



LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  VOLUME 8 NO. 1  SPRING 1999

Ganna Walska's Japanese Garden



IN EACH AREA OF HER GARDEN, Madame Walska took an idea or theme and created an expression of her

own style. The Japanese Garden was no exception. She envisioned it encircling the large pond at the lower end of the property, which was then completely engulfed by lotus. In the late 1960s, she began collaborating with Santa Barbara stone mason Oswald Da Ros and an experienced Japanese gardener, Frank Fujii, to create a place of serenity and beauty.

In Japanese gardening the intention is to evoke a scene from nature that can be entered and contemplated. The main elements of water, stone, and tree are maintained in a very fine balance. All aspects of the design, from the exact placement of trees and plants to the choice of weathered boulders, are considered in detail and carefully executed.

In Ganna Walska's Japanese garden, which is most reminiscent of a *samurai* stroll garden with its large central pond, her collection of stone lanterns and other sculpture is displayed against a backdrop of lush greenery. Another technique, called *shakkei*, "borrows" a view or element of the larger landscape and incorporates it in the garden. The view of Montecito Peak framed by the *torii* gate is a perfect example.

Madame Walska (with Mr. Fujii's help) included many of the types of plants traditional to Japanese gardens. Each symbolizes a human virtue, so that a walk through the garden can become a moral lesson. Bamboo,

Continued on page 2



STEVEN TIMBROOK

A torii gate, traditionally used to mark a place of importance, stands at the formal entrance of Madame Walska's Japanese garden. This gate was brought to Lotusland from the Raymond estate (more recently known as The Breakers or Arco estate) in Montecito by Madame Walska.

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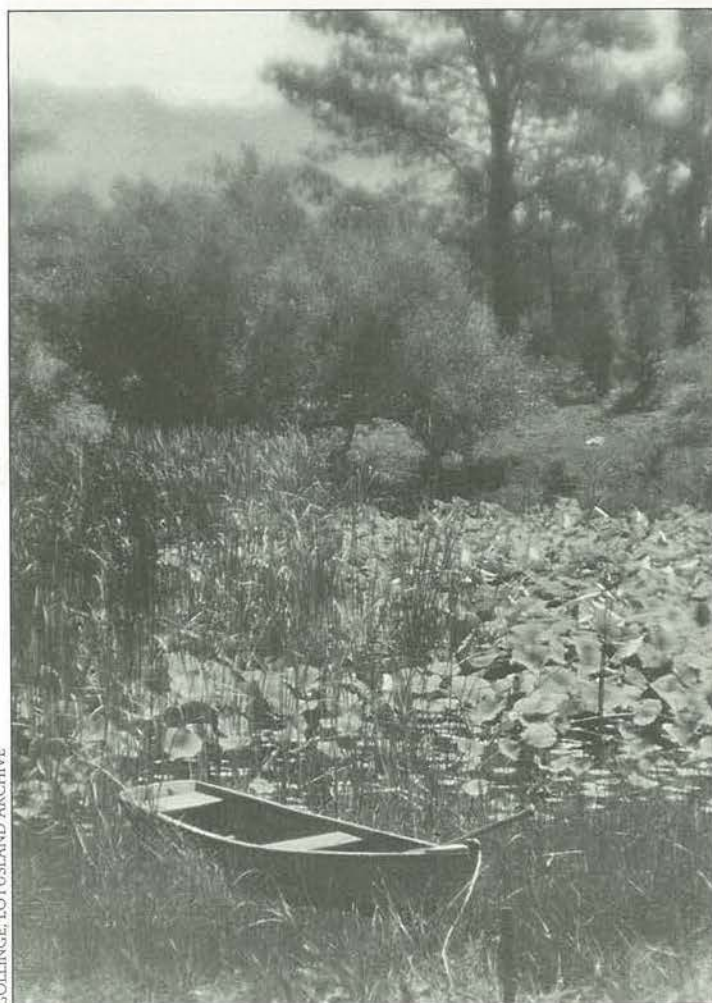
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symbolic of strength and flexibility, pine, which stands for long life and endurance, and flowering plum or cherry, denoting courage or chivalry, are often planted near each other and referred to as the "three friends." Others such as azalea (brotherhood), camellia (happiness), nandina (grace), rhododendron (love), willow (friendship), ferns (prosperity), water lily (companionship), lotus (purity), and wisteria (sadness) are all included at Lotusland.

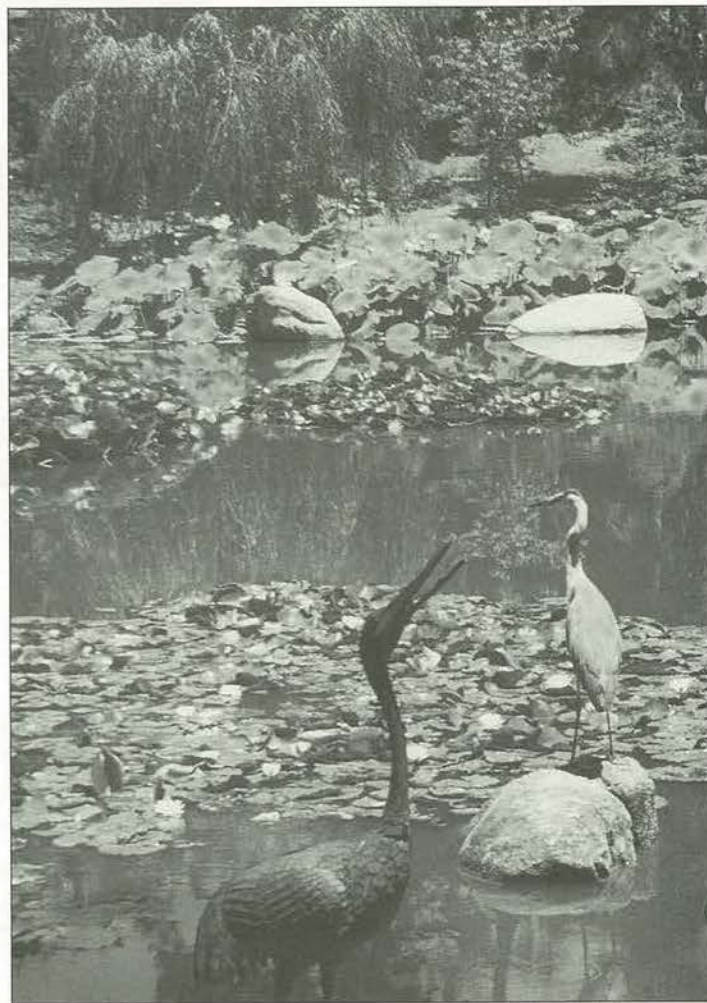
Some of these plants readily adapt to the climate, water, and soil in our Santa Barbara gardens. Some major exceptions, however, require extraordinary measures to ensure their continued health and beauty. Notorious for their problems with our heavy clay soils and alkaline water are azaleas, rhododendrons,

camellias and Japanese maples. Even the hollies, pines, and other conifers such as *Chamaecyparis*, *Cryptomeria* and *Sciadopitys* would prefer a well-drained, acidic soil. Most would also do best in a climate with year-round, even moisture and suffer during our long, dry summers and potentially soggy winters.

Since the Japanese garden is situated in what was once a reservoir carved out by R. Kinton Stevens, the sloping sides of the amphitheater are composed of native clay that was scooped out and pushed up to form the berm of the main drive. As time passed, the improvements to soil quality that were instituted during planting of the garden (in this case, thirty years ago) were degraded as organic material decomposed and soil became compacted. Salts built up during dry years without rains to



COLLINGS, LOTUSLAND ARCHIVE



MARGO ENKO

In the early twenties, the reservoir that would become the focus of the Japanese garden was navigable by rowboat, even if choked with lotus. Now water, trees, stones, and lotus are in balance. The natural and the contrived exist side by side.



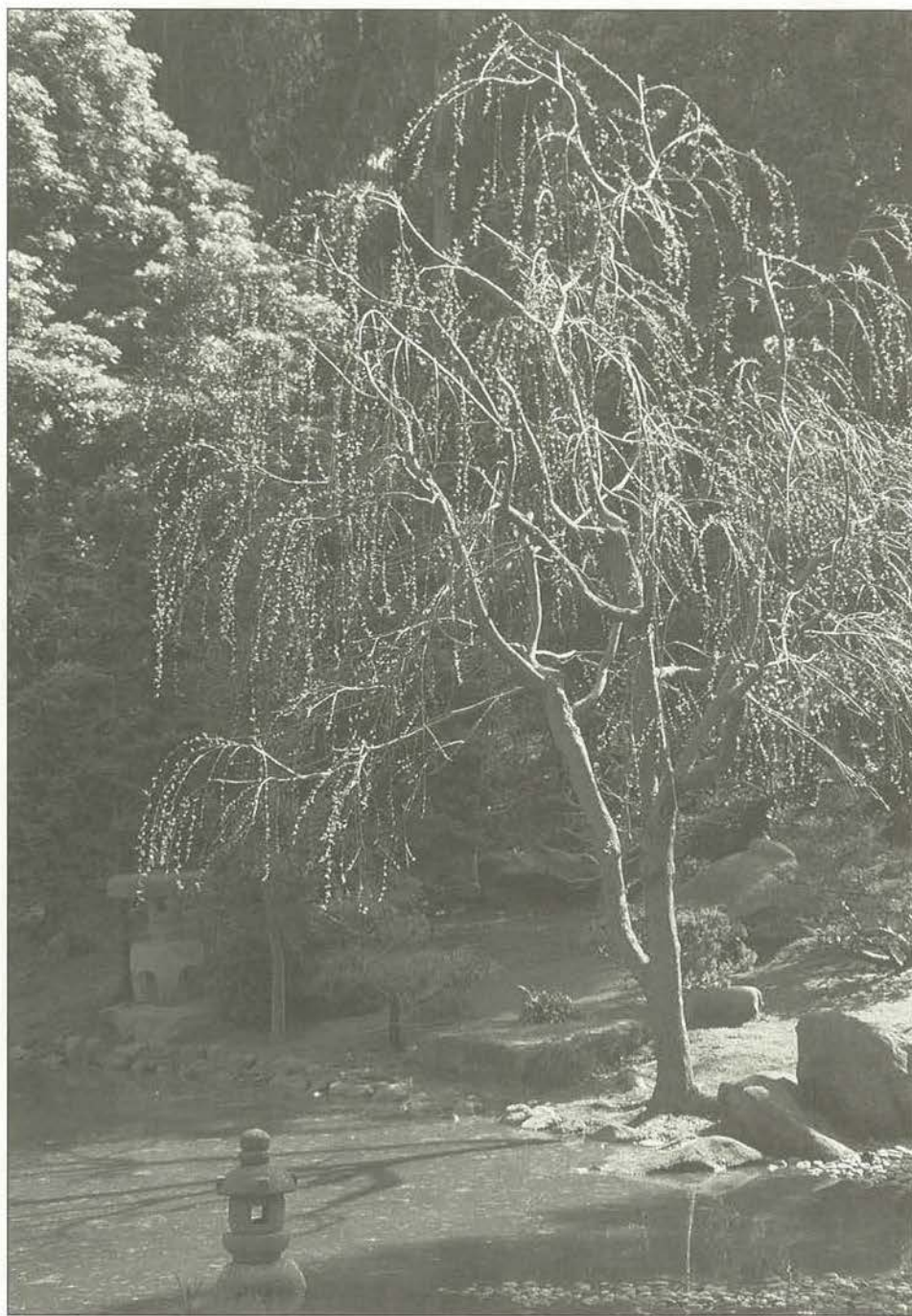
HIROSHIGE

Nineteenth century woodcut of a Japanese public garden. Even the large pines have been manicured and shaped to emphasize their form.

leach them out of the soil. The result was increasingly unhealthy conditions for all plants, but particularly significant for the more sensitive ones mentioned. Stressed plants are less able to resist pathogens such as fungi and insect pests.

During the last several years, the replacement of azaleas and conifers has been ongoing, and a new group of rhododendrons is waiting in the wings to be planted out this spring. To mitigate the effects of clay soil and alkaline water, they are being planted in new soil mix mounded above the existing beds. This will give them the moisture-retaining, yet well-draining medium they require. Additional sub-surface drainage is being installed in some areas to further improve their chances for a long and healthy life.

In 1994, a fertilizer injection system was installed that applied a low dose of nitrogen and acidified water during every irrigation. While improvements in plant health were noticed after just a short time with this system, it no longer fits Lotusland's increasing commitment to totally organic materials and sustainable methods. The current irrigation system—comprised of a mosaic of



VIRGINIA HAYES

In Lotusland's Japanese garden, several weeping willows overhang the pool, their images reflected on its surface.

manual pop-up shrub sprayers, drip emitters, low-volume mini-spray heads, and good old-fashioned rain-birds—is due for major renovation and re-design. Gardening staff spends more than a third of their time just moving hoses and sprinklers and repairing and maintaining thousands of feet of tubing. So a newly designed automated system of irrigation is in the works that will also include an improved fertigation pump and tank

capable of applying organic materials. With these improvements, the essential elements of the Japanese garden will continue to thrive.

As you visit the garden, spend some moments in contemplation of the lofty ideals expressed by the plantings. Turn your thoughts, if only for a moment, away from your daily cares to those of brotherhood, love, and happiness.

—Virginia Hayes



What's Niwaki?

A JAPANESE GARDEN is a metaphor for a perfect, yet perfectly natural world. This illusion is maintained through the dedication of the gardener and the cooperation of nature. Each *niwaki* or manicured specimen tree in the garden is formed to a purpose: the creation of an effect that is so subtly artificial that it seems more natural than nature.

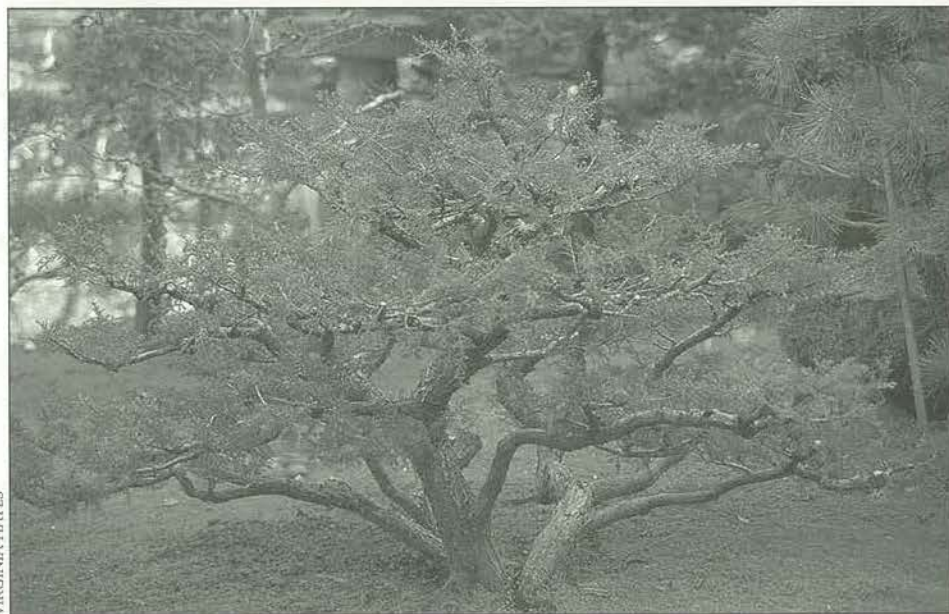
Sometimes however, nature does not cooperate. At Lotusland, the loss of several black pine *niwaki* due to *Phytophthora* (root fungus) has left a void where visual vignettes used to be. Replacements have been located by Lotusland's Frank Fujii, but as you might imagine, 30-year-old black pine trees are not inexpensive, and our funds are limited.

If you would like to contribute to the restoration of the Japanese garden by donating funds for the replacement of these trees, please call Assistant Director Anne Dewey at 969-3767 ext. 225.



VIRGINIA HAYES

*This recumbent niwaki at Lotusland (a *Pinus densiflora* or Japanese red pine) has been pruned so that when its branches bear snow an image of clouds floating aloft will be produced.*



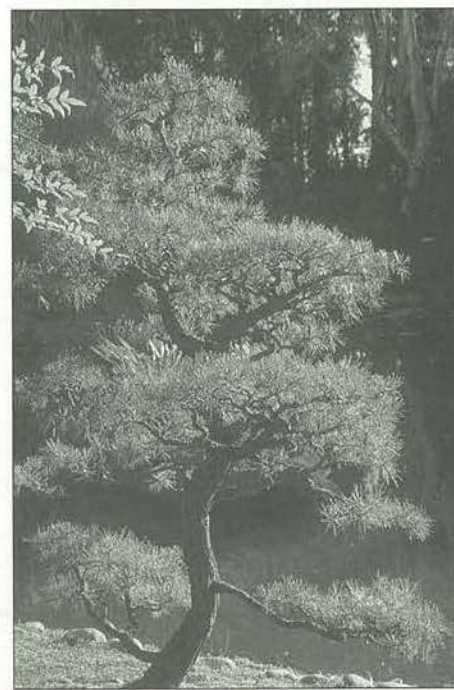
VIRGINIA HAYES

*The ability of evergreens *Juniperus* cv and pine to remain upright and green in the bitter harshness of winter embodies the Japanese ideal of strength in adversity.*



VIRGINIA HAYES

Frank Fujii has skillfully shaped each tree and shrub in his garden to conform to a Japanese aesthetic ideal.



VIRGINIA HAYES

*An upright *Pinus radiata* or Monterey pine niwaki at Lotusland.*



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Lynn Kirby, Lotusland's Madame Butterfly



J.M. EASTMAN

LOVE OF GARDENING and a strong commitment to volunteerism combine to make Lynn Kirby an enthusiastic, dedicated Lotusland garden volunteer. She began volunteering here five years ago, working in the Japanese garden with Lotusland's expert gardeners Frank Fujii and Terri Clay. Lynn's goal "to be part of the garden and be a contributing member" was nurtured by these early learning experiences—and recently found expression in an important independent contribution to the garden's programs. She has used her creative energy in designing and implementing the "butterfly garden," an exciting new addition to the gardens that not only is a feast for the eyes, but also contributes toward Lotusland's ultimate goal—sustainability.

Lynn's professional experience is in visual display. She is the Visual Director for *Pier 1* in Santa Barbara, where she utilizes her obvious talent for design. She is accomplished in the art of basket weaving from natural fibers and finds Lotusland's compost bins to be "a great source for plant material" for her baskets. She teaches basket making classes in her home, has taught classes at the International

Center for Earth Concerns (ICEC) in Ojai, and for many years has sold her baskets at the downtown *Yes Store*.

Lynn's desire to further her expertise in gardening led her to the *Master Gardener* program offered by the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. When she saw an article in *Lotus Notice* asking for volunteers to help start an insectary in an area of the grounds that "looked pretty pathetic," she submitted a proposal for creating a butterfly garden at Lotusland using plants that attract and support beneficial insects...the attraction of butterflies being a delightful side effect. With Lotusland's IPM (Integrated Pest Management) coordinator, John Lafleur, acting as liaison between the *Master Gardener* program and Lotusland, our very own Madame Butterfly unfurled her wings with a vengeance.

Lynn started the all-volunteer project in the spring of 1998 with the help of fellow Lotusland garden volunteers George Burtness and Nina Terzian. The garden was created on a half-acre plot beyond the lemon arbor, in company with both the majestic dawn redwood (*Metasequoia*) and charming dove aviary. The volunteers worked very hard designing,

planting, and maintaining the new beds, which feature a potpourri of varieties of flowering plants that attract beneficial insects. If you had a chance to walk through the garden last summer, you were treated to a dazzling display of color from these plantings. An expansion is planned this year with the assistance of volunteer Master Gardeners. Also planned are a program to teach children about beneficial insects and the planting of a garden used to demonstrate how simple it is to establish a backyard insectary.

Lynn has a long and varied history of volunteerism in our community. Her first volunteer experience was working in the nursery at Goleta Valley Hospital taking photographs of babies, and she has been a "big sister" in the extremely successful Big Brother Program sponsored by the Santa Barbara Boys' Club. It seems that her natural inclination for nurturing extends to the plant world as well, much to our benefit and delight here at Lotusland.

Anyone interested in working in the butterfly garden should contact Connie Buxton, Volunteer Coordinator, at 969-3736, ext. 227.

—Connie Buxton

The Master Gardener Program

THE LOCAL MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM started in 1989 and is jointly administered by a cooperative agreement between Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and the University of California Extension in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The program grew out of a need for home gardeners to have answers to horticultural questions.

To become a certified Master Gardener, each trainee must attend approximately 80 hours of classes and perform 80 hours of volunteer apprenticeship. To maintain certified Master Gardener status, each gardener must volunteer a minimum of 40 hours a year (working on approved projects) and continue their horticultural education.

If you have questions about this program, please call Connie Buxton, Lotusland Volunteer Coordinator at 969-3767 ext. 227.

New to the Collections

SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING plant hybrids have arisen by the chance cross-pollination of unknown parents or a mutation on one portion of a plant (often called a "sport"). One such plant that first appeared in the cactus beds at Lotusland many years ago is a form of *Astrophytum myriostigma*. Also called Bishop's Cap because of its mitred shape, this cactus is native to Mexico and has long been a favorite with collectors.

This particular form, now called *Astrophytum myriostigma* forma Lotusland, is just such a sport. Some portion of a typical plant began to proliferate resulting in a "monstrose" form that

had many small heads clustered together instead of the characteristic single, large one. The original plants in the garden have been gone for a number of years, so it was with great pleasure that a replacement was recently obtained from Rainbow Gardens in Vista, California, where it has been in propagation for quite some time. Our new plant is still in the nursery, but it grows quickly and will join its relatives along the main drive in the not-too-distant future.

Another plant bearing the cultivar name 'Lotusland' is a large-leaved begonia with showy pink flowers. Local begonia hybridizer and nursery-

man Rudolph Ziesenhenné discovered a seedling of this plant growing in his greenhouse about the time that Madame Walska was purchasing begonias for her new shade garden. Several other species were growing in the same greenhouse, which made it difficult to ascertain its parents. Mr. Ziesenhenné, who was apprised of Ganna Walska's love of the color pink, thought it only fitting to name this flamboyant upstart for her estate. Several plants of it thrive in the original portion of the fern garden where its large, lobed leaves stand out among the ferns.

—Virginia Hayes, Jennifer Dennis

MERRAG and Emergency Preparedness

EARTHQUAKE, WILDFIRE, FLOOD. Nobody knows when the next one will strike, but everyone knows it will. At Lotusland we have to be ready to respond to emergencies that can threaten visitors and staff. In addition to our own evacuation plans, emergency drills, and CPR and first aid training, we have a powerful partner to help us. MERRAG, pronounced "mirage," stands for Montecito Emergency Response and Recovery Action Group. Lotusland is fortunate that since 1987 its home community of Montecito has been,

to use MERRAG's motto, "Preparing today for tomorrow's disaster."

Begun by the Montecito Fire, Water, and Sanitary districts as a way to cooperatively help meet emergencies, MERRAG has the mission of preparing Montecito to survive the first 72 hours following a major disaster, a period when outside help is very likely to be unavailable.

Local institutions, organizations, and homeowner groups are encouraged to participate (Lotusland has been an active institutional member since 1991) and representatives meet monthly for training in CPR, first aid, incident command post operations, and emergency communications techniques. When an emergency strikes, Montecito Fire Department activates MERRAG by paging primary responders, who in turn mobilize other MERRAG volunteers. Lotusland's Grounds Superintendent John Lafleur and Executive Director Steven Timbrook take turns with representatives from other community agencies as primary responders, carrying special pagers and two-way radios linking

them to the Fire Department's communications center. As a part of the MERRAG network, John and Steve responded to local flooding emergencies in 1995 and last year's El Niño floods.

Our partnership in MERRAG allows Lotusland to share important resources with our neighbors in Montecito under emergency conditions. The commitment to preparedness demonstrated by this organization ultimately benefits the entire community which it represents.

—Steven Timbrook



Montecito Emergency Response and Recovery Group, including Lotusland's John Lafleur, top row, fourth from right.



MERRAG members quickly mobilized in response to El Niño flooding in our community last winter.

Year-End Appeal Results

LOTUSLAND IS VERY GRATIFIED by the enthusiastic response from members to our 1998 year-end appeal. The number of gifts more than doubled from 1997. Our members' generosity allows Lotusland to further important projects within our educational and horticultural programs and to increase accessibility in the garden. Two major gifts from Ms. Priscilla K. Giesen and Mr. and Mrs. Sean Hutchinson will create a much needed rare and specimen plant fund. Lotusland is especially grateful to the John G. Braun and The Pesenti Foundations for their generous gifts to the year-end appeal. We would like to thank the following individuals for their much appreciated support of our programs and operations:

RARE & SPECIMEN PLANT FUND

Ms. Priscilla K. Giesen
Mr. Sean Hutchinson

HORTICULTURE

Mr. & Mrs. H. Hampton Bell
Mr. & Mrs. John Boething
Ms. Nancy Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Delgado
Ms. Iris Howell Flowers
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Granat
Mrs. Graham Jones
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Ms. Susan Bower
Mrs. Janet Milligan Crary
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Ms. Charlotte G. Hoegerman
Mrs. Joseph R. Osherenko
Ms. Karin Young

ACCESSIBILITY

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Connelly
Ms. Susan Krivin
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Oldham



WHERE MOST NEEDED

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Mr. Victor K. Atkins, Jr.
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Ms. Sydney Baumgartner
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Ms. Elinor Van Oosten
Mrs. Eric Van de Water
Ms. Winifred W. Vedder
Ms. April N. Walstad
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Webster
Ms. Jeanne Woods

Horticultural Happenings

HEDGES

PLANTINGS OF *Syzygium paniculatum* and *Pittosporum undulatum* easily outnumber any other individual non-grass species growing at Lotusland. Except for the *Podocarpus gracilior* and *Myrsine africanus* in the Theater garden, all of the clipped formal hedges at Lotusland are "eugenia" and "pitt." The hedges frame hardscape features such as the Neptune fountain and swimming pool and provide the screening that creates the intimacy of special areas like the parterre rose garden and topiaries. Although their botanical interest doesn't rival that of the specimen plantings, the hedges are a very important architectural design feature.

It's the nature of hedges to grow beyond their prescribed bounds, but an occasional renovation will recover the desired shape and size. At Lotusland the hedges in the parterre and around the topiary garden are renovated every five or six years. The process includes checking the heights, widths, and relative scale of the hedges to their surroundings. Using the brick borders of walkways and measured bamboo poles as guides, hedges and ledges are redefined. *S. paniculatum* and *P. undulatum* grow very fast in Santa Barbara so hedges recover from these renovations

quickly. Even when severe trimming leaves only a skeletal framework of trunks and twigs, new growth begins almost immediately.

The crisp new lines of the parterre and topiary garden hedges renovated in January are greening up again and should be completely recovered by late spring or early summer. New plantings will eventually fill holes where hedges were thin or out of shape and where unwanted plants were removed. The maintenance, including cultural care of the hedges, is a time-consuming but very important aspect of grounds care. Take special notice of the hedges the next time you visit Lotusland and try to envision the Garden without its hedges...it would be like a room without walls.

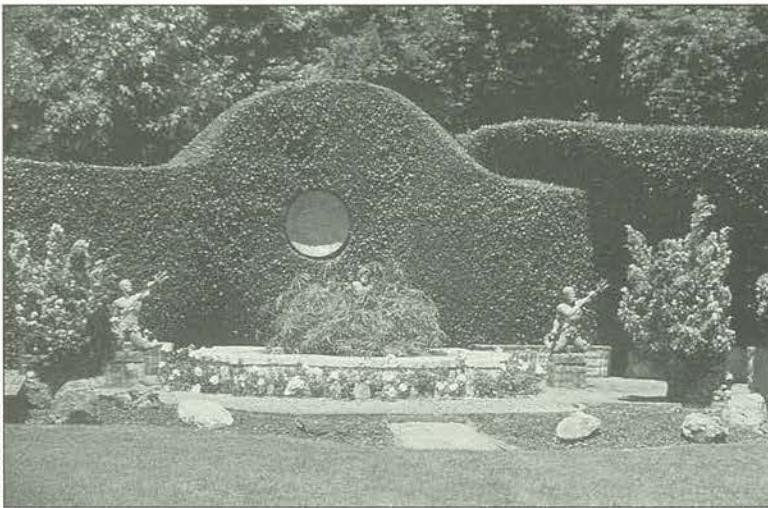
BROMELIADS

SANTA BARBARA'S CLIMATE is suitable to the cultivation of bromeliads in the landscape. In fact, Lotusland's mass plantings of colorful bromeliads with their graceful shapes and unusual textures under a canopy of oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) are the favorite gardens of many visitors. The bromeliad collection should be even more spectacular this year due to a couple of recently completed cultural improvement projects.

The foliage of oak trees is necessary for photosynthesis and shades branches from the heat of the sun, which can cause sunscald. The bromeliads, on the other hand, need as much light as possible to encourage better color of foliage and inflorescence, but can burn if the light is too hot or intense. A recent trimming of the oaks in the bromeliad garden was completed to improve light conditions for the understory plantings while maintaining sufficient oak foliage for tree health.

Providing nutrients in the proper proportions to the bromeliads will be possible now that the bromeliad garden irrigation systems have been isolated from the main lawn fertigation system. Overfertilizing, especially too much nitrogen, can cause a greening of some bromeliads. Plants may grow leggy and lose their color and variegation. Micro-dosing nutrients through the fertigation system over the past year has been very beneficial to the main lawn, but provided more nutrients than the bromeliads require. Separating the main lawn and the bromeliad gardens' irrigation lines improves the cultural conditions leading to healthier plants and a better display. See if you can tell the difference the next time you visit the Garden.

—Mike Iven



Through consistent trimming, the hedges of the formal garden haven't visibly changed in the twenty years since this photograph was taken.



Bromeliads thrive under the oak canopy. Their sources of food and light have recently been improved.

Make Mother's Day Special

TREAT THE MOTHER in your life to a wonderful gift this Mother's Day—a membership to Friends of Lotusland. Every Mother's Day gift recipient and her guests are invited on a docent-led tour of the garden on Saturday, May 8 (the day before Mother's Day). Tea and refreshments will be served on the Terrace.

Gift recipients will receive the tour and tea as part of the gift membership contribution. The fee for her guests will be the usual tour charge (\$10 or redeem one free admission coupon) plus \$6 per guest for the tea. Personalized membership packages will be mailed to the gift recipient.

To purchase a Mother's Day gift membership and make reservations for additional guests for the tour and tea, complete this coupon and mail it to:

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

MOTHER'S DAY GIFT MEMBERSHIP RECIPIENT

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

☐ Level I \$40

☐ Level II \$100

☐ Level III \$500

☐ Level IV \$1000

PERSON GIVING GIFT

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Expiration Date _____

Card Number _____ Signature _____

ADDITIONAL RESERVATIONS REQUESTED FOR TOUR AND TEA

_____ Number of reservations x \$10 fee or free admission pass plus \$6 per reservation = \$ _____

Rose Garden Renovation is Funded



LAST SPRING'S RENOVATION of the rose garden, a focal point of the parterre to the east of the Main House, has been completely underwritten by a \$10,000 donation from Charles Fairbanks and his sister, Pamela de

Villaine, in memory of her father-in-law, Henri Gaudin de Villaine.

The soil was thoroughly reconditioned, subsurface drains were installed to alleviate the poor drainage that had always plagued this part of the garden, and a new suite of floribunda roses was planted

in staggered rows. A red pillar rose now graces the backdrop trellis, which formerly supported an Easter lily vine (*Beaumontia grandiflora*). In their first year in the ground, the new roses were quite pretty. This year they will be even lovelier, so please come and enjoy them.

Ikebana Lecture and Demonstration

LIKE JAPANESE GARDEN DESIGN, Japanese flower arranging (*ikebana*) is a reflection and an idealization of the essentials of nature. Ikenobo Ikebana professor Heartie Anne Look, who studied *ikebana* in Japan for several years, will discuss the history and development of *ikebana* in a lecture at Lotusland on May 15, 1999.

By creating arrangements encompassing the earliest *shoka* type used in Buddhist temples to the bold contemporary styles of today, Mrs. Look will demonstrate the enduring vitality of this graceful art and prepare the way for attendees to create arrangements on their own. Please use the coupon on page 15 to register.



Ikebana expresses many of the aesthetic values common to other Japanese representations of nature such as this pen and ink drawing from the 19th century.

Garden Volunteers

WORK, WORK, WORK, work, work, work, work. There's so much to do and never enough time for the gardening staff to do it. We could use some help. If you would like to spend more time at Lotusland getting to know the horticulturists, learning sustainable horticulture practices, and helping to maintain and improve the grounds, consider the Garden volunteer program.

Projects to improve the growing conditions for plants throughout the Garden are ongoing. A typical day's activities might include planting bed soil renovation, application of organic fertilizers and other soil and root inoculants, installing and repairing irrigation systems, planting and maintaining insectary/butterfly gardens, day-to-day landscape maintenance, and preparation for public tours and special events.

The grounds staff takes pride in the appearance of their individual areas of responsibility and in Lotusland's reputation for high-quality landscape maintenance. A thoughtful approach to cultural care performed in an environmentally responsible manner is a part of the process that keeps gardening at Lotusland interesting and rewarding and fun. There's work to do and improvements to be made in every area of the Garden. Call Connie Buxton at 969-3767 to find out more about becoming a Lotusland grounds volunteer.



Garden volunteers.



Members' Family Day at Lotusland

SUNDAY, APRIL 25 • 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

This event is offered free to Lotusland members and their families, thanks to the generosity and support of

The Robert & Christine Emmons Foundation

Lotusland wishes to thank you, our members, for your support by hosting our second annual members' family day. Everyone is invited, especially kids under 10!



Activities will include:

- BOXTALES with Michael Katz in the theatre garden 11–11:30 a.m. & 2:30–3 p.m.
- Games and crafts from the garden for children and adults 10–11:30 a.m. & 2–3:30 p.m.
- Horticulture Hunt: follow clues to find plants in the garden and win a prize morning and afternoon
- Free silly souvenir photographs by Robert DeBris (all day)
- Live music on the main lawn, featuring *The Sons of Bluegrass* from noon to 2 p.m.
- Exhibits in the main house (all day)
- Picnic lunches, cake and drinks on the main lawn from noon to 2 p.m.

Box lunches for adults and children may be purchased when you make your reservation, or guests are welcome to bring their own picnic lunches. Cake and beverages will be provided for all. Picnic (packing) blankets will be provided to everyone, courtesy of Mammoth Moving & Storage.

THIS MEMBERS' FAMILY DAY IS FREE!

But you must make a reservation by mail. We expect this event to fill very quickly, and space is limited. Please complete and mail the coupon below to reserve your space and to purchase box lunches.

RESERVATION FORM

MEMBERS' FAMILY DAY IS FREE, WITH A RESERVATION. To reserve space for you and your family, complete this coupon and mail it to: Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attn: Member Events, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. *No phone reservations, please. Confirmations will be sent upon our receipt of your reservation.*

Member Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Number of Adults attending _____ Number of Kids attending _____ Number of cars _____

You may bring your own picnic or order Box Lunches here:

Box Lunches: Adult's lunch \$12 each _____

Kid's lunch \$ 6 each _____

Total enclosed _____

Payment Method:

☐ Check enclosed

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Expiration date _____

Card number _____

Signature _____

Mike Furner Celebrates Twenty Years at Lotusland



J.M. EASTMAN

ONE LOOK AT HIS SPARKLING blue eyes and you immediately know that Lotusland's equipment and maintenance mechanic, Mike Furner, loves his work. So it won't surprise you to learn that Mike has been a dedicated Lotusland employee for twenty years this February.

Madame Walska hired Mike in 1979 to be part of her gardening crew after seeing his hard work, dedication, and love for Lotusland on a contract crew doing tree work in the garden she was working so hard to complete. Employed by Griffin Tree & Landscape, Mike spent two Springs moving palms for "the Madame" (as she was known), delighted to be in her beautiful garden and excited to be in on the creation of new gardens.

While with Griffin, Mike and an associate moved the first palms into the area that would become the cycad garden, including a *Phoenix reclinata* 30 feet tall, which had to be transported by crane. They then moved dozens of cycads Ganna Walska had collected and kept in what is now the shade palm garden, beginning with the three *Encephalartos woodii*.

Most of Mike's career has been in the landscaping business. As a kid growing up in Santa Barbara he did yard work. Later he worked for five years at the Wilcox Nursery in the Kentia Palm division where he

learned about planting techniques and plants. He spent a year doing landscaping at the Valley Club in Montecito before going to work for Griffin in the 1970s. During the six years he spent with Griffin, he learned many different aspects of horticulture and landscape construction, finding the business always new and different.

One day, when Mike had been moving palms for the Madame for nearly a month, the director of her garden, Charlie Glass, approached him with the following proposition: Would he consider quitting his job with Griffin so that Madame Walska—who did not want to steal him away from Griffin—could hire him full time. Though the stipulation that he resign his current position caused him some concern, he gave notice and within a month was an employee at Lotusland. Although his risk paid off later, his new boss unfortunately forgot to issue his first paycheck. Her generosity later more than made up for this oversight, as Madame Walska was known to give generous bonuses to all those working for her.

In the twenty years since he began working at Lotusland, Mike has worked in almost all areas of the garden. After starting out with a brief stint in the cactus garden under Charlie Glass, he moved on to the cycad garden, where he spent three years maintaining its plush and aesthetically pleasing design. He then spent four years in the aloe garden and when the epiphyllums were moved to the tropical glen where they are now displayed, Mike hung them from the trees. He eventually settled in the bromeliad garden. It was a personal fascination with epiphytic bromeliads that caused him to request caring for those South American wonders, which he did for nearly seven years.

While she was alive, Madame Walska never called Mike by his name. When she was out walking in

the garden, alone or with Charlie Glass, she would call out to him, "Who's there?" When Mike replied, she would simply remark, "Oh, my blonde friend." One time, when he was planting ground cover among the newly planted cycads, Charlie brought by Madame Walska. When she asked Mike how long it would take for the small plugs of plant material to spread out and cover the area, he replied—taking his cue from Charlie to please his impatient boss, who at age 93 was racing against time to complete her garden—"Real soon, Madame, real soon." Hearing this, she was pleased and moved on.

Mike and another long-term gardener, Bruno Reginato, carried oxygen tanks into her bedroom when she returned from the hospital after a long illness in 1984. When the gardeners returned from lunch, they were saddened to learn that Madame Walska had passed away. Mike will never forget his former employer—the way she built her gardens, the generosity she showed all who worked for her, and the legacy she left for all to enjoy.

When restoration began on the main house and outbuildings after Madame Walska's death, Mike assisted Peter Stollenwerk with more and more construction projects, gradually phasing out of gardening. He is proud of his many building accomplishments that can be seen today by visitors: the wisteria arbor and Shinto shrine in the Japanese garden, the lemon arbor in the parterre, and the bird cage in the flower garden adjacent to the citrus orchard. He and Peter spent two months shaping nine-foot clear heart redwood timbers on a lathe he built himself to create the wisteria arbor in 1989. Mike also helped design and build shade structures in the nursery and carports for equipment behind the garage.

After all these years, Mike still cares for Lotusland and feels he made the right decision twenty years

ago. Today he keeps equipment such as power tools, tractors, and electric carts ready for grounds staff and responds to maintenance needs as they come up at all the buildings on the property. He is also responsible for the care and maintenance of the swimming pool and all the fountains. Because he still loves it, he works in the garden whenever he has a chance and always happily pitches in

to help get a job done. Optimistic and compassionate, Mike seems to live by an aphorism from his former boss, noting in times of challenge, "As Madame always said, 'Nothing is impossible.'"

Mike, an avid surfer since 1985 who also builds his own skateboards (including one for his grandson) hopes that Lotusland never loses the aesthetics and character that Madame

Walska created in her garden. He has weathered a lot of changes over the years and expects to see many more. He likes to tell people, "I've been sentenced to life at Lotusland—but it's a good sentence."

Lotusland salutes Mike's long-term dedication and love for the garden and hopes he'll be here in another twenty years.

—Janet M. Eastman

Santa Barbara Preservation Week 1999

SANTA BARBARA PRESERVATION WEEK 1999 is a countywide effort to recognize, celebrate, and promote the knowledge and appreciation of the area's unique historic resources and preservation efforts. As a participant, Lotusland will host a tour and illustrated lecture by Executive Director Steven Timbrook focusing on the recent restoration of various landscape elements designed by

noted Santa Barbara architect George Washington Smith.

Smith was employed by the Gavit family in the mid-twenties to provide designs for the pavilion, its patio, and several other elements of the garden hardscape. His final project for the Gavits was to design the original swimming pool and bath house, site of the present water garden.

When the Ganna Walska Lotus-

land Foundation took over the maintenance of the garden in 1984, the need for the restoration of Smith's garden elements was recognized, and three projects have been completed to date.

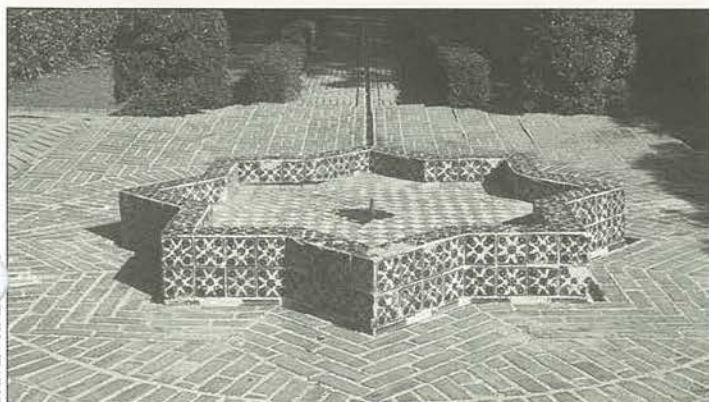
For more information or for reservations, please call Lotusland Reservations, 969-9990 between 9 AM and noon, M-F. For further information about Preservation Week 1999 activities, please call 966-9719.



View of the formal gardens and fountain c. 1924.



Ornate tilework being laid during restoration.



The fountain in 1994, badly in need of restoration.



George Washington Smith's fountain as it appears today.

Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in November, December 1998, January 1999

LEVEL I

Mr. Wesley Anderegg
 Mr. & Mrs. Lane Ashley
 Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Aumont
 Mr. Milo Baglioni
 Ms. Mirabai Baker
 Ms. Janice Barker
 Mr. Barry Bartron
 & Ms. Kay Long
 Mr. & Mrs. Burt Blosser
 Ms. Julie Boxberger
 Ms. Marilyn Brannon
 Ms. Zola Brink
 Ms. Micholin Brown
 Mr. & Mrs. Woody Brown
 Mr. Martyn Lawrence Bullard
 Mr. Vance Burke
 Ms. Margaret Casey
 Mr. & Mrs. David Chapman
 Mr. & Mrs. John Chionchio
 Mr. Patrick Corrigan
 Mr. & Mrs. John Cort
 Ms. Barbara Coster
 Mr. John Cottrell
 Mr. Steven Cullen
 Ms. Ann Daniels & Mr. Len Hill
 Ms. Laurie Deans
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Dehlon
 Mr. & Mrs. Andre Dermant
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Detterman
 Ms. Caroline Doiron
 Mr. Michael Einhorn
 Ms. Ann England
 Dr. & Mrs. Doug Erickson
 Ms. Anne Todd Erikson
 Mr. & Mrs. Philip W. Fauntleroy, III
 Ms. Joan Feifer
 Ms. Sue Ferguson
 Mr. Irving S. Finklestein
 & Ms. Nancy Lewis
 Ms. Alisa Linda Flint
 Ms. Suzanne Forester
 Ms. Mirella Forlani
 Ms. Marsha Fullerton
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Gilchriest
 Mr. Michael Gips
 & Ms. Tanya Novak
 Ms. Gwynne Gloege
 Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Gordon
 Ms. Susan Grayson
 Mr. Byron Gross
 Mr. Jerry Guttman

Mr. Michael Hakan
 Mr. Steven Hall
 Mr. Clans Hallig
 Mr. Paul Eugene Harrill
 Mr. Michael Healy
 Ms. Ann James
 Mr. & Mrs. Jenkins
 Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Johnson
 Ms. Masako Kakimoto
 Mr. David Katona
 The Knowles Family, Stac & Rob
 Ms. Nancy Langdon
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Lattimer
 Mrs. Orris Leone
 Ms. Pat Licker
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lilley
 Mr. & Mrs. David Littig
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Lowy
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 Mr. & Mrs. Hadi Makarechian
 Ms. Grace Malolepszy
 Mr. Thierry Marchand
 & Mr. Chris McGraw
 Mr. Stephen Marinko
 Mr. Douglas Marscheille
 Ms. Sharon McQueen
 Mr. & Mrs. Regis Messiqua
 Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Milder
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 Mr. & Mrs. David Mills
 Mr. Bob Minton
 & Mr. Neil Spidel
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Moresco
 Mr. & Mrs. Cam Munn
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 Mr. David Niles
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 & Mr. Leif Ourston
 Ms. Maggie Rauen
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Raulerson
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 Ms. Cynthia Reccord
 Ms. Diane Reilly
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 Mr. John Rodman
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 & Ms. Harriet Zaretsky
 Mr. Wayne Williamson
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 Ms. Lindy Kern
 Ms. Doris McCloskey
 Ms. Wendy Minot
 Ms. Helen Sargent
 Ms. Nancy Shobe
 & Mr. Wright Watling
 Ms. Katherine Stein
 Ms. Melanie Thompson
 Ms. Flora L. Thornton
 Mr. & Mrs. William Travers
 Ms. Josie A. Williams
 Ms. Elizabeth L. Wolfe

LEVEL IV

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bonsignore

Garden Tour for Members

With CURATOR VIRGINIA HAYES

Saturday, April 10, 1999**9:30 AM to 4:00 PM • \$75.00/person***Includes bus transportation and lunch.*

Number of people attending _____

**Ikebana Lecture
and Demonstration**

With PROFESSOR HEARTIE ANNE LOOK

Saturday, May 15, 1999**1:00 PM to 4:30 PM • \$35.00/person**

Number of people attending _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration FormPAYMENT 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***Lotusland Gratefully
Acknowledges Donations**

November, December 1998, January 1999

ACCESSIBILITY FUND

Lord & Lady Ridley-Tree

APPRECIATIONMr. & Mrs. Scott Ellwood
in appreciation of Poney Eagleton**BEQUESTS**

Mr. Edward P. Noll

LIBRARY

Mr. & Mrs. Sean Hutchinson

**ROSE GARDEN
RENOVATION**Pamela de Villaine
& Charles Fairbanks
in memory of
Henri Gaudin de Villaine**Members Who Have
Increased Their
Level of Support**

November, December 1998, January 1999

LEVEL IIMs. Alyson Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. Don Bennett
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Brandt
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Granat
Ms. Mara Hochman
Mr. David Myrick
Mr. & Mrs. John RigasMs. Sally Spencer
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Terre**LEVEL III**Ms. Jayne Murray Burton
Judge & Mrs. John G. Davies
Ms. April Walstad
Mr. & Mrs. James Warren**Spring Garden
Tour for Members**

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1998

THE EVER-POPULAR SANTA BARBARA GARDENS TOUR with Curator Virginia Hayes is coming right up. Because so many gardens look splendid in the spring, this year's first tour will occur on Saturday, April 10th. Participants will visit a varied slate of spectacular gardens around town and arrangements are being made to meet with at least some of the designers during the day. The tour departs Lotusland at 9:30 AM, returning by 4:00 PM. Included in the \$75.00 cost is deluxe coach transportation and a scrumptious lunch on the patio at Lotusland. Please use the coupon on page 15 to register. Previous tours have sold out quickly so reserve your space soon.

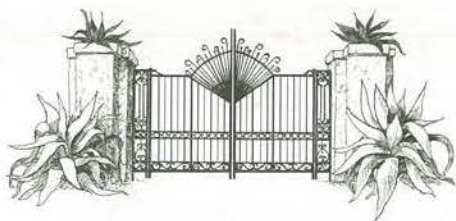


Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

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Santa Barbara, CA 93108

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1999 Member Events

*Here are some of the events Lotusland has planned for members in 1999.
Look for additions, changes and more information in upcoming newsletters and in your mailbox.
Space is always limited for activities at Lotusland, so please respond quickly to
sign-up instructions for each event as they appear in subsequent newsletters.*

Springtime In The Garden

*Annual lecture series jointly sponsored
by Lotusland, Santa Barbara Museum
of Art, and Santa Barbara Botanic
Garden.*

- **Thursday, March 18**

Color By Design

An illustrated lecture by Nori
Pope, Canadian garden designer
and author now living in England.

- **Wednesday, April 7**

Influential Women Gardeners

An illustrated lecture by Maggie
Lamb, English lecturer, conserva-
tionist and garden designer.

Saturday, April 10

Garden Tour for Members

Join Curator Virginia Hayes for
a day-long tour of some of Santa
Barbara's private gardens. Please
see page 15 for more information
and coupon for sign-up.

Sunday, April 25

Family Day for Members

10:00 AM–4:00 PM

The 2nd annual Lotusland family

event with lots of educational—and
just plain fun—activities for
members and their families. Please
see page 11 for more information
and a coupon for sign-up.

Saturday, May 8

Mother's Day Tea

1:30–4:30 PM

Make Mother's Day special with a
gift membership that includes a tour
and tea. Please see page 9 for more
information and a sign-up coupon.

Saturday, May 15

Ikebana Workshop

1:30–4:30 PM

Please see page 10 for more infor-
mation; use the coupon on page 15
for sign-up.

Saturday, June 19

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 when the
water gardens are in bloom. 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, June 26

Garden Tour for Members

Join Curator Virginia Hayes for a
day-long tour of destinations of
horticultural interest. More infor-
mation and a coupon for sign-up
will be in the Summer Newsletter
for Members.

Thursday, July 8

Illustrated Lecture

1:30–4:30 PM

Chris Dalzell, Curator of the Durban,
South Africa, Botanic Garden. His
garden is the home of our rare
cycads, *Encephalartos woodii*.

Sunday, July 18

Lotusland Celebrates

4:00–8:00 PM

Lotusland's annual gala event—
invitations mailed to all members
in early June. If you would like
to receive an invitation to be a
Patron please call Amanda Jones
at 969-3767, ext. 230.