Carol Valentine: Lotusland’s First Lifetime Honorary Trustee

By STEVEN TIMBROOK

At its 2004 Annual Meeting, the Board of Trustees of Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation honored Carol L. Valentine by electing her Lotusland’s first Lifetime Honorary Trustee. By this action, the Board not only recognized Carol’s outstanding service as one of the five founding trustees, her invaluable guidance as Lotusland’s President for 12 years, from 1989 to 2000, and her generosity in support of Lotusland’s programs, they also assured that Lotusland would receive Carol’s wise counsel on into the future.

It’s no easy task to capture Carol’s vitality, enthusiasm, and love for Lotusland in just a few short words. In her 20 years as a trustee, Carol really has become Lotusland, and Lotusland has tried its best to live up to the expectations and dreams she had for its potential to influence the lives of those it touches by encouraging a love of plants, gardens, and the environment. Everything Carol has envisioned for Lotusland was done to realize Madame Walska’s dream “to develop Lotusland to its maximum capacity into the most outstanding center of horticultural significance and of educational use.”

During the seven years of seemingly endless public meetings, hearings, and even a lawsuit that I, as Lotusland’s Executive Director, had to endure as we struggled to open Lotusland to a waiting public, Carol

Continued on page 2

Carol L. Valentine’s 20 years of outstanding service on Lotusland’s Board of Trustees were recognized in April by her election as our first Honorary Lifetime Trustee.

IN THIS ISSUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carol Valentine: Lotusland’s First Lifetime Honorary Trustee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twilight In The Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Lifetime Honorary Trustee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members’ Family Day 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topiary Garden Luncheon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lotus Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Date: Lotusland Celebrates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotusland Receives 2004 Child Friendly Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shangri La La</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovations in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotusland’s Best Sustainable Management Practices:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Board of Supervisors Honors Lotusland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Lawn Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New to the Collections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 Member Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Profile: Malcolm McCabe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and causes. She has served the Santa Barbara Museum of Art as trustee and President, and in 1995 received the prestigious Wright S. Ludington award for distinguished service. Carol was a Director of the Montecito Water District for 16 years, 15 of them as its President. The Boards of the Esperia Foundation, the Music Academy of the West, and the Boys Club of Santa Barbara all benefited from her service.

A very special gift, one that shows Carol’s dedication to education and the environment, was made to the University of California’s Natural Lands and Water Reserve System in 1972, when Dr. Vernon I. Cheadle, another of Lotusland’s five founding trustees, was Chancellor of UC Santa

Continued from page 4

was my rock and my inspiration. She let nothing get her down as we all persevered through those seven years. At one Lotusland budget meeting in our early years, when it seemed that an economic downturn would force us to make some severe reductions, I remember Carol saying, “Lotusland is always going to be here, no matter how difficult it seems now.”

Carol’s dedication and leadership, coupled with unflagging optimism and great intelligence, have helped numerous Santa Barbara institutions
Anne Dewey, Director of Development, says "It's always fun to work with Carol Valentine," as they mugged for a Bob DeBris photo at Members' Family Day in 2000.

Barbara Valentine Camp, a 136-acre site of natural meadows, coniferous woodland, a stream and ponds, with several rustic and charming log cabins is now the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve and is administered by UC Santa Barbara. Along with the land and buildings, the Valentine Foundation, established by Edward Valentine, donated its assets to help maintain the property, which is used by university students and scientists from around the world for research and short-term study groups. It is also used for lectures, for summer field classes for children, and for individual research projects focusing on the ecology of the eastern Sierra Nevada.

The most visible legacy Carol has given to Lotusland is its completely renovated Topiary Garden. From her first visit to Lotusland, in the 1970s, when Madame Walska opened the gates of her garden for the benefit of a local charity, Carol especially wanted to see the topiary animals brought back into good condition. "They were pretty fuzzy. It was hard to tell what most of them were supposed to be." That wish was finally brought to fruition in 2000, when a very successful campaign to raise funds to redo the Topiary Garden in Carol's honor gave her many, many generous friends, both in Santa Barbara and her former home in Pasadena, an opportunity to show how much they liked and appreciated all she had brought to their friendships and communities. It was a pleasure to formally open the newly rehabilitated Topiary Garden in Carol's honor at Lotusland Celebrates 2000.

Among all the wonderful institutions in Santa Barbara that have benefited from Carol's generosity of both time and resources, none has been more fortunate to have her working in its behalf than Lotusland. And as one who has benefited so greatly from working under her direction and guidance all my 17-plus years at Lotusland, I hope you all join me in welcoming Carol L. Valentine in her new role as Lotusland's first Lifetime Honorary Trustee.

Topiary Garden Campaign co-chairs Jeanne Thayer and Arthur Gaudi presented Carol with a heart-shaped topiary to thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of the topiary garden restoration.
Topiary Garden Luncheon

Carol Valentine hosted a luncheon for Topiary Garden donors so they could enjoy the reinvention of Ganna Walska's original topiary display transformed into the beautiful garden that their generous donations made possible. As a result of the extremely successful Topiary Garden campaign in 2000, the renovation was completed in 2001 and since that time the topiaries have filled out delightfully.

Carol was in magnificent form regaling her guests with stories about the topiaries. In addition to thanking the donors, Carol gave special recognition to campaign co-chairs Jeanne Thayer and Arthur Gaudi; to Lori Ann David, who designed the garden and built the frames; to Lotusland curator Virginia Hayes; and to topiary gardener Peter Schneider.

The whimsical topiaries provided the perfect setting for a perfect day. Lotusland trustee Tom Hugunin and his wife Eleneore are pictured with Carol Valentine.

SAVE THE DATE
Lotusland Celebrates Shangri La La
SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2004 • 4 TO 8 PM

This event will be a magic journey to an exotic and mythical place and will sell out quickly. Invitations will be mailed to all members in mid-June.

Benefactor • $5,000 (ten tickets)
Patron Table Host • $3,500 (ten tickets)
Patron • $1,000 (two tickets)
Tickets • $250 each

Please contact Anne Dewey, Director of Development, at (805) 969-3767, extension 105 for further details.
LOTUSLAND’S BEST SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Sustainable Lawn Care

LOTUSLAND’S MEMBERS’ FAMILY DAY is a typical example of the many events that make use of our nearly one acre of green lawn. When developing our sustainable garden program, we were aware of the challenges we faced in managing such an area. It is a well-known fact that more pesticides are used on lawns than any other ornamental. The average homeowner uses ten times more chemical fertilizers per acre than a farmer uses on farmland.

Our goal was to manage our acre of grass completely organically without the use of any chemicals. Dr. Eric Nelson of Cornell University accurately describes our approach to lawn management: “The challenge of the turfgrass manager is to become an expert not only in the management of what everyone can see above the ground, but in the management of the beneficial soil microorganisms to maximize turfgrass health.”

A key part of managing these beneficial soil microorganisms is our management of soil organic matter.

Our lawn care year starts in early February when we apply nearly 1,500 pounds of corn gluten. As the soil microorganisms break down the corn gluten, nutrients are released. An additional benefit is that the corn gluten prevents the germination of weed seeds such as crabgrass. When it’s time to mow the grass, our mulching mower returns the finely cut clippings to the soil, which the beneficial organisms then convert to nutrients, which in turn helps sustain the lawn. Lawns are notorious for their appetites so once the warm weather increases the rate of growth, additional nutrients are provided by injecting a liquid organic fertilizer, made from feather and blood meal, through the irrigation system.

An innovation begun this year is the bimonthly application of compost tea using our new boom sprayer. This adds to the health of the lawn by directly stimulating the growth and diversity of the beneficial soil microorganisms.

Diversity and sustainability go together. Our practices promote diversity of soil microorganisms, which provides myriad benefits such as nutrient cycling, disease prevention, and stress reduction. The variety of nutrient sources encourages the desired diversity of the beneficial soil microorganisms. We intentionally encourage a mixture of grass and plant species that make up our lawn to provide a resilience and sustainability not available with a single species of grass.

After aerating the lawn, which we do several times a year, we apply a top dressing with compost made from our own green waste.

All of these practices result in the lush green lawn you enjoy when you visit Lotusland—and it’s all done without chemicals. —John Lafleur

A walk down the vast “main lawn,” almost one acre of beautifully maintained—without the use of chemicals—lush grass, provides panoramic views of the variety of plants that surrounds it.

The open space and lovely lawn make a perfect spot for a picnic—or a nap—at Members’ Family Day.
New to the Collections

Lotuses have been a prominent feature of the Japanese pond for more than a hundred years. Madame Walska also planted them in the upper water garden (the old swimming pool) and, of course, named her estate Lotusland to honor them. Originally, they were confined to cedar planter boxes set on top of the dirt and rubble that filled the deeper portion of the old pool. It is the nature of the lotus plant to spread by creeping rhizomes, so containing them in small boxes not only created an ongoing maintenance problem, but also reduced the number of blooms that might be possible in a larger space. Years ago the decision was made to let the lotuses climb out of the boxes and fill in the surrounding area. For the first few years, the display was spectacular and diverse, but for the last three years, one cultivar has dominated. Though the showy blooms were wonderful, the loss of diversity was unfortunate. This year, through the generosity of William and Sandra Nicholson, a renovation of the old swimming pool was accomplished. There are now new large growing areas for eight varieties that keep them separated and contained.

Lotusland staff and three temporary workers laboriously dug out about two feet of old soil and accumulated muck, pieces of the old wooden boxes, and all the old lotus tubers. In their place, flexible plastic root barrier material was installed to encircle eight separate planting areas each ten feet by thirteen and a half feet. Fresh topsoil was brought in, again with the help of outside labor, and deposited in the new enclosures.

In addition to the native American lotus (Nelumbo nucifera ssp. lutea), seven cultivated forms and hybrids were planted to show off the diversity of colors and flower types in this amazing plant. N. 'Alba Grandiflora' has large single white flowers while the white flowers of N. 'Alba Striata' are edged in deep rose pink. Two hybrids produced by Perry Slocum in Florida honor his first and second wives. N. 'Maggie Bell Slocum' is a faded pink and N. 'Mrs. Perry D. Slocum' has large semi-double flowers that open a true lotus pink the first day, but fade to a creamy yellow by the third and last day. N. 'Pekinensis Rubra' is a Chinese selection that represents the wild type of lotus growing there, as does N. 'Red Russian' for the type growing in that country. Finally, N. 'Rosea Plena' is a deep rose pink double-flowering variety. It will take the young plants several seasons to become fully established, but in the years to come, the lotus display should show off many flowers as well as a range of floral forms.

—Virginia Hayes
Volunteer Profile: Malcolm McCabe
DEDICATED DOCENT SINCE 1987

which is dedicated to Dr. Faletti. Malcolm remembers it as being a lovely, peaceful, beautiful event.

Born and raised in Lompoc, California, Malcolm came to Santa Barbara to attend college—before World War II interrupted his college career. A three-year stint with the First Army Division took him to France, Belgium, and Germany. Battle Stars were awarded to troops for being in certain geographic areas, and his division qualified for the maximum five, which meant dangerous proximity to the action. After the war, Malcolm returned to UC Santa Barbara to finish his Bachelor of Arts degree and went on to earn a Master's Degree in social work at the University of Southern California.

Malcolm’s sage advice to docents is: “be flexible and be patient.” He mentions that each tour group varies so much that a docent needs to gauge his or her group and gear the tour toward the group’s interests. “Some have never heard of a plant, while others may be plant enthusiasts. They all seem to be interested in Madame Walska’s history, however.” His favorite part of being a docent is meeting people, and “you sure meet all kinds.”

Malcolm could always be counted on to help out in a pinch if an emergency caused fellow docent to cancel his tour commitment. He was often called upon the same morning for a tour needing another docent, and he would arrive calm, cool, collected, and ready to lead lucky visitors on a great tour of the garden. Thank you, Malcolm for all your dedicated years of service to Lotusland. You have given visitors from around the world an unforgettable experience with an unforgettable docent.

—Connie Buxton

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Twilight In The Garden
SATURDAY, JUNE 26 • 6:00 TO 8:14 PM

Join us for a special treat for members—our first ever tour of the garden as the sun sets and the shadows lengthen.
You may request a docent-guided tour, or take a self-guided tour. Docents will be available throughout the garden to answer questions. Lotusland changes with the seasons and with the early and late light, so don't miss this opportunity to stroll through the garden during the bewitching hours of 6 to 8:14 PM.
The sun sets at 8:15 PM and we have one minute to vanish!
Light hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served on the terrace at the top of the main lawn.

Please use the coupon on page 15 to sign up.
Don't delay—it will fill quickly!
For questions, please call (805) 969-3767, extension 120.
Members' Family Day, May 1, 2004

Sponsored by Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr.

Thank You

Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr.
in honor of their grandchildren

Sponsors of Members’ Family Day at LOTUSLAND

Lotusland is grateful for the generous support of Members’ Family Day by Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr. in honor of their grandchildren. Several of the Crawford grandchildren enjoyed the day—including the newest addition, in his father's arms.

“Boxtales” captivated their audience (below) during lively performances of “Jambo Watoto: Tales and Rhythms of Africa” in the theatre garden.

Members enjoyed a picnic on the lawn with box lunches from Fresco while listening to the Nuestro Jazz Quintet.

Where is that snake? Having your face painted by artist Angie Lawson is a favorite Members’ Family Day activity.

Staff members Alejandro Chavez, Carla Neufeldt (Santa Barbara City College Work-Study student), Robert Blaha and Andrew Detrick cheerfully scooped ice cream cones for guests.

Family ID adventure excitedly discovers a “plant survival clue” while on a horticultural hunt.
jin' Alive—How Plants Adapt at Lotusland

For In Honor of Their Grandchildren

Consulting a map of the garden, two young adventurers prepare for a horticultural hunt to learn about plant survival skills.

Decorating and planting a garden pot provides a long-lasting memory of the event.

Posing for a caricature by Mark Kyriaco was a popular activity.

Talented photographer Bob DeBriss provided an array of fabulous disco costumes to transform young guests for their souvenir photos.

This young visitor is decorating her “goodie bag” with a botanical stamp at “Bugapalooza,” the headquarters for creating jewelry and sculpture from pods and seeds.

This young artist did her part to help paint the giant mural.

Edible prizes were awarded to these boys, who tested their survival skills—as a plant—in the Butterfly Garden.

Trustee Ella Brittingham brought son Tommy and daughter Poppy to Lotusland's annual Members’ Family Day.
LUNCHEON HONORS LOTUS SOCIETY MEMBERS

The Third Annual Lotus Society Recognition Luncheon was held at the beautiful home and garden of Stanya and Jim Owen on May 16. Montecito Bank & Trust generously sponsored this year's luncheon. Members of The Lotus Society have each made a gift or bequest of $10,000 or more to Lotusland's Endowment Fund. To learn more about The Lotus Society, or arrange a personal consultation with an experienced estate planner on The Lotus Society Committee, please call Anne Dewey, Lotusland's Director of Development, at (805) 969-3767, extension 105.

Michael Hurley was a guest of Lotus Society committee member Jane Copelan (center); Mary Ellen Tiffany represented event sponsor Montecito Bank & Trust.

Lotusland founding trustee Anne Jones (left) and Carrie Belle McKeever enjoyed the sunny afternoon.

Lotusland is pleased that Norman and Helen Hillemann have attended the recognition luncheon every year.
TOP LEFT: Mary Lou Ardoin (LEFT) and her guest Amanda Pelch looked beautiful in their hats and sundresses.

TOP RIGHT: George and Anna Maria Halling are picture perfect in the Owen's beautiful garden.

RIGHT: Carol Valentine (LEFT), a founding trustee of Lousland and now a Lifetime Honorary Trustee, shares a moment on the patio with Jan Timbrook.

We are very grateful to Stanya and Jim Owen for their generosity in sharing their delightful home and charming garden with members of The Lotus Society. Nora McNeely Hurley and Lousland President Robert Emmons strolled through the exquisite garden where the roses were in full bloom seemingly everywhere. In addition to the flower gardens, there was a remarkable vegetable garden with stunning artichoke blossoms—guests were in awe of the beauty of everything!
Lotusland Receives 2004 Child Friendly Awards

Child Friendly Awards were established by the Kids Network of Santa Barbara County and the County Board of Supervisors to honor individuals or groups who have made substantial or unusual contributions to children in Santa Barbara County. The recipients must have performed the service primarily on a volunteer basis, but employed persons are also eligible if their service occurred outside of working hours or above and beyond the basic requirements of their job.

Lotusland was honored to receive two 2004 Child Friendly Awards. Lynn Kirby, an energetic and creative Lotusland volunteer since 1995, was selected as the first place winner of the 2004 Child Friendly Award in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors 3rd District. Lynne was the driving force behind the creation of Lotusland’s Butterfly garden/insectary and devotes many hours cultivating milkweed plants and maintaining a monarch butterfly nursery for the enjoyment and education of schoolchildren touring the garden.

Lotusland Outreach Docents were awarded Honorable Mention in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors 1st District for their commitment and professionalism in teaching fourth grade students the important role that plants play in our lives.

—Connie Buxton

Innovations in Education

Lotusland’s Educational Outreach program for fourth grade students was selected to be included in the April 2004 “Innovations in Education” program. This Santa Barbara County cable television program shares educational resources with educators and the community and celebrates teachers and programs. Outreach docent Nancy Wood was videotaped conducting a classroom presentation for Jane Sevier’s fourth grade students at Washington School, and Outreach docent Jane Copelan was later videotaped leading a Junior Botanist tour through Lotusland with the same students. Public Programs Director Connie Buxton gave an overview of the program, and the end product is a very professional and entertaining glimpse at Lotusland’s Fourth Grade Outreach Program.

—Connie Buxton

Some of our excellent Outreach Docents are (row 1) Dorothy Kendzor, Molly Houston, Connie Buxton; (row 2) Jane Copelan, Mary Hagar, Hope Call, Lynne Scott, Faye Hampton; (row 3) Nancy Wood, Wanda Livernois, Dorothy Shaner, Debbie Hild, Jean Parry.
Friends of Lotusland
We Welcome New Members Who Joined in February, March, and April 2004

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Continued on page 14

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Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations
February, March, and April 2004

2003 ANNUAL APPEAL
Educational Outreach
Lynne & Gary Scott

MEMBERS’ FAMILY DAY
SPONSORS
Thomas & Nancy Crawford, Jr.
in Honor of Their Grandchildren

LOTUS SOCIETY
Robert Gilson
Anonymous

GRANTS
The Elizabeth Firth Wade
Endowment Fund

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH
PROGRAM
A corporate matching gift from
“The Capital Group Companies
Charitable Fund” as directed
by Wendy & James Drasdo

CORPORATE MATCHING GRANT
J. Paul Getty Trust
directed by Ms. Maria Gilbert

GENERAL DONATIONS
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in appreciation of a tour
with Barbara Sienon
Ms. Janice Chelini for
four 2-way radios for tour safety
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Lue & Jerry Cramblit
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Mrs. Cynthia Hall
Mr. & Mrs. John Hancock
Ms. Debbie Hobler
& Mr. Nick Panzer
Ms. Vicki Iovine
in appreciation of Art Luna
Karen Jenkins
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Sally Jordan
in appreciation of Carol Valentine
and the Topiary Garden luncheon
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IN MEMORY OF JIM CONNORS
Aci Brewer
Beth Jones

GARDEN SHOP
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Hillemann
Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

Payment Method: □ Check enclosed □ VISA □ MasterCard Expiration date ____________
Card number __________________________ Signature __________________________
Member name __________________________ Phone __________________________
Address __________________________

One member pass may be used as partial payment for any event.
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 in the Garden
Saturday, June 26, 2004 • 6:00 to 9:14 PM
$25 Each or One Admission Pass Plus $10

Check one: □ Guided tour □ Self-guided tour

No. of people attending __________ No. of cars __________ Total $ __________

County Board of Supervisors Honors Lotusland

At its April 27 meeting, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara unanimously passed a resolution honoring Ganna Walska Lotusland “upon their 10th anniversary of opening to the public.”

The Resolution made special mention of Lotusland’s Residential Internship Program, our use of sustainable methods in preserving and maintaining our extraordinary plant collection and the success of our Fourth Grade Outreach Program. Lotusland was commended “for fulfilling its dual mission of preservation and education for the benefit of the local community and for creating an oasis of beauty and tranquility for the citizens of Santa Barbara County and the world.”

Executive Director Steven Timbrook accepted the Resolution from 1st District Supervisor Naomi Schwartz and thanked the Board of Supervisors on behalf of Lotusland’s trustees and staff.
2004 Member Events

Many Lotusland events are open to nonmembers, so please let your friends and neighbors know about the great activities we offer. Children are welcome at many events, and Family Tour Days are every Thursday and the second Saturday of each month (see the last item in the listing). We hope you continue to enjoy the year 2004 at Lotusland.

Saturday, June 26
Twilight In The Garden
6:00 PM–8:14 PM
See details on page 7. Use coupon on page 15 to sign up.

Saturday, July 17
Self-guided tours for all Members
1:30 PM–4:30 PM
Members $15 or use admission pass. Call (805) 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–noon, M–F.

Sunday, July 25
Lotusland Celebrates
Shangri La La
4:00–8:00 PM
See details on page 4.

Saturday, August 21
Self-guided tours for all Members
10:00 AM–12:30 PM
Members $15 or use admission pass. Call (805) 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–noon, M–F.

Family Tours
Family tours for all ages are offered Thursdays at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM and the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM (except between mid-November and mid-February). Family tours are child and parent friendly and are separate from regular adult tours. Adult members $15 or use admission passes; children under ten $8; children under two free. Call (805) 969-9990 for reservations 9 AM–noon, M–F.

Gift Membership
Thank a client or celebrate a special occasion by giving a Friends of Lotusland membership to a business associate, friend or family member.

For details, please call (805) 969-3767 and speak with either Marilyn Foreman at extension 115 or Bambi Leonard at extension 120.