

# THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN



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

Vol. 55 No. 3

Spring 2016

## Symposium Issue 2016



Mount Sharon Farm, Pergola & Fountain

By: Roger Foley Photography

# The American Boxwood Society

The **American Boxwood Society** is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1961 and devoted to the appreciation, scientific understanding and propagation of *Buxus*. Visit our website at:

**www.boxwoodsociety.org**

## OFFICERS

### President:

Mr. Hugh Crump Camerton, NC

### First Vice-President:

Mr. Bennett Saunders Piney River, VA

### Second Vice-President:

Mr. Charles Fooks Salisbury, MD

### Secretary:

Ms. Laurie McMinn Madison Heights, VA

### International Registrar:

Mr. Lynn Batdorf Bethesda, MD

## DIRECTORS

Mr. Walter Carell, Jr. (2016) Chestertown, MD

Dr. Bernard Cross (2015) Waterford, VA

Mrs. Helen Hecht (2015) Westminster, MD

Dr. Edward M. Kelly (2017) Taneytown, MD

Mr. John Lockwood Makar (2016) Atlanta, GA

Ms. Laurie McMinn (2016) Madison Heights, VA

Mr. Ron Williams (2015) Fishers, IN

Mr. Barrett Wilson (2017) Kennett Square, PA

Elizabeth Wislar (2018) Princeton, NJ

John Boyd III (2018) Roanoke, VA

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Tootie C. Rinker Stephens City, VA

## PUBLICATIONS

	<i>Non-member</i>	<i>Member</i>
<i>Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia</i>	US\$140	\$125
<i>Boxwood Handbook</i> (3rd Edition)	\$ 35	\$ 27
<i>Int'l Registration of Cultivated Buxus</i>		\$ 5
Back Issues of <i>The Boxwood Bulletin</i> (each)		\$ 10
<i>The Boxwood Bulletin Index 1961-1986</i>		\$ 10
<i>The Boxwood Bulletin Index 1986-1991</i>		\$ 5
<i>The Boxwood Bulletin Index 1991-1996</i>		\$ 5

Handling, first class postage and applicable taxes are included in the price for domestic orders. Postage for international orders is actual cost (www.ups.com) plus US \$3.00.

## MEMBERSHIP

**Annual membership from May.** Dues paid after Jan. 1 to April 30 are applied to the upcoming May membership. Dues paid after May 1 receive partial year with no credit. Members outside the U.S. add US \$15 to any membership category.

<i>Individual</i> . . . . .	\$50	<i>Sustaining</i> . . . . .	\$150
<i>Family</i> . . . . .	\$75	<i>Life</i> . . . . .	\$1,500
<i>Contributing</i> . . . . .	\$100		

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Monetary gifts to the Society are tax deductible and may be applied to:

General Operations	Publications Fund
Memorial Garden Fund	Research Programs

## HOW TO CONTACT US

For ordering publications, membership information, address change, contributions, questions, or submitting an article, please email or write:

**amboxwoodsociety@gmail.com**

**American Boxwood Society**

P.O. Box 85

Boyce, VA 22620-0085

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Dear Friends . . . . .	27
Symposium Registration . . . . .	28
The Question Box . . . . .	29
Mount Sharon Farm . . . . .	30
Montpelier . . . . .	32
Bourboursville Boxwood Plantation . . . . .	35
Waverly . . . . .	37
Jefferson's Tufton Farm . . . . .	38
James Monroe Legacy . . . . .	42
Morven . . . . .	45
Andre Viette . . . . .	47
Historic Garden Week . . . . .	50

Be part of *The Boxwood Bulletin*! Submit an article, photograph, question, idea or report of your own experience.

*The Boxwood Bulletin* (ISSN 0006 8535) is published by the American Boxwood Society, P.O. Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the American Boxwood Society, P.O. Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620

# Dear Friends,

This issue of the Boxwood Bulletin is your tour guide for the 2016 Annual American Boxwood Society Symposium, The Presidential Tour. I hope you will enjoy reading about the wonderful places we will be visiting. You will see more boxwood than you have seen in the last three tours! Watch for your registration in the mail and on the website. I hope you will join us.

*Katherine Ward, Chair*

## May 11

Meet at Blandy Farm, Boyce, VA Home of The American Boxwood Society's Boxwood Memorial Garden—Leave cars, board the bus.

Tour Mt. Sharon - Home of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Seilheimer

Tour Montpelier - Home of President James Madison

Tour Waverley - Home of Mr. Charles Stick, RLA

Tour the Barbourville Winery.

- Dinner at the Winery with wine tasting available

Holiday Inn - Charlottesville Hotel

## May 12

Visit Tufton Farm - Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants

Ash Lawn – Highland President James Monroe's Home

- Lunch here among the boxwood.

Moven - Former home of John Kluge now a part of the University of Virginia

Travel by bus to Staunton, VA - Stay at Stonewall Jackson, Hotel.

Restaurants within walking distance and the Blackfriar Theatre

Playhouse is next door.

## May 13

Tour a shade garden - Home of Mr. & Mrs. Lieghtsey

Tour Sunspots Studios - glassblowers — makers of garden ornaments.

Tour of private garden in Staunton - then to Lunch

Tour Andre Viette's Nursery and Garden Center

Drive through James Madison University Arboretum

Travel back to Blandy Farm

Visit our website [www.boxwoodsociety.org](http://www.boxwoodsociety.org) for more information

Register by April 12



# Registration

56th Annual American Boxwood Symposium

The Presidential Tour May 11-13, 2016

**Deadline for Symposium registration is April 12**

Your hotel stay for Tuesday and Wednesday night are included in the Registration cost!

Name (First, Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Current Member of the American Boxwood Society?    Yes    No

**Please use a separate registration for each person attending.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you will be sharing a hotel room with another attendee.**

**Name of individual you are sharing a room with \_\_\_\_\_**

Fee for non-ABS (American Boxwood Society) or non-EBTS (European Boxwood and Topiary Society) members add \$25.
---

<b>Total charges for ABS Members</b>	<b>\$550</b>
--------------------------------------	--------------

### Credit Card Payment Information

**Name (as on the card):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Card:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Account Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Total Amount to be Charged:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Registration Form(s) with remittance by April 12 to:  
American Boxwood Society, PO Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620-0085**

Wednesday and Thursday hotel stay at Holiday Inn and Stonewall Jackson Hotel are included in the cost of registration. Each has breakfast on site (not included). Restaurants within walking distance of Stonewall Jackson Hotel. For more information and tickets to Blackfriars Playhouse go to <http://www.americanshakespearecenter.com/>

---

## The Question Box

**Q: We have new, this spring, a 1 yr. old and 2 yr. old English Boxwood in a formal garden, in Atlanta, Ga. We have also had the hottest Summer ever...From 90 two weeks in MAY, with mid to high 90's June thru Aug., and now three weeks of 90's in SEPT.!!! The garden has good dirt, good pH, and excellent drainage. We were told NOT to let the dirt dry out, but we have lost several anyway. Our question is; Can they be overwatered?**

A: Well, as you have experienced, spring is the worst time of year to successfully plant most trees and shrubs. Certainly boxwood is no exception to the rule. Fall is the optimum season. Nevertheless, there are most likely several additional factors responsible for the attrition of your young boxwood.

First and foremost, the condition of the rooting structure needs attention. Often times, in production, the size or shape of the container is inappropriate for good root development resulting in over-crowded, or poorly developed roots.

Then, overly thick foliage is frequently responsible for a variety of diseases which have great success with weakened shrubs, including recently transplanted boxwood.

While you mention that your soil has "good pH" there is no indication of its level. Soil pH for boxwood ought to be between 6.8 and 7.5. An inappropriate soil pH cannot be responsible for the rapid death of your boxwood, but it can greatly suppress their long term health.

Mulch is critical in moderating both temperature and moisture extremes in the soil, much to the benefit of the all-important boxwood roots.

Planting depth of the root ball of the

boxwood in the soil is very important. Planting too deep or too high, even by one inch, can greatly affect the survivability of the roots.

If the site is in full sun, or nearly so, this will have an adverse effect on the boxwood.

Then, yes, the soil can be overwatered. If the leaves turn a light green color for a period of time during their decline, this is probably partly responsible.

Finally, it is unlikely that one condition is responsible for killing your boxwood. Please consider all the conditions I've enumerated – your answers are most likely found in several of these conditions.

**Q: I wonder if you might comment on the identity of this image. It is labeled *B. sempervirens* 'Marginata' but does not seem to match that cultivar and more closely resembles *B. balearica* 'Marginata' as given in your book.**

**The reason I ask is that I have been sent an unnamed sample from Myddleton House (formerly the home of the famous plantsman E. A. Bowles) that closely matches this image. However, the sample is in flower, turning to fruit, and does not seem to match *B. balearica* in the length of the styles.**

**Do you think the image in the link matches the plant you have seen as *B. balearica* 'Marginata' and if so what do you think is its correct specific attribution? If it does not match *B. balearica* 'Marginata' what do you think it might be instead?**

A: Certainly the plant is *Buxus sempervirens*!

But, it cannot be *Buxus sempervirens* 'Marginata'. The marginal "variegation" on the new foliage

is not genetic, it is caused by an abiotic condition. To explain, this is a poorly cultivated *Buxus* specimen which is suffering from a severe lack of phosphorous in the soil, which is exhibited by the tan-colored margin near the apex. A very classic example. The soil in the container holding this specimen may also have a very low soil pH. Box require 6.8 to 7.5 for optimal growth.

In additional evidence regarding the poor culture, the second-year leaves are suffering from severe damage due to feeding by a large population of boxwood mites (*Eurytetranychus buxi*).

I would be very happy to address any additional questions which you may have.

**Q: I have planted some boxwood under an overhang on the north side of my home. It is very open however the sun misses the boxwood by about 2 feet. No direct sunlight. Only ambient light, it is not a dark shaded area. Will they grow?? I realize I will have to water them. Also I have a "liquid growth" plant food for trees and shrubs. 15-6-6. is it ok to use?**

A: I wouldn't plant the box in the location you're suggesting. Between the low light and no natural watering, the box will become very weak and unattractive. You will be disappointed with the results several years from now.

I certainly would never use water soluble fertilizer on any boxwood for any reason. Use granular fertilizer (only in fall, never in spring or summer) and only if its use is recommended by a soil test. Soil pH is generally a greater concern than soil fertility. It ought to be maintained between 6.8 and 7.5.

# *Mount Sharon Farm*

## *Virginia's Classical Garden*

*By: Walter Carell, Jr., RLA*

King George made a huge mistake when he granted one thousand acres to the Taliaferro family in 1725. If the English ruler had a clue as to what Charles & Mary Lou Seilheimer had envisioned for this site, he would have struck a different deal. Today these gardens are regarded as one of the most beautiful on the East Coast.

The present owners moved to Mount Sharon in 1997. The garden and its alluring combinations of traditional styling are the result of research the Seilheimers did in Europe. They brought home thoughts and impressions of Italy's terraced hillsides and water features, England's cottage gardens, borders and outdoor enclosed rooms and the French love of vistas, formality and colorfully massed patterns.

The Seilheimers hired renowned Charlottesville landscape architect Charles J. Stick to create a design incorporating their long list of desires. The collaborative effort took five years and was completed in 2003. The concept, simplicity --- an old, always dark green boxwood spine, with surprise specialty gardens having stupendous views, is the strength of this hill top estate. The design embellishment is emphasized by garden structures, benches, stairways, sculpture, water features, diverse, colorful and fragrant plantings, enhance the visitor's experience.

Crowning the second highest point in Orange County is a brick dwelling of fine design in the Georgian Revival Style. An old allee of American boxwood, twenty feet tall, stretches from the rear facade of this dwelling to form a four hundred and fifty-foot-long spine. These tall evergreens appear as a secluded central hallway which is punctuated by openings left and right to reveal a series of ten garden rooms. Each space has its own individuality. Upon exiting the house, one's eye is drawn down the green hall to a distant statue of Eros (Greek god of love and son of Aphrodite). Ten acres of gardens extend from the East side of the home. This summit of land offers breath

taking views of the Piedmont highland's low rolling hills in every direction and a westerly backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Conveniently close and just north of the house is a secluded octagonal bluestone terrace, backed by azalea, minor flowering trees, sitting walls, boxwood hedging and majestic two hundred fifty-year-old tulip poplar and Japanese maple trees – a perfect place to watch the setting sun on a warm summer's evening in the charms of a Capability Brown setting.

Twin pergolas provide a shady observation platform for viewing the Rose Garden. Dubbed the "Garden of Four Seasons" for its Italian statuary, more than a hundred roses (including many David Austin, English cultivars) fill the parterre. The pair of cedar pergolas are covered with three climbers: the soft pink classic, New Dawn, the creamy white double, French 1875 introduction Mme. Alfred Carriere and the hornless 1868 introduction, Zephirine Drouhin. This last rose has a blush pink color with a strong bourbon fragrance, and blooms in shade.

Below the rose parterre is the Elizabethan Knot Garden. Representing a lover's knot, plants of different colors and textures are arranged to appear as intertwined. The two beds are matching in size, yet different in design. Crimson Pygmy barberry and 'Green Gem' boxwood are woven together within a bed of white alysum.

The Knot Garden overlooks another lower terrace lawn, which serves as a croquet court and features a large water basin backed by a crescent of American boxwood. Beyond all of these gardens is a deep agrarian vista. The Piedmont views from every garden create a restful, calm sense of peacefulness.

On the opposite side of the main boxwood walkway is a foreground garden filled with hydrangeas and camellias set in a central bed of forget-me-nots enhanced

by a serene backdrop looking northward to the mountains.

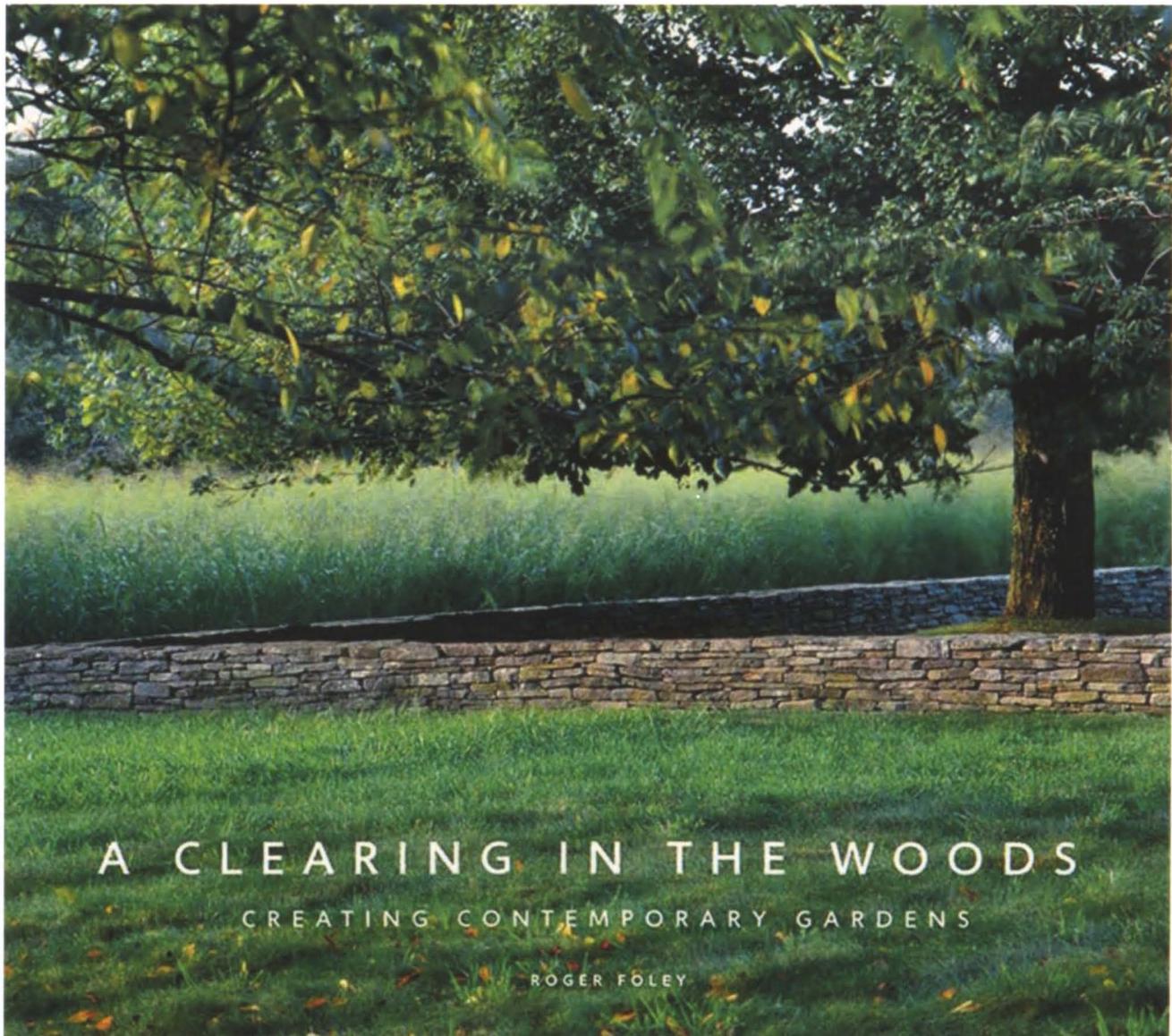
Further down the walkway a brick path leads to an informal English style perennial garden. These mixed borders are comprised of multi-stemmed crape-myrtle, flowering shrubs, boxwood, plus soft pastel shades of perennials, annuals and bulbs. Neatly trimmed turf pathways gracefully sweep to a Chinese Chippendale-style pavilion.

A vegetable garden of old-world character is in another room. It is both functional and beautiful, informal yet has a structured framework. This garden has flowers, trees, boxwood, herbs and plenty of necessary household vegetables, punctuated by architecturally designed frames for espaliered pears, apples and tomatoes.

Appearing at the end of the boxwood alec is a large flat lawn. Framed in the French style, with crisp lines of Trident Maples emerging from beds of ground cover edged with 'Green Velvet' boxwood. A large inviting flat lawn draws one's eye toward another water spout fountain and the transfixing view beyond.

This is merely a glimpse of what awaits to be discovered and enjoyed at the extraordinary Mount Sharon Farm.

For more images visit Roger Foley's website or check out his beautiful book, *A Clearing in the Woods*.





# MONTPELIER

## The Home of President James Madison

### Boxwood History

*by Lynn R. Batdorf*



*National Trust for Historic Preservation duPont  
family scrapbook*

Ambrose Madison, President James Madison's grandfather, first acquired the Montpelier property in 1723. The mansion was built in the 1760s by James Madison Sr., only to be inherited by his son after Madison, Sr.'s death in 1801. It was during President Madison's ownership (notably after his election to the presidency in 1809) that the formal garden was created while landscaping surrounding the mansion was extensively redefined.

Landscape changes and new plantings gave the grounds the look of an English estate of the period. Contemporary accounts mention Montpelier's broad lawns, natural woodland borders and open vistas, with large native trees in clumps throughout the lawn.

Boxwood, a favored shrub, was used in the landscape as well, although perhaps not as extensively as it appears today. In a biography of Dolley Madison, her friend Margaret Bayard Smith wrote of Montpelier, “The grounds around the house owe their ornaments more to nature than to art.”

The formal garden (now called the Annie Rogers duPont formal garden), was developed by Madison’s French gardener, Mr. Bizet, who created a garden in the French formal fashion incorporating a central path bisecting the garden into two similar halves. In all likelihood, Madison used American boxwood hedges to define the central path, conforming to the traditions of the day. The formal garden, abundant with trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetables, was a delight to the Madisons and their guests. In a letter to Elizabeth Collins Lee in 1840, Dolley wrote “On this day vegetation is abroad with birds singing in the ‘ever breathing spring.’”

In 1901, after William duPont, Sr., bought Montpelier, his wife, Annie, wrote that “the box hedge was broken, bare at the bottom and overgrown on top . . .” She set about to restore the boxwood hedge and to redesign the entire formal garden. Boxwood topiary graced the upper and middle tiers of the garden while the box hedge included large boxwood that formed arched entrances to the garden at the upper and lower ends of the hedge. American and English boxwood became the framework for many of the individual gardens within the formal garden.

By 1984, when the property came under the ownership of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the grounds and gardens had undergone a period of neglect. Once again, the “box hedge was broken, bare at the bottom and overgrown on top.” Restoring the boxwood to disease-free, lush, and healthy shrubs was a priority. Fortunately, Montpelier contains an amazing clay/loam Davidson soil that boasts of a wonderful parent material, Catocin greenstone. The pH is a perfect 6.7 to 7.2, drainage is ideal, water-holding capacity is very good and both micro- and macro-nutrients are plentiful and available to plants. Boxwood respond very well to this soil. Restoring the boxwood to good health has been, in large measure, successful.

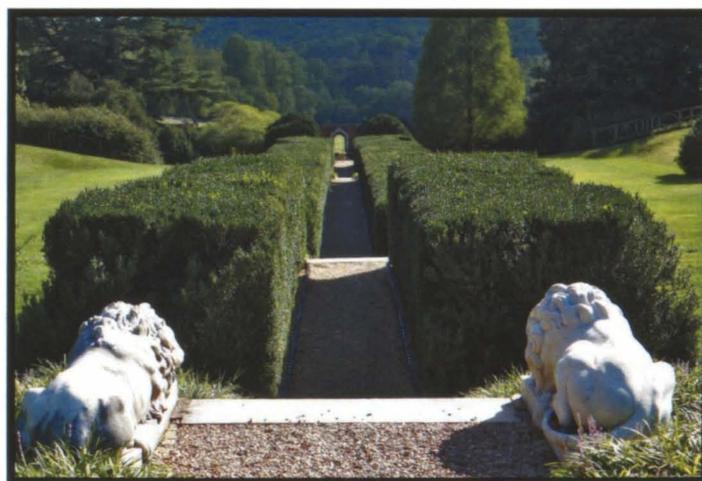
While the usual pests (psyllids and leafminers) still persist, they are kept to a minimum through good management practices. Proper pruning, mulching



*National Trust for Historic Preservation duPont family scrapbook*

with compost, and irrigation assist in providing the boxwood shrubs with the basics for good health. Judicious pesticide applications are made when necessary. The possibility of other diseases, such as boxwood blight, are constantly on our radar. Montpelier’s beautiful grounds and gardens benefit greatly from the presence of boxwood. They provide a continuity throughout the property’s landscape history by continuing to form a framework for the mansion and the gardens that grace the property. As James Madison noted in 1834, “(T)he earth is silently and bountifully making its contributions to our comfort and enjoyment.”

If there are any further questions or comments about historic Montpelier’s boxwood, please feel free to contact Sandy Mudrinich, Montpelier Horticulturist, at 540-672-2728, ext. 304 or [smudrinich@montpelier.org](mailto:smudrinich@montpelier.org) or Meg Kennedy, Director of Museum Services, at 540-672-2728, ext. 415 or [mkenedy@montpelier.org](mailto:mkenedy@montpelier.org).





Annie R. DuPont Formal Garden

# *Plantation Boxwood at Barboursville Vineyards*

*By: Carter Nicholas*

The unusually vast concentration of boxwood at Barboursville Vineyards is a great legacy of a thriving plantation past, sustained by modern horticulture of the highest appreciation and expertise. It is rare for any estate to support the expansive volume of American boxwood to be found in the approximately five acres of ornamental parkland adjacent to the Ruins of the mansion Thomas Jefferson designed here for Governor James Barbour, completed in 1821 and the numerous English boxwood distributed in private gardens nearby. It is equally rare, for such a treasure of plantings to be open to the public without charge, every day of the year.

Although this large scale planting of boxwood is always primarily ornamental, given the plant's naturally slow rate of growth, there is no doubt that the wood, itself was prized as an element of the estate's original economy. To this day, annual plant maintenance programs generate a substantial volume of thinnings and judicious prunings which are sold off-site, where the valued wood may be destined for nursery propagation, floral displays and musical instruments and tools.

Barboursville's boxwood thrive in the Davidson clay soils which so well support the cultivation of the estate's vineyards, which were first planted forty years ago, in 1976. Upon acquiring the estate for wine growing, the Zonin family of the Veneto in Northern Italy found that the oldest boxwood, nearest to the historic Barbour Ruins, had grown to twelve to fifteen

feet in height, and inaugurated a program of beautification and protection which continues to this day, under Estate Horticulturist Robert Sacilotto. Some of these American boxwood have trunk calipers of eight to ten inches and have attained heights of twenty five to thirty feet.

We are always on the lookout against boxwood blight, which has not invaded the estate, and keep in close touch with developments and control measures against it, with the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. At least annually, contract boxwood experts trim the boxwood under the Horticulturist's supervision. Each plant is trimmed and shaped, weeded, and even irrigated when needed in rare extreme droughts, not for a uniform height, but for the health of each plant. Nevertheless, with the support of many decades of growth in most of the boxwood, a handsome uniformity is noticeable in the dimensions and geometry of the plants. Localized, ultra-low volume manual spraying is conducted against boxwood leaf miner and mites, while wild estate seedlings are naturally propagated and re-planted to maintain an elegant, informal garden, housing numerous nests of cardinals, robins and mourning doves.

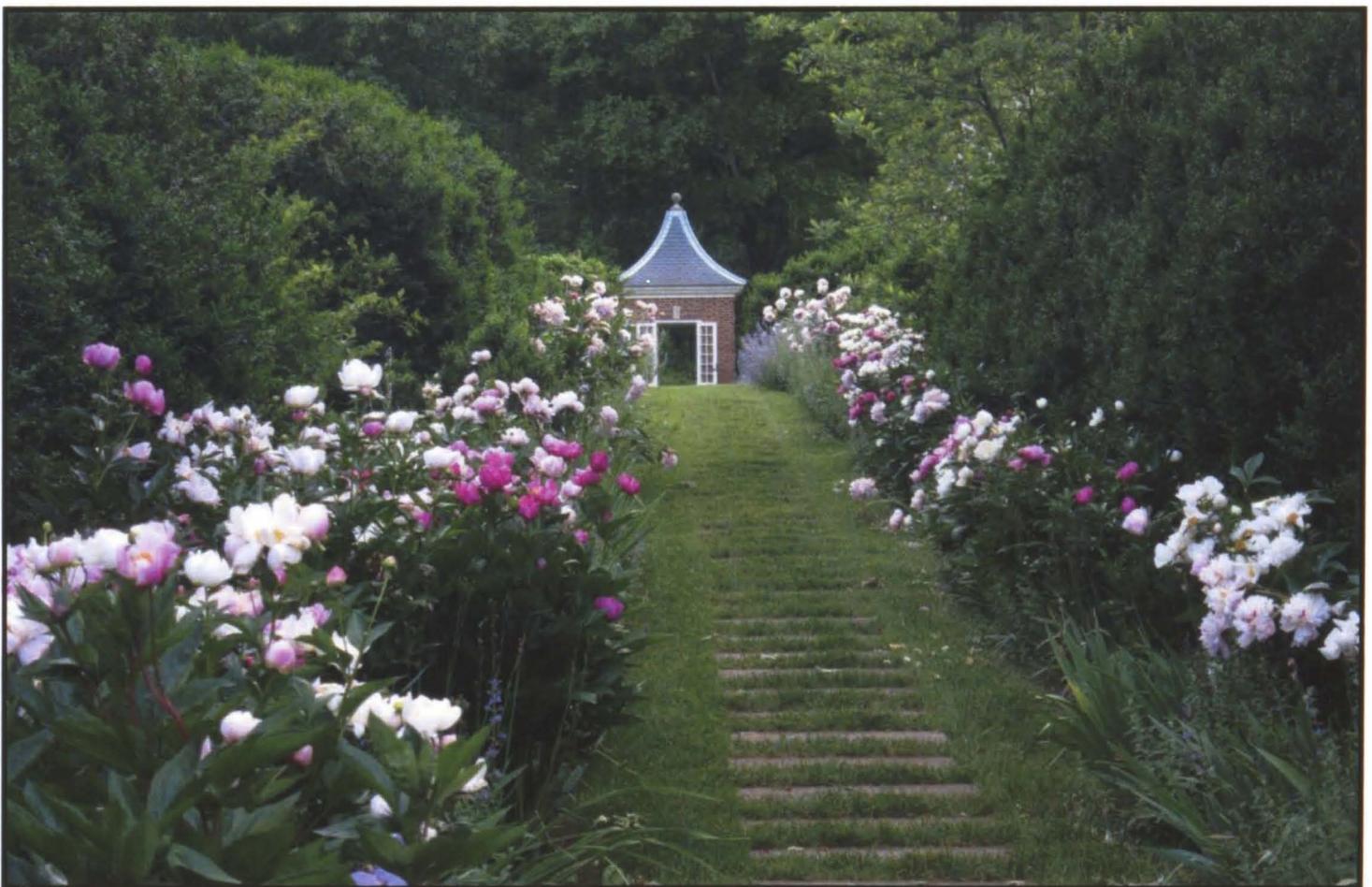




# Waverley Farm

By: Charles J. Stick, RLA

Waverley was built in 1847 by Peter N. Cobbs who purchased the original tract of land comprising 855 acres. The Cobbs family owned Waverley until 1863. The farm was purchased by James Newman Andrews in 1903. The original house was a simple brick building two over two over an English basement. The Andrews family extended the house to the south and added the Colonial Revival porch in the 1920's. The boxwood garden was originally laid out and planted by Mrs. Andrews in the mid 1920's, using cuttings from the boxwood at nearby Montpelier. In its heyday the gardens and grounds were maintained by a staff of fifteen gardeners. Waverley was purchased in 1986 by Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Tieken. Over the past fifteen years the gardens have undergone an extensive restoration and expansion through a collaboration between Charlotte Tieken and Landscape Architect Charles J. Stick.



# *The Gardens and Grounds of Jefferson's Tufton Farm*

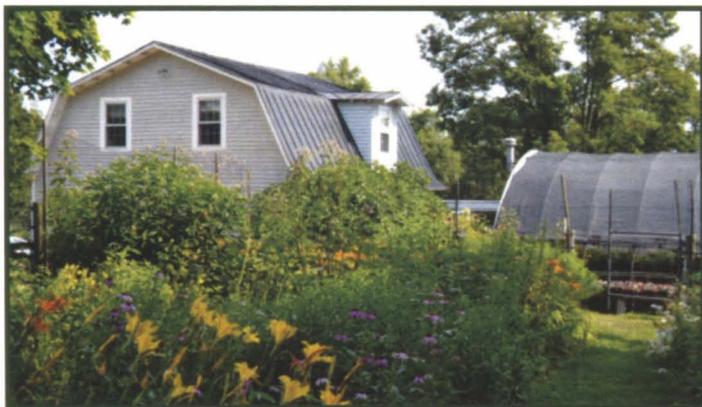
*By: Lily Fox-Bruguiera*

Garden and Outreach Coordinator, Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants

The gardens and grounds of Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, are well-known and deservedly so. The winding walk and oval beds of the flower garden admired for their display of tulips in spring and beds brimming with Jefferson-era annuals and perennials, the 1,000-foot long “revolutionary” vegetable garden containing rows of Jefferson’s favorite “fruits, roots, leaves,” and herbs, for both sustenance and experimentation; the collection of Jefferson’s “pet trees” and groves of native giants like Tulips Poplars and White Oaks. But there is also a secret garden of sorts at Monticello, nestled amongst the gentle rolling hills of Jefferson’s Tufton Farm: the preservation display gardens of the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants.

we also promote plants important to American horticulture into the early 20th century, including North American natives, which were of particular interest to Jefferson.

In Jefferson’s day, Tufton was a productive farm that was also home to the enslaved community that worked the land. While the main crop at Tufton was initially tobacco, Jefferson soon acknowledged its detrimental effects to the soil and switched to various 5-year crop rotations, for example clover, peas, wheat, corn, then wheat again. A log house, originally built for Tufton’s overseer in 1804, was enlarged around 1819 for the farm’s new tenants, Jefferson’s grandson, Thomas Jefferson Randolph, and his wife, Jane. The Randolphs’ addition is the one remaining structure at Tufton from Jefferson’s time: a small, 1.5-room, stone cottage. While they sustained the farm’s productivity during their tenure, they were forced to give it up upon Jefferson’s death in 1826 in order to help pay off the patriarch’s many debts.



© Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello

*Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants gardens, barn, and greenhouse.*

Celebrating our 30th anniversary in 2016, the Center for Historic Plants is Monticello’s unique nursery and garden center, specializing in heritage and native plants in a beautiful garden setting. Established in 1986 by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation under the leadership of Peter Hatch, now the Director Emeritus of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello, the Center collects, preserves, and distributes historically significant varieties of trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals. While we focus on many of the same Jefferson-documented plants grown in the Monticello gardens,



© Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello

*The Macon house at Tufton, with American boxwood, and Monticello just visible on the hill to the left of the house.*

After the Jefferson period, Tufton continued to flourish under the ownership of the Macon family, who owned the house and farm from 1833–1911. Colonel Thomas Selden Macon purchased the house and 1,044 acres in 1833, and focused on growing wheat,

corn, and tobacco. Like Jefferson, Macon relied on slave labor to keep the lands productive and profitable. The Greek Revival house that exists on the property today was constructed circa 1849, and was home to several generations of the Macon family.

While very little is known about the ornamental landscape surrounding the house in the Macon period, it is likely that the family planted some of the large American Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) that still stand at the front of the house. In a real estate listing from 1920, it is noted that “[t]he lawn has fine green sward, with trees and fine box.” A Works Progress Administration report from 1938 reveals, “[o]ne approaches the dwelling along a walk on either side of which are several box, some of these are at least fifteen feet high.” As American boxwood typically grow 3”-5” per year, it is possible that some of the existing specimens were planted between 1878 and 1902, or thereabouts. The oldest trees that grace the front lawn of the Tufton house include two impressive native White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*).



© Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello

*Spring bloomers in the Lath House, including Heartleaf Foamflower, Virginia Bluebells, Wild Geranium, and Celandine Wood Poppy.*

After the Macon family sold Tufton in 1911, the farm passed between various short-term owners and development corporations until it was purchased by John and Frances Halloran in 1952. The Hallorans completed a number of upgrades to the house during their ownership of the property in the 1950s; it was during this period that the original Jefferson-era log house was removed to make way for an addition at the rear of the house. Recollections by the Hallorans’ two sons indicate that at least two of the boxwood that

originally stood at the front of the house were moved to the driveway entrance where they stand today. The brothers also recalled a vegetable garden on the site of the Center’s current ornamental garden, chickens and pigs around the barn that serves as the Center’s offices and potting area, sheep and cows in the fields, and a nursery of evergreen shrubs and trees.

The vestiges of this 1950s evergreen nursery now form the backbone of the Center’s preservation display garden, consisting of straight rows of Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*), Eastern Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), American Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*), as well as two China Firs (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*). Surrounding this stand of lofty evergreens are a number of diverse plant collections that have evolved greatly over the years, from the garden’s beginnings as a series of orderly stock beds to the varied borders bursting with perennials, annuals, roses, shrubs, and trees seen today.

Upon entering the garden gate, a straight grass path between borders filled with a wide assortment of historic native and exotic perennials beckons the visitor to proceed. These borders always have something to catch the eye as the season progresses: from a lush spring carpet of Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), which Jefferson noted in bloom at his boyhood home, Shadwell, on April 16, 1766; to the June flush of Small Yellow Foxglove (*Digitalis lutea*), a lovely self-seeding perennial included in Philadelphia nurseryman Bernard McMahon’s *The American Gardener’s Calendar* (1806); followed by the prolific fall-blooming native Blue Mist Flower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*), a favorite of bees and butterflies that was listed in the Bartram nursery’s catalogue of 1783.

Beyond the narrow twin borders, the path opens out to a sunny lawn and the start of the Rose Border, a collection of China, Gallica, Musk, Moss, Damask, and other once-blooming, antique roses. This double border peaks in May, and is celebrated in the Center’s annual Wine and Roses Open House, typically held on the last Saturday of May. The first rose to bloom here is the European Scotch Briar Rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*), bearing single, creamy-white flowers with a boss of bright yellow stamens, followed by perfectly round, wine-red hips; this is likely the “Prim rose,” one of ten rose varieties ordered by Thomas Jefferson from the William Prince Nursery on Long Island in 1791.

Also included in Jefferson's rose order and grown in the border is the semi-double *Rosa Mundi* (*Rosa gallica versicolor*); the oldest striped rose (pre-1581) with unusual crimson and white-variegated petals. According to legend, it was named for Henry II's mistress, Fair Rosamund. The flowering of this collection is carried into late June by the Prairie Rose (*Rosa setigera*), a North American native with single, pale to deep pink flowers beloved by pollinators.

The rose season at the Center is further extended by the repeat-blooming, fragrant Noisette roses found in the Léonie Bell Rose Garden. Containing over eighty varieties of mainly Noisette roses, this unique collection was established in 1998 thanks to a donation from Louis Bell in honor of his wife, Léonie Bell, a noted rosarian, author, and plant illustrator. In bloom from April through October, the Bell Garden tells the story of the Noisette rose, which is the first class of roses to have its beginnings in the United States. In the center of one of the four beds that make up this octagonal garden stands Champneys' Pink Cluster (*Rosa x noisetiana*); covered in highly-scented, semi-double, pale pink flowers, this rose cultivar was discovered in the Charleston, South Carolina, garden of rice-grower John Champneys around 1811. Marrying the qualities of its parents, the repeat-blooming Old Blush China and the fragrant Musk Rose (*Rosa moschata*), the importance of Champneys' Pink Cluster was quickly acknowledged by John Champneys, who shared cuttings with his neighbor, Philippe Noisette. Philippe in turn sent the rose to his brother, Louis Noisette, a rose breeder in Paris, who went on to develop the Noisette class.

After the bright, sunny Bell Garden, visitors can find respite in the Lath House, home to many of the Center's shade-lovers. Natives steal the show in this garden room, especially in spring: Virginia Bluebells mingle beautifully with cheery yellow Celandine Wood Poppies (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), followed by masses of the pink-flowered Wild Geranium (*G. maculatum*), which Jefferson requested from nurseryman John Bartram, Jr., for his Parisian friends in 1786 while he was serving as Minister to France. Arguably the most significant plant species at Monticello, and the Center's plant mascot, is another spring-blooming native: Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*). Named in 1792 in honor of Jefferson's knowledge in the field of natu-

ral history, namely in botany and zoology, this desirable woodlander often reveals its delicate, pure white flowers around Jefferson's birthday, April 13. Here also grows the only other species in the genus *Jeffersonia*, the Asian Twinleaf, *J. dubia*; with a similar habit to our native Twinleaf, this Asian species bears lavender flowers several weeks earlier, and leaves that are not as fully divided.

Finally, visitors arrive at the primary collection of North American native plants. Anchored by a row of Ironwoods (*Carpinus caroliniana*) and native shrubs like Eastern Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) and Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), this border displays garden-worthy natives for sun and shade. Species sent east to Jefferson and others from the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804–1806 also thrive here, including Lewis' Prairie Flax (*Linum perenne lewisii*), Western Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium pulcherrimum*), and Blanket Flower (*Gallardia aristata*). Moisture-loving natives are gathered in a small rain garden, built to slow and filter runoff from the nursery; highlights include Great Red Hibiscus (*H. coccineus*), Swamp Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*), and Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*).



© Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello  
*Rose Border*

Beyond the garden gate lies the Center's historic iris collection, a riot of color and interest from April into May. The bearded iris cultivars in this collection range from Swerti (1612), sold by the William Prince Nursery in 1823, its white flowers stitched with blue; to Jacquesiana (1840), a fragrant red blend popular in this country into the 20th century; and Mildred

Presby (1923), bearing creamy white standards and deep purple falls, from America's first notable iris hybridizer, Bertrand Farr. Just below the irises stand the Center's bee hives, whose denizens are responsible for helping to pollinate our garden plants, as well as the wild plants of the surrounding fields and forests, and for providing honey known as L'Oro di Monticello. Luckily, the hives are also located within a swath of wildflower and native grass meadow, installed in 2013 to help support pollinators and other wildlife and to inspire our visitors with its beauty and usefulness.

While the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants works to preserve many varieties of heritage and native plants in our own gardens, as well as the gardens at Monticello, the best chance that these plants have to intrigue, delight, and teach future generations is to be preserved in private and public gardens across the country. To that end, our plants and seeds can be found at the Shop at Monticello, located in the David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center, as well as online at [www.monticelloshop.org](http://www.monticelloshop.org). The Center also holds three open houses every year, to welcome visitors to tour our gardens, hear engaging speakers, talk to our knowledgeable staff, and shop directly from our nursery. In addition, we will have new open hours every Saturday in April and May, 10am-2pm. To learn more about the Center for Historic Plants, and Monticello, visit [www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org).



*You are cordially invited to join the American Rhododendron Society*

**Benefits:**  
quarterly journal,  
seed exchange,  
chapter affiliation,  
conventions

Inquiries regarding membership in the American Rhododendron Society and the Scottish Rhododendron Society, a chapter of the ARS, may be sent to:

Laura Grant, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 525  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304-0525 USA

Annual Subscription of \$40 (USA)

ARS Website: <http://www.rhododendron.org>



## JULIUS CAESAR

In this profoundly moving, breathtaking, and deeply human play, Shakespeare shows us a world on fire; a world turned upside down; a world where some of history's most famous men commit horrific crimes in the name of patriotism and honor. *Julius Caesar* is a dazzling thrill ride of betrayal, violence, and perhaps most surprisingly — love.

MAY 12, 2016



The cast of the 2015/16 Dangerous Dreams Tour. Photos by Lindsey Walters and Tommy Thompson.

**"Packed with some seasoned talent and boundless energy, you'll be swept up in the drama, the warmth and good humor in spite of yourself."**

- Andrew White, Broadway World

[groupsales@americanshakespearecenter.com](mailto:groupsales@americanshakespearecenter.com)

1.877.Much.Ado



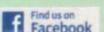
*Ilex aquifolium* 'Harlequin' ~Carolyn Slay, Oak Ridge, TN

### The Holly Society of America

Please join us at our 2016 Annual Meeting  
October 27—29 Myrtle Beach, SC

Tours: Pearl Fryar, Moore Farms, Mckenzie, & Brookgreen gardens;  
Hobcaw Barony. Speakers. Plant auction.

[www.hollysocam.org](http://www.hollysocam.org)



# *The Legacy of President James Monroe, Highland*

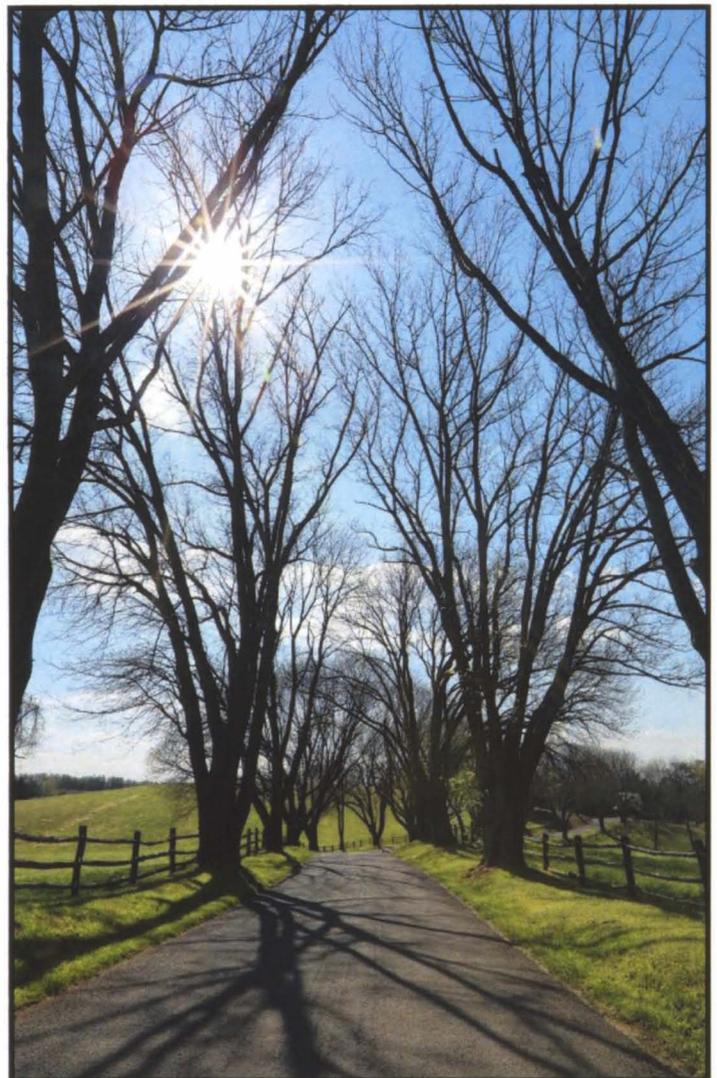
James Monroe was the final president from the Virginia dynasty and was often called the last Founding Father. His fifty-year career in public service began as he was swept into the American Revolution, serving under General George Washington in many of the major battles of the northeast, and surviving a grave wound at the Battle of Trenton. Having forged a deep commitment to the American republic and the creation and functioning of a democratic government, he went on to serve the state of Virginia and the nation in a variety of positions, first in the Virginia House of Delegates, then as United States Senator, Minister to France, England, and Spain, Governor of Virginia, and Secretary of State and War. His distinguished political career culminated with a two-term presidency from 1817 to 1825.

Monroe's biography reads like an introduction to early American politics, as the fifty years of his career were critical to the formation and growth of the young nation from colonies on the verge of independence to a maturing nation at the end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Monroe's legacy shows above all a commitment to the preservation of the country formed in the American bid for freedom; his vision is clear in his work to navigate the many struggles of international affairs and those that came from regional interests. His involvement with geopolitics is seen in his 1803 role negotiating the Louisiana Purchase as an envoy to France on behalf of President Thomas Jefferson, and later in his 1823 message to Congress that would later be called the "Monroe Doctrine," which is considered the first major step by the United States to shape foreign policy.

Monroe's property, Highland, located in Albemarle County Virginia, was his family's home from 1799–1823. He had first moved to the area ten years prior, purchasing property that eventually became a part of the University of Virginia, where Monroe participated in the founding and served on the Board of Visitors while a sitting U.S. President. The Monroes' 1793 purchase of Highland was at the urging of his friend and

mentor, Thomas Jefferson. The new property promised both better farmland and immediate proximity to Jefferson's Monticello.

The original 1,000 acres that Monroe purchased at Highland eventually grew to 3,500; the land produced wheat and timber, and had both grist- and sawmills. Monroe was away during much of his ownership of the property, and a series of overseers with up to 50 enslaved workers maintained work routines and production on the property. Monroe tended to blame the plantation's lack of financial profit on the overseers'



Neil Piper Photography

management. However, a major cause was likely that wheat farming was being eclipsed by the wild success of the Deep South's cotton industry.

The main house at Highland is a small vernacular structure. It is thought that a fire in the 19th century destroyed a portion of the home, which was depicted in Monroe's insurance documents as a two-wing dwelling. Ongoing architectural and archaeological research are revealing new truths about the complicated structure, which boasts additions from the 1850s and 1870s.



For much of his ownership of Highland, James Monroe also owned a property in Loudon County, Virginia. That property, Oak Hill, is the site of a grand house that Monroe built in the 1810s. It is significantly presidential in style, and may well represent Monroe's view of an appropriate residence for a person of his stature. That house and its magnificent gardens are privately owned today.

Monroe eventually sold the core of his Highland property to Edward Goodwin, and it quickly passed through a series of owners before the Rev. John E. Massey purchased the property and built the 1870s house now attached to the earlier dwelling. By that time, the estate's name had been changed to Ash Lawn. The outlying fields passed through separate ownerships, and have been farmed throughout, while maintaining a rural character that is probably similar to that which Monroe knew.

The last private owner, philanthropist Jay Winston Johns, bequeathed his 535 acres at the core of Mon-

roe's Highland to The College of William & Mary in 1974. Operating under the name Ash Lawn-Highland, William & Mary still owns the site, a two-hour drive west of its main campus in Williamsburg, VA.

Much of the landscaping on the property is associated with the Massey and Johns ownerships. The imposing boxwood gardens are east of the Massey portion of the house, and flowerbeds adorn later features, including the formal Johns Garden. There are two trees attributed to Monroe's era of ownership: an imposing white oak, and a hemlock.

Ash Lawn-Highland has been operated as a historic site since 1931, when the Johns family opened the doors to public visitors. The site now offers tours of the restored house year round. Ash Lawn-Highland also hosts private events such as weddings, as well as a range of public events throughout the year for visitors interested in history, farming, and Monroe's legacy.

Current news and events can be found at: [ashlawnhighland.org](http://ashlawnhighland.org).



Neil Piper Photography



Neil Piper Photography



Neil Piper Photography



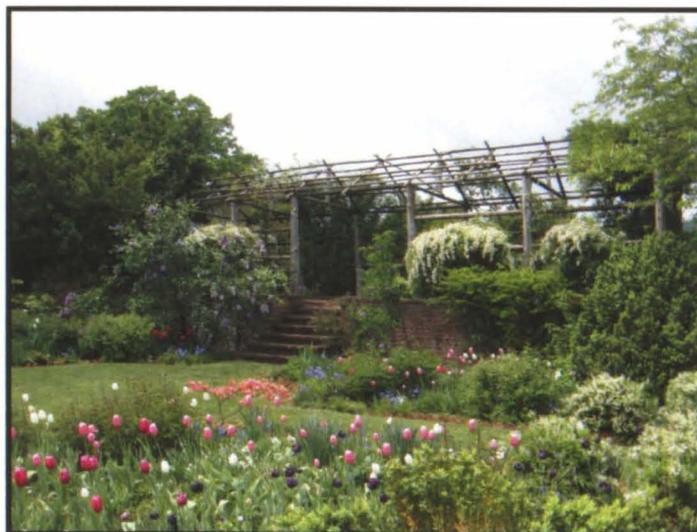
# Morven Farm

*By: Walter Carell, Jr. RLA*

Just about three miles south of Monticello are the rolling hills and pasture lands of Morven Farm. This farm is part of a 10,000 acre English land grant to William Champe Carter in 1730. Over the centuries, this vast acreage has developed into croplands, pasture and managed woodlots of pastoral quality with highly scenic views. The property was purchased in 1796 by Thomas Jefferson for a distant relative, frequently referred to as his “adoptive son,” Colonel William Short. Short was a classmate of James Monroe at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg. Colonel Short served as private secretary to Jefferson from 1785–1789 while Jefferson was U. S. Minister to France. The Colonel went on to serve as this Nation’s Minister to Holland and later to Spain – becoming America’s first career diplomat.

Alexander Hamilton entrusted William Short with the negotiation and management of European loans to fund the public debt of the United States. Colonel Short eventually settled in Philadelphia. Jefferson sold the property in 1813 to David Higginbotham, a merchant at the nearby port of Milton on the Rivanna River. Higginbotham renamed the property “Mor-

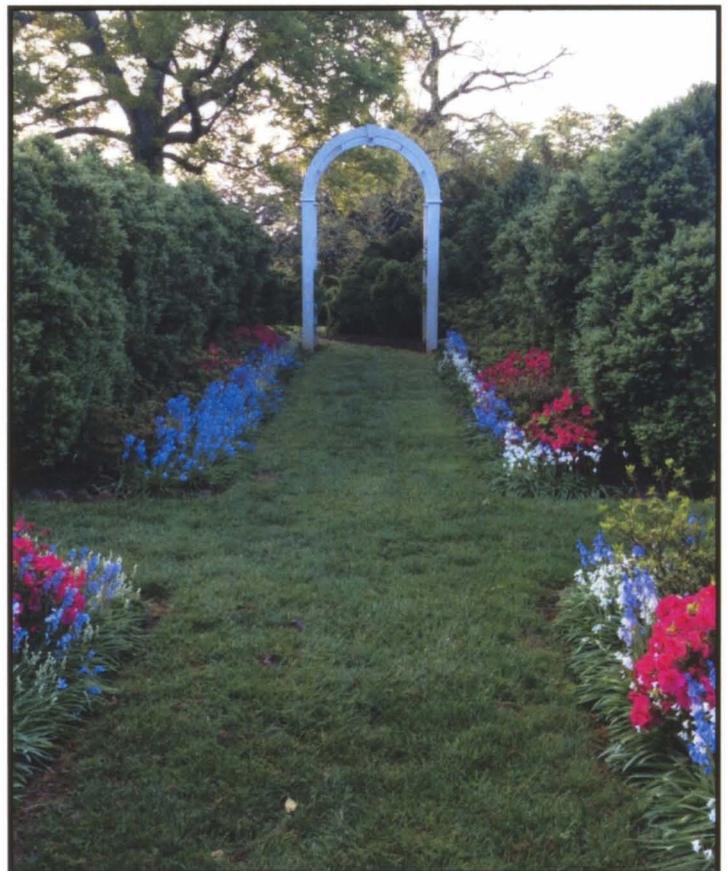
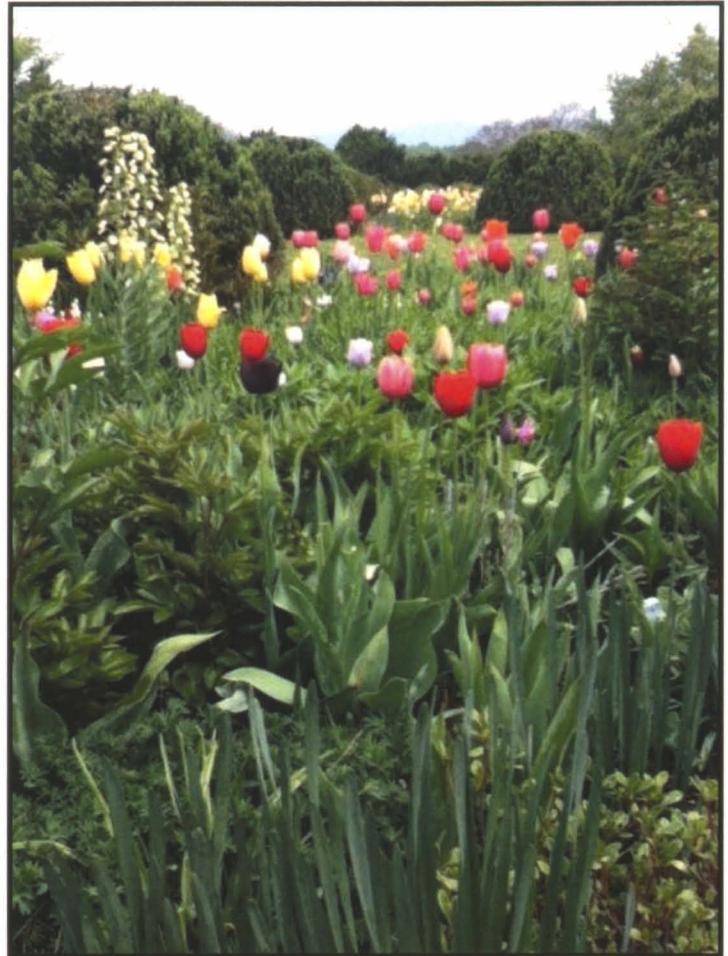
ven” a Scottish word meaning “ridge of hills.” Mr. Higginbotham retained local architect/builder Martin Thacker to design a house with a late Georgian pattern and roman revival features. Construction of the dwelling’s center section commenced in 1820. The house is one of Virginia’s important examples of Federal-style architecture. Typical of many early nineteenth century Piedmont country homes, its design is conservative and the decoration rather restrained.



A later owner, Charles and Mary Stone purchased Morven in 1926 and retained landscape architect Annette Hoyt Flanders to restore and extend the formal as well as the ornamental garden. Ms. Flanders created a gentle marriage of boxwood, flowering trees and shrubs, bulbs, perennials and annuals in soft colors, mixed in with vegetables. The gardens remain today largely as Flanders created them back in the early 1930s and is one of the few intact gardens from that period anywhere in the world. These gardens are laid out to form a succession of rooms ranging in style from semi-formal to Colonial Revival. Perfectly adapted to the terrain, the parterres are connected with brick walls and steps. Brick edged turf paths lead one through a delightful mix of hues and sweet fragrances. A rustic pergola and many large gracefully spreading oak trees provide welcomed shade on warm afternoons. Morven is a lovely place to spend a Spring day and witness the soft pastel shades of bleeding heart, bluebell, deutzia, lilac, quince, scilla, spirea and wisteria all complimented by thousands of narcissi, tulips, pansies and forget-me-nots.

Morven is also home to the fairly rare Dove-tree (sometimes called Handkerchief Tree). Acclaimed by many gardening enthusiasts as the most handsome of flowering trees, this plant was introduced from China in 1904 and displays creamy-white flowers in mid-May. The flowers are borne in dense heads, displaying a one-inch yellow ball of stamens, with two large, showy bracts over 7" long.

Look for the state champion Chinese Chestnut tree and a pair of century-old Osage-oranges while enjoying the unbounded lawns and meadows of Morven Farm.



# Andre Viette – Perennial Plants-man

By: Kathy Jentz

Perhaps you listen to Andre Viette's show on one of the 21 area radio stations in Maryland Pennsylvania and Virginia that carry his program on Saturday mornings, from 8-11 such as WFMD 930AM in Frederick, MD, or Annapolis, MD, station WNAV 1430AM? Or maybe you catch his "A Minute in the Garden" on WHSV-TV3 out of Harrisonburg, VA? Have you read any of his many books and articles like *The Mid-Atlantic Gardeners Guide*? Caught him at the numerous special appearances he makes every year from the Planting Fields Arboretum to the Williamsburg Garden Symposium? If you are into gardening at all, sooner or later you run into Andre and his won-

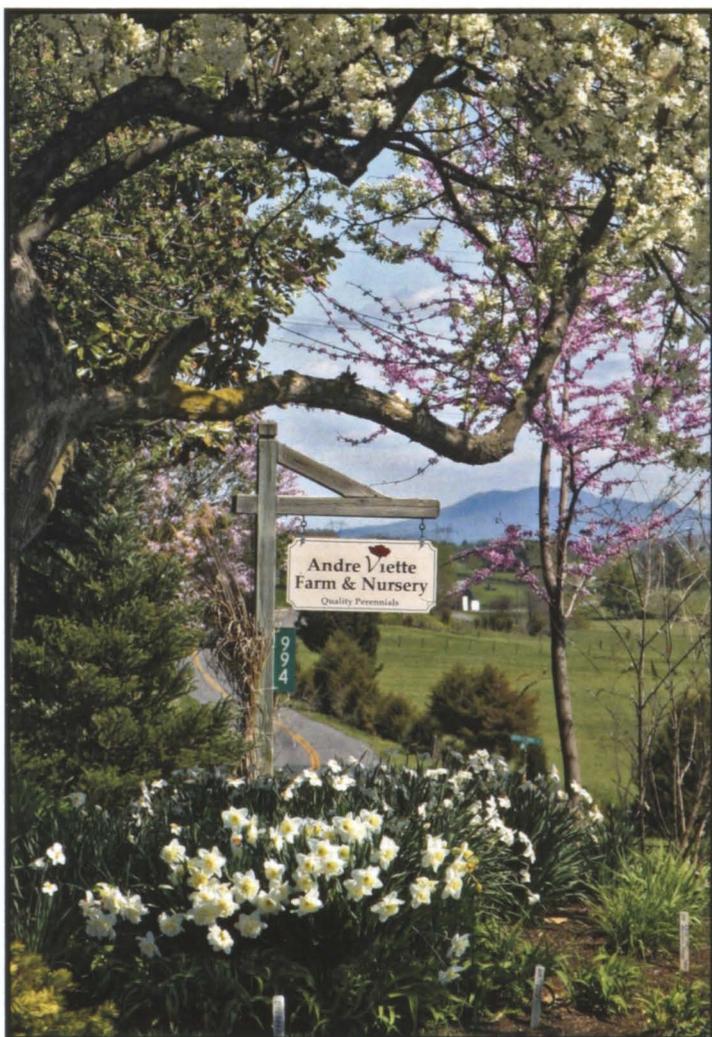
derful world of plants especially suited to our climate, Best known for his daylily hybrids, his Andre Viette Farm and Nursery in Fishersville, VA. In the past he grew over 3,000 varieties of perennials for both sun and shade. Now Viette concentrates on hosta, daylily and iris.

Andre was born and grew up on Long Island, NY. His father came from a poor family in Switzerland and immigrated to Long Island under the European apprentice system. He learned everything he could while working at Haveymeyer Estate's Cedar Hill Nursery. "He learned his trade well," explained Andre. "Then in 1929 went into business for himself as Martin Viette Nurseries."

Andre's training at Cornell gave him the scientific basis for everything he uses today, but learned the most about horticulture from his father. The most important thing he learned was how to water properly. Andre remarked, "It's surprising how something so simple can be so difficult."

After managing his father's nursery for years with his wife Claire by his side, they sold the business in 1976 and moved to Virginia. "It was a methodical search to find just the right place to move to," Andre remembered. "We left long Island due to the traffic and the drugs in schools. We wanted to get back to our rural roots and to family values."

While traveling over a seven year period to various daylily and iris conventions, he and Claire would rent a car and visit the surrounding countryside. They looked in Massachusetts and north, but found it too cold and not a long enough growing season. They then looked at Georgia and Florida which were too hot for the perennials they wanted to grow. They finally focused on states east of the Mississippi and didn't want to be too far away from family and lifelong friends back on Long Island.



For its beauty and the lower taxes, they narrowed the search to North Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia. Virginia had nearby shorelines and mountains. They chose to look closer at Ashville, Henderson or Shenandoah Valley and Andre made a survey of what was within 45 minutes of both locations. In the heart of the Shenandoah, Fishersville had 25 colleges and universities nearby. "I knew I'd found the family values, good education and culture we were seeking," confided Andre.



In 1977, they were the only perennial nursery in all of Virginia. The rest of the Mid-Atlantic had nurseries growing annuals or trees in the ground, but there was no one else with an exclusive perennial nursery. Perennials were just being "discovered" at the time. In the past forty years the perennial market has boomed. "People say to me that I'm a main influence on getting perennials into the area and I have seen the shift in gardens in the valley from just veggies to more perennials," mused Andre. "We were a known entity when he established our business here and people would fly over from Europe and all over to visit our nursery – so that definitely brought attention to us." But he claims he cannot take all the credit. Home magazines helped a lot by expanding their stories to include patio and kitchen gardens then garden beds with perennials, not just masses of annuals. "I helped it along, but the trend would have come anyway," Andre said. "For example, when I went to Cornell, there was only one Herbaceous plant course, but then in the 1980s colleges started to offer more courses on them."

His Cornell training was chemically based, Andre explained, "but I've come completely around to the organic side after an experience with Rachel Carson,

author of *Silent Spring*." He uses organic fertilizers that include seaweed, dried manure, etc. and recommends the Espoma Company's Plant-tone and Holly-tone products.

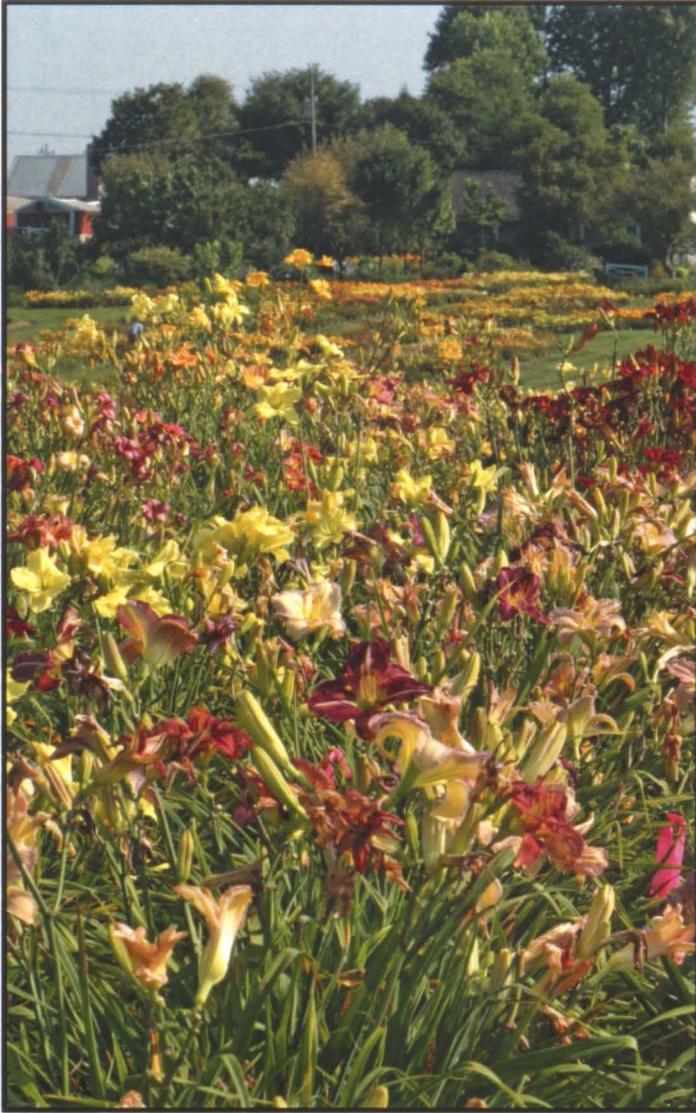
"Natural products help the soil and plants and do not pollute the Chesapeake Bay," shared Andre. "They're broken down gradually and are absorbed better. I'm not a purist – sometimes you have to spray, but in general, go for organic."



In the interest of plant health and water conservation Andre recommends, "Only water three times a month during dry spells," he advised. "More is not necessary." He moves water by hand – no more than once a week – he says every ten days he sets out a sprinkler in the morning that goes fifty feet wide and leaves it for hours so it soaks to a depth of one to two inches in the area, then moves it the next day. "Have a rain gauge," counseled Andre. "There is no need to water if it rains one inch. Plants such as our native mountain laurel don't get extra water in their native habitat. They don't need it. Over watering can cause root rot and disease, so just remember to water deeply three times per month."

"An irrigation system is good so you don't have to drag a hose around," Andre said. "Sprinkler companies don't always know plant needs, they know water technology and it can be anti-environment. Water deeply, but not often."

What is his latest cause? Plants for the home. "They are great for indoor air quality," maintained Andre. "They add oxygen and humidity while taking out impurities. Homes filled with house plants are the healthiest ones."



“I get great enjoyment out of seeing people work with plants,” Andre exclaimed. “I love people and love offering advice. Gardening has to be fun, it has to be easy and it has to be rewarding and enjoyable,” shared Andre, “I believe you should start out weed free and stay weed free by mulching or applying pre-emergents.”

“Plant with good ingredients – amend red clay with peat moss and compost,” said Andre.

“Recent research in North Carolina showed typical soil in the suburbs has the density of concrete – it gets packed down by heavy construction equipment running on it – then they add a little topsoil to grow grass.”

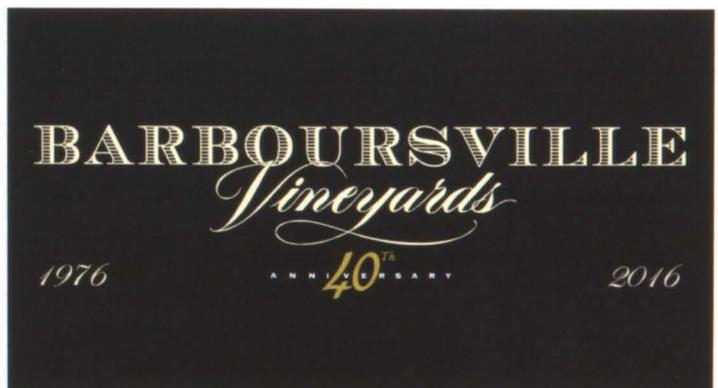
“For large plants – shrubs and trees – dig a hole three times as wide and two times as deep, but for perennials and annuals, just amend the soil,” Andre

advised. “This way you’ll only need three plants versus the five plants in another’s garden to fill the same space. With healthy, full plants you save money on plant purchases and can invest it in the soil.”

His advice to gardeners is to have a good library of garden books. Andre thinks the ideal would be about twelve on topics such as perennials, lawns, fruit trees, etc. and at the very least, get some general ones to consult in your daily gardening. His bias shows a bit when he recommends radio over garden programs on TV. He prefers it because one can always listen while you are out in the garden or running errands. “I’ve been doing the radio show for 26 years and you are not stuck indoors. Overall our callers are great and have good questions,” added Andre. “My teaching at the college really has helped me to cover all my bases – people ask me how I know so much – but those several classroom hours a week in each course has given me all of my training.”

Andre tells beginners to go to a full service garden center. “You can always get great help. You are not alone. A beginner gardener buying by oneself without advice is going to make a lot of mistakes. Ask for staff recommendations for your specific needs.”

If you can’t get to a nearby garden center easily, you can always call Andre’s radio show and ask him for advice yourself. He spends every winter at his family’s five acres of private gardens in St. Thomas guiding tours and growing tropical plants, but don’t worry. While he is away, he still does the radio show live via telephone! To find out more about Andre, his nursery, his books or his garden show, go on line to [www.inthegardenradio.com](http://www.inthegardenradio.com) and listen to Andre Saturday mornings every week. Check his web site for local radio station listings.



# *Three Days in Albemarle County during the 83rd Historic Garden Week - April 23–25, 2016*

*By: Karen Cauthen Ellsworth, Director of Historic Garden Week*

During the last 8 days of April every year nearly 30,000 visitors tour beautiful homes and gardens across Virginia during what is known as “America’s Largest Open House”. A beloved spring tradition, Historic Garden Week in Virginia, gained new respect when the Garden Club of Virginia reported the results of its first economic impact study of this important fundraiser. “The impact on local communities where tours take place is enormous,” Meg Clement, State Chairman of Historic Garden Week points out. “Recent surveys indicate that over \$11 million is spent across Virginia as a result of Historic Garden Week each year with a cumulative impact of \$425 million over the past 45 years.”

One of the most popular areas of the state to visit is Albemarle County, which offers three distinct days of touring this spring. Hosted by the Albemarle Garden Club, The Charlottesville Garden Club and the Rivanna Garden Club, visitors will travel historic roads amid scenic vistas and enjoy treasured early architecture, beautiful formal gardens and a rich agricultural heritage.

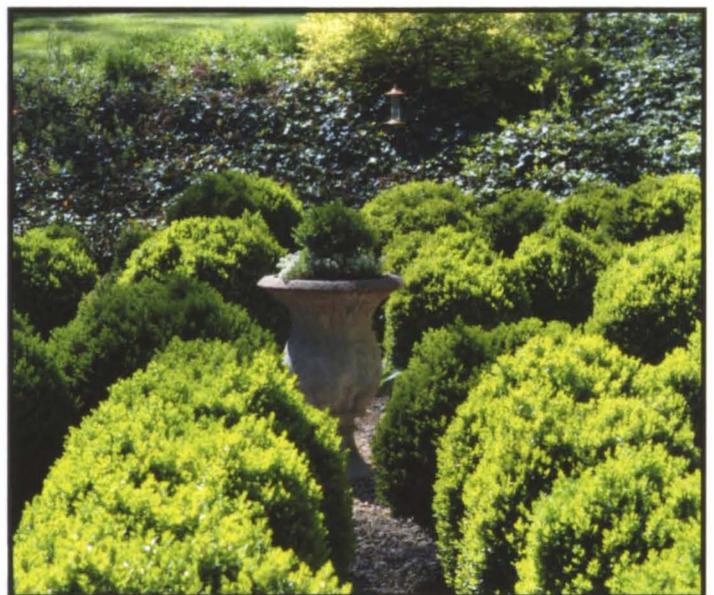
## ***Morven – Saturday, April 23***

The three-story brick manor house at Morven was built c.1820 in the late-Georgian/Federal style by builder Martin Thacker for David Higginbotham, a local merchant. Its 19th-century ambience remains even after 20th-century additions and interior renovations. The land was part of the original 1730 Carter family land grant and was known to Thomas Jefferson as “Indian Camp,” which he purchased for his “adoptive son” Col. William Short in 1795, who in turn sold it to David Higginbotham in 1813. Owners in the 1920s brought in the renowned landscape architect Annette Hoyt Flanders to develop the formal gardens which were open to the public for Historic Garden Week in 1933, and have been part of the Albemarle tour ever since.

After John Kluge bought the estate in 1988 he in-

stalled a 4-acre Japanese garden of indigenous American and Japanese plants. The entire property, consisting of over 7,000 acres, was given to the University of Virginia Foundation in 2001. Today students from the University of Virginia operate the Morven Kitchen Garden, a sustainable farming project. “Morven is an extraordinary treat where one can visit restored formal gardens as well as a Japanese garden and tea house, specimen trees, horse barns and a beautifully restored main house. The history of this place represents all that is wonderful about Virginia,” Betsy Casteen, member of The Charlottesville Garden Club and Historic Garden Week State Co-chairman explains. Tulips, phlox, lilacs, viburnum and deutzia, among other shrubs and perennials, fill a series of distinct garden rooms. Notable trees include a pair of Osage orange trees, the state champion Chinese chestnut, and a dove tree. The Formal Gardens represent one of the few intact gardens from the 1930s. Symmetrical beds are filled with perennials such as delphiniums, peonies and iris accented by boxwood. Lilacs, rhododendrons and azaleas embellish the hawthorn hedges along the outer edge of the garden.

## ***Flordon neighborhood in Charlottesville – Sunday, April 24***



“Whether your interest is exquisitely manicured formal gardens or good old backyard ‘can do’ gardens, Albemarle-Charlottesville offers it all. With all the beauty in the area visitors can’t help but take home warm, happy memories,” notes Dana Henderson, Co-chair of the Albemarle tour this spring. Built in 1938, Credenhill, a stone Georgian home with formal and informal gardens, was designed by Marshall Wells, who also designed Westminster Church in Charlottesville. It is just one of five private properties open on Sunday’s tour. An azalea-lined drive circles in front of the arched front entrance, which is surrounded by hellebores, epimedium, as well as mature chestnut and pin oaks. Charles Gillette designed the original landscape, but much of it has been changed through the years. The azalea garden with vistas to a neighboring farm remains the close to his original design. Stone pathways lead to a boxwood garden, an azalea garden and a water feature surrounded by white azaleas. A slate pathway scattered with bleeding heart and shade plantings leads to a secluded swimming pool surrounded by tall trees.

“The neighborhood of Flordon is one of Albemarle-Charlottesville’s best kept secrets. We invite tour guests to a magical place with towering hardwood trees and winding roads. Each of our tour properties is unique, but all are set within the garden gates and paths of Flordon, which is so special,” Liz Carter, Co-Chairman of the tour, tells us. Set among mature, tall trees, the Granville garden in Flordon combines plantings in a landscape designed for children to run and play and is sure to please boxwood fans. From the wooded, circular driveway, a pachysandra-lined path leads past daffodils and azaleas to the backyard. The back deck creates natural views toward a shaded woodland garden with poppies, bleeding hearts, azaleas, dogwoods, hellebores, ferns, Jack-in-the-pulpits, Oakleaf hydrangeas and Japanese maples. The sun-drenched lower level features a formal boxwood garden with climbing roses on trellises placed above a deer’s reach of the blooms. Doublefile viburnums bloom at the end of the boxwood garden. A playground is nestled in the back corner of the yard with landscaping offering an abundance of places to play hide and seek among the tall trees and lush shrubbery in this informal oasis.

Built in 1961 and extensively updated by the current owners, the Burns’ property sits atop a ridge offering

spectacular views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The landscape includes numerous gardens, courtyards, pergolas and terraces featuring a variety of plantings including lace-leaf Japanese maples, lilacs, roses, salvia, daffodils, tulips, boxwood, azaleas, dogwoods, and *Pieris japonica*. An exposed brick sunroom opens on to a large terrace with outdoor fireplace and an outdoor kitchen, which overlooks a reflecting pool centered by a heron sculpture designed by Charlottesville native Caroline Hanson. Across the sprawling lawn is a stone pool house with a seating area and wet bar. Pool plantings feature succulents, boxwood and large containers. The putting green offers mountain vistas.



***UVA Pavilion gardens, Carr’s Hill and Morea – Monday, April 25***

The Garden Club of Virginia restored the University’s Pavilion Gardens and their surrounding serpentine walls with proceeds from Historic Garden Week, beginning with the West Pavilion gardens in 1947. The serpentine walls were part of Thomas Jefferson’s Academical Village. The Garden Club of Virginia hired noted Colonial Williamsburg landscape architects Alden Hopkins and Donald Parker to design the Colonial Revival gardens. The West Pavilion Gardens were restored between 1947 and 1953 and the East Lawn between 1960 and 1965. Work in the gardens continues to be supported by the Garden Club of Virginia.

This important fundraiser began when a flower show organized by Garden Club of Virginia volunteers

raised funds to save trees planted by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Two years later, the first Historic Garden Week tours were organized, supporting landscape work at Kenmore in Fredericksburg. Proceeds from local tours continue to fund the restoration and preservation of the Commonwealth's significant historic public gardens, two annual research fellowships, as well as a new initiative with Virginia's state parks. "As we approach our 2020 Centennial we are pleased to be supporting Virginia State Parks. The Garden Club of Virginia was instrumental in establishing these parks and enthusiastically embraces our renewed association," explains Jeanette Cadwallender, President of the Garden Club of Virginia.



The president of the University of Virginia makes her home at Carr's Hill. When it was being built from 1907 to 1909, the south lawn was terraced to create a green sweep of grass and trees down to University Avenue. In subsequent years, the gardens around the house have evolved to suit each president's needs and tastes, while the front lawn retains its historic charac-

ter. To the east is a parterre herb garden enclosed by a low square of boxwood. It combines the circular and rectilinear contours of the upper and middle sections of Pavilion Garden IV. Crepe myrtle, viburnum, and fragrant narcissus line the path to the house, screening the kitchen patio. The brick paths leading to the terrace are lined with azaleas, rhododendron, mountain laurel and burford holly. Anemone and crocus herald the arrival of spring, along with the *Jeffersonia diphylla*, or twinleaf, a native plant named for the University's founder, Thomas Jefferson. These woodland plants are in bloom on his birthday, April 13.

Also open on this final day of the Albemarle County tours, is the Morea Garden. It features a selection of shrubs and trees surrounding a historic Federal period home built in 1835. The house is named after the mulberries cultivated for experiments with silkworms. There are large old trees and a beautifully landscaped botanical collection, started by the Albemarle Garden Club in 1964. The spacious brick house was given to the University as a residence for distinguished visitors. It is the only surviving dwelling built by one of the original UVA faculty members. Its owner, John Patten Emmet, was the school's first professor of natural history.

**Visit [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org) for a complete schedule, to purchase tickets and for directions to tour areas and suggested itineraries. For information about the Albemarle-Charlottesville tour, local tour chairmen can be reached at [albemarle-charlottesville@vagardenweek.org](mailto:albemarle-charlottesville@vagardenweek.org)**

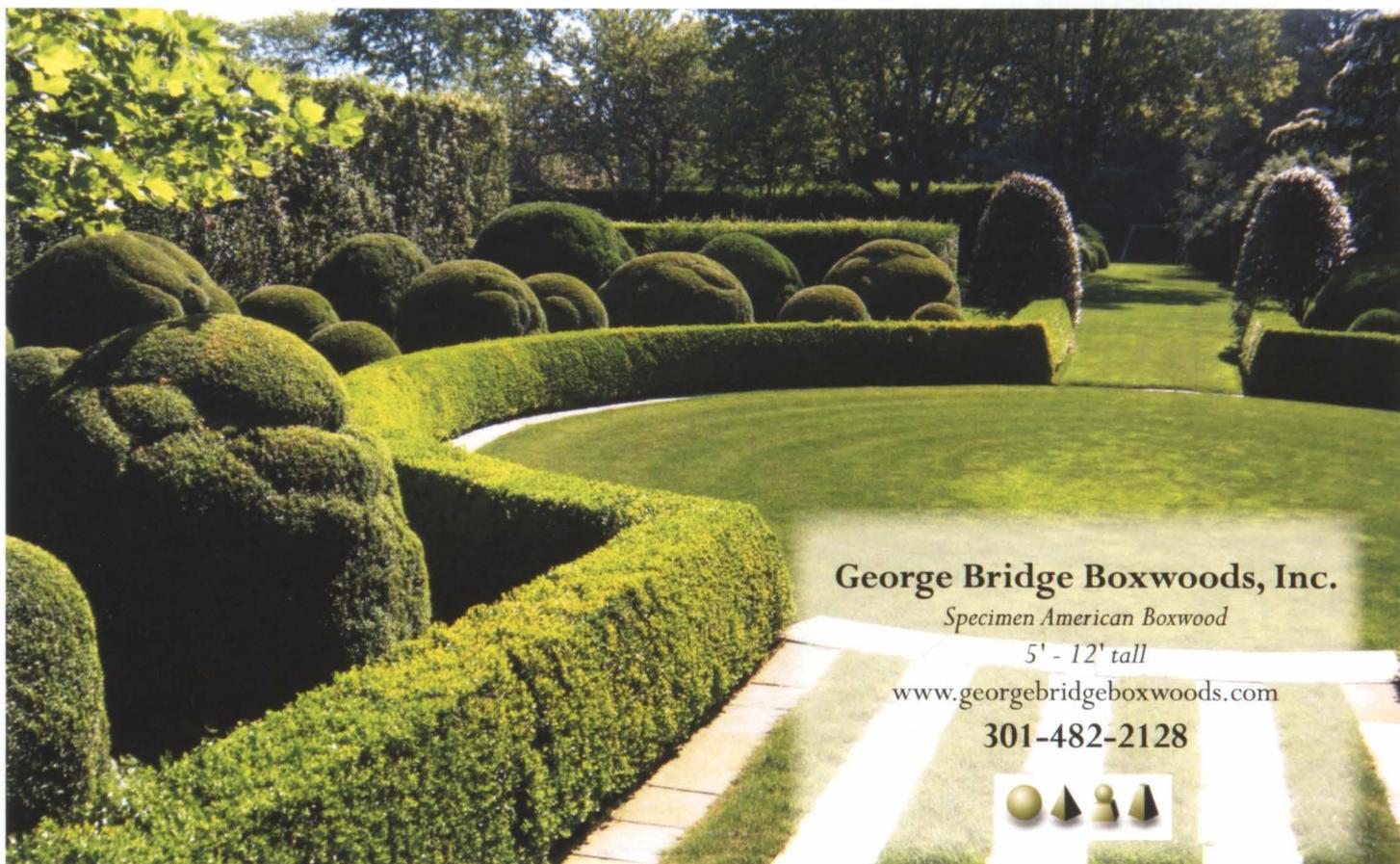


Photos courtesy of Sue Gouldman, the Rivanna Garden Club, Catriona Tudor Erler, and the Garden Club of Virginia



**PENNOYER  NEWMAN**  
DISTINCTIVE GARDEN POTS CAST FROM ESTATE ORIGINALS

200 LEXINGTON AVENUE [AT 32ND STREET] • FOURTH FLOOR, SUITE 416 • NEW YORK, NY 10016  
TO ORDER CALL 212/839-0500 • FAX 212/839-0501 • WWW.PENNOYERNEWMAN.COM



**George Bridge Boxwoods, Inc.**

*Specimen American Boxwood*

5' - 12' tall

[www.georgebridgeboxwoods.com](http://www.georgebridgeboxwoods.com)

301-482-2128





## **Wilson and Wilson Nursery, Inc.**

11978 State Hwy 80 South Burnsville, NC 28714

Roby and Michael Wilson

828-675-4914 Fax

828-675-4913 Office

828-284-0085 Michael Cell

Email: [robymwilson@gmail.com](mailto:robymwilson@gmail.com)

Quality Boxwood Since 1965



# *American Boxwood Society Bulletin Advertising*

---

Full Page Per Issue	\$900
Half Page	\$500
Quarter Page	\$250
Business Card	\$100

Send print read copy & fee to:  
[americanboxwoodsociety@gmail.com](mailto:americanboxwoodsociety@gmail.com)

# Williamsburg Convention 2016 "Legends and Legacies"

A Joint Convention of the ASA and ARS, April 20–24, 2016



**Governor's Palace Williamsburg**

We cordially invite you to Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia for a joint meeting of the Azalea Society of America and the American Rhododendron Society from April 20–24, 2016. In addition to the obvious historical attractions, expect tours of the historic areas, tours to public and private gardens in Richmond, Norfolk, and Gloucester, distinguished speakers, and a great plant sale. Registration materials and descriptive articles appear in this issue of *The Azalean*, but we encourage you to visit our website to plan your trip.

[www.arsasaconvention2016.org](http://www.arsasaconvention2016.org)



**Evergreen Azaleas at the Norfolk Botanical Garden**



**The Conservatory at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**



## L&H Enterprises



"Nursery Stock, Christmas Greenery"



P.O. Box 30 — 9181 W. Pine St  
Lowgap, N.C. 27024



Phone 336-352-4048

Fax 336-352-4642

[www.landh-enterprises.com](http://www.landh-enterprises.com)

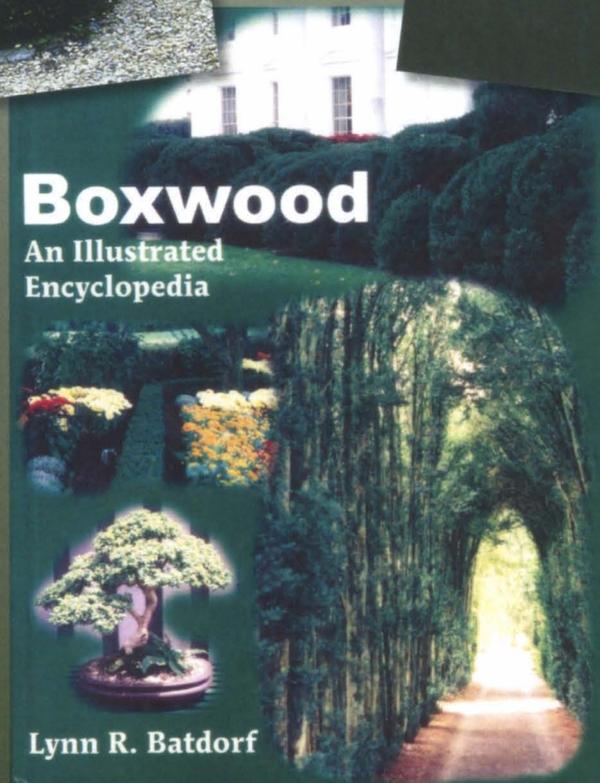
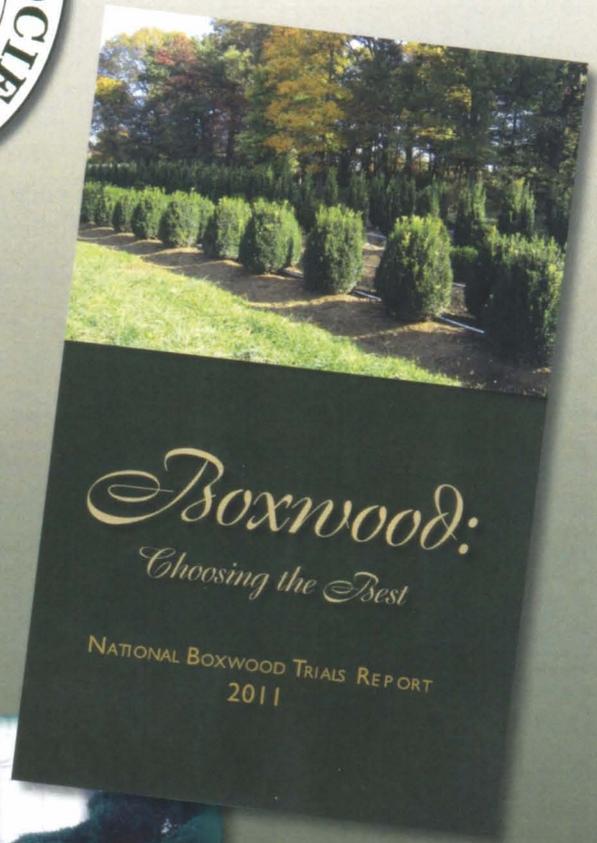
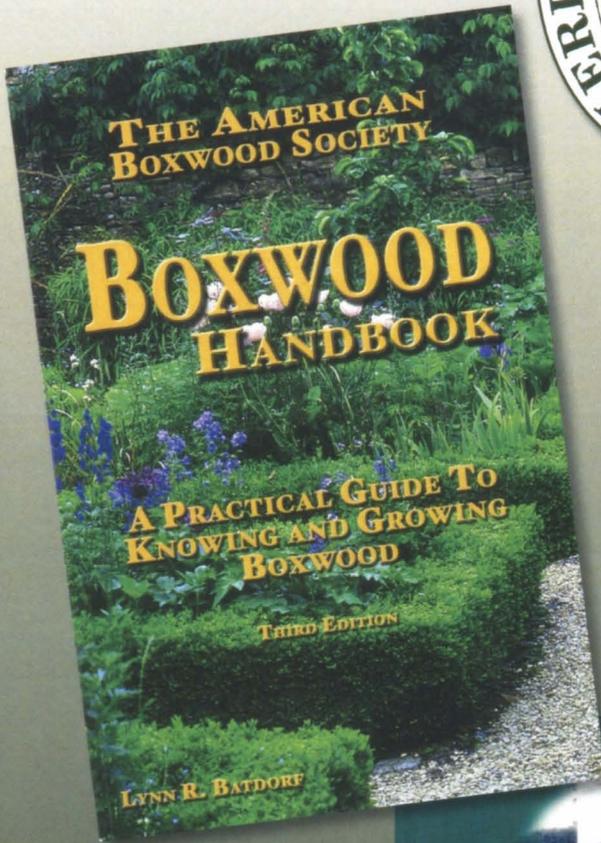
e-mail: [l\\_hevergreen@surry.net](mailto:l_hevergreen@surry.net)

**Kenneth Lowe**  
President

**Bobby Hice**  
Vice-President

**Kevin Lowe**  
Assistant Vice-President





Order Now! Essential Boxwood Reading!  
[www.boxwoodsociety.org](http://www.boxwoodsociety.org)