

Phyllis Gricus

Landscape Designer, Horticulturist, Speaker, and award-winning writer.

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Contact Phyllis for speaking and traveling fees.

Prefers in-person presentations, but online presentations are the next best thing.

Protect the Night: Why Artificial Light is Harmful in the Garden

In this engaging presentation, Phyllis explores the hidden ecological impacts of artificial light at night and how light pollution disrupts the natural rhythms of plants, pollinators, birds, and nocturnal wildlife— ultimately affecting entire ecosystems. Discover how excessive nighttime lighting alters behaviors, ecological relationships, and seasonal cycles that have evolved over millions of years, creating ripple effects throughout the garden and beyond. You'll also learn practical, effective strategies that homeowners and landscape professionals can use to reduce unnecessary lighting, support biodiversity, and restore balance to the natural darkness that healthy gardens depend on.

The presentation is 45 minutes, followed by 15 minutes for questions and discussion. Book this talk any time of the year; it is a timely addition to garden clubs, horticultural, and environmental programming in any season.

Planting Under Trees: Expanding Your Garden with a Layered Understory

Discover how the space beneath mature trees can become a dynamic, living garden layer rather than a challenging planting zone. This talk explores the principles of understory design, including plant selection, layering, and ecological relationships that allow trees, shrubs, perennials, and groundcovers to thrive together. Learn how to expand your garden into new spaces while creating a more diverse, resilient, and visually compelling landscape.

This talk is a perennial favorite for gardeners; this year-round program can be presented in any season and offers inspiration and practical guidance whenever gardeners are ready to rethink the spaces beneath their trees.

Garden Goal: Next Year's Spring Garden Starts Now

Spring is when gardeners are inspired to dream of more colorful, flower-filled landscapes—but spectacular spring displays begin with thoughtful planning before planting season arrives. Although spring-blooming bulbs are planted in fall, the vision for next year's spring garden begins *in spring*—when we see what's missing and start planning for what's possible. This talk helps turn spring inspiration into fall planting success. Learn how to choose the right bulbs, design for continuous bloom from late winter through early summer, support early-season pollinators, and avoid common challenges like forgotten planting locations. With the right planning, next year's spring garden can exceed your expectations.

Book this presentation for your winter and spring program. It will capture gardeners' enthusiasm for the season ahead and provide the inspiration and knowledge needed to create a spectacular spring display.