

# History and Horticulture Preserved in Montecito's Great Estates

## LOTUSLAND NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS

Volume 5 No. 2  Summer 1996

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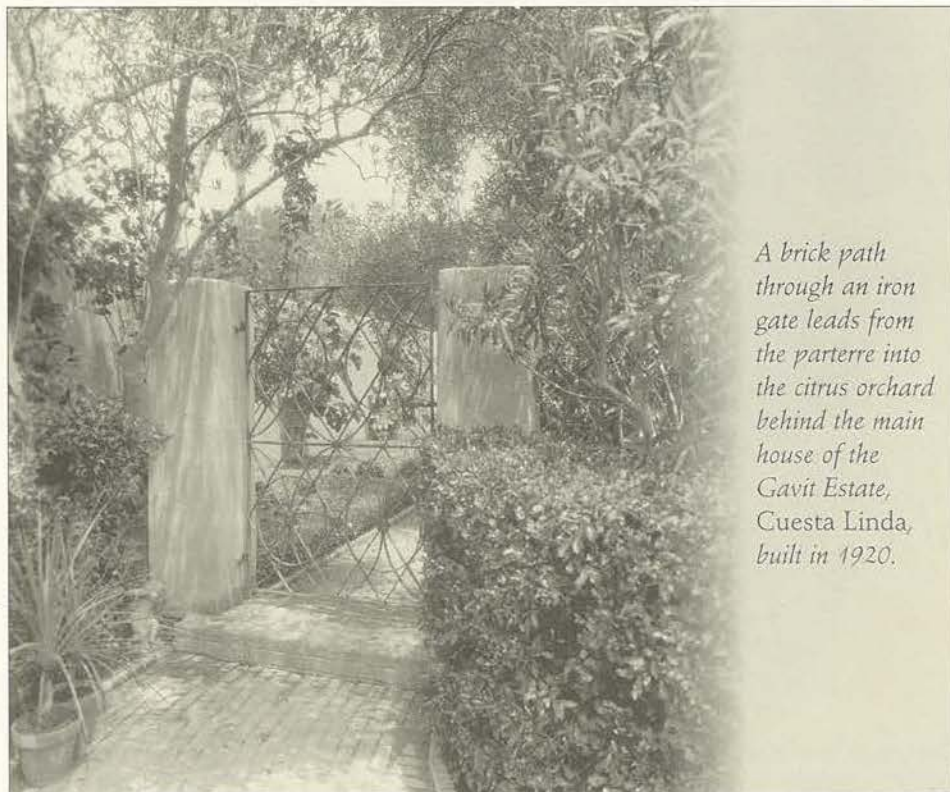
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THE SAME FAVORABLE CLIMATE that enabled Montecito to establish itself as an agricultural community in the late 19th century gave rise to the gardens adorning the great estates that emerged in the early 20th. It was and is a region highly amenable to the exotic plants and trees that were introduced by forethinking early Anglo-American nurserymen from the east. Subsequent wealthy landowners cleared chaparral-covered hillsides (not already cleared by their Spanish predecessors) and created display gardens in which to showcase tropical plants and to plant fruit and nut orchards. In this way, Montecito evolved from an agricultural community to an exclusive, semi-rural residential area famed for its lavish estates and unique gardens.

Early horticulturists discovered that an infinite number of tropical, semi-tropical, and temperate-zone trees, plants, shrubs, and flowers

would grow in this "place of perpetual summer." Several pioneer nurserymen introduced plants first for agriculture and later for the booming estates, whose gardens reflected the ingenuity and cooperation of local nurserymen. D.B. Clarke, a nurseryman who grew orange, almond, and walnut trees, founded the Santa Barbara Agricultural Society in 1869. Another important contributor to horticulture was nurseryman Joseph Sexton, who maintained one of the most complete and extensive nurseries of tropicals and exotics, many from the Orient, Australia, and southern Europe.

The success of horticulture was celebrated at the Santa Barbara Flower Festivals of 1891-1896, organized by horticulturist Charles F. Eaton. Each was a four-day celebration that included a magnificent procession, an Agricultural Pavilion, and floral reproductions. In 1894 a



*A brick path through an iron gate leads from the parterre into the citrus orchard behind the main house of the Gavit Estate, Cuesta Linda, built in 1920.*



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horticultural exhibit of the Southern California Acclimatizing Association (S.C.A.A.) included 20 varieties of palms, 40 varieties of tropical and semi-tropical fruits, and many trees and shrubs, including 50 exotic species previously unknown in the U.S.

Begun the previous year by the Italian horticulturist Dr. Francesco Franceschi, the S.C.A.A. introduced exotic flora to the area and issued catalogues for its customers. By 1907 the S.C.A.A. was under the direction of Peter Reidel, a horticulturist from Holland, who extended the services of the association to include landscape design and installation. Reidel was responsible for the landscaping of many homes in Montecito. Others involved with the association were C.F. Eaton and Ralph T. Stevens.

Even before the S.C.A.A. was introducing exotic flora to the region, early nurseryman R. Kinton Stevens purchased a ranch (now *Lotusland*) in Montecito where he cleared many oaks in order to build his home, plant fruit trees, and establish a nursery in 1885. Mrs. Stevens named the property *Tanglewood* for the many remaining oaks growing there. Stevens furnished thousands of young lemon trees to other ranchers in Montecito and was active in getting rare and unusual plants, often from the tropics, and introducing them to the horticultural trade. Stevens was the first nurseryman in California to issue a catalogue (1893) devoted solely to tropical and subtropical plants.

The fact that Montecito was a garden spot where flowers bloomed in mid-winter made it the annual destination of easterners and mid-westerners weary of the cold. Their



The brick walkway lined with cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*)—native to southern Europe and western Asia—on the Gavit Estate, Cuesta Linda, 1929.

JESSIE TARBOX BEALS, 1929; LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

migration west followed a well-established pattern. Generally they visited for a week or so; then they made reservations for a season at the Miramar or San Ysidro Ranch. The following year, they rented a house or mansion. Finally, they purchased an existing home or land for a house designed to meet their individual needs. The arrival of the railroad in 1887 was instrumental in facilitating this migration.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Palmer Gavit's *Cuesta Linda* (see *Lotusland Newsletter* Volume 4 No. 4, Winter 1995) is only one of many local great estates that arose and flourished before the Great Depression. Other estates whose grounds featured elaborate gardens of note include *Las Tejas*, *Casa del Herrero*, *Val Verde*, Stanley McCormick's *Riven Rock*, *El Mirador*, *Piranhurst*, *La Toscana*, *El Cerrito*, *El Mirador*, *El Eliseo*, *La Favorita*, *Arcady*, *Graham*, and *Pepper Hill*. All were the creations of wealthy easterners in search of the good life in California, and all featured large



Two pages from Kinton Stevens' 1893 nursery catalogue.



## NYBG Research at Lotusland

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL Garden recently sent Research Assistant and Botanical Collector Carol Annable to Lotusland to collect plant material for potential drug development. Ms. Annable spent 10 days over a three-month period collecting about 300 samples of exotic plants found at Lotusland that have not already been screened. It is the policy of NYBG to only collect plants growing in the U.S. or in cultivation in foreign countries. Plants are dried and shipped to NYBG where technicians

perform a passive methanol extraction for future phylogenetic studies. Extractions are then distilled by a pharmaceutical company and tested for their effects on such diseases as cancer, AIDS, and Alzheimer's.

According to Ms. Annable, it takes 15 to 20 years to develop a new drug, and as many as 30,000 samples must be collected for one potential drug. Herbarium vouchers are used for tracking so that Lotusland will benefit if a drug is developed from one of its plants.



VIRGINIA HAYES

A Santa Barbara native, Carol Annable's interest in plants dates back to the 4th grade when she first collected them at the SB Museum of Natural History. Her job with NYBG takes her all over the U.S. and U.S. territories to collect and study plants for research. Here she gathers a specimen from the Bromeliad Garden at Lotusland.

## Perimeter Wall and Neptune Fountain Under Repair

WORK IS WELL UNDER WAY in the repair and restoration of Lotusland's pink perimeter wall and the Neptune fountain in the formal parterre below the Main House. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the John G. Braun Charitable Annuity Trust, and a donation from the Pesenti Foundation, the Neptune fountain will be fully functioning this summer. A number of donors contributed to a matching grant by the Harold Simmons Foundation to enable Lotusland to begin work on the wall. The Foundation is grateful to these donors for making the preservation of these historical architectural features possible and hopes the changes will enhance the experience of all visitors to the garden.

## "Ganna Walska: A Woman of Style"



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

*Madame Walska, c. 1918, in one of her many stylish dresses.*

DALE CAROLYN GLUCKMAN, Associate Curator of Costumes and Textiles at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, spoke to a group of 50 upper-level members at a free lecture on the clothing of Ganna Walska that is now part of LACMA's textile collection. Ms. Gluckman showed slides of the fabulous dresses, coats, hats, and shoes—most of which were handmade and sewn, sometimes exclusively for Madame Walska. The pieces were donated by her niece, Hania Tallmadge, in 1984.

The dramatic flair that Madame Walska showed for landscape design can also be seen in how she developed her extensive and highly fashionable wardrobe. The quality apparel, dating from the teens to the fifties, was designed by the finest couturiers of Paris and New York, whose historical importance was explained and emphasized by Ms. Gluckman. Even after she lived at Lotusland, Madame Walska continued to consult with such designers as Mr. John, who created many hats for her and held fashion shows in the garden. The lecture drew parallels between Madame Walska's impeccable choice of fashion designers and fabrics and her choice of landscape designers and rare plants, providing new insight into an aspect of Madame Walska's personality not before explored thoroughly.



## Preserving Biodiversity

CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY has become the rallying cry of environmental organizations, scientists, and citizens. Many wonder why we should worry about it. Do we really need all those different kinds of butterflies and flowers? What about pests like mosquitoes and gophers? A relatively new word in the English language, biodiversity, which is short for biological diversity, means the number of species—10 million or so—of plants, animals, and other organisms, the immense genetic variability of these organisms, and the uncounted ecosystems these organisms inhabit on earth. To put it more simply, biodiversity is “the variety of life on earth.”

Merely as a matter of principle, we human beings must care about the loss of resources that have played a large part in our natural and cultural heritage. For example, in 1900 40 percent of India was covered by forest; today only four percent of the forest is left. Growing populations are living in increasingly sterile environments, cut off from the land and its flora and fauna.

These natural systems are the providers of clean air and fresh water. It is estimated that in the next 25 years, a quarter of the world's 250,000 plant species will face extinction. Levels of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides, and CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) in the atmosphere are rising rapidly and are at their highest in the past 160,000 years. All affect the earth's radiation balance, which, if upset, could lead to unknown and possibly harmful weather changes. Plants remove these gases from the air, produce oxygen, and mitigate their harmful effects.

Wetlands, which cover three percent of the earth's surface, contain important water supplies and support



An educational exhibit on Preserving Biodiversity was featured at Santa Barbara's Earth Day celebration on April 24. The multi-paneled display—featuring photographs of rare and endangered plants found in Lotusland's living collection, a “Pyramid of Life” created by local artist John Iwerkes, and information on global threats to preserving plant life—seeks to educate people about the diminishing plant diversity upon which all life is dependent and the efforts of botanic gardens around the world to preserve biodiversity. Look for the exhibit at the Sustainable Landscape Fair in October and Montecito Beautification Day in November of this year.

important nutrient cycles responsible for the replenishment and maintenance of fish. Already, according to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency survey, approximately 85 percent of rivers and 62 percent of lakes in our country are considered “impaired” in some way—either unsafe for drinking, swimming, or even fishing.

Lastly, biological resources provide food for our tables, the basis of many medicines, and a setting for recreational activities. The greater the number of organisms and the complexity of ecosystems, the more stable the whole system will be. Yet Central American forests are disappearing at the rate of a million acres annually, as farmers create monocultures of sugar, bananas, or



*Brighamia insignis* (shown growing at Lotusland) is native to Hawaii. Its natural pollinator extinct, the plant is preserved in botanic gardens by hand-pollination.



rice. Monoculture farming leaves agriculture open to diseases that can destroy an entire crop (e.g. the Irish potato famine caused by a fungus that was able to spread unchecked from farm to farm where only potatoes were grown). Tropical forests also contain the majority of the world's flowering plant species. As yet, only about one percent has been thoroughly examined for medicinal properties. In addition, many an outdoor enthusiast has found solace and renewal in nature's vast beauty and solitude.

The interrelation between organisms in an ecosystem is the subject of much research today. While science may not be able to give us a quantifiable "scorecard" of each organism's "worth," economic or otherwise, the consensus is surely that each one matters in the larger scheme of things. No one knows which plant or animal is the one whose absence will unalterably change the balance of nature for the worse.

So what are botanic gardens doing to preserve biodiversity? For almost two centuries, they have been major centers, along with universities, for the study of plants and their diversity, where scientists and horticulturists have been cataloging and assessing plants for human use. Their efforts have enhanced our quality of life through the development of new crops, better forestry management, new medicines, and showier flowers. The gardens also have become reserves for plants whose natural habitats are being destroyed, either in natural disasters or by human destruction. They also serve as showcases and classrooms to inform and educate the public about biodiversity.

Lotusland is proud to be doing its part by preserving rare and endangered plants, cooperating with collectors for pharmaceutical companies, and promoting conservation through educational programs.

—Virginia Hayes

## Carol Valentine Honored by Museum of Art

LOTUSLAND BOARD PRESIDENT Carol L. Valentine was recently honored for her 30 years of service to another non-profit institution, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, as the second recipient of the Wright S. Ludington Award for distinguished service to the museum. Mrs. Valentine's extensive service, generous philanthropy, keen insight, and wise counsel earned her the distinguished award, which was presented at a dinner in her honor in late April. Lotusland is fortunate to also benefit from Mrs. Valentine's support and guidance.



*Carol Valentine at a recent award dinner in her honor at the SBMA.*

TONY MASTRES; COURTESY OF SBMA

## Joyce Merek, Communication Specialist

NEW TO LOTUSLAND's administrative staff this Spring is Joyce Merek, Assistant to the Executive Director, Steven Timbrook. Joyce brings a wealth of experience to this newly created position, which she sees as an important communication liaison between the director, staff, and board.



J.M. EASTMAN

Highly qualified in both oral and written organizational communication, Joyce earned a BA in Speech and Drama from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and an MA in Speech Communication at California State University Northridge. She has taught classes at several community colleges in the Los Angeles area and continues to teach Business English at Santa Barbara Business College and Public Speaking at Santa Barbara City College. She was an editor for *Seikyo Times*, an international journal for peace, culture, and education, and worked for Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce in Information Services after moving to Santa Barbara in 1995.

The support with special projects and advance planning that she provides to the Executive Director allows her to apply her extensive business skills at, as she describes Lotusland, "a progressive and evolving organization." Welcome, Joyce.



## New Book on Lotusland Forthcoming

ONE OF THE MOST frequent questions that visitors ask at the conclusion of their tours has been: "Is there a book on Lotusland that I can afford to buy?" The answer will soon be yes. *Ganna Walska Lotusland: The Garden and Its Creators* currently is being printed and will be seen for the first time anywhere at the annual Lotusland Celebrates garden party on July 21. The book was written by Sharon Crawford, a landscape historian who is also a Lotusland docent and who conducts and coordinates archival research for the Lotusland Foundation. Divided equally between text and photographs, the book packs a wealth of information into its 48-page, 9"x12" format.

The first of its three chapters, "Madame Ganna Walska—The Early

Years," covers Madame Walska's youth, the development of her singing career, and her six marriages. Chapter two, "Lotusland—Before Madame Ganna Walska," discusses the contributions made by early owners Kinton Stevens, whose experimental plantings remain as dramatic accents in the garden, and E. Palmer Gavit, whose estate house and formal gardens form the nucleus of the contemporary garden. The first two chapters are illustrated with photographs and documents from Lotusland's extensive archival collection. The third chapter, "Evolution of the Gardens at Lotusland," describes in chronological order the development of the individual gardens and Madame Walska's relationship with the designers and

plant experts who contributed to the creative process.

Archival photographs show Madame Walska both working and entertaining in the garden. But the highlight of this final chapter is the photography of William B. Dewey. Many previously unpublished full- and half-page photographs gloriously showcase the special features that make a walk through Lotusland such a delightful experience.

The book will be available at the Lotusland Garden Shop, which is only open to visitors, and Tecolote Bookstore in Montecito. A book signing will take place in November—just in time for holiday shopping! Look for an invitation that will be mailed to all Friends of Lotusland this fall.

## Summer Water Garden Tour

Saturday, August 3  
9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

JOIN LOTUSLAND CURATOR Virginia Hayes and Betsy Collins, Living Collections Manager of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, for a day of water gardens on Saturday, August 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Participants will meet at SBBG and take a bus to Lotusland, where they will tour Madame Walska's gardens. Then they will move on to Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden for a box lunch. After lunch, the group will view several private water gardens in and around Santa Barbara.

Registration must be made through SBBG. Please call (805) 682-4726 extension 102 for information.

**Instructors:** Virginia Hayes and Betsy Collins

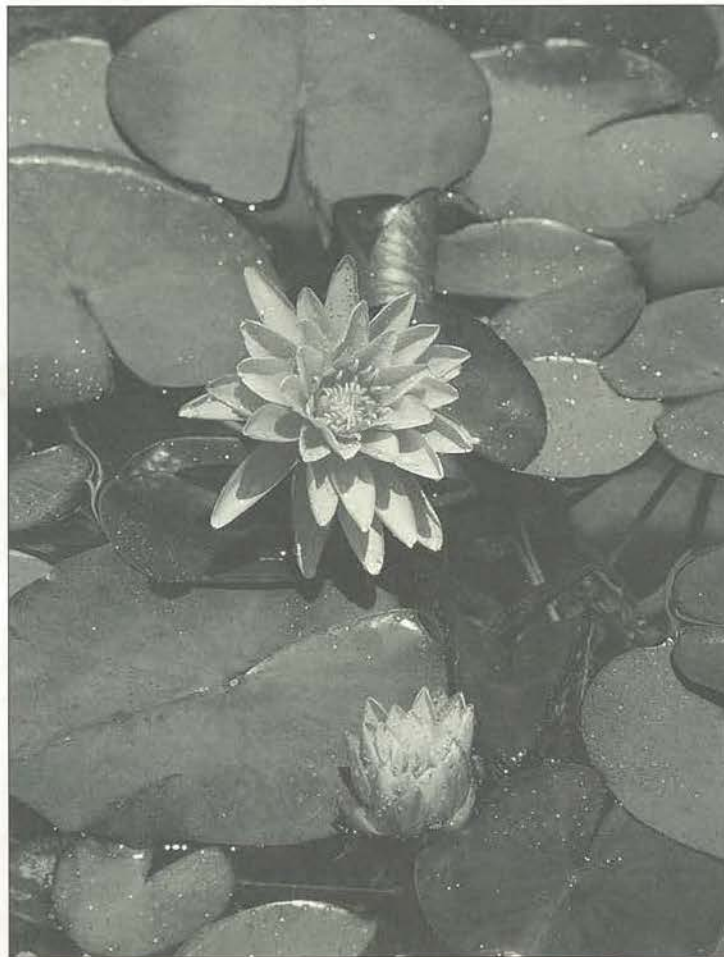
**Location:** Santa Barbara Botanic Garden parking lot

**Limit:** 23 people

**Code:** HOR328

**Fee:** \$47 (\$54 nonmembers) includes admission to Lotusland and a box lunch

*This Nymphaea cv. Pink Pumpkin is grown experimentally at Lotusland. Water gardens provide an attractive and meditative ornament to any garden. Come see several around town on August 3.*





## U.S. Trust Company of California & New Jersey Sponsors July Gala

LOTUSLAND IS DELIGHTED to announce that U.S. Trust Company of California & New Jersey is sponsoring Lotusland Celebrates: *The Marriage of Figaro* with a generous grant.

*We are also honored to have the following Patrons of Lotusland Celebrates:*

Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Abercrombie  
Dr. & Mrs. A.E. Amorteguy  
Dr. Warren R. Austin  
Mrs. Donald L. Balch  
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*Additional donations were made by:*

Wild Horse Winery & Vineyards  
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J&S Graphix  
Four Seasons Biltmore  
Mrs. E.L. Bakewell  
Doris & Wesley Carter  
Frances D. Larkin  
Mr. & Mrs. Max E. Meyer  
David F. Myrick  
John & Zola Rex

The July 21 event will feature the Music Academy of the West performing scenes from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* in the Theatre Garden, additional musical presentations throughout the garden, an historical exhibit of "The Six Marriages of Ganna Walska," and dinner served on the Main Lawn by the Four Seasons Biltmore. Look for your invitations in the mail.

A pre-event fashion show sponsored by Nordstrom will be held on the store's verandah Wednesday, June 12, 1996. Tickets to the show are \$20 per person and include lunch. Invitations were sent to all members in May.

## New to the Collections With VIRGINIA HAYES

THE NURSERY AT LOTUSLAND will be looking more and more like an African forest in the days ahead as seeds of several exotic trees from that continent begin sprouting. *Bauhinia galpinii* and *B. petersiana*, both native to Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Zambia, will be small, flowering trees in the near future.

In spite of its specific name,

*Swartzia madagascariensis* comes from Tanzania and Zambia, where it becomes a small tree in woodlands and grasslands.

Another small tree from the riverbanks of Mozambique is *Sesbania seban*. Two more species from Tanzania are *Entada abyssinica* and *Erythrina abyssinica*. Look for these trees in the garden in a few years.

## Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support

### LEVEL II

Mr. & Mrs. Lester J. Anixter  
Helene & Jerry Beaver  
Geoffrey & Kimberly Crane  
John & Lisa Derrick  
Pat Lizarraga  
Mr. & Mrs. James Nonn  
Anne & Vladimir Volokh  
David & Lola Waller

### LEVEL IV

Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Constance



# Horticultural Happenings

With MIKE IVEN

## Water Works

ALL IRRIGATION WATER AT Lotusland is supplied by one well located behind the garages at Ashley Road. Ground water is pumped through an underground pipeline to a 0.5-acre-foot underground concrete reservoir located about 250 feet above Lotusland's northern property line. Gravity flow provided water for Lotusland's needs until 1987, when new PVC pipes and an irrigation pumping station were installed. In 1992 an insertion meter with pump and storage tank were added in order to inject an acid fertilizer into irrigation water. The nitrogen and sulfur combination helps to reduce soil alkalinity and improve nutrient uptake in plants. Automatic systems for the main lawn, the fern garden, and the Australian garden, as well as a combination of impact sprinklers, drip/low-flow systems, and hand watering, are used throughout the garden. The recent addition of a fertilizer injector to the Japanese garden irrigation system provides a method to apply fertilizers and micro-nutrients to specific plantings in a more efficient manner.

These modifications to Lotusland's irrigation system have improved the process of providing cultural care to the plant collections. Most of the plantings prefer well-drained soil with regular watering, followed by periods of drying out. Unfortunately, the predominantly clay soil texture throughout the garden retains moisture for long periods in spite of attempts to amend and improve it. The resulting excessively wet soil conditions can cause serious cultural problems such as root rot and other fungal diseases. Grounds staff use soil probes to check soil moisture content and monitor individual plant appearance and vigor before irri-

gating any area. Properly watering the variety of plant species grown at Lotusland is a process requiring conscientious monitoring by individual gardeners and the cooperation of all grounds staff.

## Staff Milestone

ASSISTANT CURATOR Jennifer Dennis celebrates five years of employment with Lotusland this June. A native of Indiana, Jennifer has degrees in Botany and Horticulture and is proficient in database management.



*Jennifer Dennis potting plants in the nursery.*

## "Daughter" Paired with Lotusland Professional

AS PART OF TAKE Your Daughter to Work Day on April 25, Dresden Holden, a 13-year-old 7th grader at Santa Barbara Junior High School, spent the day with Lotusland Specialist Gardener Terri Clay. The yearly event was co-sponsored by Girls, Inc., SB Women Lawyers, and the SB County Women's Political Committee. Mayor Harriet Miller addressed all participants at an opening breakfast. After showing Dresden the gardens, Terri explained to her their varying cultural needs and put her to work pruning in the Japanese garden.

Terri enjoyed being mentor for a day and believes the program is an excellent educational experience that exposes young women to the realities and challenges of having a career and, in Terri's case, also a family. She reported that Dresden gained an appreciation for hard work and, for the first time, realized the amount of specialized work that goes into the maintenance of her own back yard.

## Lotusland Staff Attend AABGIA

SEVERAL LOTUSLAND STAFF attended the annual conference of the American Association of Botanic Gardens & Arboreta hosted by Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis May 29-June 1. The theme of this year's conference was "Growing with Change." Workshops, lectures, and meetings of the four-day conference provide ongoing education to staff and allow them to network with others in the same fields at botanic gardens across the country and in Canada and Latin America. By sharing resources and information, gardens are able to improve their operations and increase their efficiency in maintaining their collections and offering educational programs to visitors.

## The Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation Statement of Purpose

THE PURPOSE of Ganna Walska Lotusland is to preserve and enhance the spectacular collections of rare and exotic plants on the Montecito estate of the late Madame Ganna Walska, and through interpretation of these collections to foster increased knowledge and appreciation of the importance of plants and the need for their conservation.



## Volunteers in the Garden

### New Volunteers February, March, April 1996

Candice Buergey, *Garden Maintenance*  
Leyla Cabugos, *Garden Maintenance*  
Jolene DeLisa, *Garden Shop*  
Keyko Hall, *Special Projects*  
Jennifer Jimmerson, *Library*  
Cherif Khoury, *Archives*  
Paulette Miller, *Special Projects*  
Ted Ross, *Archives*  
Lucke Thorensen, *Craft Guild*  
Robert Wolff, *Garden Maintenance*  
Joyce Ziman, *Archives*

### Volunteer Appreciation June 17

VOLUNTEERS WILL BE recognized for their hard work, dedication, and special talents at the first annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic, which will be held in the outdoor theatre. All active volunteers will be invited.

### Volunteer Opportunities in the Garden Shop and Craft Guild

IF YOU WOULD LIKE to give of your time and help the garden to maintain its Garden Shop or create saleable crafts to sell in the shop, please contact Janet Eastman, Volunteer Coordinator, at (805) 969-3767.

### Media Coverage for Lotusland Docent

LOTUSLAND VOLUNTEER docent and local cycad expert Jeff Chemnick was interviewed at Lotusland in May for a television broadcast on KEYT News. Jeff is the owner of a specialty nursery where he propagates and sells these rare and endangered plants to local gardeners and landscapers. He is currently involved in an intensive pollination program to provide viable seed at Lotusland and has given educational slide programs to docents in training. Jeff consults with grounds staff on propagation techniques and trades plants with Lotusland. A man of many talents and interests, Jeff spends several months each year traveling the globe in search of as yet undiscovered cycads. His most recent trips were to Ecuador and Mexico,



Cycad expert Jeff Chemnick points to the cone of a *Encephalartos lehmannii* in Lotusland's cycad collection.

J.M. EASTMAN

where he found a new species of *Ceratozamia*, which he hopes to describe later this year.

Those interested in visiting Jeff's nursery and garden can reach him at (805) 965-0895.



J.M. EASTMAN

Cold Spring School students sketching in the Japanese garden.

## Cold Spring School Art Class at Lotusland

SIXTH-GRADE STUDENTS FROM Barbara Frambola's class at Cold Spring School came to Lotusland on May 14 to sketch in the garden. Though the 28 students were eager to explore all of Lotusland's gardens, they narrowed in on the Japanese, aloe, and water gardens. There, the children spread out alongside the paths where some drew close-ups of plants while others took in the larger landscape.

The well-behaved students were

curious about the plants and recognized many they already knew, such as cactus and papyrus. A lucky few got to feed koi in one of the ponds.

Art teacher Ann De Bruyn Kops, parents, and teacher's aides accompanied the group, who walked over from and back to the school via the Sycamore Canyon Gate. Lotusland is pleased to open up the garden and make it available for such a good neighbor as Cold Spring School.



## Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in February, March, April 1996

### LEVEL I

McNamee Family  
Norma Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Beckert  
Judy Benjamin & Sheffie Elul  
Marie Biller  
Charles Breuch  
Gregory Brochu  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Brokaw  
William & Mary Cederberg  
Jim & Carey Cimino  
Fred & Linda Clough  
Joan F. Cohen  
Denise Cano Coleman  
Gloria Couacaud  
Mary De Vaney  
Ray & Helen Down  
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Robert & Kay Faguet  
Michelle J. Farrelly  
Ellen Fenger  
Kendra & Andrew Feshbach  
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De Foresta  
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Patti Jacquemain & Dave Gledhill  
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## Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

February, March, April 1996

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### NEPTUNE FOUNTAIN RESTORATION

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### WALL & LANDSCAPING

Garden Club of Santa Barbara



# Visit Casa del Herrero

Saturday, August 17, 1996 ☉ 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

(Note early start times to allow for travel to the Casa from Lotusland.)

LOTUSLAND INVITES MEMBERS to sign up for a visit this August to the newly opened *Casa del Herrero* in Montecito. Located on East Valley Road, the estate has been preserved as a living museum for the display of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, Moorish style gardens, and antique furnishings. It is rare in its

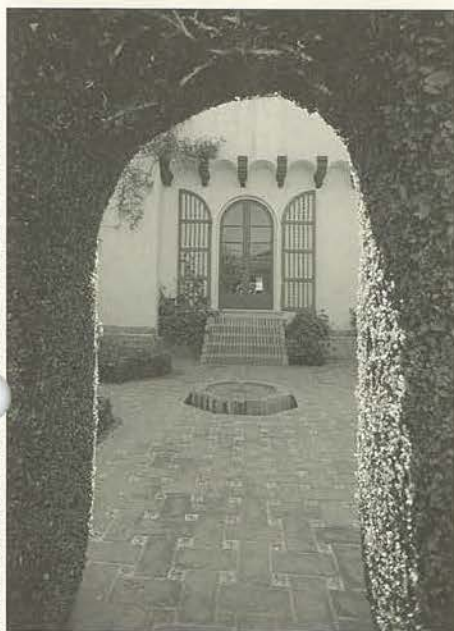
complete preservation of the original buildings and their contents, which provide visitors a glimpse of gothic and renaissance art and furniture as it was collected earlier in this century by Mr. and Mrs. George Fox Steedman. The home, designed by local architect George Washington Smith, survived the 1925 earthquake and is today listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Complementary gardens were designed by landscape architect Ralph Stevens and horticulturist Peter Reidel as a series of outdoor "rooms" typical of Spanish and Moorish garden design and providing ocean and mountain views from the estate. A unique feature is Steedman's silver-smith workshop—whence the name of the estate, "House of the Ironworker or Silversmith"—which has been meticulously preserved.

Like Lotusland, *Casa del Herrero* is a former great estate preserved for posterity by the generous planning of its owners. It is owned and operated by the non-profit Casa del Herrero Foundation, which makes the estate available to a limited number of visitors by advance reservation only.

Those participating in the visit

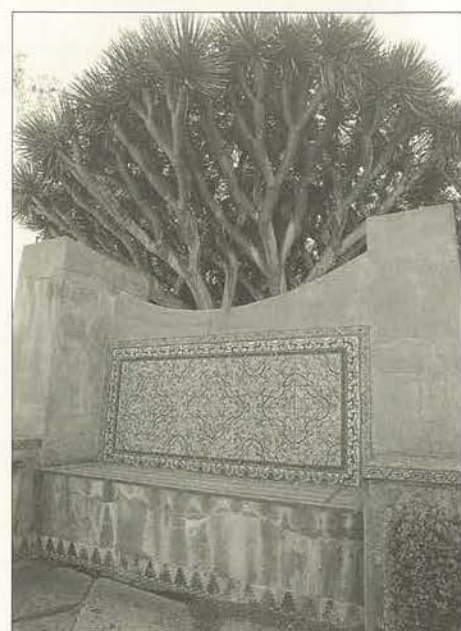
will meet at the Lotusland Visitor Center at 9:30 a.m. for the morning tour and 1:00 p.m. for the afternoon tour and then carpool over to the Casa. Trained docents will lead tours of the house and grounds lasting approximately 1½ hours. Refreshments will be served upon return to Lotusland.

WM. B. DEWEY, COURTESY OF CASA DEL HERRERO FOUNDATION



Looking through a horticultural arch into a brick patio with Spanish tile fountain just outside a room of Casa del Herrero.

WM. B. DEWEY, COURTESY OF CASA DEL HERRERO FOUNDATION



A Dragon tree (*Dracaena draco*) flares up behind a Spanish tile bench in the gardens of Casa del Herrero.

## Registration Form

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND

### Casa del Herrero Tour

Saturday, August 17, 1996

Check one: ☐ 9:30 a.m.  
☐ 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person, includes admission to the Casa

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

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

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

*Fee is refundable only if canceled by Friday, August 9, 1996.*

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





## Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

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HISTORY/HORTICULTURE *continued from page 2*  
domiciles with extensive gardens, employing the finest structure and landscape architects to create unique gardens. Visiting dignitaries and politicians made visits to these estates, one was featured in an issue of *House & Garden*, most were included in the April 1926 whirlwind visit by the Garden Club of America, and many were documented by their owners in photographs and books for visitors.

Though very few of Montecito's formerly great estates and their gardens survive intact and are accessible to the general public, today the former *Cuesta Linda* house and gardens,

now known as *Lotusland*, have been enhanced and preserved as a public botanic garden by the late Madame Ganna Walska and are now owned and operated by the foundation she created. Another estate now open for viewing is the former George F. Steedman estate *Casa del Herrero*. A detailed history of these estates can be found in David F. Myrick's two volumes on the subject: *Montecito and Santa Barbara: From Farms to Estates* and *Montecito and Santa Barbara: The Days of the Great Estates*.

—Janet M. Eastman

*Lotusland members have an opportunity to visit Casa del Herrero on Saturday, August 17, when Lotusland will sponsor a field trip to the estate. See page 11 for details.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Summer and fall are 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.

### June 12

Nordstrom Fashion Show Kick-off for Lotusland Celebrates

### July 13 and 14

Art in Full Bloom at SBMA; Lotusland arrangement in Asian Gallery

### July 21

Lotusland Celebrates: *The Marriage of Figaro* annual gala fundraiser

### August 3

Water Garden Tour co-sponsored by SBBG (see page 6)

### August 17

Member field trip to *Casa del Herrero* (see page 11)

### September 28

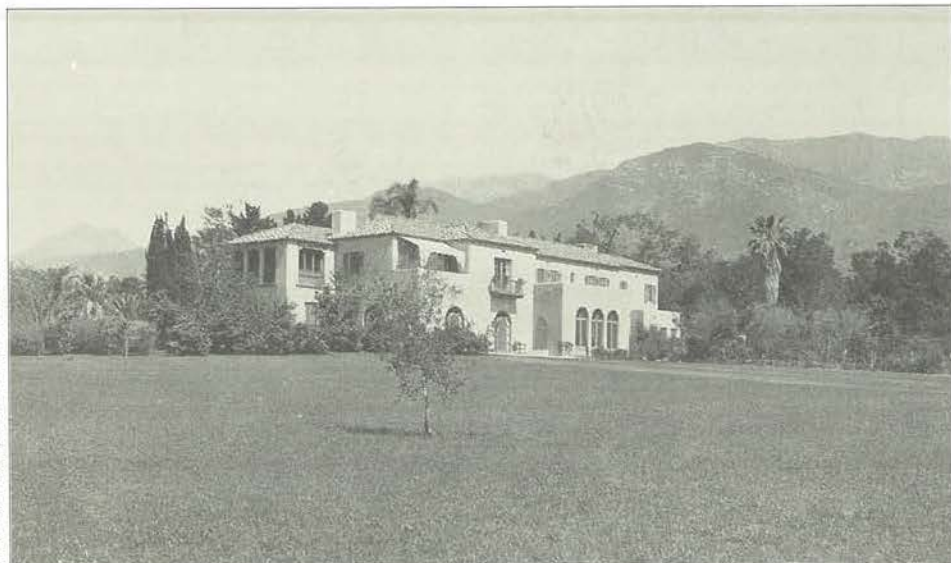
Anacapa String Quartet in the Theatre Garden

### October and November

Biodiversity Exhibit at the Sustainable Landscape Fair and at Montecito Beautification Day

### November 16

Book Signing by author Sharon Crawford, *Ganna Walska Lotusland: The Garden and Its Creators* (see page 6)



The newly built Gaviti Estate, Cuesta Linda, 1920.