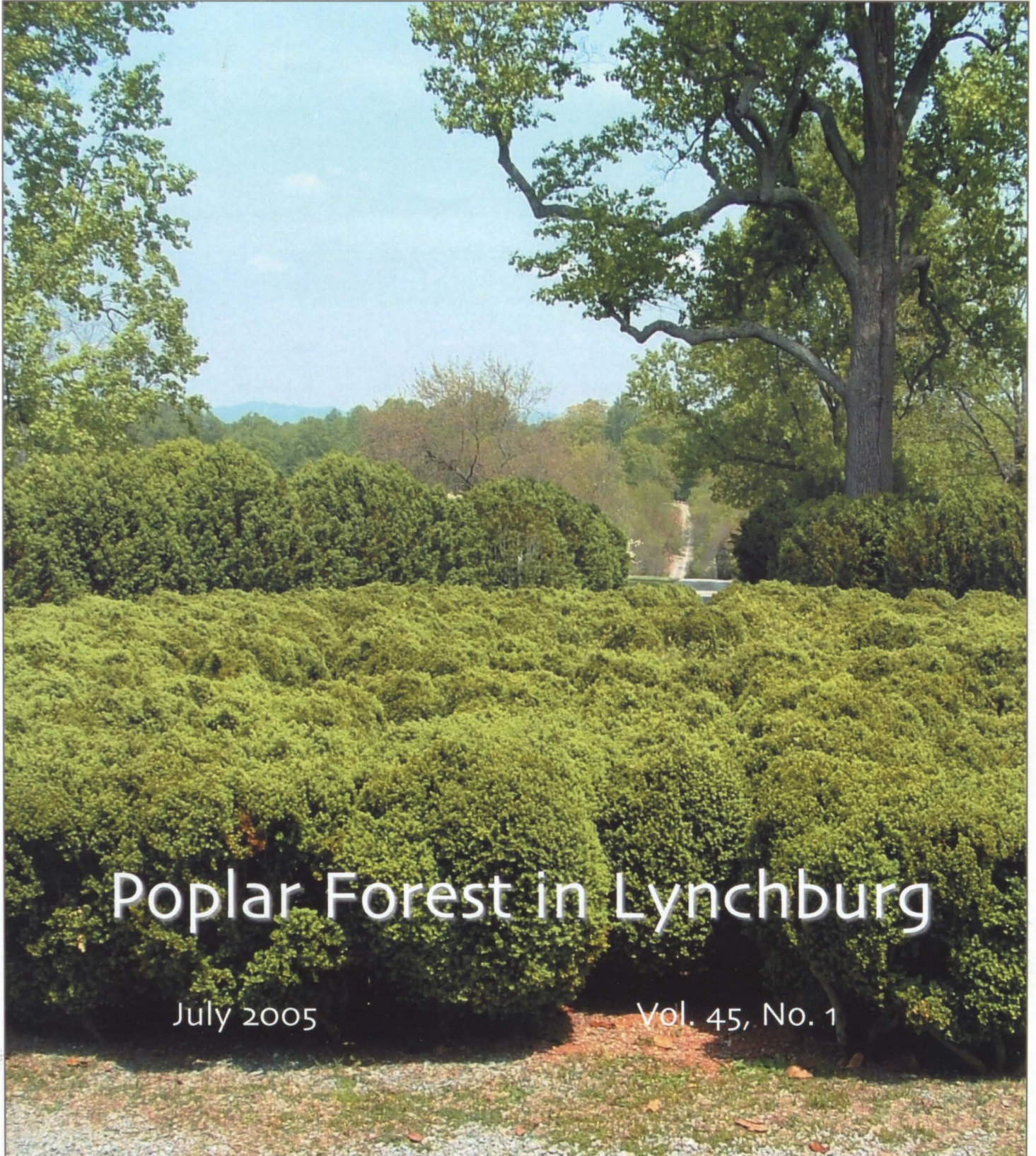


The Boxwood Bulletin

A quarterly of the American Boxwood Society devoted to our oldest garden ornamental



Poplar Forest in Lynchburg

July 2005

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HISTORY AND ORIGINS OF EUROPEAN BOXWOOD AND TOPIARY SOCIETY

BY CAROLINE FOLEY, EDITOR OF TOPIARIUS

Buxus had gently declined into being 'the forgotten plant' when Elizabeth Braimbridge was planning to open a boxwood nursery in 1983. Commercial production had halted since the War due to lack of demand. The Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh held a collection of Asian species, particularly from China, due to their longstanding botanical links. A fine collection of *Buxus* was also held in the Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum in Hampshire. It included unusual Asian species and many new American cultivars. However, these were not propagated for sale.

It seemed ironic that, in the UK and the rest of Europe where boxwood is indigenous, it was taken for granted and undervalued. All the interest, the new hybrids and research, was coming from the USA where there is no native boxwood.

Elizabeth decided to open Langley Boxwood Nursery in Hampshire and specialize in boxwood and topiary production. Her aim was to bring to gardening an awareness of the modern range of *Buxus* and, more importantly, to make the range available to the general public.

As it happened, the nursery opened on the brink of a gardening boom. Glossy, up-market gardening magazines were making their debut and were influencing an increasingly sophisticated readership. They featured Rosemary Verey's celebrated potager at Barnsley House, Gloucestershire, the green geometry of Sissinghurst Castle, Kiftsgate, Hidcote Manor and historic gardens of Levens Hall and Hatfield House. With the fickleness of fashion, topiary and formal gardens became the rage once more. Soon Langley Boxwood Nursery was stretched to keep up with demand for plants, requests for lectures, radio and television interviews and the enquiries that poured in from all over the world.



Elizabeth Baimbridge

Elizabeth and Mark Braimbridge regularly attended the annual general meetings (AGMs) of the American Boxwood Society in Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina. ABS members and local nurseries were fundamental in building up the Langley collection. Elizabeth was to become a holder of a National Collection of *Buxus* in 1989.

When Mark retired as a heart surgeon he joined the business as 'farm labourer, truck driver and book keeper'. Exposed to the 'barrage of queries each day', he realized that some sort of advice centre was needed. With the useful experience of having run a European club for surgeons and greatly inspired by the ABS, he formed the idea of opening a parallel European society.

He searched for a European General Secretary for some years. One day the ideal candidate came to the nursery to learn about growing *Buxus* for her château near Brussels. Countess Véronique Goblet d'Alviella, a lady of great charm, enthusiasm, energy and with a gift for languages, was to prove to be an inspirational European ambassador for the EBTS

for the next decade. Mark conferred with some key gardening people. A small steering group met at Véronique's house in Windsor and a plan was drawn up.

The society would be European and the language, English. Along the lines of the ABS, there would be a weekend AGM in spring or summer at a stately home known for its fine garden. On the Saturday there would be lectures, a *Meet the Experts* session, a fund-raising auction and dinner.



Mark Baimbridge was wheeling this lovely boxwood to give to a lady who had donated £1,000,000 for research at St. Thomas' Hospital in London. Her response was to say that it must be the most expensive box ball in the world.

On Sunday there would be a tour of gardens. In the autumn there would be a three-day visit to fine topiary gardens in Continental Europe. The only major difference between the two societies was to be the topiary angle.

The proposed title for the Society was to be the European Boxwood and Topiary Society. *European*, was to include the great topiary gardens on the Continent, to extend the membership and to bring in the important Dutch influence. *Boxwood*, was to parallel the ABS and underline the scientific side. *Topiary*, because it is a passion amongst European gardeners. Mark was elected Chairman and Véronique, General Secretary.

The inaugural meeting of the EBTS was held in 1996 at Dorney Court in Windsor. Lynn R. Batdorf flew over to represent the ABS. Invitations were sent out to the customers of Langley Boxwood Nursery. The event was mentioned in the Royal Horticultural Society's magazine *The Garden* in the *Tradescant's*

Diary. Dorney Court had a gallery that could hold the expected 25 people. When, to the surprise and delight of the founders, over 117 applied, a marquee had to be erected and loudspeakers installed. The EBTS was formally launched.

Since then AGMs have been held up and down the country in a series of stately homes with magnificent gardens. Lecturers have provided a good balance of scientific, horticultural, historical and artistic aspects. Amongst others we have been fortunate in having Tom Saunders lecturing on *Boxwood in America and the ABS*, and Lynn R. Batdorf on *Boxwood Diseases* and last year on *A Plant Finding Trip to Azerbaijan and Georgia*. Professor Egon Köhler from Humboldt University spoke on *Native Boxwood Species in Cuba* and Elizabeth Braimbridge on *Boxwood in Cuba and China*. Dr. Béatrice Henricot, RHS Wisley, gave a talk on *Cylindrocladium*.

Rosemary Verey discussed the *History of Knot Gardens* and author Jenny Hendy lectured on *Florida's Frame Topiary*. The celebrated garden writer, Penelope Hobhouse, discussed *The Importance of Green Architecture*, while Rosemary Alexander, founder of the English Gardening School, expounded the theory that *Green is a Colour*. Author David Joyce talked about the *Origins of Topiary* and Dr. Arthur Hollman lectured on the *Chelsea Physic Garden and the Barber's Herb Garden*. Last year, EBTS' current Chairman, Bruce Ginsberg, gave a lecture on the *Influences of the Orient on Western Gardens*.

Countess Véronique Goblet d'Alviella, founding General Secretary of EBTS



All photographs provided by EBTS

Autumn tours have included unforgettable visits to the gardens of palaces, châteaux, commercial boxwood nurseries and exceptional private gardens in Paris, Holland, Tuscany, Belgium, the Loire, Northern Portugal, the Dordogne and the Veneto. This year's trip will be to Scotland.



Elizabeth works on topiary

In 1996 Jenny Hendy agreed to start up and edit EBTS magazine, *Topiarius*, free of charge. Her single condition was that it should be a quality magazine. She also organized a festival of topiary at Chatsworth, home of the Duchess of Devonshire, to bring boxwood and topiary (and the EBTS) to the attention of the visiting public.

1999 saw the introduction of the highly popular day visits. They were designed to be cheap and inclusive—no frills days without transport provided and a simple pub lunch. These are usually arranged by individual members in their own areas in different parts of the country. Notable visits have included Prince Charles' garden at Highgrove and Box Hill in Surrey, made famous by Jane Austin in *Emma*. In 2000 and 2001, the EBTS had a stand at the Chelsea Flower Show.

In 2000, Elizabeth Braimbridge received a Scientific Status Award for excellence in the field of research. The nursery was sold in 2002 but the Braimbridges carry on sponsoring and initiating research and conservation projects started there. Langley Boxwood Nursery supported research into boxwood *Psyllid* and the lacewing fly with the University of Cardiff. Elizabeth has worked closely with the pathology department at RHS Wisley, supplying them with plant material for their studies into *Cylindrocladium*. Overseas projects have included setting up of a National Collection of over 37 Cuban species at the Jardín Botánico Nacional in Havana. There had been no plant collecting in Cuba since the Russian subsidy ceased.

Support was given to the Institute of Systemic Botany, University of Zurich for research into gene sequencing to separate the various *Buxaceae* species. Discussions have taken place in China with botanists with a view to setting up a collection in the botanic gardens of Shanghai. Elizabeth and Professor Egon Köhler, a world expert on *Buxus* from Humboldt University, established a further National Collection in the botanic garden of Xalapa, Mexico. Elizabeth made a collecting expedition of Jamaican species and financial support has been given to the Herbarium in Islamabad.

The new chairman, Bruce Ginsberg, specialist tea importer and owner of Earlstone Box and Topiary, has brought fresh energy to the EBTS with a new, vibrant committee. The membership of some 500 come from the UK, France, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa, Cuba, Canada and the USA. Véronique successfully worked to establish EBTS chapters in France, Holland and Belgium where visits are exchanged as well as to the UK. This year a new website, www.ebts.org, with links to the European chapters and the ABS, has been set up.



Bruce Ginsberg, Chairman

The Honorary Members reflect the international slant. Led by HRH the Prince of Wales, there is Sir Roy Strong; Professor Egon Köhler from Berlin; Mr. Lynn Batdorf; Mr. Allen Coombes from the Hillier Arboretum; Dr. Angela Leiva, Director of Botanic Garden in Havana; M. Léonce Deprez, Deputy Mayor of Le Touquet and Elizabeth Braimbridge.

Members include professional growers, designers, writers, botanists, historians, gardeners, stately home owners and many others who simply enjoy visiting glorious gardens. The members, comprising a large pool of talent and good will, have been vital in making the society a pleasure to join and the success it is today.



Mark Baimbridge and Bruce Ginsberg

The EBTS has set itself a mission. It intends to operate as a network, a resource and forum aimed at promoting knowledge of all aspects of boxwood and topiary – the history, horticulture, craft skills, design, botany and science, worldwide. The aim is to reach out further.



Caroline Foley, Editor of *Topiarius*

A new Italian chapter is being formed. The latest Honorary Member is Professor Brian Huntley, Director of the National Botanic Institute of South Africa and Curator of the Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens in Cape Town. Approaches are being made to Dr. Matsudani, Curator of the Kyoto Botanic Gardens in Japan.

It would seem that between our two societies, *Buxus* will never be forgotten again.



Green Theatre at Villa Rizzardi near Venice, Italy

2005 ANNUAL MEETING

SUMMARY

BOXWOOD PERFORMANCE IN ZONES 6 AND 7

CHARLIE FOOKS AND CLYDE WEBER

A portion of the recent Annual Meeting was reserved for a discussion of the results obtained by participants in the National Boxwood Trials sponsored by Mr. Paul Saunders of Saunders Brothers Nursery Company. Following is a summary of the talks given by Charles Fooks of Woodland Nursery (WLN), Salisbury, Maryland, and myself, Clyde Weber of Oak Hill Nursery (OHN), Bentleyville, Pennsylvania. WLN in southern Maryland is in Zone 7 while Oak Hill Nursery in southwestern Pennsylvania is in Zone 6.

Our discussions included 19 cultivars at OHN and 24 at WLN. There were four overlapping cultivars. The low temperatures at OHN, for boxwood planted 1997 to 2004, is minus 10 degrees F. Older plants, planted from 1985 to 1996, lived through minus 20 degrees, minus 23 degrees, and minus 27 degrees F. The minus 10 degree low qualifies for Zone 6 conditions, while minus 20 degrees and below qualifies for Zone 5. It hasn't been lower than minus 10 degrees F at OHN since 1996. It would be interesting to know if this is due to a real global warming trend. Last winter's low temperature at WLN was 8 degrees F, the lowest temperature occurring over the life of the plants. These were all young plants.

Other than minimum temperature, the effect of variables such as new planting, plant size, and how long established was also covered. Some species or cultivars of advanced liner size will do well from the first winter provided the ground isn't overly wet and subject to heaving from repeated freezing and thawing. The same plants will rate very good to excellent when transplanted. These boxwood could be considered the hardiest of the hardy, and are in GROUP 1 for discussion in this article.

The cultivars that suffer severe foliage and twig freeze-back when young, but will be perfectly hardy after becoming established, and when carefully transplanted thereafter are classified as GROUP 2. The third category includes a cultivar that survives while exhibiting severe freeze-back, yet grows back to give a good summer appearance. Repeated freeze-

back may give a stunted or flat-top appearance to the plant. The effect of known and unknown variables on performance was emphasized. For the beginning boxwood enthusiast in Zone 5, the best way to start is to plant the hardiest boxwood, taking into consideration the age, size, and condition of the plant.

GROUP 1—Hardest of the hardy

Buxus microphylla 'Faulkner'

Buxus microphylla. var. *japonica* 'Winter Gem'

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Wintergreen'
(Korean Little-leaf Wintergreen)

Buxus 'Glencoe' (Trademarked as
'Chicagoland Green')

Buxus 'Green Mountain'

Buxus 'Green Velvet'

GROUP 2—Need protection when young, but a hardy plant when established.

Buxus microphylla 'Kingsville'

Buxus sempervirens 'Fastigiata'

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Justin Browsers'

Unknown Kingsville cultivar grown at OHN

GROUP 3—Needs protection when young, but is perfectly hardy once established. An established plant, however, may freeze back after being transplanted.

Buxus sempervirens 'Joe Gable'

GROUP 4—Needs protection to survive when young. Freeze-back most years thereafter but plant survives and usually looks good by summer.

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Tide Hill'

GROUP 5—At OHN in Zone 5 plants die unless very well protected.

Buxus harlandii

The *B. harlandii* were protected from the west wind by several rows of fir trees and the individual plants were covered with fir branches. Uncovered plants died. This cultivar is beautiful, distinctive and unique, and I know I will be trying more plantings of *B. harlandii*.

That leaves us with the 'Graham Blandy' cultivar to categorize. What a dilemma. Its freeze-back when young directs us to put it in GROUP 2. After established it shows very little tip freeze, at OHN, but some randomly die. Even in the milder climate of WLN Charlie says that only 50% survive long enough to be sold.

Over time we will see if these results are reproducible and we will increase our awareness of the variables affecting results in the growing of boxwood.



**NATIONAL BOXWOOD TRIALS
PANEL DISCUSSION
MAY 6, 2005**

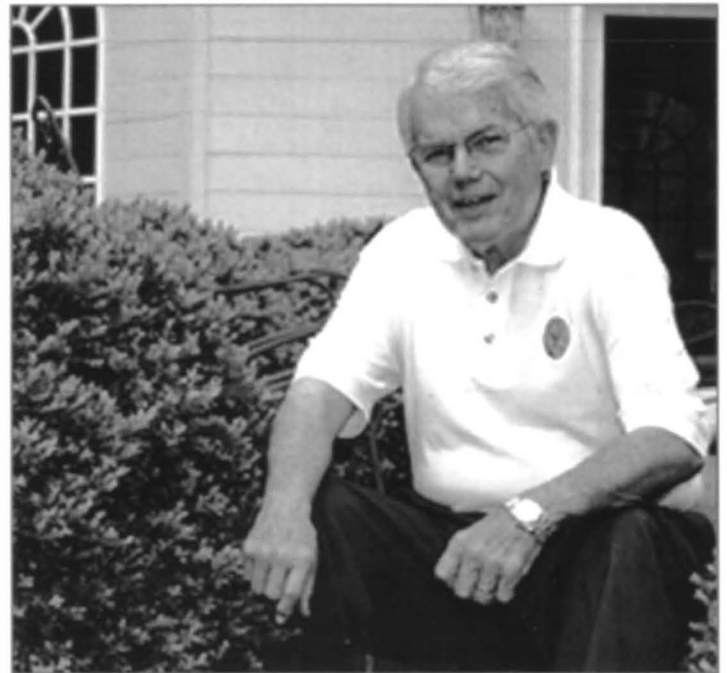
JOAN BUTLER

Paul Saunders has found a fine innovative way to distribute interesting and unfamiliar cultivars of *Buxus* to a wide audience who may have only slight knowledge of the variety available within this genus.

As a reporter for one of the cooperators, the State Arboretum of Virginia at Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce, Virginia, I have become aware that sites with very old plants have different concerns than those who start their evaluations with much smaller plants so generously provided by Mr. Saunders.

Our plants are OLD—they came to Blandy as small rooted specimens in the 1960s—and are now 40 years old. They were set out in a special garden in 1979 and many were moved to a new site in the early 1990s. One of the amazing facts about box is that gardeners never allow enough space for mature development. The misconception that box grows slowly has disconcerting consequences. When the Blandy plants were first set out, the planners believed they had allowed space for very generous growth increases, yet today plants which remain in the 1979 locations have engulfed each other, even though they are professionally plucked every two or three years. Without this attention, the original garden would long ago have become a thick jungle.

Good advice for boxwood purchasers should include a warning to allow 20-foot spacing for *Buxus sempervirens* and many fast-growing cultivars of *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*, if they are to remain in one place until maturity at about 20 years. This only foresees a 10-foot spread on each side of the plant. With favorable growing conditions this spread can occur with unplanned rapidity.



Meet our new Board Member!

Ross A. Hotchkiss of Richmond, Virginia received a BS degree in Biology from the University of Richmond and, following a career in sales with Abbott Laboratories, became involved in residential construction and historic rehab development.

Ross is a master gardener and holds memberships in the European Boxwood and Topiary Society, the Virginia, Washington, Maryland, United Kingdom and American daffodil societies and the American Hemerocallis Society. He is active in numerous community service projects and volunteers, with his wife Betty, at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and in the gardens at Historic Mount Vernon. Ross and his wife have propagated most of the boxwood and azaleas at their home where they dote over their eight grandchildren whenever they visit Richmond.

Other activities for this busy man include driving for Meals on Wheels, and performing his duties as head usher at the largest United Methodist Church in the Virginia Conference. He serves on the Citizens and Business Board of the Henrico County Division of Police and is Jury Commissioner for the County of Henrico, Virginia.



Touring and lunch at Saunders Brothers nursery and home.



All photos this page by Laurie Jamerson

Generous Donors to 2005 Boxwood Auction

Blandy Experimental Farm
John Boyd
Kevin Collard
Charles Fooks
Eddie Goode
Charles Hildebrandt
Clifford Hoffman
Ross Hotchkiss
Ted Mays & Karen McIsaac
Thomas Patrick
Bill Plumb
Saunders Brothers
Peter Scarff
Betty Weber
Clyde Weber
Chris Willemsen

Thanks!



Hello:

It has been a very good year for the boxwood sale of the ABS. Over \$5,000.00 was raised for the projects of the ABS, including research.

The sale has gotten bigger and better each year and it is totally because of you the members. I applaud each of you. You should give yourselves a hand also.

I hope next year's sale will do as well. We already have some donations of boxwood as well as three more complete sets of *Boxwood Bulletins*. I enjoy auctioning the items for you each year since my dad gave up auctioning the plants. Each year we have had new plants as well as other related items. For this growth I thank you.

The donor list is compiled during the year and any time you have an item or plant let me know what you plan to bring or send so I can add it to the list. Thank you, in advance, for the gifts for the 2006 auction.

John Boyd

Boxwood11@verizon.net

540-362-0064

Cultivar List for 2005 Sale

Buxus harlandii

- B. microphylla* 'Compacta' sport
 - 'Curly Locks'
 - 'Glencoe'
- 'Grace Hendrick Phillips'
- 'Green Pillow'
- 'John Baldwin'

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica*

- 'Appalachian Pyramid'
- 'Green Beauty'
- 'Morris Dwarf'
- 'Morris Midget'
- 'National'
- 'Jim Stauffer'
- 'Winter Gem'

Buxus sempervirens 'Blauer Heinz'

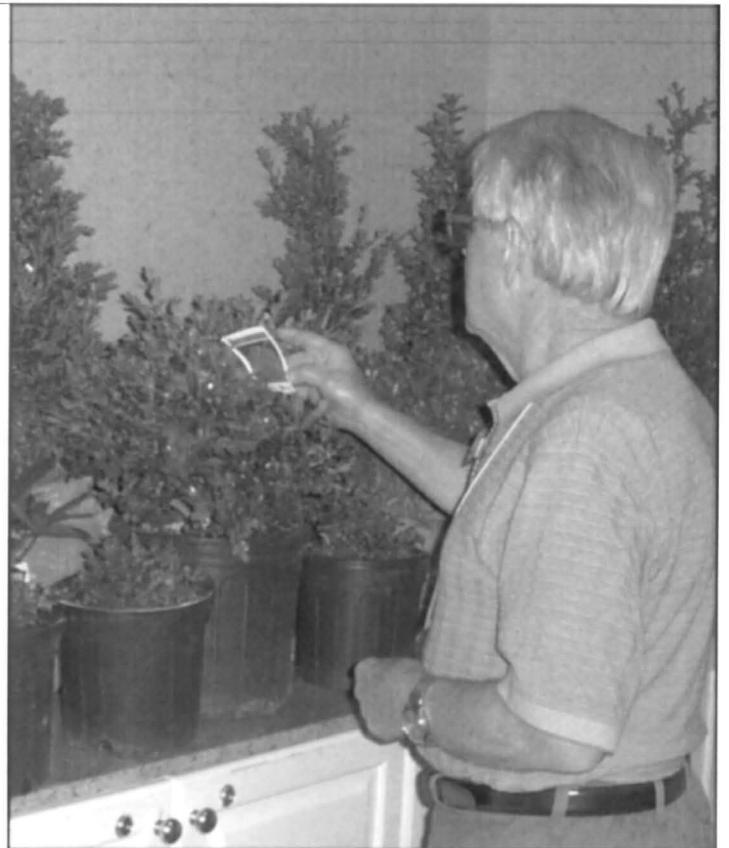
- 'Bullata'
- 'Dee Runk'
- 'Elegantissima'
- 'Fastigiata'
- 'Graham Blandy'
- 'Inglis'
- 'Jensen'
- 'John Boyd'
- 'Latifolia Maculata'
- 'Pyramidalis'
- 'Schmidt'
- 'Suffruticosa' (direct lineage from Mt. Vernon)
- 'Vardar Valley'

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* 'Green Gem'

- 'Green Mountain'
- 'Green Velvet'
- 'Nana'
- 'Tide Hill'

Buxus 'Fiddlam Bow'

- 'Meadows Garden'
- 'Northern Charm'
- 'Peaceful Valley'



Non-Boxwood Donations

- 2 Polo knit shirts
- 3 ABS license plates (logo)
- 2 daylilies 'Maymont Double'
- 1 'Filigree' Russian sage
- Helleborus* x hybrid
- 3 complete sets of *Bulletins*
- 1 *Hydrangea quercifolia*
- Helleborus* x Sunshine Hybrids
- 2 Afghans—one with ABS logo
- 1 *Perovskia* – Russian sage

Thanks, again!



**MINUTES OF THE AMERICAN
BOXWOOD SOCIETY BOARD
MEETING
SPRING 2005**

President Fooks called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. for the Governing Board of The American Boxwood Society on Thursday, March 24, 2005, at Blandy Farm, Boyce, VA. In attendance: Charles T. Fooks, President; Clyde Weber, First Vice-President; Dr. Henry Frierson, Jr., Second Vice-President; Laurie Jamerson, Secretary; McHenry Stiff, III, Executive Treasurer; Lynn Batdorf, Registrar and the following directors: John Boyd III, W. Edward Goode, Jr., Lee Hahn, Walter Carell and Clifford L. Hoffman. Also present were Joan Butler and Donna Williamson. Absent directors were Dr. Gary Richardson and Chris Willemsen.

ABS Bulletin: President Fooks introduced Donna Williamson as a candidate for the position of editor for the *Bulletin*. She has performed in the role as editor/publisher for a previous gardening publication, has a landscaping design business and teaches garden design. Donna offered ideas to generate funds to support the cost of printing such as selling ads, suggested ways to recycle interesting old articles to update 'new' members and has many of the tools necessary to start right away. Discussion included the fact that the *Bulletin* is the sole benefit to members and we are looking to raise the bar on the quality with color photos and possibly forums for interaction and all agreed we want the best publication possible. She lives in Winchester which is a benefit for access to the printer. Eddie Goode made a motion, seconded by Henry Frierson, to offer Donna the editor job for the *Bulletin*. During discussion, Donna said she would gather the information and provide all to the publisher. She agreed to do the July issue before making a commitment to accept editorship. Joan Butler asked if she was aware there was no salary with this position. She was not aware it was to be a volunteer position and said she must do a test run with one issue. President Fooks asked if she would accept this job without payment and she responded she would negotiate pay after doing the first issue. It will not be turnkey and the publisher will prepare it for mailing. Lee Hahn asked her to report back to the Board as to the number of hours involved. Eddie Goode restated his motion to hire Donna temporarily as editor of the *Bulletin*, seconded by Lee Hahn, and it was carried by the Board.

Figures of \$1,000 per issue were discussed as Mr. McCarthy was currently charging \$400 and also had indicated he no longer would be able to continue as editor. Possible changes: only two issues of the *Bulletin* to be published per year and flyers to be sent out announcing the

annual meeting as a way to cut publishing costs; money could be spent to produce a higher quality product. John Boyd presented the current status of the January *Bulletin* after making a phone call to the Frackeltons. Carter Frackelton indicated the proofs were at the printer's and could be finished by the end of next week, April 1st. She will be stuffing the envelopes and meet with Mac Stiff regarding the postage costs.

Joan Butler took it upon herself to gather material for the April issue and presented a final copy from the publisher complete with color cover. The board decided to go ahead and publish the April issue and mail ASAP since it contains information for the annual meeting. Joan apologized for all the garden week coverage it contained. The board commended Joan for her commitment and follow through.

Treasurer's Report: Mac Stiff handed out an accounting report to the Board. Assets total \$74,828.41 and Liabilities total \$10,750.00 giving ABS net worth of \$64,078.41. Mac has closed the Bank of Clarke savings account and deposited \$49.54 into the BB&T account. Mac has been receiving new memberships and cited the Web as the number one source of contact. Motion to approve Treasurer's report as presented was made by Eddie Goode, Lynn Batdorf seconded, carried by the Board.

Minutes from February 17 Meeting: Laurie Jamerson handed out minutes from the last meeting to the Board. Eddie Goode motioned to accept them, seconded by John Boyd, approved by the Board.

Nominating Committee: Clifford Hoffman, Chairman, had nominations for new directors. President Fooks announced he was stepping down as President and suggested that Clyde Webber, First Vice President, replace him. Henry Frierson, Second Vice-President would move up to First Vice President. Charlie would be available to fill a Board seat. Eddie Goode was nominated to fill the Second Vice President's position.

Registrar/Publication Report: Lynn Batdorf announced the EBTS would be holding a meeting in the United States in late April 2007. It was suggested the ABS hold a reception for them. They most likely will be meeting in the Northern VA area. Lynn is exchanging boxwood with some of the European chapter members and has 47 named cultivars. Dr. Frierson is a member of the French Chapter and welcomed others to join.

Research Committee: Henry Frierson reported that Marina Mosulishvili, senior botanist, Institute of Botany of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, Tbilisi, Georgia, had submitted a boxwood mapping report for Georgia and it was printed in the January *Bulletin*. He has

contacted Dr. Robert Wright (via email) and is looking for a report covering his research at VPI funded by the ABS. Henry also mentioned to the Board that Dr. Wright would be at the Annual Meeting speaking on deer-resistant boxwood cultivars. There are no other research projects pending.

ABS Annual Meeting-2005: Laurie Jamerson updated the Board on the status of the meeting in Lynchburg, VA. Ninety people have registered. Meeting itinerary on Friday has been rearranged. The host hotel had filled all the reserved rooms and was willing to make arrangements with another hotel to accommodate the overflow. John Boyd needs auction items. Charlie Fooks and Clyde Weber have sorted back issues of the *Bulletin* to auction off. Face value of one complete set would total over \$700. John Boyd would like to see 15 sets made available for future ABS auctions. It was suggested that we offer some excess back issues to attendees who may not currently be members.

Communication Committee: Lee Hahn proposed we become more pro-active, beginning with the *Bulletin* and consider promoting boxwood at trade shows. Laurie informed Lee that Mr. Saunders had boxwood in a booth at the MANTS show in Baltimore. Lee suggested a banner be designed to use at Annual Meetings and will look into it for May. Joan said she would like to see Scot's Memorial Fund go toward the banner Lee suggested. John Boyd moved to accept Joan's recommendation to use Scot's Memorial Fund for the banner. Les Hoffman seconded; it was carried by the board. Lee Hahn, Joan Butler and Walter Carell will research the options.

Joan Butler suggested the Board evaluate the 'K' series boxwood in the Memorial Garden at Blandy at the next meeting in September. She will provide a location map, including Balkan place names for possible registration.

New Business: Membership Committee - President Fooks addressed the need to fill this chair vacancy. Discussion regarding chairman's duties included in this role unveiled some duplication of responsibilities within committees and positions, and the need to define specific tasks clearly. The Treasurer currently tracks members, adds new members and updates membership list as dues come in. Charlie asked that the by-laws be reviewed to see if positions have detailed information as to procedures and duties. Eddie asked that all officers and committee chairmen write a detailed description of responsibilities they fulfill. He is willing to compile the data for the Board, and it can be emailed to him.

Eddie Goode asked that his email address be corrected to egoode@chhomes.com. Eddie proposed to open a position on the board as Life Board Member. He made a motion to begin the Life Board Member position and nominated Joan Butler. Lee Hahn seconded the motion and it was approved by the entire board. Eddie is pursuing reprinting caps with the ABS logo on them from his own funds and to sell at a profit for the ABS. Several members offered design and size suggestions.

Laurie passed around adhesive labels printed with information about joining the ABS. It is her thought to attach one to the shrink-wrap on each book that is sold to promote membership. Laurie made a motion that the Board approve the final design with a green border and to begin using them on all books sold. Second by John Boyd, approved by board. John Boyd offered to make copies from his computer and get them to Lynn and Mac who handle both the *Handbook* and *Encyclopedia*.

Eddie Goode suggested ABS create a restricted fund for the use of the Registrar. Lynn Batdorf has made seven trips since 1985 that he has paid for himself. After some discussion and support of the idea, Lynn said he was opposed to the idea and would not use the fund if it were created.

President Fooks and Clyde Webber have been sorting back issues of the *Bulletin*. Sets are put aside for the auction; they will take any excess issues to the recycling center with a master file kept at Blandy.

President Fooks asked for a date for the next ABS meeting and set September 22, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. at Blandy Farm. Henry Frierson made a motion to accept that date and adjourn the March Meeting. Walter Carell seconded motion and it was carried by the board.

Meeting concluded at 3:15 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Jamerson



MINUTES OF THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

MAY 6, 2005

The American Boxwood Society met on Friday, May 6, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Select Conference Center, Lynchburg, VA for the 2005 Annual Meeting. President Fooks called the meeting to order at 7:15 a.m., welcomed all attendees and thanked Mr. Paul Saunders for the hard work and time he put into arranging the tours and full itinerary for the Annual Meeting, which was applauded. President Fooks asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Decca Frackelton and Scot Butler and to give thanks for their contributions to ABS over many, many years.

Treasurer's Report: McHenry Stiff reported the checking balance is \$30,428.55. As of May 3, 2005, ABS CD's are \$12,000. There was no income or expenses to report for the 2005 meeting as a result of Paul Saunders underwriting the program this year. Revenue from the auction is earmarked for research.

Nominating Committee: Chairman Les Hoffman presented the slate of officers and directors proposed by the Nominating Committee. A motion was made by Joan Butler, seconded by John Boyd, that Secretary Laurie Jamerson cast a unanimous vote that the slate to be approved as presented. Officers serving a one-year term: President: Clyde Weber; First Vice-President, Dr. Henry Frierson; Second Vice-President, Eddie Goode, Jr.; Secretary, Laurie Jamerson; Executive Treasurer, McHenry Stiff. Directors serving three-year terms expiring May 2008: Andrea Filippone, Ross Hotchkiss and Lee Hahn. Director vacancies: Charlie Fooks will replace Maury Hanson, term expiring May 2007 and Joan Butler will replace Decca Frackelton,

ABS Annual Meeting-2006: Memphis, Tennessee has been selected for the 2006 Annual Meeting chaired by Edna Hoffman. It will be held in mid-May to avoid Mother's Day weekend. Edna reported she had already been working on hotels and gardens to visit. She has contacted an organic gardener to speak and plans include a stop at Elvis' home, Graceland, and Dixon Gardens. Details will be published in the

Bulletin as they become finalized.

Auction: Paul Saunders donated the gift plants this year. He brought beautiful 'Jensen' boxwood that were used as centerpieces at the Thursday evening banquet. John Boyd will submit a report for the *Bulletin* on the success of the auction. The funds raised are earmarked for research grants.

Other Business: President Fooks introduced Donna Williamson who will be Editor of the July issue of the *Bulletin*. All attendees should forward any notes pertaining to the Annual Meeting to her. Talks/revelations shared with others during the meeting are of interest. Donna wants to collect ideas to improve the *Bulletin* for the membership.

President Fooks had a suggestion to offer educational sessions separate from the Annual Meeting, offering hands-on instructional programs. He asked for a show of hands if interested and with the positive response from the membership he said the topic would be addressed at the next board meeting.

Lee Hahn felt May was a busy month for commercial people and asked that the off-season be considered to draw a larger audience. He mentioned younger people are attending and added the need to continue to reach out to them when planning programs. Clyde Weber said the educational reports could be extended into the *Bulletin*.

Research Committee: Dr. Henry Frierson reported the mapping project of boxwood in the Republic of Georgia had been completed and he was receiving detailed reports from Marina Mosulishvili. Proposals for new grants should be submitted to the Research Committee for consideration

The next meeting of the Governing Board of the ABS is **September 22, 2005 at 11:30 a.m.** at Blandly Farm. With all business concluded, Ken Shumaker made a motion to adjourn the 2005 Annual Meeting. John Makar seconded, and the motion was carried by the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Jamerson



Beautiful mountain view from Ivy Hill

Clyde Weber

Clyde Weber



Laurie Jamerson



Good place to relax!

Clyde Weber



Laurie Jamerson



Rear garden at Oak Ridge

Laurie Jamerson



Oak Ridge Railroad Station

Donna Williamson



Lovely table settings

Clyde Weber



White azaleas combine with boxwood

Clyde Weber



Enjoying a boxwood maze

INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION LIST OF
CULTIVATED *Buxus* L.

LYNN R. BATDORF, REGISTRAR
BETHESDA, MARYLAND, USA

Presented herewith is a list of the cultivars and hybrids of *Buxus*. The plant names are followed by the first valid citation found in literature. Invalid cultivar names include their valid cultivar synonyms. Valid cultivar names appear in **boldface type** and invalid names in lightface type. Botanical names appear in *italic type*.

Buxus balearica Lamarck in *Encyclopédie Méthodique, Botanique* 1:511.1785.

'**Marginata**' P. Corbelli in *Dizionario di Floricoltura* 1:231.1873.

Buxus bodinieri 'David's Gold' Stone House Cottage Nurseries, Worcestershire, England 1991 = *B. sempervirens* '**David's Gold**'

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'**Richard**' J. Baldwin in *The Boxwood Bulletin* 2(4):44.1963.

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'**Compacta**' D. Wyman in *American Nurseryman* 107(7):50.1963.

'Creepy' *Catalog*, Oliver Nurseries, Fairfield, Connecticut. 1986. = '**Grace Hendrick Phillips**'

'**Curly Locks**' D. Wyman in *American Nurseryman* 107(7):50.1963.

'Emerald Isle' *Inventory*, Plant and Supply Locator, Taylors, South Carolina. 2000.

'Fernwood' *Inventory*, Wavecrest Nursery, Fennville, Michigan.1994.

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'Fiorii' Fiore Enterprises, Rt. 22, Prairie View, Illinois. c. 1990. = '**Pullman**'

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'**Grace Hendrick Phillips**' H. Hohman in *The Boxwood Bulletin* 7(1):1.1967.

'Green China' *Inventory*, Seaforde Gardens, Seaforde, Northern Ireland.1995. = *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Green Jade'

'Green Cushion' *Inventory*, Coker Arboretum, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.1988. = '**Green Pillow**'

'**Green Pillow**' O'Connor in *Baileya* 1:114.1963.

'**Green Sofa**' J. Baldwin in *The Boxwood Bulletin* 15(3):42.1976.

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'**Harry Logan**' L. Batdorf, *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* 51.2004.

'**Helen Whiting**' J. Baldwin in *The Boxwood Bulletin* 15(3):41-42.1976.

'**Henry Hohman**' P.D. Larson. *Boxwood*. Foliar Press. Boyce, Virginia.1996.

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'Julia Jane' *Catalog*, Little Valley Nurseries, Brighton, Colorado.1992.

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'Mimer' L. Batdorf, *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* 57.2004.

'**Northern Emerald**' L. Batdorf. *The Boxwood Bulletin* 38(3):45.1999.

'**Quiet End**' L. Batdorf in *The Boxwood Bulletin* 31(3):52.1992.

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- 'Baily' *Inventory*, Tops Wholesale, Edinburg, Texas.2004
- 'Belvedere' *Inventory*, Firma C. Esveld, Boskoop, Netherlands.1983.
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- 'Rotundifolia Glauca' *Catalog*, Charles Dietrich, Angers, France.1892.
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- 'Tjalfe' L. Batdorf, *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* 78-79.2004.
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- 'Wheeler' Wheeler's Nursery, *Inventory*, Macon, Georgia.1999.
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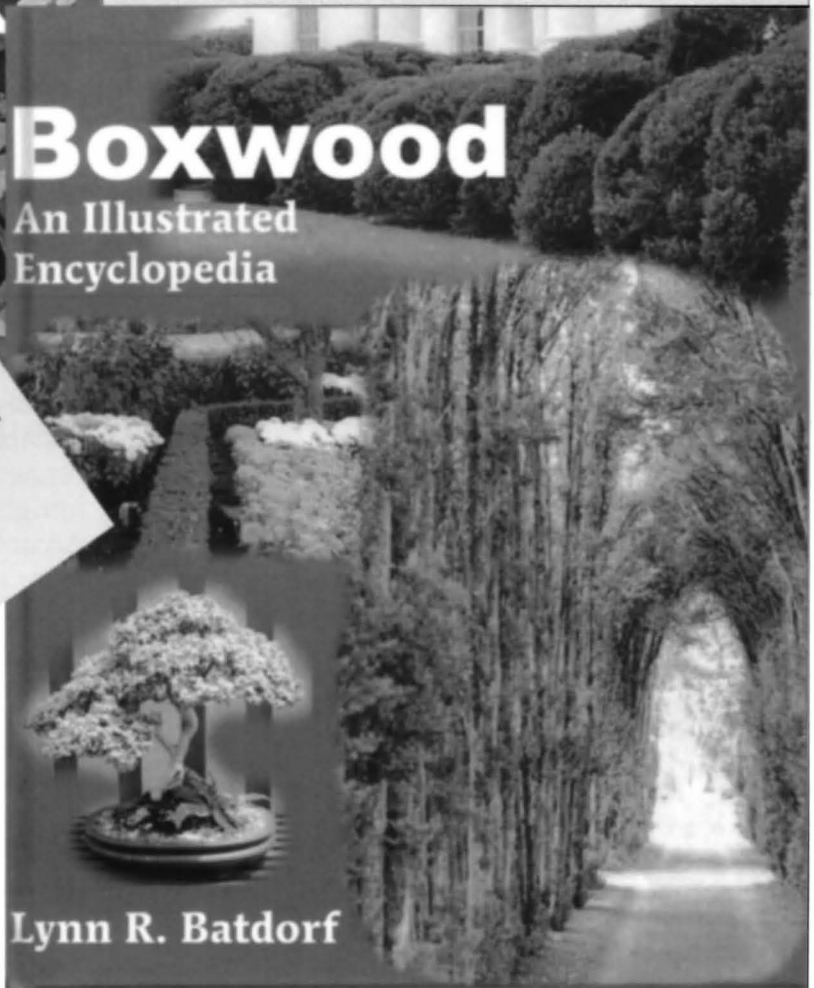
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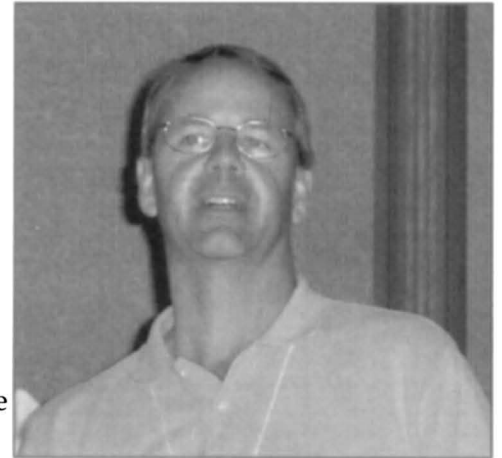


DESIGNING HEDGES WITH BOXWOOD

BY PETER SCARFF



The Harvey Estate tour at the Annual Meeting
in Lynchburg, Virginia
Photos by Clyde Weber



With the introduction of newer, more dwarf cultivars of boxwood, the concept of manageable hedges should be a large part of any landscape design. The dwarf cultivars hybridized and introduced by Sheridan Nurseries of Ontario, Canada in the 1970's are perfect candidates. There are three very popular named cultivars that came from that process, and several more that are making their way to market. All of these plants have differing characteristics that make them popular choices for manageable hedges. Below, I will examine the characteristics of *Buxus* hybrids; 'Green Mountain', 'Green Velvet' and 'Green Gem'.

Buxus x 'Green Mountain' is typically presented as a pyramidal evergreen that can be used on either side of the front entrance to the house. I propose that landscape architects, designers and contractors, along with homeowners, consider using this boxwood in its natural form, which is upright and spreading. 'Green Mountain' is possibly the tallest grower of the three discussed here and is usually available in larger sizes since, from a production standpoint, it grows the fastest. We have pruned these plants in a pyramidal shape, a tight upright, egg shape and left them growing naturally. According to our customers, many of them prefer a more natural presentation since they, or their customer, are then able to prune them to final form. The first planting we did in this manner now stands at just under 42 inches from plants that tipped at 24 inches seven years ago.

Buxus x 'Green Velvet' is typically not considered as a hedging selection, but is certainly viable. Its natural shape is more spreading than upright, so it needs room to expand its reach. It's not uncommon to see 'Green Velvet' planted as a cluster in the landscape or a foundation plant. Its use as a hedging

plant is very viable provided room is available to allow the plants to spread out. This plant is typically available in larger sizes as well since it also develops good size in the production nursery.

Buxus x 'Green Gem' is probably the sleeper boxwood of these three. I feel it is the best suited plant for the formal garden and perennial border. It's growth habit is nearly globe shaped, however, if left untouched, we periodically see them take an upright habit. With only a few prunings in the production nursery, these plants make a perfect hedging boxwood. The growth rate is very consistent on all sides and can actually be left alone for pruning purposes every other year. This is the boxwood of choice with our landscape department because of its low maintenance, soft look and toughness. Don't expect it to form a solid hedge immediately; it takes several years for the plants to put on 8-10 inches of growth



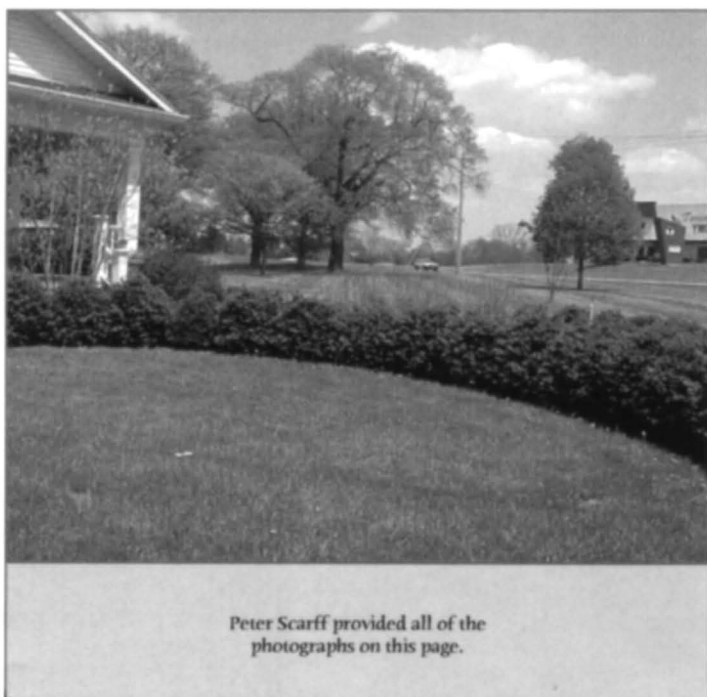
in the landscape. It is possibly the least available of these three and even then, in smaller sizes. It is a year to a year and a half behind 'Green Mountain' and 'Green Velvet' in growth during the production process, which makes a nurseryman lean towards the two aggressive siblings.

These plants have experienced little to no damage in USDA Zone 5A landscapes. They are regularly planted in the difficult climates and soils of the Chicagoland area as well as the plain states to Denver, Colorado and Lincoln, Nebraska. Their adaptability to warmer climates, USDA Zones 7 and warmer, may yet be determined. I would be amiss not to mention possibly the most hardy boxwood that I am aware of which is *Buxus sinica insularis* 'Wintergreen'. This selection was made by my grandfather, Howard Scarff, from seeds received from Manchuria in the 1940's. It is a lighter green and smaller leaved plant than the Sheridan hybrids, but

exhibits a much tougher ability to withstand harsh winter conditions. Its growth habit is more aggressive and requires regular pruning but can be maintained in almost any size and shape. The selection 'Wintergreen' is not to be confused with a southern, Asiatic selection that is not hardy in northern climates. True 'Wintergreen' does not grow well in the hot summers of the south and southeast part of the United States, so the plant is unknown in that part of the country while the name can make for confusion.

Pest and disease problems with the Sheridan hybrids seem to be consistent with other typical *Buxus* issues. These *Buxus* selections exhibit the cultural adaptability so typical of other boxwood and are also unappetizing for deer.

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Peter Scarff provided all of the photographs on this page.

Annual Meeting Snapshots

Join in the great tours, fascinating seminars, delicious barbeque and wonderful conversations at the next Annual Meeting in

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

May 2006

Don't miss it!!!

Memberships

Memberships from May 2005 through April 2006 include quarterly issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*:

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Contributing	\$75		

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Photos by Laurie Jamerson and Clyde Weber

Another Treat!

Over the past several years, I have organized tours of the most unique and fantastic private garden in Middleburg, VA. This year's tour is scheduled for September 21 at 1 p.m. Wingfield Farm contains several unique gardens, specimen conifers, topiary, lovely boxwood, statuary and a beautifully developed Italian landscape with fountains and extensive stonework. The owner will be available to answer questions and describe her design decisions to tour participants. A deductible donation of \$25.00 to the Middleburg Humane Foundation is requested for each participant. Refreshments will be served. Feel free to contact me with questions or to arrange participation in this tour.

Donna Williamson
Boxwood2005@aol.com



Wingfield Farm

**Remember To
Send In Your
Dues, Please.**

Donna Williamson

Hey folks! We still have about a dozen hats, and we can get more! We're offering them at \$20, postage paid, and nice cotton shirts, mens or ladies, specify size—S,M,L,XL, for \$35 postage paid. We (Eddie Goode and I) intend to expand this effort into neckwear—ties and possibly scarves! My New York cousin is a custom tie and scarf entrepreneur! At any rate, let's start with the shirts and hats, custom embroidered with a 4-color ABS logo (American Boxwood Society and the green branch in the center).

Ross Hotchkiss
Hotchkss@aol.com

Laurie Jamerson shows T-shirt at annual meeting in Lynchburg.



By the Way

In his recent column in *The Washington Post*, **Digging In**, Scott Aker offered the following:

Question: When we moved into our new home, my neighbor told me to be sure to keep my male terrier out of his yard, as male dog urine would kill his boxwood (while his female's dog's would not cause this damage). We have done our best to keep our dog tied up, but he has ventured next door on occasion, only once or twice a month and then for a short period.

Two of the neighbor's boxwood are ill. They have yellowed – at points higher, I might add, than our dog could reach. My neighbor informed me that our dog is at fault. Could our dog be the culprit? If so, what can we do to compensate? Is there a treatment or must we replace the sickened bushes?

Answer: I suspect that your neighbor's boxwood may be having a problem with a fungal disease rather than with your dog's urine. Many mistake the damage caused by the fungus for other problems, such as salt injury, nematodes or pet urine. In both cases, the boxwood foliage turns tan as it dies.

Damage from fungal disease and dog urine manifests itself differently. Urine injury often is seen as an arc of foliage damage across several branches in a given area of the shrub. The *Volutella* fungus, by contrast, causes cankers that girdle and kill entire discrete branches. The affected foliage goes through a color progression from dark olive green to orange to straw-colored as the branch dies.

Volutella canker is most prevalent in boxwood that are sheared regularly. Shearing slices leaves in half and creates a dense but narrow canopy of foliage at the outer edges of the plant, predisposing it to *Volutella* attack. The interior is extremely shady and robbed of effective air circulation. In these conditions, the fungus thrives. Boxwood should be thinned by removing some of the small branches from the outer surface of the plant. This will allow more sunlight and air to move through the shrubs.

In short, if the damage is confined to individual branches, your dog is innocent. By the way, female dog urine is more damaging than male dog urine but is usually seen as spots in the lawn.

Scott Aker is a horticulturist at the U.S. National Arboretum and gave permission for the reprinting of this portion of his column seen weekly in *The Washington Post*.



Attendees at Lynchburg Annual Meeting

William Adams – Shenandoah Junction WV
Nancy Agee – Richmond, VA
Wayne Amos – Washington, DC
Pam Basconi – Versailles, KY
Lynn Batdorf – Bethesda, MD
Mary Berger – Lake of the Woods, VA
Laura Blank – Lynchburg, VA
John Boyd – Roanoke, VA
Mary Brownlee – Winston-Salem, NC
Tom Burford – Monroe, VA
Dr. Wilbur Burger – Lynchburg, VA
Scott Burns – Charlottesville, VA
Joan Butler – Winchester, VA
Alexandra and Walter Carell – Millington, NJ
Jan Stephen and Mary Louise Carter – Eldersburg, MD
Carolyn Cernea – Lake of the Woods, VA
Melanie Christian – Lynchburg, VA
Ernest and Kathleen Coalter – Cape Charles, VA
Kevin Collard – Leitchfield, KY
Jane and Reece Corey – Chestertown, MD
Susan Crawford – Forest, VA
Nan and Bernie Cross – Waterford, VA
Cheryl Crowell – Winchester, VA
Don Davis – Lynchburg, VA
James and Trudy Davidson – Lynchburg, VA
John and Rachel Deddens – Poplar Forest, VA
Page Dickson – Ronceverte, WV
Ken and Linda Dowd – Charlotte, NC
Stan Driver – Nellysford, VA
Juliann Edwards – Madison Heights, VA
Susan Butler Elder – Lovettsville, VA
John and Kathy Elkins – Durham, NC
Laura Elkins – Winston-Salem, NC
Yulita Ellis – Gladstone, VA
Caroline Emswiler – Gladstone, VA
Joseph and Mary Ferguson – Salem, VA
Andrea Filippone – Pottersville, NJ
Lucy And Charlie Fooks – Salisbury, MD
Henry and Melinda Frierson – Charlottesville, VA
Travis Gardner – Delran, NJ
Jay and Shirley Gillenwater – Charlottesville, VA
Frances Giles – Lynchburg, VA
Eddie Goode – Sabot, VA
Eleanor and William Goode – Maidens, VA
Constance and Lyons Gray – Winston-Salem, NC
Bruce Gregory – New Kent, VA
Christopher Hahn – Clarkston, MI
Lee Hahn – Califon, NJ
Maury Hanson – Madison, VA
Jeffrey Harder – Shenandoah Junction, WV
O. Halsey and Emily Hill – Roanoke, VA
Allen and Fern Harvey – Forest, VA
Edna Hoffman – Memphis, TN
Les Hoffman – Flemington, NJ
Ross Hotchkiss – Richmond, VA
Carol Innes – Charlottesville, VA
Evelyn McMinn, guest of Laurie and Clay Jamerson–
Madison Heights, VA



Photos by Laurie Jamerson

Jarman Jenkins – Winston-Salem, NC
 Leonard Johnson – Madison Heights, VA
 Patricia and Edward Kelly – Taneytown, MD
 Jonathan Keyser – Richmond, VA
 James Knox – Raleigh, NC
 Dr. Todd Lasseigne – Kernersville, NC
 Susan and Mack Little – Raleigh, NC
 Glenda Lojek – Lynchburg, VA
 Joseph Lunsford – Brookneal, VA
 Sunny Macdonald – Lexington, VA
 John Lockwood Makar – Atlanta, GA
 Nancy Marion – Piney River, VA
 Audrey Kugler, guest of
 Susan and Will Mays – Amherst, VA
 Ted Mays – Matthews, NC
 Marshall McCormick – Charlestown, WV
 Karen McIsaac – Matthews, NC
 Hope and Bill McRorie – Lynchburg, VA
 Ralph Messick – Winston-Salem, NC
 Kara Miller – Piney River, VA
 William Moseley – Dillwyn, PA
 Evie Neumaier – Union, WV
 Bill and Bonnie Obert – Madison Heights, VA
 Thomas Patrick, Jr. – Greenville, SC

Clarkie Patterson – Lynchburg, VA
 Bob Peter – Raleigh, NC
 Megan Phaup – Piney River, VA
 Adrienne and David Phillips – Piney River, VA
 James and Toni Piggott – Lynchburg, VA
 William Plumb – Moorestown, NJ
 Dr. Gary and Mary Richardson – Annapolis, MD
 Dr. James and Libba Robertson – Blacksburg, VA
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 Bob and Alice Sales – Madison Heights, VA
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 Annie Saunders – Piney River, VA
 Bennett and Lynn Saunders
 Carey, Marshall and Tye Saunders – Piney River
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 Caleb and Christi Saunders – Piney River, VA
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 McHenry Stiff – Round Hill, VA
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 Page Sullenberger – Orange, VA
 Harold Swisher – Amherst, VA
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 Rebecca and Walter Tucker – Lovingston, VA
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 Betty Walker – Del Rio, TN
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 Donna Williamson – Winchester, VA
 Susan Wingfield – Lynchburg, VA
 Dana Woody – Charlotte, NC
 Joan Worsham – Hurt, VA
 Dr. Robert Wright – Blacksburg, VA
 Carolyn Yawars – Lexington, VA



Just in! EBTS is sponsoring a fantastic trip to view topiary and beautiful boxwood in **Scotland**, September 23-26, 2005. For information, contact the tour company via phone at **01-341-241-717** or **www.boxwoodtours.co.uk**

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