

# News&Views

from the

**Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum**

Vol. 6, No. 1

## Participation in Centre Gives!

**Exciting news!** Boal Estate Museum just became eligible for funding through the Centre Foundation's annual Centre Gives, a 36-hour, online giving event that begins this year May 11 at 9 am and ends May 12 at 9 pm. The foundation supports Centre County nonprofit organizations. By donating to the Boal Estate Museum through Centre Gives, your donation increases with a fund match—and possibly with extra prizes (see <https://centregives.org/prizes/>)!

Why was the Boal Estate Museum formed? Nearly 70 years ago, when the Boal family created the Columbus Chapel & Boalsburg Estate Society (CCBES) as a *private* nonprofit entity, that was the accepted IRS designation for nonprofits. Today, however, that designation means an organization that redistributes donated funds to other nonprofits. (The Centre Foundation is such an organization.) Consequently, the CCBES has not been eligible for funding by most modern charities. The newly-formed Boal Estate Museum (BEM) is a separate, *public* nonprofit under the umbrella of the CCBES—and therefore *is* eligible.



**The iconic illustration of the Boal Mansion**

[If you know the artist's name, please let me know. - Ed.]

The BEM will focus its efforts on fundraising specific to its twofold mission:

- » To stimulate interest in the living and constructive force of American tradition, as detailed by the artifacts and personal stories of the eight generations of Boals who lived at the Mansion and their extended families

- » To preserve, restore, maintain, and make available [*those artifacts and stories*] to persons interested in European and American history (*Excerpted from the BEM lease.*)

These funds are vital to the survival of the Museum, given our profound revenue losses resulting from COVID-19 restrictions. Donations at this time will enable ongoing revenue-generating projects to rapidly come to fruition. We are close to opening the second floor of the Boal Mansion as an entire separate tour, creating a large meeting space in the lower level of the Boal Barn, and adding climate control in the Barn for year-round theater, concerts, banquets, and lectures—among other projects.



Medals won by Pierre Boal during WWI,  
displayed in the Armory Extension

Photo by Mary Szmolko

Help us over the COVID hump! This museum has the potential to be a world-class treasure in central Pennsylvania for generations to come. That vision depends on your generous donations and the continued work of our hundreds of volunteers. On May 11-12, please go to <https://centregives.org/> to make your donation to the Boal Estate Museum.

Thank you,  
Lewis Logan, Board President  
Boal Estate Museum, Inc.

Other BEM board members are John Wainright, Vice President and Treasurer, and Ruth Brigandi, Secretary. The board reports to Museum Director Dr. Bob Cameron and through him to the executive board of the Museum.

## Membership Drive Continues

**It's not too late** to become a member of the Museum for 2021, to purchase gift memberships for friends and family members, and to make donations now and in your will to further the Museum's historical education, entertainment, and community involvement.

What does a membership mean for you? It means free entry to regular tours for you and immediate family members all year long. Also, you will receive a 10%

discount in the Museum Gift Shop, discounts on special events, and more. And, **if you give \$250 or more**, you will receive a complimentary Museum tote bag. (See descriptions below and giving levels next page.)



Entry to the Columbus Exhibit and Vault

Photo by Bob Cameron

For the Museum, your membership means we can continue to maintain and improve our facilities, like the handsome entrance to the Columbus Exhibit and Vault shown at left.

Even if you don't plan to travel this year, you can still become a member or simply make a donation. Any way you do it, we're grateful for your help in maintaining this wonderful historic site for future generations to enjoy.

### To Become a Museum Member

Fill out the Membership form on our website, [boalmuseum.com](http://boalmuseum.com). Or print and mail it with your check to:

2021 Membership  
Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum  
P.O. Box 116  
Boalsburg, PA 16827

**Note:** If you live locally, we will hold your membership card at the Visitor Center until your first visit. Otherwise, we will mail it to you.

### Additional Benefits of Membership

- » Newsletters and updates about the Museum, activities, and coming events
- » Reduced fees at selected special events
- » Opportunities for training, service, and organizational involvement
- » The opportunity to assist in planning special programs and events
- » The chance to take part in the preservation and interpretation of our historic past for future generations to learn and enjoy

## Membership Levels

\_\_\_ Individual \$30.00

\_\_\_ Sponsor \$250.00\*

\_\_\_ Student \$15.00

\_\_\_ Benefactor \$500 or more\*

\_\_\_ Family \$50.00

\_\_\_ Explorer's Circle \$1,000+\*

\_\_\_ Patron \$100.00

\* These levels receive Museum tote bags

Please make your check or money order payable to: Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

## New Executive Board Member

**The Columbus Chapel & Boalsburg Estate Society** (d.b.a. Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum), established in 1952, welcomed Paul Weener of Boalsburg to its executive board in March. Paul has been a volunteer at the Museum for decades, helping especially with maintenance of the grounds. He has a wealth of business experience in the United States and abroad, to complement the many skills of the existing board members.

## Volunteers Needed for Spring and Summer Work

**Although we are periodically inundated** with a hundred or more volunteers from Penn State, local schools, and local organizations, we also need more steady help throughout the spring and summer. If you're willing to spend an hour or more a week at the Museum planting, pruning, weeding, raking, mulching, and all the rest of it, call Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129 and let him know your preferred day and time. Many hands make light work!



Photos show some of the Museum's beautiful spring plantings.

Photos by Bob Cameron (left) and Art Pentz (right)





## Spring Is in Full Bloom at the Beautiful Boal Estate

A national tree climbing school organized by Don Coffee (Nature's Canopy) and Jim Savage (PSU professor and Arboriculture Committee Head) was held on the grounds in late April. Participants delighted in the opportunity to hone their climbing skills on the Estate's great trees. (Photo at right)



A late April wedding was held on the grounds amidst the beautiful spring blooms! Mary Lambright and Tim Carroll took their vows in the Garden Amphitheatre. (Photo at left)

As the various formal gardens awaken from their winter slumber, improvements, additions, and expansions are underway. A large portion of the sidewalk (photo at right) leading to the Shakespeare Garden, which wraps around the Boal Barn Playhouse, has been completed using discarded cement sidewalk slabs and brick. If you have some leftover bricks sitting around, the museum could definitely use them!



Boal Barn  
Playhouse  
flanked by  
forsythia

Photo by Bob  
Cameron



## Join us!

We encourage you to visit the Museum for a tour after we open May 1. Reservations are still necessary for your friend or family group (masked, of course) until such time as all COVID restrictions are lifted. Please call Museum Director Dr. Bob Cameron at 814-876-0129. He will arrange for one of our tour guides to meet you outside the Visitor Center.

Meanwhile, you can walk, run, or jog the Museum trails during daylight hours, schedule a wedding, reunion, or other function on the grounds or in the Boal Barn, or just admire all the extended and growing gardens. Please keep in touch: call Bob or leave a message on the Visitor Center phone, 814-466-6210.

Columbus Chapel & Boal Mansion Museum  
P.O. Box 116, Boalsburg, PA 16827

Website: [boalmuseum.com](http://boalmuseum.com)

FB: BoalMansionMuseum

Twitter: @BoalMuseum

Writer and designer: Cindy Shaler

Editors/contributors: Kathy Johnston, Bob Cameron, Lew Logan

Photographers: Mary Szmolko, Art Pentz, Bob Cameron

