



# Boxwood Bounty

Ed Yates, JWT Nursery Manager

*Robust and remarkable, boxwoods are part of our past...and future*

Boxwoods have been a staple of gardens and landscapes for thousands of years. The ancient Egyptians used them as formal hedges and made tools from their wood. Tightly clipped boxwood hedges and topiaries were also prevalent throughout Roman gardens, and it was from there that they spread throughout England and much of Europe. It is commonly accepted that the first American Boxwoods (*Buxus sempervirens*) reached North America in 1652

and were planted on Long Island. Boxwoods are broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, which are quite hardy and possess unique ornamental characteristics. Their root system is shallow and fibrous, allowing for easy transplanting and they are detested by deer and rabbits. While they do require care and attention, they are generally very grower-friendly.

Traditionally, Virginians planted two types of Boxwood. These were the American Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) and the Dwarf English Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'). Large specimens of both, planted during colonial times, survive still today. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the "Korean" boxwoods (*Buxus microphylla*) had made their way to North America from Asia.

of boxwood species and cultivars available, which represent a wide range of styles and habits. They are commonly used for topiaries, hedges, allées, and enclosures, as well as specimens that stand alone. A number of hybrid boxwoods have been developed, such as the Sheridan cultivars 'Green Velvet' and 'Green Gem'. These have proven durable and are a favorite of landscapers and designers.

As a company, J.W. Townsend, Inc. has been planting and transplanting boxwoods for twenty-five years. Their popularity has increased steadily until present day. We have spent considerable time researching sources and suppliers and feel confident in our ability to provide the highest quality material. There are few plants we appreciate more than the boxwood. It is easy to see why they have been—and continue to be—a favorite landscape choice. ❧



Today there are a host

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

J.W. TOWNSEND, INC.

# Garden Matters

## Winter Clips—the benefits of dormant season pruning Holly Chichester, Design/Sales

Dormant season pruning has advantages for both shade and ornamental trees. Dormancy refers to the time after the leaves have fallen in the fall, and before the new leaves emerge in the spring. But first, we should understand why we prune plants in the first place:

- \* *Prune to promote plant health.* Remove dead, dying or rubbing branches to improve tree health and overall aesthetics.
- \* *Prune to assist with plant maintenance.* Promote flowering/fruit development, plant/foliage density and help maintain a desired shape or form.
- \* *Prune to improve overall plant appearance.* Control overall plant size, proportion and remove unwanted branches, suckers, watersprouts and undesirable fruiting structures that detract from plant appearance (and health).

The obvious benefit offered by dormant season pruning is the minimal disruption to the landscape

at a time when the yard is used less. Also, because the ground is firm and perennials are dormant (causing minimum impact on gardens that are beneath the trees), work can proceed more efficiently – a saving of both time *and* money.

Biologically, dormant pruning is a growth-stimulating process. Pruning "wounds" often seal faster when made in the winter than those made in the summer and there is less disease and insect presence during the colder months. Proper pruning of trees enhances storm resilience as well, whether the storm threat is from ice damage or high winds.

Finally, because the foliage is not in the way, pruning during the dormant season allows our crews to more quickly evaluate tree structure and identify needed adjustments. From a job cost standpoint, efficiency is increased because the limbs weigh less and are more easily handled without the foliage. All in all, the benefits of winter pruning favor your plants *and* your budget! ❧

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Interested in a pruning evaluation?  
Call our Garden Maintenance Manager, Steve Pekary,  
at 973-1154 to set up a consultation.

❧ In the upcoming spring issue... ❧

The Townsend Top 10—spring blooming trees your landscape can't live without!



## Cozy up! Fire pits & other hardscapes create a quiet retreat

Imagine a crisp winter evening, stars blinking in the cold night air and you, your family and friends seated snugly around a blazing, crackling fire,

enjoying hot cider and one another's company. You don't have to load up the camping gear and head for the hills to enjoy this cool weather scene—with the help of JWT, Inc.'s hardscape artisans Todd Stackhouse and Reid Davis, you could soon enter a winter retreat by just stepping out your back door.

The popularity of the outdoor fire pit has grown considerably over the last few years and with more families seeking vacation alternatives, adding a fire pit and other hardscaping elements to your back yard transforms an average lawn and landscape into your own extraordinary vacation retreat. Whether sunken in the ground in a quiet corner

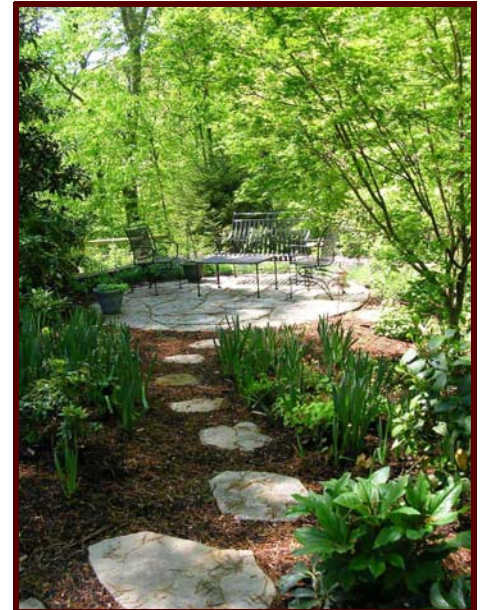
of your yard or built in as an accent to your flagstone patio, it's a year-round place for your family and friends to gather and make some memories.

More and more homeowners are looking for interesting and innovative ways to create beautiful outdoor living spaces. Outdoor entertaining is an increasingly popular way to enjoy the company of family and friends.

You can complement or accent the color of your home with contrasting landscaping stones to enhance your home's beauty. There used to be but a few landscape product options, which resulted in a more basic approach to the landscaping of your home. Now, with the extensive array of patio stone, tumbled pavers and landscape wall stone products available, the results are more functional and aesthetically pleasing.

Another perk? Your home will be worth more! Enhancing your exterior spaces with professionally designed and installed stone work can be both a rewarding and financially sound de-

cision, adding more space and value to your home and priceless enjoyment to your life. ☘



Interested in adding a hardscape element to your landscape?

Contact Graham or Holly at 973-1154 to set up a design consultation.

## JWT Staff Stuff



The frost is most definitely on the pumpkin in Virginia, but the folks at J. W. Townsend, Inc. are still hot! We've recently added three new International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists to our Garden Maintenance and Landscape Installation teams.

So, why hire an arborist certified by the ISA? ISA Certified Arborists are experienced professionals who have passed an extensive examination covering all aspects of tree care. Joining our existing arborist lineup of Philip Ofrias (ISA Cert. #MA-0496A) and Holly Chichester (MA-4264A), are Steven Pekary (MA-4895A), Ernesto Dovis (MA-4901A) and Jonathan Jefferies (MA-4894A). We congratulate them on their latest accomplishments and appreciate their willingness to stay up to date on the latest techniques and information. For homeowner-friendly information on trees and the people who care for them, visit the *Trees Are Good* website at [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org).

Our Garden Maintenance Manager, Steven Pekary has

yet another feather in his horticultural cap. Already one of eleven JWT employees who hold the designation of Virginia Certified Horticulturist with the Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association (VNLA), he's now earned the designation of VNLA Advanced Horticulturist, proving that he has an *even higher level* of plant identification ability and general horticultural knowledge. *Nice job, Steve!*



In the spirit of giving, the JWT, Inc. family is proud to be making financial contributions to the Charlottesville Emergency Food Bank, The Virginia Discovery Museum (VDM), and The Santa Fund. All three are wonderful organizations that provide valuable services that benefit families and children in our local community. We are so very pleased to be sharing our good fortune so that all may have a special holiday season this year. To join us in the effort, visit *The Santa Fund* at [www.unitedwaytja.org](http://www.unitedwaytja.org), the VDM at [www.vadm.org](http://www.vadm.org) and contact the C'ville-Albemarle Emergency Food Bank at 434-979-9180. ☘

At JWT, Inc., our mission is about delivering quality—from the work we perform to the staff we employ. Each one of us has a solid horticultural background, through formal education or years of dedicated experience. We encourage and often require continuing education, industry certifications and specialized training for our entire staff, so you can be assured that your garden plan will be designed, coordinated, installed and maintained by some of the industry's finest landscape artisans.



## In Jay's words...

Jay W. Townsend, Founder & President

Throughout our lives, we are taught that there are really no guarantees. Fortunately, in the landscaping business, that's not necessarily the case...as long as you are familiar with who is doing the planting!

At J. W. Townsend, Inc., I literally put my name on every landscape we install, and I do so with confidence—confidence that translates into a guarantee: that you will be pleased with the end result and can rest assured that we stand behind our work 100%. The old saying, “you get what you pay for” rings true with us, and it's that brand of business integrity that turns first time customers of JWT, Inc. into clients for life. With that kind of relationship, you can be certain that our combined landscaping efforts will be a success. We're actually modeling some of our upcoming Fine Garden Maintenance programs around the concept of how we can guarantee the survivability of each plant we install—for a lifetime.

As the holiday season approaches, I've taken time to reflect on our good fortune over the years to be a part of the Charlottesville area community. I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to foster long-standing relationships with customers,

landscaping peers and merchants, and to have employed some of the industry's finest people, past and present. Our dedication to seeking out the best people, utilizing the best techniques and providing the best plants has gone a long way to guarantee our good work in the field and JWT, Inc.'s success now and in the years to come.

It's been a year of growth, change, dedication, perseverance and achievement, and we've evolved as a company because of it. Examples of this evolution are many, such as the professional advancements of our staff members with new industry certifications and service innovations such as the creation of consumer-driven concepts, like our *Guaranteed For Life* program. Our Landscape Management team is very excited to soon be introducing yet another new level of commitment to our customers. Look for more on this exciting maintenance program in 2009!

We truly appreciate your patronage in the past and look forward to working with you in the future. From all of us at J. W. Townsend, Inc., may your holidays be filled with warmth and welcome, love and laughter, family and friends.



## Designs on Winter—Landscaping in the “off” season

Holly Chichester, Design/Sales

Designing and scheduling your landscape or hardscape installation for the month of January may qualify you for a 5% discount. Call 973-1154 for details and mention the code word “SNOWFLAKE” to be eligible.

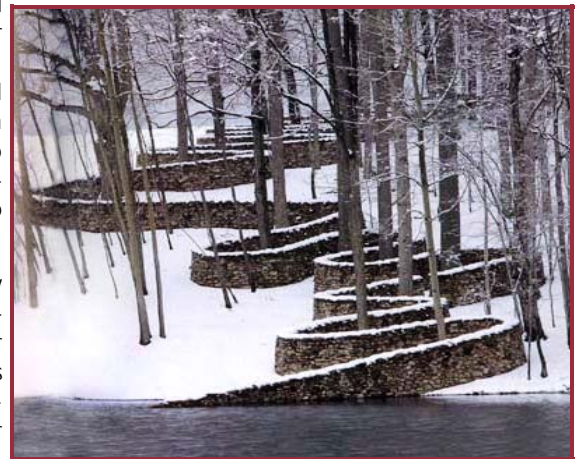
Even though winter is the part of the year when we spend most of our time indoors, gardens are still part of our life. Winter is a time for contemplation about last season's beauty and planning for the seasons to come. Consequently, our Central Virginia gardens are often best designed when they are at their most stark—winter-naked and without the usual lush, herbaceous adornments.

Although our gardens are always changing with the seasons, the most dramatic change comes when trees lose their leaves. This alters the whole proportion of the garden, but makes for a clearer view of your landscape topography.

Observing and planning your garden in winter also offers the opportunity to see the barest of spaces to give you a chance to boost the cold weather landscape to enjoy for future winters. For example, adding an evergreen hedging shrub such as American boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*), Pfitzer juniper (*Juniperus chinensis 'Pfitzerana'*) or Otto Luyken laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus 'Otto Luyken'*) and massing them with some fiery red-twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea 'Cardinal'* or even the yellow-tinged 'Flaviramea' cultivar) adds real punch to an otherwise barren corner of your yard. Not only do they provide the visual aesthetic, but the wildlife will also appreciate the fruit and habitat.

Of course, you can do plenty of design work during the growing seasons, but examining your garden during the winter months makes good use of what is usually considered “down time” for

landscaping. Barring severe weather, you can even get a start on land clearing and certain hardscaping plans, such as stone patios or free-standing and retaining walls. Plus, because landscaping schedules are less hectic in winter, it will allow you and your designer a chance to get a jump on spring and beat the rush of warm weather panic and already-booked landscape installation calendars. ❄️



*“I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show.”* Andrew Wyeth, American artist



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CELEBRATING  
25 YEARS!

## Winter Savings!

Be sure to check out details on our Winter Savings Program at the onset of the *Designs in Winter* article on page 3.

Happy holidays to all!

## A plant for all seasons...

## Hellebores




For a plant with the word "bore" as part of its name, the winter blooming *Hellebore* is far from boring. Also known as the Lenten rose or Christmas rose, this delicate but hardy beauty will surely brighten up your winter garden.

Some of the popular varieties include *Helleborus niger*, *Helleborus orientalis*, and *Helleborus argutifolius*. A native British offering is *H. foetidus* (photo above),

which, despite its unpromising common name—the stinking hellebore—combines eye-catching, tall flowering stems topped with pale green flowers and contrasting dark green foliage. An early spring bloomer, it's tough to beat when most other plants are still dormant.

Though the species hellebores have much to offer, it is the hybrids that are currently attracting most attention. A popular perennial in the United Kingdom, British nurserymen are at the forefront of hybridizing, with giant leaps being made in the past few years. For the discerning collector, some of the more rare hybrids are only available through specialty mail-order venues, though our Central Virginia favorites are easily attainable. They are an excellent

choice for massing in light shade or as a companion to various bulbs, ferns, *Heuchera* and *Tiarella* in a woodland setting. 

### The details...

**Botanical name:** *Helleborus*

**Hardiness Zones:** most 3-8

**Height:** most 12-18", dwarf & taller varieties available

**Type:** perennial, some varieties are semi-evergreen

**Bloom times:** winter/early spring

**Fruits:** n/a

