

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 18 Wednesday, November 2, 2016



November Gardening Guide

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## Montelindo Garden Club Enjoys the Bounty of our 'Founding Gardeners'

By Kara Navolio



Author Andrea Wulf signs book for club member Susan Dalcamo

Photo Kara Navolio

The Montelindo Garden Club hosted five-time author Andrea Wulf on Oct. 21 for a discussion of her 2011 book "Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature and the Shaping of the American Nation." The book, a winner of the American Horticulture Society Book Award, is a flawlessly researched book about the gardens and farms of George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and the interconnection between these men's love of nature and their political lives. In 2011 it reached 32 on the New York Times Best Seller List for Non-Fiction.

As Wulf says, "All four of these men believed that agriculture was the basis of the American economy and important for the country's independence from Europe." While all four were avid gardeners themselves and combined the useful with the beautiful at their estates, it was James Madison who was America's first environmentalist. Readers will likely be surprised to learn that American environmentalism has its roots in a speech Madison delivered in 1818 in which he condemns Americans for the destruction of the environment and deforestation.

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