



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  VOLUME 6 NO. 3  AUTUMN 1997

Pioneering Plantsmen of Santa Barbara

THE LATTER HALF of the last century and the first half of this century saw a plethora of horticultural activity in Southern California, including the pioneering work of several plantsmen in and around Santa Barbara. Their legacy remains today in the myriad plantings along the region's streets, freeways, and parks, and on many of its former great estates. Species commonly used in landscaping today were first introduced to the area by these men (and women) who worked to increase horticultural diversity in Santa Barbara's temperate, sunny climate—one in which almost any introduced plant species would thrive.

In an earlier issue (Vol. 5, No. 2; Summer 1996), we gave a broad introduction to the work of these early horticulturists as it related to the subsequent development of Santa Barbara's great estates and famous gardens. Here we profile in more detail five of these pioneering plantsmen.

JOSEPH SEXTON (1842-1917) FATHER OF SANTA BARBARA HORTICULTURE

AMONG THE FIRST to work with exotic and tropical plant introductions was Joseph Sexton. A native of Ohio who moved to Southern California as a child, he established a nursery in 1867 in Santa Barbara with stock from his father's Petaluma nursery and a 120-pound sack of Persian walnuts shipped from Chile. Two years later the nursery moved to Goleta to take advantage of better weather and topsoil that reached 33 feet in some places. In the 1870s Sexton began raising pampas grass (*Cortaderia sellowiana*) commercially and by 1895 was



Ellwood Cooper utilized the versatile oil of the olive trees that he grew on his 2,000-acre Santa Barbara ranch in commercial products such as cooking oil, soap, and candy.

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Early nurseryman Joseph Sexton next to a cherimoya tree amid palms on his Goleta property.

exporting 500,000 plumes annually to the East and Europe.

Sexton imported so many exotic and tropical plants from Australia, Asia, and Europe that he maintained his own depot for plants arriving by steamer. An associate in San Francisco would also meet clipper ships and send any rare seeds and plants he

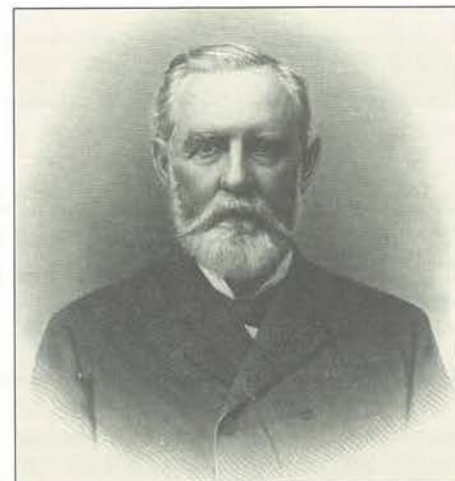
obtained to Sexton in Goleta. His 1877 catalogue was illustrated with rare shrubs and plants. In this way he was able to introduce the Norfolk Island pine from a single burlap-wrapped specimen. The first to offer the cherimoya (*Annona cherimola*), Sexton also introduced many varieties of avocado and is responsible for developing a variety of soft-shelled walnut still sold today. For ten years (1885–95) he maintained a flower and retail store in downtown Santa Barbara in addition to his nursery and mail order business. A man of vision and courage, it was his choice to settle in Santa Barbara that opened the door for others interested in furthering the expansion of horticulture.

ELLWOOD COOPER (1829-1918) AMERICA'S OLIVE OIL KING

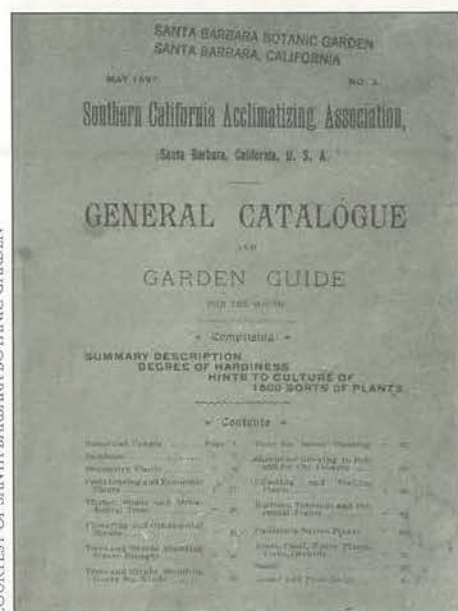
DURING THIS SAME PERIOD, Santa Barbaran Ellwood Cooper was establishing his 2,000-acre "pocket ranch" outside of the city. There he grew olives, figs, walnuts, deciduous fruits, citrus, and rare ornamentals amid the oaks and sycamores. His main contribution to early horticulture,

however, was the work he carried out with eucalyptus. He grew 150,000 trees of 24 varieties for wind breaks and landscape effects and distributed thousands of them throughout the area. He even wrote a book on the subject (*Eucalyptus Trees*), and in 1875 gave a public lecture about the tree's many uses.

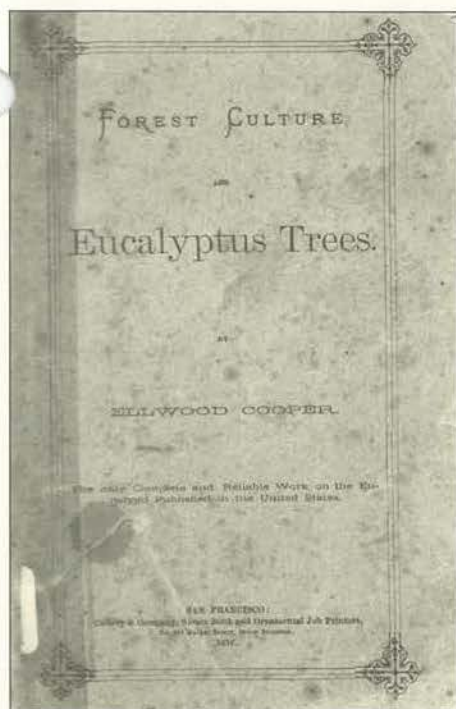
At the same time Cooper grew 7,000 olive trees and 12,500 walnut trees and operated the largest olive mill in the U.S. A second book on olive culture explored the methods of utilizing this fruit's versatile oil in



Ellwood Cooper.



The 1897 catalogue of the So. California Acclimatizing Association contained a summary description, degree of hardiness, and hints to culture of 1,500 sorts of plants.



U.S. TRUST COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA & NEW JERSEY
AND TENET HEALTHCARE CORPORATION UNDERWRITE SUCCESSFUL
Lotusland Celebrates the Diva



J.M. EASTMAN

The Lotus Diva reigns over the water gardens in an Erté-inspired costume by Lori Ann David as flute music wafts across the pond.

THE GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP of U.S. Trust Company of California & New Jersey helped make Lotusland's July 20th gala event the most successful *Lotusland Celebrates* to date. The additional generous donation from Tenet Healthcare Corporation as the Benefactor ensured the financial success of the mid-summer fund-raiser.

Madame Walska's beautifully groomed garden with the pink and yellow lotus at their peak of bloom provided a perfect setting for Lotusland's third annual garden party for members. Highlights of the gala—which this year featured the artwork and costume design of French artist and couturier Erté, who designed and created numerous operatic costumes for Madame Walska during her career—include three "Garden Divas" dressed in original Erté design costumes (made by the talented events committee) posed on the Japanese garden pebble beach, in the aloe garden shell pond, and reigning over

the lotus pond. An array of Erté designs decorated the entryway of the Main House including a life-size cut-out of a woman wearing an Erté costume created by artist Stuart Brandt. Guests enjoyed a spectacular exhibit of hand-painted bronze statues, embossed serigraphs, and watercolor costume designs in the sunken drawing room—made possible by the generous loan of original Erté works of art by Hania Tallmadge, Mary Jane Mori, Ross Barrett, Pamela and David Taylor, and the UCSB Art Museum.

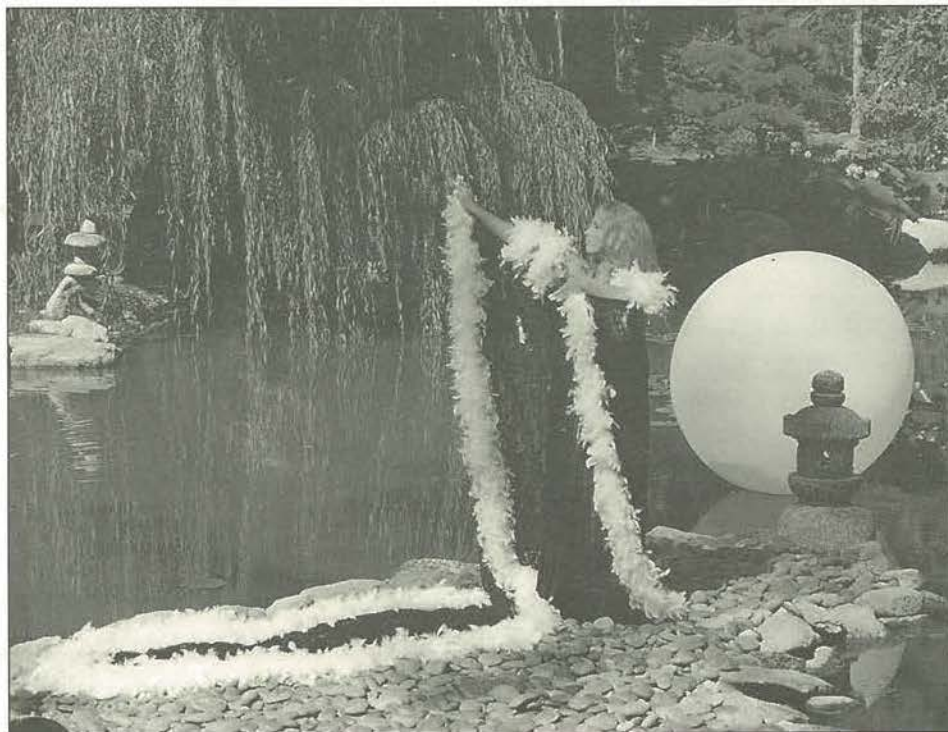
Arias from Rossini's *Il Viaggio à Reims* were performed with great skill and pizzazz in the outdoor theatre by Music Academy of the West students Randall Behr, Randall Jakobsh, Joslin Romphf, Lynnette Tapia, and Miah Im. Director of the Voice Program at the Music Academy and special guest Marilyn Horne said "they were magnificent." The music

portion of the event was underwritten by a generous donation from Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kendall.

President of the Board Carol Valentine thanked committee chair Merryl Brown and decorations dynamo Lori Ann David for their hard work in making the event a success. Following brief remarks by Executive Director Steven Timbrook, guests enjoyed Adriatic seafood soup, chicken scaloppini, and tiramisu served by the Four Seasons Biltmore. A delicious chardonnay was donated by Brander Vineyard.

The creative invitation and program were designed by committee member Kim Hansen; the printing costs were underwritten by Bryant & Sons Jewelry and J&S Graphix.

As a delightful kickoff for *Lotusland Celebrates the Diva*, event donor Nordstrom Paseo Nuevo hosted a fashion show and luncheon for



J.M. EASTMAN

A weather balloon floats on the water behind the Japanese Garden Diva who poses as guests listen to a wind ensemble just across the pebble beach.

Friends of Lotusland on June 27 at its Santa Barbara store.

Special thanks go to the following Patrons of *Lotusland Celebrates the Diva* whose enthusiasm and support ensured the success of Lotusland's primary fund-raising event:

Mr. & Mrs. Stewart L. Abercrombie
 Dr. & Mrs. Albert E. Amorteguy
 Dr. Warren R. Austin
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 Hania P. Tallmadge
 Jeanne C. Thayer
 Carol L. Valentine
 F.B. Vanderhoef, Jr.
 Veloz, Ridley-Tree
 William T. White
 Laura Lee W. Woods
 Mr. & Mrs. William J. Woods
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Zukas

Lotusland is grateful for the following additional donations for the event:

Anonymous
 Ms. Elizabeth T. Atkins
 Mr. Victor K. Atkins, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. David Bonfeld
 Mrs. Lynn Braitman
 Mrs. Louise D. Brant
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Brewer
 Ms. Eunice S. Butler
 Ms. Mary L. Cheadle
 Doris Fienga, Ph.D.
 Mrs. Rowe Giesen
 Dr. & Mrs. George R. Halling
 Ms. Frances D. Larkin
 Mr. Robert M. Light
 Ms. Sandra Karole Peters
 in honor of Merryl Brown
 Mr. & Mrs. John Rex
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W. Riley
 Mrs. George Russell
 Ms. Louisa E. Thielst
 Ms. Robin Grace Warren

Additional thanks go to the following businesses whose generously donated services contributed to the success of the event:

Music Academy of the West
 Four Seasons Biltmore
 Cañon Angelito Nursery
 & Topiary
 Kim Hansen Graphics
 Wm. B. Dewey, Photographer
 Jonathan's Valet Parking
 Pavilions Plus
 Regal Rents
 Resource One
 Au Bon Climat

Wine Bistro
 Renegade Wine

Lotusland Celebrates the Diva was made possible by the extraordinary efforts of the event committee:

Merryl Brown, Chair
 Margo Baker Barbakow
 Sharon Crawford
 Elizabeth Dake
 Lori Ann David
 Anne Dewey, Assistant Director
 Poney Eagleton
 Kim Hansen
 Anne Jones
 Dana Kent
 Karen Kolb
 Jo Ann Lewis
 Katie Martin
 Stanya Owen
 Marjorie Palonen
 Pam Pesenti
 Nancy Salvucci
 Carolene Tacconelli
 Hania Tallmadge
 Carol Valentine
 Nancy Wall

Last, but by no means least, Lotusland would like to thank Margo Baker Barbakow for a very generous grand finale donation that "rounded up" the net profits to a handsome even figure.



Music Academy of the West students and staff (left to right): Randall Behr, Lynette Tapia, Director of the Vocal Program Marilyn Horne, Joslin Romphf, Miah Im, and Randall Jakobsh gather outside the theatre before their performance of arias from Rossini's Il Viaggio à Reims.

Deidre Cantrell, New Executive Assistant

THIS JULY DEIDRE CANTRELL joined the Lotusland staff as Assistant to the Executive Director. Deidre comes to Lotusland after six years at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens where she spent two years as the Education Programs Assistant in the Volunteer and Tours Department and four years as the Administrative Assistant and Office Manager in the Art Division. A native of Los Angeles, Deidre earned her B.A. in Art History at Scripps College and spent a semester studying at the Sorbonne in Paris. She brings a wealth of administrative skills to the position as well as a solid background working in an environment kindred to that of Lotusland.

Although the Huntington and Lotusland share many similarities as estate gardens created by wealthy collectors early in this century,



WM. B. DEWEY

Deidre sees Lotusland as unique in reflecting Madame Walska's dramatic personality. "The gardens are welcoming, weird, and wonderful and possess a whimsy not found at the Huntington," according to Deidre. She finds the change in her focus

from art collections to botanical collections refreshing and is excited to be part of Lotusland's educational mission as it unfolds. To familiarize herself with the flora at Lotusland and the garden's history, she plans to attend fall docent training classes.

As a former dancer who studied and performed ballet for 18 years, Deidre also feels a kinship with Madame Walska the performer and is pleased with Lotusland's affiliation with the local arts community. The garden that most impresses her is Madame Walska's outdoor theatre with its horticultural equivalents to staging, floodlights, and orchestra pit. And it is the theatrical aspect of all of the gardens that she finds most charming.

Lotusland is fortunate to have found such a perfect match for this position.

Lotusland Plans for the Future

FOUR YEARS AGO this month, in September 1993, Lotusland began welcoming visitors to Madame Walska's fascinating garden under the terms of a Conditional Use Permit issued by the County of Santa Barbara. During the first three years the number of visitors was allowed to grow from 5,000 to 9,000 per year. Yet demand to visit Lotusland far exceeds the 9,000 spaces now available each year.

For the better part of a year, Lotusland has been talking with its members, neighbors, and local associations and institutions about ways that more people can enjoy Madame Walska's gardens without compromising the residential character of the neighborhood. There is common agreement that traffic is the only real concern of most people.

In addition to the annual limit on the number of individuals who may visit Lotusland, there is an additional

limitation on the number of vehicles which can bring visitors to the property on any one day, further limiting our ability to meet the community's demand to visit. Depending upon the time of year and whether or not Cold Spring School is in session, those limits are 25, 35, or 40 vehicles per day.

Under the existing visitor vehicle limits, Lotusland could accommodate many more than the current annual limit of 9,000 visitors without impacting neighboring roads. As this newsletter goes to print, we are beginning the process of asking for a revision to the Conditional Use Permit that would allow up to 21,500 visitors (approximately 100 per day) *while maintaining the existing daily limits on vehicles*. We know from four years of operation that the garden can handle 100 visitors per day, with a few occasional larger

groups, without degradation of the grounds or compromising the experience of visiting Lotusland. We are confident that our visitors can and will carpool, as needed, to allow us to effectively operate within the existing daily traffic numbers at the proposed increased number of visitors.

We are hoping that, working cooperatively with our neighbors and the community, we will be successful in demonstrating to the County Planning Commission that Lotusland has and will continue to be a good neighbor and an asset to the community, and that, in turn, the Planning Commission will grant our request and allow the increase in visitors.

If you have any questions, or would like to help us, please call Executive Director Steven Timbrook at 969-3767, ext. 223.



New to the Collections

With VIRGINIA HAYES

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE?

SEVERAL *VRIESEA IMPERIALIS* are putting on a magnificent show in the bromeliad gardens this summer. The majestic rosettes of leaves up to four feet in length are enfolding spectacular floral spires rising another five feet into the air. The branched inflorescence is glossy red, and from between its bracts pale yellow flowers spread their petals and expose long stamens. A copious amount of nectar is held cupped at the base of each flower as reward to the busy hummingbirds that visit. Each individual flower lasts just a day or two and usually only one is open at a time on each branchlet of the stalk, so prospective pollinators have good cause to return again and again. The whole bloom cycle can last from many weeks to several months.

Native to the high cliffs of the Organ Mountains in the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro, *V. imperialis* is found at elevations of about 4,000 feet. Days are warm and sunny but nights are cool, and yearly rainfall of 25 to 35 inches is concentrated in the winter months just as it is in Santa

Barbara. So it is no wonder that it performs so well here.

As with all bromeliads, the onset of flowering precedes the death of the plant. Before its life is ended, however, the "mother plant" produces one to several offsets from



Vriesea imperialis by Gail Lucas.

the base that can be removed and planted. The plants now in bloom at Lotusland had their start in just this manner as they were removed from large specimens when they bloomed many years ago in Madame's garden. If you visit the garden in the next few months you can't fail to notice these regal *Vrieseas*, and bird watchers will probably get the added thrill of seeing a hummingbird on its daily rounds sipping their nectar.

NEW CYCADS FROM AUSTRALIA

LOTUSLAND HAS JUST RECEIVED eight live plants from Australia. As part of a scientific trade arranged through the Australian Nature Conservancy, mature specimens of *Macrozamia dyeri* have been added to the collection. The plants, which were growing on land slated for development, were collected and shipped via air freight from Perth, Western Australia, and arrived June 26th. After being quarantined for several days on-site, they have joined the growing number of cycads in Lotusland's nursery awaiting a place in the garden.



J.M. EASTMAN

Art at Lotusland

Meredith Abbott, pictured working in the parterre, is just one of 39 landscape painters putting brush to palette in preparation for the upcoming fall art auction fundraiser, Art at Lotusland. This exciting art event will be held on Sunday, October 4, at the main house. Invitations will be sent to all members in early fall.

New Santa Barbara Gardens

Twenty-four Lotusland members spent the day visiting seven new gardens created by Santa Barbara landscape designers Owen Dell, Jim Melnik, and Erik Nagelmann. The gardens, located from Fernald Point to Romero Canyon, showcased a range of styles from desert and drought-tolerant plantings to dramatic, lush, and flower-filled spaces. Pictured at right are members enjoying a garden designed by Erik Nagelmann.



VIRGINIA HAYES

Horticultural Happenings

With MIKE IVEN

FRANK FUJII: THIRTY YEARS AND COUNTING



He then operated his own landscape gardening business until the Second World War broke out, at which time he and his family were sent to an internment camp in Arizona for three years. After the war he returned to Santa Barbara and found a job on the Kemper Williams estate, where he remained for over 40 years. In the early 1950s he got his contractor's license and built a few Japanese gardens in the area, among them the Buddhist church on Montecito Street.

In his capacity as a landscape contractor, Fujii met stonemason Oswald da Ros, who worked on many of Santa Barbara's fine estates, including Lotusland. When Madame Walska turned to da Ros to help her build her Japanese garden in 1967, da Ros called upon Fujii for his expertise. The three worked together, without a formal plan, on building a Japanese style garden with a waterfall, island, stone bridge, statuary, and landscape materials where there had formerly been a large, lotus-filled pond amid pines—once a reservoir built by Kinton Stevens. Fujii and da Ros traveled far and wide to bring in the many large stone boulders featured in the garden. They even utilized stones from another estate that Fujii's father had set while working with da Ros' father on the building of a Japanese garden there some years earlier.

Both had to make compromises in their ideas based on Madame Walska's preferences. Fujii's insistence that simplicity be the basic element in the design checked her tendency toward horticultural ostentation. According to him, "It gives you a feeling when you walk through the garden...of serenity, quietness. Makes you feel you want to meditate." Thanks to his input, the garden is set off from all the others by this distinct meditative quality.

With Fujii working alongside

Madame Walska and da Ros when he could—in the morning before his other jobs, then at noon, and after work to talk with da Ros about what needed to be done next—they managed to build a Japanese garden. Despite the lack of a formal plan, Fujii feels that they created something nice. He was concerned for many years, however, that the garden was not finished by the time Madame Walska moved on to her next project. Many years later, after her death in 1984, he was pleased that the Foundation brought in landscape architect Koichi Kawana to add a few finishing touches to her garden, such as a wisteria arbor and shinto shrine. Fujii would like to complete the design of the garden by creating inlets to break up one's view of the pond and by providing stepping stone paths to the koi feeding area and lotus. Perhaps then, he feels, the garden would be finished.

Fujii has been an active member of the Santa Barbara Horticultural Society for more than 40 years and participated in flower shows at Earl Warren Showgrounds in the 1960s. One year he created a 700-square-foot Japanese exhibit using stones from da Ros and plant material from several nurseries. Today, at age 80, he works four days a week alongside gardener Terri Clay, whom he has taught the art of pruning over the past 11 years. He is a vital member of the grounds crew, endeavoring to maintain the simplicity he worked so hard to instill in the garden 30 years ago.

SUMMER INTERN

LOTUSLAND'S GROUNDS MAINTENANCE summer internship program provides practical experience to a student currently enrolled or recently graduated from an accredited horticulture program. Since it was initiated in the

THIS FALL, LOTUSLAND grounds staff member Frank Fujii marks his 25th year as a Lotusland employee and 30 years of affiliation with the estate. Hired by Madame Walska as an independent contractor to help build her Japanese garden in 1967, Fujii became a regular employee in 1972, and has worked here ever since.

Fujii is the son of Japanese parents who settled in Salt Lake City in 1917, the year he was born. His father operated an import-export business, eventually moving the family to Los Angeles where he did Japanese landscape design and construction. The family then relocated to Santa Barbara, where they raised bulbs and flowers, switching to vegetables after the stock market crash of 1929.

Attending Santa Barbara State College, Fujii took courses in botany, horticulture, and landscaping in order to get started as a gardener and landscaper. There he studied with renowned nurseryman Peter Reidel.



late 1980s, students from schools as diverse as Santa Barbara City College, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cornell University, North Carolina State, Montana State, UC Davis, and Texas A&M have participated in the annual 10-week program.

This year's intern, Eric Martin, a senior environmental horticulture science student at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, was selected from among

numerous nationwide applicants. Eric grew up in the Sacramento–Grass Valley area of California. He managed a restaurant for several years and worked in the construction trade before deciding to pursue a career in horticulture. In addition to classroom studies, Eric works at the Leaning Pine Arboretum on campus and performs general landscape, tool, and equipment maintenance at the environmental horticulture unit at Cal Poly. Eric and his Cal Poly student teammates won the national 1997 Associated Landscape Contractors of America competition held in Texas. Participating in three out of 20 events, he earned first place in Maintenance Equipment Operation and Patio Construction, and fourth place in Landscape Irrigation Design.

After being encouraged to apply for the Lotusland internship by fellow student Mike Souza—last summer's student intern—and Professor Tom

Elzroth from Cal Poly, Eric arrived in the middle of June and became an instant and valuable participant in the flurry of grounds maintenance activity that takes place every summer before the annual fund-raising party, *Lotusland Celebrates*, held in July. Following the event, he worked with various members of the grounds staff throughout the garden, gaining special skills and knowledge unique to the maintenance and cultural care of individual display areas and plant collections.

Following graduation from Cal Poly, Eric plans to work toward attaining his landscape contractor's license. He would like to specialize in the design and installation of natural looking ponds, pools, and other landscape water features. Lotusland staff thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with Eric this past summer and wish him great success in his future endeavors.

Deadly Duo Destroys Pines

By JOHN LAFLEUR

THE DUAL THREAT of pine pitch canker and a pair of pine bark beetles have taken a great toll on Lotusland's pines. Many of the majestic trees that have graced the skyline of the Japanese and shade gardens for so many years are declining and dying despite efforts to save them.

Pine pitch canker is a disease that has been devastating stands of native pines along coastal California. Alas, there is no treatment for this fungal disease, which weakens trees and leaves them susceptible to attack from another enemy—pine bark beetles.

The red turpentine beetle (*Dendroctonus valens*, right)

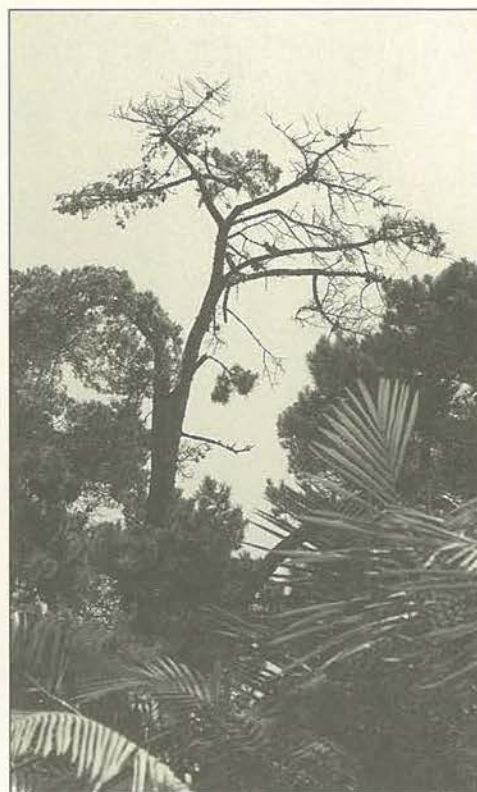
bores into the lower trunk of the pine while the California five-spined ips beetle (*Ips paraconfusus*, above left)



attacks the pine from the top. While Monterey pines are the beetles' preferred host, the latest victim of this deadly duo at Lotusland has been a

Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*), the top third of which has been killed (see photo).

The only course of action to fight these problems has been to prune, remove terminally affected trees, and work to maintain and improve the health and vigor of remaining trees. After consultation with entomologists at U.C. Riverside and elsewhere, the prognosis looks grim for Lotusland's pines. It will be many years before younger and recently planted replacement trees will fill the void left by the demise of these once majestic pines.



Cacti a La Carte

By PAUL MILLS

ONE OF MY MANY realizations after attending the 27th Biennial Convention of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) was that the succulent plant collections of Lotusland must be considered some of the finest in the world. The name Lotusland alone evokes a sense of awe among the most seasoned succulent enthusiasts and botanists alike.

This year's convention was held the first week of July in San Diego with four days of presentations and one day set aside for field trips. The presentations were directed toward both hobbyists and professionals focusing on cultivation and propagation, field research, and the latest discoveries from around the world.

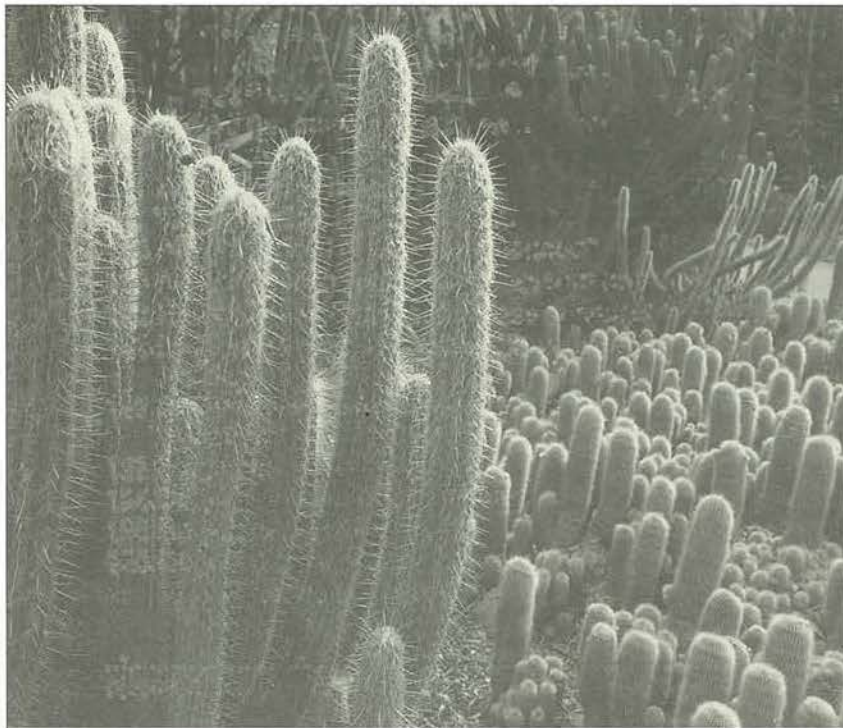
Some of the more noteworthy presentations were by Steven McCabe, Curator, UCSC Arboretum, who spoke of *Dudleya*, California's native succulent, including the many endemics of the Channel Islands; Prof. James Mauseth, University of Texas at Austin, discussing the

morphological evolution of the cacti—why they are built the way they are and how they got that way—with many South American cacti used as examples; Tony Miller, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, who discussed some findings from multiple trips to the Isles of Socotra and Abdel Kuri, off the horn of Africa, which are easily one of the most incredible succulent habitats in the world with very high rates of endemism; Ted Anderson, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, who opened with a presentation on the unique cactus flora of the Galapagos Islands and closed with a reflection on 40 years of cactus research in Mexico, including some conclusions from a three-year CITES-funded study of more than 20 taxa of Mexican cacti; Myron Kimnach, Editor of the *CSSA Journal*, who talked of epiphytic cacti; and Gerald Barad, who discussed the pollination mechanisms of stapeliads. Larry Mitich, President of CSSA, talked

of the “movers and shakers” of the succulent world—those who have promoted the appreciation and study of succulents in some notable fashion. Many people were named, from botanists of the 18th century to more contemporary individuals such as our very own Madame Ganna Walska.

Wednesday was set aside for field trips, of which I chose the Baja trip. After an uneventful bus ride, we found ourselves running around a hillside near La Bufadora, south of Ensenada. It was a nice spot with three species of *Dudleya*, *Agave shawii*, one species each of *Ferocactus*, *Echinocereus*, and *Mammillaria*, *Bergerocactus emoryi*, and some opuntias. Many of the participants from the east coast or Europe were thrilled to see real-live succulents in their native habitat.

The convention was an excellent opportunity to interact with and learn from those who are shaping the world of cacti and succulents.



WM. B. DEWEY

Lotusland's fine collection of rare and exotic cacti has been known to evoke a sense of awe among the most seasoned succulent enthusiasts and botanists alike.

In Memoriam

LOTUSLAND ARCHIVAL VOLUNTEER Robert Hetzron passed away in August. A native of Hungary, Robert was a retired scholar of Afro-Asiatic linguistics, a lover of Classical music, and an ardent nature lover.

Robert had worked for two years translating correspondence in the archives of Madame Walska from French and Russian to English and was a regular participant in monthly volunteer programs and outings. His soft-spoken presence will be missed.



Volunteers Celebrated

VOLUNTEERS WERE HONORED this June when Lotusland held its second annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic to thank them for their hard work and long-term service on behalf of the garden. All volunteers were celebrated, with special recognition given to those who had completed 10 years of volunteering and those who had completed special projects over the past year. A catered lunch, served under the giant oak tree on the upper lawn, was followed by the award of door prizes, many of them garden ornaments donated by Cloverleaf Stone Guild of Ventura.

Lotusland would like to thank past and current volunteers for their contribution to the operation of the garden. They are:

Pauline Adam
Margo Barbakow
Hampton Bell
Danyel benShea
Nora & David Berklich
Gay Bodick
John Boyer
Stuart Brandt
Laura Brewer
Adi Brewer
June Bristow
Merryl Brown
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Janean Doan
Poney Eagleton
Christine Ellis
Robert Emmons
Doris Fienga
Donald/Suzanne Fine

Carolyn Fleg
Grace Florez
Kathleen Foote
Lee & Bud Francis
Brenda Freeman
Virginia T. Gardner
Arthur R. Gaudi
Rosanne K. Germain
Sherry Gilson
Anna Griffin
Dee Gronbeck
Cheryl Guthrie
Joan Haber
Keyko T. Hall
Valerie Halverson
Colin Hammond
Marlena Handler
Kim Hansen
Patricia R. Harris
Bonnie Hayden
Robert Hetzron
Nancy Huebner
Janet Hunter
Sean Hutchinson
Kyle Irwin
Phil R. Jackson
Patricia Harris Johnston
Anne Jones
Beth Jones
Fred Keller
Marge Kelly
Dana Kent
Cherif Khoury
Jo Ann Kirby



JOHN LAFLUR

Volunteers Karen Kolb, Poney Eagleton, and JoAnn Lewis show off the door prizes they won at this year's Volunteer Recognition Picnic.

Lynn Kirby
Kathe Klock
Karen Kolb
Mona L'Oranger
Sonja Lane
JoAnn Lewis
Maude H. Lowry
Dorothy Marking
Marcelle M. Martin
Katie Martin
Malcolm McCabe
JoAnn Mermis
Joan Mezner
Chantal Murphy
Maureen Murphy
Annette Myck
Lee Neill
Lori Niquette
Kirsten Olson
Dorothy Openshaw
Margo Osherenko
Stanya Owen
Joyce Painter
Marjorie & Craig Palonen
Daniel Pedersen
Maija-Liisa Pekkanen
Pam Pesenti
David Potter
Jennifer Powell
Dave Prowell
Bob & Ginger Puddicombe
Jane Kimball Quesada

Richard Riffero
Roxanne Ross
Ted Ross
Nancy Salvucci
Veloyce Schmidt
Cassandra Schneider
Sandy Schneider
Jim Scorso
Hilda Seibert
Helen Service
Mary Sheldon
Alice Sheldon
Martha Shiffman
Sharon Slade
Jennifer Stafford
Jean Stevenson
Terri Taber
Carolene Tacconelli
Hania Tallmadge
Judy Thielscher
Mary Thieme
Michael Towbes
Carol Valentine
Teresa Van Wingerden
Jo Wagner
Nancy Wall
Dorothy Warnock
Bill White
Diana Wilk
Nancy D. Wilkinson
Adele Wojciechowski
Robert Wolff
Joyce Ziman

In Memoriam



WM. T. DEWEY

DEDICATED DOCENT and Lotusland friend William T. White died on Saturday, June 21, after a lengthy illness. Bill participated in the 1995 docent training and had been leading tours most enthusiastically since then. For the past two years he has been a patron of *Lotusland Celebrates*. An avid gardener and a warm and generous man, he will be missed by all of his Lotusland family.

Art in Full Bloom

CURATOR VIRGINIA HAYES and several Lotusland volunteers participated in the Santa Barbara Museum of Art's *Art in Full Bloom* July 12 and 13.

Docents John Boyer, Lori Ann David, Valerie Halverson, and Dana Kent all created floral displays for

the three-day event, as did Board members Anne Jones and Stanya Owen. Lotusland is proud that so many of its affiliates return each year to contribute their creative efforts to this merging of art and horticulture.



Lotusland docent John Boyer works on his arrangement of lilies and barbed wire at SBMA's *Art in Full Bloom*.

NELL SPBELL

Help Us Train Docents This Fall

MERICOS FOUNDATION AWARDS DOCENT TRAINING GRANT

THE MERICOS FOUNDATION of Pasadena has approved a \$7,900 challenge grant to cover the expenses of Lotusland's 1997 Fall Docent Training, which begins this month. The Mericos Foundation will award \$5,000 if Lotusland raises a matching \$2,900 for the project.

Lotusland staff and professionals from the community will come together to teach 35 to 50 men and women about the botany and horticulture of the plant collections as well as the history of the estate. Trainees will attend 14 Monday morning classes, conduct practice

tours, and pass an evaluation in order to successfully complete the training course. Graduates will then join Lotusland's experienced docents in leading tours and interpreting the garden to visitors to fulfill their two-year commitment to the garden.

The grant will cover the cost of equipment needed for the training as well as travel expenses of speakers from out of town. Your contribution for docent training will help Lotusland meet this challenge. Please contact Assistant Director Anne Dewey at (805) 969-3767, ext. 225, for more information.

New Volunteers

David and Nora Berklich
*grounds maintenance
and special events*

George Burtness
*grounds maintenance
and special events*

Christine Ellis
grounds maintenance and library

Marianne Kelly
hospitality

Mary Perry
grounds maintenance

Sharon Wheeler
office

Lotusland Remembered

LOTUSLAND RECENTLY RECEIVED a bequest of \$750,000 from the late Edward P. Noll, a Santa Barbara resident who was very generous in his support of local institutions.

In his will, Mr. Noll stipulated that one-quarter of the residue of his estate be given to Lotusland. He placed no restrictions upon how his gift may be used to further Lotusland's mission to preserve Madame Walska's garden and make people aware of the importance of gardens and plants in their daily life.

Bequests to Lotusland show the value donors place upon this important responsibility, and the confidence they have in Lotusland's ability to carry it out.

If you have made a bequest to Lotusland, or are considering one, we would be very interested in knowing about your plans in order to ensure that the vision your gift represents is realized. Executive Director Steven Timbrook or Assistant Director Anne Dewey would be pleased to talk with you about the many opportunities that bequests can turn into realities.



J.M. EASTMAN

As a delightful kickoff for Lotusland Celebrates the Diva, event donor Nordstrom Paseo Nuevo hosted a fashion show and luncheon for Friends of Lotusland on June 27 at its Santa Barbara store. See pages 4 and 5 for a full description of the event.

Statuary Inventory Completed

IN JUNE, VOLUNTEERS Bud and Lee Francis completed the first draft of a comprehensive inventory of all Lotusland's statuary and stonework. Cataloguing the collection of more than 200 pieces was a long process in which the Francises photographed and described each piece over several months. The next step will be to conduct a conservation survey in order to determine how to preserve and maintain the many ornaments that the Gavit family and Madame Walska collected and placed in the garden over the past 80 years. Lotusland is grateful to the Francises for their hard work, perseverance and patience in completing this extensive project.



J.M. EASTMAN

Restored Wall Dedicated



J.M. EASTMAN

On June 26 Lotusland unveiled a bronze plaque placed just inside the Sycamore Canyon gate honoring and thanking all those who helped the garden meet a challenge grant given by the Harold Simmons Foundation. Many of the contributors were on hand for the wall dedication, including Mr. and Mrs. Harold Simmons, pictured above with Board Vice President Anne Jones as Dr. Steven Timbrook, Executive Director, unveils the plaque.



Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in May, June, July 1997

LEVEL I

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Abbott
Ms. Frances M. Adams
Ms. Susi Alexander
Mr. Robert Anderson
 & Ms. Rose Marie Voelker
Mrs. Roby Anderson
Dallas Atkins
 & Stuart Eiseman
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Barnes
Ms. Faith D. Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Auggie Boyd
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Brander
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Bregante
Ms. Peggy Buchanan
Heda Carpenter, M.D.
 & Mr. Robert W. Carpenter
Ms. Annette Felder Carrel
Ms. Linda Cathcart
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Cathcart
Ms. Corinna Cotsen
Mr. Gordon Cowan
 & Mr. Dwight Spiers
Mr. Ben Damen
Ms. Jane De Young
Ms. Sarah Degasis
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Deise
Mr. Ronald L. Dier
Mr. Willis H. Durst, Jr.
Ms. Beth Edwards
Ms. Muriel Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Fanaro
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Ferguson
Ms. Suzanne Kim Fetter
Ms. Gail Feuerstein
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Foster
Ms. Corby Gage
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Gasen
Ms. Anne Gleason
Shirlee Gomer, Ph.D.
 & Ms. Marge Adinoff
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Grat
Ms. Martha A. Gray
Ms. Lauren A. Halston
Mr. & Mrs. Peter L. Harvie
Mrs. John Holmes
Ms. Dolores Johnson
Ms. Jennifer Kaller

Dale Karr
Ms. Kathy M. Kemp
Ms. Jane LaFazio
 & Mr. Don Strom
Ms. Nancy Larman
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Laskin
Ms. Cynthia D. Lee
Ms. Laurie Levesque
Mr. & Mrs. Mark David Levine
Ms. Melinda Lewis-Matravers
Mr. Byron E. Lippert
Mrs. Arthur J. Loose
Ms. Kay Marcum
Ms. Bette Marshowsky
Mr. Walt Matthews
Mr. & Mrs. Mike McClellan
Ms. Stephanie A. McHugh
Ms. Linda McKendry
Ms. Marilyn Mead
 & Mr. Jack Morley
Mr. Douglas M. Moreland
Mr. Tom Mortimer
Ms. Sally Nazerian
Ms. Marilyn H. Neal
Ms. Florence Nulsen
Ms. Claudia Ogan
Ms. Kim Pananides
Ms. Judy Paulino
 & Mr. Craig Sorensen
Ms. Marsha M. Pellar
Mr. & Mrs. Albert W. Peterson
Ms. Carol A. Phungrasamee
Ms. Patricia A. Radcliffe
Mr. John Retsek
Ms. Nanci Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ryavec
Ms. Norma J. Seager
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Sharp
Ms. Bobbie Sonner
Ms. Karen Sterling
Ms. Marge Stone
Ms. Judy Stutz
Ms. Kathleen L. Taylor
Ms. Deanne E. Vandernoot
Mr. Jeri Waite & Mr. Art Carlson
Ms. Susan Walker
Terry Way
Mr. Chris Wilson
Dilling Yang

LEVEL II

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Aberle
Ms. Shanny Baughman
 & Mr. Bill Olson
Dr. & Mrs. Robert K. Baum
Ms. Cathleen Bingham
 & Ms. Barbara McClintock
Mr. & Mrs. William Brummett
Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. Bush
Mrs. John M. Case
Ms. Monica Crawford
Ms. Lindse L. Davis
Ms. Carolyn E. Ferguson
Mr. Gino Genoa
Marjorie Gies, M.D.
Ms. Hallie Goodall
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Gordon
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Handler
Mr. Richard W. Hartlage
Ms. Karen Homan
Ms. Barbara D. Ingram
Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Kennelly
Mr. Rodger H. Kroell
Ms. Mia Lehrer
Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Maino
Ms. Lisa Markham
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Monda
Ms. Mari Jane Mori
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Nelson
Mrs. Marjorie M. Nelson
Ms. Tracy Pakzad
Ms. Karen Payatt
Ms. Sally Pearlstein
Dr. & Mrs. John H. Platt
Mr. & Mrs. David Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Theilmann
Ms. Donna Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Tretiakoff
Dr. & Mrs. John H. K. Vogel
Mr. Stephan J. Weeks
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart R. Winthrop

LEVEL III

Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Fetter
J. & C. Lloyd

LEVEL IV

Mr. Anthony Fama
Mr. David H. Murdock

Early Santa Barbara Plantsmen WITH GAIL JANSEN AND VIRGINIA HAYES

Check one:

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

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Number attending _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Expiration date _____ Card number _____

Member name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

*Fees are refundable only if cancelled one week before classes meet.
 If minimum enrollment is not reached, classes 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 May, June, July 1997

LEVEL II

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Burgess
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Bushong
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Clough
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Daily
 Ms. Shell Forman
 Ms. Beverley Jackson
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Rutledge

LEVEL III

Ms. Deborah Boyar
 Ms. Kathleen Palmer
 Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Pollock
 Mr. & Mrs. John Waugh

LEVEL IV

Jeffrey & Margo Baker
 Barbakow
 Ms. Mary Glyde Barbey
 Mr. & Mrs. Lue D. Cramblit
 Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Kendall
 Ms. Thelma Sinrod

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations May, June, July 1997

MISCELLANEOUS

Channel Islands Chapter
 of the California Association
 of Nurserymen
 Ms. Valerie Halverson
 MacFarlane, Faletti & Co.
 Mr. Paul L. Nash
 Ms. Blossom Marks Norman
 Mr. Verne L. Oliver
 Mr. & Mrs. William J. Underwood, Jr.
 Western Farm Service
 Mrs. Virginia H. Williams

MEMORIALS

Mrs. Genevieve di San Faustino
 in memory of her mother
 Genevieve Bothin Lyman de Limur

DOCENT APPRECIATION

Ms. Ethel J. MacIntire
 in honor of Margo Osherenko

FURNISHINGS, ART, & CLOTHING

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Gardner
 Ms. Murielle Latourette

GRANTS

The Lilybelle Foundation
 Mericos Foundation

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Mrs. Rowe Giesen

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Jones

Lotusland Celebrates donations are
 listed on pages 4 and 5.



An Erté bronze figure, one of several on display at the Lotusland Celebrates exhibit featuring loaned works of the French artist and couturier (see page 4 for details).

Gianna Walska Lotusland Foundation

695 Ashley Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

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Continued from page 3

mass of lantana in full bloom, which so impressed him that he decided to settle here. In addition to continuing the work of Dr. Franceschi, Orpet established a nursery on State Street that became a Mecca for plant enthusiasts all over the world. He created a mail order business for the per-simmons he grew on his six-acre Riviera property (now Orpet Park) and was appointed Superintendent of Parks in 1939.

Orpet imported many varieties of aloe that have since been used extensively in parkways and intersection plantings in Santa Barbara. His name became synonymous with all that is fine in the world of horticulture. Orpet is responsible for planting the palms along Cabrillo Boulevard and the island in the

Andrée Clark Bird Refuge, olives along Olive Street, cork oaks on Samarkand Heights, and Guadalupe palms on upper State Street.

To learn more about the life and times of these and other early Santa Barbara nurserymen and the horticultural history of many of the plants they introduced, please sign up for the November 14 & 15 member class on page 15, co-led by historian Gail Jansen and Curator Virginia Hayes; or see the exhibit in the Upper Village on Montecito Beautification Day Saturday, November 1.

By Janet Eastman and Brenda Freeman

Source: *Padilla, Victoria*. Southern California Gardening. Santa Barbara: Allen A. Knoll, Publishers, 1994.

All photos courtesy of the Santa Barbara Historical Society.



Joseph Sexton maintained a flower and retail store in downtown Santa Barbara from 1885-1895 in addition to his nursery and mail order business (see pages 1 and 2 for details).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

September 8

Docent training begins (see related article on page 12)

September 14

Camera Pacifica at Lotusland in the outdoor theatre

October 4

Art at Lotusland auction and sticker sale (see page 7)

October 8-11

AABGA Pacific Region meeting

November 1

Exhibit on Pioneering Plantsmen of Santa Barbara in the Upper Village on Montecito Beautification Day

November 14-15

Pioneering Plantsmen of Santa Barbara class for members (see registration form on page 15)

November 15

Last day of public tours