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PRODUCTS



BOXLEY MATERIALS EARNS GREEN AWARDS

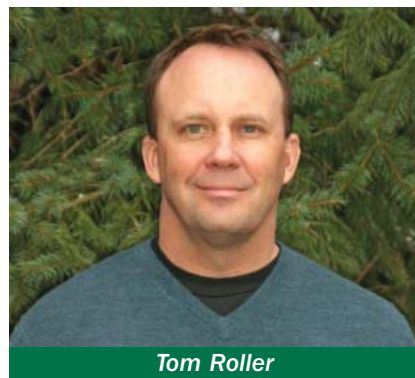
WITH A COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY, ACADEMIA
AND THE ENVIRONMENT, BOXLEY MATERIALS PRESERVES
A POSITION IN THE GREEN LIGHT

BY ADAM MADISON

Boxley Materials Co. has achieved quite a bit in the realm of environmental stewardship including reforestation, preserving fragile ecosystems and green business practices that make sense. The company also furthers the public education and preserves a positive identity for the industry by teaming up with local environmentalists and scholars.

Tom Roller, director of technical ser-

vices for Boxley Materials, recently was selected to receive the 2008 Environmental Leadership Award from NSSGA at an AGG1 Forum and Expo awards ceremony March 9. NSSGA CEO Joy Wilson says Roller exemplifies superlative environmental leadership and maintains an outstanding reputation among the industry, government officials, regulatory agencies, environmental groups and local communities.



Tom Roller



Industries increasingly are creating environmental initiatives that reduce energy consumption, increase profits or simply maintain positive community relations. The aggregates industry is a leading example. Tell us about your efforts today by e-mailing amadison@rockproducts.com



This vernal pool was constructed at Boxley Materials' Piney River Quarry and serves as home to the big-headed mole salamander.

WILDLIFE INVENTORY

Among the many initiatives that Boxley is committed to, Roller says that the baseline habitat inventories the company has completed are perhaps the most significant. The company hired environmental consultant Daniel Bowman to survey for plant, animal and insect populations on quarry property. Roller began working with local scholars.

The information gathered proved to be useful at the company's Lynchburg, Va., quarry, which was recently expanded. Roller says it was a large project with well over 1 million yards of excavation work. But they did not grade the area flat. They left hummocks and depressions that would fill with water and promote insect life that would attract amphibians and, in turn, mammals.

"The whole food chain developed on top of this field," Roller says. "We constructed a hiking trail and added a bunch of cover objects such as log piles. ... It ended up being a really nice habitat."

SALAMANDER HOME

From there, Boxley Materials retained Bowman to conduct habitat inventories at three other quarries. The most significant find was vernal pools in Amherst County. A vernal pool is an upland wetland that primarily consists of rain water. It is fairly unique in that area, Roller says. Inside this pool, Bowman discovered a big-headed

mole salamander.

Boxley Materials successfully moved one of these vernal pools to preserve it permanently as the company moved forward with mining. It even brought in vernal-pool specialist Mike Hayslett, who created an educational program, "For Pools," through the local college. The program will help educate elementary students in four counties, with the quarry as the central point of interest. Boxley made a four-year commitment to help get that started.

"When I first talked to them, I think they may have been hesitant because 'this was a quarry corporation,'" Roller explains. But the evil-corporation stigma quickly washed off when Hayslett saw the results of Boxley's extensive environmental efforts. "They have been a really big help to me," Roller says. "They understand the importance of the product that we provide and the fact that we can do it in a


responsible way."

RECLAIMING LAND

Boxley Materials sticks yet another feather in its cap for its Mill Point reclamation project, which earned a Bronze Environmental Excellence Award from NSSGA and a 2007 Outreach Award from the National Association of State Land Reclamationists. The company was permitting for an additional 31 acres when it began the project. It entailed new overburden fields, construction of 3,000 feet of still water ditches and sediment ponds, and other reclamation. Boxley Materials also built a 1.5 acre pond that is now stocked with trout.

During the public hearing phase, an environmental group filed for a hearing with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. Roller says the group quickly withdrew its request after taking one look at the company's reclamation plans.

Boxley Materials also advocates reforestation. Part of its business is cutting timber, and the company is sure to put back some of what it takes, Roller says. Already Boxley has begun replenishing about 3,000 acres. Between 2006 and 2007, the company planted nearly 50,000 trees.

Trees provide an essential buffer between operations and surrounding communities. This might mean exploiting less than the total available reserves, but is paid for with positive public relations. "I can't say that everybody loves us," Roller says. "But we have a great relationship with neighbors at all of our quarries." 

TOM ROLLER

Tom Roller is Boxley Materials director of technical services. He started with the company 25 years ago as a laborer upon graduating with a degree in geology. He's worked in many different capacities including foreman, superintendent, area manager and geologist. His experience includes engineering, safety, quality and maintenance.

Roller says that he has learned: "Quarry operations and environmental sustainability do not have to be mutually exclusive. I really think that the environmental impact that it has on a local community in the short term is less than a residential or commercial development. And in the long run, ... with urban sprawl ... when we leave, we may have the only open space available. And open space is an amenity to the community." Boxley Materials is based in Roanoke, Va.