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The Monthly AGC 'Dirt'

February 2022

The board passed a motion regarding Covid protocol for all indoor club gatherings including General Meetings, Hort Meetings, Board Meetings and Floral Design. All attendees must wear masks. There will be no refreshments served allowing us to remain masked throughout. If you are not vaccinated, please do not attend.

February 1st Both the General Meeting and the program, *Foliage and Focal Point*, will be Zoomed.

Link to Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81378724275?pwd=bWpUMXRqQmZuSEIUREdzS3FOUjUrZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 7872 4275

Passcode: 739789

The Business Meeting will begin at 9:45 AM followed by the Program at 11 AM. The program is presented by Karen Chapman. Ms. Chapman was born in England, and grew up with a trowel in her hand.

After moving to the Pacific Northwest in 1996 she joined one of the leading garden nurseries as a garden plant specialist. Helping hundreds of customers create beautiful combinations of plants to enhance their outdoor living spaces was always a delight. Ten years later she established **Le jardinet** in order to provide a service that takes all the time, stress and guesswork out of the design process for you.

In the recent past she has taught container gardening at Edmonds Community College, and continue to teach both container and landscape design in occasional workshops and events as well offering a range of online learning opportunities .

With excellent reviews on the Great Garden Speakers website, she frequently gives presentations at flower & garden shows, trade conferences, horticultural organizations, nurseries, and garden clubs, and now extend her passion for sharing great gardens by leading garden tours both in the United States and England. When she's not teaching garden design or talking about it she is usually *writing* about it, and her articles and designs have been featured in many national gardening publications including *Fine Gardening*, *Country Gardens*, *Sunset*, and *Garden Design*. She has co-authored two books with Christina Salwitz: the award winning **Fine Foliage** (*St. Lynn's Press*, 2013) and the highly acclaimed **Gardening with Foliage First** (*Timber Press*, 2017), while her latest book **Deer-Resistant Design** has just been released (*Timber Press*, 2019).

Specializing in creating artistic plant combinations with a four season foliage framework, functional outdoor living spaces and deer resistant, summer-dry designs, it would give her great pleasure to help you create your perfect *jardinet* and share her love of gardening with you.

Program: Foliage and Focal Points, Ideas for gardens + budgets of all sizes.



Gardens without focus lack interest. No matter how beautiful the overall plant palette is, if there isn't somewhere for the eye to pause it can appear a jumble of color and textures – rather like a crazy quilt.

Creating vignettes and focal points allows us to design a scene that captures our attention and invites us to linger.

In this presentation, award-winning designer and author Karen Chapman will help you gain an understanding of where to place focal points within the landscape. With a wealth of inspirational examples gleaned from her travels as well as her three [books](#) , she will then show you how to incorporate sculpture, water features, structures, and other elements strategically, as well as the importance of foliage in the overall composition.

With ideas for gardens and budgets of all sizes you will be ready to look at your landscape with fresh eyes.

February 8th Horticulture Study Group 9 AM

Hydroponic Gardening. Not only is the program presented by Cathy Fochtman but it is also at her house, 15 Wright Terrace. Considering the incline of Wright Terrace and the weather, the program may be Zoomed. Stay tuned.

February 22nd Board Meeting at 9 AM will be Zoomed

February 22nd Annual Reports Due

The annual “Pink Sheet” will be going out along with the February edition of the *Dirt!*

This form is “pink” in name only for it used to be printed on pink paper years ago. It is a 3 in 1 form consisting of (1) an opportunity to pay your dues, (2) choose the *Community Service* group you would like to work on and (3) your opportunity to choose when you would like to serve on the *Hospitality Committee*.

Unless you have petitioned the board to change your membership status, it should be the same as indicated in the '21-'22 yearbook.

Please fill out the “Pink Form” and send it along with your check for your '22-'23 AGC dues to Rheta ASAP.

The plant sale got a \$1300 bonus...the leftovers from the Annual Luncheon went into the “plant sale other” category. The Annual Luncheon was less expensive, not as many people showed, and only a couple wanted a refund of either the difference or the whole amount.

Why not put these cold winter days to good use by going through all those seed catalogues that have been stacking up in your magazine rack? Think about what new variety's seeds you can plant now for “just in time” seedlings to be planted in your garden this spring.



Seed Starting

Put your windowsills to work for you.



Favorite Shrubs for Winter & Spring

The winter landscape can be a bit dull, with expanses of gray and white as far as the eye can see. Enliven the view in your yard by planting shrubs that create interest during winter and early spring. These fuss-free workhorses add striking color to the winter landscape just when our eyes need it the most. The fiery red or yellow branches of Red or Yellow Twig Dogwoods (*Cornus*), the bright fruits of Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), and in late winter, the small, firecracker-like flowers of Witch Hazel all transform the view. In early spring, just as early bulbs begin to bloom, Forsythia and evergreen *Andromeda* begin flowering followed by the blossoms of fragrant Lilacs and evergreen Rhododendrons.



Cathy Fochtman's cobalt blue bottle is the perfect tie in to her floral arrangement greeting patrons as the checkout desk at the Acton Memorial Library. Certainly enliven those gray January days.



Rheta Roeber sent in this photo of an "Air house" just hanging in the field at Tower Hill on December 23rd.

Were the lights in your neighborhood this spectacular?

Concord Carlisle Adult and Community Education,
(ace@concordps.org, www.concordcarlisleace.org 978-318-1432) are offering the following garden oriented classes:

Introduction to Organic Gardening
Design and Plan Your Vegetable Garden
Seed Starting Indoors