

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 6 Wednesday, May 16, 2018



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D12

Locals take part in world's largest citizen scientist project

By Sora O'Doherty



Liz Bittner, park supervisor of the Tilden Park Botanical Garden, collects samples in Orinda during Sudden Oak Death Blitz.
Photos Sora O'Doherty

Sudden Oak Death is an emerging infectious disease, and citizen scientists can help predict its spread. On April 28 in the Orinda Library, Matteo Garbelotto, professor of environmental policy at UC Berkeley, brought his Sudden Oak Death Blitz to town, lecturing on the disease and training citizens to go out and collect specimens to add to the database. Although the disease kills oak trees, it is spread by carrier trees, mainly tanoaks and California bay laurels. Laurels can actually recover from the disease, which is fatal to nearby oak trees.

After the training, participants went out to examine trees. If an infected tree was found, 6 to 10 leaves were to be collected and labeled as to the exact location, latitude and longitude, of the tree, which was also marked with a blue plastic strip tied loosely around a limb. Non-infected trees were also to be noted. The collected specimens were then returned within 48 hours to a collection site at Orinda Fire Station 45, picked up by local naturalist William Hudson and returned to the UC Berkeley Forest Pathology Lab for DNA identification to determine if the disease is actually present.

The expensive testing takes a number of months and is funded by the U.S. Forestry Service and a number of private donors, according to Hudson. The results of the spring blitz will be available in October. In the fall, Garbelotto offers comprehensive workshops on dealing with SOD, particularly how to protect uninfected trees.

The Blitz is the first plant disease citizen science project in the world and one of the largest in the country. Data is collected by over 500 collectors and accessed by over a million people. Sudden Oak Death is ramorum blight, caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. Over 200 species of ornamental plants are affected by the disease, which also infects coastal live oaks, black oaks, tanoaks, California bay laurels and Manzanita trees.



... continued on page D4



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

| City | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 4 | \$1,250,000 | \$2,222,500 |
| MORAGA | 8 | \$407,000 | \$2,078,000 |
| ORINDA | 9 | \$910,000 | \$2,700,000 |

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

60 Leslyn Lane, \$2,222,500, 5 Bdrms, 4256 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 4-9-18;

Previous Sale: \$700,000, 09-20-89

517 McBride Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 1977 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-6-18;

Previous Sale: \$340,000, 10-28-88

800 Solana Drive, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3509 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 4-10-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,165,000, 04-05-12

3337 Victoria Avenue, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1304 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 4-9-18;

Previous Sale: \$901,000, 01-10-07

MORAGA

1965 Ascot Drive #10, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 1130 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-10-18;

Previous Sale: \$205,000, 02-03-12

2087 Ascot Drive #124, \$407,000, 1 Bdrms, 761 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-10-18;

Previous Sale: \$180,500, 04-22-10

202 Corliss Drive, \$1,470,000, 4 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-5-18;

Previous Sale: \$170,000, - -

486 Fernwood Drive, \$1,680,000, 4 Bdrms, 2962 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-6-18

117 Goodfellow Drive, \$982,000, 3 Bdrms, 1768 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-6-18

5 Haven Court, \$1,835,000, 5 Bdrms, 2988 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 4-6-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,475,000, 07-31-08

53 Merrill Circle #N, \$2,078,000, 3 Bdrms, 4661 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 4-9-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 12-01-92

1795 St. Andrews Drive, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-5-18

ORINDA

73 Ardilla Road, \$910,000, 4 Bdrms, 2350 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-6-18

47 Charles Hill Road, \$2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2460 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-6-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 05-11-06

3 El Gavilan Road, \$1,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 1241 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 4-10-18

4 Kenmore Court, \$1,255,000, 3 Bdrms, 1832 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 4-6-18;

Previous Sale: \$901,000, 07-02-13

18 Las Cascadas Road, \$2,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 4072 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 4-6-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,560,000, 05-04-12

161 Overhill Road, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 1654 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 4-10-18

116 Scenic Drive, \$1,830,000, 3 Bdrms, 2146 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-10-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,055,000, 05-19-09

23 Wilder Road, \$2,110,000, 4 Bdrms, 3380 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 4-5-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,925,000, 08-12-16

533 the Glade, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2127 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 4-5-18;

Previous Sale: \$981,000, 10-02-09

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LAMORINDA

PENDING



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COMING SOON



TRAIL/BURTON VALLEY
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PENDING



521 SILVERADO DRIVE, LAFAYETTE
OFFERED AT \$1,795,000

JUST LISTED



1195 PLEASANT HILL CIRCLE, LAFAYETTE
OFFERED AT \$1,275,000

JUST LISTED



735 GLENSIDE DRIVE, LAFAYETTE
OFFERED AT \$1,395,000

JUST LISTED



4 SHANNON COURT, MORAGA
OFFERED AT \$2,200,000

PENDING



3279 MT. DIABLO COURT #13, LAFAYETTE
OFFERED AT \$889,000

COMING SOON



LAFAYETTE TRAIL
OFFERED AT \$1,550,000

COMING SOON



20 INDIAN WELLS STREET, MORAGA
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Locals take part in world's largest citizen scientist project

... continued from page D1



Local trees were inspected during Sudden Oak Death Blitz.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

The exotic disease, which kills four types of oak trees, was brought into California in many locations with the importation of ornamental plants from Asia to domestic nurseries. The first escape of the disease was noted in 1987.

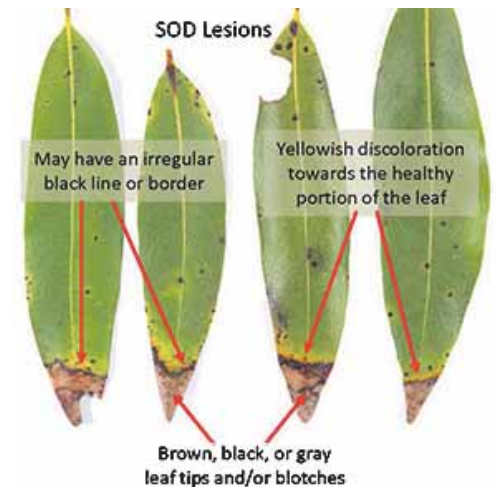
Garbelotto has found that citizen scientists are as accurate, if not more accurate, than professional scientists in the collection of specimens of SOD. His is the largest database ever created for a forest disease. Over the past three years, huge jumps in in-

fection levels have been recorded. The occurrence of the disease is affected by climatic conditions, such as drought. SOD thrives in wet years, declines in dry. The highest infection levels ever recorded were in 2017. Highly visited tourist sites also contribute to the spread of the disease, as tourists carry it from one area to another, increasing the risk of long distance spread. Currently SOD is found in the wildlands of 14 coastal California counties, from Monterey to Humboldt.

Symptomatic bay leaves are often the first sign that SOD has arrived at a location, and generally precedes oak infections. Some management options are available (sanitation, chemical preventative treatments, bay removal), but they are effective only if implemented before oaks and tanoaks are infected; hence, timely detection of the disease on bay laurel leaves is key for a successful proactive attempt to slow down the SOD epidemic, according to Garbelotto.

"The Orinda Library is an excellent location for training East Bay participants because it is so accessible by car or BART," Hudson said, "and we really appreciate the support from Sierra Campana and her predecessors." Volunteer Liz Bittner, park supervisor of the Tilden Park Botanical Garden, said that she attended the training because the park is trying to be more active in identifying and hopefully controlling sudden oak death.

More information about Sudden Oak Death Blitz program can be found at sodblitz.org.



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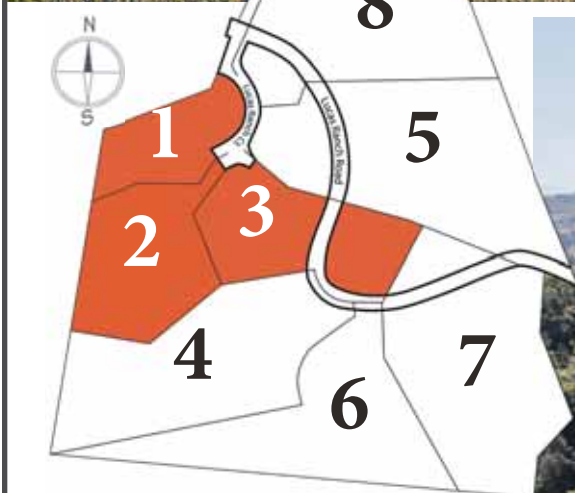
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New designs for spring

By Amanda Eck



Photos provided

The spring season can bring lots of surprises. Sometimes the weather can change wildly from day to day. Just down the hill from me, cherry blossoms bloomed on one side of the street – and not until weeks later on the other. My favorite spring surprises, however, are often found on the other side of the country.

I recently returned from North Carolina where I attended the spring furnishings market at High Point. The High Point Market is the largest furnishings industry trade show in the world, bringing more than 75,000 people to High Point every six months. With more than 2,000 exhibitors and 11.5 million square feet of showrooms, it's like Disney World for interior designers. I always return from market with innovative ideas for assembling spaces.

Coming back with new ideas is easy though. You'd almost have to be asleep to not have that happen. As nice as those fresh, creative ideas are, they aren't the true "gold nuggets" of the visit. When I go, I spend extra effort looking for the surprises – the things you'd never expect to find both pleasant and unpleasant in ways only that unique situation found at market can provide.

The first thing I look for at High Point is scale. Not the size of the place – although it is simply massive. Your feet remind you at the end of every day how big it is, and I think I broke my fit bit from walking so much. But seriously, I'm looking for how big things are in relationship to the other. Is that sofa arm too low or too

high, or how far you sink into it when you're sitting down.

It is not always easy to comprehend the scale of an item (especially lighting) from a website or catalog, so getting to see these pieces up close makes all the difference. Speaking of lighting, I noticed that brass/gold fixtures are not going anywhere anytime soon. We are seeing lots of iron/metal finishes as well as painted metal in an array of colors.

I also look for comfort and quality. And then there's the quality of construction. Opening drawers to feel if they glide with ease or if I have to put some muscle into it, doors that open and close easily, and looking at the underside of pieces to determine if there are globs of glue. The old adage you get what you pay for still stands true. And I will admit, many do not make the cut.

Upholstery is another item that can only be felt and experienced in person. I am a huge advocate for quality upholstery that is made in the USA and unfortunately local furnishings stores have limited options to choose from. I like to bring my clients the best their money can buy and many times those pieces are not sitting on a showroom floor to see. So, I make sure when I am at market to sit, bounce, lay and even roll on furniture to see if it makes the cut. You never know what something is like until you're physically interacting with it. Not only is the sit test important, but the feel and durability of the fabric needs to be considered.

... continued on page D10

Lamorinda Market Activity



Sold

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Sold | Over Asking!

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2 BR | 2 BA | 1,211± SQ. FT.

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Sold | Over Asking!

3 Crane Court | Orinda
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New designs for spring

No use in having a high-quality piece of furniture upholstered in a fabric that will not stand the wear and tear of everyday life. I try and use a Crypton Home fabric any chance I get.

Those are not my favorite surprises though. The very best surprises are the ones I call the "one-offs."

Hunting for the one-off is like being a talent scout. You're sifting and sorting through dozens of hopefuls trying to find the ones that really provide something intriguing. They are sometimes new players who are visionaries with a product or service I'd never seen before. They could also be a stalwart optimist who's been to market several times before offering a product I'd seen but now it comes with a new twist or use that made it relevant where before it was only forgettable. My favorite one-off is the reclusive artisan who just recently found their courage to show off their skill.

... continued from page D8

Here's to hoping you all have a wonderful, surprise-filled spring friends. Until next time!

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, "Beauty is a necessity."

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

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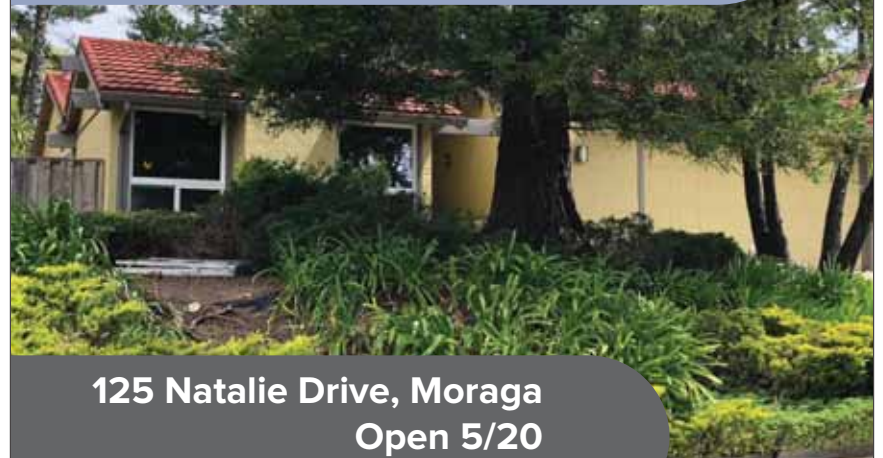


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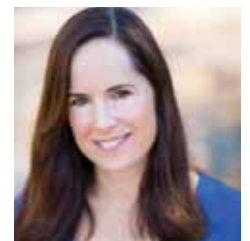
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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

The intriguing life of ladybugs

By Cynthia Brian

"Ladybug, ladybug, fly away home. Your house is on fire and your children will burn." – Nursery Rhyme



Barley and weeds infested with aphids are a habitat for lady beetles.

Photos Cynthia Brian

If you were like me, when you were a child, this ladybug nursery rhyme was one of your favorites. I could imagine the tiny red beetle with the black dots on her back swooping in like a great eagle to rescue her babies. As an adult, of course, I know better than to wish for the ladybugs to fly away home. I want them to make my garden their home to keep the aphids away.

Every year around this time you'll find containers of ladybugs for sale at garden centers. Often when you get these ladybirds home (yes, they are also known as ladybirds or ladybug beetles) they disappear as soon as you open the carton, leaving you wondering where they went and why. The answer is simple. Ladybugs only stay in a habitat that provides food and their main cuisine is aphids. If your garden doesn't have aphids, you may rejoice that these red angels have flown to liberate another's garden. In one year, a single ladybird will eat 5,000 aphids or more.

A most exciting experience transpired in my daughter's garden and I was fortunate to witness the metamorphosis. As Heather prepared her yard for a party she began to cut a field of wild barley and weeds when she noticed many numerous living things. She crouched down on her knees for a closer look to see a plethora of bugs in a vari-

ety of stages including ladybugs. That's when she called me. She didn't want to disturb the life cycle of what she ascertained were breeding ladybugs.

My first question to her was "where are the aphids" to which she answered that she hadn't seen any. I went to the field and from where I stood, I couldn't see anything either, but as soon as I knelt down for an up close and personal look, I was mesmerized. I had never observed ladybugs in their egg, larvae, pupa, or youngster forms. Various stems were hatching at different times. Yellow eggs hung next to larvae that resembled a caterpillar alligator. Then the next stage of pupa was orange with black dots. Juveniles were an orange-yellow without black spots. Adults could be seen on the same stem. The field was alive with birthing ladybugs.

Nearby oleanders were cloaked with aphids as were many of the weeds. The four-stage life cycle of the ladybug begins with the female laying a dozen to 50 eggs after mating onto a plant that will be rich with food. Although we call them ladybugs, there are both female and male ladybeetles. In one season a female may produce 1,000 or more eggs, some of which will become a meal for the larvae. The black and spotted larvae emerge from the eggs in only about four days feeding voraciously on aphids, in-

sect eggs, mites, and other bugs. Resembling alligator like caterpillars, they'll eat 400 or more aphids before they pupate in the next two to three weeks. The pupal stage lasts for three to 12 days when the adult beetles metamorphic into the ladybugs that we recognize.

The adults will stay in a garden as long as aphids or other insects they munch on prevail. When temperatures drop below 55 degrees, ladybugs will hibernate for up to nine months to survive the cold. Once the weather warms, these dynamos begin their feeding frenzy once again until their lifespan of about one year reaches its limits.

If you have lots of aphids in your garden, you have a prime habitat for ladybugs. Get up close, look under leaves, and watch the fascinating cycle of one of our favorite garden friends. Don't fret when the ladybeetles fly away home because it usually means that your landscaping is now aphid free.

... continued on page D14



Ladybug larva resembles an alligator caterpillar on barley.

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39 Berkeley Ave, Orinda



Charming contemporary home featuring 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms nestled in Orinda's lovely Claremont neighborhood. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout with walls of windows bringing in tons of light and the views of the hills across the valley.

\$1,125,000

91 Redwood Terrace, Orinda



Unparalleled view property high atop Orinda's Claremont neighborhood. Two-level, 3,502 sf on one-third acre features multiple view decks, surrounding oak trees and natural terrain. See Briones Reservoir, past the historic Orinda Country Club, and beyond Mt. Diablo.

\$1,650,000

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Cynthia Brian's Mid-month Gardening Guide

- **DEADHEAD** roses! Roses are abundant and magnificent this month with a profusion of blooms. As petals die, make sure to cut back to encourage more blooms.
- **SHOWER** and wash all clothes after hiking or being in the garden as ticks are hiding in the brush. See your physician or go to Urgent Care if you are bitten by a tick as they carry significant diseases.
- **EXAMINE** your pets for ticks.
- **CONSIDER** purchasing repellent clothing to protect yourself from mosquitos, ticks, and insect-borne diseases. Visit <http://www.insectshield.com>
- **LAST CHANCE** to buy discounted baseball tickets for the June 15th Oakland A's versus Los Angeles Angels with an on-the-field watching of the dinosaur fireworks show. <https://groupmatics.events/event/Bestar> More information at <http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org>
- **REPLACE** cracked or broken risers on your irrigation system.
- **WAIT** to pull leaves from daffodils and other spring bulbs until the leaves are completely dry.
- **ADD** a welcome stepping stone to your pathway.
- **PICK** colorful nasturtiums for your dinner salad.
- **PREPARE** your patio for the end of month barbecues and warm weather festivities, including graduations.
- **HANG** your tools on a fence or in a shed for easy to find and use accessibility.
- **PLANT** geraniums for vibrant color that returns annually.
- **VISIT** America's most famous conservationist and the Father of the National Park Service's home, the John Muir National Historic site in Martinez. <https://www.nps.gov/jomu/index.htm>
- **THANK** you to everyone who visited our Be the Star You Are! charity booth at the Moraga Faire. We appreciate the community spirit.

Have a safe and fun Memorial Day and congratulations to all of the graduates.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.
Cynthia Brian



Hang garden tools for ease of use.

Photos Cynthia Brian



A pretty patio ready to celebrate the spring and summer special occasions.



Geranium "Distinction" needs to be in every collection with its pure red flowers.



Look closely and you'll see the larva, the teen, and the adult ladybird.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at www.StarStyleRadio.com.

Buy a copy of the new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.

Available for hire for projects and lectures.

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
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Cynthia Brian in the John Muir gardens.

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11 Hacienda Circle
Peaceful, private 3 Bed/2Bath home. Vintage oak floors, oversized windows, and light filled floor plan.

\$1,595,000

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5 Charles Hill Place
Incredible style inside & out - this property lives FUN! Creatively renovated impeccably 3Bed/2.5Bath home.

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9 Hall Drive
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1 Hartford Road
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Spacious Miramonte Gardens Townhome w/2 Masters upstairs + bed/office on the first floor.

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14 Diablo Circle
This charming single-story home is located on the most coveted street in Lafayette's Hidden Valley neighborhood.

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BERKELEY



1216 Grizzly Peak Boulevard
This jewel opens to Golden Gate & San Francisco Bay views. The Private spaces are filled w/warmth & beauty.

\$1,050,000

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