Jamorinda OUR HOMES

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Nature's gifts ... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Boots on the ground!



Cynthia Brian's newest flower gardening boots.



The perfect colors of Ukraine in a single plant, the Dutch Iris.



Photos Cynthia Brian **Yellow calendulas are edible.**

By Cynthia Brian

"I'm fed up with old men dreaming up wars for young men to die in." ~ George S. McGovern

"Lose yourself in nature and find peace." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson
How much can a gardener accomplish without the proper boots?
To be a successful gardener, we need the right tools. Sturdy boots are an indispensable ingredient for keeping steady and safe on any terrain. Although my gardening wardrobe varies with the seasons, the one item that I'm never without is my garden boots. Over the years I've worn out numerous pairs of cowboy boots, rubber boots, and mud boots, but none were pretty or stylish. My Christmas gift this year from my daughter and her husband was two pairs of decorative, yet highly func-

tional gardening boots. These boots are beautiful, comfortable, waterproof, and quick cleaning, as they must withstand all types of ground, but not battlegrounds.

They are not combat boots.

Wearing my pretty and protective boots, I wonder about the boots of the brave people of Ukraine, both military and civilian, who are courageously fighting against the Russian aggressors. In unanimity with this valiant nation, I am dedicating this season to the colors of blue and yellow. Glory to the heroes!

We can all spring into solidarity by planting blooms for the brave. Choose a combination of specimens from both color spectrums that best represent how you feel. Make sure to check compatibility with light, moisture, and growth habits. ... continued on Page D12