

# The *Boxwood* Bulletin

A quarterly devoted to Man's oldest garden ornamental



The *Buxus* collection at the U.S. National Arboretum, part of which is shown above, has been selected to join the North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC). Low mounds of *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Morris Midget' dot the landscape. See story on p. 65. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)

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# The American Boxwood Society

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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.

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Memberships for the year May through April include \$12 for four quarterly issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*:

Individual	\$25	Sustaining	\$75
Family	\$35	Life	\$500
Contributing	\$50		

Non-member subscriptions for groups and institutions, such as botanic gardens and libraries, are \$25 by the calendar year.

## Available Publications:

Back issues of <i>The Boxwood Bulletin</i>	(each) \$ 4
<i>Boxwood Buyer's Guide (3rd Edition)</i>	\$ 8
<i>International Registration List of Cultivated Buxus L.</i>	\$ 3
<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1961-1986</i>	\$10
<i>Index to The Boxwood Bulletin 1986-1991</i>	\$ 4

## Contributions:

Gifts to the Society are tax-deductible and may be undesignated or applied to:

Boxwood Handbook Fund  
Boxwood Memorial Garden Fund  
Boxwood Monograph Fund  
Boxwood Research Fund  
ABS Blandy Capital Fund

## Correspondence:

For address changes, memberships, dues, contributions, or to order back issues or publications, write:

Treasurer, The American Boxwood Society  
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:

Dr. Stephen D. Southall  
3912 Faculty Drive  
Lynchburg, Va. 24501

## 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:

Chairman, Bulletin Committee  
1714 Greenway Drive  
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

Material to be returned to the sender must be submitted with a self-addressed envelope carrying suitable postage. Every effort will be made to protect submittals, but the Society cannot be responsible for loss or injury.

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*The Boxwood Bulletin* (ISSN 0006 8535) is published quarterly for \$12.00 per year by The American Boxwood Society, Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Va. 22620. Second class postage paid at Boyce, Va. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Boxwood Bulletin*, P.O. Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620. The *Bulletin* is printed by M-J Printers, Fredericksburg, Va.

# ABS Annual Meeting Scheduled for May 19-20, 1995, at Williamsburg, Virginia

## Program Highlights:

The featured speaker for the Friday evening program is Dr. Gwynn W. Ramsey, master storyteller of "Folk Tales from the Southern Appalachians."

Comments written and overheard: "I laughed and enjoyed it thoroughly as did everyone"; "We were delighted with your stories"; "He can make you laugh, cry or jump out of your seat."

Dr. Ramsey dresses as a mountaineer and is proud of being a North Carolina "hillbilly." A "folk tale enthusiast," he heard his first tales from his "grandmaw" when he was a child living in the foothills of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. His interest in performing these amusing and thought-provoking tales spans many years.

Storytelling is an art which he has mastered. He holds membership in several storytelling societies and performs for diverse groups.

In "real life," Dr. Ramsey is Professor of Biology and Curator of the

Use the enclosed form to register.

### DEADLINE APRIL 19

A registration fee of \$35.00 will include the afternoon symposium, speaker and evening reception on Friday as well as the continental breakfast, morning program, box lunch and afternoon tour on Saturday. Registrants will be responsible for their lodging and any meals not specified. The Lord Paget Inn (Best Western) is reserving a block of rooms at \$45 per night until April 19: Phone (804) 229-4444 and mention that you are with the ABS. Rooms will also be available at the Holiday Inn, at \$68 per night. Phone (804) 229-0200 or (800) 368-0200.

## Schedule of Events:

### Friday, May 19

10:00-12:00 N

ABS Board Meeting: Officers and Directors  
Lord Paget Inn, Room 157 (Please be prompt.)

12:15-1:15 p.m.

Early Registration, Room 157, Lord Paget Inn  
(Pick up your packet.)

1:45-4:45 p.m.

Boxwood Symposium, Holiday Inn Downtown,  
Colony Room

Speaker: Lynn Batdorf, Review of *Handbook*

Speaker: Joan Butler, History, description and  
care of auction cultivars

Question-and-Answer Panel: Written questions  
and questions from the floor

5:00-7:30 p.m.

Free time for dinner on your own

8:00 p.m.

Evening Program, Holiday Inn Downtown,  
Colony Room

Speaker: Dr. Gwynn W. Ramsey, Master  
Storyteller (see notes)

Reception, Room 157, Lord Paget Inn

### Saturday, May 20

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Registration and Danish/juice/coffee,  
Room 157, Lord Paget

9:15 a.m.

Business Meeting, Holiday Inn Downtown,  
Colony Room

10:15-10:45 a.m.

Break (short meeting ABS Board)

10:45 a.m.

Speaker: Eileen Weldon, Landscape  
Manager, Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, Va.

12:00 N

Box lunch

1:00 p.m.

Depart for Guided Tour of the boxwood collection  
at the College of William & Mary, including the  
corner display, planted in honor of Dr. J. T.  
Baldwin

3:00 p.m.

Boxwood Auction, Room 157, Lord Paget Inn

Herbarium at Lynchburg College where he has taught for the past 30 years. His research interest is in ecological floristics and Virginia flora.

Eileen Weldon, Landscape Manager at Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, Virginia will be the guest speaker following the business meeting Saturday morning. She began her employment at Busch Gardens as greenhouse supervisor in 1974. In this position she was responsible for greenhouse

production, interiorscapes and the planning, installation and maintenance of the floral and foliage displays in the park.

In 1994, she was promoted to Landscape Manager, responsible for the above plus all aspects of landscape construction, installation and maintenance at Busch Gardens and Water Country U.S.A.

Lynn R. Batdorf, Curator of Boxwood at the U.S. National Arbore-

tum and Registrar for ABS as International Registration Authority of *Buxus* L., will give a review, with slides, of the *Boxwood Handbook*.

**Joan C. Butler**, Secretary of the ABS and owner of Bluemont Boxwood, will speak on the auction plants, giving history, descriptions and any special care required.

**Question-and-Answer Panel:** a

panel from the ABS Board will answer questions presented by the registrants and as time permits will answer further questions from the floor.

A **guided tour** of the boxwood collection at the College of William and Mary, arranged by Mr. Richard D. Mahone, will follow the box lunch on Saturday. This collection was begun by the late Dr. J. T. Baldwin in the 1950s.

It is of interest to a boxwood collector and worthy of any boxwood connoisseur's attention. A good many of his plants came from Kingsville Nurseries, owned by Mr. Henry J. Hohman, with whom he carried on an extensive correspondence. Mr. Hohman was an early contributor of boxwood plants to The American Boxwood Society.

## Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage Focuses on Carroll County, May 3, 1995

Preceding the Carroll County tour is Dorchester County April 22, Caroline County, April 23; Charles County, April 29; Baltimore County; Rockland area, April 30; and following is Baltimore City, Canton area, May 6. Boxwood may be found at several places on the Charles County tour, namely, at Locust Grove, Habre de Venture, Mulberry Grove and newer plantings at Marsh Hawk.

Carroll County, open on tour May 3, 1995, was established in 1837 from portions of Baltimore and Frederick counties. It was named in honor of Charles Carroll of Carrollton who was the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. It was settled beginning in the 18th century in the northern part by Pennsylvania Germans and in the southern area by the Tidewater English. Both groups were attracted by the fertile land, abundant streams and undulating hills.

Westminster, the present county seat, was founded in 1764 by a former indentured servant, William Winchester. Westminster is also the home of Western Maryland College.

One of the county's rural communities, Uniontown, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In Carroll County, an abundance of boxwood may be found at Mulberry (Friendship Valley Farm), home of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Samios. Besides the extensive hedge of *Buxus sempervirens*

'*Suffruticosa*', boxwood may be found here and there and enclosing the garden which is the pride of Mr. Samios. A good part of the boxwood are shaded by a grand National Champion black mulberry tree.

This is the 200th anniversary for the main house at Mulberry, built in 1795 by Colonel Joshua Gist. Gist was a brother of General Mordecai Gist and a nephew of Christopher Gist who was

George Washington's guide through the northwest wilderness.

The property remained in the Gist family until 1938 and has had only five proprietors: Gist, Herth, Lamme, Law and Samios. The present owners purchased the property in 1975.

A remarkable example of early American architecture, the white-washed brick house is symmetrical with recessed porches on both sides of the



*Mulberry, on the Carroll County Tour, showing the large mulberry for which it was named, large *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa' hedge, and the tower on Bell House. (Photo: Mrs. Nicholas Samios)*

house. The bricks were made on the property. There is an original slave log cabin with stone foundation which has been restored recently. Close to the house is the Bell House which has a tower bell that has been in use for two centuries. The stone paved summer kitchen in the Bell House has a huge fireplace.

The Samios built an addition to the main house in 1986 and a lovely landscaped pool and deck. The addition consists of a French kitchen on the first floor and a master bedroom suite above.

Other places on the May 3 Carroll County tour are Huntingfields, Red Brick Farm, Kroh Farm, Living Faith Farm, the president's house and Baker Chapel at Western Maryland College, 287 Bell Road, 2839 Uniontown Road, 3364 Uniontown Road (the Robert Dodd house), 3411 Uniontown Road (the Weaver-Fox house), 3476 Uniontown Road and Bellendene at 2611 Old Taneytown Road. Lunch will be served at Wakefield Valley Golf Club about two miles from the Baker Chapel of Western Maryland College.

Huntingfields has a log house dating from the early 1800s with additions 1829 and 1850, restoration beginning in 1968, and a glass sun room added in 1992. The latter overlooks an active wildlife pond. The house is situated in the middle of a 350-acre thoroughbred horse farm. There is also a guest house of natural fieldstone.

Red Brick Farm has date stones at either end of the house indicating it was built in 1854. Jacob Shaffer, the original owner, is said to have furnished the bricks for several houses in the area. The present owners have retained as much as possible of the original and in adding a kitchen wing designed it to blend with the original. There is an old stone barn, one of only a handful surviving in Carroll County.

Kroh Farm has a traditional Pennsylvania-German 19th-century structure. The interior suggests a Civil War era renovation: hand-combed wood graining with "pumpkin pine" floorboards, horsehair plaster and porcelain

knob rim door locks. There is a summer kitchen and a unique combination bake oven and smoke house. Remnants of original log water pipes remain.

The Christian Royer house, built in 1827, on Living Faith Farm is on the National Register of Historic Places. It represents an adaptation of a typical Carroll County farm house incorporating the function of a Brethrens meeting-house. The main section has an enclosed staircase between two rear rooms and partitions of door-sized panels are hinged to fold back and make one large meeting room. The house contains a total of ten fireplaces and two beehive ovens. There is also a 1795 log cabin, moved from Middletown, Maryland, which serves as home for the owner's father.

The President's house at Western Maryland College has served that purpose since 1889 when the second president, T. H. Lewis, and his family moved into the newly completed Victorian structure. It was funded by a \$4,000 gift from the Baker brothers of Buckeystown. It has had no major structural changes except an open side porch of the 1920s which was enclosed in 1964.

Baker Chapel of Western Maryland College is built of white limestone in the shape of a crucifix. It features an octagonal sanctuary and four magnificent stained glass windows.

At 287 Bell Road, the house, built in 1990, combines a contemporary floor plan with transitional architectural details, such as, the traditional fluted interior columns. Transomed windows afford views of the woodland and a glimpse of the recently completed water garden.

At 2839 Uniontown Road is an 18th-century two-story log house on a 63-acre working farm. The floor plan is one William Penn suggested to those settling the frontier. A brick addition was completed about 1840. The present owners added a glass-enclosed porch in 1978, which overlooks a spring-fed pond and the gardens. A log cabin, circa 1830, was moved to the property

after the Civil War to serve as a laundry and area for feeding the farm hands. It has been converted to a guest house.

The Robert Dodd house, 3364 Uniontown Road, was constructed in 1818. This townhouse is of the Federal style with a side hall plan. The interior has colors original to the house and document wallpapers and fabrics with a growing collection of Baltimore classical furniture and Pennsylvania primitives. The garden in the Federal style complements the site.

The Weaver-Fox house, 3411 Uniontown Road, built in 1874-5 by local physician and Carroll County historian, Dr. Jacob Weaver, Jr., is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is noted for its superb Italianate ornamentation. A highlight is an unusual matched set of late Victorian carved furniture in the living room. Among the features of the grounds is an English garden with stone walkways and a 100-year old boxwood garden.

At 3476 Uniontown Road is one of the first houses built in Uniontown, circa 1807-1810. The Cross Keys Tavern operated there from 1816 to 1842. Additions were made in 1848 and 1910. A general store was located in the 1848 addition until 1942. The house is furnished with a blend of antiques and contemporary crafts.

Bellendene, 2611 Old Taneytown Road, was built 1983 and added to in 1992, including a wine cellar to store products of the Bellendene Vineyard. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scott, the name was taken from the home of the Scott clan in Scotland and means, "the hill from whence the Scots went forth to do battle."

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# 1995 Virginia Historic Garden Week

## Stratford and Prestwould are Featured

Suzanne H. Munson

Some of Virginia's oldest plantation gardens as well as newer, beautifully landscaped urban properties will be open this year for the 62nd season of Historic Garden Week. More than 250 houses, gardens and landmarks will be featured on 36 outstanding tours from Roanoke to the Eastern Shore, April 22-29.

Stratford Hall Plantation will be the centerpiece of the Northern Neck tour on Wednesday, April 26. The plantation is the birthplace of Robert E. Lee and home of two signers of the Declaration of Independence.

In addition to the magnificent manor house, charming directors' log cottages, and historic outbuildings, visitors will delight in the varied gardens and wildflower trails.

Between 1930 and 1934, Stratford's East Garden was restored by The Garden Club of Virginia with funds generated from Historic Garden Week. The lovely formal "English" boxwood garden with crushed oyster shell paths is enclosed by brick walls. This area is filled with *Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', while massive old "American" boxwoods abound on the north and south lawns and West Garden. Three weeping boxwoods are found near the sides of the house. Stratford Hall Plantation is located high on the bluffs overlooking the Potomac River in Westmoreland County, off Route 3, 40 miles east of Fredericksburg.

Another exceptional historic property open for Garden Week this year is Prestwould Plantation. Prestwould is among six beautiful locations on the Clarksville area tour April 22 in rural Southside Virginia. Celebrating its 200th anniversary in 1995, Prestwould presents one of the largest and most complete portraits of life on a grand plantation in the 18th century.



Stratford Hall Plantation, an early restoration project of the Garden Club of Va. (Photo: Garden Club of Va.)



*Prestwold, Mecklenburg County, Virginia, is one of the restoration projects financed by proceeds from Historic Garden Week. Photo: Garden Club of Virginia)*

The handsome stone manor house was built between 1790 and 1795 by Sir Peyton Skipwith, American-born Baronet, and his second wife, Lady Jean. In about 1796, Lady Jean designed a grid plan formal garden. It is surrounded on the west side by semi-circular "horseshoe beds" where she grew plants she wished to study. Her garden records are among the country's most important early listings of native American plantings. The Garden Club of Virginia completed an interpretive restoration of the Prestwold gardens in 1981, and additional landscape work has been provided more recently. A full complement of decorative gates based on original documentation was installed in the spring of 1992. The symmetrically designed garden is accented by an original octagonal summer house. Many fine, very old "American" boxwoods enhance the property.

### **Lexington Garden Features 1,500 Boxwoods**

One of the largest boxwood plantings on tour this year will be found at "Mile Tree Hill" in Lexington on Tuesday, April 25. In addition to the hundreds of different plant species adding beauty and color to this hillside retreat, more than 1,500 American and "English" boxwoods line the garden and paths or grace the hill in informal clusters. This delightful garden of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde E. Keen is open for the first time for Historic Garden week.

A highlight of the Fairfax tour on Friday, April 28, will be the house and grounds of a member of The American Boxwood Society, Mrs. J. Gordon Kincheloe. "More Hill Farm" in the Clifton area is the home of six generations of Wansford Arrington's Kincheloe descendants. Constructed in

1955 on the same hill where the original home of John Kincheloe was burned by Union soldiers, More Hill Farm is rich in history. The natural terrain of the farm offers lovely vistas of rolling hills, pasture land and sophisticated landscaping where black Angus cattle and thoroughbred horses once were raised amid cultivated crops and timber. A prize-winning rose garden and more than 100 impressive "English" and "American" boxwoods serve as focal points of the property.

Among the many interesting locations on the Alexandria tour Saturday, April 22, are the garden and orangery of a charming 18th-century house on South Fairfax Street in the city's Old Town area. The garden gate comes into a "cloud planting" of boxwoods. The majority of the "English" boxwoods are from a much older garden on the original site. The new



*A woodland path lined with boxwood at Mile Tree Hill. (Photo: W. Patrick Hinely)*

garden's emphasis is on texture, color and contour so that in every season the permanent planting has visual interest without the addition of seasonal plants. The garden also features a Reverend Drayton Camellia, the only one of several to recover after the damaging freezes of 1980 and 1993-94, and a two-story espaliered *Ginkgo* on the side wall.

Lynchburg's tour on Tuesday, April 25, features several delightful gardens and scenic hillside views of the James River.

One property on Link Road is the mature garden of life-long horticulturists. Many of the stately "English" boxwoods that border the land and surround the house were originally from the owners' childhood homes. Another horticultural gem on this tour is the Hickman garden. Dr. Robert and Dr. Janet Hickman describe themselves as "modified organic gardeners" and

have created an arboretum of native and exotic trees and shrubs, wildflowers, perennial gardens and orchards around a lovely old wooded garden.

### **The "Doctor's Garden" Open in Warrenton**

A popular stop again on the Warrenton tour, Wednesday and Thursday, April 26 and 27, is the "Doctor's Garden at Christ Church." Begun in 1983, this appealing garden is designed in the form of a cross, with 100 Kingsville boxwoods planted around the edges of the cross.

The garden design and construction were undertaken by Mrs. James Ward Sinclair in memory of her late husband, a surgeon in Warrenton for 50 years. Deep in Virginia's hunt country, the tour also includes a showing of the Warrenton Foxhounds and five beautiful properties within a short drive from Warrenton. Consistent with many other

Garden Week programs, this tour features a number of older homes with lovely, mature boxwood plantings.

While it is not possible to highlight all of the wonderful 1995 programs in this article, full descriptions of the gardens and houses on tour are found in the Historic Garden Week Guidebook. For a copy, please mail \$2.00 for postage and handling to the Historic Garden Week office, 12 East Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

The dates for next year's Garden Week are April 20-27, 1996, and certain early information will be available about the locations next November. We extend a cordial welcome to *The Boxwood Bulletin* readers and their friends to join us for our beautiful tours.

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*Suzanne Munson is Executive Director, Historic Garden Week.*



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# The U.S. National Arboretum *Buxus* Collection Joins the AABGA North American Plant Collections Consortium

Lynn R. Batdorf

The Boxwood Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA) in Washington, D.C., has successfully completed an extensive review process, and has been selected as the first participating member of the North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC).

The American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) originally established six plant collections for pilot projects. These pilot projects were used to test and evaluate the guidelines of the NAPCC, which was developed to encourage institutional responsibility among public gardens for the conservation and care of certain living collections. The approval process reviews the application, a Letter of Commitment, an inventory for the collection, and a copy of a board-approved collections policy from the proposed member. Then an NAPCC Site Evaluator completes an initial site evaluation which checks the collection information, collection management, collection records, access, and future development.

Participation in the NAPCC is expected to have several positive benefits. The most important of these are the documentation, preservation, propagation, distribution and duplication of collections of botanically and horticulturally significant genera. The NAPCC serves the botanic garden and arboreta community by coordinating efforts to manage the participating collections. Collections of certain genera, species, and cultivars which are valuable are duplicated to insure against pest and disease loss, as well as loss due to cultural or environmental extremes.

The USNA is the only federally funded arboretum in the United States and is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural

Research Service. As early as 1952, the USNA began to assemble a boxwood collection. Landscape plans for the garden were designed by Director Dr. Henry T. Skinner and construction was completed in 1960. Boxwood from various sources are continuously added to evaluate and preserve boxwood germplasm. Pertinent technical information generated in the on going development of the collection is distributed by lectures, publications and contact with botanical institutions and concerned individuals on the commercial, horticultural and botanical aspects of this genus.

The collection provides gardeners, university faculty and students, nurserymen, landscape architects and the general public an opportunity to view and study a wide range of *Buxus*. [A sampling is shown on pp. 66-68.] The collection provides germplasm for research and propagation to arboreta and plant specialists. Many plants in the collection are not available elsewhere, or are difficult to obtain. Emphasis is placed on correct nomenclature and correct identification of plant specimens.

The strengths of the boxwood collection at the USNA are many. It is recognized as the most comprehensive holding of living germplasm of *Buxus*, with over 170 different species, cultivars and accessions from foreign plant collection expeditions. In addition, there are over 750 documented herbarium specimens of *Buxus* cultivars and species filed in the USNA Herbarium.

Located on a five-acre site with a sand-loam soil and a 1 to 4% slope, the collection is well spaced, permitting the boxwood to reach their natural shape. The collection is interspersed with major collections of *Hemerocallis*, *Iris*,

*Paeonia*, as well as a broad array of other herbaceous perennials and woody plants.

The collection inventory and records for each plant are maintained by three different methods: BG-Base (Botanic Garden-Base), a computer software program for inventory mapping of living collections; D-Base (Data-Base); and card files. Many boxwoods have a metal-photo decorative label with the botanical and common names with one line of informative text. All plants have a record label with accession and other information for staff use. The collection is also in BG-Map, a computer program which produces a map that accurately displays and draws the location of the individual boxwood plants in the collection.

The curator of the Boxwood Collection has produced a comprehensive handbook on the cultural aspects of boxwood that is in the final stages of completion with an expected publication date of Spring 1995. Also, a monograph of temperate *Buxus* cultivars is underway with a publication date of 1998. The authentic and validated living collection, herbarium vouchers, literature and other resources are being utilized as a basis for this work. Both publications are being produced under the auspices of The American Boxwood Society. The curator has a long and extensive experience in the development of the collection and with *Buxus*. The curator also serves as the Boxwood Registrar for The American Boxwood Society which is the International Registration Authority for Cultivated *Buxus*.

Access to the collection is well balanced. It is a public garden and visitation is encouraged. Requests for cuttings are met for institutions with clear goals.

There are, unfortunately, a few weaknesses in this collection, which many plant collections in public gardens seem to share.

Here, staffing is at a minimum with one full-time, temporary gardener responsible for the boxwoods and several other major collections that total over 24 acres. The general funding is also at a minimum to support basic operations. The Friends of the National Arboretum is aggressively seeking outside financial support and staffing in an effort to maintain normal maintenance activities. Support is sometimes lacking, but a new irrigation system and comprehensive sign program are greatly improving the overall infrastructure.

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*Lynn R. Batdorf is Curator of Buxus, Perennials, and Aquatics at the U.S. National Arboretum*



*Buxus microphylla 'Curly Locks', a sport of B. microphylla 'Compacta'. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)*



*One of the variegated forms, B. sempervirens 'Latifolia maculata'.*



*Lynn Batdorf points out B. microphylla 'John Baldwin'.*



*Buxus colchica*, a species from Russia.



*Buxus harlandii*, the vase-shaped, less hardy form.



*B. microphylla* 'Green Pillow', the cultivar used in the Rose Garden at the White House.



*Buxus sempervirens* 'Pyramidalis', an upright form.



*Buxus sempervirens* 'Graham Blandy', columnar form.



*Buxus sempervirens* 'Fastigiata'



*B. sinica* var. *insularis* 'Justin Brouwers', a cultivar of the Korean boxwood.

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# The Second International Symposium on the Taxonomy of Cultivated Plants

Lynn R. Batdorf

In August 1994 Lynn R. Batdorf, International Registration Authority of Cultivated *Buxus*, represented The American Boxwood Society (ABS) at the Second International Symposium on the Taxonomy of Cultivated Plants in Seattle, Washington. The participants were from North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Five days of presentations, scientific papers, poster and panel discussions presented a unique forum for those in attendance. This symposium brought together academics, growers, botanists, horticulturists, representatives of plant societies and growers' organizations, cultivar name registrars, patent and trademark lawyers, public garden staff, plant breeders' rights officials, plant breeders and owners of patents and trademarks.

Focusing on the taxonomy of cultivated plants, this symposium encompassed the study of classification and nomenclature, the registration of cultivar names, the use and misuse of trademarks, the effectiveness of the current International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants-1980 (ICNCP-1980), and proposals for its revision. There were a total of 26 papers, six panel discussions, seven poster presentations and several garden tours. Two frequently and passionately discussed issues were the cultivar name/ trademark controversy and the need for a more formal procedure of inviting and accommodating a wider input in revisions of the ICNCP. Responding to this need, a North American Working Group for Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants has been proposed. This group would be headed by Dr. Steven Clements at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

The symposium presentations covered a wide variety of taxonomic questions of interest to National and International Registrars. The major presentations included:

*International Registration Authorities (IRA), Who are they and what is their role?* by Alan Leslie of the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley in the United Kingdom. There are only 76 IRAs which manage 225 different Families, Genera or groups of plant material. Their reference is the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants-1980. They are law enforcers, but not law makers. The "law" has no legal authority, but the Registrars are the equivalent of moral police. The problems are two fold. First, most plant breeders are unaware who the IRAs are or what their function is. Second, many breeders work in other than English speaking countries. The International Society of Horticultural Science uses English as its primary language, as do most international organizations. This then limits the distribution of information to many breeders who have no knowledge of English. The role as Registrar is partly detective, who must check nursery catalogues, garden shows and the like, looking for new cultivars and synonyms. The Registrar must present the cultivar information in a form suitable for registration, publish checklists, registration lists and their addendum. Computer cultivar lists available from some IRAs are available on compact disc (CD). The United Kingdom has a plan in place that would have all U.K. registration lists on CD by the year 2000. The Royal Horticultural Society, Horticultural Taxonomy Group (Hortax) has recently submitted a proposal to revise ICNCP-1980.

*Index Hortensis: Towards a World Database of Cultivated Names* by Piers Trehane of Hampreston Manor, United Kingdom. Completed in 1989, *Index Hortensis* collected all the nursery names of herbaceous perennials in Europe that included 140 families, 4,060 generic names, 5,700 species,

800 infra-specific names, 14,300 cultivars, and 2,700 synonyms. Currently in progress is a companion, or second volume which will list all the nursery names of woody plant material. Building on these projects, the future promises a world data base where Horticulturists could obtain a wide variety of information regarding species and cultivars.

*Taxonomic Information on Cultivated Plants in the USDA/ARS Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN)* by John Wiersema of the USDA Systematic Botany and Mycology. Working from the International Organization for Plant Information (IOPI), which is a global plant checklist started in 1991, GRIN catalogues the Families and Genera of Spermatophytes.

*The "New Nomenclature": Implications of the Tokyo Code for Stability of Plant Names* by John McNeill of the Royal Ontario Museum. By way of explanation, the Tokyo Code is the result of the Fifteenth International Botanical Congress that met in Tokyo during August and September 1993. Meeting every six years to discuss concerns and revisions to plant nomenclature, each conference publishes a code under the auspices of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy. Each Congress is named after the city in which the meeting was held. For example, in 1987, the Fourteenth International Botanical Congress which met in Berlin produced the "Berlin Code," while the 1999 meeting in St. Louis will produce a "St. Louis code," and so on.

The principal change that occurred in the Tokyo Code is that it is no longer necessary to change a plant name, at least in the principal ranks (genus, species) for reasons other than those mandated by new taxonomic insights. While work continues to find further

ways to reduce changes of well-established names, such names should not be displaced for new combinations. What this means is best shown in an example. When Cheng published *Buxaceae* in *Flora Republicae Popularis Sinicae* in 1980, the species name of Korean Boxwood was changed from *Buxus microphylla* var. *insularis* to *B. sinica* var. *insularis*. This botanical name change, from one species to another would not have occurred under the Tokyo Code, which is interested in preserving a well known botanical name. There are many botanists, horticulturists, gardeners, registrars and others that have become confused and frustrated by the sometimes frequent botanical name changes. The Tokyo Code recognizes this instability and has modified the regulations to promote confidence in botanical names.

**Using and Registering Plant Names as Trademarks** by Vincent Gioia of Christie, Parker & Hale. Following this was a panel discussion which included Gioia, Richard Lighty of the Mt. Cuba Center and Rick Darke of Longwood Gardens. This topic continues to be a controversial one. This discussion refers only to U.S. patents and trademarks. Most countries have regulations that differ from the U.S.. The registration of a cultivar name by an International Registration Authority has no legal standing. The registration of a trademark™ name does have legal standing. A federally registered trademark is denoted as ®. Anyone can use a trademark name if it becomes a generic term. Examples of this include: aspirin, xerox, and kleenex. A cultivar name with no trademark is placed in single quotes, ie.: 'Grace Hendrick Phillips'. A cultivar name with a trademark has no quotation marks. ie.: Crimson Jewel™ a name for a *Bougainvillea* trademarked by Monrovia Nursery Company. A name registered as a cultivar can not be accepted as a trademark name. Also, if a plant has a trademark, or has been federally registered, that name can never be used as a cultivar name when

an International Registration Authority is registering a cultivar name.

To give the reader a familiarity with the symposium and its emphasis, the remaining presentations were:

*Cultion vs. Taxon: A recent Conceptual Development in Cultivated Plant Systematics* by W.L.A. Hetterscheid of the Netherlands

*Standard Specimens* by Diana Miller of the Royal Horticultural Society, U.K.

*The Morton Arboretum: Its Collections and Herbarium* by William J. Hess, Morton Arboretum

*Implications of the Equivalence of Subspecies and Variety, and of the Irrelevance of Forma* by Clement W. Hamilton, University of Washington

*Complexities in the Intraspecific Classification of the Cucurbita Pepo Complex* by Thomas C. Andres, USA

*Pea Pisum sativum Cultivar Registration in the United Kingdom: Classification, Documentation, and Description* by Niall Green, Scottish Agricultural Science Agency, United Kingdom

*On Putting Together a Geographically Based Cultivar List for California to Prepare for a Geographically Based Registration Authority* by Bart O'Brien, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

*A Horticultural Flora for Southeastern Australia and the Greenlife Database™* by Roger D. Spencer, National Herbarium, Australia

*Cultivar Groups in the Genus Tulipa* by Johan Van Scheepen, Netherlands

*Taxonomic Problems of Cultivated Liriopogons* by Paul Fabtz, North Carolina State University

*Triticale Register, an on-line Register* by Bernard Baum, Agriculture Canada, Canada

*Calathea Ornata and Related Species: An Ornate Confusion* by Helen Kennedy, University of British Columbia, Canada

*The American Association of Botanic*

*Garden Plant Collections Consortium* by Judith D. Zuk, Brooklyn Botanic Garden

*The Identification of Cultivated Plants* by Crinan Alexander and Sabina Knees, Royal Botanic Garden, United Kingdom

*'In Gardens of Hawaii' Project: Taxonomy of Cultivated Tropical Plants* by George Staples, Bishop Museum

*Information Technology in Orchid Grex Registration* by Peter F. Hunt, United Kingdom

In addition to a full presentation schedule, there were several formal discussions, and panel presentations which discussed the following topics:

The New Cultivated Code

Patents and Trademarks

Natural Intraspecific Classification

Naming and Publication of New Cultivars

Cultivar Registration and Information Transfer

The Community of Taxonomists of Cultivated Plants

There were poster presentations which included the following topics:

Curtis's Botanical Magazine

Why Do Plants Change Their Names?

A Cultivar/Species Problem

Developing a UK Vegetable Database:

A Resource for Cultivar Registration

The European Garden Flora Project

How to Name Cultivars of Perennials

The Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden

Several tours of facilities at the Center for Urban Horticulture at the University of Washington, gardens and collections were also part of the program. Sites visited were:

Bloedel Reserve

Washington Park Arboretum

Center for Urban Horticulture

The Bellevue Botanical Garden

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The Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection  
Rhododendron Species Botanical  
Garden  
Carl S. English Gardens at the Hiram  
Chittendom Locks

The American Boxwood Society is  
the International Registration Authority

for Cultivated *Buxus*, which Lynn R. Batdorf serves as the Registrar. The Registrar reports to the International Society for Horticultural Science, Commission for Nomenclature and Registration. Participation in commissions and symposia such as The Second International Symposium on the

Taxonomy of Cultivated Plants is important for the ABS and registrar in order to partially fulfill the obligations and responsibilities assigned to them. Lynn R. Batdorf participated in this international symposium for registrars under the auspices of the American Boxwood Society.

## CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:

A bright October day was just right for visiting Ivy Green, the birthplace of Helen Keller (1880-1968).

In 1954, Ivy Green was made a permanent shrine and placed on the

National Register of Historic Places. It is located in Colbert County, Tusculumbia, Alabama, on a 643-acre tract where the main house was built 1820 by the grandparents of Helen Keller.

Here is found the well-pump where

"Helen's spirit was set free." East of the main house is located the cottage where she was born and which served as living quarters for her and her teacher, Anne Sullivan.

Many of the original furnishings,



*Ivy Green, Tusculumbia, Alabama: in the background is the cottage where Helen Keller was born and where she later lived with her teacher, Anne Sullivan. In the foreground are some of the 150-year old boxwoods which form a "room," where Helen Keller may well have played. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)*

Miss Keller's mementos and Braille books, and her original Braille typewriter, remain in the buildings.

The grounds have the traditional southern magnolias, mimosa, roses, honeysuckle, smilax, boxwood and an abundance of ivy from which the name of the place was taken. There have been additions to the landscape, such as the Lion's Club International Memorial Fountain, the "Clearing," and herb gardens.

The town celebrates with a week-long Helen Keller Festival in June, which marks the beginning of the outdoor performances of William Gibson's play, *The Miracle Worker*, at Ivy Green. The play continues week-ends from late June through late July.

Decca Frackelton  
Fredericksburg, Virginia



At Ivy Green, these boxwood of a more recent date lead to an area of interesting plantings, including a "Moon" tree. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)

## NOTICES

### Boxwood Walk May 17; 10 a.m.

Meet Curator Lynn R. Batdorf in the Boxwood parking area at the U.S. National Arboretum, New York Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C., for a free tour of the Arboretum Boxwood Collection.

### Penelope Hobhouse is Coming to Richmond May 9-10, 1995

Structure and ornament in garden design will be the focus for the fourth annual Gillette Forum. The afternoon program on May 9 will be a hands-on

Master Class, taught by Ms. Hobhouse, one of England's foremost garden authorities.

The program on May 10 will take place at the Jefferson Hotel and will consist of lectures and lunch, followed by a motor coach tour of five of Richmond's most glorious gardens. Featured speakers in addition to Ms. Hobhouse will be Jack Sullivan, a recipient of the Rome Prize in Landscape Architecture and Kent Brinkley, Resident Landscape Architect at Colonial Williamsburg.

The Gillette Forum is sponsored by The Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond, Virginia (804) 262-9887.



*Buxus sempervirens 'Aurea Pendula'*, the Golden Weeping Boxwood, as seen at the U.S. National Arboretum.

#### In Memoriam

Mrs. George Harnsberger  
Member since 1985  
Mrs. Pierre L. Rougny  
Charter and Life Member

#### CORRECTION

The Golden Weeping boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens 'Aurea Pendula'* (see photo), was incorrectly named on page 50 of the January 1995 issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin* (Vol. 34, No. 1).



## Dues Increase Voted

At the Winter Board Meeting held at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., the Directors of the American Boxwood Society voted unanimously to raise the dues of the Society to the levels outlined below. As President of the Society, I fully support this increase and want to take this time to express the rationale underlying the decision.

The present \$15 dues have been in effect for eight years. The primary reason for an increase is that during the past eight years the costs of services to the members have increased substantially. Secondly, the board has a vision of service to the membership and a commitment to research and development which cannot be funded by the present dues structure. The research which we support is on important topics such as root diseases, propagation, and nutrients; these are topics from which members benefit directly, in having

sound growing and maintenance principles available to them. In fact, this research information will be available in *The Boxwood Handbook*, which Mr. Lynn Batdorf has compiled and written. The publication date for this invaluable resource will be announced soon.

In addition, the Society is continuing its support of the development of the Memorial Garden at Blandy and has completely funded the irrigation system for the garden. This garden is our "museum" and present plans are for our 1997 Annual Meeting to be held at Blandy Experimental Farm in order that members may view the completed project. Finally, interest in the Society is reflected by our membership, which has increased significantly over the last few years. Consequently, the administrative duties of our Executive Secretary, Mrs. Katherine Ward, have increased proportionally.

This dues increase is a very positive sign of the vitality and health of The American Boxwood Society. Members who have attended the annual meetings in Williamsburg over the last two years have seen the very positive interest in, and reaction to those programs. I am confident that the upcoming meeting will continue to stimulate members' interest and bring new registrants. I encourage all members to become actively involved in the Society and to communicate ideas and suggestions to the officers and the Board.

### New Membership Rates (effective May 1, 1995):

Individual	\$25
Family	\$35
Contributing	\$50
Sustaining	\$75
Life	\$500

## ABS Winter Board Meeting — January 14, 1995

The winter meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Saturday, January 14 at 11 a.m. at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. In attendance were President Dr. Stephen D. Southall, Vice President Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Treasurer Mrs. Katherine D. Ward, Secretary Mrs. Scot Butler and Directors Lynn R. Batdorf, Dr. Henry Frierson, Mrs. Sigrid Harriman, Richard D. Mahone, and Steve Zapton.

Mr. Batdorf, graciously hosting the meeting, conducted a tour of the Arboretum Boxwood Collection. The Board was delighted and enthusiastic to see so many beautiful plants of all ages in magnificent condition. Old specimens of *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Morris Dwarf' and 'Morris Midget' and of *B. microphylla* 'Grace Hendrick Phillips' were especially remarkable.



Lynn R. Batdorf gives ABS Board members a tour of the Boxwood Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum, January 14, 1995. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)

After a generous lunch arranged by Mr. Batdorf, Dr. Southall called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. The minutes of the Fall Board Meeting on September 8, 1994 and of the Executive Committee on October 27 were approved.

Arrangements for the Annual Meeting on May 19 and 20, 1995 in Williamsburg were discussed. It was noted that a larger room is needed for the Friday evening talk. Speakers were proposed, as was a tour of boxwood plantings on the campus of the College of William & Mary.

The Friday workshop from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. will include an open question and answer session for all participants and Board members, a presentation on boxwood taxonomy by Lynn Batdorf, and Joan Butler will give background information on the boxwood cultivars to be offered at the annual auction. Saunders Brothers Nursery will provide gift boxwood plants to those in attendance.

A committee composed of Mrs. Harriman, Dr. Frierson and Mr. Zapton will plan for the 1996 Annual Meeting. They have suggested Charlottesville, Virginia on May 24 and 25, 1996. The May 1997 meeting will probably be scheduled at Blandly Farm, the State Arboretum of Virginia, in Boyce, Va. The spring 1995 Board meeting will be held from 10:00-12:00 a.m. on Friday, May 19, 1995, in Williamsburg, preceding the Annual Meeting.

Mr. Batdorf reported that the North American Plant Consortium has been working to establish national plant collections; the U.S. National Arboretum applied for this status for its boxwood collection, under Mr. Batdorf as curator. After a visit and evaluation by a representative of the Consortium (consideration of site, records and mapping) the Arboretum has been designated as the National *Buxus* Collection. Mr. Batdorf brought copies of an article on boxwood which had appeared in *The Washington Post* on December 15 giving correct pruning instructions with illustrations.

Mr. Batdorf expects that Editor John McCarthy will have the draft of the *Handbook* completed in February and that perhaps the book could be available at the Annual Meeting. It will be printed on acid-free recycled paper and will be soft bound; and will contain 51 photographs. Many courtesy and complimentary copies will be distributed; hopefully it will be reviewed in a large-circulation horticultural publication. The *Buyer's Guide* will be sent to the editor as soon as the *Handbook* goes to the printer.

The Treasurer's report, showing balances of \$26,166.78 in the checking account and \$22,822.09 in a certificate of deposit, was accepted.

Mrs. Butler suggested that the Society might wish to contribute to the remodeling of the old classroom at Blandly Farm, a project of the Friends of the State Arboretum (FOSA), which will result in a fine meeting area with kitchen and bathroom facilities, an attractive place to hold ABS meetings. It was agreed to postpone a decision until the May Board meeting.

The Research Committee (Mrs. Butler) will contact Mr. Richard Hawke at the Chicago Botanic Garden to undertake a second boxwood cultivar

evaluation project; all the plants in the first test failed to survive last winter's temperatures (-20°F in Glencoe, Ill.)

Mrs. Butler reported on progress in the Boxwood Memorial Garden at Blandly Farm. Most cultivars of the *microphylla* species have been moved to their permanent locations in the new garden design, with taller-growing plants to the rear and dwarfs at the front of the bed. Further planting will probably be postponed until fall 1995, as plants should not be moved after new spring growth begins.

Discussion followed on the necessity for a dues increase after May 1, 1995. New levels of Individual \$25; Family \$35; Contributing \$50; Sustaining \$75; Life \$500, will be announced in a forthcoming issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*. Expenses for printing and mailing the *Bulletin* continue to rise. It has been eight years since the last dues change.

The nominating Committee, chaired by Mrs. Tyra Sexton, will prepare a slate for presentation at the Annual Meeting.

In the future Board meetings will be held in January, May and September.

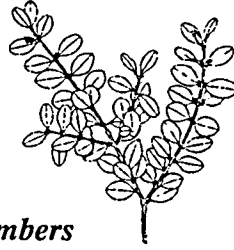
*Mrs. Scot Butler, Secretary*



*A 25-year old Buxus microphylla 'Grace Hendrick Phillips' at the U.S. National Arboretum Boxwood Collection.*

# The Seasonal Gardener

Practical tips for boxwood enthusiasts from Society members



## Plastic? Earthworms say "No"

Spring is the time of year when we all want to get out and "spruce up" our gardens. Because of time pressure we also want to create an environment as maintenance-free as possible. One way that we can improve the long-term appearance and cut down on future weeding is by applying a layer of plastic covered with mulch. Plastic has come into our lives in many and various ways over the last two decades. It has been used as a weed barrier in gardens and in the nursery industry as a whole. In many instances it is an ideal barrier in both preventing weed growth and conserving moisture. However, there are some negative effects of using plastic as a barrier.

Non-porous plastic is a total barrier, it keeps weeds from coming through but it also keeps everything else both above and below from crossing the barrier. Air and water are unable to move down, and healthy bacteria and earthworms are unable to move across the barrier. A healthy soil is a mixed soil, one in which the natural environmental elements are allowed to move back and forth. This is not possible with a plastic barrier. Normally, mulch is a very healthy ingredient to add to soil not simply because it looks attractive but because it adds organic matter. The organic matter, even though it is initially placed on the top, eventually works its way down into the soil through the action by earthworms, bacteria, and other natural processes. Organic matter contributes to a healthier soil through a greater water and nutrient holding capacity, greater aeration, and an environment which is generally more conducive for all living organisms. These characteristics are the key to a healthy soil. Without them, the roots of plants do not have an appropriate environment to survive and feed the upper part of the plant.

Plastic prevents all of the above processes from occurring. The lower layer of soil becomes totally

isolated from the above. All of the naturally-occurring processes which allow air and organics to move into the lower layers of soil are prevented. Earthworms and bacteria then have no reason to either stay in the lower area or come to the area. Earthworms not only help create a healthy soil but they are an index of the health of the soil. The same is true of bacteria and microbes, but we can more readily see the earthworms.

Plastic also contributes to a two-layer root system. In moving boxwoods which have been grown around plastic for a few years I have noticed that there are roots both above and below the plastic. As mulch has been added around the plant and built up, roots have developed and created this two-layer system. It is interesting to note the difference between the soil above and below the plastic. The soil below is more compacted and dense and lacks the color of organics. The soil above is aerated and loose with the dark color of organics and even smells differently. The plastic has created two very different environments, isolating each, and preventing any interaction between the two.

Ironically, in putting mulch over plastic, the plastic's original purpose of preventing weed growth is usually not accomplished. Weed seeds fall in the mulch and the rotting organics provide an ideal environment for germination. Mulch without plastic will provide all of the positive aspects of applying plastic, like water retention, while avoiding all of the negative effects of the plastic. Your garden environment will be filled with living organisms below the surface which are working constantly to improve your soil and give you a more healthy environment for your plants.

*Stephen D. Southall*  
English Boxwoods of Virginia

