffruticosa', 'Arborescens', etc. These are valid names because they were in use prior to 1 January 1959. Names published after this date must be 'fancy' names in modern language, such as *B.*

'Green Gem' or *B. m.* 'Grace Henricks Phillips.' The sole exception to this rule is for names resulting from the reduction of a name for a botanical taxon reduced to cultivar rank, such as *B. japonica* var. *nana* which is now considered to be a cultivar in *B. microphylla* var. *japonica* rather than a true variety.

New cultivars must not be given names that are the same as a botanical or common name of a genus or the common name of a species. This means that if you should find a variant of boxwood bearing leaves shaped like those of an oak you may not give the selection the cultivar name 'Quercus' or 'Oak'.

Two or more cultivars in the same cultivar class may not bear the same name. Therefore, if a cultivar name has been used for a selection in one species of *Buxus* that cultivar name cannot be used for a selection in another species of the genus. The problem is best illustrated by the following example: if a cultivar name such as 'Glorious' were applied to selections in both *Buxus sempervirens* and *B. microphylla*, confusion as to which cultivar was being referred to would occur when a citation of *Buxus* or boxwood 'Glorious' appeared.

Classical taxonomists attempting to gather information identifying the earliest publication date for cultivar names were concerned about the lack of any description accompanying the first use of a cultivar name. In The International Code of Botanical Nomenclature the lack of an adequate description or illustration of a plant being named caused the automatic rejection of the proposed name. The lack of a description accompanying the name in the case of cultivars named before 1 January 1959 is not grounds for rejecting the name under The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. The acceptance of names without descriptions was probably the result of the close contact between horticulturists at an earlier period and the general agreement between them as to what was meant by any given cultivar name. The present rules now state that all names must be published by the distribution of printed or duplicated matter dated at least as to year and if published after 1 January 1959 must also be accompanied by a description. The description may be in any language.

The rules recommend that cultivar names be registered with a recognized registration

authority. Compliance with this rule for members of The American Boxwood Society means dealing with their own Society because the Society is the designated registration authority for the genus *Buxus* and has published the names and descriptions of many boxwood cultivars in *The Boxwood Bulletin*. Any new cultivar should be submitted to the Society for registration in order that it be on record as a registered cultivar.

Although this article is not intended to be an exhaustive exposition on the subject of cultivars and the regulations concerned with the application of names to cultivars, it is hoped that this limited coverage of the concept will be of value to those having an interest in boxwood cultivars. Persons wishing to delve further into the subject should refer to The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. The author would also be willing to attempt to be of assistance in dealing with problems that require further clarification.

Boxwood Artifacts Found in Jerusalem Dig

According to recent news reports a team of archeologists excavating the City of David just outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City have found charred wooden fragments from the Israelite period. These fragments have been identified as boxwood from northern Syria or southern Turkey, indicating the extent of trade in that period. It is speculated that these fragments could have been part of a decoratively carved piece of furniture. Yigal Shiloh of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and head of the excavating team is quoted as saying that the blackened fragments were probably from furniture burned when the Babylonians razed Jerusalem in 586 B. C. and destroyed the temple built by King Solomon 400 years earlier.

We know from the Old Testament that box was a valued plant in biblical times:

I will plant cedars in the wastes and acacia and myrtle and wild olive; the pine shall grow on the barren heath side by side with fir and box.

(The Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 41, Verse 19, translation from *The New English Bible*). But this latest find indicates that the wood was also prized for "decoratively carved furniture," if the archeologists are correct.

The Hickson Boxwood Farm Revisited



Photo: J. Beale Chandler, Jr.

The F. M. Hicksons, Senior and Junior, pictured in 1969 beside boxwoods interplanted with black locusts.

Editor's Note: We are indebted to ABS member Kenneth H. Cook, Associate Editor of The News & Record, South Boston, Virginia for sending an update on the Hickson Boxwood Farm written by staff member Ruth Daniel Ford. The article appeared in The News & Record of November 30, 1982, Pages 1 and 3, about 14 years after the first article on this farm appeared in The Boxwood Bulletin of October 1968, "Box Gleanings from the Morgue" by J. T. Baldwin, Jr. (Vol. 8, No. 2, Pages 23-24). The following year a longer article with photographs, "Boxwood Farming in Virginia" by Spurgeon Compton, was published (The Boxwood Bulletin, Vol. 9, No. 1, Pages 9-11). We have taken the liberty of combining parts of these three articles to make some "then-and-now" comparisons.

The Hickson boxwood farm in Halifax County, Virginia may be the largest boxwood farm in the world. In 1982 this family-owned and operated farm produced a record-breaking crop of 108,275 pounds, or the equivalent of 8-9 tractor trailer loads, of packaged boxwood sprays for the Christmas retail trade. In 1958 the farm shipped 15,000 pounds and in 1968 about 70,000 pounds. At the same time the area planted to boxwood farming, 25 acres, has not increased substantially since 1960 when the last field of boxwoods was set out.

The present owners of the farm are Mrs. F. M. Hickson, Sr. and her son, F. M. Hickson, Jr. but the beginnings of the boxwood operation go back to 1908 when the late Mr. F. M. Hickson, Sr. and his brother shipped their first boxwood. Later Mr. Hickson was to recall how it all began.

“Back 50 years ago Miss Maggie Loving of Amherst traveled around the country buying boxwood. We had quite a bit of boxwood on the old home place, but my grandmother wouldn’t sell them to Miss Loving. After failing to buy the boxwood, Miss Loving told my brother and me how we could make some money cutting sprays, and she gave us the address of a place in Pittsburg that bought them.”

The brothers cut the sprays and shipped them. Back from Pittsburg came a check that surprised and delighted them. After cutting the boxwood at home they started travelling around the county first in a wagon and then in an automobile, buying and reselling boxwood. As the business grew and Hickson found that he sometimes couldn’t fill all the orders he started thinking that he should have boxwood of his own.

He set out his first field of boxwoods in 1936; the boxwoods were interplanted among tall black locust trees. “Boxwood needs a certain

amount of shade,” Hickson pointed out. “In addition, locust trees put nitrogen in the soil and the fine leaves from the trees make a perfect mulch for the boxwood.” By 1959 Hickson had been joined by his son in a full-time business partnership. In addition to the spray business they began a nursery stock business in dwarf English plants (*Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa*).

Now, as then, all of the boxwood sprays are shipped north, especially to New York and the New England states; none are sold directly in Virginia. However, Mr. Hickson, Sr. delighted in telling the story of stopping at a florist’s in South Boston, Virginia where they were using boxwood sprays. Upon inquiry as to the source of the sprays he was told they came from New York and he concluded that they might well have been some that he shipped there.

Mr. Hickson, Sr. died in 1979 but his wife and son continue the successful operation. Mrs. Hickson recalls only one year when the family did not produce a boxwood crop and that was



Photo: Ruth Daniel Ford
Mrs. F. M. Hickson, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Hickson display some of the vigorous plants from which their boxwood sprays are harvested.

because an early fall freeze killed the crop before the cutting. There seems always to be an unfilled demand, even in bad times. "I've lived through three recessions," says Mr. Hickson, Jr., "and I've never seen a year yet that adversely affected our evergreen business."

Originally the Hicksons shipped their boxwood sprays in wooden crates but for the last 25 years have been shipping them in waxed cardboard cartons designed by Mr. Hickson, Sr. and custom manufactured for the Hickson business, each being marked 'Hickson's Premium Boxwood.' According to the Hicksons this label sells itself because of the reputation they have established. One of their buyers alone purchased 30,000 pounds of their boxwood sprays. Each carton holds 25 pounds of the sprays which are sprinkled and cooled until trucks arrive to take a shipment north. Florists hold the sprays under controlled



*Photo: J. Beale Chandler, Jr.
Field of dwarf "English" box at Hickson Farm, 1969.*

temperature and humidity until used—sometimes a year after purchase.



Photo: Ruth Daniel Ford

Field of dwarf "English" box at Hickson Farm, 1982.

For clipping the sprays, each about 8-12 inches in length, the Hicksons grow an American box (*Buxus sempervirens*) of a clone that develops rapidly and remains a dark green. The sprays are cut by hand to ensure careful selection. The sprays are cut each fall. Previously this cutting operation required two months to complete—from mid October to mid December. According to Mr. Hickson, Jr., the cutting took only about one month to complete in 1982.

Although the boxwood crop is harvested in the fall, care of the boxwood is a year-round concern. Fertilizer is applied by hand in the latter half of February. The Hicksons spray their box against insect pests about May 1 and again about May 15. Throughout the spring and summer the grass in the boxwood fields is cut rather often—once a week when the rainfall is

average. When the rainfall is not sufficient the plants must be irrigated.

Each field of boxwood is harvested only once every three years on a rotational basis. While it takes three years after cutting for a boxwood plant to grow foliage suitable for sprays, it takes the plants themselves 20 to 22 years after they are planted to grow large enough for harvesting. However Mr. Hickson, Jr. does not plan to set out any new fields so propagation of additional American boxwoods is presumably limited to the needs of replacement.

Cuttings of English boxwood are placed in hotbeds in August; the beds are then thoroughly soaked and covered with plastic. No further attention is given the cuttings until the following spring when the rooted plants are set in the field. The English boxwood plants are sold locally for landscaping.

First Phase of Indexing Project Almost Completed

As of September 1, 1983 a group of ABS volunteers had completed indexing 6 out of 10 volumes of *The Boxwood Bulletin* published between 1973 and 1982. In response to a call for additional help in the July issue of *The Bulletin* the remaining 4 issues have since been assigned to volunteers for indexing, thereby marking near-completion of the first phase of compiling a consolidated index for Volumes 13 through 22.

The Bulletin Committee wishes to acknowledge its debt of gratitude to the following members who devoted long hours to the project during the past summer: Mr. Lynn Batdorf, Mr. James Gallagher, Mrs. John H. Hart, Billie Pearce, Mrs. Albert L. Rosenberg, Mr. George Stritikus and Mr. Harrison Symmes. Mr. Symmes deserves a special word of thanks for indexing two volumes.

The work of unifying these preliminary indexes falls to the Bulletin Committee which will be investigating the feasibility of putting them on computer, much as Mrs. Frackelton has done with the membership list. If it appears practicable to do so, this measure should make it possible eventually to access future issues to the computer file as they are published and so keep the index current.

It is hoped that the consolidated index for July 1973 — April 1982 can be available for distribution to the membership some time in

the first half of 1984. It will be a valuable tool for anyone doing research on boxwood subjects or for members simply trying to find a previously published item. Be sure to save your issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin* for future reference. You will note that each issue is pre-punched for filing in a standard 3-ring loose-leaf binder.

Question and Answer Box

Q. Last year some of my boxwoods were injured in heavy snow. What can I do to prevent this in the future?

A. Remove snow from boxwood during and/or soon after a snow storm by gently shaking the bush with a broom or stick. However do not attempt to remove snow if it is mixed with ice or sleet because twigs and limbs coated with ice tend to be very brittle and break. The weight of heavy snow may also cause stems to break, especially if they are weak. Therefore it is important to keep thinning boxwoods to aid in the development of strong stems that will be able to withstand a heavy accumulation of snow. Choice boxwoods located in the path of snow slides from a steep roof should be protected by a lath structure.

THE SEASONAL GARDENER

Tips on Fall Care of Boxwood

Albert S. Beecher

Now that the hot, dry summer is over and the fall foliage has returned in many parts of the country, it is fun to be outdoors again for gardening activities. Boxwoods neglected during the summer will need some attention during the fall.

Recovery from Drought. In many areas where boxwoods are grown there has been an extensive summer drought. If the boxwoods were not watered during the summer and if fall rains are inadequate, take steps to replenish the soil moisture by thoroughly watering before winter arrives. Boxwoods are potentially vulnerable to winter injury following an extremely dry summer or fall. Lack of soil moisture may cause the foliage in the winter or early spring to turn a reddish brown, yellowish or grayish color. Or there may be a complete loss of color. On severely suffering plants entire branches may die, especially those in the middle and apical parts of the crown.

Mulching to Conserve Moisture. One important way to conserve soil moisture in the growing of boxwoods is to use a mulch. If you have not been using a mulch apply one this fall after you have corrected any deficiency of soil moisture. In addition to conserving soil moisture, mulches are effective in the control of weeds, and they help to prevent the soil from becoming hard and compact. Certain mulches provide an attractive ground cover as well. Materials commonly used for mulching boxwoods are wood chips, sawdust, peat moss, pine bark, pine needles, straw, leaves and compost.

Apply the mulch to a depth of one inch. Before applying the mulch make sure that there is a good supply of moisture in the soil and that the soil is not compacted. Keep in mind that some mulches will tend to cake and shed water. When this occurs loosen the mulch to allow better water penetration. From time to time mulching material disintegrates and it is necessary to add additional material. Do not mound mulch up around the stems or trunks as this will cause aerial rooting.

Fall Planting. Boxwoods planted in the fall need to be well watered and may also require some watering in the winter to make sure that there is sufficient soil moisture. Keep watch to see that the soil moisture is at the proper level. Plants that are placed in an exposed situation are subject to winter injury. To prevent this kind of damage provide some wind protection by using snow fences, lattice frames covered with burlap, or pine boughs stuck in the ground. Be sure to provide a good layer of mulch for the newly planted boxwood.

When planting newly purchased boxwood or transplanting bushes from one location to another in the yard it is good management practice to do some pruning or thinning in the upper portion of the plant to compensate for any loss of roots that occurs during the digging operation. It is not too late to do this pruning if it was not done at the time of planting.

Preparing for Winter. In late fall check to see whether any of your large boxwoods appear to have weak stems that could be severely damaged during heavy snow falls. Wrapping the outer branches with a strong nylon cord may help to protect plants that have weak stems. Tie the cord securely to a low branch, pressing the boughs upward and inward as you wrap the cord in an upward spiral around the bush at intervals of 8 to 10 inches. Have the cord tight enough to prevent breakage from excess weight of snow or ice but not so tight as to exclude air circulation around the plant.

If you have several plants with weak stems or that appear to be overgrown it is a good indication that you need to adopt a pruning management program. If you do not have the time or inclination to do the pruning yourself check to ascertain whether there is a commercial firm in your area that does breaking or clipping of boxwood in the fall to obtain material for florists who make Christmas decorations. In some areas it is possible to get paid for the clippings. In addition, the pruning and thinning helps to develop stronger and more vigorous plants.

Care of Retarded English Boxwood

William A. Gray

In any sizeable planting of English Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa*) one may find a few retarded individuals — plants that do not exhibit the vigorous growth of their peers, although no evidence of insect damage or disease is apparent. In this situation, three options are open: the problem can be ignored; the weak plants can be removed; or some corrective action can be taken. In general, these retarded plants show up in a random fashion and exhibit characteristics of weak root systems. Foliage is lighter in color, often bronzed — but not systematically so, as occurs with severe winter desiccation. Ground cover or weed growth is likely to invade the root area. Since *suffruticosa* is naturally a very slow grower, this abnormal condition will probably persist.

We have found in our field-grown nursery stock that appropriate intensive care of weak-rooted plants can solve this problem. All of our plants are, of course, fertilized in the spring, pruned to thin as needed, and hosed out in June. In addition, any retarded plants are heavily and selectively pruned in December. At the same time, weeds are pulled, a light application of 10-10-10 fertilizer and dolomitic limestone is made, and bark mulch is spread. All of the above is followed by a thorough watering.

Such a treatment in December is definitely not recommended for a normal vigorous boxwood, because of the possibility of subsequent winter damage to new growth. However, a weak-rooted retarded plant is not about to develop new growth right away, and no problems should arise.

In December 1982, for example, about 2 percent of our *suffruticosa* were given this treat-

ment. In early April 1983, the typical retarded plant still showed chlorotic foliage, as illustrated in the photograph. New growth buds



Photo: William A. Gray
Retarded boxwood still showed chlorotic foliage in April and new growth buds were a couple of weeks late.

were just appearing, a couple of weeks late. By mid May, all of the weak-rooted plants so treated had fully recovered and looked exactly like the rest of the field plants.

Rarely, it has been necessary to repeat this treatment the following winter. Generally, however, these plants have joined the norm after one season. If, after a couple of years, any plant fails to respond and deteriorates further, consider digging it up.



Boxwood in the Commercial Landscape

Harrison Symmes



Photo: Harrison Symmes

Buxus sempervirens var. suffruticosa 'Esso Station, Washington and Franklin Streets'

Have you watched any urban boxwood plantings year after year along your main commuting route and wondered what will be their fate? Probably so. And probably you have seen some of them disappear when old houses have been razed and old plantings bulldozed for new residential or commercial developments.

For many years beginning in the fifties I saw the two boxwoods in the accompanying photograph and marvelled at their billowing luxuriance next to a busy gasoline station at a major intersection in Alexandria, Virginia. Think of the fumes to which those plants were exposed. And yet they went on year after year with little or no attention but lots of stress. Finally on July 1, 1972, I decided to get cuttings of this plant. The then operator of the gasoline station (it was still ESSO in those days) was most obliging and said that his father had planted the two boxwoods about fifty years earlier. My cuttings struck successfully, and now I have several fine specimens of

Buxus sempervirens var. suffruticosa 'Esso Station, Washington and Franklin Streets.'

Then in 1981 a minor catastrophe occurred. A new station owner decided to prune the two boxwoods. This consisted of running an electric hedge clipper flat across the tops of the two plants. There was never such a crewcut nor such an example of what I call "New England Botching." (Have you ever wondered about the flattops New England homeowners invariably give their evergreens?) Well there it was in Alexandria. I did not have the heart to photograph the calamity. It has taken two years for it to grow out enough to hide most of the flatness, but meanwhile the station is vacant. I am waiting for the axe to fall on the site, and I am glad I took those cutting back in 1972.

Editor's note. Readers are encouraged to submit similar items on boxwoods planted in public or commercial locations where they give an esthetic uplift to the everyday beholder.

Christmas Greenery Workshops At Blandy Set for December 3 and 10, 1983

Yes, it's time once again to think about Christmas. Attending a Christmas Greenery Workshop at the University of Virginia's Blandy Experimental Farm is a great way to get in the mood for the Holiday Season.

This year's 12th annual workshops will be held on Saturday, December 3 and Saturday, December 10. Participants can sign up for either session. (Both sessions will be the same.) Workshops begin at 9:30 and last until approximately 3:30.

As in the past, four projects will be made, and lunch will be provided. All of the basic materials are supplied by Blandy. The greens are cut fresh in the Orland E. White Arboretum and include pine, fir, arbor vitae, *chamaecyparis*, juniper and, of course, boxwood. Participants are asked to bring pruning shears, work gloves, and such materials as they may wish to incorporate in their projects.

It is not too early to register now because the sessions are limited in size and registrants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, upon receipt of check. Blandy finds that many people return year after year, with attendance at a Blandy Holiday Greenery Workshop a part of their Christmas Tradition.

One of our ABS members, Mrs. John N. Hart, wrote as follows concerning the 1982 workshop that she and Mr. Hart attended: "It was a beautiful day and a delightful occasion. We made gifts of most of our products. The recipients were enthusiastic."

For more information about registration or other aspects of the Workshop, please write to:

Holiday Greenery Workshop
Blandy Experimental Farm
University of Virginia
P. O. Box 175
Boyce, Virginia 22620
(703) 837-1758



*Photos: Estellita R. Hart
Participants in action at the Christmas Greenery
Workshop, December 4, 1982.*

Mark Your Calendar Now **FIFTH ABS GARDEN TOUR**

April 28-29, 1984

Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill Area, North Carolina
(More information in the next *Boxwood Bulletin*)

Growing Boxwood in Milwaukee

Editor's Note. A request to the ABS from Mr. Steven E. Roesch, a young botanist in Milwaukee, for help in locating a source of boxwood cultivars hardy in his area has led to an interesting exchange of correspondence. Mr. Roesch has kindly given permission to publish some of his observations, made over a period of several weeks, on the hardiness of boxwood in the Milwaukee area and the opportunities for growing it there.

July 2, 1983

—First, a note about boxwood in southern Wisconsin. 'Vardar Valley' is completely successful, and I know of no winter damage so far. *B. m.* var. *koreana* 'Wintergreen' is equally successful, and does not even discolor in winter, like some *B. microphylla* cultivars. The largest 'Wintergreen' I've seen here is about four feet tall. 'Vardar Valley' is an excellent deep green all year.

—Our climate is far more severe than St. Louis. Wind chills were about 100 degrees below zero during the winter of 1981-82, with lows ranging from 26 to 40 degrees below zero. Soils are alkaline clays (pH 8.5-7.5)... In spite of these difficulties, the varieties of boxwood grow easily, and even without any soil amendments that make rhododendrons such a problem. They are without a doubt the best broadleaf evergreen for the area. I am interested in introducing more varieties to this area. 'Inglis' and 'Northern Find' are supposedly larger than 'Vardar Valley', which is why I want them.

July 9, 1983

—I had a long talk with [ABS member] Bryan Gore. I was very surprised to find out that none of his *Buxus sempervirens* cultivars had ever failed... As Bryan probably told you, he bought boxwood "greens" for holiday decoration... He rooted them instead, and after 7 years they are now 3-4 feet tall, and are perfectly hardy. So contrary to what I had believed there are many more boxwoods growing well here. All cultivars of *Buxus microphylla* are doing equally well.

—I was also unaware of all the recent cultivars of *Buxus sempervirens*, such as 'Welleri', 'Fiori', 'Pullman' and others that are good in the north.

July 23, 1983

—I'm always looking for new evergreens to grow because of our long winter season. I've noticed for some time that common "southern" ornamentals seem to do well in Milwaukee in spite of the fact that the garden books don't recommend them for the north. My information about boxwood originally came from Wyman's encyclopedia. I guess boxwood was in the back of my head for a long time, and I just recently decided to do something about it. Up until about a month ago I thought I was the only one in Wisconsin who believed boxwood could be used here. I was very surprised at Bryan Gore's experience and success, which is not common with all new introductions. It amazes me that we can grow a plant that the ancient Romans cultivated.

—...there are few [boxwood] growers in Wisconsin; it was only this year that I saw a mature 'Vardar Valley'. The Boerner Botanical Gardens use many *B. m.* var. *koreana* clipped into little hedges. Boerner is part of the Milwaukee county park system; the whole garden must cover about 200 acres or more. It has a large AARS trial section, and I'm thinking of asking them about boxwood trials... It is really an outstanding garden...and has most of the plants that it is possible to grow in the north.

—I did finally get in touch with Mary Gamble of the Midwest group, and she sent me cuttings of 'Inglis', 'Cliffside' and 'Pullman'. I'd really like to try 'Northern Find' and 'Ipek'. Mrs. Gamble is so interested in 'Northern Find' that I'm going to send her some. 'Fiori' I have never seen; I only know what Bryan Gore told me. It is from a nurseryman in northern Illinois of the same name.

August 19, 1983

—I noticed some 'Green Velvet' plants at Boerner, put in last year, I think. They look to me like a cultivar of *B. sempervirens*. Maybe they are indeed hybrids.

—For the immediate future I would like to grow as many 'Vardar Valley' plants as I can for distribution next spring. I think it is such a fine plant that there is not much need for me to experiment with other low-growing *Buxus*.

Boxwood — “The Fragrance Of Eternity”

James C. Wilfong

Biographical Note: Having retired from the C&P Telephone Company and settled in Calvert County, Maryland, Mr. Wilfong is now writing occasional columns for newspapers on his two favorite subjects: boxwood at historic sites, primarily in Maryland, and his despotic cat, Reds Wilfong. With over thirty years of seeking out and photographing boxwoods he has accumulated a wealth of knowledge concerning their location, size and condition, not to mention an impressive collection of photographs.

Boxwood fragrance has been described as cat-like, but Oliver Wendell Holmes waxed more rhetorical when he called it “the fragrance of eternity.” Its aroma has been cited as a cure for sinus headaches. Possibly the Colonial, with his limited medical knowledge and supplies, gave his prized plantings additional regard for this reason without realizing quite why.

The English Colonial had two great horticultural loves. One, the American holly, he found here on his arrival and he took it to his heart because he had



Photo: James C. Wilfong

Ancient boxwood at Cross Manor, St. Mary's County, Maryland today is more tree trunk than rounded green bush.

known its English counterpart at home. The other, he brought with him. This was his boxwood. Known to botanists as Dutch boxwood, the English love and admiration for these billowing green bushes has become so legendary that the English appellation has become a part of our lexicon.

Of the two types of boxwood known to the English Colonial, the common box grows much faster than the English box and for some curious reason it has come to be known as American box. But it too, was brought here by the British Colonial.

English (Dutch) box is also known as dwarf box and edging box. These compact bushes of small shiny green leaves grow very slowly. Traditionally, the rate of growth is an inch or less per year. Bushes three feet in height are eye-catching and command high prices on the retail market due to the very slow growth and the difficulty involved in transplanting. It is necessary in general to move a ball of earth nearly equivalent in size to the mass of green above.

Many of Maryland's storied mansions are graced by "dwarf" box that simply refused to follow the script. Boxwood six feet in height is commonplace at some of our 17th and 18th century architectural structures. That at Cross Manor in St. Mary's County fell from its own great weight and height. Today, for the most part, it is more tree trunk formations than rounded green bush. (See Page 50). Captain Ridgely, owner of Hampton in Baltimore County, specified in his will of 1787 that his box gardens continue to be maintained after his death.

As early as 1770 a Boston newspaper advertised imported box for use in edging walks. In the ensuing two hundred years a number of walks, once edged with box, have been picturesquely sealed entirely by these glorious bushes of bright green. Love of this prized plant from our Colonial days seems universal. Few cases come to light of a householder cutting the sea of green to reopen a closed walkway.

Maryland's champion American box in 1955 stood in the heart of Princess Anne, Somerset County, on John Roberts' property. Hurricane Hazel stripped this magnificent specimen down to clothes-prop proportions. It had a trunk circumference of one foot and two inches, stood eighteen feet in height and had a spread of fourteen feet. The WPA guide to *Virginia — the Old Dominion* says of the American box at Castle Hill, near Charlottesville, "A garden is separated from the deep lawn by another box hedge that in some places is nearly 40 feet high." Another source cites this hedge as the largest in America.



From the Archives

Editor's note. The following poem first appeared in The Boxwood Bulletin on Page 11, Vol. 4, No. 1 (July 1964). We reprint it here, with the original acknowledgement of permission, for the benefit of newer members who might otherwise never enjoy this tribute in verse to boxwood.

Boxwood

Louise Townsend Nicholl

The kitchen gardens and the ambient farm
Have come to gentle and persisting harm.
On the far slope the orchards lie like smoke,
A smudge, a smolder, of extinguished timber,
The fire of fruiting sunken into ember.

Only the plot of boxwood long outstays
The ill — massive, luxuriant and warm,
A strong and sternly ornamental flux
Now neither bush nor border, hedge nor maze,
But faithful to its ancient molded form
Of fisted hand, of hooded cup, the box
Which holds reserves of special power, the pyx.

An old ally of knowledge and of art
This is the close-grained, ageless wood to use
In the fair service of exactitude,
The sweet-toned instruments around the Muse
And tools precise to work with magnitude.
For those who plant to apple and to grape
The orchards and the vineyards of the heart,
Finding at last how seasonal is fruit,
This treasure growing in its classic shape
Must be the green and sempiternal root.

From the book, The Explicit Flower by Louise Townsend Nicholl. Copyright, 1952, by E. P. Dutton and Co., Inc. Reprinted by permission of the publishers.

Permission also granted by Miss Nicholl and the Saturday Review, which published her poem in the issue of January 12, 1952.

Minutes of the Spring Meeting of the Board of Directors

March 24, 1983

The Board of Directors of the American Boxwood Society held their spring meeting at the Greencroft Club near Charlottesville, Virginia on Thursday, March 24, 1983. The following Officers and Directors were present: Professor Albert S. Beecher, Mr. Scot Butler, Mr. Thomas E. Ewert, Professor James A. Faiszt, Dr. Walter S. Flory, Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Mr. William A. Gray, Mr. Richard D. Mahone, Mr. Dayton S. Mak, Mr. Harrison Symmes and Mrs. Katherine Ward. Mrs. Scot Butler was also present. President Mahone called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$11,812.20.

A proposal was made to elect a part-time Executive Treasurer to handle correspondence and administrative duties, as well as the financial responsibilities of the Society.

Membership: Mr. Symmes deferred to Mrs. Frackelton, who presented a revised, up-to-date membership list which she and Mrs. Ward had compiled since the last Board meeting. Mrs. Frackelton noted that current membership stands at 628 rather than the 900 or more members that were carried on the former list.

Memorial Garden: Mr. Ewert reported that the garden appeared to have been little damaged by the heavy snowfall in February and work was continuing to link together the various sections of the garden through additional plantings.

Research: Mr. Gray reported that the first phase of the boxwood field research project being conducted by the Virginia Truck and Ornamental Research Station at Virginia Beach had been successfully completed. The Board voted to send payment of \$500 for the second phase to the Research Station before May 1. Mr. Gray proposed that the Society encourage research on the mycorrhizal factor in root-rot (i.e., the symbiotic relationship between certain fungi and the root cells of boxwood). It was agreed that Professor Faiszt and Dr. Flory would draw up a list of universities and research organizations with capability in this field and send it to Mr. Gray to follow up.

Annual Meeting: Mrs. Frackelton gave a synopsis of the program planned for the Annual Meeting, noting that the educational part



Officers and Board at Greencroft Club on March 24, 1983. From left: Ewert, S. Butler, Gray, Mahone, Frackelton, Ward, J. Butler, Faiszt, Mak, Flory, Beecher and Symmes.

would be presented by the Boxwood Society of the Midwest.

Boxwood Workshops: Professor Faiszt reported on the status of three proposed boxwood workshops.

The Boxwood Bulletin: Mr. Butler reported that the April issue should be ready for mailing about March 28. The Board voted to print 800 copies of this and future issues in order to have sufficient copies to fill extra requests.

Buyers' Guide and Boxwood Handbook: Professor Beecher suggested that the *Buyers' Guide* not attempt to go into such matters as prices and types as both are constantly changing. It would be better, he said, simply to provide lists of nurseries which handle boxwood. With regard to the *Handbook*, Professor Beecher said that he would soon be calling upon Board members to review articles for publication and to advise on the next steps to be taken.

Boxwood Tours: The President invited suggestions from the Board members as to suitable areas for future tours, with an eye to scheduling the next one in the spring of 1984.

Fall Board Meeting: Dr. Flory and Professors Beecher and Faiszt were asked by the President to recommend a place convenient to them for the next meeting of the Board in the fall of 1983.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m., a recess having previously been taken for lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayton S. Mak
Secretary

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

INFORMATION

Address: Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Regular membership dues of The American Boxwood Society are now \$10.00. This includes a subscription to *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

Non-member subscriptions are for groups and institutions such as botanic gardens, libraries, etc. They are \$10.00 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 \$2.00.

Besides regular membership dues at \$10.00 per year, there are other classes of membership available:

Category	Annual Dues
Individual	\$10
Family	15
Contributing	25
Sustaining	50
Life	250
Patron	500 or more
Institutional subscriber	10

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.

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

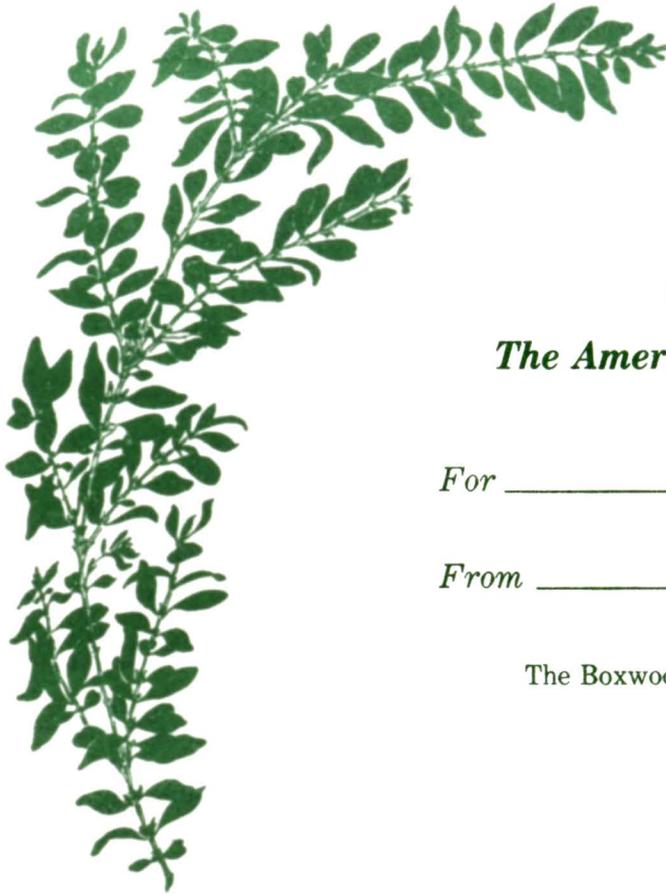
In some cases, depending upon the nature of your request, your letter may be forwarded to a member of the Board or another appropriate member who can provide the help you have requested.

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:

Mr. Scot Butler, Editor
The Boxwood Bulletin
Box 85
Boyce, Virginia 22620



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Christmas Gift Membership
in the
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175, Boyce, Virginia 22620.