

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 3 Wednesday, March 29, 2023



Lamorinda ecosystems discussed ... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

April's potpourri of gardening tasks



Crabapple blossoms make wonderful cut flowers. Photos Cynthia Brian
By Cynthia Brian

"Spring is the time of plans and projects." ~ Leo Tolstoy, "Anna Karenina"

The first few weeks of April will indeed be days of watching, waiting, and planning our projects ... a veritable potpourri of gardening tasks. Instead of sunshine and songbirds, the first few days of spring arrived with heavy downpours and gale-force winds. Not to be discouraged, I put on my mud boots and rain gear to discover the harbingers of spring ... my hellebores. Hiding beneath a blooming azalea, I found my green and fuchsia-tinged aristocratic Lenten roses stretching upwards. If you haven't planted any hellebores in your shade garden, add them to your "must-buy" list. These perennial woodland beauties are available in a spectrum of colors including red, burgundy, yellow, green, pink, ivory and lime. Some varieties are even almost black. They are evergreen, deer and vole resistant, and provide long-lived blooms throughout spring. Since hellebores survive winter frosts, they can be planted now next to ferns, hostas, or other light shade denizens.

Although the weather doesn't look or feel like spring, my garden is awake and desires to delight. The crabapple, prune, and apricot trees



Bee on viburnum blooms

boast spectacular color and the buds on the cherry trees are ready to burst open. Iris, anemone, hyacinth, and cyclamen shimmer in the morning dew, and in the next few weeks the tulips and freesia will be at their prime. Pollinators are flocking to the fragrant white viburnum and the blue rosemary. I am a proponent of planting perennials and bulbs because no matter what the season, something is always in bloom. Over the years, and for several months, I planted daffodils and narcissi bulbs on a weekly schedule. My reward is five to six months of continuous flushes of flowers from countless specimens and cross-category hybrids, including the fragrant jonquilla, doubles, and trumpets.

If you haven't already prepared your soil for spring planting, don't waste any time getting started. Add compost, leaf litter, or manure to increase the nutrients and fertility. Chop cover crops before they go to seed. They can be composted or left on the ground to decompose. This green manure will increase nitrogen, and nutrients, and improve soil structure and quality. After cutting my cover crops, I will scatter them around the landscape, then wait three weeks before planting to allow for the breakdown. If the soil is not being fed, it is feeding on itself, and that will spell disaster.

... continued on Page D10

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	7	\$705,000	\$4,125,000
MORAGA	1	\$2,625,000	\$2,625,000
ORINDA	1	\$1,210,000	\$1,210,000

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

3193 Andreasen Drive, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1988 SqFt, 1971 YrBlT, 02-15-23, Previous Sale: \$970,000, 06-28-13

1288 Candy Court, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1740 SqFt, 1960 YrBlT, 02-14-23

3259 La Canada, \$3,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 3485 SqFt, 1950 YrBlT, 02-08-23, Previous Sale: \$549,000, 03-26-98

3290 Marlene Drive, \$705,000, 2 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlT, 02-10-23, Previous Sale: \$295,000, 12-05-00

1299 Panorama Drive, \$4,125,000, 6 Bdrms, 5263 SqFt, 1975 YrBlT, 02-09-23

3401 Shangri La Road, \$2,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 3828 SqFt, 1983 YrBlT, 02-17-23, Previous Sale: \$1,495,000, 08-12-04

1003 Woodbury Road #207, \$960,000, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt, 2015 YrBlT, 02-17-23, Previous Sale: \$960,000, 06-09-21

MORAGA

422 Fernwood Drive, \$2,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2898 SqFt, 1968 YrBlT, 02-13-23, Previous Sale: \$1,785,000, 04-22-19

ORINDA

18 Nelson Lane, \$1,210,000, 3 Bdrms, 2398 SqFt, 1962 YrBlT, 02-10-23



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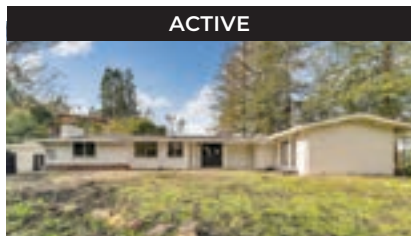
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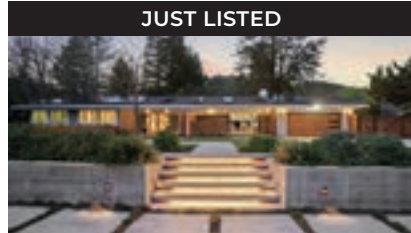
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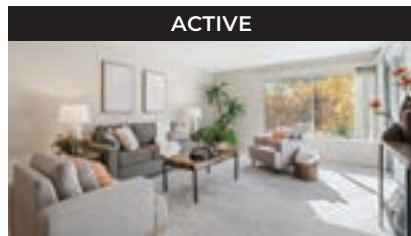
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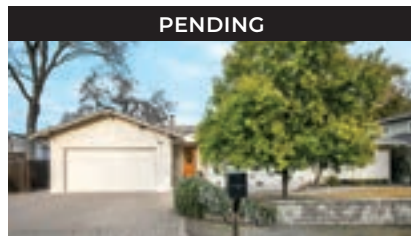
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3746 MEADOW LANE, LAFAYETTE
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26 WILLOW AVENUE, WALNUT CREEK
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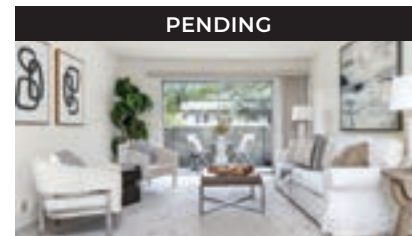
110 WAYLAND LANE, ALAMO
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205 FERNWOOD DRIVE, MORAGA
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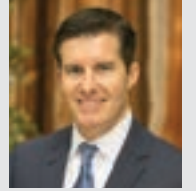


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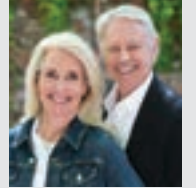
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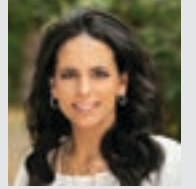
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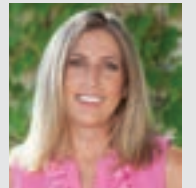
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Exploring Lamorinda's ecosystems



Riparian Ecosystem

Photos Toris Jaeger



Oak Woodland and Grasslands

By Toris Jaeger

We are fortunate to have six ecosystems in Lamorinda: Oak Woodlands, Grasslands, Wetlands, Riparian, Mixed Woodland and Chaparral. We also have Mount Diablo close by and the ocean is a short distance from here. To explore and discover the wonders of the desert would be a journey.

Each ecosystem has plants and animals that identify it and provide essential habitat for these plants and animals.

The Oak Woodlands provide over 50% of all life in nature with what is needed to survive, and we have some of the most beautiful and oldest Oaks in our area.

Grasslands were at one time all native grasses but now we have the "carpet grass" throughout California. Many animals like the deer and rodents eat the grass and many insects call the grass their home.

The Wetlands provide habitat for all forms of aquatic insects, frogs, turtles and water fowl and you will find Cattail and Tule growing in our ponds and lakes.

The Riparian habit is very dramatic and provides a place for animals, birds to drink and eat. It also provides an essential habitat for our fish. There are many different trees that grow along a creek like Willow, Alder, Buckeye, Black Walnut and Big Leaf Maple. And there are a

variety of shrubs like Ninebark and Dogwood that you will find growing along the banks. Of course, there are ferns, Horsetail, Yerba Buena, Native and Non-Native Blackberry there as well.

The Mixed Woodland above the creek beds provides habitat for a variety of tree species like Bay, Madrone, Toyon, Manzanita and Gray Pine. Animals use the Mixed Woodland like a freeway or passage trail to come into and pass out of areas. You may see several different animals travel along this route.

The Chaparral Ecosystems before the non-Native peoples arrived in California were the farthest from the Wetlands and Riparian areas. In Lamorinda this area is in the hills where the plant Coyote Brush and the animal it was named after can be found.

Coyote Brush has fallen into disfavor with our fire departments but it is essential for the insects to use as habitat.

A personal request of mine is that we learn to live with Coyote Brush and its name's sake, the coyote. Coyotes – as well as the owls and hawks and falcons – eat and control the rodent overpopulation in our area.

I encourage you to get out in your Ecosystems and identify them by their plants and animals.

I promise you won't be disappointed.



Mixed Woodland trail



Mixed Woodland



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Orinda

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48 Camino Don Miguel \$1,925,000

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ACTIVE LISTING!

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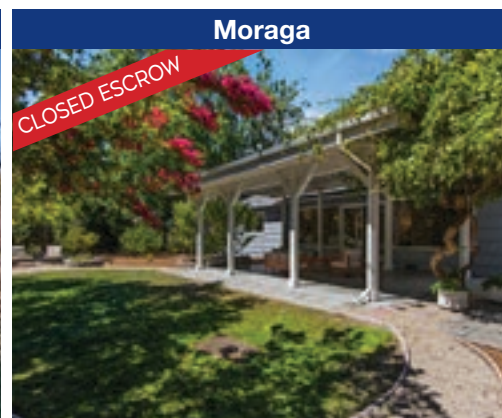
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Moraga

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COMPASS



Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

April's potpourri of gardening tasks



Blue-eyed star grass is a perennial early spring bloomer.

... continued from Page D1

After your new crops are sowed, apply a layer of mulch for added protection, water retention, and erosion control.

The ground is too cold and wet to scatter seeds so many people have started their sprouting endeavors indoors. If this describes you, remember that before you transplant outdoors, your seedlings will need to be hardened off. Once we have reliable days of sunshine, hardening off is an easy process performed over seven days.

- On day one, move your seedlings outside in filtered sunlight for one hour, then bring them back indoors.
- On day two, the seedlings get two hours of sun playtime.
- On day three, offer three hours.
- Repeat each day adding one extra hour of sunshine before bringing them back inside.
- By the end of seven days, it is usually safe to transplant your seedlings wherever you want



Fennel has delicate fern-like foliage and delicious bulbs for salads and roasting.

them to establish. Use your best judgment and make sure the soil and temperature are warm enough.

Don't forget to spread organic snail and slug bait or your new sprouts will be supper for these gastropod mollusks.

Continue harvesting your winter vegetables of broccoli, kale, cauliflower, spinach, Swiss chard, and salad greens. Although my arugula is bolting to set seed, I continue to cut the leaves and flowers to use in my salads. Once the days get hot, I'll dry and save the seeds for scattering in the fall. Speaking of seeds, make sure to read the instructions on any seed packet you purchase. Many seeds must be soaked to help with germination. Wait to plant your vegetable seeds until the soil reaches 65-75 degrees. Most seeds require a planting depth and width that is twice the seed size, except for tiny seeds such as lettuce, celery, and dill which can be scattered and lightly raked. Tiny seeds don't like to be buried because they need sunlight to germinate.

Camellias have been illuminating the garden for several months, but the substantial storms have knocked a plethora of blossoms to carpet the ground. Pick up and destroy all fallen camellia blossoms as a prevention against camellia petal blight. If leaves are distorted, pale, and fleshy, you might have camellia leaf gall which causes the leaves to turn white and fall off. The best control is to pick up and destroy any affected leaves before they turn white.

Clematis leaves are beginning to unfurl on what appears to be dead vines. Don't be tempted to cut back unless you know what type of clematis you have. There are three types of clematis: Group 1: woody-stemmed bloom on last year's stems. Prune *after* flowering in spring. Group 2: double and semi-double varieties bloom twice. Prune *after* spring flowers fade and cut back dead wood in winter. Group 3: large blooms that appear in summer and fall grow on the current year's growth. Prune severely in winter leaving two buds on each stem.

These are just a few of the garden potpourri of chores that can be accomplished in early April in anticipation of spring sowing later in the month. Lawns will welcome an aerating and feeding anytime now. Shrubs, trees, and ground covers will benefit from fertilizing this month. For more ideas, check out my book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" available at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store> or wherever you buy your garden books.

Happy Growing. Happy Gardening! Happy Spring!



Arugula is starting to bolt, yet still tender and delicious.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Mark your calendars:

April 15: Orinda Garden Club (“OGC”) 2023 Plant Sale

9 a.m. – 1 p.m., Orinda Library Plaza, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda
 The sale will include perennials, vegetables, succulents, annuals, natives, as well as pollinator and drought-resistant plants. For more Plant Sale information, see <https://www.orindagc.org/plantsale-public.html>

April 29: Moraga Community Faire

11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Visit the Be the Star You Are!® booth sponsored by MBjessee Painting (www.MBjessee.com) and Dr. Brian Sheaff Family Dentistry (<http://www.drsheaffdentistry.com>) for free seed planting for kids, book signing, and giveaways. Info: <https://www.bethestaryouare.org/copy-of-events>

April 17- May 17: Be the Star You Are!® charity Shoe Drive

Campolindo High School. Chaired by Ella Kalpakjian. Drop off any clean, wearable, used, or new shoes and boots for all ages.
 May 1-June 30: The BTSYA Shoe Drive continues at these sponsored locations: Mark Hoogs State Farm Insurance (629 Moraga Road Moraga, 925-254-3344, www.TeamHoogs.com) and 5 A Rent-A-Space (455 Moraga Rd. #F, Moraga, 925-631-7000, <https://5aspace.com/>). For more information, visit <https://www.bethestaryouare.org/shoedrive>



Cynthia Brian with blooming amaryllis.

Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian 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 StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Her newest children’s picture book, No Barnyard Bullies, from the series, Stella Bella’s Barnyard Adventures is available now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com <http://www.GoddessGardener.com>



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ORINDA



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\$4,250,000

ORINDA



224 Camino Sobrante
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\$2,695,000

ORINDA



New Listing!

237 Glorietta Blvd
Fabulous 5 bd mid-century! Great level yard! Private lane near Glorietta Elem!

\$2,395,000

ORINDA



40 Las Palomas
Charming 4 bd/ 3.5 ba home w/ European flair sits on serene .30-acre parcel featuring sunny patios & tranquil seating areas!

\$1,795,000

ORINDA



New Listing!

11 Kittiwake Road
Single story 4 bd/ 3ba home in a private setting close to downtown w/ an ideal floor plan & separation for today's modern living!

\$1,595,000

ORINDA



New Listing!

37 La Madronal
Nestled among majestic oaks w/ picturesque views of Mt. Diablo this property includes 3 bd/ 2 ba & 2427 sqft on a .25-acre parcel!

\$1,450,000

LAFAYETTE



1332 Reliez Valley Road
Perfectly updated 3450 sqft home w/ 5 bd + office/4 ba featuring formal living & dining rooms, chef's kitchen & French windows!

\$3,150,000

WALNUT CREEK



1682 Parkside Drive
Beautifully updated townhome in Walnut Creek's Buena Vista neighborhood features 2 bd/2.5 ba, lg living room & 2 amazing patios!

\$799,000

WALNUT CREEK



1881 Cannon Drive
Charming SkyWest dwelling featuring 2 lg primary bedroom suites, fireplace & backyard views of the pool & Mt. Diablo!

\$738,000

OAKLAND



8117 Skyline Blvd
Stylish, contemporary, light & bright 3 bd/ 2.5 ba, 2081 sq ft open floor plan. Not to be missed!

\$1,388,900

OAKLAND



New Price!

438 W Grand Ave, # 528
Amazing 2 bd/ 2 ba condo located in the Broadway Grand Building in the Heart of Uptown Oakland!

\$785,000

ALAMEDA



2110 Buena Vista
Duplex in Central Alameda, walking distance to Park Street! Unit A: 2bd/ 1.5 ba, Unit B: 2 bd/ 2 ba. Easy access off and on the island!

\$995,000

The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby
Patricia Battersby
Shannon Conner
Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich
Emily Estrada

Joan Evans

Linda Friedman

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Gillian Judge Hogan

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Christina Linezo

April Matthews

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