




## LOTUSLAND NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 No. 3  Autumn 1995

### Reserving 1996 Tours!

LOTUSLAND MEMBERS may reserve 1996 tours beginning October 18. Tours begin mid-February and run through mid-November. We will save a significant number of spaces for members. (General public reservations start November 16.) Call (805) 969-9990, M-F, 9 a.m. to noon.

# Focus on Mexican Plants

SOME OF THE MOST familiar scenes at Lotusland feature plants native to our southern neighbor, Mexico. The golden barrel cacti (*Echinocactus grusonii*) dominating the foreground as you approach the main residence, the grove of ponytails (*Beaucarnea recurvata*) near the outdoor theatre, and the silver agaves (*Agave franzosinii*) guarding the Sycamore Canyon gate and leading the eye from the lawn to the blue garden are all plants of Mexico. Of the more than 3,000 kinds of plants growing at Lotusland, over 200 are Mexican species, with the largest representations in the agave family (24 species in 7 genera), cacti (69 species in 17 genera), cycads (27 species in 3 genera) and palms (22 species in 3 genera).

Lotusland's collection of Mexican plants, however, comes nowhere near the amazing diversity found in Mexico. In spite of the efforts of generations of botanists both native and foreign, Mex-

ico's flora is still not all that well known. Estimates put its total number of vascular plants at no less than 30,000 species, about 10% of the 300,000 species known from the entire world. To put this in further perspective, the rest of North America, with a land area nearly 10 times the size of Mexico, has only 20,000 species.

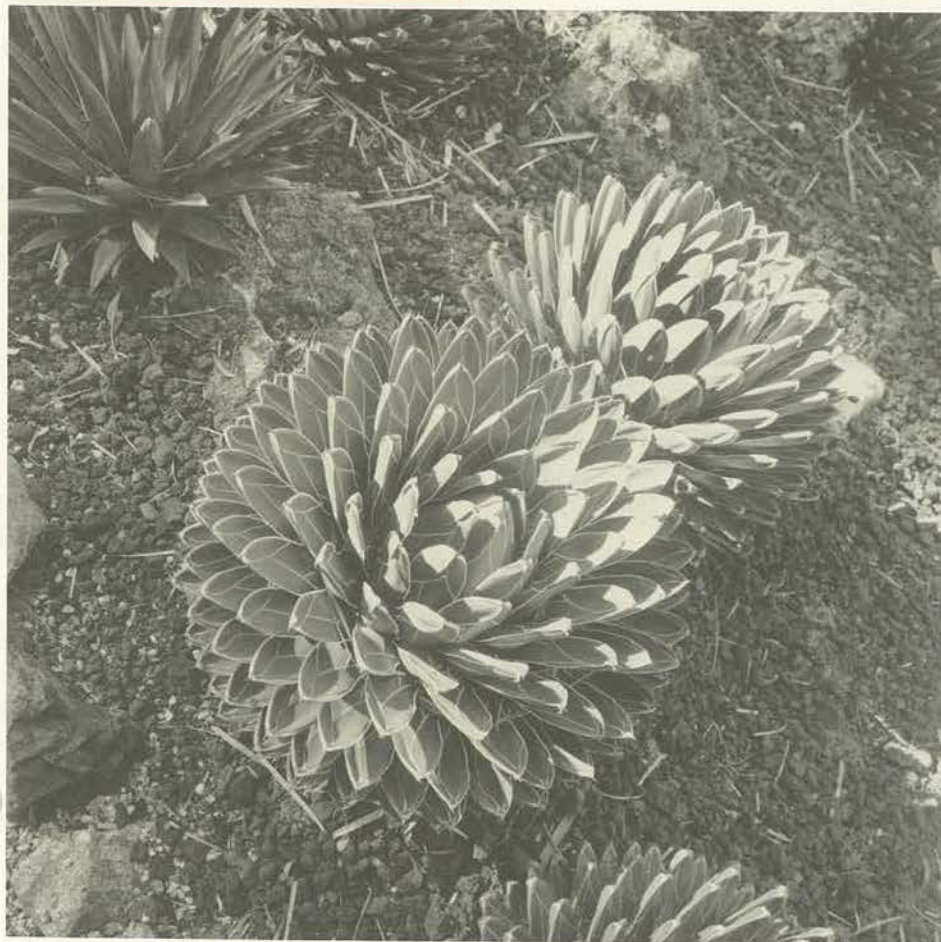
### A richness of extremes

The richness of Mexico's flora derives in large part from the great diversity of habitats and climates found within its borders. Stretching for hundreds of miles north and south of the Tropic of Cancer and with extensive mountain ranges, Mexico varies from hot, moist lowlands to deserts with extremes of heat and cold, from tropical to temperate zones, and even, on its high volcanoes, areas above timberline. Contributing to diversity are a wide range of soils derived from different parent material, and a geologic history as a bridge between North and South America that has seen recurring waves of migration of plant species and even entire floras. For example, the pines, firs and oaks of Mexico have their relatives in the Northern Hemisphere, while mesquite, palo verde and creosote bush have their closest relatives in the deserts of South America.

There will be an opportunity to learn more about Mexican plants on October 20 and 21 when Dr. Steven Timbrook, Lotusland's Director, and Virginia Hayes, the Curator of the Living Collection, will offer Friends of Lotusland two special Focus Tours featuring the plants of Mexico. We will walk through Lotusland's gardens pointing out plants of Mexican origin and talking about their natural history, landscape use and economic importance. To take part, please register using the coupon on page seven. Each tour is limited to 25 participants.

—Steven Timbrook

*Leaves of Agave victoriae-reginae at water gardens entrance are edged in light.*







# Lotusland Celebrates a Successful First Fundraiser

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND held its first annual fund raising event on July 16 with almost 300 members and their guests in attendance. The music-themed afternoon garden party "Lotusland Celebrates: Twilight with Madama Butterfly" was made possible by a generous grant from Northern Trust Bank.

Patrons for the successful fund raising event were: Mr. & Mrs. Walter S. Baer, Mrs. Edward L. Bakewell, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Donald L. Balch, Mrs. Richard Bergen, Charles Bloom Foundation, Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Carpenter, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Crawford, Virginia Castagnola-Hunter, Dr. & Mrs. Vernon I. Cheadle, Mr. & Mrs. John Dillon, Mr. & Mrs. Alvin W. Friedman, Mr. & Mrs. James Wes Gallagher, Mr. Arthur R.

Gaudi, Mrs. Rowe Giesen, Mrs. Richard H. Hellmann, Mr. Eric P. Hvolbøll, Mr. & Mrs. Robert T. Isham, Mrs. Granville E. Lee, J. P. Morgan & Co. Incorporated, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Pesenti, Mr. & Mrs. John Rex, Mrs. Astrid Rottman, Mr. &

Mrs. C. William Schlosser, Mrs. J. Fred Schoellkopf, Hania P. Tallmadge, Jeanne C. Thayer, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Towbes, Carol L. Valentine, and Laura Lee Woods.

Threatening storm clouds dropped only a brief shower while providing a dramatic backdrop for the afternoon's festivities. Guests were heard describing the gardens as "perfect" thanks to the diligence and team work of Lotusland's talented and dedicated grounds staff. Lotusland Trustees greeted guests at the Visitor Center in the late afternoon light. The Twilight Journey took them through the Japanese Garden where drummer, Shin Kuboyama, enthralled passers-by with his rhythmical beating of the taiko drum.

Strolling through the aloe garden to the water garden, where lotus and water lilies were in full bloom, guests encountered Leslee Sipress playing Japanese music on her golden flute. The sunken drawing room of the main house was transformed into a mini-museum of memorabilia from Madame Walska's life. The exhibit blended costumes and hats — loaned by Madame Walska's niece, Hania P. Tallmadge, and the Santa Barbara Historical Society — with jewelry, newspaper clippings, *objects d'art* and historic photographs from Lotusland's archives into a wonderful vignette of Madame Walska's life long fascination with opera and art. One of the most fascinating aspects of the exhibit was a tape recording of Madame Walska's operatic performances and a video recording of her conducting a tour through Lotusland in 1958.

The theatre garden was the setting for highlights from G. Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* presented by the Santa Barbara Grand Opera Association. Guests



*Lilting voices rise once again from the theatre garden.*



*Shin Kuboyama's drumbeats resonate across the Japanese Garden.*





enjoyed champagne and hors d'oeuvres as they sat on the cushion-covered stone tiers and enjoyed operatic presentations by the costumed singers Carmen Tejada, Lizbeth Lucco, Mel Foster, and Sterling Branton. A three course dinner featuring grilled Pacific salmon with mirin and yuzu, lotus root and Madame Walska's Pineapple Surprise was served under the giant oak tree by the Four Seasons Biltmore. Sanford Winery provided the delectable wine, and orchids for the oriental centerpieces were provided by Gallup & Stribling Orchids. Music Academy of the West provided a string ensemble to entertain guests as they enjoyed the twilight dinner. The program, complete with an Erté drawing of his design for a *Madama Butterfly* costume and golden butterflies, was partially funded by a donation from J&S Graphix.

Carol Valentine, President of the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation, thanked members and guests for their support of the garden's mission and educational endeavors. Director Dr. Steven Timbrook reflected upon how well the event suited Lotus-

land and thought Madame Walska would have been quite pleased with the first annual "Lotusland Celebrates."

The hard-working committee members who labored over every detail of the success of "Lotusland Celebrates" were: Laura Bridley, Merryl Brown, Sharon Crawford, Elizabeth Dake, Anne Dewey, Poney Eagleton, Lou Greer, Anna Maria Halling, Anne Jones,

*Left: The sound of Leslee Sipress' golden flute wafts over the water gardens.  
Right: Historic displays in the main house sunken drawing room.  
Below: Partygoers on the main lawn.*

Dana Kent, Karen Kolb, Kathy O'Leary, Nancy Salvucci, Hania Tallmadge and Carol Valentine, with invaluable assistance from several Lotusland staff and volunteers.

—Anne Dewey







## Compliance Hearing Scheduled

A YEAR AGO Lotusland passed its first Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Compliance Hearing with flying colors. Not a single complaint had been received about Lotusland's operation since opening to the public and the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission moved Lotusland to its second phase of operation, with 7500 visitors and one special event approved for 1995.

This year's Compliance Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, and Lotusland is happy to report that once again not a single complaint about its operation has been received by the County. At the upcoming hearing the Planning Commission will evaluate our compliance with each of the myriad conditions of the CUP and will decide whether or not to move Lotusland to the third and final phase of 9000 visitors and three special events per year.

Although we know that we have complied with all conditions, it will still help the Planning Commissioners reach their decision to hear from our members about the need to increase visitor opportunities. For many of you the wait to get a reservation has been far too long because the permitted numbers are far

too low — well below the number that could be accommodated within the daily vehicle limits the County also places upon Lotusland. For members living in Santa Barbara County, a letter or telephone call to your supervisor will let him or her know you feel that such a valuable and unique local resource needs to be more accessible. For members living outside of Santa Barbara County, Supervisor Naomi Schwartz would appreciate hearing from you as Lotusland lies within her district.

To assist your communication the supervisors are:

**1st District, Naomi Schwartz, 568-2186;**  
105 E. Anapamu St. 4th Floor, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**2nd District, Jeanne Graffy, 568-2191**  
105 E. Anapamu St. 4th Floor, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**3rd District, Bill Wallace, 568-2192**  
105 E. Anapamu St. 4th Floor, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**4th District, Tim Staffel, 737-7700**  
401 E. Cypress Avenue, Lompoc, CA 93436

**5th District, Tom Urbanske, 346-8400**  
511 East Lakeside Parkway, Suite 141, Santa Maria, CA 93455

## Members Tour Northern

### California Art & Nature

IN MAY, 25 members of Ganna Walska Lotusland and Santa Barbara Museum of Art traveled to San Francisco and Napa/Sonoma to participate in *Private Gardens and Great Art*. The trip began at San Francisco's De Young Museum with a tour of "Monet: Late Paintings of Giverny from the Musée Marmottan," followed by a tour of Strybing Arboretum.

The first stop in Sonoma was a special and rarely permitted tour of John and Frances Bowes' spectacular new home. The group visited the garden and pool at the Donnell Ranch, designed by Thomas Church and went on to Mary-belle Riley's charming home and garden in Sonoma, as well as the house and garden of Englishman Michael Bates. Jane Jansen's Quarryhill Botanical Garden, 20 acres of ornamental species from Japan, China and the eastern Himalayas, was planted in an abandoned Glen Ellen quarry.

Participants toured Peter Newton's famous mountain top garden in St. Helena, Far Niente Winery garden in Oakville, and the Trefethen Winery garden in Napa. All felt privileged to see private gardens so rarely opened to visitors.

## New Book Coming Out — *Lotusland: A Photographic Odyssey*

DUE OUT THIS FALL from Santa Barbara publisher Allen A. Knoll is a coffee table book, *Lotusland: A Photographic Odyssey*. It features nearly 300 photographs of Lotusland. Though countless articles have been written about Mme. Walska and her fabulous gardens, this will be the first major publication to document the history of the gardens and Mme. Walska through photographs taken over a period of 100 years.

In addition to the hauntingly beautiful photographs chosen from the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation archives and from photographers William B. Dewey, Gregory L. Padgett, and Robert Glenn Ketchum, the author, Theodore Roosevelt Gardner II, tells

the story "of the incomparable Ganna Walska, the legendary woman who spent more than forty years and untold millions of dollars developing these eclectic gardens."

Mr. Gardner, local author of several books, initially undertook the project at the suggestion of his wife, Virginia, a bookseller and Lotusland docent. He was captivated not only by the beauty of Mme. Walska's gardens, but by the woman herself — "All those rich husbands, her lifelong futile struggle to achieve operatic fame. The startling, intuitive art she displayed in her garden. Her unbridled zest for life."

This photographic odyssey of the garden, celebrating the art of landscape

photography, accompanies text written in Mr. Gardner's unique style. *Lotusland: A Photographic Odyssey* offers an opportunity for those who have never seen Ganna Walska's gardens to do so and for those who have seen them to possess a permanent memoir of their visit. "With this book, you can visit this fantastic garden all year long."

A book signing is planned at a local bookstore. The Lotusland Garden Shop will carry signed copies of the book, which can also be ordered through Allen A. Knoll, Publishers, 200 West Victoria Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 by mail or by phone at (805) 564-3377 / (800) 777-7623. We all look forward to the book's imminent arrival!





## Summer Intern David Hamada Gains Valuable Experience

SINCE 1988 Lotusland has offered a grounds maintenance intern program each summer for students seeking practical horticultural experience. Because housing was not initially provided, the first few interns were Santa Barbara residents in Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Environmental Horticulture program or studying landscape horticulture at Santa Barbara City College. Since Lotusland began providing housing to interns in 1991, students from Cornell, North Carolina State, Montana State, UC Davis, and other colleges have participated in the intern program.

This year's intern, David Hamada, a senior in the Horticulture Sciences program at Texas A & M University, was selected from 15 qualified applicants. David's areas of interest within his degree are greenhouse crops and botanical gardens, and he has a special interest in tropical and sub-tropical plant species. While working with regular grounds staff, David experienced the variety of skills and knowledge required to maintain Lotusland's diverse garden areas. He participated in integrated pest management practices, such as monitoring for

pests and diseases, and fertilizer and pesticide applications. He also assisted other grounds staff with planting bed renovations, curatorial record keeping, and the preparation of the garden for Lotusland's first special event.

Taking a break from his intern duties, David traveled to Montreal as part of a team representing Texas A & M at the national meeting of the Associated Collegiate Branch of the American Society of Horticultural Sciences. They and other students from horticulture programs nationwide competed in a horticultural commodities judging contest in which they identified and judged fruit, vegetable, nursery and floral crops.

David says that he thoroughly enjoyed the internship at Lotusland and appreciated the practical experience and knowledge in grounds maintenance gained during his stay. While his specific career choice is undetermined, he is fairly certain that a position in botanic garden education or curation is in his future. Lotusland staff enjoyed meeting and working with David during the summer of 1995 and wish him all the best in his horticultural pursuits.

## Dr. Vernon I. Cheadle

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that Ganna Walska Lotusland notes the passing of its good friend and honorary trustee Dr. Vernon I. Cheadle. In the 1960s and 70s, during Dr. Cheadle's tenure as Chancellor of the University of California at Santa Barbara, he was often consulted by Madame Walska as she sought advice on her plans for Lotusland. As a botanist Dr. Cheadle was quite familiar with the amazing wealth of botanical specimens growing at Lotusland, which often provided material for his research into the microscopic detail and anatomical variation in plant water conducting tissues.

Following Madame Walska's death in 1984, Dr. Cheadle was asked by then Board President Reginald Faletti to join the original Board of Trustees. Dr. Cheadle served seven years in that capacity, including an active role on the Building and Grounds Committee, frequently reminding his fellow trustees that the botanical collections in the garden were the reason for the existence of Lotusland. Dr. Cheadle was instrumental in successfully preserving Lotusland and making it available to the public. He resigned his trusteeship in September 1991 to concentrate on completing several botanical research projects, yet continued to provide wise counsel as an honorary trustee whenever his help was sought. We will miss his friendship and guiding spirit.

## New Volunteers

Henrietta di Suvero — Office  
Jo M. Gledhill — Garden Shop  
Robert Hetzron — Archives  
Julia Hewitt — Garden Maintenance  
Don Johnson — Archives  
Lynn Kirby — Garden Maintenance  
Ellen Kragh — Archives & Library  
Terri A. Linder — Garden Maintenance  
Richard Montgomery — Garden Maintenance  
Laura Morrison — Archives  
William Silver — Garden Maintenance  
Mari W. Zolkowski — Garden Shop



# FRIENDS OF LOTUSLAND

*We welcome new members who joined in May, June, July 1995*

## Level I

Trino Adame  
Ada Anderson  
Murray Barnett & Lois Kroc  
Diane Bowers  
Christopher & Leilani Browne  
Robert & Elizabeth Bushnell  
David Bushnell  
Lillian Carson & Sam Hurst  
Susan Caughey  
Britt-Marie Chadwick  
Chaya Family  
Helen Ciabattini  
Mary S. Clark  
Peter & Paulina Conn  
Joy Donnelly  
Allan & Nancy Durham  
Ken Dvoren  
Mrs. Rickey Effron  
Carol Epstein  
Suzanne Fenwick  
Patricia Ann Fiedler  
Shell Forman  
Toni Fricke  
Andrew Gersoff & Julie Yamamoto  
Marvin & Jean Glassberg  
Kathleen M. Goldberg  
Neal Graffy  
William & Betsy Green  
Gert Hackman  
Susan Hetlinger  
Robert Hetzron  
Tracy Johnston  
Michael Katz  
Marge Kelly  
Lynn Kirby  
R. Krafur & J. Tone

Wendy Larsen  
Dr. & Mrs. Marvin Levenson  
Roberta Lindstrom  
Mr. & Mrs. Harrison C. Lingle  
Karen Lucie  
Mary-Patricia Mangan  
Priscilla Marchus  
Ms. Carol Marsch  
Mrs. Ruth Martin  
Gail M. Martin  
Beth McGrath  
John R. Nelson  
Pamela Novack & Anthony S. Johnson  
Jone Pence  
Steve Peterson  
Joan Plaehn  
Garland & Brenda Reiter  
Bernhard Reutemann  
Dusty & P.J. Rhodes  
Beverly Russell  
Roxanne Sartorius  
Pat Sheppard  
Lori Slayton  
Ellen & Ed Smith  
Eric & Beth Solomon  
Sue Swartz  
Jane & Steve Taylor  
Maren B. Thomas  
Pat Thompson  
Andrea Tzadik  
C. Vernon & Frances Hanna  
Morgan Waggoner  
Elliott Waldman & Susan Toppen  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Weber  
Eva Wilson  
Ms. J. Ann Winford  
Diane & Mike Wondolowski  
Judy Woodson  
Linda R. Wudl

Nora Zamichow & Mark Saylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zolkoski

## Level II

Deborah Boyar  
Natalie Clark-Harpham  
Diane & Ray Hester  
Kathy & Jack Hoagland  
Mrs. Dirk K. (Fredericka) Hunter  
Michael & Kimberly Klein  
Dr. Herbert Koteen  
Marlene & Richard Lloyds  
Richard J. Miller  
Cynthia Monaco  
Adele R. & Harold Rosen  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne J. Seward  
Dr. Jack & Anita Sheen  
Ken & Tricia Volk  
Jim Whipple & Len Wilkinson  
Mary Elizabeth York

## Level III

Melinda K. Goodman  
Joann & Charles Kaplan  
Dr. Max Negri  
Philip J. Quigley, Pacific Telesis Group  
Beth Wingerd & Brent Wallis

## Level IV

Mr. Thomas Crawford  
Daniel J. Donohue, Dan Murphy  
Foundation  
Frances La Mar  
Pam & Frank Pesenti  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ridley-Tree

## Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

### IN MEMORY OF

Mrs. Mattie Glickmann's 100th birthday:  
Marilynn & Andrew Viles

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John Bleck

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Timothy John Bukovszky  
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Mr. & Mrs. H. Clarke Gaines  
Roy & Gibby Jensen  
Frances D. Larkin  
Mrs. Beatrix Oddy

Mr. & Mrs. Bernie Parent  
Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Service  
Mrs. William H. Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. David Yawitz

*Members who have increased  
their level of support in  
May, June, July, 1995*

## Level II

Cheryl & Evan Medow  
Dennis R. Woodson

## Level IV

Laura Lee Woods



## Horticultural Happenings

With MIKE IVEN

Lotusland Grounds Superintendent

🌞 **BUNYA BUNYA CONES:** In July, Lotusland tree trimmer Mark Kyriaco removed developing cones from five *Araucaria bidwillii* trees. In the past, the large cones falling from August to September created a hazard for all walking or working beneath the trees. This new procedure eliminates the need to re-direct garden tour routes and relieves concerns of grounds staff working in the area.

🌞 **ALOE GARDEN:** Gardener Corey Welles completed soil and landscape renovation on the northeast side of the aloe garden. Compost, sand, and other soil amendments now provide a well-drained medium for the collection of South African aloes. A dozen or so of the plants came from UC Irvine Arboretum's collection. The rest were transplanted from our aloe garden.

🌞 **VISITOR CENTER:** The planting bed renovation completed by Andy Babcock and other grounds staff in front of the visitor center greatly improves growing conditions for cycads and ground cover. A mixture of compost, sand, and other amendments replaced nine truck loads of poor soil removed from the bed. After rototilling and grading, three *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* cy-

cads were replanted in the bed, and drip irrigation was installed. Potted divisions of *Scleranthus biflorus* (Australian Astroturf) growing in the nursery under the care of Jennifer Dennis will be planted in the renovated bed as a ground cover.

🌞 **WATER GARDEN LABELS:** New labels in the main water lily ponds refer viewers to a new brochure which lists names of the over 70 species and cultivars of water lilies grown at Lotusland. Brochures are available in the garden shop to pick up before your tour.

🌞 **PREDATORS RELEASED:** In late July two different predatory mites and a predator insect were released into the rose garden in an effort to control the western flower thrip which lives in developing buds and causes petals to fall off prematurely. Six thousand *Amblyseius cucumeris* and 12,500 *Hypoaspis miles* predatory mites were released along with 500 *Orius insidiosus/tristicolor*, minute pirate bugs, to attack different life cycle phases of the thrip. An outdoor release of predators is successful only as long as the food source remains available. The western flower thrip, which is also known to attack citrus, will probably always be present. By creating a balance between the thrips and their predators, we hope to establish an acceptable threshold of aesthetic damage through natural rather than chemical means.

## SUCCULENT WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP

YOU MAY HAVE seen some of the lovely wreaths which docent Karole Christian and other volunteers have made for the Lotusland Garden Shop. This holiday season, you can learn to make your own succulent wreath in a workshop which she will lead with curator Virginia Hayes. Each participant will make a 10" wreath from succulent plant materials. Most materials will be provided. Call for further information. Cost for the workshop, which will be held November 17 & 18, 10:00 a.m. to noon, is \$25. Each is limited to ten people.



Caill Lucas

You can also order a succulent wreath from the Garden Shop (10", 12", 14", or 16") by calling shop manager B. Jo Dake at 969-0105 or 969-3767.

### Ganna Walska Lotusland 🌞 Registration Form Fall Focus Tour: Mexican Plants — October 20 & 21, 1995 Succulent Wreath Making Workshop — November 17 & 18, 1995

TOUR: Check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Friday, October 20, 1:30 to 3:30 P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, October 21, 1:30 to 3:30 P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending, \$8 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
WORKSHOP: \_\_\_\_\_ Friday, November 17, 10:00 A.M. to noon \_\_\_\_\_  
Check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, November 18, 10:00 A.M. to noon \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending, \$25 per person \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### PAYMENT METHOD

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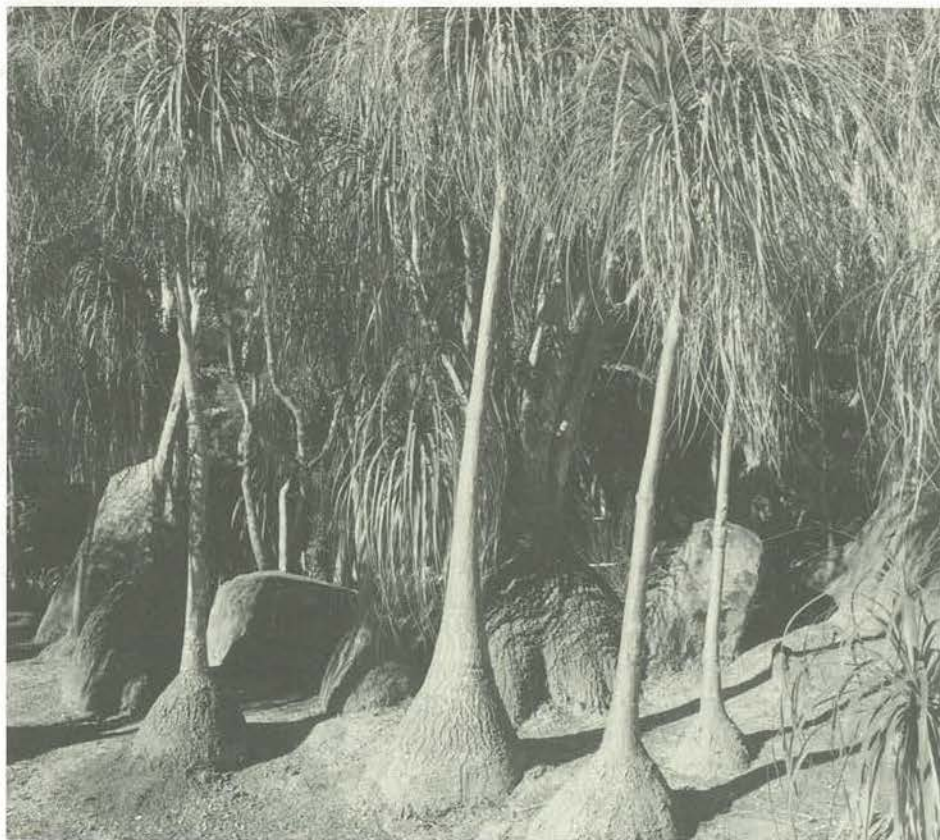
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Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

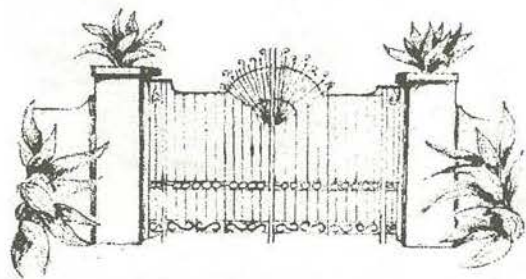
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_





Ponytails and horses' hooves (or, more properly, *Beaucarnea recurvata*) prance proudly along the edge of the main lawn. See cover story on Mexican plants.



## Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

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Montecito, CA 93108

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