



# LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  VOLUME 5 NO. 3  AUTUMN 1996

## Capturing Beauty: A History of Photography at Lotusland

PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE GARDEN has provided striking images of art for display and remembrance and continues to provide important documentation of the evolution of Madame Walska's garden. The Lotusland photographic archives house this information and make available to researchers images from past eras up to the present. Like Ganna Walska herself, the garden has beckoned to those who would capture enchanting, dramatic, and highly photogenic beauty on film. Confronted by such beauty, many have been inspired to great photography.

### Early Photographers

Since the time the property was the great estate *Cuesta Linda* owned by the Gavit family, photographers have recorded its existence on film both to document and promote its grand home and gardens. A. Sturtevant, an early commercial photographer in Santa Barbara who specialized in "groups and interiors" and who is known to have captured images of the new Potter Hotel, later photographed the earliest known record of *Cuesta Linda*. The newly built residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. Palmer Gavit, completed in 1920, rises up from a sweeping lawn in these early photos. Soft Mediterranean landscaping with junipers and olive trees can be seen planted at the front of the house while neat rows of rose gardens appear behind the house.

Fauldings Photography, located on State Street and active from 1905, PHOTOGRAPHY continued on page 2



*Nelumbo nucifera*, the sacred Indian lotus, captured in full bloom by Wm. B. Dewey.

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A. STURTEVANT, LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES



Soft Mediterranean landscaping surrounds the main house, c. 1925.



JESSIE TARBOX BEALS, LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

The Pavilion Patio, 1929.

*PHOTOGRAPHY* continued from page 1  
witnessed the estate a few years later when George Washington Smith, Peter Riedel, and Paul Theine were developing the formal gardens behind the main house. One can see the newly planted parterre, lemon arbor, olive allée, and the water stairs flanked by ivy behind what is now the Japanese garden pond.

### Jessie Tarbox Beals

Images of *Cuesta Linda* taken by Jessie Tarbox Beals in 1929 are some

of the finest in the Lotusland archives. A pioneer female news photographer born in Canada, but working on the East Coast, Beals came to Southern California from her home in New York in 1928 to photograph estates, gardens, and well-known people before returning in 1930. Her well-composed black-and-white images of Southern California estates, including several in Santa Barbara, were featured in *California Gardens* by Winifred Starr Dobyns, published in 1931. These

photos capture the grandeur of the Gavit estate and have been instrumental in recent restorations of the pavilion patio, parterre, and Neptune fountain at Lotusland.

### Lotusland in Black & White and Color

The earliest image of the estate under the ownership of Madame Walska was taken by Shreve Ballard in 1941 shortly after she purchased the property and had begun to alter

*PHOTOGRAPHY* continued on page 3

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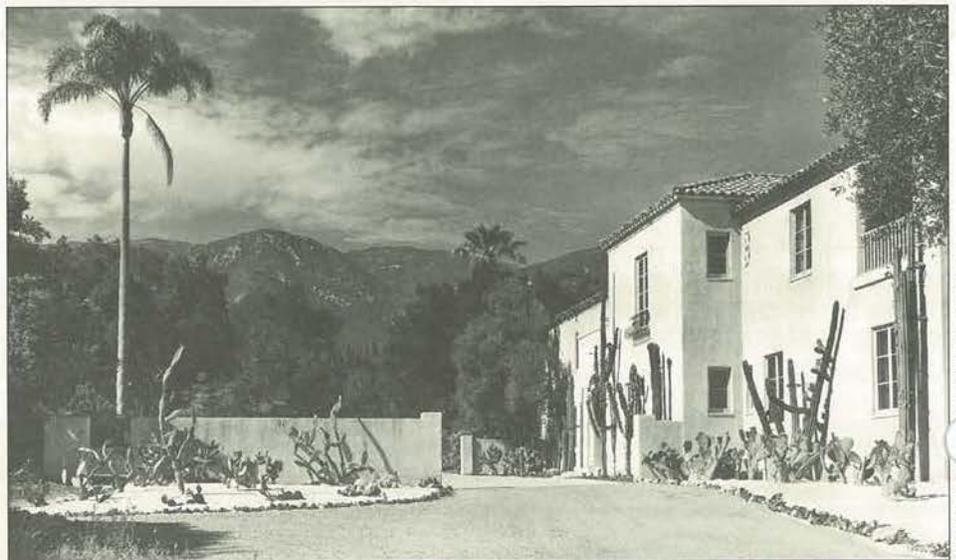
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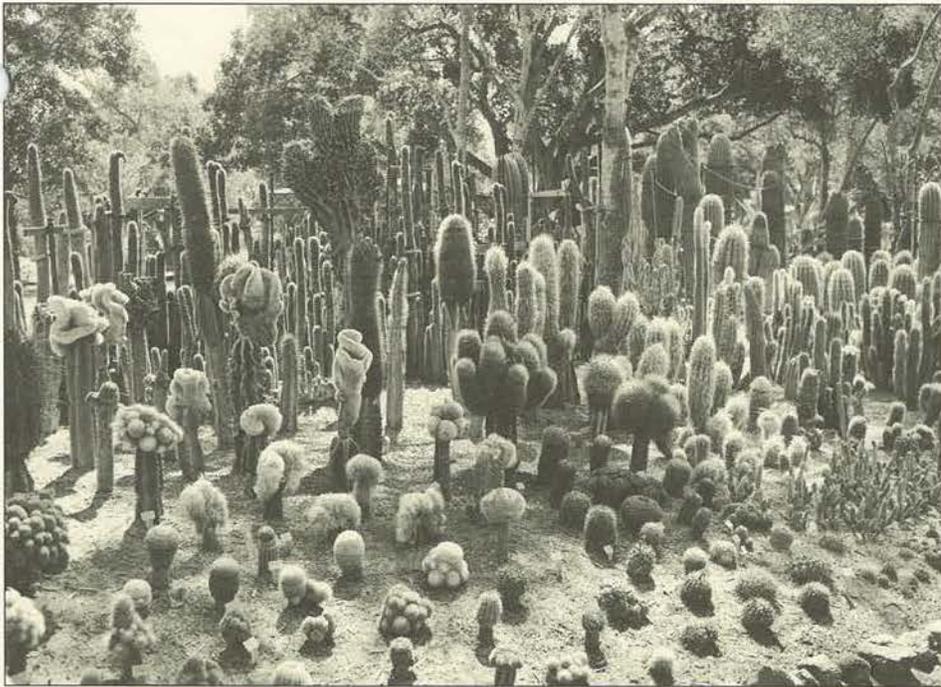
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SHREVE BALLARD, LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

Madame Walska's first attempts at landscaping with cacti at Tibetland, 1941.



Exotic cacti, including many grafted and crested specimens, along the main drive, 1957.

PHOTOGRAPHY continued from page 2

the landscaping in front of the main house. The photograph, which Mme. Walska published at the end of her memoirs *Always Room at the Top*, shows the house against the background of a slightly stormy sky looking stark with the new, imaginative cactus plantings in sandy beds before the house. The caption below reads "Tibetland in Santa Barbara." At the time Ganna Walska hoped her new home would become a retreat for Tibetan monks—though one can

see in this photograph that she has already begun to try her hand at imaginative landscape design—for which her home became famous.

Lotusland has 25 images of Madame Walska's gardens taken by German photographer Karl Obert, who devoted 30 years to capturing the vast beauty of California in black and white. Beginning in San Diego, he traveled up the coast following the *Camino Real* of the early missionaries to the Oregon border and then down the middle of the state,

photographing cities and natural wonders along the way. His finest photos were compiled in a book he published in 1957 entitled *This is California*, including 13 images of Santa Barbara. Though none of his Lotusland images were used in the book, we are very happy to have them for reference. The most striking of the images he took are of the exotic, conical, and spiky cactus along the main drive.

Sometime in 1957 *LIFE* magazine sent photographer J.R. Eyerman to record the famous gardens of Lotusland and its even more famous owner. The 216 color transparencies that he took over a period of several weeks that summer show Ganna Walska in her garden at work and play, and capture many features of her gardens at their peak, such as the horticultural clock and topiary garden and water gardens full of *Victoria amazonica* water lilies: The story and photographs were never used by *LIFE*, but fortunately the Lotusland Foundation was able to purchase the collection from Eyerman's widow in 1990. Thanks to proper archival storage, the Anscochrome film used by Eyerman has held up remarkably well over the years despite the inherent instability of the emulsion. These images provide important historical documentation that will be useful in planning

PHOTOGRAPHY continued on page 4



*Victoria amazonica* lily pads fill the water gardens, 1957.



Madame Walska entertaining on the main lawn, 1957.



PHOTOGRAPHY continued from page 3

the future reconstruction of the topiary garden and have been used in recent Lotusland publications.

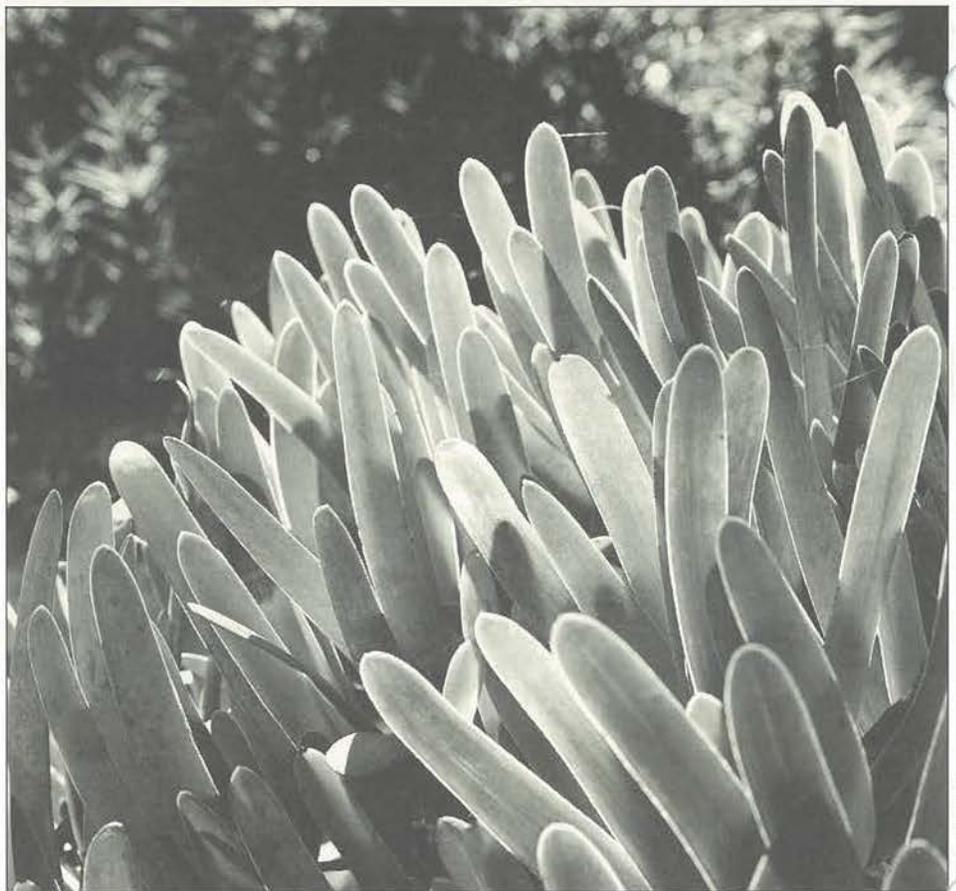
## Weddings in the Garden

Hal Boucher, resident photographer at the Biltmore Hotel since the early 1950s, where he photographed prominent guests, including presidents, dignitaries, and movie stars, had a hand in photographing Madame Walska's estate when he was hired to document her niece's wedding there in 1958. Santa Barbara photographer Eldon Tatsch, active in the mid-1950s, had the honor of documenting Madame Walska's "horticultural zoo" when he photographed the wedding of the son of a beloved gardener in 1961. The black-and-white photos show the topiary animals just before their decline. Both sets of photos show Madame Walska with bride and groom, clearly the proud parent of a very important member of the wedding parties—her enchanting garden.

## Recent Important Photographic Works

During Madame Walska's final years, when the garden was allowed to become somewhat overgrown as she refused to permit the usual pruning and thinning so necessary to maintain an ever growing landscape, Gregory Padgett, a young Santa Barbara artist, obtained access to Lotusland. His misty, dark images— included in *Lotusland: A Photographic Odyssey*—bring out the mysterious moodiness of a garden enclosing and hiding its reclusive creator.

Local garden historian Susan Chamberlin recorded changes in 1987-88, undertaken as the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation prepared Lotusland for its new role as a public garden following Madame Walska's death in 1984. Her work formed the basis for a study she did under UCSB architectural historian David Gebhard in 1988 entitled



Sun backlights Aloe plicatilis in the aloe garden.

M. B. DEWEY

*Lotusland: A Case Study in the Transformation of a Garden from the Private to the Public Realm*. Chamberlin also authored the cover story for the March 23, 1989 issue of the *Santa Barbara Independent* about the process of opening Lotusland to the public. Her work is an important record of this period of transition.

In 1990, *Connoisseur* magazine hired renowned photographer Robert Glenn Ketchum to take images of the garden to accompany an article by the late English garden writer Maggie Keswick. Ketchum has given Lotusland a set of the beautiful color slides he took at the time—many of which were featured in the recent book *Lotusland: A Photographic Odyssey*—providing a permanent fine art sampling from this important late 20th-century photographer.

## William B. Dewey

Long before he began taking color and black-and-white photographs of

Lotusland, William B. Dewey had built a reputation as a fine art and aerial photographer in Santa Barbara, exhibiting at numerous local galleries and museums. His photographs have appeared in many publications, including *Santa Barbara Magazine* and *Sunset*, and galleries, museums, and private collectors have commissioned him to produce images of paintings, objets d'art, sculptures, and tapestries. The images Dewey has taken of Lotusland are both beautiful and inspiring—a memorable record of the composition, garden design, and artistry of all those involved in creating the gardens—and are featured in the recent publications *Lotusland: A Photographic Odyssey* and *Ganna Walska Lotusland: The Garden and Its Creators*. Since its inception in 1992, every issue of the *Lotusland Newsletter for Members* has featured his work as well. Before that his images were used to create a set of color notecards for sale in the Garden Shop

PHOTOGRAPHY continued on page 16

## Lotusland Celebrates: The Marriage of Figaro

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND'S second annual fund-raising gala event on Sunday July 21 was hailed by enthusiastic guests as "magical...dreamy...romantic...thrilling...a fairy tale...fantastic party...genius...all details perfect..." and finally "...words fail to describe it." The music-themed afternoon garden party was made possible by a generous donation from U.S. Trust Company of California and New Jersey.

Additional important support for the successful fund-raising party came from the following Patrons: Mr. and Mrs. Stewart L. Abercrombie, Dr. and Mrs. A.E. Amorteguy, Anonymous, Dr. Warren R. Austin, Mrs. Donald L. Balch, Margo and Jeffrey Barbakow, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hampton Bell, Charles Bloom Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Erno Bonebakker, Mrs. Thomas Brant, Mr. and Mrs. Monte T. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Carpenter, Mary L. Cheadle, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Crawford, Cecelia A. Dalsemer, Sir Daniel J. Donohue, Mr. and Mrs. James N. Ebright, Dr. and Mrs. Robert J. Emmons, Mrs. Maurice E. Faulkner, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin W. Friedman, Mr. and Mrs. James Wes Gallagher, Mr. Arthur R. Gaudi, Mrs. Rowe Giesen, Mrs. Robert C. Green, Mrs. Richard H. Hellmann, Anonymous, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth H. Hunter, Jr., Eric P. Hvolbøll, Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Isham, Sally Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Luria, Mr. and Mrs. Francis S. McComb, Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Milligan, Mrs. Janet Milligan-Crary, Montecito Bank & Trust, Darla Moore, Mrs. Joseph R. Osherenko, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Parent, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pesenti, Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Leslie Ridley-Tree, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Riley, Mrs. Astrid Rottman, Mr. and Mrs. C. William Schlosser, Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Service, Eleanor H. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Straus, Hania P. Tallmadge, Jeanne C. Thayer, Carol L. Valentine, William T. White, Laura Lee W. Woods, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Zukas.

Generous donors to the event were: Wild Horse Winery & Vineyards, Nordstrom, Four Seasons Biltmore, Bryant & Sons Jewelry, J&S Graphix, Music Academy of the West, Santa Barbara City College Theater Department and Mary Gibson, Marjorie Palonen, Scharffenberger Winery, Cañon Angelito Nursery & Topiary, This Little Piggy, Regal Rents, Gallup & Stribling Orchids, Air Fair Flags, Maison Deutz, Pavilions Plus, and the Wine Bistro.

Lotusland Trustees Anne Jones and Arthur Gaudi greeted guests at the Visitor Center, which was decorated with wedding ribbons and fabric, banners, and bouquets. The "wedding procession" wound its way past the melodies of a brass quintet in the Japanese Garden and a woodwind quintet on the steps of the water garden bathhouse overlooking the lotus in their full bloom. A colorful banner and yards of brocade



WM. B. DEWEY

Robert M. Jones and other guests check in at the Visitor Center before beginning the "wedding procession" up the main drive.

decorated the Main House where guests were ushered past spiral and fruit topiaries created by Lori Ann David. An exhibit of the "Six Husbands of Madame Walska" was on display in the sunken drawing

CELEBRATES continued on page 6



WM. B. DEWEY

A quintet performs for guests on the steps of the water garden bathhouse. (Feline mascot courtesy of Lotusland.)



WM. B. DEWEY

Majestic banner beckons guests to proceed down the main lawn for an operatic performance in the outdoor theatre.



WM. B. DEWEY

Historical exhibit in the main house featuring "The Marriages of Madame Walska" draws curious guests.

*CELEBRATES* continued from page 5

room where a life-size cardboard cutout of Madame Walska stood looking down the row of photographs of her husbands. Guests crowded around the exhibits of memorabilia and information about each husband and mannequins dressed in Madame Walska's 18th-century French clothing on loan from her niece, Hania Tallmadge.

On the Main Lawn guests enjoyed fine wines and champagnes provided by Wild Horse Winery &

Vineyards and Sharffenberger. Trumpeters announced performances of scenes from *The Marriage of Figaro* in the Theatre by students from the Music Academy of the West dressed in wonderful costumes provided by Santa Barbara City College Theater Department. Figaro (Brian Leerhuber) sang love songs to Susanna (Kellyann Westover) while Countess Almaviva (Monique McDonald) and Count Almaviva (Nigel Smith) performed well-known arias from Mozart's light-hearted opera.

At the conclusion of the opera scenes, the cast led guests past the wedding cake in the gaily decorated and restored gazebo (originally created for Madame Walska's niece's wedding in 1958) to dinner under the majestic oak tree. Guests took their places at tables decorated with centerpieces created by Dana Kent from English birdbaths adorned with asparagus fern, *Ficus benjamina*, papyrus, and orchids provided by Gallup & Stribling.

*CELEBRATES* continued on page 7



WM. B. DEWEY

Filling the theatre, guests enjoy opera in the garden in the late afternoon.



J.M. EAST

Music Academy of the West students perform scenes from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.



WM. B. DEWEY

Wedding cake displayed beneath a tulle and ivy-covered gazebo.



WM. B. DEWEY

Guests gather for dinner under the oak.

*CELEBRATES continued from page 6*

Board President Carol Valentine thanked guests for their support of garden projects including the restoration of the perimeter wall, pavilion patio, and Neptune fountain area. She spoke of the upcoming restoration of the whimsical topiary garden. Dr. Steven Timbrook, Executive Director of Lotusland, praised the staff and committee who groomed and decorated the garden to perfection.

Event Committee Chairperson Merryl Brown was thanked by both speakers for her excellent organization and innovative ideas for the party. Also gathering applause were Merryl's hard-working committee members: Sharon Crawford, Lori Ann David, Anne Dewey, Poney Eagleton, Anne Jones, Dana Kent, Karen Kolb, Pam Pesenti, Jennifer Powell, Hugh Ralston, Nancy Salvucci, Carolene Tacconelli, Hania Tallmadge, Carol Valentine, and Nancy Wall.

Dinner of a vichyssoise with smoked salmon and chive blossoms appetizer, followed by roasted guinea hen Veronique and a creme caramel with poached stone fruits dessert, complete with chocolate Lotusland logo, culminated the evening of wedding festivities.

—Anne Dewey



STEVEN TIMBROOK



STEVEN TIMBROOK

*PHEW!* The committee that planned the 1996 Lotusland Celebrates Special Event gathered for a meeting at the home of committee member Carol Valentine after the event. Lotusland would like to thank all members for their hard work, enthusiasm, and creativity in planning this successful event. Top photo, from left to right: Anne Jones, Anne Dewey, Poney Eagleton, Hania Tallmadge, Carol Valentine, Dana Kent; bottom photo, clockwise from lower left: Pam Pesenti, Sharon Crawford, Lori Ann David, Merryl Brown, Carolene Tacconelli, Karen Kolb, and Nancy Salvucci. (Missing are Nancy Wall and Hugh Ralston.)

## Anacapa String Quartet at Lotusland



GLEN DERBYSHIRE

LOTUSLAND IS PLEASED to offer a concert by the Anacapa String Quartet to its members on Saturday, September 28. Hailed as "one of the finest young quartets in America today," the group will perform in the outdoor theatre from 4 to 6 PM. With a repertoire ranging from classical and romantic masterworks to contemporary works and premieres, the members of the quartet promise to provide a stimulating and rewarding chamber music program. A reception on the geranium terrace behind the main house will follow, and guests will be welcome to enjoy the garden. An invitation to the performance of the Anacapa String Quartet in the garden has been mailed separately to all members with information on limits and reservations.

## Holiday Book Signing for Members

A SPECIAL HOLIDAY BOOK signing will take place at Lotusland Saturday, November 16, from 1 to 4 PM. Author Sharon Crawford and photographer William B. Dewey will sign copies of their book *Lotusland: The Garden and Its Creators* in the Main House. Refreshments will be served in the sunken drawing room. Other garden books and unique items will be available in the Garden Shop. Members attending are then invited to stroll through the gardens. Books will be available exclusively at the Lotusland Garden Shop and Tecolote Bookstore in Montecito. Reservations will be limited for this event—look for an invitation in late October.



J.M. EASTMAN

Author Sharon Crawford and photographer William B. Dewey hold up their new book, *Lotusland: The Garden and Its Creators*. Both will sign copies of the book at a November book signing at Lotusland.

## Art in Full Bloom

SEVERAL FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS exhibited at the SB Museum of Art's yearly *Art in Full Bloom* in July were created by Lotusland staff and volunteers. Participating in the event were Virginia Hayes, Curator of the Living Collection; Board Member Anne Jones; and volunteers John Boyer, Dana Kent, and Hugh Ralston.



J.M. EASTMAN



J.M. EASTMAN

Above: Virginia Hayes' arrangement of lotus with banana leaves. Left: Lotusland docent John Boyer stands before his "classical" display of Italian Buckehorn, Pittosporum crassifolium, Australain rosemary, Italian cypress, and iceberg roses in the Art Museum Ludington Court.

## New to the Collections

With VIRGINIA HAYES

WHEN THE LAST OF two oaks that had shaded the cymbidium area succumbed to old age and heart rot, conditions were no longer ideal for these hardy orchids. What better plant to replace them in this now-sunny corner of the garden than daylilies? The genus *Hemerocallis* is native to Eastern Europe, China, and especially Japan. Few of the species daylilies are planted these days as the hybridizers have been hard at work creating bigger, longer-lasting, brighter blossoms, some of which are spotted, streaked, and edged in a dizzying array of combinations. To choose from the varieties best suited to Southern California, we consulted with John Schoustra of Greenwood Daylily Gardens in Long Beach.

Tall cultivars Old Adage—clear yellow, Russian Rhapsody—lavender, and intermediate Lavender Dew share the rear bed. Three more intermediates join up in the middle bed: LeeBea Orange Crush, Yellow Kiss and Cordon Rouge—coral. A new coast live oak in the front bed is surrounded by smaller cultivars Rosella Sheridan—peachy pink, Little Bobo—soft red, edged with ivory, Tiny Pumpkin—apricot, more Lavender Dew and eye-catching Pyewacket—pale peach with a plum-colored eye and green throat.

All have evergreen foliage and long blooming seasons. Russian Rhapsody and LeeBea Orange Crush bloom about 200 days out of the year and all of the others 150 days or more. Spring and summer will be much brighter in this corner of the garden for the next few years.

## Michael Souza: Lotusland Summer Intern

THIS SUMMER MICHAEL SOUZA worked with grounds staff and volunteers as the 1996 Summer Intern in the gar-



Mike Souza pruning in the lemon arbor.

den. A native of Santa Cruz, Michael is a junior at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, with a major in Environmental Horticultural Science. His solid academic experience encompasses course work at Cal Poly in botany, arboriculture, landscape drafting, plant propagation, and plant materials. Before coming to Cal Poly, he attended the College of San Mateo in northern California where he studied Ornamental Horticulture. With a career goal of working in a botanical garden, Mike's main interests lie in plant propagation, plant materials, and landscape and hardscape use of plants. Everyone enjoyed having Mike on board and hopes that he found the 12-week internship a valuable experience.

## International Paleobotanists in the Cycad Garden

A GROUP OF 110 paleobotanists representing 30 countries around the world came to see the plant specimens at Lotusland on July 3. All were attending the 5th quadrennial meeting of the International Organization of Paleobotany held at UCSB June 30–July 5.

Members of the group, who study the plant fossil record, took extreme interest in Lotusland's collections of cycads and southern hemisphere conifers. Run by the organization with grants from the U.S. National Science Foundation and supported by UCSB, local details for this year's meeting—at which nearly 300 papers were presented in 16 separate sessions—were handled by UCSB professor Dr. Bruce Tiffney, who serves on the Building and Grounds Committee at Lotusland.



Docent Joan Haber points out the mysterious magnetic rock found in the corner of the cycad garden to visiting paleobotanists.

# Horticultural Happenings

With MIKE IVEN

## Blue Garden Renovation and Memorial

IN CONJUNCTION WITH A renovation of the blue garden plantings, a young *Cedrus atlantica* cv. *glauca* was planted in memory of long-time Lotusland gardener Mario Franceschini. Although he worked diligently throughout the garden for nearly 25 years, he was most proud of the care and maintenance he provided the blue garden until his retirement shortly before his death in February 1995. Other aspects of the renovation included widening the decomposed granite path to four feet, amending the soil in groundcover growing areas to provide better drainage and improved cultural conditions, establishing a specific growing site for the *Festuca ovina* v. *glauca* and *Senecio mandraliscae*, and transplanting *Agave americana* and *Furcraea roezlii* to border and background areas.

## Palm Removal

A CLUMP OF PHOENIX RECLINATA palms in the main lawn near the *Beaucarnea recurvata* was removed because of an infestation of *Fusarium*, a fungal root rot. The pathogen, which is soil-borne, had been identified by a Santa Barbara County plant pathologist who recommended removal to prevent the infestation from spreading to other susceptible plants in the area.

## Pine Forest Improvements

TALL, MATURE MONTEREY PINES (*Pinus radiata*) dominate an area at the corner of the main drive and the road to the cycad garden and nursery in an area referred to as the pine forest. Bordered on various sides with plantings of palms, eucalyptus, and cacti, the area was recently improved with the implementation of a maintenance plan and the planting of over 80 specimens from the Lotusland

nursery. Weeds and unwanted volunteer shrubs, trees, and stumps were removed before wood chips were spread throughout the forest. The location of a meandering path was determined and planting locations were flagged. A collection was planted representing 11 different species of *Sabal* (palmetto) palms—native from Bermuda and the southeast United States to northern South America and the West Indies. Six different species of *Pinus* (pines) were also planted. The pine forest path is not open to visitors at this time, but improvements to the area can be appreciated from the main drive.

### New Pine Forest Plantings

<i>Pinus eldarica</i>	<i>S. blackburniana</i>
<i>P. ellioti</i>	<i>S. rosei</i>
<i>P. martinexii</i>	<i>S. yapa</i>
<i>P. montezumae</i>	<i>S. bahamensis</i>
<i>P. patula</i>	<i>S. causarium</i>
<i>P. taeda</i>	<i>S. mexicanum</i>
<i>Sabal etonia</i>	<i>S. parviflora</i>
<i>S. minor</i>	<i>S. uresana</i>
<i>S. bermudana</i>	

## Garden Club Plantings

VOLUNTEERS FROM the Santa Barbara Garden Club planted 80 one-gallon *Agave franzosinii* grown from seed at Lotusland in an open field prepared for planting by Lotusland grounds staff. *Agave franzosinii* is an important landscape design feature used in the border around the main lawn and outside the Sycamore Canyon Road gates. The growing grounds will allow plants to mature more quickly than if they were in containers and will serve as a source for replacement plants and landscape projects in the garden. The hard work put in by Garden Club volunteers is greatly appreciated.

## Staff Milestone



J.M. EASTMAN

SPECIALIST GARDENER TERRI CLAY celebrates 10 years of employment at Lotusland this fall. With a B.A. in Biological Sciences from UCSB and coursework in Ventura and Santa Barbara City College horticulture programs under her belt, she has learned the art of Japanese pruning and maintenance from long-time Lotusland gardener Frank Fujii since joining the staff in 1986. In addition to the Japanese garden, Terri maintains the epiphyllum glen—which she also designed.

## Goodbye, Sadie



CAROL VALENTINE

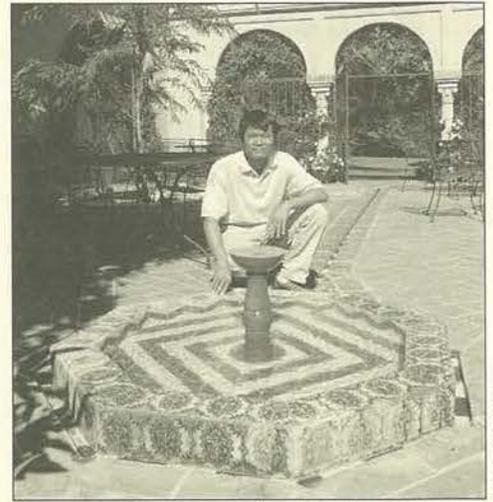
EVERYONE WILL MISS THE sweet mew and demeanor of eight-year resident Sadie cat who passed on in July. Tigger and Morris have agreed to share Sadie's tour accompaniment duties.



## Ceramist Min-Yi Lin Creates Ornament for Restored Fountain

THE FINAL TOUCH WAS recently given to the pavilion patio restoration when a ceramic ornament, created by UCSB master's graduate in Fine Arts Min-Yi Lin, was installed in the low, tiled central fountain. Lotusland had commissioned Lin to create the ornament to match the 1920s tile fountain designed by George Washington Smith. Working with negative plaster models, Lin spent many hours and created eight versions before being satisfied with a final strong, heavy version, fired at a very high temperature. The blue exterior and yellow interior perfectly match that found in the Mexican tile used in the restoration of the fountain.

A native of rural Taiwan, Lin worked in a ceramic factory after completing his early art study at Taiwan Academy of Arts. After opening his own studio and 10 years as a commercial artist, Lin decided to become a full-time artist and went abroad to study at the San Francisco Art Institute, receiving a BFA in 1993. His next move was to the MFA program at UC Santa Barbara where he studied under Professors Michael Arntz and Gary Brown. Lin hopes to remain in California and continue his art work, planning possible exhibits in the near future.



J.M. EASTMAN

*Ceramist Min-Yi Lin behind the fountain ornament he created for Lotusland.*

## Perimeter Wall Restoration



J.M. EASTMAN

*Mark Lurie and Stuart Brandt confer about the wall restoration.*

WORK IS NEARLY COMPLETE on the restoration of Lotusland's perimeter wall. Repairs by the Lurie Company and painting by Stuart Brandt & Associates have returned Lotusland's famous pink wall to the state of "graceful disrepair" maintained by Madame Walska during her lifetime. The project was made possible by a challenge grant from the Harold Simmons Foundation and many generous donors.

Designed by architect George Washington Smith in 1925, the wall

was constructed out of unreinforced, hollow red brick—two rows thick, covered with plaster, and built on a concrete foundation. The simple lime-based paint with milk binder and linseed oil originally used was meant to age quickly, giving the wall the appearance of a well-worn 19th-century Italian villa. This inexpensive method of painting was not meant to last forever. Repainting would be necessary to maintain the pink where paint had worn off, although the weathered effect created by tree drippings was a welcome and intended one.

Since Madame Walska supervised paint touch-ups to her estate's outer wall but never started from scratch by repainting in a solid, flat pink, both Mark Lurie and Stuart Brandt—who personally remember the wall as she kept it—surmise that she was sensitive to maintaining the aged character of the wall. To achieve this effect, Lurie carefully restored cracks and replastered; then Brandt added color with the same lime-based pink paint as was used originally. This was followed by dripping a grey over the top designed "to give the wall an

immediate added dimension of aging that simulates what the tree drips will create over time." When wet the pink changes to more of a terra cotta color and then returns to deeper pink as it dries out, while the accumulation of actual tree drippings will contribute to the continued aging of the wall.

Drought-tolerant landscaping, partially funded by the Garden Club of Santa Barbara, will be installed by Lotusland grounds staff later this fall. By planting at this time of year, new landscaping will be able to take advantage of winter's cooler, moister conditions—especially important for plants that will not be receiving regular irrigation.

Lotusland would like to once again thank all those who made the restoration possible and hopes that everyone is pleased with the superb results achieved by Lurie and Brandt.

*The Lurie Company specializes in historic restoration and has completed numerous local projects. Stuart Brandt has 20 years of experience and has done interior or exterior restoration work at Mt. Carmel Church, the Unitarian Society, and Santa Barbara Jr. High Tower. He is also experienced in the restoration of fine painted murals.*

## Neptune Fountain Restored

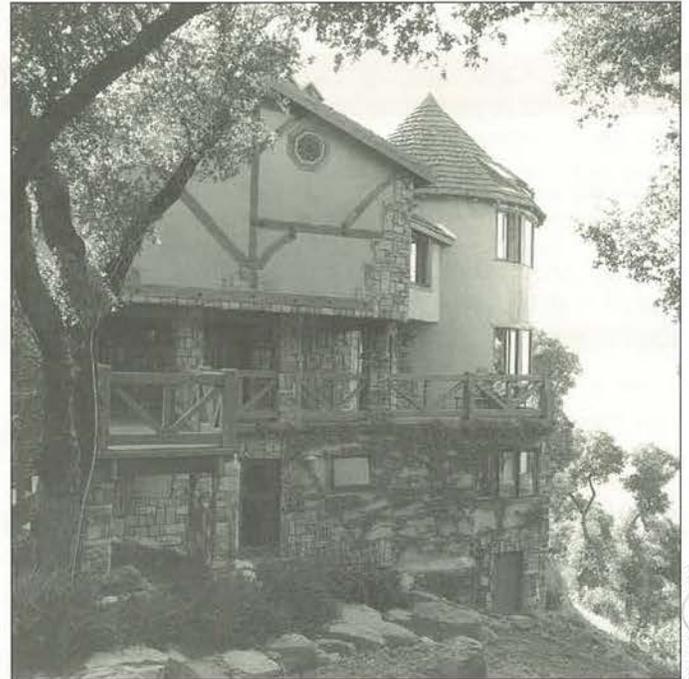
PAT SCOTT MASONRY has completed work on the tiled Neptune fountain and surrounding brick paving, their third major restoration project at Lotusland. They completed restoration of the parterre, with its Moorish fountain, and the pavilion patio and its two fountains in 1995. We thank them for their careful work and attention to detail.

As part of the project a new, curved brick ramp now provides wheelchair access from the main lawn to the upper levels of the parterre and geranium terrace at the east side of the main house. Final painting of the new plaster surfaces by Stuart Brandt & Associates and repairs to Neptune himself are expected to be completed as we go to press.

## Penthouse of the Gods

WOULD YOU LIKE TO OWN a piece of Lotusland history? The mountain-top property that Ganna Walska bought in 1941 for her last husband, Theos Bernard, and sold in 1959 long after they divorced, is currently for sale. Bernard once spent his days in meditation and philosophical study at this site, which he named the *Penthouse of the Gods* after a book he wrote about his experiences in Tibet that earned him the title the "White Lama." The current owners have done extensive renovation of the original home and mountain lodge and have added many improvements to the 160-acre property, which offers spec-

tacular views of both the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Ynez Valley and Lake Cachuma. It is being offered for sale by Prudential Jon Douglas Company brokers Steve Shugart and Vickie Busby.



WM. B. DEWEY

## Wm. B. Dewey Photography Workshop



JOIN SANTA BARBARA PHOTOGRAPHER William B. Dewey for a morning of photographing the gardens in late fall, November 8 and 9, 1996, from 9 to 11 AM.

The photography workshop will cover composition, lighting, different film types, and developing a style of one's own. Please bring a camera and film of your choice. Suggested also are close-up, wide-angle, and telephoto lenses. Each workshop is limited to 15 people. If minimum enrollment of eight people is not reached, workshops may be consolidated or cancelled.

The cost of the workshop is \$30.00 and is refundable only if cancelled one week before it meets. Please use the registration form on page 15 to sign up.

## Membership Brochure Lauded

LOTUSLAND RECEIVED A Dorothy E. Hansell Publication Award for its membership brochure at the annual meeting of the American Association of Arboreta & Botanic Gardens in St. Louis in May.

The publication, designed by Lotusland staff and printed by J&S Graphix, received honorable mention.

## Volunteers in the Garden

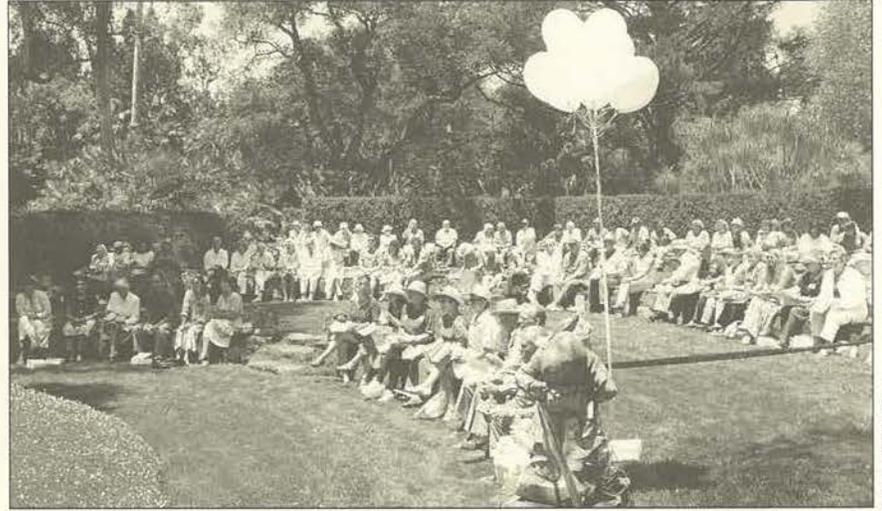
### New Volunteers

Michael Aberle, *Grounds Maintenance*  
 Laura Brewer, *Special Projects*  
 Jean DeVilbiss, *Garden Shop*  
 Cassandra Schneider, *Special Projects*  
 Nancy Wilkinson, *Garden Shop*  
 Teresa Van Wingerden,  
*Garden Shop*

### Volunteers Celebrated at June Picnic

LOTUSLAND HELD ITS FIRST annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic in June to thank its volunteers for all their hard work and long-term service. Many were marking 10 years volunteering in the garden.

All volunteers were celebrated, with special recognition given to those who had achieved 5 and 10 years of service and those deemed outstanding in their areas by fellow volunteers. After a brief ceremony in the outdoor theatre, staff and volunteers enjoyed a catered lunch in the garden.



Left: Director Steven Timbrook hands out specially decorated badges to 10-year docents. Right: Volunteers gather in the theatre for the ceremony.

## Santa Barbara Foundation Funds Grounds Utility Vehicle

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEVEN TIMBROOK thanks Craig Price of the Santa Barbara Foundation (in photo at right) for a generous grant to purchase the Cushman Turf-Truckster Jr. utility vehicle, driven here by Grounds Superintendent Mike Iven.

This new vehicle replaces a small garden tractor that has finally worn out from over 10 years of daily use. During this same period, Lotusland has gone from a completely private garden, with 20 to 30 botanical and horticultural groups viewing the grounds and plant collections annually, to a public institution with 9,000 visitors per year. Because the Cushman can accept a wide range of horticultural accessories from backhoes to seeder/spreaders and spraying equipment, it is a key piece of equipment that will allow future expansion of

maintenance capability as other accessories are acquired in the future.

Providing the excellent grounds maintenance and collections care that are hallmarks of Lotusland has become increasingly challenging as Lotusland expands its service to the public. Modern equipment is mandatory to accomplish these vital

operations and will save in labor, repair, and material costs. It also enhances the experience of Santa Barbara City College Environmental Horticulture Program students working at Lotusland who have the opportunity to become familiar with the most up-to-date landscape maintenance tool.



# Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in May, June, July 1996

## LEVEL I

Ms. Rose Ash &  
Mr. Glenn Goodwin  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Balmy  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Balzer  
Ms. Gayle Barrett  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Boehm  
Mrs. Lynn Braitman  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Brown  
Ms. Annette Burden  
Ms. Elizabeth Callender  
Ms. Randi Conrad  
Ms. Cynthia Cronk &  
Ms. Margaret Welty  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Daily  
Ms. Betty Driscoll  
Ms. Christine Dunstan  
Mr. & Mrs. David Edwards  
Ms. Andrea Ethell  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Farish  
Ms. Laura Feinsinger  
Mrs. Eugene Friend  
Garden Club of Santa Barbara  
Grabman Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Guntermann  
Mr. Gregg Hackethal  
Mr. James A. Harrod  
Mr. & Mrs. Abe Hazelcorn  
Ms. Aprille Isham  
Ms. Jeanette Keiper  
Ms. Lynn P. Kirst  
Ms. Christina LaVino  
Mr. Robert M. Landry  
Mr. & Mrs. James Langer  
Ms. Anjannette Lawson  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Lucic  
Ms. Jeannie V. Macdougall  
Ms. Viviana Marsano  
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Martin  
Ms. Charity Walton Masters  
Pat McGann  
Ms. Paulette Miller  
M. Morelli-Wenal  
Ms. Blossom M. Norman  
Ms. Deborah Nyquist

Mr. & Mrs. Ben O'Brien  
Ms. Helen G. Pattillo  
Mr. & Mrs. George Radon  
Ms. Valerie Riddle  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Riva  
Ms. Linda Roshon  
Mr. & Mrs. Merlin Rossow  
Ms. Trudy Rutledge  
Santa Barbara Postcomers Club  
Mrs. Leon Scales  
Ms. Jonell E. Schlund  
Dr. Mark J. Schultz  
Mr. Harry Steinhauer  
Ms. Linda Stirling  
Ms. Meg Sullivan  
Ms. Lucke Thorensen  
Ms. Dori Thorngren  
Ms. Ann C. Tripe  
Ms. Linda Van Buren  
Ms. Susan Venable  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Waite  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Weisman  
Mr. Paul C. Woltze  
Ms. Beverly Wood  
Ms. Joanne Yednock  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zappala

## LEVEL II

Ms. Cathi Arnold  
Mr. & Mrs. John Badham  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Boissevain  
Ms. Miriam S. Bresler  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Brittain  
Ms. Guadalupe Brunette  
Mr. Jack Canfield  
Ms. Phoebe Cowles  
Mr. & Mrs. Lue Cramblit  
Dr. & Mrs. Blas M. Garza  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Godfrey  
Mr. Michael E. Goodwin  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hammond  
Ms. Sandra Konow  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Krantz  
Ms. Rhea M. Kyle  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Openshaw

Ms. Ginette Paris &  
Mr. Zenon Maheu  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Powell  
Ms. Mary Rose  
Ms. Marilyn M. Schuermann  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Scott  
Ms. Carol Simon  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Thede  
Mrs. Virginia H. Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon R. Wright  
Ms. Jacquelyn Wright

## LEVEL III

Mr. & Mrs. David Dollinger  
Mrs. Genevieve Hoffman  
Ms. Alice Lee &  
Ms. Dinah Lee Carl  
Ms. Thelma Sinrod

## Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support

May, June, July 1996

## LEVEL II

Ms. Britt Marie Chadwick  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Heinrich  
Mr. Robert Hetzron  
Mr. Michael Katz  
Ms. Gail M. Martin  
Mr. John Nelson  
Ms. Pat Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zolkoski

## LEVEL III

Anonymous  
Mr. Jim Whipple

## LEVEL IV

Mrs. Dirk K. Hunter

## Registration Form

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND

### William B. Dewey Photography Workshop

November 8 and 9, 1996

Check one:

- Friday, November 8, 9-11 AM  
 Saturday, November 9, 9-11 AM

Cost: \$30 per person

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

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

PAYMENT METHOD:  Check enclosed  VISA  MasterCard

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Card number \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Workshop fee is refundable only if cancelled one week before it meets.  
 If minimum enrollment is not reached, workshops may be consolidated or cancelled.*



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



## Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

May, June, July 1996

### LOTUSLAND CELEBRATES THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Mrs. Edward L. Bakewell, Jr.  
 Ms. Betty E. Ball  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wiley N. Blair, III  
 Mr. & Mrs. Monte Brown  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Carter  
 Mr. Oswald Da Ros  
 Mr. & Mrs. George Eagleton  
 Ms. Joan Follis  
 Dr. & Mrs. George R. Halling  
 Ms. Barbara E. Jones  
 Ms. Frances D. Larkin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Locker  
 Mr. & Mrs. Max E. Meyer  
 Mr. David F. Myrick  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Nicholson  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Rex  
 Ms. Astrid H. Rottman  
 Ms. Louise E. Thielst  
 Ms. Winifred Veder

### GRANTS

New York Botanical Garden  
 Santa Barbara Foundation

### GROUNDSTAFF & DOCENT APPRECIATION

Dr. & Mrs. Eric Boehm  
 Brooklyn Botanic Garden  
 Mrs. Marguerite Hennacy  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Thompson

### IN HONOR OF CAROL VALENTINE

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Edwards

### LANDSCAPING AND WALL

Mr. & Mrs. William P. Tennity

### LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

Mr. Arthur R. Gaudi  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Harrison  
 Mrs. Annette Myck  
 Ms. Jean Vaughan  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Woodward

### LOTUSLAND CAT CARE

Ms. Nan Taylor

### LOTUSLAND BOOK

Dan Murphy Foundation  
 Wm. B. Dewey

### MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Mary M. Allensworth  
 Bullock Group  
 Fallbrook Garden Club  
 Garden Club of Santa Barbara  
 Ms. Beverley Jackson  
 Mr. John Nelson  
 Ms. Georgia Pulos  
 Ms. Jennifer Stafford  
 Mr. Harry Steinhauer  
 Mr. Stuart Taylor  
 Ms. Jeanne C. Thayer  
 Ms. Jo M. Wagner

## 1997 Reservation Reminders

IT'S TIME TO START thinking about 1997 tours. Beginning October 16, members may make reservations for tours in 1997. Tours will again be offered mid-February to mid-November, Wednesday through Saturday, at 10 AM and 1:30 PM. For those members wanting to make reservations for groups, it is particularly important to call early. A group is defined as more than 10 visitors, usually organized in some way, with a name.

Non-members may begin making group reservations on November 1 and individual reservations on November 18.

Please call the Reservation Office  
 for all your reservation needs  
 (805) 969-9990  
 Monday through Friday  
 9 AM to NOON

# Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

695 Ashley Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

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California  
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*PHOTOGRAPHY* continued from page 4 and have been used for publicity and promotional purposes for the Lotusland Foundation, including the color brochure given to all visitors to the garden. Mr. Dewey will conduct a fall photography workshop for members in November.

## Photographic Archives

Lotusland is fortunate to hold an extensive photographic archive of the property and development of the gardens from the time R. Kinton Stevens owned the property when it was known as *Tanglewood* in the late 19th century. Many photographs,

which Madame Walska had carefully kept in albums, were discovered in the main house after the Foundation took over management of the garden. Since then friends and relatives of former owners have increased the photographic collection with donations. Hania P. Tallmadge, the niece of Ganna Walska, has given and loaned many photos of Madame Walska before she came to Santa Barbara, as well as historic photos of the estate. Two families descended from former owners of the estate have loaned their collections of photographs for duplication. Arden Stevens, grandson of R. Kinton Stevens, loaned a collection of photographs that contains photos of the Stevens home and early layout

of paths on the estate. The Joan and Palmer Jackson Collection documents the Gavit era when Mr. Jackson's grandfather, E. Palmer Gavit, bought the property in 1916. The collection continues to grow today as photographers such as William B. Dewey document the ever-evolving plant collections, restorations, and additions to Ganna Walska Lotusland.

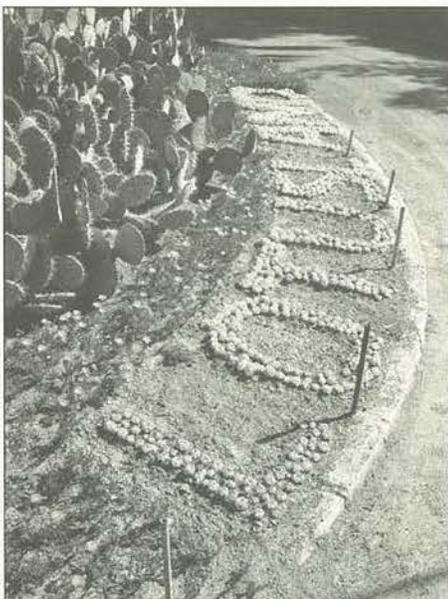
*If anyone has or knows of someone who has fine art images of Lotusland or those that capture the garden at important points and could be used for historical documentation, please contact Janet Eastman, Archival Coordinator, at (805) 969-3767. We are happy to accept any donations of Lotusland photographs to supplement the photographic archives at Lotusland.*

—Janet M. Eastman

## CALENDAR OF FALL EVENTS

Fall is full of activities for Lotusland members. Look for details about upcoming events in this and subsequent newsletters. Separate invitations to some events will be mailed to all Friends. Questions about an event? Call Anne Dewey at (805) 969-3767 extension 225 for information.

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>September 23</b>        | Anacapa String Quartet in Outdoor Theatre   |
| <b>October 16</b>          | Member reservations for 1997 begin  |
| <b>November 8 and 9</b>    | Photography Workshop with William B. Dewey  |
| <b>November 16</b>         | Holiday Book Signing by the photographer and author for <i>Lotusland: The Garden and its Creators</i> |
| <b>Friday, November 15</b> | Last day of Public Tours for 1996   |



Succulents spell out the estate name for visitors at the Sycamore Canyon entrance, 1957.