

The **Boxwood** *Bulletin*

A quarterly devoted to Man's oldest garden ornamental



The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Robert de Treville in Fauquier County, Va. (Story on Page 23. Photo by Kenneth H. Stavenjord)

IN THIS ISSUE

Boxwoods at Highbury	23
Clipping Notes from Long Branch Farm.....	25
Registration of Four New Cultivars of <i>Buxus</i> L.	26
The 'Compacta' Connection	28
"Box Hedges" Rescued	30
Chemical Damage of Boxwood	31
Diseases of Boxwood	32
Two Newly-Appointed ABS Directors	34
Members Reach Out.....	34
Report on ABS Memorial Garden	36
Clipped Boxwoods in Italy.....	36
Massed Boxwoods	37
<i>The Seasonal Gardener</i>	Inside Back Cover

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Boxwoods at Highbury

A Visit to Fauquier County, Va.

Scot Butler

At the top of a hill on a back country road in Fauquier County, Virginia, sits Highbury, the home of ABS member Robert de Treville Lawrence, Sr. and his wife, Lelia. At their invitation, the Robert Frackeltons and the Scot Butlers spent part of a day enjoying the home and boxwood gardens that the Lawrences have carved out of a wilderness over the last 37 years.

Of special interest on the grounds is the vineyard, which they started planting about 20 years ago in order to grow their own grapes and make their own wine. They deserve great credit for their encouragement of the wine industry in Virginia at a time when it was not thought suitable for the state. Not only did Mr. Lawrence found the Vinifera Wine Growers Association in 1973, but he has subsequently served as president of the association and editor of its quarterly journal. He conveyed to us his enthusiasm for the history and art of winemaking and his conviction that Virginia is well adapted to growing the finest *Vitis vinifera* cultivars. Initially most of the association members and journal subscribers were in Virginia; now the majority is outside the state, a tribute to his enterprise and skill.

Mr. Lawrence's affection for his boxwood is equal to his devotion to his vineyard. Having acquired a neglected log cabin on 180 acres in 1951, while serving with the U.S. Department of State, the Lawrences set about transforming the place into a retirement property. As early as 1952 they rooted 50 "American" boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* or common box) cuttings and 50 "English" boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' or dwarf boxwood) cuttings in the center of nearby Easthill farm, where the Charles Turners (Mrs. Lawrence's parents) had restored a derelict house to live in. They rooted them outdoors in a

sheltered location behind a stone wall, and went abroad for three or four years of government service. When they returned they were astounded at how much the cuttings had grown and how healthy they looked. They decided then and there to embellish their new property with these plants.

Boxwood was a tradition, not only in Mrs. Lawrence's family, but also at Mr. Lawrence's home in Marietta, Georgia. Mr. Lawrence humorously recalls two plants his father referred to

which the Lawrences planned and built over a period of years. After first stabilizing the log building and then restoring it as a weekend residence, the Lawrences started building the present large main rooms, using good interior materials they salvaged in Washington, D.C. during the demolition of some fine old buildings. Not only did Mr. Lawrence haul all this material, but he also transported much of the stone for facing the log cabin and for the exterior walls of the much larger addition.



Highbury, home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Lawrence, Sr. (Photos: Scot Butler)

as his "\$10,000 boxwoods." These two plants were given by Sweet Briar College to Mr. Lawrence's sisters at the time of their graduation, and their father viewed them as the return on his investment in their college education. Although he can not now identify them among the many boxwoods at Highbury, he says that at least a few of the more than 250 plants are from the Marietta stock.

The log cabin served as a nucleus of the present handsome stone house,

Finally, in 1966, they laid out a formal boxwood garden, now enclosed by a high stone wall, also built over the years. There is a stone garden house in one corner that comprises part of the walls in the French style. Above the formal garden there is a croquet lawn. Beyond the croquet lawn there rises a long, low stone barn surmounted by a mock dovecote and weathervane.

Boxwood is growing everywhere one looks in the cleared area at Highbury—along stone walls, along the

edge of the woods, around the patio, and in the front courtyard of the house. In fact, boxwood is used exclusively for landscaping except for a few flowering shrubs here and there in open spaces. The difference in size, shape and color between the boxwood shrubs creates a pleasing, harmonious effect. On the warm March day of our visit the dwarf boxwood exuded that pungent fragrance unique to that cultivar.

the late Admiral Neill Phillips (former President of the ABS noted for his collection of boxwood topiary) had also singled out that plant on a visit many years ago. Unfortunately it has never been determined whether the plant is a registered cultivar or simply a good specimen of common boxwood with unusually vigorous growth.

Because of their age, all of the plants in the formal garden have

than one inch up and out per year. These cuttings, however, appeared to have grown several inches in 1987, and only upward. (We wonder whether any other propagators observed the same phenomenon in 1987.)

Because of its location, Highbury is subject to strong winter winds, which pose a threat to boxwoods. But Mr. Lawrence has wisely planted virtually all of his in protected places, either



Walled garden at Highbury. Large boxwood in far corner is an especially good form of *Buxus sempervirens*.



Very strong and upright growth on two-year cuttings in March 1988. (Photo: Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton)

Although we were not at Highbury at the right time to witness the event, deer come early each evening to feed in the “deer park,” an area framed by boxwood in the long allée which the Lawrences cut to open up a dramatic vista of Easthill in the distance (see photo in the April issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, p. 78). The Lawrences value wildlife and have left woods and thickets untouched surrounding the cleared area. Mr. Lawrence says that the deer never nibble the boxwood.

The formal garden is laid out in a geometric pattern, a circle edged with “English” boxwood in the center, and four rectangular parterres with concave corners where they abut the circle, also edged with small “English” boxwood. In the corners formed by the garden walls are large specimens of “American” boxwood. One of these is notable for its deep green color, glossy leaves and pleasing shape. We asked Mr. Lawrence about it and he replied that

achieved a commanding size; however, nowhere did the plants touch one another. This is a cardinal principle observed everywhere at Highbury. Mr. Lawrence believes that boxwood plants should never be allowed to grow together because “their free form—every one different—is part of their charm.” How does Mr. Lawrence prevent this natural occurrence? He moves a plant before it touches another plant, setting it out in a new location and hence constantly increasing the area planted with boxwood.

A propagation bed has been established in the vegetable garden for the purpose of growing replacements when needed. This same bed is also used as a plant “hospital” for nursing damaged boxwoods back to health. A group of two-year cuttings taken from dwarf boxwoods caught our group’s attention because of their long upright growth. Under normal conditions, dwarf boxwood does not grow more



Stone barn above the formal gardens

within or against stone walls.

As we took our leave from this peaceful place, we could not help but compare mentally the Lawrences’ ingenuity and hospitality with those of the Virginian they so greatly admire—Thomas Jefferson (even though Mr. Jefferson apparently never planted boxwood on his Monticello hilltop.)

Scot Butler is a long-time member of the ABS and former Editor of The Boxwood Bulletin.

Clipping Notes from Long Branch Farm

John W. Boyd, Jr.

As a child, I learned to “clip” boxwood while helping my uncle. Fifty years later, “Christmas greens” have become a business at Long Branch Farm.

Although we speak of “clipping” boxwood, it is all broken by hand and

boxwood completely on the inside of the walk, leaving only bare branches.

Another place where you find overgrowth is in foundation planting. Windows may be covered or the boxwood may have grown over porches

had continuous good care. Remember that you cannot correct 10 to 30 years of neglect in only one pruning. If *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Suffruticosa’ is not plucked every third or fourth year, you are asking for a problem. Another advan-



Buxus sempervirens before clipping (Photos: John W. Boyd) *Buxus sempervirens* after clipping

packed 25 pounds to the box. Some commercial shippers use electric shears, but we don’t because you get too many pieces of scrap, and there is no sale for trash. These sprays are usually 6-12 inches long and are used for decorations by florists. We ship to 29 states, mostly east of the Mississippi River.

We do not have enough boxwood at the farm to supply all our customers, so we also work in gardens and yards over most of southside Virginia and northern North Carolina.

In “clipping” or “plucking” in people’s yards or gardens we have to be conservative in the amount taken unless we are told otherwise. That is, we take off only one-third of all the green on the outer portions of the plant. For more severe “clipping” we might take off half or all of the outer green.

Often walks are edged with boxwood, not allowing enough room for the plants to grow, eventually closing the walk. When this is the case, the walk is opened by stripping the

and doorways. This must be removed to protect the house.

In plucking “tree” boxwood, often called “American” (*Buxus sempervirens*), we try to top most of it at 12-15 feet, because taller boxwood is not very nice to look at unless it is kept vigorous by pruning.

By plucking you allow sunlight in and new growth will appear along the trunk and stems. This care will help prevent “boxwood decline.” I have never seen this disease in boxwood that



Clippings packed, ready to ship

tage of plucking is that snow will not do as much damage. Winter damage is less if you have foliage along the center branches. This will give some sap circulation, even on the coldest days.

Most of our pruning is done during October and November, because it is sold for Christmas decorations. We usually clip from one to one and a half tons per day when working. It is shipped the same day that it is clipped.

In the spring we clip about a ton for propagation. This is done as soon as the bud “pops.” This will usually generate over 99% rooted cuttings. Owners are not charged for this clipping. The sprays are weighed and the owners paid for all material removed. This should provide enough funds for care, spraying and fertilizing.

Mr. Boyd, of Long Branch Farm, is a long-time member of The American Boxwood Society and a newly elected Director. (See biographical article elsewhere in this issue.)

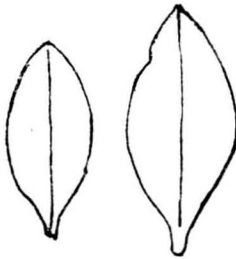
Registration of Four New Cultivars of *Buxus* L.

Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, International Registration Authority for *Buxus* L. has announced that the following four cultivars have been accepted for registration:

Buxus sempervirens 'Dee Runk'

Registered by Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Woltz.

Description: A single vertical trunk with short branches growing horizontally to slightly upright. Overall appearance of 'Dee Runk' is narrowly columnar. The leaves are opposite,



elliptic to narrowly so. The apex is acute or obtuse to slightly retuse. Leaf base is cuneate. The leaves on a short petiole are 20-29 mm long and 11-17 mm wide. Leaf color by the RHS Colour Chart is green group 137B on the upper epidermis, and varying from 144A to 144B on the lower.

History: The pair of columnar boxwoods flanking the chimney at the Woltz home (see Vol. 27, No. 3, p. 52) are from cuttings taken at Blandy Experimental Farm in 1966. The original plant has apparently become lost. These, the Woltzes labeled "B." At the same time, cuttings were taken from a plant now registered 'Graham Blandy', which they labeled "A." Over the years, the clones from the lost plant have developed into handsome plants which the Woltzes named 'Dee Runk' in honor of B. F. D. Runk, retired Dean of Students at the University of



Buxus sempervirens 'Dee Runk' at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Woltz (Photo: Robert L. Frackelton)



Sprig of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Dee Runk' (Photo: Robert L. Frackelton)

Virginia, former Samuel Miller Professor of Biology, and at one time associated with the Blandy Experimental Farm.

Buxus microphylla Siebold and Zuccharini 'Sunlight'

Accepted for registration as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 28, No. 3, pp. 26-27. Registered by Mary A. Gamble for *The Boxwood Society of the Midwest*.

Description: This boxwood grows from multiple stems into a semi-spherical for which is wider than tall and curves inward at base. The specimen plant, which grows in the garden of a private home in St. Louis County, Mo., measured .9 m (35 in.) in height and 47 in. (1.2 m) in width at 19 years of age. Leaf color is a light yellow-green. On the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, upper



'Sunlight' at 19 years of age. Thrusting growth was later removed in a 10-minute pruning job. (Photo: Claude Badeusz)

epidermis is Yellow-Green Group 147A; lower epidermis Y-G Group 147B. The leaves are generally narrowly obovate in shape with tips obtuse. An occasional leaf is lightly retuse and a few leaves are revolute. Leaf sizes range from 1.3 cm long and 7 mm wide to 1.6 cm long and 8 mm



Sprig of Buxus microphylla 'Sunlight' shown life size (Photo: Shaw Camera)

wide. Internodal length ranges from .9 to 1.6 cm. Stems are square.

This boxwood has a rather rangy look and tends toward of thrusting growth. This is easily controlled by pruning. It has not been observed to bloom. It grows at a medium rate, which changes to fast (9 cm or more

per year) under optimum conditions.

Clonal herbarium specimens have been deposited at the U. S. National Arboretum in Washington, D. C.

Barring a catastrophe, The Boxwood Society of the Midwest should be able to release a limited number of cuttings in 1989.

***Buxus microphylla* 'John Baldwin'**

Accepted for registration as published in The Boxwood Bulletin, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 27-28. Registered by P. D. Larson.

Plant size (25 years): Medium, 1.2-1.5 m (4-5 ft.) high; .9-1.2 m (3-4 ft.) wide.

Natural form: Somewhat pyramidal and billowing, ultimately developing to a more conical form.

Annual growth rate: Medium, 5-6 cm (2-2.5 in.) in height; 4-5 cm (1.5-2 in.) in width.

Leaf color: Dark Green with undertones of yellow; somewhat bluish cast.

Leaf shape: Elliptical, acute tip and cuneate base.

Leaf size: Small; 1.6-1.9 cm (5/8 to 3/4 in.) long and .6-.8 cm (1/4 to 5/16 in.), wide.



Leaf surface: Glabrous and smooth.

Internodal length: Medium; 6.4-9.5 mm (1/4 to 3/8 in.)

Flowering habit: Moderate; flowers somewhat conspicuous with moderate fruiting.

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6-8.

Landscape use: Particularly effective as a specimen, hedging, grouping for background, and area separations.

History: 'John Baldwin' originated as an open-pollinated seedling in the early 1950s and was discovered growing behind the Hoke House in Colonial Williamsburg. The parent clone is still growing (1988) on the campus of the College of William and Mary at the lower end of the Sunken Garden. The plant was named by Dr. Bernice Speese for Dr. John T. Baldwin, Jr., both of the College of William and Mary.

Bibliography: *The Boxwood*



The original *Buxus microphylla* 'John Baldwin' plant on the campus of William and Mary College, April 1982. This plant has attained a greater height in proportion to width than indicated in the plant description. (Photo: Decca G. Frackelton)



A young *Buxus microphylla* 'John Baldwin' in the ABS Memorial Garden, June 1987 (Photo: Decca Frackelton)

Bulletin, Vol. 22(2):31, October 1982 and Vol. 27(3):65, January 1988. The Boxwood Society of the Midwest *Bulletin*, April 1986.

Known locations: The State Arboretum of Virginia (BEF 17252-80); U. S. National Arboretum (NA 33810); College of William and Mary.

***Buxus sempervirens* 'Denmark'**

Accepted for registration as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 28, No. 2, p. 28. Registered by Mary A. Gamble and P. D. Larson.

Size: A 15-year-old specimen measures 1.1 m (45 in.) in height and .8 m (32 in.) in width. Expected to be 1.5-1.8 m (5-6 ft.) high and 1.2-1.4 m (4-4.5 ft.) in width at 25 years.

Natural form: Somewhat broadly upright.

Annual growth rate: Medium; 6.4-7.6 cm (2.5-3 in.) in height and 5-6 cm (2-2.5 in.) in width.

Leaf color: Medium yellow-green; upper surface Yellow-Green Group 147A (Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart); lower surface, Yellow-Green Group 147B.

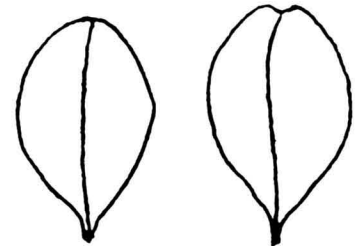
Leaf shape: Revolute broadly oval; obtuse tips (some slightly emarginate); cuneate base.

Leaf size: Large; 2.8-3 cm (1-1/8

to 1-3/16 in.) long and 1.6-1.7 cm (5/8 to 11/16 in.) wide.

Leaf surface: Glossy, smooth, shiny and heavily veined..

Internodal length: Medium; 11-19 mm (7/16 to 3/4 in.).



Flowering habit: Sparse, not showy, with sparse fruiting. (Estimate.)

Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 (protected) through 8, and possibly 9.

Landscape use: Effective as a specimen, group planting, and area separations. Looks best when planted in the shade.

History: Mr. Bagby, a plant propagator at Gray Summit, Missouri, received cuttings from Niels Alfred Paludan (an exchange student from Hellerup, Denmark) some time in 1953. In 1973, Mrs. Mary A. Gamble of The Boxwood Society of the Midwest tried to track down the parent plant of these cuttings through correspondence with the University of Copenhagen and other arboreta without success.

Known location: U. S. National Arboretum (NA 34196).

The 'Compacta' Connection

Mary A. Gamble

In October 1969 the Boxwood Study Group of the St. Louis Herb Society (now the Boxwood Society of the Midwest) received a letter from Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr. of the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.. He wrote, "I sent you this afternoon cuttings of eleven plants of boxwood—mostly of my seedlings—which are herewith distributed under number...I

think each of them has considerable merit." We entered them in our accession book as S-1, S-2, etc.

Eight were *Buxus microphylla*, two were *Buxus sempervirens* and one had no specific designation. This balance reflected the advice Dr. Baldwin had given us earlier that year: "I would encourage you to grow various kinds of the Asiatic *Buxus microphylla*...I espec-

ially recommend [Henry Hohman's] cultivars 'Compacta', 'Green Pillow' and 'Curly Locks'." We immediately got in touch with Mr. Henry J. Hohman's Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland, and obtained plants of the three so that we could study them under midwestern conditions.

In 1974 Dr. Baldwin sent us two rooted cuttings of the plant he named 'Helen Whiting' in honor of the editor of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. It turned out to be S-1. We now had 'Compacta' and two of its connections: the recognized sports, 'Curly Locks', which Dr. Baldwin described as 'the most striking sport of the 'Compacta' (*The Boxwood Bulletin*, January 1976, p. 41); and 'Helen Whiting', described by Dr. Baldwin in the same article: "...has not fruited (at 14 years), is 42 in. tall and 63 in. broad...leaves are light green and are lanceolate (max. length c. 3/4 in.) with acuminate bases and tips which, upon occasion, are somewhat cuspidate."

Dr. Baldwin wrote further: "The variety of sports is evidence that 'Compacta' is a complex periclinal chimera. And the sports themselves sometimes sport. So Mr. Appleby's seedling is a rich source of cultivars." (Mr. Appleby was the Baltimore nurseryman who discovered in 1912 the seedling which was later named 'Compacta')

After a review of our records and examination of the plants, we believe that the plant sent to us by Dr. Baldwin as No. 11 in his group of "mostly seedlings" was not a seedling as we have thought for 19 years, but rather was a sport of 'Compacta'.

S-11 resembles both 'Curly Locks' and 'Helen Whiting'. Dr. George Rogers, horticultural taxonomist, Missouri Botanical Garden, was asked to study sizeable sprigs of the three plants, and his judgment was: "There is definitely a relationship." In human terms, there is a strong family resemblance. But there are also differences. Let us first consider 'Curly Locks' and S-11.

Both are yellow-green. On the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart the upper epidermis of 'Curly

Locks' is Yellow-Green Group 146A; the lower, Y-G Group 146B. On S-11 the upper epidermis is Y-G Group 147A; the lower, Y-G Group 147B.

The leaves of 'Curly Locks' are small (to 1.8 cm in length) to medium (1.9 to 2 cm in length). They are generally obovate in shape with tips generally obtuse with some most acute; a few are lightly retuse. Most are distinctly revolute. The leaves of S-11 are preponderantly medium size (1.9 to 2 cm in length). Their shape is narrowly obovate with tips obtuse, occasionally retuse.

Internodal length on 'Curly Locks' is short (to 6mm); internodal length on S-11 is medium (7 to 9 mm) to long (1 cm or more). We have not seen 'Curly Locks' bloom, although Dr. Baldwin wrote that it 'flowers and fruits profusely but with seed approaching one hundred percent in abortiveness.' We have not observed S-11 to bloom.

Both plants—in our observation—have matured into medium-sized shrubs. Both appear to grow at a medium rate (1-1/2 to 3-1/2 in. per year); but believe that under optimum conditions this might move into a faster rate (more than 3-1/2 in. per year).

Both darken somewhat in winter. We have observed rather severe winter damage in 'Curly Locks' but not in S-11. However, this may be due to location of the plants.

S-11 differs from 'Curly Locks' in the following respects: Leaf color differs somewhat. Leaf shapes differ in the relative proportion of large to small or vice versa. Leaf shapes differ especially in the striking incidence or revolute leaves on 'Curly Locks', which gives the plant its distinctive look. Internodal spaces differ. S-11 has a thrusting manner of growth (somewhat like a yew) which we have not observed in 'Curly Locks'. If large sprigs of the two plants are placed side by side, they appear distinctly different. We believe that each plant is unique within itself.

A comparison of S-11 and 'Helen Whiting' on the same points shows that the leaf color differs to the same degree

as with 'Curly Locks'. The upper epidermis of 'Helen Whiting' is Yellow-Green Group 146A, the lower, Y-G Group 146B. S-11 is Y-G Group 147A and 147B.

Leaves of 'Helen Whiting' range from small (to 1.8 cm in length) to medium (1.9 to 2 cm) to large (over 2 cm), with a preponderance in the middle range. S-11's leaves are medium to small. Leaf shape of 'Helen Whiting' is lanceolate with tips acute. Leaves of S-11 are from medium (7 to 9 mm) to long (1 cm or more). Neither plant has ever been observed to bloom.

Generally, both appear to grow at medium (1-1/2 to 3-1/2 in. per year) rate; but we believe that under optimum conditions of soil, rainfall and exposure they might move into the fast lane.

In summation, 'Helen Whiting' and S-11 differ in these respects: Leaf colors are a shade apart. Leaves of 'Helen Whiting' are generally somewhat larger than those of S-11 and differ in shape in that those of 'Helen Whiting' are generally lanceolate, those of S-11 narrowly obovate and occasionally revolute.

The short to medium internodal spaces of 'Helen Whiting' contribute to a look of density; S-11's medium to long spaces contribute to a more open look. The thrusting habit of growth exhibited by S-11 has not been observed in 'Helen Whiting'.

S-11 is attractive to members of The Boxwood Society of the Midwest on three counts. First, it is *tough*. It has survived in our nursery when many other young plants were lost to a 'terrible' midwestern winter. Second, its light yellow-green foliage offers pleasing contrast to the darker greens of *Buxus sempervirens*. Third, we believe S-11 is another link in the 'Compacta' connection which Dr. Baldwin believed held such promise.

The plant which will be the parent of the clone is in a private garden, against the brick house wall where it catches, and seems to hold, the morning sun. Which is why we chose the name, 'Sunlight'.

“Box Hedges” Rescued

Mrs. James C. Lamkin

I live in Yazoo City, Mississippi. Yazoo is an Indian name meaning Death Valley. One-half of our city is in the hills and half in the Delta. Our home is in the Delta. Our yard is black gumbo that not only sticks on your shoes, but cracks wide open during our hottest months.

In the early 1900s people walked, not for body fitness, but for recreation. Our local cemetery is in a beautiful wooded area of tall oaks, sycamores and cedar trees, making it a beautiful, cool retreat for those that walked in the cool of the evening. Every afternoon, unless it rained, it was the custom of two dear old ladies to walk out to the cemetery to visit their parents' graves and walk around and visit the new graves, also visiting with anyone passing by.

In 1910, a native son who was born years earlier was brought back to be buried in the old family burial lot. In those days the local florist usually had a choice of either white or red carnations to make a spray for the coffin. The graves of the most affluent often had a cross or a stand embellished with yards of bright colored satin ribbon.

This native son was one of the affluent families from New York City. However, there was no display of multiple carnations on wire forms. Weeks later the sexton got a package containing four little “box hedges” [*Buxus sempervirens*] about a foot tall with instructions to plant one of the shrubs in each corner of the family burial lot. These two dear old ladies were fascinated by this new addition of plants. They couldn't wait to see how much they had grown every day. It was a hot summer and no one ever watered their yard. Some did throw dishwater over their cape jasmine as the soapy water made the leaves shine.

You can imagine our two friends' dismay the day the four little plants were missing in the cemetery. The four



In foreground, two of three remaining boxwood salvaged from the cemetery dump heap in 1910. (Photos by Mrs. Lamkin)



Boxwood on the first level in the back yard, planted in 1948 from cuttings grown from the rescued boxwood.



Plants in Mrs. Lamkin's front yard are from 1939 cuttings from the 1910 salvaged boxwood and replanted in 1948.

corners of the lot were bare and covered with new dirt. That afternoon as they walked home, they walked closer to the huge ditch adjacent to the walk entering the cemetery. The ditch was a dumping ground for the cemetery. Old wire frames and faded ribbons mingled with debris from recent graves filled the ditch. As these little ladies passed by, there on top of the trash were the four little discarded “box hedges” with their roots exposed and drying in the hot sun. In spite of the long black skirt Miss Annie was wearing (she was still in deep mourning for her mother who died ten years earlier), she scrambled down into the ditch and retrieved the little plants and handed them to her sister standing on the edge of the ditch.

The two dear old ladies took the little plants home and hastily replanted them, two on each side of their front walk. There are three remaining as one died several years ago. Needless to add, these plants gave the two sisters much joy. They carried water from their kitchen to keep the little plants alive.

How did I get my beautiful plants? These two dear friends loved me and allowed me to cut six branches where they would not be detected from their plants. This was the summer of 1939, and the boxwood was about four feet tall then and flourishing like a bay tree. I thought a “box hedge” background would be so lovely for my rose beds. I was pregnant that summer and walked daily to visit the sisters, often taking desserts that were their favorites. Of course, we did not freeze in those days and the joy of sharing desserts was such a pleasure. Their joy and interest in my plans for a rose garden with a background of some of their “box hedge” was beautiful. I remember kneeling down and punching little holes about eight inches deep, filling them with water and packing the little branches firmly in the holes. (I had never heard

of Rootone.)

I remember distinctly that it was in May and June of 1939 when I planted my box, because of the discomfort my unborn child gave me as I knelt on the hard ground. She was born in August of that year, the week that Yazoo City stuck oil. We didn't have any oil, but in the excitement of a new baby and people from everywhere coming to our oil boom, I remember it well. I don't ever remember watering those cuttings. I do remember the first day my child went to school, I had to replant the cuttings because they had grown so large they were crowding each other. I planted a double row of "box hedge" across the front of our house and three at our front entrance. That was in 1946 and during the years I lost three of those plants. I outlined the first level of our back yard with the boxwood for a background for our rose beds. They

also serve as a background for the second level beds of iris and spring and summer bulbs.

Since writing this data, I have counted how many "box hedges" we have and we have 68 plants. I have given away ten plants and have lost about five plants. I have broken off many branches to use at Christmas. It is interesting to note that only two people have ever asked me for any clippings. I've only cut them back every few years. I've begged friends to plant the clippings but they were not interested. The mocking birds and the cardinals love hedges and nest every year in the thick branches.

Behind one side of our back yard I have a seven-foot clipped privet hedge used as a fence between our yard and our neighbors. My grandsons and puppy have kept the path clean between the two hedges where they have chased

cats away from the bird nests and imaginary Indians.

There are 27 "box hedges" in our front yard and 41 more in our back yard. I am enclosing some pictures to show that "box hedges" do grow in Mississippi, even in Death Valley in the blackest of gumbo.

There is an Egyptian legend where a visiting hermit was admiring a flourishing olive tree in front of another hermit's cave. The visitor asked the hermit with the cave how he grew such a beautiful tree, and the other hermit replied, "I planted it and God watered it."

Mrs. Lamkin, in seeking help for her "box hedge," as boxwood is called in her area, was put in touch with Harrison Symmes, who suggested that she give her story to The Boxwood Bulletin. At age 85, Mrs. Lamkin says she has empathy with older plants.

Chemical Damage of Boxwood

William A. Gray

In early spring, after a cold and dreary winter, enthusiasm for lawn repair surges throughout the land. In mid-summer, occasional cases of boxwood damage appear. When diagnosing such problems, one may find that the two events are related.

Too often, lawn repair includes the spreading or spraying of packaged lawn herbicides. To insure maximum effectiveness against a wide variety of broadleaf weeds, these products include several active ingredients. The labels list the ingredients, of course, but they are unintelligible to the layman. Furthermore, labels are not given the attention they deserve. The more widely recognized terms for the active chemicals in broadleaf weed control include 2,4-D, MCPP and dicamba.

The labels may or may not also provide cautions: "Vapors may injure susceptible plants nearby" or "Do not apply on root-zone areas of shrubs and trees." The point to keep in mind is

that packaged lawn herbicide mixes very likely include persistent chemicals that vaporize in the hot sun and accumulate on ornamental plants, causing foliage damage, or chemicals that move through the soil and damage roots of susceptible plants.

The use of "weed and feed" mixes offers an even worse scenario. One is tempted to fertilize all the lawn thoroughly, with perhaps a heavier hand around trees and shrubs where the grass is thinner. These special lawn mixes include a high-nitrogen fertilizer, such as 32-4-9. High nitrogen fertilizing results in a quick, lush top growth and nearly immediate greening of lawn grasses, which accounts for the commercial success of these products. Although established boxwood plantings benefit from an occasional light fertilization in the early spring, one should always avoid excessive nitrogen application. Treating the soil near a boxwood's

shallow feeder roots with an overdose of nitrogen and a persistent herbicide can lead to dire results.

Frequently, in landscaping with *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', these formal evergreen shrubs are located in lawn areas, where they normally do very well. But with a shallow root system extending well outside the drip line, 'Suffruticosa' is particularly susceptible to damage from toxic chemicals in the soil.

Symptoms of chemical damage to the roots are similar to the effects of root rot and include yellowing and dying foliage, with twig die-back scattered over the outside of the plant. A boxwood subject to such stress becomes vulnerable to invasion by root-disease pathogens, and to fungi growth in dead twigs and foliage.

Illustrated are two 'Suffruticosa' shrubs in a treated lawn area as they appeared in mid-July 1988. Severe foliage and twig damage was scattered



Probable chemical damage to roots of 'Suffruticosa'

over each plant. Similar boxwoods (seen in the background) near the house and not in the lawn, were entirely healthy. Grass surrounding the damaged plants was noticeably darker than that in other lawn areas, suggesting extra fertilization. The lawn was treated in March with a "weed and feed" mix, applied with a lawn spreader. Damage to the boxwood first appeared in May. None of the plants was mulched, and the bare ground near the damaged plants was in

direct sun much of the day.

The condition of these two problem plants is evidence of root damage. Although this diagnosis cannot be certain, the facts in the case strongly suggest that the difficulties began with an unfortunate lawn treatment, probably aggravated by lengthy dry periods in March and April.

When such an unhappy event occurs, what should be done? First, don't assume a terminal case of boxwood decline; don't dig up the

shrubs. Do wash out the debris and dead foliage thoroughly. Later, perform surgical pruning to remove dead wood and to thin the plants. Encourage new root growth; mulch, water well when needed, and spread dolomitic limestone if appropriate. Wait a year or two and hope for recovery. Unfortunately the slow-growing 'Suffruticosa' will not be very ornamental for some years.

The best solution to these problems is to avoid them. Adopt a lawn maintenance program that eliminates all potential hazards to nearby woody ornamentals. For cool-season grasses recommended in the Charlottesville region, most turf experts recommend mainly fall fertilization and caution against heavy rates of nitrogen application. Conventional wisdom teaches that woody plants (especially broadleaf evergreens) should not be fertilized after early summer, since this may encourage late growth, postpone the advent of safe dormancy, and lead to winter damage. It is recommended that fall lawn fertilization in the vicinity of boxwood be done in November or later, and very lightly.

Mr. William A. Gray, of Brecknock Nurseries, Charlottesville, Virginia, is Chairman of the Research Committee of The American Boxwood Society.

Diseases of Boxwood

Dr. Wirt R. Wills

[NOTE: At the 1988 Annual Meeting of the ABS, Dr. Wirt H. Wills of VPI&SU made the presentation summarized below.]

By means of color slides, the few important diseases of boxwood were described and an attempt was made to differentiate them by symptomatology.

Among the foliage/twig diseases only Volutella twig blight was described as important. The symptoms include a dieback of the terminal

growth with a nearly black discoloration of the bark and wood, which usually is confined to the terminal few inches of the twig, but may proceed into the woody stem. It can be controlled by pruning well below the diseased tissue. The small black dots often seen on senescent leaves are the fruiting bodies of the fungus *Macrophoma* and are of only minor consequence.

The important disease problems of boxwood are caused by soil-borne root

and stem pathogens. These include certain nematodes, the fungus *Phytophthora parasitica* and the fungus *Paecilomyces buxi*.

Nematodes are soil-inhabiting round worms which, in several ways, feed on plant roots and cause loss of roots and a gradual deterioration of plant health with stunted growth. They cause problems on boxwood primarily in the warmer areas and sandy soil. Most of the chemicals used in the control of nematodes are not commer-

cially available to home gardeners.

Phytophthora root rot of boxwood tends to occur in the more eastern and southern portions of the state (in Virginia) and may result in damage and death of all kinds of boxwood; this contrasts with the decline problem in "English" boxwood which, in our experience, is confined to the English box. Both diseases result in root rot and decline of the plants, but there are significant differences in the observed symptoms.

The foliage of plants affected by *Phytophthora* turns from green to yellow to brown either in large segments of the plant, or with the entire plant affected simultaneously, whereas plants with English boxwood decline turn color and die one or a few branches at a time over a much longer period, resulting in a plant with a patchwork appearance of green, bronze, orange, yellow and brown segments. The deterioration of the foliage follows as a result of deterioration of the root system. The symptoms may be seen to develop rapidly over a few weeks in *Phytophthora*-infected plants, whereas decline symptoms associated with *Paecilomyces buxi* develop typically over a period of about two years.

In both diseases a chocolate brown discoloration may be seen at the base of the stem in diseased plants. Where the pathogen is *Phytophthora* the discoloration is limited to the few inches above the ground line in a continuous pattern, while the pattern is disconnected, and not limited to the stem base, in *Paecilomyces*-infections.

Comments were made on two pieces of recent work in boxwood pathology: (1) the biological control of *Phytophthora* root-rot study being conducted by Melinda Mulesky (Gates) and supported by The American Boxwood Society, and (2) some work on English boxwood decline not

previously reported to this group.

To bring the Society up to date on the biological control study, Ms. Mulesky found one combination of two antagonists to offer promise in biocontrol of *Phytophthora*. Due to the length of time required to run her experiments this work was not repeated as part of her thesis; however, she is repeating this experiment currently and should have her results by September, when she begins a program of study for her Ph.D. in another research area. For a description of the work supported by the Society, refer to *The Boxwood Bulletins* of July 1985 and July 1987.

The other piece of work referred to was the M.S. thesis research of Leslie Ann Bower on English boxwood decline, in which she found that root cuttings subjected to a gradual lowering of temperature to -5 C. (23 F.) were uniformly colonized by *Paecilomyces buxi* in basal stem lesions. In these lesions the fungus produced spores at the surface, providing a source of inoculum for potential spread of the pathogen. In addition she found that certain perennial weeds, brome grass (*Bromus inermis*) and bind weed (*Convolvulus sepium*), were colonized by *P. buxi*, and boxwood plants grown in association with brome grass were infected by *P. buxi*. It can thus be postulated that perennial weeds may serve as a reservoir of inoculum of the pathogen and low temperature stress may provide both a predisposing stress

on the plant and an increase in inoculum of the pathogen, leading to further spread of the fungus. It was noted that these results are from very limited experiments and need verification.

It was also noted that the difficulty in obtaining experimental results is due to the lengthy nature of needed research and the expense involved. The cost of keeping a graduate student working on a project is now around \$15,000 per year, and since boxwood is a minor crop, it can not expect to receive much attention from research groups.

Finally it was noted that there are chemical means available to commercial nurseries to prevent development and spread of *Phytophthora* on boxwood. Although no such recommendations are available to the homeowner, one will not be able to recognize a problem until it is beyond control anyway. Therefore, the best hope for non-commercial growers to prevent loss to both root rot diseases is in starting with healthy plants and giving them the best possible care. This is not an unattainable goal and in most cases will be successful.

Dr. Wirt R. Wills, Professor of Plant Pathology at VPI&SU has been involved in considerable research of boxwood diseases.

Two Newly-Appointed ABS Directors



Susanne A. Schrage-Norton

Susanne was born in Baltimore, Maryland, to a military family that settled in Alexandria, Virginia.

As a student in the horticulture program at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, she carried out a work-study program for two summers at Mount Vernon Estate, the home of George Washington, under the supervision of the horticulturist, Dean Norton. During this work she fell in love with boxwood and with Dean. After graduation, Susanne took the position of Boxwood Specialist at Mount Vernon, and later married Dean. She has worked with boxwood at Mount Vernon for more than nine years, and has carried out several garden research and restoration projects, which prompted her title change to Landscape Historian and Designer.

She remains, however, fully responsible for the extensive boxwood collection at Mount Vernon, which includes many of the plants believed to have survived from George Washington's lifetime.



John W. Boyd, Jr.

John lives on a farm in Alton, Virginia, which has been in his family since before the Revolution. The farm produces hay, beef cattle, sheep and boxwood.

He decided to be a farmer at the age of ten, and says that is still his preference, even with all the trials that go with the profession.

After finishing high school, he went to the University of Virginia. In 1942, he joined the Navy. After three years of service, he was discharged and married Elizabeth Rice of Clarksville, Virginia. The couple has three children, two boys and a girl. Although he is now semi-retired, he still puts in a lot of work on the farm.

John is an Elder and Trustee of Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church and serves on the boards of Danville Community College and the Danville Education Foundation. He served 17 years as Treasurer of the Halifax County Cattlemen's Association. He also helped organize the Turbeville Ruritan Club and served as its first President.

Members Reach Out

Our busy Board members, though occupied with their own projects, are finding time to write articles and to spread the word about boxwood.

Mrs. Scot Butler, Secretary of the ABS, is a frequent speaker at meetings of garden clubs and other groups.

Cdr. P. D. Larson, Chairman of the ABS Memorial Garden gave a talk at the Annual Meeting of the Shenandoah-Potomac District of the West Virginia Garden Club, Inc., in Shepherdstown, W. Va., on September 27.

Mrs. Katherine D. Ward, ABS Treasurer, prepared and manned an exhibit at the First Annual EXPO ARBORETUM, sponsored by Friends of the U. S. National Arboretum on September 24-25.

Mr. R. D. Mahone, ABS Director and former President, gave workshops at the University of Virginia, for a group of garden club members, and more recently, at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., under the auspices of an ABS member.

Mrs. Butler says it's her great pleasure to talk about boxwood because it is one of her favorite subjects. She has spoken before the Spotswood Garden Club in Harrisonburg, Va., the Aldie Horticultural Society, Aldie, Va., and the Lucketts Garden Club in Loudoun County, Va. A talk is scheduled on October 11 before the Leesburg Garden Club, Leesburg, Va., and an educational exhibit is to be prepared for a Standard Flower Show on October 22.

She begins her talks with the story behind the name *Buxus*, taken from *Shrubs in the Garden and Their Legends* by Vernon Quinn, as reprinted in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 8, No. 1, July 1968, p. 7. The Greeks called a small chest or box "pyxos" and "when they began to make these little boxes of the hard and beautiful wood of a common shrubby tree, they named the shrub *pyxos*, from its use." To the

Romans, it became *Buxus*, the name for the genus, and to the English it became "box."

She notes that there were huge stands of boxwood in Turkey until the plants were destroyed during the industrial revolution, when the wood was used for making spindles.

Mrs. Butler gives tips on transplanting boxwood, protection of new plantings, and disease and insect problems. When possible, she demonstrates pruning methods to "clean out" and "open up" a plant.

She takes along about a dozen forms to demonstrate the versatility of boxwood. Among these are *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Nana', the low-growing form of the Korean boxwood; *B. sempervirens* 'Elegantissima' or 'Latifolia Maculata' to show variegation; 'Graham Blandy' for a columnar form; 'John Baldwin', a compact upright form of *microphylla*; 'Green Pillow' or *Compacta*, low-growing Asiatic forms; 'Curly Locks' with twisted leaves; 'Belleville', a good fast-growing form of *Buxus sempervirens*; and *Buxus sempervirens* 'Vardar Valley', a form that does not seem to winter burn. *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', the so-called "English" boxwood, is usually found on the grounds where she is giving her talk.

Cdr. Larson's talk took place at the Bavarian Inn, Shepherdstown, West Virginia, with Dolley Madison, Potomac, Shenandoah, Tusawilla, Wayside, and Windflower Garden Clubs serving as hosts. More than 100 attended.

Cdr. Larson was the lead speaker with the topic, "The Presence of Boxwood." In his one-hour talk he highlighted the *Buxaceae* family (10-12 species of the genus *Buxus* L. grow in North America), culture and care, propagation, pests and diseases. Also, he brought to the attention of the audience the misnomers "American box" and "English box," commonly used for *Buxus sempervirens* and *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', respectively.

Handouts included The American Boxwood Society Memorial Garden

inventory, membership applications and the arboretum brochure, plus some tagged cuttings.

The American Boxwood Society booth arranged by Mrs. Ward at the EXPO Arboretum was one of 14 non-profit exhibits. The event was a success by any measure. There were some 55 booths, including a FONA White Elephant and Plant Sale, a plant clinic and identification center, and booths sponsored by the Agricultural Research Center Employees Association, the ARS Beneficial Insects Laboratory, commercial firms, non-profit societies and organizations, craftsmen and artists. There were tours, demonstrations and films scheduled throughout the two days. Woody the Owl, Smokey the Bear and McGruff the Police Dog were on hand to share goodies with the kids.

Mrs. Scot Butler loaned a collection of boxwood plants for display, including *Buxus microphylla* 'Compacta', 'Green Pillow', and 'Curly Locks'; *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis*; and *Buxus sempervirens* 'Graham Blandy', 'Aristocrat', 'Vardar Valley', and

'Latifolia Marginata'. The exhibit included, in addition to the plants, copies of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, the 25-year *Index*, the *Boxwood Buyer's Guide*, and the *International Registration List for Cultivated Buxus L.*

Mrs. Ward reported a steady flow of people, a good many of who were landscape architects interested in variety. Quite a few of those who stopped were unaware of the Society, though familiar with other plant societies. The interest varied as to the best way to transplant boxwood, the different kinds available. Several commented that they owned cuttings taken from Mt. Vernon many years ago and they had done well.

Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, Registrar and Vice President of the ABS, was on duty for tours, but was able to stop by from time to time to check the booth.

The Society expresses its thanks to these individuals, whose endeavors often go unacknowledged and unclaimed, and also to many others who take "great pleasure in the boxwood" and share that pleasure with the uninitiated.



Mrs. Katherine D. Ward offers boxwood information to a visitor at the ABS booth.

Report on the ABS Memorial Garden

Extensive planning for the long range development of the boxwood collection at Orland E. White Arboretum, the Virginia State Arboretum, are now being formulated under the leadership of landscape architect Nancy Takahashi of the University of Virginia School of Architecture, with assistance from your Memorial Garden Chairman.

In general, the garden will maintain the present strolling character of the existing garden, continuing and expanding the current linear display of the individual species and cultivar specimens in mulch beds. Some of the plants have outgrown their settings and will require relocation and/or replacement.

An important step will be to make the entrance to the garden more visible and to tie it in more directly to the main collection. Featured along the main central walk to the Quarters building will be an area for orientation, where the visitor can receive interpretive information prior to viewing the collection.

Under discussion are ways to display the plants in a more systematic arrangement; that is, by species and cultivars within the species, by shape, or by size.

Serious consideration is being given to adding new dimensions to the garden; small gardens to demonstrate the versatility of boxwood as a garden element; rooms of boxwood to show how they can be used to structure space; and possibly a small maze, additional topiary and limited bonsai applications.

We will be reporting as definitive elements of the long range plan being to shape up.

Propagation Program

In addition to providing 21 plants for the annual boxwood auction, we have been able to provide some 72 plants for back-up nursery stock. These plants are being maintained in a special

section of the expanded nursery. We are only about 30% completed with this program, but are most hopeful of completing it in 1990.

Plant Acquisition Program

Our goal is to create the most complete boxwood collection anywhere. But many of you may not be aware of our problems in acquiring additional plants not already in the Memorial Garden unless you scan through the *Boxwood Buyer's Guide* and see the paucity of cultivars available commercially, or sit at the "non-receiving" end of requests for cuttings, rooted cuttings, or 2- to 3-year-old plants of specific cultivars.

We have found that it is not possible to buy our collection; rather we must build it from cuttings. Most of the cultivars presently being grown in North America are in the hands of various arboreta and a limited number of "boxophiles," which means that we have to cajole, scrounge and even, in some cases, beg for a few cuttings.

The box below lists 13 current acquisitions. These are growing plants, but it will be 4 or 5 years before they can take their place in the garden. In addition, we have 16 other cultivars that are under going the rooting process; these will be reported when they

become viable plants.

"Pea Hill" Renovation

The "Pea Hill" collection at the Orland E. White Arboretum features members of the pea family, holly specimens, and boxwood. It has never been under the auspices of The American Boxwood Society, but because of its boxwood collection, it is of great interest to the Society and, especially to long-time members who have enjoyed and studied the boxwood there. The Chairman of the ABS Memorial Garden has been consulted in evaluating boxwoods there.

As many of you know, "Pea Hill" had become a living plant jungle of intermingled, overgrown specimens heavily infested with unwanted seedlings, bittersweet, poison ivy, alanthus and other trash growth that neglect and mowing machines could not attack. But we are now well on our way to having another boxwood display area worthy of the name.

A complete renovation is under way. First, an evaluation of the plants in the collection was made, using the following criteria:

Category I: Specimens of questionable value.

1. Undetermined accession information (questionable origin, loss

B. sempervirens 'Abilene'

B. sempervirens 'Ed Wycoff'

B. sempervirens 'Liberty'

B. sempervirens 'Natchez'

B. sempervirens 'Pullman'

B. sempervirens 'Rochester'

B. sempervirens 'Clembrook'

B. sempervirens 'Joe Gable'

B. sempervirens 'Mary Gamble'

B. sempervirens 'Denmark'

B. balearica

B. harlandii 'Richard'

B. sinica

Mr. and Mrs. D. Goodrich Gamble,
St. Louis, Missouri

U. S. National Arboretum
Cunningham Nurseries, Waldron, Indiana

Boxwood Society of the Midwest

Boxwood Society of the Midwest

Girard Nurseries, Geneva, Ohio

G. Brad Clements, Canada

U. S. National Arboretum

Mary A. Gamble, St. Louis, Missouri

Mary A. Gamble, St. Louis, Missouri

Mary A. Gamble, St. Louis, Missouri

W. J. Sheehan, Williamsburg, Virginia

Boxwood Society of the Midwest

of or uncertainty in accession numbers)

2. Uncertainty in taxonomic determination, including cultivar designation

3. Poor or atypical form

4. Disease and/or severe damage

Category II: Arboretum quality specimen that may be maintained in the collection depending on space and landscape esthetics, but not critical to the Arboretum holdings.

Category III: Arboretum quality specimens that should be maintained in the collection as a permanent display because of size, age, taxon and/or form, and a critical member of the holdings of the Arboretum.

Some specimens in the "Pea Hill" area that are not in the ABS Memorial Garden are: *B. sempervirens* 'Arborescens', *B. sempervirens* 'Hollandia', *B. sempervirens* 'Rosmarinifolia' and 25 to 30 of the Anderson K-series that are over 30 years of age.

We will be working on evaluations of these plants to determine whether there are features and qualities that would distinguish them from other registered cultivars.

P. D. Larson

Chairman, ABS Memorial Garden Committee

Clipped Boxwoods in Italy

Last May, Mr. Charles E. Main, an ABS member in Karnak, Illinois, participated in a garden tour of Italy, sponsored by the Missouri Botanical

Garden. He encountered a variety of beautiful gardens, some of which demonstrated the formal use of boxwood.



Formal clipped boxwood hedges with pink mysotis at Villa Capponi (Photo: Charles Main)



1988 photo of the Traynham residence (Photo: Dr. Traynham)

Massed Boxwoods

When Dr. Wade L. Traynham built his house in 1954, he planted a row of boxwood around it. Five years later another row was planted in front of the first, using plants about half the size. In another five years a third row was planted with shorter boxwood. Liking the massed effect, Dr. Traynham has allowed them to continue to grow this way. He takes cuttings each year to thin them and let air circulate, keeping them free of disease. Feeding is done by spreading compost from time to time, but not necessarily every year. Dr. Traynham's testimonial: "No plant adds the color and distinction to a home and involves less work and maintenance than boxwood."

**Participants in Eighth Annual ABS Tour
April 29-May 1, 1988**

Mrs. John Baden, Bunker Hill, W. Va.
Mr. and Mrs. John Boyd, Alton, Va.
Mrs. Mark Braimbridge, London, England
Mr. and Mrs. Scot Butler, Bluemont, Va.
Mrs. E. Chamberlin, Purcellville, Va.
Mrs. E. E. Colbert, Loysville, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Crump, Royal Oak, Md.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Culver, Fallston, Md.
Ann Young Doak, Concord, N. H.
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Driver, Sparks, Md.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Fredericksburg, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Gore, Grafton, Wis.
Mrs. J. C. Harlan, Arlington, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. John Hart, Falls Church, Va.
Mr. Davyd F. Hood, Raleigh, N. C.
Mr. and Mrs. George Hughey, Potomac, Md.
Jane Lowenthal, Washington, D. C.
Mrs. JoAnn Lyons and guest, Amissville, Va.
Col. and Mrs. John Maher, Alexandria, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Mahone, Williamsburg, Va.
Dorothy Martinson, California
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Plater, Boyce, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Preston, McLean, Va.
Mrs. Stone Rodgers, Baltimore Md.
Bill Sheehan, Williamsburg, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Howard C. Smith, McLean, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stock, Bealsville, Md.
Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Stone, Royal Oak, Md.
Mrs. E. F. Sturm, Berryville, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. George Warner, McLean, Va.

**Registrants for the Annual Meeting of the ABS
May 17-18, 1988**

Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, Silver Spring, Md.
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boyd, Jr., Alton, Va.
Dr. and Mrs. Russell Briere, New Kent, Va.
Mrs. George Burton, Berryville, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Scot Butler, Bluemont, Va.
Mrs. Pamela Byrne-Daigh, Goochland, Va.
Mrs. Katherine Chamberlin, Purcellville, Va.
Krista Cook, Alexandria, Va.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. N. Holmes Morison

Mrs. Morison was a charter member of
The American Boxwood Society.

Mrs. Harry deButts, Upperville, Va.
Mrs. Thomas di Zerega, Upperville, Va.
Mr. John H. Douts, Vienna, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. James Driver, Sparks, Md.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Fredericksburg, Va.
Mr. Jim Gallagher, Port Republic, Va.
Mr. William A. Gray, Charlottesville, Va.
Mrs. Alice Haggerty and guest, Berryville, Va.
Mrs. Paul Haldeman, Winchester, Va.
Mrs. George Harnsberger, Port Republic, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. John Hart, Falls Church, Va.
Mr. O. Halsey Hill, Roanoke, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kegley, Charlottesville, Va.
Cdr. and Mrs. P. D. Larson, Knoxville, Md.
Dr. and Mrs. Francis Lyons, Amissville, Va.
Mrs. J. L. Maher, Alexandria, Va.
Mr. Richard D. Mahone, Williamsburg, Va.
Mr. Jim McGhee, Falls Church, Va.
Dr. Graham Morrison, Germantown, Md.
Mr. Robert A. Penney, Upperville, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Plater, Jr., Boyce, Va.
Susanne Schrage-Norton, Mt. Vernon, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Howard C. Smith, McLean Va.
Mrs. Herbert Solenberger, Winchester, Va.
Mr. McHenry Stiff, Round Hill, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Sutermeister, Bethesda, Md.
Mr. Dale Taylor, Wenonah, N. J.
Mr. Robert H. Tunnell, Georgetown, D. C.
Mr. Ted Walter, Washington, D. C.
Mrs. Katherine D. Ward, Deerfield, Va.
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald A. Williams, Keezletown, Va.
Dr. Wirt H. Wills, Blacksburg, Va.
M. Zapton, Port Republic, Va.
Steve Zapton, Port Republic, Va.



*Some of the participants in the ABS Annual Tour on the steps to the sunken garden at William and Mary College. Boxwood in background is a pair of overgrown *Buxus sempervirens* 'Aristocrat'. (Photo: Robert Frackelton)*

The Seasonal Gardener

Practical tips for boxwood enthusiasts from Society members



Helpful hints for the boxwood gardener:

Culture. Boxwood is shallow-rooted. Choose a well-drained location. When planting set high, not down in the hole. 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). It takes at least two years for plants to become well established; provide some shade if possible.

Pruning. Pluck out excess foliage to thin or control size. Shearing is NOT recommended. Clean out center of plant at least once a year, removing old leaves and debris. Healthy plants have green leaves on the inside stems since light and air can reach through openings plucked in outer foliage.

Insects. To prevent psyllid (curling of new leaves in spring), spray in late April with Sevin; follow package instructions. To control leaf miner (tunnels or spots inside leaves), spray in early May with

Malathion when insects fly and in late June with Cygon; follow package instructions and wear protective clothing. Can also be effective in July and August. Spider mites (foliage stippled) can be controlled with a miticide spray in April-May and September-October. (Dates vary with location. Consult your County Extension Agent for further information.)

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, but 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 the spring before removing dead sections. Can be prevented by providing shade of protection using evergreen branches, snow fence or straw.

Most important: Shallow planting, generous watering and clean interiors.

Mrs. Scot Butler, ABS Secretary and former Co-Editor of The Boxwood Bulletin, and others

