

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 7 Wednesday, June 4, 2014



Cynthia Brian's June Gardening Guide ...read on page D13

Lamorinda Home Composting: A Diverse and Growing Practice

By Sophie Braccini



Norm Paulsen transfers the compost in his vegetable garden.

Photo Sophie Braccini

With 545 Lamorinda families certified as composters, a growing number of residents are finding the practice good for their vegetable and ornamental gardens. All of these families have different practices, from a simple single pile on the ground, to elaborate multi-bins systems, and being certified gets them a little discount on their garbage bill. But, foremost, they do it to be part of the natural cycle of life, death, and rebirth in the garden.

Norm Paulsen has been composting for years in his Lafayette garden. For him, the practice is a normal part of gardening, a process he's been involved with since grammar school. His vegetable garden is extensive, and next to it is a compost pile in its simplest form: a heap on the ground delineated on three sides by wood siding. "We drop all our vegetable scrap in the pile, as well as green waste from the garden," he says, "then I cover it with wood chips and animal bedding provided by my neighbor, who raises llamas and alpacas." Paulsen has a pitch fork next to the pile and he turns it regularly before adding the result to the garden when fully composted.

"This is one of the key elements of composting," says Eric Fromer, "knowing when the compost is ready to be used."

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	19	\$500,000	\$2,960,000
MORAGA	13	\$700,000	\$3,337,500
ORINDA	17	\$785,000	\$2,141,500

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 804 Acalanes Road, \$2,895,000, 5 Bdrms, 5688 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$3,220,000, 05-23-02
- 3621 Chestnut Street, \$780,000, 1426 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 5-7-14;
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 08-05-09
- 911 Dewing Avenue #A2, \$625,000, 2 Bdrms, 1296 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$415,000, 01-31-12
- 900 Dewing Avenue, \$500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1416 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-8-14
- 473 Florence Drive, \$990,000, 3 Bdrms, 1785 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$260,000, 07-09-92
- 39 Greentree Court, \$1,773,500, 3 Bdrms, 2833 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,195,000, 06-03-03
- 2199 Hidden Pond Road, \$1,355,000, 4 Bdrms, 3352 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 5-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,411,000, 04-01-05
- 1539 Huston Road, \$822,500, 4 Bdrms, 1801 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$257,500, 09-11-98
- 326 Lowell Lane #E, \$1,330,000, 4 Bdrms, 1991 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$68,800, 03-29-72
- 1985 Marion Court, \$2,219,000, 5 Bdrms, 4206 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,985,000, 03-29-13
- 3503 Moraga Boulevard, \$905,000, 2 Bdrms, 1115 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$790,000, 06-08-05
- 3337 North Lucille Lane, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1357 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-8-14;
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 05-03-13
- 3977 Rancho Road, \$2,050,000, 5-6-14
- 70 Ridgecrest Court, \$1,866,000, 4 Bdrms, 4016 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 5-8-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 09-27-00
- 1229 Rose Lane, \$2,960,000, 5 Bdrms, 6046 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$2,900,000, 07-03-00
- 624 Sky Highway Circle, \$1,590,000, 4 Bdrms, 2979 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 4-29-14
- 1154 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,408,000, 5 Bdrms, 3102 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 05-02-02
- 1702 Toyon Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2811 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$585,000, 12-19-12
- 1110 Via Media, \$1,401,000, 4 Bdrms, 4332 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$390,000, 07-18-97

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Cait Hudson

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(925)451-6844

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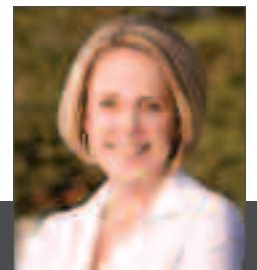
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Lamorinda Home Composting: A Diverse and Growing Practice

... continued from page D1



Amber Dyer turns her compost tumbler.

Photos Sophie Braccini

He says that when the mix just looks like dirt and smells like a forest after the rain it is ready; he puts it in bags for use in his Lafayette garden. "Another important aspect is to have enough nitrogen," he adds. "Our way of doing it is by adding some of our chicken's manure to the mix. Nitrogen is what you need for the temperature to rise in the pile and the process to take off." Fromer has chickens, and he even sometimes lets a hen frolic in one of his tumblers, as a treat.



Weeds and clippings turn brown in Dyer's pile.



The children help with composting in the Paykel family.

Fromer started on his own 5 years ago, while Joseph Paykel has a much more recent practice. "I started 7 months ago after attending a free [Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority] compost class," says the young Orinda father. The Paykels looked for a place in their garden that would be the most convenient, "otherwise we would not sustain the practice," he adds. They decided to put the container they bought from CCCSWA by their trash bins, on a concrete pad. "We added corrugated cardboard under it," he says. "Sitting on concrete might not be ideal, but we wanted something close to the house so the practice would be easy." He says that he just spends a few minutes a week taking care of the pile.

Everyone has their own unique system, like Lamorinda Weekly publisher Andy Scheck who added a handful of worms when he started his first compost pile a few years ago. In his Moraga garden, Scheck has two double compost bins, because his vegetable garden is spread between two different spots on his property. Scheck never took a class with CCCSWA, for the native German had been exposed to composting since his youth in his uncle's extensive garden. He built a double compost bin. "In the first bin I start to pile brown garden waste that has been cut small (he acquired a professional chopper), and food waste from our kitchen," he explains. "After a few months, the bottom of the bin is completely composted, so I transfer the top layer to the other bin and can use the finished compost from the first bin." All the composters attribute the wonderful growth of their vegetables and ornamentals in large part to their home-made compost. Most composters have had to face a challenge somewhere along the way. Amber Dyer in Lafayette thinks that her compost hasn't been more successful because not much compost volume was created during the winter, despite the fact that she dumps tons of food waste in it. But looking at the double tumbler she bought at Costco, the result is pretty good.

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He's All About New Inventory in Orinda



2 Los Altos Road \$1,595,000



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Lamorinda Home Composting: A Diverse and Growing Practice

... continued from page D4



*Wendy Scheck chips yard clippings while her husband, Andy, turns the compost.
Photo Jaya Griggs*

"For the compost process to happen, you need heat and you need moisture," says Paykel, adding that the CCCSWA workshop he attended last year taught him all he needed to know. For him the challenge was ants, and what he found was that the little critters were taking over the pile when it was too dry. Scheck had a problem that no one would want: rats. "Since I put wooden compost boxes on concrete pavers, I have had no more problems," he says. None of the people reported any unpleasant smell coming out of the pile.

"Yard and food waste represent 30 percent of the waste stream; we encourage people to compost to reduce the volume of what has to be hauled away," says CCCSWA Ashley Louisiana. On the authority's website residents can purchase bins at a reduced price and check out the dates of free upcoming workshops. In order to get certified, residents need to either have purchased a bin from CCCSWA or send pictures of their practice.

"This is an Honor system," adds Louisiana.

The Skinny About Composting

A balance of browns (fallen leaves, straw, wood chips) and greens (grass clippings and food scraps) is all you need to make compost. Compost needs heat and moisture. Composting containers vary from a simple pile on the ground, to a series of bins that can be made of different wood or plastic. The next compost workshop in Lamorinda is scheduled for Saturday, June 7 in the Lafayette Community Garden. For more information, go to wastediversion.org.

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Something Special! 112 La Quinta, Moraga Country Club



Featured on the 2010 MCC Home Tour, this fabulous home has been lovingly updated from head to toe! Originally a 'Sequoyah' model - walls have ben opened, spaces have been re-imagined, and everything has been improved!

Expanded Kitchen includes Wood-Mode custom cabinets, Caesarstone Counters and high-end stainless appliances.

Tucked back on the 6th Fairway, this house has super views of the course and surrounding hills without feeling overexposed. Great entertaining spaces inside and out.

4 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 3424 SqFt, Golf Course Location

Open Sunday June 8th from 1 to 4pm

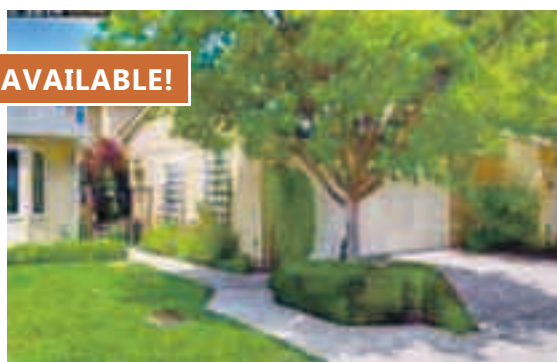
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3BR / 2.5BA 1348 SQ FT
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2BR / 2.5BA 1743 SQ FT
Moraga Country Club - Lagoon location

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Lovely 4 bedroom home with private yard & pool.

AVAILABLE!



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Fire Safety Outside: Sealing the House

By Cathy Dausman

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of Lamorinda Weekly articles designed to raise awareness and help homeowners secure their homes against the threat of wildfire.)

If “location, location, location” are the watchwords of choosing a good home, then topography, weather and fuels are the corollary to keep your home safe during fire season.

Brush fires, even small ones, are a constant threat, especially when trees and woody shrubs on rolling hills abut back yards. Natural landscaping is the very reason Lamorindans like their outdoors, but late spring rains have done little to relieve the California drought. The entire country knows our fire season has begun in earnest. According to Cal Fire, 1,701 fires have burned 14,925 acres so far this year. Alameda and Contra Costa County lands are now classified as D4, or “exceptional drought” areas.

Recently, local landscape contractors and fire agencies met with the Diablo Fire Safe Council to learn about local fire history, wildfire behavior, ignition pre-

vention techniques, working safely around power lines, and creating defensible space.

The Diablo Fire Safe Council offers a list of five ways to reduce ignition around the home: sweep, remove or store combustibles, caulk and screen. Sweep walkways, patios and decks, gutters and rooflines regularly to remove leaves, pine needles and twigs. Do not store combustible materials under decks.

Consider replacing older decks with a product meeting the Wildland Urban Interface fire safety code. Ensure that siding and windows are fully caulked to prevent embers from entering the home. Store backyard combustible materials inside if a wildfire threatens. Finally, install 1/8-inch mesh metal screens under eaves and at foundation vents – those areas are vulnerable entry points for embers and flames.

For details go to http://www.diablofiresafe.org/preventing_wildfires_house.html.



Using 1/8-inch mesh metal screens under eaves or at foundation vents can prevent burning embers from entering a home.
Photo Andy Scheck

Exclusively Presented by Sue Layng:

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Beautifully remodeled and updated ranch-style home next to the Lafayette Trail and Community Park. This wonderful home offers three bedrooms, two baths, plus a separate office that can easily be used as the fourth bedroom. The open kitchen with breakfast bar, granite counter, and stainless steel appliances, has easy access to the back patio... complete with an outdoor kitchen for entertaining. The two patios and spacious yard are wonderful for family living as well as entertaining. Hardwood floors and updated windows create warmth and natural light year round. The private yard offers garden, play, and entertaining areas... all within walking distance to the Lafayette Bike Trail and top rated Lafayette Schools.

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Stylish Solutions

Design for the Great Outdoors

By Ann McDonald



On this covered entry porch we replaced pots that would normally hold high water use plants with graphic decorative pillows. Photo courtesy Couture Chateau LLC, photo Faryn Davis

Summer is fast approaching and that means outdoor decorating is in full swing, and it's time to refresh and update our front or back yard spaces for summer enjoyment. But with the current drought, how do we, as responsible residents of California, decorate our outdoor spaces for gracious and luxurious living on trend, without being wasteful? And what if your design aesthetic simply isn't compatible with some of the drought resistant flowers?

The good news: There is more to decorating, water-wise, than just using succulents on your outdoor tables. While I love the look of cactus, it isn't always a fit for me or my design clients.

Here are my Top Stylish Solutions for water-wise decorating anyone can implement:

Use brightly colored outdoor pillows instead of flowers. Replace pots that would normally hold high water use plants with graphic decorative pillows on your covered entry porch. The traditional design of the house does not lend itself to succulents on the front porch. I wanted a punch of color normally provided by masses of annuals and by purchasing these ready-made, low cost outdoor pillows, placing them where the pots of flowers would normally sit, I have the color punch without the water use.

Match patterns with the surrounding pieces to provide cohesion; for example, a trellis pattern on a pillow can match a similar pattern on a bench or pot. Look for repeating patterns in your own home, and try to match outdoor pillows to a detail. The best part? The pillows cost less than \$20 each, and can help carry the decorating scheme to an outdoor covered porch at the back of the house so the theme would be consistent.

Use statuary where pillows won't work. Don't balk. Trust me, "Let's go buy a statue" is not the first thing out of this decorator's mouth. With careful thought to scale, color and type, I placed concrete formed pieces where piles of flowers would normally be. By purchasing two, I was able to repeat the theme from the entry walkway into an indoor/outdoor space for this season.

This simple tip is easily scaled or modified for the smaller space or contemporary design. No desire for concrete lions? Use a beautiful cast pinecone, the traditional welcome sign. Need a contemporary touch? Reflective orbs do nicely.

Take advantage of the drought to introduce whimsy. Good decorating is all about solutions to problems. When the weather gives issue, consider it an opportunity to be creative. Think outside the box.

Use strong graphic patterns on outdoor fabrics instead of solids. Go bold to focus the eye. Many of my clients purchase investment quality pieces and fabrics that tend toward traditional. This season in outdoor spaces, we had some fun.

... continued on page D12

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA

- 1180 Cedarwood Drive, \$1,040,000, 5 Bdrms, 2818 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$51,000, 02-25-72
- 68 Corliss Drive, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2038 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$367,000, 02-27-91
- 752 Country Club Drive, \$700,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$749,000, 02-21-07
- 1615 Del Monte Way, \$1,420,000, 5 Bdrms, 2745 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$940,000, 09-10-10
- 272 Draeger Drive, \$1,338,000, 4 Bdrms, 2450 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,171,000, 09-12-07
- 89 Laird Drive, \$3,337,500, 5 Bdrms, 6123 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 4-28-14;
Previous Sale: \$350,000, 06-27-00
- 71 Lambeth Square, \$1,615,000, 5 Bdrms, 3140 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-28-14;
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 10-01-96
- 1047 Larch Avenue, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1460 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 01-14-11
- 31 Maison Court, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2963 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 5-8-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,103,500, 07-25-01
- 110 Quintas Lane, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2472 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 05-31-05
- 218 Rheem Boulevard, \$875,000, 3 Bdrms, 1944 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-7-14;
Previous Sale: \$989,000, 03-02-05
- 36 Wandel Drive, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1478 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$689,000, 07-22-11
- 133 Westchester Street, \$870,000, 3 Bdrms, 2264 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$620,000, 02-18-11

ORINDA

- 30 Dias Dorados, \$1,425,000, 5 Bdrms, 3333 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,435,000, 12-02-05
- 23 Dos Posos, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2575 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$78,000, 12-05-75
- 17 El Rincon, \$950,000, 1 Bdrms, 1678 SqFt, 1928 YrBlt, 5-8-14;
Previous Sale: \$347,000, 04-25-97
- 14 Monterey Terrace, \$3,461,500, 5 Bdrms, 6030 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,480,000, 03-01-96
- 63 Moraga Via, \$1,410,000, 4 Bdrms, 2662 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,173,000, 11-25-08
- 119 Moraga Way, \$785,000, 3 Bdrms, 1407 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$779,000, 11-10-04
- 54 Morello Place, \$1,297,500, 5-1-14
- 36 Owl Hill Road, \$1,277,500, 4 Bdrms, 2555 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-5-14;
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 11-16-01
- 112 Ravenhill Road, \$980,000, 2 Bdrms, 2060 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-7-14;
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 06-01-07
- 108 Scenic Drive, \$1,647,000, 4 Bdrms, 2497 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$610,000, 08-29-95
- 14 Silverwood Court, \$1,545,000, 6 Bdrms, 4669 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$820,000, 06-05-98
- 6 Sleepy Hollow Court, \$2,141,500, 4 Bdrms, 2620 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-8-14
- 103 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2378 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,205,000, 11-21-03
- 5 Via Corte, \$1,315,000, 5 Bdrms, 3024 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$805,000, 07-18-01
- 35 Via Hermosa, \$1,025,000, 5 Bdrms, 1950 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$394,500, 03-28-97
- 208 the Knoll, \$855,000, 2 Bdrms, 2116 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$735,500, 05-08-08



Coming Soon!

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Stylish Solutions

... continued from page D10

For our decorating projects in California especially, we are using strong bold and graphic outdoor fabrics. Making slipcovers allows for seasonal looks without the commitment of reupholstering an entire suite of outdoor furniture.

An outdoor fabric slipcover removes easily for washing. An indoor chair, “shopped” from a consignment store locally, can be used in an outdoor covered patio. When the weather hits next fall, the chair simply comes back inside. For now, the inexpensive and fun slipcover carries us through the summer entertaining season. The bold pattern provides visual impact. Last season, this same space was all burlap and beige with masses of flowers in pots, here we simply traded fabric for flowers.

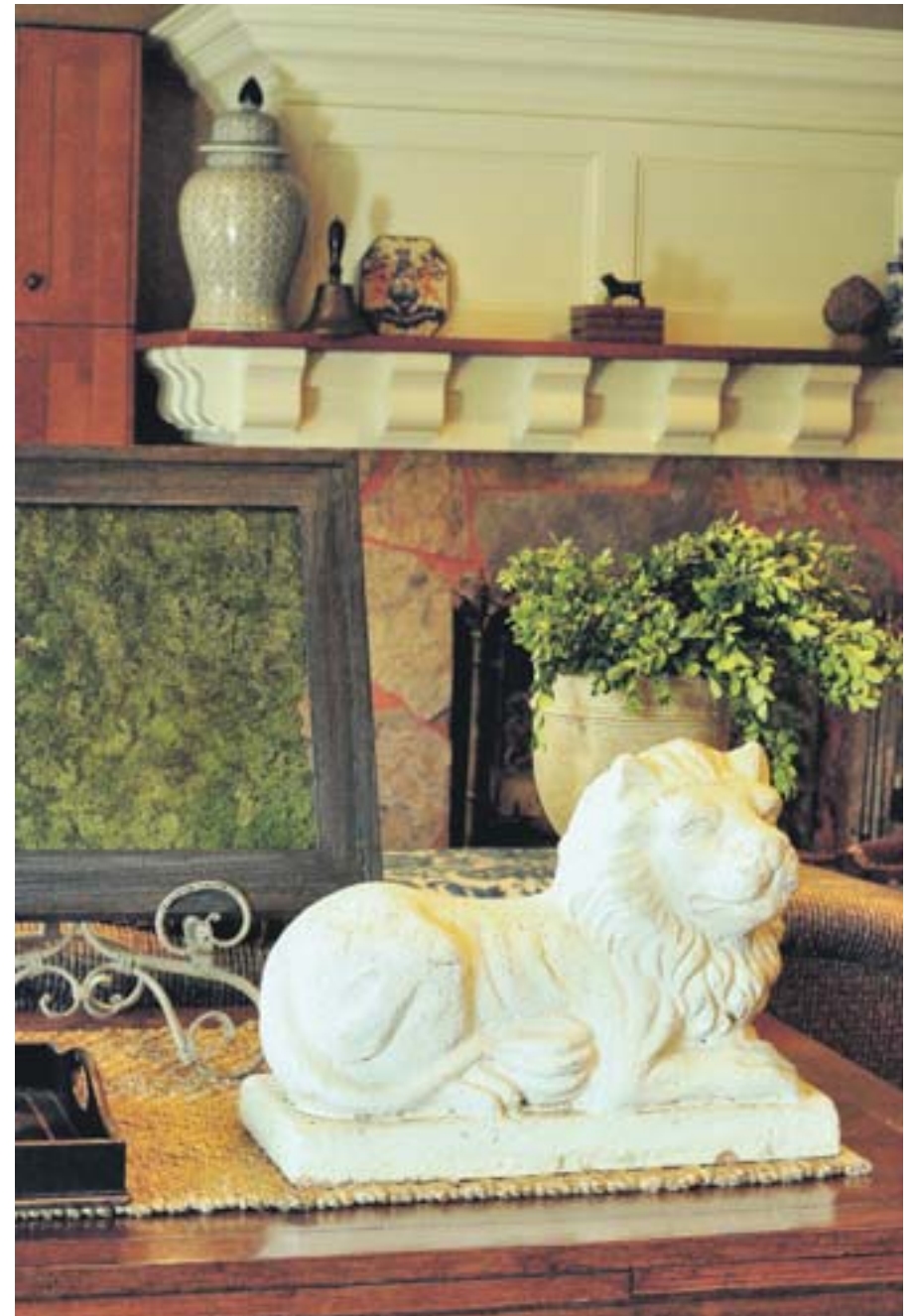
Cut and arrange dried flowers in pots. Have some fun. I literally went into



This outdoor fabric slipcover removes easily for washing, and when the weather hits next fall, the chair will come back inside.

the back yard and started cutting: flowers, herbs and sprigs. I made baskets and piles, hung them to dry and am using them in my summer table floral arrangements instead of purchasing annuals for my pots.

Whatever design element you choose, enjoy your summer and the great outdoors! Live a custom life.



Take advantage of the drought to introduce whimsy. This lion is not something we would look at and think: perfect! Yet, when placed in context, one outdoor instead of flowers and then a mate in the indoor/outdoor room on a coir entry mat (used instead of a table runner), the scheme works.

Photos courtesy Couture Chateau LLC, photos Faryn Davis



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. If you are interested in chatting about your next decorating project, give us a call at (925) 386-0720 – we're here all summer. For a complete blog post including photos of the indoor/outdoor room, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

"Nature. Cheaper than therapy." ~ Source unknown

By Cynthia Brian

Why is it when we surrender our "busyness" to get outside in nature, we feel better? Researchers have found that going into the garden, hiking, biking, or strolling in the countryside, bird watching, or animal petting triggers the release of endorphins and oxytocin that activate the pleasure center in our brain. When you spend time in the outdoors you experience a deep feeling of well-being and relaxation. Close contact with nature improves health while increasing self-esteem and confidence. Mother Nature is the ultimate teacher providing a foundation for life-long learning that nourishes the senses. Indulging in "green activities" reconnects us to ourselves, one another, our kids, and the natural world. Nature soothes, restores, and heals. Our stressed, depressed, or anxiety-ridden moods are elevated to refreshed, peaceful, and balanced. The next time you are feeling blue, go green and talk to a plant. We can all use a little Vitamin N (as in Nature)!

- **EMPTY** all standing water from containers to stop mosquitoes from invading in this dry year. If the bloodsuckers are biting, check out the ThermoCell products, including a portable protector. A copy of the natural insecticide found in chrysanthemums is vaporized to create a 15 by 15 foot zone of protection. www.thermacell.com
- **BOOST** your immune system and stave off diseases including diabetes, heart disease, and cancers by growing and eating leafy greens, broccoli, apples, beans, onions, garlic, leeks, and tomatoes.
- **PULL** ivy from trees as ivy strangles and kills. Ivy also is a haven for rats and mice.
- **ELEVATE** your palate by including home grown fennel, also known as sweet anise, into your recipes. The aromatic feathery fronds are pretty in the garden while the thick bulbs are delicious! If flower stalks begin to form, pinch them off to direct the plant's energy to the bulb.
- **SAVE** our pollinators by creating habitats that support and nourish them.
- **MAKE** noise before putting your hand into a hidden space such as your irrigation controls as snakes are slithering about in this dry, warm weather, including rattlers.



Nasturtiums deter cucumber beetles, whiteflies, and squash bugs plus the entire plant is edible and makes long lasting cut flowers. Photos Cynthia Brian

- **DON'T** overlook the common petunia for lasting beauty and deer resistant lantana. Both are available in luscious pink, purple, orange, red, and white. Butterflies will swarm to the bright yellow and gold lantana.
- **PRUNE** butterfly bush after the blossoms fade to encourage another round of blooms for fall.
- **STIR** fried, sautéed, or just tossed in a fresh salad, the green tops of radishes, carrots, turnips, and beets are pleasantly earthy, peppery, and most of all nutritious!
- **PINCH** spent petunia petals to enable repeat blooming through fall.
- **REFILL** birdfeeders weekly to ensure that the flyers spend the summer with you.

... continued on page D14

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

... continued from page D13

- **CREATE** unique bouquets and arrangements for your graduation and Father's Day festivities with natural elements from your personal flowerbeds.
- **SWING** on a hammock under a tree for a soothing dose of relaxing nature therapy.
- **GIVE** dad a green gift on Father's Day that he'll enjoy for years to come. Perhaps a blueberry bush for healthy antioxidant eating or a beautiful bougainvillea to enliven the backyard fence.
- **PRINT** personalized coupons to help with the weeding, watering, and digging as another great gift idea for all gardening dads. Mother Nature will thank you.
- **PLANT** cilantro, lettuces, and basil in containers for easy reach for your culinary treats.
- **CHECK** your irrigation timers to make sure they are working properly and set to early morning or evening, but not during the day. Twice a week watering is sufficient for most gardens and will help you conserve our H2O.
- **PROTECT** your plants from hungry hunters as food gets scarce during the dry summer months by installing wire cages, netting, or repellents. No plant is 100 percent deer or rabbit proof.



A hanging pot of petunias brightens any patio.

- **TREAT** diseases with organic remedies. Neem oil and plant based cures are recommended.
- **CELEBRATE** summer by encouraging children to sow easy-to-grow sunflowers. Press the seeds into the soil, add water, and watch the wizardry that can surpass 16 feet!
- **PULL** onions for salads and grilling.
- **TOLERATE** minor aphid infestation to allow lady beetles (aka ladybugs) and "aphid lions" lacewing larvae to do their beneficial pest control. The good bugs only stick around when they have an infested buffet to feed on.
- **USE** the lily pad shaped petals of nasturtiums as serving dishes for appetizers as they are deliciously edible.
- **THINK** ahead to Halloween and Thanksgiving now by sowing your pumpkin seeds directly into the enriched, fertilized ground before mid-June.
- **DRIVE** carefully through neighborhoods as school is soon out for the summer and kids are enjoying the outdoors.

Congratulations to our Lamorinda graduates of all ages and the beautiful June brides and grooms. Wishing the men a joyful Daddy's Day too! Enjoy a warm, fun-filled June!

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing.



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Mock orange tree attracts the bees.



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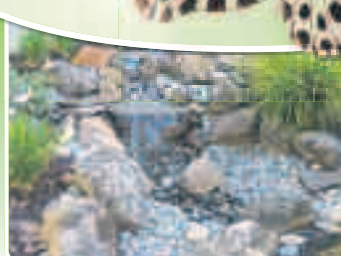
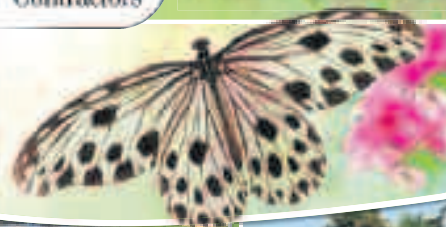
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New Listing

54 Diablo View Drive Enjoy beautiful setting, one level living, quality craftsmanship w/Marvin windows/patio doors, Wolf range & Subzero appliances. Gorgeous gardens, patios, privacy & stunning views. **\$969,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

56 Dolores Way Set on a picturesque, oak studded knoll w/Mt. Diablo views is this charming single-story home w/3bd+ofc & fam rm & 2.5ba. Located in popular Del Rey area on quiet cul-de-sac. Short walk to schools. **\$1,049,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

42 La Cresta Walk to Del Rey! 4 bd+bonus/3 ba, 2469 sq. ft. home on .45 acre. This home has it all, open floor plan, flat lawn, large deck, around the corner from 12 years of top rated schools. **\$1,095,000**

ORINDA



8 Via San Inigo Quiet nature surrounds this spacious 4bd/3ba 2840 sf home on .52 acre. Best of both worlds, with easy access to Orinda, Berkeley & Tilden Park. Level yard, great patio & VIEWS! **\$1,150,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

62 Van Tassel Lane Charm abounds in this 4bd/3.5ba, 3422 sq. ft. traditional on .68 acre in Sleepy Hollow. Formal LR & DR; eat-in kitchen/ family combo; master retreat with large separate office; and den/study room. **\$1,295,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

2 Los Altos Road Experience living on private .27ac lush setting in sought-after Country Club area. Remodeled 4bd/2.5ba of apx. 3035sf. Vaulted ceilings, kitchen/family rm, deluxe master suite. Beautifully landscaped. **\$1,575,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

259 Sundown Terrace Fabulous 3560sf Orinda Downs one lvl custom w/4 spacious bdrms, grand piano sized living rm, formal dining. Beaut. private .8ac creekside estate setting with sparkling pool, expansive lawn & decking. **\$1,899,000**

ORINDA



3 Canyon View Drive Truly a special setting on 1.36 ac w/grassy lawns, privacy & tranquility. Gorgeous remodeled home of incredible design integrity, fabulous amenities, quality features. Bonus 1 bd/1ba w/kit. cottage. **\$2,050,000**

ORINDA



645 Miner Road Inviting trad. w/sep. guest apt, ideally situated at bottom of cul de sac in desirable Sleepy Hollow school district. Incredible kit. w/granite counters & central island. Priv. mstr suite. Pool & mature redwoods. **\$2,750,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

1392 Camino Peral Updated 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom townhome. New carpet, fresh paint, and minutes from Library, Park, Trails & transportation. **\$525,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

720 Augusta Drive Moraga Country Club Plan 3 with 2 bedrooms and 2 and a half bathrooms. Serene lagoon setting, minutes from pools, tennis courts, golf course, & Club House. **\$739,000**

MORAGA



27 Via Barcelona Situated at end of private cul de sac, 5bd/3.5ba, 3129sf hm offers great views & convenient loc. Updated open granite kit/fam rm, bamboo flrs, dual panes, cathedral ceilings. Wrap around deck, level lawn. **\$995,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

1056 Sanders Drive Beautiful spacious home on level .23ac. 4bd/2.5ba, lots of wood flooring, bay windows, skylights, formal dining, large living rm. Fam. rm off patio, pool, spa, everything to make your summer wonderful. **\$1,125,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

500 Rheem Blvd. Gorgeous 4bd/4ba, 3996sf gated Napa/Mediterranean on 10.68 ac built in 2004! Vineyard w/275 bearing vines & temp controlled cellar & fermentation rm; barn w/2 stables; outdoor kitchen. **\$1,959,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3300 Betty Lane Desirable Lafayette Estates! Walk to schls & Laf. bike trail from this beautifully remodeled 3bd/2ba + sep. ofc hm. Lovely hdwd flrs, full of natural light. Lvl yd w/inviting patios, play & entertaining areas. **\$945,000**

PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

387 Odin Place Cul-de-sac location, 3 bedroom & 2 bathroom home with hardwood floors, dual pane windows, new HVAC. Walk to Vahalla elementary. **\$569,000**



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