

September 2022

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Into the Garden

Leadership Team Letter

Jen Coluzzi, Anita Tuttle

As another hot summer comes to a close, we hope that you've been able to reap the bounty of your garden, catch up on visits with friends and family, and maybe even find some time to rest and recreate!

As the autumn arrives, we are excited to announce that we will once again have in-person programs and general membership meetings. Anita and Jen will be co-chairing the Program Committee and hope to bring in some great speakers that are of interest to master gardeners as well as the general public.

While we have some folks in mind, please email us if you have ideas for speakers or topics. We'd also appreciate any feedback you have about past programs - maybe there's someone you'd like to bring back or a topic that could be revisited!

We are so happy and proud that RAMGA's Plant Clinic team was able to supplement us with virtual programs and clinics through the last year. Led by Vera Winkler and Anne Riffey-Buckner, the team has produced 13 Virtual Plant Clinics that were viewed by over 400 people via Zoom! If you missed any of them, past program videos and slide presentations are available to

view anytime at ramga.org/what-s-happening.



We ask that you please save the dates for our first two scheduled programs: Saturday, October 22 and Saturday, November 12. Both meetings will be at 10:30am in the Piovano Room at the Library in Lexington. We have confirmed that our November speaker will be a 3rd generation horticulturist and enologist who will discuss "Wines & Vines." We will announce our October speaker once confirmed.

Don't forget that RAMGA has an online calendar - one for members only and one for the general public. While we try to make sure it is up to date, please let us know if there are any project meetings or events that need to be added. The members calendar can be viewed at ramga.org/calendar.

Don't forget the Saturday, September 17th RAMGA Potluck Picnic at the Paxton Pavilion, Glen Maury Park at 1:30pm.

A New Policy for RAMGA from the Invasive Species Education and Management Team

Our chapter of Master Gardeners is a great group of people for many reasons. One of the reasons is that we have thoroughly embraced the VCE mission of land stewardship. One of the early goals of the MG program was “The preservation of wildflowers in Virginia.” In March of 2022, RAMGA codified its preservation role by approving the following:

It is the policy of RAMGA that we will not:

- **sell any species on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Invasive Plant Species List or on the Blandy State Arboretum’s Invasive Species List**
- **plant any such species at any of our project sites or jointly managed sites**
- **suggest in any of our documents that growing or propagating these species is to be encouraged**

RAMGA will:

- **Before distributing VCE materials, review such materials for the inclusion of these invasive species and redact or include an explanatory statement that these are on the State Invasive Species lists and make VCE aware of these inadvertent inclusions.**
- **Increase educational opportunities to explain the ecological danger and downside of invasive species in the landscape, and what plant material choices are better and WHY**

This policy is something all RAMGA members should be aware of, especially project leaders. We are sure no member would want to inadvertently plant or encourage the planting of an invasive species that crowds out habitat for our beneficial native flora. These links will take you to the lists of plants not to grow or promote [VA DCR list of invasives](#) and [State Arboretum list of invasives](#).

RAMGA’s Invasive Species Team helps clear public lands of invasive plant species and provides homesite visits to help landowners identify what invasives are on their property and options for managing them. If you have concerns about what might be growing on your property let us know. And we hope you can join us on a public trails work day.

NEW MASTER GARDENERS AT WORK...

By Tamara Teaff

Congratulations to our New Masters Gardeners!

Six members of the Class of 2022 have achieved 50 volunteer hours to become certified Master Gardener Volunteers. Watch for more names and photos in future issue of the newsletter. Following are photos of our newest RAMGA members serving at a volunteer project.



Becky Herndon harvesting produce from the Natural Bridge School Garden on a day when she was substitute teaching



Beverly Loring participating in "Death to Invasives" at Brushy Hills



Pascale Couturier assisting at the Boxerwood demonstration garden

Note: her baby is due in September!



Bugs Utsey keeping the pollinator demonstration garden looking good for Boxerwood visitors



Patti Janson working at the historical garden at the Jackson House Museum



Pam Wercinski tackling weeds at the Natural Bridge School Garden



Vera Winkler inspects the butterfly weed raffle display, sponsored by the Plant Clinic



Newly trained RAMGA volunteers Pam Wercinski and Mary Katherine Lawrence assist Vera Winkler in booth setup

Community Festival Highlights “Save the Monarchs”

Vicki Langdon and Anita Tuttle are ready to educate Community Festival visitors in all things horticultural



RAMGA FYI...

Herb Guild: Are you interested in growing herbs or using more herbs in cooking? Consider joining the Valley of Virginia Herb Guild. Many of your fellow MGs are a part of this organization. Numbers dropped

off during Covid and now that we are meeting regularly again, we are actively recruiting. Meetings run from September to June on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. VOVHG members maintain the Herb Garden on Varner Lane. We usually have one study herb a year, but this year we are expanding to the study of native herbs. There are lots more native herbs than you might think, many used medicinally by indigenous people throughout the centuries. Contact Faith if you are interested.

RAMGA Hours: Please remember to keep your volunteer and CEU hours up to date. It is much easier to do them on a regular basis rather than waiting until the end of the year!

Invasives take a hit at Natural Bridge State Park, August 25th



From Left: Jan Smith, Karen Lyons, Jenny Childress, Sandy Schaufler, Peggy Agnor, Bugs Utsey, Kaila Holmes, Jen Coluzzi, Nancy Evans, and Anita Tuttle. Not pictured: Marina Pratt and Sharron Burgess

Master Gardeners pulled English ivy from the area around the large dead white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*). We left a big empty space between the creek's retaining wall and the stairs to the Bridge. We lost count of the bags...a dozen plus. Unfortunately, Anita seriously angered some yellow jackets and had a dramatic park exit.

PROJECT NEWS...

Local Garden Club Visits RAMGA Historical Garden

By Tamara Teaff

On August 18, members of the Lexington Garden Club visited the Jackson House Museum. Master Gardener volunteer, Sharron Burgess, gave a fascinating presentation on what is being grown and what the Jacksons may have done with their harvests. According to his wife, Mary Anna Morrison Jackson, Thomas Jackson was an avid gardener. To quote from her memoir: "He did it rather scientifically."

Thanks to our RAMGA volunteers, the Museum Garden is historically reflective of the typical 1850's kitchen garden.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Sunday, September 4, 9:00am, Pen Park Identification Tree Walk, sponsored by the Charlottesville Tree Stewards. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pen-park-tree-identification-walk-general-public-only-tickets-394754931627>

Saturday, September 10, 9:00am – 2:00pm. Teas and Trees Open House, Monticello's Tufton Farm – Fall plant sale, tea tasting, garden tours, 1293 Tufton Farm, Charlottesville. <https://www.monticello.org/exhibits-events/calendar-of-events/details/teas-and-trees-open-house/2022-09-10/>

Friday, September 16, Waynesboro Tree Workshop, “Reveling in the Magnificence of Trees”, Best Western Inn and Conference Center, 109 Apple Tree Lane, Waynesboro. Master Gardener fee: \$55.

www.treesvirginia.org

Saturday, September 17, 10am. Early Shrub Garden Tour in Lynchburg, Old City Cemetary, 401 Taylor St., Lynchburg. \$10 fee. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earley-shrub-garden-tour-tickets-350495921737>

Saturday, September 17, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, “Garden Basics: The Fall Vegetable Garden, presented by the Piedmont Master Gardeners, Trinity Episcopal Church, 1118 Preston Ave., Charlottesville. Free. RSVP here: <https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/events/garden-basics-the-fall-vegetable-garden/#rsvp-now>

Saturday, September 17, 9:00am – 5:00pm. Annual Meeting of the Virginia Native Plant Society, Natural Bridge Hotel and Conference Center. The day includes speakers, lunch, and field trips. \$50/member, \$80/non-member.

For more information: <https://vnps.org/events/2022-annual-meeting/>

Tuesday, October 18, 11:30am – 1:00pm. Blue Ridge Prism presents webinar “Homegrown National Park” with Doug Tallamy. www.blueridgeprism.org Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blue-ridge-prism-presents-doug-tallamy-zoom-registration-399576472987>

BOOK REVIEW

By Tamara Teaff

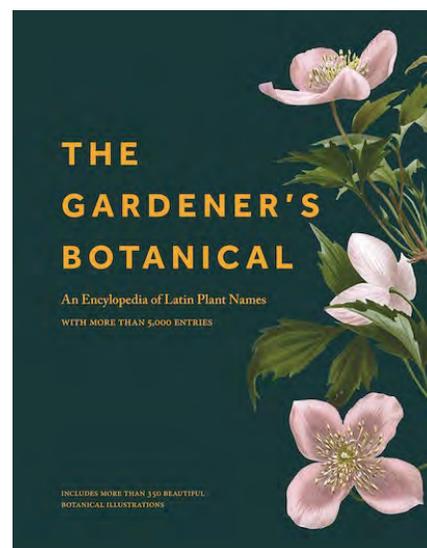
The Gardener’s Botanical: An Encyclopedia of Latin Plant Names written by Ross Bayton. Princeton University Press. 2020

Knowing the names of the plants that you are growing allows you to share what you are cultivating with others. When I first met RAMGA members, I was impressed by their ability to not only identify plants but also to share the Latin names. Why the need for the Latin? I studied two years of Latin in high school but that was no help with the Latin plant names. For me, English names were much easier to remember. Then, I took the Master Gardener class and learned about the history of those mysterious Latin names.

The use of botanical Latin dates to a plan devised by Swedish botanist, Carolus Linnaeus, in 1753. Plants grow all over the world, and the common names vary from location to location. For example, bluebells can be found in the United States, Scotland, England, and Australia. The use of Latin names gives scientists,

gardeners, and growers the ability to communicate about plants. Plant people, who speak different languages, can have a common ID language when communicating about plants though Linnaeus' plan.

In the age of ID apps for your phone, the need for a book such as this one may not be necessary. To argue, this book is just too beautiful not to have in your personal gardening library. There are more than five thousand entries with over three hundred color botanical illustrations. You may search by the Latin name. However, there is a valuable alphabetical index of common names. Each entry supplies a pronunciation guide (extremely helpful), definition, example of the plant, and the etymology or origin of the name. I learned that *virginicus* is descriptive of a plant found in its native habitat. This is not a book to be stored on a bookshelf. It needs to be out on a table and handy. It begs to be used so the owner can practice, practice, practice those Latin plant names. Practice to communicate and impress.



The author is a horticulturalist and freelance editor. You can meet the author in this YouTube video, *The Gardener's Botanical*. Fair warning: it is an hour in length. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzStiQYYPE>

Faith's Garden Notes...

My Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*) is just about to flower! I look forward to this plant every year about this time. Unfortunately, it is not hardy for us, and I must replant it every year. Cuttings root easily though, but because my greenhouse is unheated, I have trouble overwintering the cuttings in the house. I'll have to try again this year because this is one plant I would never do without! Every visitor to my garden in the fall asks about this plant.

This salvia is a shrubby tender perennial that gets to be 3-4' tall here in Rockbridge County. In zones 8-10 it is perennial and often grows to 6'. The bicolor flowers are a gorgeous intense purple and white with a fuzzy texture like old-fashioned flocked wallpaper on arching terminal spikes. The foliage is grey green on square stems. The plant does best in full sun although it can take a bit of shade. The plant won't be as tall, however, in partial shade. 'Santa Barbara' is a shorter cultivar. Bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies adore this plant.

Salvia leucantha can be difficult to find, but the Herbery on Decatur Rd. in Fairfield usually has it, plus we often sell it at our Herb Guild sale the first Saturday in May.



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