# NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS W VOLUME 6 NO. 2 W SUMMER 1997

## Water Lilies: Lotusland's Exotic Aquatics

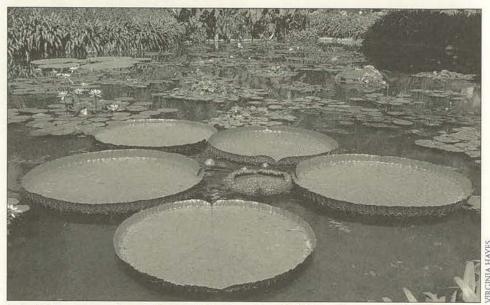
By VIRGINIA HAYES

WHEN YOU MENTION water gardens or ponds, an image of the most often planted aquatic plant—the water lily (Nymphaea species)—usually comes to mind. No illustration of a fictional pond is complete without a few lily pads floating on the surface (usually with a frog sitting on one) accompanied by the perfect symmetry of a water lily flower or two. Less well-known than Nymphaea are Nuphar, Euryale, and Victoria. All four genera are grown at Lotusland and displayed in the main water garden.

Nuphar, or Spatterdock, species are distributed throughout the temperate world. The hardy rhizomes can be found in lakes at elevations over 10,000 feet as well as freshwater ponds at sea level. Eurvale (one species) and Victoria (two species) grow in the tropics. Euryale ferox is native to China and southeast Asia. while both Victoria amazonica and V. cruziana are from South America. All three species produce large leaves that are covered with prickles. The common name of Euryale is Gorgon Lily and the genus Victoria is, of course, named for Queen Victoria. who reigned over Great Britain in 1837 when the giant water lily was discovered and named.

## NYMPHAEAS ARE EVERYWHERE

THE LARGEST GROUP of water lilies—at Lotusland and in their native ranges—is the genus *Nymphaea*. Worldwide there are about 50 species, and hundreds of cultivars have been



Lotusland's water garden displays both hardy and tropical Nymphaea as well as specimens of Victoria (pictured above), Euryale, and Nuphar.

created by horticulturists. They can be subdivided into two types: hardy or tropical. Hardies are found on every major continent in temperate zones. Tropicals also circle the globe closer to the equator.

Hardy types grow from horizontal rhizomes that creep across the muddy bottom of the pond or planter. They produce side shoots that can be removed and potted and that are usually large enough to flower in their first season. Tropicals grow from corms, types of bulbs similar to onion or tulip bulbs. They produce small cormlets from the crown that also can be removed and potted separately. These juvenile plants may bloom the first season, if the warm

WATER LILIES continued on page 2

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Nymphaea cv. Albert Greenberg has serrated leaves and brilliant flowers held high above the surface of the water typical of tropical water lilies.

WATER LILIES continued from page 1 weather lasts long enough, or the cormlets may be left on the mother plant until the end of the season and held over winter in damp sand in a cool place.

## HARDIES IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

IN THE COASTAL AREAS of Southern California, hardy water lilies begin

their spring growth in February, and the first blossoms appear in early March. As soon as growth is observed, they are removed and divided and once again placed in the pond. Blooming continues through the spring, summer, and early autumn. In October, when the nights begin to cool, hardy water lilies will stop blooming and put out smaller leaves, usually retreating to a rosette of inchsized leaves just above the water lily

crown. The dormant plants are left in place in the ponds through the winter months.

Hardy water lily species and hybrids come in most of the colors of the rainbow, although they tend toward the pastel instead of the vibrant. White, yellow, pink, and red flowers can be found in sizes and shapes from the tiny and starry to the robust and double-flowered. There is even a group of flowers known as "changeable" whose blossoms open in pale shades of yellow or orange and age to coppery orange and red.

## TROPICALS ARE TRULY ELECTRIC

Tropical water lilies will not begin to grow until late May or early June, when the night water temperature nears 70 degrees. They grow very rapidly, blooming in the first month, increasing in size and number of blossoms until October. They can even bloom at Christmas, given a mild autumn. Then they usually become totally dormant, and no leaves are seen until the following spring. At Lotusland, the plants are moved to a heated tank for the

WATER LILIES continued on page 12



Hardy water lily blossoms of Nymphaea cv. Baby Red float amid smooth, glossy leaves.



## Horticultural Happenings

With MIKE IVEN

#### CACTUS RENOVATION PROJECT

AN EXTENSIVE THREE-MONTH renovation of the cactus planting beds along the main drive and in front of the main house began on the first of April. An observed decline in the appearance of many individual plants in the collection over the past several years, the increased loss of plants to root rot, and the deterioration of soil conditions in the growing beds precipitated the renovation. Lotusland staff reviewed records and observations during the renovation planning stages. After staff discussions and consultations with succulent plant specialists, University of California Extension farm advisors, plant pathologists, and other colleagues, a comprehensive plan to improve growing conditions for the cactus collection was approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

The cactus garden was last renovated more than 20 years ago by Charlie Glass and Bob Foster. At that time topsoil, sand, organic

amendments, and landscape rocks were used to create the planting beds. The cactus garden flourished for many years. However, as organic amendments broke down, and individual plants and their root systems grew, soil conditions changed. The soil stayed very wet for long periods after winter rains, thereby creating conditions ideal for Fusarium root rots. When the soil finally dried, a hydrophobic condition existed, making it difficult to water and provide nutrients. Most components of the 1997 renovation plan are intended to improve and maintain better soil conditions for the cactus collection.

The removal of all olive trees (Olea europa) and the lava rock top dressing might be the most noticeable changes in the appearance of the cactus garden. The trees have grown tremendously over the past 20 years and provided too much shade to the cactus under their canopy. Leaf litter contributed to rot, and olive tree roots competed with the cacti. Additionally, the thick layer of 3/4" red cinders and black lava rock



Olive tree removal along the main drive.

used as top dressing insulated the soil surface from heat and kept it from drying out during wetter, cooler times of the year, thereby slowing the desirable wet/dry cycle during the growing season. After removal of the olive trees and lava rock, a subsurface drainage system was installed throughout the main drive planting bed.

The basic design of the cactus plantings, including the placement of different species and combinations thereof, remains the same. Some recontouring of the raised-bed planting areas to improve surface drainage and general thinning of plants throughout the cactus garden have improved cultural conditions. Paul Mills, Lotusland staff gardener responsible for the cactus and succulent gardens, is the project manager for the renovation and directs the efforts of two temporary helpers and other staff. Records of maintenance practices and observations kept by John Lafleur, Assistant Grounds Superintendent and Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, have contributed greatly to the development of the renovation plan.



Paul Mills and Chris Holland work hard at installing a new irrigation line in the cactus beds currently undergoing renovation along the main drive.

June 10



## Rare Aloe Blooms

RELOCATION, AMENDED SOIL, and sunny weather have allowed one of Lotusland's rarest aloes to bloom for the first time. Look for Aloe buhrii on the east bank of the aloe garden, just above the shell pond where all six plants are blooming. Native to the low-rainfall area of South Africa's Northern Cape Province, this aloe is easily recognized by its narrow, upright, yellowish-green leaves and an inflorescence divided into several small racemes. The scientific name commemorates Elias Buhr, a farmer from the Nieuwoudtville district who first collected the species, which is regarded as rare due to its small world population. The A. buhrii should flower through June.



## A Fresh Look at Gardening SANTA BARBARA STYLE

FOR MEMBERS ONLY! You are invited to join Lotusland Curator Virginia Hayes for a visit to a few of Santa Barbara's newest gardens. This inaugural garden tour will feature landscapes by several designers —all dedicated plantsmen whose work reflects a devotion to using the immense variety of plants that our unique climate supports. These eclectic, exciting gardens will inspire and delight. Space is limited to ensure a memorable day filled with flowers, a catered picnic at Lotusland, and a chance to converse with the creators.

When: Saturday, June 28, from 9:15 AM to 4:30 PM. Cost: \$60.00 per person-includes a picnic lunch at Lotusland and coach transportation. To register, please use the coupon on page 11.

## Collections Update: Mini-Conservatory for Tender Cycads By VIRGINIA HAYES

NESTLED IN A CORNER of the succulent garden is a unique structure variously referred to as the Round House or the Round Greenhouse. Its actual shape is sixteen-sided with a pitched roof. Atop the small cupola that serves to vent the greenhouse is one of the remaining glass gazing globes that formerly dotted some of Madame Walska's garden beds.

Until this year, the Round House held a group of orchid plants, most of which had long since lost their identifying tags and many of which were no longer in good health or vigor. After weeding through the pots and discarding diseased plants, some of the more handsome, blooming specimens were sold in the garden shop. A few others remain and rotate out into the garden when they are at their peak bloom.

The latest use for this greenhouse, built sometime in the 1960s, is as a permanent home to several species of cycads of tropical origin. These cycads are either too tender to withstand our cold temperatures or simply do so much better with a little more warmth that they cannot be planted out into the cycad garden beds. Specimens of Zamia fairchildiana, Z. floridana, and two mature Zamia species from Mexico that are yet to be described and named are several of the largest plants. Also housed there is a specimen of the rare, monotypic Microcycas calocoma from Cuba.

Lotusland may never be able to grow many of the most tropical species that are being collected from Asia and Mexico, but these representative plants serve to remind us ofall the diverse habitats in which cycads grow.



## Ganna Walska's Legacy Featured by Smithsonian

A GLOWING COLOR PHOTOGRAPH of the sacred Indian Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) by Wm. B. Dewey shone on the cover of the March 1997 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine, inviting readers to discover "a garden of strange delights" within. The monthly publication of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.—with a circulation of 200,000 worldwide—featured an article on Lotusland and its creator, Ganna Walska, who "pursued life with a passion, from husbands to opera to plants."

Photographs by Dewey and

Robert Glenn Ketchum accompanied the eight-page story by Edwin Keister Jr., which gives a lively account of Ganna Walska's life and endeavors at garden design, drawing repeated parallels between her penchant for the exotic and dramatic in both her personal life and her horticultural pursuits. The writer made ample use of the Lotusland archives, Madame Walska's memoirs, and interviews with those who knew her.

Lotusland is proud to be featured in such a well-respected and widelydistributed publication and has received considerable interest in the garden from readers since its publication. The issue may be viewed electronically at http://www.smithsonianmag.si.edu or reprints of the article may be obtained by contacting Anne Dewey, Assistant Director, at (805) 969-3767 ext. 225.

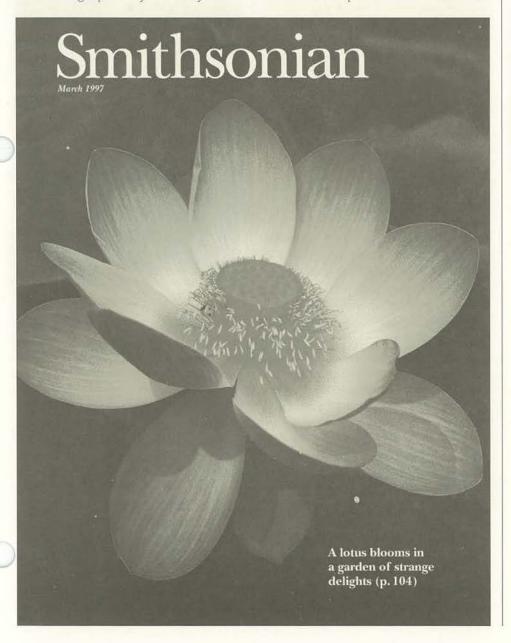
## Virginia Hayes Steps Out



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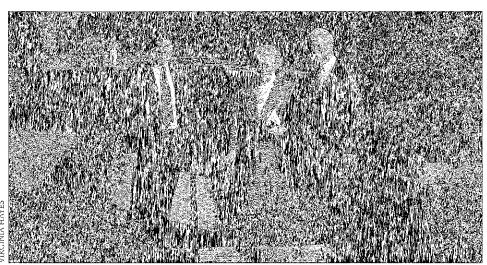
LOTUSLAND CURATOR VIRGINIA HAYES. pictured with Roger Milliken, CEO of Milliken & Co., and Barbara Seeber of the National Geographic Society, participated in a gathering of the world's top botanists in South Carolina this past April. More than 40 people representing some of the world's most renowned botanical gardens and environmental organizations gathered at Milliken Research and Customer Center at a three-day conference that explored ways for botany, horticulture, and computer technology to come together for the good of the environment.

Ms. Hayes also taught an introductory class on water gardening, which is her area of expertise, at the second Home Gardening Symposium held at Ventura College on April 12. Speakers at the day-long symposium, which included a trade show and plant sale, covered 26 different topics, among them California natives, shade gardening, insect and disease control, propagation, and flower photography.





## Educational Events at the Garden

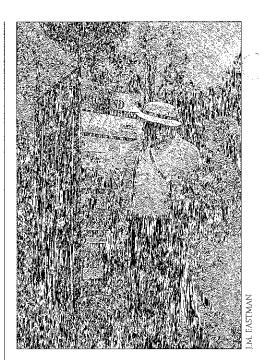


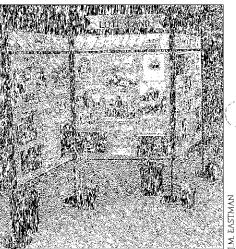
Dr. Peter Raven (at right) in the garden with Executive Director Steven Timbrook and Mrs. John Pritzlaff, Dr. Raven's host while he was in Santa Barbara.

THREE EMINENT EDUCATORS enlightened Lotusland volunteers and members this spring when they spoke at the garden on their respective areas of expertise. One of the world's leading botanists and Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, Dr. Peter H. Raven, spoke on The Role of Botanic Gardens in Preserving Biodiversity to a group of 50 members of Friends of Lotusland on February 28. His powerful message clearly outlined the disproportionate use of global resources and the responsibility humans share to reverse the recent rapid decline of biodiversity around the planet. An effective activist, Dr. Raven has been a major force in the conservation of biodiversity around the world for nearly 30 years. His talk was part of an ongoing effort to enhance public awareness of the ecological crisis in the tropics and the need for preservation of plants and animals throughout the world. Dr. Raven also spoke to a capacity audience of 140 at Santa Barbara City College that evening on a related topic.

Local geologist Helmut Ehrenspeck led volunteers on a tour of discovery and identification of the rocks and minerals found amid Lotusland's flora, also in February. After weeks of preparation by studying the geological specimens amassed by Madame Walska during her lifetime, Mr. Ehrenspeck had many interesting tales to tell about the origin and use of these particular rocks. He also prepared a map with an identification key for handy reference. Docents will incorporate the information into their tours, adding yet another dimension to their interpretation of the garden for visitors. The geology tour was also offered as a quarterly class to Lotusland members.

On March 17, art historian Dr. William Wu spoke to Lotusland volunteers about Chinese garden design at their monthly meeting. Presenting a beautiful arrangement of slides illustrating classical design elements of the Chinese garden, Dr. Wu examined philosophical and symbolic meaning within the garden and the underlying relationship with nature in the art of Chinese landscaping. Dr. Wu later toured the Japanese garden with Lotusland staff pointing out design elements drawn from the Chinese tradition. Arrangements for Dr. Wu's engagement were made by Trustee Elizabeth Dake, who was his host while he was in town to speak at the annual Springtime in the Garden lecture series jointly sponsored by Lotusland, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and Santa Barbara Museum of Art.





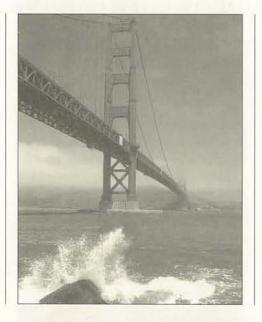
This year's educational exhibit features a 6-panel display on Early Santa Barbara Plantsmen. Above, Bruce Van Dyke and Carolyn Koegler consider some of the amazing facts on these key players in making Santa Barbara the horticultural treasure we know today. The display includes many historical photographs of people and long-forgotten industries and events, such as the Santa Barbara Flower Festivals of the 1890s. So far this year the exhibit has been to SBBG's Wildflower Festival and Santa Barbara's Earth Day Celebration. It is scheduled to appear at Montecito Beautification ( in the fall and is available for other venues by request. Please contact Janet Eastman at (805) 969-3767 ext. 227 for further information.



## Members Sample San Francisco Gardens

NINE MEMBERS OF FRIENDS of Lotusland joined Lotusland President Carol Valentine and Executive Director Steven Timbrook on a four-day trip to San Francisco in April. We stayed at the White Swan Inn near Union Square and enjoyed an evening at the gala opening of the San Francisco Landscape Garden Show at Fort Mason Center.

One of two adjacent covered piers had been converted into a marketplace of interesting plants, gardening books, tools and supplies, as well as landscape design specialties such as pools, sculpture, outdoor furniture, fencing, and paving stones.



The other pier was transformed into a wonderland of over 20 garden installations interpreting the year's theme *Gardens of the Silver Screen*. Cocteau's 1945 *Beauty and the Beast* inspired two large, haunting landscapes, while *Rosemary's Baby* was contained within a classic black pram.

One full day was spent touring five private gardens in the city, topped off by a farewell dinner at the Grand Café of the Hotel Monaco. The weather was cooperative, the group congenial, and we all came home with new ideas for our own gardening.

-Steven Timbrook

## Interpret the Exotic: Docent Training begins September &

Would you like to be part of the exciting world of docenting at Santa Barbara's premiere exotic display garden? Well, now is your chance. This fall Lotusland will conduct a five-month docent training to prepare volunteers to lead tours of the garden in 1998–99.

Lotusland docents are volunteers trained to lead groups of visitors through the 37-acre estate garden of the late Madame Ganna Walska. owned and operated by the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to maintain and enhance the exotic plant collections contained in the gardens created by Mme. Walska from 1941 until her death in 1984. Leading tours Wednesday through Saturday at 10:00 AM and 1:30 PM. from mid-February to mid-November. docents interpret the garden for visitors by teaching them the botany and horticulture of the plant collections at Lotusland and the history of the estate and Lotusland's creator, Mme. Walska, during a two-hour tour of the grounds.

Those interested should be supportive of the Foundation's mission and be comfortable speaking to groups of 10 to 20 adults or children 10 years and older and be able to walk the two-mile tour route in less than two hours. A pleasant personality and enthusiasm for plants, estate gardens, and history is essential.

Upon successful completion of the training—14 classes plus independent study and practice touring—all

docents will conduct one weekday tour per week plus one Saturday tour per month (mid-February to mid-November) for two years beyond the training period. Attendance at monthly volunteer meetings, held the third Monday of every month, is an opportunity for exchanging ideas and for further education.

To register, contact Volunteer Coordinator Janet Eastman, at (805) 969-3767 ext. 227 by September 1.



EASTMA



## Integrated Pest Management in the Garden

With JOHN LAFLEUR, Assistant Grounds Superintendent

## GREEN LACEWING RELEASE

As you walk through Lotusland, you will notice blue flags in various parts of the garden. These mark areas where several thousand Green Lacewing larvae (Chrysoperla sp., at right)

have been released.

Lacewing larvae look
like tiny alligators and are
sometimes called "Aphid
Lions" because Aphids are one of
their favorite foods. They also feed
on a variety of other insects, including immature Thrips (Heliothrips

haemorrhoidalis). Thrips (at left) are a serious problem

in many parts
of the garden
that usually
require multiple
applications of insecticide

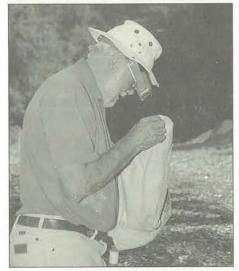
to keep under control. This release of Green Lacewing (*Chrysoperla* sp., below right) larvae will, we hope, keep the Thrips numbers in check until our insectary plantings mature and can provide the biological

control needed to keep the population of Thrips at a reduced level.

#### INSECTARY PLANTINGS PROGRESS REPORT

LOTUSIAND IS FORTUNATE to have the help of Everett J. Dietrick and his daughter, Jan, from Rincon-Vitova Insectaries, as biological control advisors as we continue to move toward a more biologically based Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practice.

Deak, as Mr. Dietrick prefers to be called, is one of the early pioneers of biological control in California and is easily the most recognized name in biological control today. He and his



Everett J. "Deak" Dietrick inspects an insect after collecting it from one of Lotusland's perimeter insectary plantings.



Dietrick collects insects in the Lotusland fern garden as his daughter Jan looks on.

daughter have graciously consented to be two of the keynote speakers at the up-coming American Association of Botanic Gardens and Aboreta Pacific Regional conference, which will be held at Lotusland this fall.

Rincon-Vitova Insectaries provided the Green Lacewing larvae for our most recent bio-control project, as well as for numerous other successful projects in the past.

Photos by John Lafleur





Left: "Deak" points out an insect to his daughter Jan and Corey Welles, Lotusland grounds staff member responsible for the project management of the insectary plantings. Plantings that have attracted beneficial insects to the property have grown quite a bit since planted from seed several months ago. Right: Lotusland staff and folks from Rincon-Vitova Insectaries gather amid plantings that currently attract beneficial insects to the garden.



## Garden Shop Offerings

#### PLANTS FOR SALE

LIKE THE PLANTS AT LOTUSLAND? You can own one! The next time you visit the garden, check out the array of plants available for sale just outside the shop. All plants are propagated from those in Lotusland's collections and will provide a living memory of your visit to the garden that you can enjoy for years to come.



#### MAIL ORDER ITEMS

THE SHOP ALSO IS INSTITUTING a new mail-order service with the assistance of volunteers. A sampling of garden shop items, such as T-shirts, books, and notecards, will now be available by mail. Delivery time is approximately two weeks for direct purchase or gift orders. If you would like to be one of the first to make use of this offer, please contact Marguerite Gamo, Human Resource Manager, at (805) 969-3767 ext. 229.



Lotusland donated five dozen flowerpots and assorted plants to the Rehabilitation Institute at Santa Barbara for their Horticultural Therapy program and 50 bromeliads to the Santa Barbara Zoo.

## Camerata Pacifica in the Garden

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 4:00 pm

SAVE THIS DATE for a special musical performance by one of the country's premier chamber music ensembles.

Camerata Pacifica will perform Schubert's Trout Quintet in Lotusland's outdoor theatre, Sunday, September 14, 1997. Renowned for their artistic excellence and accessibility, the Camerata has been called "Santa Barbara's freshest chamber ensemble" (Santa Barbara News-Press) and "one of the clear success stories...a group worth watching for" (Los Angeles Times). They will bring their talented group of musicians to Lotusland to perform this beautiful piece of the early 19th-century Austrian composer.

Invitations will be mailed to all members in late summer. We hope you will join us for an intimate afternoon of music in the garden.



Prof. Sir Ghillean T. Prance, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England (center), walked through Lotusland on May 6 with Executive Director Dr. Steven Timbrook (left) and Dr. Edward Schneider, Executive Director of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Dr. Prance had spoken the evening before at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden on the role of botanical gardens in the 21st century.

SANDY SCHNE



## Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in February, March, April 1997

#### LEVEL I

Ms. Joan Adams

Ani Albers

Ms. Deb Artz

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Bartholomew

Mr. & Mrs. Jeoff Benson

Ms. Barbara Bernstein &

Ms. Lesa Peri

Ms. Doris Biersmith

Mr. Henry A. Bowis

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bridges

Ms. Gloria Buoncristiani

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Carini

Ms. Beth Cataldo

Mr. & Mrs. Alain Clenet

Ms. Heather Cogswell

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Ms. Rita B. Danilovs

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Ms. Mary Doehler

Joseph D. Elia, M.D.

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Mr. M. R. Elsaden

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Mr. & Mrs. David Fields

Ms. Birthe S. Francis

Ms. Laurian Franklin

Ms. Mae Freedman &

Ms. Charlotte Abrams

Ms. Jane Giles

Dr. & Mrs. Robert A. Goodell, Jr.

Ms. Christine Goodie

Ms. Lucette M. Gurley

Master Alek Haimovici

Mr. & Mrs. Robin Hall

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Ms. Jo Ann Kirby

Ms. Kathe Klock

Ms. Serena Kusserow

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Lane

Mr. & Mrs. David Laub

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Leal

Ms. Beth Leddy

Ms. Esther Lederberg &

Mr. Matt Simon

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Lenz

Ms. Diana Mabry

Ms. Mary Maguire

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Marsh

Ms. Lola Maskiewitz

Mr. & Mrs. Emmett McDonough

Ms. Ruth E. McEachen

Ms. Lorraine McNiece

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mead

Mr. Paul Meltzer

Ms. Janis Mendelson

Ms. Frances Merritt

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Ms. Dorothy J. Miller

Ms. Vyvian C. Mohr

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Ms. Helen Noss

Ms. Louise B. Perry

Ms. Lori Rafferty & Mr. Kail Wathne

Mr. Ray Riess

Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Rocco

Ms. Diane R. Rosenthal

Ms. Gere Russell

Mr. & Mrs. John Ryan

Mr. Craig Safan

Ms. Elyse Salend & Mr. Jon Pynoos

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Sander

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Schwartz

Ms. Marilynn Scoggins

Mr. & Mrs. Graham I. Scott

Ms. Barbara Sheffield

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Slosser

Ms. Frances Sozanski

Ms. Isabelle Stefens

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Stone

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Straede

Ms. Zona Strathearn

IVIS. ZOITA SHAUTE

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Mrs. Robert Suderman

Ms. Linda Sunnen

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Ms. Natalie B. Swartley

Mr. & Mrs. Stan Swartz

Ms. Dana S. Thomas

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Treloggen

Mr. Richard Turner & Mr. Tom Urani

Ms. Sally Turvey

Mr. Greg Van Sande

Ms. Beth Wammack

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Ms. Rachel Shiffman &

Ms. Alice Shiffman

Dr. & Mrs. Norman Sprague, III

DI. & IVIIS. INOITII

Ms. Karen Swartz Ms. Dura Temple

#### LEVEL III

Ms. Vanessa De Luca

Ms. Marian Nasgovitz

Mr. Howard Stein

#### LEVEL IV

Mr. Roland E. Arnall

Ms. Ruth Lilly



#### SB's Newest Gardens Tour FOR MEMBERS

Saturday, June 28, 1997, 9:15 AM-4:30 PM Cost: \$60.00 per person Number attending

#### Water Lilies MEMBER CLASS

Check one:

☐ Friday, August 15, 1997, 10 AM-12 PM ☐ Saturday, August 16, 1997, 10 AM-12 PM

Cost: \$10.00 per person Number attending

Total enclosed

#### Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

☐ Check enclosed	□VISA	☐ MasterCard
Card number		
	Phone	
	Card number	Card number

Mail to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events,

695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

#### Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support February, March, April 1997

#### LEVEL II

Mr. Richard Daniels Ms. Dana Diehl Derick

Ms. Ingrid E. Hanzer

Mr. & Mrs. Peter F. La Rosa

Ms. Susan Montpas

Ms. Deborah A. Richards

Ms. Lucke Thorensen

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Waxman

#### LEVEL III

Ms. Jo M. Wagner Mr. & Mrs. John Warnock

#### LEVEL IV

Warren R. Austin, M.D.

## Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations February, March, April 1997

#### **GRANTS**

The Towbes Foundation

#### DOCENT APPRECIATION

Mr. & Mrs. William Scranton in honor of Dana Kent Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Tunney in honor of Adi Brewer

#### MISCELL ANEOUS

Ms. Sally Jordan

Ani Albers Ms. Ruth Bernhardt Dallas Garden Club Mr. & Mrs. Donnelley Erdman Mr. John D. Howell Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth H. Hunter, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Lorin

Mr. David Myrick

Mr. & Mrs. James Nonn

Mr. & Mrs. Graham I. Scott

Mr. Richard Turner & Mr. Tom Urani

Mrs. Edward R. Valentine

Vons of Montecito

#### FURNISHINGS, ART, CLOTHING

Ms. Lvnn Kirby Ms. Catherine McMahon Mrs. Joseph R. Osherenko Mrs. Edward R. Valentine

#### LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

Mr. E. R. Blakely Mr. William R. Paylen

## The Towbes Foundation Funds Horticultural Clock Renovation

MADAME WALSKA'S HORTICULTURAL clock, a major feature of her topiary garden since 1955, will regain its former glory during the coming year thanks to a generous \$25,000 grant from The Towbes Foundation. The long missing copper zodiac signs that marked each hour are being replicated by Sam Demachkie of Ironwood Design, guided by three of the original signs on loan from their current owner, one sign purchased at a local antique shop and donated to Lotusland by Karen and Harry Kolb, and photographs and sketches of the other signs from Lotusland's archives. The sketches were donated to the archives by Louisa Thielst, widow of Madame Walska's longtime head gardener Gunnar Thielst, who

designed and fabricated the original zodiac signs. The face of the clock will be planted in twelve sectors of three contrasting succulents, which are being specially grown for this project. It is exciting to see Lotusland's historic features restored, one by one, to their earlier beauty through the generosity of Lotusland's members and other friends.

### Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

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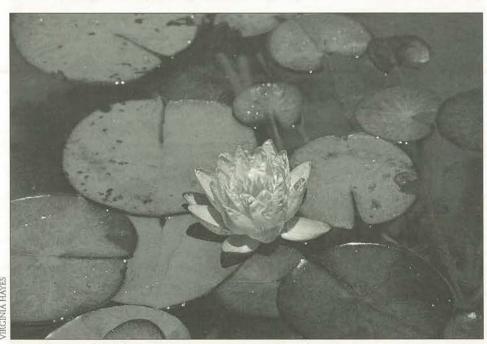


winter months, so that they skip this period of dormancy, and repotted before returning to the display pond in early summer.

While hardy water lilies offer subtle color shades, tropicals are truly electric. In addition to yellows, pinks, and reds, there are species with blue flowers. Many hybrids have been developed to show off these spectacular colors. Most tropicals have a regular daytime bloom period just as the hardies do, but there is another group whose flowers open only as the sun is setting and remain open all

night, closing about mid-morning.

If you would like to know more about the biology and cultivation of water lilies, please join Curator Virginia Hayes for a class focusing on these aquatic wonders. Learn about their economic uses, the basics of growth and propagation, who some of the major discoverers and hybridizers were, and have a look at Lotusland's display at its peak of bloom on either Friday, August 15, or Saturday, August 16, at 10:00 AM. Please use coupon on page 11 to sign up.



Nymphaea cv. Pink Pumpkin is grown experimentally at Lotusland.

#### ALENDAR 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.

#### June 16

Volunteer Recognition picnic.

#### June 26

Perimeter Wall dedication for donors.

#### June 27

Nordstrom fashion show and luncheon fundraiser for *Lotusland Celebrates*. (Invitations will be mailed to all members.)

#### June 28

Gardening Santa Barbara Style tour. (See page 4.)

#### July 20

Lousland Celebrates the Diva annual gala. Look for your invitation in the mail

#### August 15 & 16

Water Lily class. (See page 11.)

#### September 14

Camerata Pacifica in the Garden. Look for your invitation in the mail.

#### October 4

Art at Lotusland. (Invitations will be mailed to all members.)