

# The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental



Walter S. Carell, Jr., newly-appointed ABS Director, stands beside an 18'x18' American Boxwood (*B. sempervirens*) on the grounds of the Shrewsbury Parish Episcopal Church, Kennedyville, Maryland, April 27, 2002.

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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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<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
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Boxwood Memorial Garden Fund  
Boxwood Encyclopedia Fund  
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Treasurer, The American Boxwood Society  
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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. Charles T. Fooks  
31106 Johnson Rd.  
Salisbury, MD 21804

## 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  
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# ABS 42nd Annual Meeting Report, May 16-18, 2002

Sigrig Georgii Harriman

After years of considering a more northern location for the annual meeting of the American Boxwood Society it was decided to meet in the Delaware/New Jersey/Pennsylvania corner of the country for 2002. Two and a half days were filled with boxwood-related activities, lectures on the history of the American Boxwood Society, the first boxwood expedition to the Republic of Georgia, an ongoing DNA testing of selected boxwood types at Longwood Gardens followed by a tour and secondly, a tour of the Morris Arboretum and the annual boxwood auction. The meeting was planned and successfully executed by Dale Taylor with Gary Richardson arranging for the speakers and Decca Frackelton undertaking the registration.

Attendees met Thursday, May 16, for registration at the lobby of the

Holiday Inn Select in Bridgeport, N. J. After that, the spring meeting of the ABS Governing Board was held. Its minutes are printed on page 20 of this issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. At the 7:30 p.m. Viennese Dessert Buffet Reception, Paul J. Stankard gave a talk on glass ornaments. He was recognized by a number of attendees because he spoke to ABS members at the 1993 Annual Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia. He is a well-known artist from Southern New Jersey and teaches flame working of glass ornaments both in his studio and at the Salem Community College in New Jersey. He creates glass paperweights, glass orbs and glass blocks all imbedded with delicately colored glass blown flowers. He follows in the footsteps of a rich folk tradition of New Jersey's Pine Barren area where glass containers were blown to distill home-made whiskey. Several years

ago *The National Geographic Magazine* published an article about Mr. Stankard's special craft. He brought some samples of his work: orbs, paperweights and blocks. This concluded the first day's events.

On Friday, May 17, Thomas Saunders, President of ABS, welcomed all participants in the meeting room at the Holiday Inn and acknowledged Dale Taylor as the "site chairperson." He said that attendees from seven states were at the meeting: California, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia. Presentations by Dr. Gary Richardson and Charles Fooks filled the morning session. At Longwood Gardens, an on-site and lunch lecture on the DNA testing of selected boxwood types by Dr. Tomasz Anisko preceded the business and executive committee meetings. Minutes of both are printed in this



*Tomasz Anisko, who led an expedition to the Republic of Georgia, Charlie Fooks, one of the attendees and newly-elected President of the ABS, Gary Richardson, who arranged for the speakers on Friday, and his wife, Mary, who ably assisted with the electronics of the presentation. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)*



*Henry Frierson, Walter Carell, Bill Plumb, Tomasz Anisko, who met the bus at the boxwood trial area, and Gary Richardson discuss the condition of one of the plants. (Photo: Sigrig Harriman)*

issue. A brief garden tour of select parts of Longwood Gardens followed. Upon our return to the hotel we found the boxwood auction as exiting and hectic as always. The day concluded with a lovely dinner at the Riverview Inn on the banks of the Delaware River.

### Longwood Gardens

Pierre duPont, the great-grandson of Eleuthère Irénée duPont, used some of his fortune to purchase and develop the Longwood property. The land had been home to the Lenni Lenape tribe used for fishing and hunting. Then a Quaker family named Peirce purchased the property from another Quaker, William Penn. The farm was purchased in 1906 by Pierre duPont and he created one of the finest collections of trees and flowering shrubs. To him the aesthetic qualities were as important as their botanical significance. DuPont continued the Peirce tradition of welcoming the public to share its beauty. After his death, he left the Gardens "for the sole use of the public for purposes of exhibition, instruction, education and enjoyment." Most impressive are the Italian water garden, the flower garden walk, wisteria, peony and theater gardens. Also outstanding was the allée of American Beech trees! Alas, there was not enough time to see it all. Before lunch, Dr. Anisko gave us a brief tour of the boxwood trial area. In 1985 about 20 trial plants were started in a testing field to replace 'Belleville', etc., in the formal gardens. The goal was to try to find hardier cultivars which will be able to withstand both cold winter winds and hot summer exposure. He mentioned a limited gene pool in the *Buxus* species which presents a challenge. (More of Dr. Anisko's remarks, reported by Dr. Henry Frierson, are included below.)



*At Longwood Gardens, attendees scattered to examine plants in the test area. (Photo: Sigrid Harriman)*



*Dick Mahone examining an unidentified boxwood that Tomasz Anisko had asked the group to evaluate. (Photo: Sigrid Harriman)*



*One of the tour guides answers questions with an umbrella hooked in her pocket. Fortunately, it wasn't needed. (Photo: Sigrid Harriman)*



*At Longwood Gardens, the covered entranceway was bordered on one side by a walled garden of pink, purple, and white blooms. Squares were planted with different textures and colors. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)*



*One of many "rooms" among the display gardens at Longwood. Different textures of white and purple edge the pool. (Photo: Sigrid Harriman)*



One of the magnificent *Cornus kousa* found at Longwood Gardens. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)

### Morris Arboretum

Saturday, 20 hardy souls braved the torrential rain which handily stopped as we approached the Morris Arboretum. John and Lydia Morris, children of a Quaker family, purchased a sizable tract of 26 acres of farmland near Philadelphia for a summer home. This later became The Morris Arboretum. Their strong Quaker belief of stewardship of the earth and land preservation was a passion for both. From the beginning they dreamed that someday it could become a public garden with a teaching and research mission. To this end they cultivated trees and flowering shrubs. The hilly terrain is perfectly suited to display a *Metase-*

*quoia* grove, a spectacular *Katsura* tree, a 250-year-old Red Oak and many flowering shrubs. Various formal gardens with seasonal flower displays, a rose garden, a one-room log cabin teahouse, and a fernery in a specially-designed greenhouse are some of the highlights of the arboretum. The walk through the arboretum was worth the dampness underfoot. Besides, after a rain all colors are much brighter. The one hour bus ride brought us back to the hotel in time to check out and head home.

### Speaker Presentation

Dr. Tomasz Anisko, curator of plants at Longwood Gardens, delivered a lecture on DNA fingerprinting

of boxwoods to help identify specific plants in their experimental gardens. The plants ultimately selected after proper identification will be propagated and planted in the gardens at Longwood. Dr. Anisko's collaborators included Dr. Donglin Zhang of the University of Maine and Dr. Jianhua Li of the Arnold Arboretum. The 20 boxwood selected for analysis included Japanese boxwood, *B. sempervirens* cultivars, various unidentified local common boxwood plants, seedlings from Albania, and Korean boxwoods.

Dr. Anisko stressed the fact that morphology alone sometimes cannot definitely classify a particular boxwood with high confidence, especially for those plants that are



*A grouping of pots planted with spikes and low-growing plants provided color on a Longwood Gardens sunken terrace. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)*

young. He described the scientific methods used in the analysis. These included extraction of DNA; fragmentation of it by enzymes; ligation of adaptor molecules to the fragments; amplification of the fragments with adaptors; and separation by gel electrophoresis. Bands present in the gel from each of the samples could then be seen and compared. A statistical formula enabled the determination of how closely plants were related to each other; the range was 0-1, with a value close to 0 indicating high similarity and a value close to 1 indicative of dissimilarity. Plants with statistical values of  $<0.05$  were considered to be the same clone. A neighbor-joining tree was then

constructed to show how close or far the plants were related to each other.

The result showed that the three plants of *B. sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley' (each obtained from a different nursery source) were indeed the same, while a plant at Longwood labeled "MBG" (Missouri Botanical Garden) was actually *B. sempervirens* 'Myrtifolia'. All of the unidentified local plants (which had been thought to be 'Suffruticosa') were similar in their DNA patterns except for one plant that had been known as "Red Lion East." It was interesting to see that the boxwood from Albania were very distinct in their DNA profiles from that of all of the others. They were closest to 'Vardar Valley', but



*At the Morris Arboretum a group of boxwood, labelled "Common Boxwood," had reached considerable height. Some had the narrow, pointed leaf of American boxwood; others had larger, thick and rounded leaves. (Photo: D. Frackelton)*



*A magnificent cedar at Morris Arboretum. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)*



*At the Morris Arboretum, a grove of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn Redwood), the "fossil tree" that was rediscovered in the 1930s. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)*

yet very distant from it.

The above findings for boxwood identification at Longwood will now allow the selection of known plants for further propagation and study, and will also provide information about others so that these plants can be discarded from further consideration. Dr. Anisko ended his lecture

by describing future possible experiments using *Buxus* DNA analysis that include additional cultivar verification, cataloging DNA profiles, and determining genetic relationships among boxwood. Other DNA experiments for consideration in the more distant future might include the transferal of specific genes (when

identified) such as those conferring particular botanical traits of resistance to various pests and diseases.

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*This report on Dr. Anisko's lecture was prepared by Dr. Henry Frierson.*



*A Katsura tree (background) was specially pointed out by the guide at Morris Arboretum. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)*



*A wooden praying mantis, one of many insects on display throughout the Morris Arboretum. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)*



*The Swan Pond, home to a pair of swans, makes a lovely setting as viewed from one of the paths. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)*

## Registrants for the 42nd ABS Annual Meeting

Delbert Agee Nancy Agee Richmond, VA	Dr. Gary Richardson Mary Richardson Annapolis, MD
John W. Boyd III Roanoke, VA	Lowery B. Saunders Don Slattery Manassas, VA
Walter S. Carell, Jr. Alexandra Carell Millington, NJ	Thomas Saunders Lyn Saunders Piney River, VA
Daniel Dollar Sandra Dollar Warrensville, NC	George Schumacher Dea Anna Schumacher Turlock, CA
Joseph Ferguson Mary Ferguson Salem, VA	Mac Stiff Anne Stiff Round Hill, VA
Charles T. Fooks, Jr. Lucille Fooks Salisbury, MD	Dale T. Taylor Woodbury, NJ
Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton Fredericksburg, VA	Betty Walker Del Rio, TN
Dr. Henry F. Frierson Charlottesville, VA	Clyde Weber Betty Weber Bentleyville, PA
Lewis Gaskin Pat Gaskin Laurel Springs, NC	Charles Whelan Potomac, MD
K. Lee Hahn Eliza Hahn Califon, NJ	Chris Willemsen Mendham, NJ
Sigrid G. Harriman Fredericksburg, VA.	
Clifford Hoffman Flemington, NJ	
Dr. Edward Kelly Mrs. Edward Kelly Taneytown, MD	<b>Cancellations:</b> Mr. and Mrs. Paul Saunders Mr. Jim W. Saunders
Richard D. Mahone Williamsburg, VA	<b>Speakers:</b> Dr. Gary Richardson Charles Fooks Paul J. Stankard Tomasz Anisko
Bill Plumb Mickey Plumb Moorestown, NJ	

## Plant List for ABS Annual Auction

*Buxus harlandii*  
Harlandii Boxwood

*Buxus microphylla*  
'Grace Hendrick Philips'  
'Compacta'  
'Green Pillow'  
'Curly Locks'

*Buxus microphylla var. japonica*  
'Green Beauty'  
'Morris Dwarf'  
'Morris Midget'

*Buxus sempervirens*  
'Latifolia Maculata'  
'Tennessee'  
'Fiddlambow' (named by Clifford Hoffman for a specimen of weeping boxwood from which he took cuttings)  
'Faulkner'  
'/American/'  
'Dee Runk'  
'Elegantissima'  
'Fastigiata'  
'Graham Blandy'  
'Vardar Valley'  
'Ipek'  
'Latifolia Marginata'

*Buxus sinica var. insularis*  
'Nana'  
'Justin Brouwers'  
'Meadow's Garden'  
'Wintergreen'

*Buxus*  
'Glencoe' (= 'Chicagoland Green')  
'Green Ice' (pat. name)  
'Green Mountain'

*B. sinica var. insularis*  
'Franklin Gem' (introduced by Conard-Pyle in 1999)

The ABS thanks the following donors  
(and any others unknown at press time)  
for their generosity:

Charles T. Fooks  
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Cliff Hoffman  
Jim Saunders  
Paul Saunders  
Tom Saunders  
Clyde Weber  
Cris Willemsen

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# Boxwood Expedition to the Republic of Georgia

Charles T. Fooks

## I. Introduction

I grew up on a farm on the eastern shore of Maryland. Two things that were important to me as a boy were an interest in plants and exploring the woods. Later on I became a nurseryman and my interest in plants intensified with the genus *Buxus* being one of the ornamentals that caught my attention early on. Likewise I never lost my passion for exploring the woods and observing the plant life. To this day there is nothing that thrills me more.

Last February I received a message that I had a call from a Dr. Tomasz Anisko of Longwood Gardens. That sounded pretty important so I returned the call. The strongly accented voice on the other end of the line informed me of an expedition to the Republic of Georgia to collect *Buxus* and asked if I would be interested. Without even thinking about it I said yes. It was like something I had unknowingly been preparing for all my life.

During the next three months, while taking care of the details of preparing for such a trip, doubts and misgivings would sometimes creep into my mind as to whether "I should really be doing this". Paul and Tatum Saunders were the only people that I knew personally who would be going and they would be coming later. Judging from the titles and credentials of the others, I would be in the company of people with much more formal education and probably half my age. Because of a problem with her knee and impending surgery, my wife would not be going but very enthusiastically encouraged me to do so. For fifty years we had never been separated for more than a few days. These doubts and reasons not to go

were completely overwhelmed by the excitement and anticipation of such an excursion. The time of departure soon arrived and I found myself on a plane headed for a city I couldn't pronounce and a country that until three months ago I had known very little about. I had tried to "beef up" on knowledge of the country by downloading information from the website of the Georgian embassy in Washington and reading Brandt's travel guide.

I learned that Georgia is about the size of South Carolina with a population of 5 1/2 million. The capital city is Tbilisi with a population of 1 1/2 million. The people of Georgia claim a history dating back to 600 B.C. They also claim to be the oldest Christian nation, having adopted Christianity as their national religion in 337 A.D. The nation has been conquered and occupied some 16 times during its history. However Georgia never gave up and has maintained its national identity. In 1801 Georgia was taken over by the Russian aristocracy. After the Czar was overthrown, Georgia was made an independent democratic republic on May 26, 1918. Democracy was short-lived, however, and Georgia was annexed by the Red Army in 1921. In 1991 Georgia declared independence and seceded from the Soviet Union. This is the Georgia that we visited with 10 years of independence after 70 years of communism. Their freedom has been costly. Most of the production of goods went to Russia during the communist era. Russia has retaliated by cutting off imports from Georgia leaving the economy in shambles. A generation having known nothing but life under communism has been suddenly thrust into the world economy with no preparation for it. It is reminiscent of

the slaves in the south after the Civil War.

Such a long reign of communism has been difficult to shake. There still exists a police state mentality. All around Tbilisi there were check points where vehicles were stopped and checked. These check points were manned by large groups of police armed with submachine guns. It gave the impression that the police were there to protect the government rather than the people. Actually I think it was because they had so many policemen left over from the communist era that they did not know what to do with them. From my point of view, having spent most of my adult life during the Cold War, it was eye opening to witness first hand the results of this economic system that was thrust on so many people during the 20th century. Massive concrete unfinished buildings, abandoned before completion, with construction equipment left to rust where it was last used, dotted the landscape and bore testimony to the colossal failure of the communist form of government.

We traversed the entire country with the exception of the northwest, which is a disputed territory and is off limits.

The trip was arranged through the Georgian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Botany. We each paid a fee which covered all of our food and lodging, a fifteen-passenger van and driver, two botanist guides and other local guides, and phytosanitary certificates for exporting plants.

As the plane lowered through the clouds and I began to glimpse the terrain below where I would be spending the next 30 days, those old doubts surfaced again and I was asking myself "What on earth am I

doing here?" After arriving, meeting Tomasz and Todd Lasseigne of the J. C. Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh, N. C., and getting started, this question never came up again. The excitement of what we were doing overwhelmed everything else. From the first day till the last this trip was filled with such an intense excitement that I don't have enough command of the English language to adequately describe it.

## II. Eastern Georgia (Iberia)

On day one, June 9, no time was wasted and after getting situated in Tbilisi, our guides headed out immediately in our 15-passenger van with our driver Nadori to show us what we came to see. Our first stop was far up a mountain at the remains of an ancient church ruins known as St. George's near the village of Navadarant Kari. Here we saw our first native *Buxus*, a small naturally-seeded population in a grove of trees around the church. Our guides Mia and Marina were not only experts in the flora of their country, but also in its history. Here we learned about the *Buxus* of Iberia and Colchica.

Georgia is divided climatically by the Lesser Caucasus range. The western part bordering the Black Sea, known in ancient times as Colchis, is warmer and wetter than the eastern section, which was known as Iberia. The genus *Buxus* was not indigenous to eastern Georgia but was introduced by pagan worshipers thousands of years ago. They considered it a holy plant and planted it around their temples, which were always built on high places. This was thousands of years before Christianity was introduced to Georgia in 337 A. D. All of the wild populations of *Buxus* we visited in eastern Georgia were in the vicinity of ancient churches. Thousands of years of self-seeding from these ancient plantings have produced the native and relatively small populations of *Buxus* in eastern

Georgia. The temples later became churches and some of the pagan customs persisted. Boxwood is still considered a holy plant in Georgia to this day. Branches of boxwood are brought to churches at Easter and Christmas. This has continued until the present time and there is a heavy demand for "cut boxwood", as we would call it, at these holidays. So much so that all the stands of wild boxwood we saw in eastern Georgia had been harvested by the locals for sale to the extent that in a lot of cases we could make no conclusion as to form and size.

The three of us roamed through this small stand of *Buxus*, at St. George's, excited as kids in a candy store. We noted two variations in the leaves of what we saw. One type was a rather narrow lighter green leaf, and some having larger, wider, rounder, leaves that were a somewhat glaucous, 'Vardar Valley' type-leaf. We found just a few not very mature seeds at this site. Our next stop was even more exciting, again near the ruins of an ancient church near the village of Choporta. We picked up a guide from the village and drove up into the hills as far as the road went. We followed the guide, an older man, who climbed the steep path at a swift pace and never slowed down, while smoking continuously. We were headed up to another ancient church ruin and on the northeast side of the steep slope we began encountering boxwood. It was everywhere as an understory plant in a mostly *Carpinus* forest. Again we noted the same two leaf types. This colony, too, had been cut many times for holiday sales so any form cannot be stated. Here we made four selections of cuttings and some more not quite mature seeds. We spent quite a bit of time here. I was sorry to leave this place.

Our hosts had rented us a sixth-floor flat in Tbilisi, where we spent Saturday through Wednesday nights,

making day trips from Tbilisi. We did not see any more wild stands of *Buxus* during this time but did make collections at three active monasteries and the Tbilisi Botanical Garden. At the Herbarium we very carefully examined the specimens of *Buxus* and noted the same plant was labeled as *Buxus sempervirens* previous to 1953 when it was reclassified as a separate species by Pojark, a Russian botanist. It appeared to me that the decision to classify it as different species was a political rather than a scientific one. We had noted an absence of leafminer in all of the boxwood we had seen in Georgia so far and looked for it in the specimens but no leaf miner damage was present. However right outside the building we found a planted boxwood that was hosting living leafminer, so leafminer is present in the country, if not widespread.

We sent our first shipment of collected material to the U. S. by FedEx on Wednesday before leaving Tbilisi.

On Thursday, June 14, we left Tbilisi and traveled to Vashlovani nature preserve near the border of Azerbaijan, a very dry region similar to the southwestern U. S. We did not expect to see any boxwood there. Our hosts designed our trip for us to witness all of the regions of their country. We did find four large nice-looking plants at the Vashlovani Research Station, which was a facility of the academy. We took cuttings of the best one of these and were pleased to find *Buxus* thriving in such a dry, harsh climate. On the way back to the village of Shilda, where we were to spend the next three days, we did find a hedge planted at an abandoned collective farm where we made some collections. All of the boxwood we saw planted in eastern Georgia appeared to be collected plants as no two were alike, even in hedges. Of course this was in our favor as it gave

us much more to select from. We made day trips from Shilda to the Lagodeki Preserve and Arboretum where we observed an old *Buxus* that had reached tree size.

We also visited another wild population of 10 hectares (about 25 acres) much larger than any we had seen before. Again this was on a steep hill near an ancient church ruin. We were literally hanging on with one hand and taking cuttings with the other. We made many interesting finds there, including a very prostrate plant.

On Sunday, June 17, we made what we later dubbed "the nine-mile death march." Nadori let us out of the van at the gate of the Lagodeki Preserve and Arboretum. Our objective was to hike to the tree line just for the experience and to see the alpine flowers, rhododendrons, etc. The trek was 9 miles one way with a little over a mile change in elevation. It was one of the most challenging and breathtaking experiences of the trip.

During our stay in eastern Georgia we made two more important collection stops. The Abano Health Resort is now unused due to the economic conditions. The lone watchman kindly gave us free run of the facility to collect whatever we wanted. Much boxwood had been planted there in the past. Again you could tell that it was collected or seed grown material. They do not seem to have the concept of cultivars. We made several selections here.

The next stop was the Alexander park in the village of Tsinandali. The park was originally planted as the estate of a Frenchman in 1833. It had been beautifully laid out and planted. Here we saw the first *Buxus* cultivars that we recognized. Probably imported from France or other parts of western Europe, 'Elegantissima' had been planted and maintained as a low hedge quite extensively. We saw

'Rotundifolia', 'Handsworthiensis', 'Aureo-Maculata', 'Pendula' and others. There were extensive parterres planted with what was obviously a clone, as all the plants were the same, a contrast to what we had seen anywhere in Georgia previously. There were some quite pendulous forms also. We made some selections here.

Fred Spicer arrived on the evening of the 18th after we got back to Tbilisi. We spent the rest of the week making day trips from Tbilisi. One day on the way out of the city we noticed a roadside vendor selling shrubbery. That evening as we came back we stopped. We purchased a boxwood, which had been hacked on quite a bit, but got our interest. It was one perfectly straight pole with all of the branches perpendicular to the trunk. It seemed to have great promise as a fastigate plant. We purchased it for 10 lari, five U. S. dollars, trimmed the cuttings and later planted it in the Tbilisi Botanical Garden. We also took some cuttings from the Vake cemetery, which we visited in Tbilisi.

On Saturday, June 23, we were joined by the Saunders and Dr. Robert Wright of Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va. Our team was complete. We left Tbilisi, not to return until July 5. We traveled first to the Kazbegi Ecological Center in northern Georgia near the Russian border where we spent the next five days exploring, climbing and viewing some of the most awesome scenery I have been privileged to see.

We next traveled to the Bakuriana Ecological Center and spent Thursday night through Saturday night, making trips each day. This part of the country was a lot like the pacific northwest. We learned that two members of the staff there were refugees from Abkhazia. During the evening meal (evening meals consisted of a lot more than just eating)

the discussion turned to Abkhazia. Our guides told us the largest and best stands of boxwood were in Abkhazia. Talk about the grass being greener on the other side of the fence, the best boxwood in Georgia and we couldn't go there. At that moment, the idea for the second trip was conceived.

From the standpoint of collecting our most important stop while at Bakkuriana was the Likiana resort near Barjomi. On entering the resort we saw a nice little variegated boxwood that was definitely much different from 'Elegantissima'. However, since the guards at the gates only a few yards away were armed with submachine guns, we felt intimidated in spite of having our Georgian guides and passed it by. We met Levan Likhovtschenka who has been a horticulturist at the resort for more than 40 years. He was probably as old or older than myself. He was delighted to see Americans interested in horticulture and spent some time talking with us through Marina and showing us around, assisting us in finding and taking cuttings including the little variegated plant near the gate. Paul made a nice find in a clipped parterre. To show our appreciation to Levan, I presented the American Boxwood Society hat that I was wearing at the time, which was the only appropriate thing I had. He seemed most gracious and appreciative and I felt good that I had given it to him. I am certain that he is proudly wearing it on occasions publicizing the ABS in Georgia.

### III. Western Georgia (Colchica)

On Sunday we headed on toward western Georgia and Batumi. Early in the afternoon we came to what our guides told us was the most eastern stand of natural boxwood in Colchica. This is what Paul Saunders called "boxwood heaven." There was boxwood everywhere. Our guides and

driver practically had to pry us away from there. We left with collections of both *Buxus* and *Ilex colchica*.

On to Batumi through the now familiar police check points; we arrived at the home of Zura Manveledze, where we were to stay on this last leg of our trip. Here we made trips into the mountains along the Turkish border and collected both *Buxus* and *Ilex*. In western Georgia, *Buxus* grows abundantly as understory plants on steep hillsides. On some steep slopes, it was the dominant plant. In many places it was not accessible to us because of the steep terrain. By this time I was much more selective and wasn't collecting anything unless it really grabbed me. Zura and his family were the most gracious hosts. His daughter and some neighbor girls assisted his wife in preparing and serving the meals. They played the piano and sang for us after the evening meal. They surprised us with a fantastic 4th of July celebration. When we came back from our day trip we found balloons tied to the stair railings. Inside the table was set with red, white and blue napkins in each glass and a large cake at the head of the table with an American flag. We were very touched. Many of their friends and relatives had gathered. The ladies outdid themselves. The dinner was superb. After dinner there was the usual singing with a little different twist tonight. We sang the Star Spangled Banner and some other patriotic songs for them. It was hilarious. I must say I spent my most memorable 4th of July in a foreign country.

We headed back to Tbilisi on the fifth, did some shopping on the 6th and prepared to go home on Saturday the 7th. We discovered that during the 30 days we had so bonded with our guides, who had given us the very best in guidance to our objectives and so wonderfully provided for our every

need, that we parted with tears in our eyes.

We had shipped cuttings back by "FedEx" on two occasions. Fred Spicer brought back with him the cuttings we had ready when he returned on the 28th. We had received word that all of these had been received at Longwood Gardens and at Woodland Nursery. Our collections after the 28th were brought with us on the return trip. Altogether we had successfully gotten back with 82 accessions of *Buxus* collected from both wild and planted specimens growing in widely diverse climatic conditions. We had succeeded in what we went to do.

All of the cuttings are now at Longwood Gardens and Woodland Nursery. When they are all well rooted, Tomasz will prepare a list to publish in *The Boxwood Bulletin* for a permanent record. Our only plans for the future are (1) to keep all plants at their present locations for two years to make sure they harbor no pests; (2) to share all plant material with all of the participants of the trip as soon as they can be increased; (3) to seek no patents or trademarks; and (4) to offer progeny of the collection to public arboretums etc., beginning with the National Arboretum and Blandly.

During the thirties, Edgar Anderson went on a similar trip through the Balkans. One of the results of that trip was the now highly-popular 'Vardar Valley' boxwood. The final results of this trip will not be realized in my day, but it is highly fulfilling to think that possibly somewhere down the road new and improved boxwood may result from this effort.

Another lesson I learned on the farm as a boy was, "You should always put something back." One of our jobs was to clean out the barn and spread the manure on the fields. When we would ask, as boys do, "Why do we have to do this?" my

father would reply, "We have taken a crop from the land, now it is time to put something back." Horticulture and the nursery industry have been good to me and I have benefited much by the efforts of men like Anderson; I like to think of this trip as my way of putting something back.

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*Mr. Fooks is the newly-elected President of the American Boxwood Society.*



## Dues Notice

Dues envelopes were mailed in May. This is the last issue you will receive unless you renew before the October issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* is mailed.

If you did not receive a dues envelope, please notify the Membership Chairman:

Mrs. R. L. Frackelton  
1714 Greenway Dr.  
Fredericksburg, VA  
22401-5209

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# 'Vardar Valley' Wins 2002 Gold Medal Plant Award

Joan Butler

The Gold Medal Plant Award is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, which has been evaluating woody plants of outstanding merit since 1978. In 1988 it began to recognize the most superior plants by declaring them winners of the Gold Medal Plant Award. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has selected a total of 82 woody plants. The selection process is rigorous and is based on many criteria. Plants must have superb eye appeal, performance and hardiness in the growing region of Zones 5 to 7. They must exhibit standards of excellence for disease and pest resistance, as well as ease of growing when planted and maintained by recommended methods. Gold Medal Plant Award winners are also chosen for appeal through many seasons, whether it be foliage, flowers, form or bark.

It is with great excitement that we learn that *Buxus sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley' was selected for this distinguished award. 'Vardar Valley' was originally collected by Dr. Edgar Anderson in 1934, for the Arnold Arboretum and the St. Louis Botanical Garden. He had explored the Balkans in an area centered near Skopje in the Vardar River Valley of Macedonia (then in Yugoslavia) for new, cold-tolerant plant material. He found this quality in 'Vardar Valley', a highly-prized and beautiful boxwood, possessing good cold-hardy characteristics, low growth and excellent dark blue-green foliage. It was introduced in 1957 by Donald Wyman at the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and was originally published in *Arnoldia*, Volume 17, number 7, page 42.

'Vardar Valley' forms a mound 5 feet in height and 8 feet wide after 15 or 20 years. A 40-year-old plant will

achieve a height of 8 feet and will spread to 11 feet wide. It is fully hardy in North America when grown in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 6, and has been grown in Zones 4b and 5a with some protection. At the U. S. National Arboretum in Washington, D. C., in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 7a, with an average minimum temperature of 0°F, 'Vardar Valley' has never been damaged by the cold. However at the Langley Boxwood Nursery located south of London, in Great Britain, in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 8, with average minimum temperatures of 10°F, 'Vardar Valley' has experienced damage to the new growth in spring, from late frosts. 'Vardar Valley' has been marginally hardy at the Secrest Arboretum in Wooster, Ohio, at temperatures below -12°F except on the most protected of sites.

'Vardar Valley' has a low, spreading habit, with a somewhat flattened top, forming a mound broader than high. While the branching habit is somewhat open, the foliage produces an attractively dense and full shrub. The large leaves average 3/4" to 1" long and 3/8" to 5/8" wide. They are broadly elliptic with an obtuse to acute apex. Young one-year-old twigs are quadrangular and green while second-year twigs are nearly quadrangular. The third-year twigs are "tiger striped" and round. The new growth is noticeably glabrous, giving the leaf a prominent, dark bluish-green color that slowly weathers off. By mid to late summer the leaf becomes dark green in color, which it easily maintains through the winter. The annual growth rate averages 1 1/8" to 4" long, producing 10 to 16 leaves.

In differing sites, varying from sun to shade, fertile to poor soils, well cared for or completely neglected,

'Vardar Valley' has always performed as an outstanding shrub. It is highly resistant to both boxwood leafminer and boxwood mite infestations and experiences limited boxwood psyllid damage. 'Vardar Valley' is extremely popular in many areas, particularly the north, due to its size, blue foliage, lack of insect problems and superior cold hardiness.

In 1997 another tough, cold-hardy boxwood, *Buxus* 'Green Velvet', was honored as the very first boxwood to win the Gold Medal Plant Award. Boxwood is indeed becoming an outstanding addition to today's 21st-century gardens.

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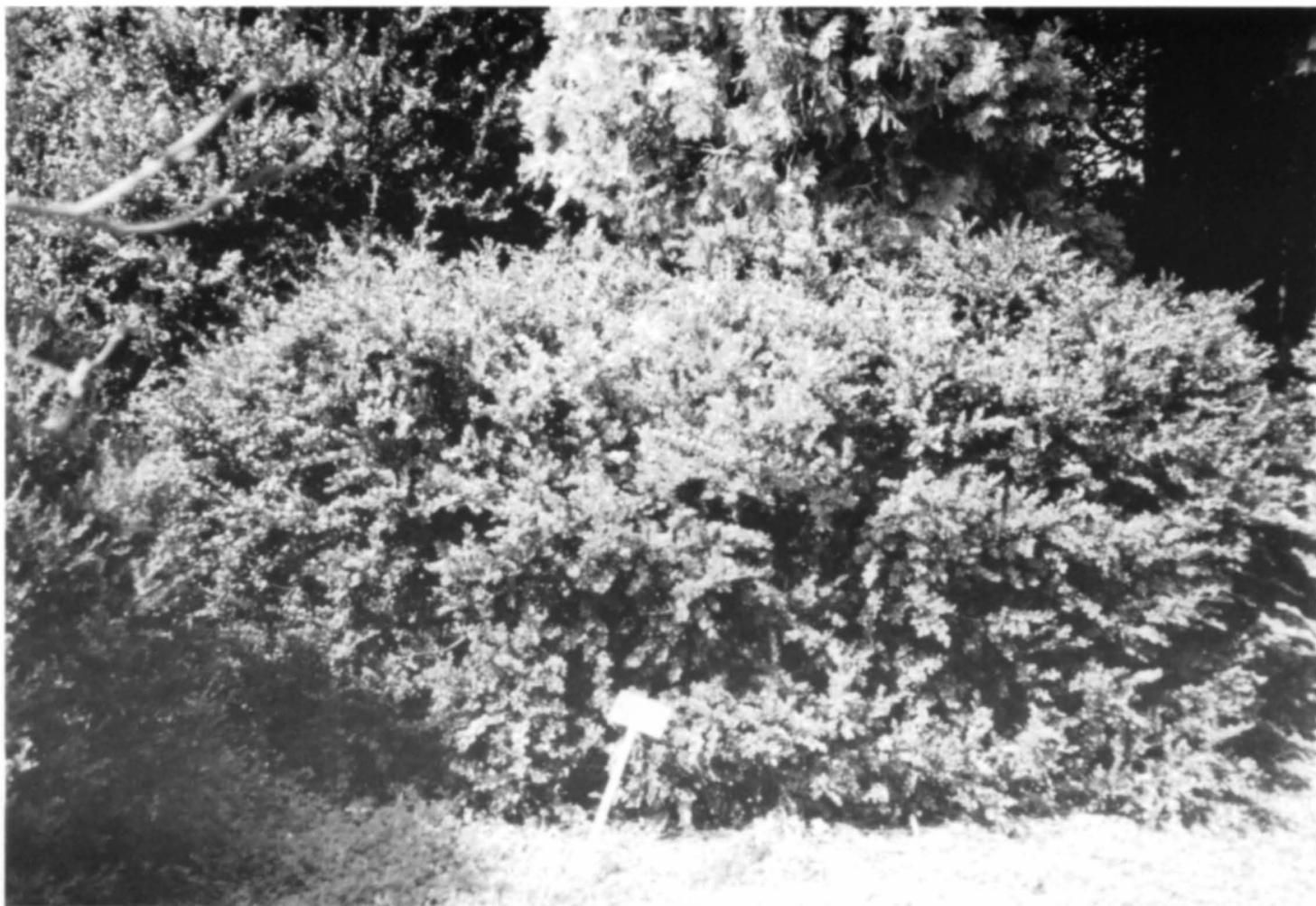
*Joan Butler, a former ABS Secretary, is Chairman of the ABS Memorial Garden Committee and an Honorary Life Member*

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*In the Special Anniversary Supplement to the Boxwood Society of the Midwest, April 1986, Mary A. Gamble describes 'Vardar Valley' (p. 4) in detail and "introduced in 1957, is deservedly the best-known of Edgar Anderson's boxwoods...makes a dense, spreading shrub, wider than tall. Must be sited with care, as it can overwhelm small garden space. Makes handsome edging or specimen plant where space permits."*

## In Memoriam

Mrs. Lucien C. Powell  
Member since 1970



Gold Medal Winner 'Vardar Valley' in the ABS Memorial Garden measures 5' 2" high and 12' wide. New growth had an especially intense blue April 11, 2002. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)

## The Early History of the American Boxwood Society

Dr. Gary Richardson

The American Boxwood Society came into being on May 2, 1961. The Society, during the time 1961-2002, has been responsible for a great amount of learning and dissemination of knowledge about boxwood.

In an early issue of the magazine *House and Garden*, someone wrote that boxwood occupied a paradoxical position, in that it was the most widely-known but least known-about plant in our landscape. This was the first hint that there existed a need for a society devoted to the study and

promotion of boxwood. It is true that boxwood adorn the estates of the wealthy but they also stand by the doorsteps of those not so wealthy.

The American Boxwood Society had its beginning at Blandy Experimental Farm. Dr. Orland E. White was the first director of Blandy Experimental Farm and served as director from 1927-1955. During that time, he established a large collection of woody plants, logically arranged and beautifully landscaped. At Dr. White's retirement the University of

Virginia dedicated the plant collection of Blandy as the Orland E. White Arboretum. The University also appointed an Arboretum Advisory Committee to oversee the programs at the arboretum.

The Arboretum Advisory Committee (Fig. 1, Vol. 25, No. 4, p. 88) first met in 1957 and one of its discussions was the possibility of establishing an organization devoted to the study and promotion of boxwood. A letter was written and signed by J. Churchill Newcomb, chairman

of the committee. It was sent to individuals, organizations, and nurseries thought to be interested in boxwood offering them an invitation to attend an organizational meeting held at Blandy Experimental Farm on May 2, 1961. The letter pointed out the advantages of a cooperative effort in researching and better understanding boxwood.

The organizational meeting, attended by nearly 100 persons, was similar to an annual meeting of our society held today. It included a tour of the Blandy facilities, a scientific session that included several talks on issues about boxwood, and finally a business meeting. During the business meeting those attending voted to establish an organization dedicated to the study and promotion of boxwood: The American Boxwood Society. Finally, they elected officers for the new society drawing heavily from members of the Arboretum Advisory Committee: J. Churchill Newcomb, President; Ralph Singleton, Vice-President; and Walter Flory, Treasurer.

The young society suffered a cruel blow during its first year in existence. Its President, J. Churchill Newcomb, was brutally murdered in his home on Feb. 28, 1962. Mr. Newcomb, a Harvard University graduate and retired journalist for the *New York Times*, was described as a full time non-paid member of the arboretum staff. A summary of many sympathy letters to his widow and young daughters describe him as kind and thoughtful. He was a good husband and a good father. He was the kind of man we would all want to be. No one was ever tried or convicted for his murder.

Dr. Flory wrote that J. Churchill Newcomb founded The American Boxwood Society. It was his interest in boxwood in all its aspects which brought those nearly 100 persons together at the first organizational

meeting to form the new society. Dr. Ralph Singleton served out the remaining months of Mr. Newcomb's term.

*The Boxwood Bulletin* (Fig. 2, Vol. 1, No. 1 cover page) has always been the chief medium for giving and receiving information on boxwood for the society. The title, "*The Boxwood Bulletin*, A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental," was invented by Mr. Newcomb and Dr. Flory. The *Bulletin* quickly enjoyed a wide circulation and became recognized as a journal of scientific merit. It is now the greatest resource of information on boxwood that exists.

Dr. Flory resigned as editor of the *Bulletin* in 1963. The *Bulletin* then went through some difficult times because of the inability of the Society to maintain a constant editor. Dr. Henry Skinner, director of the National Arboretum and a director of the Society, recognized the Society's publishing problems. Dr. Skinner was editor of the magazine for the American Horticultural Society and he offered some space in that magazine if the publishing problems of the *Bulletin* became insurmountable. The *Boxwood Bulletin* has been successfully published four times a year since its beginning, except for the first year when there were only three issues.

Mrs. Edgar Whiting (Fig. 3 Vol. 17, No. I, p. 5) became editor of *The Boxwood Bulletin* in 1965 and served for more than ten years. She was recognized for her work as editor of the bulletin by the Garden Club of America, in that she received the Gold Medal of Merit. It was said that she provided a good balance between original articles and reprinted material. She published experienced advice for the professional and the beginning grower of boxwood.

The American Boxwood Society had its beginning at Blandy Experi-

mental Farm. The Society's headquarters remains there and 90 percent of the Society's annual meetings have been held there. The ABS Boxwood Memorial Garden is maintained there.

Graham Blandy (Fig. 4, Vol. 3 No. 3 p. 32) was a wealthy stockbroker from New York, who made The Tuleyries his home from 1905 until his death in 1926. His will dictated that 700-plus acres of his estate be given to the University of Virginia to be used as a training center for boys studying all fields of agriculture. This training center would be called Blandy Experimental Farm.

Dr. Orland E. White served as director of the Blandy Experimental Farm for 28 years. In addition to the collection of woody plants which became the arboretum, Dr. White also created a world-renowned advanced study program in plant genetics. Dr. Ralph Singleton, the second director of the farm, continued this work and had the first Cobalt 60 irradiation unit for continuous plant irradiation installed at Blandy. Dr. Singleton would later become known as the father of hybrid sweet corn for his work in this field.

The educational program at Blandy Experimental Farm provided, through the UVa, an excellent course of study in botanical subjects. In 1986 the Orland E. White Arboretum was designated the State Arboretum of Virginia, and it has enjoyed a rebirth as an outstanding arboretum.

The history of The American Boxwood Society has been made possible by dedicated volunteer members of the Society. Richard Mahone (Fig. 5, Vol. 26, No. 1, p. 1), shown passing the Professor A. G. Smith boxwood gavel to incoming sixth president of the society Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, was honored at this year's annual meeting for his devoted service to the society.

Dr. J. T. Baldwin, speaking at the fifth annual meeting, said "That you

members more actively participate in the affairs of The American Boxwood Society is the first desideratum (something desired as essential)."

Members are urged to begin to supply material to the *Bulletin* for

publication and to volunteer at the ABS Boxwood Memorial Garden and corporate headquarters at Blandy. The future of the society depends on it.

*Dr. Richardson, a Director of the ABS*

*Governing Board, has been a member of the Society since 1992.*

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Leafminer Resistance

A recently published study<sup>1</sup> assesses the resistance of various boxwood cultivars to the boxwood leafminer, *Monarthropalpus flavus*. The study was conducted at the U.S. National Arboretum in a garden with leafminer infestation and in greenhouses at the University of Maryland. In the greenhouses four boxwood cultivars, *Buxus sempervirens* 'Arborescens', *B. sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', *B. sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley', and *B. microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Green Beauty', were exposed to leafminer adults. In depositing their eggs the adult flies appeared to show no preference for one cultivar over another. However, in the nine cultivars studied at the National Arboretum (*B. sempervirens*

'Arborescens', 'Myrtifolia', 'Belleville', 'Suffruticosa', 'Pyramidalis', 'Handsworthiensis', and 'Vardar Valley'; *B. microphylla* var. *japonica* 'National'; and *B. microphylla* var. *japonica*) oviposition scars were fewest in number in 'Suffruticosa', 'Pyramidalis', 'Vardar Valley', 'Handsworthiensis' and *B. microphylla* var. *japonica*. Of these the leaves of 'Suffruticosa' and 'Pyramidalis' contained very low densities of living larvae and those of 'Vardar Valley' and 'Handsworthiensis' contained no living larvae at all. The authors conclude that the relative resistance of 'Vardar Valley' and 'Handsworthiensis' to leafminer infestation is likely due either to a lack of nutrients essential

to leafminers or the presence of compounds suppressive to egg or larval development, or possibly to the lack of tender foliage in these cultivars at a time compatible with oviposition by the leafminer adults.

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<sup>1</sup> d'Eustachio, G. and Raupp, M., "Resistance of Boxwood Varieties to the Boxwood Leafminer, *Monarthropalpus flavus* (Schrank)" *J. Environ. Hort.* 19(3): 153-157, September 2001.

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*Maury Hanson, ABS Director.*

## NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

### K-Series Evaluation

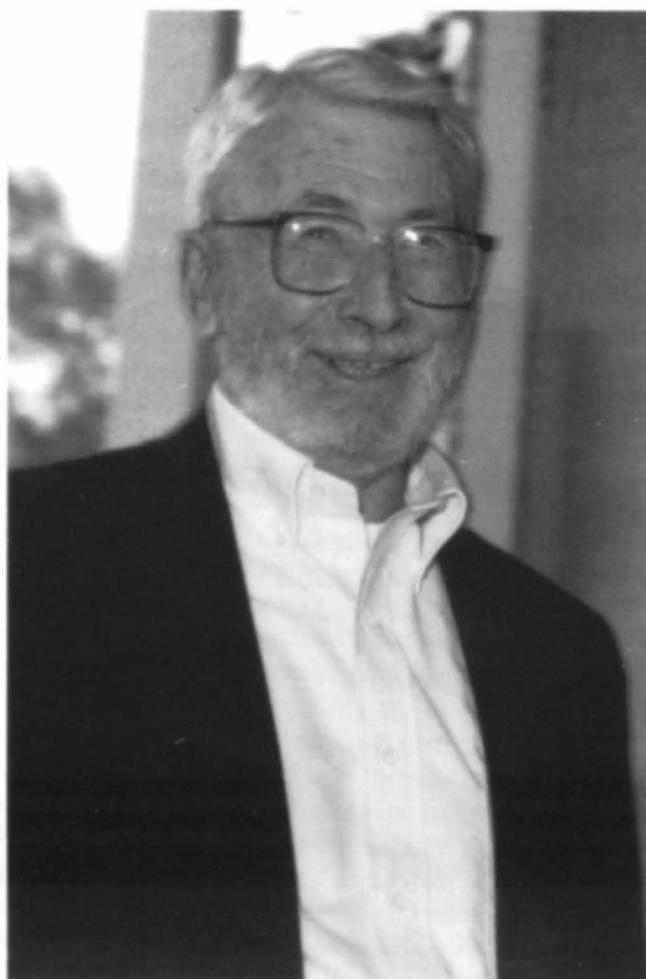


*Sigrid Harriman, a member of the ABS Memorial Garden Committee photographs and measures K-series boxwood in Extension Bed #7 on a hot day in June. There are several K-series that the Committee feels are worthy of registration and the Chairman, Joan Butler, has been compiling a list of appropriate names.*

## Tribute to “Swede” Larson



The sundial in the ABS Memorial Garden was given by Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Symmes.



“Swede” Larson, known around “Blandy” as “Mr. Boxwood.” (May 1989 photo: Robert Frackelton)

Commander Philip G. “Swede” Larson, Ret., was honored by a memorial gift of a sundial, recently installed. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Symmes chose the ABS Memorial Garden as the appropriate site for the sundial as Swede was a former Chairman of the ABS Memorial Garden Committee and had propagated cuttings of various cultivars for replacements as needed.

His book, *Boxwood, Its History, Cultivation, Propagation and Descriptions* (Boyce, Virginia: Foliar Press, 1996), published posthumously, illustrates his intense involvement with the subject, which earned him the title “Mr. Boxwood.”

### Minutes of the Spring Meeting of the ABS Governing Board, May 16, 2002

The spring meeting of the Governing Board of The American Boxwood Society was held on Thursday, May 16, 2002, in the Delaware conference room at the Holiday Inn Select in Bridgeport, New Jersey. In attendance were: Thomas Saunders, President; Charles Fooks, Vice-President; Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Jr., Second Vice-President; Sigrid Harriman, Secretary; and the following Directors: John Boyd III, Walter S. Carell, Jr., Decca Frackelton, Clifford L. Hoffman, McHenry Stiff,

Dr. Gary Richardson and Clyde Weber.

Absent were Katherine Ward, Treasurer, Lynn Batdorf, Registrar, Dr. Maury Hanson, Jim Saunders and Director Ex-Officio, Michael Bowers.

President Tom Saunders welcomed all in attendance at 3 p.m. after check-in and registration. The minutes of the winter meeting of the Governing Board, held at Decca Frackelton’s house in Fredericksburg, Virginia, were approved as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 41,

No. 4, pp. 73-74.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mrs. Ward was unable to attend, but had provided copies of the annual statement of finances for the Board's discussion and approval.

As of 5/13/02, balance in checking account is \$3,912.12, CDs \$13,007.03 and \$10,546.06. Mrs. Ward had asked permission to move the two CDs, held in two banks, to a higher-yielding location. Motion was made and passed that when CDs become due, they be transferred to best yield at her discretion.

ABS membership dues went up with fiscal year May 2002-April 2003 to regular membership \$35; family \$50; contributing member \$75; and sustaining member \$100. Life memberships remain the same, \$500.

**Registrar's Report:** Mr. Batdorf was unable to attend the Annual Meeting but provided President Saunders with a copy of his report. "I have finished all writing and editing of the manuscript for the book, *Boxwood, An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. I am waiting for final approval of the manuscript. I expect to have this approval in hand by the time of the ABS annual meeting. The manuscript will then be sent to John McCarthy so that he can begin his work to make the manuscript camera-ready for the printer. Once John's work is complete, it will be possible to get realistic cost estimates based on several possible publication scenarios. As with the first book, I will present a full report to the ABS Board so that the Board may decide how best to proceed when we reach this point. I'm hoping that the cost estimates will be ready this fall."

Mr. Batdorf added the following information: "In late April 2002, Mark and Elizabeth Braimbridge sold their interest in the Langley Boxwood Nursery to their general manager. As I had mentioned, Mark stepped down as the Chairman of the European

Boxwood and Topiary Society last year. For the present, they will be retaining all interest in and will maintain the National Collection for *Buxus*. In addition, Elizabeth will continue to lecture on boxwood and topiary in Europe."

**Boxwood Bulletin and Membership:** Mrs. Frackelton reported that ABS membership is around 500 at the moment. As always she pleaded for articles for the *Bulletin* and reminded all directors that at one time each director had to be responsible for one article per year. Deadline for the next issue of the *Bulletin* is June 15, 2002. She reported that she has been the Chairman of the *Bulletin* Committee since 1986 with John McCarthy, editor, providing the desk-top publishing functions, layout of pictures and text, etc., to prepare camera-ready copy. Mrs. Frackelton credited Joan Butler and Lynn Batdorf with invaluable help in proofing the copy.

**Boxwood Memorial Garden:** In Joan Butler's absence there was no formal report on the ABS Memorial Garden. The dead pine tree has been removed. McHenry (Mac) Stiff mentioned the formation of Blandy's honorary policy committee and suggested a representative from the ABS. No update on progress at the trial site of the K-series. Mrs. Harriman had expected to have a report at the next Board of Directors meeting in September at Blandy.

**Research Committee:** Dr. Frierson reported briefly on three ongoing activities: (1) The Cuban DNA study is over. The graduate student at Hamburg University will write an article covering the study with Dr. Köhler's assistance. (2) The boxwood related study conducted at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University under Dr. Wright's guidance will continue this summer with select commercial growers. More and different fertilizers are

needed to encourage stem growth. Promulin, they found, increases new shoots with some defoliation (new leaves produce growth inhibitors?). The graduate student will have to be alerted that an article for the *Bulletin* is expected at the end of the study. (3) In Dr. Frierson's opinion the ABS web site is the most important development that was accomplished recently. Jeff Miller, the web master, sends difficult or complex questions to Lynn Batdorf, Henry Frierson, or Tom Saunders. Online requests for ABS publications are referred directly to Katherine Ward to be handled in a timely fashion. Jeff found himself spending much more time online than originally anticipated. From January to April 2002 Jeff spent 18:15 hours answering requests and updating the website ([www.boxwood.society.org](http://www.boxwood.society.org)) Therefore, Jeff feels that a raise from \$50 to \$100 a month is justified. Motion was made by Henry Frierson and passed that this increase be granted. In a discussion it was pointed out that the organization of the Society was built upon and maintained almost entirely on volunteer work, with the only paid position being that of Executive Treasurer. The website, believed to be an important contribution in the Society's goals, has necessitated the increases in dues.

#### New Business

**Annual Auction:** Mr. Boyd reported that Mr. Weber donated gift plants of 'Green Mountain' to all attendees and thanked him for the donation. 'Green Ice' is one of the plants for the auction, as well as an autographed copy of *The Boxwood Handbook* and a hand-crocheted coverlet, made and donated by Mrs. Weber.

**Annual 2003 Meeting:** Charles Fooks had agreed to chair the 2003 Annual Meeting to be held on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, either in the Easton, Chestertown, or St.

Michaels area. There are several noteworthy gardens and nurseries to visit and interesting inns to stay at. Details are being worked out and Charles will report at the next Board Meeting.

**Nominating Committee:** Clyde Weber reported that President Thomas Saunders did not wish to be nominated for another term. Tom gave family priorities as the reason. Under his dedicated leadership and applied practical experience ABS moved forward on a number of issues. The Board thanked Tom for

all his efforts and enthusiastic engagement in matters concerning boxwood.

The Nominating Committee will present the following slate at the Annual Business Meeting:

One-year terms:

*President:*

Charles T. Fooks

*1st Vice-President:*

Clyde Weber

*2nd Vice-President:*

Dr. Henry Frierson, Jr.

*Secretary:*

Sigrid G. Harriman

Three-year terms expiring May 2005:

*Directors:*

William E. Goode, Jr.

Laurie Jamerson

McHenry L. Stiff III

The positions of Executive Treasurer, Registrar and Director Ex-Officio are appointed, the latter by reason of the position of Director of Blandy Experimental Farm. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Sigrid Georgii Harriman

*Secretary*

## Minutes of the ABS Annual Business Meeting, May 17, 2002

The business meeting of the ABS was held following the luncheon at Longwood Gardens. President Tom Saunders welcomed all attendees to the ABS Annual Meeting and thanked all speakers for their interesting and engaging presentations. The minutes of the 41st Annual Business meeting at Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia, were approved as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol. 41, No. 1, p. 23.

**Treasurer's Report:** In the absence of Katherine Ward, the treasurer's report was read by the President. The checking account contained a balance of \$3,912.12. There are two CDs, totalling \$23,553.99. He reviewed the dues increases with the new fiscal year 2002-2003.

**Registrar's Report:** In the absence of Lynn Batdorf, the registrar's report was presented by Tom Saunders. The manuscript of *Boxwood, An Illustrated Encyclopedia* has passed all editorial gates and is in the process of being made into camera-ready copy. It is hoped that estimates for the printing costs will be ready for the Board of Directors meeting next fall.

*The Boxwood Bulletin and*

**Membership:** Mrs. Frackelton reported that ABS membership is around 500 at the moment. There are twelve new members for the 2002-03 fiscal year to date. She reminded all attendees that membership fees are due and she will accept checks or they may be sent to the Treasurer. Envelopes for membership renewal were part of the registration packet.

**Research Committee:** Dr.

Frierson reported briefly on three ongoing studies: (1) The Cuban DNA study conducted under Dr. Köhler's tutelage by a graduate student at Hamburg University in Germany is almost finished. The student will prepare an article for the *Bulletin* shortly. (2) He briefly touched on the VPI research project under Dr. Wright's guidance. The study continues through this summer with select commercial growers and results are expected to be ready for publication in the *Bulletin*. (3) The ABS web site has more and more on-line requests and boxwood-related inquiries.

**Nominating Committee:** Mr.

Weber reported that Thomas Saunders did not wish another term as President of the ABS after four years and thanked him on behalf of ABS

for all the work that was done under his stewardship. Mr. Weber presented the following slate of officers and directors proposed by the Nominating Committee, which was unanimously approved.

(A directory of current officers and directors is on the back cover of this issue.)

One-year terms:

*President:*

Charles T. Fooks

*1st Vice-President:*

Clyde Weber

*2nd Vice-President:*

Dr. Henry Frierson, Jr.

*Secretary:*

Sigrid G. Harriman

Three-year terms expiring May 2005:

*Directors:*

William E. Goode, Jr.

Laurie Jamerson

McHenry L. Stiff III

**Year 2003 Annual ABS Meeting:** Charles Fooks, newly-elected ABS president, thanked all ABS members for his new status in the organization and vowed "to give back" for all the good his association with ABS has brought him. He had agreed to prepare and organize next year's Annual ABS Meeting which

will be held on the Eastern shore of Maryland. Easton, Chestertown, or St. Michaels are presently places where the meeting could take place. Noteworthy gardens and nurseries are to be visited.

President Saunders introduced Richard P. Mahone as the “godfather of ABS,” although not as good a turkey hunter as Tom. He acknowledged the outstanding contributions Dick Mahone has made to the society since he joined it. He was president from 1981-1986, and had been a director since then.

Dick Mahone was given a certificate of appreciation, naming him

Director Emeritus, signed by the Governing Board of the ABS.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

### **Special Meeting of the Executive Committee, May 17, 2002.**

A short meeting of the Governing Board of the ABS was held immediately following the close of the Business Meeting to appoint a member to the Executive Board to serve with the President, the 1st Vice-

President, Secretary and Treasurer. John W. Boyd III, was appointed.

The meeting was then adjourned. A meeting of the new Executive Board was held immediately following the adjournment of the short meeting of the Governing Board to appoint a nominating committee for the coming year.

Appointed were Clifford Hoffman, Chairman, and two non-Board members, K. Lee Hahn and George Schumacher.

The meeting promptly adjourned.

*Sigrid Georgii Harriman*  
Secretary

## **New ABS Director**



**Walter S. Carell, Jr.**

Walter S. Carell, Jr., joined the Society in 1989 to expand a very limited knowledge of boxwood and hopefully develop plant sources for a demanding residential practice—and clearly came to the best place.

His landscape architectural practice began in late 1958. New York City was his base of operation for diverse experience, from World’s Fair, urban housing, parks, corporate and university campus design.

He started a New Jersey private practice in 1980 with a focus on commercial, religious and residential

clients. Specializing on old and historic homes has been most satisfying. Currently implementing designs in Connecticut, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Edgartown, Massachusetts, Walter has even traveled as far as Hobe Sound, Florida, for a nice project.

Two environmental improvements awards have been presented him in the White House.

Clients you would know would include: John DeLorean, [auto designer and manufacturer], Judith and Bill Moyers [Public Television

series], and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Walter and his wife, Alexandra, reside in a historic (1731) house along the banks of the Passaic River, where there is still good trout fishing.

“I am honored to be a Director. The ABS is a deep reservoir of knowledge and at my stage in life it is clearly give-back time.”

Mr. Carell received his BSLA in 1961 from Pennsylvania State University, and his MLA from the University of Michigan. He is married and the father of two children.



## OFFICERS

### President:

Mr. Charles F. Fooks  
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c\_fooks@hotmail.com

### First Vice-President:

Mr. Clyde Weber  
281 Sumney Road  
Bentleyville, PA 15314  
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