

# The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental



*Aerial view of the main fountain at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, Pa. The Friday tour at the 42nd ABS Annual Meeting will have luncheon at The Terrace Restaurant and tour the gardens. (See article on p. 43.)*

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# The American Boxwood Society

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

For information about boxwood and the Society, refer to [www.boxwoodsociety.org](http://www.boxwoodsociety.org).

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Memberships for the year May 2001 through April 2002 include \$16 for four quarterly issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*:

Individual	\$25	Sustaining	\$75
Family	\$35	Life	\$500
Contributing	\$50		

Non-member subscriptions for groups and institutions, such as botanic gardens and libraries, are \$25 by the calendar year as established or current year for new subscriptions.

## Available Publications:

Back issues of <i>The Bulletin</i> (through Vol. 40) (each)	\$ 4
<i>Boxwood Handbook: A Practical Guide (Revised)**</i>	\$ 17
<i>Boxwood Buyer's Guide (5th Edition)</i>	\$ 8
<i>International Registration List of Cultivated Buxus L.</i>	\$ 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

Publications may be ordered from Mrs. K. D. Ward, ABS Treasurer, Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620-0085.

\*\*Price includes tax, postage and handling.

## Contributions:

Gifts to the Society are tax-deductible and may be undesignated or applied to:

Boxwood Memorial Garden Fund  
Boxwood Encyclopedia 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 River, 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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# 42nd ABS Annual Meeting May 16-18, 2002

## Activities Center in New Jersey-Philadelphia Area

ABS members will be off to New Jersey to enjoy the programs and gardens that former ABS President Dale T. Taylor has arranged for them.

Meetings will be at Holiday Inn Select, Bridgeport, New Jersey, and two side trips have been arranged.

On Thursday, May 16, the meeting will begin with a Viennese Buffet Reception at 7:30 p.m., followed by a presentation by world-renowned glass paperweight artist, Paul J. Stankard: "Nature in Glass." (See next page.)

On Friday, May 17, a buffet breakfast will get the attendees off to a good start; ABS President Thomas Saunders will welcome the group to open the meeting and to introduce the two morning speakers. Following the second talk, attendees will board buses for Longwood Gardens and a buffet luncheon at The Terrace Restaurant.

A third speaker and the Business Meeting will precede the guided tour of the famous Longwood Gardens. Many probably have been to Longwood from time to time, but it's always a pleasure to enjoy the gardens and conservatory displays to see old plant favorites and find new ones.

Upon return to the Holiday Inn, there will be time for a break before the much anticipated Auction.

The grand finale of the day will be a trip to the Dale T. Taylor home for a tour of his boxwood garden and a barbecue dinner.

On Saturday, May 18, breakfast is at will; then buses will leave at 9:15 a.m. for the Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania began in 1887 as Compton, the summer home of John and Lydia Morris, brother and sister. An iron manufacturing firm

### Schedule of Events

#### *Thursday, May 16, 2002*

- 1:00-6:00 p.m. Arrival, check-in and registration  
Holiday Inn Select, Bridgeport, NJ
- 6:00-7:30 Dinner at will
- 7:30-9:00 Dessert reception and program. A Viennese Dessert Buffet Reception followed by a presentation by the world-renowned glass paperweight artist, Paul J. Stankard: "Nature in Glass."

#### *Friday, May 17, 2002*

- 8:00-8:45 a.m. Buffet breakfast
- 8:45-9:00 Welcome, Thomas Saunders, President
- 9:00-9:45 Program #1
- 9:45-10:30 Program #2
- 10:30 Board buses for Longwood Gardens
- 11:30 Arrive Longwood Gardens
- 11:30-1:00 p.m. Luncheon buffet at The Terrace Restaurant
- 1:00-1:45 Program # 3
- 1:45-2:30 Business Meeting
- 2:30-4:00 Guided garden tour—Longwood Gardens
- 4:00 Board buses for Holiday Inn
- 5:00 Arrive back at Holiday Inn
- 5:00-5:30 Break
- 5:30-6:30 Boxwood Auction
- 6:35 Buses depart for dinner
- 7:00 Guest arrive for Dinner
- 7:00-8:30 Due to unforeseen events  
location has been changed
- 8:30 Board buses for Holiday Inn
- 9:00 Arrive at Holiday Inn

#### *Saturday, May 18, 2002*

- 8:00-9:00 a.m. Breakfast at will
- 9:15 Board buses for Morris Arboretum, Phila., PA
- 10:00 Arrive at Morris Arboretum
- 10:00-11:30 Garden Tour
- 11:30 Board buses for Holiday Inn
- 12:15 p.m. Arrive back at Holiday Inn
- 12:15-1:15 Lunch at will and check-out

founded by their father was a source of their income.

John and Lydia traveled in Asia, Africa and Europe as well as extensively in America bringing back design ideas, artwork and plants to Compton. Brother and sister shared a love of history and art and made use of sculpture in the gardens. Hoping to be judged "worthy stewards," they laid plans for a school and laboratory devoted to horticulture and botany at Compton. In 1932, Compton became the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania.

Following a tour of the Morris Arboretum, the buses will return the attendees to the Holiday Inn in time for check-out, lunch at will, and an early start home.

## NOTICE Boxwood Auction

Anyone having named plants to donate to the Auction, please contact John W. Boyd III, 2612 Churchill Drive, Roanoke, VA 24012, (540)362-0064. He needs to know well in advance in order to have the listings available for the packet. Those who have attended in the past know the excitement generated by this event and appreciate the fine job Mr. Boyd does as Chairman of the event and Auctioneer.

## Reservations

Because of a necessary April 30, 2002 deadline, the registration form and most of the information on the Annual Meeting is in this (January) issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

A block of rooms is being held until April 30 at the Holiday Inn Select, Bridgeport, N.J., 856-467-3322 or fax 856-467-3031. Attendees

are responsible for making their own reservations. To assure room availability and special rate, they should call before the deadline and note their affiliation with The American Boxwood Society.

The Holiday Inn Select, Bridgeport, rooms, single or double, will be \$87 plus tax per night.

A registration fee of \$155 will cover the Thursday evening reception and program, Friday's buffet breakfast, transportation, lunch, admission and tour of Longwood gardens, and Saturday's transportation, admission and tour of Morris Arboretum. Non-members will be charged a supplemental fee of \$15.

## Paul J. Stankard

Born: 1943 Attleboro, Massachusetts

Education: 1963 Salem Technical Institute, Penns Grove, New Jersey

### Books/Video:

Paul J. Stankard: "Homage to Nature", Ulysses Grant Dietz, Harry N Abrams, Inc. 1996

Paul Stankard: "Inventing Illusions", Bates-Renaud, Kirsten, video, 1996, 46 mins. (Approximately 27 minutes aired nationally on Public Television)

### Awards and Special Honors:

Salem County Community College Glass Center, "Paul Joseph Stankard Gallery," 1999

Urban Glass, Urban Glass Award - Innovation In A Glassworking Technique, New York. 1998

Rowan University, Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts, New Jersey, 1997

New Jersey Council of County Colleges, Excellence Award, New Jersey, 1993

New Jersey State Council of the Arts Award for Excellence, New Jersey, 1986, 1989

### Selected public collections (partial list):

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago

Boston Museum of Fine Arts

Corning Museum of Glass

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Musée des Arts Décoratif, Palais du Louvre, Paris

The Smithsonian Institution

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia

Victoria & Albert Museum, London, England

### Recent public exhibitions:

"Venezia Aperto Vetro," Venice, Italy, 1998

International Exhibition of Glass," Kanazawa, Japan 1998

Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, Arizona, 1997

### Current professional associations:

Creative Glass Center of America, founding Board Member

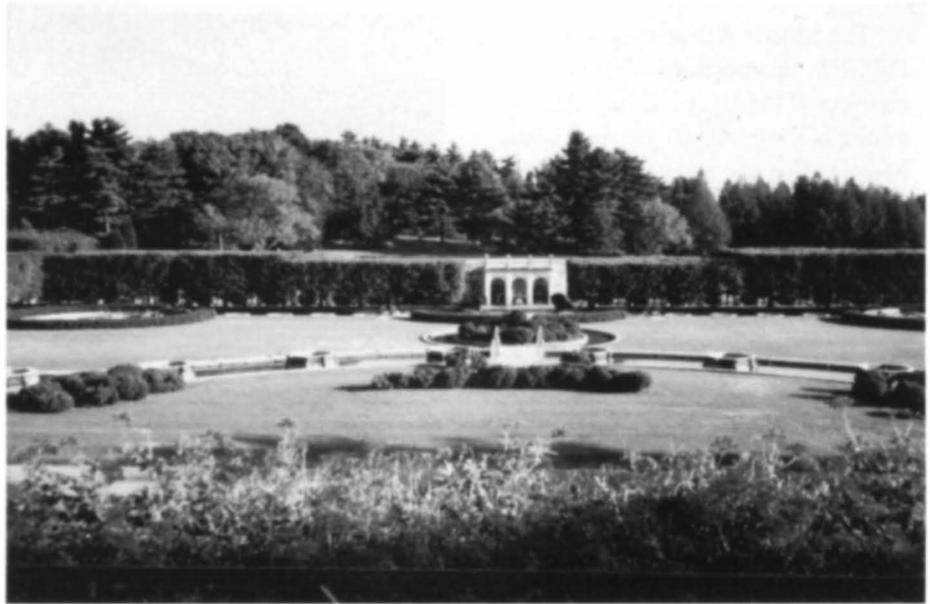
Corning Museum of Glass, Fellow

Salem County (NJ) Community College, faculty

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## Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens, in Kennett Square, PA, was created by Pierre S. du Pont (and is sometimes referred to as the Du Pont Gardens). There are 1,050 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows; 20 outdoor gardens; 20 indoor gardens within four acres of heated greenhouses; 11,000 different types of plants; spectacular fountains; extensive educational programs, including horticultural career training and internships; and 800 horticultural and performing arts events each year, from flower shows, gardening demonstrations, courses, and children's programs to concerts, organ recitals, musical theatre, and fireworks displays. Longwood attracts more than 900,000 visitors annually.



*The area of the water fountain display garden at Longwood Gardens, AHS meeting, September 1983. (Photos: Mrs. Decca G. Frackelton)*



*Inside the four-acre Conservatory at Longwood gardens.*

## Morris Arboretum

The Morris Arboretum in Chestnut Hill, PA, just north of the main campus of the University of Pennsylvania, is a legacy of John and Lydia Morris. The Morrises were active in civic affairs and preservation, and believed in the power of education.

Today the Arboretum is one of the best remaining examples of a Victorian eclectic garden and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Morris Arboretum is the official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (as the Orland E. White Arboretum is the official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Virginia).

It was at the Morris Arboretum that Henry Skinner began selections of boxwood seedlings that resulted in the cultivars *B. microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Morris Dwarf', 'Morris Midget' and 'National'.



*Three plants of Buxus microphylla var. japonica 'Morris Dwarf', which was registered in 1972. This cultivar is a sister seedling of 'Morris Midget' selected from open-pollinated seedlings at the Morris Arboretum in 1950 by Henry T. Skinner. They were 37 years old in this photo.*



*Buxus microphylla var. japonica 'National' in the ABS Memorial Garden was selected in 1951 from a group of open-pollinated seedlings at the Morris Arboretum.*



*In 1950 Henry T. Skinner selected these plants from open-pollinated seedlings of Buxus microphylla var. japonica at the Morris Arboretum. They were registered as 'Morris Midget'. Now (2002) 41 years old, the plants are in the ABS Memorial Garden. 1997 photo. (Photos: Mrs. Decca G. Frackelton)*

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# Observations on *Buxus* in Nature

## Part II. Mexico

Henry F. Frierson, Jr., M.D.

In Mexico, there are several indigenous *Buxus* species as well as cultivated boxwood plants. *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* is used extensively in Mexico City, where it is planted largely as edging or sometimes as topiary. The clipped edging box is seen bordering sidewalks, as plantings around hotels, and as parterres in landscapes of important public buildings such as the Palacio de Bellas Artes (Figs. 1 and 2). Indeed, this boxwood cultivar is a very common sight in urban Mexico City.

The five native species of *Buxus* are located in remote parts of the country. Four of the species, *B. bartlettii*, *B. lancifolia*, *B. moctezuma*,



Figure 1. *B. microphylla* var. *japonica* is planted in front of the entrance to the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City.



Figure 2. *B. microphylla* var. *japonica* forms an undulating edge around the grass in front of the Palacio de Bellas Artes.



*Figure 3. After leaving the village of Caltepec, Puebla, we stopped our vehicle in the nearly dry river bed before the mountain ascent to search for *B. mexicana*.*



*Figure 4. Dr. Egon Köhler and his wife Herta confer with Mexican plant collector Pedro Lezama just before the climb up the Cerro de Coatepec.*

and *B. mexicana* reside east of Mexico City, while *B. pubescens* is confined to the Islas Marias in the Pacific Ocean. As the indigenous species are not in horticultural cultivation and are not represented as a group in a botanical garden, Dr. Mark and Elizabeth Braimbridge and Dr. Egon Köhler made plans to pursue the species, collect them, and begin a living collection at the botanical garden at Jalapa, Veracruz. I was able to participate for the first part of the trip in which we initially made contact with botanists in the Institute of Botany of the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico City. Later we met with Pedro Tenorio Lezama, a Mexican plant collector, who was to be our guide for the pursuit of the first two *Buxus* species.

Travelling east of Mexico City, we could see in the distance two famous volcanos, the visibly erupting Popocatepetl (17,887 feet high) and about 15 miles from it the inactive Ixtaccihuatl (17,343 feet high). Driving onward to approximately 125 miles from Mexico City, southeast of Orizaba near Chiltepec, Oaxaca, we stopped at the minute village of Arroyo Choapan, just outside of which in 1983 Dr. Köhler had seen *B. bartlettii* growing beneath a bridge along a small river. The lush tropical vegetation in this part of Mexico was often interrupted by fields of cultivated sugar cane. During a torrential and sustained downpour in the darkness of the early evening, we spotted and collected several specimens of *B. bartlettii* growing in very deep shade along the slope of the river's banks. The lanky, approximately three-foot-high plants, were bearing fruit and had elongated 2.5 x 1.0-inch leaves separated by a long internodal distance. Overall, the plant had a superficial resemblance to *Nandina* or bamboo.

The next day we travelled west in



Figure 5. The river bed below and the mountains beyond are seen at the site of *B. mexicana* at an altitude of about 7,600 feet.



Figure 6. *B. mexicana* (center) is seen in contrast to other desert species growing in its habitat.



Figure 7. This upright specimen of *B. mexicana* is fully exposed to the sun and demonstrates its dense foliage.



Figure 8. Some *B. mexicana* plants appeared to grow directly from the face of rock outcroppings.

search of *B. mexicana*, which had been collected by the great German botanist Carl Albert Purpus (1851-1941). Dr. Köhler had been unsuccessful in finding the species in 1983, but it had been rediscovered by Lezama several years ago. Without Lezama's assistance, it would have been impossible to locate the species. The habitat for *B. mexicana* was completely different from that of *B. bartlettii* despite the fact that they were located in the same geographic part of Mexico. After driving south of Tehuacan through arid mountains teeming with cacti and other desert flora, we passed through the quaint village of Caltepec, Puebla. As the road ended, we drove several miles in a quite rocky, nearly dry river bed (Fig. 3) finally to the site (altitude 5,800 feet) where we would begin to climb Cerro de Coatepec to find the species (Fig. 4). After climbing for nearly 3 hours in the hot desert climate and observing numerous native plants such as species of salvia and lavender, we found *B. mexicana* growing along the limestone rock slopes on both sides of the mountain summit (about 7,600 feet) (Fig. 5). The flowering plants were numerous (Fig. 6) and completely exposed to sun. Some grew low like a ground cover while others were tall and upright (Fig. 7) or mounded. Some plants appeared to be growing straight out of the limestone rocks (Fig. 8). The largest plants were old, covered with lichens, and measured up to 5' tall and 7' broad. Smaller plants at first glance appeared to be seedlings, but at closer inspection they were shoots from large stolons, which were nearly impossible to dig for transplanting. *B. mexicana* was a very beautiful plant having dense and very thick leaves that were ovate and measured approximately 7/8" long and 1/2" wide. Numerous cuttings of the plants were taken, and several small plants were collected despite

the extremely dry, loose and rocky soil and the poor root growth. It was indeed difficult to pry specimens out of rock! If cuttings of the species root easily, then this attractive boxwood would seem to have real potential as a cultivated *Buxus* for the desert landscape.

After I left the expedition to return to the United States, Dr. Köhler and Dr. Mark and Elizabeth Braimbridge continued their pursuit of another species of Mexican boxwood, *B. moctezuma*. The new Mexican guides who accompanied them were successful in finding and collecting this species, but only after their dramatic crossing over the Rio Moctezuma, whose level was high and the current swift. Specimens with flowers and fruits as well as young plantlets were collected and returned to the opposite side of the river by a guide who had to swim with the sack of plant material in his mouth!

All three species of Mexican *Buxus* were subsequently brought to the garden at Jalapa, where conditions for growth are favorable and where the experienced staff are specialists in cultivating regional endemic species. Future excursions in Mexico will be required to find and collect *B. blanchifolia* and *B. pubescens*. The latter, located on the Islas Marias, the site of a Mexican prison, may be the most challenging of the Mexican species to observe in nature.

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*Dr. Frierson is a Vice President of the ABS and Chairman of the Research Committee.*



## Visit Four Centuries of Virginia Treasures

**Historic Garden Week, April 20-27, 2002**

Suzanne Munson, Executive Director, Historic Garden Week

Visitors will step through the gates of more than 250 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks during "America's Largest Open House," April 20-27, 2002.

Three dozen Historic Garden Week tours present a rich mosaic of some of the country's finest properties at the peak of Virginia's springtime color. Sponsored by The Garden Club of Virginia, local events are scheduled from the Atlantic Ocean to the Allegheny Mountains and will span the centuries from the early 17th through the early 21st.

For those interested in horticulture, there will be formal gardens, walled gardens, cottage gardens, cutting gardens, rose gardens, annual and perennial gardens, herb gardens, water gardens, and even secret gardens. Visitors interested in architecture and interior decorating will see beautifully renovated historic properties, stunning 21st-century residences, exceptional artwork, and some of the country's finest collections of glass, china, and American, European and Asian antiques.

Historic Garden Week, entering its 69th season, is the oldest and largest statewide house and garden tour event in the nation. Tours benefit the restoration of important historic grounds and gardens throughout the state. Each event offers an engaging variety of five to six local houses and gardens, most open to the public for the first time for Garden Week.

You may visit the Garden Week web site at [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org). A comprehensive, 220-page guidebook, available in February, may be obtained by sending a \$5 donation

payable to Historic Garden Week, 12 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219. The book provides descriptions of houses and gardens open, directions, ticket prices, and the names and telephone numbers of local tour organizers.

### *Tour Highlights*

As always, Garden Week tours offer gardens and houses rich in history and lore. The tour on April 26 in the rural Middle Peninsula celebrates the 300th anniversary of the founding of King William County and will open the nation's oldest courthouse, along with historic properties spanning the centuries. Chelsea, built in the early 1700s, features more than 5,000 ancient boxwood and a maze planted by its homeowner generations ago to help guide his beloved wife, who was slowly going blind. Also on the tour is property once owned by one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Carter Braxton. The Northern Neck tour on April 24 opens fine historic houses in Richmond County, where Capt. John Smith was taken in 1608 as a prisoner of Chief Powhatan.

An imposing Greek Revival mansion on the Winchester-Clarke County tour April 21 and 22 served as the setting for famous annual picnics sponsored by Senator Harry F. Byrd, Sr., where "Byrd machine" regulars ate fried chicken and tested Virginia's political waters. Farther down in the Shenandoah Valley is a tour on April 27 in the picturesque town of Lexington, highlighting distinctive Valley furnishings and architecture.

Richmond's three tours April 22, 23 and 24 open outstanding 20th-century properties in lovely neighborhoods west of the state capitol. Tours in Charlottesville April 20-24 feature numerous suburban gardens, country estates, the University of Virginia's beautiful Pavilion Gardens, designed by Thomas Jefferson, and horticulture lectures at Jefferson's Monticello. Among other events offering discussions is the April 23 Lynchburg tour, where Master Gardeners will provide popular demonstrations of helpful gardening techniques as guests visit the grounds of handsome area homes.

#### *Historic Garden Week—Eastern Shore Tour*

The Garden Club of the Eastern Shore will sponsor a tour on Saturday, April 27, 2002.

One of the places open will be

Eyre Hall, with a tree-lined entrance lane, rare boxwood, classic dependencies, and vistas of Cherrystone Creek. Thomas Eyre II received the land patent in 1662; his grandson, Littleton Eyre, built the house in 1735-1760. It is now owned by the 11th generation of the family. Eyre Hall has both the Virginia Historic Landmark and the National Historic Place designations.

Kendall Grove Point, situated on a bluff overlooking Mattawoman Creek, is just north of Eastville, the 300-year-old county seat of Northampton. The original house, built in 1952, has undergone four additions since. The garden is designed around interesting statuary with seasonal changes among the bulbs, perennials, and flowering shrubs.

A web site, [esgardentour.com](http://esgardentour.com), which changes periodically, offers a glimpse of the tour sites and includes tour information.

### Did You Know...

- That the plural of boxwood is boxwood?
- That species, such as *sempervirens*, should be written in full and never abbreviated?
- That a boxwood named for Mrs. Elizabeth Inglis is officially registered as *Buxus sempervirens* 'Inglis', which is the proper and correct nomenclature?
- That to avoid confusion with any other acronym, the name of the registration authority has been changed to International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA)?
- That the Korean boxwood formerly known as *Buxus microphylla* koreana, has been changed by taxonomists to *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis*? (The cultivar name 'Nana' is added to distinguish the slow-growing form.)



*Kendall Grove Point*

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## Boxwood in New Bern and Edenton, N.C.

Noted at 19th Annual Meeting of Southern Garden History Society, May 2001

*New Bern, S.C.*



*At Tryon Palace, the Maude Latham Memorial Garden, in the style of cutwork parterre, is named for the restoration donor. This garden was designed by Morley Jeffers Williams, who also did work at Mount Vernon and Stratford Hall. In 1991 researchers found an original plan in the collection of the Academia Nacional de la Historia in Venezuela.*



*A sidewalk around the side of the John Wright Stanly House leading to the rear is edged with a low boxwood hedge. The house, built around 1780, was moved to the present location next to the Tryon Palace Complex Visitor Center in 1966. (Photos: Mrs. Decca G. Frackelton)*

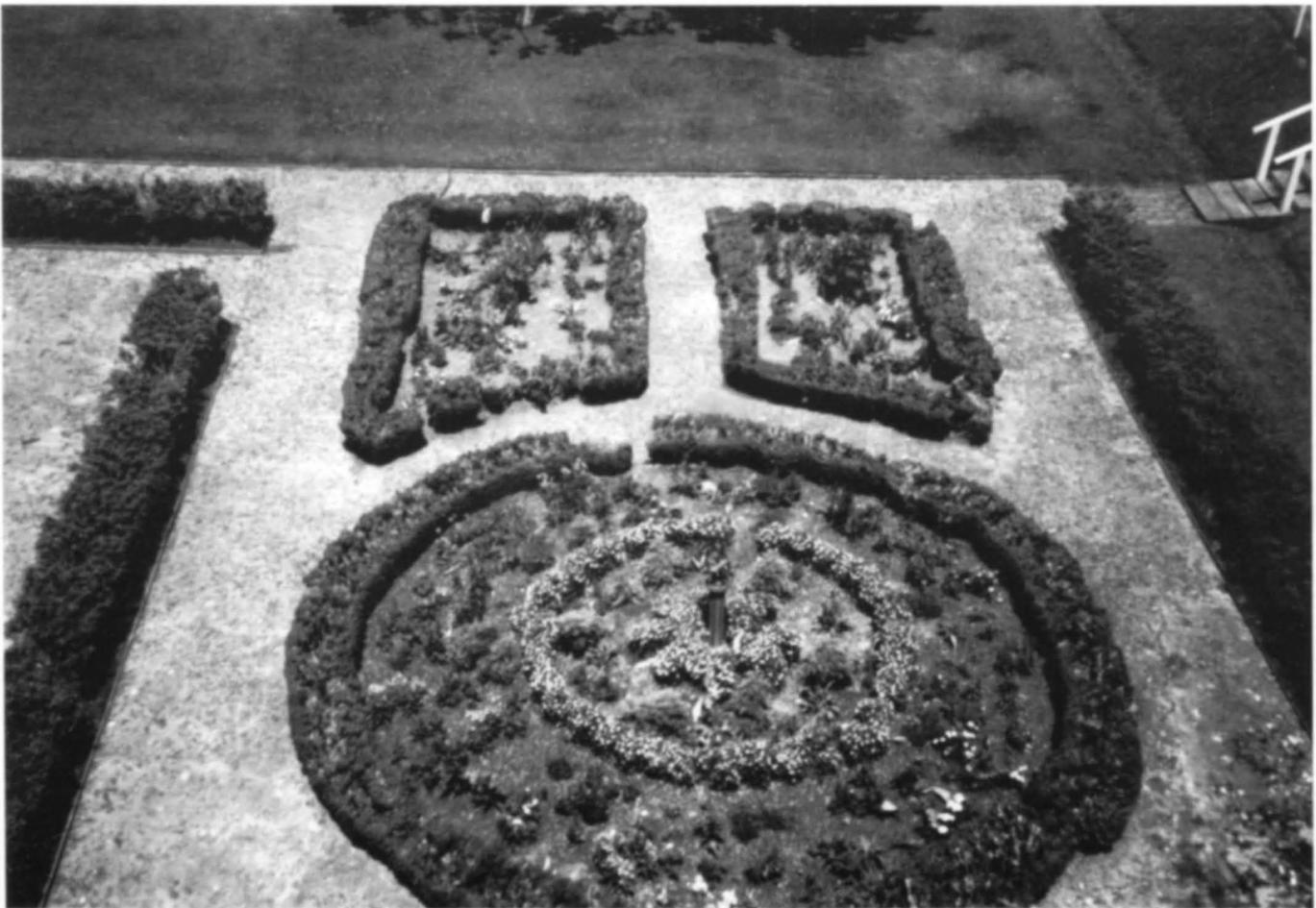




*The rear of the John Wright Stanly House has an open expanse of lawn with a double-bordered boxwood hedge around the garden.*



*To the side of the Visitor Center Auditorium, the boxwood parterre garden leads to the rear garden of the John Wright Stanly House.*



*At Somerset House, near Creswell, N.C., visited en route to Edenton, N.C., a garden features boxwood in a formal design. This was an active plantation from 1785–1865, and encompassed as many as 100,000 acres.*

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Edenton, N.C.



*The lower entrance to the Cupola House in Edenton has a series of three gardens leading to the house, separated by picket fences. The house was built in 1758 by Francis Corbin, land agent for the last of the English Lords proprietors, Robert Carteret, Earl of Granville. The widow Corbin sold the house in 1777 to Dr. Samuel Dickinson.*

*In 1918 the last of the Dickinson line sold the elaborate Georgian woodwork from the downstairs of the house to a representative of the Brooklyn Museum, where it is still on display.*

*This led to the formation of the Cupola House Association, which has restored the property, and in the 1960s reproduced the lost woodwork. This is believed to have been the earliest community restoration effort in North Carolina.*

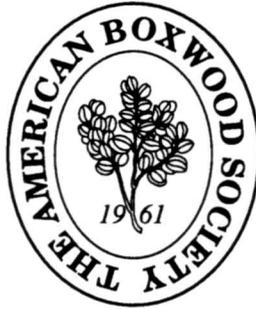


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*“At Hayes Plantation, architect and builder William Nichols combined Palladian planning with elements of Adamesque and Greek neoclassicism to create a villa of great individuality and presence.” (Bishir: North Carolina Architecture.)*

*In 1815 James C. Johnston used local materials and slave craftsmen to build the mansion. The center is flanked with colonnaded wings, a kitchen on one end and a library at the other.*

*A winding path bordered by boxwood leads to a formal camellia garden created by the owner’s grandmother in the 1930s–1950s.*



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