

September 2024

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Submissions due the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

# Into the Garden

## Leadership Team Letter

*Jan Smith and Vicki Hall*

Aren't you tired of this yo-yo weather? Aren't you tired of talking about deer? Okay, so let's move on to something more encouraging. A big thanks to the new class members who have stepped up to sell merchandise, help with Class Training, man (or woman?) the plant clinics, compost displays and the Community Festival. Of the 16 in the Class, 5 have earned their 50 hours and are Certified Master Gardeners! Two are close with over 40 hours. A few will have to scramble to get their hours by December. Projects are still ongoing through the Fall and we have more outreach opportunities, so hopefully everyone can be certified.

The Rockbridge Regional Fair and Expo is back in the Horse Center this year. There are many opportunities for Projects, and MGs as individuals, to participate. If you cook, the winners receive a \$75-\$25 certificate to King Arthur Baker's catalogue, a great store. It's always fun to watch little children chase chickens and pigs around a pen. There are plenty of herb, veggie, and craft

entries for you to choose from. [Click for Fair Brochure](#). A big thank you to Phyllis and Marybeth who will be teaching a Composting and Soil Health Learning Lab at the Fair on Friday, Sept. 13th at 6:30.



Late August means it's still grass control season. Pulling, weed whack or spray now before the seeds explode. Fall and winter are great times to work on invasive plants. Our website has great information:

[www.ramga.org/invasives](http://www.ramga.org/invasives)

I hope everyone's gardens are still doing well despite all the challenges.

*Jan and Vicki*

**FYI**

**RAMGA Wide Lunch Picnic**

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 5

**WHERE:** Lake Robertson

**TIME :** Noon - 2 : 30 pm

**WHY:** Enjoy lake views and some silly activities

**IMPORTANT TO KNOW:**

Families are invited.

Watch for emails about food sign-up.



**Congratulations to Our New Master Gardeners!**



*Donna Strickler with the Jackson House Museum Garden Team*



*Cynthia Roberts at the Extension Office Help Desk*



*Cathy Brabandt with the Buena Vista Visitors Center garden team plus a future Master Gardener*

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## Do You Know Someone...

interested in becoming a RAMGA volunteer? As you know, becoming a Master Gardener volunteer requires an entire year of preparation, which includes components of horticultural online study as well as hands-on labs. Registration for the class opens on Sunday, October 27 at noon and ends on Saturday, November 2 at noon. The cost of the class is \$150 which includes the online version of the Master Gardener Handbook and lab materials. Registration for the class may be found at the RAMGA website. [www.ramga.org/join-us](http://www.ramga.org/join-us) .

There is an evening Informational Zoom session planned to further explain the requirements of the training class to be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration to attend is on the RAMGA website.

[www.ramga.org/](http://www.ramga.org/)

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## RAMGA Class of 2024 – GRADUATION1

*By Jennifer Olewine, Class of 2024 Intern*

In the words of one of our nation's great matriarchs, Sophia Petrillo: "Picture it.": June 15,2024, Rockbridge Baths Volunteer Fire Department, 16 horticultural nerds (ahem) students, gathered to celebrate their transition from Master Gardener trainees to Master Gardener interns or volunteers. As Peggy Agnor

pointed out at the ceremony, it took 16 modules, 19 chapters from the 2023 Master Gardener's Handbook, 10 hands-on labs, and 16 quizzes to get us to that day. We, trainees, officially started this journey on January 27 with a Meet and Greet Brunch (our introduction to the amazing cooking talents of the Master

Gardeners) and finished our last lab at the delightful home garden of our very own Master Gardener, Faith Vosburgh.

Much fun was had at the graduation plus picnic. Old and new garden friends and their families shared a meal prepared by the master cooks, oh, I mean Master Gardeners. There were so many scrumptious dish options- plenty of biscuits, breads, casseroles meals, and veggies. And my personal favorite- a table of sweet indulgences too!

Once we all had our fill of food, folks mingled. Some purchased Master Gardener merchandise (still plenty for sale, please be on the lookout for more on this). There was also, a community table of gently used (and free) garden supplies to peruse. The closing event was a fashion show. Master Gardeners dressed in their finest and favorite garden attire (including tools) and strutted around the audience to show off their stuff.



Like our labs, the event was enjoyable and enriching. In my opinion, the Class of 2024 has proven to be cohesive, friendly, smart, and conscientious. Onto our next adventures as Master Gardener interns and volunteers. I am looking forward to working together in community outreach with you all!



Congrats class of 2024! Thank you to all our trainers, lab assistants, and other Master Gardener volunteers who shared their knowledge and time for our class's benefit.

*MGs in their gardening best!*



## RAMGA MASTER GARDENERS IN THE COMMUNITY

### Rockbridge Community Festival 2024

By Tamara Teaff

On August 24, RAMGA had a presence at the Rockbridge Community Festival. Under the leadership of Jill Alvarado and Barbara Walker, visitors to the Festival were educated to all things horticulture, including the newly published "Growing Tomatoes in Rockbridge County", at the RAMGA tent. Members of the Class of 2024 were on hand to answer questions about how to become a Master Gardener volunteer. Phyllis Fevrier, at the Compost Coaches display, educated visitors about the joy of composting.

Thanks to the RAMGA members who volunteered to meet and greet all who stopped by the RAMGA tents.

*MG Phyllis Fevrier shares information with a young composter*



*Jennifer Olewine (L) and Debbie Desjardins answer questions about becoming a Master Gardener volunteer*

## RAMGA PROJECTS

### JACKSON HOUSE MUSEUM GARDEN

*By Tamara Teaff*

The RAMGA Garden team at the Jackson House Museum work hard to make the Garden as historically accurate as possible. During the 1850s, people used potato scarecrows in their gardens to ward off pesky birds. A potato would be fastened to a pole. Various bird feathers would be inserted into the potato to mimic the appearance of a bird, hopefully scaring birds away.

Pictured is Patti Jansen updating the feathers on the Museum Garden's potato scarecrow.



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## RAMGA Seed Savers

**Now is a great time to start saving seeds from your gardens. Here are some online references from Karen Lyons, Project Leader of the Seed Saving group.**

Saving vegetable seeds. University of Minnesota Extension

<https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/saving-vegetable-seeds#start-with-clean-seeds-and-transplants-823212>

Prairie Moon 2022 Cultural Guide

<https://www.prairiemoon.com/catalogs/Prairie-Moon-2022-Cultural-Guide-final.pdf>

Seed Saving Guide by Seed Savers Exchange

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3lur47khpz03grl/AAAPRgXs7SHy9M2roWp3p2GJa?dl=0&preview=Seed+Saving+Guide+SSE.pdf>

Seed Saving Supplemental Education Guide

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3lur47khpz03grl/AAAPRgXs7SHy9M2roWp3p2GJa?dl=0&preview=2021+Seed+Saving+Supplemental+Education.pdf>

At Home Seed Processing. U tube video by Seed Savers Exchange Heritage Farm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjmMdgHtjOI>

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION

The American Horticultural Society has just published their catalog for their new Lifelong Learning program featuring many celebrated horticulturists and plant professionals. The classes look like they are on Wednesday evenings for the most part. \$15 for hon-members and \$10 for members. I am definitely signing up for several of these. Check it out. And they all count towards RAMGA Continuing Ed. hours.

<https://ahsgardening.org/lifelong-learning/>

As a note – joining AHS is well worth it. Their bi-monthly magazine is excellent and as a bonus, you will be a member of their AHS Reciprocal Admissions Programs (RAP) which gets you in free to more than 345 public garden and arboreta across the county. Boxerwood is a RAP member, so your Boxerwood membership card also gets you free admission to all those gardens.

Friday, September 13, Waynesboro Tree Workshop, Best Western Inn and Conference Center, 109 Apple Tree Lane, Waynesboro. [www.treesvirginia.org](http://www.treesvirginia.org) for more information.

Saturday, September 14, 9:00am – 2:00pm. Open House and Plant Sale at the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, 1293 Tufton Farm, Charlottesville.

Saturday, September 14, 9:00am – 1:00pm. Fall Plant Sale, Central Shenandoah Valley Master Gardener Association, Verona United Methodist Church Parking Lot, 406 Lee Highway, Verona. [www.csvmga.org](http://www.csvmga.org). Cash or check only.

**Saturday, September 14, 10:30am, Piovano Room, Rockbridge Regional Library, “Growing Blueberries”, with Steve Donald of Blueberry Hill on Stillhouse Rd., Lexington. Sponsored by the Rockbridge Area Master Gardeners. RARA Community Building, 350 Spotswood Dr., Lexington.**

**Saturday, September 21, 9:00am – noon, Hopkins Green. Route 11 Native Plant Sale.**

September 20-22. Annual Meeting of the Virginia Native Plant Society, Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Massanetta, VA. Registration opens after September 7<sup>th</sup> and includes one day options.

<https://vnps.org/events/2024-annual-meeting-and-program/>



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