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).

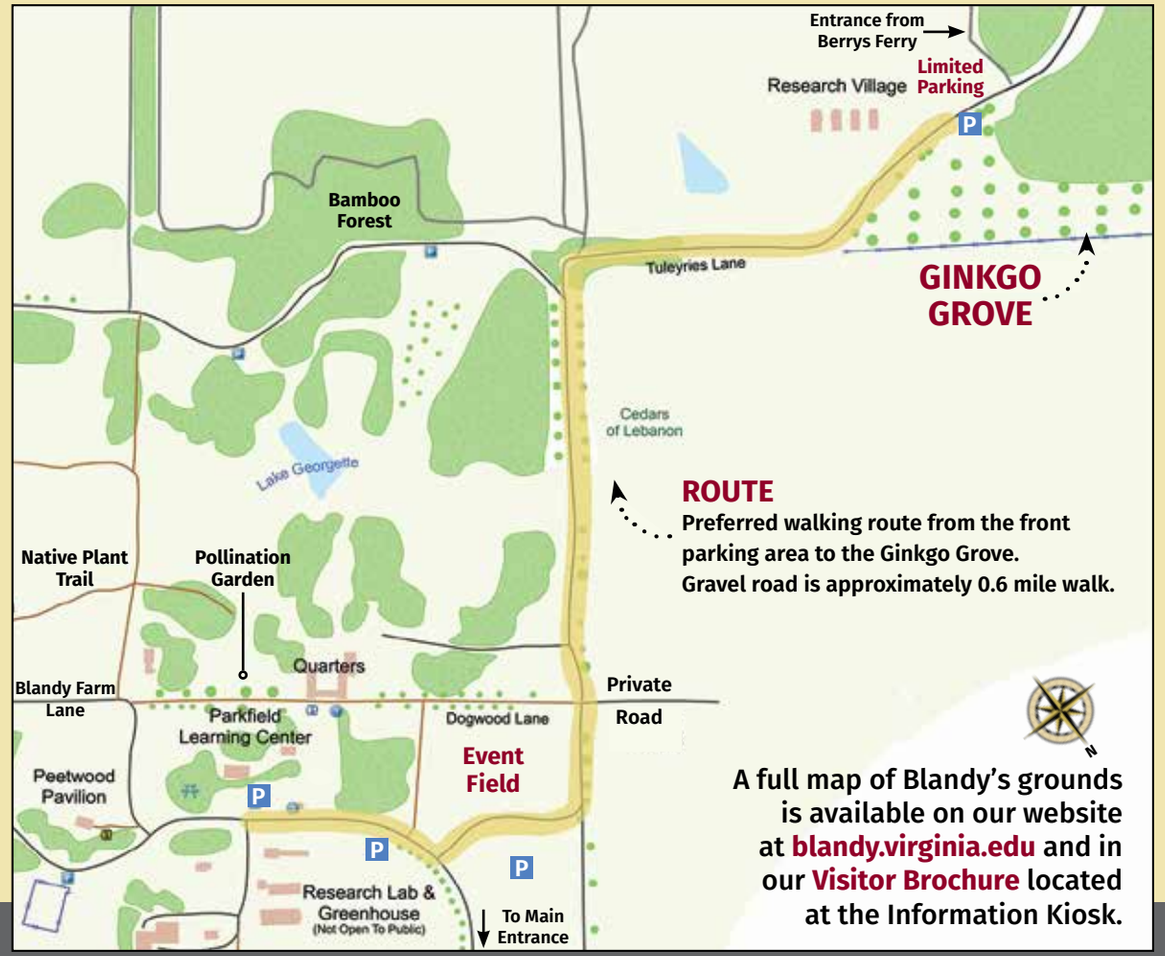
Visiting During Peak Season

Thousands of people enjoy the Ginkgo Grove each Fall. To accommodate large numbers of visitors while ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone, there may be road closures, new designated parking areas, additional visitor amenities, etc. during the weeks surrounding peak color. Please visit this website for updates: ***blandy.virginia.edu/ginkgo-info***

Guidelines

✔ **Please do:** Enjoy the grove, observe wildlife, take photos, walk dogs on leash.

X **Please do not:** Collect fruit, break branches, climb trees, fly drones, park outside of designated areas.



A full map of Blandy's grounds is available on our website at **blandy.virginia.edu** and in our **Visitor Brochure** located at the Information Kiosk.

Ginkgo Gold

GINKGO GOLD WEEKENDS

We celebrate the glorious ginkgoes as they faithfully turn to gold in one of nature's most spectacular autumn shows. Ginkgo Gold Weekends are held during peak season, usually the last weekend in October and first weekend in November with extra visitor services including a few food vendors, portable bathrooms, and parking assistance. Visit our website for updated information: ***blandy.virginia.edu/ginkgo-info***

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

The Gingko Grove is supported in part by the Foundation of the State Arboretum. Become a member of the Foundation or sign up to volunteer by visiting our website ***blandy.virginia.edu*** and click on the Support tab for more information.

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STATE ARBORETUM of VIRGINIA BLANDY EXPERIMENTAL FARM

FOLLOW US

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

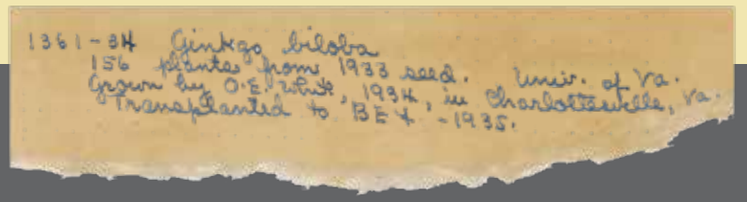
A Guide to the Ginkgo Grove

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

The Blandy **Ginkgo Grove**

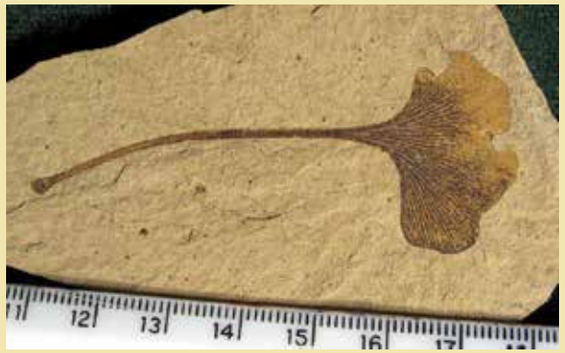
We can enjoy the **Ginkgo Grove** today thanks to a scientific experiment dating back to the 1930s and 1940s. Ginkgoes have separate male and female trees. **Dr. Orland E. White,** Blandy Experimental Farm's first Director, wanted to know what proportion of a ginkgo's seeds will develop into male vs. 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.



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?

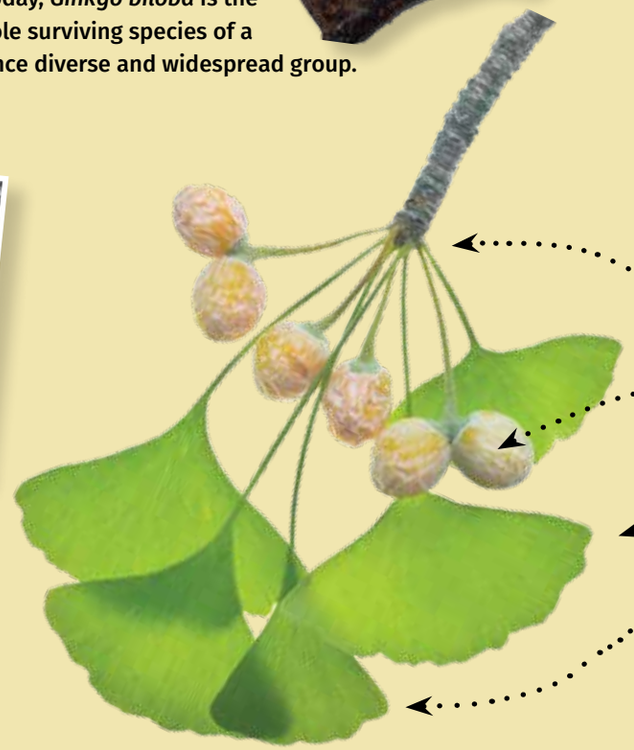


Illustration courtesy of Robert Llewellyn.

- 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