The Arboretum grounds are open to the public dawn to dusk, 365 days a year, free of charge. The Arboretum offers programs to school groups, garden clubs, and other groups. Call the main office at 540-837-1758 Ext. 0 to arrange a tour or program, and check events at the Arboretum’s web site, www.blandy.virginia.edu.
Begin Driving Tour. The 2.6-mile Wilkins Lane driving tour begins just east of the visitor parking area. The picnic grove lies through the trees on the right.

Community Garden Parking. Blandy’s 10,000-square-foot Community Garden provides space for gardeners to grow vegetables for personal use and for donation to food banks. The Peetwood Pavilion for Environmental Education, just up slope, is used for school programs, public programs, and meetings.

Honeysuckle family on right, including viburnum and abelia.

Catalpas and alien, invasive empress trees on left. Blandy’s 35-acre restored meadow (right) contains native grasses and wildflowers. Fire is used here as a management tool to encourage natives.

Pines and other conifers mark the Arboretum’s northeast border.

Successional Field Parking. Blandy’s successional field research area contains 20 100-meter by 100-meter experimental plots. Since 2003 these plots have been disturbed on a set schedule to examine the ecological effects of disturbance. The meteorological tower continuously records temperature, wind speed, relative humidity, and other factors. To the east, a shrubby field merges into a second-growth forest.

Highlights of the Tour

A Southern Magnolia shows its dramatic yet delicate flowers.

The Arboretum’s conifer collection includes one-third of the world’s pine species.

Watch and listen for bobwhite quail in the native plant meadow.

Invasives Alert! This section of the road cuts through an extensive growth of buckthorn, honeysuckle, and other introduced species. Birds use these shrubs for food and nest sites, but these exotics tend to displace native species.

These dolomitic limestone rocks, typical of the region, were excavated during construction. Fenced areas on the right are research plots.

Blue Ridge Parking. Height of land with view of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The fenced, experimental chestnut grove was planted in March 2009.

Maple family to the right. Blandy’s horse paddock lies to your left. Continue straight across access road.

Pea Hill Parking. The pea (legume) family and other plant groups are represented here. The Hewlett Lewis Overlook Pavilion and Rattlesnake Spring are through the trees. Blandy has more than 100 volunteer-maintained, bird nesting boxes. These were built for bluebirds, but are also used by tree swallows and other songbirds.

Rose and Magnolia families

Nut Tree Collection Parking. More of the Arboretum’s collection is featured here. Look for mulberry, hackberry, black cherry, white ash, and persimmon. One of Blandy’s many dry-stack stone walls runs past. Lake Georgette is down slope, and oaks, black walnut, beech, and chestnut are just ahead.