



ATHERTON GARDEN GUILD

Since 1966

Newsletter

April 2024

## Calendar

### Meetings

Board Meetings: 9: 00 am

Social: 9: 30 am

Meetings: 10: 00 am

*Meetings are on Mondays  
unless otherwise noted*

#### April 1

Garden in Portola Valley  
875 Westridge Drive,  
Portola Valley  
Tour

#### May 6

Atherton Town Center  
Dinkelspiel Ln. & Ashfield Rd.  
Atherton  
Tour new Town Center

#### May 15

AGG Garden Tour  
"Welcome to My Garden"  
tour of 4 Private Gardens  
12:30 pm to 4:30 pm

#### June 3

Rita Wachhorst  
298 Park Lane  
Atherton  
June Luncheon

*Mark Your Calendars*

AGG Garden Tour  
"Welcome to My Garden"

May 15, 2024

12:30 pm to 4:30 pm

# AGG Meeting April 1



**Portola Valley  
Garden Tour  
875 Westwood Drive**

# President's Message



*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill"*

Churchill's quote points to giving to others as a way of finding fulfillment and purpose. While our jobs and careers can give us financial security, it's through our actions of generosity, kindness, and service that we can truly make a positive impact on others and bring meaning to our lives.

Under the guidance of past presidents Joan Sanders and Julie Douglass, AGG started a Forget-Me-Not fund whereby members can donate to AGG to honor their friends, sponsors, and mentors. It's a beautiful way to thank someone special who made a difference. Honorees to the Forget-Me-Not fund will be published in the Atherton Garden newsletter, and an honorable mention will be made at the general meetings. This donation allows the Atherton Garden Guild to get great speakers and support garden-related organizations in the Bay Area. What an excellent opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way. It's a win-win for all.

Come and enjoy Suzanne Legallet and Karen Handal's excellent program on April 1st, when Bee Brown opens her gorgeous garden to us. Bee is an enthusiastic rhododendron gardener who has created the most beautiful garden setting in Portola Valley. The large garden includes citrus, roses, succulents, vegetables, and herbs. Be prepared to walk on uneven paths while you enjoy the view of Windy Hill.

*Happy Gardening, Patti*

Forget-Me-Not, *Myosotis scorpioides*, is derived from the Greek words mys, meaning 'mouse,' and ous, meaning 'ear.' It refers to the shape of the flower petal, which has a rounded shape with a rounded yellow notch in the center. This plant displays clouds of tiny sky-blue flowers with yellow centers perched on the tip of hairy stems that grow from four inches to a foot long. This perennial, partial sun lover self-seeds and blooms for months. It makes a great filler.



*You are Invited*

## *Atherton Garden Guild Garden Tour*

**May 15, 2024**

*Welcome to My Garden*

Enjoy touring four lovely gardens the afternoon of

**Wednesday, May 15**

**12:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

*This first-time private tour will feature the "Gardener's Garden"*

**Tickets are \$40 each**

**RSVP with check sent to:**

**Atherton Garden Guild**

**288 Atherton Avenue, Atherton CA 94027**

**or through: [AthertonGardenTour.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/atherton-garden-tour)**

**If paying by check, please include your email  
so that a receipt can be sent to you.**

**The monies raised will be used for the Atherton Garden Guild Civic Donation Fund**

# April Program

## AGG April Tour 2024

by Suzanne Legallet



We are so fortunate to be visiting Bee and Paul's beautiful garden at 875 Westridge Drive, Portola Valley.

Please follow the signage to enter the house. Refreshments will be served on the patio, and we will have a short business meeting before we explore the garden. Suzanne will give an update on the Atherton Garden Tour. The view of Windy Hill and the Santa Cruz Mountain range will take your breath away.

Bee and Paul are rhododendron enthusiasts with a multitude of rhodies, camellias, azaleas and a host of shade plants. We will be strolling under and along the rhododendrons along stone, hard packed paths and lawn.

In the sunny area, roses proliferate, including the four large Buff Beauty rose trees and iris, herbs and helleborus. Specialized plants are cacti, vireya rhododendrons, blood orange trees, heritage blue oak trees, vines, in addition to secret sitting areas. *There are several elevations and a variety of surfaces in the garden: dirt paths, stones, gravel, steps, slopes.*

They have developed this garden over 25 years, building up the soil with wood chip mulch applied annually and use very little fertilizer.

Rosie, the Corgi, enjoys the rope swing as we walk over to the citrus garden and wine tasting tables which are outside the barn. Paul uses the barn, converted from former staples, for wine making (Council and Anti Council Pinot Noir and sparkling).

*Parking is available in the driveway and two parking areas on both sides of driveway as you go up the hill to the house. There is additional parking up the hill to the house. Guests are welcome. Carpooling is recommended.*

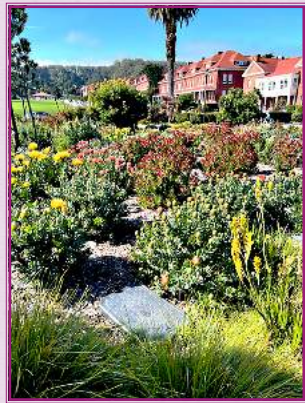
### Views of the beautiful garden in Portola Valley



# March Meeting photos by Di Byron



# Tunnel Tops Tour a delightful excursion



# Who's in Your Garden

## Who's in Your Garden with Norma Baker

by Patti Spezzaferro



**Patti:** Which three historical or present gardeners would you invite to your dinner party?

**Norma:** Laura LeBoutillier (Proven Winners), she's young, interesting and great fun to watch, I learn a lot from her - Monty Don (BBC's 'Gardener's World' - broadcast from his own garden), gardener, writer and broadcaster. Gertrude Jekyll (described as 'the Queen Victoria of horticulture'), whose aim was to make the garden a 'place of perfect rest and refreshment of mind and body.'

**Patti:** What is your greatest fear?

**Norma:** To wake up one day and find that I don't have the energy to spend the amount of time, I regularly spend and love, working in my garden.

**Patti:** What is your idea of perfect happiness?

**Norma:** Spending warm summer evenings outdoors, eating a home cooked meal with family and friends.

**Patti:** Which gardens are your favorites?

**Norma:** Arley Hall & Gardens, Cheshire, UK (the estate owned by the Warburton family since the end of the 12th century.) Arley Hall is presently used in both the BBC Netflix series 'Fool Me Once' and 'Peaky Blinders'. Villa d'Este, Rome.

**Patti:** What have you learned recently about gardening that you wish to share?

**Norma:** I decided to save daily coffee grounds and spread them around the many acid loving plants I have in my garden. Love the smell, and believe they do wonders for my rhodies, azaleas, and hydrangeas, as well as roses. Apparently they add vital nitrogen to soil which allows plants to absorb water and nutrients.

**Patti:** What is your favorite gardening product and why?

**Norma:** Besides the coffee grounds....

Equine Organic Compost from Wheeler Farms. I used it for the first time 4 years ago and saw really good results..... now do a yearly application, no odor and it looks good..

**Patti:** What inspires you to garden?

**Norma:** The view from every window in my house.

**Patti:** A motto by which you live by while gardening?

**Norma:** 'You don't have to follow the rules.'

**Patti:** What is your greatest extravagance?

**Norma:** A weekly, and occasionally bi-weekly, ninety minute deep tissue massage; buying flowers, especially orchids for the house.

**Patti:** What does AGG mean to you?

**Norma:** Camaraderie, a happy place to spend time with a group of like minded ladies who are sharing their garden knowledge and information. Where, I am constantly learning something new and valuable as well as forming lasting friendships.

## Views of Norma's Garden



# Horticulture Report

## AGG Horticulture Report

By Patti Spezzaferro

### April Master Gardener's Checklist

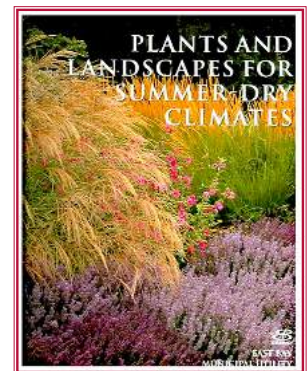
- Prune back herbaceous perennials (for example, salvia) to promote plant bushiness.
- Plant edibles like lettuce, tomatoes, herbs, zucchini and berries. Sow beans, corn, cucumber, melon, and winter squash seeds directly into the ground. Consider a soaker hose to conserve water in your vegetable garden.
- Transplant tomato seedlings: Pinch off all but the top two pairs of leaves and set the seedling into a deep hole. Backfill, keeping the top leaves above the soil.
- Work your cover crops into the soil before they seed.
- Don't use insecticides in your garden – you may be harming bees and beneficial insects that actually help control aphids, mites, white-flies, and other garden pests.
- Remove aphids from plants with a strong stream of water.
- Hand-pick snails and slugs, or use non-toxic slug bait.
- Start planting summer annuals like lobelia, begonia, marigolds, cosmos, petunias, snapdragon, and alyssum.
- Plant gladiolus, dahlias & lilies for summer blooms.

### Book of the Month

## Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates For the San Francisco Bay Area Region

By Nora Harlow

"It is often the first book I go to when creating a plant list."  
- Landscape Architect, Justine Leah Hirsch



AGG March speaker Jennifer Dungan recommended this book at the March General Meeting. *Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates for the San Francisco Bay Area Region* is an award-winning book with more than 525 stunning photographs that showcase 650 California and Mediterranean plants well suited to the Bay Area's summer climate. Jennifer Dungan's mother's garden is one of the gardens featured in the book.

Harlow provides a summary chart on each plant indicating its bloom time, water and sun needs, and preference for coastal or inland micro-climates. She also recommends plants for special situations, like hot sites, dryish shade, mall gardens, and clay soil. Buy it on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



### Library Flowers

- 1 Norma Baker
- 8 Sue Barkley
- 15 Judy Blommer
- 22 Katie Blommer
- 29 Dana Bonham

### Hospitality

Coordinator: Nan Ray  
Erika Enos  
Dana Bonham



*The Atherton Garden Guild*

PO Box 685

Menlo Park, CA 94025

## *AGG Newsletter*

*April 2024*

### OFFICERS 2023 - 2024

**President:** Patti Spezzaferro

**Co- First Vice Presidents Programs:**

Karen Handal, Suzanne Legallet

**Second Vice President Membership:** Karen Olson

**Treasurer:** Judy Blommer

**Recording Secretary:** Suellen Rottiers

**Corresponding Secretary:** Sue Matthews

**Historian:** Diana Bryan

**Newsletter:** Martha Woollomes

**Co-Parliamentarians:** Julie Douglass, Joan Sanders

**Website & Technology:** Anita Joy

### CONTRIBUTORS

Di Bryan, Suzanne Legallet,

Barbara Tyler, Patti Spezzaferro,

Martha Woollomes

### PROOFREADERS

Sue Barkley, Kasey Hansen,

Sue Matthews, Patti Spezzaferro

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2023 - 2024

**Atherton Library Flowers:** Sally Brudos

**Holiday Party: Hostess/Committee Chair** Leslie Howard

**Committee:** Katie Blommer, Julie Douglass,

Kasey Hansen, Berenice Mancilla, Nan Ray,

Patti Rodley, Patti Spezzaferro, Anna Zappettini

**Donations:** Chair Pam Smith, Nan Ray, Karen Handal

**Holbrook Palmer Rose Garden:** Patty Leugers

**Horticulture:** Patti Spezzaferro

**Hospitality/Refreshments:** Berenice Mancilla

**June, 2024 Luncheon: Hostess** Rita Wachhorst

**Committee Chair:** Terri Bailard

**Committee:** Katie Blommer, Erika Enos, Sue Fitch,

Karen Handal, Suzanne Legallet, Jeanne Quinlan

**Newsletter:** Martha Woollomes

**Nominating:** Chair Barbara Tyler, Julie Douglass, Karen Olson

**Website:** Anita Joy

**Yearbook:** Terri Bailard



## *Birthdays*

### *April*

*Flower: Daisy & Sweet Pea*

*Daisy: innocence, purity, & cheerfulness*

*Sweet Pea: bliss & fond farewells*

### *April Birthdays*

5 Carol Berg

10 Sue Fitch

13 Lynne Heppberger

25 Pam Brown