# Blandy Comes to Cooley

## History Of Blandy

*By Anna Hornbaker*

If you like Blandy, I am sure you would like to know the history and purpose. If so, this is your writing piece. Blandy's purpose is to be the center of environmental research and education, set within the remarkable beauty of Virginia’s state arboretum. Blandy’s 900 acre property was bought by Graham F. Blandy as a summer home in 1905. Graham F. Blandy was a New York stockbroker and railroad tycoon.

The first director of Blandy was Dr. Orland E. White. He and his students created the arboretum. The arboretum was meant to be a field laboratory for advanced students. Blandy's next director was Dr. Ralph Singleton. He was the director from 1955-1965. During his time there, he earned the title “Father of the Hybrid Sweet Corn Breeding.”

After Singleton, Tom Ewert was the director. He was director from 1972-1983. He emphasized horticulture which means the cultivation using a garden, orchard, or nursery and growing fruit, flowers, vegetables, or ornamental plants. He also emphasized community outreach. In 1973, students from Lord Fairfax Community College visited Blandy to study farming practices. This continued until 1987. The boxwood and herb gardens were built in 1977 they were the first ornamental plantings for public enjoyment. The director from 1983-1997 was Dr. Ed Connor. His research focused on insects that eat plants and trees, shrubs, and crops. The Blandy community support organization became the “Foundation of the State Arboretum in 1989.”

From 1989-2004 Dr. Michael Bowers was director. Before he was director, he was the research coordinator for 13 years. Dr. Bowers focus was on the develop and growth of Blandy. Blandy’s purpose is to increase understanding of the natural environment through research and education.

## Student Activities

*By Delaney Collins*

On the 25th of February, 2016, Blandy came to D.G. Cooley and did some stations. The stations are Water Diaries with Mrs. Stiles, Roof Models with Mrs. Emily, Pollination and Watershed Stories with Mrs. Hickey, How Much Does it Use with Miss Potter, and Region Recreation with Ms. Wilt.

The one with the least votes was Pollination and Watershed stories with Mrs Hickey. That only got one vote. In that station you had to make up a story about watersheds or pollination. The one that came in second was How much Does It Use with Miss Potter (or future Mrs. Rogers). It was about how much water we use at home and school, and ways to save water. It only got four votes. The last station that did not do so well was Water Diaries with Mrs Stiles. It got six votes. You make combinations of how much water you use at home.

There are two stations that got the highest votes. They are Roof Models with Mrs. Emily and Region Recreation with Mrs. Wilt. Roof Models got eleven votes and in that station you had to make a house and pour water on it. Region Recreation was a big hit and got seventeen votes. We learned about D.G Cooley’s watershed and made a region (example Tidewater Region). We had a great time when Blandy came.
What is the coolest thing you have seen at Blandy?
Interviews by Matthew Strickland

“I would say the woods.”
Preston from Mrs. Stiles’ class

“The woods.”
Christian from Mrs. Stiles’ class

“The woods.”
Talon from Mrs. Stiles’ class

“The woods.”
Malachi from Mrs. Stiles’ class

“The snake.”
Danyelle from Mrs. Stiles’ class

“The Gardens.”
Jenna from Mrs. Stiles’ class

“The hike thing when we got to see the pond.”
Anna from Mrs. Stiles’ class

“The trees.”
Logan from Ms. Potter’s Class

“A piece of wood.”
Jackson K. from Ms. Potter’s class

“The burnt meadow.”
Delaney from Ms. Potter’s class
My Favorite Times at Blandy
By Michael Kerr-Hobert

I am going to tell you about my favorite three times at Blandy or at the high school. We have had a very fun time learning with these that I am about to tell you about.

My favorite time at Blandy was when I made a booklet and we had a stick as the spine. I got to put all of my papers in it. Also, I got to talk with my friends, but we did not get to talk for a long time. I thought it was fun because I got to lay down on a blanket, or if you want to call it a towel, you can.

Another fun time was when we went to Clarke County High School and got to plant a tree with Blandy. I thought that was fun because I got to get my hands dirty and wet. Another reason I thought it was fun is because I got to interact with different people and I got to get outside. You can go to the high school and see all of the other trees we planted with Blandy.

I also liked when we went to Blandy and we got to smell all of these salt and pepper cups with different kinds of scents like lemon and peppermint. We had to look at the bottles. Each had a clue about a part of a butterfly life cycle. You had to sniff out the type of scent for each type of butterfly and find the parts of the butterfly life cycle. It was a pretty nice way to teach us about the butterfly life cycle.

Those are my favorite times at Blandy. We have had some very fun times learning with Blandy.
An Interview with Ms. Biggs
By Malachi Graf
I asked Ms. Biggs questions about Blandy. Ms. Biggs is the STEM Coordinator for Clarke County Public Schools. She said that she started planning trips to Blandy for this year in early spring 2015. She also said that she was going to bring 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to Blandy as long as she could find the money we need in order to go to Blandy. She said she would love to have all of Cooley go to Blandy Farm if she could find the money and get permission. Blandy invited us to have us learn more about nature. They also wanted us to work with nature. She hopes we can go to Blandy as much as we can. She would like to do the same activities and add some activities next year, but most likely not in middle school because we have different things to do.

An Interview with Ms. Emily
By Jenna Robertson
As you all know, we go to Blandy each and every year. This year, we are learning about watersheds and last year we learned about pollination. You might be wondering about the future third and fourth graders. They will be making sure that the gardens that we planted will be nice and healthy. The idea of us going to Blandy was made by the Blandy team, which includes Mrs. Candace and Mrs. Biggs, Mrs. Lil, Mrs. Emily, and Mrs. Lindsay. They have invited seven schools that include schools in Frederick County, Fauquier County, Shenandoah County, Jefferson County, and Loudoun County, as well as Boyce here in Clarke County. Are you wondering why they invited us? Well, we were in the same county. They would like to expand to fifth and sixth grades and kindergarten, but they would need a lot more people and a lot more time. The reason that we do some of the activities is it ties into the SOL.

All About Watersheds
By Melody King
Watersheds and the water cycle are very important to us, the environment, and the animals. That's how we get water. There are a few steps to it, though. First, you have to know all about evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. Second, you need to know the order of the natural water resources. Every Watershed has the same order of events as every other one: evaporation, condensation, precipitation. That's the water cycle. Evaporation is when the heat sucks up the ocean water to the clouds. Condensation is when the clouds take over, so from the ocean water they fill up until they're a very dark grey color. Precipitation is when the clouds are too heavy and they send out the rain. So that's how you make rain. Now that's the water cycle.

Now this is the point where it gets to the challenging part. First, the rain goes to the grass, then to the dirt, then to the underground stream. The underground stream is a part of the Watershed system order. It is the only Watershed system that’s underground. Next, the underground water flows out to a stream. The stream is like a river, but a little bit smaller. The water flows out of the stream to the nearest river. A river is a pretty decent size, but it’s a little bit bigger then a stream in Virginia’s Watershed. When the water flows out the river, the next location depends on where you live. Some will flow into a lake. Our rivers, flow into the Chesapeake Bay. A bay is water that is surrounded on three sides by land. Last, but not least, the water will leave the bay and go into the ocean. The ocean is the biggest part of a Watershed system and a little bit of the water cycle. So there you have it the Watershed.
The Cooley Garden
By Christian Hart

Outside of D.G. Cooley we have a garden. In the garden there are lots of flowers like Appalachian Mountain Mint, Bugbane, and Purple Prairie Clover. A lot of the flowers have the same group. That group is dicot. Dicot is a type of group that needs half shade and half sunlight. The following chart shows the heights of the plants in the garden:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant Name</th>
<th>Height</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BugBane</td>
<td>4-7 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TurtleHead</td>
<td>4-7 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MistFlower</td>
<td>2-3 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AppalachianMint</td>
<td>2-3 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ArccommaticAster</td>
<td>1-3 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Lanterns</td>
<td>10 inches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Weed</td>
<td>18-30 inches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Clover</td>
<td>1-2 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Spotted Geranium</td>
<td>18-24 inches.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the diagram, if there is only one number in a shape that means each side is that long.
By Preston Bernier

Third Grade
Topic: Trees
Fall: We visited Blandy
Winter: We visited Blandy
Spring: We visited Blandy
Spring: Blandy joined us at the high school to plant trees

Fourth Grade
Topic: Watersheds
Fall: We went to Blandy and learned about the parts of the flower
Fall: Blandy came to us to help us choose flowers for the garden
Winter: We went to Blandy
Winter: Blandy came to us to teach us about Watersheds
Spring: Blandy will join us to plant flowers in the Cooley Garden

Future events not determined yet

A Note from the Editor
By Mrs. Stiles

Blandy Experimental Farm has been an integral part of science education for the students the last two years. CCPS has been the recipient of a grant that focuses on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Ms. Biggs has worked diligently with the staff to create interactive learning with the students, based on their VA Standards of Learning. Though the future involvement is unknown at this time, it is hoped that these students, as well as the ones to follow, will continue to have educational experiences along with our friends from Blandy.

This newsletter was compiled by students in Mrs. Stiles’ and Ms. Potter’s classes. They researched and worked diligently to provide accurate information regarding our experiences with Blandy. We hope you find the information enlightening!