

Evolution of a Garden

As all things in nature, Boxerwood exists in a constant state of change. Walk in any direction & you'll see how the landscape reflects the ways gardening & land stewardship practices change over time. For instance, we now pay close attention to interactions between gardening decisions & ecosystem well-being. Our field, woodland, wetland, & pond provide habitat for many forms of wildlife. More than 50 species of birds call Boxerwood home, as do many species of insects, mammals, reptiles, & amphibians. This is their home as much as it is our beautiful garden.

Ecological appreciation informs how we practice our stewardship. You'll notice, for example, that the most intensely landscaped portions of the garden are closest to the human-built elements. Nearby, a cultivated Native Plant Sanctuary & Pollinator Garden support biodiversity while demonstrating how all of us can support native insects & the vital food webs they create.

The rest of the 15-acre property receives limited interference from our gardening team. By letting nature simply be, these wilder spaces grow & flourish in their own way. Our main efforts are actions that support ecological resilience, such as tackling soil erosion, removing invasives, creating habitat & generally doing what we can to minimize our human impact, including climate change.

- While you wander the gardens, please be mindful of your own stewardship:
- Respect visitors & residents - humans & wildlife
 - Carry out all trash, including pet waste
 - Leave natural items in the garden
 - Avoid damaging trees & plants

As you enjoy the garden's criss-crossing paths, you'll notice the trails are unmarked: wander & explore freely! The map will help you find some garden highlights. Most paths are grass or mulch, but sometimes there are rocks, roots, mud, & moderate slopes. We suggest sturdy shoes & a walking stick. The trail from the Handicap Parking space to the Pollinator Garden has specific improvements for easier access.

Welcome to Boxerwood Woodland Garden & Nature Center



Map Legend

- Main Parking Area
- Handicap Parking by the Lodge
- Information Kiosk
- Private Residence
- Boxerwood Lodge offices

Special Trees of Interest

Acer Palmatum — Japanese Maple

Carpinus betulus - European Hornbeam

Cedrus atlantica - Atlas Cedar

Cercidiphyllaceae Cercidiphyllum - Katsura

Chaemaecyparis obtusa — Hinoki Falsecypress

Parrotia persica - Persian Ironwood

Pinus wallichiana - Himalayan Pine

Metasequoia glyptostroboides - Dawn redwood

Taxodium distichum — Baldcypress

Garden Highlights

Play Trail: Award-winning nature playground for children 7 & under with supervision

Pavilion: Outdoor classroom & event space (available to rent)

Fairy Forest: Playground & crafting space for children over 7

Native Plant Sanctuary: Enclosed & open demonstration spaces maintained by the Native Plant Society

Pollinator Garden: Enclosed demonstration space maintained by the Rockbridge Area Master Gardener Association

Great Oak: 150+ year old Shumard Oak & beloved example of nature's resilience

Wetland Walk: Boardwalk over yesterday's swimming hole and today's natural stormwater filtration system

Pond: Turtle & frog haven capturing runoff from rainstorms

Giant Chair: whimsical art and picturesque Blue Ridge photo op

DiNardo Stage: outdoor teaching space and home to our summer concert series

Solar Array: Supplying Boxerwood with sustainable energy since 2021

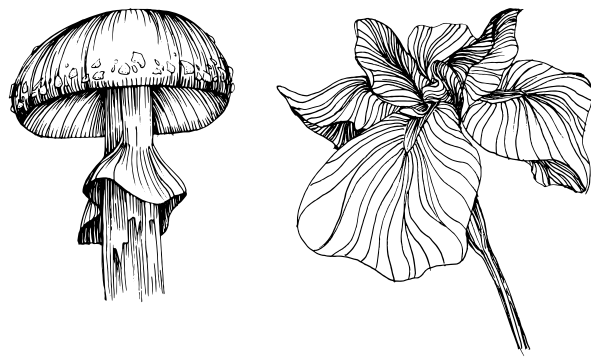
Nature Emulating Waste Treatment System (NEWTS): is a simulated wetland treating wastewater from the Lodge

Boxerwood has two permanent Porta Potties, located near the Playtrail & main parking area & near the handicap parking area by the Lodge offices.

Garden History

Boxerwood is on the traditional territory & homelands of the Monacan people. Prior to the Munger's purchase of the property in 1950, this land served as an open farm field.

What flourishes today was most inspired by the heart and hands of one man, Dr. Robert S. Munger, MD (1911-1988). He & his wife Betty purchased this land & built a home, the Lodge, in the 1950's. Over the decades, Dr. Munger's horticultural avocation blossomed into a passion for collecting rare & unusual trees & shrubs from around the world. In a thirty-year span, he planted more than 12,000 trees & shrubs at Boxerwood, the family's private garden. While half of those specimens did not make it due to "wrong tree-wrong place" disease, infestation, & short life expectancy, you can still find many of the original survivors in the garden today (look for his original aluminum tags on some trees). As you explore, note the abundance of dogwood, magnolia, Japanese maples, as well as labeled uncommon species thriving alongside native plant neighbors.



More than a Garden

The woodland garden began a new chapter in its history in 1999, thanks to the leadership of two visionary women & the community who backed them. In that year, gardener Karen Bailey (KB) & her partner Hunter Mohring purchased the property & transferred ownership to a newly-formed nonprofit, Boxerwood Education Association (BEA).

BEA opened the property to the public for recreation & learning that same year. Its mission, then as now, is to nurture in all of us a closer relationship with nature & its care.

In that spirit, may your visit to the Garden be a blessing. Thank you for meandering by. We're glad you're here.

VIRGINIA IS FOR
OUTDOOR LOVERS™

ABOUT BEA

The mission of Boxerwood Education Association is to **educate & inspire people of all ages to become environmentally responsible stewards of the Earth.** Since 1999, we have advanced this mission through two complementary efforts:

1. We maintain this unique, scenic garden open to the public.
2. We provide educational programming that connects people of all ages to nature and its care.

Ways to Support



DONATE. In the spirit of inclusion, Boxerwood is open to all without charge. If you can afford to do so, we invite you to make a donation to help Boxerwood thrive. We rely on donations for more than 30% of our operating budget. Your contribution helps us care for the Garden for the benefit of all. boxerwood.org/give



BECOME A BOXERWOOD GARDEN MEMBER. Purchase a 12-month garden membership for \$75. boxerwood.org/join

Members enjoy the following benefits:

- Waived admission to 345+ gardens through the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Garden Program
- Free admission to Boxerwood's Music in the Garden Summer Concert Series
- One free use of the outdoor Pavilion or Roost
- Discounts on summer camp & event admission



VOLUNTEER. View current volunteer opportunities & learn how you can get involved online. boxerwood.org/volunteer



#loveboxerwood

BOXERWOOD
Nature Center & Woodland Garden
owned & operated by
Boxerwood Education Association, 501(c)3

Open dawn to dusk every day

963 Ross Road
Lexington, VA 24450
540-463-2697
boxerwood.org

