



Getting to the ROOT of the Problem: Cycad Garden Restoration

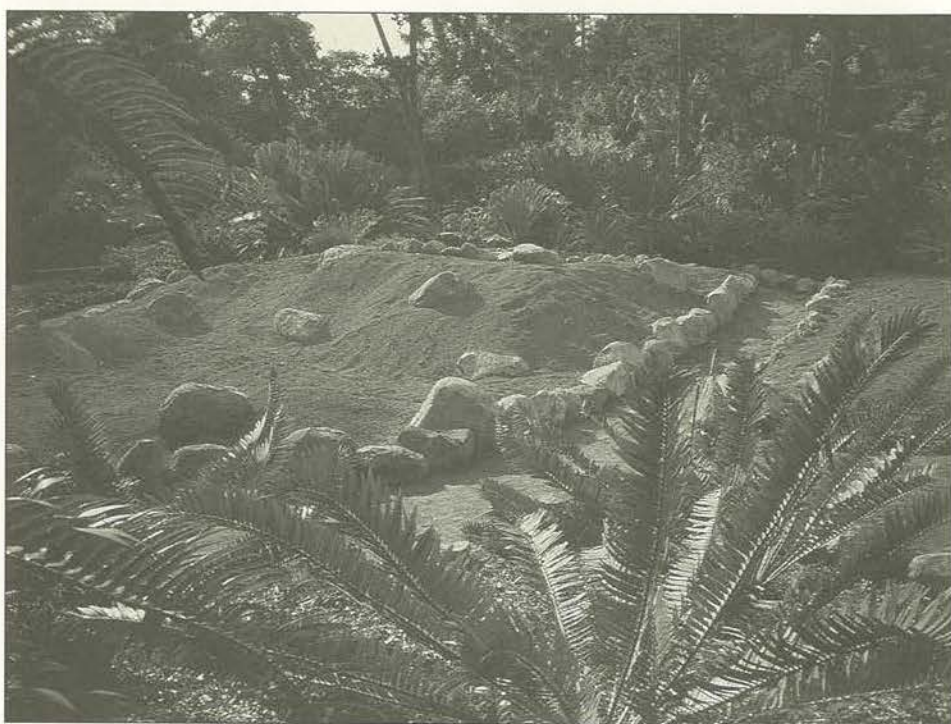
By VIRGINIA HAYES • Photos by MIKE IVEN

EXCELLENT RECORD-KEEPING done by horticulture staff over the last 11 years enables us to recognize trends in plant performance throughout the garden. One trend that has recently come to light has led the staff on a detective-style hunt for a potentially dangerous "criminal."

It is one thing to know what a plant requires for success and sometimes quite another to determine just why it is struggling or even failing to thrive. When several otherwise healthy-looking cycads at Lotusland had fallen over with fungal infections and poor root systems, it was clear something had to be done. More than 30 specimens have died in the last 10 years. The cycad committee, consisting of Peter Schneider, John Lafleur, Mike Iven, and Virginia Hayes, began meeting over a year ago to discuss what might be the causes and cures for the dismaying trend in the cycad garden. Some factors were easy to pinpoint. The floods of 1995 and El Niño's cool, soggy winter just three years later were obvious culprits. But it became increasingly clear that there just might be more going on, literally, beneath the surface.

When the cycad garden, the last garden created during Madame Walska's lifetime, was first designed and installed in the late 1970s, tons of soil and amendments were brought in and mounded up to provide the drainage and drama that these rare

Continued on page 2



Preparation of the renovated area includes soil replacement, the installation of sub-surface drainage systems, landscape rock placement, and pathway improvements. Soil improvement practices are most important, and the addition of organic matter, a temporary cover crop, mycorrhizal fungi and other beneficial fungi and bacteria will be ongoing.

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species deserved. The very real possibility that old tree stumps or other woody debris had been covered over in the process could explain the proliferation of *Armillaria* (oak root fungus) that feeds on roots and other wood and attacks cycads as well as many other plants. What to do?

After interviewing cycad experts around the country and drawing upon our own staff's experience and expertise, the committee began to shape a plan to renovate portions of the cycad garden. Work is under way now on the first section in the plan. "Horridus Hill," so named by the staff for its colony of *Encephalartos horridus*, occupies the center of the garden and was the site of the worst losses. Another nearby mound with species of *Ceratozamia* has had heavy losses as well. The soil in both areas has

been completely replaced and all plants within these two areas were removed to the nursery. After their transfer to the nursery, the cycads showing infected roots or stems were pruned (some quite severely) and treated with fungicides. They are now recovering in a special new greenhouse with bottom-heated beds while they develop new roots.

By removing all the soil in the affected areas, not only are the pathogens themselves removed, but several sources of continuing infection were uncovered and removed. New soil was brought in and organic and inorganic amendments were incorporated. In addition, the first section of a subsurface drainage system that will eventually drain the whole cycad garden was installed. Paths within the project area have been regraded and widened where



Lotusland staff removed the smaller cycads from the renovation area by hand digging.



Heavy machinery carefully removed larger plants and transported them to a nearby inspection station.



Inspections revealed various degrees of root rot caused by Armillaria (oak root fungus) in many plants. Lotusland staff cut away infected portions of roots and trunks back to healthy tissue. Specific sanitation procedures were followed to avoid contamination of tools and healthy plant parts.

possible. The addition of some large boulders and accent plantings with similar cultural needs as cycads will enhance the original design.

Since our main goal is to return the cycads to good health and provide an environment in which they will thrive, they will be replanted in the new beds only when they have healthy root systems and show evidence of new growth. In the interim, a cover crop of Sudan grass will be seeded in the bare areas. Not only will these plantings control potential erosion, they also will be tilled into the soil to provide nutrients and more organic matter when their season has passed. Sudan grass is used commercially to grow mycorrhizal fungi, which is then processed and sold as a soil-building treatment. We will inoculate the soil with a starter application of fungi that will grow in symbiosis with the grass roots. The end result should be a larger colony of beneficial fungi available to the roots of the cycads when they are replanted. *Trichoderma* and other beneficial bacteria will also be incor-



Clean plants were moved to the nursery holding area.



Heated raised pumice beds in a cold frame covered with polyfilm and shade cloth will be home for the cycads until the time is right for their planting back into the cycad garden.

porated in the final preparations. These organisms are part of a healthy soil ecology and help to suppress the growth of disease.

The next phase of this ongoing, four- to five-year project will focus on the health of the soil in the area planted with *Cycas* and *Macrozamia* just south of the koi pond. It is unlikely that we will need to remove as many plants in this area, but selective soil renovation around the large *Cycas* plants will improve their root zones. The adjacent *Macrozamia* area will be re-designed to accommodate a large number of plants acquired in

recent years that are now in the nursery. Soil tailored to these cycads will be mounded up to create new beds to display our ever-increasing collection of these Australian natives.

While some of the paths will need to be closed from time to time for visitor safety as the work progresses, staff will try to keep as much of the cycad garden as possible open to visitors. We appreciate your cooperation in staying out of the work zone, and hope you share our enthusiasm for solving some serious plant health problems and building a model sustainable garden.

New Conditional Use Permit Allows More Visitors

LOTUSLAND'S TWO-YEAR EFFORT to gain permission from the County of Santa Barbara to allow more people to enjoy and learn from Madame Walska's garden has borne fruit. We are grateful to the many members of Friends of Lotusland who wrote letters of support, contacted the Board of Supervisors urging a favorable decision, and appeared at hearings on Lotusland's behalf.

On July 16, Lotusland received the final OK to begin operating under a new Conditional Use Permit. For 1999, 2000, and 2001, Lotusland will be allowed to serve up to 13,500 visitors per year, an increase of 4,500 over the previous annual limit. Within that limit, Lotusland can expand two of its three special events to 500 guests, while the third remains at the previous limit of 300 people. With the exception of the two expanded special events, all of the daily vehicle limits remain the same as they have

been since Lotusland first opened to the public in the fall of 1993.

Recognizing the educational value of Lotusland, the Supervisors upheld a special provision approved by the Planning Commission that allows up to 5,000 Santa Barbara County students to participate in Lotusland's elementary school education program. (Thanks to transportation and educational material funding by the Monroe Foundation, about 600 fourth grade students from six local schools have visited the garden in 1999.) Although students will not be counted in the regular visitor limits set by the Board of Supervisors, the transportation they use must be within Lotusland's daily visitor vehicle limits. As the resources that make the elementary school education program possible increase, the garden will be able to accommodate students, without limiting access to other visitors.

—Steven Timbrooke

Members of Friends of Lotusland can make reservations for the remaining 1999 season and into 2000 by calling the reservation office, 805-969-9990, between 9 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday. Even with the expanded visitor limits, Lotusland's popularity means that non-members need to plan their visits months in advance. Non-member reservations are now being made for the 2000 season.

Compost Tea



THE LATEST ADDITION to Lotusland's cultural care regime is a compost tea maker. The Micro-Brewer used at Lotusland is manufactured by a company in Oregon and is designed to efficiently produce a consistent and reproducible compost tea. In 18 to 24 hours the 15-gallon capacity brewer cultures

a high concentration of aerobic microorganisms that is diluted 10:1 for application through a sprayer or irrigation system in the garden. Basically, compost tea is the water extract of compost. Ingredients such as soluble kelp, blackstrap molasses, and rock dust are added to the brew recipe to provide food for microbes and nutrients to plants. At Lotusland almost all garden waste is composted on-site and then screened for use as a soil amendment, mulch, or in the making

of compost tea. Compost tea can be sprayed in areas with gravel or rock top dressings to inoculate the soil with microorganisms. Organic nutrients such as hydrolyzed fish powder and soluble kelp added to the diluted compost tea help provide a material that builds plant and soil beneficial microorganisms.

Composting, mulching, the use of organic products, compost tea and other sustainable practices are not new, but recent research, technology, and tissue/soil food-web analyses validate Lotusland's commitment to these methods of cultural care and reduced worker exposure to potentially harmful substances.

—Mike Iven

**"Turn the clod,
and wheel thy compost home."**

William Cowper (1731-1800)

New to the Collections

VIRGINIA HAYES



Glossy green foliage and an inflorescence that looks like a rat's tail are characteristic of many species of anthurium.

TAILFLOWERS

TO MOST PEOPLE, the name *Anthurium* conjures up an image of brightly colored, unreal-looking, hothouse flowers. Florists sell the waxy red, pink, and white beauties, but few of us live in a climate tropical enough to produce such perfect specimens. These flamboyant members of the genus are in the minority, though, with many more *Anthurium* species

valued for their lush and interesting foliage.

All are native to the tropics of the Americas and may grow in the soil or epiphytically on trees in wet forests at higher elevations. Even those with absorbent roots firmly embedded in the soil may crawl and clamber up the nearest tree, clinging with wiry aerial roots to the cracks of their host's bark. Their inflorescences are typical of the Arum family to which they belong. An elongated spadix covered with small flowers, the "tail" in their common name tailflower, rises from a bract known as a spathe. In the florist's varieties, this spathe is the brightly colored, heart-shaped structure we admire. In most other species, it is narrower and often dull brown, purplish black or green.

Several new species of *Anthurium* have recently been planted in the Epiphyllum garden. Three were propagated from seed donated by Loran Whitelock from plants growing in his garden. His plants grew from seed he collected on one of his many plant-collecting trips in Mexico and South America. *A. berriozabalense*, from Southern Mexico, has arrowhead shaped leaves and an inconspicuous

inflorescence with a green spathe. Leaves of *A. polyphyllum* and another unnamed species are variously segmented and dark green.

Another species new to the collection, *A. podophyllum*, has even more segmented foliage with 11 to 15 narrow "fingers" on each palmately veined leaf. It and three other large specimens came from the collection of Diane Foster. These all have simple leaves, but of a size to command attention. You will have no trouble finding them the next time you visit the garden.

—Virginia Hayes



Anthurium podophyllum.

VIRGINIA HAYES

VIRGINIA HAYES



Curator of Plant Collections at Fairchild Tropical Garden Chuck Hubbuch leads a tour of the cycad collection.

Lotusland Staff Attends Cycad Conference

THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE of cycad enthusiasts and researchers was held August 7-10 at Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami, Florida. Lotusland's Specialist Gardener for cycads Peter Schneider and Curator Virginia Hayes attended the four-day conference. Sessions on fertilization, pollination, propagation, and other horticultural topics, as well as tours of the cycad collections of Fairchild and adjacent Montgomery Botanical Center, filled the first two days. Two more days of talks on conservation, diversity, physiology, and phylogeny of cycads

worldwide were presented by researchers from around the globe. Another dozen topics were displayed in poster form, including a poster on cycad coning cycles in southern California by Ms. Hayes. Lotusland donated three items to the Cycad Society auction to raise funds for cycad research. In all, more than 130 attendees and presenters from about 20 different countries participated in the conference. The next cycad conference will be held in 2002 at the Nong Nooch Tropical Garden in Thailand.

Durban Botanic Gardens Thinks Globally, Acts Locally

LOTUSLAND'S THREE *Encephalartos woodii*, the centerpieces of Madame Walska's spectacular cycad collection, belong to a species now extinct in the wild. A single male specimen discovered in Zululand, South Africa in 1895 by then Curator John Medley Wood and planted in the Durban Botanic Gardens is the source of all (cloned and therefore genetically identical) *E. woodii* growing today. The circumstances that led to their loss in the wild are unclear, but by nurturing them, Lotusland helps guarantee the *E. woodii*'s survival.

The Durban Botanic Gardens still takes an active role in plant preservation, but has moved beyond the curatorial goal of collecting specimens to an ambitious program that will ensure the survival of indigenous plants now threatened with extinction due to their importance in local medicine. Chris Dalzell, curator at Durban, described this program in a lecture at Lotusland in July underwritten by an anonymous donor. His message was of interest to anyone concerned with plant preservation and practical ways to encourage it.

Ten years ago in South Africa, tribal remedies were regarded by some as a cultural curiosity, and many



CHRIS DALZELL

The city of Durban (population 1,200,000) is the capitol of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

predicted that trade in medicinal plants would diminish with accelerating urbanization. The opposite proved true. It is now estimated that at least 80% of black city dwellers consult traditional healers who prescribe medicinal plants (or *muthi*) as part of a cure. Before urbanization, these traditional healers collected their own plants and observed conservation practices that were a part of their culture. Today collection is left to a middleman who is paid in cash according to the quantities he can deliver and who has little or no in-

centive to conserve plant resources. The demand for existing vegetation is so great that certain plants have become extinct in the wild, such as Natal ginger (*Siphonochilus aetheopiscus*) and the Mathithibala plant (*Haworthia* sp.), an age-old prescription to ward away evil spirits and purify the blood.

Presently in the Durban area there are:

- Six million indigenous medicinal consumers.
- More than 400 plant species traded in the marketplace.
- 300,000 plants removed from the wild each week.
- 4000 *Strangeria eriopus* cycads being sold in the *muthi* market each week. We have two specimens at Lotusland.
- Between 20 and 30 thousand people supported by the medicinal plant industry.

In response to this crisis, the Durban Botanic Gardens began growing medicinal plants at its Silverglen Medicinal Nursery in 1986. The nursery now propagates about 400,000 medicinal plants a year and makes them available to medicinal gatherers, encouraging them to grow their own *muthi*. As most indigenous plants are perfectly adapted to arid conditions and poor rainfall, they do



CHRIS DALZELL

The Silverglen Medicinal Nursery grows more than 400 species of indigenous medicinal plants that are traditionally harvested from the wild. Expansion will allow for the protection of many more wild plants now being harvested to the point of extinction for sale in the *muthi* market.



CHRIS DALZELL

Groups of healers and collectors attend workshops at Silverglen where they learn to propagate and grow muthi plants. Their participation ensures that fewer plants are taken from the wild.



VIRGINIA HAYES

A muthi market in Durban. The medicinal plant industry involves approximately 4,000 tons of plant material per year and supports more than 20,000 people in KwaZulu Natal.

not require special conditions to grow. The former gatherers (now farmers) can grow the plant starts to a salable size and then harvest a crop for the market place. Since 1997, a three-day course at Silverglen has introduced more than 500 healers/collectors to the skills necessary to grow and market medicinal plants with the nursery's help. School groups are tutored on the importance of medicinal plants and the Silverglen program's role in their preservation.

With the success of this program comes a need to expand it. A proposal made by Chris Dalzell and the Durban Botanic Gardens would provide that plants grown through tissue culture by the Durban Parks Department could be made freely available to the newly trained growers and that there would be land for their *muthi* gardens. An expanded program would mean that the wild sources of many plants could be replaced by cultivated ones, taking

the strain off wild plant populations. Local people would be employed in a way that contributes to an existing economy, and an ecological disaster for the world at large could be averted. If you would like to know more about the work at Silverglen Medicinal Plant Nursery or are interested in contributing to its future, Steven Timbrook or Virginia Hayes would be glad to put you in touch with Chris Dalzell.

—Amanda Jones

Christmas Trees and Their Friends

AT THE RISK of mentioning the winter holidays while we're still enjoying summer, it's time to announce a special botanical class that will take place at Lotusland on Saturday afternoon, November 13, from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. University of California at Santa Barbara Geology Professor Dr. Bruce Tiffney, whose paleobotanical research focuses on the evolution of plants in the Northern Hemisphere in the last 65 million years, will help get us into the spirit of the season by sharing his special knowledge of those evergreen icons, the conifers.

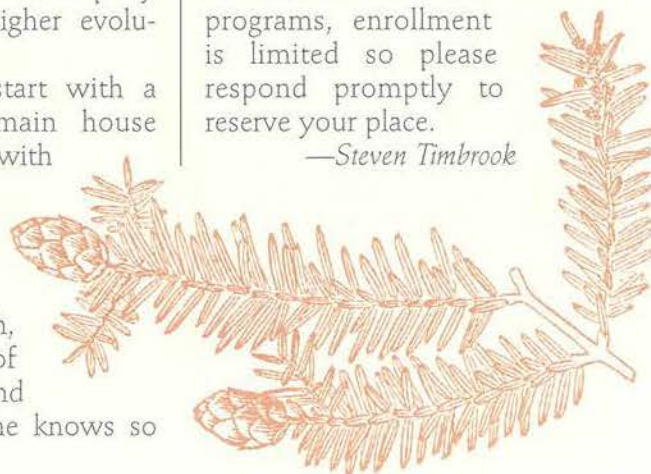
Have you wondered how to tell spruce from pine, redwood from cedar; what lets evergreens keep

their foliage through the snows of a northern winter; why a juniper's berries are really cones? This is your chance to get the goodies to get you through the holiday cocktail party circuit chatter on a higher evolutionary plane.

Dr. Tiffney will start with a talk in Lotusland's main house living room and follow with a walk through the gardens to look at living examples of Lotusland's diverse conifer collection, which, as a long-time member of Lotusland's Building and Grounds Committee, he knows so well.

Send in the coupon on page 15 to enroll in *Christmas Trees and Their Friends*. The class fee is \$10 or use one of your free member passes. As with all Lotusland programs, enrollment is limited so please respond promptly to reserve your place.

—Steven Timbrook



LOTUSLAND THANKS U.S. TRUST COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA AND NEW JERSEY
AND TENET HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

Lotusland Celebrates Les Deux Théâtres de Madame Ganna Walska

THE GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP of U.S. Trust Company of California & New Jersey with Tenet Healthcare as the Benefactors helped make the July 18th gala *Lotusland Celebrates* the most successful and spirited in the event's five-year history. Under the direction of chairperson Pam Pesenti, the *Lotusland Celebrates* committee embued Madame Ganna Walska's already extraordinary garden with the spirit of the Théâtre de Champs-Élysées, the opulent art deco theater in Paris owned and frequented by Madame Walska from 1923 to 1939. Under her ownership, the Théâtre de Champs-Élysées became the toast of Paris, featuring such legendary artists as Josephine Baker, Igor Stravinsky, George Balanchine, Isadora Duncan, Anna Pavlova, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Vaslav Nijinsky, to name a few. As a tribute to this golden age of music, dance, and theater, and to Madame's own outdoor theatre garden, the committee worked tirelessly to re-

create a wonderful bit of history.

Bryant & Sons Jewelry underwrote the invitation, graced with images of Isadora Duncan. The design of the program, sponsored by F.B. Vanderhoef Jr., harkened back to the opening of the Theatre in 1913 by incorporating a contemporary drawing of the event.

Upon registering at the make-believe ticket booth, guests were ushered through the Japanese garden, where they were treated to a dazzling performance of *le jazz hot* by Josephine Baker (impersonated by the beautiful Windy Barnes with keyboard accompaniment by Clarence McDonald). The exhibit in the entryway of the main house, underwritten by a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Monte Brown and arranged by Karen Kolb, recalled the lobby of the Théâtre de Champs-Élysées, with colorful poster art by Paul Colin, original photographs of the Ballet Russes, fabulous costume and set designs lent

by UCSB's Director of Dance Dr. Frank W.D. Ries, as well as memorabilia from Lotusland's archives. On special loan from Hania Tallmadge was a paste copy of Madame Walska's eye-popping emerald and diamond necklace and the actual French medal of the Legion of Honor, both worn exclusively for her outings to the theater. The sunken drawing room continued the theme of the lavish theater foyer with red carpets, black velvet curtains, and a re-creation of a Pablo Picasso costume design.

After mingling on the main lawn among golden gazing balls, guests were heralded by a major domo to watch a tribute to Isadora Duncan by her "Isadorables." Danced with true inspiration to the music of Chopin by six dance students, the performance evoked another era in which barefoot girls in grecian robes danced on the lawn of Madame Walska's chateau at Galluis. Guests were treated to more enchanting



Lotusland Board President Carol Valentine thanks the gala's sponsors, donors, patrons, and committee members.



Dr. Frank Ries and Lotusland Celebrates committee chair Pam Pesenti work the crowd during the auction of Richard Schloss's beautiful oil painting Madame Walska's Theater Garden at Twilight. The major domo (Daniel Nelson) assisted in every aspect of the entertainment.



Harold Simmons successfully bid for a private dinner at Lotusland, and Marlene Veloz outlasted the competition to take home the painting by Richard Schloss.



A passionate performance by the Isadorables enchants guests on the main lawn. Dr. Frank Ries reconstructed the dance from work done by Isadora Duncan eighty years ago.

entertainment in the theatre garden, where Anna Pavlova and her partner performed a lovely pas de deux. Both performances were choreographed by Dr. Ries and were reconstructions of the original dances. He was assisted by Valerie Huston of the UCSB Dance department. Lotusland is grateful for a donation from **Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kendall** to assist with the evening's music and entertainment and is deeply indebted to Dr. Ries for so generously lending his time, energy, and expertise to ensure that the music, choreography, staging, costumes, and dancing were absolute perfection.

For the second year, the pre-dinner auction was a great success. Pam Pesenti and Frank Ries solicited bids for this year's three items. The first, a trip for two to Paris in the fall, was arranged by **Travel World of Santa Barbara**. The lucky bidder will travel business class on **American**

Airlines, with accommodations at the fabulous **Hotel Le Bristol** in Paris, ending with a six-day cruise on the Dutch-built barge *Mirabelle*, provided by **Premier Selections**. Second up for auction was an oil painting by renowned Santa Barbara landscape artist **Richard Schloss** of *Madame Walska's Theatre Garden at Twilight*, donated by the artist and **The Easton Gallery** with framing by **Montecito Frame & Gallery**. Third was a private dinner for ten in the theatre garden with an extraordinary menu suggested by **Julia Child** and catering donated by the **Four Seasons Biltmore** with chef **Martin Frost**.

Dinner commenced under the trees, with a menu of savory French cuisine perfectly complimented by an excellent 1997 Pinot Noir from the **Wild Horse Winery & Vineyards** and an equally delicious 1998 Sauvignon Blanc from the **Buttonwood Farm Winery**. "Josephine Baker" made a second appearance under the giant oak to serenade the guests as dessert and café au lait were served.

As the final curtain closed at sunset and guests of Madame Walska's Deux Théâtres wound their way through the foyer and down the main drive, it was certain that a splendid time was had by all.

—Deidre Cantrell



Anna Pavlova (Christina Sorokou) and her partner (Austin McCormick) dance a pas de deux in the idyllic setting of Madame Walska's theatre garden.



Harry and event committee member Karen Kolb enjoy the festivities.

Lotusland wishes to thank the following **Patrons** of *Lotusland Celebrates: Les Deux Théâtres de Madame Ganna Walska*, whose support ensured the success of Lotusland's premier fundraising event:

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Swagged gazing balls reconstruct a lawn decoration used by Madame Walska in the 1960s.



Guests including Carolene Tacconelli and Hania Tallmadge (Madame Walska's niece) enjoyed an evening of dance and music inspired by Madame's Parisian theater.

Bernie & Rosemary Parent
Frank & Pam Pesenti
Nancy & David Potter
Lord & Lady Ridley-Tree
Mr. & Mrs. C. William Schlosser
Dorothy & Stan Shaner
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Jazz singer Windy Barnes in costume as the legendary Josephine Baker.



Horticultural Happenings

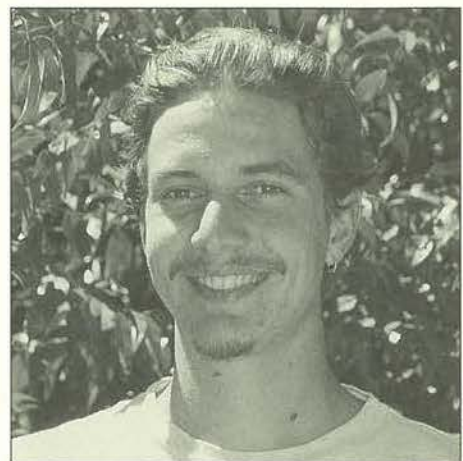
OUR SUMMER INTERNS AND THE CAL POLY CONNECTION

LOTUSLAND'S GROUNDS MAINTENANCE summer intern program provides practical experience to students currently enrolled or recently graduated from accredited horticulture programs. Seven Cal Poly San Luis Obispo horticulture students have participated in the program since its inception in 1986. This year Damon Cockerham, a senior Cal Poly SLO Environmental Horticulture Science major with an emphasis in the landscape industry, worked with Lotusland horticulturists and curators on a variety of projects throughout the garden. The cycad garden renovation project, the creation of a new planting bed with automatic irrigation in the fern garden, an introduction to *niwake* pruning techniques in the Japanese garden, preparation of the garden for *Lotusland Celebrates*, and mulching, mulching, mulching are some of the activities Damon experienced during his internship. The entire Lotusland staff enjoyed working with Damon and wish him great success in his future horticultural endeavors.

Tom Eltzroth teaches Plant Materials and Plant Propagation at Cal Poly SLO, oversees the department's Leaning Pine Arboretum, and is the Environmental Horticultural Science Department's coordinator of intern-

ships in the area of arboreta, botanical gardens, and public gardens. As a frequent visitor to Lotusland over the years, Mr. Eltzroth is familiar with the grounds and the cultural care provided. He is therefore able to encourage not just any student, but the right student, to apply for Lotusland's internship. Recent Cal Poly students selected as interns based largely on Mr. Eltzroth's recommendation have proven to be very bright, curious, knowledgeable and motivated students of horticulture. Mr. Eltzroth commented on the Lotusland/Cal Poly internship connection:

"In a general sense we want all interns from Cal Poly, regardless of where they intern, to be exposed to a wide range of horticultural and managerial activities under the direction of several people so they experience a broad cross-section of horticulture and interact with several supervisors and numerous co-workers. Lotusland has certainly met these expectations for our recent interns including Mike Souza, Eric Martin, and Damon I'm sure. An internship at Lotusland gives the student exposure to situations we aren't able to provide in depth at Cal Poly. For example, working with extensive plant collections such as the cycads and the Japanese garden, and working with specialists such as in the area of IPM. Additionally, the intern has the opportunity to work under the direction of a variety of

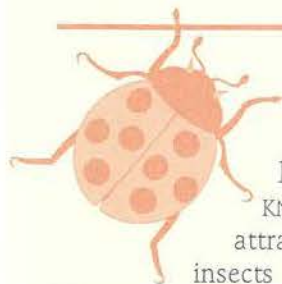


A.B. JONES

Damon Cockerham, this summer's grounds maintenance intern.

different supervisors and to interact with several grounds workers. They are exposed to real problems that require immediate and practical solutions, giving them an opportunity to put into practice their classroom and laboratory learning. On yet another level, there is the special cachet accompanying an internship at Lotusland. It is truly a distinctive and unique experience and one that is highly regarded by employers. The Lotusland internship experience certainly helps put the successful intern in the "blue chip" category. Cal Poly's Environmental Horticultural Science Department appreciates the Lotusland internship program as we feel it is beneficial to the student, to the horticulture profession, and to Lotusland."

—Mike Iven



DO YOU WANT TO KNOW which plants attract beneficial insects to your garden?

Have you ever wondered just what goes on in your compost pile and what those microscopic organisms really look like? What fertilizers and pest control materials are the safest to use? Answers to these and many more of your questions will be

Sustainability Workshop

available at a workshop at Lotusland on Saturday, September 18th, at 10:00 in the morning.

In the past few years, Lotusland's staff has moved from dependence on chemical fertilizers and pest control to an entirely organic approach to plant health. Join them for a behind-the-scenes look at some of the innovative new treatments as well as some tried and true gardening

techniques. A short introduction will be followed by tours of demonstration areas around the garden. There will be lots of handouts and free information as well as a sale of insectary plants and organic gardening books. (Refreshments, too!)

Please use the coupon on page 15 to register for the class. Cost is \$10.00 per person or use one of your member passes.



Rare and Specimen Plant Fund Completes Fern Garden Project

EARLIER THIS YEAR Lotusland's horticultural staff had to make the difficult decision to remove a large coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) from the fern garden. Over time, the oak had developed a severe lean, and the Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) to which it had been cabled a number of years ago was now itself showing signs of impaired health. Faced with a potential hazard to visitors and damage to surrounding landscaping should the oak topple, we decided it had to come out.

The newly opened space offered an opportunity to realign the main path from the original fern garden into the fern garden extension that had been designed and planted in 1986-87. By creating an offset from the original "crossroads" configuration

of paths that the old oak had dictated, a more interesting route has been created, and adjacent palms that were formerly too close to the path now have ample space to be appreciated.

The crisis presented by the need for instant shade provided an opportunity to visually connect the original fern garden and the fern garden extension by continuing the plantings of Australian tree ferns (*Sphaeropteris cooperi*) from one area into the next. Although the horticultural staff was able to realign the path (resetting blocks of sandstone weighing 60 pounds each) without significant extra expense, additional large Australian tree ferns were needed, and there was no money for their purchase in the operating budget.

This was a perfect opportunity

to take advantage of the Rare and Specimen Plant Fund, which had been established by several generous donors in 1998. One thousand dollars was allocated to bring in three tree ferns, completing the project, but dropping the balance in the Fund below its ideal level. The Fund is an important safety net for horticultural emergencies and allows Lotusland to respond to opportunities if unusual plants become available for purchase.

If you would like more information about donating to the Rare and Specimen Plant Fund or other horticultural programs at Lotusland, Executive Director Steven Timbrook would like to discuss Lotusland's needs and opportunities with you. He can be reached at 805-969-3767.

Docent Training Starts September 13th

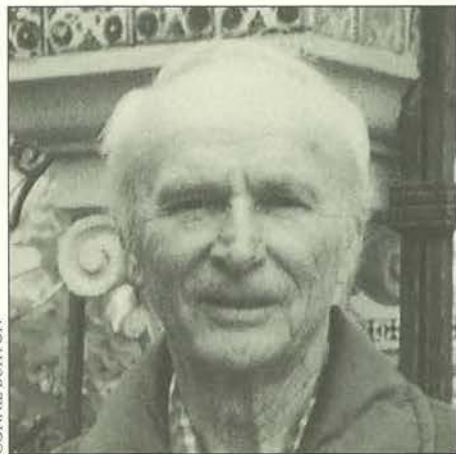
VISITORS TO LOTUSLAND are treated to botanical and historical information about the estate interpreted by docents who have undergone extensive training to prepare them for giving public tours. Every other fall, a fourteen-week docent training course presents all necessary information for conducting a tour of the garden. Instructors are drawn from the staff at Lotusland, the Santa Barbara community, and other California academic and horticultural institutions. Anyone who is interested in receiving information about becoming a docent, please call Connie Buxton, Education and Volunteer Coordinator, at 969-3767, ext. 227.

*1999 Docent Training is funded
by a grant from the
William E. Weiss Foundation.*



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Phil Jackson: Lotusland's "Minister of De-fence"



CONNIE BUXTON

BEING A CALIFORNIA NATIVE is a rarity in itself, but Phil Jackson possesses other unique qualities that make him such an indispensable asset to Lotusland. Every Tuesday and Thursday he arrives around 6:30 a.m.—well before even the hardiest members of the horticultural staff—to begin working on a variety of grounds maintenance projects. He describes his duties as “doing whatever they want me to do,” but the fact is that Phil’s wide-ranging talents offer invaluable expertise in everything from electrical and plumbing projects to weeding and garden maintenance.

One of Phil’s major contributions involved repairing and replacing the chainlink fence around the entire perimeter of the property. It had been badly damaged or completely destroyed from a variety of abuses, and it took eight weeks to complete this task...during which time he was appropriately dubbed “Minister of De-fence.” A recent project involved replacing plumbing for the irrigation system in the Aloe garden. The pipes were old and rusted out, so Phil dug a trench and cut into the main line, put in new hose bibs, and did the necessary replacements with PVC.

Phil’s involvement with Lotusland began in 1995 when he was on a tour with docent Jayne Murray Burton. Enjoying his tour and appreciating

how beautiful everything looked, Phil realized it must take an incredible amount of work to maintain. He has since learned first-hand just how much work it entails and says when working with the horticultural staff he is “inspired and amazed at the dedication that these people have. They are self-starters who just go out and work their tails off; real go-getters!”

Phil’s twice-weekly schedule originally corresponded with his wife Millie’s art classes at the Schott Center. When her classes finished, however, he was already hooked on working in the garden and continued his schedule, much to the benefit of Lotusland. Millie Jackson is a multimedia artist who is in the Carpinteria Valley Art League and a charter member of Step One Gallery. She works in pastels and oils, and also does computer-generated painting. Phil and Millie have three sons, two of whom live in Southern California, and the third one in Australia.

The Jacksons have recently completed remodeling two adjacent houses in Carpinteria, and they live in both of them. One house serves as studio/office, and the other is the “official residence.” Phil says that when house guests come for a visit, it’s really quite convenient because the guests take over the residence, and Phil and Millie retreat to the fully equipped studio/office. “A tale of two houses” sounds like the best of both worlds and prevents any need to mend fences after the visit.

The Japanese garden is Phil’s favorite because of “the serenity of it all; you feel like you’re 1,000 miles from everything.” He is very much interested in Japanese culture and owns several books on Japanese history and culture, including the military and airplanes...flying being another one of Phil’s talents and something he truly loves. He possesses a pilot’s

license and flew for many years, but these days he doesn’t take to the air anymore with the explanation, “There are too many people who don’t know what they’re doing up there...myself included!”

Lotusland is honored to have Phil Jackson’s dedicated commitment to making the garden the beautiful, well maintained, and fascinating place it is. Phil is so much a part of the horticultural and grounds maintenance staff that they depend on him as an integral part of the overall picture, and he enables them to get their work done and complete projects in a timely and efficient manner. Our sincere thanks, Phil, for all you do for Lotusland.

—Connie Buxton

Rose Garden Donor Recognition

CELEBRATING IN LOTUSLAND’S rose garden are (from left) Charles W. Fairbanks and Pamela and Aubert de Villaine, whose donations in memory of Henri Gaudin de Villaine make possible its spring 1998 renovation.



DEIDRE CANTRELL

Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in May, June, July 1999

LEVEL I

Ms. Lois Adair
 Mrs. M.S. Amestoy
 Ms. Joyce Appleby
 Ms. Rebecca Atwater
 Mr. Louis R. Baker
 Mr. Donald W. Banas
 Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Banish
 Mr. & Mrs. William Beasley
 Ms. Mona Behan
 Ms. Jean Beirne
 Ms. Linda Bennett
 Ms. Judith Bernstien
 Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Beugelmans
 Ms. Denise Bielby
 Mr. & Mrs. David Birenbaum
 Mr. Jim Blascovich
 Mr. & Mrs. David Blitstein
 Ms. Monica Bootcheck
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Bornholdt
 Ms. Teri Boxwell
 Mr. & Mrs. Stan Braun
 Ms. Patricia Brennan
 Ms. Marilyn Brunsdon
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Busic
 Ms. Eileen Caba
 Ms. Marilyn R. Caldwell
 Ms. Lorraine Cass
 Ms. Elizabeth Chang
 Ms. Robin Chasteen
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Chein
 Ms. Amy Clark
 Ms. Ellyn Clark
 Drs. Julie & William Coburn
 Ms. Felicity Cocker
 Ms. Anne Coffey
 Ms. Patricia Cox
 Ms. Lisa Taylor Crouse
 Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Dawson
 Mr. & Mrs. Joel Day
 Ms. Virginia Mason Dittmer
 Ms. Lucy B. Dobson
 Ms. Joyce Donchak
 Ms. Myra Douglass
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Drosendahl
 Ms. Penny Dutton
 Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Ellison
 Ms. Jenny Erickson
 Ms. Bonnie Fenton
 The Ferris & Roan Family
 Ms. Pat Fletchall
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Fox
 Mr. & Mrs. William H. Freudenstein
 Mr. & Mrs. Martin Fuchs

Ms. Leslie Fuller
 Ms. Arleen Garcia
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gibbs
 Ms. Anita Goldstein
 Mrs. Horace Gray
 Ms. Laura Guneau
 Ms. Colette Hadley
 Mr. & Mrs. Stefan Hagopian
 Ms. Cynthia Harada
 Ms. Kathy Harmon
 Mr. & Mrs. William R. Hawley
 Ms. Arlene Henry
 Mr. & Mrs. Craig Herrin
 Mr. Michael Hillerman
 Ms. Betty Howell
 Dr. & Dr. Herbert Hyman
 Ms. Lory Johansson
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Johnson
 Ms. Sarah Johnson
 Ms. Michele Kaplowitz
 Ms. Fran Kaveney
 Dr. Robin Kay
 Ms. Mary Ellen Kazmark
 Mr. & Mrs. Pat Kelly
 Ms. Deborah Kirsch
 Ms. Laura Knauss
 Ms. Lauren Krasco
 Ms. Bette Krushell
 Ms. Susan Kuroda
 Mr. Gordon Kurtis
 Mr. & Mrs. Daniel LaPorte
 Ms. Stephanie Landa
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Landenberger
 Ms. Stephanie Landregan
 Mr. & Mrs. William Lavin
 Ms. Marie S. Lichauco
 Ms. Mei-Ye L. Lin
 Ms. Andrea Lipson
 Mr. Clarence McDonald
 Mr. & Mrs. Hugh McGonigle
 Ms. Cherie Mignone
 Ms. Cydney Miller
 Ms. Laura Miller
 Ms. Joyce Mohun
 Mr. & Mrs. Rick Mohun
 Mr. Alfred Moore
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank More
 Mr. Michael Nash
 Ms. Sybil Nisenholz
 Ms. Dee Norton
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Omdahl
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Ostrand
 Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Parletto
 Ms. Barbara Parrillo

Ms. Linda Pender
 Ms. Louise Pierson
 Ms. Judy Pochini
 Ms. Barbara P. Poer
 Mr. & Mrs. Neville Price
 Ms. Meredith Reeback
 Mr. Jon Reeve
 Ms. Nancy L. Reinesto
 Mr. Byron Reynolds
 Ms. Pamela J. Rich
 Ms. Marybeth Rinehart
 Ms. Hawley Roddick
 Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Roehrig
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 Mr. Bill Walkup
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 Ms. Freda Weegar
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 Mr. & Mrs. Carl White
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 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Wyckoff

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 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Barreca
 Ms. Judith Bennett
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 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Bernes
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 Ms. Sharon T. Cherry
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 Ms. Claudia Elmes
 Dr. & Mrs. John Findley

NOTICE TO MEMBERS AND DONORS

IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT national attention given to non-profits sharing their donor lists with other organizations, the Lotusland Foundation would like to reassure our supporters that we have never shared our donor list, and have no intention of doing so in the future. Your trust in the confidentiality of our donor list is very important to us.



Sustainability Workshop

With CURATOR VIRGINIA HAYES

Saturday, September 18, 1999

10:00 AM • \$10.00/person

Number of people attending _____

Christmas Trees and Their Friends

With PROFESSOR DR. BRUCE TIFFNEY

Saturday, November 13, 1999

1:30 PM to 4:00 PM • \$10.00/person

Number of people 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 cancellation is received one week before class or lecture.

If minimum enrollment is not reached, classes and lectures may be canceled.

No phone reservations, please.

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

Ms. Lisa Ford
 Ms. Betty Franklin
 Mr. & Mrs. Roger Friedland
 Mr. & Mrs. Robin Graham
 Mr. Jamie Greenleaf
 Ms. Kennedy Hansen
 Mr. & Mrs. David Hardee
 Mr. & Mrs. Walter Harris
 Mr. Frederick E. Harrison
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 Ms. Christina B. Thielst
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 Ms. Beata Wilson
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Yoon

LEVEL III

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel R. Ledbetter
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven W. Lew
 Ms. Carol A. Schleck
 Ms. Karin Young

LEVEL IV

Mr. Stephen R. Harrison

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

May, June, July 1999

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 Ms. Elizabeth L. Calmer
 in honor of Carol Valentine
 Ms. Julia Emerson
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. Hunter
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 Mr. Arthur Gaudi

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Ms. Carol Valentine

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May, June, July 1999

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 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Sanford
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 Mr. & Mrs. James Selbert
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LEVEL IV

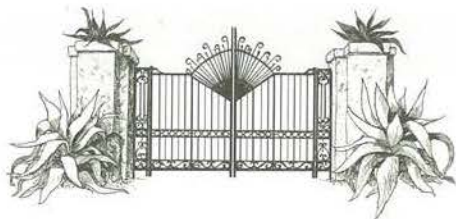
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Reservation Office Improvements

AS INTEREST IN LOTUSLAND continues to grow, and Lotusland's Conditional Use Permit allows more visitors to see the gardens, improvements are under way to make it easier to reach the Lotusland Reservation Office. We are adding a new Visitor Services position during the 9 AM to noon, Monday through Friday, Reservation Office hours. We are also adding two telephone lines to the existing two lines, all of which are reached by calling Lotusland Reservations at 805-969-9990.

We apologize for any difficulty you may have had in reaching the Reservation Office during peak periods of reservation calls. We want a busy signal to be a rare experience and to reduce the time you may have to be on hold while earlier calls are being served.

There are still spaces available for members of Friends of Lotusland to visit in 1999. We look forward to your call for reservations.

Member Events

Space is always limited for activities at Lotusland, so please respond quickly to sign-up instructions.

Saturday, September 18

Building a Sustainable Garden 10:00 AM–12:00 PM
Cost is \$10. See workshop description on page 11; use coupon on page 15 to sign up.

Saturday, October 9

Member's Self-Guided Tour 1:30–4:30 PM

Enjoy the garden on your own— no guided tours. Spend a relaxing afternoon in the garden. Docents will be available to answer your questions, and refreshments will be served in the main house. Call Lotusland reservations at 969-9990 (M–F, 9:00 AM to noon) to sign up.

Saturday, November 13

Christmas Trees and Their Friends
Illustrated Lecture by Dr. Bruce Tiffney, UCSB Geology Dept. See article on page 6; use coupon on page 15 to sign up.

Saturday, December 11

Member's Self-Guided Tour and Holiday Shopping
1:30–4:30 PM

Enjoy the garden on your own— no guided tours. Spend a relaxing afternoon in the garden and shop for unique holiday gifts in Lotusland's Garden Shop. Docents will be available to answer your questions, and refreshments will be served in the main house. Call Lotusland reservations at 969-9990 (M–F, 9:00 AM to noon) to sign up.