

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leadership Transition at Boxerwood

Lexington, VA – June 1, 2016. A few months ago, we notified our membership that Boxerwood was facing some big changes brought on by the retirement of Managing Director Bruce Bytnar at the end of this fiscal year.

Now, after a nationwide search, we are able to announce that Levy Schroeder will join Boxerwood as Executive Director. Levy (pronounced "Lee Vee") officially assumes her responsibilities on July 1, but the board has asked her to be available as much as possible in June so she and Bruce can work together to ensure a smooth leadership transition. Levy is in the process of relocating to Lexington, and you can plan to meet her on your next visit to Boxerwood.

Levy brings to us a great deal of experience with nonprofits, a long-time commitment to environmental issues, and a team-first management style that aligns well with staff and board. You'll learn much more about her in a separate announcement.

Replacing a managing director with an executive director was a conscious choice by the BEA board to address Boxerwood's needs as we face a changing environment for nonprofits. The needs of all organizations evolve over time, and Levy's responsibilities will carry a greater emphasis on fundraising, for both the garden and the education programs. Levy also will be the primary point of contact for BEA; Education Director Elise Sheffield and Garden Director Faith Vosburgh will both report directly to Levy, clarifying lines of communication for all.

While we are anticipating a bright future under Levy's leadership, we cannot help but be saddened by Bruce's departure. Bruce guided the growth of our organization, promoted wise stewardship of our resources, and in coordination with staff and board led us in 2015 to a new level of recognition by the Commonwealth as a Virginia Center for Environmental Education Excellence. The impact of his 5-year service as our managing director will be felt for years to come. Thank you, Bruce!

And thanks to all of you for your ongoing support of Boxerwood. Your engagement, large or small, keeps our work vibrant and meaningful.

Paul Leonhard
BEA Board President

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