

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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## Bringing Back the Natives

*Annual Garden Tour on May 2nd*

By Sophie Braccini



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The Mead-Reynolds garden features an antique lithograph press; in the foreground is California Gooseberry (*Ribes californicum*), behind the press grows a native grass, California Fescue (*Festuca californica*)  
Photo Sophie Braccini

In 2006, Lois Reynolds and Terry Mead went on the “Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour.” The Orinda couple had always wanted to transform their side and back gardens from concrete and dirt to something more appealing and sustainable; it was not until they visited the garden of landscape architect Rick Alatorre during the tour that they decided to act. This season, the couple’s property will be fea-

tured in the 2010 tour which will take place on Sunday, May 2nd. This year’s tour will include two other Lamorinda gardens; Al Kyte’s native garden in Moraga, which has been growing for over 30 years making it one of the oldest in the area, and Barbara Leitner’s garden in Orinda, planted only with natives local to the San Pablo Creek watershed.

Reynolds and Mead asked Alatorre to help them

create their own native garden, and they are thrilled with the result. Reynolds (known to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students as art teacher Mrs Mead, who retired last year), says that her garden is part of her inspiration to develop her art in new directions.

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