

Boxerwood Board Rises to the Challenge



Dear Friends of Boxerwood,

As president of the Boxerwood Education Association (BEA) board, I have the great honor of speaking for the other 14 members of the board to say how blessed we are to represent and serve this extraordinary organization. We strive to use our collective experiences in business, education, and government to support the staff in their daily work in carrying out our important mission. We truly appreciate the support many of you provide via volunteering and financial contributions that allows us to have such a great impact in Rockbridge County.

As many of you know, we rely on the talents of two superior individuals who share the responsibility of directing the daily activities of the staff: Elise Sheffield, our incomparable education director, and Bruce Bytnar, our superb managing director. What you may not know is that Bruce is retiring, as of June 30, after five remarkable years in his post. Through his fiscal management; ability and willingness to do any job necessary and doing it well; and great leadership skills, Bruce has enabled BEA to be a much more efficient and effective organization. He was a key contributor to BEA being recognized as a Center for Environmental Education Excellence and as a National Historic Register site, just to name two of the more recent awards we have earned during his tenure. Thank you, Bruce!

With Bruce's imminent departure, the board has spent some time considering what changes to our organization we need to undertake to make us even stronger. What we found is that we need improved internal and external communication, and we need to improve our fund-raising expertise. Thus, the board has approved replacing our current dual-director system and returning to the executive director model upon which BEA was founded sixteen years ago. We will be advertising this new position in the very near future.

The board recognizes that few individuals have the range of skills and talents that Bruce has and he will be very difficult to replace. Fortunately, the new executive director, when hired, will be blessed by having other very talented and dedicated individuals on the staff as well as a very engaged and supportive board who will help to keep Boxerwood at the forefront of environmental education in our community and state.

Thank you again for your on-going support.

Paul Leonhard, President

January 26, 2016

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