About Blandy

MISSION

The purpose of Blandy Experimental Farm is to increase understanding of the natural environment through research and education.

VISION

Natural systems support and increasingly are affected by humans; therefore, ecological and environmental literacy are fundamental requirements for citizens, policy-makers, and society as a whole. Blandy Experimental Farm exists to promote this understanding through education and research on plants, plant biology, ecology, evolution, the environmental sciences, and the manner in which all of these are used and affected by humans.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION OF THE STATE ARBORETUM

The Foundation of the State Arboretum supports Blandy’s research and educational goals, enhances Blandy’s value as a public institution, and helps maintain the Arboretum’s collections.
2021 TREE OF THE YEAR: PAWPAW

1,048
# signed up for walk, talk or program at Blandy

785
# who attended Teacher Professional Development

6 REU STUDENTS BACK AT BLANDY
After a streak of 29 consecutive summers was broken in 2020 due to COVID, Blandy’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program started up once again during the summer of 2021 with six students.

749
# students served by Blandy's education programs

29
# of Virginia State Champion trees in the Arboretum collection

31ST ANNUAL GARDEN FAIR
After a year off due to COVID restrictions, the 31st Annual Garden Fair returned in 2021 at a new location -- the Clarke County Fairgrounds.
The atmosphere at Blandy at the beginning of FY21 could not have been more different than the atmosphere at the close of FY21. In July 2020, Blandy had just emerged from a nearly two-month closure at the beginning of the pandemic. Our summer research program had been canceled, and no students or faculty were in residence. We were unable to offer any public programming. The Arboretum and buildings staff were back at Blandy, busy trying to restore order, but most of the Blandy faculty and staff were still working from home.

We started taking small steps back to normalcy by late August. Our new Director of Scientific Engagement, Ariel Firebaugh, arrived and began some small-scale outdoor programs. Face masks and physical distancing were de rigueur, but we were confident that we could enjoy watching migrating warblers and still avoid infecting one another with Coronavirus. We also went online with programming. We reached audiences totaling over 1,000 people through partnerships with UVA’s Lifetime Learning to talk about birds and gingkoes. Schools could not bring students to Blandy in fall 2020, so our K12 program brought Blandy to the schools, both online and with in-person visits from our K12 staff to Boyce and D.G. Cooley elementary schools in Clarke County.
By winter we were planning how we were going to pull off the research program in summer 2021. A decision was made to plan for Summer Nature Camps. Downsizing both programs a bit seemed a prudent way to increase our adaptability, but we were determined not to lose another summer to the pandemic. Uncertainty was high, but vaccines were on the horizon and hope was rising.

As winter warmed to spring, some schools brought their students back to Blandy. The K12 program taught classes from Powhatan, the Blue Ridge Environmental Governor’s School, and the Banneker Elementary School from Loudoun County. The arrival of vaccines began to change everyone’s risk calculations.

By May, Garden Fair returned after a 2020 cancellation (albeit at the Clarke County Fairgrounds instead of Blandy). Visiting faculty, graduate students, and our six REU students arrived. Modifications were made, but summer 2021 was the antidote to the disappointment of summer 2020.

The end of FY21 did not see the end of the pandemic. News of a new variant, “Delta,” was starting to hit the headlines. New challenges needed to be met, but FY21 taught us much about Blandy’s resilience and its ability to creatively adapt and continue serving our constituencies with high-quality programming. Much of this was made possible by volunteer efforts and by support from the FOSA membership. We appreciate everything that you have done for us, and we pledge to work even harder in the coming year to serve you.

Dave Carr
Director

"FY21 taught us much about Blandy’s resilience and its ability to creatively adapt and continue serving our constituencies with high-quality programming."
# Blandy Experimental Farm Financial Report

**Blandy Experimental Farm – Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)**

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<td>eVA Fees</td>
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<td>Transfers/Recoveries</td>
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<td>F&amp;A Costs</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEGINNING BALANCE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ENDING BALANCE</strong></td>
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This is an unaudited summary of income and expenditures from Blandy's University accounts. The audited financial statements of the University of Virginia are here: [https://evp-coo.virginia.edu/annual-financial-reports](https://evp-coo.virginia.edu/annual-financial-reports)

Indeed, it is because of our connections, partnerships, and collaborations with other educators that Blandy’s education program remained strong even given the myriad of challenges the pandemic has presented. This fiscal year we worked remotely, and no public-school students came to Blandy for education programs as field excursions were not permitted and most students were being taught virtually. We shifted our mindsets from “Oh no! We won’t be able to teach this year!” to “Yes we can, and we will work with our teacher partners to pivot to virtual teaching.”

We prepared investigation kits that the schools distributed to students, and we joined teachers in Google Classroom, an on-line teaching platform, to lead students through their investigation using the kits. We taught water quality to 6th grade and high school ecology classes, trout habitat needs to 4th grade students, and soil erosion impacts to 5th grade students.

Word of our success in teaching hands-on, inquiry-based investigations through a virtual platform spread through the Virginia and Mid-Atlantic education networks leading Blandy to be invited to share our teaching strategies several times during the pandemic, virtually of course!

The number of students and educators we were able to serve this year is much reduced from past years but demands on our time did not decrease.

We learned that preparing for teaching in either virtual or social distancing situations increased our planning and preparation time three- to fourfold. It’s been a challenging but rewarding year for the Blandy Education Program and educators!

-Candace Lutzow-Felling, Director of Education
## Blandy Education Program Outreach Activity, 2020–21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Program</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>Student Education Programs</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Chaperones attending*</td>
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<td>School Divisions Served</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools Served</td>
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<td>Private Schools</td>
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<td>Home School</td>
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<td>Students Judged</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Outreach Events</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Professional Development, # attending</td>
<td>785</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientist Professional Development, # attending (undergraduates)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Chaperones attending (no chaperones were allowed per our school partners’ COVID policies)

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**Googly eyes.**

How do you persuade a bunch of eight-year-old kids to practice good hand hygiene? Stick googly eyes on the hand sanitizing dispenser, of course. COVID-19 safety precautions didn’t stop Blandy’s youngest scientists from enjoying a nearly normal summer camp experience.

Elementary school students in the Wild Things camp caught butterflies, monitored wildlife cameras, scouted for songbirds, and watched worms wriggle. Middle school EcoExplorers conducted original research on purple martin behavior, squirrel foraging, and bird habitat use.
Although FY2021 threw us a few curveballs, Blandy faculty, staff, and volunteers worked creatively to help visitors experience joy, wonder, and curiosity while learning about the natural world. Here are a few moments from 2021 we’ll always remember:

**American Bittern!** Pandemic restrictions reminded us how much fun it is to host nature walks for small groups, where there are plenty of opportunities to ask questions, swap stories, and sneak up on wildlife such as the American Bittern we spotted at Rattlesnake Springs during an April birding program.

**Learning from colleagues.** Guest instructors from local environmental organizations led outstanding programs at Blandy this year. It’s been a privilege to learn from colleagues at the Blue Ridge Wildlife Center, Johnston Tree Care, Shenandoah Astronomical Society, Sustainability Matters, the Virginia Department of Forestry, and Virginia Working Landscapes.

“You’re muted!” Warts and all, technology has made it easier than ever to host programs for people in far-flung places.

Two- and four-legged friends Zoomed into talks, workshops, and club meetings from all over the country in 2021.

-Ariel Firebaugh, Director of Scientific Engagement
“Can you see me?” American Bitterns stick their necks straight in the air to blend in with vegetation. (Photo: David Carr)

Blandy Outreach Programs for General Audiences, FY21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outreach Activity</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>FOSA Public Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Camps</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tours</td>
<td>189</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes/Workshops</td>
<td>174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exhibits at Outreach Events</td>
<td>185</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,400</td>
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</table>
After a streak of 29 consecutive summers of Blandy’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program was broken in 2020 by COVID, the program started up once again in May 2021.

In this program, undergraduate students from across the country spend the summer at Blandy to gain first-hand experience carrying out environmental-sciences research.

The weeks leading up to the start of the 2021 REU program were a real nail-biter as we waited for formal approval from UVA on reopening the in-person program. The spring of 2021 was a time of great uncertainty, as we waited for students to become eligible for the vaccines and the University of Virginia was frequently updating its social distancing, testing, and masking policies.

But on day one of the program, as soon as the students had all arrived safely and we finally met in-person, everything seemed to go off without a hitch. All of the students in our 2021 program were students who we admitted for 2020 but were turned away when we had to cancel the 2020 program. It was an immense relief to not have to disappoint them again. To provide physical distancing, we were able to admit only six students, rather than the typical 10. Our fingers are crossed that we can bring the program back up to full capacity for the upcoming summer of 2022!

— Kyle Haynes, Research Associate Professor & Associate Director

REU student Clara Cebral-Marani helps summer campers learn about aquatic ecosystems.
Blandy Experimental Farm
Publications (FY2021)


Research Grants and Fellowships (FY2021)

Barnes, J. 2021. $375. Exhibiting the Three Sisters. Student Arts Council Grant, University of Virginia.


Elshebini, J. 2021. $1,499. Exploratory Grant. Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia.

Rodenberg, C.A. 2021. $34,000. EXPAND Research Traineeship Fellowship, National Science Foundation.

Haynes, K.J., Eckert, A.J., and Rodenberg, C.A. 2021. $25,000. How eco-evolutionary feedbacks between expansion load and the Allee effect impact the invasive spread of a major forest insect pest. 4-VA Collaborative Research Grants Program, University of Virginia.

Huelsman, K. 2021. $6,000. Virginia Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellowship.
FACULTY, STAFF, & RESEARCHERS

Faculty (July 2020–June 2021)
David Carr, Director
Patrick Crumrine, REU Coordinator
Rebecca Forkner, REU Mentor
Daniel Hanley, REU Mentor
Kyle Haynes, Associate Director
Candace Lutzow-Felling, Director of Education: School Programs
Mary McKenna, Minority Outreach Coordinator
Tai Roulston, Curator

Visiting Faculty
Harmony Dagleish, College of William and Mary
Richard Karban, UC Davis
Margarita Lopez-Uribe, Penn State
Louie Yang, UC Davis
Melissa Zwick, Stockton University

Staff (July 2020–June 2021)
John Campbell, Custodial Service Coord. & Maintenance Tech.
Leah Chaldares, Environmental Educator
Robin Couch Cardillo, FOSA Director
Tim Farmer, Public Relations Coordinator
Ariel Firebaugh, Director of Scientific Engagement
Emily Ford, Lead Environmental Educator
Brandon Fox, Buildings Maintenance Specialist
Sabrina Hartley, Arboretum Specialist
Dennis Heflin, Buildings Superintendent
Ann Hirschy, Weekend Visitor Services Aide
Lillian Ledford, Environmental Educator
Jared Manzo, Arboretum Specialist
Donald (Mike) Marlow, Grounds Worker
Judy Masi, Program Finance & Administration Manager
Koy Mislowsky, Events & Volunteer Coordinator
Jack Monsted, Assistant Curator, Native Plant Trail
Sue Ridley, FOSA Administrative Specialist
Thomas Robb, General Services Technician
Chris Schmidt, Arborist
William Spinrad, Weekend Visitor Services Aide
Carrie Whitacre, Assistant Curator, Herbaceous Gardens
Robbin Winkler Arnold, Weekend Visitor Services Aide
Karen York, VNPS Office Manager
Chris Youngs, Grounds Coordinator
Students and Visiting Researchers (Academic Year 2020-21 & Summer 2021)

W. Antonio Austin, Historical Archive Intern
James Barnes, Graduate Researcher
Zoe Bergman, Graduate Researcher
Clara Cebral-Marani, REU
Jemima Elsherbini, Graduate Researcher
Anna Gilmore, REU
Kelsey Huelsman, Graduate Researcher
Andrew Jablonski, Graduate Researcher
Syntyche Kane, REU
Jordan Kenney, Horticultural Intern
Anne Larsen, Volunteer Researcher
Kate LeCroy, Graduate Researcher
Patrick Lynch, Graduate Researcher
Zane Molins, REU
Ivan Munkres, Graduate Researcher
Mia Murray, REU
Jaya Nagarajan-Swenson, REU
Allie Parisien, Graduate Researcher
Carmen Petras, Undergraduate Researcher
Catherine Porter, Graduate Researcher
Clare Rodenberg, Graduate Researcher
Kelsey Schoenemann, Graduate Researcher
Avehi Singh, Graduate Researcher
Amber Slatosky, Graduate Researcher
Emily Spindler, Graduate Researcher
Andrea Tache Lopez, Undergraduate Researcher
Martina Watson, Undergraduate Researcher
My first year as President of the Foundation of the State Arboretum in the midst of a pandemic was certainly daunting. However, thanks to the leadership of former President Steve Bauserman, FOSA Director Robin Couch Cardillo, and a committed Board and staff, the “new normal” was already in the works. In lieu of the cancelled Garden Fair, a challenge grant was initiated by our generous Board members and was successfully matched. We were learning and improving our technology with Zoom Board and Committee meetings, as well as on-line programs.

Blandy and FOSA are a part of the University of Virginia, and UVA regulations prohibited in-person gatherings early in the pandemic. This meant many in-person programs and events were put on hold last summer. As our ability to host in-person gatherings was sharply curtailed, the need for Blandy’s open space, beauty, and “room to roam” in nature became even more apparent. This was demonstrated by the surge in visitors when the grounds reopened.

Staff rose to the challenge to create more on-line and virtual interactions. On-line learning and experiences were trending as the “wave of the future” before the pandemic. Our being forced to adapt to this trend is proving useful; going forward it will allow us to continue to reach a larger and more geographically dispersed audience for the Arboretum. In 2021, we have been able to return to some in-person events with appropriate safeguards, but we will continue to expand our virtual presence on various digital platforms.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE
Under the leadership of Vice President Nancy Takahashi and Board member Roger Courtenay, the Board returned to and updated FOSA’s Strategic Plan. This gave us a chance to evaluate our goals and priorities and to focus Committee efforts on accomplishing these. We will periodically review our progress towards reaching these milestones.

Robin and Treasurer Charles Ellison, with the help of the Finance Committee and Board, took a critical look at our finances, identifying where we could cut costs and increase revenues. Part of that was re-evaluating and re-aligning positions as staff vacancies have occurred, including the retirement of our wonderful long-time Public Relations Coordinator Tim Farmer.

In May 2021, we welcomed the return of Garden Fair! Thanks to Robin’s foresight in booking way in advance, the Garden Fair was held at the Clarke County Fairgrounds instead of Blandy. The stars aligned when UVA gave us permission to hold Garden Fair, and with herculean effort on the part of staff, Board, and volunteers, it was a roaring success. Both participants and vendors raved about it. And not insignificantly, it also was a financial success. In the fall of 2020, we had to cancel our fall Nature Nurtures program, a fun event that focused on wellness.

In-person programs and summer camps returned in June and July of 2021, with appropriate safeguards. FOSA was able to fund three summer graduate students in both 2020 and 2021 with the help of the James R. Wilkins Charitable Trust. In 2020, most of the research was conducted off campus near the students’ homes. Students were able to return to Blandy in 2021. FOSA also funded an undergraduate summer intern in 2021, thanks to a generous grant from The Fauquier and Loudoun Garden Club.
Blandy has an incredibly dedicated cadre of volunteers, who for a time during the early pandemic weren’t able to work on the grounds. But they came back as the grounds opened up to lend much-needed hands, and really pitched in for Garden Fair.

Blandy and FOSA have faced daunting challenges this past year in how to fulfill our mission. I have been totally awed at how well we have all pulled together to face these unusual circumstances, which, alas, will continue to be with us as we go into another year. To quote Albert Einstein: “In the midst of every crisis lies great opportunity.” Thanks to the dedication of our Board, staff, volunteers, members, and supporters, I believe we have been finding and taking advantage of the opportunities in the crisis and will continue to thrive.

Thank you all,

JOLLY DE GIVE
FOSA PRESIDENT
Each year, volunteers, donors, and friends help to further our mission of supporting research, environmental education, and outreach at Blandy Experimental Farm/State Arboretum of Virginia. Unrestricted gifts of all sizes allow FOSA latitude in applying funds where most needed while FOSA volunteers help in the gardens, at special events, and through boards and committees.

**Foundation of the State Arboretum**

**Board of Directors, 2020-2021**

**Officers**
Josephine "Jolly" de Give, President
Nancy Takahashi, Vice President
Charles Ellison, Treasurer
Heather Dudley, Secretary
J. Stephen Bausman, Past President

**Board Members**

- David Carr
- Roger Courtenay
- J.J. Davis
- Karla Etten
- Thom Flory
- M. Tyson Gilpin Jr.
- Celie Harris
- Susan Harris
- Kevin Hessberg
- Scott Johnston
- Michelle Morris Jones
- G. Robert Lee
- Paul C. Miller
- Jay Monroe
- Alex Newhart
- Mary Olien
- Frederick "Fritz" Reuter II
- Tracy Smith
- Elsie Wilson Thompson
- Beatrice Von Gontard
- Sandy Wilson

**FOSA Committee Chairs**

- Arboretum Collections, Nancy Takahashi
- Development & Membership, Michelle Morris Jones
- Equestrian, Sylvia Wilson & Michelle Morris Jones
- Events, Paul Miller
- Executive, Josephine "Jolly" de Give
- Finance, Charles Ellison
- Government & UVA Relations, G. Robert Lee
- Public Programs, Alex Newhart
- Nominating, G. Robert Lee
- Volunteerism, Mary Olien

**FOSA Director**
Robin Couch Cardillo
## Foundation of the State Arboretum Financial Report

**Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)**

### NET ASSETS

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<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
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### REVENUE AND SUPPORT

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<th>With Donor Restrictions</th>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td>Fundraising Events (Net Expenses of $23,606)</td>
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<td>Net Assets Released from Restrictions</td>
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### FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

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<th>Fundraising</th>
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<td>Collection and Grounds Improvement</td>
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<td>Public Program Expenses</td>
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<td>Public Information</td>
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<td>Support of Blandy and State Arboretum</td>
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<td>$23,957</td>
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### LIABILITIES AND ASSETS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities, accounts payable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets without Donor Restrictions as of 6/30/21</td>
<td>$-71,449</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets with Donor Restrictions as of 6/30/21</td>
<td>$1,255,897</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,164,448</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,176,243</td>
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This summary is based on the Foundation’s auditor-reviewed financial statements, which are available upon request.
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JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021

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FOSA sincerely attempts to acknowledge all gifts received. We regret any errors or omissions in compiling this donor list.

*deceased