Photo: Courtesy Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

"Montpelier Mansion"

Laurel, Maryland
**The Boxwood Bulletin**

**July 1979**

**Vol. 19 No. 1**

**EDITOR — MRS. CHARLES H. DICK**

---

**INDEX**

- 1979 Boxwood Garden Tour __________________ 1
- Registration for 1979 Tour __________________ 4
- A Winchester Saga
  - Beryl Smith _____________________________ 5
- 19th Annual ABS Meeting __________________ 8
- Secretary's Report ________________________ 12
- Treasurer's Report ________________________ 12
- A Letter From The President ________________ 13
- ABS Director: Scot Butler __________________ 15
- ABS Director: Thomas Ewert ________________ 17
- Boxwood Workshops: Stratford Hall and Oatlands __________ 18
- Fall Boxwood Workshops: Martinsville _______ 20

---

**ILLUSTRATIONS**

- Cover: Montpelier Mansion.
  - Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission

- Oxon Hill Manor
  - Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission __________ 3

- Wolvesey Lodge __________________________ 5
- Wolvesey Lodge and Mill _________________ 7
- ABS Director: Scot Butler ________________ 7
- ABS Director: Thomas Ewert ________________ 17

---

All other photos in this issue by Kay and Tom Ewert.
Boxwood Garden Tour

Saturday, September 29 - Sunday, September 30, 1979

FALL GARDEN TOUR SCHEDULE

Greater Washington D. C. Area
Saturday, September 29, 1979

8:00 a.m. Chartered bus departs from Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia.

9:15 a.m. Meet local Washington, D.C. area registrants at the Old Colony Inn, 9:30 a.m. Alexandria, Virginia.

10:30 a.m. Tour the grounds and house at "Montpelier Mansion." Catered lunch will be served at "Montpelier Mansion," by the Friends of Montpelier.

2:00 p.m. Specialized tour of the Smithsonian Gardens with Smithsonian Horticulturist, James R. Buckler.

4:00 p.m. Check-In and Register at the Old Colony Inn, Alexandria, Virginia. Free time to rest and refresh for the evening.

6:30 p.m. Cocktails and dinner at the "Robert E. Lee Boyhood Mansion," Alexandria, Virginia.

Sunday, September 30, 1979

8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast. Check-Out of motel and board bus.

9:45 a.m. Depart Old Colony Inn for Gunston Hall, Lorton, Virginia.

10:00 a.m. Tour the lovely gardens at "Gunston Hall" and brunch will be served.

1:00 p.m. Tour the house and gardens of "Oxon Hill Manor." Oxon Hill, Maryland, the 1979 Decorator's Show House.

5:00 p.m. Visit the home of Mr. and Mrs. Scot Butler and their lovely boxwood garden. Cocktails and dinner will be served at the Butler's home.

7:30 p.m. Bus departs from the Butler's home to Blandy Experimental Farm, Boyce, Virginia.

There are things of interest to everyone from garden lovers to history buffs. Because we are American Boxwood Society Members, we have been promised special tours and privileges not generally available to the public.

Our chartered bus leaves Blandy Experimental Farm on Saturday, September 29th at 8:00 a.m. Guests joining the group at Blandy may leave their cars in the Blandy parking lot. An alternate pick-up location will be the Old Colony Inn, Alexandria, Virginia for the people not wanting to come to Blandy. Anyone wishing to meet the group in Alexandria must make prior arrangements with Kay Ewert. Early bird arrivals at Blandy can expect coffee and donuts prior to the bus departure from Blandy.

Our first stop will be, "Montpelier Mansion," located in Laurel, Maryland. Montpelier Mansion, the 18th Century home of the Snowden family, has been pointed to as one of the most beautiful Georgian houses in America. Many features of the house show the hand of skilled craftsmen. Thomas Snowden and his son, Major Thomas Snowden, built Montpelier between 1740 and 1783. Thomas Snowden, Sr. and his wife, Mary, are buried in the family plot on the grounds behind the Carriage House. Richard Snowden came from Wales around 1685 and established one of the earliest ironworks in Maryland near the head of the South River. They were extensive land holders — at one time over 20,000 acres. The land where Montpelier stands was included in a land grant to Richard Snowden called Robin Hoods Forest. The date of the grant was February 26, 1686, for 1,976 acres. By coincidence the Friends of Montpelier adopted its charter and by-laws February 26, 1976.

The house passed through many owners. The last private owners were Ambassador and Mrs. Breckenridge Long. After their deaths in 1958, their daughter, Mrs. Christine Willcox, presented the house and grounds to the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, in order to preserve the historic significance of the property. The Friends of Montpelier are currently striving to help furnish the Mansion through donations and to promote the historic program to enable visitors to enjoy this site now on the National Register of Historic Places. Montpelier is famous for its beautiful boxwood gardens dating to the 1700’s. The boxwood maze, some of it over nine feet high, is over
200 years old. A magnificent Osage orange tree is reported to be the largest specimen in Maryland. Plans are now underway to restore the gardens. A special committee on Garden Restoration, acquisition and research has been established.

Following lunch we will board our bus and continue on to the Smithsonian Institute Gardens. Our tour guide at the Smithsonian will be Horticulturist, James R. Buckler. A graduate of the University of Delaware-Longwood Gardens master's degree program in Horticulture. He came to the Smithsonian Institute in the summer of 1972. Mr. Buckler was offered the challenge of reconstructing the gardens of the Smithsonian Institute in keeping with their architectural styles. Much to the surprise of visitors is the Victorian Garden. The Victorian Garden re-creates the horticultural extravaganza of the 1876 Centennial Horticultural Hall and surrounding grounds at Philadelphia. The elaborate parterre on axis with the South Tower of the Smithsonian Institution Building is adapted from the sunken parterre located at the West End of the Hall from 1876 to 1905.

The interconnecting curvilinear walks are reminiscent of the broad carriage trails of late nineteenth-century private and public gardens. All trees, shrubs, and vines are typical of the period. Some varieties of nineteenth-century flora are no longer available, necessitating substitutions of cultivars and hybrids of today. The garden accessories -- urns, benches, wickets, lampposts, and fountain -- are either authentic Victorian pieces or castings of the originals. The Victorian Garden was researched and developed by the Office of Horticulture and opened to the public in the summer of 1976.

Our next stop will be to check-in and register at the Old Colony Inn, Alexandria. Time has been allowed to rest and refresh for a gala evening. Our gala evening will begin with cocktails and hors'd'oeuvres at the Robert E. Lee Boyhood Mansion, prior to dinner.

You'll find Sunday's activities interesting and intriguing as we begin our day with brunch at Gunston Hall. Gunston Hall is one of the historic homes that has been restored by the joint efforts of the Colonial Dames and the Garden Club of Virginia. The eighteenth century home of George Mason, the author of the Bill of Rights, was willed to the State of Virginia in 1949 by the late Louis Hertle, the estate to remain as a perpetual memorial to George Mason and his great contribution to the nation. Gunston Hall was designed by architect William Buckland. Last fall a boxwood workshop was conducted at Gunston Hall and again we are pleased to return to Gunston Hall and enjoy the gardens and all that it represents.

We then continue on our way to one of the finest examples in America of a neo-Georgian brick home, Oxon Hill Manor. Built in 1928 for B. Sumner Wells and designed by Count Jules Henri de Sibour. The present Oxon Hill Manor derives its name from the original home built in 1710 by Colonel Thomas Addison. The site of the original mansion, a short distance north of the present house, was a portion of a 25,000 acre grant from King Charles II of England to Colonel John Addison, father of Colonel Thomas Addison and an uncle of the essayist Joseph Addison.
In 1778, the widow of Thomas Addison, grandson of the builder and great grandson of the original grantee, married Thomas Hanson, whose uncle John Hanson was the first elected President of the United States in Congress Assembled under the Articles of Confederation, the document that united the Colonies prior to adoption of the Constitution. While visiting his nephew at Oxon Hill Manor, President Hanson succumbed to illness and died. He is thought to be buried in the cemetery adjoining the site of the old mansion.

The original mansion was leased for a period of time to Nathaniel Washington, who cared for George Washington's nephews, George S. and Lawrence A. Washington. The original mansion was destroyed by fire in 1895, and the site and cemetery were subsequently vandalized.

Mr. B. Sumner Wells had purchased 245 acres of the original estate, including the site of the destroyed mansion, in 1920. Mr. Wells was Under Secretary of State during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. President Roosevelt was a frequent visitor to the Manor, as were many other famous people.

The Manor and 55 acres of land were acquired in 1952, by Fred N. Maloff, an art dealer and collector. He established a museum for fine art and John Hanson memorabilia at the Manor. Mr. Maloff lived in the house until his death in 1972.

In 1976, the Manor and 55 acres of land were purchased by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which is currently working with the Oxon Hill Manor Foundation, Inc. to restore this historic site. The Foundation will lease the Manor from the Commission and undertake the renovation and restoration. The Manor was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on June 9, 1978, by the United States Department of Interior. The Oxon Hill Manor Foundation, Inc., was formed by many area residents interested in the restoration and preservation of the Manor.

When restored, the mansion will have a number of uses and will provide a gracious setting for weddings, receptions, recitals, dinners, meetings, art shows and many other cultural and social events. The Servant's wing will be offered for lease for studio and workroom space for artists and for classroom teaching.

To complete the day's activities our group will visit the home and lovely garden of Mr. and Mrs. Scot Butler, McLean, Virginia. The setting is lovely and cocktails and dinner will be served for your enjoyment.

Registration must be made in advance and will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. As space is limited, an early registration will insure priority booking. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Thomas E. Ewert (Kay Ewert) at the ABS headquarters.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO JOIN US FOR ANOTHER ABS TRIP.

The completed schedule will be released to the public on Sept. 1, 1979. Send check payable to the American Boxwood Society. Registration information may be sent to Mrs. Thomas E. Ewert, Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620. Registration is complete upon receipt of check. Registration fee of $25.00 is non-refundable after September 15, 1979.
OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM
AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY TRIP

September 29-30, 1979

American Boxwood Society Member ............. @ $94.00 ............
Non-Members
Includes 1 year membership ................. @ $99.00 .............

Total amount of check

Registration fee includes all fees and meals, excluding motel reservations. Bus transportation costs are the same for all guests. As a convenience to those people that live in the Maryland, Virginia or Washington, D.C. area the bus will pick-up anyone not wanting to drive to Blandy at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, September 29, 1979, at the Old Colony Inn, on George Washington Memorial Parkway, Corner N. Washington & First Streets, Alexandria, Va.

Registration fee of $25.00 non-refundable after September 15, 1979.

Note: Room Registration, will be handled by the motel at the time of bus arrival in the afternoon (4:30 p.m.) Please plan to pay for your room reservation at this time. DO NOT SEND ROOM REGISTRATION FEE WHEN REGISTERING FOR THE TRIP. However, please indicate what type of room you prefer: single, double, or you can share a room with up to four people. Please indicate who you'll be sharing a room with if you plan to share a room.

Room rate — $27.95 plus tax, per room, four people maximum to one room.

Name: ................................................................................................
Address: ..........................................................................................
Phone Number: ...............................................................................

Please indicate where you will join the group: Blandy ..............
Alexandria .............

Photos: Tom Ewert
Stratford Hall Boxwood Workshop
Much has been written about the old mills of Winchester. Ancient and historic, according to the records the site on which the subject of this article stands has been used to base a mill as far back as the year 1208.

Wharf Mill, as it is called, stands over the Weirs which operated it with water flowing from the River Itchen. Owned by the flour milling business of Simmons & Gifford, the present mill was not built until 1885, and a plaque on its northern frontage signifies this. One of the three sons of the Simmons family, Arthur Owen Simmons, later himself became the miller and with his offices in the mill, he lived with his wife and family in the adjoining Wolvesey Lodge. But of this more later.

The mill became famous for its 'Trusty Servant' Flour, and this interesting trade mark derives from an ancient emblematic figure, the presumed original of which to this day appears on a wall within the nearby Winchester College. Encircled by the words 'Manners Mayketh Man', the figure and its symbolic verse are to be seen beneath the coat of arms of the College. Standing upright on stag's feet, the figure represents an ass with a pig’s snout from which hangs a locked padlock.

Wolvesey Lodge nestles in gardens.

It is dressed like a man in the costume of the period—doublet and tunic. The qualities expressed in the verse which follows epitomize those claimed to go into the making of 'Trusty Servant' Flour.

"A Trusty Servant’s portrait would you see
This Emblematic Figure well survey;
The Porker’s Snout not nice in diet shews
The Padlock Shut no secrets he’ll disclose.
Patient the Ass his masters wrath to bear
Swiftness in errand the Stag’s Feet declare;
Loaded his Left Hand apt to labour saith,
The vest his neatness, Open Hand his faith.
Girt with his Sword his Shield upon his arm,
Himself and master he’ll protect from harm."

Not content with the manufacture of flour, the youngest of the brothers, Leonard Owen Simmons, was a founder member of the National Association of Master Bakers and Confectioners. He frequently contributed to the scientific and practical education of the trade through the inauguration of a series of classes and lectures, through articles on the subject and by his work as a technical examiner in the bread making competitions which were then a feature of the national scene, also writing a text book on flour milling and the baking of bread.
stands consisted of three small arches and needed to be rebuilt. The following extract from an article when the bridge was completed and opened to barge traffic:

"The expense of rebuilding lay with the Bishop of Winchester, and the cost was about £750. A proposition was made by the Bishop's surveyor to the owner of the Wharf Mills, the malt house, coal stores, dwelling houses and large gardens (who was an uncle of mine), that if he would pay £250 towards its being rebuilt, it should be erected in one arch sufficiently large for a barge to go through. Before that time flour, coals, malt, and all other goods had to be carted to the other side of the bridge, at a considerable cost for cartage. I need scarcely say my relation agreed to the proposed terms, and the bridge was built. I happened to be present when the first barge laden with 30 tons of coal passed through, to the great joy of my numerous relatives who resided and carried on business on the property. The barges then went up to the tail of the mill, and a long shoot being prepared, the sacks of flour slid down beautifully into the barges, while a man with a trolley on board wheeled them into their proper places. In order to celebrate the event my relatives had one of the barges cleaned and prepared for a trip, a table, seats and the usual good things being made ready to refresh us on board, and the barge being drawn by the horses in the usual manner. It was a splendid day, and the charming country we passed through only those can tell who have travelled by the barge river."

The old Wharf Bridge near which the mill stands consisted of three small arches and needed to be rebuilt. The following extract from an article in the Hants Observer of 16 June 1888 relates the steps taken to rebuild, and part of the celebrations when the bridge was completed and opened to barge traffic:  

But what of the ‘dwelling houses and large gardens’ referred to in the Hants Observer extract above quoted? The miller’s residence known as ‘Wolvesey Lodge’ still nestles in those gardens at the back of the mill, and upon his demise in 1944, two daughters were left to inherit the family house and interests. This lovely period house, to which the word ‘rambling’ surely applies, is built on three floors in the shadow of the mill. Its extensive lawns and gardens, which include a small apple orchard, being watered by three feeders from the River Itchen which flow through it. Two of these surge through the weir under the mill, the weir that worked the mill’s water wheel for so many years. The third and narrowest, known as the waste stream, comes through a conduit or tumbling bay in what is now the public gardens nearby, then passes through the gardens of the Lodge. After heavy winter rains it can be a rushing torrent, lapping over the narrow footbridge which crosses it, at times threatening to flood the lawns, but in the summer it is a lovely paddling stream. This could be the most interesting of the three waterways since here, of late years, to the surprise and pleasure of the residents, salmon come to spawn—a fact, unfortunately, which has not been overlooked by local poachers! 

The elder of the miller’s daughters continued in residence after her father’s demise, and was well known and loved in the district, later being joined by her widowed sister. Of recent years, several times each summer the sisters have thrown open their beautiful garden to the public in aid of a variety of charities. The Cheshire Homes and the International League for the Protection of Horses are among the beneficiaries, and for a small entrance fee the visitor may roam the gardens, laze in deck chairs by the water, have tea on the lawns or pass the time buying from different stalls manned by willing helpers. Visitors love to cross the rustic bridge which spans the central stream and leads to a narrow neck of land fringed by willows. On this spade-shaped and rounded neck of land rose bushes and ornamental shrubs flourish in the full rays of the afternoon sun. Its lawns provide an idyllic setting for contemplation in the deck chairs scattered around or beside the leafy willows reflected in the stream. This peninsula-shaped neck ends just short of the bridge on the main road under which the barges once functioned, and here the streams from the weir converge.

In 1936, Arthur Simmons, the last of the flour millers, retired and the mill was sold and ceased to be used as a flour mill, being retained for the manufacture of provender by its purchasers. They later sold it to S.C.A.T.S., who used it as a storage depot until the early sixties.

The mill then passed into the hands of developers, but a preservation order was placed upon it, thus saving it from demolition, and its handsome facade stands. With its shell and foundations intact, the building has been rejuvenated and houses 17 luxury flats, some being in a new wing. In its first booklet “NEW LIFE FOR OLD BUILDINGS” issued by the Department of the Environment, the conversion received an accolade, being mentioned as one of 22 rejuvenated buildings throughout the country which was chosen by the Department to show how ‘with skill and imagination, old buildings can be given new life for new purposes’. 

In the summer of 1974 one of these Open Days had been scheduled to take place on a date which regrettably, fell soon after the passing after a short illness, of the elder of these generous ladies. Miss Simmons had gone to her rest, and her sister...
would not hear of the public—or the charity—being deprived by this happening. She insisted that the garden be opened as had been planned, for as she said, her sister would have wished it.

But what of the name 'Wolvesey' and whence its origin? In Saxon times the word 'Ey' or 'Eye' meant island, and the adjacent Bishop's Palace and Wolvesey Castle behind the ancient city wall also perpetuate the name. Could this narrow peninsula, once an island and now forming part of the gardens of Wolvesey Lodge once have been an island on which wolves roamed? Carrying the fantasy still further, could that ancient city wall have served as a protection from marauding wolves as well as against the human armies of the day?!

A fascinating subject for further research.

Be that as it may, the island is now joined to the mainland and the peaceful stretch of river before it enters the weirs is today the home of a lone swan and a single white goose with an injured wing. How these two came to consort is another story, for there used to be two pairs of swans, and in the spring their offspring, floating on this stretch. Now the two white birds of different species sail contentedly together up and down the stream and gratefully receive the scraps offered by numerous admiring visitors. And on the other side of the weir moor hens, Mallard ducks and at times even sea gulls make their home, visiting the lawn in front of the Lodge in company with the garden birds, for the morning meal unfailingly left there for them.

And how nice to know that the narrow neck of land across the rustic bridge need not today be held in awe as 'Wolves Island'.

Wolvesey Lodge with the mill behind it

Photos: Tom Ewert

Stratford Hall Boxwood Workshop
THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY
19th ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, May 16, 1979

The 19th Annual Meeting was called to order by the President, Professor Albert S. Beecher, in the library at Blandy Farm at 10:58 a.m. May 16, 1979. All officers and directors were present with the exception of Dr. Ralph Singleton, Director, and Mrs. Linda Jones, Executive Secretary.

Mr. Thomas E. Ewert, Director of Blandy, welcomed the group to Blandy and said he was very pleased to be associated with ABS. The association had done a lot of good for Blandy. He then gave an interesting and lucid account of the history of Blandy for the benefit of newcomers.

Professor Beecher noted two changes in the Annual Meeting: (1) An Early Arrival Get-Together was held for the first time on the evening prior to the annual meeting in the Blandy Experimental Farm Library for members staying overnight in the area. Tom Hallowell presented an illustrated travelog which was followed by a get acquainted reception arranged by Mrs. Thomas Ewert. The Board will consider an evening program next year. (2) The second change was the $2 registration fee. This was partly to cover coffee expenses and partly to cover the garden visit later in the day, at which visit the Society would make a donation.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the 1978 Annual Meeting as printed in the July 1978 Bulletin was seconded and unanimously agreed upon by the membership.

In the absence of Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Kay Ewert read both the Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's Report, copies of which are attached. A separate motion for each report that both be accepted as read was moved and seconded. They were unanimously agreed upon. Mrs. Ewert mentioned that the dues envelope had been inadvertently omitted from the Bulletin mailout. Also patron and life members should ignore dues envelope. A special discount is given by the Post Office for the mailout if all bulletins are exactly the same.

The President thanked the Treasurer for all her work and recognized the many long hours given to it. He also thanked Sarah Burton for her help with registration, Beryl Gilmore for recording the minutes, Virginia Morrison, Marion Sturm and Millie Beecher who brought baked goods, Millie Beecher for the flower arrangement, and all those he may have overlooked.

The President was sorry and saddened to report that ABS member, Mrs. Helen Whiting, had died earlier this year. She had devoted many years to working with the Society, serving for a number of years as editor of The Boxwood Bulletin and later as editor emeritus. She had been responsible for an outstanding series of publications. In honour and memory of Mrs. Whiting, Mr. David E. Finley of D.C., Mr. A. L. McKnight of Richmond, and any other deceased member of ABS, there was a moment of silent prayer.

The President re-emphasized the Secretary's Report and again mentioned the three successful workshops at Blandy Farm, Gunston Hall and James City, which were well attended and enjoyed. On the basis of these workshops, additional workshops will be scheduled in 1979 (as mentioned later in the Minutes.)

As reported in The Boxwood Bulletin, April, 1979, Professor Beecher pointed out that a series of books and pamphlets were passed on by Admiral Phillips to the Society. These are now being catalogued and will be part of the library here.

During the year, several committees were set up, and were just getting started. They included:

Committee
Chairman
Membership _____________ Mr. Harrison Symmes
Nominating _______________ Dr. Ralph Singleton
Research ________________ Mr. Alden Eaton and Dr. Henry Skinner
Education and Publicity __ Prof. Albert S. Beecher
Memorial Boxwood Garden __ Mr. Richard Mahone
Boxwood Registration ______ Dr. Bernice Speese
Finance _________________ Mr. Thomas Hallowell
Hospitality _______________ Mrs. Kay Ewert
Boxwood Bulletin __________ Mr. Thomas Ewert

Although the committees each had a chairman, input is encouraged from all members and the President said he would like it very much if those members wishing to serve on any committee would inform the Board or Chairman.

During the year, several things were done to help publicize ABS, such as exhibiting at the various shows mentioned in the Secretary's Report. The President called upon members to pass names to the Board of anyone they knew who might be interested in becoming a member of the Society so that a letter could be sent to them.

Professor Beecher said that in the coming year there were several goals the Board would like to stress. These were:

1. How to get wider publicity.
2. How to get news items out to general public on care of boxwood.
3. The hope of increasing membership.
4. Everyone was invited to be scouts and help provide material for The Boxwood Bulletin, e.g. when travelling and visiting any particular state, please let Mrs. Dick know if a boxwood garden or interesting planting is run across. She would then write to the proper person and invite them to prepare an article.
5. The hope of progressing with the Boxwood Memorial Garden.
6. To be a stronger force in research as far as boxwood problems are concerned.

The President ended his report by thanking members of the Board for their work and support given to him during the last year.
Mrs. Charles Dick, editor of The Boxwood Bulletin, thanked everyone who had sent material or searched for material. At present, The Boxwood Bulletin for July was half way complete and the Bulletins generally were up to date. She mentioned that she had been as surprised as anyone that the printer had not included the dues envelopes with the last Bulletin. Mrs. Dick said that if anyone had any ideas of any kind with regard to the Bulletin to please let her know. She reminded everyone that it is the members’ Bulletin and, without their help, it could not be what it is.

The President thanked her for her work and help during the last year.

Next the President called for the Nominating Committee’s report. Originally Dr. Singleton was to have assumed responsibility for the Nominating Committee but, due to his being under the weather, Mrs. Kay Ewert had assumed such responsibility. Mrs. Ewert thanked the committee, Mrs. S. Burton and Mr. Wiseaver, for their help. She sadly reported that two members were leaving the Board, Dr. Skinner and Mr. Eaton, but happily both would still be helping ABS. The departing Board members were given a round of applause. Mrs. Ewert then presented the names of the officers for the coming year:

President ______ Professor Albert S. Beecher
First Vice President ______ Dr. Richard Mahone
Second Vice President ______ Mrs. Linda G. Jones
Executive Secretary ______ Mrs. Symmes
Executive Treasurer ______ Mrs. Thomas Ewert

The Directors whose terms needed renewing were Dr. Skinner, Mr. Eaton and Professor Beecher. Nominating committee recommendations were that Mr. Scott Butler should replace Mr. Eaton, Mr. Thomas Ewert replace Dr. Skinner and Professor Beecher remain. There were no nominations from the floor and the motion to accept the slate as presented by the Committee was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Ewert mentioned that if anyone is interested in becoming a Board member, ABS is looking for more Board members. Professor Beecher said, Presidents too, to the amusement of everyone.

With regard to the Memorial Garden, Mr. Tom Ewert said a few new plants had been added since last year. If any were labeled wrongly, he would be interested in hearing. New additions to the garden included Buxus harlandii cv. Richard from Mr. Plater’s Louisiana garden. Cuttings from the National Arboretum and from Williamsburg were propagated last winter. If anyone has any plants which are not in the Memorial Garden and they would like to donate them, Mr. Ewert would be grateful.

Professor Beecher introduced to the group Professor Faiszt, an Extension Specialist from Virginia Tech. Professor Faiszt said that the workshops do seem to attract a lot of interest, and were an excellent program for educating people about boxwood and getting them to use more boxwood more effectively. The movement of the workshops to various parts of the state enabled more people to participate. There will be a workshop on June 14 at Stratford Hall and one on June 15 at Oatlands in Loudoun County. There may possibly be a workshop in Martinsville, Virginia in October. Professor Faiszt said he would be happy to hear from anyone with any idea as to what they want as part of the program content. The President indicated that if anyone in an area out of Virginia would like a workshop and would act as Chairman of the local committee, or be willing to select the help of the local Extension Service, it is possible that a workshop could be organized.

Mr. Dick Plater raised a question about the memorial to Admiral Neill Phillips.

The President reported that the Board has decided against a special memorial for Admiral Neill Phillips, but to include him along with Dr. John T. Baldwin and Henry J. Hohman as members being honored in the ABS Memorial Boxwood Garden. Members wishing to honor the memory of Admiral Neill Phillips are invited to contribute to the Memorial Boxwood Garden Fund. A memorial plaque carrying the names of Baldwin, Hohman and Phillips has been authorized by the Board and will be erected in the garden. As Admiral Phillips loved topiary so much, it was suggested that the Memorial Garden should include a topiary piece. Director Symmes reported that an attempt was made to obtain a topiary piece from the Admiral’s home, but it was not successful. Mr. Alden Eaton volunteered to provide one if the new Board would advise on the type desired. Mr. Tom Ewert said he would be pleased to have it at Blandy.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried that Mrs. Whiting be honored by adding her name as member of the Boxwood Garden. Mrs. Dick mentioned that The Handley Library in Winchester, Virginia is establishing the Helen M. Whiting Memorial Book Fund and a small memorial boxwood garden in her memory.

The President appointed Mr. Thomas Ewert and Dr. Bernice Speese to be a committee to choose boxwoods to be named for specific people for the memorial garden. As ABS is a nonprofit organization, it was thought that donations would be tax deductible.

Mrs. Kay Ewert said that all details of the fall tour will be published in the July Bulletin. The dates of the tour would be Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, September 30. A chartered bus would leave Blandy early Saturday morning. First stop would be a behind-the-scenes tour with Jim Buckner of the Smithsonian Institute. It is possible they have some of Admiral Phillips’ topiary. The tour would continue to Paca Gardens and the Annapolis area.

As there was no more old business, the President went on to the new. Earlier in the meeting, Professor Beecher had reminded members of the report on the Boxwood Task Force in the latest bulletin. With regard to the boxwood decline and the summary of the Task Force recommendations printed in the Bulletin, he said the Board would like input from members as to which way ABS ought to direct themselves, and ideas were welcomed as to what direction research work should be encouraged: which area should ABS finance or emphasize? Again he asked what people felt should be the role of the Society as regards future research. To date, two different research projects have been funded: the first one was with the University of Maryland on nutrition. As yet the final report has not been received, but the President hoped to have it by the end of summer. The young fellow doing the doctorate work (finishing...
up his thesis after a two-year break) was invited to the meeting but was unable to attend.

Mr. Eaton of the Research Committee mentioned that $10,000 went to VPI and $5000 to the Maryland project. During the past year ABS had made no donations to research. More than half of the Society’s $8,700 in assets was in certificates of deposit. He did not know how much the Society should keep as a buffer. In any case, there is not much to give for research. VPI has requested funds from us. They also requested a written expression of support for their research, which ABS has supplied.

The Board felt strongly that the type of support should have the wishes and consent of all the membership. Mr. Eaton mentioning several possibilities, said ABS could support VPI research or it could look into cultural practices. He noted a book (or booklets) was a possibility, as was concentration on the memorial garden.

Members seemed to feel the most important thing was to get the decline identified; as one member put it, it was the single most important thing facing the boxwood society. Dr. Skinner, on behalf of the absent Mr. Hildreth, expressed an appeal to support cultural and nutritional research.

Most members were anxious to discover the cause of decline whether it be cultural or pathological.

In answer to a query, the President said that VPI Plant Pathology researchers were still working in the area of boxwood decline. In The Boxwood Bulletin for April it carried an article on the fungicide, Subdue, that was being tested. The problem with Subdue, that he said, is that it has not been registered and therefore cannot be used by the public. Professor Beecher added that large chemical concerns will not get products registered unless they feel there is a market for it.

Mrs. Dick thought the Board and members should be thinking of ways to fund the research.

It was generally felt that a publication was needed to educate and give cultural practices and general care of boxwood. And, as one member put it, it is possible a little money could be made on the side by selling it.

On a suggestion that The Boxwood Bulletin be used to form a booklet, the President said that there was a lot of excellent source material in the back issues and he felt a committee was needed to organize this material.

A member said that if ABS did have a publication, they could advertise in garden magazines. Another comment was that funds could be gained from across the country by selling such a publication to those people with boxwood questions who would otherwise not know where to write.

Another member said there was a strong need for a complete descriptive and photographic manual of all the named boxwood varieties and cultivars and he felt this project also ought to be considered.

The President said he appreciated all the comments in relation to research and also the suggestion that the Society have some type of a publication. Both matters will be developed by the Board of Directors and the Research Committee. The membership will be kept informed through The Boxwood Bulletin. Everyone was invited to send in other suggestions to members or the Board of Directors.

A motion was passed to adjourn for lunch and reassemble at 1:15 p.m. for the afternoon educational program.

The afternoon session reconvened in the library at 1:27 p.m.

The President thanked the Ewerts for the preparation of a delicious luncheon, for which all partakers were very grateful and thankful. Members applauded the Ewerts to show their appreciation.

The gavel and block used at the ABS meetings were made out of boxwood and presented to the Society a number of years ago by Honorary Life Member, Professor A. G. Smith, Jr. Professor Beecher invited those interested to examine it later.

Richard Mahone served as moderator for the first part of the afternoon program. He introduced Tom Hallowell, a native Pennsylvanian with many interests, who had been on the Board for a year.

Mr. Hallowell gave a beautiful slide show illustrating the 1978 Boxwood tour. Gardens visited during that tour included Mr. Hallowell’s own breathtaking gardens with his mile of boxwoods and thousands of azaleas, and several nearby homes and institutions. There were many sighs of pleasure from the audience, and the membership appreciated Mr. Hallowell’s photographic efforts.

Mr. Mahone next introduced Professor Faiszt, an Extension Horticulturist from Va. Tech. Mr. Faiszt presented an informative slide show Designing with Boxwood illustrating the versatility and many uses of boxwood. He enthusiastically pointed out the wide variety of form and growth habit of the available species, its textural and color interest and how it blends and harmonizes with other plants. The important points on the usefulness of boxwood landscape development were:

i. the different sizes: from dwarf to small tree;
ii. easy propagation from cuttings,
iii. lends itself to large institutional grounds such as the VPI grounds,
iv. its use in framing views,
v. its value in public areas,
vi. its use as a hedge, not only to enframe but also to separate areas,
vii. it has all of the requirements for a good hedge plant,

viii. lends itself to severe pruning and shearing, including geometric shapes and topiary,
ix. adaptable not only for large estates but also small home plantings,
x. adds a rich dimension to winter landscape,
xi. background for sculpture,

xii. contrast of boxwood with other plant materials such as bright red tulips as shown on a slide,
xiii. outdoor living areas afford opportunities for use of boxwood,
xiv. can be used around a small tree—a ground cover effect,
xv. helps focus to background views, such as flowering trees, etc.
xvi. used as an edging,
xvii. particularly effective intermingled with azaleas.

Professor Faiszt was applauded by the members. Mr. Mahone thanked him.
Ask the Experts, a question and answer period followed.

The Panel Moderator was Mr. Harrison Symmes. The distinguished Panel Members included:

- Mr. Thomas E. Ewert, Director, Blandy Experimental Farm.
- Dr. Wirt H. Wills, Professor of Plant Pathology, VPI & SU.
- Dr. Bernice M. Speese, ABS Registrar for International Boxwood Registration, Williamsburg.
- Dr. John A. Weidhaas, Jr., Associate Professor of Entomology, VPI & SU.
- Dr. Henry T. Skinner, Director, ABS.
- Mr. Richard Mahone, Landscape Supervisor for Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

A member wondered how long it was before a plant absorbed a systemic insecticide spray—as it had rained 12 hours after he had applied one. Dr. Weidhaas said that in most cases, if a spray is able spray would stick. However, no detailed work has been done on how long it takes for it to be taken up into the plant. Asked if he would re-spray in the event of rain within twelve hours, Dr. Weidhaas said no.

Asked if it were too late to transplant smaller plants, Mr. Mahone replied that at Williamsburg they liked to have all moving done prior to April 1. Unless absolutely necessary, no moving is done in May and June. If it is, anti-dessicants are used. When asked if boxwood can be moved in October or November, Mr. Mahone said plants should be moved at least 30 days before freezing. March is optimum time, or perhaps late February, for large plants, but 6" or 8" or 10" plants in containers can be moved any time. Mr. Symmes added that there is a controversy over the use of anti-dessicants on the grounds that some think they do not do too much good and can do a lot of harm.

A question was raised as to how to keep a topiary from getting a burnt edging? The use of good sharp tools should avoid mutilation said Mr. Mahone.

A question on internal pruning came up and Mr. Mahone responded that ‘plucking’ as it is called should be done during March. ‘Cleaning’ is done during winter months when the temperature is 45 or above. Cleaning or clearing the inside of the boxwood is also important in preventing the inside of a sheared hedge from dying out.

A question on how to avoid winter kill, Professor Beecher said that if there is dry weather in fall, make sure the boxwoods are watered well. If the soil is full of moisture, there will be less evidence of winter burn. Propagation should be from plants which do not have the tendency to winter burn. A snow fence might help—if you can stand the look of it. In response to several comments and queries on the use of dolomitic limestone or limewater and its ability to prevent winter kill, Dr. Skinner noted that the only place where English and American boxwood are found growing wild, is on limestone. It is their natural habitat. Asiatic species can grow in acid soil. Dr. Wills noted that decline has been experienced on different soils varying from Ph4 to 8 and there was no correlation between Ph and decline.

A member commented that when she stopped putting her usual winter mulch around her boxwood, the plants started to die. Mr. Symmes noted that boxwood is grown in Canada and sometimes without protection.

Concerning snow and the tying of boxwood for winter protection, Mr. Mahone said that nothing was tied at Williamsburg but sometimes the branches are lifted with pitch forks to let the snow off. Snow should only be taken off when it is new and before it turns to ice.

A member asked if she should give up on a plant when several stems die in winter. Dr. Wills said not to give up until it is found what is wrong. A specimen can be sent into VPI and, if it is not completely dried, it may be possible to tell something. Alternatively, members could get the county agent to look at the plant. In response to another question, Professor Wills said that if a large beautiful boxwood dies of the decline except for one little stalk, the whole boxwood will probably die. It is also true, in his experience, that if one branch dies from the decline (and not from something else), the rest of the plant will die too. Professor Wills was asked if he welcomed getting pieces of ground and root to identify. He said that for disease identification they should be addressed to VPI Plant Diseases Clinic.

In answer to a query concerning aerial roots, Mr. Mahone said these will die when exposed and not hurt a thing, but it is better not to let that happen.

Someone asked about using electrical clippers for pruning. Mr. Hallowell said he used a long 36" clipper and that generally speaking he liked to clip half of the new growth. Mr. Mahone said that most of the pruning at Williamsburg was done by hand shears. The secret is to get good clean shears and a good operator. Contrary to Mr. Hallowell, Williamsburg likes to do their pruning before new growth comes out.

A question was asked on how to keep boxwood alive in containers on a porch when the temperature goes below zero. The plants will survive if plunged into the ground or brought inside. They will also survive if the containers are sitting on the ground and the snow acts as a blanket. A successful method for small plants is to place the pots into larger pots and pack leaves in the space between the two pots.

A member noted that little is heard about nematodes these days. Dr. Wills responded that nematodes do cause damage but it is not known what nematodes really do to boxwood. Knowledge is very sketchy and that is why not much is heard about them.

Mr. Symmes thanked everyone for their questions.

Mr. Tom Ewert gave directions to Abram’s Delight in Winchester, where members would tour the garden and have tea. Mr. Ewert invited everyone to take a little Korean boxwood home with them compliments of Blandy. He said there were some small plants of Franklinia, winter jasmine, and Buxus sempervirens ‘Elegantissima’ also available, for which a small donation would be appreciated.
The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m. Members were invited to reconvene at Abram's Delight for a tour of the historical site and a tea in the garden. The day was warm and sunny.

Minutes recorded by Beryl E. Gilmore in the absence of Linda G. Jones, Secretary.

SECRETARY'S REPORT
19th Annual Meeting — May 16, 1979

The 1978-79 period has been one of the busiest yet. The spring garden tour was a success on May 14 and 15 with 33 people in attendance. Tom Hallowell was our host and a special thanks to him for all his kindness and help in preparation for this wonderful garden tour.

On behalf of the Society, Tom Ewert took our travelling exhibit to the Metropolitan Horticulture Show at Montgomery Mall in August of 1978. The exhibit was manned by Tom Ewert and members of the Blandy staff. A similar exhibit was on display at the Winchester City Flower Show and Williamsburg Garden Symposium.

On September 21, 1978, President Albert Beecher and Tom Ewert attended a workshop at the National Arboretum on behalf of the Society.

Workshops were conducted on October 10 at Blandy Experimental Farm, 26 participating; October 11 at Gunston Hall (Fairfax), 64 participating, and November at James City (Williamsburg) 63 participating. The attendance was well worth all the efforts of staff and volunteers. More workshops are planned this coming year.

March 2 through March 7th, the American Boxwood Society was represented at the Flower and Garden Show at the Nation's Capital (Washington, D.C. Armory/Starplex). The exhibit was designed, constructed and staged with the co-operation of Tom Ewert, Mrs. Henry T. Skinner and Mr. A. A. Greenwood volunteered to host the exhibit. A special thanks to them.

Honorary Life .......................... 6
Life Members .......................... 50
Sustaining Members .................... 23
Contributing Members .................. 98
Regular Members ..................... 542
Subscriber Non-members ............. 27
Free Subs. (sent to botanic gardens and institutions) .................. 22

We extend thanks to all that have helped during the year with the Society's activities.

Respectfully submitted
Executive Staff
Linda G. Jones
Kay Ewert

TREASURER'S REPORT
19th Annual Meeting — May 16, 1979

Checking Account Balance
April 29, 1978 ........................ $1,051.49

Receipts
Memberships ................. $3,761.50
Bulletin Sales ................ 498.75
Gifts and Donations ........ 891.00
Annual Meeting Luncheon ...... 163.00
ABS Spring Garden Tour .... 1,250.50
Memorial Fund
(Admiral Phillips ............ 225.00
(Mrs. Whiting) ............ 50.00
Workshops
Blandy—Oct. 10, 1978 .... 130.00
Fairfax—Oct. 11, 1978 .... 376.00
James City—Nov. 7, 1978 .... 316.00
Reimbursement of
Reserve stamp account .... 16.89
Flower Show tickets .... 20.00
Annual Meeting—
Lunch & Registration, 1979 58.00

7,756.64

Total funds accountable .................. 8,808.13

Disbursements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Boxwood Bulletin</td>
<td>2,554.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>380.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuts</td>
<td>380.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copies</td>
<td>380.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyrights</td>
<td>48.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photos</td>
<td>33.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes</td>
<td>139.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailings</td>
<td>110.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,265.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamps</td>
<td>128.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>98.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail Box rent</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe deposit rent</td>
<td>8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filing fees</td>
<td>13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President's expenses</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor's expenses</td>
<td>50.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Treasurer</td>
<td>427.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
<td>33.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>108.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABS Spring Garden Tour</td>
<td>1,606.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>109.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent letter printed</td>
<td>14.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>76.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blandy—Oct. 10, 1978</td>
<td>76.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfax—Oct. 11, 1978</td>
<td>307.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James City—Nov. 1, 1978</td>
<td>215.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower Show, Washington, D. C.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complimentary tickets</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 @ $2</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit—grass sod</td>
<td>12.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibit—bldg. materials</td>
<td>87.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial donations</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Helen Whiting</td>
<td>6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Meeting expenses</td>
<td>2.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$6,641.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance in Checking Account</td>
<td>$2,166.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings Account with Interest</td>
<td>2,297.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Deposit with Interest</td>
<td>4,297.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets, May 10, 1979</td>
<td>8,762.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All accounts are deposited in Farmers and Merchants National Bank, Berryville, Virginia.

Respectfully submitted
Kathryn M. Ewert
Treasurer
American Boxwood Society
To the Members of the American Boxwood Society:

I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the members of the American Boxwood Society to thank Dr. Henry T. Skinner and Mr. Alden Eaton, who are stepping down as members of the Board, for their many years of devoted service. Also, I want to welcome the two new Board members, Tom Ewert and Scot Butler, who were elected at the annual meeting.

Eaton and Skinner are stepping down after having served many years of dedicated service as directors or officers of the Society. These gentlemen have played an important role in the development of the American Boxwood Society.

Dr. Henry T. Skinner, the former Director of the National Arboretum, Washington, D. C., first became a Director in 1961 and has continued in that capacity until May 1979. As a Board member, Henry has helped to provide continuity to the Board and has made many fine contributions to the growth of the Society. He has also been a frequent contributor to The Boxwood Bulletin.

Alden Eaton, who is currently a Vice President of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, became a Director in 1964 and since that time has served faithfully as Director, 2nd Vice President and Vice President. Alden has made many fine contributions to the growth of the American Boxwood Society. Readers of The Boxwood Bulletin will recall the many timely articles of the culture of boxwood that he has submitted.

Both Alden and Henry have taken an active part in the annual educational meeting of the Society sharing willingly their vast knowledge on boxwood.

Although these gentlemen have stepped down from an active role, we will continue to look to them for help and guidance and we are indeed grateful for the role they have played in the growth of the American Boxwood Society.

Sincerely,

Albert S. Beecher
President
American Boxwood Society
DIRECTORY
American Boxwood Society

OFFICERS

President:
Prof. Albert S. Beecher
807 Sunrise Drive, S.E.
Blacksburg, Va. 24061
Home—703-552-2966

First Vice-President:
Mr. Richard D. Mahone
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
P.O. Box C
Williamsburg, Va. 23185
Office—804-229-1000 Ext. 2256
Home—804-229-1810

Second Vice-President:
Dr. Bernice M. Speese
608 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, Va. 23185
Home—804-229-1174

Secretary:
Mrs. Linda G. Jones
Rt. 1, Box 141-K
Berryville, Va. 22611
Home—703-955-1441

Treasurer:
Mrs. Thomas E. Ewert
P.O. Box 175
Boyce, Va. 22620
Home—703-837-1068

DIRECTORS

Dr. W. Ralph Singleton
1841 University Circle
Charlottesville, Va. 22903
Home—804-293-4692

Mr. H. Thomas Hallowell, Jr.
"Deerfield"
Rydal, Pa. 19046
Office—215-884-7300
Home—215-886-8883

Mr. Harrison Symmes
Director's House
Mount Vernon, Va. 22121
703-780-2000

Mr. Scot Butler
7525 Old Dominion Drive
McLean, Va. 22101
Home—703-356-3294

Mr. Thomas E. Ewert
P.O. Box 175
Boyce, Va. 22620
Office—703-837-1758
Home—703-837-1068

THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN

Editor:
Mrs. Charles H. Dick
514 Amherst Street
Winchester, Va. 22601
Home—703-662-5196

ADDITIONAL NAMES

Dr. R. C. Lambe
Dept. of Plant Pathology & Physiology
VPI & SU
Blacksburg, Va. 24061
703-961-6762

Dr. Wirt Wills
Dept. of Plant Pathology & Physiology
VPI & SU
Blacksburg, Va. 24061
703-961-6263

Prof. James A. Faiszt
Dept. of Horticulture
VPI & SU
Blacksburg, Va. 24061
703-961-5801

John A. Weidhaas, Jr.
Extension Specialist
Entomology, VPI & SU
Blacksburg, Va. 24061
703-961-6772

Carr Publication: 703-837-1101
703-662-8283
Mr. Butler was born in Washington, D.C., in 1923. He received a B.A. degree from Swarthmore College in 1946 after completing three years of military service in World War II. He earned his M.A. degree and the Certificate of the Russian Institute at Columbia University. He has served with the U.S. Government for over 30 years as a Russian language and area specialist engaged primarily in economic research and analysis. He has been a resident of McLean, Virginia, since 1950, and a member of the American Boxwood Society since 1971. His interest in boxwood predates his membership in the Society by some 15 years, as he explains below.

"Although I grew up with an appreciation of trees (my father was editor of American Forests magazine for 25 years) I did not really become aware of boxwood until early in my marriage when my wife confided that since visiting Williamsburg as a child she had hoped to live in Virginia and raise boxwood. The first step was taken when we settled in Arlington, Virginia, in 1948, but it was another eight years before the second step materialized.

"In 1950 we bought an old farmhouse on five acres in McLean and like many young couples who move from an apartment to the country (which McLean then was) we wanted to improve on what nature had already provided by planting specimens of many additional kinds of trees and shrubs. Among our prized plant material were a metasequoia (Dawn Redwood) from the National Arboretum and several small English oaks from Cape Cod (allegedly from trees brought to this country as seedlings by President Eliot of Harvard University.) But it was not until 1956 that the first boxwoods were acquired—and what specimens they were!

"As we were leaving the home of a friend in Fredericksburg one bleak Sunday afternoon in
autumn he presented us with an armful of \textit{buxus sempervirens} clippings scooped up from the ground where they had been lying for perhaps a day or two. 'Here,' he said, 'just stick these in the ground and they will grow.' I rejoined that some type of preparation and care must surely be required and asked for instructions. But our friend would give no further help. With little expectation of success, we were surprised when about 40 percent of the sticks survived the winter. Most of these were soon showing signs of new growth and eventually turned into vigorous plants.

"Encouraged by this venture with what I then knew simply as 'American' boxwood and inspired by what I saw on house and garden tours, I decided to add some 'English' boxwood to our collection. These were fine specimens of \textit{suffruticosa} measuring about 18 inches in diameter. There was never any doubt in my mind that they would thrive, and they did. Such were the beginnings of my experience with boxwood, which quickly became my favorite plant and the object of heightened horticultural interest to me.

"Although we have moved twice since those days and have always left our boxwood plantings for the next owner, we have never been without boxwood. We have not always enjoyed the success of our first experience, however. In our present home we created a small formal boxwood garden in 1964. Having read the book of an authority who advocated 'benign neglect' of boxwood we did nothing for our plants. It was with grave concern that we watched the plants languish, a few dying each year. Unable to maintain such apathetic behavior in the face of disaster I sought the advice of a nurseryman for immediate help and shortly thereafter joined the ABS to gain a deeper understanding of the culture of boxwood. I am happy to say that not only did we succeed in reversing the decline of our boxwood garden but in the process discovered a rewarding association with fellow boxwood fanciers.

"I feel honored indeed to become a director of the Society. Although I do not bring professional horticultural knowledge to the position I will endeavor to learn and to work for the diffusion of sound knowledge in the cultivation and classification of boxwood."
I was born March 16, 1943 in Rock Island, Ill.

I lived in Rock Island until I was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966. Kathryn Mary Davis and I were married on August 10, 1963. Both of our parents still reside in Illinois: mine in Rock Island and Kay's in Moline.

In the Army I was stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Fort Ord, California, and Fort Gordon, Georgia for training and then served 13 months in Korea. Kay accompanied me to California, Georgia, and Korea. After my Army service I earned my Bachelor's degree with Honors in Horticulture from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado (1970).

I received a Master's degree in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Delaware through the Longwood Gardens Graduate Program in 1972.

I took the position of Director of Blandy Experimental Farm in July of 1972, and this was the beginning of my association with the American Boxwood Society.

I feel the role of Blandy in the '70's has been to rebuild its reputation as a valuable Botanic Collection and to develop its usefulness to the educational institutions of Va. and the public in general.

The American Boxwood Society is a group of fantastic people. They've supported Blandy since their beginning in 1961, and I'm pleased that they continue to be interested in the Arboretum and its activities. Their support is a valuable asset for Blandy.

I am proud to be a Director of the American Boxwood Society since its interests are part and substance of mine.
BOXWOOD WORKSHOPS
STRATFORD HALL AND OATLANDS

Stratford Hall in Westmoreland County, Virginia, and Oatlands in Loudoun County, Virginia, were the locations of the June Boxwood Workshops sponsored by the American Boxwood Society in cooperation with the Cooperative Extension Service of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Workshops continue to be a popular activity of the Society. In 1978 workshops were held at the Blandy Experimental Farm, Gunston Hall and James City. In 1977 two were held at the Blandy Experimental Farm and one at the National Arboretum. Another workshop is being planned for this fall for the Martinsville-Danville-Roanoke area of Virginia. It will be held in Martinsville.

Professor James A. Faiszt, Extension Horticulturist at Virginia Tech, was instrumental in organizing the 1979 Workshops and he was assisted by Nicholas P. Ptucha, Extension Agent Westmoreland County, and William J. Brown, Extension Agent Loudoun County. Thomas Ewert, a Director for the American Boxwood Society, served as the registrar for the workshops.

Both workshops were well attended. The weather was ideal for the touring of the grounds after the formal workshop program. At Stratford Hall a delightful plantation lunch was served, and at Oatlands a box lunch was enjoyed in the picnic area under the shade of some majestic trees.

In 1934 the restored Stratford Hall Garden was turned over to the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation by the Garden Club of Virginia, but in the ensuing years to 1961 the boxwood steadily declined until finally it looked like a disaster area in spite of the advice of many experts. In 1948 it was thought that nematodes were the major factor in the death and decline of the boxwood.

Admiral Bass remarked that in 1961 Professor Emeritus A. G. Smith was hired as a consultant, and it was through his efforts in working with the Head Gardener, Gerald F. Allard, that the trend was reversed and the gardens were restored to their natural beauty. Smith’s successful formula for the planting and growing of boxwood is recorded in the book entitled *The Boxwood at Stratford Hall*, published in 1966 by the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation.

In this book there is a history of the boxwood decline at Stratford Hall and a record of the unsuccessful treatments that were made from 1934 to 1961 along with a description of the program of action developed by Professor Smith to restore the boxwood. Growers today who are experiencing difficulty in growing boxwood or who are losing them might find the answer to their problems in the book *The Boxwood at Stratford Hall*. 
The first speaker at the workshop was Professor James A. Faiszt of the Virginia Tech Horticulture Department. He presented an illustrated lecture outlining the various roles that boxwood can play in the development of garden design. A summary of Professor Faiszt's comments will appear later in *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

The morning session was concluded by Professor Albert S. Beecher, President of the American Boxwood Society, who discussed *Boxwood Culture*. A summary of his comments will also appear in a future issue of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

The afternoon session was moderated by Thomas Ewert, Director of the American Boxwood Society, and was devoted to a discussion of *Insect Problems of Boxwood and Boxwood Diseases*. Professor Faiszt handled the insects and Dr. Wirt H. Wills, Plant Pathologist at Virginia Tech, discussed boxwood diseases. Summaries of their comments will appear in coming issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin*.

The workshop concluded with a guided tour of the house and gardens.

The program of the Oatlands Workshop was almost identical with the one at Stratford Hall except that Gerald S. Bunn, Extension Agent for the Fairfax Cooperative Extension Service, handled the program on *Insect Problems of Boxwood*, and as a special addition to the program format Mrs. Maxine Pearson presented a demonstration on *Boxwood in Flower Arrangement*. Mrs. Pearson is in charge of providing floral arrangements throughout the year for the various rooms in the Oatlands mansion.

Mrs. Miriam Rabb, Oatlands Administrator, welcomed the group to Oatlands. William J. Brown, Extension Agent for Loudoun County, served as the morning moderator and Thomas Ewert, Director of Blandy Experimental Farm, served in a similar capacity for the afternoon session.

A delicious box lunch was enjoyed in the Oatlands picnic area which is surrounded by a most interesting collection of trees. Of special interest in this area is a very old specimen of the osage orange and an unusually fine stand of the American hornbeam. On the grounds at Oatlands, there are 40 different kinds of native and exotic trees which are labeled for the convenience of the visitor.

After the formal workshop program the participants enjoyed touring the terraced formal garden at Oatlands which was originally designed and planted by George Carter, who built Oatlands House in the early 1800's and lived there until his death in 1846. The garden is considered one of the finest examples of early Virginia landscape design and is noted for its magnificent boxwood. As a conclusion to a most successful day, the group toured the Oatland House which is now maintained by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States.
A fall Boxwood Workshop is being planned by the American Boxwood Society in cooperation with the Department of Horticulture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University for October 11 in Martinsville, Virginia. This program is being scheduled for the boxwood growers of Roanoke, Rocky Mount, Bedford, Danville, Chatham and Lynchburg. ABS members living in Winston-Salem and Greensboro, North Carolina, are within easy driving distance of Martinsville.

The format of the Martinsville Boxwood Workshop will be similar to the ones held this spring at Stratford Hall and Oatlands. In addition to programs on Designing with Boxwood, Boxwood Culture, Insect and Disease Problems, there will be a session on Propagation of Boxwood.

At the conclusion of the formal workshop program there will be a tour of one of the outstanding boxwood gardens in Martinsville. Arrangements for lunch are being made.

The Workshop will take place at the Dutch Inn Motel on Rt. 250 in Martinsville on Oct. 11, 1979.

The fee for the Workshop will be $3.00. A Dutch Treat Buffet Luncheon will be available at a modest cost.

Professor James A. Faiszt, Extension Horticulturist at Virginia Tech, and Harry M. Little, Extension Agent for Henry County, are working on the details for this workshop in collaboration with the ABS Education and Publicity Committee.

Be sure to reserve October 11 for the Martinsville Boxwood Workshop.

Registration for Fall Workshop
October 11, 1979 — Martinsville, Va.

To register, send a check for $3.00 to "Boxwood Workshop" c/o Mr. Harry M. Little, Extension Agent, P. O. Box 7, County Administration Building, Collinsville, VA 24078.
THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

INFORMATION

Address: Box 85, Boyce, Virginia 22620

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Regular membership dues of The American Boxwood Society are now $5.00. This includes a subscription to The Boxwood Bulletin.

Non-member subscriptions are for groups and institutions such as botanic gardens, libraries, etc. These are $6.00 a year, and run by the calendar year.

The Boxwood Society year runs from one Annual Meeting to the next; from May of one year to May of the next year. Those joining the Society at other times are sent all the Boxwood Bulletin issues for the current Society year, beginning with the July number. Their dues are then again due and payable in the following May. This was voted by the Society in order to lighten as far as possible the heavy work load of our busy Treasurer.

At the present time any or all Bulletins are available, back to Vol. 1, No. 1 (Vol. 1 consists of three issues only, there was no Vol. 1, No. 4.) Price per single copy is $1.50.

Besides regular membership dues at $5.00 per year, there are other classes of membership available: Contributing, $10.00; Sustaining, $25.00; Life, $100.00; and Patron, $500.00.

Gift memberships are announced to the recipients by boxwood-decorated cards which carry the information that The Boxwood Bulletin will come as your gift four times a year.

Members of The American Boxwood Society are reminded of the 1968 IRS decision that contributions to and for the use of the Society, are deductible by donors as provided in Section 170 of the Code.

FOR YOUR ADDRESS BOOK

If your letter is concerned with:
Membership, new or renewal
Payment of dues
Donations to research programs
Change of address
Gift Membership
Ordering back issues of the Bulletin
Ordering Dr. Wagenknecht's List

Write to:
Mrs. Thomas E. Ewert
American Boxwood Society
Box 85
Boyce, Virginia 22620

If your letter is concerned with:
General information about the Society
Advice concerning boxwood problems or cultural information
Boxwood selection

Write to:
Mrs. Linda G. Jones
American Boxwood Society
Box 85
Boyce, Virginia 22620

In some cases depending upon the nature of your request, your letter may be forwarded to a member of the Board or another appropriate member who can provide the help you have requested.

You are also welcome to write direct to the President of the American Boxwood Society:

Professor Albert S. Beecher
807 Sunrise Drive, S.E.
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

If you have contributions for the Boxwood Bulletin - articles, news notes, photographs, suggestions of anything of probable interest to boxwood people, it saves time to direct them to the Editor:

Mrs. Charles H. Dick, Editor
The Boxwood Bulletin
514 Amherst Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601
BOXWOOD—
A heritage from Yesterday
A privilege for Today
A bequest for Tomorrow