

# **LOTUSLAND**

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  VOLUME 5 NO. 4  WINTER 1996

## **The Garden of Imagination**

By BRENDA FREEMAN

JUST AROUND A BEND between the bromeliad garden and the outdoor theatre, you'll find a little shade garden inhabited by chamaedorea palms and a wonderful collection of rare, odd sandstone concretions collected by Madame Walska in the 1940s. Their placement here dates back to the period when it was sometimes referred to as the children's garden due to their reaction of delight to these once painted stone pieces.

Dr. S. O. Coolidge and his wife, Gertrude, spent many years in the deep desert of the Imperial Valley, near the Salton Sea, searching for this collection. In her correspondence with Madame Walska (December 1942), Gertrude Coolidge described the concretions thus: "It can be said without fear of contradiction that nowhere in all the world can be found such a rare and perfect collection of concretions. They are amazing, mirth-producing, and inspiring. Well worth anyone's time to see and study." Apparently Madame Walska agreed, for barely ten days later she replied by post: "Your collection is certainly wonderful and unique... and I am so crazy to have it...I just cannot refuse myself this wonderful, wonderful Christmas present...You can be sure that your babies will be very happy in my garden, which I love, and anything that beautifies my garden, I take care of. Every cactus, every tree, every flower, I take care of as if it were a living person, and I am sure that they all are happy to be

*CONCRETIONS continued on page 2*



*The daughter of photographer J.R. Eyerman finds delight in Ganna Walska's collection of desert oddities in 1958.*

J.R. EYERMAN, LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

The Garden of Imagination	1	Anacapa String Quartet at Lotusland	4
Winter Focus Tour:	4	Staff Milestones	5
Lotusland Geology: Rocks & Minerals in the Garden		Jurassic Plants: The Cold Spring School Dino Club visits Lotusland	5
Trustees Honored	4	Tile Heritage Foundation	5
Changes for 1997 Visits	4	New to the Collections	7
Springtime in the Garden	4	Horticultural Happenings	8





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

*Board of Trustees*

Carol L. Valentine, *President*

Elizabeth W. Dake

Arthur R. Gaudi

Anne W. Jones

Patricia B. Pesenti

Michael Towbes

Steven Timbrook, Ph.D., *Executive Director*

Anne Dewey, *Assistant Director*

Virginia Hayes, *Curator of the Living Collection*

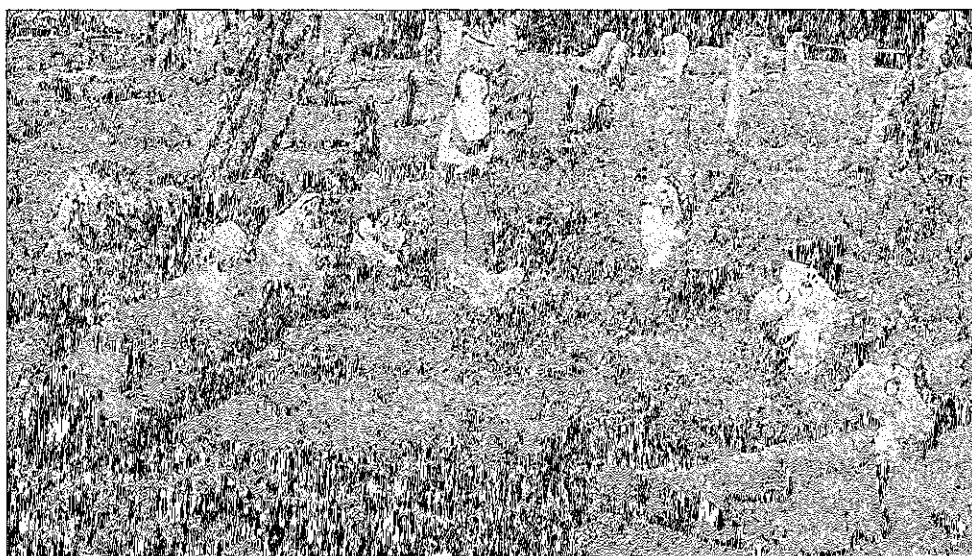
Mike Iven, *Grounds Superintendent*

Janet Eastman, *Editor*

Lindse's Letter Perfect Graphics, *Design*

Printed by J&S Graphix

Printed on recycled and recyclable paper



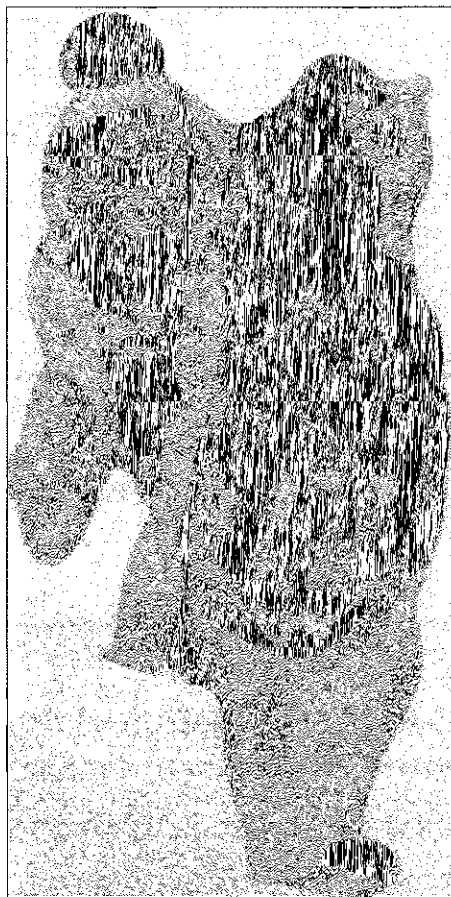
*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Coolidges' "museum."*

LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES



*A watercolor drawing of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at Lotusland (artist unknown).*

LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES



*A squaw with her papoose reproduced from the April 1941 issue of Popular Science.*

LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

*CONCRETIONS continued from page 1*

there, having the affection of people who love them and have the joy to look at them." Eager to make the collection her own, Madame Walska seems to have bought nearly the entire lot of concretions.

These desert oddities are mineral formations deposited centuries ago on what was once the bottom of a salt sea in the Imperial Valley. Embellished only with a little paint "to make the likeness plainer," Dr. and Mrs. Coolidge gathered more than 40 groups of figures—"May (sic) West, Adam, Humpty Dumpty, Mother and Child, Bathing Girl, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Santa and his toys, acrobats, 3 sick

elephants, a merry-go-round, Old King Cole and his Fiddlers Three," and many others—all represented in large, single stones. They placed them carefully in a "front-yard museum," which attracted thousands of visitors. In 1941 two magazines, *Westways* and *Popular Science*, carried small articles on Dr. Coolidge's collection. These articles, clipped out and found in Madame Walska's papers, may have been how she discovered the concretions. She was quite taken with them and saw them as fitting into her exotic Santa Barbara garden, as is evidenced by correspondence with Mrs. Coolidge in which she states: "I certainly am very grateful to you for having with such patience





*Boxer Joe Louis rendered in concretion.*



*The same concretion at Lotusland today.*



*A circus elephant in the ring at the Coolidges' front yard museum.*

and love collected those gifts of nature. When I shall have the pleasure of seeing you I will explain to you personally the destiny of my place in Santa Barbara and the future of it. Then you will understand better how it is meant that they should be there, not only for personal pleasure, but for a much bigger purpose."

Weathered by more than 50 years of sun and rain, the figures in the "Garden of Imagination"—as Gertrude Coolidge called the collection—have lost their paint, and their likenesses have become difficult to decipher. Not everyone shares the Coolidges' ability to find resemblances of animals or celebrities in bare sandstone, but if, by chance, you should find yourself with a few extra moments in that small shade garden, you might see if you can "paint the likeness" with your imagination.

*Brenda Freeman is a docent and volunteer in the Lotusland archives.*



## Winter Focus Tour

*Lotusland Geology: Rocks & Minerals in the Garden*  
Friday, February 14, 1:30 PM • Saturday, February 15, 1:30 PM

with *Helmut Ehrenspeck*

Geologist for the Dibblee Geological Foundation

MADAME WALSKA'S ADMIRATION for exotic beauty extended not only to jewelry and plants, but also to the rocks and minerals that she collected and installed as accents in her garden. Adjacent to many of the plantings and incorporated into many of the designs she created are enchanting geologic formations from around the world, such as obsidian, rose quartz, and amethyst.

Please join local geologist Helmut Ehrenspeck on a tour of discovery and identification of the rocks and minerals found amid Lotusland's flora. Mr. Ehrenspeck, who has had a life-long interest in rocks—starting with a gem and mineral collection given to him at age six by his uncle—received his M.A. in geology from UCSB in 1972. His master's thesis explored the Conejo volcanics in the Santa Monica Mountains—reflecting an ongoing professional interest in volcanic rocks, minerals, and volcanic processes. Since then he has done

remote sensing of mineral resources for mining, oil, and pollution control interests and geologic research in Antarctica and the southwestern U.S.

For the past 10 years, Mr. Ehrenspeck has worked with the Dibblee Geological Foundation making geologic maps of Southern California. He invented and developed a color printing process by which maps may be made inexpensively, publishing 70 maps so far, including much of Santa Barbara County. Currently he is working with the U.S. Forest Service to put 100 maps of the huge Los Padres National Forest onto a computer system, which will allow users to splice maps together. He teaches geology of the local mountains for Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

We are honored to have Mr. Ehrenspeck bring his professional expertise to Lotusland in February for this Winter Focus Tour.

## Trustees Honored

LOTUSLAND BOARD PRESIDENT Carol Valentine was recently selected as a 1996 Woman of Influence by the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. She is included in the 1997 Paradise Palate Engagement Calendar, the proceeds of which will go toward alcoholism and drug abuse prevention and education in the Santa Barbara community and area schools. Calendars can be ordered through the Council at 963-1433, extension 123.

Trustee Michael Towbes was also honored when the National Society of Fund Raising Executives presented him with an award as Philanthropist of the Year in Santa Barbara County for 1996 on National Philanthropy Day, November 8.



*The acclaimed Anacapa String Quartet performed for Friends of Lotusland in Madame Walska's theatre garden on September 28.*

## Changes for 1997 Visits

PUBLIC VISITS TO LOTUSLAND resume on Saturday, February 15, 1997 with tours by advance reservation Wednesday through Saturday at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM. Children at least ten years old may visit the garden accompanied by an adult. For safety reasons, infants and children under ten are not permitted.

For a reservation made less than two weeks prior to the tour date, credit card payment will now be required at the time the reservation is made. Please have your credit card number and expiration date ready when you call. *Members may continue to use their complimentary passes to pay for visits.*

Beginning in February 1997, Lotusland will make reservations for 1998 for both individuals and groups up to a year in advance. For example, if you wish to visit the garden in April of 1998, you may call the Reservation Office in April 1997 to make that reservation.

—Sandy Schneider, Visitor Services Coordinator

## Springtime in the Garden

THE 1997 SERIES on gardens, sponsored by Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and Ganna Walska Lotusland, will feature lectures held at 2:00 PM in the Mary Craig Auditorium at SBMA, followed by tea in the galleries, on the following dates:

Tuesday, February 25

*Beautiful American Vegetable Gardens* with Mary Dorra

Tuesday, March 18

*Life in a Chinese Garden* with William Wu

Thursday, April 24

*Mr. Huntington's Garden and the Golden Age of Horticulture* with Peggy Park Bernal

An invitation will be sent to all members of the sponsoring institutions



## Staff Milestones

IN JANUARY, FOUR STAFF members celebrate employment anniversaries.

Dr. Steven Timbrook, Executive Director, completes 10 years at Lotusland's helm on December 31. Under his direction, Lotusland has grown from 15 staff members, assisted by a dozen volunteers, serving 1,800 annual visitors, to today's staff of 27 and well over 100 dedicated volunteers, with 9,000 visitors enjoying Madame Walska's garden in 1996.

A native of Southern California, Dr. Timbrook completed his B.A. in chemistry at California State College, Long Beach. After six years as an aerospace engineer, he returned to school in biology, earning an M.A. in zoology and a Ph.D. in biology from UCSB. His doctoral dissertation was on the biosystematics of *Langloisia* and *Loeseliastrum*, desert annual plants in the phlox family. Before coming to Lotusland, Steve was Coordinator of Education at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden from 1976 to 1986.

Steve says his greatest challenge today is the same as it was 10 years ago—to learn the amazing diversity of plants at Lotusland. His greatest pleasure is working with such a dedicated and professional staff to help Ganna Walska, in her words, "fulfill

my work to develop Lotusland to its maximum capacity into the most outstanding center of horticultural significance and of educational use."

As Curator of the Living Collection, Virginia Hayes has been responsible for the identification, acquisition, placement, and propagation of plants in the garden since January 1992. Also a native of California—the daughter of a Central Valley farming family—Ms. Hayes completed her B.A. in botany from UC Santa Barbara in 1987. As the manager of Santa Barbara Water Gardens nursery and owner of its pond maintenance operation for seven years, she gained much valuable experience with aquatic plants and ecosystems. Virginia continues to consult on water garden projects and publications.

Grounds staff member Andy Babcock came to Lotusland in January 1992 with extensive landscape maintenance experience and an A.S. degree in Landscape Horticulture from Santa Barbara City College. As a Specialist Gardener Andy relies on his horticultural knowledge and skills to maintain the Australian plant collection and to set priorities and schedule work as a team leader.

Beginning as part-time administrative support staff in January of 1992, Janet Eastman assumed a full-



MIKE IVEN

*Celebrating milestones: Janet Eastman, Steven Timbrook, and Virginia Hayes. Not pictured: Andy Babcock.*

time position as Public Programs Assistant in March of 1993 and since 1994 has been the Volunteer Coordinator. Her duties also encompass supervision of the archives and library and editorship of the *Lotusland Newsletter for Members*. Having earned a B.A. in English at Wellesley College and an M.A. in Classics at UC Santa Barbara, Ms. Eastman taught high school Latin for two years before coming to Lotusland. Everything she knows about plants and Santa Barbara estate history she has learned from working with the professional staff at Lotusland over the past five years. She enjoys the diversity of tasks she performs for Lotusland and is honored to work with the men and women who volunteer their time, energy, and talent on behalf of the garden.



J.M. EASTMAN

*Jurassic Plants: Lotusland docent Jeff Chemnick speaks to students from the Cold Spring School Dino Club about cycads—plants whose prehistoric ancestors once grew amid the roaming dinosaurs the students study.*



J.M. EASTMAN

*Tile Heritage Foundation members study an ornate tile fountain outside the pavilion patio. The group toured the garden during a symposium on "The Exotic Tiles of Southern California" held in Santa Barbara.*



# Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in August, September, October 1996

## LEVEL I

Ms. Audrey Ackerman  
 Ms. Cheryl Anderson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dolph Andrews  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Batman  
 Dr. Valerie Bentz  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joel Beren  
 Ms. Betty C. Black  
 Ms. Hilary Brace & Mr. Rollin Fortier  
 Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Bullock, Jr.  
 Ms. Linda DeNagro Burr  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Bushong  
 Center Club Garden Circle  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Christensen  
 Mr. & Mrs. Cary Conyers  
 Ms. Dana Diehl Derick  
 Mrs. Raymond F. Ehler  
 Ms. Carolle Etheridge  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Farris  
 Ms. Tisha Ford  
 Ms. Karen Fox  
 Ms. Janet M. Gallagher  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Gambill  
 Ms. Doris Generale &  
 Mr. Wayne Guymon  
 Ms. Melissa Gill  
 Ms. Joyce Hameetman  
 Ms. Jeanne Heneghan  
 Mr. & Mrs. Milton Hill  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Janssen  
 Mr. Bryan Kimmel  
 Mrs. Ann Kistler  
 Ms. Laura Kohlhoff  
 Ms. Kathy Koury  
 Ms. Marybeth Dockendorf  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kuramoto  
 Ms. Suzanne Labiner  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack W. Le Van  
 Mr. & Mrs. Karl Lichty  
 Mr. John P. Martin & Ms. Denise Meyer  
 Ms. Mary Jane Mazzella  
 Mr. Bruce McCoy  
 Ms. Dina Morgan  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Mullan  
 Ms. Martha P. Nelson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fritz Olenberger

Ms. Wythe Platt  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Reisenweber  
 Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Riordan  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ian Ritchie  
 Mr. & Mrs. Russell Roberts  
 Ms. Lori Robinson  
 Ms. Alison Ross-Keller  
 Ms. Patricia J. Saake  
 Ms. Alisa Smith  
 Ms. Martha J. Steward  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sweetapple  
 Mr. & Mrs. Chad Taggart  
 Allison & Robin Trabucco  
 Ms. Tess Tritschler  
 Ms. Lepka Warren  
 Mr. Newton H. Wayland  
 Mr. & Mrs. Reg Wilkinson

## LEVEL II

Ms. Carolyn L. Albadoor  
 Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Allina  
 Mr. Victor K. Atkins, Jr.  
 Ms. Kathy S. Atwood &  
 Mr. Rodney N. Vlasak  
 Mrs. William Curtis Baise  
 Ms. Nancy Basham  
 Brentwood Glen Garden Club  
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Brewer  
 Ms. Jane Canter  
 Ms. Shirley J. Colby  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ben Conway  
 Mr. & Mrs. Curt Coughlin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Darian  
 Ms. Dorothy Dent  
 Ms. Katie Doan  
 Mr. & Mrs. Glenn D. Gatlin, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hall  
 Ms. Letitia Harper  
 Dr. Melville H. Haskell, Jr.  
 Ms. Diane Hayes  
 Mr. Robert Heffernan  
 Ms. Barbara Hendricks  
 Ms. Laura Hess & Mr. Rupert Essinger  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Jones  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Kahane  
 Mr. David Lebell & Ms. Vicky Blum

Ms. Ann McDevitt  
 Ms. Coeta Barker McGowan  
 Dr. & Mrs. Jack Mosely  
 Ms. Kathleen Palmer  
 Dr. Carole Pattillo  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Perrin  
 Ms. Eleanore Phillips  
 Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Pollock  
 Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Porath  
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. Pritzlaff  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jon Rand  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Read  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dale B. Rumsey  
 Dr. Carlos H. Schenck  
 Ms. Cindy Schuessler  
 Ms. Sharon Shepherd & Mr. Jeff  
 Shepherd  
 Dr. & Mrs. Albert Silverman  
 Ms. Debra Stoller & Mr. John Paccione  
 Mr. Carl Stuart  
 Mr. Bob Sundquist  
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Taira  
 Mr. Ned Tanen & Ms. Cindy Wirth  
 Mr. & Mrs. Henry Tinsley  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Votey  
 Ms. Harriet Whaley  
 Dr. & Mrs. Richard Young

## LEVEL III

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph M. Brown  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Daly  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Hugunin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Kendall  
 Mr. Robert M. Light  
 Mr. & Mrs. Chapin Nolen  
 Ms. Happy Price  
 Mr. & Mrs. Greg Siemon  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Wesley St. Clair  
 Mr. James B. Wigle & Mr. John B. Wigle

## LEVEL IV

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Adams  
 Mr. & Mrs. Barry Brand  
 Ms. Ann Daniel  
 Mr. & Mrs. Eli Luria  
 Mr. & Mrs. Edwin M. Osborne

# Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

August, September, October 1996

## MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Anonymous  
 Brooklyn Botanic Garden  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Ebright  
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Failing  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wes Gallagher  
 Mr. Milnore H. Hall  
 Ms. Phyllis Archer Haskell  
 Dr. James M. Hester  
 The Huntington Docents  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Iddings, Jr.  
 Ms. Sally Jordan  
 MacFarlane, Faletti & Co.  
 Ms. Georgia Pulos  
 Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Savage

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen C. Taylor  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Thompson

## DOCENT APPRECIATION

Mr. Gary D. Swinton  
 in honor of John Boyer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Howard Wixon  
 in honor of Margo Osherenko

## FURNISHINGS

Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Constance  
 Mr. Arthur R. Gaudi  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Harrison

## GENERAL OPERATIONS

Mrs. David Shoudy

## GRANTS

Mericos Foundation

## LANDSCAPING

Garden Club of Santa Barbara  
 Mr. Marc Winnikoff

## LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

Doris Fienga, Ph.D.

## MEMORIALS

In memory of Virginia I. Kirby  
 from Ms. Paula Knight

## SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ridley-Tree





## Registration Form

GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND  
**Winter Focus Tour**  
**Lotusland Geology**  
 February 14 and 15, 1996

Check one:

- ☐ Friday, February 14, 1:30 PM  
☐ Saturday, February 15, 1:30 PM

Cost: \$10.00 per person

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

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

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support

August, September,  
October 1996

### LEVEL II

Ms. Nancy Bull  
 Ms. Jean DeVilbiss  
 Ms. Nancy Even & Mr. Joel Ohlgren  
 Mr. & Mrs. R.S. Groth-Marnat  
 Ms. Joanne C. Holderman  
 Dr. Richard E. Hughes &  
 Mr. Todd Birns  
 Mr. & Mrs. Don Lewis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gavin Miller  
 Ms. Dorothy Mitchum  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Parent  
 Mr. Daniel Pedersen &  
 Mr. Roger Welch  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Pontifex  
 Mr. & Mrs. Garland Reiter  
 Ms. Virginia Ridder  
 Dr. David H. Ruja  
 Mr. & Mrs. Arden Stevens  
 Mr. & Mrs. Lauren Udden  
 Mr. & Mrs. William C. Walker  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yamin

### LEVEL III

Mr. & Mrs. James McIntyre  
 Mrs. John Wais, Jr.

### LEVEL IV

Ms. Linda Brown  
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Marston

## New to the Collections

With VIRGINIA HAYES

ONE OF THE MOST conspicuous groups of new plants at Lotusland is on view outside the wall on Sycamore Canyon Road. More than 130 succulents were recently planted to complete this restoration project. Three new plant species, two agaves and one near-relative, have been massed along the entire frontage. These species replace the sparse groupings of larger *Agave americana* varieties that were removed prior to the repair of the wall itself.

The largest of the new species is *Agave vilmoriniana*, which will ultimately form a six-foot-plus rosette of curiously arching leaves. Unlike many agaves, *A. vilmoriniana* is unarmed, meaning it has no spines on the edges of its leaves. This permits "more intimacy in the garden" as Howard Scott Gentry, a leading botanist who studies and classifies these plants, puts it. A second agave species, *A. attenuata* 'Nova,' is a "blue" leafed form of an old Santa Barbara favorite. Its large, velvety leaves form rosettes about three feet across. As it matures, smaller plants are produced at the base, providing interesting variety in shape and size.

*Beschorneria yuccoides* completes the trio. In the same family as the agaves, it shares many similarities. The plants form a rosette of sword-

shaped leaves that gracefully recurve. Unlike the agaves, which may take up to 30 or 40 years to mature and bloom, the *Beschornerias* are expected to begin blooming within the next five years. Flower stalks are red, and individual flowers are surrounded by red bracts, making it very showy. New plants are easily cultivated from seed or small bulbils or plantlets that form on the flower stalk.

All three new species, which are native to Mexico, were chosen for their bluish or gray coloring as well as their "friendliness." We hope our many neighbors who bike, jog, or walk along Sycamore Canyon Road will enjoy the new landscape visually and feel secure in its non-threatening nature.



Agave vilmoriniana, left, and three young *A. attenuata* 'Nova' along Sycamore Canyon Road.

WM. B. DEWEY

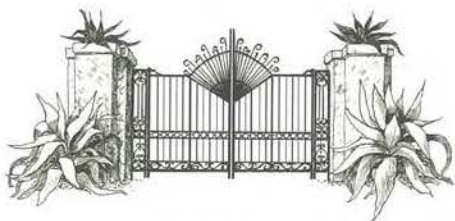


# Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

695 Ashley Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Address Correction Requested  
Forwarding Postage Guaranteed

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Santa Barbara  
California  
Permit No. 163



## Horticultural Happenings

With MIKE IVEN

### New Staff

THIS FALL LOTUSLAND welcomed a new grounds staff person and this year's work-experience student to the garden. Seth Napel joined the grounds crew in September. A native Santa Barbaran who attended Dos Pueblos High School, Seth has five years of experience in landscape maintenance and is currently enrolled in Santa Barbara City College's Environmental Horticulture Program. He is putting his experience with roses to use by tending to the parterre rose beds and working with team members in several other areas of the garden. He also has a strong horticultural interest in succulent plants such as lithops, which he raises at home. Constantly seeking to acquire new information and skills and to gain knowledge in as many areas as pos-

sible, Seth feels that for now he has found his niche at Lotusland.

Santa Barbara City College Environmental Horticulture student Brian Boyd is meeting his work experience requirement at Lotusland this semester. While enjoying the opportunity to gain many skills working in such a diverse garden, he particularly likes working in the fern, bromeliad, and Japanese gardens at Lotusland. A second-year student at City College, Brian came to Santa Barbara from Orange County three years ago. In addition to his two days a week at Lotusland, he delivers plants up and down the California coast for a nursery in Goleta three days a week. Still discovering his interests and talents, Brian is considering going on to study botany or sustainable agriculture after finishing at SBCC. Good luck, Brian.

### Staff at Filoli

ATTENDING AND PARTICIPATING in the annual Pacific Regional Conference of the American Association of Botanic Gardens & Arboreta held in October at Filoli Center in Woodside were several staff from Lotusland. Reflecting the theme of this year's meeting—*Tools, Technology, Techniques, Training, & Time*, inside and outside the

*garden walls*—Grounds Superintendent Mike Iven gave a presentation on "Garden Helpers at Lotusland" while John Lafleur, Assistant Grounds Superintendent, spoke on "Scheduling Pest Control Around Public Use." Curator Virginia Hayes gave a preview of next year's conference, to be held at Lotusland. Also present were Assistant Curator Jennifer Dennis and grounds staff Jay Hinkle, Paul Mills, and Esau Ramirez. Everyone was excited to have the opportunity to share information and resources with staff from more than 20 other gardens and left the conference eager to bring back knowledge gained to colleagues at Lotusland.



Newcomers Brian Boyd and Seth Napel.



Mike Iven speaks about how Lotusland utilizes volunteers in the garden at this year's AABGA Pacific Regional Conference.