

M. Richards



# F ILOLI

## GARDENER'S REFERENCE

*In the mid-1970's, the Roth family donated 125 of their 654-acre Woodside estate to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The entirety of the estate came under the management of Filoli Center, including 16 acres of formal gardens and 8 acres of historic orchard, as well as hundreds of acres of woodlands and open fields. With so much land, there is a never-ending list of brush cutting, road maintenance and tree care, in addition to the detailed work required in the expansive formal gardens and orchards. Maintaining the property is a daunting task, made possible by the work of a 14-member team of full-time garden staff, a five-member maintenance crew, up to five full-time interns and apprentices, and a small army of dedicated garden volunteers.*

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE...?

**Horticultural Staff.** Filoli's horticulture department is staffed by 14 full-time horticulturists, including two managers and the Director of Horticulture. The gardens are divided into four sections, each of which is maintained by a team of two horticulturists. Three additional staff members oversee propagation, retail nursery inventory, and tropical plant collections in the greenhouse area. This traditional division of garden areas—as opposed to a more task-oriented approach to management—allows each staff person to develop an intimate knowledge of maintenance routines and goals within his or her area, makes use of our horticulturists' diverse array of skills, and encourages a sense of ownership and pride for each area's care and preservation.

Every member of our team holds at least one degree in horticulture or a related field, and many of our horticulturists are graduates of Filoli's own internship and apprentice program. At times, over half of the garden staff have been graduates of the intern or apprentice programs. Other staff members are recruited from across the nation, and the gardens benefit from the variety of knowledge and experience that comes of the fresh eyes of new hires working alongside veteran Filoli gardeners

who have cared for the grounds for up to 30 years.

**Garden Volunteers.** In addition to the 14 core garden staff members, the gardens are maintained by a loyal and growing set of garden volunteers. Volunteers are an essential part of Filoli's labor force, contributing thousands of hours to garden maintenance each year. In 2006, garden volunteers logged 11,144 hours! As of June 2007, Filoli has reached a record high of over 150 volunteers in the gardens alone. Like the garden staff, some have been a part of the Filoli community for over twenty years, while newer faces bring fresh enthusiasm for the gardens and for the work. Volunteers commit to 2 ½ hours of work weekly or bi-monthly, traveling from their homes in surrounding cities along the peninsula and from as far as San Jose, Oakland, and Mill Valley. More information on volunteer opportunities is available on the Filoli website.

**Interns and Apprentices.** Filoli also hosts an internationally recognized internship and apprentice program. Qualified students and aspiring horticulturists or landscape architects are invited to apply for a ten-week or six-month program, during which they are trained with the necessary plant

JAN	FILOLI OPEN TO VISITORS
FEB	
MAR	
APR	
MAY	
JUN	
JUL	
AUG	
SEP	
OCT	
NOV	
DEC	

\* Filoli open for "Holiday Traditions"

identification, equipment operation, and skilled horticulture practices necessary for maintenance of formal estate gardens. Many go on to continued studies in environmental horticulture, landscape architecture, landscape preservation or public garden management, work in the field, or are even hired to join the Filoli garden staff.

Students of diverse ages and backgrounds come to Filoli from surrounding communities as well as from far-flung regions of the United States and the world. In the past, Filoli has hosted students from Poland, France, Italy, Holland, Nigeria, Ireland, England, Finland, Germany, Ecuador, Canada, Japan, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Spain. Housing for these students is often provided by members of the Friends of Filoli, who offer a room and kitchen privileges in exchange for help in their own gardens. Filoli accepts up to five interns or apprentices at any one time, or about 12 interns per year. Additional information and application forms for the intern and apprentice programs can be found on the Filoli website.

**Maintenance.** Filoli also relies heavily on a skilled crew of craftsmen who form the maintenance team. In addition to routine facilities maintenance, this five-member team oversees upkeep, repairs and restoration of Filoli's water system, greenhouses, garden tools and power equipment. Their craftsmanship can be enjoyed by visitors in much of the fine woodwork and paintwork throughout the house and garden, and they keep Filoli afloat behind the scenes with their skills in network administration.

*From top: Rich Barrick demonstrates shear sharpening to garden apprentice Andrea Parodi / Horticulture staff plant the sunken garden / Dave Herrington restores the clock tower faces in 2000 / Volunteers pull the spring display / Kelly Osborn shifts pots / David Shippy prunes ivy.*



A. Port



Jonathan Tohnuch



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*Filoli Gardener's Reference sheets are created by garden staff to answer common questions regarding Filoli's traditional horticultural practices. This sheet may be accessed from the Filoli website.*  
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