The Boxwood Bulletin

A quarterly devoted to Man's oldest garden ornamental

ABS tour members visit Willow Oaks near Middleburg, Virginia. The garden features Buxus microphylla *'Compacta'.* *See story on page 3.* *(Photo: D. Frackelton)*

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The American Boxwood Society

The American Boxwood Society is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1961 and devoted to the appreciation, scientific understanding and propagation of the genus *Buxus* L. There are more than 800 members in the United States and nine foreign countries.

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P.O. Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620

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

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

Call for Papers:

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

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Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

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Tenth ABS Tour Surveys Loudoun Boxwood Gardens

Scot Butler

Undaunted by unseasonable weather preceding the tour, some 30 hardy souls assembled at Carradoc Hall in Leesburg, Virginia, to visit 14 garden sites in Loudoun County on the weekend of May 9 and 10. The fierce rains of the night before had abated as we set off in our mini-coach and three cars, but the skies were still gray and threatening. Fortunately the rain held off—except for an occasional drizzle—but the temperature was decidedly cool. Thanks to the weather, though, we enjoyed a whole spectrum of spring colors not often found together: dogwoods, azaleas, lilacs, tulips and iris, to mention a few that were in bloom.

The first stop in Leesburg was Dodona Manor, home of General George C. Marshall from 1941 until his death in 1959. Several members of the George C. Marshall Home Preservation Fund, which is leasing this property with the hope of purchasing and restoring the house and gardens, met us. During a tour of the c. 1800 house we were made, through anecdotes and memorabilia, to feel the presence of General Marshall and the illustrious guests he entertained here. During our tour of the grounds we saw the circle of *Buxus sempervirens* that Marshall, an avid gardener, planted along the drive as well as vestiges of the gardens which he maintained in a high state of cultivation. Some of the dwarf boxwoods on the property, *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', showed the result of neglect since his death, but others were in surprisingly good condition. Among the largest of the *B. sempervirens* were two handsome specimens of pendulous form and an enormously tall, spreading plant that was probably 100 years old or more.

Entering the historic area of Leesburg we visited two attractive town gardens, both designed and maintained by their present owners. The garden of Mr. and Mrs. James Shea at 211 Cornwall Street was pictured, together with their early Federal brick house, in this year's June issue of *Colonial Homes* magazine. The garden is patterned along the lines of the private gardens in Williamsburg, an area which the Sheas came to admire when Mr. Shea was building homes at nearby Williamsburg Landing. Mrs. Shea, a noted floral designer, has a wide selection of flowers and shrubs to choose from in making arrangements. The deeply planted border beds of the yard provide a backdrop/screen for the garden. At the center of the yard there is a formal boxwood garden with a small dovecote at its center. Additional groups of boxwood, both *B. sempervirens* and 'Suffruticosa' serve as landscape and foundation accents.

Reminder

If you have not renewed your membership for 1992-1993, you will not receive the next issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. (Renewal notices were mailed in April 1992. Membership rates are listed on the opposite page.) Please mail checks to the ABS Treasurer, P.O. Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620.

Although preparations were under way for a garden wedding reception in the afternoon, we were graciously invited into the house to see an outstanding collection of Jacobean and William and Mary furnishings.

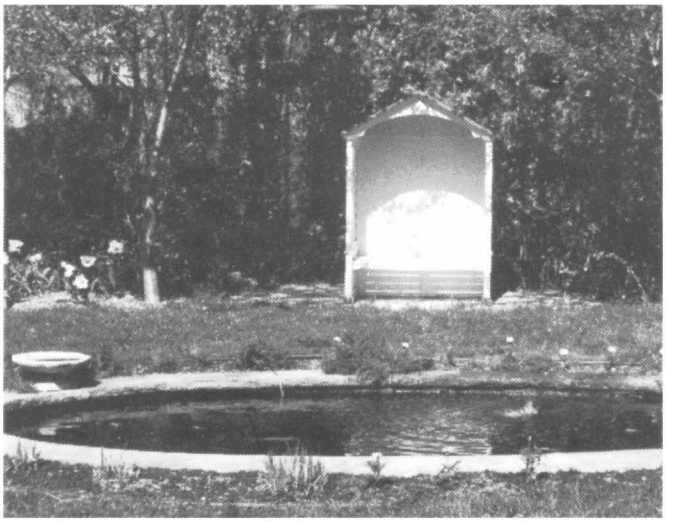
Around the corner from the Shea home is the enclosed town garden of

Carradoc Hall, headquarters for the 10th ABS tour. (Photo: Scot Butler)

Dodona Manor, Leesburg home of General George C. Marshall. (Photo: Scot Butler)

A large specimen of weeping Buxus sempervirens *at Dodona Manor. (Photo: D. Frackelton)*

Large Buxus sempervirens *'Suffruticosa' plants outline the Sheas' formal garden. (Photo: D. Frackelton)*



A lily pond and garden seat are focal points in the Baker Garden. (Photo: Scot Butler)

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Baker. Mr. Baker, New York Times columnist and author of the Pulitzer prize-winning *Growing Up*, welcomed us in Mrs. Baker's absence. He protested that the garden was Mrs. Baker's creation and continuing labor of love, but was able, with a collection of "before, during and after" photographs, to trace the evolution of the yard from a weed patch when they acquired it in 1985 to its present state of perfection. A lily pond in the center of the yard, surrounded by an herb bed, is the focal point. The garden is enclosed on three sides by a yew hedge. There are "rooms" off the main garden that provide a plant nursery, a shed area and a smaller private garden. Among the trees and shrubs the Bakers have planted are flowering cherries, crabapples, *Halesias* (Silverbell), shadblows, a dogwood, a *Styrax* and several varieties of viburnum. The well-tended flower beds contain many different perennials. From the pond the eye travels to a handsome urn at the end of the long axis and a garden seat at the end of the cross axis. The Bakers disclaim any pretension of having a "boxwood garden" although boxwood is planted in one area of the garden as a background.

As we left Leesburg we took note from the bus of the long hedges of *B. sempervirens* that flank the entrance walk to the Thomas Balch Library on Market Street. The handsome brick building of Jeffersonian-style architecture is being converted from a general library to one specializing in local history and genealogy. Unfortunately the boxwoods, which had been growing

in their natural form and are usually carefully thinned, were recently given a "flat-top" shearing.

In sharp contrast to the two intimate town gardens was Morven Park, located at the western end of Leesburg on Old Waterford Road. This 1,200-acre estate, home of Virginia's Governor and Mrs. Westmoreland Davis from 1903 to 1963, is now administered in the public interest by the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation. The extensive boxwood gardens set amid beautifully-kept grounds are reputed to contain the largest single collection of *B. sempervirens* on the east coast and perhaps in the entire United States. At one time some of the present gardens were planted in venerable 'Suffruticosa' but they were attacked by the boxwood decline in the 1970s and, upon the advice of plant pathologists at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, were removed and destroyed. They were replaced by *B. sempervirens* which have been shaped to resemble the billowing form of 'Suffruticosa'. Today these replacements flourish side by side with earlier natural-form *B. sempervirens* acquired from Tidewater Virginia in the 1920s and 1930s. The gardens are laid out in geometric pattern with flower beds and other complementary plant material. A handsome pool with fountain and the tomb of the Davises are integral to the boxwood complex. Meeting us at the entrance gate and escorting us down the mile-long tree-lined drive to the gardens was staff member Sally Testa, who not only conducted us through the gardens, but managed to squeeze in an unscheduled but fascinating tour of the mansion with its fabulous display of eclectic furnishings acquired by the Davises during many years of foreign travel. Several of our group who had previously toured the house went instead to the carriage museum where some 100 horse-drawn carriages and sleighs, mostly from the Victorian era, form the fifth largest collection of carriages in this country. Morven Park contains many other enjoyable features and is worth an entire day's visit.

Brick wall at Morven Park is bordered with Buxus sempervirens *plants which have been shaped to resemble the cultivar 'Suffruticosa'. (Photo: D. Frackelton)*

Heading northwest from Morven Park, we arrived at the Lovettsville Village Inn in time for a 12:30 luncheon. This restful inn, about 11 years old, is the result of owner Martha Bernhart's desire to realize an ambition she nourished during many years of travel with her husband in the foreign service. She personally presides over the menu, food preparation and service, bringing to bear a quality of personalized care that sets this inn apart. With a background in nutrition and exposure to native dishes in many parts of the world, Mrs. Bernhart's aim is to serve healthful and tasty meals.

Because of recent heavy rainfall it was necessary, as warned in our advance tour article in the January *Boxwood Bulletin*, to cancel the visit to Dutchman's Treat, Joan and Scot Butler's property near Lovettsville where they maintain a family-run boxwood nursery. Therefore, we backtracked from Lovettsville through the rolling hill country to Waterford, an early 18th-century Quaker settlement built partly on hills surrounding an old mill community along Catoctin Creek. This picturesque village has enjoyed the status of National Historic Landmark since 1970, a designation which protects its unique historic character from encroachment. Preservation and restoration of the village are supervised through the Waterford Foundation, a community-based organization.

Perched high on the side of a steep hill overlooking the old brick mill below stands Mill End, the early brick home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kitselman. Behind the house is a delightful garden enclosed by a hedge of *B. sempervirens* boxwood, which was in place when the Kitselmans purchased the property some 22 years ago, but which they have nurtured during their residency. Inside this hedge are many groupings of mature 'Suffruticosa' boxwoods; they form irregular small "rooms" at different levels. Inside these "rooms" are well-tended herb beds and appealing garden ornaments. One "room" contains culinary herbs, another ornamental herbs and a third medicinal herbs. The garden is

partially shaded by large trees. Mrs. Kitselman shared her vast knowledge of herbs and other plants with an enraptured audience of ABS members. Mr. Kitselman provided useful background information, including ways to reduce salt and sugar intake through the use of certain herbs.

As a bonus, the Kitselmans had arranged with their neighbor, Mr. Richard Storch, for us to visit the newly-landscaped grounds of the Hague-Hough house, a handsome building atop Waterford's highest hill. The terrace of this early stone and brick addition Quaker house is edged with *B. sempervirens* boxwood and has a commanding panoramic view of the surrounding pastoral countryside. Mr. George Bently, a village historian, was on hand to tell us about the property.

As a substitute for their Lovettsville boxwood nursery, the Butlers placed their home in Bluemont on the tour. In the 10 years that they have lived in their Federal-period stone house at the very western edge of Loudoun County (just below the gap leading through the Blue Ridge mountains into the Shenandoah Valley), they have planted many cultivars of both the European and Asiatic species of boxwood in a border framing their deep lot or as foundation planting around the house. In addition to a number of *B. sempervirens*, there are specimen plants of 'Elegantissima' and 'Aureo-variegata' (both variegated), 'Glauca', 'Rotundifolia', 'Vardar Valley', 'Ipek', 'Myers', 'Prostrata', 'Aristocrat', 'Angustifolia'; *B. microphylla* var. *japonica* 'National'; *B. microphylla* 'Compacta' (Kingsville Dwarf) and 'Green Pillow'; *B. sinica* var. *insularis* 'Pincushion', 'Tall Boy', 'Winter Beauty' and 'Nana'; also the putative hybrids from Sheridan Nurseries (Ontario, Canada): 'Green Gem', 'Green Mound', 'Green Mountain' and 'Green Velvet'. 'Suffruticosa' is planted as an edging along a bed of evergreen shrubs. After refreshments the tour party moved on to the Round Hill-Hillsboro area of Loudoun County.

Mrs. Kitselman shares her plant knowledge with tour members at Mill End in Waterford. (Photo: D. Frackelton)

Herbs are planted inside a "room" formed by Buxus sempervirens *'Suffruticosa' in the Kitselman garden, Waterford. (Photo: D. Frackelton)*

Tucked away at the end of Appalachian Trail Road north of Round Hill is Hearthstone, the restored 1801 stone home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jarvis, which has also been featured in *Colonial Home* magazine. In the Jarvis' absence we were met by farm manager Les Anderson, who supplied comprehensive information on the boxwoods and their care. Set in a valley with a view of the surrounding hills, Hearthstone was restored in the late 1970s. The Jarvises then turned their attention to creating a traditional garden with a formal setting on the badly overgrown grounds. In 1980 large *B. sempervirens*,

Tour members relax on a terrace newly edged with Buxus sempervirens *at the Hague-Hough house atop Waterford's highest hill. (Photo: D. Frackelton)*

Tour members fan out to inspect the varieties of boxwood that edge the Butlers' yard in Bluemont. (Photo: D. Frackelton)

which were scattered around the property, were moved to form a hedge screening the pool area. Following this initial step they sought advice on creating a formal garden inside the border of *B. sempervirens*. Dwarf boxwood plants were acquired to edge the parterres of a small but elegant garden. At the same time a number of other changes were made on the grounds to create the appearance of an English garden. The serenity of the setting is enhanced by many ancient shade trees and a large pond. A "dining room garden" is enjoyed year round through the glass wall of the dining room wing of the house.

The last stop of the day was Plum Grove, a 110-acre farm purchased by Mr. and Mrs. H. Randolph Barbee, Jr. in 1969. The previous owners, who had restored the c. 1806 stone house and landscaped the grounds with many boxwoods in the 1950s were charter members of the American Boxwood Society. They saw to it that the Barbees joined the ABS when they purchased the property. At that time there was a formal boxwood garden containing good-sized 'Suffruticosa', but in the late 1970s and early 1980s almost all of them succumbed to boxwood decline. Now only a few survive at scattered locations, but they have almost doubled in size according to Mrs. Barbee. Of particular interest to tour members were a number of massive old *B. sempervirens* which the Barbees estimate to be about 20 feet tall and 100 years old. Walking inside their spreading branches some members recalled playing inside just such "rooms" when they were small. Mrs. Barbee also has a number of boxwoods which she brought home from boxwood workshops at Blandy Farm some 20 years ago and set out, mainly around the foundation of the house. She is having 100-percent success with cuttings of 'Suffruticosa' which she obtained last summer on the Northern Neck and placed in a sheltered nursery area. In general, the majestic old trees on the grounds provide a good deal of shade for the boxwoods growing there.

Passing through the town of Hillsboro on our way back to Carradoc Hall for dinner, we passed a privately-owned "public" boxwood garden directly on the road. The present owners of the property were told that the 'Suffruticosa' plants in the formal garden had been growing there for about 40 years. As elsewhere these boxwoods appeared to have lush growth, probably due to the abundance of moisture this spring.

On Sunday we visited five outstanding gardens that were open for the first annual "Country Gardens Tour"

The foundation planting in front of the Butler home is edged with 'Suffruticosa'. It also contains B. microphylla *'Compacta' and 'Green Pillow'. (Photo: D. Frackelton)*

benefitting Oatlands Plantation, a National Trust property. Admission tickets and directions for reaching the gardens were distributed at dinner Saturday night so that tour members could make the circuit independently in their own cars. Many, however, preferred to follow a lead car in motorcade fashion. Conditions for this tour could not have been better. The sky was sunny and clear; the air fresh, and the temperature moderate.

The first stop was the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lininger, who went with us on Saturday's tour. Located in Leesburg, just a few blocks east of Dodona Manor, the Lininger garden is very large and well established. Designed by Mr. W. Lee Moors of Scarsdale, New York, and Baltimore, Maryland, in the mid-1970s, it is enclosed by an unusual woven fence that permits air to pass through, yet provides privacy from the street. Two gardens open from the entrance walkway to the house, with pools and fountains as focal points on either side. Indeed the sound of splashing water augmented the visual splendor of the gardens. 'Suffruticosa' was a feature on one side; showy rhododendrons and tulips were in bloom on the other side along with many unusual perennials in attractively shaped and spaced beds. The garden was a triumph of design as well as floriculture.

Heading down US Route 15 (the Old Carolina Road of colonial times) we reached the entrance to Little Oatlands about seven miles south of Leesburg. Tour members remarked on the commanding location of this estate and the adjacent Oatlands Plantation which are on land given in 1801 to George Carter by his father, Robert "Councillor" Carter, grandson of the great colonial land baron Robert "King" Carter. The one-acre walled garden at Little Oatlands is one of the gems of Loudoun County and certainly a source of inspiration to boxwood enthusiasts. According to Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Williams, the garden was started in the early 1930s by Mrs. Williams' parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Finley, who set out fist-sized boxwoods in an intricate maze-like design. Now, 60 years later, these plants tower high overhead and are sheared to permit passage through their dense foliage. Mr. Finley, who was to become the first director of the National Gallery of Art (the Mellon Gallery) in Washington, D.C., spent much time in Italy in his travels purchasing works of art for the late Andrew Mellon. Consequently there is a strong Italian influence in the garden evident in the antique ornaments and statuary, fountain, gazebo, delicate grill gates and avenue of cedar trees. Strategically placed lookout spots afford views of pastoral serenity and

The small formal boxwood garden at Hearthstone is partially protected from wind by a hedge of large Buxus sempervirens. *(Photo: D. Frackelton)*

At Plum Grove, a number of ancient Buxus sempervirens *have attained a height and spread of 20 feet or more. (Photo: D. Frackelton)*

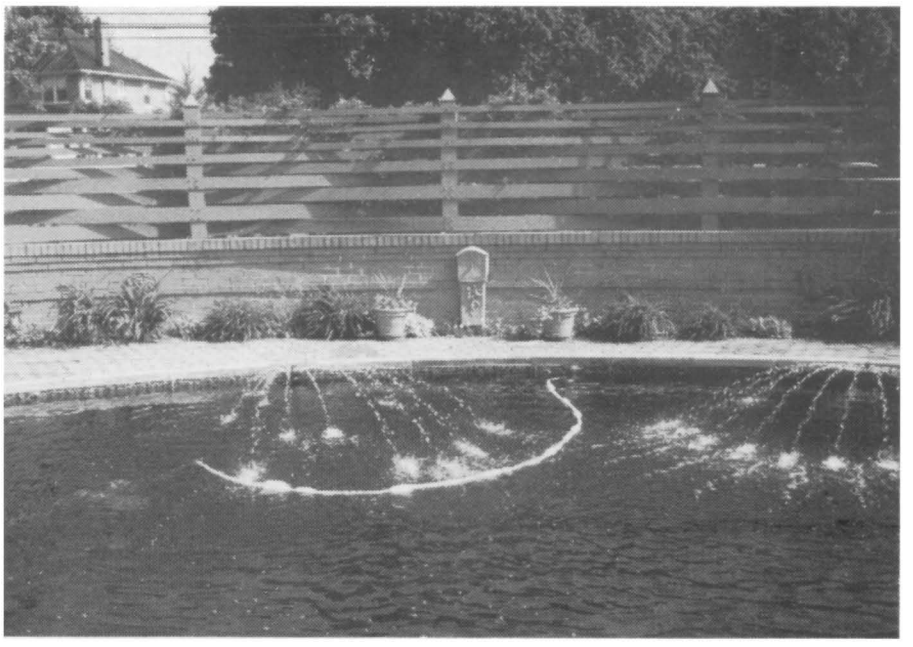
inside the garden there is the feel of monastic seclusion.

It was a simple matter to drive directly to Oatlands Plantation through the connecting lane with Little Oatlands and past the llamas in their pasture. Here again the visitor is plunged into a world apart, sensing the wonder of ancient boxwoods and venerable trees growing in a park-like setting. George Carter not only designed and built the 1803 mansion at Oatlands, but also the terraced and walled garden. Several of his 'Suffruticosa' plants still survive in this garden as well as a gigantic English oak. A major article on the Oatlands gardens appeared in the October 1985 Issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, so we will not enlarge on the subject except to note that a handsome pair of *B. sinica* var. *insularis* 'Justin Brouwers' from former ABS Director Harrison Symmes has recently been planted on either side of the entrance to the garden. Also a newly-restored boxwood garden on the north side of the mansion has been opened.

The director of the Oatlands garden, Mr. Alfredo Siani, who has received wide recognition for making this place one of national importance, was on hand to greet us and joined us for a hearty box lunch in the Oatlands picnic grove at noon.

Continuing south on US Route 15 a few miles past the intersection with US 50, we turned west into a road leading to Glenstone, the home of Dr. and Mrs. F. Turner Reuter, a property that has been in their family since the late 1700s. In addition to its acres of gardens it is a working farm and has a stable of fine horses. The headwater stream of Bull Run flows through the woodland garden, partitioning it between Prince William County and Loudoun County. The original boxwood garden here was started in the late 1920s and 1930s when two sisters took cuttings from four original *B. sempervirens* plants growing on the property. In the intervening years the gardens have grown and grown (as has the boxwood). In 1984 the Reuters began major restoration of the old garden and started adding new gardens and collections of more woodland and herbaceous plants. Entering through English gates, c. 1790, one is inside a complex of four formal gardens, all enclosed in sheared boxwood hedges stretching high above: the fountain garden, the gray-green garden, the cutting garden and the perennial garden. An interesting feature in one of these gardens is an observation tower that rises above the high boxwood hedge and from which the entire landscape can be viewed.

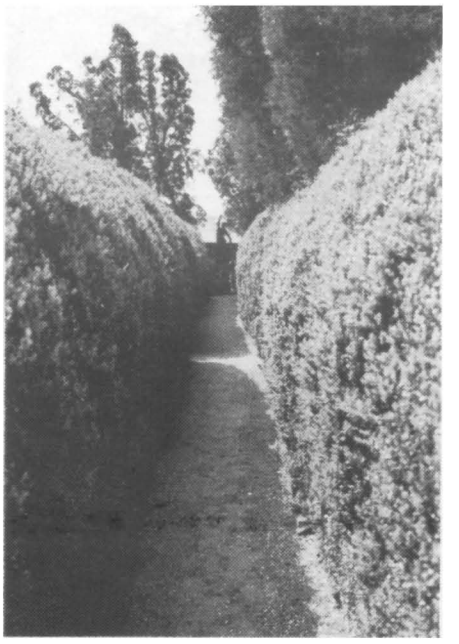
The last garden on the tour was at "Willow Oaks," the estate of Mrs. W. Averell Harriman a few miles north of Middleburg. Actually the garden is a series of gardens built on the top and



The splash of fountains adds to the visual enjoyment of the Lininger garden in Leesburg. (Photo: D. Frackelton)

Tour members Betty Walker and Susan Butler stand beside towering B. sempervirens *at Oatlands Plantation. (Photo: Scot Butler)*

slopes of high, rugged terrain with incredible views and many impressive natural features. Included in the breathtaking display were a rose garden, a cutting garden, perennial gardens, a water garden with cascading falls and a variety of hostas, a wildflower field and, of special interest to us, a large formal boxwood garden in which parterres edged entirely with specimen-sized plants of *B. microphylla* 'Compacta' were enclosed by a high wall of *B. sempervirens*. It was interesting to note that openings had been made in this boxwood wall to permit more air and light to enter the garden.



Narrow paths between high sheared Buxus sempervirens *create a sense of seclusion in the Italian-style formal garden at Little Oatlands. (Photo: Scot Butler)*

According to the horticulturist at "Wlllow Oaks" the 'Compacta' had just been clipped to keep it shaped and in scale.

With some time still remaining to take in the event, several members decided to top off our two-day tour by driving to the Horticulture Fair and Plant Sale sponsored by the Friends of the State Arboretum at Blandy Experimental Farm. It was gratifying to see, even that late in the day, the hordes of people who had come to enjoy Mother's Day at the Fair.

ABS Treasurer Katherine Ward and Director "Swede" Larson were present at the Fair both Saturday and Sunday. They deserve our thanks for giving their time to stimulate interest in boxwood and add members to the ABS. Thanks to "Swede" Larson, the Friends organization had small plants of *B. sempervirens* 'Graham Blandy' for sale and English Boxwoods of Virginia (Lynchburg) sold 'Suffruticosa' plants in containers. Thus ended a full and exhilarating weekend for us boxwood aficianados.

The newly restored garden on the north side of the Oatlands mansion is planted with Buxus sempervirens *'Suffruticosa'. (Photo: Scot Butler)*

A handsome pair of Buxus sinica *var.* insularis *'Justin Brouwers' flanks the entrance to the walled and terraced garden at Oatlands. (Photo: D. Frackelton)*

Dr. F. Turner Reuter (right), answering questions from Scot Butler above the woodland gardens at Glenstone. (Photo: D. Frackelton)

Participants included:

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Atterbury
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Boggers
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Boyd, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Briere
Mr. and Mrs. Scot Butler
Miss Susan Butler
Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton
Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hathaway III
Mr. Davyd Foard Hood
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Holekamp
Mrs. P. D. Larson
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lininger
Mr. and Mrs. William N. Mays
Mr. and Mrs. Winfield S. Preston, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Howard C. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. James Ward Walker
Mr. and Mrs. George Warner
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Weber
Mr. Charles N. Whelan

Boxwood hedges sheared in the English style as seen from the garden tower at Glenstone. An opening is cut for access to parterre. (Photo: Scot Butler)

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica*: An Appreciation

Mary A. Gamble

Handsome is the word for *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* (Japanese boxwood). Handsome, plus a subtle good cheer. From where I sit at my typewriter I can see four Japanese boxwoods and each day—whether gray with clouds or bright with sunshine—these boxwoods lift my spirits. Where *Buxus sempervirens* 'Ste. Genevieve', in common with many cultivars of its species, has an aura of mystery, Japanese boxwood wears an aura of tranquillity and cheer.

Undoubtedly, this cheerful look is due in part to the medium to lighter yellow-green leaves which are larger than those of many boxwoods. Not only are they larger, they are also slightly closer on the stems than many. There is a good deal of overlapping. In effect, this broadens the leaf surface. This surface has a relatively high gloss, which catches and reflects what light there is on a dull day, and projects it on a bright one. The leaf shape is graceful and generally uniform, narrowly obovate with gently rounded tips. It has no sharp or pointed lines.

The leaves bronze lightly in a mild Midwestern winter, heavily in a severe one. Frequently, there is winter burn of leaf tips which will require only light pruning. This gives the gardener an opportunity to re-establish rapport with the plant.

I am not alone in my admiration of Japanese boxwood. On a visit to the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, my husband and I were given a tour of the *Buxus* plantings by Dr. J. T Baldwin, Jr. We came to a path where walking space was crowded seriously by a long row of shoulder-high (mine, which would be about 4 ft.) Japanese boxwood. "This," said Dr. Baldwin, "is the finest planting of *Buxus microphylla* [var.] *japonica* in America. Of course, it has grown too close to the walk but we can handle that by pruning." In an aside, he added that he had placed all of the boxwoods on campus. "Every one thinks I have the authority to do so; but I simply assumed it. No one has objected to any planting I've made."

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* reached this country around 1860. It arrived in St. Louis in the form of cuttings in 1937. The cuttings were brought by Dr. Hermann von Schrenk, who then served the Missouri Botanical Garden as a volunteer plant pathologist.

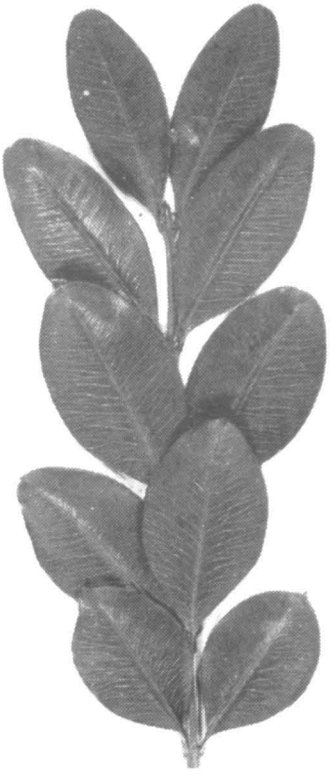


Photo by Shaw Camera

Dr. von Schrenk took 64 cuttings from a planting of Japanese boxwood in Charlottesville, Virginia. Sixty plants resulted from the cuttings. When these plants were about 10 years old they were sent from the Garden greenhouses in the city to the Arboretum at Gray Summit, Missouri.

In 1938 MBG was sent some 100 cuttings of Japanese boxwood by Dr. J. H. McFarland of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Dr. McFarland printed fine garden books in color. Not surprisingly, his hobby was gardening. Forty plants resulted from the cuttings he sent. When they were 10 years old they, too, were sent to the Arboretum. Apparently, there was no attempt to keep the two groups separate.

Boxwood Society of the Midwest members found the plants on an Arboretum outing. There was no way in which we could tell they were in two groups. In fact, we thought we had stumbled on another of Dr. Edgar Anderson's Balkan boxwoods, and considered it a handsome one. Later, when the records of the two *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* accessions were made available to us, and we had seen verified specimens of this Asian boxwood, we were able to solve this small puzzle which was only one of many we encountered as we began our study of *Buxus*.

Not only is Japanese boxwood handsome; it is also *tough*. For example, in the Gamble garden they are not placed advantageously. Three are in a raised flower bed; the fourth is on a steep bank which forms the backdrop for the garden. The isolated plant on the bank is so hard to reach with a hose that it receives only desultory watering, much of which runs off. It gets no deep soakings. The top soil in the flower bed is good, but below it is hardpan clay. Drainage is good. The bed dries out almost instantly. Here, the clay subsoil may be an asset. These boxwoods get the same attention as the perennials; and here they thrive. In their raised position they catch the edge of the southwest wind. They show normal winter burn but no serious damage. When first planted, they grew at the rate of 7 to 8 inches per year. Recently, they seem to have slowed down.

Possibly the most interesting plantings of *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* in the St. Louis area are those in Seiwa-En, the Missouri Botanical Garden's beautiful and tranquil Japanese Garden. When Seiwa-En was installed, its designer, Koichi Kawana, was given access to the Japanese boxwood in the boxwood nursery. He chose possibly a dozen plants and directed their placing and pruning. At the same time he gave us this valuable insight into the thought and philosophy which underlie garden design in Japan and boxwood's place in it.

"The *Buxus microphylla* [var.] *japonica* is called *tauge* in Japanese," he told us. "It is used extensively in Japanese gardens in single or group plantings, along with garden stone arrangements...The boxwood used in Seiwa-En will be trimmed gradually to emphasize the horizontal round shape...In many cases larger plants are placed behind a stone to show off the beauty of both form and texture...Smaller plants are placed to the stone's side and front to provide a feeling of depth or the quality of profundity to the stone arrangement... The garden calls for the predominant utilization of monochromatic green... Flowers should be used only to enhance the value of the green...All elements of the garden seek *seijokau*, which is the attainment of stillness, quiet and tranquility."

What more can a gardener ask?

Mary Gamble, a frequent contributor to The Boxwood Bulletin, *was a founder of the Boxwood Society of the Midwest and is a past president of that organization*

The late Alan Godlewski, then Director of Horticulture at MBG, chooses a nursery Japanese boxwood to demonstrate a simple geometric form of topiary. (The white tags indicate plants to be moved to relieve overcrowding. (Photo: Mary Gamble)

Buxus microphylla *var.* japonica *and stones juxtaposed in the Japanese manner by designer Koichi Kawana in the Japanese Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden. (Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden)*

Buxus microphylla 'Sunnyside'

P. D. Larson

Size (25 years): Large; more than 6 feet high and 5 1/2 feet wide
Natural Form: Pyramidal to mounded; loose, open habit
Annual Growth: Fast; 3 1/2 to 4 in. in height and 3 to 3 1/2 in. in width
Leaf Color: Medium yellow-green
Leaf Shape: Rotund; obtuse tip with some being retuse; cuneate base
Leaf Size: Large; 7/8 to 1 inch long, 1/2 to 5/8 inches wide
Internodal Length: Med.; 3/8 to 1/2 in.
Flowering Habit: Moderate flowering and moderate fruiting
Hardiness: Zones 5-8
Plant Use: Specimen, foundation planting, grouping for background and area separations
Registration: Not registered
History: Named and commercially released by Sunnyside Nurseries, Troy, Illinois; also John Vermeullen & Son, Neshantic Station, New Jersey in 1984
Bibliography:

Dirr, M. A. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, 4th Ed., 1990
Flint, H. L. "Horticulture," March 1987
Krussman, G. *Manual of Cultivated Broad-Leaved Trees and Shrubs*, Vol. 1, A-D, 1984

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

An 11 year-old Buxus microphylla *'Sunnyside' 4 feet high, 5 1/4 feet wide, at the State Arboretum of Virginia (Photo: P. D. Larson)*

Culture and Care: Transplants readily; prefers dappled shade. Will tolerate being sited in some direct sun, but occasionally suffers from winter bronzing. The addition of organic compost as a soil amendment and 1 1/2 to 2 inches of mulch adds to the health of the plant. Water seldom and thoroughly; an inch of water every two weeks is sufficient for sites with well-drained soil. Tolerates a pH range of slightly acidic to slightly alkaline, with a preference for the sweet side (alkaline). Demonstrates no fussy cultural requirements.
Pests and Diseases: Indicates resistance to leaf miner, psyllid, and mites in the more humid climates; no serious diseases.
Propagation: Cuttings root quite readily without any special preparations. The poly tent procedure usually produces rooted cuttings in 7 to 8 weeks.
Availability: Commercial nursery trade in North America and Europe.

Cdr. Larson, Chairman of the ABS Memorial Garden Committee, has researched most known Buxus *cultivars*

Boxwood, Holly and Mycorrhizal Fungi: A Proposal

Dr. James W. Hendrix

[Note: Presented here are highlights of a proposal for cooperative research between Bernheim Forest and Arboretum, The State Arboretum of Virginia, The American Boxwood Society, The Holly Society of America, and the University of Kentucky Mycorrhiza Laboratory.]

Roots of most plants become mycorrhizal with fungi of the order Glomales. Boxwood is among these (Hendrix and Finley, 1985), and we predict that holly is also. The association between the fungi and their host plants is often thought to be mutualistic, in that both symbionts benefit from the association. The fungi obviously

benefit, for they are obligately parasitic (they cannot sustain growth free of the host plant) and their presence inside of roots affords them protection. If the plants also benefit, the symbiosis is mutualistic. These fungi often benefit their hosts by extending the absorptive capacity of the root system, particularly for immobile nutrients such as phosphorus, copper, and zinc, but also for water and nitrogen.

Whether or not the plant benefits depends on two major factors, the nutritional and water status of the soil, and the degree of dependency of the plant on mycorrhizal fungi. The degree of dependency may depend to some extent on the degree of branching of the root system and the number and development of root hairs. Thus, plants with much divided root systems and prolific root hairs, such as tobacco and tomato, have no demonstrable dependency in soils normally fertile for their production, while those with sparsely divided coarse roots, such as sorghum-sudangrass hybrid or the prairie grass, bluestem, are dependent. Most woody plants for which there is information are dependent at least to some degree. These include plants such as southern Magnolia as well as some plants normally thought to be easy to grow, such as redbud and black locust. Some, such as Bar Harbor juniper, are mycorrhizal but appear to have little dependency.

Determining dependency of plants on mycorrhizal fungi is not easy because virtually all soils harbor these fungi. Even if surface soil is rendered essentially free of mycorrhizal propagules by soil fumigation or drastic disturbance such as surface mining, populations recover rapidly within a season if a host plant is grown. Thus, long-lasting mycorrhizal deficiencies usually occur only in such unusual circumstances as the first crop of a seeded crop produced on irrigated desert.

The mycorrhizal community of agricultural soils is complex, being composed of a dozen to more than twenty species. Populations of some are high, of others low and sporadic. Mycorrhizal fungi are thought to have exceptionally broad host ranges; however, this conclusion is not based on comprehensive experimental evidence. Even if true for all mycorrhizal fungi, this conclusion may not be predictive of plant-fungus relationships in nature. Changing hosts or crops changes the relative order of populations of mycorrhizal fungi, and frequently a change of host will elevate a particular species from below detectability to a prominent position within the mycorrhizal community. The changes in the mycorrhizal community with changes in hosts may be due to host specificity, or they may be due to differences in ability of different fungi to compete for colonization sites on various hosts.

Whether or not boxwood and holly are highly dependent on mycorrhizal fungi is not known. Ornamentals such as these seldom are grown on soils deficient in fertility, and they are often watered when necessary. Their degree of dependency has not been determined. Nonetheless, their roots are colonized by these fungi (assuming holly to be mycorrhizal); and mycorrhizal fungi, whether beneficial or not, are part of the lives of these plants. This proposal is to develop an understanding of these relationships.

OBJECTIVES

1. To determine the relationships between mycorrhizal fungi and holly and boxwood during the course of the season with regard to colonization of roots, sporulation by the fungi, populations of propagules (infective units which may or may not be spores), growth cycles of the plants, reproductive activity of the plants, and seasonal events.

2. To determine the species of mycorrhizal fungi which infect holly and boxwood with regard to geography.

3. To determine whether biotypes occur within mycorrhizal species with regard to colonization of holly and boxwood.

4. To determine whether various species and cultivars of boxwood and holly have a differential effect on the mycorrhizal community.

5. To compare mycorrhizal isolates with regard to their influence on growth of boxwood and holly.

SIGNIFICANCE

While thousands of papers on mycorrhizae have been published, a complete story on the relationships between a plant and its mycorrhizal symbionts is not available for any plant, even for major crops. Such information on a perennial is almost nonexistent. Given time, and practicing opportunism to the maximum, it is feasible to develop this story for holly and boxwood, which is a worthy goal in itself. That more would be known about these plants than any other makes the effort even more worthwhile.

This proposed cooperative research should appeal to the participants for a number of reasons. Members of the American Boxwood Society and the Holly Society of America, being founded on a love of their respective groups of ornamentals, are interested in filling this major gap in their knowledge of the biology of the plants.

Bernheim Forest and Arboretum and the State Arboretum of Virginia, as active participants, will enhance their stature as research arboreta. Bernheim would establish and maintain a research collection of selected or all (to be discussed and decided upon by the participants) boxwood cultivars, and from these an educational collection may be established in future years.

The American Boxwood Society would gain from reduced vulnerability of having all their collection in only one location and would be able to evaluate performance of various boxwoods under professional maintenance in a considerably different locale.

Our laboratory will be able to move our mycorrhiza research into woody ornamentals, not possible without the active participation of the two arboreta and the participation and financial support of the two societies.

May 1992 Annual Meeting Minutes

Tuesday Afternoon Program: On Tuesday afternoon, May 12, a very informative workshop was presented by Cdr. Phillip D. Larson, Chairman of the Boxwood Memorial Garden Garden Committee and volunteer curator of the boxwood collections at the State Arboretum of Virginia, Blandy Farm. About 27 participants received a fine publication, *Boxwood Basics*, prepared by Cdr. Larson only for workshop members. With sections on history, cultural care and cultivar identification, the book serves as the outline for workshop discussions. Many thanks to Cdr. "Swede" Larson for the effort he so generously made to prepare this fine new addition to the annual meeting program.

Tuesday Evening Program: Members enjoyed a talk and slides by Mr. John Dingus of the Davey Tree Company, illustrating methods of digging and moving extremely large plants, even to prominent locations beside important public buildings in Washington, D.C. A reception followed, with refreshments graciously provided by President Dale Taylor and Vice President Decca Frackelton.

Annual Meeting: Registration and coffee hour began the annual meeting on Wednesday morning, May 13. At 10 o'clock Cdr. "Swede" Larson led a group through the Memorial Boxwood Garden, commenting on individual cultivars (their source, age, etc.) and explaining some of the changes to be made under the new landscape master plan for the State Arboretum. Some 22 plants have already been moved to a temporary location along the road from their original sites by the stone wall lane.

At 11:00 a.m. the 32nd annual meeting of the American Boxwood Society was called to order by President Dale Taylor, who expressed thanks to Dr. Edward Connor and the University of Virginia for providing the Blandy library and dining room for the Society's use, as well as appreciation to Cdr. "Swede" Larson for conducting a fine workshop on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Taylor noted the availability of ABS tee shirts and caps, which have been well received by members. He announced that after the meeting each participant will receive a potted *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' propagated in 1987 from a very old plant in Salem County, New Jersey.

The minutes of the 31st annual meeting on May 15, 1991 were approved as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 31, No. 2, p. 36.

The Treasurer reported a balance of $13,212.42 in the checking account and $33,218.90 in two certificates of deposit. The full Treasurer's report is available upon request.

The Boxwood Bulletin: Mrs. Frackelton asked for articles with personal anecdotes about boxwood and gardens. She noted some mailing problems and asked members to contact her directly if their *Bulletins* or the *Five-Year Index* were not in the April mailing.

Memorial Garden: Cdr. Larson remarked on his multiple efforts with *Buxus*. He has divided energies among the Memorial Garden, the State Arboretum and a few efforts for himself. He is propagating thousands of small boxwoods to be used in the new garden design. There are about 250 plants of notable species and cultivars, plants to be used as replacements when old plants become unthrifty or overgrown. Back-up specimens have been lined out in the nursery, in case a specimen is lost. Some 20 new accessions of named boxwoods are growing on. All known remaining examples of Dr. Edgar Anderson's K-Series have been acquired and propagated. These were plants chosen from thousands of seedlings grown in Missouri from seed sent from Yugoslavia.

Registrar: Mr. Batdorf reported on his many activities. Newly-registered *B. microphylla* 'Quiet End' was a plant carried as 'Kingsville 2A' by Henry Hohman of Kingsville Nurseries. It is a broad, low-growing plant with good winter color. Mr. Batdorf's work on a *Boxwood Monograph* has been set aside while he tries to complete a boxwood handbook, for which he now has 60 pages of draft text. In his discussions with the Brooklyn Botanic Garden it appears that they would consider publishing the handbook if sales of at least 1,500 copies can be guaranteed. Mr. Batdorf also compiled the most recent *Five-Year Index Supplement* to *The Boxwood Bulletin* (July 1986-April 1991), which was included in the mailing of the April *Boxwood Bulletin.*

Garden Tour: Mrs. Butler reported that 36 members participated in the 10th ABS Tour. After cold, gray weather on Saturday, May 9, Sunday, May 10 (Mother's Day), was sunny and comfortable and the gardens were full of lush boxwood growth and glowing color.

Research: Mrs. Butler reported on two research projects: (1) Dr. James Hendrix at the University of Kentucky has plans to restart the study of the relationship between mycorrhizal fungi and boxwood, and board members have given their approval. (2) Mr. Richard Hawke at the Chicago Botanic Garden (Cultivar Evaluation Project) has written that many of the young plants of 10 selected cultivars suffered winter damage in an unheated poly greenhouse; a fuller report will be printed in *The Boxwood Bulletin.*

Auction: President Taylor noted that unusual cultivars which are not often

available would be offered; the auction would be held inside this year to avoid having to move the large number outside from the library; plants came from Mr. Taylor, Cdr. Larson, Tom Saunders and Mrs. Butler.

Survey: Mr. Taylor also reported on the high percentage of responses to the questionnaire distributed in the January *Bulletin*; many comments will be helpful in planning the Society's future, with possible creation of an endowment fund and offering advertisements in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, limited to boxwood-related subjects.

Boxwood Garden: Dr. Edward Connor, Director of Blandy Experimental Farm and Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of Virginia, spoke about plans for changing the boxwood garden, with different ways of illustrating uses for boxwood in contrast to the present arrangement as specimen plants only. An outdoor amphitheater, funded by the Friends of the State Arboretum, will displace many of the plants in the lower, bowl-shaped area of the garden. Some 22 have already been moved to a holding bed along the entrance road and are thriving in this year's cool, moist spring. Some members requested larger copies of the overall plan as well as plant lists; Dr. Connor said these would be sent. Some of the background tall Arborvitae plants and large, overgrown boxwoods will be removed.

Members expressed dismay that old plants might be destroyed, although moving them would be very costly and success doubtful. Many also objected to an announced goal of limiting boxwood plants to about 25 years of age, when they would be replaced by younger plants of the same cultivar. Concern about maintenance under this plan was mentioned. It was not the Arboretum's goal to display very old plants, which would not be available to today's garden visitors. Discussion stressed the need to display old plants, and the desire to preserve one arboretum where mature plants still can be seen. Dwarf cultivars would require special thought; in some cases even 50 years of age would not produce an overgrown specimen. Dr. Connor said that space could be made available if the Society wished to pay the moving costs for shapely old plants which are correctly identified. It is possible that professional transplanting might be donated.

Nominating Committee: Mrs. Butler, as chairman, presented the following slate for 1992-1993, which was approved unanimously:

President: Dale T. Taylor
1st Vice President:
Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton
2nd Vice President:
Mrs. Malcolm L. Holekamp
Secretary: Mrs. Scot Butler
Executive Treasurer:
Mrs. Katherine D. Ward
Directors to serve until May 1995:
Mr. Richard D. Mahone
Dr. Stephen D. Southall

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon for a delicious lunch served in the dining room and enjoyed outdoors on a fine sunny day.

A brief special meeting of the Board of Directors was held before lunch to select two board members to join the standing committee of three officers (Taylor, Butler, Ward) on the Executive Committee. The two appointed were Frackelton and Batdorf. The president noted that the budget and a decision about *Bulletin* advertising would be discussed at a board meeting in September. Mr. Tom Saunders was appointed chairman of the nominating committee for 1993.

The afternoon session convened at 1:00 p.m. to hear a fascinating talk by Mr. Mike Lawn, the Grounds Maintenance Foreman at the White House, under the Park Service. He supervises eight full-time gardeners and 18 employees, with responsibility for the "President's Park," which includes not only the White House grounds but the Ellipse and Lafayette Park as well. Mr. Lawn has been with the National Park Service since 1977. He related the development of White House architectural history from October 1792 when the cornerstone was laid, until the present. There will be a bicentennial commemoration in October of this event. Rebuilt in 1814, after the burning during the War of 1812, the building received its two wings in 1902 under Theodore Roosevelt and was basically rebuilt during the Truman Administration, after severe deterioration and rotting underpinnings. There had also been major renovation in 1936 when it became a national park. In 1961 the Park Service took over all maintenance.

Mr. Lawn stressed that even though it is a historic site, it is also the personal home of the first family and their need for occasional privacy has to be honored. Major garden projects are limited to week-ends and August and September, when the President is often away, so that security presents fewer problems.

Mr. Lawn showed excellent slides including pictures of the boxwood hedge of *Buxus microphylla* 'Green Pillow'. An enormous task of gardening was made to appear manageable under careful planning and scheduling in Mr. Lawn's very enjoyable presentation.

The annual auction was then conducted by Director John W. Boyd, Jr. and President Dale Taylor. All participants at the annual meeting received a fine plant of *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' propagated by President Taylor.

Joan Butler, Secretary

Questionnaire Results Summarized

A questionnaire was distributed to ABS members with the January *Boxwood Bulletin.* The purpose was to ascertain how ABS members feel about their Society, *The Boxwood Bulletin,* and some new project ideas.

The deadline for responding to the questionnaire was February 28, 1992. However, all responses received by March 31, 1992, were incorporated in the survey results. From 683 questionnaires there were 112 responses, for a 16.5% response rate.

Of those responding, the majority have been members of The American Boxwood Society for from one to ten years:

43.0% 0-5 years
24.0% 6-10 years
22.0% 11-20 years
11.0% over 20 years

An overwhelming majority indicated that the ABS lives up to their expectations:

79.0% "very well" or "well"
15.0% "not very well"
6.0% no opinion/no reply

Survey respondents were asked to rank eight functions offered by the ABS. Percentages rating these "very important" or "important" were:

100.0% information on the care and cultivation of boxwood
98.0% general information about boxwood
85.5% identification and history of species, varieties, cultivars
72.0% academic research
71.0% funding boxwood research
69.5% workshops/seminars
53.0% promoting boxwood in the nursery trade
14.5% social activities

Respondent ratings of *The Boxwood Bulletin* were:

36.5% "excellent"
44.0% "good"

Respondents also ranked seven subject areas for future *Boxwood Bulletins.* Ratings of "very important" or "important" were:

100.0% care and maintenance of boxwood
93.0% boxwood propagation
87.5% research/scholarly articles
87.0% boxwood history
84.5% boxwood collections, gardens, etc.
84.0% identification/registration of varieties/cultivars
75.5% ABS news and information

The members also responded well to three new ideas:

The idea of permitting advertisements in *The Boxwood Bulletin* was approved by a majority:

55.0% "definitely" or "yes"
30.0% "maybe"
9.0% "no"
6.0% no opinion

(A majority (50.5%) voted not to require advertisers to be ABS members. Most (50.5%) said either "definitely" or "yes" when asked whether to require such ads to be related to boxwood.)

Members approved of the idea of producing a "boxwood video":

53.5% "excellent"
30.5% "good"

(Most (71.0%) thought that the chances of their purchasing such a video, if priced at $15-20, was either "excellent" or "good.")

Members also approved the possible formation of an endowment fund:

56.0% "definitely" or "yes"
25.0% "maybe"

(An endowment fund is a difficult subject to survey because there is a common lack of information as to exactly what an endowment fund is and does. Most respondents thought that an endowment fund was worth pursuing, but only ten percent (10.0%) replied either "definitely" or "yes" when asked whether they would participate in such a fund. Another 51.0% answered "maybe.")

At a brief meeting of the board of directors following the business portion of the ABS Annual Meeting on May 13, the board authorized further investigation into the boxwood video project, an endowment fund, and accepting advertisements in *The Boxwood Bulletin.*

Many ABS members added personal comments to the questions asked. These have been included in a 13-page analysis of survey results presented to ABS officers and board members.

The report will be studied through the summer with the intention of taking action at the fall board meeting.

It is clear from the survey results that ABS members feel that their Society has, by and large, lived up to their expectations. As one member noted, the ABS does "a remarkably good job for a small, specialized volunteer organization."

Dale T. Taylor

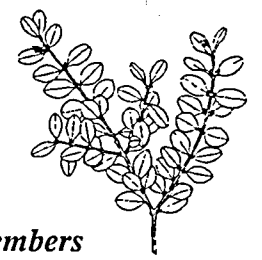
ABS Participates in Blandy Horticultural Fair and Plant Sale

Sponsored on May 9-10 by Friends of the State Arboretum at Blandy Experimental Farm, this popular event was well represented by ABS members.

English Boxwoods of Virginia (Lynchburg) was among the nurseries represented. Dr. Stephen Southall, one of the co-owners, is a member of the board. Dr. Kenneth Shumaker, his partner, manned the booth.

A new ABS member, B. Porter Briggs, displayed architectural statuary.

As mentioned in the tour article (page 3), Mrs. Katherine D. Ward, ABS Treasurer, and Cdr. P. D. "Swede" Larson deserve special thanks from the Society for their two-day stint at the Fair. Katherine represented the ABS among the garden/horticultural organizations which had booths, and signed up several new members. "Swede," as usual, wore several hats; he prepared boxwood for sale, and gave tours of the ABS Memorial Garden.



The Seasonal Gardener

Practical tips for boxwood enthusiasts from Society members

Propagation of Boxwood:

Tissue Culture: Some experimentation has been done on boxwood, but The American Boxwood Society has no documentation of successful techniques. (We would welcome any information on the subject.)

Seed: In an article in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 20, No. 3, Jan. 1981, p. 47-50, Harrison Symmes, former ABS Director and Life Member, reports on experiments by Dr. John T. Baldwin, Jr. and Dr. Bernice Speese, both of the College of William and Mary. Mr. Symmes experimented with seeds from *Buxus sempevirens* 'Pendula' using the following method. He collected seeds in June-July, sowing in August, transplanting to pots when the first true leaves appear, bringing to light, but not direct sun, providing air circulation and good drainage, using winter protection, he was successful in starting seedlings. If potted seedlings are kept inside, he advised light feeding.

Cuttings: Rooted cuttings reproduce the parent plant.

When: The most agreed upon time is after new growth has hardened—July/August—with the second most promising time being mid-February.

Cuttings: Former President Richard D. Mahone advises that cuttings should always be taken from terminal, not lateral stems.

Size: Advice ranges from 4-6" (majority of sources) to the larger size of 12" or so as advocated by ABS Director John W. Boyd, Jr., former ABS Director William N. Mays and the late Dr. John T. Baldwin, Jr., Botany Professor at the College of William and Mary, all of whom were successful with larger cuttings.

Shade and moisture: see *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 27, No. 2, Oct. 1987, p. 43-47 by Dale T. Taylor, ABS President and Vol. 30, No. 1, July 1990, by Dr. Stephen Southall, ABS Director.

Medium: sharp sand, sand and peat or 1/3 each of sand, peat and loam are among the suggested media for starting cuttings. Rootone or other hormone is advocated by some, while others find it unnecessary.

In an article by Mrs. Peter Milliken and Mrs. Julian O'Leary of the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay in *The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 20, No. 4, April 1981, p. 74-75, several methods of planting were outlined: A. flats in a greenhouse or house, B. bottomless pit, C. "Bell Glass" (a glass jar is substituted now), and D. Clear plastic shoe box, which is also good for difficult to root seeds.

The bottomless pit is formed by nailing together four pieces of 8- or 10-inch lumber to make a square with no bottom and placing it over a shaded area where the soil has been loosened to a 1" depth. The box is filled with 3-4" of pine needles, which is then tamped down and watered. This is repeated twice at one-week intervals. After 3-4 weeks some rotting takes place, resulting in bottom warmth, at which time 4-6" of soil is added to the pine needles and the cuttings "stuck." The box is covered with a piece of fine wire to keep out leaves and sticks.

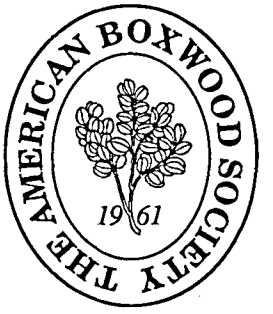
Layering: Korean boxwood will often layer upon touching the ground. Sever, replant and prune to shape. This will produce beautiful plants in a few years. (Thomas E. Ewert)

Other sources on propagation from rooted cuttings are articles by Mr. Ewert, former Director of Blandy, based on lectures given at ABS workshops (*The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 18, No. 4, April 1979, p. 69-70 or Vol. 20, No. 2, Oct. 1980, p. 29-30) and an article by Jack Kegley, on his experiences with rooting *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' (*The Boxwood Bulletin*, Vol. 27, No. 4, April 1988, p. 71-72).

Commander P. D. Larson, Chairman of the ABS Boxwood Memorial Garden, at the ABS Workshop on May 12,1992, distributed his publication, *Boxwood Basics*, which has a comprehensive study of propagation by cuttings and outlines other methods, including mention of hybridization.

The ABS welcomes reader input with photos of success stories and/or problem with propagation.

Decca Frackelton



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