



LOTUSLAND NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 No.3  Autumn 1994

1995 Reservations for Members

ALTHOUGH it is late summer and the lotus are still in bloom, we're already planning ahead for 1995 tour reservations. We would like to thank our members for their support and patience for what has become a complex day-to-day juggling act with our reservation system. We will save space for our members and give them priority in 1995. However, because our total visitor numbers as set by the County of Santa Barbara will remain low, tour space for members and the public will be limited next year.

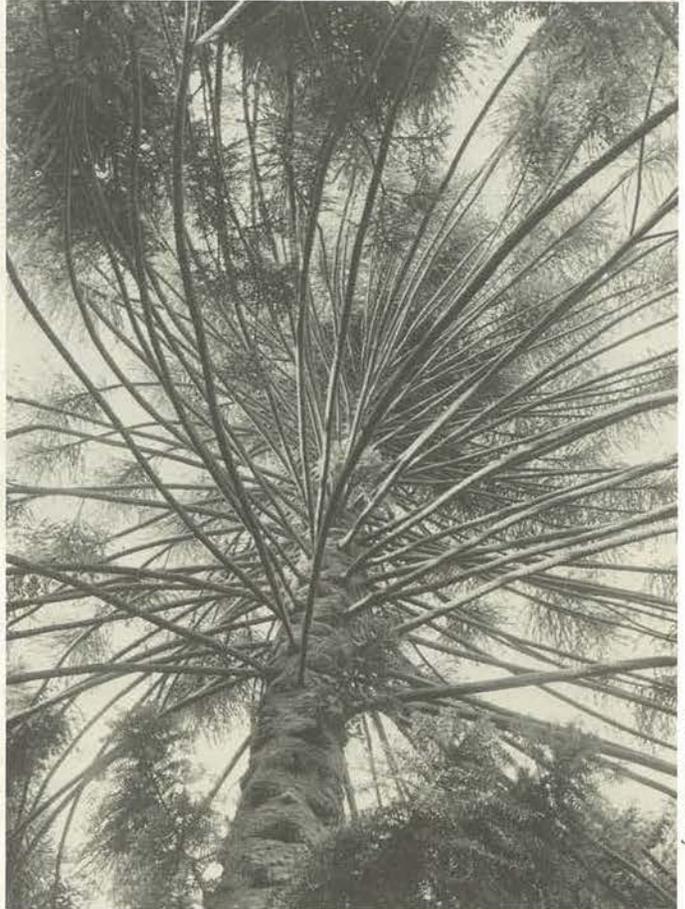
Members may call beginning Monday, October 10, 1994, for 1995 tour reservations. Reservations for the general public will open a month later. We encourage members to take advantage of this benefit. You can reach the Reservation Office Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until noon at (805) 969-9990. Remember, the garden closes every year from mid-November until mid-February. Tours will begin again on February 15, 1995.



— The Conifers of Lotusland —

IN MOST PLACES ON the earth, and certainly at Lotusland, the vegetation is dominated by angiosperms — the flowering plants that provide us our daily bread and enrich our world with color. While extremely successful, the angiosperms are relative newcomers, having evolved about 120 million years ago. They were preceded by a varied group of less-specialized seed plants collectively termed the gymnosperms. Gymnosperms were fairly diverse in the past, but are represented by only about 750 species in the present day (in contrast to about 230,000 species of angiosperms). These living gymnosperms embrace six distantly related groups of plants: the cycads, of which Lotusland has a world-famous collection; *Ephedra*, "Mormon tea," the source of a potent decongestant; *Gnetum*, a genus of rainforest vines and shrubs; *Welwitschia*, represented by a single species in the Namib Desert of southwest Africa and surely a contender for the title of "weirdest plant in the world;" the maidenhair-tree *Ginkgo*; and the assemblage collectively termed the conifers, colloquially referred to as "pine trees." The last group is of concern to us in this presentation.

The conifers include seven families, 52 genera, and 600-plus species. Of these, perhaps the most familiar are the true pines (the genus *Pinus*) and their close relatives, the spruces (*Picea*) and firs (*Abies*), all occurring in the family Pinaceae. These show up in our gardens as accent plants and often dominate the vegetation in montane areas. Other fa-



Wm. B. Dewey

Bunya-bunya (Araucaria bidwillii)

miliar conifers in western North America include the coast redwood (*Sequoia*) and the big tree of the Sierra (*Sequoiadendron*), both members of the bald cypress family (Taxodiaceae), and the Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) and the incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), both members of the true cypress family or Cupressaceae (aren't common names confusing?!). However, our North American image of what a conifer looks like is biased by the fact that two families, the monkey-puzzle family (Araucariaceae) and the podocarp family (Podocarpaceae) have a dominantly Southern Hemisphere distribution, and many genera in other families are restricted to eastern Asia and/or the Southern Hemisphere. Indeed, the Santa Barbara skyline has an unusual appearance for North America

Conifers—continued on page 2



Tim Wickham



Main House Renovation Crew

THE CONSTRUCTION FIRM of Lurie & Lurie (pictured, left, on front steps) recently completed a six-month renovation of the Main House at Lotusland. The project included seismic safety work, handicapped access projects, and modifications for increased energy efficiency in heating and electrical use.

Conifers—continued from page 1

because of the spare, upraised branches of the various cultivated species of *Araucaria*, otherwise native to South America and the southwest Pacific.

The conifers apparently form a natural group that traces its origins back to the great age of coal, some 300 million years ago. With exceptions, conifers are trees or shrubs with needle-like or scale-like leaves. The leaves are often arranged in a whorl on a "short shoot," with the short shoots arising intermittently along a "long shoot." The wood of conifers is generally homogeneous and smooth grained, leading the group to be referred to as the "softwoods." In microscopic view, it is dominated by elongate cells which serve to both conduct fluid and support the tree, in contrast to the wood of angiosperms which has two different cell types, one dedicated to each function. Often conifer wood is rich in resin which is exuded when the plant is damaged. The reproductive organs are predominantly cone-like, being formed of spiraled scales embedded among which are the ovules or pollen sacs. However, there are exceptions to this, as many junipers and podocarps have berry-like seeds.

The conifers are wind-pollinated. Because of the element of chance involved in this mode of reproduction,

they produce pollen in vast amounts, often dusting their surroundings with a noticeable yellow mantle in season. Most conifer seeds have wings and are wind-dispersed, but some of these (e.g., many pines) are commonly dispersed by birds and rodents. Junipers, yew trees (*Taxus*) and podocarps have fleshy seeds that are clearly animal dispersed. *Araucaria* often has immense seeds which are ill-suited to wind dispersal, and must have some history of animal dispersal to explain its distribution.

While many conifers occur in mixed forests associated with broad-leaved trees, others, particularly in the Pinaceae, occur in great masses in cool-temperate regimes in the mid and high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere. Indeed, the Pinaceae of this area form a grand vegetational unit, the Taiga Biome (a.k.a. the spruce-moose biome), which has outliers in more southerly areas such as the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, and the conifer forests in the highlands of western North America. The success of conifers in these regions has many explanations, some local, some universal. They are often able to tolerate nutrient-poor or water-logged soils that flowering plants cannot. Also, it appears that conifers can photosynthesize at lower temperatures and lower

light intensities than most angiosperms, suiting them to dominate subarctic and subalpine situations.

While our gardens are dominated by the food and color provided by the flowering plants, conifers play an important role as backdrops or as accents of color or form within the garden; they are used in this role to good effect at Lotusland. They also have a major role in economics. As a source of both tar (distilled resin) and mast wood, they were a strategic resource in the age of sail, playing a role not dissimilar to that of oil today. Presently they are the mainstay of our timber industry, and thus of housing and they are an important source of paper.

Those wishing to further examine the group are referred to the classic *A Handbook of Coniferae and Ginkgoaceae*, by W. Dallimore and A. B. Jackson (4th ed.), revised by S. G. Harrison (London, E. Arnold, 1966), or the more recent *Manual of Cultivated Conifers* by G. Krussmann (2nd ed.), edited by H. D. Warda (Portland, Oregon, Timber Press, 1985).

—Bruce H. Tiffney

The author is Professor of Paleobotany, with the Geology Dept. at UCSB and a member of Lotusland's Building & Grounds Committee.

Staff Profile:

JOHN LAFLEUR

Keeping Lotusland Plants Healthy & Happy

MADAME WALSKA personally hired John Lafleur as a Lotusland gardener in 1970 practically sight unseen. She heard he was a gardener at El Mirador—the famous Armour family estate bordering Lotusland on the north. John said he expected it to be a “temporary job,” and now, nearly 25 years later, he is still temporarily here!

John attributes his longevity at Lotusland to the freedom he was given to learn and grow and be challenged by the job. John recalls Madame Walska as being “very kind and very fond of his children.” Madame Walska would ask that all the gardeners wait outside her door each morning for their instructions. She liked to have the staff work in groups because it was easier to keep track of them! John was originally put in charge of the roses and geraniums and over the years was in-

trigued by the process of eliminating pests from the garden by the use of pesticides. He began experimenting with using the least toxic method of controlling pests rather than what was then considered the *status quo* method of spraying plants twice a week with industrial strength bug spray.

John’s interest in pest control eventually led him to the lengthy study of Integrated Pest Management, and he received a pesticide applicator’s license from the state of California. Plant pests at Lotusland are now controlled under the expert supervision of Integrated Pest Manager John Lafleur and his assistant, Corey Welles. Both attend several seminars each year in order to maintain their proficiency.

John uses cultural methods for controlling plant-damaging insects and diseases such as changing the watering,

fertilizing and drainage systems to create a healthier plant that naturally resists insects and diseases. He also utilizes a combination of Safers soap and/or oil which kills many pests, including aphids, but leaves the beneficial insects unharmed. Biological control of pests is integral to Lotusland’s pest management program. The *Eugenia*, for instance, has made a remarkable recovery thanks to tiny wasps which were brought into the garden from nursery plants to eliminate the psyllid which had been causing severe damage.

John lives in Goleta with his three children and his wife, Reidun, who is a surgery nurse at Cottage Hospital. The family likes to relax in Hawaii where John can take a break from Lotusland’s pesky problems!

—Anne Dewey

Dealing with Pests

Lotusland’s Integrated Pest Manager, John Lafleur, demonstrates the “bug eat bug” theory of pest control to students at Roosevelt Elementary School.



Wm. B. Dewey

Horticultural Happenings

With
MIKE IVEN

Lotusland Grounds Superintendent

LOTUSLAND GARDENER Corey Welles is pictured at right with one of the three *Aloe dichotoma* from the nursery which have been planted in the aloe garden behind the shell pond near the *A. ramosissima* and other *A. dichotoma*. Raised planting areas were prepared for these new plantings in order to provide good drainage and the best possible cultural conditions.

A COLLECTION of *Pritchardia* palms from the Lotusland nursery has been planted in a prepared area adjacent to the fern garden and the Ashley Road entry drive. Species include *P. hillebrandii*, *P. kaalae*, and *P. valstera*. In addition, three *Trachycarpus takil* were planted as a group in the same area.

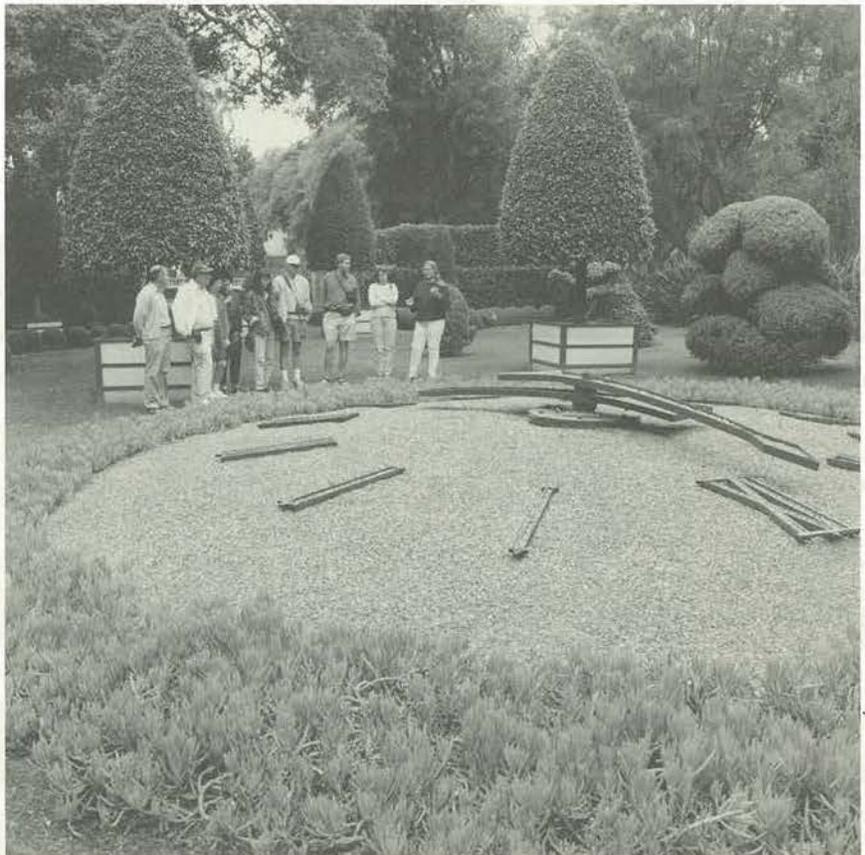
RENOVATION of another section of the cactus garden was completed. All organic matter in the twenty-year-old soil mix had decomposed, resulting in a very poor growing medium with a low water infiltration rate. Areas are being renewed section by section in order to keep the logistics of the operation manageable. Plants and landscape rocks are removed and a sand/gravel mineral amendment is incorporated before replanting and relandscaping.

EXTENSIVE TREE WORK in the cycad garden has been completed. In order to allow more light into the garden and to provide space and improve cultural conditions for existing and future plantings, many trees (mostly volunteer *Acacia* species) have been trimmed and/or removed. An extensive cleanup of the eucalyptus forest adjacent to the epiphyllum garden has been completed.



Wm. B. Dewey

AABGA TOUR (Below): Curator Virginia Hayes points out plants of interest to visitors from the 1994 American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta conference held June 15–18 in Pasadena. Participants came from botanical gardens worldwide to network and share common concerns. A pre-conference tour visited Santa Barbara's "Horticultural Mecca" which included visits to Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Alice Keck Park Memorial Gardens, San Marcos Growers, and Seaside Banana Gardens, culminating with a tour and dinner at Lotusland.



Wm. B. Dewey



SYMBOLISM OF THE LOTUS

THE AQUATIC LOTUS has been a timeless source of inspiration to the peoples of Egypt, India and Asia, who saw in this plant's yearly emergence from the water to seek the light of the sun a symbol of spiritual growth. Rising from the life-giving waters of the Nile, the blue lotus (actually the water lily *Nymphaea caerulea*) was a symbol of creation, life, immortality and resurrection to the ancient Egyptians. They venerated the flower for its strong, sweet scent, which they believed to be life-giving. Various deities were associated with the flower, and it was connected with funereal and sacrificial rites. The sun god Re, concealed in a lotus, raised himself from the primordial waters. Nefertum, the personified god of the lotus and of fragrant unguents, was represented in temple art as a man with a lotus-flower head-dress.

The sacred Indian lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) which grows out of the muddied waters but sits unsullied atop them and daily opens to the rays of the sun, has long been an honored emblem in India and Asia, indicating spiritual transcendence, beauty and purity. Because it opens in the morning and closes at night, the lotus was a metaphor for the sun. In Hinduism, it was a symbol of the universe coming out of the primeval waters and manifesting itself in its glory—demonstrating the idea of the one becoming many as the lotus petals maintained the shape of the bud even after they had opened up and fallen. A thousand-petaled lotus (symbolizing the "totality of all revelations") rose from the navel (representing the center of the universe) of the "Preserver" *Vishnu*. Seated upon the opened flower was *Brahma*, the "Creator."

Reclining, splayed fertility goddesses, whose necks and heads were replaced by lotus blossoms, combined in a single metaphor the ideas of both birth and rebirth. Found in India from the first century A.D., these voluptuous women embodied the generative power of nature and were reputed to cause trees to bloom by their mere touch.

How stainless it rises from its slimy bed. How modestly it reposes on the clear pool—an emblem of purity and truth. Symmetrically perfect, its subtle perfume is wafted far and wide, while there it rests in spotless state, something to be regarded reverently from a distance, and not to be profaned by familiar approach.

Chon Tun, 11th century A.D. Chinese poet



Wm. B. Dewey

The "jewel in the lotus" atop a lantern in Lotusland's Japanese Garden.

Hindu devotees meditated on a chosen deity by envisioning him seated on the lotus of the heart, which is the center of life itself. This idea was externalized in artistic representations of deities seated upon a lotus throne. In Yoga the *padmasana*, or lotus posture, is a particular sitting position adopted as most suitable for religious meditation. The lotus is used to describe seven *chakras*—or centers of consciousness—which are envisioned as energy points along the spine which open up and "flower" as the yogi progresses on his journey toward enlightenment.

The image of this triumphant flower rising in its growth from the mud of a pond to rest in sunlight is suggestive of the Buddhist's quest to surmount the darkness of illusion and break into the light of perfect understanding when he shall become a fragrance to purify the fetid vapor of this world—showing that

enlightenment can flower in an unsatisfactory world. In the Pure Land sect of Buddhism, which originated in 8th century A.D. China, the Buddha of Boundless Light was imagined to reign in a Western Paradise above a lotus pond in which the souls of the faithful departed were constantly being reborn out of the lotus buds floating on the waters before him. The "Excellent Lotus-Flower" (*Pad-ma bZang-po*) was an emblem of original purity for Tibetan Buddhists who saw it as one of Eight Auspicious Symbols — altar bronzes which commemorated the gifts offered by celestial beings to Buddha after his attainment of enlightenment.

Madame Walska chose the name Lotusland for her gardens that others might see reflected in her creation the persistence of the lotus in its victorious ascent.

—Janet M. Eastman

"Women of Beauty and Charm"

MADAME WALSKA opened a perfume business at 2 Rue de la Paix in Paris in 1927. When she was about to expand the business to America and Canada, an interview by a United Press newspaper reporter commented about her latest venture saying, "There are a lot of things interviewers desire to know about this fascinating woman who has two continents sitting at the edge of their chairs wondering what she would do next."

When asked about bringing her line of perfumes and cosmetics to America, Madame Walska was quoted as remarking, "...why shouldn't I? There are twenty-three million women in this country, and they have developed the same aesthetic tastes as their French sisters. After all, perfume is simply applied aestheticism, and is it not a sound approach to a problem so important to every woman—the maintenance of her charm and allure for men?"

Les Parfums de Ganna Walska offered five unique varieties: "GARDENIA—exceptionally sweet and fragrant...truly an aroma of fascination befitting the modern maiden; POIS DE SENTEUR—exotic and mildly alluring Sweet Pea...creating an atmosphere of true enchantment for madame and mademoiselle; DIVORÇONS—heavy and daring...decidedly expressive, revealing the soul of the truly sophisticated; POUR LE SPORT—spicy and capricious, it lends to gayety and frolic...choice of the vagabond lovers of sport; BLUE RIBBON—light and refreshing...favorite of the smart set...truly characteristic of the cultured society debutante."

Unfortunately, the business failed in the early months of the depression. There remain no samples of the actual perfume, but recently a wonderful donation was made to the Foundation. Madame Walska's niece, Hania Tallmadge, gave Lotusland one of the original gold perfume atomizers which has her aunt's signature etched on the glass bottom (pictured above). It came in a pink leather



Wm. B. Dewey

case with "Ganna Walska" inscribed in gold on the silk lining.

The 1927 interview with Madame Walska closed with this comment: "Because of her beauty, her intellect, her tremendous vitality, Ganna Walska belongs

to that type of modern women who are dynamic but feminine, women who work hard but remain charming, women who withal retain their sense of perspective and their good sense of humor."

—Anne Dewey

CRUISING FOR CONIFERS

Class Open to Members Only, October 20 & 22, 1994

Join UCSB Paleobotanist Bruce Tiffney and Lotusland Director Steven Timbrook for an introduction to those green things that even many gardeners commonly dismiss as "pine trees." An illustrated lecture by Prof. Tiffney will introduce you to the history and biology of this group, together with its diversity and biogeographic distribution. The talk will be followed by a walk in the garden with Drs. Tiffney and Timbrook to view some of the different taxa of conifers and to allow you to examine some of their distinctive features firsthand. Classes will be held Thursday, October 20, and Saturday, October 22, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m., for members only. Admission is \$6.00. To reserve space please fill in the coupon at right and return it with your payment. Classes are limited to 25 members each day. Reservations will be made in the order coupons are received.



FRIENDS OF LOTUSLAND

We welcome new members who joined in May, June, July 1994

LEVEL I

Mrs. Eldon H. Abbey
 Mr. and Mrs. Arnold E. Bellowe
 Jaye Carman
 Susan L. Cochran
 Mary Potter Compton
 Robert Coolidge
 Kathy and Bill Couturie
 Sunny and Michael Crandell
 Ann P. Darlington
 Julie Anne Del Rivo
 Anita Dominocielo-Ho
 Joan Follis
 Beth Geiger
 Linda and Frank Granat
 David E. Gray
 John Grower
 Sheryl Lynne Hand
 Bonnie Hennessey
 Raminta Jautokas
 Willoughby C. Johnson
 Art and Patrice Kinberg
 Margo Paige Kline
 Gloria Kolesar
 David and Dana Kovach
 Kathleen E. La Fetra
 Jennifer MacMillan

Alan and Jane Magree
 Clyde and Wanda McAdams
 Maryann McCarthy
 Alexander H. Meisel
 Gail and Gary Milliken
 Jann D. Moeller
 Dick and Phyllis Nielsen
 Susan A. Oppenheimer
 June P. Ostrander
 Timothy and Pamela Rodgers
 Dorothy Cullen Shaner
 Patti W. Shavelson
 Dan Stuart
 Alice Jean Triggs
 Ms. Jo M. Wagner
 Sumiko Warden
 Carole Wasserman
 Margie Williams

Joseph B. Koepfli
 Laura Nanna
 Debbi Pearson
 Mr. and Mrs. John E. Roche
 Mr. and Mrs. C. William Schlosser
 Sali and Fred Silverman
 Jane Macauley Spratt
 Bertram D. Thomas
 C. Randall Umland
 Barbara and Arthur Weiss

LEVEL II

Wanda Allison
 Virginia and Harrison Beardsley
 Mr. Terry M. Bible
 Mrs. Elsie M. Chmiel
 Ms. Mary T. Dorra
 Armin and Marie Ehrhardt
 Inge Gatz-Gilbar

LEVEL III

Marion S. Anderson
 Mrs. Robert Carpenter
 Mrs. Joseph R. Osherenko
 Frank T. Pierce
 Jim Swift
 Laura Lee Woods
 Robert S. Woodward

LEVEL IV

Mary Glyde Barbey

HONORARY MEMBER

Hania Tallmadge

Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form Cruising for Conifers — October 20 & 22

Check one: _____ Thursday, October 20, 1:30-4:00 p.m.
 _____ Saturday, October 22, 1:30-4:00 p.m. _____ Number attending, \$6.00 per person \$_____

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

PAYMENT METHOD

Check Enclosed (payable to Ganna Walska Lotusland)
 VISA Mastercard Expiration Date _____

Card Number _____

Signature _____

Member Name _____

Address _____

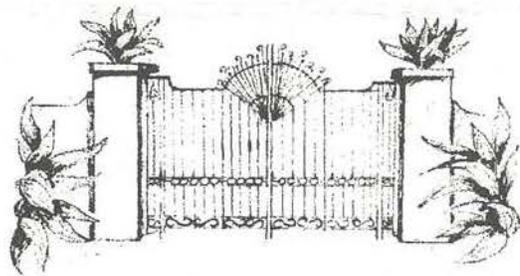
Phone _____



Wm. B. Dewey

New Rose Plantings in Garden

MADAME WALSKA's rose garden was replanted this spring with several varieties of roses including the white-flowered Iceberg seen in the foreground. This work as well as reconstruction of the balustrade at the head of the rose garden was made possible through the generosity of Mary Ann Tyson Green.



**Ganna Walska
Lotusland Foundation**

695 Ashley Road
Montecito, CA 93108

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding Postage Guaranteed

Printed on recycled & recyclable paper

THE LOTUSLAND NEWSLETTER
is published by
Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation
695 Ashley Road
Santa Barbara, California 93108
(805) 969-3767

Board of Trustees:
Mrs. Edward R. Valentine, President
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Dake
Mr. Arthur R. Gaudi
Mrs. Robert M. Jones
Mr. Michael Towbes

Dr. Steven Timbrook, *Director*
Anne Dewey, *Assistant to the Director*
Virginia Hayes, *Curator*
Mike Iven, *Grounds Superintendent*

Anne Dewey, *Editor*
Janet Eastman, *Editorial Assistant*
Judith Sutcliffe, *Design*
Printed by J & S Graphix

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Barbara
California Permit
No. 163