



# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS □ VOLUME 18 NO. 4 □ FALL 2009

## Preservation Challenges at Lotusland

BY GWEN STAUFFER

**L**OTUSLAND RANKS AS ONE of Santa Barbara's premier historic cultural landscapes, influenced by many different owners, landscape architects, garden designers, horticulturists and one significant person, Madame Ganna Walska. Even though Lotusland opened to the public only 16 years ago, Madame Walska began her vigorous development of the gardens 50 years before then.

The history of Lotusland actually started as early as 1882 when Ralph Kinton Stevens purchased a 98-acre parcel that his wife, Caroline Lucy Tallant, named "Tanglewood" because of the dense growth of California coast live oaks and scrubby chaparral on the property. A mental image of the early days of Tanglewood hardly resembles Lotusland as we know it today. All that has happened to the gardens, grounds and buildings of Lotusland since Stevens began developing his lemon and palm nursery is a layering of gardens and structures by four owners: Stevens, who would develop the first nursery of tropical and subtropical plants in California, assembling a collection of unusual plants from around the world; Erastus Palmer Gavit and his wife, Marie, who would rename the estate Cuesta Linda and build the main house complex and its adjacent gardens, the bathhouse, the formal parterres behind the house, the newly restored cypress allée and water stairs; Sir Humphrey Clarke, whose wife was quick to make extensive changes to the interior of the house in less than two years; and, finally, Madame Ganna Walska.

The layering of these four eras of the estate's development is evident throughout Lotusland, but the lack of

*Continued on page 2*



VIRGINIA HAYES

*Bromeliad garden in the shade of oaks.*

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## Mission Statement

*To preserve and enhance the spectacular collections of exotic plants and the historic Montecito estate of Madame Ganna Walska, to provide public access to their remarkable beauty and diversity and, through interpretation of these collections, to foster increased knowledge and appreciation of the importance of plants and the need for their conservation.*

### *Continued from page 1*

records about each of these eras generates some uncertainty about the timing of alterations to the estate and who was responsible for them. The prescribed treatments of historic places—preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction\*—can only be considered when a period of significance is determined. The period of significance for the garden is rather obvious, and even though many people influenced its development, the most significant person to make the most intense and final impact was the charismatic diva Ganna Walska. The period of significance for the main house is not so clear but more likely lies with the work of Reginald Johnson and George Washington Smith. Madame Walska left the main house essentially unaltered.

The lack of records in Lotusland's archives presents the first challenge for preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and reconstruction of the estate, and this is the source of both great fascination and frustration for Lotusland's staff and board. A recent example is the rehabilitation of the main house foyer in which we relied on a 1920s photograph of a portion of the foyer to restore arches we believe were designed by Reginald Johnson, but we could not establish the remainder of the foyer construction and fixtures. Our Facilities Committee is now discussing the implementation of an historic assessment of the entire estate so that we can establish with near certainty the period(s) of significance and develop a preservation plan. It is not so

simple to make a public garden from a private estate, particularly when it has historic and cultural value. There are many challenges, not the least of which is the need to balance original design and infrastructure for residential use with the very different needs for contemporary use. For example, the narrow brick paths, rustic stone paths, and frequent steps were designed for a single pedestrian or an intimate pairing, but were not intended to accommodate large groups of people touring together and possibly with special needs. Through rehabilitation, we can depict the appearance of the original paths, but sensitively change the grade or widen the path surface in a way that accomplishes accessibility while maintaining historic integrity.

The greatest challenges in preserving Lotusland lie deep within the garden itself. It is not possible to "freeze" the garden in a moment in time, as can be done with a building or structure. Plants are living organisms that can affect the overall aesthetic, the garden environment and the rest of the plant community around them.

A perfect example of this is the deep shade of the mature California coast live oaks that provide the ideal level of light to grow shade-loving bromeliads beneath the oak canopy. If an oak should suddenly fail and topple as they are prone to do, not only do we lose an important garden feature in the oak itself, but the plant collections in an entire garden space are placed in jeopardy due to the sudden loss of shade and dramatic increase in sunlight. Lotusland staff are



*East wall of main house foyer, circa 1920.*

prepared to install plants that will provide instant shade—in this case, tree ferns—while also installing new oaks that will, eventually, provide the shady canopy that was originally present.

In some cases, the change to the garden can be easily anticipated. We currently give the best care possible to the magnificent Monterey cypress and California coast live oak on the main lawn, but both of these trees have aged past their prime and are in the stages of senescence. Eventually, we will have to replace these iconic trees, but the aesthetic they provide now will not be enjoyed again for at least a few more generations.

Another example is found in the blue garden, where the blue-foliaged and sun-loving plants that make up the floor of the garden are now succumbing to shade produced by palms, atlas cedars, an oak and the bunya-bunya that were once short and small, but now are grown to maturity. The need to replace plants is clear, but the decision on which ones—the trees or the under story groundcover—is not.

As we move forward in accomplishing the elements of our Long Range Plan that address the physical aspects of Lotusland, we will be guided by a commitment to preservation of this important Santa Barbara cultural place.

**\*Preservation** is the process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of an historic property.

**Rehabilitation** is the process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations and additions, while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical or cultural values.

**Restoration** is the process of accurately depicting the form, features and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period.

**Reconstruction** is the process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

## Foyer Restoration

**T**HE MAIN HOUSE foyer was recently restored to the way it was in the 1920s when E. Palmer and Marie Gavit owned Lotusland, then know as Cuesta Linda. (See photo on page 2.) The project was generously funded by the William E. Weiss Foundation in honor of Bruce Gregga.

Gregga and Lotusland Trustee Barbara Siemon designed and coordinated the project. The restoration included opening up one arch and restoring two others, creating a new front door, and purchasing light fixtures and several pieces of furniture. It is beautiful and looks remarkably like it did decades ago. Thank you also to Barbara Wisely and her company FORMATIONS; William Laman Furniture, Garden, Antiques; and Carleton-Kirkegaard Framing.

## Director's Letter

**L**ATELY I HAVE BEEN thinking about the history of Lotusland and the three distinct “eras” measured by time and people—Ralph Kinton Stevens, the Gavit family and, of course, Madame Ganna Walska. Throughout this property’s history starting in 1882 with R.K. Stevens, the many people involved in its creation were also known for their numerous works in Santa Barbara and around Southern California. The creative work of Lotusland’s estate owners and their architects, garden designers and plantsmen continues to define Lotusland, making it an important historical resource for the community of Santa Barbara and all of Southern California.

In each of Lotusland’s eras, new layers of gardens, buildings, amenities, paths and finishes were added by a new group of people that often altered and sometimes obliterated the contribution of the people from previous eras. While this makes historic restoration, preservation and interpretation somewhat tricky, it also makes the story of Lotusland very rich and deep.

The grandeur of Lotusland is synonymous with Ganna Walska, and the influence of all the craftsmen before and during her time does not diminish her visionary legacy. In fact, Madame admired and sought out the “great masters” to help her design and create everything from her couture to her cycad garden. While Madame was unquestionably the creative director of Lotusland, she was also the student dependent upon the knowledge and talent of many local people who were each building their own professional reputations. Lockwood de Forest, renowned for many gardens he designed around Santa Barbara, advised Madame as she contemplated her first garden plans. Ralph Stevens, son of R.K. Stevens and Superintendent of Parks in Santa Barbara, continued that association after de Forest left to fight in World War II. Many other outstanding designers and plantsmen in and around Santa Barbara followed them in this great collaboration.

Lotusland is an important place in the history of architecture, garden



Gwen Stauffer

RICK CARTER

design and horticulture in Santa Barbara and Southern California. The development of Lotusland over time is as much a part of the story of the Santa Barbara community as any other historic place. It is you, our members and friends, who help us keep the story of Lotusland alive and protected. We are so grateful to have you in our Lotusland community, and we look forward to seeing you in the garden.

Warmest regards,  
Gwen L. Stauffer

## LotusFest!

**T**HE LOTUSES WERE IN FULL BLOOM in both the Japanese garden and the water garden for our annual celebration of Lotusland's legendary namesake. Guests enjoyed premium wines from some of Santa Barbara County's finest vintners, complemented by delicious hors d'oeuvres, and a chance to win a two-night stay with dinner and breakfast at the Santa Barbara Four Seasons Biltmore. The Vajra Jazz Trio delighted guests with their mellow sounds throughout the afternoon. Valerie Halverson and Eric Hochberg of Ikenobo Ikebana provided a demonstration and display of *Ikebana*, the art of Japanese flower arranging.

Thank you to the Four Seasons Biltmore, Ikenobo Ikebana and to the very generous vintners who participated: Alma Rosa Winery and Vineyards, Blair Fox Cellars, Buttonwood Farm Winery, Carina Cellars, Daniel Gehrs Wines, Dierberg Vineyards, Jaffurs Wine Cellars, Kenneth Volk Vineyard, LaFond Winery, Lucas and Lewellen, Santa Barbara Winery, Star Lane Winery, Summerland Winery, Vinfuzion, Whitcraft Winery and Zaca Mesa Winery.

—Dorothy Shaner



Lotusland supporter Beverly Smaniotto chatted with Executive Director Gwen Stauffer at LotusFest.



Terri Thielst and Julie Young of Daniel Gehrs Wines, one of the many vintners who donated wine.



Natasha Bachurin and Mike Lewellen of Lucas & Lewellen poured for appreciative guests.



Tony Paterson and Mary Fisher represented Summerland Winery.



Adriana Jimenez of Alma Rosa Winery and Vineyards poured at the festive event.



Antonio Gardella served a variety of wines for both Star Lane Winery and Zaca Mesa Winery.



Guests enjoyed seeing the lotuses in full bloom in the water gardens at LotusFest.

## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

# Sustainable Plant Health Care Summer Intern Elizabeth Chapple

**A** WEEK OR TWO before my Sustainable Plant Health Care Summer Internship began, I got a call from Mike Iven, Director of Grounds and Facilities, informing me that my first task as intern would be a trip to St. Louis, Missouri for the annual American Public Garden Association conference. What a way to start! There could not have been a more appropriate way to kick off my internship, seeing that the main focus of the conference was sustainability.

The need for sustainability is established now more than ever before, and gardens should be a resource to show people how to achieve ecologically friendly goals. At the conference, I met wonderful people representing amazing public and botanical gardens from around the world, each one totally impressed with Lotusland. It was just a preview of the fun and informative weeks to follow.

I have spent the last six years of my life studying landscape architecture and horticulture at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. During that time, I was fortunate to study abroad and do an internship in Newcastle, Australia working with native plants from the Hunter Valley. In all that time at school, though, I never received the horticultural information and knowledge that I have gained at

Lotusland. While working behind the scenes, I have truly come to understand what it takes to keep a garden and plants looking so healthy and beautiful.

I spent most of the internship working with Lotusland Plant Health Care Coordinator Corey Welles. He has shown me that the compost project in the backfield, the insectaries scattered around the perimeter of the property and hidden throughout the garden, and spraying compost tea are all measures taken to protect and establish a thriving beneficial ecosystem within the garden. These ecosystems hidden in the soil and flying through the air are the true secrets behind the health of the plants.

Skeptics may have a difficult time switching to sustainable methods, but I think one look at Lotusland would help to change many minds. It is most interesting to walk the gardens with Corey and other members of the garden staff who have been here long enough to watch the transition from conventional to sustainable methods and who really see the difference in the plants. The cycads have never had so many new healthy leaves or produced so many cones, and the roses are almost entirely disease and pest free, a difficult feat. Even plants from different climates that are especially susceptible to problems as a result of our weather and soils are able to thrive here because they are



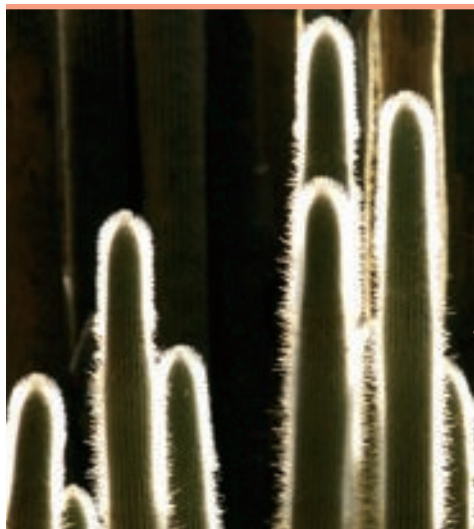
Elizabeth Chapple

COREY WELLES

provided a healthy environment and the utmost care.

There are so many marvelous and magical things about the gardens of Lotusland. I am always discovering something new and wonderful—the way the climate changes as I walk from the epiphyllum garden into the cycads, the intricate details of the grotesques in the theatre garden, or the glow around the cacti in the early morning and late afternoon light. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to live here at the garden and the chance to get to know all of the incredible people responsible for keeping Lotusland so amazing.

Thank you to Mike Iven, Corey Welles, Greg Kitajima, Esau Ramirez, Paul Mills, Gwen Stauffer and all of the Lotusland staff for making the summer an incredible, unforgettable experience. I am very grateful to the Roberts Brothers Foundation and to Lotusland for funding this year's internship.—Elizabeth Chapple



RICK CARTER

## Twilight Time at Lotusland Fall's Magic Spell

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24 • 3:30 PM TO SUNSET

**L**OTUSLAND PROVIDES A dramatic backdrop for exploration as the seasons change and the evenings grow longer. You may request a docent-guided tour or choose to self guide when you make your reservation.

Festive refreshments will be served on the terrace...and it's no trick: your commemorative Lotusland wine glass

is a treat for you to keep! Children are welcome at this Twilight Tour and will be admitted free if they are in a costume or mask accompanied by a paying adult.

Don't miss this chance to enjoy a very "spirited" afternoon in the garden, alive with the sights and sounds of Halloween. Please use the coupon on page 15 to register. —Dorothy Shaner



## The LOTUS SOCIETY

### PEGGY WILEY AND WILSON QUARRÉ

**B**OTH WERE BORN and raised in California—Peggy in Pasadena and Wilson in Bakersfield and San Francisco. Both of their fathers were involved in the cattle industry, and their families were involved in Pacific Asia Museum, De Young Museum and the California Academy of Sciences.

Professionally Peggy and Wilson were both involved in the avocado industry and as realtors in the real estate industry. Socially they had numerous mutual friends. In sports, they did the

same activities. But they never met until Peggy moved to Santa Barbara in 2004 after traveling the world, looking for adventure and a desirable place to live.

It is no surprise that Wilson and Peggy met at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Peggy describes herself as a Museum junkie. Wilson told me, “I went to the Museum of Art and there was Peggy.” As Wilson and Peggy became acquainted, they found that they shared very similar backgrounds and numerous common interests. One of those interests is Lotusland, which Peggy and Wilson consider a work of art.

As Peggy traveled, she always included a visit to some of the great gardens of the world. Upon settling in Santa Barbara, she asked a friend, “Wouldn’t it be nice if there was a great garden in Santa Barbara?” Her friend told her that indeed there was, and she brought Peggy to Lotusland in 2005 for her birthday. Peggy became a member that day, and visited Lotusland three more times that fall. Once again, serendipity played a role in Peggy’s passion for Lotusland, as she became friends with Ozzie Da Ros, who shares her passion for stone. During one event at Lotusland, Ozzie and Peggy stood together on the single large rock that is the bridge over the pond in the Japanese garden. Ozzie described how he dug that rock from a field in Temecula, where Peggy had lived, and placed it

in the Japanese Garden—the same field in which Peggy taught her children how to shoot.

Wilson came to Lotusland for the first time with Peggy. “I grew up feeling connected to the land, and gardens were not a passion of mine,” he admits, “but Lotusland is off the charts.” Wilson likes the cactus garden, especially on those rare occasions when he has seen it at twilight when all the critters in the gardens come out. He also likes the cycad collection and marveled again by their evolutionary survival as we strolled among them. Peggy is especially fond of all the patios on Lotusland’s house and gardens. “They are not too large, and they place you right in the garden, and when you are in the garden, the patios draw you into the house.”

While Peggy and Wilson each developed interests they found in common, Lotusland was the first they shared together. They both enjoy the great variety of plants at Lotusland and love Madame’s style of massing like plants. Both agreed this is something one cannot see in most gardens. “Every garden at Lotusland is a total surprise,” says Peggy, and Wilson adds, “Other gardens are more traditional.”

Joining *The Lotus Society* in support of Lotusland has been a very personal thing for them. “We feel pride that we are involved in *The Lotus Society*,” Peggy says. “Lotusland is an estate of the highest caliber, which requires a great deal of resources,” she adds. “It is not only a Santa Barbara treasure, it is a California treasure, and it should always carry on.” —Gwen Stauffer



### PLEASE BECOME A LOTUS SOCIETY MEMBER

**M**EMBERS OF *The Lotus Society* have each made a gift or bequest of \$10,000 or more to Lotusland’s Endowment Fund. Names of *Lotus Society* members are engraved on *The Wall of Honor*, which is located at the Visitor Center at the end of the Australian tea tree arbor.

To learn more about *The Lotus Society*, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland’s Director of Development, at 805.969.3767, extension 105.



Peggy Wiley and Wilson Quarré

## LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES Our Secret Gardens

**L**OTUSLAND IS VERY GRATEFUL to our generous Sponsors—Cabana Home, Luci and Rich Janssen, and Mish Tworkowski of Mish New York—and our wonderful Sustainers—Cal-a-Vie Health Spa, Larry and Patricia Durham, I.D.O. Events, Inc., Kind World Foundation (who also helped underwrite the cost of the program), Tom Mielko, William and Sandra Nicholson, and Lady Ridley-Tree—as well as our terrific Contributors—Classic Party Rentals, Rose Story Farm, Beverly Smaniotto and Sotheby’s—who made this fundraising gala not only one of the most financially successful events ever, but also one of the most fascinating parties of the summer.

Creative Committee Tri-chairs Dawn Lafitte, Jill Levinson and Cynthia Spivey, along with their committee—Anne Dewey, Betsy Drucker, Sally Enthoven, Tiffany Foster, Kate Gura, Danielle Dall’Armi Hahn, Kisa Heyer, Bambi Leonard, Alixe Mattingly, Sandra Nicholson, Lizzie Peus, Valerie Rice, Laura Shelburne, Daryl Stegall, Crystal Wyatt—and Tamara Jensen and I.D.O. Events, Inc. did an amazing job of sharing Lotusland’s Secret Gardens with the guests. We are grateful for the support of Sotheby’s for underwriting the invitation and providing the excellent services of auctioneer Lisa Hubbard.

After guests were invited to toss a gold coin in the newly renovated wishing well—and make a wish for

Lotusland—they strolled along the cypress allée (also newly renovated) to the water gardens where lotuses and water lilies were in full bloom.

While enjoying specialty drinks and delicious hor d’oeuvres, guests wound their way around the dragon trees to Madame Walska’s swimming pool and discovered the “Unsynchables of La Mirada.” The synchronized swimming group, in matching red bathing suits and red caps, not to mention full make-up and umbrellas, entertained guests with their beautiful swimming routines.

A walk through the butterfly garden and under the lemon arbor brought guests to the main lawn to enjoy Gil Rosas playing Madame Walska’s piano. A major attraction during the party was viewing the pavilion, which was Madame Walska’s residence the entire time she lived at the garden. Cabana Home blended their new and wonderful furnishings with those that belonged to Madame Walska.

Guests arrived for dinner at beautiful tables with creative centerpieces featuring different gardens by Rose Story Farm and enjoyed the wonderful champagne donated by AJ and Valerie Rice.

Board President Mason Farrell welcomed guests and thanked our generous donors and talented event committee. After dinner was served, Lotusland Executive Director Gwen Stauffer took the stage to talk about Lotusland and the need for support from our members



PHOTOS BY RICK CARTER

Jillian Hoffman and Peter Muller were the successful bidders for the beautiful triple-wrap necklace—which Jillian is wearing—designed and generously donated by Mish Tworkowski of Mish New York (CENTER).

and from the community. Sotheby’s Lisa Hubbard joined Gwen on the stage, and they did a marvelous job of auctioning eight very special items. The first item was a private photo shoot at Lotusland with photographer Liz Lonky, who specializes in spontaneous moments in natural settings.

Always a favorite, this year’s “replica” of one of Madame Walska’s sculptures in the garden was the very quirky and delightful “Dr. Seuss” flowers. The third item was a beautiful painting titled *Afternoon Meditation at Lotusland* by Tom Mielko featuring the water garden and bathhouse. The painting was framed by Carleton-Kirkegaard Framing.

Next up were two stunning pieces of jewelry by nationally acclaimed jewelry designer Mish Tworkowski of Mish New York. The kunzite and peridot “Chatham” earrings were done in 18k white gold with a botanical theme. The triple-wrap necklace combined beautiful Tahitian keshi with faceted peridot briolettes in an extra-long length.

Bidding was intense for the popular *Adopt a Garden* auction item. This year it was the fern garden, complete with a poolside party for 40. A truly amazing “secret” auction item was *Dinner for Ten* with Rhonda Byrne, best-selling author of *The Secret* and producer of the feature-length film. Millions have viewed the film since its release, and her book has been on *The New York Times* bestseller

*Continued on page 8*



Lotusland Celebrates Committee members (FRONT ROW) Betsy Drucker, Tiffany Foster, Tri-chair Jill Levinson, Tri-chair Dawn Lafitte, Valerie Rice, Alixe Mattingly, Crystal Wyatt, Tamara Jensen; (BACK ROW) Kate Gura, Daryl Stegall, Sally Enthoven, Danielle Dall’Armi Hahn, Tri-chair Cynthia Spivey, Kisa Heyer, Laura Shelburne, Lizzie Peus; NOT PICTURED: Anne Dewey, Bambi Leonard, Sandra Nicholson.



Caroline Thompson, Executive Director Gwen Stauffer, Laura Lynne and Steve Thompson. Laura, holding a "key" to the pavilion, was the high bidder for the Stay-cation. The Thompsons of Cabana Home provided furnishings and design.



Bidding was spirited for the beautiful painting titled Afternoon Meditation at Lotusland by Tom Mielko (RIGHT). John and Connie Percy were the lucky auction winners.

*Continued from page 7*

list every week since its release. The catered dinner will be donated by New West Catering.

The pièce de résistance was the Stay-cation in Lotusland's pavilion. It provided an opportunity to spend a long weekend in Madame Walska's wonderfully decorated home and have the entire garden all to yourself. Cabana Home and the Lotusland Celebrates Committee created the ultimate one-of-a-kind experience for the lucky winners.

As the sun began to set, the last item of business was drawing the winner of the raffle item, which was a 4-night stay for two at the luxurious Cal-a-Vie Health Spa in northern San Diego County, nestled away on 200 private acres. This item was valued at \$9,990 and included fitness classes, cooking demonstrations and several therapeutic treatments.

The success of the auction and raffle item came as no "secret" to the guests who were reluctant to leave the beauty of twilight in the garden. Volunteers handed out delicious cupcakes donated

by Jeannine's Bakery and charming basil plants in hand-screened lotus-motif wrappers, from Karrie Crane's Homegrown Pantry Kitchen Gardens.

Lotusland wishes to thank the following supporters whose generosity ensured a clandestine adventure and a major fundraising success.

—Anne Dewey

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Caroline & Steve Thompson  
John & Laurie Tilson  
Gary & Susanne Tobey  
Wyatt Technology Corporation



The Unsynchronables of La Mirada performed while guests enjoyed specialty drinks and hors d'oeuvres.



Event Benefactor Joan Moore (RIGHT) and her daughter Shelby Strong enjoyed discovering Lotusland's "Secrets."



Board President Mason Farrell and his wife Julie. Mason welcomed guests and thanked the talented committee and generous donors who made Our Secret Gardens such a wonderful event.



We are grateful to Luci Janssen and her husband Rich, who are longtime Lotusland supporters and one of our very generous Sponsors for Our Secret Gardens.



Anthony and Gay Browne were the high bidders on a gorgeous pair of Chatham earrings with a botanical theme, designed and donated by Mish Tworkowski of Mish New York.

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- in honor of Al & Rosalind Amorteguy
- Jeff & Janet Olsson, New West Catering\*
- AJ & Valerie Rice
- Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Spivey
- in honor of Cynthia & Eric Spivey
- Anonymous

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- Daniel Bifano & Allan Brostrom
- in honor of hosts Gary & Susanne Tobey
- Ted & Karen Coyne
- Karrie Crane,
- Homegrown Pantry Kitchen Gardens\*
- Kathleen & William Crevier
- in honor of hostess Beverly Smaniotto

**AUCTION WINNERS**

- Anthony & Gay Browne
- Nelson Coates
- Frank & Tiffany Foster
- Sandra & Laura Lynne
- Peter Muller & Jillian Hoffman
- John & Connie Percy
- Lady Ridley-Tree
- Kevin & Kerri Sanford

*\*denotes in-kind donations*



Event Benefactor Joey Pearson chatted with Lotusland Trustee Nancy Wood at the sold-out gala.



David and Lisa Wolf, Nichola Dunne and Norman Waitt, a generous event Sustainer through the Kind World Foundation, posed at the water gardens.

## NEW TO THE COLLECTIONS

# Fishhook Barrel Cactus

AS MADAME WALSKA knew, there is always another species of cactus to be added to the collection. While attending the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's Biennial Conference in Tucson, Arizona this year, I was able to procure three young seedlings of *Ferocactus wislizeni* fma. *flavospina*. This particular selection has yellow spines instead of the more common tan-colored spines and was discovered in Arizona by a member of the local chapter of the society. Seed was collected and grown for several generations, and when it was established that the yellow spination was a stable genetic trait, the plant was further propagated for distribution. Each conference attendee was given one as a table favor at the final banquet. Lotusland Research Associate Jeff Chemnick and Santa Barbara nurseryman Randy Baldwin donated

them to us for a total of three plants.

In the deserts of Arizona and northern Mexico, where this barrel cactus grows, it has been used as an emergency source of water by both the Seri and O'odham tribes. The fruits persist through most of the year and produce a sour-tasting juice. However, no one would choose to use it except in an emergency as it can cause stomach distress and even joint pain.

One common name for this cactus is "compass barrel," as old plants have a tendency to lean toward the southwest. Other common names are fishhook barrel and Arizona barrel cactus. Very mature plants may stand at six feet tall or more with diameters of about two feet. The three newcomers to Lotusland are planted along the main drive, near other barrel cacti in the same genus, *Ferocactus*.  
—Virginia Hayes



VIRGINIA HAYES

*Bright yellow spines on this unique form of fishhook barrel cactus catch the early morning light.*

## Interns—Where Are They Now?

LOTUSLAND HAS BENEFITED for many years from enthusiastic college students who have served as Sustainable Plant Health Care Summer Interns. These highly motivated people have been enrolled in some aspect of horticultural, botanical or environmental studies and come from around the country. While here, they work with our gardening staff, gaining hands-on experience in their academic discipline.

Many have completed their studies and found employment in their chosen fields. Their success stories are varied, but it is always heartening to hear how their experience at Lotusland has furthered their educational and career goals.

One such intern has recently started her own business in the Santa Barbara area. Karrie Crane was no stranger to Lotusland (her father, Geoff Crane, is on the Board of Trustees), and she actually

spent not one, but two summers working at Lotusland. She now heads up Homegrown Pantry Kitchen Gardens. She and her partners offer a range of services to local residents from garden consultations to design, installation and maintenance of kitchen gardens. Their goal is to make fresh, healthy food available to anyone.

Another of their services is growing heirloom vegetables and herbs that gardeners can purchase. Guests at this year's *Lotusland Celebrates* were recipients of some of their products. Herb plants in compostable pots, complete with hand-screened lotus-motif wrappers, were handed out as parting favors courtesy of Karrie and her crew.

We thank them for their generosity and creativity and wish Homegrown Pantry Kitchen Gardens the best of luck.

—Virginia Hayes



COURTESY PHOTO

*Karrie Crane was raised in her family's one-acre home in Santa Barbara, where she developed a passion for gardening and a love of homegrown meals.*

Donations are needed to continue the Sustainable Plant Health Care Summer Intern Program. To learn how you can help, please contact Director of Development Anne Dewey at 805.969.3767, ext. 105, or [andewey@lotusland.org](mailto:andewey@lotusland.org).

## Charles Glass...In His Own Words

PART III OF A SERIES OF EXCERPTS FROM HIS UNPUBLISHED MEMOIRS WITH THE WORKING TITLE OF *EXPERIENCES OF 12 YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF LOTUSLAND: THE FABULOUS ESTATE OF MME GANNA WALSKA*

**M**ME. WALSKA HAD great respect for life and hated to kill anything. She thought—incorrectly—that Lotusland was large enough to provide a home for any plant that happened to grow there. Fortunately, this respect for life did not include weeds or crabgrass. Every time she saw a sprig of crabgrass poking above the lawn she would bend over to rip it out, never realizing that the lawn was basically a crabgrass lawn! Baby oak trees and palm seedlings were constantly appearing all over the estate, and if she noticed, it meant we had to find a place for it, no matter what more pressing tasks were in progress. Needless to say we were constantly ripping out germinating acorns before they could grow into little oaks and tiny palm seedlings before they became a major menace. Then there was the question of finding places for those seedlings that were big enough to have caught her attention. The main goal was to keep them out of the major garden areas, so we started “landscaping” the guest cottages around the periphery of Lotusland with palms and oaks. This would involve the services of professional tree movers from Griffin’s Tree and Landscape Company for the larger plants, and our gardeners who we had trained in “balling and bagging” for the smaller ones. Mme. Walska herself supervised the planting of 10 *Butia* palms in a linear space of 25 feet in front of what she referred to as “the green cottage.” We moved several 8 to 10 foot tall live oaks to “the pink cottage.” No one had stayed in this cottage for years, nor did anyone visit this cottage in the 12 years I was at Lotusland other than the gardeners assigned with watering the new oaks.

It was even difficult to get permission to remove dead trees, or putatively dead trees! I tried to persuade Mme. Walska that we had to remove a plant because it was dead. She couldn’t see the plant very well. She leaned forward on her canes, squinted and strained to try to make out the plant I was talking about, “I can’t see! Is it dead?”

I assured her, “Yes and everyone would notice that it’s dead, so we really have to remove it.”

“Not everyone! Not everyone! I don’t see it’s dead!”

Mme Walska had her own names or official designations for all the areas around Lotusland. There was “suckle-ents”—the succulent garden, “the fire place,” that is, the dump where they used to be able to have fires, she would always explain, and “Happy’s terrace,” that is the little brick terrace outside the room where she kept Happy, her pet cockatiel. We added another term when we designated an empty area near “the lathhouse” (which was a collective designation for all the greenhouses) as “the hospital.” This was for sick plants and, I must admit that when there was a poor specimen of a plant or an unwanted seedling for which we had no appropriate place, we would designate them as “sick plants” and send them down to the hospital. A secondary advantage was that this enabled us to cultivate and maintain this area, which had previously been a noxious weed patch, but for which we could never get the OK to clean since it was outside of what she referred to as ‘Lotusland,’ namely those sections



Ganna Walska with her cockatiel Happy.

LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

that were visited on the all-important garden tours.

On one occasion Mme. Walska asked Mr. Van Dyke [Bruce Van Dyke, who worked on special projects at Lotusland for a number of years], “Where will you be?”

“In the philodendrons.”

“Where?!”

“In the phil-o-den-drons, ma’am!”

“Where?”

“In the bromeliads!”

“That’s better, because we don’t have any such place as ‘philodendrons!’”

### NEXT TIME

MORE STORIES FROM the Glass memoir.

—Excerpts edited by Virginia Hayes

## Holiday Succulent Wreath Making Workshop

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 • 9:30 TO 11:00 AM



**M**AKE YOUR OWN living wreath! Join us for a fun and informative succulent wreath-making session at Lotusland.

The workshop is designed for beginners and will lead you through the steps to build a beautiful living wreath that can be used year-round with minimal care. All necessary materials to construct one 14-inch wreath are included in the workshop fee.

Space is limited to 15 adults. Please register early by using the coupon on page 15. —Dorothy Shaner



MICHAEL IVEN

Bertie Bloom

## Volunteer Profile: Bertie Bloom

### OUR GARDEN GUARDIAN

anything amiss, she either remedies the situation herself or lets Mike know so it can be tended to. Along the way, she has the chance to visit her favorite gardens and secret spots.

Bertie grew up in North Hollywood before coming to Santa Barbara to pursue a degree in studio art. After receiving a BA from UC Santa Barbara, she honed her graphic design skills at Santa Barbara City College and began working at UC Santa Barbara's print shop. She now manages the graphics area of Instructional Development at UCSB. One of the benefits of working on campus is the chance to avail herself of fitness classes and the miles of scenic routes for her lunchtime runs. Bertie also enjoys golf, skiing, hiking and walking and has volunteered for 20 years on the Kids Draw Architecture committee, a part of the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara. The committee educates children about their built environment through free sketch sessions. Bertie produces various graphics projects including their yearly calendar showcasing the children's artwork.

It was a sport—basketball—that first brought Bertie and Mike together. Mike was Bertie's basketball coach on a women's intramural team 27 years ago. Several years later, they reconnected at a winter solstice party hosted by Peter and Lynda Stollenwerk, who were then Lotusland residents. Mike's plan for their

first date clinched Bertie's attraction: a New Year's Eve party followed by VIP seats at the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl game the next day. Sharing an interest in the outdoors, nature and Hawaii, they married two years later to the day on New Year's Eve 1992 on the island of Molokai.

Bertie moved to Lotusland prior to its 1993 public opening. She sat in on public discussions that led to the conditional use permit that would guide Lotusland's policies and, among many changes, observed a large grove of eucalyptus trees being re-landscaped to accommodate the Visitor Center.

Bertie's help at Lotusland events—her favorite is LotusFest—has been virtually invisible to many. She finds out what needs to be done and does it quietly, efficiently and without fanfare. When asked why she volunteers for these events, Bertie says, "I know Lotusland. I know what it takes to put on an event. I'm here to help. I want the events to be successful so people will have a good time and want to come back." And, smiling, she adds, "I want to help Mike out."

So next time you're here for an event and see a tanned blond woman setting up umbrellas, driving a cart, putting chairs and tables in place or sweeping stairs, it just might be Bertie. She's helping to keep her paradise special for everyone who visits. —Jean Parry

"THE GARDEN IS QUIET—very quiet at night. At first light, I awake to the birds' songs, sometimes so loud I can't get back to sleep." So says Bertie (Roberta) Bloom, who, since 1992, has lived in the George Washington Smith-designed chauffeur's cottage at Lotusland with her husband Mike Iven, Director of Grounds and Facilities. "It's like living in paradise and having paradise be my backyard."

What many people don't realize is that Lotusland has a dedicated and passionate volunteer in Bertie. After returning home from her full-time job at UC Santa Barbara, Bertie is often the last one in the garden each day. With canine companion Rosie by her side, she takes a daily walk through the grounds, checking on sprinklers, fountains, pathways—serving as an extra pair of eyes and ears. Should she notice



## Gift Membership

Delight family and friends or thank a client with a gift membership to celebrate the holidays all year long.

For information, please call 805.969.3767 and speak with Amanda Dunman at extension 115.

## Aloe Outing

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2010 • 1:30 TO 4:00 PM

**B**LOOMING WHEN MOST plants are dormant, aloes display their colorful inflorescences during the winter months, providing a striking contrast to the grey days of the season.

Spend an afternoon strolling in the gardens and enjoy more than 170 species and cultivars of aloes. This opportunity to visit Lotusland during our off season, when Lotusland is closed for public tours, is a special privilege for our members only.

Admission is \$20 or one membership admission pass. For more information

or to make a reservation, please call 805.969-9990. —Dorothy Shaner



VIRGINIA HAYES

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PICNIC

# Lotusland Says Thank You

**U**NDER SUNNY SKIES, current volunteers gathered to enjoy the camaraderie of their colleagues and to be honored for their dedication to Lotusland. Last year more than 200 volunteers contributed an amazing 17,448 hours to Lotusland! More than half of our volunteers are docents who lead both regular public tours and outreach tours for children from fourth grades throughout the county. Volunteers help maintain the grounds, staff the Garden Shop, help in the greenhouse, assist with a variety of administrative projects, work at special events, and assist us with our library and archives. We literally could not manage without them.

Each year Lotusland staff gathers to thank these generous individuals on the Monday closest to Madame Walska's June 24th birthday. Acknowledging her birthday is part of the celebration. June is also when the lotuses may start to

bloom, and this year the flower that so inspired Madame did not disappoint.

Executive Director Gwen Stauffer asked staff members to join her on the theatre garden stage to offer huge thanks to all those gathered for the occasion. Volunteer Coordinator Jean Parry recognized 21 volunteers for particularly dedicated service. "Years of service stickers," to be affixed to volunteers' name badges, were awarded to those who donated 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service. This year, special gifts of the embossed Lotusland stainless steel water bottle were given to volunteers Jeff Chemnick, Bob Doering, Donnis Galvan, Linda Hail Godlis and Chris Walden, all of whom lost or had their homes seriously damaged in the Tea or Jesusita fires. A high point of the celebration was the popular drawing for a dozen Lotusland plants potted especially for this event by Assistant Curator Paul Mills.



HARLIS MAGGARD

After the program, Board President Mason Farrell donned an apron and helped serve a delicious catered luncheon to our special guests. A photo collage of volunteers that chronicled the various events in which volunteers played a role and two "Love Letters" notebooks filled with thanks received from our visitors were displayed for all to see.

—Jean Parry

## Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

### JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2009

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The Andrew H. Burnett Foundation  
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of docent Loretta Berlin  
Ms. Laura Roby in appreciation  
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& Mr. Robert Cutietta  
Joey & Jennifer Tasca in appreciation  
of Esau Ramirez's horticultural assistance  
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of docent Harlis Maggard  
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Ann & Olin Barrett  
Paul & Serena Kusserow  
Mr. Michael Towbes, The Towbes Group

# Lotusland Members

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2009

## LEVEL IV

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## LEVEL III

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## LEVEL II

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 Ms. Kathleen Brezovec  
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## Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

PAYMENT METHOD:  Check enclosed  VISA  MasterCard  AMEX Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Member name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Fees are refundable only if cancellation is received one week before class or lecture.  
If minimum enrollment is not reached, classes and lectures may be canceled.  
No phone reservations, please.*

*Mail to:* Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

### Twilight Time at Lotusland

Saturday, October 24 • 3:30 PM TO SUNSET

CHECK ONE:  Docent-guided tour  Self-guided tour

\$50/members and \$10/child (free if in costume or mask) • \$60/nonmembers and \$10/child

No. of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ No. of cars \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Holiday Succulent Wreath Making Workshop

Saturday, November 7 • 9:30 TO 11:00 AM

\$50/members • \$60/nonmembers

No. of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ No. of cars \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Renewing Upper Level Members

JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2009

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Staffan & Margareta Encrantz

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JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2009

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Ganna Walska  
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## Summer and Fall 2009 Member Events

MANY LOTUSLAND EVENTS are open to nonmembers,  
so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer.

### **Saturday, July 11**

#### *LotusFest!*

2:00 TO 5:00 PM

See details on page 4.

Call 805.969.9990 to register.

### **Sunday, July 26**

#### *Lotusland Celebrates*

#### *Our Secret Gardens*

4:00 TO 8:00 PM

Invitations were mailed in June.

For tickets or information, call

805.969.3767, extension 120.

### **Saturday, August 15**

#### *Summer Twilight Tour*

4:00 TO 7:00 PM

See details on page 10 and use the  
coupon on page 15 to register.

### **Thursday, August 20**

#### *Prospective Docent Reception*

2:00 PM

See details on page 11.

### **Saturday, September 12**

#### *How Does Our Garden Grow?*

1:30 TO 4:00 PM

See details on page 11 and use the  
coupon on page 15 to register.

### **Thursday, September 24**

#### *President's Party*

4:30 PM

See details on page 12.

### **Saturday, October 10**

#### *Container Garden Workshop*

9:30 AM TO NOON

See details on page 11 and use the  
coupon on page 15 to register.

### **Tours**

Regular Tours and Family Tours are  
offered at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM,  
Wednesday through Saturday,  
between February 15 and November  
15. Family Tours are available for  
groups with children under age 10

and are child and parent friendly.  
They are separate from regular adult  
tours. Adult members, \$20 or use  
admission passes; ages five to 18,  
\$10; four and under, free. Call  
805.969.9990 for reservations.

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## New Member Benefit for Levels I, II and III

After you use your admission  
passes, you and your guests  
may visit Lotusland at the  
reduced rate of \$20 per person.

Call 805.969.9990  
to make a reservation.

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