

The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental



Chessboard topiary at Little Hasley. See article on page 23. (Photo: Regina Boehm and Wolfgang Kohnert)

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The American Boxwood Society

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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Contributing	\$50		

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<i>Boxwood Buyer's Guide</i> (4th Edition)	\$ 6
<i>International Registration List of Cultivated Buxus</i> L.	\$ 3
<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1961-1986</i>	\$ 10
<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1986-1991</i>	\$ 4
<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1991-1996</i>	\$ 3

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P.O. Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620-0085

For general information about the Society, advice concerning boxwood problems or cultivar selection, write to The American Boxwood Society at the same address. You are also welcome to write directly to the President:

Dr. Stephen D. Southall
3912 Faculty Drive
Lynchburg, Va. 24501-3110

Call for Papers:

Technical articles, news, history, lore, notes, and photographs concerning boxwood specimens, gardens or plantings are solicited for possible publication in *The Boxwood Bulletin*. Material should be submitted to:

Chairman, Bulletin Committee
1714 Greenway Drive
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401-5209

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European Boxwood and Topiary Society Meeting

Tour of English Gardens

Sigrid Georgii Harriman

[Following is a free translation of the report by Regina Boehm and Wolfgang Kohnert, German members of The American Boxwood Society (ABS), on their attendance at the second meeting of the European Boxwood and Topiary Society (EBTS). I have completed the notes by adding further details about the gardens they visited and facts about EBTS which were distributed at that meeting. S. G. H.]

At the Annual ABS meeting in May 1996, (see *The Boxwood Bulletin*, vol.36, no.1, pp.3-15, July 1996), Regina and Wolfgang met Dr. and Mrs. Braimbridge, joint owners of Langley Boxwood Nursery in England, who announced their plans for the foundation of a European Boxwood society. Weeks later Regina and Wolfgang received an invitation to join EBTS.

For an account of the October 1996 inaugural meeting see Lynn Batdorf's report in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, vol.36, no.3, pp.43-48, January 1997. At that meeting, Lynn Batdorf (U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.), Dr. Egon Koehler (Humboldt University, Berlin), Dr. Angela Leiva Sanchez (Jardin Botanico Nacional, Havana), and Allen Coombes (Hillier Gardens and Arboretum, Ampfield) were elected honorary life members of EBTS.

The second EBTS meeting was scheduled for May 31-June 1, 1997 at Chenies Manor, in Buckinghamshire, west of London.

Regina and Wolfgang reached England from the continent via the Calais-Dover Hovercraft and drove to Chenies Manor to attend the EBTS spring meeting. The location of the

meeting was well chosen. House and garden at Chenies Manor formed a charming backdrop for the activities. Registration at 9 a.m. was accompanied by coffee and a display of items for sale, e.g., books, topiary, china, shears, etc. The first day was mainly dedicated to the business part of the meeting, the second day featured tours of various gardens. The meeting displayed many similarities to ABS's annual meetings. The attendees (about 90-100) came mostly from Great Britain, Wales, and Scotland. A Mr. Ellis from Dublin introduced himself as another member of ABS. One attendee from Canada took pictures during the meeting for his Internet site. Two attendees came from Belgium and Regina and

Wolfgang from Germany, completed the international delegates.

Dr. Mark Braimbridge chaired the meeting. Among formal issues discussed was the introduction of the new logo for EBTS. The logo, submitted and designed by Don Tozer, was unanimously approved. It features a stylized topiary resembling a flame in a circle of twelve stars. The name of the society encircles all.

This was followed by announcements by EBTS' editor, Jenny Hendy, regarding several forthcoming publications:

(1) *The Little Book of Box* will be prepared by Jenny Hendy and Elizabeth Braimbridge on the cultivation and training of boxwood.

(2) *Suppliers Guide* will be



Chenies Manor (Photos: Regina Boehm and Wolfgang Kohnert)

produced with regional listings of companies supplying plants and topiary frames, equipment, and services.

(3) *Directory of Topiary Gardens*, information on topiary gardens, in Britain and Continental Europe, notable for boxwood or topiary worthy to be included in the directory. (Details are welcome. The editor is looking for good, small gardens that can be opened to the public or private parties, as well as larger properties.)

(4) *EBTS Newsletter* should be produced annually to assure highest quality possible. It will be in parallel English and French and entitled "Topiarius" on the basis that this was a Europe-wide name and also media-friendly. The first issue will be published as soon as production problems have been solved and the new logo is ready for printing. The editor also asked for articles on boxwood or topiary in general - questions, viewpoints or items that reflect a range of personal experience from beginner to experienced professional, ideally with artwork in the form of line drawings.

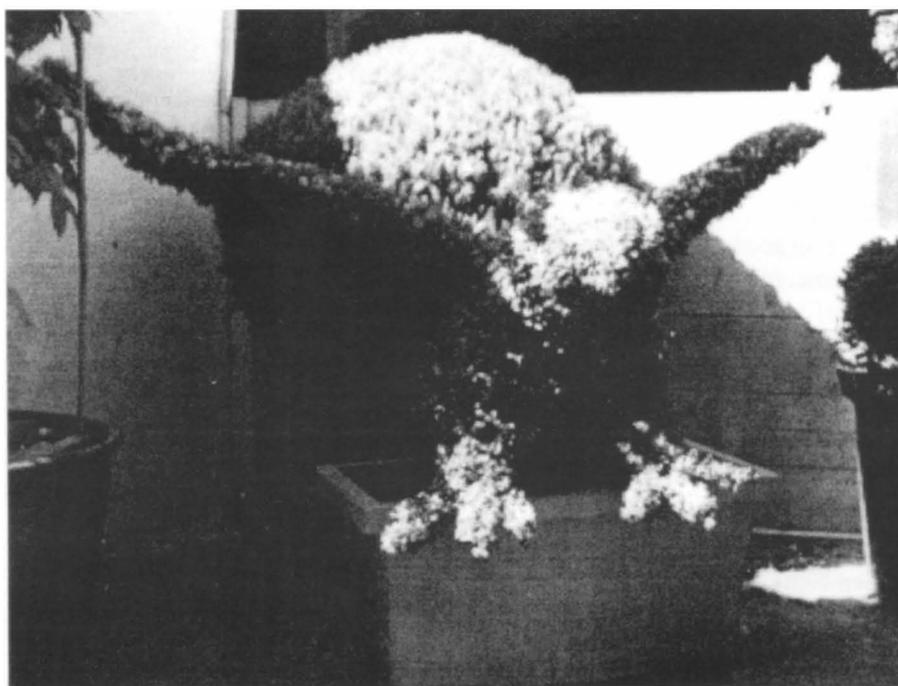
After the meeting at Chenies Manor, it became clear that a membership card was needed, both as receipt for the annual subscription and as useful identification. The chairman therefore authorized the printing in the hope that all members would approve. Membership cards bearing the EBTS logo were mailed out.

General Secretary Countess Veronique Goblet d'Alviella presented an outline for the third meeting of EBTS in the fall of 1997. It is scheduled for October 17-19 in Paris. A number of very special and private gardens (Courances, Vaux-le-Vicomte, La Mormaire, and Versailles) will be on the agenda.

Rosemary Verey, the internationally known garden designer and



Chenies Manor. Veronique Goblet d'Alviella with Rosemary Verey.



EBTS Auction: Don Tozer's eagle, cut from Ligustrum.

author of garden books, reported on the creation of a knot garden on her property in which she used different varieties of *Buxus*. She is instrumental in introducing new varieties in England to be used in knot gardens

and topiaries. She is frequently consulted by famous people concerning gardening questions, among them HRH Prince Charles. Using slides, she explained the steps toward the completion of a knot design and also



Chessboard topiary with Little Hasley in the background.

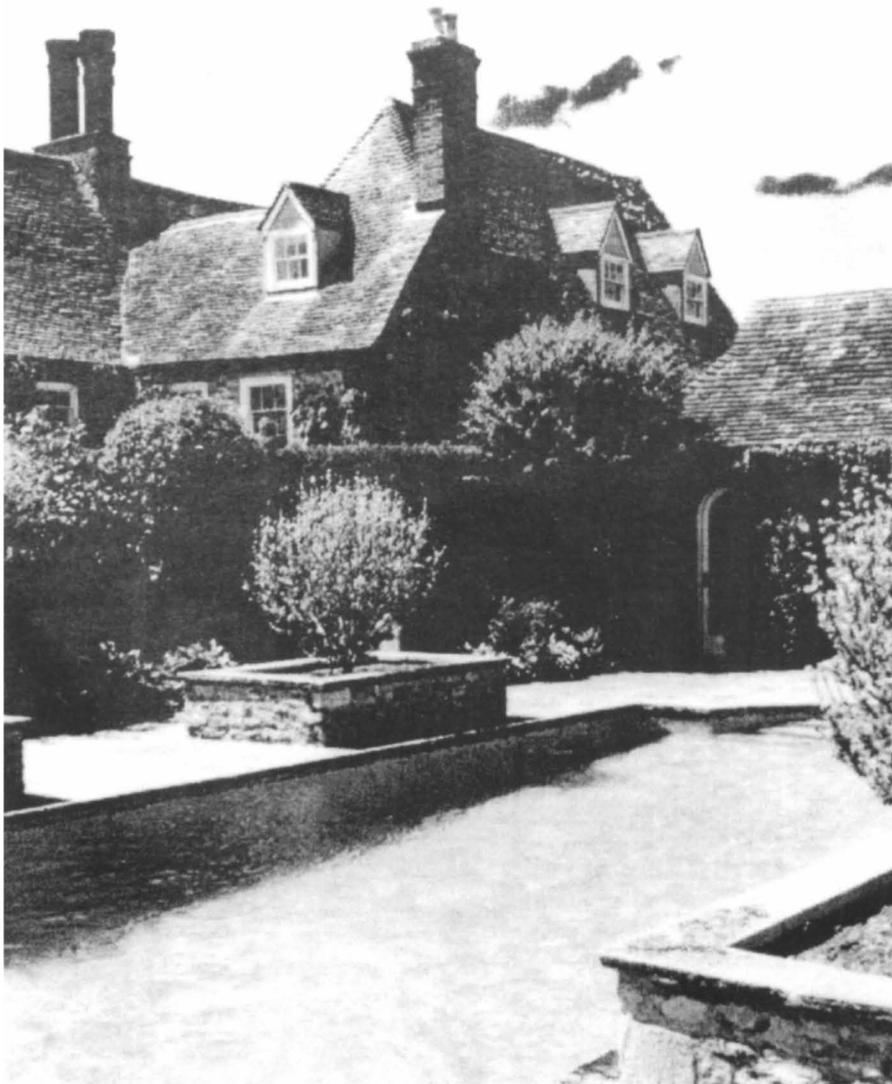
presented slides from antiquarian garden books on the history and development of knot gardens.

This talk was followed by Dr. Egon Koehler who reported on his *Buxus* expeditions to Cuba and Central America. To date he has identified 30 new cultivars. He also outlined scientific methods to determine different *Buxus* varieties—mutations in leaf venation, blossom, and seed structures.

The reports were followed by a “meet the experts” session with Elizabeth Braimbridge, Egon Koehler, Rosemary Verey, and Mrs. Louise Bendall, an *Ilex* specialist from Hampshire. Most questions from the audience were on topiary and boxwood. The day ended with a boxwood auction at Chenies Manor. Elizabeth Braimbridge showed some



Boxwood parterre at Little Hasley.



Rofford Manor: The pool.



Rofford Manor: Seating area for lunch.

of her *Buxus* rarities such as *Buxus rugorosa* var. *intermedia* from China and *Buxus henryi*. Dan Tozer, the vice president of EBTS and owner of a nursery north of London, had brought some unusual topiaries i.e., an eagle cut from *Ligustrum* (see photo).

A bus tour to three important private gardens was scheduled for the second day. Mrs. Hayward, the owner of Little Hasley guided the groups through the first garden. Behind the house an outstanding topiary rectangle (20 x 25 meters) features a chess board complete with life size *Buxus* chess figures. From their positions, it appears as if both contenders left the game just for a moment. Further areas of the garden invited leisurely strolling. A wonderful *Buxus* parterre garden (see photo), flower and vegetable gardens surrounded by *Buxus sempervirens* hedges and winding paths lined with *Carpinus carolina* offered numerous shady seating areas from which to admire Little Hasley.

The next stop was the garden of Rofford Manor, owned by the Hogfords. It is several acres of garden landscape with outstanding buildings and diversely designed gardens. One of the perfectly styled gardens features a raised rectangular water lily pond with geometrically clipped *Buxus* surrounding it (see photo). Picnic lunch was served in these surroundings. As on the previous day, Veronique organized the perfect French-English blending of foods.

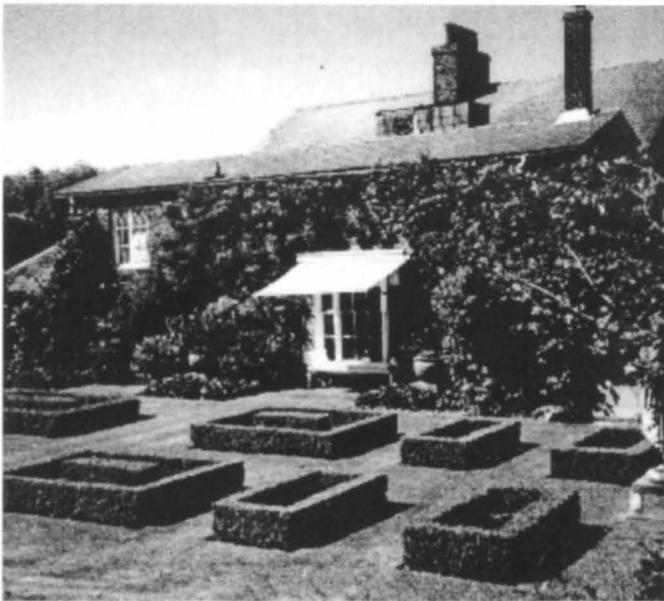
The day's last stop was at the Grove, the garden that David Hicks created for himself and his wife, Lord Mountbatten's youngest daughter, Pamela. David Hicks is an international designer of furniture, jewelry, all sorts of utensils, and gardens (see photo). He created this garden in line with his conviction that gardens are an extension of the house's interior design. Therefore Hicks planted for



Rofford Manor: Rectangular lily pond with boxwood.



David Hicks at The Grove.



The Grove: Rectangular Buxus parterres.



The Grove: Bucket Garden with gravel and grass.

line and architectural structure using green-on-green spaces with statuary and water as focal points. He used pleached *Carpinus betula* to define a garden room with rectangular *Buxus* parterres within (see photo). Another walled garden room, called the red room, retains its structure and color in winter by the use of *Fagus sylvatica* 'Atropunicea' stilt trees (all copper

beech trees were limbed up to the same height followed by pleaching). They are underplanted with hedge-trimmed copper beeches. Perhaps the most notable room, called the bucket garden, is structured along one main axis. On both sides are climbing roses. All other plantings are strictly shaped topiaries in large green planters of different shapes. Groups

of planters sit on rectangular gravel areas, the main walk is grass. This garden is an experience for any garden enthusiast (see photo).

All visits as well as the organization of the entire two-day meeting were arranged by Veronique with the help of her husband and a few friends from the EBTS.

Regina and Wolfgang visited



Regina Boehm and Wolfgang Kohnert at Brook Cottage.

several gardens on their way to the EBTS meeting. The first garden was at Hidcote Manor. Hidcote's famous garden is the work of its American owner, Lawrence Johnston (1871-1958), a talented amateur who began in 1905 designing the garden by attaching a T-shaped framework to the Cotswold manor. He outlined the axes with *Fagus*, *Ilex*, and *Carpinus betula* and created a total of twenty-one garden rooms along the main path.

He offset the formality of the hedges by filling each room with a jumble of shrubs and herbaceous perennials. "If you were to see the profusion of small, enclosed gardens from the air," says Paul Nicholls, Hidcote's head gardener, "the garden would look like a house with the roof off." The walls are built of yew, beech, box, holly, and hornbeam, sometimes daringly mixed together to

create Johnston's famous "tapestry hedges." (*Horticulture*, August 1986, pp.18-25.)

The garden is now part of the National Trust. Vita Sackville-West, author and creator of Sissinghurst's gardens, wrote the official visitors' guidebook. The presence of too many tourists did not permit time to linger at any part of the garden. However, the animal-shaped *Buxus* and *Taxus* topiaries were quite impressive.

Brook Cottage near Banbury was visited the next morning. It is a private garden, open to the public two days a week during the summer months. The garden is divided into many rooms and surprises with fresh views and perspectives (see photo). Following this visit Regina and Wolfgang stopped at Sudeley Castle, a landed property in the holdership of the Historic Houses Association, another much-visited property. The

severe architectural design of the garden unites medieval structures and rose-covered ruins. After the death of King Henry VIII in 1547, Sudeley Castle was home to Catherine Parr, his sixth and last wife. The garden's backdrop of varicolored and multi-shaped *Taxus* and *Buxus* as well as the ancient *Cedrus libani* complete the garden. A new *Buxus* knot garden has been opened to commemorate Queen Elizabeth I's (1533-1603) visit in 1592. The design was inspired by the Queen's dress fabric pictured in a painting in the castle.

Regina and Wolfgang also wandered through Broadway, one of the best preserved medieval small towns in the Cotswolds featuring many antique and souvenir shops. During the Arts and Crafts movement in England, Broadway was a meeting place for many of the movement's artists - Sargent, William Morris, Burne-Jones.

As always when visiting England, the weather seemed to cooperate in a most pleasant way. It was sunny, about 75-80 F, with a slight breeze. This fact may have contributed to Regina and Wolfgang's conviction that the first steps of the European Boxwood and Topiary Society have been successful.



Boxwood at Box Hill

Lynn R. Batdorf

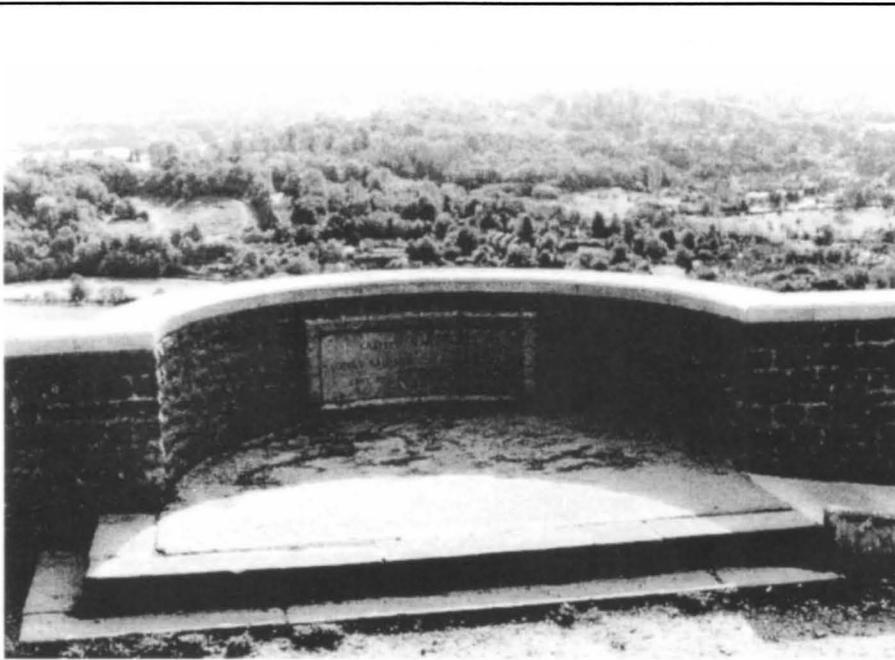
Box Hill is located in Surrey, south of London. It is one of the best-known summits of the North Downs, the chalk ridge which runs from the Hampshire border east through Surrey and Kent to the Straits of Dover. The hill rises a sheer 400 feet from the Mole River to the summit of Box Hill. The first 230 acres were purchased by The National Trust in 1913 for £16,000. With later purchases, this site now has nearly 1,200 acres. The magnificent views, plant material and interesting wildlife have attracted people to Box Hill for many generations. Today, more than one million visitors a year come to enjoy this unique piece of country so near to London.



Along a portion of the top ridge, the mixed forest gives way to turf grass on the north-facing slope to the right. The extensive growth of boxwood continues on the south-facing slope which is seen on the left.



*Boxwood abounds, even along the lane leading to Box Hill; a clipped *Buxus sempervirens* hedge at a private residence is easily noticeable for its beauty and location. (Photos: Lynn R. Batdorf)*

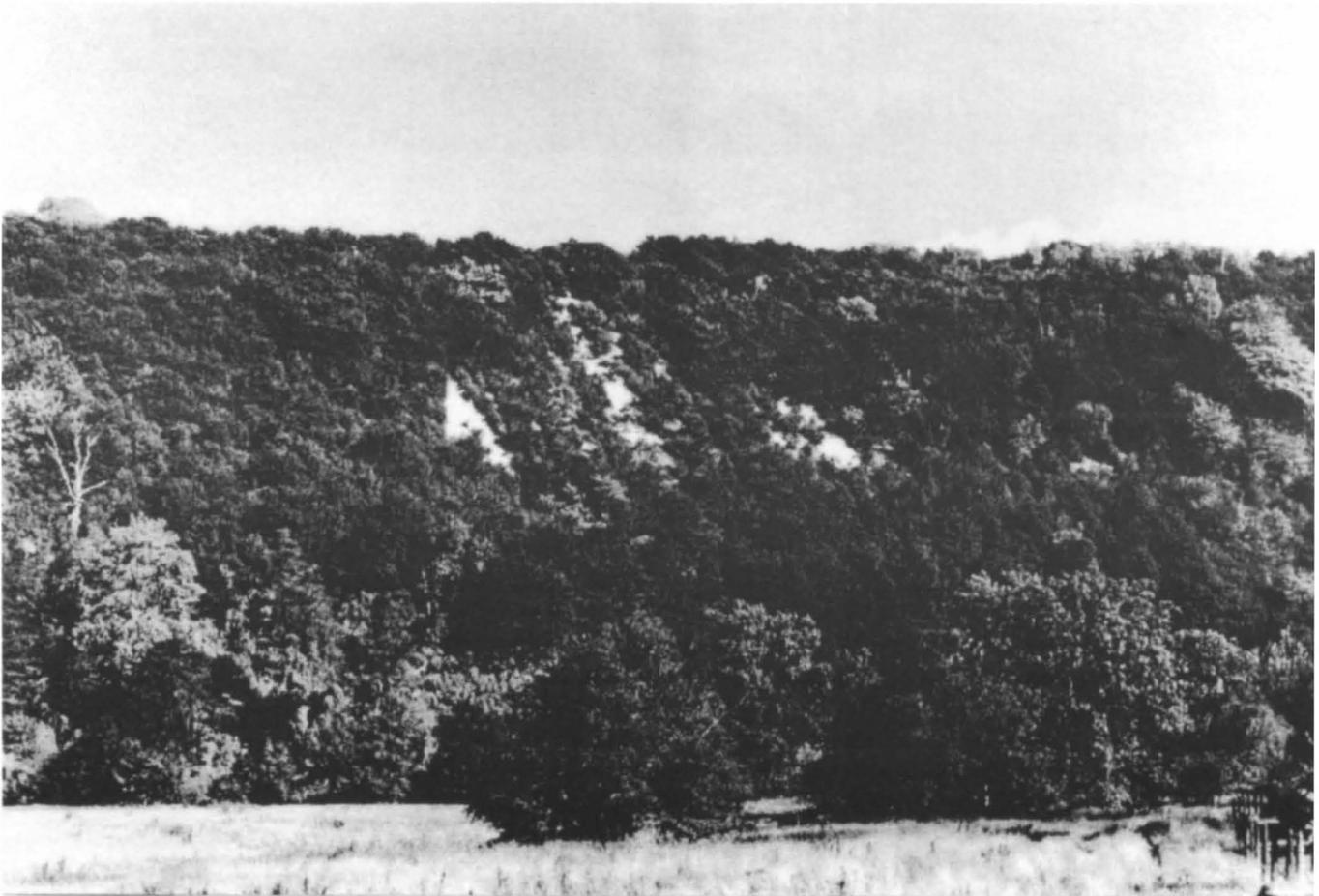


At Box Hill overlook, the memorial plaque reads "In grateful remembrance of Leopold Salomons of Norbury Park who gave Box Hill to the Nation. 1914". The town of Dorking can be seen to the south, beyond the overlook.

The site is rich in history. There are two Bronze Age burial mounds, which are the earliest evidence of human settlement. Stane Street, the Roman road from Chichester to London, crosses the North Downs nearby. There is evidence of medieval farming activity on the top area which is now heavily wooded.

Literary and historic figures associated with the hill include Jane Austen who located the famous picnic scene at Box Hill in her novel *Emma*, and John Logie Baird who carried out some of his early experiments with television from the summit. It is certain that the boxwoods grew there in abundance as long ago as the 16th century.

Chalk downland is now a very rare habitat and the grasslands on Box Hill support a very rich community of



Only from the bottom looking up, can this gigantic stand of boxwood be seen all at one time.



Walking into the middle of the hill of boxwood, a better appreciation of the branching and growth habit of this natural and vast growth of Buxus sempervirens can be seen.

plants and animals. The woodlands at Box Hill are varied and unusual. The top of the hill capped with clay soil containing flint, supports an oak and beech mixed woodland. On the steeper slopes, where the chalk is near

the surface, some of the finest yew woods in southern England can be seen along with the box trees from which Box Hill acquired its name. The woods on the hill are managed for their wildlife value and support

various animals such as roe deer, doormice and purple emperor butterflies. Downland management involves controlling scrub plants by grazing sheep to create the right conditions for the wildlife.

There is a small fortification at Box Hill. It was one of a line of 13 mobilization centers built to protect London from threat of invasion from across the channel.

They have never seen action and have mostly fallen into disrepair. The one at Box Hill was built in 1899 and is one of the best preserved. It was never intended to be permanently manned, only to be used as a center for local volunteers in the event of an invasion. Having equipped themselves with arms and ammunition they were to defend trenches along the line of the North Downs to the best of their ability. The fort itself would only be defended as a last resort.

The history of the boxwood on Box Hill is relatively easy to recreate since 1850. In the book *History of Surrey* it was stated, "There is plenty of evidence that box grew abundantly in and around Box Hill." It went on to state that the boxwood grew more luxuriantly in Surrey than in any other part of the United Kingdom, and that some stems recently measured at that time were nearly 9 inches in diameter.

With this large, mature growth of boxwood, many came to take advantage of its highly prized wood. One of the first recorded occasions was in 1608 when the fee for Box trees cut down upon the sheep-walk on the hill was £50. Later in 1797, the boxwood over 20 years old were cut over a 13-year period, not exceeding 380 tons per year. This was done with a total compensation of £10,000.

The National Trust and all who visit this outstanding site, are well served by having such a large, mature forest of boxwood.

Boxwood at Birr Castle

Lynn R. Batdorf

Birr Castle is located in the town of Birr in the south-central portion of the Republic of Ireland, 80 miles southwest of Dublin.

Birr Castle is today noted for many things: its contributions to science, particularly in the fields of astronomy and engineering; sporting events in harmony with the spirit of the setting; its archives preserved down through the ages, and simply for its beauty as the home of the

family which has lived in it for 14 successive generations.

Birr Castle Gardens and Demesne (lands retained by a feudal lord for his own use) have the highest rating of five stars in the official list of Gardens of Outstanding Historic Interest. Open every day of the year they have many significant features, such as the formal gardens with a design based on a 17th-century garden in Bavaria and a telescope that was designed and

built by the Third Earl of Rosse in the early 1840s. For three quarters of a century this giant 6-foot reflecting telescope was the largest in the world. There is also a fernery, which was fashionable in Victorian times; a stone stable house designed and built in the 1850s; and a wrought iron suspension bridge built in 1810 by the Second Earl of Rosse. There is a uniquely-designed water feature where water cascades over a weir which powers a small turbine, which provided both the castle and town with electricity from the 1880s to the 1950s.

An icehouse, boathouse, a well made of shells, wildflower meadow, orchard, an arboretum, and a lake are also present in this stone-walled demesne, which is over 125 acres in size.

Of particular interest is the famous Boxwood Hedge. Located in the northeast section of the demesne, it is immediately adjacent to the Formal Gardens.

The boxwood formed a part of the garden layout designed by Sir William Parsons in the mid-17th-century. The hedge forms an allée on the road that leads to the orchard. The boxwoods in the hedge are estimated to be more than 300 years old. According to the *Guinness Book of Records*, they are the tallest in the world.

The author estimated the height of this hedge at 29'. The author was able to accurately measure the diameter of the trunks at breast height (DBH). The largest DBH that the author could find was $6 \frac{7}{16}$ ", while the average was $3 \frac{7}{8}$ ".

This is the only site in the world where the true potential and splendor of boxwood can be seen. It is an invaluable, living testimony that has survived for over 300 years.



Birr Castle (Photos: Lynn Batdorf)



The author's son, Theodore, 5' 9" tall, stands beside the famous allée of Buxus sempervirens at Birr Castle.



The hedge has been maintained to provide a unique opening that is still used by various vehicles.



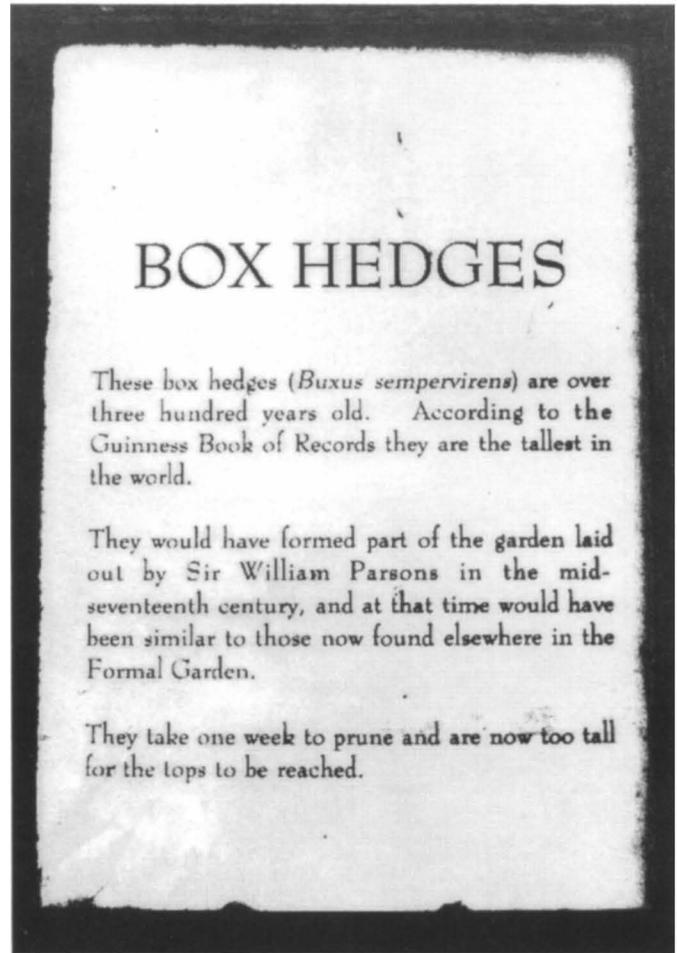
The formal gardens are planted with an extensive parterre of Buxus sempervirens. Clipped yews frame the corners while lilacs are grown in the centers.



Upon closer examination of the boxwood, an incredibly thick moss can be seen. This moss is supported by the very moist conditions that exist in south-central Ireland.



New growth is appearing on the straight, main trunks of the plants.



The plaque that accompanies the boxwood hedge.



Metal wire has been stapled to the main trunks to keep the lower branches in a tight, straight pattern.

NOTICES

Directory Corrections

(See back cover, July 1997 issue)

- The area code for Mr. Richard D. Mahone is now 757.

- Dr. Edward F. Connor, Director, Ex-Officio on the ABS Governing Board, has been replaced by Dr. Michael Bowers, Interim Director of Blandy Experimental Farm. The phone number and address are unchanged.

Dr. Connor has accepted a position at San Francisco State University.

Mark Your Calendar

ABS Annual Meeting at the U.S. National Arboretum and D.C. area, May 15 and 16, 1998.

Registering *Buxus* Cultivars

General Information and Instructions

Lynn R. Batdorf

Important: Read and follow all instructions carefully. The Registrar can only accept specimens which conform to these instructions.

PLANTS CONSIDERED FOR REGISTRATION

Any selection of a species, variety or clone of the genus *Buxus* whose selected characteristic can be retained through propagation and whose characteristics are, to your knowledge, distinct and different from related species, varieties or clones is eligible for registration. Seedlings from recently germinated seed or cutting from recently rooted selections, therefore, should not be submitted for registration since the "unique" features selected may not be retained when the plant is grown on for several years. If, after several years of observation {length of time depends upon the growth rate of the plant}, a seedling or cutting proves to retain the selected characteristic and subsequent propagation likewise proves that the characteristics are retained, the boxwood is then eligible for registration.

SELECTION OF A NAME

The following are either inadmissible Names or Not Recommended:

1. Names containing numerals or symbols except as established custom requires.

2. The scientific or common name of a genus or the common name of a species. Example: 'Rose', 'Apricot', 'Peach', etc.

3. Names containing an initial article unless required by linguistic custom. Example: 'Colonel', not 'The Colonel', but 'La Rochelle', not 'Rochelle'.

4. Abbreviations at the beginning of a cultivar name.

Example: 'William Thomas', not 'Wm. Thomas'; 'Mount Kisco', not 'Mt. Kisco'.

5. Names containing forms of address liable to be confused.

6. A name with more than three words.

7. Excessively long words.

8. Names exaggerating the merits of a cultivar or which may become inaccurate through the introduction of new cultivars. (Example: 'Tallest of All'; 'Tall', however, would be acceptable. 'Bluest Leaf' is inadmissible, but 'Blue Leaf' might be acceptable.)

9. Names that are vaguely descriptive. (Example: 'Yellow Queen', but not 'Yellow'; or 'Red Twig', but not 'Red'.)

10. Names within the same genus likely to be confused. (Example: 'Ellen' vs. 'Helen'; 'Werner' vs. 'Verner'.)

11. Names resulting in a series of names with the same initial word. (Example: *Buxus sempervirens* 'Silver Queen', 'Silver Star', 'Silver Leaf', 'Silver Top'.)

COLLECTION AND PREPARATION OF A SPECIMEN

Collect a specimen at least 9" long; but no longer than 10" which has, in your estimate, average growth and shows the features that distinguish the plant. (Unless plant shape or size is the only "different" feature). Include fruit or flower.

Do not take the specimen from sucker growth, the top-most branches, nor the bottom-most branches.

Side branches are desirable if the specimen will still fit into a "zip-lock" plastic bag and mailing package without undue crushing.

DESCRIBING BOXWOOD CHARACTERISTICS

Match your boxwood specimen with the diagram below and indicate the closest match in the appropriate space on the Boxwood Description Form. If none of the diagrams matches closely with your specimen, prepare additional diagrams in the spaces provided.

PLANT SHAPE

When estimating the plant shape consider only the *natural* shape and not the shape after shearing or pruning.

Prostrate - a plant that grows closely to the ground

Mound - nearly globe shaped, but wider than tall

Globe - spherical

Subglobose - nearly or somewhat ball-shaped or spherical

Conical - cone-shaped

Broad Conical - conical, but wider at the base

Columnar - having parallel sides, or nearly so

Broad Columnar - columnar, but slightly wider at the base

Turbinate - inversely conical, shaped like a top.

Weeping -

Other -

BRANCHING HABIT

Horizontal - parallel to the ground, or nearly so

Fastigate - with branches erect and more or less flat

Herringbone - parallel (or nearly so) branches that are angled between horizontal and fastigate

Fan - similar to herringbone, but the branches are not parallel

Other -

LEAF SHAPE

Broadest at Middle:

Orbicular - circular or nearly so

Oval - egg-shaped

Elliptic - widest at or near the middle with narrow to rounded ends

Oblong - a leaf longer than broad, and with the sides nearly parallel most of their length

Linear - long and narrow, the sides parallel or nearly so, as blades of most grasses

Broadest at Base:

Ovate - an egg-shaped leaf that is more or less rounded at both ends and the broadest part is nearest to the point of attachment

Lanceolate - a lance-shaped leaf, several times longer than wide, and widest below the middle

Broadest at Apex:

Obovate - a leaf that is broader above the middle rather than below the middle

Oblanceolate - inversely lanceolate, with the broadest width above the middle, and tapering at the base

LEAF APEX (TIP)

Obcordate - inversely heart-shaped, with a notch at the apex

Emarginate - a leaf tip that is indented, or having a shallow notch

Retuse - a slight notch at a usually blunt or rounded leaf apex

Obtuse - a blunt or rounded leaf apex

Acute - having a sharp point, tapering with essentially straight sides to a point

Acuminate - gradually narrowing to a point

Apiculate - terminated by a short, sharp, flexible point

Mucronate - having a small, fine point at the apex

Cuspidate - leaves that sharply narrow into a point

LEAF BASE

Cuneate - leaves that are wedge-shaped, or narrowly triangular at the base

Attenuate - gradually long-tapering

Obtuse - blunt or rounded

Note: Anyone interested in registering a Buxus cultivar may write for application forms to:

Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, Registrar
U.S. National Arboretum
3501 New York Avenue N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

of small evergreens. One student explained that they were taking out the honeysuckle vines from large old plants "so the boxwoods can grow." The students provided a fine bonus for Blandly: 150 service hours, or four weeks of work by one person. Even old, neglected boxwoods benefited.

Board Meeting Minutes

The fall meeting of the Governing Board was held on Friday, September 5, 1997 at the Double Tree Inn in Charlottesville, Virginia. In attendance were President Dr. Stephen D. Southall, First Vice President Tom Saunders, Executive Treasurer Katherine D. Ward, Secretary Joan Butler, Registrar Lynn R. Batdorf and Directors Scot Butler, Charles T. Fooks, Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Dr. Henry Frierson, Mrs. Sigrid Harriman, Clyde Weber and Steve Zapton.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. New Board member and old friend Scot Butler was introduced. Mr. Butler had previously served on the Board in the 1980s and had been Editor of *The Boxwood Bulletin* from 1982 to 1987.

The minutes of the May 15, 1997, Spring Board meeting were approved as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 37, No. 1, p.16.

Mrs. Ward presented the Treasurer's report showing \$18,242.11 in the checking account and \$15,117.35 in the certificate of deposit, which will mature on November 16, 1997.

Four thousand copies of the second printing of the *Boxwood Handbook* will be ready for Mr. Batdorf to pick up in St. Louis in October.

Roughly one-half of the cost of this printing has already been paid, as shown in the Treasurer's report. Mrs. Ward noted that only 160 copies remain from the first 4,000-copy

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

News of Blandly Farm

Many changes have occurred at Blandly Farm, the State Arboretum of Virginia, since the ABS Annual Meeting was held there in May 1997. Director Edward F. Connor has resigned to go to California. Dr. Michael A. Bowers has been named interim Director of the Arboretum and will serve Ex-Officio on the Governing Board of the American Boxwood Society. New staff members include David Carr, Curator; Mary Ellen Olien, Assistant Curator for Education, and Jim Farmer, Public

Relations and Program Coordinator.

Under this new team, a program to bring horticulture students from James Wood High School in Winchester is already under way. Teacher Julie Baker was excited for the opportunity for her students to do a service project where they would get experience related to their class subject. Twenty-four youngsters provided needed labor to work in the greenhouse filling pots and transplanting small plants, as well as doing heavy weeding outdoors in a nursery

printing, Mr. Batdorf has written an article for *American Nurseryman* and the *Handbook* will be included in *Readers Digest* Book List, both widely-circulated publications. Many orders for the *Handbook* are expected to result. The cost will be \$17 per copy, including sales tax, shipping and handling. For bulk sales, the buyer will pay the actual postage.

Mrs. Ward noted that the Blandy Capital special fund will be closed out and the remaining balance will be transferred to the Memorial Garden special fund. The Capital fund was established to cover major expenditures for the Garden such as new irrigation lines, grading and metal edging. A limit of \$8,000 had been set, and these obligations have now been paid for. In addition to the Memorial Garden special fund, the ABS budget also allots \$1,000 from annual income for Garden maintenance. Interest earned on the checking account and certificate of deposit had been credited to the Capital fund but will now be credited to the Memorial Garden special fund.

A proposed budget for 1997-98 was discussed and approved.

Committee Reports

The Boxwood Bulletin: Mrs. Frackelton stated that articles are needed for the January issue. Mrs. Butler will contribute information about changes at Blandy Farm; Dr. Michael A. Bowers is the Interim Director of the State Arboretum, replacing Dr. Edward F. Connor, who has resigned. The Board voted unanimously to name Dr. Bowers as Ex-Officio member of the Governing Board. In addition, there are now three additional new people on the staff at the State Arboretum: David Carr, Curator; Mary Ellen Olien, Assistant Curator for Education; and Tim Farmer, Public Relations and Program Coordinator. Mr. Weber said that he would prepare an article for

the *Bulletin* about boxwood hardiness in western Pennsylvania.

Memorial Garden and Research: Mrs. Butler had no report on Cuban explorations for new species nor on cultivar evaluations at the Chicago Botanic Garden. As for the Memorial Garden, the Clarke County area of Virginia around Blandy Farm has suffered through a severe drought this summer. Efforts have been made to water boxwoods which were moved last fall and this spring. Damage if any may not be visible until spring 1998.

Two projects for the Garden need ABS funding; the purchase of new labels and stakes for all the plants added during the past two years. Numbers and cost will be provided to the Board as soon as available. There is great need for a "Guide to the Boxwood Garden" brochure to be made available to visitors—perhaps located in a mail box within the Garden, or offered at the general information kiosk beside the parking lot. This educational guide should provide information about the Society as well as about boxwood and cultivars, and explain the arrangement by species and other related groupings. Again, estimated cost will be sent to the Board members.

Registration and Annual Meeting 1998: Mr. Batdorf has written an article about the process of registering a boxwood name, including a sample form. The 1998 Annual Meeting will be headquartered at the U.S. National Arboretum on New York Avenue, N.E. in Washington, D.C. May 14-16, 1998. The Board will meet on Thursday evening, May 14. The business meeting and lectures will take place on Friday, May 15. Boxwood artifacts from the Smithsonian Institution will be displayed. On Saturday, May 16, members will enjoy a garden tour to Southern Maryland.

After discussion of sites for the

1999 Meeting, such as Richmond, Virginia or New Jersey, no action was taken.

Friday, January 16, 1998 at 1 p.m. at the Double Tree Inn in Charlottesville, Virginia, was set as the date for the winter Board meeting.

Discussion followed about creation of an ABS computer web site. Great thanks were expressed to Dr. and Mrs. Frierson for their continuing work to make this new activity possible. Such a site will need to be maintained and updated frequently. The ability to reply promptly to inquiries will be important. At Dr. Southall's suggestion it was agreed that he should reserve a name to prevent its being used by another entity. The name "boxwood-society.org" was chosen.

At the close of the meeting the President read a letter addressed to Mr. Zapton as chairman of the Nominating Committee, urging the naming of new people to the Governing Board for change and growth, referring to establishing term limits for officers and Board members. New people bring new perspectives.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Joan Butler, Secretary

Boxwood Handbook

A Revised Edition of the *Boxwood Handbook* is now available. Send \$15.00 plus \$2.00 for tax and postage to Mrs. Katherine D. Ward, Treasurer, 134 Methodist Church Lane, West Augusta, VA 24485-2053.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Decca Frackelton
American Boxwood Society
1714 Greenway Dr.
Fredricksburg, Va. 22401-5209

Dear Mrs. Frackelton,

Please let me thank you for your help in my joining the society and being able to attend the recent meeting. My son and I enjoyed the meeting and the opportunity to meet

and discuss boxwood. You all really run a fine meeting.

Now for your request:

Col. Joseph Williams, my great-great-grandfather, was born in Hanover County, Virginia, March 27, 1748. In 1766 he came to the Shallowford Crossing of the Yadkin River in what was Surry County, North Carolina. He bought over 4,000 acres of land and with his cousin

operated a mercantile business.

He built his manor house in 1775 and started a boxwood garden on four acres. As was common in those days the family graveyard was located at the edge of the garden.

The garden was laid out with English Dwarf Boxwood bordering walkways and the entrance drive. American Tree Boxwood was used for the summerhouse, perimeter and



Panther Creek Boxwood Gardens. Boxwood up to 200 years old surround the house. (Photos: J. Lanier Williams)



Crape myrtle in bloom (top left) with edgings of two century-old Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa' in the foreground.

to conceal the “necessary” from view.

In colonial times 10 gardeners were assigned to the garden, which was considered a showplace of its time.

Congressman Lewis Williams, my great-grandfather, and his bachelor brother inherited the gardens and homeplace.

As time went on my wife and I purchased it from my brothers and sisters around 1956. At that time it had suffered from some neglect due to the depression and war years

(between 1929 and 1941). This resulted in the loss of a lot of the box, particularly the tree box. At this time we are having some success at bringing it back.

The enclosed pictures will give you a little idea of the plan, the execution and the results of over 200 years.

In the 30s we would ship clippings to wholesale florists in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and New York City.

We are now growing box with a

plan to market plants and clippings in an effort to improve and possibly make the situation financially viable.

We hope that you like the pictures and thank you again for all your help.

Kindest regards,

J. Lanier Williams
Panther Creek Boxwood Gardens
11327 Double Springs Road
Lewisville, NC 27023

August 6, 1997



Edging of ancient Buxus sempervirens ‘Suffruticosa’ leads to a vista as well as forming “rooms.”



Tree boxwood on the left. Young Buxus sempervirens ‘Suffruticosa’ edge paths and mingle with older plants.

