



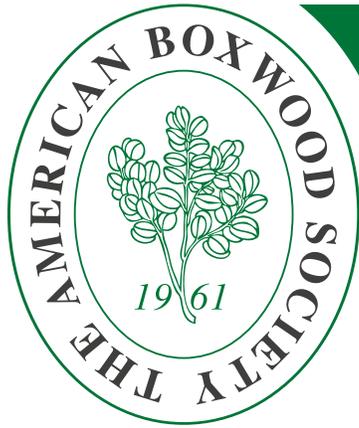
The Journal of The American Boxwood Society – Devoted to Our Oldest Garden Ornamental

THE BOXWOOD BULLETIN

A Tribute to Lynn R. Batdorf

Plus, Managing Boxwood Blight, Update on Box Tree Moth, Event Recaps, and More





The American Boxwood Society is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1961 and devoted to the appreciation, scientific understanding and propagation of *Buxus*. For additional information on the Society, visit our website at: boxwoodsociety.org

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Email: amboxwoodsociety@gmail.com

Write: American Boxwood Society
P.O. Box 85, Boyce, VA 22620-0085

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Cover photos from top to bottom, left to right: Blandy Experimental Farm; Lynn R. Batdorf at the 2018 ABS Symposium; Clay Hill; 2025 Symposium Attendees

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Letter from the President

It is our distinct honor to dedicate this *Bulletin* to Lynn R. Batdorf in recognition of the publication of his newly revised book, *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. This comprehensive and authoritative volume represents a significant contribution to the field, and serves as an invaluable reference for scholars, horticultural professionals, and all who appreciate boxwood. At our most recent Symposium at Blandy Experimental Farm, Kevin Collard presented Lynn with ABS's highest accolade, the lifetime achievement award. Mr. Batdorf's dedication to research and documentation has greatly enriched our collective knowledge, and the American Boxwood Society is pleased to acknowledge his enduring impact.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the ABS community and our many friends for the love and support shown this past year. It has been a difficult year for me personally since the passing of my husband, Eric T. Fleisher. T followed me into the ABS world with open arms and an open heart, and he left us far too soon.

During my leave of absence, our remarkable Board and membership stepped up in every way. Because of you, ABS not only endured but accomplished a great deal this year.

I am especially grateful to Pat Reilly, our Executive Director, who has been instrumental in organizing and strengthening our nonprofit requirements and keeping us fully up-to-date. One of the highlights of our year was the ABS Symposium, based at Blandy Experimental Farm in Virginia. It was a wonderful



and successful event, and I extend sincere thanks to all who presented, organized, and volunteered. These events are always the result of a dedicated team, and we are eager to welcome more volunteers. If you are interested, please reach out—especially as we plan for next year's Symposium in Lexington, Kentucky.

As we all know, our work faces increasing challenges—from boxwood blight to the emerging threat of the boxwood tree moth. ABS remains committed to education and outreach, helping

our members and the public learn how to identify and manage these issues. Vigilance is essential: open up boxwood plants to inspect for caterpillars, remove them by hand if found, treat with Bt when appropriate, and always notify your local Extension agency. Education is our strongest tool!

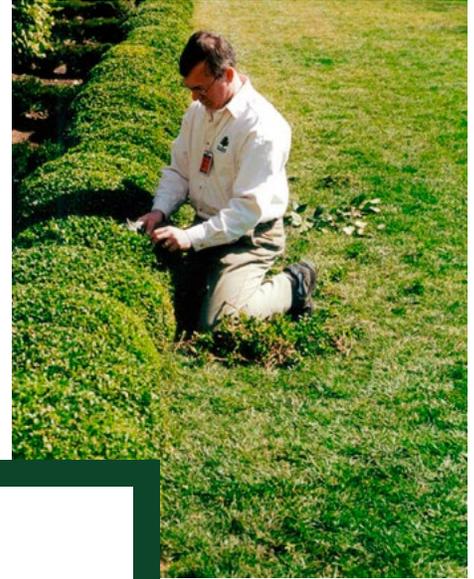
Also in January, ABS hosted a very successful exhibit at MANTS. My sincere thanks go to everyone who donated their time and energy to set up and staff our booth. It was a pleasure working together to spread the word about managing boxwood blight and the boxwood tree moth. With more than 900 vendors, MANTS is a tremendous event, and we welcome volunteers interested in participating next year.

Finally, I want to again express my deepest gratitude to the ABS community. Your dedication has expanded our reach, strengthened our membership, and supported me personally during a challenging time. I am truly thankful to be part of such a caring and committed organization.

Honoring Lynn R. Batdorf

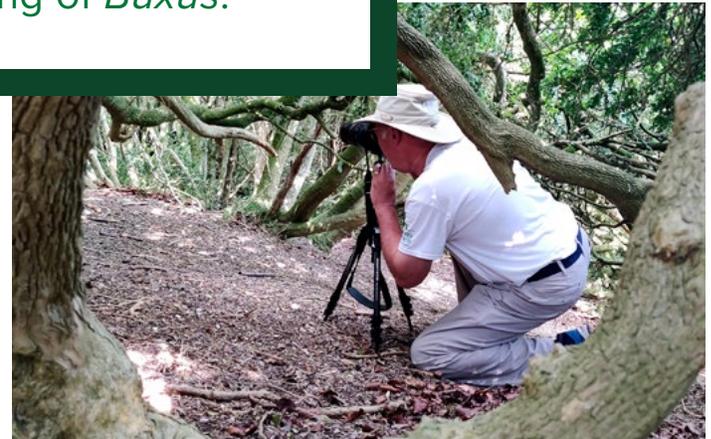
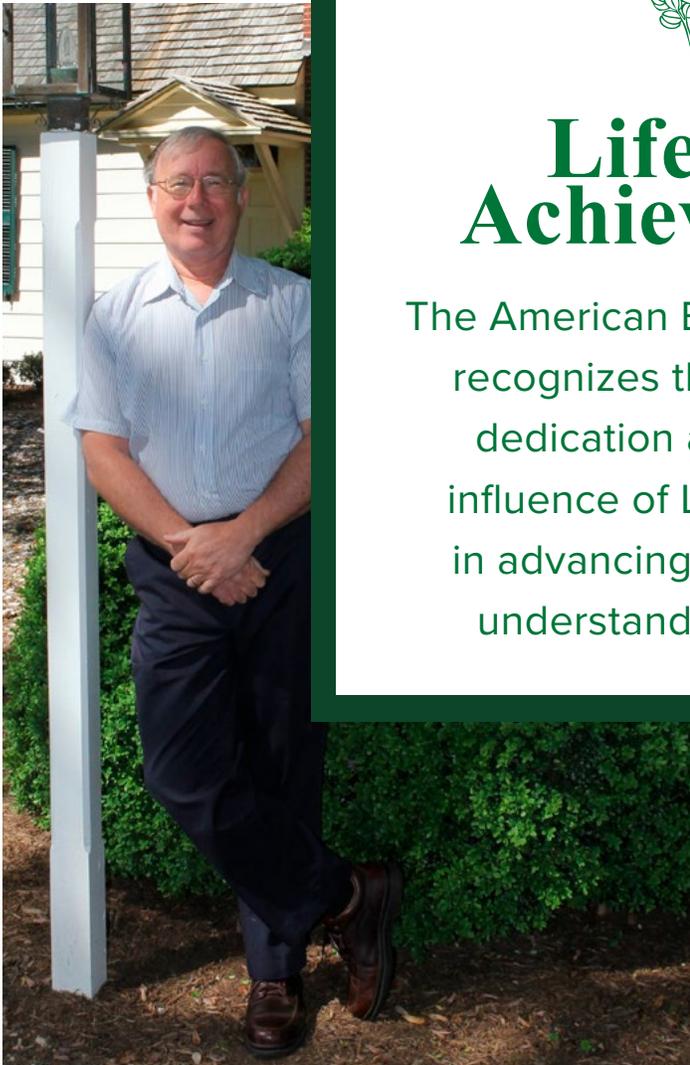
Board Meeting attendees on October 15, 1986. Left to right. Seated: Holekamp, B. Larson, J. Butler, Frackelton, Ward. Standing: P. Larson, Faiszt, S. Butler, Mahone, Lynn Batdorf, Flory, Gray, Ewert and Beecher

Lynn Batdorf pruning a hedge of 'Green Pillow' in the Rose Garden at the White House



Lifetime Achievement

The American Boxwood Society recognizes the exceptional dedication and enduring influence of Lynn R. Batdorf in advancing the study and understanding of *Buxus*.



Lynn photographing naturally-growing box in the Chilterns, UK

An interview with Lynn R. Batdorf



Lynn R. Batdorf has been a member of the American Boxwood Society for 48 years. Far longer than any other member. All ABS members know of Lynn's numerous contributions to the ABS and the informed lectures he has given our association. The time was right to sit down with Lynn for a candid interview. When I caught up with him, he was preparing for a presentation in Paris and musing over his next new book, details forthcoming. For Lynn, it is always about boxwood nomenclature or culture.

Lynn and I first met through our association in the ABS. We immediately began to enjoy a close friendship, now spanning more than two decades. Lynn has a Bachelor's in ornamental horticulture from the University of Maryland. For 36 years, from 1977 to 2013, he served as curator of the National Boxwood Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC. Since 1985, he has continuously served as International Cultivar Registration Authority for *Buxus*, appointed by the International Society of Horticultural Science.

He's written six books on boxwood and over 65 technical boxwood articles in various journals. He lectures internationally to various professional groups. Lynn is an Honorary Life Member of The European Boxwood and Topiary Society; The American Boxwood Society; Association Française pour l'Art Topiaire et le Buis; and the Deutsche Buchsbaum Gesellschaft. At the 2025 ABS symposium, he was honored as the first recipient of the ABS Lifetime Achievement Award.

He proudly served as a member of the Maryland Army National Guard, retiring as a Second Lieutenant. He is married to Holly Hamilton, father of two, and grandfather of six.

With a few preliminaries, I began my interview.

When did you become interested in boxwood?

When I started my career as a curator at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC.

When did you start working at the U.S. National Arboretum?

April 1977.

When did you join the ABS?

1977. I joined so I could learn more about boxwood. You need to remember in 1977, the ABS was "only" 16 years old. So, it was easy to buy all the quarterly journals from 1961 to 1977. I sequentially read every page of every issue. One of the most insightful things I ever did. Those old issues gave me a great foundation to build on.

Who had the largest influence on your career?

Probably Mark and Elizabeth Braimbridge. In the early 1980's, they had just started a box nursery in England. They asked me to visit them for a box consultation. Through the years they hosted me, at their home, for weeks at a time. I think I made six visits. They made introductions to prominent people and significant collections of box in Europe. A very intelligent, accomplished, and generous couple. Did you know they were the founders of the European Boxwood and Topiary Society?

There were some pioneers in the plant exploration field, will you share some of your thoughts?

Dr. Edgar Anderson easily comes to mind. In 1934, he explored the Balkans because of its dry, hot summers and cold, sunny winters. He wanted to select and introduce wild, cold-tolerant ornamental plants. Long story made short, 'Vardar Valley', a robust nearly bullet-proof boxwood, remains his stunning achievement.

My dear late friend, Dr. Egon Köhler was another. A botanist and professor at the Humboldt University in Berlin, his multi-decade expeditions to Cuba resulted in his discovery and naming of several new tropical *Buxus* species. He wrote an amazing *Flora* on the box species in Cuba. A very intense, intelligent, yet kind and thoughtful German whom I greatly miss.

I must mention a great contemporary explorer, Dr. Tomasz Aniśko, easily the most productive of any of his peers. His expeditions explored Georgia in 2001; Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine in 2002; Western Caucasus in 2004; Northern Greece in 2005; Macedonia in 2007. Nearly 350 wild selections, the best of which remain in cultivation at Longwood, really exciting and significant germplasm.

Who is the most interesting person that you have met through your boxwood pursuits?

It is impossible to single out any one person as the most interesting. I've really enjoyed meeting so many different people throughout the world. Easy for me to embrace their strengths and accept their nuances. After all, we are all doing our part to understand and promote boxwood. What else matters?

What is the most interesting place that your boxwood travels have taken you?

Easily the Caucasus. That is, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Dr. Tomasz Aniśko, then Curator of Plants at Longwood Gardens, organized and led this plant collection expedition in 2002. I was fortunate enough to be a participant. In a very positive way, it was a life-altering experience for me to spend three weeks in this region of the world.

What is your favorite boxwood?

Isn't that like asking me which is my favorite child?

What is your most disliked boxwood?

Umm, I think I just answered your question...

What is your favorite companion plant to boxwood?

More boxwood.

What is the best management practice regarding boxwood care that you would like to impress on the membership?

Boxwood is a low maintenance plant. Really. Too many gardeners, and even some professionals, do "things" to boxwood without fully understanding the long-term implications of their actions. My *Handbook* reveals all. The secret to boxwood is the extremely dense hard wood. It is nearly twice as hard as oak. That's why it is been so successful in cultivation for the past 6,000 years. Yet recently, *Calonectria* then *Cydalima* have become a challenge. Compared to most other plants that's a pretty good run. There are some amazing international transdisciplinary research initiatives which have begun to mitigate these threats.

Where do you see the future of boxwood in landscape design?

With a full understanding, I remain optimistic about the future of boxwood. Some cultivars are highly susceptible to both *Calonectria* or *Cydalima*. Soon enough, these will abdicate to new improved selections. There's some amazing research, breeding and selection in both the US and Europe which will ensure boxwood remains a dominant landscape plant. It is going to look different than the box of yesteryear and I'm excited about that.

With new cultivars of *Buxus* being developed that are disease and pest-resistant are you concerned that we are going to forget some of the more interesting cultivars that are no longer grown commercially?

Yeah, I could get melancholy about losing some dear "friends". There's some valuable germplasm in these beautiful and distinctive cultivars. Yet, in a few decades, many may not be in cultivation. I've already seen this at the Hillier Arboretum and the Royal Botanical Garden, Kew. As these box succumb to *Calonectria* and *Cydalima*, there are plant collections policies, or management decisions, to not replace them. Pragmatically this is the only positive short-term solution.

Said differently, imagine we were in a traditional garden with boxwood 100 years ago. Compare that to a contemporary boxwood garden. What a remarkable evolution! So, just imagine how exciting the boxwood selections will be in 2125. I can't wait.

And following up to the previous question, does that make boxwood collections at institutions like the U.S.

National Arboretum more valuable?

An astute question. To paraphrase my dear friend and former colleague, Dr. Richard Olsen, Director of the U.S. National Arboretum, the arboretum was created for and prepared for just this occasion. As a “bureau of standards” for the nursery industry, the National Boxwood Collection holds the most diverse and documented collection in the United States. As such, with the introduction of the invasive fungal pathogen, boxwood blight, arboretum scientists redirected breeding efforts to boxwood, utilizing its extensive diversity to elucidate taxonomic relationships, pollination biology, and pathogenicity studies.

The Arboretum, using genic SSR markers, studied many of its 700 *Buxus* accessions. In 2016, their dendrogram established the genetic relationships among boxwood species and cultivars. A profound achievement allowing breeders and scientists to select taxa, or not, for creating an entirely new generation of pest- and disease-free box. It doesn't get any better than this.

What was the genesis of writing the *Boxwood Handbook* and the *Boxwood Encyclopedia*?

If you're looking for cultural information on roses, daylilies, azaleas, conifers, or just about any plant group, you'll find plenty of great references. Well, in 1979, boxwood had a 16-page pamphlet written by the USDA. There wasn't much more. So, I spent two years writing the first edition of the *Handbook* which was published in 1995. This has proved to be a popular reference to professionals and the gardening public. Written in English or French, the fourth edition was released in 2017.

The *Encyclopedia*, written for a different audience, had a very distinct origin. As the International Registrar, I'm required to ensure the correct nomenclature for all *Buxus* cultivars. This could be satisfied with the periodic checklists or registration lists required by the ISHS (International Society for Horticultural Science). Yet, I believed more could be done – a comprehensive examination of all the different boxwood. A fun, yet daunting, intellectual challenge. It required 18 years to write my *Encyclopedia* which I finished in 2005. It has proved to be a valuable reference, cited in many different scientific journal articles. Popular, then out of print, I released its second edition a few months ago. Working full time, it took only six years to complete. At 688 pages, in an 8½ by 11 inch format, who knew

there was so much to say about boxwood?

What is the BBIG and what was your role?

Ahh yes, the Boxwood Blight Insight Group. An international transdisciplinary team of research scientists sponsored by a U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Specialty Crop Research Initiative. It was all about *Calonectria*, or box blight. It was co-chaired by Chuanxue Hong Ph.D., at Virginia Tech, Margery Daughtrey Ph.D., at Cornell University, and Douglas Luster Ph.D. at the USDA Foreign Disease & Weed Science Research Center at Fort Detrick. This initiative included several dozen of the best and brightest domestic research scientists, postdocs, grad students, advisors, stakeholders, and international research scientists. Active from 2020 to 2025, they publish over 65 research papers – all on different aspects of box blight. Their work has profoundly improved our understanding of box blight.

Did you know boxwood is the best-selling broadleaved evergreen shrub in the United States? The domestic nursery sells over 13 million box each year, valued at \$140 million! It is no understatement to say the BBIG is directly responsible for saving this annual production plus all of the uncounted box in gardens through the world.

I knew Margery Daughtrey before all of this started. She was kind enough to invite me to serve as an Advisory Panel Member. My expertise was in the nomenclature, culture, and identification of boxwood. I really liked their systems approach to box health. I gave a presentation on their International Boxwood Seminar series that reached a professional audience from 25 countries on five continents. I worked with all the Project Directors to reduce cultural stress on box in the landscape. I was truly honored to serve and I hope I added something to this initiative. This research was the best thing that has happened to box in its 6,000 years of cultivation.

What is the one thing that you would like to share with the membership that was not covered in this interview?

Nope, there's nothing. I'm content letting my work speak for me.

Interview by Wm. Edward Goode, Jr.
ABS President 2009 to 2011.

Admiration From the Boxwood Community



Andrea Filippone, Patrick Salembier, Lynn Batdorf, and Martine Higonnet in 2010

“When I first attended the EBTS UK AGM in 2004, I immediately became friends with Lynn R. Batdorf at the dinner following his lecture. It must be said that the situation was serious: boxwood trees were sick everywhere, affected by a disease then called *Cylindrocladium*, and Lynn appeared to be one of humanity’s likely saviors.

Lynn’s wise advice on understanding, growing, and caring for boxwood was of paramount importance at a time when it was fashionable to denigrate boxwood, even if it wasn’t cared for properly.

When others, for publicity, were convening the entire press to announce the death of boxwood, we at EBTS France published Lynn’s *Boxwood Manual* in French in 2017. Many thanks again to Martine Higonnet for ensuring the translation!

Today, I’m still in constant contact with Lynn, particularly for the publication of his columns in *Buis & Topiaires* and the EBTS France website.

On January 15th in Paris, I’ll be organizing the European presentation of the second edition of his *Encyclopedia*.

Today, we can consider boxwood largely saved thanks to my friend Lynn R. Batdorf, a world authority on boxwood.

This man is prodigious!”

– *Patrick Salembier*
President of EBTS France



Lynn and Kevin Collard circa 2018

“Short, stoic and brash. The description of himself by the one and only Lynn Batdorf. The first time I met him and as I got to know him a little bit better I certainly would have agreed with this. And it is true that this does describe the man. However, upon spending nearly 20 years slowly but surely getting to know Lynn better, I can assure you that there is very much more than meets the eye. One thing I can tell you for sure: whatever Lynn sets out to do he does it with the utmost care, attention to detail and excellence. He is a very disciplined person. For a casual-minded person, this can be a bit unnerving. But that is Lynn. He does not bend or sway in the wind when it comes to his beliefs and opinions. He remains firm, steady and confident. Perhaps this might better define him?

I only wish that people knew the non-boxwood Lynn a little more. He is a devoted husband and father. He is a veteran who served his country. He is not just an avid philatelic stamp collector but as with anything else he does, has excelled in this passion as well. He can speak fluently in sign language. He’s a great cook and excellent host. There is so much more I could say about the personal side of Lynn. But he is a private person and doesn’t really enjoy sharing these things openly. Thank you, Lynn, for all you have done for the genus *Buxus*. But most of all, thanks for being a good friend and encouraging me in times of doubt and guiding me along my path in life.”

– *Kevin Collard*
Pine View Nursery



Lynn, Patricia Reilly, Cheryl Crowell, and Andrea Filippone at the 2025 Symposium

“I am honored to call Lynn Batdorf a good friend and colleague. Over the years, he has shared generously from his deep and expansive knowledge of boxwood, and I have learned a great deal from him. We have traveled together throughout Europe with the European Boxwood and Topiary Society, worked side by side to help preserve the National Boxwood Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum, and collaborated closely to strengthen the reach and impact of the American Boxwood Society.

Lynn’s knowledge of boxwood is truly boundless, and his dedication to research, preservation, and education has shaped the field in lasting ways. I am deeply grateful for his commitment to boxwood and for the many contributions he has made to our shared work and to the broader boxwood community.”

– *Andrea Filippone*
ABS President. F2 Environmental Design

“I met Lynn over ten years ago when I joined the American Boxwood Society and attended my first symposium in Lynchburg, Virginia. Lynn was an inspiration to me as I began my boxwood journey, and I appreciated his vast knowledge and insight then and even more so now as my journey continues. I am in awe of his service and dedication to the Society and congratulate him for recently completing the new *Boxwood Handbook* and *Boxwood, An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. With these books I will always have a little piece of Lynn’s knowledge at hand. In addition to making the boxwood universe a better place, they are a triumph to cap a stellar career. It has been a pleasure to serve with Lynn on the ABS Board and may he live long and prosper as our *Buxus L.* Registrar!”

– *Cheryl Crowell*
ABS Secretary



Lynn Batdorf and his wife, Holly Hamilton, enjoying Manoir d’Eyrignac in Salignac-Eyvignes, France in 2023

“Lynn Batdorf has truly given his entire career to study, to differentiate, to restore, and to promote boxwood. He is an inspiration to the industry and to boxwood enthusiasts around the world. After we thought Lynn had quit working, I find it amazing that his love of boxwood inspired him to spend years of his retirement writing a 1500 page boxwood Encyclopedia. Kudos to Lynn for what he has done for the boxwood world!”

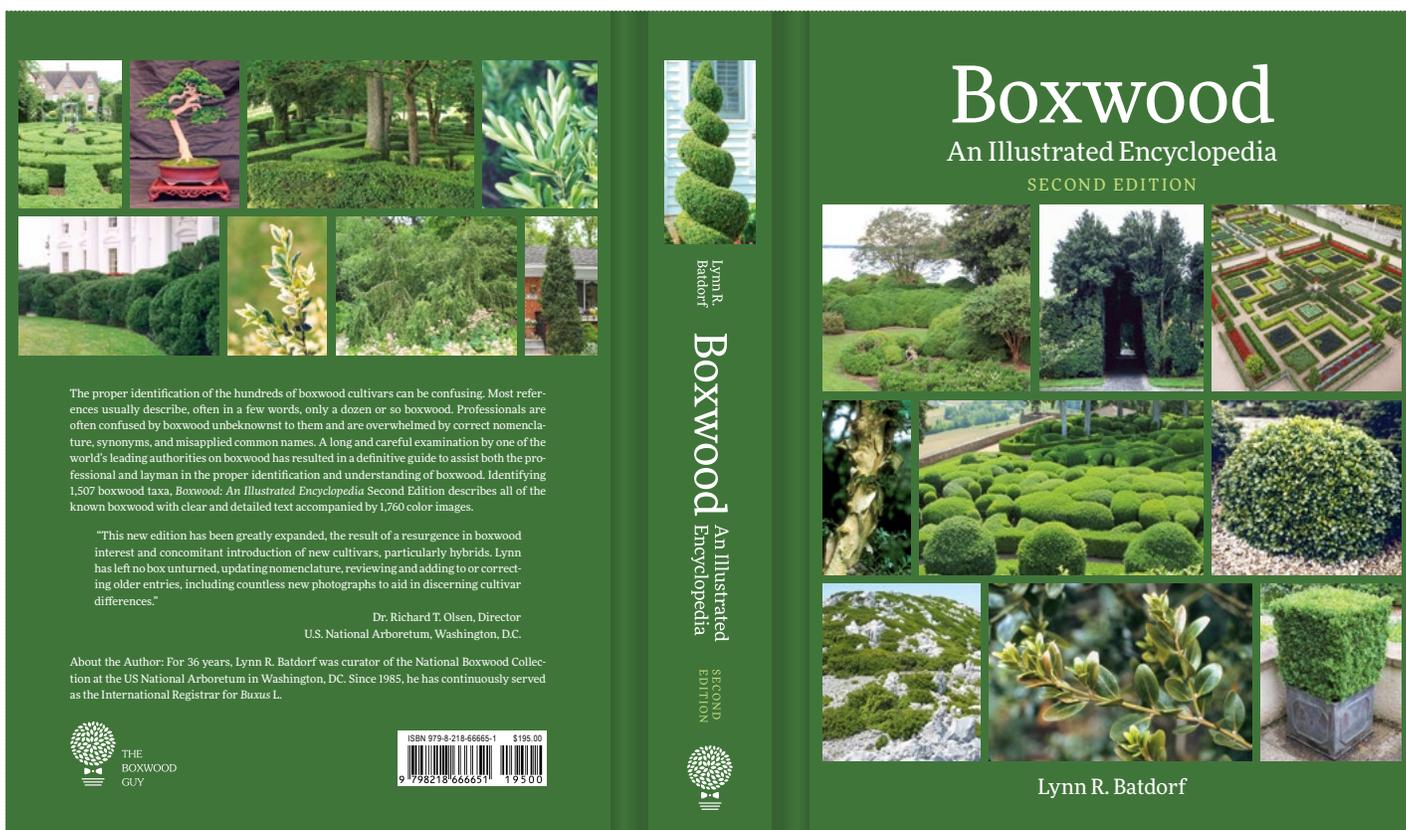
– *J. Bennett Saunders*
Saunders Brothers, Inc. and NewGen Boxwood

“Without the knowledge that Lynn has freely given to me and EBTS UK over the years that I have known him, there would be far fewer healthy boxwood plants and topiaries in the UK (even though topiary isn’t his favorite form of *Buxus!*). I first met Lynn and Holly when they stayed with us on a visit to the UK to attend the EBTS UK AGM in North Devon. A year later I was incredibly lucky to be a speaker at the 2020 ABS Third International Summit on Boxwood Challenges and as if that wasn’t a big enough honor, I got to stay with Lynn and his wife Holly for a week. Lynn drove me thousands of miles to meet boxwood specialists and discuss multiple aspects of how the plant grows, discovery trips he had been on, and how he originally became involved with *Buxus*. A few years later I was able to help arrange things when he came over to photograph the UK’s *Buxus* collection. I don’t think you will find a more knowledgeable person on all aspects of the subject, something shown perfectly in the recent release of his *Box Encyclopedia* 2nd edition or the answers he gives when I email him for assistance with a member’s boxwood problem.”

– *Chris Poole*
Chiswick House & Gardens Trust and EBTS UK

Book Review

Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia. Second Edition



The proper identification of the hundreds of boxwood cultivars can be confusing. Most references usually describe, often in a few words, only a dozen or so boxwood. Professionals are often confused by boxwood unbeknownst to them and are overwhelmed by correct nomenclature, synonyms, and misspelled common names. A long and careful examination by one of the world's leading authorities on boxwood has resulted in a definitive guide to assist both the professional and layman in the proper identification and understanding of boxwood. Identifying 1,507 boxwood taxa, *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* Second Edition describes all of the known boxwood with clear and detailed text accompanied by 1,760 color images.

"This new edition has been greatly expanded, the result of a resurgence in boxwood interest and concomitant introduction of new cultivars, particularly hybrids. Lynn has left no box unturned, updating nomenclature, reviewing and adding to or correcting older entries, including countless new photographs to aid in discerning cultivar differences."

Dr. Richard T. Olsen, Director
U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.

About the Author: For 36 years, Lynn R. Batdorf was curator of the National Boxwood Collection at the US National Arboretum in Washington, DC. Since 1985, he has continuously served as the International Registrar for *Buxus* L.



Lynn R. Batdorf
BOXWOOD An Illustrated Encyclopedia
SECOND EDITION

Lynn R. Batdorf

For the readers of *The Boxwood Bulletin*, the author of *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* needs no introduction. The list of Lynn Batdorf's accomplishments in the boxwood universe is unmatched, but the one for which he is perhaps best known around the world is this *Encyclopedia*. I am among many who relied on its first edition, published in 2004, for years. It belonged to the essential reference library in my office at Longwood Gardens. Its value for anyone attempting to expand their knowledge of *Buxus* cannot be overestimated.

Lynn Batdorf, however, has not rested on his laurels, and twenty years later, he gives us an updated version of the *Encyclopedia*. And how it has grown! The first edition was a hefty volume of 343 pages with 335 color photographs describing 1,050 boxwood taxa and weighing 2.7 pounds. The second edition swelled to 668 pages, 1,751 photographs, 1,507 taxa, and nearly 5 pounds! These vital statistics show that the second edition is far more than an update of the first. Much of this voluminous expansion reflects the generous use of photographs throughout the book—their number more than quintupled. The utility of photographs in proper identification of

boxwood taxa, especially cultivars, is self-evident, but a few examples may illustrate the author's approach. Where cultivars 'Prostrata', 'Graham Blandy', and 'Pullman' were shown in the 2004 edition by one photograph each, the second edition has, respectively, five, six, and seven. Additional images show close-ups of foliage, including leaves blemished by various imperfections caused by diseases and pest infestations, making them particularly useful in real-life situations.

With that many images in the book, the author introduced a system of numbering captions, which undoubtedly helped in preparing the manuscript. It consists of a chapter number followed by a sequential number. It is unclear, however, how these numbers are to assist the reader, because neither the images themselves are numbered nor are the caption numbers referenced in the text, making them somewhat superfluous. Images on the front and back covers have detailed captions, including their relative positions; however, four full-page images—the frontispiece and those on pages vi, viii, and xii—lack captions. This is a minor omission, assuming these photographs are repeated elsewhere in the book.

Buxus L.

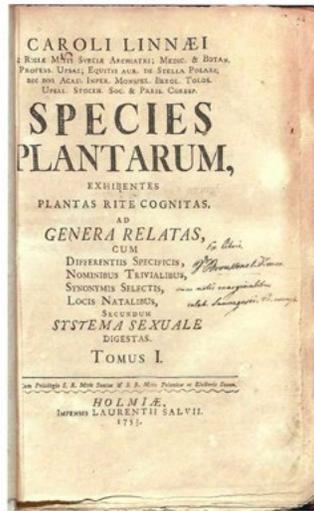


Fig. 17. Typical of most flowering plants (angiosperms), boxwood are monoecious with each flower having both male and female reproductive organs. Numerous yellow stamens (male) surround the solitary green central pistil (female). These small, inconspicuous flowers emerge in early spring.

Fig. 18. A mature fruit capsule of *B. sempervirens* 'Dee Runk' has dried and split open into three parts, releasing the six black, shiny seeds that were inside. The fruit capsules are small and mature in the fall. The endocarp, inside the capsule, which held a seed, is clearly visible.

Fig. 19. At the left are two pairs of typical, sharply pointed leaf buds in the axils near the terminal end of the branch. At the right, also in the axils, are two globular flower buds. Note the strongly quadrangular shape of the young 1-year-old twig.

Fig. 110. The complete entry for *Buxus*, written by Linnaeus, appearing in Volume II, page 983.

Fig. 111. Title page of "The Geneva copy" (first edition) of *Species Plantarum* originally owned by François Boissier de La Croix de Sauvages (1708-1787), a botanist from Montpellier, who corresponded with Linnaeus.

BUXUS.
 1. *BUXUS* *Hort. cliff. 411. Hort. uff. 283. Mat. med. Amerel. 413. Ray Ingh. 400.*
 2. *Buxus arborescens. Benth. pin. 471.*
Buxus. Dod. pempt. 753.
 3. *Buxus koreana. Dod. pempt. 753.*
Buxus folia. Jonandriana. Benth. pin. 471.
Habitat in Europa australi.

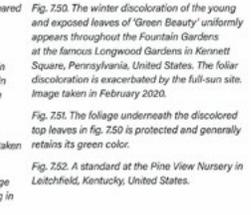


Fig. 745. A mature, well-grown, lightly sheared specimen of 'Green Beauty'.

Fig. 746. A typical 1-year-old stem.

Fig. 747. A mature, unsharpened specimen, in a full-sun site, at Saunders Brothers, Inc. in Piney River, Virginia, United States. Image taken in October.

Fig. 748. Several 1-year-old stems. The discoloration is fungicide residue. Image taken in early October.

Fig. 749. Grown in a full-sun site, the foliage can be susceptible to frost injury, resulting in the leaf splitting and brown tissues.

Fig. 750. The winter discoloration of the young and exposed leaves of 'Green Beauty' uniformly appears throughout the Fountain Gardens at the famous Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, United States. The foliar discoloration is exacerbated by the full-sun site. Image taken in February 2020.

Fig. 751. The foliage underneath the discolored top leaves in fig. 750 is protected and generally retains its green color.

Fig. 752. A standard at the Pine View Nursery in Leitchfield, Kentucky, United States.

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The book's organization follows the first edition, except for the addition of *Foreword*, *About the Author*, and *Epilogue* sections. The main body of the book is divided into ten chapters, each dedicated to a particular taxon. The genus *Buxus* has largely been spared the upheavals caused by advances in plant systematics, which sometimes necessitate changes to familiar plant names. The only name change of any consequence to the readers is that of *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* from the 2004 edition, which becomes *Buxus koreana* in 2025—relocating this taxon's position among alphabetically arranged chapters from the eighth to the fifth.

To the ten appendices in the first edition, the author added two more: *Acronyms and Abbreviations* and *Buxus Breeding or Evaluation Programs*. The first one is a convenient tool for anyone using the *Encyclopedia* regularly; the second one sheds light on advances in boxwood breeding, current and historical.

The book closes with an unusual *Epilogue*. It consists of five pages of uncaptioned images showing the author with gardening friends and the places he visited, the latter represented by their gate or road

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica*

'Gregar'



with 'Green Prince', which was originally described as a hybrid, *Buxus* 'Green Prince'. In reality, it is a Japanese boxwood seedling selection, correctly written as *B. microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Green Prince'.

Synonym:
Buxus 'Green Prince', Girard Nurseries, Catalog, Geneva, Ohio, United States, 1995.

'Gregar'

Greenleaf Nursery Company, Catalog, Park Hill, Oklahoma, United States, 2010. U.S. PP21,159.

Fig. 758. Three 30-year-old, well-grown specimens of 'Green Prince' coalescing at the Dawes Arboretum in Newark, Ohio, United States. Image taken in June.

Fig. 759. This typical 2-year-old stem measured 12" (30 cm) in length.

Fig. 760. Vigorous, young, new growth arising from the axils of this quadrangular 2-year-old stem.

Stem: The first- and second-year twigs are strongly quadrangular.

Annual Growth: Between 5" and 6½", occasionally 12" (13 cm to 16 cm, occasionally 30 cm). Internodal length is ¾" to 1" (18 mm to 24 mm).

Pests: Apparently resistant to all the usual boxwood pest concerns.

Provenance: Perhaps the first offering of 'Green Prince' was by Girard Nurseries in Geneva, Ohio, United States, in 1995. It has become popular to introduce a new boxwood as a hybrid, without properly identifying the parentage. This was the case



Fig. 761. A young hedge planting of 'Gregar'. Image: Greenleaf Nursery Company.

Fig. 762. A group of 1-year-old stems. Image: Greenleaf Nursery Company.

Chapter 10

Buxus Hybrids

Fig. 10.1 Young specimens of *Buxus sempervirens* just planted at the famed Château de Versailles, France. Image: D. Hermans, July 2024.

Fig. 10.2 A sheared hedge of *Buxus 'Wilson'* in cultivation at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois, United States. Image: Andrea Filippone, June.

signs. Here the author parts with the reader on a lighter note, revealing his humorous streak. While the author's friends are not identified—nor is the scarecrow and the woven willow figure on the last page—the travelogue *Epilogue* shows how the author drew on countless experts around the world and travelled to numerous locations on three continents. This, in addition to a collection of twelve thousand images and eleven feet of linear bookshelf space of printed boxwood references amassed by the author, demonstrates the scale of Lynn Batdorf's undertaking—truly a work of a lifetime.

The 2025 edition of *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* is destined to become as evergreen as *Buxus sempervirens* (or any other boxwood, for that matter), and it will have a place in my library among the books I cherish most.

Review by Dr. Tomasz Anisko
Dr. Anisko holds an M.S. in Horticulture from Poznań University of Life Sciences and a Ph.D. in Horticulture from the University of Georgia. He has curated plant collections at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania and taught collection management courses at the University of Delaware. Dr. Anisko has led plant exploration expeditions across Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America. Dr. Anisko's expeditions to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Greece, North Macedonia, Russia, and Ukraine focused on collecting boxwood. In his native Poland, he has practiced landscape architecture in collaboration with Anna Anisko and has served as a member of Parliament. Dr. Anisko is the author of several books, including *Plant Exploration for Longwood Gardens*, *When Perennials Bloom*, and *Victoria: The Seductress*.

K-99 A weak plant growing 5' (1.5 m) tall and 3' (0.9 m) wide in 25 years. Not fully hardy in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 7, it is susceptible to bark injury, resulting in a thin, open plant. The narrowly elliptic to nearly linear leaves are 11/16" to 1" (17 mm to 25 mm) long and 3/8" to 3/4" (6 mm to 9 mm) wide.

K-100 A rangy, weak shrub with numerous exposed branches. A broadly upright plant with a broadly rounded top that measures 9' (2.8 m) tall and 8' (2.4 m) wide. The leaves are narrowly elliptic to narrowly ovate with acute tips. They measure 3/4" (20 mm to 22 mm) long and 5/16" to 3/8" (8 mm to 12 mm) wide. A heavily-fruiting plant that produces numerous seedlings near the drip line.

K-101 Rarely found in cultivation, a beautifully mature authentic specimen exists at Longwood Gar-



dens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, United States. Originally from the Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland, United States, in 1958, at 65 years old, it measures 11' (3.4 m) tall and 13' (4 m) wide. It is a single-trunked shrub with multiple branches that begin at knee height. It has a broadly ascending habit.

K-102 A single-stemmed shrub. The uniformly elliptic leaves have acute apices and average 3/4" (22 mm) long and 5/8" (13 mm) wide. The first- and second-year stems are strongly quadrangular in cross section. Even in good culture, K-102 performs poorly.

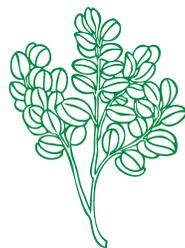


K-106 At the National Boxwood Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC, it is a small, slow-growing plant. A 45-year-old specimen is 3' (1 m) tall and wide. By comparison, a well-grown mature specimen in cultivation at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, United States, originally from the Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville,

Chapter 9

Buxus wallichiana

Fig. 9.2. A portion of the voucher of *B. wallichiana* collected by the famed William Jackson Bean, botanist and curator of Kew, on December 16, 1903, deposited in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Herbarium in London.



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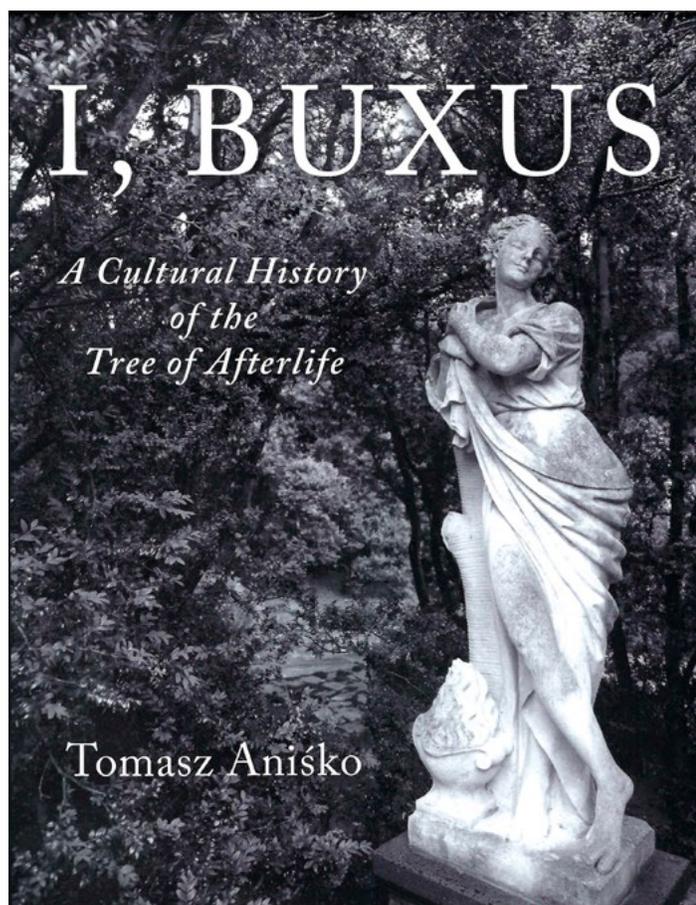
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https://boxwoodsociety.org/abs_publications.html

Book Review

I, Buxus: A Cultural History of the Tree of Afterlife



I must begin by acknowledging that the author, Tomasz Aniśko, and I have enjoyed a close professional friendship for decades. Traveling together through two continents, we forged a friendship through our mutually-devoted appreciation and understanding of all things boxwood. His achievements include a Ph.D. in Horticulture from the University of Georgia, instructor at the University of Delaware, Plant Collections Curator at the famed Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, leader of five *Buxus* international plant collections expeditions, author of three tomes on specialized plant topics, and member of Parliament in Poland. In short, an extraordinary and exceptionally accomplished friend.

Earnestly writing *I, Buxus* for the past 10 years, Dr. Aniśko conceived of the book's clever conceit some 20 years ago. Written in the first-person by *Buxus sempervirens*, the book tells the story of boxwood's relationship with humanity, from ancient times to the present. Tomasz acts as facilitator, taking

dictation from *Buxus* to document this rich cultural history. The prose, which is a reflection of Tomasz's personality, easily reflects the big picture while demonstrating a clear grasp and understanding of the nearly endless rich details.

There are about 100 books devoted to boxwood; however, none has so profoundly informed, nor personally enriched me as *I, Buxus*. It is a well-written and thoroughly researched history of the botany, chemotaxonomy, and phylogeny of *Buxus* that thoughtfully examines Neanderthal tools, Neolithic charcoal, Sumerian clay tablets, Hittite myths, Egyptian furniture, Phoenician shipwrecks, Assyrian palaces, Greek amphoras, Etruscan graves, Roman marbles, Pompeian frescos, English poems, Serbian ballads, and contemporary gardens and cemeteries worldwide. All bear witness to boxwood's intimate co-existence with *Homo sapiens*. The book gathers these widely scattered shards of history and arranges them to reconstruct the image of the tree that lives today in plain sight, common yet overlooked and deeply misunderstood. The scope is breathtaking, giving the reader a personalized journey of human culture through the lens of boxwood.

The writing is very precise with carefully chosen words, each conveying great meaning. Readers will enjoy and benefit from it, carefully savoring each word to reflect on its significance and connotation. The rich assortment of historical references, nuanced with exacting details, gently conspire to create an experience that envelops the attentive reader.

I was curious why the 54 images, encountered in urban, rural, and natural settings, were presented in black and white. Tomasz explained, "I wanted to do something different - monochrome, modest, humble, spartan, austere, perhaps even ascetic, just as I saw boxwood in the plant world. To my eye, boxwood is all about shape, form, line, texture, contrast, light and shadow, architecture, and sculpture, all of which need no color. In fact, color may distract from these qualities."

The book is about 7½ X 9½ inches in size with 199 pages and well-constructed. It has strong Smyth-sewn binding, decorative white headbands, and 88lb matte paper, all in a hardcover protected by

a dust jacket. It is written in English and published in 2025 by Landschaft in Poland. I, *Buxus* is readily available from Abe Books for about US \$79. ISBN: 9788397020610.

Review by Lynn R. Batdorf

Lynn R. Batdorf has served as the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for *Buxus* since 1985. He owns and has read 103 books on boxwood, and has written seven.

Previous spread: The fleure-de-lis cut in boxwood leads the eye to Kleine Neugierde (Small Curiosity), a tea pavilion designed in 1825 by Karl Friedrich Schinkel for Prince Karl of Prussia in Klein-Glienicke, near Potsdam, Germany.

Opposite: The dappled shade of the palm frond canopy, trickling water of the three-tiered fountain, and meandering greenery of boxwood hedges offer respite from the scorching heat of Andalusian summers in Carmen de los Mártires, Granada.

In the history of humankind, was there ever a period that could be referred to as the Boxwood Age, just as the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages, which are conventionally defined by the raw material used in making tools and other artifacts? Archaeology has unfairly treated me and my arboreal kin in giving a skewed, stone- or metal-centric view of prehistoric economies and cultures, even though most implements were made from wood during these periods. Compared to objects of inorganic materials, ancient wooden artifacts are, however, rarely found today and come from extremely dry or continuously submerged localities—conditions that halt or slow down wood decomposition—which leaves out most of the land humans have occupied.

When wooden artifacts are found in archaeological digs, they invariably expand the understanding of the daily lives of prehistoric humans. One such discovery was made during an excavation for constructing a thermal pool in Poggetti Vecchi near Grosseto in southern Tuscany.¹ Wooden sticks were buried in muddy lake deposits along with stone tools and fossil bones of the straight-tusked elephant dated to the Middle Paleolithic when Neanderthals roamed Europe around hundred seventy thousand years ago. The fractured sticks measured slightly over one meter in length, were rounded off at one end and pointed at the other. They were categorized as digging sticks, although Neanderthals likely used them for various hunting-gathering activities.

¹ Aranguren et al., 2018.

66 CHAPTER 5

four times did she strike the forehead of Arachne,⁶ eventually turning the unfortunate girl into a spider.

After several millennia of aiding spinning and weaving, I became a victim of my success. The end of the eighteenth century saw the invention of a mechanical loom powered first by water and then by steam, which heralded the arrival of the industrial age. Power looms eliminated the need for tedious manual labor but not for boxwood shuttles. On the contrary, the demand for my timber grew exponentially. The requirements for shuttles to perform flawlessly under the mechanical stress of the power loom called for wood with exceptional strength, firmness, and uniformity, qualities for which I was known. An explosive growth of the textile industry—by the mid-nineteenth century, there were more than a quarter million power looms in England alone—created an insatiable appetite for boxwood, practically all of it imported from Russia, Turkey, and Persia. In 1876, at the height of boxwood fever, over ten thousand tons of *Buxus* logs were shipped to England from the Black Sea port of Poti.⁷ Consequently, the great boxwood forests of the Caucasus and Elburz Mountains were irreparably destroyed. This bonanza suddenly ended when the Russian government raised the price and imposed a heavy tax on boxwood exports, forcing loom manufacturers to look for cheaper alternatives, including North American dogwood and persimmon.⁸

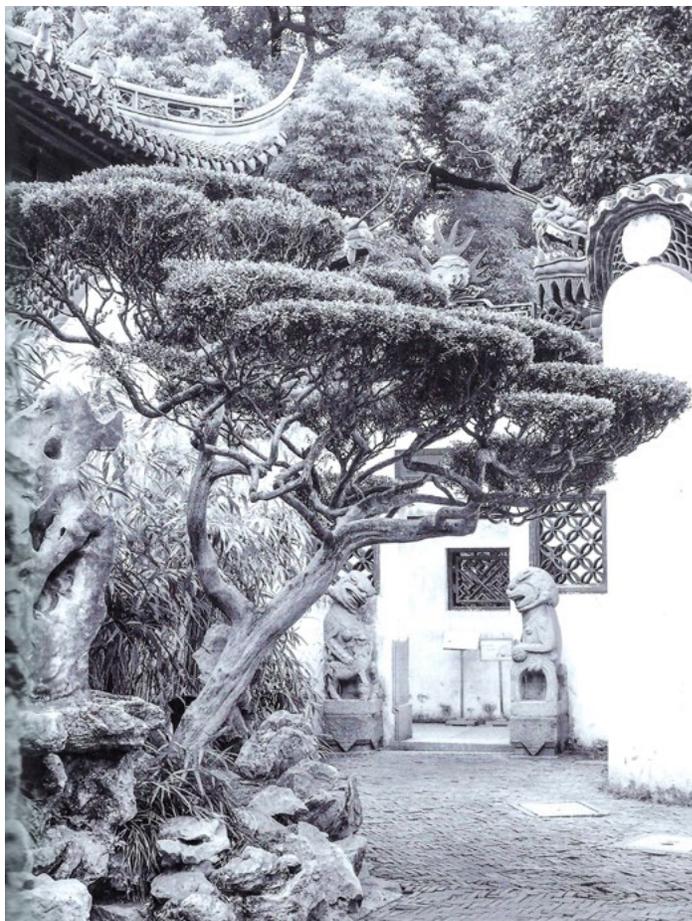
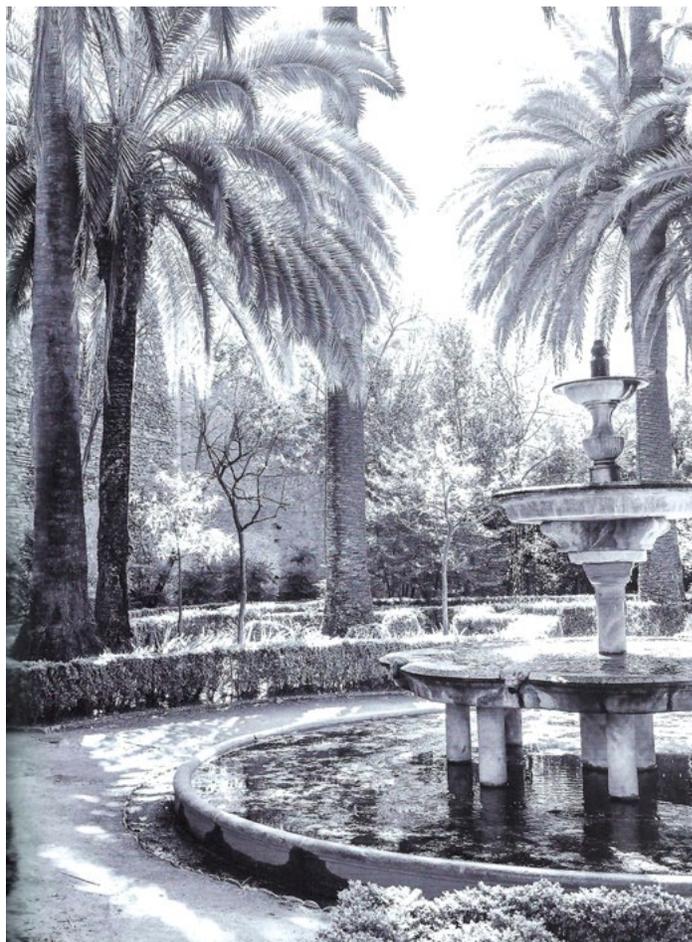
A ruler is a commonly used implement requiring material of quality similar to that of the loom shuttle. Even before the dawn of civilization, humans measured distance and length. Still, the need for a universal standardization of these measurements only became urgent at the onset of the industrial age in the eighteenth century. With standardization came a demand for reliable measuring instruments. The earliest surviving rulers were made of ivory and bronze, dating back to the third millennium BCE. A boxwood ruler of comparable antiquity is yet to be found. Still, the mass production of inexpensive—compared to

Opposite: A cloud-pruned boxwood stands in the forecourt of Sansui Hall in Yuyuan Garden, the sixteenth-century garden of Ming-era minister Pan En, in Shanghai.

⁶ Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 6.132–133 (trans. Riley).

⁷ Batdorf 2004.

⁸ Record and Garratt 1925.



New Registration: *Buxus sinica* var. *parviflora* M. Cheng ‘Haoyu Pearl’



Accepted for registration on October 5, 2025.

In May 1990, a new horticultural selection of *Buxus sinica* var. *parviflora* was made by Mr. Zhai Jinru of Haoyu Nursery in Rugao, Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China.

Approximately 1,000 cuttings were taken from a native population of *Buxus sinica* var. *parviflora* at Zhutoujian (Wanfo Mountain) in Qianshan, Anhui Province, People's Republic of China. By 1992, through propagation and selection, the cuttings population had increased to 50,000. From this population in 2003, a single plant, with distinct traits, was selected. It was named ‘Haoyu Pearl’. By 2018, 3,000 cuttings had successfully rooted.

Since its selection in 2003, ‘Haoyu Pearl’ has undergone 17 years of comparative observation and four propagation and stress-resistance trials over nearly four years, during which no abnormal traits were observed, demonstrating its high level of uniformity and genetic stability.

‘Haoyu Pearl’ is an evergreen shrub. It has short, dense branches with short internodes growing obliquely upward or horizontally. The leaves are flat, fine-textured, and glossy. Leaf coloration exhibits strong seasonal contrast. The plant has a low, compact habit which strongly layers. The bark is light brown, becoming grayish-white as the outer scales exfoliate. Young branches are quadrangular, measuring 4 to 5 cm in length, with internodes 5 to 6 mm long. Leaves are opposite and broadly elliptical,

measuring 8 to 12 mm in length and 6 to 8 mm in width. The leaf margins are entire, leathery, with a glossy texture. The apex is obtuse to retuse, the base cuneate. The midrib on the upper surface is prominently raised and lighter in color. The young leaves are yellow-green in color. They gradually shrink in size and deepen to a dark green as they mature. Leaf margins often exhibit a pale halo, which can turn yellow under strong sunlight. After winter dormancy, leaves take on a reddish-brown hue, and during early spring regrowth, they may display a bright red coloration. Inflorescences are capitate, borne in the leaf axils and on short lateral branches. The inflorescence axis is 1 to 2 mm long. Buds begin forming in June, with flowers blooming the following March. Flowers are pale yellow. Bracts are broadly triangular, approximately 2 mm long. The outer sepals are elliptical, the inner sepals are nearly round, both about 2 mm in length. The ovary is slightly longer than the style. The style is thick and flat, and the stigma is inverted cordate, extending downward into the center of the style. After flowering, the flowers abscise naturally. No fruit or seeds are produced.

This plant is registered under the “National New Plant Variety Protection Rights” [Peoples Republic of China] as a “New Plant Variety for *Buxus*” <https://zzhy.cn/English.html>

cf. “Introduction to ‘Haoyu Pearl’ Boxwood” by Yara Bai. Published by Shanghai Zhenyang Horticulture Co., Ltd, Shanghai and Rugao Haoyu Nursery, Jiangsu Province. 35pp. 2025.

by Lynn R. Batdorf
International Registrar for Cultivated *Buxus* L.
ISHS Special Commission for Cultivar Registration



Managing Boxwood Blight: From Longwood to Your Home



Boxwood in the Main Fountain Garden, 1939.
Photo by J.A. Dick



The boxwood in the Main Fountain Garden are Japanese boxwood *Buxus microphylla* var. *japonica* 'Green Beauty', specifically chosen for their increased resistance to boxwood blight compared to other boxwood varieties. Photo by Amy Simon Berg

Boxwood blight has become a major concern in recent years, striking fear into both the homeowner and professional horticulturist alike who suspect their plants may be infected. We first found boxwood blight in our Gardens five years ago, and since that detection, we have employed extensive efforts to protect our boxwood collection throughout the Gardens—particularly in the Main Fountain Garden, which is home to approximately 3,200 boxwood plants. Read along for how, now five years after first detecting boxwood blight in our Gardens, we inspect for and protect against this disease. We also share ways that homeowners can identify symptoms of this disease, what can be confused with boxwood blight, and what to do if you suspect you have boxwood blight in your own yard.

The boxwood blight pathogen is a fungus called *Calonectria pseudonaviculata* (formerly known as *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum* and also *Cylindrocladium buxicola*) that was first found in the United Kingdom in the early 1990s and quickly spread throughout Europe, wreaking havoc in the hedges and parterres of many beautiful gardens. In 2011 the pathogen was found in the United States, starting in North Carolina and moving north into Virginia and onwards; it was first recorded here in Pennsylvania in 2012. Controlling this disease is very difficult, and many people have opted to reduce their use of *Buxus* (boxwood) species and switch over to plants that serve a similar purpose and design in the garden, such as attractive cultivars from the inkberry

holly (*Ilex glabra*), Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata*), holly hybrids (*Ilex × meserveae* 'Mondo'), boxleaf euonymous (*Euonymus japonicus* 'Microphyllus') and various *Thuja*, *Taxus*, and *Picea* species.

As the cornerstone of the French and Italian gardens our founder Pierre S. du Pont strived to duplicate, boxwood were among the most important and most frequently used plants from the beginning of Longwood Gardens. Some of Mr. du Pont's original boxwood plantings are still found throughout the Gardens, and they are an integral part of the Main Fountain Garden. Over the last 15 years, we have also collected boxwood from wild areas of the Mediterranean region, where they occur naturally. This work has resulted in one of the largest collections of wild-collected boxwood in the nation. Given the recent concerns about boxwood blight in the US, the wild-collected plants are particularly important since there may be disease-resistant plants among the many accessions.

At Longwood, our first step when dealing with any fungal pathogen is to understand the disease: its lifecycle, how it spreads, and how best to control it. Unfortunately, we have had to address the presence of boxwood blight in our Gardens, initially identified in a portion of tree boxwood in the eastern part of our Gardens. Prompt action was taken, as detailed in a 2021 blog post (<https://longwoodgardens.org/blog/2021-01-12/ensuring-longevity-our-boxwood>).

Boxwood blight begins when fungal spores infect the leaves, which then develop dark or light brown spots often bordered by darker edges. Those lesions gradually enlarge and grow together, turning the leaf brown or straw-colored. At this point the symptom begins to appear as a “blight”, with more leaves becoming infected and dead leaves rapidly falling from the plant. However, these symptoms can be easily confused with other boxwood diseases, so we look to the stems for diagnostic symptoms.



Characteristic boxwood blight stem lesions, with long and thin dark brown to black lesions. Photo by Rachel McDonald

As the fungus infects stems, characteristic dark brown to black lesions form. These are usually long and thin, similar to the width of a line you would draw with a pencil or pen. Under heavy infection, the dying stems and dropping leaves cause overall dieback. The disease does not infect the root system so new growth may occur, but repeated infections will eventually stress the root system beyond recovery, especially in young and newly transplanted boxwood. Just a single infected leaf can produce thousands of fungal spores, and each spore spread to new leaves has the potential to germinate and penetrate within just five hours. It is also able to survive in the soil for several years where it may be easily spread through water movement, or from plant to plant via water splash. All this is made more complicated because *Buxus* are not the only host for the disease—Sweet Box (*Sarcococca* spp.) and Japanese pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*) can also host boxwood blight.

Here at Longwood, our boxwood blight defenses revolve largely around sanitation. When purchasing new boxwood, we source our plants from nurseries with a boxwood blight cleanliness program that will provide a phytosanitary certificate. The boxwood

blight cleanliness program outlines specific sanitation requirements for plant maintenance, tools, crop debris, scouting, inspections, training, and record keeping. We also request that the nursery we are buying our boxwood from not have had a history of boxwood blight, ensures adequate spacing between plants, and avoids overhead watering. When boxwood shipments arrive onsite, our plant health care team carefully inspects them, monitors them closely for their first 90 days, and then inspects them weekly and monthly during conditions that are ideal for disease development. Conditions most favorable for blight development include the warm, humid weather typically found between the months of July and October with temperatures between 64°F and 77°F.

Our plant health care scouts who inspect for boxwood blight also follow rigorous sanitation. All scouting occurs early in the day before the scouts have worked with other boxwood. Before scouting, scouts sanitize their hands and shoes; while scouting, they wear gloves. If it is necessary to touch a boxwood plant during the scouting process, gloves are sanitized prior to and after touching the plant.

Our horticulturists have similar sanitation protocols while working around boxwood. Each garden area has separate tools for working with boxwood so that we minimize the risk of disease spread from location to location. Where possible, we avoid driving vehicles near beds with boxwood. We also equip each horticulturist with a bottle of ethanol for easy sanitation of tools, hands, and vehicle tires. We also frequently reference the boxwood blight risk model, produced through the Oregon IPM Center and Oregon State University, which predicts the level of blight fungal activity each day and helps predict the best day to do work. If the spore activity is high, we might choose to postpone boxwood work for the day.

By nature, boxwood are susceptible to large amounts of other insects and fungal pathogens, such as boxwood psyllid, boxwood leafminer, boxwood mite, *Volutella* blight, and *Macrophoma* leaf spot. The presence of these pests and fungi could be confused with symptoms of boxwood blight.

Severe infestations of boxwood leafminer, as one example, brings defoliation and feeding damage that could be confused with the brown lesions of boxwood blight. If you look closely at one of those suspected lesions, you'll see the brown spots on the leaves look raised, almost puffy. That is where the larvae of the leafminer have overwintered and will emerge in the



Boxwood leafminer damage, as shown in this photo, can look like a boxwood blight lesion. Photo by Rachel McDonald

spring. If you crack open one of those spots, you will usually see active larvae or a space where the larvae previously emerged. The engorged, pouch-like spot can help to distinguish leafminer damage from the brown spots from the lesions caused by boxwood blight.

A fungus that can be confused for boxwood blight, *Volutella* blight, formerly *Volutella buxi*, is caused by the *Pseudonectria* canker. The canker will girdle the boxwood stem and cause leaves to turn yellow, red-bronze, and finally straw-colored, which could be confused with severe boxwood blight infections. During humid, moist conditions, distinct salmon-colored spores will develop when dealing with *Volutella* blight. The salmon-colored spores are easily distinguished from boxwood blight due to their color, as boxwood blight fungal spores are white. Leaves affected with *Volutella* blight will also remain on the plant whereas leaves affected with boxwood blight will fall to the ground.

Volutella blight, *Volutella pachysandrae*, also affects Japanese pachysandra, another host of boxwood blight. *Volutella* will cause lesions with concentric rings. Boxwood blight on *Pachysandra* will begin as a small necrotic lesion with a yellow halo, eventually turning into a larger brown lesion, visible on the upper and lower surfaces of the leaf. Those lesions will not have the concentric circles. While it is rare to have a boxwood blight infection on *Pachysandra* that is not close to an infected boxwood, it is still possible. It is always a good idea to familiarize yourself with the appearance of the various fungal lesions.

If you have boxwood at home, there are general guidelines you can follow when dealing with sick plants or trying to avoid any plant disease. Disinfect all tools after working with a plant suspected to



The very distinct salmon-colored spores of *Volutella* blight. Photo by Dominic Doran



The concentric circles of *Volutella* on *Pachysandra*. Photo by Dominic Doran

have a problem. Know the disease symptoms and look for them regularly. Keep any suspect plants in a separate area from healthy plants and do not move around potentially-infected plant debris, whether by mulch, on clothing, or in vehicles. Wherever possible, use disease-resistant cultivars of a desired plant. Finally, it is always a good idea to promote air flow throughout the plantings and to avoid overhead irrigation. If you suspect you have boxwood blight, contacting your local extension service would be a great first step. You can send a picture and potentially a sample for diagnosis. Sadly, boxwood blight is not curable. The only way to ensure the disease does not spread is to remove the infected plant material from the landscape.

Boxwood are an integral part of the history of Longwood Gardens and with the continued dedication of Longwood staff and our plant health care team, and our extensive boxwood blight mitigation strategies, we are working to help boxwood maintain their place in the future of our magnificent garden for years to come.

Article by Rachel McDonald
Photos provided by Longwood Gardens

What do we know about the box tree moth as a key pest of boxwood in the US? An Update on Box Tree Moth Research Efforts



Old boxwood damaged by box tree moth caterpillars



Box tree moth late instar caterpillar



Box tree moth late instar caterpillar feeding on bark

Boxwood are versatile evergreen shrubs present across gardens and yards in the US. From historical sites and cemeteries to personal lawns, boxwood are an instrumental part of the landscaping as individual plants or as part of very well shaped hedgerows. There is a 'new kid on the block' threatening the production and maintenance of boxwood in the US. This foe is called the box tree moth. *Cydalima perspectalis* (Walker) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) is an invasive defoliator, native from east Asia, that feeds solely on boxwood. *Cydalima perspectalis*, also known as the box tree moth (BTM), arrived in North America in 2018 in Toronto, Canada. Seven years later, this invasive lepidopteran pest is present in nine US States, including New York (July 2021), Michigan (November 2022), Ohio (June 2023), Massachusetts (September 2023), Delaware (July 2024), Pennsylvania (September 2024), West Virginia (June 2025), Maryland (July 2025) and Virginia (July 2025).

A group of researchers from Virginia Tech and USDA APHIS PPQ, led by Greg Simmons and Ignacio Baez, embarked on a mission to conduct research on BTM with the goal of providing information and resources to manage this pest in the US. Research topics ranged from the phenological activity of this defoliator to its chemical control. Other topics included the presence of beneficial insects attacking this invasive, calculation of growing degree days, and the use mating disruption.

Several sex pheromone-baited bucket traps were

placed at various locations throughout Niagara County, New York during 2022, 2023, and 2024 to capture the presence and peak of BTM adults (aka moths) across the landscape. These traps were visited and cleaned weekly to count the number of adults captured. At the same locations, one yellow sticky card was also placed as a passive technique to capture both other insects including herbivores and beneficials associated with boxwood plants. During these weekly visits, sticky cards were replaced, and additional scouting on boxwood plants included: 1) visual count of BTM eggs, caterpillars, and pupae, 2) visual count of beneficial insects, and 3) estimation of canopy defoliation. A selected group of monitoring locations received a weather data logger that recorded air temperature and relative humidity every hour.

Each year, the research team started the adult monitoring efforts during May. Adult trapping was conducted until October. Adult activity started as early as the last week of June, with the first peak of adult activity in mid-July and a second peak in early September. BTM early instar caterpillars were found active in boxwood as early as the last week of March. Caterpillars in March-April were the result of overwintering specimens (generation from the previous year) becoming active as conditions were favorable for development. The peak for the first in-field generation of early instar caterpillars was recorded during mid-July. The second peak of activity for early instar caterpillars was documented



Hedgerow completed damaged by box tree moth caterpillars



Box tree moth egg mass found on the underside of a leaf



Box tree moth caterpillar protected by two leaves 'stick' together by the webbing they produce

during early September. The presence of early instar caterpillar was recorded up until the last week of October, since this invasive pest overwinters as early instar caterpillars. Defoliation of boxwood, as a result of BTM caterpillar activity, was also collected as the percentage of canopy consumed. Higher defoliation rates were associated with the BTM overwintering population during mid- to late May. The lowest defoliation rates were recorded during late June to mid-July. A second increase in defoliation rates was documented in late July to early August, coinciding with a peak of activity for BTM late instar caterpillars.

The construction of a growing degree day (GDD) model for BTM adults and caterpillars used local weather data collected from deployed data loggers and the respective BTM densities. To propose these GDDs, information from Maruyama and Shinkaji (1987) was followed regarding 10.1°C being the developmental temperature threshold for immatures of the overwintering population. GDD can be a very informative tool to predict the presence of a pest in an environment. Our GDD model proposed to observe the first BTM adults and early instar caterpillars around the 500 GDD in base 10.1°C. Then, the first and second peaks of adults were recorded around the 600 and the 1,300 GDD, respectively. Higher GDD accumulations were expected for early instar caterpillars to be present in the system. Then, the research team used the data collected in the 2024 season to validate the proposed GDD accumulation. In 2024, BTM adults were first observed around the 472 GDD. The first and second peaks of adult activity were recorded between 625 – 661, and between 1,319 – 1,410 GDD, respectively. BTM early instar caterpillars were first observed in the system around

the 568 GDD. The first and second peaks of early instar caterpillar activity were recorded between 720 – 780 and around the 1,350 GDD, respectively. The proposed GDD accumulations seem to accurately capture their respective phenological events for BTM.

Captured specimens on yellow sticky cards were identified in the laboratory to the family level, when possible, under a dissecting stereoscope. The following groups of beneficials were consistently found across all cards: Dolichopodidae (long-legged flies), Chrysopidae (lacewings), Syrphidae (hover flies), Coccinellidae (ladybugs), and Arachnida (spiders). There was no relationship between the presence of BTM caterpillars and beneficial insects during the 2022, 2023, and 2024 field seasons. The predator fauna continues to be 'naïve' recognizing BTM as a prey item in the system. The presence of naturally-occurring beneficials on boxwood plants was also recorded while performing weekly visual scouts. Few beneficials were counted on the actual boxwood plants during our scouting, spiders being the beneficial group that was most consistently found during these visual scouts. These spiders were found at locations with either high or low BTM caterpillar densities. A parasitoid, *Pimpla disparis* (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae), eclosed from two field-collected BTM pupae in 2023. No parasitoids were recorded from BTM pupae collected from the field in 2022 and 2024.

An area-wide suppression effort for BTM was deployed in two sites in Youngstown and one site in Lewiston, New York, during 2023 and 2024. Experimental units, receiving solid dispensers loaded with the BTM sex pheromone, were constituted by



Box tree moth pupa



Dead box tree moth adult collected from a monitoring trap



Hibernaculum, which is a denser webbing protection made by box tree moth caterpillars in preparation for overwintering

adjacent house properties in different neighborhoods. Several sex pheromone-baited bucket traps were placed inside experimental units to monitor the activity of BTM adults. A group of boxwood plants inside both control and treated units were visually scouted once a month, where density of BTM caterpillars and canopy defoliation were documented. Once presence of early instar caterpillars was detected in scouted boxwood plants inside units with the pheromone dispensers, two back-to-back foliar applications of the selective biorational insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk) were deployed seven days apart from one another. Lower BTM adult captures were recorded from traps inside experimental units receiving the solid dispenser and under the mating disruption treatment, in comparison to the untreated control units. Even though some caterpillars were recorded in treated units, lower defoliation rates were documented in scouted properties that received the pheromone solid dispensers and the two Btk insecticide applications at the end of each field season.

In-field insecticide trials addressing the efficacy of active ingredients affecting caterpillars and their residual activity were set up in July and August in 2023 and 2024. Up to 10 selected insecticides were selected within the diamides and neonicotinoid classes, known to have translaminar and systemic activity. Experimental units were 2-year-old boxwood plants potted in 3-gallon containers. Two hours after all treatments were deployed, up to 20 BTM caterpillars were placed by hand in each experimental unit. Subsequent manual BTM caterpillar infestations were performed 14, 28, and 42 days after treatment (DAT). Caterpillar mortality was visually assessed at 7, 21, 35 and 49 DAT. Overall, plants treated

with diamides including chlorantraniliprole and cyclaniliprole, as either foliar sprays or drenches, recorded the highest mortality rates for BTM caterpillars across the length of the entire experiment, and up to 49 DAT. The combination of diamide and flonicamid (cyclaniliprole + flonicamid) was effective in controlling caterpillars up to 35 DAT. In contrast, the neonicotinoid dinotefuran was effective against caterpillars after 35 DAT, needing longer time for uptake. Interestingly, tolfenpyrad provided control only at 35 DAT. Some other active ingredients did not have longer residuality. The combination of sulfoximines and spinosyns (sulfoxaflor and spinetoram) was effective up to 21 DAT, controlling caterpillars at the beginning of the trials.

This article is an executive summary of some of the research efforts conducted on BTM since 2022. Upcoming and new research projects on this devastating invasive pest will encompass the use of the predator lacewings and the egg parasitoid *Trichogramma* to control BTM. If you would like to learn more details about all these past projects, please visit the following two Virginia Cooperative Extension publications: (Box Tree Moth in the United States) <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/ENTO/ento-525/ento-525.html>; and (2024 Updates on the Box Tree Moth) <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/ENTO/ento-608/ento-608.html>.

by Alejandro Del-Pozo, David Rivera, Jason Bielski, Lelia Milner and Julie Brindley

Affiliation: Virginia Tech, Department of Entomology, Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Beach, VA

Photos by Alejandro Del-Pozo

MANTS 2025

by Cheryl Crowell



Having attended MANTS on behalf of the American Boxwood Society for many years, I feel like MANTS is an old friend with whom we share the ebb and flow of excitement and activity. Many people who attend come year after year, and it has become a time of homecoming where you get to see your MANTS group of friends. The mood of the crowd this year was upbeat and excited to be in the nursery business and excited for the future.

Boxwood in particular seemed to interest more people than usual as was demonstrated by the constant flow of visitors to our booth to chat. ABS took home 3 pages of email sign-up requests! Having

survived the onslaught of boxwood blight, people were now interested in management options and the new cultivars propagated specifically to resist insects and disease. Facing the new threat of the boxwood tree moth, people were paying more attention to the full range of options to control both new and old threats to our favorite plant.

With the specter of COVID lifted, people seemed happier and more ready to garden this year. I attended a Horticulture Research Institute reception and was awed by the generosity of people and business in their financial support of scientific research to solve problems faced by the industry. As stated on the HRI website:

The Horticultural Research Institute, the AmericanHort Foundation, proudly supports scientific research and students for the advancement of the horticultural industry. HRI was established by industry leaders on the premise that no one could better direct needed research to advance horticulture than the very people who work in it, day in and day out.

The stories shared with to the crowd that night were inspiring and gave everyone the feeling that no problem could not be solved. As I think about all the work being done on behalf of boxwood, I am proud to be a part of the American Boxwood Society to support those efforts.

On to MANTS 2026 and 2027!



2025 ABS Symposium Boyce, Virginia



I have attended many symposiums, several of which have been held at Blandy Farm, the home base for the American Boxwood Society (ABS). Living close to Blandy Farm and being a volunteer with FOSA (Foundation of the State Arboretum), I was a little ho-hum about the thought of attending another meeting there. As planning moved along, however, it became apparent that the ABS Symposium Planning Committee had big ideas and knew what people needed to make this one of the best. It was not to be just a series of lectures but it was designed to be a hands-on educational experience and a platform for sharing information through public and private discussions which included everyone from nursery professionals to landscape designers to interested homeowners. This became the foundation of a great meeting! (See pages 38–46 for recaps of many of the lectures and demonstrations given during the Symposium.)

Even from the beginning, one of the local points of interest we were determined to tour was Oak Spring, the home and garden of Rachael Lambert “Bunny” Mellon and her husband Paul Mellon. Bunny’s early interest in gardening developed into a passion for botanical knowledge and a lifetime pursuit to know plants, gardening, and landscape design. (See pages 28–32 for descriptions of our tour of Oak Spring.)

At the Symposium, we learned that Bunny’s remarkable life followed a thread through two other places on our tour, Carter Hall and Clay Hill. Carter Hall was Bunny’s childhood home where she was able to pursue her interests in horses and gardening. She helped her father renovate the home and gardens in the 1930s, adding a stone terrace, greenhouse and a boxwood maze that stretched out from the back of the house and down several terraces. Although overgrown now, we were able to walk through the

boxwood garden and enjoy the same landscape that inspired Bunny to her many great achievements. The estate of Clay Hill, only a couple of miles away from Carter Hall, had a distant connection to Bunny Mellon who may also have assisted in the development of an earlier landscape there. Our tour had come full circle! (See pages 33–34 for a recap of our tour to Carter Hall and page 35–36 for Clay Hill.)

After our formal tours on Saturday we had the opportunity to tour Locke’s Mill. This refurbished water wheel still grinds grain into flour and was open to our self-guided tour. The miller provided answers to questions and interesting commentary. The mill was grinding while we were there, giving us an opportunity to see the process first-hand. We were also able to purchase the finished products, many different and unusual flours such as spelt and elkhorn, plus mixes created using their products.

Next, back to the cars and off to lunch at Chilly Hollow Brewery, a newer establishment just down the road. It was a busy place that weekend, and we all enjoyed a refreshing break and some great food. Another chance to chat and reminisce about the day!

Leaving the brewery we retraced our steps back to the small town of Boyce, Virginia, to see two shops, the only two in town. The first was the jewelry shop of Elizabeth Locke, an upscale and unique property with amazing jewelry displayed as if in an art gallery. The second was the Fox and Pheasant, a shop full of decorating and entertaining delights! They were expecting us and were gracious hosts. The Fox and Pheasant donated boxwood topiary napkins to the ABS Symposium (everyone received a pack in their goodie bag and saw them at the lunches and banquet!) and we knew that they would be a fun stop to end our tour. With many thanks to Fox and Pheasant, no one went home empty-handed!

The Symposium ended, and after helping to transform Blandy’s library, dining room and lawn back to normal, we all headed home satisfied that this had been a wonderful gathering and a delightful homecoming to headquarters at Blandy. How nice to meet some new people and to see all of you!

by Cheryl Crowell

Symposium Photos by Andrea Filippone, Cheryl Crowell, Claire Weiss, and Rick Perdian

Symposium Garden Tours

Blandy, the State Arboretum of Virginia



On a sunny yet chilly October morning, American Boxwood Society Symposium participants wandering among the library collection and conifer displays at the Blandy Experimental Farm were invited to tour the ABS Memorial Garden with the head Arborist, Jared Manzo. The garden itself is at the forefront of the University of Virginia Arboretum; enter down the grass path to the right of the main walkway. This stunning arrangement of deep green shrubs, all seeming to be near mature growth, displays the beauty and versatility of our favorite plant.

The Memorial Garden came together in 1977, over 10 years after the Blandy Experimental Farms started, as a way to display *Buxus* in a museum sort of setting. This collection honors two boxwood enthusiasts, Henry Hohman and John Baldwin. Through the years

it has adopted a handful of recent names that have pioneered *Buxus* species research.

Our group started down the north path, a bed of the European *Buxus sempervirens*, hardy northern plants and some of John Baldwin's own choices. This bed includes a mix of small to medium trees chosen to filter light and allow for these boxwood specimens to grow content in the understory. A notable relic in this bed is a memorial to Phillip "Swede" Larson, Mr. Boxwood, who dedicated over 12 years compiling the first comprehensive guide to cultivated boxwood. Swede's compilation, and those to follow, could not have been possible without this garden and its collaborators.

The Memorial Garden has been under weekly observation for our most feared diseases in recent





years: boxwood blight and box tree moth. Since 2022 in an effort to prevent the blight, best management practices include elevating the canopy, thick mulching, avoiding tight growth and groupings, and spraying. The fungicide Chlorothalnil is preventatively applied to only the perimeter and 4' and lower around the skirt of the boxwood starting before Mother's Day. The box tree moth requires almost constant eyes on the bushes; at first signs (like window holes in the leaf cuticle), action with *Bacillus thuringiensis* will be taken!

Exploring the center bed, we found Edgar Anderson's collection from his 1934 trip to the Balkans. Amongst these was a show-stopping double row of 'Graham Blandy' and 'Dee Runk.' Both of these cultivars may have been discovered here. They tower nearly 10' tall and exhibit their most-desired quality of staying narrowly columnar. 'Edgar Anderson', and 'Henry Shaw' all looked to be well, with dark glossy leaves and end branches that reach upwards, forming a rounded pyramid. Standing in front of these monsters makes you appreciate the aesthetic of a full-grown boxwood habit we so rarely get to see in the urban and suburban setting of home gardens.

No shearing is done to shape the outside growth, strictly hand pruning. This technique certainly keeps these specimens in their more natural habit, thins the branches to allow for light and air to penetrate, and minimizes unnecessary leaf mutilation by a blade. Pruning all of these boxwood usually occurs after winter, to trim off any dead ends or winter damage due to exposure to high winds or sun in winter months. Hand pruning continues throughout the year when weather and time allow.

The south bed, well-shaded though some parts from towering pines and thuja, showcases the Asian boxwood, like *Buxus microphylla* and *B. sinca* var. *insularis*. In between some, a blanket of seedling *Buxus* are starting to pop up, which makes you wonder what cultivars may be discovered next. In this bed were some notable old species, some over 10' high and wide with bare multi-trunks to show off alligator-skinned texture. Here it was apparent some are suffering tip dieback, black spores, lichens on branches, and the beginnings of an infestation of boxwood leaf miner. Restorative pruning efforts have been underway for the last seven years, done when a





specimen has endured too much damage or needs to be reshaped. Some old-wood individuals have been sawed off a few inches from the base, left to either flush back out or decay.

The hour-long tour ended at the entrance walkway heading toward the main Blandy building here we discussed the dwarf allée of Korean *Buxus sinica* var. *insularis* 'Nana.' Once a delightful approach, this planting now is in desperate need of renovation, which Jared and the team here are actively working on. The mystery of these declining boxwood is made more clear by the fact that this walkway was widened by construction equipment some time ago. Four inches of compacted limestone now inhibits the root systems and soil tests revealed a raised pH of nearly 8. The future looks good, however, for newer specimens once the soil is amended.

The American Boxwood Society Memorial Garden is definitely worth a visit if you are near the University of Virginia Arboretum. Not only to appreciate the significance of this historical collection, but perhaps to be inspired to choose a lesser-known cultivar, maybe for your own garden, or to take note of the best cultural practices to maintain healthy specimens for years to come.

by Claire Weiss
Owner, St. Louis Boxwood
ABS Member since 2024
Midwest chapter member since 2016

Credits: Jared Manzo, UVA arborist.
University of Virginia; <https://blandy.virginia.edu/>.
ABS Boxwood Memorial Garden Brochure; https://boxwood-society.org/art/directory/blandy_box_brochure.pdf



Oak Spring Library



ABS Symposium attendees were given the rare opportunity to visit Oak Spring Garden Foundation—home, garden, and library of Rachel Lambert “Bunny” Mellon. Oak Spring is located in the beautiful rolling foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the mid-October timing of our visit did not disappoint since fall foliage was just reaching its peak. This amazing organization’s mission is to inspire and facilitate scholarship and public dialogue on the history and future of plants, including the culture of gardens and landscapes and the importance of plants for human well-being.

The library was a gift of Paul Mellon to his wife Bunny who amassed a collection of about 19,000 objects, including rare books, manuscripts, and works of art dating back to the 14th century. Some of the highlights of the space included the largest Mark Rothko painting ever done, complete with its own custom skylight for proper illumination. Items were displayed in a casual style which made for a very inviting space. Bunny even had a small Pablo Picasso painting hanging in a dark corner by her library kitchen. Shouldn’t every library have a bath tub (never used) and kitchen? What a wonderful space to spend some time and enjoy such an impressive and eclectic collection.

The head librarian showed us one of Bunny’s four Redbooks, all over 200 years old, which were handwritten and hand-drawn books done by landscape architects for specific projects. There was only ever one of each Redbook, making them one-of-a-kind works of art. Also on view were a



series of beautiful paintings that came from a French apothecary. The artwork depicted medicinal plants, some of which were deadly but highly artistic. Thank you, Oak Spring Foundation, for sharing this amazing property with us.

by David Schurr
Senior Horticulturist, Longwood Gardens

Photos were not permitted inside the Library during our tour



Oak Spring Garden



The reason to visit Oak Spring Garden Foundation (OSGF) in Upperville, VA, may be to experience the refined tastes of Rachel Lambert “Bunny” Mellon, as showcased in her garden and home. On a beautiful October morning, members of the American Boxwood Society found that the real attraction is the Library. This was Mrs. Mellon’s goal, as her estate planning for her Virginia home focused solely on preserving her collection. The OSGF was established in 1993 for that very purpose.

Mrs. Mellon, who died at 103 in 2014, became interested in botany, gardens, and landscape design as a child at her father’s estate in Princeton, NJ. Although entirely self-taught, Mrs. Mellon’s garden design skills were world-class. In America, she worked with First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy in designing the White House’s East Garden and Rose Garden. A self-proclaimed Francophile, Mrs. Mellon

created a landscape design for the home of her friend, fashion designer Hubert de Givenchy. She also assisted in the restoration of the potager du Roi at the Palace of Versailles in 1996, an endeavor Givenchy championed.

It was not preordained that Mrs. Mellon’s collection would be housed in the Library at Oak Spring after her death. The fate of her home and gardens was not her prime concern, with the bulk of the artwork (including the Rothko), furnishings, and other treasures either bequeathed to family members or sold at auction. Other locations were considered, but the OSGF ultimately chose to maintain the Library, the residence, and gardens at Oak Spring, on 700 acres, which is just a portion of the Mellons’ 4,000-acre estate. The rest was sold to fund bequests in Mrs. Mellon’s will, including the activities of the OSGF.





The Mellons originally lived in a 10,000-square-foot Georgian mansion, Brick House, on the estate. In the 1950s, they built a smaller home that became their primary residence. It is a combination of white-washed stone cottages, with a distinctively Provencal feel. A large espaliered Asian pear tree on the main stone wall demonstrates her penchant for structure and form. The most striking thing upon first seeing the house is that two of the wealthiest people in the world lived in such a human-scaled environment.

ABS members visited the living room and its adjacent hallways, which reflect Mrs. Mellon's subdued sense of style, embracing nuance and understatement, sensibilities that are immediately evident in the entrance way with its brick floors. The furniture is of the sort that was in the house, but there is no attempt to replicate the original decor. Reproductions of

artworks hang on the walls instead of the originals that were either gifted to museums or sold at auction. What has not changed are the views of the gently rolling hills from the living room.

By the time of Mrs. Mellon's death in 2014, the gardens had fallen into disrepair, with many of the trees, espaliers, and cordons long removed. Restoration work began in 2015, and visitors now see a garden that is true to the spirit of the one that Mrs. Mellon tended for over 50 years. There is no fixed point of reference for either time or style, as her tastes evolved, and so did her garden.

In the autumn sun, blue asters, Japanese anemones, and marigolds supplied most of the garden's color. With fall clean-up well under way, the walled garden with its three descending terraces connected by a central walkway revealed its bones, including





reflecting ponds and perfectly manicured trees and shrubs. Wildflowers and herbs growing between the large paving stones on the terrace and walkway softened the edges. Mrs. Mellon was obviously fond of the thorny *Poncirus trifoliata*, given the number of them in the garden.

Louis Bauer, an ABS director, observed that Mrs. Mellon was “not shy about shaping every woody plant on her place to fit her own ideal, with each having enough space to see its shape.” A prominent example is a large American holly tree styled into a topiary. Sight lines were also important to Mrs. Mellon. She eschewed grand gestures in her designs, but the 130-foot-long allée of 60 ‘Mary Potter’ crab apple trees leans in that direction. They are the same trees that Mrs. Mellon featured in the White House Rose Garden.

Mrs. Mellon evoked French tradition in the design of her formal greenhouses, constructed by the New York architect H. Page Cross. Its most striking feature is the vestibule with its remarkably realistic trompe l’oeil paintings by French artist Fernand Renard, which are currently being restored. ABS members were greeted by artists on scaffolding who discussed their work.

A fantastical metal urn containing an extravagant floral display by French jewelry designer Jean Schlumberger crowns the greenhouses. Best known for his work with Tiffany & Co., Schlumberger drew inspiration from the natural world. He, like Givenchy, was also one of Mrs. Mellon’s closest friends.

The OSGF’s residency programs for people with a demonstrated interest in the natural world and

humankind’s place in it are core to the foundation’s mission. They are also open to artists, writers, ecologists, and researchers who are working on creative projects. The residents stay in either the Mellons’ refurbished home or the converted Broodmare Barn, which was originally constructed in 1950 as stables for Paul Mellon’s prize-winning horses. A bronze replica of a statue of Paul Mellon’s most famous racehorse, Mill Reef, holds pride of place in the spot where the original once stood.

For the visiting artists and scholars, their work is paramount. They are, however, among the fortunate few with time enough to absorb the subtle complexities of Mrs. Mellon’s gardens. Sensibilities, Mr. Bauer observes, that are almost nonexistent in the culture of today.

by Rick Perdian





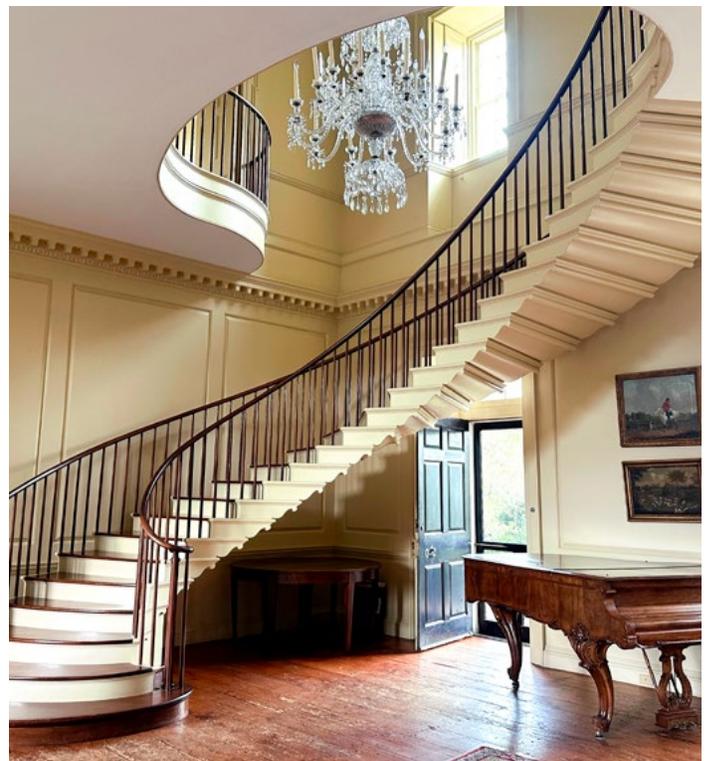
Carter Hall



We drove from Oak Springs to nearby Carter Hall in the picturesque village of Millwood as easily as if we were on a Virginia fox hunt riding our field hunters to the next meet. We came upon the imposing limestone plantation house from a distant view. In 1929, Gerard Lambert, the Gillette Razor Company and Listerine magnate, renovated the Carter Hall manse and garden. His daughter, Rachel “Bunny” Lambert Mellon, the renown horticulturist, grew up in the house. Some could even say that it was the house that Listerine built.

We were met on the front portico by the caretaker and had free run of the first floor. The well-known floating staircase, working dumbwaiters, the San Simeon chandelier and the exquisite mantels in many of the rooms were highlights. The upstairs were off-limits for now, but all was of great quality with classic taste throughout.

Carter Hall is just 50 miles from Reagan airport and, in my opinion, a bargain historical property boasting a boxwood garden in a quiet and posh neighborhood but ready for an update.





The boxwood garden was mature, and overgrown.... yet could easily be brought back by competent gardeners. One garden visitor said he felt trapped in the middle of a maze because the boxwood were so tall. Yes, there were signs of blight and neglect. In my opinion, the garden just needs maintenance and love.

Some visitors found a magnificent oak tree at least two centuries old, and regaled its majesty, while others snooped into the servants' cottages and outlying structures.

Carter Hall was also Bunny Mellon's ancestral home and garden; her first greenhouse is in the far corner below the overgrown boxwood parterre standing derelict hoping for a new gardener and rebirth.



The estate went on the market recently. I hope the goddess of house and garden renewal and rebirth shines a light for a new family to flourish here because it is so worthy.

Now onward to Clay Hill . . .

by John Makar



Clay Hill



From the moment we arrived in the driveway and were greeted by owner Jim Staelin, it was obvious that Clay Hill is a special place. Jim and his wife, jeweler Elizabeth Locke, have expended much care and creativity to make the house and its gardens a visual feast and a testament to the wonders of country living.

Circa 1816, Clay Hill is a two story home with outbuildings built by Mary Burwell and Francis Beverly Whiting, as part of a working farm of 280 acres. The floor plan, unusual for its time, features a staircase perpendicular to the center entrance hall and a winter kitchen in the English basement. It retained the original layout until the twentieth century. The Civil War brought skirmishes around

the property and incidents with both Mosby's Rangers and Union officers. After the war, it became a boarding school for boys under the tutelage of the grandson of the original owners. Passing through several subsequent hands, the property was acquired by the current owners in 1979.

A well-thought-out restoration ensued. The coal-burning furnace and knob and tube wiring were dispatched in favor of modern systems. The interiors were lovingly restored with historic doors, hardware, and mantels. A beautiful kitchen wing and screened porch wing leading out to a lily pond garden were added as well. Everywhere we turned, there was something unique and interesting beautifully displayed.



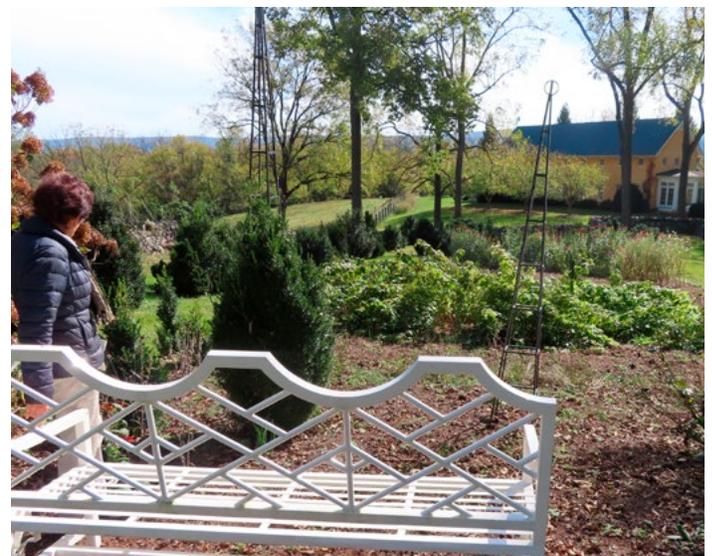


The gardens were laid out axially so that they are visible from the main rooms of the house but not accessible from them. This makes a visitor curious about how the gardens are going to unfold as well as making the interior rooms seem larger because of their view. Directly on axis with the main house is a boxwood parterre garden and a small Gothic-style greenhouse featuring an orchid collection. There is also a crossing in the garden walk dedicated as a memorial to Archibald, a beloved deceased pet. Boxwood are visible in the plantings surrounding the house as well. Proceeding through the greenhouse, we were given a tour of the dahlia, herb, and cutting and vegetable gardens by a very knowledgeable gardener who clearly loves her job.

As you get further away from the house, the axial alignment gives way to a more casual collection of buildings and gardens. A summer house for the orchid collection, made of dark green slatted walls and Gothic-arched doorway, is topped with an ornate crest at the roof line. A stone ice house is tucked into the hillside and a chicken paddock houses a lively flock. Lily gardens and a koi pond off the porch are situated near a legacy black walnut tree which looks original to the site. Larger vegetable gardens and an asparagus garden are situated on the way to a pool house/orangerie.

We are grateful to have been able to share in the abundant beauty that is Clay Hill – provided by both Mother Nature and John Staelin and Elizabeth Locke. May it continue to thrive.

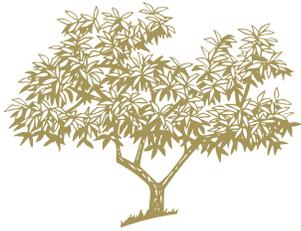
by Susan Shafer





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2025 ABS Symposium Lecture Recaps

The following are summaries of many of the lectures that took place during the Symposium. Thank you to each lecturer for their contribution to boxwood education and a special thank you to those who were willing to share a snippet for this *Bulletin*.

Arrival of the Box Tree Moth at the State Arboretum of Virginia



The State Arboretum of Virginia includes 856 living boxwood specimens representing 185 boxwood taxa, making it one of the most diverse boxwood holdings in the United States. Preserving the collection is a key concern of the Arboretum, but one that has become increasingly difficult and labor-intensive as new diseases and pests become regionally prominent. The newest pest to reach the Arboretum is the box tree moth, *Cydalima perspectalis*, first detected on the property in a trap on October 1, 2025, and confirmed on a plant a week later. We expect this to be the biggest challenge yet for maintaining the collection.

Although there are plenty of effective insecticides available for treating box tree moth, the rapidity with which the moth can defoliate entire shrubs, its fast generation time (it is expected to have 3-4 generations per year at this latitude), the abundance of plants combined with their wide dispersion (spread over nearly one square mile) make it very challenging to scout the entire collection as regularly as is needed. Additionally, getting full insecticide coverage on infested plants is difficult given that many of our plants are 15-20 feet tall and have overlapping canopies.

Our initial approach to protecting the diversity of our collection will include regular scouting and rapid treatment, as well as an overall reduction in our boxwood holdings. Many of our boxwood are in

outlying areas, including in the forest, and are not even included in our inventory. These threaten to be an under-surveyed part of the property with the ability to act as a reservoir of pests to the rest of the collection. These will be among the first plants slated for removal. Additionally, many of the specimens in the collection have neither provenance information nor taxonomic information beyond the genus. Some of these still provide prominent landscape features and so provide wanted structure within the Arboretum, but others contribute neither to structure nor diversity, and those will be considered on a case-by-case basis for removal.

It may at first seem ironic to safeguard a collection by reducing its abundance, but we have watched how quickly various pests spread in their first wave here, like the emerald ash borer and then the spotted lanternfly. We lost our ash trees to its pest. Unfortunately, we haven't lost tree-of-heaven to it. In order to keep our boxwood collection as diverse as possible, we need both vigilance and a more scoutable collection. I believe that targeted removals and vigilance on the most valuable parts of the collection, especially the ABS Memorial Garden, will be the strategy that keeps the collection in the best shape for the future.

Article by T'ai Roulston. Curator, State Arboretum of Virginia
Photo by Claire Weiss. Owner, St. Louis Boxwood

Pruning Demonstration Using *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Dee Runk’



Pruning is one of those horticultural activities that truly blends science and art. A good pruner must understand proper techniques, tools, timing, and plant physiology to anticipate the plant’s response, but the finest results also reflect an artful eye and thoughtful intent. As we’ve all seen, a tree or shrub can thrive under good pruning or suffer “death by a thousand cuts” when handled poorly.

With this in mind, I was pleased to share pruning best practices and demonstrate these techniques on a boxwood specimen in the Blandy Experimental Farm collections. I was joined by Marc Vedder, Foreman of Gardens and Grounds at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. Marc, an ISA Certified Arborist and manager of Dumbarton’s Integrated Pest Management program, is also an exceptionally skilled and artful pruner with over 25 years of experience at Dumbarton Oaks alone.

Together, we focused on several key principles of pruning: defining goals, selecting tools and protective equipment, understanding types of cuts, and timing. Although our demonstration centered on boxwood, many of these concepts apply broadly to other woody plants.

Pruning Goals

Every pruning project should begin with a clear goal. Having a defined purpose helps ensure that each cut aligns with that objective. Common pruning goals include:

- Disease or pest prevention or mitigation
- Maintenance of size and shape
- Risk mitigation (primarily of concern with trees)
- Providing clearance for structures or other plantings
- Improving plant structure and health
- Creating formal topiary or hedging

For our demonstration, we worked on a somewhat overgrown double row of *Buxus sempervirens* ‘Dee Runk’ that formed an allée for visitors to walk through. The plants at the ends, receiving more sunlight, had grown taller and wider than the interior specimens and required selective reduction to restore uniformity.

Tools and Safety

We showcased a range of tools and safety equipment essential for effective and safe pruning. Tools included an orchard ladder—ideal for uneven or

unpaved surfaces—a folding pruning saw, bypass loppers, and bypass hand pruners.

We emphasized tool hygiene (sterilizing cutting surfaces to prevent disease spread), blade sharpness, and cleanliness for both plant health and user safety. Ladder safety was another key topic: always maintain three points of contact, use a spotter when possible, and store sharp tools securely in a holster to avoid exposed blades while climbing. Proper hand and eye protection are also essential.

Regarding pruning boxwood in particular, tool hygiene and sanitization is of utmost importance considering the possibility of introducing or spreading boxwood blight or other disease organisms. Best practices in this area include timing boxwood pruning or other work when conditions are not ideal for disease transmission. We also suggest utilizing disposable coveralls and boot coverings that can be removed when exiting boxwood beds or changing clothing and laundering depending on the user's preference.

Types of Pruning Cuts

We demonstrated several main types of cuts:

- **Heading cuts:** Remove a branch back to a lateral bud or side shoot, encouraging dense lateral growth near the cut. These are useful for reducing height and promoting a fuller plant structure.
- **Thinning cuts:** Remove a branch back to a main trunk or stem. This opens the canopy, improving light penetration and air circulation. Since these cuts are made at a structural junction, they typically do not stimulate regrowth at the cut site. Rather, growth is directed towards the terminal ends.
- **Shearing or tipping:** These are heading cuts made mechanically, often with hedging shears, to maintain formal shapes such as in boxwood hedges or topiary. Over time, exclusive shearing results in foliage concentrated on the outer shell, leaving the interior bare. To maintain long-term health, plants maintained this way should periodically receive selective thinning or heading to encourage interior growth.
- **Plucking:** A traditional boxwood technique where terminal shoots are pinched or removed to open the plant's structure and encourage internal light penetration. Although once commonly done by snapping stems, we prefer to use pruners to provide clean cuts that allow faster healing and reduce disease risk.

Timing and Plant Physiology

Proper timing is critical to avoid stress, disease, and winter injury. Removing too much material from an already stressed plant can deplete stored carbohydrates, weakening the plant.

Boxwood retains its leaves for three years. These leaves are essential for photosynthesis and energy storage, so over-pruning can impair the plant's vigor. Because boxwood generally produces only one flush of new growth in spring, pruning must be timed carefully to avoid disrupting this cycle.

For evergreen plants such as boxwood, avoid pruning in late summer or early fall. Cuts made during this period stimulate tender new growth that will not harden off before winter. The ideal window for major pruning is late fall through early spring, when plants are dormant. Once new spring growth has begun, pruning should be minimized.

If formal shapes are desired, light tipping can be done after the spring flush. Otherwise, selective pruning may be performed in late spring or early summer, but should be avoided from late summer until dormancy returns.

Pruning, when done thoughtfully and skillfully, not only maintains plant health and form but also expresses a horticulturist's artistry. If you enjoyed this demonstration at the American Boxwood Symposium, or found these principles helpful, please consider becoming a member of the American Boxwood Society.

by Jonathan Kavalier, CGM
Dumbarton Oaks



The Future of Boxwood



Another Generation of Saunders Boxwood Growers

My family has been growing boxwood in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia for more than 75 years. During that time, we have faced many significant challenges, including boxwood decline, boxwood leaf miner, boxwood blight, and now the newest threat, the box tree moth. Each of these issues has shaped the way we grow and care for this iconic plant.

Today, we are working not only with traditional cultivars that have been grown for centuries, but we are also investing heavily in breeding new cultivars. Our goal is to develop cultivars that show exceptional resistance or tolerance to the pests and diseases that continue to confront boxwood enthusiasts.

I am proud to share that five members of the next generation of the Saunders family are now working alongside the current generation, continuing this legacy and bringing fresh energy to our efforts.

This combination of honoring long-standing traditions while embracing innovation reflects the direction of our work moving forward. Through continued research, breeding, and hands-on experience, we are committed to ensuring that boxwood remains a healthy and thriving part of the landscape for future generations..

by J. Bennett Saunders, GM
Saunders Genetics LLC



Paul M. Saunders and his mother, Mildred M. Saunders, in Paul's boxwood garden circa 1948



Delivery of boxwood to the White House 2020

ABS Blandy Soil Workshop



Soil is life, and it must be treated with care. Healthy soil is composed of roughly equal parts solids and pore space, allowing for the movement of air and water—both essential for strong root development. Boxwood, in particular, thrive when soils are well-drained and supported by a healthy, fungal-dominant soil ecosystem.

The first step in evaluating planting conditions is to conduct a percolation test to assess existing soil drainage. This is done by digging a hole approximately 12 inches wide and 18 inches deep, scarifying the sides, filling it with water, and observing how long the water takes to drain. Ideally, the water should drain several inches within the first hour.

At Blandy Experimental Farm, soils are high in clay and silt, and as expected, the percolation tests showed poor drainage. Examining the excavated soil provides additional insight: if the soil can be easily rolled into a ball that holds its shape, it is likely prone to compaction.

When drainage is inadequate, improvements are necessary. These may include installing subsurface PVC drainage or creating deeper sand pits beneath planting areas through digging or augering. Heavy





clay soils can also be amended with a carefully-balanced mixture of sand and compost to improve structure and permeability.

The ultimate goal is to promote healthy root growth in soils that drain well while supporting a diverse and active soil biology. Beneficial fungi, protozoans, and nematodes all play a critical role in nutrient cycling and plant health, creating the foundation for resilient and long-lived boxwood plantings.

by Andrea Filippone
F2 Environmental Design



Boxwood Propagation from Stem Cuttings



Ideal-sized branched cutting



Close up of cutting showing striated bark on second year wood and wounds from small stem removal



A close up of a cutting that has been stuck for a while and the beginning of callous formation

It is actually not too difficult to root a boxwood from a stem cutting. Timing is important but not critical. It is best to take the cuttings when they are not actively growing. So this is after they have flushed in the spring and hardened off, generally June or July. You can also do fall and winter cuttings.

I prefer to take a branched cutting which would consist of stems that have striated bark (a cutting with the current and previous season's wood). These cuttings root the best and also give you a nice starter plant. Generally the callus and rooting occurs along the striations and around the stem wounds.

I prepare my cuttings by stripping off the lower branches of the wood on the striated bark. The wounds that are left from removing these little stems are great spots for callousing to occur.

I use Hormodin #2 rooting hormone (0.3% Indole-3-Butyric Acid or IBA). There are other types and brands available but this is what I normally use.

My preferred media for woody cuttings is two parts coarse perlite to one part peat moss. For the peat portion I use "Pro-mix B with mycoryhiza and biofungicide" added. These ingredients should be mixed thoroughly and pre-moistened.

Depending on the size of the cutting I use either 50 cell plug trays or larger tree seedling plug trays that

have around 30 larger and deeper cells. I fill the trays with media and push the media firmly into the cells so that it is tight and not loose.

The prepared cuttings are then dipped into the rooting hormone and stuck into the filled flats. I like to firm the media around the cutting as it is stuck to ensure good contact with the media and also so that it doesn't fall over easily in the tray.

The flats of cuttings are then placed under intermittent mist benches in my greenhouse. The benches are equipped with heating tubes that have warm water flowing through them. Cuttings root best with a consistent bottom heat of around 70°F. An average time for the mist duration and timing is 6 to 10 seconds every 10 to 15 minutes. I will adjust this sometimes during long periods of extreme heat and sun or oppositely during long periods of cloudy, cool weather. Ideally the cuttings would remain slightly moist but not saturated at all times. If the media remains too wet the cuttings can rot.

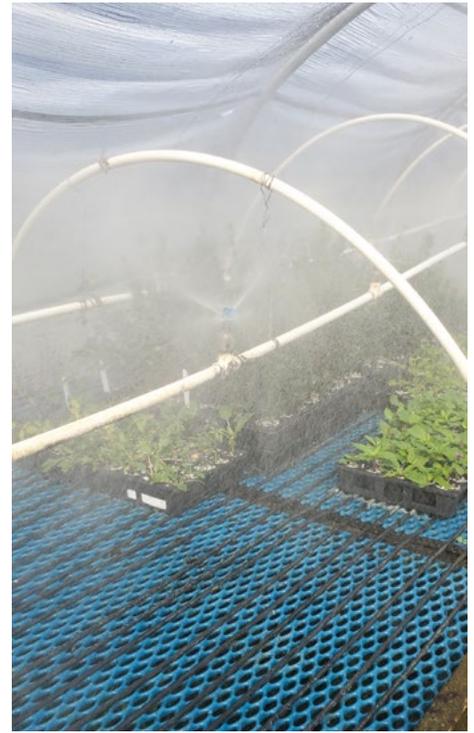
Depending on the cultivar and also the timing of the cutting, rooting will take place within 1 to 6 months. A callus will form along the striations of the bark and around the stem wounds first. After a callus forms, roots will emerge slowly from the callus. I remove the trays from the mist bench after the roots have filled the cells completely so that the cutting can be pulled from the cell and the media will cling to the roots.



A cutting after callus has formed and roots are emerging. This is when the magic happens!



Another picture of rooting after callus formation



The rooting bench in the greenhouse showing the tubes for bottom heat and also intermittent mist



Trays of cuttings stuck in rooting media showing different sizes of trays

I like to acclimate the rooted cuttings to normal watering at this point for a brief period of time. I will also periodically liquid feed the plants as well as there is no nutrition in the rooting media. The cuttings are then ready to be transplanted into normal growing media in containers to develop a nice root system and move on into the production system.

There are many different methods of rooting boxwood. It can also be done at home using very simple and crude methods. As Pine View Nursery is a production nursery, our method has been in use for over 25 years. Don't be afraid to experiment with other less-complicated methods. Regardless of the method used, it is fun and rewarding to propagate any plant from a stem cutting. Happy gardening and good luck!

by Kevin Collard
Pine View Nursery



We generally pot the rooted cuttings into 4-in deep containers in our growing media. This is after the cutting has rooted out into the pot. Beautiful!

Boxwood Problem Control through the Basics

Keeping boxwood as a sustainable and usable plant in the landscape and collections is important to me. During my tenure, boxwood, once quite scarce on eastern Long Island except for on estates and in formal gardens, has become in many ways the breadfruit of the green industry. As one of very few evergreen plants meeting the need for deer, drought and disease resilience, boxwood has transitioned from rare and collectible to generously available.

The installation and conservation of this sustainable and practically bulletproof material declined rapidly, however, with the onset of boxwood blight. The outbreak sent us reeling, collectively, down many separate paths. Each interested party - breeder, grower, nursery person, designer, installer, manager - pursued their own objective.

We face many challenges as a team to keep boxwood available, well-managed and in the landscape. One aspect I consider most important is the way our disciplines interact in the final planting and management. Until that point most of us are an



individual and our instinct is to focus on our individual goals. However, it is at this point in the process where it behooves all of us to collaborate more consistently as a team. Keeping each other informed of cultural problems and following through on the remediation of such, while also training staff to avoid such problems in the future, will result in better outcomes for all.

by Mike Gaines
Founder, CW Arborists, Sagaponack, NY

Prospects for Biocontrol of Boxwood Blight and Other Diseases



Dr. Kong from Virginia Tech delivered a presentation titled “Prospects for Biocontrol of Boxwood Blight and Other Diseases” on October 16, 2025, at the ABS Symposium 2025. In her presentation, Dr. Kong emphasized the critical need for biocontrol methods in disease management and provided an overview

of the current status of boxwood blight and disease control strategies. She introduced various biocontrol products, including experimental agents targeting the disease. Using example strains from the Virginia Tech laboratory, she elaborated on the development of biocontrol agents, detailing their isolation, identification, and results from both laboratory and field trials. Dr. Kong highlighted a particularly well-studied strain, *Burkholderia* SSG, which was isolated from boxwood leaves infected by the boxwood blight pathogen. This strain has demonstrated exceptional efficacy as a broad-spectrum biocontrol agent, bio-sanitizer, and plant growth promoter. Finally, she provided updates on research regarding the application and commercialization of SSG, focusing on the development of effective formulations to enhance the product’s shelf life and treatment intervals, as well as initiatives to engage industry stakeholders for product registration and distribution.

by Ping Kong
Research Scientist in Plant Pathology at Virginia Tech

Updates from Fellow Boxwood Societies

In an effort to promote boxwood across the country and around the world, the following pages contain highlights from other boxwood societies.

The Boxwood Society of the Midwest



Members during their 2024 Fall Outing to Louisville, Kentucky



Teddi Aandahl and ABS's Kevin Collard



The group at Kevin Collard's Pine View Nursery. Readers may recognize ABS members Bruce and Polly Chalker

The Boxwood Society of the Midwest is a sanctioned garden club of the Missouri Botanical Garden, (MOBOT), located in St. Louis, Missouri. The society was born out of a boxwood study program established in 1968 by the late Dr. Edgar Anderson, former director of MOBOT and distinguished member of its scientific staff for 40 years. After his death in 1969, volunteers and members of the St. Louis Herb Society, who began the study group, Mary Gamble, Mary Holekamp and Jane Penhale, joined by Mary Clair Wenger, formed the Boxwood Society of the Midwest, which today has roughly sixty members.

Continuing Dr. Anderson's quest for Midwest-hardy boxwood, the goals of the study group and the Boxwood Society of the Midwest, are to:

- Establish a boxwood trial nursery at the Missouri Botanical Garden
- Bring to the nursery Dr. Anderson's and other historic cultivars at the Shaw Nature Reserve
- Collect, evaluate, select and name cultivars that might do well in the erratic and sometimes severe climate of Missouri, as well as receiving same from others.

Upcoming in 2026:

- We will hold our annual meeting locally in March, with lively demonstrations, valuable information from our horticulturist representative at the garden and much more.
- The Boxwood Society of the Midwest will be holding a continuing education class at MOBOT, April 18th, titled "The Beauty of Boxwood." A presentation will be given by Bruce Chalker on the best boxwood cultivars for the Midwest, followed by Claire Weiss of St. Louis Boxwood speaking on the care of boxwood. Finally, there will be a pruning demonstration in the Ruth Palmer Blanke Boxwood garden at MOBOT.
- Plans are in the works for a Spring outing at a local nursery for a demonstration on how to practice the art of bonsai using boxwood
- We will perform our regular duties as volunteers to prune in the Blanke Boxwood Garden at MOBOT. These take place monthly from March through August
- Plans are also in the works for a Fall outing that will likely take place in October

by Teresa (Teddi) Aandahl

ABS's 2026 Annual Symposium is scheduled to take place in Louisville, Kentucky. We hope to be able to connect with more members of The Boxwood Society of the Midwest while we are there!

European Boxwood and Topiary Society (EBTS)

The past year at the European Boxwood and Topiary Society (EBTS) has been relatively quiet as we look forward to 2026 and prepare to celebrate our splendid 30th anniversary. The Society was founded in the UK in 1996 by Veronique Goblet d'Alviella and famed boxwood specialist Elizabeth Braimbridge along with her husband Mark. Lynn R. Batdorf attended the inaugural meeting later that year, contributing welcome support from the American Boxwood Society, and his report of the event forms an essential part of the EBTS archive. It is hoped that Veronique, who is now acting chairman of EBTS Belgium following the retirement of her redoubtable



The garden at Floriston Hall, Suffolk, was planted around the time of the founding of the EBTS in 1996 by the late Anne Vail

colleague, nurseryman Karel Goossens, will lead a delegation to EBTS UK's AGM in May 2026, with a reciprocal trip to Belgium planned for later in the year. TOPIARIUS 2025 was a particularly outstanding issue of our EBTS magazine and was considered for the Garden Media Guild Awards. The 2026 issue will include a special message from King Charles III who has long been a keen environmentalist and gardener, and since 1999 has been the EBTS's Principal Honorary Member.

by Elizabeth Hilliard
Editor TOPIARIUS Magazine



Head gardener Simon Shepherd talks to members of EBTS UK visiting Floriston Hall in Suffolk in May 2025



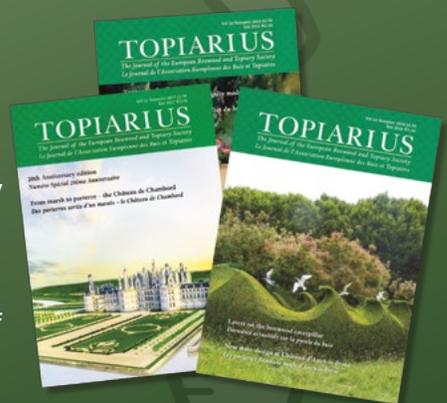
The European Boxwood & Topiary Society

EBTS is a 'not for profit' pan-European organisation that aims to encourage and enhance knowledge of boxwood & topiary through garden visits, publications, promotions, exhibitions and scientific research.

Our members comprise garden designers, historians, writers, scientists, great garden owners, nurserymen, as well as the many garden lovers who are the backbone of the Society.

Why not sign-up to our email newsletter to keep up to date with the latest news, or better still, become an EBTS member to receive our journal *Topiarius* which has boxwood and topiary articles and reviews covering history, science and art, plus our exclusive garden visits which you might like to attend if you are planning a visit to the UK or Continental Europe.

info@ebts.org



www.ebts.org

EBTS France - 2025 Year In Review

EBTS France is an independent society with over 424 members. Consider joining us for the 2026 World Topiary Day on May 10. More information at buis-et-topiaires.org. - Patrick Salembier, President of EBTS France



Buis & Topiaires N°25



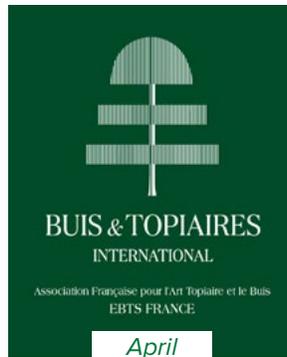
January
Visit to the Parterre du Midi at Versailles. Presentation of the official World Topiary Days (WTD) Poster



March
Celebration of spring at Dampierre Castle



April
Santiago de Compostela and Galicia. Pazo Pegullal - new EBTS France delegation in Spain



April
Launch our new website www.buis-et-topiaires.org



May
WTD. Organized by EBTS France and Levens Hall



May
A 300-year-old boxwood received the prestigious "Tree of France" award



June
Visit to the Perche region. Stéphane Bern (center, in EBTS apron) was honored for his restoration of the eighteenth-century buildings of the small village of Thiron-Gardais



August
Summer getaway to the Boulonnais region



October
Tour of the historic villas around Lake Como



2025 Henschman Topiary Award Winners. *Left:* Cédric Bronnimann won the professional category for his work at the Château du Grand Jardin in Haute-Marne. *Right:* François Vandangeon won the amateur category



Remembering Eric ‘T’ Fleisher

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Eric T. Fleisher, who died unexpectedly from a stroke. A visionary leader in sustainable horticulture and soil science, T brought innovation, integrity, and fresh thinking to some of the nation’s most respected institutions. He will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know or work with him.

A graduate of Berklee College of Music, T was an accomplished musician with a lifelong passion for guitar and many other instruments. What began as a “day job” to support his music soon became a calling, as he grew equally enamored with plants and their essential role in making cities healthier and more livable. His commitment to greening New York City led him to join the Battery Park City Parks Conservancy in the 1990s, where he worked in—and ultimately managed—the Horticulture Department.

During his tenure at Battery Park City, T helped advance a pioneering non-toxic approach to landscape management, expanded composting to an industrial scale, and actively invited community participation. Like many of his colleagues, he became a first responder following the September 11 attacks, working through the devastation to the parks and the surrounding

community with resilience and care.

T’s professional growth continued through the Loeb Fellowship, which broadened his influence and impact. Among his proudest achievements was persuading Harvard University to eliminate toxic chemicals from its extensive landscapes. The Harvard maintenance staff became enthusiastic and enduring advocates of non-toxic land care, and T continued to work closely with them until his death, considering them family.

T’s work and legacy will continue through F2 Environmental Design, the firm he founded with his wife and business partner, Andrea Filippone. Andrea will carry forward their shared vision, ensuring that the firm’s many public and private projects across the country remain on track and that T’s enthusiasm, expertise, and environmental ethic continue to inspire others.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to support The Eric T. Fleisher Lecture Series at the Earth Force Institute (www.earthforceinstitute.org), which will honor his legacy of environmental education and public service.



Remembering Eleanor ‘Katherine’ Dunlap Ward

Katherine Ward was a long time Secretary/Treasurer of the American Boxwood Society, serving for 23 years; 1981 to 2004. Most of her working life involved horticulture, a field to which she became deeply drawn, knowledgeable and widely respected.

In the following statement Mrs. Ward traces the development of her interest in boxwood and her association with the American Boxwood Society.

“I was born and raised in Potomac, Maryland on a farm that has been in my mother’s family since the early 1800s. The original home place, built in 1830, contains many American boxwood and formal boxwood gardens. Consequently, my association with boxwood is of long standing. I developed an interest in plant materials at an early age as a result of living on a farm and having a father who was interested in landscape architecture.”

The July 2004 edition of *The Boxwood Bulletin* provided the following recognition of Katherine Ward’s work for the American Boxwood Society. With the recent publication of Lynn Batdorf’s *Boxwood, An Illustrated Encyclopedia*, Second Edition her wish expressed for the publication of this resource has lived on!



RECOGNITION

“Whereas, in 1981, working as superintendent of Blandy Experimental Farm, Katherine D. Ward was appointed Treasurer of The American Boxwood Society.

Whereas, she received her early introduction to boxwood while growing up on her mother’s family farm which had been in the family since the early 1800s and contained many American boxwood as well as formal boxwood gardens.

Whereas, she studied accounting, salesmanship, marketing and the care of house plants and received practical knowledge working in a family lawn and garden business and later for a nursery.

Whereas, she arrived with an Addressograph file, three sets of index cards (white, yellow and gray) and some of the former Treasurer’s account books at the Frackelton residence to sort out the membership data so it could be put on Mr. Frackelton’s computer.

Whereas, she continued to serve as Treasurer except for one year until early 2004 and handled the distribution of five editions of the *Buyer’s Guide*, requests for back issues of *The Boxwood Bulletin* and the Index issues, as well as two editions of the *Boxwood Handbook*.

Whereas, she was voted an Honorary Life Member several years ago in recognition of her long and faithful service.

Whereas, seeing the completion and publication of Lynn Batdorf’s *Boxwood: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* has been the realization of a long-time wish.”

Eleanor ‘Katherine’ Dunlap Ward passed away after a full life of family, work and volunteering. Married to Gerald Ward they had two sons, Dayton, ‘DEW Lawn and Tree Service’, and Dawson. She was the grandmother of five and great-grandmother of four. She will be remembered for her independence, practical wisdom, creativity, and lifelong dedication to her work and community.



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