

The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A quarterly devoted to Man's oldest garden ornamental



During the ABS Annual Meeting a group visited Westover as part of a garden tour. See story on page 29. (Photo: Mrs. Robert Frackelton)

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The American Boxwood Society is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1961 and devoted to the appreciation, scientific understanding and propagation of the genus *Buxus L.*

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Technical articles, news, history, lore, notes, and photographs concerning boxwood specimens, gardens or plantings are solicited for possible publication in *The Boxwood Bulletin*. Photographs should be suitable for reproduction and fully captioned. Suggestions regarding format and content are welcome. Material should be submitted to:

Chairman, Bulletin Committee
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Material to be returned to the sender must be submitted with a self-addressed envelope carrying suitable postage. Every effort will be made to protect submittals, but the Society cannot be responsible for loss or injury.

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Edgar Anderson Remembered

Twenty-Five Years Later

Mary A. Gamble

Note: For their spring meeting The Boxwood Society of the Midwest published a special memorial issue on Edgar Anderson, edited by Mary A. Gamble, who sent us a copy. The following are excerpts from the issue.

Edgar Anderson once said he considered Dr. John T. Baldwin of the College of William and Mary (Williamsburg, Va.) to be "the great American authority on boxwood." In turn, Dr. Baldwin considered the Anderson Balkans to be "the most significant addition to the germplasm of *Buxus sempervirens* in the United States in recent years. (See *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 9, No 1, July 1969, p. 1.)

Reproduced was *Collecting Boxwoods in the Balkans* by Edgar Anderson from *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 2, No. 3, p. 26, Jan. 1963.

Note: The following is reproduced from the workbook Mary Gamble maintained during the period.

The Arnold Arboretum Anderson Balkan Boxwoods

On this 1934 trip Dr. Anderson collected personally the plant materials—both cuttings and seed—from which five boxwoods were propagated at the Arnold Arboretum. We are indebted to Dr. Gordon P. De Wolfe, Jr., of the Arnold staff for this record from their 1934-35 accession book:

789-34 *B. sempervirens* Seed #133 E.A., Treska Gorge, Yugoslavia

350-35 *B. sempervirens* #1 Bucharesk, Collected by E.A. (from the John Innes Hort. Institution), 18 cuttings

351-35. *B. sempervirens* #2 E.A., Bucharesk, Rumania, 58 cuttings

352-35. *B. sempervirens* 'VV' E.A. 133 Treska Gorge, Skoplje, 40 cutts.

353-35. *B. sempervirens* 50 cuttings - no label; Balkans

In 1968 we obtained one each of these plants from Mr. Henry J. Hohman of the Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland. Mr. Hohman wrote me as follows: "When Dr. Anderson made the collection of *Buxus* in Yugoslavia for the Arnold Arboretum, it was my pleasure to receive a very small plant of each of the five collected for Arnold so that I would (build) up a stock of each and make them available."

In 1957 no. 352-35 was named 'Vardar Valley' and registered. The Registration List notes: 'Vardar Valley' (D. Wyman, *Arnoldia* 17(7): 42.1957) "Hardy, the foliage keeps its green color throughout the winter. It is a wide-spreading, flat-topped plant of much merit in the north." Mr. Hohman wrote us that he had propagated 3,600 'Vardar Valleys'.

In 1973 the Boxwood Study Group, under the auspices of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, registered no. 351-35 as 'Edgar Anderson'. The registration notice, which appeared in the October 1973 *Boxwood Bulletin* read: *Buxus sempervirens* 'Edgar Anderson' (Balkan strain). Registered by the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo.

The mature plant is pyramidal in form with a broad base and graceful, billowing and somewhat irregular outline. Foliage is dense with an upward thrust of growth. The leaves are a strong, medium green (Green Group No. 139A on the RHS Colour Chart). They are elliptic and acute in shape and medium in size, measuring from 1.3 to 2 cm in length and from 5 to 9 mm in width, with widest point

occurring generally slightly below middle. The largest plant of which we have record measures slightly in excess of 1 m in height at an estimated 20-25 years; however, it is believed this plant has not achieved maximum growth.

In publishing this registration Dr. B. L. Wagenknecht, in charge of *Buxus* registration, added this comment: "It is a pleasure to be able to accept for registration a boxwood named for Dr. Anderson."

The other three Arnold Balkans remain under number. We are presently testing no. 350-35 for Midwest hardiness. It is a dwarf type which Dr. Anderson considered second only to 'Agram' in interest. Dr. Henry T. Skinner of the National Arboretum expressed interest in it. The Arnold records bear a notation advising against naming the 353-35 clone. No. 789-34 appears on a par with plants already named.

The MBG (Missouri Botanical Garden) Anderson Balkan Boxwoods

These are the plants propagated at the Missouri Botanical Garden in its city greenhouses and at Gray Summit from the "pound or more" seed that Dr. Anderson obtained direct from Yugoslavia. According to Mr. Paul A. Kohl of the Garden staff this seed arrived in September 1936 and first plantings were in January 1937. Mr. Kohl reports no difficulties in propagation in the greenhouse, but Mr. Martin R. Bagby, then a propagator at Gray Summit, tells a different story. Planting at the Arboretum was in an outdoors nursery bed where for a time field mice ate the *Buxus* seeds

faster than they could be planted. The problem was solved when an enterprising workman freed a sack of black snakes near the seed bed and the snakes eradicated the mice.

As Dr. Anderson noted, the Yugoslavian seeds germinated well and hundreds of plants were grown. In the past we have referred to these as the K series but careful reexamination of all available records shows this to be inaccurate. For while all of the boxwoods labeled K are part of the MBG group, not all of the MBGs are Ks. The MBG boxwoods can be understood best if considered in three parts.

First is the very small group of early named plants; second, the large and confusing group of Ks; and third, the indeterminate group of unnamed and unnumbered plants.

'Agram', 'Nish' and 'Serbian Blue' make up the first group. 'Agram' was named and registered in 1934, the Registration List reading: 'Agram' (Introduced by the United States Department of Agriculture, Glen Dale, Maryland, Spring 1959.) Collected near Skoplje, Vardar River Valley, Macedonia by Dr. Edgar Anderson. A columnar form, 'Agram' was Dr. Anderson's favorite and we believe he may have chosen the name, that of a town in Yugoslavia.

Dates and registrants of both 'Nish' and 'Serbian Blue' are unknown. The Registration List: 'Nish' (A name given to a plant grown from seed brought from the Balkans by Dr. Edgar Anderson in 1934.) The original plants are still growing at Gray Summit, Missouri. Identical information is given for 'Serbian Blue'. We have found a 'Nish' at Gray Summit and all visitors to the Garden are familiar with the 'Nish' pair that flank Mr. Shaw's tomb in the Mausoleum Grove. But we have been unable to find any trace of 'Serbian Blue'.

The MBG Ks numbered around 150. They were selected from plants either grown at Gray Summit or sent

from the city greenhouses to be set out for testing in nursery areas at the Arboretum.

The late Mr. Clarence Barbre, boxwood enthusiast and nurseryman of Webster Groves, made the selections choosing those he considered had special merit. These plants were numbered from 1 to 150 and given the designation K, standing for Kingsville Nurseries. Cuttings were made from these plants and sent to Mr. Hohman of the Kingsville Nursery, the exact date unknown. In 1973 Mr. Hohman wrote us that "among this group are some very handsome boxwoods."

In 1973 Mr. Hohman sent identical shipments of cuttings of approximately 150 Ks to the United States National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., and to Blandy Experimental Farm (The Orland E. White Research Arboretum), Boyce, Virginia. In 1964 the National Arboretum sent six cuttings each of 63 Ks to the Arnold Arboretum.

We are indebted to Mr. Douglas P. Andberg, Curator of the Boxwood Collection, National Arboretum and to Dr. DeWolfe for most of the foregoing information and for reports on results. At the National Arboretum perhaps 50 plants are left. Mr. Andberg notes, "There is some variability in them and a few exceptional specimens also." Of the Blandy Farm's 143 plants, 24 were left in 1973.

The cuttings shipped to the Arnold Arboretum were a disaster. Of the 63, only one plant survived to go on the grounds, according to Dr. DeWolfe.

In searching through the Gray Summit boxwood "jungle" and the Garden Grounds we have found 35 Ks so far. They are numbered 1, 6, 16, 18, 19, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 36, 39, 40, 57, 59, 61, 81, 82, 92, 96, 99, 101, 106, 108, 113, 126, 129, 131, 136, 139, 143, 144 and 146. A cross-check of the Ks surviving at the Missouri Botanical Garden and Gray Summit, the National Arboretum and

Blandy Farm shows only 6: K-1 K-22, K-28, K-29, K-57, K-81. Three have survived at the Garden or Arboretum and/or the National Arboretum or Blandy: K-26, K-36 and K-40. We have rooted cuttings of a number of Ks sent us as "promising" from the National Arboretum, as well as some we judged promising from Gray Summit. Our judgment is that there are a number which merit further work with a view to future registration and distribution.

Balkans, Unnamed and Unnumbered

There is a third group of plants propagated from the Balkan seeds that is both unnamed and unnumbered. The official *Registration List of Cultivated Buxus L.* published by The American Boxwood Society takes cognizance of these as follows: 'Andersonii' (A name applied to a number of plants grown from seed collected by Dr. Edgar Anderson in Macedonia). In most instances, if not all, the name arose from the distribution of plants under Anderson's collection numbers which were dropped during the course of propagating and distributing the plants. No precise application of the name seems possible.

A number of these plants are at Gray Summit; others are on the grounds of the Missouri Botanical Garden. These were selected by Dr. Anderson himself from plants nurtured at Gray Summit. These, with the exception of the Koreans, were the only *Buxus* on the Garden grounds until new plantings began in preparation for the Edgar Anderson Memorial Boxwood Garden.

We believe that at least two of these plants have real merit for the Midwest and we are now taking preliminary steps necessary to name and register them. These plants are totally dissimilar but share great hardiness; we think they will make friends for boxwood in the Midwest.

Edgar Anderson Remembered

For The Story of 351-35, B. sempervirens 'Edgar Anderson' see The Boxwood Bulletin, Vol. 13, No 2, pp. 26-28 Oct. 1973.

For The Boxwood Society of the Midwest Presents Buxus sempervirens 'Henry Shaw', see The Boxwood Bulletin, Vol. 25, No. 2, pp. 43-45, Oct. 1985, and photo and registration pp. 46 and 47.

I would like to recall two of my many memories of Edgar Anderson. The first dates from earliest years in the St. Louis Herb Society; the second dates from the day of his death.

When I joined the Herb Society, herbs were a complete mystery to me. I neither understood nor appreciated them. At an early meeting I approached Dr. Anderson and asked this question: "Dr. Anderson, what is a herb?" He simply looked at me and said, "Go look it up." "But where?" I asked. "Try the Oxford Dictionary," he said. "But where will I find an Oxford Dictionary?" "Try Washington University," he said, "or possibly the County Library."

I found the dictionary in the County Library and looked up "herb".

Lesson learned: Edgar Anderson did not give you the answers. He simply pointed you in the right direction. What you did was up to you.

My second memory dates from June 18, 1969, the day of Edgar Anderson's death. I had been working in the Museum building of the garden. At noon I broke off and was leaving the building by the back steps when I saw Edgar coming across the grounds, presumably from the Library. I waved to him and waited at the bottom of the steps. After greetings I asked him about his wife. "How is Dorothy?" We all knew she had been quite ill. Many of us had paid her short visits in the Anderson home just across from the Museum

Building. We always found her cheerful.

"I'm on my way to see her now," said Edgar. He paused, then said words I have never forgotten. "I don't know what I would do without her. She is my balance wheel."

Happily, he never had to do without Dorothy. That afternoon, only a few hours after I had seen him, Mary Holekamp phoned from the Garden to say that Edgar Anderson had died while talking to Dorothy at her bedside. His death was a great loss to all of us who had learned so much from him. But the principles he embodied have continued to guide and inspire us. We all are better plant people for having known him. "All I ever wanted to be known as was a 'Botanist,'" Edgar Anderson once told me. We have tried—to the limits of our individual abilities—to honor that legacy.

We Begin With 'Agram'

The path of the Edgar Anderson Balkan Boxwoods did not always run smoothly; for a time there was a hiatus in its development. On a bright summer day in 1968 as we sat beside Dr. Anderson on a garden bench near the Museum Building where he had his office, he told Mary Holekamp and me about it. He did not tell us when it happened, nor who was responsible, and his story was brief.

"One winter," Dr. Anderson said, "there was a bad storm with extreme cold. I was called from Gray Summit and told, 'I'm afraid your boxwood is gone.' I knew my caller was referring to the boxwood in the open nursery area and I said, 'Fine! Now we'll find out which plants are really hardy. I'll be out to see them.'"

He added that it was some time before he could get to the Arboretum and when he did be found that the boxwood nursery plants had been pulled up and destroyed. Fortunately, a considerable number survived in the wooded nursery area now referred to as the "jungle." Most of them, as

noted, are Ks. This second personal story tells something about them.

In January 1969 Mary Holekamp, Jane Penhale and I—the three original members of the boxwood study group—drove with Edgar and Dorothy Anderson to see his surviving boxwoods. The day dawned stormy and by the time we reached Gray Summit a heavy snow was falling. "First, we'll find 'Agram'," said Dr. Anderson, and directed us to an isolated area near the serpentine wall where 'Agram' stood alone, classically symmetrical and poetically beautiful in the swirling snow. "Note its upward look," said Dr. Anderson.

The snowfall increased and it was agreed it was only sensible to eat lunch in the car and to postpone exploration of the "jungle" until spring when Dr. Anderson would come with us again. But in June 1969 Edgar Anderson died suddenly and we were never to have the benefit of his personal introduction to others of his Balkans. All we have learned has been pieced together from his friends, co-workers and fellow boxwood enthusiasts who, without exception, have expressed pleasure that the work he began is continuing.

When I met Dr. Baldwin at William and Mary in May 1972, I asked him if he were still of the opinion that Dr. Anderson's Balkan boxwood introductions were a significant contribution to boxwoods in our country. His answer was yes. Then he added, "but not enough has been done with them."

The Boxwood Study Group of the St. Louis Herb Society, which now includes about half of the Society's active members, feels privileged to have had a part in renewing and continuing this work which Dr. Anderson began. In the Edgar Anderson Memorial Garden it will have permanent value to botanists horticulturists, students and gardeners throughout the world.

—Mary A. Gamble, January 1974

Feb. 28, 1994: Elizabeth Braimbridge of Langley Boxwood Nursery, England, sent to the ABS a copy of an article she did for the last issue of the Royal Horticultural Society quarterly, *The Plantsman*. (Under a new editor it became *The New Plantsman*.) She also commended the article on The Baldwin Legacy and said, "Keeping a close track of those particular plants is essential, especially, the *Buxus harlandii*."

April 1, 1994: Re: Research. Dr. James Hendrix, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, reported to Mrs. Butler that there had been a beginning with Bernheim Forest and Arboretum to do holly work while he did boxwood, simultaneously investigating the relationships with mycorrhizal fungi. The student who was to do the holly had to resign because of ill health and Dr. Hendrix's facilities were temporarily closed for repair. Therefore, the projects are at a standstill and he would not have anything for publication.

May 20, 1994: Re: Research. Richard C. Hawke, Plant Evaluation Coordinator, Chicago Botanic Garden, wrote that the only cultivar that survived the winter without injury was *Buxus* 'Green Velvet' and about half of the *Buxus sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley' were not injured. All others were killed outright. Therefore he is terminating this project.

He continued that although boxwood is a popular plant, the choices are few for the Chicago area. However, if the ABS is interested in reestablishing the project, he would be willing to cooperate. He would recommend the Sheridan Nursery cultivars and some of the Littleleaf Korean boxwood.

Spring Board Meeting; March 17, 1994

The Spring meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Friday, March 17, at 1:30 p.m. in Charlottesville, Virginia. In attendance were: Interim President Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Secretary Mrs. Scot Butler, Treasurer Mrs. Katherine Ward and Board Members Lynn R. Batdorf, Sigrid G. Harriman, Tom Saunders and Dr. Stephen D. Southall, as well as Director of Blandy Farm, Dr. Edward F. Connor, ex-officio.

The minutes of the fall Board Meeting were approved as printed in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 53, No. 3, p. 53.

Handbook, Buyer's Guide, Monograph: Batdorf reported that he is awaiting receipt from the *Bulletin* editor of the final form of the *Handbook*. A printing company has not yet been selected. He has been corresponding with a Polish boxwood grower who is testing 165 different cultivars; about 60 plants of each are grown in small rows. It may be possible to arrange an exchange of plants with the U.S. National Arboretum, in order to compare and check the European names applied to specific plants.

Maymont Flower and Garden Show: Mrs. Ward reported on the Maymont Show in Richmond in February, where the ABS shared display space with the Holly Society of America. Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Frackelton, Mrs. Harriman and Mrs. Sexton represented the ABS and Mr. Richard Mahone covered for both societies. It is difficult to find enough people to help over an extended four-day period. The plant societies were assigned to the second floor; although the event attracted very large crowds, not many people climbed upstairs. Much ABS literature was distributed, but there were few boxwood inquir-

Reminder

If you have not renewed your membership for 1994-1995, you will not receive the October issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. (Renewal notices were mailed in May 1994.) Please mail checks to P.O. Box 85, Boyce VA 22620

ies. The fourth day, Monday, although a holiday, had very bad weather to discourage visitors.

Dr. Connor noted that the Friends of the State Arboretum had successful sales at Maymont, but that their space was too small for an effective educational exhibit in addition to sales space. Perhaps ABS and FOSA might combine for larger space in 1995; in that way also there might be more people to man the booth for the full time.

Workshop and Annual Meeting: Dr. Southall discussed plans for the Friday, May 20, workshop preceding the ABS Annual Meeting in Williamsburg. He will introduce the speaker for Friday evening and Saturday morning, Ian Robertson. Tom Saunders will introduce the four panel members, who will present their topics for about 20 minutes and then answer specific questions. General questions will be heard at the end of the session. It was suggested that an announcement of both workshop and meeting be inserted in the Williamsburg newspaper. All events will be held at the Cascades meeting room.

Auction of *Buxus* cultivars: Joan Butler will prepare descriptions of the cultivars expected for the annual plant auction, and have photocopies to distribute to participants. She will also contact Mr. Dale Taylor about the

cultivars he will provide.

Nominating Committee: Tom Saunders reported that the committee has filled part of the slate and is continuing to seek candidates.

Baldwin Boxwood Collection at College of William and Mary: Mrs. Frackelton said that Mr. Mahone expected to work with William and Mary employees to prune to protect the unusual boxwoods, especially *Buxus harlandii*, in the triangle near Ewell Hall, and to limb up the larger trees so as to allow space for the tall boxwood.

The Boxwood Bulletin Committee: Mrs. Frackelton reminded members that the editor continues to welcome material submitted by readers. John McCarthy, Editor, continues to be innovative in his computer layout. Lynn Batdorf does a great job proof-reading copy before printing. M-J Printers, Fredericksburg, is always helpful and cooperative.

Research: The Research Committee has been reconstituted. Dr.

Southall will work with Professor James Hendrix at the University of Kentucky on mycorrhizal fungi.

Mrs. Butler will correspond with Mr. Richard Hawke at the Chicago Botanic Garden about the cultivar evaluation project; and Mr. Mahone will contact Dr. Thomas Banko about experiments at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Experiment Station in Virginia Beach.

Memorial Boxwood Garden: Dr. Connor reported that the very severe winter had not produced major damage at Blandly Farm.

He noted that the contract for installation of the water line in the newly-designed area of the garden would be awarded very soon.

Discussion followed about specifications for the line, for which the ABS Board has agreed to pay. Some members suggested providing electric conduit in the water line trench, to make use of computerized pop-up sprinklers in the future. The lack of strong water pressure in the Blandly

water system makes such a program impractical. Drip or soaker hoses will be used, concentrating water where it is needed. Mrs. Frackelton suggested that co-plantings in the area allotted to Asiatic boxwood might include some U.S.-acclimated forms of Asiatic plants.

Tom Saunders reported having received a request from the Kluge estate, Morven, to consider creating a boxwood display garden there. The Society might also explore the possibility of establishing boxwood collections at several colleges, such as William and Mary, perhaps sharing some expenses.

Dr. Connor announced that the State Arboretum has received a donation to provide a sound and light system for performances in the amphitheater, and to start building the walkway system to give access to the amphitheater.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

—Joan Butler, Secretary

Annual Meeting Events; May 20-21, 1994

Boxwood Workshop Highlights

The earliest event at the Annual Meeting was a workshop held on May 20 at the Cascades near the Colonial Williamsburg information center.

The well-attended, stimulating workshop on boxwood got under way in a conference room with ABS Director Tom Saunders of Saunders Bros. Nursery serving as moderator. The four featured speakers were ABS Director Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, Curator of Boxwood at the U.S. National Arboretum; Joan Butler, ABS Secretary and operator of a small boxwood nursery; ABS Director Sigrid G. Harriman, proprietor of Garden Designs; and ABS Director Stephen D. Southall, co-owner of English Boxwoods of Virginia.

With the benefit of graphic slides

Mr. Batdorf covered the most common causes of abnormalities in boxwood: those conditions and agents that can dislodge, damage or destroy boxwood plants. One of these is winter injury caused by ice, sun scald or improper planting. Also rapid temperature changes can cause the bark to split, destroying the vascular tissue underneath the bark. The full extent of damage from split bark may not show up in the form of dead branches until the plant tries to send out new growth.

Shade provides some protection against sun scald. Proper planting of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', so that the root ball is one inch above the level of the surrounding ground helps to strengthen this single stem variety, against winter injury. Tying the

branches together with twine can prevent breakage from the weight of snow but there is no help when ice forms on a boxwood. It is best to leave the plant alone.

Boxwood may take on an unsightly appearance when lichen forms on it, but lichen, Mr. Batdorf said, is an algae which derives its nourishment from the air, not from the plant. It is not a parasite and does not harm the plant.

With respect to the falling off of leaves, Mr. Batdorf explained that the life of a boxwood leaf is generally three years but may be less for plants under stress. The appearance of the leaves and the health of a boxwood may be adversely affected by one or more pests. Mr. Batdorf discussed the symptoms when boxwood is

attacked by 1) psyllid (*Psylla buxi*), 2) wax scale (*Ceroplastes ceriferus*) and 3) leaf miner (*Monarthropalpus buxi*). He described the life cycle of these pests and prescribed treatment for dealing with them under a program of integrated pest management (IPM). He noted that with leaf miner the upper sides of leaves may at first take on much of the ^{34m} appearance as when they suffer from winter scald, but on the underside, the mines created by their eating of the middle layer of the leaves show up. Their activity stops photosynthesis and destroys the leaves.

Two diseases that take a toll on boxwood are leaf spot (*Macrophoma candolleri*) and stem canker (*Volutella buxi*). Both thrive in damp, thick foliage, especially in "English" boxwood (*B. semp.* 'Suffruticosa') so that thinning of the branches is an important preventive step. Branches should be visible from a distance of 6 feet after thinning. Infected branches should be removed and destroyed.

As a practicing nurseryman, Dr. Southall had some good tips on transplanting English boxwoods (*B. sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'). He made a distinction between moving plants under three feet and those over that size, but many of the rules for digging are the same. Thus a nurseryman's spade (a spade with a long, rectangular square-end blade) is the essential tool. Dr. Southall favors fall (from September 1 on) for transplanting boxwoods and recommends that they first be root pruned in July.

Root pruning is accomplished by digging around the drip line of the plant at a 30° angle. This cuts off the roots outside the drip line, encouraging new roots to form at the drip line. The plant should be kept watered, its interior cleaned out with a strong stream of water and its branches plucked pending the transplant. The final digging should be just outside the drip line. Root growth will continue through November. Dr.

Southall named very early spring as the second best time to transplant boxwoods.

In moving large English boxwoods (3 feet and over) care must be taken not to break the root ball. The plant should be tied up with string or rope so that the stem and root ball are visible when it is being removed from its hole. A "daisy basket" may be used to move the plant, especially when multiple moves are required. The wire frame basket should be covered with burlap and the ears of the basket pulled together to hold the root ball snugly. The plant should be placed in a hole larger than the root ball and organic matter should have been worked into the hole to supply oxygen. After the plant has been moved it should be thinned (plucked) if it has not already been done before the transplant.

Mrs. Harriman drew her experiences in the restoration of three boxwood gardens in Virginia to illustrate with colored slides the importance of design and scale in the landscape. In Fairfax County Cairngorm Farm, dating from c. 1740, still retains 70 of its original 200 acres on which a 300-year-old oak is a prominent feature. The present house was built in the 1920s on the basis of old slave quarters and had become overgrown with the boxwoods planted around it.

Mrs. Harriman showed how she cleaned out the boxwoods from the inside and reopened three entrances to the house without sacrificing the landscaping value that the large old box imparted to the property. The hedge of boxwood edging the house was effectively opened up at the three overgrown entrances by installing arched trellises to push back the boxwood branches.

At Riverhouse, c. 1890, in King George County, the overgrown American boxwoods were cleaned out and about one foot of growth was removed from all sides. These boxwoods responded to the treatment

by growing about 1.5 feet in one year; they were full of blossoms. Some English boxwoods were moved to provide better design on the grounds of this former dairy farm. A meadow was cleared, opening the view to the Potomac River and revealing some handsome trees.

It was evident that Mrs. Harriman took special pleasure in restoring the Murphy garden in Alexandria. The c. 1900 house and small guest house are located on 1/2 acre of steeply sloping ground.

When she first saw the property it was a tangle of overgrown plants, primarily boxwoods and azaleas. Through judicious cutting of walkways a semblance of order was restored. Then came the process of grouping the mostly English boxwoods and the different varieties of azaleas in pleasing combinations.

Mrs. Harriman was surprised to find several large *B. sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley' growing well. There followed a labor-intensive cleaning out of the boxwood, removal of a few dead ones, and the planting of a serpentine border of English boxwood. To add to the beauty of the garden a small waterfall was created in a natural setting of ferns.

The slides of the garden upon completion showed what a transformation can be wrought through imaginative, artistic garden design and the restoration of old overgrown plants.

Mrs. Butler spoke about receiving many letters and telephone calls seeking advice on boxwood care. Most frequent were complaints about the severe winter damage to box caused by this year's extreme cold, ice and heavy snow, which were especially destructive to "English" boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'). Great masses of straw-colored foliage were found. Advice for treatment began with a warning to be patient and wait for warmer weather and soil conditions, when some of what appeared dead

would resume growth, and a second warning that the full extent of damage may not appear until summer when heat stress may reveal more cracked stems and peeling bark. All dead branches and twigs should be removed.

A strong stream of water should be used to clean the interior all the way down to the ground, washing out all leaves and debris; clogged interiors promoted winter damage; deep accumulations of old leaves are subject to disease and cause die-back.

The new holes opened into plants by winter damage will stimulate new

growth, even at the very bottom of old, thick stems. Mulch is helpful in retaining moisture, but no more than an inch deep and not touching trunks or branches; do not suffocate the shallow feeder roots, which are right at the surface.

A soil test is advisable for many purposes: to determine pH of soil (6.5 - 7.2 is ideal for boxwood) and whether nutrients are lacking, as well as to rule out the presence of English boxwood decline (a root rot caused by *Paecilomyces buxi*).

If decline is diagnosed, it is now possible to treat with Subdue 2E, a

chemical which was found ^{to offer} promising results as a soil drench during the ABS-sponsored studies at VPI&SU in the 1970s.

Only recently has Ciba-Geigy labeled this product for use on boxwood; it had previously been effective in treating root rot of azaleas and rhododendron.

Mr. Saunders commented that although the product is expensive it has proven very effective in their container nursery business.

—Scot Butler, former Editor of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

Evening Program

On Friday evening, May 20, members gathered in the coffee shop at the Lord Paget Inn to hear a light-hearted discussion of "Gardening Like Your Granny and Other Organic Considerations," given by Ian Robertson, a landscape architect in Charlottesville, Virginia, urging gardeners to use quantities of compost to provide much healthier soil conditions for plants than the usual heavily-compacted earth left behind by builders and earth-movers. A very pleasant reception followed this informative and thought-provoking talk. Mr. Robertson distributed copies of excerpts from unidentified 1887 and 1890 documents:

The Minorca Box—I look upon this as the handsomest of all the Boxes, and its large leathery foliage makes it distinct from all the varieties of the common kind. *Buxus balearica*, as it is botanically called, is indigenous to the Balearic and other islands in the Mediterranean, as well as to Italy and Turkey, where it forms a magnificent tree of from 60 feet to 80 feet in height. It was first introduced into Britain in 1780. The leaves are similar in form, but nearly four times as large as those of the common Box, and when grown

exposed to the sun, of a much lighter green. They are thick and leathery in texture, and very abundantly set on the branches. The flowers are small and inconspicuous, of a light yellow colour, and generally expand in July. In our gardens it is only seen as a moderate-sized shrub; and, though very properly classed among hardy evergreens, it only succeeds well in the milder districts or in well sheltered situations. Its habit of making late autumn growths renders it peculiarly susceptible of injury from frosts, by which the points, and sometimes the whole of the young shoots are destroyed.

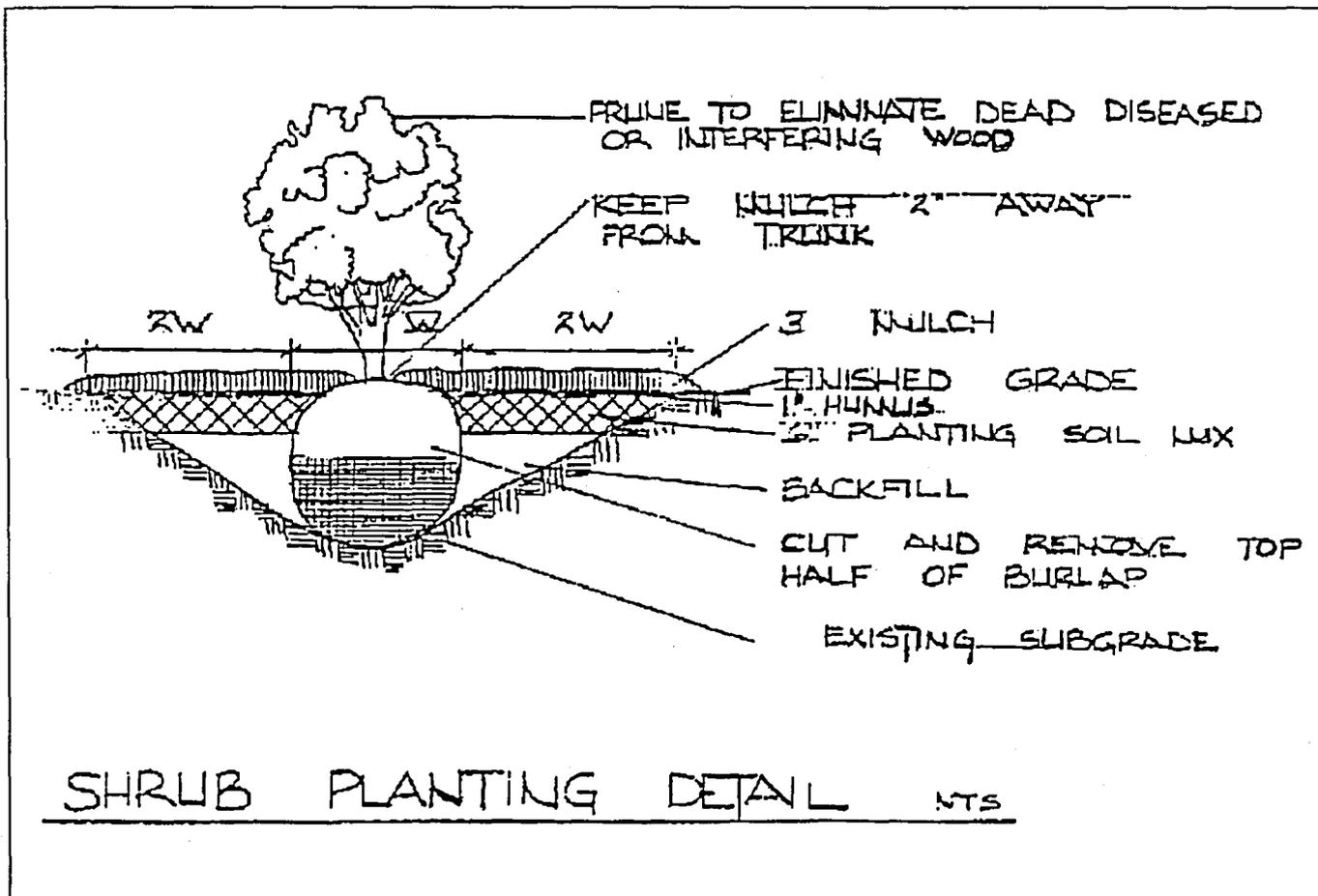
It is, notwithstanding, such a distinct and handsome species that it should have a fair trial wherever a favourable situation is at command. As it thrives well in the shade, it is found useful for clothing walls or other buildings with aspects in which, from want of sun, few other evergreens or flowering shrubs would succeed. It requires a dry porous soil and a warm subsoil. I met with some very fine bushes of it the other day, the largest, in fact, I have ever seen growing in a garden in Sussex, near Chichester where the soil is of a chalky nature, yet warm and well drained. -G.

Box as an edging—As an edging is usually to form a dividing line between walks and borders or breaks in a kitchen garden, I question if anything better for this purpose can be found than Box where it succeeds and expense is an object. The first cost of laying it is not an important item, as anyone at all familiar with the work can lift and dress it, prepare the ground, and relay 30 yards a day with ease, and once laid it will last for twenty or thirty years if kept within bounds by edging and hedge shears. Although some delay cutting Box until May, yet I believe the end of March and beginning of April are the best for that operation, as the latent eyes plump up and start into growth with the season. No fear need be entertained of injury from late spring frosts, for Box is so constitutionally hardy, that I have never known a single case where it has suffered in the least even though cut earlier than this. The only plea that can justly be urged against Box for edgings is that it harbours slugs, but the same may be said with equal fairness regarding any other living edging, and, in my opinion, Box favours this evil less than Thrift, Ivy, Gentiana, or Pinks (which are recommended by some); it is also more easily kept in bounds and

does not become so patchy as these. Rough stones covered with alpines and creeping plants may be in keeping with rustic work in odd comers of the pleasure grounds, but not in the kitchen garden, as no place affords better protection for slugs and weeds than an edging of this kind.-R. C. H.

It is a pity that so many persons near large towns are giving up Box edging by reason of its liability to die off. It may not be known generally that this fine old edging plant is obtainable in many varieties, some very tender and only fit for the purest air, others robust as a Privet or Ivy plant. The most robust dwarf Box is

the Dutch variety. In a garden at Chiswick all the different sorts of edging Box have long ago given way, but the Dutch seems quite perfect; there is not even a weak spot in it. It is of a charming colour too, a soft, light, warm green, not very common. Let the Dutch Box be tried before going in for edging tiles.



Mr. Robertson's shrub planting recommendations were distributed to attendees.

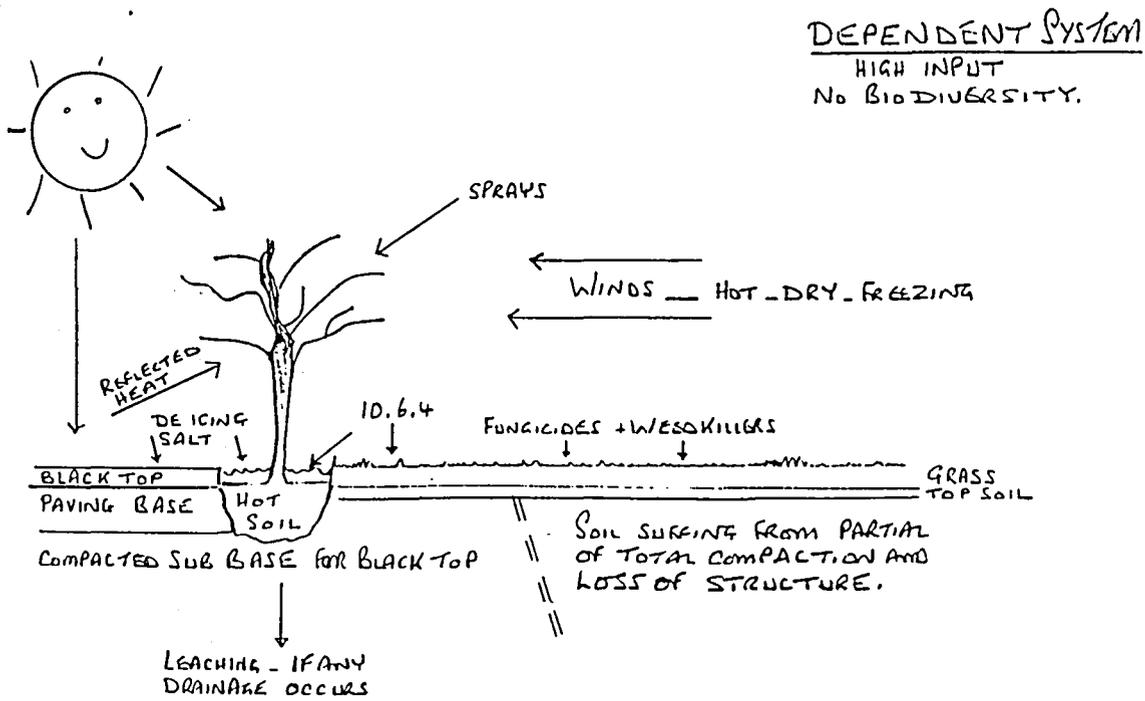
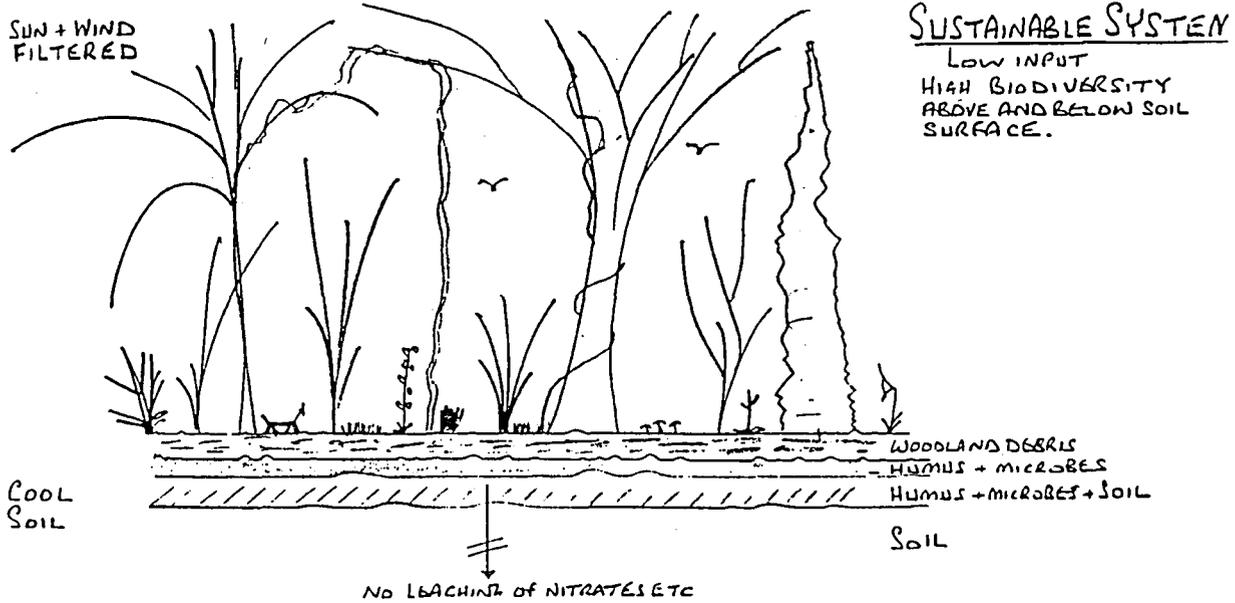
Business Meeting

On Saturday morning, May 21, the 34th Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Interim President Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton. (President Dale T. Taylor resigned in January because of business pressures.) The minutes of the 33rd Annual Meeting were approved as printed in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 33, No. 1, pp. 12-13.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$30,368.65 in the checking account and \$22,469.58 in a certificate of deposit which includes escrowed amounts earmarked for the Society's special funds.

Registrar, Handbook, Monograph, Buyer's Guide: Mr. Batdorf reported that copy for the *Handbook* is being prepared by Editor John

McCarthy; it will be circulated for proof reading and then go forward to the printer. Work on the *Monograph* and a new edition of the *Buyer's Guide*, being delayed until the *Handbook* has been completed. Mr. Batdorf, as the International Registration Authority for *Buxus*, will attend the Second International Symposium on the Taxonomy of Cultivated Plants in



System drawings furnished by Ian Robertson.

1985 in Holland. One subject of great interest will be the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, which may soon be revised.

Memorial Garden: Mrs. Butler reported that boxwood plants which were moved in fall 1992 withstood the bitter Winter of 1994 with only some die-back. Dead foliage was pruned out and the holding area was weeded, so that the Garden looked attractive during the Blandy Arboretum Garden Fair on May 7-8; many visitors attended despite pouring rain one day and brisk cold winds the second day. The new water lines into the relocated Garden were installed in April.

Two very productive work days were held at Blandy Experimental Farm when Decca Frackelton, Sigrid Harriman, and Joan Butler labelled all the container boxwoods held in the shade house as well as those planted out in the nursery field rows. Much weeding of pots and pruning of dead wood was to be accomplished after the Annual Meeting. Other work days will be held in the fall.

Research: Mrs. Butler reported for the Research Committee. Dr. James Hendrix at the University has written that he plans to reactivate his study of the effects of mycorrhizal fungi on boxwood and holly. A report on the cultivar evaluation project at the Chicago Botanic Garden is expected from Mr. Richard Hawke.

Baldwin Boxwood Collection: Mr. Richard Mahone noted that the two original plants of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Aristocrat' chosen by Dr. J. T. Baldwin at the College of William and Mary had first been planted at the head of the steps leading down into the sunken garden. They had outgrown that position after 30 years and were moved back some distance. Only one of these very large plants survived; it has been moved to another spot more protected from student traffic. Josephine Jones has donated two new specimens of 'Aristocrat' which are now growing

near the original location, but with more space allowed to accommodate mature growth.

Mr. Mahone had worked with the College landscape superintendent to improve the condition of some of the large old box plants (the "Baldwin Collection") located in a triangular area near the entrance to the campus. Pruning to remove winter damage was done by Mr. Mahone; the college landscape staff is small but it is hoped that the needed pruning can be completed this year. Mr. Mahone reported that the Holly Society of America plans to create a holly collection at William and Mary.

Maymont Garden Show: This very large event was held in Richmond for four days on February 18-21, the Washington's Birthday holiday weekend. A joint educational booth shared with the Colonial Chapter of the Holly Society was manned all four days. Great interest was shown by the large crowds who attended, however it had been difficult to find ABS members who were willing to help.

Nominating Committee: Chairman Tom Saunders presented the following slate of officers for 1994-1995, which was unanimously elected:

President:

Dr. Stephen D. Southall

First Vice President:

Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton

Second Vice President:

Mrs. Malcolm Holekamp

Secretary:

Mrs. Scot Butler

Executive Treasurer:

Mrs. Katherine D. Ward

Directors to serve for three years:

Dr. Henry Frierson

Mrs. Tyra Sexton

Mr. Tom Saunders

Director to serve for one year:

Mr. Steve Zapton

Resolutions of Appreciation:

Mrs. Butler then presented two resolutions which were unanimously adopted with enthusiasm:

(1) "In recognition of his continuing service on the Board of Directors, his many contributions to the knowledge of box-



Buxus sempervirens 'Aristocrat' relocated on the campus of the College of William and Mary. (Photo: Mrs. Robert Frackelton)

wood care and culture, and most especially of his planning for the delightful 1993 Garden Tour in southern Virginia,

Now be it resolved that the American Boxwood Society expresses its great appreciation to John W. Boyd, Jr., upon his retirement from the Board of Directors."

(2) "In grateful acknowledgment for the many contributions to the growth and expanded development of The American Boxwood Society by immediate past president, Dale T. Taylor,

Now be it resolved that the Society expresses its lasting appreciation to Dale T. Taylor."

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Board Meeting

A brief Board meeting was held following the Business Meeting to name two members to the Executive Committee in addition to the President, Treasurer and Secretary. Mr. Batdorf and Mrs. Frackelton were unanimously elected.

Mrs. Tyra Sexton was chosen Chairman of the Nominating Committee for 1995; two non-members of the Board will serve on her committee. It was suggested that members of varying ages and professions and from different geographic areas might add diversity to the Board.

Discussion followed on the sale price for the *Handbook*. Since not all costs have yet been determined, it was tentatively suggested that the price remain about \$15 as previously recommended. Publicity for the sale of the *Handbook* will be handled by Mrs. Frackelton and Mrs. Ward. After comments, it seemed most convenient to schedule the next Board meeting on a Thursday afternoon in September 9th or 16th at the Sheraton Inn, Charlottesville, about 12 noon for lunch.

—Joan C. Butler, Secretary

Lecture and Tour

After the Board meeting, the membership meeting then reconvened to hear Ian Robertson's talk on "The Designer's Challenge—Boxwood," accompanied by slides tracing the development of garden design.

A generous box lunch was served on the Cascades Terrace outside the meeting room; despite a cool gray start to the morning when the session began, the warm sun shone brilliantly for the rest of the day.

Tour. Following the delicious lunch, members embarked on a bus ride to Berkeley Plantation on the James River, where they were met by owner and ABS Director Malcolm E. Jamieson, Jr.

Everyone enjoyed seeing the house built in the 1760s at the site of the 1619 landing of the Berkeley Company of settlers from London. The history of ownership by the Harrison family, including two presidents of the United States, and

purchase by the Jamiesons about 1920, made the visit even more interesting.

The grounds were enhanced by grand old tree box (*Buxus sempervirens*) in fine condition, displaying a beautiful color contrast between the older, dark green foliage and the lush, bluish-green new growth.

The group then drove to Westover, the Georgian plantation house built by William Byrd, now shaded by magnificent old tulip poplar trees planted in the 18th century.

Mr. Jamieson led the group through the extensive gardens; even the parking area was surrounded by high boxwood hedges. As time ran short, all returned to the Lord Paget Inn for the annual boxwood plant auction, where vigorous competition for unusual cultivars produced a sizable addition to the ABS treasury. A fine outing for a large group of members was over.



Mrs. Scot Butler (ABS Secretary) chats with Mr. Ian Robertson (guest speaker) and Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf (ABS Director and Registrar for *Buxus L.*) during lunch. (Photos: Mrs. Robert Frackelton except as indicated)



Mr. George Schumacher, Turton, Calif., Mr. Drew Somerford, Jeffersontown, Va., and Mr. Lee Hahn, Califon, N.J., chat during lunch.



Mr. Richard D. Mahone, ABS Director, and former ABS President, greets Mr. Malcolm E. Jamieson, Jr., who arranged the garden tour for the ABS annual meeting.



The youngest attendees, Christi and Caleb Saunders with their mother, Lyn.



Carriage entrance to Berkeley. (Photo: Scot Butler)



Side entrance at Berkeley. The datestone over the door has the initials of Benjamin Harrison IV and his wife Anne with the year 1726. (Photo: Scot Butler)



At Berkeley, the group pauses amidst the boxwood in the ten acres of formal boxwood gardens extending to the James River.



Tea and mint julep house at Berkeley. (Photo: Scot Butler)



Westover: On the approach from the bus parking, area the river is in the background and the house is hidden from view by an enormous boxwood. (Photo: Scot Butler)



The familiar facade of Westover with the huge old tulip poplar tree planted in the 18th century. (Photo: Scot Butler)



Westover: Handsome *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' grace a wing on the land side of the house. (Photo: Scot Butler)

Boxwood Auction

Boxwood cultivars offered for sale at the 1994 Annual Auction on May 21, 1994:

'Aristocrat' (*Buxus sempervirens*) selected by Dr. John Baldwin in 1966; a pair has been growing near the head of the steps down into the sunken garden at the College of William and Mary. Large pyramidal shape, very tall in maturity. Hardy Zone 6.

'Belleville' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Selected in 1956, hardy in Illinois and London Gardens, Pennsylvania. Strong but compact growth, very

large mature size.

'Cliffside' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Selected in 1970s by Dr. John Baldwin.

'Compacta' (*Buxus microphylla*) Very slow growing hardy plant selected as seedling in 1912 by William Appleby of Baltimore, Maryland. Registered in 1948 and developed by Henry Hohman of Kingsville Nurseries, Maryland. Also called Kingsville Dwarf box. Extremely hardy, but must be grown in shade to keep dark green color. It is prone to sporting which has

resulted in the introduction of sports 'Curly Locks', 'Grace Hendrick Phillips', 'Helen Whiting' and 'Sunlight'. It is a good bonsai subject. Twenty-five-year-old plants are about 10" tall and 18" across. Hardy to Zone 5.

'Dee Runk' (*Buxus sempervirens*) A tall, narrow columnar plant, but with soft, loose foliage.

'Elegantissima' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Grown in Europe in the 1860s. One of the best variegated boxwoods. Mature size is about 7' tall by 7' across. Will benefit by having tips of

new growth pinched to promote denser foliage. Hardy to Zone 6.

'Glauca' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Known since the 1860s; spring growth starts late; leaves are usually close together on stems, producing compact, dense growth, but will become large in maturity.

'Grace Hendrick Phillips' (*Buxus microphylla*) A sport of 'Compacta' registered in 1967 and introduced by Henry Hohman, who chose the name of the wife of the President of the American Boxwood Society. Prefers shade.

'Graham Blandy' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Has been growing at Blandy Farm, the State Arboretum of Virginia, since the 1930s; its origin is unknown. It was named for the donor of Blandy Farm, Clarke County, Virginia. It has an unusual columnar form, tight and very narrow. New spring growth sometimes droops; it is suggested that it be shortened about 1/3 by pruning, to maintain upright habit. A 20-year-old plant is 9' tall by 1-1/2' across. Mature height 15-18.' Probably hardy to Zone 5.

'Green Pillow' (*Buxus microphylla*) Another of William Appleby's seedlings selected in 1912 and named and introduced by Henry Hohman of Kingsville Nurseries. Registered in 1967. Very low broad mound, dense and compact. This is the plant used around the Rose Garden at the White House in Washington, D. C.

'Green Velvet' (*Buxus* hybrid) probably between *B. sinica* var. *insularis* (Korean) and *B. sempervirens*. Registered in 1967 by Sheridan Nurseries, Ontario, Canada, originator. Retains green color in winter; hardy to Zone 4.

'Handsworthii' - *Buxus sempervirens* - A large plant, upright in early years, then spreading. Leaves are a thick leathery dark green, with new foliage rather blue in contrast. Known in England since the eighteenth century.

'Helen Whiting' (*Buxus micro-*

phylla) A sport of 'Compacta' and, like others with this parentage, prefers shade. Leaves have a faint yellow border, giving it a glowing halo.

Found and named in 1973 by Dr. John Baldwin. Hardy to Zone 5.

'Hermann von Schrenk' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Registered in 1974 by the Missouri Botanic Garden honoring Dr. von Schrenk who had brought the original specimen from Virginia in 1937. It has thrived in St. Louis to form huge clumps of dense plants.

'Ipek' (*Buxus sempervirens*) One of the plants which resulted from Dr. Edgar Anderson's trip to the Balkans in 1934; the name is a historic equivalent of present-day Pec in Yugoslavia. The plant is pyramidal in shape and the leaves maintain a pronounced bluish color.

'Jim's Spreader' (*Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*) Distributed by Saunders Brothers Nursery. Broad, spreading habit, vigorous growth.

'John Baldwin' (*Buxus microphylla*) A seedling selected by Dr. John Baldwin at College of William and Mary and named for him after his death in 1974. Vertical habit of growth, but slow and dense with small bluish-green leaves. A 15-year-old plant is 6' high by 18" wide; a wonderful accent plant.

'Justin Brouwers' (*Buxus sinica* var. *insularis*) A seedling selected by J. B. Brouwers, a nurseryman in Williamsburg, Virginia. Maintains dark green color even in full sun; small leaves, dense habit, slow-growing mounded plant to about 30" in height. An elegant plant for many uses.

'Krossi-livonia' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Part of a collection of boxwoods given to the ABS in 1966 by Henry Hohman and planted at Blandy Farm. Not included in any registration list.

'Morris Dwarf' (*Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*) An open-pollinated seedling selected by Dr. Henry Skinner at the Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, in 1947. It is a

dwarf box with dense and twiggy branches. A 40-year-old plant is 3' high by 4 1/2' wide. Hardy to Zone 6. Registered in 1972.

'Myosotidifolia' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Listed at Kew Gardens, London, in 1896. An erect, slow-growing small to medium-sized shrub of compact, twiggy habit, with small dark green foliage.

'Myrtifolia' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Recorded as early as 1782. Small narrow leaves. Dense, but large mature size. See article by Mary Gamble in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 32, No. 3, page 62, January 1987)

'Nana' (*Buxus sinica* var. *insularis*) Dwarf Korean, spreading plant of willowy or cascading habit, broader than high. Plants line the front entrance walk at Blandy Farm.

'Natchez' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Registered in 1987. Tested by Boxwood Society of the Midwest for many years and found hardy in the difficult climate of St. Louis. See *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 26, No. 3, page 62 (January 1987).

'Pendula' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Known by 1869. A weeping form.

'Ponteyi' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Large boxwood; dark green foliage sometimes produces small amounts of silver-variegated leaves. Name published in 1893.

'Rotundifolia' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Noted in 1859. A large shrub which produces vigorous amounts of annual growth; leaf is large and almost circular. Somewhat coarse as a young plant, but sturdy and outstanding as a mature specimen.

'Salicifolia Elata' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Registered in 1896. Becomes very large in maturity.

'Suffruticosa' (*Buxus sempervirens*) Most popular and widely-grown boxwood, known as "English." Its history goes back beyond 1753. It has small rounded leaves and the plant grows in a rounded shape; with age, it produces rolling tufts resembling clouds. Although called dwarf



The traditional auction closes the Annual Meeting. Here Auctioneer John W. Boyd, Jr., checks the identity of one of the plants while the bidders and Treasurer/tabulator Katherine Ward wait. (Photo: Scot Butler)

because of its slow growth, mature plants in old gardens have reached a considerable size, such as those at Gunston Hall in Fairfax County, Virginia. To keep it healthy it needs to be opened up by regular thinning.

'Tide Hill' (*Buxus sinica* var. *insularis*) Similar to *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Nana'. Registered in 1957 and described in 1964 by Benjamin Blackburn. Originally from the garden of Samuel Everitt, Tide Hill, at Huntington Bay, Long Island. Collected about 1936, and propagated in 1951 at Willowood Arboretum, Gladstone, New Jersey. This is a dwarf spreading cultivar which benefits from some shade.

'Vardar Valley' - *Buxus sempervirens* - One of Dr. Edgar Anderson's Balkan boxwoods brought back in 1934. An extremely hardy box with blue-green foliage; low, broad mature shape; a 40-year-old plant is 3' high by 8' wide. One of the best boxwoods.

'Welleri' - *Buxus sempervirens* - Registered in 1945 by Weller Nursery in Michigan.

The ABS extends thanks to those who generously contributed plants for

the auction:

- Mrs. Scot Butler (Bluemont Nurseries)
- Mr. Charles Fooks, Sr. (The Woodland Nursery)
- Mr. Thomas Saunders (Saunders Bros.)
- Mr. Dale T. Taylor (ABS past President)
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Ward Walker, Del Rio, Tenn.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Robert E. Callahan

Member since 1977

Mr. Wyford D. Jones

Member since 1962

Mrs. Miriam Glovier Rabb

Mrs. Morgan B. Schiller

Member since 1967

Mrs. Mead Stull

Member since 1976

Mr. Bennett Taylor

Member since 1988

Mrs. Francis Taylor

Member since 1988

Boxwood Revenge: A Story

During the reception at the Annual Meeting, a Society member told a pleasant story. Her grandfather's home had been located on U.S. Route 29 in the Charlottesville area. Boxwood had been his pride and every structure was surrounded by hedges of it, the house, the barn, the spring house, the smoke house, the corn crib—around each one boxwood flourished.

After Grandfather's death, his widow continued to cherish the box. But the years had brought change and "progress." In the 1970s Grandmother was notified that the Virginia State Highway Department was planning to widen and dual-lane Route 29 and the house and land would be taken by the State. No amount of negotiation had any effect. The price offered was ridiculously insignificant, and made no allowance for the considerable age of the house nor for its wonderful old timbers.

Grandmother had no choice but to agree. However she did arrange for a nurseryman to dig the numerous boxwood plants and transport them to another family home in a different county. When the man arrived at the house, the boxwoods had already been dug and piled up by the Highway Department crews! He learned that the construction superintendent intended to take them all to his own home.

The nurseryman announced that those plants all belonged to the property owner, who had received no payment for them, and that he was loading them up and taking them to her new home.

He brooked no interference and the plants arrived safely in their next garden. So much for Virginia's high-handed treatment of Grandfather's beloved boxwood.

—As related to Joan Butler

Members Share

Dr. Leroy Henning Mayfield, was a dedicated surgeon, who as early as the second grade had chosen his profession, signing his workbook "Henning Mayfield, M.D. 2B." He was also a devotee of boxwood. His widow writes that he had been rooting boxwood for more than 40 years, sharing plants and consulting over various problems as a "plant doctor." She said he was an avid reader of *The Boxwood Bulletin* and she is continuing her membership in order to care for the boxwoods.



Billowing boxwood in front of the Mayfield home in Memphis, Tenn.



Boxwood clusters at the back porch without blocking the view. (Photos: Mrs. L. M. Mayfield)



Five years ago, Dr. Mayfield planted boxwood for his son from some he had rooted.

From inside back cover... Treat the ball with extreme caution at this point. Move it carefully and as little as possible. A large ball may be placed on a piece of burlap or plywood and moved to the new location. A large ball may need to be tied with string in a burlap and wire basket if it is to be moved several times or for any distance.

After digging the ball, the new hole may be evaluated to determine if the depth and width are sufficient. Place the plant in the hole at the same depth that it was originally planted. If several plants are to be moved into a pre-determined pattern, it is sometimes helpful to set all of the plants in the holes and make all minor adjustments for alignment and depth before any of the root balls are filled in with dirt. When filling dirt around the balls, use only good organic humus,

discarding any solid clay balls or rock which came from the digging. Simultaneous with filling the dirt in, water sufficiently to eliminate any air spaces and fill the dirt in closely around the roots. Watering and cleaning can occur simultaneously by using a strong water spray nozzle to clean debris from the inside of the plant.

After-Care: For the first year after transplanting, particular care should be given to maintaining adequate moisture for the plant. This is very important at all times but especially in the summer when the heat and possible strong direct sun may add stress to the plant. For a detailed description of watering factors see *The Seasonal Gardener* in the previous summer edition of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, July 1993, Vol. 33, No. 1, p.19.

Steve Southall, ABS President

The Seasonal Gardener

Practical tips for boxwood enthusiasts from Society members



Transplanting Boxwoods

Background: As with most tasks, the adequacy and thoroughness of the preparations determine to a great extent the successfulness of the venture. Boxwoods have a root system which is very conducive to transplanting. It is fibrous, roughly equal in diameter to the drip line of the plant, with a depth of approximately one third to one half the height of the plant. The most ideal time to transplant boxwoods is the fall, and spring is the next preference. The reason for this is that if moved during September, the root system has October and November to begin establishing itself even though the top appears dormant. Any break in the weather during the winter months will bring about root growth and the spring months prior to the flush will be accompanied by root growth. This level of root development is very important in preparation for the dual stresses of heat and drought which the summer will place on the plant. Therefore, spring transplanting leaves much less time for this important root development. Actually a break in the weather during the winter when the ground is not frozen is an acceptable time to move plants as long as the major cold of winter is thought to be past, i.e. mid- to late-February.

Preparation: If one knows six to twelve months prior to transplanting that plants are to be moved, root pruning is a practice which may be beneficial. A spade is inserted to it~ full depth around the circumference of the root ball just inside the drip line of the plant. No attempt is made to lift the plant. The purpose of cutting the side roots at the drip line leaving the bottom roots of the ball intact is to force additional root growth within the ball prior to transplanting. This root prune line should be marked in some way because at time of transplanting, the cut of the root ball should never be within this line and ideally should be slightly outside of it.

The site which will accept the plant should be adequately prepared ahead of time. The hole should be significantly larger than the root ball, and humus can be mixed into the surrounding soil to lighten it

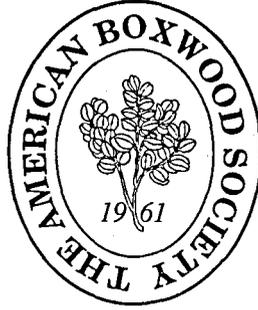
since boxwoods need well-drained soil. To facilitate drainage in heavy soil, post-holes may be dug at various points in a bed and filled with organic humus.

The soil around the plant to be moved should be moist. If dry conditions exist, thoroughly saturate the soil one day before the move. This will allow ample time for the water to dissipate. Do not soak the plant and then try to move it. The added weight of the water will cause the root ball to fall apart.

Transplanting: When determining where to make the initial cut around the plant, check the stem to determine that it is in the center of the plant. If it is, the drip line of the plant is a reasonable guide for your cut. If the stem is off center, then the stem should be the primary guide. One should center the stem but not cut inside the drip line. The depth of the root ball should be approximately one-third to one-half the height of the plant. Boxwoods do not have deep roots but it is necessary to get a solid ball. A spade with a face approximately 16" long should be used in order to get the depth of root ball desired on larger plants. A normal round point shovel would be fine for a plant 12"-15" tall because the shovel would penetrate 10", but on a 30" plant a spade penetrating 15" is desirable.

Make a circumferential cut with the spade angled slightly inward. After cutting once around, cut around again to insure that all lateral roots have been severed. At this point, a prying action can begin. After inserting the shovel fully, pry slightly in various locations around the plant in order to gently lift it free. When working with a plant larger than 24", two people, each with a spade, prying together, work most effectively. When prying, constantly check the integrity of the ball to insure that it is not breaking or cracking; it should be lifting as a unit. After a point, the ball should "feel" free, even though it may feel heavy. The ball may then be lifted from the hole. This is done by one or two people, each grasping at the base one or two major branches, and lifting the ball up and out of the hole.

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