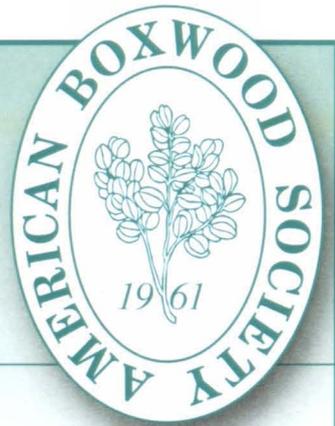


THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN



The journal of the American Boxwood Society
devoted to our oldest garden ornamental

Vol. 52 No. 3

Spring 2013



*Historic
Garden Week
in Virginia
Celebrates its
80th Year*

Sue Gouldman, courtesy of Rivanna Garden Club

Solliden

The American Boxwood Society

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Editor, *The Boxwood Bulletin* Louise T. Smith

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Notes From the Editor...

It was another winter for the books with the see-sawing temperatures keeping us all guessing, plants as well as people. The best that can be said is that it provided life-saving moisture for many parts of our drought-scarred country. It brought rest, too, to the weary gardener whose battle with the unpredictable climate takes its toll. Many will think the winter break too brief; others are champing at the bit, eager to get those forks and spades into the earth. But ready or not, spring is on our doorstep—it is time to survey the terrain and plan the planting and sowing.

Assessment of the boxwood's successful survival comes first, of course, but you'll be encouraged in this spring issue of the Bulletin to expand your garden's potential and find new and unexpected sites for your boxwood. Consider a vegetable garden! It's not only fashionable (for at least four centuries now) but necessary for those who want to cook "fresh" and "local" and chemical free. Boxwood can have an important supporting role in the beautiful vegetable garden. Read about this exciting elevation of the "everyday" in the Bulletin's article on the kitchen garden, and get inspired to flex those muscles while creating a garden whose beauty and bounty are considered art, pure and simple.

Another rite of spring, the garden tour, is a tried and true inspiration for garden creativity, and the Historic Garden Week in Virginia is one of the nation's finest, most respected and most successful tours. Celebrating its 80th year, Virginia's Garden Week promises to be particularly exciting in 2013. Our article will give you some irresistible previews, with boxwood, as usual, being a key player.

You'll find some spring housekeeping chores taken care of in this issue: minutes of the fall board meeting are included and the newly revised bylaws of the Society are presented for your consideration and your vote at the annual meeting in May in Williamsburg. Information on that meeting and a registration form are also included in this mailing.

As more and more of us in the U.S. are inspired to engage in the joys of gardening, we have cause to stop and consider with appreciation the garden clubs and plant societies like our own Boxwood Society, whose generous sharing of information and encouragement does so much to fuel our enthusiasm and our efforts. Our thanks to them all!

The Bulletin is again conducting a search for an editor, the present one having reached the point of retirement, reluctantly. Preparing the Bulletin has been an interesting and invigorating exercise—I've loved it! Certainly there must be another ABS member out there who relishes the literary endeavor and who will wish to seize this opportunity. It is not an easy task, but it will, I promise, enlarge your life and your vision, while providing great satisfaction through service to others.

Louise T. Smith, Editor

THE ABS IN ACTION... *And Other News of the Society*

- The annual meeting planning committee, Katherine Ward, Chairman, has completed a busy and interesting schedule of events for the Society's membership when they visit Williamsburg in May. You will find the Registration Form and information page as separate insert included with the Bulletin in this mailing. The deadline for registering is May 1. Members are asked to bring items for the much-anticipated auction which will be held on Tuesday afternoon, prior to the banquet.
- The committee charged with the updating of the ABS bylaws has prepared, after more than a year's meticulous work, a document for appraisal by the membership. The bylaws as revised are published in this issue of the Bulletin and will come before the annual meeting of the membership at Williamsburg in May for approval.
- The ABS participated in the January Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show, in Baltimore, thanks to the generosity of Saunders Brothers Nursery of Piney River, VA, who provided booth space and examples of boxwood cultivars so the Society reps could mix with and enlighten attendees about boxwood and the American Boxwood Society. Close to 1000 exhibitors from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Britain, The Netherlands, France, Germany and Australia participated in the event. Seven ABS officers and board members staffed the booth in addition to past president Paul Saunders. ABS book sales and membership enjoyed a healthy increase and attendees received a great deal of good information on boxwood as a result of the ABS presence at this trade show.

IN MEMORIAM

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Fay Sanford on December 18, 2012, in Memphis, TN. Fay was a longtime loyal member of the ABS and her enthusiasm and participation in the life of the society will be greatly missed. Members who attended the annual meeting in Memphis in 2006 will remember Fay's hospitality and her beautiful boxwood garden which surrounds her home. The Society has been fortunate indeed to have had her positive influence.

* * * * *

Spring is renewal time for your garden AND your ABS membership.

Please use the membership form enclosed in this mailing of the Bulletin and mail to the ABS office. The membership year is May 1 through April 30 with April being the month in which we hope to receive all renewals. A membership is a great gift, too, for a gardener! Thanks for responding to this reminder. In order to conserve budgetary resources, we are not planning an April reminder mailing.

2013 CELEBRATES THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IN VIRGINIA

April 20-27

By Karen Miller, Director, Historic Garden Week

"Virginia is especially beautiful during Historic Garden Week," says Lynn McCashin, Executive Director of the Garden Club of Virginia, the sponsoring organization of the largest and oldest statewide house and garden tour in the country. "This year we are celebrating the 80th Anniversary. Some people come for the gardens, the interior design and the architecture. Others are compelled by the history of the properties. With 32 tours to choose from, there is something for everyone," she notes.

This spectacular annual event has raised millions of dollars for the restoration of historic public gardens across the state. New for this 80th anniversary year, partner organizations are holding dozens of special activities including lectures, demonstrations and art exhibitions throughout Virginia in conjunction with Historic Garden Week. Ker Place on the Eastern Shore, a restoration project of the Garden Club of Virginia, will be the setting of an opening reception and evening performance by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. This 18th century Federal plantation house is listed on the National Register and the Virginia Landmarks

Register. Since 1982, the grounds have been part of the continuing restoration work of the Garden Club of Virginia using proceeds from past Historic Garden Week tours.

"Boxwoods are so important to the bones of a garden. There is always special attention paid to them in our restoration projects," Lynn points out. Outstanding use of boxwood in some of the nearly 50 completed projects throughout the state includes the Charles Gillette-designed bowknot garden at the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson in Staunton. Completed in 1933, the original clipped boxwood outlining the flower beds is now decadently overgrown. The Garden Club of Virginia entered another phase of restoration in 1960 when the original grass garden paths were replaced with brick pathways. At the same time, Gillette refurbished the second terrace and added a white garden to act as a counterpoint to a gift of pink tree peonies from the same time. The garden and courtyard outside the Museum are additional GCV gifts, its third restoration designed by Rudy J. Favretti in 1992.



Ker Place on Virginia's Eastern Shore

Roger Foley



The Victorian bowknot garden at the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace and Museum in Staunton

Roger Foley



The Mary Washington House in Fredericksburg

Roger Foley

“At the Mary Washington House in Fredericksburg, the Garden Club of Virginia used dendrochronology, which is a process used to determine the age of a plant, and discovered that even though the boxwoods are really old, they could not, as many had believed, been planted by George Washington’s mother herself,” relates Sally Guy Brown, Restoration Chairman for the GCV. It is her committee that reviews requests for funding and determines how proceeds from Historic Garden Week will be used to fund preservation projects. “There was no evidence of the original garden when we (the GCV) began work there in the late 60’s. The only trace of the original 18th century landscape was the double row of English boxwoods.” The restoration work of the GCV reads like a Who’s Who of national landmarks. “Montpelier, the home of James Madison, is another beautiful example of significant boxwood in a restored landscape,” Sally Guy notes. “The horseshoe terrace in the DuPont garden there was restored in 1992.”

If you love boxwood, you mustn’t miss Solliden, which is featured on the Nelson County tour this year. Located near Wintergreen Resort and outside Charlottesville, this area of Virginia has never been featured on HGW. Solliden includes seven acres of magnificent grounds, the formal garden, a fern garden and a lavender hillside with more than a mile of 12-foot-wide garden paths.

While the proceeds restore public gardens, the hallmark of this annual event is the variety of private homes and gardens featured throughout the state, and the fact that each year the properties and tours are different. Historic Garden Week 2013 will feature 178 private homes and gardens open on 32 separate tours throughout the state over eight consecutive days. It represents the coordinated efforts of 3,400 club members. One hundred percent of tour proceeds are used to enhance Virginia’s landscape at sites like Mt. Vernon, Monticello and the grounds of the Executive Mansion in Richmond.

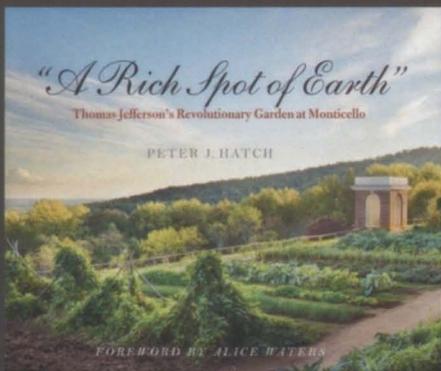
In addition to the amazing interiors and gardens on display, GCV volunteers will create over 2,000 spectacular floral arrangements to decorate the rooms. Most of the flowers will come from their very own gardens. The efforts of the homeowners are impressive, too. We estimate that 15 tons of mulch will be used just for homes featured on Historic Garden Week this spring.

The Guidebook comes out in February and includes written descriptions of each house and garden, all the tour details, directions and information on special events associated with this anniversary year. It is a whopping 240 pages this year! It can be obtained by mail by sending \$10 to the Garden Club of Virginia, attn. Historic Garden Week, 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Tickets may be purchased on the day of the tour at any of the properties.



The DuPont Garden at Montpelier in Orange County

Roger Foley



The Boxwood Bookshelf

A Rich Spot of Earth

By Peter Hatch

Yale University Press, 2012 ISBN 0300171145

Peter Hatch has devoted his adult life to maintaining and restoring the 2400 acre landscape at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. He served as Director of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello from 1977 to late 2012. Hatch has now produced a well written, very readable book about the vegetable garden at Monticello. This book is the first one dedicated solely to the vegetable garden. It is only fitting that the person responsible for the research on the vegetable garden and the restoration of the garden be the one who expertly wrote the book. When he first arrived at Jefferson's home, the garden was mainly parking lot, but because Jefferson kept such lengthy and accurate records, the garden has been restored to its 1812 appearance.

When Jefferson retired to Monticello from political life, his passion became the vegetable garden which he considered as important as his political career. Hatch tells the story of the development of the garden, the successes and failures, the many plants grown, and Jefferson's obsession with it in a form that appeals to both the history lover and the gardener. In addition, the book is enhanced by some 200 beautiful illustrations and pictures. Most of these are in color.

Peter Hatch presents the garden in several sections: construction, care, plantings, records, and details of the plant. Also included is the importance of the plants to the Monticello table and Jefferson's development of a half French, half American cuisine. It is clear that the early plant experimentation has had as much of an impact on the American dinner table as Jefferson had on the development of our democracy.

The vegetable garden has been described by some as a hanging garden. It is a 1000 foot long south facing terrace divided into plots of varying size. One interesting fact is that the terrace was constructed using drag buckets and took more than a year. The high outer south facing retaining wall was recently

restored using tons of local rocks and boulders. This offers a natural thermal sink to warm the garden on cold nights which would lengthen the growing season. The wall became a boundary to the many different fruit trees that Jefferson grew. He painstakingly had the soil augmented with compost and other natural materials.

Jefferson, a Renaissance man of the first order, was an avid record keeper and journal master. He exchanged seeds with French botanists, colonial seed sources, and sources as far West as Kentucky. The records are so accurate that they contain the number of seeds in a vial. From the time of his retirement to his death, Jefferson experimented with 99 varieties of plants and 330 different plants. His major endeavor was noting the earliest successful planting, first crop, and last crop of the fall. The effort was always relative to crop success or failure with prime importance given to cultivars that yielded long season crops.

The favorite crops were peas, squash, beans and artichokes, the gentleman's plant. The all-time favorite vegetable was the English pea. A contest was held each year with the owner of the first peas of the season winning the right to host a dinner serving his award winning harvest.

Jefferson was indeed a revolutionary of a different sort who developed a "revolutionary garden" that would be praised by the proponents of sustainable gardening today. We see the value that Jefferson placed on gardening in his own words, "No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth."

Not only is "A Rich Spot of Earth" highly recommend to any gardener, regardless of expertise, but is a must read for anyone interested in the history of gardening or farming in the United States. It is truly a delightful book.

By Ron and Linda Williams

A Southern Kitchen Garden

By John Makar

The kitchen garden may have humble origins, but it is, several centuries later, the garden of the hour! It just makes sense, of course, since food is just about the most important thing in the world to most of us. Knowing who produced our food, and how and where it is produced, is of paramount importance in these days of imports and pesticides. In our search for high quality food, gardeners are growing their own and in that process are seeking to make those vegetable (kitchen) gardens an enhancement of our personal landscapes. The combination of practical production combined with beautiful design is irresistible and the American landscape is suddenly alive with kitchen garden “art”! Farming is back, out of necessity, really; and people are learning that their tiny plots can also be beautiful. Does boxwood have a role to play in the kitchen garden? You bet it does!

An interview with ABS member John Makar, a professional gardener who works in and around Atlanta, Georgia, has resulted in the following piece on the art of the kitchen garden. John clues us in on some important aspects of growing our own food—beautifully.

* * *

The ‘crazy’ old man said if he ate junk food, he’d have a hangover for days. I didn’t believe him at that point in my life, but time and my gardening practice have helped me understand that the quality of the food I eat matters, and getting that quality means that I have to produce it myself or find it locally.

Having worked as an estate gardener, I was occasionally asked to create a vegetable garden that would provide food for the household; in researching this genre I found that kitchen gardens are historic, profoundly useful, and can be absolutely beautiful.



John Makar



John Makar

The first kitchen gardens I tended for clients were purely decorative. There was lettuce in *fleur-de-lis* patterns, giant leeks and onions which were permitted to flower (and go to seed) for beauty. (Of course, the serious vegetable grower deadheads them so the energy goes to the edible bulb instead of the flower.) Or I would pinch out bolting lettuce to look great as long as possible for the design—not really for consuming! These experiments in gardening proved that these gardens could indeed be beautiful. The question became “how to create a beautiful kitchen garden that would be used for its food and still maintain its beauty.” I was on my way to massive research, bone-numbing work and repeated trial and error production.

Though my introduction to the kitchen garden had been on the frivolous side, its history was born out of practicality, frugality and necessity—the production of food. Anticipating the ABS visit to Virginia (for the annual meeting in May 2013) where great history and great kitchen gardens abound, I recently researched Wesley Greene’s book on Williamsburg kitchen gardens. Our colonial ancestors, of necessity, had really fine, productive gardens and left for us some important guidelines for starting a kitchen garden. I discovered that I’ve broken most of these rules, but while facing the consequences have had valuable experiences and some fun along the way. The result is my take on the

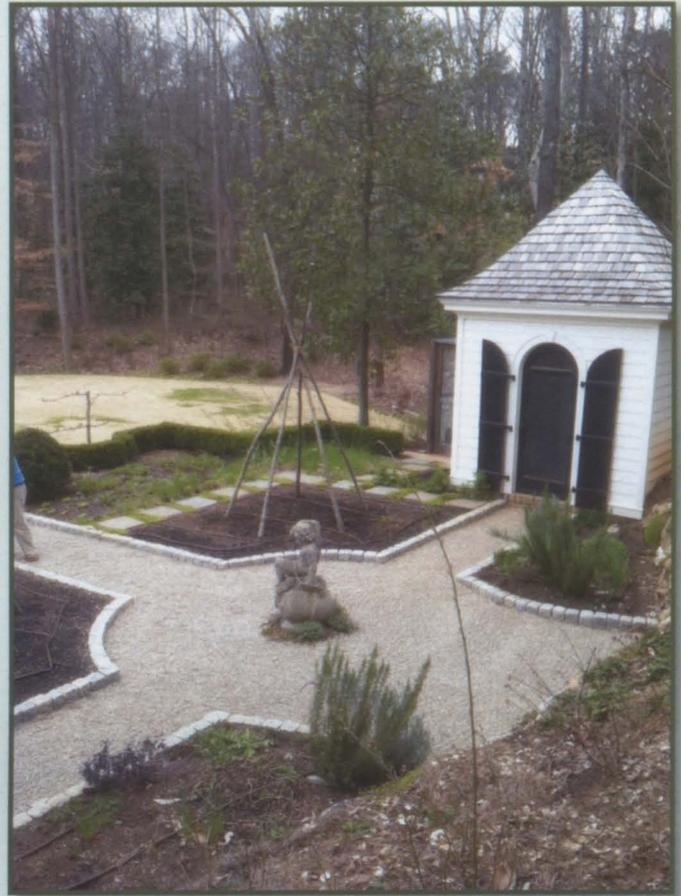


Onions and artichokes in the garden

John Makar



John Makar



John Makar

modern kitchen garden which I believe retains all the goodness and importance of the original and adds a bit of beauty and the occasional touch of whimsy.

The earliest colonial kitchen gardens had no garden plans as such; there was no conscious effort to plan a garden in today's sense. It was utterly practical: food was necessary; a site was found and the ground prepared for the sowing of precious seeds. But it soon became something else. It became clear that location near the house was required, for protection and for convenience, and if near the house, it really should be as attractive as possible.

The gardens of New York's Dutch settlers who came from serious gardening backgrounds, were often laid out on a highly symmetrical plan with perfectly balanced beds on either side of a central walkway with a series of secondary walks throughout. The colonial kitchen garden's most frequently used design element was the traditional cross. It is still easily used for its organizing form and practicality, but also for its adaptability to any changes or enlargements a gardener might wish to make.

The Shakers, who settled and gardened in New York state in the latter part of the 18th century, and settled villages as far south as Kentucky, were

paragons of self-sufficiency and their gardens were carefully thought out and very productive. Their "Gardener's Manual" gave advice on beginning a kitchen garden:

The garden site should face south or east, be close to the house, and protected from harsh winds.

The size of the plot: a quarter of an acre will supply a family of 6.

The shape of the beds can be either square or oblong, whatever works for convenience and looks. Walks should be laid straight, fields laid out square, and fences built straight.

The soil if not naturally deep, dry, light and rich, should be made so. If too wet drainage should be attended to; if too shallow, plough deeply; if poor, use manure; if stony, remove the stones! Thus every impediment to good soil should be reversed or removed.

Hard work, folks! Serious gardeners! Atlanta's local garden expert, Walter Reeves has echoed the Shaker philosophy: "Until the soil's happy, nothing's happy."

Tools and implements haven't changed much over the years. But one of my most used tools was not considered a garden tool by the Shakers or any other

gardeners until fairly recently—my camera, an important and effective tool. Photos show progress and inspire renewed hope. The camera also lets me step back from the heat and insects and view the garden on my computer in the peace and cool of my home. The focal points jump out at me (or not) and it's much easier to make design decisions with the different views. (Marauding pests can be photographed and sent immediately to the county extension agent for identification—just another of many uses for the camera in the garden.)

The garden tour is also a "tool", extremely helpful in creating a garden of your own. Less design-oriented tours like farm tours have been particularly instructive for me. Those gardens exhibiting simplicity, practicality and even frugality, hallmarks of all kitchen gardens, are those that are most helpful.

Then there is the book. One of the best gardening books I have read is *Vegetable Gardening the Colonial Williamsburg Way, 18th century Methods for Today's Organic Gardeners*, by Wesley Greene. It is essential reading with practical and very specific information for any vegetable gardener, explained in its historical context but is very modern information for us. (Editor's note: Mr. Greene will be making a presentation at the ABS annual meeting in Williamsburg in May.)

The internet should be recognized for its valuable coverage of this and all forms of gardening. The seeming impossibility twenty years ago of Captain Picard of Star Trek saying "computer, find me: carrot germination techniques" and expecting results, is now a very important reality and a practical garden tool for all! I have even personalized my Google News to include the topics of Boxwood, Garden and Vegetables so all national and international newspaper articles with those keywords show on my screen for perusal. The world is my library!

After looking at other gardens, reading books and surfing the internet, it's time to take steps toward reality—your own real live kitchen garden! After analyzing your site, use all that inspiration you've been gathering to form a plan. Measure the site and mark it, and lay it out with string and/or chalk. Make a plant list—the vegetables you like and some you'd like to get to know in the kitchen, and make them part of your design on paper.

At this point, boxwood lovers will want to figure out where in the design the boxwood will be used: as small hedges? as the occasional purely decorative specimen? will there be larger hedges? Where? What plants will be used? The order that small boxwood hedges bring to the design and the beauty they bring to the finished product are all the reasons you need to incorporate box in your kitchen garden. My favorite cultivars for small hedges around garden beds are as follows:

Smallest—*Buxus microphylla* (Kingsville). It can be tightly clipped to 6"x6" and can be used as formally as possible. The Kingsville in the Charleston gardens on the ABS tour in 2012, were sometimes used more "naturally", but still were manicured as a tiny hedge—and exquisitely beautiful.

Medium size—*B. sinica* var. *insularis* 'Justin Brouwers'. Also recommended by ABS member Henry Frierson, it is best from 1.5' to 2'. I like the small, refined leaf which is great for close up viewing

Largest—*Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Wintergreen' is best clipped to 2' to 4'. 'Wintergreen' has proved to be great for its versatility with shapes and disease resistance. You can get a tight hedge with it, but when left to its natural shape it is open and airy. We have to recognize that when the natural growth patterns are changed by keeping them in the shape you want, you may invite a response from nature that has its costs.

I have never had disease problems with hedges, perhaps because of my relentless pursuit of good soil. But in any case, I wouldn't spray close to growing vegetables anyway. Certainly more exploration by gardeners is needed for organic control of leaf miner and other problems and organic practices in general in the use of boxwood.

Boxwood and kitchen gardens are a match made in garden heaven. Boxwood design versatility complements and frames the edible garden's diverse, ecological production that a good kitchen garden should be. A lustrous, green box border in a kitchen garden is like a fine painting with a spectacular frame that neither detracts nor overpowers the art. Boxwood achieves this in the kitchen garden. It is especially good in the dead of winter, showcasing the bones of the garden, and reminding us that a beautiful garden sits on this site. Many times it has been cathartic to get rid of the clutter of the spent plants and simply see the reliable old friend of the boxwood border.

Nancy's Garden

This glorious organic kitchen garden (the pictures you see here) which I tend in Atlanta is only two years old. It's a far cry from some of my earlier gardens in its purpose—to provide fresh vegetables and eggs completely organically. The provenance of everything in the garden is thoroughly vetted. The site has ample sun and is the traditional cross design with chicken house across from the greenhouse. It is not immediately outside the kitchen, but near enough nonetheless.

Like the concept of good character, it's what you do NOT see at first that makes it exceptional. The drainage is flawless with French drains two feet underneath throughout. We used the only California organically certified compost in the Southeast, with our Georgia red clay and its many micronutrients to begin our soil building program of cover crops and the soil tests. But the crowning achievement of this sustainable garden is the use of the 12 chickens for our source of compost; and all the kitchen 'refuse' and the garden's unused greens go right back into the compost and/or fed to the chickens.

For this kitchen garden border or hedge, we used *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Wintergreen'.



Nancy's garden—late fall

John Makar

There are two spheres of *B.sempervirens* at the entrance. Logs were placed in the garden to get the kids (and gardener) into the garden without compacting the soil. We inoculated the logs with shitake and oyster mushroom spore, and I'm betting that a week long rain and the right temperature will get us a crop. Certainly gardeners are ever hopeful!

Nancy is enjoying her kitchen garden immensely and cooks from it daily. She insists that its beauty brightens every day. The gardener is happy with it, too, and recommends that you put a kitchen garden in your life. Worth the work!

The Plant List

A plant list for a kitchen garden consists of the usual basic vegetables. Seed catalogs are wonderful guides and plentiful. Be sure to look for some unusual items that are possible for your climate. These will add excitement to your efforts and expand your skills. In my southern zone I have discovered and used the fava bean (broad bean). It is my favorite winter cover crop. Planted in fall, it produces big delicious beans in May. It's a favorite in the Italian kitchen garden, too. I discovered another great vegetable, yacon, on a farm tour. It is an ugly tuber with a delicious taste, sweet without sugar. Additions like these add lots of interest and nutrition to the kitchen garden.

Most kitchen gardens incorporate a wide selection of herbs, not necessarily segregated, but used as companions among the various vegetables. They are absolutely required by the good cook and so beautiful in the garden. Do your research to learn which are annual, which are perennial, and which are biennial to avoid surprises or disappointments. Biennials are often treated like annuals (replanted every year) because they are useless and unattractive in their second year.

The boxwood you use is a matter of personal choice, but will require lots of solid research to arrive at the right size, the right situation, etc. Garden visits are the best way to discover the right boxwood for your garden.

References:

Vegetable Gardening the Colonial Williamsburg Way, by Wesley Greene

The Gardener's Manual, Containing Plain Instructions for the Selection, Preparation, and Management of a Kitchen Garden, published by the United Society of Shakers, 1843

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

The references to boxwood in the article "A Southern Kitchen Garden" in this issue, brought to mind the need for some general information on the use of boxwood for edgings in gardens. The logical place to find such information? In the *Boxwood Bulletin*, of course! A search for a *Bulletin* article on the subject was rewarded with a valuable piece (*Bulletin* of January 1995, p.47) by Joan Butler (Life Member, ABS Board) answering a question on alternatives to *B.sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' for box used as edging. Thanks to Mrs. Butler...again!

Although 'Suffruticosa' is still frequently chosen for edging, and indeed is often called "the edging box", it does not thrive when it must be sheared repeatedly over a period of years. Moreover, it often suffers and deteriorates when its roots are regularly disturbed and cut during the planting...in the beds where it provides the edging. Much additional work is required to thin, shape and fertilize the mutilated boxwood plants. How much more practical to choose a cultivar which is a true dwarf and can be allowed to maintain its natural habit and shape.

When we choose 'Suffruticosa'...we are not recognizing that in a relatively short time it will outgrow its original spacing. This elegant plant (if allowed to grow naturally) will grow at least an inch each year, both upward and outward on each side. Within ten years it will have become at least a foot higher and two feet wider. It becomes a nuisance...and impedes passage. But with adequate room it is an unmatched treasure.

There are other boxwood cultivars which grow more slowly than 'Suffruticosa'. The very slowest and most dwarf is *Buxus microphylla* 'Compacta', (also sold as 'Kingsville Dwarf') which hardly enlarges at all, not more than ¼" per year: a tiny leaf and dense, twiggy growth from a tight mound, reaching 12 inches high after perhaps 20 years. This delightful plant is far more attractive if grown in some shade....It does grow broader than high, so careful pruning will be needed every year if it is to be kept narrow.

Another truly dwarf box is *B.microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Morris Midget'. It remains a wonderful small mound which may reach 18" in height when mature...*B.microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Morris Dwarf'

grows a little more vigorously, but is still really slow to reach 24"high. A third good choice is *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Justin Brouwers', a Korean boxwood with very dark green dainty leaves. It will become broader and higher than the 'Morris' cultivars, but does so very slowly. A fourth possibility for a low-growing edging is *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Nana', also a form of Korean boxwood. It will spread wider than 'Justin Brouwers', but hugs the ground, seldom reaching 18" in height. It produces soft, willowy foliage that will cascade down over low walls or steps. It can spread to a width of 3 feet in 20 years.

However, if the gardener is determined to maintain a tight sheared hedge as a border, it would be better not to choose boxwood at all. Perennial plants can tolerate constant shearing much more successfully; the use of germander or green or grey santolina might serve well.

The truly dwarf cultivars of boxwood can be maintained at a chosen size not by shearing, but by careful yearly shaping and thinning, practices which contribute to boxwood health. However, their natural inclination is to spread slowly sideways and become broader. If space can be allotted originally to accommodate this habit, the individual plants will be especially attractive.



Justin Brouwers

**The American Boxwood Society
Governing Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 10, 2012
United States National Arboretum; Washington, D.C.**

Mr. Lynn Batdorf, Curator of the National Boxwood Collection, conducted a mid-morning walking tour of the Collection. He presented some behind-the-scenes looks at the work performed in the rejuvenated areas of the Collection. The Curator has had an intern for much of the past year, who has helped greatly in accomplishing the upgrades. The assembled group was delighted to learn that the horrific storms of late Spring 2012, while inflicting damage on a number of trees in the Arboretum, left the Boxwood Collection nearly unscathed.

The recently planted boxwood in one of the newly re-done gardens are doing well. The Board was satisfied and confident that great strides have been made in the preservation and maintenance of the Collection. The Board is eagerly looking forward to the 2014 Annual Symposium at the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA).

Dr. Colien Hefferan, the Director of the USNA, and several senior staff members, joined the Board for a 'working lunch' in the temporary Visitors' Center. The renovation of the main facility has encountered delays; however, Director Hefferan remains optimistic that the facility will re-open before year's end.

Dr. Hefferan spoke to the Board, thanking the ABS for the financial support, the moral support and the visible support evidenced by meeting at the USNA. Dr. Hefferan also provided the Board with a thorough update of the Arboretum's progress in securing a reliable funding stream. The Arboretum, as a unit within the Agricultural Research Service, is subject to future struggles, as all entities of the federal government continue to grapple with the national budget. For the short term, there appears to be funding to preserve and carry on the Collections that appeared to be in jeopardy. Certainly, the trust funds held by the Friends of the National Arboretum are helping; however, the fundraising effort is short of the needed objective.

Dr. Richard Olsen of the USNA, at the Beltsville Station, presented a summary of his research on *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum* and related initiatives. As background, he stated that the national commercial sales of all boxwood is approximately \$110 million, whereas, the national commercial sales of trees is approximately \$500 million. [Source of this information was not provided, nor was it asked for.] In searching for evidence of the fungus in the Arboretum and elsewhere in the region, traces of "stuff" have been found that could be artifacts. The microsclerotia bodies of *C. pseudonaviculatum* are almost indestructible. Early indications are that *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' may be a "poster child" for the blight. Dr. Olsen and his group are undertaking a breeding program at the USNA and at other sites. This program may yield plants which are not only blight resistant, but hopefully also highly desirable forms.

Dr. Olsen agreed to provide research updates in some form for possible inclusion into *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

Mr. Scott Aker, the USNA Garden Units Leader, briefed the Board on the history of the events and decisions that led to the consideration of the deaccession of the National Boxwood Collection. Mr. Aker said he welcomed the new opportunities before the Arboretum and feels that arrangements are sufficient to preserve the Collections in the foreseeable short term. Mr. Aker also expressed his definite pleasure of having the Board of the ABS meet at the Arboretum.

Call to Order

- President Boyd called the meeting to order at 1:25 P.M. In attendance were President John Boyd III, 1st Vice President Lee Hahn, 2nd Vice President Charles Fooks, Secretary Jan S. Carter, Treasurer Bennett Saunders, Registrar Lynn Batdorf, Directors Tomasz Anisko, Walter Carell, Jr., Bernard Cross, Hugh Crump, Helen Hecht, Katherine Ward and Executive Director Tootie Rinker. The presence of a quorum was confirmed.
- President Boyd presented the Board with the considerate resignation letter of Mr. Ted Mays. The Board moved to accept the resignation. (Hahn/Carell/unanimous by voice)

Minutes

- The minutes of March 25, 2012 had been distributed prior to the meeting and were approved. (Ward / Hahn / unanimous by voice)

Financial

- Executive Director Rinker presented the Profit and Loss Statement for fiscal year to date, and the current Balance Sheet. Tangible assets will be inventoried, valued and accounted at the conclusion of the current fiscal year. The financial reports were accepted. (Carell / Hahn / unanimous by voice)

- The Board requested the Financial Officer carefully review the Temporary Restricted and Restricted Funds to ensure that monies had been properly allocated to those set asides.
- Treasurer Saunders and the ABS' accountant recommend the Society change to a calendar year for accounting and tax reporting. One clear advantage is that the annual symposium profit and loss activity would be fully contained within a single tax year as opposed to the current fiscal year closing on April 30th. The Board supports the Treasurer in his continued pursuit of how to do this and to determine any costs that may be associated with it.

President's Report

- President Boyd asked the Board to consider the possibility of linking an opportunity for a listing in the Buyer's Guide to a Sustaining Membership.

Executive Director's Report

- E.D. Rinker inquired about the Annual Fund Drive, noting that the "what, when and how of it" will require some lead time.
- Mr. Batdorf offered that if such a drive is conducted it should be presented with a targeted purpose. Not only is it a more appropriate approach to the membership, but generally individuals respond more generously.
- A final decision of how to proceed was not made.

Committee Reports

Membership

- E.D. Rinker reports current membership as: Life= 46, Regular(all classes)= 261; Total= 307. The membership as reported March 25, 2012 was: Life= 51, Regular(all classes)=320; Total=371. Membership Director Louise Smith reported that the membership list has been filtered for non-renewals and bad addresses. The Membership Chair's list is used for the distribution of *The Boxwood Bulletin*; the last mailing was to 290. The involved parties will confer in an attempt to reconcile the differences.

Registrar

- The International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), Commission for Nomenclature and Registration, has begun its process to re-certify each of its International Cultivar Registration Authorities (ICRA) by requesting an official report of programs and activities (including registrations and checklists). These reports will be reviewed and evaluated at a meeting of the Commission in Beijing in July 2013. Re-certification and rescission decisions, of all the various ICRA's, will be announced afterwards.

Publications

- As reported in March of this year, Lynn Batdorf has the 4th edition of a greatly enhanced *Boxwood Handbook* nearly completed. The current inventory of Handbooks is approximately 1,000; with a sell rate approaching 200 per year. The Board consensus is not to print any additional Handbooks of any edition this year. There is an inventory of approximately 100 Encyclopedias, with an annual sell rate of approximately 15.

Web Site

- 1st Vice President Hahn and E.D. Rinker provided an update of some discussions with the web master. A protected members only area for the site is under consideration. An on-line Buyers' Guide is technologically possible.
- Director Cross offered that a fee based on-line search of the Bulletin archives, may present a revenue opportunity.

Bulletin

- Editor Louise Smith reports the Fall issue of the Bulletin to be on time. The Sun Press in Indianapolis is printing this issue. The Editor finds the close proximity and familiarity of the printer to be a real asset in its timely production.
- Editor Smith re-emphasizes the urgency of finding an individual to serve on a longer term basis as the Editor. The recruiting effort must be immediate, and well-coordinated. President Boyd will work with Editor Smith to this end. She makes it clear that the Spring 2013 issue is the last one she plans to edit. She offers assistance, pre-planning and encouragement to a new person in that role.

Blandy Arboretum

- Director Carell's development of the plans for expanding the Memorial Gardens is progressing. They are near the point of readiness for review by Director Saunders, with subsequent presentation to the Blandy Arboretum.
- A work day will be scheduled for Spring 2013, with notification to all interested.

U.S. National Arboretum (USNA)

- The Board had open discussion of possible plans of action for engaging and supporting the USNA. In the short term, the ABS stakeholder representative to the USNA, Director Carter, was tasked to ascertain the membership opportunities at the Friends of the National Arboretum, and the possibilities of web site cross linking. For the longer term, the ABS should develop a plan of action that would include opportunities for volunteer work and financial support avenues.

Bylaws

- Director Carter presented the consolidated work of the Bylaws Committee. The Board made a section by section review, suggesting changes as believed appropriate. The proposed Bylaws with all changes will be published elsewhere for all to study and comment. The target date for the membership adoption vote will be the annual meeting at the Symposium in Williamsburg, VA.

Symposium 2013

- Symposium Chair Ward reported dates of May 19 through 21, 2013 in Williamsburg, VA. The ABS will not be headquartered in Colonial Williamsburg, but near by. Greater detail will be published to the membership in early 2013.

Symposium 2014

- Lynn Batdorf will chair this event during May, in Washington, D.C.

Symposium 2015

- Director Anisko, on behalf of the Longwood Gardens, invited the ABS. The Board, by consensus agreed.

Symposium 2016

- President Boyd offered the suggestion of Blandy Arboretum and Winchester, VA.

Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS)

- The dates of the show in Baltimore, MD are Wednesday, January 9 through Friday, January 11, 2013. The ABS has a new booth location. Saunders Brothers will again supply the plant material. Director Carell advised that Dr. Kelly Ivors will attend the Show and is expected to spend some time at ABS. She anticipates the attendance of her graduate student engaged in the blight research.

Nominating

- Chair Ward reported a tentative list of nominees for 2013—2014.

Unfinished Business

Symposium Sponsorships

- Director Crump believes that the ABS needs to provide greater clarity to a sponsor as to how the sponsorship functions, and follow through to sponsors on how it was executed. The Board concurred that would be appropriate practice, and that there were deficiencies in that area. Improved execution would better encourage sponsor participation. The Benefit Auction and Sponsorships are deserving of greater promotion well prior to the event.

New Business

Budget

- There was general Board agreement that the Society should operate with a budget. Treasurer Saunders and E.D. Rinker will prepare a budget for 2012—2013 now. The budget for 2013—2014 will be prepared and presented prior to the Board meeting at the 2013 Symposium.

Adjournment

- Seeing no further business, President Boyd declared the meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M., without objection.

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY BYLAWS

A proposed revision of the ABS Bylaws as submitted by the Bylaws Committee is published here as required by the Bylaws for review by ABS members.

The adoption of this revision will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting, May 21, 2013. Comments are welcome and may be made by e-mail or postal mail to the ABS office.

Changes in the ABS Bylaws were last made in May 2006.

ARTICLE I – Membership

Section 1. Membership in The American Boxwood Society (ABS) is open to those persons who are interested in the cultivation and scientific aspects of boxwood; its use in the landscape; and in the education of the public regarding boxwood, its history, and its uses.

→ Section 2. Categories of membership shall be: Individual, Family, Contributing, Life and Honorary. The subscription dues for the categories shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors periodically, and may be modified by the Board. They shall be published annually in the Spring issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* and elsewhere as the Board may direct.

Section 3. The membership year shall be from May 1 to April 30. Dues are payable by May 1 of each year. Members failing to pay dues by July 1 shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

ARTICLE II – Officers

Section 1. The Officers of the ABS shall be: President, Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. The office of Secretary and that of Treasurer may be combined by majority vote of the Board.

Section 2. The Officers of the ABS shall be elected by the membership by majority vote at the annual meeting, after a slate of recommended nominees has been presented by a nominating committee and any nominations from the floor are accepted.

Section 3. The term of office for Officers shall be one year. Vacancy occurring in any office except that of President shall be filled by the Board until the next meeting of the Society when the annual election is held. In the event of death or resignation of the President; the Vice President and thereafter the Second Vice President, shall serve as President for the unexpired term.

Section 4. The term of office for each of the nine Directors shall be three years. They shall serve on a rotating basis as determined by the Board so as to avoid a complete change of all Directors at the same time. Elections for expired terms will be a part of the general nominating process and annual election. Any unexpired term will be filled by the Board, with said appointee remaining eligible for two subsequent elected terms. Directors may serve two successive terms, and shall be eligible for re-election after a one year hiatus from serving on the Board.

Section 5. The International Registrar shall be appointed by the Board of Directors; provided The American Boxwood Society is the International Registration Authority for boxwood.

ARTICLE III – Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the following: all the Officers of the Society; nine Directors; the International Registrar; the Director of Blandy Experimental Farm, *ex officio*; and the immediate past President of the ABS, *ex officio*.

Section 2. The Board shall govern the property, affairs and business of the Society. It shall have the power to hire an executive director or other administrative agents. Official actions of the Board shall be by majority vote at a meeting in which a quorum is present. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the positions that compose the Board.

Section 3. All legal documents that bind the Society, shall be executed by the President, and attested by the Corporate Secretary.

Section 4. Each year, the Board shall meet immediately following the annual membership meeting; also in regular session prior to the annual meeting and another meeting at a time and place determined by the Board. At the call of the President or Secretary, special meetings may be held upon at least 14 days prior notification. A quorum of the Board shall have the power to act between regular meetings pursuant to telephone, FAX, postal or electronic means.

Section 5. The Board, meeting immediately following the annual meeting shall elect one Director to serve on the Executive Committee with the Officers of the Society. If the offices of Secretary and Treasurer have been combined, then two Directors shall be elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Resignations from the Board shall be by letter to the President of the Society; resignations shall be accepted without comment.

Section 7. A quorum of the Board may remove another Board member, with or without cause, by a two-thirds majority vote.

ARTICLE IV –Executive Committee

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to transact incidental operational business of the Society between meetings of the Board. Such business may be transacted in meetings; or alternatively by telephone, FAX, postal or electronic means, provided all Executive Committee members are included by prior notification. Four members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V – Nominations and Elections

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members, any of whom may be on the Board of Directors, but excluding those who currently serve as Officers of the Society. This Nominating Committee shall present a slate of Officers and Directors, whose willingness to serve has been determined, to the members at the annual meeting. Nominations made by this committee do not preclude nominations from the floor. A majority of the votes of the membership present shall constitute election.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee will present the slate of candidates to the Board, prior to the annual meeting at which elections are held. Such report to be received without comment.

ARTICLE VI– Meetings and Minutes

Section 1. An Annual Meeting of the membership shall be held in the Spring, on a date set by the Board; and a call to that meeting must appear in the two prior issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*; and published by other means as the Board may direct. Meetings of the members shall be held at such other times as called by the Executive Committee, the Board or through signed petition of one-fifth of the members in good standing. At least 60 days advanced notice of such special meetings shall be given to the membership

Section 2. The order of business at meetings of the members shall be as follows:

Call to Order

Reading and approval of the minutes of the last membership meeting

Reports of Officers and Registrar

Reports of Standing Committees

Reports of Special Committees

Unfinished Business

New Business

Section 3. Meetings of the members, the Board and the Committees shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Board to hear, correct and approve the minutes of the meetings of the membership and of their own body.

ARTICLE VII– Amendments

Section 1. New bylaws and amendments to the existing bylaws may be proposed by the Executive Committee, the Board, or the members. Proposals must be submitted in writing, to the Board, at least 90 days in advance of the annual meeting. Such proposals will be referred to the Bylaws Committee and reviewed for consistency, grammar and continuity. The Board will review the proposals, then publish them to the membership 60 days prior to the annual meeting by appropriate means.

Section 2. The membership may approve or disapprove such proposals by a two-thirds vote of those present at the annual meeting. Accepted changes will be published to the membership via *The Boxwood Bulletin* and as directed by the Board.



*Succession sowing begins in February with peas, potatoes, & radishes.
Cool season vegetables are sown in the greenhouse or cold frame: Swiss chard, kale, collards, lettuce.
The favas are a great nitrogen fixing cover crop & will 'bean up' soon.
All the bolting vegetables go to the chickens in due time.
(see "A Southern Kitchen Garden", page 41)*