

The

JULY 1968

Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



The Little Garden — "Hortulus" — in the Bishop's garden of the Washington Cathedral. In summer, lilies bloom and sweet-scented herbs perfume the air in this replica of a medieval garden.

Boyce, Va.

Vol. 8 No. 1

Edited Under The Direction Of
THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

President ----- Rear Admiral Neill Phillips
 1st V. P. ----- Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr.
 Secretary-Treasurer ----- Mrs. Andrew C. Kirby

Directors ----- { Mr. Alden Eaton
 Rear Adm. Neill Phillips
 Dr. Henry T. Skinner
 Dr. W. R. Singleton
 Dr. J. B. Wilson
 Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting

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 Experimental Farm.

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 Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620

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 Va.

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The Boxwood Bulletin

JULY 1968

Vol. 8, No. 1

EDITOR — MRS. EDGAR M. WHITING

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NEWS NOTES OF THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

NEW MEMBERS

Added since April 1968

Bachman, Mrs. Robert L., 33 Monroe Street, Waterford, Conn. 06385
Bahn, Mrs. Edward F., 2527 N. Vermont St., Arlington, Va. 22207
Boden, Mrs. Harry Clark, Fairthorne, 29 West Park Place, Newark, Delaware 19711
Brisben, John M., Gravel Hill Plantation, Randolph, Va. 23962
Brown, Mrs. William Holmes, Purcellville, Va. 22132
Burrage, Mrs. William C., Hopefield, Warrenton, Va. 22186
Cooke, R. B., 401 Watts Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701
Cowden, Mrs. Dudley J., 304 Country Club Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514
Cronshaw, Wm. H., Church Hill, Maryland 21623
Folk, Prof. Ernest L., III, School of Law, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. 22901
Fulk, H. J., RFD 2, Broadway, Va. 22815
Hamilton, James W., Resident Director, North Wales, Warrenton, Va. 22186
Heaton, Clyde E., Airport Terminal Bldg., Greater Wilmington Airport, New Castle, Del. 19720
Hill, Mrs. Jay French, 30 River Ridge Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72207
Hughes, Frank J., 505 South Narberth Avenue, Merion Station, Pa. 19066
Kem, Mrs. James P., "Sherwood", The Plains, Va. 22171
Leedy, Dr. Paul D., 3690 Thirty-eighth St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20016
Lowrey, Mrs. Norris, Montross, Westmoreland County, Va. 22520
Mackay, John W., Factory Pond Road, Locust Valley, New York 11560
Maiden, Mrs. William, 101 Valley St., N.E., Abingdon, Va. 24210
Peace, S. T., Jr., 238 Andrews Avenue, Henderson, N. C. 27536

Peal, Miss Margaret W., Woodburn, Leesburg, Va. 22075
Rapp, Mrs. Robert, 2107 Link Road, Lynchburg, Va. 24503
Reed, David B., Box 103, Dayton, New Jersey 08810
Schiller, Morgan B., Wye House, RD 1, Easton, Maryland 21601
Shands, Miss Letitia C., P.O. Box 64, Courtland, Va. 23837
Smith, David, Catesby, Middleburg, Va. 22117
Stevenson, Thomas, 6900 Mornington Road, Dundalk, Maryland 21222
Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L., 223 West Sycamore St., Chase City, Va. 23924
Wheat, Robert W., III, 11101 Gunston Road, Lorton, Va. 22079

The Beder Gartnerskole, Beder, Denmark has been added to the list of foreign horticultural institutions receiving THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN without charge. This was requested by the director of the school, Mr. Bent Klougart, who is also a garden editor of one of the leading Danish newspapers.

The libraries of a number of foreign arboreta and botanic gardens, from Argentina to Sweden and Russia, are now by request receiving complimentary subscriptions. Our international circulation is small but significant.

Col. T. E. McCracken, a charter member of ABS, has given the Society two young Boxwood plants showing an unusual characteristic; the leaves of new growth, each spring, are golden yellow. They turn completely green as they mature, with no spots or edges of gold. Col. McCracken obtained the parent plant for his garden at "Tosalma", Glen Allen, Virginia, from the Appalachian Nurseries at Waynesboro, Va. There the cultivar was called simply, "Golden variant".

These two plants have been added to the Boxwood Society's collection at Blandy Farm, with sincere thanks to Col. McCracken for these examples of the infinite variety of the genus *Buxus*.

ON THE COVER

Hortulus — "The Little Garden" — the intimate portion of the larger boxwood garden known as "The Bishop's Garden", at the Washington Cathedral. Designed along the simplest lines of a medieval garden; a square enclosure of old boxwood, and at the intersection of crosswalks the ancient font of Charlemagne's time (9th century) set in an inner circle of boxwood. At the time when lilies bloom white above the beds of sweet-scented herbs, the rolling contours of the old plants are softened by new growth. From a CATHEDRAL HILLSIDE AND ITS GARDENS, 1931, by the late Mrs. G. C. F. Bratenahl; by permission of All-Hallows Guild and the authorities of Washington Cathedral.

Minutes of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society

One hundred and twenty-six members of the American Boxwood Society and a number of guests assembled at Morven Park, Leesburg, Virginia, on May 8, 1968, for the 8th Annual Meeting. Registration began at 10 A.M., but many arrived earlier to tour the grounds and see the beautiful Marguerite G. Davis Memorial Boxwood Gardens.

A display of boxwood varieties brought by Mr. John D. Richardson from Fairfield, Berryville, Virginia, was arranged on the porch of the old mansion. It was a focal point of interest, and his "hybrid" plant of five different boxwoods (designed to point up the current confusion in boxwood nomenclature) was a real conversation piece for old friends and new. The weather was cooperative, with sunshine and temperatures reaching into the seventies.

The business meeting was called to order in the mansion at 11 A.M., with the President, Rear Admiral Neill Phillips, in the chair. Miss Cole, Secretary at Morven Park, supplied the following appropriate verses of Scripture to open the meeting. They were read by the President:

Isaiah 41:19. "I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the *box tree* together that they may see and know that the hand of the Lord hath done this"

Isaiah 60:13. "The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the pine tree and *the box* together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary"



Visitors to Morven Park stroll through the boxwood-bordered paths, set against a backdrop of magnolia grandiflora and native Virginia foliage.

The President welcomed the members and friends of the Society, and then introduced each of the officers and directors of the Society who were present. He expressed the deep regret of the Society for the loss by death of Mr. John M. Mitchell, a Director and Vice-President.

The day's program was announced to be in three parts; the business meeting to be followed by Mr. John Richardson's talk, with the afternoon session devoted to a panel discussion of the proposed joint horticultural research and development endeavor by the American Boxwood Society and the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation, Inc., at Morven Park.

The Minutes of the 7th Annual Meeting in May 1967 and the Treasurer's Report for 1966-67 were both approved as printed in the July 1967 issue of THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN, with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Clay B. Carr, Secretary-Treasurer at that time, for her excellent work in both capacities.

The Secretary-Treasurer's report for the 1967-1968 fiscal year was read and approved. (This report appears in this issue of the BULLETIN.)

The President reported that Mr. Woodson P. Houghton had telephoned a few hours earlier that he would be unable to be present because of sudden illness in his family. Mr. Houghton was to have explained the advantages of the recently completed incorporation of the American Boxwood Society as a non-profit educational and scientific organization, and its consequent tax-exempt status for gifts and dues, officially recognized by IRS. The President moved a vote of thanks, unanimously approved, to Mr. Houghton for his invaluable guidance and generous assistance to the Society in these two important and desirable steps. Mr. Houghton has declined payment for his legal services, and contributed the amount needed for payment of chartering fees.

The American Boxwood Society is now officially established as an educational and scientific organization, having become a non-stock, non-profit corporation on December 14, 1967. The fiscal year has been defined as running from May 1 through April 30.

A motion was unanimously passed that all Officers and Directors elected at the corporation's organization meeting (March 17, 1968) stand as elected until the end of the present Society year, or the next Annual Meeting. Officers are:

President ----- Rear Adm. Neill Phillips
1st V.P. ----- Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. Andrew C. Kirby

Each of the six directors, constituting the initial Board of Directors under the new Articles of Incorporation, . . . "shall serve for a term of three years and until his successor shall have been elected or appointed and qualified". The present Directors are:

Term
expires
Mr. Alden Eaton, Colonial Williamsburg, Va. 1970
Rear Adm. Neill Phillips, Upperville, Va. -- 1970

Dr. W. R. Singleton, Charlottesville, Va. --- 1969
Dr. Henry T. Skinner, Washington, D. C. --- 1970
Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting, Winchester, Va. --- 1969
Dr. J. B. Wilson, Morgantown, W. Va. ----- 1970
and *ex-officio*, Mr. Alan C. Caspar, Director, Blandly Experimental Farm.

Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting was elected to continue as editor of THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN, at the organization meeting.

Minutes of the organization meeting held on March 18, 1968 were read by the President and approved by a voice vote. These Minutes are to be entered in the official Minute Book of the American Boxwood Society by the Secretary, along with the Articles of Incorporation, the Certificate of Incorporation, and the By-Laws of the Society.

The President stated that the Society had come to Morven Park for this Annual Meeting for the purpose of trying to work out an arrangement for co-operating with Morven Park in a horticultural research and development program for boxwood. Ideas from the floor regarding this joint endeavor would be welcomed, and a panel headed by Mr. Otey would discuss in detail the purposes and recommendations at the afternoon session.

A letter from Mr. Henry Hohman about the persisting use of the popular but incorrect terms, "American" and "English" boxwood, was read by the President, but did not call for any immediate action on the part of the Society. This, and other letters recently received, appear in the MAIL BOX section of this issue of the BULLETIN.

Dr. Henry T. Skinner of the U. S. National Arboretum, spoke on the procedure for registering *Buxus* in accordance with the rules of the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants. He stated that Dr. Russell J. Seibert, Secretary of ISHS Commission for Horticultural Nomenclature and Registration, had invited the American Boxwood Society to take on the job of acting as the International Registration Authority for the genus *Buxus*. This would involve preparing and maintaining a list of all cultivar (variety) names which have been used for *Buxus* throughout the world, and keeping it up to date as new cultivars are added. The Directors had approved and tentatively accepted this responsibility for Registration, pending determination of the ability of the Society to meet its requirements, and approval of the Society's membership at an Annual Meeting.

The speaker for the day, Mr. John D. Richardson of Fairfield, Berryville, Virginia, was introduced by the President, His talk on rooting cuttings in a controlled environment was followed by slides showing the mist chamber set-up he has constructed at Fairfield. An informal question and answer period touched on rooting various plants, temperatures, methods of making cuttings, the use of fertilizers and mulches, drainage, etc. Mr. Richardson promised a more detailed account of his rapid rooting successes with the mist chamber for publication in the BULLETIN, and it appears on p. 10 of this issue.

The meeting recessed at 12:10 for luncheon, and reconvened at 1:15 P.M.

Mrs. Stanley Brown of Leesburg invited members and guests to visit two nearby gardens after the close of the meeting, her own at "Rockland", and that of Mrs. Robert H. Fletcher, where a planting of tree peonies was at the height of its bloom. (About 20 people later availed themselves of this cordial invitation).

Mr. Charles Otey gave a short history of Morven Park, and directions for the best route for a tour of the Boxwood Gardens.

Mr. Alan Caspar, Acting Director of Blandy Experimental Farm, headquarters for ABS, reported that the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia had not yet made any definite decision about future programs at Blandy Farm, but the Farm would continue to provide the Society with any office space desired, library facilities, maintain the boxwood nursery and assist the Society whenever possible.

A panel composed of Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., Prof. Albert S. Beecher, Mr. Alan Caspar, Mr. Alden Eaton, Dr. W. R. Singleton, Dr. Henry T. Skinner, Mr. John Richardson, Admiral Neill Phillips heard and commented on the following recommendations by Mr. Charles L. Otey, Resident Manager of Morven Park: for programs to be jointly sponsored by the American Boxwood Society and the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation, Inc.:

"The following areas of research and development in boxwood would present a very challenging and rewarding program to be jointly sponsored by The American Boxwood Society and The Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation, Inc.

1. Development of an approved, tested yearly program for cultural practices; feeding, spraying, pruning and plucking boxwood.
2. Preparing a standard set of recommendations for transplanting; to include the time of year, use of wilt proof in transplanting or as an anti-desiccant; special watering practices.
3. Standardizing the nomenclature of boxwood, including new introductions.
4. A project on winter hardiness of common and dwarf boxwood to determine factors which would prevent poor looking boxwood plants during the later winter months.
5. Propagate and grow selected plants in field plantings for research; establish test plots for this development.
6. Grow massive seedling populations of various boxwood clones, yielding valuable horticultural variants.
7. Establish our research development with a university, and grant fellowships to implement study and to present publications on our findings.

The American Boxwood Society and The Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation would prepare jointly a detailed study of a program for Morven Park, and present it to the Directors of the Boxwood Society and the Trustees of the Foundation prior to any undertaking.

This report will include the necessary requirements to implement a program of research and development on boxwood, yielding valuable information on this horticultural subject; and to promote a greater use of boxwood in the landscape.

Committee responsibility will include the following:

To implement the Research and Development program for Boxwood the following is a guideline for necessary requirements.

1. Land area for research and test plots. (Location factor important for drainage, soil, orientation, water resources). Size of area needed.
2. Propagation of selected plants from cuttings. Growing plants from seeds. Greenhouse production — bed production.
3. Acquire plants by gift or purchase to start a program immediately; planting cost, transportation, etc.; cash outlay.
4. Additional expenses for fellowships, research supplies and equipment, publications, etc. Agricultural equipment and supplies.
5. Full-time person to keep records, edit publications, promote programs and communicate with the public and the boxwood people."

The members of the panel discussed at some length the various recommendations, and how the Boxwood Society might participate in the joint venture.

At this point the President remarked that the joint endeavor would be a thrilling but staggering program, but that the present need was for correlating the program to be undertaken. He was of the opinion that the Society's 'housekeeping' should stay at Blandy Farm, with publication of the BOXWOOD BULLETIN to continue in the same location as before, but with the correlation program and everything connected with it to be administered from Morven Park.

Relative to correlating box programs, each member of the panel was invited to express his opinion as to the immediate and/or greatest need relating to boxwood. Possible projects suggested and discussed were:

— The need of a manual or list of standardized horticultural practices, prepared by a Committee on Horticultural Practices, in view of the number of inquiries received that pertain to feeding, spraying, diseases, soils, etc. The feasibility of recommending standard practices was questioned, since different areas or zones require different answers to many questions; and how was a committee to determine

what a standard practice should be? Various ideas offered were for test plots in various parts of the country, or some way to simulate the conditions of all zones for test plots, and to recommend approved practices by zones. Arrangements might be made with universities and land grant colleges in various parts of the country to work in cooperation with ABS on this.

— A need for scientific direction, such as a definite tie-in with an institution such as VPI, interested in horticulture, since any fellowships offered would require a place for work and study. Perhaps a part- or full-time director for the work in order to make some headway on the research and development programs.

Dr. John T. Baldwin, Jr., of the College of William and Mary, was appointed by the President to head a committee on Research and Development.

Mr. Alden Eaton of Colonial Williamsburg and Prof. Albert S. Beecher of Virginia Polytechnic Institute were appointed jointly to head a committee to correlate Boxwood Problems and Horticultural Practices.

Mr. John Richardson agreed tentatively to head a committee on Registration of *Buxus* Cultivars (International Registration Authority on the genus *Buxus*).

Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting, editor of the Boxwood Bulletin, suggested a plan for an Identification Book for Boxwood, a project to be worked out by Mr. John Richardson. Pages in the Bulletin would show in exact size and if possible, color, a sprig of one boxwood cultivar, with description and history, and a picture showing the characteristic form or forms of the mature plant. These pages might eventually be made into a book, either by combining them in a binder, or making a separate book by offset printing. This was discussed with suggestions from the floor as to the use of color plates, size of the book, financing by advance subscription or a possible grant. A pocket size book was suggested as convenient, and this idea was extended to possible books on boxwood culture, diseases and pests, etc.; covering each subject by zones, separately.

Mr. C. B. Clements, a member present from Toronto, Canada, gave a short resume of his experience with boxwood in the sometimes —20° temperatures on the Niagara escarpment where he lives. His opinion is that plants are not damaged so much by intense cold and high winds as by improperly drained soil.

It was agreed that the correlation of all activities pertaining to joint endeavors of ABS and Morven Park would be handled through Mr. Otey at Morven Park, assisted by the Officers and Directors of The American Boxwood Society.

The President expressed the Society's thanks to Mr. Otey and his staff at Morven Park for the use of the facilities there, and for their help which contributed so greatly to the success of the meeting; to Mrs. Kirby and Mrs. Whiting for their help with the preparations for the meeting; to the members of the

panel for their participation, and to Mr. Richardson for his talk and boxwood exhibit.

The President reminded members that Mrs. Whiting would like to have material for THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
 MRS. ANDREW C. KIRBY
 Secretary-Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

to The American Boxwood Society
 Eighth Annual Meeting, May 8, 1968

Balance on hand as of			
April 30, 1967 (reported) --	\$2,618.50		
Plus adjustments:			
Check No. 25A, \$5.25—out			
Check book adjustment of			
reported balance, \$12.08 --		17.33	\$2,635.83
		<hr/>	
<i>Receipts</i>			
Memberships	\$2,117.00		
Additional			
Bulletins	150.10		
Wagenknecht Lists	2.50		
Gifts	8.00		
Lunches	239.55		2,517.15
		<hr/>	<hr/>
			\$5,152.98
<i>Disbursements</i>			
The Boxwood Bulletin			
Printing	960.00		
Cuts, photos, etc.	516.68		
Mailing: Postage			
& Envelopes	37.70		
Copyrights	24.00	\$1,538.38	
		<hr/>	
Office Expenses			
Stationery, postage			
phone calls, form			
letters, billing, etc.		201.87	
Annual meeting exp. '67			
Box lunches	229.25		
Lunch extras	4.46		
Help	10.00	243.71	
		<hr/>	
Refunds (2)		3.70	1,987.66
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Purchased Certificate of Deposit #1025, Bank of Clarke County, March 28, 1968 ---	\$2,000.00		
Transfer of funds to Savings Account, Bank of Clarke County, March 28, 1968 ---		800.00	2,800.00
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance on hand in the checking account, Bank of Clarke County, April 30, 1968 ----			\$ 365.32
			<hr/>
Deposits to the checking account, Bank of Clarke County, May 1 and 6, 1968 -----			\$1,166.85
Invoice on hand to be paid:			
Carr Publishing Co. (5/1/68)	\$329.96		
Duff's (lunches 5/8/68) ----	255.00		
Duff's delivery charge -----	5.00		
		<hr/>	<hr/>
			\$589.96

MEMBERSHIP

Honorary Life Members

Dr. Edgar Anderson, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Walter S. Flory, Dept. of Biology, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Mrs. J. B. McCarty, "Waverly", Delaplane, Va.

Mr. A. B. Price, Arlington, Va.

Prof. A. G. Smith, Blacksburg, Va.

Dr. Orland E. White, Charlottesville, Va.

Paid Life Members	(\$100.00) ---	8
Sustaining Members	(\$ 25.00) ---	4
Contributing Members ...	(\$ 10.00) ---	48
Regular Members	(\$ 3.00) ---	467
Non-Members	(\$ 5.00)	
	(Libraries, etc.)	26

		553

Garden Counselors and editors of several leading newspapers are given the Boxwood Bulletin at no charge.

Agricultural Departments of some foreign countries are also on the "no charge" list.

MRS. ANDREW C. KIRBY
Secretary - Treasurer



New plantings around the sundial in the Memorial Boxwood Gardens. Time will mellow them into harmony with their older companions.

Boxwood and Its Legends

A Chapter From

"SHRUBS IN THE GARDEN"

By VERNON QUINN

(Elizabeth) Vernon Quinn died in 1962 at the age of eighty-one. Her last ten years were spent in a retreat back in the woods in Dutchess County, N. Y. There she had transplanted all the native wild flowers, and there she continued to the last to produce her delightful books.

Many are still selling, some more than in her lifetime. This is true of her *Picture Map Geographies*, intended for the school child but enjoyed by adults. Brought up in the mountain regions of Virginia, she traced her lifelong fondness for Irish and other folklore to the old "tinpedlar man" who came regularly to the back door in her childhood, and always had time to tell outlandish tales of "the little green men".

She was steeped in the folklore of growing things, and wrote many books on the legends of garden flowers and wild flowers, of vegetables, shrubs and even leaves, roots and seeds. The accompanying chapter on Boxwood legends is taken from "SHRUBS IN THE GARDEN AND THEIR LEGENDS", published in 1940 by Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York. Permission for its publication in the *BULLETIN* was given by her literary executor, Mr. Davis Quinn.

BOXWOOD

Apollo was at his favorite pastime, pursuing a lovely wood-nymph. The nymph was fleet of foot and lithe in dodging through the forest, but suddenly she tripped and fell. With Apollo reaching to grasp her, she cried upon Diana for aid: and instantly she was turned to a bush with large and showy flowers.

Chagrined at losing his prey, Apollo peevishly stripped off the blossoms and crushed them underfoot. "Now see whether any god will notice you!" he said.

Being no more powerful than her brother, Diana could not replace the showy bloom; henceforth the flowers must be tiny and inconspicuous, but she decked the shrub with lustrous green leaves and decreed that its beauty of foliage should never die.

So we have the *Buxus sempervirens*, "everlasting box", which through millenniums of time has

been grown in gardens and is the common boxwood of today.

"The great Boxe is a faire great tree", according to Dodoens, "with a big bodie or stemme, that is harde, and meete for to make divers and sundrie kindes of instrumentes; for the timber thereof is firme, hard and thicke, very good to be wrought and cut all manner wayes".

The ancient Greeks called a small chest or box *pyxos*, especially the carved and polished boxes which held perfumed unguents; and when they began to make these little boxes of the hard and beautiful wood of a common shrubby tree, they named the shrub *pyxos*, from its use.

To the Romans this became *buxus*. Any many centuries later, when the shrub became known in England, *buxus* was readily turned into "box". *Buxus* is now its generic name.

Long before the Christian era, man had turned from the mere utilitarian use of the wood of this shrub to the recognition of its unique beauty in the garden.

When Pliny was writing his *Natural History* in the first century, boxwood not only was popular as an ornamental shrub, but it was being clipped into fantastic shapes; for every gardener of any importance in Pliny's day was a *topiarius*, especially skilled in the art of clipping box into monstrous animals or huge green birds.

Topiary work was at its height among the Romans of that time: and it had a great revival in England in the seventeenth century. Green animals of incredible form, their trimmed twigs like so many startling bristles, stood rigidly on the lawn. Green ships with widespread sails were anchored in a grassy green sea. Lush green armchairs, clipped out of living box, stood beside green, growing-box tables. Pyramids, globes, columns, a vast assortment of atrocities, were the order of the day.

"I was led to a pretty garden," Evelyn recorded in his Diary in March, 1644, "having at the entrance a skreene at an exceeding height, accurately cut in topiary worke."

This boxwood which lent itself so genially to mutilation, and is so familiar in gardens today, is a native of southern Europe, of North Africa and western Asia.

It is a native also of China, and may indeed have originated in that land, and at some remote period have been sent by the ancient trade-routes to Western Asia. Its leaves were highly esteemed by Chinese physicians; and medicinal herbs formed an important part of every cargo shipped overland by camel caravan, or by the even more dangerous sea-route.

From Western Asia the shrub, first as medicine, then for its exceptional wood, would soon have spread along the shores of the Mediterranean, passing from one bartering people to another.

As medicine, the box apparently was not in great repute in the western world, and by the sixteenth century it had decidedly fallen from grace, as one authority indignantly tells us:

“Boxe is not used in medicine, and amongst the Ancient writers a man shall find nothing to any purpose.

“Notwithstanding, there be some ignorant women (which doe advance them selves & take in hand to cure Diseases that they know not) who doe minister the croppes of the Boxe tree to people sicke of the Apoplexie, which is contrarie to all reason, for the Boxe taken into the body, doth not onely hurt the brayne, but is very hurtfull for the brayne when it is but smelled to.”

The box's “odoar of the grave” may have had something to do with the shrub's long association with the dead. More likely, and possibly dating back to the ancients, who had dedicated it to Pluto, it was the evergreen leaves which symbolized life everlasting for the loved ones who were gone.

In England's North country there was a curious custom to which Wordsworth refers. A bowl of boxwood sprays stood on a table beside the door, and when the funeral service had been read, everyone took a spray from the bowl as he passed by, and carried it to cast into the open grave.

“The basin of Boxwood, just six months before,
Had stood on the table at Timothy's door;
A coffin through Timothy's threshold had passed.
One child did it bear, and that was Timothy's
last.”

In France branches of boxwood were strewn over a freshly made grave; in many countries the grave was enclosed with a hedge of dwarf-box. Sometimes a tall boxwood was planted and then clipped to form a cross of living green.

The centuries-old association of boxwood and graves would naturally give rise to ghostly legends. A murderer or a suicide, it was believed, could never rest in his grave; nor could those who had concealed treasure and died without revealing its hiding-place. Less grievous offenders were merely the “unhappy dead” who must return for a while to their old haunts. But no ghost could rise from a grave lined with boxwood.

Too often, alas, this precaution was not taken. But fortunately most of the spectres who came back

to harass the living could be “laid” by having a preacher exhort them and then bid them stay under a certain rock or at the bottom of a deep pond, until they were released from terrestrial bondage.

Occasionally there was a stubborn ghost who refused to be laid, or a frolicsome ghost who paid no heed; and for these, recourse must be made to boxwood. Such a ghost was Benjie Bane.

In mortal life he had been a respected citizen, and when the village collected a large sum of money for charity, he it was who was chosen to take it to the authorities in London. But in London Benjie was tempted, and every shilling was spent on a gay and roisterous time. Then, too late, his conscience troubled him sorely; and when he died his troubled spirit could find no peace.

But instead of being a properly remorseful ghost, he was a very mischievous one, frightening people half out of their wits with his sprightly behavior; and at last no less than sixteen clergy were called together to lay him. The invisible Benjie was present; for he twirled the nose of one, he snatched the wig off another, he pinched the ear of the next — his pranks went the round of them all.

Exhortation, objurgation, incantation, were of no avail. Only boxwood remained as their last resort. And the preachers thought up a clever scheme to ensnare this so clever ghost. There was a deep pool not far away, with a short, steep slope leading down to it. They wove a blanket of boxwood branches and, watching their chance, threw it over the spot where Benjie was at his mischief. He was caught in its meshes. As everyone knows, a spectre can pass through a solid oaken door, but in boxwood he is helpless.

They tied a weight to the blanket and placed it on a lively colt. Then, armed with boxwood switches, two of them led the colt to the steep slope that rimmed the pool — and suddenly thwacked him mightily. Under the impetus of his start the colt shot straight into the water, and when he floundered about in swimming, the boxwood blanket was dislodged and sank, and Benjie's ghost was forever laid.

On St. Paul's Day and St. Barnabas' Day the churches were decorated with box; and box was often used on Palm Sunday. In Low Dutch, an early chronicler records, “Boxe is called of the common people Palmboom, that is to say, the Palme tree, by-cause vpon Palme Sunday they carie it in their Churches, and sticke it round about in their houses.”

Herrick mentions the old custom of replacing all Christmas greens on Candlemas Day with boxwood boughs, which were kept up until Easter Eve.

“Down with the Rosemary and Bays,
Down with the Mistletoe;
Instead of Holly now upraise
The greener Box for show.”

In the Pyrenees there is an old monastery. When workmen were employed to build it, tradition says,

they searched far and wide for a suitable site. Suddenly a white pigeon flew low over them, bearing in its beak a gleaming white cross.

As the wondering men followed the bird, they saw it light on a box tree and instantly fly upward toward heaven; but it had left the cross lying in the boxwood branches. Taking that for an omen, they built the Monastery of St. Christine where the box tree stood.

"The flowers of the Boxe growe among the leaves vpon the little small branches," Dodoens says; and he might have added that they are quite tiny and inconspicuous, with no corollas, only greenish stamens or pistils. Some have stamens only, and usually these are lower on the shrub than the others, which have pistils only.

The reason for this is quite clear. It is an assurance that the boxwood flowers will be fertilized by wind, and wind alone. The pollen cannot fall from the lower stamens upon the higher pistils; and with neither fragrance nor corolla to attract bees and other nectar-seekers, the boxwood is completely passed by. But the wind stretches up the dust-light pollen and scatters it, and enough falls on the stigmas to produce an abundance of fruit.

"After the flowers commeth the seede which is blacke, inclosed in round cuppes or huskes, with three feet or legges lyke the fashion of a kitchen pot wherein meat is prepared and boyled."

Gerarde likens the fruit to a three-legged "brasse or boyling pot," while Parkinson, less accurately, says it has "four hornes." Actually, the small green fruit is a three-cornered capsule, with slight protuberances at the corners.

"The glory of Lebanon," we read in Isaiah, "shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary." And through all the centuries since that was written, even down to the present day, box has been the most popular of all shrubs that are grown for the beauty of the foliage alone.

Some of the old boxwood gardens of colonial days, in Maryland and Virginia especially, their charm too precious to be destroyed for modern landscaping, remain to this day. To walk through them is like walking on hallowed ground. But perhaps it is the tang of the boxwood, that odor like none other, which captures the fancy and conjures up the generations who have walked there through all the gone years.

To most of us the pungent odor of box is delightful, even stimulating; but possibly there are some who agree with sixteenth-century Gerarde: "The leaves of the Boxe tree are of an evill and lothsome smell."

This tall European box has an interesting low variety, also from Europe, which for many hundreds of years has been known as dwarf-box.

"The smaller Boxe is a litle bushe, not lightly exceeding the height of two foote, but spreadeth his branches abroad, the whiche most commonly doe

growe very thicke from the roote, and sometimes they growe out of a small trunk or stubbed stemme."

In the days when formal gardens were laid out in intricate and very exact geometrical patterns, in love-knots and concentric circles and a bewildering maze of crisscrosses, the low box was indispensable as an edging.

"The dwarfe Boxe," says another of those venerable authorities, "is in excellent vse to border vp a knot, or the long beds in a Garden, being a marvailous fine ornament thereunto, in regard it both groweth lowe, is ever greene, and by cutting may bee kept in what manner every one please."

After being the "dwarf-box" for so many centuries, this low shrub from the Old World has had to give up its name — all because of an upstart from Japan. The Japanese dwarf-box, introduced about 1860, is so popular in American gardens that, to avoid confusion, the European dwarf-box has been renamed "edging-box."

Should you be in doubt as to which one you are harboring, look at the leaves. Those of the Japanese dwarf-box are broader above the middle than below it; while the leaves of the Old World species are broader below the center. Also, the foliage of the Japanese shrub is a much lighter green than that of the common box and its low variety.

Of the thirty or more species of *Buxus*, only these two, each with many varieties, are commonly grown in the garden — the Japanese *B. microphylla* and the European *B. sempervirens*.

"The woode of the Boxe tree is vsed in many kindes of small workes among Turners, because it is hard, close and firme, and as some have said the rootes are much more, in regard of the divers waves and crooked veines running through it."

The wood of the common box is so compact and fine-grained that it is in great demand for the manufacture of mathematical instruments, flutes, flageolets and other wind instruments. It is a delicate pale yellow and can be beautifully polished. Its denseness and the evenness of its graining have made it valuable to wood-engravers; all the old masters in this art used boxwood.

Turkey boxwood, from a large tree of the Mediterranean islands and the Levant, is as widely used in manufacturing as common boxwood, but it is not as excellent in quality.

Boxwood roots were at one time used in medicine; but, as an early writer points out, "They are more fit for dagger hafts, boxes, and such like uses whereat the trunk or bodie serveth, then to make medicine; though foolish Emperickes and old Women Leaches doe minister it."

But even in those days boxwood had its pleasant uses, aside from the lovely hedges and the monstrous topiary creations, for, we are told, "The leaves and branches serve both Sommer and Winter to decke up houses withall."

ROOTING BOXWOOD CUTTINGS

By JOHN D. RICHARDSON

Boxwood propagation falls into two categories: sexual reproduction by germination of seed (plants so reproduced will often not grow true), and vegetative propagation such as grafting, layering or cuttings. Grafting involves the ability of related plants to grow together as one plant when properly united. Cuttings or layering depend upon the plant's ability to send out roots from an injured surface, or sometimes from a joint as in layering. In layering, after rooting, the rooted parts are separated from the parent plant and continue growth as separate individual plants.

The principal concern of this article is the most common method of boxwood propagation, that of rooting cuttings. There has been a great deal of refinement of this process since the days of the Greek horticulturist Theophrastus who utilized the best of nature's elements down to the present day of artificial environmental controlled growth chambers. We have such a machine at Fairfield which is most elaborate, involves considerable capital outlay and is best suited for the commercial grower. It is an aluminum insulated building eight by twelve feet containing racks for 168 aluminum trays. Light is furnished by four six foot Grolux fluorescent tubes and the temperature is controlled by a combination heater-air conditioner. A timer cycle can be preset to furnish misting as often as desired. I shall describe a simpler method that is more practical for the hobbyist and can be expanded into a commercial operation with good results.

First, it is well to realize the tremendous potential of controlled environment growing. This is just a fancy phrase for providing the most beneficial phases of the necessary elements in their proper degree to best stimulate plant growth: i.e., humidity, temperature, light and air circulation. At our nursery we estimate that we speed up nature's process by 800%! To explain: there are 365 days in a year, half of which are normally winter or fringe days. Half of what is left is usually comprised of extremes or deficiencies of humidity, sunlight, moisture and wind. Remember that all these elements must be in proper balance with each other at the same time.

	365 possible growing days
less —	182 winter and fringe days
	183 remaining days
less —	97 extremes of temperature, light, wind and moisture.
	92 remaining ideal growing days

With controlled environment chambers we can produce 365 twenty four hour days, or the equivalent of 730 ideal growing days.

730 divided by 92 equals 8 - or 800%!

The simplified method that we shall discuss is a compromise of controlled growth chambers and has given us good results in producing rooted cuttings in 19 days. In the growth chamber we could expect results in 11 to 13 days. At this point you may ask why the growth chamber? It has a capacity of fifty to seventy five thousand cuttings per month in a small space of eight by twelve feet and involves less labor and attention.

To get down to details of laying out your propagation bench decide on the space available and the size you wish your bench to be. If you have a small greenhouse so much the better as you can utilize available sunlight to supplement your artificial light, and you will also probably already have a bench. Let us assume for the benefit of those who don't have greenhouses that we will set up in the basement. A large discarded kitchen type table is an ideal starting point. Nail boards around the edge to form a lip extending five inches above the table which provides a well for the rooting medium. The bottom of the table should have small holes drilled in it about every square foot to provide a certain amount of aeration and drainage. Or if the joints of the table top are loose enough so that it is not air and water tight, forget the holes. Do not use a formica or linoleum top table that is water tight. The next step is to provide bottom heat for your cuttings. A most satisfactory method is heat tape which can



A rooting bed with thermostat raised for better visibility. It is normally placed in the rooting medium.

be purchased from most any hardware store. This tape is used by farmers and plumbers for preventing exposed pipes from freezing in the winter time. It is not expensive and comes in varying lengths. Our store sells an 18 foot length for \$4.40 and a separate thermostat for \$6.95. It is also waterproof and can be buried in the rooting medium without fear of a short circuit. Do not purchase the kind of tape with a built-in thermostat as these are usually preset for 35° and are not adjustable. Procure a separate heat tape thermostat control. Both of these units operate on 110 volt house current. Depending on the size of your bench you may need more than one tape to cover it. The tape should be laid out on the bottom of the bench in parallel lines zigzagged back and forth three inches apart. It is well to tack the tape down at each end of the bends so that it will stay in place. To do this place the tacks in the center of the tape so that they will not penetrate the resistance cables at each edge of the tape. The tape is easily penetrated with a small carpet tack or desk type staple gun. If after measuring your table you find that you need more tape than the longest piece your store supplies you can add more pieces and join them with a common house type multiple socket which you will plug into the thermostat.

For the next step fill the bench with rooting medium. We use a mixture of one half coarse sand and one half peat moss by volume. Sometimes peat moss is hard to pulverize when it is in bale form. I find that by putting chunks of it in a pail or tub I can stir it with a garden hose when the nozzle is adjusted to a high pressure stream and it breaks up readily. It is then easy to mix with sand. Perlite or other such mediums can also be used mixed with sand. Place this mixture on the bench over the heat tape and five inches deep. The bed should be even and compressed so your cuttings will stand up.

Now we come to a slightly sticky problem, regulation of the thermostat. Unless your thermostat has an accurate temperature index which is unlikely in the cheaper types, you will have to do some experimenting. If it does have the accurate index, set it at 70°. It will then go on at 70° and off at about 78° as these thermostats have a lag. If there is no temperature index you probably have a small metal box with a little red light and a small adjusting screw inset in a little hole. The screw determines at what temperature the tape will heat up. Place the thermostat in a room that is 70° and leave it for at least five minutes as it will take it that long to seek room temperature. Now plug it into a wall fixture and plug a table lamp into it. By turning the adjusting screw to the right or left the table lamp should turn on at one particular spot. When it does then back off on the adjusting screw until the light goes off again. Then turn the screw again the opposite way very slowly until the light just goes on and stop there. You now have the thermostat set to turn the tape on at any temperature under 70°. It will usually stay on up to about 78°, in as much as it has considerable lag. There is one more important detail and that is where you put the thermostat. It registers air temperature and if not properly placed, will not relate to the rooting medium temperature. The surest way



A tray of boxwood cuttings in growth chamber. They will root in about 14 days.



A tray of rooted cuttings removed from the growth chamber.



A rooted cutting of Buxus Sempervirens 20 days old.



A closeup of the root system on a boxwood cutting.

of controlling the rooting medium would be to bury the thermostat in the rooting medium but this might cause a short circuit when you water the cuttings. The best way I have found is to wrap the thermostat in polyethelene and put it on top of the rooting medium covered with a large flower pot. This will also enable you to see the red light through the hole in the pot. This red light tells when the thermostat is in the on position. We did not use it to make the original adjustment because it is hard to see in daylight, hence the table lamp. Feeling the heat tape to see if it has turned on is not practical as it takes quite a time for it to heat up when the current starts to flow. The whole purpose of this seemingly complicated explanation is to insure that you have bottom heat between 70° and 80° at all times.

Next we must have water. An ideal condition is to have a fine dew on the leaves of the cuttings at all times. This can be accomplished with an expensive moisturestat that turns on an electrical water valve and sprays the cuttings through fine nozzles whenever they dry out. There is another and cheaper compromise to the same result with a timer to turn on the electrical water valve at preset intervals. You still need a water valve (\$17.50 approx.) and a timer (\$10.00 approx.) and nozzles with hose (.75¢ per nozzle approx.). A good moisturestat costs from \$50.00 up. Actually, it is simpler and cheaper to spray by hand as often as possible without too much sacrifice in performance time. For those who do not wish to get so sophisticated at first, results are quite satisfactory with a good thorough watering once a day. If you wish to conserve the moisture a polyethelene cover over the table will prove very efficient as long as you have it two to three feet above the table and air it out every few days.

The final phase of this project is to supply adequate light requirements. Sylvania manufactures a fluorescent tube called Gro-Lux in numerous lengths. The six foot size should be adequate for a kitchen table type bench. My experience indicates that one tube 10 inches above the bed will serve an area six to eight inches on each side. So if your bed is six feet long and three feet wide three tubes should suffice. We have recently found that it is well to supplement this light with regular incandescent bulbs. I have no exact figures on how much wattage is needed but have learned that Gro-Lux tubes do not produce the far red in the spectrum that is needed for quick growth stimulation. Sources at the agricultural station at Beltsville have confirmed this to me. Rather than leave this question up in the air let me say that we are using 30 watts of incandescent light for each four foot Gro-Lux tube. Any ordinary light fixture such as a goose neck lamp will serve. I might also add that we still got results without the incandescent. Until there is more definitive information from the agricultural sources this phase is best played by ear. If you are operating in a green house you could eliminate all the artificial light without too noticeable a lag in rooting time. Your Gro-Lux tubes can be suspended over the table in fixtures provided by your supplier.

You are now ready to plant the cuttings. And let me state that there are more theories on how to take cuttings and when than Mr. Carter has pills. I have

followed all of them that I have heard of and they all worked. I have also ignored every theory and I got results. I have taken cuttings in every month of the year and found no traceable difference in results. I used to use rooting hormones and make all kinds of fancy knife cuts in the stem.

I have evolved down to a simple method. Take a six inch branch near the top of the plant and without too much new growth on it. Then strip at least half of the bottom leaves off, preferably two thirds. Insert these in your rooting bed about three inches deep and one half inch apart. I use a board the width of the table to indent an even line for my cutting rows and make these rows about two to three inches apart. If you operate in a greenhouse be sure to lay out your rows perpendicular to the path of the sun. In this way each row will not block off the light from the row behind it. In other words the sun can shine up and down between each row. Good luck and be sure to have a place ready for your rooted cuttings as the whole operation starts to expand from this point on. Put the rooted cuttings in small peat pots and keep watered, heated and lighted until warm weather, when you can set them out. One way to tell when your cuttings are rooted is to give a slight tug on the cutting. If it is rooted it will resist and if not will come out of the medium readily. For the ones that do not root when most of your bed has rooted, give them 10 days more and if still not rooted throw them out. It's not worth worrying with them.

In conclusion may I say that the above information is offered as a suggested method of rooting cuttings, based on experience, and is not intended as the last word in technical information. I am sure there are many improvements that more learned readers could offer and I would welcome them.



A bed of cuttings placed in peat pots after rooting. Will transplant outdoors in Spring. Good growth is achieved in greenhouse during the winter.

All photographs by Mr. Richardson.

EDITORIAL URGINGS:

Although ABS annual Meetings are always well attended, it is a matter of regret that the majority of our members cannot join us each May. To keep them in touch with the progress of the Society, and as useful reference material even for those who have come to every meeting, the Minutes and Treasurer's Report are printed in full in the July issue of each year.

We hope you will take time to read them carefully and also to consider the letters in THE MAIL BOX, which contain suggestions for various projects for future action.

The Boxwood Society enters on a new phase of development with the important step of incorporation. We need the help of every member, to plan and implement what could be a future of greatly increased scope and activity. Won't you send us your comments, suggestions and ideas?

As a general guide, we reprint the following statement of the Purposes of the Society, from the original Constitution, now included in the Articles of Incorporation:

ARTICLE III — *Purposes*

The objects of this Society are educational. It shall investigate, assemble, record, preserve, and disseminate among its members, and to other selected and suitable individuals, publications, and institutions, pertinent information on the care, propagation, and uses of boxwood, knowledge of its commercial, horticultural, scientific, and other aspects, and appreciation of its unusual place in the gardens, literature, and affections of mankind for more than 3,000 years of recorded history.

It shall encourage and facilitate contacts and the exchange of information between members of the Society; foster the search for new species and varieties of boxwood, aid in their scientific study and classification, lend support to the collection and care of a plantation of all types of boxwood, help in making the use and planting of boxwood popular in areas to which it has not been introduced, and publish and distribute useful and informative articles upon boxwood for the benefit of its members.

It shall collect printed material upon and illustrations of boxwood species and varieties, of significant boxwood collections, and of historic or otherwise notable gardens in this country and abroad displaying boxwood. It shall assemble and make available to members information upon the locations and visiting hours of public arboreta and commercial nurseries where there is boxwood and, where permission is granted, shall provide information upon the introductions necessary or other requisite conditions, under which members may obtain permission, in this country and abroad, to visit gardens having boxwood but not customarily open to the public.

The Society shall cooperate in particular with those persons and organizations likewise dedicated to the preservation of what is good and beautiful in the United States and to the improvement and beautification of what is not.

THE MAIL BOX

March 26, 1968

Dear Mr. Otey:

I have your letter of March 22 in which you ask that the ABS people submit to you subjects that they feel might well be covered in your proposed research and development program for boxwood.

Due to shortness of time before our ABS Annual May Meeting, I am asking some of our directors to communicate with you direct, to give suggestions. For myself I recommend:

Development of an approved, tested yearly program and schedule for feeding.

Ditto for spraying.

Ditto for pruning and plucking.

Drawing up a standard set of recommendations for transplanting; time of year, root pruning, use of Stop-Wilt or similar spray, special watering, etc.

No such standardized, scientifically tested set of directions covering the foregoing subjects now exists. The need for them is obvious. Other subjects I recommend are:

Hybridizing (we can probably get advice from Henry Hohman on this).

Standardizing of nomenclature.

Yours sincerely,

Neill Phillips, President

American Boxwood Society

April 1, 1968

Dear Mr. Otey:

I write at the request of Admiral Phillips about possible boxwood projects at Morven. I suggest two.

First. *Buxus microphylla compacta* is one of the most interesting of all plants that I know; it throws sports of seemingly endless variety. Though I have been spending time over the last years on this phenomenon, I do not know what goes on. But I do know that these sports are a wonderful source of new kinds of boxwoods. My suggestion is that you buy from Kingsville Nurseries (or propagate from other sources) as many hundreds of *compacta* — even thousands of individuals — as you and the American Boxwood Society can grow and maintain in field plantings — for sports seem to occur more frequently on plants in full sun, and let the roots take over the parent plants and utilize their root systems, My belief is that such an approach will

revolutionize the boxwood picture in this country; I have considerable evidence to support this statement.

Second. Grow massive seedling populations of various boxwood clones: all of them, in my experience, yield valuable horticultural variants. Curly Locks, for example, has produced for me significant variants which eventually will be in the trade. Curly Locks is, of course, a sport of *compacta*.

It was a pleasure to meet you and Mrs. Otey at Heronwood, and I can assure you that I shall be glad to work with you in any way that I can.

Sincerely yours,

J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

April 9, 1968

Dear Mr. Otey:

Admiral Phillips has requested that we forward to you our suggestions for possible projects at Morven.

We feel that a project on winter hardiness of common and dwarf boxwood would be most challenging and useful. This would not be a study of plant survival but would be a project to determine factors which would prevent poor looking boxwood plants during the late winter months.

We are looking forward to seeing you in May.

Very sincerely yours,

A. R. Eaton

The gardens at Colonial Williamsburg attract visitors the whole year round. Mr. Eaton, as Director of Landscape Construction and Maintenance, is naturally concerned with their appearance in every season.

Asked by the Editor to go into the problem in more detail, Mr. Eaton sent the following letter, which may be useful as a checklist in planning winter protection for your own boxwood.

July 10, 1968

Dear Mrs. Whiting,

In your recent letter you asked us to send along some of our thoughts on winter hardiness of boxwood here at Colonial Williamsburg.

Most *Buxus* species are perfectly-hardy in this planting zone. However many boxwood plants in our gardens are most unattractive in late winter because the foliage is off-color. We have been concerned for many years about this poor appearance of some boxwood plants during February and March and have made some progress.

The following items could be factors that have reduced winter damage to boxwood in our gardens.

1. *Cultural*

a. Fertilization

1. not later than July 1st
2. use less nitrogen, more phosphates

b. Water — make certain plants have adequate water going into winter.

c. Mulch

d. Pruning — mostly for sanitation

e. Spraying — Dormant and summer.

f. Anti-desiccant — (Wilt-Pruf, etc.)

2. *Environment*

a. Shade — over planting

b. Drainage — surface and sub soil.

c. Soil — Fumigate or sterilize at planting time (nematodes).

d. Remove root competition.

e. Remove snow as soon as is possible.

f. Artificial shade (very rarely)

3. *Plants*

a. Remove poor plants.

b. Select new plants in February and March when winter burn etc. will show most. Select only healthy plants with good color.

c. Propagate good plants.

We hope this is some of the information you requested. I will write again soon about some of the other questions you asked.

Sincerely,

A. R. Eaton
Director of Landscape
Construction and
Maintenance

Rear Admiral Neill Phillips, Pres., May 1st, 1968

The American Boxwood Society

Dear Admiral Phillips:

I sincerely wish this letter to you would contain a message that I would be able to attend the 8th Annual Meeting of the American Boxwood Society, May 8th, but it does not. Physical conditions prevent long trips and it is best to remain at home.

One message I have long wanted to have reach your attention is:

“The American Boxwood”

There is general belief in this term among so many who refer to *Buxus Sempervirens* as the American boxwood, and this is an error.

Most species, *Buxus sempervirens* and cultivars, are from central Europe, while others are indigenous to east Asian and Mediterranean areas. None grow wild in the U. S. A., therefore they are not indigenous and are not American Boxwoods.

I have wondered often why many writers made reference to the American Boxwood — *Buxus sempervirens*, and the English Boxwood — *suffruticosa*. This is misleading to many who do not have the opportunity to study plants and their natural habitats.

You may find a lot of discussion on this subject, but to me it would be worth while so the facts are known.

I do hope you have an excellent meeting well attended, and it is my regret that I cannot be on hand.

With every good wish, sincerely,

Henry J. Hohman

A note on Spanish boxwood — written by one ABS member to another:

My dear Mr. Woodland:

Feel the BOXWOOD BULLETIN may be interested in the following experience, and you also:

While motoring from San Sebastian, Spain, to Lerida, we found at about 40° latitude and 1° W. of Greenwich — SW of Pamplona on the highway towards Huesca and Lerida in the province of Zaragoza — hills covered with boxwood, “American” type. Some bushes reaching possibly 5 feet, but usually around 3 feet.

This was November 29th, and most of the boxwood not sheltered in some way, were bronzed, the yellowed bronze color we usually associate with our cold winter winds. It doesn't get very cold in this area until January and February, and not severe then, as olives and sugar cane grow nearby.

I imagine frosts occur, as even along the coast I noticed seed beds sheltered by slanting reed covers open on one side. These could have been to break winds and keep the sun from burning little plants, instead of frost protection.

It caused me to stop and examine some. My best

film had been used — usual luck. The bushes weren't as thick as cultivated "American" box gets in Virginia; but I imagine it gets pretty hot here, which will, I believe, cause a loose growth.

Affectionately,
Wayne Brookins



Box-edged Garden in Worcester, Massachusetts — sixty years old when this photograph was made, in 1900. Picture from OLD-TIME GARDENS, by Alice Morse Earle.

“. . . a glimpse of a Box-edged garden in Worcester, whose blossoming has been a delight to me every summer of my entire life. In my childhood this home was that of flower-loving neighbors who had an established and constant system of exchange with my mother and other neighbors of flowers, plants, seeds, slips and bulbs. The garden was serene with an atmosphere of worthy old age; you wondered how any man so old could so constantly plant, weed, prune and hoe until you saw how he loved his flowers, and how his wife loved them. The Roses, Peonies, and Flower de Luce in this garden are sixty years old, and the Box also; the shrubs are almost trees. Nothing seems to be transplanted, yet all flourish; I suppose some plants must be pulled up, sometimes, else the garden would be a thicket. The

varying grading of city streets has left this garden in a little valley sheltered from winds and open to the sun's rays. Here bloom Crocuses, Snowdrops, Grape Hyacinths, and sometimes Tulips, before any neighbor has a blossom and scarce a leaf. On a Sunday noon in April there are always flower lovers hanging over the low fences, and gazing at the welcome early blooms. Here if ever,

'Winter, slumbering in the open air,
Wears on his smiling face a dream of spring.'

A close cloud of Box-scent hangs over this garden, even in mid-winter; sometimes the Box edgings grow until no one can walk between; then drastic measures have to be taken, and the rows look ragged for a time.

I think much of my love of Box comes from happy associations with this garden."

From OLD-TIME GARDENS, by Alice Morse Earle; published by The MacMillan Company, New York, 1901.

INFORMATION

WHO, WHAT, WHERE AND HOW MUCH?

FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

If your letter is concerned with

- Membership, new or renewal
- Payment of dues
- Change of address
- Gift Membership
- Ordering back issues of the Bulletin
- Ordering Dr. Wagenknecht's List
- General information about the Society

write to
Mrs. Andrew C. Kirby, Secretary-Treasurer,
The American Boxwood Society
Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620

If you have something of real importance — a question of policy, a new project for the Society, a matter which needs top-level consideration, write to

Rear Adm. Neill Phillips, USN Ret'd., President,
Heronwood,
Upperville, Virginia 22176

If you have contributions for the Boxwood Bulletin — articles, news notes, photographs, suggestions of anything of probable interest to boxwood people, it saves time to direct them to

Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting, Editor,
The Boxwood Bulletin,
415 West Clifford St.,
Winchester, Va. 22601

This applies to criticisms and corrections, too — "We regret errors; we welcome corrections."

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Regular membership dues of The American Boxwood Society are \$3.00 a year. There has been some misunderstanding of the statement that \$2.00 of this are for a subscription to the Boxwood Bulletin. It should instead be understood that the Society allots 2/3 of the money received from dues to the publication expenses of the Boxwood Bulletin.

Non-member subscriptions are for groups and institutions such as botanic gardens, libraries, etc. These are \$5.00 a year, and run by the calendar year.

The Boxwood Society year runs from one Annual Meeting to the next; from May of one year to May of the next year. Those joining the Society at other times are sent all the Boxwood Bulletin issues for the current Society year, beginning with the July number. Their dues are then again due and payable in the following May. This was voted by the Society to lighten as far as possible the heavy work load of our busy Secretary-Treasurer, who, like all other officers of the Society, is an unpaid volunteer.

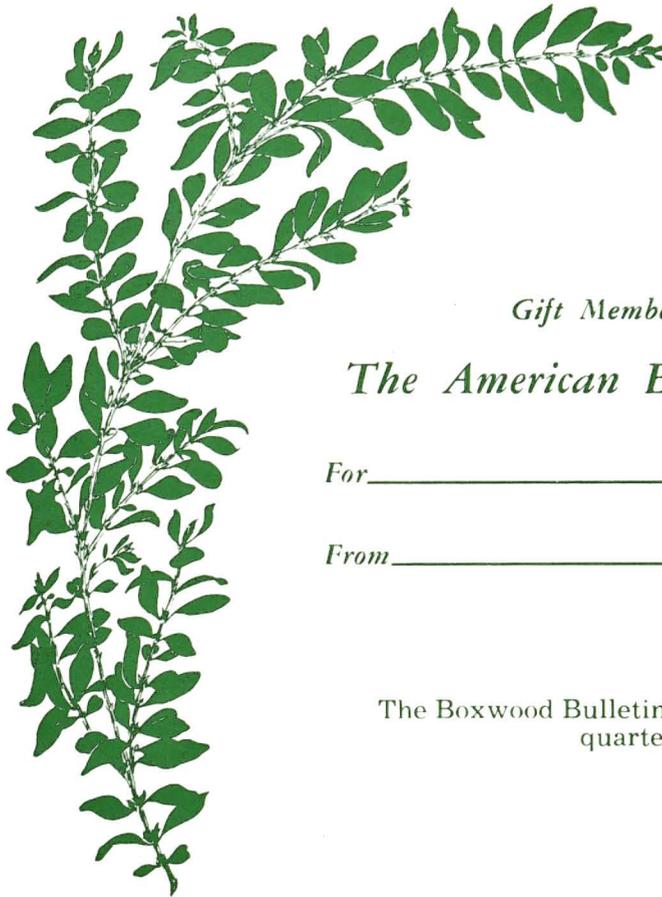
Single numbers of the Bulletin are \$1.00, plus 5¢ postage, each. Orders of five or more copies are sent postpaid. At the present time any or all Bulletins are available, back to Vol. 1, No. 1. (Vol. 1 consists of three issues only, there was no Vol. 1, No. 4.)

Besides regular membership dues at \$3.00 per year, there are other classes of membership available: Contributing, \$10.00; Sustaining, \$25.00; Life, \$100.00; and Patron, \$500.00.

DR. WAGENKNECHT'S LIST OF REGISTERED BOX CULTIVARS AVAILABLE IN BOOKLET FORM

"A Registration List of Cultivar Names In *Buxus L.*" by Dr. Wagenknecht, is available in booklet form from The American Boxwood Society, Boyce, Virginia. This list originally appeared in The Boxwood Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 3, January 1965.

The price of the booklet is 25¢ a copy, plus 5¢ a copy postage on a single-copy order or any number through nine. For an order of ten or more copies, the price is 25¢ a copy postpaid.



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