



All Fired Up

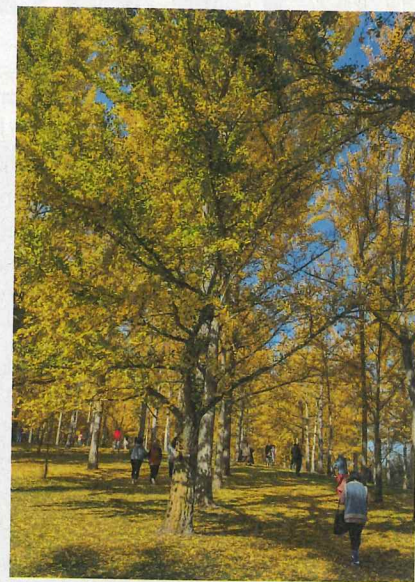
At most museums, the golden rule is to look but not touch.

Perry Glass Studio at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk bends that rule with its interactive space, which recently tripled in size. The 33,200-square-foot studio's entrance overlooks a rain garden adorned with native plantings that contribute to environmental stewardship in the community.

The renovated space features glassmaking studios, classrooms, event and retail spaces, a catering kitchen, a rooftop terrace, and a gallery. A two-level hot shop with a 200-seat theater offers audiences fiery views of glassmaking demonstrations every day at noon (except Mondays), as well as performances that combine glass, dance, and sound.

The studio brings the museum's internationally acclaimed glass collection to life: Free demonstrations show how the works were crafted, world-renowned artists teach intensive classes, and themed programs cater to aspiring artists of all ages and levels.

Beginners can learn to make stained-glass suncatchers, jewelry, plates, coasters, and straws and swizzle sticks. Two-day workshops include glassblowing and neon glassmaking; private and group lessons are also available. *Free admission; some classes and workshops have registration fees.* ➤ **LEE BELOTE**



Ginkgo Glory

Of all the trees putting on a glorious fall color show, the ginkgo might be the most dazzling. The large, graceful trees with brilliant-yellow fan-shaped leaves are showstoppers, and a free arboretum near Winchester could be the best place in the country to see them.

The grove of 300 trees at the **Blandy Experimental Farm and State Arboretum of Virginia** is one of the largest ginkgo groves that's open to the public. Located at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains, it's an easy stop for visitors who flock to the region every year for its famed fall colors.

While ginkgoes are native to China, this grove has deep Virginia roots. All the trees are descendants of one female ginkgo on the University of Virginia grounds in Charlottesville (ginkgoes are either male or female). The arboretum planted its 300 trees as part of a botanical research project in the 1930s, and visitors are still reaping the radiant rewards nearly a century later. *Find regular color updates at blandy.virginia.edu/ginkgo-grove.* ➤ **LARRY BLEIBERG**