

# Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

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*A slithering visitor:*

The next morning a rafter of turkeys with ten poults sunbathed on that same grassy knoll. Again, I attempted to photograph the game birds. They sauntered, swayed, and swiftly took flight. My lens captured a moment.

At my front door, a baby snake coiled by my planter. Not one to shriek at serpents, I pointed and clicked. This is the fifth snake sleeping or slithering in my path in the past few days. I appreciate the Gopher, garter, and King snakes. The rattlers rattle me. As a child, I encountered one too many. Snakes are beneficial as they feed on rodents. They will eat gophers, moles, voles, rats, and mice, however, I prefer they not dine on the bunnies and birds.

I love my birds. Birds and gardens just go together. Birds provide movement, song, and color to the garden scene. In return, the garden offers safety, shelter, food, and water.

Three baby robins hatched from a nest built in a wreath on my back door. It was a delight to watch the daily ministrations of the mother as she darted between the babies and the trees, foraging for food. After many photos of the hungry babes with mouths wide open, I became an active participant in the first flying lessons of the youngsters. One day as I checked on their progress they decided to fly the coup and managed to land on my

head. Darn, I missed the shot!

It's finally summer in Lamorinda. Get out your cameras and start shooting. Our gardens shimmer and the animals shine. Smile, have fun, and live on the wild side... it's up to us to sizzle!

Happy Summer!

*Photos Cynthia Brian*



*The towering 12 foot spires of hollyhock climb towards the magnolia*



*Three hungry baby robins in a nest on a back door wreath.*