



Boxerwood Education Association

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Systemic MWEEs occurred for all 4th graders in Buena Vista City Public Schools, Lexington City Schools, and Rockbridge County Public Schools and for all Parry McCluer High School Ecology Students. Additional systemic MWEEs for all 5th and 6th graders of Rockbridge County Public Schools. 738 students and 32 teachers benefited from these experiences.

Boxerwood piloted programs with ecology teachers and students to create a sequence of MWEE lessons for the classroom and the field, focused on the health of the Maury River that runs through town, and the role of trees in protecting water quality and sequestering carbon. These sequences lessons can be used again in future years.

Thanks to support from VA DCR as well as other grantors and the school divisions themselves, high-quality field-based MWEEs were provided. Students also participated in one or more related MWEE actions including tree planting, daily lunchtime school composting, and/or litter clean-up along a local river.

Boxerwood worked closely with classroom teachers this year in related MWEE out-of-school support. DCR funds were instrumental in also supporting the professional development of Boxerwood's educators.

Boxerwood staff attended and presented at the VAAE conference and presented about the *Buena Vista Cool Trees* project, which involves public school youth planting and tending trees as part of watershed education at a state gathering/webinar for Virginia Department of Forestry professionals. The presentations also focused on stewardship actions involving youth and our local community. Thank you, VA DCR for helping advance and share this work!

