



Gardener's Gossip

the newsletter of the Central Vermont Master Gardeners

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Big Shoes to Fill: Report from November Planning Meeting

The CVT MG Chapter held its annual planning meeting on November 5 at the Berlin Extension office with about 15 members attending. After a wonderful potluck supper, the meeting was facilitated by Erica Garfin who did her best to keep discussions on track. Here are some of the highlights from the meeting.

✿ **Empty Shoes!** Georgia Valentine and Jane Lendway who have been dedicated and capable co-chairs for 3 years have officially stepped down, though they will continue to be active as Steering Committee members. However, no one has stepped forward to fill their shoes.

During the past year the Steering Committee has been restructured to take on many management tasks, but the Chair and Co-Chair (or "vice chair") are the mortar that holds it together. The Steering Committee will continue to shoulder

many of the responsibilities, but we need someone to head the ship. If you (or you and a friend) would be willing to take the helm for a year or two, now is the time to step forward. We would hate to see a dynamic chapter falter for lack of an official chair. Contact Georgia to learn what this entails: gvalentine@MyFairPoint.net

✿ A discussion about the purpose of the plant sale generated lively participation. We are making some money, but why? The answer to this question helps guide the Plant Sale Committee decisions about pricing and mark-downs. These funds allow us to offer scholarships for the MG class as well as support public education activities and underwrite speaker fees. At the same time, high quality, low cost plants help spread gardening to a wide spectrum of people and publicize the program and chapter. Further, the

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Amaryllis Aftercare

by Jane Lendway

In 2008, I picked up amaryllis bulbs on sale after Christmas. I had always loved their magical, gorgeous blooms. With these bulbs and a few I've nursed along for 8 or 10 years, I had a display of 18 amaryllis plants, many with double or triple stalks from December to April! I brought them all into bloom last year, too.

It is not difficult to bring amaryllis bulbs back into bloom each year. This article will describe caring for amaryllis once their blooms have faded. There are good books and online information about amaryllis history, year-round

care and cultivation. I especially recommend Amaryllis by Starr Ockenga, which is in the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier.

Buy Big Bulbs

The largest bulbs produce the most and the largest blossoms. If you can afford the larger bulb, buy it. It's probably better than two smaller ones. However, all size bulbs will produce beautiful flowers. Follow the directions that come with the bulb whether it is loose and needs to be planted, or it comes pre-planted. Water the plant once; never let it stand in water as the roots will

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