

The

JANUARY 1967

Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



Clipped boxwood maze in the garden of Mrs. J. Hambleton Ober, Baltimore, Maryland (Article on p. 3)

Photograph, Emily Keyes Belt

Edited Under The Direction Of
THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

President ----- Rear Admiral Neill Phillips
1st V. P. ----- Mr. John Mitchell
2nd V. P. ----- Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer ----- Mrs. Clay B. Carr

Directors ----- { Mr. Alden Eaton
Dr. Henry T. Skinner
Dr. W. R. Singleton
Dr. J. B. Wilson
Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting

The Boxwood Bulletin is published four times a year by the American Boxwood Society in the quarters beginning with October, January, April, and July.

A subscription to the Boxwood Bulletin is included as one of the benefits of membership in the American Boxwood Society, with \$2.00 of the dues of each member being allotted for the Bulletin subscription.

The Bulletin is \$5.00 per annum to non-members in the United States and Canada; single numbers are \$1.00 each.

Reprints will be supplied to members and authors at cost but should be ordered at the time of an article's acceptance for publication.

Make cheques payable to the American Boxwood Society.

Except for material copyrighted by the author, or that used by permission of the original copyright holder, all articles and photographs in the Boxwood Bulletin are copyrighted by The American Boxwood Society.

Please address all communications, including manuscripts and change of address to the Boxwood Bulletin, Boyce, Va.

**THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN
ADVISORY BOARD**

Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., College of William and Mary,
Williamsburg, Va.

Prof. Albert S. Beecher, Virginia Polytechnic
Institute, Blacksburg, Va.

Dr. George M. Darrow, Olallie Farm, Glen Dale, Md.

Dr. Walter S. Florey, Jr., Wake Forest College,
Winston-Salem, N. C.

Dr. George H. M. Lawrence, Rachel McMasters
Miller Hunt Botanical Library, Pittsburg, Pa.

Dr. Conrad B. Link, University of Maryland,
College Park, Md.

Dr. Ralph W. Singleton, University of Virginia,
Charlottesville, Va.

Dr. Henry T. Skinner, U. S. National Arboretum,
Washington, D. C.

The Boxwood Bulletin

January 1967

Vol. 6, No. 3

EDITOR — MRS. EDGAR M. WHITING

INDEX

Tours and Meetings	33
Baltimore Gardens — Box and Yew	34, 35, 36
Emily Keyes Belt	
New Members	36
Facts That Spell Success With Box	37, 38, 39
F. F. Rockwell	
<i>Buxus Harlandii</i>	41
Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr.	
The Winter Color of Boxwood	43
Dr. J. H. Tinga	
Hardy Boxwood In Connecticut	44
Brae Rafferty, M.D.	
Honorary Life, Life, Sustaining and Contributing Members List	inside back cover

PHOTOGRAPHS

Baltimore Gardens	Cover, 34, 35, 36
Emily Keyes Belt	
The Beauty of Maturity	39
<i>Buxus Harlandii</i>	40, 41, 42
Charles G. Kagey, Delmore A. Wenzel	

The Editors solicit and will welcome contributions of articles, news notes, photographs suitable for reproduction, of boxwood specimens, gardens, and plantings, and other items of probable interest to readers. While every effort always will be made for the protection of all material submitted for publication, the Editors cannot assume responsibility for loss or injury.

Entered as second-class mail matter at Post Office

Boyce, Virginia

Copyright 1966 by the
American Boxwood Society

Printed in U. S. A. by

Carr Publishing Co., Inc., Boyce, Va.

Tours and Meetings

March 12-15, 1967

SOUTHERN SHADE TREE CONFERENCE

Sponsored by Southern Chapter, International Shade Tree Conference. John Marshall Hotel, Richmond, Va. Registrations and inquiries to Mr. Gordon Scott, Tennessee Botanical Gardens, Cheekwood, Nashville, Tennessee 37205.

April 22 through 29, 1967

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IN VIRGINIA

Guide book available about March 15th, from Garden Week Headquarters, Room 3, Mezzanine, Hotel Jefferson, Box 1397, Richmond, Va., or from Travel Bureaus in most cities. If guide book is requested by mail, please give your zip code number.

Gardens especially recommended to ABS members:

ALEXANDRIA; 913 *Cameron St.*, 912 *Cameron St.*, 202 *South St.* *Asaph St.*, and, of course, *Gunston Hall*.

LOUDOUN COUNTY; *Morven Park*, *Oatlands* and *Little Oatlands*.

WINCHESTER; *Macsfield* and *Spring Hill*.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, *Stratford*.

RICHMOND; *Milburne*, boxwood parterres of Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Robertson.

JAMES RIVER, NORTH SIDE; *Berkeley Plantation* — terraced boxwood garden being restored; and *Westover*, very old and interesting boxwood.

SUFFOLK; *White Hall*, formal parterre garden more than 1-1/2 acres in the heart of Suffolk, walks bordered with box.

NEWPORT NEWS, the *Robertson* garden at 8 *Museum Drive*.

VIRGINIA BEACH, *Hilliard* garden on North Bay Shore Drive, English boxwood.

PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY; *Broad Bay Manor*, spacious lawns overlooking Broad Bay feature 175-year-old boxwood.

EASTERN SHORE; *Eyre Hall* has one of the oldest and loveliest box gardens in the country; *Seven Gables* at Accomac an interesting old boxwood maze.

ORANGE COUNTY; *Montpelier*, striking topiary work on different varieties of boxwood; *Clifton*, *Little Yatton* and *Meadowfarm* all have fine old box.

ALBEMARLE COUNTY AND CHARLOTTESVILLE; *Edgemont*, "*Friendly Gardens*" and "*Country Gardens*".

WAYNESBORO; *Forest Hill Gardens*, all connected by box-bordered paths.

STAUNTON; 14 *Madison Place*, box 30 feet tall at entrance gate; *Woodrow Wilson Birthplace* has century-old boxwood; *Merrifield*, a lovely box garden as setting for a swimming pool.

LYNCHBURG; *Plain Dealing*, wide green lawn bordered by boxwood; *Open Gate*, box as background for the formal garden.

LEXINGTON; *Boxerwood* has an extensive collection of boxwood, some from the West Coast, some imported from England; *Belfield*, formal and informal plantings; *Stonegate* features large boxwood.

ROANOKE; *Ridgewood*, 160 27th St., formal and informal gardens using boxwood.

FIELDALE, near MARTINSVILLE; *Hillcroft*, one of the oldest homes in Henry County, surrounded by boxwood.

Since boxwood is universally grown in Virginia, many gardens not individually identified here will also be found to have quantities of handsome boxwood.

April 27 through May 7, 1967

MARYLAND HOUSE AND GARDEN PILGRIMAGE

Write to Room 223, Sheraton-Belvidere, Baltimore, Md. 21202, for the Tour Book to be published March 1st. In giving your address please include your zip code number.

Suggested to Boxwood Society members: THE EASTERN SHORE of Maryland, which includes the tours of KENT, QUEEN ANNE'S and TALBOT COUNTIES, has old and beautiful boxwood in many of the gardens open on the tours. We would particularly mention *Wye Plantation* in QUEEN ANNE'S, *Hinchingham* in KENT, and *Wye House* and *Crosadore* in TALBOT. There is a particularly famous garden this year, *Pleasant Valley Farm*, on the My Lady's Manor Tour (BALTIMORE COUNTY), May 3rd. The next day, May 4th, the Worthington Valley Tour (also in BALTIMORE COUNTY) will include gardens with handsome boxwood, such as *Windy Meadows* and *Fox Den*.

May 8-29, 1967

BRITISH ISLES HOMES AND GARDENS TOUR

Famous gardens of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England, tour conducted by Mr. Gordon Scott, Director of the Tennessee Botanical Gardens. Address him at Cheekwood, Nashville, Tennessee 37205, for information.

May 10, 1967

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

Complete information in the April issue of The Boxwood Bulletin.

Baltimore Gardens — Box and Yew

A Photographic Essay By Emily Keyes Belt

A selection of garden views from the many fine pictures in which Mrs. Charles Banks Belt recorded the visit of The Garden Club of America to "the land of pleasant living" — Baltimore, Maryland, and its environs — for its Annual Meeting in April 1966.

These pictures first appeared in the *Bulletin of the Garden Club of America*, July 1966; and are used by permission of Mrs. Belt, the Garden Club of America, and the owners of the beautiful gardens. Captions are from the *GCA Bulletin*, with supplementary information supplied by Mrs. Belt.

On The Cover:

A clipped boxwood maze creates a perfect green background for a pair of cherubs in the garden of Mrs. J. Hamilton Ober, who calls this her "Round Garden", (Picture on cover). It was originally designed by Mrs. Charles Platt, of New York, who

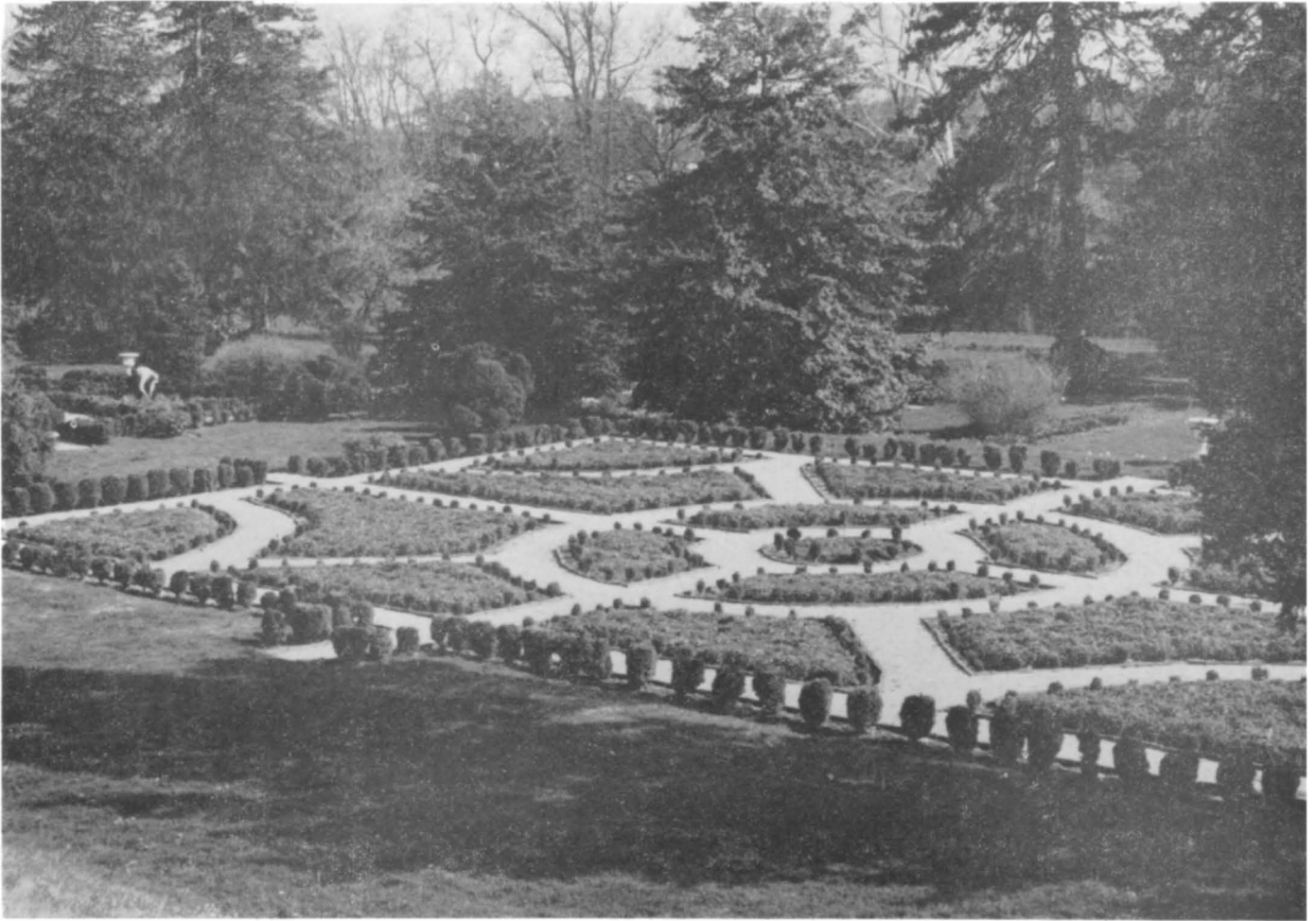
drew the round wall. Mr. Gilman D'Arcy Paul, owner at the time, conceived the idea of making it a boxwood maze.

It also had, at that time, small clipped signs of the zodiac in each section. They were too difficult to maintain, and were removed twelve years ago, when Mrs. Ober bought the place. She was responsible for putting myrtle in all the beds, making it a completely green garden.

Below:

Mr. Harvey Ladew's Pleasant Valley at Monckton, Maryland, an outstanding example of topiary art, is developed almost entirely in yew, but offers suggestions and inspiration to box topiarists as well. Much of Mr. Ladew's topiary is *Taxus cuspidata* (spreading yew); for lower work he uses *T. canadensis* (hemlock yew).





Above:

Hampton House, built in 1783 by Captain Charles Ridgely, is now a National Historic Site. The gardens, originally six parterres, contributed greatly to the grandeur of the old Hampton. In 1949, the Garden Club of America gave a Founder's Fund Award to Hampton for the reconstruction of the first parterre, shown in this picture.

This garden, still in an early stage, is an interesting contrast to the long-established, solidly filled "pattern garden" maze of Mrs. J. Hambleton Ober.

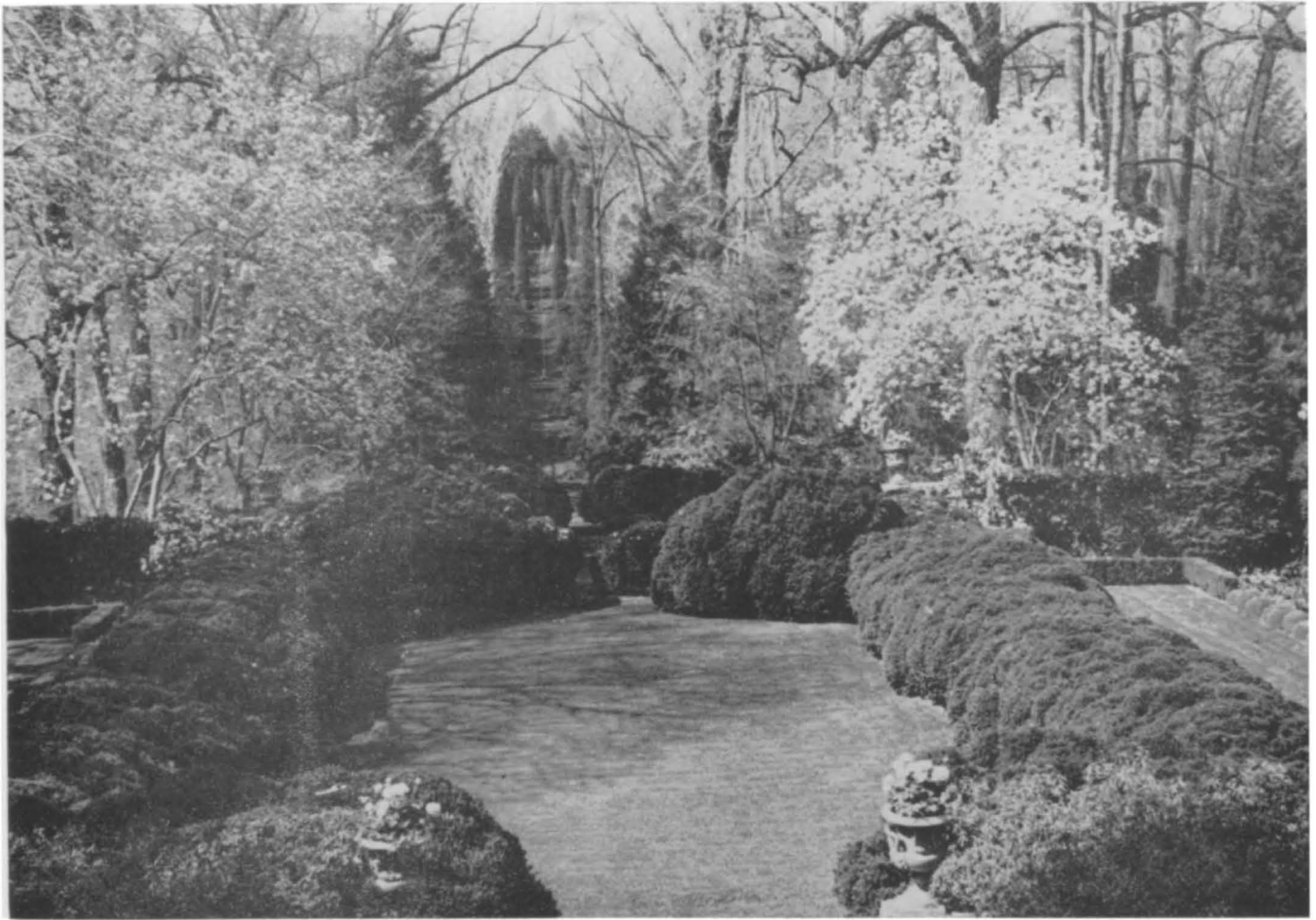
Two more parterres at Hampton have been restored, and several garden clubs in the Baltimore area are active in maintaining them.

Right:

Mrs. Edward Brown writes that the large bush which dominates her walled rock garden at Woodbrook is a yew, not box. She has no clue to its age, but knows it is old. It is a striking example of the dramatic effectiveness of one tremendous specimen, be it yew, box or whatever Fortune sends.

The grounds at Woodbrook have been planted with thought and affection for two centuries. In this view, tulips in the herbaceous border near Mrs. Brown are already aglow with color, and above them a healthy rose border promises summer bloom.





Above:

Mr. and Mrs. David Luke Hopkins' Tyrconnell is a place for all seasons and many moods. Beyond the boxwood garden stretches a romantic Italianate vista — an allee of tapered cedar trees, with fountains on the tiers of stone steps which lead the eye on forever, or so it seems. It is bordered by mountain laurel and rhododendrons. On either side are garden "rooms"; each could be used as a model for a small garden. In the Della Robbia garden blue and white flowers are edged by English boxwood. The city, so close, seems remote.

When the garden was made in 1918, the box plants ranged in age from ten to fifty and even one hundred and fifty years; and as may be seen, they have "filled in the gaps" in the half-century since. The box was greatly damaged in the 1958 blizzard, flattened to the ground. Truckloads of branches were carted away, much of the height was lost; it seemed a miracle that the box survived, but it is today again a joy to the beholder.

*Photographs by Emily Keyes Belt, 1966
Copyright, The Garden Club of America*

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

NEW MEMBERS

- Chooljian, Harry, 612 Main St., New Rochelle, N. Y.
 Clements, E. B., 225 Main St., Milton, Ontario, Can.
 Davis, Mrs. Dolphin A., Jr., 216 Oakdale Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21210
 Dodd-Carey Funeral Home, 307 N. Bedford St., Georgetown, Del. 19947
 Exnicios, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall O., Wind Rose Cottage, Watch Hill, R. I. 02891
 Harwood, Mrs. Richard D., 5910 Fairwood Lane, Memphis, Tenn. 38117
 Miller, Mrs. Harold A., 2 Greenbriar, St. Louis, Mo. 63124
 Patterson, Francis, Panfield Nurseries, 322 Southdown Rd., Lloyd Harbor, Huntington, N. Y. 11743
 Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106
 Skidmore, Dr. Joel K., Box 611, Huntington, N. Y. 11746
 Wood, Mrs. Neall S., 2775 S. W. Old Orchard Rd., Portland, Oregon 97201

Facts That Spell Success With Box

By F. F. Rockwell

Among all the popular non-flowering shrubs, Box occupies the paradoxical position of being the one most universally known, and least known about. Everyone admires it, yet few seem to realize that anyone can have it. The fact that landscape architects have been prone to sprinkle five-hundred to one-thousand dollar specimens generously about the gardens on millionaires' estates has misled many persons of more moderate means to assume that Box is exclusively a rich man's plant.

It is true that even the wealthiest can procure nothing more beautiful in the way of evergreenry than old Box bushes, their thick billowy surfaces of dark and lustrous green alive with lights and shadows and suggesting associations with all the traditional quiet beauty of old colonial gardens. And let me correct right here one very widespread misconception concerning Box — the assumption that it is so extremely slow-growing as to require a generation to reach any appreciable size. Compared to Forsythia, a Lonicera or some other exuberantly energetic shrub that will throw shoulder-high shoots in a single season, it is of course a slow grower. But compared with the average run of evergreens and the other more substantial denizens of the garden it is not. Well cared for and well fed plants will make several inches of growth, not only in height but in diameter, each season, and soon become sizable specimens.

Incidentally, with the American production of Box on a large scale, good-sized nursery grown specimens, well formed and two or three feet in height, and therefore large enough to make a worthwhile immediate showing, are now to be had at prices much lower than were formerly in effect. Up until the restrictions imposed by the Plant Quarantine Act, some ten years ago (*went into effect June 1919 — Ed. note*) practically all nursery stocks of Box were imported. Now of course it is all grown here. I know of a number of nurseries where for years Box has been produced by the tens of thousands; and the restricted market of the last few seasons has resulted in a much larger percentage of this stock being grown on to larger sizes than would normally be the case. So the prospective Box buyer can find just at present a very enticing market.

To the average man Box is just "Box", but there are a number of widely differing types, some best suited to one use, some to another. Unfortunately, the accepted classification of Box varieties is misleading and somewhat confusing.

To begin with, the type officially known and commonly catalogued as Common Tree Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) is decidedly not of tree habit, but on

the contrary one of the most typically "bushy" of all broadleaved evergreens. It is sometimes called "Old Colonial" Box — a much more fitting designation, as this is the variety so widely planted years ago about old Colonial mansions, especially throughout the South, and now supplying the beautiful fifty-to one-hundred year old specimens now so much sought after. The Latin designation, *sempervirens* (evergreen) is well chosen, for Box is certainly one of our longest lived ornamentals, and plants once established withstand a surprising degree of neglect; even city dust and smoke are better survived by few other woody plants.

The True-dwarf Box (*B. sempervirens suffruticosa*) is a variety of the Colonial or Common Tree Box distinguished by its dwarf and very close and bushy growth. Whereas the type (*B. sempervirens*) frequently attains a height of six to eight feet, and occasionally, under favorable conditions, much more than that, the True-dwarf seldom gets above twelve or fifteen inches. Here again the name — which probably originated in the trade as a result of the former practice of selling small plants of *sempervirens* as "dwarf" Box — might have been better chosen as there are other varieties more truly dwarf than this.

The variety which should, in all logic, have been given the name of Tree Box, is *B. sempervirens arborescens*. But as the plant name authorities have already dubbed *B. sempervirens* the Common Tree Box, apparently the only thing to do is to call *arborescens* the Uncommon Tree Box. Anyway, and by whatever name, the later grows considerably taller, often irregularly pyramidal in form, and is much more open and tree-like in habit than *sempervirens*. It is a faster grower; The leaves are longer, and, in proportion, narrower, and the general effect of the plant as a whole is less glossy and dense.

Reprinted from the June 1934 issue of *HOUSE & GARDEN*, with the permission of the author, Mr. F. F. Rockwell, and of the copyright holders, The Conde Nast Publications, Inc.

Suggested and sent to us by an ABS member, Mrs. Stanley Brown of Leesburg, Virginia.

The Japanese Box (*B. microphylla japonica*) does not grow as tall as *sempervirens*, usually reaching only five or six feet. The more oblong foliage is a lighter green in color. It is usually considered to be less hardy than *sempervirens*, though at the Arnold Arboretum, where Sargent introduced it some twenty years ago, it has proved perfectly hardy. In the East its most general use is for formal specimens in tubs, though it has been recommended for garden planting, for which purpose it is popular in Southern California. Judging from garden specimens I have seen the Japanese Box seems to me to fall far short of the characteristic billowy beauty of our Eastern Colonial Box, though it may with age acquire a more picturesque individuality. *B. microphylla*, of which the preceding is a form, is a Japanese species of medium growth — three feet or so — and spreading or sprawling habit.

While the real tree Box (*B. s. arborescens*); the Common Tree Box (*B. sempervirens*); and the True-dwarf Box (*B. s. suffruticosa*) are the three of most importance and the ones more generally offered, there are others worth noting. Handsworth's Box (*B. s. handsworthii*) is of more upright growth than the type, with large broad leaves of a very deep green; it is not a new variety but is now being grown much more extensively than formerly, and merits wider use. *Rotundifolia*, with broad oval leaves, and *myrtifolia* (Sweet Box), with narrow leaves and of dwarf growth, are other forms of *sempervirens* which have their place. The several variegated varieties are of little value except as curiosities.

AGE AND BEAUTY

The more extended use of Box scarcely need be urged, except to attempt to help a more general realization of the fact that it really may be enjoyed without one's either investing a small fortune in hundred-year-old specimens or waiting half a lifetime for small plants to develop. Of course a fine old plant, with that character and individuality which only lusty old age can give, makes possible effects in planting for which there is no substitute. And they need not be used by the dozen; two or three of these old fellows, placed with an understanding eye, may "make" a small garden or a near-the-residence planting — and right now Box of this sort is cheaper than it is likely ever to be again. But remember that even the handsomest of these century-old stalwarts was once a small plant, set out by someone who was content to see it become more beautiful with each passing season through the years.

For single or isolated specimens *sempervirens* is the sort to plant. Stocky bushes set eighteen to twenty-four inches apart will soon close in. The principal use for *s. suffruticosa* is "edging" paths or formal flower beds, Rose plots and the like. It may be held at any height from six inches to a foot or so. Very small plants should be placed as close as six inches; the larger sizes (twelve to eighteen inches) may go eight to ten, or even further, but it is always best to use a few more plants rather than run the risk of having a line that will look skimpy for a time.

In the formal garden, Box bushes trimmed in the form of "globes" and "pyramids" as used as accent points, and for this purpose are unequalled by any other available evergreen.

In planting Box, the two chief considerations are protection and drainage. While not perfectly hardy, Box may be grown considerably north of New York City and, with careful winter protection, even into central New England. Winter injury after the first season or two is much more likely to result from exposure to biting winds than from extreme cold. Good drainage is important because the roots, which form an extremely solid, fibrous mass, do not function properly in soggy soil, and the result is weakened growth with much more likelihood of serious harm from diseases to which Box is subject.

The winter protection of Box — once it is taken for granted that, in severe climates, it will have to be given, and provision is made for it in advance — is not a difficult matter. For large specimens, unless they are exceptionally well protected by nearby buildings or heavy growth, such protection should be provided. Winter housing may be made by driving down four stout posts — two-by-fours, of spruce or hemlock will serve excellently — and nailing ten or twelve inch wide boards, a foot apart, around them. If exposure is particularly severe, the boarding may be made almost solid on the side or sides of prevailing winter and spring winds, usually North or West, but near the coast on the sea side. Nail heads should be left projecting a half inch or so, to facilitate taking the housing down in the spring.

This framework should be put up before the ground freezes. Later on, with the approach of really severe weather, heavy but not too closely woven burlap, tacked over the boards, will afford wind protection and at the same time permit ventilation, a few open spaces on the south or east sides being left to make sure the plant is not too much closed in. Over old, wide-spreading specimens in danger of being broken by a heavy weight of snow, there should be roofing of slate or burlap substantial enough to guard against this. For hedges, a row of stakes, with burlap stretched between, along each side is usually sufficient. Dwarf Box edging is easily protected by placing light boards (the cheapest grade of clap-board or ship-lap will do) held by small stakes along the row six inches or so from the plants, and filling in with leaves or light straw. Nothing is needed over the top as any injured leaves will be removed with the first spring trimming. A Box border so protected will come out clean and bright green in the spring, under conditions which would otherwise result in badly winter-burned and rusty-looking plants remaining unsightly until the new growth developed.

PLANTING DETAILS

Planting may be done in late summer, though spring, north of the Mason and Dixon line, is usually preferable. Like other fibrous-rooted plants, Box takes particularly well to a humus-full soil. Plenty of peat moss, and a mixture of fine and coarse bone

meal, make a good combination for planting, with an application of some fertilizer moderately rich in nitrogen and well supplied with potash, worked into the soil each spring. As Box is acid-tolerant, it makes little difference whether the soil is acid or alkaline, so long as it is neither extreme. Around large plants the soil should be watered in, to make certain of filling all air spaces.

While Box will stand any amount of clipping and shearing where a smooth formal surface is wanted, the irregular billowness so characteristic of old specimens and old hedges is most quickly developed by pruning back only moderately — mostly heading in branches or branchlets which tend to stand out beyond the general surface. These should be cut back in a few inches, so that the new side shoots which develop will come even with the surface, covering up the “stub”.

When the soil at the roots of a large Box once become dry it takes an enormous amount of water to get it thoroughly moist. Dry weather watering is best done with the open hose.

Of the several insects which may attack Box the most commonly encountered is the Leaf-miner or “midge” — a tiny yellowish fly less than an eighth of an inch in length. It punctures the under surface of the leaves, depositing eggs that develop into one-sixteenth-inch long maggots which, working within the leaf, cause characteristic irregularly oval, blister-like raised surfaces, often three or four to a leaf.

The maggots over-winter within the leaves, the young flies or midges hatching out in late May or early June. To control, spray thoroughly, just as the first flies start to emerge from the under surfaces of the leaves, with a mixture of 3/4 pint 40% nicotine sulphate, 12 gallons of molasses and 8 pounds of soap, to 50 gallons of water. Repeat frequently during the time — usually about two weeks — that the midges continue to emerge, keeping the foliage as nearly as possible constantly moist.

The Box psylla is a grayish, sucking insect, covered with a waxy exudation. It gathers in clusters in the terminal shoots causing the leaves to curl inward in an unnatural manner. Usually it is first noticeable in the spring. Spray at once with nicotine sulphate and soap or some similar “sticker”. For Red Spider, which may prove injurious during very hot weather, spray forcefully with water, and if the infestation is bad, with Dritonic sulphur, one pound to ten gallons of water.

Another thing to be on guard against is the Oyster Shell scale, which forms a grayish encrustation on twigs and stems. Spray in spring — mid-May to mid-June — when the young nymphs hatch, with 40% nicotine and soap.

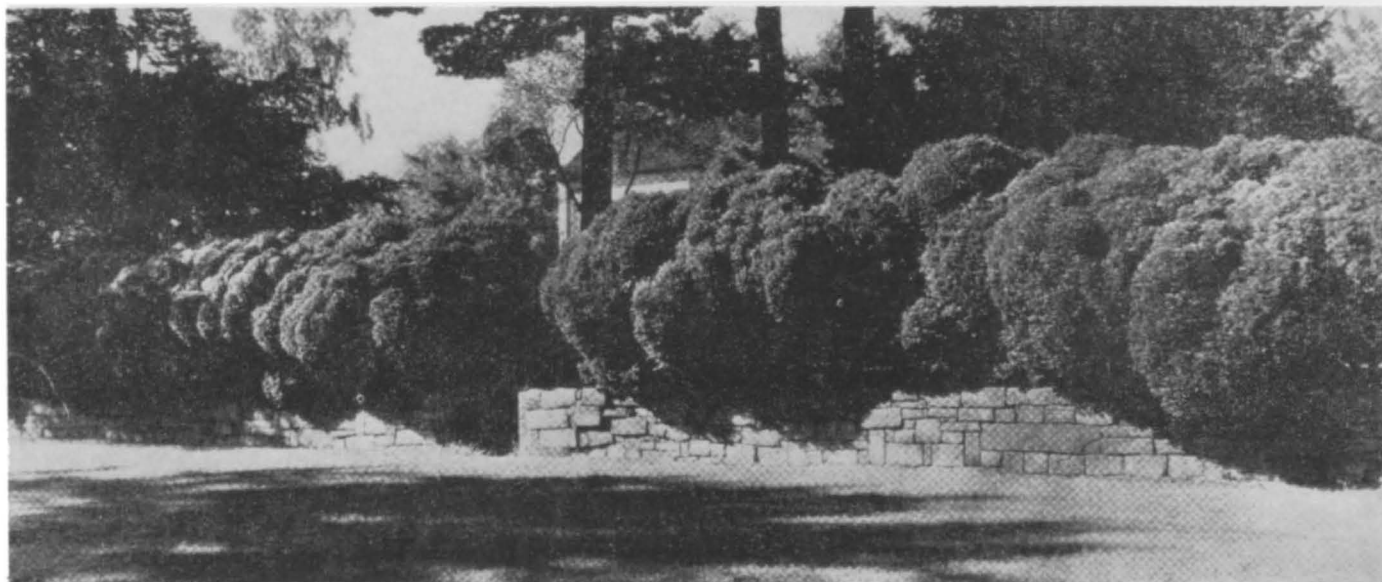
In general the plants should be carefully watched, and any diseased, cankered or abnormally weak growth pruned out, and the cuts painted over with a strong Bordeaux mixture.

Although a third of a century has passed since Mr. Rockwell wrote this article, most of his remarks are as timely and valuable as if written today. This is particularly true of his opening paragraphs on the general desirability, availability and long-range economy of box.

Such terms as “Old Colonial” and “True-dwarf” are strange to us today. Growers and writers were trying for a standardized system of names then,

and we have not yet achieved it. We have new pesticides; perhaps someone would like to try the old-fashioned ones again and compare results.

Mr. Rockwell is now living in Florida, but it is obvious that this article was written in and for a colder northern climate. Winter protection, however, is a subject which recent severe winters has made of interest to gardeners far south of the Mason and Dixon line.



The Beauty of Maturity

Photograph courtesy of House & Garden



Fig. 3. *Buxus Harlandii*, January 1967, College of William and Mary. Two and one half feet tall. Photo by Charles G. Kagey.

Buxus Harlandii

By Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

Buxus Harlandii Hance was described in 1873 in the Journal of the Linnean Society. The type specimen, Hance 322, is in Hong Kong; a piece of the type is at Kew, and we have a photograph of it.

E. H. Wilson collected this species in the Western Hupeh Province of China: "Ichang gorge, on rocks, alt. 30-300 m., March 24, 1908 (No. 3399; fluviatile shrub, 15-30 cm. tall", Herbarium of Arnold Arboretum); and, I judge, introduced the plant into

cultivation in the United States at that time. He and Alfred Rehder in "Plantae Wilsonianae", Cambridge, The University Press, 1916, Vol. II, p. 166, wrote as follows: "This curious species is abundant in the gorges and ravines near Ichang growing in rock-crevices and among stones in the bed and banks of streams where during summer floods it is submerged. It is found only at low altitudes where the winters are very mild and would not be hardy in northern temperate regions.

At least three clones of *B. Harlandii* are in cultivation in the United States. A fruiting branch of one of them is shown in Fig. 1 (June 29, 1966): the long, narrow leaf is not notched at the tip. The plant itself is shown in Fig. 2, as photographed in January, 1967. The plant was obtained from Henry Hohman in 1952; it is now three feet tall and five feet across. Each spring here in Williamsburg, when the first warm rains of spring come, this and a sister plant put on vigorous flushes of new growth; a cold spell follows, and the new growth across the top is frost-pruned with the consequence that the plants are flat-topped. Few flowers and fruits are produced, doubtless because of the frost. A fair crop of seed was harvested in 1966, but we succeeded in germinating none of them.

A second clone, obtained from fifteen years ago from Kew under the invalid name *Buxus nepalense*, has a vase-shaped habit as shown in Fig. 3, has notched leaves, and is not subjected to the growth cycle described for clone number one.

A third clone 'Richard' was introduced into the trade a few years ago. It originated in Louisiana and was introduced by Cassadaban Nurseries, Abita Springs, Louisiana. It has shorter leaves, which are deeply v-notched.

Buxus Harlandii is one of the easiest of all boxwoods to propagate vegetatively. It is an extremely horticultural subject and should be used much more extensively than it is at present. I do not know what its hardiness limits are.



Fig. 1. *Fruiting Buxus Harlandii*, June 29, 1966. Six inch scale shown. Photo by Delmore A Wenzel, courtesy Colonial Williamsburg.



Fig. 2. *Buxus Harlandii*, January 1967, College of William and Mary. Three feet tall. Photo by Charles G. Kagey.

A CORRECTION

In the October 1966 issue, through a typing error, the dimensions of the formal garden at Noland's Ferry (Mr. Wayne Brookins' article) were given as twenty-five feet by thirty. This would have made the garden almost a square, though from the illustration it is obviously an oblong; its correct measurements, twenty-five by fifty feet.

Noland's Ferry now has new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Exnicios.

In the October issue, also, we briefly noted the publication of a book called *Om Een Struik Die Palm Werd*, by Dr. A. J. Bernet Kempers, Director of the Open Air Museum at Arnhem, The Netherlands. Dr. Bernet Kempers feels that our English rendering of his title, *About a Bush That Became Boxwood*, does not express its full meaning, which might better be

translated as "About a very simple bush (boxwood) which came to be a symbol, a Palm of victory and honor."

Dr. Bernet Kempers has kindly given permission for the English summary which forms a part of his book, and a number of his delightful illustrations, to appear in forthcoming issues of the *Boxwood Bulletin*. Our readers will welcome even a sampling of this treasury of folklore and religious traditions of boxwood, most of which seem to have escaped the notice of previous writers.

APOLOGIES

Lateness is a fault common in our January issues, doubtless because contributors and editor alike have something else on their minds in December. We will try to do better. Please, send us articles, pictures, suggestions as soon and as often as you have them; don't wait to be asked.

The Winter Color Of Boxwood

By Dr. J. H. Tinga

*Department of Horticulture,
Virginia Polytechnic Institute*

We would like to report on some current observations of a long range experiment with Boxwood. The variables were quite simple. Fertilizer was applied in two quantities. Root pruning to stimulate moving of the plant was done at two times, August and December. Fertilizer was also applied at these two times or not at all. We had a limited number of 3- to 4-foot boxwood, and using all combinations of treatments, we arrived at ten boxwood in each treatment. We also operated on two soil types. One was a partly eroded clay soil. The other was a more moist bottom land.

In all cases but one, test plants in the bottom land were greener. There was a deeper soil with more moisture and fertility reserve. The one exception was due to the May 9, 1966 freeze of 25 degrees, when all the new foliage was turned black. Those plants with August and December fertilizer, which had not been root pruned, were severely damaged by the freeze, with 4 to 6 inches of new growth being destroyed. Immediately after this we had a 70-day drought which many of you experienced. Therefore the plants made essentially no growth for the season of 1966. In fact, if you consider the food reserves that went into the new growth which was destroyed, the plants were probably more depleted than a year ago.

The fall season was good, with adequate moisture and a good on-set of cooler weather. Therefore, at this time of mid-winter, there is a good difference in color from the normal olive green to the straw yellow color or actual orange red which some people think is quite attractive for winter color. At least in our plantings, an orange colored plant between two dark green plants had plenty of contrast. If you did not like it you could say it stuck out like a sore thumb.

What are some observations and recommendations that we could make regarding the winter color of boxwood?

1. Snow glare — that is, bright light on a freezing day, does result in a less green color. The extreme condition can cause much damage of dead leaves and dead twigs. Usually in a winter season, you may get a bright day without extreme cold, or extreme cold without a bright day. The decrease in green color due to the destruction of the chlorophyll can occur quite rapidly under the right combination of the wrong weather.

Snow glare produces less green leaves on plants that are low in fertilizer content, chiefly nitrogen. Also the less green leaves or more bronze leaves are found on plants that have been moved or root pruned.

2. Boxwood are slow to respond to moving or root pruning, and under poor water or fertility conditions may take as long as two years to become established in the new site.

3. Winter fertilizing is beneficial, as it is absorbed slowly into the plants so that it can benefit spring growth. This is assuming that the spring will be normal, rather than have a late spring frost.

4. Winter and summer shading are beneficial to newly planted boxwood.

5. Winter and summer irrigation are beneficial to newly planted boxwood.

6. Winter and summer application of fertilizer is probably the most beneficial treatment that can be given to boxwood in a normal season.

7. One of the problems is that we never have a normal season.

8. As a rule of thumb, it is better to fertilize lightly and often, rather than to fertilize with a large amount once a year.

9. The following scheme has worked well on large established and newly-planted boxwood as a guide to how much to fertilize. One may circle a plant with a string laid one foot outside the branch spread of the boxwood. Apply one cup of 10-10-10 fertilizer on the surface of the ground on each 6 feet of the length of the string. This is not 2 cups for a boxwood of 12 feet circumference, but 2 cups for a circumference one foot outside the branch spread. Therefore the fertilizer is placed over the feeder roots. The soil should not be disturbed. It is desirable to water the plant before and after fertilizer is applied.

10. Repeat this light application on June 1, July 1 and August 1. If it does not rain for 30 days or no irrigation has been applied, do not apply fertilizer for that month.

We have found that this application of fertilizer has definitely improved the winter color of boxwood. It is not the only factor, but it is the easiest one to improve the color. Soil, water and shade are important but probably lesser factors, in the problem situation usually encountered.

Hardy Boxwood In Connecticut

By Brae Rafferty, M.D.

After an exchange of letters with Dr. Baldwin on the subject of planting box seed — which letters were printed in The Mail Box in our October 1966 issue — Dr. Brae Rafferty sent the following further information on the hardy box which he is propagating:

Shortly after World War I, a small home was built on Water Tower Hill, above the campus of what is now the University of Connecticut, at Storrs, which is in northeastern Connecticut. The usual conifers, and shrubs were planted about the house and grounds. It is on a ridge of a large rolling hillside exposed to the prevailing northwest winds, as well as northeast storms.

From a nearby nurseryman, from whom they obtained their other plants, they got two small Boxwood plants which were planted in a little hollow directly in back of the house. One of the plants was lost, cause unknown, but the other has persisted, is now six or seven feet tall, and is growing into a Spruce that was set out the same size and time as the Box plant.

Cuttings from this plant make garden edgings, out in the open, exposed to the northeast winds, the morning winter sun, and have never had any protection. They are approximately 24" to 30" tall, well-shaped, and for five or six years of my observation have been without any winter bronzing. The color is dark green, without any blue tint; the plants are upright and compact, the leaves being longer than broad and tending to point at the tip. These are good plants in this trying locality, where 10° below zero is not uncommon and an occasional 15° or 20° below, also.

Interestingly the nurseryman is still alive and vigorous in his middle 90s. He denies having sold the pair of Boxwood plants, stating that he never sold Boxwood because "Box is not hardy around here and I couldn't sell it profitably so never bothered with the stuff."

There is a second variety in this locality. I purchased one of two hedges, about 75' long, of 33" to 36" plants which we moved to my place in the country, where they have been for four or five years and are perfectly hardy. The planter, now dead, got his original specimen forty or more years ago, from a Danish gardener at a nearby home. The gardener told him it was "English", but it came from upper New York State.

Mr. Goldsboro planted his first hedge along the sidewalk, and for thirty-five or forty years of my observation, it has withstood the snows and the

cold, the children, the dogs, bicycle and automobile accidents. With no protection at all it is perfectly hardy. The people in Horticulture up at the University of Connecticut have propagated this variety, off and on, for a number of years; and Dr. S. Waxman has it growing in an open field at Storrs, on the other side of Water Tower Hill.

Another strain used around here came originally from the Buchanan estate at Chambersburg, Pa. This has a tendency to "winter burn", if it doesn't get winter sun protection. Scarff's "Wintergreen", "Inglis", "Northernfind", all in small sizes — 12" to 18" — have also done well here, so far.

In answer to an editorial inquiry, Dr. Waxman wrote:

"The Jackson Street Boxwood was the second one that Dr. Rafferty referred to, the one planted by Mr. Goldberg. I do not know if it has been registered.

I propagated several hundred cuttings of the Jackson Street variety and have observed their growth in an exposed field during the past five years.

The Jackson Street variety is indeed hardy in this area, but only after it becomes well established. The first two and perhaps three years from the time they are first rooted are the crucial ones. During these years they need some protection, otherwise they suffer winter injury, exhibited by yellowed and sometimes killed terminal shoots. However, the plants are not killed, but merely injured. Once these plants attain a height of approximately 12-14 inches after the third year, they exhibit very little winter damage.

Other than having propagated this variety and recommending its use to local nurserymen, I am not doing much with this boxwood. Because of your and Dr. Rafferty's interest, I will send a number of these plants to the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts, for them to disseminate as they wish to nurserymen in New England.

Sincerely yours,

Sidney Waxman

Associate Professor,
Ornamental Horticulture,
The College of Agriculture,
University of Connecticut"

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Elected by the Society for their contributions of knowledge, appreciation, and preservation of Boxwood to the world.

- Anderson, Dr. Edgar, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Mo.
Flory, Dr. Walter S., Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, N. C.
McCarty, Mrs. J. B., "Waverley", Delaplane, Va.
Price, A. B., 330 Tenth Street, Arlington, Va.
Smith, Prof. A. G., Jr., 203 Washington St. W., Blacksburg, Va.
White, Dr. Orland E., Charlottesville, Va.
-

LIFE MEMBERS

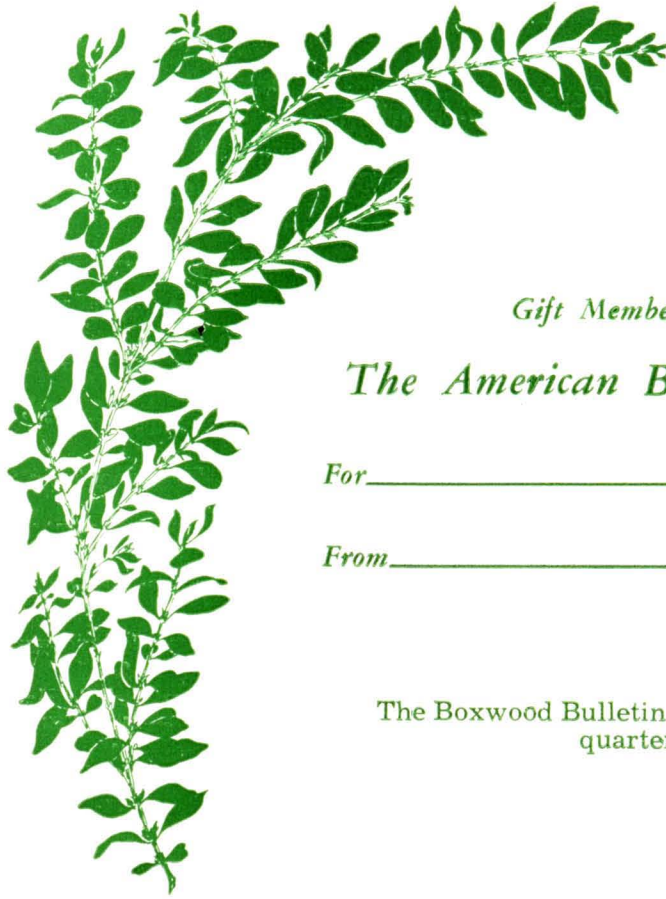
- Bryant, Tennant, Richmond Newspapers, Inc., Richmond, Va.
Frogale, William C., Box 290, Annandale, Va.
Hanes, Mrs. John W., Jr., Great Falls, Va.
Hickman, Mrs. Baylor, Goshen, Ky.
Phillips, Rear Adm. Neill, Heronwood Nursery, Upperville, Va.
Roungny, Mrs. P. L., 5 Godfrey Lane, Huntington, L. I., New York.
Wilson, Mrs. Orme, 2406 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, D. C.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- Fletcher, Mrs. Robert Howe, 68N. King St., Leesburg, Va.
Smithers, Mrs. C. Francis, "Barboursville", Barboursville, Va.
Thayer, Robert H., 1616 H St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

- Bayard, Thomas F., III, 9 Treadwell Mill Rd., Wilmington 7, Del.
Boatwright, Mrs. John G., "Dan's Hill", Danville, Va.
Bonsal, Mrs. Philip, 3142 P St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20007
Bowie, Forrest D., 7801 Largo Rd S.E., Washington, D. C. 20027
Buck, Gordon M., "Wilton", Greenwood, Va.
Carter, Mrs. Robert Hill, 1207 Rothesay Rd., Richmond, Va. 23221
Clark, Harrison, 1555 35th St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20007
Darden, Mrs. Colgate W., Jr., 1013-14 National Bank of Commerce Bldg., Norfolk, Va.
Darneille, Mrs. B. Jackson, 4515 Boxwood Rd., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20016
Davidson, Mrs. Howard C., 6824 Tulip Hill Terrace, Washington, D. C. 20016
deButts, Mrs. Harry A., "Montmorency", Upperville, Va.
Donovan, Mrs. William J., "Chapel Hill Farm", Berryville, Va. 22611
Earle, John G., 2 Rose Hill Road, Moylan, Pa.
Exnicios, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall O., Wind Rose Cottage, Watch Hill, R. I. 02891
Finley, David E., 3318 O Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20007
Fleet, S. Douglas, "Retreat Farm", Old Church, Mechanicsville, Va.
Francis, Lewis W., Jr., 1 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11201
Furness, Mrs. Thomas, "Waverly", Middleburg, Va. 22117
Gaillard, D. P., 224 Transportation Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20006
Halpin, Mrs. Gerald T., 8000 E. Blvd. Dr., Alexandria, Va. 22305
Hohman, Henry J., Kingsville Nursery, Kingsville, Md. 21087
Hopkins, David Luke, "Tyrconnell", Woodbrook Lane, Baltimore, Md. 21212
Metcalf, Mrs. Houghton P., Middleburg, Va. 22117
Miller, Dr. James A., Box 544, Winchester, Va. 22601
Morrison, Graham, Berryville, Va. 22611
Morton, Mrs. David C., Agecroft Hall, 4305 Sulgrave Rd., Richmond, Va.
Nettleton, Miss Carolyn B., Covington, Va. 24426
Peete, Dr. William J., 2814 Chelsea Dr., Durham, N. C.
Pizitz, Isadore, c/o Pizitz, Birmingham, Ala.
Plater, Mrs. Richard, "The Play Garden", Boyce, Va. 22620
Pool, W. H., Warrenton, Va.
Rhoads, Mrs. Webster S., Jr., "Elmington", Gloucester Co., Va.
Rixev, Mrs. John S., "Horseshoe Farm", Rapidan, Va.
Roberts, Mrs. John B., Princess Anne, Md. 21853
Shaw, Mrs. Albert, "Hudson House", Ardsley-on-Hudson, N. Y.
Simms, Mrs. W. E., "Mansfield", Box 83, Lexington, Ky. 40507
Smith, Douglas R., National Savings & Trust Co., 15th St. & New York Ave., Washington, D. C. 20005
Solenberger, Mrs. Herbert A., 423 W. Leicester St., Winchester, Va. 22601
Stanton, Mrs. Otis C., Nonquitt, Mass.
Stenenson, J. V., Sheridan Nurseries Ltd., 1116 Winston Churchill Blvd., Oakville, Ontario, Canada
Stewart, Mrs. J. F. M., Upperville, Va.
Sumner, Billy T., 801 Robertson Academy Rd., Nashville, Tenn. 37220
Taylor, Jaquelin E., "Meadow Farm", Orange, Va.
Veach, Mrs. John B., 390 Vanderbilt Rd., Biltmore Forest, Asheville, N. C.
Vischer, Mrs. Peter, Point Tobacco, Md. 20677
Wade, Frank B., Port Tobacco, Md.
Webster, Charles D., St. Mark's Lane, Islip, L. I., N. Y. 11751



*Gift Membership in
The American Boxwood Society*

For _____

From _____

The Boxwood Bulletin will be sent to you
quarterly.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

Above you see a reproduction of our gift card just as it would go to one of your friends announcing your gift membership to them for one year. The Society year runs from May 1 to April 30, or from one annual meeting date to the time of the next annual meeting.

Please send your gift orders as early as possible, to Mrs. Clay B. Carr, Box 127, Boyce, Va. 22620. Checks should be made payable to The American Boxwood Society.

Please include the Zip Code numbers; we must have them in all addresses.

Regular membership dues at \$3.00 per year, of which \$2.00 are for a subscription to The Boxwood Bulletin. Other classes of membership available are: Contributing, \$10; Sustaining, \$25; Life, \$100; and Patron, \$500. The higher classes of membership provide income which permits the publication of more plates or of additional pages in the Boxwood Bulletin, as well as the expansion of other society activities. Names of those holding Contributing, Sustaining, Life, and Patron memberships will be published each year in the January issue of The Bulletin.