

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Butterflies are free



The solar-powered rock waterfall and the artistic caterpillar.

Photos Cynthia Brian



The pergola provides a centerpiece and shade for the fenced garden.



A close-up of a gorgeous deep pink zinnia.

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Milkweed is growing to feed the caterpillars. Passionflower vines twine up the wooden pergola and wood chip paths meander throughout the plantings. Signage has thoughtfully been installed throughout the beds to instruct visitors on the species planted. The habitat is fenced to keep out hungry predators as well as people. Soon

benches will be installed so that visitors can rest and watch. Volunteers maintain the garden, carefully pulling out the insidious bindweed, and lovingly pruning, deadheading and sowing.

There is something magical about witnessing the flight of a butterfly as it gathers pollen on its legs and disperses it as it flits from flower to flower. Everyone can enjoy a butterfly waystation next spring by planning

now. If you want to erect a Monarch and pollinator oasis, check out the resources provided by the Moraga Garden Club in collaboration with the Xerces Society and Monarch Joint Venture at moragagardenclub.com/moraga-for-monarchs.

Here is a list of milkweeds and other plants that you'll want to consider recommended by the Moraga for Monarchs garden.

MILKWEED

It is recommended to only plant California native milkweeds.

Approved for Lamorinda

Narrow Leaf (*Asclepias fascicularis*)

Showy (*A. speciosa*)

California (*A. californica*)

Woolly (*A. vesta*)

Heartleaf (*A. cordifolia*)

Not Advised for Lamorinda

Common Milkweed (*A.*

syriaca)

Butterfly Weed (*A. tuberosa*)

Tropical Milkweed (*A. curassavica*)

Other Milkweed

SUPPORTIVE PLANTS

Agastache

Anise Hyssop

Bee Balm

Black-eyed Susan

Brodiaea

Butterfly Bush

California Brittlebush

Catmint

Ceanothus

Coyote Mint

Coral Bells

Cosmos

Echinacea

Goldenrod

Hairy Gum Plant

Lavender

Liatris

Lithodora

Lobelia

Lupine

Meadow Blazing Star

Mint (several)

Monkey Flower

Oregon Grape

Passionflower

Passion Vine

Penstemon

Rosemary

Salvia

Sage

Scarlet Monardella

Seaside Daisy

Snake Lily

Sweet Joe Pye Weed

Sunflower

Tithonia

Verbena

Yarrow

Zinnia

Butterflies may be free, but the Monarch is on the possible extinction list. We all need to do our part to save our planet by saving our pollinators. We already know that bees are dwindling and so many other critical species are endangered. Start pesticide and insecticide-free gardening habits. By being

proactive with organic gardening practices and establishing healthy habitats, we will all enjoy our personal paradises while supporting our garden guardians.

I dream that when a butterfly flutters its wings in Lamorinda, it will cause peace throughout the world.

Nature lovers are welcome. The Moraga for Monarchs Butterfly Garden is free. For more information on Moraga for Monarchs or to donate, visit

<https://www.moragagardenclub.com>

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.