



LOTUSLAND NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS

Volume 5 No. 1



Spring 1996

Tree Management Policy

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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

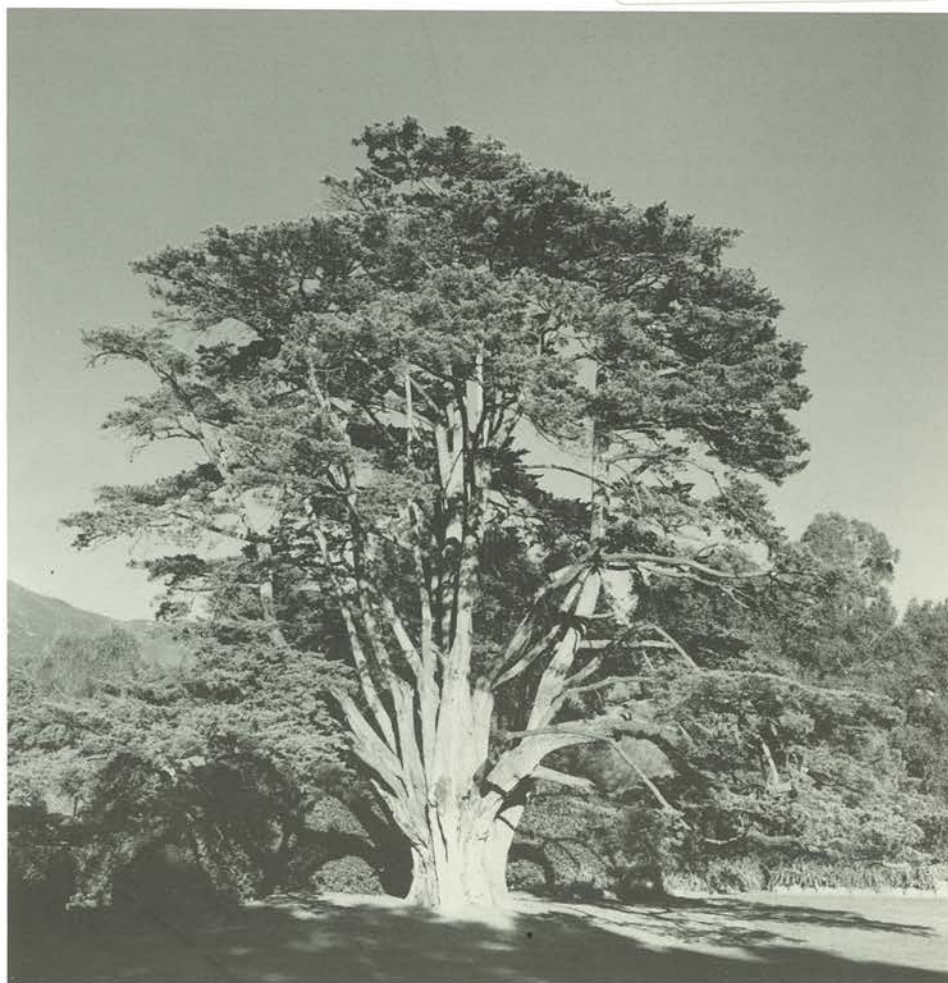
DIRECTIVES

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

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

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

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



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

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

Tree Care At Lotusland

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

The principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) are the basis of all grounds maintenance work at Lotusland, including tree care. A continually developing

concept, IPM seeks to maximize plant health through the understanding of and attention to factors which affect plant growth. Improving soil conditions, conscientious fertilizing, pruning and watering practices, as well as using non- or least-toxic controls for pest and disease problems are all key to an effective IPM program. Regular monitoring and record keeping are also essential.

Staff Training

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

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805/969-3767

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unless otherwise noted.



A single Agathis robusta from N. E. Australia amidst palms.

(continued from page 1)

erative Extension, and other trade organizations. Topics at recently attended seminars include diseases of palms, effects of turf and mulches on tree water use, managing tree insect pests, and root problems of oaks. Continuing education credits earned by attending seminars keep pesticide applicator and arborist certifications current.

Comprehensive Monitoring

Monitoring may be the most important part of the IPM process because diligent inspections lead to constant reevaluation of cultural practices and existing conditions. For instance, several years ago the observation of a soil build up around the base of an oak in the fern garden led to an inspection of all oaks. Discussion of the inspection findings covered irrigation practices, the health of root systems, the extent of oak root fungus in the fern garden, trimming, cabling needs, landscape design changes, and a plan to improve tree care in the area. In some cases, the need for a formal tree hazard evaluation is discovered. A report based on ISA standards is completed to determine the most reasonable course of action up to, and including, removal of hazardous trees.

A Course of Action

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

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

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

Ongoing Concerns

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

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

Tree care is a comprehensive process implemented by grounds and curatorial staff with the full support of the Foundation, ensuring the best possible care for Lotusland's trees.

—Mike Iven



Tall Moroccan *Cedrus atlantica* cv. *Glauca* tower in the blue garden.

Tree Collection at Lotusland

LOTUSLAND'S IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION of trees may go unnoticed by visitors already amazed and overwhelmed by the staggering array of plants at or below eye level. Unless their gaze is directed upward, the quiet presence of these arboreal sentinels may be felt but not fully acknowledged. Along with over 500 palms which are planted at Lotusland, there is an equivalent number of woody trees representing more than 100 different species. The planting of unusual trees on the property began in the 1880s when former owner Kinton Stevens was importing seeds and plants from around the world for his exotic plant nursery. Still more trees were added by intervening owners, particularly Madame Walska. Together with the native oaks they form a lofty canopy above the gardens.

Conifers from every continent are represented. Brazilian pine (*Araucaria angustifolia*) is native to Brazil. An *A. cunninghamii* planted at Lotusland, from eastern Australia, may be the only specimen still living in Santa Barbara. Norfolk Island pine (*A. heterophylla*) and two large *Podocarpus elatus*, which are classified as conifers because of their reproductive structures, hail from Australia as well. From Oregon comes the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), from Japan the umbrella pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*), the blue Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* cv. *Glauca*) from the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, and deodar cedar (*C. deodara*) from the Himalayas.

Many other unusual trees from Australia have been imported to similar climate zones in Southern California. Of

course the genus *Eucalyptus* is no stranger to Santa Barbara and Lotusland's grounds contain many specimens, large and small, representing ten different species. Other Aussies include five species of bottle trees (*Brachychiton*), silk oak (*Grevillea robusta*), firewheel tree (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*), and Moreton Bay chestnut (*Castanospermum australe*).

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

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

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

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

— Virginia Hayes

Docents Graduate



LOTUSLAND IS PLEASED to welcome 32 new docents who recently completed a 16-week Docent Training on the history of the property, its owners and the garden designers involved in developing the plant collections, and the botany and horticulture of the plants themselves. As volunteer docents, graduates will interpret the garden to visitors throughout the year. The training was coordinated by a number of staff and volunteers, and guest lec-

turers included Dr. Bruce Coats of Scripps College, John Trager and Kathy Musial from Huntington Botanical Gardens, Dr. Bruce Tiffney of UCSB, Dr. Edward Schneider of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and Josephine Black of the Independent Living Resource Center. Training expenses were funded by a generous grant from the Towbes Foundation. *Congratulations to all graduates!*

Danyel benShea
Jayne Burton
Pati Clark
Nina Delgado
Doris Fienga
Carolyn Fleg
Brenda Freeman

Sherry Gilson
Chris Gronbeck
Dee Gronbeck
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Craig Palonen
Veloyce Schmidt
Jim Scorso
Sharon Slade
Jennifer Stafford
Jean Stevenson
Mary Thieme

Cathy Vasek
Jo Wagner
Bill White
Diana Wilk

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

Hampton Bell
John Boyer
Adi Brewer
June Bristow
Jeff Chemnick
Russ Christian
Karole Christian

Sharon Crawford
B. Jo Dake
Lori Ann David
Poney Eagleton
Kat Foote
Virginia Gardner
Norma Greene

Anna Griffin
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Nancy Huebner
Sean Hutchinson
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Richard Riffero

Nancy Salvucci
Sandy Schneider
Stevie Service
Alice Sheldon
Judy Thielscher
Adele Wojciechowski

April is Volunteer Recognition Month

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

Working in the areas of craftgild, gardenshop, garden main-

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

Heda & Robert Carpenter
Beverly Collins
Fran Connors
Nancy Cross
Henrietta di Suvero
Marie Downs
Donald & Suzanne Fine

Bud & Lee Francis
Peggy Gard
Roseanne Germain
Jo Gledhill
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Dorothy Openshaw
Maija Pekkanen
Dave Prowell

Hilda Seibert
Martha Shiffman
Jo Wagner
Dorothy Warnock
Evelyn Zoetewey
Mari Zolkoski

This year a Volunteer Recognition Picnic is planned for June 26, Madame Walska's birthday. Interested in volunteering? Call 969-3767.

Horticultural Happenings

with Mike Iven

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

OUTLYING ACREAGE - About half of Lotusland's 36.5 acres isn't seen by visitors. Included in these outlying areas are the garage, storage areas, utility roads, the nursery/greenhouse complex, residences, eucalyptus forest, and about five acres of open fields. All of these areas are managed by grounds staff and serve some useful purpose. For example, every year for the past five years an annual cover crop of barley/vetch has been planted in an open field between the topiary garden and the Ashley Road fence line to reduce weed growth and improve soil conditions. Weeds that could have spread to public garden areas are reduced, and staff

time and efforts at annual weed abatement is lessened. Soil that was once heavy and full of clay is now very good topsoil and improves as each year's cover crop is disked under.

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



PHOTO CREDIT: VIRGINIA HAYES



New Membership Department Staff

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

STAFF MILESTONE

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

A New Voice at Lotusland

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

The new system will allow the party you called to have access to your mes-

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

NEW LISTINGS . . .

- ## Directory
- 333 Tour Information
- 225 Anne Dewey, Asst. to the Executive Director
- 227 Janet Eastman, Volunteer Coordinator
- 322 Mike Furner, Equip./Maint. Mechanic
- 229 Marguerite Gamo, Human Resources Manager
- 224 Virginia Hayes, Curator of the Living Collection
- 222 Mike Iven, Grounds Superintendent
- 323 John Lafleur, IPM Coordinator
- 230 Ginny Palmer, Membership Assistant
- 321 Sandy Schneider, Visitor Services Coordinator
- 223 Steven Timbrook, Executive Director



We Welcome Friends Who Joined November, December 1995, January 1996

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The Towbes Foundation



Registration Form

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND

Tree Focus Tour

Check one:

- ☐ Friday, April 19, 1996, 10 a.m. – noon
☐ Saturday, April 20, 1996, 10 a.m. – noon

____ Number attending, \$10 per person \$ ____

Members may use passes as payment for the class.

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Expiration date _____ Card Number _____

Member Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____ Phone _____

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



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



Harold Simmons Foundation Challenge Grant — We Did It!

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

Work has already begun on removing all exterior landscaping along Sycamore Canyon Road, with the exception of the plants at the Sycamore Canyon gate. Lotusland will replace old landscaping with a mix of drought-tolerant

plantings set back from the edge of the pavement to provide a wider shoulder for pedestrians.

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

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

Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Constance
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Crawford
 Mrs. Thomas Crawford
 Elizabeth Dake
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerge D. Eagleton
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Harcourt
 The Ann Jackson Family Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kolb
 Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Lehman
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 Margo F. Osherenko
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 Mrs. David T. Shiffman
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Straus
 Mr. and Mrs. William P. Tennity

Members who have increased their level of support

November, December 1995,
January 1996

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1996 Springtime in the Garden LECTURE SERIES

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

March 6 – Gardens of Provence
with author Louisa Jones

March 26 – Famous Women's Gardens
with interior designer Eleanor Constable Weller

April 25 – Design for California Style
with garden designer Chris Rosmini

May 14 – English Cottage Gardens
with speaker Valerie Raleigh Thornhill

July 21, 1996 Wedding at Lotusland

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

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

The historic exhibit committee is seeking items that once belonged to Mme. Walska. If you'd like to loan any for the event, please call 969-3767.



Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

695 Ashley Road
Montecito, CA 93108

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Neptune Fountain In Need Of Repair

LOTUSLAND HAS received three recent donations to restore the Neptune Fountain. An anonymous donation of \$10,000 in December was followed by a \$10,000 donation from the *John G. Braun Charitable Annuity Trust*, and a \$3,000 donation from the *Pesenti Foundation*.

The Neptune Fountain, directly behind the main house in the parterre area, is a 1920s era tile and cement fountain installed when the estate, then called *Cuesta Linda*, was owned by Mr.

and Mrs. Erastus Palmer Gavit. It is in need of a great deal of work to repair the entire water works (now inoperable), create new matching tiles to replace broken ones, and reset the brick paths of the surrounding area.

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

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