




LOTUSLAND

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS  VOLUME 9 NO. 2  SUMMER 2000

Madame Walska's Topiary Garden

By AMANDA JONES

THE HISTORY OF TOPIARY

TOPIARY IS THE FASCINATING and extraordinary art of cutting trees and shrubs into quaint and imaginative shapes. It derives from *topiarius*, and originally had a much wider meaning, referring to ornamental gardening in general. *Topiarius* in turn is derived from the Greek *topos* or place. The first written descriptions of topiary come from the Romans. It is likely that its original source was much earlier and farther east. By the end of the first century A.D., topiary was a familiar and natural embellishment of the gardens of the wealthy. Pliny the Elder describes the garden of his villa in Tuscany as being "Adorned with the representation of divers animals in box and evergreens shaped into a variety of forms." The Renaissance in Italy produced the next great interest in topiary. The period looked back to classical times and texts for its inspiration, as the resulting gardens showed. A villa in Florence built in 1459 included topiary "spheres, porticoes, temples, vases, urns, apes, donkeys, oxen, a bear, giants, men and women, warriors, a witch, philosophers, popes and cardinals."

With time, the influence of the Renaissance gradually spread throughout Europe. In France, the style culminated in Le Notre's late 17th-century scheme at Versailles for King Louis XIV. The garden was a representation of the Monarch's absolute authority over both people and landscape, and reputedly cost

Continued on page 2



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

Madame Walska's topiary zoo vividly expressed her fascination with the complicated relationship between man, plants and animals. This dancing elephant thrived at Lotusland in the 1960s.

IN THIS ISSUE

Madame Walska's Topiary Garden	1	Volunteer Profile:	8
Restoring the Topiary Garden	3	Norman and Helen Hillemann	
Three New Trustees Join the Board of Directors	4	New to the Collections	9
http://www.lotusland.org	4	Horticultural Happenings	10
LotusFest!	5	John Laffleur, 30 Years at Lotusland	12
Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew	6	Member's Family Day	13
Important Visitors	7	Member Events	16



THE LOTUSLAND NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS
is published by
Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation
695 Ashby Road
Santa Barbara, California 93108
805/969-3767

Board of Trustees
Carol L. Valentine, *President*
Merryl Brown
Elizabeth W. Dake
William W. Drevny
Robert Emmons
Arthur R. Gaudi
Anne W. Jones
Harry W. Kolb
Stanya Owen
Patricia B. Pesenti
David Potter
Michael Towbes
April N. Walstad

Amanda Jones, *Editor*
Linda Davis, *Design*
Printed by Ventura Printing

Printed on recycled and recyclable paper

Continued from page 1

over two billion francs. Louis's court gathered among the topiary for music, dance and pageants produced by the king—and sometimes performed by him.

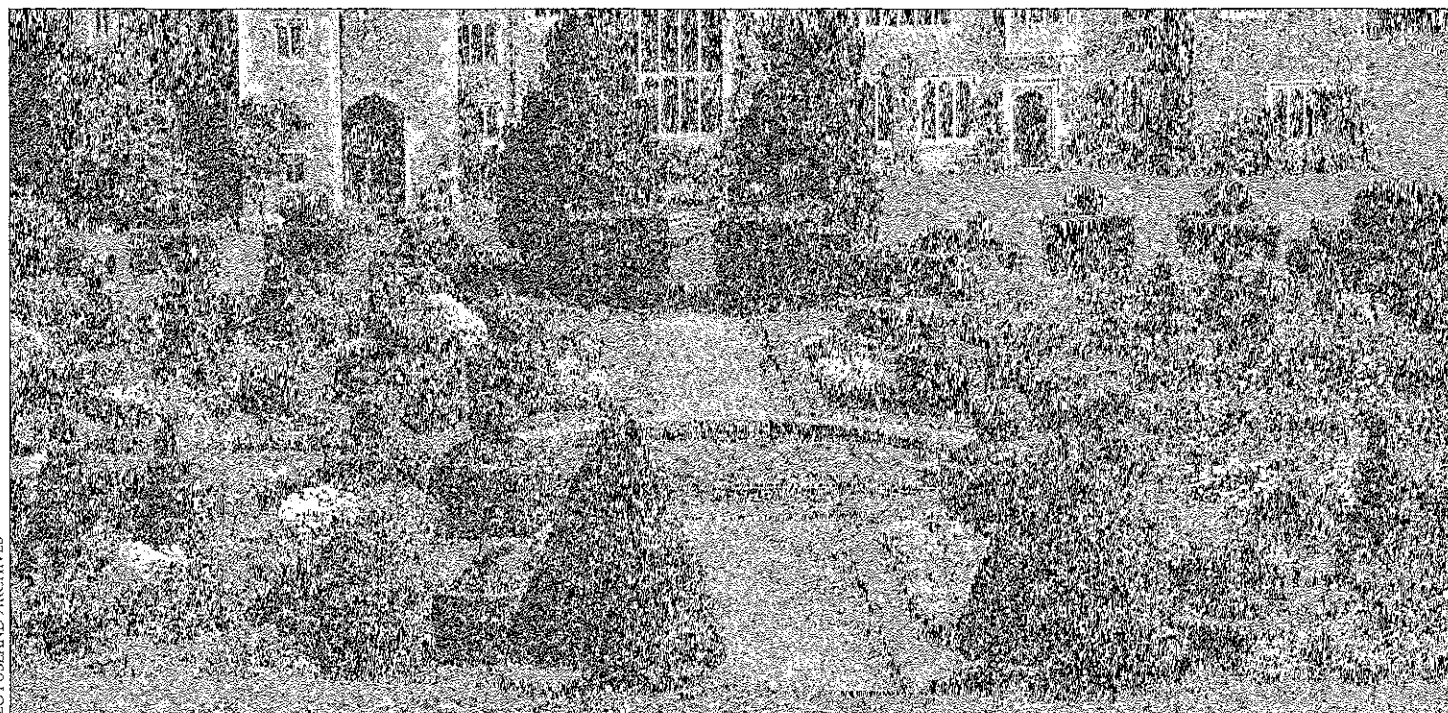
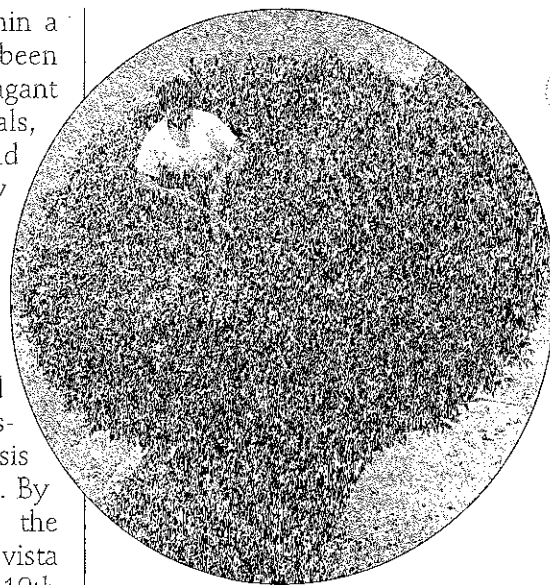
In England, the art of clipping became increasingly popular, and by the early 17th century complex de-

signs were commonplace. Within a hundred years, topiary had been taken to its extreme, and extravagant assortments of "giants, animals, monsters, coats of arms and mottoes" were part of any fashionable English garden. The inevitable reaction occurred. This time it was writers and philosophers who led the attack against the artifice of topiary and formal gardens, instead advocating a more natural or pastoral landscape, with an emphasis on lakes and groupings of trees. By the end of the 18th century, the penchant for the picturesque vista had become overpowering. The 19th century saw a very gradual return to the formal style of garden design, and along with it, the use of geometrical topiary closer to the house, to reflect its architectural features.

TOPIARY AT LOTUSLAND

MADAME WALSKA hired Santa Barbara landscape architect Ralph T. Stevens in 1954 to create a horticultural clock as a centerpiece of a proposed topiary garden. (The clock was restored in 1997 with funds donated by the

Towbes Foundation.) For some time, she had collected and gathered into several scrapbooks pictures of floral and horticultural clocks, zodiac ornaments, topiary animals and horticultural oddities cut from newspapers and magazines. A clipping from one of these scrapbooks dates from a 1955 edition of the *Los Angeles Times*, documenting the Osaki Plant Zoo, the eventual source of a number of Lotusland topiary. By 1960, the topiary was an important feature of the garden. Juniper, cypress and



LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

This view of the 300-year-old topiary garden at Levens Hall in England and a topiarius at work (above right) are both images from Madame Walska's extensive scrapbook on formal gardens.



A 1955 newspaper photo of a bougainvillea Alligator led Madame to the Osaka Plant Zoo.

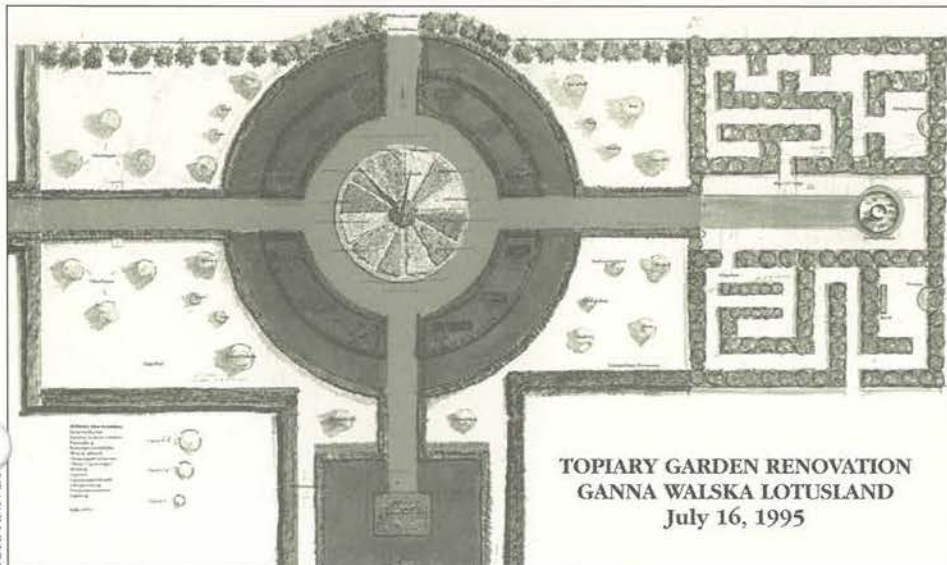
LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

eugenia were trimmed and formed into a menagerie including a bear and its cub, a gorilla, a crocodile, a dancing pig, a camel, a horse and a variety of birds and reptiles amounting to more than 25 figures. A chess set and other geometric figures brought the total topiary to more than 40 in all. Most of the shapes declined over the years, either losing their definition or failing to thrive, suffering from being watered on the same schedule as the surrounding lawn in which they were planted and the encroaching shade of surrounding trees.

He 'Barbers Alligator'



10-FOOT "alligator," fashioned from growing bougainvillea vine, gets bi-weekly "barbering" from James Osaki, 12. This is largest animal in "zoo" created by boy's dad, Yoshio Osaki, 35, of 422 North Oxford avenue, out of trees, bushes and shrubs. Osaki, who recently moved here from Hawaii, has been engaged in traditionally family hobby of topiary art for 10 years.



TOPIARY GARDEN RENOVATION
GANNA WALSKA LOTUSLAND
July 16, 1995

Lori Ann David/Landscape Art Design provided plans for the current renovation.

LOTUSLAND ARCHIVES

Restoring the Topiary Garden

By LORI ANN DAVID

I BEGAN RESEARCH IN 1993, the first year that the garden was open to the public. Janet Eastman was most helpful, as was Sharon Crawford and the entire Lotusland staff.

As a volunteer and docent, it was most interesting to me to pursue the possibility of re-creating Madame Walska's Topiary Garden, which featured an impressive horticultural clock. There was always a lot of interest in her eccentric, whimsical garden, but few knew where to begin to bring it back to life.

The research was fascinating, and with access to the archives, I re-drew all the zoomorphic characters and architectural shapes.

When we had our first *Lotusland Celebrates* gala, a topiary garden retrospective was displayed, including four re-created topiary frames and a proposed conceptual design that drew on all aspects of historic past, as well as current horticultural concerns and future garden traffic.

Lori Ann David has a long-standing relationship with Lotusland. As docent, committee member and designer, she has shared her considerable energy and creativity with the garden for years. Through her business, Landscape Art Design, she has donated many hours of consultation and design work for the renovation of the horticultural clock, and now the topiary garden.

Her new design draws heavily upon Stevens' original plan. The new plan provides for the installation of irrigation, renovation of the soil and addition of a maze of low hedges, as well as new hardscape and, of course, topiary frames.



Three New Trustees Join the Board of Lotusland

LOTUSLAND IS PLEASED to welcome April N. Walstad, William W. (Rick) Drewry, and Harry W. Kolb to its Board of Trustees. All three are Friends of Lotusland, active in the Santa Barbara community and eager to help Lotusland accomplish its goals of preservation, education and conservation.



Motivated by the desire to live in a pleasant community and be on her own professionally, **April Walstad** established Walstad Investment Counseling, Inc., in Santa Barbara six years ago after working in the investment community in Atlanta and with Rothschild, Inc. in New York. April was a member of Lotusland's strategic plan task force

in 1998 and 1999 and her wise advice and ideas helped shape the final plan, one of the recommendations of which was expanding the Board of Trustees to help Lotusland achieve its greatest potential.



Rick Drewry moved to Santa Barbara five years ago after the sale of his photo-processing firm, Drewry Photocolor Corporation in Burbank, California. Rick is on the Board of the Montecito Association, is a Director of the Montecito Water District and is an enthusiastic boater, golfer and gardener. Rick and his wife Wendy have three sons. Wendy is an active volunteer at the Music Academy of the West and a docent at Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens.

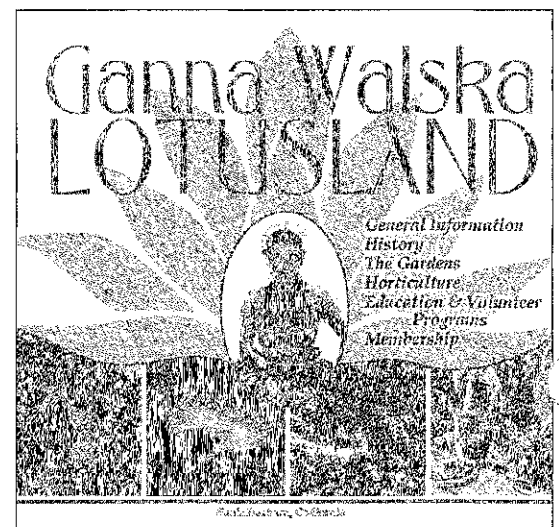


Harry Kolb and his wife Karen, long-time Santa Barbara residents, have been intimately involved with Lotusland since 1993. Harry, the senior estate agent with Sotheby's International Realty, is known for his marketing of major residential properties in Santa Barbara and Montecito and is considered an authority on our community's rich architectural history and many private gardens. Karen is a Lotusland docent and has been an invaluable member of every *Lotusland Celebrates* committee since the beginning of the gala event five years ago. This is in addition to her volunteer work with Meals on Wheels and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

<http://www.lotusland.org>

ATTENTION INTERNET SURFERS! Lotusland Foundation's official website, which went live on the Internet on April 14, is chock-full of information detailing the various gardens and extensive plant collections; the latest practices in horticulture; education outreach and volunteer programs; membership; tour reservations; and, last but not least, the history of Lotusland and Madame Ganna Walska. The site is also illustrated with choice color and black and white photographs from the Lotusland archives. Greg Smith of Westmont College, who volunteered many hours of his time to work with the Lotusland website committee, has succeeded in designing a basic, factual website with plenty of room for growth and change. We are very pleased that Lotusland's mission of preservation, conservation and education has an address on the information superhighway at last. Check it out, and tell a friend.

—Deidre Cantrell





Lotusfest!

August 26, 2000

蓮 花
Lian Hua

Chinese characters meaning lotus.

SUMMER BRINGS MANY PLEASURES in Santa Barbara, but at Lotusland we have a very unique one. Our water gardens are the best place in the area to see large stands of Sacred and American Lotus flowers in all their glory. These magnificent flowers are the largest in the aquatic plant world and truly stunning to behold. This year we intend to celebrate their majesty with a day-long festival on August 26th. You are cordially invited to join us for this fun-filled event.

Besides the chance to drink in the beauty of the lotus on show, there will be lots of additional activities and displays. Crafts with an oriental or botanical flair,



The lotus in full bloom in Lotusland's main water garden.

garden ornaments and fountains, aquatic plants and water gardening books will be on sale. Pond experts will give presentations and offer advice on water gardening. There will be Bonsai and Ikebana displays and demonstrations, and plenty of other entertainment throughout the day including Kendo demonstrations, Asian-Pacific music and dance,

and more. Picnicking is encouraged, and food and beverages will be available for purchase.

As always, reservations are required. Please use the coupon on page 15 to reserve your space. ADULT MEMBERS \$20, ADULT NON-MEMBERS \$25, ALL KIDS AGES 2 TO 10 \$10, KIDS UNDER 2 FREE.

—Virginia Hayes



How stainless it rises from its slimy bed.

How modestly it reposes on the clear pool—an emblem of purity and truth.

Symmetrically perfect, its subtle perfume is wafted far and wide,

While there it rests in spotless state,

Something to be regarded reverently from a distance,

And not profaned by familiar approach.

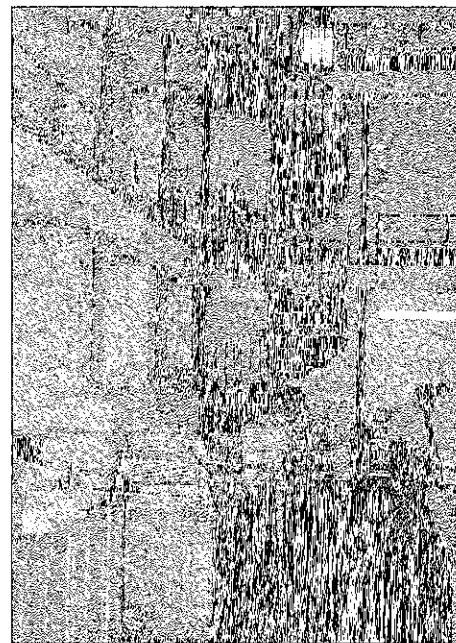
—Chon Tun, 11th century A.D.

Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew

THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS at Kew, arguably the foremost botanical institution in the world, offers a variety of educational courses with topics that range from horticulture to botanic garden management, herbarium techniques, and plant conservation. I attended a new International Diploma Course on Plant Conservation Techniques there last fall. RBG Kew, located just outside of London, is a leader in the effort to restore global plant resources to some semblance of previous richness. With one-eighth of the known plant species in their collections, a library with more than 250,000 titles, an herbarium of over 7,000,000 specimens, laboratories, a seed bank, and a staff—past and present—of the world's most accomplished botanists, it is no wonder Kew is leading the current effort to conserve the world's botanical resources.

The plant conservation course, held from mid-August to mid-October, focused on the methods and techniques that can be used to deal with the wide-ranging topics and problems that need to be addressed by plant conservationists, botanists, horticulturalists, and nurserymen alike. Attending the course were twelve botanists from all parts of the world including Africa, Lebanon, India, Malaysia, China, Bangladesh, Australia, New Zealand, and the Philippines, with one representative

(me) from the Americas. A wide variety of interests and experiences were represented in our group, ranging from orchid conservation in Malaysia, Africa, and the Philippines to plans for the sustainable harvest of medicinal plants in Vietnam and India, from developing the first botanic garden in Lebanon to my area of interest: devising recovery plans for threatened Mexican cacti. The course had a group of core lecturers from the Kew staff and many visiting lecturers, most notably Vernon Heywood and Grendel Lucas. There were field trips and extra-curricular activities, such as touring Cambridge botanic garden, where we walked in the footsteps of Charles Darwin (who had worked with then Director John Henslow). Our coursework focused on the methods and techniques needed to successfully work in the field of plant conservation. The different techniques for *in situ* conservation (in the wild), such as protected area management, habitat and ecological restoration, single species recovery plans, and methods for reintroduction were taught, along with methods for *ex situ* conservation (out of the wild), including the role of botanic gardens in conservation, seed banking, micro-propagation, and other methods for conserving the world's plant genetic resources. The complementary nature of solutions to *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation



PAUL M. MILLS

The original wing of the Kew Herbarium, with more than 7,000,000 dried specimens.

methods was strongly emphasized. Case studies were examined, including ecological restorations taking place on the islands of Mauritius and Madagascar and examples of single species recovery plans and reintroductions in Africa. At the end of the course, all participants completed a three-week individual project relating directly to their current or future work in plant conservation.

The plant collections at Lotusland, although on a smaller scale, are no less inspiring or impressive than those at Kew. Because they contain many examples of threatened species



PAUL M. MILLS

The Palm House at Kew houses part of the living collections.



PAUL M. MILLS

Museum One at Kew, home of the Education Department.



PAUL M. MILLS

The golden barrel, *Echinocactus grusonii*, in the Prince of Wales Conservatory at Kew.

of plants, Lotusland's dramatic displays can be used to raise awareness of the need for plant conservation. Yet often these displays, such as Lotusland's mass planting of more than 300 golden barrel cacti, reinforce misconceptions about the conservation status of the plants involved. Healthy and even prosperous plants in these public settings encourage us to assume that the species is flourishing in much the same state in the wild, which is often not the case. For instance, the golden barrel, *Echinocactus grusonii*, while the most widely cultivated of all cacti, is one of the most endangered in the wild and is believed to be under threat of extinction. The wild population of this plant has been poached for more than 100 years, but it is the completion of a hydro-electric dam in central Mexico by the government in 1994 that flooded 90% of the

golden barrels' natural habitat which threatens its survival now. Much further investigation is needed to determine the current status of this plant in the wild. All that is known for certain is that an action plan is needed. Sadly, this is but one example out of thousands across the globe.

Quite often plants are a lower priority when it comes to conservation of global diversity. Admittedly, it is easier to stir people's emotions to save a giant panda than a tarweed. Yet, there are plants that can be used as "flagships" for conservation efforts, like the wild orchids of Southeast Asia, the stately redwoods of California, or even the golden barrel cactus of Mexico. The most straight-forward argument for the need to conserve global plant resources remains quite simply that life on earth cannot exist without them.

—Paul M. Mills



The former prime minister of India, I.K. Gujral (on right), meets Executive Director Steven Timbrook during a visit to Lotusland in March. Accompanying the Prime Minister are his wife and son.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

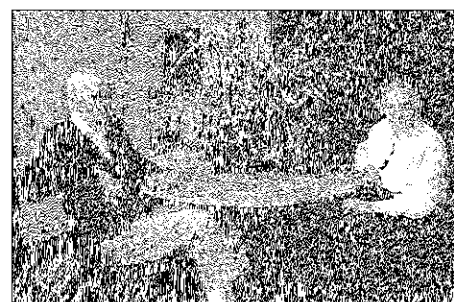
Norman and Helen Hillemann

BOTH NORMAN AND HELEN HILLEMANN grew up on farms, he in Missouri and she in Kansas. An early familiarity with things green set the stage for their future success as growers of prize cymbidium orchids, fuchsias and chrysanthemums. The Hillemanns moved to Venice, California after the war, and it was there they had their first encounter with cymbidiums, raising them in a lathe house they built and selling them to a local florist. Growing prize plants was a sideline; Norman is a retired electrician and Helen was an escrow officer in Venice before staying home to raise their family. They have two sons; one a chemist for DuPont in Delaware and the other a computer scientist/stock market investor in Grass Valley, California. Over the years they have won awards from the Cymbidium Society of America, American Orchid Society, Royal Horticultural Society, and International Orchid Show right here in Santa Barbara at Earl Warren Showground.

In 1960 they built a unique home in Brentwood featuring a 600-square-foot interior conservatory with its

own ventilation, humidifying, and heating systems, as well as a waterfall and small pond. The house had three wings, each connecting with and looking into the conservatory. One wing offered large windows with southern exposure, providing optimum light for lush and exotic plantings. According to Helen, "Stuff grew like mad in there," and proving the point was a cycad (*Cycas circinalis*) that grew at such an astounding rate it eventually threatened to take the roof off the conservatory. The Hillemanns donated this robust and beautiful 30-year-old cycad to the City of Los Angeles, in whose care it was sadly reduced to a scraggly remnant of its former glory. Their conservatory design pioneered indoor planting areas, and photographs of it were featured in several architectural and landscape design books. The design also won top honors in a "Beautiful Gardens Contest" sponsored by the California Association of Landscape Designers in 1965.

Norman needed more land for his growing hobby, so in the early 70s they bought an acre in Carpinteria



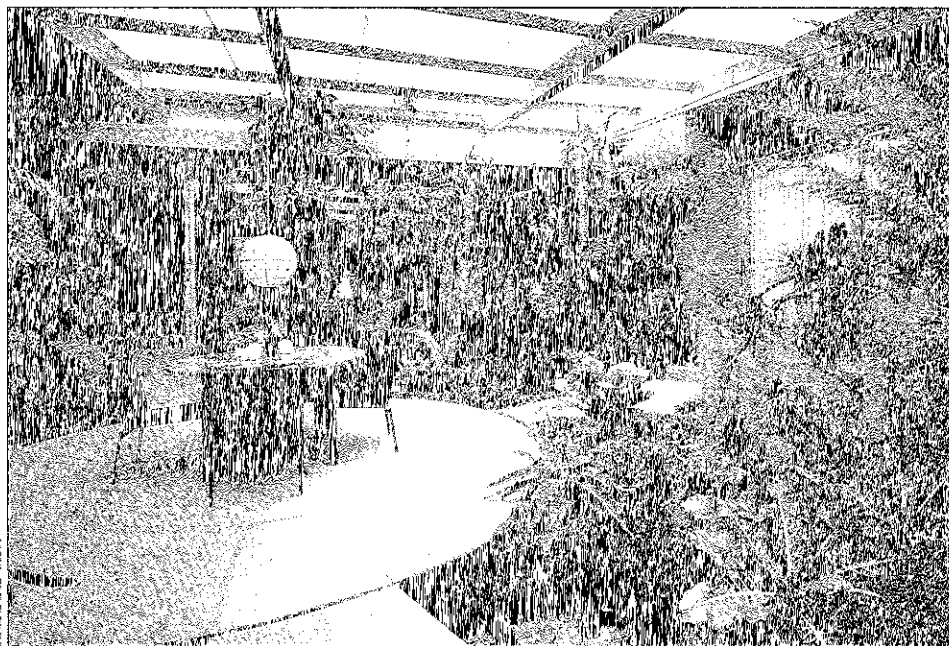
CONNIE BUXTON

Helen and Norman relaxing on their patio with a friend, Cymbidium Lady Bug v. drum.

where they built greenhouses and expanded their lathe house orchid operation. They also grew some phalaenopsis and cattleyas, but mainly concentrated on cymbidiums. They became "almost commercial" and sold to a prominent florist in Bel Air whose clientele included then Governor Ronald Reagan. Norman and Helen also grew avocados and exotic fruit such as kiwi, cherimoya, guava, passion fruit, and fuyu persimmons on their Carpinteria property. Over the years, they became members of the Rare Fruit Growers Association, the Santa Barbara Horticultural Society and the Orchid Society. Norman also belongs to the Men's Garden Club of Santa Barbara.

The Hillemanns' affiliation with Lotusland began in the 60s when they attended several of Madame Walska's parties. On one memorable occasion, Madame Walska invited a few horticultural clubs to visit the garden. The Hillemanns remember waiting for their hostess at the Sycamore Canyon gate and then being treated to her greeting them with Happy (Madame Walska's pet cockatiel and constant companion) perched on her shoulder. A large and lavish catered lunch was served after the garden tour.

When, shortly after Madame Walska's death, a truck was backed into one of the Lotusland greenhouses, Norman was pressed into service for nearly a year cutting glass and making extensive repairs to the



RICHARD FISH

The Hillemanns' 600-square-foot conservatory filled with lush plantings was an award-winning garden planted inside their Brentwood home in the 60s.

structures. During that time, he and Helen repotted many neglected plants in the garden, mostly orchids. These activities launched their career as Lotusland volunteers extraordinaire, and they have been going strong ever since.

The lovely cymbidiums often displayed in the main house at Lotusland are there because of Norman and Helen's generosity. They raise and nurture these extraordinarily beautiful plants and then donate them to the garden for others to enjoy. And if you've ever seen the beautifully hand-crafted wooden boxes and turned pieces for sale in

the garden shop, you have witnessed Norman's impressive creative talents with wood. The inlaid geometric designs and detailed manufacture (some even have wooden hinges) are reminiscent of old world craftsmanship. Norman uses an amazing variety of exotic woods to achieve intricate patterns of color. He sells these beautiful works of art, but also generously gives them away to fortunate friends such as Lotusland.

Helen and Norman have considerably downsized operations from their productive acre in Carpinteria to a comfortable condominium in Santa Barbara. A whole host of beautiful,

healthy plantings on their patio and side yard include a striking Malaysian rhododendron, three cycads, and about 25 cymbidiums. Lotusland's Frank Fujii's remarkably creative design sense was utilized to help lay out their present garden areas.

Lotusland sincerely appreciates these dedicated, talented volunteers whose generosity is expressed in an amazing variety of ways. Norman and Helen have given the garden such beauty for everyone to enjoy, and have helped restore the garden during its time of need. Thank you, Norman and Helen, for all you do for Lotusland. —Connie Buxton

New to the Collections

FOR CENTURIES, Chinese and Japanese horticulturists have been selecting and growing unusual lotus varieties. Until recently, many of these selections were not available in the western world. Through the efforts of a few Chinese emigrants, this trend is being reversed. One such family was that of Mr. and Mrs. Tyrone Chu of Modesto, California. Although both Mr. and Mrs. Chu were tragically killed in separate automobile accidents recently, they visited Lotusland several times and donated some of the rare lotus varieties that they grew. The Chus are survived by several sons and other family members, as well as a close-knit community of Chinese-American families in the central valley. Their Lotus Gardens is a collection of ponds created in the flood plain of the Stanislaus River, perfect growing conditions for these aquatic plants.

Most unusual at the Chu's Lotus Gardens are the miniature, or bowl, lotus. These diminutive cultivars are small enough to grow in a table-top bowl. Their leaves and flowers rise above the water only six to twelve inches with diameters of only two to four inches. In spite of their small stature, they exhibit the same wide



One of the dwarf lotus cultivars growing at Chu's Lotus Gardens.

range of colors and petal forms of their regular-sized siblings. Translations of their Chinese names hint at the high esteem which the Chinese people hold for these ancient flowers. Elegance, Pretty Celestial, Chaste, Torch, Treasure, Pure White Jade, Palace Jewel and Silver Crown Lotus are some of those now included in Lotusland's collection.

These special plants have been growing in the nursery area for two

years, and this year several will be moved into decorative pots in the garden. Look for them near the main lotus display in the old swimming pool. Elegance will have pink, single-petaled flowers, Tai-Zhen and Palace Jewel are dark pink and double-petaled (more than one row of petals), Chaste is also dark pink, but single-petaled, and Torch, a hybrid of the Asian and American subspecies, is a bright, flame red. —Virginia Hayes



Horticultural Happenings

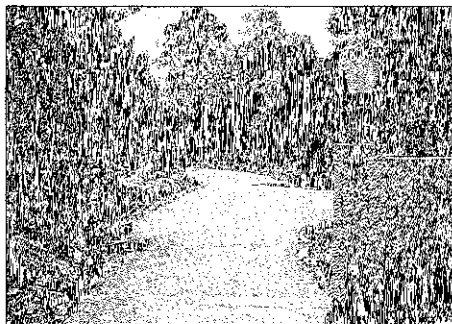
IF YOU'VE BEEN TO LOTUSLAND lately, you may have noticed some of the recent improvements to the Garden. A variety of agaves from Lotusland's nursery and 25 oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) acquired from the U.C. Cooperative Extension 4-H Program at Santa Barbara High School were planted outside the stucco wall along Ashley



A storm drain with catch basins was added to the length of the main drive prior to the decomposed granite installation.

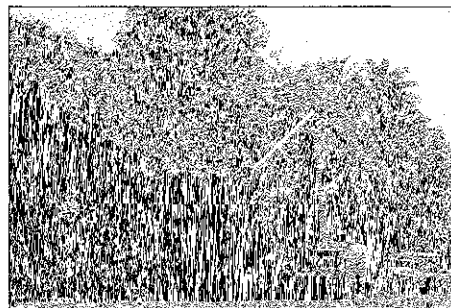


Valley Crest installed the decomposed granite mixed with a non-toxic, organic stabilizer to provide the functional and lasting surface.

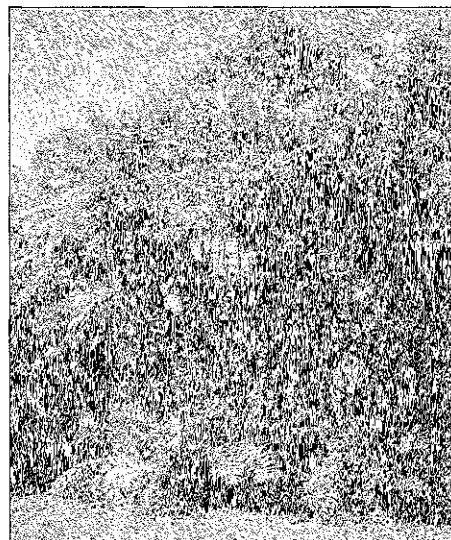


The new main drive as seen from the main house courtyard.

Road. Inside the walls, decomposed granite replaced the 3/4-inch gravel surface on the main drive to provide an attractive and functional road for work carts, wheelchairs and walking—and it didn't wash out during the winter rains! Also, oaks and palms bordering the main lawn across from the theater garden were trimmed by Bartlett Tree Experts as part of a broad-based plan to improve cultural conditions in the area. A generous grant from Lotusland volunteer Jane Copelan made the work on this magnificent landscape feature possible. Accessibility to the pavilion patio from the main lawn was enhanced with the *pro bono* construction of a brick ramp by Eddie Langhorne, owner of Pat Scott Masonry. There are quite a few other landscape/soil renovation and grounds improvement projects in



Bartlett Tree Experts trimmed the palms and oaks bordering the main lawn.



The palms and oaks are no longer growing into each other and cultural conditions are much improved.

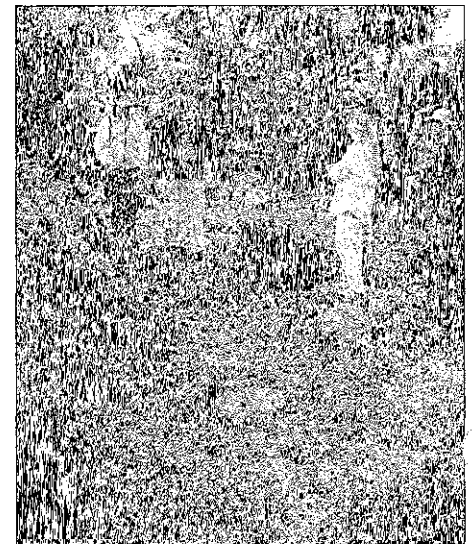
progress, all designed with sustainable horticulture as their precept. As you may already know, there's always a lot going on in the garden. Look for these changes the next time you visit Lotusland.

CYCAD GARDEN

A YEAR AGO AT THIS TIME the cycad garden was practically inaccessible due to the first phase of a major soil renovation designed to save cycads (*Encephalartos horridus* primarily) in a large area infected with oak root fungus. Approximately 80 cycads were removed to the nursery for temporary storage and, in some cases, rerooting. Subsurface drains were installed, and 400 tons of infected soil was replaced with a topsoil/sand/compost mixture and seeded with a cover crop. The second phase of this project continues this year with



The Sudangrass cover crop is cut down as the 1999 soil renovation area is prepared for planting.



Lotusland staff discuss the next phase of the ongoing cycad garden renovation.



more refined soil preparations and the transplanting of cycads back to the garden. Many of the rooting cycads are not ready to be planted out this year. Jimenez Landscapes moved four large multi-trunk *Chamaerops humilis* away from the northern cycad garden path in order to improve the growing conditions for nearby cycads, to provide space for future plantings, and to create a screen for the northern boundary of the garden.

Additional sub-surface drainage has been added to the garden, and the removal of several large eucalyptus trees bordering the garden and shading cycads will complete the renovation work planned for the cycad garden in 2000.

CACTUS/EUPHORBIA GARDEN

IN 1998 THE MAIN DRIVE euphorbia planting bed overlooking the water gardens was renovated because of the presence of oak root fungus (*Armillaria mellea*). The adjacent amethyst/euphorbia planting bed was recently renovated because of the same problem. Improving the soil conditions will not completely eliminate the fungal pathogen, but will encourage a healthier soil foodweb and allow for better management of the site.

Removing weak and structurally unsound branches reduced and balanced the weight of many large euphorbia and cactus specimens, improved their appearance and reduced potential hazards. Selective trimming also made it possible to eliminate some of the cabling and bracing.



A soil renovation of this planting bed was necessary to improve cultural conditions for euphorbias and reduce conditions favorable to the oak root fungus pathogen.

TOPIARY GARDEN

MAY 1, 2000 MARKED the beginning of the installation of the topiary garden restoration plan. Chip Collester Landscapes is working with Lotusland staff to complete the installation by October 2000 with the majority of the work being scheduled after *Lotusland Celebrates* in July. It's interesting to see the changes that have been made so far, and it's getting easier and exciting to visualize the completed restoration.



Plants not included in the new topiary garden design have been removed.

FERN GARDEN PLANTING BED SOIL RENOVATION

A SOIL RENOVATION of the large planting bed bordering the eastern edge of the garden was completed by removing almost all of the plants, improving the soil with the addition of Lotusland compost and transplanting plants and cuttings back into the bed. Bill Paylen, the original designer of the fern garden, worked with Lotusland staff to reconstruct the planting bed.

When Jimenez Landscapes moved the cycad garden's *Chamaerops humilis* in March, they also used their crane to move two *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* palms from the periphery of the cycad garden to the fern garden. These two palms, 18' and 12' tall, are



Jimenez Landscapes used their crane to lift this *A. cunninghamiana* over an oak tree and into its planting hole in the fern garden.

planted to the left as you face the swimming pool, and nicely complement the grouping of *Rhopalostylis baueri* to the right of the pool.

COMPOST TEA INJECTION SYSTEM

THIS YEAR A NEW 50-gallon compost tea brewer is being used daily as part of Lotusland's organic cultural regime. A good compost tea has many desirable attributes, including the building of plant surface and soil beneficial microorganisms. The tea was usually applied at a 10:1 dilution from a 100-gallon spray tank. In May, Stewart Rasmussen, from SAR Construction, worked with Lotusland staff to develop and install a system that enables direct injection into the irrigation lines as needed. The injection system is a tremendous labor-saving device and reduces compost tea, nutrient and irrigation applications to one step, instead of many, and allows for after-hours applications. The system will be demonstrated to agricultural and horticultural professionals attending a one-day compost tea workshop collectively sponsored by Rincon-Vitova Insectaries, Growing Solutions (manufacturer of the Micro-Brewer compost tea maker) and Lotusland at an as-yet unscheduled date.

—Mike Iven; photos by Mike Iven



John Lafleur ✻ 30 years at Lotusland

JOHN LAFLEUR is a man with a dream. He dreams of a world in balance. He dreams of man working with nature, not against nature. John may be a man with a dream, but he's not a dreamer. He's a doer. And at Lotusland he's gotten the entire horticultural staff to share his dream and do their best to make it come true.

John was born and raised in Louisiana, leaving to serve six and a half years with the U.S. Navy in Viet Nam. Upon his separation from the service, he studied photography at the Art Institute of San Francisco and then in Santa Barbara at Brooks Institute of Photography. Although he worked in his spare time as an independent professional photographer after leaving Brooks Institute, he soon began a long career in horticulture, starting as a landscape gardener at El Mirador, the former Armour estate just up the road from Lotusland. In April 1970, John shortened his drive to work by accepting a position on the Lotusland grounds staff.

In those days, Madame Walska contracted with noted Santa Barbara horticulturist Bruce Van Dyke to spray her gardens on a regular schedule to prevent any damaging insects and other plant pests from establishing a foothold on the property. This was a common practice 30 years ago, and continues to be a standard industry practice.

When the Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation became responsible for Lotusland, following Madame Walska's death in 1984, there was more latitude for the grounds staff to offer their own suggestions for improving plant care. Plant health began to be seen as an important criterion of successful gardening, when formerly a pristine appearance was the paramount goal to be achieved, no matter how it was accomplished.

The trend toward self-direction in the grounds staff was reinforced in 1988 when Mike Iven was promoted

to Grounds Superintendent. He and John knew that as Lotusland became more and more a public garden, a better system of preventing damage from plant pests had to be devised. Spraying with toxic chemicals not only was incompatible with visitors in the garden, but also was being recognized more and more as having long-term detrimental effects on the plants it was meant to protect.

Under John's leadership, Lotusland adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that reduced dependence on toxic chemicals by tolerating a certain level of insect damage and treating heavier infestations with the least toxic materials possible. Biological controls were introduced and, to allow these to work effectively, spraying was further reduced. After all, spraying kills insects indiscriminately, taking the good with the bad.

Quiet as he is in speech and demeanor, John is passionate in the pursuit of his interests. Now he became thoroughly immersed in bringing Lotusland's ornamental landscape and priceless plant collections into such a healthy condition that they would resist disease and infestation naturally through vigorous growth. While continuing to work full-time as Lotusland's IPM coordinator, John commuted to Ventura College for four years of night classes on modern horticultural practices, adding this new knowledge to his 20-some years of practical gardening experience.

A pivotal event in Lotusland's plant care evolution occurred in 1997 when John and Mike attended the intensive three-day Sustainable Tree Care Conference presented at UCLA. They came away with the goal of sustainable horticulture for all of Lotusland and began planning to go beyond IPM.

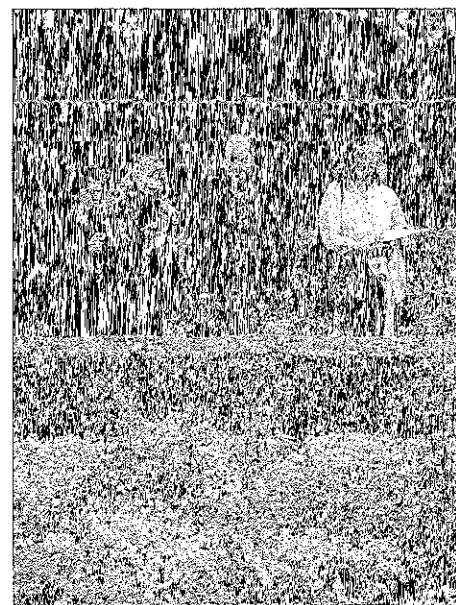
You may have read about the new methods John, Mike and the rest of the horticultural staff have

adopted in previous Newsletters (see Dynamic Dirt Lecture and Workshop, Winter 1999, pg 11; Getting to the Root of the Problem: Cycad Garden Restoration, Fall 1999, pg 1). Basically they involve adding organic material to build the soils to the point that less and less fertilizer is needed as the necessary nutrients are released in the breakdown of organic matter by a healthy soil foodweb of micro-organisms.

Thirty years is a long time to devote to a garden, but John continues to be stimulated by the challenge of providing healthy, natural, balanced soil environments to more than a dozen separate gardens at Lotusland, many with exotic specimens of plants that are rare, endangered, threatened or even extinct in the wild. He is thrilled to see these gardens thrive under a new, environmentally friendly system of care that brings birds and butterflies to share the beautiful plants we all enjoy so much.

Thank you, John, for growing throughout your 30 years at Lotusland, and for encouraging us to grow along with you.

—Steve Timbrook



John discusses with Lotusland workshop attendees the cultivation of specific plants that attract beneficial insects.

Member's Family Day

THE THIRD ANNUAL MEMBER'S FAMILY DAY at Lotusland combined the best of previous Family Days with a few new activities to provide educational play and relaxation to its participants. The Robert and Christine Emmons Foundation once again generously funded the event.



In the Theatre Garden, Michael Katz and his group BoxTales once again engaged in the kind of story telling that demands audience participation, much to everyone's immense delight.



A giant coloring book mural designed by Gail Lucas gradually filled to overflowing with painted color.



Worth every minute of anticipation, Montecito Confection's butterfly cake tasted as good as it looked.



Besides the wonderful live butterfly/caterpillar exhibit, which was a hit with young and old alike, there was an adventurous beneficial insect hunt originating from the Horticultural Hut.



The crafts tables were a center of activity for all ages, and volunteer Kat Foote taught a variety of ways to transform found Lotusland materials into baskets, crowns and butterflies.



Spirited music was provided by the Klezmotones, an Eastern European ensemble of clarinet, violin, accordion, etc.



Metamorphosed Member's Day monarch messengers.



Lotusland's Butterfly Garden/Insectary was abuzz with educational activities.



Bob Debris outdid himself, providing elaborate cactus props and a southwest setting for free silly souvenir photographs.



Thank you to Mammoth Moving for donating the picnic (packing) blankets.



Friends of Lotusland

We Welcome New Members Who Joined in February, March, April 2000

LEVEL I

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Abrams
Mr. & Mrs. John Allerton
Ms. Beverly E. Barry
Ms. Margaret C. Bates
Mr. Harold Becker
Ms. Debra Belding-Hillman
Ms. Louise Blair
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Blair
Ms. Jean E. Bloomfield
Ms. Cherie Bonazzola
Mr. & Mrs. Richard I. Botsford
Mr. Harvey Bottelsen &
Ms. Patsy McFarlane
Mr. John Boyer
Ms. Cindy A. Brand
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Brichan
Ms. Janet Brown
Ms. Mary Buzzell
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Cardinal
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Chytilo
Mr. Russell Cletta
Mr. & Mrs. David Cole
Ms. Kate Connell
Ms. Marilyn Conrad
Mr. Steve Craig
Mr. Michael Daoud
Mr. & Mrs. William Daugherty
Ms. Janet Davids
Mr. Stephen H. Davies
Ms. Rachel Davis
Ms. Carolyn Diliberto
Ms. Karoline Doberenz
Ms. Sharon Dunn
Ms. Sara Eddy
Mr. Warren E. Fenzi
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Ferguson
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Florman
Ms. Kee Flynn
Mr. Donald L. Gabard
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Galt
Ms. Kate Gianolini
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Gile
Ms. Judy Gillum
Mr. Barry Gittelsohn
Ms. Jane C. Grace
Ms. Virginia Gray
Ms. Lynn Greenwald
Ms. Virginia Gunderson
Ms. Laura Habecker
Ms. Patty Haddad & Mr. Tom Gray
Ms. Patricia Hall
Ms. Pamela Hamilton
Mr. Dan Harari & Ms. Barbara Keller
Ms. Holly Harmon
Mr. Brian Harpster
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harrison
Ms. Kay Heltnach
Mr. Jim Hetlond
Mr. James W. Holchin & Mr. Manuel Luna
Ms. Susan Horne
Mr. Dusan Hutak
Ms. Anne Hutchins
Ms. Catherine Imrie

Mr. Jason K. Ireland
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Janney
Mr. David Johnson & Ms. Kari Samlaska
Ms. Merri Jones
Mr. Robert W. Jones
Mrs. John Kaaz
Ms. Shirley Kalisk
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Keit
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Kennedy
Ms. Rebecca Kilbury
Mr. Charles D. Kimbell
Ms. Carolyn Kincaid
Ms. Michele King
Ms. Maureen Kirby
Ms. Yvonne Kirby
Mr. Kenneth M. Knox
Mr. Graham Koenig
Ms. Gail W. Kramer
Mrs. Josee Kubiak
Ms. Alicia Kuzniak
Mr. Stephen P. La Salle &
Ms. Barbara K. Schoenike
Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Laner
Ms. Sunny Lee
Mr. Walter Lee
Ms. Ania Lejman
Ms. Grace Leone
Ms. Patricia Levee
Mr. Roger Liles
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Lindberg
Mr. James Lipson
Mr. Brian Lym
Mr. & Mrs. Chris MacLeod
Ms. Susan Mack
Ms. Elizabeth Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Marx
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Mayden
Ms. Wendy L. McCarty
Ms. Della McCord
Ms. Ellen McCurdy
Ms. Cornelia McGrath
Ms. Penny McNeil
Ms. Mara Melandry
Mr. Eric Melbardif & Ms. Andree Lorrain
Ms. Joan M. Mikelson
Ms. Julia Miller
Ms. Lynette Miller
Ms. Rhonda Milrad
Mr. and Mrs. John Milton
Ms. Marilyn Moran
Ms. Kerry Morris
Mr. Lonnie Morris
Ms. Ann Murdy
Ms. Jennifer Murphey
Ms. Carolyn Murray
Ms. Gloria Narehood
Ms. Laurie Newell
Mr. Robert Newkirk
Ms. Kay Niles
Ms. Barbara Nitzkowski
Ms. Barbara Paschell
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Patten
Mr. & Mrs. John Paulson
Ms. Jean Pedersen
Ms. Joan L. Peters

Mr. and Mrs. John Petersen
Ms. Nancy Goslee Power
Mr. Calman Prussin
Mr. Dan Puccrano
Ms. Stella Pynn
Ms. Mary Ann Ray
Ms. Pat Riccio
Ms. Anna Roberts
Ms. Linda Rouhas
Ms. Elissa Rubin
Mr. Tom Russell
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Sandwall
Ms. Mollie Savour & Mr. Brad Miller
Mrs. Josephine Saxon
Mr. Francis Scorzelli
Mr. Michael Seabaugh
Mr. Bernard J. Seder & Ms. Lilyan Cuttler
Mrs. Richard P. Seery
Ms. Roslyn Segal
Ms. Michelle Severance &
Ms. Elva McElrath
Dr. & Mrs. J.M. Severson, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. William Sharp
Ms. Wanda R. Sims
Ms. Joy Singer
Mrs. Jacqueline Smalley
Ms. Susan Soltman
Ms. Margaret C. Spear
Mr. Steven St. James
Ms. Elizabeth Stevenson
Mr. Brian L. Stiefel
Ms. Renee Stott
Ms. Jan Strahan
Mr. Michael Sweeney
Ms. Tobey Tabor
Ms. Carol Taylor
Ms. Rosamond Temple & Mr. Jack Wiecks
Ms. Terri Thawley
Ms. Fong S. Tien
Ms. Jackie Tone
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Trezise
Ms. Shannon Trowler
Dr. & Mrs. David Van Every
Mr. & Mrs. Henri Van Hirtum
Ms. Pamela Volante
Ms. Gene Ward
Ms. Sally R. Webb
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weber
Mr. and Mrs. Art Woodward

LEVEL II

Ms. Karin Aggeler
Ms. Sally G. Avery
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Baker
Mr. Ron Bean
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Bowen
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bowey
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Burgee
Ms. Jacquot Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Champion
Ms. Nancy De L'Arbre
Ms. Iris DeSilvey
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Dexter
Ms. Roberta Fell

LotusFest Registration Form

To reserve space for you and your family, complete this coupon and mail it to:

Ganna Walska Lotusland, Attention: Member Events, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, California 93108.

Space is limited. **NO PHONE RESERVATIONS PLEASE.** Confirmation will be sent upon receipt of your reservation.

Member name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Number Attending: Adult member \$20 each _____ Child (2-10 years) \$10 each _____ Number of Cars _____

Or two admission passes _____ Or one admission pass _____

Adult nonmember \$25 each _____ Child (under 2) Free _____ **Total Enclosed \$** _____

Payment Method: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Expiration date _____

Card Number _____ Signature _____

Picnicking is encouraged. Food and beverages will also be available for purchase.

Ms. Belinda Folsey
Ms. Susan Forkush
Ms. Loree Gold
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Goodhue
Mr. Robert Gottesman
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Grant
Ms. Gerry Gwynn
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hatch
Ms. Jayne Hemmerich
Ms. Emilie Hight
Basia Kenton
Ms. Judy Kotecki
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lawlor
Mr. Terry Light
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Marquez
Ms. Brenda McDonald
Ms. Martha Moran
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Morrow
Mr. John F. O'Brien
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Osterman
Ms. Jennifer Phillip
Ms. Kim Phillips
Mr. Paul Repetowski
Mr. & Mrs. Andre Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. John Rowe
Mr. & Mrs. John Snyder
Mr. Greg Stanley
Ms. Claire Steinberg
Ms. Jacqueline J. Stevens
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Thomson
Mr. & Mrs. Jean Verbeck
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Weiss
Ms. Susan Wester
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Westerman
Ms. Kathryn J. K. Wrench

LEVEL III

Ms. Rebecca Ketner-Costner
Mr. & Mrs. George Roland
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sheehan
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Stephens
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wilson

LEVEL IV

Mr. & Mrs. John Cleese

Lotusland Gratefully Acknowledges Donations

February, March, April 2000

GRANTS

Ms. Jane Copelan for renovation
of the great lawn perimeter
The Robert and Christine Emmons
Foundation for Member's Family Day
Ms. Carol Valentine
for the school outreach program
The William E. Weiss Foundation
for a computerized reservation system
The Robert and Christine Emmons
Foundation for the school
outreach program

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Bowen
Ms. Winifred Fenzi
Dr. & Mrs. George Halling
Ms. Beverly Jackson

Ms. Carolyn Kincaid
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Lawlor
Mrs. A. H. McCormick
Mr. A. A. Milligan
Mr. & Mrs. James Nonn
Mr. William R. Paylen
Ms. Joan L. Peters
Ms. Mary V. Routen
Ms. Anitra Sheen
Mr. M. Greg Stanthakis

HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY

Anonymous
Ms. Margaret Staton

SPECIMEN PLANT FUND

Ms. Susan Jorgensen
Ms. Carolyn Koegler

Members Who Have Increased Their Level of Support

February, March, April 2000

LEVEL II

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bates
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Braun
Dr. & Mrs. David
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Casey
Ms. Lori Chudacoff
Ms. Diane C. Green
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Hansen
Ms. Pamela Hazard
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Hill
Mr. & Mrs. David Holt

Mr. & Mrs. William R.
Sir Richard & Lady Latham
Ms. Pat Licker
Ms. Barbara Livingston
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Lucic
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Moore
Hon. & Mrs. John C. Pritzlaff
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Rose
Mr. G. Barney Schley
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce W. Scollin

LEVEL III

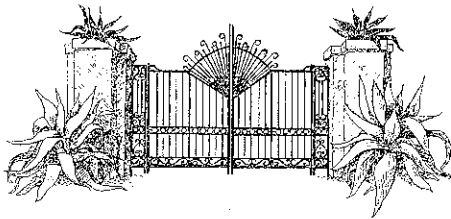
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Burgess
Mr. & Mrs. Francis H. Cabot
Mrs. George Dubail
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gilson
Mr. Bruce Gregg
Ms. Lynn P. Kirst
Ms. Dodie Little
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Mabon
Mr. M. Greg Stathakis
Ms. April N. Walstad
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Wood

Ganna Walska Lotusland Foundation

695 Ashley Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Address Correction Requested
Forwarding Postage Guaranteed

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Santa Barbara
California
Permit No. 163



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. We hope you enjoy the rest of this year at Lotusland.

FAMILY TOUR DAYS

Family tours are offered the first Thursday afternoon of each month (1:30 PM) and the third Thursday morning of each month (10 AM). For more information or reservations, call 969-9990 between 9 AM and noon, Monday through Friday. The admission fee is \$10 (or a membership pass) for adults, \$5 for children 2 to 10 and free for children 2 and under.

June 17, Saturday

1-4:30 PM

Self-guided tours for all members

Call for reservations.

Space is limited.

MEMBERS \$10 or free admission pass

June 24, Saturday

9 AM-4 PM

Private Japanese Gardens with Virginia Flay

Our plant creator offers a tour of local private Japanese gardens. MEMBERS \$75, NONMEMBERS \$80

July 16, Sunday

4-8 PM

Lotusland Celebrates

The Topiary Garden Restoration

This year's gala will celebrate the completion of the capital campaign to restore Madame Walska's topiary garden to honor Board President Carol Valentine. Invitations were mailed to all members June 1.

TICKETS \$175

August 26, Saturday

10 AM-4 PM

LotusFest!

The first annual lotus festival—a full day of fun and education for the whole family—takes place when our lotus are at the peak of their bloom. Lunch will be available for purchase or bring a picnic. Reservation coupon is on page 15.

ADULT MEMBERS \$20, KIDS UNDER 10 \$10 (or use admission passes), KIDS UNDER 2 Free, ADULT NON-MEMBERS \$25

October 7, Saturday

Santa Barbara Gardens

Book signing and art sale in co-operation with the Easton Gallery. Takes the place of Music in the Theater Garden. Invitations will be mailed to all members in September.

November 10, Friday

2 PM

Japanese Gardens

Illustrated lecture and book signing

Dr. Kendall Brown is author of the newly published and highly acclaimed *Japanese-Style Gardens of Pacific West Coast* in which Lotusland is featured.

A coupon will appear in the fall member's newsletter.

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

December 2, Saturday

1-4:30 PM

Holiday shopping and self-guided tours for all members

Call for reservations.

Space is limited.

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