





LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  VOLUME 8 NO. 4  WINTER 1999

Ralph Tallant Stevens: A Legacy of Landscapes

By STEVEN TIMBROOK

WHEN ONE THINKS of the many talented landscape designers who have helped make Santa Barbara and Lotusland the beautiful places they are, a name that must surely come to mind is Ralph Tallant Stevens. He was born December 15, 1882, at Tanglewood, the newly purchased nursery property and home of early Santa Barbara nurseryman and horticulturist Ralph Kinton Stevens, known as Kinton, and his bride of one year, Caroline Lucy Tallant Stevens.

Growing up on the property that was later to become Cuesta Linda under the ownership of the E. Palmer Gavit family and then Lotusland when Madame Ganna Walska established her wonderful garden home there, Ralph, his brother Kinton Burkill Stevens, and their sister Barbara Caroline Stevens attended Cold Spring School, which at that time was located south of Sycamore Canyon Road on the hillside that was to become Arcady, the estate of George Owen Knapp, a few years later. When the boys were old enough for 8th grade, they rode their horses to Santa Barbara to the school at the corner of Cota and Anacapa streets and then to high school in the old San Marcos Building.

The influence of his father's nursery with its rich collections of palms and other exotic plants seems to have set young Ralph on a lifelong career in horticulture. In 1900 he enrolled in Michigan Agricultural College in East

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Ralph Tallant Stevens stands in front of a blooming Agave attenuata, part of his landscaping for the main drive near the Sycamore Canyon Road entrance to Lotusland.

LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES, GIFT OF ARDEN STEVENS FAMILY

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Lansing (now Michigan State University) and his brother, Kinton, followed a year later. Ralph graduated in 1905 with a degree in horticulture, and Kinton received his engineering degree in 1906. Although the two brothers roomed together during their college years, a necessary economy since their father had passed away in 1896 at the age of 47, they

did not get along well and, according to a family history by Kinton, he and Ralph traveled home each summer on separate trains.

Following his graduation, Ralph worked in Chicago for several years. He and his sister traveled to Europe and the Mediterranean on a vacation trip in 1913, and a scrapbook of his in the archives of the Santa Barbara Historical Society is filled with snapshots and postcards from his travels that must have been inspirations for his later landscape designs. He then taught landscaping and horticulture at University of California at Berkeley before returning to Santa Barbara about 1917.

Stevens was the first paid Superintendent of City Parks and remained active with the Park Commission for 37 years as a member, chairman, and then consultant. Some of the City projects for which he was responsible included the grounds of the Public Library, Hillside Park (now named Orpet Park), the street plantings along Cabrillo Boulevard, Alameda Park, Oak Park, and Franklin School Park. He also designed commercial landscaping for properties as diverse as the Biltmore Hotel, designed by architect



SANTA BARBARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Young Ralph Tallant Stevens.

Reginald Johnson, and the Royal Hawaiian Hotel at Waikiki in 1927.

Some of Stevens' contemporaries in Santa Barbara landscape design were Florence Yoch, A.E. Hanson, Lucille Council, and Paul Thien. Lockwood de Forest worked for Ralph Stevens for six months in 1920 before setting out on his own. Stevens was very well known for his dramatic use of cacti and succulents. Among his private commissions was the Neutra-designed 1948 home of Warren Tremaine, where Stevens took over after Lockwood de Forest's death and turned a dry hillside garden into a succulent garden. He was also responsible for some of the original landscaping at Casa del Herrero, working there with George Washington Smith and Peter Riedel.

Although I have found no record to confirm it, Stevens may have done some design work for the Gavit family during the Cuesta Linda era of the estate. Reginald Johnson designed the original Gavit house, and he and Stevens both worked on the Biltmore Hotel project. It would be nice to think he worked at his father's nursery, then designed for the two important later owners of the property.

Victoria Padilla wrote in 1961,



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES, GIFT OF ARDEN STEVENS FAMILY

The Stevens children attended Cold Spring School in the 1880s and '90s when it was on the hillside south of Sycamore Canyon Road overlooking the Stevens nursery. The row of oak trees at the right marks Ashley Road.

"Santa Barbara's gardens of late years have been dominated by the work of two men, Lockwood de Forest...and Ralph Stevens..." She goes on to say that of all the gardens he designed, Stevens liked his work at Lotusland, his boyhood home, the best. For Madame Walska, Stevens designed a silver garden, which later became known as the blue garden, an outdoor theatre, near it a grotto pool that Madame Walska topped with a sculpture of battling roosters, her new swimming pool with its sandstone wall and sandy beach, and finally a horticultural clock as a centerpiece of an extension of the formal garden remaining from the Gavit era. For these projects he worked with expert stonemason Oswald Da Ros, who also worked at Lotusland with Lockwood de Forest before they both enlisted during World War II. Stevens also designed the iron gates at the Sycamore Canyon Road entrance to Lotusland from sketches done by Madame Walska.

In 1957, the year before his death, Ralph Stevens suffered the loss of his wife, Ann Klein Stevens, and was



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

Stevens designed a swimming pool, sandy beach, and stone wall for Madame Walska ca. 1947. Master stonemason Oswald Da Ros built the wall and worked with Stevens on several other landscaping projects at Lotusland.

honored by the City of Santa Barbara when the name of San Roque Canyon Park was changed to Stevens Park in recognition of his years of service to the City Park Commission.

I would like to thank Michael Redmon and Kathi Brewster of the Santa

Barbara Historical Society, Maria Churchill of the Montecito History Committee, and Oswald Da Ros and Ralph Stevens' nephew Arden Stevens for information that helped in preparation of this article. Any errors are my own responsibility.

The Lotus Pond

WHAT FOLLOWS IS AN EXCERPT from an interview with Ralph Stevens' brother, Kinton, describing the construction of a pond in what is now the Japanese garden. Around 1890, their father, R. Kinton Stevens, planted the pond with Indian lotus, *Nelumbo nucifera*, which has thrived there ever since. Stevens's source for the plants was most probably a grower in New York named Stuyvesant.

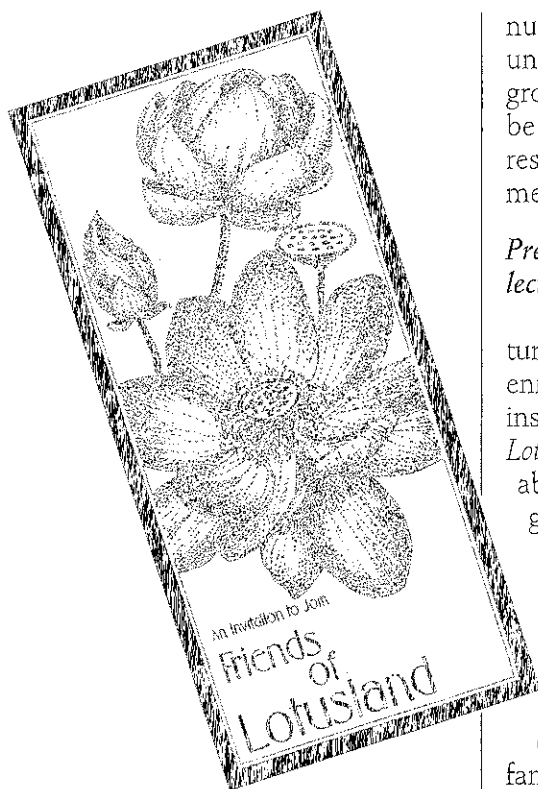


Thinking back, it was the thrill of a lifetime for us kids when father announced that we were to have a big pond on our property. It was a "lake" to us children and we always called it by that name. Every day as we went to school and passed by the site, we would try to figure out how much longer it would take before it was ready for the water.

Father built an earthen dam and closed off a gap in the ravine and thus formed a large water lily pond. He depended on the next winter rains to fill up the area but it actually took a few seasons to obtain enough water, as we had some very dry years about that date.

One morning, father told us he was going to make an island in our lake. Father planted many different varieties of bamboo on the island, and in a few years it began to look like a good place for a cannibal to hide out. Once our alligators got loose and lodged there until we caught them again.

Friends of Lotusland Privileges of Membership



WE WANT TO REMIND ALL of our members of the benefits they receive as a Friend of Lotusland. If you have a question or a suggestion, please let us know. Call Amanda Jones, Membership Coordinator, at (805) 969-3767, ext. 230.

LEVEL I, \$40

Increased access to the garden for you and your guests

It has been Lotusland's practice to reserve a large share of its limited visitor tour spaces for use by its membership. It is often possible for a member at any level to schedule a tour on short notice for dates that might be unavailable to non-members. Although the County of Santa Barbara increased Lotusland's allowable number of visitors late this summer, spaces are still limited and do not meet the demand. As a result, there has been no significant change in availability of tours to non-members. Our visitor services department does re-evaluate "the

numbers" on a regular basis. Spaces unused due to cancellations of larger group tours or for other reasons can be filled later on in the year by reservations made on short notice by members and non-members.

Preferred reservations for classes, lectures, garden tours, and events

Notice of Lotusland classes, lectures, garden tours, and events with enrollment coupons or reservation instructions appear in each *Friends of Lotusland* Newsletter. If space is available, they will also be open to the general public at a slightly higher fee. Members are encouraged to bring non-member guests.

Members Family Day

Lotusland throws a party for the Friends of Lotusland each April. Admission is free, and families are welcome. We will be able to accommodate more of you this year, so save the date and watch for the spring Newsletter for reservation information.

Two (total) free admission passes

Exchange these passes for a visit to the garden for you and your guest, or to cover the fee for a lecture or class. (The total number you receive depends upon your membership level.)

Invitation to Lotusland Celebrates gala

All Friends of Lotusland are mailed a special invitation to the *Lotusland Celebrates* gala fund-raiser given each July. If you have been frustrated in the past due to restrictions on the size of this party, be

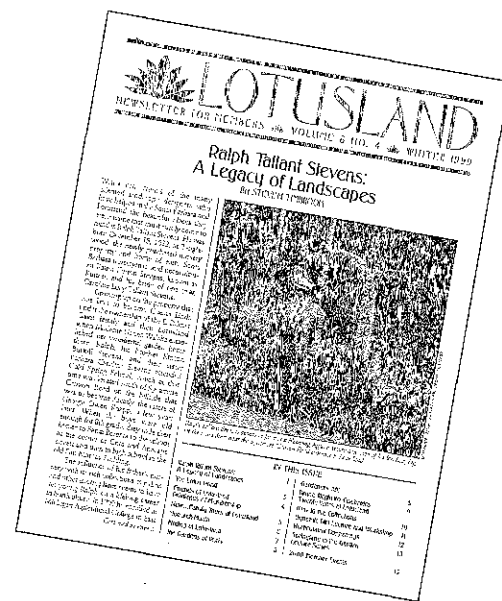
encouraged. This year, we can accommodate more guests.

Self-guided tour dates

Four dates each year are set aside for any Lotusland member to make reservations to visit the garden for a self-guided tour. Visit your favorite spots in the garden on your own. Tour dates appear in the Newsletter. Advance reservations are necessary.

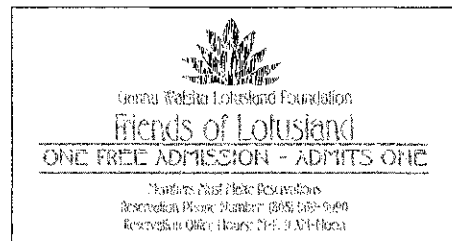
The Lotusland Newsletter

Mailed each season to every member, the Newsletter is a guide to upcoming Lotusland events and a record of recent goings-on. Each issue contains articles that focus on botany, horticulture, garden history or provide in-depth background for upcoming lectures or classes. An updated calendar of events and registration information is included.



Become a Lotusland Volunteer!

Every other year, a 14-week docent training course incorporates lectures by Lotusland staff, members of the community, and speakers from academic and horticultural institutions. Garden volunteers work with our staff in the maintenance of our living collection. Some areas of



current interest are Japanese horticultural techniques, water gardening, and sustainable gardening practices. There are volunteer opportunities in our Garden Shop, Archives, and Administrative Office as well.

Opportunities for planned giving, tax-deductible donations, and grant sponsorship

Make an important contribution to benefit one of our world's most enchantingly beautiful and horticulturally significant gardens. More than half of our operating expenses each year depend on tax-deductible donations and gifts, including your membership fees.

LEVEL II, \$100

All of the above, plus...

Four (total) free admission passes

Expanded self-guided tour dates

An additional two dates each month are set aside for Level II (and above) members to make reservations for self-guided tours. Up to three guests can be accommodated for each visit. A schedule of these dates is sent out in November. You can use your time on your own to paint, sketch, photograph, stroll, or simply sit and enjoy the garden.

LEVEL III, \$500

All of the above, plus...

Six (total) free admission passes

Expanded access to the garden

You may visit the garden any time it is open to the public for a self-guided or docent led tour and bring up to three guests for each visit. Reservations are required, but space will always be available.

Eight days have been set aside during the holiday season this year for you to visit the garden for self-guided tours. Call (805) 969-9990 to make reservations, and bring your guests to Lotusland this winter. A mailer announcing a schedule for these special visiting opportunities was mailed in November, or call the reservation number above for information.

LEVEL IV, \$1000

All of the above, plus...

Unlimited free admissions to the garden for you and your guests

LEVEL V, \$5000 GARDEN BENEFACTOR

All of the above, plus...

Special recognition for your contribution to the preservation of Lotusland

Give a Gift of Lotusland This Holiday Season



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE who should be a member of Lotusland? A relative or friend who wants to visit... this year. Someone special whose life would be enhanced by our programs, events, lectures, and volunteer opportunities?

Consider making them a Friend of Lotusland. A special gift Membership package will be sent to you or directly to the recipient, complete with literature on the garden and a gift card.

Membership fees benefit the garden and are fully tax-deductible.

For details, call (805) 969-3767, extension 230 and speak with Amanda Jones, Membership Coordinator.

New...Family Tours at Lotusland

IN AN EFFORT TO BETTER SERVE our family members and families from the community, Lotusland is pleased to begin offering tours for families starting February 16, 2000. Currently only children 10 years of age and older can accompany their parents on a guided tour. Because of the nature of our garden tours—lots of information, narrow pathways, sharp plants, and 1½ hours in length—it was felt that some children might not be able to appreciate the visit, which could take away from the enjoyment of others in the group. Unfortunately, this made it impossible for some parents with small children to visit Lotusland at all. We hope to change that now.

Our family tours will be offered the first Thursday morning of each month (10 AM) and the third Thursday afternoon of each month (1:30 PM). Reservations are required, and the reservation office is open from 9 AM to noon, Monday through Friday, (805) 969-9990. The admission fee is \$10 for adults (or a membership pass), \$5.00 for children under 10, and free for those 2 and under. The family tours will be separate from the regular tours, which will also be offered during the same time slots. Docents will be specially trained to do modified and faster (or slower!) tours as necessary to accommodate children and parents carrying infants.





Monarch Mania

JUST AS THE METAMORPHOSIS from caterpillar to butterfly is one of nature's wondrous feats, the metamorphosis of a somewhat bedraggled area of the garden to the spectacular display of flora and fauna known as the Butterfly Garden/Insectary has been one of Lotusland's wondrous volunteer feats. With the help of Lynn Kirby, Michael Delgado, and other dedicated and creative volunteers, this garden has become a dynamic and exciting area.

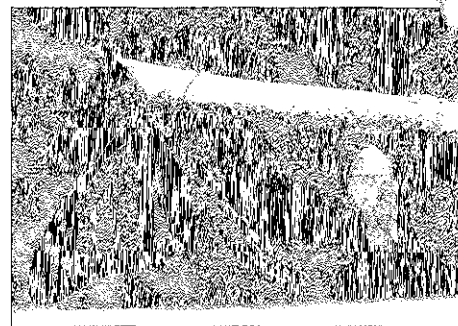
In the spring of 1998, this all-volunteer project was initiated in an area of the property that, by all accounts, "looked pretty pathetic." This half-acre plot beyond the lemon arbor was selected for an insectary and now features a potpourri of many varieties of flowering plants that attract beneficial insects. These plants provide a food source for insects that will eventually move into other areas of the garden either to eat pest insects or to lay their eggs on plants. When the eggs hatch, the emergent larvae will eat insect pests such as thrips or aphids. This plot is one of several insectaries planted around the periphery of the property.



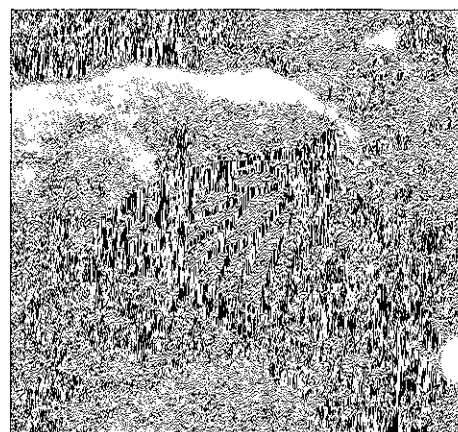
Milkweed provides food for monarch larvae as it protects monarchs by making them horrible tasting and poisonous to predators.

Aside from the pest control aspects, another benefit of an insectary is that butterflies are attracted to these same plants as a food source... hence the term "Butterfly Garden." On a warm day many colorful butterflies can be seen fluttering from flower to flower feeding on nectar. In 1999 a separate planting area of non-native milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) to serve as host plants for monarch larvae was added to the garden. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs *only* on milkweed plants, and the female monarch lays just one egg per plant. Several females may lay their eggs on the same plant, creating a "monarch nursery." When the eggs hatch, the brightly colored larva (caterpillar) feasts on milkweed leaves and grows at a very rapid rate. Milkweed does more than just provide food for monarch larvae; it also protects monarchs by making them horrible tasting (and poisonous) to predators.

Butterfly Garden volunteer Michael Delgado is part of Monarch Watch, a monarch tagging program initiated by educators and butterfly enthusiasts, and has brought our garden into the program both by the planting of milkweed plants and by installing a framed netted area around one of the milkweed plants. When the caterpillars pupate, they do so from the top of the netting or on the milkweed plant. After metamorphosis, the emergent butterfly is prevented from flying away by the netting, thus enabling Michael to tag them. The butterfly is gently held by its wings, a peel off tag is *very carefully* attached to one of the wings, and the butterfly is placed on a flowering milkweed plant to briefly recover before flying off. The downside of tagging is that it is sometimes done incorrectly by untrained people and poses a definite threat to the butterfly. During a recent south coast aggregation site count, many dead butterflies were found at the base of



Just out of the chrysalis, the monarch pumps liquid from its abdomen into its wings and then sunbathes to let the wings dry and harden for flight.



Life as a caterpillar is complete as the butterfly flies to a tasty flower to fuel up after weeks in the chrysalis without food.

the eucalyptus trees—the majority of which had tags on the wings. Tags can become damp and soggy, becoming an extra burden of weight to migrating butterflies.

Tagging is done for various purposes, one of which is to track the monarchs' extraordinary migration patterns and study its orientation and navigation to determine the physical cues and behavioral responses that underlie the monarchs' migration. Monarchs cannot live where temperatures are below freezing. To survive the winter, monarchs originating east of the continental divide migrate to Mexico. Those west of the continental divide migrate to the west coast, including the largest of west coast monarch wintering grounds—right here in Santa Barbara (technically in Goleta) at Ellwood.

The fascinating life cycle and



How do you tell the mama and papa monarchs apart? Look to the wings for the answer. Monarch males (left) have two black dots, or scent glands, on their hind wings; female monarchs (right) have no dots.

metamorphosis of monarchs is threatened by human encroachment into formerly unpopulated areas. Because of native milkweed habitat degradation or destruction throughout the west (housing tracts, shopping malls, agricultural use), monarchs face diminishing potential egg-laying sites. Fortunately, there are groups such as the North American Butterfly Association, a nonprofit organization that promotes public awareness and conservation of butterflies. It extends their shrinking habitat and can even bring a species back from the brink. The atala, a beautiful metallic blue hairstreak butterfly, is a good example. Once common in Florida, then believed to be extinct, the species has staged a comeback. The cycad, its host plant, has become a popular landscaping specimen in

the state, so now there's plenty of atala caterpillar food to go around. Adding "caterpillar plants" to our gardens lures butterflies and helps them by producing egg-laying sites for female butterflies.

Caterpillar plants are the best way to attract butterflies to our gardens, but some gardeners confuse voracious with omnivorous and think these caterpillars will eat prized plantings. But caterpillars are actually quite picky eaters, and most have evolved to depend on only one or two host plants and eat nothing else. Caterpillars also have many natural predators. Birds, spiders, wasps, lizards, and rodents eat them, and parasites finish off most of the rest. The odds against any single caterpillar making it to winged adulthood are slim. Once this is understood,

butterfly gardeners often feel compelled to rescue eggs, rear caterpillars, and then release adults to improve the butterfly population's long-term chances. You start out thinking caterpillars are going to eat up all your plants, but you end up *wishing* for caterpillars.

In 2000, Lotusland's Educational Outreach Program will be helping monarchs by educating area school children on the life cycle of monarchs and the need for habitat preservation and restoration. Students will be creating their own backyard butterfly gardens and insectaries and will be touring Lotusland's Butterfly Garden to learn more about this fascinating and beautiful insect.

—Connie Buxton

PHOTOS: Monarch Magic by Lynn M. Rosenblatt, Williamson Publishing Co., 1998

Birding at Lotusland

JEFF CHEMNICK, LOTUSLAND VOLUNTEER, cycad expert, and fanatic birder, will team with Executive Director Steven Timbrook to lead a winter bird walk at Lotusland on Saturday morning, January 8, 2000.

Jeff has built an impressive life list while birding the Americas, Asia, Africa, and Australia; and Steve is nearly there on his continent list, if not as far along on his bird list. Both know their local birds and Lotusland well and look forward to flushing out the garden's avifauna with any interested birders. Beginners are welcome, and we will have two or three pairs of binoculars to loan if you need them.

See coupon on page 15 to register.





START
PACKING

The Gardens of Paris and a Six-Night Cruise in Northern Burgundy

WITH ANNE W. JONES • JUNE 14-24, 2000



The 20-passenger La Litote.

BY NOW, HOPEFULLY, you have received in the mail the invitation to join a very special and small Lotusland group to visit the gardens of Paris and enjoy a six-night cruise in Northern Burgundy. We encourage you to act quickly as we can take only 14 lucky members for this extraordinary experience. For more information, a complete itinerary, and costs, please contact Robin Jones at TravelWorld (805) 963-6521.

Lotusland Trustee and garden enthusiast Anne Jones will accompany members of Lotusland on this one-of-a-kind adventure. The itinerary, designed by Anne (past President of the Garden Club of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and Lifetime Flower Show Judge for the Garden Club of America), takes you to some of the more interesting gardens of Paris and

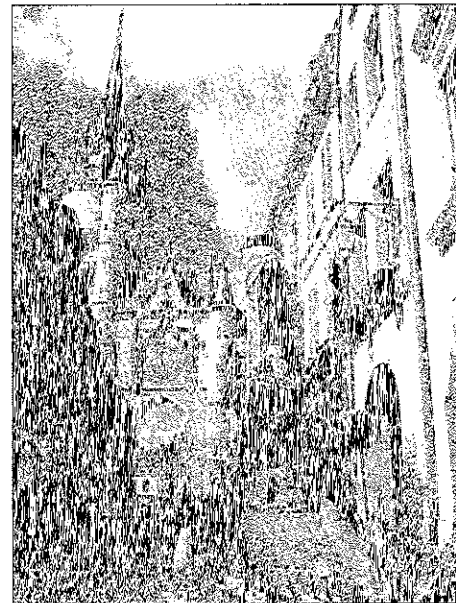


The gardens of Château Vaux-le-Vicomte.

on a relaxing cruise on the Canal de Bourgogne aboard the 20-passenger luxury barge *La Litote*, arranged by Abercrombie and Kent.

Some of the highlights of the trip are:

- Accommodations at the lovely five-star *Hotel Le Bristol* in the heart of Paris. One of the top-ranking hotels in the world, it is sumptuously decorated with works of art and offers an enclosed rooftop swimming pool, sauna, solarium, and gym.
- Sightseeing in and around Paris, a dinner cruise on the Seine, special gala dinners, and evening events.
- Visit the *Jardin de Bagatelle* in the Bois de Boulogne, famous for its superb rose garden where an International Rose competition is held every other year—in June the roses are at their peak and the Shakespeare Garden is particularly beautiful.
- A charming drive to see the masterpiece of France's greatest landscape gardener, André Le Nôtre, at the famous *Vaux-le-Vicomte*—often described as the most beautiful private château in France; the garden is the finest in the Paris area with a magnificent succession of terraces, ornamental lakes and fountains, descending to a formal canal.
- Visit *St. Germain-En-Laye* on the bluffs above Paris where nobility built their homes in the 18th Century and now the site of one of the most famous prehistory museums in France that houses pre-Roman and Celtic collections.
- In Paris, enjoy *Les Invalides*, a 17th-Century church built by Louis XIV where the tombs of Napoleon and his family are located, surrounded by wonderful grounds sweeping down to the Seine.
- Leave Paris for a cruise on the hotel barge *La Litote* sailing on both the



Ancy-le-Franc.

Yonne River and the Canal de Bourgogne, which will highlight the very best of this beautiful region in central France. From Auxerre, capital of Lower Burgundy and gateway to many world-renowned vineyards, travel to Ancy-le-Franc, site of a beautiful Italian-influenced Renaissance chateau...stopping at wine cellars, churches, and medieval towns along the way. *La Litote* is renowned for its excellent service, accommodations, and cuisine.

- After the cruise, return to Paris for a one-night stay at the five-star *Hotel Meurice*, including a special gala dinner and evening of entertainment.

Assist Lotusland's garden programs while you enjoy the gardens of Paris and France. This trip is sponsored by Ganna Walska Lotusland for its members and arranged by TravelWorld of Santa Barbara. TravelWorld, an important supporter of Lotusland's fund-raising activities, will make donation to the Foundation for each member of Lotusland who participates in the trip to France.

—Anne Dewey

Bruno Reginato Celebrates Twenty Years at Lotusland

LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES



MANY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED by Lotusland. Its visitors, its volunteers, Friends of Lotusland, staff, and Trustees each enjoy a slightly different experience of the garden. We love Lotusland, and it is generous in its gifts to us. But what would it be like to work in this garden for twenty years? What would it mean to us then?

There have been many changes at Lotusland since Bruno Reginato began working here in 1979, but for the most part, his days are spent taking care of the garden in the same ways as ever. He had spent two years in the Navy traveling the world and was working as a gardener at the Biltmore Hotel when his uncle, Mario Franceschini, told him about a job at Lotusland. Mario had been employed by Madame Walska since 1970, after working 20 years at the

Peabody estate, Cima Linda. Bruno's aunts had also worked for Madame over the years. Mario told Bruno the specifics of the job and that he should treat people at the house with respect...a very traditionally Italian kind of conversation that ended in Bruno signing on.

He was to help Mario with his duties—garden maintenance from the blue garden to the front gate. Bruno also mowed the great lawn once a week and took on a variety of jobs delegated to him as the newest and youngest employee. Chief among these feats of strength was the brush and clipping detail. Every week he would take Madame's windowless 1957 International Harvester truck from garden to garden, loading it up with debris from that week's work. He would unload the "army tank" in the wasteland beyond the Green Cottage in the northern part of the property. Within a few months, several acres would be covered, and the local haulers would be called to remove it. (Today we call this compost and treat it with respect.)

Work at Lotusland took on a routine punctuated only very rarely by sightings of Madame Walska. Early on, Bruno had encountered Madame as she made the rounds of her garden. He formally introduced himself to his new employer and was relieved when, after a polite exchange of welcome and thanks, she proceeded on her way. A few

minutes later, when Bruno discovered he needed a pair of pruning shears, he carefully planned his route to the tool shed to avoid running into Madame. His plans went awry—there she was. "Bruno again?" she said. He had to admit he was Bruno. "Walk with me." She was on her way to the cycad garden to meet with her maintenance man. When he didn't appear promptly at 2:00, she sent Bruno to get him. Sensing Madame's displeasure, Bruno sprinted to the main house and found the maintenance man, who in turn jumped into a 1964 Falcon and roared up the main drive, hoping to rescue the ruined meeting. Madame's impatience with tardiness was legendary.

Not long after this, Madame Walska was confined by her final illness to the pavilion, and Bruno's contact with her ended. He still felt the effect of her generosity (another legendary quality of Madame's), and during the holidays, a formal celebration was held in the dining room for the staff, complete with dinner served on fine china and silver and his uncle Mario's wine in crystal glasses.

Twenty years have passed, both Mario Franceschini and Madame Walska are gone, and Bruno has his own family now. Life in the garden goes on, with a few important changes. Nowadays, when he mows the lawn, Bruno's clippings become compost.

—Amanda Jones

DISA LIN G. PERKINS



Insider Anne Dewey assists outsider Corey Welles in the Rose Garden.

Gardeners All!

IN AN EFFORT TO FOSTER understanding and encourage goodwill between the "insiders" and "outsiders" at Lotusland, the grounds staff organized a day of hands-on gardening participation for the administrative staff. Pale, weak creatures used to the shelter and monotony of the office were thrust into the exciting arenas

of Lotus pond, rose garden, and cycad garden. Maintenance was the rule of the day. Huge heaps of clippings, cuttings and dead foliage were collected by enthusiastic teams of Lotusland employees, bonding along the way. The day was a success on all levels and promises to become a regular part of life at Lotusland.



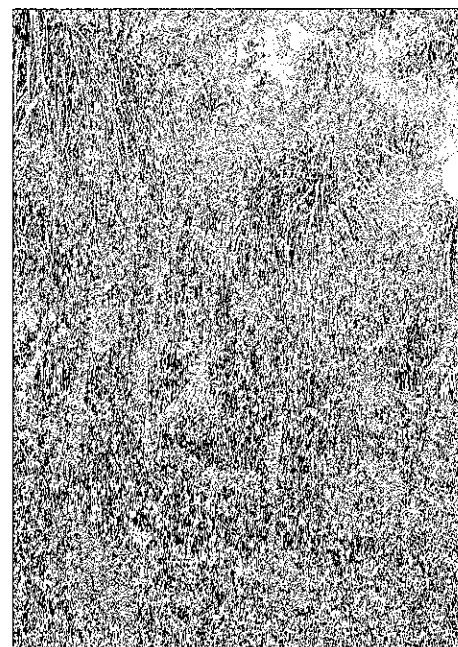
New to the Collections

IN THE TRADITION of Kinton Stevens' nursery (see cover article), Lotusland continues to be the starting point for a number of species never before grown in Santa Barbara. Seeds of potentially suitable trees, herbs, and shrubs are sown in the hopes that someday they will prove to be useful and beautiful additions to the gardens. Sources for these seeds vary from yearly offerings by other botanical gardens in the form of *index semina*, lists of seeds collected either at the offering institution or by their collectors in native regions, to donations from nurserymen and visiting botanists from around the world. Some recent acquisitions from Kirstenbosch in Cape Town, South Africa include several new species of *Bauhinia* (Hong Kong Orchid Tree, *Bauhinia blakeana*, is a familiar Santa Barbara street tree), *Dombeya burgessia*, and *Podocarpus falcatus*. A specimen *Schottia brachypetala*, grown from seed, is already lifting its crown above the hedges surrounding the cycad garden. While it may seem somewhat unrewarding to plant seeds of trees that we will personally never see in their mature state, it is

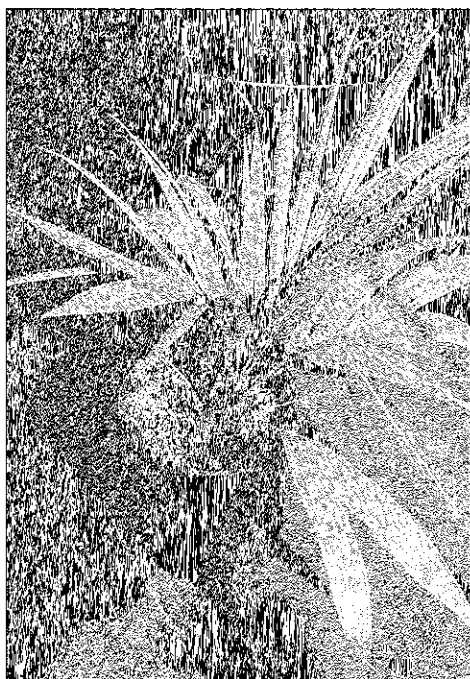


very much part of our mission to preserve the legacy of Lotusland's creators and to ensure that future visitors will experience an equally vibrant garden of exotic specimens.

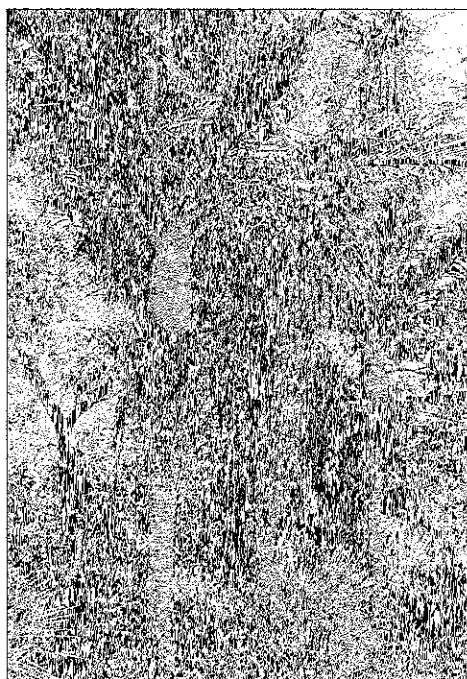
Of course, when a tray of seeds is started, the uncertainty of just how many will germinate and survive to be planted in the ground leads us to hedge a little. "Safety in numbers" applies to any new seed trials. Often, this over-planting results in a surplus



Beaucarnea recurvata seedlings and mature trees.



Rhopalostylis baueri seedling and mature trees.



of plants, a pleasant dilemma of having 10 (or more!) pots of something that, because it will eventually tower 100 feet in the air, there is really only room to plant one of. Donations to plant society sales, educational institutions such as Santa Barbara City College and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the Santa Barbara parks department, and trades with other nurseries and botanical gardens usually relieve the situation.



Other seeds and cuttings arrive from collectors on various expeditions. A recent batch of palm seeds was forwarded from the Montgomery Botanical Center in Florida. Their researchers spent some time in Belize this summer and shared their wealth with us. Other botanical gardens also propagate material from their own collections for distribution to interested parties. Spreading the genetic material of endangered plants around to separate sites helps

to ensure their survival should a natural disaster in one region wipe out that collection.

Cycad seeds from South African and Australian gardens continue to enter our collection in this manner. Recently the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois offered other botanic gardens cuttings of cultivated conifers from trees and shrubs that were old and in decline at their facility. These species are no longer generally available in the commercial

trade, and preserving this stock in several locations helps to secure their future.

Seeds and cuttings from our own plantings are started in much the same spirit. Historic trees, succulents, and cycads may be perpetuated on-site by timely propagation. Young palms, agaves, ferns, cycads, and more are waiting in the wings to take their place in the garden.

—Virginia Hayes

Photos by Virginia Hayes



Furcraea roezlii seedlings and mature trees.

Dynamic Dirt Lecture and Workshop

WITH THE INCREASING information surfacing about detrimental long-term effects of toxic pesticides, fungicides, and chemically-based fertilizers, members of Lotusland's horticultural staff have been attending seminars, reading the latest scientific papers, and searching the internet for better solutions to pest and disease control. As our knowledge grows, so does our commitment. All materials used today in the garden are certified organically based and the least harmful alternatives available. One of the most important ideas to surface is that healthy plants are better able to resist disease and pests. Improving the overall health of our collections is a top priority.

The best way to improve the health of plants is by improving the

health of the soil in which they grow. Healthy soil contains a complex web of beneficial soil life. Identifying the components of this soil food web and learning how to make it thrive has increased our wonder about the complexity and beauty of nature. We'd like to share our knowledge and experiences with you.

Join us for a lecture and workshop on Saturday, February 12, 2000 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A slide lecture outlining the principles of sustainable gardening and introducing the concepts of soil food web operation will be followed by demonstrations in the garden. Learn how you can establish colonies of symbiotic root fungi, how good compost is made, and how to use it to improve the health of your garden.

See examples of the benefits of mycorrhizal fungi, earthworms, compost tea, and mulching. Visit our beneficial insect plots planted with species that attract and keep good bugs in the garden. Take home practical guides to pest management, lists of the most successful materials, and sources of products and information. Bring your own lunch or purchase a scrumptious box lunch from Fresco (only \$11.00) when you register for the class. Beverages will be provided. Cost is \$10.00 for members (or use one of your passes) and \$12.00 for non-members. Reservations are required and space is limited. Use the coupon on page 15. Raindate is Saturday, March 25th.

—Virginia Hayes

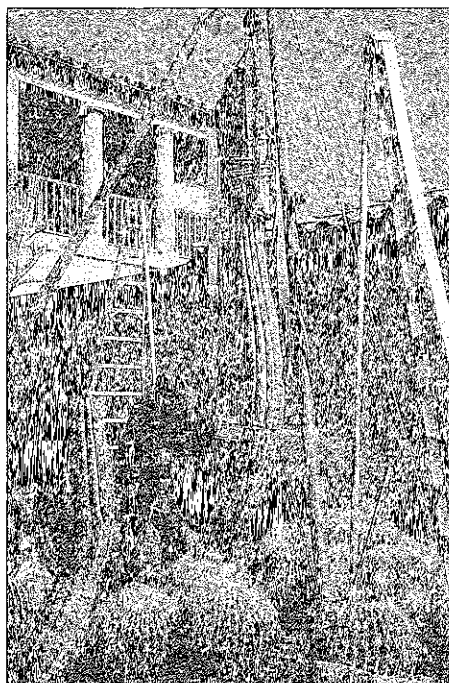


Horticultural Happenings

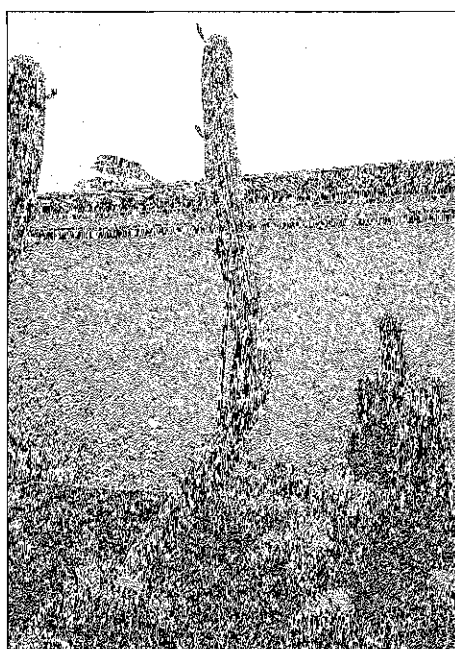
SUPPORT FOR SUCCULENTS — CABLING AND BRACING LARGE SPECIMENS

TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS

THE WEEPING *Euphorbia ingens*, which guard the courtyard and entrance to the main house, are marvelously engineered. Twisting, growing branches eventually spiral on the ground and support themselves and the structure of the whole tree, much like aerial roots of a banyan tree that turn into trunks. The *E. ingens* and other large succulent specimens create the drama and add to the effectiveness of the main drive landscape. These plantings are not without their horticultural challenges. Regular monitoring of plant health and cultural conditions is absolutely necessary in order to offset and treat disease, pest, and soil problems caused by the inherent environmental stress to susceptible plants grown outside their native habitat. Also, plants in cultivation often "look better" (larger, better color, straighter, faster growth rate, etc.) than they do in habitat because they receive regular cultural care. It's possible for a plant to become too



In this case, Lotusland staff devised an A-frame with pipes, rope, and a hoist to support and lower a large, healthy piece of the plant. After soil preparation the 11-foot-long cutting will be rooted on-site and cabled for support.



*Many of the large succulents at Lotusland grow in areas inaccessible to heavy equipment. When root rot was discovered in this fifteen-foot-tall *Trichocereus*, an innovative course of action was required to save as much of the plant as possible.*

big and heavy for its own root system to support. As strange as it may seem, TLC can lead to conditions that threaten plant health.

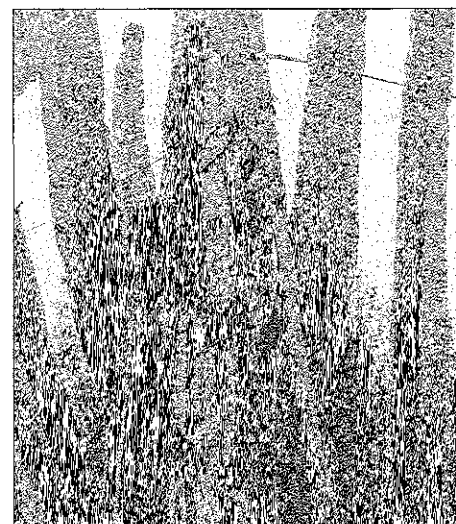
If a large *Trichocereus* cactus breaks or falls over in a desert in South America, who cares? The fallen plant part will probably root, and multiple branches will grow from remaining rootstock, resulting in a most interesting and spectacular looking plant. If, however, a 15-foot tall, 500-pound columnar *Trichocereus* planted among the *Echinocactus grusonii* in the main drive planting bed in front of the pavilion were to fall, someone could get hurt, other plants in the vicinity would definitely be destroyed, and a large and valuable specimen would be lost from the landscape. Vigilant attention to plant health and timely maintenance by the horticulturists are the only ways to preserve Lotusland's display and botanical collections.

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

WHEN WARRANTED, the branches of some large cacti and euphorbias are selectively removed in order to balance the weight, preserve the mother plant, and protect the existing landscape. These branches or cuttings are saved and rooted in the nursery or directly in the garden planting bed.

Cabling and bracing are methods used in conjunction with selective pruning to preserve large specimen plantings of succulents in the landscape. The cabled collars around succulent plants must be checked and readjusted at least every few years to allow for plant growth and to prevent permanent damage or scarring. Historically, the large succulents at Lotusland were secured with collars made of pieces of garden hose or old radial tires and cables or wire attached to various sized pipes in the ground. An ongoing program to standardize cabling and bracing with strong new materials will improve the appearance of the cactus and euphorbia garden while helping to assure the longevity of those impressive succulent specimens.

—Mike Iven, photos by Mike Iven



*This multi-trunk *Stenocereus dumortieri* requires a lot of support. Notice the extent and variety of cabling and bracing used on the large succulents and other specimens throughout the Garden the next time you visit Lotusland.*

Springtime in the Garden Lecture Series

SPONSORED BY LOTUSLAND AND THE SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF ART
Invitations and registration information will be mailed to all members in early January.

BEAUTIFUL AMERICAN ROSE GARDENS

With Mary Tonetti Dora
 Wednesday, January 26, 2000 2:00 PM
 Santa Barbara Museum of Art

Local author Mary Tonetti Dora follows her gorgeous and successful "Beautiful American Vegetable Gardens" with this delightful look at American rose gardens. Mary has been active in the Santa Barbara Garden Club since 1972, lectured extensively for the Garden Club of America, and written for such publications as *Gourmet*, the *New York Times*, and *House Beautiful*. Mary will sign her new book, "Beautiful American Rose Gardens," after the lecture.

GREAT AMERICAN GARDENS THAT INSPIRE

With Richard Hartlage
 Wednesday, March 1, 2000 2 PM
 Santa Barbara Museum of Art

We need not look to England as the model for inspiration. There are extraordinary examples of exceptional gardens in America. Richard Hartlage, currently Director/Curator of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Gardens in Seattle, WA, will present a lighthearted look at some of the best public and private gardens with real spiritual and emotional content. In his spare time, Richard lectures widely, is a regular contributor to *Horticulture* and *Pacific Horticulture* magazines among others, is a freelance photographer, and has garden design clients on both coasts.

ANTIQUE GARDEN ORNAMENTS: TWO CENTURIES OF AMERICAN TASTE

With Barbara Israel
 Wednesday, March 29, 2000 2 PM
 Santa Barbara Museum of Art

Barbara Israel, founder and owner of Barbara Israel Garden Antiques, is a highly regarded

authority on garden ornaments and one of the foremost dealers in the field today. She has served as consultant to the Metropolitan Museum in New York for its collection of 19th-century ornamental cast iron. She has been interviewed and quoted in *Martha Stewart Living*, the *New York Times*, *Art and Auction*, and *Winterthur Magazine* and has appeared on *Good*

Morning America and *Sunday Morning Today*. Her new book, "Antique Garden Ornaments: Two Centuries of American Taste" done in collaboration with well-known garden photographer Mick Halles, has recently been published by Abrams and will be available for signing after her lecture.

—Anne Dewey

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

August, September, October 1999

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Amgen, Inc. for
 Mr. James Martin
 Mr. & Mrs. William Borthwick
 Mr. & Mrs. Keith Landenberger
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The Estate of Overton Phillips

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 Carol Valentine
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August, September, October 1999

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We Welcome New Members Who Joined in August, September, October 1999

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 Ms. Christine Q. Atkinson
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 Ms. Marion Grassi & Ms. Ann Grassi

Birding at LotuslandWith STEVE TIMBROOK
and JEFF CHEMNIK

Saturday, January 3, 2000

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM • \$10.00/person

Number of people attending _____

**Dynamic Dirt
Lecture and Workshop**

With LOTUSLAND STAFF

Saturday, February 12, 2000

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM • \$10.00/person

Box Lunch • \$11

Number of people attending _____

Number of box lunches _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Ganna Walska Lotusland Registration Form

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Free admission pass 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. Robin Hanson & Mr. Astor Hayes

Mr. & Mrs. David Hardee

Mr. Frederick E. Harrison

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Mr. Phil Jye

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Ms. Jerri Harrison

2000 Member Events*Many Lotusland events are open to non-members.**Also, this year there are more opportunities to bring
children to the garden. Kids and grandkids are welcome
at some events, and can visit the garden with you on our
new Family Tour days, announced on page 5.**We hope you enjoy this year at Lotusland.***Reservations:****969-9990****Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM to noon****Saturday, January 3***Birding at Lotusland
in the New Millennium
with Jeff Chemnick and
Steven Timbrook*

9:00–10:30 AM

Coffee and snacks served.

See page 7.

MEMBERS \$10 or free admission
pass, NONMEMBERS \$12**Saturday, January 22***Self-guided Tours for All Members*
1:00–4:30 PMAll members can make a reser-
vation to enjoy the garden on
their own. Paint, draw, stroll,
take photographs, sit and enjoy,
read—whatever you wish to do.
MEMBERS \$10 or free admission
pass**Saturday, February 12***Dynamic Dirt*

10:00 AM–3:00 PM

Illustrated lecture with Lotusland
horticulture staff, followed by
lunch and hands-on in the
garden. See page 11.MEMBERS \$10 or free admission
pass, NONMEMBERS \$12**Saturday, April 3***Private Gardens with
Virginia Hayes*

9:00 AM–4:00 PM

The curator of Lotuslands' living
collection offers her justifiably
popular tour of local private
gardens.

MEMBERS \$75, NONMEMBERS \$80

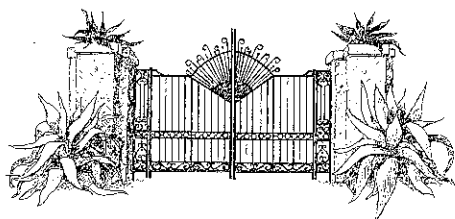
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2000 Member Events *Continued*

Saturday, April 29

Members' Family Day

10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Fun and educational activities for the entire family. Picnic lunch on the lawn with music and entertainment. Free to members.

Saturday, May 13

Mother's Day Tour and Tea

1:00-4:30 PM

Treat your mom, grandma, or someone special in your life to a tour of the garden followed by an old fashioned tea on the Main House terrace. Kids welcome. ADULT MEMBERS \$12, KIDS UNDER 10 \$6, KIDS UNDER 2 Free, ADULT NONMEMBERS \$15

Saturday, May 27

Niwaki Techniques in Lotusland's Japanese Garden

1:00-4:00 PM

Explore design elements of *niwaki*—specialized pruning used to dwarf various specimens of trees. An introduction to pruning techniques will be followed by Japanese tea on the pavilion patio and culminate in our master gardeners demon-

strating *niwaki* techniques in the Japanese Garden.

MEMBERS \$12, NONMEMBERS \$15

Saturday, June 17

Self-guided Tours for All Members

1:00-4:30 PM

MEMBERS \$10 or free admission pass

Saturday, June 24

9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Private Japanese Gardens with Virginia Hayes

Our plant curator offers a tour of local gardens with an oriental flair.

MEMBERS \$75, NONMEMBERS \$80

Sunday, July 16

Lotusland Celebrates

The Return of the Topiary

4:00-8:00 PM

Madame Walska's whimsical and wonderful topiary garden will be the focus of this gala fund-raiser. TICKETS \$175

Saturday, August 26

LotusFest!

10:00 AM-4:00 PM

The first annual lotus festival—a full day of fun and education for the whole family honoring our lotus at the peak of their bloom.

Lunch will be available for purchase or bring a picnic.

ADULT MEMBERS \$20, KIDS UNDER 10 \$10, KIDS UNDER 2 Free, ADULT NONMEMBERS \$25

Sunday, TBA

Music in the Theatre Garden

MEMBERS \$40, NONMEMBERS \$45

Saturday, October 7

Self-guided Tours for All Members

1:00-4:30 PM

MEMBERS \$10 or free admission pass

Friday, November 10

Japanese Gardens

2:00 PM

Illustrated lecture and book signing with Dr. Kendall Brown, author of the newly published and highly acclaimed *Japanese Gardens of Pacific West Coast*, in which Lotusland is featured. MEMBERS \$10 or free admission pass, NONMEMBERS \$12

Saturday, December 2

Holiday Shopping and Self-guided Tours for All Members

1:00-4:30 PM

MEMBERS \$10 or free admission pass, NONMEMBERS \$12