

The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental



At the University of Virginia, the north forecourt of the Rotunda, landscaped by the Garden Club of Virginia, has huge *Buxus sempervirens* surrounding the terrace where the statue of Mr. Jefferson stands. See article on page 77. (Photo: Decca G. Frackelton)

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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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Family	\$35	Life	\$500
Contributing	\$50		

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Back issues of <i>The Boxwood Bulletin</i> (thru Vol. 37)	
(each)	\$ 4
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<i>Boxwood Buyer's Guide (4th Edition)</i>	\$ 6
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<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1961-1986</i>	\$ 10
<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1986-1991</i>	\$ 4
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Gifts to the Society are tax-deductible and may be undesignated or applied to:

Boxwood Memorial Garden Fund
Boxwood Manual Fund
Boxwood Research Fund

Correspondence:

For address changes, memberships, dues, contributions, or to order back issues or publications, write:

Treasurer, The American Boxwood Society
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:

Mr. Thomas Saunders
2498 Tye Brook Hwy.
Piney View, Va. 22964

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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39th Annual Meeting Scheduled for May 20-22, 1999

ABS Meets in Richmond, Virginia

Katherine Ward, ABS Treasurer, has put together an entertaining and enlightening program for The American Boxwood Society 39th Annual Meeting.

Thursday, May 20, 1999

The program begins at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond, Virginia. Directions and maps for the LGBG and for the Comfort Suites-Innsbrook will be sent to registrants.

The new E. Claiborne Robins Center at the LGBG opens in March 1999 and features a spacious meeting area, botanical exhibits, patio gardens, a new dining café (see schedule) and expanded gift shop.

Located in north Richmond, the LGBG currently has more than 15 landscaped acres and 10 main gardens: an extensive perennial garden, a cottage garden, children's garden, the Asian Valley garden, a conifer garden, a study garden with daffodils, daylilies, true lilies and cryptomerias, a wetland garden, a friendship garden, a wildflower meadow and the formal Victorian garden restored by the Garden Club of Virginia. There will be guided tours for the registrants beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Lunch will be on your own at the new cafeteria at LGBG, then travel to the Comfort Suites-Innsbrook to check in and begin meetings.

We will open our meetings with a talk by soil consultant Charles Thornton.

Following a refreshment break, the ABS Governing Board will meet at 3:30 p.m.

The next scheduled event is the dinner cruise on the paddleboat "Annabelle Lee." The bus will leave the hotel promptly at 5:30 p.m. to go to the boat and will pick us up for return at 9:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, May 20

- 10:00 a.m. Tour of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
- 12 noon Lunch on your own at LGBG Cafe
- 1:30 p.m. Registration at Comfort Suites-Innsbrook
- 2:00 p.m. Meeting Room at Comfort Suites, Charles Thornton, Soil Consultant
- 3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. ABS Governing Board Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Bus leaves for Dinner Cruise on the Annabelle Lee.
- 9:30 p.m. Bus returns registrants to hotel

Friday, May 21

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast in ABS Meeting Room at hotel
- Paul Saunders will discuss his evaluation project
- 8-9 a.m. Registration to pick up packets for those who have not received theirs. (Pre-registration is required.)
- 9:00-9:45 a.m. John Wise - Seasonal Bedding Plants
- 9:45-10:30 a.m. Chuck Elstrodt - Scott Co. - Fertilization
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m.-12 noon Business Meeting
- 12 noon-1:15 p.m. Bob Lyons - New Director, NC State Arboretum
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. Panel Discussion from written questions
- 3:30-3:45 p.m. Break
- 3:45 p.m. Auction (John W. Boyd, III)
- 6:30 p.m. Banquet Dinner

Saturday, May 22

- 8:30 a.m. Bus Tour and Lunch - Agcroft Hall, Redesdale and Tuckahoe Plantation - Bus returns to hotel

Registration:

Registrants are responsible for their lodgings and any meals not specified. Rooms are being held at the Comfort Suites-Innsbrook, 4051 Innslake Drive, Glen Allen VA 23060, phone (804) 217-9200 until May 2. Identity yourself with The American Boxwood Society for the special rate of \$79.95 plus tax (single or double).

After May 2 regular rates and

availability will apply.

Cost: \$130 for the full schedule, plus a \$15 supplement for non-members. For those who cannot attend all functions, the cost may be divided \$45 for Thursday and \$85 for combined Friday and Saturday. Supplement applies. No other adjustments can be made.

Deadline for registration is May 2, 1999.

Friday, May 21, 1999

Meetings will be held at the Comfort Suites-Innsbrook, which serves a complimentary breakfast.

Breakfast will be set up in our meeting room at 7:30 a.m. and Paul Saunders will show slides and discuss his National Boxwood Trials program.

Registration between 8-9 a.m. for those who have not picked up their packets. (Pre-registration is required.)

John Wise, horticulturist at LGBG, will speak on Seasonal Bedding, followed by Chuck Elstrodt of the Scott's Company on Fertilization.

After a fifteen-minute break, the Annual Business Meeting will begin. The ABS Board will then have to gather for a short business meeting while the registrants get started on their box lunches. (Be sure to indicate on your registration form if you wish garlic herb chicken salad or dill tuna salad on your croissant sandwich.)

The afternoon speaker is Bob Lyons, Director of the J. C. Ralston Arboretum at N.C. State, followed by a panel discussion. Registrants are requested to submit written questions to be answered by the panel.

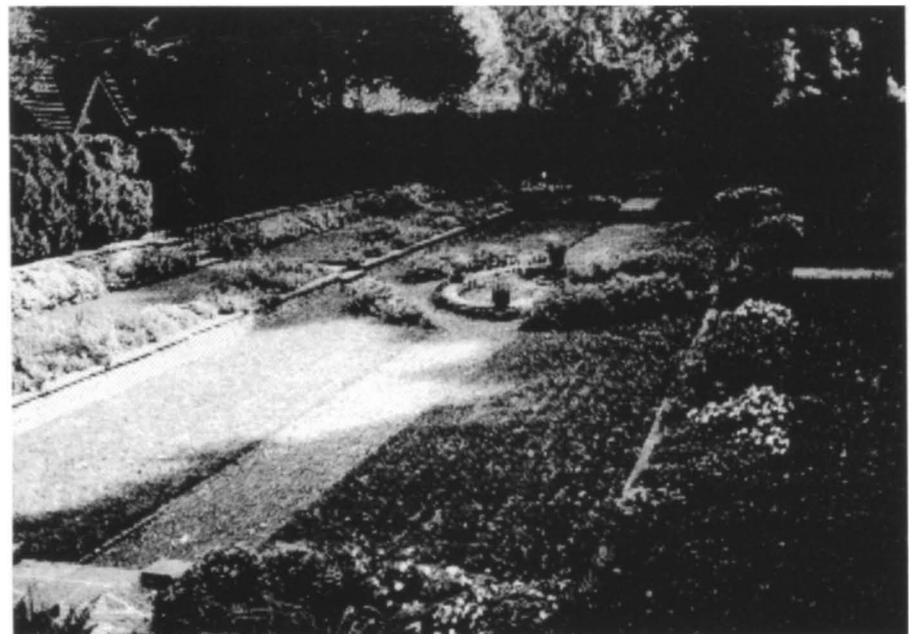
After a short break, the very popular Auction will begin with John W. Boyd III in charge. At 6:30 p.m. we will reassemble (at the hotel) for the Banquet Dinner.

Notice

Anyone with named boxwoods to donate to the Auction, please notify Mr. John W. Boyd III, Auction Chairman, so that he can prepare a list in advance with descriptions. His address is 2612 Churchill Drive, Roanoke, Virginia 24012-2126, phone (540) 362-0064.



The formal garden at Agcroft Hall with the James River in the background.



The sunken garden at Agcroft Hall in October. (Top photos: Decca Frackelton)

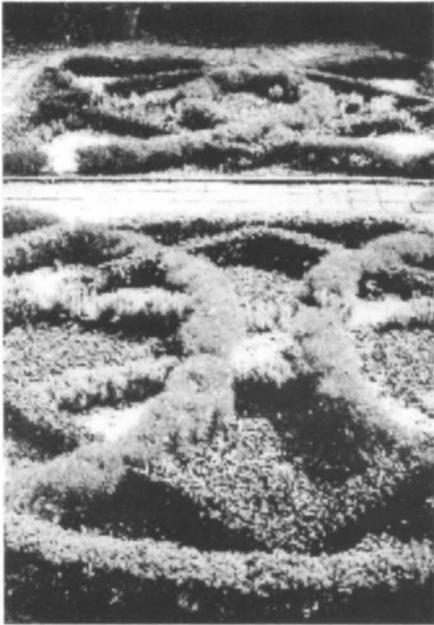
Saturday, May 22, 1999

The bus will leave promptly at 8:30 a.m. for a tour and lunch, visiting three gardens.

At Agcroft Hall we will be divided into two groups, one to tour the grounds, the other to tour the

house, then reverse.

Agcroft Hall, a Tudor Manor House built in 16th-century England, crossed the Atlantic to become the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Williams, Jr. The reconstruction was completed in 1928 as the centerpiece



*Knot gardens at Agecroft Hall.
(Photo: Decca G. Frackelton)*



The driveway at Redesdale is lined with stately old boxwood. (Photo: Katherine Ward)

of the newly developed Windsor Farms suburb. Henry G. Morse (1876-1934), the architect, incorporated architectural elements from the original manor in Lancashire, England into a modern house for his clients.

On a 23-acre site overlooking the James River, Agecroft Hall is surrounded by gardens which were landscaped by Charles Gillette (1886-1969) who designed a garden reminiscent of the Pond Garden at Hampton Court Palace near London. Several of Agecroft Hall's gardens are inspired by 17th-century models: the knot garden, the fragrance garden and the herb garden.

The next stop is Redesdale, where we will visit the garden designed as a setting for the Bottomley house. The approach is along a driveway lined with stately old boxwoods.

The third stop is Tuckahoe Plantation where Thomas Jefferson lived as a boy. We will have lunch first and then tour the house and grounds.

Tuckahoe Plantation, an early Randolph home, built c. 1712 on a



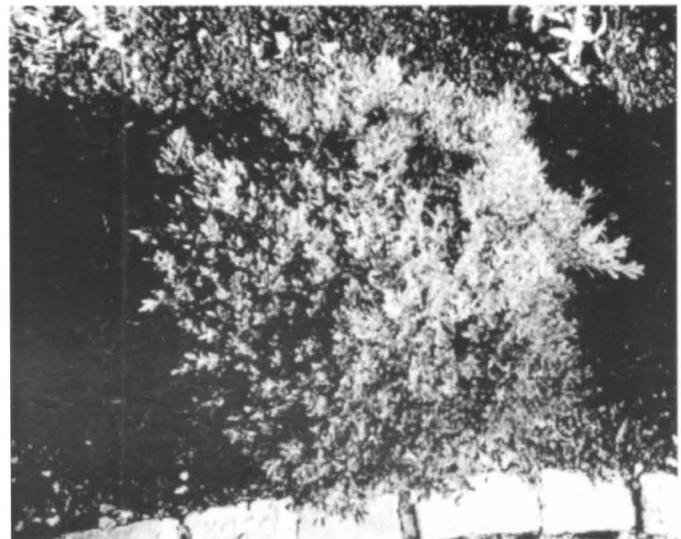
*Looking from the parking area toward the entrance gate at Redesdale.
(Photo: Katherine Ward)*

bluff overlooking the James River, has been a home and a working farm for nearly 275 years. It is an architectural gem of its period and has many preserved outbuildings including the schoolhouse where Thomas Jefferson went to classes. The beautiful grounds include perennial and herb gardens,

vegetable garden and the Memorial Garden near the Randolph Cemetery, designed by Charles F. Gillette, which is undergoing renovations.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Charles K. Elstrodt of Onancock, Virginia is a Territory



Plantation Street at Tuckahoe with large boxwoods among outbuildings. (Photos: Katherine Ward) *Buxus harlandii in the gardens at Tuckahoe Plantation*

Manager for the Scott's Company. He received an AA from York College in Pennsylvania in 1963, a BS from Delaware Valley College in 1966, a MS in 1969 and a Ph.D. in 1971, both from the University of Maryland.

He has been a State Extension Horticulturist with Virginia Tech, Horticultural Services Director with Sierra Chemical Company and Horticulture Services Manager for Grace-Sierra Horticultural Products Co.

He is at present Garden Editor for the *Eastern Shore News*, is a past-President of the Virginia Beach Beautification Commission, a past-President of the Men's Garden Club of Tidewater, past-President of the Tidewater Nurseryman's Association, an Accredited Flower Show School Instructor and was a tenured Associate Professor at Virginia Tech.

His subject for the ABS Annual Meeting in May is "Fertilizer Basics to Help Keep Your Boxwoods Happy"

Robert (Bob) Lyons received his BA in 1976 from Rutgers University in Biological Sciences, his MS in 1979 and his PhD in 1981, both from the University of Minnesota in Horticulture.

At present he is a Professor in the Department of Horticultural Science and Director of the J. C. Raulston Arboretum, N.C. State University. He also served as Professor, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech (1995-1998) as well as Associate Professor (1987-1994), Assistant Professor (1981-1987) and Director Virginia Tech Gardens (1994-1998).

Among his other credentials: 1996 Virginia Tech W. E. Wine Award for Excellence, 1998 Diggs Teaching Scholar and finalist, 1998 Certificate of Teaching Excellence. He received an Outstanding Publication Award in 1993 and is an acclaimed horticultural photographer.

Charles Thornton is the founder of Tellus Consulting, begun in 1991 with a client base of 40 agricultural producers, focusing on soil fertility and crop production management. His business has expanded to include consulting in areas related to landscape plants and ornamentals, turf grass, specialty crops, farm management, environmental screens and Phase I environmental audits on agricultural properties and general environmental sampling and analysis.

Soil fertility recommendations are

based on a philosophy of soil balance as it relates to the chemical, physical and biological components of the soil. The ultimate goal is to create an optimal environment for both plants and soil organisms to thrive and flourish.

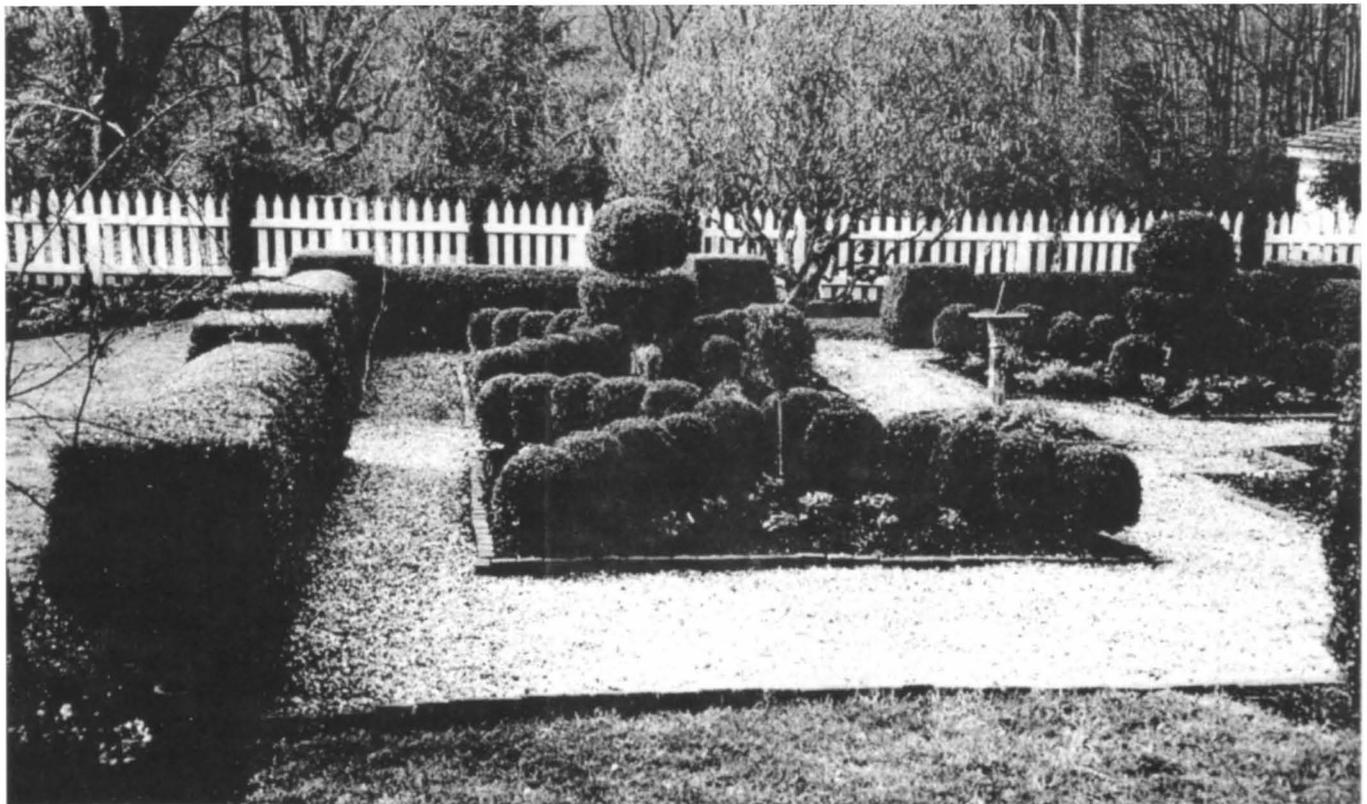
John Wise began Horticulture in high school where he was befriended by Fredric Heutte of the Norfolk Botanical Garden. He then attended Sandhills Community College where he received an AAS in Ornamental Horticulture.

He apprenticed at Swiss Pine Japanese Gardens in Malvern, Pa. before moving to Richmond, Va., in 1975, where he became manager for Colesville Nursery. For the next twenty years, he worked at various jobs in the industry from landscape design to retail sales and grounds maintenance. He is currently employed as an Horticulturist with Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

He has been a member of the IPPS for eighteen years, the RNA for the last fifteen years and has been an instructor for the Master Gardener Program, VNA Certification Program and GWU Landscape Certificate Program.



A tall boxwood hedge at Tuckahoe Plantation screens and protects from the wind. (Photos: Katherine Ward)



A formal garden at Tuckahoe, with topiaries, parterres and hedges.

Edgar Anderson Memorial Boxwood Garden

Daniel Moses

Dr. Edgar Shannon Anderson was born in New York State on November 9, 1897, but the greater part of his life was spent in the Midwest. He earned a doctor's degree from Harvard and went on to be a Professor at Washington University. The President of the Herb Society of America, an Engelmann Professorship at Washington University, and Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden for three years. Anderson was a very dedicated botanist, but he referred to himself as an ordinary botanist saying "I am one, never wanted to be anything else, and that covers all my activities."

Very humble and kind in nature he was viewed by his colleagues with high regard. He was intensely interested in finding new varieties of plants for the Midwest. Particularly the genus of *Hedera*, *Taxus* and *Buxus*. He searched the globe until he found a climate similar to that of the Midwest. The closest he found was the area surrounding Skoplje in the Vardar River valley in Yugoslavia. He went to Yugoslavia in 1934 while working for Arnold Arboretum to research these plants and bring back specimens for testing in our sometimes risky mid-west climate. The following is an account of his trip upon his return to Harvard:

"The primary purpose of the trip was to put the Arnold Arboretum in effective contact with similar institutions in the Balkans. In addition I did actual collecting of herbarium specimens, plants and seeds....The plants, for the most part, consist of rooted cuttings of Balkan strains of Ivy, Yew and Box....

"One of my main reasons for going to the Balkans was that it seemed probable that there, as nowhere else in Europe, one might come closest to duplicating the

American climate. During my trip I received continuous confirmation of this working hypothesis. From northern Bulgaria through the Valley of the Danube to the Black Sea and westward to the Carpathians, the climate is remarkably similar to that of the Midwest. American trees and shrubs in the Balkans are successful and already of outstanding importance. The cultivated crops are mostly American in origin—maize, tomatoes, pumpkins, etc. The chief differences from America are, first of all, the proximity of the mountains produces heavy dews often during prolonged dry spells, and the winter climate, although sometimes more severe than ours, is largely determined by the prevailing winds so that, even more than in New England, there are wide differences of climate within a very narrow area.

"It is hoped that these strains, coming from a climate so similar to

our own, will prove more adaptable to American conditions than those already imported from northern Europe."

From this trip to the Balkans a few of the cuttings brought back were successfully rooted and propagated. One of these went on to be known as Vardar Valley (352-35), the most successful boxwood from this collection that is available in the trade today.

In 1935 Edgar Anderson returned to Missouri Botanical Garden. He contacted the Yugoslav forest district and imported a "pound or so" of boxwood seed which were sent out to Shaw Arboretum at Gray Summit, Missouri to be raised. From this seed about 100 or more boxwoods were produced. Cuttings were taken of each plant, numbered and shipped to Henry Hohman of Kingsville, Maryland. These eventually became known as the K-series of boxwoods.

Why go to the Balkans to look for boxwood? [An informative sign at the Missouri Botanical Garden answers the question.]

Edgar Anderson (1897-1969) had a goal—to introduce strains of boxwood and other plants that would grow well in the sometimes harsh and uncertain climatic conditions of the midwestern United States. After studying world climates, he decided that the Balkans had a climate comparable to this part of North America. In 1934 he visited the Balkans and obtained seeds and cuttings from a large number of plants. Among these was the European boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens*, from which many

cultivated varieties were derived, including 'Agram', 'Edgar Anderson', 'Nish', and 'Vardar Valley'

Edgar Anderson's work with boxwoods was just one of the many facets of his long association with the Missouri Botanical Garden. He earned an international reputation for his botanical work on the origin and evolution of corn and other grasses. He was also a dedicated teacher, imparting his botanical knowledge to others. In later years he was the director of this botanical garden from 1954 to 1958.

Anderson had great faith that many new cultivars of boxwood would arise from this series. He even named four of these before shipping them off, *B. sempervirens* 'Agram', *B. sempervirens* 'Nish', *B. sempervirens* 'Ipek', and *B. sempervirens* 'Serbian Blue'. The assigned K-series numbers are unknown except K-79 for 'Agram'.

The K-series plants were propagated at both Kingsville and Shaw Arboretum and sent out to other institutions, the National Arboretum and Blandy Farm in 1957, and the University of Washington Arboretum in 1958. From this distribution the K-series was passed on again to Arnold Arboretum in 1964 and the St. Louis Boxwood Study Group in 1971 (which later formed the Midwest Boxwood Society). Over the course of years only a few boxwoods from the K-series still exist. Despite years of neglect a few have received some recognition and may be worthy of more propagation and becoming registered cultivars.

If not for Anderson's dedication to these collections we may never have come to know the Balkan boxwoods. He felt that not enough was ever done with the K-series and some of the unnamed varieties. He looked hopefully into the future that the K-series, and other unnamed varieties of Balkan boxwoods, would be more thoroughly tested and go on to become registered cultivars. Unfortunately because of wide spread distribution and years of neglect most of the K-series boxwoods no longer exist. The largest collection of K-series is at the National Arboretum in Washington D.C.

In 1995 ground was broken for the construction of a boxwood collection in memory of Edgar Anderson. Located on the grounds of the Missouri Botanical Garden this two-acre garden hosts many of the hardiest Balkan varieties, 'Vardar



A view of the Edgar Anderson Garden in 1996. (Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden)

Valley', 'Agram', 'Henry Shaw', and 'Edgar Anderson' (351-35), to name a few. This garden is planted in a bisymmetrical fashion with a beautiful wood bench in the center surrounded by boxwood. It is a quiet place to sit, relax, and reflect. Lightly shaded by a Green Ash and a Sugar

Maple the dappled sunlight makes for an ideal setting for box. Come and see this beautiful tribute to a great plantsman and the boxwoods that he loved so much.

Credits: Mary A. Gamble, Erna R. Eisandrath, and John J. Finan.

Addendum

Of the five Anderson Balkan boxwood cultivars first accessioned at the Arnold Arboretum (789-34, 350-35, 351-35, 352-35 and 353-35) which Henry J. Hohman of Kingsville Nurseries received to propagate, two have been named and registered and two more we hope to designate with names.

The Arnold Arboretum named 352-35 'Vardar Valley' and as mentioned in Mr. Moses' article, it has received wide acclaim. (As this goes to press, I learn from Mr. Moses that the 'Vardar Valley' at the Missouri Botanical Garden has had a rough year.)

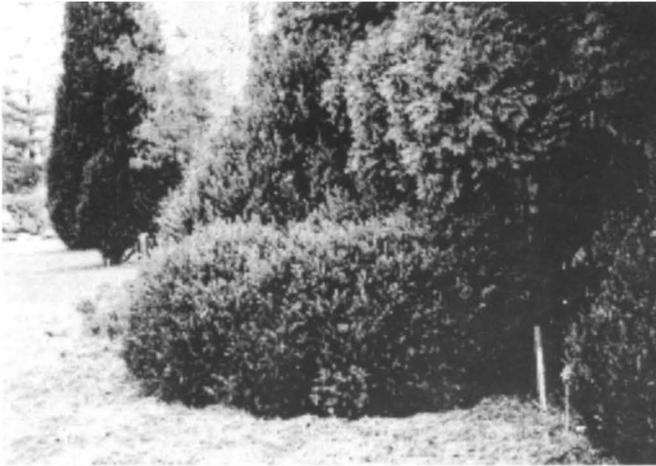
'Edgar Anderson' was the name given to 351-35, registered by Mary

Gamble. See *The Boxwood Bulletin* 13(2):26-28.1973.

A large specimen of the cultivar given the number 789-34 may be found where planted in an area of the original ABS Memorial Garden at Blandy about 1976 and a cultivar name is being contemplated for registration.

Also, a specimen of 353-35 (upright form) is now planted in the ABS Memorial Garden. George Gilmer received this plant from Kingsville Nurseries in the 1960s and it resided in my garden from the late 1970's until November 1998. This we also hope to give a Balkan name.

The ABS Memorial Garden Committee hopes to get some of the numbered K-series at Blandy planted



'Vardar Valley' (Anderson's Balkan #352-35) named by the Arnold Arboretum. In the ABS Memorial Garden, in 1993, at age 34 years, it is about 4' high and 12' across.



'Edgar Anderson' (Anderson's Balkan #351-35) in the ABS Memorial Garden at Blandy, center bed, July 1997.



Anderson's Balkan #353-35 as planted in the ABS Memorial Garden in November 1998; approximately 35 years old and about 7' high.



Anderson's Balkan #789-34 in the ABS Memorial Garden, planted about 1976. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)

in the Memorial Garden area for further study.

In the early 1970s at Kingsville Nurseries, Mr. Hohman, showing me some of the Balkans, told me that Edgar Anderson had been quite

touched to learn that he (Hohman) still had the collection of K-series plants intact.

If anyone has knowledge of the K-numbers under which 'Nish', 'Ipek' ('Petch'), 'Henry Shaw', 'Flora

Place', 'Prizren', and 'Serbian Blue' were originally known, please let us know. Also, if 'Serbian Blue' is still in existence, we'd like a source.

Decca Frackelton

Boxwood Hardiness in Southwestern Pa.: Part II

Clyde Weber

This is a continuation of the previously published article (April 1998) of the same title. The observations are based on plantings designated "Boxwood Memorial Test Gardens" in memory of my wife Janet. These plantings are at Oak Hill Nursery in Washington County, Pennsylvania.

The April 1998 article covered the effects of the relatively mild winter on the test plantings as observed in mid-January of 1998. The lowest temperature observed on the premises for the 1997-98 season was 10°F. which was experienced in late fall of 1997, and again in January of 1998. This is more typical of Zone #7 climate rather than Zone #6/5 which we normally experience.

In late summer of 1998 we experienced a severe drought. This was followed by Indian Summer weather lasting into December. The present 1998-99 fall-winter season has given us alternating snow, freezing rain, high winds and rapidly fluctuating temperatures. The lowest temperature observed this season was -5°F. on Jan. 5, and the snow cover was seldom sufficient to give adequate protection, so our current hardiness evaluation will give meaningful results.

The boxwood plantings were started in 1990-1992, and added to in 1996, 1997, and 1998. A few were planted as B&B specimens while others were potted plants and liners. Our objective is to gather firsthand information on hardiness as related to good cultural practices, and to increase the interest in the genus *Buxus* in this area.

The Plants

As of January 1998, 106 plants representing 13 types of *Buxus*



Buxus microphylla 'Compacta' plants are happy in the shade of an old Norway spruce. (Photos: Clyde Weber)



B. sinica var. insularis 'Winter Gem' (B&B extreme left).

microphylla, *B. sinica* var. *insularis* and *B. sempervirens* were included in the study. Fifty-five more plants, some of which were small liners, were added in May of 1998, after the ABS annual meeting. Needless to say, some of these were ABS auction and gift plants. There are now approximately 160 plants representing 23 varieties. Some plant identities may not be final, but for the present, and in order to avoid confusion, they are identified according to the provider of the plant. Identity corrections will be made as we become aware of errors. The first needed correction I have been made aware of is for the cultivar *B. microphylla* 'Winter Gem', which should be identified as *B. sinica* var. *insularis*, 'Winter Gem'. The Korean boxwoods are so designated.

Observations

All plants, with the exception of *B. microphylla* 'Compacta' and *B. microphylla* 'Curly Locks' survived the 1997-98 winter quite well, and now in late January of 1999 most are in good to excellent condition. Generalized results of the January 1999 observations are shown in the adjacent table.

Rather than list the results of all of the types, only those with outstanding to exceptional survival/growth/foilage ratings will be listed in the text of this article, while types with less desirable results will be shown only in the table.

Excellent to outstanding plants were: *B. sinica* var. *insularis* 'Winter Gem' has been our control plant because of its previous exceptional results, but we now find it challenged by *B. microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Green Beauty', *B. microphylla* 'Kingsville', *B. sinica* var. *insularis* 'Justin Brouwers', *B. sempervirens* 'Inglis', *B. sempervirens* 'Joe Gable', and *B. sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley'. The upright *B. sempervirens* 'Dee Runk' and *B. sempervirens* 'Graham

Blandy', as well as the "Route 50" (Fooks) and "Andy" do not show any failure. These last two also indicate an upright growth habit.

B. microphylla 'Jim's Spreader' rates high with good foliage color on an open growth plant and two *B. sempervirens* 'Elegantissima' growing in a sheltered area look as fresh and unblemished as can be. *B. microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Morris Midget' and 'Morris Dwarf' also look good growing in a low-lying open area. Cuttings of 'Dee Runk', 'Joe Gable', and "Route 50", will be supplied to Richard Larson for growing on at the Dawes Arboretum

in Newark, Ohio.

Negative Results were experienced with *B. microphylla* 'Compacta', although they still look very nice (Jan.) when sheltered from western wind and hot summer sun. *B. microphylla* 'Curly Locks' grown in an open location is also completely browned as are some of the *B. sinica* var. *insularis* 'Tall Boy'.

If anyone wishes to submit or suggest test plants, you may contact Clyde or Betty Weber, 281 Sumney Rd., Bentleyville, Pa, 15314, phone 724/258-8671. Comments, corrections and additional notes are also welcome.

TEST BOXWOOD AS OF JANUARY 27, 1999

No. of Plants	Identification-Results
21	<i>B. microphylla</i> 'Compacta'—Good in shade & protected area
1	<i>B. microphylla</i> 'Curly Locks'—Foliage browned* in exposed area
1	<i>B. microphylla</i> 'Green Pillow'—Foliage bronzed in exposed area
1	<i>B. microphylla</i> 'Jim's Spreader'—Very good
1	<i>B. microphylla</i> 'John Baldwin'—Very good
1	<i>B. microphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i> 'Green Beauty'—Outstanding
1	<i>B. microphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i> 'Morris Dwarf'—Very good
1	<i>B. microphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i> 'Morris Midget'—Some bronzing
1	<i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i> 'Justin Brouwers'—Outstanding
15 seedlings	
	<i>B. (mic?)</i> "Andy" (Weber)—Very good
1	<i>B. (?)</i> "Route 50" (Fooks)—Very good
6	<i>B. microphylla</i> 'Kingsville'—Very good
21	<i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i> 'Winter Gem'—Good to outstanding
36	<i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i> types (Korean)—Good to very good
6	<i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i> (Korean)—Good
3	<i>B.</i> 'Green Prince'—Good foliage but open plants
10	<i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i> 'Tall Boy'—Variable results: bronzed to green
1	<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Agram'—Very good
2	<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Dee Runk'—Outstanding
1	<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Graham Blandy'—Outstanding
1	<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Inglis'—Outstanding
1	<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Joe Gable'—Outstanding
2	<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Vardar Valley'—Excellent
2	<i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Elegantissima' (protected area)—Excellent
22	<i>B.</i> 'Green Mountain'—Very good

* Browned is worse than bronzed. Bronzed is acceptable; browned is not.

Preview: 1999 Historic Garden Week in Virginia

Suzanne Munson, Historic Garden Week Executive Director

From California to Canada, visitors are making enthusiastic plans to attend the 66th season of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, April 17-24. Three dozen lovely tours of some of the state's most outstanding homes and gardens will be held across Virginia during the eight-day program. Garden Week's proceeds benefit the restoration of historic gardens and grounds throughout the Commonwealth.

Charlottesville's three tours each will feature old and beautiful boxwood plantings. The first tour of the "Friendly Gardens," April 17 and 18, includes eight delightful in-town gardens within an easy walking distance of one other in the Rugby Road area. The Kern property on Burnley Avenue has been developed with more than a dozen different garden rooms, each connected by paths of salvaged, mellowed antique bricks. James Kern personally transplanted 143 English boxwoods over a 12-month period. With these, he was able to define one garden space after another without losing the original natural feeling. Properties on this tour are substantially handicapped-accessible.

The traditional tour of the University of Virginia's Pavilion Houses and Gardens on April 20 will offer a guided walk through historic gardens originally planned by Thomas Jefferson and carefully nurtured today. The Pavilion Gardens and their surrounding serpentine walls were reconstructed on their old alignments by The Garden Club of Virginia with proceeds from Historic Garden Week. The gardens were designed to period precedent, using boxwood and plant material types known in the Jeffersonian era. The gardens on the West Lawn were completed in 1947-



*One of the "Friendly Gardens" open April 17-18 in Charlottesville, Virginia. The Kern garden uses *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' ("English" boxwood) to define spaces. (Photos: Mrs. Wallenborn)*



Another area of the Kern garden shows 'Suffruticosa' defining area between the lawn and a band of ivy.

53, the East Lawn in 1960-65, the North Forecourt of the Rotunda in 1977 and additional landscaping in 1983-91.

Charlottesville's third event, the "Country Homes and Gardens Tour" in the Rivanna Reservoir and Garth Road area on April 19 and 20, opens

handsome properties and interesting gardens in some of Albemarle County's most scenic rolling countryside. Surrounding the Federal-era Poist house, built around 1805, are splendid old trees and an abundance of perennials and shrubs. Among these is an impressive row of 15-foot-high American boxwoods. The property crests a peaceful bluff over woodland paths descending to the Ivy Creek Nature area, home to birds and other wildlife indigenous to the region. Properties on this tour are also mostly handicapped-accessible.

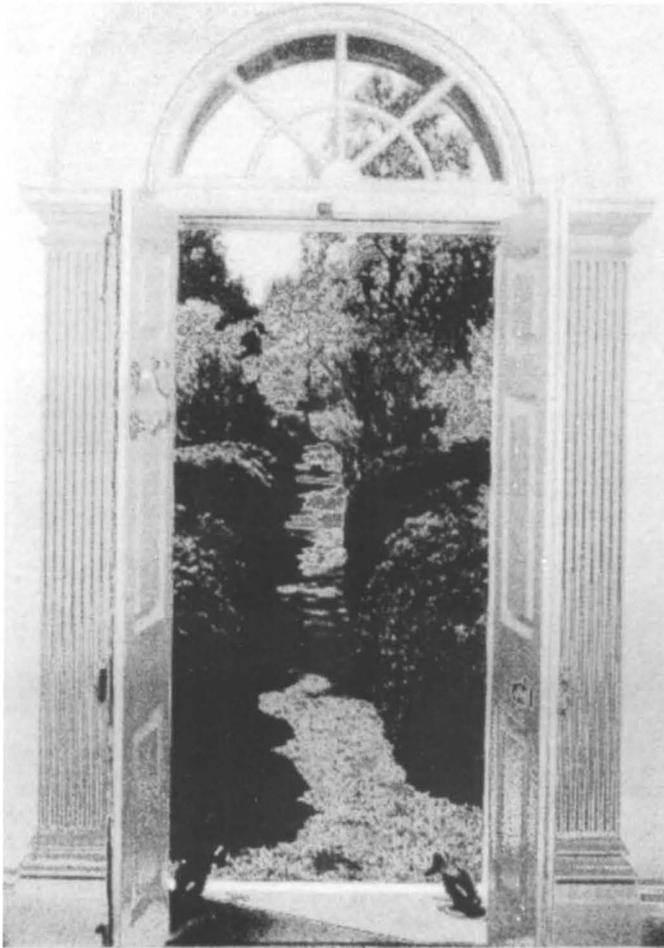
In addition to house and garden tours, special events in the Charlottesville area will include lectures by the staff of the magnificent Morven estate April 20 and 21, a



Boxwood (Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa' lines a step-stone path in the Marstellar garden. (Photos: Mrs. Smith)



The Robertson garden, on the Newport News-Hampton Tour April 21, features a boxwood maze as well as azaleas, borders of spring bulbs and garden ornaments.



A vista from the great hall at Elmwood with boxwood lining the path and accents of Crapemyrtle along the way. (Photo: Taylor Dabney)



At Blandfield, some Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa', with their "billowy" shape, are grouped behind a trimmed B. sempervirens. (Photos: Mrs. James C. Wheat, Jr.)

"Flowers Interpret Art" flower show and cocktail buffet at the Bayly Art Museum April 20, and illustrated talks by the Monticello horticultural staff on April 20 and 22.

In Eastern Virginia, the Newport News-Hampton tour features garden walks as well as house tours and includes the Marsteller property, with nearly 200 English boxwoods linking the diverse garden rooms of this elegant retreat designed and planted recently by the owners. A formal boxwood parterre is the focal point of the side yard, its rectangular layout consisting of 82 boxwoods. Three rooms in the backyard are defined by 41 boxwoods forming a central "allée." The lush Robertson garden

behind artistic gates winds along brick pathways surrounded by large English boxwoods and Coral Bell azaleas. A highlight of this tour on April 21 is an exhibit at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center, "The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman," presenting the life and landscape designs of one of the early 20th century's most successful landscape architects.

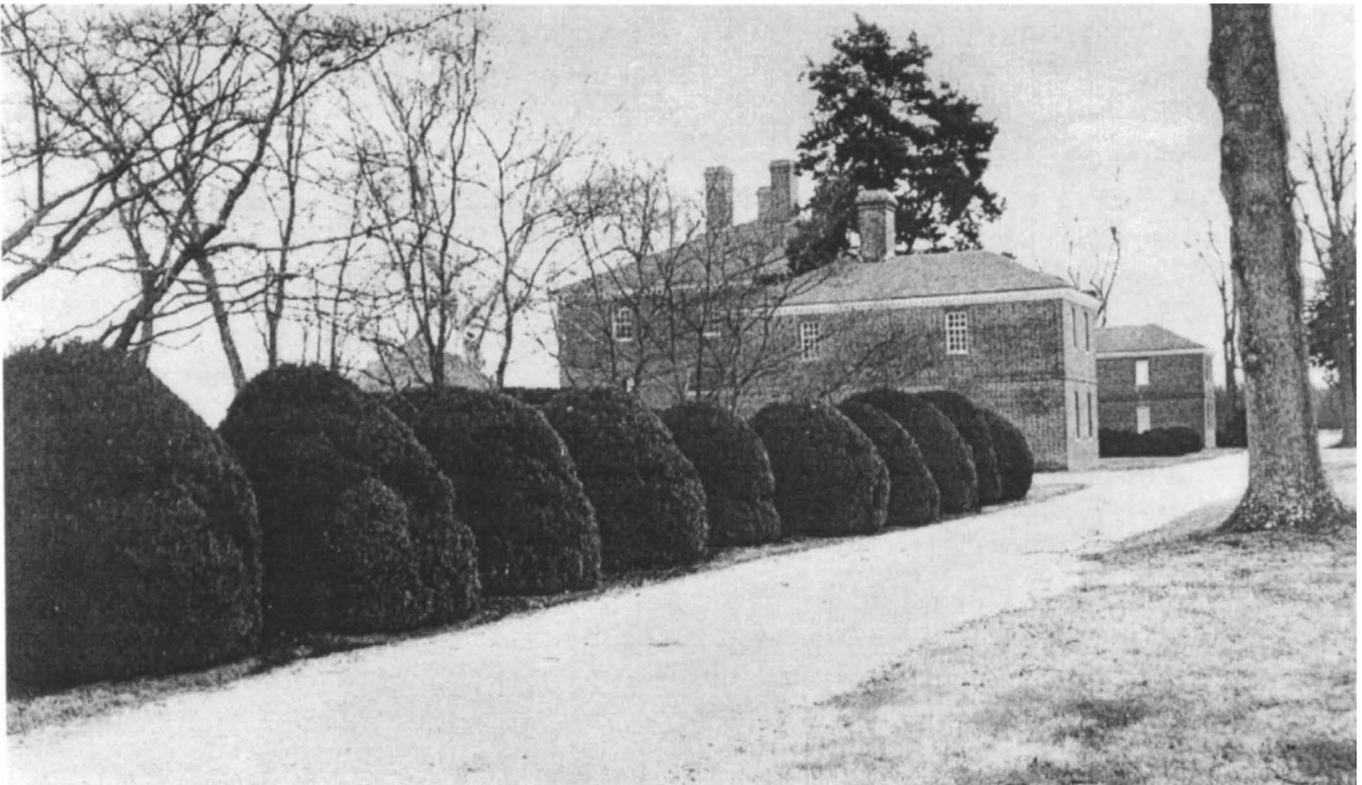
New to Garden Week this year is the "Premier Tour of Essex County" on April 23 presented by The Garden Club of the Middle Peninsula, recently admitted into membership in The Garden Club of Virginia. The tour features five wonderful historic houses and their graceful grounds and one historic church. Noteworthy

properties from the early 1900s through the late 1990s, several with boxwood gardens designed by renowned landscape architect Charles F. Gillette, will be showcased on Richmond's three tours, April 20-22.

More information about these and other tours and events is detailed in the Garden Week guidebook. To reserve a copy, please mail a \$5 donation to Historic Garden Week, 12 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. Members of The Garden Club of Virginia invite you to join us for 1999 Historic Garden Week, Virginia's largest and most beautiful springtime event.



Blandfield was built around 1770 by Robert Beverly II. Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa' in this photo is one of several groupings of "English" boxwood.



At Blandfield (Essex County tour) these Buxus sempervirens are devotedly cared for. They are pruned every other year in October to maintain their present size. (Photos: Mrs. James C. Wheat, Jr.)

62nd Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage - 1999

For one whose taste runs to boxwood in the landscape, this seven-county tour has much to offer. The Pilgrimage, the original house and garden tour in the state, includes historic waterfront estates, churches and schoolhouses, as well as graceful mansions, elegant city houses, interesting and historic structures and sumptuous gardens.

Saturday, April 17:
Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel County was established in 1650 and named in honor of Lady Anne Arundel, wife of Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore and Proprietor of the Province. This year, the county celebrates the 350th anniversary of the founding of Providence, the first European settlement in this area.

Belvoir stands on high ground above the Severn River. This fine old plantation house was built by John Ross, great-grandfather of Francis Scott Key, in 1690. Constructed of native fieldstone, Belvoir's foundation walls are five feet thick.

In the 1730s, a brick addition was completed, creating an impressive foyer, central dining room and a library. The brick used in the construction was ballast from a sailing ship. A small portico, reminiscent of Monticello, leads to the front door. Almost every room has a fireplace, including the basement, which served as the summer kitchen. A lovely cantilevered staircase leads to a long second floor hallway with well-proportioned rooms looking out over the verdant countryside. In 1781, on their way to join George Washington in Yorktown, the Comte de Rochambeau and his soldiers camped here for several days.

Bunker Hill was built by William Henry Baldwin in 1818. The original center hall farmhouse was enlarged by



Bunker Hill in Anne Arundel County, built in 1818 by William Henry Baldwin, has a driveway lined with boxwood. (Photos: Md. House and Garden Pilgrimage)

1848 and several outbuildings had been constructed including a carriage house, root cellar, ice house, smoke house, chicken house and slave quarters, which all remain today. They are considered to be a significant group of mid-19th century dependencies. Bunker Hill has had additions over the years and is furnished with Baldwin portraits and family antiques.

Friday, April 23:
Baltimore City - Guilford Area

Guilford's history dates back more than 200 years. Originally comprised of 10 patents granted to British citizens from the mid-1600s through the 1700s. The entire area was sold as confiscated British property to Revolutionary War veteran Gen. William McDonald in 1780. Gen. McDonald gave Guilford its name and began the tradition of celebrated architecture still evident. The community today was developed after 1913 by the combined Guilford Park and Roland Park companies. Guilford is graced with some of the best examples of colonial revival

architecture in Maryland.

Sherwood Gardens was established in 1927 by John W. Sherwood, local petroleum pioneer and conservationist. Begun as a hobby, the gardens are built on land once covered by a lake and have become one of the most famous tulip gardens in North America. Approximately 80,000 tulip bulbs are planted each year along with other spring-flowering bulbs. Dogwoods, wisteria, azaleas and magnolias bloom throughout the garden. Some of the old boxwoods date to the 18th century.

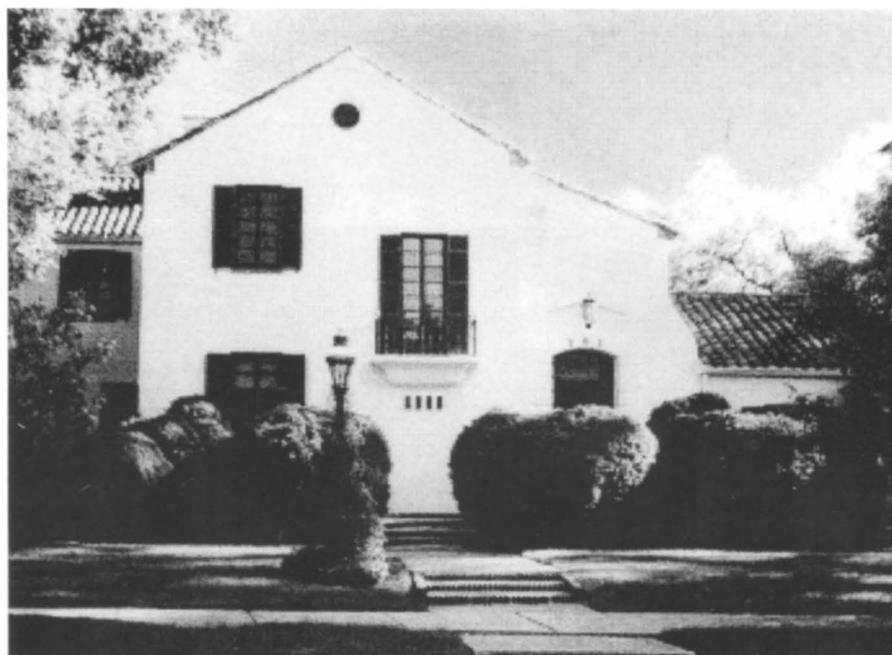
Saturday, April 24:
Kent County

Kent County, founded in 1642, was named for the English shire from which came many of its early settlers. When the first legislature was assembled in 1649, Kent County was one of two counties in the colony. Chestertown lies on the north bank of the Chester River and was established as a seaport in 1707. Along Water St. stands a unique concentration of handsome brick houses, once the

homes of wealthy 18th-century ship owners. Two blocks from the river is Lawyers' Row, where small 18th-century houses have long been offices for many of the town's attorneys. Washington College was founded in 1782 and is the only college to which George Washington gave permission for use of his name. He was a member of the first Board of Governors. Chestertown was the boyhood home of Charles Willson Peale, the portrait painter of the American Revolution.

Riverside, also known as the Tull House, is a 20th-century brick southern colonial house built in 1941. The brick walkways and patio provide pleasant views of herb and perennial gardens. Plantings in the front are simple, featuring several very old boxwoods, lavenders and boxes of petunias. The interior features random-width hardwood floors over tongue and groove hardwood subfloors, ornate crown moldings, and stenciling in several rooms. Of special interest is a fine collection of oriental rugs and antiques.

Carvill Hall is the oldest documented house in Kent County. It was built around 1694 when John Carvill received a gift of 24 acres on the banks of Fairlee Creek which had been part of his father's 800-acre plantation. The original house consisted of a steep 2 1/2-story brick block with a porch tower facing the creek. There was a detached kitchen about twenty feet to the southwest. The main structure, built in Flemish bond, had glazed headers above a stepped water table and string courses at the second and third floor levels. The floor plan resembled that typically followed in 17th century New England houses. The house underwent a major remodeling in the first quarter of the 19th century. The porch tower and central chimney were demolished and the interior was altered to conform to the center passage plan typical of most Kent County farmhouses of the time. Windows were enlarged, gable end chimneys constructed and dormers



A pink Mediterranean-style house in the Guilford area of Baltimore, designed by Lawrence Hall Fowler in 1925, is surrounded by large boxwoods. (Photo: Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage)

added to the roof. Simple Federal-style mantels, chair rail and baseboard were used to finish the interior. The "new" staircase to the second story has a delicate balustrade typical of the 1815-1820 period.

**Sunday, April 25:
Worcester County**

Worcester County was established in 1742. The first recorded settler lived near Snow Hill in 1642. Snow Hill, the county's first town, was chartered in 1686 and became a Port of Entry in 1694. Pocomoke City, originally "Steven's Landing," and Berlin, once a small hamlet around Burleigh's Inn, were other early settlements.

Kenwood was built prior to 1832. A two-story porch added to the gable facade distinguishes it from its neighboring Federal-style dwellings. The cornice has shaped modillions and a fascia with arches and swags of drill holes beneath. Kenwood is noted for its Adam doorway with delicate fanlight and double gallery. The interior of the house has fine, carved mantels and

moldings. Kenwood gardens boast some of the largest and best preserved specimens of English boxwood in the area.

Burley Manor is often cited as one of the most significant dwellings in Berlin. It was built in 1832. There have been few architectural changes in the house since its construction. Ornate moldings and woodwork enhance the interior.

**Wednesday, May 5:
Baltimore County**

Baltimore County was established in 1659. At that time, most English settlements were along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. In 1683, surveys were made of large tracts of land in the interior and patents were granted.

Hampton Hall at the Hampton National Historic Site, was built between 1783 and 1790 by Charles Ridgely, sea captain, merchant, farmer, mill owner, member of the Maryland House of Delegates and owner of the Northhampton Ironworks. (The Northhampton Ironworks provided



Open Wednesday, May 5, on the Baltimore County tour, the Gittings-Baldwin house, built before 1798 on land known as Standiford's Claim, has a long boxwood garden and flower beds flanking the entrance.



Open on the Baltimore County tour Wednesday, May 5, Prospect Hill was built in 1496-98 by Thomas Ringgold. Mature boxwood surround the entrance. (Photos: Caroline A. Coleman)

arms for the American Revolution.) Constructed of local limestone, stuccoed and scored to look like an English country house, Hampton Hall was one of the largest and most ornate 18th-century houses in America. The house of high Georgian style has beautiful cornices, pediments and woodwork, crowned with a large cupola. Hampton was continually occupied by seven generations of the Ridgely family between 1788 and 1948. The house is furnished with outstanding examples of American and European decorative arts original to Hampton. The grounds include a formal Italianate terraced garden and an English-style landscape park with an orangery. Outbuildings include an early 18th-century farmhouse, stone slave quarters, a dairy, barns and stables.

The Gittings-Baldwin House was built before 1798. It is a telescoping stone house maintaining much of its original architectural detail: cornice work with a course of dentils, staircase with tapered square newels hollowed to simulate four balusters and mantels with fluted pilasters supporting entablature shelves. A large boxwood garden and flower beds flank the entrance. The State of Maryland purchased the deteriorated house in 1969 and established a curatorship program for the house and 17 acres where the occupants may live in the house for their lifetime in return for restoring and maintaining the property.

Prospect Hill was built in 1796-98 by Thomas Ringgold. This Federal-style house has original glass windows and cross and bible design doors with original locks. It is believed that Alexis de Tocqueville, author of "Democracy in America," visited the house.

Saturday, May 8:
Calvert County

Calvert County was part of Charles County in 1650 when the representative of Lord Baltimore arrived to form a new county in the colony. The name

Calvert was given to the area in 1654. By 1695, the county was partitioned and lost a large part of its land to Prince George's County. The first settlers were farmers from England, Wales and Scotland.

The house at Cove Farm was built in 1939-1940, designed by Gertrude Sawyer, AIA, who also designed Point Farm at Jefferson Patterson Park. The entrance-level rooms have high ceilings and antique flooring from an 18th-century Baltimore house. The dining room bay window and large Palladian window on the spiral staircase frame expansive views of St. Leonard's Creek. In the dining room is a portrait of Commodore Joshua Burney, the American Navy officer who defended St. Leonard's Creek from the British in 1814. Ms. Sawyer's clever design has lasted through the years; no structural alterations have been made to the house even though it was built before rural electrification arrived in Calvert County. There is a generous and efficient use of storage space, closets and cabinets as well as the butler's pantry and kitchen. Cornice moldings, arches, chair-rails and pilasters were custom milled on-site by craftsmen. The grounds are colorful year round: spring blossoms with dogwood trees, azaleas, mountain laurel and rhododendron; summer blazes with annuals and crape myrtle; in autumn chrysanthemums, red-berried hollies and deep green boxwood brighten the landscape. In winter, the reflections on St. Leonard's Creek provide the view.

Wednesday, May 12:
Carroll County

Carroll County was established in 1837 and named in honor of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. Early in the 18th century, the Pennsylvania Germans and Tidewater English were attracted to the fertile soil, abundant streams and

undulating hills that characterize the Piedmont Plateau. The Germans lived on small farms while their English neighbors preferred to live on plantations. The town of New Windsor, originally named Sulphur Springs, was surveyed c. 1788 by Isaac Atlee. The healthful properties of the water attracted settlers to the area, establishing this town as a summer resort. Dating to mid-18th century, Taneytown is the oldest town in the county, which is known for its clay soil, "Terra Rubra."

Fox Parlor was built by Jacob Biggs between 1788-1800. Constructed of red stone quarried from the Monocacy River, this five-bay house was designed in the Adam style. Most of the woodwork, floors and five mantel-pieces are original. It is furnished with late 18th- and early 19th-century antiques. The grounds feature century-old Kentucky coffee trees, boxwood, statuary and a small dependency in the kitchen yard.

Antrim 1844 was built by Colonel Andrew Ege, an Irish immigrant who named the property after the county of his birth. It is a Greek Revival mansion with Federal influence and is representative of the graceful style of the period. The cherry staircase winds from the grand entrance to a Widow's Walk on the third floor. Formal gardens complement the historic building which is now a country inn. (Reservation only luncheon served 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$10. 1-800-85-1844 by May 7.)

Jane Vallery-Davis supplied this text and photos for this article. The Pilgrimage is a non-profit organization established in 1937 to promote and perpetuate the preservation of Maryland's historic architectural treasures. Proceeds from the annual tour benefit special preservation projects in each county. Tickets for each of the day-long tours are \$20 and may be purchased at any house.

Minutes of the Winter Board Meeting

The winter meeting of the Governing Board of The American Boxwood Society was held on Friday, January 22, 1999 at the Orland E. White Arboretum, Blandy Farm, Virginia. In attendance were Thomas Saunders, President, Katherine D. Ward, Executive Treasurer, Sigrid G. Harriman, Secretary, Lynn R. Batdorf, Registrar, and the following directors: Scot Butler, Decca Frackelton, Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Ian Robertson, James Saunders, Clyde Weber, Steven Zapton. Dr. Michael A. Bowers, Director of the State Arboretum, attended to address the board. Joan Butler was also present in her capacity as liaison to the Orland E. White Arboretum reporting on the ABS Memorial Garden at Blandy. Paul Saunders, father of Tom and Jim Saunders and retired President of Saunders Bros., reported on his Boxwood Cultivar Testing project, now titled "National Boxwood Trials."

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the President, who welcomed Dr. Bowers and introduced Paul Saunders.

The draft of the minutes of the September 25, 1998, fall board meeting was approved with some modifications and will be published in *The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol.38, No.3, January 1999.

Mrs. Ward presented the Treasurer's report showing \$7,127.81 in the checking account and \$16,167.63 in a certificate of deposit, which matured on November 16, 1998 and was rolled over to continue earning interest. Total income from dues, sales, and interest was \$1,239.93 during the last four months. During that period, combined expenditures totaled \$3,089.20. Mrs.



After a meeting at Blandy, the ABS Board studies one of the new signs to make suggestions for a new ABS Memorial Garden sign. (Photo: Decca G. Frackelton)

Ward also reported that \$2,500 was transferred to the German student, Maria Landgraf (the Board approved \$2,000 at the fall 1998 meeting and Dr. Frierson personally added \$500 to the project).

President Saunders proposed a number of new subcommittees to assure a "better functioning Board and Society." He called for (1) a Budget Committee, to be chaired by Charles Fooks; (2) the Nominating Committee (already in existence and changes to be voted upon during executive session at each Annual Meeting), to be chaired by Clyde Weber; (3) an Auction Committee, to be chaired by John W. Boyd III; (4) the ABS Memorial Garden Committee, to be chaired by Joan Butler; (5) the Research Committee, to be chaired by Dr. Henry Frierson; and a Newsletter Committee, to be chaired by Steve Zapton. Mr. Zapton is to

locate two articles for the *Bulletin* each quarter. International member contributions are welcome. An outline of each subcommittee's structure and focus needs to be prepared and adopted by the Board.

Dr. Michael Bowers, Director of Blandy, informed board members that Blandy is in the process of replacing the old garden signs with new, uniform ones. Each sign will carry the Blandy logo on the left side with red lettering on white background. His second announcement concerned the information Booth at the entrance to the Arboretum. ABS will be given one panel to inform visitors about the history and purpose of the memorial garden. It is also planned that brochures will be prepared to be available at the booth. All agreed that Joan Butler would be the logical person to work on preparing a short history of the Society and of the Memorial

Garden for both panel and brochure. She will also work with staff at Blandy on the design and execution of the new sign. Joan promised to send a first draft out for comments by board members within a month.

Paul Saunders reported enthusiastically on his company's "National Boxwood Trials." Saunders sent out questionnaires listing some 20 cultivars. Questions to be answered focus on exposure, protection, prevailing winds, sun/shade, soil drainage, pruning rate, foliage quality, and general assessment. Hardiness zones will be added. Among the participants are the U.S. National Arboretum, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Longwood Gardens, North Carolina State Arboretum, State Arboretum of Virginia, and more. Responses have been very good and Mr. Saunders plans to extend the survey. In closing he expressed his surprise and delight at the great number of boxwoods he encountered on his trip through the Mediterranean countries and into the Ukraine last fall.

Committee Reports

Registrar's Report: Mr. Batdorf reported that he has finally returned to his work on the manuscript of the future *Boxwood Manual*.

The Boxwood Bulletin: Mrs. Frackelton reported that at this moment she is finishing the January issue of the *Bulletin*. The issue will have 24 pages and a number of interesting articles. President Saunders expressed a heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Frackelton for all her hard work toward the issuance of each *Bulletin*.

Updated Buyers Guide: Work continues on the new edition of the *Buyers Guide*. An updated list of about 7,000 growers from the American Nurserymen's Association is needed. The growers and nurseries will be contacted (letter to be prepared by Mrs. Frackelton) and asked

to fill out a questionnaire pertaining to boxwood varieties for sale. It is hoped that responses will be swift and the new *Buyer's Guide* can be available in 1999.

Memorial Garden Design for Two Parterres: Mrs. Frackelton's idea for two parterres in the Memorial Garden (one around the entrance sign, the second to incorporate the existing topiary and 'Graham Blandy' in North Bed) was realized when Mrs. Frackelton and Mrs. Harriman, with the help of a colleague, Susan Pryor, planted about 80 'Morris Midget' plants last November.



Dr. and Mrs. Gary Richardson (right) admire Carter Frackelton's *B. sempervirens* 'Graham Blandy'. (Photo: Carter Frackelton)

Old/New Business Planning for 1999 Annual Meeting: Mrs. Ward reported on her ongoing preparations. The Annual Meeting will be May 20-22, 1999 in Richmond, Virginia. The board is to meet on the afternoon of May 20. Rooms have been secured at the Innsbrook Comfort Suites in Glen Allen, with free conference spaces, breakfast and parking. Mrs. Ward suggested two public gardens, Lewis

Ginter Botanical Garden and Maymont, as well as three private gardens, Tuckahoe Plantation, Redesdale, and Agecroft Hall, for the tour. Speakers will address topics such as soils and fertilizers. A panel discussion is planned to answer pre-submitted questions from the audience. Mr. Weber volunteered to supply boxwood plants for the meeting, his choice: *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Winter Gem'. A James River dinner cruise is planned for Friday evening.

Year 2000 Annual Meeting: Mrs. Gary Richardson from Annapolis has volunteered to look into hotel, meeting space, and gardens to be visited in and around Annapolis in 2000. She reported that she has no speakers as yet.

Year 2001 Annual Meeting: This meeting will be held at Blandy to commemorate the 40th anniversary celebration of ABS. Ian Robertson volunteered to chair that meeting.

Next Board Meeting: The next Board meeting will be during the ABS Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 20, 1999.

Sigrid Georgii Harriman, Secretary

In Memoriam

Mrs. V. S. Eley
Member since 1976

Mr. D. Tennant Bryan
Charter and Life Member

The Seasonal Gardener

Practical tips for boxwood enthusiasts from Society members



Guidelines to Growing Boxwood in the Midwest

- Choose only boxwoods known to be hardy in the Midwest.
- Make sure the planting site has **GOOD DRAINAGE**. A slight slope is fine. If area is level check that rainwater does not stand for more than a few hours. If in doubt, dig a hole 18 in. deep and fill it with water. The next morning check to see if any remains. If so, choose new site. Poor drainage is deadly to boxwood.
- Choose a site that is or can be protected from the prevailing southwest winter wind. A wall, a berm, a fence or conifer planting may give adequate protection. If in doubt, use burlap screen (open at the top) for seasonal protection.
- Exposures in order of preference are: north, northeast, south, southeast, east, and west.
- Large balled boxwoods should be planted as early in March as soil can be worked. Smaller boxwoods (in containers or bare-rooted) should be planted from mid-April into June.
- Planting hole should be prepared in advance (especially for bare-rooted plants). It should be somewhat larger than ball, container or spread-out roots.
- A boxwood plant can be set out at 3 yrs.; but the longer we work with the plant, the more convinced we are that it is much better to wait until a plant is at least 5 yrs. old before setting it into garden or landscape position. Losses are unacceptably high with younger plants, especially if the first winters are severe.
- The **TEXTURE** and **FRIABILITY** of the soil are more important than its pH. In our observation boxwood does well in neutral to slightly alkaline (sweet.) soil to slightly acid soil, with preference to the alkaline.
- If soil at planting site is heavy, replace it with good garden soil. Set the plant so that the soil line remains the same as it was in ball or container. Tamp soil gently around ball or roots. Make a slight saucer at rim. Water gently and thoroughly. Add more soil if needed. **DO NOT FERTILIZE AT THIS TIME.**
- Check newly set plant daily for week or two. Water when needed. If there has been washing around roots, add more soil.
- When plant has settled, **ESTABLISH** and **MAINTAIN** a twice-monthly **WATERING SCHEDULE** (unless there has been adequate rainfall) which includes both a thorough hosing out of plant interior (an effective deterrent to spider mites) and a gentle soaking of root area.
- **STOP ALL WATERING** from mid-August to mid-October. This is boxwood's normal fall growing season and withholding water forces feeder roots to go deeper for moisture. This will help a plant weather a bad winter. Just before freezing weather sets in, give the plant's root area a long, gentle soaking which will help against winter damage.
- You also want to spray foliage with Wilt-Proof about now. [There is a difference of opinion on the use of anti-desiccants.]
- A final note: Never forget that in the Midwest "a little bit of luck" helps!

Mary Gamble

