

Research and Demonstration Garden at the Claytor Nature Study Center

Carol D., Bedford Extension Master Gardener



We are proud to announce that Lynchburg College's Claytor Nature Study Center has entered into a partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension and Bedford Extension Master Gardeners to repurpose The Beautiful Garden Test Site located at the Claytor Nature Study Center. The garden has been renamed the Research and Demonstration Garden at the Claytor Nature Study Center and will be used to educate our community on gardening techniques and plants that will thrive in our area with a focus on native plants.

The Research and Demonstration Garden started out as part of the Beautiful Gardens Plant Introduction Program initiated in 2004 by the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association. The program's mission was to expand and strengthen opportunities for the Virginia green industry through coordinated research, evaluation, production, and marketing of ornamental plants. Test sites (one at Claytor Nature Study Center right here in Bedford) were selected from all hardiness zones in Virginia. Hundreds of plants were evaluated and varieties previously not well known as landscape plants in Virginia were promoted. Unfortunately, Beautiful Gardens was not able to generate the interest required to sustain itself in the competitive market of new plant introductions so the program was discontinued. Some of the original plantings are still a part of the garden, several plants have been added, and we have plans to add more in the near future.

The garden is open to the public and will be available for tours, seminars, and demonstrations beginning August, 2017.

The garden is located at 1844 Woods Rd. in Bedford and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30AM until 5:00PM.

You are invited to stop by and walk through the garden. If you're interested in having a guided walking tour or having your group meet at the Claytor Nature Study Center followed by a walking tour, please call 540 587-6740 or e-mail cnsc@lynchburg.edu to make a reservation.



Bedford County Extension Office: (540) 586-7675 / Email: Help Desk @ BedfordMG@vt.edu
News, posts and updated event calendar at www.BedfordMasterGardeners.org

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