



AGG is a member of the
California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Atherton Garden Guild
Since 1966

Garden Gate
November 2025

AGG
Meeting
November 3

Jennings Pavilion
Holbrook Palmer Park



Calendar

Calendar Meetings

Board Meetings: 9:00 am
Social: 9:30 am
Meetings: 10:00 am
Meetings are on Mondays unless otherwise noted

November

Monday, November 3

Jennings Pavilion
Holbrook Palmer Park

Monday, November 17

Floral Demonstration
Atherton Library
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

December

Monday, December 8

Holiday Luncheon
Suzanne Legallet's home

Tuesday, December 9

Floral Demonstration
Atherton Library
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

January

Monday, January 5

Atherton Town Center
History Room

February

Monday, February 2

Atherton Town Center
History Room

Wednesday, February 4

Floral Demonstration
Atherton Library
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

March

Monday, March 2

Atherton Town Center
History Room

Tuesday, March 10

Floral Demonstration
Atherton Library
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

April

Monday, April 6

Jennings Pavilion
Holbrook Palmer Park

May

Monday, May 4

Suzanne Legallet
88 Selby Lane, Atherton

Wednesday, May 13

Garden Tour

June

Monday, June 1

Patti Spezzaferro's home
130 Selby Lane, Atherton

AGG Meeting

November 3

Atherton Town Center

Frank Niccoli

Pest Management & the Environment



Frank Niccoli, retired Program Director of the Department of Environmental Horticulture, Biological and Health Sciences at Foothill College has been a gardener for over 60 years. He was seven when his grandmother taught him the magic in seeds.

When teaching at Foothill College, he wrote the curriculum which included Turf Management,

Ground Cover and Vines, Shrubs, California Natives, Landscape Lighting, Integrated Pest Management, Sustainable Integrated Pest Management, and Grasses, Bamboos, and Palms. The renovation of "Native Hill," the demonstration garden at Foothill College was led by Frank Niccoli. It showcases the beauty and benefits of using California native plants.

His company, "The Village Gardener," has won 3 Sweepstakes Awards in addition to winning numerous First place and Achievement Awards for Construction and Maintenance. He is a member of and has served for 3 years on the Board for the Association of Professional Landscape Designers and he was the past president of the founding chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association.

November Library Flowers

Deliver flowers early Monday and pick up late Sunday.

Holidays and closed dates are listed each month.

Library closures are November 11, Veterans Day, November 26-27 Thanksgiving

3	Nyna Dolby	17	Sally Brudos
10	Sue Connelly	24	Julie Douglass



November Hospitality

Chair Erika Enos

Suzanne Van Ness • Bing Hai

AGG Meeting Location Changes

November 3: Jennings Pavilion, Holbrook Palmer Park

April 6: Jennings Pavilion, Holbrook Palmer Park

President's Letter



After our fun day at Turbow Farms in Los Altos, I got thinking about all the years so many of us spent in the gardens of Filoli. I know I wrote about Lucy Tolmach last month, but I enjoyed so many hours in the Filoli gardens that I thought I'd look up more about her via the internet. I found a fun conversation posted on the Pacific Horticulture website between Lucy and Molly Barker, who was also a Filoli intern and gardener who has gone on to manage the Casa del Herrero's Moorish gardens in Santa Barbara. I remember meeting Molly during the early years I was at Filoli.

In the interview, Lucy expresses a hope for the future of horticulture that I share:

"I have to have hope that some people will realize that their thumbs are green; that feeling and that relationship with plants is always going to be there. I've known many a gardener that never went through the fancy training yet they could tell when a plant was unhappy or happy. They had an artistic sense and knew how to prune, even though they never read the pruning books. It's in our blood. So that gives me hope. We can't help ourselves. We're gonna be gardeners."

It was clear at Turbow Farms that Charmaine had green thumbs with gardening in her blood! She couldn't help herself! She had to turn her patch of earth into a productive, diverse garden. I think each of us has a little gardening in our blood, too, or we wouldn't be part of AGG! I know I haven't been formally trained in gardening, but am learning more and more as I spend time with other gardeners. My garden is such an over-grown spot, but with a good basic layout of hardscape and mature trees that I don't really mind its overgrown condition. It provides lots of foliage for flower arranging, too, which is my passion!

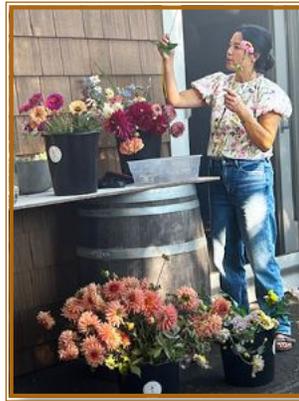
Having my daughter able to join me, spur-of-the-moment, at the Bay Ocean District Garden Club quarterly meeting last month also gave me a glimmer of hope for the future of gardens at least in my family. My daughter had fun taking home cuttings of plants with the hopes of getting them to grow in her yard. I think her presence at the meeting also gave the Bay Ocean officers some hope too that even with only a few members present, it's still fun to play with plants and see someone starting to catch the gardening "bug." (My daughter left the garden to me, growing up, not wanting to do much with what she considered to be my talents. She always wanted to differentiate herself from me!) I'm grateful to be part of this group of talented people who share a love of growing things!

I am looking forward to learning about BUGS at November's meeting at Holbrook Palmer Pavilion. Gaining more understanding of the tiny creatures in my yard will be very helpful to me and to my garden! It will also be nice to be so close to the rose garden we sponsored and maintain to see first-hand the improvements we are considering. Thank you Katy and Mimi for organizing great programs for us!

Happy Thanksgiving



October Meeting/Field Trip



October Meeting/Field Trip



Horticulture Page

November Horticulture

by Patti Spezzaferro

November Master Gardener's Checklist

- Weather permitting, many of the October garden activities can continue into November.
- There's still time for fall planting of shrubs, trees, and perennials before the winter rains arrive (we hope!) Winter rains will help the new plantings to establish sound root systems.
- Cool-season vegetable seedlings can be planted, such as cabbage, kale, chard, and spinach. Also, carrots may be seeded now.
- Remove dead or diseased limbs from trees and shrubs.
- If you are storing your garden tools for the winter, first give them a thorough cleaning. Rub with alcohol after each use to prevent the spread of disease. Prevent rust with a light coating of lubricant grease (such as lithium grease). Shovels and saws may be stored in a bucket of sand with a bit of oil (5 parts sand to 1 part oil).
- Control slugs and snails with an organic, pet/animal- and food-safe slug bait.

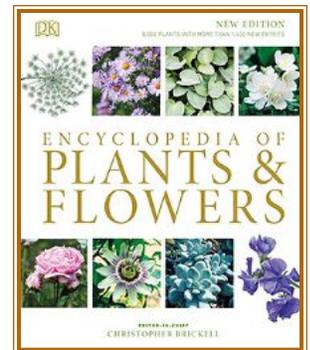
Book of the Month

Encyclopedia of Plants & Flowers

by Christopher Brickell

Christopher Brickell, renowned gardener, botanist and former director of horticulture of the Royal Horticultural Society, together with a team of more than 15 top horticultural specialists created a comprehensive yet easy-to-use informative planting guide Here is what is inside:

- A photographic catalog of 4,000 plants and flowers grouped by type, size, and then color, allowing readers to browse and find the best plants for their garden.
- * A detailed "Plant Dictionary" describes more than 8,000 species and varieties, and their ideal growing conditions.
- A "Plant Selector" section lists ideal plants for particular growing condition,, like coastal areas, shady spots and different soil types.
- Fully updated text from garden plant specialists, with more than 1,380 new plants added, including the latest and most popular cultivars.



Ever Wonder What to do With Your Unused Pots?

*Just want to share some info on recycling nursery pots as the topic came up on Monday, October 6th meeting.
I did some digging and this is what I found out.*

These garden centers recycle plastic pots:

- Home Depot - accepts any size pots: (<https://corporate.homedepot.com/news/sustainability/plant-it-again-plant-pot-recycling-program>)
- Lowe's - accepts any size pots and trays (<https://corporate.lowes.com/newsroom/stories/fresh-thinking/are-you-wishcycler>)
- Half Moon Bay Nursery in Half Moon Bay - 1 gallon and larger
- Wegman's Nursery in Redwood City - 5 gallon and larger

Municipal Recycling Stations:

Recology San Francisco accepts all plastic pots and flats placed in the recycle bin. Recology San Mateo County does not accept plastic pots.

Who's in the Garden

Who's in the garden

Patti Spezzaferro talks to Kathy Ladra about what inspires her, what keeps her creating beautiful floral arrangements, and much more.



Which three historical or present floral arrangers would you invite to your dinner party?

Capability Brown, Virginia Farewell, Ann Patrick, and her husband, Rob - although not all at the same time.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear would be losing all our commercial flower growers.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

My idea of perfect happiness is having a loving family, good friends, good health, and enough funds to be comfortable — all of which I currently possess. I feel very lucky and fortunate.

What have you learned recently about floral arranging that you wish to share?

Just to keep practicing and learning.

What is your favorite floral arrangement and gardening product?

Flower preservative is used both in the water and as a spray for arrangements. I do love planting and harvesting tomatoes from the garden; however, most of my crop goes to the critters in my garden: snails, squirrels, roof rats, raccoons, voles, and rabbits. I have made mesh bags to tie around the tomatoes to deter the creatures, but they only work to some extent.

What inspires you to create floral arrangements?

I love color, design, and texture. It brings such visual joy to yourself and others. Flowers are very temporary, so if it is not your best work, it disappears quickly and you have not risked much.

A motto by which you live by while gardening?

Keep going.

What is your greatest extravagance?

My greatest extravagance, besides traveling, was the greenhouse my husband and I built from a kit. We had a mason build the stone base, and then we put together the rest.

What does AGG mean to you?

I love the knowledge I gain from the speakers and the ability to be in the company of so many wonderful and talented women.

Member Arrangements Made from Flowers Picked at Turbow Farms



Katy McCormick



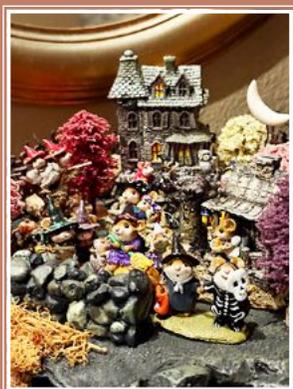
Rita Wachhorst



Member Page



Halloween Decor by Suzanne Legallet



Halloween Decor
by Mimi Hillyard



Open Studios in Capitola
"This artist had a beautiful terraced
garden rising from the creek's shore."
Terri Bailard



Fall
Cork Wreath
& Arrangement
by
Suellen Rottiers

Library Floral Demonstration



Atherton Garden Guild

A MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB, INC.

PRESENTS

Fall Arrangements

Date: November 17th, 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Atherton Town Center – History Room, next to the Library



Fall is a time for pumpkins and flowers, table arrangements for Thanksgiving, using all the warm colors that depicts this time of the year. Come join our talented and creative presenters, as they demonstrate what is possible.

Join Floral Designers **Nyna Dolby** and **Carol Selig**

Nyna Dolby's long experience at Filoli allowed her to arrange flowers for weddings, churches, garden clubs, and special events. Over the years, her designs have been featured on the website "Style Me Pretty" and in local newspapers. She presented at the SF Fine Arts Museum "Bouquets to Art," where she is a monthly volunteer arranger. Nyna also arranges at Palo Alto's Gamble Garden.

Carol Selig is a floral designer presently making arrangements for the DeYoung and Legion of Honor Museums. She was part of the Filoli Gardens Flower Design team and has been active in providing flowers for weddings, theatre openings, and fundraisers.



The Atherton Garden Guild
PO Box 685
Menlo Park, CA 94025

AGG Newsletter

November 2025

OFFICERS 2025 - 2026

President:	Nyna Dolby
1st Vice President:	Mimi Hillyard
<i>Programs</i>	Katy McCormick
2nd Vice President:	Dana Bonham
<i>Membership</i>	
Treasurer:	Katie Blommer
Recording Secretary:	Bing Hai
Corresponding Secretary:	Karen Handal
Historian:	Pam Smith
<i>Photography</i>	Di Bryan
Parliamentarian:	Patti Spezzaferro
Newsletter:	Martha Woollomes
Website/Technology:	Carrie Drake

CONTRIBUTORS

Nyna Dolby, Mimi Hillyard,
Kathy Ladra, Suzanne Legallet,
Katy McCormick, Karen Olson,
Patti Spezzaferro, Suellen Rottiers,
Rita Wachhorst, Martha Woollomes

PROOFREADERS

Nyna Dolby, Kasey Hansen,
Pam Smith, Patti Spezzaferro

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2025/2026

Atherton Library Flowers: Nancy Hardesty
Bouquets to Books: Chair Patty Leugers • Co-Chair Julie Gosler
Committee: Mimi Hillyard, Suzanne Legallet, Carol Selig, Patti Spezzaferro
Donations: Chair Carrie Drake
Committee: Sue Matthews, Mary Tan
Flower Demonstrations: Suellen Rottiers
Garden Tour: Chair Carrie Drake • Co-Chair Suzanne Legallet
Committee: Julie Douglass, Julie Gosler, Carol Selig, Suellen Rottiers, Martha Woollomes
Holbrook Palmer Rose Garden: Chair Patty Leugers • Co-Chair Pam McGraw
Holiday Luncheon: Chair Suzanne Legallet
Committee: Di Bryan, Julie Douglass, Karen Handal, Mimi Hillyard, Patty Leugers, Katy McCormick
Horticulture: Patti Spezzaferro
Hospitality/Refreshments: Chair Carol Selig
June Luncheon: Chair Patti Spezzaferro
Committee: Terri Bailard, Julie Douglass, Nancy Hardesty, Mimi Hillyard, Suellen Rottiers, Joan Sanders
Nominating: Chair Nan Ray
Committee: Kasey Hansen, Suzanne Legallet
Yearbook/Roster: Chair Terri Bailard



Birthdays

November Birthday Flower *Chrysanthemum*

loyalty, longevity, optimism, and joy

- 5 Kasey Hansen
- 7 Maxine Bonnette
- 10 Karlene Elder
- 12 Erika Enos
- 13 Mary Rita McKay
- 20 Judy Blommer
- 26 Barbara Peyton