

The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A quarterly devoted to Man's oldest garden ornamental



Plain Dealing, in Albemarle County, Va., was a crown grant to Thomas Staples in 1783. The home was enlarged in 1787 by Samuel Dwyer. Here the boxwoods are maintained in a formal shape. See story on page 67. (Photo: The Garden Club of Va.)

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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 the genus *Buxus* L. There are more than 800 members in the United States and nine foreign countries.

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Memberships for the year May through April include \$12 for four quarterly issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*:

Individual	\$15	Sustaining	\$50
Family	\$20	Life	\$250
Contributing	\$30	Patron	\$500

Non-member subscriptions for groups and institutions, such as botanic gardens and libraries, are \$15 by the calendar year.

Available Publications:

Back issues of <i>The Boxwood Bulletin</i>	(each) \$ 4
<i>Boxwood Buyer's Guide (3rd Edition)</i>	\$ 8
<i>International Registration List of Cultivated Buxus L.</i>	\$ 3
<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1961-1986</i>	\$10
<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1986-1991</i>	\$ 4

Contributions:

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

Boxwood Handbook Fund
Boxwood Memorial Garden Fund
Boxwood Monograph Fund
Boxwood Research Fund
ABS Blandy Capital Fund

Correspondence:

For address changes, memberships, dues, contributions, or to order back issues or publications, write:

Treasurer, The American Boxwood Society
P.O. Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620

For general information about the Society, advice concerning boxwood problems or cultivar selection, write to The American Boxwood Society at the same address. You are also welcome to write directly to the President:

Mr. Dale T. Taylor
105 S. Princeton Avenue
Wenonah, N. J. 08090

Call for Papers:

Technical articles, news, history, lore, notes, and photographs concerning boxwood specimens, gardens or plantings are solicited for possible publication in *The Boxwood Bulletin*. Photographs should be suitable for reproduction and fully captioned. Suggestions regarding format and content are welcome. Material should be submitted to:

Chairman, Bulletin Committee
1714 Greenway Drive
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

Material to be returned to the sender must be submitted with a self-addressed envelope carrying suitable postage. Every effort will be made to protect submittals, but the Society cannot be responsible for loss or injury.

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ABS Annual Meeting Scheduled at Blandy Farm

May 12-13, 1992

Registration:

This year we will require pre-registration for either or both days:

- Tuesday: The registration fee of \$10.00 covers the workshop.
- Wednesday: The fee of \$15.00 includes lunch and all other Wednesday events.

The Tuesday evening lecture and reception are open to all registrants.

Please use the enclosed Registration Form. Make checks payable to The American Boxwood Society and mail to Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, 1714 Greenway Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, not later than May 1, 1992.

Directions to Blandy:

Blandy Farm is on Route 50 near Boyce, Va. Driving west on Route 50, the entrance is on the left about four miles beyond the Shenandoah River bridge. Driving east from Winchester and I-81 the entrance is on the right about 1.5 miles beyond the junction with Route 340. The entrance is marked from both directions by a sign: VIRGINIA STATE ARBORETUM.

ABS Dues

Again this year, membership renewal envelopes for the coming year (May 1992 through April 1993) will be mailed to members in April. This is a change from the old custom of inserting membership envelopes in the April issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

Please notify the ABS promptly of a change of address. If an address is obsolete, the Post Office notifies us of the new one, but will not forward the *Bulletin*.

32nd Annual Meeting of The American Boxwood Society Blandy Experimental Farm of the University of Virginia

PROGRAM

Tuesday, May 12

- 1:00 p.m. Workshop: Boxwood Basics - Instructor: P. D. Larson, Chairman of the ABS Memorial Garden Committee. "Boxwood is among the most popular and least understood of garden plants." This workshop will cover care, cultivation, siting, transplanting, plucking and possibly a visit to the greenhouse to see stages of propagation.
- 8:00 p.m. Lecture and Reception - Speaker: Mr. John Dingus. Mr. Dingus has been employed by The Davey Tree Expert Company for 27 years and is an expert in moving large specimens of boxwood and hollies. He has done this work for The Smithsonian, Woodlawn, Dumbarton Oaks, and The National Cemetery. He is also responsible for moving the national Christmas tree each year.

Refreshments after the lecture are to be provided through the kindness of Mr. Dale T. Taylor.

Wednesday, May 13

- 9:00 a.m. Registration. (Please pick up your name tag at the registration table)
- 9:30 a.m. Guided Tour of the Memorial Garden
- 9:30 a.m. Coffee available in the Dining Room
- 11:00 a.m. Annual Business Meeting, Library. (When meeting recesses, Board members will convene to elect two Board members to the Executive Board and to appoint a Nominating Committee Chairman)
- 12:00 noon Lunch (by pre-registration)
- 1:00 p.m. Educational Program: Speaker, Mr. Mike Lawn, White House Grounds Supervisor.
- 2:00 p.m. Sixth Annual Auction of named *Buxus* cultivars John W. Boyd, Jr. and Dale T. Taylor. Our team of auctioneers will again offer the unusual to collectors and to those with a touch of boxwood mania. (All who will be donating named cultivars for this sale, should please send a list in advance to Mr. Dale T. Taylor, 105 S. Princeton Avenue, Wenonah, NJ 08090.)

1992 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage

A Preview

Lands End Farm, in Queen Anne's County, will be open April 26.

The farm is situated at the northernmost end of Wilmer Neck, a peninsula bounded by the Chester River on the west, Southeast Branch on the North, and on the east, Island Creek.

The house and farm buildings overlook the Chester River and are located in the center of what is believed to be the site of Ogle Town, a "ghost town" that was established in 1732, but apparently never thrived and eventually disappeared. The main house and the majority of the farm buildings all date to the 20th century, but the southwest wing of the house is 18th century, and a

large post-and-plank meat house, probably dating to the mid-19th-century, still stands to the southeast of the house. The kitchen and dining rooms of this shingle house are within the 1780s portion. The house was substantially enlarged during the 1940s and again in the 1960s. Family portraits and English antiques are featured throughout the house. The landscape and gardens have all been established over the past 25 years. Graves of the original settlers are in the garden. This is a working farm featuring the breeding of ponies.

The Lindens, open on the Charles County Tour, May 9, is approached by a cedar-lined lane. The name was

derived from two magnificent European linden trees at the entrance to this attractive frame dwelling. Nuptials, christenings and many other gala celebrations have taken place under the shade of these two lindens.

In 1666, Zachia Manour was surveyed and from this, the present land is part of His Lordship's Favour, patented by Hugh Tears in 1697. A marked brick chimney dates the present house, 1840, which was built by John Francis Gardiner.

A walnut stairway, leading to two upper stories, is the feature of the side entrance hall. Fireplaces with fine 19th-century mantels and Georgia pine



Lands End Farm in Queen Anne's County, Md., with huge boxwoods along the path to the shingled house.

flooring enhance the antique furnishings. From the rear entrance hall one can view an expanse of carefully tended lawn, gradually sloping to the Zekiah Swamp. Four decades of renovation has turned this 19th-century dwelling into a comfortable 20th-century home.

The **Talbot County Tour** will be Saturday, April 25, 1992 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (No buses are allowed. A box lunch at \$5.00 will be served at the Oxford Community Center. For reservations call (410) 226-5904 or (410) 226-5987 by April 22, 1992)

Talbot County, named in honor of Lady Grace, wife of Sir Robert Talbot and sister of Cecilius Calvert, second Lord Baltimore, was settled by the English about 1661 and still retains much of its 17th-century atmosphere and architecture.

Five navigable rivers—the Wye, Tred

Avon, Choptank, Miles and Tuckahoe—provide more than six hundred miles of picturesque waterfront, creating a fertile land of rich and lasting beauty. The early manor houses along the creeks and bays face the waters which brought guests and prospective trade from many lands.

Easton, once “Talbot Town,” became the county seat by Act of Legislature in 1778. Some of the early political and legal history of this country was made in Talbot County, which is justifiably proud of its historic associations and of the loving restoration and preservation of many of its prominent houses, outstanding public buildings and handsome boxwood gardens.

Two of the many places to be open in Talbot County are:

Cove Cottage was built in 1964

using random-width pine floors and beams which were milled in Maine. The kitchen cabinets were built on the site by local artisans. Special pieces include a grandfather clock, a Queen Anne highboy and lowboy, and a tea table handcrafted by Mrs. Judd’s father. The gardens enjoy a view of LeGates Cove. Outstanding features are perennial beds, kitchen and herb gardens.

Carrollton Place was built in 1931 on one of the largest lots in Easton. The stately brick house was enlarged in the early 1960s and in 1985. The home is decorated in shades of pink and green with a collection of waterfowl paintings and prints decorating the walls. In the spring of 1988, the owner landscaped her secret garden outside the master bedroom suite with plants and a waterfall to attract birds.



The Lindens, in Charles County, is landscaped with an abundance of boxwoods. (Photos: Md. House and Garden Pilgrimage)



At Cove Cottage, on the Talbot County Tour, boxwood flourishes under the tall pines.



Carrollton Place, in Easton, Maryland, where boxwoods lend dignity to the landscape.

1992 Garden Club of Virginia Tour Features Boxwood

Charlotte Taylor Massie

Rare indeed is a garden in Virginia that is not enhanced by the noblest of all shrubs, the boxwood. It lends "an enchanting beauty and natural grandeur" to small, intimate gardens, sweeping lawns and historic landscapes.

No visitor will leave Historic Garden Week in Virginia, April 18 through 26, without an awareness of the many forms and uses of this handsome plant. It lines entrance driveways, edges, formal gardens and flower beds, border walks, outlines paths through allées, is clipped and trained into ornamental topiary figures, separates lawns from abutting properties, and links the gardens to the houses. A garden takes on a grace and charm that no other shrub can give it.

This glossy, green plant lends an air

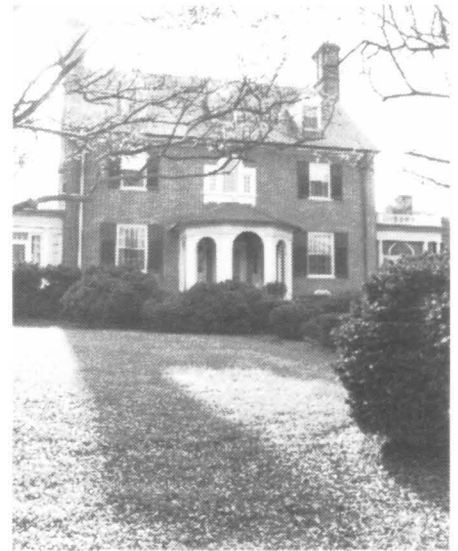
of dignity to **Cessford**, an imposing brick mansion of the late Georgian era, to be open on the tour of the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Lush boxwood surround the **Hornsby** house in Yorktown, one of the houses open for the Newport News-Hampton tour.

The seven-foot dwarf "English" boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa') at **Pebbleton**, built in 1780 and open on the Lynchburg tour, is believed to be more than 175 years old.

On the sweeping lawn at **Plain Dealing**, open on the Country Homes and Gardens Tour in Albemarle County, are formal boxwood gardens.

A charming boxwood path leads around the home of Commander and Mrs. Angus **Macauley** to be open on



The 1933 Hornsby house in Yorktown, where boxwoods add beauty to the landscape



Cessford, on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, where boxwoods flourish (Photos: The Garden Club of Virginia)



Pebbleton, on the Lynchburg tour, has an abundance of mature Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa'

the Friendly Gardens Tour in Charlottesville.

Two hundred fifty "English" and "American" boxwood enhance the landscape at the **Abbott** house in Danville.

Boxwood create a decorative effect at the three year-old **Phillips** house open on the Fairfax Tour.

One finds this aristocratic shrub in many of the gardens at historic Virginia landmarks that have been restored by The Garden Club of Virginia with the proceeds from its Historic Garden weeks.

Ralph E. Griswold, landscape architect, wrote in his remarks about the restoration of the grounds at **Scotchtown** in Hanover County, "There is a legend of doubtful historic authenticity that Patrick had a favorite bench surrounded by boxwood where he liked to sit and write or contemplate the effect of one of his famous speeches. Since there are three very old "English"

boxwoods in front of the house that might have existed in Patrick's time, a bench with an arm designed for writing has been placed where it is altogether possible Patrick Henry would have enjoyed sitting."

Low clipped boxwood border the Victorian bowknot flower beds at the



The Charlottesville home of Commander and Mrs. Angus Macauley has boxwood at the entrance and bordering a path around the house.

Woodrow Wilson birthplace in Staunton.

At **Gunston Hall**, "the house and garden are bound together by the stem of the T-shaped motif of the dwarf boxwood, laid out by George Mason, on the river side of the house."

Boxwood-bordered flower beds edge the simple rectangular grass panel in the garden at the **Mary Washington** house in Fredericksburg.

For the convenience of visitors, The Garden Club of Virginia publishes a 194-page guidebook giving detailed information on all the homes, gardens and historic landmarks open for Historic Garden Week in 1992. It is available, free of charge, at the Historic Garden Week Headquarters, 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. Due to the rise in postage, the headquarters would appreciate a remittance of \$2 for the large and informative book.



Pictured are some of the many boxwoods that enhance the Abbott house in Danville.



Boxwood are among the landscape plants that decorate the entrance to the Phillips house on the Fairfax Tour.

Boxwood—A One-on-One Appreciation

Mary A. Gamble

To my Midwestern eyes the beauty and fascination of boxwood lie not in boxwood en masse, but in the subtleties of an individual plant and its parts. A single plant invites appreciation of form and density, of leaf color and shape,

and of specific and varietal or cultivar characteristics.

For example, take *Buxus sempervirens* 'Ste. Genevieve'. This was the first boxwood that the Boxwood Society of the Midwest (BSMW), then

the Boxwood Study Group of the St. Louis Herb Society, studied, named and registered. Its presence in Missouri's oldest settlement branded as "disinformation" the then prevalent Midwestern idea that "You can't grow



*The 65- to 70-year old parent plant of the BSMW clone of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Ste. Genevieve'. The building in the background is the gate house of the Missouri Botanical Garden at Gray Summit, Missouri. (Photo: Jack Horner)*

boxwood here.” Midwestern boxwood enthusiasts, Missourians in particular, owe a great deal to *B. sempervirens* ‘Ste. Genevieve’. Let’s take a closer look at this classic boxwood.

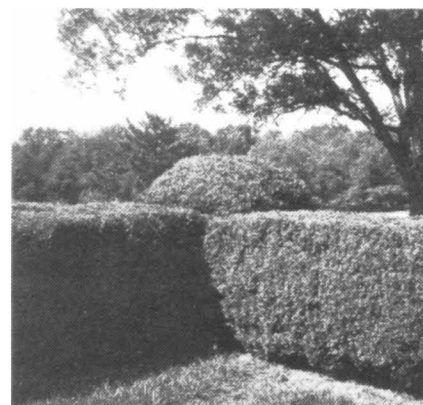
‘Ste. Genevieve’, growing at a medium rate of about 3 1/2 in. a year, matures into a large, graceful, billowing plant. Its form is midway between a mound and a pyramid. The plant pictured was estimated 65 to 70 years old when it was photographed in the late 1960s. It then measured about 10 ft. in height and about 12 ft. across the base. It had been brought from Ste. Genevieve about 30 years earlier and was one of a matched pair which flanked the entrance to the gate house of the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) Arboretum at Gray Summit, Missouri. Over the years it was allowed to grow into its natural and charming form with only the most cursory pruning and care. Its site was high and windy. Drainage was perfect and the soil, which overlays limestone, suited it to a “T.” BSMW members discovered it on their first field trip to the Arboretum. We found more to admire on each successive trip. We decided this

boxwood should have an identity. ‘Ste. Genevieve’ seemed the logical name.

The leaves of ‘Ste. Genevieve’ are a lively deep green. They are medium-sized and uniformly lanceolate. They are close-spaced on the stems which gives the plant its great density. ‘Ste. Genevieve’ flowers heavily especially on the sides which receive direct sunlight. In a favorable location the dehiscing seeds sprout so that it is common to find seedlings around the base of an older plant. Cuttings taken from mid until late summer root well.

Obviously *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Ste. Genevieve’ is a boxwood suited to specimen or group plantings in a larger space. It can, of course, be pruned into a hedge, ball or any other shape as the smaller photograph shows. But that, in this writer’s opinion, is a waste of a distinctive and elegant plant.

The two photographs of a ‘Ste. Genevieve’ sprig were made by the late Claude Johnston, a member of the MBG greenhouse staff. Johnston was a skilled plant breeder and greenhouse worker, but his passion was photography. On the day we brought more than 200 cuttings of ‘Ste. Genevieve’ from



Buxus sempervirens ‘Ste. Genevieve’ pruned into a hedge with a “ball” of the same boxwood in the background.

Gray Summit to put them in the St. Louis greenhouse propagation benches, he took one sprig and made two photographs of it. The first, which he enlarged somewhat, captures the aura of mystery inherent in boxwood. The second, life-size, shows the reality. Neither picture has been published previously.

Buxus sempervirens ‘Ste. Genevieve’ is a winner on the counts of beauty and hardiness. It merits wider distribution.



A flowering sprig of *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Ste. Genevieve’, shown at about twice size, left, and actual size. (Photos: Claude Johnston)

The Story of the Korean Boxwood

Mary A. Gamble

Today the correct name for *Buxus microphylla* var. *koreana* is *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis*. But it is still the same Korean plant that is probably the most under-rated—and all too often disdained—boxwood in the Midwest. It did even more than *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Ste. Genevieve’ to disabuse Midwestern gardeners of the idea that any attempt to grow boxwood in our temperamental climate, with its propensity for out-of-season cold and warm spells, was risky business. Korean boxwood was much more widely distributed than ‘Ste. Genevieve’. Where ‘Ste. Genevieve’ convinced St. Louisans that they could grow boxwood in the gardens, *koreana* [sic] convinced gardeners in a wide sector of the Midwest.

The story of how the first Korean boxwood reached, first, Boston and, second, St. Louis is told in the March 1964 edition of the *Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin*, of which Edgar Anderson was editor. The story was written by Mr. G. H. Pring, then a member of the Garden staff. Mr. Pring, who had trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, asked a fellow Kewite, Dr. E. H. Wilson, then Director of the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, to be his guest speaker before the St. Louis Horticultural Society. Dr. Wilson, widely known as “the plant hunter,” accepted, writing that this would give him an opportunity to visit the Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) and the recently purchased Arboretum.

A large crowd came to hear about Dr. Wilson’s many years of plant exploration in China and Korea. The next day Mr. Pring took Dr. Wilson to the Arboretum at Gray Summit, Missouri. It was during this visit that the talk about boxwood was held. Dr. Wilson saw the two boxwoods at the entrance to the mansion, a handsome old farmhouse on the Arboretum grounds. Mr. Pring explained that they

were the survivors of a group which had first been planted at the Flora Gate entrance to the city Garden. Several plants became early victims of the smoke and sulphur-contaminated atmosphere which the plagued St. Louis. The surviving two had been moved to the clean air of Gray Summit.

“This is quite interesting,” Dr. Wilson replied. “But I’m going to predict there is one Box which I collected in Korea in a location which has the two extremes in climate as you have here, which should grow very well.” Mr. Pring replied, “I would very much like to test your prediction. Will you send me a plant?” “I have only four plants in the Arnold Arboretum,” said Dr. Wilson. “If you were anyone but a Kewite, I would say no, but since I’ve made the prediction, I will send you a plant, which will be the first plant distributed from the Arboretum.”

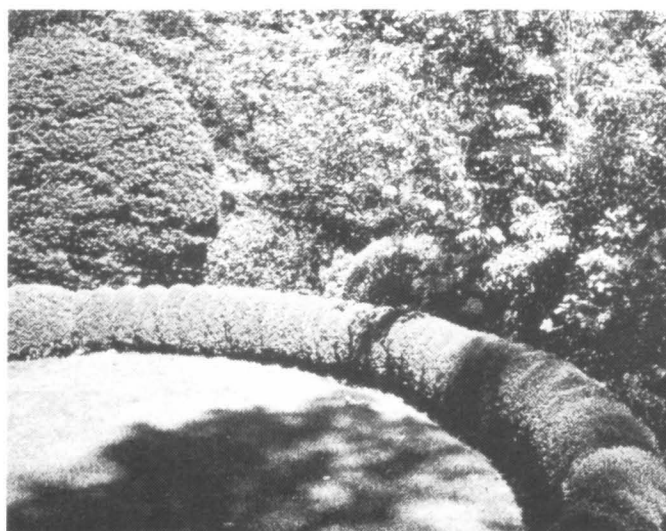
The plant to the left in the group shown below is that gift plant. When Boxwood Society of the Midwest members discovered it about 1969 we found the original Arnold Arboretum

copper tag attached. In 1929 when it was received it measured about 1 ft. in height. When we measured it some 40 years later it was 7 ft. tall and slightly wider. This plant was the parent of what might be called the Midwest Korean clone.

This photograph shows a group of three plants, virtually identical in size. It seems obvious that several cuttings must have been taken from the original 1-ft. plant. A Garden record shows that cuttings sufficient to yield 45 plants were taken in 1942, another 31 in 1943 and 34 more in 1945. The record indicated these plants were all destined for use on the grounds of MBG. Other cuttings were taken for Midwest distribution. Mr. Paul A. Kohl of the Garden staff took all or most of the cuttings. He believed that too many were taken, weakening the plant. It was removed not long after our group had taken its cuttings. Mr. Kohl gave this writer one of the first generation plants. It is in a bed where it can be observed year-round from a window. Its location is not favorable as it receives both too



The plant at far left is the Korean boxwood given to the Missouri Botanical Garden by its discoverer, Dr. E. H. Wilson. (Photo: Paul A. Kohl)



Two views of a fluted hedge in the garden of Mr. William A. P. Pullman, Lake Forest, Illinois. The boxwood is Korean, the pruning, the work of Mr. Pullman. (Photo: Mr. Pullman)

much shade and too much root competition from an oak tree. Nevertheless it has survived with no seasonal injuries and about average growth. It has all the toughness of its class.

B. sinica var. *insularis*—or *B. microphylla* var. *koreana* [sic], cannot be called a beautiful boxwood. It has no

trace of the grace and elegance which distinguish *Buxus sempervirens* 'Ste. Genevieve'. But when spring comes and *koreana* [sic] shrugs off the winter doldrums to show that, as usual, it has emerged unscathed, its charm is evident. As its leaves take on a lighter, brighter shade of yellow-green, and a myriad of buds promise a profusion of blossoms, this workhorse of boxwoods shows that it not only survives, but does so with grace.

Leaves are small, and vary in size, but are generally uniform in shape. They are almost perfectly oval with tips which vary from narrowly obtuse to broadly acute. Leaves are widely spaced on stems, giving the plant an open, airy look. Leaves bronze heavily in winter, to which some gardeners object; but they regain their natural medium yellow-green in early spring, usually in time to greet the first robin. The plant grows at a slow rate. This slow growth rate, plus its toughness, make Korean boxwood one of the best for hedges and edgings. And in this role, as two of the smaller photographs show, Korean boxwood achieves both utility and elegance. Other garden uses for this hardy boxwood are limited only by the gardener's taste and space.

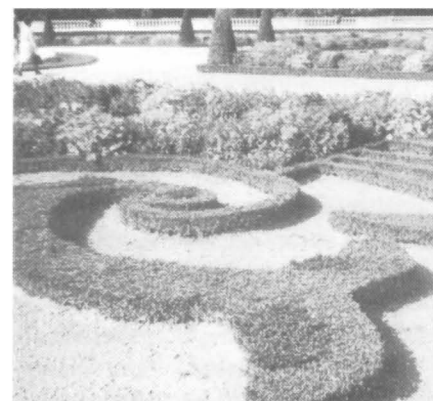
Koreana matures into a medium-sized shrub, somewhat spreading in

form and slightly wider than tall. It can be propagated easily by cuttings. It layers occasionally. And in a favorable location natural seedlings will occur around an older plant.

If you are one of those gardeners who has written off Korean boxwood as obsolete, we suggest you take a fresh look at *B. sinica* var. *insularis* (*B. microphylla* var. *koreana* [sic]). It is one of the world's best boxwoods—available (generally), adaptable, and proven.



(Photo: Shaw Camera)



A parterre in the park at Versailles, France, shows Korean boxwood pruned with the precision with which the French demonstrate their garden philosophy that "Nature must be mastered and ruled by Man." (Photo: Mary A. Gamble)

Buxus microphylla 'Miss Jones'

P. D. Larson

Name: *Buxus microphylla* 'Miss Jones'

Size (25 years): Small-3 to 3 1/2 feet high and 3 1/2 to 4 feet wide

Natural Form: Mounded and tending toward vase-shaped

Annual Growth: Slow-3/4 to 1 inch in height and width

Leaf Color: Medium yellow-green

Leaf Shape: Lanceolate; ovate tip; cuneate base

Leaf Size: Small-5/8 to 3/4 inches long; 3/16 to 1/4 inches wide

Leaf Surface: Glabrous and smooth

Internodal Length: Medium-1/4 to 3/16 inches

Flowering Habit: Moderate flowering; not observed to have set fruit, but this may change as plant ages

Hardiness: Zones 6-8

Plant Use: Specimen, grouping for background and area separations, edgings, hedgings

Registration: Not registered

History: Believed to have originated with R. Jones, Route 2, Box 93, Eatonton, Georgia, as an open pollinated seedling and sent to Henry Hohman of Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland, where it was further propagated, named and commercially released.

Known Locations: University of Washington Arboretum, U.S. National Arboretum, State Arboretum of Virginia

Culture and Care: Transplants readily; prefers dappled shade, but will tolerate some direct winter sun without bronzing. The addition of organic compost as a soil amendment and 1 1/2 to 2 inches of mulch adds to the health of the plant. Water seldom and thoroughly; an inch of water every two weeks is sufficient for sites with well-drained soils. Tolerates a pH range of slightly acidic to slightly alkaline with a preference for the sweet side (alkaline).

Demonstrates no fussy cultural requirements.

Insects and Disease: Indicates resistance to leaf miner, psyllid, and mites in more humid climates. No serious diseases.

Propagation: Cuttings root quite readily; bruise the stem or slit each side; use an IBA powder dip. The use of a mist system, perlite medium, and bottom heat will produce rooted cuttings in a relatively short period. The poly-tent procedure will usually produce rooted cuttings in 8 to 10 weeks.

(Not yet available in the commercial nursery trade.)



CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Jill S. Winter, of the Oatlands Plantation staff, Leesburg, Virginia, reports that Oatlands Plantation is the grateful recipient of two boxwood plants, *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Justin Brouwers', donated in the fall of 1991 by Harrison Symmes. They were propagated from cuttings given to Mr. Symmes in 1972 by the late Professor John T. Baldwin of William and Mary

College. Measuring approximately 1 meter in height and width, these fine specimens are reportedly among the oldest and largest extant. They now grace each side of the entrance gate to the Oatlands garden, providing a fitting transition to the formal parterres of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' and *Buxus sempervirens* 'Arborescens'.

[Oatlands is a property of The

National Trust for Historic Preservation. Its 4 1/2-acre walled garden is open to the public from April through November. For *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Justin Brouwers' registration, see *The Boxwood Bulletin*, July 1989, Vol. 29, No. 1, p. 3. For Oatlands, see ABS Tour, *The Boxwood Bulletin*, January 1992, Vol. 31, No. 3, p. 45-46.]

Mr. John Wagoner reports that he and his wife visited family in New Zealand for five months, and toured the scenic wonders of South Island. Not finding much variety in the forms of boxwoods at the Christ Church Botanic Gardens, he sought out the Horticultural Supervisor to ask why. Lack of interest and availability was cited. Upon his return, Mr. Wagoner sent us a check and requested that we send some literature "from the Society's cupboard."

[Thanks to Mr. Wagoner for spreading the *Buxus* word.]

Construction Begins at Blandy

The initial phases of site preparation and construction for the expanded Boxwood Garden the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Farm began in the autumn of 1991. The expanded garden will have space for the addition of many more boxwood cultivars and will display boxwood both in specimen form and in landscape plantings.

A grading plan is currently being devised for the western portion of the garden, beds are being staked out and prepared to receive specimens, and some of the existing trees are being removed or relocated. During the summer of 1992, the site will be graded, an outdoor amphitheater built in the southern portion of the garden, electricity and water lines installed, and

beds prepared.

The cost of the development of the amphitheater is approximately \$60,000 and these funds have been raised by the family and friends of Margaret Byrd Stimpson, after whom the amphitheater will be named. In future years paved walkways, lighting, a new sign and more plants will be added to the garden.

The Boxwood Society has established a Capital Fund to assist the Arboretum in implementing the new Boxwood Memorial Garden plan. Contributions are greatly appreciated. If you wish further information on how you can participate in implementing the new garden contact Mr. P. D. "Swede" Larson.

Dr. Edward F. Connor
Director, Blandy Experimental Farm
Associate Professor, UVA
ABS Director, ex-officio

To Mr. Richard D. Mahone,
Williamsburg, Va. USA

First of all, Thea and I want to give you the best wishes for next year. Probably you were expecting this letter earlier, but it took me some time to collect everything in it.

Further on I must make you my excuses for the poor way of handling the typewriter. I have a level, but my use of it has gone since I left school. My English is not perfect, too. But I hope you will take it as I write it down.

Enclosed in this envelope you will find several things, including the copies from books I promised you.

The first copy: From 1865. Written by Mr. de Vos from Hazerswoude. He was the first nurseryman who made a handbook of common nursery stock in that time.

The second: Out of a Dutch botanical book dated 1790 written by Mr. Knöop. This one is not very good. I shall take care that you have a better one in a while. These old books are not easy to come by and to get copies out of. You will see that the name "PALM"

is mentioned many times. It means boxwood..

The third copy: Clipped fresh braches of *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Faulkner'. You will find a description of this plant. I don't know if it has been introduced in the USA. I have never seen it mentioned. Also, you will find out that we have a variegation on this plant. I think that it is for a *micr.* very special.

Further on we have here in Europe *Buxus* I have never seen mentioned in literature or lists. Later on I will make a secure list of them and send it to the society. Here are some of them:

Buxus microphylla

'Herrenhausen', 'Wiertz'

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica*

'Belvedere', 'Faulkner'

Buxus sempervirens

'Arabeske', 'Blauer Heinz',

'Ficsta', 'Ingrid'

'Blauer Heinz' and 'Ingrid' are dwarf *sempervirens*, the one blue and the other green; and very good for edging or border. Also you find a list of varieties I would like to have for research and my collection.

If you are able to find most of them or all, can you ship them to me by an agent and not by post. If you call an airline office they will tell you how to do it (with a bill to me). There are quite a lot of names on the list; some are double from last year. Some cuttings died, because they had been too long and too warm on transport. That is why I am asking for a quicker way.

Can find some of these old varieties from the list of cultivated Boxwood in France. And another promising source seems Eastern Europe.

You asked me to write something for *The Boxwood Bulletin*. For the moment you have something.

And for other things I have to work some things out and I have to do more study before I can do some reasonable writings. Also I am going to collect old parts and writings. I am sure there is a real treasure of articles over here in Europe.

The history of Boxwood goes back to ancient times-even before the Roman Empire. The only thing is to know where you have to look and find and the biggest problem is time.

About the publication of Mr. Cheng, I am very interested in it. Do you know if there are already plants come from China?

Also I like to ask besides the list of cultivars, if it is possible to collect cuttings of the following items.

Buxus microphylla japonica
up to 500 'Morris Dwarf'
up to 1000 'Curly Locks'
up to 1000 'Compacta'
up to 1000 /Kingsville Dwarf/

Buxus sempervirens
up to 3000 'Graham Blandy'

This is for the Nursery and if you can collect them in the gardens with the Society it is all right, but if you have to go commercial I like to know, because we exchange cuttings in that big quantity, too. From the cuttings from the Society we can do the same as with Mr. Batdorf last year and I will do a donation to the Society.

Now I am going to stop this letter because I am tired and sweating overall.

Herman Geers

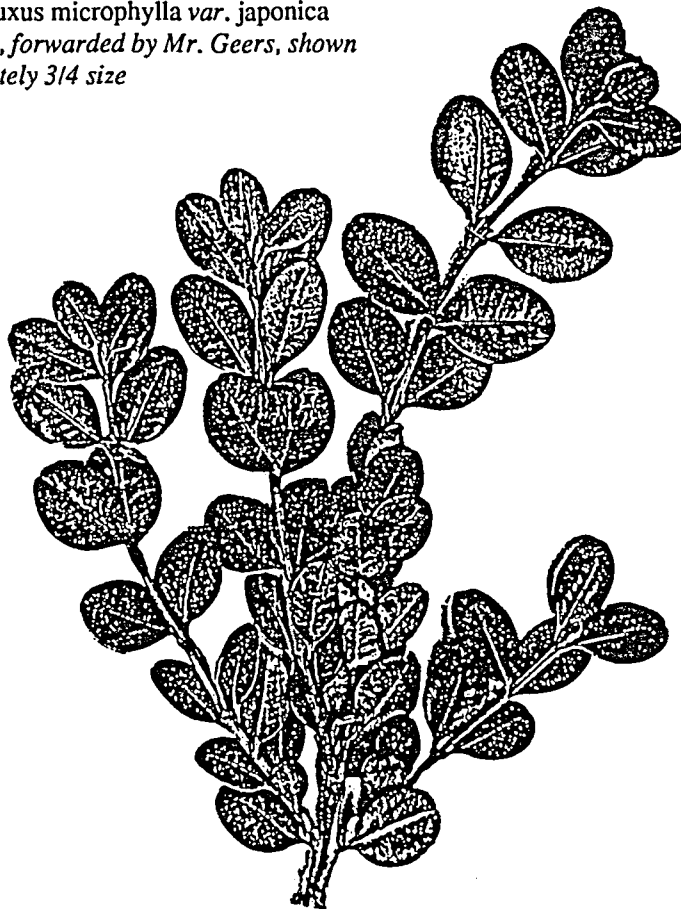
Buxus microphylla var. japonica
'Faulkner':

In our nursery we grow many varieties of boxwood, but a very important one nowadays is *Buxus micr. japonica* FAULKNER [sic]. This variety became very popular only a few years after introduction.

My personal opinion says that is true, that popularity. I don't know if it is already introduced to your country, but I never found it in publications or advertisements. Later on I will give a specification of the *Buxus* 'Faulkner'.

But first the thing where it goes about, 'Faulkner' has produced a variegation in our nursery which seems to be stable. It is smaller than the original and has a yellow-greenish look. I think it is surprising that a boxwood which belongs to the same group as 'Morris Midget' and 'National' and 'Morris Dwarf' makes a variegation. We have two plants at this time and we are going to test them. About that we will keep you informed.

Sprig of *Buxus microphylla var. japonica*
'Faulkner', forwarded by Mr. Geers, shown
approximately 3/4 size



Buxus microphylla var. japonica
'Faulkner'

Low to medium high shrub.

Leaves: Roundish and very green and glossy. The most important thing is that it keeps its colour throughout winter and it keeps shiny the whole winter. The colour of the foliage turns deeper green as the season goes on.

The young stems are of an orange-brown colour and the old ones are white-grey.

The hardiness seems very good. From northern Europe we hear very good things. The only thing we know is that we had some winter temperatures of minus 15°C. That is all.

The wind resistance is also good (I mean in winter). The *B. m. j.* 'Faulkner' [sic] seems to have a golden future here, particularly for edging and low and medium hedging and as globe. And in many other ways.

If you don't know the var. we can make you a start with cuttings.

Maybe there is more to tell about this plant and maybe I made mistakes, but please forgive me. I am not a writer and to use a type machine is as difficult as flying an F-16 or driving in rush-hour through a big city!

Herman Geers
Laag Boskoop 104
2771 GZ Boskoop
The Netherlands

[Note: Mr. Geers has been in communication about exchanging boxwood and information. He has a large nursery and is also interested in the history of boxwood.]

Mr. Mahone is a Director and past President of the American Boxwood Society. We are grateful for the information from Mr. Geers and look forward to more exchanges.]

Spring Board Meeting

The spring meeting of the ABS Board of Directors was held on Monday, February 24, 1992, at the Colonnade Hotel on the grounds of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Dale T. Taylor. Those in attendance were Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Vice President; Mrs. Scot Butler, Secretary; Mrs. Katherine D. Ward, Treasurer; Directors John W. Boyd, Jr., Phillip D. Larson, Thomas Saunders and Tyra Sexton, and Director ex-officio Dr. Edward F. Connor, Director of Blandy Experimental Farm.

The minutes of the fall Board meeting were approved as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 31, No. 3, pp. 56-57.

The Treasurer reported the following balances as of February 24, 1992: checking account \$13,142.51; certificates of deposit \$33,142.25 (including \$15,619.32 allocated to special funds). The report was accepted.

The Boxwood Bulletin: Mrs. Frackelton reported that information and articles are still needed for each issue. President Taylor noted that 14 replies to the questionnaire sent out with the January issue have already been returned. Members are urged to reply, even if the original deadline has been missed.

Handbook, Index, Monograph, Registration: Mr. Batdorf, the International Registrar for *Buxus*, sent his written report. Many changes at the U.S. National Arboretum, including new computer software, have delayed work on the Handbook, but additional staff assigned to him will make possible to move ahead rapidly. The five-year index is being prepared and will appear shortly. The Board voted to print 1,000 copies of the *Index* for distribution to all current members, and to sell for \$4 in the future. The *Monograph on Buxus* has been set aside until completion of

the *Handbook*. The registration of *Buxus microphylla* 'Quiet End', a sport of 'Compacta' has been completed and registration of 'Henry Hohman' is being considered. Mr. Saunders asked if any information on hardiness is included in such registration; it does not appear to be the case.

Research: Mrs. Butler has written to Mr. Richard Hawke at the Chicago Botanic Garden asking for observations on the cultivar evaluation project, and to Prof. James Hendrix at the University of Kentucky attempting to reactivate the study on the relationship of micorrhizal fungi to boxwood roots. Answers have not yet been received. Mr. Saunders noted that experiments with tissue culture on *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Wintergreen' are being undertaken by Stephen McCulloch at Briggs Nursery in Olympia, Wa.

Garden Tour: Mrs. Butler reported that plans are complete for the spring ABS Garden Tour on May 9 and 10 in Loudoun County, Virginia.

Memorial Garden: Cdr. Larson will be purchasing boxwood plants this year of any species or cultivars not already in the ABS collection to fill out the supply for use in the garden. He will be conducting two boxwood workshops at Blandy Farm on March 20-21, 1992.

Dr. Connor then spoke about design and construction projects to be undertaken for the Arboretum master plan. He presented cost estimates for specific portions of the work, some of which can be accomplished by the Blandy staff. He noted that a proposal will be submitted to the Small Business Administration for a grant to cover planting trees on public land, and involving small local businesses. Some of the first priorities will be providing electrical service and walkways, and a speed-up of the plans to acquire small plants for the co-planting materials in the boxwood garden, for growing at Blandy until large enough to set in the garden. The first walks will probably be

gravel, preparing for ultimate permanent hard surface material to facilitate handicapped access.

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that the Society create a Blandy Capital Fund to receive contributions for capital construction and related expenses in the new Boxwood Memorial Garden. To fund this proposal, all interest earned on the two certificates of deposit and on the checking account will be earmarked for this Capital Fund, opening with \$3,283.83, which was the interest earned in 1991.

Dr. Connor will write a brief account for the April *Boxwood Bulletin* explaining the needs and suggesting contributions, as well as a further report for the July *Bulletin*; if some work has begun, photographs will be included to show progress.

Suggestions for the programs for the annual meeting were made, including a Tuesday workshop by "Swede" Larson from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and a speaker at the Tuesday evening reception at 8 p.m. The Wednesday program will begin with registration at 9 a.m., coffee at 9:30 a.m., tour of the Memorial Garden, 10-11 a.m., and the business meeting from 11-12 noon.

After lunch there will be a speaker and the annual boxwood plant auction conducted by John Boyd and Dale Taylor. Gifts will also await all those who attend.

The Blandy Horticultural Fair will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 9-10, the same days as the ABS Garden Tour. All participants are encouraged to visit Blandy on Sunday afternoon until 5 p.m. This interesting week-end will offer a fine prelude to the two days of the Annual Meeting, providing a stimulating mix of events for those who will travel considerable distances.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m. in time for lunch in the cafeteria.

Joan Butler, Secretary

New Members

Mr. Richard Allen	Falls Church VA	Mr. Ben Simms Hayden	Cox's Creek KY	M/M William C. Sheetz, Jr.	Bryn Mawr PA
Dorothy W. Anderson	Southaven MS	Mr. Albert H. Hendley, Jr.	Zanesville, OH	Mr. Basil Shanahan	Brooklyn NY
M/M Donald J. Baber	Heflin AL	Clifford C. Hoffman	Flemington NJ	C. Stephen Shaw, Jr.	Alexandria VA
Mrs. Crews B. Baylor	Richmond VA	Julia S. Hosmer	Chamblee GA	M/M David V. Shields	New York NY
Keith A. Breclaw, Inc.	Washington DC	Alice Recknagel Ireys	Brooklyn NY	Dr. Kyung-Ku Shim	Suwon 440-746
Ms. Kathy Tindall Brown	Wilmington NC	Ms. Alexandra Kahn	Washington DC	Dr. Burton E. Silver	Highland Park IL
Mr. Stuart E. Brown, Jr.	Berryville, VA	Mrs. Clinton W. Kelly	Bethesda MD	P. Allen Smith	Little Rock AR
Mr. Paul F. Callaway	Greensboro NC	Mr. Hugh Kenny Wheeler	Ardmore PA	Steven R. Smith	Collierville TN
Dr. Michael R. Corrado	Sterling VA	Mr. Kenneth Kiesler	Cranbury NJ	M/M Drew Somerford	Jefferson VA
John Madison Cox IV	New York NY	Ken Lowe	Lowgap NC	Blaise Spinelli	Charlottesville VA
Diane D. Crom	Dover DE	Beverly R. Lynch	Newark MD	Lin Steward	Pitman NJ
Mr. Charles B. Cunningham	Aldie VA	M/M James Macgregor	Clear Brook VA	M/M Sam B. Stuffle	Kingsport TN
Anna & Stanley Dees	Middleburg VA	Mr. Mark Anthony Mahler	Wilmington NC	Mr. John R. Tate	Birmingham AL
Julie DeShazo	Martinsville VA	Walter L. Mason	Mt. Airy NC	Barbara Taylor	Memphis TN
M/M Richard F. Doyle	Charlottesville VA	Mr. H. W. Merritt	Silesia MD	M/M W. Herbert Taylor	Bracey VA
Lucy Farrell	Salem VA	Mr. J. Marshall Mosely	Dillwyn VA	Elizabeth Fell Tegge	Round Hill VA
Ms. Virginia Lee Fleming	Denton MD	Mrs. W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.	Montross VA	Mrs. John Tonner	Watska IL
Mr. Charles Fox	Hodges SC	Mr. Bart Nelson	Dothan AL	Gilbert M. Van Sant	Harrodsville KY
M/M Rodney P. Frelinghuysen	Morristown NJ	Myrtle N. Olien	East Lansing MI	Joan Wehner	Great Falls VA
M/M Henry Frierson	Charlottesville VA	Jim Owen	East Hampton NY	Capt. Monty H. Westmeyer	Alexandria VA
Mr. Harry Fritzinger	Alexandria VA	Mr. Ted A. Pfenning	Chapel Hill NC	M/M James C. Wheat	Caret VA
P. B. Fuller	Marietta VA	Geri Pitts	Memphis TN	Mr. Charles N. Whelan	Potomac MD
H. Geers	2771 GZ Boskop	Mrs. Paul Brooks Puckett	Potomac MD	Mr. Jeffrey R. White	Atlanta GA
Will Goodman & Assoc.	Marietta GA	Mr. John Reaves	Warrenton VA	W. W. Wilkins, Jr.	Turbeville VA
Mrs. Lester Green	Sylave NC	Dr. John Reed	Niles MI	Mr. Ronald A. Windhorst	Dennysville ME
Mrs. Harold E. Hall	Molalla OR	Elizabeth Repetti	Winston-Salem NC	M/M Jim Winther	Williamsburg VA
Mr. Edward L. Hanan	Clifton VA	Dr. William Roberts III	Yardley PA	Wright's Ferry Mansion	Columbia PA
James S. Harris	Blackstone VA			John W. Yokley	Mount Airy NC

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Waldo Howland

Member since 1969

Mr. Elmer Simmons

Mr. Edward L. Stock, Jr.

Member since 1976

Mr. Walter D. Wisecarver, Jr.

Charter Member

Large Boxwood for Sale

Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa', 13 feet high by 16 feet across, approximately 170 years old (right). Will be professionally dug and loaded. Price negotiable. Contact Mr. Todd Phillippi, 1325 Old Lincoln Highway, Langhorne, Pa. 19047; (215) 348-4309.



The Seasonal Gardener

Practical tips for boxwood enthusiasts from Society members



Basic Boxwood Care

Culture

Boxwood is a shallow-rooted plant. Choose a well-drained location. When planting, set the plant slightly above the existing soil grade. If the ground does not receive at least 1 inch of rain per week, water deeply to give the equivalent. Mulch 1-2 inches deep with old shredded bark, chips or pine needles, not touching the stem of the plant. Fertilize in late February with 10-10-10. If the soil is very acid or plants are off-color, add limestone pellets (dolomitic lime). Provide some shade if possible. It takes at least two years for plants to become well established.

Pruning

Pluck out excess foliage to thin or control size. Shearing is *not* recommended. Clean out the center of the plant at least once a year; remove old leaves and debris. Healthy plants have green leaves on the inside stems—light and air should reach center through openings plucked from the outer foliage.

Insects

Psyllid (curling of new leaves in spring): spray in late April with Malathion; follow all labeled instructions. Leaf miner (blisters on the leaves): spray in

early May with Malathion when the insects fly and in late June with Cygon; follow all labeled instructions and wear protective clothing. This can also be effective in July and August. Spider mites (foliage stippled): control is obtained by alternating between two miticide formulations from May to September. (As dates will vary with location, it is advisable to consult your local County Extension Agent for further information.)

Winter Damage

To help prevent winter damage, if the fall has been dry, water deeply before going into winter. Damage may be caused by late warm spells that promote growth, followed by sudden chill. Bark may split on lower stems; often this is not noticeable until summer, when foliage suddenly dies. Can also be caused by winter sun or wind scorching exposed foliage when it is frozen or icy. Wait until new growth has developed in spring before removing dead sections. Can be prevented by providing shade or protection using evergreen branches, snow fence or straw.

MOST IMPORTANT: Shallow planting, generous watering and cleaning interiors.

Compiled by Mrs. Scot Butler, 1987; reviewed by Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, 1992.

