

# The *Boxwood* Bulletin

*A Quarterly Devoted to Man's Oldest Garden Ornamental*



*Bay facade of Whitehall, visited on the ABS Annual Meeting Tour, Saturday, June 3, 2000. See story on page 7. (Photo: Scot Butler)*

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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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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. Thomas Saunders  
2498 Tye Brook Hwy.  
Piney River, Va. 22964

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Technical articles, news, history, lore, notes, and photographs concerning boxwood specimens, gardens or plantings are solicited for possible publication in *The Boxwood Bulletin*. Material should be submitted to:

Chairman, Bulletin Committee  
1714 Greenway Drive  
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# ABS 40th Annual Meeting Held

June 2-3, 2000; Annapolis, Maryland

Sigrid Georgii Harriman

Thanks to an offer last year from ABS Director, Dr. Gary Richardson, to make the arrangements, the 40th ABS Annual Meeting was held in Annapolis, Maryland this year. Through their familiarity with people and places in the capital of Maryland, Dr. and Mrs. Richardson put together a program of excellence, including visits to private gardens and estates not otherwise open to outsiders.

Annapolis is a city of historic importance, having served as the first peacetime capital of the United States in 1783 and 1784 when Congress assembled there. Today there is much to see and do in Annapolis. It contains fine examples of American architectural styles from the early eighteenth century on. The U.S. Naval Academy (1845) and St. John's College (1784) are both open to visitors. The historic State House (1772) and many other buildings of architectural merit offer guided tours. The Annapolis waterfront always teems with activity. Some ABS members and/or their spouses found time to visit one site or more, thereby increasing their appreciation of the new location for our annual meeting.

Two days filled with boxwood-related activities - lectures, demonstrations, an auction, and visits to wondrous places amidst *Buxus* - formed the well-structured 40th annual meeting of the American Boxwood Society. The meeting was held at the Sheraton Barcelo Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. Participants had ideal weather conditions: Friday, the 2nd of June, was the hottest day of the season; we, however, enjoyed interesting talks in the insulated garden room of the hotel. Thunder and lightning, followed by a heavy

downpour, formed the background to a stimulating pre-dinner talk on the preservation history of Annapolis. This was followed by fine food served to participants. Saturday started cool and clear and was most conducive to walking through one beautiful garden after another. Great planning and adherence to a well-prepared schedule got us on and off the bus and into and out of gardens. Many thanks to Dr. Gary Richardson and his wife, Mary, for being such outstanding planners, organizers, and last but not least, hosts at their lovely home and garden in historic Annapolis.

## Paul M. Saunders: Report on the National Boxwood Trials

Paul Saunders of Saunders Bros. Orchard and Nursery was the first speaker. He reported on the growing data being collected and ready for evaluation in the privately-initiated National Boxwood Trials. The mission of the trials is, with the help of arboreta, botanical gardens, nurseries, and individuals, to evaluate different boxwood cultivars in different environments and to find the most "grower-friendly" plants. This is determined on the basis of growth habit, hardiness, ease of care, resistance to insect infestation and minimal winter discoloration. Eighty-four cultivars are presently under observation, and are grouped as follows: upright (3), very dwarf (5), slightly dwarf (4), medium bush (10), others (60). Forty-seven reporting sites (23 arboreta, 20 individuals, 4 nurseries) have increased the overall information and several boxwood cultivars are emerging as

frontrunners. They are 'Vardar Valley', beauty with few problems, 'Dee Runk', best in upright habit, 'John Baldwin', the stately grower, and others. Mr. Saunders also likes *B. sinica* var. *insularis* 'Nana', 'Jim's True Spreader', 'Justin Brouwers' and the Sheridan green hybrids.

Mr. Saunders mentioned Fred Spicer, Jr. of New Jersey who evaluated 79 cultivars and will be presented his year 2000 Jefferson cup. Scarff's nursery in Ohio has contributed substantial data to the study as the rough climate in western Ohio creates a special challenge to boxwood growers.

Mr. Saunders said he remembered planting 77 boxwood slips on a windswept hillside in 1947, adding new plants to his "other greenery"—apples and peaches. The operation has grown ever since. He sees a return to more demand for boxwood by homeowners. It is now up to the trade to convince buyers that there is "life after English boxwood" and make them aware of other, more reliable, cultivars. His talk was accompanied by a number of slides.

The evaluation sheets for year 2000 contain the preprinted names of 26 cultivars to be evaluated by cooperators with spaces for more cultivars if needed. Entries follow the same format as in the two previous years: number tested, age, environmental factors, insect damage, and acceptability to environment. As Mr. Saunders distributed copies of his NBT cumulative report for 1998-99, dated May 30, 2000, he could not conceal his enthusiasm for boxwood and his optimism about its future in the nursery trade and widespread use in the landscape. He also gave his

personal evaluation of many cultivars planted in various locations, some of which he pictured on the screen. He observed that some cultivars do very well under one set of conditions but poorly under another. Saunders Bros., he said, has now furnished 1,230 plants for testing at 23 arboreta. There are now 17 reporting sites, some with multiple evaluators. Mr. Saunders concluded his introduction to the NBT 2000 report with the following statement of purpose:

“Additional data in future years along with this data will give even more accurate information concerning the adaptability of the best boxwood cultivars in differing microenvironments.”

#### **Stratton Semmes, Landscape Architect**

Stratton Semmes, landscape architect, graduated from the University of Michigan. She designed the Richardson garden and has worked in creating other beautiful gardens in Annapolis and Washington, D.C. Ms. Semmes' topic was to be “Use of Boxwood in Small Gardens.” Instead, she gave a slide presentation on the use of boxwood on the large plantations and farms of the Eastern Shore for practical as well as ornamental purposes. The large gardens, now overgrown by vines and brush, were tended with slave labor, but the massive farms used boxwood, along with trees, to separate farm fields and lawns. As a landscape architect and designer of outdoor spaces she is interested in a great variety of plant material and her palette includes boxwoods only as an accent plant, not to define a focal point, create a vista, or lead toward a hidden resting place. This became clear when touring the Richardson garden on Saturday, a perfectly designed small garden surrounding a pool, flanked by towering crape myrtles ‘Natchez’ and

flowering cherries. Boxwoods are tucked into corners and line some of the walks.

Her slide presentation included Poplar Grove, an early 18th-century estate that is reverting to nature in the most graceful way. One can still see the cruciform shape of the design from the house to the river and to other buildings on the estate. Some of the boxwoods are about 13 feet tall and a former parterre “looks like jungle.” Many hollies have grown into large trees. A massive lawn is lined with specimen trees. Some boxwood rooms looked quite overwhelmed by growth. Compton near Easton has a terraced lawn sloping down toward the water. These earth terraces, built entirely by hand, are spectacular and mature red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) are the shade trees of choice. Rows of large boxwoods separate roses from farmed fields.

Ratcliff Manor was the next country garden. It dates from the 1760s and has not been altered, just taken care of during the intervening years. It was a large plantation with classic box-wood gardens, a wide lawn ramped with boxwood and terraced toward the river.

Many of the boxwoods are about 250 years old. A farmhouse nearby at Lloyd's Landing has its main axis lined with boxwood.

Judith's Garden, another old place near Oxford, has a 100-yard walk lined with boxwoods leading to the old privy. At the Neal house in Easton the central or main axis is also lined with boxwood, fronted by perennials and finished with brick borders.

Stratton Semmes referred to a book by Katherine Scarborough, *Homes of the Cavaliers*, New York, McMillan, 1930. Some of the gardens are featured in this book. Her presentation was lively and informative and provided all with a good background

for the following day's garden tour.  
**Jim McDaniel, Head Gardener at Ladew Gardens**

Jim McDaniel, head of Ladew Gardens, graduated from the University of Maryland and was section head of topiary and rose gardens for ten years at Longwood Gardens before coming to Ladew near Monkton, Md. His opening gesture was to present ABS with a small brochure, printed in 1925 by Canterbury Nursery, titled *Little Book of Boxwood*.

Mr. Harvey Ladew, (1907-1976) owned and created Ladew Gardens. He grew up on Long Island and was a great fox hunter in Harford County, Maryland. The first garden he created was a topiary hunt scene (five hounds and one fox sprinting across a large meadow). The 22-acre garden has a number of garden rooms—Victorian, berry, pink, white, yellow, red, rose, cutting, sculpture, orchard—as well as English perennial borders.

Ladew is a historic garden and its interpretation and upkeep has to be in the spirit of the time it was created. For instance, using ‘Vardar Valley’ boxwood is appropriate because the cultivar was introduced by D. Wyman in *Arnoldia* in 1957. The Victorian garden's historic structures of wrought iron—urns, planters, and arbors require seasonal plant material used in those days. The berry garden contains shrubs and perennials bearing berries in the fall and is a virtual feast for birds and other small animals. This garden closes to the public each October 31.

The pink, red, rose, white and yellow gardens are filled with respective colors and quite overwhelming. The orchard garden, or Garden of Eden, has apple and crab apple trees as well as azaleas. A statue of Eve giving Adam an apple is in the center of the garden.

Mr. McDaniel described with

great enthusiasm the various aspects of his work at Ladew, finding the right flowers, the right shades of colors, the best plants that would have been available in Mr. Ladew's lifetime. But his most enjoyable task is the regular shaping of the topiaries which are spread throughout Ladew. He said that one year the hounds look somewhat pregnant and the next year they become too thin; it is always a bit unpredictable what the shape will be. Most topiaries are yew or privet. Colorful slides accompanied his presentation.

### ABS Annual Business and Board of Directors Meetings

The last events on the morning program were the Society's 40th annual business and governing board meetings. The minutes of both meetings are printed on pages 19-20.

### Chase Rosade: Use of Boxwood in Bonsai

Following the lunch break, Chase Rosade, the proprietor of Rosade Bonsai Studio in New Hope, Pa. was the next speaker. He is widely known as an educator, lecturer, and designer of Bonsai. His studio offers workshops teaching basics and general techniques to create a Bonsai. Bonsai is the art of controlled growth of plants in containers. The Chinese began the art of Bonsai and the Japanese refined it.

Control of size and shape is achieved by careful pruning of branches as well as reduction of roots. Mr. Rosade met Henry Hohman of Kingsville Nurseries in 1965 and was introduced to *B. microphylla* 'Compacta', which was dubbed "Kingsville Dwarf" by Donald Wyman of Arnold Arboretum. This cultivar is very suited for Bonsai. Mr. Rosade prefers fir bark, turkey grit, and river sand for soil medium, using



Chase Rosade brought these Bonsai for display during his lecture. (Photos: Decca Frackelton)



Chase Rosade displays 'Curly Locks' Bonsai he had just created.

equal parts of each. He uses Osmocote or Peters to fertilize, waters almost daily, and repots the plants every 3-4 years, keeping them outdoors or in sheltered area during the winter. He emphasized that Bonsai plants are not house plants.

The second part of his talk was a lively demonstration of the beginnings of a Bonsai. He took a mature 'Curly Locks', held it up high for everyone to see and, turning the pot clockwise, looked for the angle of the single trunk as well as front and back of the plant. With sure movements he performed the first cutting of branches very close to the trunk thus opening the plant to let "air and

butterflies" in. Within minutes he eliminated cross branches, dead branches, any small growth along the trunk. He left alternate, not opposite, branches and created a tree in front of our eyes.

Then he selected a container and pointed out that to the Japanese the tree is the important factor, the container the mere vessel to complement, not to take away from the beauty of the tree. After that he lifted 'Curly Locks' out of the 3-gallon container and began to cut off the lower half of the root ball with a very sharp knife. While turning the plant, he reduced the sides of the root ball another one-third. The plant was ready for its new environment. Was it finished? "No, a finished Bonsai is a dead Bonsai," said Mr. Rosade. "Bonsai is a work in progress."

The plants have to be observed, admired, studied, and brought carefully toward perfection. Mr. Rosade gave an interesting and inspired talk and many of us felt that we wanted to try our hand on this ancient art of Bonsai. Especially in view of the fact that each attendee received his or her own 'Curly Locks', compliments of ABS Vice President Charles Fooks.

## Lynn R. Batdorf: Cultivars of Boxwood

Lynn R. Batdorf manages the National Boxwood Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., and is Registrar for the ABS which is the International Registration Authority for Cultivated *Buxus* L. He is also the author of the *Boxwood Handbook* which is in its second printing.

He began his slide presentation on cultivars of boxwood by showing pictures of the J. Paul Getty Museum in California. There is a 1.2 mile walk lined with *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica*. This was before the renovation and transformation of the museum. What has happened to those plants? We can only hope that someone saved them.

The National Arboretum has a collection of 137 boxwood cultivars making it perhaps the largest collection of boxwood in the U.S. He bemoaned the fact that to this day, people want only "English" or edging boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa') to line their beds and parterres. Copying the French and English garden styles is the greatest flattery that has been perpetuated here. Next he showed a topiary pseudo-bonsai that can be found in Williamsburg and other cultivars. *Buxus balearica* from the east coast of Spain has a large leaf size and can grow up to 30' high. It grows in the north of Africa and, in the past, was harvested in Rome. *Buxus microphylla* 'Compacta' is the slowest-growing boxwood. 'Curly Locks' and 'Grace Hendrick Phillips' have both somewhat twisted leaves, they grow with gnarly, twisted branches, but can become quite wide with small leaves. *Buxus harlandii* is a unique species and was discovered in China in 1858. *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Morris Midget' and 'Morris Dwarf' do not like sun. *Buxus sempervirens*

'Elegantissima' was first grown in Europe during the 1860s. It is one of the best variegated boxwoods with small leaves. 'Graham Blandy', registered in 1985, grows 11 feet high in 20 years. 'Dee Runk', another upright boxwood, has a more perpendicular, narrow angled branching with bluish leaves. It is more disease resistant than 'Graham Blandy'.

Mr. Batdorf also spoke about transplanting, fertilizing and pest control of boxwood. Some basic rules include shallow planting in well drained soil, dappled to deep shade, good air circulation, and regular thinning of 'Suffruticosa'. Do not remove snow or ice from plants, let snow and ice melt slowly. Generally boxwoods are very hardy and low maintenance plants that add beauty and style to every garden.

## Naomi Kinard: Preservation Story of Annapolis

Naomi Kinard, a long-time resident of Annapolis, has been involved in the preservation story of the city for many years. Annapolis was first settled by Puritans from Virginia who named it Providence. As the settlement spread across the Severn river it was renamed Annapolis after Queen Anne. It was soon one of the finest and most sophisticated cities of the new colonies with two great circles - state and church.

In 1695 Annapolis became the capitol of Anne Arundel County. The Maryland State House was completed in 1790. The church at Church circle is in the romanesque revival style. Ms. Kinard said that there is no finer sight when approaching downtown Annapolis then to see the spires of St. Mary's and St. Anne's. The actual fight against urban renewal began in early 1980 when the Main Street traffic problem became a point of heated discussion. Many 17th- and 18th-century houses were slated for

demolition to make room for high rise parking and office buildings. Concerned citizens formed interest groups and circulated petitions, raised needed funds and began to wage a successful campaign against urban renewal and sprawl. State government buildings in the northern part of the city were built in "phony" colonial style, but they fit into the overall appearance of a historic city. To date, 1735 vernacular shingle-sided houses and Victorian style commercial buildings have been surveyed. About 1,500 historic buildings in one square mile. Several buildings had to be relocated. A 1726 building was moved at a cost of \$25,000. It stands now at St. John's College. The Garden Club paid to move a 200-year-old building. A 1714 building was also moved and, after restoration, serves now as headquarters of the Historic Society of Annapolis. The Society also raised enough money to save the Paca House and to restore its garden. The dock area is vital to Annapolis, it reflects its historic importance for the



Auction plants being studied. Planter in foreground was presented to Mrs. Frackelton.

tobacco and shipping industries, among others. In this respect Annapolis differs from Williamsburg as it is a living city to this day. Throughout her slide presentation, Ms. Kinard mentioned an architect—James Woodburch—as the important restorer/re-creator of historic buildings and builder of new buildings that blend into the overall picture of the city of Annapolis.

### Boxwood Plant Auction

The auction was held following the last speaker of the day. John W. Boyd III, ABS auctioneer, managed to raise the bidding to great heights. All plants were donated by members



*Betty Weber admires auction plants they bid in.*



*Buxus microphylla 'Curly Locks' gift plants on display. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)*

of the Society and all receipts are scheduled to support educational activities of ABS.

A good selection of boxwood cultivars, almost all in pairs, was auctioned off. As a bonus every registrant received from ABS Vice-President Charles T. Fooks a gift of a 'Curly Locks' boxwood from his nursery. (For a list of plants sold at the auction see page 15.)

*Scot Butler contributed to this report.*



*Unmindful of storm outside, John Boyd, Charlie Fooks and George Schumacher enjoy their dessert. (Photo: Clyde Weber)*

## Annual Meeting Boxwood Tour Saturday, June 3, 2000

Scot Butler

Following a severe thunderstorm the evening before our tour, Saturday dawned clear and fresh with a cool temperature that lasted all day. The morning tour took us to gardens at two magnificent estates outside of Annapolis.

### Holly Beach Farm

The first was Holly Beach Farm situated on a promontory bordered by the Chesapeake Bay and Whitehall Creek. Once a tract of 3,500 acres when acquired by the Labrot Family

in the nineteenth century it is now an estate of 26 acres. The property was purchased in 1995 by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Munz who have spared no expense in improving and maintaining the grounds in a natural state of beauty. A handsome mansion in the English Regency style commands the parklike setting. The beauty of the grounds is hard to describe given the extravagant variety of plant material. A variety of deciduous trees shade a lush green lawn while large specimens of American holly, Southern magnolia and Atlas blue cedar add rich texture to the landscape. Of special note is a 400-year old oak, the second largest in Maryland after the famous Wye oak.

The extensive English garden consists of a series of large "rooms," one leading into another through a variety of transitional passageways in the form of allees, arbors and avenues. The "rooms" include a pond garden, a hillside garden, a crab apple



*Holly Beach Farm as seen from the land approach, with clumps of Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa' in front (Photo: Sigrid Harriman)*



*This magnificent oak, the second largest in Maryland, is at Holly Beach Farm. (Photo: Scot Butler)*



*Holly Beach Farm's rose garden has eight wedge-shaped parterres edged with dwarf boxwood. (Photo: Sigrid Harriman)*





At Holly Beach Farm this brick gazebo overlooks Chesapeake Bay. (Photo: Clyde Weber)



It took five adults to reach around the trunk of Holly Beach Farm's ancient oak. (Photo: Clyde Weber)

garden, a perennial garden, a hydrangea garden and a rose garden in eight wedge-shaped parterres edged with boxwood. Crape Myrtle, Wisteria and Virginia Cedar (*Juniper*) are used, among other plant materials, in the connecting passageways. A brick gazebo surmounted by a dove-cote stands on a rise overlooking the Chesapeake Bay.

Clumps of large "English" boxwood planted throughout the grounds and around the foundation of buildings were of special interest to ABS members. All of them were in mint condition and exuded the aromatic scent for which they are famous.

## Whitehall

Directly across Whitehall Creek from Holly Beach Farm, but some distance by road, stands Whitehall, an architectural gem built in 1764-65 for then British Governor, Horatio Sharpe.

Whitehall was purchased in 1949 by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scarlett, Jr., who undertook restoration of the house.

Mrs. Scarlett opened the house so that we could see the interior with its magnificent carved woodwork generally attributed to architect/joiner William Buckland who spent his last years in Annapolis, dying there in 1774.

In design, the house is a fine American example of the Anglo-Palladian style, being built in five parts.\* It extends almost 200 feet in length and is distinguished by a two-story great hall with a 20-foot covered ceiling. The hall is flanked by two drawing rooms, each of which leads through "hyphens" to pavilion wings, probably added about 1769, on either end.



Land approach to Whitehall, showing a pavilion wing and clusters of boxwood. (Photo: Scot Butler)

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 \*Henry Chandlee Forman, an authority on early American architecture, has pointed out that although Whitehall is conventionally classified as late Georgian in style, "it is believed by some to have been the 'earliest essay' of the temple shape in the domestic architecture of this country."... Believed to have been designed by Joseph Horatio Anderson, Whitehall was at first only a guest house or villa for country entertaining... The large front porch with its four colossal fluted Corinthian columns has been compared to a Greek temple portico...

Whitehall is believed to have anticipated by thirty years the Greek temple home in this country, and will hold that place in architectural history until an earlier example is found." (*Maryland Architecture*, Tidewater Publishers, Cambridge, Maryland, 1968, p.68.)

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 This estate also exhibits beautiful grounds and plantings as well as a sweeping view from the portico to the Bay. Large stands of "English"

boxwood adorn both the land and water entrances of the house, dispensing in the air what Oliver Wendell Holmes called “the fragrance of eternity.” Many large trees, both deciduous and evergreen, add to the stateliness of the grounds. A long walkway leading from the house to the water’s edge is lined on either side with American hollies of enormous age and size. Also on the estate, near Whitehall Creek, is a 400-year old “little house” which the Scarletts moved from the Eastern Shore via the Bay Bridge in the wee hours of morning to avoid snarling traffic on the bridge.

Ample time was allowed at both Holly Beach Farm and Whitehall to wander leisurely over the grounds, drink in the beauty, take pictures and, most of all, try and identify plants or discuss them with kindred souls.



*Boxwood on the lawn at Whitehall. (Photo: Clyde Weber)*



*The vista from the mansion at Whitehall, looking toward the Bay. (Photo: Sigrid Harriman)*



*At Whitehall, a 400-year-old “little house,” which was moved from the Eastern Shore. (Photo: Clyde Weber)*

### **Watergate Village**

Our tour bus returned to Annapolis around noon, and we proceeded to eat a hearty box lunch at Watergate Village, a senior citizen complex. We had a choice of sitting indoors at a table or outdoors at a picnic table on a wharf overlooking the marina. Despite a stiff breeze most of our group opted to sit outside and enjoy the sunshine and the boats plying the water.

## Hammond-Harwood and Chase-Lloyd Gardens

It was a short trip to the heart of the historic district where we visited the gardens of two illustrious town houses, both associated with William Buckland: the Hammond-Harwood House (1774-1775)—considered one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in this country—and the Chase-Lloyd House (1771-1773)—the only three-story house in Annapolis today that predates the American Revolution.

Both houses are open to the public at specified times, courtesy of the Hammond-Harwood House Association and the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, respectively. Because of time limitations the ABS tour party visited only the gardens located behind the houses.

The plan of the Hammond-Harwood House garden on page 12 identifies all the plants and where they are growing.

The frequency of the letter B (= “English” boxwood) gives some idea of its dominance in the garden. But this indicator does not convey any idea of the size, beauty or aroma of these billowing green shrubs that were such an integral part of eigh-



*Garden side of Hammond-Harwood House where many interesting plants blend with massive boxwood. (Photo: Scot Butler)*

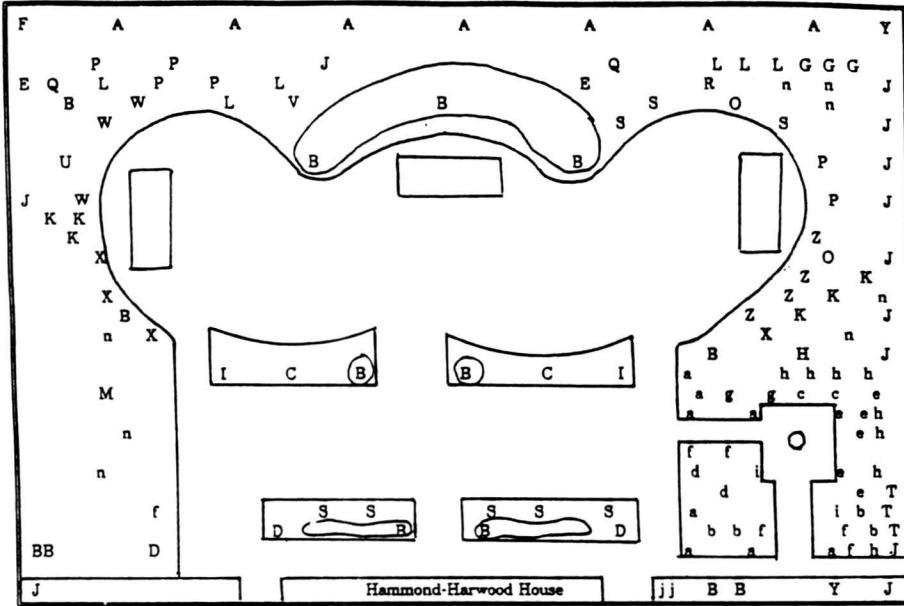


*Hammond-Harwood House with massive boxwood at the entrance. (Photo: Scot Butler)*



*A bench where one can rest a bit in the setting of billowing boxwood and gentle breezes. (Photo: Scot Butler)*

Guide to the Hammond-Harwood Garden .



GARDEN

- A Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)
- B English Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa')
- C Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)
- D English Yew (*Taxus baccata*)
- E Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
- F Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
- G Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)
- H Golden Rain (*Koeleruteria paniculata*)
- I Golden Chain (*Laburnum x waterii*)
- J American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)
- K Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*)
- L Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)
- M Sweet shrub (*Calycanthus florida*)
- N Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutiflora*)
- O Flowering Quince (*Chaenomeles lagenaria*)
- P Inkberry (*Ilex gabra*)

- Q Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
- R Japanese Pieris (*Pieris japonica*)
- S Stinking Hellebore (*Helleborus foetidus*)
- T Epimedium (*Epimedium grandiflorum*)
- U Chaste Tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*)
- V Japanese Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)
- W Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla vulgaris*)
- X Lamb's Ear (*Stachys olympica*)
- Y Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis integrifolia*)
- Z Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*)

HERB GARDEN

- a Santolina (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*)
- b Iris (*Iridaceae*)
- c English lavender (*Lavandula officinalis*)
- d Salvia (*Salvia azuria grandiflora*)
- e Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)

teenth-century formal gardens. To sit, gaze at, and inhale the fragrance of this plant in the confines of a well-designed formal garden is to experience a sense of serenity unlike any other.

The Hammond-Harwood House, named for its first two owners, faces the Chase-Lloyd House directly across Maryland Avenue. Samuel Chase, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and later became a judge on the U.S. Supreme Court, was unable to complete the house because of its cost, and it was sold to Edward Lloyd IV, a wealthy landowner from Maryland's Eastern Shore. In addition to small gardens on

- f Summer Pink (*Dianthus chinensis*)
- g Golden Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*)
- h Gemander (*Teucrium chamaedrys*)
- i Feverfew (*Chrysanthemum parthenium*)
- j Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris* and *Thymus serpyllum*)

either side, the Chase-Lloyd House boasts a large, almost park-like, garden to its rear. In addition to the ubiquitous "English" boxwood this garden contains many noteworthy plants, large trees and other features which can be enjoyed while sitting on comfortable benches.



The Chase-Lloyd garden enclosed with a brick wall has many interesting plants and features. (Photo: Clyde Weber)



The Chase-Lloyd House in Annapolis has an extensive city garden in back. (Photo: Scot Butler)

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## Acton Hall Garden and Richardson Garden

Our tour of rare gardens under sunny skies was capped with visits to the gardens at Acton Hall and at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Gary Richardson, situated across Franklin Street from each other.

Built c. 1750 as a commodious plantation house rather than a fancy town house, Acton Hall displays massive chimneys which even today serve many working fireplaces. The semi-octagonal back of the house and terraced garden below it look down on Spa Creek where commercial ships once docked. In addition to English boxwood there are many sizable trees in the garden, including a shapely golden rain tree planted by a previous owner as befitting an eighteenth-century garden.



*The ABS group gathering at the entrance to the Richardson home, June 3, 2000. (Photo: Sigrid Harriman)*



*The Acton Hall entrance faces a long expanse of lawn with an entrance court and multi-parking. (Photo: Scot Butler)*

The Richardson's house is a handsome brick house built end-on to the street in 1874. The orientation of the house on the lot permits private entry by way of a deep side garden. The well-known landscape architect Stratton Semmes redesigned this garden in 1990, and the results are most pleasing. Among other things, a screen of ailing dogwoods was replaced with one of crape myrtles which have now achieved mature height. Accents of "English" boxwood, all in robust condition, amid many flowering plants give a sense of structure to the garden. An antique marble bench adds elegance to one room of the garden. While at the Richardson's we were treated to lemonade and cookies prepared by members of the family whom we had the pleasure of meeting.



*The rear facade of Acton Hall facing Spa Creek has a pool on the upper level from which to view the gardens reaching to the water. (Photo: Sigrid Harriman)*



*At the rear of Acton Hall masses of boxwood line the lawn leading to the water. (Photo: Scot Butler)*



*The ABS group enjoying refreshments by the Richardson pool during the tour. (Photo: Clyde Weber)*



Gary Richardson and Lynn Batdorf, with a backdrop of a handsome oakleaf hydrangea in full bloom. (Photo: Sigrid Harriman)

## In Recognition

Thanks to advance, careful planning by the Richardsons, the 40th Annual Meeting of the ABS was absolutely tops.

They organized virtually every aspect of the meeting and tour and they were on hand throughout to see that everything went smoothly. Their choices, from program events to gardens to lodging and meals, reflected a dedication to the best. Annapolis, with its fine gardens, wealth of historic attractions and colorful location proved to be a wonderful place to meet.

On behalf of all who attended this meeting we extend heartfelt thanks to Mary and Gary for all their labors and sacrifices given to making this year 2000 event a truly memorable one.

## Plant List for Annual Boxwood Auction

**'Compacta'** (*B. microphylla*) Very slow-growing hardy plant selected as a seedling in 1912 by William Appleby of Baltimore, Maryland. Also called Kingsville Dwarf Box. Grow in shade for best color. It is prone to sporting, which has resulted in the introduction of sports 'Curly Locks', 'Grace Hendrick Philips', 'Helen Whiting', and 'Sunlight'. It is a good bonsai subject. 25-year-old plants are 10 inches tall and 18 inches across. Hardy to zone 5.

**'Graham Blandy'** (*B. sempervirens*) Has been growing at Blandy Farm, the State Arboretum of Virginia, since the 1930s, its origin unknown. It was named for the donor of Blandy Farm to the University of Virginia. It has an unusual columnar form, tight and very narrow. New spring growth sometimes droops from its own weight. Pinching back 1/3 of new growth helps to maintain shape. A 20-

year-old plant is 9 feet tall and 1-1/2 feet wide. Mature height 15 to 18 feet.

**Sport of 'Compacta'** Provided by Charles Fooks

**'Justin Brouwers'** (*B. sinica* var. *insularis*) [Korean] A seedling selected by J. B. Brouwers a nurseryman in Williamsburg, Virginia. It keeps a dark green color.

**'Morris Midget'** (*B. microphylla* var. *japonica*) One of the seedlings grown by Dr. Skinner when Director of the U.S. Nat. Arb. The plants grow very slowly to form a compact mound. Prefers dappled shade in order to avoid winter bronzing.

**'Latifolia Maculata'** (*B. sempervirens*) Registered 1896. Irregular gold variegation with blotches and stripes. Best gold color is obtained when grown in full sun. Very large mature plant.

**'Dee Runk'** (*B. sempervirens*) This is

a columnar box growing to a height of 12 feet in 25 years with a width of 2 to 2 1/2 feet. It is a dark green and grows to zone 6.

**'John Boyd'** (*B. sempervirens*) This is a dark green plant found by John Boyd, Jr., former director of the ABS. He prizes this most of all the plants he has. The plant grows to 10 feet in height and 8 feet in width and is very hardy.

**'Green Pillow'** (*B. microphylla*) Registered in 1953. Named by Henry Hohman, released in 1953, it grows to 3 1/2 ft. high and 4 ft. wide.

**'Elegantissima'** (*B. sempervirens*) Loose pyramidal shape, and with variegated leaves. Tolerates sun well.

**'Grace Hendrick Phillips'** (*B. microphylla*) Registered in 1967, discovered as a sport of 'Compacta'. It grows to 2' high and more than 3' wide in a mounded form.

- 'Nana'** (*B. sinica* var. *insularis*)  
Registered in 1903. Mounded, compact, yellow green, grows to 3 ft. high and 3 to 3 1/2 ft. wide.
- 'Suffruticosa'** (*B. sempervirens*)  
called "English." Grows to 2 to 3 ft. high and 2-3 ft. wide; medium to dark green, spherical in its growth.
- 'Fastigiata'** (*B. sempervirens*)  
Conical with upright branches, grows to 10 ft. tall and 2-3 ft. wide; dark green. Registered in 1959.
- 'Inglis'** (*B. sempervirens*)  
Registered in 1957. Medium bluish green, it grows to 9-10 ft. in both height and width.
- 'Tennessee'** (*B. sempervirens*).  
Pyramidal, medium green. It reaches 4 ft. in height and 5 ft. in width.
- 'Vardar Valley'** (*B. sempervirens*)  
Registered in 1957; grows to a height of 3 to 4 ft. and width of 6 to 8 ft. Mounded in shape; medium green in color
- 'Green Velvet'** (*hybrid*) registered in 1967, grows to a height of 4-4 1/2 ft., medium green in color with some yellow undertones, somewhat billowy and loose.
- 'Green Mountain'** (*hybrid*) Grows to a height 5 to 6 ft. and width of 6 to 7 ft. Registered in 1967.
- 'Green Mound'** (*hybrid*) Grows to a height of 6 to 7 ft. and 5 to 6 ft. width, pyramidal to globular in shape. Released in 1966 or 1967
- 'Green Beauty'** (*B. microphylla* variety *japonica*) grows to 3 to 4 ft. in height and 4 ft. width. Rounded in shape and loose in habit.
- 'harlandii'** (*B.*) Grows to a vase shape 4 to 5 ft. high and 6 ft. wide; medium green leaf 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 in. long, 3/8 in wide.
- 'Richard'** (*B. harlandii*) Leaf and height similar to *B. harlandii*, has loose form and open habit. Not cold hardy.
- 'Jensen'** (*B. sempervirens*) Growth habits and size similar to 'Suffruticosa', has a bluish cast.
- 'Northern Emerald'** (*B. microphylla*)  
See *The Boxwood Bulletin*, vol.38, no.3, p.45
- Donors at time of printing:  
John W. Boyd, III  
Charles T. Fooks  
Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Jr.  
Clifford Hoffman  
Hildebrant Nurseries  
Tom Saunders  
Jim Saunders  
Paul Saunders  
Aubrey Zaffuto
- John Boyd  
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Phone: 540-362-0064 home;  
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## Attendees

### 40th ABS Annual Meeting June 2-3, 2000

- Mr. Lynn R. Batdorf, U.S. Nat. Arb., Washington, DC  
Ms Olga M. Belchyk, McLean, VA  
Mr. John W. Boyd, III, Roanoke, VA  
Mrs. George Burton, Berryville, VA  
Mr. & Mrs. Scot Butler, Winchester, VA  
Mr. Jan Stephen Carter, Eldersburg, MD  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Reese Corey, Chestertown, MD  
Mr. Jerry E. Dalton, Germantown, OH  
Mr. Joseph M. Della Ratta, Silver Spring, MD  
Mr. Raphael Della Ratta, Silver Spring, MD  
Ms. Joan Erickson, Germantown, OH  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles T. Fooks, Salisbury, MD  
Mrs. Robert L. Frackelton, Fredericksburg, VA  
Miss Carter Frackelton, Fredericksburg, VA  
Dr. & Mrs. Henry F. Frierson, Charlottesville, VA  
Miss Ellen Frierson, Charlottesville, VA  
Mr. & Mrs. K. Lee Hahn, Califon, NJ  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Harriman, Fredericksburg, VA  
Mr. Clifford Hoffman, Flemington, NJ  
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Kelly, Baltimore, MD  
Mr. Stephen B. Kelly, Chevy Chase, MD  
Mrs. Robert Lee McCarty, Alexandria, VA  
Mrs. Charles M. Noone, Williamsburg, VA  
Mrs. Barbara Peters, Alexandria, VA  
Mr. & Mrs. William Plumb, Moorestown, NJ  
Mrs. L. C. Powell, Alexandria, VA  
Dr. & Mrs. Gary Richardson, Annapolis, MD  
Mr. Lowery B. Saunders, Manassas, VA  
Mr. Jim W. Saunders, Piney River, VA  
Mr & Mrs. Paul Saunders, Piney River, VA  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Saunders, Piney River, VA  
Mr. & Mrs. George Schumacher, Turlock, Calif  
Mrs. Robert Smalley, Berryville, VA  
Mr. Stephen Southall, Lynchburg, VA  
Mr. Tony Vlahakis, U.S. Nat. Arb., Washington, DC  
Mrs. Katherine D. Ward, Winchester, VA  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Weber, Bentleyville, PA  
Mr. Charles N. Whelan, Potomac, MD  
Mr. & Mrs. George Wisler, Princeton, NJ  
Ms. Aubrey Zaffuto, Far Hills, NJ
- (List does not include one registrant who canceled because of an emergency and three registrants who did not show.)



## ***B. microphylla*** **'Curly Locks'**

Selected as a sport from 'Compacta' by Henry Hohman of Kingsville Nursery of Kingsville,



*Buxus microphylla 'Curly Locks', the form that is taller than wide, as seen in the Bishop's Garden at the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. (Photo: Decca Frackelton)*

Md., and introduced by him as 'Curly Locks' around 1946. To this day it is often mislabeled in the nursery trade as 'Kingsville', as is 'Compacta'.

Its natural form is about twice as wide as tall with the unusual habit of twisting irregular branches. The color of the foliage is light yellow green. Many of the boxwood cultivars have leaves that are barely distinguishable from one another. The small leaves of 'Curly Locks' have a curious twisting or curling habit that make it unique among the cultivated boxwoods.

Various writers have listed its growth as "30 years, 6' wide and 12' tall, 40 years, 8' tall and 9' wide, 20 years, 2' tall and 4' wide, 10 years 26" tall and 3' wide. The plant pictured was planted in 1987 from a 1-gallon container and is now 14" tall and 28" wide. It is shaded in the morning and afternoon receiving 5 to 7 hours of

direct midday sun depending on the time of year. It has never had a pruning shear to it nor has it been fertilized. The soil evidently contains the proper nutrients to keep it in good color and thrifty condition without rushing growth.

Like 'Compacta', 'Curly Locks'

this purpose. Use it where you need a low cushion mounded form, for example as one would use a 'Helleri' holly. Do not plant in an open wind-swept exposure. Properly sited, it is a most useful low maintenance plant that should give the owner many years of service and pleasure.



*Now 14" tall and 28" wide, this B. microphylla 'Curly Locks' was planted in 1987 from a 1-gallon container. (Photo: Charles Fooks)*

has a tendency to throw sports. Out of a crop of 300 3-gallon container plants we noted 7 sports. The 13-year-old pictured plant has never "sporting" however, and we do not consider this a problem in growing and using this cultivar. If one observes a sport he should simply cut it out before it gets too big.

'Curly Locks' is a good bonsai subject and is quite often used for

Note: This interesting form of *Buxus microphylla* was the gift plant at the ABS Annual Meeting June 2-3, 2000, donated by Charles Fooks of Woodland Nurseries. As noted by Mr. Fooks some forms are taller than wide. (Those attendees who received the sheet on 'Curly Locks' should please correct two typos: the first line should read "Hohman" and 'Curly Locks' should have no "e." )

### **NEWS OF THE SOCIETY**

#### **Minutes of the ABS Spring Board Meeting**

The spring meeting of the Governing Board of The American Boxwood Society was held on Thursday, June 1, 2000 at the Treaty of Paris Restau-

rant at the Maryland Inn in Annapolis, Maryland.

In attendance were Thomas Saunders, President; Charles T. Fooks, First Vice-President; Dr. Henry F. Frierson, Second Vice-President, Katherine D. Ward, Executive

Treasurer; Sigrid G. Harriman, Secretary; Lynn R. Batdorf, Registrar; and the following directors: John W. Boyd III, Scot Butler, Decca Frackelton, Dr. Gary Richardson, Jim W. Saunders and Clyde Weber. Joan Butler attended in her capacity as liaison to the Orland E. White Arboretum and chairman of the ABS Memorial Garden reporting on the Garden at Blandly. Absent were Dr. Michael Bowers, Ian Robertson, Richard Mahone, and Steve Zapton.

The minutes of the Winter Board Meeting, held on February 10, 2000, were approved as published in the April 2000 issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, vol.39, no.4, p.85-87.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mrs. Ward presented the Treasurer's report showing a balance in the checkbook (5/31/00) of \$16,250.60, which includes the special funds. She also reported on the *Boxwood Handbook* sales and stated that a good supply is still on hand. The fifth edition of the *Buyers Guide* is now for sale for \$8. Mrs. Ward asked the Board's consent to invest \$10,000 either in money market or CD. The Board advised her to find the better deal and to go ahead with investing the money. Mrs. Butler reminded her that the brochure for the Memorial Garden will cost about \$1,000.

#### **Committee Reports**

**Nominating Committee:** Mr. Weber had supplied all information in writing. Several directors will complete their term in 2000. They are: Mr. Butler, Mrs. Frackelton, and Dr. Richardson. Mr. Butler asked not to have his term renewed. Mrs. Frackelton and Dr. Richardson had agreed to serve until 2003. The slate of officers will remain the same for another year. A list of potential future nominees was prepared by Mr. Weber with three nominees marked showing their willingness to serve as a director. The Committee chose Ms. Aubrey Zaffuto for the period ending 2003.

**Award Committee Report:** Mr. Weber distributed his Recognition Committee Report which recommended that no award be given at this year's annual meeting. However, he recommended that several names be placed on the list for future recognition at the appropriate time, as each individual achieves his primary goal in research and publication.

#### **Boxwood Memorial Garden:**

Mrs. Butler reported that serious psyllid infestation is troubling the plants. Although the plants were sprayed once in mid-March with insecticidal soap additional foliar spraying is needed.

Mrs. Butler brought a copy of the ABS Memorial Garden poster which had just been finished and is displayed at the Information Kiosk at Blandly. Work on the brochure continues, she hopes it will be ready for Arbor Fest Day.

**Registrar's Report:** Mr. Batdorf reported that he received the proceedings of the International Symposium on the Taxonomy of Cultivated Plants which was held in Edinburgh, Scotland in July 1998.

He brought his copy for interested members to look at. His second report was on the completed fifth edition of *Buyers Guide*, which includes a number of new sources for boxwood cultivars in states such as Texas, Florida, California. The five-year index of the *Bulletin* will be due in April 2001.

Mr. Batdorf also reported on his progress on the Manual. Although he has made substantial progress on it, he feels that completion is at least another year away. At the moment it contains 556 boxwood taxa and 140 registered boxwoods and includes 26 new cultivars. It has thirteen chapters and appendices A-M. Editing and proofing work is still to be done. He reported on his attendance at the Spring Meeting of the European Boxwood and Topiary

Society, May 6-7, 2000. He spoke on boxwood culture with emphasis on pathology.

**Boxwood Bulletin and Membership Report:** Mrs. Frackelton reported an ABS membership of 578 for 1999/2000. To date 18 new members have been registered for the year May 1, 2000 to April 30, 2001. As always she pleaded for submission of articles to be included in *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

#### **Research Committee Reports:**

Dr. Frierson reported that the DNA project dissertation on Cuban boxwoods, conducted by one of Dr. Koehler's students, was finished and that he had received the preliminary report. He will prepare and translate the paper for publication. The evolutionary tree of the study subjects is fairly complex. The study looked at three different genes and found three groups—no differences, contamination, and some variations.

Dr. Frierson reported on the VPI&SU proposal to "develop cultural criteria for the production of boxwood in containers." He proposed that the ABS receive a detailed progress report and also include other cultivars in the study. Joan Butler remarked that it was good to keep the lines of communication open with VPI&SU and to continue to show interest in Dr. Wright's study.

#### **Year 2001 Annual Meeting:**

Katherine Ward and Joan Butler agreed to continue to make arrangements. The meeting will be held at Blandly to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the ABS. The dates are May 17-18, 2001.

Mrs. Ward suggested a "hands on" workshop in the Boxwood Memorial Garden on the first day of the meeting. She asked for suggestions for speakers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Sigrid Georgii Harriman,*  
Secretary

## Minutes of the 40th Annual Business Meeting, June 2, 2000

The business meeting of the ABS was held following the morning presentations at the Sheraton Barcelo Hotel in Annapolis, Md.

President Tom Saunders welcomed all attendees to the ABS Annual Meeting and thanked vice-president Charles Fooks for the generous donation of 'Curly Locks' to each participant. The minutes of the 39th Annual Business Meeting at Richmond, May 21, 1999, were approved as published in *The Boxwood Bulletin* Vol.39, No.1, pp.22-23.

**Treasurer' Report:** Mrs. Ward reported a balance of \$16,250.60 in the checking account as of May 31, 2000. Of that amount she plans to invest \$10,000 either in a CD or in a money market account and report on her action at the fall Board of Director's meeting.

**Registrar's Report:** Mr. Batdorf reported that he received the published proceedings of the International Symposium on the Taxonomy of Cultivated Plants, held in 1998 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He also reported that he received requests for five new boxwood cultivar registrations during the last year. Lastly he reported briefly on the spring meeting of the European Boxwood and Topiary Society. It was held near Liverpool, England. He was one of the speakers and spoke on boxwood cultivars and their diseases.

**The Boxwood Bulletin and Membership:** Mrs. Frackelton reported ABS membership of 578 for fiscal year 2000 with an increase of 18 for the new fiscal year. She reminded all that a renewal envelope was included in the handouts and encouraged participants to renew while at the meeting. As always she

appreciates submissions of articles with or without pictures to be included in *The Bulletin*. President Saunders presented Mrs. Frackelton with a container planted with a boxwood and ivy and thanked her for her tireless work and overall coordination in putting the quarterly publication together, collecting material for the Editor in St. Louis, helping with proofing, taking copy to the printers, stuffing and batching by Zip code and delivering all 600 or so *Bulletins* to the Boyce Post Office. The Society is officially headquartered at Blandy with a Boyce Post Office Box mailing address. Our storage and the ABS Memorial Garden is within the Orland E. White Arboretum, a part of the Blandy complex.

**Boxwood Memorial Garden:** Mrs. Butler reported on her "paper work" for the Memorial Garden. The poster, displayed at the visitor's kiosk, is in place and the brochure will be an extension of the poster with a conceptual plan of the garden and list of all cultivars.

**Research Committee Report:** Dr. Frierson reported on the DNA sequencing study on different boxwood cultivars which has just been finished by a German plant pathologist, Dr. Helmut Koehler and his assistant. Dr. Frierson will invite Dr. Koehler to be a speaker at next year's annual meeting. ABS will pay his travel expenses. Some of Dr. Koehler's research was funded by ABS.

**Nominating Committee Report.** Mr. Weber presented the following slate of officers and directors proposed by the Nominating Committee which was unanimously elected. (The directory of officers and directors will be published on the back of the July issue of the *Bulletin*.)

President: Thomas Saunders  
1st VP: Charles Fooks  
2nd VP: Dr. Henry Frierson

Secretary: Sigrid G. Harriman  
Directors for 3-year term ending 2003:

Decca Frackelton  
Dr. Gary Richardson  
Aubrey Zaffuto

Joan C. Butler was made an Honorary Life Member of The American Boxwood Society in recognition of her many years of service to the Society, including Secretary (1987-May 1998) and for her tireless work as chair of the ABS Boxwood Memorial Garden as well as liaison to the Orland E. White Arboretum. In this capacity she will continue to attend the Governing Board meetings.

**Year 2001 Annual ABS Meeting:** Mrs. Ward reported on her work concerning next year's annual meeting. It will be the 41st Annual Meeting of ABS and celebrate 40 years of the Society. ABS was founded in 1961. The meeting will therefore be held at Blandy, the date has been set for May 17-19, 2001. Possible speakers are Dr. Koehler, Dr. Wright, and Andre Viette.

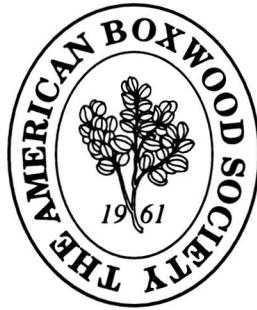
The meeting adjourned at noon.  
*Sigrid Georgii Harriman,*  
Secretary.

## Minutes of Special Meeting of ABS Governing Board, June 2, 2000

A special meeting of the Governing Board was held immediately after the close of the Business Meeting to name one Director to serve on the Executive Committee with the President, 1st Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The newly constituted Executive Committee then appointed a Nominating Committee.

The meeting was promptly adjourned.

*Sigrid Georgii Harriman,*  
Secretary



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