

January 1984

The

Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



Photo: University of North Carolina

Trail in the North Carolina Botanical Garden. (See Page 55.)

Edited under the Direction of

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

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The Editor solicits and will welcome contributions of articles; news; notes; photographs, suitable for reproduction, of boxwood specimens, gardens, and plantings; and other items of probable interest to readers.

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Editor - Scot Butler
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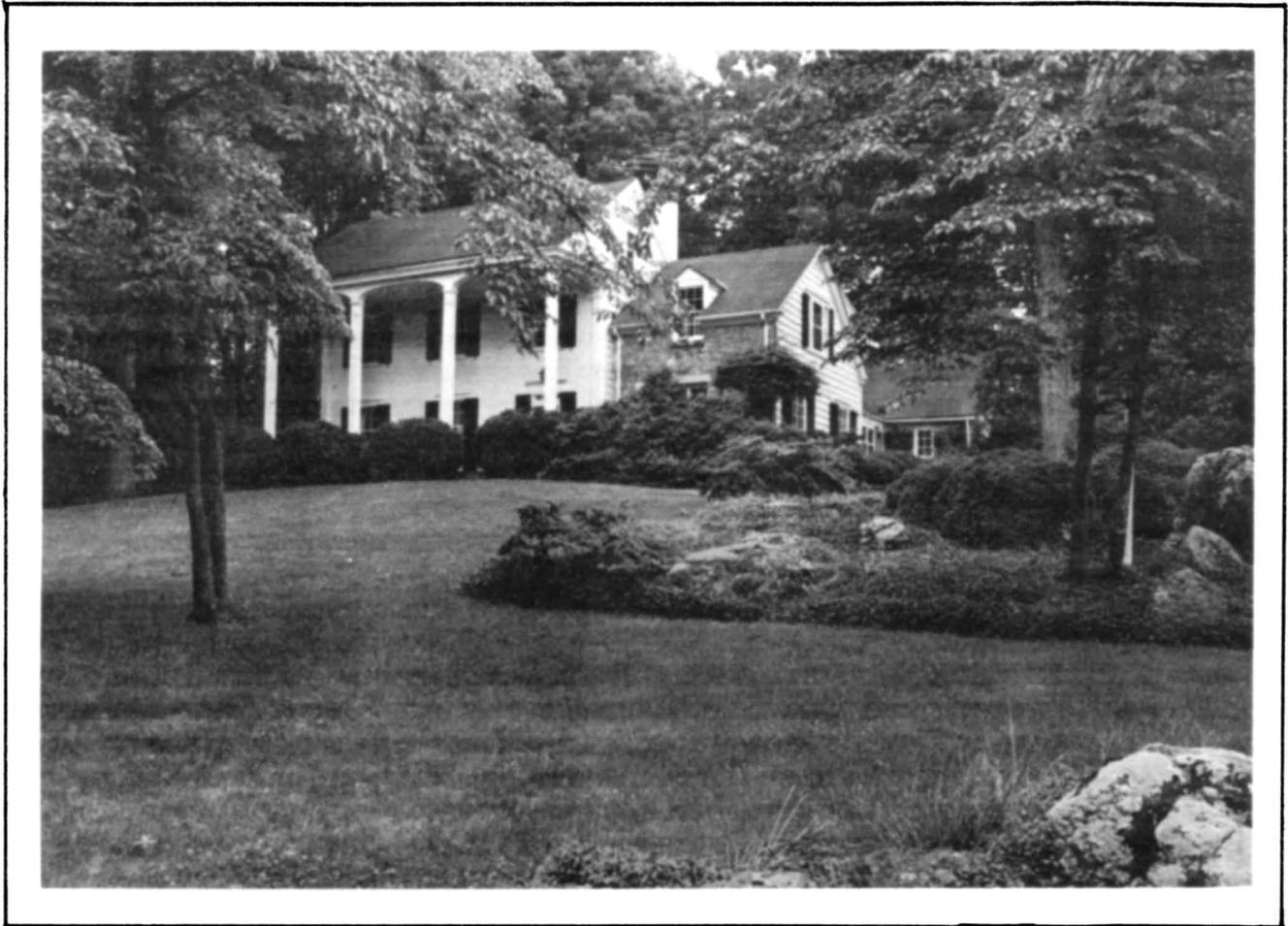
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FIFTH ABS GARDEN TOUR

Saturday and Sunday, April 28-29, 1984



Garden of Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Wileman, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

North Carolina's Research Triangle, comprising Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, will host the American Boxwood Society's Fifth Annual Tour on April 28-29, 1984. Spring in this part of the land, resplendent with azaleas and dogwoods, is unequalled in beauty. And although boxwood is sometimes a challenge here, some outstanding examples have been uncovered. Visits will be made to six private gardens and to campus gardens of three universities.

Itinerary

Saturday, April 28

9:00 a.m. Bus leaves Radisson Plaza, downtown Raleigh, for Chapel Hill where we will visit two gardens on Country Club Road. The boxwood

garden of Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Wileman, which was planted in the 1950s, gives evidence of the tender loving care of its present owners. We will enjoy coffee at the home of their neighbor, Mrs. Bernard Boyd, whose hillside garden of azaleas and native ferns is a traffic-stopper on the eastern approach to Chapel Hill.

10:45 a.m. After a brief stop to view the boxwood garden at the University of North Carolina's Morehead-Patterson Bell Tower, we will tour the house and garden of Dr. and Mrs. Lee Wiley, 412 Cameron Avenue. The house was built in the

late 19th Century and the garden, laid out in the 1940s, was modeled after the one at the Galt House in Williamsburg. It was designed to give the owners an outdoor sitting place, now shrunken in size by the 40-year-old English boxwood. A serpentine wall designed by the late Alden Hopkins of Williamsburg shortly before his death encloses the north side of the garden.

12:15 p.m. After a drive through the historic campus of the oldest state university in the nation (1795) and a brief look at its Coker Arboretum, we will arrive at the Williamsburg-style garden of Mrs. Josephine McMillan Killefer, built at the same time as Mrs. Wiley's garden.

1:00 p.m. Lunch at the Hotel Europa, a new Chapel Hill hotel in the European tradition.

2:30 p.m. Tour of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, a collection of the state's native plants. In numbers of native varieties North Carolina is surpassed only by California.

3:45 p.m. Visit to the Sarah P. Duke Gardens of Duke University, Durham.

(Bus returns to the Radisson Plaza so that you may change for dinner.)

7:00 p.m. Cocktails and dinner at the North Carolina State University Faculty Club, Raleigh.

Sunday, April 29

9:00 a.m. Leave the Radisson Plaza for the garden of ABS member Ollie Adams in Cameron Park, Raleigh's first suburb. Her

Georgian-style house dates from 1914. The garden is mainly of scented plants and plants with interesting foliage. Boxwood is included for both reasons. The group is welcome inside to see the dining room collection of botanical prints.

10:00 a.m. Visit the North Carolina State University Arboretum on Method Road, a recently begun and growing collection of ornamentals. Dr. J. C. Ralston, Director, will be our guide.

11:30 a.m. Tour of the house and boxwood garden of ABS member Mrs. James M. Sykes in Country Club Hills. We will be served bloody marys and enjoy a garden that features English boxwood, gazebos, a garden house and other special features.

12:30 p.m. Lunch at the Carolina Country Club.

2:00 p.m. After a scenic drive past historic Mordecai House, a plantation house dating from 1785 with a garden of the 1830s (based on the description of a family member), and the splendid Victorian Governor's Mansion, we will arrive at the 1840 Capitol for a guided tour of its interior, which underwent restoration during 1971-1976. It has been called one of the finest and best preserved examples of a major civic building in Greek Revival Architecture. The present layout of the grounds was completed in 1934 from plans drawn by the Olmstead Brothers' firm of Brookline, Massachusetts. Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr., was quoted in 1928 as saying that he had "parked" the Capitol "by setting it off in a grass plot approached only at the four entrances by suitable walkways and adorned with occasional box bushes." The box bushes, sadly, no longer re-

main but the grounds include a splendid collection of trees, labeled in 1952.

(This concludes the tour and the bus will return to the Radisson Plaza. Those who must leave earlier may go straight to the hotel and forego the tour of the Capitol.)

Note: The Radisson Plaza, 420 Fayetteville Street Mall, in the heart of Raleigh's downtown area, will serve as tour headquarters. ABS members planning to spend Friday and/or Saturday nights should make their reservations promptly by calling toll free 800-228-9822 and identifying themselves as part of the ABS Tour in order to receive a special rate of \$37.50 for a room with double occupancy. Room reservations must be made by April 6. The cost of the tour, apart from lodging and breakfasts, is \$60.00. Reservations will be accepted in the order received, with tour maximum of 50 persons. No reservations can be accepted and no refunds can be made after March 30, 1984. Please use the following form or, if you do not want to cut the page, a facsimile thereof in making a reservation.

* * *

Reservation Form for ABS Tour
April 28-29, 1984

Mrs. James M. Sykes
3036 Randolph Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$_____, made payable to Betsy J. Sykes, to reserve place(s) for _____ person(s) at a cost of \$60.00 per person for the ABS Tour, Saturday and Sunday, April 28, 29. I understand this payment covers bus transportation Saturday and Sunday, two lunches and Saturday night dinner, but not lodging nor breakfasts (see NOTE above). I enclose names, addresses, and telephone numbers of persons covered by this reservation.

The North Carolina Botanical Garden

Among the attractions scheduled on the Fifth ABS Garden Tour in April 1984 is the North Carolina Botanical Garden, a department of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. This Botanical Garden serves as a center for the display, interpretation, study and conservation of plants native to the southeastern United States. Comprising approximately 300 acres located south of the University's campus, the Garden features the following collections and displays: mountain, coastal plain and sandhill habitat simulations; nature trail; herb garden; aquatic plants; carnivorous plants; ferns and fern allies; plant families garden; southeastern shrubs; wild flower borders; native plant landscaping.

The Garden also includes the Coker Arboretum and the Mason Farm Reserve. The Arboretum contains specimens of native and exotic trees and shrubs, dwarf conifers and shade-loving plants. The Reserve is used primarily for botanical and zoological research and for the preservation of important biological areas.



Please Mark Your Calendar Now

**Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of
The American Boxwood Society**

Wednesday, May 9, 1984

Blandy Farm

Boyce, Virginia

*Look for Information on Program and
Reservations in the April Issue*



Photo: Courtesy The J. Paul Getty Museum

The J. Paul Getty Museum Brings a Roman Villa to Life

Mary A. Gamble

The ancient Romans knew how to enjoy a garden. The patrician Roman viewed his garden both as a setting for activities of daily living and as a source of esthetic pleasure. His garden was an extension of his living space, a concept shared by many present day gardeners as evidenced in the decks, terraces, patios, pools and gardens with which they extend and enhance their homes.

In crowded Rome there was little room for private gardens. The wealthy Roman's urban dwelling might have an atrium in which guests could be welcomed in a setting of greenery. But it was in his country villa that he found space to express himself in ornamental gardens of taste and splendor, cared for with the horticultural skill which was a Roman talent. Today, at The J. Paul Getty Museum at

Santa Monica, California—on a hillside overlooking the Pacific ocean—a Roman villa has come to life.

The Getty Museum is a re-creation of the Villa dei Papiri which stood in Herculaneum, a fashionable small city at the foot of Mt. Vesuvius. Herculaneum, like Pompeii, was buried when Mt. Vesuvius erupted in A. D. 63. The site was discovered accidentally in 1716 and careful excavation followed. The magnificent Getty Museum lets us see what a great Roman villa was like.

It is built around a peristyle, an architectural concept favored by the Romans. In the peristyle a series of columns surrounds a courtyard in which the central element is a pool, around which the garden plantings skillfully emphasize the symmetry which so pleased the

Roman eye. In ancient Rome the plantings included the flowers, trees and shrubs native to the Mediterranean area as well as the "exotics" which the plant-conscious Romans collected in their conquests. Prominent among the plants was *Buxus*, which the Romans admired. Its innate elegance suited the ornamental nature of their gardens. Its glossy, evergreen foliage and slow rate of growth made it ideal for the garden art of topiary which the Romans are believed to have learned from the Syrians, but which they made their own. The *topiarius*, which to the Romans meant a landscape gardener, planned and oversaw the gardens; our word "topiary" stems from his work.

Two brief references illustrate the importance the Romans placed on *Buxus*. The first is from Pliny the Younger (A. D. 62-113) who in his *Natural History*, describes his villa garden in the hills of the Apennines, not far from Rome: "The banqueting hall gives onto a terrace of geometrical figures edged with box. On the slope below, two rows of box bushes, trimmed like animals lead down to a level lawn." The second is from the authoritative *History of Garden Art* by Marie Louise Gotheim who states that another way in which the ancient Romans employed *Buxus* was to "write" the name of the owner of the garden in that plant, a form of topiary.

When Dr. Otto Wittman, Chairman of the Acquisitions Committee, of the Getty Museum sent us the superb photograph of the Museum peristyle he also suggested that, for answers to our questions about the boxwoods in the Museum gardens, we contact Mr. John C. MacGregor IV, whom he described as a "distinguished California horticultural consultant ... who has often advised us on the plants here at the Getty Museum." We wrote Mr. MacGregor and—with that generosity which seems inborn in gardeners—he told us what he knew of the plants specifically and gave us his judgement of the plantings in general, with permission to quote from his letters. We suggest that before reading further you take a close look at the photograph.

"The hedges bordering the parterre of the main peristyle garden are a form of *Buxus microphylla*," Mr. MacGregor wrote. "I suspect it is the cultivar 'Green Beauty', although it is difficult to tell for certain when the plants are clipped as formally and as often

as they are...In the inner peristyle (not shown in photograph) there is a second form of *Buxus microphylla*, possibly a var. of *koreana*. Of course, this species was never seen by an ancient Roman, at least one who lived to tell his Neapolitan compatriots about it. Certainly, it was not growing in the gardens of Herculaneum in the first century A. D."

The several cultivars of *Buxus sempervirens* in the Museum gardens are a "mixed bag", writes Mr. MacGregor, the most prevalent being variegated with a narrow gold edge to the leaf.

Referring again to the Asian species he writes; "This is one of several plant anachronisms in a garden intended to be an authentic re-creation of an ancient landscape. To be fair, the Japanese boxwood grows very well in Southern California, tolerating our abrupt changes of temperature and humidity and the alkali and salt of our water....I am sure the availability of good sized plants influenced the landscape architect's decision to plant it instead of the more authentic *Buxus sempervirens*....These hedges are a superb design element in a layout which is generally quite faithful to ancient Roman design principles...and they are beautifully maintained. Nevertheless, *B. sempervirens* WILL grow satisfactorily in this area," which, he points out, has "a climate and exposure virtually identical to that of the Bay of Naples."

Now, take another look at the picture and consider some of the other plants which Mr. MacGregor identifies for us. The low mounds seen between the edge of the pool and the first boxwood hedge are clipped ivies (*Hedera helix*) which completely hide the pots they are planted in. The mounds on the outer sections of the parterre are the classic myrtle (*Myrtus communis*) which grows to 10 feet and which must have been the inspiration for Homer's line in the *Odyssey*: "ships of myrtle sail in seas of box." The large globes at the end of the garden are oleanders (*Nerium oleander*). The standards are *Laurus nobilis*, the noble laurel, or bay tree.

Note: Mr. MacGregor was Horticulturist at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California, for 10 years before he decided to devote his full time to consulting and writing about plants and gardens. We thank him for this insight into a great and fascinating garden. MAG

Strange Relatives — The Box Family

Jane Steffey

(Reprinted from *American Horticulturist*, October 1983, with the permission of the Author and the American Horticultural Society)

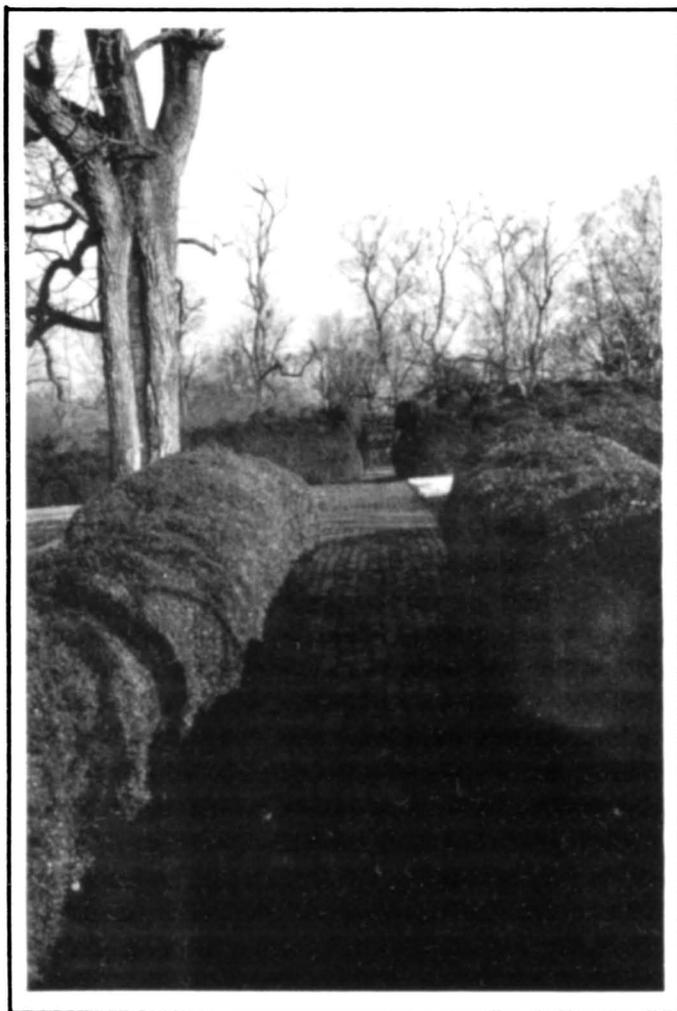


Photo: Barbara W. Ellis
The boxwood walk at AHS's River Farm Headquarters serves as an attractive entrance to the garden even in the late fall and winter.

The box family, *Buxaceae*, is a comparatively small but widely distributed family in temperate and subtropical regions. Of about seven genera, four are of horticultural interest: *Buxus*, *Sarcococca*, *Pachysandra* and *Simmondsia*. It may seem strange enough to the non-botanist that common box and ubiquitous pachysandra are related, but the

strange relative in the family is *Simmondsia*, commonly called jojoba, a native shrub of southwestern United States and Mexico.

Identifying features of this family are watery sap and persistent foliage of leathery texture. The leaves are simple and opposite or alternate on the stem. Petalless flowers, which are either male or female, are borne in spikes on the same plant or on separate plants. The calyx usually has four lobes but may have as many as 12. Male flowers usually possess four prominent stamens, in some species more than four. There are generally fewer female flowers than male. The fruit is a capsule or a fleshy berry containing black shiny seeds.

Buxus

The genus *Buxus* is comprised of several types of box, boxwood or box tree. Its small, shining leaves are opposite, evergreen and without marginal teeth. Small flowers in axillary or terminal clusters bloom in April or May. The cluster consists of a terminal female flower and several male flowers borne below it. The fruit, a three-horned capsule, ripens in June.

Of about 30 known species, two are common in cultivation—*Buxus sempervirens*, common box, and *B. microphylla*, littleleaf box. Common box, *B. sempervirens*, is a slow-growing plant originally from southern Europe. Its hard, uniform wood furnished Albrecht Durer with material for his woodblocks, and it is still used for this purpose today. This very hard, fine-grained wood is in demand also for engraving and fine turnery work, in pieces inlaid with ivory, for example.

Since the days of the Romans box has been the best of all plants for hedges and topiary work. The first home of common box in North America is thought to have been on a Long Island plantation where it was set out by Nathaniel Sylvester in 1652. Since colonial

times box has been intimately associated with gardens of temperate sections of this country. Nowhere does it do so well as in Maryland and Virginia where the grace, charm and solidity of box enhance gardens large and small.

B. sempervirens produces leaves that are very variable in size, color and shape. The most widely grown types probably are 'Suffruticosa' and 'Arborescens', both of which are cultivars of *B. sempervirens*. Sometimes called edging box, 'Suffruticosa' is a dwarf shrub often less than three feet tall at maturity. 'Arborescens' is larger usually attaining the height of a small tree. Both have standard boxwood characteristics, namely, dense, evergreen foliage and full, billowy, rounded shapes. *Suffruticosa* means somewhat shrubby; *arborescens*, becoming tree-like. Incidentally, leaves and twigs of this species are toxic.

Buxus microphylla, the littleleaf box of Japan, reached America after 1860. Rarely over three feet in height, it is hardier than common box, which it resembles except that its leaves are smaller and its branches are prominently four-angled or winged.

Some of the cultivars of *B. microphylla* are even hardier than their parent plant. 'Compacta', introduced by Kingsville Nursery in Maryland and also known as 'Kingsville Dwarf', is reportedly hardy in southern Canada.

B. microphylla var. *japonica*, Japanese box, hardy to U.S.D.A. Zone 6, also is known for its adaptability to the warm, dry climates of the Gulf States. *B. microphylla* var. *koreana*, Korean box, is hardy in Zone 4; however, its foliage turns brown in winter and therefore it is not a box of choice for many landscape plantings. Its cultivars 'Tide Hill', 'Wintergreen' and others are considered improved selections for permanent green color in the garden. Both Japanese and Korean box are very hardy, but they lack the pleasant fragrance characteristic of common box.

Sarcococca

A small group of Asiatic and Malayan evergreen shrubs, the sarcococcas, provide two or three species for the shrub border and for ground covers. These plants, which are also commonly known as sweet box, differ from *Buxus* in having leaves that are longer and are arranged alternately on the stem. Leaves of both are leathery. Like box, sarcococcas are slow growing. Five species have been introduc-

ed to cultivation and have proved winter hardy in many parts of Great Britain. In the United States, two or three are planted for ornament. The flowers are small, whitish and without petals. Each plant bears clusters of male and female flowers in the leaf axils. Male flowers are borne above the female flowers. The male flowers, which are borne in great profusion, are showy because of their white, one-inch-long stamens tipped with pink or cream-colored anthers. Fruit is a black or dark red, fleshy berry with one or two seeds. The name, a tongue twister sounding almost like the name of a disease, is derived from Greek words meaning fleshy and berry, an allusion to the fruit.

Sarcococcas are most useful on the Pacific Coast and in southern states, U.S.D.A. Zone 8 southward. They are hardy in the north only in sheltered places. The four-to-six-foot Himalayan sarcococca, *Sarcococca hookerana*, is cultivated in Washington and Oregon for its lustrous two- to three-inch, lance-shaped leaves. Fragrant flowers, borne in mid-spring, appear in short racemes, male and female in the same tuft. Its fruits, which ripen in autumn, are black berries. Half the height of *S. hookerana* and hardier is its variety *S. hookerana* var. *humilis*. This plant from western China can be used as a ground cover because it rarely exceeds two feet.

S. ruscifolia, which has leaves resembling the butcher's broom, *Ruscus*, is fragrant sarcococca from central China. It flowers in great profusion and is extremely fragrant. Its dark scarlet fruits are persistent, so spring flowers and colorful fruits often appear together among the leaves. In cultivation it is not as tall as in the wild, making it a useful ground cover. It is more tender than *S. hookerana*, and blooms and fruits heavily in the San Francisco Bay area. Elsewhere it is suited for U.S.D.A. Zone 7.

S. saligna, whose name refers to its resemblance to willows, *Salix* sp., has drooping willowlike branches. Its pale, bright green leaves, six inches long and one inch broad, are willowlike as well. In gardens where it can withstand the winters it is an attractive bush-shaped bush for the shrub border, but it is quite tender and suffers leaf tip burn quickly.

Pachysandra

Two perennial herbs of value as ground covers in shade because of their more or less evergreen leaves are the spurges, *Pachysan-*

dra procumbens and *P. terminalis*. Masses of leathery leaves, spoon-shaped and with irregularly toothed margins, produce low, dense growth. Their very early flowers are attractive to bees. A small white berry results from pollination.

These two species present a classic example of instances in which two closely related species have been found, one in eastern North America, and the other in eastern Asia. *P. procumbens*, mountain pachysandra or Alleghany spurge, is the American native. It was discovered in the southern Appalachians by the French botanist, Andre Michaux, during his travels in this part of the world in the late 1790's. Alleghany spurge is hardy far north of its natural range in the southeastern and southcentral states. It is trailing at first, then becomes erect, reaching a height of about one foot. It may vary from deciduous to evergreen. If the foliage deteriorates in winter, flower spikes appear before the leaves in spring, but a solid leaf cover develops by May or June. Its summer foliage is a mottled, dingy gray-green. By fall and winter, it is bronze.

Although the leaves are alternate on the stem, they appear whorled because they are so closely spaced. Flower spikes three or four inches long arise directly from the rootstock. Individually small, but numerous enough to be conspicuous, these pinkish-white blossoms are pleasingly fragrant. Both male and female flowers occur on the spike, a few females at the base and abundant pink-stamened male flowers at the top. Fruits are inconspicuous and may not even develop in cultivation.

P. terminalis, Japanese spurge, is truly evergreen, with thick glossy foliage forming a dense mat. It succeeds in either sun or shade and has been a favorite ground cover for many years. It spreads by underground rootstocks and has a tendency to crowd out some delicate things that get in its way. The small white flowers, borne in May, come at the top (*terminalis*) of the stem, which distinguishes this spurge from *P. procumbens*. The cultivar 'Variegata' has leaves splashed with white. The plant reaches a height of about one foot.

Simmondsia

Simmondsia, a genus with only a single species, has come to the forefront of public attention only in recent years, not for its garden interest but for its economic value. The

species, *S. chinensis*, is the source of jojoba oil for some of our toiletries and cosmetics and for certain industrial uses. Although it is an American native, this plant was named for a nineteenth-century English naturalist, F. W. Simmonds. It is the only member of the box family native to California. Jojoba occurs naturally over an extensive area in the Sonoran Desert that covers parts of Arizona, California and Mexico. It is an evergreen xerophyte, meaning a plant adapted to withstand extremely dry conditions. Because of its evergreen habit and the relatively large size of its leaves, it is exceptional among North American desert plants, where the great majority of woody perennials have small and ephemeral leaves.

Jojoba plants are dioecious: male flowers are borne on one plant, female, on another. Female flowers are small, solitary and appear at alternate leaf axils. Male flowers, on the other hand, are more showy. They are clustered in pale greenish-yellow axillary heads. It is the pistillate, or female, plant that bears the seed, an acornlike one-seeded capsule. The plant does not reach seed-bearing maturity until it is four or five years old, and the sex of the plant cannot be determined until it flowers. Seed productivity varies considerably from year to year, and it is in the seed-bearing capacity of the plant that its economic importance resides.

This subtropical North American desert plant is unique in the vegetable kingdom; it secretes liquid wax in its seeds rather than the glyceride oils secreted by other plants. They are difficult to synthesize and the only other source of such wax is the sperm whale.

In the 1970's jojoba became the subject of intensive research as a source of oil usable as a substitute for sperm whale oil in a variety of industrial uses such as in lubricants for high-speed machinery, and as an ingredient of soaps, cosmetics, floor wax, auto wax and furniture polish. According to the National Academy of Sciences, the development of jojoba as a crop promises to provide important economic benefits to arid tropical and subtropical regions. The plant tolerates extreme desert temperatures, thriving under soil and moisture conditions not suitable for most agricultural crops.

In 1977 the NAS concluded that the future of a jojoba industry lies in developing the natural shrub into a cultivated crop. In consequence,

significant research is being conducted at Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum, the University of Arizona's Office of Arid Land Studies and Department of Plant Science, and at other research institutions.

The British periodical, *New Scientist* (December 23-30, 1982), reported that "a laboratory in Britain has demonstrated a way of building up a bank of male and female clones of jojoba by plant tissue culture ... a vast supply of identical, disease-free plants. The laboratory is exporting its first plants in a ratio of one male to seven females to Arizona and the Middle East."

Meanwhile, the ornamental potential of jojoba has not gone unnoticed by horticulturists, who point out that its habit of growth is reminiscent of boxwood. Like common box, it is evergreen, and its numerous branching stems produce attractive hemispherical mounds of foliage. Because of this similarity, *Simmondsia* might well be used in the Southwest as a substitute for box. Under normal conditions it should require little or no training; its compact habit would lend itself to judicious clipping or shearing as required to keep the plant shapely. Although it is not widely recognized as a subject for ornamental planting, it is seen in a few Southwestern gardens and growing under natural conditions in arboreta. It is grown from seed and is listed by at least one western seed source as a dense mounding evergreen of four to eight feet in height. Although native to frost-free areas (U.S.D.A. Zone 10), at maturity it is hardy to 15°F.

River Farm, our headquarters property, is graced by some handsome members of the box family—our old box hedges. A former owner purchased some of these plants for his estate in the early 1920's when old boxwood plants were being assembled for landscaping the grounds of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. They thrive here still and are much admired always.

Note: Jane Steffey, recently retired as the American Horticultural Society's horticultural advisor, is now an active AHS volunteer and continues to serve as Editorial Advisor to American Horticulturist. We regret that space limitations have made it necessary to cut slightly Miss Steffey's original article.

Calendar of Some Coming Boxwood-Related Events

- 5 April 1984. Boxwood Workshop at Faculty Club of North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. For program and registration, see Page 66.
- 21-19 April 1984 Historic Garden Week in Virginia. Details will appear in the April *Boxwood Bulletin*, or contact: Historic Garden Week Headquarters, The Garden Club of Virginia, 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219, Telephone (804) 644-7776.
- 26 April — 13 May 1984 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage. Details in the April *Bulletin*, or contact: Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage, 1105 Providence Road, Towson, MD 21204, Telephone (301)821-6933.
- 28-29 April 1984. Fifth ABS Garden Tour: Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, North Carolina. For information on itinerary and reservations, see Page 53.
- 9 May 1984. Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society, Blandy Farm, Boyce, Virginia. Watch for details of program and registration in the April *Boxwood Bulletin*.
- 21-26 October 1984. Sixth International Conference on Jojoba and its Uses, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel. Additional details on the Conference will be published in a future *Boxwood Bulletin*, or write to: Sixth International Conference on Jojoba and its Uses, P. O. B. 3473, Tel-Aviv 61 033, Israel.

ABS Executive Treasurer

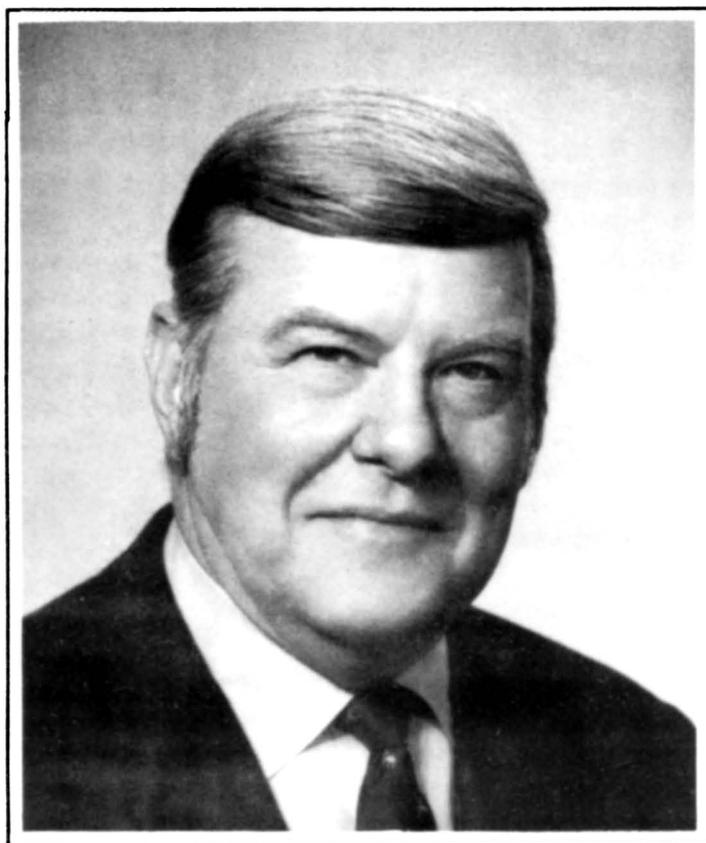


Photo: Chase Ltd., Washington

William A. Bryarly

Editor's Note: At the last Annual Meeting Mr. William A. Bryarly was elected to succeed Mrs. Katherine Ward as Executive Treasurer of the American Boxwood Society. The loss of Mrs. Ward was a blow to the Society, but we were more than fortunate to have Mr. Bryarly step forward when needed to fill this responsible office. His qualifications could not have been better suited for the position and he lives conveniently close to ABS headquarters at Blandy to keep on top of the daily business that requires a Treasurer's attention.

"Time flies and so have the months since I was elected your Treasurer at the 1983 Annual Meeting. Before that time I was snug in my retirement raising and breeding Charolais cattle.

"Before retiring from business in December 1980 I was First Vice President and Director of the McLachlen National Bank in Washington, D. C. I have continued to serve as a Director since retirement.

"I commenced my banking career with the Riggs National Bank at a time when Robert V. Fleming was Chief Executive Officer. It was a memorable experience. In 1965 I left Riggs to become President of City Bank and Trust Company in Alexandria, Virginia until it was acquired by Dominion Bank-Shares in 1968.

"But what, you may ask, does a professional background in banking have to do with boxwood? Upon retirement I returned to our family homestead near Boyce, Virginia. The farm, including a house built in 1779, has been occupied by a Bryarly for the last 204 years. My forebears planted boxwoods along the drive and in front of the house. I had always admired them but did not really appreciate their historical and horticultural significance until I became associated with the American Boxwood Society and started reading the informative quarterly *Bulletin*.

"This appreciation has grown, and now we have planted a new boxwood garden which we hope will grace Walnut Grove for our son and his son."

MINIATURE BOXWOODS IN THE SECREST ARBORETUM

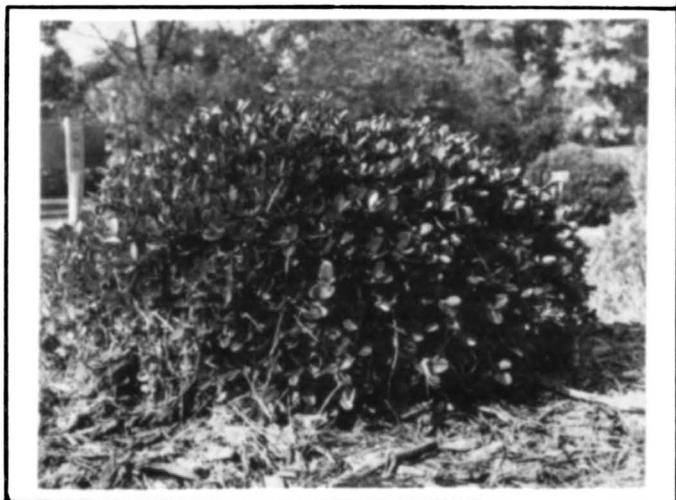
John E. Ford

(Reprinted from *Secrest Arboretum Notes*, Autumn 1983, with permission of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, The Ohio State University, Wooster, Ohio)

Miniature boxwoods are a real challenge to grow around Wooster, Ohio. They require special micro-climates where they will be protected from winds and winter sunshine. The site should have adequate moisture but good drainage. A number of very slow-growing boxwood cultivars have been selected. Some grow so slowly that they are not grown commercially. A miniature upright selection made by the late Victor Ries of The Ohio State University Department of Horticulture has been grown at Wooster on a very protected site and has taken 35 years to reach 9 inches tall with a 5-inch spread.

Several miniature types of boxwood have been outplanted in the Secrest Arboretum over the past 16 years. When planted on exposed windy sites, they haven't survived two winters. When set out on protected sites, they have survived the recent severe winters with temperatures dropping to -20°F when they were protected by snow cover.

'Green Pillow' Littleleaf Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla* 'Green Pillow') is well-named as it is a dense green mound shaped like a green circular pillow. Set out as a 4-inch rooted cutting, after 16 growing seasons it is 10 inches high with a 21-inch spread. It took 7 years to reach 8



'Green Pillow' Littleleaf Boxwood, 10 inches high and 21 inches wide after 16 growing seasons.

inches and an additional 9 years to reach 10 inches. During the especially severe winters of 1976-77, 1977-78, and 1978-79, when temperatures dropped to -20°F , some tip kill occurred underneath a heavy snow cover. The plant does suffer from slight tip kill many winters when exposed above snow cover but quickly recovers in the spring. The occasional slight tip kill along with slow growth combine to keep this a very compact dense plant as though it were sheared into shape.

'Kingsville Dwarf' Littleleaf Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla* 'Compacta Kingsville Dwarf'), like 'Green Pillow', has also been grown in the Arboretum dwarf evergreen plot for 16 years. Set out as a 3-inch rooted cutting, after 16 growing seasons it has a somewhat oval shape 10 inches high with a spread of 12 by 13 inches. When protected by a heavy snow cover, 'Kingsville Dwarf' has survived winters when the temperatures fell to -17°F to -20°F . There is some slight tip kill each winter that acts as a natural pruning agent, keeping the plant dense and compact. Recovery is so complete each spring that by the end of summer one wouldn't suspect that the plant had ever been injured.

A third miniature boxwood outplanted in the Arboretum is 'Morris Medium Dwarf' Littleleaf Boxwood (*Buxus microphylla* 'Morris Medium Dwarf'). Set as a 5-inch rooted cutting, it has required 14 growing seasons to reach 11 inches in height with a 16 by 19-inch spread making a dense compact mound. During the three severe winters in a row from 1976 to 1979, one-third of the plant was destroyed. However, it has completely recovered and presently shows no signs of ever having been damaged.

The three varieties of boxwood, 'Green Pillow', 'Kingsville Dwarf', and 'Morris Medium Dwarf', are only marginally hardy on protected sites at Wooster where low temperatures of between -10°F and -20°F can be expected most winters.

THE SEASONAL GARDENER

Tips on Winter Care of Boxwood

Albert S. Beecher

Snow Removal. Remove snow from boxwood during or after a snowstorm by shaking the bush with a broom or stick. However, do not attempt to remove snow if branches are frozen, as breakage will occur.

Winter Plucking. When weather permits, "pluck" plants that need it and clean out the interiors. Plucking can be done by hand or with the use of hand clippers. It is a slow operation and takes time, particularly if you have many plants. But plucking or thinning helps to produce a strong, healthy plant because it allows light to penetrate to the interior of the plant.

Transplanting. If the ground is not frozen or too wet, boxwoods can be transplanted in late February or March. Dig the hole approximately the depth of the root ball. It is best to place boxwoods on firm soil. If the root ball is heavy and placed on soft filled earth, it will settle and be planted too deep. The top surface of the root ball should be slightly higher than the surrounding area. One of the most common mistakes in transplanting is to plant boxwoods too deep, with the result that they slowly die.

Dig the diameter of the hole larger than the diameter of the root ball by 1 to 1½ feet to permit filling with good soil around the root ball. Do not use fertilizer or manure during the planting operation. Bone meal can be used if it is thoroughly mixed with the fill soil. Be sure to water at the time of transplanting and follow up with additional watering as needed. High winds often occur in March and can quickly dehydrate boxwoods when there is a deficiency of soil moisture.

In transplanting boxwoods, be sure to reduce some of the top foliage to compensate for the loss of roots that occurs during the transplanting operation. This type of pruning is *very important* and often helps the plant to recover from the shock of being transplanted. Too often in transplanting boxwoods this pruning operation is not done.

Fertilization. In the warm climates boxwoods can be fertilized in late February, and in the colder areas late March is an ideal time. If

the plants have good foliage color and are producing good annual growth and are at the desired size, fertilization may not be warranted as it will simply result in the need for additional pruning to keep the plants at the proper size for the best design effect. However, if the foliage color is off and the annual growth is stunted, fertilization may be needed. Fertilization, however, is not a "cure all." Faulty cultural practices or environmental factors may be contributing to the poor color or limited growth.

Before applying fertilizer, check to see if any of the conditions outlined below apply to your situation. Regardless of the fertilizer program that is used, good healthy boxwood will not be grown if the cultural and/or environmental conditions are at fault.

—Failure to water during dry periods or to use mulches properly to conserve moisture.

—Excessive cultivation in controlling weeds or planting bulbs or annuals around boxwood.

—Lack of a regular "plucking" program or failure to remove debris from the center of boxwoods.

—Improper use of herbicides.

—Unfavorable soil environment (a soil that is too sandy generally does not have the capacity to hold sufficient moisture; a heavy clay may lack good subsurface drainage and boxwoods do not like wet feet).

—Strong competition for soil moisture from tree roots or aggressive ground covers like English ivy or vinca (this condition requires extra watering).

—Excessively windy or shady locations are likely to result in off-color foliage and slower growth, respectively. Plants exposed to the morning sun in winter may turn a reddish brown or yellow because their leaves are subject to rapid thawing.

If fertilization is called for, use an organic or inorganic fertilizer program.

Organic Program: A light application of poultry manure and bone meal can be made in late winter. Other suggested organic fertilizers

are dried blood, dried cow manure or cottonseed meal.

Inorganic Program: Use fertilizer, such as 10-10-10, at the rate of 1 to 2 pounds per 100 square feet when applied directly to the soil surface, or soluble (20-20-20) fertilizers for foliar and root feeding. For large plants the fertilizer can be applied by drilling a series of holes about one foot from the trunk and extending out beyond the foliage line. When applying fertilizer into drilled holes, mix the fertilizer and equal parts of rotted sawdust, sand or peatmoss. Apply the fertilizer at the rate of 2 to 3 pounds of 10-10-10 formula for each inch of trunk diameter at a height 3 feet above the ground.

A Special Warning. Fertilizers when applied to the surface can cause root burn which will later cause the foliage to turn brown or yellow. In some cases large areas of the foliage may die. To avoid damage, apply the fertilizer when the soil has sufficient moisture or be prepared to water after applying the fertilizer.

Foliage burn can also occur when foliar feeding is used. The residue from foliar feeding that accumulates on the soil surface may damage the surface roots if the soil remains dry for a length of time after it is applied. To be on the safe side, follow up foliar feeding with a watering program.



Distribution of 'Helen Whiting'
Boxwoods

Tom Ewert, Director of the Blandy Experimental Farm of the University of Virginia, distributed 100 plants of *Buxus microphylla* var. *compacta* 'Helen Whiting' to those in attendance at the Garden Club of Virginia's District Board Meeting held in October 1983. All of these plants were propagated at Blandy from cuttings sent there from Williamsburg.

Mail Box

Editor, The Boxwood Bulletin
Box 85
Boyce, Virginia 22620

Concerning the news item "Boxwood Artifacts Found in Jerusalem Dig," which appeared in the October 1983 issue of *The Bulletin*, I would like to add the following comments.

The archeological excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem are now at a level dating from the very beginning of Jerusalem as a city—about 3000 B.C. This earliest phase of Jerusalem as an urban area was at the end of the early Bronze Age and predates the Israelites.

It is probable that native boxwood stands extended into the higher regions of the Palestine area (including portions of the modern states of Israel and Jordan) from prehistoric times. Michael Zohary's *Plant Life of Palestine* (1962) has excellent descriptions of the paleobotany of this area, and the Mediterranean Forest and Maquis plant associations he describes in present day Palestine are found in other parts of the Eastern Mediterranean and Asia Minor. Zohary makes no mention of *Buxus* as a member of these plant associations in Palestine today, but similar plant associations elsewhere in the Eastern Mediterranean frequently contain boxwood.

What happened, of course, is that as population increased in this area in late prehistoric and early historic times, the demand for wood for fuel and construction and other purposes also spiraled. Pressure on the flora of the area was exacerbated by increasing desiccation caused by new weather patterns and by more intensive agriculture and livestock culture. Once the railroads had been laid in the Ottoman Empire in the nineteenth century the fuel demands became especially acute, and many areas deforested at that time have never been reforested.

It is sad to think that any boxwood we may see in Jerusalem today is represented by ornamental plants shipped in from Italian nurseries or from nurseries elsewhere in the western Mediterranean.

Sincerely,
Harrison Symmes

NOTICES

Boxwood Workshop Set for April 5 in Raleigh, North Carolina

The American Boxwood Society, working in cooperation with the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, will sponsor a boxwood workshop in Raleigh, North Carolina on Thursday, April 5, 1984. Dr. V. P. Bonaminio, Extension Horticultural Specialist, North Carolina State University, has arranged for the meeting to be held at the University's Faculty Club and has lined up the following program:

- 9:00 - 9:30 Registration
- 9:30 - 10:30 Propagation - Dr. Frank Blazich
- 10:30 - 10:45 Coffee
- 10:45 - 11:30 Boxwood Diseases and Their Control - Dr. Ron Jones
- 11:30 - 12:15 Insects and Related Pests and Their Control - Dr. Jim Baker
- 12:15 - 1:15 Lunch at Faculty Club
- 1:15 - 2:00 Fumigation of Planting Sites - Dr. Walt Skroch
- 2:00 - 3:00 Planting and Maintenance - Prof. J. A. Faiszt
- 3:00 - 4:00 Boxwoods in the Landscape - Mr. Kim Powell

Members interested in attending this workshop should send a registration fee of \$10.00, which includes lunch at the Faculty Club, to:

Dr. V. P. Bonaminio
Extension Horticultural Specialist
164 Kilgore Hall, N. C. State University
Raleigh, NC 27650

Please make checks payable to the American Boxwood Society.

In Memory

John D. Richardson, II

F. Pierson Scott

Mrs. Burdette Wright (Elizabeth)

BOXWOOD SOCIETY OF THE MIDWEST OFFERS CUTTINGS OF 12 MIDWEST-HARDY BOXWOODS IN SPRING 1984

Because of continued requests the Boxwood Society of the Midwest again will offer cuttings from boxwoods which have done well in the Boxwood Nursery at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Missouri. Cuttings will be limited to the following seven named varieties of *Buxus sempervirens*: 'Belleville', 'Inglis', 'Pullman', 'Ste. Genevieve', 'Salicifolia', 'Vardar Valley', and 'Hermann von Schrenk'. Quantity of cuttings will be limited to 10 of any individual plant with the exception of 'von Schrenk' where the limit will be three. Cuttings of five varieties of *Buxus microphylla* will be offered. They are: 'Compacta', 'Curly Locks', 'Green Pillow', *japonica*, and 'Morris Midget', with a limit of 10 each.

Because a good number of requests for early cuttings have been received, cuttings will be taken during two periods: late March and early June. **Orders should be received by March 1st and should state in which period cuttings are wanted.** The cost of cuttings agains will be 35¢ each, with a minimum order of \$3.50. Checks should be made out to the Boxwood Society of the Midwest.

Please send your order to Mrs. George E. (Jane) Penhale, 304 Carson Road, Ferguson, MO 63135. Phone: 314-521-2712.

The Boxwood Society of the Midwest is happy to offer this service again.



Boxwood Aficionados

Estellita Hart

*Editor's Note: We are pleased to publish the following account of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hart's experiences as amateur boxwood gardeners. Their story typifies, we think, the kind of devotion to boxwood, even in the face of keen disappointments, that distinguishes boxwood lovers as a determined breed. Although their efforts were already crowned with success before they heard of the ABS, Mrs. Hart graciously writes as follows: "With our love of boxwood and our desire for greater knowledge, we were delighted to learn of the existence of the American Boxwood Society in about 1978. (There was a notice in the local paper about a tour the ABS was sponsoring.) Since joining in 1979, we have thoroughly enjoyed reading each issue of **The Boxwood Bulletin** and participating in as many of the ABS events as other commitments have permitted. We look forward to each activity with special pleasure and with the assurance that we will not be disappointed."*

My early childhood was spent in Missouri. I recall visiting Shaw's Garden in St. Louis with my parents who were ardent vegetable and flower—especially rose—gardeners. But boxwoods were never mentioned.

Then we moved to Chevy Chase, a suburb of Washington, D. C., when I was in my early teens. It was my delightful lot to be tour guide to out-of-town visitors. Mt. Vernon, especially its gardens, was always a "must" on these tours for I was fascinated by the tall boxwood-enclosed paths, the flower beds with trimmed boxwood edging and, wondrously, the large specimen plants at the entrance to the vegetable garden. These early visits impressed on me indelibly the elegance, the beauty and that certain indefinable quality of boxwood.

It was some time, however, before my initial association with boxwood had a chance to develop. During the war years my husband and I returned to the Washington area and settled in Northern Virginia. Scarcity of help at that time led the management of our complex to permit renters to "beautify" the area around

their apartments by limited gardening. We lost no time in going to Mt. Vernon where we bought souvenir rooted cuttings of boxwood for 50 cents a pot—and about ten of them as I recall—for two boxes on an entrance wall. Later, when we moved to a garden-terrace apartment where we had more planting space, we acquired additional rooted cuttings on visits to Stratford Hall, Gunston Hall and Fredericksburg. They all thrived on garden clay mixed with peat moss, well-rotted cow manure and lots of watering.

We knew nothing about the cultivation or different varieties of boxwood, only that there was a so-called "American" that grew fast and an "English" that was characterized by slow, compact growth and an intriguing fragrance. We bought only the "English" (*Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa*).

By the time we moved to our present home in May 1959, our 25 or so boxwoods were approximately 14 inches tall. We first heeled them in and then planted them about 12 feet to the south and west of the house to leave room for a walkway between. The clay soil was so hard that a pickax was required to break it up. Again, a large portion of peat moss and a goodly amount of cow manure were mixed into the clay. We felt that, with good rainfall and watering, the plants would be all right. They seemed to take hold in their new home, but shortly thereafter began to "wheaten" off, as a magazine note at that time expressed it. The same note advised that whenever that happened, a lime-sulphur spray should be applied. This I did and quickly lost all but one of them. I've never understood how that one happened to survive.

Heartbroken but not discouraged, we began all over again. Fortunately for us, a neighbor who had broken his back was raising boxwoods as paying therapy. Through a friend he obtained cuttings from one of the famous homes in Northern Virginia. We purchased a large number of newly-rooted cuttings from him for 35 cents each. Loss was minimal and our spring garden the next year was charming

with tulips, pansies, candytuft and the dark accent of the small boxwoods.

Little by little we have increased our plantings until today their presence is a delight over our entire half-acre. Each addition has required larger plants, of course. Meanwhile, out of curiosity, I stuck some broken pieces at an angle into protected spots in the flower beds. No rooting hormone was used. Almost all grew.

Two years ago, I felt that a 40' x 12' rectangular flower bed, which was bordered by boxwoods, was becoming too much to care for. I gave away 29 of the boxwoods to friends in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. The remaining 33 were dug and replanted with no ceremony—but without delay—in other locations in our own garden. All have survived.

Because we knew nothing about the care of boxwoods, we read avidly the few items that appeared in garden books or magazines. We followed their advice until we began to feel that we could use our own judgment. Being organic gardeners as far as possible, we mulched our plants until they were well established, using cocoa hulls, peanut shells and tobacco stem mixed (my favorite as long as we could find it), shredded pine bark and shredded hardwood bark. The boxwoods have been fed once a year with an indiscriminate mixture of bone meal and cottonseed meal, with emphasis on the latter; sprayed once each year early in May with Malathion; and watered and watered in dry weather with an extravagant disregard of water bills. We have flushed debris out from the center of each plant with a hard spray from the hose and shaken off snow with the end of a broom. We have not pruned them, and had not heard of plucking until we came upon a gardener at work at Oatlands who explained what he was doing and why. For several years now we have broken out branches generously for church Christmas decorations.

Aside from the loss of the first planting, mentioned above, our major problem has been a curious one. In a spot along our entrance walk two plants in the main border of boxwoods died. The old soil was removed and replaced with fresh. The second year, the new planting did not look healthy. We took samples to the local agricultural agent who pronounced them all right. The plants died. Several times the process was repeated. But before these replacement plants were completely gone, I

dug them up and replanted them at the bottom of the back garden in shade where they have had the benefit of moisture as well as fertilizer that washes down. We now have 10 beautiful boxwoods in our "infirmary": 6 of them are 38 to 42 inches high and 4 are 16 to 19 inches high. The latest replacements to occupy the trouble spot seem to be holding their own. The ground was built up before they were put in; they have been treated twice with lime and have received much extra watering.



Photo: Estellita Hart

Ten damaged boxwoods placed in "infirmary" are now vigorous specimens.

Among minor problems have been dogs and spraying. Many "dog-off" pellets have been attached to outside or otherwise vulnerable plants. The Fairfax County leash law, however, has been the greatest assistance in protecting plants from dog damage. As for spraying, we can no longer do this ourselves and the professional nurserymen can rarely do it for us at the most propitious time. Vigilance and hosing have had to substitute. An occasional interior shot of a garden pest spray under pressure is administered whenever indispensable.

We now have about 175 boxwoods ranging in age from one year to the sole survivor of our first planting (now about 32 years old and 44 inches in height). All of them are *suffruticosa* except for some *B.m. var. koreana* which we acquired from Blandy. They border our walkways and our patio. They have outgrown



Photo: Estellita Hart

Many of the 175 boxwoods are used to border walkways.

almost all other plantings. In many locations they serve as background for seasonal plant material: candytuft and crane's bill geraniums; iris, shasta daisies and poppies; daylilies; St. John's (spider)wort, bleeding heart, coral bells and De Caen anemones; lily-of-the-valley, clematis, impatiens, etc.; and hundreds of spring bulbs.



Photo: Estellita Hart

Corner boxwood, sole survivor of first planting, is 32 years old and 44 inches high.

Minutes of the Fall Meeting of the Board of Directors

October 6, 1983

The Board held its Fall Meeting at the Winton Country Club, Amherst, Virginia. President Richard Mahone called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Those in attendance in addition to the President were: Executive Treasurer William A. Bryarly, Directors Lynn R. Batdorf, Professor Albert S. Beecher, Scot Butler, Professor James A. Faiszt, Dr. Walter S. Flory, William A. Gray and Harrison Symmes. Guests were J. Thomas Brown, Albemarle County Extension Agent who accompanied Mr. Gray, and Joan Butler, Co-Editor of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

The Treasurer's Report was presented, showing a balance in the checking account on September 30, 1983 of \$3,301.90. and a balance for invested funds of \$10,375.07. (The itemized report follows these minutes.) Mr. Bryarly noted that 52 new members had joined the Society since the Annual Meeting in May. The membership is now about 625. The omission of a record of receipts from the Gunston Hall workshop on June 14 was noted and the Treasurer said that this figure will be incorporated into the report.

Professor Beecher wanted to know the balances available in the various contribution funds: Handbook, Memorial Garden and Research. Mr. Bryarly will notify the three Chairmen (Professor Beecher, Mr. Ewert and Mr. Gray, respectively) of the present balances and will inform them of any additional contributions as they are received.

Mr. Butler notified the Board of the cost of printing the four 1983 issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. He noted that there is no supply of the July 1982 issue and proposed that photocopies be made to fill any requests for that issue.

The Board voted unanimously to present a gift of \$250 to Katherine Ward, former Treasurer, in appreciation and recognition of the many hours given to ABS without charge.

Mr. Gray reported on the Research Project being conducted by the Virginia Truck and Ornamentals Research Station at Virginia Beach. President Mahone stated that he had attended an interesting field seminar on the site at

which Dr. Thomas Banko mentioned plans to test the effect of growth inhibitors and herbicides on the boxwood plants in the project.

Mr. Gray also reported on attempts to organize research into the mycorrhizal relationship of boxwood roots and various fungi. A proposal and letter have been prepared and will be sent to six to eight institutions which might be interested in carrying out such a research project.

Professor Faiszt said that three boxwood workshops are planned for 1984. One is scheduled for April 5 at North Carolina State in Raleigh. Registration will cost \$10, including lunch. Another workshop, possibly on boxwood and rhododendron combined, is being scheduled at Charlottesville in June. A third workshop will be held in September or October at Stratford Hall.

In connection with publication of a *Buyers Guide* Professor Beecher stated that he has a card file of firms which carry boxwood, including a list by varieties. Some of this information changes so rapidly, he said, that it will be most useful to publish a list of handlers by states. He asked Mr. Butler and Mr. Symmes to meet with him on November 15 to consider the best way to organize this material. He said that he plans to meet with other Board members to work on various phases of the publication of the *Boxwood Handbook*. He will be working with Mr. Batdorf on a list of the most popular varieties of boxwood and those which grow best in the Maryland-Virginia area.

The President announced that an ABS garden tour will be held on April 28-29, 1984, in the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area of North Carolina. Mrs. James M. Sykes and Mrs. Ollie Adams are completing arrangements for the tour, which promises to be a colorful one.

Mr. Symmes offered to review a list of institutions that receive complimentary copies of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. He will contact them and eliminate from the list those which are no longer interested or eligible.

After discussing the difficulty of helping members to understand that all memberships should be renewed by May 1 of each year, Mr. Symmes urged that an attempt be made to eliminate delinquent members by following a set procedure: print a notice on the flap of the mailing envelope of the April *Bulletin* calling attention to the inclusion of the dues envelope

inside (with a reminder also printed in *The Bulletin*); send a final letter to delinquents on July 1; purge those still delinquent from the membership list on August 1.

President Mahone announced that the Maymont Foundation Guild, a public botanical garden in Richmond, will hold a Garden Mart on April 28, 1984, at which they would like a speaker from ABS, as well as printed materials for distribution. Mr. Symmes volunteered to represent ABS at the Mart.

Mr. Butler thanked Board members for various materials they have sent for inclusion in *The Bulletin*. With respect to indexing *The Bulletin* he noted that all but one volume have been processed. Mr. Batdorf thereupon volunteered to do the remaining volume. Mr. Butler said that the work of many individual volunteers now needs to be compiled into one comprehensive index; he outlined for the Board's consideration several ways to proceed. After some discussion Mr. Symmes recommended that the two previous five-year indexes and the new ten-year index be put on computer; that the indexes be published as separate volumes and that there be a charge for them. Mr. Butler was authorized to investigate the feasibility and cost of putting the indexes on computer. Mr. Butler requested the Board to find someone to relieve him and Mrs. Butler as editors of *The Bulletin* beginning in 1985.

The question of publishing a new ABS membership list was discussed. A motion by Dr. Flory that no such list be sold or made available to outsiders was passed unanimously. It was decided to publish in *The Bulletin* only lists of new members, not the full membership. Mrs. Frackelton has volunteered to furnish addresses of specific individuals upon request by a member.

Mr. Mahone displayed the boxwood gavel and block now being used by the Society. By comparison with early photographs, it was apparent that the gavel is the one made and presented by Gustavus McCracken in 1973. The block appears to be the one donated by Professor A. G. Smith in 1962. By unanimous vote the President was authorized to have brass plates made and attached to each piece identifying the donors and dates of presentation, the plate for the gavel to be a gift from Colonel Thomas McCracken.

Mr. Mahone asked Mr. Batdorf and Mr. Ewert to cooperate with Mr. Tom Dilatush of Ten Oaks Nursery, Robbinsville, New Jersey, in drawing up a list of boxwood cultivars suited to different sections of the country. He then asked Mr. Symmes to take responsibility for arranging the spring 1984 meeting of the Board of Directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m., a lunch break having been previously taken.

Respectfully submitted
Joan Butler, Acting Secretary

Treasurer's Report, Board Meeting, October 27, 1983

Checking Account Balance, May 11, 1983 \$ 3,173.49

Receipts:

Memberships	2,070.00
Contributions	505.00
Sale of <i>Boxwood Bulletins</i>	215.00
Interest earned on checking account	72.46
Gunston Workshop registrations	430.00
Total Receipts	3,292.46

Disbursements:

Annual Meeting	339.10
Treasurer's salary	403.50
Telephone	4.77
Postage	88.70
Post office box rental	7.00
Thomas Printing Company, Inc.	1,791.00
American Horticultural Society (labels)	174.14
Checkbook printing charges	17.08
Gunston Hall Boxwood Workshop	338.76

Total Disbursements 3,164.05

Checking Account Balance	3,301.90
Balance in Savings Account #8-621-578*	3,400.55
Certificate of Deposit #007-0023966*	6,974.52

Total Assets, September 30, 1983 \$13,676.97

*Included in this account are contributions earmarked for specific Special Funds.

All accounts are deposited in the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, Winchester, Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Bryarly
Executive Treasurer

Boxwood Workday at Blandy Yields Results

Beautiful fall sunshine greeted a small but dedicated band of boxwooders on September 28, 1983 for the first ABS-sponsored workday at the Blandy Experimental Farm of the University of Virginia. The members who responded to an appeal published in *The Boxwood Bulletin* were Joan and Scot Butler, Dayton Mak and Harrison Symmes. Two neighbors, Mrs. Igor Presnikoff and Mrs. Donald van Schaack, joined the group, bringing the number of volunteers to six. Blandy Director Tom Ewert and Arboretum Superintendent Kathy Ward were on hand to guide the volunteers to the plants in greatest need of attention.

Following a brief get-together for coffee, the group entered the Boxwood Memorial Garden. Equipped with a wide assortment of pruning tools they enthusiastically assaulted a severely damaged *Buxus sempervirens* 'Latifolia'.



Photo: Thomas E. Ewert

Boxwooders remove damaged growth from 'Latifolia' plant in Memorial Garden.

Many of the upper branches were straw-colored, necessitating severe pruning. As the inside of the plant was exposed, it became evident that bottom branches had layered in the mulch and heavy accumulation of debris around the base. Interior cleaning was completed and layered branches were cut off, providing a source of new plants for any par-

ticipants who cared to take them home. It was thought that the unsightly condition of this plant, although it did not become obvious until summer, had been caused by winter damage during the February blizzard, when the top of the plant was exposed to brilliant sun and the lower portion suffered breakage from the heavy snow. Although drastically amputated this large, mature plant, about 20 years old, can be expected to recover and fill out with new healthy foliage.

The group then moved on to "Box Hill," a remote and little frequented area at Blandy. Here excitement mounted as hidden boxwood treasures were discovered. Most of the more than 100 boxwoods on "Box Hill" were planted in the 1930s or 1940s and have achieved great size. Although labels were originally affixed to the plants most of them are not to be found, and today identification is a problem. Also, because of relative neglect over the years and the effect of crowding as they have grown larger, many do not show off to good advantage. Nevertheless the concensus of the group was that this collection was a great asset and deserved rehabilitation. Worthy of note, for example, are some 40 plants from the Edgar Anderson Collection carrying numbers in the "K" series, some beautiful 15-foot fastigate bushes of deep green color, a very large variegated 'Elegantissima', some outstanding 'Angustifolia', and several enormous bushes of



Photo: Thomas E. Ewert

Some plants of the Edgar Anderson Collection at Blandy's "Box Hill".

B. m. var. japonica. A few labels were discovered, including at least one for an unregistered cultivar (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Hollandia'; Blandy Accession No. 6411-40). Cuttings were taken for propagation in the Blandy greenhouse.

The group worked diligently removing weeds and vines. Selective pruning of weak or dead portions brought immediate improvement in the appearance of the plants that received attention. Here too there was evidence of winter damage from sun, wind and snow. Reluctantly the group took leave of "Box Hill" at lunch time, well aware of how much remained to be done. Nevertheless they found satisfaction in the extensive visible results produced by just a few people working steadily together in friendly companionship. All agreed that they would like to participate in another workday. Here's to more workers for the next Boxwood Workday!

Additions to the Boxwood Memorial Garden

Seven more small boxwood plants were added to the Memorial Garden at Blandy Farm in October:

Buxus microphylla 'Kingsville', developed at Henry Hohman's Kingsville Nursery near Baltimore.

B. m. var. japonica 'National', developed by Dr. Henry T. Skinner and once known as 'Morris Fastigate'.

Buxus sempervirens 'Cliffside', selected and named by Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., and growing on the campus at William and Mary College.

B. s. 'Ipek', one of Edgar Anderson's Balkan seedlings and named by him.

B. s. 'Joe Gable', named by Henry Hohman for an outstanding hybridizer of rhododendrons and azaleas.

B. s. 'Varifolia', named by Henry Hohman.

B. S. 'Yorktown', another seedling selected and named by Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

These plants were grown from cuttings taken in 1977 and 1979 at the National Arboretum or acquired at an ABS workshop in Williamsburg in 1978. 'National' is now six years old, while 'Ipek' and 'Joe Gable' are four years old. The plants were given by Joan Butler as an outgrowth of her interest in some of the less common boxwood cultivars.

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

INFORMATION

Address: Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

The Boxwood Society membership year runs from May of one year through April of the following year. Dues are payable in advance of each membership year. New members who join the Society at intervening times of the year are sent all four issues of *The Bulletin* for that membership year and then, like other members, pay dues in advance of the next membership year.

Non-member subscriptions are for groups and institutions such as botanic gardens, libraries, etc. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year, and run by the calendar year.

At the present time all back issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin* are available except Vol. 22, No. 1, July 1982 (photocopy can be supplied, however). Price per single copy of any and all issues is \$2.50.

The present classes of membership are:

Category	Annual Dues
Individual	\$ 10
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Contributing	25
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Life	250
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Gift memberships are announced to the recipients by boxwood-decorated cards which state that four issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin* are included in membership.

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

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.

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Write to:

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Box 85
Boyce, VA 22620

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

Write to:

American Boxwood Society
Box 85
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Your request will 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, VA 23185

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

Mr. Scot Butler, Editor
The Boxwood Bulletin
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