

Saving Water In the Garden Can Be Magical

... continued from page D1



From left: Julie Lienert (Roxy Designs), Sandy Brehmer, Richard Brehmer, Roxy Wolosenko

Sandy Brehmer also enjoys her new garden, especially on their new flagstone terrace shaded by a trellis.

Although changing their backyard so dramatically was more expensive than replacing their lawn, they did it “because it felt like the right thing to do,” says Richard Brehmer, referring to the drought.

During these dry times, the East Bay Municipal Utility District is offering incentives to help people re-

duce their water use in the garden. The Water Smart program includes a rebate of up to \$2,500 for single-family homeowners. There is up to \$20,000 for commercial and multi-family units to convert lawns to sustainable landscaping or to install other water saving measures. “Outside water use represents 60 percent of a single family’s water use, and lawns require a lot of water to stay green,” says EBMUD Public Information Representative Nelsy Rodriguez. She believes that this summer is the perfect time to let lawns dry up and to replace it in the fall with drought resistant plants.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed an executive order April 1 requiring cities and water districts to cut water use by 25 percent compared to 2013 levels or face fines of up to \$10,000 a day this summer. “EBMUD’s board of directors will meet in June to approve the budget for the next two years,” says Rodriguez. “Besides raising the rates, they may consider penalties for those residents whose water use is significantly above average.” Rodriguez adds that there is already a state restriction in place that limits lawn watering to only twice a week, before 6 a.m. or after 10 p.m. In EBMUD’s service area, a typical family of three uses about 280 gallons daily indoors and out.

The process to get rebates is simple, she explains: Go to the agency’s website at EBMUD.com and register before beginning any changes to your garden. EBMUD

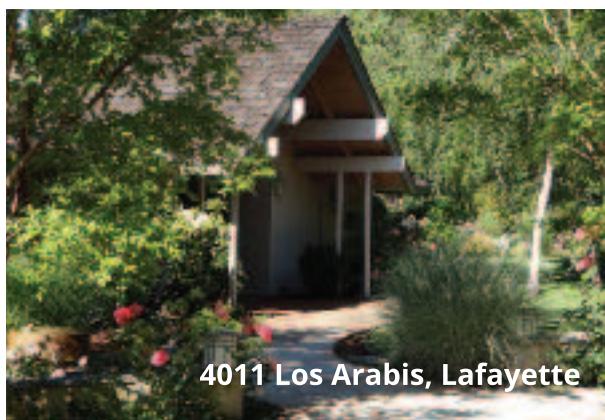


Photos provided

representatives will visit the residence. Then after the improvements have been made and documented, homeowners get the rebate.

The free May 3 Bringing Back the Natives Tour features several workshops. It is a great opportunity to see different drought-resistant native gardens, to get inspired and to learn. Besides the Brehmers’ home, two gardens in Moraga and three in Orinda are among the 30 East Bay homes featured on the tour.

To receive the catalog that includes addresses of the homes, registration is required and it ends April 25. To register, visit <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>.



4011 Los Arabis, Lafayette

4 BR, 3 BA, 2689 square feet, on an almost 3/4-acre lot

Dramatic Upper Happy Valley home in zen-like creekside setting. Enter to find a glass wall overlooking the creek, bamboo flooring, and a custom kitchen. Beautiful, mature landscaping.

Open Sunday, April 12th from 1-4 PM
(Price Upon Request)

PRESENTING TWO OPPORTUNITIES IN BEAUTIFUL LAFAYETTE.



MOTLEY TEAM
REALTORS®



925-385-8503 motleyteam.com

Saraya Motley: License #01265873, Simon Motley: License #01798658



3348 Victoria, Lafayette

3 BR, 2 BA + Bonus Cottage with Full Bath,
2525 square feet, 12750 square foot lot

Chic downtown rancher on a most-desirable street. Designer details: dark stained hardwoods, custom cabinetry and oversized kitchen island. Peaceful creek setting with a sunny back patio and lawn.

Coming Soon (Price Upon Request)