Filoli As A Multi-Attraction Institution

American Public Gardens Association

June 6, 2018
Jim Salyards, Head of Horticulture
Mission

Filoli is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and stewardship of the cultural traditions and natural history of this country estate for public education and enjoyment.
Mr. and Mrs. William Bowers Bourn II, prominent San Franciscans

Principal sources of wealth were the Empire Gold Mine in Grass Valley, California

President of the Spring Valley Water Company

Purchased 709 acres of property in 1914 and broke ground in 1915

Bourns moved into the House in 1917

Mr. and Mrs. Bourn both died in 1936

“My idea, is to devote the afterglow of my life, this is the next 40 to 50 years or so, in personal supervision of its development. There, I hope to grow young.”

~ William Bourn, 1912
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Roth purchased the estate in 1937

Principal source of wealth was the Matson Navigation Company

Under the Roths the formal garden gained worldwide recognition

Roth family were excellent stewards of the estate

In 1975, she donated the House and formal Garden to the National Trust for Historic Preservation today 125 acres

Remaining 529 acres were gifted to Filoli Center
- Filoli is owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and operated by the Filoli Center
- The Trust is a privately funded nonprofit organization
- Mission is to protect and celebrate America’s diverse history and historic places
- Leads ongoing campaigns to Save America’s National Treasures and support preservation and re-use
- Filoli is one of their 27 sites
“I feel I see dear old Filoli going up inch by inch....I realize more and more, as I look for things to go in it what a huge place it is...”
~ Agnes Bourn, 1916
Both families have generously donated original pieces of furniture and artwork.

Showcase the House as a home to two families; as Mrs. Roth said, *a living museum*.

Collection has grown over last 40 years.

Historical photographs from our archives shape the displays.

Collection is representative of the 17th and 18th century English and Irish traditions.

More than 20 cultures, and roughly 600 years of furniture and art history, are represented.
PRESERVATION

- Filoli is dedicated to preservation
- Requires special attention and care to its functional systems, components, and historic finishes
- Managed both in-house and in partnership with outside conservators, preservation professionals, and artisans
- The House is itself the largest object in the Collection
The Garden
THE GARDEN

Bulbs for Spring Display 100,000
Varieties of Daffodils 24
Unique Display Containers 4,000
Flowering Display Plants 30,000
Hedges 1 mile
Acres of Turf 2.5
GARDEN FEATURES

- Filoli’s Garden is considered one of the most stunning in country, if not the world
- Irish yews and olives are the characteristic trees of the Garden
- Garden rooms and areas include: Sunken Garden, Walled Garden, Chartres Cathedral Stained Glass Garden, Sundial Garden, Dutch Garden, Panel Gardens, Rose Garden, Knot Gardens, Perennial Border, Cutting Garden, Yew Allee, Family Orchard, Woodland Garden, Bowling Green, and the Daffodil Fields
- Key features include: Garden House, Wedding Place, Tennis Court, Pool Pavilion, and High Place
The Land
## The Land

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>654 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinct Ecosystems</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking Trails</td>
<td>7 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estate Trail</td>
<td>1 mile</td>
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</table>
The Roths donated 529 acres to Filoli which formed the Filoli Nature Preserve

Includes a variety of ecosystems: oak-madrone forests, redwood, chaparral, riparian, cultivated grasslands, and pond

Redwoods, oaks, and chaparral provide habitat for the California newt, puma, California quail, and more

Wildflowers are typically in bloom from February through early summer

The San Andreas fault bisects the property
CASE STUDY #1: HORTICULTURE AND THE HOUSE

THE HOUSE
CASE STUDY #1: HORTICULTURE AND THE HOUSE FLOWERS - A FAMILY TRADITION

- Agnes Bourn founded the Garden Club of America’s Hillsborough Garden Club
- Lurline Roth was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by the Garden Club of America
- Both were involved in local Garden Clubs
- Twin daughters, Lurline and Berenice Roth continued the tradition as flower arrangers and active GCA members
- Today, fresh flowers from the cutting garden continue to fill the House
- Filoli’s historic Greenhouses are still used to house and propagate the families’ plant collections, including orchids
CASE STUDY #1: HORTICULTURE AND THE HOUSE
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❖ Houseplant tradition continues
CASE STUDY #1: HORTICULTURE AND THE HOUSE

- Houseplant tradition continues
  - Collections representing:
    - Bourn era
    - Roth era
    - National Trust era

- Always trying to be as precautionous as possible
CASE STUDY #1: HORTICULTURE AND THE HOUSE

- Flower arrangement tradition
  - Flowers have always been an important part of the home
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  - Regularly dumping green waste to prevent incidents of insects and elevated humidity
  - Staying educated in protective measures
An aside:
An extremely popular new flower tradition is the identification of the arrangement components.
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- Rooms were transformed from their historic look
- Significant damage occurred over the years
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ECLECTIC FRUIT TREE COLLECTION

- Fruit is the single largest collection of plants at Filoli
- Over 1,000 different fruiting trees, shrubs, vines or canes can be found throughout the estate. Significant collections are the apples and pears
- Also includes citrus, plums, quince, peaches, nuts, as well as unusual fruits such as medlar, mulberry, and loquat
- Gentleman’s Orchard at Filoli is 6.8 acres in size and includes over 600 fruit tree varieties including apples and pears
- The collection also includes 114 original Bourn-era trees
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Items created from garden maintenance “debris”

Intentional products
• Dried herbs, vinegars, spice mixes
• Jams and fruit butters
  • Created both mixed and single variety products
    • Apple, pear, peach, quince and persimmon
CASE STUDY #3: HORTICULTURE AND EVENTS
A new era!
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Use of the Garden
Daily Visitor Use:
The garden is open for visitation during the hours of 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Tuesday thru Sunday. Visitors must pay admission at the Visitor and Education Center prior to entering the garden. Visitors are encouraged to enter the garden through the South Door in the Service Courtyard. Disabled visitors may enter the garden utilizing the garden entrance behind the garden shop or the ramp from the Holding Room when exiting the House.

- Visitors are asked to remain in designated tour areas and respect the areas cordoned off for the protection of the gardens and collection objects.
- Visitors are asked to remain on pathways and off lawn areas wherever possible, however, the rule will not be strictly enforced.
- All collection pieces (marble tables, decorative objects, etc.) are not to be used, moved, or otherwise handled by visitors.
- Food is not allowed in the Garden, but is allowed in designated picnic areas below the Visitor and Education Center entrance.
- Visitors are asked not to pick or cut plant material, including fruit from the trees or the ground.
- All drinks are allowed in the Garden. Only clear beverages (i.e. bottled water, sparkling water, white wine, champagne, clear cocktails) bottled water are allowed in the House. Colored beverages (i.e. beer, Rose wine, red wine, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and creamed cocktails, etc.) are prohibited.
- No smoking or vaping in the Garden or anywhere on the grounds.
- Leashed service dogs are welcome, but no pets are allowed.
- Photography is allowed in the Garden (smart phones, point and shoot cameras, iPads, and SLR cameras with integrated flash units). We do not allow separate/remote flash units, videotaping, or large photographic accessories. Portrait photography sessions are available upon request. Trips may be used but must not block walkways or impact visitor flow in any way.
- Strollers are permitted in Garden; however, many paths are narrow (the best path will be indicated in the new visitor map).

Event Rentals in the Garden:
Allowable rentals include:
- Receptions
- Seated lunches and dinner
- Indoor/Outdoor receptions
- Photography/Filming
- Presentations/Meetings

General Guidelines for All Areas in the Garden:
- All food will be prepared in designated areas. Standard designated areas for catering are: Visitor Center Prep Room, Main Courtyard, North Terrace, Service Courtyard, Tennis Court, and behind the Garden Shop. Tents for food prep may be utilized in the outdoor garden areas.
- Lawn Protection
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