

# The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A quarterly devoted to Man's oldest garden ornamental



Pair of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Aristocrat' at the head of the Sunken Garden, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, April 12, 1989 (after relocation). See article, page 11. (Photo: Robert L. Frackelton)

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The American Boxwood Society is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1961 and devoted to the appreciation, scientific understanding and propagation of the genus *Buxus* L. There are more than 700 members in the United States and nine foreign countries.

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

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# 'Justin Brouwers' Cultivar Registered

## Formerly /Brouwers' Seedling No. 1/

Accepted for registration by Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, International Registration Authority for Cultivated *Buxus* L.:

*Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Justin Brouwers'

Submitted for registration by P. D. Larson.

**Description:** A single-trunked plant with a rounded to conical habit. It is a dwarf Korean boxwood with a slow rate of growth averaging 3 to 6 mm annually. A nineteen-year old plant at the U.S. National Arboretum is .75 m tall and 1 m wide. Another plant in the ABS Memorial Garden at the Orland E. White Arboretum (State Arboretum of Virginia) is .3 m tall and .6 m wide at fifteen years of age. The leaves are opposite, lanceolate to elliptic. The leaf tip is generally acute, to occasionally obtuse; the base is cuneate. The leaves with a short petiole are 15 to 17 mm long and 5 to 7 mm wide. The internodal length is 4 to 7 mm. Leaf color by the revised RHS color chart is green group 137A for the upper epidermis and yellow-green group 146B for the lower. The plant has not been observed in flower.

**History:** Originated as a seedling of *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis*, probably by open pollination. Selected and grown by Mr. Justin B. Brouwers, a former landscape gardener at Colonial Williamsburg, in Williamsburg, Virginia. It has been known to some local residents as "Cat's Grave Seedling."

Stock increase allowed for plants to be distributed to several institutions including the U.S. National Arboretum. The plant in the ABS Memorial Garden, originally known as /Brouwers' Seedling No. 1/, was from a 1972 cutting, donated in 1983 by Mr. Harrison Symmes. (See accompanying reprint from *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 23, No. 1, p. 14, July 1983.)



Sixteen-year old *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Justin Brouwers' in the ABS Memorial Garden, October 23, 1988. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)

### NEW CULTIVAR ADDED TO THE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Members at the Annual Meeting who visited the Memorial Garden may have noticed an unlabelled, compact, small-leaved boxwood plant about 18 x 18 inches in the new extension of the Memorial Garden in the Southwest. This plant has now been confirmed by the Society's Registrar, Dr. Bernice M. Speese, to be 'Brouwers' Seedling No. 1' [sic], a seedling of *Buxus microphylla* var. *koreana* grown and selected by Mr. J. B. Brouwers, former landscape gardener at Colonial Williamsburg, in his private nursery near Williamsburg. The plant in the Memorial Garden is one of several cuttings propagated by Harrison Symmes in August 1972 from cuttings given to him by the late J. T. Baldwin. Dr. Baldwin greatly admired the growth habit and leaf texture of the plant and strongly recommended it to Mr. Symmes as deserving of propagation and wider distribution. Mr. Symmes donated the plant to the Society in March of this year.

According to Dr. Speese, 'Brouwers' Seedling No. 1' is one of at least two *koreana* seedlings grown and selected by Mr. Brouwers. Interestingly enough, Mr. Brouwers liked the seedling so

much that he placed it around the grave of a favorite cat, and some people have since called it the "Cat's Grave Seedling." Those who may wish to read more about *koreana* cultivars of *Buxus microphylla* are referred to the two excellent articles by Dr. Baldwin in earlier issues of the Bulletin (Vol. 5, No. 3, pp. 40-41, and Vol. 8, No. 4, pp. 51-54).

'Brouwers' Seedling No. 1' has many fine qualities. In Mr. Symmes' nursery near Upperville, it has been among the most winter hardy, showing almost no wind or sun damage as compared to *suffruticosa* and other *sempervirens* and *microphylla* cultivars. Its growth habit resembles *suffruticosa*, but its leaves are smaller and more pointed, and the plant is generally more compact. It grows under the same conditions at least as fast, if not faster, than *suffruticosa*. It is not unlike 'Morris Midget' and 'Morris Dwarf' and can now be compared with those two *microphylla* cousins in the Memorial Garden. 'Brouwers' Seedling No. 1' would appear to be an excellent choice for edging and hedging as well as small specimen plants.

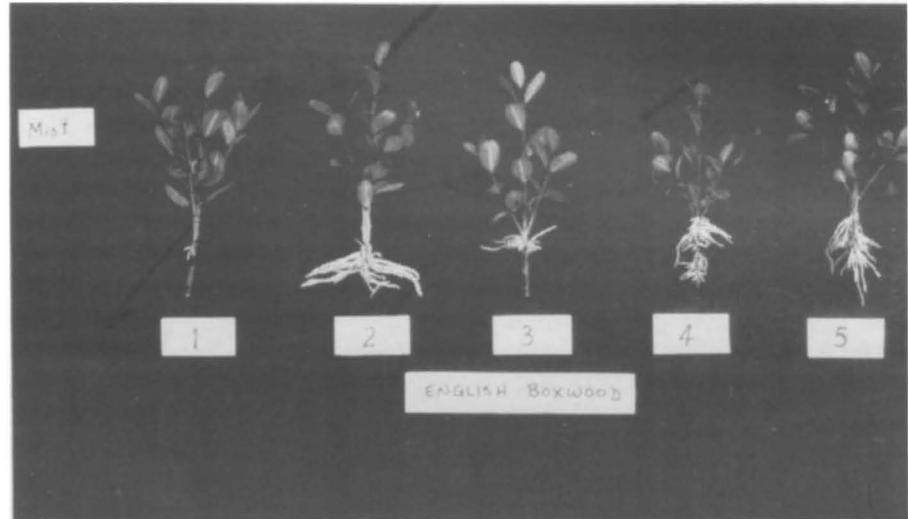
# Rooting "English" and Japanese Boxwood

## Effects of Propagation Media and Humidification Systems

Thomas J. Banko and Marcia A. Stefani

A number of different media preparations have been recommended for rooting boxwood cuttings. These include sharp builder's sand, peat and perlite, and peat and styrofoam (1,2,3,5). Once a medium is chosen and cuttings are stuck, the flats containing the cuttings are usually placed under or into some sort of humidification system to keep the cuttings from drying out while they root. Intermittent mist is one commonly used system. A fine mist is applied to the cuttings for 5 seconds every 5 minutes (or some similar interval) during daylight hours. This reduces stress caused by excessive heat and transpiration. High humidity propagation systems (e.g., Humidifan, AGRITECH, MicroCool Flexi-Fog, and Mee Industries, among others) produce a fog-like atmosphere of small droplets (10-50 microns in diameter) (4) which create a constantly humid environment but apply less moisture to the rooting medium than mist systems. The performance of various rooting media may differ depending upon the system used for humidification. This study evaluated five rooting media for two boxwood species propagated under two humidification environments.

In early September, cuttings of Japanese boxwood (*Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*) and English boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa') were taken as semi-hard-wood, terminal cuttings of current season growth. Japanese boxwood cuttings were approximately 4 inches long and the English boxwood cuttings were approximately 2.5 inches long. Leaves were stripped from the lower inch of the basal ends and the cuttings were treated with a 5 second dip in a 4000 ppm (0.4%) aqueous solution of the potassium salt of indole butyric acid (K-IBA). Cuttings were allowed to air dry 15 minutes after treating before



1. Rooting effects of test media on "English" boxwood under mist.



2. Rooting effects of test media on "English" boxwood under high humidity.

being placed, 2 per cell, in 4-cell bedding packs containing one of five media: 1) peat moss:perlite, 1:1 by vol., 2) sharp builder's sand, 3) pine bark, 4) pine bark:perlite, 1:1 by vol., or 5) perlite.

Half of the cell packs were placed under an Agritech high humidity propagator (AGRITECH, Broadway, N. C.) in a shaded, plastic-covered, quonset-style greenhouse. Half were placed outdoors under intermittent mist (5 seconds every

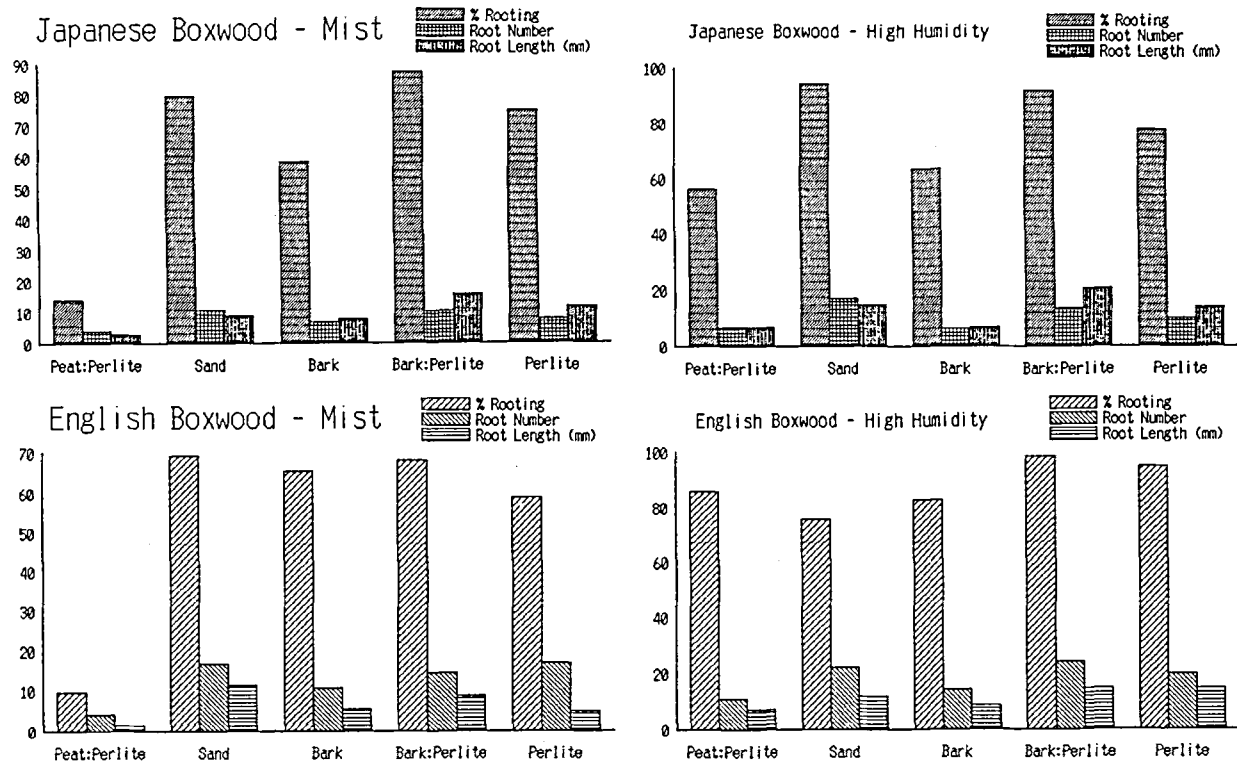
5 minutes during daylight hours) with 47% shade provided by a woven shade cloth. Cuttings were evaluated after 12 weeks for numbers of primary roots produced, root mean lengths, and percent rooting.

Under intermittent mist (Figure 1) the peat moss:perlite medium consistently gave the poorest results in terms of rooting percentages and numbers and lengths of roots for both English and

Japanese boxwoods. The highest rooting percentages, root numbers and root lengths for English boxwood under intermittent mist were obtained with builder's sand and bark:perlite (Figure 3). Similar results were obtained for

Japanese boxwood. Good results were usually also obtained with coarse builder's sand; the major drawback in its use being difficulty in handling due to its weight. The peat moss:perlite medium generally gave poor rooting results for boxwood cuttings, particularly under

4. Milbocker, D. C. 1980. Ventilated high humidity propagation. *Proc. Intern. Plant Prop. Soc.* 30:480-482.
5. O'Rourke, F. L. S. and R. R. Dedolph. 1961. Comparative efficacy of two rooting compounds and different media for root



3. Effects of media under mist

4. Effects of media under high humidity

With the high humidity system, the peat:perlite medium resulted in higher rooting percentages than under mist, but root numbers and lengths were still very low for both English and Japanese boxwoods (Figures 2 and 4). Bark alone provided marginally better results. The bark:perlite medium gave the highest rooting percentages, root numbers, and lengths for English boxwood. For Japanese boxwood, bark:perlite and sand were the two media providing the better results, being about equal in rooting percentages, but with sand giving greater root numbers and bark:perlite giving greater root lengths.

In summary, the bark:perlite medium provided the most consistently favorable results in terms of rooting percentages and root numbers and

intermittent mist. This may be because the peat moss, noted for its water-holding capability, may retain too much water in the root zone in an intermittent mist system which already provides a great deal of moisture to the boxwood cuttings.

induction with greenwood cuttings of seven species. *J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci.* 86:815-817.

1. Banko, T. J. and M. A. Stefani. 1985. Propagation of boxwood by stem cuttings. *Proc. SNA Res. Conf.* 30:250-253.
2. Bonaminio, V. P., E. R. Bir, R. K. Jones and J. R. Baker. 1982. *Commercial boxwood production.* North Carolina Agricultural Ext. Ser., NCPM No. 21d. 12 pp.
3. Hartmann, H. T. and D. E. Kester. 1983. *Plant Propagation: Principles and Practices*, 4th ed. Prentice-Hall, NJ. 662pp.

The co-authors of this paper do research for VPI&SU at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Experiment Station, Virginia Beach, Va. The ABS has been supporting some of this research for several years. Dr. Banko received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Idaho in plant sciences. He has been at the Station for 10 years and does research in general cultural methods, propagation, and tissue culture. Marcia A. Stefani is a research scientist who has been at the Station for five years. She received her M.A. in plant pathology from the University of Georgia.

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# Boxwoods at Mulberry Hill

John W. Boyd, Jr.

Mulberry Hill is located in Charlotte County, Virginia, near the village of Randolph. Listed in Virginia Historical Landmarks, it was a land grant to a Mr. Firth who sold the grant to the Carrington family about 1750.

Paul Carrington brought his bride to Mulberry Hill in 1755 and it has remained in the same family ever since. The name was chosen because mulberry trees were planted there to feed silkworms. The silkworm industry did not prosper, but the name remained.

Four large boxwoods are planted across the front of the house, located so as not to obstruct the windows.

A memorial to Paul Carrington (1733-1818) is located in the garden. For history buffs, the list of his services would be of interest: House of Burgesses 1765-1776, the Virginia Conventions 1774, 1775, 1776 and 1788, the Committee that framed the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Constitution of 1776, the Virginia Committee of Safety 1775-1776, the Virginia General Court 1778-1789 and the First Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia 1789-1807.

For plant lovers, the abundance of boxwood is a sight to behold. The four part garden is divided by paths bordered by large boxwoods and formerly was planted with vegetables, many types of flowers, berries, figs and grapes. It is separated from the lawn by a row of boxwood. The boxwood surrounding the front lawn acts as a windbreak. These areas contain several acres. In the 1930s and 1940s many older shrubs were sold and replanted.

There are some small trees planted among the large boxwood, known locally as "Date trees," but not botanically identified. Mounting blocks, found near the front gate, are typical of old country places.

There are several grand-daddies among these fine old boxwood. Some



*Mulberry Hill, in the same family since 1750, is owned by Mrs. J. T. Butler*



*Front lawn is surrounded by boxwood. Older shrubs were sold in the 1930s.*



*Small trees among boxwood, called "Date trees," are botanically unidentified.*



Left fork of one venerable boxwood is 11" in diameter at shoulder height above the ground.



Mounting blocks are typical of landmark homes in Virginia. (Photos: John W. Boyd, Jr.)

reach to thirty feet. On one, tops have never been pruned, but lower branches were removed around 1895. About 2' above ground the trunk measures 20" in diameter. At shoulder height, the trunk forks with the left side measuring 11" in diameter and the right side 12" across.

*Mr. Boyd, a director of The American Boxwood Society, maintains boxwood at a family farm for supplying Christmas clippings. He has long admired the "grand-daddy" boxwood and wishes to express appreciation to Mrs. J. T. Butler for the information about Mulberry Hill and for allowing him to take photographs.*

## Varieties of Boxwood for Nursery and Landscape

P. D. "Swede" Larson

*[Note: This article is from a lecture given at the Boxwood Workshop on May 16, 1989.]*

Let us briefly talk about the history and origins of the genus and species of boxwoods. Some of the misnomers and confusing terminologies used by North Americans; attributes of the genus; and finally a little concerning commercial availability and some recommended cultivars for adoption in the nursery and landscape scene.

The genus boxwood is not a johnny-come-lately to the plant world. Fossilized deposits in France and 20 other European locations have been discovered that date it back to the Pliocene age, 5.1 million years ago.

**4000 BC:** The tomb of an Egyptian nobleman described the plan of a formal garden, which undoubtedly included boxwood.

**1000 BC:** Homer, the epic poet of Greece, described in the Odyssey the gardens of Alcinoos where "ships of myrtle sail in seas of Box."

**700 BC:** Messages from the prophet Isaiah mentioned boxwoods: "I will set

in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together." (Isaiah 41:19) Further, "The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious." (Isaiah 60:13)

**70-40 BC:** Virgil calls boxwood "smooth-grained and proper for the turner's trade which curious hands may carve, and steel with ease invade." He further alluded to the use of boxwood for musical instruments. (Dryden's Virgil)

**23 BC:** Pliny, the Roman naturalist and writer, left a detailed account of his gardens and that of boxwoods: "...terrace embellished with various figures and bounded with a Box hedge"; "...lawn overspread with a soft Acanthus surrounded by a walk enclosed with Tree Box, shaped in a variety of forms."; "...a broad path, laid out in the form of a Circus, ornamented in the middle with Box cut in numberless different figures together with a plantation of shrubs, fenced in

by a wall covered by Box rising by different ranges to the top."; and "...straight walks divided by grass plots, or Box trees cut in a thousand shapes, some forming the Emperor's name, others the name of the gardener."

**476 AD:** When the Vandals sacked Rome they destroyed much of the city as well as many of the imposing villas where well-to-do Romans had indulged their inherent love of gardening.

**1300-1500 AD:** The Renaissance really started the period of the large pleasure gardens of Italy, France, and England and until the 19th century, were all primarily planted with various forms of one boxwood species, *Buxus sempervirens*, indigenous across central and southern Europe, into North Africa, and over to the edge of Asia Minor. Asian literary recordings began about 3000 years ago, and if we had scholarly translations of the writings, boxwood would most likely have been mentioned.

**1753 AD:** Carolus Linnaeus, who developed the binomial system of plant nomenclature, started us on our way of

identifying plants in an organized, systematic manner and gave us the method of sorting out the general historical word "Box" into meaningful categories. In his *Species Plantarum* they were *Buxus sempervirens* arborescens, or tree boxwood, and *Buxus sempervirens* suffruticosa, or little shrub. Ensuing years brought on the identification of some 85-90 species, 10-12 varieties, and probably some 200 cultivars.

Within the temperate zone of the world, only two continents do not have some species of *Buxus* indigenous to their territory: North America and Australia.

The first recorded introduction of boxwood to North America occurred in 1652 into the New York area and most likely came from Holland and of the species *sempervirens*.

By 1860 *Buxus microphylla* and *B. microphylla* var. *japonica* were being imported from Japan.

In the 1900s our American plant explorers were out scouting for other *Buxus* species and brought home *B. balearica* from the Balearic Islands of the Mediterranean, *B. harlandii* from Hong Kong and China, *B. sinica* from

China and *B. sinica* var. *insularis* from Korea. A few other species have also been collected or imported, such as *B. nepalense*, *B. colchica*, and *B. wallichiana*.

The 1940s really started the era of boxwood cultivars. Before enumerating what boxwoods are presently being grown in North America, let me dispel some of the myths, erroneous nomenclature, and vague generalities and continue to plague "man's oldest garden ornamental."

First off, no species of boxwoods is indigenous to North America—thus, there are no "American Boxwood." "English Boxwood" is another odd name coined by the colonists of our mid-Atlantic region, and perpetuated by the popular colonial gardens. The first recorded boxwood in America was in the New York area in 1652 and is believed to have come from Holland. Why not "Dutch Boxwood"? The Spanish settlers brought boxwood to Florida, and our own plant explorers contributed boxwood from the Orient.

Boxwood grows in many shapes, sizes, colors, and variations. There are mounded, conical, spherical, columnar, vase-shaped, and billowy pyramidal

boxwood. Sizes range from dwarf to large and tree-like. Leaf colors vary in greens and yellow-green with some having hues of blue and black coupled with variegations of gold, silver, and white. There are a variety of leaf shapes as well. All these characters are, or should be, in the description of a species and cultivar. Thus, boxwood is truly a plant for landscaping possibilities. Selection of the right cultivar to the situation is the key.

Contrary to general belief, boxwood is a vigorous shrub and requires a minimum of care, excepting the so-called "English Box," *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'. Growth requirements are minimal, and only two pests are considered serious—leafminer and mites. Diseases are practically non-existent and are usually from man-made causes.

"Swede" Larson, an ABS Director and Chairman of the Memorial Garden Committee, is interested in all phases of boxwood. He is an accomplished wood worker and has been retired from the U.S. Navy for several years. He lives in Knoxville, Md.

### Forms of Boxwood Cultivars at 25 Years of Age

| Cultivar                    | USDA Species                           | Size   | Zone | Cultivar                    | Species                                    | USDA Size | USDA Zone |
|-----------------------------|--|--------|------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Arboreal</b>             |  |        |      |                             |  |           |           |
| * 'Arborescens'             | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                 | Large  | 5    | * 'Compacta'                | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Dwarf     | 5         |
| 'Undulifolia'               | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                 | Large  | 6    | 'Creepy'                    | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Dwarf     | 6         |
| <b>Columnar</b>             |  |        |      |                             |  |           |           |
| 'Dee Runk'                  | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                 | Large  | 6    | * 'Cushion'                 | <i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i>     | Small     | 5         |
| * 'Fastigiata'              | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                 | Large  | 6    | 'Elegantissima' (prostrate) | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Dwarf     | 6         |
| * 'Graham Blandy'           | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                 | Large  | 6    | * 'Grace Hendrick Phillips' | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Dwarf     | 6         |
| <b>Conical</b>              |  |        |      |                             |  |           |           |
| * 'Cliffside'               | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                 | Large  | 6    | * 'Green Beauty'            | <i>B. microphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i> | Medium    | 6         |
| 'Holland'                   | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                 | Medium | 6    | * 'Green Pillow'            | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Medium    | 5         |
| * 'Pyramidalis'             | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                 | Large  | 6    | * 'Helen Whiting'           | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Medium    | 6         |
| 'Pyramidalis Hardwickensis' | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                 | Large  | 5    | 'Kingsville'                | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Medium    | 6         |
| * 'Tall Boy'                | <i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i> | Medium | 5    | * 'Latifolia Marginata'     | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium    | 6         |
| <b>Mounded</b>              |  |        |      |                             |  |           |           |
| * 'Argenteo-variegata'      | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                 | Small  | 6    | 'Latifolia Nova'            | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large     | 6         |
| * 'Justin Brouwers'         | <i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i> | Small  | 6    | 'Maculata'                  | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large     | 6         |
|                             |  |        |      | * 'Miss Jones'              | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Small     | 6         |



| Cultivar                  | Species                                    | USDA   |      | Cultivar                | Species                                    | USDA   |      |
|---------------------------|--|--------|------|-------------------------|--|--------|------|
|                           |  | Size   | Zone |                         |  | Size   | Zone |
| * 'Morris Dwarf'          | <i>B. microphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i> |        |      | * 'Inglis'              | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 5    |
|                           |  | Dwarf  | 5    | 'Ipek'                  | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 5    |
| 'Morris Midget'           | <i>B. microphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i> |        |      | 'John Baldwin'          | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 6    |
|                           |  | Dwarf  | 5    | 'Joy'                   | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 6    |
| * 'Nana'                  | <i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i>     | Small  | 6    | 'Krossi livonia'        | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    |
| 'Nana Compacta'           | <i>B. microphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i> |        |      | 'Latifolia Macrophylla' |  |        |      |
|                           |  | Dwarf  | 5    |                         | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    |
| 'Natchez'                 | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Dwarf  | 5    | 'Latifolia Maculata'    | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    |
| * 'Northern Find'         | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 5    | * 'Memorial'            | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 6    |
| * 'Ponteyi'               | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    | species                 | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Large  | 5    |
| * 'Rotundifolia'          | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    | * 'Myosotidifolia'      | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    |
| 'Salicifolia'             | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    | * 'Myrtifolia'          | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    |
| variety                   | <i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i>     | Medium | 5    | 'National'              | <i>B. microphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i> |        |      |
| * 'Sport'                 | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    |                         |  | Large  | 6    |
| * 'Ste. Genevieve'        | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 5    | 'Nish'                  | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    |
| 'Tennessee'               | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    | * 'Northland'           | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    |
| * 'Tide Hill'             | <i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i>     | Small  | 6    | 'Rosmarinifolia'        | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Small  | 6    |
| * 'Vardar Valley'         | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    | 'Sunnyside'             | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Large  | 5    |
| * 'Winter Beauty'         | <i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i>     | Medium | 5    | * 'Welleri'             | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 5    |
| * 'Wintergreen'           | <i>B. sinica</i> var. <i>insularis</i>     | Medium | 5    | * 'Winter Gem'          | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Medium | 5    |
| Ovate                     |  |        |      | * 'Woodland'            | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 6    |
| * 'Liberty'               | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    | 'Zehlung'               | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    |
| Pyramidal                 |  |        |      | Spherical               |  |        |      |
| * 'Abilene'               | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 5    | 'Mary Gamble'           | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Small  | 5    |
| * 'Agram'                 | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    | * 'Pullman'             | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 5    |
| /Anderson 789-34/         | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    | 'Suffruticosa'          | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Dwarf  | 6    |
| 'Angustifolia'            | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    | * 'West Ridgeway'       | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Small  | 6    |
| * 'Aristocrat'            | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    | Vase-Shaped             |  |        |      |
| 'Asheville'               | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    | * species               | <i>B. harlandii</i>                        | Medium | 6    |
| * 'Belleville'            | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 5    | Unusual Forms           |  |        |      |
| 'Bullata'                 | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    | 'Curly Locks'           | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Medium | 5    |
| * 'Butterworth'           | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    | 'Hardwickiensis'        | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 6    |
| 'Decussata'               | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    | 'Henry Hohman'          | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Medium | 6    |
| * 'Denmark'               | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    | 'Lockett'               | <i>B. microphylla</i>                      | Medium | 5    |
| * 'Edgar Anderson'        | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    | 'Pendula'               | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 5    |
| * 'Elegantissima'         | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    | 'Prostrata'             | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 6    |
| 'Flora Place'             | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 5    | 'Richard'               | <i>B. harlandii</i>                        | Medium | 7    |
| * 'Fortunei Rotundifolia' |  |        |      |                         |  |        |      |
|                           | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    |                         |  |        |      |
| 'Glauca'                  | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    |                         |  |        |      |
| 'Green Gem'               | <i>Buxus</i> X                             | Medium | 5    |                         |  |        |      |
| 'Green Mound'             | <i>Buxus</i> X                             | Medium | 5    |                         |  |        |      |
| 'Green Mountain'          | <i>Buxus</i> X                             | Medium | 5    |                         |  |        |      |
| 'Green Velvet'            | <i>Buxus</i> X                             | Medium | 5    |                         |  |        |      |
| 'Handsworthiensis'        | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    |                         |  |        |      |
| 'Handsworthii'            | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 6    |                         |  |        |      |
| * 'Henry Shaw'            | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    |                         |  |        |      |
| * 'Hermann von Schrenk'   |  |        |      |                         |  |        |      |
|                           | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Large  | 5    |                         |  |        |      |
| species                   | <i>B. himalayensis</i>                     | Large  | 6    |                         |  |        |      |
| 'Hood'                    | <i>B. sempervirens</i>                     | Medium | 5    |                         |  |        |      |

Zone refers to the U.S. Department of Agriculture zones. The zone listed is the minimum (coldest) zone in which each cultivar has been observed to thrive. In general, boxwoods in this list have been observed growing in USDA zones 5-8. Some cultivars are seen in warmer zones, but a full study of maximum zones of occurrence has not been undertaken.

\* Recommended for growers or for landscaping purposes based on observations of overall performance and characteristics of plants growing at the Orland E. White Arboretum (State Arboretum of Virginia), the Missouri Botanical Garden, Secret Arboretum, The College of William and Mary, and the U.S. National Arboretum.

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# Caring for Boxwood Over the Long Haul

Cdr. P. D. Larson

*[Note: Professor James A. Faiszt, who was scheduled to cover this subject at the Boxwood Workshop on May 16, 1989, was unable to attend because of an emergency. Cdr. P. D. Larson substituted, and the following is his outline.]*

Let me enumerate the general attributes of the species. Boxwood...

1. Includes plants of many shapes, sizes, colors, and leaf surfaces.
2. Is a vigorous and long-lived plant.
3. Has few problems, most of which are man-made.
4. Tolerates a wide range of soils (pH 6-8). A real middle-of-the-roader.
5. Is not a heavy consumer of water.
6. Has minimal fertilizer requirements.
7. Requires a minimum of pruning for culture care when the proper cultivar is selected for the intended purpose and site.
8. Can compete with mowed weeds and grass.
9. Has few pest problems, except for leaf miner, spider mite, and psyllid, which can easily be kept under control.
10. Has few disease problems when basic cultural practices are maintained.
11. Includes cultivars which tolerate temperatures ranging from USDA zone 5 through zone 10.
12. Includes few cultivars which are not easily propagated by asexual methods.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Boxwood Inspection in 1937

*[Note: Readers of earlier issues of The Boxwood Bulletin will remember that Mr. Hewlett Lewis has generously shared his memorabilia of Lewis and Valentine Company, a nursery from which he retired a few years ago. In the early days when his uncle, Albert Addison Lewis, wrote Boxwood Gardens, Old and New, the wealthy built their estates and acquired instant landscape maturity by installing large trees and shrubs. Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina were sources for some of the largest boxwoods. Below is part of a field report titled "Boxwood Inspection Made by C. Davis, June 1937."]*

#### Whittington Boxwood Near Crisfield, Maryland

The large plant 10' high by 14' spread is in excellent condition except for one branch in the top which has been bured [*sic*] or winter-killed similar to our boxwood at Ardmore. This branch is not entirely dead and may recover. If it dies there will be a hole in the top 20-24" in diameter. There are two holes in the side of the plant about 12" in diameter which do not

particularly hurt the plant and which could be filled in by tying the surrounding branches together. This plant has entirely overcome the clipping it received at Christmas time two or three years ago.

The other piece of Boxwood is growing under a tree and it's [*sic*] only value at present would be to fill in a hedge planting of this size. However the section next to the tree is sufficiently good that it would pay if we are shipping the other plant to ship this plant and put it in a sheltered place for a few years in which time it would make a specimen plant about 10' high.

No one is living on the farm and a neighboring farmer is working the land. I talked to Mr. Rawdon Whittington and he says they have no prospect of selling the farm and we can let the Boxwood stay there at our own risk. We paid \$500. for all of this Boxwood and can probably get our money out of it.

#### Whitehead Boxwood Near Chatham, Virginia

This hedging is in excellent condition and there is enough of it to plant 120'. About 70' of it will run 8-

9' and the balance 7-8' high with an 8-10' spread. A little damage has been done by falling limbs of trees but only a few feet have been ruined.

The 5 large tree Box 14-16' high have grown so close together they can only be used as a hedge. They measure 54' in length and are in good condition other than being so close together that they are partly bare where they touch. The sixth tree box is in the back of the property and is about the same height with a 10' spread. A limb has been broken from the back side near the bottom but the plant is still in good shape.

Mrs. Whitehead is living in Chatham and has a tenant on the farm. I took her out to the farm but the tenant was not at home. She says he is a good farmer but does not take care of the grounds around the house. I suggested to her that we send him \$5.00 each Spring and Fall to keep the weeds cleaned away from the Boxwood and to otherwise protect it from damage as far as possible. She will talk to him about this and let us know. I gave her \$2.00 to cover having the weeds and broken fence removed immediately.

## 'Aristocrats' Relocated

In 1953 Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., bought two 3-4 foot plants from J. B. Brouwers for \$5.00 each, source unknown. Consulting with Alden Hopkins of the Landscape Department of Colonial Williamsburg, he planted them at the head of the Sunken Garden at the College of William and Mary and named them 'Aristocrat'. A 1964 photo shows two stately plants which in 1966 measured 10.5' high and 6' wide (*The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 6, No. 2, p. 23).

In Vol. 14, No. 1, July 1974 of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, 'Aristocrat' was formally registered (p. 15) with incorrect reference to the *Bulletin* which should have been as above and photographed (p. 10) with a typo on the date, which should probably be May 21, 1974.

Much later, on an ABS Tour, this stately pair was found to be closing the entrance to the Sunken Garden (photo, Vol. 28, No. 1, p. 15, July 1988). Concern was expressed to Mr. Paul H. Morris, Director of Facilities Management at the college, in late February and relocation was suggested. Prompt action was taken (see letter). The relocated plants were re-photographed April 12, 1989. We hope they are doing well and thank Mr. Morris and the College for responding so positively to our concern.

*Decca G. Frackelton*



THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY  
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT  
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA 23185

April 4, 1989

Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, President  
THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY  
1714 Greenway Drive  
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Dear Mrs. Frackelton:

On behalf of the College of William and Mary, I want to thank you for your consultation in regards to preserving our beautiful pair of "Aristocrat" boxwood. On March 17, 1989, the tree spade arrived and we accomplished the relocation of the boxwoods to a high visibility area, where students, faculty, staff and visitors will be able to enjoy them for years to come.

As a token of our appreciation for your interest and recommendations concerning our boxwood relocation project, our Campus Landscape Manager, Mark Whitney will be sending you a cutting from the "Aristocrat" for your enjoyment. The cutting will be forthcoming once it is well-rooted and ready for planting.

Thank you again, Mrs. Frackelton, and please feel free to visit us and see our lovely boxwoods in their new location.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Morris, Director  
Facilities Management

PHM/dp



*Buxus sempervirens 'Aristocrat' in May, 1988*



*April, 1989, photo. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)*

## Buxus Illustration

When Mrs. D. Goodrich (Mary) Gamble's article, "Herbals and Boxwood," came to us, the Gerard illustration of "The Boxtree" (*The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 28, No.4, p. 64) looked familiar (*Bulletins* Vol. 6, No. 4, p. 56 and Vol. 7, No. 1, p. 4, both from Dodoens (Dodonaeus), *Stirpium Historiae*, 1616) and had occurred in some of the literature from the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden at Bloemendaal, Richmond, Virginia. A letter was dispatched to Mr. Robert Hebb, Director, asking about their source and how it was chosen. The adjacent response was received.

## Not quite a maze, but a-mazing appeal

LINDA YANG New York Times News Service


NEW YORK-It doesn't matter that neither design is a bona fide medieval maze or an authentic Renaissance parterre. But hidden among the bricks and concrete of Manhattan, two carefully composed boxwood gardens aspire to emulate these historical forms. Despite limited space, the city folk who created them enjoy an elegant year-round pattern of green.

Raf Borello's garden is at the northern edge of Greenwich Village. Having seen Europe's great landscapes, Borello, a real-estate broker, said he decided long ago that "when I looked out the window I wanted to see something other than a bed of flowers."

Since he knew that gardens take time to develop, he began his planning and planting just after buying his landmark town house a decade ago, while renovations were still under way.

Borello, usually working alone, loosened the soil to a depth of nearly two feet. As he worked, he cleared away rocks and added peat moss, vermiculite and compost to improve the structure, drainage and fertility.

Guided in his design by the area's



May 30, 1989

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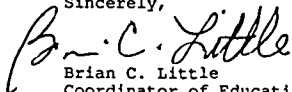
Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton  
 1714 Greenway Drive  
 Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Dear Mrs. Frackelton:

I must apologize for the tardiness of this letter, however, I am just now able to answer your letter that was sent to Mr. Hebb earlier this year.

The Buxus wood cut that appeared in our Calendar of Events was "cribbed" from The Herbal in John Gerard's 1633 edition. It is not the Garden's logo, however was used in clip art form. The selections of art work that are chosen to accommodate text come from a number of sources. Gerard's woodcut happened to be one of the best I've seen. A Buxus illustration was chosen to coincide with one of the educational programs we were having at the Garden.

I hope I have answered your question clearly. If you have any other concerns, please give me a call at 804-262-9887.

Sincerely,  
  
 Brian C. Little  
 Coordinator of Education

BCL/emb

7000 LAKESIDE AVENUE • P.O. BOX 28246 • RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23228-4610 • (804) 262-9887

30-by-35-foot shape, he formed three concentric rectangles of his favorite plant, the glossy-leaved, fragrant "English" edging boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'), which he knew had been popular in America since Colonial times.

With strings to keep his lines straight, he set out the rows of 10-inch-high plants; several hundred were required for the neat, maze-like configuration that now nearly fills the garden space. The outer hedge measures about 20 feet wide by 12 feet deep; the inner-most, about 10 feet wide by 4 feet deep.

Although this low-growing dwarf English boxwood is not always hardy in this area, Borello theorized that this backyard enclosure—a 10-foot brick wall and surrounding buildings—would

create a milder, wind-free microclimate. His guess proved correct, and even without added winter protection, few plants have been lost to the cold. A two-inch mulch of bark chips helps keep the soil temperate and moist in winter, cool and moist in summer.

"My idea was to have different leaf shapes and forms, and restful tones all year," Borello said. So once the boxwood hedges were well established, he began an appropriate backdrop.

The other boxwood garden, a parterre, was planted 22 years ago by Hope Hendler in a backyard space 18 by 30 feet on the Upper East Side.

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**Minutes of Spring Board Meeting, March 13, 1989**

The ABS Board of Directors met at the home of President Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on Monday, March 13, 1989. Present, in addition to the President, were First Vice President Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, Treasurer Mrs. Katherine D. Ward, Secretary Mrs. Joan Butler, Directors Mr. John Boyd, Mr. William Gray, Cdr. Phillip Larson, Mrs. Susanne Schrage-Norton and Mr. Dale Taylor. Ex-officio Director Dr. Edward F. Connor, Director of Blandy Farm, the State Arboretum of Virginia, was accompanied by Nancy Takahashi, landscape architect from the University of Va.

The President called the meeting to order at 9.55 A.M. The minutes of the fall board meeting of November 14, 1988, were approved as printed in the January issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* (Vol. 28, No. 3, p. 53, Jan. 1989).

Dr. Connor introduced Nancy Takahashi who is drawing the overall master plan and landscape design for the State Arboretum. A new entrance road from Route 50 will curve in to a long vista to the main Quarters building. A request for capital improvements funds will be made to the next session of the legislature. Ms. Takahashi then presented a detailed plan of possible changes in the area of the ABS Memorial Boxwood Garden, to meet four design goals:

- (1) to create a garden theater, to be unified with the boxwood garden;
- (2) to develop and enhance a new entrance into the garden;
- (3) to relocate plants in order to explain the genus and its cultivars in a rational way, to present a coherent educational message;
- (4) to expand the mission of the garden: to show individual specimens and display their character and shape; to present architectural and sculptural ideas in experimental displays of ways to create rooms and corridors.

Dr. Connor noted other plans for the

future: the hope of stirring up public community support for state funding by 1992. The first project to be undertaken will probably be an amphitheater planned for the bowl-shaped area within the present boxwood garden; this development will be supported by the Friends of Blandy. Plans for this project will proceed slowly and deliberately, to begin in the spring of 1990, if funds are available. The perennial, herb and native plant collections will be relocated to adjoin the Library wing on the west and new doors from the library to these gardens are planned. The newest area of the boxwood garden extending along the stone wall will be relocated to the north near the existing road.

The Treasurer reported balances of \$12,431.99 in the checking account and \$16,667.12 in a certificate of deposit. The full report is available on request.

**Committee Reports; New Business**

*Tour:* A tour of Gloucester and Matthews counties may be considered for spring 1990. Other suggestions

will be accepted.

*Annual Meeting:* Plans for the program include a talk by Dean Norton on boxwood at Mt. Vernon.

*Budget:* Mr. Taylor presented and explained a proposed budget for 1989-1990. After brief discussion the budget was adopted by unanimous vote. A copy follows these minutes.

Mr. Taylor then distributed a proposal to pursue additional listings for the third edition of the *Buyer's Guide* which will appear in late 1989. Mr. Taylor expects that it will be possible to cover the expected cost through private donations. The proposal was accepted unanimously, with the proviso that there shall be no cost to The American Boxwood Society.

*Boxwood Bulletin:* Mrs. Frackelton announced that the April issue is at the printer and should appear before April 1. Mr. Boyd agreed to prepare an article for an upcoming issue.

*Registrar:* Mr. Batdorf had brought with him a small plant of the recently-registered cultivar *Buxus sempervirens*

**NOTICES**

**New Buyer's Guide**

An expanded 3rd Edition of the *ABS Buyer's Guide* is in preparation. Any member who is a grower of boxwood and would like to be included as a source should send listing information to Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf or Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton (see back cover), listing the kinds for sale, retail or wholesale, and availability of shipping service.

**New Book**

The ABS received word of a new book that may be of interest to members who

like to add color to their boxwood plantings. The Taylor Publishing Company announced *Perennial Garden Color* by William Welch, a regional guide for Texans and Southerners with detailed descriptions (pro and con) of each plant, landscaping tips, how to buy and care for plants, illustrated with color throughout.

A review quotes Neil Sperry, author of *The Complete Guide to Texas Gardening*: "When Bill Welch told me he planned to write a book on perennials for the South, I knew it would be a masterpiece .... Now that I have read it, I know I'm right."

'Blauer Heinz' which Cdr. Larson will grow on until it is large enough to set out in the ABS Memorial Garden. Mr. Batdorf also related having had contacts with the U.S. Patent Office about a boxwood for which a patent was being sought, under the name *B. sempervirens* 'Silver Oregonia' but which he felt was very similar to *B. sempervirens* 'Latifolia Marginata', a name published in 1920. The Patent Office would therefore deny the application.

Mr. Batdorf also reported the ABS Library Committee's belief that the collection of books given to the Society by Admiral Neill Phillips should be donated to the Blandy Experimental Farm library, with the exception of two books: *Holly, Yew and Box*, by Dallimore and *The Story of Boxwood*, by Clara S. McCarty. These two books are to be returned to President of The American Boxwood Society. Mr. Batdorf's motion to carry out these actions was seconded and passed unanimously.

*Memorial Garden:* Cdr. Larson had no report.

*Nominating Committee:* Mr. Gray reported that all officers had agreed to serve again for the coming year and that Mr. Richard D. Mahone and Dr. Stephen D. Southall would fill the two vacancies on the Board of Directors.

*Research:* Mr. Gray's report follows these minutes. A \$500 grant will be needed this year to continue support for the work at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Experiment Station at Virginia Beach.

*Handbook:* The Board members expressed concern about the long delay which has occurred in the preparation of the Handbook. The President will consider possibilities for moving forward quickly.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 P.M. Board members enjoyed a most delicious lunch provided by the President, and expressed their great appreciation to both Mr. and Mrs. Frackelton.

Joan Butler, Secretary

## Nursery and Landscape Workshop, May 16, 1989

"Boxwood for the Nursery and Landscape Trade," a workshop sponsored by The American Boxwood Society, The Orland E. White Arboretum and the Friends of the State Arboretum of Virginia, was held at Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia, Tuesday, May 16, at 8:30 A.M.

Dr. Edward F. Connor, Director of Blandy Farm, welcomed 42 participants. The purpose of the workshop was to convey information about the diversity of size, shape and color of hardy boxwood cultivars which should be used in the nursery and landscape trade. Boxwood offers many possibilities, but few cultivars are available for use by gardeners. Boxwood is hardy and requires relatively little maintenance when suitable kinds are selected and located in proper sites. Otherwise it would be necessary to create and maintain a "micro-climate" to match a plant's cultural requirements — a difficult and time-consuming burden. Such a plan is a "must" for climatic zones 4 and colder, and success is far from guaranteed.

The first speaker, Cdr. Phillip D. Larson, chairman of the ABS Memorial

Garden Committee, talked about characteristics of cultivars which make them desirable for specific situations: shape (vertical, spreading, mounding); mature size at 25 years of age (an important factor in designing landscapes); variations in color and whether sun or shade might be preferred. Choosing the appropriate cultivar for each site is of paramount importance.

Cdr. Larson informed the participants that a pamphlet which had been prepared for distribution at the workshop had not been received from the printer, but would be mailed to all as soon as it became available. This informative booklet, *Guide to the Natural Forms of Boxwood*, contains data about the size of many cultivars at 25 years of age, descriptions of shapes, an inventory of the plants in the Boxwood Memorial Garden as well as regional sources for boxwood cultivars. It is available from Our Shop, P.O. Box 175, Boyce, VA 22620. The cost is \$2.50 plus \$.50 shipping.

The second speaker was Mr. Paul Saunders, owner of Saunders Orchard and Nursery in Piney River, Virginia, where boxwood accounts for 15% of production. Mr. Saunders, a land



Cdr. P. D. Larson (l) and Mr. Paul Saunders, two of the speakers at the Boxwood Workshop, May 16, 1989 (Photo: Robert L. Frackelton)

surveyor until 1981, is now in his 43rd year of propagating boxwood. He discussed wholesale growing of boxwood in containers.

Mr. Saunders showed slides of his very large automated operation, with plants grown in plastic greenhouses in winter and under shade cloth in summer. While he formerly used a sandy loam for potting, he now uses a nearly sterile soilless mix. Although boxwood is sensitive to fertilizer burn, he uses lime, micro-nutrients and fertilizer. Irrigation and fertilization, as well as weed eradication, is controlled through a central system. Plants are also held outdoors on hillsides under tall pine trees. Mr. Saunders' main selection is *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', but he is also growing *B. sempervirens* 'Graham Blandy' and several *microphylla japonica* cultivars.

After a break for coffee Cdr. Larson discussed caring for boxwood, noting

its requirements for shallow planting and mulching, preference for at least some shade and need for generous amounts of moisture combined with a well-drained location. Equally important is the choice of hardy cultivars.

A delicious lunch served by the ladies of the Friends of the State Arboretum provided time for exchanging boxwood experiences and meeting new friends.

The lectures resumed at 1 P.M. when Mr. Larry Steward, of Land Stewards of America, spoke about renovating existing and neglected boxwood. Sometimes rejuvenation is justifiable, since matching plants cannot be found. Mr. Steward's slides depicted many ways in which old plants can be given new effectiveness in the landscape by pruning, feeding and relocating. He said that patience is necessary (reducing 'Suffruticosa' can take 5-10 years). Plants should not be

sheared for renovation; instead, use irregular cuts to open up the shrub; cut back by half in late February. Although centers can sometimes be repaired by staking and tying, there are times that total destruction is the only alternative.

The final speaker, Mr. Harrison Symmes, President of the Friends of the State Arboretum of Virginia, offered ways of designing boxwood into landscapes. With many slides depicting more unusual cultivars, Mr. Symmes displayed attractive uses of boxwood in many different applications, including slides from European gardens.

The program concluded with the speakers forming a panel to answer questions from their listeners. One question was, "What about bronzing?" The answers were: "Use a cultivar that will take abuse." [Larson], "Use granular dolomitic lime." [Symmes], and "Usually, just let the plant come out of it." [Steward].

## Annual Meeting Program, May 16-17, 1989

On Tuesday evening, May 16, in the library at Blandy Farm, Mr. Davyd Foard Hood presented a most interesting slide lecture on "Boxwood in Upper North Carolina" with many representative houses and their gardens to illustrate how boxwood was used to enhance entrances and paths. A champagne reception followed to permit members to socialize before the annual meeting the next morning.

On Wednesday afternoon, May 17, Mr. Dean Norton, Horticulturist at Mt. Vernon, was the featured speaker. He related his experiences with boxwood while progressing from a part-time teen-aged helper to his present position—learning through mistakes and trials. Former practices designed for winter protection (anti-desiccants, elaborate burlap and snow fence frameworks) have been abandoned in favor of good cultural practices, although heavy snow must still be removed gently, if not icy. Soil tests and fertilization have proven effective.

Mr. Norton also gave a pruning

demonstration on methods of creating topiary. Beginning with a tall, single-stemmed plant, he pruned and chopped to work up a three-part tiered tree with globe-shaped sections of foliage, which would be allowed to grow and then be reshaped each season. This "instant" topiary was added to the plants to be

auctioned later in the afternoon.

The annual auction conducted by tabulator Dale Taylor and full-voiced auctioneer John Boyd generated lively bidding and raised funds for the Society's programs. Some 55 plants donated by members were sold to conclude the 29th Annual Meeting.



*John W. Boyd, Jr. (l) and Dale T. Taylor conduct the annual ABS Plant Auction.*

## Minutes of Annual Business Meeting May 17, 1988

On May 17, 1989 the 29th annual meeting of The American Boxwood Society was called to order by the President, Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, at 11 A.M. in the library at Blandy Farm, Boyce, Virginia. More than 64 members and guests attended. All officers were present except First Vice President Lynn R. Batdorf and Second Vice President Mrs. Malcolm Holkamp. Directors present were John W. Boyd, Jr., William Gray, Cdr. Phillip D. Larson and Dale T. Taylor.

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the 28th annual meeting on May 18, 1988, as published in July, 1988, *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

The President expressed thanks to the University of Virginia for providing the Blandy Farm facilities for the meeting, and appreciation to Mrs. Becky McCoy and her committee for providing luncheon at both the workshop on May 16 and the annual meeting.

The Treasurer reported balances of \$8,075.23 in the checking account and \$27,082.46 in two certificates of deposit. The full report follows these minutes.

### Committee Reports; New Business

*Bulletin.* Editor John S. McCarthy, although unable to attend, was given credit for his excellent work in preparing *The Boxwood Bulletin* for publication. Mr. Batdorf and Mrs. Holkamp have been serving as proof readers.

*Buyer's Guide:* Mr. Dale Taylor spoke of a special mailing designed to attract new listings of boxwood growers for the revised *Guide*, which will appear in late 1989 or early 1990.

*Library Committee:* Mrs. Butler reported for Mr. Batdorf that the Library Committee had reviewed the collection of books donated to ABS from the estate of former President Neill Phillips and had agreed to present them to the Blandy Library, with the exception of two special and rare titles,

*Holly, Yew and Box*, by William Dallimore, which had been given to the ABS by Henry Hohman, and *The Story of Boxwood*, by Clara S. McCarty, which had been reprinted in early issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. These two volumes are to be returned to Mrs. Frackelton and will remain in the possession of the ABS president in the future.

On behalf of the ABS Mrs. Butler then presented to Dr. Edward F. Connor, Director of Blandy Farm, a complete set of *The Boxwood Bulletin* from 1961 through April 1985, including the 25-year *Index*, bound in volumes, each containing five years of issues. As the next five-year period closes, another volume will be added.

*Memorial Garden:* Cdr. Larson reported that in addition to the present 85 cultivars and species in the garden, he is growing 17 new ones to add when they reach sufficient size. He is also pursuing remaining samples from Dr. Edgar Anderson's Balkan seedlings known as the "K Series" because they were distributed from the Kingsville Nursery by Henry Hohman. A new



J. Dean Norton, Horticulturist at Mt. Vernon, demonstrates pruning at the ABS Annual Meeting (Photo: Robert L. Frackelton)

landscaping plan is being developed which will double the ultimate size of the garden. The jungle at Pea Hill has been cleared of all unidentified plants. The row of Anderson boxwoods there is being tabulated and evaluated. Cdr. Larson is growing two back-up plants of each cultivar in the garden as protection in case of losses. He has also distributed plants to the arboreta at the University of Tennessee and at North Carolina State University; he intends to broaden this program to other institutions.

He is also seeking validation for some plant identifications which appear unclear; he will propagate from other arboreta in order to make comparisons. He is preparing herbarium specimens of all the Memorial Garden cultivars to be deposited in the Blandy herbarium.

A new and precedent-setting program for controlled boxwood hybridizing is being undertaken by Dr. Christopher Sacchi, Curator of the Orland E. White Arboretum. Six crosses have been made and seeds are forming. Cdr. Larson will also provide plants for the annual boxwood auction.

*Monograph:* Mr. Batdorf has published a checklist of correct species and cultivar names in *The Boxwood Bulletin*. He asks for any additional information on the history or characteristics of plants included in the list.

*Registrar:* Five new cultivar names have been registered this year; *Buxus sempervirens* 'Dee Runk', similar to 'Graham Blandy'; *B. sempervirens* 'Denmark' and 'Flora Place' and *B. microphylla* 'Sunlight' have been named by the Boxwood Society of the Midwest; and *B. microphylla* 'John Baldwin' originated in Williamsburg and was selected by Dr. Baldwin.

*Research:* Mr. Gray reported on projects at the Hampton Roads Agricultural Experiment Station. A mid-1988 field study program on four boxwood cultivars showed stem canker on Japanese boxwood, believed to have resulted from damage the previous winter. November, 1987, had been very wet and variable cold spells



occurred during the winter. At the University of Kentucky, work has been postponed. Reports will appear in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, including a HRAES study of a capillary watering system. The full report follows these minutes.

**Nominating Committee.** Mr. Gray presented a slate of officers, which was approved by unanimous vote:

**President:** Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton  
**1st Vice President:** Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf

**2nd Vice President:** Mrs. Holekamp  
**Treasurer:** Mrs. Katherine D. Ward  
**Secretary:** Mrs. Joan Butler

**Directors to serve for three years:**  
 Mr. Richard D. Mahone 1989-1992  
 Dr. Stephen D. Southall 1989-1992

**Further Business.** A brief meeting of the ABS Board of Directors was held at the close of the annual meeting on May 17, 1989.

President Frackelton asked for two nominees for the Executive Committee to serve with the President, Secretary and Treasurer. Those nominated were Mr. Batdorf and Cdr. Larson, if willing, or Mr. Taylor. Both were unanimously elected.

The Nominating Committee chairman for 1990 will be Mr. Richard D. Mahone.

The fall meeting of the Board of Directors was tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 25, 1989 at the home of Mrs. Frackelton in Fredericksburg.

Joan Butler, Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance \$9,357.39

### Receipts

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Membership                | 11,272.00        |
| Contributions             | 1,132.62         |
| Sale of Boxwood Bulletins | 156.00           |
| Sale of Buyer's Guides    | 471.00           |
| Sale of Index             | 50.00            |
| Sale of Registration List | 9.00             |
| Interest on checking      | 541.39           |
| Annual Meeting 1988       | 372.00           |
| Auction 1988              | 1,602.00         |
| Annual Meeting 1989       | 500.00           |
| <b>Total receipts</b>     | <b>16,106.01</b> |

### Disbursements

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Friends of Blandy (lunch '88) | 225.00           |
| Postmaster                    | 463.54           |
| P. O. box rent                | 10.00            |
| Blandy Exp. Farm (copies)     | 12.80            |
| Friends, National Arboretum   | 25.00            |
| Treasurer's salary            | 1,080.00         |
| Bulletin editor               | 1,537.84         |
| M. J. Printers                | 3,776.04         |
| Technology (plant labels)     | 42.75            |
| State Corporation             | 10.00            |
| C. D. CorEast                 | 10,000.00        |
| Shenandoah Valley Bindery     | 128.75           |
| Park Seed (pots)              | 69.10            |
| Labels (Pifer's Office)       | 7.35             |
| <b>Total disbursements</b>    | <b>17,388.17</b> |
| <b>Ending balance 5/13/89</b> | <b>8,075.23</b>  |
| Certificates of Deposit:      |                  |
| Farmer's and Merchant         | 17,082.46        |
| CorEast                       | 10,000.00        |

## Research Report

1. Since 1982, The American Boxwood Society has contributed \$500/year to the continuing boxwood field study program at Virginia Tech's Hampton Road Agricultural Research Station in Virginia Beach. Our contact is Dr. Tom Banko, (800) 363-3900. This program is a long-term continuing effort and was established with sizable plantings of Common, Edging, Korean, and Japanese boxwood; additional cultivars have been added for future study. The original plantings remain in good condition, except for a widespread frosting of new terminal growth in mid-April 1989—presumably a temporary matter. Terminal stem cankers appeared in mid-1988, but only on Japanese boxwoods. Subsequent evaluation has determined that this was not a problem of pathogenic fungi, but rather a result of winter damage during the winter of 1987/88. A report for the *Bulletin* has been submitted. One should note that November 1987 was warm and wet in Virginia, and was followed by severe freezes in early winter. The Japanese Box is the fastest growing of the several plantings and in the Virginia Beach environment exhibits a longer growing season with late hardening off. To date in 1989, Hampton Roads AES has submitted three *Bulletin* articles, and a fourth is in the works. Boxwood research during 1989 will include further evaluation of past work, soil fertility research, plant propagation studies, field research on new growth regulators, and a study of a new capillary irrigation system.

2. The previously proposed project on cultivar evaluation and demonstration, which anticipated U.S. National Arboretum support, is on hold; further planning is required.

3. No new research projects are under consideration at this time. Any additional efforts involving Society support would need an increase in the Society's Research Fund.

William A. Gray, Chairman

### Donations and Special Funds, May 13, 1989

| Fund        | Beginning Balance | Donations   | Expenses | Ending Balance |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|----------|----------------|
| Handbook    | 4,839.50          | 274.00      |          | 5,113.50       |
| ABS Garden  | 1,741.42          | 147.00      | 119.10   | 1,769.32       |
| Research    | 788.50            | 915.00 B.G. |          | 2,019.12       |
|             |                   | 315.62      |          |                |
| Index       | -1,384.20         | 100.00      |          | -1,284.20      |
| Monograph   | 955.00            | 396.00      |          | 1,351.00       |
| Unspecified | 1,330.00          |             |          | 1,330.00       |

## Registrants for Workshop, May 16, and ABS Annual Meeting, May 17, 1989

### *Both events:*

Mrs. Caroline J. Benson  
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boyd, Jr.  
Mr. John W. Boyd III  
Mrs. Arnold Brody  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bullock  
Mr. and Mrs. Scot Butler  
Mr. Walter Carell  
Dr. Edward Connor  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Frackelton  
Mr. Wilburn Graves  
Cdr. P. D. Larson  
Mr. and Mrs. Collin McKinne  
Dr. Christopher Sacchi

Capt. William J. Sheehan  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stock  
Mr. Dale Taylor  
Mr. Bruce W. Thompson  
Ms. Crissie White  
Mr. and Mrs. James Ward Walker

### *Annual Meeting only:*

Ms. Sheila Bauhan  
Mrs. Waverly Burress  
Mr. Tom Burress  
Mrs. Timothy Bryan  
Mrs. Edward Chamberlin  
Mrs. Harry A. de Butts  
Mrs. Thomas di Zerega  
Mr. and Mrs. James Driver  
Mr. Jim Gallagher  
Mr. William A. Gray  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gregory  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gunnell

Mrs. John J. Haggerty  
Mrs. Paul Haldeman  
Mrs. Gerald T. Halpin  
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hart  
Mrs. George Hughey  
Ms. Jewell Kerohet  
Mr. Neil Lang, Sr.  
Mrs. John Laughlin  
Mrs. JoAnn Lyons  
Mr. Robert Miser  
Dr. Graham Morrison  
Mrs. Madeline Myers  
Mr. J. Dean Norton  
Mrs. Richard C. Plater, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Smith, Jr.  
Mrs. Herbert Solenberger  
Mrs. Frederick Sturm  
Mrs. Katherine Ward  
Mr. Ed Weber  
Mrs. Masako Zapton  
Mr. Steve Zapton

### *Workshop only:*

Mr. Naz Amatucci  
Ms. Lina Baber  
Big Springs Garden  
Mr. Robert Chilton  
Mr. Thomas Cox  
Mr. Robert Culver  
Mr. John Douts  
Mr. Jay Evans  
Mr. Adam Finklestein  
Mr. Michael Geisinger  
Mr. Robert Graham  
Mr. Tony Hatterlein  
Mr. Michael Johnston  
Ms. Donna Kevis  
Mrs. Virginia McCarty  
Mr. Frederic Medar  
Ms. Robyn Payne  
Mr. Ian Robertson  
Ms. Lynne Rush  
Ms. Linda Shade  
Mr. David Siegfried  
Mr. Edward Stettinius  
Mr. Todd Stewart  
Ms. Elsbeth Wahl  
Dr. Edward Watkins  
Mrs. Mina Wood  
Mrs. Richard Wright  
Mr. Charles Welsh



*Quarters Building, Virginia State Arboretum*

# The Seasonal Gardener

Practical tips for boxwood enthusiasts from Society members



Propagation [Reprints from Vol. 23, No. 2, p. 34 and Vol. 23, No. 4, p. 93 of The Boxwood Bulletin]

To the Editor, *The Boxwood Bulletin*:

The late Dr. John T. Baldwin, Jr., must have been one of the most successful propagators of *Buxus*—and he was sometimes one of the most unorthodox.

My early efforts at rooting cuttings, though gratifyingly successful, were made with the recommended small slips—single stems from four to six inches long. Baldwin once looked over my sand boxes containing 10,000 or more cuttings and said, “You’ll be forever getting specimen plants. Use big cuttings, really big, I’ll show you. You’ll save five years.”

Soon afterward he appeared with some examples, already rooted, and these were fairly large clumps of up to ten or twelve branches, some of them more than a foot long. I tried his method at the first opportunity, and despite my fears of large losses, the rate of success was as high as in the case of small cuttings, and specimens developed rapidly.

My rooting beds were in open sand boxes made from treated (but not salt-treated) 2 x 12 timbers, and were from 12 to 20 feet long and 4 feet wide. They were filled with local sandy soil. Hormone treatment seemed to have no effect upon success. The cuttings were covered with snow fencing for 2 or 3 months, given a steady supply of moisture, but no fogging. The site was in light shade. Rooted cuttings were canned within 2 or 3 months after sticking and held in a mature woodland setting (high shade) until needed. No fertilizers were used.

Numerous cultivars from Baldwin’s collection were used. Most successful were *Buxus sempervirens* var. *suffruticosa* [sic], ‘Helen Whiting’,

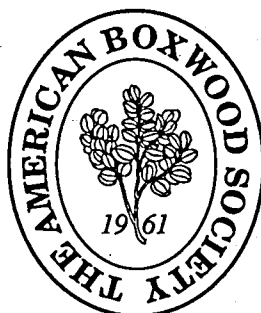
‘Vardar Valley’, ‘Green Cushion’, ‘Sinica’ [sic], ‘Curly Locks’, ‘Aristocrat’, a fine fastigiate selected by Baldwin, and a beautiful microphylla seedling with narrow leaves and deep emerald color known in Williamsburg as “Brouwers’ Cat’s Grave Seedling.”

Burke Davis, Williamsburg, Virginia

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Mr. Thomas E. Ewert, Director (former) of Blandy Experimental Farm and a Director of the ABS spoke next on “Propagation of Boxwood.” The methods he recommends for propagating plants from cuttings have been printed previously in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, most recently in Volume 23, No. 1 (July 1983), p. 29. Mr. Ewert said that the best time to root cuttings is around the first of August, give or take a month either way. (Before July the new growth is too soft and succulent for propagation.) The next best time is mid-February.

The easiest of the boxwoods to propagate are *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Suffruticosa’ and Korean boxwood. A recommended potting mix for the rooted plants is peat moss (2 parts), vermiculite (1 part) and perlite (1 part). Add fertilizer (lime and superphosphate). Mr. Ewert recommended the keeping of good notes as an aid to building a useful databank for future reference. He advised that newly-rooted plants be protected against the sun and wind for several years after they are set out. A member of the audience—Dean Norton, Horticulturist at Mt. Vernon—described the success he has achieved with forced growth of rooted cuttings through heavy fertilization.



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*(A list of Officers and Directors  
is published at the beginning of  
each fiscal year.)*