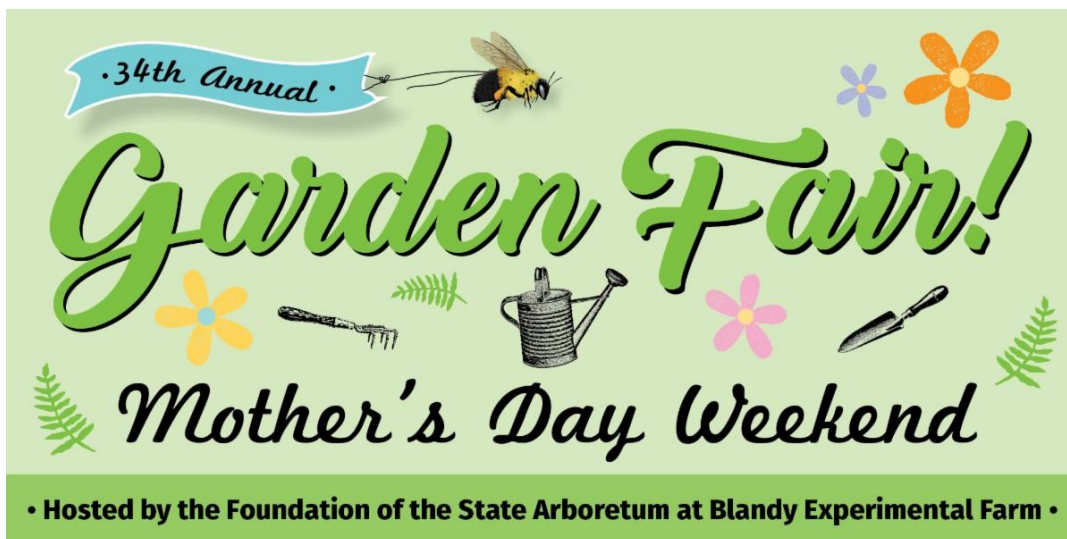


April 2024



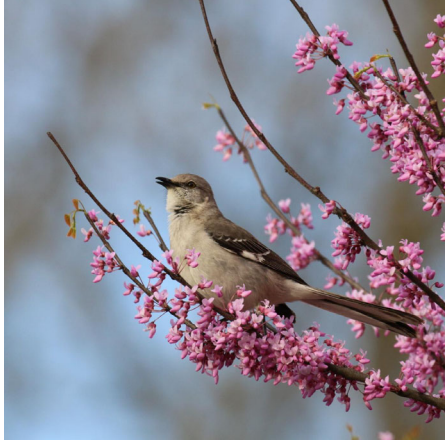
**May 11th & 12th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Mark your calendars for the much anticipated Garden Fair at Blandy Experimental Farm, the home of the State Arboretum of Virginia. Garden Fair is the biggest fundraising event of the year of the Foundation of the State Arboretum, the nonprofit that supports Blandy Experimental Farm and the State Arboretum's varied collections and public education programs. In its 34th year, this Mother's Day tradition will feature 60 vendors offering the best selection of native plants, annuals, perennials, herbs, trees, shrubs, garden tools, nature inspired crafts and more. We'll have food, music, environmental educators and so much fun! [Learn more](#)

**Advance tickets are \$10 a car load, \$15 at the gate.**

**GET YOUR TICKETS  
NOW**

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## Birds and Blooms

### Blandy Public Programs This Spring

*Get outside and explore the natural world  
this spring with these exciting public programs!*

#### **Spring Wildflower Walk**

1:00-2:30 PM Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

Discover Virginia's spring wildflowers! Tour the woodland section of the Native Plant Trail with Blandy's Assistant Curator Jack Monsted. Scout for trilliums, bluebells, and other "spring beauties" as you learn all about the natural history of these fascinating flowers.

#### **Wildflower Walk at Thompson WMA**

1:00-3:00 PM Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at G. R. Thompson WMA (Markham, VA).

Learn to recognize our spring wildflowers in their native habitat. Scout for trilliums, orchids, and other spring wildflowers at the Thompson WMA. In 2023, participants attending this walk identified over 60 species!

#### **Neotropical Migrants Bird Walk**

8:00-10:00 AM Friday, April 26

Spring (migration) has sprung! Join Blandy Director and birding enthusiast Dr. Dave Carr in search of early breeding warblers (e.g., Pine, Yellow, Palm, and Yellow-rumped) and other neotropical migrants.

#### **Peak of Spring Migration Bird Walk**

8:00-10:00 AM Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

We're close to the peak of spring migration! Join Blandy Director and birding enthusiast Dr. David Carr to spy on neotropical migrants.

[Visit our website for more information and to register](#)

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**Weekend Staff Complements Blandy's Mission of  
Research, Educational Outreach and Citizen Science!**

On any given weekend at Blandy



Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia, you may encounter our hard-working weekend staff—Robbin Arnold, William Spinrad Jr., and Ann Hirschy (not pictured). They wear a variety of hats while on duty. Weekend staff diligently patrol the 712-acre grounds of this field station with an eye towards the health and well-being of two- and four-legged visitors, the plant collections, and wildlife. They provide information to the public through individual contacts and group tours regarding the natural and cultural history of the grounds, plant collections, and current research projects. That's not all! They also monitor facilities, keep an eye on public events hosted at Blandy, stock brochures, review parking safety, and more! They love what they do and are always up to the challenge of providing excellent service.

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## Conservation Easements for Small & Large Rural Properties



**Tue, May 14, 7:00pm – 8:30pm**

This workshop will teach you the basics of conservation easements, suggest ideas on how you might conserve your property, and answer any questions you may have.

Presenters will discuss their programs, explain how to qualify for an easement on your property and the financial benefits of conserving your land, and talk with you about whether your land might qualify for a conservation easement. This workshop is designed primarily for landowners who own at least 20 acres of land.

[Visit our website for more information and to register](#)

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## Visit the Renovated Walter Flory Memorial Iris Garden

A symbol of enduring faith and hope, the Iris, (*Iris*), known for its slender tall stalks, both soft and vibrant colors and its delicate, cascading, and rising petals has been growing at Blandy Experimental Farm since at least the 1950s. But early this May, the bearded iris cultivars in this legacy collection and additional varieties will unveil their spring beauty more fervently in the backdrop of the newly renovated Walter Flory Memorial Iris Garden. Supported by the [Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust](#) grant, the [University of Virginia Arboretum and Landscape Committee](#), and [Foundation of the State Arboretum](#), this two-year garden renovation project focused on expanding, defining, and enhancing access to the arboretum's visitors-favorite Iris collection. [Read More About the Project](#)

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## NEW ONBOARD

### *Melanie Mullinax Joins Blandy Team as Communications & Events Manager*

Melanie Mullinax joined the Blandy team in late January bringing two decades of Communications and Nonprofit Fundraising experience including feature story reporting, global health communications management and regional grant writing and fundraising. "I have been a visitor and lover of Blandy for more than two decades," Melanie said. "My children participated in educational programs here, I have enjoyed full moon walks, Peeper programs, annual Ginkgo gatherings with friends, Garden Fair and so much more. I am thrilled to be able to tell the stories of Blandy and the State Arboretum and introduce this beautiful natural resource to more people in Virginia and beyond."



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## MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

### **MEMBERS ONLY** Garden Fair Preview Night

Members of the Foundation for the State Arboretum (FOSA) receive awesome benefits for their support, including an invitation to our exclusive Garden Fair Preview Night



experience! Imagine the fun of being the first to shop Garden Fair's best selection of native plants, annuals, perennials, herbs, trees, shrubs, garden tools, nature inspired crafts and so much more. This year, Preview Night will feature nearly 50+ vendors, music by Jason Labrador, heavy hors d'oeuvres and libations and a chance to catch up with other FOSA friends! Tickets are \$50 a person in advance. \$60 at the door.

**You must be a current member of the Foundation of the State Arboretum to purchase Preview Night tickets.**

**Purchase Preview Night Tickets Now**

**Become a FOSA Member Today!**

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## Follow Blandy on Social Media



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STATE ARBORETUM  
*of* VIRGINIA



**BLANDY**  
EXPERIMENTAL FARM

Blandy Experimental Farm | 400 Blandy Farm Lane, Boyce, VA 22620

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