Tree Management Policy

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
Lotusland is committed to preserving and enhancing the health and composition of its tree population—an important feature in the landscape which provides suitable cultural conditions for the display of plants in the collection—by providing the required cultural care and continuing to replace older trees and plant additional specimens.

DIRECTIVES
Proper cultural care of trees will be defined and practiced in accordance with current International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) recommendations.

Health of trees will be monitored and recorded regularly and an evaluation of required cultural care will be made. Monitoring will also include hazard evaluation based on ISA standards.

Trees will be planted after due consideration of their cultural needs and site conditions.

Garden expansion shall take into consideration the cultural requirements of existing specimen trees.

LEGEND OF THE MONTEREY CYPRESS — “In connection with his nursery business, Father built two greenhouses...and also a large lath house or shelter for those plants that were too delicate to be out in the hot sun. In this lath house was a cypress tree that, due to not being transplanted outside, had grown up to and through the lath roof of the shelter. We as youngsters used to play up in the heavy growth of this tree above the lath house roof line. The cypress tree that is now growing in Madame Walska’s lawn is the same tree. The greenhouses and lath house have long since been removed.”

From Our Montecito Valley Home by Kinton B. Stevens, February 1963.

Tree Care At Lotusland

Mature trees and the variety of tree species are important landscape features at Lotusland. Walking through different areas of the garden, visitors may notice different cultural conditions, patterns of light and sounds, and changes in the temperature and humidity created by individual trees and the tree canopy. Because Lotusland owes much of its grandeur to its tree population, a Tree Management Policy (at left) was adopted several years ago to assure proper cultural care and consideration for the health of those trees.

The principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) are the basis of all grounds maintenance work at Lotusland, including tree care. A continually developing concept, IPM seeks to maximize plant health through the understanding of and attention to factors which affect plant growth. Improving soil conditions, conscientious fertilizing, pruning and watering practices, as well as using non- or least-toxic controls for pest and disease problems are all key to an effective IPM program. Regular monitoring and record keeping are also essential.

Staff Training
Curatorial and grounds staff discuss situations affecting trees on an ongoing basis. Lotusland staff attend tree care seminars sponsored by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), UC Coop-
A Course of Action

Next, staff agree upon a course of action. In one situation, irrigation nozzles were directed away from the trunks of oak trees in the original fern garden, and landscaping around the bases of those oaks and many plants mounted on branches were removed in order to keep root crowns drier and discourage the spread of oak root fungus. The new part of the fern garden installed many years later was designed with planting beds away from the bases of the oaks to avoid this problem.

Trees lost for various reasons are usually replaced. The forces of nature often account for the loss of many trees. Years of drought contributed to weak root systems which couldn’t support many of Lotusland’s large trees in high winds when heavy rains saturated the soil. Trees under environmental stress are more prone to insect and disease problems. Mulching and conscientious watering practices (e.g. soil probes to check soil moisture) improve growing conditions for many trees.

More than one hundred new trees have been planted at Lotusland during the past few years to replace those lost and to enhance horticultural and botanical collections.

Ongoing Concerns

Many tree health concerns at Lotusland are ongoing. Oak root fungus, which can infect many different species of plants, is a constant problem. Grounds staff tailor maintenance practices with the control of oak root fungus in mind. Pine pitch canker has recently infected pines in Santa Barbara. Spread by insects, the fungal disease can be fatal. The only known control is to provide favorable growing conditions for the trees. Soil compaction from foot traffic around oaks in the new fern garden is a newly discovered problem to be dealt with this year.

Lotusland’s tree trimmer, a certified arborist, performs routine tree work throughout the year. The schedule of work is determined by need with a strong consideration of pest life cycles. Most trees receive safety and corrective pruning every three years. Pine and eucalyptus trees are trimmed in winter when beetles attracted to fresh cuts are less active. Pruning tools are sterilized to prevent the spread of disease.

Tree care is a comprehensive process implemented by grounds and curatorial staff with the full support of the Foundation, ensuring the best possible care for Lotusland’s trees. — Mike Toon
course the genus *Eucalyptus* is no stranger to Santa Barbara and Lotusland’s grounds contain many specimens, large and small, representing ten different species. Other Aussies include five species of bottle trees (*Brachychiton*), silk oak (*Grevillea robusta*), firewheel tree (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*), and Moreton Bay chestnut (*Castanospermum australe*).

China is the origin of many other species. Two camphor trees (*Cinnamomum camphora*) are among the largest and oldest in town. The dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboideae*) — a deciduous conifer once thought to be extinct but rediscovered in Szechwan, China in 1946 — was planted as a seedling here sometime in the early 1950s. Several specimens of the maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), whose ancestors were living 200 million years ago, grace the garden.

Other trees from more tropical habitats include the monkey hand tree (*Chramanthodendron pentadactylum*), so named for its finger-like stamens, and the floss silk tree from Mexico and Central America (*Chorisia speciosa*), whose seed pods contain a large amount of soft floss. Among the latest additions to the tree collection are the bean tree (*Markhania lutea*) and flame of the forest (*Spaethodea campanulata*) from tropical Africa.

North America is also represented by the Indian bean (*Catalpa bignonioides*), the southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), the eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), Torrey pine (*P. torreyana*), Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), and native California oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*, *Q. lobata*), to name just a few.

If you would like to discover their locations and learn more about the trees that make Lotusland such a pleasant place to visit, you are invited to join Dr. Steven Timbrook, Executive Director, and Virginia Hayes, Curator of the Living Collection, on one of two special Focus Tours featuring the Trees of Lotusland. Tours will be conducted on Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 at 10 AM. Please register using the coupon on page 7. Each tour is limited to 25 participants.

— Virginia Hayes
LOTUSLAND IS PLEASED to welcome 32 new docents who recently completed a 16-week Docent Training on the history of the property, its owners and the garden designers involved in developing the plant collections, and the botany and horticulture of the plants themselves. As volunteer docents, graduates will interpret the garden to visitors throughout the year. The training was coordinated by a number of staff and volunteers, and guest lecturers included Dr. Bruce Coats of Scripps College, John Trager and Kathy Musial from Huntington Botanical Gardens, Dr. Bruce Tiffney of UCSB, Dr. Edward Schneider of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and Josephine Black of the Independent Living Resource Center. Training expenses were funded by a generous grant from the Towbes Foundation. Congratulations to all graduates!

- Danyel benShea
- Sherry Gilson
- Marge Kelly
- Craig Palonen
- Cathy Vaske
- Jayne Burton
- Chris Gronbeck
- Kathé Klock
- Veloyce Schmidt
- Jo Wagner
- Pati Clark
- Dee Gronbeck
- JoAnn Lewis
- Jim Scorso
- Bill White
- Nina Delgado
- Joan Haber
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- Sharon Slade
- Kathy Musial
- Doris Fienga
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- Chantal Murphy
- Jennifer Stafford
- Huntington Botanical Gardens
- Carolyn Fleg
- Janet Hunter
- Maureen Murphy
- Jean Stevenson
- Brenda Freeman
- Kyle Irwin
- Margo Osherenko
- Mary Thieme

Lotusland would like to acknowledge and thank those docents returning this year:

- Hampton Bell
- Sharon Crawford
- Anna Griffin
- Maude Lowry
- Nancy Salvucci
- John Boyer
- B. Jo Dake
- Pat Harris
- Dorothy Schneider
- Sandy Schneider
- Adi Brewer
- Lon Ann David
- Nancy Huebner
- Malcolm Marking
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- June Busrow
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- Sean Hutchinson
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- Russ Cheinmack
- Virginia Gardner
- Dana Kent
- Ginger Puddicombe
- Adele Wojciechowski
- Karole Christian
- Norma Greene
- Karen Kolb
- Richard Riffero
- Hida Seibert

DURING APRIL, a time when organizations throughout the country honor and celebrate the many individuals who volunteer their time, energy, and skills to help others, Lotusland would like to say “THANK YOU!” to all its volunteers. We couldn’t do it without you!

Working in the areas of craft guild, garden shop, garden maintenance, hospitality, library & archives, office, and special projects, volunteers make many services possible which would not be available otherwise. Their dedication and enthusiasm are a treasure and their help is greatly appreciated. In addition to the docents named above, new and returning volunteers this year are:

- Heda & Robert Carpenter
- Bud & Lee Francis
- Barbara Hill
- Richard Montgomery
- Hilda Seibert
- Beverly Collins
- Peggie Card
- Pat Johnston
- Laura Morrison
- Martha Shiffman
- Fran Connors
- Roseanne Germain
- Beth Jones
- Annette Myck
- Jo Wagner
- Nancy Cross
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- Lynn Kirby
- Lee Neill
- Dorothy Warnock
- Henrietta di Suvero
- Carol Gross
- Cheryl Khoury
- Dorothy Openshaw
- Evelyn Zoetewey
- Marie Downs
- Jean Hayden
- Paul Mocker
- Marija Pekkanen
- Marie Zolkoski
- Donald & Suzanne Fine
- Robert Hetzron
- Mary Moffett
- Dave Frowell
- This year a Volunteer Recognition Picnic is planned for June 26, Madame Walska’s birthday. Interested in volunteering? Call 969-3767.
Horticultural Happenings
with Mike Iven

WIND DAMAGE - High winds on New Year's Eve caused significant damage, but it could have been much worse. A large Quercus agrifolia in the shade palm garden fell over without causing much harm to other plantings. The breaking of another major branch (the fourth in five months) on the oak shading the cymbidiums necessitated the removal of the entire tree. Several other large trees fell in outlying areas. Most of the damage in the garden was due to broken oak, eucalyptus, and acacia branches landing on understory plantings. Some panes of glass in a greenhouse were broken, but there was no damage to other structures on the property. Of course, storm debris was everywhere. The fact that it took several weeks for Lotusland's experienced grounds staff, working with proper equipment, to clean up the garden gives some indication of the extent of wind damage.

OUTLYING ACREAGE - About half of Lotusland's 36.5 acres isn't seen by visitors. Included in these outlying areas are the garage, storage areas, utility roads, the nursery/greenhouse complex, residences, eucalyptus forest, and about five acres of open fields. All of these areas are managed by grounds staff and serve some useful purpose. For example, every year for the past five years an annual cover crop of barley/velvet has been planted in an open field between the topiary garden and the Ashley Road fence line to reduce weed growth and improve soil conditions. Weeds that could have spread to public garden areas are reduced, and staff time and efforts at annual weed abatement is lessened. Soil that was once heavy and full of clay is now very good topsoil and improves as each year's cover crop is disked under.

Approximately five acres of open field at Lotusland's northern boundary are managed in a multi-purpose fashion. Part of the field is used to compost garden debris. Several tree services working in the Montecito area regularly dump loads of wood chips in another part of the field. Some chips are used as mulch in landscaped areas while others are spread over the field to inhibit weed growth and improve soil conditions. Another part of the field is used to stockpile wood from Lotusland tree trimmings and removals. This firewood is then made available to staff and volunteers.

New Membership Department Staff
LOTUSLAND WELCOMES Ginny Palmer to its Membership & Development Department. Ginny brings a wealth of administrative skills and superb recommendations with her to the job of helping to coordinate Lotusland's membership program. Most recently Ginny was Director of Membership with the Aspen Art Museum and Assistant to the Director and Membership Coordinator with Andersen Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass Village, Colorado. She and her family have recently relocated to Santa Barbara. As assistant to Anne Dewey with all aspects of membership and development, Ginny will definitely be a new benefit for Friends of Lotusland!

STAFF MILESTONE
CONGRATULATIONS to tree trimmer Mark Kyriaco who reaches his 10th year anniversary of employment at Lotusland in April. Mark at work removing an olive tree (at left).

A New Voice at Lotusland

WHEN YOU CALL Lotusland you may be hearing a new voice at the other end of the line. You'll still hear Sandy's welcoming voice when you call, but now she will be assisted by Star Talk, our new voice mail system.

The new system will allow the party you called to have access to your message faster and more conveniently than with the current hand-written one. It will provide other options also, give reservation and tour information when we are closed, and allow the caller to key in any mailbox number to leave a private message directly. Here are the new extensions for your convenience when calling:

NEW LISTINGS . . .
# # Directory
385 Tour Information
225 Anne Dewey, Asst. to the Executive Director
227 Janet Eastman, Volunteer Coordinator
322 Mike Furner, Equip./Maint. Mechanic
229 Marguerite Gamo, Human Resources Manager
224 Virginia Hayes, Curator of the Living Collection
222 Mike Iven, Grounds Superintendent
323 John Lafleur, IPM Coordinator
290 Ginny Palmer, Membership Assistant
321 Sandy Schneider, Visitor Services Coordinator
223 Steven Timbrook, Executive Director
LEVEL I
Maury & Sylvia Adler
Rebecca R. Arosnoff
Ralph & Lis AuderlHeide
Rupert Barber
David & Lisa Baum
Laura Bittner
Margaret Boomkant
Nancy Breese
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Lorry & Sue Browne
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Nancy Goldberg
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Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

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DOGEN TRAINING
EDUCATIONAL GRANT
The Toweos Foundation
Registration Form
GANNAS WALSKA LOTUSLAND
Tree Focus Tour

Check one:
☐ Friday, April 19, 1996, 10 a.m. – noon
☐ Saturday, April 20, 1996, 10 a.m. – noon

☐ Number attending, $10 per person $ ______

Members may use passes as payment for the class.

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard
Expiry date __________ Card Number __________

Member Name ____________________________
Address __________________________________
Signature __________ Phone __________

Class fee is refundable only if canceled one week before class meets.

Mail to - Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events, 695 Ashley Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Harold Simmons Foundation Challenge Grant — We Did It!

LOTUSLAND IS DELIGHTED to announce that matching funds were successfully raised to meet a challenge grant from the Harold Simmons Foundation to repair and paint Lotusland’s perimeter wall. The $25,000 challenge grant required that Lotusland match an amount with other donations by December 31, 1995. Donations from members, neighbors, and other friends of the garden totaled more than $28,000!

Work has already begun on removing all exterior landscaping along Sycamore Canyon Road, with the exception of the plants at the Sycamore Canyon gate. Lotusland will replace old landscaping with a mix of drought-tolerant plantings set back from the edge of the pavement to provide a wider shoulder for pedestrians.

Along the Ashley Road portion of the wall several weak or unstable trees will be removed and others pruned, but native coast live oaks and eucalyptus that are in good condition will be retained. Some additional oaks will be planted. Cactus and century plants will also be removed, widening the shoulder in many places. The wall will be painted in areas of repair with a weathered look, in shades of gray and pink, so as to blend in with older portions of the wall that do not require repair.

The following donors made the restoration of Madame Walska’s famous pink wall possible:

Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Constance
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Crawford
Mrs. Thomas Crawford
Elizabeth Dake
Mr. and Mrs. George D. Eagleton
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Harcourt
The Ann Jackson Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kolb
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Lehman
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Mrs. David T. Shiffman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Staus
Mr. and Mrs. William P. Tenny

Members who have increased their level of support
November, December 1995, January 1996

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Wynette Winkler

LEVEL III
John & Anna Gillespie
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1996 Springtime in the Garden LECTURE SERIES

Ganna Walska Lotusland, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and Santa Barbara Museum of Art are sponsoring a lecture series this Spring featuring four well-known women speakers. Call 963-4364 for information.

March 6 – Gardens of Provence with author Louisa Jones
March 26 – Famous Women’s Gardens with interior designer Eleanor Constable Weller
April 25 – Design for California Style with garden designer Chris Roemini
May 14 – English Cottage Gardens with speaker Valerie Raleigh Thornhill

July 21, 1996
Wedding at Lotusland

Lotusland celebrates with music, theater, Cherubino’s Café, opera, exhibits, an elegant dinner and much, much more!

Invitations will be sent to members, but mark your calendars now. This will be a memorable fund-raising wedding!

The historic exhibit committee is seeking items that once belonged to Mme. Walska. If you’d like to loan any for the event, please call 969-3767.
Neptune Fountain In Need Of Repair

LOTUSLAND has received three recent donations to restore the Neptune Fountain. An anonymous donation of $10,000 in December was followed by a $10,000 donation from the John C. Braun Charitable Annuity Trust, and a $8,000 donation from the Pesenti Foundation.

The Neptune Fountain, directly behind the main house in the parterre area, is a 1920s era tile and cement fountain installed when the estate, then called Cuesta Linda, was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Palmer Gavit. It is in need of a great deal of work to repair the entire water works (now inoperable), create new matching tiles to replace broken ones, and reset the brick paths of the surrounding area.

The cost of the project is estimated at $30,000, leaving an additional $7,000 to be raised.

Please direct donations and inquiries to Anne Dewey, Assistant to the Executive Director, 969-3767.