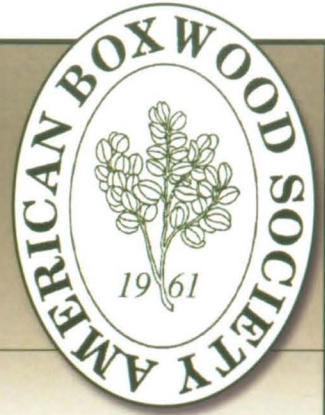


THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN



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

Vol. 55 No. 2

Winter 2016



The American Boxwood Society

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

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Treis - Karden, *Buxus in the wild part 3.*

This article is a contribution of the piece “Palmberg *Buxus* in Nature
by Marc Velleman, printed in our previous issue.

During the summer days of April 2011, I had the opportunity to visit Treis - Karden, a village in Mosel, Germany. This place is known as a place of wild growing boxwood. The German information service about tourism provides a directory from which the “*Buxus* Pathway” has sign posts to follow. I received this leaflet (below) from Mr. Didier Hermans during a day-long *Buxus* consultation regarding *Buxus* research.



This indicates that the plants are not very old and are mostly grown from the same era. There is no trace of uprooted “*Buxus* Fields”, which we can speak of a fairly uniform population at a bottom of loose, flaking shale.

The present *Buxus sempervirens* varieties are similar to the wild plants in Belgium with the following characteristics:

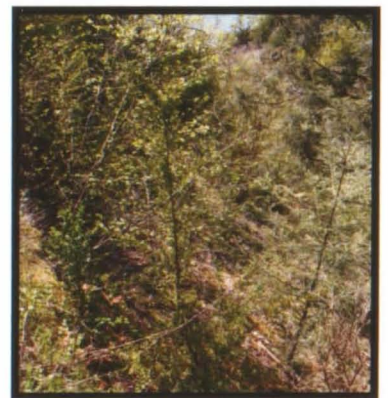
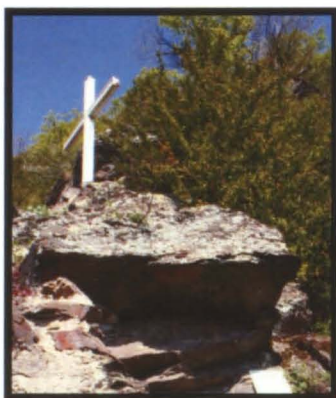
A: Growth form:

- Tree shape
- Pendula form
- With a strong stem growing plants pendula form.



For three days I searched for native populations of *Buxus* species on the mountain ridge between Treis - Karden and Müden. On April 8, I started in Treis - Karden, a charming village where the wine culture is present in abundance. The first part of the walk is directly uphill and from the very beginning you walk among boxwood. Soon, you rise above the village and you'll reach the first lookout point with a magnificent view over the village and the Moselle.

This mountain is also the lair of the “Holy Castor” the patron saint of the village church.



Further, the route goes back and forth between a vegetation of mainly *Buxus*. The plants are usually on steep slopes and often exhibit the same characteristics: loose, strongly growing bushes with a trunk diameter of up to +/- 10 cm.



With one tribe strong growing plants.

2 / Color:

- A range from light green to dark green and blue
- Bicolor plants or sports, I have not found.



3 / Leaf surface:

- From matte to high gloss. High gloss comparable to that of *B. microphylla*. I use this equation despite there is no substantial connection between the two *Buxus* species. The *B. sempervirens* varieties are no comparable plants with such brilliance, the *Buxus sempervirens* 'Planifolia' after, but this has a totally different leaf shape.



4 / Balance Sheet:

- Symmetric and at an angle of 30 ° to 70 ° with respect to the stem
- Symmetrical at an angle of 0 ° to 10 ° similar to *Buxus microphylla* 'Roy Lancaster' and the plant available commercially under the name *Buxus harlandii*.



5 / Leaf: shape and dimensions:

- Small leaves, ovoid +/- 4 x 9 mm
- Sized blade, egg shape +/- 6 x 12 mm with occasional very pointed ends
- Oblong leaves
- Large round leaves similar to *Buxus sempervirens* 'Rotundifolia'



A nice assortment of natural varieties within a random selection of a population of *Buxus sempervirens* in a beautiful wine region with numerous historic castles. Even people who are unaware of *Buxus*, would agree there is a beautiful diversity which exists in *Buxus sempervirens*.

Did You Know?

The first boxwood planting in America is believed to have occurred about 1653 at Sylvester Manor on Shelter Island in the northwest portion of Long Island. They originally used English boxwood brought over the Atlantic Ocean from Amsterdam, where it was known as Dutch boxwood.

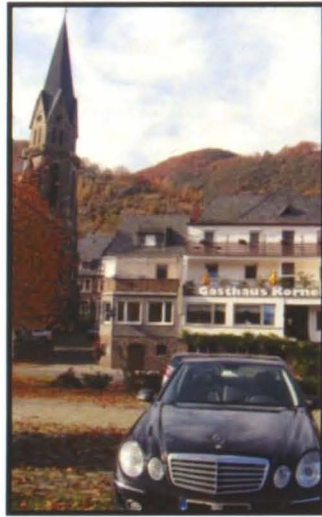
Buxus in Free Nature, Part 4 Under articles of F. Vernier:

- *Bulletin des Academies et des Sciences Societe Lorraine: 1996.35 No. 3.*

I have selected the following places:

Station 15: St. - Aldegund
Station 14: Bath Bertrich

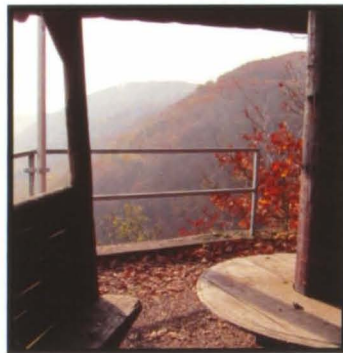
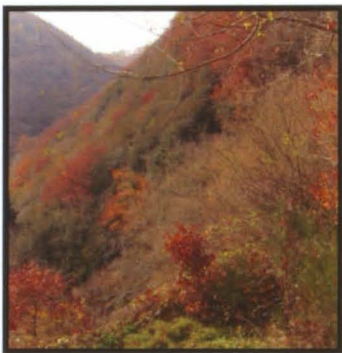
Two stations in Germany, Mosel region. For these locations, I foresee a day trip. There is a slight haze in the early morning of November 6, 2011 at Sankt - Aldegund inner row. It looks as though it will be a wonderful day. I park on the strip between the church and the Moselle.



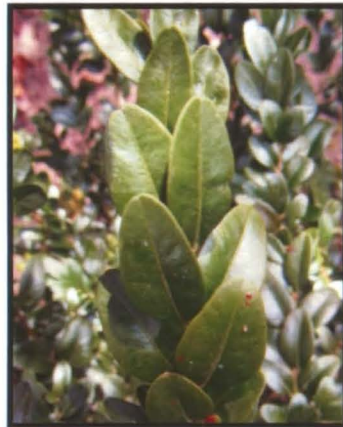
With just the name of the village in the pocket, I have to look for the boxwood.

After my experience in France where the boxwood is almost undetectable, I stopped by the tourist information service that is hosted by the local grocer. Here one can obtain a brochure of the trails in the area, and yes the wild *Buxus* is listed! The route starts at the chapel which stands at the foot of the mountain. This mountain is the backdrop of the village. After some hiking the boxwood is seen, and there is a good view of the steep hillside that is lush.

Part of the trail goes along the edge, through the *Buxus* population which is interrupted occasionally by classical overlooks and viewpoints.



Here you have a view of the village and the Moselle. Along the path there are information boards placed where quite read what is on the boxwood. *Buxus* population of these shale rock is pretty universal, a concatenation of the common Moselle plants.



No wealth of varieties, but a pleasant walk. In the afternoon I used the same search method to Bad - Bertrich. After about twenty minutes I drove through the village Kurfürstenstrasse (house # 10). The center is pedestrianized and parking must be specially built car parks on the outskirts of the city. Parking along the street is reserved for residents and short-term parking. The only non-paying long-term parking are located for this house 10 in Kurfürstenstrasse. This road runs between a river and an imposing cliff that surrounds the village for more than half. It is totally unnecessary to ask for *Buxus*, let alone seek. The rocks are full of them! The plants grow here as it were on the street.

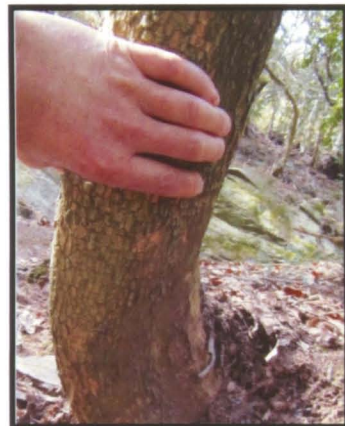
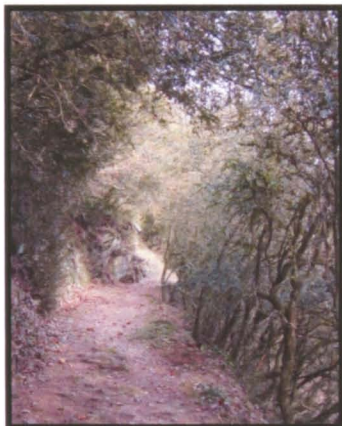


The soil consists here out of slate with a high iron content. The red color of the rock is taken up by some boxwood plants. The leaves are dark - burgundy, a nice deviation in terms of leaf color that is just here to observe.

For the walk I follow the main road through this cosmopolitan town, a health resort in the volcanic Eifel. Almost at the end of the street is a small church on the left. Behind the church starts a narrow path which quickly rises above the city, surrounded by beautiful old boxwood trees.



Here one does not have to search for examples of wild *Buxus* with a diameter of 10 to 15 cm.

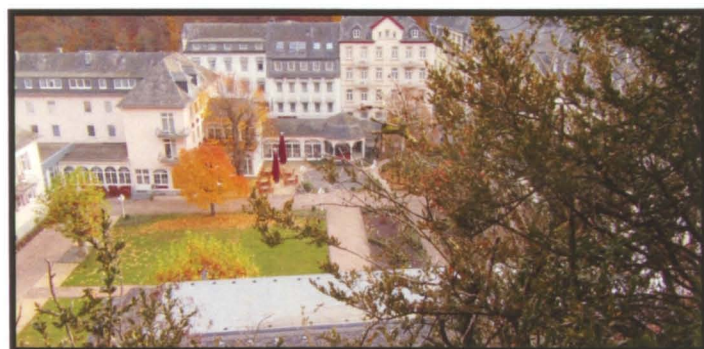


There is almost no room for other plants. Here and there there's a hole in the boxwood hedges, where one has a view of the beautiful buildings of this resort.

Meanwhile, I am so far followed the path that I am on top of the mountain at the height of the low-lying road, where I entered the city. In this barren crags *Buxus* grows in very difficult circumstances.

Such close contact of wild *Buxus* with a town I have never experienced on the previous locations. Higher up the mountain leads is more scattered in a deciduous forest where the boxwood.

These are usually the places where there were different *Buxus* plants. But at this moment I have no more time to investigate. I regret to begin the way back.



Buxus microphylla ‘Kingsville Dwarf’ vs. ‘Compacta’

by Lynn R. Batdorf¹

In 1912, more than 100 years ago, a new boxwood clone was selected by William Appleby, a plant propagator, for Henry Hohman, owner of Kingsville Nurseries. Named *Buxus microphylla* ‘Compacta’, it was accepted for registration in 1965 by Dr. Burdette L. Wagenknecht, the first International Registration Authority for *Buxus*. The validity of this cultivar has been substantiated by both Dr. Bernice Speese, the second International Registration Authority of *Buxus* and Lynn R. Batdorf, the current registrar.

The test of time has proved this plant possesses superior horticultural merit. Its dwarf habit, insect and disease resistance have made it one of the most popular boxwood in the nursery industry, the bonsai and horticultural communities, and the general public. Based on wholesale distributions, it consistently remains one of the top selling boxwood. Yet, questions remain regarding its name. The chronic nomenclatural confusion between *Buxus microphylla* ‘Compacta’ and *Buxus microphylla* ‘Kingsville Dwarf’ has initiated a comprehensive vetting process by the current registrar.

On March 1, 1948, the American Association of Nurserymen, (AAN) Inc. received a registration application from the renowned plantsman and owner of the Kingsville Nursery in Kingsville, Maryland, Henry Hohman, for *Buxus microphylla* ‘Compacta’ (Figure 1).

Figure 1

Two days later, on March 3, 1948, J. Frank Schmidt, Jr., a distinguished Oregon nurseryman and an honorary Life member of the AAN, replied for the AAN noting that the, “SPN denies use of ‘compacta’ for this clone.” (Figure 2). SPN is an acronym for Stabilized Plant Names of the ISTA (International Seed Testing Association) Nomenclature Committee.

Figure 2

In 1949, the Woody Plant Register List #1, Sponsored by the American Association of Nurserymen in a “Reprinted Proceedings of the American Association of Nurserymen Convention” which was held in the USDA South Building in Washington, D.C., July 18-21, on page 3 and 4, *Buxus microphylla* ‘Kingsville Dwarf’ was properly accepted for registration [Figures 3a and 3b]. The citation notes the AAN Registration #43 in 1948, deletes *Buxus microphylla* ‘Compacta’. This is a significant determination.

It is likely Hohman’s submission was slightly confused by the poor options on the registration card itself. It appears to be submitted as, “*Buxus microphylla* compacta, Kingsville Dwarf Boxwood.” without clearly indicating which of the names he preferred. The AAN registrar then checked and

determined that ‘Compacta’ was not allowed leaving ‘Kingsville Dwarf’ as an acceptable alternative. Presumably, this was discussed with Hohman before being finally accepted and published in 1949 (figure 3a and b).

Buxus microphylla, Kingsville Dwarf Boxwood—This is a seedling of *Buxus microphylla* discovered in 1912 in Baltimore, Maryland, by William Appleby. Introduced by the Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland, in 1940. The

Figure 3a

plant is extremely dwarf, twiggy and compact, rarely reaching more than 20 inches high. Very hardy. Registered by H. J. Hohman, Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland. (*AAN Register* 43)

Figure 3b

In the January 1965, 4(3):35–41, issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, the American Boxwood Society (ABS) published its first, “Registration Lists of Cultivar Names In *Buxus* L.” by Dr. Burdette L. Wagenknecht (Figure 4a and b). Wagenknecht served as the first registrar for the ABS. In these lists, Wagenknecht recognized *Buxus microphylla* ‘Compacta’ as being registered by Henry Hohman March 1, 1948 (Figure 4a and 4b). Because Wagenknecht cited the date March 1, 1948, it is likely only the reviewed original application card, received by the AAN on March 1, 1948. Because the March 3, 1948 date was not mentioned, it is also likely Wagenknecht overlooked the AAN response denying that registration. Wagenknecht probably knew the AAN registration is not covered by the Code Article 11.2, as that body is not a statutory registration authority (which are defined as “an organization established by legal enactment of a particular country or by legal treaty between...countries.” These statutory bodies include Plant Breeders’ Rights or Plant Patent authorities (Figure 5).

‘Compacta’ (Registered by Henry Hohman, Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland, March 1, 1948.) Originated in 1912 by Wm. Appleby, Baltimore, Maryland. “Extremely dwarf,

Figure 4a

twiggy, and compact. Rarely reaching more than 20 inches high. Very hardy.”

Figure 4b

‘Kingsville Dwarf’ (Cited by D. Wyman in *American Nurseryman* 117 (7): 50. 1963 to be a synonym of *B. microphylla* ‘Compacta’.)

Figure 5

Further, Wagenknecht cited the popular article, “Boxwood Prized Wherever Hardy Form is Found” by Donald Wyman in the April 1, 1963 issue of *American Nurseryman* [Figure 6]. Wyman described the boxwood as *Buxus microphylla* ‘Compacta’. Wagenknecht was silent on the earlier 1949 registration of ‘Kingsville Dwarf’ by the AAN.

B. m. Compacta—Also called the Kingsville dwarf box, this originated at Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Md. It is a dense rounded, twiggy cultivar with small leaves, reported hardy into southern Canada. It was first introduced in 1940, and a 47-year-old plant at the arboretum is one foot tall and four feet across, dense and green.

Figure 6

The *Code*, refers to *The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*, 8th edition, 2009, which incorporates the Rules and Recommendations for naming plants in cultivation as adopted by the International Union of Biological Sciences, International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants. C.D. Brickell serves as the Commission Chairman.

Article 11.2 of the *Code* states, “Notwithstanding Art 11.1, if an accepted cultivar name becomes rejected and replaced with a new name by a statutory plant registration authority, or is otherwise replaced by a name designated by such an authority, the earlier accepted names becomes a synonym of the newer name.” Article 11.1 states, “The accepted name is the earliest established one that must be adopted for a cultivar, Group, grex, or the generic name of an intergeneric graft chimera under the rules of this Code.”

The earliest established cultivar name (reference: *Code*, Article 11.1) is the 1949 AAN registration

for 'Kingsville Dwarf'. There is no record of Wagenknecht rejecting 'Kingsville Dwarf' registered in the 1949 *Woody Plant Register List #1*. However, Wagenknecht did reject 'Kingsville Dwarf' cited in the 1963 article by Wyman. As Wagenknecht was silent on the 1949 registration of *Buxus microphylla* 'Kingsville Dwarf', certainly it was overlooked.

There exists the earlier accepted name of one registrar being challenged by the later accepted name of another, except (as I noted) the latter was done without any reference to or acknowledgement of the earlier registration. Additionally, it had an improper citation of a Latin cultivar name publication later than 1Jan1959 (the date after which new cultivar names must be in a modern vernacular language to distinguish them from botanical epithets). In spite of the relatively early registration and publication of 'Kingsville Dwarf' as the accepted name for this clone, today it seems that 'Compacta' is the more widely used. This is not a trivial consideration. The registrar has an obligation to register, "...the name that best preserves existing usage is to be chosen as the accepted name by the appropriate International Cultivar Registration Authority..." (*Code* 8th edition, Article 29.2). It must also be recognized that 'Compacta', gained acceptance due to many years' of effort to stabilize that cultivar name. For the most part AAN's pioneer in cultivar name registrations have been traditionally accepted by ICRA's, and have been maintained by the ICRA registrations which follow. 'Kingsville Dwarf' vs. 'Compacta' presents a clear exception.

If the 1949 registration, and publication, by the AAN of the cultivar name, 'Kingsville Dwarf' were not a serious consideration, there is some support for justifying the acceptance of 'Compacta'. This would be supported if the improper citation of Wyman's 1963 article as the original source of the name were disregarded. By itself, the article cannot serve as a valid name publication since it was a Latin-form cultivar name published after 1Jan1959. However, the Code does permit the adoption of, "...the epithet of any name in Latin form published prior to 1Jan1959, even if it is not validly published under the ICBN [International Code of Botanical Nomenclature], that meets the requirements for establishment as a cultivar name under this Code... if the plants to which it was

applied are now considered to represent a cultivar." (*Code* 8th edition, Article 21.6).

Finally, this history has brought together all the decisions and highlighting the systematic conflicts in the Code providing the most thorough examination of the nomenclature of this clone to date.

Therefore, with this evidence, the cultivar name *Buxus microphylla* 'Compacta' is hereby reaffirmed and *Buxus microphylla* 'Kingsville Dwarf' and remains a synonym.

Acknowledgements:

The author is grateful to Stefan B. Lura, Botanist, U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., for providing penetrating and comprehensive insight as well as copies of literature used in most figures.

¹ Since 1985, Lynn R. Batdorf has served as the registrar for the ABS which is the International Cultivar Registration Authority for *Buxus* L.

In Memorial

The American Boxwood Society recently
lost two beloved life members

Joan Butler of Bluemont, VA and
later Westminister-Canterbury, VA:

Joan was one of the original founders of The American Boxwood Society. She and her husband, Scott, were the Editors of *The Boxwood Bulletin* for six years. The Butler's owned their own nursery and were wonderful resources for the member of the Society, helping to answer the many boxwood questions that came our way.

Joan is survived by a son and daughter.

Sarah Burton: Sarah was a resident of Clarke County, VA. and very active in The American Boxwood Society and well known in Virginia Garden Clubs as well as in her home community for her plant knowledge.

Memorial contributions can be made to
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2016 Annual American Boxwood Society Symposium The Presidential Tour!

May 11 Meet at Blandy Farm, Boyce, VA Home of The American Boxwood Society's Boxwood Memorial Garden---Leave cars, board the bus.
Tour Montpelier – Home of President James Madison
Tour Waverly - Home of Mr. George Stick.
Tour Mt. Sharon - Home of Mr. & Mrs. George Seilheimer
Tour the Barbourville Winery. Dinner
Holiday Inn - Charlottesville Hotel

May 12 Visit Tufton Farm - Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants
Ashlawn – Highland President James Monroe's Home Box lunch there.
Moven – Former home of John Kluge
Travel by bus to Staunton, VA - Stay at Stonewall Jackson, Hotel

May 13 Tour of private gardens in Staunton, VA.
Visit Andre Viette's farm and nursery
Drive through JMU Arboretum
Travel back to Blandy Farm

Visit our website www.boxwoodsociety.org for more information and registration in February



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? The Question Box

Q: I joined the society in hopes of learning more about boxwood and I am waiting for my membership information to arrive. I have several questions. First, I lost an American Boxwood topiary over the fall last year. It was planted in a container and one of a pair. I had several people look at it to advise me on the problem - they were members, and one advised me to remove it from the container and plant it in the ground which I did. Over the winter it died. I am concerned about losing the other now. I wonder what caused the problem and how to prevent it in the remaining topiary, which is verdant green and healthy now.

Secondly, I have five English box next to the back porch (20 to 30 years old). Last year two of them developed some dead spots which turned brown and I cut off leaving holes. What caused this and what can I do to prevent it from happening again?

A: Growing boxwood as a topiary specimen is very stressful to the shrub.

Also, growing an American boxwood (which mature at 45 to 55 feet tall) in a container is very stressful. Combined together, these conditions create a near bonsai type environment. Without regular root pruning, exacting watering and temperature control, careful fertilizing, and a host of other labor intensive cultural practices, eventual failure of the shrub is assured.

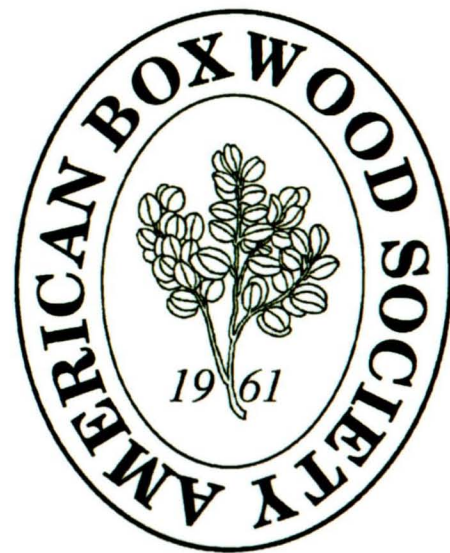
Regarding the dead spots in your English box. It is mostly likely a fungal disease (*Macorhoma* or *Volutella*). Please do not focus on the dead branches by pruning them out - this will not correct the problem. It is essential to thin the dense foliage, particularly the healthy green portions! Thinning should be done annually with Nov/Dec being the optimal time. Prune out (do not break) branches about six inches in length in the most dense portion of the shrub. Keep doing this until you can just begin to barely see the interior branches.

There is no need to wait for membership information to arrive. Please visit the American Boxwood Society website at: www.boxwoodsociety.org for membership information.

Q: I was hoping to clarify your recommendations regarding snow and boxwood. I had understood that brushing the snow off of boxwood is not advised, as it causes cracking in the cambium, and while these injuries may not be apparent at the time, they will become so once the plant encounters the stresses of summer. I have related your paragraph from the Boxwood Handbook (pg.48), but would appreciate a conformation. We have some branches that continue to be bent down by the snows of December 19, 2009 and my boss is very concerned.

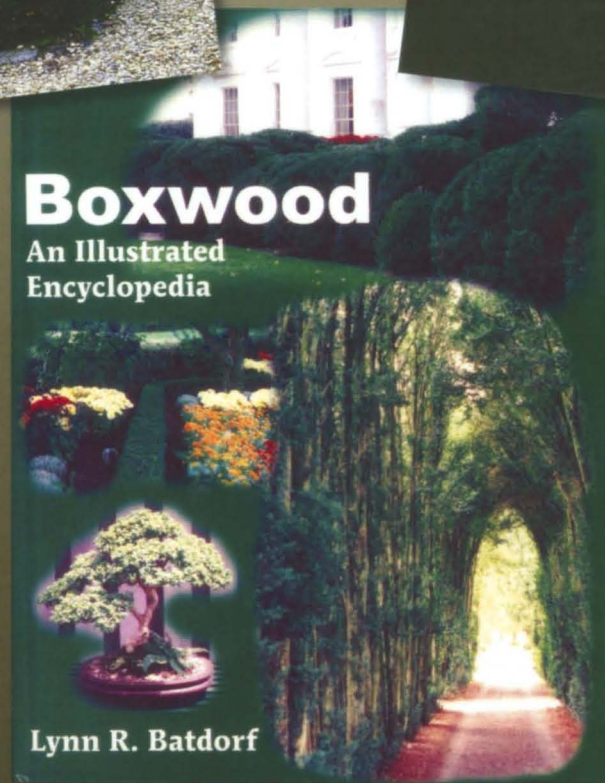
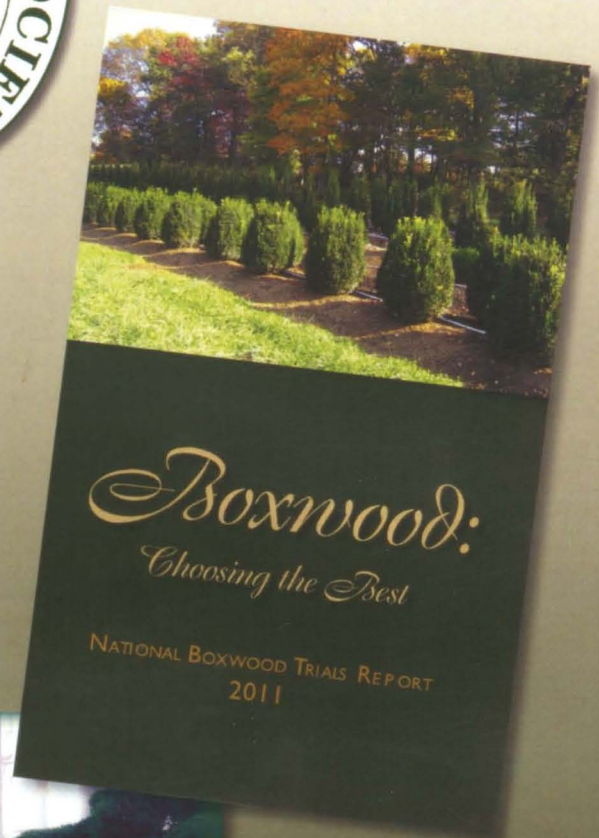
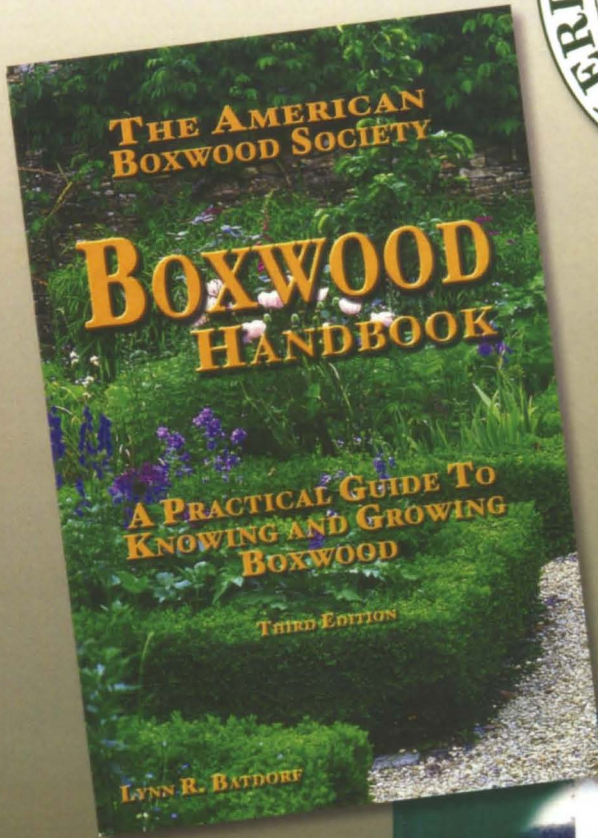
A: Yes, this storm was one for the record books. First the heavy two feet of snow, which bent down the branches. Then, very cold weather keeps the snow from melting even turning it to something like ice. That's what makes this storm a bit unique.

The heavily bent branches are "glued" to the ground - not an exciting proposition. Nevertheless, the ONLY option is to wait it out. Yes, this may result in some damage and injury. However, even done slowly and carefully, removing the snow/ice from these large branches will only result in more severe damage. Patience, and waiting it out is in the best interest of the boxwood.



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