



Annual Report

2021-2022

BOXERWOOD
Education Association

Impact Stats

July 1, 2021

to

June 30, 2022

394 Total Education Programs held.

1.6k Individual children served, ages 3-18.

174 School day programs at 10 sites.

173 After school club meetings at 4 sites.

45 Watershed fieldwork trips taken with local students.

11 Multi-day camps at six sites.

\$0 Cost of camp attendance for more than 80% of campers.

85 Free composters distributed to local families.

4.2k Pounds of food waste diverted by those families over 10 weeks.

670 Pounds of paper recycled by local students.

203 Pounds of litter collected in Rockbridge by local students.

420 Native trees planted & distributed to three school nurseries.

19 Volunteer garden docents.

140 Visitor stories collected by docents.

496 Boxerwood Garden Memberships purchased.

2k Concert attendees at eight summer concerts.

. . . a conversation

July 25, 2022: A Boxerwood Zoom meeting begins. Former BEA director Catrien van Assendelft and new BEA director Emily Kohl both log on and dive into the day's work...

Emily: My garden is *exploding* these days, Catrien! Last night I was out harvesting, and I didn't even have a basket big enough to carry it all. When I'm in the thick of things in early Spring – planning, planting, weeding, and watering - I forget what it's going to be like in midsummer when the abundance begins. It's a cheesy metaphor, but I feel like that's what's happening at Boxerwood, too: we're enjoying a well-earned season of harvest after a period of intense work.

Catrien: Yes, exactly! The past fiscal year was a series of good surprises. It's been a really robust year of growth and change. In the wake of COVID, the demand for outdoor, nature-based programs and garden access surged. So Boxerwood responded by increasing and diversifying our programming. Before the pandemic, we had four part-time educators, and in fall 2021, we hired *four* more. The whole team has done such a great job of adapting to these changes while remaining fiscally responsible. In the midst of all this growth, our dedicated volunteers really came through and helped staff with garden upkeep and major improvements.

Catrien and Emily's enthusiasm builds as they reflect on the past year. In January 2022, Catrien van Assendelft stepped down as Executive Director. The role passed to Emily Kohl, unanimously chosen for the job by the board and staff. Catrien graciously agreed to stay involved at BEA as a consultant to ensure a smooth leadership transition and to help Emily build up BEA's operational capacity. The two meet regularly to discuss strategic objectives that sustain Boxerwood's vital stewardship work.

Emily: Everyone at Boxerwood has been fully immersed in this work of expanding the scope of our programs and operations. Let's see.... in the past year, BEA has:

1. launched COREworks, a funding & educational mechanism that engages people and institutions in climate action projects
2. contributed to two national-scale environmental education studies¹
3. surpassed our pre-pandemic levels of education and engagement with local kids by ramping up school day and afterschool programs and restarting summer camps
4. conducted a diversity, equity, and inclusion inventory of our programs and policies
5. expanded the visitor parking lot and created an entryway garden in collaboration with Rockbridge Area Master Gardeners
6. built a wheel-chair accessible trail to the Pollinator Garden, and started rebuilding the Wetland Walkway!

Catrien: It seems to me that these days Boxerwood has leveled up as an organization. While still carefully stewarding the garden that sustains and inspires everything else we do, we've reached a higher sustained volume of programming and complexity.

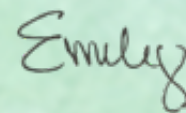
Emily: It's such an exciting time to be a part of this team! And we owe all of this success and growth to the community. Boxerwood's extended support network is the whole reason that our operations are stronger than ever, and we're poised to conduct more educational programs and earth care actions than we once dreamed possible.

Catrien: That's so true - Boxerwood is flourishing as a direct result of this community's commitment to environmental stewardship. Without that support, nothing that Boxerwood has achieved would be possible.

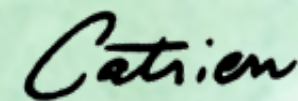
Emily: So how can we convey that message to our supporters?

Catrien: If only there were some way we could get this conversation into the annual report!

Yours for a thriving earth and filled with gratitude,



Emily Kohl
Executive Director beginning in Jan 2022



Catrien van Assendelft
Executive Director through Dec 2021

¹ BEA is 1 of 5 organizations in the country to receive a World Wildlife Fund Food Waste Reduction Grant, and 1 of 29 organizations selected

