

# How to Ginkgo

## **P** Park and Walk

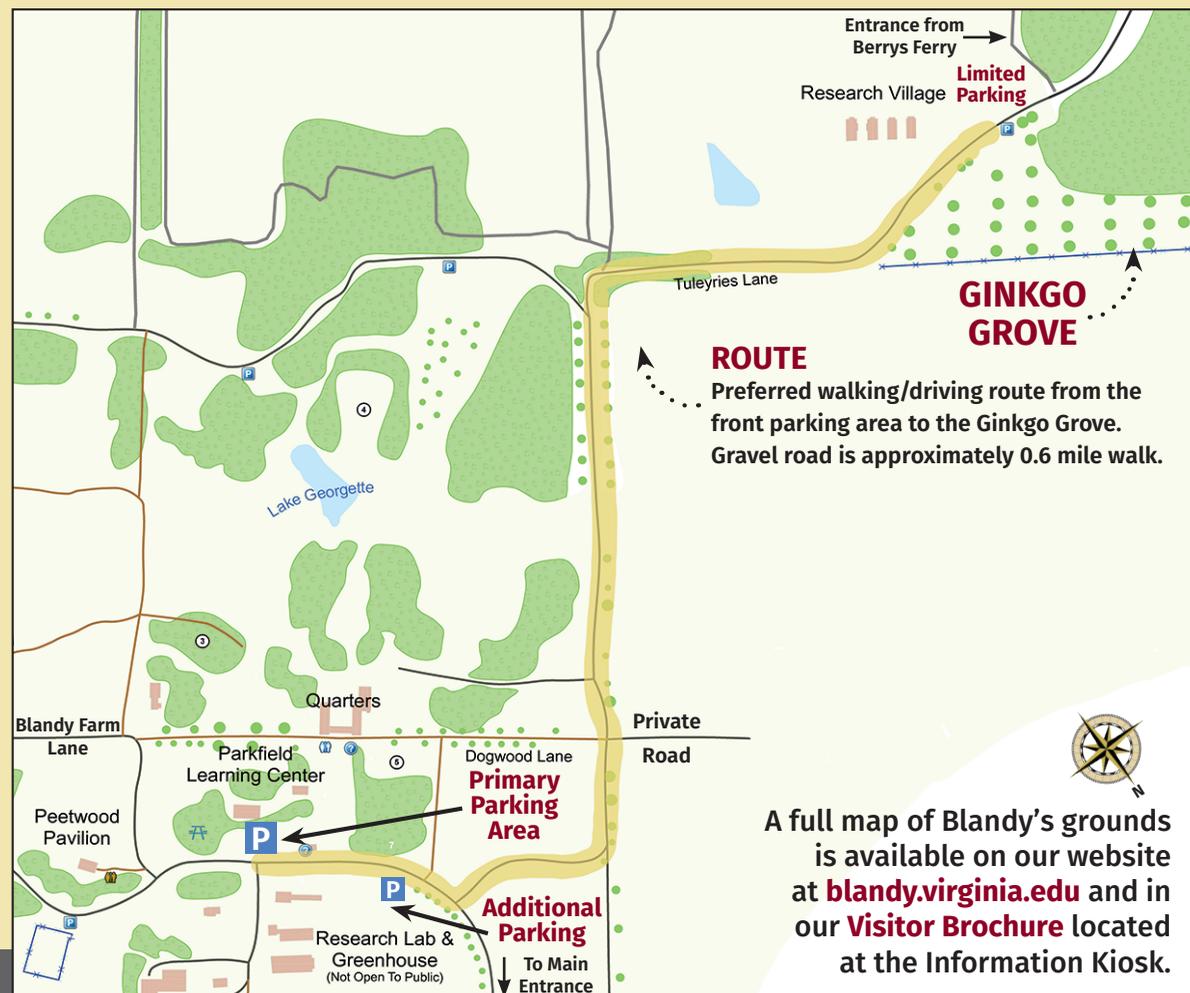
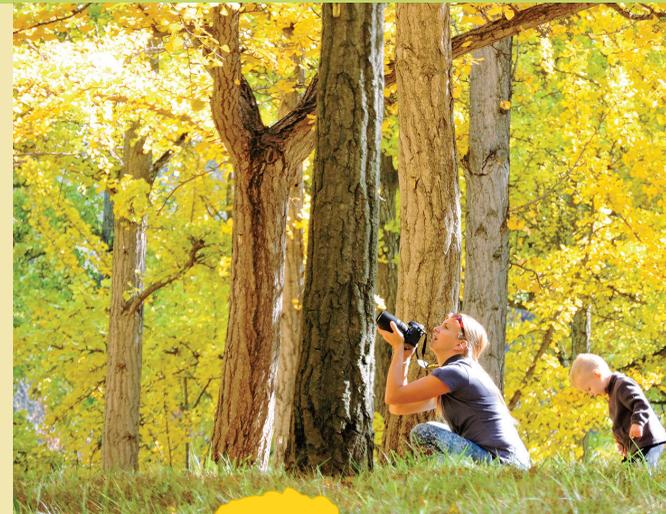
Parking at the grove is extremely limited. We strongly encourage visitors to park in the main and overflow parking lots near Blandy's Route 50 entrance and walk on the gravel road to the grove (0.6 miles each way).

## **♿** Restrooms

Restrooms are available at the Quarters and at Peetwood Pavilion. There are no restrooms at the Ginkgo Grove.

## Guidelines

-  Enjoy the grove, observe wildlife, take photos, walk dogs on leash.
-  Collect fruit, break branches, climb trees, fly drones, park outside of designated areas.



**ROUTE**  
Preferred walking/driving route from the front parking area to the Ginkgo Grove. Gravel road is approximately 0.6 mile walk.

A full map of Blandy's grounds is available on our website at [blandy.virginia.edu](http://blandy.virginia.edu) and in our **Visitor Brochure** located at the Information Kiosk.



## CELEBRATE EVERYTHING GINKGO!

Our annual GinkgoFest is held in late October at the Ginkgo Grove. We celebrate the glorious ginkgoes as they faithfully turn to gold in one of nature's most spectacular autumn shows. Watch for information each year and join us for ginkgo gazing, education, food, and fun!

## YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

There are many benefits to being a member of the Foundation of the State Arboretum! With a FOSA membership, you can visit more than 300 gardens across the country for free or discounted rates as part of the AHS Reciprocal Admissions Program. To learn more about membership benefits, become a FOSA member, or make a donation or online payment for an upcoming event or program, please visit our website at [blandy@virginia.edu](mailto:blandy@virginia.edu) and click on the "Support" tab.

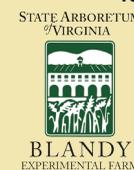
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## FOLLOW US



# A Guide to the Ginkgo Grove

State Arboretum of Virginia  
at the University of Virginia's  
Blandy Experimental Farm



## The Blandy Ginkgo Grove

We can enjoy the Ginkgo Grove today thanks to a scientific experiment dating back to the 1930s and 1940s. Ginkgoes have separate male and female trees. Dr. Orland E. White, Blandy Experimental Farm's first Director, wanted to know what proportion of a ginkgo's seeds will develop into male vs. female trees. To test this question, Dr. White and his students planted an experimental ginkgo orchard at Blandy using seeds collected from a tree on the Grounds of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Because ginkgoes can take 20 years to reach sexual maturity, Dr. White did not live long enough to see the "fruits" of his labor and discover the answer to his question. When the final tally was made in the 1980s, 157 trees were female and 144 were male—a roughly 1:1 male:female sex ratio.



Center: Dr. Orland White and student. Below: One of many ascension records.

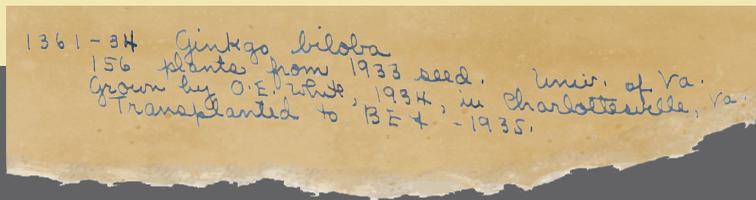
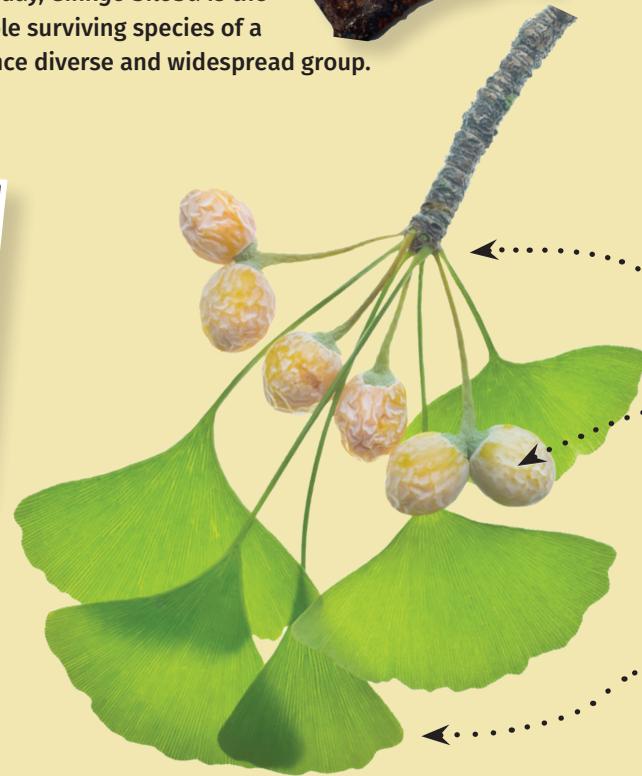
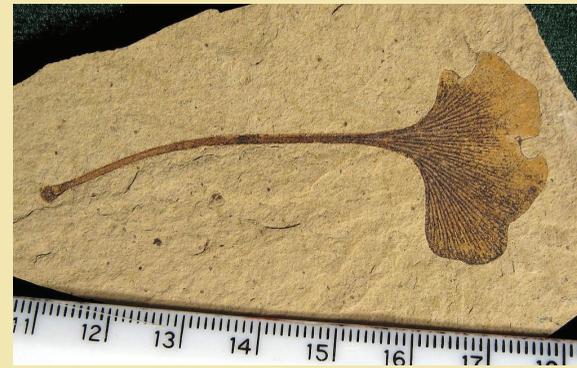


Illustration courtesy of Robert Llewellyn.

## A Living Fossil

The ginkgo tree is often described as a "living fossil." Ginkgoes witnessed the rise and fall of the dinosaurs and were once widespread across what is now Asia, Europe, and North America. Ginkgoes declined rapidly 65 million years ago for reasons that scientists are still working to understand. Today, *Ginkgo biloba* is the sole surviving species of a once diverse and widespread group.



## What Makes a Ginkgo Tree Unique?

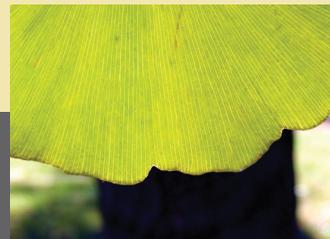
Leaves and fruit branch off of nubby little twigs called spur shoots

"Fruits" (technically seeds, if you ask a botanist)

Fan-shaped leaves with parallel leaf veins and a waxy leaf coating

Leaves whole or divided into two lobes (*Ginkgo biloba*)

Leaves turn from green to gold in the fall, then drop, forming a lush, golden carpet under the trees



300 trees



3.3 acres



America's largest public ginkgo grove