

RAMGA BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2025

Officers Present:

President: Jan Smith
Vice President: Laurie Bassi
Co-Secretaries: Shana Shutler - absent
Barbara Walker
Co-Treasurers: Karen Lyons
Natalie Garvis - absent
Co-VMGA Representatives: Anita Tuttle
Karen Carleton - absent

Members Present:

Tamara Teaff, Bob Kovach, Marybeth Sharkey, Becky Herndon, Peggy Agnor, Mackenzie Brooks, Phyllis Fevrier, Natalie Stevens, Mackenzie Brooks

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Review of the Minutes: *Motion: The Board approved the minutes of the September 9, 2025 Board meeting.*

Discussion:

Thank-you notes: Jan reported that RAMGA had received a thank-you note from Jennifer Olewine's mother-in-law for the flowers provided for Jennifer's memorial service. We also got a note from the Rockbridge Regional Library thanking RAMGA for its donation to the library.

Virginia Master Gardeners Association request: RAMGA received a request for a donation from the Master Gardeners Association. Anita explained that the request was for a sponsorship (i.e. advertising) rather than a donation toward scholarships to Master Gardeners College. She recommended that if we want to make a donation, it should be to the scholarship fund. We can also apply to VMGA for a scholarship for one of our members. The MG College will be held next June 26-28 in Glen Allen, VA. Jan will send out information on MG College to our membership to see if anyone wants to attend.

City of Glasgow Project: The City of Glasgow has gotten a grant to plant habitat corridor gardens in front of city buildings. RAMGA members who want to volunteer for this effort can get volunteer hours under the Ecological Stewardship project.

Emerita: Jan reported that Molly Delappe has requested to go emeritus. There was no objection from the Board. Jan will contact Tom Stanley for approval.

Boxerwood: Phyllis reported that the Boxerwood project is being phased out due to lack of participation. The group will meet monthly after the end of the year. They want to invite the Invasive Species Education group to join in to identify and remove invasive plants on the property. If that can be arranged, the Boxerwood volunteers would be folded into the Invasive Species project.

Buena Vista Visitors Center: Jan explained that this project is in flux because the current Visitors Center location is closing. It will be moving to a new location on 21st Street, but that location is only suitable for container gardening. The RAMGA group has been offered space in the new BV Innovation Center. Possible projects include McCormack Mill, Rockbridge High School, or the BV Community Garden.

Class Training: Recruiting for the 2026 class is being finalized. They have interviewed 13 people, all of whom are strong candidates, and have one student from last year's class for a total of 14. They are awaiting confirmation of interest from these recruits, and need to have background checks completed. There are three applicants on the wait list. Students will be shown how to do a soil test at their orientation session, and will have their results back in time for the Soil Lab. Nine of the 10 students in this year's class are now Master Gardener Volunteers.

Treasurer's Report: Karen reported that this month's financial report is available on Drive. The 2026 budget needs to be approved by the Board in January. Laurie explained that our grant program has been advertised in the News-Gazette and online.

Officers: Anita mentioned that the VMGA representative slot needs to be filled for a 2-year term starting in 2026. She has done it for a number of years and wants to step down. She will draft in bullet form the responsibilities of the position so a new rep can

be recruited. Tom Stanley will step into Bob Kovachs' Better Impact duties.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Walker and Shana Shutler