

Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

... continued from page D13



The home-built compost bin

An underground spring augments their watering system. Bob's efficient home-built compost bin resides outside the fence, ready to nourish the garden organically.

I met Pam, a retired flight attendant currently enjoying a second career as an actor, when she worked as an assistant on my TV series, "StarStyle-Live Your Dreams," and I've been privileged since to coach her as on-camera talent. An avid fan of flea markets, Pam taps into her artistic power discovering interesting tossed treasures that she creatively displays throughout the plot. Culminating at the end of the raspberry row, a 1950s oven opens featuring plants in a pan. Around a turn, an old bicycle bears baskets of pink geraniums. Walk up the path a bit further, and a rusted children's pedal car is stranded on a boulder. Rock cairns are piled on an overhang at the pond. Restful seating areas and sweet surprises delight the senses throughout the backyard. My personal favorite is the mystical gravel and river rock topped table set with glasses and a bottle of wine reserved for two. Behind the wire fence with twining vines and ivy, ceramic birds perch on a branch ready to break into song.

A few years ago, Bob decided to plant a vineyard. One hundred and twenty vines of Syrah grow on a side hill above the stacked stone retaining wall. Roses bloom at the end of each row, succulents and pots of cacti climb the stairway. Pam's whimsical contribution to the vineyard includes an antique children's tractor parked between the vines, and a collection of whirly birds to keep the flying birds from devouring the grapes. Sal Captain of Captain Vineyards helps with the management of the crops while Bob does his own bottling and labeling, winning awards in the process.

The gardens and vineyards are beautiful, bountiful and bucolic. It's obvious that Bob and Pam take great pride and joy in their voluptuous, unique garden. With all the stone, wood, water and living greenery, this outdoor oasis claims a natural structure and feeling of security and protection. Although they both love "the city," they are thrilled that they took that drive through the tunnel 20 years ago to discover their own personal nirvana.

Their dream of a secret garden has been realized as they share the view together, toasting Father's Day with a glass of their private label Turtle Crossing wine.



The brook ends with a cascading waterfall into a natural looking pond with koi and Flash, the turtle.

**ADVANCE
TREE SERVICE**
& Landscaping

Family owned in Moraga since 1987



*Your friendly neighborhood
ISA arborists Darren and Lew Edwards*

TREE WORK IS NOT FOR AMATEURS

Tree work is dangerous and is among the highest risk professionals in the U.S. with a fatality rate ranked near commercial fisheries and logging. We as ISA arborists do not manage danger but we do and can manage risk. A tree crew under the supervision of a certified ISA arborist minimizing risk every day. So don't try to save a buck and put yourself in harm's way. Have the professionals at Advance Tree Service do the job right and safely.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local ISA arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping for all your tree needs.

Advance Tree Service

Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.



925-376-6528

advancetree@sbcglobal.net www.advancetree.com

*Follow us on Twitter (advancetree) and like us on Face Book
(ADVANCETREESERVICEANDLANDSCAPINGINC.)*