

**MINUTES**  
**Rockbridge Area Master Gardener Association**  
**Board of Directors**  
**August 12, 2009**

The Rockbridge Area Master Gardener Association Board met on Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at the Rockbridge County Extension Office. Barbara Thomas, President, called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

Those in attendance: Barbara Thomas, Kip Brooks, Laura Mattingly, Tracey Smith-Oliver, Nancy Smith, Carol Schoner, David Mims, and Gerri Wenz.

Absent: Ted Jenks, Sherry Smith

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the July RAMGA Board of Directors were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Board members received copies of the Treasurer's Report from Tracey Smith-Oliver, Treasurer. It was accepted pending the yearly audit. The 2009 audit will be conducted in January, 2010.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Kip Brooks, Chair, gave no report. All the continuing education information was in the August newsletter.

**RECORDS**

Carol Schoner, Chair, has letters written to be sent to the inactive members; is lacking addresses for some of them.

**CLASS STEERING**

The Nominating Committee has started calling people, not too successfully, to fill positions for next year. They are working on Chair and Committee to coordinate the 2010 Master Gardener Class.

**NEWSLETTER**

Sherry Smith, Editor, has requested information for the September newsletter early due to vacation plans.

The September meeting will be our annual RAMGA Picnic on Thursday, September 24 at 5:00 PM at McKethen Park.

**PROGRAMS**

Helen Smith and Laura Mattingly, Program Committee, announced plans for the October 29 program on "Remarkable Trees of Virginia". Speaker: Dr. Jeff Kirwan, Professor of Forestry and Extension Specialist, 4H Forestry. It will be held at 7:00 PM at Northern Auditorium in the W&L Library. A book signing by Dr. Kirwan will follow the presentation. The program committee has asked The Bookery to conduct the book signing.

## **WEBSITE**

Gerri Wenz, Chair, collected information for the website. The Community Festival in Lexington will be August 29.

Carol Schoner suggested that in an effort to encourage people to use the RAMGA website, the newsletter should be sent to the membership as a hyperlink to the site, as well as an attachment. In her monthly email delivery, Sherry would let members know that the newsletter is also available by clicking on the link. Gerri will send Sherry the link to use.

Gerri stated that she has received her first inquiry on the website.

The most up-to-date directory and address corrections are on the website.

## **PLANT SALE**

No report

## **PROJECTS**

No report

## **PUBLICITY**

Barbara Thomas and Nominating Committee are still working on a Publicity Chair.

For the October 29<sup>th</sup> RAMGA program and meeting, Laura Mattingly, Program Committee, will take care of publicity for the local newspapers and radio. Helen Smith will send information to Sherry Smith for the newsletter.

## **VMGA**

David Mims, Representative to VMGA, stated that Virginia Cooperative Extension is expecting severe state budget cuts in coming years: 2010—5%; 2011—10%; 2012—15%.

Rockbridge is hosting VMGA on October 10 at the Virginia Horse Center. Mrs. Rowe's is catering lunch. The RAMGA Board approved \$200 fee for use of Virginia Horse Center for this event. Mimi Elrod, Mayor of Lexington, and Barbara Thomas, President RAMGA, will welcome the group. David Mims has arranged for a tour of Boxerwood in the afternoon. David Mims requested volunteers to help with centerpieces, doorprizes and other jobs that day.

In 2010, RAMGA will host VMGA at Natural Bridge. Program will be on the Master Gardeners' youth education through the gardening classes and gardens in elementary schools in Rockbridge County that are taught by the Master Gardeners.

David Mims told us about a project in Columbia, SC that is doing "Michelle Gardens". He is asking Dave Close at VT and South Carolina's counterpart to Dave Close (State Extension Specialist who works with Master Gardeners) to approve this as a master gardener project. The "Michelle Garden" planted by First Lady, Michelle Obama, at the White House this year is the counterpart to the "Victory Gardens". FOCUS---get healthy food into kids.

The 2009 Master Gardener College held at VT in June was a huge success! Eight attended from Rockbridge County. VMGA raised \$4,000 on the Silent Auction. David Mims and RAMGA provided wine

from Rockbridge Vineyard for social hour preceding the Silent Auction. Board voted to reimburse David Mims for wine he purchased.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Every House a Garden—Barbara Thomas reported on the families in Glasgow that she has been teaching and assisting with their vegetable garden this summer. She had many great things to report. The Board would like to hear from the other MGers who volunteered. We decided to ask Peggy Dyson-Cobb to report on Every House a Garden at the picnic in September.

Nominating Committee---are still working; will have report at the September Picnic.

2009 Rockbridge County Fair—

Katherine Smith needs MGers to enter produce next year and more volunteers to help her.

Horticulture Show was a big success. Maureen Becker, Chair, had results in the August newsletter.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

August 29 will be Community Festival. Barbara Rollenhagen and Amy Scheuer will be in charge of the RAMGA booth.

Picnic is September 24 at 5:00 PM at McKethen Park. Covered dish same as last year.

Becky England purchased a new Ortho Book for the Master Gardeners who work at the Reference Desk in the Extension Office. Cost \$149.96. This is a great reference for volunteers answering questions from the public.

Glasgow Community Garden—Barbara Thomas attended Glasgow Town Council on August 11 to hear presentation. They want to establish a community garden. Goal: raise food for the food bank and people who need it. Town will provide water and land. They are requesting assistance from Master Gardeners with site selection, planning, planting and maintaining it. David Mims volunteered to help. Board approved this as a RAMGA Project for members to get credit for their hours.

Habitat at Home DVD—Margaret Fletcher suggested we purchase two copies for the library. This was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Next meeting will be September 9, 2009, 2:00 PM at the Extension Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Smith, Secretary

