

The

OCTOBER 1966

Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL



“Box Hill”, Surrey, England. The boxwood, growing naturally on the solid chalk soil of the North Downs, is said to have been planted by the Romans between 45 and 400 A.D. *Photo by Palmer, Epsom, England.*

Edited Under The Direction Of
THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

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The Boxwood Bulletin

October 1966

Vol. 6, No. 2

EDITOR — MRS. EDGAR M. WHITING

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**NEW BOX COLLECTION
MEMORIAL TO MRS. PHILLIPS**

September 19, 1966

Dear Mrs. Whiting:

Mr. H. J. Hohman, Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland, has recently given me a complete sampling of specimens of his unique collection of *buxus*.

He made this gift in memory of my late wife Grace Hendrick Phillips.

The plants will be kept at Heronwood, my place near Upperville. They will be in pots in the cold frame over the winter. In the Spring of 1967 I plan to set them out in a special plot at Heronwood where members of the American Boxwood Society will be cordially welcome.

This gift from Mr. Hohman is not only a matter of deep gratitude on the part of myself and my family, but it is most fortunate that henceforth an additional Hohman collection will be available to ABS members besides the one previously given to the Society and now planted at Blandy Experimental Farm.

I feel sure you will wish to give some notice of this matter in an early issue of the Bulletin.

I enclose a list of names of the species of *buxus* in the collection.

Yours sincerely,
Neill Phillips

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.

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**Collection Of Buxus
To Be Planted At Heronwood
In Memory Of Mrs. Neill Phillips**

- *Buxus Chinensis* — (Harlandii)
- *Chinensis* — (Harlandii — Richards)
- *Himalayensis*
- *Microphylla*
Microphylla — *Koreana* — Garden Variety
- *Microphylla* — "Curly-Locks"
- *Microphylla* — "Green Pillow"
- *Microphylla* — Kingsville 2A
- *Microphylla* — Kingsville 4A
- *Microphylla* — "Morris Dwarf"
- *Microphylla* — *Sinica*
- *Semp. Argentea*
- *Semp. Glauca*
- *Semp. -latifolia bullata*
- *Semp. latifolia macrophylla*
- *Semp. longifolia*
- *Semp. nana*
- *Semp. prostrata*
- *Semp. salicifolia alata* ? *elata*?
- *Semp. varifolia*
- *Semp. "Joe Gable"*
- *Semp. arborescens decussata*
- *Semp. Agrami*
- *Semp. fastigiata* — [*Hardwickensis*]
- *Semp. Handsworthensis* — [(*candelabra*)]
- *Semp. latifolia (maculata aurea)*
Semp. latifolia rotundifolia
- *Semp. latifolia marginata*
- *Semp. navicularis*
- *Semp. pyramidalis*
- *Semp. (arborescens) undulifolia*
- *Semp. elegantissima*
Semp. fortunei rotundifolia
- *Semp. latifolia*
- *Semp. latifolia nova*
- *Semp. myrtifolia*
- *Semp. myosotifolia*
- *Semp. pendula*
- *Semp. Ponteyi*
- *Semp. rosmarinifolia*
- *Semp. Krossi-Livonia*
Semp. maculata pendula
Anderson's — *Semp. 789-34*; *Semp. 350-35*;
Semp. 351-35; *Semp. 353-35*; *Semp. 352-35*
"Vardar Valley"
- Buxus balearica*

new
Edgar Anderson's "Vardar Valley"



Photograph 1. The evergreen scrub zone in the northern part of the Somali Republic near Sheikh. The darker bushes on the left and right are *Buxus hildebrandtii* and the paler bushes in the centre are *Dodonaea viscosa*.

Buxus Hildebrandtii Bail. In Eastern Africa

By C. F. Hemming

The genus *Buxus* is represented by only a single species in eastern Ethiopia and the northern part of the Somali Republic. *Buxus hildebrandtii* is one of the principal species of the evergreen scrub zone that is usually found on higher ground just below the *Juniperus* forest that occurs on the highest parts of the plateau. The evergreen scrub zone is generally found between about 5000 and 6400 feet above sea level, and these areas receive between 18 and 26 inches of rain per year.

Buxus hildebrandtii usually grows as an open leafy shrub up to six or eight feet tall, and the

shrubs with which it is most commonly associated are *Dodonaea viscosa* L. and *Cadia purpurea* (Picc.) Ait. Although these three species are frequently found together in one area, they are often distributed in an apparently social manner. This is illustrated in photograph 1 where the darker coloured bushes to the left and right are *Buxus* whereas the paler bushes in the centre are *Dodonaea*.

Owing to the very heavy overgrazing and wood chopping that now occurs in these parts of eastern Africa the *Juniperus* forests which still occur above the evergreen zone are getting steadily smaller,

while the clearings within them are getting larger. These old forest areas are today being colonised by evergreens including *Buxus*.

In addition to growing as an open shrub, which is the coloniser-form, *Buxus* also occurs on the face of the main escarpment in the northern part of the Somali Republic in the form of a low closed forest. This forest forms only a very narrow zone 300-400 feet in altitudinal extent around the 5600 feet level. In this forest *Buxus* grows into trees which have unbranched trunks six inches thick and are occasionally up to 30 feet in length (Photograph 2).

The wood of *Buxus hildebrandtii* is hard and this narrow zone is now being exploited. The straight trees (Photograph 3) are cut and exported, particularly to the Persian Gulf, where they are replacing the much softer coastal mangrove *Avicennia marina* (Forsk.) Vierh. as scaffolding poles in the dhow-building yards.

It seems likely that this very restricted zone of *Buxus* forest will eventually be cut down entirely, and under the grazing conditions that prevail today the rejuvenation of the closed forest would be impossible, and the area will be colonised by ever-

greens which would include *Buxus* but only in its open shrub Coloniser-form.

Details of the herbarium sheets of *Buxus hildebrandtii* collected in Eastern Africa are given in Valenti G.S., 1965, Webbia, 20 pp. 771-778 and an ecological map of the northern Region of the Somali Republic showing the extent of evergreen zone is given in Hemming, C.F., 1966, Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London, 177 pp. 173-249.

Christopher Hemming was born in London in 1926 and after leaving the army took an M.A. in natural sciences at Cambridge in 1950. He then joined the research staff of the Desert Locust Survey in East Africa where he remained until 1962. During this period he was concerned mainly with ecological surveys and locust reconnaissances in Northern Kenya, Ethiopia, the Somali Republic and Southern Arabia. In 1962 he returned to England and in the following year joined the newly formed field research section of the Anti-Locust Research Centre in London; he is a Principal Scientific Officer. His present work involves travelling about twice a year to such places as India, Pakistan, Mauritius, Kenya, Saudi Arabia and the Niger Republic.



Photograph 2. The main escarpment road near Erigavo in the Somali Republic. Remnants of the *Buxus* low closed forest can be seen above the road on the right.



Photograph 3. Poles of Buxus hildebrandtii stacked against trees of Dracaena schizantha Bak. awaiting transport to the coast for export.

BOXWOOD NEWS AND NOTES

Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., Professor of Biology at the College of William and Mary, and 2nd Vice President of The American Boxwood Society, spoke on BOXWOODS at the first Symposium presented by the Virginia Council of Flower Show Judges, in cooperation with The Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and the Extension Service of the Department of Horticulture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The Symposium was held in Richmond on October 17, 18 and 19.

The date of the buildings at Beckley Park was not given in our article on the topiary box garden there, printed in the July Bulletin. Mr. Basil Feilding sends this further information for our interested readers: the house at Beckley Park was built about 1530 as a hunting lodge on a site dating back to Saxon times. There were originally three moats surrounding the stronghold. Today the remaining moats surround only a part of the house and garden.

For the third year, the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, is renewing the offer of boxwood cuttings for propagation to any member of the Garden Club of America. Thousands of cuttings have been distributed through this mail-order project, fully and amusingly described by Mrs. W. Julian Underwood in the January 1966 issue of The Boxwood Bulletin. The cuttings are passed by Federal and State inspectors and can be mailed to any address in the United States.

This is a new and welcome stimulant to the growing of varieties of boxwood which are hardy in the northern areas of this country. As such, it is of interest to all Boxwood Society members; but they should note that the offer is restricted to members of the Garden Club of America only. Many members of ABS are also members of GCA, and they may, of course, take full advantage of this opportunity. The varieties of box available, and details of ordering, are given on page 6 of the Bulletin of The Garden Club of America, September 1966 issue.

The Boxwood at Stratford Hall

A Book Review by Dr. Walter S. Flory

Professor A. G. Smith, Jr., a Charter and also an Honorary Life Member of ABS, has recently written the attractive little book of 64 pages, with the same title as the heading of this article, which is published by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation. The book is sold for \$4.95 with proceeds going for the benefit of Stratford Hall. The paper, format, binding and numerous illustrations all serve to make the book a most attractive one.

Professor Smith describes the steps leading to the planting of about 3,000 boxwood plants at Stratford approximately 35 years ago, and of the decline, hardships, treatments and losses experienced as the years passed, of many plants in the formal arrangements. He cites the opinions and treatments of many horticulturists, pathologists and others. He further points out the vigorous survival of plants grouped, apparently as reserve stock, in the "Orchard" area. These "neglected" plants have flourished. The formal plantings, which have been watered, mulched, fertilized, sprayed, subjected to nematocides, and otherwise treated, have suffered many losses.

In 1961, Professor Smith recommended the cessation of mulches, feeding, fumigating, heavy watering, spraying and nematocide applications for the Stratford boxwood — with the implied result that the boxwood then in poor condition has since recovered and now "lives again as its roots spread slowly in the friendly soil." These results are described to support the thesis that "For best results, boxwood should make a slow even growth. Such an ideal rate of growth cannot be realized if the plants are stimulated with manure, fertilizers, excessive watering or by other means which might cause periods of rapid growth." This overall recommendation for neglect is qualified by discussions on the need for a suitable environment for the plants and for the control of leaf miners, mites, psyllids and scale insects — when these are present.

It is pointed out that at Stratford several types of nematodes are found on the neglected, but flourishing boxwoods, as well as on the plants found in poor condition in 1961, but which have now recovered, or are recovering. This is followed by such interesting but unorthodox suggestions as: "Does the nematode population injure (feed on) the boxwood roots just enough to prevent a too rapid growth in these plants?", and "Might we go so far as to describe the relationship of the boxwoods and the nematodes as a symbiosis of mutual benefit to each partner?" If the answers to such questions are 'yes' then we must inquire, of course, what happens with flourishing boxwood where nematodes are not present.

Such a small book certainly cannot be expected to give all the answers about boxwood. It does leave one wondering, however, about the author's viewpoint in certain situations. For instance, a person may own land and like boxwood where the "total environment," as termed by Professor Smith, is not entirely satisfactory — regardless of attempts to perfect it. Boxwood planted here may not thrive as desired. Should it be neglected? Should its planting have been delayed until the total environment was correct for this taxon? Or should one just not plant boxwood under such conditions, regardless of desire?

Charles Darwin pointed out, many years ago, that one of the most unvarying things about living organisms is the great variation found within all groups of plants and animals. This concept encompasses the influence of environmental, as well as genetic, factors. In boxwood we certainly find many variants, many varieties; and each of the many seedlings occurring seems different from every other, and hence the possible source of a new variety. Also, where any one given taxon is vegetatively propagated and grown at different locations, or in different areas, variations due to soil, site, climate or other environmental factors may be observed.

Articles on boxwood — in various books, pamphlets, *The Boxwood Bulletin*, and elsewhere — give various recommended cultural methods in order to succeed with this historic ornamental. Such divergence of recommendations, serve to point up the fact that in order to grow boxwood successfully as many different approaches are necessary, as there are different types of soils, climates, varieties, etc. — and as there are combinations of these factors. In recommending treatments to others we must each speak from our own experience. Where such experience does not cover the conditions concerned, however, one cannot afford to be dogmatic.

Professor Smith's interesting analysis of the Stratford plantings does well to emphasize that we need to be very careful in our cultivation, mulching, fertilizing, etc., of boxwood. His implied suggestion that boxwood should be rather totally neglected seems — to this reviewer — to go too far, however, for most locations, at least. Certainly, the perfect "total environment" is seldom, if ever, encountered.

In the future, just as in the past, there will be contrasting recommendations concerning boxwood culture. This is to be expected in a world where variation exists. Incidentally, this very factor is important to the existence of a journal such as *The Box-*

wood Bulletin. Readers of The Bulletin may sometimes feel that contradictory advice is expressed by various authors in their different articles. These different expressed opinions develop — as suggested above — because of the varying conditions encountered, the different boxwood types dealt with, and so on. Such factors should be given deserved consideration by the reader, in order to best understand the viewpoint of each writer.

We may be grateful to Professor Smith for the present good addition to the meager literature on "Man's oldest garden ornamental." The book will doubtless be a controversial one, especially with re-

spect to its expressed views concerning nematodes, and probably also because of recommendations concerning neglect. For those very reasons this work should prove a most stimulating contribution. If Professor Smith is considered wrong, then let others — the doubters — either prove him wrong — or right!

— WALTER S. FLORY, *Wake Forest College.*

Orders for this book, or inquiries about it, should be addressed to The Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation, Stratford, Virginia.

GCA Medal of Honor Award To Mr. Henry Hohman

On April 27th, at the dinner which climaxed the Annual Meeting of The Garden Club of America, the late Mrs. Neill Phillips, Chairman of the Medal Awards Committee, presented Mr. Henry Hohman as the recipient of the special, highly-prized Medal of Honor. Mrs. Phillips read the following citation, written by herself — one of the last things she wrote:

"Not far from here there is a Plant and Tree Nursery. It doesn't look like a nursery. There are no long, neat rows of shrubs. There is no big billboard on Route 1 telling you where it is. You have to count your mileage and watch carefully for the tiny sign when you enter. Then, driving over a dirt road, you are in an area with woods and fields. But what distinguishes this charming Maryland landscape from any similar land is that wherever you look, in sunshine or shade, are growing rare, beautiful specimens.

Then, if your are lucky enough to spend a day there with its owner, tramping over the hills, you come constantly on exquisite shrubs and bushes looking as if they were growing wild. You will have had an horticultural experience you will never, never forget.

To this place over the last 50 years have come the world's greatest horticulturists, From Belgium, from England, from Ireland they have trooped. Directors of Arboretums, Botanical Gardens and discriminating private collectors and students from Universities from coast to coast of this country have made the trip, both men and women, to see what this extraordinary, wise and generous man has developed.

Only a few of the varieties which he has hybridized and made available are different forms of boxwood; Japanese cherries; dwarf conifers (much of the material in the now famous Gotelli collection came from him); hollies; and crabapples and many others. This man's nursery is a nursery.

This could have been simply a profitable business because anyone of these visitors would have paid a high price for these beautifully developed rarities. However, his tireless concern is to encourage people in the exciting knowledge and use of rare plants. To this end he has given away countless specimens. Not only is he generous to a degree in giving rare plants to interested people, but what is equally important is that he gives his time to you without stint. That is, if you are serious. In a reverse fashion he has helped his profession commercially because he has convinced horticulturists all over the world of the value of growing rare plants, shrubs and trees, and therefore the market in these is rising.

So for being loved as well as respected The Garden Club of America, with heartfelt enthusiasm, gives its Medal of Honor to the Dean of Nurserymen

MR. HENRY H. HOHMAN

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Fig. 1 *Buxus sempervirens* 'Aristocrat', April 10, 1964. Photo. Thomas L. Williams.

Buxus Sempervirens 'Aristocrat'

By Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

This is the first in a series of reports upon unnamed clones of boxwoods.

In the spring of 1953, or thereabouts, I bought two 3-4 foot plants of a sturdy boxwood from J. B. Brouwers for \$5.00 apiece. He had grown those plants just outside Williamsburg; I do not know where he obtained this clone, but I do know that as he traveled throughout this region he kept an eye out for superior kinds of boxwoods. In consultation with Alden Hopkins, Landscape Architect for Colonial Williamsburg, I planted the Brouwer specimens at the head of the Sunken Garden of the College of William and Mary.

At the beginning of July 1966 those plants measured 10½ feet in height, 6 feet in greatest width. They were photographed on April 10, 1964 (Fig. 1). The plants have never been pruned. They are truly

magnificent, and because of its stately habit I have called this clone 'Aristocrat'. The two plants in permanent position at the College may serve as the type of this cultivar.

The plants are stiffly upright: snow does not bend them out of position nor break them. The foliage remains dark green throughout the winter and exhibits no discoloration whatsoever. So far as I know the plants never set fruit, and certainly not in 1966 which is an especially good fruiting year for boxwood in this area. The leaves average about an inch in length and are acuminate at base and tip. The first leaves of a shoot may be much shorter and apiculate.

I shall be glad to supply cuttings of 'Aristocrat' upon request.

The Boxwood Garden At Noland's Ferry

By Wayne G. Brookins

The formal boxwood garden at Noland's ferry near Leesburg, Virginia, is located on the first rise or ground from the Potomac River, at a site about thirty-five miles upstream from Washington on the Virginia side. It is within view of the prehistoric Potomac "break-through" of the great inland sea; this passage creates a great deal more rainfall here than in nearby areas, as the clouds don't lose their moisture climbing over the mountains as they do on either side. The river moderates the temperature a bit, and with its fog and moisture, helps make an ideal location for boxwood. The garden area is protected from direct north winds by a wood of deciduous trees, into which I have introduced evergreens.

I first saw Noland's Ferry in December 1949 and bought it in 1950. Protective work was done immediately and more extensive work started. We moved in during the Fall of 1951, and shortly thereafter began the gardens.

The formal garden was started in 1958, and so was Dulles Airport, which upset the help situation

to such an extent that the garden took five years to complete.

The boxwood garden was laid out on a filled piece of ground created by building a "ha-ha" wall varying in height from 4½ to 8 feet, part way down the northeast slope. When we began digging the garden surface, we discovered how thoroughly the bulldozer had compacted the soil; and in removing this with the desire of lightening it, we found under the top soil a very solid layer of clay fill which would, if allowed to remain, have prevented drainage and probably caused the surface soil to dry out too quickly. We were faced with the necessity of removing top soil and eighteen inches to two feet of clay from each and every form (not from under the grass paths) and then refilling each form with additional river bottom top soil mixed by a rototiller with well rotted hay, lime and more top soil. All this lightly worked up soil had to settle for (usually) a winter, or risk the plants settling.

The plan of the garden is a series of circles with-



The formal garden at Noland's Ferry in spring, with the view of the river valley beyond and below the "ha-ha" wall. Photo by Mr. Brookins.

in an oblong broken by paths and the necessary straight lines. These circles made it possible to swing the original circles accurately from the original points when trimming, preventing drifting from original cutting and spoiling of shapes as a result of unusual growth.

The boxwood, about 400-plus English, is maintained at sixteen inches high by twelve inches wide, with thirty-inch paths all surrounded by a three-foot path. The garden is clipped late in March before new growth, and sometimes again in July, which is very good, especially for the topiary work.

The entire formal area seemed, when completed, too small — twenty-five feet by thirty. To enlarge this I placed beyond the three-foot path a natural growth of English boxwood. In this outer area are twelve American boxwood, three in each corner, trained into columns thirty-six inches in diameter, to be in time eight feet high. These corners are ideal spots to place the "Four Seasons" with the columns as background. In this outer area is also included topiary work in American boxwood, and three five-foot paths through this section allow one to walk into the center section of the garden. The entire outer area is ground-covered around the boxwood and the four stone benches with a heavy planting of spring bulbs, vinca minor and pachysandra.

The formal shapes are planted with spring bulbs and summer annuals — petunias, salvia, geraniums; and in the six middle forms sweet william has carried on for years. Originally I had placed vinca minor in the formal beds, but this proved to take too much work to keep away from the boxwood itself. In the outer forms the pachysandra and the vinca minor do not bother the natural-growing box or the topiary work, it being possible to keep it away from these few topiary pieces. The vinca minor in the forms was a mistake, and I believe I would make wider paths if doing it over again, at least wider between the forms.

All the boxwood, I raised from rooted cuttings on the property except for three hundred purchased rooted. At one time my ambitious rooting program wanted fifty thousand boxwood in the field below — this never accomplished, thank God; but as a result I have thousands of English boxwood I try to sell off fast enough to prevent them from growing together, and even now some have reached twenty-one inches high.

I fertilize with chicken manure (from commercial places only — too many weeds, otherwise) every five years on the English boxwood; about one and one-half to two inches thick, staying a bit away from the stem of the plant. On the American boxwood one can fertilize more frequently, say every two years; but too much forcing of growth in English boxwood does not seem good and though chicken manure gives excellent color and such, it certainly produces growth. Try it around some young or old boxwood that winter or other things have damaged.

The spray program in May consisting of two sprays about a week to ten days apart is seldom needed here, as I am far from other plantings and

the often-neglected "neighbor's boxwood". Malathion is used, or sprays containing malathion.

It has been my observation that this garden needs some light shade, say moraine locust, to break the summer heat and winter sun scorch by its lacy branches. I found a heavy orange coloring in the nursery beds last fall, as well as in the formal garden, and this spring (I couldn't do it in the fall) removed every last touch of it with two light applications of 5-10-10.

Pleasure it is and pleasure it will be to enjoy or contemplate the gardens of Nolands Ferry. As one of the past presidents of the Garden Club said, "You have created the first great garden in this area since the turn of the century", and indeed she may have been right. I often recall when I was first thinking of a formal garden, which all great eighteenth-century houses had, someone saying "you're going to use American boxwood?" and I said "no!", the reply being, "you certainly are planting for posterity!" I have often thought we are those who only take care of these great gardens and never possess them — I was planting for posterity, and though my period may be short, Noland's Ferry has centuries of time.

NEW MEMBERS

- Beaty, Senannie R., Ruckersville, Va. 22968
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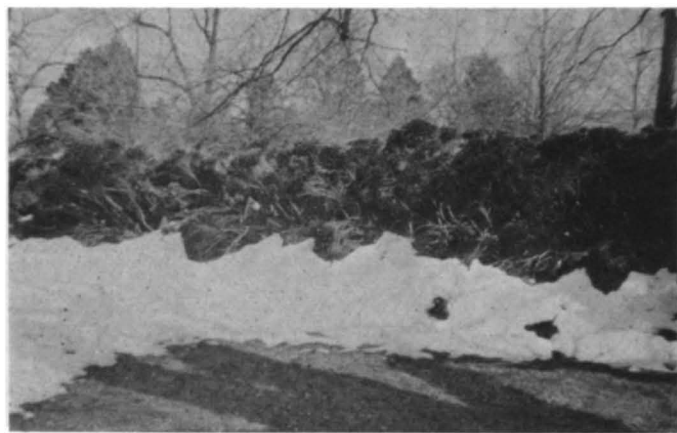
Winter Protection For Boxwood

By Arthur Dugdale

Other suggestions for winter care of boxwood may be found in your file of *BOXWOOD BULLETIN* as follows: Vol 1, No 2, p 21; Vol 2, No 1, p 9; Vol 2, No 2, pp 18-19 (our illustrations are taken from this article by Capt. R. J. Vickers); Vol 4, No 2, pp 24-25; Vol 5, No 1, pp 12-13.



Sempervirens Hedge (normally twenty-odd feet high) weighted down by four feet of snow, winter of 1960-61.



One Side of a Double *Suffruticosa* Hedge, seven to eight feet high, after the big snow storm.

Now is the time to prepare plants for the winter season. Things may be done that can prevent serious damage to them in snow, sleet and ice storms. Do this work before the snow falls, for then it is too late.

Because of its brittle wood and small slender branches, boxwood is particularly vulnerable to winter injury. The variety *sempervirens*, so-called "American" or tree boxwood may need corrective pruning to strengthen the branches, enabling them to withstand the added weight of snow and sleet.

If pruning has been neglected, cut 2 or 3 inches off of each terminal branch. This reduces the leaf and twig surface that catches and holds the snow. It also reduces side or lateral growth during the next summer, which tends to strengthen the branches and make plant more shapely and compact.

Remove all dead twigs and branches from inside the plants, and tree leaves that may have accumulated there, leave the small fallen boxwood foliage. It always serves as natural mulch and later adds humus to the soil.

Prune out enough terminal twigs on top and around the plants to admit light and air circulation inside the bushes. This is a thinning process, where the plants have become too dense.

Boxwood *sempervirens*, 4 to 8 feet tall, may be wrapped with cord to help support the branches when laden with snow or sleet. Use a ball of soft, strong green cord if available. Tie one end to an outside branch, near the bottom of the bush, and press branches in and up, wrapping cord tightly in an upward spiral around the shrub, having a distance between cords of 8 to 10 inches.

Tie it off to a stout branch near top of branch. Leave the cords on until the end of March, when danger of heavy snow is past.

Before winter sets in, mulch boxwood with compost or some other organic material to hold moisture and reduce the alternate freezing and thawing of the ground. This may injure shallow roots.

All evergreen shrubs, including boxwood, need moisture during winter months as in summer. Injury may result if they become too dry, for the leaves give off moisture through transpiration — their "breathing" process.

Where boxwood is used in foundation plantings, it is often advisable to provide strong wooden frames over and around the plants for protection from snow falling from the building roof. Or better

still, install a metal snow guard on the roof to prevent this.

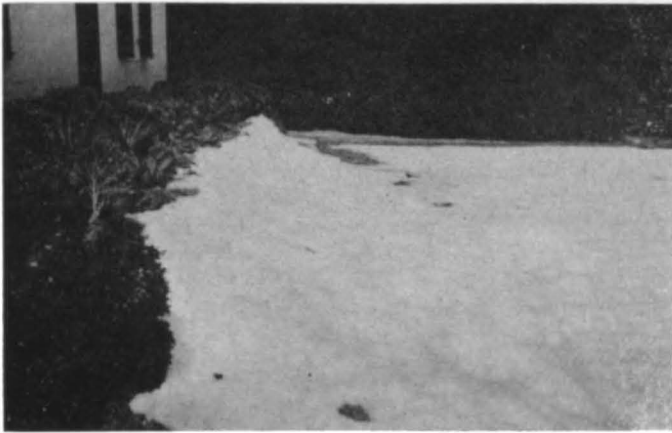
Recently transplanted boxwoods in exposed locations may be helped greatly with a winter screen of snow-fencing and burlap for protection against freezing winds. It may be needed only on the exposed side of the shrubs. Details of construction may be obtained from nurseries and garden centers.

Boxwood *suffruticosa*, the dwarf variety, seldom needs the spiral cord protection against damage from snow. Its growth is slower and more compact, with short, stocky branches. However, it is not as hardy in our climate as *B. sempervirens* and is more often damaged by freezing winds.

Vigorous, healthy boxwood, like other shrubs, are more resistant to winter injury than plants that have been weakened by drought, insects or disease. Specimens that have lost their handsome dark green color, exchanging it for a sickly, reddish-brown hue, have been weakened, and need special winter protection.

The timely winter protection given boxwood plants before and immediately after storms strike, may determine how they thrive these adverse weather conditions.

Reprinted by permission of the author and of The Richmond News-Leader, from Mr. Dugdale's column, "Gardening in Virginia", Friday, November 6, 1964.



Foundation Plantings Need Protection from roof-released snow.

All three photographs by Capt. R. J. Vickers, all taken at Gordon's Dale, Fauquier County, Va., in the severe winter of 1960-61 which damaged so much box in Virginia and Maryland, and led indirectly to the founding of the American Boxwood Society in May 1961.

THE QUESTION BOX

The Boxwood Bulletin,
Boyce, Virginia

Sirs:

In the Bulletin of January '64 and a picture of October '64, there are suggestions regarding planting box seed. No where, that I have access to, is there information of how to plant — what soil or mixture, how deep, how close together, how much moisture, temperature extremes, length of sprouting time ("interminable"), etc. Could you help me?

I have just recently obtained a few of the coal-black seeds from a fruiting plant that has been hardy here for the past fifty years. With only a few seeds to play with, the task should be done in experienced fashion so as not to waste the effort.

Yours truly,
Brae Rafferty, M.D.

807 Main Street
Willimantic, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Rafferty:

I write in reply to your letter of August 18th to THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN.

I know of nothing in the literature about the germination of boxwood seeds. However, I have grown a good many lots of *Buxus*, and I am glad to give you the benefit of my experience.

Seeds here mature in June and July. I plant them within a few weeks after maturity. I can give you no information on durability of viability except to say that volunteer seedlings appear in the spring. I plant the seeds in flats or pots of vermiculite, though my estimate is that many other media and soils would serve just as well. I have had no trouble with damping off. I spread the seeds in an almost continuous layer and cover them about four times the thickness of a seed. I would warn you about over-watering, because I think for that reason I failed to get germination of several lots of seeds. The seedlings may be held in the flats for several years and fed with liquid fertilizers.

Sincerely yours,
J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

Biology Department,
College of William and Mary,
Williamsburg, Virginia

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Editor's note: For obvious reasons, this Index does not include this, the current issue, in its listings.

To avoid monotonous repetition and a "B" section longer than all the rest of the Index, the words Box and Boxwood are omitted in most cases from the subject titles.

Mr. Woodland deserves the heartiest thanks of the Society for this invaluable contribution to the usefulness of the BOXWOOD BULLETIN.

OM EEN STRUIK DIE PALM WERD

Dr. A. J. Bernet-Kempers, Director of the Open Air Museum at Arnhem, The Netherlands, has just published a monograph on boxwood entitled *Om Een Struik Die Palm Werd* (*About a Bush that Became Boxwood*). It is volume 4 of the *Rijksmuseum voor Volkskunde*, pp. 1-180, 1966; pp. 145-153 are an English summary. This handsome publication is illustrated with 93 excellent photographs. This is a scholarly work of first rank, and a most valuable addition to the scientific literature of boxwood.

A more extensive review will appear in a later issue of the Bulletin.

— J. T. Baldwin, Jr.

A CORRECTION

On page 52 of the April 1966 issue of The Bulletin, the replica of part of the Mount Vernon garden Claverton Manor near Bath, England (The American Museum), was said to be financed by "the generosity of The Garden Club of America". Mrs. Charles Banks Belt, a national chairman of the GCA, caught the mistake, and wrote that credit should go instead to The Colonial Dames of America.

Checking with authorities, we find that the Claverton replica of the Mount Vernon garden was indeed given by the Colonial Dames. However, the small herb garden at the same place was done by the Southampton Garden Club, a member club of The Garden Club of America.

We thank Mrs. Belt for her helpful nudge toward the accuracy we always try for, and hope to attain.

THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN ADVISORY BOARD

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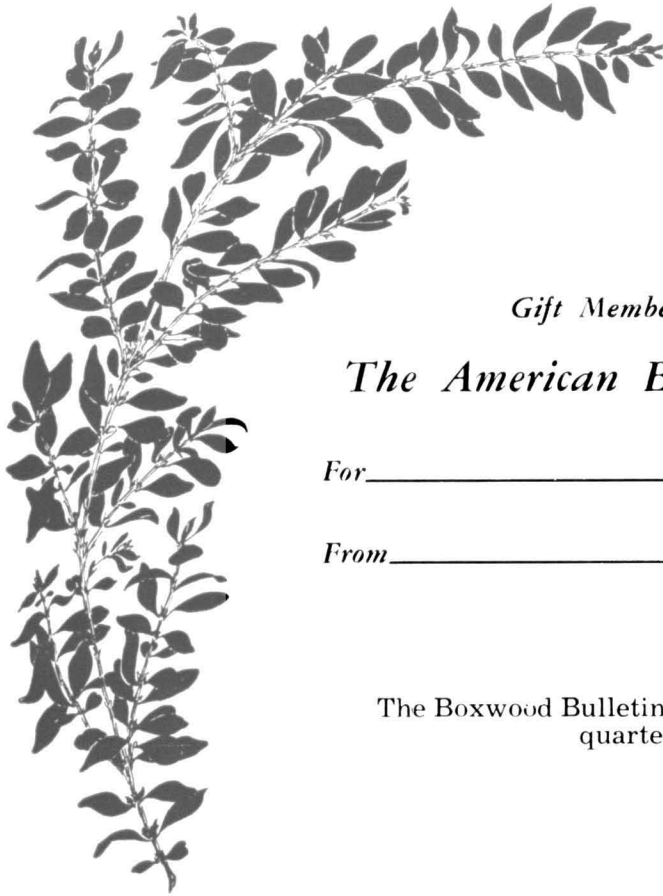
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Please include the Zip Code numbers; we must have them in all addresses after January 1st, 1967.

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